Oswego County

Historical Society

1963

Twenty-Sixth Publication

of the

Oswego County Historical Society

1963

OSWEGO HARBOR.

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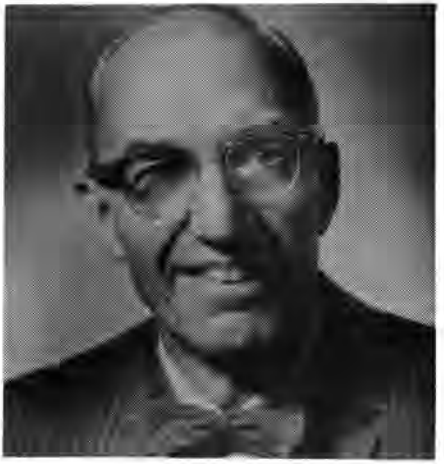
Dedication

Charles McCool Snyder



On March 18, 1947, Charles M. Snyder read a paper, "Story of the Oswego Canal," to the Oswego County Historical Society. The following year his name, spelled incorrectly we note apologetically, appeared in the Society's yearbook among the list of members of the Program Committee. In 1951, he became Recording Secretary, in 1952, Program Chairman, and in 1954, President of the Society. He retired as President in 1963 to become both a member of the Board of Managers and, again, Program Chairman.

During this same time he has published more than a dozen articles on Oswego County's history. He has also published a biography of Dr. Mary Walker and is the author of the Society's 1962 yearbook. Oswego County in the Civil War. He is currently at work on yet another volume of local history, one which will trace the history of the Oswego River valley.

Dr. Snyder is a native of Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania. He earned a B.A. degree from Bucknell University in 1930, and an M.A. from the same school in 1933. His doctorate is from the University of Pennsylvania. He has had high school teaching experience in Pennsylvania and taught, before coming to Oswego, at the University of Pennsylvania and at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. Since coming to Oswego in 1946, he has been active in many public activities and has served with considerable distinction on the faculty of State University College. His first book, published in 1958. was a study of Jacksonian politics in Pennsylvania.

We dedicate this yearbook to Cool with our thanks for his leadership, scholarship, his energy, his kindness, and his interest in our county's history. We dedicate this yearbook to him as a small acknowledgement for the devotion he has long given to the best interests of the Society. Yet it is not really enough to say that we dedicate this yearbook to Cool because of his past (and future) services, rather we must indicate that some portion of this dedication is to him because he is a cordial example of the kind of person local history most needs. His many-faceted interests relate the details of local history to the broad patterns of our regional and national heritage. The Board of Managers of the Society is itself honored to be able to dedicate the twenty-sixth annual yearbook of the Oswego County Historical Society to Dr. Charles McCool Snyder.

Annual Report

A society is many people. Any attempt to list the names of the members and officers who have contributed time and energy to the Oswego County Historical Society's activities this past year would surely founder in incompleteness. However, it would be even more grevious to fail to thank Dr. and Mrs. Charles M. Snyder for their combined efforts. Both have given so generously to the Society in the past that we shall feel no hesitancy calling upon them in the future. Special gratitude should also be extended to Mr. Frank Sayer, who has been a cordial volunteer in his capacity as Chairman of our Headquarters House Committee. Other officers and members of the Society -- Anthony Slosek, Adle DeSantis, Richard Daly, Grove Gilbert, John Birdlebough, Mrs. Hugh Barclay, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Wells, Dorothy Mott, Ralph Faust, Alfred Tucker, Mrs. Elizabeth Bates Bowles (by mail), Miss Anna Post, Mrs. Harold Dann, Wallace Workmaster, Seward Salisbury to name only a few--have been equally helpful to a freshman president. The prosperity of the Society is certainly assured as a result of their continuing interest.

In October 1963, Mrs. Glenn Randall announced her retirement as the caretaker at Headquarters House. For seventeen years she had given the Society exemplary service. Our property was secure in her hands. We hope eventually to fill Mrs. Randall's position with a person who could be a resident curator at Headquarters House. As the number of our artifacts increases, greater care and maintenance of them is reqired and a resident curator would contribute significantly to the vitality of our museum.

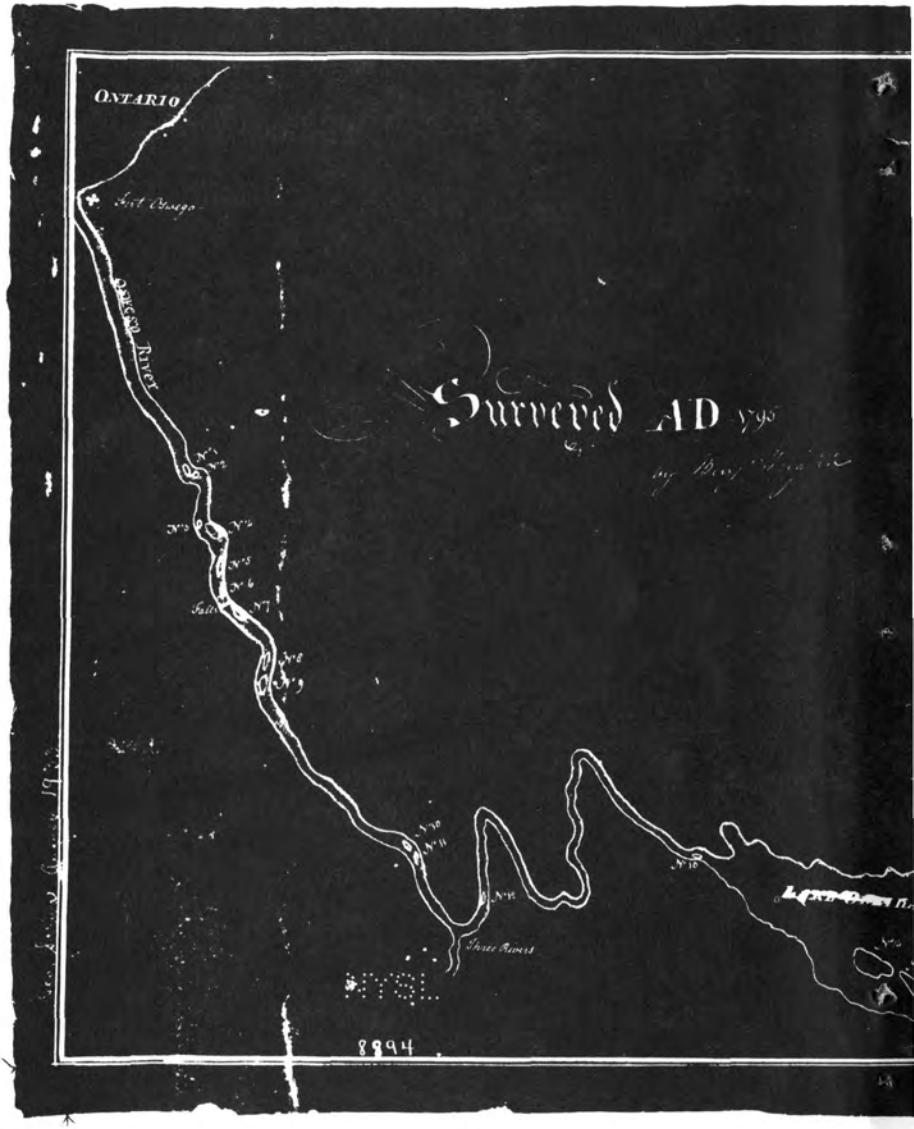
During the past year Headquarters House has received some useful attention. The roof and chimnies were sealed and rebuilt where necessary, and most of the wooden exterior was painted. During the coming year several changes are planned. A new caretaker's abartment will be constructed on the ground floor of the building, thereby making available a new room for display purposes on the second floor and three rooms on the third floor for storage, library and office space. This will substantially increase the capacity of the building to suit the Society's future needs. The room on the second floor which has been used for the display of colonial kitchen items will be re-opened as a children's room where selections from the Society's collection of dolls and toys will be assembled.

On Saturday, August 17, 1963, the Society's annual tour was conducted, this past year to Sackets Harbor in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the battle there. Although rain marred the morning, approximately sixty-five members of the Society left Headquarters House to rendezvous at the blockhouse on the Sackets Harbor battlefield. Brigadier General G. Stanley Smith, U.S. Army, retired, conducted a tour of the battlefield. Mr. Ralph Dodge Johnson, President of the Jefferson County Historical Socity, greeted the Society at the Pickering - Beach Historical Museum, near the battlefield. The museum's curator, Mrs. Georgia Reed, assisted by a number of volunteer ladies from Sackets Harbor, showed Society members through the museum, the home of former New York State Lieutenant Governor Allen C. Beach; not only are Beach artifacts on display, but so are

many relics of the War of 1812, momentoes of General U.S. Grant's tour of duty at Madison Barracks, and other material of local interest. Mrs. Reed also showed the group a number of military items recently recovered from Lake Ontario by skindivers. Following a tour of the museum, six old homes in Sackets Harbor were opened to us: the Elisha Camp House, through the courtesy of General and Mrs. G. Stanley Smith; the Augustus Sackett house, oldest home in Sackets Harbor, courtesy of Mrs. Francis Joynt; the Brewster house, courtesy of Mrs. Basil VanCamp; the Holden house, courtesy of Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips; the Amos Roberts House, courtesy of Mrs. Charles Stoddard; and the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Calhoun. After seeing these fine old homes, the members were invited to see Christ Church Parish House. The Society is deeply indebted to General and Mrs. Smith, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Reed, and the Jefferson County Historical Society and the Pickering - Beach Museum for making the trip a successful one.

The meetings of the past year have been well-attended; our collection of historical memorabailia has been broadened through the generosity of the County's citizens; our membership has increased, although we would certainly be pleased to have more members; our summer tour was a pleasant one. May I take this opportunity to extend an eager invitation to all persons interested in the County's history to visit Headquarters House and to participate in the Society's activities. It is the Society's purpose to serve the people of Oswego County by preserving and honoring a portion of their historical heritage. To this end we seek the help of all interested persons.

Fred Bartle, President


ONTARIO
Fort Oswego
OSWEGO RIVER
Surveyed AD 1796
Falls
Three Rivers
8994

A Survey of the ISLANDS in the Oneida Lake and in the Onondago and Oswego Rivers

No.	containing	Acres	
[illegible]		6	known by the name of Broadstreets Island
[illegible]		1	about 20 Chs up the River from the above
[illegible]		2	against Clarks Location
[illegible]		10 ½	against Clarks Location
[illegible]		8	against G Newkerks Loc^n
[illegible]		1	against the line of G Newkerks & C Steen
[illegible]		3 ½	about 20 Chs above the Falls
[illegible]		4 ½	against C Newkerks Location
[illegible]		16 ½	D^o D^o D^o 20 Chs South of the last men^d
[illegible]		1 ½	1½ miles Below 3 River Point
[illegible]		4 ¾	1 Chain from the last S E
[illegible]		9 ½	1 mile up the Onondago River from 3 River Point
[illegible]		1 ½	against Fort Brewerton
[illegible]		25	in the Oneida Lake called Frenchmans Island
[illegible]		13	about 30 Chs S E of the last mentd
	Total	114 ¼	

Plans on a Scale of 20 Chains to an Inch

(7476)
1795

The Oswego River
In Its Natural State

Presented by Albert P. McCarthy, January 16, 1962

Since this paper is really a study in historical geography, perhaps it should start with a word about the subject. Historical geography studies the geography of the past. To do this we select a significant period in the past and try to reconstruct the geography of that period. If a region has undergone a number of major changes, we can do a number of these studies for representative periods, giving us, as it were, a number of horizontal cross-sections through history.

This provides the material for the study of geographic changes through time, the effect of history on geography. This last point is important because one school of thought, environmental determinism, considered historical geography to be the study of the effect of geography on history. Although this view is no longer held by historical geographers, there are still some people teaching it, not only in geography, but in other social sciences.

Four or five such stages are discernible in the history of the Oswego river, and this paper will deal with the earliest stage; the river in its natural state. This is the river as it was at the arrival of the first white man, Fr. Poucet, a Jesuit, before man had made any appreciable changes in the river or its banks.

The river at this stage is important because it provides the setting for the missionary, fur-trading, and military activity of the 17th and 18th centuries, because it provided the assets, and the liabilities, on which most future activity along the river was to be based, and because it provides the datum, or departure point, for studying changes along the river through history.

The broad, smooth Oswego river as we know it today is an artificial stream. It consists of six pools of slack water impounded by the dams at Oswego, Minetto, Fulton and Phoenix. It is the Oswego river which lies beneath these pools which is the subject of this study. This is approximately the river which would be restored if the dams were removed. This river would be narrower than the present stream, shallower, and, above all, much more violent.

We are well-provided with material for our reconstruction; the accurate quantitative data of official surveys provide the skeleton, which may be fleshed out with descriptions from the journals of many competent observers. Apparently the idea of doing the same job over and over is not a recent invention of the bureaucrats: in 1795 Benjamin Wright was authorized to survey the islands in the river, and in 1806 James Geddes was authorized to survey them again; in 1808 the Legislature authorized the same Geddes to make a survey of the river to determine its suitability for a canal, and in 1819 authorized a surveyor named Bates to perform the same task for the same purpose. For my purpose the results are salutary, since the

surveys can be used to check one another, and each contains some information not included in the other.

The most important single fact about the Oswego river is that it falls more than 113 feet in 23 1/2 miles, and in its original condition it had not fewer than 14 identifiable rapids in addition to the Oswego Falls.

De Witt Clinton made a trip down the river and back up with some of the other canal commissioners in 1810, and he described as "majestic" the river formed at the junction of the Oneida and Seneca rivers. (1) He also said that the point between the Oneida and the Seneca was elevated but the other two points were low and marshy.

I will concentrate on the description of the rapids, but please keep in mind that the flow was swift between the rapids, even though it was smooth. Remember also that the surface of the stream was several feet lower than it is today, so the banks were relatively higher, and they were completely wooded.

Three quarters of a mile below Three Rivers was the first white water, at Drury's Bar; (2) this was not a hazard to navigation, but John Bartram, the naturalist, who visited the area in 1743, (3) reported that it carried him forward "with prodigious swiftness." Half a mile below a more impressive rapid was encountered, but its fall of about six inches would hardly seem to have merited its name of Knock-em-stiff. Three quarters of a mile further, two islands were encountered near the east bank. The southern one was about four acres in extent and the northern about one and a half acres. Geddes (4) reported the northern one had "a noal near 30 feet high."

In both Wright's and Geddes' surveys, these islands were designated by the unwieldy names of Three River Rift Upper Island and Three River Rift Lower Island. J.V.H. Clark mentions Baldwin's Island here, and Churchill says it was formerly called McGee's Island. The current canal maps show it as Stowell Island, and the state historical marker calls it Treasure Island.

The east bank had a notable grove of pine trees from which the place got its Indian name, Kuhnataha, "where pine trees grow." (5)

The site of Phoenix was a favorite Indian fishing place. There were camps on the east and west banks of the river and on the islands. (6) Beauchamp refers to this as a "summer fishing village"; this description is supported by the fact that Fr. LeMoyne mentioned a fishing village there in August, 1654, (7), but apparently there was none in March, 1658, when the refugees from Ste. Marie de Ganentaha stopped here. (8) There was evidently little Indian settlement along the river, and none below Mooney's Bay. There was a recent find between Phoenix and Hinmansville, a settlement on the west side about a mile north of Hinmansville, and another on the west side about a mile south of Fulton. There was a semicircular earthwork at the east end of the Falls, the Bone Hill burial place near West 1st and Broadway in Fulton, and many camps around Lake Neahtawanta, "lake hiding from the river."

Bartram, in 1743, mentioned a "little town" of about four of five cabins on the east side a mile below the falls, whose inhabitants subsisted by fishing and helping "the Albany people" haul their bateaus and goods around the falls. He said the Indians there gave him watermelon and corn, so there may have been some agriculture at this site. Bradstreet, in 1758, spoke of camping in an Indian-old-field on a plain at this site. (9) There is no trace of Indian settlement along the river below here.

Let's return to Phoenix and our description of the river itself. Just below the islands the Three River Reef began, a violent rapid with a fall of more than five feet in less than a half a mile. (The terms rapid, reef, riff and rift were used

interchangeably.) One can still get a glimpse of this rapid below the Phoenix dam. Clinton called this Three Mile Rapid, but said it was two miles from Three Rivers Point. He said the salt boats unloaded half their cargo to shoot the rapid. Half a mile beyond was Three River Bar, and then three-quarters of a mile of smooth water. Even here the current was swift, as there was a fall of four inches to the mile.

Next came Smooth Rock Rapid, falling twenty inches in 2000 feet. The rapid made a sharp bend of more than ninety degrees to the left around a high point, almost immediately turned ninety degrees to the right around a lower point, and ended a quarter mile below. The high point inside the left bend acquired the name of Fiddler's Elbow. (10) When the Barge Canal was constructed, it cut across the base of this point, and Fiddler's Elbow became Walters Island.

Below Smooth Rock was a straight, narrow, and swift passage of more than a mile. The river in its natural state was nearly as straight as it appears today, because widening the stream has eliminated many of its bends. Christian Schultz (11) mentions one hazard to which I can find no other reference: "About five miles below the point our boat very narrowly escaped being stove to pieces, by being forced upon what is called the Pilot Rock."

At the end of this stretch the stream turned abruptly to the left, and there was a fall of 5 inches in a quarter of a mile. This was Horseshoe Rapid, the site of Horseshoe Dam on the original canal, which was a straight dam, (12), although many people assume it was curved. The island near the left bank, which has also received the name Horseshoe, is an artificial island. In the late 1820's, Paine and Geer cut off the point with a race for their sawmill to take advantage of the fall, (13), and this channel was widened when the level was raised for the Barge Canal.

At the foot of the rapid the river turned to the right and began its longest stretch of continuously smooth flow, 5.2 miles of gently winding course with a fall of only 20 inches.

Ox Creek is one of the larger tributaries of the river, and Wilcox Island was in the mouth of Ox Creek. It was four acres in area, but was very low, and was covered with trees. It was drowned out by the Barge Canal, but the stumps of the trees are still visible. Geddes call this Ox Creek Island. A mile and a half below Horseshoe Rapid was a wooded island of about 17 acres in midstream. It was low and flat on all sides, but the central part, comprising about half the area, was elevated nearly 20 feet. This was Big Island, also known as Gale Island.

A quarter of a mile further was a low, elongated island consisting of 4 acres of good meadow, but can still be indentified by a large patch of cattails in midstream, called Little Island. It was drowned out by the Barge Canal, Geddes referred to these as Newkerk's Upper Island and Newkerk's Lower Islands, and Wright (14) described them as "Against C. Newkerk's location."

After another mile the river turned to the left and immediately back to the right around an island close to the right bank. The island had an area of about three and a half acres and consisted of "a poor ridge of thin land." The channel between the island and the east shore was less than one hundred feet wide and very shallow in time of low water. Geddes called this Upper Landing Island, and it later was called Yelverton Island.

The stream flowed swiftly but smoothly as it fell about four inches in less than half a mile. A roaring could be heard, and suddenly the smooth sheet of water shot over a ledge and dropped as a vertical white wall ten feet high. The ledge extended the whole width of the river except for a channel about twenty

feet wide near the middle, through which the water shot at an angle of about 40 or 45 degrees. Clinton reported, "Loaded boats cannot with safety descend the falls, but light boats may. Pilots conduct the boats over for $1 each." When Cooper recounted the passage of Pathfinder, Eau Douce and Cap over the falls in a canoe, he added in a footnote, "Lest the reader suppose we are dealing purely in fiction, the writer will add that he has known a long thirty-two pounder carried over these same falls in perfect safety." (15)

The Indian name for Oswego Falls was Kaskungsaka, "Many falls following," and this was an accurate prediction of what to expect on the rest of the river. There were several lesser ledges below the falls, and there was a continuous violent rapid for more than a mile and a quarter, with a current of twenty miles an hour. The Oswego Falls Rapid was full of great rocks, and "the roaring of the troubled waves was terrific as the foaming stream dashed furiously against the rocks on all sides." The total drop in the mile below the falls was about twenty-seven feet. Bartram said, "Then they launch again into the river (below the falls), and down the foaming stream that furiously on all sides dashes one half against the rocks, near a mile before they come to still water, and indeed, it runs pretty swift all the way to Oswego."

There are many other accounts of the hazards of this rapid, of which Bradstreet's description, given in 1758, is representative: "The river below is full of rocks, and a succession of rifts for near a mile in length, which makes the navigation both difficult and hazardous; the batteaus and whale boats are drawn by hand over the carrying place, about fifty yards, to where the force of the water, which descends the precipice, is somewhat abated. Here they are again launched into the river, and by four men conveyed down the rifts, to a cove, where the water is still and smooth, about a mile distant. Those who are so fortunate as to keep the channel, and avoid touching the rocks, are generally about three minutes passing this distance. Thro' the want of experienced navigators, several batteaus were driven against the rocks, fill'd with water instantly, others by the violence of the force, were split asunder and sunk, and with difficulty their crews reached shore. These twelve miles (to Oswego) we passed in about an hour and a half."

About a mile below the falls there was an island a little more than an acre in extent near the west bank. Geddes called this Lower Landing Island, and Wright just located it, "against the line of G. Newkerk & C. Steen." Today's maps call it Montagu Island. On the east side, opposite this island, was a cove with still, smooth water. The cove marked a break in the gradient of the stream, but the rapid continued violent with a fall of about three feet in the next mile.

A little below the cove and very close to the east bank lay Waterhouse Island, about nine acres in area and covered with rather good meadow. One state map calls this Grass Island.

Half a mile below was an island sixteen acres in area near the right bank. The northern half of the island was meadow, and the southern half was an elongated knoll of thin soil over thirty feet high covered with beech trees. Wright simply designated this island as being "against Cluett's," but Geddes called it Van-Valkenburg's Large Island. It was commonly call Van Buren's until 1889 when it became Pathfinder. In midstream, just below this island was another of about two acres. Geddes called it VanValkenburg's Little Island. If this island was where Wright shows it, it must have been dredged away when the Barge Canal was built, or joined to Pathfinder at that time by spoil.

Holmes Hutchison's map of 1834 shows two islands in Mooney's Bay, one just below Lock 11 and a larger one farther down near the west shore. This would be near the mouth of Tannery Creek, opposite John Taylor's location. The 1912 map calls this Frenchman's Island, but the current one shows it without a name.

Beyond Pathfinder Island the river changed to a broad sweep of placid water resembling a lake rather than a river. This expanse, called Mooney's Bay, was over a mile long and more than a 1000 feet across at its widest part. There was almost two miles between rapids with a total fall of two and a half inches. Around the mouth of the creek was the second of only three small swampy areas in the whole length of the river, despite Oliver Goldsmith's line, "Wild Oswego spreads her swamps around."

As the stream narrowed again, it curved sharply to the left just below Black Creek, and Braddock's Reef ended the long reach of smooth water. The rapid was 3400 feet long with a fall of five feet. About two-thirds of the way down the rapid was an island, within a hundred feet of the west shore and less than an acre in area, consisting of a knoll more than twenty feet high. Geddes called it Millseat Island, and it later had a starch factory on it, so it appears on some maps as Factory Island. Logically this would be Frenchman's Island, if the story is true.

At the foot of the rapid was another island of about five acres with a thin, dry soil timbered chiefly with beech. Wright and Geddes called it Broadstreet's, and it was also known as Braddock's. In recent times it has been called Battle Island. To me the most interesting thing about the battle is the fact that the river was so shallow that the combatants could charge back and forth across the river.

Half a mile below Battle Island the river entered a gorge-like passage, and Smooth Rock Rapids fell three feet four inches in the next mile. Half way down the rapid, Bundyville Creek entered the river from the right. One hundred and fifty yards below the creek, a notable spring issued about halfway up the right bank.

Three quarters of a mile below Smooth Rock the river plunged into a series of rapids which extended almost to its mouth. The fall was almost six feet in the first 3400 feet constituting Devil's Horn Reef. There were differences in gradient and violence of water below here, but there was no more smooth water until the lake level was reached. Geddes said in the report on his canal survey of 1808, "Indeed, the last four miles deserves not the name of a valley; it is more properly a rocky ravine, through which the river is precipitated with the velocity produced by a fall, which, in one place, is nearly eight feet in half a mile." Bates' survey lists the rapids below here as : Devil's Horn Reef. Six-Mile Reef. Horse-race reef, Little Smooth rock reef, rapids of Little Smooth rock, and Oswego reef; but Clinton lists them as: the Devil's Horse, Six-mile rift, Little Smooth Rock Rapid, the Devil's Warping Bars, the Devil's Horse Race, and Oswego Rift.

With regard to toponomy, a couple of observations may be in order. Literacy was far from universal, and there is likely to be confusion about place names as long as they are transmitted orally; they become fixed only when they are written down, especially on a map. Also, it would be interesting to know how much influence the eighteenth century fad for diabolism had in the naming.

Six-Mile Reef fell three feet in the next 1700 feet. Oddly enough the following 4200 feet had no special name in Bates' survey, although it had a fall of more than five feet. Horse-race Reef plunged more than nine feet in 3200 feet, and in the next half-mile Little Smooth Rock Reef

fell five feet in eight-tenths of a mile, and the next half-mile had a fall of three feet three inches.

Here the river made a sweeping bend to the left and plunged forward even more rapidly over a bottom of smooth, solid rock. The river continued straight for more than half a mile, made another bend to the right and continued another half-mile between high banks before reaching the smooth water of the harbor at lake level. This last rapid was the Oswego Reef, and its falls was fourteen feet nine inches in a mile and three tenths.

Christian Schultz thus described his passage of the Oswego Reef: "When you arrive within one mile of the town, you suddenly perceive a rapid increase of motion, occasioned by what are called the falls of Oswego. The town and its shipping are now in sight; the current hurries forward almost with the rapidity of an arrow; and, although the water is perfectly clear and transparent, the bed of the river a smooth solid rock, and the water so shoal that you frequently feel the boat rub against the bottom, yet you are wafted along with such extreme swiftness that you can scarcely get a glimpse of the bottom as you glide over it; and, before you can imagine it, find yourself unexpectedly among the vessels at Oswego." Cooper figured three minutes to shoot the Oswego Reef, or better than twenty miles an hour.

The best description of the mouth of the Oswego occurs in The Pathfinder by James Fennimore Cooper, who had traveled the river himself and had spent some time in Oswego. Although it occurs in a work of fiction, the following description is in exact agreement with maps of the period: "The Oswego threw its dark waters into the lake between banks of some height; that on its eastern side being bolder and projecting further north than that on its western. The fort was on the latter."

"There were two low, curved, gravelly points that had been formed with surprising regularity by the counteracting forces of the northerly winds and the swift current, and which, inclining from the storms of the lake, formed two coves within the river. That on the western side was the most deeply indented, and as it also had the most water, it formed a sort of picturesque little port for the post. It was along the narrow strand that lay between the low height of the fort and the water of this cove, that the rude buildings had been erected."

Cross (17) recorded that "the vesells" were built on that side in 1756. He also said that he "sounded the mouth of the harbour and found eight feet of water."

In 1758 Bradstreet reported, "The harbour is very commodius, form'd by a point of land, projecting from each shore, at the mouth of the river. Here vessels may lie in the greatest safety; tho' by a sandbar, which extends across the harbour's mouth, no large shipping can be admitted; vessels drawing about ten or eleven feet of water, are the largest which can cross it."

When DeWitt Clinton visited the port with the canal commissioners in 1810, he wrote in his journal, "The river at Oswego is twelve chains wide. The bar in this river is eight and a half feet deep, the channel is about two rods wide, and the mouth of the bar is about one hundred and fifty feet. Where the river enters the lake, its course is to be traced by the blackness of its waters. The lake water is green, transparent, and fit to drink."

This was the Oswego river in its natural condition, as it was before man made any appreciable changes in it. This was the setting for all the activity from the appearance of the first white man until the building of the Oswego canal. This was the natural endowment, both assets and liabilities, which man has exploited for over two centuries.

Footnotes

(1) Campbell, William W., "Clinton's Journal," THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF DEWITT CLINTON, New York, Baker and Scribner, 1849.
(2) Distances, falls, and names of features in the river are taken from Bates' survey, LAWS IN RELATION TO THE ERIE AND CHAMPLAIN CANALS, p. 490
(3) Bartram, John, OBSERVATIONS MADE IN HIS TRAVELS FROM PENSILVANIA TO ONONDAGO, OSWEGO AND THE LAKE ONTARIO, London, 1751
(4) Geddes's Return of Islands in the Seneca and Oswego Rivers, filed March 3, 1807.
(5) Beauchamp, William M., INDIAN NAMES OF NEW YORK, Fayetteville, 1893. All references to Indian Names are to this work or to ABORIGINAL PLACE NAMES OF NEW YORK, NYS Museum Bulletin 108, Albany, 1907, by the same author.
(6) Beauchamp, William M., ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION OF NEW YORK, STATE, Bulletin of the NYS Museum, No. 32, Vol. 7, Albany, 1900
(7) JESUIT RELATIONS, XLI, p. 125
(8) O'Callaghan, E.B., (Ed.), DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, Vol. I, p 53
(9) Bradstreet, John, AN IMPARTIAL ACCOUNT OF LIEUT. COL. BRADSTREET'S EXPEDITION TO FORT FRONTENAC, Rous and Mann, Ltd., Toronton, 1940
(10) The Oswego canal from a survey by Holmes Hutchison, 1834, Plate 29
(11) Schultz, Christian, Jr., TRAVELS ON AN INLAND VOYAGE, Vol. I New York, Isaac Bailey, 1810
(12) Hutchinson, op. cit., plate 32
(13) ibid., Plates 31 and 32
(14) A Survey of the Islands in the Oneida Lake and in the Onondago and Oswego Rivers, by Benjamin Wright, 1795
(15) Cooper, James Fennimore, THE PATHFINDER, New York, Hurd and Houghton, 1869
(16) Goldsmith, Oliver, THE TRAVELER, 1756
(17) Cross, Stephen, UP TO ONTARIO

My Uncle Mac

DAVID HALL McCONNELL

Avon Calling

"MY UNCLE MAC"

Presented by George DeMaas, Jr.. February 20, 1962

INTRODUCTION

The family name of McConnell is a good old Irish name, meaning world mighty. The family came to Southwest Oswego over 100 years ago, and became a prominent family in that area, helping to build that community and the Township of Oswego.

Today all the older McConnell brothers and sisters are gone, George McConnell being the last to pass away in 1957 at the age of 93. But descendants of the older McConnells still reside in the same house at Southwest Oswego which was bought from Dan Timerson over 90 years ago by James McConnell. Mrs. Nettie Wiltsie McConnell, widow of Joseph McConnell and sister-in-law of our subject, lives there today at the grand young age of 93. She resides with her son and his wife, Ernest and Irene McConnel , and their daughter, LaVerne.

I am going to talk tonight about one member of the McConnell family and the story of an industry, It is the story of a young man who started with nothing and yet through hard work and perseverance became founder of one of the world's largest industries -- Avon Products Inc.

The birth of the California Perfume Company (later called the House of Avon) and its living principles, came to pass in Southwest Oswego with the birth of David Hall McConnell, on July 18, 1858, on what is now the Sabin Road. His parents were James McConnell (June 1, 1825-July 14, 1909) and Isabella Hall (1829-Sept. 9, 1899.) His grandfather was William McConnell. David had an older brother William R., born in 1855. He served for many years as foreman for the New York Central Railroad shops at Oswego. He died in the early 1930's. His younger brothers and sisters were Joseph P. (1860-1930), Margaret Ann McConnell Groat (1862-1939), George J. (1864-1957, and Hattie I. McConnell McMillen (1870-1946).

The McConnell family had moved to the United States and had settled at Southwest Oswego, New York, in the year 1856. They had left County Cavan, Ireland, and had come to seek a new life in America. James McConnell, our subject's father, was a farmer and brickmaker by trade and he worked hard on his new farm. David went to the local schools and later attended the Oswego Normal School. There is no record, however, of his having graduated from that school. He did, however, donate the chimes in 1928 for the handcarved clock, made by Uldrick Thompson of the class of 1886. The clock now stands in Park Hall on the campus. David is said to have been the "seat writer" in the little red school house, his alma mater, which was near his home. He later taught in that little old red school house. In 1871, the McConnells moved into the old Timerson house on top of Lewis' Bluff. During David's summer vacation he worked for a book company, and in 1878, he left Southwest Oswego, after having spent his boyhood days there, and after having worked hard on his father's farm. Yes, he left his humble home here in Oswego Town to sell books, but he was

destined to become "Perfume King" of the United States.

As he served as a book agent, he developed a faculty for talking. This he found very helpful. After canvassing for two years, he became the General Traveling Agent for the book company. While he was the occupant of this office, he traveled in almost every state east of the Rocky Mountains. This gave him a vast knowledge regarding the country and a good insight into human nature. He traveled to Chicago, to New York, to Atlanta, back to Chicago and to New York. He appointed and drilled agents and General Agents and kept in contact with both, helping and advising them. While doing this he said, "I learned to be practical." When he returned from Chicago, he purchase the book company, which he then was working for. Through all his experiences he had learned how to sell products to the consumer. As he was canvassing, he was moved by the way women were struggling to "make ends meet." They could not spend any money except for necessities. Mr. McConnell thought that by a direct-selling method a woman could earn some extra money for the little extra things and for educational purposes. To accomplish his objective, he thought that a perfume prduct would be the most practical and most dignified for a lady. Thus the beginning of a bright promising, new industry was born.

At the age of twenty-eight, David Hall McConnell started his little business in a space scarcely larger than an ordinary kitchen pantry. Five odors of perfume were first manufactured: Violet, White Rose, Heliotrope, Lily-of-the-Valley, and Hyacin. Mr. McConnell named his company the California Perfume Company, or more commonly known as CPC. In 1936, this name was changed to Avon Products, Inc. It was a shorter name and it represented the diversified line of products, which it now offered. The former name of California Perfume Co. received its origin from Mr. McConnell's great friend, his former employer, who had moved to California. He had written Mr. McConnell and had told him of that beautiful state of California. David McConnell's first office was located at 126 Chambers St., New York City. He only had but one secretary, and he, himself, acted as bookkeeper, cashier, correspondent, shipping clerk, office boy, and manufacturing chemist. Women were eager for the opportunity of accepting his plan for direct selling, which this new product opened up for them. There was a demand for more products, after the first ones were introduced into the consumers' homes. CPC became a name for fine quality. Even after the name was changed, people still seemed familiar with Avon products, because a few of them had already appeared in the CPC Catalog. On some of the cosmetic bottles he placed the name of "Geddings," his chemist at one time, instead of McConnell. As there was an increasing demand for more of this perfume, women could now earn a little extra money for their families.

His profit which he made on the first batch of perfume didn't even cover one-half of the actual cost of the goods. Mr. McConnell later added to his line of perfume, Witch Hazel Cream, Shampoo cream, Almond Cream Balm, and Toothpaste. The first General Agent for the first six months was Mrs. P.F.E. Albee from Winchester, New Hampshire. She had also served under him as a book agent. She carried her first perfume kit, "Little Dot." Mrs. Albee was given the honorary title of "Mother of the California Perfume Company."

Mr. McConnell always kept in the closest touch with all of his General Agents and Depot Managers (now the Avon Representative). He even did so in the book business, when he was a General Agent. Mr. McConnell wrote: "Our aim is to keep in the closest possible touch with

you; to enter right into your everyday work, and in the letters we send you we try to convey our untiring efforts and interest, giving you the benefit of my experience in every way, so that your work will bring you the best possible returns." These letters which he wrote to the Depot Managers grew into the Avon booklet, "Outlook." And now Avon also has Campaign Folders and "Make Yourself Know" folders to help their representatives.

In 1895, David McConnell built his laboratory in Suffern, New York. His home was also at Suffern. This laboratory had nine additions. In 1903, the building was 120 ft. long. The main building was 50 ft. wide and the wing, 30 ft. wide. It had four working floors, each 4,800 sq. ft., and it contained the latest machinery. In 1896, Mr. McConnell, after being the manufacturer for ten years, employed a perfumer, who had a reputation of making the finest perfumes on the American market. In order to gain his services, Mr. McConnell had to buy out his business and close it up. He said in 1903 that the hours in his factory were comparatively easy and everything had been done to make the work pleasant and agreeable. Also in the same year, Mr. McConnell had 125 employees, and 48 General Agents. He also had over 10,000 Depot Managers, while in the first six months of the company, he had only 100 Depot Managers. Mr. McConnell once said that this emphasizes what energy and fair dealings with everyone can accomplish. He also stated that the limit is measured only by the amount of hard work and energy that one puts into his work.

The products of Avon began to increase. In the early 1900's the sets for Christmas giving came into being. They were beautifully lithographed in pretty colors. In the 1920's when cosmetics began to flourish, lipstick, compacts, and nail polish came into existence. People looked to Avon. They knew the high quality of the products. Mr. McConnell certainly had faith in his products because of his Avon Guarantee. He said, "The Avon Guarantee stands as a symbol of our own faith in our products."

In 1896 he established branches in San Francisco and Dallas. Also in 1896 Alexander D. Henderson, joined the company, and served as Vice-president and Treasurer of the firm. In 1897, William Scheele joined the staff. He served as Secretary and General Sales Manager. Then Mr. McConnell established branches in Montreal and Kansas City.

Yes, CPC or Avon began to grow. In 1905, the Avon "Outlook" came into existence. And in 1906 the Avon Catalog described 177 different articles. In 1915, the company won the Gold Medal for the quality of their products and the beauty of the packaging of their products at the Panama Pacific Exposition. The following is a list of the head officers of the Avon Cosmetic Company in 1915.
David Hall McConnell-President,
Alexander D. Henderson- V. President-Treasurer
William Scheele-Secretary-General Sales Manager

MANAGERS

Alonzo. E. Williams Western Division
P. Henry Brockmann- Southern Division
Edward L. Helmig-Eastern Division
George J. McConnell-San Francisco Branch
Philip J. Morgan-Kansas City Branch
Judson D. Tiffany - Luzerne, Pa. Branch
Charles C. Stewart- Canada, Limited, Montreal, Quebec.

In 1921, the Color-Plate Catalog, which contained actual size color photographs of the Avon Products, was introduced. This way the Depot Manager didn't have to carry his little wooden suitcase of the products with him. In 1936, their

first advertisement in a magazine appeared in Good Housekeeping. In 1937, Mr. McConnell passed away and his son David Hall McConnell Jr. became President. Also in that year, the old laboratory at Suffern was torn down and a more modern establishment was built. The home office had moved to 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, where it still stands today. In 1941, on the death of David Jr., Mr. John A. Ewald became President. The Avon Company worked for the Armed Forces during World War II. But after the war they were able to make new products and to have better packaging for them. In 1956, Avon made its first appearance on television. On Jan. 1, 1962, Mr. Russel Rooks became President. He passed away January 31,' 1962 after serving for only one month.

Today, Avon has three modern laboratories. They are located at Suffern, New York; Morton Grove, Illinois; and Pasadena, California. The laboratory in Morton Grove, is the largest cosmetic laboratory in the world. This was completed in 1956. These three laboratories produce more than two hundred products. Only the finest ingredients are used to produce these products. The chemists are the foremost in their field and the Avon Company makes their own formulas. After each batch of perfume ect. is made, it is checked for its quality. All the checking and re-checking that goes into the products is for the most precious product- "Customer Confidence." The raw materials are always watched, because that does help make up the quality of the product. At Avon, only the best raw materials are used. Its reputation was sustained by Edward Jarmus who was chief chemist in 1956.

Avon today has six service and shipping centers. They are located at Newark, Delaware; Rye, New York, Kansas City, Missouri, Morton Grove, Illinois; Atlanta, Georgia; and Pasadena, California. Each once of these service centers acts as the home base for each Avon Representative in that district. This is where the representative sends her order for the Avon products. These centers also keep in close contact with each representative, as the Founder of Avon loved to do. But the Avon Company has said that each center helps to form one big family tree. They work together for the good of all. In 1956, there were about 90,000 Avon Representatives. When Mr. McConnell started Avon, the products were shipped from Suffern to New York City by horse-drawn van. Today the shipments of the products are sent from the laboratories to these different centers by modern means. Uncle Mac, as he was known in the family, said that both his life and that of his company had become very identical. In 1886, the same year that he founded Avon, he married Lucy Hays. They had three children , Edna McConnell Clar, New York City, Doris McConnell Faile, Southport, Conn. and David Hall McConnell, Jr. married a Miss Anderson of Fort Worth, Texas, and after her death he married the Baroness Hubert Von Pantz of New York and Paris. Today there are twenty-two great-grandchildren of Mr. McConnell.

Uncle Mac attended the Methodist Church and was a Sunday School teacher. During World War I, he headed the Rockland County draft board. About 1920-34, he served as treasurer of the Rockland Republican Committee. In 1892, he was Superintendent of Schools in Suffern and served on the Board of Education. He was treasurer of G.W. Carnick & Co. of Newark, New Jersey. This company dealt with pharmaceutical supplies. Uncle Mac served as director of Holly Hill Fruit Products Co., Davenport, Florida. He was one of the founders of the Suffern National Bank, which later merged to form the Suffern National Bank and Trust Co. He served as President of the bank and as Chairman of the Board of Dir-

ectors. Uncle Mac was a member of the Union League Club of New York, Houvenkopf Country Club, Arcola Country Club, and the Ormond Beach Country Club. David Hall McConnell passed away Wednesday, January 20, 1937, at the age of 79. He had lived to see the 50th anniversary of the company, which he had founded. His funeral was on Friday, January 22, 1937. 'D.H.', as he was later known had lived to see his dream fulfilled and now he could rest, while his company could go on working in the way he had so patiently and faithfully taught its workers "with their heart as well as their hand." David Hall McConnell was laid to rest in Airmont Cemetery, Suffern.

Truly, Avon Products Inc. has grown successfully in just seventy-five years. But I believe this has been so, because the founder showed how to work with your heart as well as your hands. He once said, "We have proven by our growth what honesty and fair dealings can achieve."

Today, one out of every three women use an Avon product. It is today a multi-billion dollar industry. The quality standards have increased. New methods and materials have helped develop finer products. Avon's quality and guaranteed satisfaction are two of the most essential ingredients for fine products. Mr. McConnell wanted to serve American families with quality products that would bring satisfaction to all. Quality products, thrifty prices and friendly service were three of Uncle Mac's ideals. Today, Avon serves the United States, Cuba, South America and Europe. As the counder once said, "true efforts are what count."

THE PRINCIPLES OF AVON

To give to others an opportunity to earn, in support of their happiness, betterment, and welfare.

To serve American families with quality products that will bring satisfaction to all users.

To render a service to customers that is highly outstanding in its helpfulness and courtesy.

To share with others the blessings of deserved growth and business success.

To depend with full confidence on the men and women of Avon, and on Managers and Representatives, for their individual and collective contributions toward success.

To cherish and retain the friendly spirit of Avon.

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Times Have Changed

LIFE IN OSWEGO TOWN AT THE CLOSE OF THE 19th CENTURY

Presented by Ellen Sivers, February 20, 1962

While I was in the process of finding a phase of New York State history that interested me, I had the good fortune of being able to acquire a diary kept by Mrs. Lyman Coats. I have used for the basis of my project one year of her life, although she kept a journal every day for many years.

Mrs. Coats was not herself an important figure in the history of Oswego but it's what she represents that's worth remembering. I will, in my report, try to use Mrs. Coats as an example of how farm people lived approximately seventy years ago in Oswego Town.

First of all I think it is essential that you become familiar with the type of person Mrs. Coats was.

Aurora Borealis Walker, sister of Dr. Mary Walker, married Lyman Coats in 1848. They maintained a farm on the Rural Cemetery Road. They were blessed with one child, Vesta. In 1890 Mr. Coats died leaving the management of the farm to his wife, Aurora.

At the age of forty, Vesta married Charles Fenske, and they lived in the house with Mrs. Coats.

The year I am about to refer to was 1892. Mrs. Coats was sixty-seven years old September 21, 1892, and in May of 1893 she weighed one hundred sixty-one pounds.

This farm was Mrs. Coat's only source of income. Out of it came her living. Nowadays, if a widow of sixty-seven were left with a farm of this size, she would most likely sell it and move to a smaller place and draw Social Security. The value of a dollar was far greater in 1892 than it is today. The following expenses recorded by Mrs. Coats prove this statement: bread $.02, 2 lbs. beef, $.25, 1 lb. codfish, $.10, 1 lb. steak, $.10, 1/2 watermelon, $.10, one doz. bananas $.15, one lb. sausage, $.08 1/4 lb. of mustard, $.06, 2 loaves of homemade bread, $.10, soap, $.05, lamp chimney, $.05, sixteen and a half pounds of telephone wire for grape vines, $.69, one roll of wallpaper $.08, one box stove parts, $.10, one pound putty $.03, rubbers, $.50, one pair buckskin-lined mittens, $.40, one calico dress, $1.00, 4 pairs of black stockings, $.54, one ton of coal $5.00, 1/2 bushel timothy grass seed $1.10, Church supper, $.50, subscription to Phrenological journal $1.50, money order, $.05, stamped envelope, $.03, shoeing horse for $.25.

Eighty cents would supply Mrs. Coats with three loaves of bread, one pound of steak, one pound of sausage, onions, one pound of crackers, cookies and one gallon of oysters. Consider how many of these articles could be bought today for eighty cents.

CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

Mrs. Coats' livestock consisted of a horse named Barney, a cow, and a pig which she sold for six dollars. Seventy years ago people worked hard for a living. If there was something that needed attending to on your farm, for the most part, you did it yourself or it just didn't get done. There wasn't very much money to be thrown around.

Mrs. Coats grew all her own peaches, grapes, tomatoes, potatoes raspberries, strawberries, corn, wheat, beans, pears, and apples. In June Mrs. Coats planted fifty hills of sweetcorn, sixty hills of beans, one hundred fifty hills of yellow corn, and set out eight peach trees.

Charles, her son-in-law, sowed winter wheat in September. The spring wheat was threshed in October. That fall she hoed thirty-seven hills of potatoes.

In November she trimmed grapevines and topped the raspberries carefully so they'd yield abundantly the following summer and early fall.

Over winter the crops lay in the ground getting ready to sprout up in the spring.

Much was to be done in April when everything became green again. New oats were planted, the berries were trimmed, and new lettuce was sown. The currants and raisins were picked over and the raisins were rubbed in meal, put through a colander and washed so the stems would fall off. In order to cut her black raspberries, Mrs. Coats borrowed Herman Pease's raspberry cutter.

In May the tomatoes and lettuce were transplanted. During this month she hoed forty currant plants, set out onions, hoed gooseberries, and planted the potatoes under the grapevines.

CHORES AND DAILY TASKS

During the summer months and most of the year long Mrs. Coats churned cream into butter. She had to milk the cows. This was the only way people could get butter and cream as there weren't any delivery men from a community dairy. Occasionally she would make some ice cream.

The lawn was kept mowed with a scythe and shears.

It was not unusual for her to arise at five a.m. to start the day. One Monday she got up in the night to make four loaves of bread because it got too hot during the day.

Her Sunday dishes were left until Monday so she wouldn't have to do them on the Sabbath.

In the fall she pared apples for applesauce and made pork into sausage. In the month of September she made vinegar and sold it for fifty cents a jug.

The coming winter meant boards to be chopped into kindling, and wood brought in for the fireplace. She made frequent trips to the coalhouse to bring in barrels of coal for the stove. Mrs. Coats sewed trousers, mended stockings, made pillow cases, clips and sheets during the winter afternoons.

All the woodwork in the parlor was washed in April. She also made cornhust mats and a quilt that Spring.

In May she cleaned and watered the stable, swept the barn floor, and white-washed the parlor. The carpet was cleaned by hanging it on a line and beating the dirt out of it.

LAUNDRY

In warm weather laundry was boiled in a brass kettle, washed in rainwater, rinsed and spread on the grass to dry so the sun would bleach the garments.

In February she made some bluing with 1/4 pound of Borax, one ounce Prussian blue, and one gallon of water. We have our choice of any kind of bluing we want, all made and bottled, ready to use.

To remove ink stains Mrs. Coats washed clothing in boiled new milk and salt. Today most people would remove ink stains with a stain remover sold in any grocery store. We mustn't overlook the fact that a lot of ink is also washable.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Most of Mrs. Coats' time was taken up during crop weather with taking care of her farm as was with

most farmers of that time. However, she did have time for some activities.

In the summer of 1892, she went to a meeting of Masons from all over the state, held in Oswego. The public buildings were beautifully decorated.

The school picnic was at the lake, Beach Ontario. Her horse and buggy served as transportation for such purposes as this.

On the 4th of July it was all the style to drive along the Boulevard (now Washington Boulevard) in a trolley car. She couldn't go this particular year because of a severely sprained ankle.

While she was convalescing, her neighbors sometimes came in to read or sing to her.

In the winter she stayed in a lot because of bad weather. One of her winter afternoons was spent thusly: she played checkers with a friend, sewed on some shirts and trousers, pared apples and potatoes, mended her stockings, swept the floors, washed the dishes, read, brushed her hair into a french twist, and crocheted. Aside from these things, she also made pillows, mended various things and made a scrapbook.

For Christmas Eve she invited Vesta and her husband over to play checkers. She treated them to peppermint candy, Brazil nuts, raisins, and cookies.

Unlike the highly commercialized Christmas of today, Christmas at their house was just a quiet day with a sleigh ride in the afternoon. The only mention of presents was a cornhusk mat Mrs. Coats had made to give to Vesta and Charles.

January 31, 1893, she was invited to attend the Normal School examinations.

In May she was asked to speak in the schoolhouse. Later in that month she attended to a sick neighbor woman. She gave the lady a salt bath, washed her dishes, bandaged a swollen ankle, and combed her hair. The woman paid her with six eggs and a small loaf of bread. Her energy seemed unfailing! On May 29th she got up at four o'clock in the morning to bake a cake.

VISITING

One day in good weather Mrs. Coats drove her horse and buggy to church. Afterward she went home along the Washington Boulevard to see a friend. She remarked that her friend happened to be looking rather ill so she had Dr. Walker go to see what was wrong. Most doctors now will hardly ever come to one's home, one always has to go to the office because they're so busy.

She invited people in for tea quite often and they sometimes stayed for the night. She went to other peoples' homes also. Tea consisted of oysters, beefsteak, potatoes, bread and butter, cake, honey, apple pie, cookies, crackers, and tea. As you can see tea was rather a large meal and not just dainty sandwiches and cookies.

PEOPLE MRS. COATS EMPLOYED

Rose Decker, a neighbor, worked half a day for Mrs. Coats. She washed mopped the kitchen and swept the parlor. She did all this for twenty-five cents! A man worked one and a half hours setting three grapevine posts, sawing kindling wood, and bringing in eight pails of water from the spring. He received fifteen cents and his supper for his services.

John, a friend of Mrs. Coats, worked five and one half hours patching and plastering the parlor and bedroom. He charged twenty cents an hour. A plasterer now receives at least three dollars an hour.

Mrs Robinson papered some of the parlor and charged one dollar. Mrs. Coats paid Levi Pullen fifty cents for helping her cut potatoes.

MEALS AND FOOD

Summer meals consisted mostly of beef, potatoes, coffee, turnip soup, beans, biscuits, custard pie, rice, boiled dinner, pears, raspberries and strawberries. Strawberries were very common and used a great deal in the preparation of summer meals. Picking strawberries was done almost daily in strawberry season. One quart of strawberries was sold for as much as sixty cents a quart! A shopping list for August included: two pounds of raisins $.12, one pound of coffee, $.30, 1/2 a pound of tea $.15, two pounds of rice, $.13, twenty pounds of white sugar at 5 1/2 cents a pound, one package of yeast $.08, one cake yeast, $.02, 2 pounds of raisin cornmeal at $.10. The average housewife of today goes to the super market at least once a week. Today we take such things as cake and cookie mixes, minute rice, instant pudding and synthetic detergents for granted, but seventy years ago these things were prepared by hand.

In 1893, people made almost everything they needed in the home and only bought the necessary things: those that they couldn't make. The only transportation they had was the horse and buggy or going on foot. Therefore, when they went to town, they bought enough to last a month or more.

In winter they ate canned fruits and vegetables that had been prepared in the summer and fall.

A typical lunch might be sweet potatoes, coffee, bread and butter, applesauce, crackers and tea.

Breakfast was much different than what we might eat. It was more like a lunch or dinner would be. While staying at the Griffens one day, Mrs. Coats had a breakfast of beefsteak, potatoes, bread and butter and catsup.

CHURCH

In the summer, Mrs. Coates gave Rev. Barrows, the minister, (1st Presbyterian, Oswego) two pounds of butter and some flowers for the church. She never missed a Sunday unless she was sick or unable to get there. When she was sick she would read in her Bible every Sunday.

Sunday School was held in the afternoon. This particular year Mrs. Coats decided to give one hundred dollars to the Presbyterian Church (this is the one to which she belonged). This one hundred dollars was to be her legacy. She gave it while she was living so she could see how much good it was going to do.

MEDICINE

Most of the cures administered to people with various aches and pains were homemade. Only rarely would people call in a doctor as they had much faith in their homemade remedies.

A bread and milk poultice was applied to a swollen face due to a toothache. Horeradish was taken for coughing. Salt and water or milk and peppermint were applied to a sore eye.

When Mrs. Coats suffered from a sprained limb she applied spirits of turpentine and linament.

Dr. Marsh's bill for treating Mrs. Coat's limb came to $3.75 for three visits and $.50 for two kinds of medicine

READING

Mrs. Coats had read the Bible thirty-eight times when she began again on "Genesis." She also read in the Daily Times ($.02 a copy) and the Sandy Creek News.

She subscribed to the Housekeeper Magazine.

TAXES

Mrs. Coats' taxes came to nine dollars and sixty-three cents and her school tax was forty-five cents.

BARGAINING, BORROWED, AND LENDING

Instead of giving each other money for services the people would trade back and forth for some of the things they needed. Mrs. Coats lent Mr. Robarge her horse; he cut two cords of wood for her in return.

Mrs. Coats gave a music lesson occasionally and was paid with a dozen eggs.

Charles Fenske (son-in-law) traded a cow with M. Pierce and Mr. Pierce gave him $14.00 besides.

In the fall Mrs. Coats gave Ella Walker two gallons of vinegar so Ella would help her hang paper sometime.

Mr. E. Marsden raised the house and kitchen. Instead of paying him cash as one would today, she paid him $5.50, one bushel of potatoes, and $4.00 worth of hay.

Mr. Robarge owed Mrs. Coats some money. Rather than paying her, he fixed two doors and picked a box of strawberries for her. She allowed him fifty cents on his account.

In the spring, Mrs. Coats had given Vesta a barrel of potatoes. In the fall Mrs. Coats needed potatoes so Vesta gave her a barrel in return.

Mrs. Coats made a bargain with Ira Pease for him to use her pasture. The cost was to be thirty dollars, fifteen to be paid on August 1st and the balance on December first. He would have use of the barnyard, pump, well, stable and eighteen new rails if he so desired. If her cow wasn't sold by May tenth and in good condition, he'd give her thirty-five dollars. However, she could sell it before May if she had the opportunity. If she furnished the material for fencing her pasture he was at liberty to take it away at any time, but he was to make the necessary repairs and run the risk of the stock damaging or breaking through the fence.

This is how they took care of debts. Mrs. Coats was a very conscientious person. Once she mentioned paying a debt of thirteen cents, and she also paid W. Coats one cent she owed him!

Endless comparisons could be made between life as it was then and life as it is now. I hope I have given some contrast as to the extreme differences that have occurred in a mere seventy years.

I would like to conclude by saying Mrs. Coats died on May 13, 1900, in her seventy-fifth year. She died as she had lived--hard at work doing her chores.

The War Of 1812 And The Lake Ontario Theater

Presented by Wallace F. Workmaster, May 15, 1962

Wars rarely are considered to be fortunate occasions. By necessity wars are times of widespread sacrifice and suffering highlighted by examples of valor and cowardice, exertion and inactivity, capability and ineptitude. The fascinating and terrible drama of deadly armed conflict includes both mankind's finest and basest capacities. The study of military history---only recently unpopular among professional historians---enlarges our understanding of the shortcomings and strengths of human character in times of trial just as does the examination of other aspects of man's experience in the past.

The War of 1812 perhaps more than any other war fought by the United States was a war of misfortune. The reasons so loudly trumpeted for its declaration were used to cloak the real aims and ambitions of its champions. A large portion of the ostensible complaints justifying the opening of hostilities were being removed by the British government almost as the American Congress endorsed James Madison's request for a formal declaration of war. The military establishment, weakened by extended inattention from Democratic-Republican politicans, was unprepared to wage war and the extended contest revealed extremely serious deficiencies in transportation facilities, financial stability, and manufacturing enterprise.

As a result of the war the Democratic-Republican party was compelled to depart from many of the precepts established by its founder, Thomas Jefferson, and to reverse its pre-war attitude on many fundamental national policies. The other major political party, the Federalists, committed figurative suicide through the Hartford Convention amidst rumors of seccession and dissolution of the Union. Even the Treaty of Ghent that ended the war merely restored the status quo ante bellum in most items of major concern and the treaty made no mention of the issues that had been cited the arguments that forced the United States into war.

The avowed basis of Madison's war message in 1812 has been righteous indignation over the impressment of American seamen and the interference with commercial privileges of a neutral nation's vessels on the high seas. These grievances had been of serious concern since a British admiralty court ruled against "broken voyages" by merchant vessels in 1805. They were compounded after a United States Navy frigate, the Chesapeake, was fired upon and forcibly detained by the British frigate Leopard in 1807. First the Jefferson and then the Madison administrations had sought to prevent further encroachment and to secure recognition of American rights by legislative acts restricting trade--the Embargo Act, the Non-Intercourse Act, and Macon's Bill No. 2. The effectiveness of these acts had been offset somewhat by illegal but widespread smuggling, a crippling of the American Merchant marine, and a diplomatic impasse

arising from the Erskine Treaty, the Cadore Letter, and settlement of the President-Little Belt affair.

In requesting a declaration of war Madison undoubtedly took into account a rising tide of Western resentment against Great Britain that was represented politically by a segment of the Democratic-Republican party known as the War Hawks. Led by Henry Clay of Kentucky, Felix Grundy of Tennessee, Richard M. Johnson of Kentucky, and Peter B. Porter of New York, the ultra-nationalist War Hawks siezed control of the Twelfth Congress which met late in 1811 in special session. Clay, only a freshman Representative, was elected Speaker of the House. The War Hawks used every opportunity--including the outstanding grievances over impressment and freedom of the seas--to advance their real aims of destroying British influence over northwestern Indian tribes and annexing Canada. When William Henry Harrison reported after the battle of Tippecanoe in 1811 that Tecumseh's Shawnees had been armed with British muskets and that captured powder kegs bore British markings War Hawk pressure on an already shaken President was re-doubled.

When discussing the forces that led the United States into war in 1812 it is significant to note that members of Congress from the seaboard constituencies most directly affected by resentment over the issues of impressment and freedom of the seas generally opposed Madison's request for a declaration of war. Representatives of western constituencies less affected by maritime considerations but more infected with fear of British-inspired Indian attacks and dreams of territorial conquest were the declaration's most ardent champions.

After some debate Congress voted to declare war on June 18, 1812. Five days later, June 23, the British government rescinded the most objectionable portions of their Orders in Council relating to neutral rights on the high seas. Opposition to the war was especially strong in New England where Boston greeted the news of the declaration with flags flown at half-mast. A number of states formally refused to permit their militia to be sworn into Federal Service for duty outside their state borders. DeWitt Clinton of New York, Madison's Federalist opponent in the presidental campaign of 1812, formulated his campaign to take advantage of the support of anti-war Democratic-Republicans and Federalists. The Tsar of Russia---whose own hands were occupied with Napoleon's invasion---offered to mediate, but the harassed administration in Washington refused and the United States entered "Mr. Madison's War."

The naval and military forces available for the war effort were painfully inadequate due to the paring of defense budgets and outright neglect that had taken place during Jefferson's two administrations and Madisons first administration. The naval force consisted of less than twenty ships, frigates, and armed brigs in varying states of repair plus 165 gunboats designed for harbor defense and incapable of venturing into open water without being swamped. With the exception of a single brig this force was assigned to Atlantic home ports and a portion of it was on the distant Mediterranian station. The brig, Oneida, mounting sixteen 24-pounder guns, comprised United States naval strength on Lake Ontario and not a single vessel was available on the upper Great Lakes. Naval command personnel fortunately was of fairly high potential and included such proven captains as Isaac Hull, William Bainbridge, Stephen Decatur, and James Lawrence.

The United States Army consisted of ten half-strength regiments scattered all over the country on garrison duty plus unfilled "paper" units of thirteen new regiments of Regulars, 50,000 volunteers, and

100,000 militia to be detached from the various states and to be sworn into the Federal service. Figured among these latter troops are the same ones the state governments were forbidding be made available to the Federal government. The strongest military post in the Northwest was Fort Detroit. In the South posts at Amelia Island, Fort Stoddert, New Orleans, and along the Red River were exposed to possible British penetration through Spanish holdings. The Atlantic seacoast forts were few and scattered as well as in generally poor repair. Posts in the lower Great Lakes were in equally poor condition. Several forts, such as Fort Ontario, contained emergency forces of unreliable state militia and little was being done to put them into defensible condition.

Army command personnel, especially in the higher echelon, was shockingly deficient in essential qualities of leadership. The senior major general was Henry Dearborn, a sixty-one year old former deputy quartermaster-general of the Continental Army, colonel of a New Hampsire regiment after the Revolutionary War, politically expedient Secretary of War in Jefferson's administration, and most recently holder of the profitable political plum known as the collectorship of the Port of Boston. The other major general was Thomas Pinckney, who at sixty-three had served in the southern guerilla campaigns and on Horatio Gates' staff during the Revolutionary War and had followed political inclinations to become a judge, an ambassador, and a Congressman. The senior brigadier general was James Wilkinson who had just been before a court-martial board on charges of being a pensioner of Spain, having been engaged in treasonable conspiracy with Aaron Burr, and being guilty of insubordination, negligence, wastefulness, and corruption--charges of which the board acquitted him but that subsequent historical research has proved to have been close to the mark. Of the other general officers and administrative heads in the War Department, only one appears to have commanded even a unit as large as a regiment during wartime.

The military and naval operations in the Lake Ontario theater during the War of 1812 were closely related to other campaigns on the northern frontier. American military strategy at the outset of the war envisioned a main invasion directed toward Montreal via the Lake Champlain gateway under Dearborn's personal supervision. Subsidiary advances were to be made into Canada from Fort Niagara and Fort Detroit. Stephan Van Rensselear, a major general of New York State militia, was given command at Niagara and William Hull, a politican newly appointed a brigadier general of Regulars, was ordered to Detroit.

Before major military moves could be executed, a small naval engagement opened the war on Lake Ontario. The Navy's Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey, commanding the brig Oneida, had moved his vessel from Oswego to Sackets Harbor. There, on the morning of July 19, Woolsey was found by Commodore Earle of the Royal Navy. The Oneida's sixteen 24-pounder guns were confronted with between seventy-eight and eighty-two guns of unknown size carried by the British lake fleet of six vessels---the Royal George, the Prince Regent, the Earl of Moira, the Duke of Gloucester, the Seneca and the Simcoe. With help of local militia under Brigadier General Jacob Brown, Woolsey anchored his brig in close to shore, moved the guns from the shore side of the vessel to a spot on land commanding the harbor entrance, and supplemented this battery with a 32-pounder nicknamed "Old Sow" as well as three old 9-pounders. Despite shortages of ammunition and being outnumbered, the mixed naval and militia force drove off Earle's fleet after inflicting some superficial damage.

Woolsey began to add to the United States fleet on Lake Ontario. Within a short time he bought five schooners---- the Hamilton, the Governor Tompkins, the Growler, the Conquest, and the Pert. ---- and equipped them with a total of twenty-one guns. Another schooner, the Julia, was captured and outfitted with a long 32-pounder and two 6-pounders.

On September 1, Captain Isaac Chauncey, a supposedly promising officer, was appointed to command on the Great Lakes. Chauncey promptly demonstrated his organizational and administrative ability by dispatching Henry Eckford, a master shipwright of very considerable talent and experience, plus officers, seamen, naval stores, and ship's carpenters to Sackets Harbor. Chauncey chose wisely when he picked Eckford to superintend the creation of a large naval force on Lake Ontario. Like Daniel Dobbins on Lake Erie, Eckford literally performed miracles in shipbuilding. A shipyard had to be constructed and wood, rope, iron fittings, sail canvass, nails, tar, and guns had to be transformed into naval vessels. Great quantities of materials had to be transported to Sackets Harbor from inland areas via the Mowhawk-Oneida- Oswego route. Construction was quick and wood was unseasoned, but Eckford created a respectable fleet to meet the wartime emergency. The Madison, a square-rigged vessel mounting twenty-four 32-pounder carronades, was built in forty-five working days to become Chauncey's flagship.

Chauncey arrived at Sackets Harbor late in October and on November 8 he chased the Royal George into Kingston. Action was broken off at dark because of protection afforded the British vessel by land-based troops. A blockade was maintained by four of the schooners until the end of November when navigation closed for the year.

In the meantime, military plans for the invasion of Canada had all but fallen apart. Hull, after an overly cautious advance in the direction of Fort Malden on the Canadian side of the Detroit River, had allowed his courage to evaporate and had fallen back on Fort Detroit. His able British opponent, General Isaac Brock, quickly surrounded Hull's force. Now totally paralyzed, Hulll capitulated without fighting on August 16. It was an unconditional surrender undertaken entirely on Hull's personal responsibility----not a gun had been fired in defense of Detroit and Hull did not bother to consult his officers on the matter of surrender. The unfortunate general subsequently was tried by court-martial on charges of treason, cowardice, neglect of duties, and conduct unbecoming an officer. Acquitted of the treason count he was found guilty on the other charges and sentenced to be shot. A presidential remission of the death sentence followed the court's recommendation for Madison's mercy, but William Hull's name was removed from the Army rolls.

Stephen Van Renesselear's campaign from Niagara was hardly more successful, although it did not result in the surrender of a complete army and a key post or in a sensational court-martial. Organizational problems in co-ordinating and handling raw militia units plagued Van Rensselear. Using a small nucleus of Regulars and reliable militia, he attempted an attack across the Niagara River on Queenstown; however, unavoidable delay had allowed Brock to transfer most of his forces to the eastern end of Lake Erie after their capture of Detroit. When Van Rensselear's landing party required support of additional New York State militia to maintain their foothold at Queenstown the unblooded militia on the United States side of the Niagara River refused to cross into Canada on supposed constitutional grounds. The British commander, Brock, was killed early in the en-

gagement but his forces pressed their counter-attack. The American force on the Canadian side of the river was overwhelmed. Van Rensselear roundly condemned the intractable militia and resigned in disgust.

Command on the Niagara front devolved upon a Virginian, Alexander Smyth, who made a few hesitant feints and issued a great many bombastic proclamations before ordering the volunteers to go home and the Regulars into winter quarters. A situation approaching mutiny followed and Smyth summarily departed for Virginia after being fired upon by his own troops. He was still at his home when his name was removed from the Army rolls for failure to stay with his command.

At the eastern end of Lake Ontario minor raids in the Ogdensburg and St. Regis areas gave some encouragement to the American cause, but the British also succeeded in capturing two officers, forty men, and four boats at the mouth of the Salmon River on November 23.

Dearborn's debacle in abandoning the main invasion attempt through the Lake Champlain gateway climaxed American military misfortune in 1812. Despite a considerable numerical advantage over British forces protecting Montreal, Dearborn delayed forward movement until November and gave up in the invasion after a confused skirmish in which American troops fired into their own ranks in a frantic attempt to disengage from the British after darkness fell.

Late in 1812 and during the first half of 1813 a series of minor actions was fought near the western end of Lake Erie---Fort Harrison and Fort Wayne resisted British attacks , an American force was captured and massacured at Frenchtown, Fort Meigs and Fort Stephenson survived British assaults. The clear impression emerged that the British would have to secure full naval control of Lake Erie to permit free movement of men and supplies necessary for the complete elimination of American posts in the old Northwest Territory.

Chauncey had dispatched Captain Oliver Hazard Perry from his base at Sackets Harbor to assemble a United States naval force on Lake Erie. Perry remained technically under Chauncey's authority, but in fact he exercised an all but independent command. Tremendous exertions in the spring and summer of 1813 by Perry and his sailing-master, Dobbins, created a fleet of nine vessels mounting a total of fifty-four guns. The British fleet on Lake Erie, commanded by Captain Robert H. Barclay, consisted of six vessels carrying sixty-three guns. Perry's complete victory in a fleet action off Put-in-Bay known as the battle of Lake Erie firmly established American control of that lake in September. British hopes of capturing the remaining military posts in the old Northwest Territory were destroyed, and an American force assembled under William Henry Harrison was offered an opportunity to recover the post at Detroit.

In the fall of 1813 Harrison, a veteran frontier fighter, forced his British opponent, Proctor, to abandon Detroit. He then penetrated Upper Canada and through the battle of the Thames destroyed British capability of immediately recapturing Detroit. Leaving a garrison at the recovered fort, Harrison was ordered with 1,300 of his troops to reinforce yet another attempt to invade Canada from the Niagara frontier.

The victories of Perry and Harrison greatly improved the American position in the upper Great Lakes area, but the 1813 campaign in the immediate area of Lake Ontario was in the hands of Dearborn, Chauncey, and Wilkinson. According to plans laid at the outset of the campaign Dearborn was to gather 3,000 men at Buffalo and 4,000 men at

Sacekts Harbor. Wilkinson was second in command of the military forces, and the prime objective of operations was to be the British base at Kingston. Chauncey was to transport the troops from Sackets Harbor to Kingston, and to burn two ships being built at York (near Toronto) while conveying the troops from Kingston to the concentration at Buffalo.

Dearborn and Chauncey reported on March 20 to Washington that Kingston was held by 6,000 to 7,000 British troops and they recommended that the plans for the campaign should be changed to permit the raid on York to take place first and to allow attacks on Fort George opposite Fort Niagara and on Kingston to follow. Accepting the appreciation of the theater commanders at face value, the administration re-drew the orders and agreed to use the forces to be concentrated near Buffalo in the later strike at Kingston that Dearborn and Chauncey recommended.

In reality, Sir George Prevost, then in command at Kingston, had less than 450 men. How Dearborn and Chauncey allowed themselves to be deceived so completely as to the strength of the British garrison has never been made clear; however, Dearborn and Chauncey did allow their imaginations full range in conjuring obstacles to prevent their attack on the key British base. Chauncey particularly was concerned over British naval strength on the lake and he continually urged the Navy Department and Eckford to greater efforts to build more and larger American naval vessels for his use. The Royal Navy squadron on Lake Ontario had received a new commodore, Sir James Lucas Yeo, and its strength early in 1813 stood at six vessels mounting ninety-two guns. Chauncey's force at the same moment consisted of fourteen vessels carrying one-hundred-twelve guns. The American naval force was greatly superior to the British in long-range armament, a factor partially compensated for by the greater speed and maneuverability of the British vessels.

Following the revised campaign plan, Chauncey disembarked Dearborn and Brigadier General Zebulon Pike with 1,600 men at York on April 27. Pike was killed but the town of York, the provincial capital, and its forts were captured. Within a few hours the public buildings, most notably two government buildings, were burned. Dearborn subsequently maintanined this wanton distruction was the work of a subordinate, but the British avenged this event a year later when they burned government buildings in Washington.

Chauncey's naval vessels were detained in port for a week after the capture of York by bad weather. On May 8 the troops were disembarked at Niagara for an attack on Fort George. Further delays were caused by illness among the troops following their extended confinement on shipboard and by Dearborn's uncertainity as to how to proceed with the attack on the enemy fortification. When Dearborn became sick himself temporary command fell upon the shoulders of Winfield Scott and Fort George promptly was captured and destroyed. Dearborn recovered his health sufficiently to resume command of the military forces and the British garrison was allowed to make good its escape.

While Dearborn and Chauncey's forces were occupied at the western end of Lake Ontario, Prevost---now heavily reinforced---utilized Yeo's fleet to move from the British base at Kingston against the dangerously exposed base of Dearborn and Chauncey at Sackets Harbor. Only by the most vigorous exertions were Jacob Brown's militia and Alexander McComb's small unit of Regulars able to repulse a British landing party under Colonel Edward Baynes.

Failing at Sackets Harbor the Prevost-Yeo military and naval force

moved on to test the defenses at Oswego. A major transhipment point for the transfer of goods and materials to lake vessels bound for Sackets Harbor after their shipment from the Mowak Valley via Lake Oneida and the Oswego River, Oswego was recommended for a British attack because of its strategic importance. Perhaps cutting or disrupting the flow of supplies to Sackets Harbor at their point of transfer would serve the British purpose almost as well as capturing the main base itself.

McComb, sensing the danger after the repulse of the attack on Sackets Harbor. detached Major Lewis Cass of the 16th Infantry Regiment with a poygot force of 300 men of the 22nd and 23rd Infantry Regiments for Oswego's defense. Cass made a forced move to Oswego and called for the aid of central New York Militia and volunteers to augment his tiny unit. The chief surviving defense at Oswego, Fort Ontario, was in extremely poor condition. The works standing in 1813 had been erected by the British in 1759, partially destroyed by American forces in 1778, temporarily repaired by the British in 1782, and allowed to fall into disrepair again during the presence of its last British garrison the was removed in 1796. A short occupancy by American regulars between 1796 and 1803 or 1804 did not involve any major renovation. State militia occasionally quartered in the fort to enforce the policy of "peaceful coercion" before the war probably did not even make use of the crumbling older buildings because temporary barracks to accommodate 700 men were erected shortly after hostilities opened . The construction of these temporary quarters was undeniably poor because of the haste involved. Various militia units were called on in 1812 and early 1813 to occupy the post but no thorough, substantial improvement or repair of the actual defensive works was undertaken. The usual life expectancy of defenses constructed of timber and earth was forty years, and even putting the most favorable light on the British repairs of 1782 meant that some portions of the works were seriously in need of a military engineer's attention. Works of identical design---Baltimore's Fort McHenry for example---proved to be adequate defenses for the military technology of the War of 1812, but good repair and an adequate garrison were required.

Working quickly, Cass managed erect some breastworks west of the town, to locate and to make serviceable a few vintage artillery pieces, to issue arms and ammunition to the militia, and to secure the active co-operation of the Navy's Woolsey with the armament and crew of the schooner, Growler. A naval bombardment from Yeo's six vessels was answered by Cass' batteries at Fort Ontario and the west side redoubt as well as by broadsides from the five gun Growler. Discouraged by the response of the defenders and by obvious preparations to receive a landing party, the British sailed further west, raided Sodus, and returned to Kingston. The mixed military, naval, and militia forces at Oswego remained on alert for several days and then returned to their regular duties.

Chauncey did not try to come to grips with Yeo until the middle of August. A few shots were fired between the American and British fleets during four davs of fruitless maneuvering off Fort Niagara. Finally on September 26 the two naval forces met in York Bay and Chauncey attacked, but Yeo fled after only superficial damage to one of his vessels. The Julia and the Growler which had fallen almost by default into Yeo's hands during the August maneuvering were recaptured by Chauncey on October 5 following a blockade of Kingston.

The land war in the northern department during the last half of 1813 was ineffective. Personality

disputes, jealousies, and inactivity crippled the American army. After Prevost's sorties against Sackets Harbor and Oswego, Dearborn sent Wilkinson to assume command at Sackets Harbor. This officer's taste for combat might be judged from the fact it took him three months to arrive at the scene of his new command. He immediately became embroiled in personal disputes with Wade Hampton, another brigadier, and Secretary of War John Armstrong who had established his own field office at Sackets Harbor. Some progress was made when Dearborn was retired.

Months of indecision and argument resulted in a "too little, too late" campaign launched in October from Sackets Harbor up the St. Lawrence River. Although the St. Lawrence Valley was the undoubted life-line of British control of Upper and Lower Canada and was dangerously exposed to American operations, Wilkinson simply was not the commander to exploit the opportunity Battles at Chrystler's Farm and Chateauguay brought no glory and personalities again flared. Troops had been drawn away from Niagara to support the St. Lawrence advance and the British took the initiative to capture Fort Niagara and to send devistating raiding parties against American settlements. Caught in a campaign he could not seem to press to success and he could not abandon without great loss of personal prestige in his quarrels with Hampton and Armstrong. Wilkinson demanded a court-martial. When that was refused, he attempted an attack on Montreal to re-coup his fortunes. Ineffective to the last, Wilkinson failed in his desparate attack and in March, 1814, he was replaced by General George Izard.

While the inconclusive fighting of 1813 had been going on, the American and British shipyards had been busily building vessels to break the stalemate over naval supremacy on Lake Ontario. Neither Chauncey or Yeo seemed willing to wholeheartedly commit their forces to decisive fleet action and each commodore hoped to amass a sufficiently strong naval force to compel the other to winthdraw from the contest without a battle. Stores, rigging, guns, and other essentials continued to flow through Oswego for Eckford's yard at Sackets Harbor. The Superior, a sixty-two gun frigate, the Jefferson, and the Jones, twenty-two gun brigs, and the Mohawk, a forty-two gun frigate were examples of Eckford's work that equaled any comparable vessels on the high seas. Yeo's shipmasters, equally beset by supply problems, turned out the new Prince Regent, fifty-eight guns, and the Princess Charlotte, forty-two guns, in similar efforts. The naval construction race became a focus of effort for 1814 with Chauncey and Eckford even envisioning fabrication of a ship-of-the-line. In this atmosphere open supply routes were essential.

On May 3 Yeo loaded between 1,080 and 1,750 troops under the command of Lieutenant General Sir George Drummond and left Kingston for another attack on Oswego. Alerted to the intent of the British, Izard sent Lieutenant Colonel George E. Mitchell of the 3rd Artillery from Sackets Harbor on April 30 to defend the key transshipping point.

As an attacking force Drummond had available one company of the Glengary Fencibles under Captain McMillon, two companies of the DeWatteville Regiment under Captain DeBersey, a battalion of Royal Marines under Lieutenant Colonel Malcom, and a special landing party of two hundred Royal Navy seamen under Captain Mulcaster. The amphibious portion of the attack was to be supervised directly by Lieutenant Colonel Fischer.

Mitchell's defending force was very much smaller. He had a small detachment composed of four partial companies of the 3rd Artillery---Boyle's, McIntire's, Pierce's, and Ansart's---equipped to fight as in-

fantry and numbering only 290 effectives. A party of seamen under Lieutenants Pierce and Woolsey was obtained from the schooner Growler that was once again in the Oswego harbor loading supplies for Sackets Harbor. As in 1813 a desperate call was made for assistance from local militia, but the response was much smaller than it had been in the preceeding year.

Mitchell and the United States supply agent, Alvin Bronson, removed a portion of the stores from the town, hiding some and starting the rest back to the depot at Oswego Falls (now Fulton). To create a temporary battery the Growler was scuttled with her partially loaded cargo of ordnance, but apparently she went down in water too deep to permit her use for that purpose and it is possible that the step was taken to deny the vessel and her cargo to the British in the event of their success. Tents from the stores were hastily pitched on the west shore near the village to give the impression of a large force present at the spot and all troops actually available were concentrated on the east side of the river near the almost indefensible Fort Ontario. There is no indication of any effort to utilize the breastworks or redoubt that had been erected in 1813 on the west side of the town; however, it is assumed that the tents previously mentioned gave the impression these works were occupied.

A most important defensive lack was an adequate quantity of artillery. Mitchell had five guns, three of which had no trunnions and could not be mounted for use. As an artillery officer Mitchell must have realized the consequences of this serious deficiency, but it is not clear whether or not he had time, he did not utilize to mount additional artillery pieces from the naval stores that had been present when he arrived. The Growler, it may be recalled, had been loading artillery pieces or naval guns, and that vessel herself carried additional ordnance as armament. A masked battery consisting of one old 12-pounder was set up near the fortification to command the probable landing place.

Yeo's fleet arrived off Oswego on the morning of May 5. A naval bombardment was directed at Fort Ontario as well as the wooded area to the east where the bulk of Michell's small force was concentrated. About 1:00 p.m. fifteen boats carrying the first wave of the landing party started toward shore, but the masked 12-pounder served by Boyle's company forced them to return to the warships. The British fleet got under weigh and accounts differ concerning the possibility of a storm having forced them to seek a more protected anchorage. If indeed there was a storm it was not severe enough to scatter the vessels of the Royal Navy or to cause the mixed American military, naval, and militia force to abandon their defensive attitude. Mitchell posted pickets and the defenders spent the night at their posts under arms.

At dawn on May 6 Yeo re-appeared and a three hour cannonade was maintanied between the fleet and the shore defenses. Hot-shot from the fort and grape shot from the fleet affected some damage on both sides and the landing party established itself on shore. Mitchell had left only a small group to hold the fort proper while he contested the actual landing with his main force. Thirty minutes of hard fighting ended with Mitchell's orderly withdrawal down the river to cover the supply depot at Oswego Falls. Meanwhile the group inside the fort was engaged in a struggle over the flag in one of the bastions, but they were forced to break off the fight and abandon the fortification when Mitchell's retreat exposed their flanks and rear.

The British searched the town, raised the Growler, and destroyed what few servicable structures re-

mained at the fort. At least four schooners and the guns aboard the Growler were captured or burned together with about 2,400 barrels of flour, salt, and pork. Had Drummond been able to pursue Mitchell to Oswego Falls much more serious damage would have been done. The British re-embarked about 3:00 a.m. on May 7 taking a few prisoners with them. Some fleet units returned to check the harbor a few days later but no further landings were made.

Yeo and Drummond sailed to Sackets Harbor where a blockade was established. To complete the frigate Superior and reverse the balance of naval power Eckford needed guns and twelve cables--one of which was twenty-two inches in circumference and weighed 9,600 pounds. Woolsey sheparded a convoy of nineteen boats carrying the necessary materials from Oswego on May 28. One of the boats containing several guns and a small cable was captured by a British patrol vessel thus revealing the movement of the other vessels but the remaining eighteen boats reached the mouth of Big Sandy Creek safely by noon of May 28. One of the boats containing several guns and a small cable was captured by a British patrol vessel thus revealing the movement of the other vessels but the remaining eighteen boats reached the mouth of Big Sandy Creek safely by noon on May 29. Yeo sent three gunboats, three cutters, and a gig under Captains Popham and Spilsbury with 180 men to apprehend Woolsey and his supply convoy. Forewarned and joined by 120 riflemen and some Oneida Indians under Major Appling, the Americans withdrew into the mouth of the creek and turned the tables by ambushing the British and capturing them. By now the blockading British fleet was thoroughly alerted and the supplies were ardously transported overland to Sackets Harbor.

With the arrival of the supplies Chauncey's new vessels were quickly completed and Yeo raised the blockade. After a six weeks delay in the sailing of the American fleet Yeo was blockaded in turn by Chauncey at Kingston for forty-five days. The naval war on Lake Ontario reached a low point of iniative and daring, risk and counter-risk. It richly deserved the comment of a contemporary author, "What perserverance was ever more indefatigable then Chauncey's (Sic), in pursuit? unless indeed that of his adversary, in patience."

Major military activity in the northern department during 1814 was limited largely to the renewal of activity along the Niagara frontier by Jacob Brown and Winfield Scott. The battles of Chippewa and Lundy's Lane along with the siege of Fort Erie reflected credit on American improvement after two years of fighting but the results of these engagements did not yield material strategic advantages. British General Prevost did attempt an invasion through the Lake Champlain gateway but the success of Lieutenant Thomas MacDonough of the Navy at the battle of Plattsburg Bay on Lake Champlain denied the British use of that traditional invasion route. Alexander McComb's tiny American army thus was saved from being overwhelmed.

Izard frittered away any chance of capitalizing on Brown's and Scott's successes along the Niagara River and became immobilized at Buffalo after Chauncey's fleet withdrew from Kingston on Sacket's Harbor in early anticipation of the winter. Yeo had received a new seventy-four gun ship-of-the-line and a new frigate from his yards at Kingston and the American eagle had withdrawn to avoid hazarding the fleet and to permit the British lion uninterruped season on the lake.

Drummond, Prevost, and later Sir George Murray used the winter to amass an overwhelming force and to prepare plans for yet another attack on Sackets Harbor in the spring. Izard stayed close to win-

ter quarters in Buffalo with no apparent plans for the coming year's campaign. For tunately for American arms the Treaty of Ghent ending the war signed on Christmas Eve, 1814. Although word did not reach America in time to spare Jackson and Packenham their battle at New Orleans in Januarv. news of the peace followed closely by news of a major American land victory near the mouth of the Mississippi River arrived on thenorthern frontier before further hostilities took place.

The United States emerged from the War of 1812 with a new and rampant feeeling of nationalistic pride---vessels in foreign roadsteads more willingly acknowledged the presence of American ships and the abilities of their masters and crews, foreign nations did not again seek to exercise the controversial right of impressment, trouble over the rights of neutral vessels on the high seas and the enforcement of blockades lapsed, and American attention turned inland to the development of a continent. Madison's message to Congress in December, 1815, broke with many of the elements of the Jeffersonian pre-war policies when he recommended the establishment of a second Bank of the United States, adoption of a protective tariff, and development of internal improvement projects. All of these steps, revoluntionary for Democratic-Republicans, were designed to remedy deficiencies that had become apparent during the war. Henry Clay's American System embodied much of their spirit.

To a large degree the new sense of nationalistic pride rested on premises that were not altogether valid; nonetheless, the new nationalism was a powerful force even if based on false impressions. One source of the nationalistic spirit was the brilliant record established by the United States Navy in individual ship actions. The United States Navy simply did not possess the strength on the high seas to permit fleet operations--indeed, most of the vessels of the Navy were bottled up in Atlantic ports by the blockading British fleet in 1814. On the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain, of course, fleet operations were carried on and these operations bore considerable relationship to the success of American arms in these areas.

Another source of the new nationalism was Jackson's success at New Orleans in pitched battle with disciplined British veterans of the Napoleonic Wars. Jackson's victory in the Battle of New Orleans was due in large measure to his opponent's tactical stubbornness in directing frontal assaults against prepared breastworks, but it did erase the memory of such incidents as the flight of American forces at the battle of Bladensburg during the British raid on Washington. It is only fair to point out that American militia had demonstrated their willingness to stay and fight if given cover on other occasions as well, and that American Regulars had learned to face direct British fire before the battle of New Orleans. In all events, Jackson's victory came after the peace treaty had been signed and therefore too late to influence the political and diplomatic terms for settlement of the war.

The last major source of nationalistic pride after the war was the fact that major British invasion from Canada had been thwarted and that the British had not been in possession of sufficient United States territory at the time of the peace negotiations to compel any cession of land. Even if a somewhat negative point of view when compared with the dreams of annexing Canada at the beginning of the war, this was undeniably true. As has been demonstrated in this paper American success in his respect was achieved on a slender margin. The Lake Ontario theater and the related campaigns in the northern department were the real

crux of military and naval opportunity in the War of 1812. The United States did not achieve realization of the aims that had driven the country to war because of the misfortunes, hesitations, personality conflicts, supply shortages, and inadequate preparation that manifested themselves in campaigns in this area.

The 110th Regiment of Oswego County

Presented by Rev. James Nicolson, October 16, 1962

On July 10, 1862 General McClellan's peninsula campaign was drawing to a disastrous end. Over 15,000 men had been lost, and to no avail; unless one consider that the awakening of the north to the truth of the President's warning that the rebellion was "not going to be suppressed by strategy but by tough fighting where people were going to get hurt," be considered as gain. Lincoln's first appeal for troops, on April 15, 1861, had been for 75,000 men from the various state militia for a period of nine months. Now, by the Conscription Act of 1862, a call was going out for 300,000 recruits between the ages of 18 and 45 years, with quotas to be designated for each state and filled under the supervision of the Governors, either through enlistments voluntarily made or through a draft. In keeping with the President's plan Governor Moran Seymour of New York appointed a committee of prominent citizens in Oswego, New York to initiate the recruitment of a new regiment from their county, and named the Honorable Elias Root chairman of the group.

As each community prepared to answer the call to arms it was established as a policy that first efforts were to be for the enlisting of volunteers, and then for deficiencies to be supplied by conscription. On a national scale volunteering was not successful in providing quotas, but in Oswego enthusiasm was at fever pitch and no conscription was necessary for the 110th regiment.

On July, 24, 1862 the citizens committee assembled and conducted a demonstrative meeting in Doolittle Hall. All civic leaders were present and several prominent personalities addressed the gathering. The next day's "Commercial Times" carried an account of the proceedings under banner headlines, "Great War Meeting", "All Oswego Awake" and "Littlejohn Our Colonel." The meeting was opened by Elias Root who nominated Delos DeWolf to preside. After remarks from some of the guest speakers and town representatives the Honorable E.B. Talcott arose to express the committee's conviction that a man of outstanding qualities was needed to head the new regiment and, amidst thunderous applause, announced that it had unanimously agreed upon a man of great personal sacrifice who was to give his answer that night -Dewitt C. Littlejohn. Littlejohn, thus introduced, spoke as follows:

"Fellow citizens - My heart is almost too full for utterance at this expression of your wishes and confidence. I have often said in private conversation that when the time came that it was necessary to rally the forlorn hope to uphold our government and institutions, in the hour of darkness when it was necessary to put forth still greater exertions, I was prepared to go forth, at the call of my country; but until that hour came, the sacrifice was too great for me to make. When your committee apprised me of their

wishes, I took a few hours to consider before I gave my reply. What shall be my reply? Without military education or knowledge, you call me to this responsible trust, and place in my keeping the lives of your own sons. I feel deeply this expression of your confidence, and a profound sense of my responsibility. I have ever held it to be the duty of a man to respond to the plainly expressed wishes of his fellow citizens, and that theory compels me now to say I accept the position tendered me. (Great applause) But I accept it with a condition. It is that within the next 30 or 60 days you send forth one thousand of your most athletic young men to battle for their country. You have thrown upon me a great labor, and you must begin to learn to be a soldier. I do mean to be a soldier, and if God spares me my life, you shall be able to point with pride to the man you have selected."

The active work of enlistment began in Oswego on July 26, 1862. Officers from the Oswego 48th acted as recruiters among whom were Col. James Doyle, Cap't William P. McKinley and Lt. Col. H.C. Devendorf of Central Square. Other organizers included a butcher named Thomas Kehoe and a William Rasmussen of the old Oswego guards who used his "old, crusty office on E. 1st St. near the starch factory" as a recruiting station. War meetings were conducted on successive days in the neighboring towns of Mexico, Sandy Creek, Pulaski, Phoenix, New Haven, Scriba, Fulton, Hannibal, Central Square, Constantia and Cleveland. Littlejohn was present at every meeting, an inspiration and challenge to all. One year before he had been offered by the President the consulship to Liverpool, England, one of the most lucrative posts of its kind. He declined because it would interfere with his business, yet with personal and patriotic sacrifice was felt everywhere as the program of recruitment progressed.

Ten days after the initial meeting in Oswego, about seventy-five, less than one half of that city's quota of 200, had enlisted. Although this was termed "doing tolerably well" there were urgins to the young men to "bestir themselves or be drafted." August 15th was ports began to drift in that the regiment would be filled with enlistees. Progress was slowed and matters complicated somewhat by the desertions of men who, after receiving their first $27, were excaping by steamer to Canada. In Mexico and Pulaski great successes were reported. Their quotas were filled, recruits were still enlisting and they were on their way to old Fort Ontario. On August 13th Col. Littlejohn issued a report that nine full companies were assembled and that a tenth, from Constantia, was expected momentarily. They arrived on August 15, 130 strong, with five flags, bringing the total of the new regiment to 1225 men. So thrilled was everyone with the promptitude and zeal with which the 110th was organized that it was suggested that another regiment might be raised immediately and the draft be escaped permanently. The Board of Supervisors, at the suggestion of Elias Root and the members of the citizens' committee, and following the example of the other countries, voted $50 each for the enlistees.

As of August 16, 1862 the composition of the 110th Regiment at Fort Ontario was as follows: -

Col. DeWitt C. Littlejohn, Oswego, New York
Lt. Col. Clinton H. Sage, Williamstown, New York
Maj. Charles Bartlett (late Cap't of the 12th Inf.)
Quartermaster Warren D. Smith
Qtr. Sgt. F. Comstock, Albion
Adjutant Harvey D. Tolcott, Oswego, New York
Surgeon A.C. Livingston, Fulton

Chaplain Rev. Mr. Lord, Fulton 1225 men, well equipped.

The greatest assembly in Oswego's history paid tribute to these latest volunteers at a mammoth demonstration in West Park on August 20th. Speeches, including an extract from the funeral discourse on ex-President VanBuren, aroused patriotic fervor. The Regiment was officially numbered the 110th Infantry. Donations of every description were pledged and given to the officers and men. One hundred businessmen gave $10 each to a fund, and another $200 for the purchase of a horse. Swords were presented to Cap't McKinley, Thomas Kehoe and E.P. Allen. The war fever was on the rise. At another spectacle, the lion of the hour, Col. Littlejohn, was the recipient of a magnificent sword and trappings from the Oswego Board of Trade, and Theodore Irwin presented him a splendid horse fully equipped for war. The Rev. Dr. Condit donated $50 for soldiers' pocket books and Rev. Mr. Post gave to Cap't James Doyle, formerly of the 48th, a sword. On this gala occasion practically the whole city turned out to honor Col. Littlejohn. He was not a military man, but he certainly was an inspiring leader. Once again he was lauded for having raised the regiment in two weeks. In an eloquent response he ascribed any success he had attained to his "determination to practice industry, temperance and honesty." Now, about to leave, he asked that his parting from his city and old associates be as from friends with all. "If, in the excitement of political activity I have uttered any harsh or unkind word, I desire to be forgiven," he said. As to the credit for raising the regiment, he stated, that the committee who set the plan in motion, and the generous people who responded, were the ones deserving of the praise. In the days ahead he expected a life of extreme sacrifice, for himself and his men. In conclusion he added, "Should anyone desert, let him be driven forth from you in contempt; but when one returns with honor, take him by the hand." His audience was deeply moved and tears were seen to flow from even the strongest men.

On August 25, 1862 the 110th assembled for departure. The ten companies, with their officers, were escorted to the Oswego depot at 8 P.M. by the U.S. Regulars stationed at Fort Ontario, the Oswego National Guards, the German Light Guards, the Washington Guards and the Fremont Guards. All business was suspended and over 6000 people gathered for the send-off. Their immediate destination was Camp Patterson at Baltimore. They proceeded south to Syracuse and then on to Albany by train, where they arrived at 9 A.M. on the 26th. At Albany they boarded a transport for Amboy, from whence they travelled again by train to Philadelphia, and then to Baltimore. At the latter two places ladies of the Soldiers' Relief Association provided lunches and by their willing services to these young recruits kept alive the spirit of enthusiasm that characterized this regiment from the beginning. For them, army life had been, and for a time would continue to be, one great experience devoid of any real hardship. Bands, speeches and flag waving had been their diet for two weeks. Arriving at Camp Patterson on September 1st they were joined by Col. Littlejohn on the 5th. Because of previous difficulties encountered by Union Soldiers entering Maryland Littlejohn supplied ten men from each company with rifles and three shots; officers loaded their revolvers and put on swords. Fortunately, no incident occurred.

During their stay of about two months at Camp Patterson they were given their "boot" training. A Captain Preston of the 24th Regulars, also from Oswego, was one of their drill masters. Four hours a day

they drilled, said Henry Wheeler in a letter to his parents in Mexico, New York, "and it was plenty." Some of the nights were so warm that they didn't need their great coats, so the days must have been very hot. As was the case in most of the camps, conditions were not too sanitary, nor healthful. Peter Kitts of Fulton wrote that several of the boys had rheumatism, but they went swimming and were cured - a doubtful diagnosis, to be sure.
"Camp distemper" and "bilious colic", and such kind of diseases "common in the army of the United States" were prevalent. Apparently, the food was satisfactory, although there were the usual comments about it. There was plenty of meat, they reported, more then they had at Oswego; coffee twice a day, potatoes and hard bread crackers. Sugar, beans and rice were served regularly. Commenting on the hard bread one fellow wrote, "The boys threw it at a barrel that sits on top of the chimney, and knocked out two staves the first time they hit it." Leander Tullar of Mexico was one of the cooks and took good care of his friends. A traveller observing the 110th admired "their snug camp house life."

While at Camp Patterson, along with military training, there were many diversions, many laughs and numberless rumors. One day the men were surprised to find that they had visitors from home, the 147th Regiment from Oswego, enroute to Camp Chase near Washington. So enthused were they that they gave up their tents to their guests and slept in the open themselves. Co. E from Mexico was stationed for about three weeks at Perryville, a small village on the Susquehanna River opposite Havre de Grace, to guard the Railroad and ferry. This was a pleasant diversion for the barracks were new and the food exceptionally good. On at least one Sunday a large group of the boys went to Harve de Grace to church, and much to their surprise, heard a fine sermon and a strong prayer for the union. They were free to travel the river for short trips and were much impressed by the natural beauty of the terrain, but were equally shocked at the manners and customs of the people which were "fifty years behind the time." When rebel prisoners went through the men were aghast at their appearance. "Such looking specimens of humanity I never saw", wrote Wheeler. The magnetic General McClellan also passed by and all thrilled to see him.

Jessie Miles of Co. A, writing to S.F. Case in Fulton described a drill in loading and firing their newly issued Enfield rifles.

> "It was real laughable to see some of the men manoevre. One of the boys put in four charges but was so excited he didn't know if his piece discharged or not. Some would shut their eyes and fire. Others would get them half cocked and swear because they wouldn't fire. They were, of course, much excited."

Yet, despite their lack of skill, the men figured it was about time to meet the rebels anyday.

One day word spread around the camp that they were going to guard prisoners captured at second Bull Run. There was great excitement as this would be their first contact with "real rebs." Another report said that Stonewall Jackson was coming with a large force to take the city (Baltimore.) He never arrived, but such rumors enlivened camp life. Col. Littlejohn was then said to be about to resign in order to run for Senator. This was a bit premature.

All things considered, life for the 110th at Camp Patterson was far from unpleasant. There was a small disturbance on September 8th in Baltimore, and Martial law was proclaimed. However, other than

being confined to camp there were no further inconveniences involved.

As the days of training were drawing to a close Quartermaster Smith wrote to Prof. E.J. Hamilton of the Young Mens' Christian Union a letter commending the men of the 110th Regiment for their high morals. People had praised them as the most orderly regiment, with no "drunkeness, gambling, and less profanity than in an equal number of men at home. "Smith said that Col. Littlejohn was determined that their sons would not go back to be pests of society. "No better man could have been sent with us for camp life, and if we go on the field we can trust him there." Such was the compliment indicative of the splendid influence exerted by this fine officer upon his men.

Around the 1st of November word was received that the regiment would soon board transports and embark under sealed orders. The camp was astir with cheers and excitement. This rumor proved to be true and in a few days they found themselves aboard the "Ericsson" headed for an unrevealed destination. Was it to be Yorktown, New Orleans, Mobile, Charlestown, New York, Texas? Each of these was a possibility, the men thought. As it turned out they went to Fortress Monroe which they reached on November 6th. The sea journey from Baltimore was a rough one. Wintry weather confined them for a while to Petapsco Bay and later the "Ericsson" went aground. Upon reaching Fortress Monroe the ship rode at anchor waiting to be joined by fourteen others that would accompany it to New Orleans. It was almost a month before this fleet was assembled, yet the 110th continued in high spirits. In the bay of Fortress Monroe they saw the wrecks of the "Congress" and the "Cumberland" which had been sunk by the ironclad "Merrimac." Some of the men also were invited to inspect the union "Monitor." Trips were made to Newport News and to the home of President Tyler. At the former place they were greeted by 2000 contrabands, mostly women and children, but all around was desolation. They found the President's home occupied by 17 negro families. A straw vote on the candidates for Governor of New York favored Wadsworth, the Republican nominee over Seymour 583 to 63. It was noted that Co. E cast no vote whatever for Seymour, the Democratic candidate.

The long wait was finally ended when, on Dec. 4, 1862, the fourteen vessels carrying 10,000 troops went off Fort Henry and headed south. This force, including the Oswego 110th, had been assigned to the Dep't of the Gulf where they were to serve under General Nathaniel Banks, successor to General Ben Butler in New Orleans. As on the trip from Baltimore rough seas were encountered and to bring further delay the "Thames" sustained a broken propeller and had to be towed into Port Royal. The 110th then proceeded to Ship Island and after nine days departed for New Orleans which they reached on Christmas Day 1862. They were ordered into camp at Carrollton, La.,Camp Mansfield, one half mile from the river. Even though they were in Union held Territory they sensed a spirit of scorn for them, especially among the ladies of New Orleans who defiantly wore red and white roses on their bonnets to indicate their confederate loyalties. A sprig of blue singled out the rare Union sympathizer.

Companies A & D of the regiment were sent up the river to guard rebel property and to prevent the negro slaves from joining them. This assignment was very disillusioning to one of the group, an unnamed correspondent who wrote the following to the Oswego paper:

"What will the people of Oswego think? If the boys had known this a few months ago it would have required more than the eloquence of our noble colonel to have brought out the men of these companies.

The owners are at war - from saint parishes on the river - but from what we can see they are great sinners themselves."

He went on to predict that if a negro insurrection should break out our men would shoot high. He was in favor of arming the negroes to "make one grand desert of this land as the army moves," "to burn every building and hang every man unless they take the oath and help put down the rebels. If we take care of the property, and bind down the slaves while the master and his sons are fighting against us, we cannot succeed."

General Banks arrived at New Orleans on December 14, 1862 to assume his new command. The entire Army of the Gulf now numbered 30,000 men and was designated the 19th Army Corps. The 110th Oswego Regiment was brigaded with the New York 114th, 116th, 128th, 135th, and 150th, plus the Massachusetts 38th, under General Emory. Banks object in Louisiana was threefold; to regulate the civil government, to direct the military movements against the confederates in that state and in Texas, and to co-operate in the opening of the Mississippi by the reduction of Port Hudson. All of these goals were ultimately attained.

In the meantime, around the middle of February 1863, a report was circulated that Col. Littlejohn was going to resign due to business pressures. A member of the regiment, recruited by the Colonel's eloquence, wrote to "Times":

"Every hour of the day is the indignation of the men expressed at such talk, and reference made to the language he used at Sandy Creek and other places when raising the regiment. I presume you remember it, about sinking into the ground if he should leave them and come home."

The paper expressed disbelief in the rumor, unless there were a question of failing health. However, on the 27th of February he did tender his resignation and then, in an address to his soldiers gave his reasons. Chaplain Lord sent a summary of this speech to the "Fulton Patriot." As the regiment formed a square about him Littlejohn stated that he thought an explanation was due to them. Business complications were a minor consideration. The Colonelcy, he said, was very limiting, affording him slight opportunity to do anything more than simply follow higher officers. He objected to the policy of conciliation adopted by the Department of the Gulf, and felt that all the slaves should be freed. Since he was shut out from all policy making he was unable to express his ideas or make any contribution to the solution of problems. Hence, we was determinded to return to a special session of Congress and to do all in his power to arouse the North to action. In his successor, Lt. Col. Sage, he was confident they would find a gallant leader. The resignation of Littlejohn occasioned many comments. Some were bitter in their denunciation but many seemed to understand and accept his decision. One loyal member of the regiment wrote:

"I notice some very severe and unjust articles against the Honorable D.C. Littlejohn, late Colonel. He will live, however, in the memory of the people of Oswego County when the authors of such articles are dead and forgotten. Let those condemn who are most interested and know all the circumstances of his resignation, next those who have done as much as he has for country and county."

The military post of Port Hudson was situated on the east bank of the Mississippi River twenty five miles above Baton Rouge. In March 1863 General Banks had concentrated 25,000 men at the latter town, and on March 13th began to move toward Port Hudson. Grover's Division was in the lead, then Em-

ory's, of which the 110th was a part, and finally, General Augur's. This land advance was intended as a diversionary activity to assist Admiral Farragut to run the batteries at Port Hudson. However, since an earlier reconaissance, those batteries had been multiplied and strengthened considerbly, so that the opposition encountered was much greater than they expected. On March 14th Farragut advanced from anchor five miles below the batteries. In his fleet were 8 warships and some smaller vessels. His flagship, the "Hartford", with a gunboat passed without difficulty but the remainder of the fleet were knocked out by most accurate fire. Some slight skirmishes in which there were no casualties were the extent of the action seen by the 110th on this occasion. General Banks was criticized for having made only a demonstration against Port Hudson in Support of Farragut. General Hallaeck was of the opinion that a reduction of the city and fort would have been easy at this time if only Banks had attempted it. However, 18, 000 were garrisoned in Port Hudson and probably would not have capitulated without fierce resistance.

The 110th regiment returned to the vicinity of New Orleans and encamped at Algier. General Banks turned his attention to the borders of the Bayou Teche. (A bayou is a stream or channel with practically no current that serves as an inlet or outlet to a river.) A few weeks previously, Gen. Weitzel had been repulsed in an effort to advance North west toward Opelousas. Since then Fort Bisland had been constructed on the west side of the bayou, and was held by several thousand confederates. This region along the Bayou Teche was the richest in the state and General Banks devoted himself to its reclamation from the enemy. The 110th regiment was part of the force that he sent out under Gen. Emory and Gen. Weitzel toward the rebel commander, Gen. Dick Taylor. As the Union army approached, Taylor retired to the newly constructed Fort Bisland. Then in an amphibious flanking movement Banks sent Gen. Grover with his division up the Grand Lake which paralleled Bayou Teche. This was on April 12th. The next day this division landed in the rear of Taylor's command forcing him to evacuate Fort Bisland and to retreat. Meanwhile, Banks was pushing forward in front, vigorously pursuing Taylor. In this pursuit, the 110th, under Col. Sage, had some contact with the enemy at Fort Bisland and N. Centreville in the form of skirmishing but in the sharpest encounter another brigade under Emory suffered some casualties while the 110th merely took the field, and were not engaged. Banks continued 200 miles up the west side of Bayou Teche through Centreville, Franklin, New Iberia, St. Martinsville to Opelousas. In retreat Gen. Taylor destroyed many supplies, and several ships loaded with ammunition. At New Iberia two regiments destroyed a salt mine most necessary for the confederacy, and captured a cannon foundry. On April 20th the Union forces moved in to Opelousas and gunboats occupied the Atchafalaya River to establish contact with Admiral Farragut who was at the mouth of the Red River to cut off supplies to Vicksburg. At the conclusion of the campaign Banks reported 2000 prisoners captured, 2 transports, 20 guns, plus a large and valuable number of horses, mules and cattle, and occupation of all Louisiana west of New Orleans, south of the Red River to the Texas border.

It was now May of 1863. Gen. Banks put his army in motion against Port Hudson. A s many as possible he sent by water and the rest he marched down the west bank of the river during the night of May 23rd. On the morning of the 24th the siege began which was to end on July 8th with the surrender of the Fort. While Banks

approached from the north, General Augur invested from the south. The two armies joined hands after a short encounter between Gen. Augur and the enemy, and the grip on Port Hudson was tightened resulting in the enemy's retiring within the outer line of entrenchments.

On May 27th an attempt was made to carry the works by a combined naval and land assault. The Navy had some success but the land side was a complete failure. The 110th was not in action. The battle was severe, lasting six hours; but Federal troops were poorly handled, commands were understaffed, and apparently, the defenses underrated. Negro troops fought for the first time in this assault. National losses were 1842, including 293 killed. Rebel losses were negligible.

On June 13th Banks ordered a second, all-out assault, which was to be preceded by heavy bombardment. On this occasion, the 110th was represented by companies A, B, E, & I under Maj. Charles Hamilton. The fight, a most desperate attack, lasted 8 hours. As on May 27th, the attack was not coordinated and after early successes the Federals were compelled to fall back. Union losses totalled 700. Among the casualties were 37 members of the 110th regiment. One officer and four men were killed; 2 officers and 21 men were wounded, 9 men were missing. After this futile attempt Gen. Banks renewed the state of siege which he continued until the fall of Vicksburg. With that fortification in the hands of Gen. Grant, the rebel commander of Port Hudson, Ge. Gardner, recognized the folly of further resistance and surrendered on July 8th. The whole campaign in Louisiana, of which the 110th was a part, netted 10,584 prisoners, 73 guns, 6000 small arms, 3 gunboats 8 other boats, and immense stores of cotton and cattle.

Following the capture of Fort Hudson both Gen. Grant and Gen. Banks were of the opinion that an immediate operation should be launched against Mobile, but, for political reasons, they were over ruled in Washington and direct orders were sent to Hallaeck to Banks to occupy "some Portion of Texas." It was left to this commander to choose his own objective. His first choice was Sabine City, a small town at the outlet of Sabine Lake, the estuary of the Sabine River, and the boundary line between Louisiana and Texas. About 4,000 men of the 19th Corps were sent on this expedition under the command of General Franklin. Apparently some of the 110th regiment were in this operation. From Baton Rouge Henry Wheeler wrote on September 28, 1863, "that some went on an expedition to Sabine Pass but that they couldn't get into the bay." After the fall of Port Hudson the 110th was widely scattered, and different groups were reported in various hospitals and camps, and as taking part in several minor assignments such as guard duty. As for the Sabine enterprise, it was a complete failure. The attack was to have been made on the 7th of September, the land forces having been previously landed under the protection of the gunboats. So poor had been the reconnaissance that the troops were landed on the edge of an impassable swamp and were unable to organize for assault. The burden of reducing the fort was then thrown upon the gunboats but they quickly discovered that, instead of being protected by two thirty-pounders, the pass was defended with 8 large caliber guns. The small fleet was no match for the fire power directed against it and was fortunate to withdraw two of its four ships. These two convoyed the transports back to Brashear City.

After a protracted delay at Brashear City, the troops under Gen. Franklin moved forward to Franklin, La. and Vermillionville. Here they met sharp resistance on the enemy in a hasty retreat. Later the

same day the remainder of the 19th 9th of October but drove the 19th, and the whole of the 13th Corps, joined them at Camp Vermillion. General Banks now established a supply depot at New Iberia, 20 miles below Vermillionville, and began preparations for his grand expedition. Franklin moved on to Opelousas, found no opposition, and returned to New Iberia. On October 27th, 20 transports, with three gunboats, set out for the Texas coast. Four days later they anchored off the mouth of the Rio Grande, and on November 1st. landed without opposition on Brazos Island. From this point they occupied Brownsville, and then proceeded along the coast, leaving garrisons at strategic points. These were too small to attempt any offensive, but their presence did serve to arouse the Rebels to place in Western Louisiana a force sufficiently formidable to cope with Banks army. Hence, no conquest of Texas was effected at this time.

During the last two months of 1863, and the early part of 1864, from 20,000 to 30,000 troops lay idle in Louisiana waiting for the next movement. Henry Wheeler wrote from New Orleans on December 9th saying that, although the 110th was still at New Iberia, he might as well stay in New Orleans until they return.

"Officers are thicker than toads after a shower. They are getting big pay and good living, and what do they care how long the war lasts as long as they can stay here; and I have come to the conclusion myself that there is no use of fretting the cattle; There is no news of any consequence...except a court martial now and then of some officer that the others find fault with because he can steal more than they can."

He also spoke at this period of the Fourth of July spirit that characterized the peoples' preparations for Christmas. "Fire crackers and rockets... and the sidewalks are lined with silks and finery, and the places of amusement are doing a great business."

Shortly after Christmas our correspondent, H. Wheeler, reported that he had been on a long journey to Dry Tortugas and Key West, as a guard for 15 prisoners. He spent one day at each place. "Tortugas is nothing but a small reef with a high wall all around the outside, close to the water, and is about a mile around it. There are a few orange, lemon and cocoa trees inside." Tortugas it turned out, was to be the home of most of the 110th during their final year in service.

The troops quartered at New Iberia began a march down to New Orleans on January 7, 1864. They covered 12 miles the first day in frigid weather, the road being coated with 2 inches of ice. Upon arrival they were assigned to guard duty and also to the construction of a bridge across the bayou. Leander Tuller, a cook in Co. E, resumed work at the bakery. On February 16th he commented in his diary that the regiment had been out foraging. On the 19th they took a boat for Brashear City and then the cars to Algiers, from whence they embarked on the "Merrimac" at 12 midnight, February 24th, bound for Tortugas. In another diary kept by Harrison Burgess Herrick of the 110th the writer refers to being sent, together with 15 others, to relieve members of the 97th in searching incoming ships and checking passengers to make sure that none got off "without they had the 'oth of Aleagance'." Herrick met the men who had just returned from New Iberia and learned from them of their orders to Tortugas.

About one month later Herrick and his companions were relieved by members of the 26th Massachusetts and on the 27th of March boarded the "Ericson" with 68 prisoners, also bound for the pri-

son camp at Dry Tortugas.

In the meantime Banks had set out on the famous Red River expedition, one of the most elaborate episodes in the river war, but a costly fiasco for the Union side. It was a huge land and water operation under General Banks and Admiral Porter, whose main object was to secure West Louisiana and East Texas, and perhaps arrest the ardor of Napoleon III in his Mexican schemes; another purpose was the seizure of quantities of cotton. The army units in this expedition numbered about 30,000. The 19th Corps was involved and most likely a part of the 110th regiment. The entire movement, from onset to conclusion, extended from March 12th to May 21st., 1864. Banks had encountered insuperable obstacles and "considering the ambitious nature of the enterprise, its conclusion presented a sorry anti-climax." "The treacherous nature of this crooked, narrow, and turbid stream, whose high banks furnished the most favorable positions for artillery and for the deadly sharp-shooter" contributed mightily to the defeat. The members of the 110th who were part of this expedition returned to Algiers and embarked for Fort Jefferson to join those who had gone there in February and March.

The final chapter of the history of the Oswego 110th Regiment tells the story of a long and restless tour of guard duty in the Union Prison camp at Fort Jefferson, on Dry Tortugas, the westernmost island of the Florida keys. This coral island was named by its discoverer, Ponce deLeon, 'Las Tortugas' -- the Turtles - because of the great number of turtles that breed there. The later name, Dry Tortuguas, warns the mariner that there is no fresh water there. This fort was originally built to control navigation in the gulf, and was the largest link in a chain of seacoast defenses from Maine to Texas in the early 1800's. Its 8-foot thick walls stand 50 feet high. It has three gun tiers, designed for 450 guns, and a garrison of 1,500 men. It is a half mile in perimeter. Federal troops hurriedly occupied Fort Jefferson on January 19, 1861, as tension was mounting between the states. During the war it was used as a prison and it was here, under tropical sun, in the deadly monotony of sameness, that the "Old 110th" passed its final days as a regiment.

The ordinary occupations of the camp were guard duty, to which all were assigned, many hours of drill and bayonet practice (undoubtedly necessary to provide exercise, occupation and discipline), and the sursuance of hobbies. In the diaries of Harrison Herrick and Leander Tuller there are constant references to all kinds of diversions to which the men became attached; and it seems to me that there is a very humorous side to all these activities and to the general life that these soldiers had to live on this desolate island. Here are men who two short years ago could not wait to "get at the rebels." Now they are trying to preserve their sanity by just keeping busy at anything.

As would be expected, prisoners were always trying to escape. Some were successful in stealing official boats and in these crafts were able to sail to freedom. However, many were caught, especially those who depended on the home-made boats of the guards. At any rate, the constant threat of escapes, and the occasional succesful attempts, were topics of prime interest. Apparently the main punishment for escapees. when re-captured, was to be tied up for several hours in the severe heat.

Collecting turtle eggs, shells, and pressing moss were the hobbies to which the men devoted most of their time. The eggs, which were edible, were found on East Key. Tuller speaks of "a lot of us" starting out a 3 a.m. to spend the day "egging." The group returned on that occasion with 26 dozen

eggs. The sea shells were cleaned and made into knick-knacks, such as buttons, trays, and also kept as shells simply for their coloring, formation, etc. Herrick was always sending home huge boxes of shells, so the others probably were too. The pressing of moss and fern and flora into artistic patterns seems to have been a real accomplishment, and a lucrative one. In the files of Fort Jefferson they still retain several books of pressed marine plants which were made during the Civil War. The plants are still (1960) in near perfect condition. They were arranged in patterns to form designs., and some were used to form frames for hand-drawn sketches. Each page was made and then formed into a book. The process appears to have been achieved by placing damp plants on paper, and then pressing from the back toward a smooth, flat surface. Extremely heavy weights must have been used because the stems of the plants are totally flat. The designs are often spider-web thin, yet they have held up for 100 years. A Mrs. Forbes, viewing these books of oceanic flora in December 1959, wrote "I looked over three enchanting books (1864) beautifully bound, with their pressed flora - seaweeds, exquisitely pressed - and placed on different papers, some blue, some white, some pink. I wish I knew their technique of pasting as the job has been so neatly done, and is so artistic. And the colors, I feel, are still true. "Day after day Leander Tuller recorded in his diary that he and others were pressing moss. It must have really fascinated the men, for he wrote on Jan. 2, 1865, "To Long Key after moss; I have moss on the brain." In April he said they had pressed 150 specimens and the he had sold some for $31, certainly a good price in those days.

Ships coming and going, new prisoners arriving, a few promotions, fights, bets, fishing, boat building, a few social events, some drinking, debates (and arguments) plus the egging, shelling, and pressing - all these and many other diversions did not make the members of the 110th happy at Tortugas. It was a long, hard stuggle for the men to keep their balance. On August 8, 1864 Tuller wrote, "It is as dull as a jack knife; two years ago today I enlisted. I made a fool of myself." Many of the others must have felt the same way.

Before the time arrived for their departure news came that they were going to be released ahead of schedule. However, when the regiment arrived which was to relieve them, it was colored. This created a terrible stir. To say the least, they were not welcome. It was further considered dangerous to leave them in any authority. "We have had a fuss with the regiment of Niggers; our boys shot at one and ran the bainet in one."

Another negro was shot and killed for not obeying orders. The colored regiment arrived January 26th and left February 18th.

April 20, 1865 brought the news of Lee's surrender. An officer wrote to the Mexico, N.Y. Independent:

> "Lee's surrender was celebrated with a salvo of 200 guns. The Cap't of the 'Ella Morse' which plies between Key West and our island had a piece of bunting flying to indicate good news. Yesterday, when he hove in sight, it was sung out, "Good news coming!", as all the bunting could be seen. But on the near approach of the steamer it was noticed that the flag was at half mast... You can imagine our feelings when it was announced from the deck of the steamer, "President Lincoln is dead! Fell by the hand of an assassin."..... Some prisoners expressed themselves, glad... and wished it had been done four years ago. They soon found themselves confined in a dungeon on a diet of bread and water. Some of our sold-

iers... would have administered justice without mercy and sent them to their long home. One of these prisoners was tried for murder, found guilty, and sentenced to be hung, but the President commuted his sentence to life imprisonment, and that was his gratitude."

Some of the prisoners who hurrahed were tied up with their hands behind them and drawn up so that they could just touch the ground. They soon came to time and begged and cried and stormed and prayed and cursed but no one had any sympathy for them, although it was hard to see them suffering. Some wanted to shoot them; others wanted to hang them, and if the officers had not interfered, they would have done it.

At 4 p.m. on August 16, 1865, the men embarked on the steamer "Tonawanda" bound for New York. There was a short stop at Key West. It was a rough Journey but it brought them home. They arrived in Albany on the 24th of August, and the next day, three years to the day from their departure, they were mustered out of the service of the United States.

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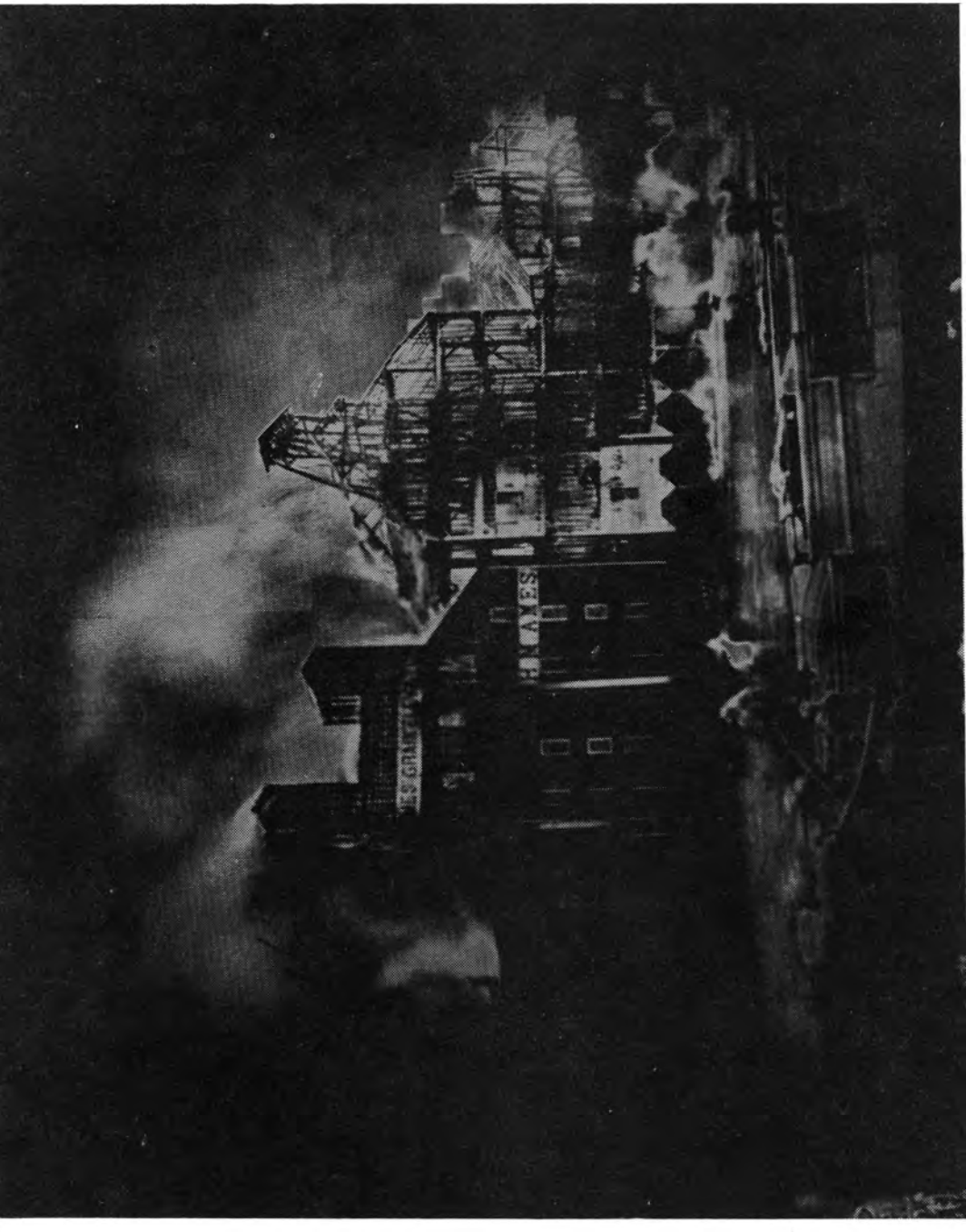

Oswego Fires

(Presented by Anthony M. Slosek, March 19, 1963)

The scene of July 6, 1853, reminded the people of Oswego of the eloquent passage from Carlyle:

"When I gaze into the stars, they look down upon me with pity from their serene and silent spaces, like eyes glistening with tears over the little lot of men. Thousands of generations, all as noisy as our own, have been swallowed up by Time, and their remains no record of them any more. Yet Arcturus and Orion, Sirus and Pleiades, are still shining in their courses, clear and young, as when the shepherd noted them in the Plains of Shinar."

There appeared in the newspapers on Sunday, February 18, 1962, two photographs of a fire in Oswego, New York, on July 5, 1853. (1) These two rare daguerreotypes that turned up in Rochester, New York, are believed to be the earliest known spot news photographs of an action event taken in America. Beaumont Newhall, director of Eastman House, who had acquired the pictures, stated that were taken a month earlier than a daguerreotype previously considered the first news photo made in this country. That one, he said, shows a train wreck on the Providence & Worcester Railroad near Pawtucket, Rhode Island, on August 12, 1853.

However, publication of photos by line-drawing engravings, did not get started until 1855, and use of actual photo engraving reproduction did not come until 1880.

The action fire pictures were brought to Eastman House by James Cady, an artist, who purchased them at an auction two years ago for "only a few dollars." Their historic importance was recognized not only to the newspapers and photographers but also to the city of Oswego. On the back they bore the named of "Barnard", trademark of George N. Barnard, an Oswego Daguerreotypist, who served as a Civil War army photographer.

The fire photographs are technically unusual with action in them arrested. According to Mr. Newhall, the originals are only 2 1/4 X 3 1/4 inches, but so detailed it was possible to make 8 X 10 enlargements showing even fuller details.

Forerunner of modern photography was the daguerreotype developed by Louis J.M. Daguerre, a Frenchman in 1839. The process produced an image on a silver plate or a silver-covered plate, made sensitive by iodine.

II

One of the most destructive fires that ever took place in the city broke out about half past ten o'clock in the morning in Fitzhugh &Co.'s flour mill. (2) Aided by a strong wind from the west, the flames spread with astonishing and unparalleled rapidity, sweeping everything before it until the Second Ward was a mass of ruins, covering about 50 acres. The heat across the river, a distance of seven hundred feet, was so great that it was feared the opposite side would catch, but the wind blowing strong in the opposition direction prevented it.

The section of the town consumed is bounded on the west by the river, on the south by Bridge Street, on the east by Sixth Street, on the north by Fort Ontario grounds. Every mill and warehouses were lost, except Randall's Elevator, the Second Methodist Church and a half a dozen dwellings. (3) The loss was estimated to be about one million and a half dollars.

It was first believed that the fire originated from friction in a smut machine of Fitzhugh & Co.'s flour mill. The miller, Mr. Brown, stated that that was not so. (4) He was in the mil when the fire broke out, and discovered it, when it was confined to an area not larger than a hogshead. It broke out in the northwest corner of the mill on the lower floor, next to the water, and not near the machinery of the mill. It was accounted for in two ways: either by a fire cracker having been thrown in the basement and remaining there until the fresh breeze of the morning fanned it into a flame; or from an incendiary. A person would be inquisitive about a fire as large as an area of the size of a barrel, with a man present, could get out of control and spread so rapidly. The fact is that a flour mill or an elevator is full of dust and the building being off wood lends itself to disaster almost immediately.

Volunteer firemen had a busy day of it according to a vivid account of the fire in the volunteer's minutes kept by the Secretary of the Fire department, J.E.B. Currey. (5) Fourth of July celebrations on the day preceding the fire included a firemen's demonstration by the local company and one from Auburn recorded as follows:

"July 4, company met pursuant to adjournment. The department went to the cars to receive Niagara No. 3 of Auburn, after which we joined the celebration and had a good time. At 2 o'clock we all repaired to the canal on the East side of the river to try our machines. Number 5 did herself proud. The day passed off as it should, to the satisfaction of all."

On the following day, three entries were found, one proving Number 5 was not so proud. The first entry: "July 5, met at 8 o'clock to escort our brethren from Auburn to the cars. They left amid cheers long and loud." The next page was dated the same day at 11 o'clock, presumably morning:

"A fire broke out in the mills on the East side which spread so rapidly the engines were of little use, not enough having hose to place them where they could be worked to advantage. We were driven from our first position by the intense heat. Took our machines on Ames' dock, played a few minutes, found the fire was too hot, tried to get back but could not as the fire was so hot that it blistered the men's faces and hands and compelled them to drop the drag ropes.

"We backed the engine down again, took suction, turned the stream on the men and machine to keep from burning up. Played so some time in hopes of getting a boat to us to take our engine off. Saw that the boat was not going to get up in time and not wanting the name of our machine burn, we let her take a dive in the river where she lay till the next day when we went and got her out.

"After we put our engine in the river we went and got old 5 but found so out of order that we could not use her. Drawed her to one side, took the hooks and ladders and done what we could. The city telegraphed for help. Three companies from Syracuse and two from Fulton came but were too late to do much good. The fire burned out about half of the East side up."

A study of the map will show that all of the elevators and flour mills fronting the river from the lower bridge north to the basin or Smith's Cove. The list is as follows: Fitzhugh & Co., flour mill,

loss $20,000, insured $12,000; Sylvester Doolittle, mill and stock, loss $45,000, insured partially; Ames & Brothers, grain elevator, loss $20,000, insured $12,000, and $50,000 on grain in store, owners mostly abroad, insurance unknown; Howlett, Gardner & Co., provisions store in basement, $15,000 insured for $13,500; H.M. Ames plaster mill and two stores on First Street, $10,000, insured for $7,500; Penfield, Lyons & Co., flour mill and stock of grain and flour, $40,000, insured $30,000; T. Wyman, flour mill, building and contents entirely destroyed, loss unknown; J.L. Hall & Co., grain elevator, loss on building $28,000; Fitzhugh & Littlejohn, warehouse and office, large loss; Talcott & Canfield, Iron Foundry & Machine Works. A large list describing the varied and different types of business establishments was published in the local press for several days.

About 2,000 people were without shelter. The streets and Public Square were crowded with groups of homeless women and children with their property. It was necessary to appoint guards to patrol the area to prevent theft. First reports in the local press did not mention any casulties but later one man was reported missing. There is no doubt that this disaster was one of the worst ever visited the town.

In view of the great calamity, a meeting of a large number of citizens took place at 5 o'clock the same day at the Court House. William Lewis was called to the chair and William S. Malcolm appointed secretary. On motion of A.P. Grant a committee of fifteen was appointed to ascertain the wants of the distressed and devise temporary relief. On the committee were: Hon. A.P. Grant, Mayor Colver, John B. Edwards, Erastus Jones, Jacob Richardson, J.L. Lake, D.B. Blair, George Alford, M. Carpenter, Portius P. Parsons, J.C. Hugunin, Alvin Osborn, R.G. Wellington, Rev. Mr. Butterfield, and Rev. Mr. Cook. On motion of J.C. Wright a committee of five was appointed on subscription, whose duty it was to raise money and other necessaries sufficient to relieve distressed in a manner honorable to the general feelings of the citizens. Luther Wright was appointed treasurer, Alfred Mix, Rev. Mr. Cook, Rev. Mr. Butterfield and John W. Smith, whose duty it was to examine and make a proper and judicious distribution of funds to be raised.

All of the victims of the fire were temporarily provided for: hundreds were quartered in the hotels and other public buildings.

A call went out to the ladies of Oswego to meet at the City Hall for the purpose of supplying families destitute by the fire with clothing. Those who had articles of clothing to spare were requested to send them to the City Hall. (6) The Rev. Mr. Gallagher was appointed chairman and John W. Smith, secretary. On a motion of Mrs. Crocker, a committee of six ladies from each ward were appointed whose duty it was to collect clothing, bedding, furniture, and other materials.

The Common Council met July 6th and passed a resolution of thanks to Fulton and Syracuse for sending two fire engines; a resolution to pay a reward of $1,000 for the apprehension and conviction of the fire incendiarist; and took measures to increase the efficiency of the Fire Department. (7)

Several minor incidents kept the citizens in a state of uneasiness; a few here are mentioned.

The jail, a stone building, came very near set ablaze. A cinder flew into the window and set some straw on fire and it spread with great rapidity in the rooms. The prisoners were liberated and took hold with energy and saved the building.

Still another fire was discovered the same night about one o'clock in the roof of the brick block owned by John Carpenter on the corner of West First and Market Streets. (8) The whole upper story seemed to be threatened with considerable des-

truction. It was averted by a fortunate circumstance. Two companies from Syracuse remained overnight and saved the building. Since the upper story was unoccupied, there was no doubt that this was the work of an incendiary.

Also the City Hall on Water Street was set on fire the same night. It was discovered my mere accident. The large upper room was filled by the poor houseless people. The evidence left no doubt that it was an incendiary.

Report of the committee appointed by the Citizens of the City of Oswego for the distribution of the fund raised for the relief of the sufferers by the fire on July 5, 1853 was made on September 5, 1853 by its secretary John W. Smith. (9) The different sums, placed at the disposal of the committee, have been made as follows:

From		
Powell & Co.	New York	$200.00
Jonathon Sturgess	"	100.00
Emanuel Burckle	"	100.00
Robert F. Sage	"	100.00
Suydam Reid & Co.	"	100.00
Miss Shutes	"	40.00
Joseph Fowler	"	25.00
"Sufferers friend" by the hand of Mrs. Mary Carrington, New York		20.00
J.B. Murray	"	20.00
Mrs. Cady	"	5.00
J.B. Plumb	Albany	1150.00
Rufus H. King	"	150.00
Joel Rathbun	"	100.00
Thurlow Weed	"	50.00
Tilinghast & Co.	Troy	50.00
J.C. Osgood	"	50.00
Dean Richmond	Buffalo	100.00
Gerritt Smith	Peterborough	1,000
Horace White	Syracuse	100.00
Hamilton White	"	100.00
Samuel Mead	"	20.00
Judge Pratt	"	10.00
Citizens of the Village of Fulton		715.25
Otis Bigelow	Baldwinsville	100.
J.D. Ledyard	Cazenovia	100.00
J. Gillette	Cleveland, Ohio	100
Citizens of Toledo, Ohio		
W.G. Thompson	Lancaster,	240.00
H.P. Brewster	London	100.00
"Sufferers friend" by the hand of F. Ramsdell		40.00
Citizens of Oswego		100.00
Total Amount Received		300.00
		6867.50

In addition to the above a committee of Ladies procured a larged quantity of clothing and bedding which was placed subject to the orders of this committee.

With these means the committee has relieved 230 families, comprising 830 individuals.

The task imposed upon the committee had been arduous and delicate, requiring much care and investigation. To do justice to all, it had been necessary to estimate losses of each, his age, condition in life, number of dependents and pecuniary prospects as compared with those of others; and the various situations had been such, that no two exactly parallel cases had been found.

As a consequence of the calamitous fire the Common Council, in a special meeting, discussed the inadequate fire department. (10) In a sombre statement it took notice that the need of an effective apparatus and materials was apparent. A large portion of the equipment was old and worn state was destroyed. Houses of engine company No. 3 and Hook and Ladder Company No. 2 burned; implements and hose destroyed. Much of the equipment proved unserviceable and useless. A large addition in the force and material was needed. There was no doubt of incendiaries; additional police force and temporary watch were required. Since a well disciplined and efficiently equipped fire department was absolutely essential; and since the Common Council had no means of defraying such expenses, estimated at $5,000; it decided to hold a special election for a bonding issue.


CITY PROPERTY
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SCHOOL
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A study of the map will show what the burned out portion of Oswego looked like in 1851 . (11) Starting from the basin or Smith's Cove and proceeding south from East Schuyler Street, block 45 contained lots 1, 2,3,4,5,6. Each lot was 66 feet wide and varied in length due to the contour of the river banks; the regular lots were 66 by 200 feet. The streets were 100 feet wide. Block 63 contained lots 7,8,9,10,11,12; block 81 contained lots 13,14,15,16,17,18. The map is notable in that it describes and locates most businesses and owners. (12)

Another consequence of the fire was the immediate rebuilding of not only the elevators and mills on a much larger scale but also much of the east side downtown area. Some unknown artist made a sketch of the new elevators from the lower bridge northward to Seneca Street, evidently from the same location of the Barnard daguerreotype. (13) Using the sketch and condensed table as a guide and reference, a history of the east side milling industry follows.

EAST SIDE ELEVATORS AND MILLS

William J. Pardee's Congress Mill on lot 18 was destroyed by the 1850 fire and was not rebuilt; the map shows the lot vacant. Lewis and Rathbun's Empire Elevator was on lot 17. The map and sketch shows lot 16 vacant because the Henry Matthew's Express Mill, although built of stone, was destroyed by the 1850 fire and yet not rebuilt. This was the site of the second mill built in Oswego in 1828 by Henry Fitzhugh & Co. (15) About five or six years afterwards it was destroyed by fire and in 1837 rebuilt by Talcott & Bond and subsequently purchased by Henry Matthews. He had been engaged in the express business and named it the Express Mills.

Next on lot 15 was Fitzhugh & Littlejohn's Lake Ontario Mills. It was the first mill, the "old yellow mill", in Oswego originally erected by Bronson & Morgan in 1826. (16) About 1835 it was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1837 by C.J. Burckle and named the Phoenix Mills. It was replaced in 1847 by a new structure, owned and operated by Fitzhugh & Littlejohn. Later this mill was owned by Luther Wright, Lathrop, Smith & Co., Howlett, Gardner & Co., The Oswego Milling Co., Dunston & Royce.

Sylvester Doolittle's Empire Mill and Elevator was erected in 1843-4 on lot 14. Jenkins & Doolittle acquired them in 1864 and sold them to Benjamin Doolittle in 1874. When fire destroyed them, he rebuilt them with a reduced capacity.

George and Cheney Ames erected the Reciprocity Mills and Elevator on lot 13. They subsequently passed into the hands of Cheney Ames. About 1837 a saw mill occupied the site; and about 1846 the mill was used to saw timber and lumber for an elevator. The saw mill was then demolished and an elevator erected in its place. It was the second elevator in the city.

Cayuga Street intervened between the above named structures and the ones on block 63 7 through 12. A fire in 1879 had destroyed the Lake Ontario, Empire, and Reciprocity mills and elevators and were not rebuilt. A photograph shows the area empty after that date from Cayuga Street south to the lower bridge.

Next north was Wright & Littlejohn's Continental Elevator. It was erected after the fire in 1853.

The Ames plaster mill, next to the Continental, was built in 1842. An advertisement in a local paper of that year stated that the plaster mill was unaffected by the fire (1842) and when completed will serve the public with the best material and workmanship. It was one of the most extensive mills in the United States. In 1862 Henry Ames replaced the plater mill with the Corn Exchange Elevator. The sketch shows the plaster mill and the photograph, the elevator.

In 1831 or 1832 the fourth mill is Oswego was built by Dr. Cole and Luther Wright on the site north of the Corn Exchange. In 1842 the newly founded firm of Penfield, Lyons & Co. built the Washington Mills and elevator.

Next north was Truman Wyman's Columbia Mill and Elevator. Moses Merick and Jesse Hoyt purchased the mill in 1860. The came the site of Oswego's third elevator, erected by Bond & Ulhorn. It was afterwards owned by J.L. Hall & Co. and according to one source was rebuilt by Beniamin Hagamon but the 1856 City Directory lists William H. Herrick as the owner of the Frontier. It was last known as Merchants Elevator with Smith, Murdock & Co. as its proprietor.

All mills and elevators in block 63 from the Continental to the Merchants were wiped out by the fire in May 1892 and were not rebuilt. Thus ended what was left of Oswego's milling industry.

Across Seneca Street is block 45 with lots 1 to six inclusive. The third mill erected about the year 1830 by R.L. DeZeng was probably on lot 6. From the map it appears that this might have been the site; for, the location seems to have been "on a lot for many years past had been occupied by the old Fitzhugh & Littlejohn warehouse." (17) Afterwards the Marine Elevator occupied the site until destroyed by the 1892 fire. (18)

The first elevator in Oswego for handling grain was built in 1844 or 1845 by James Platt and for years it was known as the "Platt Elevator." (19) It was located on the east side on Smith's Cove (basin), foot of East First Street. It had storage room for 75,000 bushels and elevate 1,000 bushels per hour. Some time later is was purchased by J.B. Edwards and Erastus Jones and leased to Harvey Clark of Fulton. Later it was purchased by Randall Bros. and was known as the "Randall Elevator" until it was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1865.

In 1828 when Oswego had been incorporated as a village a fire department organization was established through formal action of the Village Board. (20) At the outset its functions were aimed especially at prevention of fires rather than at perfecting means for extinction and control after they had developed.

Four wardens were chosen by the electorate each year whose duty was to inspect not only business buildings but dwellings as well from the standpoint of existing fire hazards. There was not a chimney in the village that was not looked over at least once a year to make certain that it was in proper condition. In the absence of fire engines and a water system even a fire seemingly of a trifling nature might easily develop into a conflagration which could cancel out in a few minutes all of the progress which might have been built up in the little community in the past decade. Not only were chimneys inspected on the visit of the fire warden but the occupants of dwellings were called upon to produce fire buckets with which each household ordinance was required to possess and keep in good functioning condition for use in "bucket brigade" whenever a fire should arise. Some of these household buckets, frequently of leather construction, were ornate in nature and bore on the exterior the name of the owner and frequently some form of stenciled or other decoration as well. They were supposed to be kept handily near the front entrance to the household ready to be snatched up and borne away to the scene of the fire whenever the occasion should arise.

At the fire the wardens would be very much in evidence as they had the duty of directing the methods to be adopted in fighting the fire, the setting up of long queues of persons leading from the nearest supply of water to the scene of the fire from which hand-to-hand passed the water buckets until they reached the location of the fire

where a group of specially experienced men would take over the duty of casting the contents judicially upon the flames while another equally long queue of men formed to pass the empty buckets back once more to the point where they could be filled. This endless procedure was kept up until the fire had been distinguished, the building had been destroyed or until the danger of the fire spreading to nearby buildings had been eliminated.

Each warden was distinguished at a fire through the fact that he bore in his hand a long pole painted red with words "Fire Warden" appearing prominently near its top. The fire Warden's orders had the force of law during the progress of a fire just the same as the fire chief's commands had in a city fire department today.

The first organized Oswego Fire Company was equipped with buckets and other primitive means of fire fighting and had its headquarters in Water Street, near Market Street. In 1833 there was built a special engine house for this company when a building was erected just north of the Market House (City Hall) where a hand "pumper" and other apparatus were installed.

After 1825 the fire alarms were sounded from the tower of the First Presbyterian Church which stood at that time in West Park. Then after 1838 the alarms were sounded from the first town clock on top of the old Market House.

Moses P. Hatch was the first Chief Engineer appointed to have supervision at the scene of a fire in directing the work of all the volunteer fire companies. (21) He took over the duties formerly performed by the fire wardens and the responsibilities for fighting fires was therefore under control of a single head or individual for the first time in Oswego.

In 1842 the Oswego Fire Department was reorganized under provision of a state law then recently passed. Additional fire companies were added to the department at that time. The Village Board of Trustees approved applications for membership as well as resignations in the fire department. After the 1853 fire, apparatus of an approved type was added to the equipment of the fire department based on the experience gained in fighting the serious fires along the water front. On April 12, 1855 the Oswego Fire Department was incorporated. The end of the volunteer fire department era came to an end in 1876 when it was reorganized on a paid basis.

The fire department in 1852 consisted of a Council to which the Chief Engineer, his first and second Assistants, Secretary and Treasurer were members; delegates to the council were selected, two from each of the four fire companies. Each company had its own organization with the following officers: Foreman, Assistant, Secretary, and Treasurer. The names of the fire companies were: Empire, No 2, Motto; "Excelsior"; Niagara No. 3, Cataract No. 4, Motto, "Prompt to Obey When Duty Calls"; Washington No 5, Motto, "We'll Try"; Hose No . 2, Motto, "Try Us"; Hose No . 3, Motto "Rough and Ready"; Hose No. 4, Motto, "Croton"; Hose No. 5, Motto, "Onwards."

Oswegonians witnessed their first serious fire on Friday, October 1, 1830. (22) The entire block, bounded by West first, Cayuga, Second and Seneca Streets, being at that time in the main business section of the community, was entirely consumed by fire. In 1837 Fitzhugh & Co's flour mill (Lot 17) on the east side was lost. The First Presbyterian Church, at that time in West Park, was set on fire in 1841. The citizens of Oswego were sufficiently incensed to petition the President and Trustees of the Village "to offer a reward of $750 for the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons concerned in setting fire to the Presbyterian Church on the night of the 24th of October, 1841." (23) It might be noted that the culprit (s) was never found.

The first disastrous fire to plague the east side docks was on November 24, 1842. It started at 4:30 A.M. in the Fitzhugh & Co.'s mill. It consumed the mills of Truman Wyman and Luther Wright, warehouse of Colonel T.S. Morgan, Boigeol's machine shop, Ames plaster mill, the Cross blacksmith shop, in addition to the dwellings of T.S. Morgan, Simeon Bates, and two belonging to Jesse Bennett. The estimated loss was $100,000.

Another fire, of an incendiary origin, broke out on January 16, 1847 in the warehouse of Merrick, Davis & Co. on Water Street. (24) A strong wind from the north spread the fire to the Commercial Hotel and Dickinson & Co.'s warehouse. A spark set the lower bridge, 200 yards away, on fire and destroyed four lengths and the wooden abutments. It caused a considerable inconvenience to the people before the bridge could be repaired. A few excerpts from the diary of teacher Samuel P. Cole reflected the feelings of the residents: (25)

Saturday, January 16, 1847-
Very stormy. The cry of fire is now raised in the street and the wind is blowing so fear it will do a great deal of damage. I must see.

Sunday, January 17 - Great commotion on all hands today, the only connection between the two villages, is destroyed while the two warehouses and the tavern were burning last night, the sparks flew and caught the bridge and burned it except 1 or 2 abutments on each end. Now all the passing is done in a small boat and it is difficult as that the current is so swift.

Monday, January 18 - The connection between the villages being destroyed caused a great deal of trouble for the population in general and me in particular. I cross only morning and night at 6 each trip...great talk about building a bridge. There was an attempt to fire Willis' (139 West First Street) store but not successful. They think the bridge will be in its place in three weeks. I guess not. Mrs. Weeks offered to build a foot bridge in one-half a day for the toll.

Tuesday, January 19 - I pay for crossing sometimes three cents and sometimes six just as they feel. There has been a boat rigged as a ferry. A rope is attached to the mast head which reaches to a pier in the bridge and thus mechanically swing across the river. There are many small boats also, all sorts of prices.

Thursday January 21 - A fire broke out in a large store block in West Oswego which was soon extinguished before it had done much damage. The firemen work just as though they know how. It was done by an incendiary. None can doubt. But who can be the person that does it? Five hundred dollars reward has been offered for his detection.

Friday, January 22 - The tabernacle was set on fire tonight.

Saturday, February 13 - Found the bridge passable for footmen

On the morning of December 1, 1848 at about 2:15 a fire was discovered in the Methodist Episcopal Church, situated on the Public Square, West Side. (26) The building was entirely consumed. "We understand," according to the local press "that a meeting was held in the basement last night and that care was taken on leaving the building to guard against fire. We learn, also, that the fire was discovered in the upper part of the Church, remote from the stove or stove pipe. The general impression seems to be that the fire was an act of an incendiary. The building was insured for $1,000. We understand that about the same time, an attempt was made to fire the Tabernacle, on West Second Street."

A fire broke out about 2:30 on the morning of July 30, 1850 in a large building at the east end of the toll or lower bridge, standing on the canal and occup-

ied for various manufacturing purposes and filled with machinery of various kinds. (27) The fire communicated with the adjoining flour mills of William J. Pardee and Henry Matthews on the north, which were consumed with a considerable amount of flour and wheat. The wind being favorable, blowing a light breeze from the north, the fire was arrested in this direction at the next adjoining mill of Henry Fitzhugh & Co. by the efficient aid of the powerful force pumps in the mills and by the well directed efforts of the firemen.

The fire was arrested to the surprise of everybody, at mills of Henry Matthews, by the force pumps in the mills Fitzhugh & Co., and Doolittle & Mollison and Engine No. 4 (28) The hose belonging to the pumps in these mills, and Engine No. 4 were run so as to pour a continued flood of water over the mills of Fitzhugh & Co., which stood nearly in contact with the Express Mills of Mr. Matthews. The mills stood on the river front and were difficult of access by engines on the river side, but they did good service from the canal in the rear. It was therefore owing chiefly to the efficient application of the force pump that the fire was arrested where it was, and three of the largest and most valuable mills in the city saved. If this good fortune had prevailed in the 1853 fire, the sad and costly fire would not have been so extensive.

The flames were carried from the Crocker building across the street on the south, set the east end of the bridge on fire and communicated with the new block of stores erected over the canal by Jesse Bennett. At this point Engine Co. No. 2 was caught between two fires and after a desperate effort to save their engine, they were compelled by the intense heat on Bridge Street to abandon it and it was burned.

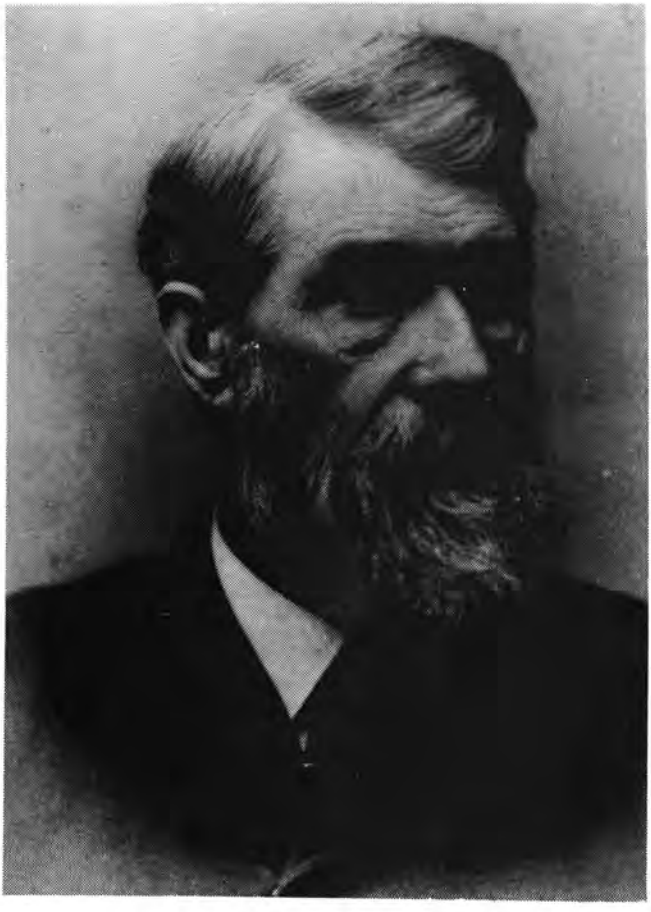
The fire spread on the south side of Bridge Street with great speed, and the whole block lying between the river and First Street was a heap of ruins.

The building of Congress Mills, owned by William J. Pardee were worth $12,000, in which was burned 1200 barrels of four and 400 bushels of what estimated at $6,500, both building and stock insured. Henry Matthews Express Mills were estimated at $18,000 in which he lost 1,000 barrels of flour and 12,000 bushels of wheat, estimated value $17,000, building partially insured but not on stock. About one-third of the bridge was burned with a loss of $1,500. Schooners T. Wyman, Seneca and Liverpool took fire and sustained some damage. A fleet of a large class of vessels were saved through the energetic efforts of resolute men led on by such fearless and determined men as Captain Iago of the Cayuga and Mr. Ramsdell of the steamboats. The total loss sustained by the fire will not vary much from $90,000.

This 1850 fire was only a prelude to the great disaster of 1853, nor was the city spared from future fires, for in 1858 Carrington's Ontario (steam) elevator, the largest one on the lakes, at the foot of West First Street, was destroyed. Other mills and elevators took their turn as noted previously.

The special election was held on August 2, 1853 and the voters were in favor of the Common Council's request to borrow the necessary funds.

In this year a "light and watch" district was established. The "light" was to provide for the lighting and extinguishing of the gas light contracted for by the city. Artificial gas was estabilised in 1852. The "watch" was policemen or night watchmen who were employed to patrol the streets at night to maintain order, lock store and factory doors that had been carelessly left unlocked by their owners and see that they were cared for, and keeping constantly on the watch to discover fires while they were yet in their incipient stages.



THE PHOTOGRAPHER

George N. Barnard, the Connecticut-born photographer took up the profession in 1842, three years after Daguerre disclosed the process. (29) One of the earliest references to the photographer's presence in Oswego was in 1847 when an enthusiastic admirer remarked that "Mr. Barnard, at his rooms in the Palladium Building (southwest corner of West First and Cayuga Streets), is taking some of the finest pictures, we have ever seen. They seem to be fully equal to Plumbe's (prominent New York City

photographer). Mr. Barnard is one of our most meritorious citizens, and we hope those wanting anything in his line will give him a call." (30) Again in 1848 reference is made to "Mr. Barnard who has taken up a permanent residence in this city (Oswego) executes Daguerreotype likenesses at his office in the Woodruff Block (southwest corner of West First and Cayuga Streets), with life-like truth and fidelity. (31)

In 1851, George N. Barnard "respectively informs his friends and the public generally, that he has removed to his new rooms, fitted up expressly for taking DAGUERREOTYPE PICTURES, over E.P. Burt's store (137 West First Street, the present Coe's Laundry). He has perfected a powerful sky-light, yet so mellow that he has enabled to take the likenesses of children and all others, in a few seconds, with perfect ease to the sitter; retaining a natural expression." (32)

In 1853 Mr. Barnard resided at 105 East Fourth Street and his studio was located on the third floor of the City Bank, 147 West First Street, on the southeast corner of West First and Cayuga Streets. (33) It was demolished in September 1962.

He advertised himself as a daguerrean who took pictures in every style and in all weather; he, also, had a large assortment of gold and plated lockets, plates, cases frames, chemicals etc., constantly on hand, wholesale and retail. "We took occasion to visit him in his new quarters and were highly pleased with all his arrangements" wrote a reporter. (34) An elaborate account of the premises included a description of the Reception, Operating Room, Toilet Room, and other apartments for the convenience of the patrons and the sales of wares, chemicals, etc. There was no doubt that the facilities for operating were not excelled this side of New York, and Mr. Barnard's reputation and his ability to please as an artist was established.

It was from these quarters that he took his cumberdome camera to the foot of West Cayuga Street near West Oneida Street, lookin northeast. Mr. Barnard advertised from July 12 to August 1 that "pictures of the late fire taken while burning" could be obtained. These pictures are copied from large pictures, and are fauthful representations of the different stages of the fire as it appeared on the 5th. Also views of the ruins as they now appear." (35)

In 1854 Mr. Barnard formed a partnership under the name of Barnard & Nichols, practicing their art from 7 o'clock A.M. and 6 P.M. at their rooms over the City Bank. (36) A card informed the public that Mr. Barnard has recovered from his sickness and has just returned from New York with a large variety of goods. He is listed in the Syracuse directories of 1854, 1855, 1857, the first two years at 4 Franklin Building, now c. 128 East Genesee Street. (37) There was no 1856 directory. In 1854 the firm of Barnard & Nichols is given, but no photographer of Nichols is listed as an individual , 1853-1857.

Isaih Taber and B.F. Howland took over the location in 1857. Mr. Barnard's listing, if there was one, was not located in the 1855 census. Barnard's ambrotype gallery was at 6 South Salina (no. 8 Wiething Block) in p857. He does not appear in the 1859 book. H. Lazier advertised at the Wieting Block address in 1858, J.H. French lists G.N. Barnard as one of three artists who assisted on his State Map and Gazetteer. (Title verso, 1859). He subsequently was employed by Matthew B. Brady in his New York studio. The first week of February, 1861, Mr. Brady sent for two of his best photographers, G.N. Barnard being one, to come from New York to Washington to help him with preparation to cover Lincoln's inauguration. (38)

George N. Barnard was among the first persons to photograph

scenes of the Civil War battles and campaigns. Brady, a studio portrait photographer, had myopia as early as 1851 and was unable to do studio work by the mid-1850's; therefore, Brady depended upon field photographers to take the many Civil War pictures for which he was later credited. A large number of photographs heretofore credited to Brady have proved to be photographs by Barnard.

According to Manuel Kean, Philadelphia pictorial archivist, "It has been an article of faith with many historians that any photograph showing a Civil War scene is a Brady. Yet whenever it has been possible to check out a so-called Brady, it has been established that is was made by someone else. In my opinion the greatest of the Civil War photographers was George N. Barnard.....His work is noteworthy for the fact that he was concerned with the terrain over which wars are fought. In Barnard's photographs people are secondary and, when present, are subdued to the composition." (39)

Mr. Barnard came to Oswego for a brief stay in 1862. A notice in a local newspaper stated that "having secured the services, for a limited period, that celebrated artist, George N. Barnard (formerly of this, and late from Brady's Gallery Washington).....will find Mr. Barnard at Gray's Gallery at the east end of the Iron Bridge (southwest corner of East First and Bridge Streets), where he will be pleased to see his old customers and former acquaintances and friends." (40)

After his short visit to Oswego, he was appointed as the United States Army's official photographer on Sherman's "March to the Sea" and the later campaign in the Carolinas. In 1866 he published an album of views taken in Tennessee, Georgia, and the Carolinas in 1864 and 1865 that sold then for $100 a copy and is "now so excessively rare that few collectors or institutions have copies."

Mr. Barnard is listed in the 1864 directory as "engineer, depart. govt. photographer," no business address, home 228 Townsend. This home address is continued in 1866, 67 and 68. He is "photographer" the first two years, "artist" the third and that was the last listing there. In 1867, his only daughter, Miss Mary Grace Barnard (born November 19, 1849) is shown as a boarder at 228 Townsend. On September 22, 1867 she was married by Rev. S.J. May to Edgar O. Gilbert.

From Syracuse he went to Charleston, South Carolina before moving to Chicago. In 1871 he was out in the Great Chicago Fire but returned the following day to document the fire's destruction with photographs. In 1883 he helped George Eastman introduce dry-plates which eliminated the cumbersome wet-plate process and revolutionized photography. His last known studio was in Painsville, Ohio, between 1884 and 1886. Barnard died during a bad snow storm at his son-in-law's farm in the Town of Onondaga, just south of Syracuse, on February 4, 1902.

Charts Of Elevators That Burned

Name of Elevator	Proprietor	Run of Stone	Barrels per day	Value	When built
Lake Ontario Mills	Fitzgugh & Littlejohn	6	600	$40,000	1847
Empire Mills	Doolittle, Irwin & Wright	5	600	$30,000	1844
Reciprocity Mills	Ames & Holly	4	400	$14,000	1851
Washington Mills	Penfield, Lyons & Co.	5	500	$40,000	1843
Eagle Mills	T. Wiman	5	500	$40,000	1843
Express Mills*	Henry Matthews	6	600	$30,000	1847

Name of Elevator	Proprietor	Bu. elev. per hour	Storage room bu.	Value	When Built
Empire	Lewis & Rathbun	3,000	250,000	$45,000	1853
Lake Ontario	Fitzhugh & Littlejohn	2,500	100,000	$25,000	1854
Doolittle	Doolittle, Irwin & Wright	2,500	75,000	$20,000	1854
Reciprocity	Ames & Holly	3,000	150,000	$33,000	1854
Continental	J.C.Wright & Co.	5,000	300,000	$50,000	1854
Washington	Penfield, Lyon & Co.	5,000	300,000	$30,000	1854
Eagle	T. Wiman	3,000	200,000	$30,000	1854
Frontier	W.H. Herrick	5,000	300,000	$50,000	1844
Express *	Henry Matthews	2,500	150,000	$20,000	1853

*Burned in the fire of 1850 yet not rebuilt.

APPENDIX

Board of Trustees Proceedings, October 15, 1828.
Digest of Fire
Ordinances
Section I That each and every fireplace, hearth, oven, chimney, stove, stove-pipe, boiler or kettle...shall be kept clean...forfeit...five dollars.
Section II....Chimney or stove-pipe shall be swept or burnt out clean once every three months....forfeit ....three dollars.
Section III.....No person shall carry or keep....any lighted candle or lamp in any livery or other stable....unless enclosed in a lantern or lamp .....forfeit.....three dollars.
Section IV.....Every occupant of a... building....two or more stories in height shall have a door in the roof with stairs or a ladder leading thereto.....forfeit.....three dollars.
Section V....Occupant(s) shall keep.. ...fire buckets containing not less than eight quarts.....with the owners name printed on each bucket...shall keep the same hanging up...in the front of such building...forfeit.... .....five dollars.
Section VI....Fire shall break out.. ...it shall be the duty of each person to take his fire bucket (s) to such fire....forfeit.... two dollars.
Section VII....Duty of fire wardens... attend... any.... fire... and be provided with a staff as badge of office and to command the persons to aid in extinguishing such fire and preservation of property and to see that lines are formed to the passing of water in buckets.... forfeit...ten dollars.
Section VIII... It shall be the duty of all persons...to obey....fire warden or trustee...forfeit..two dollars.
Section IX...It shall be the duty of President, trustee, a fire warden to remove and keep away from fire... ...idle, disobedient or suspicious persons... and if (they) not keep away....forfeit .... three dollars.
Section X.... There shall be organized a fire company consisting of not to exceed thirty-able-bodied men.... the office of Captain shall be elected by ballot...shall hold his office during the pleasure of the Board of Turstees.
Board of Proceedings, April 4, 1831.
Section XI....There shall be provided ...a staff for each fire warden as a badge of office...seven feet in length, painted red with the words fire warden thereon...forfeit...ten dollars.
Section XIII...Trustee ... shall be distinguished by a white cloth worn around his hat....
Board of Trustees, March 1, 1837.
Section 73...Erect building in West Oswego...unless ....constructed of stone or brick with...fire walls... east of Second and north of Bridge..
Section 76... (No) pipe of any stove. ...be conducted into a chimney made of brick or stone.....
Section 85...The fire department ....shall consist of Chief Engineer, one Assistant Engineer, four Fire Wardens, and.....

FOOTNOTES

(1) These Associated photos appeared throughout the United States and in the Oswego Palladium Times, February 24, 1962

(2) Oswego Daily Times, July 5, 1853.

(3) Map of Oswego, Surveyed and Published by John Bevan, 1851.

(4) Oswego Daily Times, July 6, 1853.

(5) J.E.B. Curry, Minutes, courtesy Albert R. Salladin, Oswego, New York

(6) Oswego Daily Times, July 7, 1853

(7) Common Council Proceedings, July 6, 1853; proclamation in Oswego Daily Times, July 8, 1853.

(8) J.E.B. Curry, Minutes.

(9) Manuscript in John W. Smith's handwriting lists the name of the recipient, number in the family, manner of relief and amount furnished. Courtesy of Oswego County Historial Society.

(10) Common Council Proceedings,

(11) Bevan Map, 1851.

(12) See also the Sanborn Map of 1883. This book of maps was specially made for the insurance companies and has exact measurements of buildings and other pertinent information.

(13) Courtesy of Oswego County Historical Society.

(14) Oswego City Directory, 1856-1857.

(15) Oswego Commercial Advertiser & Times, February 19, 1870.

(16) Oswego Commerical Times, March 11, 1859; Crisfield Johnson, History of Oswego County, (L.H. Everts and Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1877), p. 172 states that date was 1828.

(17) Oswego Commercial Advertiser & Times, February 19, 1870.

(18) See Sanborn Map of Oswego, 1883.

(19) Oswego Commercial Advertisers & Times, February 19, 1870.

(20) Board of Trustees Proceedings, October 15, 1830. See also revised ordinances, passed on April 4, p831 and on March 1, 1837.

(21) Board of Trustees Proceedings, April 3, 1837.

(22) Oswego Free Press, October 6, 1830. See also James R. Jackson, "A Century of Fire Fighting in Oswego", Yearbook, Oswego County Historical Society, 1946, pp. 38-53.

(23) Board of Trustees Proceedings, October 24, 1841.

(24) Oswego Palladium, January 19, 1847.

(25) Samuel P. Cole, Diary, January 16, 1847-February 13, 1847. Courtesy of Oswego County Historical Society.

(26) Oswego Times, December 1, 1848.

(27) Oswego Commercial Times, July 30, 1850.

(28) Oswego Commercial Times, July 31, 1850.

(29) Donald F. Eddy, George N. Barnard, (Rochester Institute of Technology, March 6, 1963) quoting Beaumont Newhall, Notes in George Eastman House Files (Rochester, New York, 1962).

(30) Oswego Palladium, March 9, 1847.

(31) Oswego Times, November 20, 1848.

(32) Oswego Daily Commercial Times, July 1, 1851.

(33) Oswego City Directory, 1852 & 1853, p. 127.

(34) The Photographic Art-Journal, vol. 5, January 1853, p. 63 quoting the Oswego Palladium.

(35) Oswego Daily Times, July 12, 1853.

(36) Oswego Times and Journal, June 24, 1854.

(37) Courtesy Richard N. Wright, President of Onondaga Historical Association. Mr. Wright gathered the information of Mr. Barnard's activities not only in Syracuse but elsewhere.

(38) James D. Horan, Mathew Brady, (Bonanza Books, New York, 1960), p. 36. In a discussion with this writer, Manuel Kean, of Philadelphia, expressed doubt that Mr. Barnard was one of the photographers.

(39) Oswego Palladium-Times, June 1, 1963.

(40) Oswego Commercial Times, September 23, 1862.

History of St. Mary's Church

Presented by the Rev. Mr. Robert Hall, October 15, 1963

The history of the Catholic Church's religious services held in the community of Oswego must certainly have begun during the times when the French occupied Fort Ontario and other positions around the city. Although we do not have any actual records of services being held, we do have records of names of chaplains that accompanied the French forces since they were predominantly Catholic. Thus, we have to leave this to the imagination of the individual. For certainly if Chaplains accompanied the armed forces, there must have been services held.

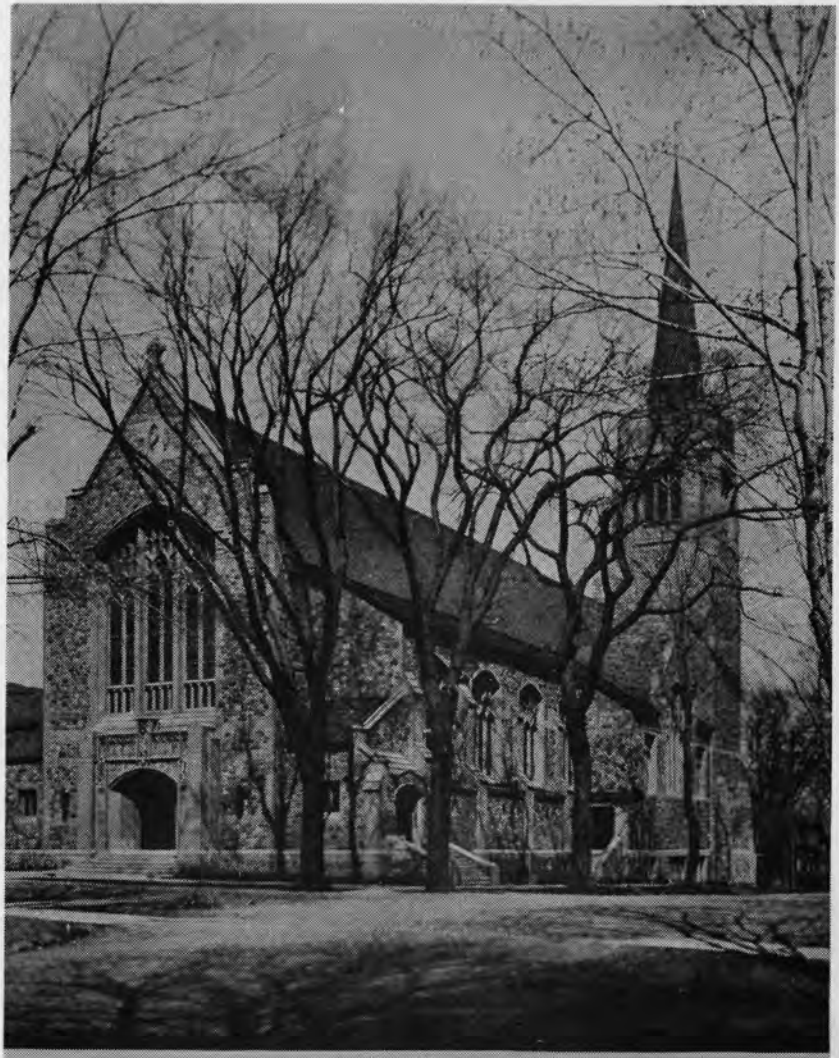
But we do know that on August 14, 1756, when Oswego was captured by Montcalm, there is a record of Catholic services having taken place under the direction of Father Claude Godfrey who was the Chaplain of Montcalm's forces. From that date until 1813, however, there are no records of any Catholic services or priests being in the vicinity of Oswego.

We do know, however, since 1830 there were probably some 15 or 16 Catholic familes who had settled here in this vicinity, bearing such names as O'Connor, McCarthy, etc. There was no regular clergymen in charge of Oswego, but we do find in the records that a Rev. Father Donahue, who had charge of Auburn, Rome, and other villages of Central New York, was invited to visit Oswego and to offer Mass and take care of other religious services. Actually the parish of Father Donahue consisted of the whole upper New York State and he did come to Oswego to conduct services. Actually arrangements were made to have services held every three months and these were held in a private home on the West side of the river, but as to where this home was and who owned it is not designated.

The first actual Church to be erected in Oswego was St. Paul's. It was built on a lot purchased from the late Honorable Jerritt Smith. It consisted of a building 20 feet by 24 feet. This building was used until 1840 when plans were made to erect a newer and larger building to accommodate the growing needs of the Catholics in the community.

In 1842 a cornerstone was laid for a building which measures 65 ft. by 100 ft. This was done by the late Rev. Father Rogers who at that time was the priest in charge of this particular territory. This church was located on the site of the present St. Paul's Church and was the forerunner of the succeeding churches that occupy that particular spot. Thus St. Paul's parish became the first Catholic Church and parish in the city of Oswego. This remained the only church until 1849 when St. Mary's parish was formed.

Even though St. Paul's parish was the first actual church erected in the city of Oswego, it was in St. Mary's parish, on the westside of the river, that Mass was first held for the small Catholic Community. It is



SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

interesting to note that even though the Catholic people of Oswego were all united by a common faith, nevertheless, certain cultural and emotional ties separated them. Then, with the growing French population they no longer wished to be associated with St. Paul's parish so they organized a parish of their own which was to be St. Mary's parish. Thus St. Mary's in its origin was a French parish. This parish was first originated in 1848. The cornerstone, however, of the church which was to be erected, was laid on March 24, 1849. At this time Father Foultier, who was to become the first pastor of the parish, was a native of France and preached the sermon in French. A Father Newton of Syracuse preached in German which gives evidence of the fact that there must have been German Nationals here present. However, St. Peter's Church which was in the Center of the German population, was not built until 1866. Also at the dedication, a Father Kenny preached in English. The church was completed the same year and dedicated in 1850 by His Eminence Cardinal McCloskey, Bishop of Albany. At that time the Diocese of Albany extended from what is now the city of Yonkers thru the whole of upper New York State as far west and including the city of Buffalo. The structure that was built at St. Mary's measured 110 ft. by 52 ft. with a towering steeple of 135 ft. in height.

During this erection services were held for three years in what is called the tabernacle hall which was the only large assembly place on the west side of the river. Where its exact location was, I was not able to find out. Father Foultier who said that First Mass in this tabernacle chapel was served by a man by the named of Jules Boardway, a French Canadian, and at that time there were approximately 300 people present at the first Mass that was offered. Since, we have noted that Father Foultier was the first pastor of St. Mary's Parish. He came here, primarily, at the request of a Frenchman by the name of Joseph Recadue who was apparently very well-educated and of some means and felt that the French and French Canadian families who had settled in Oswego should have a priest of their own nationality to care for them.

However, once Father came and began the erection of the Church and parish, it was found that the number of French people were too poor and too few to give the necessary help and so Father Foultier solicited in the community of American and Irish Catholics who were also anxious at the time to have a church on the westside of the river which then would give them closer access than going all the way over to St. Paul's. According to the records, when St. Mary's was opened in 1850, more than half of the pews were assigned to English speaking. At the same time a school was started in the basement of the church with two English speaking teachers named Halligan and Gilman employed.

The first Baptism to be performed in St. Mary's parish was that of John McClair July 10, 1849 and the first marriage was that of Mac Koll and Mary Corby, Nov. 11, 1849.

But apparently this mixed congregation, due to differences in temperament, custom, and tradition, proved rather discouraging to Father Foultier who, after having started the church and its dedication, remained only one year and in discouragement, due to differences that had arisen among the congregation, in July 1851 he left and went to New Orleans where he became pastor of St. Vincent De Paul's Church.

After Father Foultier left apparently it was felt that perhaps a priest of Irish nationality would be able to satisfy both nationalities and accordingly a Rev. James Keveny

succeeded Rev. Foultier, but apparently he had little more success than Father Foultier and in 1852 he left and went to St. Peter's parish in Troy, New York. He was succeeded by a Rev. Joseph Guerdet a native of France. Father Guerdet apparently was able to unite the different nationalities and during his administration much was accomplished. He brought the Sisters of St. Joseph here to teach in the parochial school which now was growing and now occupied a house as well as the basement in church where it began. The Sisters of St. Joseph arrived here from St. Louis, which was then their head-quarters, at that time. St. Mary's, thus, was the first mission house of the Sisters of St. Joseph east of the Mississippi River. They traveled here by boat, by wagon and by train, and arrived here in 1858 to begin their work in the teaching of St. Mary's school where they still remain to this day. Thus St. Mary's is the oldest establishment in the East of the Sisters of St. Joseph, whose mother house is now located at Latham, N.Y. A house was purchased for the Sisters on 6th St. which was turned into a Convent. Several additions were made to this house, and to make room for one of these additions, it was necessary to move the Rectory, which was located next to it on 6th St., to a lot in the rear of the Church on Cayuga St. This remained the Rectory until the new St. Mary's Church was built. It is interesting to note that in those days the Rectory was owned personally by the priest who either bought it or built it. Now, however, all of these are owned by the parish. At the time Father Guerdet moved the Rectory from 6th St. to Cayuga St., it was purchased by the parish from him for the sum of $3,000.

St. Mary's parish continued to grow and to thrive. However, it was not without incidents. For March 10, 1859, a Mission was being conducted in the Church which was crowded for the evening service. During the service a section of the Church floor in the front part of the Church gave way and plunged people into the basement. There were none killed in the fall, but in the excitement and panic that resulted with people seeking to rush out of the church, one man and 4 women were killed, due to the lack of enough exits to handle such a situation. However, the Church was repaired and despite the tragedy St. Mary's continued to grow.

During Father Guerdet's reign many improvements were made. It is interesting to note that a large bell was purchase from Menelli Bell Works in Troy, N.Y. This bell still hangs in the present St. Mary's Church. The story is told, how much is true cannot be verified, but it certainly bears out the fact that there were still feelings despite Father Guerdet's efforts, between the French and Irish people of the parish. The story is this "that the bell arrived by barge and that the members of the congregation went to unload the bell from the barge. The group was composed of both French and Irish. When they arrived, they found that on the bell (which was erected in the Church Sept. 22, 1852) was the inscription "Praise Be the Lord--My name is Patrick." When the French saw this, they refused to unload the bell from the boat and left it to the work of the Irish. But, never-the-less thru the efforts of Father Guerdet the parish continued to grow and to prosper. Finally in 1867 Father Guerdet was promoted to St John's the Evangelist Church which was to become eventually the Cathedral of the Diocese of Syracuse.

When Syracuse was erected as the Diocese in 1886, Father Guerdet was succeeded in St. Mary's Parish in Oswego by the Rev. Louis Griffa, who was a native of Italy, and at one time had served as an assistant at St. Mary's under Father Guerdet.

Father Griffa immediately began his work at St. Mary's and the first thing he did was to add another large addition to the school which by that time had grown to a size of 300 students, and the number of Sisters residing at St. Mary's, who instructed them, had grown from the original 3 to 8 in number. By this time the congregation to St. Mary's had become extremely enlarged owing to continued immigration of French-Canadians. Three of the present Churches in Oswego can trace their origin to St. Mary's.

In 1863, while Father Guerdet was pastor of St. Mary's, the German members of the congregation, organized St. Peter's parish on the East side of the River. And with the large immigration of French to the city of Oswego, the French population of St. Mary's gradually increased in growth, and with the growth, of course, there resulted many differences of opinions and ideas between themselves and the Irish. Due partly to this growth of French, the Irish and English in the Ward left St. Mary's and in 1869 St. John's parish was formed. When this group left, St. Mary's became predominantly French. In 1867 there were only 54 French names listed at St. Mary's. In 1859 there were over 400. As a result, Father Griffa, to try to satisfy their need, in 1870 obtained the assistance of a Father James Pelletier of Quebec, who came to St. Mary's with the original intention of serving the means of the French population. This created a division in the parish, with Father Griffs taking chrage of the English speaking members and Father Pelltier of the French, and each group had a different time for Mass on Sunday. Thus we had a situation of actually two different and separate groups working within one parisn, using the same facilities. Needless to say, many difficulties arose. As a result, it was decided that the French should leave St. Mary's and a new parish would be started. For almost 18 months the two groups haggled over what was to be done and how the division was to be made in regard to finances. Finally the trustees of St. Mary's agreed that they would purchase Mead Hall on the east side for the cost of $7,000 and give another $500 to help to be fitted to use as a church. So in Dec. 1871 the French left St. Mary's Church was inaugurated St. Louis's Church.

Thus, at that time, the congregation of St. Mary's, which had been composed of English speaking Catholics, mostly Irish descent and French, now, or for the first time, alone, without their French brethren, and St. Mary's parish, which had originally been started as a French Church, became primarily an English Church or I suppose we could say Irish, since most of the members were of Irish origin. At that time, with the loss of both St. John's Church and the French Church, St. Mary's parish dropped to a low of only 150 families. Actually the condition of St. Mary's Church were not too good after leave of the French congregation. However, the Church continued to struggle along and Father Griffa worked very hard to try and maintain the school and the other things that had been started. He was particularly active in founding Father Mathew Temperance Society here in Oswego and was its director for a number of years.

In 1885, however, Father Griffa left and he went to Chatam, N.Y. where he became a pastor of a Catholic Church there. He was succeeded by Father M.J. Fournier. Father Fournier continued the work of the parish but things remained more or less in a "status quo." His health not being good during the time he was pastor, he finally went South for his health, and in Dec. 1901 he died. During the time of Father Fournier's sickness the parish was in charge of assistants, principally Father John Fair and Father William McCormack. One

of the principle things that Father Fournier did during the time in which he was pastor of the Church, was to renovate the Church. Which, when he came, he found, first of all that the church steeple was unsafe and had to be taken down. Thus this was removed. The Church was renovated and new stain glass windows, Stations of the Cross, statues and electric lights were installed; and the Malcolm property, adjoining the parish house, was purchased, which gave the Church the whole full length of Cayuga St., as well as a frontage on 7th St., where it was hoped in time a new Church would be erected.

With the death of Father Fournier in 1901, Father Joseph A. Hopkins, who at that time was the assistant at St. John's parish, in the city of Oswego, was appointed the pastor of St. Mary's parish on Jan. 2, 1902. This really marked the beginning of a new phase in the history of St. Mary's . At the very outset, Father Hopkins. with a great deal of energy, began to rebuild the parish that needed rebuilding beyond any question or doubt. For, when Father Hopkins arrived in St. Mary's , he found that conditions were very discouraging. Not only was the Church overcrowded and in need of repair, the rectory was unsuitable for dwelling and the school, which at that time had only 70 students, and had fallen far below any standard of efficiency and the property itself was heavily in debt and the mortage was over $11,000, which had been unpaid for over 30 years.

This was the beginning that Father Hopkins found himself faced with. I t was only thru his zeal and efforts that things began to take shape. Father Hopkins first began the job of remodeling the school and to bring it back to its former capacity of attendance of 300 students. So successful was he, that the structure soon became too small and 1905 the old school was demolished and the present school was built, capable of housing 700 pupils.

Father Hopkins also immediately purchased additional property for a convent for the Sisters and a rectory for the priests. He established a free public library and opened a Mission from St. Mary's Church at Southwest Oswego, which now is taken care of by the pastor at Hannibal and a church on the Snake Swamp Road which is still served in the summertime by St. Mary's. Shortly after the school was built, Father Hopkins also built a convent which is still in use today, although many renovations and repairs have been made in it.

Probably the greatest monument to his zeal and effort at St. Mary's is the present St. Mary's Church, which, not only is an edifice of great beauty, but also represents a pecular local endeavor as far as both its construction and the efforts of the people are concerned. St. Mary's Church had its beginning on Monday, May 14th, 1916 when Father Hopkins celebrated the last Mass to be said in the Church. Immediately after Mass the work of tearing down was done entirely by the parishoners who razed the building to the ground. Ground for the new Church was broken in 1916 and the cornerstone laid in 1917.

During this period of construction and a time when the Church was begun and completed in 1925, the people attended Mass, first in the school hall and then subsequently in the basement of what is now St. Mary's Church and what is known as Hopkins Hall.

Delay in the construction of the Church for over 10 years, was due t o the advent of World War I, as well as to the necessity of the Church collecting sufficient funds to continue with the work. It might be mentioned that the parishoners were responsible for all the exterior stone of the Church. They brought it in from the countryside and the stones were cut on the spot by stonecutters and put in place. Thus

all the stone of St. Mary's is stone, native to the surrounding territory of Oswego. It was said that after St. Mary's Church was built there wasn't a stone-fence left in the whole county.

The present Church was dedicated by His Excellency Patrick Cardinal Hayes of New York on Sept. 8, 1925. The Consecretation of the Church coincided with the Diamond Jubilee of the parish. Thus making it a double celebration. At the Consecretation of St. Mary's there were probably more dignataries of the Church present in Oswego than ever before or ever since. Numbering among the high clergy, who were present, were, besides Cardinal Hayes, 4 Arch-Bishops and 7 Bishops from as far away as California and Florida. Also present were hundreds of priests and monsignories from all over the Eastern part of the United States. It was truly a memorable event for the people of St. Mary's and for the city of Oswego.

While we are speaking of the Church, it might be interesting to know that the Church is 65 feet wide and thru the knave 89 feet wide, thru the tranceps 186 feet long. The style of the Church is Thirteenth Century English Gothic. The entire exterior of the Church is of field stone; while the interior is of roman brick. The Cross on the top of the spire can be seen from the whole country side and is 184 feet high from the pavement. The pillars of the interior of the Church are molded stone; the panel ceiling, the trusses and the hammered beams are of cyprus. More than a mile of gold-leaf is used in the decoration of the Church ceiling, and in the 348 panel, which cover the knave and the apse of the Church, one mile of molding was used. The Altars of the Church are made of Indiana limestone, and the rerdos, the section behind each Altar, is all of carved oak. All of the statues in the Church are carved from linden wood. It is interesting to note that all of the wood carvings in the Church, which, if they are examined in detail, can be seen to be of excellent workmanship, were all executed in Cologne, Germany. To incorporate something from the old Church into the new, over 35 perch of stones from the old church were used as a foundation for the main altar. The seating capacity of the Church is 1032 people on the main floor and an additional 140 can be seated in the gallery in the rear of the Church.

The Church from the time of its dedication was completely free from debt and was built at the cost of over $350,000. The same building today, in an insurance appraisal, is now listed at $1,300,000. It is interesting to note, that each time, during the course of the building of the Church, a $1,000 was raised, a flag was flown, thus signifing to the people the fact that that amount of money had been reached in the last week or two whatever it might be.

Certainly St. Mary's Church stands as one of the outstanding pieces of architecture in the city of Oswego, and certainly a lasting memorial to the energy, zeal and the taste of Father Hopkins. For 26 years Father Hopkins served the people of St. Mary's The last ten years, of course, was spent in the building of the new Church. He certainly taxed health to the degree that he never fully recovered. He died on Friday Nov. 2, 1928 at the age of 64.

Father Hopkins was succeeded at St. Mary's by the appointment of Father William Dwyer, who came to St. Mary's Jan. 15, 1929 from St. Mary's Church in Clinton, where he had been pastor for ten years. Father Dwyer, due to ill health, remained only about a year and a half at St. Mary's when he returned to Clinton.

He was replaced by Father William Moore on Sept. 27, 1930. Father Moore remained as pastor of

St. Mary's for five years and then he was transferred to St. Agnes Church in Utica.

In his place Father Edward Quaid came as Pastor of St. Mary's on March 2, 1935. This was somewhat in the nature of a home-coming for Father Quaid who had been an assistant to Father Hopkins for nine years. Father Quaid still remains today as the pastor of St. Mary's and under his leadership the Church, the school, the convent have undergone extensive repairs and improvements; as well as additional property has been purchased thru the years to be used for a parking lot and for the future expansion and growth of the parish and the school.

If one were to visit St. Mary's Church today, they would be struck with the continuing excellence of the interior construction. The Church has never been redecorated, nor has it ever been cleaned as far as the actual cleaning of woodwork and the like in the upper reaches of the Church since its original building and yet, the painting, the gold leaf and the like remains clear and distinguishable throughout the Church. The Church is filled with symbolism. Almost every place that you turn you will find symbolism displayed; on the floors where there are symbolic tiles placed; in the windows; the Stations and all throughout the whole Church. It has been said that St. Mary's Church in Oswego is one of the finest examples of mid-century English Gothic Architecture to be found in the whole Eastern United States.

This is the history of St. Mary's Parish. I am sure that many pages will be added to it in the years to come.

Hannibal's Historic Highlights

(presented by Gordon Sturge, November 19, 1963)

HOW HANNIBAL WAS FORMED

At the close of the Revolutionary War, our freed colonies found themselves in poverty, debt and distress.

The poorly paid army of the seven years struggle seemed cast off without that substantial sympathy that common justice, at least, should indicate.

The state of New York, to show its gratitude and partially to compensate the heroic band of its own participators in the great contest, set apart a tract of land in its "Western Wilds," to be parceled out in bounties to its neglected, but patient defenders.

This territory, called then, and now, "Military Tract," commencing on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, at the mouth of the Oswego River, embraced the portion of Oswego County, lying west of the river, Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca, Cortland and portions of Wayne, Tompkins and Schuyler counties.

One hundred lots of 640 acres each were laid out in 1790 by the authority of the Commonwealth by Simeon Dewitt, State Surveyor.

The initial of this survey commenced on the lake shore, some half-dozen miles above the mouth of the Oswego River, and ran due south about eleven miles to the present line of Ira, Cayuga County, thence east a few miles, thence north a distance, thence east to the river in the vicinity of Oswego Falls, thence down the river to the Lake, and south-westerly along the lake-shore to place of beginning. This was the first Township of the State Military Tract surveyed, and of course was called Township No. 1.

In 1786, Hannibal was within the area of Montgomery County, in 1791 Herkimer, 1794 Onondaga and was set off as a part of Oswego County when that county was formed in 1816. In 1794, when it was set up as a township, it included the towns of Granby, Oswego, Sterling, Hannibal and the west side of Oswego City. Pioneer Asa Rice, in 1797, was the first settler a few miles west of Oswego at what was then known as Union Village, now Fruit Valley. At that time this section was a part of the Town of Hannibal. During the summer of 1797 only four families lived in what is now the city of Oswego and only one family permanently located there. The next year this township was united with Lysander and Cicero in the formation of one supervisory district and Asa Rice was supervisor. He reported for the three townships the number of 15 inhabitants and the valuation of taxable property at $1500. This gives us an idea of the primitive wilderness of the country near the turn of the century.

Most of us remember the tales of the nine year old lad who solemnly swore on the altar of the gods an eternal hostility to the Romans. This was the Carthaginian General Hannibal who, with his elephants, (the tanks of ancient warfar) battled Rome in the Second Punic Wars when Rome and Carthage were bitter enemies. This is the source of the name given to the town of Hannibal.

THE FIRST SETTLER

There is a always strong desire to know more of the first man who dared the dangers of the frontier life to found for himself and family a permanent home.

The first pioneer in a land as little known and as full of perils as was this locality 161 years ago occupies in history the place of an advance guard of civilization and his name is invested with an interest which is enduring.

The man has the distinction of being the first settler in what is now the Town of Hannibal was Thomas Sprague whose descendant s resided for many years on the terri- chosen by him. Mr. Sprague was born at Ballston, Saratoga county, N.Y. State, in 1751. He was a man past the meridian of life when in 1802 he and his family turned westward and sought a home in a strange land. On arriving here, he took up 640 acres of land on what is now the southern boundary of the town and built a log cabin. At that time there was only one cabin between this vicinity and Oswego, a distance of about 16 miles. In the same year his two sons, Thomas Jr. and Jonathan, came with their families. Jonathan and his wife came from Saratoga county on horseback, she carrying a three-month old baby. For two years the Sprague dwelt in the solitude of the forest without white residents in the town. Even the Indians were rarely seen as this locality was at a distance from their usual haunts. It is related by a descendant of Thomas Sprague that his cattle were only allowed to graze when accompanied by one of his sons, and, on account of the danger of becoming lost in the wilderness, a loud sounding horn was blown from time to time at the settler's cabin to prevent herd and watcher from straying too far. In the stillness of the almost unbroken forest the sound penetrated to a great distance and on one occasion a stranger appeared at the Sprague clearing and announced himself as a resident of a neighboring county from whence he had been hearing the noise for over a year without being able to previously to discover his neighbors. During this time Mr. Sprague and his sons were successful in their efforts to enlarge their clearings and wrest a living from the wilderness. The nearest mill was at Elbridge, the route being found by the aid of marked trees. Two days were occupied by the journey, a halt being made at night which was spent around the campfire. This campfire had to be constantly replenished to keep off the wolves which were numerous and venturesome. Other wild animals were common and were a perpetual menace to the settlers and their stock.

The first marriage was that of Prudence Sprague and Daniel Thomas in 1803. Carr Sprague, born in 1805, was the first white child born in the Town of Hannibal. The death of Thomas Sprague, Jr. in 1808 was the first in the town of Hannibal of which we have any record. His death was followed by those of his father and mother who died on the same day, February 1st, 1813. They were laid to rest in the same grave. Thus the tireless and energetic pioneer and his faithful and diligent wife who had labored together to establish a home in the wilderness, were not parted in death.

At the death of Thomas Sprague, Jr., one son survived, Samuel A. father of Joel M. Sprague and grandfather of Edgar Sprague whose death occurred a few years ago, thus making an unbroken line of five generations who have resided on the same homesite, something rare in this changeable country.

It was not until 1805 that the Sprague had neighbors. In that year a number of pioneer families from the eastern states settled at Hannibal Center, two miles south of the village, where Orren Cotten, a millwright in company with Watson Earl, in 1806 built the first grist mill in town. It was located on Nine

mile Creek which furnished good water power. The above named Mr. Cotten was a lineal descendant of Dr. John Cotten, the celebrated Puritan preacher of Boston.

The history of the settlement of Hannibal has presented a strong contrast with that of most new countries, which as a rule are rapidly improved and populated when immigration once sets in. Hannibal on the contrary, was settled slowly, the early pioneers being few and scattering but persistent in their efforts to reclaim and improve the country. The settlement progressed slowly until after the War of 1812-14 when the arrivals began to multiply and a foundation was made for the future prosperity of this region as a rich farming country. By the endurance and perseverance of its pioneers most hardships and obstacles were overcome and Hannibal took its place in the front ranks of the prosperous agricultural communities of the Empire State.

THE FIRST TOWN MEETING

The first town meeting was held at the home of Matthew McNair, innkeeper in the village of Oswego, on the first Tuesday of April, 1806. The following resolutions were passed at that meeting:

"That rams shall not be free commoners from the first of September till the fifteenth of November, with forfeiture of $2.00 for every offense."

"That fences shall not be less than five feet high, and not exceed the space of five inches between rails, from the ground to the height of two feet."

Despite regulations regarding fences there were many stray animals which had to be advertised in the town clerk's book so that owners could claim them. Each person who owned cattle, hogs, or sheep had to have them branded with certain different marks of indentification. For example, Thomas Sprague's mark under date of April 18th, 1806 was a slanting crop on the under side of the left ear. Cornelius Wiltse's mark for sheep, cattle and hogs: A hole in the center of the right ear and a slit on the end of the left ear, recorded Feb. 25, 1843 by E.L. Ormsby, town clerk. The following are 4 notices of strays:

"The widow Grey has given notice that on the 12 December, 1813 she took up a stray cow with a white face, bob tail, a piece cut out of her right ear, and her hind hoofs turned up supposed in consequence of being frozen.

Jan. 10, 1814."

"Came into the enclosure of the subscriber a stray yearling bull red lined back on the 10th day of November Inst. Hannibal, Nov. 18th, 1834. Signed David Austin."

"Came into the enclosure of the subscriber about the 30th of November, last five stray ewe sheep three of said sheep marked with a square crop of both ears and leather fetters hanging to their legs-one with two holes through the left ear and a notch under the same and one hole through the right ear and one with a half crop off the left ear and a hole through the same. The last two mentioned sheep marked on the side E.K. with black paint. Hannibal Jan. 4, 1825 Signed Joseph Wee."

"Taken up by the subscriber on the 19th Inst. one large white faced dun colored ox. The owner is requested to prove property , pay charges, and take him away. Hannibal, July 24th A.D. 1843 William L. Brock

The next settler was Joseph Carter. He settled near the Sprague and gave the known district land upon which to build a schoolhouse. The district is still known as Carter District No. 9.

In 1807, Samuel A. Patchin drove through from near Lake George with an ox team built a log cabin where the late Mr. and Mrs. Bert Blodgett lived. Mrs. Blodgett was a great-granddaughter of the original owner. The first orchard in the Carter District was planted on this tract.

In the same year Abram Sturge from Washington County cleared the land and built a log cabin on the old Sturge homstead. His grandson Charles C. Sturge resided there for many years.

W.W. Brackett, a native of Washington County, was the first merchant at Hannibal Center, in 1830, and remained in that business and other industrial pursuits 46 years. He erected a peppermint distillery at that place and also kept a store in Hannibal village.

The first building in the village of Hannibal was erected of logs, nearly on the site of an old Indian camp or wigwam, in the year 1808. It was kept as a hotel by Henry Jennings.

In the following year, 1809, Arvin Rice, a son of Asa Rice, the pioneer of Union Village, commenced a clearing on lot 67, near Hannibal village. He set out the first orchard and raised the first barn without the use of liquor. Mr. Rice also brought into town the first iron plow to supersade the old one-handled "bull plow." It was manufactured at Schenectady, N.Y., and was known as the "Clute plow." This was universally condemned by the people before being brought into use.

Among the early marriage was that of Alvin Rice and Polly Cotten, March 18, 1812.

The first house erected without the use of liquor was built by Isaac Kinne settled at what is now Kinnie's Four Corners on Route 104. James B. Adams erected a cabin at Fairdale and Gad Daniels soon afterwards built one a mile farther east. During all this time the new country was infested with ferocious animals, mainly wolves, which created at times no little havoc among the fields and sheep pens of the settlers. In 1809 the authorities offered a bounty of $10 for each wolf scalp taken, a resolution which remained in force several years.

Silas Crandall built the first saw mill in town in 1811. The first surveyors were Samuel Barrow, J.W. McFadden, Peter Schenck and Benjamin F. Gifford. Hannibalville postoffice was established in 1816 with Asa Dunton, Post Master. About 1815 Amos Field, from Vermont built the first frame hotel which he kept for many yeas. In 1820 Towsley and Dunton established a fulling mill and John Brill a tannery, both being the first of the kind in town. Thomas West, John Toppen, and Trumbell Kent were early blacksmiths while Moses Farnham was the pioneer carpenter. Field and Dunton were proprietors of the first distilleries.

EARLY SCHOOLS

The first school was held at Hannibal Center in 1810 with Miss Laura Kent as teacher. The first schoolhouse cost $60.48 and the teachers wages amounted to $14.00 for 2 months during the winter session.

In 1829 a school boy, a lad of nine years, wrote the following essay, which was regarded as a true sketch of the village of Hannibal at that time: The village of Hannibal contains two churches, two schools, two taverns, two stores, two asheries in use the other is at liberty; one brickyard is in use; the other is at liberty; the tailors live opposite each other.

The early settlers for the most part worked under very difficult circumstances eking out a living. They knew the value of a dollar and in their dealings always drove hard bargains as shown by the following excerpts taken from the minutes of some of the rural school meetings in various districts (North Hannibal, Wiltseville and Dist. No. 12)

1845- Resolved that 7 cords of wood be furnished the ensuing winter by David C. Farnham at 1 dollar per cord fitted for the stove and corded in the woodhouse. Measurer Alanson Blodgett. The wood to be hard and good body wood.

Resolved unanimous that we have a school this winter.
1850- Resolved that we raise forty dollars for school purposes this year, five dollars for repairs, the remainder for teachers wages.

That H. Wiltse and George Hall receive the library money to pay for the globe($11.75) as fast as it comes and no faster.
1877-A call for a dictionary for the schoolhouse-subjects taught this year Reading, Higher Spelling, Geography, Grammar, Algebra, Penmanship, Drawing and Philosophy.
April 14, 1838 - Resolved that we raise by tax $190 for building a schoolhouse, for furnishing a stove and pipe, and for purchasing a site for said schoolhouse. (Evidently, the building wasn't constructed until 1866 when costs were much higher as a result of the Civil War)
Nov. 1840- Resolved that $10 be raised by taxation for the purpose of building a privy for the schoolhouse (reconsidered)
1847- J.P. Storms furnish 12 cords of hard wood stove length at 56 cents a cord.
1850-Resolved that we raise $25 for teachers wages, $1 for repairs and $1 for contingent expenses. That the teacher board with the scholars the ensuing year. The wood was bid off by George Saunders at sixty and a quarter cents a cord.
1866-The cost of the new building was $865.34. The meeting voted to raise the amount of indebtedness by tax.
1868-Resolved that we have the schoolhouse insured and also that we pay Miss Phelps 50¢ per week in addition to wages we agreed to pay her.
1869-Resolved that the teacher board around the district or board hired on the most reasonable terms that can be obtained.
1901-Some talk of a new coal stove
1919- It was finally decided that we would have to pay more for a teacher for the coming year.

In Wiltseville (Dist. #1) during the term commencing Dec. 4, 1848, and ending March 10, 1849 with a possible 70 day attendance period the following list shows a sampling of the number days actually attended- (no compulsory attendance law then) Teachers made their own attendnace registers.

Elizabeth Wiltse, 13; Sarah Frost, 67; Charles Wiltse, 24; Alzada Williams, 54; Benjamin Fineout, 69; John Wiltse, 50 1/2; Hannah Wiltse, 16; Letta Hall, 5; Joseph Hall, 62; George Demott, 54; Amy Loomis, 9; Isabelle Wiltse, 18; Cephas Kent, 62; Silas Polly, 27 1/2.

To get an idea of the type of books found in some rural school libraries for children in grades 1 thru 8, here is a representative list-
LIBRARY BOOKS USED IN DISTRICT NO. 9 (1850-1851)

The Life of General Jackson, McIntosh's Book of Indians, Lights and Shadows of Africa's History, Manners and Customs of Natives, Lives of Celebrated Women, Lives of Celebrated American Indians, Enterprise Industry and Art of Man, Life of Lafayette, Elements of Meteorology, Wonders of Geology.

Two series of Clockmaker, two series Farmer's Daughter, two series of My Own Story, two series Girl's Manual, Venns-Duty of Man, Bible Not of Man, Nelson on Infidelity, Books for Children and Youth Volumes 1-2-3, Memory of H. Martin, Alphabet of Animals, Tales About the Heather, Golden Steps for the Young, The Young Lady's Book, Lives of Mary and Martha Washington, The New Clerk's Assistant.

-Commissioner Isaac W. Marsh-

The following interesting comments are taken from his diary concerning visits to schools under his jurisdiction in the first Oswego district during the early 1870's. The district of that day included the towns of Oswego, Volney, Granby, Scriba, Hannibal and New Haven. Mr. Marsh was grandfather

of Mrs. Winifred Marsh Petrie and Miss Cassie Marsh, retired teacher in Oswego High School.

January 3, 1873--Visited school at North Hannibal, D.D. Metcalf, teacher. Found about 50 scholars there.

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 1873 -- Visited the school in District 11, South Hannibal. William C. Curtis, teacher. Sands N. Gardner, trustee. Found 22 scholars present. Seemed to be learning tolerably well.

P.M. --visited the school in the McCausey district, Hannibal, Miss Farnham of North Hannibal, teacher; Alexander Scott, trustee. Found school quite small, only 15 present but in good order and doing well. Pupils small and young. No grammar taught. Suggested formation of class in grammar which seemed to take well; am very much encouraged to hope it will be done.

A.M. Friday, Jan. 10, 1873 Visited the school in District No. 13, Hannibal (Gifford Distirct). Charles Case, teacher; Robert Gifford, trustee. Nineteen present. School in good order, most of the pupils doing well though some of the larger girls might do better.

P.M.-- Visited the school in No. 7 Hannibal. David S. On, teacher and Levi Brackett, trustee. (Hannibal Center) school in good order. Recitations first rate, about 35 present. A very interesting school and well taught.

Thursday, Feb. 20, 1873-- Visited No. 2, Hannibal (Stone Schoolhouse). C.H. Storms, teacher. About 40 present. School in good order and seemed to be doing nicely. A good teacher and has had considerable experience, is entitled to first grade certificate. Went with Miss Vera Haven and teacher to her father's (Dr. Cyrus Haven), we took dinner. She wants to teach this coming summer and I judge she will pass a good examination and teach a good school.

Thursday, P.M., Feb. 20, 1873- Visited No. 1 Hannibal (Carson Wiltse Dist.) Miss Sarah K. Green, teacher. Thirty-three on register, 25 present. First rate order and recitations good, methods fair except that the teacher prompts too much. Think she will do better in that respect in the future. Staid with Mr. Wiltse over night, was cordially entertained, and next morning started for home, it being very stormy and rough, when I arrived about 11 a.m. and staid.

Wednesday A.M., March 5, 1873- Visited No. 16 Hannibal (Dennison Dist.) This district was No. 15 later. Miss Mary Bryant, teacher, Licence, 2 grade. Charles Thomas, trustee. Only six present. The school is not in need of and can not pay a very superior teacher.

Wednesday A.M. March 5, 1873- Visited No. 12 Hannibal. Grace E. Mattison, teacher. License, second grade. Cornelius Adamy, trustee. School in very good order. Went from there at 11 a.m. to visit No. 4, village of Hannibal. Stayed till school closed at night. Three departments, four teachers, viz: Robert Simpson, principal; Miss Morrell, assistant; Miss Fradenburg, intermediate; Miss Mack, primary. The school was in as good order as I ever saw. Miss Fradenburg's good, Miss Mack's fair. Taken altogether, it is a first class school, a credit to the village and to the teachers. Closing exercises next week Friday. Schulbert Band in evening.

THE PIONEER BULLEN FAMILY

Among the prominent early settlers of the town of Hannibal was the Bullen family. The immigrant ancestor of this family was Samuel Bullen who lived in 1636 as a young man in Watertown, Massachusetts, later moving to Dedham and Medford. It is believed that the father of John Bullen Sr., was a captain in the Revolutionary War. John Sr., was born in Ware, Massachusetts May 20, 1783 and moved with his father to Clarks Mills, Oneida County in 1787, being one of eight pioneer families that com-

menced the first settlement. John Bullen Jr., was born in Oneida County on May 16, 1803, and in 1821 father and son moved to Hannibal where they became prominent in the then new village in its church, business and fraternal affairs.

Captain Bullen was a signer of the application for the incorporation of the Congregational Society of Hannibal along with Bela Scott, Abram Watson, Job C. Conger, Waters Townsley and Alvin Rice.

During the early days of the Congregational Church organization up to 1824 there is no mention of the members having met elsewhere than in a schoolhouse. This schoolhouse was situated across the street from the present Community Church and somewhat nearer the village square. During this period, however, it was customary for the congregation to gather every Sunday. Sometimes a wandering missionary or preacher would be present and preach. In case no regular minister could be secured, services went on in the following manner: Alexander M. Kent (commonly called "Milton") would lead the singing. Cephas S. Kent (otherwise "Deacon Kent") would offer prayer, and Captain John Bullen, the storekeeper, a good reader, would read a sermon.

Church records show that John Bullen was chosen a trustee on June 30, 1825. He owned lot No. 67 in the Hannibal Cemetery under date of April 28, 1828. On Nov. 20, 1826 he purchased seat No. 5 in the "meeting house" for $4.50 and seat No. 4 at $50.00; No. 31 to Smith Lockwood, grandfather of the S.R. Lockwood for $28.00 Julia Bullen was dismissed from the church August 16, 1831. William William Bullen was a trustee of the Society as of June 22, 1832. Alfred and David Bullen were also members of the church.

It is believed that the Masons held their first meetings on the second floor of a building constructed in 1826 conjointly with the Congregational Society. It stood nearly on the site of the present Community Church Manse, facing the east with its broad side facing the street. The upper room of the frame building was reached by an outside stairway.

HANNIBAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES (BULLEN FAMILY)

Members of the Bullen family owned a grist mill at an early date which was sold to Otis Skinner. Hastings Bullen kepts a store where the late John McFarland and William VanFleet hardware was located on the corner of the village square, since purchased by Mr. Joseph Murphy. They were engaged in merchandising, farming, milling, manufacturing of potash and shipping. Much of their business activities utilized the Oswego-Erie Canal, sending goods to Albany from Oswego. In these pursuits both father and son amassed good fortune.

John Jr., received 110 votes for Member of Assembly from Hannibal voters in the 1822 election. He was appointed post master July 23, 1822, and also on December 16, 1834. Through his efforts the name of Hannibalville was changed to Hannibal. From 1823 until 1828 he served as town supervisor as did William Bullen in 1835. John was also Justice of the Peace and an Inspector of Elections in Hannibal from 1823 until 1828.

In 1824 he was Commissioner of common schools and the number of children taught in the town was approximately 375.

John and David Bullen were among those who were instrumental in forming a Masonic Lodge is Hannibal. The petition for a lodge was granted through the cooperation and recommendation of Oswego Lodge No. 326. John Bullen was the first Master and David Bullen was the first Senior Warden when the organization officially opened in 1825. It was known as No. 419 and was the fifth lodge chartered in Oswego

County. The present one, No. 550 F& AM, made the late Howard Ellithorpe and J. Hilbert Baker honorary members many years ago.

THE WESTERN EMIGRATION COMPANY

John Bullen Sr., and son John Jr., were instrumental in bringing about the settlement of the midwestern city of Kenosha, Wisconsin. The city is the 5th largest, today, with a population of about 70,000.

The circumstances that led to the founding of Kenosha, Wisconsin, took place in Hannibal, N.Y. in the month of December, 1834. A group of persons who were acquainted with the accounts of travelers such as School craft and who had expressed more than a casual interest in the West were invited to supper at the home of John Bullen, Sr. Included among the guests were Charles Turner, Waters Towsley, James Scott, Dr. B.B. Cary, Rev. Jason Lothrop, Hudson Bacon, Rev. Peter Woodin, Alfred and Orlando Foster, William Bullen, George Bennett and Sydney Roberts. As the tales gleaned by various guests were unfolded, the group visioned a glowing panorama of beautiful, rolling prairies, fertile soil and bright sunny skies and the thought of emigration took definite form. As the enthusiasm of the party grew, a plan was formed for the organization of an exploratory group which would settle a colony is some selected spot in the Great Lakes country, preferably along the west shore of L. Michigan sharing basis, with all gains and losses to be absorbed by members of the company.

In order to spread out the financial burden and at the same time to give all possible pecuniary strength to the venture, it was agreed to hold a public meeting, at which time the cooperation of all interested citizens of Hannibal would be inited. At the latter gathering, held in the Masonic hall (second story of the Presbyterian meeting house, a building jointly owned by the Presbyterians and Masons), a constitution drafted by Rev. Jason Lothrop was presented and discussed by the throng which attended. Late in the winter, presumably February, 1835, an organization was perfect and the name Western Emigration Company was assumed. The Rev. Peter Woodin, a Baptist clergyman of Hannibal, was chairman and John Bullen, Sr., was named Secretary.

The constitution outlined a plan for raising a capital of $8,000 by subscriptions of $10 each. With these funds a suitable site for a town was to be purchased in the West, and investors were to profit from the increase in land values when the settlement grew. Men and women of all ages and from all walks of life, and even unmarried women employed as servants in the homes of Hannibal, culled enough from their meager savings to become shareholders, either in the hope of moving west or realizing enormous profits from the sale of their unowned land. Sufficient funds were raised so that an (exploratory) committee composed of Waters Towslee, C.W. Turner and Sydney Roberts was appointed as the advance guard to stake out a suitable claim in the name of the Western Emigration Company. They left Hannibal for the golden west, March 25, 1835.

Dissatisfied later with the work of the committee, the company in the spring of 1835 appointed John Bullen, Jr., its sole agent and secretary and sent him west to take over the duties of the committee which had already made a deal with Gilbert Knapp for his holdings at Root River, now Racine, Wisconsin.

JOHN BULLEN, JR. DESCRIBES TRIP WEST

I started in company with William Bullen and E.C. Hart, from Hannibal, N.Y., in April 1835. Our baggage was hauled by one horse and wagon. We traveled overland to the mouth of the Grand River

in Michigan. Leaving the horse and wagon, we went on board a schooner, commanded by Capt. Clark (formerly from Oswego) to Chicago. We then hired a French Indian, named Wilmot, by the day with double wagon, and traveled to west of Racine. We then dismissed Wilmot, and explored on foot, and on June 12 arrived at what is now Kenosha." At Root River, Bullen and his two companions met Turner and notified him that he had been discharged. Then, the Knapp deal having fallen through, Turner and the group went southward stopping at Pike Creek where they were met by Hudson Bacon, Gardner Wilson, and Cephas Weed from Hannibal. They staked out four claims. Bullen held one of these for the company, two other men, whom Bullen had hired, held the others. Turner, considerably disgruntled, had built a cabin on a claim he had staked on Pike River. Turner hired Dr. B.B. Cary of Racine to stay in the cabin and protect the claim while he returned to New York on business. Unexpectedly detained, he did not return until the following Spring.

Shortly after Turner's departure, Bullen forcibly evicted Dr. Cary, thinking that Turner's claim, which adjoined the company's would make a valuable addition to the company's holdings. He head that Turner had no right to stake out a claim in his own name while he still was a member of the company. Bullen then had Turner's land surveyed into streets and lots and during the summer and fall worked diligently to build up a community.

The next settlers were J. Gardner Wilson and family. Mrs. Gardner Wilson, a great aunt of the late Grant Burton Wilson, was the first white woman in Kenosha. Her husband, James Gardner Wilson, was a twin brother of Milton Wilson, who was a great uncle of the late Grant B. Wilson. According to John Wilson, another relative, there were lots of Indians around Kenosha. Other Hannibal people who came were Deacon Weed, the Fosters, Dolittles, Caldwell and family, A. Kellogg, David Crosit, O. Jerome, Elder Lothrop, Nathan F. Allen, S. Resique, H. Bacon, A. Grattan, Waters Towslee and E. R. Huginin. Some of these were members of the Emigration Company and some were not. Bullen hired H. Bacon to hold the claim next north of Pike Creek at $1500 and Gardner Wilson the next still north at $2,000. These claims were reported by agent Bullen to the company. He built the first frame building. The next month Bullen received a cargo of merchandise from the East, opened the first store, employing Allen as Manger. Bullen then left Allen in charge and left for Oswego County, stopping at Chicago where he sent back ten barrels of flour to sustain the settlers without which they would have been short of provision during the winter.

Arriving in Oswego, John and his brother William who had returned previously from the West, purchased the 100 ton schooner "Martin Van Buren," and loaded it with seeds, provisions and implements, dispatched her to Pike Creek. On his return West he went to southern Illinois bought a herd of cattle which he drove overland to Pike Creek, where he arrived on May 8, 1836 the same day that the "VanBuren" sailed into port. In six weeks, Bullen sold the cattle for over $7,000 cash besides what he sold on time. Immediately after this, emigration to Southport (Pike Creek) increased greatly.

THE RETURN OF TURNER

Turner had by this time returned to Pike River, where he learned that his claim had been seized. Realizing that he would be helpless to recover it singlehanded, he went to Milwaukee and obtained a writ of ejectment. Thus armed he returned to Pike Creek, reinformed by the sheriff and a body of deputies. They found the Turner cabin strongly fortified and garri-

soned by several armed men who threatened violence to anyone attempting to take possession. After a long parley, during which Turner agreed to submit the controversy to a duly constituted claim tribunal, the sheriff persuaded the garrison to evacuate. The case was eventually decided in Turner's favor. He than sold a number of lots, and for three or four years a rival town, with several dwellings, stores, mechanius' shops and warehouses, flourished a mile north of Pike Creek. However, as the Pike Creek settlement grew, all of these buildings were dismantled or moved intact to the larger community.

GENERAL JOHN BULLEN'S WISCONSIN ACTIVITIES

John Bullen, father of John Jr., emigrated two years later to Wisconsin in 1837 but did not step in the lakeshore settlement. He and his large family purshed on about 20 miles further west and made their headquarters on the banks of the Fox river in the township to which he gave the name of Salem. Here he built a large house which served as an inn and also built at his own expense a bridge over the Fox river. In 1838 he was commissioned a Brigadier General in Wisconsin and commanded the militia of that territory.

Caroline, a daughter, became the wife of Joseph V. Quarles and the mother of United States Senator J.V. Quarles of Wisconsin and another daughter Sophia married William Warner who was United States Senator from Missoui.

In 1843, Mr. Bullen sold some of his land and moved to Southport, another name for Kenosha, where he conducted an inn later known as the National House. He was an ardent temperance worker and very active in the work of the Underground Railroad. His hotel served as a convenient stopping place for many former slaves being smuggled north and then sent by boat to Canada.

He died in 1850 and is buried in Green Ridge cemetery in Kenosha.

WESTERN EMIGRATION COMPANY UNPROFITABLE

The company turned out to be an unprofitable venture and was dissolved in the winter of 1836-7. John Bullen Jr., stayed on at Pike Creek, and in 1841, and again in 1848, was a member of the Board of Trustees of Southport as Pike Creek was named in 1841. From 1839-1857 he engaged successfully in mercantile and real estate enterprises, acquring a considerable fortune.

In the West he was again active in Masonic circles, helping organize Kenosha Lodge No. 47, Free and Accepted Masons, January 24, 1853, and Southport Chapter Royal Arch Masons No. 3, March 30, 1846. Of this chapter he was the first high priest.

After the panic of 1837, which seriously embarrassed him, he moved to Elba, Minnesota, where he became a merchant and farmer. In 1864 he was chosen chairman of the Winona County board of commissioners and in 1871 he represented the county in the Minnesota legislature.

In the centennial edition of the Kenosha Evening News of June, 1935, we find this tribute to him: "The acknowledged founder of Kenosha, John Bullen, Jr., left a position as postmaster in the town of Hannibal, Oswego County, New York, to travel to the wilds of Wisconsin Territory and establish a colony for the Western Emigration Company of which he was secretary and the Rev. Peter Woodin, a Baptist clergyman, was president.

Mr. Bullen died May 9, 1884 survived by his wife, a daughter and three sons. He was interred with Masonic honors at a largely attended funeral. An imposing monument is erected to his memory in Green Ridge Cemetery in Kenosha just inside the Sheridan Road gate. The inscription reads: "In memory of John Bullen who located Kenosha, June 12, 1835, and was one of its founders."

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VIII Letter from Miss Ruth H. Dunlop of Cedar Falls, Iowa, a direct descendant of the Bullen family.

MEMO