JOURNAL

Oswego County Historical Society

1974-1975

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OSWEGO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thirty-fifth Annual Publication

Oswego County Historical Society
Richardson-Bates House
135 East Third Street
Oswego, New York 13126

Founded in 1896

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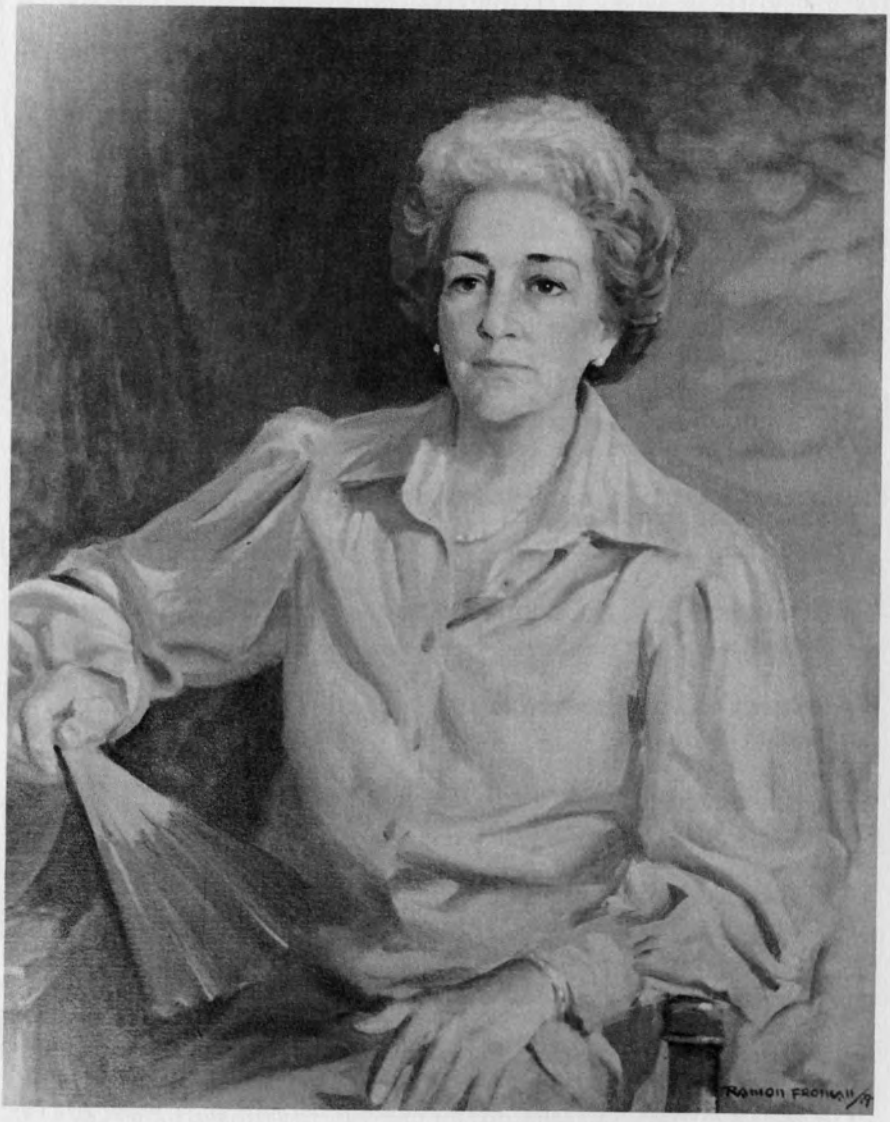

Sarah Richardson Bates Tomkins

Dedication

Sarah Richardson Bates' interest in the theater started at an early age and was nurtured as she spent many hours in the famous Richardson Theater in Oswego, founded in 1895 by her great uncle Maxwell B. Richardson. As a child she dined with some of the stars whom her father would bring to their house for breakfast—such people as George Arliss, Maud Adams, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, and Jane Cowl. She not only could see all of the plays which were presented but could go back stage during and after performances. Such close and intimate contact with the theater inspired her to seek a career on the stage and following graduation from boarding school she attended the Academy of Art in New York City.

Starting her stage career in the mid-twenties, Sally Bates, actress, was proud to use her own name on the stage, and her friends would see it flashing on the theater marquees from New York to San Francisco. She was an assistant stage manager and understudy in "The Guardsman" starring Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontaine. She continued her stage appearanced in New York and was married to Pare Lorentz a well-known film critic and producer in 1930. She soon was featured as the star in "Good-Bye Again" in New York, on the West Coast, and also toured England with an all English cast. Sally Bates starred in "The Childrens Hour," "Here Today," and was playing in "Solitaire" at the time of Pearl Harbor. After this show she refused any further engagements and retired from the stage.

After her retirement, she devoted herself to her home and children. A person of many interests, she traveled extensively and made her home in Rome, Italy, for several years. She was later married to Calvin Tomkins.

She never lost interest in Oswego and her heritage here, and was a frequent visitor until her mother's death in 1945. In 1946, she and her sister, Elizabeth Bates Cowles, and her late brother, Maxwell R. Bates, presented their family home and it's contents to the Oswego County Historical Society in trust for the people of the city and county. The home, one of the finest examples of the late-Victorian era, serves, as a fitting memorial to a family which has contributed so much to Oswego.

The Oswego County Historical Society is pleased and honored to dedicate its 1974-1975 *Journal* to Sarah Richardson Bates Tomkins.

Dorothy Mott
November, 1975

President's Message

The Oswego County Historical Society has become even more deeply committed since 1970 than ever before to a cooperative effort to collect, to preserve, to advance, and to disseminate knowledge and materials relating to the heritage of not merely a single city or even of a river valley but of an entire county. A glance at the symbolic cover used on this publication beginning with the 1971 edition will suggest only a few of many varied elements that are encompassed by Oswego County's past and that rightly deserve to be more adequately explored and interpreted.

The Society can provide an opportunity for a person from any locality or with any interest to contribute meaningfully to the understanding of the past; however, as an organization it needs the willingness and initiative of individuals to volunteer their participation in a common cause. Its officers and trustees are anxious to welcome additional heads, hands, and hearts that wish to help through membership and involvement.

A logical outgrowth from foundations that have been laid most carefully in the past, the recent renaissance of the Society certainly is no accident. It has been conceived upon the base of dedicated activity provided by many exceptional persons throughout the years since the Society's founding in 1896, nurtured by an equally outstanding recent group of officers and trustees together with unusual effort from many staff persons, and supported by a concerned membership as well as a most foresighted Oswego County Board of Legislators and the New York State Council on the Arts.

The Society has been successful in increasing its operational support from the County of Oswego from $9,410 for 1969 to $9,840 for 1970, to $11,000 for 1971, to $18,000 for 1972, to $23,250 for 1973, and to $36,525 for 1974. An amount equal to the 1974 appropriation will be provided for 1975. The first application to the New York State Council on the Arts, made in 1972, yielded $3,500 for 1973 and was increased to $6,000 for 1974. Support from non-governmental sources also has increased correspondingly.

The gauge of expansion of services on behalf of Oswego County's heritage since 1970 may be found in the beginning of restoration of Richardson-Bates House furnishings (1970), the establishment of new operating policies (1970) and new membership policies (1971), the renovation of utility systems at the Richardson-Bates House (1971-1972), the employment of a registrar (Marjorie Allen, 1971; Joan A.

Workmaster 1971-1974) to initiate a new collections management program and to coordinate research and interpretive program activities, the revision of the Society's annual publication with a new format and title (1971 edition published in 1972), the initiation of special events such as the extremely popular "A Victorian Christmas" open house (1971), the introduction of school service activities and special extension exhibits (1972), the receipt and disbursement of a special $15,000 appropriation from the Oswego County Board of Legislators toward the exterior restoration of the 1855 Gerrit Smith Library building (1972), the employment of a director (William D. Wallace, 1973 to date) to develop program activities, the start of restoration of the first floor rooms in the Richardson-Bates House to a documented late 19th century appearance and the opening of modern permanent and temporary museum exhibition areas on the second floor (1973), the participation in cooperation with the State University College at Oswego in the Oswego County Oral History Project (1973 to date), the addition of an education assistant (Linda Wesner, 1973-1974) to expand school and educational service projects, the engagement of a curator (Michael Cahall, 1974 to date) to continue work on collections and interpretive programs, the adoption of a new constitution and by-laws (1974), and a myriad of other activities.

Receipt of a $200,000 grant from the John and Elizabeth Bates Cowles Foundation in 1974 and the raising of funds from other non-governmental sources toward an anticipated $245,000 capital program to begin restoration of the exterior of the Richardson-Bates House to its 1890-1900 appearance is another major step forward. As the scene of many of the Society's operational programs, the well-being of the Richardson-Bates House is vital and the initial phase of this project, to be carried out in 1975, will include replacement of most of its roof, repair of its cornices and rotted wood trim, replacement of its deteriorated bricks and mortar, resetting of its main entrance steps, lightning protection, and repainting of its exterior in the original turn-of-the-century color scheme. John Mesick, one of the best qualified restoration architects in the northeastern United States, has been retained by the Board of Trustees for this project.

It also is highly desirable that the future phases of the Richardson-Bates House project, presently precluded by funding limitations, include restoration of original exterior wooden porches, replacement of the small roof section over the caretakers' apartment, rehabilitation of the garage and basement together with more effective utilization of these spaces, renovation of the stone foundation parallel to the street sidewalks, and landscaping in the late Victorian mode; however, there also are significantly pressing needs to provide adequate collection storage facilities, fire and intrusion detection devices, interior temperature and humidity control, and adequate reference

library and manuscript facilities as well as to advance the restoration of interior furnishings.

Considerable effort also must be devoted to further improving and broadening of the Society's interpretive program, especially in the areas of exhibitions and publications. An essential corollary, of course, will be to strengthen greatly the Society's collections as they relate to the County and to the various themes and topics represented by its history.

To sustain its efforts in the future the Society must seek an expanded base of non-governmental funding as well as explore the potential of funding through the National Endowments for the Humanities and the Arts and under the National Museum Act. An application to place the Richardson-Bates House on the National Register of Historic Places will be approved by State and Federal officials in 1975 and, at the earliest possible date, the Society should seek accredited status from the American Association of Museums to enhance its funding qualifications. Income from publications, reproductions, and other self-generated sources also must be explored.

The Society must assimilate both the fruits and the consequences of its progress since 1970; however, organizations rarely remain static—they either progress or decline. Progress within an organization is not the result of any single individual functioning without relationship to others and to the accepted goals of the organization. Close cooperation and frequent communication among the officers, the trustees, the members, and the staff, all working together, are fundamental.

Respectfully submitted,

WALLACE F. WORKMASTER
President

The History of Italians in Oswego, Part II:

Origins of Italian — American Criminality from New Orleans through Prohibition

Luciano J. Iorizzo

In 1970, many law-enforcement officials expressed surprise when Hugh Mulligan was charged with being the key figure in organized crime's successful attempt to corrupt New York City policemen by getting valuable information from them and influencing decisions on personnel assignments, reassignments, and the like. Mulligan had long been thought to be an important, freelance bookmaker. It was not until 1968, however, that wiretap information furnished the first clues to his larger role in organized crime. When Mulligan was finally indicted in 1970, a spokesman for the Manhattan district attorney's office was asked to explain how such an important figure could have concealed his crucial activities so well. The official responded: "We never really heard about him before two years ago. When we went after organized crime, *we only went after Italians.*"[1] The following day the *New York Times* reported that the U.S. Senate Committee on Organized Crime made a special point to describe organized crime as having no racial or ethnic exclusivity.

Dr. Iorizzo, vice president of the Oswego County Historical Society, is a member of the history faculty of the State University College at Oswego.

Why would anyone in law-enforcement circles in search of organized crime figures only look for Italian-Americans? Why did the Senate Committee feel it necessary to define organized crime in such broad terms? Did it feel that the role of Italian-Americans in such activities was being exaggerated in the press? In the minds of criminal-justice personnel? The public? Had the Italian-American become stereotyped as a criminal in the same way that the American Jew had become equated with Shylock, the Irish-American with the drunkard, and the black with the shiftless, simple figure?

What, indeed, was the criminal record of Italian-Americans, and did expert and popular notions of Italian-American criminality accurately reflect it?

When the mass migration of Italians to America began, it was generally believed that Italians, especially Sicilians, were innately criminal. Many in the United States who wrote of that migration often implied that Italy, the land of the dreaded Mafia and Camorra, was exporting numerous criminals to America to alleviate the problems of crime and poverty at home. Italians were singled out for such abuse since they had the double misfortune of having the lowest standard of living among the major European groups in America and of being classified on a level with the despised Chinese on the West Coast. A few observers made the point that Italians had no special predisposition for crime or any other undesirable traits, but their arguments were generally ignored, or, as was usually the case, buried beneath the gory headlines that seemed to support the hostile, fanciful stereotypes.[2]

Three major incidents that received national coverage seemed to confirm the worst fears of concerned Americans. The first revolved around the murder of New Orleans' Chief of Police David C. Hennessy in 1890. It was alleged that Hennessy was gunned down as he was about to expose *mafiosi* who had been operating in New Orleans since the 1870's. Fourteen men were indicted, nine were tried, six acquitted, and no decision was reached on the remaining three. Certain of the guilt of the Italians and spurred by talk of intimidation of witnesses and jury fixing, a citizens' group in New Orleans proceeded to lynch eleven Italians. A grand jury justified the lynching. A United States senator commented, "The whole thing is not worth talking about." The *New York Times,* in a typical response, held:[3]

> These sneaking and cowardly Sicilians, the descendants of bandits and assassins, who have transported to this country the lawless passions, the cut-throat practices, and the oathbound societies of their native country, are to us a pest without mitigation. Lynch law was the only course open to the people of New Orleans to stay the issue of a new license to the Mafia to

continue its bloody practices.

The response in Chicago to the lynchings in New Orleans was predictable. As early as 1888, the *Chicago Tribune* had implanted the idea of a Mafia conspiracy in America. Answering the question, "Has Chicago a Mafia?" it argued that where there are Sicilians there is also a Mafia; and since many Italians in Chicago were Sicilians, Chicago had a Mafia. The *Tribune* minced no words:[4]

> Murder is the foundation-stone of the social fabric in Sicily. Terrorism pervades every function of Sicilian life. In any community of Sicilian immigrants in America, whenever one man is able to bully and levy blackmail on the rest, that man is Capo Mafia. He can terrorize in Chicago as thoroughly as in Palermo.

After the news of the lynchings reached Chicago a Baptist minister in that city argued that Italy was unloading in the United States its cutthroats who were so un-American one could not even pronounce their names. By the mid-nineties the image of the knife-wielding Italian became the stock villain on the popular stage in Chicago.[5]

The second incident took place in Denver, Colorado, in 1908. On February 23 of that year a Sicilian shot and killed a German-born Catholic priest as he was administering the sacrament of Holy Communion. The murderer turned out to a self-confessed anarchist whose only regret, reportedly, was his failure to kill all the priests in the church. Coming at a time when many in the nation were concerned about a growing Black Hand criminal conspiracy, this event seemed to confirm the worst fears Americans had about foreign criminals and anarchists. So uptight was the Church, its clergy, and its flock, that in Chicago, location of the anticlerical Circolo Giordano Bruno society, priests said mass under police protection.[6]

The third event took place the following year in Europe. In an attempt to get at the root of the Black Hand business in the United States, Detective Peter Petrosino of the New York City police department was traveling through Italy in search of penal data on ex-convicts leaving Italy for America. When he reached Palermo, he was assassinated. This killing, more than any other single happening, convinced the American people that organized crime in America was a major import from Italy. Arguing that the Black Hand was an imported malady that had to be treated radically, the *New York Times* felt that this monolithic Italian organization had to be broken even if it meant stopping imigration from any part of Italy. It was evident that the *Times* struck a responsive chord, as support for its position was quickly forthcoming from other journals and the public.[7]

In metropolitan New York, the police in 1909 responded to the murder of Petrosino with indiscriminate arrests of Italians, thereby exacerbating an already tenuous police-community relationship. Italians came to fear the "blue coats" almost as much as they did the Italian criminals. When two Irish-American patrolmen arrived on the scene of an accident in the Italian quarter of Hoboken, New Jersey, a riot broke out; it was obvious that arbitrary treatment of Italian-Americans by the police had sown seeds of hatred and distrust.[8]

Reiterating all the arguments in defense of the moral character of Italians and citing the urgent need for more and better-trained police, Italian-American reformers like Gino Speranza vainly exhorted the public and its law-enforcement agencies to employ reason rather than vengeful passion.[9] Only during the 1960's and 1970's when the painful experiences evoked by the demoralized relationships between the black communities and the police burst forth upon a shocked nation, could many people begin to realize what Italian-Americans were complaining about at the beginning of this century.

In 1914 Italian-Americans were characterized mainly as lawless and illiterate. It was E.A. Ross, racist sociologist, who best articulated the stereotype. Writing in the *Century Magazine* in that year, Ross compared the North and South Italians; the latter came out second-best with the Sicilians among them being singled out for special abuse:[10]

> The astonishing dearth of literary and artistic production in the South ought to confound those optimists who, identifying 'Italians' with 'Venetian' and 'Tuscan,' anticipate that Italian infusion will one day make the American stock bloom with poets and painters. The figures show that the provinces that contribute most to our immigration *have been utterly sterile in creators of beauty.* In nothing are the two peoples so unlike as in their crimes. While northern Italy leads in fraud and chicane, southern Italy reveals rank growth of the ferocious crimes that go with a primitive stage of civilization. The contrast is between force and fraud, violence and cunning. On the whole, the South has from three to four times the violence of the North, while its obscene crimes, which constitute an index of sensuality, are thrice as numerous. As for Sicilians, they are scourged by seven times the homocide, four times the brigandage, and four times the obscene crime suffered by an equal number of Northern Italians.

Noting that the more intelligent, reliable, and progressive North Italians composed only a fifth of the total Italian migration to the United States and that the balance was made up of "gross little aliens" from the backward areas of Naples and points south who were prone

to violent crimes, Ross added ominously: "It is obvious that if our legal system is called upon to cope with a great volume of such crime for a long time, it will slough off certain Anglo-Saxon features and adopt the methods which along avail in Italy, namely, state police, registry system, 'special surveillance,' and 'admonition.' "[11]

The three occurrences singled out above served to implant the concept of Italian criminality in the minds of Americans throughout the nation. Oswego was no exception. Italian immigrants had settled there in the 1870's and 1880's and by 1915 their numbers totaled a high water mark of over 1200 in a city of 23,000.[12] The local newspapers gave more than ample coverage to the incidents mentioned above and generally revealed the image projected by Ross which portrayed the newcomers from Italy in an unfavorable, if not dangerous, light. Though there was one article which debated the existence of the Mafia, most news items on the New Orleans tragedy cast the Italians in a negative mold. One front page story with a New Orleans dateline, entitled "Down with the Dagos", reported that "the police last night searched the residence of one of the men arrested for the murder of Chief Hennessy and found a detailed plan to assassinate all city or state officers who acted counter to the wishes of the Mafia."[13] Commenting that the recall of the Italian minister was not justified over the lynching of the New Orleans Italians, the *Oswego Daily Palladium* expressed editorially the hope that the strained relations between the two countries might be amicably settled. However, a short unsigned note on the same page conveyed a different attitude: "If Italy persists in making trouble perhaps it would be well to turn loose upon her that 'committee' [lynch mob] of New Orleans 'business men.' "[14]

The murder of the Denver priest also made page one stories in which the assailant was described variously as a Sicilian shoemaker, an anarchist crank, and an Italian anarchist. In some other murder reports the attackers were alleged to have been anarchist members of *the black hand.*[15]

One of the first stories relating the Petrosino shooting was headlined: "Black Handers the Assassins." Oswegonians were told that the Black Hand had its handquarters in Sicily with main branches in New York, Chicago, Denver, and New Orleans and that they could expect wholesale arrests of these criminals in the near future. The article went on to say that the New York City Police believed the Petrosino slaying proved "absolutely . . . [the] so-called Black Hand in every section of the country are directed from a central body in Palermo and that most of the tribute exacted here goes to the Sicilians bandits who have plied their trade there for centuries."[16] An editorial in the *Oswego Daily Palladium,* March 15, 1909, captioned "Killed by Black Hand," estimated that in New York City

alone there were 5,000 Italian criminals of whom more than 1,000 came directly from Italy. The writer predicted that Petrosino's death would do more than anything else to bring about a concerted worldwide effort to stamp out Black Handism. The notion of a monolithic criminal conspiracy of Italians was reinforced, if not created, in the minds of Oswegonians as well as other Americans.

Nurturing the image of Italian criminality and insuring its growth throughout the Prohibition period and after was no one incident, but rather the spectacular successes enjoyed by one man in crime, Al Capone. A ruthless thug from Brooklyn of Neopolitan extraction and therefore ineligible for membership in Sicilian gangs, Capone fought his way to the top, riding roughshod over his rivals in crime, who well represented the population mix in Chicago. Quick to see the value of combining forces in the prohibition era and possessed with the ability to organize and administer, Capone built one of the most efficient criminal organizations in American history as he helped people from all walks of life satisfy their desire for alcohol, gambling, and women.

Coming on the heels of three decades of notoriety for the Mafia, Black Hand, radicalism, and anarchism, Capone's exploits insured that, no matter what other contributions Italians made in the United States, they would most easily be remembered, for a long time to come, for their criminal inclinations and prowess.

Did Italian-Americans, in fact, merit their image as criminals? Let us look at their record in Oswego.

The first Italians who made headline news in Oswego were invaribly involved in brawls brought about by drunkenness. A few such stories appeared in the Oswego newspapers in the eighties and nineties and then became almost commonplace with the floodtide of Italian migration to Oswego from 1904 to World War I. Much newspaper space was given to an incident described as a "War in Little Italy" in 1901. It seems that two Italians took to fighting over which one was more influential among his countrymen and threatened each other with revolvers. But, the cooler heads of their wives prevailed and no blood was shed, nor were any arrests made. Why so much space should have been given over to this event is difficult to determine unless it was to prove the exception to what the reporter concluded: "Oswego's Italian colony is very peaceful and gives the police little trouble."[17]

From the 1880s through Prohibition, the local papers continued to feature these "wars" in which Italians slashed, wounded with firearms, and occasionally killed fellow countrymen. What is noteworthy is that very often the same people were involved. It was not unusual to read of one family's quarrels, which were repeatedly aired in the papers for months and even years on end. Its members were forever,

or so it seemed, knifing and shooting each other, or refusing to pay the support of an aged member, or illegally prohibiting their children from attending school. One despicable member of that group, who refused to do any honest work was convicted at least six times on a variety of charges, including assault on his mother. The Italians in Oswego, unquestionably, had their share of "riff-raff."[18]

Another case is especially instructive. During a feast-day celebration in which beer was flowing freely, Salvador Serra saw his daughter being slapped by her husband. Salvador shot his son-in-law, who eventually died from the inflicted wounds. The journals stressed the fact that the many Italians present would not talk about the affair and disclaimed any knowledge of the whereabouts of the assailant. A reporter commented: "Had the earth opened and closed over Salvador Serra after he left the [premises], his whereabouts could not have been better covered up." Despite the supposedly uncooperative Italians, the police eventually learned from them that Serra was hiding in Cincinnati with his son. A local policeman was sent after the accused, and he brought him back to Oswego where he was tried, convicted, and sentenced to life imprisonment.[19]

Occasionally a handful of Italians were involved in the murder of non-Italians. One such episode received widespread coverage in the local newspapers on and off from October 1904 to April 1905. It involved the stabbing and subsequent death of Fred Roberts by an Italian, Anthony Taldeboni. Swearing that he was attacked at his place of employment by Roberts, Taldeboni claimed self-defense. Despite sworn testimony supporting his case, the accused was convicted and sentenced to twelve and one-half years in prison. The *Oswego Daily Palladium,* perhaps sensing the ethnic prejudice that provoked the attack on Taldeboni, emphasized that the jury was composed of honest farmers, who were less liable to be influenced by prejudice due to nationality and the feeling so prevalent against Italians than were the residents of cities, where Italian laborers were so numerous.[20] When an Italian couple was given a life sentence for the wanton killing of one of their countrymen in 1908, the same paper, noting that there had been four such murder trials in the past few years, expressed the hope that such stern treatment of Italian criminals would have a salutary effect on the Italians in the city.[21]

Reports of numerous offenses involving Italians, mostly minor in nature, filled the pages of the Oswego dailies over the years; vagrancy, disturbing the peace, boardinghouse thefts and disturbances, wife stealing, and game-law violations, for which the Italians were cited as being the most prominent. Typical *padrone* abuses were also noticed, as reports of would-be bankers "skipping town" with people's deposits, fraternal presidents and treasurers absconding with funds, and exorbitant charges for labor fees and personal loans filtered

through the Italian community.

Though there were loose women among the Italians of Oswego, none apparently worked as prostitutes in the local red-light districts. Certain old-timers, who were quick to point out to the authors the prejudice they encountered at work or in the neighborhood, were just as ready to admit happily that their money bought them equality in the sporting houses.[22]

The one question that continually attracted the biggest headlines and provoked the most damaging reaction to the Italians was that involving the alleged Mafia and Black Hand. Prior to the advent of the twentieth century, the people of Oswego were apprised of a Mafia threat looming on the horizon. A body found in nearby Syracuse in 1899 was thought to be the work of the Mafia, since "handkerchiefs were adjusted about the head and face of the murdered man in a style similar to that adopted by Sicilians and other members of the organization."[23]

Occasional articles like this became commonplace, with the threatening letter received by Mike Mitchell, a well-known Italian bootblack reputed to be the "J. Pierrepont Morgan" of the Oswego Italian colony. The *Daily Palladium* reported in September 1904 that the Black Hand was demanding five hundred dollars within five days or Mitchell would forfeit his life. The district attorney expressed confidence that the "Mafia Society" was mixed up in the case. Mitchell's friends reported that he was frightened despite what he told the reporter:[24]

> When I gota the let I taka it to the Postmast, but he knowa nothing' about; then to the police, but they knowa nothin' too about; and then to Mr. Bick [Mr. Baker, the District Attorney]; he willa find alla about. That is all there is to say. Me knowa not whether the let coma from Black Handas. Dona care. Mika Mitch is not afraid "and Michael tapped his chest." It wasa writ right here in the cit. Hava nice bis, they would like to ascara me away, perhaps. Maybe soma one woulda lika this hera corner. But I'll nota go; no, no, no. Whya the let says: I willa coma to see you. Have $500 to giva me or in fiva days you willa be a deada man.

When after ten days nothing happened, the district attorney reported he was still taking the Mafia threat seriously. People soon lost interest in the case as it became apparent that Michell's appeal to authority had successfully thwarted what appeared to be a crude and amateurish attempt to extort money from him.[25]

When the body of an Italian was found in a nearby woods in 1905, Coroner Vowinkel of Oswego suggested he was killed probably

"because in some way he had offended against the Black Hand Society." Vowinkel was dismayed by the fact that he could not find any Italians who wished to talk to him about the crime, and the *Daily Palladium* noted that "all appeared to be afraid of some mysterious power, wielded by the Black Hand Society." The coroner was certain that such a society existed and was "engaged in the removal of those who meet the displeasure of those directing its affairs."[26]

In January 1908, Rosario D'Angelo, leader of one of the factions of the Italian colony, notified the police of a letter threatening his life. Producing the note that demanded one thousand dollars or face death by burning, he accused another prominent Italian, Guy D'Alia, of writing it and brought formal charges of blackmail against him. This was not a Black Hand affair, asserted D'Angelo, simply a case in which a jealous political rival wanted him out of the way. When he was unable to prove his case against D'Alia, the latter retaliated by suing D'Angelo for false arrest and claiming five-thousand dollar damages. After numerous handwriting experts testified and character witnesses were heard on both sides, a jury handed down a verdict of "no cause for action" in March 1910. Despite D'Angelo's statement to the contrary, the press headlined the trials as "Black Hand" events, and for two years, on and off, they were thus recognized in the

Allie D'Amico, one of Oswego's most respected Italians, and the victim of a 1912 extortion attempt.

public's eyes. Both men died of natural causes decades after the courtroom acrimony.[27]

While the D'Angelo-D'Alia case dragged on and on, the newspapers reported other attempts to extort money from Italians by Black Handers, who invariably were captured by the police, having been called in by the intended victims of the "society." In one occurrence, the extortionist was apprehended in the act of picking up two thousand dollars in a darkened cemetery. How many, if any, succeeded in such criminal actions was not recorded. Citing a Black Hand episode in Pennsylvania, the *Daily Palladium* was moved to editorialize in 1909; "If there was a people that should be barred from the shores of this county it is the criminal classes from Italy and other countries of Europe."[28]

By then the term "Black Hand" had become a convenient expression to apply to any crime of violence or extortion involving Italian immigrants. For example, when in 1910 the home of a section foreman on the railroad was damaged by a primitive bomb, the *Daily Times* saw it as another Black Hand attack. The section foreman preferred to believe that it was the work of a disgruntled section hand whom he had discharged.[29]

In 1912, in what is the largest extortion request on record in Oswego, Allie D'Amico, one of Oswego's most respected Italians, was ordered to pay thirty thousand dollars or suffer the consequences. D'Amico told the writers some fifty years later that he refused to pay the money; he neither had that kind of money nor could he raise it. (He was obviously flattered though that his countrymen would think that he was that successful in barbering and politics.) Moreover, he knew the hoodlums who were making the request, and he got together with the district attorney, F. D. Culkin, to drive them out. Such decisive action, he averred, served as an example that, when the Italians could appeal to an honest and efficient government, they had nothing to fear from their criminal compatriots.

For the next few years, Culkin, assisted by concerned Italians like D'Amico and other victims and would-be victims who willingly testified, was able to prosecute successfully a number of Italian criminals who operated in Oswego County. One gang that operated in the city of Fulton reputedly made ten thousand dollars a year by demanding money from Italians—based on their ability to pay—ostensibly to help defend some countryman supposedly in trouble. Those who refused to pay were slashed across the face as a warning to others who might also consider declining to contribute. Many of the members of this gang were convicted of assault, imprisoned, and, upon their release, banished from the county. Culkin's raiders scored a high conviction rate and drove the extortionists who remained free to more desperate measures. In 1915 and 1916 fearsome explosions

destroyed parts of the houses and buildings of an Italian fruit-dealer and a macaroni manufacturer, but these proved to be the last frantic attempts of beaten criminals who were made to pay for their lawless actions.[30]

Admitting that there "naturally has been lawlessness" among unmarried Italians who were forced to live under abnormal conditions in America, free from the restraining influences of wives and families, Culkin stated in an address to the student body of the Oswego Normal School in 1917:[31]

> It is a fact however that during the period intervening the May 1917 Grand Jury and the October Grand Jury, just concluded, not a single Italian was presented to the Grand Jury of Oswego County. This is indeed remarkable, and, to my mind, affirmatively established the face that with vigorous law enforcement and proper stimulation the Italians will become one of the most law-abiding of our many types.

During the twenties and early thirties most Italian violations rose from making and selling home brew, more popularly known as "dago red." Added to the offenses previously committed by Italians were those of common gambling and running disorderly houses. Gambling charges generally stemmed from card games, lotteries, and slot machines. Owners, operators, and inmates of disorderly houses were usually linked to a variety of vices including selling intoxicating liquors, pimping, fornication, lewdness, and the like. Preliminary checking of the ethnicity of criminals in Oswego indicates that only in the home-brew category did Italian-Americans appear to be overly represented. In gambling and disorderly-house vices they played an inferior role to the Irish-Americans and native Oswegonians.[32]

A persistent rumor that Italian-Americans dominated illegal alcoholic activities in Oswego during Prohibition has just been laid to rest in a well documented study of Prohibition in Oswego. Oswego's city and county law-enforcement agents, for the most part, maintained a "hands-off" policy on Prohibition enforcement. They knew the people who ran speakeasies and their suppliers, but did not wish to "upset the delicate relationship between their departments, City Hall, the County legislature and the Oswego voting community." Often having knowledge of an impending federal raid, they usually tipped off the bootleggers so they could insure there would be no evidence with which to convict them.[33]

Under these conditions Prohibition laws were violated with impunity by people of all faiths and ethnic origins, but none did so more effectively than those whose roots had been put down in Oswego generations before:[34]

> While indeed many immigrants—Polish, Italians and those naturalized—were selling homebrew, wine and liquor, and bootlegging to various degrees, it becomes evident that native Oswegonians—English, Irish and German and a few Jews—were engaged in the more prosperous bootlegging operations, owned many of the saloons and speakeasies and maintained the strategic ties with politicians and police, since they had been well established in the community decades before 1920. As Prohibition continued, many immigrants and "new" American citizens became very receptive to the profits that could be made in the liquor trade, but they would not displace their predecessors nor attain a monopoly of this business.

It may well be that the high number of Italian and Polish indictments and convictions on Prohibition offenses stems from the fact that they had fewer connections with politicans and the police who followed their orders.

It is worth noting that among the bootleggers in Oswego there was a fierce competition marked by hijacking and informing on one another. Commenting on this lack of cooperation, one interviewee, whose father ran a speakeasy, said matter-of-factly:[35]

> Everyone that bootlegged or made liquor was too stupid to realize this [the benefit of syndication] . . . if they did organize . . . the profits would have been ten times greater.

What is clear in this brief survey of crime among Italians in Oswego is a tendency toward blackmail and extortion, criminal actions arising out of family quarrels, a willingness to settle disputes by force, and the making and selling of wine for neighborhood consumption. Yet a popular image emerged, in which Italians were stereotyped as members of a lawless breed who took refuge in highly organized, secret societies, through which the entire Italian community could be cowed into paying protection money under silence. Few saw the contradictions that the facts presented: Italians frequently cooperated with the police; their criminal bands were hardly secret since their members were usually well known in the community; the indiscriminate use of the terms Mafia and Black Hand, not only exhibited a deep ignorance of the concept of the Mafia in Sicily on the part of the press and police, but also served to encourage Italian hoods to try to act out the part attributed to them. Their repeated failures, as shown, brought about by citizen resistance and effective police work, should have given thoughtful Oswegonians reasons to doubt the existence of an allpowerful secret society and to recognize the situation for what it was, a *modus operandi* for crude extor-

tionists. In other words, *individuals* took to sending intended victims threatening letters with Black Hand imprints in the hope that fear would impel the persons to pay up.

Though greatly exaggerated by the public, the image of the knife-wielder and gun-toter had some validity. Fearing the outbreak of violence at one trial to which Italians flocked as spectators, Oswego officials had everyone searched for dangerous weapons. Though none were found, it was a humiliating experience for the countless honest, law-biding Italians in the Oswego community.[36] Yet, indictment records in the early 1920s contain numerous charges and convictions involving Italians who carried revolvers or knives. As the decade progressed, however, the number of Italians so charged diminished noticeably. In later years, numerous highly respected Italians in Oswego related to the writers that they took to carrying weapons when they first arrived in the city to defend themselves against mistreatment by the townspeople, mainly the Irish, who cuffed the Italians around almost at will without fear of police intervention; the police, it should be noted, were mostly Irish. It is likely that the diminishing number of indictments of Italians for carrying deadly weapons reflected the increasing approval they were winning from fellow Oswegonians and the easing of what had been considered a pressing need of self-protection.

Explanations of criminal activity do not excuse it, but they may help us understand it. Before masses of Negroes began leaving the south in the twentieth century, the Italian, as it were, was the black man of the north, to be tolerated because needed, to be shunned socially, to be kept at the bottom of the economic ladder. Like the black-American, his word in and out of court was not yet to be accepted on a par with those whose skin was fairer and whose roots ran deeper in Oswego and environs.

The record of Italian-American crime in Oswego for the first three decades of the twentieth century is worse than Italian-Americans had would like it to be, but not as dismal as that which Oswegonians had been led to believe. It reflected the American milieu, as much as it did the Italian heritage. The wonder is that there was not more of it.

FOOTNOTES

[1] The New York *Times*, July 24, 1970.

[2] Luciano J. Iorizzo and Salvatore Mondello, *The Italian Americans* (New York, 1971), pp. 55-58.

[3] Giovanni Schiavo, *The Truth About the Mafia and Organized Crime in America* (New York, 1962), p. 141 and the New York *Times*, March 16, 17, 1891.

[4] Cited in Rudolph J. Vecoli, "Chicago's Italians Prior to World War I, A Study of Their Social and Economic Adjustment," University of Wisconsin, Ph.D. dissertation, 1962, p. 443.

[5] *Ibid.*, pp. 445-447.

[6] Rudolph J. Vecoli, "Prelates and Peasants," *Journal of Social History,* II (Spring, 1969), pp. 225-226.

[7] Iorizzo and Mondello, *Italian Americans,* pp. 165-166.

[8] *Ibid.*, pp. 166-167.

[9] Gino Co. Speranza, "Petrosino and the Black Hand," *The Survey,* XII (April 3, 1909), pp. 11-14.

[10] Republished in book form. See, E.A.Ross, *The Old World in the New; the significance of past and present immigration to the American people* (New York, The Century Co., 1914), pp. 98-101.

[11] *Ibid.*, pp. 106-111.

[12] See the following articles by the author: "The History of Italians in Oswego, Part I," *"Twenty-Ninth Publication of the Oswego County Historical Society,* (1967-8), pp. 88-112, and "The Immigrant in Oswego's History *Twenty-Eighth Publication of the Oswego County Historical Society,* (1966-1967), pp. 42-53.

[13] Oswego *Weekly Times,* October 21, 1890.

[14] Oswego *Daily Palladium,* April 1, 1891.

[15] See Oswego *Daily Times,* February and March, 1908, *passim.* Underline mine.

[16] Oswego *Daily Palladium,* March 13, 1909.

[17] Oswego *Daily Palladium,* May 10, 1901.

[18] Oswego *Daily Palladium,* February 26, 1906.

[19] Oswego *Daily Palladium* and Oswego *Daily Times,* May 1, 2, 3, 4, 25, 1905; June 7, 1905; August 15, 16, 17, 23, 1905; December 13, 16, 1905. Serra is a pseudonym.

[20] See, for example, Oswego *Daily Palladium* and Oswego *Daily Times,* October 14, 17, 1904; December 10, 1904; March 31, 1905; April 6, 8, 1905.

[21] Oswego *Daily Palladium,* April 4, 1908.

[22] In order to prevent embarrassment to the interviewees' survivors, sources must remain anonymous.

[23] Oswego *Daily Times,* November 22, 1899.

[24] Oswego *Daily Times,* September 12, 13, 1904.

[25] Oswego *Daily Palladium,* September 23, 1904.

[26] Oswego *Daily Palladium,* October 30, 1905.

[27] Oswego *Daily Palladium,* January 21, 22, 1908; May 26, 1908; Oswego *Daily Times,* March 10, 11, 14, 1910.

[28] Oswego *Daily Palladium,* October 3, 1908; May 8, 1909.

[29] Oswego *Daily Times,* January 20, 1910.

[30] See, for example, copies of either or both the Oswego *Daily Palladium* and Oswego *Daily Times,* December 24, 1912; February 25, 26, 1913; October 12, 13, 1914; February 1, 1915; October 25, 1915; November 15, 22, 1915; January 24, 1916.

[31] Oswego *Daily Times,* October 15, 1917.

[32] See indictment records in Oswego County Supreme Court.

[33] Robert Bruce McBride, "Prohibition in Oswego, New York, 1920-1933." M.A. Thesis in History, State University College, Oswego, 1973.

[34] *Ibid.*, p. 130.

[35] *Ibid.*, p. 52.

[36] Oswego *Daily Palladium,* July 15, 1907.

The Evolution of the Common School

Richard Sivers

Disagreement, procrastination, improper taxes and the lack of sufficient statewide or local funds marked the evolution of education in New York State, an education that was conceived out of a European system and finally after 300 years became total education for all in the state.

The historical development of education in New York is a long and controversial series of events, men, political manipulation and too often pure economics. At times, New York public education far outstripped other states, while conversely at times it lagged behind. Three distinct periods of education evolved: Colonial, until the American Revolution; Post-Revolutionary, until 1812; and Nineteenth Century, until the formation in 1914 of central school districts.

COLONIAL

With the colonization of the eastern seaboard by the Europeans, and the increased needs pressed upon the administrators of the colonies by the citizenry both here and abroad, it would seem that from the outset education might suffer. Yet, when the colonists came to America they brought with them a standard for educating their own, a standard that immediately set New York in the forefront.

Although cultural activities were very limited in New Netherland, the Dutch as one of the most literate people of the world recognized the value and need for a basic schooling. At the outset the luxury of a formal academic instruction for the Dutch children was supplanted by both parental and religious instruction. The Dutch West India

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Company on June 7, 1629, took the initial stride toward a common school education with the issuance on that date of the "Freedoms and Exemptions."[1]

The declaration, in Section 27 required the "patrons and colonists" to provide a minister and a schoolmaster. Public funds were expended and Adam Roelantsen became the first schoolmaster in this state. By 1638 the Dutch Reformed Church had established the Collegiate School, Inc., to school boys in the elementary and secondary grades. It still exists today. But that was not enough.

"The famous petition of 1649 complained that there were no schools, although a schoolmaster had arrived in New Amsterdam before 1640. [Peter] Stuyvesant showed considerable interest in education and helped establish primary schools in several localities, including Brooklyn, Flatbush, and Harlem. The Catechism was the basic textbook, supplemented by the ABC book, the Gospels and Epistles, and arithmetic books."[2] Stuyvesant's strong support undoubtedly was a major impetus for formal, public education in the state.

The English conquest and domination of New York in 1664 did little to promote education of the masses. However, it should be noted that during the period leading up to the American Revolution changes occurred that were to generate the common school system.

The common school system developed out of a genuine need to educate all peoples. The Revolutionary War was the logical instrument to stimulate the growth of this new educational system, for education depended upon the cooperation of local, state and federal governments. Prior to the war such cooperation was an impossibility. At the close of the war, with America an independent nation, the administration of schools again began to take precedent in the minds of the local leaders who were responsible to those whose children were to be educated.

The development of democracy, the increase and maintenance of equality, the changes in the concept of man and society, and the rise of nationalism were the four major factors that influenced individuals and brought about the inclination toward common school education.[3] Yet, the inclination did little to educate. One historian has written: "Probably a majority of the children in colonial New York never saw the inside of a school house, and the favored minority received little more than an introduction to reading, writing and arithmetic . . . In general parents had to rely upon private agencies for the education of their children."[4]

POST-REVOLUTIONARY

As New York emerged from the Revolutionary War, the elected

leaders immediately began to take a ranking role in establishing a statewide common school system. Urban centers—primarily downstate—for many years had been educating their children in private schools, while the rural farm-people of the state suffered greatly from a lack of funds and facilities. Slowly rural areas of the state began to feel the impact of state legislation, and where people felt a genuine need schools did appear.

In 1782, Governor DeWitt Clinton urged the state legislature to establish public schools and seminaries and in two years the University of the State of New York had been instituted supervised by a Board of Regents. Two prominent politicians of the day, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay immediately stressed the need at this time for the teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic to all residents of the state.[5]

The Regents spoke out in 1787, attempting vainly to assert some authority, saying: "Erecting of public schools for teaching reading, writing and arithmetic is an object not to be left to the discretion of private men, but be promoted by the public authority."[6]

Their report to the state legislature in 1793 reiterated earlier convictions: "On this occasion we cannot help suggesting to the Legislature the numerous advantages which we conceive would accrue to the citizens in general from the institution of schools in various parts of the State, for the purpose of instructing our children in the lower branches of education."[7]

Again in 1794: "After another year's experience and observation we beg leave again to solicit the attention of the Legislature to the establishment of schools for the common branches of education—an object of acknowledged importance and extensive utility."[8]

And the report of 1795: "These, with the establishment of schools for common branches of education, with the legislature pleased to grant it, must soon have the most beneficial effects on the state of society. The streams issuing from the fountains must enrich the 'pastures of the wilderness' and cause the 'little hills' to rejoice on every side."[9]

Rhetoric not withstanding, it was not until April 5, 1795, that the state legislature approved an experimental five year plan of statewide education. The act established a school fund of twenty thousand pounds or $50,000 and created town committees to supervise the schools. Counties were required to provide matching funds to be eligible for grants under this new plan.

The plan met with considerable success and by 1799 there were 1,352 grammar schools in the state.[10] As quickly as it had started five years before in 1795, the act was not renewed, and from 1800 to 1805 the state's educational process floundered. The Regents, angered over the abandonment of the project, and the control of schools

locally by commissioners and not statewide by the Regents, resulted in a bitter split—a separation that would not have the Board of Regents and the common school administrators working together for 100 years.

The church assumed the responsibility for the education of the poor, while the middle and upper classes sent their children to private schools. By 1805, a Quaker, and reformer, Thomas Eddy, recognizing the need for a basic education for all children, organized the Free School Society of New York City. The group's leader, former Governor DeWitt Clinton pushed the society into prominence and within twenty years there were six schools being operated with 5,000 students.[11]

The state legislature again stepped in with the passage of an act "to raise a fund for the encouragement of Common Schools" in 1805.[12] The legislation, now preserved in the state's constitution provided for the sale of 5,000 acres of vacant land with the funds and accumulated interest to be applied to schools.

Realizing that only a school fund was not sufficient, Governor Daniel Tompkins in 1811 appointed a committee to report on the budding common schools in the state. The following year, New York State took its greatest stride forward in the education of its children.

NINETEENTH CENTURY

On June 19, 1812, the State formally established common schools. The structure of the law was such that a Superintendent of Common Schools was to be appointed, and on January 14, 1813, Gideon Hawley, a New Englander was called into the state to direct the first state-aided neighborhood schools.[13] Hawley was to prove a brilliant educator-administrator, earning for himself the title, "Father of Common Schools." [He was the first person to hold such an office in the United States.]

The guidelines of the law included the creation of school districts in each township with "Districts . . . responsible for taxing themselves for the maintenance and repair of a school site and building." Town supervisors were given the responsibility of taxing the residents of the town to match state funds, much as had been done at the turn of the century. Further specified in the unique education law were the administration of school districts by three elected trustees, state funds to be apportioned according to population figures, and the odious rate-bill system of taxation.

The law, with the inclusion of the rate-bill, remaining in effect until its repeal in 1867, made education public, but not free. According to this system, any deficit remaining in the individual districts, following the expenditure of state and town funds for the school,

would be balanced by a tax upon parents with school-aged children. The rate-bill system divided the deficit among the parents at a particular rate per day, per pupil. To have the bill waived, parents had to sign a pauper's oath.

The rate-bill in effect publicly branded as poor those persons who could not afford to pay the tax, and rather than face the ignominy of being a pauper, scores of parents withheld their children from school. The proud settlers of the new land were not to have their children educated at the expense of others, and so the battle over the rate-bill system continued for fifty years.

"Thus the law of 1812, which has been mentioned as laying the foundation of the common school system provided that local school officers should admit all indigent children to the district schools free of tuition and levy the cost of instruction on the parents who were able to pay."[14]

In 1821, Gideon Hawley, through political manipulation was forced out of office and Welcome Esleek was appointed to the superintendent's post. That same year the statewide upheaval which resulted from the purely political dismissal of Hawley, brought about the abolition of the Superintendent of Common Schools' position. The duties were then assumed by the Secretary of State, who continued to fulfill his educational administration post until 1854 when the State Department of Public Instruction was established and remained in effect for fifty years with a Superintendent of Public Instruction as the administrator of the new department.

New York continued to take great strides in education with more than 440,000 students attending 8,298 schools in 1828.[15] Schooling in the state was considered the best in the Union at the time; however, "approximately one-third of the children of Brooklyn in 1828 did not attend any schools. Upstate, the common school was accepted more widely as part of the democratic organization of society."[16]

Problems remained throughout most of the nineteenth century. Schools were poorly lighted and poorly furnished. Teachers, often only youths with a meager education, taught all grade levels in one room. Women usually took the teacher's post for summer months to educate the very small, while during the winter session, male teachers attempted to educate the older, more unruly boys who were now free from working in the fields. Education consisted simply of learning to read scriptures, and enough arithmetic to conduct business.

By 1838 education in the city of Buffalo was totally free and that same year the state legislature greatly increased the Common School Fund. Three years later, County or Deputy Superintendents of Common Schools were appointed across the state.

The seemingly tranquil prosperity of the school system in New York lasted until 1850. The Lancastrian system, whereby older

The brick school, built at Pennellville, New York, in the mid-1800's.

children . . . taught the younger, was being used widely by teachers. The curriculum was standard: spelling, writing, arithmetic, geography, composition, and patriotic history with the King James version of the Bible and the McGuffey readers used regularly.

Religious dissention sparked a short upheaval when Bishop John Hughes (1830-1869), one of the Roman Catholic faith's most dynamic leaders, termed the common school system as unacceptable, primarily because of its domination by Protestants and the use of the King James Bible. The result of the disagreement was an upsurge in parochial schools across the state.

Suddenly, in 1846, a resolution appeared at the state Constitutional Convention, calling for totally free education for children between four and sixteen. The measure failed to gain approval. Real property taxation became the major issue in the dispute, and on October 8, 1846, a law to effect property taxes for the payment of statewide education was approved by the state legislature. Three years later, on March 29, the state legislature approved an act making education free for persons between five and twenty-one, and the people responded with a two-thirds vote of approval in a state referendum.[17]

The Friends of Free Schools in a convention in Syracuse on July 10, 1850, unanimously dissented, endorsing seven principles for free education:

1. Common School law is perfect, but should be free for all children of the state.

2. The property of the State should educate the children of the State, free to all over five and under twenty-one years of age.

3. All schooling should be provided at the public expense.

4. The vote at the last election to establish free schools should be upheld.

5. The principle of free schools will be sought at all expense for all people ,

6. Restoration of the old school law is opposed, because it gave "avarice parents an excuse to keep children out of school" and drove children from schools by branding them as poor.

7. An amendment to the act of 1849 establishing free schools above the common school fund should be by a charge upon real and personal property.[18]

The 1849 bill was unpopular in upstate New York, but repeal was not possible. A compromise amendment in 1851 retained the rate-bill, but only for parents with children in attendance at public schools, and appropriated $800,000 in aid to school districts. The monies allowed most rural school districts to avoid imposing the rate-bill.[19]

Education in the second half of the nineteenth century began to come out of a troubled half century and the system quickly matured.

Governor Hamilton Fish initiated a series of reforms including the removal from the Secretary of State's office of educational responsibility in 1854. The repeal on April 16, 1867, of the rate-bill, signed by Governor Reuben E. Fenton, ended the harsh and unpopular tax. The opportunity for an elementary school education was nowavailable to all children on the same basis within a common framework.

Education did not stop at this point, however, and in 1874, Charles Loring Brace, the founder of the Children's Aid Society obtained a compulsory education bill from the state legislature requiring young people eight to fourteen years old to attend fourteen weeks of school.[20]

Twenty years later, in 1895, all the work of the past 100 years became part of the state's new constitution: "The Legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a system of free common schools, wherein all children of this state may be educated."[21]

By 1911 the Common School System in New York had begun to deteriorate and in 1914 ceased to exist as a statewide unit. In that year the rural centralization bill set up central school districts across the state and the one room school house began to fade into history.

Close your eyes, go back in time. The years fly by. The day is now Saturday, January 9, 1830. The weather, probably cold, possibly

windy or snowy. The time is early evening, supper having been enjoyed more than an hour ago.

Imagine the room, the parlor of William Carter on the Old Plank Road in Oswego Town. A group of men, neighbors, sit warmly talking.

Finally, the meeting is called to order. Comprised mostly of farmers, they elect one of their own, George Bishop, as chairman. After the formalities of the meeting and the transaction of necessary business a date is set for a subsequent meeting and Edmund Hawks reads the minutes for approval:

> At a meeting held at the house of William Carter in school district No. Six, Town of Oswego pursuant to notice given commissioners of common schools in and for said Town, setting apart Lots No. 4 and 5 and so much of No. 3 as is owned and occupied by Samuel N. Booth and Jesper Cook into a separate to be known and distinguished as district No. six. George Bishop was chosen Chairman and Edmund Hawks clerk.
>
> Jesper Cook, Reuben Mead and Samuel Carter were elected trustees. John Bishop, Collector. Voted to adjourn until the 20th day of January inst. at the house of Wm Carter at 6 o'clock p.m. Oswego. Jan. 9, 1830. E. Hawks, Clerk.

The minutes approved, the men dispersed, satisfied, to meet again in a week and a half. School District Number 6, Town of Oswego, like so many before was officially organized under the law of 1812. All the responsibilities of the district now fell upon its residents by whose strong character and determination the district would grow and function for nearly 100 years.

There will be procrastination—a great deal of it—setbacks, financial difficulties, but above all else, tangible accomplishments. They would build a school and the children would be educated.

On January 20, the residents of the foundling district met for the second time at the Carter home. How many attended, and their names, is not known. The decision was made to locate the school house on the Edmund Hawks property near the Elmer Root home. The basis for the district was laid, and the school house would be located near the City of Oswego off of the present Franklin Avenue.

On February 1, Samuel Booth was chosen moderator by a majority of those present at the meeting. The decision to build the school of wood was also made. Although no reason is given, economics and the lack of a resident mason in the district may have been primary factors for choosing wood.

A week later, on Monday, the eighth, a vote was taken as to the actual size of the school house. Because Edmund Hawks had earlier

been charged with procuring plans, it is assumed he fashioned the plans to build the school: 25 feet long, 21 feet wide and nine feet to the ceiling in the classroom.

The trustees, Jesse Cook, Reuben Mead and Samuel Carter, were to secure "sealed bids" by February 15 for "building and completing the school house with Franklin Stove and chimney and paint the outside."

Meeting again at the Carter home on February 15, it was voted to furnish the inside of the school house "according to plans drawn by William Latham."

The unpopular, but essential, vote to impose a tax was also made with $250 needed to be raised to build and furnish the school house. Dissention was not mentioned, nor the means of collection, only that "the time of collection to be at the discretion of the trustees."

The district, in the administration of local education, has quickly taken shape and matured within a month and a meeting will be held in the new building.

According to the district records, on May 5 it was "resolved unanimously that the Trustees exact a bond of indemnity to the district" to pay Samuel N. Booth and Nathan Carter and Matthew McNair. Booth would construct the new facility and the latter two would appraise it, when completed. A four line entry in the record book on June 9 of that year reads: "At the adjourned meeting held in the school house, William Dolloway was elected moderator." The task of schooling the local children could now be realized.

Dolloway remained as a prime force in the district into the 1850's holding a variety of positions including trustee, moderator and librarian.

By the fall of 1830 the district administrators, and most probably the school functions were stablized into a pattern maintained for the next 80 years. At the first annual meeting the "public money" was applied unanimously "at such times as the trustees shall think proper." The open-ended practice apparently best suited those in the district who preferred to leave matters to someone else.

In December of 1830 a necessity arose that would prove to be one of those "can't do withouts," the purchase of wood to heat the school. During the next month and a half the school would use $12 in tax money for fuel. On January 29, 1831, $20 would be raised to pay for "fire wood and other necessary appendages."

The first report to the Common School Commissioners was issued on November 15, 1831, by the trustees after one year of operation. it read:

> To the Commissioners of Common Schools of the Town of Oswego.

We the trustees of said district No. 6 in said town in conformity with the statutes for the support of common schools, do certify and report that the whole time any school has been kept in our district during the year ending on the date here of and since the formation of said district is four months and twenty days by teachers appointed and approved in all respects according to law. That the amount of money received in our district from the commissioners of common school during the said year and since the erection of said district is six dollars and seventy-one cents on hand and is to be applied to pay the teacher on the last quarter. That the number of children taught in said district during said year is sixty-one and that the number of children residing in our district on the first day of January instant who are over five years and under sixteen years of age is sixty. And that the names of the parents or other persons with whom such children respectively reside and the number residing with each are as follows:

Abner Meade—2	Jesse Cook—4
Richard Mann—3	Joseph———2
Reuben Meade—3	Smithon———2
John Bishop—2	David Bradway—4
Isreal Johnson—6	Hezekiah Peckham—4
John Griswald—4	David Fox—1
Edmund Hawks—3	Scribner Barne—4
W. Dolloway—1	French Williams—5

and we further report that our school has not been visited by the inspectors of common schools or one of them during the year preceeding this report, and that the same paid for teacher's wages over and above the public moneys apportioned to said district during the same year amounts to thirty dollars.

Four days later the school taxes assessed against Bradway and Peckham of May and August were dismissed and were to be paid out of public funds. Peckham's taxes for the "last quarter" were also to be paid from the district funds.

Probably Bradway and Peckham, related by marriage and short-time settlers in the district, had yet to be established and had no means of support. There is no mention of a rate-bill assessment, although it has to be assumed the rate-bill was the only local means of taxation. Bradway later was to be elected a trustee of the district in 1833.

In 1832, a second report was filed with the Commissioners and again in 1834 and in 1854 for the last time. The teacher in 1832 was paid $13.56 from the Common School Fund and $35.52 above that from local funds for a total of $49.08, to teach 38 eligible students. The length of the term is unknown.

On December 3, 1832, the district voted to raise $10 to pay for wood and repairs to the district; the wood for the fire to be maple and beech, "fit for the stove" at nine shillings per cord. The discrepancy in dollars and English shillings remained for some time, but the transition from the English to American currency seems to have come early and with little difficulty.

By 1834 there were 41 children between five and sixteen years of age living in the district. Later that year a special meeting was held at the school house to elect trustees but was promptly adjourned to the home of Selah Bronson. The reasons are not given, nor the purpose of the transfer. The results of the later meeting are never given in direct reference.

The annual meeting of 1834 marked another milestone in the application of democracy in District 6, with the awarding of contracts to the lowest bidder. That November day, six cords of wood, both maple and beech, split for the stove at $1.50 per cord was awarded to Samuel Carter. A year later hemlock wood was ordered by the trustees for the stove in the school house with a tax of $20 to be raised to pay for the fuel and for contingency expenses.

The use of money, $14 for library expenses first appeared in 1839 with the money to come from taxes and the next year Joab Willis was chosen the first librarian in the district. William Dolloway, later was chosen librarian and remained in the post until 1844. The rules and laws of the library were also drawn up by the residents of the district and approved. They are not listed in the record book.

In a related matter in 1844 the residents attending the annual session voted to appropriate the library money from the previous year for the purchase of maps. In 1849 a purchase was authorized for Holbrooks Common School "aperatus." No cost was quoted.

For a number of years the district appears to have functioned by holding annual meetings in the early winter, at which times officers were elected and expenses considered. The growth of the district, by all accounts, grew and in November of 1844 the residents "Voted that the addition in seats and desks be given to Jas. W. Brown at $8, to be done by the 7 Dec. in good seasoned prime lumber and to be done in a workman-like manner." Again there was a period of tranquility.

Without warning the district in 1850 was thrown into turmoil. That year, $127.30 was needed to be raised by tax in the district and a series of special meetings reveals that an additional $20.27 was to be raised by tax "to provide for deficiencies in the public money caused an error of the Board of Supervisors in levying the amount required by law to be raised for school purposes."

At the annual meeting in October of 1850, the problem is unmentioned with expenses voted for the year as: fuel, $10; for

furniture, $3; repairs, $5; expenses, $5; for teacher, $100.

Another milestone, if it may be called that, occurred in 1851 when the trustees were authorized to "construct a wood house privy" on a plan submitted by J.W. Judson. The chimney on the school house was also to be moved to the north end of the building and a bridge was to be built across the ditch in front of the school.

The question of a privy had never before been mentioned, and what the students at the school did under the circumstances, one can only conjecture.

That same year there were 65 children between the age of four and twenty-one in the district. The population growth of the district, the continual bills for repairs to the school house three years later resulted in an eight year struggle to build or re-locate the school.

May 2, 1854: It was resolved to raise $62.50 by tax for a new school site.

March 13, 1859: (Five years later with no mention during the interim of the situation) "To consider the propriety of levying a tax for the purpose of erecting a school house . . . a plain house sufficiently large to accommodate the present wants of the district . . . for the sum of four hundred dollars . . . that a portion of the tax of individuals could be paid labour upon the house . . . The site would be on the Thompson Road, where the present building stands.

Jan. 22, 1862: (Another period of three years.) On motion Mr. Thompson was chosen as a committee to see what he could get the building moved for . . . " The measure approved the district could get down to the actual work on the project.

Two days later a Mr. Delrimple was to be employed to move the structure across the district. The building of a totally new structure was abandoned and would have to wait for another time. In April, Delrimple was voted to be employed, but as the records indicate, he never did the work. The job would be done as soon as the roads would permit.

By June 10, 1862,the bills had all been presented and the district voted to raise $250 to pay the bills and complete the repairs to the little school and to the fence. A breakdown of the bills included: Mr. Perry for moving the school house, $8.75; Forsyth for mason work, $19.25; Middlebrool for lumber, $29.50; Gardner and Bro. for lumber, $45,09; B.P. Bradway, $25; Proud and Allen's for paint, $7.58; Sundry bills, $12.75; J.H. Mann, $62.19; and Ira Skilling for lumber, $1.57 for a total of $212.18. Mann, it is believed did the actual moving of the building.

Later that year at the annual meeting a second set of bills was approved: J.H. Statts, for lath, $2.10; J.H. Mann, clock and door trimmings, $3.86; C. Farnham, paint and papering, $15.06; J.H.

Mann, sundries, $13.58; paper and lumber, for fence, $16.42. In another year a stormhouse was added at an expense of $8 and windows were repaired for 75 cents. The question of building a new school house would not be raised for 25 years, and again would face defeat.

The duties of the trustees were strongly questioned in 1852 and 1853 as well, and audits of the district books taken after elections was ordered by the new trustees, often in harsh language.

A winter school was discussed in 1853 and the next year it was voted to maintain the regular four month session. Possibly under pressure, two years later, the district officials reconsidered and half the public was appropriated for the grammar school and half for the winter school.

The unpopular rate-bill continued to come to the forefront with deficiencies ranging from $7 in 1859 to $46.23 the next year being reported.

Even the question of teachers in 1863, possibly because of the Civil War or a lack of students, was left to the "option" of the trustees for the coming year.

In 1866 trees were set out on the school lot at an expense of $25, the type and number is not mentioned.

The first mention of a tax on real property is made in 1866 as well, with the district taxed a total of "seven and thirty-nine hundredths dollars." Fuel that year cost $22. Two years later the real property tax amounted to $15 for fuel and incidentals; it was up to $25 in 1869 and the same in 1872.

On October 8, 1873: "The trustee Mr. Henry Sivers was authorized and requested to repair the school house in said district by putting on siding and laying a new floor and build an addition the same width and heighth as the old and have it extend east as far as it can be built for the sum of three hundred dollars including repairs on the old house." That addition burned in 1938.

Another transition in the normal function of the school district occurred in 1876 when for the first time coal was used to heat the school house. A total of $30 was authorized. There is no indication of the time of purchase of a new stove or any recorded date of the transition from wood to coal.

For some unknown reason, the library at this time would appear to have been kept in a private home, possibly because of the moving of the school, but in 1878 the library was "to be placed in the school house."

The record of 1879 says very curtly and to the point: "On motion a ballot was cast for trustee which was declared illegal on account of Abner Dean and Phebe Pullen voting after the poles were delared closed." A second vote was taken to repair the situation.

The first mention of a teacher by name appeared in 1880 with a Mrs. Joslyn paid a balance due from the summer term of $73.49. The next year the balance due was $48.54.

Attendance at meetings, delineated by the votes taken and recorded ranged as high as 26, but fluctuated over a number of years. The time, the day and the weather, interest and issues of the day had much to do with attendance.

The amount to be raised by taxes steadily increased over the years; little could be done to minimize expenses. In 1885 the teacher and incidental costs were $130.

Re-occurring repairs, possible discontent with the school house, population increases and the changing times culminated in 1889 when it was "that a commity be approved to receive bids or estimates for building a new school house also estimate for repairing the old house." On June 28, 1889, a bill of $200 was approved with Messrs. Leadley, Van Horne, Sivers and Bishop to effect repairs to the now 60 year-old school.

The century concluded with little additional controversy, on the records. A flagpole was placed in the school yard in 1892, but other than the usual expenses little noteworthy business was brought before the public.

The last record in the trustees book is 1906. The school house on the Thompson Road ceased to function as a school before 1915 with the centralization of the school district.

FOOTNOTES

[1] Harland H. Horner, *Education In New York State,* State Education Dept., (Albany, 1954), pg. 12.

[2] Alexander Flick, *History of State of New York,* Columbia University Press, (New York, 1937), Vol. IX, pg. 27.

[3] Lawrence A. Cremin, *The American Common School, An Historic Conception,* Bureau of Public Teachers College, (Columbia University, 1951), pg. 13.

[4] Flick, pg. 27.

[5] Fick, pg. 199.

[6] *Ibid.*

[7] Horner, pg. 13.

[8] *Ibid.*

[9] *Ibid.*

[10] Flick, pg. 199.

[11] *Ibid.*

[12] Horner, pg. 13

[13] Horner, pg. 14

[14] Edward H. Reisner, *The Evolution of the Common School.* Macmillan, (New York, 1935), pg. 295.

[15] Flick, pg. 200.

[16] *Ibid.*

[17] Freeman R. Butts, Lawrence A. Cremin, *A History of Education In American Culture,* Holt and Co., (New York, 1954), pg. 102.

[18] Reisner, pg. 330.

[19] Flick, pg. 318.

[20] Flick, pg. 537.

[21] Horner, pg. 12.

Transition to Suburbia

Evelyn L. Sauers

The Town of Schroeppel has an area of somewhere between 22,550 (Scriba, 1791) and 28,746 acres (Stone, 1867). It was originally covered with dense forests and was a hunting grounds for the Onondaga Indians, the central tribe in the Iroquois Confederacy of Five Nations. Bordered by the Oneida and Onondaga Rivers (later called the Oswego), it also was visited by the Indians during the summer when they had fishing villages at the Three River Rifts (now Phoenix) and at the outpouring of Six Mile Creek at the big bend in the Oneida River (now Peter Scott Swamp).

The land was fertile and well watered and settlers came first to the northern part of the Schroeppel Tract of some 20,000 acres, then to the land along the rivers when navigation was opened from Oneida Lake to Three Rivers. They scattered over the gently rolling hills during the early 1800s with concentrations for milling and trading at Gilbertsville and Roosevelt in the upper part, Pennellville in the center and Oak Orchard and Hinmanville along the rivers. From 1828 when the Oswego Canal was built growth began around the locks at Phoenix and Hinmanville.

In 1867, according to Stone's *Atlas of Oswego County,* there were 1,217 people in Phoenix and 200 in Hinmanville who were canal-oriented, leaving 2,600 who were farmers or were serving the farmers in sawmills, feed mills, grocery or general stores, manufacturing pot and pearl ashes, etc. The total of 4,017 people was the peak of population for the early days. Over 16,000 acres of farmland were improved.

Early industry in Phoenix was mainly concerned with lumber because the village was surrounded by forests which had to be cut down to farm the land. It was used for firewood and to build log cabins, tools, wagons, barrels, plank roads, frame houses, bridges and boats. In 1862 the canal report tells us that there were nineteen large

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An historian of the town of Schroeppel, Mrs. Sauers was instrumental in the development of plans for the observance of the 125th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village Phoenix during the summer of 1974. She is author of *"The Story of Schroeppel"* (1958) which she revised and re-issued for the 1974 celebration.

canal boats (200 tons) being built along the river at Phoenix, providing employment for 300 men, to be ready for the increased traffic on the canal due to the blockade of the Mississippi River during the Civil War. No one could get anything built or repaired until they were finished.

Promoters came to Phoenix from other places with capital and built factories or went into trade, services, and finance. Alexander Phoenix was agent for his father's estate and had the first feed mill built on the river in 1828 and sold off land. Hezekiah Barnes bought the remainder of some 600 acres in the Phoenix Patent and built a mill race on the "Island" formed by the canal-cut, established a saw mill, stave manufacture, general store and cleared land in the winter. He sold 40 acres to Charles Candee, a farmer, who came into the village and built houses, and in 1846 Amassa P. Hart bought the rest along with the mills and water rights and for fifty years developed whatever business seemed appropriate, as well as serving in public office and projects. The village was incorporated in 1849.

Hinmanville was the haven for "canawlers" who worked on the boats in the summer and wintered there, some living on their boats frozen into the water until spring. They often worked as sawyers for the farmers and land owners, or on the canal boats being built in the shipyards along the river.

In the late 1800s Phoenix had three or four hotels and the Opera House, four Protestant churches and a Catholic one on the west side of the river, two paper mills and three on the west side (manufacturing various grades of tissue and toilet paper), bank, lumber yard, silk mill, distillery, planing mill, knife works, casket works, saw mills, feed mills, storage battery plant, two chair factories, hot water heater factory, hardware factory, meat markets, groceries, drug stores, soda fountains, pool room, taverns, newspaper, men's clothing stores, dry goods stores, milliners, dressmakers, photographer, optician, jeweler, monument works, shoe store, tailors, five doctors, several lawyers, insurance, real estate—a self-sufficient society.

Social life was highly organized in a formal mode, most organizations being ritualistic: Odd Fellows Lodge, Mason's Blue Lodge and Royal Arch, and their auxiliaries for the ladies (Rebeccas and Eastern Star), Order of Foresters and Macabees with auxiliaries, the first Temperance Unit in Oswego County and the Order of Good Templars both in Phoenix and Pennellville devoted to moral reform, and three Granges for farm families.

There were also private clubs: The Citizen's Club (business men), Topics Club (literary women), church societies for women and young people, notably the Christian Endeavor which was highly successful and useful. Creative groups like the Art Union, Musical Union (an orchestra and brass band), Science Association, Drama Club which

put on plays at the Windsor Opera House and, not the least though last, the Phoenix Agricultural Society which sponsored the Annual Phoenix Fair at the Pendergast Driving Park in West Phoenix for some 35 years, racing the progeny of "Lysander," the famous trotter.

Near the turn of the century J.I. Van Dorn came to Phoenix and promoted utilities so that the village had a water system, sewers and electric lights before many larger places. Also, natural gas was discovered and piped to some homes and factories. He had erected several large, brick buildings on the "island" with all modern improvements in advance of their time. They were three-stories high, many windows, power elevators, automatic sprinklers, offices done in natural wood with fireplaces, tile floors, bronze gridirons and plate-glass partitions, large vaults and cabinets.

Transportation was furnished by a daily packet to Syracuse on the canal and tri-weekly express between Oswego and Utica. The New York Central R.R. ran six trains a day each way to Syracuse and Oswego. The D.L. & W. was on the west side at Lamson and the O. & W. ran through Pennellville. Prospects for Phoenix to grow both in population and commerce were never better and this fact was recognized by the men who built the Syracuse, Lake Shore & Northern electric trolley line which was in operation by 1910 for freight and express as well as passengers. Cars left Phoenix for Syracuse every half hour and it took less time than that to get to Fulton. Professional men and business men took them both ways. Atty. Charles Avery was involved in the Skaneateles water deal for Syracuse and was District Attorney, then County Judge for Oswego County. Dave Burleigh, had his office in the Weighlock Building in Syracuse when he was Superintendent of Public Works for the Central Division of the Erie Canal. Mr. Stowell had a large crockery shop on Salina Street in Syracuse and owned extensive farm land along Rte. 57 south of the village.

While all this activity was taking place in the village along the river, what of the farm population which had been double that of the canal-side in 1867? Gilbertsville was the most populous community at first with sawmill and grist mill and facilities for manufacture of pot and pearl ashes (that staple which brought some ready cash to the farmers who were clearing their land). Here were three churches, a school, grocery stores, blacksmiths, wagon maker, and a salt industry. The Gilbert family built Liberty Hall which became the center of advanced learning for Phoenix and Fulton as well as the countryside around before the other academies were established.

When the Ontario & Western Railroad was built in 1869 through Pennellville the activity shifted to that place. It served the farm families in early days with a school, three churches, the Pennellville Hotel (with 21 rooms, Banquet Hall, Music Room and Post Office)

several sawmills, grocery stores, general store, feed store, creamery, canning factory, coal yard, brick yards, cheese factory, stage to Phoenix from the railroad station. Here, too, was the largest farm in Oswego County with the largest farm residence, the Corey family home and extensive barns were built of native brick in 1876 as were several other farm homes in the area.

After the Civil War, industrialization took over both in the city and on the farm with opposite consequences. In the cities many jobs became available in the factories, and on the farm less help was needed as machines took over. The small farmer who couldn't afford them was squeezed out and his land consolidated into bigger farm units to use the machinery to its maximum. Commerical interests came in and Beaver Meadow Produce Company on the muck which resulted from draining the lands off Rte. 6 and the Great Bear Fruit Farm (partially in Schroeppel) was developed along Rte. 57. Between 1870 and 80 the farm population of Schroeppel dropped by 800 and this trend continued at a lesser pace for thirty years until in 1910 there were only 1,065 people outside the Village compared to the 2,600 in 1867. Others came to Phoenix which had gained 425, to become 1,642, some went west to take up new land, and many became factory workers in the city.

On the evening of September 23, 1916, the thriving community of Phoenix had finished another day's work and the people were preparing to retire when the fire whistle blew. Volunteer firemen sprang into action to get out the hand-drawn hose cart and people came out on the street to locate the fire. A light in the sky soon told them it was on the river bank where there were many manufacturing plants crowded together. Everyone realized the danger but their wildest imagination never pictured the ruin which the fire was to leave in its path!

The fire is said to have started in the Sinclair Chair Factory, a small wooden building filled with lumber and powdered dust and shavings from the saws and lathes. The first floor of the Duffy Silk Mill next to it was soon in flames and there were located the pumps that pulled water from the river for the hydrants. The firemen were helpless with no water for their hose and the two mills on the north soon caught, then the Sweet Brothers Paper Mill; on the south the former Woodbury Chair Factory remodeled for the Burrows Tissue was soon in flames. As the piles of lumber fell into the fiery furnace, sparks leaped high into the air and the wind carried them across the canal to the solid mass of three-story business blocks on Canal Street. The flames leaped across the canal like an angry dragon as though it did not exist and ignited the Loomis Planing Mill and Loomis Lumber Yard and knocked out the Seneca River Power Plant, leaving the village in darkness except for the fiery red of the flames. Up Bridge Street the flames spread from building to building on both

sides of the street, destroying brick and frame alike, around the corner on Main Street to consume the old wooden Windsor Hotel and Opera House and residences along the way.

People stood a block away, horrified and helpless, watching the entire industrial and commercial section of the village go up in flames. Some worked frantically to remove furniture and valuables from their homes, putting them in the brick Baptist Church across Main Street but the steeple caught fire and toppled into the center of the building. Telephone and telegraph messages had been sent within the first half hour to Syracuse, Fulton, Oswego and Baldwinsville, but transportation was slow in those days and the fire wouldn't wait. Oswego was the first to arrive with a steamer and hose cart on a special train on the New York Central Railroad. The Fulton equipment was towed behind the automobile of the local mayor. The Syracuse apparatus was loaded on a flat car but it was an hour and a half before they could clear the track for it to go through. By the time they arrived the wooden bridge over the canal was gone so the firemen took up their stand at the Phoenix Hotel at the corner of Lock and Canal Streets to prevent further spread.

In five hours eighty buildings were destroyed for a loss of $800,000 to $1,000,000, which amounted to two-thirds of the valuation of the property in the village. The loss, in proportion to the size of the community was greater than that of famous fires about which we often hear in Chicago, Baltimore or San Francisco.

Miraculously, only one life was lost that of an elderly man who went back into a building to get his tools and was overcome by smoke when caught on the roof. When the dawn of the Sabbath Day broke there was nothing left but a heap of smoldering ruins where once the center of Phoenix had stood. Only the Phoenix Hotel near the bridge, the blacksmith shop across the corner, and the Crescent Paper Mill on the northern tip of the "island" remained standing.

Mayor Stone of Syracuse headed a committee to raise relief funds for cleaning up the village and solving the water supply problem and donations were received from places as far away as New York, Buffalo, Boston, Baltimore as well as the surrounding cities and villages. The Phoenix Citizens Relief Committee headed by Thad Sweet, Speaker of the Assembly of New York State, made a survey of requirements. Newton Hughes carried on as Mayor but never reopened his hardware business.

The clean up process provided jobs for some of the 300 persons thrown out of work but extensive building could not go on with winter at hand. Within a short time some temporary frame buildings appeared at various spots in the village and some conducted their business from homes or barns. The Duffy Silk Mill announced plans to build a plant three times as large as before. Burned out families

stayed with friends or relatives and trading took place at odd spots around the village.

Times were grim in the Phoenix area during the winter of 1917 for almost every family was affected. Some waited for the promised rebuilding, others looked to the growing plants of Nestles and Sealright and the mills in Fulton for jobs, or to the expanding plants in Syracuse. Fortunately, they were running at full capacity because of the need for supplies for the war in Europe which we entered in 1917.

Spring brought the promised building and a great deal of credit should be given to those businessmen who had the courage and faith in Phoenix to mortgage their future to rebuild. The one and two-story buildings in downtown Phoenix now are from that period.

Of the manufacturing interests only Sweet Brothers rebuilt their paper mill; a new company, Senoso, built on the Burrows foundation and the Crescent continued operations until the 1930s. Duffys could not get the water rights they needed and eventually the silk mill was lost to the community. The lumber yard moved further north where a distillery and foundry remained on State (formerly Canal) Street.

On Main Street the Baptist Church was rebuilt without a steeple, the Masonic Temple completed in 1920 and the Sweet Memorial Building in 1929 at the time of the death of the Hon. T.C. Sweet, U.S. Congressman who was killed in a crash of one of the first airplanes. The next census in 1920 showed a new low for the Town of Schroeppel of only 2,617.

The Syracuse, Lake Shore & Northern must have done a lot of business on their trolley line as people who stayed were forced to become commuters. They found higher wages in the city and learned to take advantage of shopping in the stores which offered greater variety.

The automobile had made it possible for those who could afford it to live considerable distance from their place of work and as the prices dropped because of assembly line production, the part of Schroeppel outside the small village began to increase in population. For twenty-five years the village population figure changed but little and it was said that you had to live there twenty-five years to be considered a Phoenician. Perhaps the scars left from the fire drew those who stayed closer together.

In the country, however, in that same period 600 people moved in. They were quite different from those who had lived there in the first place. They came with the intention of being commuters to the city. They wanted to own a little land, perhaps farm a little or have a garden, maybe looking for a tax break since country living had traditionally been cheaper. Besides the cities were becoming congested, schools were old, neighborhoods deteriorating, crime in the streets,

and the wide-open spaces with water nearby for recreation beckoned to them.

In 1931 the trolleys stopped running and buses took the commuters to Syracuse and Fulton along much the same routes so it didn't change the pattern of commuting.

Since 1939 when Hitler overran surrounding countries in Europe we had been on a defense basis. Things moved fast and we soon had a powder plant under construction between Baldwinsville and Phoenix. Many left their jobs in Phoenix to work for the Lumus Company who were building it and we found apartments for supervisory personnel from Texas in Phoenix.

The "Project," as it was called, had taken an immense chunk of land from the outskirts of Baldwinsville to the Oswego River and from Rte. 31 to Lamson Road. For security's sake, all roads were heavily guarded with towers manned by sentries around the clock and the federal government duplicated the office staff of the National Aniline Defense Corporation to audit their work so there were plenty of office jobs, and the plant operated day and night, too. The pay was good for the times, and, although we worked 48 hours a week, it seemed as though everyone in Phoenix who was not in the armed service worked there in some capacity. Women who had never worked before found it handy; wives whose husbands were in service supplemented their allowance. However, their fortunes changed when the plant was closed after one year of operation and equipment moved to another in Arizona where production was doubled through improved methods and product shipped to the West Coast. Those who had left jobs in Phoenix found them filled and had to look elsewhere for work.

The new divided highway—the New York State Thruway—running past Liverpool from Buffalo to New York City was completed and General Electric was the first Syracuse company to take advantage of it. They built an industrial complex called Electronics Park for various departments just outside of Liverpool. Later they added the Heavy Military section south of Baldwinsville. This modern superhighway had much the same effect as the canals and the railroads of an earlier day. Syracuse manufacturers were soon building branches near it or moving their whole operation to it. New companies were attracted to the area and greater Syracuse was outstripping all other cities of the state in growth. This brought more jobs right to our "front door" via Rte. 57 to the Thruway and via Rte. 10 to Morgan Road.

It also brought those who worked in these plants to Schroeppel for housing was scarce and expensive in Syracuse. Many bought mobile homes and found themselves a spot on a good road in the country. The State had encouraged towns to improve the outlying

roads under the Erwin Plan, reimbursing 75%, at first, to get them surfaced, 25% later for upkeep. They called them "farm to market" roads but more cars from Schroeppel used them as "home to job" roads.

By 1950 we found that the town had 818 more people (660 outside the village). Centralization had just been voted and two new schools were built which made the community more attractive than ever to families with children. The rapid expansion of Syracuse industry along the thruway brought some people from other parts of Oswego County to Schroeppel to cut driving time, too.

To accommodate the increasing influx of people and utilize farm land no longer in production for a profit, land owners developed "trailer parks" (later known as mobile home parks). The first was at Sand Ridge on County Rte. 10 and took its name from the area. Next to it grew up "Idle Wheels." Phoenix had two developments in the 1950s, Phoenix Heights of 40 small homes and Brandybrook Lane of 20 medium homes. Later Loomis Terrace of 10 houses, and one speculator who bought large houses and made them into apartments. By 1960 Schroeppel had added 1,517 people making a 37% growth rate in ten years compared with 11% for the whole county.

In 1958 a special study of commuters to Syracuse was made by the Division of Employment, State of New York. It showed Oswego leading in the five-county area which made up the Syracuse Metropolitan Statistical Area. The city of Fulton with a population of 14-15,000 had the most (1,080) but the Town of Schroeppel with a 5,000 population had almost as many (1,050). Most of the Oswego County commuters were employed in manufacturing (2,832), one-quarter of that number in construction (731). The rest were scattered through transportation, public utilities, trade, finance, insurance, real estate, service and government.

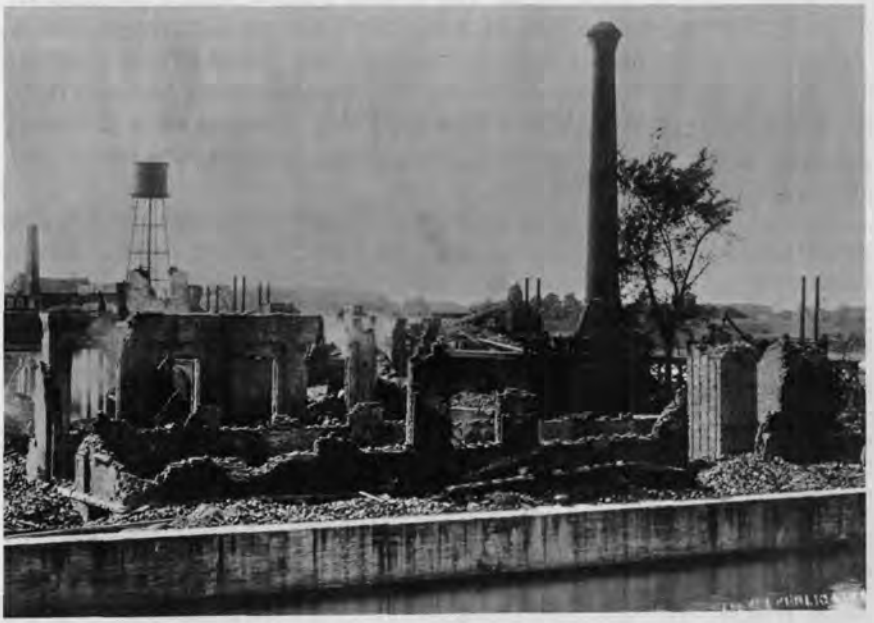
Two more mobile home parks came later—Evergreen on Rte. 54 outside of Pennellville and another on Rte. 57 at the former Silver Brook Farm. Meanwhile, camps on Oneida River from Big Bend to Schroeppel's Bridge and at Pleasant Lake were being winterized for year round living and new places were being built there. This phenomenon was the result of good roads, automobiles and the desire of people to live near recreation areas because of the shorter five-day, work week.

The huge Bayberry Tract along Rte. 57 and back to Morgan Road brought commercial growth on Rte. 57 and planners nick named it the "Urban Corridor." From 1960 groups of houses were built by local contractors all over the town and individual homes on many back roads. We were beginning to get into construction of small apartments many large homes having already been broken into 3 and

4 units and finished the decade with an increase of 1,600 people for a 29% gain—again far ahead of other parts of the county. However, this percentage does not reflect the entire change in the town because we know that some move out (including young people who go on to higher education and have to seek jobs elsewhere) so their places had to be filled before we began to count the increase. From 1965 to 1970, 40% of the people moved!

A growing area closely tied to Phoenix socially and economically, though not in our county, was the other side of the Oswego River. From Three Rivers to Hinmanville and out Lamson Road in the Town of Lysander there are now about 100 families (400 people) who identify with Phoenix (some having been born here). Also, some in Clay on the other side of the Oneida River. All are in our school district.

On the other hand we have an increasing number of people coming to Phoenix to work who live elsewhere. This is particularly true of the school system which is our largest employer now. Sometimes we have to close school for snow because the teachers can't get here when the Schroeppel children can! The men in the bank for many years have been non-residents, our one remaining paper mill manager commutes; several of the stores are owned or managed by non-residents—grocery, drugs, clothing, antiques, bakery, liquor and auto sales. We even have a new church denomination in the old



Fire ruins on the Island in Phoenix following the destructive fire of September 23, 1916.

The smoldering ruins of Phoenix, 1916.

Baptist building not only with a non-resident minister, but most of the congregation, too!

In recreation we have the Beaver Meadows Golf and Country Club with 300 members and a waiting list, 75% of whose members are from outside of the Town of Schroeppel (mostly Liverpool and Fulton). The Sno-Drifters organization draws from a wide area to their new clubhouse and the trail on the bed of the old O. & W. R.R. with a covered bridge over the pond at Pennellville was built with the assistance of the County of Oswego and State of New York.

All this shifting about has brought changes in the social characteristics of the population. About 89% of the residents commute to work by auto, 59% to Onondaga County. Therefore, we have a somewhat higher income than the average for the county, tending more towards the service jobs. There is a thrust towards technical and professional work resulting from the fact that there has been a rise of 218% in college enrollment (many in the two-year schools which are within commuting distance at Syracuse, Auburn and Watertown and for which the County pays half the tuition).

During the last two decades the Town of Schroeppel has furnished leaders in County affairs: Chairman of the Legislature, County Attorney, District Attorney, Superintendent of Highway, Budget Officer, Surrogate Judge, Veteran's Service Officer, majority leader of the Legislature and resident Supreme Court Justice. Also, Chairman of Operation Oswego County for Industrial Development and President of the Oswego County Historical Society. The "south" is

being heard from.

Since the last census (1970) we have two developers waiting to complete arrangements for houses and apartments which will add 1,000 population to our town and another who is building an apartment complex and recently request was made for a zoning change for a shopping center and a marina-apartment complex. There is plenty of vacant farm land in the town, some 14,000 acres, and the village can accommodate 3,400 more people at minimum. Projections by the planners are that by the year 2,000 the Town Schroppel will have as many people as Fulton has now. The Syracuse waterline cuts across the land and we have two spots where connections can be made. Rte. 481, a divided limited access highway, makes for faster transportation to Onondaga County.

Apparently residential growth is coming to Schroeppel whether we encourage it or not. There are those who say they would rather keep it down but it seems to be out of our hands so we might better regulate it. It would seem wise to upgrade the physical appearance, modernize downtown and improve the quality of life in order to attract those who will build homes that will add enough to the tax base to carry the extra expense of municipal services and school expense. People often come to the country looking for a tax break but, after they get here, find that they and others already here want the same services they have elsewhere, which means that they must pay for them.

In a recent survey of land use in Onondaga County it was noted that town governments are becoming more important as they hold the key

Sightseers on Canal Street after the Phoenix fire.

to land use since a large percent is idle rural land. This applies, as well, to Schroeppel which is contiguous to Onondaga County and already is included in various studies for the Syracuse Metropolitan Area, e.g., an historical and architectural survey to which we submitted eighteen sites in 1969 to the Syracuse-Onondaga Planning Agency.

Now that the "Urban Corridor" has developed along Rte. 57 this body changed its development policy in September 1972 to one of community centers of living for the comprehensive plan up to 1990. This was done, they say, on the basis of social and economic reasons and envisions development at the site of existing villages and other population concentrations with smaller corridors connecting them. The social reasons are that most people want a greater community identity in a rapidly changing, technological world, while the economic considerations have to do with water and sewer—expanding present installations. Another factor is a more balanced transportation system which will make use of the present corridors of traffic.

There has been a lot more cooperation between the two units of government in Schroeppel in recent years. The village accepts the town assessors figures for their tax use and the Town Justice handles village cases as well as those outside. The two planning commissions have been working with the County planners on a developmental plan for the whole area.

Like the suburbanites we have become a multi-level community. Our social life is centered at the local level, political life at the local and county level, and economic factors at the regional level. We have not just one core community to draw us (Syracuse), but two (Fulton). We shop both places besides Phoenix and also along the way in between. We take college courses at and attend cultural events at Syracuse and Oswego. We take our recreation in Fulton at the "Y" and give volunteer service at the Lee Memorial Hospital. We patronize spectator sports in Syracuse and Fulton and Oswego and some belong to organizations outside our own community.

The division which arises between newcomers and old-timers who were born here is somewhat wiped out by the fact that our people work in the city and are exposed to ideas from their fellow employees. We all take the same newspapers and listen to the same radio and the same television as city people so we are not unaware of the life beyond our smaller community but often are glad that we have it to come home to.

POPULATION CHART — TOWN OF SCHROPPEL

VILLAGE OF PHOENIX		YEAR		TOTAL	REST OF SCHROPPEL	
Under 1,000	Oswego Canal Traffic Lumber & Woodcrafts	1835	-	2,191	State Road - Central Square to Fulton	
	Village Inc. 1849 State Road - Syracuse to Oswego	1840	-	2,516	Farm and Forest - Pioneers	
1,164	Boat Building Civil War 1861-65	1850	-	3,258	Family Farms	2,847
1,238 Est.	Paper Mills - West Phoenix	1860	-	4,011	Civil War 1861-65 O. & W. R.R.-1869	2,749 Est.
1,312	Industry-Phoenix Paper & Silk Mills - Phoenix	1870	-	3,987	Farm Machinery	1,969
1,466	N. Y. C. R. R. - 1885 Commercial Interests	1880	-	3,281	Low Farm Income	1,560
1,532	Syracuse L. & N. Trolley-1909	1890	-	3,026	Small Farms Consolidated	1,480
1,642	Syracuse Jobs Fulton Jobs	1900	-	3,012	Farmers to village or city	1,065
	Phoenix Fire - 1916	1910	-	2,707	Commercial Farms-Beaver Meadow, Great Bear, Pendergast, Godfrey	
1,747	European War (WW I)	1915	Spec.	3,149	European War (WW I)	870
1,758	Syracuse & Oswego Bus Line	1920	-	2,617	Small Industries-Pennellville Inexpensive Cars	1,252
1,759	B'ville Ordnance Works - 1943 G.E. Industrial Park - L-pool	1930	-	3,010	Syracuse & Fulton Plants B'ville Ord. Works - 1943	1,460
1,917	World War (WW II) 2942-45 Syracuse Plants move north	1940	-	3,219	G.E. Industrial Park - L'pool World War (WW II) 1941-45	2,120
2,408	N.Y. State Thruway Large houses to Apartments	1950	-	4,037	Mobile Home Parks Syracuse Plants move north	3,146
	Housing Developments Rte. #57 Recreation	1960	-	5,554	Improved Roads - Town	
2,617	Apartments Houses	1965	Spec.	6,540	Converted Camps-Pleasant Lake - Big Bend New Country Homes	
		1970	-	7,153	Sand Ridge	1,109
		1980	-	9,316	Other	3,427
		Projected				
		1990	-	11,795		

Tobias J. Green, M.D.
A Country Doctor

Tobias J. Collins

"I live on Church Street in Mexico. All the churches are on that street and I am the only Democrat there. I told the Presbyterian minister the other day that everyone on the street was either a Christian or a Republican and that I felt lonesome." This was the self-identification by Dr. Tobias J. Green to a reporter for the Syracuse *Post Standard* in an interview printed November 11, 1908. The reporter noted that "Dr. Green was 90 years old last September and still has the elastic step and firm hand-grip of an ordinary man of 50. He is still laughing at the years and he fails to see where Old Father Time 'has anything on me.' He still prescribes for the sick about Oswego County."

Two years later, August 17, 1910, another reporter, this time under a Pulaski dateline for the Mexico *Independent,* wrote

> This is Veterans' Day in the centennial ceremonies and in all directions the old veterans in the uniform of the G.A.R. are in evidence. The morning train from Oswego carried a big delegation from that city, Scriba, New Haven and Mexico. Among those from Mexico were E.E. Huntington and Dr. T.J. Green, the latter being ninety-two years young. Dr. Green is a remarkably well preserved man and he took the keenest delight in shaking hands with visitors here today. 'I knew your father's people well' or 'your great-grandmother was a handsome woman and the best dancer in all the country round' were the greetings of the Doctor as he was presented to the younger generation.

Tobias J. Collins, a resident of Lewiston, New York, is the grandson of Dr. Green.

Once when I was being introduced to a small group, one of them said to the others, "I don't know him, but I certainly do remember his grandfather. When the old Doctor was 94 he went out and mowed his entire lawn while the rest of the village died at the very thought."

In 1896 a tall dignified doctor in frock coat and winged collar spoke as president to the Oswego County Medical Society. Incidentally, he was my grandfather and I am able to quote him directly. "In the practice of medicine during the past fifty years" he said, "we have observed especially that there are no two diseases precisely alike, and no medicine that will always have the same effect—and that medicine, although not an exact science, is advancing with wonderful strides tending to make it less guesswork than formerly." I have been reminded that he also used to say, "If I ever found a patient with a sickness which I couldn't cure, I'd prescribe something to throw him into fits—because I'm death on fits."

The progress of medicine in the nineteenth century may best be shown by measuring the gap between the physician of 1800, who did not even have a stethoscope to aid in his diagnosis, and his counterpart in 1900 who used the X-ray to reveal the inside of the body.

This is roughly the span of years covered by Tobias J. Green, M.D., who, as a country doctor, practiced medicine for more than seventy years. "Grandpa Doc" as I always called him was a descendent of John Greene, surgeon, who was associated with Roger Williams in his settlement of Rhode Island. He was born in Hoosick, New York, in 1818, but his parents moved to the area around Syracuse. "I first voted for Martin Van Buren when he was elected in 1836", he said with a wink to that reporter in 1908, for on the date mentioned the Doctor was only 18. "But," he continued, "he was defeated in 1840 when I failed to vote."

Much of the story of his later years is outlined in the day books and records which he kept with names, notes and comments providing occasional details on his family and on his times. His earliest books have been lost but we do have his records, apparently complete, from 1848 through 1918.

The first item is for February 10, 1848, for "James Nash, to venisection per self, 75^{c}." Venisection, or bleeding, was common in those days not for testing or examination but as a treatment in itself.

A month later, March 13, 1848, the statement is for "Joel P. Hayes, to sarsparilla per Emily, $1.00 and medicine, 4 shillings." Emily a Parish, New York, girl was eighteen at that time. Sixteen years later she married Dr. Green. By that time the battles of the Civil War were over, but then began a battle of wits. Theirs was a life of "one-up-manship" and it was touch and go as to who could outwit the other. Emily took care of the religious life of the household and tried valiently to get her husband to be more active in the many

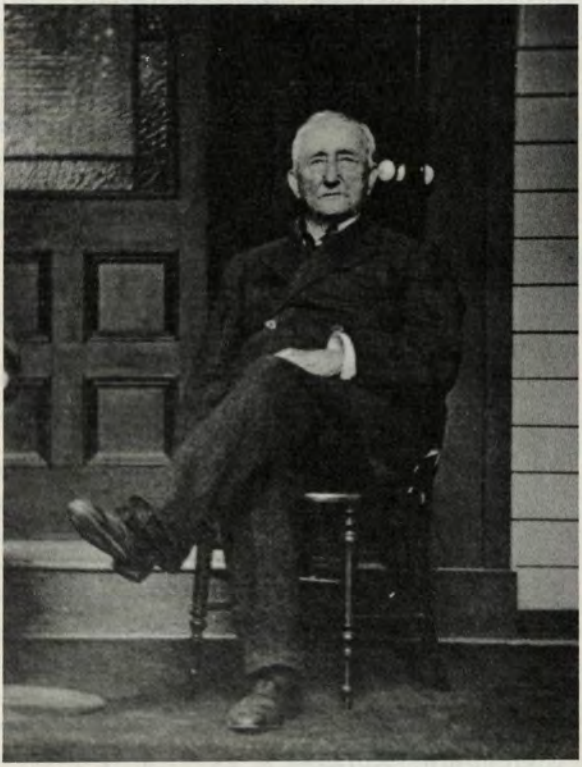
Courtesy of the author.

church affairs. The advent of one new minister seemed to be a wonderful opportunity for her campaign. Without telling the Doctor, but choosing a day and a time when she was sure he would be at home, she got word to the new pastor that they would like to meet him if he could call at that time. From the Doctor's office a large window gave a full view of the yard so that he could see anyone starting up the driveway. On this day he glimpsed the minister as he approached the house and was able to grab his hat and bag of medicines and reach the front door just as the guest came up the front steps. "Oh, Pastor," he said, "I'm so sorry that I've been called away on your first visit. I've wanted to meet you because I'm deeply interested in our church. I suppose you'd say that I carry the religious responsibility for our family. My wife does need your help and I hope that you may be the one to bring her to grace. While I can't stay, won't you please go right on in, and perhaps your prayers can save her." He saw Emily coming. She probably had heard their voices, and he hurried away. Emily appeared, greeted the minister, invited him in and, to her amazement and consternation, spent an hour on her knees being prayed over as was the custom in those days.

At another time, he returned from a meeting of the directors of the newly-formed Watertown-Syracuse Railroad and told Emily of the honor they would have tomorrow when the vice-president of the railroad would have dinner at their home. The house was turned upside-down the next day as it was swept, dusted and rearranged. The best dishes were brought out, a chicken killed and cooked, and pies baked. The Doctor came in about six and settled himself unconcernedly to read the Oswego *Palladium.* Emily, flushed and triumphant in the sure knowledge that this was one of her best dinners, came through the diningroom, glancing at its polished silver and shining glassware. "Well, goodness," she said, "isn't it getting late? Where on earth is he?" "Who?" asked the Doctor. "I was wondering when

we were going to eat." "Why, the vice-president of the railroad," she replied. "Oh," said the Doctor, "he's here. Didn't I tell you that I was elected to that office?"

Occasionally he was maneuvered into attending church services with his wife and small daughter, that is, when he was not out on call or if he could think of no adequate reason to stay away. On these occasions Emily's eyes would sparkle triumphantly as they entered the church. He would stride erect and purposeful to the very front, stopping to talk with those on either side until he reached his seat. Then he gave the minister an attention so undivided and so unswerving that it invariably unnerved that gentleman and often made him fumble and fail to give his usually eloquent discourse. The Doctor expected a theological presentation when he was in church and when the minister was so ill-advised as to set off on a political angle he gave vent to his feelings by producing from his waistcoat pocket a huge watch which he would wind. It was not a quiet winder and Emily



Dr. Tobias J. Green on the porch of his home on Church Street, Mexico, New York. *Courtesy of the author.*

would blush with mortification. If this sound did not deter the speaker from pursuing his subject, the Doctor would look at his watch, nod to his wife, rise and walk hastily back up the aisle, ostensibly to visit a sick patient.

Country practice was just that. It was so called because most of the patients lived out in the country and the doctor had to go to them. Doctors generally lived in the village, but there was very little office practice. Families had their own books on medicine, like Gunn's *Domestic Medicine* printed in 1839. My grandfather also had a copy of that book, not that he needed it for advice, but through it he might find out what a family had used before he got there, and so get a better idea of what was now wrong with the patient. The families would use home remedies as far as they could without bothering the doctor. Or, they might stop him on the road or in the store for a "suggestion," but when the pain got too bad or a serious emergency or accident occurred then someone was "sent for the doctor." If it was in town, that someone was sent running, but from the country the call for help probably came on horseback. Help often responded the same way. We have my grandfather's saddlebags as a reminder of the many such trips he made.

Naturally, most of the sicknesses occurred when the weather was inclement, either very cold or very hot, or stormy with the roads indescribably bad. When the roads were good, the population became provokingly healthy. So often the roads were only wide tracks, some of gravel, with some spots of corduroy. It was only in winter that their surface became smoother.

If, because of our methods of transportation, we consider today as an automobile era, then past times must have been a horse society. In those days, horse power was truly "horse-power" and winter sleighing was not simply entertainment but basic transportation. No wonder that the Doctor's books contain so much mention of the weather, such as "Snow, snow, the first of the season . . . Snowed all day with prospect of sleighing . . . Snow about four feet deep and drifting badly." Only today's ski enthusiasts and snowmobilers now have such concern. Then, in January, "Warm and rain. Little snow, very poor sleighing." But February comes back with, "Thermometer at 25 below" and "Best sleighing of the season" until finally, April 1, "Used my wagon for the first time this spring."

So many homes were isolated. On one occasion Dr. Green was snowbound at the home of a patient for two weeks, during which time his family had no idea of his whereabouts. There were no conveniences, no other professionals with whom to consult, only comparable experiences from which to determine a treatment. Few instruments were available and probably still fewer at hand. Grandpa Doc described such a situation to a reporter for the Syracuse *Post Standard* in a September 23, 1916, interview.

I remember an occasion when a call came for me to see a person over toward West Monroe, some miles from Parish where I was practicing at the time. It was at night and the snow was very deep. Sometimes I had to ride over ten or fifteen feet of snow. When I got to the shanty in the woods I found that the man who lived there, Edward Lynch, had been hunting and accidentally shot himself in the left arm, causing such a bad wound that immediate amputation was necessary. I had no instruments with me suitable for performing such an operation, and no one to assist me, but I amputated the arm at the shoulder while Mrs. Lynch held a tallow candle for me to work by. What did I do it with? A butcher knife and a meat saw. Those were the days before physicians got frightened over microbes and infection following operations. Yet I can say that in my more than sixty years practice I never had a case of bloodpoisoning. Mr. Lynch? Oh, he recovered. Afterwards he studied law and was admitted to the bar in Oswego County.

His account book shows that this amputation was performed on February 5, 1855. The charge, $25.00.

Other charges for professional services are shown in these office records. As mentioned, venisection cost $.75. Further, "Night visit and medicine—self, wife and son, $2.00"; "Vaccination per five children, $1.50"; "Extract tooth, 25c"; "Excision of enlarged tonsils, $5.00"; "Amputation of toe, 25c"; "Certificate of lunacy, $2.00"; "Reducing fracture, $3.00"; "Parturution (childbirth), $3.00"; "Plaster per George, 13c". For February 8, 1876, the book states, "Drs. Low, Buckley and myself today removed an ovarian tumor from Mrs. George Morse of Cleveland, weighing over seventy pounds" but there is no financial record to accompany it.

Not all payments were in cash, many were in kind, trade or services. Credits to the accounts of the different patients are noted in the account books. A harness for $45.00; a wagon pole for $8.00; 6 cords of stove wood for $7.00; pasturing a colt for $8.25; 37 pounds of butter at 15c a pound; and 67 pounds of beef at 4c a pound. A cutter was credited for $70.00 and an extension table at $18.00; while 3 gallons of bourbon equalled $15.00 and a bushel of hickory nuts was $1.00.

These accounts often include some identification of the patient, such as "Dutchman at Palmer's"; "Jacob Swints (Smith's Mills)"; "Manning's brother-in-law"; "Mr. Cole (on Dyke's old place)"; "Mr. Robinson (miller, Amboy)"; "Mrs. Stephens (Cartner's daughter)"; and "Stranger from Phoenix."

This was in Parish, in Oswego County, New York, and before the Civil War. The Doctor's training had come earlier, with study under

an established doctor as well as formal work at medical school. He even tried his hand at teaching—a bit different from today—which he described in that 1908 interview.

> Before I became a student at Geneva Medical College I taught school in the village of Salina, or Salt Point as they called it. That was in the days when Syracuse was little more than a rural hamlet and a less important place. In the fall, husky young men from the canal filled the school and teacher after teacher had been forced to leave. One of the trustees came to the office where I was studying, feeling bad, and wanted to know if anyone could suggest a teacher. Eventually he asked me. I told him he did not want me as I did not know anything about teaching. 'There will be a funeral every other day if I go up there', I told him. He seemed to want a series of funerals and I went. The first day a big fellow—they all chewed tobacco—let fly about a pint of tobacco juice over his desk on the floor. I told him to clean it up and he refused. Then I told him to hold out his hand. When I went to use the ruler, he drew it back. That was what I expected and I grabbed him by the back of the hair. That was what he didn't expect. I pulled him over the desk, kicked him into the corner and told him to lay there till school was dismissed. Then I told him to take away everything he had in the schoolhouse and said, 'If you come back here again there will be a funeral the next day.' He did not come back. The next day when one of the boys was raising cain I let fly a stick of wood. It went just over his head and knocked the plaster off the wall. There was no more trouble. I guess they believed that I had just as soon commit manslaughter as not.

In 1845 he was practicing in Syracuse. At the opening of the Mexican War he sold his office with the intention of enlisting. Before he did enlist, he was asked by Dr. John F. Trowbridge to come to Parish to assist him in cutting off a leg. Then Dr. Trowbridge wanted to be absent for a time and asked Dr. Green to remain there in his place, which he did. As a result, he did not enlist in the Mexican War but continued to practice in Parish for nearly forty years. That is, until he moved to Mexico in 1883.

"But I did enlist in the Civil War," Dr. Green told that 1908 reporter. "Captain J. Littlejohn of Oswego came to me. He said none of the Democrats would enlist unless Dr. Green would, and so I did, in the One Hundred and Tenth Regiment."

Rev. David L. Roberts, our Presbyterian minister, wanted to have a typewriter. They were so expensive that he hoped to find a second-hand one and asked my father at the Mexico band to let him know

if he ever heard of one. Dad saw an advertisement for rebuilt typewriters as a "come-on" promoting a new brand of cigars.

With the purchase of several boxes of cigars, a typewriter was available at an unbelieveably low price. Mr. Roberts hesitated a long time. The use of tobacco was not in church favor, and such a transaction seemed to endorse the habit, but the price of cigars and typewriter together was still far below any other opportunity. He was finally persuaded that he did not have to use the cigars himself and my father, who also was not a smoker, made the purchase for him. The shipment arrived. The typewriter was a fine bargain, but the cigars hung like an albatros over the deal, until someone remembered that my grandfather smoked considerably and could probably use them. Mr. Roberts brought some to the house one day and presented them to the Doctor, explaining, "I'm sure that at your age I'm not getting you into a bad habit." Grandpa Doc lit one while the minister was still there, and even after he had left sat holding it and looking at it pensively. Finally he turned to Dad and said reassuringly, "Will, you can tell the dominie not to worry about giving these cigars to anyone. I know of nothing that would cure a man of the habit any quicker."

His last diagnosis was his own when, at midnight, he told the family of his own cerebral hemmorrhage and he urged them not to bother or awaken Dr. Earl Mowry for he would be leaving them in a few hours. His medical diagnosis was correct.

A History of Fort Brewerton

Ray Denman

Fort Brewerton is one of the several forts erected by the British under the direction of Sir William Johnson. Construction of the fort was accomplished by soldiers and local craftsmen from Oswego and Fort Stanwix in August of 1759. The fort was rather small, measuring 480 feet in length and built in the shape of an eight-pointed star.

Imagine, if you can, what life must have been for the 100-odd soldiers who were preparing to face the winter months 215 years ago. There were four small blockhouses within the stockade to house the men, along with the munitions of war and the supplies needed to sustain the long winter. When we who are residents of Brewerton drive by this place each day it is hard to realize now that this very hardship existed on this spot. The fort was named after Major George Brewerton, an officer in the British army. During the time the fort was occupied the soldiers once had a garden on the small island in the river opposite the fort. Occasional excitement was experienced at the fort when the Indians would steal from the garden, claiming they were never paid for the land.

By 1761, two years later, there was no longer a need for the fort as a military post. The removal of the garrison from the area was, also, hastened by the attitude of the Indians. A military journal under the date of May 22, 1767, mentions Fort Brewerton as having been abandoned by the British and subsequently burned by the Indians.

After the close of military operations, bounty rights for land near Fort Brewerton were granted and the first settlers to come to Brewerton were Oliver Stevens, his wife and three children. In 1789 Stevens built a blockhouse immediately south of the fort site to afford protection from the Indians as well as to serve as a trading post and tavern for the early travelers. Stevens lived there for twenty-two years

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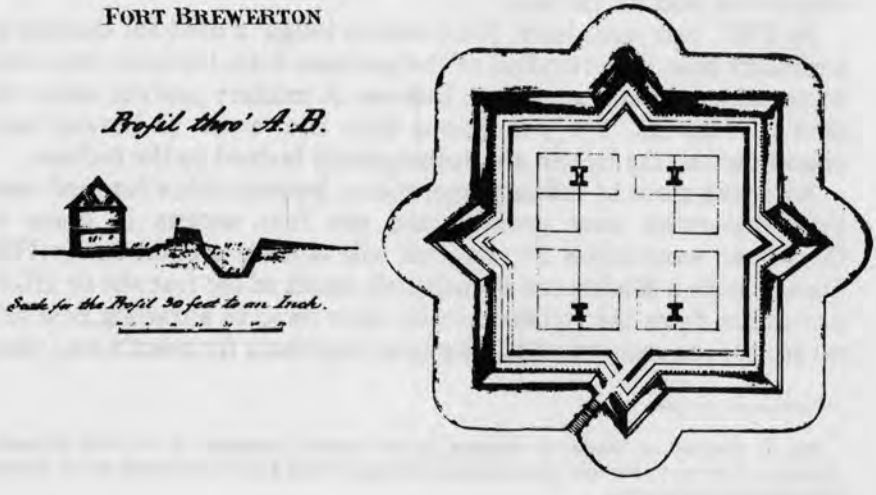
Ray O. Denman, a Brewerton resident, is the current president of the Fort Brewerton Historical Society. In addition, he serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Oswego County Historical Society.

and fortunately the history of the family was preserved. In it there can be found many stories of the early travelers and their personal experiences along with stories of the hardships of the Stevens family. One is of particular interest to those who live in Oswego.

In March of 1793 Stevens resolved to attend a town meeting to be held at Pulaski, twenty-three miles north of his home in Brewerton. He started off in the morning with his gun in hand and a knapsack of provision on his back. As there was no road, and scarcely a path, he relied mainly on his skill as a woodsman to guide him safely through his journey. He traveled on, unconscious of harm until near the middle of the afternoon when he found himself in the vicinity of a pack of wolves. Their howling aroused him not only to a sense of danger, but to the fact that he had lost his way and that he had no means of recovering it. He set forth with vigor in hope of coming out at a clearing in the vicinity of the place of his destination, but all to no purpose. The more he exerted himself, the more he became convinced of the danger. The wolves drew nearer and seemed by their boldness to be preparing an attack. One wolf, bolder than his companions, advanced to within a few paces of him, upon which Stevens fired his gun and the wolf fell dead. The scent of the blood of the dead wolf seemed to increase the anger of the survivors and for a time Stevens thought he in turn would be slain. Undaunted, he stood at bay, looking them



in the eye. After a while they retired to a respectful distance, sitting on their haunches as if holding a council of war. During this time Stevens struck a fire, reloaded his gun, and went forth, dragging the dead wolf by the heels to his fortress by the fire. It seemed as if the fury of the wolves was ungovernable: they came very near, growling and snapping their teeth in the greatest anger. He cast burning brands among the wolves until finally they disappeared. After he added more fuel to the fire, got up a bright light, and began to feel somewhat secure. His next business was to secure the skin of his fallen foe for which he would receive a forty dollar bounty. By this time it had become quite dark, so he gathered a quantity of fuel and stood all night, not daring to refresh himself with sleep. Toward morning he was relieved from his anxiety by the retreat of the wolves who disturbed him no more.

Packing up his wolfskin, Stevens proceeded homeward. The sun rose to meridian, and still he traveled on. Night came and seemingly he was no nearer home than when he started. Weary with his day's journey, he again kindled a fire, laid himself down to rest and slept soundly till morning. At early dawn he again set forth in quest of home. About ten o'clock in the morning, to his indescribable surprise and joy, Stevens discovered the British flag flying from the fort at Oswego.

The officers of the garrison, to whom he related his adventure, treated him with great kindness. He spent the remainder of the day, and next morning set out for home. The day following being the fifth from his departure, he safely returned to the bosom of his family, who had become somewhat alarmed for his safety.

Many more interesting experiences of the Stevens family are recorded in the family papers for those who may be interested. Stevens died in 1813 and is buried near the blockhouse site. Mrs. Stevens lived on for several more years and the love shared by her children for her is most heartwarming.

The Fort Brewerton area grew slowly until the completion of the excavation of the canal in the river and from that time on growth became very rapid. Two hotels, at different times, were built on the site of the Stevens blockhouse, the latter being destroyed by fire in 1971.

The fort at Brewerton has stood unnoticed for many years and now that it is included in the National Register of Historic Places it is the hope of the Fort Brewerton Historical Society to reconstruct a replica of the blockhouse where this family lived so many years ago. The Society is fortunate to have received as gifts many objects which had belonged to the Stevens family. In June of 1974 the Historical Society became the owner of the land where the original blockhouse stood. It is the plan to have a replica of the blockhouse

erected by 1976. After this it is the hope to build an adjacent museum building which is so badly needed to house an abundant collection of Indian relics and other artifacts.

The Condé Family and *"Mon Repos"*

Shirley Jones

The Conde family was descended from a distinguished line of ancestors which can be traced to the 12th century and Godfrey de Condé. Henry Swits Conde was born in Charlton, Sarasota County, New York, May 30, 1809, "and inherited all of the principles of manliness which characterized his race. His keen perception, shrewd and close observation, and systematic reading placed him high in the first rank of his contemporaries before he had reached his prime, while his youthful avocations developed a natural business instinct . . . with his most marked characteristic being unerring judgement and intuitive foresight".[1]

In 1830 he settled in Central Square, Oswego County, where he was a merchant and postmaster for 22 years. After being elected to the office of county clerk in the fall of 1855 the family moved to Oswego. After the expiration of his term of office in 1859, he engaged in the manufacture of knit goods, founding the extensive establishment of the Condé Manufacturing Company in which he was immediately and eminently successful.

It was the father's profitable beginning that prompted his two sons, Swits and Fredrick, to enter into the family business.

Swits Conde was born in Central Square on April 24, 1844, and was graduated from Oswego city schools at age 18. In 1863 he went to Louisiana for four years in his interest of the growing of sugar and cotton. Returning to Oswego in 1867 he went into partnership with his father under the firm name of H.S. Condé and Son and continued in that capacity until 1874, when he took over the business. Swits was an active and involved citizen of the local community. He was a member of the Oswego Chamber of Commerce

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Miss Jones completed her research on the Conde family during the Spring of 1975 as a project of her eleventh year American Cultural Studies class at Oswego High School.

and of the Union League of the Huguenot Society and of the Riding and Republican Clubs, all of New York City where he also maintained a winter home. He was an enthusiastic yachtsman and a member of the yacht clubs of both Oswego and New York City. It is reported that he owned two magnificant yachts, *Ruth* and *Catherine C.* Swits was also involved with humane associations locally, as was his wife.

In 1873 Swits was married to Miss Apama I. Tucker, daughter of Churchill and Sarah (Morse) Tucker, of Fulton. It was a Wednesday, May 7, 1873, and many local people remember the bride as being an extremely beautiful redhead. From this marriage six children were born, four sons and two daughters: Harry Lewis, Leon, Swits Churchill, Richard Reginald, Ruth and Marie.

Mr. Condé was Oswego's most extensive manufacturer and largest employer. His life after 1867 was spent in developing his immense knit goods manufactory. The mills were located at the east end of the Utica Street bridge and were propelled by water and steam power, heated by steam and lighted by electricity and equipped with all the best modern machinery and the latest appliances known to the business. Mr. Condé himself invented more than forty separate appliances of practical utility from 1878 to roughly 1894. "No one manufacturer can excel this record as an inventive genius in this age of invention and development. Since 1874 the business transacted increased upwards of $1,500,000 per annum. These famous mills were one of the largest, best equipped, most extensive, and most important enterprises in its special line in the world. No other establishment had aided the city (Oswego) more in the channel of prosperity."[2]

Mr. Condé was president and treasurer of the Swits Conde Company which was formed by a combination of the Standard Yarn Company and the former Swits Condé Company; he was president and chief owner of Swits Condé Wool Company, incorporated 1900-01. He also founded and was president of the Mohawk River Manufacturing Company.

Mr. Condé possessed rare business ability and was held in the highest esteem by those he employed and by the citizens of Oswego. From an article of the Rochester *Post Express,* November 27, 1897: "It is said of Mr. Condé that it was his aim to please his patrons and furnish them with the best goods that could be manufactured. Mr. Condé is not only classed among the great manufacturers of this country, but is a gentle man highly respected, who has a reputation for liberality, reliability, and general excellent business methods . . ."[3]

Mr. Condé was known as a home man, an affectionate husband and father and a good and generous citizen in every way. He was also

a fine entertainer and his home, "Mon Repos," was the scene of many brilliant social functions. At the age of thirty eight Mr. Condé erected a fifteenth century style English manor house in Oswego at the northeast corner of West Fifth and Seneca Streets. Designed by Oscar S. Teale, a noted New York architect, it was reported to have cost $150,000; undoubtedly being the city's most costly residence.

Charles Snyder in his book *Oswego From Buckskins to Bustles* described the estate:

> "Mon Repos" taking two years to construct was not only elegant from its ornamental vane and finial surmounting its three story oriel but also from its sanitary appointments. The hall as well as the rooms on the first floor might be lighted from the second story by simply touching an electric button. In fact a similar button might illuminate both the gas lights and fireplaces. Electric bells signaled the servants and could be employed as a burglar alarm; also every discharge pipe was iron enameled on the inside and every trap used in the plumbing had separate ventilation pipes on the roof.[4]

"Mon Repos" represented something entirely new to Oswego architecture, and its exterior was a wide departure from what had come to be accepted standards in Oswego. Among the most noteable features of the house were broad, sweeping gables, a spacious balcony and massive Santo Domingan mahogany doors, profusely

"Mon Repos", completed in 1883 at the northeast corner of West Fifth and Seneca Streets; designed by Oscar S. Teale, a noted New York City architect.

ornamented with mouldings and carvings and the arch of graystone bearing the Condé coat-of-arms.

With such elegance at hand it was only appropriate that its opening after two years of construction should be the most elaborate and costly, reported to cost $10,000, in the city's history. It is said of the housewarming that it was "one of the most unique and elaborate parties ever given in Oswego-the new Condé mansion a scene of bewildering beauty-georgeous flowers, elegant toilettes—exquisite music, and a royal banquet."[5]

On the evening of June 7, 1883, Mr. and Mrs. Swits Condé, host and hostess "the latter resplendent in imported black satin with Catharine de Medice collar, black kid gloves to shoulder, pout lace and diamonds," entertained between three and four hundred honored quests. The invitations were issued about ten days in advance and consisted of an etching by Piton, of New York, and were printed in sepia, and "so exquisitely was the suggestion of a housewarming executed that Scribner's Magazine requested permission to reproduce the invitation as a work of art." It depicted the entrance hall of the house, where a huge fireplace, reported to have been once in a Condé mansion in France, was at one end and showed an excellent reproduction of the exterior of the house as well. Upon reaching the grounds a covered archway received the guests from the carriages, and protected them from the gaping crowd that numbered almost as many as the guests. The guests entered the house by the north entrance where they received dancing programs offered from silver trays by two Negro youths "in livery of the fifteenth century", and described by the press as "diminutive sons of Ham."

Music for the dancing, a combination of lanciers, quadrilles, galops, racquets and waltzes was furnished by the Utica Symphony Orchestra under direction of Professor Gustadt, positioned in the main hall in the very centre of the house.

Two florists, under Mr. W.C. Wilson of New York, had charge of the decorations, consisting mainly of large baskets of perfect roses, placed in every corner in the most lavish profusion. All of the plants used by the florists came from Mr. Condé's conservatory. The supper was ordered from Delmonico's of New York, but the contract was cancelled by the host when he learned that they could provide a buffet service only. Whereupon the catering staff of the Brunswick Hotel of New York served the supper. "The menu, in French, offered four entres classified as Chaud, included consomme a la Condé. There were eleven choices of Froid, and six sacres, in addition to desserts and beverages."

The guests themselves were another elaborate sight to behold, certain of them arriving from New York City by private railroad car on the Lackawanna, provided by the host. Other guests arrived from

From the collections of the Oswego County Historical Society.

Syracuse, Rochester, Utica, and upstate cities, as well as those invited from Oswego and Fulton. A complete list of the guests and their attire accompanies the *Palladium-Times* article of Friday, June 8, 1883.

After the housewarming there is little to be found concerning the Condé family until in 1886 with the death of Swits' son, Richard Reginald, a series of tragic events descended upon the family. The following article appeared in the Oswego *Daily Times-Express,* Monday Evening, March 2, 1886:

A Sad Affliction

Richard Reginald, son of Mr. and Mrs. Swits Condé, died last evening. The deceased was five years of age, and in life was a bright and sunny child. The blow falls all the heavier on the bereaved parents and the brothers and sisters of the departed one, because of its suddenness. On Tuesday of last week he was taken sick; on Wednesday he was very ill, and on Thursday the appearance of a rash gave the physicians knowledge that their patient was wrestling with the dreaded scarlet fever. The disease

baffled medical skill and the little sufferer passed away last evening. The time for the funeral has not yet been appointed, owing to the absence of Rev. H.H. Stebbins, D.D., from the city, whose presence the parents desire as the officiating clergyman.

The Oswego Daily *Times-Express* of Tuesday Evening, March 23, 1886, carried the further news about the services—that they would be conducted privately.

Then, another tragedy befell the family with the death of one of Swits' grandchildren. The Oswego *Daily Palladium,* Wednesday Evening, September 22, 1897, carried this note:

Died

Condé—at Oswego, New York, Wednesday, September 22, 1897, infant daughter of Swits Churchill and Laura R. Condé. Funeral private.[7]

Then, less than two years later, even the happy event of Swits' daughter, Marie's wedding on May 17, 1898, to L. Harding Rogers, Jr. was to be struck with tragedy. Marie Condé Rogers died on May 6, 1899, after giving birth to twin daughters, Laura and Marie C. on April 30, 1899. A few months later the twin Laura also died. The Oswego *Daily Palladium* of Monday Evening, September 5, 1899, carried the following:

Obituary

Laura Rogers

Laura Rogers, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lebbens Harding Rogers, died at the home of her grandfather, Mr. Swits Condé, in W. Fifth Street yesterday morning. Mrs. Rogers died May 6th last, one week after giving birth to twin daughters. The other child is quite ill and may not survive. Since their mother's death the babies have been at Mr. Conde's home. Mr. Rogers has been in the White Mountains, but is on his way home. The funeral services were held at the residence of Swits Condé at eleven o'clock Wednesday forenoon.[8]

Also in September of 1899 the following article ran in the *Palladium Times* showing that at age 55, Swits was still very active in business: "Mr. Condé's New Mill. A.H. Smith will start the work very soon. The People's Electric Power Lot has been practically secured. A new five-story building to be added to the present mill—a business that has grown rapidly."[9] The mill was to be of slow burning construction, with walls and floors of solid plank 5 inches thick. The addition will be 40 by 120 feet and 5 stories high. Present plant was

taxed to the utmost and was going night and day to keep up with orders for Mr. Condé's knit goods that come pouring in from all parts of the world.

However, accounts have it that two years later on November 12, 1901, Swits Condé quit his business and went to his home in New York City for rest and treatment for ill health. On December 23, 1901, Swits was taken seriously ill and continued to fail healthwise until his death on January 22, 1902. His death had a profound effect upon everyone in Oswego. The man was thought very highly of and was loved by those who knew him. His estate estimated to be worth about $1,000,000 was left largely to his wife, Apama.

In 1903 Swits' last surviving daughter, Ruth Condé Thorne, died on November 11th.

Mrs. Condé's will provided many clues to events that happened after her husband's death. The deeds in the Oswego County Clerk's office were also helpful. In book 279 of deeds on page 270 it shows that Apama Condé left the Oswego property "Mon Repos" to Harry L. and Leon Condé. This deed was dated in 1906 but for some unknown reason it was not filed until January 31, 1912. It states that on March 9, 1906, Apama Condé deeded the property known as lots 18, 19, 20 of Block 8 with exceptions for the sum of $1.00 and other consideration with a clause to reserve the use, possession, enjoyment, rents, issues and profits of the above described premises unto herself for and during the term of her natural life. In 1912 a collateral inheritance tax on $6,500 value was paid to avoid legal proceedings. A newspaper account of Thursday, June 11, 1908, in the Oswego *Daily Palladium* recalled the housewarming at the Condé home 25 years ago. A picture of the house accompanied an article about the affair and stated that the house was now on the market and had been for sale for some time for $35,000. Thus, a house which reportedly cost $150,000 to build in the early 1880's went begging for a buyer for less than one-fourth its cost.

The final demise of one of Oswego's most elaborate residences culminated with the death of Mrs. Condé on Friday, October 20, 1911, at 12:30 p.m. in "Mon Repos". The following obituary appeared in the Oswego *Daily Palladium,* Friday, October 20, 1911:

Mrs. Apama I. Condé

After an illness of several years which, however, only took a serious turn a few months ago, Mrs. Apama I. Condé, widow of Swits Condé, for many years one of Oswego's most prominent citizens, died at the family home, "Mon Repos", in West Fifth Street, at 12:30 o'clock this afternoon. For several days her life has

been despaired of, and her family were all at her bedside when the end came.

Mrs. Condé was born in Fulton in 1846, her maiden name being Apama I. Tucker. She married Mr. Conde on May 7, 1873, and, up to the time her health failed, was prominent in social circles in this city and New York, where the family maintained a winter home. She was charitable to the extreme, always, however, giving in an unostentatious way. She had for many years been an active member of Grace Church. Mr. Condé died about eleven years ago.

Surviving are three sons, Swits Churchill, Harry L., and Leon Condé and one sister, Mrs. Jennie L. Barnes, of Fulton. No arrangements for the funeral have yet been made.[10]

The following appeared in the Oswego *Daily Palladium,* Monday, October 23, 1911:

Funeral of Mrs. Condé

The funeral of Mrs. Swits Condé took place from the family home in West Fifth Street at two o'clock this afternoon and was strictly private. The services at the house were conducted by Doctor Steele, of Grace Church, of which society Mrs. Condé was a member. Burial was in the family mausoleum at Riverside Cemetery. The honorary bearers were F.G. Gage, Fulton; Major Taggert, Charles Kellogg, John Walrath, Charles Kalish, Albert Tucker and James P. Doyle.

The active bearers were Robert Henry, George Shurr, C.R. O'Hara, Joseph Danio, Fren G. Scheutzow, and Foster Monette.[11]

Mrs. Condé's will and settlement of her estate occupies one of the largest folders in the records at the Oswego County Surrogate's Court. After paying all debts and funeral expenses it left two sons, Harry L. and Leon, all stock owned by her in Swits Condé Wool Company (this company had been dissolved before her death however). Two sisters, Jennie L. Barnes and Arabella Tucker (deceased), received the use, possession, rents, issues, and profits of a store and dwelling in Fulton for their natural lives. Harry L. and Leon Condé were bequeated all the furniture, carpets, rugs, pictures, beds and bedding, dishes, crockery, and household goods in her residence in Oswego. They also received all of the china, cut glass, silver, and plated ware. Two clauses in the will delt with a $500.00 trust to maintain a cemetary lot and a $2,000.00 trust for upkeep of a mausoleum in Riverside Cemetery. The rest of the estate was to be converted to cash and the proceeds divided into sixteen equal shares.

Harry L. Condé received six (6) of these parts. Leon Conde also received six (6) parts. The third son, Swits Churchill was to be paid annually, for the rest of his life, the interest and income from the investment of three (3) of the parts. A grandson, George Conde Thorn, received one (1) part which was invested for support, maintenance, and education until age 21 when the trust would be paid over to him. Mrs. Condé stated in her will that she intentionally made no provision in her will in favor of her granddaughter, Marie Condé Rogers, of New York City for the reason, among others, that her father, L. Harding Rogers, her son-in-law, since the death of her daughter, Marie Condé Rogers, had done apparently everything in his power to injure and annoy her, and in numberous litigations had caused her a great deal of trouble and expense, and that he was amply able to care for his daughter provided he was disposed to do so.

It was further stated why Mrs. Conde had given to her two sons, Harry L. and Leon, a larger portion of her estate than she had given to her son, Swits Churchill. "Is that said Swits Churchill Condé has had large sums of money and a great deal of assistance financially and otherwise from both my late husband, and myself, and in arriving at the sum which I have devised and bequeathed to him I have taken into consideration such advancements and assistance."

There were three separate occasions on which codicils were added to this will. In March, 1908, Mrs. Condé changed her trust to the Riverside Cemetery to give directly to the cemetery the $2,000.00 in trust to maintain the mausoleum rather than having a bank handle it. On August 19, 1910, she appointed Leon Condé as co-executor (he had now come of legal age). On June 17, 1911, Harry L. and Leon were "bequeathed all my furniture, carpets, rugs, pictures, beds and bedding, dishes, crockery, household goods and furnishings of every name and nature wherever situate, share and share alike."

The names and residences of all the heirs were:

Harry L. Condé, Syracuse	son
Leon Condé, Syracuse	son
Swits Churchill Condé, Oswego	son
Jennie L. Barnes, Fulton	sister
Riverside Cemetery	
George Condé Thorne, N.Y. City	grandson, age 10 years
Catharine Condé, Oswego	granddaughter (Swits C. child)
Raynor Churchill Conde, Oswego	grandson (Switts C. child)

Mrs. Condé's will set off a series of legal proceedings which lasted until 1946. On November 18, 1911, the will was contested to no avail, by Marie C. Rogers by her father, L. Harding Rogers Jr. Laura R. Condé's daughter-in-law petitioned the court for the return of a 2½ carat diamond. The final decree, on June 2, 1913, showed

the sixteen equal shares to be worth $84,269.15 or $5,266.82 each. The estate had assets of $138,796.34 and liabilities of $48,741.10 which left $90,055.15 to be distributed to the heirs. This total did not include the house or any of its contents or the contents of their winter home in New York City which an extensive inventory showed to be valued at over $8,000.00 This inventory of the New York apartment is on record in file 55 C, Apama Condé, in Surrogates Court.

The original executors of the estate resigned in June of 1913, and Charles Peck of Mexico was appointed executor of a trust fund of $15,181.74 which was the trust fund set up for Swits Churchill Condé. In July 1922, Charles Peck resigned and the Second National Bank of Oswego was appointed to administer this trust fund. In 1946, Carolyn M. Condé widow and second wife of Swits Churchill, who had died on February 6, 1946, in Indiana, petitioned the court for settlement of the estate. She received $151.71 and Raynor, Catharine, Harry and Leon each received $3,003.57. Thus, the proceedings generated by Mrs. Condé's will were finally closed.

The interment record of Riverside Cemetery shows that Leon died in Minnesota in 1950, Harry Lewis was cremated in Syracuse in 1962, and his wife Edith K. Condé of Ogdensburg was cremated in 1970. It is assumed that the mausoleum in Riverside Cemetery is the final resting place for these and other members of the family previously mentioned. It sits on top of a small knoll surrounded by large old trees, and is constructed of brown stone and marble with green tile roof. The large metal doors are embossed with a crest assumed to be the Condé coat-of-arms. A discussion with the caretaker of the cemetery revealed that a surviving member of the family is unable to provide the needed funds for repair of the rear wall of the mausoleum. It must be assumed the funds provided by Mrs. Condé in her will for the repair and upkeep of the lot and mausoleum have been exhausted.

A drive by the site of the house, "Mon Repos", shows the caretakers cottage which fronts on West Fourth Street between Seneca and Schuyler Streets. It is a small white frame cottage with various colors of glass embedded in concrete near the roof of the house. The fraternity house on West Seneca Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets contains part of what was known as the children's playhouse. The records show that the home of Swits Churchill and Laura M. Condé was deeded to Laura R. Condé on the 27th of March, 1912, by Harry and Leon and their wives for the sum of $1.00. On September 26, 1916, Laura R. Condé sold this home to Margaret R. Poucher.

What became of the house, "Mon Repos" after Mrs. Condé's death? On August 9, 1913, Thomas McKay bought lots 18 and 19

which included the house and part of the estate. The deeds show that Joseph Bondy and William Rubin of Syracuse purchased on February 13, 1912 lots 19 and 20 of Block 8 which was the southwest corner of this block. The stable property of 65 West Fourth Street was also sold.

The probate records of the estate of Apama Condé include a list of bills paid by the executors. They indicate on June 17, 1912, the executors paid for ads for an auction sale. On July 1, $25.00 was paid to William Durie, auctioneer. Many people have told me of an auction sale held at the home. Thomas Tesoriero of W. Fifth Street now owns a bedroom set from the Conde home. Evidently the purchaser of the house also sold other things such as windows and doors and other useable items before the house was razed. Mrs. Constance Gagas now lives in a home on the corner of W. Fifth and Seneca on the site of "Mon Repos" and has told me that the ground there is full of stone and brick which makes gardening very difficult.

A fireplace from the Condé home is now located in the office of Dr. Donald Homik, D.D.S., at 148 West Fifth Street. It has an intricately carved front of dark wood with a clock in the center. When facing the fireplace to the left side of the clock the carving depicts an owl sitting in a tree with stars and a moon in the sky. On the right panel a rising or setting sun is depicted. A carved motto across the top says "let no harm befall hearth and hall". An elaborate brass molding and fireplace bottom indicates that this indeed was a focal point in "Mon Repos".

A private sale of clothing, furs, and jewelry and books was held in Syracuse and New York City. A partial listing of jewelry which was kept in a safety deposit box at City Savings Bank in Oswego lists, among other things, a 41 stone diamond necklace valued at $4,500.00 and a 5 carat single stone diamond ring valued at $550.00

Thus, "Mon Repos", its contents and the family members, who resided there in splendor and luxury (for I was told Mrs. Condé had her own laundress for her lingerie and clothing) have faded into the past. It is ironic that the home of Henry and Dorcas, Swits mother and father, has been purchased and restored by Mr. and Mrs. John Sincavage at 49 West Fifth Street while the elaborate home of Swits and Apama did not survive the first part of the century.

NOTES

[1] Churchill, John C. Landmarks of Oswego County (Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1895), p. 20.

[2] Rochester *Post Express,* November 27, 1897.

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] Synder, Charles M. *Oswego: From Buckskins to Bustles* (Post Washington: Ira J. Friedman, Inc. 1968), pp. 253-4.

[5] Oswego *Palladium-Times,* June 8, 1883.

[6] Oswego *Daily Times-Express,* March 2, 1886.

[7] Oswego *Daily Palladium,* September 22, 1897.

[8] *Ibid.,* September 5, 1899.

[9] Oswego *Palladium-Times,* September, 1899.

[10] Oswego *Daily Palladium,* October 20, 1911.

[11] *Ibid.,* October 23, 1911.

The Oswego Market House

Carol Green
Ilene Magram

Between the years of 1831 and 1836, Oswego became very prosperous as it experienced a sudden land boom. The land boom was chiefly due to the opening of the West to settlement, which sent thousands of prospective settlers and their freight moving westward through the Erie Canal and Oswego. Because of this, there was a need for a market-type building. In 1835 plans for the Market House, Oswego's first municipal building were begun.

The decision to build a market hall was made at a meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants of the village on April 21, 1835, at the American Hotel. As a result of the meeting, two resolutions were made:

1. That the President and Trustees be authorized to lease the whole or any portion of the Market Ground west of Water Street which had not already been leased by the corporation.
2. That the President and Trustees be authorized to construct and build a market house out of the moneys derived from the Market Ground.[1]

The two resolutions were accepted and the committee consisting of the Village President, Daniel W. Cole, and two trustees, Francis Rood and Orlo Steele, was formed. The committee's job was to obtain plans for the building and to estimate the expense entailed.

On June 4, this committee submitted the plan of the Washington Market Building on South Pearl Street in Albany to be used as the model, with slight internal alterations, for the Oswego Market House.

The plans were accepted and a new committee was appointed to choose the location, advertise for bids for erection and make arrange-

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Both residents of Oswego, Misses Magram and Green undertook their study of the Market House during the spring 1975 while students at Oswego High School.

ments for its construction.

The construction of the market building was largely financed by the income derived from the leases and rents of the sixteen market lots known as the "Market Ground." The sixteen lots, twenty-two by fifty feet, half fronting on Water Street and half fronting on West First Street were offered for sale by the Trustees on July 1, 1829.

The site determined for the market building was what was then known as "Market Block 26." This was a section of a piece of land lying on the west bank of the river between Bridge and Cayuga Streets, and the river and West First Street.

On June 22, 1835, Jacob N. Bonesteel was contracted for the construction of the building. The estimated cost of the building was $7,965. The contract made with Bonesteel was accepted by the Village Board on July 9.

It is believed that Philip Hooker, one of the finest architects of the early Republic and designer of the Washington Market Building in Albany designed the Oswego Market House. However, there is no contract verifying this belief.

On March 10, 1836, the Board voted that the contractor be instructed to add a third story instead of the two stories under the original plan. This was done because of the conviction that the village held a great destiny.

Later that year, the village of Oswego determined upon the erection of the Market House to house the village jail, courts, offices, with a large assembly hall on the third floor open for public meetings. They expected that the rents received from leasing out space on the ground floor to meat and fish produce dealers would

Perhaps the earliest view of Oswego showing the Market House to the left. Ca. 1842. *Oswego County Historical Society collection.*

provide funds for retiring the indebtedness incurred in connection with the construction of the building.

On April 26, 1837, when the building was almost completed, the Village President, George H. McWhorter, gave a report on the condition and cost of the building. The cost of the third story had been doubled that originally estimated. "The total cost of the Market Building was $17,777.09. The receipts for the sale of the Market Ground were $13,082.24, its unused assets $2,830.25, the debt was therefore $1,864,90, but since the building would provide immediately a source of revenue the rents of the ensuing year yielding probably $1,100, in a brief period the President predicted, it would be contributing to the annual resources of West Oswego."[2]

A view of the Market House from the east bank of the Oswego River. Austen & Oliver, photographers, ca. 1860. *Oswego County Historical Society collection.*

The building which was started at the height of the boom in 1835, was completed in the midst of the Panic of 1837. Between 1837 and 1848 the building was financially a failure. In addition to the Panic, the rivalry between the eastsiders and the westsiders was a contributing factor in this failure.

McWhorter's successor, David P. Brewster, received authority from the Board on June 16, 1837, to borrow $6,000 with interest not exceeding 7%, payable twice a year for a period between five and twenty years. This loan was used to meet the unpaid cost of constructing the Market Building. The loan was made by Isaac Bronson of New York City. He took as part of his security, a mortgage on the Market Building and market lot.

The building was constructed of wood, stone and brick. The stone was furnished by Moses P. Hatch. He furnished 212 cords of stone

for the foundation. In payment, he was assigned two market leases valuing $1,829. Jacob N. Bonestreet also accepted two leases in partial payment for extra construction work. U.G. White was given one market lease for painting the building.

On May 1, 1837, at the Village meeting, it was decided that the newly erected Market Building be called the Market House of the Village. Also at the meeting, provisions for the butchers and victuallers were made.

The Market House can be described as having unity, good architecture quality, simplicity of design, good proportions, and structional features suited to its functions.

The main entrance door is exactly the same on both the east and west side. The glass above the door was cut and leaded together to represent meridians intersecting the globe. This design was also over the main door of the interior. The river side of the building was considered the front.

The ground floor is a series of arches. It has five on either side of the main entrance arch, both on the Water Street and riversides and three on the north and south faces. They all served as entrances to the market stalls north of the main entrance, and to offices south of it from the port surrounding the entire ground floor. This is interrupted only on the Water Street side by a flight of stone steps leading to the entrance. The first floor was originally divided into three main sections. On each side of the entrance hall there were circular stairways ascending to the second and third floors. The hall opened into a large, almost square room facing the river. The rooms at either side of the hall were of equal size. There were eight wooden pillars in each room supporting an arched ceiling.

The second and third floors had a row of large windows, one over each arch and three over the east and west main entrance arches extending around all four sides. The center entrance sections, twenty six feet in width and about one fifth of both the west and east facades, project about one foot beyond the main wall thru breaking what would otherwise have been a monotonous series of arches. The roof of this section is slightly higher than the main portion and terminates in rather a flat gable.

The second story has two large main rooms, the North Hall and the South Hall, connected by a long corridor. In between there are smaller rooms.

The third floor was one single room, thirty-three feet wide and one-hundred twenty feet long. The ceiling is arched and its highest point is thirteen and a half feet high. There were windows on all sides totalling thirty two. Unlike the lower rooms, there are no interior columns in the large space. Instead there are massive trusses. The room had very good acoustics.

"Oswego Harbor" as photographed by John Austen on November 11th, 1869. *Oswego County Historical Society collection.*

On top of the roof there was a cupola of Victorian and Mansard style. On April 27, 1836, a committee representing the Mechanic's Association asked for permission to place a bell in the cupola and be allowed to ring it when they choose. Apparently the proposal was not accepted because the cost of the bell was included in the total cost of the building.

However, plans were changed and a contract for a clock was negotiated for with Jekiel Clarke. In this contract he agreed to accept $450 in payment on Oct. 9, 1837. This was one month after he and his son had installed the clock in the cupola.

The basement was one large area used primarily for a jail and storage purposes. According to the Common Council Proceedings of 1859, the north end of the basement was used for cheap lodging for prisoners and vagrants. The south end was leased to the Northwestern Insurance Company for storage of coal. They were also allowed to keep their steam tug at the wharf and were given a section of land six feet from the dock to the door of their storeroom. The central part of the basement known as the "Black Hole" was used for the storage of liquor. There was no county jail in Oswego until 1853. The occasional prisoners were kept in the Market prison and the more permanent ones were sent to Pulaski.

The north section of the first floor was designed as a market. On April 20, 1837, the five stalls were leased at minimum price of $50 for one year. They were designed for the sale of fish, meats and

vegetables. On May 1, 1837, Webster S. Steele became the clerk of the market and keeper of the village prison. Later, on August 6, 1838, the position became two separate jobs. Charles C. Rumrill became clerk of the Market and Steele kept the position of keeper of the prison. The duties of the market clerk and keeper of the prison were to care for and wind the town clock, and keep the passages, public rooms, and unoccupied stalls in the market swept and clean. They were paid seventy-five cents a day for these services.

On May 1, 1837, the first lessee of the building, Samuel Hawley, the village postmaster, took possession. He had applied for a two year lease of the south end of the market, October 6, 1836. At the end of the two years Hawley renewed his lease but later resigned as the result of a petition from the people for his removal. John H. Lord was then appointed postmaster. Hawley was accused of being an active sympathizer with the Canadian Patriots then in rebellion against the British Crown. He was also accused of being involved in an American Patriot expedition fitted out at Oswego in direct violation of the national government's Neutrality Law and policy. It was claimed that arms to be sent on the expedition were stored in the section of the basement beneath the post office and that Hawley witnessed the loading of the two schooners, the *Charlotte of Oswego* and the *Charlotte of Toronto* which took place at the Market dock in plain view of the post office windows. As a high ranking officer, Hawley was accused of not trying to thwart these acts against Britain with whom the United States was at peace.

At a Village Board meeting in April 1842, a resolution was adopted stating that the Custom House, along with the post office, should be located in the Market House. It was requested that the village postmaster and the U.S. Collector of Customs at this port rent their offices in this building. The postmaster agreed and the two south sections of the building continued to be used as the Oswego Post Office until 1859.

On May 15, 1851, the O'Reilly Telegraph Company leased an office on the first floor but stayed there less than a year.

In 1859, the Recorder and Chief of Police occupied the north end of the first floor. The room immediately south to that was occupied by J.B.C. Morris's insurance business. The room south to that was occupied by the Board of Education. Dr. E.A. Sheldon, Oswego's first superintendent of city schools had his office there. The room south to that may have been an express office used by L.L. Kenyon. The room at the end was used by the postmaster who was S.R. Beardsley at the time.

The three tenants occupying the first floor for the longest period of time were the postmaster, Robert Oliver and J.B.C. Morris. The post office included stalls three, four and five, plus a private office

for the postmaster paid for by the U.S. Government. The five original meat stalls were occupied for only a short time after 1837. By 1848 all of the meat stalls were converted into offices, except numbers one and two, which were owned by Robert Oliver. In 1856 he withdrew his business from the stalls and ended one of the phases of the building. From 1852 through 1861, J.B.C. Morris used one of the former market stalls for his insurance office.

On May 13, 1836, Oswego Mechanics and Manufacturers Association was organized by David Harmon, Jr., Martin Curtis, Richard Oliphant, Elias W. Warner, John Carpenter, David Ayer and Augustus Adkins. It was a social organization with a meeting room located in the North Hall of the second floor of the Market House. The organization sponsored lectures related to the mechanic arts and other educated subjects. Another of it's purposes was to form collections of interesting exhibits. The room was called the Mechanics Hall.

On January 29, 1838, at 7:00 P.M., an annual meeting of the Village was held in the Market House for the first time. The meeting was held in the "public room" which was probably the South Hall. Later that year, permission was given to a Mr. Barrett to use the South Hall for teaching a course of "grammical lectures" as long as it did not interfere with the public meetings. The two smaller rooms were used as a police office and office of the Market Clerk.

On August 29, 1838, a large and respectable public meeting of the citizens was held in the South Hall to plan for the reception of ex-President Monroe. He was then at Sackets Harbor and was expected to arrive in Oswego aboard the Government S.S. *Oneida.* He landed at the outer harbor but was not entertained at the Market House. However, on August 30, 1839, President Van Buren, while still in office, visited Oswego. A citizen's meeting was held at the Market House to make plans for his reception. A large reception committee was formed at the meeting. The reception for the President was given at the Welland House.

In 1848, the Market House was renamed the City Hall, upon the chartering of the city government. It's offices occupied the entire second floor. The South Hall was used for the Supreme Court. The room to the east of the corridor was used by the Recorder while holding the police court. The room to the west became the City Collector's office. The North Hall was converted to the Common Council Chamber.

Soon after Oswego had received it's city charter, there arrived in

Oswego as a gift from Lieutenent John Porter Hatch, a chair, known locally as "The Chair of Montezumas". John Porter Hatch, a native of Oswego, was a Lieutenent in the Mexican War, recently graduated from West Point. With the chair came a note telling the history of it. It was presented to the city as the chair to be occupied by the first mayor of Oswego and his successors while presiding at sessions of the Common Council. The chair, now in use for over 125 years, and in a good state of preservation, first graced the Council Chamber in the Old City Hall which was still in use when Oswego became a city. Twenty-four years later, it was moved to the new City Hall, where it occupies a prominent position in the Council Chamber. The inscription which appears upon an engraved silver plate, attached to the back on the chair, facing forward, reads:

From the National Palace
in the City of Mexico
Presented by Lieut. John Porter Hatch
U.S.A., of the City of
Oswego, to the Common Council
as a seat for the Mayor.
October 20, 1848

The chair, once upholstered in red plush, is now reupholstered in black leather. Its woodwork is of dark mahogany. The chair is still in good condition.

The Supreme Court room had a variety of uses. The Universalist Society was given permission to use it on alternate Sundays. The next year the city leased it to the county for the County Court use. In 1852, the Reverend J.S. Davenport used it for his court lectures. The Board of Supervisors were offered the room for their sessions in 1853. In 1854, The Oswego Tract Society was occupying it every Thursday evening. After 1860, the Seamen's Temperance Society held its meetings there.

In 1852, gas fitting for lighting was installed in City Hall. In 1855, lightning rods were attached to the building.

On May 19, 1857, a City Hall committee purchased a new clock from Wendell & Brother's Jewelers, for City Hall. On June 23, of that same year, the old town clock was given to St. Mary's Church. When the new City Hall was built, another clock was purchased. According to old photographs of 1880, the second clock was still in place, but, what became of it is unknown. It is possible that when the cupola collapsed, the clock went with it.

Messrs. Russell and Lyne applied for a one year lease to use the third floor as a theater and place of public assembly. After much dissent they were finally given one on March 24, 1837.

The third floor served as both drill hall and hall for annual balls of the Oswego Guards. They had been organized on July 19, 1838, at a meeting held at the Market House. Organization of the Oswego Guards was determined upon as a home defense measure during the turbulent times then at hand. Sidney T. Hurlbut was elected captain, James Ransome, lieut., and Zodac Strong, ensign. Drilling was started at once on the third story of the Market House.

The 1848, sixty stands of arms, tents, and camp equipment were secured from the State Commissary General for the Oswego Guards on the condition that they be kept in the Market House at all times when not in use. The Oswego Brass Band also shared these quarters with the Guards.

Twenty feet of the south end of the third story was partitioned off for the use of a gun room. Later, the Oswego Brass Band was granted the use of this section of the hall, too.

By 1854, public dances were commonly held on the third floor. In June of that year, the Common Council forbade the use of this room or any other room in City Hall for such purposes. This was repealed by the Peck and Fairtile petition. On November 15, 1854, holiday season balls were resumed and usually sponsored by the Ontario and Rescue Engine Companies.

It was suggested by Lucius B. Crocker, and a committee looking for a new sight for City Hall, that the entire Market House be put up for sale. This was proposed because of the increased commercial and mercantile purposes of the building, reduced its value for city use.

On May 11, 1853, Mr. H. Hutchinson, president of the Oswego-Syracuse Railroad, had made a proposal to purchase the City Hall premises and use it as a company depot. This suggested to the committee a profitable sale of the building and grounds. No action was taken and so Mr. Hutchinson later made two new proposals:

1) That the basement and city owned land south of Bridge Street, including the wharf in front of each, be leased to them for a period of ten years. He also wanted to be allowed to renew and use the land south of the City Hall indefinately after the termination of the lease.

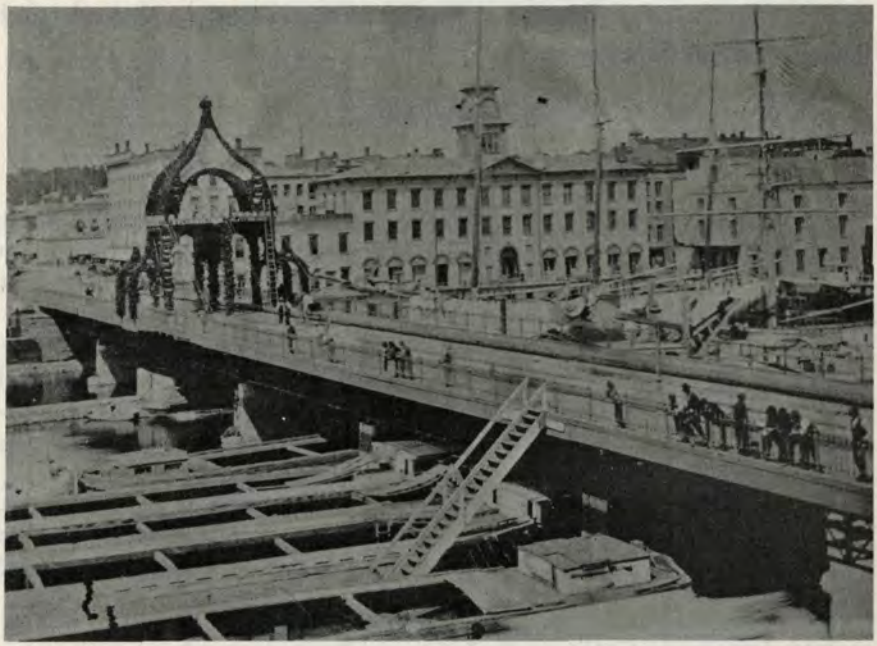
2) He wanted permission to lay tracks on the Water Street.

This request was granted with the understanding that in case of the need for the street to be altered, the Common Council shall have the right to require the company to remove the tracks.

Because the Oswego-Syracuse Railroad Company needed a main depot for shipments of coal to Canada and the Western states and needed a freight depot for the accommodation vessels and steamers with cargo transferred to the Company they acquired the City Market Block 26. This improved the prosperity of the city because the improvement made by the company would link the Oswego-Syracuse Line with New York through establishing a working arrangement with the Syracuse-Binghamton Road. This gave Oswego a wider market for malt, starch, barley, flour, feed, grain, and manufactured articles. The entire market block was sold to the Railroad Company for 20,000 dollars. The deed of sale from the City was dated July 19, 1864.

While plans for a new City Hall were being made, the City leased the second and third stories of the Market House and the section of the first floor occupied by the Police Department and the Board of Education from the Railroad. In 1886, the annual rent was $900 for these rooms and $150 for the city jail.

The Market House ceased to be the public building that it once was around December 1, 1871. This was when the last of the city offices was transferred to the new City Hall.



An 1876 view of the Market House following its sale to the D.L. & W. Railroad and subsequent physical changes, including a new clock tower. *Oswego County Historical Society collection.*

During the early 1900's, the building had acquired a number of occupants. It was no longer used for railroad purposes except as to the right of way along the location of the old dock.

John S. Parsons had a ship chandlery on the first floor, south of the main Water Street entrance for about thirty-six years. The lettering above his shop may be found today on the riverside of the building. Mr. Parsons had a portion of the South circular stairway in the Water Street entrance removed so that a freight elevator could be installed. The North end of the first floor was occupied by the Oswego Door, Sash, and Glass Company under the ownership of Charles J. Wiley for a long period of time. The Company later passed into the hands of Peter Raby, Jr. The original lettering can be found to the right of the ship chandlery lettering. John T. Donovan, who was a clerk for the Parson business, later took the business over under the name of the Oswego Marine Supply.

The Ontario Telephone Company had an office on the second floor. This can still be located today by the lettering on the door. The Oswego Board of Trade had its office and meeting place on this floor for more than half a century.

The Chaffee Business College was located on the third floor. Shorthand symbols taught in the school were left on a blackboard on the third floor for quite a while, but are no longer there.

The Market House, now used primarily for warehouse purposes and pigeon living quarters, can not be seen easily as the beautiful building that it once was. It stands today crowded by surrounding buildings, altered in some detail, evidencing years of neglect. Portions covered with peeling paint make it difficult to appreciate the whole form. Also, random modifications of windows and doors disrupt the unity of their original design. Actually though, the Market House has been altered very little. The only changes made have been touching up the color and detail. The Market House which stands today is much as it was 140 years ago. The destruction of the building would be a disastrous error from the aspect of architectural history.

The Urban Renewal Program encourages selective preservation of valuable buildings but will not provide funds for restoration of them. The present uselessness of the building is not because the building itself is useless, but because the neighborhood that it is located in has become functionally obsolete. There is little through traffic by vehicles and pedestrians on Water Street and the narrowness of the street discourages the little bit that does take place. Ironically, though, this might have helped isolate the building from the mutilations of progress. The building is almost hidden by the surrounding buildings. They are too close together and two large building blocks across the narrow street detract from the original

size and form of the Market House. The WOSC building hides the Market House from its principal public vantage point.

A renewal program in Oswego could reveal a new, or very old city. The restored Market House would be one of the most prominent buildings of the city. It would be particularly attractive for any use because of its special character and waterside situation. The main floor might again become a market or shopping arcade. The types of shops appropriate would be some sort of speciality shops appealing to the recreational visitors during the summer, and the college visitors during the winter. The commercial use of the main floor could provide some economic return on the cost of restoration. The original public rooms of the upper floors might be developed for more civic or cultural purposes. Oswego has been proposed as an appropriate location for the center of the marine history and because of the Market House's location on the water, this would be a suitable place for such a program. There are also possibilities of having professional offices of local corporation in the building.

When we look at the restoration from a more realistic point of view, we find many more obstacles that have to be overcome. There is no heating, plumbing, or lighting that could be saved. The exits are inadequate from the upper floors. New finishes are required on all interior surfaces and the exterior requires a good cleaning. Duplication of missing architectural details would require a craftsmanship that is very costly on todays scale. If this building is demolished and replaced by another which will pay its own way economically, on the competive market, it would probably be a building of simple characteristics. The use of the building as history and craftsmanship would be lost.

If the people of Oswego are willing to accept a modern speculative building and see no greater value in the historic Market House, there can be no argument to preserve it. But, if the building's value is understood, then the community should be willing to accept the difference in the cost of restoring this building and constructing a new one.

A restored Oswego Market House, regardless of its use, would stand as a central feature of the townscape and contribute to the sense of civic identity. The Market House should not only be preserved and restored for its rarity and historical importance but also for the fact that there are not very many 140-year old houses around. It is hoped that the building can be restored to the civic center it used to be. It is also hoped that the building will once again be a site of local pride.

NOTES

[1] Mahar, Marion. "Old Market House, Oswego's First City Hall," Oswego County Historical Society, *Yearbook,* 1943, p. 64.

[2] *Ibid.*, p. 66.