ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

VOL. 25 NO. 2 $5.00 FALL / WINTER 2012

IN THIS ISSUE:

Barnes vs. Roosevelt:

Theater in the Courtroom

Teddy Roosevelt(r) on his way to court in the Barnes vs. Roosevelt trial, 1915
Can you tell us where Teddy is?

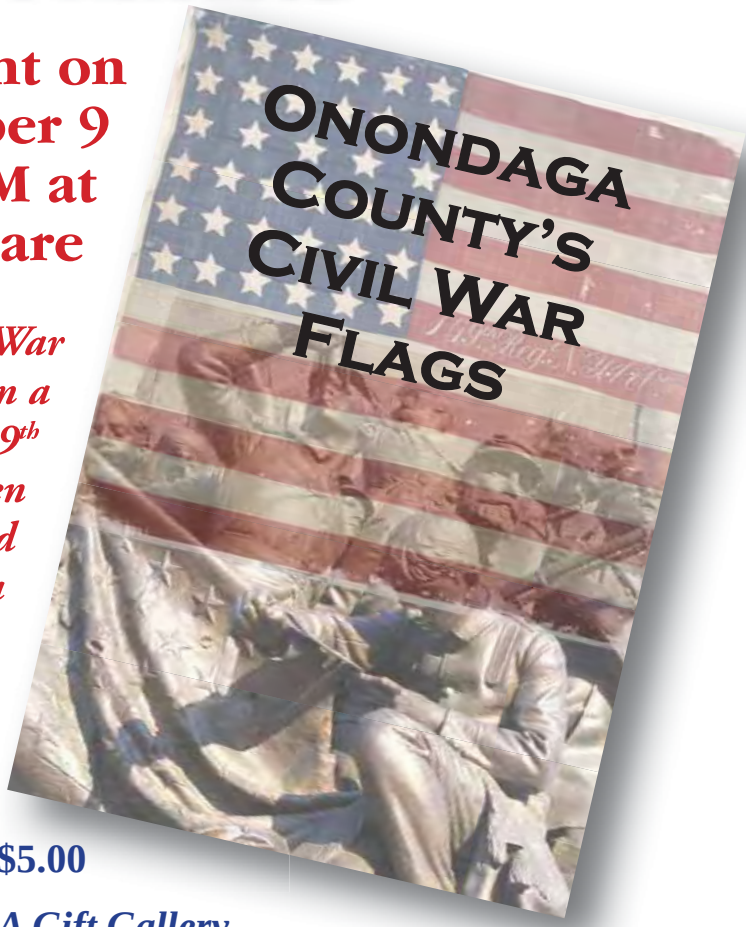
OHA

Onondaga County's Civil War Flags Booklet to Be Released

OHA
ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
MUSEUM
RESEARCH CENTER
& GIFT GALLERY

Special Sale Event on Tuesday, October 9 at 11:30 AM at Clinton Square

Come watch as Civil War re-enactors perform a drill with authentic 19th century muskets. Listen to taps being played on a Civil War-era instrument. The event is FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



Booklet available for sale at the event for $5.00

Also available at the OHA Gift Gallery

The cover of *Onondaga County's Civil War Flags*, shown above, depicts the story of Color-Sergeant William C. Lilly. From page 8:

> *At Culp's Hill on July 3, 1863, the third day at Gettysburg, eighty-eight Confederate bullets passed through this flag* (the first national colors of the 149th NYVI Regiment). *The staff was hit many times, and, at last, was severed. Color-Sergeant William C. Lilly climbed over the redoubt wall and retrieved the flag in the face of Confederate fire. Then he knelt and mended the staff with splints from a cracker box and straps from a knapsack. The scene is depicted in bronze on the regiment's memorial at Gettysburg and on the west panel of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Clinton Square, Syracuse. Lilly was fatally wounded at Wauhatchie that October. Post #66, Grand Army of the Republic, was named in his honor.*

Lilly's staff can be viewed at the Onondaga County Courthouse.

Onondaga Historical Association
321 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY cnyhistory.org

ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

VOL. 25 NO. 2 $5.00 FALL / WINTER 2012

ON THE COVER

Tell us exactly where Teddy is for your chance to win a prize. Send us your guess on our facebook page.

DEPARTMENTS

OHA IN THIS ISSUE

ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

OHA www.cnyhistory.org

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Onondaga Historical Association has engaged Dupli for the design and printing of this magazine. Design by Mary Walker.

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OHA IN THIS ISSUE

OUR GLORIOUS WORKPLACES – CHUCK HAFNER'S FARMERS MARKET, November 17, 2012

By Lynne Pascale

Chuck Hafner's Farmers Market, Buckley Road, North Syracuse

On the vessel *Kroonland,* sailing in August of 1908 to Ellis Island with 817 fellow passengers on board, traveled Louis and Christine Hafner from southern Germany, with their three young sons and infant daughter, eager to join their relatives living in Syracuse, NY. It was from these roots in the early part of the 20th century that George Hafner and his son Chuck and their families grew their North Syracuse farm and retail businesses to become one of the best-known, family-run enterprises in Onondaga County. On November 17, to celebrate the history and impact of this well-respected company, Onondaga Historical Association is proud to have this year's *Our Glorious Workplaces* gala at Chuck Hafner's Farmers Market on Buckley Road in North Syracuse.

The 65,000 square foot, state-of-the-art garden center with seven greenhouse structures will be the location for the *Glorious* evening's events. Cocktails will be followed by tours given by Chuck Hafner's staff and family members of some of the four acres of growing greenhouses in the expansive facility. The dinner menu, prepared by 2012 chef of the year Chance Bear of Parisa Restaurant, will be inspired in part by Linda Hafner's popular book, *Simple, Fresh and Healthy: A Collection of Seasonal Recipes*. Dinner will take place in a glass-enclosed space, graced with a fountain and filled with seasonal decorations, situated next to *Jolime*, the garden center's bakery and café.

Don't miss this fabulous event. Tickets are $195 per person and include cocktails, a garden center and nursery tour, dinner, a presentation by Dennis Connors, OHA's Curator of History, and a commemorative twelve-inch plate with images depicting Chuck Hafner's Farmers Market history. There will be a raffle as well. For reservations, to become a sponsor, or more information, please call Lynne Pascale at 428-1864, ext. 314.

Greenhouse at Chuck Hafner's Farmers Market

GHOSTWALKS OF OHA, PAST AND FUTURE

By Scott Peal

The second Historic Oakwood Ghostwalk "*Return to Oakwood*" on June 15, 16, 22, and 23 drew sold out crowds to the oldest section of the cemetery to meet individuals who played roles in the Salt City's History. The five visitors from the past included: "Doc" Henry Denison, who practiced medicine in the 19th century prior to turning to business and becoming a member of the "Syracuse Canal Ring" which allegedly bilked New York State out of large sums of money for Erie Canal construction; Mary Amelia Dana Hicks Prang, well

Guide Matthew MacVittie

"Doc" Henry Denison played by Ed Mastin

known artist and art educator, who at age 86 received her graduate degree from Harvard; Civil War General Edwin Vose Sumner, whose extensive military exploits made him a hero; Adelaide White, wife of wealthy firefighter, Hamilton Salisbury White and a singer and inventor in her own right; and finally, Grace Crouse, secret wife of millionaire Edgar Crouse who became embroiled in the most sensational court case of the day in Onondaga County.

New personalities from the past were encountered in the Historic Fall Ghostwalk "**Lakeside Views**" held in Liverpool.

Harriet Grace Eula Norris Wilson Crouse Kosterlitz Von Potulicka, played by Nancy Roberts

Adelaide White, played by Kate Huddleston

Civil War General Edwin Vose Sumner, played by David Baker

Mary Amelia Dana Hicks Prang, played by Heather Roach

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION:

100 Years of the Girl Scouts, as Told Through the Story of Founder, Daisy Gordon Low

By Gregg A. Tripoli

To be honest, as a man with a serious sweet tooth, whenever I heard "Girl Scouts," I immediately thought of cookies. Since conducting research I have done to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts, I have a newly developed respect and admiration for the organization and the Girl Scouts have a new meaning to me. I now think of things like character and confidence building, self-realization, the development of social, and entrepreneurial skills, a respect for, and admiration of the great outdoors, and, perhaps most of all, I think of the founder of the Girl Scouts, Juliette Kinzie Gordon Low, known all over the world as *Daisy*.

The history and evolution of the Girl Scouts often mirrors the personal history and evolution of Daisy:

- A strong sense of adventure tempered by the social importance of proper etiquette and behavior
- A progressive attitude founded in traditional values
- A journey of self-realization with an emphasis on the charitable concept of helping others

Daisy's story is a tremendously compelling and inspirational one – so much so that I would like to relate the history of the Girl Scouts through the life of Daisy Low, because both are stories that everyone should know and can benefit from.

Daisy was born in Savannah, Georgia on October 31, 1860, but to really understand her, as well as the basic concept of the organization she founded, it is necessary to go back a bit further in time.

Her maternal ancestors helped settle the state of Illinois and founded the city of Chicago, when that unsettled part of our new nation was considered the wild west. Her great grandfather, John Kinzie, was an Indian trader and adventurer whose strong sense of character and fairness endeared him to the Native Americans. It was only somehow appropriate that John's wife, Eleanor, was actually captured by Native Americans when she was nine years old. Her younger sibling, who was also captured, and was murdered, but Eleanor's determination, drive, and high spiritedness caught the attention and admiration of the great Haudenosaunee chief, Cornplanter, who adopted her as his sister. She was named "Little Ship Under Full Sail," and she lived among the Natives as an Indian princess for four years before Cornplanter was convinced to return her to her family.

John and Eleanor's son John Harris Kinzie, Daisy's maternal grandfather, followed in his father's footsteps, and eventually mastered 13 different Indian dialects. John Harris married a refined, cultivated, well-educated woman named Juliette (Daisy's namesake) from a very prominent New England family. She also had an adventurous side and she eagerly traveled back to the frontier wilderness with her new husband by riverboat. As one of the first white women in that part of the country, and privy to the amazing first-hand accounts of her in-laws, Juliette understood the importance of documenting history. She wrote and illustrated a book about this early settler life titled *Wau-bun*, that is still widely circulated. In it, she gives a hint of the familial trait later inherited by her granddaughter as she writes lovingly of nights spent around the campfire.

John and Juliette had a daughter named Eleanor (after her grandmother) who was

Juliette Gordon Low was newly married when this portrait was painted, circa 1887. Her nickname was "Daisy."

called Nellie. She was beautiful, strong-willed and mischievous to the point of naughtiness, but in a good-natured way. Her rebellious nature was handed down to her daughter, Daisy.

Daisy's paternal ancestors were prominent southerners and her grandfather, William Washington Gordon I was one of the founders of the Savannah Cotton Exchange. He also built the Central of Georgia Railroad, which helped make Savannah a major port city. His house, known for generations as Gordon House, where Daisy was born, is now owned by the Girl Scouts and serves as a memorial to her. Daisy's mother, Nellie, married William Washington Gordon II whom she met by literally "bumping" into him as she slid down a banister at Yale, where he was a student. Daisy's father was the rock of the family and his motto, which was instilled in all of his children, was "Duty, Courage, Loyalty." One of his sons described him as "the hand of steel in a velvet glove."

Daisy was a stubborn, fun-loving, kind-hearted, athletic, artistic, well-liked, impeccably honest, and tomboyish girl who loved people and animals. She was well educated and quick witted, like most of the women in her family, and certainly "well-heeled," befitting from her prominent lineage on both sides. Her vivaciousness and impulsiveness, combined with a life-long forgetfulness, established her reputation as a brilliant eccentric at a young age.

She was also, for most of her young adult life, profoundly unhappy and listless. Though she was always the "belle of the ball," she was never truly satisfied with the seemingly purposeless life of the southern debutante. At the age of 26, she married a handsome wealthy English nobleman, with whom she was desperately in love and, for a while, she excelled brilliantly playing the part of the wealthy, witty hostess who dazzled the international set with her beauty, brains, clothes, jewels, and her tastefully decorated mansions in England and Savannah. But deep down she constantly longed for, in her words, "a more useful sphere of work."

Daisy was emblematic of many 19th century women who were frustrated at the restrictions society placed on them. Unless forced to, because of pecuniary circumstances, it was unseemly for women to develop a professional life. And for those who *were* forced to, professional opportunities for women were scarce at best. As the 19th turned to the 20th century, however, things began to slowly change as society became more progressive due to an increase in women's rights and self-consciousness.

Daisy's marriage ended unhappily and childless as her estranged, and unfaithful, husband eventually drank himself to death in 1905, leaving her a widow at 45 years old. A diary entry at around this time of her life spoke to the depth of her misery as she wrote, "my life brings forth nothing but leaves a wasted life."

In 1911, Daisy met Sir Robert Baden-Powell, an English military hero whose wilderness skills, and whose book, *Aid to Scouting*, helped form the basis for the beginning of the Boy Scouts in England in 1908. The organization proved popular and attractive to English girls as well, and Baden-Powell convinced his sister, Agnes, to start the Girl Guides. Daisy became an enthusiastic supporter. The tenets of the Guides resonated with Daisy, who felt a strong attachment to the ideals of honesty, duty, loyalty, kindness, comradeship, and cheerfulness, while also stressing practical educational activities, adventure, skill development, athleticism, and the wilderness.

Sir Robert Baden-Powell and Lady Baden-Powell during their 1919 visit to the United States with Juliette Low, National President of the Girl Scouts. Photograph courtesy of Bachrach.

In so many ways, Daisy's life and the influences of her family's heritage and experiences had perfectly prepared her for this mix of traditional morals and ideals with an adventuresome spirit in communion with nature. She immediately put to good use the practical skills honed on the frontier and handed down through generations of her own family as she started a Girl Guide troop among the impoverished girls in the Scottish valley where she was spending the summer. She taught them to raise chickens and spin wool so they could earn a living and remain in their beloved countryside without having to migrate to the factories of big cities. Returning to London, she started two more troops and recruited other adults to keep them going before heading back to Savannah for the winter. Upon her arrival in Savannah, with 40 copies of the Girl Guides handbook, she called her cousin, Nina Pape, who was the principal of a local girls' school and said the words that are now famous, "Come right over! I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and all America, and all the world, and we're going to start it tonight."

Daisy finally found her purpose and a way to provide the self-reliance for millions of girls that she herself had been longing for her entire life. On March 12, 1912, the Girl Scouts were organized in the U.S., though they were known as Girl Guides until 1913, when Daisy opened a national office in Washington, D.C. Daisy registered her niece, Margaret Eleanor Gordon (also nicknamed Daisy), as the first Girl Scout. That same day, the first scouts were taught how to tie knots, build a fire, cook outdoors, and play tennis, which were all great novelties for girls in 1912.

Not surprisingly, one of the biggest inducements for girls to join scouting was - the clothes! Before I am accused of sexist stereotyping, though, I must point out that a uniform was also a major draw for the boys who became interested in scouting. Daisy, who was certainly no stranger to fashion, helped design the Girl Scout uniform, knowing it would be a major incentive for girls to join. At an early meeting of the Board, as Daisy was nearing 50 years old, she also displayed the athletic skills that were very important to her as she stood on her head to show off the newly designed Girls Scout shoes, which she was wearing at the time.

As Daisy did everything whole-heartedly, she completely committed herself to scouting. Based on what she knew from the English Guides, Daisy began designing the structure and programs for her Girl Scouts. Combining Baden-Powell's techniques with the camping skills that were handed down, and written down, by her grandmother, she included camping, and outdoor survival skills that she knew would build character and self-reliance. She used her well-tuned social skills, her contacts, and her considerable gift at motivating and recruiting people to get everyone she knew involved. Daisy learned from her father how to be the "hand of steel in a velvet glove," and consequently, many of the early leaders had personal ties to Daisy. Because she was so charismatic and strong-willed she was generally hard to say "no" to, but when she really, really wanted something – she was almost impossible to turn down because, pardon the pun, Daisy could be one tough cookie. She even enlisted President Woodrow Wilson's wife to be the honorary president of the Girl Scouts; a tradition that continues for First Ladies today. The Girl Scouts gave Daisy something to live for, and in them she found the children she wanted but never had.

Through scouting, Daisy provided leadership opportunities for women that were unavailable elsewhere, and she established the first Leadership Training School in Boston in 1917. She took advantage of the new attitudes arising from this very progressive era to help shape a new role for women in society. By her own example, she showed that an elegant, refined, cultivated woman could also fend for herself in a tent in the wilderness, and happily so, as her grandmother had done before her. Daisy proved that a confident woman could be as comfortable, and as competent, in khakis around a campfire as she could in a couture gown at the Court of St. James. In 1956, the first Girl Scout Roundup was held in Michigan where 5,000 girls camped in tents for 12 days.

The American Girl, January 1921

The first Girl Scout handbook, in 1913, was titled "How Girls Can Help Their Country" and it gave girls a vision of a new feminine future. The title became particularly relevant during World Wars I and II, when membership soared and girls went to work in the war effort. Patriotism was, and is, a key component to Girl Scout life. In fact, as a gift from Irving Berlin, the royalties from "God Bless America" are paid, in perpetuity, to the Boy and Girl Scouts. As someone whose own family was torn apart from the Civil War she witnessed, with her mother's family fighting for the North and her father and his family fighting for the South, Daisy was well aware of the effects of war on family and country. During the Spanish American War in the late 1800's, Daisy helped her mother run a hospital for wounded soldiers. And so she rallied her Scouts to play their part. They planted vegetable gardens by the thousands, and sold war bonds by the millions. They rolled bandages and collected everything from scrap metal to clothing. In 1944, the Liberty ship SS *Juliette Low* was launched in Savannah.

The American Girl, April 1941

Girls also learned homemaking skills so mothers could attend defense classes and enter the workforce, as

well as the military. Continuing in the 1950's, following the typical trends of society at the time, many Girl Scout programs took on a domestic skills slant. As Daisy lived during a time of major socio-economic changes in our history, she wanted to make sure that the Girl Scouts were flexible enough to meet the needs of an ever-changing world. By 1931 it became necessary to formalize this planning process, and the practice of regular reassessment continues to this day to make sure that the organization stays relevant. Added to the patriotic influence of the 1920's and '40's, the thrifty and charitable emphasis in the depression years of the 1930's, and the domestic trends of the 1950's, the 1960's programming became aligned with developmental patterns of contemporary girls. The Scouts addressed teenage parenthood with a federally supported program entitled "Education for Parenthood" to help teenagers learn about child development and human interaction.

Staying relevant includes a conscientious effort to make sure that the Girl Scouts are all-inclusive. As we know, Daisy's family history includes strong ties with our Native American ancestors, particularly with the Haudenosaunee nations. Locally, one of those nations, the Onondaga, was the site of the earliest documented Native American Girl Scout troop in the nation, established in 1922. Like its founder, the Girl Scouts is a progressive organization, always thinking ahead. In fact, as I was doing my research for this article, I kept checking the dates I had listed to make sure they were correct, since many of the issues that the Girl Scouts were already dealing with didn't become major public issues for another 10 – 15 years. In the early 1950's the membership drives focused on minority populations, foreshadowing the civil rights movements of the 1960's. The March 1952 edition of Ebony magazine stated that, "Girl Scouts in the south are making progress toward breaking down many of the region's racial taboos." In 1953, membership surpassed 2 million and, by 1962 it reached 3.5 million. In the 1970's the Girls Scouts began a national effort to reduce prejudice and increase social tolerance. The Girl Scouts have never been affiliated with any particular religious dogma or organization and there is no discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The American Girl, April 1969

The Girl Scouts have always offered girls from a wide range of diverse backgrounds the opportunity to learn how to be healthier, stronger, and to interact socially. Daisy always said that accomplishing things is a *good* thing – girls should do things and do them well. The Girl Scouts are encouraged to "be your best," to learn new skills and teach those skills to others. The 1990's saw further evidence of the Girl Scouts' progressive and relevant agenda in programs dealing with illiteracy, drugs, minority enfranchisement, health and body image, child abuse, and youth suicide, while continuing to expand its inclusive nature by establishing troops in detention centers and reaching out to girls with mothers in prison with "Girl Scouts Beyond Bars."

Daisy overcame many obstacles in her life, but surely one of the toughest, was a physical disability – deafness. When she was around 24 years old, she convinced a doctor to treat a recurring ear infection with an injection of silver nitrate, which caused almost total deafness in that ear. Then, at her wedding, during the traditional tossing of rice, a grain became lodged in her other ear, creating an infection that caused *total* deafness in that ear. Typical of her "look on the bright side" nature, she used her disability to her advantage when it suited her or the Scouts. During the early years of Daisy's leadership recruiting, she chose a friend, Mrs. Kerr, to lead a troop. When Mrs. Kerr objected, saying that she didn't have the time and lived too far away, Daisy pretended that she didn't hear and cheerfully responded, "then it's all settled" as she ran off to her next appointment. Mrs. Kerr stayed with the organization for many years, and eventually became a member of the Executive Committee. In 1947, the Girl Scout handbook was printed in Braille and the membership drive was extended to girls with physical disabilities.

Daisy was always willing to put her money where her heart was, and for the first several years she paid almost all of the expenses for the Girl Scouts out of her own pocketbook. During WWI, when the war cut into her income from her English securities, she sold her exquisite pearls for the Girl Scout cause. Still today, the Scouts celebrate their history by handing out "pearls" in remembrance of Daisy. Daisy's ability to make friends and influence people was her biggest contribution to the rapid spread and growth of the Girl Scouts, and she soon put these skills to work at fundraising. Girls themselves took up the cause, and in 1917 a troop in Oklahoma began selling cookies in their high school cafeteria to fund programs. The trend caught on, and by 1936 the Girl Scouts licensed commercial bakeries to produce the cookies. Those easily identifiable cookie boxes were standardized in 1978.

Selling cookies not only raises money, it also provides many lessons in

entrepreneurship and business building. As we know from her work with the impoverished girls in that Scottish valley during her early days with the Girl Guides, these skills were very important to Daisy. In the 1970's, as the world began to see women take leadership positions in all areas of society and business, programs began to reflect a stronger emphasis on developing career skills. In 1981, Girl Scout Alumna Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1984, Kathryn Sullivan, the first woman to walk in space, credited her Girl Scout experience with "giving [her] the courage to walk paths women never walked before." In the 1990's, with women advancing in all professions, and single parent households increasing, making more women primary family breadwinners, the Girl Scouts published "Girl Scouts Money Smarts" to support financial education.

Girl Scouts Leader, Fall 2003

Daisy had been a voracious traveler throughout her life logging many trips to Egypt, India, South America, and other locations around the world. Her travels exposed her to cultural differences that helped shape a global view that was unavailable to most women of her time and she made sure that that perspective was an essential element for the Girl Scouts. The first International Conference was held in 1920 and, in 1926, "Thinking Day" was established to unite Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world to "circle the globe with thoughts of friendship and world peace." Daisy, along with most of the women in her extended family, was multi-lingual, so it was only natural that the Girl Scouts, in the early 1950's, expanded its emphasis on international awareness by adding programs that encouraged language skills.

In 1973 Daisy's portrait, by Edward Hughes, was added to the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery. In 1979, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Her wax figure stands among those of her mother, her grandmother, and her great grandmother in the Chicago Historical Society. Throughout the 100 year history of the Girl Scouts, the organization has continued to keep up with the times and look toward the future, while maintaining and emphasizing the importance of the traditional basic core values and ideals that were established by its founder.

Daisy Kinzie Gordon Low died in January of 1927. She died a happy and fulfilled woman. Though she was known all around the world for her elegance of dress and fashionable taste, she was buried in the outfit that she loved the most and that symbolized her greatest achievement – her Girl Scout uniform.

The Wayne-Gordon House, birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Georgia, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is operated by Girl Scouts USA as a museum and preservation center.

Freedom Bound exhibition at OHA

RISKING FREEDOM FOR A STRANGER

By Dennis J. Connors

In 2003, OHA opened a permanent new exhibition entitled: ***Freedom Bound: The Story of Syracuse & the Underground Railroad.*** One of the gallery's components is a folio of accurately reproduced period documents. Visitors can examine an 1855 reward poster for escaped fugitives, an 1822 Georgia bill of sale for a family of slaves, or an 1841 letter in OHA's collection from an Underground Railroad "agent" in Syracuse to his counterpart in Oswego. It alerted him to the pending arrival of three fugitives by an Oswego Canal packet boat.

Our research explored several sources for illustrative primary materials. Some of the richest holdings are the papers of 19th century Central New York resident Gerrit Smith, who corresponded with many well-known individuals involved in anti-slavery efforts. One such example is a poignant letter from a James M. Clapp to Gerrit Smith, a nationally known abolitionist, reformer and philanthropist. His notoriety and generosity drew several strangers to seek his help and counsel. Smith's papers are now part of Syracuse University Library's Special Collections. Clapp's name barely exists in the historical record. He is an individual lost to time. But his January 3, 1852 letter to Smith shines light on this unsung hero and on the sacrifices faced by those who stood up to slavery.

Clapp's letter illustrates the aftermath of the Jerry Rescue, a major event in the 19th century struggle against slavery that celebrated its 160th anniversary last year, just as the nation began its recognition of the American Civil War sesquicentennial.

William "Jerry" Henry, a former Missouri slave, was arrested in Syracuse on October 1, 1851 by federal marshals under authority of the dreaded 1850 Fugitive Slave Law. Failing to first escape on his own in a violent flight through the streets of Syracuse, Henry was locked up for the evening in the Police Justice offices. Within a short time, a crowd of organized sympathizers, which included James Clapp, broke in, forced the armed guards to release him, hid the fugitive for several days and then spirited him to freedom in Canada. Generally, the story ends there . . . a triumph for humanity and the abolitionists of Syracuse.

But the Fugitive Slave Law belonged to the Compromise of 1850; federal legislation crafted to keep the country from breaking up over slavery. Federal authorities knew this "rescue" not only freed Jerry, but also challenged their ability to enforce the statute. While they could not re-capture Henry in Canada, the government could prosecute the law-breaking rescuers back in Syracuse. Within days, several arrests were made. Eventually indictments followed and ultimately four men were brought to trial. All these judicial proceedings stretched out over two years, disrupting the lives of several Syracusans. The penalties for breaking the law were harsh, with the potential for both substantial fines and jail time. Either could cripple the financial health and personal reputation of those involved. It is vital today to understand these risks, to fully appreciate the commitment and passion of the abolitionists that freed Jerry.

Clapp wrote his letter to Smith from St. Catherines in Canada, about three months after the rescue. That community drew many former fugitives to settle there before the Civil War and had many residents sympathetic to America's abolitionist cause. Harriet Tubman used it as a base for her activities in the 1850s.

Jerry Rescue Building

Clapp knew Smith by reputation but not personally. He acknowledged this as he began his letter, although he noted they were not strangers in principle. He asks for Smith's *". . .kind and benevolent counsel under my trying circumstances, driven as I was from home unexpectedly without an hours preparation. . . ."* Clapp continues by telling Smith that he is *"not a little uneasy"* since he was having a house built when he fled. He had to leave it half finished with money owed and hopes that his creditor will be trusting. He reminds Smith that he also had to abandon his job and any steady source of income. Clapp had worked as a *"furnaceman"* in the Syracuse iron foundry of C. C. Bradley. Clapp laments that, *"My absence has already proved a great sacrifice in time and money. . . ."* And he worries that he essentially deserted his family in Syracuse. The 1850 census lists Clapp as 40 years old with a wife named Rhoda and a one-year old child named Ellen.

He then tells Smith, *"The cause of my leaving so suddenly was the advice of my esteemed friend, Mr. C. A. Wheaton, on the night of the 3rd of Oct. following the memorable first of Oct. 1851 which as in all probability you well know the part that I am charged with."* Undoubtedly Smith did know. He was with Clapp in Syracuse that evening, at a meeting planning Jerry's rescue. Charles Wheaton was another abolitionist at the meeting.

After dispersing that evening, some went to make various arrangements that would be needed after the rescue, such as transportation, sites for concealment and connections into Canada. But others had to take the lead at forcing their way into the building where Henry was jailed. It seems a good deal of that dangerous responsibility was shouldered by Clapp. Notes from testimony in an Auburn courtroom two weeks later by a deputized John W. Jones, who was inside the Police Justice's rooms that night, state: *"James M. Clapp was the first man I saw come into the room. Had a tussle with him . . .Clapp had a club . . . he also said he would have the negro or die."*

Later Jones testified that Clapp led the crowd of rescuers into the building by climbing through a window. Jones also was armed with a club and states, *"Clapp seized my club and I caught him by the throat; I told him I would keep him, and he might scratch and bite if he chose . . . ."* Jones then wrestled with Clapp for a few minutes. But eventually the number of rescuers forced the marshals to relent, although at least one fired his pistol during the commotion.

Clapp's name does not appear among those indicted because authorities could not find him. Clapp, along with some other participants, had fled. The letter documents his

flight. *"When I left, I started for Pennsylvania, thinking of making my parents a visit, but thinking it not advisable, I turned my course to NY City. . . . And deeming it not exactly the place for me under the advise of friends, I left for Mass where I took counsil from Mr. W. Phillips, Sewel, Jackson and others in Boston.* This refers to Wendell Phillips and probably Amasa Soule and Francis Jackson, all active abolitionists. Despite Boston's distance from Syracuse and its reputation as a center for anti-slavery activity, Clapp was a fugitive on the run from federal authorities. His Boston friends advised him to head for Canada.

Clapp continued his account for Smith: *"So I went up into New Hampshire and worked a few weeks, then left for Canada by the way of the Vermont central road to Ogdensburgh."* Clapp then had to travel an additional 300 miles to reach St. Catherines. He concluded by asking Smith whether he should return to Syracuse *"and run the risk of consequences"* or remain in Canada. Clapp realized that he might be jailed but probably knew that Smith and others had raised bail for those arrested and organized a defense fund for the pending legal cases. Clapp expressed hope that Smith and others might *"sustain"* him should he return.

We don't know Smith's response but it might well have been for Clapp to remain in Canada.

A sale of Syracuse property owned by James and Rhoda Clapp is recorded over two years later, in May of 1854, but the transaction is handled for the absent Clapp by his *"attorney."* The deed notes the seller, James M. Clapp, is *"formerly of Syracuse."* But by 1854, the cases against the Jerry rescuers had finally ended. One man was found guilty but died in jail before his appeal was heard. Three others were brought to trial, but ended in acquittals or hung juries. Remaining cases were dropped. The 1857 Syracuse city directory again finds James Clapp back in Syracuse.

Despite considerable evidence of fugitives continuing to be aided in Syracuse, no serious attempts to enforce the Fugitive Slave Law were again undertaken there. James Clapp risked his own life and sacrificed much for those few crucial moments that gave a stranger back his freedom.

Gerrit Smith

Oh, What A Blast!

By Thomas A. Hunter

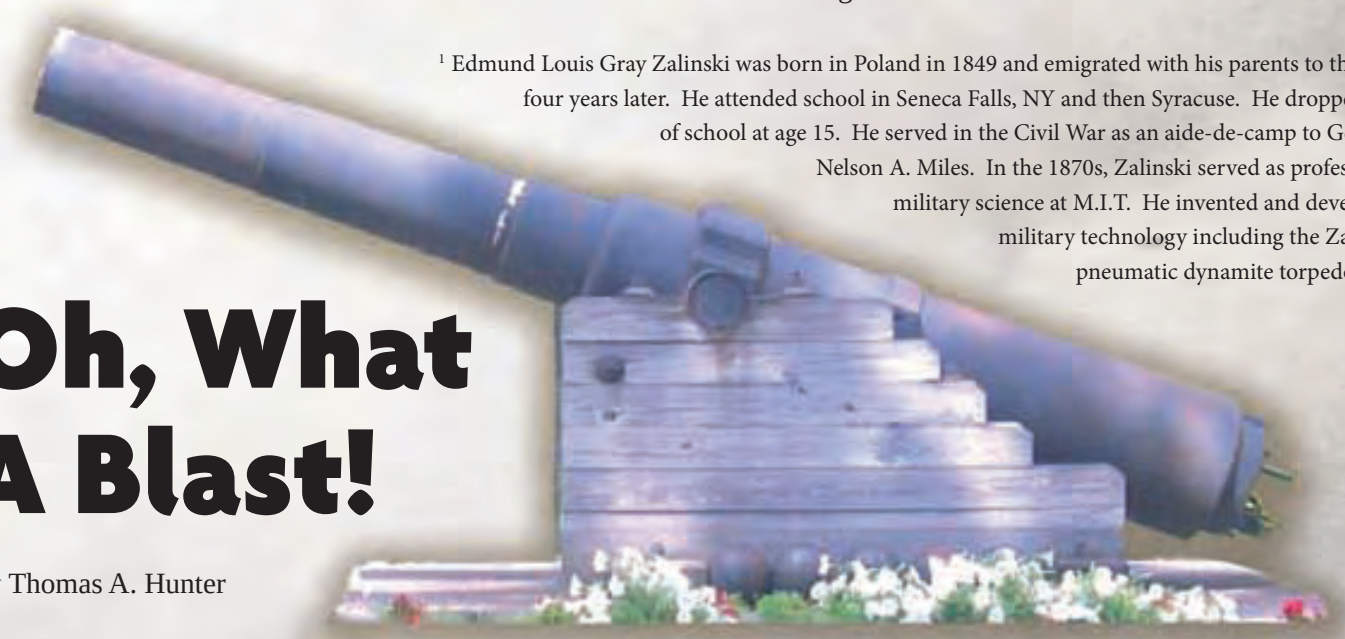
Joel Gilbert Justin, a physician and inventor of the Justin Dynamite Shell, came to Syracuse in 1877 to set up a medical practice and teach chemistry at Syracuse University. Justin had graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical College in 1875 and the following year received his Ph.D. He was born in Ontario County, NY in 1851, the son of Joel Winchester and Elizabeth Hatfield Justin. Both parents were physicians. His father graduated from Geneva Medical College (which later became Syracuse University College of Medicine and is now SUNY Upstate Medical University) but died when Joel Gilbert was just a baby. His mother graduated from Woman's Medical College in Philadelphia in 1871 and was one of just a few women physicians in the U.S. at the time. Along with being a physician, Elizabeth Justin also invented surgical tools. While teaching at S.U., he invented and patented the first continuous throat atomizer. Howlett's, a manufacturer of rubber goods in Syracuse, made and sold the Gilbert Continuous Throat Atomizer. The atomizer became quite popular with those wanting to keep their throats lubricated.

Dr. Justin also spent time working on his version of an internal combustion engine. He made an engine that operated but he couldn't make a good carburetor and so gave up on his idea for a horseless carriage. He then turned his attention to perhaps his most well known invention, the Justin Dynamite Shell.

In the 1880s, Dr. Justin became interested in the Zalinski pneumatic cannon that fired dynamite-filled shells, using compressed air.[1] Justin believed he could improve upon Zalinski's idea by, instead, safely firing shells using gun powder as the charge. Justin's challenge was to keep the dynamite from prematurely exploding once the gun powder ignited.

He first tested his dynamite shell in Apulia, NY on August 18, 1889. Justin fired a shell containing two pounds of dynamite from a 1,800 pound gun he borrowed from the NYS armory in Syracuse. The charge in the gun also was comprised of two pounds of gun powder. Justin again fired experimental dynamite shells in Perryville, Madison County, on March 14, 1890, using a surplus 6" Civil War Parrot Rifle he purchased from the U.S. government. The Perryville cannon was massive compared to the one he used in Apulia, weighing about 30,000 pounds. The shell also was equally massive, weighing 375 pounds; it had to be winched into the barrel. Testing the cannon several times, Justin hurled 350 pounds of dynamite at quartz embankments, pulverizing them in the process, and was delighted with the successful tests.

Two months later, on May 27th, Justin tested the cannon again in Perryville with very different results. This time the event was widely advertised and promoted with great expectations. Justin sent invitations to various government officials, including members of the diplomatic corps, officers of the U.S. Army and Navy, as well as NYS Governor David Hill and President Benjamin Harrison and his Cabinet. Trains took over 1,500 spectators to the firing range in Perryville to witness the excitement. The following day the *Syracuse Standard* reported that "every farmer within 10 miles dropped his work, took a day off and came down to see the big gun go off and see the big shell burst." Several members of the military, including L.P. Davidson of Fort Ontario, also showed up. Yung Wing, representing the Chinese government, was among the engrossed observers. Potential investors also went with the curious: the proprietor of the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C., Madison County officials, and undertaker, John McCarthy of Syracuse. Was McCarthy looking for additional customers? On that particular day, he almost got some!



[1] Edmund Louis Gray Zalinski was born in Poland in 1849 and emigrated with his parents to the U.S. four years later. He attended school in Seneca Falls, NY and then Syracuse. He dropped out of school at age 15. He served in the Civil War as an aide-de-camp to General Nelson A. Miles. In the 1870s, Zalinski served as professor of military science at M.I.T. He invented and developed military technology including the Zalinski pneumatic dynamite torpedo gun.

Justin Dynamite Cannon

The firing range was located in a glen about two miles long. On both sides of the glen thick walls of rock and shrubs formed a protective barrier. About one quarter mile into the glen, a blank wall of limestone rose about 100 feet. Justin aimed his cannon at the limestone wall. The curious lined the ridge of the walled glen to watch the cannon fire.

At 2 pm, newspaper journalists and some visitors selected a 273 pound shell from the cache that was safely stored in a shed about 200 feet from the cannon. Dr. Justin opened it to prove it contained dynamite. He then elucidated to the journalists, military personnel, and onlookers about the construction of the shell. Justin loaded a 16 ½ pound gunpowder charge followed by the hefty shell into his enormous cannon. Cautiously, the assembled throng protected themselves behind trees and log barricades. At precisely 3 pm, Justin lit the fuse, ran for a tree about fifty feet away, and then heard a massive explosion. The shell had inadvertently exploded inside the cannon. Twenty two large cannon pieces, and numerous smaller ones, flew in all directions. About 4 feet of the muzzle blew off, flying upward, end over end, to a height of about 400 feet. When it landed, it embedded itself deep into the ground. Another section weighing about 900 pounds flew a distance of about ¼ mile to the top of a cliff where many of the large crowd had congregated. A third section, weighing about 500 pounds, gouged the earth for about 25-30 feet in length and 6 feet deep. Many smaller pieces of the cannon and support carriage were strewn about the firing range. Someone even reported finding cannon pieces in the village of Perryville 2 ½ miles away! Fortunately, no one was seriously injured. The sensational explosion was reported in the *New York (City) Tribune* a few days later. The headlines were equally astounding: "Dr. Justin's Experiment Ends in Disaster." "Hundreds of People in Peril from Pieces of Flying Metal - Narrow Escape of the Inventor." It certainly made for good reading.

What happened? Theories swirled among the attendants. At first, Justin and his supporters denied that the shell prematurely exploded inside the cannon barrel. It was the very circumstance that Justin worked so hard to avoid. It must have been the age and condition of the cannon. After all, it had seen action in the defense of Charleston, SC during the late war. Justin and his colleagues returned to Perryville, seeking out the relic hunters, trying to collect as many pieces of the exploded shell as they could to reconstruct what occurred. In June 1890, Dr. Justin issued a statement recognizing that the casings of the experimental shells were made with defects. The idea could still work if the shells were properly made.

Justin coolly reported that he would try again. And so he did. Throughout the early 1890s, Justin continued to test his shells. He stopped practicing medicine and formed the Justin Projectile Company to make the shells and continue the experimental firings.

In 1895, Justin received a reissue patent for his "Shell for High Explosives." He originally applied for the patent in 1890 and received patent no. 424,482. The patent narrative describes Justin's model for inner and outer casings to prevent a premature explosion of the shell. He had been working for more than five years to perfect his concept.

Crowd Hiding at Justin Cannon Firing

In 1896, Justin took two cannons to Jewell, NY on the north shore of Oneida Lake. By then, Justin was using nitro gelatin for his charge and an electric fuse. He fired several shells containing time-delayed fuses into the lake. The shells sank below the water's surface before exploding, sending huge water columns into the air. Justin also destroyed an anchored boat, sending shock waves through the surrounding area. The U.S. Army continued to favor further investigating the shells as potential weapons, but the U.S. Navy discontinued any further testing. At that point, Congressional appropriation would have been necessary for Justin to continue experimenting with his test firings, but Congress declined to fund the project. Until then, the federal government had paid for the expensive testing and when additional federal money failed to come Justin's way, it became very difficult to continue testing his shells. Justin was able to sell some shells, however, to the Brazilian government.

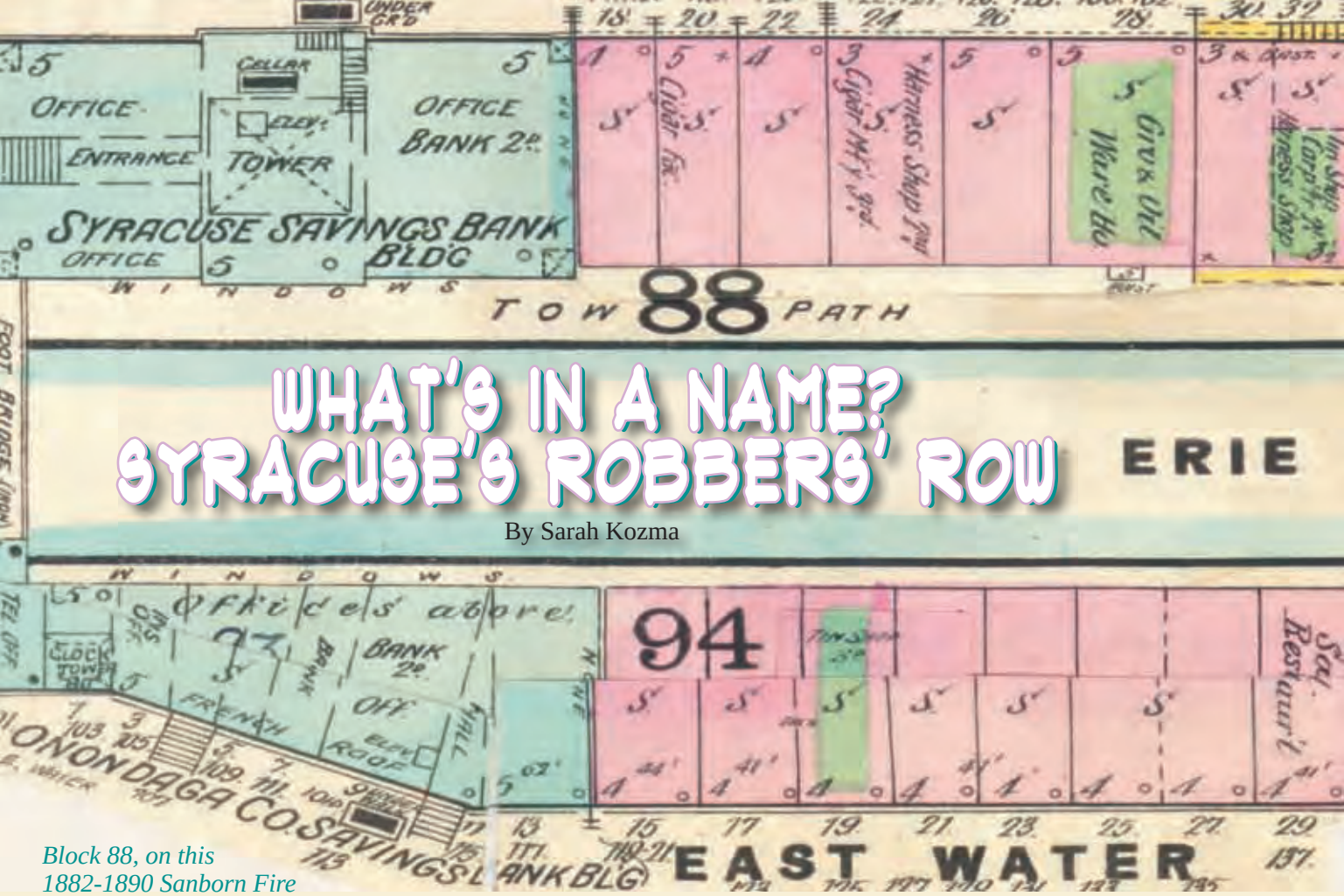
Time and technology moved past Justin and his dynamite shells. New high explosives, such as ammonium picrate and TNT, replaced the more volatile dynamite and nitro gelatin. As a result of the lack of public funding and technological advances, in March 1898, Justin closed his business. That year, Justin moved his family to Rochester where he opened a medical office. For a while he was a successful physician again but his health began to fail after suffering a series of strokes. By 1908, Justin was paralyzed, could no longer walk or talk, and was virtually bedridden. He died at Castile, NY on March 27, 1911 at age 60.

The two cannons Justin had hauled to Oneida Lake were left behind to be erected on a mound in Jewell, NY. However, no one was willing to pay for the materials and labor for the project, so the cannons were left to rust and rot in the woods. But all was not lost, and fortunately for those interested in this story today, Dr. Justin's legacy lives on. Although scrap metal hunters took some parts through the years, they were slowly sinking into the earth, and what remained of the larger cannon was refurbished and donated to the VFW Post 7325 in Constantia, NY. What is left rests on a mount outside the Post today.

Justin Cannon Firing

WHAT'S IN A NAME? SYRACUSE'S ROBBERS' ROW

By Sarah Kozma



Block 88, on this 1882-1890 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, was Robbers' Row. Some of the types of businesses along that row can be seen written on the map

Robbers' Row. The name conjures up images of a Dickensian bandits' back alley, where little artful Dodgers, Fagans and Bill Sykes relieve the wealthy and working class of their hard earned money and possessions; a place where those of good reputation would never dare venture for fear of their life or wallet. This intriguingly descriptive place was not a hangout for London's criminal underground; it was the name of a block in downtown Syracuse, NY. It was located just off the northeast corner of Clinton Square, along the 100 block of James Street, between N. Salina St and Warren St. Today, it is mostly parking lots with the Syracuse Savings Bank building on one side of James St and the corner building of 100 Clinton Square on the other. Robbers' Row primarily referred to the south side of the street (Syracuse Savings Bank side), though the north side was also sometimes included. In the early 19th century there were both residences and businesses located here, but it quickly became a vibrant business area, centrally located along the bustling canal, right in the heart of Syracuse. The canal would also play a role with regards to the notorious name, although the effects of having such an address was left to be managed by the occupants.

Robbers' Row was only ever a popular name and never an official title, so no one knows for sure when this name was first associated with this area. Most likely it was in the early days of the Erie Canal, but it's possible it could go back even further. However, there are a few possible explanations that have been passed down through the years. On February 22, 1858, an article appeared in the Syracuse

The row of buildings on the left of the image are the Erie Canal side of Robbers' Row. Note the signs and awnings, designating the often used entrances, an area which would typically be thought of as the back side of the buildings, circa 1866.

On the left of the image just behind the Syracuse Savings Bank is the James Street side of Robbers' Row in the 1860s.

Journal newspaper in answer to an inquiry it received, asking how the name Robbers' Row came about. This was the paper's answer:

…In former years the tenants in that Row seemed to strive with one another to see which would sell the most whiskey or "rob-gut" and get the most drunk and rob their customers of all the money they had by them. Not long ago a dozen men were seen laying upstairs over one of these groceries dead drunk. Hence the name of "Robbers' Row."

Basically, in this version, the vendors would get their customers drunk and rob them of all their money. Another story says that the merchants along this road, with its excellent location along the Erie Canal, charged exorbitant prices for their goods, causing customers to proclaim it Robbers' Row, not unlike rest-stops along the Thruway. Still another says, that since the stores opened up onto the busy Erie Canal towpath, the "backs" of the stores were on James Street and the miscreants of society gathered along there, causing respectable citizens to avoid the area. An article in the Syracuse Daily Standard from May 28, 1886, refers to Robbers' Row as "...a notorious hangout for roughs and toughs…" A similar version says that degenerates would come up from the canal, either as travelers or workers, and would frequent the stores and storefronts along this block. Whatever the reason for its appointment, the name stuck for about 100 years, though the block itself went through many phases.

By the mid 1850s, its apparent reputation for criminality had already begun to turn around, or so the advertisements would lead us to believe. From the Syracuse Standard, April 26, 1856: "Their market is in Robbers' Row, which has reformed of late years, and now has more wealth and as much respectability as any part of the city." Whether it was as wonderful as they suggested or if it was simply an attempt to convince potential patrons to give it a chance, we can't know for sure, but most likely it was a bit of both.

One thing we can assume is that they were trying to get out from under the stigma of being known as Robbers' Row. In many ways they were simply disassociating themselves from the original meaning of this name, and advertising it as a name with history, rather than a name with contemporary meaning. An example from the Syracuse Journal, April 19, 1859, states:

Robbers' Row! This rascally name was given to the very respectable locality, now devoted to the sale of Groceries, Meat, Cigars, etc, etc., at an early day in our history - …I never knew why the name of "Robbers' Row" was given to this part of the city, but it was at the time the respectable parties were on the stage…

The scene changes! All about this neighborhood are now settled parties who are selling their commodities cheap and who enjoy the confidence of the community…

About ten years later, the comments regarding the reversal of the street's infamous ways were not mentioned, only the advantages of operating businesses there. "…I offer for sale my Store, No. 20 James Street (Robber's Row)… The Store is five stories high with rear on the canal, and is one of the most desirable places for business in the city." [Syracuse Standard 2/4/1868] Perhaps by the late 1860s, its respectability had been re-established enough to not scare away potential buyers with the name Robbers' Row.

Looking up James Street (Robbers' Row), bottom left, around the turn of the 20th century.

Granted, it was in a great location, and that alone may have been enough to sway buyers.

In the early to mid 19th century the businesses along the lower end of James St. consisted of mostly groceries, provision and liquor stores, but also included hardware stores, tobacco shops, and horse harness equipment stores. Many of these stores had entrances that opened onto the towpath, and the James St. side (Robbers' Row) was almost like the back of the stores. By the later 19th and early 20th centuries much of that had changed as the Erie Canal became less prosperous, and the James St. storefronts became the main focus. The type of businesses also changed with the times, among others there were hotels, tanners, tailors, jewelers, grocers, publishers and saloons. In fact, before the turn of the 20th century the area was already well known for its saloons; in the year 1900 there were at least six along that small stretch of road. The potential rowdiness of having so many drinking establishments in a small area could have breathed new life into the name Robbers' Row, but by that point the use of the name was already in decline. Eventually, by the early 20th century, the name seems to have fallen into disuse and ultimately, became only a memory of what once was.

Robbers' Row and the Erie Canal were undeniably linked. It could even be argued that Robbers' Row and the canal shared the same fate in Syracuse. The construction and popular use of the Canal, in the 19th century, coincided with the popularity of using the name "Robbers' Row" in relation to this block. With the decline and removal of the canal, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the use of the name "Robbers' Row" went into decline and eventually disappeared from popular use altogether. Although Robbers' Row was only one side of one short block, we can perhaps, by understanding its history, catch a glimpse into one aspect of life along the Erie Canal, in Syracuse, NY.

One of the earliest images of Clinton Square. This image, by George Barnard, shows what the Erie Canal side of Robbers Row (on the left) looked like in its heyday, circa 1854.

OHA Volunteer Spotlight By Lynne Pascale

If you were to give OHA's volunteer, Josh Collins, a date on the calendar, chances are he can tell you anything related to that date and United States presidential history. An Eagle Scout in high school, he also participated in the New York State Games for the Physically Challenged. Josh attended North Country Community College and completed an Associate's Degree in IT at Bryant and Stratton in Liverpool. Josh's specialty at OHA is administrative support: assisting with membership renewals, coordinating and expediting the many mailings that leave the building, as well as helping out with printing for communications pieces. So the next time you receive a mailing from OHA, chances are very good that Josh helped to make it happen. Many thanks to Josh Collins for all that he contributes to OHA!

Josh Collins

Stick to Your Guns! The Battle of Oswego 1814

By Matthew MacVittie

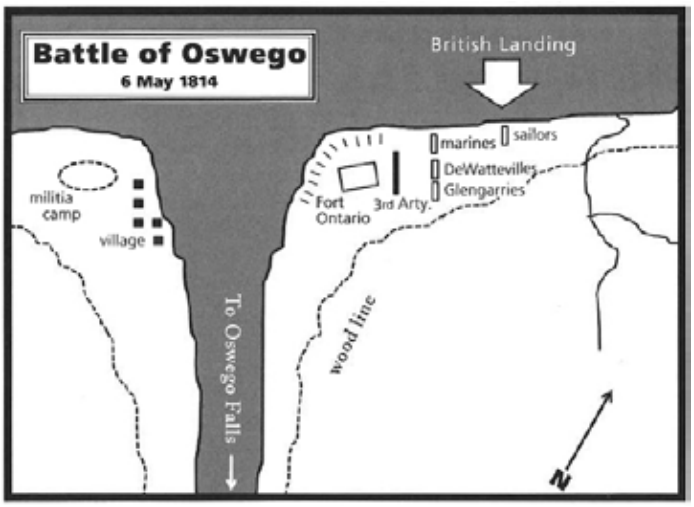
Fort Oswego 1814

This year marks the beginning of a very significant event in American history, the bicentennial of The War of 1812. Many historians have called The War of 1812 "a funny little war" worthy of little note or academic study; a view that would have been contested by the roughly 18,000 individuals who lost their lives on both sides of the conflict. Like many counties in New York State, Onondaga County saw its fair share of wartime activity. It is important to remember that Onondaga County was much larger during that time. Most of modern day Oswego County and parts of Cortland and Madison counties were considered Onondaga County until 1816. In 1828 the modern borders of the county that we know today were created. Within the original borders, however, Fort Ontario existed on the shore of Lake Ontario, where late in the war, a small, under-equipped and outnumbered force would clash head-on with the full force of the British Empire, and help decide the fate of the war.

In 1814, a ship building race between the British and American forces on Lake Ontario continued at a fever pitch. On April 14, 1814, Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo of His Majesty's Royal Navy was the first to complete his squadron of frigates based in Kingston. However, Commodore Isaac Chauncey of the United States Navy was dangerously close to completing his squadron of more powerful frigates at his ship building yard near Sackets Harbor. If Chauncey was allowed to complete his task, Lake Ontario would become an American lake. A direct attack on the strongly fortified town of Sackets Harbor would have been difficult for Commodore Yeo, requiring troops that were simply not available. However, another way to cripple the ship building efforts at Sackets Harbor existed. Commodore Chauncey had vast resources of timber for ship building at his disposal in the forests surrounding his base at Sackets Harbor. Everything else, including sails, cables, and, most importantly, cannon needed to be shipped from New York City through a complicated supply route ending at Oswego where Fort Ontario stood. If Yeo crippled the American supply line, he would maintain his advantage over Chauncey. Yeo decided to attack the smaller, less-defended post of Fort Ontario and seize the supplies that waited in storage. However, Yeo did not count on the presence of the battle-tested Third Regiment of U.S. Artillery.

The Third had served with distinction throughout the war when, in early March 1814, they marched from Sackets Harbor to Batavia, NY where they set up a temporary camp and waited for their tents and cannon to arrive. However, before that happened, American intelligence had learned of Yeo's planned attack on Fort Ontario. Consequently, the Third was quickly dispatched to protect the Fort and prevent the seizure of naval guns, which were stored at nearby Oswego Falls (today's Fulton, NY), and which were intended for Chauncey's fleet at Sackets Harbor. Lt. Colonel George Mitchell took the 342 men of the Third on a forced march, with only what they could carry, to Oswego to meet the British forces and prevent the course of events Commodore Yeo had set into action.

The Third arrived at Oswego on April 30th 1814, into a situation that was practically hopeless. The village of all but 40 warehouses and taverns lay on the west side of



The Battle of Oswego, May 6, 1814, from "The Third US Artillery" by The Old Fort Niagara Association

the mouth of the river. To the east, the remnants of Fort Ontario sat high upon the bluff. Fort Ontario had been virtually abandoned until the beginning of the war. Until this point the Fort had also been left largely under the control of militia troops who were ill equipped for the task of restoring a major military post. Capt. Rufus McIntire of the Third wrote:

"The hand of time has destroyed every picket, we found five pieces of artillery in it, three 4 pounders, one 6 and one 9, all very old. Three without trunions and all miserably mounted. Indeed they were condemned pieces but had been mounted in case of necessity and we were compelled to use them for the same cause."[1]

Lt. Col. Mitchell directed his men to repair the guns as best they could and start making ammunition. Some men were picked to form gun crews while the rest would serve as infantry in case of a British landing. The gun crews constructed a battery of three guns outside the fort on the north side, and a battery of two guns on the eastern wall, while others placed tents on the east side of the river to make their force seem larger than it was. On May 4, Mitchell received word that the British flotilla commanded by Commodore Yeo had been spotted heading towards Oswego. The 342 men of the Third U.S. Artillery, along with 25 sailors aboard a five gun schooner named the USS Growler, and approximately 200 undisciplined militia troops, readied themselves for battle. Lt. Col. Mitchell, determined to succeed, climbed the flag pole above the fort and nailed the flag in place. The message was clear; there would be no surrender.

On May 3, 1814, Yeo set sail from Kingston for Oswego with a landing force consisting of the 2nd Battalion of Royal Marines, a company of the Glengarry Light Infantry, five companies of the Regiment de Watteville (a Swiss regiment in British service) and a detachment of 200 sailors. These troops were not only more experienced than the American troops waiting at Oswego, they also outnumbered the American force by roughly two to one. The morning of May 5, the British flotilla arrived in the waters off Oswego. However, due to light winds they found themselves incapable of getting into a firing position until mid afternoon. Both sides exchanged cannon fire and the British attempted a landing, but were required to retreat due to an incoming storm. The British flotilla withdrew for the evening; neither side had sustained much damage except for one of Lt. Col. Mitchell's cannons, which burst while firing. Both British and American forces rested what little they could, and awaited the next day's events.

The next morning Mitchell ordered the militia troops to the west side of the river to give the appearance that a larger force had arrived and provide the illusion of strength. The flotilla appeared, hauling landing boats filled with infantry, marines and sailors armed with boarding pikes. Yeo's ships then began to open with cannon fire upon Mitchell's gun emplacements, and the American guns soon returned with their own fire. With the deafening sound of artillery, the undisciplined militia troops soon fled for the woods, leaving Mitchell and his men alone. The crew of the USS Growler scuttled the ship, while still in the harbor, to prevent it from falling into British hands; they then crossed the river to pick up arms and joined Mitchell's men. The British force, 1,000 strong, began to land and advance toward the fort. A number of British had gotten their powder wet while scurrying to evacuate their small landing boats, an advantage Mitchell desperately needed. The Third fired seven volleys of musket fire directly into the British column, but they continued to advance. Mitchell began to see the Third would be overrun if they maintained their position. He quickly ordered an withdrawal and the men of the Third slowly began to leave the fort, fighting the whole way out. The last man to leave the fort was Col. Mitchell himself. As he rode out, a wounded soldier begged for assistance. It was written Mitchell dismounted, placed the man on his horse, and then proceeded calmly on foot at the rear of his men.

The British entered the fort and attempted to seize the flag Mitchell had nailed to the tall post on the fort bastion, but they were hit with light musket fire from the Americans. The man who eventually succeeded in removing it was Lt. John Hewett, whose ancestors still possess the flag in their collection, located in their ancestral castle in Great Britain. The British reported casualties of 24 killed and 96 wounded. The American casualties are listed as six killed, 38 wounded and 25 missing, but reports vary.

Commodore Yeo had captured 2,400 barrels of useful supplies, several coils of rope, and nine pieces of cannon.

1 McIntire to Homes, 9 May 1814, found in Fredricksen, "Rufus McIntire": 321

He also captured the USS Growler and renamed her the HMS Hamilton. However, Yeo did not seize the large cargo of naval guns that lay in storage a few miles inland near Oswego Falls. Yeo also did not have the supplies or personnel to occupy Oswego for more than a few days. Instead, Yeo would return to Kingston. Though the Third US Artillery did not win the battle that day, they succeeded in their main mission of preventing the seizure of the naval guns for Chauncey's fleet. The guns were successfully delivered to Sackets Harbor and the Lake Ontario Squadron would control Lake Ontario from July 1814 until the end of the war later that year. General Jacob Brown said it best when he stated "Mitchell's men have established themselves with a name in arms, worthy of the gallant nation whose cause they fight, and highly honorable to the army." They prevented the British from capturing vital supplies for Chauncey's fleet, which changed the course of the war and earned The Third US Artillery notable status in the pages of history.

Creekwalk link at Mission Landing

OHA Remains Closely Involved With Creekwalk Planning

By Dennis J. Connors

The City of Syracuse's recently expanded Onondaga Creekwalk is proving to be a popular addition to the urban landscape. It now runs an uninterrupted 2.6 miles from Armory Square to the very shore of Onondaga Lake. It encompasses the original portion of the Creekwalk that was built through Armory Square in the late 1980s as part of the original "Payment In Lieu of Taxes" (PILOT) agreement for Carousel Center.

Ever since planning and construction of the most recent elements of the Creekwalk have been underway, OHA and city officials have been in ongoing discussions about adding several interpretive sign stations along the route. These will explore the history associated with many specific sites adjacent to the Creekwalk. OHA has recently been awarded a contract to research, script and design up to 20 of these stations. This effort will also be coordinated with the results of a Spring 2012 semester-long project by a Syracuse University Visual & Performing Arts design course. Its students created a series of concepts for helping to promote the Creekwalk with way-finding and event-specific signage.

In addition to interpretive signs with traditional historic photos and text, OHA is exploring the inclusion of smart phone coding on each sign, which will allow access to short-video presentations, ones that will highlight the stories behind the history. For example, as one encounters the interpretive station overlooking the 1850s stone bridge just north of Fayette Street, imagine accessing a 3-minute video that shows an actor portraying early civic leader and railroad president John Wilkinson telling exactly why he had the bridge built in that location.

Additionally, OHA is actively promoting an investigation into the possibility of installing some type of interpretive station just one block west of where the Creekwalk intersects Erie Boulevard. That site, where Erie Boulevard actually crosses the creek, still includes a stone, triple-arch culvert that dates from 1838. It was built to direct the waters of the creek beneath the Erie Canal and now serves to carry Erie Boulevard over the creek. It is the oldest canal structure remaining inside the city, but currently is not visible from any public right-of-way. The City of Syracuse has scheduled a major reconstruction of the boulevard at that location in 2013, to repair the culvert and roadbed, but will keep the canal landmark intact. This seems an opportune time to create an accessible overlook, where the public can view the culvert, with associated interpretive information.

Creekwalk users could be directed to that culvert location, from the placement of a directional sign at the northwest corner of Franklin Street and Erie Boulevard, adding an additional 500-foot link to the Creekwalk. The culvert site, however, presents a challenge due to its close proximity, on the Creek's west bank, to the West Street arterial and, on the east, to the private property of National Grid. OHA has alerted both city and National Grid officials to the opportunity. Each has expressed an interest in determining what possibilities might exist.

In addition to its age, size and early engineering significance, the Onondaga Creek culvert bears another historic distinction. It is where, on July 30, 1907, the "bottom fell out of the canal" as one of the Onondaga Creek culvert arches failed. Seven miles of canal water poured into the creek within two hours. Five canal boats were sucked into the maelstrom, damaged beyond repair. There had been breaks in the canal before, but the *New York Times* labeled this break one of the worst ever. It took the entire month of August to make initial repairs, and the canal was not fully reopened until September 20. It had a severe impact on commerce, halting the trips of 500 barges and their cargo for weeks, with a total negative economic impact of over $1 million or close to $50 million today.

That infamous Onondaga Creek culvert remains today, virtually hidden in the very heart of the city. It, along with the two 19th century stone bridges over the creek at Washington and Genesee streets, comprise a remarkable trio of historic survivors. They form handsome, irreplaceable amenities along the Creekwalk that also allow us to picture the early history of our community. The public-private partnership of the Onondaga Creekwalk interpretive signage project will literally help give those structures a new "voice" in presenting Syracuse's rich heritage to citizens and visitors alike.

Canal Break 1907

OHA Collaborates in Multi-Venue Art Exhibition By Dennis J. Connors

Greenan's Painting of 711 Tully, courtesy of Amy Greenan

The Onondaga Historical Association is pleased to be partnering this fall with the Everson Museum and 12 other local cultural organizations in a community wide, multi-venue exhibition entitled, *The Other New York: 2012* or ***TONY: 2012***. Organized by the Everson, this ambitious, juried project will highlight the rich talent of artists across Upstate New York by exhibiting in a variety of galleries and museums across the Syracuse area. The OHA portion opened with a reception on September 21 and will be available for viewing during regular museum hours through January 6, 2013. OHA will be hosting the works of three different contemporary artists whose works all offer reflections on how we remember the past.

The first installation is entitled ***Manifest Destiny & The American West.*** This exhibition by Buffalo artist Robert Hirsch employs nearly 1000 images in a stylized three-dimensional display. It asks the visitor to think about how our nation's geographic progression across the continent has shaped the American culture for decades. This American experience included the western advance across upstate New York in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. That was motivated, in part, by a drive to market local salt resources, which, in turn, was aided by completion of the Erie Canal. This upstate portion of the story will be highlighted in a lecture on October 7 at 2 pm entitled, *The Wild, Wild East: New York's Drama of Westward Expansion*, presented by Dr. Robert Spiegelman of the City University of New York. His talk is sponsored in cooperation with the New York Council for the Humanities.

The second ***TONY: 2012*** installation at OHA is a multi-video projection titled, ***Last House,*** by Buffalo media artist Carl Lee. Here the artist explores the aesthetics and meanings of a house demolition in Buffalo, New York. Cities like Buffalo and Syracuse are faced with a large number of abandoned houses. This video asks us to think about what we gain and lose in demolishing them. Three paintings by Western New York artist Amy Greenan will accompany Lee's installation. They depict vacant houses that await an uncertain future, including one entitled *Not Here, Not Now*, her interpretation of 711 Tully Street on Syracuse's Near West Side.

The topic of dealing with Syracuse's abandoned house problem will be addressed in a lecture on December 9 at 2 pm at the OHA museum by a representative from the Greater Syracuse Property Development Corporation, the community's new "land bank" organization. This program will address how this new corporation's activities and initiatives will bring innovative, new approaches to the issue of Syracuse's vacant properties.

For more information about the entire ***TONY: 2012*** project, visit the Everson Museum web site at www.everson.org.

An 1860 painting by Emanuel Leutze glorifies America's Westward expansion.

40 Years of the LaFayette Apple Festival 1973-2012

By Pamela A. F. Priest

This year marks the 40th presentation of the LaFayette Apple Festival, one of the largest and longest running crafts fairs in the United States. The idea for an apple festival may be said to have germinated in the mind of one man on the afternoon of Saturday, May 26, 1973. He was David Marmon, a young employee of the LaFayette I.G.A. Grocery Store and son-in-law of its owner. He had not lived in the community very long but, possessing an out-going personality, he quickly entered into its activities. That day was devoted to a hot dog roast held in the I.G.A. parking lot to kick off a fund raising campaign by the LaFayette Volunteer Fire Department. They hoped to buy a new ambulance and the public responded that day by buying hot dogs willingly. David Marmon stood by the store watching people come and go and was excited by the success of the day's activities. He engaged in conversation with another man, a passing store customer standing nearby.

The 20-foot Johnny Appleseed sculpture

Just a couple of years earlier, a maple festival was first held in Marathon, N.Y. Because the "Tully Independent," a weekly newspaper covering the town of Tully, LaFayette, and Fabius, was published in Marathon, its readers were regularly apprised of maple festival events. David Marmon posed a question to the man conversing with him: "What does LaFayette have that could be a theme for a similar festival?" It happened that his conversationalist had served on the LaFayette Public Library board when one of its members had suggested "apples" as a possible theme for a fund raising event. So, almost without thinking, he replied "apples" in answer to the question.

The First Apple Festival Committee in 1973 consisted of 16 members, 10 of who are shown here: back, left to right: Donna Brown, Grant Grimshaw, Charles Adsitt, Maureen Ryan, Beverly Palmer, Louise Crabtree; front left to right, Esther LaClaire, Albert Miller, David Marmon, Delphine Doupe.

David Marmon was fired with enthusiasm by his new idea. Since he had attended some Chamber of Commerce meetings representing the I.G.A. Store, he contacted that group's president. In announcing their

Entrance to the Apple Festival in 2002

meeting of June 14, 1973, the Chamber described the agenda as, "reviewing and forming plans for an October apple festival which will attract hundreds of visitors." When the meeting night arrived, however, consensus of opinion decided that a special and separate committee should be formed that would involve the whole community. News of these plans quickly spread and immediately representatives from all of the churches and organizations came forward, as well as several generally interested in the project. By the end of that summer, a committee of sixteen people had been meeting weekly, and fifty craftspersons had signed up to exhibit their wares. Of these, fifteen were described as, "demonstrations of scrimshaw engraving, quilting, sterling silver jewelry making, cake decoration, leather working, and early American design, etc."

The first day of the first festival, held at the Grant Grimshaw school, saw an estimated 5,000 present; the next day that figure was doubled. This total of 15,000 for the weekend, David Marmon told a reporter, "absolutely delighted" the committee and they sold $1,000 worth of apples and cider. He confessed that such a number left him, "practically numb with disbelief." But the next year that number more than doubled, bringing it, "close to 40,000" in estimated attendance; 25,000 counted on Sunday alone. Traffic clogged Route 20 with a two mile long line of cars waiting to exit Route 81. Despite torrential rains on its first day, the festival was described as "chalking up another weekend success with crowds browsing through 100 booths and attractions."

In 1975 Mr. Marmon described the event as, "better and just a little bigger." Having moved out of the area, this was his last year as chairman of the committee. The following year Malcolm W. Knapp was named "acting general chairperson." The festival outgrew the Grant Grimshaw School site, and moved to the old Elementary School site in 1977. Through the generosity of Paul Schoeck, his adjoining property was used for parking.

By its tenth anniversary the festival drew 100,000 attendants and 250 craftspersons. In 1983 they occupied two 300 foot tents and one 340 foot tent. The festival was held on the old Elementary School grounds up to and including the 1989 festival.

In 1989, the Festival Committee announced that it was in the process of buying the Field Apple Farm on Tully Farms Road at Cardiff. The first 100 acres of the farm had been bought by the Field family in 1872, and enlarged to include 220 acres when it was offered for sale at $250,000. The land was purchased by the Festival Committee in 1989. The festival committee had to clear some 9,000 apple trees on the property; a cow barn was converted into the Donuts 'N Dumplins Barn, and the large sorting and sales building now houses the meeting room, gift shop, apple sales area, cider mill, sign painting room, and various storage areas

Mural painted on the west end of the main building on Route 20 by Brett Steeves.

Aerial view of LaFayette Apple Festival in 2007.

for the signs, etc. The center portion of the property was cleared to make room for the 11 huge tents that are put up each year to house the crafters. The festival also hosts outdoor exhibit booths, free entertainment, a midway, educational exhibits, and emergency medical facilities. All of the food that is available on the grounds is sold by local civic organizations.

In 1973, it cost $3,714.20 for the first festival, but in 2006, it cost $157,000.00. The festival was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in 1976, and is conducted as a business and governed by a six person Board of Directors. Each year the festival donates money to many of the local civic organizations, along with providing them the opportunity to be vendors at the festival. In the summer of 2006, a mural was painted on the west end of the main building on Route 20 by Brett Steeves.

From its small beginning, to its now huge annual event, this festival shows what a dedicated community of individuals can accomplish! This year's Apple Festival was October 6 and 7 from 9 am to 6 pm on Saturday and 9 am to 5 pm on Sunday.

With special thanks to J. Roy Dodge, LaFayette Town Historian, Emeritus, who contributed many interesting facts to the article and provided the photo of the First Apple Festival Committee; and Delphine Doupe, who kindly sent OHA the 2007 aerial view photo and the booklet "LaFayette Apple Festival, Inc. History 1973-2006.–"

14-year old Robert Funda presses apples at the 1978 Apple Festival

THE SNOWS OF YESTERYEAR

William B. Meyer

In 1804, Timothy Dwight, President of Yale College since 1795 and an indefatigable traveler in his leisure months, passed through central New York, going as far west as Niagara. The weather, he noted, bulked large in the minds of the region's residents. By and large, they were not unhappy with the climate they lived in. Indeed, they had only one reservation: they did not always get as much snow as they would have liked. If the complaint sounds odd to modern ears, the reason given for it sounds downright preposterous: "The only complaint which I heard was that they rarely had sufficient snow to furnish them with convenient transportation."

The last thing that anyone would say about snow in central New York today is that it makes getting around easier. Were the people Dwight talked with merely pulling their distinguished visitor's leg? Not at all. A moment's thought is enough to show why they meant what they said. In a newly settled region, roads were few and primitive. They were seas of mud in spring and fall, into which wagon or carriage wheels would sink; dusty, bumpy, and laborious to haul heavy loads along in summer. Even a few inches of snow provided a smooth, low-friction surface that made transportation by horse-drawn sleigh wonderfully easy and rapid by comparison. Only in winter could farmers take heavy loads of wood and other produce to the distant markets where they were scarce and in demand. In upstate New York and New England, a federal report observed in 1808, "the snow lies generally during the whole winter, and the great bulk of heavy transportation is effected in sleighs during that season." Few things were more depressing, economically and psychologically, than an "open winter" of bare roads. Only in winter, in any case their idle time, could rural upstaters pay visits and socialize beyond the limits of their immediate neighborhood. In his novel *The Pioneers*, James Fenimore Cooper depicted, thinly disguised, the village that bore his family name at the foot of Otsego Lake as he had known it as a child in the late eighteenth century. He recalled in winter "the numberless sleighs that passed through the village, loaded with wheat and barrels of pot-ashes … or with loads of produce, hastening to the common market at Albany." As spring arrived, "the village was no longer thronged with visitors; the trade, that enlivened the shops for several months, began to disappear; the highways lost their shining coats of beaten snow in impassable sloughs, and were deserted by the gay and noisy travelers who, in sleighs, had, during the winter, glided along their windings."

Central New York in Cooper's boyhood and the time of Dwight's visit was still on the frontier. Yet snow remained a valuable natural resource for the rest of the century even as the region urbanized and modernized. Syracuse was not only a manufacturing center, but also a market for goods and services for the surrounding rural population. The more readily the farmers could come in from outlying areas, the more of their year's produce they could carry to market, and the more goods they would buy in town. To the city's merchants the jingling of sleighbells foreshadowed that of coins in their pockets. Christmas in 1887 neared "with bare roads staring the store-keepers derisively in the face." But when day broke on December 18th to reveal six inches of snow on the ground, "great joy pervaded all classes of society. … Shrewd merchants thought that they did not exaggerate in estimating that sleighing this week will be worth $100,000 to the holiday trade in Syracuse. There is no doubt that the people in the towns and country round about have plenty of money to spend, but it cannot be successfully extracted from them except through the medium of snow." "Last winter," the *Standard* commented in December of 1854, "there was scarcely any sleighing, and farmers only came to town when they could not avoid the

journey." Business had been slow and depressed as a result. A snowy start to the present winter promised better things. A few days earlier, "the streets were well filled with people and sleighs from the country … as lively as a bee-hive in honeysuckle time." "A fine run of sleighing," the paper concluded, "will have as much influence on the financial affairs of our citizens as anything we can think of." Within a week of Christmas, all was well again: "The sleighing was excellent yesterday … As was expected, business was quite lively in consequence, and a large amount of produce has already been brought to market. … Wood has also come in freely, and sold at less exorbitant rates than last winter." When snow was lacking to ease the hauling of so bulky an item as firewood, the city's lower classes felt it the most: "The absence of snow, and the bad condition of the roads generally," noted the *Journal* in February, 1851, "makes the wood market excessively 'tight' for the shivering poor."

Seen from a country town like LaFayette, snow looked equally valuable. "Sleighing in this section is excellent," ran one report in 1870, "and all seem to be taking advantage of it for business and pleasure. Teaming business was never more lively than now, and loads of grain are continually passing on their way to market. Sleigh riding parties are common, and the young folks are having a pleasant time." For having enough snow to drive on was not merely of importance to trade. Sleighing was a popular sport in city and countryside alike. Only in winter could one enjoy the elation of smoothness and speed on the roads. The spirits of avid drivers rose and fell with the thickness of the snowpack. The young Syracuse wife and mother Ellen Birdseye Wheaton wrote in her diary in January, 1851: "January thaw is upon us, and dreary enough it seems, after the lively bustling ways of last week, when the pure white snow, which lay in such a mass upon the ground, was constantly crossed, by multitudes of vehicles of all descriptions." Anyone, she noted, who had access to a vehicle, had been out enjoying the sleighing, "which they knew to be precarious. But it is gone, indeed, and with but little prospect of a fresh supply." And in an age when any trip beyond walking distance or short of inter-city travel depended on horse-power, the sleigh was the principal means of movement for utility as well as for pleasure.

Nothing symbolizes Syracuse more than two white crystals, salt and snow. If its nickname, "The Salt City," is today more than a reminiscence of times past, it is because of the quantities of salt it deposits on the streets to keep them clear of snow and ice. If people object today to the practice, it is because of some side effect or other: the corrosion of cars, say, or the effects on vegetation and groundwater. When it was first tried in the late nineteenth century, the loudest objections centered on just what the salt was meant to do. The local street and steam railroad companies found the application of salt a quick, cheap, labor-saving way of clearing their tracks. Unfortunately, as the tracks ran through many main streets, the salt spilled over and melted their snow cover as well. Clearing the streets in winter struck most Syracusans as an outrageously selfish and inconsiderate act. They demanded that it stop "if sleighing

is to be preserved." City dwellers complained how difficult the melting of the snow made their errands around town. Outraged merchants protested that it was bad for business: "There has been decent sleighing in the country, but farmers cannot get around the city with a sleigh … the streets have been left so bare that a sleigh will not slide at all." Pleasure

drivers lamented the loss of one of winter's great joys. The *Herald* and the *Standard* carried on an aggressive crusade in the early 1890s to stamp out what the latter called "this pernicious practice," running admonitory headlines like: "Abolish Salting," "Keep Off the Salt," "Must Not Use Salt," and "Salt in the Streets: Business Men Condemn Its Use by Railroad Companies."

What changed all this, of course, was the advent of the automobile. As it displaced horse-drawn transportation, the very characteristics that had made snow a help to movement made it a danger instead, and salting and plowing to remove it became routine. Of course snow is useful for some things today, such as skiing and snowmobiling, and of course in the past a snowfall, until cleared or beaten down, was a hindrance to some kinds of movement, to pedestrian and rail travel. But on the whole, from being what we call a natural resource, it has turned into what we call a natural hazard. Both terms imply, misleadingly, that it was the one or the other by its nature. Yet its nature today is no different from what it was in the earlier period. Did nineteenth-century Syracusans simply fail to realize that the snow they thought they wanted was really a hazard? Or are we the ones who fail to realize that it is really, despite all appearances, a resource? Hardly; we, and they, make it what it is for us. Syracuse winters are not what they used to be—much less because they have changed, than because we have.

Painting of horse-drawn sleigh

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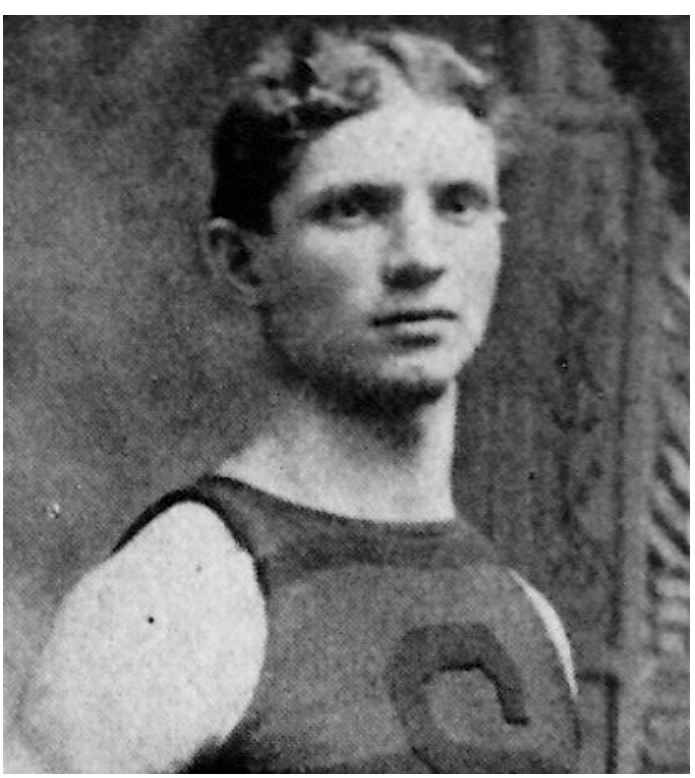
Myer's Medals – The Story of Central New York's Most Decorated Olympic Champion

By Gregg A. Tripoli, Executive Director, Onondaga Historical Association

NOTE: A portion of this article was recently published in the July/August issue of "The Good Life – Central New York" magazine

As 2012 is the year of the summer Olympics, recently held in London, I began to think of Central New York's Olympic legacy. My good friend, and a historian of our local Jewish community, Mike Moss reminded me of the relatively unknown story of Myer Prinstein, the most decorated Olympian in our region's history. Myer won four gold medals, and was "robbed" of another gold in a controversial incident that forced him to settle for silver, resulting in a five-medal Olympic hardware collection from a career spanning three Olympic games. In the process, he set one Olympic record that stood for 80 years and two Olympic records that have still not been broken.

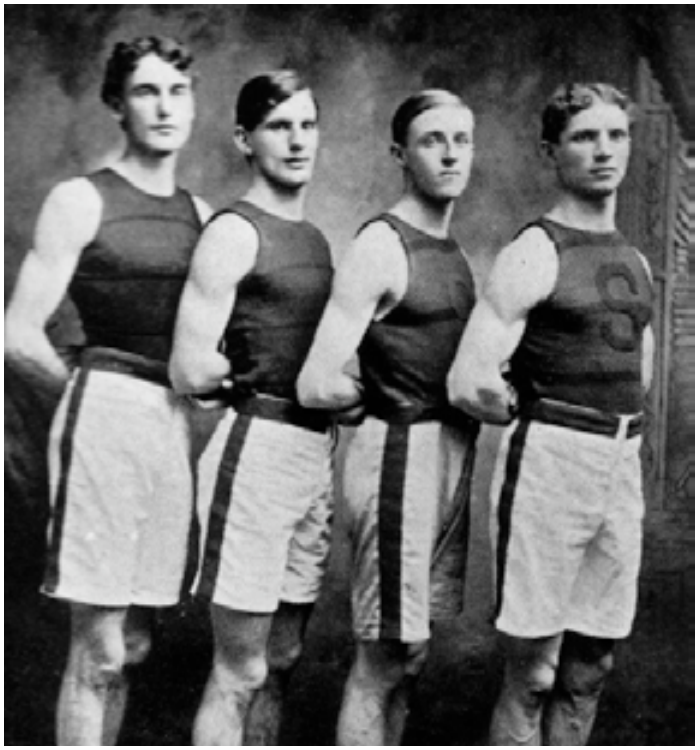


Myer Prinstein
Courtesy of International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame

Myer was the fourth of nine children in a family of Polish-Russian Jewish immigrants, who came to Syracuse in 1883 when Myer was five years old. They settled into a home at 724 Orange Street (now McBride St.) in the predominantly Jewish neighborhood of the 7th Ward (later known as the 15th Ward) on the east side of downtown. The city directory of the time lists his father Jacob's occupation as grocer and baker, and records show that the family regularly attended religious services at the Society of Concord synagogue.

In the late 1800's, Syracuse was fast becoming a major powerhouse among the cities of New York State. The tight-knit Jewish community members of the 7th Ward supported each other as many became leading citizens, distinguishing themselves at everything from furniture making to foundries and from retail to real estate. The neighborhood residents provided the financial backing and much of the expertise that helped the young Shubert brothers build the largest theatrical empire our world has ever known. There is no doubt that these same people also supported Myer as he distinguished himself with his athletic, and academic, abilities and accomplishments.

Myer began competing in track and field while he attended the public Syracuse High School, which later became Central High, and he was a member of the local YMCA team until he enrolled at Syracuse University in 1897 to study law. At S.U. he was the captain of the track team, where he excelled at the long jump and the triple jump (known then, respectively, as the broad jump and the hop, step and jump). He also represented the team in the pole vault, the high jump, and the 60, 100, and 400-meter running events. Actually, to say that he excelled at jumping is a major understatement. Though he stood less than 5 feet 8 inches tall



Myer Prinstein (right)
Courtesy of International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame

and weighed only 145 pounds, Myer was a giant among jumpers.

In 1896, Myer won the first of many national Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) long-jump titles and, as a Syracuse University freshman, he set his first American and Intercollegiate (today's equivalent of the NCAA) records with a long jump of 23 feet 8 inches. Just three months later, at nineteen years old, he captured his first world record with a long jump measured at 23 feet 8 7/8 inches during the New York Athletic Club Games.

Prinstein's arch-rival was Alvin Kraenzlein, from the University of Pennsylvania, and the two jumpers went head-to-head, trading titles throughout their college careers. Kraenzlein set a new long jump world record in 1899 of 24 feet 4 ½ inches but, in Philadelphia on April 28, 1900, as the *New York Times* reported, "Prinstein… the versatile Syracuse athlete won the world's, American, and Intercollegiate championships from A.C. Kraenzlein of Pennsylvania, by one magnificent leap" measuring in at 24 feet 7 ¼ inches. This new record put Myer in good stead as both he and Kraenzlein headed to Paris that summer for a showdown at the 1900 Olympic games.

The ancient Olympic games were discontinued sometime around 369 A.D. and were revived in 1896 in Athens, marking the beginning of what is known as the modern Olympic era. The first event of the 1896 games was the triple jump, which was won by American jumper James Connolly, making him the first Olympic champion in over 1,500 years. Still a contender in the long and triple jumps, Connolly was also a member of the 1900 American Olympic team along with Prinstein and Kraenzlein. The 1900 Games were scheduled to coincide with the World's Fair, the Exposition Universelle, which was also being held in Paris during the same time. The track and field events were to take place at the beautiful Racing Club de Paris. The final for Myer's first event, the long jump, was scheduled for a Sunday, which posed a problem for Prinstein.

As a strict Methodist-affiliated private school, Syracuse University did not allow its athletes to compete on Sundays, the Christian sabbath. Though Prinstein was Jewish and was officially competing for America, S.U. was his sponsor and it forbade him from competing in the long jump final on Sunday. At the time, however, Olympic rules allowed the results of qualifying rounds, which were held on Saturday that year, to count in the finals. As the top medal candidates in the long jump were all American, the team, including the Christian Kraenzlein, agreed in solidarity to refrain from competing on Sunday and vowed to treat Saturday's qualifying round as the final. By the close of competition on Saturday, Myer was in the top spot with a new Olympic record jump of 23 feet 6 ½ inches.

MYER PRINSTEIN, OF THE AMERICAN TEAM, WINNER OF THE RUNNING BROAD JUMP.

Long Jump

On that Sunday, while attending religious services with the American team, Myer was unaware of the fact that a few of his teammates were inconspicuously absent from those services. Among those missing was Alvin Kraenzlein. He was at the Racing Club de Paris, breaking his vow in the long jump final, where he was treated to six uncontested jumps, ultimately beating Prinstein's qualifying mark by only one centimeter and setting a new Olympic record. Kraenzlein received the gold medal and a punch in the nose from Prinstein, who was reportedly held back by teammates before he could inflict any further damage. Kraenzlein's tarnished victory brought his total individual shiny gold medal count, in those games, to four – an Olympic track and field record for one edition of the games that has been equaled but never beaten. Silver medalist Myer challenged Alvin to an on-the-spot rematch jump but Kraenzlein refused and promptly announced his retirement from the sport.

In the triple jump on the following day, Prinstein, perhaps fueled by angry adrenaline, captured his first gold medal, and the first for any Jewish Polish-American. In the process, he set a new Olympic record, beating teammate Connolly's previous historic Olympic record jump by a whopping 5 ¾ inches. Prinstein returned to Syracuse University where, before graduating with a law degree in 1902, he set a new University long jump record that lasted 88 years.

Upon graduation, Myer practiced law in Syracuse before moving to Jamaica, Queens, outside of New York City, where his athletic pursuits were sponsored by the Irish American Athletic Association (IAAC). In 1904, the 25 year-old Prinstein headed to the St. Louis Olympics, again scheduled to coincide with the World's Fair being held simultaneously in that city to celebrate the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase. In St. Louis, Prinstein proved he was at his peak by winning gold in the triple jump *and* the long jump on the same day. His "sweet revenge" long jump performance not only topped Kraenzlein's record jump from 1900, it set a new Olympic record of 24 feet 1 inch that lasted for 80 years until it was finally broken by American Al Joyner in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Myer's amazing feats in the 1904 Olympics have kept him in the record books to the current day as the only athlete ever to win both events in the same Olympics and the only athlete to win both events in the same day. He also came in fifth in the 60 and 400-meter dashes. Returning to New York, Myer added a stationery business and a real estate company to his successful law practice while continuing to compete for the IAAC.

In 1906, the International Olympic Committee decided to stage an "interim" Olympic games in Athens. Eventually, these games were declared "unofficial" due to the fact that they did not adhere to the four-year competition cycle. Myer was, again, on the American team roster and was, again, slated to compete and defend his Olympic titles in both jumping events. The long jump competition pitted Prinstein against the world record holder, Peter O'Connor, an Irishman competing for England. In a stunning victory, Myer won gold again, with a jump of 23 feet 7 ½ inches, beating silver medallist O'Connor by a comfortable margin. Plagued by an injury, Prinstein did not medal in the triple jump.

The local Jewish community was certainly proud of Myer and a review of the minutes of the March 13, 1912 Trustee meeting of the Society of Concord shows that a seat in the honored "first part of the Temple" was temporarily "reserved for M. Prinstein" while Myer was in town to visit his family.

Ending his Olympic career with an impressive four gold medals and one silver medal, Myer Prinstein is still, over

106 years later, the most decorated Olympic athlete from central New York. Unfortunately, he is also perhaps the most forgotten and unheralded American Olympian in our history. Even as early as 1908, though generally considered at the time as "the greatest jumper the world has ever seen," a Syracuse newspaper column lamented the fact that Prinstein was not properly recognized for his amazing athletic accomplishments.

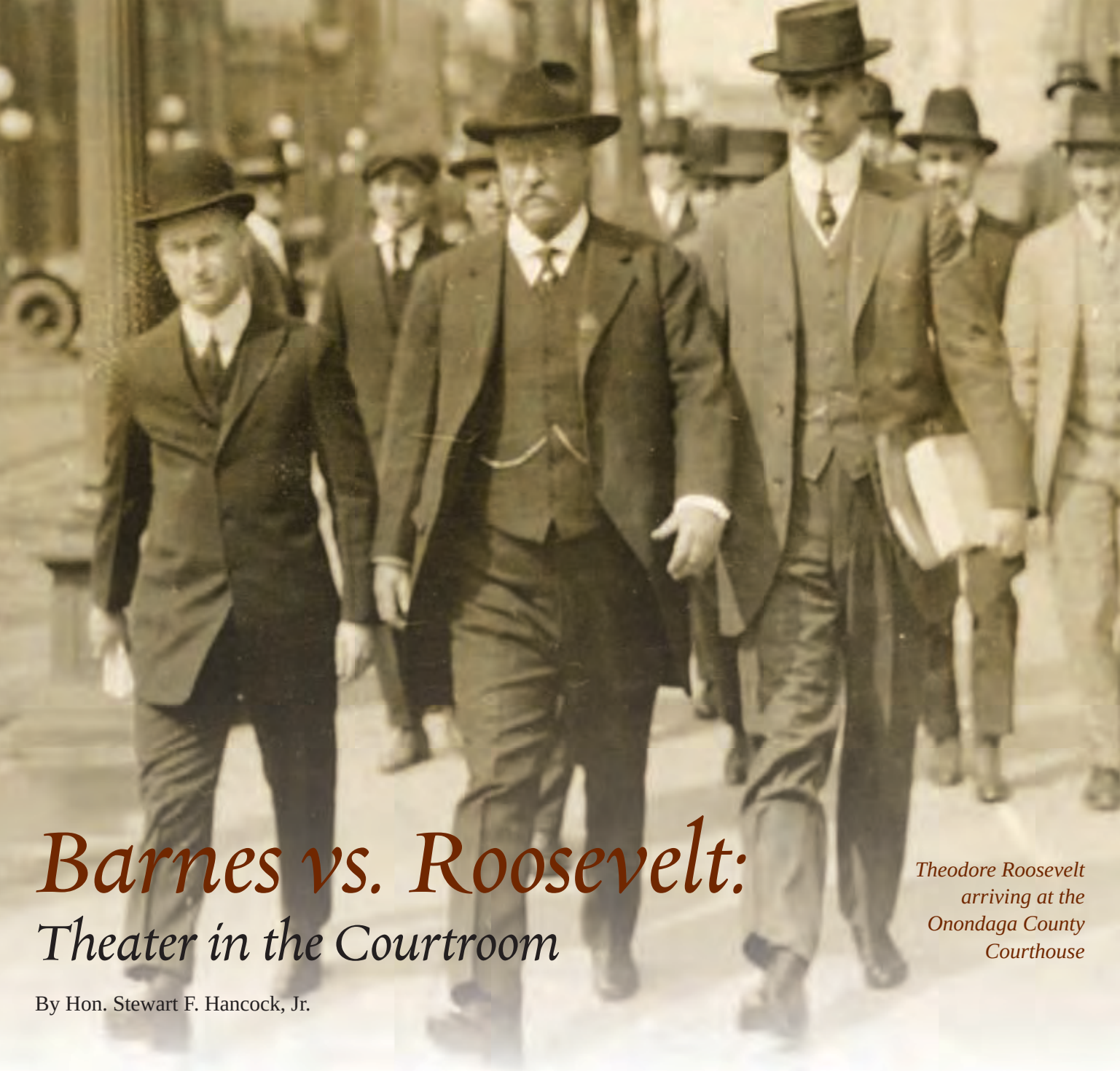
Myer Prinstein died of a heart ailment at only 46 years of age, leaving his widow, Henrietta, and a young son, Elsner, to survive him. He was buried in the Union Field Cemetery in Queens on March 10, 1925. For most of the next 75 years, however, Myer did not really reappear much in American print and was, strangely, omitted from many historical Olympic reviews, including those published in our local press. In 1939, to commemorate its 100th anniversary, the Syracuse Herald-Journal published a special 14-page sports history section that omitted any mention of quadruple gold medallist Prinstein and erroneously named 1912 400-meter winner Charles Reidpath as Syracuse's first gold medal recipient. This omission was repeated as late as 1972 in the Herald-Journal, which reviewed previous medallists in an article on the impending Olympics of that year. In Israel, he was posthumously inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 1982. In 2000, he became a member of the National Track and Field Hall of Fame, and in 2008 he was finally inducted into the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame.

Long Jump

Myer Prinstein is worth remembering. He was the real deal, an Olympic hero for the ages, a role model worth emulating, and a great part of our local, and national, history of which we can all be very proud.

OHA Exhibit at the Century Club

OHA volunteers, Jean Murray and Lillian Tokarz, assisted museum curator, Tom Hunter, with installing an exhibit at the Century Club featuring some of the museum's great Syracuse China Collection. Located inside two china cabinets within the Members' Dining Room, the 60-70 plates highlight Native American images. Some are "Approved Sample" plates, which are one-of-a-kind. Many have the original paper stamp, which identifies them as "Approved Samples." There was one "Approved Sample" made for every order of Syracuse China prior to full-scale production. There are also some that are part of the permanent historical collection, including one that was designed by the famous painter, N.C. Wyeth, called "Return of the Hunter."



Barnes vs. Roosevelt:
Theater in the Courtroom

Theodore Roosevelt arriving at the Onondaga County Courthouse

By Hon. Stewart F. Hancock, Jr.

"I'm going to Syracuse tomorrow to nail Roosevelt's hide to the fence." So said William Barnes, once the most influential Republican in New York, to Elihu Root on the eve of the trial of Barnes' historic lawsuit against Theodore Roosevelt. Root reportedly replied: " I know Roosevelt, and you want to be very sure that it is Roosevelt's hide that you get on the fence."

Barnes was heading to Syracuse for the trial of the libel action he started based on statements Roosevelt had made accusing him of political corruption. But what would open the next day, April 19, 1915, in Supreme Court, Onondaga County, was much more than a libel trial. It would be the deciding round in a bitter public struggle between two powerful men for control of New York's Republican Party. The hide-on-the-fence metaphor was apt.

Until a few months before the trial, William Barnes had ruled the New York Republican party as Chairman of the State Committee. He owned and published the *Albany Evening Journal*, Albany's leading newspaper, operated a lucrative printing business, and instinctively shared the conservative outlook of his party's financial backers. As a lifelong Republican regular and a grandson of Thurlow Weed, one of the founders of the Republican Party, Barnes stood for government through the party system and loyalty

to the organization. A big man, obviously fond of his expensive suits, he looked something like a pompous chairman of the board.

Theodore Roosevelt and William Barnes had similar backgrounds. Like Barnes, Roosevelt had graduated from Harvard and belonged to a prestigious New York family. The two men knew each other well and had once been friends. Both were proud, egotistical and accustomed to power. In appearance and demeanor, however, they were quite different; in their political philosophies, exact opposites.

Roosevelt, only 56 years of age, an ex-President of the United States, a former Governor of New York, and the leader of the charge of the Rough Riders at San Juan Hill, had commanding presence and boundless charm. Although officially retired from politics when Taft succeeded him in the White House in 1909, the "Colonel," or "T.R.," or "Teddy," as Roosevelt was affectionately known, still had vast appeal as a national hero. The accounts of his hunting safaris had kept him in public view as a man of action. He exuded the vigor and self-assurance of a natural leader.

Roosevelt was by no means inexperienced in the art of backroom political manipulation. But he had built his reputation as the one-time Police Commissioner of New York, the co-founder of the Anti-Saloon League, the author, the explorer, the naturalist, the high-minded intellectual, the military hero, and the crusader against crime, corruption, and the big trusts. His image was that of the no-nonsense reformer who wanted to remake the political process and rid it of its evil ways.

The witness, and then Justice William S. Andrews

When Barnes and Roosevelt entered the packed court-room on April 19th before Justice (later Court of Appeals Judge) William S. Andrews and a small town jury of farmers, artisans and shopkeepers, it was to settle for all time what *The Post Standard* had heralded as one "of the greatest political contests in the history of the United States." As *The Journal* put it that evening, "now the gladiators meet upon the common battlefield of the law." What had brought them to this impasse?

Their rivalry and dislike, which had long simmered beneath the surface, erupted as a public dispute at the 1910 State Republican Convention. Still young and ambitious after returning from his African big game safaris, but out of office and the glare of the limelight which he loved, what was this popular former President to do? For Roosevelt, there was only one answer. He would simply pick up the political career which he had put aside when he backed Taft for the White House in 1908 and run again, himself, as the Republican presidential nominee in 1912. And what better way to start rebuilding his power base and influence than by taking control of his own State's party from Chairman Barnes and the entrenched Republican regulars? At the 1910 State Republican convention, Roosevelt got his candidate, Henry L. Stimson, nominated for governor, soundly defeating the choice of Barnes and the State Committee. Furious, Barnes resigned as Chairman. That fall when Stimson lost the election to the Democrat John A. Dix, Barnes not surprisingly, put the blame on Roosevelt.

In the next round, at the 1912 Republican National Convention in Chicago, Barnes got even. The oldline conservatives, who supported Taft, held off a spirited

Roosevelt being cross-examined by attorney Ivins

challenge by the progressive Republicans in one of the bitterest floor fights in political history. Roosevelt's bid for the nomination was rejected and Taft renominated. Angered by his defeat and determined to carry his fight against Taft and the conservatives to the people, Roosevelt formed his own "Bull Moose" Party and ran as its candidate. He drew more votes than Taft, but the party split resulted in Woodrow Wilson's election. Roosevelt blamed Barnes for his defeat at Chicago – and with good reason. Barnes, who had again assumed control of the New York Republicans as State Chairman, had been one of the dominant powers as a convention delegate and a prominent member of the National Committee. He had openly led the fight for Taft's renomination.

The third round – the clash that put the breach beyond any hope of repair and led to the libel suit – took place at the Republican State Convention at Saratoga Springs in the summer of 1914. There, Roosevelt tried, without success, to repeat what he had done in 1910: nominate his own man for governor (at this time, Harvey D. Hinman) over the opposition of Chairman Barnes and the regular Republicans.

The lawsuit stemmed from a press release which Roosevelt issued as the advocate of party reform in his aborted campaign to oust Barnes from control. In the release, Roosevelt allegedly libeled Barnes by portraying him as a corrupt political "boss." He charged that Barnes had acted in a clandestine alliance with his counterpart in the Democratic Party, State Chairman and Tammany Hall leader Charles Murphy. These two leaders, he said, had for years manipulated the machinery of the State government to the detriment of the people and solely for the personal political benefit of the two corrupt conspirators. "The state government is rotten throughout in almost all its departments" Roosevelt had written, "and this is directly due to the dominance in politics of Mr. Murphy and his sub-bosses – aided and abetted when necessary by Mr. Barnes." "These bosses," Roosevelt went on, "form the all-powerful invisible government which is responsible for the maladministration and corruption in the public offices of the state. These machine masters secure the appointment to offices of men, whose activities so deeply taint and discredit our whole governmental system."

There is no question that the statements were defamatory; calling someone a corrupt political boss is libel per se. Roosevelt conceded, indeed boasted, that he had made the statements and that they referred to Barnes. His defense was simple and direct: what he said was true and he would prove it. In effect, Barnes was the defendant and Roosevelt the plaintiff.

At stake were the political fortunes of these two men. Barnes wanted to shore up his declining influence in the State and run for U.S. Senator. To do this, he had to convince the jury that Roosevelt's charges were false. Roosevelt, his power

diminished by the defeats at the Chicago convention and in the 1912 Presidential election, wanted to regain his former stature as the national leader of the progressive wing of the Republican Party. He had to start in his home state, New York, and to do that he needed to destroy Barnes – the epitome of the machine pole by proving the truth of his charges. One thing was certain: when the jury returned its verdict, *someone's* political hide would go on the fence.

Ever since the preceding November, when the Appellate Division changed the venue from Albany County to Onondaga County to place it in a fair and neutral locale, the national newspapers had been playing up the forthcoming trial as the political event of the year. For the local press, it was the story of the century. Syracuse's three dailies made the most of it. For weeks prior to the trial they had been building up the suspense. As the trial approached they capped it off with headlines such as "BARNES – ROOSEVELT PREPARED FOR BATTLE" and were happily answering their readers' demands for the latest news on the trial by selling them two or even three extras a day.

When jury selection finally began on April 19, photographs of the contestants and their attorneys arriving at the courthouse filled the front pages. The accompanying news items detailed the crowd's shouts of "Hello, Teddy" and "Hello, Colonel," the smile "flashed in return," and "click, click of the Kodaks" as the Roosevelt entourage made its way from the Onondaga Hotel. The early edition of *The Journal* on the 19th ran a front-page story headlined, "TWO PRINCIPALS KEEN ON SCANNING MEN IN THE BOX," and pictured the antagonists as "silent, serious, and carefully ignoring each other."

On the previous evening, *The Herald* had even featured a piece about one of T. R.'s Rough Riders, a Captain Jack, who had come to town to "see the Colonel" and had been deprived of $70 at the Yates Bar. "It was a mean thing they done to me, but I'll get along somehow until the Fourth of July when I draw another pension," he told the reporter. It was easy to overlook the bigger battle raging in Europe and the news that the British had sustained heavy losses in attempting to destroy Germany's position southeast of Ypres. Few would have noticed the United States Supreme Court had just decided that Leo Frank must hang for the murder of Mary Fagan.

From the beginning of the jury selection, the scene at the courthouse had taken on the aura of a political nominating convention. Congressmen, State Senators, Assemblymen, party leaders and a former Governor greeted each other in the courtroom and huddled in earnest conference in the corridors. Many of them were on the witness list. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Alfred E. Smith, and Harvey D. Hinman, among other notables, would eventually testify. Outside the courtroom, special telephone lines had been installed for the use of the country's top political reporters. Folding chairs had been arranged in tight rows along the courtroom walls to help seat the fortunate few who held the special yellow tickets required for admission.

In 1915, a frequent source of entertainment for the upstate populace was watching their favorite trial lawyers in action. Trials were a show. The "best" lawyers were the best showmen. Barnes' attorney, William J. Ivins, it was certain, would please the crowd. The newspapers had often described him as one of New York's most renowned courtroom performers and a "sarcastic and merciless" cross-examiner. A former Army Colonel in his middle sixties, dressed in his habitual courtroom attire of gray suit, gray spats, and skull cap, he had the sardonic manner and the aquiline look befitting his newspaper image.

The Jury

April 20, 1915 Roosevelt coming out of Courthouse

Roosevelt's chief attorney was John M. Bowers. Tall, impeccably dressed, with neatly trimmed beard and moustache and wearing black ribboned pince-nez glasses, Bowers looked something like Senator Henry Cabot Lodge. He appeared to be what he was: a courtly senior partner of one of New York's finest firms. While Ivins was sometimes brilliant, often combative, and always unpredictable, Bowers was cool and consistent, projecting lucidity and competence.

The testimony started with the words, "Mr. Roosevelt, take the stand." Ivins, in one of the surprise moves for which he was known, created a stir of excitement by calling the defendant as his first witness. Surprised or not, Roosevelt rose with no hesitation and – with the aplomb of an accomplished actor walked to the witness chair to be sworn. No one doubted that he knew that this was his show and that he was the star performer. Ivins posed the few questions needed to prove that the defendant was the author of the statements and that they referred to the plaintiff. He rested his case. The defendant's case began immediately, Roosevelt remained on the stand for eight days as Bowers first and most important witness.

For the most part, the performers lived up to their billings. But the script today would seem mundane to audiences grown accustomed to the sensational political scandals of recent years. To be sure, Bowers showed that Barnes had teamed up with Murphy and Tammany Hall, at the urging of the "moneyed interests," to block reforms such as the franchise tax bill, the bill to abolish horserooms and the Hinman-Green bill championed by Governor Hughes to establish direct primaries. (In his opposition to direct primaries, Barnes, according to Roosevelt, had made some ill-advised references to the voting public as "riff-raff," a telling point with the jury which the defense kept emphasizing, to Barnes' obvious displeasure.) And Bowers made much of Barnes' dispute with Roosevelt concerning the incompetent Superintendent of Insurance, Louis F. Payne, during Roosevelt's governorship. (Barnes had allegedly pandered to the "moneyed men" by keeping Payne in office over the Governor's objections and the protests of the reformers.) In addition, Bowers demonstrated that Barnes had used his political influence to gain profitable printing contracts from the State. But the proof fell far short of portraying Barnes as an evil man or the blatantly cynical politico who reportedly had said about an upcoming political appointment: "I want a candidate for this office who is down and out, on his uppers, and has fringed clothes, then I can hoist him into office and he will be mine."

The star performer saved the show and held his audience for the full eight days. The witness chair had become a "bully pulpit"; the witness was irrepressible. To Roosevelt, there was no question that as a former President of the United States he should be permitted to participate fully in the colloquies between the court and counsel. It could hardly have been expected that he would have been much in awe of the court. After all, he and Justice Andrews had known each other as classmates at Harvard. On the stand, Roosevelt gesticulated, orated and, ignoring the lawyers and the court, simply said what he wanted to say. The frustrated Ivins objected frequently, but to no avail, and even the Justice's gaveling couldn't stop him.

The long awaited confrontation on cross-examination between the voluble witness and the merciless inquisitor

William Barnes with attorney

produced few of the hoped-for sparks. As one would expect, Ivins was careful, very careful.

He tried to embarrass Roosevelt by showing his relationship with Thomas C. Platt, at one time the top Republican in the State and known as the "easy boss." His point was that Roosevelt, who professed to hate all bosses, cleared every important political appointment with Platt. Ivins developed that T.R. even consulted the "easy boss." in deciding whether to run for Vice-President on the ticket with McKinley in 1900. He also scored some points in his questions about the connection between the large political contributions to Roosevelt's 1904 Presidential campaign from U.S. Steel's Henry C. Frick and Elbert Gary and his tacit approval in 1907 of U.S. Steel's acquisition of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company.

The case closed with stirring final summations to the jury by Ivins and Bowers. Bowers argued that Barnes was trying "to destroy Theodore Roosevelt's usefulness to the People" and that only the jury could prevent this loss to democracy and preserve any chance for political reform. "Stand for him, stand for the People" he pleaded. He finished by reading the Gettysburg Address.

The jury, after hearing over one hundred witnesses in almost five weeks of trial and deliberating for two days, reported its decision on May 22, 1915. It was a unanimous verdict for the defendant. Barnes,' not Roosevelt's, hide would go on the fence. Barnes' career as a political leader had ended. The trial ruined any chance that he might have had for a seat in the U. S. Senate and his influence decreased steadily thereafter.

Roosevelt made the most of his victory and bragged that democracy had triumphed over the machine. To his chagrin, however, the case had disappeared from the front pages of *The New York Times*. With the sinking of the Lusitania on May 7, the country's attention had turned to events in Europe. The victorious defendant's attempts to have the trial transcripts published for mass circulation failed for lack of interest.

The Colonel's political star regained some of its luster, however, and there were brief rumors of a possible presidential nomination in 1916, and again, in 1918 some talk that the Republicans might turn to him as their candidate in 1920. But Roosevelt died in January 1919, less than four years after the trial, his ambitions for a return to the political limelight unrealized. He was 61 years old. Most Roosevelt biographies have either ignored the Barnes-Roosevelt trial or mentioned it only in passing. But it represents a significant event in the political history of New York and the nation, and provides a poignant picture of the ex-President near the end of his distinguished career struggling to reclaim his former power.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Hon. Stewart F. Hancock, Jr. has returned as counsel to Hancock Estabrook, LLP where he is engaged in appellate practice and serves as arbitrator and mediator in domestic and international commercial disputes and as an expert witness on questions of New York law. He has been appointed to the faculty at Syracuse University College of Law as Visiting Professor and Jurist in Residence and teaches a seminar in Case Analysis and Appellate Advocacy. Judge Hancock is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and of Cornell Law School.

Judge Hancock's father, Stewart F. Hancock, Esq. of Syracuse participated in the Barnes-Roosevelt trial as one of the four lawyers, headed by John M. Bowers, Esq. of New York City, representing the defendant.

Author's Note: Some of what is in this article is based on his recollections of conversations with his father and others who were present at the trial.

The Lure of Our Salt Heritage

By Dennis J. Connors

Syracuse is known as the ***Salt City.*** Our official city seal depicts salt boiling blocks and solar evaporating sheds. There is a train and a canal boat also pictured on the seal, but even the canal boat is shown carrying barrels of salt. While we like to associate our community with the Erie Canal, we often react with ambivalence to our salt heritage. The Erie's heritage must rightly be shared with dozens of communities along the Buffalo to Albany corridor. New York's salt legacy, however, is almost uniquely ours. Some would say that the Erie has a more picturesque, romantic aura about it. That may be true, but if one pokes around into our salt heritage, there are many interesting stories to uncover.

From time to time, OHA will feature some in *History Highlights*. One that is fitting on the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 involves a man named Daniel Dobbins (1776-1856). Dobbins was from the area of Erie, Pennsylvania and early in the 19th century became a pioneer mariner on Lake Erie. As settlement expanded into the upper Great Lakes region in the pre-canal, pre-railroad era, transportation along lakes and rivers provided the vital commerce routes. One of the most sought after commodities in this era was salt. Among other uses, it was one of the few means available to preserve fish and meats before refrigeration. Settlements along the upper Great Lakes needed it as well as growing towns, deep in the interior, like Pittsburgh. An early history of Erie, Pennsylvania states that,

"Previous to the war of 1812-14, a dozen or more vessels comprised the whole merchant fleet of the lake, averaging about sixty tons each. The chief article of freight was salt from Salina, N. Y., which was brought to Erie, landed on the beach below the mouth of Mill Creek, hauled in wagons to Waterford, and from there floated down French Creek and the Allegheny River to Pittsburgh. As the trade progressed, three large buildings were erected on the beach for storing the salt."

Before canals, the salt heading west would leave the shores of Onondaga Lake on Durham boats run down the Seneca and Oswego rivers to Oswego Falls (today's Fulton, N.Y.) where it would be portaged around the falls, then reloaded on smaller bateaux. At Oswego, the salt barrels would be placed on board a schooner and shipped to the Lower Niagara River at Lewiston, portaged around Niagara Falls to the Upper Niagara, then re-loaded on another sail boat for Erie or other western destinations. The trade totaled thousands of barrels annually.

Dobbins was one of the most active of these Lake Erie merchant captains. In addition to unloading Onondaga salt at Erie, one of his business endeavors was to sail up the length of Lake Erie and Huron with a cargo of 100 or more barrels

A 19th century engraving showing Perry changing his command to the USS Niagara during the Battle of Lake Erie

of Onondaga salt to Mackinac, and trade it there for a ship load of furs, which he brought back to be sold at Montreal for great profit.

In 1809 Captain Dobbins and his business partner purchased a 90-ton schooner called the *Charlotte* from Alexander Mackintosh, an agent of the fur-trading, British North West Company. Mackintosh operated from a location near today's Windsor, Ontario. Dobbins renamed the ship, *Salina*, after the settlement on Onondaga Lake that would be the source for most of its cargo – salt.

Dobbins did well with his lucrative salt trade. In one trip during 1811 the *Salina* picked up $120,000 worth of furs at Mackinac, no doubt partially in exchange for Onondaga salt. Upon reaching Montreal, their worth would be doubled. The coming War of 1812 would prove a great disruption to Captain Dobbins's business. At the same time, however, it would thrust him and his *Salina* into a critical but little known role in one of that conflict's most famous battles.

News traveled slowly in the decades before Morse invented his telegraph. The United States declared war on Britain on June 18, 1812. Dobbins and the *Salina* happened to be docked at Mackinac Island, at the head of Lake Michigan, the following month. He and the small American garrison stationed at that island's fort were still unaware that they were at war. They soon found themselves facing a surprise attack from an enemy force of 300, composed of British troops and their Native allies, ten times the number of Americans. The date was July 16, 1812 and the American fort surrendered without a shot in the first land engagement of the war. Dobbins and the *Salina* were both commandeered by the British and ordered to transport the paroled American prisoners to Detroit. The articles of surrender included this condition:

This modern reproduction of a War of 1812 schooner provides some idea of how the Salina may have looked.

"The garrison shall march out with the honors of war, lay down their arms and become prisoners of war and shall be sent to the United States of America by his Britannic Majesty, not to serve in this war until regularly exchanged and for the due performance of this article the officers pledge their word and honor."

Upon arriving at Detroit, the American commander, General William Hull insisted that Dobbins and the *Salina* remain for future service. Dobbins actually took up arms with the Americans for a few skirmishes, because he had refused to sign the parole document at Mackinac. Unfortunately, on August 16, British forces under General Brock attacked Detroit. Hull panicked and quickly surrendered. Dobbins again found himself and his ship in British hands. This time, the British were not so generous. Brock seized the Salina to use as a supply vessel for British posts along the Great Lakes. Believing Dobbins had violated the Mackinac parole, he became a wanted man. So Dobbins made good an escape, evading capture and making his way back to Erie. He then traveled to Washington to report directly to authorities in President Madison's administration that America needed to build a naval fleet on Lake Erie or risk defeat on that front.

Dobbins was granted a warrant to serve as a sailing master in the U. S. Navy and ordered to return to Lake Erie and establish a shipyard. He chose the well-positioned harbor of his home port at Erie, Pennsylvania, assembled a construction crew and began work on two 50-foot gunboats. The Erie location and Dobbin's efforts would soon become the nucleus for the more ambitious ship-building effort that ultimately led to the creation of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's Lake Erie fleet by the summer of 1813.

Meanwhile, the British were using the former salt-hauling *Salina* to transport provisions among their Lake Erie posts, primarily between the Niagara Peninsula and Amherstburg (across from Detroit). In December of 1812, she was en route to Amherstburg with food provisions for the garrison and, reportedly, supplies to help outfit the *HMS Detroit*, a 20+ gun British war ship then under construction on the Detroit River. But it was late in the sailing season and the lake was freezing up. Caught in Lake Erie ice, she was abandoned by her crew and left to drift.

Meanwhile, that same month, Dobbins and his construction crew were also desperate for the materials needed to outfit

his gunboats. Erie, Pennsylvania was a small, remote settlement at the time. Iron was in short supply as were ropes for rigging. But one day, to Dobbin's surprise, a "ghost" ship appeared off the shore at Erie, locked in the ice and apparently abandoned. He organized a salvage operation, with sleds taken over the ice to the ship. Dobbins was no doubt amazed to find the ship that had drifted down the lake in the ice flow was his old command, named for his peacetime salt trade, the *Salina*. It was a fortunate event. Dobbins decided to remove everything he could use. Much desperately needed rope for rigging and cable was recovered. Scrap iron, rods and spikes from the Salina could be converted by blacksmiths into hand forged wrought nails and fastenings for the ships that would become part of Perry's fleet. Once anything of value was taken, Dobbins had the hull torched to prevent its recapture by the British.

On the first day of January 1813, senior U. S. Naval commander on the Great Lakes, Commodore Isaac Chauncey arrived from Sackets Harbor to inspect Dobbins' operation. Recognizing the importance of having a strong fleet on Lake Erie, Chauncey ordered an escalation of the effort at Erie, in supplies, crew and by assigning a professional naval officer to the base, Master-Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry. Perry took over responsibility for assembling the Lake Erie fleet but Dobbins, the maritime salt trader, continued to work closely with him on construction and supply details. Dobbins played a critical role in helping finish work on the fleet.

The effort would ultimately result in an American Lake Erie squadron of eleven vessels, nine of which confronted the British fleet at the western end of the lake in an epic naval battle on September 10, 1813. The Battle of Lake Erie was a major American victory, immortalized with Perry's report to his superiors: *"We have met the enemy and they are ours. . ."* The British defeat gave the U. S. Navy control of the Upper Great Lakes for the remainder of the war.

Dobbins had hoped to cap his yearlong service to the Navy by participating in what everyone knew would be one of the definitive maritime showdowns of the war. Perry had given him command of the *Ohio*, a 59-foot merchant schooner that the Navy had purchased. It had been outfitted with a single, 24-pounder long gun. As one of the smaller, least armed vessels in Perry's fleet, he assigned it to supply duties during the summer of 1813. The *Ohio* had been dispatched from the position of Perry's fleet, at the west end of the lake, to Erie for supplies, where it was docked when the battle began. Three days later, Dobbins and the *Ohio* caught up with the victorious squadron and its captured prizes, carrying much needed provisions for the weary and wounded sailors of both sides.

Dobbins continued his command with the U. S. Navy into the 1820s and then with the Revenue Cutter Service, a precursor to the U. S. Coast Guard. He left the salt trade behind, but getting Onondaga salt to market continued as one of the important drivers for internal improvements in both the United States, with construction of the Erie and Oswego canals, and in Canada, with creation of the Welland Canal.

In April of 1816, Congress did pass an act to settle a financial claim by Dobbins and Rufus Reed, co-owners of the *Salina* in 1812, for its loss while in service to the United States.

Today, Daniel Dobbins lies buried in Erie, Pennsylvania. The burned hulk of the salt schooner *Salina* lies, relatively, just a few miles away from his grave, beneath the cold waters of Lake Erie. Almost 200 years later, its small role in helping outfit Perry's victorious War of 1812 fleet remains a tantalizing but virtually forgotten footnote in the lore of the Onondaga salt industry.

OHA Carmen Licitra recently visited the OHA Museum

Carmen Licitra, member of the local rock 'n roll band, *Carmen and the Vikings*, recently visited the OHA Museum with his nephew, Jim. While at the museum, Carmen posed next to his electric guitar and velour shirt that he wore during his band days. The guitar and shirt are on exhibit in the Marsellus Gallery as part of the "Recreation" section of the exhibit, *Onondaga County: The Heart of New York*. Jim Licitra donated the items back in 1996. In 1964, *The Post-Standard* declared *Carmen and the Vikings* as the area's best local rock 'n roll band. In the '60s, *Carmen and the Vikings* opened for *The Beach Boys* at MacArthur Stadium and *The Animals* at the War Memorial. Other band members included *Dave Pasternack, Chuck DiCosimo, Dave Novak*, and *Mike Adornato*.

New OHA Exhibit to Travel Library System and Destiny USA

OHA's newest production, a six-panel exhibit, "Transforming Syracuse's Lakefront: The 25th Anniversary of a Bold Vision – 1987-2012" is now on display at our museum until December, 2012. After that, it will be traveling throughout the Onondaga County Public Library system. There are also duplicates of this exhibit that are on display in several locations throughout the mall at Destiny USA.

This six-panel traveling exhibit explores the stunning changes that have occurred to the Syracuse Lakefront district since officials of the Pyramid Companies and the City of Syracuse first announced plans to begin a transformation of the city's waterfront. The exhibit introduces the lakefront as an area with a long history, extending back to colonial times and once serving as the heart of Syracuse's great salt industry. The exhibit then examines, often through dramatic before and after images, the changes that have occurred in the area with Destiny USA serving as the catalyst. These transformations have taken place at the Inner Harbor, with the removal of dozens of oil tanks; along Onondaga Creek, with the creation of the Creekwalk; and within the abandoned early 20th century industrial district that is now the exciting historic Franklin Square neighborhood.

Make sure to stop in at OHA's museum to see this great new exhibit that highlights the remarkable transition of an important part of our community's landscape.

OHA Gift Gallery

By Matthew MacVittie

Unique Italian Wine Glasses

The OHA Gift Gallery has teamed up with that fabulous, and very popular, New York City retailer, Fishs Eddy, to create new products that are inspired by OHA's collections. The newest signature gift item resulting from this collaboration is now available at OHA just in time for some early holiday shopping. Enjoy your favorite wine in true Italian style with these unique Italian wine glasses. The simple, elegant designs will help any table sparkle. Even better, these Italian wine glasses feature Syracuse China designs direct from the archives of OHA's Syracuse China Collection. Buy them individually or in sets of six. They come in specially designed boxes and will make a perfect gift. Of course, best of all, whenever you make a purchase from OHA's Gift Gallery, you are helping to fund the educational programs and the worthwhile mission of OHA. As always, OHA members receive a 10% discount on all Gift Gallery items.

$6.00 each or $36 for a set of six

FISHS EDDY and OHA ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Limited Edition 2012 Christmas Ornament

Buy our Limited Edition 2012 Christmas Ornament, featuring the Niagara Mohawk Building, now National Grid Headquarters in Syracuse. It is an outstanding example of Art Deco architecture and a symbol for the Age of Electricity. Completed in 1932, as a project overseen by local architect Melvin King, the building visually expressed the technology of electricity through its contemporary design. With its use of bright stainless steel, angled details, integrated lighting and a figurative winged sculpture personifying the power of electricity, the dynamic building offered an optimistic symbol of progress in the dark days of the Great Depression.

$9.99

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Limited Edition 2012 Glass Ornament

"In Their Own Words: Personal Perspectives of the Civil War"

by Matthew MacVittie

"Men wounded and killed lying in all directions. Some of the old soldiers make out well rifling the pockets of the dead. Rifle ball falls thick all around us. Hundreds of guns, cartridge boxes and dead lying all around us." – Alonzo Clapp

April 12th, 2011 marked the 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War. In celebration of this remarkable era of American history OHA launched an exciting new twitter project that follows the lives of five local soldiers who served in the Union forces. Through daily twitter entries from their own diaries and letters now in the OHA collections, Rufus Petit, Herbert Wells, Alonzo Clapp, David Nelson and Edward Hopkins recount their experiences and eyewitness accounts of the most devastating war in America's history. Up until now OHA has provided background information on various events as well as followed our first soldier Captain Rufus Petit of Company B, 1st New York Light Artillery through his heartfelt correspondence with his wife Elvira. Captain Petit has shown us great emotion in being separated from his beloved family as well as frustration as he tries to make sense of war, finding enemies in his fellow countrymen. This August marked the beginning of our next soldier's commentary and a brand new chapter for OHA's "*In Their Own Words: Personal Perspectives of the Civil War.*"

Alonzo Harrington Clapp grew up on the north shore of Oneida Lake, and was a schoolteacher and school administrator in Baldwinsville, NY. When the war started he was serving as the principal of the Onondaga Hill School, and was unsure if he wanted to be a soldier. His journal reads, *"I am urged by the military committee to accept a commission and I am sorely puzzled to know what to do. Duty urges me to go. Taste, inclination and interest hold me back. I know not what to do."* However, he was prevailed upon by his friends to enter service by joining a company being formed in Baldwinsville and was mustered in as a Lieutenant in the 122nd NY Volunteer Infantry Regiment or 3rd Onondaga Regiment.

Though Alonzo Clapp may have never wanted to be a soldier, he discovered he had a talent for both fighting and recording the sights and sounds of warfare in his journal. Throughout the remainder of the Civil War Alonzo served with distinction, was reviewed by President Abraham Lincoln and participated in such battles as Gettysburg, Antietam, and Appomattox.

Major Alonzo Clapp

In an effort to give all these fine local soldiers a proper voice in which to share their experiences throughout the bloodiest war in American history, OHA has also launched a brand new website for "*In Their Own Words: Personal Perspectives of the Civil War,*" which includes both daily journal updates from our soldiers as well as background information on the men and the war itself. Join us for the story at http://intheirownwords150.wordpress.com/ or https://twitter.com/OnondagaHisAssn.

2012 Central New York History Day recap

By Betsy York and Scott Peal

The 2012 Central New York History Dav competition was held March 10th with over 150 students and 50 volunteers participating. The theme this year was, *Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History*. The students presented in one of five categories; Historical Papers, Websites, Performance, Documentaries and Exhibits, as either groups or individuals. Onondaga Community College served as the venue for this year's competition and plans are in the works to have the 2013 competition there as well. The students were given the opportunity to tour the campus as well as attend a College Fair that was being held in the SRC Arena. The top two winners in each category progressed to the NY State competition in Cooperstown.

In Cooperstown, students from Cicero-North Syracuse, Fayetteville-Manlius and Liverpool school districts competed against students from around the state. Six Liverpool students were honored with awards. Joshua Dela Cruz placed third in Senior Individual Exhibits for his entry, "Catalyst of the Phillipine Revolution of 1968." Lander Eiholzer received an award from The Ancient Order of Hibernians for his project, " The Irish Rebellion of 1641" in the same category. They are students of Maureen Tricase. Lauren Merrified and Maggie Gaynor received the SUNY Fredonia Ethnic/Minority Studies Award in Junior Group Exhibits for "The Stonewall Riots: Where Pride Began." Joe Petroff and Dan Polhamus, students of Karen Grosso, were recognized by The National Maritime Historical Association for their Junior Group Documentary, "Safety of the Sea." For the first time in a number of years, Central New York students took first place in the state competition. Anna Bruzguilis and Kaethe Leonard, students of Steve Cary, from Cicero-North Syracuse, placed first with their performance piece entitled "Rescuing Jerry," about the Jerry Rescue. This qualified them to take part in the National History Day competition in Washington, DC.

Sponsors for the event included O.C.C., Bottar Leone PLLC, Dr. David Murray, Professor Carol Faulkner; S.U. History Dept., John T. McCann, Manning & Napier Foundation, Seneca Federal Savings & Loan Assn., Ms. Eleanor Theodore, and Ms. Barbara Wanamaker. The 2013 Central New York History Day will take place next spring with the theme, *Turning Points in History – People, Ideas, Events*. For more information about participating, please contact Scott Peal at the Onondaga Historical Association, 428 1864 x 317.

Students registering for History Day 2012 in the Whitney Building at Onondaga Community College

OHA Visit from Friends of the Susan B. Anthony House By Scott Peal

On May 15th, nearly fifty Friends of the Susan B. Anthony House in Rochester paid a visit to OHA to view the Underground Railroad exhibit. Their tour included watching the *Jerry Rescue* video and *The Freedom Bound* sound and light presentation, an explanation of a slavery time line, a viewing of the faces from the basement from the Wesleyan Methodist church (now the Mission Restaurant) and a short sermon from abolitionist "Reverend Samuel May." Afterwards they continued their excursion to The Matilda Joslyn Gage House in Fayetteville and then to Gerrit Smith's home in Peterboro. Volunteers, Bob and Kathy Brown and OHA Staff, Dan Connors and Scott Peal, presented the tour.

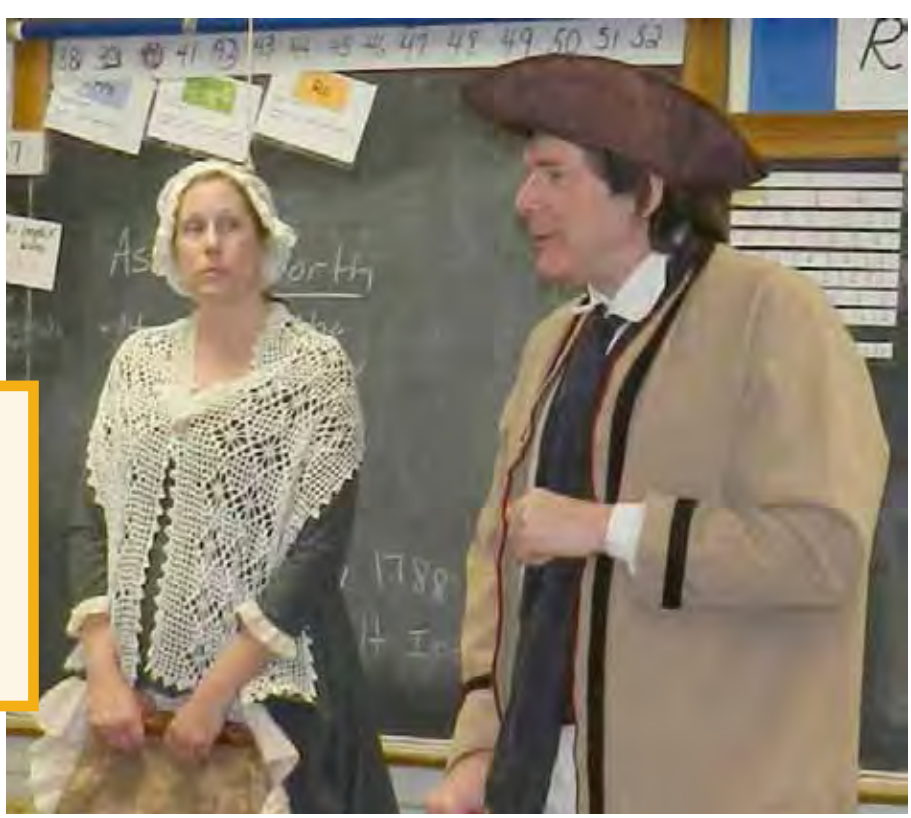
Friends of the Susan B. Anthony House attend a lecture by Rev. Samuel May (Scott Peal).

The Danforths of Onondaga County

By Scott Peal

This spring, for the second year in a row, OHA has presented "The Danforths of Onondaga County" for the fourth grades of Syracuse's Seymour School. Seymour School resource person Rebecca Jackson had a program on the Revolutionary War to help prepare the students for their trip to Fort Stanwix. There was very little activity here in this area at that time as this was the "Western Wilderness." One of our earliest settlers, Major Asa Danforth and his family, came to this area in the 1780s . He reminisced about the rigors of fighting in the Continental Army and his wife, Hannah, spoke of the trials of being left behind to care for their family and farm. The re-enactors use the premise that the Danforths have returned to Lenox, Massachusetts to tell the audience about their new home in the land of the Onondagas, and hope to recruit them as new settlers. The program explores pioneer life and is interactive, allowing the students to use tools, and to assume the roles of the Danforths' daughter, Patty, and fur trader Ephraim Webster.

Last fall, Seymour students visited OHA and took part in a program "What Is A Museum?" which explained the purposes of museums, artifacts and documents. For more information about these and other programs please call Scott Peal at 428 1864 x317.



Betsy York and Scott Peal playing early settlers, Mr. and Mrs. Asa Danforth

SYRACUSE ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

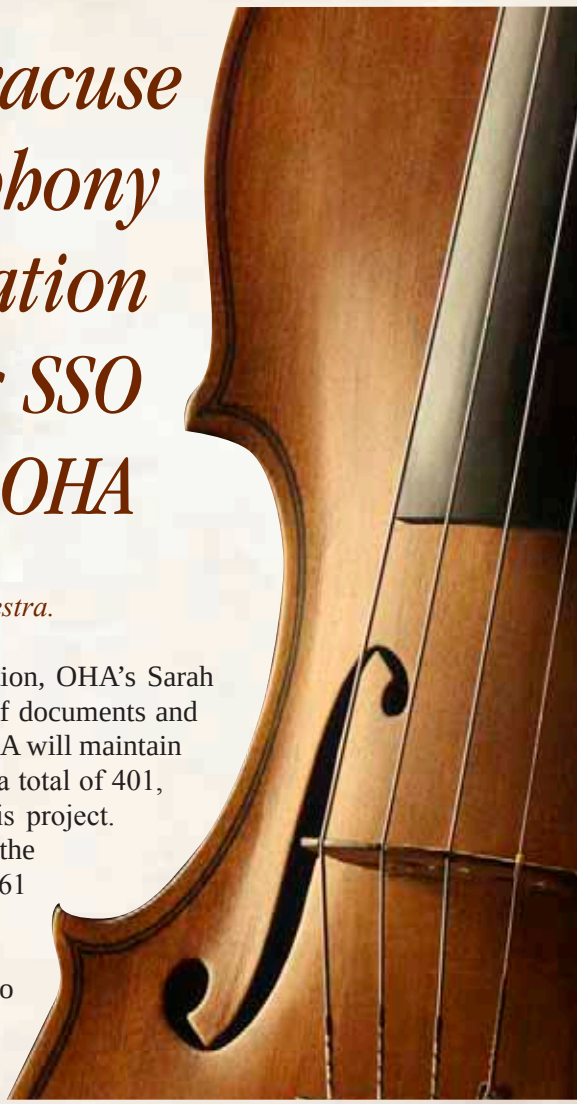
By Scott Peal

As part of the Syracuse Arts and Crafts Festival, the Onondaga Historical Association hosted for the fourth year, the artists and performers of the Native American Circle of Life. A performance by the native shawl dancers took place in the museum auditorium on Sunday. Traditional foods including the mouth watering buffalo burger and Indian tacos were available for purchase as were a variety of native crafts.

Iroquois Shawl Dancers at the Arts & Crafts Festival, July 29, 2012, Left to right: Juliana Starowicz, Jennifer Story, and India Mundo

Syracuse Symphony Foundation Supports SSO Archive at OHA

Sarah Kozma working with files collected from the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra.



As a result of a large bequest from the Syracuse Symphony Foundation, OHA's Sarah Kozma is cataloguing, organizing, and preserving the many boxes of documents and 3-D items that comprise the archival collection from the SSO that OHA will maintain and preserve. So far, Sarah has processed 13 cubic feet of documents out of a total of 401, using archival Gaylord boxes and file folders purchased specifically for this project. When complete, Sarah's work will yield a searchable catalogue of all of the collected and preserved Syracuse Symphony Orchestra documents from 1961 to 2011.

In the near term, we will also begin assembling the metal shelving necessary to accommodate the archival material. Many thanks to generosity of the Syracuse Symphony Foundation in helping OHA preserve this collection for any future researchers and local orchestral groups.

The introductory billboard from the year-long "Iconic Syracuse" project

OHA ANNOUNCES NEW COLLABORATION WITH THE CONNECTIVE CORRIDOR

"Iconic Syracuse" is a new project produced by OHA and the Connective Corridor that decorates the large billboard located at the intersection of West Fayette Street and West Street, at the gateway to Armory Square. The billboard features iconic photos of historic Syracuse that highlight scenes along the Connective Corridor paired with oil paintings created by Greg Mawicke and Jesse Handelman of Syracuse University's Industrial and Interaction Design department under the direction of Professor Denise Heckman. The photos used on the billboard were curated by OHA's Curator of History, Dennis Connors.

The project will display different photos and paintings each month over a twelve-month period ending in September, 2013. The introductory billboard was installed in August to "announce" the upcoming collaboration and features six of the iconic photos with the headline, "USE the Past, InfUSE the Future."

There was a reception to launch the project in the Warehouse on Fayette Street in downtown Syracuse on September 6.

"Syracuse Cultural Workers: 100 @ 30!"

100 Posters / 30th Anniversary

September 26, 2012 – January 20, 2013

Syracuse Cultural Workers-Peace and Justice Publisher Since 1982

OHA is featuring a 30th Anniversary celebration of the Syracuse Cultural Workers, through an exhibit of 100 of their most highly regarded and "inspirational" posters. Posters are just one of many message-oriented resources SCW designs, produces and distributes throughout North America, aimed at advancing social justice, sustainability and peace. "Choosing 100 posters from the hundreds we've produced was a disquieting walk back in time," said Dik Cool, founder and publisher. Many of the themes and messages are alarmingly relevant, today, like "Childhood Is A Journey-Not A Race," "Make Art Not War," and "How To End Global Warming." One of our most popular poster's (over 5,000 sold in the year of 9/11), "How To Build Community," was purchased and distributed in hopes of inspiring an entire city. "I think community is coming back in style… people are really responding to 'How To Build Community'… It allows them to see that their individual, everyday acts are important…" - Mary Anderson, Wonderworks, Toronto, Canada.

SCW's mission and 30th Anniversary exhibit complement OHA's, "Power of the People." This permanent collection salutes notable activists and their social/political impact on Central New York history, including the abolitionists, Women Suffrage Movement, the Underground Railroad, and the Native Americans. "We hope our 100 posters move you, strengthen or rekindle activism, inspire reaching out across race, class, gender and generation boundaries, and helps build community," Dik Cool, concluded.

DIRECTIONS TO OHA:

Getting to OHA is easy –
just follow the directions and map, below:

From 690 Westbound:

Take Townsend St. exit. Turn left at bottom of ramp. Go to 4th light (Fayette St.) and turn right onto Fayette St. Go to 2nd light (Montgomery St.) and turn left onto Montgomery St. OHA is halfway down the block on the left at 321 Montgomery St.

From 690 Eastbound:

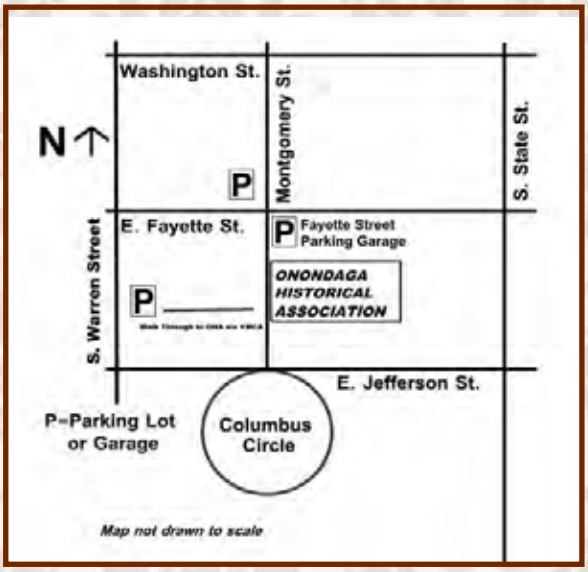
Take West St. exit. At first light after off-ramp (intersection with Fayette St.) turn left onto Fayette St. Go to 5th light (intersection with Montgomery St.) and turn right onto Montgomery St. OHA is halfway down the block on the left at 321 Montgomery St.

From 81 Southbound:

Take Clinton St. exit. Travel south on Clinton Street until 6th light at Fayette St. Turn left onto Fayette St. Go to the 3rd light and turn right onto Montgomery St. OHA is halfway down the block on the left at 321 Montgomery St.

From 81 Northbound:

Take Adams St. exit. Travel north on Almond Street until 5th light at Fayette St. Turn left onto Fayette St. Go to the 4th light and turn left onto Montgomery St. OHA is halfway down the block on the left at 321 Montgomery St.



PARKING NEAR OHA:

We recommend parking in the garage on the corner of Fayette Street and Montgomery Street. The entrance is on Fayette Street, between State Street and Montgomery Street. **The price is lower than street parking** for 2 hours – just $1/hour for the first 2 hours, and it is closer to OHA than the majority of street parking available (including many of those on Montgomery Street) and you won't get an expensive parking ticket just because your meter time ran out!

Other parking facilities are marked on the map, and there is, of course, metered parking available on surface streets.

Several of our members have chosen to receive their issues of History Highlights via e-mail in order to help us cut down on mailing costs. If you would also like to receive your copy of the OHA newsletter via your e-mail please let us know. Just call 428-1864 X 312 or by e-mailing Karen Cooney at Karen.Cooney@cnyhistory.org.

ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S
HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS
OHA www.cnyhistory.org

Onondaga Historical Association
321 Montgomery Street
Syracuse, New York 1 3202-2098
315.428.1864

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

OHA Hours

History Museum and Gift Gallery
Wed-Fri 10am-4pm
Sat-Sun 11am-4pm

Research Center
Wed-Fri 10am-2pm
Sat 11am-3:30pm

OHA Wish List
Flat screen TV's (32" or larger)
Flat screen computer monitors
Computers or laptops with WindowsVista Home Premium or Windows 7
New or used power or hand tools

We are looking for new or used items with current or recent technology. For used items we ask that they have a reasonable useful life remaining. Donations of items themselves or contributions toward the purchase of these items will be appreciated.

Find Onondaga Historical Association on:

Raise money for the Onondaga Historical Association by using GoodSearch and GoodShop.

GoodSearch

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue (approximately a penny per search) to the charities its users designate. GoodShop.com donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to the Onondaga Historical Association.

Go to goodsearch.com and enter Onondaga Historical Association (Syracuse, NY) as the charity you want to support.

Volunteers Appeal

Archives Volunteers Needed! We're looking for great volunteers to help process our many archival collections.

Gift Gallery Volunteers Needed! We're looking for great volunteers or "staff" to run our gift shop for a few hours or more each week from 10-4 W-F and 11-4 Sat-Sun.

If you're interested in volunteering, please let us know! 315-428-1864 ext 324. To download our volunteer application, please visit our website at cnyhistory.org