

HAPPY 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OHA!

ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S

# HISTORY

## HIGHLIGHTS

VOL. 26 NO. 2

\$5.00 FALL / WINTER 2013



**OHA**  
ONONDAGA  
HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION  
**150**  
years

***IN THIS ISSUE:***

*George Herman Ruth – the Babe, the Bambino, the Sultan of Swat – came to the Salt City on several occasions.*



# Our Glorious Workplaces

November 9, 6-10pm, at Crouse Hospital

In honor of Crouse's history of service excellence, innovation and professional advancement, Onondaga Historical Association (OHA) is proud to announce that its 17th annual fundraising gala, Our Glorious Workplaces, will be celebrated at Crouse Hospital on Saturday, November 9, starting at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$195. Tables of 10 and sponsorships are also available. For reservations or more information, call Lynne at 4281-864, ext. 314.



**6 – 7 pm** - Cocktails and Hors D'oeuvres in the Crouse Hospital Memorial lobby. Tours of the Chris J. and Marsha K. Witting Surgical Center

**7 – 8:30 pm** - Dinner in the future Emergency Department, Irving Unit

**8:30 – 9:30 pm** - Dessert and Program

**For Early Birds: 5-5:45 pm** - Tours of the Harry and Lillian Marley Education Center, Crouse College of Nursing, including the Library, the mock operating room, and Visit to Hospital Land.

Free parking will be provided in the Crouse Hospital Garage. Early birds may park under the Marley Education Center. Valet parking is available for guests with special needs – please contact Lynne at 428-1864, ext. 314 for special arrangements.

Special event raffle: a tour of the Crouse Hospital Clock Tower for four people - \$20 per raffle ticket. (Tour to take place at a later date.)





# HISTORY

VOL. 26 NO. 2 **HIGHLIGHTS** \$5.00 FALL / WINTER 2013

## ON THE COVER



Cover photo: *Babe Ruth at New York Central Railroad depot, Erie Blvd., Syracuse for exhibition game July 6, 1938*

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- Sesquicentennial Salutes
- Medal Breakfast recap
- Raise the Roof on History recap
- OHA's Film Projects

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- Stylish Cocktail Lounges
- Civil War Twitter Project
- George Washington Inaugural Bible

### Gift Gallery

- OHA Gift Gallery Catalog

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- Hark the OHA Carolers Sing
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**OHA Staff**

- Gregg Tripoli**, Executive Director
- Daniel Connors**, General Manager, Skä•noñh Center
- Dennis Connors**, Curator of History
- Karen Cooney**, Support Services Administrator
- Thomas Hunter**, Assistant Director / Curator of Collections
- Andrew Jordan**, Gift Gallery Manager
- Sarah Kozma**, Research Specialist
- Lynne Pascale**, Director of Development
- Scott Peal**, Education Associate
- Michael Piscitell**, Director of Finance
- Pamela Priest**, Archivist / Research Center Manager

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ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S  
**HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS**

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*Many thanks to Paychex for providing top quality in-kind payroll and payroll tax services to OHA.*





# History House Party - May 9

By Lynne Pascale



*Chloe Westfall, a sixth generation member of the Marsellus family of Central New York, cuts the ribbon during the May 9 dedication of the Marsellus Gallery, part of OHA's permanent museum exhibit entitled Heart of New York. Standing right is Chloe's grandfather, John Marsellus.*

**O**ndaga Historical Association's open house to celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary was held Thursday, May 9, from noon until 8 p.m.

The "History in the House" festivities included: a ribbon-cutting celebrating the naming of the Marsellus Gallery, part of OHA's permanent collection, *Heart of New York*; a time capsule opening, courtesy of Lemp's Jewelers; a discussion by Paul Kocak, author of *Tipp Hill Litanies*; and a gallery talk by OHA's Curator of History Dennis Connors on the exhibit, *The Ties That Bind: The Heritage of Onondaga County's Bridges*. In conjunction with the OHA exhibit, *Onondaga at Gettysburg*, several Civil War re-enactors from the Excelsior Coronet Band and the 122<sup>nd</sup> Living Historians were on hand to honor the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Continuing the Civil War theme, actor David Baker read excerpts from Onondaga County Civil War veteran Col. Gere's diaries, while Curator of History Dennis Connors provided commentary.

A major focal point of the event was the opening on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of *The Jean Daugherty Memorial Magic Toy Shop*, which was made available to Jean's family and the public for the first time during the House Party. Broadcast news veterans and authors Christie Casciano Burns, Tim Fox, and Lou Gulino signed copies of their popular new book, *Syracuse Television* in the Magic Toy Shop open storage exhibit. On the first floor, SU student artists Greg Mawicke



*Gloria Romeo and Christie Casciano Burns enjoy the Magic Toy Shop open storage exhibit.*

and Jesse Handelman discussed their collaborative billboard project, *Iconic Syracuse*, which drew inspiration from images in the OHA collections. Lastly, those interested in media productions associated with OHA could watch the new trailer for *Beneath the Surface*, a proposed documentary on the history of Onondaga Lake, which played in the auditorium, along with WCNY *History Minute* clips, and excerpts from an interview with Hon. Stewart F. Hancock, Jr. Those interested in viewing photos from the event can visit our facebook page.

OHA extends many thanks to Parisa Restaurant for their excellent food and service during the History House Party, and to the many people who came to learn, share, and enjoy local history.



*Jeff Blais from Lemp's Jewelers opening the 1950 Industrial Bank time capsule on May 9, 2013 with Dan Cochrane looking on.*



*"Iconic Syracuse" with painters Jesse Handelman and Greg Mawicke*



# Sesquicentennial Salutes - From City Hall to the Governor's Mansion and From the Congressional Record to the White House, OHA is Recognized on its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

From Vice President Joseph R. Biden:

"Congratulations on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Onondaga Historical Association. I truly appreciate your dedication to preserving the... history of central New York."

From County Executive Joanie Mahoney:

"As a major local cultural institution, you have embraced the role as an economic engine for the community and have used your historic perspective to add value to our community in a variety of ways... As the oldest cultural organization in Onondaga County, the impact you have made in Syracuse and Central New York has been significant."

From Governor Andrew Cuomo:

"We all recognize the importance of preserving the rich history of our state and nation, and gratefully acknowledge the individuals and organizations who work diligently to safeguard our historic past for future generations... On behalf of all New Yorkers, I commend the leadership and membership of the Onondaga Historical Association on this milestone for their many years as valuable resource for those seeking knowledge of the history of this beautiful state of New York."

From Senator Kirsten Gillibrand:

"Our nation's greatest resource is its people and I am grateful for organizations like the Onondaga Historical Association for their steadfast dedication to preserving the memory of the past to better our future. Education and the study of history have always been unifying forces in our society. Your efforts exemplify the positive contributions individuals and organizations can make to their communities."

From Congressman Dan Maffei who congratulated OHA in the Congressional Record on February 15, 2013:

"We are grateful to have a museum and research center that reminds us that we have inherited a special place to live because of the people and events that have come before us. Onondaga County New York's rich history is intertwined with many key periods in our country's history including the building of the Erie Canal, women's suffrage, emancipation, the history of Central New York's Native Americans, the Haudenosaunee. Simply stated, OHA is a treasure of our past, present, and future of Onondaga County."

From Senator Charles E. Schumer:

"It is my great honor to congratulate you on your one hundred and fifty years of community leadership and service. Your hard work is rewarding... and for this I am proud to commend you. You have proven to hold a special place in the hearts of those in your community as one of the oldest historical associations in the country... I wish you the best and look forward to hearing about your future endeavors."



Throughout our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, OHA has received numerous acknowledgments from our city, county, state, and national leaders. All of us at OHA are tremendously appreciative and honored that these very busy people have taken the time to congratulate us in our sesquicentennial year. From Mayoral proclamations to a special mention in the United States Congressional record, OHA is truly grateful for the outpouring of well wishes and congratulatory messages too numerous and lengthy to reprint here. However, we wanted to share with you, our members, excerpts from just a few of the wonderful letters we received.





By Gregg A. Tripoli

## An Award Winning Year for OHA

As we celebrate OHA's sesquicentennial year, it has been especially gratifying to see how our community has recognized the efforts of the organization and some of our key employees. The awards received, so far, in 2013 include:

**Business of the Year**  
**Distinguished Education Award**  
**Special Award of Merit – Scott Peal**  
**Financial Executive of the Year – Michael Piscitell**

### Business of the Year

Due to OHA's entrepreneurial approach to nonprofit management and operations, our continued growth and expansion, our solid financial condition, our increased membership, attendance and visibility in the community, our wide audience reach, our community service and economic development initiatives, and our increases in full and part-time staff, OHA was named Business of the Year in the nonprofit category by Centerstate CEO. On behalf of the entire staff and volunteers of OHA, including our Board of Directors, I gratefully accepted a beautiful custom glass sculpture, designed and made by Mary Fitzpatrick Price of Kilnfusion Studio, in front of 1,200 guests at Centerstate CEO's annual luncheon in April. A special video tribute, produced by Solon Quinn Studios (and available for viewing on OHA's website), was played during the award presentation. The presentation of awards was made by Dr. Paul Kronenberg, president and CEO of Crouse Hospital, Rob Simpson, president of Centerstate CEO, and Allen Naples, chairman of Centerstate CEO. OHA would also like to recognize the other finalists in the category, Not-for-profit, for the exceptional work they do and for the recognition they so richly deserve: Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central New York, and Skaneateles YMCA & Community Center.

### Distinguished Education Award

As an educational institution, OHA was especially pleased, and honored, to receive the Distinguished Education Award from the Central New York Council for the Social Studies. Education informs every aspect of our business, from our exhibits to our publications, programs, productions,



presentations, and even the products we sell in our stores. The Richard and Carolyn Wright Research Center and the Great Law of Peace Educational Center are dedicated to educating the public about all aspects of our local history. OHA is also the Central New York sponsor, and organizer, of the National History Day competition for students in

grades 9 through 12, for which we would like to recognize our volunteer coordinator, Betsy York. We are extremely proud of our education department, which oversees our school programs and interfaces with our partners in the education field, and all of us, at OHA are thrilled by this prestigious honor.

### Special Award of Merit – Scott Peal

The Central New York Council for the Social Studies recognized OHA's Scott Peal with its Special Award of Merit in May. As the individual who heads up our educational programming and our living history presentations, Scott Peal is an essential part of the OHA team. His skills are directed toward making history interesting and entertaining, as well as educational, which is why his programs are so popular and effective. Scott's Ghostwalk programs are sold-out events that draw an audience of over 1,000 people collectively and that garner audience approval ratings close to 100%. Known as Syracuse's first mayor, Harvey Baldwin, or as legendary abolitionist, Rev. Samuel May to thousands of school children across Onondaga County, Scott is also somewhat recognizable as Herman, the night watchman, in OHA's popular "Evening at the Museum" program, which he designs, writes, directs, stars in, and for which he even makes the





costumes. In addition to Scott's many education-related responsibilities, he also decorates our building for holidays and our windows, which delight and engage the pedestrians on Montgomery Street. We congratulate Scott on this award and we commend the wise folks at the Council for having the great good sense to bestow it upon him.

### Financial Executive of the Year – Michael Piscitell

In June, Mike Piscitell was honored with the Financial Executive of the Year award from the Bonadio Group for nonprofit organizations with annual revenues less than one million dollars. Mike is the Director of Finance for OHA and is responsible for all accounting and finance functions of the organization. Among his many financial duties, Mike balances our collections and disbursements to keep us in a positive cash flow situation, provides timely financial



reports and statements, oversees the mountains of paperwork and figures related to our many grants, updates our Cultural Data Project reports and IRS 990's annually, manages our budget process, and makes sure that we price our products and services appropriately to help keep us running in the black. Mike is an indispensable member of the OHA staff and sets the bar for stellar performance. Like most staff, Mike wears many hats at OHA and is involved with facilities management, he is our "go-to" guy for IT issues, takes photos at our events, and directs parking for our ghostwalks. He brings a great deal of levity to the office with his great sense of humor and he even recruits his wife, Jackie, and son, Jon, as volunteers! It was my distinct pleasure to present Mike with his award at a wonderful luncheon and we congratulate him for being so appropriately recognized.



## The Cocktail is King at the Onondaga Historical Museum, Starting in November, 2013



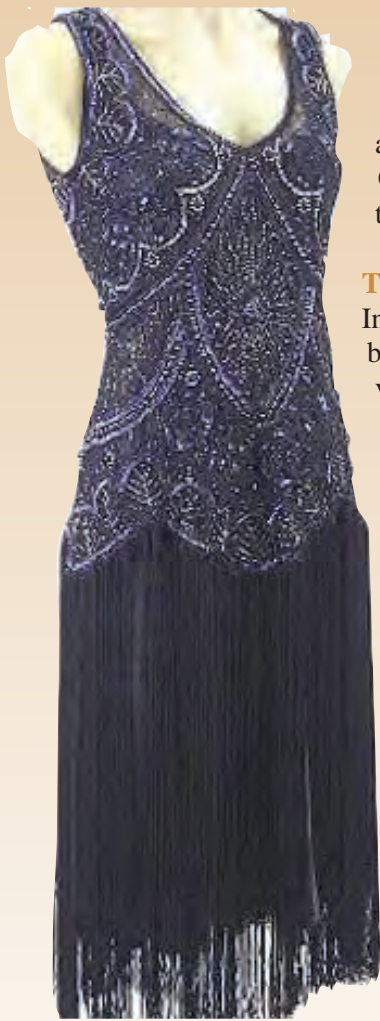
Beginning in November, 2013, OHA will pay tribute to the history of the cocktail with exciting exhibits and a special event space. Come celebrate with us as we close out our sesquicentennial year and learn about:

#### THE CLOTHES:

The exhibit, *Fashion After Five*, curated by Syracuse University's Jeffrey Mayer, associate professor of fashion design and history and curator of the Sue Ann Genet Costume Collection, will explore the history of the cocktail dress with several spectacular garments from the collections of OHA and the Sue Ann Genet Collection. Also represented in the exhibit will be the work of students from the S.U. department of fashion design who will present their own creations, inspired by the vintage dresses selected for the exhibition – a perfect way to combine the past and the present for this exciting new exhibit.







### THE CULTURE:

The complementary exhibit, *The Culture of the Cocktail Hour*, will explore the local history of the cocktail, from the iconic popular lounges and hotel bars that dotted the city to the temperance movement, prohibition, and the speakeasy in Salt City history. With artifacts and images, OHA's Curator of History, Dennis Connors, will take you on a tour of Syracuse's connection to the cocktail.

### THE COCKTAILS:

In collaboration with the Events Company, OHA has transformed a secret location, within our building, into a Speakeasy to serve as an event space throughout the run of the exhibit. From vintage signature cocktails to local brews and wines, the OHA (which, in this case, stands for the "Organization of Historians Against") Temperance Club and Lounge will be the perfect place to have your private party from November 15, 2013 until May 11, 2014. A full range of services are available from catering to entertainment to a raid staged by our 1920's-era "coppers." For information, call Karen Cooney at 428-1864, ext. 312 or email her at karen.cooney@cnyhistory.org

### THE COMMODITIES:

The ideal complement to the above cornucopia of cocktail-related coming events can be found in OHA's Gift Gallery museum stores with products such as:

- Soft t-shirts, and hoodies, featuring the iconic logos and advertisements of the great beers and breweries from Syracuse's history.
- Congress Beer metal drink tray reproduced from the original in OHA's collection.
- Growlers printed with the logo, and history, of Thomas Ryan's brewery, along with a voucher for a free fill-up at Empire Brewing Co.
- Set of 4 Congress beer glasses.
- Set of 6 Italian wine glasses adorned with designs from OHA's Syracuse China Collection.
- Vintage cocktail books
- AND MORE!



The beaded *flapper* dress was all the rage during the 1920s. It is covered with glass beads.

The term *flapper* in the 1920s referred to a "new breed" of young women who wore short skirts, bobbed their hair, listened to the new jazz music, and flaunted their disdain for what was then considered acceptable behavior. Flappers were seen as brash for wearing excessive makeup, drinking, smoking, driving automobiles and otherwise challenging social norms.





# Raise the Roof on History: The OHA Sesquicentennial Awards



*Honorees (from right to left) John D. Marsellus, Aminy Audi accepting for L. & J. G. Stickley, and Nancy Bottar with OHA Executive Director Gregg Tripoli.*



*Edward Audi (left) and Carolyn Audi Fische (right), standing with their mother, Aminy Audi, accepting the OHA Sesquicentennial Award for Company Heritage.*

On the evening of September 5, over 200 people celebrated the OHA Sesquicentennial Awards on the rooftop terrace of the Merchants Commons Building in downtown Syracuse. Given for special commitment to community service with a particular consideration for local history, the award's honorees were Nancy Bottar – Individual Award, the Marsellus Family – Family Heritage Award, and L. & J. G. Stickley, Inc. – Company Heritage Award. Food was by Three One Seven at Montgomery St., music by the David Baker Quartet, and event planning by the Events Company.

*Rooftop vista during Sesquicentennial Awards of downtown Syracuse from the top of the Merchants Commons Building, looking east.*





# The Sultan of Swat Stops in Syracuse

By Thomas A. Hunter

George Herman Ruth – the Babe, the Bambino, the Sultan of Swat – came to the Salt City on several occasions to play in exhibition baseball games from 1922-1947. One of the first times he came to Syracuse was with the Yankees in the summer of 1922 to play against the Syracuse Stars at Star Park on West Genesee St. (Star Park later burned to the ground on July 4, 1931 during the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning of the Lemoyne – Sacred Heart game.) Ruth and the rest of the team stayed at the Onondaga Hotel. While the

other ball players took naps, Ruth met with sports writers at the *Syracuse Herald* newspaper. One young fan, Buddy O’Hara, the eight year old son of the *Herald’s* business manager, greeted the Babe dressed in a Yankees uniform. Before the Star exhibition game, Ruth went to Burnet Park where the boys from the House of Providence were playing the Columbus Athletic Club. Having advance notice of Ruth’s visit to the park, the game was halted as about 5,000 admirers mobbed the celebrity athlete, stepping on his feet, sullyng his blue suit, cracking his straw hat and crushing cigars in his pocket. Shaking dozens of hands and autographing numerous souvenirs, Ruth also demonstrated his batting skills by driving one out of the park. He also umpired part of the game from behind the young pitcher.

After hitting a few more balls, he tried to exit Burnet Park, the mob again converging, pushing him to and fro in a zigzag pattern. Vying for autographs, or simply to touch him, the throng surged forward pushing the Babe onto the car’s hood. Finally, Ruth got into the car and headed out of Burnet Park. However, in all the excitement and chaos, Ruth had forgotten to have the *Syracuse Herald* photographer take his picture with Father Magee, pastor of St. Patrick’s Church in Syracuse. So, he asked the chauffeur to return to the park to look for Father Magee. The crowd couldn’t believe their eyes as they watched the Babe come back for more! Ruth’s entourage found the priest who gladly posed for a photograph with the Babe; Ruth also grabbed Buddy O’Hara for the photo as well. Once more as Ruth tried to leave Burnet Park, the multitude surrounded him. He calmly shook hands, signing more souvenirs, before leaving the park a second time.

In October 1927, Ruth came to the Temple Theater in Syracuse to promote his new silent film, *Babe Ruth Comes Home*. The *Syracuse Herald* described the plot of the film as, “A picture filled with thrills and human interest, comedy, and novel romance.” “Babe Ruth, the giant figure of all baseball history, heads the cast...” “As the title suggests, baseball figures prominently in the picture...” In the movie Ruth played a baseball player named Babe



Babe Ruth, c. 1925



Dugan. Unfortunately, no copies of the film are known to exist today; it is considered to be a lost film.

The next October, Ruth came back to Syracuse with Lou Gehrig to play in an exhibition game at Star Park. The game was rained out on the 14<sup>th</sup>, so the Babe and the Iron Horse (as Gehrig was known) went to see the Syracuse University football team play Johns Hopkins at Archbold Stadium. Everywhere Ruth went in Syracuse he was mobbed by dozens of young fans eager to get his autograph or simply to see, touch, or talk to him. At Archbold, someone spotted the two ball players and the fans began to roar that the Babe was at the stadium. So many young fans shouted, “we want Babe Ruth” that they nearly drowned out the SU students cheering on their football team! Ruth and Gehrig tried to leave the stadium but not before they were surrounded by the tumultuous group. A dozen policemen rescued the two men from the “yelling, squirming mass of kids.” From Archbold Stadium Ruth and Gehrig drove to the House of Providence, an institution for orphaned and homeless boys on West Onondaga St. in Syracuse. The Babe was empathetic toward boys residing in orphanages, after having lived at St. Mary’s Industrial School for Boys in Baltimore for twelve years. As the athletes met with the boys at the House of Providence, they were humbled by the sight of “row after row of shining-faced kids, scrubbed and brushed to within an inch of their lives, sitting quietly – as only orphans can sit – on rows of straight wooden chairs.” Ruth took off his hat and coat and mingled with the orphans, shaking hands, throwing the youngest ones into the air, and laughing with everyone present, even the normally quiet and reserved nuns. Sister Emily, superintendent of the orphanage, thanked the men for coming. “Mr. Ruth, I don’t know how to thank you. The children have been talking about you for weeks... they’ve been so excited they couldn’t think about anything else. You’ll never know what it has meant to them. You can’t imagine what such a thing means in a place like this.” However, Ruth could imagine what such a thing meant to the boys in a place like that; he was once one of them. The boys sang their institution song and gave three cheers for Ruth and Gehrig. From the House of Providence, the men



*Babe Ruth at Star Park in Syracuse*



*Babe Ruth Signing Baseballs, July 6, 1938 at New York Central Railroad Station, Erie Blvd. in Syracuse.*

visited the Syracuse Boys Club and the Sacred Heart Club where they received a warm welcome. From Syracuse the two men traveled by train to Montreal. From his railroad car Ruth said they would be back the following week to play in a make-up game if the weather cooperated. “See you,” he shouted to the crowd of bystanders. “See you some more,” was their reply.

In 1938, the Babe returned with the Brooklyn Dodgers, to play an exhibition game against the Syracuse Chiefs at Municipal (later MacArthur) Stadium. The Chiefs declared Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> as Babe Ruth Day in Syracuse. Realizing Ruth continued to draw large crowds to exhibition games, the Dodgers coaxed him out of a two-year retirement to coach for \$15,000 (almost \$250,000 today). Arriving at the New York Central Railroad station on the 6<sup>th</sup>, he signed autographs and baseballs for delighted fans. A record crowd of over 11,500 came to see the Dodgers thrash the Chiefs 9-0. However, at 43, and about 50 lbs. overweight, the Bambino struggled. He launched about six balls over the right field fence during practice but accomplished little during the game. Hitting to the right fielder, who graciously dropped the ball, Ruth hobbled to first base and immediately called for a pinch runner. After two more attempts, Ruth quit playing but continued to sign autographs for his adoring supporters. The following day, the Dodgers traveled to Elmira for another exhibition game.

Babe Ruth paid his last visit to Syracuse in June 1947. At the exhibition game, Ruth remarked, “I played in Syracuse many times, and I’m sure glad to come back.” George Herman Ruth died on August 16, 1948 in his sleep at the age of 53.



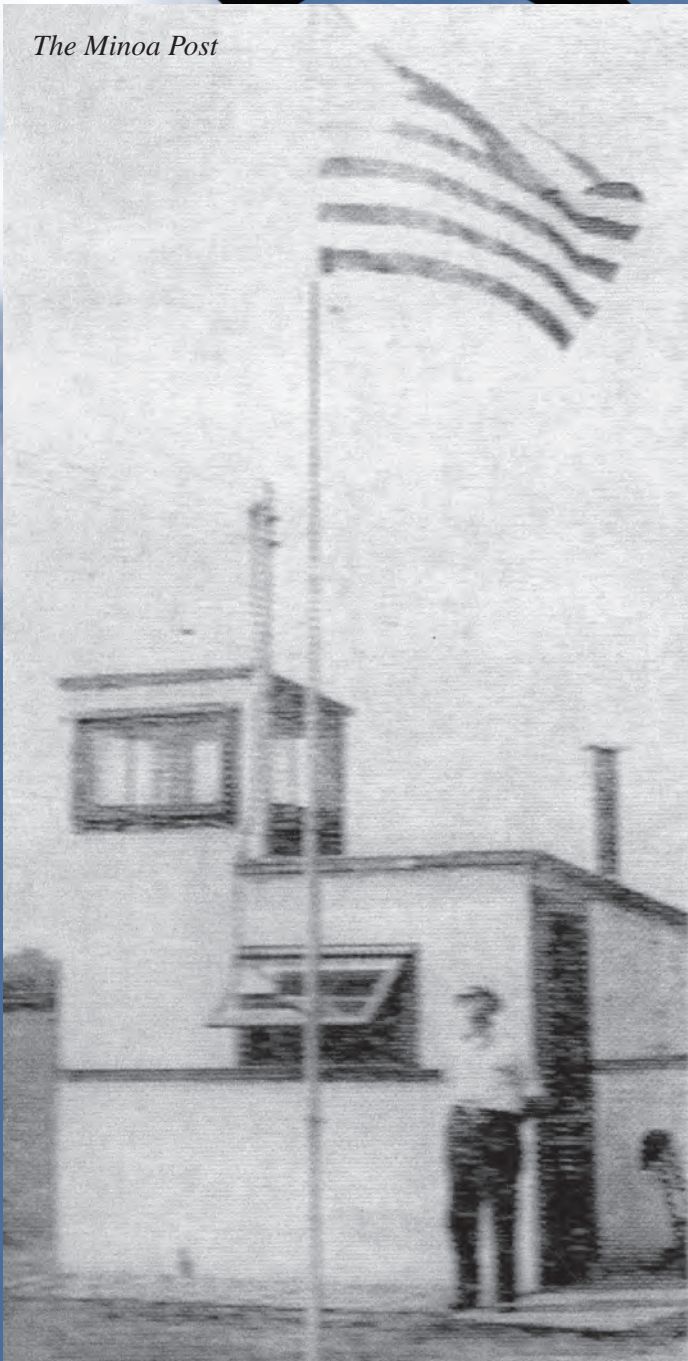
# UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE

*AWS – Aircraft Warning Service*

*Minoa, New York*

*By Norma (Heigle) Jenner, Village of Minoa Historian, Emeritus*

*The Minoa Post*



During World War II, the skies over the United States were being monitored for any and all aircraft flying within our borders. There were Aircraft Warning Stations on both the east and west coasts of the United States. The Eastern Section extended from Maine to Florida and inland as far as the western slopes of the Appalachian Chain. These stations were under the control of the United States Army Air Forces, and manned by volunteers. Fortunately, Minoa was one of the villages chosen for a warning station on the east coast—one of the 18 situated in Onondaga County. There were approximately 150 posts in the Syracuse region. The station was located at the end of Willard Street, just past DeSilva St. (It would have been at the beginning of what is now the entrance to Edgerton Estates.) This area, where the small building was located, was at the edge of farm land at that time owned by George Cochran and it was a landing field for small private airplanes.

The people who manned these stations had to pass a training course before being assigned the hours they would work at the station. At this course, among the things we were taught was to identify what country owned the plane that we sighted; therefore we had to learn to recognize not



*AWS Diploma*





AWS Wing Pin



First AWS Merit Pin received

only American aircraft, but Japanese, Italian and German aircraft as well, just in case. We did this by memorizing the airplanes through the use of flash cards. When we passed the test at the end of the course, we were given a diploma stating we were qualified, and an arm band as well as a wing pin that we should wear whenever we were on duty.

This building was 9' x 10' and the tower was 14 ft. high. They were furnished with a small coal burning, pot bellied stove for warmth in the winter. There was a small table, two

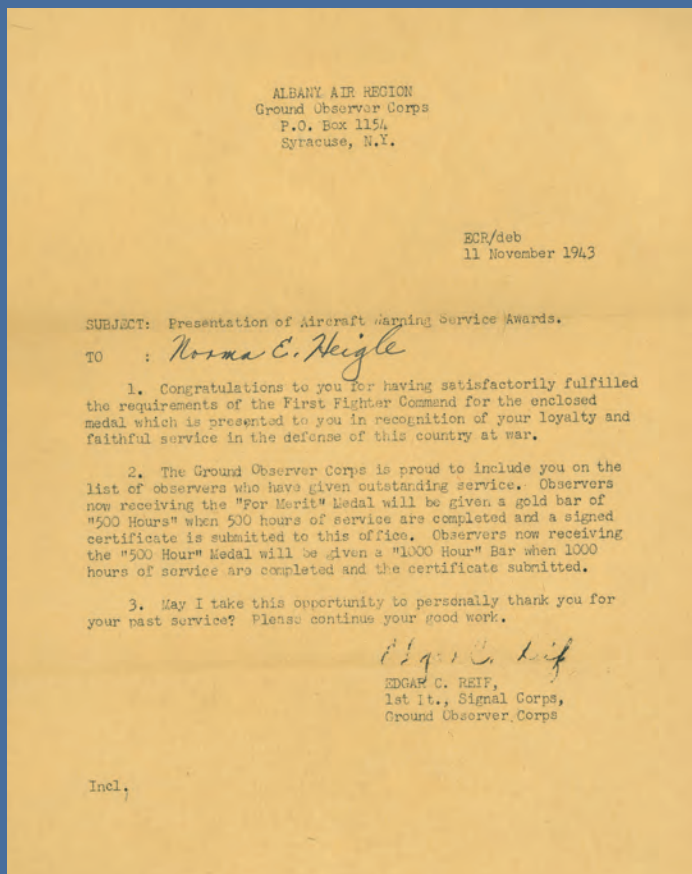
chairs, a telephone, and a davenport. A bulletin board also hung on the wall for Army instructions. There were also some pictures on the wall of some various types of planes. There were stairs that went into the upper windowed level which was only large enough for one person to sit on a chair that was located there. It had windows on all four sides, so you had a good view for spotting any aircraft in all directions. In the summer, when it was very warm, you could sit outside since the telephone had a cord long enough to take just outside the building. There was also an "outdoor john" for our convenience.



AWS Arm Band

Only men were assigned to the nighttime shifts. Both night and day shifts were a two-person assignment and the usual shift time was four hours. I worked Sunday afternoons with my friend. It was difficult to get people to sign up for Sunday afternoon, and we were both teenagers at the time, so if no one signed up for the afternoon shift, there were times that we worked a double shift. You were told not to leave unless someone came to man the tower. It was important to the country's safety, as well as the possibility that one of our own aircraft may need help.

The Control Center was in Syracuse in the basement of a building, although I do not remember which building it was in. I believe we were taken down when we received our first merit pins. As we walked into this huge dark room, there were very bright lights hung low above the table. In the center of this room was a very large rectangular shaped table with many people around the outer perimeter. They had very long poles with a block of wood at one end and as the calls came in they pushed a miniature replica of an airplane from one area to the next as each reported plane flew its course. The lights were only hung low from the ceiling over this entire table, so it was well lighted to make it easy for the workers to follow the flights of all aircraft.



Letter received with merit pin.





*The Minoa Post showing the outhouse*

Our telephone was connected to this Syracuse Control Center. When we spotted an airplane, we called in and reported our finding as follows:---

- (1) One -- (identify if known) (2) Bi (3) high  
 (4) seen (5) Dennis-23 (6) North (7) East

Which translated meant:

- (1) was the number of aircraft sighted.
- (2) was the number of motors on the aircraft.
- (3) whether it was sighted as flying high – or low.
- (4) whether it was actually sighted or only that you heard the motor.
- (5) Minoa station's code number.
- (6) the direction the plane was sighted from our tower.
- (7) the direction the plane was headed in its flight.

From this information sent to the Control Center, they were able to follow all aircraft in the skies over our homeland.

Many people never even knew that this operation was in effect to prevent any attack on the United States, and on May 29, 1944 it was disbanded.

Those of us who worked at The Minoa Post often wondered if one of these posts was put in Minoa because the Dewitt Yards (the name of the Railroad line through Minoa and East Syracuse) was the main transportation line of sending supplies along the east coast. Many Minoans felt if the enemy got through to our country, we would be a primary target because of this situation.



*Merit pin received for 500 hours of service*



*Certificate of Award received for service*



# Syracuse Confidential Ghosttalk



## "Syracuse Confidential"

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**The Great Central New York Train Robbery**  
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**The Fatal Fayetteville Affair**  
... among other infamous wrongdoings.  
**The Verdict: "Do the Talk, Not the Walk."**

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For Reservations, call Karen at 428-1864 ext. 312.  
Reservations are required.



## Hark the OHA Carolers Sing!

By Scott Peal



Transform your Yuletide event into an old fashion Christmas Celebration with *The OHA Carolers*. Have a quartet of costumed singers entertain at your Holiday function. The music may be traditional or a combined with popular selections such as "White Christmas," "Santa Clause is Coming to Town," "I'll Be Home For Christmas," etc., with the singers appropriately costumed.

Please book at least three weeks in advance of your event. Call Scott at 428 1864 x317 for price and to book *The OHA Carolers*.

*The OHA Carolers: Brian Morey, Susan Barbour, Kate Huddleston, David Baker and Amanda Hebblewait joined together to spread the spirit of the Holidays through song.*



# The Mysterious Joseph Perkins - Bookseller, Numismatist and Antiquarian

By Richard Remling

THE SYRACUSE HERALD, TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 20, 1909.

## JOSEPH B. PERKINS DEAD

WELL KNOWN OLD BOOK MAN  
AND NUMISMATICIAN.

When He Retired From Business Last  
October He Was the Syracusean  
Longest in Trade—Passed Away at  
Son's Home in Buffalo.

Joseph B. Perkins is dead. He died yesterday in Buffalo, where he went to make his home with his son on October 28th of last year, after fifty-two years of continuous business activity in the city of Syracuse.

There was scarcely a man, woman or child in Syracuse who had occasion to pass by the old "Alderman" block who didn't know Perkins's bookshop with its windows filled with dime novels, priceless postage stamps, rare old coins, Indian relics, books on sports of various kinds and queer models of ships, anchors and other objects in glass jars, generally the work of a sailor who had left the sea, or a convict who had whittled away his solitude by putting the models together.

Everything in the shop was dusty, from the books on the shelves, to the tables loaded with second hand "Family Libraries," "Nick Carters" and the paper covered classics of Laura Jean Libby and Charlotte M. Bruene. There were shelves upon shelves filled with old magazines—some of them reaching away back into the fifties and sixties of the last century. These were in the back part of the store. Along one side were ranged bound volumes on every subject and of more or less value and on the other was the collection of second hand school books, stamps, coins, etc., which were the shopkeeper's main source of revenue and the two latter of which were his chief delight.

The dust and dilapidation of the shelves did not extend to the appearance of the shopkeeper. Mr. Perkins was always immaculately neat, wore the whitest of linen and looked as though he had been freshly shaven. His tall thin figure, bent with years, was always to be seen moving along South Warren street by the Vanderbilt house at precisely ten minutes past 9 every morning on his way to open his shop. The hour never once varied in many years—Sundays, holidays and weekdays it was the same.

Mr. Perkins was a mine of information. At the time of his death he was still engaged on a work on which he had been engaged for decades—the biographies of centenarians. When he

left Syracuse last October he had already over 30,000 biographies of persons who had attained the age of 100 years or more. Longevity was his hobby—although as he sometimes used to say, "I wouldn't care to live as long as some of those fellows did—it would be a vexation."

He could tell by glancing at a coin of any mint, country or year exactly what it was worth, and his collection of coins and stamps was said to be worth a considerable sum. He made no effort whatever to sell his wares, often. It was said by collectors who knew him, putting a price above the right one on a coin or a stamp, "in order to avoid parting with it."

Mr. Perkins was very proud of the distinction which he held for many years of being the oldest active merchant in the city of Syracuse. He started in the book and circulating library business just fifty-one years before he gave up his store and went to Buffalo to live with his son, Eugene, the only member left of the family, which formerly consisted of a wife and two daughters as well.

Mr. Perkins was born in England eighty-three years ago and came to America in 1817. He came to Syracuse from Cincinnati.

There were two causes which broke down the old numismatician's health and vigor. The first was the death of his wife, Mrs. Agnes Perkins, which occurred under peculiarly sad circumstances about two years ago. With age, her mind gave way and it became impossible for her husband to care for her any longer at home. She was examined by a commission of physicians and arrangements were made for her to be taken to the St. Lawrence State hospital. The idea of leaving home was intolerable to her and grief at the prospect brought on an attack during which she died on the very day that the attendants from the institution came after her.

The other blow which Mr. Perkins sustained was his enforced removal from the store in which he had held away for so long a time which came at the time that the Alderman block was remodeled into the Duguid Realty building. His new establishment on Montgomery street "Ain't seem like home," he remarked sorrowfully. "Toward the last days of his stay in Syracuse he was a pitiable and forlorn figure, seated at his little desk. He even lost interest in the "History of Centenarians" and sold it to a Syracuse man who is going to bring it out in a book some day."

Mr. Perkins was an eager reader of newspapers. He knew every reporter in Syracuse by name and could tell the various papers they had worked for with unerring accuracy. He was fond of reminiscing and would hold forth on "things as they used to be" cleverly and interestingly whenever he found a listener.

His funeral will take place in Buffalo to-morrow.

Hoff-man, dry cleaning. Both phones. Ad  
Try our Walk Rabbits at the Kirk.—Ad

Joseph Perkins' obituary from the April 20, 1909 edition of *The Syracuse Journal* began with the following words: "Joseph E. Perkins, one of the most unique characters in the history of Syracuse, died Monday night at the Buffalo General Hospital from old age..." Who was this person and why was he considered so unique? The historian Franklin Chase wrote in his column from *The Syracuse Journal* dated April 19, 1929:

Mr. Perkins' life prior to his coming to Syracuse in 1878 always was a mystery. He was an expert on Roman coins and a great student of English history. He could recite Milton's *Paradise Lost*, canto for canto. All the years he was here he was engaged upon an *Encyclopedia of Longevity*. He had collected 30,000 names as well as incidents in the lives of people who had lived more than 100 years...

Joseph Perkins first appears in Syracuse city directories in *Boyd's Syracuse City Directory 1877-1878* as operating a "news and segars" business at 30 Warren St. His household in the 1880 census included his wife Agnes and their 13 year old son Eugene, who was born in Ohio. During that same year, Eugene, who was apparently prone to mischief, suffered a fall after a fair at Shakespeare Hall. It was reported that after the Hall had closed he had tried to slide down the banister of the stairway, only to lose his balance and fall ten feet to the floor. His left wrist was dislocated and his upper front teeth were knocked out. Later in the same year he was apprehended while participating in the common sport for boys of the day of jumping on and off incoming railroad cars while the cars were in motion between Salina and Montgomery Streets. He was convicted and fined \$5.00. Even the Oswego newspaper, *The Daily Times*, commented "Let the penalty for this offence be rigidly enforced in this city and we shall soon have a smaller share of one-armed and one-legged boys."

In 1886 Joseph Perkins appears in the news when his tobacco and book store suffered \$1,500 in damage from a fire that started when a lighted match fell on a pile of waste paper. Later in 1886, a newspaper article gives us an idea of





*Shakespeare Hall*

the rarity of his coin collection. One of the commemorative medals in his collection was minted in A.D. 71 and was known as the Roman First Brass. Another rare coin was a tetradrachm of Alexander the Great. He also had coins of the twelve Ceasars in one series, whereas according to the newspaper article most collections contained at most only a few pieces of Caesarian coin.

He was arraigned in police court in 1894 for operating a slot machine in his store. In an attempt to suppress gambling, the Syracuse police chief had previously ordered all gambling devices to be removed from saloons and cigar stores. In the following year Mr. Perkins was involved in another moral crusade concerning the proliferation of dime novels. Headlines such as “Trash and Filth,” “Degrading Novels Sold Openly in This City” and “Boys Prepared for Train Wreckers and Criminal Lives by This Pernicious Literature” appeared in the press. *The Evening Herald* of Nov 25, 1895 reported:

Joseph E. Perkins of No. 206 South Warren St is one of the largest dealers in this style of literature in the city, the windows of his store being filled with this trash. Conspicuous among the collection in his windows this morning were books telling of the adventures of ‘Deadwood Dick.’ ...Mr. Perkins in reply to questions said: ‘I sell hundreds of these books and my customers number not only boys, but also men of mature years. I sell the books outright and it is my belief that thousands of copies of this literature are sold every week here.

In 1896 his son Eugene, now 26, had another mishap on a staircase, this time



*House of the Good Shepherd*

slipping and falling down the stairs leading from the Globe Hotel lobby to the toilet rooms. He suffered a gash to the back of his head and was taken by ambulance to the House of the Good Shepherd. Two years later Eugene, then a substitute mail carrier, was sentenced to six months in the Onondaga County penitentiary. He was found off duty in the post office in a drunken state, and when brought to the police station, three letters were found on his person. He was charged with intoxication and U.S. mail theft.

In 1904, at the age of 77 Joseph Perkins was found semi-conscious in his store at noon and was taken to the Hospital of the Good Shepherd. Three years later the headlines read “Planned to Rob Aged Book Dealer” and “Intended to Waylay Him on Way Home, Cover Him With Revolvers and Demand Money.” Gilbert Gates was arrested by police for robbing gas meters and it was alleged by an accomplice of Gates that Gates had planned to jump Perkins as he walked home in the evening and rob him. When told of this Perkins responded, “Pshaw! Why I wouldn’t be afraid of that. I don’t know those fellows and I cannot imagine they would want to harm me. It wouldn’t worry me though; not a bit.”

In 1908 he retired and sold his store. His storefront for many years was on South Warren Street in the Remington Block where the University Building now stands and then about the year 1896 he moved the business to East Fayette Street and then shortly before the sale of the business he had previously relocated to Montgomery Street. Perkins moved to his son’s residence in Buffalo and died on Apr, 19, 1909 at the age of 83. That year *The Syracuse Directory 1909* listed Anna Belle Shoudy



*The Deadwood Dick Library*





*Globe Hotel*

as operating a secondhand book store at the Montgomery Street location.

His wife Agnes had died a few years earlier in 1907. She apparently was suffering from dementia, and after being examined by physicians, it was arranged for her to be taken to the St. Lawrence state hospital. She ended up dying the very day the attendants came to transport her. She is buried alone in Oakwood Cemetery. According to the 1900 census she was the mother of seven children, only one surviving. Their son Eugene and his wife Minnie were listed in the 1910 and 1915 censuses in Buffalo as both being employed in a department store. In the 1920 census Eugene is listed without Minnie, as an inmate in the Erie County Home.

One of Joseph Perkins' passions was researching the lives of centenarians. He had spent most of his life compiling a manuscript entitled the *Encyclopedia of Human Longevity*, which contained a record of tens of thousands of centenarians accompanied by hundreds of pictures collected from books, government records, and correspondence with people around the world. His goal of publishing this work was never brought to fruition. It is not known what became of it.

An image of Joseph Perkins and his shop emerges from the newspaper articles at the time of his death. He was described as looking like a character out of a Charles Dickens' novel. He was always immaculately neat and freshly shaven. He had a tall, thin build that became bent as he grew older. He was very habitual, arriving at his store every morning at 9 A.M. and closing the store at 9 P.M. He never veered from this regimen, even to the extent of working weekends and holidays. In contrast to its owner, the shop was described in the Apr 20, 1909 edition of *The Syracuse Herald* as being very dusty:

There was scarcely a man, woman or child in Syracuse who had occasion to pass by the old 'Alderman' block who didn't know Perkins' bookshop with its windows



*University Block*

filled with dime novels, priceless postage stamps, rare old coins, Indian relics, books on sports of various kinds and queer models of ships, anchors and other objects in glass jars, generally the work of a sailor who had left the sea, or a convict who had whiled away his solitude by putting the models together. Everything in the shop was dusty, from the books on the shelves, to the tables loaded with second-hand 'Family libraries,' 'Nick Carters' and the paper covered classics of Laura Jean Libby and Charlotte M. Braeme. There were shelves upon shelves filled with old magazines – some of them reaching way back into the fifties and sixties of the last century. These were in the back part of the store. Along one side were ranged bound volumes on every subject and of more or less value and on the other was the collection of second hand school books, stamps, coins, etc., which were the shopkeeper's main source of revenue and the two latter of which were his chief delight... He made no effort at all to sell his wares, often, it was said by collectors who knew him, putting a price above the right one on a coin or stamp, in order to avoid parting with it.

His obituary opined that "During all that time many coin and stamp collectors, readers and collectors of antiques visited his little shop, but not one of them can be found who will say they ever really knew the strange old man." Some clues to his origins do surface however. His obituary stated that prior to his arrival in Syracuse he had lived in Cincinnati, had other children and went by the name of Downing! A search of Cincinnati city directories reveals a Robert Downing who ran a periodical store from 1861 through 1863. Robert is listed in the Civil War Draft Registration as a stationer, 36 years old, and born in Ireland. Near the peak of the Irish famine an Irishman named Robert Downing, aged 20, arrived on August 28, 1848 aboard the ship Sarah Sands, according to the port of New York arrival records. Robert is incorrectly enumerated in the 1860 census of Cincinnati as Aaron Dowling, a 34 year old book dealer, along with his 27 year-old wife Agnes and their two year-



old daughter Ida. In the 1870 census of Cincinnati the Robert Downing household consisted of Robert age 43, working in a stationary store; Agnes 36; and children Ida 12, Clarence 7, Eugene 3, and Alice 7 months. The ages for Robert, Agnes and Eugene Downing are consistent with those of Joseph, Agnes and Eugene Perkins enumerated in later censuses in Syracuse. This proves that Robert Downing of Cincinnati is the same man as Joseph Perkins of Syracuse. What became of the other children listed in the 1870 census is not known.

What little is known of Robert Downing comes from issues of the *American Journal of Numismatics* researched by Q. David Bowers, one of the foremost experts in numismatics of our day. Bowers found that Downing was sponsored by the well known numismatist J. N. T. Levick and was elected to corresponding membership in the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society in 1868. He had his own token minted which described him as being a publisher of sheet music and dealer in old coins. A token is a form of script, a modern day example being the "Ithaca dollar." Bowers wrote that he did not know what had happened to Downing's collection. However by 1877 his membership in the society had dropped. After inquiring about Downing, the society was informed that he "was regarded as an unscrupulous man, void of any business reputation."

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Richard Remling is an OHA member who has served on the board of the Central New York Genealogical Society and is currently the secretary of the Syracuse Chapter Sons of the American Revolution.



*Oakwood Cemetery*

*Congratulations OHA  
on 150 years!*



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# A BEACON OF LIGHT — THE STORY OF DR. SARAH MARINDA LOGUEN FRASER

By Gregg A. Tripoli



*Dr. Sarah Loguen ca. late 1870s or early 1880s, Courtesy of Journal of the National Medical Association*

From her first breath on that cold January day in 1850 when she was born, Sarah Marinda Loguen already had a fair share of strikes against her. She was a female in a time when opportunities for women were scarce at best, some 70 years before women even had the vote, and she was black in the pre-Civil War days of slavery. To her benefit, however, she was born in Syracuse, New York where slavery was illegal. She was healthy and had a loving family who instilled a sense of purpose and determination in her. In fact, it is important to provide a glimpse into Sarah's family history in order to fully understand the motivation that eventually helped her to distinguish herself by her own accomplishments.

Sarah's family history was traced back to the beginning of the nineteenth century by historian Dr. Eric Luft, who

wrote, "Around 1802, a 7 year-old free African –American girl named Jane McCoy was kidnapped from her home in Ohio, along with several other African-American children, and sold into slavery in Tennessee. She lost not only her freedom, but even her name. Her master, David Logue, called her only "Cherry." From her teenage years on, he raped her frequently. Their first child, Jermaine Logue, was born around 1813."

That child eventually escaped, taught himself to read and write, and ended up in Syracuse as Jermaine Wesley Loguen, where he and his wife, Caroline, lived on West Genesee Street and had eight children, of which Sarah was the fifth.

By the time Sarah was born in 1850, Jermaine was already a well known abolitionist and an acclaimed speaker on issues related to slavery and African American rights. He became a pastor and served the local African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. The Loguen home became a "safe house" for runaway slaves, and Reverend Loguen was commonly, and publicly, known as the King of the Underground Railroad.



*Jermaine Wesley Loguen*





Caroline Loguen



Loguen's home on an 1873 map



Helen Amelia Loguen Douglass and Lewis Douglass

Some 1,500 runaway slaves are said to have passed through the Loguen house on their way to freedom.

Reverend Loguen was highly visible and outspoken about his activities, and he published his autobiography in Syracuse in 1859. His public position made Rev. Loguen, and his family major targets for the hostile anti-abolitionist, pro-slavery factions that were present here in central New York. As one can imagine, a good portion of that hostility was experienced by his children.

Though New York was a free state, in September of 1850, when Sarah was nine months old, a federal Fugitive Slave Act was passed making it legal for slave owners and slave catchers to pursue and capture runaway slaves, even if they were in free states, and return them to slavery. Therefore, Rev. Loguen was under constant threat of being captured and returned to slavery in Tennessee. His participation in the famous Jerry Rescue of 1851, in defiance of the Fugitive Slave Law, heightened the call for his capture, and he was forced to flee to Canada while Sarah was just an infant. Though he eventually returned to Syracuse, Reverend Loguen wasn't *entirely* free until President Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment when Sarah was nearly 15 years old.

15 years is a long time to live under the constant threat of violence and separation from the people she loved. During these difficult years, and the difficult ones to come, Sarah learned from her mother, Caroline, how to cope with the racist anti-abolitionist sentiment that did exist in this community. She also relied on her mother's strength during the frequent absences of the Reverend, who was often away on speaking engagements or church business, or in hiding from slave

catchers and the law. Caroline was often faced with the dangerous and illegal task of housing and caring for the runaways who sought shelter and safety in the Loguen home on their way to freedom. The Loguen children were witnesses to the risks that were taken, the devotion to duty that was practiced, and the care that was provided to these strangers under the Loguen roof. Sarah soon became committed to the ideals and the mission exemplified by her parents.

Sarah wrote, "My home and family have always been a beacon to light the way for the poor, oppressed and hunted of our race...the light that was kindled by Father and Mother must burn on, and I must carry the torch."

Of course, life wasn't exactly easy for the Loguens, even after emancipation. However, though they weren't wealthy by any means, they were well connected and all of the children were well educated. Shortly after her graduation from high school, Sarah's mother, and role model, died. Sarah then became even closer to her father, serving as his secretary as he became a Bishop of the church, and she accompanied him on his speaking tours.



Sarah Loguen with her SU College of Medicine Class of 1876, Courtesy of Journal of the National Medical Association

Bishop Loguen was a friend, colleague, and contemporary of Frederick Douglass, and consequently, their families were close as well. Douglass was, of course, internationally famous and had access to the highest levels of government which extended to the office of President Abraham Lincoln himself. Bishop Loguen's other daughter and Sarah's older sister, Helen Amelia, was married to Douglass' son, Lewis.

The bishop's death in 1872 left Sarah as the head of the family for her three





*Sarah Loguen teenager, Courtesy of Howard University*

younger siblings. In 1873, while traveling back to Syracuse from visiting family and friends in Washington, D.C., Sarah witnessed a small boy badly injured by being run over by the wheel of a heavily laden wagon. There was no one around who could help him, and Sarah vowed that day that she would “never, never see a human being in need of aid again and not be able to help.” In that moment she decided to become a doctor.

Her personal physician, Dr. M.D. Benedict, who was also president of the Onondaga County Medical Society, sponsored Sarah and tutored her for her acceptance by the Syracuse University Medical College, the precursor to SUNY Upstate Medical University. In the spring of 1876, Sarah Loguen became the first African-American female graduate of Syracuse University’s Medical College, and one

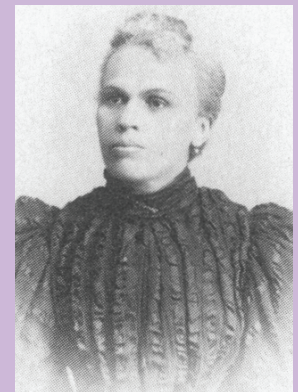


*Charles Fraser with daughter Georgiana*

of the first African-American female doctors in the country. Though there were a total of four women in her graduating class, by 1920 there were still only about 65 African-American female doctors practicing in the United States.

Sarah served her internships in Boston and Philadelphia, working mostly in the fields of pediatric and obstetric medicine. Her positive attitude and her caring nature endeared her to the children she treated, and they called her “Miss Doc.” In 1879, Sarah became

the first black woman to set up a private practice in Washington, D.C., where she served as the family physician to many prominent Washington, D.C. families. While in Washington, she became engaged to a pharmacist and drug store owner from the Dominican Republic (then known as Santo Domingo). His name was Charles Alexander Fraser, and she met him through another of Frederick Douglass’ sons, Charles, who was serving as the American Consul in that country.



*Dr. Sarah Loguen ca. late 1880s or early 1890s, Courtesy of Journal of the National Medical Association*



*Dr. Sarah Loguen Fraser*





*Dr. Sarah Loguen Center opening, Courtesy of Upstate Medical Center*

Sarah and Charles were married in Syracuse in 1882. Sarah returned with Charles to Puerto Plata, one of the largest port cities in the Dominican Republic, where she quickly learned Spanish. By 1883, she became certified to practice medicine there, though by law, her practice was limited to women and children. She was the first female physician in the history of the Dominican Republic.

Sarah and Charles had a daughter, Gregoria, whom Sarah called “Doe,” 15 months after they were married, as Sarah was beginning her new practice. So in less than 18 months, Sarah closed her Washington, D.C. practice, got married, moved to a foreign country, learned a new language, had a baby, received her medical certification, and opened a new practice.

The Frasers were one of the leading families of the Dominican Republic and counted presidents and other prominent citizens among their friends. Sarah’s practice flourished and she became one of the first physicians to practice color therapy when she realized that her psychiatric patients were soothed and calmed by pastel colors.

Charles died in 1894, and Sarah and Doe traveled widely before settling back in Syracuse, on Westcott Street, in 1901. Sarah continued to practice medicine here, often in Women’s clinics, until 1911, when she moved back to Washington, D.C. to be with Doe and her husband, who were living there at the time. By the 1920’s Sarah suffered from what was, most likely, Alzheimers, and she died in 1933.

When she died, the flags in the Dominican Republic were ordered flown at half-mast for nine days. Mostly overshadowed by her famous father until very recently, Sarah is remembered locally through Sarah Loguen Fraser Street (in the University area), Upstate Medical University’s children’s health clinic on Salina Street named the Dr. Sarah Loguen Fraser Center, and by a portrait of her painted by Susan Keeter that hangs in the Medical College, as well as a scholarship in her name to the Medical School.

As her home and family were beacons of light, so should Sarah Loguen be a beacon of light for young girls everywhere, especially for those interested in the health of women and children and the rights of the poor and oppressed.

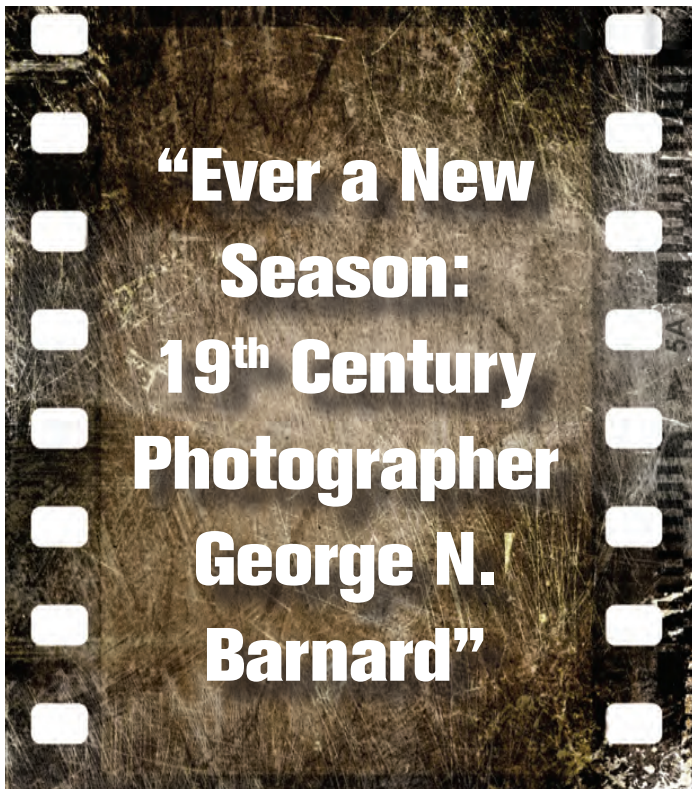


*Sarah Loguen Street, Courtesy of Upstate Medical Center*



*Sarah Loguen Fraser*





## New Exhibition opens in February

By Nancy Keefe Rhodes

In May 1864, Union General William Tecumseh Sherman began his “march to the sea” from Nashville to Atlanta and then on to Savannah and Charleston. Notorious for “scorched earth” tactics, Sherman’s campaign also included marvels of engineering to advance his 60,000-man army. In just forty days during the autumn 1863, Union Army engineers re-built a critical railroad bridge that Sherman needed to cross a deep ravine between mountains outside Chattanooga. Replacing the original masonry bridge destroyed in 1863, the new, five hundred feet long trestle comprised of timber from surrounding hillsides and rose nearly one hundred feet above Running Water Creek. Sherman’s official photographer, George N. Barnard (1819 – 1902), included four images of this bridge in his visual chronicle, *Photographic Views of Sherman’s Campaign*.



*Sherman’s March No. 4 - Trestle Bridge at Whiteside - Racoon Mountain, TN*

After the war, Barnard published only a hundred copies of his essentially narrative *Photographic Views* in November 1866, 61, oversize 10 x 14-inch large-format silver albumin prints. This was 10 months after the release of *Gardner’s Photographic Sketch Book of the War*, which in contrast presented a series of vignettes by eleven photographers. Barnard had worked for Alexander Gardner (as well as for Matthew Brady) earlier in the war; eight Barnard images appear in the *Sketch Book*. Jeff L. Rosenheim, curator of the massive *Photography and the American Civil War* exhibition recently at the Metropolitan Museum in New York City, declares, “*Together, the two are the foundational publications of nineteenth-century American photography.*”



*Sherman’s March No. 50 - Savannah GA looking east No. 2*

Recognizing Barnard’s methods and aesthetic eye surpassed (and sometimes contradicted) documentary reportage, Rosenheim also gives Barnard’s work what no one else in the Met show has: his own gallery. Besides the six images elsewhere in the show, this space has 20 of his Sherman campaign images. Barnard added dramatic cloud-scapes to about a third of the Shermans, as in Plate 50, *Savannah, Ga., No. 2, 1866*. He also re-traced Sherman’s steps after the war to fill in gaps; some, like Plate 15, *Lu-La Lake, Lookout Mountain, 1864 or 1866*, we cannot date with certainty. Besides adding elements, he sometimes prepped his sites beforehand, and he called on his own deep familiarity with the iconography of American landscape painting of that era – nature represented the “new Eden,” clouds and seasonal markers portend the conflict, and war’s lasting scars mark land and people alike.

Many readers know George N. Barnard’s name. Connecticut-born, he travelled extensively and re-settled often. But in 1846 he began advertising daguerreotypes





*Sherman's March No. 6 - Pass in Raccoon Mountain at Whiteside No. 1*



*Sherman's March No. 7 - Pass in Raccoon Mountain, Whiteside TN No. 2*

*Above, plates 6 and 7 appeared in Photographic Views as separate images but, set side by side, they create a continuous panorama. Barnard's duties often included such panoramas for strategic military use. Plate 4, taken from below the trestle, signals the campaign's first "stop" after leaving Nashville.*

in Oswego, had a Syracuse studio on North Salina Street from 1853 to 1857, and returned periodically here after the war. Barnard finally retired in Cedarvale, near Marcellus, in 1892-93 with family, and there Town of Onondaga historian Jasena Foley would discovered his unmarked gravesite (and resolved his date of death) in 1963.

OHA acquired its own Sherman album in the 1960s; several decades ensued of acquisitions, correspondence, swaps, research, and discoveries. Barnard's own life had many seasons, and the story of OHA's Barnard Collection has its own cycles too, with exhibitions in 1963, 1975, and 1993, and recurring names like Richard and Caroline Wright, Barbara S. Rivette, and journalist Dick Case.

We're now deep in a season of Civil War anniversary observance, with converging major exhibitions, films and books about its history, its human toll, its art and photography, along with heightened interest in the entire span of war

photography. But if Barnard's Sherman series is an obvious centerpiece, it's also a tiny part of a vast harvest.

Finally, each season of attention has examined different approaches to his work. Military history buffs or those seeking a local history tie-in – in 1863 Barnard photographed the 122<sup>nd</sup> and 149<sup>th</sup> New York Regiments – may seek different images than a local journalist writing about a retired photographer's last days. Periodic reappraisals reveal different authorships. Barnard was a technical and commercial innovator; his views on taste and pricing influenced how photography developed as a profession. He spent years in Charleston during Reconstruction, accumulating a large body of work depicting that African American community, and documented the charred landscape of Chicago after its hellish fire of 1871. And there is a range of opinion across disciplines about how we handle, present and preserve "old photos."

One thing we do know: whatever the season, Barnard is ours.

*Nancy Keefe Rhodes is a writer, editor and curator whose work focuses on photo and film. She is guest curator of "Ever a New Season," which opens February 15 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor main gallery and runs through September 21 at OHA.*



*Sherman's March No. 15 Lu La Lake, Lookout Mountain*







*Americanization League Class*

# There's No Place Like Home

By Dennis Connors

This fall, the Onondaga Historical Museum is featuring a new temporary exhibit that explores our community's role over three centuries in welcoming new citizens from across the globe.

Ever since Onondaga County was created in 1794, it has become a new home for thousands of immigrants who have traveled to re-settle here. Some may have come from only a few hundred miles, like the late 18<sup>th</sup> century pioneers who moved here from Eastern New York and New England. Many others came from across the globe. Some chose to come of their free will. Others arrived as refugees, some within the last few years, often escaping from life-threatening circumstances. All have found hope for a new and better life in Central New York.

The exhibit is entitled, *There's No Place Like Home: The History of Immigrant and Refugee Re-Settlement in Onondaga County*. It begins by featuring the stories of five individuals who relocated to Syracuse under very different circumstances and found new opportunities to improve their lives here. These include:

- 19th century immigrants from Ireland and Germany who became successful businessmen,
- an Italian native whose long odyssey eventually ended in Syracuse where he became a well known restaurateur
- A woman born in Poland who, caught up in the horrors of World War II, became a refugee and journeyed through five countries before coming to America and Syracuse to earn her PhD
- An African-American man from the South who migrated here after World War II to become one of the highest ranking police officers in the city.

The exhibit then provides a broader overview of immigrant history in the community from 18<sup>th</sup> century pioneers who

traveled here by canoe and ox-cart to recent refugees escaping genocide in Africa and the Balkans of Europe. It explores more immigrant stories, highlighting places where different ethnic groups have settled and worked, plus the challenges that they have overcome. Oral history interviews offer dramatic and powerful examples of how Onondaga County continues to offer the chance for new arrivals to re-start their lives.

Other sections of the exhibition highlight some of the public art and landmark architecture that immigrants to the Syracuse area have given this community, which continues to enrich the lives of all who live here.

The exhibit is intended to help everyone understand that the immigrant and refugee experience is one that has shaped our community, as it has all of America. Some of these stories are recent, but almost anyone living in Onondaga County today can find similar experiences among the lives of their ancestors.

*There's No Place Like Home* runs through the end of January at the OH Museum at 321 Montgomery Street in downtown Syracuse.



*19th century Immigrants landing at New York City*





# OHA Gift Gallery Catalog



## Syracuse China

The legacy of Syracuse China lives at the OHA Gift Gallery. Quality coffee cups (\$10), one of a kind approved sample plates (\$12) and a wide variety of historic china, from tea sets to rare collectible plates, vases, bowls, gift sets, commemorative plates and much much more. We also offer small color standard dishes that can be used as coasters, butter pats, spoon rests, tea bag holders etc. (\$12 with Syracuse China back stamp, \$10 without back stamp)



## Typewriter Jewelry

In the early 1900's, almost two thirds of the world's typewriters were made right here in Syracuse. Celebrating the Syracuse typewriter industry, we offer vintage jewelry made from typewriter keys. Rings (\$15), bracelets (\$60-\$100), necklaces (\$70), cufflinks (\$45), tie bars (\$42), earrings (\$45).



## Syracuse China Jewelry

Trendy pendant and bib necklaces made out of real Syracuse China pieces. These colorful and eye catching pieces are all custom made and one of a kind. Pendants (\$32, \$40) and two to five piece bibs (\$50-\$136)





### Mug / Growler / Salt Bag / Tote Bag

Enjoy the view with your morning coffee in our 1852 Birdseye View of Syracuse Coffee Mug (\$10). Our tote bags (\$12) feature advertisements from our once booming typewriter era. Our souvenir Syracuse Salt Bag (\$2.99) is one of our most popular items. Our Thomas Ryan Brewery Beer Growler (\$18.99) is a great value that comes with a coupon for a free fill up at the award winning Empire Brewery.

### OHA for Kids

The OHA Gift Gallery tries to appeal to all of our patrons big and small. Featuring a wide variety of books, puzzles (\$19.99), games and toys, we hope to inspire the children of our community to take pride in our community and take home a part of their OHA experience.

### Cathedral Candles

Made in Syracuse, these red or white 14 inch twist taper candles by Cathedral Candle Company are handmade on equipment originating in the late 1800's. Available exclusively at OHA, the quality and value (\$12 per box of four) of these candles cannot be beat.

### Post Cards / Note Cards

Stationery featuring photos, paintings and designs from the archives of OHA is available exclusively in our Gift Gallery (\$1 per postcard, \$6 per pack of eight note cards). Themes include Syracuse bowling, trains & railroads, breweries, the Civil War, Keck stained glass, vintage advertisements, Syracuse China designs and more.

### Italian Wine Glasses

In cooperation with Fishs' Eddy of New York City, we offer these Italian Wine Glasses featuring prints from Syracuse China archives. Each glass has its own unique floral design (\$36 for a set of six glasses).





## Ties

Wrap yourself in history with our 100% Silk Ties. Three different designs featuring Franklin Automobiles from the 1930 catalogue, Mayors of Syracuse and an 1891 Map of Syracuse (\$49.99 each).

## Vintage Syracuse Brewery T-Shirts

T-Shirts with the classic logos and advertisements from the breweries of Syracuse's past. Available in ten different designs, each design with its own color, these shirts are unique, original and a great way to show your appreciation for Syracuse history (\$14.99). Our design for Bartel's Crown Beer also available as a Hooded Sweatshirt (\$59.99).

## Mary Elizabeth's Chocolate

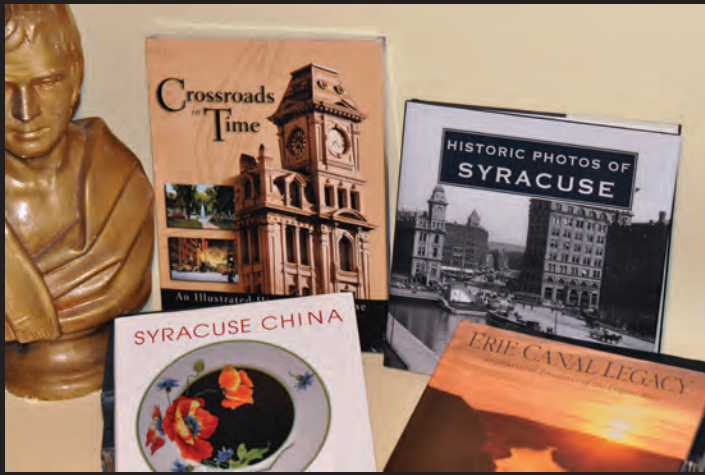
Made by Lune Chocolat of Manlius exactly according to Mary Elisabeth's recipes. Available for the first time in 80 years, we offer these delicious, all natural, handmade chocolates in boxes of four (\$8) or eight (\$16).

## Silk Scarves

Another way OHA incorporates the great designs of Syracuse China into wearable art is with Silk Scarves. Designs taken directly from Syracuse China's famous designers, we offer patterns in three different iconic patterns (\$50).







**Books**

OHA's Gift Gallery contains the largest selection of local history-related books and books by local authors. Everything from eye catching coffee table books to travel ready soft cover books.

**Puzzles**

Featuring some of the most popular iconic images from OHA's collections (\$19.99).



**Congress Beer Tray and Beer Glasses**

Reproduced exactly from a vintage tray in OHA's collection, this metal Congress Beer Tray is one of the newest additions to our array of brewery-era related products. The glasses are a perfect complement and help pay homage to one of our community's most popular brews from the Haberle Brewing Company. Tray - \$22.95, Glasses - \$8 each



**Christmas Ornament**

This is the third ornament in our series of ornaments, featuring the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument at Clinton Square, which was dedicated on June 21, 1910, in honor of the War Veterans of Onondaga County for over 100 years.

**Christmas Cards**

Design your own Christmas cards at OHA! 20 cards for \$20.00, optional text inside included in pricing, plus envelopes. Specify white or cream.







*Travel Room in the Onondaga Hotel*

# Stylish Cocktail Lounges

By Dennis Connors

The newest OHA exhibit, *Fashions After Five*, explores the social and fashion history inspired by the legacy of the American cocktail. It features both historic cocktail dresses from OHA's collection as well as new creations by Syracuse University students that were inspired by those in OHA's holdings.

Cocktails entered the American lexicon in the 19th century, but the fashionable heyday of cocktails arrived after World War I, along with its associated clothing styles, parties, and the stylish interior décor of cocktail drinking establishments. Although liquor was banned by Prohibition, this lifestyle grew during the 1920's, within the world of speakeasies, and then blossomed during the 1930's through early 1960's. Some of that impetus came from Hollywood movies of that era, which glamorized romantic encounters between tuxedoed gentlemen and glamorous ladies in stunning cocktail dresses. Think Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers!

Two of Syracuse's most stylish cocktail lounges were associated with its two largest hotels of the early 20th century: The Hotel Syracuse and the Onondaga Hotel. The Onondaga opened in 1910. Its restaurants and lounges originally reflected more the look of a staid gentlemen's club. The Hotel Syracuse opened in 1924, in the middle of Prohibition, so it originally had no bars. That all changed with the repeal of Prohibition in 1933. By then, trendy interior decorating styles had evolved into the art deco era, born during the Roaring Twenties.

The Hotel Syracuse acted to create a new drinking establishment, which opened in 1937 as the Rainbow Lounge. Its name was inspired by the glass blocks at its entrance illuminated by changing colors. An advertisement celebrated its premier by stating that patrons will find its décor, "an exciting rhapsody of color." For many years thereafter, the Rainbow Lounge was considered one of New York State's top cocktail lounges.

The Onondaga Hotel needed to respond, and update its more conservative bar décor into something that would compete with the Rainbow Lounge, plus match the public's Hollywood image of how a sophisticated cocktail lounge of the era should appear. The result was its Travel Room, at the corner of Warren and East Jefferson streets, which opened in 1941, on the eve of World War II. It also boasted a circular bar, like the Rainbow Lounge, hidden lighting effects and decorative scenes evocative of different cultures from around the world – inspiration for its name.

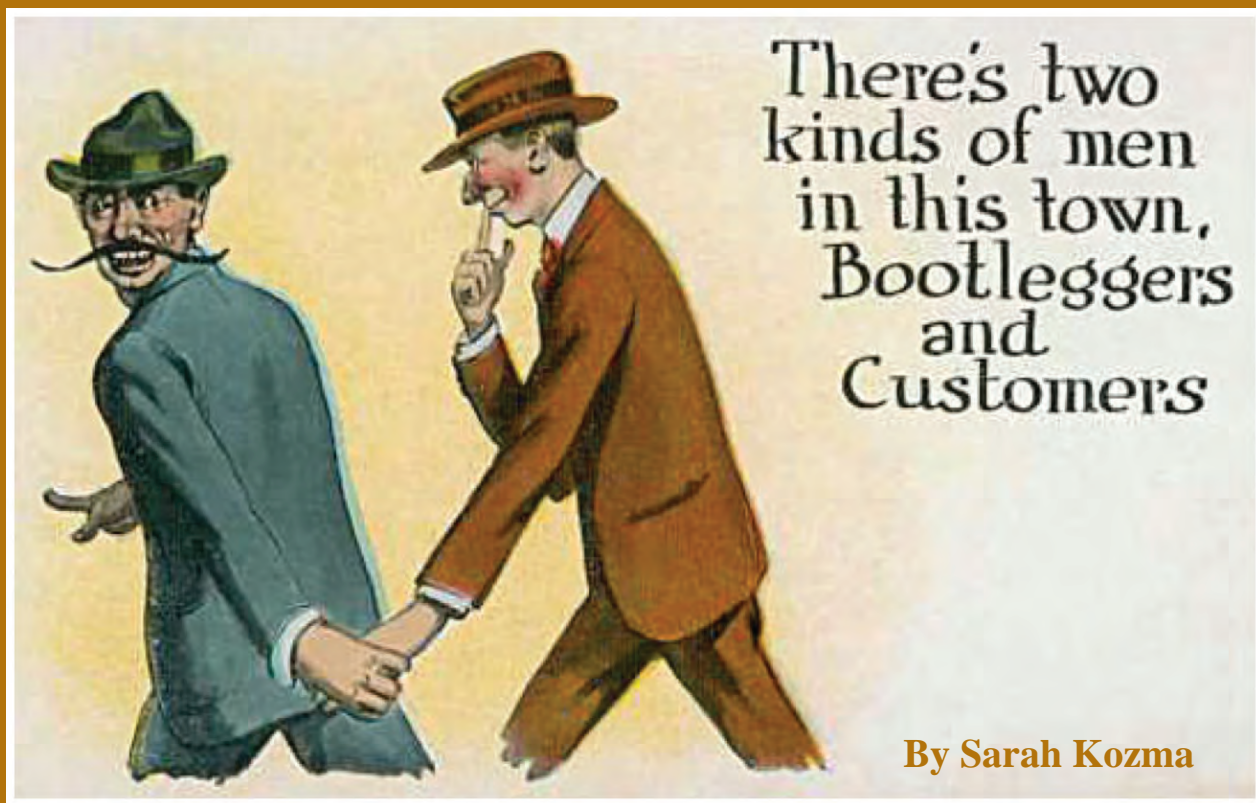


The Travel Room was destroyed when the Onondaga Hotel was demolished in 1970. The Rainbow Lounge was lost during subsequent renovations to the Hotel Syracuse. If the Hotel Syracuse is ever renovated, however, it would be a tremendous salute to the building's rich heritage to recreate the Rainbow Lounge.

Along with the stunning clothing creations that will be featured in *Fashion After Five*, the exhibit will also explore some of this area's fascinating history of the cocktail era.

*Rainbow Lounge in the Hotel Syracuse*





## Hello Nellie!: The World of Speakeasies, Bootleggers and Raids in Prohibition Syracuse

**H**ello Nellie! Spoken at a bar today, this probably wouldn't get you very far, but said at the right bar in 1920's Syracuse, this would have gotten you an illegal alcoholic beverage. Speakeasies, bootleggers, bathtub gin, moonshine; these words conjure up ideas of the Roaring Twenties, old gangster movies, exciting car chases, and parties with flappers and dapper duns, but that is only part of the story.

The Temperance Movement, an effort to limit or ban the use of alcohol, with the goal of making society a better place, started in the 1780's. Through the years, the Temperance Movement gained in popularity. From the 1890's-1910, it began appearing on election ballots and states, counties, and



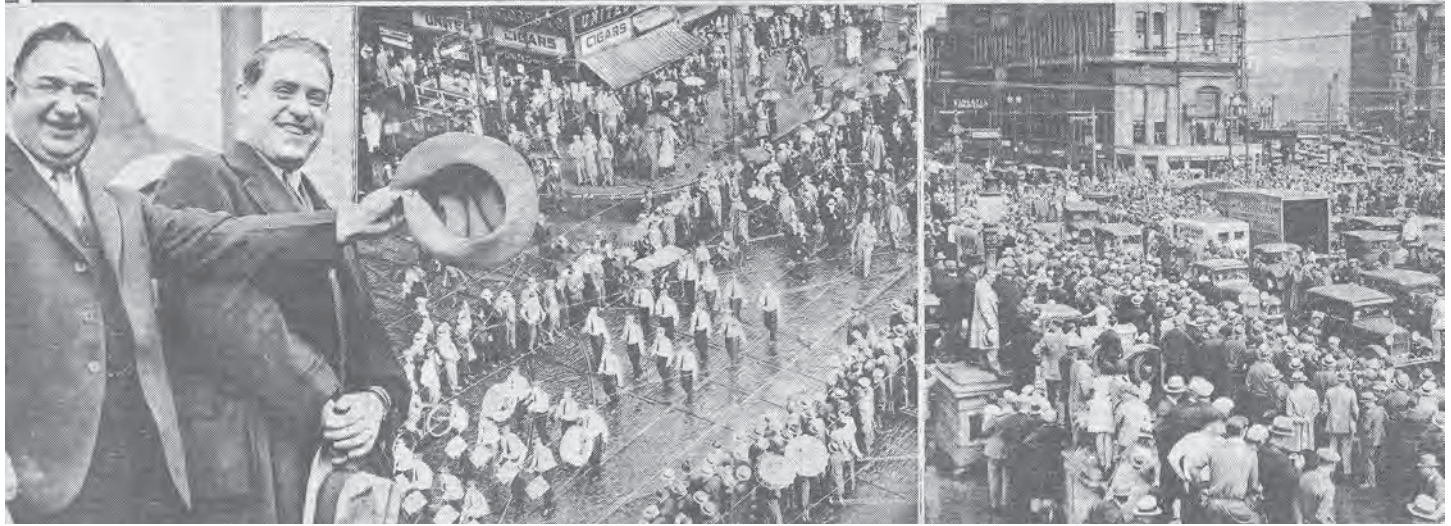
towns were given the choice of voting themselves "dry" or "wet." Dry towns generally forbade or severely restricted the manufacture, sale, and consumption of alcohol, while wet towns had few or no restrictions on alcohol. The ultimate achievement of the Temperance Movement was Prohibition, 1920-1933. Prohibition was, virtually, the entire nation going dry. Syracuse's Prohibition experience was not unlike other cities, but it was also unique unto itself. The Noble Experiment had begun.

In the early twentieth century, Syracuse and the towns of Onondaga County struggled with the issue of temperance. By 1916, ten of the nineteen towns had elected, by popular vote, to go "dry." In 1917, there was pressure for the City of Syracuse and the Town of Geddes, particularly the Village of Solvay, to go dry, at least during the time the army camp was at the State Fairgrounds during World War I. There were petitions "to close all saloons in Syracuse during the Federal Encampment at the Fairgrounds in the 'interest of public peace, public safety and public morals.'"

All of that became irrelevant in 1919 with the addition of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution, and the passing of the Volstead Act, also called the National Prohibition Act, which in effect turned the whole country "dry." It became



## Tide of Revolt Against Volsteadism Sweeps Through Syracuse Streets



illegal to manufacture, sell, or transport any alcoholic beverage that had more than .5% alcohol; anything more was seen as an intoxicating beverage, which was under the umbrella of the Volstead Act. On January 16, 1920, the nationwide Prohibition went into effect and Syracuse, like the rest of the country, went dry. This was a problem for Syracuse on more than just a social level. Syracuse had about 11 breweries in operation before Prohibition, but after 1920, breweries everywhere were forced to close or change their product. They were allowed to make a .5% beer, which was called near-beer. This was not, however, what the people really wanted.

Instead of simply going along with the new law, many people found ways to subvert it. Many engaged in home-brewing, while others becoming bootleggers by running their own distillery. Still other people served as rum-runners, smuggling liquor into the States from Canada. However, the

most well-known option, perhaps even the most popular, was the speakeasy. Although illegal, speakeasies popped up all over the city, so there were plenty of places where people could get a taste of the illicit brews, but discretion of the location and also of where the alcohol was stored was crucial to avoid heavy fines and even jail time. Speakeasies were often on upper floors of business areas, with a heavy metal door with a peephole. The peephole allowed the doorman to see the potential customers before he let them in. In many places, a password was also required as further security against law enforcement officers. In addition to the speakeasies, illegal drinks could be obtained at certain cafes, former saloons, and hotels with the right password spoken at the bar. Once inside, the speakeasies were often well decorated lounges and stylish clubs, where customers could get a variety of homebrew beers and various liquors. The speakeasies, also called “blind tigers” or “blind pigs,” would generally get their drinks from bootleggers, who made their product in places called “wildcat breweries.” They would also serve a special concoction of the near-beer by injecting alcohol into it using a syringe needle, and selling it as needle-beer.



From the start of prohibition, a federal Prohibition Enforcement Office was established in Syracuse. However, during the first few years, enforcement was lax and raids were random and unorganized. A superintendent of the local Anti-Saloon League of New York explained the problem: “A bunch of wet political leaders have been responsible for the appointment of incompetent and crooked federal agents. Notorious liquor joints have been running wide open, apparently under protection.” However, by 1925 the situation had changed – “The house cleaning in the federal office has improved the situation. Some of the worst offenders have been raided and are awaiting punishment. Places that have been running wide open for years have been knocked off. The bootleg underworld in Central New





York is in terror. Another year of this kind of vigorous prosecution and bootlegging will be not only unpopular but unprofitable." *The Post-Standard* May 11, 1925.

The federal agents had to catch the bootleggers and speakeasy owners in possession of alcohol, which made surprise raids crucial to success. Agents went armed with a search warrant, sledgehammers, axes and crowbars, but sometimes the raids of suspected speakeasies or breweries turned up nothing, possibly because the alcohol was cleverly hidden or perhaps the owners had been alerted to the coming raid. Often it all came down to timing; it was about right time, right place when the bootleggers and speakeasy owners could be caught red-handed.

In the late 1920's, there was a crackdown on Syracuse bootleggers and speakeasies with the assignment of experienced agents, like Lowell Smith, also known as The Scourge, and Charles Kress, also known as the Nemesis of Syracuse. There developed quite a rivalry between these two lawmen and they spurred one another on to best each

other in their jobs, which in turn led to an increase in raids and seizures, much to the dismay of the bootleggers. For example, early one morning Smith went out and led three raids on speakeasies and breweries. While Smith was out, Kress was peacefully slumbering until one of his men came and told him what Smith was doing. Kress, not wanting to be outdone, immediately went out and led four raids.

Some of the stories of the raids by the enforcement agents, particularly those of Charles Kress, seem to be straight out of the movies. It was not uncommon for agents to don disguises to infiltrate speakeasies and brewing/distilling establishments. Kress would send an agent, posing as a delivery boy with a package. When the door was opened for him, he was, literally, able to get his foot in the door and then call for the other agents hiding nearby. Other methods included the use of fire ladders to climb through upper story windows and setting up bootleggers while posing as customers. Kress even rode a dumbwaiter into a barricaded part of a saloon to catch the occupants by surprise. At one point the legality of some of his methods were questioned, but after a short suspension he was reinstated.

Bootleggers were quite creative as well, using camouflaged trucks, secret rooms, hidden wall panels, mislabeled packaging, and safes. They did their best to hide their doings, but were not always as successful as they hoped. In 1923, there was a tip given to federal agents regarding a saloon on Burnet Ave. that was allegedly selling liquor. When they showed up they could find nothing to support their suspicion, until they noticed a pipe which seemed slightly out of place. Inside the pipe were two valves, one went to a six gallon tank of gin; the other to the same of whiskey. Needless to say, the proprietor was arrested.

The federal agents did not always win the day. John Miles remembers one such incident regarding Paul Knaus's restaurant on Park St., from which he served illegal alcoholic beverages. "...Paul received a tip that he was to be raided by Prohibition agents. Paul had a keg of illegal beer on tap and rushed to get rid of it. But rather than spill it down the sewer, he allowed a few regular patrons to roll it across the street and put a tap on it. They were supplied with glasses. When the Prohibition agents showed up they found no illegal booze in Paul's place but several illegal drinkers enjoying a liquid picnic on the curb across the street. However, since most of the evidence was now gone, the agents apparently felt in no mood to arrest a dozen or so citizens, some of them, we assume, a bit tipsy." *Syracuse Herald American* May 17, 1987.

Many speakeasies were well-known places in their local neighborhoods, as it was often the local neighbors who patronized the establishment. However, this made security and secrecy important for the proprietors. They were



wary of newcomers, and the use of passwords, secret knocks, and doormen helped to protect the speakeasies and their clients.

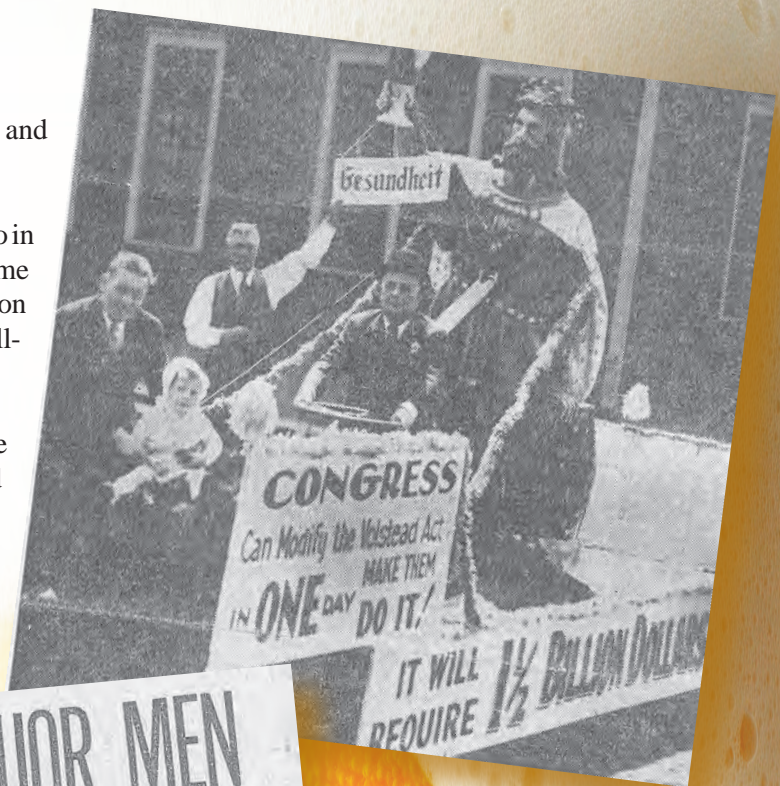
As the crackdown continued the places to sell alcohol decreased, so in the last several years of Prohibition the bootleggers' rivalry became much more intense, sometimes ending in physical confrontation and destruction of property. Thankfully, Syracuse avoided the full-blown bootleg gang war that erupted in many cities.

By the early 1930's, many Syracusans had had enough. The Association Against the Prohibition Amendment was formed in 1930. Anti-prohibition parades and demonstrations were held around the city, many of the protesters, including ex-servicemen, touting the slogan "Prohibition is a failure; It must go!" One particular demonstration in May 1932 involved one of the biggest crowds that had ever gathered in downtown Syracuse. They even stood their ground through two thunderstorms and a hailstorm. The organizers of this parade had invited all the city, county and legislative officials, however only a handful showed up, among them was Syracuse Mayor Rolland B. Marvin.

As support for repeal grew, and with the election of new leadership in Washington, legislation to end Prohibition was introduced. The Cullen-Harrison Act was introduced which, by April 1933, allowed up to 3.2% alcohol, rather than just .5%. Later the Blaine Act was presented, which was a repeal of Prohibition and was passed as the 21st Amendment to the Constitution on December 5, 1933. The Noble Experiment had run its course and ultimately failed.

In Syracuse, no large celebrations were held to welcome the end of Prohibition, although the following day there were quite a few Syracusans out enjoying their new freedom. After prohibition ended many of the Syracuse breweries started up again but it was a long road to recovery and business was never quite the same afterward. In reality, it was the beginning of the end for local breweries.

Prohibition was an era full of contradictions, in Syracuse and around the country. It brought people together, yet it made them suspicious of each other. It was originally supported by a supposed majority, yet a mere thirteen years later it was widely protested. It often changed respectable citizens into criminals. Many neighborhoods rallied around the lawbreakers, keeping silent rather than giving information to the lawmen. It was intended to better society yet criminality flourished. Perhaps this is what makes this era so interesting and unique. Prohibition in Syracuse generated memorable stories, fascinating characters, and had a major impact on its future development.



**LIQUOR MEN ARE GLOOMY AT PROSPECT**  
Am ————— 8-10-30  
Apprehensive Over What Will Happen With Two Most Feared Raiders in City

**RECORD SIZED BOTTLED BEER PLANT RAIDED**  
————— 7-10-30  
PS  
Brewery of 1,750 Gallons Capacity Demolished in West Brighton  
The bottled beer source for so-called Syracuse wet clubs was nipped yesterday afternoon by Capt. Charles W. Kress and prohibition agents when they raided Conrad J. Kitz's home, 634 West Brighton avenue and seized a complete wildcat brewery capable of turning out 1,750 gallons of beer in a batch.

**St. James Hotel Is Scene of Raid by Federal Men**  
9-15-29 ————— PS  
Hoteling Held at Police Station—Bail for Knaus  
Continuing a series of raids begun last week, prohibition agents raided the St. James hotel, 1632 North Salina street, yesterday afternoon. Entering the place with a search warrant, the agents encountered no resistance. In the cellar was found 325 pints of homebrew, 15 gallons of mash and a quart of wine, they reported. The stock was destroyed except for samples. G. Frank Hoteling, held as proprietor, was taken to the police station to await arraignment. Paul Knaus and Carman Barnell, arrested by the agents in raids Monday, posted cash bail yesterday and were released for hearings after arraignment. Knaus appeared yesterday morning before Commissioner Chapman. George Carlisle of 2310 James street supplied a certified check for \$1,000 for his bail, and the hearing was set for Friday. Knaus was arrested when raiders made a large seizure at 1919 Park street, finding whisky in a safe. Barnell, who gave his address as 101 North Salina street, appeared before Commissioner Haight yesterday afternoon. He is charged with possessing beer and gin found at 106 1/2 North Salina street. Marguerite Williams of 1509 North Salina street gave a \$1,000 certified check for his release.





## Mardis Gras of the North How the Mystique Krewe's Ka-Noo-No Karnivals Kept the State Fair in Syracuse

By Gregg Tripoli

The 11 highly successful Ka-Noo-No Karnivals, held between 1905 and 1917, are a particularly amusing, and important, part of our local and state history, especially with regard to the New York State Fair. Until 1889, the State Fair was mobile, traveling from city to city across the State. In 1887, the city of Syracuse (which played host in 1841, 1849, and 1858) offered 100 acres, at the Fair's current site, to serve as the permanent home, and in 1889 the Fair came to Syracuse to stay, or so it seemed. By 1903, it was obvious that the Fair was not doing well. Attendance and exhibitors were down, deficits were up, and there was talk among the State Fair Commission about moving the Fair to another city, as many had expressed an interest in hosting it. What happened next is an amazing example of community collaboration and cooperation that made Syracuse a destination for hundreds of thousands of people, brought national attention to the city, cemented the relationship with the State Fair, and threw one heck of a week-long party.

In 1903, the Fair was a daytime-only event and the predominant mode of transportation was horse and buggy, so it was a major effort to travel all the way to Syracuse just for the Fair. It became obvious that there needed to be more incentive for non-locals to make the long trip to Syracuse. Spearheaded by the Chamber of Commerce, the community's leaders came together and determined that evening entertainments might draw people to Syracuse and keep them here so they would go to the Fair the next day. They proposed three evenings of entertainment for 1904 to test their theory; a military parade, an automobile parade (as autos were a novelty back then), and fireworks in Clinton Square. The Fair that year, for the first time, turned a profit.

The Chamber decided to expand the program into a full-blown spectacle lasting all five nights of the Fair and sent scouts out to a number of cities, which had carnivals or parades that drew large crowds. An organizing committee was formed, separate from the Chamber of Commerce, and it was determined that a New Orleans Mardis Gras

type carnival would be best. A general Native American theme was chosen to pay tribute to the first known inhabitants of New York State. Dr. William



*Upper right inset: The back of a domino costume on display at the New York State Fair.*

*Above: The front of a domino costume and mask on display at the New York State Fair.*





*Ka-Noo-No Krewe*

Beauchamp, president of the OHA and an authority on Native American lore, was on the committee and suggested the Native name “Ka-Noo-No,” meaning the territory within the State of New York and, thus, the Ka-Noo-No Karnival was born.

New Orleans had a Mystic Krewe of Comus, so the organizing committee became the Mystique Krewe of Ka-Noo-No and had its first initiation of 40 members at the Yates Hotel in May 1905. The Krewe became very popular and had over 1,000 members by 1910, when it was gaining about 250 members per year. The roster of community leaders on the membership roles was impressive and included the top men of industry, politics, education, society, and art & culture with names like Crouse, Clancy, Hawley, Marsellus, and Franklin. It also included statewide officials, such as Governors John Dix and Charles Hughes (who later became the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court), Lieutenant Governors, Secretaries of State and Treasury, as well as mayors from some of the state’s other cities.

There was always an air of secrecy regarding the Krewe’s initiation ritual, which was closed to “outsiders.” The official “Ritual of Initiation” is on file at the OHA Research Center and reveals the involved ceremony that was a requirement for all members. There was even some good-natured hazing, involving mud baths and getting “bumped” by the Ka-Noo-No goat! The Krewe consisted of five groups named after the Five Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, with each group competing for new members. At the Initiation, with everyone in full Native costume, candidates were considered “palefaces wanting adoption into the Five Nations.” There were dramatic soliloquies,



*Ka-Noo-No Committee*

salutes (members had to arch their hands above their heads when addressing the president of the Krewe), passwords, an oath (taken while the right hand was placed over the heart and the left index finger on the lower lip), pledges, songs (which included the singing of “America” in a Native American language), and tributes to the Natives, the city, the country, the Karnival, and, of course, the New York State Fair. There was an address and blessing by Hiawatha, speaking for the “Great Spirit,” asking the “chiefs and braves” to give audience to the candidates and offering “incense –o-yan-kwa- that we may be wise in our deliberations and safely guide our canoes back to our wigwams.”



Much of the entire affair, from today’s perspective, seems “hokey” and dated, going beyond what would be considered politically incorrect by today’s standards. Even the Krewe-colored (red, yellow, and blue) domino costumes (a large hooded cloak with a mask covering the eyes) that the Krewe members wore for every meeting and event, along with many other similar clubs and organizations around the country at the turn of the last century, disappeared from the mainstream when the all-white version became synonymous with the Ku Klux Klan. At the time, however, the Karnival was a very positive, and bonding, experience for the entire community and stressed friendship, fellowship, and patriotism. In fact, several Krewe presidents were adopted into local Native nations and given Native names.

The Krewe had a clubhouse, their “wigwam of happiness,” known as the Kavern. Since 1909, its permanent home consisted of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> very plush floors of the Lansing Building at 115 S. Salina St., to which the





*Ka-Noo-No Court*

letters “MKOK” was the secret password for entry. The Kavern was paneled in oak with oriental carpets and Stickley mission-style leather upholstered furniture. There were rooms for reception, writing, playing cards, a billiard room (with eight tables), business offices, club rooms, and a large banquet room with kitchen facilities completely outfitted with linens, china, silver, and crystal. There was a full-time staff of four and dues were \$10/year per member.

The Karnivals themselves were magnificent themed spectacles consisting of nightly water pageants, 600-member song and dance shows, concerts, and huge parades (the most popular of which was the 5,000 member strong Children’s Floral Parade) with some 40 bands and 80 floats drawn by horses. There was a King and Queen, and their court, a 100-member Ka-Noo-No band, balls, dinners, fireworks, and a huge flotilla of “Natives” in their canoes, which would, occasionally, spill passengers into the less-than-clean canal waters. To be named King or Queen was the highest honor that could be bestowed on a Syracuse resident. The first King was Daniel M. Edwards (of the Edward’s Department Store) and Mary



Elizabeth Evans (who was also Queen of the candy business, Mary Elizabeth’s Candies). Other “royals” over the years included Donald Dey (Dey’s Department Store), Melville Clark (Clark’s Music), and Beulah Chase Dodge (who became nationally famous as the star of the Shubert brothers’ national tour of the hit Broadway show “The Belle of New York”).

Each year had a theme component, along with the regular floats and parades for the fire department, military & fraternal organizations, automobiles, commercial organizations, neighborhoods, and children. The themes ranged from the Story of Hiawatha in 1905 to “The Story of American Independence and Patriotism” in 1916, reflecting the reality of World War I. The theme floats, sponsored by the Krewe (who also sponsored the children’s floats and parade), were designed by Toomey & Volland, who designed the Mardis Gras floats. The costumes, rented from Van Horn & Son in Philadelphia, were lavish and exquisitely detailed. For the first time the city was lit by strand lighting, outlining buildings and illuminating the extensive parade route that wound throughout the entire city, making it “light as day”

*Mystique Krew*







*Arthur J. Brewster; H.W. Smith; Joseph A. Griffin; Mrs. H.W. Smith. Hurlburt W. Smith was legally adopted by the Seneca Indian Nation*

for the nearly 100,000 people who lined it nightly.

Residents of the community opened their homes, and extra rooms, to house the influx of visitors as there were not enough hotel rooms available. Top cops from major cities around the country, who specialized in crowd management and related crimes (pick-pocketing, ticket scalping, etc.), came to advise and train the local police. Headlines in newspapers across the state raved, claiming each year's Karnival surpassed the last, calling it the "Mardis Gras of the North" and declaring "Splendid Success" as "Magnificent Floats Astonish Thousands." And they were successful. Every year of Karnival, the State Fair became more popular and more profitable.

There was no Karnival in 1913 and 1914, when the State Fair began to offer evening entertainment. They weren't very successful at first, so the Karnival ramped up again



*Queen (Laura A. Ormsbee) and King (Douglas Petit), 1910*



*Arthur J. Brewster, Secretary of Mystique Krewe, 1909*

from 1915-1917. By then, the State Fair was doing well, and automobiles allowed people to come for the Fair and the evening show and still get home to sleep in their own beds. The continuance of the War made Karnival seem frivolous and, besides, the Krewe had already achieved its goal; the Commission was firmly dedicated to keeping the New York State Fair in Syracuse. Since then, the Fair has continued to evolve, bringing hundreds of thousands of people to Syracuse every year, and providing an economic boost to the entire area.

The Onondaga Historical Museum contains many artifacts, programs, photos, and other memorabilia on display from the Ka-Noo-No Karnival in the Marsellus Gallery of the "Heart of New York" exhibit. We welcome you to stop in to see these items related to this interesting event from our local history.

*Ka-Noo-No Festival, 1911, on Erie Canal*





# OHA's Film Projects – Expanding Our Audience

The majority of OHA's audience is located outside of our museum walls. That's why, in addition to our many off-site exhibits and programs, and our regular publishing endeavors, we are also writing, producing, and editing films that have the potential to reach an even larger audience, within our museum, throughout our community, and beyond. Some of OHA's recent film projects are detailed below.

- **CREEKWALK:** In collaboration with the City of Syracuse and Syracuse University students, OHA is creating historic signage along the popular Creekwalk. Thanks to a grant from the Central New York Community Foundation and support from the Rapha Community Fund, OHA is also providing mobile device and Internet accessible videos, to complement the signs that highlight the history along the walk. These 60-90 second documentary shorts are being produced by OHA and MediaWorks and will be enveloped in a mobile application designed by Rounded Development, LLC.
- **MUSEUM FILMS:** With sponsorship from M&T Bank and SRC, OHA is adding a series of five short

(about eight minutes each) films that will summarize the content of the galleries in our permanent "Heart of New York" exhibit covering the general history of Onondaga County. These films will play on screens located within the galleries and will add a new dimension to our museum, allowing us to provide historic content in an engaging, entertaining way. The films will be produced and edited in collaboration with Daylight Blue Media Group.

- **SCHOOL FILMS:** With additional sponsorship by the Gifford Foundation, and with the assistance of Nick Stamoulocatos, the Syracuse City School District Social Studies Director, and a group of teachers from that district, OHA will combine and expand our "Heart of New York" museum films into a full-length film on the history of Onondaga County that includes state required curriculum content. Accompanied by instructional materials and aids, this film will be distributed free to all school districts within Onondaga County. With this film, local students will learn about the history of their own community while receiving the information necessary to help them achieve success on standardized tests.



*Aerial view of east shore of Onondaga Lake*



*Construction of Iron Pier in 1890*



- **ORAL HISTORIES:** Recently, OHA created a short (nine minute) film that was an edited version of a, much longer, filmed oral history interview with Judge Stewart Hancock, Jr. That oral history, now housed in the OHA archives, is part of an oral history project that OHA is conducting for the Senior Lawyers Section of the Onondaga County Bar Association. We are currently editing our filmed oral history of famous attorney, Karen DeCrow. OHA has also completed an edited film of refugee oral histories from a project for the Onondaga Citizens' League funded by the Gifford Foundation. That edited film is featured in the current exhibit, *No Place Like Home* at the Onondaga Historical Museum. Courtney Rile, from Daylight Blue Media, has been the chief editor, with some assistance from OHA staff, for most of OHA's edited oral history projects.

- **HISTORY MINUTES:** With the sponsorship and collaboration of LeMoyne College, OHA partnered with WCNY to produce a series of five "interstitials" (60 – 90 second documentary style videos), which are currently airing on all WCNY channels in between regular programming. These short films highlight great people and events from central New York history and reach over 128,000 television viewing households

per week. Sponsorship of *History Minutes* is a great opportunity to raise the awareness and visibility of your company or organization by reaching hundreds of thousands of people with fascinating, and informative, stories. For information about sponsorship, please contact Lynne Pascale at 428-1864, ext. 314 or at [lynne.pascale@cnyhistory.org](mailto:lynne.pascale@cnyhistory.org).

- **BENEATH THE SURFACE:** OHA has teamed with Otto Media to produce a full-length documentary on the history of Onondaga Lake. From its sacred place in Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) history and its role in international diplomatic strategies during European colonization, through the salt works, the resorts, and the WPA depression-era park projects, to industrial pollution and national notoriety, to Destiny USA and the current major collaborative effort involved in the clean up, Onondaga Lake has had a history that is unmatched among inland waters in the U.S. The trailer for this film is available for viewing on OHA's website. OHA is currently seeking funding to make this film. For sponsorship opportunities and benefits, including screen credit please contact Gregg Tripoli at 428-1864, ext. 311 or at [Gregg.tripoli@cnyhistory.org](mailto:Gregg.tripoli@cnyhistory.org).

*Parade at Long Branch Park on August 19, 1915*



*Parade on Picnic Long Branch. -8-19-15*



# CENTRAL NEW YORK HISTORY DAY

By Betsy York

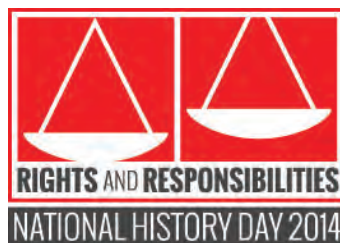
The theme for CNY History Day this year was “Turning Points in History.” The Central New York History day was held at Onondaga Community College on March 23rd with over 140 students participating. As always the students amazed everyone, with project titles ranging from “The Atomic Bomb” to “Emilio Zapato.” Unfortunately, school budget cuts and construction projects prevented many of our Junior entries from participating this year, but they will be back for the 2014 competition. The top two projects in each division won a place at the New York State History Day Competition in Cooperstown, N.Y., where students from across the state compete. As a judge at the state level I can’t tell you how exciting it is for these kids to bring their projects to the NY State Historical Association and Fenimore Art Museum to compete for a chance to go to the National History Day Competition in Washington, D.C. The Central NY region did not have anyone that went to the national competition this year, but we did have a 3rd place finish in the State Competition with a Fayetteville-Manlius student, Gina Rhee and her Individual Performance entitled “Hip Hopstory.” This competition is really a yearlong educational project for these



students. They find a historical topic, time period, or person of interest and research and learn and create a project to showcase their knowledge and creativity. They have the opportunity to create in one of five categories, historical paper, exhibit, performance, documentary, and website. In all but the historical paper category, they can work individually or collaborate in a group. Each category has specific guidelines they must follow. At the end of all their hard work and preparation they present their projects to a panel of judges, show their bibliographies,

process papers and have a short interview with the judging team. And every year the judges are amazed at the range, the knowledge and the creativity of our students. Over 50 judges volunteered their Saturday to evaluate and encourage these young people and their time and energy is appreciated by all. Now that the regional, state and national competitions have been completed it is time to plan and

get ready for Central New York History Day 2014! This coming year the theme will be “Rights and Responsibilities in History.” A theme that is sure to bring many great projects from our communities’ students. If you are interested in sponsoring CNY History Day or assisting as a volunteer or a judge, please contact Scott Peal at 428-1864 x317.



## *Parisa Restaurant has become Three-One-Seven at Montgomery Street.*

The history-themed restaurant next door to OHA has changed its name, updated its décor, and installed new faces in the business office, but it features the same great popular chef, Chance Bear, with an expanded menu filled with the delicious food that Chance has become so well known for. Regularly appearing as the number one chef on Trip Advisor.com, recently featured as the winning chef at the EnvIRONMENTAL Chef 2013 competition, named

2012 Chef of the Year by the Central New York Culinary Federation, and recognized as one of the top 200 chefs in America by the famous James Beard House in New York City (where he has been invited to cook again in 2014 for the third year in a row), Chance Bear will be cooking up his signature dishes, as well as some exciting new recipes at Three-One-Seven. The restaurant will continue to serve as OHA’s in-house caterer and we have lots of collaborative events in store for the coming year. Make lunch, or dinner, or Sunday brunch at Three-One-Seven part of your visit to OHA for great history, engaging exhibits, and a unique shopping experience at our Gift Gallery museum store. For dining reservations, call 214-4267.



## History Highlights - Civil War Twitter Project

By Ryan Connors

The Onondaga Historical Association is happy to announce that we now have over 550 followers on Twitter. Our newest endeavor will be “live action tweeting” of famous Civil War battles that involved troops from Central New York. Live action tweeting is the process of tweeting continuously throughout the duration of an event. We have applied this process to Civil War battles in which troops from Central New York were involved. We will tweet events, actions, maps, pictures, and details of the battle in real time, as if the battle is happening live. The live action tweeting will take place on the same date and time of the battle as it did 150 years ago. This idea came to life in the beginning of July with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, taking place from July 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. We received positive feedback as well as a spike in our number of followers. We decided to continue live action tweeting, and are planning more live action tweeting of three upcoming battles on their anniversaries, with the first starting in October.

*Col. Barnum with the battle flag of the 149<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry. The repair on the flag's staff made by Color Sgt. William Lilly is visible above his left arm.*

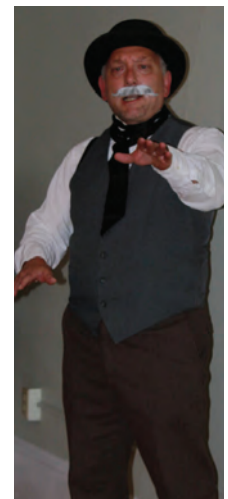


## The Barnes Foundation Hosts OHA's "Spirited Acquaintances" by Scott Peal

On the evening of June 7th, the Barnes Mansion was visited by local individuals from Syracuse's past who possessed a link to the prominent Barnes/Hiscock family in the 19th and early 20th century. The event was an opening reception for the 8th annual "Save the Mansion Tour." There, to reveal their stories and their connection to the family were Reverend Samuel May, (portrayed by Scott Peal) who had performed the marriage of George and Rebecca Barnes; Caroline Loguen, (portrayed by Toni Jones) wife of Reverend Jermaine



Loguen, both who with the Barnes were involved in the anti-slavery movement; Flora Smith, (portrayed by Nancy Roberts) wife of typewriter manufacturer, Lyman Smith and neighbor; and George Washington Cole (portrayed by Brian Greenblatt), who played a part in the tragic love triangle involving a close Hiscock relative. Kathy Brown and John Sposato played hosts to the presentation and introduced the characters to the audience that numbered over 80.



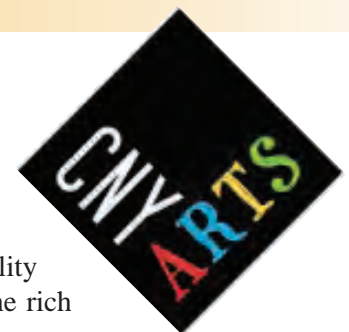
## About CNYArts.org

**Mission** • CNY Arts' mission is to promote, support, and celebrate arts and culture in Central New York.

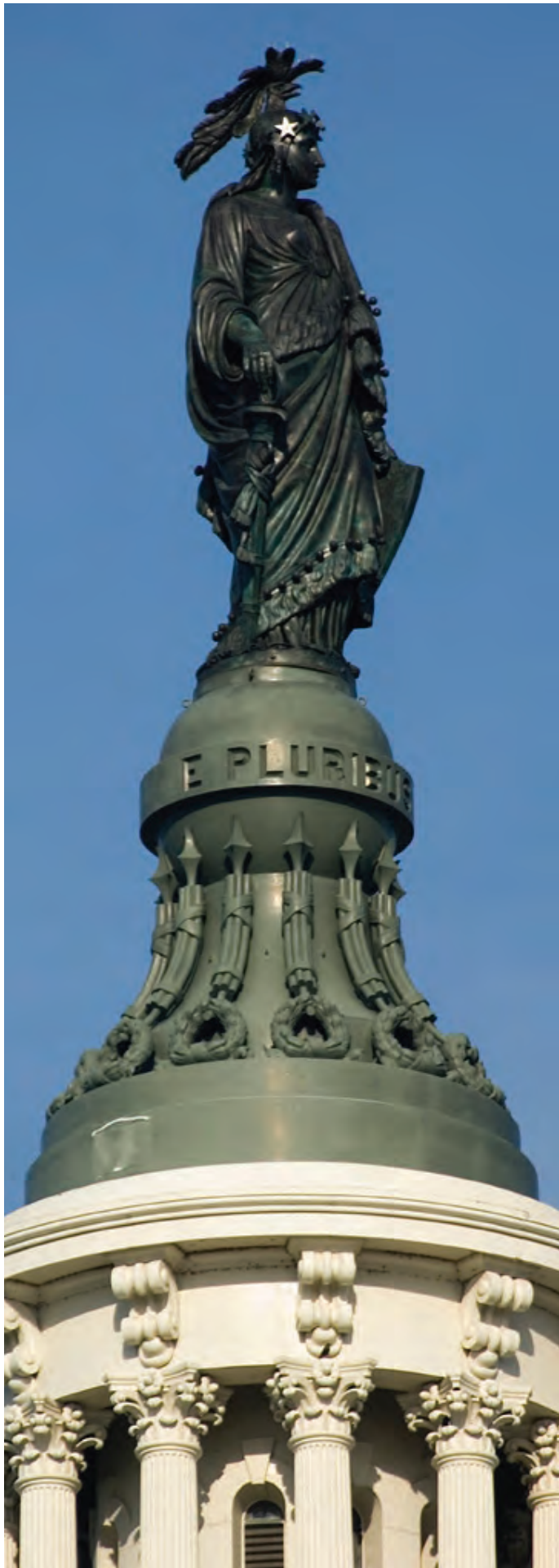
**Who They Are** • CNY Arts believe that a healthy arts community is essential to the quality of life and community in Central New York. They strive to connect the general public to the rich array of arts and cultural opportunities in the area.

It doesn't matter where your place is in the arts—artist, audience member, participant, venue, educator or supporter—they want you to create and experience the arts throughout CNY, in every town, city, neighborhood and school.

**What They Do** • They provide support and assistance to individual artists and arts and cultural organizations through access to grants, capacity-building assistance, education and training, and promotional services. They serve the counties of Cortland, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego. Their goal is to enhance a greater appreciation for the arts and cultural vibrancy of the region.







# From the Hills of Fabius to the Top of Our Nation's Capitol

By Dennis Connors

This year of 2013 was a momentous one for historical anniversaries. Most everyone knows that we are currently in the midst of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War. This past July was the sesquicentennial for that war's most famous battle – Gettysburg. Two hundred years ago, our nation was also in the throes of what some call the second Revolution – the War of 1812. These anniversaries offer significant opportunities for exploring related local history stories— stories that can help all of us better understand the nature of the “American Experience.”

Another 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, coming up this December, involves a little remembered native of Onondaga County named Clark Mills and his connections to, perhaps, one of America's most important national symbols.

Mills was born in December of 1815. The exact location is somewhat vague but probably in the Town of Fabius, very close to the Cortland County line. In fact, the Town of Fabius once extended across that line, until 1808, when Cortland County was created from the southern portion of Onondaga County.

Mills had a difficult childhood, born into an already impoverished family. His father reportedly abandoned the family, or may have just died early, leaving Clark, his mother and siblings to fend for themselves. Early accounts state that Clark was sent to live with an uncle for a time, but in any case, wound up running away as an adolescent to seek greener pastures. He turned up in Syracuse, working temporarily in a brick yard, for a time cutting cedar posts and even, according to one 1915 account, was employed on the canal, perhaps as a hoagie driving the mules that hauled the canal boats. He eventually found employment in a local plaster mill, where he may have first learned some skills in modeling and sculpting architectural details. He reportedly had also shown an early talent in drawing figures.

It is not known what drew him south, but by the early 1840s, he was working in Charleston, South Carolina doing decorative plaster work and trying his hand at sculpture.

*Freedom Statue*

*Courtesy of Architect of the Capitol*





Clark Mills

He received his first major break in 1846 when the city of Charleston purchased from him a bust of John C. Calhoun, South Carolina's famous senator. Although primarily self-taught to this point, he was now fully committed to pursuing a career as a sculptor, and decided by 1847 that he would travel to Italy for more formal study, the cost to be underwritten by a trio of wealthy Charlestonians.

His work in Charleston, however, had also caught the eye of a former U. S. Senator from that state, William Preston, who invited him to first visit Washington, DC to study some of its sculpture. Upon arriving, Mills was duly impressed with the statuary that already populated the capitol building. While at a dinner in Washington, Mills had a chance meeting with Cave Johnson, the U.S. Postmaster General. Johnson also happened to be a member of a committee seeking to erect a statue in Washington of the recently deceased former President, Andrew Jackson, the hero of the War of 1812 Battle of New Orleans.

Johnson encouraged Mills to submit a proposal to the committee that would feature Jackson on horseback. Seizing this opportunity for national notoriety, Mills abandoned his European plans and set to work on a model for the proposed statue. He studied Jackson's life, investigated the anatomy of horses, borrowed Jackson's actual uniform and worked diligently on his model for eight months. In March

of 1848, the committee awarded the 32-year old Onondaga County native the commission.

Some were skeptical of the decision. Mills had never sculpted or cast an equestrian statue. His commitment was complete, however, as he relocated to Washington, leaving his wife and four young sons back in Charleston. The project would take five years. One individual that Mills did bring to Washington, however, was his slave and assistant, Philip Reid.

Mills had purchased Reid for \$1200 and would later state that, "*He bought him because of his evident talent for the business in which (Mills) was engaged.*" Reid had developed into an essential right-hand man for Mills and worked closely with him in eventually casting the bronze statue of Jackson. The sculpting and casting was carried on in a combination foundry and residence that Mills had built just a few hundred feet southeast of the White House. After much trial and error, Mills and Reid, with a few other assistants, succeeded in producing the first bronze equestrian statue ever cast in America. In addition to that singular achievement, people were astounded that Jackson's figure sat atop a horse supported only by its hind legs. In 1853, the statue was placed immediately across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, in the center of Lafayette Park, where it remains to this day.

Its high visibility, pictured in prints and national newspapers, resulted in Mills receiving commissions to cast duplicates for other cities – the most famous being the 1856 version prominently mounted in New Orleans' Jackson Square. Mills reputation was assured and he decided to relocate permanently to Washington. Despite his long absence from Central New York, however, Mills knew he had relatives still living in this area. The *Syracuse Standard* reported on at least one trip he made here in January of 1857 to visit some relatives living in Cortland County at the time.

Mills soon received another commission, for a bronze equestrian statue of George Washington, also to be located in the nation's capital. It was dedicated in 1860 and stands in Washington Circle at Pennsylvania and New Hampshire Avenues. With his reputation as owner of the capital's premier bronze foundry, the government awarded him the contract to cast the statue that would crown the dome of the capitol building, then under construction. The sculptor for the work was Thomas Crawford, an American whose studio was in Rome, Italy. Crawford's statue was to represent "liberty" as he had been instructed by the project's superintendent, Captain Montgomery Meigs. Crawford's explained his design of a female figure represented "*freedom triumphant*" and would come to be known as the "Statue of Freedom."



Crawford cast the over 19' tall, full size plaster version in five sections. They were shipped to America and arrived in Washington in March of 1859. Mills began the lengthy and arduous task of casting the pieces in bronze with the essential help of his slave, Philip Reid. Ironically, Reid was working on a statue dedicated to the symbols of liberty and freedom.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Mills briefly considered relocating back to his “adopted state” of South Carolina to “lay aside my favorite art and to engage in the manufacture of bronze cannon” for the Confederacy. But June of 1862 found him still in Washington, petitioning the federal government for re-imbusement for the freeing of his 11 slaves. Congress had passed a law, the previous April, freeing the 3100 slaves living in the District of Columbia. The law allowed for the former owners to receive compensation for the loss of their slaves’ services. Mills owned 11 slaves, including Philip Reid. Mills’ petition describes Reid as, “smart in mind, a good workman in a foundry. . .” In fact the government had been paying Mills for Reid’s services in the foundry, at the rate of \$1.25/day, more than the other foundry workmen. If Reid worked on a Sunday, however, he was allowed to keep the \$1.25 for himself.

With considerable effort, the bronze version of the Freedom statue was finished in Mills’ foundry by the end of 1862. President Lincoln insisted that work on the capitol

dome continue, despite the Civil War, to symbolize the ongoing strength of the Union. He reportedly said, “*If people see the Capitol going on, it is a sign we intend the Union shall go on.*” The dome was sufficiently complete by late 1863 to allow the 7 ½ ton statue to be lifted and installed in sections – the work formally completed on December 2, 1863 to a salute of 35 cannons, answered by the guns of 12 defensive forts surrounding Washington.

Mills continued his work as a sculptor in Washington where he died in 1883. His fame faded but briefly resurfaced during World War II when his name was given to one of the over 2000 “Liberty Ships” built in America as troop and supply transports.

This December will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Freedom statue’s dedication. It is a noteworthy achievement by a native of Onondaga County – one aided by the talent of an enslaved African-American – so it also becomes a reminder of a nation once deeply divided over slavery. This *Freedom Statue* stands today, an icon of American liberty and one especially symbolic for what the Civil War meant to millions of enslaved people.

#### *Jackson Statue*

*Courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Detroit Publishing Company Collection*





# Oakwood Visions, the Spirits were “Undampened”

By Scott Peal



*Brian Allen Jones played Milton Price (1825-1889), The Merchant Prince of Syracuse.*

*Kevin Shumway played Comfort Tyler (1764-1827), one of the earliest settlers in Onondaga County.*



The four evenings of this year’s Oakwood Cemetery Ghostwalk, “Oakwood Visions” managed to skirt the June downpours, although they were a bit wet and muddy on the feet. This did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 500 audience members who challenged the weather to experience the beauty of Dedication Valley, (Oakwood’s oldest section) and encounter a number of the interesting individuals that rest there. The extra treat for those who partook of the program was to have the opportunity to enter into the mortuary crypt behind the chapel to meet the tragic Dr. George Greeley, who in 1902, was found near death on the steps of the chapel.

If traipsing through a cemetery is not your cup of tea, consider, “Ghost Talk: Syracuse Confidential” at the S.U. Warehouse Auditorium, near Armory Square which may be more to your liking. A number of past Ghostwalk’s most popular tales of misdeeds will be resurrected from the files and revealed before you. Bear witness and “do the talk without the walk.” The Court is in session Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. OHA members are \$8.00 and nonmembers are \$10.00. After Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> members are \$10.00 and nonmembers are \$12.00. Group rates are available. For more information call Karen at 428 1864 x312.



*Marcia Mahaffy played Claire Alcee (Mrs. Andrew S. White) (1892-1982), who was trained to be a lyric opera prima donna.*



*Brian Goldbatt played Dr. George Greeley (1844-1912), who was a local homeopathic doctor.*



*David Baker played John Wilkinson (1868-1952), Inventor of the air cooled engine for the Franklin automobile.*

*(Photos courtesy of Mark McDermott).*



# DUMBO AND SYRACUSE

*By Dick Case*

**B**ack in the day, in 1999 when I still wrote for the *Syracuse Post-Standard*, the word “Syracuse” jumped out at me as I read an obituary in the *New York Times* for Helen Aberson Mayer, at 91. The by-lined death notice said Helen wrote the story that inspired the 1941 Walt Disney film, “Dumbo.”

It also said this happened when Helen, a Syracuse native, still lived in Syracuse.

Who knew? I asked myself. A few phone calls convinced me the answer was: this is a fragment of our history not too many people in Syracuse know about. I had a story for my

column. Almost a year later, the yarn of Dumbo’s creation – “Still Flying” – was published as the cover story in the Post’s Sunday supplement, Stars magazine.

This is how it unraveled. . . .

Helen Aberson was born in Syracuse in 1907, the daughter of Anna and Morris Aberson, Russian immigrants to our town. Morris is listed in city directories as a cigar maker and grocer. The family lived at 1307 East Genesee St.

She attended the Syracuse University School of Speech and graduated in 1929. In a questionnaire she returned to the university’s Alumni Office in 1939, she wrote “I went to New York after graduation and did social work. Returned to Syracuse in 1933 to direct dramatic activities at a nearby children’s camp (also took a) job as director of dramatic activities for the municipal recreational department. I left in August 1937 to do radio work for a local concern.”

Her niece, Jeanne Castle of Little Falls (the daughter of Helen’s brother, Sim Aberson) told me she believes Helen worked at WSYR, a Syracuse radio station, adopting the name of “Barbara Manning.” She listed her occupation as “radio commentator” on the Alumni Office form.

Helen continued on the form she sent to the Alumni Office, speaking for the first time of her first husband, Harold Pearl, her collaborator on the Dumbo story:

“I met my husband through business. He’s an ex-New York American newspaper man who had come to Syracuse as an exploitation and publicity man for United Artists. He stayed on after being offered the managership of a downtown Syracuse theater (The Eckel.)

“We met in October 1937. I became Mrs. Harold Pearl on Feb. 14, 1938. (We couldn’t resist St. Valentine’s Day.) We collaborated on a children’s story, which is to be published soon. Writing is a hobby at present but we hope to turn it into a full-time job some day. We’re headed to New York right now and eventually the Coast – we hope.”



*Helen Aberson Pearl, June 23, 1939*



The Pearls divorced in the summer of 1939. Helen's son of her second marriage, Andrew Mayer of Staten Island, told me that his mother explained to him that Harold Pearl returned to New York City after the divorce and died years before Helen.

In 1944, Helen married Richard J. Mayer, a former Wall Street Journal columnist and commodity editor she met while working for the Office of War Information in Washington during World War II. He survived her in 1999.

There's a hint in a 1939 Herald-Journal newspaper story of the high hopes that Helen and Harold had for "Dumbo" back then. The film was released in October 1941:

"Two Syracusans, Helen and Harold Pearl, had one of their children's stories, 'Dumbo, the Flying Elephant,' purchased by Disney Productions'. A headline above the story read "Headed for Fame and Fortune."

It didn't turn out that way. The Pearls originally sold the rights to their manuscript to a Syracusan, Everett Whitmyre, who apparently originated the idea of a Roll-a-Book, a book designed to be scrolled through, as a sideline to his work as an advertising agent. To this day, we don't know if "Dumbo" ever was published as a Roll-a-Book, although a proof of the manuscript exists in the papers of Helen Durney, a Syracuse artist who drew a series of illustrations for the "Dumbo" original.

Helen Mayer explained that transaction in more detail in a letter she wrote to a lawyer in 1993: "In 1938, my ex-husband (now deceased) and I wrote a story about a little elephant with very big ears who used them to fly. We named him Dumbo."

"We approached a local publisher in Syracuse, New York – then my home town – to print the books. He said rather than printing a small number of books, we ought to send our manuscript to Walt Disney to be used for a movie. We thought it was a wild idea but went along with it. The very next day we had a call from the Disney people with an offer to buy our manuscript for \$1,000 and they would publish it and make it into a movie."

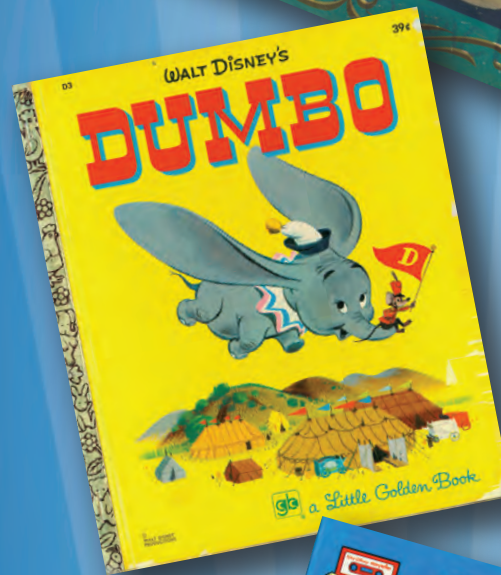
The Disney film followed the original Aberson-Pearl story, but details were changed and added. For example, the authors called the mom of Dumbo "Mother Ella." Disney renamed her "Mrs. Jumbo." The Syracusans made up a helper for their little elephant. He was a wise robin. They called him "Red." Disney turned him into a mouse named "Timothy."

Helen Aberson traveled to California as a consultant on the film. Her son, Andrew Mayer, said he heard various stories about his mother's experience in California, but he

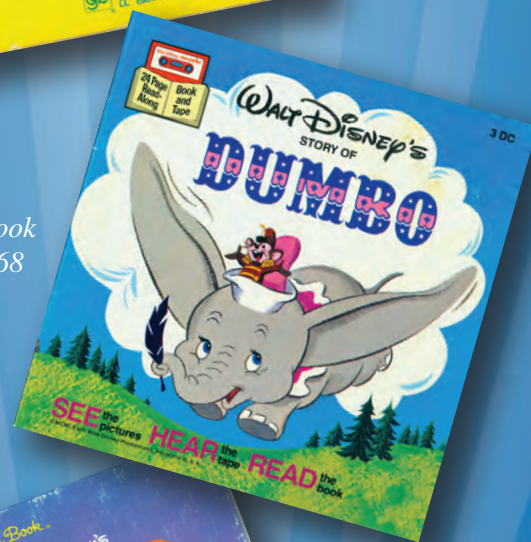
*Dumbo Book Cover, 1941*



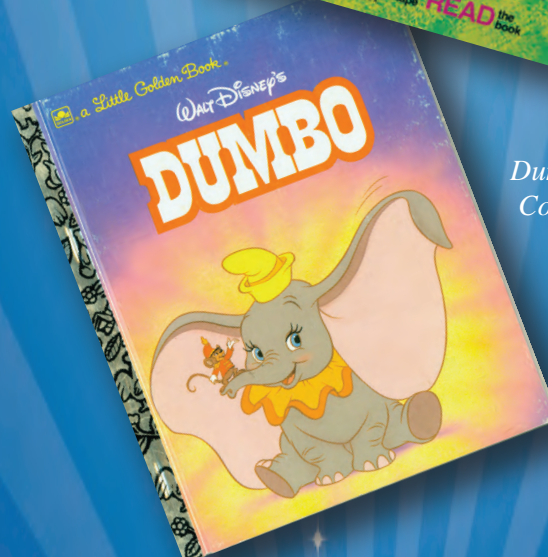
*Dumbo Book Cover, 1947*



*Dumbo Book Cover, 1968*



*Dumbo Book Cover, 1988*





sensed his mother returned home unhappy with some of the changes Disney made in her story. “She was the sort of person who tried to see the sun in the clouds,” Andrew explained.

“She never said exactly, but I know she felt she was not treated well,” he continued. “She was upset about the manner in which her name was excluded” from the credits of “Dumbo” book Disney brought out in concert with the movie. This happened when the original Roll-a-Book copyright expired in 1986.

The rights the Pearls sold to Disney included a series of Disney Golden Books still in print since the first in the 1940’s. Andrew Mayer thinks his mother earned about \$1,000 from her creation.

The “Dumbo” project had a third collaborator in Syracuse, artist Helen Durney, who graduated with a degree in painting from Syracuse University in 1927. Miss Durney, who died here in 1970, left only cousins, as far as we know. Unfortunately, we don’t know her feelings about the “Dumbo” film and her relations with the Disney company. The movie was not mentioned in her obituary.

A box of Helen Durney’s papers, including drawings and letters relating to “Dumbo,” was found in Chittenango after her death. Those documents were donated to the Syracuse University Special Collections Research Center.

Helen Durney apparently had a career as an artist and patron of the arts. We don’t know how she connected to the Pearls. In a letter in the Disney archives, written in 1939 to “Walter Disney,” Helen said “I have lived with him (Dumbo) since last February when he took form in one antic after another on tracing paper. From these many rough sketches, Mr. (Everett) Whitmyre of Roll-a-Book picked the final sixteen for illustrations, which were finished in pen and ink.”

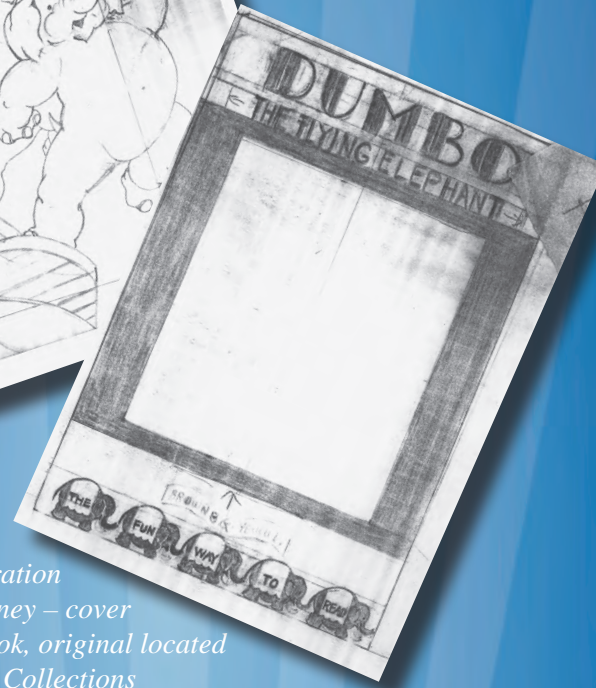
There is a vein of sadness in the letter. Helen appears to be asking Walt Disney for a job. She wished him luck on the new film (“Dumbo” was released in 1941), adding these lines: “The world is so much richer place because you live, Walter Disney. Don’t let anything happen to your creative genius. Don’t ever grow up.”

In the master’s reply, from the company archives, Disney said “As you predicted, he has proved to be a swell little character to work with, and we are having a lot of fun making the picture.” He did not offer her a job. Biographers of Walt Disney claim the “Dumbo” movie saved the small, struggling company from financial ruin.

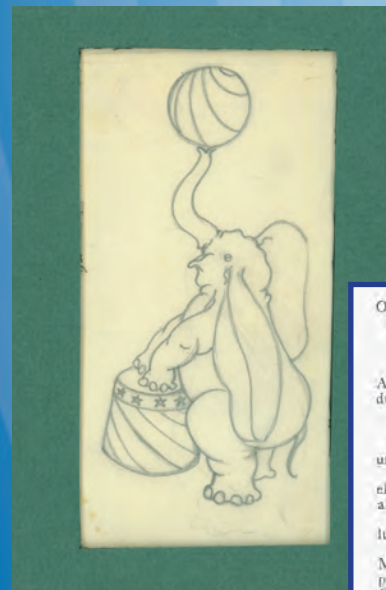
Her obituary said Helen Durney “worked for the Knopf Publishing Co. in New York City for several years.” She



*Dumbo Illustration by Helen Durney, original located at SU Special Collections*



*Dumbo Illustration by Helen Durney – cover for Roll-A-Book, original located at SU Special Collections*



*Original Dumbo illustration by Helen Durney*

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 All rights reserved, including right to reproduce this book or parts thereof in any form.  
 PART ONE  
 DUMBO'S SAD FLIGHT  
 "O, me! O, my!" wailed Dumbo, "I'm so unhappy!"  
 And wouldn't you be if you were a midget elephant whose ears were EXTRA BIG and also BRIGHT PINK?  
 "O, dear," Dumbo sighed, "I'm the one unlucky elephant in the whole world."  
 And wouldn't you feel that way too if your Mother Ella had christened you Jumbo, expecting you would grow up to be the BIGGEST elephant in the circus? And if you had been nicknamed Dumbo for spoiling the elephant act?  
 Poor little Dumbo's extra-big-bright-pink ears hung down below his knees. If it weren't for his trunk poking out—why, you'd never think there was an elephant there at all!  
 "It's a lucky thing, Dumbo, your ears are so big so you can hide behind them," Big Boy, the biggest elephant in the circus had once said.  
 Big Boy always made up jokes about people, especially when they were smaller than he. In fact, it was Big Boy who had thought up the nick-name Dumbo, after the midget had spoiled the elephant act.  
 Dumbo hadn't meant to spoil the act. This is how it happened.  
 The circus owner and Jack, the elephant trainer, decided to put Dumbo in the show with the other elephants. "After all," they said, "he should do something to earn his keep!"  
 So, Jack taught Dumbo a few easy tricks. One was to place his two front feet on a striped bar and balance a red rubber ball on his trunk.

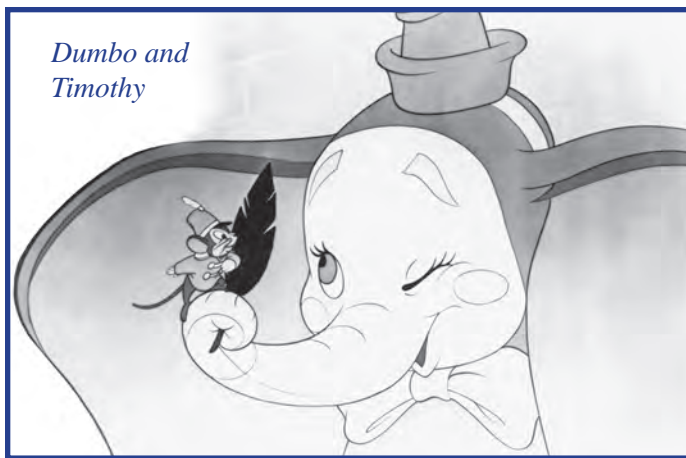
*Dumbo in Roll-A-Book format, 1939*

WALT DISNEY'S  
 DUMBO

Based on the book by Helen Aberson  
 And Harold Pearl

*From Walt Disney*





*Dumbo and Timothy*

also served as educational and publicity secretary at the Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts, now the Everson Museum. The museum exhibited some of her “Dumbo” drawings in 1939. In a talk she gave at the museum that year, Helen credited Everett Whitmyre with inventing the Roll-a-Book concept while watching children at the New York Public Library. “Without Mr. Whitmyre, there would have been no Dumbo,” Helen said.

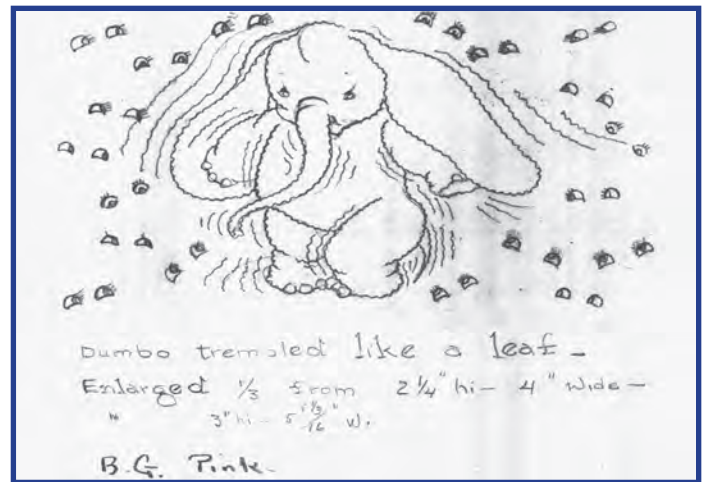
Andrew Mayer believes his mother, also Helen, once had a copy of the “Dumbo” book, which readers turned using a small knob. He said Helen Mayer’s trunk of “Dumbo” memorabilia had been lost by the family. There is a printer’s proof of the book, as written by the Pearls, in Helen Durney’s papers at SU.

Press materials distributed by Disney for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2001 stated that a sequel, “Dumbo II,” was in production, scheduled for release in 2004. It has not appeared, so far.

Footnote: Ever the curious reporter, I tried to follow the path of Helen Durney in 1999. Two of her cousins were mentioned as survivors in her brief obituary in 1970. One of her cousins



*Helen Durney*



*Dumbo Illustration by Helen Durney, original located at SU Special Collections*

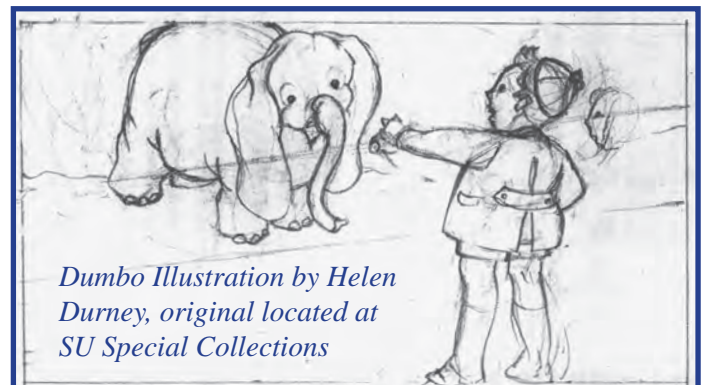
was a Mrs. Andrew Anguish of Chittenango. It turned out that both Mrs. Anguish and her husband had died, too.

I called my friend, the late Clara Houck, a native daughter and historian of Chittenango. Did she know the Anquishes? She did. She also knew their neighbor, Arlene Baird, had looked after them and helped settle their estate, when Andrew died in 1996. Why not call Arlene? Clara suggested.

I did and stood on Arlene’s glassed-in porch a few days later, listening to her story about having the power of attorney for Andrew Anguish and helping to clean out the house after his death. She said she’d come across a box of the papers of Helen Durney. She was tempted to trash them but had second thoughts. After all, Arlene reasoned, someone must have cared for them all these years. She knew Helen Durney was an artist; the papers must be connected to her career.

“I guess they were saved for a reason,” Arlene said.

Arlene agreed with me that the papers, stuffed into a Syracuse department store suit box, ought to be donated to Syracuse University, where both Helens, Durney and Aberson, had graduated. Two months later, Arlene Baird herself died.



*Dumbo Illustration by Helen Durney, original located at SU Special Collections*



**The 2013 OHA  
MEDAL AWARDS  
were presented at a  
BREAKFAST EVENT  
June 20  
at the  
Genesee Grande  
Hotel, Syracuse, NY**



*In recognition of special individual and organizational efforts towards the preservation of local history.*

**HONOREES**

**The Erie Canal  
Museum**

ECM Executive Director, Diana Goodstight, accepting the OHA Medal award from OHA Executive Director Gregg Tripoli.



**Kristine Delaney**

Crouse Hospital's Library Manager and Archivist, Kris Delaney, accepting her award.



**Town of Onondaga  
Historical Society**

Former Town of Onondaga Historian, L. Jane Tracy, accepts on behalf of TOHS.



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# Liberty Mutual Volunteers Prepare for the Speakeasy

June 17 -19, twelve volunteers from local Liberty Mutual offices helped brighten-up the OHA basement by organizing the section that houses some of the non-accessioned Syracuse China. The volunteers also cleaned out the window well. This work was in preparation for the creation of the OHA Temperance Club and Lounge, or "speakeasy," due to open November 13 in conjunction with two exhibits: "Fashion After Five" and "The Culture of the Cocktail Lounge." Many thanks to the teams of Liberty Mutual volunteers who helped to make this happen!





**ONE DAY ONLY  
– RARE OPPORTUNITY**

**OHA Exhibit on  
Revolutionary Era**

*Featuring the*

## **George Washington Inaugural Bible**

**O**n November 9, 2013, the CNY Veterans Parade and Expo, hosted by Assemblyman William Magnarelli at the State Fairgrounds from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM will feature an exhibit on the Revolutionary era by OHA in the Center of Progress Building. The centerpiece of the exhibit will be a rare, **one day only** showing of the George Washington Inaugural Bible, which is the property of the St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 1 in New York City.

As the name implies, the Bible was the very one on which George Washington swore the oath of office as the first president of the United States on April 30, 1789. That first inauguration took place at Federal Hall in New York City, which served as the Capitol of our young country at that time. The Bible had been in the possession of the St. John's Lodge since 1767. After Washington recited the oath, with his right hand placed on Genesis Chapters 49 and 50, he leaned forward and kissed the page, adding the words "so help me God". Since that time, those words have become part of the presidential oath of office.

The Bible has been used at only four other inaugurations – Harding's in 1921, Eisenhower's in 1953, Carter's in 1977, and George H.W. Bush's in 1989. It was also present at the funeral processions of Presidents Washington, Lincoln, and Taylor and at the cornerstone ceremonies for the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. in 1793, the Washington Monument in 1885, and the Washington Arch in New York City in 1890. It was also exhibited at the 1964 World's Fair in New York City. It has been to twenty other states but rarely travels outside of New York City.

The exhibit will also include other rare artifacts from OHA's collections from the revolutionary era, including the "General Association" Document from May, 1775; the first document of the first representative government of New York State, which placed New York in the Revolutionary War and led the unified colonial opposition to British dominance. The "General Association" Document made national news two years ago when OHA loaned it to an exhibit at the New York State Capitol Building in Albany.

Also appearing in the one day only exhibit will be an oil portrait of Washington by local portraitist George Knapp, a document signed by George Washington releasing a revolutionary war official from duty, and other revolutionary war documents and artifacts, including weaponry and a large print of Washington with his generals.

This exceptional opportunity to see an incredible artifact from our nation's history is free and open to the public.





## 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 4<sup>th</sup> light (Fayette St.) and turn right onto Fayette St. Go to 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> light at Fayette St. Turn left onto Fayette St. Go to the 3<sup>rd</sup> light and turn right onto Montgomery St. OHA is halfway down the block on the left at 321 Montgomery St.

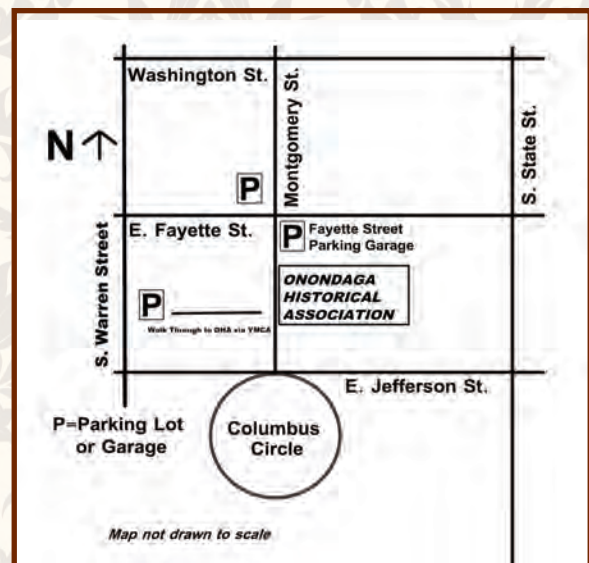
### From 81 Northbound:

Take Adams St. exit. Travel north on Almond Street until 5<sup>th</sup> light at Fayette St. Turn left onto Fayette St. Go to the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Karen.Cooney@cnyhistory.org).



ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S  
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HIGHLIGHTS



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Syracuse, New York 13202-2098  
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### 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

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

### OHA Wish List

- Flat screen TV's (32" or larger)
- Flat screen computer monitors
- Computers or laptops with Windows 7 Professional or newer
- 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.

### Volunteers Appeal

**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.

**Archives Volunteers Needed!** We're looking for great volunteers, who know how to type, to help with our archival processing. 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](http://cnyhistory.org).

### E-Mail Addresses Needed!

In order to keep up to date with OHA's current events, please send us your email address and we will add you to our distribution lists. We do not inundate our members with emails. Periodically you will receive an update when we add items to our calendar of events. We love to see our members at all of our events!

All images in this newsletter are from OHA collections, unless otherwise noted.