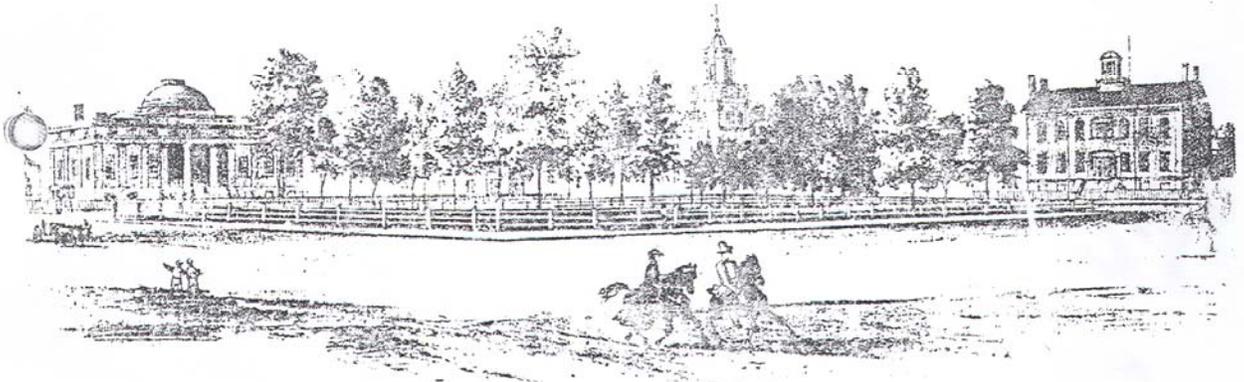


SENECA COUNTY HISTORY

Vol. 1 No. 4

June 1985



Union School.

Primary School.

Dutch Reformed Church.

Court House.

Waterloo Park.

Published four times a year: subscription rate \$5 a year. Write to
Mrs. Betty Auten, Seneca County Historian, 31 Thurber Dr. Waterloo, NY 13151



99 AND STILL GOING STRONG

Looking out of my upstairs window I can see the spot where Isaac Gorham conducted the first school in the Village of Waterloo. The school, at least the first recorded in early history books, was on the corner of East Williams and Clark Sts.

A poem, written by the Rev. Samuel Gridley, describes the school which was in use in the early 1800's.

"The seats in use were slabs with less in number - four. And so these quadrupeds sustained some ten or more. The desks were slabs at angle, cut and carved and maimed, and not, by birch or ferule. Could jack-knives be restrained? The smaller urchins sat upon the bumble seat, with ought to rest the back, too high to rest their feet. Turning, twisting, pinching, busy in keeping still: grinding, grinding, grinding, in Isaac Gorham's mill."

Gorham later moved his school to what is today E. Main St. in a former blacksmith shop. There was also an early school established on the south side of the river. It was taught by a Mr. Baker.

Common Schools were encouraged by the State from the earliest settlement of this area. Each township in the Military Tract had a number of lots set off for the benefit of schools and churches. The development of schools got its major start in 1813 when Gideon Hawley of Albany was appointed the first superintendent of Common Schools.

The first reports received by Seneca County officials were in 1814. The first available for Junius, which then included Waterloo, Seneca Falls, Junius and Tyre, was for 1817. The commissioners were: Jesse Clark, Thomas C. McGee and Ambrose Grow. There were just three school districts in the area which extended from the Seneca River, north to Galen. The report did not indicate where these districts were located, but there were 135 children taught that year and 353 children between five and 16 years of age living in the district.

Just one year later, there were eight full districts and two others which included both Junius and Galen. The length of time school was in session varied from three to 10 months. There were 708 pupils attending school and 901 children living in the districts. In 1820, there were 13 full districts and three part districts, with 933 pupils and 1,079 children.

The first report available for just Waterloo is 1830. In that year there were nine full districts and one part. Some of the schools, probably those in the village, had sessions 11 and 12 months of the year. There were 335 students and 474 children. The village schools, District 1 and 2 had 187 students.

According to John E. Becker, who wrote "The History of Waterloo", the first public school district was established in 1816 and opened in 1818. It was located on the lot now owned by St. Paul's Episcopal Church. It was used both as a school and a place of worship.

The common school district was re-organized on March 27, 1838. John Burton, Horace F. Gustin, Joel Williams, Daniel S. Kendig and John Sholes were elected trustees. It was the opinion of

the trustees that they did not need a new building, but at the April 14 meeting, it was decided to build a new school house. The money for the sale of the old building was to be used for fence and improvements on the lot.

It was at first decided that \$400 would be raised but the committee, comprised of John S. Hubbard, Samuel Williams and Dr. Peter R. Wirts, said that was not enough, \$800 would be needed. In August it was decided that more funds would be needed to build a woodhouse and for the school library.

By Aug. 15, the school house was completed. The trustees started with \$851.02 and had \$57.18 left over, when the building was completed. Luther R. Battell built the schoolhouse, Daniel Mosher did the painting and H.C. Vreeland made the steps and hung the bell.

The old building was sold for \$100 and \$225 more was raised to build a woodhouse, privy and fence. This also included the cost of the door, steps, paint, bell and stove for heating the building. Joel Willson built the woodhouse and fences, William Payne sawed the wood for the stove. The first teacher in the new building was Dolphin Stevenson.

In 1841 the trustees bought 50 volumes of Harper's School District Library for \$20 from Thomas McClintock. McClintock was also named librarian of the school.

The Waterloo Academy was incorporated by the Board of Regents, Aug. 23, 1842. It served the same purpose as a high school does today. It was called "The Rotunda Building" and was 90 by 40 feet in size. Its total

height was 51 feet and it cost \$9,000 to build. It opened in May 1842 and in 1843 there were 278 boys and girls at the school.

Stocks were sold to build and establish the academy. There were 54 stockholders who purchased from one to 10 shares, each. The list included the names of most of the businessmen of that time: Samuel Birdsall, William Mercer, Dr. Gardner Welles, James Stevenson, Jr. John McAllister, Jesse Clark, Joel W. Bacon, Asa N. Draper, David Warner and Richard P. Hunt, each bought 10 shares.

The first principal of the Academy was Edward Cooper, a graduate of Union College. He received a salary of \$800 a year. There were seven other teachers who received from \$132 to \$150 a year.

Children who attended the schools had to pay tuition. One item listed among the early reports lead's one to believe that children who could not afford to pay were not deprived of an education. The sum of \$24.85 was paid for wages of teachers of indigent persons, in 184

In 1844, Charles Sentell was superintendent of schools for Seneca County. Included among the early county records is a voucher from Sentell with a list of the services he rendered during the year. His duties included examining men and women who would be teaching in the various schools; checking out each school one or more times during the year; attending teachers institutes; preparing library and annual reports, including those which had to be sent to the state.

The very readable handwritten paper covered eight pages. It required 256 and a half days of work for which Sentell received \$500.

The Academy proved to be a financial failure and in August, 1847 it was closed.

On Sept. 2, 1847, there was a re-organization meeting of the common schools. Districts one and two were incorporated into one. The district included all that part of the village, north of the river, except the third ward. There was a school at Mill and Williams Sts. for those pupils.

Addison T. Knox, Sterling G. Hadley and Sidney Warner were elected trustees. William T. Gibson was named clerk and John Sholes, collector.

Samuel Birdsall was moderator of the meeting. It was decided to raise \$4,000 for a new building. Shortly after, this was changed and the academy building was purchased for \$4,000.

With the re-Organizing, William T. Gibson was named teacher of classical and scientific studies and principal of the upper grades. He received a salary of \$400 a year. George F. Botsford was in charge of the English department and principal of the lower grades. He received \$30 a month.

Other teachers were: Lucy Ann Field, French department, \$250 a year; Sarah Mosher, primary department for girls and Sarah M. Vandervere for boys. They received \$2.50 a week. Tuition for those outside of the district was \$2 for primary grades and \$3 for the upper grades.

On December 27, Samuel Welles was hired as assistant teacher in classical and scientific studies at \$30 a month but he had to leave for personal reasons and Austin Dutton was hired in his place.

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In 1852 a petition was circulated to ask the legislature to pass an act to make Waterloo a free school. Members of that committee were: Asa G. Story, Joseph M. Deuel and Samuel J. Harrington. The State Legislature did enact a law in 1855 which made it a free school.

ANNUAL STATEMENT	
OF the Trustees of the Waterloo Union School, District No. 1, for the year ending Dec 31, 1855.	
RECEIPTS.	
Balance on hand J. n. 1, 1855,	\$34 32
Rec'd on last Tax List,	2133 51
" of Jas. Johnson for old timber sold him,	1 00
" Geo. Jackson, lumber sold him,	2 78
" for Tuition of Foreign Scholars,	41 50
" S. R. Welles, Town Supt. of W. terlin,	492 31
" of do Library money,	31 44
	\$3094 86
Deduct over-rated last year, error,	90
Total amount on hand during year,	\$3003 96
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Paid for Teacher's wages,	\$2195 99
" for Books, Apparatus, Library	31 44
" for taking censuses of Scholars,	5 00
" Salary of Librarian and Clerk,	25 00
" Parks for making copy of tax roll,	5 00
" for Glass and Glazing,	12 67
" Blank Books, Register, Chalk, &c.	7 50
" for cleaning and whitewashing,	51 84
" for Wood and Coal,	143 62
" Repairs and Lumber,	203 72
" for new desks & repairing others,	29 90
" Janitor, (Geo. Jackson),	145 23
" for Insurance,	35 00
" for Hardware, Nails, Screws, &c.	26 74
" for a Stove,	25 00
" for repairing Stove, Tongs & Poker,	4 00
" for printing Annual Report,	3 00
" for Brooms, Lime, Candles, Soap,	9 03
" for Cartage,	5 26
" for repairing Pump,	50
" Lumber for stage,	51
" Bell Rope and Window Curtains,	69
" County Check for search of title,	6 25
" for Labor of Choirs,	7 00
" to H. C. Vreeland, repairs & lumber,	56 96
	\$3070 64
Total Disbursements,	\$3070 64
" Receipts,	3093 96
Balance on hand, Dec. 31, 1855,	\$23 32
BILLS UNPAID.	
Wm. S. Fletcher & Co. repairs,	\$223 07
J. F. Yurg, for wood,	15 00
S. G. HADLEY, } Trustees. ADD. T. KNOX, } A. D. LANE, }	

Waterloo school budget for 1855

TURK

In 1871 the academy building was rebuilt and enlarged. In 1882, a two-story building with four rooms was built on the adjoining property for a primary school.

William L. Sweet was president of the board of education in 1885. He resigned because he felt he could not do credit to the position because of his commitment as president of the village. Frederick Manning replaced him and Godfrey Selmsler was treasurer, George E. Zartman, clerk George Keet, collector.

Monies received by the school totaled, \$7,809.58. Expenses were teachers wages, \$4,695; bond and interest, \$122.30; janitor, \$300; coal, \$294; insurance, \$67.50 and incidentals, \$731.

The school up to this time had no established courses of study or grading standards. There were no commencement exercises and diplomas were not given to graduating students.

In 1887, the principal, Jacob H. Carfry, re-organized the school system. He established regular courses of study and Waterloo High School had its first official graduating class.

Those who took part in that first commencement exercise were: Willis Anderson, Lizzie F. Brehm, Josephine S. Buck, John G. Clark, Mary A. Cosad, George H. Haigh, Kate C. Hiller, Jessica B. Marshall, Satie M. Pearson, Jennie F. Rorison, George W. Schneck, Ella M. Serven, Elida Strong and Nellie Van DeMark.

The records for School District NO. 2, Fayette, the school at the corner of E. River and Grove Sts., can be traced back to 1827, although a school had been started in that area about 1807.

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The teacher in 1828 was James K. Richardson and his salary was \$39 per quarter. The first school house on the present site was built in 1845. It was a one-story structure with two rooms. It was remodeled in 1887 and a second story was added.

One record book which started in 1894 showed that Peter Cadmus, a Civil War veteran, was a trustee of the school. Meetings were often held in the office of his wagon shop.

There was an effort in 1890 to consolidate the two school districts on the north side of the river. It was unsuccessful at that time, but on June 29, 1896, District 1 and 3 united to form Union Free District No. 1.

In 1898, the tax collector for the River Street school was James R. Kelley. The record book noted that Mr. Kelley put so much untiring effort into collecting back taxes, "he was to receive \$15 instead of the regular \$10" he normally received.

Following the annual meeting on Aug. 1, 1899, it was decided to build a new high school. On Oct. 19, the board voted to purchase the lot west of the school and to appropriate \$31,000 for a new building and for remodeling the Union School and the Third Ward School.

Mart Van Kirk, grandfather of Howard Van Kirk, editor and publisher of the Seneca Falls-Waterloo Reveille, was the architect for the building. The contract went to Welling A. Lawrence and John VanRipe. Over \$37,000 was expended to complete the work. The seats in the assembly hall could accommodate 700 persons. They came from the Pan-American Exhibition.

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INTERLUKE

The first commencement exercises in the new building were held on June 7, 1902. Those who received diplomas were: Anna Bacon, Carrie L. Becker, Katherine A. Birch, Charlotte S. Blackman, Rene N. Braden, Marcia A. Clark, Cornelia B. Crocker, Mary R. Hassan, Teresa G. Marion, Mary M. Mills, Margaret E. Schott, George C. Opdyke, Ernest A. Roeger. Huse T. Skerritt was principal. Members of the board of education included, Frederick L. Manning, Dr. George A. Bellows and Edward Nugent.

In 1903 and 1904, Fayette No. 2 had a major issue. The trustees appointed a committee to get estimates on installing steam heat and building water closets in the River St. School. The lowest cost they found was \$498 to install a steam heating system and \$274 to install water closets.

The normal turn-out at school board meeting was about 10 or 12 persons and these were mostly the officials. At the 1903 meeting, 44 attended. Those attending were asked to vote. Should the money be appropriated to do the improvements or should the district appropriate \$50 to clean and repair the old closets? the vote was 42 to two in favor of making the old one's do.

The repairs must have been less than adequate for in 1904, 34 persons attended the meeting and voted 34 to 0, to raise \$1,000 to put in steam heat and new water closets. The heating plant was installed by J. George Stacy of Geneva for \$509. Ernest Van Riper, a local plumber got the job to put in the "you know whats".

St. Mary's School was started in 1904. It opened for the first time on Sept. 12, 1904 with about 100 pupils. A new school building was started in 1910

In 1917 the voters approved the installation of a suitable heating and ventilating system in the high school building. In May, 1920, the school bought and then remodeled the "White Church" property. It had been used by various religious denominations but was not in use at that time. The main section of the building was used for physical training and athletics. Part of it was used in teaching home economics.

The community expanded and as more children came into the school system, it became obvious that something would have to be done. The building which was only 25 years old was getting crowded. In 1927, state inspectors declared the Union and High School building too small for the needs of the district. The recommendation was for a new school to be built on a different site.

This did not meet with the approval of the majority of the people of Waterloo. In December, a vote was taken and approval was given to erect a new building on the same site by acquiring adjoining land.

A boys band was inaugurated at the school in the 7th and 8th grades when 55 boys indicated their interest in its formation. It was started at the request of John E. Becker who had heard such a band while visiting the school at Newark.

The first instructor was Mynert Henningson, a painter and paper-hanger who had many years experience in army bands. When asked what instrument they wanted to play, all the boys selected the snare drum. The band was formed in June 1927 and at its first competition for Class C Schools at Syracuse University in 1928, the band received first prize.

The amount to be raised by taxes for the new school was \$383,000. With 290 voting, there were 269 yeas. The members of the board of education were: Dr. Carroll B. Bacon, George L. Marshall, Gladys M. Barnes, George C. Sweet, Charles E. Foley was principal and J. Charles Fillingham, clerk.

During the 1928 school year classes were held in several places: the American Legion home, Waterloo Library, Dempsey Block (Mason Building), firemen's rooms, St. Paul's and First Presbyterian church rooms.

In one record book there was a brief item which illustrated how schools have changed, at least in relation to school personnel. In 1935, the school nurse asked to be allowed time off to take a course in health at Syracuse, two afternoons a week. Permission was given, but two half days were to be deducted from her salary.

In 1949, voters authorized the construction of Lafayette School. Building was delayed until 1950 when voters approved centralization of some 22 common school districts into the present Waterloo Central School District. Skoi-Yase School and a new bus garage were built in 1953.

In 1955 space was again at a premium and 10 rooms were used outside of the schools as temporary quarters. The Youth Center, church rooms and other buildings housed 183 pupils.

In 1958 a bond issue was approved and construction began on a new senior high school building. A couple of years later, the post World War, II, baby boom caught up to the high school level and a 13-room addition with library and gym was added to the high school.

The senior high school now has the capacity for 900 students. School population has decreased the past few years and present plans call for the closing of the Main Street School building within the next few years.



SOMEONE COUNTED

In researching the microfilmed copies of the old newspapers one must search carefully to find some news of a local nature. Scattered throughout the papers are many brief items, most of them fairly uninteresting except perhaps to a selective group.

This brief item was sandwiched between other news and although it has no local flavor, it is worth retelling.

The Bible has 3,566,580 letters; 773,746 words. The word "and" occurs 16,684 times; Lord, 1,853; Jehovah, 6,855 and Reverend, just once - in the ninth verse of the 111th psalm.

The word girl appears just once and girls, also once.





GEN. JOHN B. MURRAY.

A MAN TO REMEMBER

John Boyce Murray, one of the originators of Memorial Day in Waterloo, was born on Aug. 3, 1822 in Vermont. When he was nine, his parents moved to Scipio in Cayuga County. Some years later he moved to Seneca County and settled for a time in Fayette.

He did not attend school, at least not for any great length of time. He was what can be called a self-educated man. At 19, he began teaching school in West Fayette and at the same time, began the study of law with a Justice

Wilkinson of Fayette. (Possibly Orange Wilkinson, an early farmer and justice of the Fayette-Varick area.)



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After teaching and practicing law in local justice courts for a number of years, he moved to Seneca Falls in 1853. He continued his law studies in the office of Josiah T. Miller and was admitted to the bar in September, 1853.

On Sept. 5, 1853 he enlisted as captain of the local militia company and remained with the company until the regiment disbanded.

His military record for service in the Civil War is printed in the Adjutant-General Reports for New York State. He enrolled Aug. 1, 1861, at Seneca Falls. He was then 37 years old. He was mustered in as captain of Co. K. of the 50th Engineers, Sept. 30, 1861 and resigned July 22, 1862 at Harrison Landing, Va. He received an original commission as captain on Oct. 14, 1861.

On Sept. 5, 1862, he enrolled at Geneva in the 148th Regiment. He was mustered in as major on Sept. 14, 1862; as Lt. Colonel, Nov. 15, 1865. His commission as major was original but he was named colonel at the resignation of Col. George M. Guion, also of Seneca Falls. He was brevetted a brigadier general on March 13, 1865 by President Andrew Jackson and mustered out of the service with his regiment on June 27, 1865 at Richmond, Va.

For his first service with the 50th, Murray was an officer of the engineers in the Army of the Potomac and his company was discharged in July 1862. After his re-enlistment in the 148th, he was assigned to garrison duty in Portsmouth and Norfolk, Va.

The Seneca Falls Historical Society has many interesting documents relating to the war.

Among these documents are two letters which relate to Murray and the time he was at Norfolk.

The first was an unsigned letter sent to Brig. General James Barnes. Dated Dec. 29, 1863, it reads, "I would respectfully call your attention to the management of affairs at Fort Norfolk.

"The prisoners are allowed the liberty of the yard and ramparts. By giving their parole not to go away and they are allowed to go outside the rampart walls to see their friends, unaccompanied by a guard and are not restricted from using language detrimental to officers in the U.S. Services.

"While in the vicinity of the fort on the afternoon of the 27th instant, two prisoners escaped from the fort by leaping from the parapet before the guards were aware of it.

"I am informed that Lt. Col. Murray, commanding at Fort Norfolk had a short time ago, a party that lasted until after midnight and women were in attendance there that have husbands and relatives in the Rebel Army, and are said to be of a disreputable character."

The second letter, dated Jan. 9, 1864 was written by Capt. Robert C. Daly, (also a Seneca Falls man), one of the commanding officers of the fort.

His message to General Barnes read "I have the honor to offer a full explanation in regard to the management of affairs at this fort in contradiction of the statement of some unknown person.

"The prisoners are allowed the liberty of the yard - but never were allowed to come upon the ramparts. The regular parole with the addition of these words (nor try to escape from the prison) was extracted from all prisoners of war for several reasons. The building in which they were confined is so small that it has to

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be aired and cleaned every day or nearly so, and the prisoners at times numbered four times the garrison

"The general commanding granted passes to civilian, authorizing us to allow them to hold intercourse with the prisoners which we did by demanding a compliance with the following rules.

"That all intercourse should be held in the commanding officer quarters and always in the presence of a commissioned officer. No prisoner was allowed to pass out of the fort except, he was in charge of the sergeant of the guard or the commanding officer's orderly, and were never allowed in groups about the house or yard without a proper person with them, who allowed no written correspondence between the parties nor the use of any treasonable language against the Federal Government or its officers.

"It is true that two men leaped the wall on the 27th ult. but in less than 15 minutes they were recaptured and in double irons.

"Their escape was not the fault of the guard, as the prisoners escaped by a run and jump while the sentry's back was toward them and was passing at the other end of his beat.

"That a party made up of disreputable women and traitors was held by Lt. Col. Murray, lasting until midnight, is a palpable falsehood. (underlined.).

These letters were returned from Headquarters on Jan. 10, with a note signed by Brig. Gen. James Barnes.

"Respectfully returned with a report of the officer in command at Fort Norfolk, on the alleged

irregularities of that place. The name of the informer not being given, I had no means of interrogating him on the subject. It is not believed that the report is correct."

The recollection of two other incidents regarding those days in Virginia have survived through the old microfilmed newspapers.

Shortly after the incident of the letters, part of the 148th Regiment including Murray, was taken off garrison duty and sent to the front. When the news of his transfer reached the prison camp, a petition was circulated by the prisoners and sent to the commanding officer of the garrison.

The prisoners asked permission to bid farewell to Lt. Col. Murray before he left the camp. It was granted and hundreds of Southern soldiers stood at attention while a selected group thanked Murray for his humane treatment of the prisoners while he was in charge of the garrison.

At one time, Murray was out scouting the area when he returned to camp riding a horse. The sentinel, Will Holmes of Co. I. ordered him to halt. When asked, "Who goes there?", the officer said, "It's all right, it's Major Murray."

The sentinel was not impressed. He bellowed, "I don't care who it is, halt and dismount", meanwhile clicking the lock on his musket. Murray quickly dismounted and landed right in the middle of a mud hole. With his uniform covered with mud, he marched up to the guard, gave the countersign and continued into the camp.

The other officers wondered how he got so muddy, but he never told until after he had returned home from the war.

During 1864, the 148th Regiment participated in many battles, including those at Drury's Bluff, Cold Harbor, the siege of Petersburg and Fort Harrison. Col. Murray was in charge of the battle at Fair Oaks. In 1865 they were still at the front and were in the battles of Hatches Run, Fort Gregg, Rices Station and finally at Appomatox Court House.

When he returned back to Seneca Falls, Murray was elected county clerk. He moved to Waterloo while he served in that office and it was at this time that he learned about Henry C. Welles' suggestion to commemorate the memory of the patriotic dead by placing flowers on their graves.

Murray was enthusiastic about the idea and persuaded veterans to take part in the ceremony. It took place on May 6, 1866 and thus, Waterloo became the Birthplace of Memorial Day.

After his term as county clerk ended, he returned to Seneca Falls to live. In 1871 he was named postmaster of the Seneca Falls postoffice. Newspapers in those days dealt mainly with political issues and the hiring and firing of a postmaster was definitely a political issue.

Editors used their newspapers to blast friend and foe alike, especially if they belonged to a different political party. Apparently Corydon Fairchild, editor of the Ovid Gazette was a member of the opposition party for on March 8, 1871, he carried this editorial.

"Holton removed from Seneca Falls postoffice and replaced by Gen. John B. Murray. Murray

is a polished orator, a profound lawyer and an accomplished gentleman. He will probably farm the post office out to some one-armed or one-legged soldier.

"The general we believe was the first commander of the 148th and gained the gratitude of his boys by the care he took of the, while keeping them on police or guard duty over the rebel oyster beds, chicken coops, melon and potato patches around Norfolk and the dismal swamp."

Murray was commander of Cross Post, GAR of Seneca Falls in 1880. In 1882 he was defeated as department commander of the State organization by a vote of 220 to 194. Sgt. James S. Fraser of New York City was elected to the post but Murray was elected delegate-at-large to the National Encampment.

He was married on Jan. 27, 1849 to Angeline Savage of Fayette. They had two children: William S. of Seneca Falls and Maud Hubbell who lived in Chicago.

He was one of the organizers of the Republican party in Seneca County. While at a public ceremony during the Blaine campaign on Oct. 8, 1884 he was stricken and died four hours later. He was 62.

After his death it was learned that he had been heavily in debt. For years, he had listened to the hard-luck stories of the veterans and had used his money to help them, instead of paying his debts. For want of funds his widow was in danger of losing her home.

When the local veterans heard this they rallied the GAR members throughout the state and enough money was collected to pay off all of Mrs. Murray's debts. Over 500 veterans and 2,000 other citizens attended his funeral

General John Boyce Murray will always be honored as the co-founder of Memorial Day but it should also be of equal importance to remember that he was a great humanitarian.



THIS COULD BE THE PLOT OF A HORROR MOVIE

On Feb. 15, 1899, Hiram Milliman of Fayette, while working with a corn husker, had his right hand torn off above the wrist. His arm had to be amputated below the elbow.

He was the third person to have a hand torn off by the same machine. The others were: William Stacey and Frank Anthony.



PIONEERS OF SENECA COUNTY

AARON EASTON TYRE & SENECA FALLS: He was born in New Jersey, Feb. 6, 1778 and moved to Seneca Falls by 1817. His wife Sarah, was also born in New Jersey. In the 1820 census there were five males and four females listed.

He was a farmer. The 1867 business directory of Seneca Falls indicated he owned a farm of 100 acres.

He died in Tyre on Feb. 5, 1877, at the age of 99. Surviving were his sons Ambrose and James; daughter Mary, wife of Abram Westbrook. Two daughters un-named and sons, Stephen and John were deceased.

JACOB FATZINGER SENECA FALLS: He came from Northampton Co. Pa., in 1813 and first settled in Bearytown. He was a farmer and carpenter. Sometime before 1830 he moved with his family to Seneca Falls.

Apparantly he was a man of means and generosity for he served a number of times as guardian for children whose parents had died. In 1830 he was guardian for John Frederick Goessell whose father had died in Wurtenburg, Germany, and in 1836, he was guardian for John F. Gambee of Varick.

His sons, Samuel, Thomas, Levi and Edward became very prominent residents of Waterloo. He died Feb. 10, 1852 at the age of 75. His wife Catharine died Dec. 11, 1844 at 67. They are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Waterloo.

JOEL HORTON COVERT: He was born in Wolcott, Conn. Jan. 6, 1784. He moved to Trumansburg in 1813, buying a small lot in the village from Abner Treman, the Revolutionary soldier who received Lot 1, in Ulysses for his services in the war. Treman actually settled on his lot and Trumansburg was named for him.

Horton later moved to Covert and settled in what is now Interlaken. He married Abigail Pratt, daughter of Justin, on March 10, 1815. He went into the mercantile and produce business with his brother-in-law, Chauncey Pratt.

In 1830 he left the business and went into farming. He continued in this endeavor until 1855 when he

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turned the farm over to his son Orlo and moved back to Trumansburg. He died there, April 17, 1872. His wife Abigail died July 1, 1882.

ISAAC JOHNSON ROMULUS: He came to this area from Orange County about 1797. According to the early deeds he purchased parcels from a number of lots at various times, all in Romulus. He settled on Lot 89.

In 1807 he sued Andrew Brown for money due on farm merchandise. In 1811 he filed suit against John Reynolds whom he accused of assaulting him.

Apparantly he was a man who had somewhat of a temper for on Feb. 9, 1815, an indictment was filed against him. He was accused with assault with intent to murder, against Tompkins C. Delevan, a prominent early resident of Seneca County.

The docements to show the outcome of this charge have not been found, as yet, among the early county records, but one can surmise that Johnson was worried about it.

On May 16, 1815, Isaac Johnson recorded a number of deeds, whereby he transferred his property to his children. Each of the older children received a parcel of 50 acres from Lot 89, 90 or 83. Most of it was on Lot 89. No money was involved but the older children were requested to provide for the care of the younger ones until they were 21 years of age. Others were asked to take care of the parents, if and when they needed help. His wife Polly also signed over her "widow's right" to some of the children.

Isaac Johnson's will was made Feb. 12, 1821. His children as listed in his will were:

Temperance, wife of Sylvester Tillitson, Newton, Clinton, Charles, Horace, Joseph, William Thompson, Nelson, Stephen, Isaac, Jane, Polly, Caroline and Eliza. Isaac and the girls were still minors according to the will.

Isaac, the son, died in 1845 at 29. Nelson moved to Chili in Monroe County and later returned to Seneca. Clinton, moved to Michigan about 1834, returned for a time, but finally went back to Michigan where he died.

Some months ago, a letter arrived at the historian's office from the midwest, requesting information on any Johnson families in Seneca County. The lady had been tracing her genealogy and could go no farther back than her grandfather, Nelson Johnson and his sister Catherine Sophia. She knew they had been born in Seneca County in 1832 and 1835.

The children with their parents went by covered wagon to Warren County, Ill., about 1837. Before purchasing land, the parents were called back to Seneca County to settle an estate.

The children were left with friends in Illinois. The parents, on their return to New York, according to a family legend, were ambushed and killed by Indians in Ohio. The family history never recorded the names of the parents.

With research it became obvious that Nelson and Catharine Sophia were the grandchildren of Isaac and Polly Johnson. Johnson's still living in Seneca County also have a family legend of earlier members of the family dieing in a wagon train, going west.

It has not as yet been established which of Isaac's sons was the father of the children, but by elimination two names remain. Through deeds and other documents, all the sons

FAYETTE 13

Among the old documents in the Seneca County vault is one which showed that Jacob Ackley, now living in Junius, filed papers to show he was an insolvent debtor. Filed on July 3, 1828 it listed as assets his right to lot 62 in Fabius. He gave "all right and title of any land which I may have for military bounty land" to Benjamin F. Ackley, assignee.

Benjamin was married to Mary Stiles in Junius, possibly Waterloo, by Rev. Aaron D. Lane in 1821/1828. Dates differ in records. Another son was Samuel J. who was born Aug. 29, 1794 in Delaware Co. and came to Ovid with his father as a young boy. He married Elizabeth King of Genoa and after their marriage they lived at Goodwin's Point, near Trumansburg.

Samuel served on the Canadian Frontier during the War of 1812. During his second enlistment he was one of the men who crossed the Niagara River and stood as color bearer with the American soldiers at the Battle of Queenstown.

After the war he returned to Seneca County and became the pilot of the first steamboat launched on Cayuga Lake. This was the "Enterprise", the first steamer west of the Hudson River. The first trip on the lake was in 181 .

He moved to Penn Yan about 1839 and died there on Jan. 31, 1874. He was the father of 11 children. One of them, Mrs. William Stewart, lived in Willard at the time of his death.

ABNER BANGS - OVID: He was in Ovid in 1810. In January 1810 he purchased 107 acres of land on lot 14 from Jesse and Mary Sortore. Lot 14 went to Thomas Machin, a captain in the artillery during the Revolutionary War.

Bangs paid \$2,352 for the lot, a good deal of money at that time. In February 1810 he was granted a license to keep a ferry from Sheldrake Point, across Cayuga Lake. He died a few short months after he was granted the license.

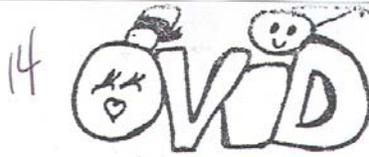
In a Letter of Administration, filed in Ovid, Dec. 31, 1810, he was listed as a storekeeper. His administrators were his wife, Abigail, Daniel Scott and Nathaniel Cole, II of Ovid. He was a young man, listed as between 26 and 45 in the 1810 census. He had just one daughter.

According to the Geneva newspaper, a court settlement of his estate was scheduled for March 20, 1811. His wife had to sell all the property to pay his debts.

JOSEPH CHAMBERS - JUNIUS: There were at least two Joseph Chambers in Seneca County during the early years. One was born in County Down, Ireland in 1822, came to America in 1843 and lived for a time in Waterloo where he filed his citizenship papers.

The other Joseph was here somewhat earlier. Only one document remains to show he was here. On May 12, 1819, he was indicted, in Junius, on a charge of bigamy.

According to the indictment he was married on May 1, 1801, at Montague, to Catherine Kortright. He sometimes used the alias Joseph Chimer. On Feb. 1, 1810, he was married at Junius to Polly Benson. No document remains to show what became of him.



DR. THOMAS C. MAGEE - TYRE:
He was born in Cambridge,
Washington Co. NY on Dec. 24,
1806, the oldest son of William.
In 1812 he purchased seven acres
of land on lot 47, Junius, from
Thomas W. Roosevelt.

His occupation was basket weaver.
His wife was 42 and they had six
children: sons, ages 14, 12, 4 and
two; daughter, 8 and six months.

Although he continued his
practice as a physician, he was
also very active in local politics.
In June 1818, he was appointed
a judge and in 1829, he was
elected supervisor for Tyre, for
the first time. He served as
supervisor for several terms.



TIN LIZZIES

His wife was Elizabeth Pike of
Massachusetts. His children were:
Rebecca, wife of John W. Sherman;
Thomas, William, Aaron, Beulah
Ann, wife of Joseph Metcalf;
Eliza, wife of James Armitage
and Catherine, wife of Jacob E.
Tremper. Another son, Thomas P.
died in 1816

When Henry Ford and others manu-
factured those new-fangled
automobiles, it didn't take long
for Seneca County residents to
get involved.

Dr. Magee died Dec. 10, 1860 at
81. His wife Elizabeth died
Jan. 25, 1862 at 77. They are
buried in the Tyre Reformed
Church Cemetery.

The May 30, 1913 Seneca Falls
Reveille noted that people in
Seneca Falls had auto fever. There
were 89 Fords, plus a number of
other makes in the village.

JEHIEL NILES - FAYETTE: Although
he does not appear in any local
records, Jehiel lived in Seneca
County for a time for he applied
for his pension for services in
the Revolutionary War, while a
resident of Fayette.

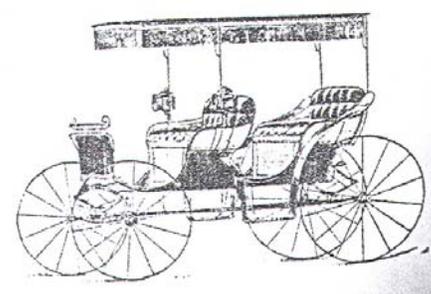
In January 1921, there were
2,073 autos and trucks in the county
and by September the number had
increased to 2,945.

He was a private in the Conn-
ecticut Line and was placed on
the pension roll, May 28, 1823
when he was 77.

On Oct. 27, 1922, Fred L. Huntington
leased a building at Fall and Mynders
Street for auto sales.

He enlisted December 1775 at
Chatham, Conn. in Capt. Abraham
Tyler's Co. under Col. Jedidiah
Huntington. He served until June
and then transferred to a reg-
iment of artillery, under Colonel
Brewer. He was discharged at
Crumpan, N.Y.

On Aug. 15, 1924, Glenn Curtiss,
inventor and manufacturer of air-
planes was passing through Seneca
County in his automobile. He was
arrested by Deputy Sheriff Minor
B. Smalley in Seneca Falls for
speeding. He was reprimanded but
did not have to pay a fine.



except Horace and Charles were found to be living in New York or Michigan after 1850.

BALTUS KIPP - JUNIUS: He first appeared in the 1820 census in Junius. Possibly he was the son of Henry Kipp who came to Junius in 1805 from Sempronius. Henry was overseer of highways for District 15, in Junius in 1808.

In 1823 Baltus applied for a tavern license. He continued to have a tavern, at least until 1826. In 1824 he was indicted for permitting cock fighting at his inn.

NATHANIEL P. LEE - WATERLOO: In 1825, with Abraham Person he built a factory using water power from the Seneca River to manufacture pails.

In 1830 he was one of the founders of the old Waterloo Library Association. He must have come on hard times for on Nov. 22, 1831, he filed papers at the court house, declaring he was an insolvent debtor. He was listed as a merchant and the record showed that the total owed him by others amounted to over \$5,000.

Apparently he managed to free himself of his debt for in 1835 he was a prominent and wealthy man, at least on paper. He was one of the speculators who agreed to pay \$10,000 for the unsold portion of the Elisha Williams estate.

In 1837 during a state or nation-wide panic, he issued something called "Lee's Shin-plasters" which were used by merchants and citizens for money

15 during the scarcity of change and currency.

Sometime later he moved to Albany and died there, March 25, 1874. He was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Waterloo.

MOSES GREEN - OVID: Although this man never appeared in a Seneca County census and he died a young man, he left his mark in the justice records of the county.

He was an educated man, that is certain. In May 1809, he was granted a license to practice law in Seneca County. It is possible he was living in Auburn or Aurelius at the time. It was not unusual for attorneys from neighboring counties to ply their trade in this county.

There are a number of early justice papers which indicate that he was the attorney in a number of court cases. These are to be expected. It is the cases where he was the plaintiff that present Moses Green as a very interesting character.

The first three justice papers were suits he had filed against. James John in 1810, Solomon Wilber in 1812 and William Low in 1813. These men owed him money - nothing unusual.

On Feb. 17, 1813, Moses Green was indicted for a misdemeanor. He had obtained a receipt from Peter Smith and Andrew Dunlap and kept it. Then on Nov. 10, 1813, he accused Barney Swarthout of assaulting him.

It was shortly before Feb. 9, 1815 that the real trouble began.



16

COVERT

On that day, Green, with Byram Leonard and John McClure, listed as lawyer, farmer and distiller, were indicted for creating a riot. Using sticks, guns and other implements, they went to the house of Henry Woods in Ovid. They blew horns, banged on tin pans and fired guns.

Green admitted he had treated "the boys" at Farlings tavern. They were mad because they had not been invited to a party at Wood's house.

The judge ruled that Moses Green was the ring leader and he was fined \$250. Within a few days an order came through to have Moses Green, an attorney, struck from the roll of attorneys.

He still had a few friends among the local lawyers for in May 1815, a motion was filed by Bennett & Hudson and a number of other petitions and affidavits were filed in favor of the restoration of Moses Green.

This acceptance was of short duration. In October 1815, a motion by William Thompson, one of the attorneys of the county court, ordered that Moses Green be struck from the roll for malpractice and dishonesty.

Green did not go down for the count. In 1816 he filed papers against the Ithaca & Geneva Turnpike Co. charging the company with taking over some of his land and not paying for it. In 1817 he also sued James Van Duzen for an unpaid bill.

The only other papers on Moses Green among the county documents is a Letter of Administration which showed that he died before March 23, 1822 at Auburn. The only heir listed was an uncle, Gardner Green of Auburn. James Van Horne of Wilson, was administrator.

JACOB ACKERLY/ACKLEY - OVID : Listed as Jacob Ackley, he was one of the Revolutionary soldiers who received a lot in the Military Tract. His name was also listed in various records as: Akley, Akly, Ackley and Ackerly. He enlisted in September 1777 at Fort Montgomery in the John Robinson Co. under Col. Lewis Dubois, as a private.

He immediately was called upon to take part in the battle at Fort Montgomery. In 1780, some of the companies were consolidated and his company became part of the 2nd Regiment of the Continental Line, under Col. Philip Van Cortlandt. He was with Gen. John Sullivan's Army when it came through this area in its campaign against the Iroquois Indians. He was also at the surrender of Cornwallis and was discharged at Snake Hill, June 9, 1783, after serving five years and 10 months.

For his services he received Lot 62 in Fabius but he sold it in 1791 to Isaac Smith of New Castle, Westchester Co. for 37 pounds.

He was still in Frederickstown according to the 1800 census but by 1810 he was living in Ovid. The census listed seven males and three females; two of the males being over 45 years of age. It is possible his father or another older member of the family came to Seneca County with him.

He first applied for a pension in 1817 and the pension was issued at Ovid. He received \$8 a month.

In his pension application he said he was 56, a farmer and in poor health. His wife was 52, also feeble. He had three children at home: two girls, 15 and 11 and a boy, two. He owned one hog, a few farm tools, a pepper box, looking glass, 12 plates, 3 bowls and a smoothing iron. He did not own any property.

REMEMBER THE VALIANT

17
STEPHEN H. GOODMAN, 47, of Gouverneur, formerly Seneca Falls, died April 11, 1985 in Oswegatchie.

He was born in Seneca Falls, Oct. 27, 1937, son of Elmer and Erma Pollard Goodman. He was a member of the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

CECIL R. JOHNSON, 58, of 41 Rumsey St. Seneca Falls, died April 24, 1985, at Seneca Falls.

He was born in Seneca Falls, Nov. 28, 1926, son of Iver T. and Ella Archer Johnson. He was a veteran of World War II and an associate professor in the science department of New York State University at Albany until his retirement.

ARTHUR E. MILLIS, of Geneva, died April 14, in Geneva. He was born in Waterloo, son of Mortimer and Marie Millis.

He was a veteran of World War II serving with the Army Air Force.

WILLIAM J. FERRALL, 68, of Ovid, died May 29, 1985. He was born in Syracuse, son of William and Sophia Demong Ferrall.

He was a veteran of World War II, serving with the 82nd Airborn Division of the U.S. Army.

died April 5, 1985. She was county chairman of the Democratic Party for about 35 years and served on the Democratic State Committee.

CARLTON L. STENGLE: 70, of MacDougall, died in Auburn, May 30, 1985. He was born in Fayette, son of Earl and Margaret Dwire Stengle, Feb. 25, 1915. He was postmaster at MacDougall for many years.

KENNETH J. GREER

Kenneth J. Greer, former Seneca County Sheriff, died April 29, 1985 at Seneca Falls Hospital.

He was a member of the sheriff's department for 16 years and served two terms as sheriff, from 1978 to 1984, declining to run for another term.

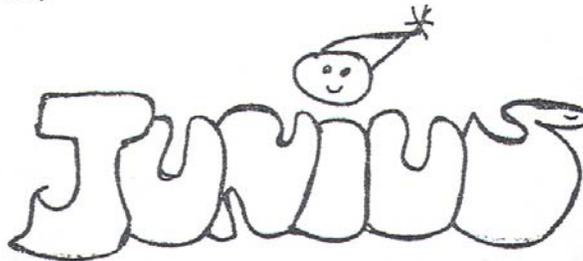
On Aug. 1, 1983 he directed a force of 200 officers as they monitored a march by 1,900 anti-nuclear protesters outside the Seneca Army Depot. He later received a commendation from the Department of Defense for his department's cooperation with the Army.

He was 49, born in Bonnie Blue, Va. He served with the U.S. Air Force from 1954 to 1958.

He is survived by his wife, Nicaletta Dejohn Greer, one son, Kenneth J. Greer, Jr. four daughters, Patricia, Dariene, Kathleen, and Deborah. He was buried in Lee Memorial Cemetery in Pennington Gap, Va.

NECROLOGY

Mary Louise Walter, Waterloo,



STARK ST. CEMETERY
(continued)

18

LENDRUM, WILLIAM E. d. 11/10/
1832, 1-1-2
LENDRUM, MARIA B. d. 10/28/1838,
0-2-18

LORING, CALEB, d. 3/19/1865, 74
LORING, ELIZABETH, d. 2/24/1879,
80
LORING, ENOCH SIMS, d. 1/20/1884
70
LORING, JOHN WATKINS, d. 5/4/
1821, 2
LORING, ANN ELIZA d. 11/20/1825,
1
LORING, DANIEL W. d. 1/19/1890,
55

LUDWIG, GEORGE W. d. 2/23/1906,
57

LYONS, DANIEL d. 12/3/1898, 60
LYONS, BRIDGET, d. 6/7/1876, 56

MAC DONALD, MARY, d. 5/10/1884,
0-3-15

MC CALL, WILLIAM d. 7/8/1902,
56 (found drowned)

MC CARTY, CAROLINE, d. 5/24/
1897, 85-8-0
MC CARTY, HELEN, d. 9/12/1838,
1-4-29
MC CARTY, CORNELIA d. 6/13/
1904, 68
MC CARTY, ELIZABETH, d. 7/14/
1851, 9-11-16

MC CLANATHAN, LOUISA d. 1/31/
1848, 43-5-20
MC CLANATHAN, LAURA, d. 4/5/
1843, 11-6-17
MC CLANATHAN, PLINY P. d. 3/16/
1847, 18-0-19
MC CLANATHAN, LOUISA A. d. 4/14/
1843, 1
MC CLANATHAN, HORACE, d. 8/22/
1846, 1-1-0

MC EWEN, ELIZA MARIA d. 2/17/1834,
1-1-0
MC EWEN, SOPHIA d. 1/26/1836, 1-5-0

MC INTYRE, EDWARD d. 1/26/1869,
69-3-0
MC INIYRE, PHOEBE, d. 1/12/1849,
45-9-22

MC KEAN, WILLIAM d. 3/8/1846,
9-2-3

MC VANE, SARAH, d. 4/18/1878, 57

MADISON, JAMES d. 9/8/1876, 49
MADISON, ELIZABETH d. 1/24/1892,
74
MADISON, JAMES, JR. d. 9/18/1859,
0-2-8

MALTBY, GEN. ISAAC d. 9/9/1819,
52
MALTBY, LUCINDA d. 6/9/1844, 73-6-0
MALTBY, ISAAC F. d. 3/17/1846, 39

MANGINS, ERNEST WILLIAM, d. 8/?;
1846, 21
MANGINS, EDWARD d. 8/?/1846, 1-6-0

MARSH, WILLIAM H. d. 12/21/1914,
64-1-3
MARSH, MARY E. d. 8/2/1913,
63-9-17

MERRILL, ALLEN, d. 3/25/1847, 75

MILLER, DANIEL, d. 7/23/1873, 62
MILLER, MARY d. 4/2/1883, 64
MILLER, MADELINE, d. 2/16/1854, 85
MILLER, MELISSA, d. 11/22/1849,
26-8-5

MOORE, ELIZABETH C. d. 5/21/1838,
26-10-15
MOORE, ELIZABETH, d. 1/23/1856,
52-8-13
MOORE, HENRY H. d. 10/21/1839,
32-0-22
MOORE, HANNIBAL T. d. 9/14/1834,
22-7-7



