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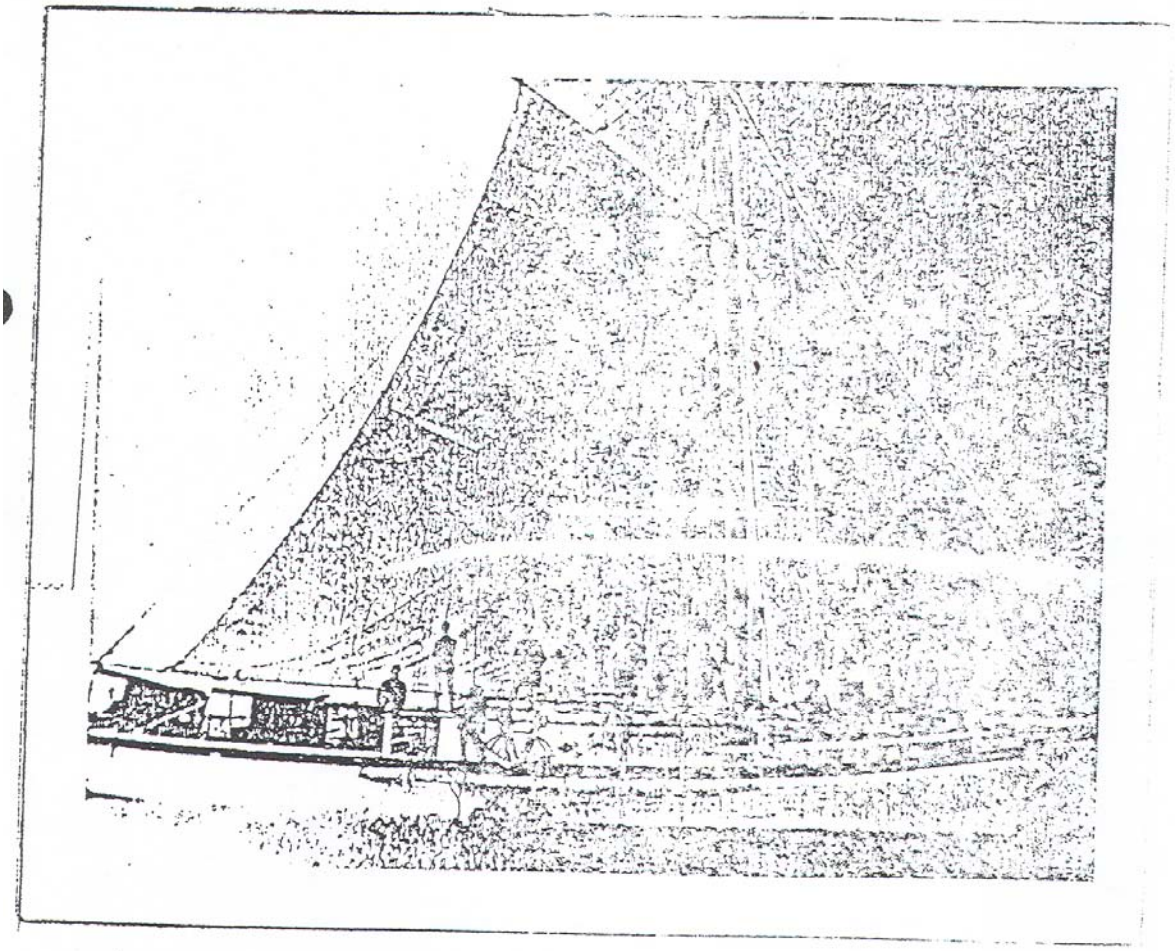

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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EDUCATION IN NEW YORK STATE

BY

DIEDRICH WILLERS

The Town of Varick has a historic record of its schools, kept by Diedrich Willers. The record was started in 1855, when Willers was town superintendent of schools. He was appointed superintendent in Jan. 1851 when he was 17 years of age. As follows is his account written in 1855 as an introduction to the school record.

Generally, the establishment of education was probably the same in most areas. One thing was different for this area, the funding since Seneca County was part of the Military Tract and received some of its monies through the sales of the gospel and school lots. The area that is now Varick had three such lots within its confines. Mr. Willers only mentions one . The other two probably were sold to benefit the schools in Romulus. Each military township was supposed tohave a total of six gospel and school lots.

To continue in Mr. Willer's words. Out country must look for its future prosperity and government, to the children of our Common Schools. This is a truth universally acknowledged by all the friends of our Common Schools.

Education has for its great object to make man happy. It is a true saying, "From the family into the school, from the school into the church, and from the church into heaven."

Education has for its great object, to educate our children for this world, and for the world to come. Like the bird of passage, we have a double fatherland. The one is called earth, the other heaven.

The first object of our Common School System is, to teach our children how to become good statesmen. And to educate them to become good citizens has been the early endeavor of the founders of our state.

George Clinton, Governor of the State of New York, addressed the Legislature of this State, at its first session, after the adoption of the Constitution, favorably on the subject of education and principally on the revival and encouragement of seminaries, and in the same year, an act was passed for the incorporation of the Regents of the University.

In 1789 and 1796, an act was passed, authorizing the Surveyor General to set apart one lot in every townsip in the Military Tract for the benefit of the gospel and of schools.

Ministers of the gospel in the several townships received support from the interest of these lands. But, since the year 1820, the interest of these lots, each consisting of 550 acres are devoted solely to the benefit of Common Schools. The township of Romulus located a lot of 550 acres under this act.

In 1793 the Regents of the University encouraged by the governor, recommended to the Legislature the establishment of schools in diverse parts of the state to educate the children in the lower branches educations: for example, reading of their mother tongue, writing and arithmetic as far as it becomes necessary to the transactions of life.

Governor George Clinton, in 1795, in his message to the Legislature, spoke not only favorably of the endowment of academies in their limited use (principally for the children of rich parents, whilst a large portion of the community was

excluded from their use).

The establishment of Common Schools was happily calculated to heal this inconvenience, and he therefore recommended the subject to the early and decisive attention of the Legislature.

Encouraged by this message, the Legislature passed an act, becoming a law on April 9, 1795, setting aside for the term of five years, the sum of 20,000 pounds or $50,000 for the support of schools in the different cities and villages of the state, to educate the children in the English language, English grammar arithmetic, mathematics and such other branches of knowledge, which are necessary and useful to the completion of a good English education.

Already in 1798, — 1,352 schools were established in which 59,660 children were taught. The State was then composed of 23 counties, and 16 counties made their report on Common Schools.

In 1799 the State Legislature enacted a law to raise, by means of four successive lotteries, the sum of $100,000. Of this sum, $87,500 was to be paid in the treasury, for the encouragement of Common Schools, and $12,500 was appropriated by the Regents of the University, in favor of Academies.

In 1800, Governor Jay, in his message to the Legislature says, "I earnestly recommend to your attention and support our institutions for the education of our youth. The importance of Common Schools is best estimated by the good effects of them, where they most serve and are the best regulated. "

In the same year, $50,000 were again voted by the Legislature, for Common Schools, for five years, and in 1801, the law on Lotteries was renewed. In 1802 and 1803, Governor Clinton, in his message to the Legislature, renewed his encouragements in favor of Common Schools.

During the administration of Governor Lewis, the Legislature on April 2, 1805, passed an act that the net proceeds of 500,000 acres of the vacant and unappropriated lands of the people of the State, should be applied for the support of Common Schools, the avails to be safely invested until the interest should amount to $50,000 and then the interest to be distributed annually amongst the different school districts of the state. This act laid the foundation to the present Common School Fund (1855).

Before the year 1810 no school system was formed. This was done according to the direction of Governor Tompkins in 1810 , when five commissioners were appointed to submit a report for the government of schools which was done on Feb. 14, 1812, and remained in force until 1838. The school fund in 1810 was $151,115

The capital of the school fund now rapidly increased. In 1815 it was $861,457; in 1825 it amounted to $1,238,309 ; and in 1835 it was $1,791,321. In 1840 it was $2,033,807 since which period there has been added annually, $165,000, as interest from the United States Deposit Fund.

In 1851 the capital of the school fund was $2,243,563.36; the capital of the United States Deposit Fund, $2,750,000; addition to the capital by the Constitution, $416,666.67.; total school fund, $5,400,230.03.

The annual interest of this sum is $324,000 of which sum $300,000, is applied annually for the benefit of common schools, including $55,000 for libraries.

On March 26, 1849, the Legislature of this State passed a law in favor of Free Schools, which passed Nov. 6, at the ballot box, by a majority of 157,921.

Guided by remonstrating petitions, the Legislature ordered a second balloting by the people, in favor of Free Schools or opposition, in November 1850. The result was 25,038 majority in favor of Free Schools. In 1851 legislature enacted a law to impose an annual tax of $800,000, on the 59 counties of the state, which united with the above $300,000, forms a yearly income of $1,100,000 for the supportof free schools.

The first adminstration of our school funds we find in our original Book of the Town Superintendent of Common Schools. According to this statement the officers, to whom the affairs of common schools were entrusted acted under the title of Trustees of the School and Gospel Fund. Their first proceedings are dated in the year 1820 and the town was then known by the name of Romulus. The Trustees of the School and Gospel Fund in 1820 were: Benjamin Lemmon, Elijah Kinney, Jr. and Benjamin Sutton. The School and Gospel Fund amounted to $6363,06.

The trustees of Romulus reported annually before three justices of peace. In 1830, when the town of Varick was organized, the $6363.06 was divided as follows; Town of Romulus, $3521.13; Town of VArick, $2841.93.

In 1831. the trustees of the Town Fund of their account investigated by officers, called town auditors, which arrangement exists to the present day. (1855)

In 1845, the trustees of the town fund paid the annual interest on bonds and mortgages, for the BENEFIT OF OUR COMMON SCHOOLS TO Orange W. Wilkinson, superintendent of Common Schools. Since that time we find the office of Town Superintendent of Common Schools, whose duty it is to distribute among the school districts, belonging to the town , annually the apportionment of the State of of the local funds. Since the establishment the town superintendent's office, the following gentlemen have acted as town superintendents: Orange W. Wilkinson, Daniel Leisenring, Burroughs Philips, Henry Swan, G.R. Andrews and Diedrich Willers, since Jan. 14, 1851.

During the 1855-56 school year, Varick had 16 school districts, numbered from one to 15. There was no school Number 13, but there were two No. 9 and 11, which were shared with Romulus; also 12. School district 14 and 15 were shared with Fayette. There were 700 children in all the school districts that year.

Trustees in the various school district that year were: No. 1 - Abraham Lerch, William Harris, J. Lautenschlager; No. 2 - Jesse Abbott, John Stahl, John G. Blain; No. 3 - E. Hecker, John Emrick, J.P. Ritter; No. 4 - Jacob G. Gambee, Solomon Acker, Abraham N. Van Tyne; No. 5 - Thomas Sample, John Y. Gambee, Joseph Gambee; No. 6 - John Litzenberger, Adam Troutman, John Deal; No. 7 - John Bainbridge, David Mann, Benjamin Stengle; No. 8 - John G. Crane, William Bainbridge, J.E. Climenson; No. 9 - Michael Ritter, Thomas Burroughs, P.R. MC Duffie; No. 10 - R. G. Smith, Thomas M.Crane, J. Manee.

Also No. 11 - Skilman Doughty, Abraham T. Covert, William H. Ayers; Joint districts; No. 9 - Thomas Marsh, Daniel Hart, Henry Hunt; No. 11 - Jacob H. Ogden, John G, King, James Blain; No. 12 - Alexander Carr, John Corell, John T. Sample; No. 14 -

Stephen Biery, Joseph C. Bachman; No. 15 - Garret Van Sickle, Benjamin F. Lerch.

During that period of time, teachers were hired for a winter or a summer term. Men usually worked the winter shift because of the difficulty of getting to the school in inclement weather. Some of the hardier young ladies tackled the winter term.

The teachers during the 1855-1856 school term in Varick were: No. 1 - Diedrich Willers, Jr., Mary Ogden; No. 2 - Stephen Crane, Caroline Sherwood; No. 3 - Isaac P. Roberts, Mary A. Woodworth; No. 4 - James Facer, Emma T. Woodworth; No. 5 - A.H. Bainbridge, Matilda M. Sutton; No. 6 - John A. Broadhead, Mary or Maria F. Burlew; No. 7 - Mariette Sutton, Augusta Bodine; No. 8 - Ebenezer Gardner, Hannah McKnight; No.9 - Darwin C. Smalley, C.M. Burlew; No. 10 - Harrison Hazen, Louise L. Barns and Sarah Allen; No. 11 - Hannah Mc Knight, Henriette Lisk;

At the join schools the teachers were No.9 - Phebe Kinne; No. 11 - E.D. Hawes; No. 12 - John Byrum; No.14 - William Hogan; and No. 15 - John R. Stone.

Diedrich Willers was the last town superintendent of schools for Varick. On April 12, 1856, the Legislature of the State of New York passed an actwhich required board of supervisors with but one assembly district to elect by ballot, an officer who would be called a School Commissioner. He would remain in Office until 1858 when a commissioner would be elected by the people. Simeon Holton was the first commissioner appointed by the Board of Supervisors. He was from Seneca Falls.

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THE BUSY BEE
and
THE SKIPPER

Today, the pleasure boats on Seneca and Cayuga Lakes and on the New York State Barge Canal continue the heritage started when the first pioneers settled and passed through the area. And before that time, it is certain that the Indians who lived here, also used the lakes to ply their canoes from one end of the lake to the other.

Beyond the southern end of Seneca Lake there were deep ravines to cross when one traveled by land. There was a swamp at the northen end of the lake but it was passable. Over 5,000 men crossed and re-crossed this swamp during the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign.

There were also ravines at the southern end of Cayuga Lake.The swamp at the northern end of the lake extended several miles beyond the lake. There were only narrow footpaths where one could go through until one went beyond the swamp.It must have been difficult for Peter Gansvoort and the soldiers who returned to Albany by that route. This was the route they took to return with the baggage that would not be needed while the rest of the army returned along the lakes, south to Newtown (Elmira).

When John Harris and James Bennett arrived in the area about 1788, they saw theneed for a ferry and soon were providing a much needed service. Later there were other ferries on Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, but the fame of the Harris-Bennett ferry has continued throughout all the related history of the county.

Their craft was about the size of a rowboat. The early boats were propelled by sail and with paddle wheel. Probably when all else failed, man power with the aid of oars was also used.

In a five-year period, from1801 to 1806, about 330 boats passed through portage at Seneca Falls, then called Mynderse Mills. Job Smith, Lawrence Van Cleef, and later, others, were in the business of transporting the boats around the falls. No names have been preserved of those who did this at Waterloo, but that area also had a falls to by-pass

In Mynderse Mills, the boats had to be carried about a mile and the owners were charged six shilling a boat. As the crafts became larger, the price went up because the work had to be done with a team of horses. When the Cayuga and Seneca Canal was completed about 1813, this type of work was no longer necessary.

Boat yards were established along the canal and along the lakes. The "Miller", a boat which was used on the Erie Canal, was built at Seneca Falls in 1816.

The first sloop on Seneca Lake was the "Alexander", built at a cost of $2,304 and launched in 1796. The first steamboat on Seneca Lake sailed in 1828, according to some histories but there were boats on both of the lakes, earlier than that date. The Goodwins applied for a ferry license as early as 1811.

For over one hundred years, crafts of varied sizes, traveled up and down, over and across Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, transporting tourists to all the "Ports of call" along the lakes. Some of these even picked up passengers in Waterloo and Seneca Falls for a pleasant journey to Watkins or Ithaca or Kings Ferry.

The skippers of these vessels made their occupation a lifetime calling and remained at their job for many years.

The most notable of these in Seneca County was Capt. James Voorhees Quick of Kidders. He was born Aug. 5, 1855 at Lodi, son of Henry V. and Mary Traphagen Quick. Henry was also a ferryman . He was born in Seneca County according to the 1860 census and was listed as a ferryman in the 1870 census. His son, James was 13 at that time and probably was already gainingvaluable experience by working with his father on the boats.

A ferry license was granted to Quick on April 21, 1886. Whether this was his first license is not known but this one gave him permission to travel from the end of the turnpike road at what is known as King Ferry to , or near the dock of Myron R. Cole at Kidders. It was slightly more than two miles between the two locations. The fee was 25 cents per person; 75 cents for a man and a horse; $1 for a team and wagon.

The "Busy Bee" was 67 feet over all and was built by James Bennett of Sheldrake, no relation to the Bennett of Harris-Bennett fame. The boat had four-foot gunwales and a 17 foot beam. It was equipped with either sail or steam. In the early years, a horse went along on the boat. It was trained to walk a treadmill as an extra source of power if and when the wind failed.

The rudder was a heavy detachable paddle equipped with chains to hold the boat on a straight course in case the skipper had to leave the wheel.

The Busy Bee made regular trips every day to meet the trains and to carry mail. In addition it was used in countless excursion and pleasure trips. The ferry could be signaled from either side through the use of a large board, nailed in a certain spot where Quick could see it in any weather. The board also saved Quick from making unnecessary trips across the lake. A white board meant the

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WOMEN VOTERS IN COVERT 1918

Jennie Acker
Lucy Archer
Rose Arden
Nellie E. Bradley
Mary Boorom
Mable Brown
Malinda Blauvelt
Ferdelia Broas
Mary Bates
Martha Bond
Anna Burdick
Cora Beach
Nellie Boorom
Helen Brooks
Jennie Burr
Mary L. Bradley
Frances Bullivant
Frankie Ball
Laura Blauvelt
Blanche Briggs
Carrie F. Boorom
Anna Boorom
Clara G. Beach
Sarah Boorom
Cora A. Briggs
Lottie Bement
Anna Bennett
Elsie Babcock
Ruby Cole
Jeannette Chamdler
Dora Crane
Maude L. Conover
Cornie Curtis
Antionette Covert
Mary C. Cole
Frances M. Ditmars
Marie A. Daily
Martha Denison
Alice Dowers
Florence Dawson
Mary Dickerson
Nellie F. Ditmars
Florence Dawson
Susan Denison
Emma Dennis
Ursula Deniston
Helen Dowdle
Hattie Dill
Susan Dimmick
Lucille Dawson
Bertha Dimmick
Mary Dowdle
Hattie Darling

Mary Arden
Laura Allen
Jane Auten
Mary E. Bassette
Nina Bradley
Helen Bennett
Pearl Blauvelt
Ethel Bennett
Mary G. Bates
Lillie Billings
Stella Burdick
Ada Bennett
Jennie Blauvelt
Jerusha Bennett
Fannie T. Bloomer
Maude Boorom
Etta Birney
Grace Batty
Edla Briggs
Minnie Barnes
Alice B. Bradley
Margaret Bassette
Leah Blauvelt
Sarah C. Bradley
Kate Birney
Charlotte Bergen
Elmira Bainbridge
Ina Burroughs
Bessie Conover
Helen Conde
Mina Cunningham
Kaoka Campbell
Ella J. Cole
Jennie Cole
Cora Congdon
Maud Dawson
Adelia DeLong
Clara Ditmars
Mary E. Downes
Pearl Dickerson
Maud Doolittle
Estelle Dickerson
Laura DeLong
Anna Dunn
Augusta Drake
Ida L. Dean
Ella Detro
Alida Dawson
Maggie Donnelly
Theane Davenport
Emma Demun
Anna Dickerson
Anna Dickerson

Eva Allen
Margaret Ashlin
Hannah Austin
Susanna Bogart
Cora Bradley
Zobidia G. Boyer
Mary Stark Boorom
Sarah J. Brown
Katie Batty
Nellie Blauvelt
Myrtle Briggs
Mollie Bills
Ida Burch
Carrie Bloomer
Winifred Blain
Anna Brokaw
Isabell Beckley
Hattie Bryant
Ella Burchard
Agnes Bassette
Nellie D. Bradley
Caroline Bennett
Elizabeth Burr
Jane Brown
Amy Boardman
Bertha Budman
Effie Bracken

Anna Clawson
Mable W. Campbell
Mary D. Covert
Cora M. Cole
Louise Cole
Mary B. Conde

Sarah Dawson
Ella Dempsey
Delpha Darrow
Jennie Doolittle
Emma Dewitt
Veronica Donnelly
Cora Dawson
Minnie Durling
Marion E. Darrow
Louise Donnelly
Julia Donnelly
Hattie Deniston
Beatrice Daily
Martha Dempsey
Jane Dowdle
Mildred Dawson
Elizabeth Demund

Jennie Crise
Julia Covert
Ola Conover
Ida Covert
Eliza Campbell
Lettie Conover
Janette Covert
Grace Elliott
Lena Emmons
Bessie Eldred
Elinor Edkins
Margaret Farrell
Viva Farlin
Ethel Finch
Mabel E. Fausette
Carrie Flagg
Ida M. Frost
Helen French
Anna Finch
Jane Grant
Enola German
Mary Goltry
Maggie Gordinear
Brientha Ganoung
Grace Grant
Jennie C. Green
Ida Goodwin
Julia Green
Martha Horning
Lena Hiltbrand
Mary Hamilton
Ella Holford
Stella Harris
Susan Howland
Susan Hall
Anna Hancy
Hulda Howell
Ella Howell
Emma Horton
Elizabeth Howland
Jesse Hause
Nanch Hause
Elizabeth Holton
Martha Hall
Bertha Harmon
Anna Hausner
Jennie Ike
Lizzie Johnston
Laura Johnston
Anna Jeffrey
Rebecca E, King
Mary Kellogg
Mame Keady
Katherine King
Isabelle Kerns
Florence KIng

Ida Clarkson
Louise Case
Hattie Case
Elizabeth Church
Mable B. Case
Frances W. Covert

Mary M. Ely
Sarah Elliott
Maude Ellis
Ina Eastman
Esther Fowler
Catherine Flagg
Alice Fitzgerald
Carrie Foster
Lucy Folwell
Cora B. Fowler
Mary E. Freestone
Bertha A. Frost
Sidney Griswold
Hannah Gould
Bertha Griswold
Nettie German
Margaret Griswold
Emma German
Harriet Ganoung
Satie Gardner

Jennie Hunt
Myrtle Hayward
Julia Hunt
Bertha Hayt/Hoyt
Anna M. Handlen
Hannah Harvey
Grace Hunt
Ruth Harvey
Malinda Holton
Carrie Hagerman
Grace Hansner
Estella Harvey
Gertrude Hand
Hazel Hamilton
Mary N. Hunt
Grace Hess
Arsula Hilliard

Lena Johnson
Elizabeth Jefferds

Hattie King
Ella King
Maggie King
Josephine Knight
Marguerite Kinsley
Ann Eliza King

Anne W. Case
Luella Cole
Satie Creque
Hattie Clapp
Florence Clawson
Elizabeth Compton

Ada Pearl Edkins
Adella Evenden
Mary H. Elenburg
Mary Ellison
Hermione Ferris
Clara Farrell
Mary Farrell
Mary C. Frost
Jennie Frost
Cora Fausette
Rose Fulkerson

Frances Griswold
Elizabeth Gould
Edna F. Godfrey
Nellie Ganoung
Grace Gardner
Lela Green
Cola Grove
Emeline Grove

Calvina Hewlett
Carrie Hall
Anna Haskin
Hila Horton
Ida L. House
Florence Houser
Eleanor House
Helen Hudson
Lizzie Hall
Blanche Hanchett
Ida Harvey
Minnie Hunt
Margaret Hand
Emma Hunt
Mary Hunt
Mary E. Hawks
Elva Higgs

Alice Jackson
Alice Johnson

Maud Knight
Essie Kennedy
Carrie M. King
Alice Kellogg
Vera King
Harriet Kellogg

Mary Kerns	Cornelia Kerns	Eliza Kennedy
Ethel Kirley		
May Lincoln	Alice Lester	Nellie Leonard
Agnes E. Lisk	Maria Lincoln	Carrie Lyons
Helen Lanning	Maria Lisk	Jane Leonard
Helen Lowe	Katherine Lanning	
Carrie Medlock	Ella Medlock	Vira Messenger
Flora Milne	Fannie B. Milne	Mary Marcellus
Anna Miller	May Mount	Julia Miller
Mila Miller	Idylinda Miller	Marjorie Morehouse
Mary Manning	Mary Minor	Jeannette Medlock
Sarah Marsh	Harriet Murphy	Mary Mathews
Jennie Mason	Adeline Mason	Anna Miller
Sarah Maxon	Alice B. Miller	Emma Miller
Alice Mathews	Bessie Minor	Emma Miller
Jennie Morse	Katherine Miles	Esther Mead
Malie? Manning	Bessie Miller	Alice Mathers,II
Sarah Mason	Frances C. Miller	Elizabeth Marshall
Elida Medlock	Kathryn Marshall	May Melville
Margaret Miles	LOttie McDuffie	Ellen McEvoy
Cora McKelvie	Marguerite Mc Mahon	Floran Mc Clallen
Betsey Mc Coy	Jane Mc Mahon	Florence Mc Kelvie
Anna Mc Elroy	Jane Mc Coy	Edith Mc Coy
Maude Mc Coy	Eleanor Mc Kelvie	Edna Mc Clurn
Sarah Newkirk		
Frances O'Leary	Sarah O'Connell	Mary P. O'Connell
Kathryn Ogden	Elizabeth Oliver	Clarie O'Connell
Marie Osgood	Julia O'Connell	
Marion Pearson	Louise Patrick	Edith K. Pearson
Caroline W. Peterson	Margarette Peterson	Sarah Percy
Edith Peterson	Bessie Palmer	Nellie Purdy
Sarah Purcell	Cora J. Palmer	Ada Predmore
Maude R. Peterson	Lucy E. Peterson	Carrie Peterson
Lorena Peterson	Lula Palmer	Susie L. Parker
Maud Pell	Salina Pearsall	Olive Peterson
Anna Peterson	Marisee Peterson	Alice Peterson
Henrietta Pipsser?	Maude Parker	
Margaret Quinn	Luella S. Quick	Maggie Quinn
Satie Quinn	Anna Quinn	
Maude Rappleye	Samantha Rappleye	Anna E. Ryno
Mary Rosbrook	Mary Riley	Rachael Ryder
Lucy Russell	Gertrude Ranklin	Florence Rappleye
Nellie Reason	Martha Rappleye	Anna Riley
Florence Robinson	Margaret Roach	Ruth Rappleye
Eda Rappleye	Adeline Ritchie	Sarah Riley
Lillian Rice	Grace Reynolds	Katherien Roach
Elizabeth Ryan		
Anna A. Stilwell	Alice C. Smith	Eulalie Stout
Grace Sutton	Cora M. Smith	Susan Smith
Bertha Selover	Nelsie A.Stevens	Elizabeth Stilwell
Dorothy Stickane	Lillian Sherwood	Anna Shipson
Nellie Slaght	Elma Swick	Lynn Stewart
Mary Snyder	Maria Slaght	Flossy Simmons
Erma Switzer	Serepta Smalley	Edith STillwell
Ethel Sisson	Adelia Swart wood	Hedley J. Smith

Edna Stannard
Elizabeth Swartwood
Addie Sloat
Elizabeth Shepson
Veronica Stout
Margaret Simmons
Inez Slaght
Lena Severn
Jennie Sniffin
Etta Slaght
Berta Sears
Eva Stannard
Eliza Stout
Laura Stewart
Effie Swick
Regina Stivers
Sarah Switzer
Bertha Smalley
Eliza Taylor
Hattie Tunison
Martha Traphagen
Hattie Terry
Ellen Thomas
Stupania Tompkins
Hazel Torbert
Mable Tunison
Florence Updike
Minerva Van Dusen
Annice Van Vleet
Nora Van Doren
Stella Veeley
Louise Vinning
Hattie Vosburg
Linn C. Wilson
Marcha Wellen
Eva Wiggins
Mary E. Whitbeck
Carrie Wixon
Fannie Williams
Mary Worden
Frederica Wilson
Erma Wickes
Chellie Wixom
Clara Wilson
Marie Wolverton
Lucy Wilcox
Sarah Wightman
Minnie Wiggins
Margaret Wiggins
Mary Watherston

Jean Savercoll
Elizabeth Smith
Sarah Sniffen
Harriet Starrett
Lula Shepson
Hattie Seeley
Sarah Sniffen
Esther Slaght
Myra Strong
Dora Smith
Norma Swartwood
Ella Sumner
Edith Slaght
Lena Stackhouse
Bertha Seibert
Cora Shank
Eva Smith
Fannie Saylor
Martha Tailby
Ann Tunison
Stella Tunison
Myra Torbert
Jane Travers
Sarah Thompson
Diana Tilyer
Cordelia Tunison
Minnie Usher
Martha Vell Monte
Margaret Van Liew
Kate Van Doren
Jennie Van Doren
Gussie Vosburgh?

Laura Whightman
Anna M. Wilkins
Elizabeth WElton
Mae Wixon
Ellen Wheeler
Cora Watherston
Lucy Wixom
Phoebe Weatherstone
Minerva Wiggins
Augusta Weaden
Maggie Wixom
Hattie wellen
Dora Wilcox
Nancy Ward
Marietta Waugh
Mary J. Warne
Ella Wykoff

Lula B. Smith
Carrie Schmidt
Sarah Stout
Mildred Stearns
Anna Slaght
Maude Shrodel
Ida Switzer
Inez Sniffin
Edith Selover
Nettie Schrier
Mary Stevens
Sarah Sherwood
Clara Starrett
Katherine Stout
Mary Stafford
Anna M. Smith
Helen J. Slaght
Alberta Starr
Hattie N. Teed
Lizzie Townsend
Margaret Taylor
Delphine Tunison
Viola Tompkins
Lena Terrybury
Hermia A.Taylor

Phoebe Van Court
Alice Van Orman
Margaret Van Kirk
Minnie Van Court
Anna Vosburgh

Bertha Wellen
Minnie White
Jane Wickes
Florence T. Wolverton
Eva H. Warne
Carrie Wilcox
Minnie B. Ward
Maggie Ward
Katherine Wiggins
Elizabeth Wheeler
Amelia Wheeler
Mary M. Whightman
Elizabeth Whitaker
Helen Wikoff
Cynthia West
Maria Wikoff

THE BUSINESS GROWTH
of
SENECA COUNTY

The early growth of Seneca County is best shown in the published gazeteers. The first, published by Horatio Gates Spafford in 1813, used information collected through the 1810 census. At that time, Seneca had been a county for only six years. The first white people had moved into the region about 20 years before.

As it has been noted before, Seneca County at that time extended, south to include the townships of Ulysses and Hector, north to Lake Ontario.

Industry was pretty much a family business, but these were plentiful and provided many of the products needed by the people of the area.

Fayette had a population of 1,754 people, 43 of these were slaves. The town had two grain mill, four saw mills; a carding machine and two distilleries. There were 63 family looms which produced 15,399 yards of cloth in 1810. There were seven schools.

Junius at that time included the present towns of Waterloo, Seneca Falls, Tyre, Junius, Galen, Savannah, Butler and Rose. It had one merchant mill (probably Wilhemus Mynder's), two grain mills, five or six saw mills, a fulling mill; two distilleries and two carding machines. There were 71 family looms which produced 20,274 yards of Cloth. West CAyuga or Bridgeport had 16 or 17 houses; Mynderse Mills or Seneca Falls had 15 houses. The population for Junius was 2,251.

Ovid, then included the towns of Ovid, Lodi and Covert. It had six grain mills; seven saw mills; three fulling mills; two carding machines Also nine distlleries, four pot-ash works and three tanners. There were 167 looms and 56,447 yards of cloth were produced in 1810. The town of Ovid had the most inhabitants, 4,535 but the village was so small that no count of houses was given. It also had two ferries; one on Cayuga and one on Seneca Lake.

Romulus with a population of 2,766 had nine or 10 school houses. There were 113 family looms. Three villages were identified: Lancaster, now Willard; Plymouth and Apple Town, now both gone. In addition to the regular mills: three grain, seven saw, three tanners and five pot ash works, it was noted that the six distilleries for grain and fruit spirits had made 12,730 gallons in the year. There were 102 mechanics in the town, who were employed at 11 different trades. Some of the families were involved in making maple sugar; 2,000 pounds were made in one season according to the gazeteer.

The other towns in the county at that time were: Hector, Wolcott and Ulysses. Galen was formed in 1812 before the gazeteer was printed but since the editor used the 1810 census for a guide, its population schedule was still included with Junius. At that time Wolcott went over to Cayuga County but it was returned to Wayne County when that county was Organized. At the time the gazeteer was printed, Ithaca had only about 40 houses.

Horatio Spafford published a second gazeteer in 1823. The book had over 600 pages. That year 34 town were added and two counties: Wayne and Yates.

Covert had been erected in 1817 from the southern half of Ovid and annexed to Tompkins County when it was formed. In 1819, it was returned to Seneca.

Its population totaled 3,459 of

whom 779 were farmers, 141 mechanics and seven in trade. There were five foreigners; seven free blacks and eight slaves. The town had 15 schools, six grist mills, six saw mills, two fulling mills, two carding machines, two tanneries and two distilleries

Fayette had a population of 2,859 of whom, 595 were farmers, 139 mechanics and two in trade. There were five foreigners, 68 free blacks and 11 slaves. The town had five grist mills, eight saw mills, one oil mill, three fulling mills, seven carding machines, one ashery and five distilleries.

In referring to the one village in Fayette, Spafford noted it was called Scauyz or Scawas or Scawyace. He wrote, "The name is probably of German origin, and was also applied to both sides of the river. Who will tell me the meaning of this name and how to write it?"

Junius was described as an "opulent and populous township". Seneca, or Seneca Falls Village had about 40 houses, a church and parsonage, two large merchant mills, an oil mill, a fulling mill, saw mill, tannery, distillery, three stores, two inns and about 200 inhabitants.

Waterloo had two merchant mills, two saw mills, an oil mill, two fulling mills, a trip hammer, an air furnace, a distillery, seven stores, six inns, one physician, six lawyers, about 80 houses and 500 inhabitants.

Bridgeport or West Cayuga, had 30 houses, a toll house, one store four taverns and about 150 inhabitants. No mention was made of Kingdom.

The whole town of Junius had a population of 5,113 of which 1,050 were farmers, 28 in commerce 239 in manufacture 32 free blacks and 25 slaves. There were 25 schoolhouses throughout the town.

The village of Ovid had a church, the court house and jail, a printing office. four stores, two inns and about 50 houses. Interlaken or Farmer at that time was partly in Covert and partly in Ovid. It had 20 houses, two stores, a Baptist and Dutch Reformed church. Of the 2,654 people in the town, 495 were farmers, 177 mechanics, 18 traders, eight slaves. The town had five grist mills, five saw mills five distilleries and one ashery.

Romulus had a population of 3,698 of whom 850 were farmers, 159 mechanics, four traders. There were four foreigners, 55 free blacks and 27 slaves. The slaves must have been freed the next few years for none were recorded in the 1830 census.

In 1823, Seneca County had about 85,000 acres of cleared land. In 1850, over 128,000 acres were cleared. Agriculture was the prime business but other businesses were now more varied.

A listing of the businesses for each town in the county in 1850 showed there was one baker in Seneca Falls and one in Waterloo. All the towns except Waterloo had blacksmiths and 75 men were employed at that trade.

Seneca Falls and Waterloo both had two blind and sash makers with a total of 15 employes. Covert had a brush maker at which five worked full time.

Nineteen men were working as cabinet makers throughout the county, 61 as carriage makers and 23 as coopers. Waterloo had a chairmaker with two employes and a cotton factory with 48 full-time workers.

Two men in Covert made grain cradles; one man in Seneca Falls made cultivator teeth. There was also a fork and hoe factory in Seneca

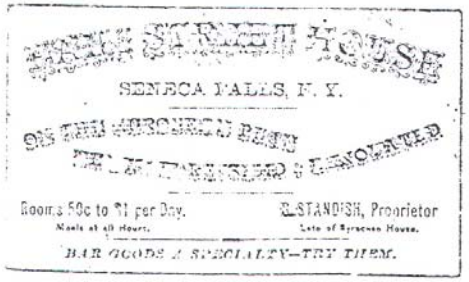
Falls but there were no extra employes at that shop.

Only Waterloo and Seneca Falls had distilleries in 1850. The Seneca Falls firm must have been small. According to the report, there were 22 employes at the distilleries, all at the two Waterloo plants.

The firm that made drain tiles in Waterloo, Whartenby's employed eight men. Foundries and furnaces in the county had 87 workers, and grist mills, 67. In 1850, Seneca Falls had eight grist mills; Lodi, four; Fayette, five and Waterloo, one. Probably some of those listed for Fayette were in South Waterloo which was noted for its grist mills.

Covert had a lime kiln, a plaster mill, six saw mills, eight shoemakers and four stone quarries, a tin factory and also a pump factory. Seneca Falls had three pump manufacturers in 1850, and 35 men were employed at that work. The report does not specify how many were at Covert.

There were machinist, plaster mills, saw mills, shoemakers, tailors and tanneries throughout the county. Waterloo had a candle and soap maker (Srehm). Seneca Falls had a stove factory and a paper mill. Waterloo had an oil mill.



THE TRAILER CAMP AT WATERLOO

Once the United States Government had decided to build an ordnance depot at Romulus, no time was lost in acquiring the property, getting the tenants off the property and hiring the hundreds of men needed to work at the project. Finding men to work was not that difficult, the hard part in the beginning of the project was finding places for the men to live.

Seneca County families were asked to open their houses and provide sleeping quarters for the men. Many did provide rooms but it was not enough.

It was a major project and would take many months to complete. Many of the men who came to work were married and did not want to be away from their families for such a length of time.

It was decided that what was needed was a large scale trailer park. Possibly land could have been found near the work site but with so many people involved, it was necessary to have water, electricity and other utilities, not so easy to provide on short order in the rural area.

The site selected for the trailer park was the Seneca County Fairgrounds in Waterloo. The trailer project was completed on Oct. 30, 1942. It was set up within the enclosure of the race track and was the third largest settlement in Seneca County.

It was operated by the Federal Public Housing Administration for workers who were helping to build the Seneca Ordnance and Sampson Naval Base which was also being built at that time.

Trailers faced wide streets placed on temporary foundations about 15 feet apart. There were wooden sidewalks from the street to each trailer door. For those living in the camp, this was a visual example of how conditions

could have been for their grand parents and great-grandparents.

There were two types of trailers in the park, one style was expandable. They were completely furnished except for dishes and bed linen.

Rent was $6.50 and $7.50 a week and this included electricity and water. The individual trailers did not have water but it was piped throughout the area.

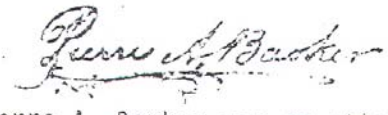
There were shower and toilet facilities in separate buildings. There were two laundries with washers, hot water and irons. Every day was wash day at the park.

During the time the two Romulus projects were being built, there were 200 families with about 700 persons at the trailer camp. The administration building was used for bingo and dances. A nurse was at the site, her services provided by the state.

Among the tenants, the majority of the residents were from New York City and Long Island, but a survey showed that 11 states were represented by the people and some of them came from as far as Texas and Florida. When the work was completed, everyone left and the trailers were removed. The area once again became the county fairground. The only years there has been no fair was during this period. The electric lines and water pipes were laid underground and are still there.

(A History of Seneca County has been published which is about places such as the ordnance depot and Sampson Naval Base. Written by Hild Watrous, it is available through "Heart of the Lakes Publishing", Interlaken, NY 14847)

PIONEERS AND OTHER CITIZENS
of SENECA COUNTY



Pierre A. Barker was an attorney in Waterloo. He came to Waterloo about 1819 and probably settled on the east end of the village on lot 97, between the village and the Kingdom. He purchased other property but these were probably for speculation. In 1824 with Chauncey S. Clark he bought 400 acres of Junius 43 for $3,000 and an earlier deed showed he bought 100 acres, probably the State 100 of Romulus 30 for $3,000 in 1817.

He was a school inspector in Fayette in 1810. He only appeared in the 1820 census, but there are many old documents with his signature.

His wife's name was Ann. According to the census they had one son and four daughte or at least four females were in the household. Possibly one was a servant. Their only son William Henry, died in 1823 at the age of eight and is buried in Waterloo.

In 1829 he was appointed collector of the Port of Buffalo by President Andrew Jackson. No other information is available regarding Barker and his family.

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DR. CLAUDIUS C. COAN was born in West Stockbridge, Berkshire Co. Mass., March 1, 1794. When he was four years old his family moved to Bloomfield, Ontario County, one of the very early settlers.

He studied medicine in Canandaigua under Dr. Samuel Dungan. He had

received his early education at the Canandaigua Academy. He served for a short time at Niagara Falls in the War of 1812, then completed his medical studies at the University of Pennsylvania under Benjamin Rich.

CLAUDIUS C. COAN, M. D.

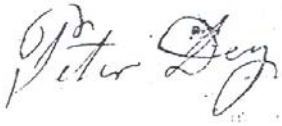
On July 20, 1817, he married Sarah Folwell, daughter of William W. Folwell of Romulus. They met through Dr. Dungan who was her uncle. He began his practice the same year at Lodi. In 1841 he received an honorary degree of doctor of medicine from the Regents of the University of New York on the recommendation of the State Medical Society.

In 1830 he was appointed supervisor of the county poor and was one of the first trustees of the Seneca County Alms House. His son-in-law, Dr. Anthony Schuyler was also one of the first trustees. He served as trustee for many years.

He and his wife had eight children: seven of whom grew to maturity.

None of his sons were named Claudius, although son William named his son for his grandfather. No matter - one need only check through the census records of Lodi, Ovid and Hector to realize how much he was respected. There were dozens of boys who received the name Claudius C., including Claudius C. Wheeler, Claudius C. Fenton and Claudius C. Walker, whom he remembered in his will.

He practiced medicine in Lodi for 65 years. He continued to practice until his death. He died Feb. 28, 1882. Sarah M. Coan died March 1, the next day. They are buried in Union Cemetery in Ovid.



The first Dey to com to America was Teunis Dey who came from Holland. He lived in New York City and owned land on Broadway, His son Dirck-or Richard was baptized in 1687. Dirck moved to New Jersey, probably in the Bergen County Area. His son Teunis was the father of Peter.

Teunis who lived at Preakness was a colonel of the Bergen County Militia.

Several of his sons settled in Seneca County: Dr. Philip, Benjamin, David and Peter. John, another son settled in Ontario Co Pierson, son of Richard and grandson of Teunis also settled in Seneca County.

Benjamin was here before 1800 and was involved in the sale of many of

parcels of the military lots. His name does not always appear as grantee but he was involved in the sale of many of the lots. Some were granted to him by the Cayuga Commission, according to the early deeds. Itis possible that he might have served as a agent in selling these lots.

Benjamin, Philip and David lived in what is now Varick: Peter lived in Fayette for the greatest share of his life in this area. He died in Seneca Falls, Sept. 11, 1834, at 79, according to the Trinity Church records.

The brothers and their families came to Seneca County between 1802 and 1805. In 1805, Peter Dey bought 211 acres of Romulus 36, in the north half of the lot. In 1806, he purchased an addition al 100 acres of the same lot.

In 1808 he was appointed commissioner of highways. On Nov. 9, 1819, Peter Dey, manumitted a black man named Thomas Van Wagener. He noted he was under 45 years of age and able to take care of himself.

Richard, the older brother was a captain in the Revolutionary War. The service of both Peter and David are mentioned in Peter's pension record. Quite possibly the others were also in service. Only Peter applied for a pension.

The document was recorded in Sene ca County on Feb. 5, 1834, just five months before he died. Peter Dey's pension number was S for Survivor 15078. Most of the survivor records were quite brief. If a record of a man's service was still availabe, he had no problem in getting a pension.

Sometimes a man went into great detail in describing his service. When this type of information is available these contemporary records bring to life the events of long ago. Such is the case with the pension record of Peter Dey.

He enlisted Aug. 22, 1776 at Saddle River, where he lived in Bergen County, New Jersey and marched to Elizabethtown Point. He remained there 10 or 15 days, then was ordered to Bergen Heights. Remained there one month which was the length of that tour.

He said, "My father Teunis Dey was colonel of the whole regiment and on this tour, part of the time he was absent at Trenton as a member of the legislature. He went to give his vote for William Livingstone, for Governor. This was the first time that Livingstone was elected and the first time any governor was elected by the people of New Jersey."

In April 177 Dey volunteers again as a private with a company of Rangers under Capt. Peter Fell and Lt. Yost Zebrisky. This company covered all the lower part of Bergen County. They marched to Hoboken, went several times to Fort Lee and other places, protecting the county from the threats of the Tories. He noted that they had no particular field officers, the company officers were commissioned or appointed by his father.

He noted, "Had abattle with the refugees at Paramus in May. John Barton was commander of the refugees. They surrounded Mrs. Hopper's house and fired upon one another. Our company lay some way off and we then attacked them and drove them off."

In August or September 1777 he served as sergeant and was on scouting parties. He continued in several tours of one month or more until October 1779 when the whole regiment under Capt. John Mead and Colonel Dey went on a long alarm. Four

regiments of militia took part. He said, "The enemy had crossed a party over at Hoboken under Cornwallis and General Grey. They were marching up the river, plundering and foraging. There were no Continental troops near. A regiment of horse under Lt. Col. Baylor was nine or ten miles off and Baylor moved his troops without consulting the officers of our regiments. There was ill will existing between Baylor's Corps and our Militia. My father had been asked by the sheriff of Bergen County to serve civil process papers on Baylor's quartermaster and other officers for having taken citizen's cattle by force. Baylor's troop went to a barn in old Tappan. General Gray was able to get between our regiments and Baylor's during the night and murdered almost all of them while they were asleep."

In May 1780 while serving under Ensign Abraham Post, he was stationed at Hackensack as a guard. This time with 18 others he volunteers under Capt. Thomas Blanch to patrol in the neighborhood of a block house built by the Tories on the edge of the Hudson river. A formidable force was kept there to get wood out of the Bergen woods for the enemy at New York City.

Dey pointed out, "The Tories at this blockhouse had committed a great many murders in Bergen. One of the men in particular, name of John Berry and called "Jack the Regular" had committed 13 murders in the county, one a man of 80 named Allen."

On June 3, 1780, Dey, out on patrol with Capt. Blanch, came upon Jack the Regular about two miles from the blockhouse. They took two prisoners and killed Jack and two others. He said, "We carried the body of Jack to Hackensack to show the people that their dangerous enemy was no more."

Two months after this, Gen. Anthony Wayne attacked this same blockhouse with the Continentals and was defeated. He lost 82 killed and wounded out of Colonel Jackson' regiment of Pennsylvania troops.

Dey continued with his report, "In July 1780, General Washington made his headquarters at my father's house for four weeks. His private secretary was Benjamin Harrison. His aides were: Alexander Hamilton, David Humphrey, Richard Kedder and Tench Tillman. While he was at our house that time, William Colefax was commander of the lifeguard, Major Caleb Gibbs was absent. A few days after Major Andre was hung, Washington came back and took up his quarters again at out house and stayed seven weeks. He left the house on Nov. 27, 1780."

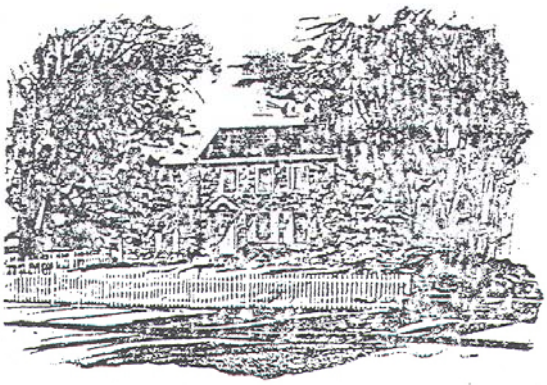
This house was at Preakness, N.J.

In April 1782, the whole company was detached under his father and marched to Fort Lee to drive away the refugees who were building the old Fort Lee for a harbour. Their old blockhouse in Bergen woods had been burnt the year before.

He said,"We were in a battle with the enemy at the fort. We cleared them out and they never attempted to harbour again along the west side of the Hudson river in Bergen County."

He had lived in Fayette since 1801 and in the town of Seneca Falls for the last two years. David Dey, his brother lived in Varick and was witness to his service. They served together part of the time. David was in the latter part of the war when he reached 16.

The Rev. Aaron D. Lane, Presbyterian minister in Waterloo, was witness for his character. The judges were: Jacob L. Larzelere, James DeMott, James Seely and Jesse Clark. Seba Murphy was clerk.



George Washington's Headquarters 1777-78 Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

ANTHONY VARACALLI

Although not a pioneer, Antonio Varacalli definitely deserves a place in the historical files of Seneca County. Born in Italy, Anthony and his father Dominick had come to the United States and Seneca Falls, about 1919. His mother and two sisters remained in Italy. The oldest sister and her husband had been killed in the war. One son survived who lived with his grandmother.

Anthony and Dominick hoped to find work and save money to bring the rest of the family to the United States. The dream was shattered when tragedy struck. One day when Anthony was walking in the vicinity of the bridge on Bridge St. he heard someone scream. He ran to the bank and saw a young woman struggling in the water.

Without hesitation he jumped into the canal to try to save the young woman, although he could not swim. He managed to get the girl to the bank before he sank into the water, and drowned.

Dominick Cafora of East River Rd. recalled the incident vividly although it happened more than 60 years ago. At the time he was a young man working for the town of Seneca Falls. Working with him was Dominick Varacalli, father of Anthony. They were clearing up along the highway near the Seneca Falls Machine Co., when a call came from the village to say that Varacalli was needed. When he reached the bridge he was notified his son had drowned.

On June 21, 1921 there was a benefit for Tony. A fund had been started to provide a memorial. A plaque was made and is now set into the side of the Bridge Street bridge.

The incident of the memorial has been recently published in the newspapers. But as a famous radio commentator would say, "Now here is the rest of the story."

When the fund was started it was hoped that more could be raised through the Carnegie Hero Fund, enough to bring the family from Italy which had been Anthony's plan from the beginning.

The Carnegie Fund did send a medal but no money, so the Seneca Falls Elks took over the project to raise money to bring Mrs. Varcalli, her two daughters and grandson to Seneca Falls. The Elks Club was able to raise $200 which was not quite enough to bring them all here. Dominick Romeo, owner of a store on Rumsey St. advanced the remainder so the family could all come at the same time.

When the money arrived the family went immediately to Naples where they would get aboard the ship. They were told by the American Consul that they must each have $20 in addition to the passage money or they would not be able to leave Ellis Island. They had less than $15 in

Mrs. Varcalli recalled a man in their village. He was a wealthy importer. Twenty years before she had taken care of his son when his wife died. She went to him with her problem. He cheerfully provided the 1,700 lire needed in exchange for the $100 in American money.

The family reached New York City and were put on a train. Not being able to understand the language they did not know hen the conductor called out Seneca Falls. Railroad employes neglected to tell them when to get off and they went all the way to Niagara Falls.

Dominick Varcalli waited all day at the station for his family, knowing they were supposed to arrive that day. Anxiety took over and he collapsed at 9 p.m. Meantime, everything was straightened out at the other end and the next train brought the family back from the west. On July 28, 1922, the family was reunited for the first time in 15 years.

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THE VALIENT

HAROLD "POP" CURRY, 70 of Seneca Falls died March 19, 1987. Burial in St. Columkille. He was born in Seneca Falls, 12/18/1916, son of Frederick and Alice King. He was a World War II , veteran of the US Army Air Corps. He was retired from the Seneca Falls post office and was also a professional musician, playing the piano for many years at Belhurst Castle in Geneva

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Mabel I. Broderick 86, of Seneca Falls, formerly Washington, D.C died 3/22/1986. Burial was in Arlington National Cemetery. Born in Jamestown, R.I., May 14, 1900, daughter of Aaron and Augusta Johnson Richardson. Mrs. Broderock was a veteran of World War I and served with the US Navy for three years. She was honorably discharged as chief yeoman. She was the widow of James W Broderick who died 2/17/1861.

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ALBERT F. LEONARD, 73, of Seneca Falls died 3/21/1987. Born in Seneca Falls, 3/5/1914, he was the son of Edward and Eva Parks Leonard. He was a veteran of the US Navy in World War II.

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DONALD PIERSON, SR. of town of Waterloo died 3/31/1987, 69. Burial in Oak Lawn Cemetery, Phelps. He was born in Varick, 11/27/1917,the son of Elden and Frances Roth. He was a seaman first class in the US Navy and a World War II veteran.

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HAROLD N. KISE, 66, of town of Tyre died 4/11/1987, buried in Springbrook cemetery. He was born in Clyde, 6/6/1920, son of Nelson H. and Mable Rose. He was a 20-year veteran of the US Army and US Air Force. He served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He was honorably discharged in 1967.

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JOSEPH GIOVANNINI, 86, of Seneca Falls died 4/29/1987. Born Seneca Falls, 3/16/1901, the son of Antonio and Jennie Baldassari. He was a veteran of World War I.

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