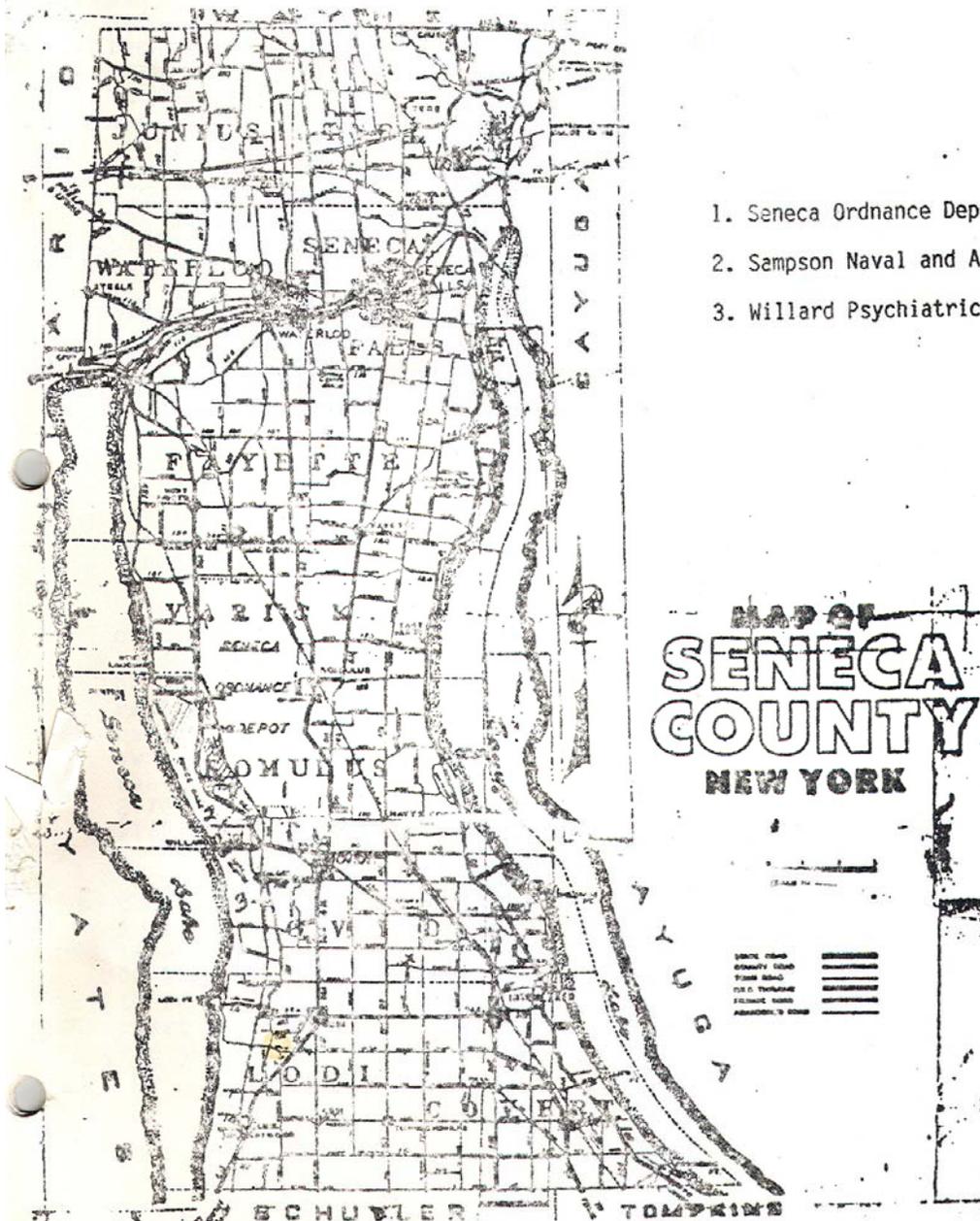


SENECA COUNTY HISTORY

13



1. Seneca Ordnance Depot
2. Sampson Naval and Airforce Base
3. Willard Psychiatric Center

SAMPSON

Along the shore of Seneca Lake in Romulus, there is a state park. Each summer hundreds of campers spend a week or so relaxing and having fun. Only a few buildings disturb the horizon. For the most part there is little to distract from the pristine beauty of the land. Except for the fact that many trees have been taken away, it must appear much as it was in 1779 when the men in Sullivan and Clinton's Armies crossed the same area.

Somewhat over 40 years ago, the same area presented a completely different kind of 'picture', for this is the location of the former Sampson Naval Station/Junior College/Air Force Base.

In 1941, the U.S. government informed residents and town officials of Romulus and Varick that it was planning to build a major munitions depot in the area. All or part of 22 military lots were taken over by the government.

In 1942, the government announced it would require more land in Romulus where it would build a naval base to train recruits. This time less land was taken but a number of landowners were forced to sell their land. The base took in 2,700 acres; the depot covered 11,000 acres.

One must wonder why Seneca County and Romulus were selected a second time. The site along the lake was certainly an asset. Perhaps the government officials thought it would be better to upset a few more residents in the same area than to go to

1

another section of the state and stir up a new group. Even in Seneca County, most of the residents were agreeable to the building of both the depot and the naval base. It did provide many jobs and most felt it was their patriotic duty to do whatever was necessary in the war effort.

Local newspapers began giving out information regarding the naval station about May 1942. On May 17, 1942 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the building of the naval training center, he noted it would be named in honor of Rear Admiral Richard T. Sampson, a native of Palmyra, Wayne Co. He was a commander of the North Atlantic Naval Squadron which carried out the blockade of Cuba and defeated the Spanish squadron under Admiral Cervera at the Battle of Santiago.

Later when it became an air force base, the City of Geneva asked that it be renamed Taylor Air Force Base in honor of two pilots who lost their lives in World War II.

One newspaper article noted that two stores, 12 houses and 75 summer cottages were affected by the building of the naval station. Another noted a few permanent residences and 200 summer cottages. In considering the amount of lake frontage involved, it would seem that the first account would be more accurate.

The Ovid Gazette noted the project would cost \$20 million to build. It would be a recruit training center and technical school and would be able to accommodate 20,000 men. When the editor of the paper learned the station would be called Sampson, he felt the new area should be named Dunlap for Rear Admiral Andrew

ROMULUS



Dunlap of Ovid.

The stores on the site were owned by Charles C. Garrison and Carl Crane. Crane moved his store to the north side of Kendaia. His old building was used for a time, by the government as an employment office. Two families W.A. Smith and Mrs. Martha Newman, had been forced to vacate their homes on the depot site. Now they were forced to move again.

The government wanted the project to be finished yesterday and officials were somewhat disappointed by the progress being made. The holdup was caused by delays in getting material to work with, and the need for more workers. In July 1942 there were about 6,000 workers at the site; in August, about 12,000 were on the payroll. Now the problem was places for the men to stay. An old theater building and a former dance hall in Ovid and a couple of buildings in Geneva were designated as lodging places.

The base was officially opened by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox. In size it could be compared to a city with a population of about 45,000. There were seven units of seamen being trained. Each unit was comprised of 5,000 men. Each unit had eight bowling alleys, a complete library, a soda fountain and eight billiard tables. For recreation there was also seven theaters, a very large auditorium and seven swimming pools. There were also eight large gymnasiums. When completed it was the second largest training center in the United States.

Although the work was not fully completed, the naval base was formally established in October 1942.

Included among the buildings was a 1,500 bed hospital. Capt. C.W. Carr of the U.S. Navy was put in charge of the hospital in September 1942 and it opened the following February. The hospital buildings were erected on the same plan as the barracks except they had communicating corridors and were made of more fire resistant construction.

Capt. Carr had been attached to the naval hospital at Great Lakes, Ill. in 1910. He was in charge of a department of 75 medical, three dental and five pharmacist officers at Sampson. There was a staff of 440 commissioned nurses and a civilian force of 225.

Once the naval station was built there was little in the weekly newspaper regarding its activities. The local paper would tell of the various organizations and the American Red Cross volunteers and the USO visiting the base.

On Nov. 20, 1942, the paper noted that Paul Edward Wilt of Jamestown was the first sailor to die at Sampson. He had been at the base 12 days. The next week Joseph P. Picciardo, of New York City died at the station. He had been there 22 days.

About that time, in November or early December, two of the barracks burned. Both had just been completed and were as yet, not occupied. At the time there were 22 such barracks completed, each was 40 by 100 feet and stood 100 feet apart.

The naval base was in operation, training recruits for three years. During that time 411,429 men were processed. At the end of that period, Sampson became a separation center for seaman returning from overseas.

In March 1945, Sampson Hospital was designated as a naval tuberculosis center. During that fall, the hosp-

ital reached its highest patient load with 3,500 patients. As the load decreased, it became apparant that the hospital at Sampson could also be closed down.

At the end of World War II, the base was abandoned by the navy. On July 2, 1946, the navy turned the site over to the War Assets Administration for disposal.

In October 1946, Sampson College was dedicated by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. A total of 2,825 veterans registered as students in a two-year program of study in business administration, liberal arts and pre-engineering. It was under the jurisdiction of 10 major colleges and universities in the Central New York area. The college lasted for the time required to complete the various program. It was discontinued in June 1949.

The hospital area was taken over by the State Department of Mental Hygiene in December 1947. About 1,000 elderly patients from other state mental hospitals were transferred to the facility.

In July 1949, the U.S. Department of Agriculture took over a drill hall and a block of warehouses to store wheat and beans. Except for the partial use of the old hospital and the storage area, the base was more or less abandoned except for caretakers to keep out vandals.

In March 1950, New York State appropriated \$50,000 to convert the Sampson area into a state park. Following a number of discussions between state and U.S. Navy, a number of officials met at Lake Placid to sign leases, making

Sampson a state park.

As though a part of a movie script, there was a last-minute cancellation. A telegram arrived at the meeting from Undersecretary of the Navy Dan Kimball, halting negotiations. The navy informed the state it would be needing the center because of the Korean conflict.

In October 1950, Col. A. Kroeber, chief of building and grounds for the air force, went to Sampson to survey the base to determine whether it would be suitable for an air force training center.

Apparantly he decided it would be worth the effort for in November, Army, Navy and Air Force representatives met with federal state and local officials in New York to discuss problems of transferring the mental patients to other facilities and removing the grains that were stored at the base. About 70,000 bushel of wheat and 18,000 bags of beans had to be moved to other locations.

Officials found 20 families of squatters had moved into some of the old navy housing units. When they were told to move out, they did so only after they destroyed walls, doors, windows and plumbing for being ordered out.

An early estimate for re-construction costs was \$4 million. Work started with 1,000 workmen. Within two months the workforce included 3,500 civilians. Costs soon leaped to over twenty million and in Washington, it was noted that repairs to the base might reach a total of \$50 million.



INTERLUKE

Sampson Air Force Base officially opened Dec. 8, 1950 when airmen began arriving. Two of the first commanders at the base were: Major Frank A. Armstrong and brig. Gen. N.B. Harbold.

There were 39 airmen in the first graduation class of wing instructors school in March 1951. That number increased substantially. Apparently many of the young men had their homes in the southern part of the United States. In March 1951, after about 45 of them were involved in accidents in the area, Sampson airmen were given a course in driving on icy roads.

Many of the airmen were married. A school system was set up in April 1951 for students living at Sampson. Robert Duffany of Niagara Falls was named supervisor of the school. Hobart also initiated evening classes for the airmen. The First National Bank of Waterloo was officially designated and the base bank and a branch office was set up on location.

The 544th and 546th Air Force bands were formally transferred to Sampson. The wives of the airmen formed a club. In Waterloo, Warren K. Hanscom was elected chairman of a coordinating committee to arrange projects of hospitality for the airmen from the various organizations in Waterloo. Other areas of the county and Geneva provided similar programs. In May 1951, Willard C. Jones of Geneva, owner of a good sized boat, announced he planned to operate a daily ferry service between Geneva and the air force base.

Not only airmen were to be involved in the training process.

The newspaper noted that at least 1,500 WAF's would be training at the base. In March 1951, the first woman air force officer, Major Evelyn Watkins was assigned to Sampson. This plan was changed to the extent that although WAF's were stationed at the base, they were trained elsewhere before coming to Sampson.

A 1,000 bed hospital was established and nurses began arriving at the base. Some of the had seen active duty overseas and they would be in charge of the hospital.

During the three years plus that Sampson Air Force Base was in operation, it was BIG BUSINESS. Building after building was put up to serve as barracks, mess halls, recreation area, etc.

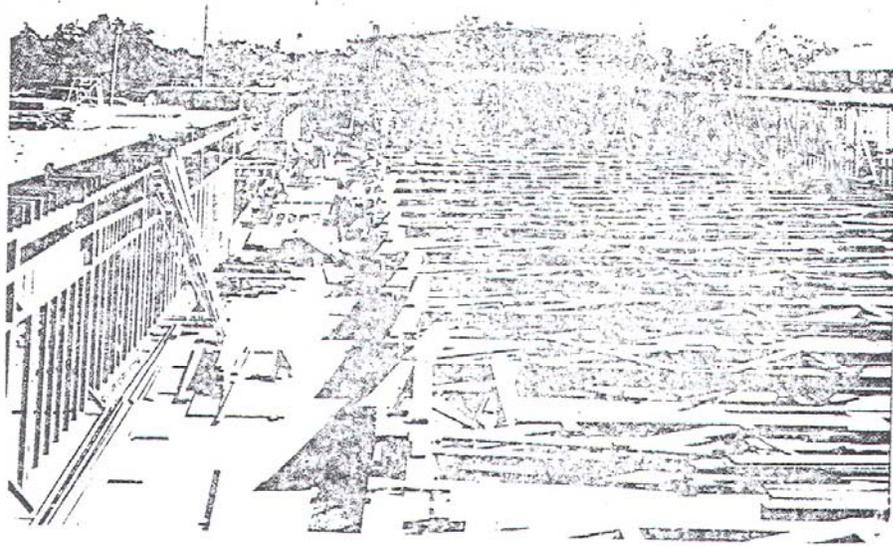
In August 1951, the population at the base was about 22,000. The monthly pay roll was in excess of two million dollars. The electric bill for one month was \$12602.94.

From June 1951 when the hospital was opened until November 1954, it had handled 75,000 patients. Approximately 1,900 babies had been born in the hospital.

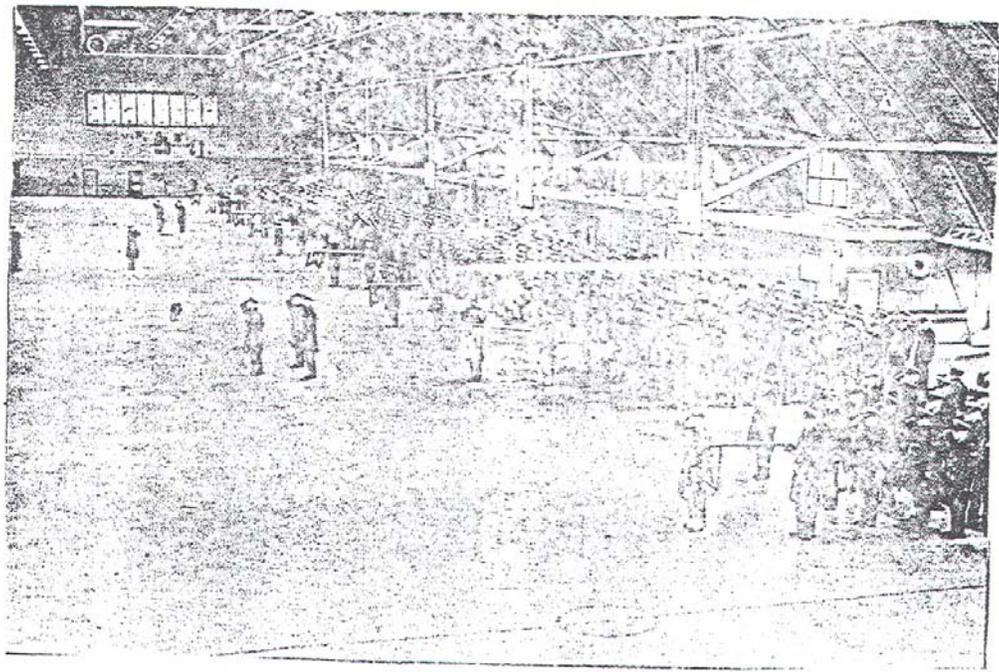
A \$2 million air strip was built to handle planes which would bring patients from all over the world. Sampson was one of the two major air force hospitals in the United States at that time.

Late in 1952 Air Training Command designated Sampson as a permanent installation, making it eligible to qualify for construction of a Federal Housing Project.

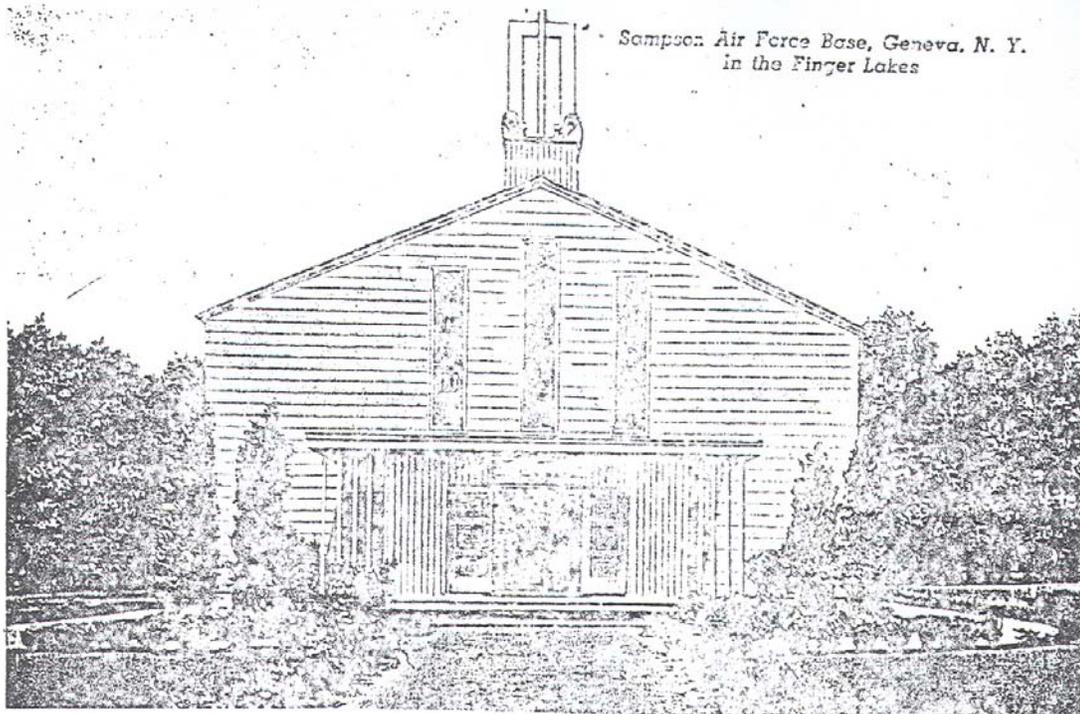
Prior to April 1953 it was announced that a concrete block publi



The building of one of the major halls or gymnasiums at Sampson



Sampson had eight gymnasiums, this was probably the largest, possibly the one above when completed



The day after Sampson Air Force Base was opened, PFC Bobby Levins of Florida and Ethylene West of Geneva were married in Royce Chapel at the base. This was the setting for many more.

school would be built at Sampson. Building was postponed until such time as a housing project was under construction. The Air Force had recently refused to accept a bid by a New Jersey contractor to build and operate a 500-apartment \$5 million housing project at the base.

By December 1953 when Sampson marked its third anniversary as an air force base, nearly 170,000 airmen had been processed. A brief newspaper article noted that one of these young men was a nephew of Adolph Hitler.

In December 1954, the Faktor Museum was established with 300 aeronautical exhibits.

In December 1955, Cong. John Taber of Auburn learned that the air force had recommended that Sampson be closed. With other New York Congressmen and the U.S. Senators, Irving Ives and Herbert H. Lehman, he tried to keep it open. Earlier from 300 to 500 young airmen arrived daily. By February 1956 the number of recruits had dropped to about 500 a month, with only about 1,000 at the base.

On April 12, 1956, Donald Quarles, Air Force Secretary, informed Taber that Sampson would be closed. Mountains of mattresses and blankets were placed in one of the huge drill halls. Hundreds of desks, chairs, typewriters and other office equipment were piled up in a temporary

RAYSTATE

warehouse as offices were closed. First priority for the equipment went to other air training command bases. Flying boxcars were used to transport this material.

In October 1956, Major Richard W. Smithson arrived at the base to supervise a staff of fire fighters and guards. They would be responsible for protecting the base from fire, weather damage and vandals. He was in command of 72 civilians. At that time there were still about 105 air force military and civilian personnel at the base with Major Gorham Godwin in charge.

By July 1959, Major Smithson was the last Air Force man in uniform left at Sampson. In June 1961, part of the former hospital area was turned over to the Sampson Division of Willard. A hundred mentally ill male patients were transferred there from Binghamton State Hospital making a total of 300 patients being cared for at the facility. In June 1970, the last barracks was torn down.

Starting in 1942, Sampson Naval Base/College/Air Force Base was part of a \$50 million plus construction project that included 498 buildings with 300 barracks. In its 16 or 17 years of existence, over 700,000 men and women spent a part of their life there. Nearly 2,000 men and women between the ages of 34 and 44 can claim this spot as their birthplace. A much smaller number, but one equally as important, died there at the hospital or in auto accidents on Seneca County roads.

A few isolated building remain scattered over the landscape: the brig, an old firehouse, the water

plant, etc. The air force chapel where many young couples were married, was removed a few years ago. Now, except for a few brief weeks in summer when the park facilities are open, the green field along Seneca Lake in Pomulus, are still except for the sound of birds and little wild creatures.

+ + + + +

In August 1952, William Yolland of Seneca Falls, was serving a sentence after he had been arrested for driving without an license. He had already served 11 days of a 25-day sentence and as a trustee was working in the jail garden. Before returning to the jail he went to the local hardware store and bought three hacksaw blades.

At supper he passed two of the blades to two Sampson airman who were also in the jail. The men sawed their way through the iron bars on the window and escaped.

Yolland was captured the next day riding a bicycle along East Lake Rd. The other men got as far as Queens before they were apprehended. They were returned to solitary confinement in the Seneca County jail.

+ + + + +

During the weekend of Sept. 12-13 1987, about 300 former navy men got together at Sampson State Park and the Waterloo VFW for a first reunion. It started with an idea by a former Sampson seaman. For several months he visited as many American Legion and VFW homes as possible and encouraged members to contact anyone who had been at Samupson. The first reunion was a success and plans were made to continue it next year

An in-depth study of Sampson, the Seneca Army Ordnance Depot and other areas of Seneca County which have been taken over by the state or federal government has been written by Hilda R. Watrous.

Called "The County Between the Lakes", it was published by the Seneca County Bicentennial Committee and is available for purchase by writing to Seneca County History Book P.O. Box 299, Interlaken, NY 14847-0

WOMEN OF FAYETTE WHO VOTED IN THE FIRST STATE ELECTION -- 1918

Ella Mae Anthony	Lilly Allen	Sarah Andrews
Jennie Allen	Grace Avery	Libbie Acor
Christine Andersen	Carrie Abbott	Viliola Amidon
Maria Allen	Nora Aunkst	Grace Avery/Aury
Mary Abbott	Rose Abbott	
Elizabeth Bauer	Mertie Beck	Mary Black
Mildred Brand	Blanch Bauer	Pearl Bergstresser
Nettie Bigelow	Delia M. Brown	Evelyn Burroughs
Elida Burtless	Julia Benninghaff	Pearl O. Brown
Eliza Bachman	Mazie Brown	Della Bumpus
Anna Bisch	Pearl Bartle	Sarah Becker
Anna Bird	Etta Bloodgood	Susan Bachman
Cora Bergstresser	Flora Balliett	Pearl Becker
Cinderella Bird	Lucy Barto	Sarah Bauman
Mary Burchman	Elizabeth ? Birch	Ella Bixby
Rose Beck	Carrie Balliett	Clara Berryman
Lena Bachman	Ellen Bergstresser	Anna Balliett
Sina Bachman	M. Jessie Bird	May Bull
Nancy Bennett	Sarah Barrows	Lottie Bartran
Sarah Baxter	Ida Betz	Lizzie Balliett
Mattie Boyes	Anna Brown	Emma Brickley
Addie Beary	Jennie Bachman	Mary Elizabeth Bonnell
Ida Curtis	Lydia Christler	Margaret Christopher
Mary Cooley	Philimia Coper	Hazel Carmell
Mary Carter	Jessy Cadmus	Nora N. Covert
Jennie Clark	Grace Clark	Alta Cleminson
Vermyla Christopher	Edna L. Case	Laura Covert
Sarah Curr?	Susan Elizabeth Cook	Jessy S. Cook
May Colben	Inez Cosad	Lillie Chadwick
Belle Clemenson	Clara Crandall	Jennie Countryman
Mary Covert	May Clark	Ethel Cadmus
Dora Colver?	Jessie Cronin	Mary Clark
Sarah Crossman		
Grace Disinger	Mary DoNoe?	Sarah Dauley/Donley
Ruth Dingman	Lillian DArk	Isabella Dey
Mary Doran	Fanny Decker	Jessie Derr
Olive Deal	May Donley	Celia Disinger
Agnes Disinger	Mary J. Disinger	Lena Dark
Lizzie Dey	Emma Dildine	Loretta DeFreeze
Emma Deal	Mary C. Disinger	Ella Disinger
Flora Disinger	Lizzie Disinger	Carminia Dinarde
Delia Doran	Susan Dey	Myrta Dadson



VARIEK

Sophia Deal
 Minerva Emerick
 Abbie Earing
 Nellie Earing
 Ada Fisher
 Grace Fegley
 Theresa Frantz
 Mary Felbert
 Mildred Frantz
 Mary Falmer
 Margaret Fisher
 Ollie Garnett
 Sarah Gauger
 Pearlle Gauger
 Nettie Garnett
 Minnie Gates
 Lilah Hoster
 Leona Hunt
 May Haskins
 Daisy Henry
 Lillian Hogan
 Agnes Hoffman
 Minerva Hause
 Margaret Harper
 Inez Harris
 Mary Harde
 Maria Hood
 Laura Hopkins
 Louise Howard
 Jennie Herr
 Flora Hill
 Ellen Hoster
 Minnie Irland
 Ann Ide
 Aurelia Jenkins
 Mina Jolly
 Nella Jolly
 Sophia Kemery
 Anna Kime
 Florence Kipp
 Katherine Kniffen
 Bessie Kuney
 Fannie Kidd
 Mary A. Kime
 Grace Kelley
 Julia A. Knight
 Margaret Kaupp
 Mabel Keefer
 Susan A. Kime
 Maud Knight
 Anna Knuppenbrug

Emma Disinger
 Cora Eshenour
 Lola Edwards
 Jennie Edwards
 Ethyl Fry
 Katie Fields
 Frances Frantz
 Nona Frantz Fisk
 Dorothy Fry
 Margie Fullmer
 Marian Frantz
 Nettie Garnett
 Nettie Gates
 Mary Gauger
 Anna E. Goldsmith

Mary Hoster
 Margaret Hartranft
 Jane Hefferon
 Dora Haggerty
 Mary Hansen
 Eva Hilbert
 Henrietta Huase *HAUSE*
 Lena Hartranft
 Gurta Henry
 Mina Hatch
 Lillian Hoster
 Gertrude Hoagland
 Lillian Horton
 Viola Harris
 Hallan Halleck
 Edna Hoster
 Ida Irland

Lillie Jolley
 Clara P. Jones
 Hazel Jacobson
 Hattie Kreutter
 Edna Kime
 Carrie Kuhns
 Ella Martha Knause
 Gertrude Kuney
 Elizabeth Kuney
 Mary Kipp
 Pearl King
 Mary Kuney
 Ada Kuney
 Maud Kreutter
 Mary Kemery
 Lena Knauss
 Pearl Kuney

Clara Deal
 Lena Emerick
 Anna Ellis

Minnie Frankenfield
 Maud Folger
 Jennie Fry
 Ida Fairbeck?
 Caroline Frantz
 Elizabeth Fridley

Lilley Gambee
 Alice Guerin
 Anna Geissler
 Carrie A. Bauger

Ophelia Hoster
 Katharien Hooper
 Irene Hutchinson
 Clive Haust
 Irene Heinzman
 Grace Hartranft
 Carrie Holben
 Orpha Haggerty
 Vera Hathorn
 Maud Herman
 Vertie Hause
 Helen Huffman
 Florence Holt
 Hannah Heinzman
 Myra Hatch
 Helen Hoster
 Olive Irland

Mary Judd
 Fannie Jones

Anna King
 Katie Kidd
 Hazel Kaupp
 Mary Kimbark
 Della E. King
 Ellen Kuney
 Ella Kipp
 Helen Keer
 Eveline Kelly
 Mary Kuney
 Blanch E. Kime
 Charity Kipp
 Ethel Keer
 Katherine Kelly

Susie Koster
 Agnes Kidd
 Maude Leddick
 Roring Leisenring?
 Lora Larsen
 Etta Lerch
 Martine Larsen
 Ida Lambert
 Susie Lahr
 Anna Litzenberger
 Marion Larsen
 Marty Latting
 May Larsen
 Beulah Lambert
 DEbbie Lamphere
 Frances Lorentson
 Christina Larsen
 Jennie Landis
 Ethel Larsen
 Effie Lambert
 Flora Mudge
 Susan Wellen
 Ann Mackin
 Minnie Motes
 Jennie Morgan
 Charlotte Marshall
 Anna Miner
 Jennie Mingle
 Irene Murray
 Mary Marshall
 Fannie McBride
 Ethel McQuay
 Barbara McDuffie
 Ellen McGahn
 Margaret McDuffie
 Amanda McQuay
 Adda Noone
 Nellie Newell
 Mary Nash
 Elizabeth Neass
 Essie Oltz
 Emma Orman
 Minnie Oot
 Esther Olsowske
 Pearl Paine
 Dorothy Plate
 Mary Patterson
 Hattie Parker

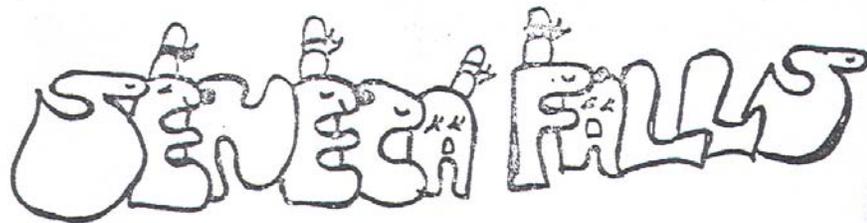
Ellen Kuney
 Lillian Koster
 Kate Larson
 Blanch Lahr
 Emeline Larsen
 Olive Lerkins
 Loretta Leonard
 Jeanette Lambert
 Beckey Leslie
 Rosanna Lux
 Ethel Lerch
 Gladys Laub
 Laura Lahr
 Margaret Litzenberger
 Karline Leffler
 Phoebe Laude
 Henriette Larsen
 Elda Laub
 Eva Lutz
 Bertha Lerkins
 Minnie Mauer
 Jessie Martin
 Clara Marshall
 Mattie Mauger
 Lucy Menges
 Jane Marshall
 Anna Miner
 Lizzie Mitchell
 Celia Mangan
 Phebe Mauger
 Mary McDuffie
 Sarah McQuay
 Irene Mc Naney
 Agnes McDonald
 Helen Mc Naney
 Nellie McDonald
 Selma Norstrum
 Kittie Norman
 Mary Newell
 Emma Nordstrom
 Nattie OPdyke
 Anna Olton
 Loa Oltz
 Kate Odea?
 Lillian Pysher
 Lena Post
 Hannah Palmer
 Elsie Parish

Minni M. Kuney
 Florenc Koster
 Sophronia Litzenberger
 Mary Lerch
 Libbie Lerch
 Harriet Lerch
 Jessie Lahr
 Susie Litzenberger
 Maggie Lahr
 Clara Larsen
 Edith Lynd
 Libbie Lambert
 Grace Lambert
 Libbie Lambert
 Beulah Litzenberger
 Flora Bell Lacombe
 Clara Beth Lerch
 Maggie Larsen
 Vena Lahr

Minnie Mitchell
 Elbthes? Marshall(Elizabeth
 Frances Myers
 Ella Murray
 May Mangan
 Mary Miller
 Margaret Matthews
 Mary Marble
 Ethel Mitchell
 Anna E. Mansel
 Bertha McDonald
 Lillian McDuffie
 Jane Mc Gillway
 Margaret McKel?
 Char.. McMullen
 Sophia McGuane
 Augusta Ninestein
 Alema Neilsen
 Maud Neilsen

Pearl Olschewske
 Ida Opdyke
 Ethel Olschewske

Frieda Poorman
 Kit Pontius
 Alice Peck
 Mary B. Poffenberger



WATERLOO

Mira Page
 Pearl Paine
 Nancy Pearson
 Dorothy Paine
 Agnes Pontius
 Annabell Pearson
 Sarah Reigle
 Nettie Reed
 Elizabeth Reamer
 Ruth Rothwell
 Bertha Rossman
 Hattie Robinson
 C. Anna Reed
 Lena Rickerson
 (Richardson)
 Pearl Robinson
 Bessie E. Reed
 Erma Robenolt (2)
 Luthene Roberson
 Flora Robson
 Mynra Smith
 Laura Schaffer
 Blanch Stahl
 Johanna Strause
 Charlott Sheridan
 Catherine Seeley
 Nellie Stokoe
 Satie Saeger
 Ada Sheridan
 Allena Sweet
 Catherine Shiley
 Ellen Sheridan
 Prudence Stone
 Jane Strayer
 Ruth H. Sweet
 Emma Scott
 Carrie Sisson
 Mary Skutts
 Kathrine Schott
 Mary Strayer
 Clara M. Smith
 Lydia Spader
 Margaret Stuck
 Mary Smith
 Anna Thacker
 Rehedora? Tullett
 Ellither Thomas
 Florence Townley
 Lucinda Trickler
 Carrie Trexler
 Annaleta Updyke
 Anna Updike

Laura Poorman
 Nina Page
 Susie Parish
 Agnes Peterson
 Ellen Pierson
 Frances Pearson
 Martha A. Ritter
 Eliza Rooney
 Allena Ritter
 Satele K. Ritter
 Ethel Robenoit
 Mary J. Reigle
 Laura M. Riegel
 Mary Rogers
 Lena Rahn
 Erma Robenolt
 Anna Rhman?
 Cora Rogers
 Carrie Rickon
 Margaret Robinson
 Anna Sheridan
 Elizabeth Steerman
 Belle Stringham
 Elizabeth Seigfried
 Mildred Sweet
 Winifred Schaffer
 Fannie Schliey
 Mary Sorensen
 Ida Simmons
 Mabel Saeger
 Katherine Shankwiler
 Florence Smith
 Retta Stengle
 Mary E. Sweet
 Elizabeth Stengel
 Iva M. Smith
 Susan Stahl
 Loretia Smith
 ERin Smith
 Lura Swartz
 Esther K. Swanson
 Emma H. Smith
 Grace Stahl
 Harriet Spaid
 Mable Thorn
 Lura Troutman
 Mary Tuch
 Rana Townley
 Lizzie Thomas
 Sonora Troutman
 Abbie Updyke

Marion Poffenberger
 Clara Pontius
 Celia Pearson
 Nora Putman
 Ella Pontius
 Alice Pontius
 Alice N. Reed
 Henrietta Rickey
 Ona Rosa
 Margaret Reynolds
 Della Reigle
 Rose Rooney
 Della Rutt
 Rebecca Robinson
 Ruth Reynolds
 Carrie Reigle
 Margaret Rooney
 Theres Reader
 Phileta Ricketts
 Matie Reynolds
 Celia Spenton
 Olive Secor
 Laura Sayer
 Adeline Switzer
 Mary Sell
 Ida Shankwiler
 Mary Smith
 Hattie Stocum
 Stella Shirley
 Hattie Secor
 Grace Steerman
 Katherine Seybolt
 Maggie Smith
 Jane E. Sweet
 Emma Smith
 Amelia Shick
 Leila F. Sherman
 Martha E. Shirley
 Elizabeth Stringham
 Anna Stuck
 Christina Smith
 Florence Sheridan
 Loretta Seybolt
 Mabel Taylor
 Emma Troutman
 Florence Trexler
 Adalaide Tymeson
 Kit Turner
 Della Troutman
 Bessie Utzman

COVERT

The regular turnkey was not at the jail that day. He was temporarily replaced by John Walters, 69, a Civil War veteran. The men hid and when Walters walked by, Johnson hit him on the head with a heavy iron stove shaker. The three men then ran upstairs and there, were confronted by the sheriff and one of the deputies. They were forced back into their cells. Walters died the next day.

The trial began on April 5, 1887 and lasted two days. Found guilty, Johnson was sentenced to be hanged on May 24, 1887. The case was appealed but the verdict remained the same. Caldwell was found guilty of murder in the 2nd degree and sentenced to Auburn Prison for life. Marcus Fisk went on trial on Oct. 24, 1887. He was found guilty of manslaughter 2nd degree, and was sent to Elmira.

Charles Johnson was executed at the county jail, at a private session, between 10 and 11 a.m. Nov. 15, 1887. The hangman was Cyrus Ballou of Fonda. About 300 people came to look at the scaffold which had been placed in the prison yard. It had been used before and according to the editor of the paper, it had more than a dozen notches in the cross bar. Johnson was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Other news items in 1887 included, in Waterloo; in June, St. Mary's Cemetery was opened. The first monument placed there was in memory of Mrs. William Morrin. Mrs. Belva Lockwood, candidate for president on the Equal-Rights ticket delivered a lecture at the Academy of Music. She ran for president in 1884 and again in 1884.

There were 340 people working at

the Waterloo Woolen Mill.

At the annual Memorial Day Parade, 73 members of Tyler J. Snyder Post GAR participated. Disabled veterans rode in carriages.

A cigar factory in Waterloo made about 450,000 cigars during the year.

In Lodi, the Bennett Brothers operated a hotel at Lodi Landing. The house of Joseph Swarthout burned on October 30 with a total loss.

On September 29, the paper noted that Mahlon B. Coleman of Townsendville had a pumpkin vine of a pie variety which measured 1,042 feet, 10 inches. It had 24 mature pumpkins and a total of 103. The main stem was 326 feet long. The weight of the matured pumpkins was 225 pounds 12 ounces. The plant had 2,080 leaves, an aggregate growth of 3,122 feet. The pumpkins weighed from 7½ to 20 pounds each. This was a man who was proud of what he had accomplished or else he had a lot of time on his hands.

In Ovid, the steam yacht Wanderer owned by Capt. Fred Wyers, and the boathouse at Sheldrake burned.

Wilmer C. Wilson of Ovid was elected principal of Farmer Union School that year.

In Interlaken, the Rev. W.H. Bashold resigned as pastor of the Reformed Church. Over 2,500,000 pounds of freight was shipped from Farmer in November.

Seneca Falls was in the process of numbering the houses and naming streets, planning to apply for the free delivery system.

Two of the "first" families of Seneca Falls were joined on November 29 when Hannah H. Gould, daughter of Seabury S. Gould of Seneca Falls married Wilhelmus Mynderse, grandson of the original Wilhelmus, and a member of the law firm of Butler,

Stillman and Hubbard of New York City.

Seneca Falls had a major centennial celebration. Participants were from all the county and the surrounding area. On May 26, at a ball game between Seneca Falls and its arch rival Waterloo, Seneca Falls won by a score of 28 to 1.

During that same week, Chief Engineer Horace Rumsey set a large bonfire at 11:30 p.m. and called an unexpected alarm as a test for firemen. The mens' reaction was excellent. They were on the scene within two minutes, some of them in their night-shirts.

The Fortnightly Club for the study of history and literature with 12 women as charter members, and the Women's Reading Club were both organized in Seneca Falls that year.

In 1887, Seneca County had 36 lawyers, seven newspapers and eight brass bands.

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PIONEERS

SAMUEL ALMY was born in Massachusetts on March 8, 1778. While still young he came to this area with another man and decided he would settle here. There is a deed filed in 1803 when Samuel Almy of Pittstown, Rensselaer County purchased 50 acres of Lot 62 in Ovid from Deborah Graham, the widow of Major John Graham for \$200. Samuel Almy first appeared in Seneca County in the 1810 census and it is possible that he had moved to Rensselaer

County from Massachusetts.

In 1803 Nicholas Low of New York City sold Lot 41 in Ovid to Tobias Boudinot of Hanover, N.J. and in 1815, Boudinot sold 100 acres of the lot to Samuel Almy for \$3,000. Almy had also purchased part of Lot 42. He sold 50 acres of 42 to William Rappleye in 1815. The dividing line of these two lots is Main Street in Interlaken, and it was Almy who laid out the village of Farmer, now Interlaken.

He married Jane Rappleye, the youngest daughter of Jeremiah Rappleye, a pioneer of Covert. They were married shortly after he arrived in the area, on Nov. 1, 1801. The Rappleye's had come to the area in 1797 from New Jersey

Samuel Almy died on Aug. 14, 1825 at 47 years of age. His children were: Ira, Milton G. Calista B., who married Jacob Wintersteen, James G. Polly Ann, Sylvester, Clarinda, wife of Ezekiel Smith, who lived in Albion in 1825 and Sally, wife of George W. Randall.

Sylvester died at the age of 39. James was a grocer and farmer in Covert and in 1867, Milton was a professor, an entomologist.

Ira married Mary Mundy, daughter of William of Covert. He had an iron foundry in Covert with John L. Ryno in 1867. He was the trustee of the Farmer Baptist Church for several years.

He was one of the original trustees of the South Cemetery Association, organized in 1845. When the Union Cemetery Assn. was formed in 1860, he was elected a trustee, vice president and sexton. He remained



sexton for the remainder of his life. This was obvious an important aspect of his life. He has been dead for over 100 years, but through the local newspapers, a description of him, as sexton, remains.

"In appearance he was tall, thin and straight as an arrow. He had a full head of snow-white hair. At funerals in his capacity as sexton he would meet a funeral procession at the gates of the cemetery, hat in hand. He would lead the mourners to the cemetery plot, bowing and waving his arms.

Ira and Samuel and many other members of the family are buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Interlaken.

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JONATHAN BURROUGHS Was in Fayette, or Washington as it was then called in 1806. He was overseer of the road at that time. He was born in 1769 according to his cemetery record. He wife Mercy Edington was born in 1773. She was the daughter of Philip Edington who died in Fayette about 1816, and so they were probably married in Seneca County.

Burroughs purchased several parcels of land. First, in 1805 on Romulus 16. In 1807 he and Mercy turned over some of this property to Jonathan Burroughs, Sr. of Amwell, Hunterdon Co. N.J.

In 1806 he also bought a lot on the south side of the Seneca Outlet, next to Samuel Bear's gristmill with the privilege of the water. In 1809, he bought a piece of property, possibly the same parcel, from Thomas Neal of Gorham. It was village lot 17 in Jefferson or Scouyase. Possibly, the death of Samuel Bear in 1807 made it necessary to clear his title.

Jonathan Burroughs

Jonathan Burroughs ran a tavern for several years. It is not definitely known whether it was on Lot 16 or on the village lot, probably in the village. His first tavern license was issued on Aug. 8, 1820. On Feb. 9, 1821 he was indicted for running a disorderly house and had to pay a fine.

He was arrested twice in 1822 for assault, one against Lodowick Stofflet, and another time against Lewis Knox. Stofflet also accused him of perjury but he was acquitted on this indictment.

He died April 26, 1841, and his wife Mercy died Oct. 28, 1854. They are buried in Burgh Cemetery. He was survived by several children according to his will: sons, Allen or Aaron, Jonathan E., Ephraim of Fayette; Philip of Portage; daughters, Hannah, wife of Thomas Shankweiler, Fayette; Abigail, wife of Israel W. Squires, Julia Anna, wife of Mahlon Burtless; Seneca Falls; Eleanor wife of Isaac Van Cleef of Tyre and Mahala wife of William Larzalere of Lenawee Co., Mich.

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John Parkhurst

JOHN PARKHURST Is mentioned in the 1878 History of Seneca County but only as Mr. Parkhurst. In reading through the old history it is apparent that very little direct research was done. Only those records that were easy to copy were used and much of the information came from the "old-timer" who were still living in those days.

His name was John Barret Parkhurst and he first appeared in Junius in the 1800 census of Cayuga County. He was then already over 45 years of age. The name appears in the Connecticut listing of Revolutionary soldiers.

Among the old documents at the vault there is a tavern license issued for John Parkhurst on Dec. 19, 1804. According to a newspaper record he purchased the tavern of Lawrence Van Cleef, in 1794. This is possible but the first such record one would find in Seneca County would be in 1804.

There are several other documents regarding John Parkhurst. On March 1, 1803, he was clerk of the day at the first meeting of the Junius Town Board, and in 1806 he was constable; 1813, roadmaster, in Junius.

In 1810 he was indicted for assault against Daniel Hunt but was found not guilty. There were a number of suits where he owed someone money. As a tavernkeeper, these types of charges are understandable.

On Sept 1, 1812, a letter of administration was filed for Seneca S. Parkhurst with wife Rebekah and one child, 11 months of age. This was probably a son of John. Another old document, a narrative, filed April 6, 1813, showed that John Knox, executor of Seneca S. Parkhurst did not pay John what Seneca owed him.

It is not known whether he died in Seneca County. There is no cemetery record but there is also none for Seneca and it is not probable that either of these men would have been transported any distance at that period of time.

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JEHIEL P. PARSONS When researching family history, many contradictions emerge. Jehiel P. (Preston) Parsons is a good example. He lived in Waterloo and only appears in one census record yet a good deal of material is available regarding him and his life in Waterloo. But, because these events occurred so long ago, there are questions which cannot be answered.

The 1820 census indicated Jehiel Parsons was a manufacturer. Most certainly, whatever he made it was a simple item, for every horseshoe, every piece of furniture had to be handcrafted in those days.

In 1819 he was one of the workers on the first church building of the Waterloo Presbyterian Society. During the building of the church there was a very bad accident. The scaffold collapsed and men were killed and injured. One of those more seriously hurt was Isaac Roosa who was more or less in charge of the work. Parsons was the only worker who escaped without injury.

In June 1825, Waterloo, correction Ontario and Seneca Counties were enthused over the expected arrival of Gen. Marquis de la Fayette. On June 8, a few days before the scheduled arrival of LaFayette, someone or possibly more than one person, loaded the cannon in the park across from the Waterloo Hotel.

As Parsons walked by he noticed the loaded cannon. Probably without thinking about why it was loaded he took a match and lit the cannon. It exploded and he was killed, instantly.

No mention was made to LaFayette of this tragic accident during the time he was in Waterloo. Sometime later, as he continued his journey, someone informed him of what had happened. They pointed out that it had caused great hardship to his family. According to the historical

account, LaFayette sent his condolences and \$1,000 TO THE family.

He is buried in the Stark St. Cemetery. His stone reads, Capt. Jehiel P. Parsons; died June 8, 1825, age 37. Jehiel Parsons filed a will and according to his probate he was survived by only his mother. Too young to have been in the Revolutionary War, he could have been in the War of 1812 or a member of the local militia.

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THE VALIENT

HAROLD CURRY, 70 of Seneca Falls died 3/19/1987, buried St. Columkille. Born Seneca Falls 12/18/1916, son of Frederick and Alice King Curry. He was a World War II US Army Air Corps veteran, a postal employe and a professional musician.

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

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MRS. MABEL J. BRODERICK, 86, of Seneca Falls, died 3/22/1987, buried Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va. Born Jamestown, R.I. 5/14/1900, daughter of Aaron and Augusta Johnson

Richardson. She was a veteran of the US Navy in World War I, three years service, honorably discharged as chief yeoman.

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DONALD PIERSON, SR. 69 of Border City, died 4/19/87, buried Oak Lawn Cemetery, Phelps. Born Varick, 11/27/1917, son Elden and Frances Roth Pierson. He was a seaman 1st class with the US Navy during World War II.

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HAROLD N. KISE, 66, Syracuse, died 4/11/1987, buried Springbrook Cem. He was born in Clyde, 6/6/1920, son of Nelson H. and Mable Rose Kise. He was a 20-year veteran of the US Army and US Air Force. 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. Buried St. Columkille Cemetery. He was born in Seneca Falls, 3/16/1901, son of Antonio and Jennie Baldassari Giovanni. He was a veteran of World War I.

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DONALD P. PETERSON, 54 of Seneca Falls, died 4/30/1987. He was born in Seneca Falls, 10/10/1932, son of Howard and Cornelia Ward Peterson. He was a postal cler, a member and former commander of the Seneca Falls VFW.

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DENNIS J. MC GADEY, 81 of Ovid, died 1987 buried Holy Cross. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland, son of Denis and Annie Melvin Mc Gadey. He served with the US Army in the 298th General Hospital Corps during World War II

ALBERT C. MURPHY, 55 of Lodi died 6/1/1987, buried W. Lodi Cem. Born Covert, son of Gilbert and Mabel Rich Murphy, a veteran of the US Army, served in the Korean conflict.

DALE K. HERGERT, 38, of Flanders, N.J. former Seneca Falls, 6/24/19 1987, buried Maple Grove Cem. Born Seneca Falls, 5/29/1949, son of Karl W. and Esther Fabricius Hergert. Served with the US Marine Corps in Vietnam 3/1968 to 1/1970. He was a former Seneca Falls patrolman, Seneca County Deputy Sheriff and a former state trooper in New Jersey.

PRESTON H. KINDRED, 67, of Ovid died 7/23/1987, buried Holy Cross Cem. Born Dayton Ohio, son of Matthias and Ardie Holman Kindred. He was a World War II Navy veteran and served at Pearl Harbor during the invasion. He was a life member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, and a 30-year employe of the Department of Defense Supply Agency, retired in 1974.

CAPT. C. FREDERICK SIMONET, 73, of Waterloo, died buried Maple Grove Cem. Born 5/16/1914 in Antwerp, NY, son of Charles E. and Bessie Sheley Simonet. He was in navy service during World War II, part of amphibious landings in European and Far East Theaters; in command of LST 517 at Normandy. In 1950 he was recalled to active duty in the Korean conflict. His naval career continued from 1950 to 1970. He was commanding officer of three different ships, served at Treasurer Island, Calif; commander officer at Fort Schuyle, NY and before retirement, he served as deputy chief of staff for the Naval Reserve, First District.

DONALD M. BOAK, 77, former Waterloo died in the veteran's medical center at Syracuse, buried in Maple Grove Cem. He was born 7/17/1909 at Waterloo, son of Spencer and Maude Miller Boak. He was in the US Army at Pearl Harbor and later served in Europe.

CHARLES H. LOVEJOY, 72 of Willard, died 7/28/1987, buried at Holy Cross Cem. He was born in Geneva, son of Charles and Catherine Manley Lovejoy. Served in the European Theater during World War II from 1941 to 1945, with US Army. He was a member of the Romulus town board for many years.

RALPH E. KUNEY, 63 of Lyons died in the VA Medical Center, Syracuse, 8/1/1987, buried Glenwood Cemetery Born Waterloo, 1/23/1924, son of Gordon and Margaret Dunn Kunes, He was a veteran of World War II, discharged 1945, re-enlisted 1948 as combat veteran and was a small arms instructor.

DOUGLAS G. MC NABB, Auburn, 37, died 8/8/1987, buried Restvale Cemetery. Born Seneca Falls, 2/16/1950, son of James and Mary Steele McNabb, Veteran of US Navy during Vietnam conflict.

RICHARD G. DOTY, 63, of Seneca Falls died 8/10/1987, buried St. Columkille. Born Fayette, 2/17/1924, son of Achie and Susie Lerkins Doty. He was a life member and past commander of Seneca Falls VFW.

ADOLPHE WILDNER, Commander in the US Navy, born 8/24/1910, in San Antonio Texas, died 1/13/1983 in Norfolk, Va., buried 5/17/1983, Maple Grove, Waterloo. He was a graduate of Mynderse Academy, 1927, and U.S. Naval Academy, 1932. He retired 1952 served in European Theater, World War II and Pacific Theater, during Korean conflict.

VITAL STATISTICS 1847-48-49

GIDEON TOWNSEND, 3/18/1847,
Romulus, 44, married, farmer,
asthma

CATHERINE WETZEL, 6/25/1847,
Romulus, 53, spinster, general
debility

ELIZABETH WALDRON, 7/9/1847,
Romulus, 47, spinster, consump-
tion

HENRY MESSER, 1/20/1848, Covert,
22, single, enlargement of heart

SAMUEL COOPER, 12/24/1848, Cov
ert, farmer, married, consumption

DANIEL COLE, 10/12/1848, Covert
68, married, disease of heart

JACOB FRIEDLEY, 11/23/1847,
Fayette, 30, sawyer, married,
consumption

JOHN EMERICK, JR. 8/17/1847,
Fayette, 47, farmer, married,
injury, threshing machine

WILLIAM P. GOODMAN, 1/30/1847,
Fayette, 23, teacher, single, in-
flammation of brain

ELIZABETH R. BAKER, 8/3/1847,
Seneca Falls, 33, single, dropsey

FANNY PHELPS, Seneca Falls, 8/14/
1847, of Dryden, 59, married,
dysentry

MARY WYANT, 8/20/1847, Seneca
Falls, 9, married, typhus fever

SAMUEL COMPTON, 1/7/1848, Ovid,
70, farmer, appoplexy

MARIA SCOTT, 1/19/1848, Ovid, 79,
spinster, cancer

CATHERINE BARNUM, 2/18/1849, Ovid
47, married

MARY M. SAMPLE, 2/12/1847, Waterloo
64 or 66, married

JANE A. ACKERMAN, 2/20/1847, Wat-
erloo, 62

JACOB CARMAN, 2/25/1847, Waterloo.,
married, consumption

CORNELIUS VREELAND, 1/1/1849, Fay-
ette, 80, shoemaker, old age

DAVID KUNEY, 1/12/1849, 19, Fayette
single, inflammation of head

ALEXANDER TURNER, 1/30/1849, Fay-
ette, teacher, married, consumption

BENJAMIN F. RAPPLEYE 1/3/1847,
Covert, 24, student, congestive
fever

POLLY BECKWITH, 2/12/1847, Covert,
27, single, consumption

JAMES LOSEY, 3/1/1847, Covert, 50,
carpenter, married, consumption

JOHN C. KELLY, 1/1-2/1847, Lodi, 55
carpenter, married, palsey

WILLIAM BOSTWICK, 1/3/1847, Lodi,
53, farmer, disease of the heart

ROELIFF VOORHEIS, 2/3/1847, Lodi,
80, farmer, old age

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