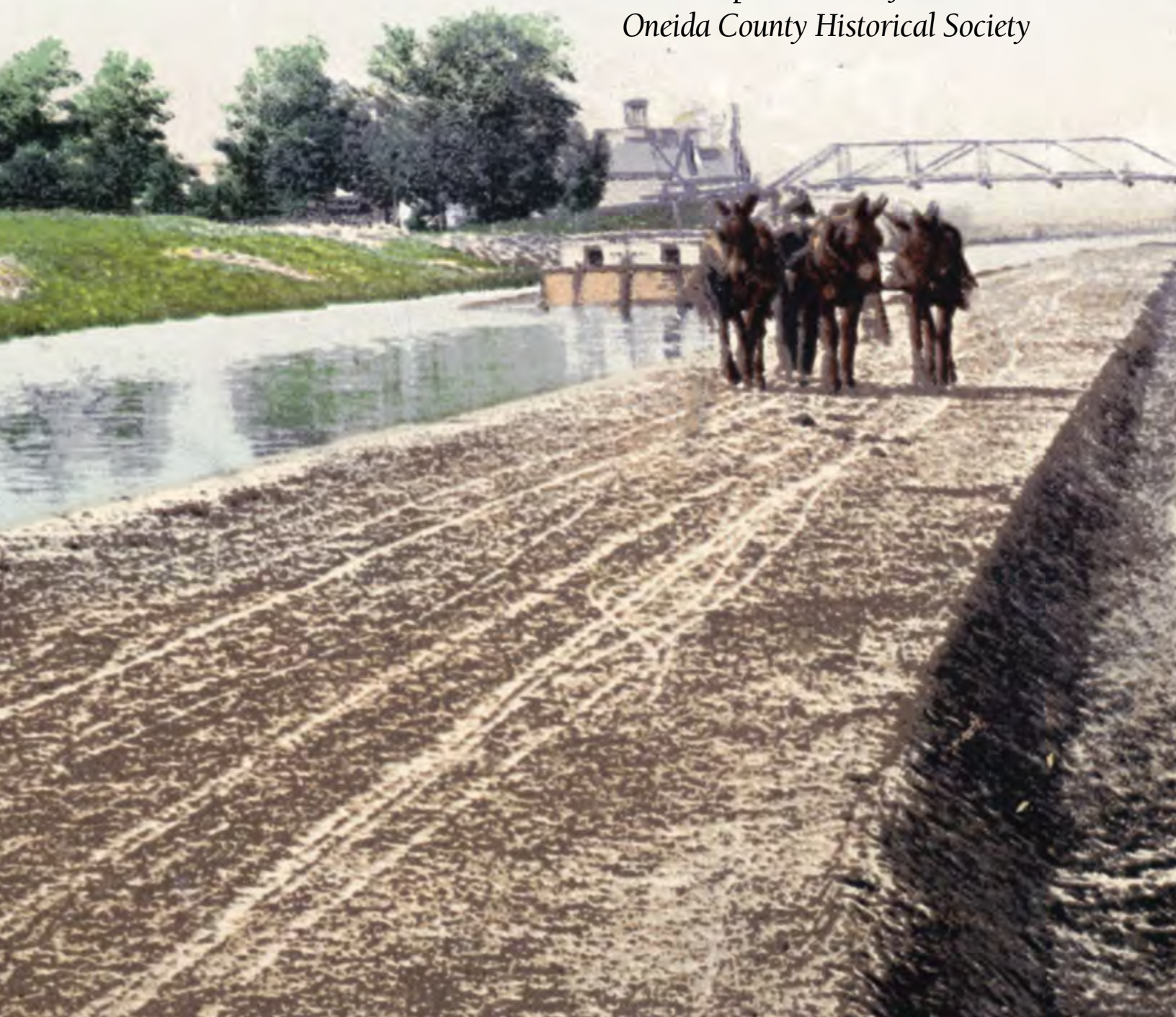


ONEIDA COUNTY

An Illustrated History

*A publication of the
Oneida County Historical Society*



ONEIDA COUNTY

An Illustrated History

Commissioned by the Oneida County Historical Society

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San Antonio, Texas



The original Latus Lumber and Feed Mill was one of the area's oldest buildings built in 1802, a gristmill on Sauquoit Creek between Clayville and Cassville. There were two wheels affixed to three grinding stones, which ground grist, buckwheat and wheat flour. The mill remained in the Latus family for three generations. During the 1930s, lumber sales were added to the feed business.



First Edition

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Oneida County: An Illustrated History

authors: Joseph P. Bottini
Joan Klossner
Lou Parrotta
Janice Reilly
Dennis Webster

contributing writer for "Sharing the Heritage": Joe Goodpasture

HPNbooks

president: Ron Lammert
project manager: Bob Sadoski
administration: Donna M. Mata
Melissa G. Quinn
book sales: Dee Steidle
production: Colin Hart
Evelyn Hart
Glenda Tarazon Krouse,
Tony Quinn
Tim Lippard

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Thomas R. Proctor High School was one of three in Utica from the 1930s through the late 1980s. With Utica's declining population both John E. Kennedy High and the Utica Free Academy ceased operations and consolidated their students at Proctor, which exists today as the sole high school in the city.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oneida County: An Illustrated History is the result of a collaborative effort by local historians, authors, and organizations dedicated to the preservation and promotion of our region's unique heritage.

The section contributors deserve the lion's share of the credit for bringing together a compelling narrative. All five—Joseph P. Bottini, Joan Klossner, Lou Parrotta, Janice Reilly, and Dennis Webster—are accomplished authors, each with several titles already to their credit. Special thanks are extended to Mary Bottini, as well, for her suggestions and assistance.

Virtually all of the selected photographs come from the Oneida County Historical Society archives. Accessing these photos was facilitated by Carl Saporito's multiyear effort to digitize the entire collection. Society volunteer Robert Steffenson deserves credit for completing the scanning process; organizing the digital files occupied the time of several summer interns from the Upstate Institute Field School at Colgate University. Other photographs came from the collections of Mary Centro and Janice Reilly.



*Student foot races were a part of
Utica's public schools "Field Days"
at the end of the school year in
June 1915.*





INTRODUCTION

The history of Oneida County, New York is a tale of challenge, triumph, heartbreak, innovation, and grit. Since long before 1798, when Oneida was partitioned from the then-much-larger Herkimer County (itself an offshoot of Montgomery, partitioned from the original Tryon County) the area's experience has mirrored our national story.

The first colonists of European descent arrived in the fertile Mohawk Valley seeking to establish farms and commercial enterprises, far removed from their ancestral homes on the eastern seaboard. This region owed its prosperity largely to its waterways—the Mohawk River, Wood Creek, and Oneida Lake, among many—that had been traversed for centuries by native Americans and early explorers. In the time before railroads, this area of upstate New York offered the most convenient access from the east coast to the North American interior.

The ensuing generations would see war—literally in their own backyards—twice during the 18th century. The French and Indian War (1754-63) established England's dominance over the region while the American Revolution (1775-81) resulted in the birth of the United States of America. The rebel victory over the English was due in no small part to the August 1777 Battle of Oriskany, which took place a mere ten miles northwest of where I am now writing. Both conflicts had implications for the native Americans in the region. The Iroquois Nation would be irrevocably changed, the peoples displaced and marginalized, and their culture largely lost as Europeans continued their incessant migration across the continent.

The coming of the Erie Canal revolutionized the way people, goods and ideas traveled. Completed in 1825, the canal enabled mass overland movement and united New York City with the Great Lakes. America's interior was opened. Settlements that existed along the Erie grew; Utica and Rome became major factory towns, drawing tens of thousands of immigrants during the pre-Civil War Years and on

into America's second industrial age of the late 1800s. Branch canals connected Utica with Binghamton (the Chenango) and Rome with Lyons Falls (the Black River), bringing prosperity to the towns and villages that many residents still call home.

The canal system was a springboard for the transportation routes we know and use today. Rail lines parallel the Barge Canal across upstate, as does the New York State Thruway (I-90). Utica's North-South Arterial (NYS Routes 5, 8 & 12) rides above the old Chenango Canal while State Route 12B follows the towpath south from New Hartford and through Clinton, Deansboro and Oriskany Falls. All of this, from the first shovel of dirt that was turned for the Erie Canal in Rome on July 4, 1817.

The wave of prosperity brought by the canals, the textile industry, hops and dairy farms, and military installations from the colonial fort system through Griffiss Air Force Base, would not last. With one notable exception (many thanks, F.X. Matt!), Prohibition pretty much ended the area's hops farming and brewing industries. The advent of air conditioning and cheaper labor drew the county's textile mills south after World War II. The end of the Cold War led to the closing of Griffiss in 1995—at that time the county's largest employer. The population drain of the late 20th century was not isolated to the immediate area, of course. The entire northeast

was hit by a similar malaise. Time and again, Oneida County's residents have faced economic hardship and been forced to reinvent the area.

History is circuitous—the themes that our authors have addressed on the subsequent pages resonate as strongly today as they did over two centuries ago. Transportation, communication and commerce are the underpinnings of economic vitality. Formal education is critical to an informed populace. Oneida County is filled with opportunities for recreation, assistance, and self-improvement. Our multicultural region is reinvigorated with every generation of immigrants, from the Irish canal workers of 1817 to the Somali, Burmese and Bosnian refugees who now call this area their home.

I rest knowing that the spirit of reinvention is alive and well in Oneida County. It is easy to lament what has been lost, but that is a fruitless endeavor and dishonors the achievements of those who made the Mohawk Valley worth writing about in the first place. It is through the study of our shared heritage that we can glean the lessons of our forebears to build a better future.

I hope you enjoy the book.

Brian J. Howard
Editor and Executive Director,
Oneida County Historical Society
Utica, New York
September 2014



Bridgewater Central School's building still exists along Route 8 South, just north of the intersection with State Route 20. Several businesses have existed in the facility since its last use as a school in the late 1960s.





CHAPTER 1

ONEIDA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATION

BY JOSEPH P. BOTTINI

INTRODUCTION: “THE GREAT PASS”

Oneida County, portioned off from Herkimer County in 1798, became the center of trade, transportation and communication owing to its geographical location and its topographical features.

The Appalachian Mountain Range running from Maine to Georgia was a hindrance to transportation inland. With this impediment to expansion settlers were confined to the coastal region. One natural break in the mountain range with a semi-level, navigable river provided the only feasible access. Thus, the Mohawk Valley with the Mohawk River opened development. Oneida County, sitting in the middle of this valley, prospered and grew in importance through transportation (western lands) and communication (news carried by settlers and early newspapers).

The American Indians, mid 1400s, were the first to use this “Great Pass” through the Appalachian Mountains. The “ford” of the Mohawk River was provided at this location by its meandering path slowing the current, fed by two creeks—Reals Creek to the north and Ballou Creek to the south) that



Pioneers, under the watchful gaze of earlier inhabitants, cross the Mohawk River at the “ford” of the North-South/East-West trails.



Right: A map displaying the central location of Oneida County.

Below: X-Y is the path of the Mohawk Valley to the interior of the continent through the only level navigable water route in the mountain range from Maine to Georgia.



ONEIDA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION

deposited silt lowering the riverbed and reducing the height of the banks. At this location, with the juxtaposition of divine, geographic gifts providing the “ford,” the community of Old Fort Schuyler (Utica) began in Oneida County.

Following the arrival of the Dutch and then the English (1500s-1600s), the fur trade became a viable industry. This “furs-for-trinkets-and-guns” trade between the pioneers and the Iroquois developed into a thriving business in early Oneida County. This trade opportunity was added to pioneer travel, military transportation, communication, and land development.

The importance of this opening in the mountains was first understood by General George Washington on his nineteen-day tour (post Revolutionary War) through the Mohawk Valley to see where the war played-out its part. He was impressed with its possibility as an approach to the uncharted and uninhabited interior of the continent. He envisioned the improvement of internal communication of the nation through the Mohawk Valley.

Overwhelmed with his findings, Washington said:

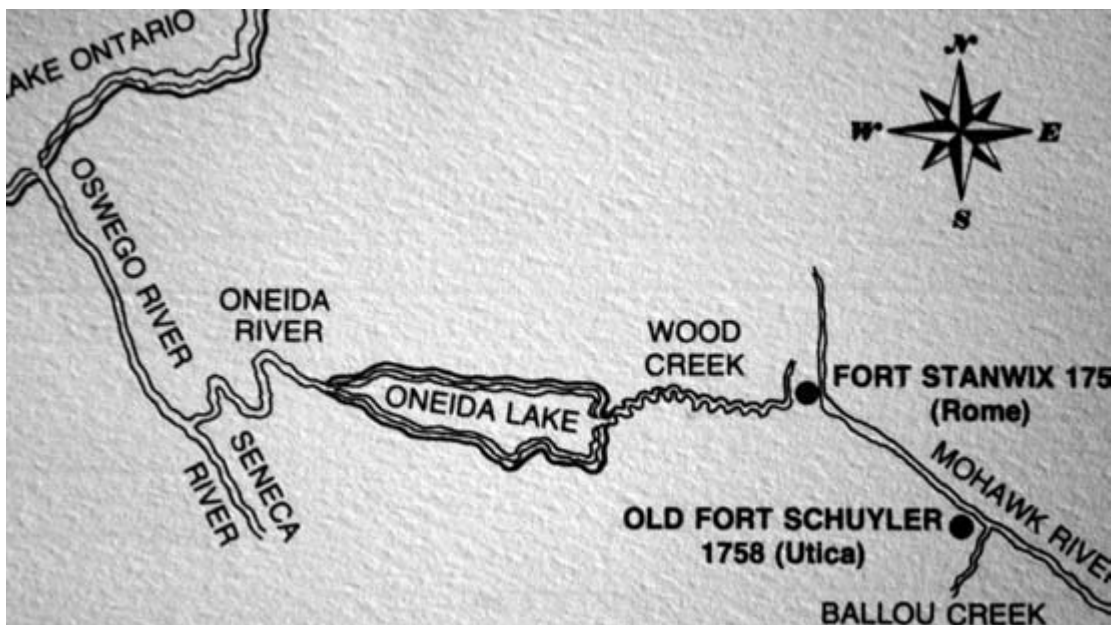
Prompted by these actual observations I could not help taking a more...extensive view of the vast inland navigation of these United States ...Would to God we may have wisdom enough to improve them....

Transportation began with the river system. Traders and settlers came north up the Hudson River and west (at Albany) onto the Mohawk River. They then traveled westerly on the Mohawk River to Fort Stanwix (Rome). Here the Mohawk River curves northward to its source in the hills north of Rome. This created a “Carrying Place” (De-O-Wain-Sta in Iroquois) where travelers had to unload their boats and carry them west for approximately one mile to westerly flowing Wood Creek. They then reloaded their boats to continue the journey to Oneida Lake. From Oneida Lake they traveled on the Oneida River to the Oswego River to Lake Erie and beyond.

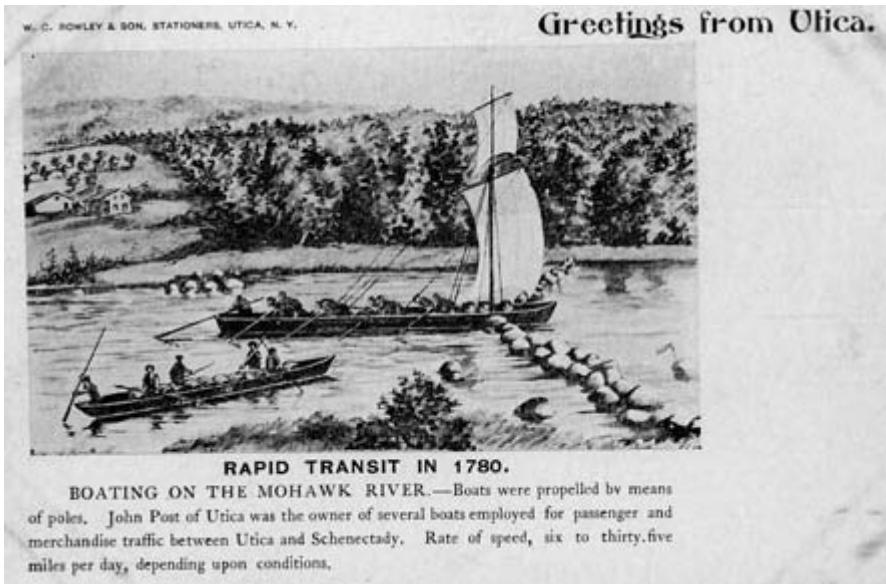
The “Carrying Business” of moving goods and passengers from the Mohawk River to Wood Creek became the occupation of those living near Fort Stanwix (Rome). Owing to its features of waterways and “The Great Carry,” commerce preceded farming and settlement in Oneida County along the Mohawk Valley.

The few farm settlements and people in the “carrying trade” abandoned the area at the approach of the Revolutionary War. This transportation route became solely a military transport of troops and supplies to western outposts.

Following the Revolution, a trickle of immigrants from New England became a stream of pioneers into Oneida County. This influx of



The Mohawk Valley water route to the interior of the continent began with the Mohawk River. It traveled west to Rome, to the “Carry” (Deowainsta in Iroquois) approximately one mile to Wood Creek, onto Oneida Lake, to Oneida River, to the Oswego River, onto Lake Ontario of the Great Lakes.



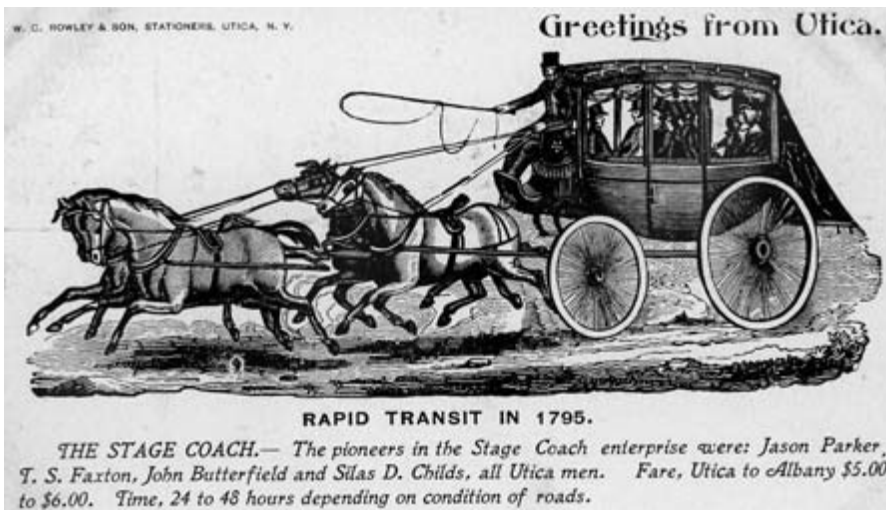
❖ Above: Early river transportation necessitated “polling” the bateaux up-river requiring physical strength and mental perseverance.

Below: The early stagecoach (rapid transit of 1795) connected communities with a crude mode of passenger and mail routes requiring skilled drivers and hardy passengers.

settlers to central Mohawk Valley brought a huge increase of traffic on the waterway. An initial step to close the “carry” from Mohawk River to Wood Creek (1797) was a two-mile canal of The Western Inland Navigation Company.” During the 1790s the company constructed many short canals throughout Oneida County so small boats could bypass rougher waters.

Boats were a slow, inconvenient way of travel. With the size restrictions of boats (Bateaux) the freight capacity was limited. The laborious method of “pike polling” the boats up-river became a job for physically strong and mentally tough men.

At the same time (1798-1800), a company was engaged to construct a few crude roads—carved out of the wilderness—that ushered in the turnpike era. Early roads included the opening to the Genesee Country in 1790, a mail route between Albany and Whitestown in 1792



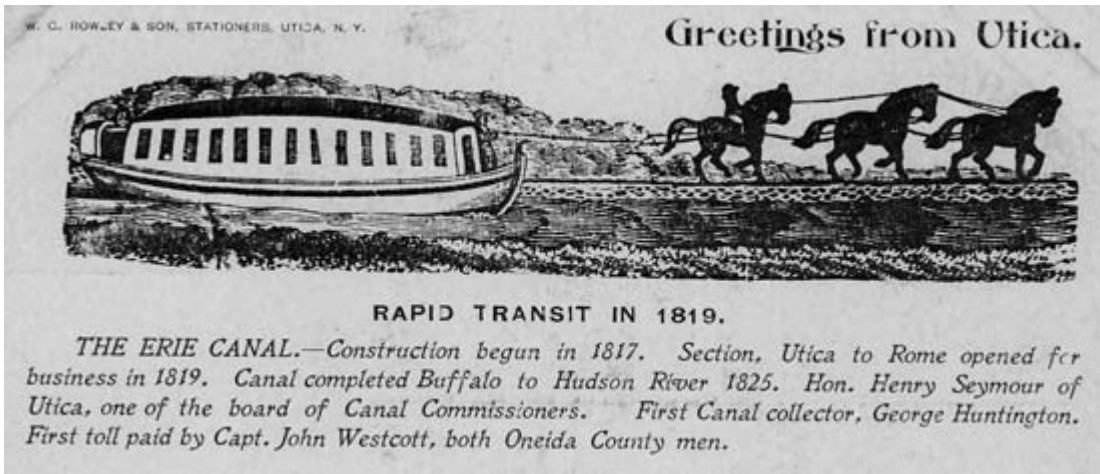
and a stage route between Albany and Whitestown the next year.

One of the first to be built was the Seneca Turnpike (Route 5) that extended from the ford (at Utica) to the frontier of western New York. Another turnpike was begun, the Great Western Turnpike (Route 20), across the southern portion of Oneida County. Although seasonal roads at best, they did provide a beginning for the vast network of roads that crisscross the County today. The state legislature provided for the incorporation of private companies to construct and improve plank roads in 1847 to help farmers get produce to market. Close to a dozen plank-road companies formed in Oneida County.

The Seneca Turnpike was the better road because it was more level, and prudent for heavy loads, than the Great Western Turnpike with its frequent undulating hills. Because of water level inconsistency and inaccessibility during the winter months, turnpikes became more popular than water travel. Between 1847 and 1854, about twenty plank roads were built in Oneida County. Due to the cost of replacement and competition from railroads, most plank roads were abandoned by the late 1870s. Bicyclists and then automobile owners first agitated for better roads. By 1952 over thirteen hundred miles of improved roads comprised the road system in Oneida County.

During the War of 1812, Oneida County held the major transportation routes. Both the Seneca and Great Western Turnpikes were used to transport supplies to military outposts in the western part of the state while the Mohawk River-Wood Creek waterway was used to send supplies to Sackets Harbor.

The Erie Canal was born out of a need for better water transportation. Neither natural waterways nor land transportation proved adequate. It was inexpensive by water, but rivers were not dependable. Land transportation was more dependable, but very costly. Both land and water deficiencies provided reasons to support George Washington’s vision for a man-made waterway through the Mohawk Valley. The stage was set for the long-debated canal transportation system. Thomas Jefferson doubting the wisdom of such a huge canal project said, “Making a canal 350 miles through the wilderness is a little short of madness.”



❖
 Left: The early success of small canals connecting natural bodies of water fostered the notion of a cross-state canal. Not accepted by all folks, this 363-mile “ditch” containing over 30 locks became the catalyst for early trade and pioneer travel. This far outperformed the coach or natural waterways and brought a boom to any community on its path.

The first leg of a 363-mile “ditch” from Albany to Lake Erie was begun in Rome in 1817 and reached completion at Utica in 1819. Flat-bottomed boats (Durham) carrying heavier cargoes (75 tons) in shallow water passing directly through the valley enhanced the growth of Oneida County, home of the first completed section. By the total completion of the Erie Canal across the State in 1825, Oneida County had a five-year head start over the other counties.

From 1825 to 1845, New York State witnessed a canal building boom. No less than ten sections of canals and three complete canals were constructed in Oneida County. Although useful for a short time in the growth of Oneida

Below: This map from 1913 displays the result of efforts made by an Oneida County Automobile Association to encourage funding of road development and improvements. In fifteen years, Oneida County went from impassable dirt paths to a “groomed” road matrix.

Until the completion of the Erie Canal at \$19,679 per mile, transportation was slow and laborious. The Erie Canal created an opportunity for more complete travel from the east coast to the interior of the continent. This man-made “river” allowed increased load from 2 to 6 tons, reduced the cost of freight from \$95-\$125/ton to \$4-\$6/ton, and shortened the journey from 4-6 weeks to 6 days, for cross-state travel.

It was enlarged just five years after its completion. At a cost of \$96.7 million dollars, it was enlarged again and the route altered to its present location in 1918, accompanied with a name change to Barge Canal System (recently renamed back to Erie Canal).

Today, the Erie Canal is the cross-state, east-west route of the New York State Canal System. In 2000 the United States Congress designated the Erie Canalway a “National Heritage Corridor.” This distinction recognized the national significance of the canal as the most successful human-built waterway work of civil engineering construction in North America. At that time The Erie Canal was referred to as the “Eighth Wonder of the World.”





❖
Above: At 4 feet deep and 40 feet wide this placid body of water became the “rapid transit” of its day, decreasing travel time considerably.

Top, right: The son of Whitestown founder Hugh White, became Chief Engineer Wright’s primary assistant.

Below: Beginning his career as a coach driver, Butterfield became a transportation entrepreneur with passenger and freight companies. In 1859, he took the government’s challenge to establish a transportation system for freight and passengers from the Mississippi River to the west coast. At \$600,000, it was the largest contract let by the federal government.



County’s textile industry, neither the 97- mile Chenango Canal (abandoned in 1870s), or the 78-mile Black River Canal (until 1924 connecting Boonville with Rome) resulted in a great impact.

It is prudent to note that early canal “engineers” began their work with little or no prior training. Civil engineering was yet unheard of and when named Chief Engineer of the Erie Canal project, Benjamin Wright of Rome had minimal experience. Wright went on to achieve national prominence and noted as the Father of American Civil Engineering. Canvass White, son of Whitestown founder Hugh White, ably assisted Benjamin Wright.

Working as a laborer, rising to an engineer’s position, John B. Jervis of Rome became known for promoting much advancement in transportation. He earned the reputation as the leading American engineer of pre-Civil War era.

Two other Oneida County men played major roles in the development of transportation and earned national reputations. John Butterfield created the American Express Company (1850) and the Overland Mail Company (1858)—the first transcontinental stagecoach.

Squire Whipple, forever linked with bridge building and the iron truss, became known as the Father of American Bridge Building.

During this canal period, another transportation system—the railroad—was emerging. The first railroad to add to the commotion was the Utica-Schenectady Railroad in 1836. Three years later, a second railroad



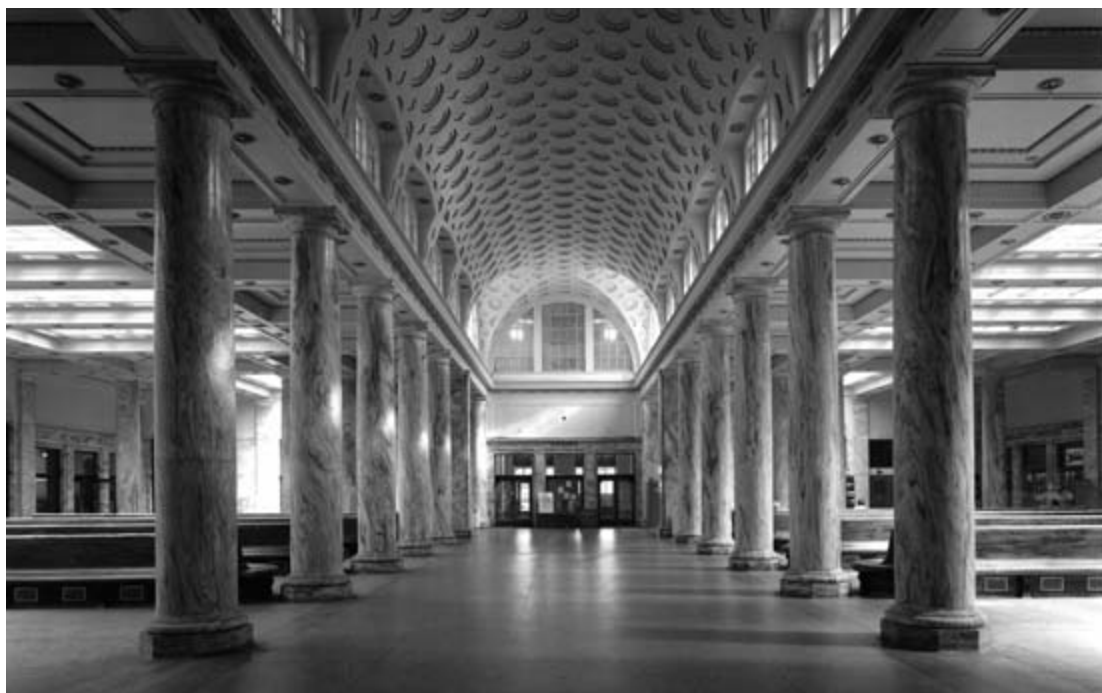
entered Oneida County, the Syracuse and Utica (through Rome). Utica and Rome, Oneida County’s two largest urban centers, competed for railroad supremacy between 1836-1840.

By 1850, seven railroads originated in—or ran through—Oneida County including the Utica-Black River Railroad. With other smaller lines they were consolidated into the New York Central in 1853. In 1869 the New York Central absorbed the Hudson Central Railroad. In 1891, the New York Central further consolidated other smaller railroads—such as the Clayton and Ogdensburg lines. An agreement between the New York Central, the Delaware-Lackawana-Western, and the New York, Ontario-Western railroads for use of the facilities in Utica gave the complex a name—“Union” Station; a jewel in the crown of many historically significant Oneida County places with a direct connection to the development of America.

Union Station, an influential force linking a glorious past with present-day transportation in Oneida County, remains following a successful effort by the Landmarks Society to save it from the wrecking ball in 1978. The Adirondack Scenic Railroad continues to transport tourists to the North Country as it did in transporting many wealthy folks to their Adirondack “Great Camps” during the 19th century. With better

highways and improved motor vehicles, the railroad business was infringed upon during post World War II. Many bankrupt railroads combined including: Pennsylvania with New York Central (Penn-Central) as well as the Erie with the Delaware, Lackawana and Western (Erie-Lackawana). The Penn Central and Erie-Lackawana then combined with other bankrupt railroads becoming Conrail in 1976.

In the 1860s (horse car) trolley lines were evident in Oneida County. Many inter-urban and intra-urban trolley lines were constructed between 1826 and 1886.



Top: One of many small community train depots that dotted the landscape in the later 1800s. It became (and still is) a “Community Building” used for meeting purposes.

Middle: Now named The Boehlert Center, Union Station was built in 1914 as the intended headquarters of the New York Central Railroad. Never achieving this goal, it was named Union Station when it became the depot for many smaller lines and consolidated railroad companies. Following a restoration project to save it from the wrecking ball in 1978, it remains a jewel in the crown of the Bagg’s Square Corridor in Utica. Today, it serves residents as a train and bus center as well as housing Oneida County offices on the second floor and the Oneida County Motor Vehicle Bureau in the southwest section of the magnificent lobby.

Bottom: A view of the stately marble columns in the main lobby of Oneida County’s largest railroad depot. The county’s central location was once considered a prime site for the headquarters of the New York Central Railroad Company.



Oneida County became one of only five locations (Boston, New York, Philadelphia and New Orleans) with an electric trolley system in

the 1890s. The electric trolley changed people's lifestyle. Living close to employment in crowded neighborhoods was no longer necessary. Pleasure time activities were made available with the building of amusement parks at the end of trolley lines.

In 1910, Car 502 took 21 local entrepreneurs and others on a 2,000-mile promotional/fact-finding journey through 6 states. Both urban and inter-urban transportation served the public until 1933 when the inter-urban trolley gave way to buses. With aid of the federal Civil Works Administration (1933) trolley track removal began. A 21-gun salute was given the last trolley run on the Whitesboro line in 1938. By May 12, 1941, the last trolley left the transportation scene. Immediately, the new autobus and personal automobiles displaced the trolley system. For a number of years the horse and buggies, trolleys, bicycles and new-fangled automobiles grudgingly shared space on the roadways.

Bicycling, a new craze took center stage in Oneida County in the late 1800s. Although used as a means of transportation—doctors making house calls, mayors and judges pedaling to government halls and society ladies making social visits in 1893—it was more a hobby.

Good highways became a concern as early as 1902, when the Utica Automobile Club and many bicycle clubs petitioned for better roads. The Automobile Club of Utica, and eight other automobile clubs, met in Chicago to initiate the Automobile Association of America. New York State regulated “automobiling” in 1907 with the first motor vehicle law instituting speed limits of 20 miles an hour in the country, 15 miles in communities and 10 miles in heavily populated areas.

Early 1900 automobile companies in Oneida County included: W. H. Birdsall and A. Vedder Brower Company (Buckmobile); Remington Automobile and Motor Company, (Remington); Utica Carriage Company (formerly Willoughby of Rome), manufactured frame bodies for Packard, Cadillac, Rolls Royce, and Lincoln; and Charles Mott's Wheel Works producing automobile tires and axles.

In the 1950s, with the need for good highway transportation between states, in anticipation of any Cold War eruptions, an interconnected highway system was



Opposite, top: Horse drawn trolley in Deerfield prior to 1893. Deerfield was an independent community in eastern Oneida County at this time, prior to becoming part of Utica city.

Opposite, middle:

Taken late in the life of Utica's system, this trolley sits in front of the "Trolley Barn". The barn was first used for the horse powered, and then electrical trolleys followed by the motorized buses was located on Main Street across from Union Railroad Station (Utica).

Opposite, bottom: This photo is of a time, (1893-1910) before the automobile became a competitor with the electric trolley and personal horse-drawn buggy for road space.

constructed giving New York Interstate 90. This highway (Thruway) directly through the center of Oneida County provided for potential military needs, but also served as a boom to the progress of civilian business and industry. Oneida County became the terminus of the first section of the Thruway opened to traffic (1954) when West Henrietta to Lowell (115 miles) was dedicated.

The North-South Arterial opened at cost of 4.5 million in 1958. A section is presently undergoing a renovation. In 1961, the new Route 49 was opened and in 1971 a revised Route 5S was constructed, as well an improved Route 12 north and Routes 8 and 12 south in central Oneida County. A more recent highway improvement, an extended Route 840 West and an improved Route I-790 increases highway transportation safety, speed and convenience for travelers. Urban road improvements also added to the changing of a community's landscape.

On the list of future improvements in transportation are Solar Roadways using solar panels that harness the sun to keep roads and runways clear of ice and snow.

Airline service in the county was begun in 1929 in Marcy (Utica Municipal Airport built for \$250,000). A notable landing was that of Amelia Earhart who came to Oneida County in

1929 to visit her sister, a teacher at the Utica Country Day School in New Hartford. In 1933, at the Utica Municipal Airport, unemployed relief workers cleared land and extended runways to accommodate mail service planes. By 1945, this facility, with sod-field runways, was inadequate to accommodate newer planes. In the early days of Oneida County aviation, any expanse of open field became potential for "airport" use, as with the land now occupied by Mohawk Valley Community College.

Looking to encourage industrial progress in Central New York, Oneida County sponsored constructing a larger facility near Oriskany, (county's share was \$750,000) and passenger service began there in 1950—with planes of the Robinson Airlines becoming Mohawk Airlines in 1958 that operated 28 flights daily out of Oneida County Airport.

This facility has since ceased operation and many components have been relocated to the former Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, now the Griffiss Business & Technology Park, with hangar facilities for refurbishing airplanes. Recently, (2014) Griffiss International Airport at the Park received approval for a \$500,000 Customs and Multi-Purpose building. The future of regular passenger service in Oneida County remains a vision.

Above: Utica's inner-city trolley system strated with horse-drawn wagons in the 1860s. By 1941 the system—now using electricity for power—was obsolete.



Top: Sharing the roadways in the early part of the 20th century were electric trolley public transportation, the last of the horse and buggies, and the newest contender for space, the personal automobiles, with “pedestrians beware” implied.



Middle: Most early roads were dusty in summer, muddy in spring and dangerous in the winter. Most of these dirt roads were not graded for water run-off or to minimize hills and curves. As recent as the 1940s, rural roads were anything but comfortable or inviting. This view of a road going south through Bridgewater is indicative of the conditions early motorists faced.



Bottom: The entrance to the newly completed New York State Thruway, c. the 1950s. The Thruway continued Oneida County’s prominent place in transportation begun with the “Great Pass” (1790s) followed by the Erie Canal (1825), early roads (1910) and major interstate highway systems initiated by President Eisenhower (1950s).





Left: This photo shows the entrance ramp of the overhead bridge through Utica, Oneida County's seat. Looking west from Main Street, the stone wall on the right is the outline of the famous Bagg's Hotel, giving the square its name, established before Oneida County was formed.



Below: Once the approximate route of the Erie Canal, this photo shows the path of the proposed new Route 55 through Utica in the 1964. The building in the lower right hand corner was the (1848) Devereux Building, now a mini-park. A proposal for constructing a promenade-boulevard along this route is planned for construction before 2018.

COMMUNICATION IN ONEIDA COUNTY

First means of communication in our county was via transportation; a “moving newspaper.” News, brought along on the water routes, kept people informed of what was happening in other parts of the state and nation.

The fast news dissemination of today, with high-tech means of instantly conveying it, is

mind-boggling compared to news reaching folks days after an event unfolded.

There are occasions when the Citizens' Band (CB) radio and Morse code are the only means of communication during natural catastrophes. It is obvious an eclectic capability is necessary today as it was in a less technologically advanced time.

To learn what folks were doing in other parts of the state and nation, if not the world, became a cherished experience. There was a time when



❖ Above: Motorized vehicles increased the efficiency of transporting mail and packages, as well as newspapers and magazines.

Right: This is the third and last location of the Utica Daily Press on the south side of Main Street near Bagg's Square. This newspaper ceased publication in the 1960s by merging with the Observer-Dispatch.

folks in remote, rural sections of our county welcomed news from an urban center. Prior to the weekly and daily newspapers, radio, television, computers and Internet service, news was a precious commodity. The thirst for knowing about one's wider world by Oneida County's early settlers was insatiable.

In 1794 the mail stagecoach of this area, with Jason Parker driver, brought six pieces of mail to Old Fort Schuyler creating "great excitement" among the village inhabitants. Gossip at the village well was a common place to get news in those early days. The isolated farm family depended on word of mouth from frequent peddlers.

One might suggest the itinerant peddler and shared preacher were the first news carriers (newspapers) for rural America. A notable example of this is Reverend Beriah Green president of the Oneida Institute (Whitestown Seminary) who believed that all writing ought to "have a moral purpose and be useful." His writings and sermons were later published as he pontificated on important topics, such as abolition of slavery and women's suffrage.

An orator of the 1820s-1830s, Reverend Finney, shared news about a different way of life and ignited a period of spiritual fervor giving central Oneida County the name, "The Burned-Over District." His orations led folks to being on fire for not only spiritual endeavors, but also the causes of social justice.

Thus, Oneida County, led by Gerrit Smith and others, became a national leader in the abolitionist movement. Civic/social organizations sponsored many national speakers such as Susan B. Anthony, hosted by The New Century Club in Utica in the early 1900s.

Improved roads and better vehicles influenced the ease of conveying news. Newspapers and magazines flourished when transportation, with speedier distribution, spurred journalism endeavors.

Newspapers began early in Oneida County. The first known newspaper printed in this frontier land west of Albany was the *Whitestown Gazette* in 1793. It was printed in New Hartford, then part of the Town of Whitestown. Upon its demise, the *Western Centinel* was published at Whitestown in 1794. Following were many publications of the weekly, daily, Sunday or single-issue variety, all before the creation of Oneida County from Herkimer County in 1798.

As the influx of immigrants increased, creating large groups of different cultures, ethnic



newspapers were published to deliver the news to folks in their native language. Examples include *Y Drych* and *The Cambrian* (Welsh), *The Messenger* (Jewish), *Il Pensiero Italiano* and *Il Messaggero Del Ordine* (Italian), *Slowo Polski* (Polish), *Oneida Demokrat* and *Utica Deutsche Zeitung* (German).

Early newspapers found few subscribers or advertisers. Owing to the difficulty of making a living as a combination editor, typesetter, mailer and collector of accounts, many editors/publishers left their publications when a better means of employment presented itself. Thus, the history of newspapers in Oneida County is vast and the number of newspapers high. Counting all the newspapers published in Oneida County, including dailies, weeklies, Sunday editions and single-issue publications, the number surpasses 150 during Oneida County's 216 years of existence.

Newspaper publications dealing with single items such as slavery or one particular religion, ethnic group or region were plentiful, including the *American Baptist Register* printed in 1824; the *Utica Weekly Times*, official newspaper of the Utica Trades Assembly in 1928; and the *Sauquoit Valley News* printed in 1974-1975. The *Friend of Man*, an anti-slavery publication, was published in Whitestown in the 1836-1842 period. *The Gospel*



Messenger and Church Record of Western New York (1839-1871) is an example of a single-issue newspaper. On February 23, 1923, the *Utica Weekly Times*, official newspaper of the Utica Trades Assembly, featured a front-page headline of "The Painters and Paperhangers Hold Annual Banquet." It relates how the union's first request was for a 9-hour Saturday instead of 10-hour day.

Others publishers included Samuel D. Dakin (*Columbian Gazette*, purchased from Walker, 1825), J. M. Todd and W. Schram (*Mechanic's*



Above: This building housed the *Observer-Dispatch* and *Daily Press* on Oriskany Street. The buildings on either side of the newspaper building are both gone, providing parking for employees and visitors. The median has been removed in order to create space for more lanes of traffic on Oriskany Street.



Left: This impressive building was constructed in 1885 on the north side of Whitesboro Street just west of Bagg's Square in Utica. With additions, it became a noted local landmark that housed two international companies—the *Saturday Globe*, an international newspaper that revolutionized the newspaper industry, and later, the *Horrocks-Ibbotson Company*, the leading producer of fishing tackle in the world.



Above: The Baker brothers, Thomas (top) and William (bottom) were co-founders of the *Saturday Globe*, a national newspaper in the 1885-1924 period. With five innovations, the *Saturday Globe* became the premier national newspaper.

Right: Theodore Faxton was a leading citizen of Oneida County being the founder and/or stakeholder in numerous companies including: transportation (trolleys) and communication (telegraph, founder of the first telegraph company in the world). His suggestion initiated the beginning of the telegraph being used to form the Associated Press.

Press, 1829), Rufus Northway (*Oneida Whig*, 1834). *Community News*, published by the Jewish Federation of Utica, had a two-page spread about activity at the Jewish Community Center in its issue published March 1, 1984. An Oneida County publication with national importance in mental healthcare was the *American Journal of Insanity* (1843) by Dr. Amariah Brigham, which is presently published as the *American Psychiatric Journal*.

Among pioneer printers who at one time published a paper in Oneida County were: Samuel Wells (*Whitestown Gazette*, 1793), William McLean (*Whitestown Gazette & Cato's Patrol*, 1794), Thomas Walker (*Columbian Gazette*, 1803), John H. Lothrop (*Utica Patriot*, 1815), Eliasaph Dorchester (*Utica Observer*, 1816).

In 1987, the *Mohawk Valley Times* bi-monthly newspaper stated, "...We, at the *Mohawk Valley Times* want to reaffirm the principles of a free press within our democracy, a press not afraid to be a muckraker." The *Utica Daily Press* merged with the *Observer-Dispatch* in 1969.

The *Observer-Dispatch*, *Daily Sentinel*, and the *Oneida Daily Dispatch* are daily newspapers presently published.

Weekly periodicals such as the *Waterville Times*, *Rome Observer*, and the *Clinton Courier*, as well as monthly publications, including the *Town Crier* of New Hartford, the *Utica Phoenix*, and *Pennysaver*, continue to survive because of many citizen's interest in local "folk news" of their neighbors and organizations. Each of the county's historical societies publish a periodic newsletter, including the Oneida County Historical Society (*Oniota*), New Hartford Historical Society (*The Tally-Ho*), the town of Paris Historical Society (*The Newsletter*), The Landmarks Society (*Preservationist*), in addition to local college newspapers.

One would be remiss if the revolution of the newspaper industry by the *Saturday Globe* was not addressed. The *Utica Saturday Globe*, later the *Saturday Globe* (1885-1924), initiated more innovations in the newspaper industry than any other publication before or since. It was the first truly national newspaper and is considered the forerunner of *USA Today*. The newspaper was the first to use photographs, color, comics, newsboy point-of-sale, on-site reporters, and a code of ethics beyond being controlled by a political faction.

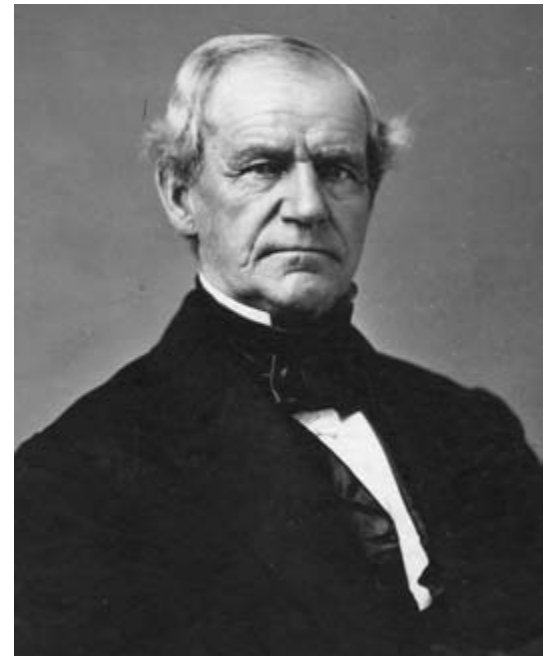
At its height, a nationwide and worldwide readership included the Royal Court of England, and others around the world. It met its demise because other publications imitated its success. This makes Oneida County the birthplace of a revolution in the early newspaper industry

The telegraph, a boom to the early newspaper industry was the genius of Samuel F. B. Morse and Samuel W. Chubbuck. Two friends of Morse, Theodore Faxton and John Butterfield, encouraged both men to locate their new fangled inventions in Oneida County. Morse was married to a Utica woman and having relatives in the area was a frequent visitor in this region. The first commercial telegraph company in the world, with a line running from New York to Buffalo was completed in 1846 and had its main office in Oneida County.

Shortly thereafter, at the suggestion of Mr. Faxton, a meeting of newspaper editors was held in Utica where the Associated Press (AP) was organized. Thus, Oneida County became the birthplace of both the telegraph and the AP wire service.

The early "crank" telephone first appeared in Oneida County in 1877. This early means of communication provided for local messages. In 1911, the Bell Telephone System absorbed the smaller Home Telephone Company facilitating long distance telephone capability.

Begun in the early 1900s, Amateur ("Ham") Radio, a significant means of communication in





time of crisis, provides three such organizations serving Oneida County, Central New York Amateur Radio Club, Utica Amateur Radio Club and Madison/Oneida Amateur Radio Club. “Ham” radio operators, serve Oneida County as “local ambassadors communicating with folks throughout the state, nation and world,” says Philip Arcuri a local “Ham” devotee.

Radio entered Oneida County’s life in 1922 with the opening of a station over the J. M. Electric Company store on Bank Place in Utica. This was followed in 1925 with the second radio station with the call letters of W I B X, emerging in 1948 with a powerful station of 5,000 watts.



In 1947, three new radio stations went on the air to serve central Oneida County—WGAT, WRUN, and WKAL. Oneida County is served by over twenty FM and AM stations including: WIBX, WGAT, WRUN, WKAL, WFRG, WMCR, WRCK, WOUR, WADR, WBUG, and WUTQ.

It is a proposed axiom that television was the means of communication that brought down the barriers between different regions and cultures that evolved by their distance one from the other. Oneida County is home to three television stations: WKTV, WUTR and Time Warner Cable News.

Oneida County, with high elevations, provides locations for towers of the cell phone system. From word of mouth to smart phones, with numerous advanced applications, the area has embraced and advanced the communication industry.

Oneida County has the unique distinction of being the birthplace of many innovations and inventions that had a huge impact on America’s development. A river driving through a valley, carved out of a mountain of rock, produced a unique opportunity. Transportation and communication industries were born out of this physical legacy and played a key role in the development of New York (colony) and a new fledgling nation. From this and other developments and events, Oneida County was once known as “America’s County.”



Top, left: Direct advertising was an early innovative advertising method brought by personal motorized vehicles. WIBX was the second radio station in Oneida County beginning operations in 1925. In 1931 the station was purchased by Scott Bowen and became a part of the Columbia Broadcasting System in 1934. It is still on the air.

Top, right: On the scene interviews were a scoop for the station that got there first.

Below: Three of WKTV’s mainstays posing for a promotional photo (from left to right): Dan German, Marie Zumpano, and Frank Gruenwald. WKTV is the NBC affiliate for the Mohawk Valley launched on December 1, 1949; Oneida County’s first TV station.



Above: A view of Utica Municipal Airport in Marcy. Even with its short runways and dirt fields it enjoyed a positive reputation. Amelia Earhart once referred to it as one of the finest airport facilities she had visited.

Below: Shown in this photo is the \$2,225,000 Oneida County Airport (\$1,500,000 from Oneida County taxpayers) built in Oriskany in late 1940s. The first flights of Robinson Airlines were scheduled in 1950. It became the headquarters for Mohawk Airlines in 1957, increasing passengers to 90,000 annually. In 1972 Mohawk Airlines merged with Allegheny Airlines of Pittsburgh and moved to Pittsburgh. All remaining flight operations were transferred to Griffiss International Airport (Rome) 2006.

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CHAPTER 2

LIFE AT HOME AND IN THE FIELDS

BY JANICE REILLY

Oneida County's outstanding resources of rich soil, pure water and large virgin forests attracted early settlers to choose this area as their new homeland. This was the western frontier; the courageous settlers came from New England when they learned greater opportunities for development were available near these resources. Self-reliant Puritans tilled our soil, set up grist mills, saw mills, tanneries, and blacksmith shops.

Rural life was isolated and difficult. Blizzards isolated homes for days at a time especially in the Paris Hill-Waterville area where Tassel Hill, the highest point of the county, reigned. Gigantic double-winged snow plows were often stuck. Snow banks were sometimes higher than telephone poles.

The old plank roads spiked from Indian trails and stagecoach routes eventually became passable through the efforts of William Pierrepont White, descended from the first settler, Hugh White, who founded Whitestown in 1784. White was known as the "father of good roads in Oneida County." Because of his efforts a farmer could ship produce to local markets knowing the apples in the wagon wouldn't be bruised, nor the eggs broken, nor a bushel of beans shaken below standards from the jostling ride down a rutty road. Road improvement aided rural mail delivery.

The 1800 farmer sought news from every passer-by. Religion, politics, prices, the state of the country, new lands to settle, gossip and scandal were all in his interests. He learned from the school master whom he took in to board, from the long sermons of the minister, from the political stump speakers, the peddler, the post rider, and from discussions with neighbors at the tavern or country store.

The need to stay in touch with rural neighborhood news, economics and weather during the 20th century was met when a gentleman from Remsen, Ed Slusarczyk, founded the Ag Radio Network in



Hop pickers returning after a day in the yard at the Bill Chapman hop farm.



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Above: The Campbell-Miller Farm, 1899. Barns in our area resembled the old English and Dutch styles of architecture.

Below: The local blacksmith repaired plows, wagon wheels, made harnesses and door hinges, gates and fireplace racks and blades for axes AND he shod horses.

1976, after serving at a Utica radio station as farm director. He was a commercial farm broadcaster for more than 68 years, respected not only locally but in countries such as Poland, Uganda and Kenya. In 1990 Slusarczyk was sent to Poland to teach farmers how to move from the collective farm establishment to the free market. Most every U.S. farmer played a radio out in the barn to keep the cows contented while being milked; now he could hear news of milk prices, livestock reports, and information about upcoming political farm bills

in the legislature. Slusarczyk helped farmers solve their problems.

The 1800 farmer may have lacked formal education and had little book learning but his children were sent to district schools nearest their homes. During wartime, bumper crops and a lack of manpower warranted high school pupils from farming communities to be excused early so they could help harvest corn and ‘make hay while the sun shined.’ “Our boys in the service will appreciate our sacrifices,” said the Sauquoit Valley school principal.

After centralization, rural students formed groups called the Future Farmers of America. An agriculture teacher was part of the school’s staff; students met with their peers to do projects. To follow education in the agricultural fields, young people from Oneida County chose to attend college—at nearby Morrisville Agricultural and Technical College, Cobleskill, or Cornell University where they studied new “agri-business” techniques or veterinary science. The older generation bragged about their children’s thorough college educations.

Founded in 1865, Cornell University instituted a cooperative outreach program in every county in New York State. By the 1920’s agents from Cornell Cooperative Extension [now with its Oneida County headquarters in Oriskany] were employed to teach agriculture



and home economics. Agents came in direct contact with the total farm family and demonstrated progressive ideas for crop improvement, the rotation of crops, strip cropping, safe home canning processes, farm management and a youth program called 4-H.

County Fairs were anticipated by the farm community for months. The Oneida County Fair has been held in Boonville since September 1888. The farmer's wife showed off her mincemeat pie, a quilt or a jar of canned pickles. Her husband's exhibit of corn or hay would be judged along with the children's 4-H prized calf. At the Paris Hill Fair, held every fall from 1907 to 1938, contests in nail driving, milking cows and hitching horses were held. Prizes were awarded for the best sewn woman's coat, for the largest squash grown and for the best laying chicken. Best of all, rides in a real automobile were offered around the park twice for five cents by a careful chauffeur.

At one time Oneida County ranked number one in the dairy industry and made considerable impact on the county's economic activities. Oneida County fell to third place in 1950s in volume of milk produced and today it still ranks among the top ten counties in New York State.

Curtin Dairy in Cassville, formed in 1964, milks 3,200 cows three times a day, producing 66 million pounds of milk a month! One hundred years ago milk production per cow was estimated at 1,700 quarts annually; today the average has grown to more than 8,200 quarts per cow. The Entwistle farm in the Town of Marshall made a major investment in the productivity of their 1,000 herd dairy when



they added a new, state-of-the-art milking carousel which cut their milking time in half.

Eighty-nine percent of Oneida County farms are family farms. Brabant, an exceptional Dairy of Distinction for thirty consecutive years, takes its name from the province in Holland where the VanLieshout family originated. Henry and Johanna VanLieshout immigrated from the Netherlands in 1954. Today their five college-educated sons, Joseph, Paul, Stephen, Philip and Patrick, are in partnership and share the farm duties of keeping healthy productive cows in the double twelve herringbone milk parlor. Seven hundred cows are milked. The farm contains 1,300 acres. Every five days a fresh supply of new sawdust for bedding is purchased from a local furniture manufacturer.

James and Mary Collins began farming in 1953 on Knoll Farm in New Hartford and raised four sons and four daughters. Only their son Edward remained on the farm. Today Ed and



Above: To get to market farmers had to sled their milk over the fields to the creamery.

Below: The Collins dairy farm has been in operation since the 1950s.



Candy Collins, and their sons, Rob, Alan, and David, supply milk through the Dairy Farmers Association to a large Greek yogurt factory [Chobani] in neighboring Chenango County. The Collins' milk 700 cows and run 2,500 acres in the Sauquoit Valley and Waterville.

Approximately 216,000 acres in the county is farm land. In 1919 Oneida County had a total of 6,233 farms. Now there are 1,066 farms according to the 2012 census. The average size of today's farm is 203 acres. Oneida County has fewer farms since the early 1900s but the farms are larger. Expensive machinery, heavier taxes that increased land value and an increase in government regulations were reasons for opting out of farming. Farmland then turned into housing developments, golf courses and shopping centers.

The Pritchards in Lee Center gave up milking cows in favor of raising fifty Black Angus cattle. They keep angora and cashmere goats, Shetland Sheep and honey bees on their 300 acres that's been in the family since 1853. They find more leisure hours and flexibility this way.

In 1914 seven milk trains left Utica daily for the New York City-New Jersey milk shed to feed the enormous growth of the city. In the 1920's there were more than forty dairies in Utica, delivering glass bottles of milk daily to the customer's doorstep. Drawn from the farm in one hundred pound milk cans to local dairies, the milk was pasteurized, bottled and distributed.



Above: A pair of young women on a farm in the early 1940s.

Below: Creameries like this one in 1920 were nestled near railroad tracks so milk could easily be shipped to New York City. The Rankin headquarters was in Brooklyn.

In 1928 John Piersma started the first Holland Farms door-to-door milk delivery. In 1933 his wife Evlyn had her own truck and delivery route which she gave up seven years later to have a family. John's brother Sid did the bottle production; brother Pierre drove a milk route; Herman ran the dairy farm and Jacob bought a second dairy farm. In 1955 Holland Farms Dairy Bar & Bakery opened; it exists today in Yorkville managed by two daughters of the founders. Herman Piersma, after 69 years supplying milk to the community, closed the



Piersma dairy business in 1996. Home delivery of milk and dairy products are now a thing of the past.

Graffenburg Dairy began in 1915 and grew to be one of the largest in Utica, serving 5,000 families and handling 12,000 quarts of milk daily. Twenty wagons and trucks made route deliveries. Owned by brothers Chester, Elmer and Harold Owens, it was sold in 1947 to Dairyman's League.

The first robotic milking system in Oneida County was placed by Lely at the Tayl-Wind Farm in Cassville in 2012. Steve Taylor and wife Sheryl are progressive farmers whose robotic system milks over two hundred cows three times a day. The milk is never touched by human hands. An identification system of implanted tags in the ear, recognizes each cow as she steps into a station in the middle of the barn and retrieves her history from stored data. Her weight and position in the stall is measured as she steps onto a rubber platform. She is washed and four cups are automatically placed on her teats by the robot. A computerized ration of grain keeps her contented while milk is collected; this process is repeated three times a day. Whenever the cow "feels" ready, she gets in line to be processed. Light sensors determine the milk's quality and will dump any contaminated milk and send the good fluid to the holding tank. A computer again records the butterfat content, the bacteria count and statistics of each individual cow. The farm owner is free to go on a vacation—the computer notifies him of any changes needing his attention. Prior to robots a farmer's day was 24/7. Silage is swept into the feed troughs by a miniature round robot. Labor costs are kept low and usually increase profitability.

Shorthorns were a popular breed with early settlers. The Eighth Dutchess of Geneva pure-bred cow was part of a herd of cattle descended from the Bates herd, an English originator of purebred Shorthorns. The Dutchess was owned by Samuel Campbell, a wealthy textile mill owner, who offered her for sale with others of her breed at his large farm in New York Mills on September 10, 1873. This sale of pedigreed Shorthorns was possibly the greatest public sale of pure bred cattle held in the world and was attended by cattle buyers from Great Britain,



Top: Pouring the milk from the farmer's milk cans at Dairylea creamery.

Middle: The Graffenburg Dairy delivery sleigh.

Bottom: A modern, robotic milking operation.





One of the barns built on the grounds of the Utica State Hospital farm.

Canada, and throughout the United States. The Dutchess however was seven years old and had already produced her full quota of calves. When she was purchased by an English buyer that day for \$40,000, she was in calf and was left at Campbell's farm, where a few days before her time, the Dutchess dropped a fully developed dead calf and soon after, died herself.

The most popular breed of cow in Oneida County is the Holstein, brought here by the Holland Land Company in 1794. David J. Roberts was nationally known as a Master Breeder of Holstein cattle. In 1950 his Holstein herd was heralded as the best in the nation. At his farm, Greenaway, in Washington Mills, he developed a famous Gold Medal Sire that sold for the highest price ever paid for an Oneida County bull—\$10,000 in 1961. David Roberts was a national director of the Holstein-Friesian Association for eight years and traveled extensively throughout the United States as a representative of this association.

Max Townsend was the designer of the Holstein purebred dairy herd at his family's farm, Summit Crest at Paris Station. His father Albert started with 40 milkers and 42 young stock and two bulls. Max and his brother Carl increased the farm acreage to 600 and the herd size to 90 milkers and 90 young stock and eliminated the bull. Max froze semen in his own liquid nitrogen

tank and artificially inseminated his herd after studying each cow's genetic composition. One purebred cow of Max's sold to Carnation Farms in 1976 and when that business sold her, she brought \$21,000 in a "Top of the Herd Sale." The German buyer then used the embryos to sire sons in Germany. Max was awarded New York State Retired Master Breeder in 1991. Today's dairy herds are improved by using professional artificial insemination companies.

Summit Crest Farm won the Century Farms of New York State Award in 1981. About twelve Oneida County farms have been given the Century Farm award, an honor presented by the New York State Agricultural Society since 1937. To qualify a farm must be continuously owned by the same family for 100 years or more, be a successfully managed farm and display a history of community service.

The patented barns built in 1903 and 1908 on the Utica State Hospital farm were considered the most modern and unique in construction for there were no interior beams or supports. The 273-acre farm had one hundred thirty-five head of cattle that supplied milk for the hospital. Forty mental patients did the farmwork—feeding and milking cows, plowing the fields, planting wheat, oats and barley, mowing the hay, and harvesting the corn used for feed. They fixed fences and chopped wood. They planted tomatoes, carrots, and potatoes. The female patients canned the fruits and vegetables that were grown. A flock of over 700 chickens produced 90 dozen eggs per day. Twenty-five hundred patients were housed in the Utica State Hospital and soon the farm paid for itself.

The Hospital superintendent, Dr. Amariah Brigham, believed it was healthier for mental patients to have physical work and exercise rather than sitting in a locked cell. His new ideas were radical but successful. In 1953 the dairy herd and horses were transferred to other state hospitals. In 1954 the lands were transferred to Zion Lutheran Church, Utica College, St. Luke's Hospital and to the city of Utica. Farm land that had previously been rented on French Road was sold to General Electric where a new plant was to be constructed.

In 1851 Jesse Williams of Rome opened the first cheese factory and Rome became the "cheese capital of the world." Jesse invented a machine

that converted milk into cheese and made uniform sizes of 150 pounds each, something that had never been done before. Four cheeses were made a day, each weighing 150 pounds; later the size was reduced to 40-60 pounds each. Williams bought milk from nearby farmers thus creating a market for the milk they had not had earlier. Nearly every Oneida County town's history reports a cheese factory; at one time 36 cheese factories were in the Town of Western alone!

The Mennonite Stolfus Farm in Vernon Center is an independent family owned dairy making and selling yogurt, and warm and squeaky cheese curd at their own store. The Farmstead brand is from their own recipe and a mixture of cheddar and jack cheese. Elsie Stolfus created the yogurt recipe in her own kitchen around the year 2010 when they began their business. They use about 1,000 gallons of milk a day, which is produced on their three family farms. The cows have access to the outdoors year round so they can enjoy exercise and sunshine. Whole milk, the old fashioned kind where the cream rises to the top, is sold. All products are made with no artificial ingredients.

Jacob Stolfus started making his own Gouda cheese in Deansboro three years ago. He is currently aging 900 wheels of his cheese on wooden planks and risking the chance his methods may be banned by the FDA. He is waiting for the agency to decide whether the pine boards used are 'adequately cleanable and properly maintained.'

Mercers in Boonville was once a family dairy farm. Because of the heavy snowy winters in this northern Oneida County town, cows produced milk with a higher butterfat content than might be found in cows from a milder climate. Around 1950 production of an ice cream began and became so popular that Mercer quit selling milk and focused on making ice cream. Today a new invention—wine ice cream—with a 15% butterfat content, is globally distributed and sold in forty-five states nationally. Two women now own the business.

Growing seasons are short in the northeast. Planting season starts mid-May, if you're lucky and there's no renegade frost, and harvest season usually ends mid-October. If the corn isn't knee-high by the Fourth of July, you are in trouble! The farmer is often a prisoner of the weather, weather that he pretty much knows how to

forecast by watching nature's signals. His daily schedule is controlled by the sun; his fortune often lies in the hands of Mother Nature.

Soybeans, rich in protein, are the new kid on the block, exploding in popularity during the last ten years. Six thousand acres are planted to soybeans. Soybeans are roasted at local feed mills.

Corn is the largest crop, harvested from 35,000 acres. One half of the corn crop is used to feed livestock—chopped for cattle and blown into silos; the second half is used as grain. Corn nationwide is exported to countries for the same purpose. Forty percent of corn nationwide is used to produce ethanol fuel. A small amount of corn is grown for human consumption—to make high fructose corn syrup or ground into corn meal and flour to make Taco Bell burritos and Tostito chips.

Hops were grown extensively in Oneida County; many farms around the Sangerfield-Waterville area had their own hop yard. Waterville soon became known as the "hop capital of the world." Hop prices reached their highest, \$1.25 per pound, in the year 1882. However, raising hops was a speculative business; prices could fluctuate within a single harvest season. A farmer could go broke or become excitingly rich!

The hop industry declined around the turn of the 20th century. Disease, competition from Oregon growers, the depletion of good soil, and



Dryers on Humphreys Farm remove moisture from grains aiding marketing, storage and processing. One bin accommodates 40,000 bushel of grain.





risky prices were listed as the cause. A rare conical-roofed, cobblestone hop house still stands on the Wrobel farm on Route 8, near Bridgewater. In 2009 this farmer once again attempted to revive hop growing; the process is successful but slow and expensive. A growing interest in micro-brewing is causing a demand for locally grown hops once again.

In 1873 a new process of chemically extracting the lupeline from the hop was founded in Waterville. The New York Hop Extract Works was on Mill Street and had the



Top: The old fashioned way to get in hay was hot, tedious and time-consuming.

Middle: Today's hay baling method can be handled by one person and is quick.

Bottom: In a good year, a farmer expects three cuttings of hay, a timothy and alfalfa mixture. When hay is baled into large round balls and covered with a white plastic, it is left in the field until a lifter scoops one up to bring to the feeder or the transporter, thus practically eliminating the need for barns. Bales of hay are transported from Oneida County by Janowski Bros., operating since 1947. They ship over 6,000 tons of hay to New York City, Long Island, New Jersey, and all points in the northeast each year. Hay is Oneida County's predominant agronomic crop and is grown on 44,000 acres in the county.





capacity to preserve 20,000 pounds of hops per day. Brewers who preferred natural hops couldn't always pay the higher price for hops caused during shortage years, but they could purchase the extract. The extract was standardized; the hop properties of uniform strength, color and flavor were preserved. The extract did not change with age. The company lasted about sixteen years and extract is still used especially in large breweries like Budweiser. Our local brewery admits it occasionally uses extract in a few of its beers.

Mash, a by-product of beer making was sold to farmers who used the left-over grains as feed for cows and pigs. Farmers could get a load of brewery grains to take home from the Utica brewery; the mash plopped, hot, wet, and heavy, on the back end of a truck from a funnel-like structure at the brewery—it dripped a trickle of brown juice that smelled delicious all the way down city streets.

More vegetables were canned in Oneida County at the turn of the 20th century than in any other state in the nation! By 1912 there were twenty-two canning companies! Most every town had its own canning company. The Sauquoit Canning Company sent 30,000 dozen cans of peas and 2,000 cases of succotash alone

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Above: Since cows are free to circulate within sheltered boundaries and seldom pastured, and since hay is wrapped in plastic and remains in the field until it is used, the familiar barn has become obsolete. However an old barn is still good for advertising!

Below: Oneida Chief Farms circa 1940 hop barn on Route 8 near Bridgewater. The company planted 220 acres of hops and built three hop barns with oil burning kilns. The company lasted about 15 years. Some part of their barns are still visible.





The Hop Extract Company.

to market in the year 1895. Waterville canned under the label 'Blue Boy'. The Stittville Canning Company organized in 1893 was said to be the largest in the world, only because they owned additional canneries in other states. Preferred stock in this canning company was selling for \$100 a share in 1920.

During World War II German prisoners of war from Camp Drum were bought to work in local canning factories because of the shortage of workers. One prison camp was in the Seward Ave/Wankel Field area in Utica.

Farmers who raised large quantities of peas, mowed them down with a mowing machine when the pods were full. The peas were loaded onto a wagon drawn by horses and taken to the pea vinery where they were pitched onto a conveyor belt and separated. Left-over vines and empty pea pods were stacked until mid-summer. When they had fermented the vines were fed to cows.

In the 1840's when a worldwide blight threatened the potato with virtual extinction, a clergyman in Utica developed a strain of potatoes

resistant to the disease. The Rev. Chauncey Goodrich, experimenting with a hardy South American potato produced a variety known as "Rough Purple Chili" which was bred into a strain called "Early Rose", the source of over 200 of the best modern potato varieties. The National Horticultural Magazine said Rev. Goodrich laid the foundation of potato-breeding in this country.

Frank Simmons's farm has twenty acres that specialize in Red Chieftain potatoes and 800 acres in field crops, soybeans, corn and red wheat. Simmons is another farmer who left dairy production; his farm store in Vernon Center sells his potatoes.

During the 20th century, Humphreys Farms were major certified potato seed growers along with the Pryputniewicz, Wells Aldrich and Alonzo Allen farms. Paris Hill potatoes had a nationally known reputation. Sebagos, for baking and mashing, Kennebec, and Atlantic, for potato sticks, were taken to Durke-Glidden in Wolcott, New York. Brymer Humphreys, the first Pixall bean picker agent in Oneida County, harvested many acres of green beans marketed to Seneca Foods. Migrant workers from Florida who picked the county's crop fields by hand were replaced by these large machines. Since 1910 five generations of the Humphreys family in New Hartford have operated the farm; they no longer grow potatoes; they have also left dairying in favor of crop farming.

Oneida County does its share to uphold a high status of apple production in New York State. Four hundred ninety-six acres of Oneida County land are in orchards. Twin Orchards, at one time producing 35,000 bushel of apples of more than twenty varieties a year, owns a fruit and vegetable store in New Hartford. McMarley in Clinton and Windy Hill in Cassville have orchards. The oldest continuously operating cider mill is run by John Fehlner in Clinton, where the original 1890 press is still used.

Maple syrup production has surged in Oneida County with the number of gallons produced up 58% since 2007. According to the 2012 United States Department of Agriculture census, Oneida County produced 3,647 gallons that was 10.2% of New York State's production. About five major producers in this county have sugar shacks; maple syrup season runs January to end of April.



The Future Farmers of America in the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill School district [the only FFA group left in the county] is the biggest student run maple syrup operation in the country, producing over 1,000 gallons. Started in 1992 under the leadership of Keith Schiebel, the school's facility includes a sap filtration system and reverse osmosis machine set-up for a 5,000-tap maple operation. A newly acquired wood chip fed evaporator burns renewable willow as a heat source. The willow is grown by the VVS Agriculture Department. Operation of the closed loop biomass-based renewable energy system, and growing, harvesting and processing the willow, gives students a hands-on education. The VVS FFA sponsors a Maple Weekend in March.

"If one blanket statement could be made concerning agriculture in Oneida County it would say that farming is very diversified today...it is environmentally soundand still involves family farms to a high extent," says Jeff Miller, head of Cooperative Extension.

Nancy and Jerry Kipp raise horses at Wildewood Farm at Blackmans Corners. In 1971 they bought 130 acres and a house built around 1860 which they have since remodeled. The large barn, 140x36, was built in 1974 and contains about twenty stalls with hay storage on the above floor. The Kipps raise three to six foals a year and board standard bred race horses who strut their stuff at Vernon Downs. At one time they handled

sixty horses but have trimmed down to twenty-four most recently. Jerry is a blacksmith and does all horse shoeing on the premises. Helpful neighbors donate their discarded newspapers to be chopped and used for bedding. Jerry devised the large shredder and blower from old farm implements he found in a feed mill.

A young farmer at Iron Hoof Farm in Lee Center says draft horses are 'tractors with a soul' and uses them for work in his fields. Draft horses did the heavy work on the farm, pulling wagons and plows. A family's carriage was driven by fashionable, lighter horses to go to church.



Above: Outside Deansboro this barn was raised in one day. Many Amish farmers moved to Oneida County during the past fifteen years. Available land and abandoned farms sold at reasonable prices and a certain freedom from restrictive regulations that Wisconsin gradually incurred attracted these hard working people to settle in many central New York State counties. The Amish buy outdated farm machinery used long ago on our farms. They take pride in their horses that pull their buggies and work the fields.



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Above: Moses Gray raised Merino sheep on his farm in Sauquoit. In 1830 there were more than 200,000 Merino sheep in the county. The breed was famous for fine wool; sheep farmers had good market in the many woolen mills that were springing up along the Sauquoit Creek. The Mount Merino Association was formed in Oneida County in 1808.

Below: Modern greenhouses allow for stricter control of fruit and vegetable growing conditions.

An old breed mixture of sheep—Tunis crossed with Dorset—comprise a flock of 200-300 ewes on a hillside in New Hartford. Wool has little value in today's market but lamb and mutton eaten in the multi-cultural communities near Utica are a good market. Since 1993, Mark Owens has been raising these animals and breeding Scottish Highland cattle on his 120 acres. The cattle graze on grass; their meat is tender and lean. Highlands exhibit natural durable instincts in our climate. Mark keeps the farm small and sustainable by using traditional methods.

When sales of tainted vegetables and salads were packaged and carelessly sold, when many chemicals and preservatives causing allergies and other health issues were added to produce to keep them attractive, consumers sought healthier vegetables like those grown at Old Path Farm in the hills of Sauquoit. Nancy Grove began farming on two acres more than twelve years ago. Yearly subscriptions or shares to the

farm are sold which guarantee produce delivery to her customers.

An increase in sales of pasture-fed Angus beef raised on both Sweet Grass Farm in Vernon and the Sunnybrook Farm in Deansboro is occurring. No pesticides or herbicides or artificial fertilizers are used. Various 'organic' farms offer beef, veal, pork, chicken, eggs and lamb to customers. Some restaurants in Utica list local organic products on their menus. Muck lands near Rome do well growing garlic and onions. A number of smaller farms are now specializing in blueberries, strawberries and elderberries, and asparagus.

Farmers markets where individual vendors set up temporary booths help promote the slogan to "buy local." The Clinton Farmer's Market has been in operation for over thirty years every Thursday and has fifty plus vendors. A newer farmer's market is open at the Utica train station every Saturday, June through October. Westmoreland offers its market on Sundays and consumers rush to these markets early in the day to get the freshest produce possible.

Hydroponic vegetables found at these markets represent the New Age method of growing plants without soil. The nutrients the plant needs are dissolved in water in a controlled environment—no weeds, no insects, no disease from soil. This method reduces animal borne diseases such as e-coli and salmonella. Space is optimized; plants grow faster, the yield is greater and vegetables are superior in flavor and nutrition. A grower can harvest all year long. Such plants are germinated at Szarek's eight greenhouses established in 2005 in Westmoreland.





Szareks belong to the Mohawk Valley Growers Association, a group of farmers who come together to promote gardening, share ideas, educate and network with like-minded individuals. On the internet Bernie Szarek shares his knowledge about preparing soil for planting by making it the consistency of chocolate cake rather than mud pies!

Szarek handles a CSA unit—Community Sponsored Agriculture program—and sells shares of various sizes. The shareholders choose vegetables and ready produce from the farm table. Denise Szarek makes a tasty salsa from the



remaining overabundant tomatoes which she also sells. Szarek Farms sells unique tins of blended spices, produced for their farm and creatively labeled after lakes in the Adirondacks.

Water may not be an agriculture product but you can't have milk without water; vegetables and fruits need water. The powerful streams and water supply brought the early settlers to this region. Wells and springs were valued: the idea that unpolluted water will never cease to flow is outdated and unrealistic. Yet few people use water respectfully. Bottled drinking water has become so popular that during the 1980s an ingenious man utilized the springs on his brother's 2,000 acres of land and built a



Top, left: The Griffiths' picked and sold raspberries at a stand in front of their home in Washington Mills for about twenty years before the state took access to their fields when the Sauquoit Valley Arterial was built.

Top, right: The Rainforest Spice Company brings honey, vanilla extract and beans, and beeswax candles to the Utica market. Owner Tim Hoda has hives in Taberg and Washington Mills and keeps 150,000 bees busy. He also buys and sells Queen bees. The winter of 2013 was extremely harsh—80% of his bees were lost. Many of our apiaries go south for the winter and join the human snowbirds.



Left: Savicki's on Rte 12 outside New Hartford is a permanent structure on the farmer's property where he sells his own produce.



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Above: The McDonough Sawmill.

Below: While much of today's sawmill operations are mechanized, early sawyers relied on water power and the strong backs of their laborers, man and beast alike.

lucrative industry, the Nirvana Natural Spring Water Company in Boonville. The blue bottles are sold everywhere.

Lush forests predominate northern Oneida County especially in the towns of Steuben, Florence, and Annsville. The DEC's 46 Corners Management Area includes eight state forests in the northwest corner of the county. The state purchased 18,000 acres for reforestation, watershed protection, production of timber, and for recreation. "Much of the unit was farmland

too difficult to maintain and was subsequently abandoned. Poor soil, remote areas, higher than average snowfall were factors contributing to harsh conditions." Twelve percent of the Tug Hill area forest is publicly owned.

The Camden Wood Working Company was organized in 1901 for the manufacture of hardwood turnings, ten pins, Indian clubs, dumb bells, dowels, tool handles, caster wheels, roller skate wheels and a host of other useful articles. Having a saw mill, storehouses, stables and a seasoning shed, the company sold its novelty goods throughout the United States.

Harden Furniture, in the town of Vienna, was founded in 1902 and continues to make designed furniture today. Harden harvests trees—native black cherry—on its own 10,000 acres of woodland using environmentally sound principles.

The Still family sawmill in the Town of Ava employs about thirty men. Hardwood cut from lots in Oneida, Herkimer and Lewis counties is sawn and made into building pallets shipped primarily to Massachusetts. Sawdust and shavings make good bedding for farm animals.

The McDonough sawmill is located on Skinner Road out of Vernon Center and here Dan McDonough works with his two brothers, Fran and Mick. They built their first sawmill in 1978. A



mix of ash, beech, cherry, elm, hickory, maple, oak, walnut and maple trees are cut. Lumber drying is done by contracting with other companies. In 2008 a fire completely destroyed the McDonough business; however with help from New York State Office of Community's renewal grant, the company is up and running, employing about a dozen men. Most of the mill's production ends up in the furniture industry. Some wood is produced for bowling pins.

Veterinarians played a strong part in farm animal survival. Strides in the eradication of tuberculosis, anthrax, rabies and treatment of hoof and mouth disease came from veterinarian efforts. Dr. Alexander Findlay built a veterinary hospital as well as holding his own general practice in Camden as early as 1896. Most veterinarians specialized in large animal care in those days.

Dr. Walter G. Hollingworth of Utica, nationally known in his day, was a pioneer among veterinarians in New York State often lecturing at Cornell. He organized the city of Utica's meat and milk inspection and established a food hygiene department. He initiated thorough butcher shop and slaughter house inspections. He inspected places where food was sold—from dairies to ice cream parlors and soda fountains. He discovered that the cleaning powders used on utensils in public eating places were poisonous substances. Regulations that banned these powders were made part of New York State's sanitary code.

The Utica Board of Health in 1901 wanted to discontinue the practice of refilling milk bottles from wagons on the street. Milk dealers did not look favorably upon the bottle idea. They said milk served in bottles was no purer than that served out of the tin vessels. Dr. Hollingworth was emphatic that only clean milk be sold and during his tenure: the quality of milk and the daily consumption grew from 15,000 to 42,000 quarts daily.

From 1847 to 1894 a successful agricultural implement factory at Paris Furnace was in operation. Sterling A. Millard became a millionaire from his manufacture of scythes, hay forks and hoes that were shipped all over the country. The Eureka Mower Company in Utica made spring tooth harrows, cultivators, corn planters and potato diggers. This company eventually merged to become part of the International Harvester Company.

Dr. Stephen M. Babcock's invention of the Babcock milk test that ascertains the butterfat content of milk, was a boon to the dairy industry. Farmers received a better price for milk with higher butterfat content; they could also breed their prized cows to improve their herd because they at last knew which cows produced better milk. Babcock was born in Bridgewater on Babcock Hill.

The Conde Milking Machine Company established in 1940 in Sherrill, New York, was a large manufacturer of milking machines. The company employed 100 persons. Now owned by Westmoore Limited in Sherrill, Conde makes goat milking machines and vacuum systems for making maple syrup.

Acee Acee, the late owner of Clark Mills Farm Supply, invented a cattle prod utilizing a

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Below: What became Agway in 1964 started as the Grange League Federation in 1920. It served as a farmer's advocate and feed delivery outlet.



Model T coil, long before they were commercially sold.

A workable field mower based on the shearing principle of all mowers sold since, was invented and patented in 1810 by Abraham Randel in Verona.

In 1920 the New York State Grange, the Dairyman's League and the State Farm Bureau combined to organize the Grange League Federation (GLF). GLF was the store in most every rural town that farmers went to for supplies—cow, horse and chicken feed (the latter of which came in printed cotton bags that the housewife made into aprons or curtains), work gloves and boots, fence poles, seeds, chains, and pulleys. The GLF also sold life insurance, mutual fire insurance, and liability coverage to farmers.

In the 1950s, the GLF store in Washington Mills had a bulk feed truck driven by Francis Lallier who delivered grain and feed to farms in New Hartford and Kirkland. Fran devised his own log books so he knew when a farmer's grain supply was running low. The feed was blown or augured into the farmer's bulk bin to be distributed directly to the animals through hoppers. In 1964 GLF became known as Agway and in 1999, sold its retail outlets. They are now privately owned home and garden centers catering to suburbanite needs.

Since 1872 the Lincoln Davies General Store at Paris Station has served hundreds of farmers and rural residents. Farmers brought fruit and vegetable produce, eggs, churned butter, and pork and beef products to trade for items they needed, like sugar, molasses and salt.

The Utica-Chenango and Susquehanna Railroad cut through the center of David J.

Davies' farm around 1869 and a depot was erected. Davies decided to capitalize on the situation and started a coal business. His dairy farm was growing and Davies had grain shipped in by rail and stored in his buildings at the depot. It generally took a half day for farmers to reach a market by horse and buggy; Paris Station was in remote country. The farmers needed harnesses and leather goods, so a harness maker set up shop on the second floor of the building. A barber, the telephone exchange, a drug store and the United States Post Office eventually became part of Lincoln Davies.

By 1890 the building began to bulge at the seams, so Davies' two sons, Charles and Lincoln, built the present store. Ed Jones, today's store manager, is the great great grandson of Lincoln Davies. The store has been kept in the family for close to 145 years!

The lumber business is the main focus today—windows and doors, hardware, and pressure treated lumber for decks—are found among the lawn and garden supplies, the horse, cattle and pet supplies, shingles and all kinds of fencing. Grain and feed, boots and clothing, farm machinery, wall paper, paint, plumbing supplies and groceries were all once part of the inventory.

Davies' daughters Hazel and Louise stacked and stored unsold items in the store attic for many years until these antiques found a final resting place in a small museum located next door. Max Townsend, curator for the museum, shows the store ledgers, the family scrapbooks, old cash registers and tools, old spice tins, a loom and some threatening 'black hand letters' Lincoln received in 1910.

The population of Oneida County in 2012 was 233,556; of this 33% live in a rural community. Farmers remain the backbone of American society. One farmer now produces enough food to feed 155 people. Yet less than 2% make up the U.S. farm population. There is a wider disconnect between those who produce food and those who eat it, for we know that few children have actually seen the cow that produces the milk they drink, or climbed the apple tree that bears the fruit they eat, or plucked a raspberry from the bush.

Oneida County was indeed a "land once flowing with milk and honey."





CHAPTER 3

IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

BY JOAN KLOSSNER

“Absorb all cultures, but forget not your own.”
- Taras Shechenko, poet laureate of Ukraine

Oneida County has welcomed newcomers from other countries for over two hundred years and continues to do so in the twenty-first century. These residents, whether immigrants or refugees, have added a unique character to the area. They have contributed to the culture through their churches, mosques and synagogues, as well as the social organizations which provided them with a sense of community while adapting to their new home. Some of these entities created by early immigrants remain today while the newer refugee population is adding its own contributions.

Although the early immigrants came because of adverse conditions in their homelands, most made the choice to travel to this country. They left behind the familiarity of family, friends and customs to seek a better life. The wars, political and religious repression, crop failures and famine that caused them to leave were replaced by economic opportunity as well as freedom of speech and worship in their new land.

In the last 35 years Oneida County has become the home of refugees from places as diverse as Vietnam, Bosnia and Somalia, just to mention a few of the 31 countries represented in this new migration. Unlike the early arrivals these people have been forced to flee their homes because of wars, ethnic cleansing and religious persecution. They have been resettled here under the auspices of The Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, an agency of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service network. The Center was officially established in 1979. The county today has the fourth highest



*Members of the Order of the Good
Templars pose for a group photo.*

concentration of refugees in the United States and they have changed the face of the area.

EARLY SETTLERS AND IMMIGRANTS

African-Americans were among Utica's first residents and most lived at the eastern end of Main Street in a neighborhood called "Hayti" until about 1860. This became a station on the Underground Railroad. From that year until 1910, Post Street, which ran between Burnet and Elizabeth Street, was the home of the black community. They began to move away from that area after the construction of the firehouse on Elizabeth Street.

Since they were unable to get work in the textile factories, many worked at service jobs connected with the Erie Canal, the Mohawk River and the turnpike. Ten local African-Americans fought in the Civil War but they were not acknowledged by local papers.

The black population remained stagnant until the 1940s when many migrant workers who followed the ripening crops north decided to remain in the Utica-Rome area. They began to find employment in local industries that paid well. Rome Air Depot also attracted workers, both civilian and military. African Americans also replaced white farm hands who had left the farm to be trained to work in factories. However, most black workers continued to be employed by service industries like the local hotels and the train station.



Above: Sam Dove was a former slave who attained his freedom before the Civil War after being brought to Utica. He was over 100 years old when he died and his funeral was attended by many prominent people. He is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery.

Below: This sign near Remsen acknowledges the early Welsh immigrants who settled in that area and were responsible for its development.



Welsh immigrants were among the early settlers of the Mohawk Valley. In 1795 five Welsh families came to the Steuben grant and leased land near the present village of Remsen. In the next few years their numbers swelled and most of them settled in Remsen, Steuben, and Prospect, areas that reminded them of home. They built their homes from the limestone they found along the banks of the creeks and constructed kilns for burning quick-lime.

There were plentiful grazing lands and soil suitable for growing crops for animals so dairy farming became their major industry. The excess milk that they produced was turned into butter and cheese and taken to New York City where there was a larger market for these products. Their butter became very popular and was known as "Oneida County butter."

While the majority of the Welsh settled in the northern part of the county, by the middle of the 19th century there were a number of families in Utica. After the Civil War, returning vets tended to move into the cities because of the declining limestone industry and a reduced market for dairy products. The city dwellers became shopkeepers, craftsmen and mill workers. Welsh women joined domestic service or became seamstresses.

Later immigrants tended to settle in the cities of Utica and Rome. The Germans who arrived



between 1840 and 1890 in Oneida County came primarily from states in southern and western Germany. By 1890 there were over 4,000 settlers from that country.

Many German immigrants established businesses in the area. Several of them still exist today, the best-known being Matt Brewing Company, founded by F. X. Matt who had been trained as a brewer in Baden, Germany. He started out as a brewmaster in a brewery and Biergarten owned by Charles Bierbauer. He ultimately reorganized the business into the West End Brewery. Other local businesses that owe their origins to German immigrants include Bosserts, which sold metal products; Emil Steinhorst and Sons, which manufactured dairy and refrigeration equipment; and Utica Cutlery Company, which employed many German-Americans.

The construction of the Erie Canal beginning in 1817 brought over 3,000 Irish people to the area. Because many of them had experience working on British canal projects they were enticed to come to Upstate New York for thirty-seven to fifty cents a day as well as room and board. Workers cleared the trees and dug the canal which was difficult work. After the first part of the canal opened between Utica and Rome many of them settled in Oneida County. The Utica and Schenectady Railroad also brought Irish workers to the area so that by the middle of the 19th century they made up a large percentage of the population. The advent of the textile mills in 1847 attracted more immigration

and many Irish men and women came to work in these factories.

In addition to running small businesses, including hardware stores and breweries, two of the most prominent local newspapers were founded by Irish brothers, William and Thomas Baker. The *Utica Daily Press* began publication in 1882, continuing until 1969; The *Saturday Globe* first appeared in 1885 and stopped publication in 1924.

The Syro-Lebanese immigration to Oneida County occurred in the years from 1890-1915. They left their homelands because there were limited natural resources and they were persecuted because of their Christian



Above: Utica Cutlery, established in 1910, was one of the businesses founded by the German immigrants, headed by a second generation German-American, Jacob Agne.

Below: Workers at West End Brewery are shown packing the firm's popular beer "Utica Club" which is still produced today.





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Above: Workers begin the very difficult work of preparing for the digging of the Erie Canal. Most of the laborers were Irish immigrants.

Opposite, top: Employees of the Rome, New York Textile Company are preparing to embark on a canal boat to “eat, drink and be merry” at Sylvan Beach on August 19, 1922.

Opposite, bottom: Delta Dam was one of the projects that employed new immigrants. This photograph was taken in 1910.

faith. Many of them settled in Whitesboro and New York Mills where they were employed by the mills. Others became dry goods merchants, bringing items from Lebanon to sell here. It was said that they were born businessmen and traders who began as peddlers and became merchants, grocers, importers and clothing manufacturers. WWII and the GI Bill provided many Syro-Lebanese with the opportunity to get a higher education and have professional careers.

Their social life revolved around their homes where they would often visit one another. Their love of language was evident at gatherings known as sahras where they would read poetry. Churches or clubhouses would sponsor theater presentations including Shakespearian plays and Arabic dramas.

The textile mills drew immigrants from Poland and Italy later in the 19th century. Although there were residents from those countries residing here prior to 1870, large

waves of Poles and Italians arrived after that date. They settled in both Rome and Utica and found employment in a variety of places. The first wave of Italian immigrants came from the northern provinces. They were followed by a large contingent from the southern part of Italy who came to escape poverty, compulsory military service and the political situation in their country.

In addition to the mills, some found employment building the railroads, Delta Dam and the Barge Canal. In Rome they also went to work in the copper and brass industry. In both cities they opened grocery businesses, stores and bakeries. Craftsmen included tailors, who were the backbone of the local garment industry, barbers, and shoemakers.

The first migration of Poles to Oneida County occurred in the 1870s. They came seeking freedom and fortune, and found employment in manufacturing and textile mills. In the early 1900s many Polish came to escape





Above: Mill workers in New York Mills lived in these houses and paid rent to the mill owners. Improvement to these homes was one of the conditions workers demanded during the labor unrest in the early 20th century.

Below: One of the earliest Jewish religious communities was known as "Beth Israel." Their synagogue, the House of Israel, was built in 1889 on the corner of Whitesboro and Washington Streets and still existed in that location in 1948.

German and Russian oppression since many would be forced to serve in the Russian army. In order to adapt to their new homes they created social and religious structures centered on their church.

Some of these organizations continue to be part of the framework of the county and at that time gave them a support network and opportunities for social interaction. In 1910, there were over 30 Polish organizations active in the city of Utica alone. Both Rome and Utica had a Polish Home whose goals were to foster understanding of the American way of life and to encourage good citizenship and participation in religious, political and patriotic activities. It was through associations like this that the new residents were able to become active community members.

Another Slavic group that came to this area toward the end of the 19th century were the Ukrainians. Occupation by the Soviet Union following World War I and invasion by the Nazis during World War II forced more immigration, primarily from the western Ukraine. They tended to settle in areas where other Slavic peoples were already living.

A language barrier made employment difficult so, like so many other immigrants, they went to work in the foundries and mills. Some worked on farms and ended up becoming farmers themselves. The Ukrainians placed high

value on education and this led to professional occupations for their descendants.

The first Jewish settlers in the area came in the mid-19th century. Primarily peddlers they chose the area because it was the geographical center of New York State and gave them access to the Erie Canal. They took their wares from the cities out to the farms which were scattered throughout the area and provided a "necessary economic need." The earliest Jews came from Russia and Germany.

The Jewish community began on Whitesboro Street where their strong religious beliefs provided them with support and security, since they were not readily accepted. On the corner of John Street and Bleecker, they established their first market which sold both kosher and non-kosher products. As they gained stature both economically and socially they moved to the Cornhill area. Today they not only own many local businesses but have entered professions and are a well-respected segment of the population.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

"Churches tend to be the earliest and most enduring institutions established by all immigrant groups."

- Philip Bean

Churches and synagogues provided structure and support and helped to maintain the cultures of the new immigrants. Each group's lives





revolved around their religious organizations and afforded them places not only to worship but also to socialize and find mutual aid. They established societies to help new arrivals financially by providing loans, death benefits and group insurance. Some of these, like the Polish National Alliance, are in existence today.

The early residents, both African American and Welsh, practiced denominations of Protestantism. After the Civil War the African Americans established Hope Chapel AME Zion Church and, in 1922, St. Paul's Baptist Church. Prior to this it is uncertain whether or not they attended churches of their own but there are references to an African Bible class which was formed in 1825 and was connected to the First Utica Presbyterian Society.

The Welsh were members of Calvinist Methodist, Wesleyan Methodist, Congregationalist and Baptist sects. The early churches relied on lay leaders and itinerant preachers. Ultimately men trained in American seminaries became leaders of the churches. In 1801 the Welsh Baptist Church was formed in Utica and in 1804 Capel Ucha Church was built in Remsen.

Roman Catholicism was the dominant religion of those who arrived in the middle of the 19th century. Germans, Irish, Italians and Polish all established Catholic churches in both Rome and Utica. The earliest one was St. John's which was built on the corner of Bleecker Street and John Street by the Devereux in 1821. Over the years, St. John's has hosted other immigrant groups until they were able to build their own

houses of worship. Other Irish parishes were established in Utica including St. Patrick's which was built in 1849 to accommodate the Irish living in west Utica. In 1835 the Irish founded St. Peter's parish in Rome and the present church building was completed in 1897.

The Italian newcomers also looked for solace in their unfamiliar surroundings by creating religious centers which provided them with the familiarity of home. At first they attended St. John's where there was an Italian priest assigned to serve them. The Bishop of Syracuse gave permission for the establishment of an Italian parish in 1895 and the parish of St. Mary of Mount Carmel was incorporated. Because of the growing Italian population the need for a



Above: This drawing depicts Post Street on which much of the African-American community lived from 1860 until 1910. The illustration accompanied an article in the Saturday Globe.

Below: The Stone Church, Capel Cerrig, is one of the early Welsh chapels located in the Remsen area. It contains one of the largest Welsh libraries in the United States.



second parish was obvious and, in 1910, St. Anthony of Padua Church was established, but the church was not completed until 1925.

In Rome, St. John the Baptist parish was established in 1910 and held its first mass in a storefront. Money for the church was provided in part by Revere Copper which employed many of the Italian immigrants. The first church was built on River Street and, in 1953 the present building on East Dominick Street was dedicated.

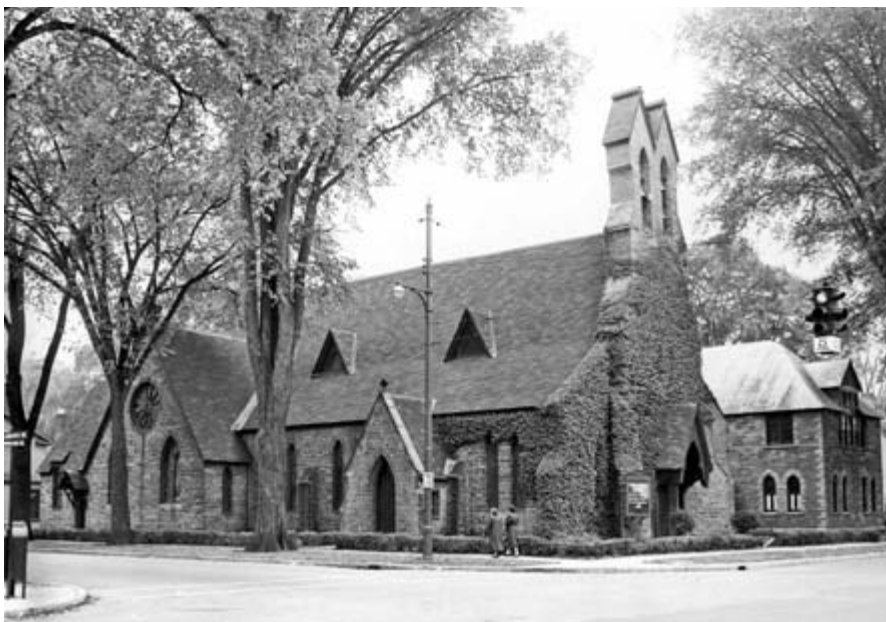
The original Polish settlers in the county were Catholic but some immigrants nationwide became disenchanted with the Catholic Church and formed the Polish National Catholic Church. Holy Cross in Utica and Sacred Heart of Jesus in New York Mills were established under the auspices of this group in the early 20th century. At that time there were four Roman Catholic Polish parishes in the county. Holy Trinity in Utica was established in 1896, St. Stanislaus in 1909, and Transfiguration in Rome in 1909. St. Mary's, Our Lady of Czestochowa, was built in New York Mills before the village was incorporated in 1922.

Catholicism and Lutheranism were the two major religions practiced by German immigrants and they founded churches to serve the needs of both congregations in both Utica and Rome. The Lutherans began organizing in the 1830s and established a group which became The Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church. When St. Joseph's Catholic Church was created in 1841, it was the only German Roman Catholic Parish



Right: St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Utica was founded by Irish immigrants. Over the years the church played host to newer immigrant populations until they established their own parishes.

Below: Zion Episcopal Church, located on W. Liberty Streets in Rome, was designed by noted church architect Richard Upjohn. The first service was held in this building in 1851.



between New York City and Buffalo. Later in the 19th century, a burgeoning German population required the establishment of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and St. Mary's Catholic Church in east Utica. Rome was also home to both religious groups. The United German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation's first church was dedicated in 1849 and St. John's Evangelical Church was formed in 1869. St. Mary's Catholic Church was originally located on South James Street and ultimately moved to Liberty Street.

Two groups of immigrants practiced Eastern rites of the Catholic Church and brought those traditions with them. The Syro-Lebanese were members of either Maronite Catholic or Melkite Catholic, rites which are in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. St. Louis of Gonzaga serves the Maronite population while Melkites worship at St. Basil the Great. Some Syro-Lebanese followed the teachings of the Orthodox Church and attended St. George's Syrian Orthodox Church.

The Ukrainians also are members of the Eastern rites. The Orthodox churches were established in the beginning of the 20th century and include Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox, Holy Cross Ukrainian Orthodox in



Utica and St. Nicholas Orthodox Ukrainian in Rome. St. Volodymyr the Great Ukrainian Catholic Church, which was established in 1950, differs from the Ukrainian Orthodox churches in that they recognize the Pope as the head of the Catholic Church. These churches were responsible for educating their congregations in Ukrainian culture, customs and language.

The earliest Jewish community was one formed under the name Beth Israel in 1848. The Congregation House of Jacob, which followed the Orthodox tradition, was established in 1870 to serve the majority of the population. However, differences in observances began to appear as more Jewish immigrants arrived. The Conservative Temple of Beth El was established in 1919 and its Hebrew school became the dominant educational institution for Jewish young. In 1950 a group looking to found a reform congregation met and formed Temple Emanu-El. Rome's Jews worship at Congregation Adas Israel, established in 1917.

The medley of peoples who emigrated to Oneida County have left behind traces of their cultures in some of the social organizations still in existence as well as in the food suppliers and restaurants that give the area its reputation for "great food." While the original immigrant groups established many organizations, those that have survived serve members of the community today who do not necessarily share the same heritage.



Literature and song were very important to the Welsh settlers. For over 100 years they held a local eisteddfod, a gathering where poetry and music were performed in the Welsh language. While that tradition no longer exists here, the hymn festival *gymanfa ganu* in which the pieces are sung in parts continues to be held annually in the Old Stone Church in Remsen. Another choral tradition that lives today is the German *Maennerchor* which translates as "Men's Choir" but now consists of the voices of both men and women.

Contributions from other national groups includes Irish step dancing which is taught locally and the Great Irish American Festival which features numerous Irish musical groups annually at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds. The Ukrainians share crafts and lively dance steps at the annual festival held at St. Volodymyr the Great Church on Cottage Place. In Utica the feast of Saint Rosalia



Top, left: Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church acquired this building on Hamilton Street in Utica in 1957.

Top, right: Temple Beth El, a conservative Jewish synagogue, stood at 1607 Genesee Street in Utica. In 2006, it moved and is now sharing quarters with Temple Emanu el, a reform congregation, at 2710 Genesee Street.

Below: Chanatry Brothers was established in 1912 by three brothers who had emigrated from Aleppo, Syria. They opened the first supermarket in upstate New York in 1938 on Bleecker Street in Utica.





Right: This statue, honoring Baron von Steuben, German hero of the Revolutionary War, was unveiled in 1914. Local German-Americans raised the funds for the monument in order to promote pride in their German heritage.

Below: The World Series of Bocce, a lawn bowling game popular in Italy, is held yearly in Rome, New York.

Opposite, top: The statue honoring Polish astronomer, Mikolaj Kopernik (Nicolaus Copernicus) was dedicated on the grounds of Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute on October 27, 1975. The ceremony was held during what is traditionally Polish American Heritage Month.

Opposite, middle: Members of the Italian Cultural Center participate in one of the numerous parades held in Oneida County.

Opposite, bottom: The former Catholic school, St. Francis de Sales, now houses the Refugee Center which sponsors and resettles refugees arriving from a variety of countries all over the world.



featured La Banda Rossa (Red Band) which today includes members of Rome's former La Banda Bianco (White Band). The World Series of Bocce, a lawn bowling game popular in Italy, is sponsored annually by the Toccolana Club in Rome. The three day tournament was first held in 1973.

Parades were a means for the immigrant population to celebrate their heritage. The Pulaski Day Parade honors the Polish general who trained the American calvary during the Revolutionary War and terminates at his statue on Memorial Parkway.

The Feast of Saints Cosmo and Damian sponsored by St. Anthony of Padua Church

continues to be popular today and attracts people from as far away as Canada. The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade draws large crowds even on raw March days.

REFUGEES

"As a community with strong immigrant roots, Utica finds it easy to welcome other newcomers...."

"The Town That Loves Refugees"

During the last quarter of the 20th century the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees was established to help the new populations who were coming to Oneida County. Thirty-one countries are represented in this new migration but some have sent large numbers to be resettled.

The end of the Vietnam conflict created a need for homes for those fleeing war and political persecution as well as the Amerasian children who had been fathered by Americans and were shunned by their communities. During the 1990s hundreds of these youngsters were flown to the area. Between the years of 1979 and 1993 more than 350 Cambodian refugees settled in Utica. On June 4, 2006, they dedicated their Buddhist temple on Steuben Street which is known as Khmer Temple Utica.



The largest group to arrive during that period were the Bosnians who were fleeing the war that tore their country apart. By 2001 there were approximately 4,000 Bosnians living in the area. At first they took low wage jobs but a strong work ethic and the push to become educated led to improvement in job opportunities. Many of them purchased homes in East Utica and Cornhill which restored previously decaying areas. Since they were Muslims they were the victims of the genocide being committed by the Serbs. In 2008 they purchased a former Methodist church on Court Street, established the Bosnian Islamic Association of Utica and converted the building to a mosque.

Religious persecution also brought refugees from Russia, Belarus, and the Ukraine to central New York. Practicing Pentecostal Christianity was illegal in the former Soviet Union so they fled to the United States where they would be free to practice their religion. In 1990 they formed a Pentecostal church and in 1997 moved into their new home on Herkimer Road.

The 21st century has seen more immigration from Asia and Africa. Large numbers of Burmese Karens, a traditionally oppressed ethnic group, have come to Oneida County since 2004. Most of them have spent a number of years in refugee camps before being resettled in America. Because of language and cultural difficulties the Refugee Center has hired Burmese/Karen speakers to help them navigate the unfamiliarity of their new home.

Civil war in Somalia forced the Bantu speaking population to leave the country as their lands were taken from them and they became targets of violence and looting. Relocating them became a priority and the first refugees from that country arrived in Utica in 2003. Because of cultural differences this group has experienced the most difficult adjustment. In 2008 the Mohawk Valley Somali Bantu Community Association was formed. The organization provides basic services and helps them integrate into their new community as did those established by the immigrants of the 19th and 20th centuries.

While presenting a challenge, these new residents have added diversity in religion and culture differing from those of the earlier immigrants who came primarily from Europe.





Above: The mosque occupied by the Bosnian Islamic Association of Utica is located on Court Street in the city. The former Central Methodist Church was headed for the wrecking ball when the Bosnian community purchased and rescued it.

However, like their predecessors they have found support in their own communities and, aided by the refugee center, have begun to make Utica and Oneida County home. The new restaurants and grocery stores that are rising throughout the area reflect this new population.

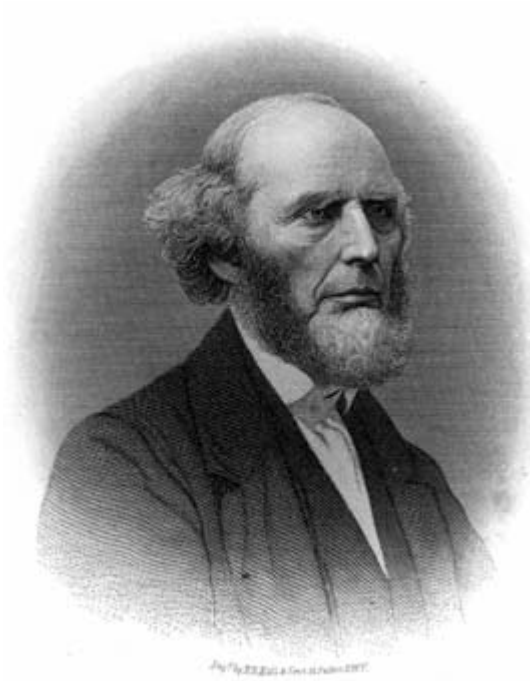
S O C I A L M O V E M E N T S

Residents of Oneida County have been involved in effecting social change since early in

the 19th century. In the 1820s and '30s a revival movement known as the "Second Great Awakening" swept through central and western New York State. Charles G. Finney, a prominent evangelist in the movement, was invited to preach in Utica. Because of its proximity to the new Erie Canal, this area was a bustling community open to recruiting converts. For two years Finney continued his ministry in the area, converting numerous prominent local people including the Bagg family and Benjamin S.

Below: Members of the Bosnian community celebrate their culture by participating in a Bosnian Folk Dance Club.





Walcott, mill owner from New York Mills. By the end of this period the area was known as the “burned over district” because it had been so thoroughly evangelized.

The Second Great Awakening influenced other social movements which arose during this time period. Abolition, female moral reform and



temperance were addressed in the reform movement of the 1830s.

On October 21, 1835, the New York State Anti-Slavery Society was formed at a convention held in the Second Presbyterian Church on the corner of Charlotte and Bleecker Streets in Utica. Opposition to the meeting came from politicians and local businessmen who saw it as a threat to the area both politically and economically. Because of the turmoil caused by those opposed to the idea of an anti-slavery group, the meeting was moved to the home of one of those in attendance, Gerrit Smith, who lived in Peterboro in Madison County.

By the following year the attitude in Oneida County had changed. There were 6 Uticans on



Top, left: The Reverend Charles G. Finney was an evangelist known for his involvement in the revival movement that swept through central New York.

Top, right: Gerrit Smith's involvement in the abolition movement took place in Peterboro, New York where his former home has become the site of a museum. Smith was born in this house on Broad Street in Utica and, at the time of this photo, the house was being used as an Italian tenement.



Below: Local women march in unity and support of the Suffrage Movement.



❖ *Mechanics Hall was built at the corner of Hotel and Liberty Streets in 1836 to house an association which represented Utica's mechanics. Over the years it became the site of numerous conventions and political gatherings as well as the site where men were drafted for the Civil War.*

the executive committee of the New York State Anti-Slavery Society and the county was thought to be a leader in the state's abolitionist movement. Many local residents signed petitions opposing the existence of slavery and its expansion into the western territories.

The Oneida Society for the Promotion of Temperance was created in 1824 to control drunkenness among the lower classes. In the 1840s there were a number of organizations that advocated total abstinence as well as those who supported moderation. One of the latter was the Knights of Jericho, which later became known as the Order of the Good Templars. A lodge of this group was established in Oriskany Falls in 1850. In 1901 Carrie Nation, well-known leader of the

temperance movement, spoke on the evils of tobacco and alcohol in Utica Park with 1,500 people in attendance.

Women's roles also began to change as a result of the evangelical movement. The Oneida County Female Missionary Society raised money for the cause. The organization allowed women to take roles that had previously been reserved for the male population. They elected officers, kept accounts and held meetings. One of their members, Eunice Camp, founded a school for black children. Later in the century women were responsible for founding charitable and benevolent associations whose purpose was to create social reform.

The fight for women's rights was a natural outgrowth of these new female roles. The first

Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls was held in 1848 and the National Women's Suffrage Movement began in 1869. Oneida County produced its own leader in the movement in Lucy Carlile Watson whose name is inscribed on two tablets honoring the suffragettes. One is in Albany and the other at the headquarters of the League of Women Voters in Washington. Watson, along with Grace Kernan of Utica, had prominent roles in a parade promoting the cause in New York City in 1915.

Labor issues arose as early as 1834 when the Mechanics Convention met in Utica to protest the use of convict labor in various mechanical trades. The Utica Mechanics Association, which hosted the event, had been incorporated the previous year as a benevolent association. In 1882 the Utica Trades Assembly was formed. Its mission was to strengthen local unions by providing mutual support and by securing New York State legislation favorable to labor.

While the mills provided employment for many residents, problems arose over pay and living conditions. In New York Mills there were two major strikes against Juilliard Company, owner of the former Walcott Mills. Thirty-five hundred workers struck in 1912, protesting the conditions of their housing, which was owned by the mill owners, as well as their low wages. Another strike occurred in 1916. These were said to be the most successful strikes in the country at that time. In 1919 the Italian mill workers in east

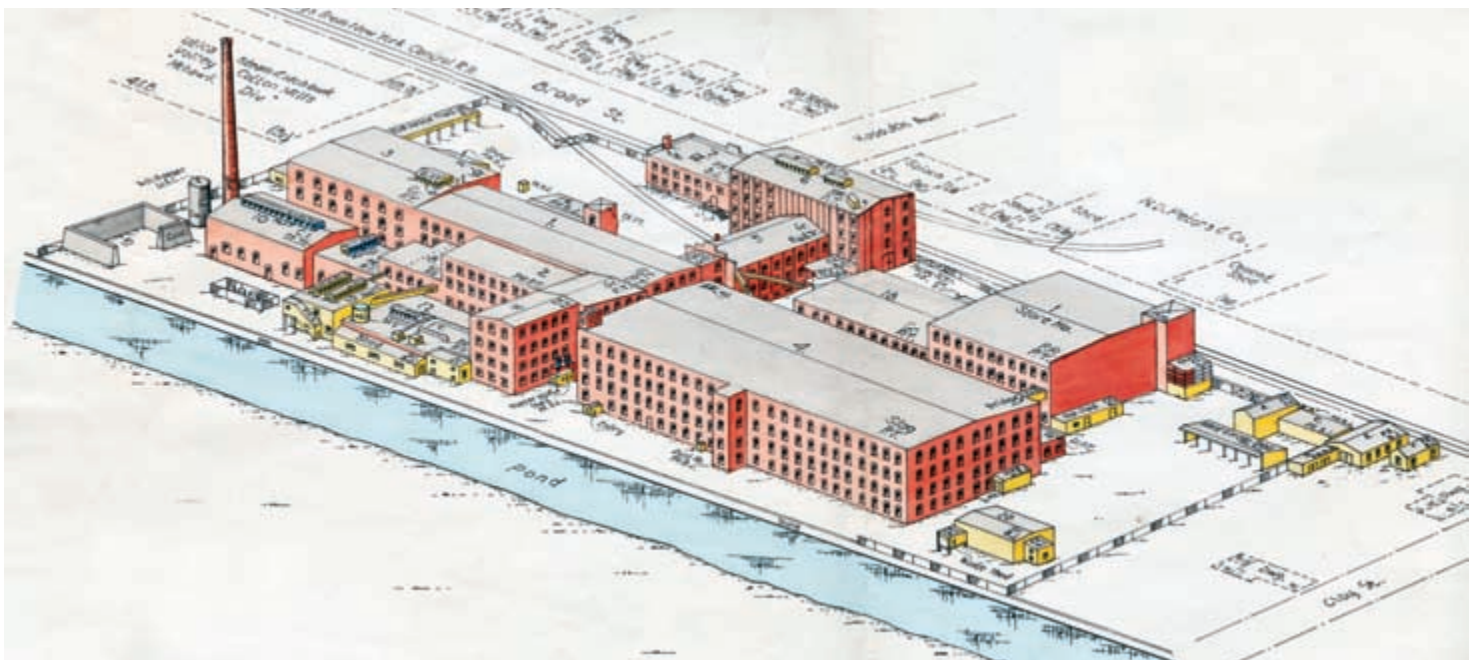
Utica walked out on their jobs. The unsuccessful strike grew to nearly 4,000 workers and lasted nearly four months. In 1937 the United Textile Workers were finally able to settle labor issues with six local plants and represent the 3,500 workers in those plants.

Prior to the advent of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, local businesses like General Electric and the New York Telephone Company advertised as equal opportunity employers. However, most African-Americans were still employed in service industries. While there was little activism in the Civil Rights Movement locally, in 1963 a unit of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was formed on the Utica College campus. Its goal was to identify and resist racial discrimination in the community. The school newspaper *The Tangerine* urged students to take a stand on the issue. Senior Seminars, which brought controversial speakers to campus, sponsored lectures by people involved in the movement. Among these were James Farmer, national director of CORE and Alex Haley, author of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* and *Roots*.

County residents continue to be involved with social change. They participate in organizations which address environmental issues, refugee resettlement, and provide support for the less fortunate among them. Following in their ancestors' footsteps, they welcome newcomers and create social programs for the betterment of their community.



The Oneita Mill, located in East Utica, employed many Italian immigrant workers. It was one of the mills involved in the strike of 1919.



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CHAPTER 4

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY IN ONEIDA COUNTY

BY LOU PARROTTA

Oneida County, due largely to its location in central New York State, has been a crossroads of commerce throughout its history. Numerous businesses have come and gone since 1798, from factories and merchants taking advantage of the Erie Canal to the mom and pop stores and service-based businesses that are necessary to any population center.

One of the most prominent industries in the county has been dairy farming, making Oneida County the third largest milk-producing county in New York State. From colonial times to the present day, the county has been home to families that work off the land. And from Ava to Whitesboro, the dairy industry has been and continues to be a staple in the county's history.

Dairy farming naturally spurred the cheese-making industry. Communities such as Boonville, Clinton, Floyd and Trenton, among others, contained cheese factories that utilized surplus milk the dairy farms produced. David Brill opened a cheese-making factory in the town of Western in 1830. His factory became a leading producer of limburger and cheddar, and at one time was so large an operation that thirty-six factories were operating in the town. The leader in this industry, however, was Rome's Jesse Williams who established a system to mass produce cheese out of sweet milk. He opened his factory in Rome in 1851, and by the time 1864 rolled around, the city was known as the "cheese capital of the world." Sangerfield capitalized on the popularity of this industry by opening a cheese box factory that was operated by Benjamin Stetson and family for over 150 years.

TOWN BY TOWN

Each community made the most out of the resources, natural and manmade, that existed within its borders. The Town of Ava boasted lumber mills throughout the 1800s as well as blacksmith and



*Utica at the confluence of Genesee
and Washington streets as it appeared
during the early 1800s.*

harness shops. These were in addition to its cheese factories, most notably Ohm's Factory that closed amidst the Great Depression. Today, dairy farming is among its biggest industries.

Boonville, another North Country community surrounded by an abundance of trees, operated sawmills and other wood-dependent industries throughout the 1800s. A gristmill and tannery also operated during that time. Today, Boonville is home to the Oneida County Fair, Woodsmen Field Days, and the famed Hulbert House that was originally opened in 1819 by Ephraim Owen.

Bridgewater, sporting some of the most fertile lands in all of Oneida County, has an agricultural history that included hop raising, sheep raising, and dairy farming. Small industries abounded here, including inns, blacksmith shops, and stores.

In Camden, Jesse Curtis ran a sawmill on Fish Creek around 1794, and with the creek providing water power, Horace McIntyre and James Barger ran a foundry in 1832. C. A. Boehm and James Stark operated a carriage shop in 1864 that produced horse-drawn vehicles that specialized in travois bobs and cutters. The Farnsworth family has operated a printing business since 1886 specializing in milk tickets. The McCall Brothers opened a canning factory in 1872 and in 1883 the Camden Knitting Mill opened under the auspices of W. J. Frisbie and W. H. Stansfield. The company became the

parent company of knitting goods factories that crisscrossed central New York.

Currently, the Mystic Stamp Company, a renowned haven for collectors of postage stamps founded by Lawrence Shaver, calls Camden home. Known around the world, Mystic has been a staple in the philately world. Collectors from all corners of the world utilize the first class service provided in the western part of Oneida County. Additionally, Camden Wire Company, opened in 1929, fabricates copper wire and wire products in four plants and is the community's principal employer.

Further south in Clayville a shovel factory, scythe factory, and a blast furnace existed during the first half of the 19th century. The settlement's original name—Paris Furnace—alludes to the ironwork that defined its early years. It was after an 1849 visit by perennial presidential candidate Henry Clay that the village decided to rename itself in honor of their esteemed guest.

The Oriskany Creek powered a grist mill in Clinton as early as 1787. Ten years later, hematite iron ore was discovered and mined until the 1960s. During the last half of the 19th century, Clinton housed two large blast furnaces that turned out tons of cast iron. And, in 1887, the famed drug company, Bristol-Myers-Squibb Company was born on Park Row in the village. Two of the founders, William Bristol and John Myers, were Hamilton College graduates.



Dairylea's delivery fleet, c. the late 1920s.





Tim Smith of Deerfield, the son of Pratt Smith, became one of Oneida County's most successful farmers in the early 1800s. In Florence, blacksmiths, asheries, tanneries, sawmills, harness shops, cobble shops, gristmills, and cheese factories operated along with several hotels, general stores, and even a casket factory.

The Town of Floyd featured small industries including a sawmill and a tannery. In the early 1950s, the United States Air Force purchased land that would become a test site for various radar and related experimentations. On August 12, 1960, the first intercontinental voice message by satellite originating in Trinidad, was received there.

The appropriately named Forestport capitalized on the dense forests with the operation of sawmills; a tannery operated nearby in the hamlet of Woodhull.

Cotton mills were begun by the Clark Brothers in Kirkland in 1846, where hop farming was also a prevalent industry.

In Marcy the Window Glass Company opened in 1812. This firm, later known as the Utica Glass Company, implemented the first production line system in Oneida County. Other industries in Marcy were sawmills, a corn mill, a grist mill, a trip hammer and some tanneries. In 1931, the Marcy State Hospital opened, once housing over 3,000 patients in need of mental health services. Today, the hospital serves as a part of the Central New York Psychiatric Center.

The town of Marshall has two farms that date back to the late 1790s, the Malecki and Wardwell Barker Farm (opened in 1795) and the Thaddeus McConnell Farm (opened in 1796). Additionally, an iron forge opened at Forge Hollow that made gun barrels for Remington Arms in nearby Iliion.

Mills were prominent in New Hartford, including cording mills and knitting mills. Some of the most notable included Olympian Knit

Goods, The Upper Mills, Utica Common Mill, and Woolen Mill in what is now known as Washington Mills. Some of the United States' finest shirting was produced at the Upper Mills. Additionally, New Hartford had a tannery, a bleachery, sawmills, a cider mill and a plaster mill.

One of New York State's largest stone quarries is in Oriskany Falls.

By 1880, the town of Paris' largest industry was the Empire Woolen Company. The Lewis Knitting Mill produced silk in the county beginning in the early 1900s. In Remsen, Col. Mather Beecher purchased the Noble & Blue Tannery in 1812 and turned it into one of the country's first shoe factories. Also in the early 1800s in Remsen, John R. Ellis opened a foundry and machine shop to manufacture steam boilers, cheese presses, and treadwheels for churning. Brick manufacturing was also a solid industry in Remsen.

The town of Sangerfield, home to the village of Waterville, was where the famed inventor George Eastman was born in 1854. Eastman would go on to develop a practical camera and emulsion film which brought photography to millions around the world. He is the founder and namesake of the Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, New York.

Hop farming was the major industry throughout the 1800s in Sangerfield. At one point, the town was the main shipping point for hops and the exchange center for hops in all of the United States. In addition to hops,



Above: Jesse Williams' pioneering cheese factory was located in Rome, near the present-day site of the Rome Fish Hatchery.

Below: Boonville's 'Hulbert House' has been a fixture in the northern Oneida County community for over two centuries.





Right: A view of the business district along Camden's Main Street, c. 1969.

Below: Clinton village merchant O.J. Burns also contributed to the community as a trustee of the Clinton Union School, where he was appointed as a trustee in 1894.



dairy farming was important, as well as brick and tile manufacturing. In 1973, Titan Homes opened and remains a staple in the community's economy.

The Oneida community was the focal point of Sherrill for many years. Started by John Humphrey Noyes, the utopian community started out canning fruits and vegetables, but eventually

morphed into the manufacture of traps and chains, then silver knives, forks and spoons. This community invented washing machines, dishwashers, machines for paring apples, and a machine for washing vegetables. The Oneida Community formed Oneida Limited, later known as Oneida Silversmiths, but by the dawn of the 21st century, the manufacturing of silverware was suspended and the factories closed.

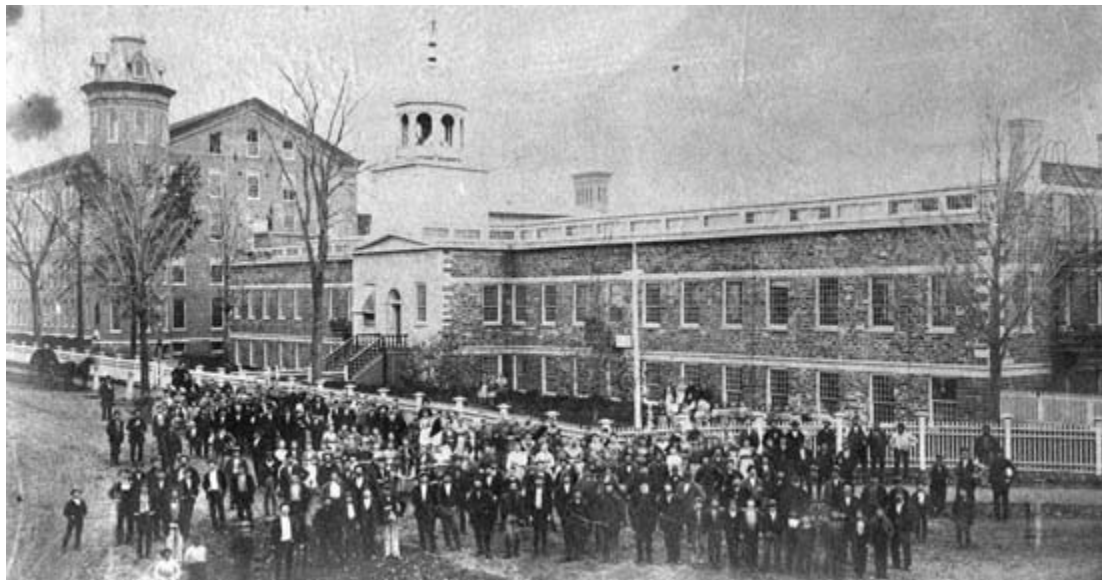
Steuben, named after the famed Baron von Steuben of Revolutionary War fame, has mostly been an agricultural community. Cattle and sheep farming has been a fixture there since the



1920s. Prior to that, the community employed sawmills and blacksmith shops, and operated cheese factories.



Top: Construction of the Marcy State Hospital, taken July 1925.



Middle: Employees of the New York Mills gathered in front of their factory for this middle 19th century shot.

Bottom: The old dye house for Mills No. 3 and No. 4 in New York Mills. Originally built as a grist mill for flour around 1800, during the 1820s proprietor Benjamin S. Walcott converted the building to handle cotton.





Above: Like most Oneida County settlements, the village of Waterville was involved in the manufacture and distribution of textiles. Although it ceased operations decades earlier, the former Waterville Knitting Co. building would last until the early 2000s, when it was finally torn down.

Below: Oneida Community residents on the grounds of the Community Mansion; from these beginnings came the Oneida silverware industry that lasted over a century in the county.

Taberg, another manufacturing town, had numerous mills operating within its boundaries. Included among the more common sawmills and gristmills were planing and shingle mills. Facilities for carding wool and pressing apples for cider also prospered. Factories that were operational included canning, butler tub, shoe, cheesebox and fishing tackle.

The town of Trenton had a limestone quarry that produced material for the Baron von Steuben monument in Steuben and numerous buildings in the City of Utica. Bricks were manufactured in South Trenton, while in Hinckley a sawmill produced boards, broom handles, woodlath and joists. In Wethersfield farming was prominent along with maple syrup

and cider production, and in Holland Patent limekilns once operated.

The Sconondoa Creek provided power to the residents of Vernon in the late 1700s allowing them to operate five sawmills, three gristmills, two tanneries, a carding mill and a distillery. In the first half of the 19th century, glass factories such as Mount Vernon Glass (1810-1844), Oneida County Glass (1809-1836) and Seneca Glass Company (1810-?) operated. Abram Van Eps, the proprietor of the first stores opened in Oriskany and Westmoreland, opened Vernon's first store in 1798. He also opened the first flour and grist mills which ran until the 1950s.

In neighboring Verona, agriculture was prominent and spurred a prosperous canning industry. Among the notable canneries were the Oneida Canning Factory, Empire State Canning, and Murphy's Custom Canning Company. For almost 100 years the region's timber reserves fed a boat building industry, while the latter half of the 1800s saw glass factories thriving. Glass production was so big, the Durhamville & Dunbarton Company was one of the largest of its kind in the entire country.

Frank Harden opened the Frank S. Harden Company in 1902 in Vienna producing over 300 designs of furniture available all over the United States. Capitalizing on the tremendous lumber resource available to him, Harden built a nationally renowned company which has been family-owned and operated ever since.

Westmoreland, as with many of the other communities, was noted early on for its





agriculture. One difference here, however, was that beyond dairy and hop farming, corn and grain was also harvested. The town was also noted for its iron industry with the development of the Westmoreland Malleable Iron Company under the auspices of Erastus Clark and Abel B. Buell.

Like Westmoreland, Whitesboro had an established iron works factory that was founded by B. T. Babbitt. This company manufactured items such as cannons and Pullman Car ventilators. After Babbitt's death in 1880, Charles Powell created Alliance Knitting to make sweaters and underwear. Another notable Whitesboro industry was the Quigley Furniture Company (originally Sutton & Quigley) which produced roll top desks and office furniture between the 1870s and the 1950s.

UTICA AND ROME

The City of Utica began as Old Fort Schuyler on the south side of the Mohawk River. Prior to becoming a city in 1832 it boasted some of the region's earliest hotels, inns, taverns, blacksmith shops, wagon repair shops and stores. Utica's first major merchant was John Post who sold tobacco, blankets, ammunition, and whiskey. In 1794 Moses Bagg Sr. opened the iconic tavern that bore his name. His son, Moses Jr., turned

the tavern into a large hotel that was operational until the 1930s. Jason Parker operated an early stagecoach business in 1795. When the Erie Canal opened in 1825 Utica became a leading transportation center which continued to grow with the coming of the railroads in the 1840s. Again, Utica's central location in New York State was paramount to this development.

From the early 1800s until the mid-1900s, the textile industry employed thousands of residents. Mills such as the Utica Steam Cotton Mills, the Utica Steam Woolen Mills, and the Globe Woolen Mills operated by steam power and dominated the century known as the "Textile Era." Other prominent business entities included the first commercial electric telegraph company founded in 1845 by John Butterfield, Theodore Faxton and Hiram Greeman, John Butterfield's Overland Mail Company that became the first to deliver mail and passengers from the Mississippi River to California in fewer than 25 days, and Arthur Savage's weapons factory—Savage Arms—in the eastern part of the city.

The extensive production of hops around the region fed a thriving beer-making industry in Utica. In concert with America's 19th century saloon culture, breweries including Eagle, Gulf, and West End found plenty of local outlets for their product.



The site of the Waterbury factory in Oriskany has been a going concern in the story of Oneida County's industry since the 1810s.



❖ Above: This shot captures women at the Savage Arms plant in East Utica at their work stations. During World War II thousands of women replaced men in America's factories; Savage Arms was no different.

Below: During the early 20th century, Utica indulged in America's growing obsession with the automobile. Several companies sprang up to meet the demand; one was Bailey & Bowne on Whitesboro Street, which manufactured truck bodies. This example was delivered in 1920 for use by the Waterman Apple Product Corporation in Sauquoit.



The passage of the 18th Amendment in 1919 ushered in the age of Prohibition and was a death knell for most of the breweries, but one—the West End Brewing Company—survived and exists today as Matt's Brewery. Now in its fourth generation of family ownership, the Matt family runs what is, at the time of this writing, the sixth largest craft brewery in the United States. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for local hops production, which did not recover after Prohibition's repeal in 1933.

Once the textile factories began to close up shop in the middle of the twentieth century, a remake of the economy had to occur. The 1950s and '60s came to be known as the 'loom to boom' period, as Utica's leaders sought to lure high tech industries in to replace the factory jobs that headed south with the textile firms.

For a while firms like General Electric, Sperry, and Chicago Pneumatic gave hope to the local economy, but it was not enough.

As these firms shuttered operations the city fell on hard times. The decline of the 1970s was made worse by America's post-World War II urban-to-suburban population shift, which gutted downtown Utica as retailers followed the middle class to outlying areas. As Americans found new ways to shop and explored opportunities for work in the digital age, it seemed as though the city's best days were behind it.

While some small and light manufacturers like Indium Corporation remained viable in the 1980s, service-based and health-based industries began to thrive. As a result, health care facilities have become one of the city's major employers. Higher educational institutions (explored in greater detail elsewhere in this book) matured and became important employers. Utica College, Mohawk Valley Community College, the Utica School of Commerce, and the SUNY Polytechnic Institute continue to grow and evolve in the 21st century.

The adaptive reuse of Utica's infrastructure has been trending upward since the 1990s. Former churches have been occupied by nonprofit organizations including the Community Foundation of Oneida and Herkimer Counties (former First Assembly of God) and the Oneida County Historical Society (former First Church of Christ, Scientist). Storefronts that were empty for years are seeing new life as small retailers and restaurants move in. A great example is the renovation of the Bagg's Square district in downtown Utica, where former factories and warehouses now feature loft apartments above first-floor businesses.

As previously stated, Rome was home to the first industrial-scale cheese factory in the county, but it is known for so much more. Rome Iron Works opened in 1866, and became the Rome Brass and Copper Company in 1890. John B. Jervis was an engineer at the Rome Merchant Iron Mill that opened in 1868. The Rome Canning Company opened in 1872, and the Rome Manufacturing Company, which produced tea and coffee pots, wash boilers and basins, opened in 1892. One of the city's largest employers was the former Griffiss Air Force Base



which opened in 1941. Significantly depleted by the United States Government in 1995, the former base is now home to the Oneida County Airport and a business park that has become a large employer in the county among various businesses brought in and nurtured by Mohawk Valley Economic Development Growth Enterprises (MV EDGE) Corporation.

Starting with manufacturing and continuing through the post-World War II high tech age, Rome has a long heritage of being on the cutting edge of innovation. Inventions developed in Rome include Frank Potter's 1905 telephone design that was the first to feature the earpiece and transmitter in a single handheld unit. Toward the end of the 20th century John Dove's work in laser recognition technology paved the way for the development of the compact disc.

LEISURE TIME INDUSTRIES

The coming of the industrial age after the Civil War created a division between work and home that was not generally seen during America's agrarian past. During this age the modern concept of 'leisure time' was born; fortunately Oneida County's rich heritage and natural beauty have provided a multitude of recreational opportunities for the area's citizens since the 19th century.

Among the earliest attractions was Trenton Falls, a stunning site of northwest of Utica that is home to waterfalls, a scenic trail, and several overlooks.

Nearby Rome is home to the Fort Stanwix National Monument, which was established in 1935 and provides important lessons on the



Above: Like many cities Utica embraced the idea of 'urban renewal' in the 1960s and '70s, leading in some cases to the loss of entire city blocks.

Below: Looking south, this portion of downtown Utica looks today much as it did when this picture was taken in the late 1970s.





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Top, left: Rome Locomotive & Machine Works manufactured approximately 700 steam locomotives for the American rail industry from 1880 through 1895.

Top, right: Photographed in 1969, the ruins of this five story stone mill along the Black River in Rome are illustrative of a typical factory of the early 19th century, when flowing water was the most abundant source of power.

Below: Later christened Griffiss Air Force Base in honor of Col. Townsend Griffiss, the Rome Army Air Field provided personnel training and served as a supply depot during World War II. It was later home to B-52 Stratofortress bombers of the Strategic Air Command. Operations at Griffiss were significantly reduced after the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s.

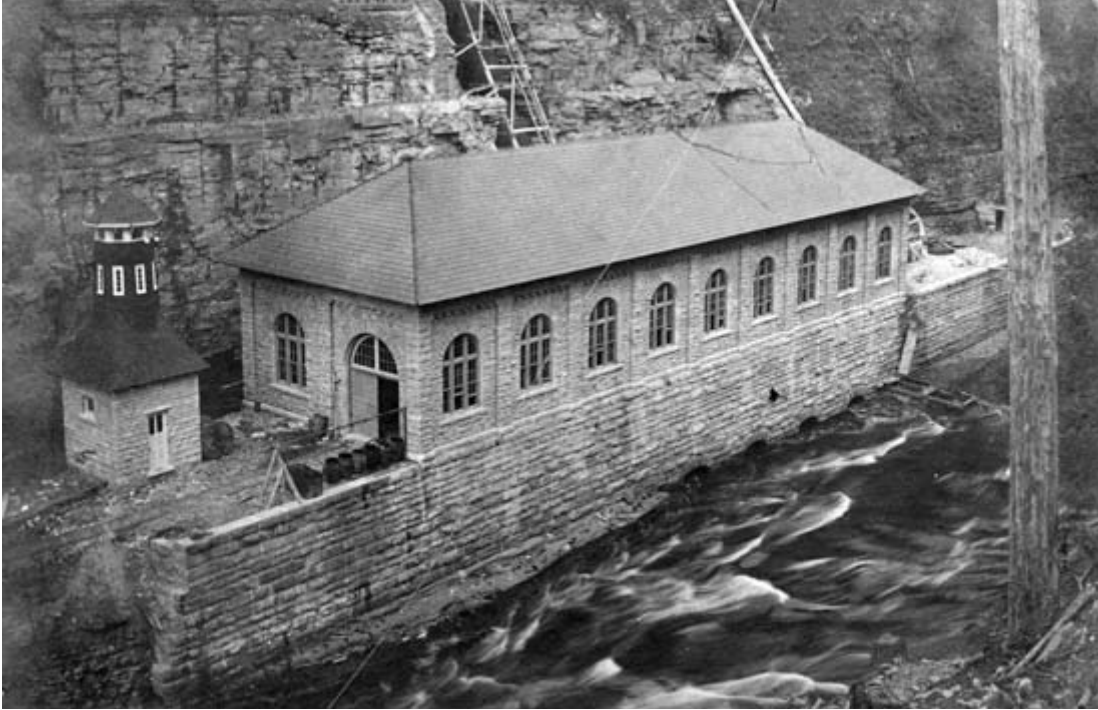
American Revolution. To enhance the interpretation of the area's role in the Revolution, a replica of Fort Stanwix was built on the original site and opened during America's bicentennial in 1976. Just down the road from the Fort is the Oriskany Battlefield where hundreds of Continental militia were killed or wounded in August 1777. This battle was a pivotal part of the fighting that year and was a direct contributor to the British Army's surrender at Saratoga that fall. Every year tens of thousands of citizens and tourists travel to these sites to take in the region's history.

Recreation has almost always been the focus of Sylvan Beach. The so-called "Coney Island of



Central New York," for decades has been a summer destination spot for beachgoers, diners and thrill-seekers along the village's famed midway. Prior to the more modern amenities, Dr. Martin Cavana of Oneida opened a sanitarium for the treatment of chronic disorders at the beach. He held mass picnics and gatherings of groups and organizations





Top: Although noted for its natural beauty, the potential to harness the West Canada Creek for power generation has long been recognized. Utica Gas & Electric's power house at Trenton Falls supplied electricity to Utica, Rome and the surrounding towns.



Middle: The Fort Stanwix National Monument opened to the public in May of 1976.

Bottom: Dedication of the Oriskany Battlefield Monument in 1884; this was one of the Oneida Historical Society's first projects.

seeking to find some rest and relaxation. Hoteliers were also prominent early on, most notably Louis B. Chesebrough and his Saint Charles Hotel.

Today, the largest industry in Verona is the Turning Stone Casino and Resort which has been owned and operated by the Oneida Indian Nation since the early 1990s. From the beginning, the resort has expanded yearly to include three PGA-level golf courses, an indoor driving range, a world-class hotel, and numerous entertainment venues and restaurants that accompany its gaming floors. As of this writing, some 3,000 people are employed at the Turning Stone, and expansion seems likely in the future.





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Above: An early publicity photo of the Turning Stone Resort and Casino taken after its 1994 opening.

Below: Elementary school children at the Miller Street School in Utica, c. 1918

Opposite, top: One of Camden's early one-room schoolhouses, built of brick.

Opposite, middle: This building housed the Utica Academy from 1865 to 1898. It was later renovated to serve as the Blecker Street School after the Academy's new structure on Kemble Street was completed in 1899.

Opposite, bottom: St. Vincent's Industrial School in Utica was a facility for boys who were not eligible for incorporation into the city's regular schools.

PRIMARY EDUCATION IN ONEIDA COUNTY

As with most east coast communities in the late 18th Century, the villages and towns in Oneida County counted the one-room schoolhouse as the center of the community. Through the late 1800s, the schoolhouse doubled as a meeting house, a gathering place for social activities, and a worship center, in addition to serving as the center of education for the children of the County.

Forestport, in an innovative technique of the time, created a two-room schoolhouse, one for small children and one for older children. Each of the rooms had long counters that circled the room and had the children sit with their backs to the teacher who placed her desk in the center. That was an anomaly, however, as most early schools were of the one-room, log-built variety.

Throughout the 1800s, nearly every community in the County had multiple schools; some towns had upwards near twenty school districts, really nothing more than neighborhood schools. By the mid-20th Century, most of those districts merged into centralized school systems that residents have become more familiar with.

A few of the earliest known schools built in Oneida County include a one-room schoolhouse made out of logs in 1792 in Westmoreland near its burying ground. Oriskany Falls' earliest school was at Newell's Corners in 1797. The Town of Marshall, which once had 11 school districts within its borders, opened its first school prior to 1800. Camden opened its first one in 1800, followed in 1823 with its New Academy and in 1844 with a Normal School located in the Town Hall. The town of Western's first school and Ava's Mill Lydia Bulkley School both opened in 1802. Lyman Mathers opened Vienna's first school in a small log house between 1803 and 1804, while Deerfield opened its first in 1807 in a log cabin structure with students taught by Mr. Aaron Reed. New Hartford's earliest known school was the Middle Settlement School which opened in the early 1800s.

In 1812, the Old West Schoolhouse in the town of Lee opened, and part of its frame still survives as the one story partition of the Walter and Alfred Tuthill farmhouse on Hawkins Corner Road. Remsen's earliest school was also housed in a log building, known as the Village School, and opened its doors in 1813. And, in Utica, an infant of a city, the Utica Academy opened its doors on March 28, 1814.



Privatized schools, sometimes called seminaries, were also prominent throughout the 19th Century. Clinton was home to numerous of these types of institutions, including the Houghton Seminary, the Clinton Liberal Arts Institute, the Home Cottage Seminary and the Clinton Grammar School. While seminaries were prosperous, there were other institutions that were specialized too. Included among these were The Whitestown Academy which opened in 1813 and was geared towards 12-20 year-olds (boys paid \$6.00 per term and girls paid \$3.50 per term), Camden's School for Young Girls and Little Girls which opened in 1824, the Utica Female Academy which opened in 1837, and Verona's Home School for Young Ladies, modeled after the same school operating in New Hartford and run by the Toll Sisters, opened in 1876.

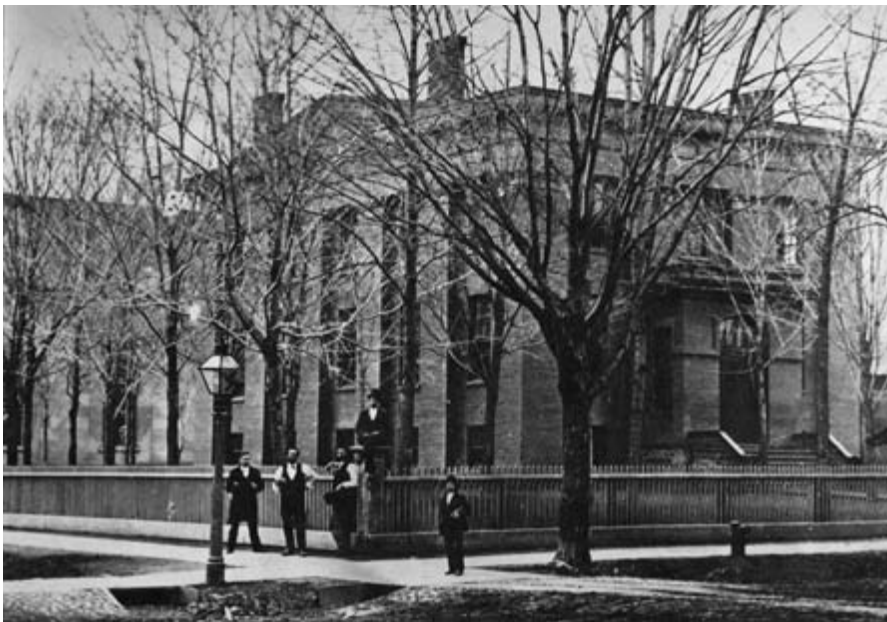
Vernon had several specialized and boarding-type schools. Among these were the Mount Vernon Academy, opened in 1833 for young men, the Vernon Female Seminary, also opened in 1833 but for young women (by 1838, these two schools were combined), the Mount Vernon Boarding School for Boys, the Happy Valley District School (also known as Jerusalem School), and the Van Eps Institute for Young Ladies. Westmoreland operated a boarding school in the mid-1800s on Graves Road, known first as the Delaney Institute and then the Williams Collegiate Institute. Oriskany Falls opened the Augusta Academy in 1834 with the primary goal of preparing students for enrollment in Hamilton College; the school remained open until 1879. Oneida Castle's Bronson Academy operated as a private entity from the 1820s to 1863.

Some early schools were free, while others had tuition ascribed to their operation. Whitesboro's schools operated as private institutions at their beginning stages garnering operational revenues through tuition and small amounts of aid from New York State. Western's students paid for their education with grain and labor through the barter system.

Deerfield's schools entire budget in 1865 was \$2,963.00—\$41,630.44 in 2014 dollars. Teacher pay in the 1800s was on par with what a beginning teacher with basic credentials working in 2014 was making. The Town of Ava's teachers' salaries in



each of its ten districts, for example, was \$944.63 in 1878 which translates to \$22,491.19 in 2014 dollars. In the years prior to 1878, teachers' salaries were much smaller, evidenced by the town



of Marcy paying the teacher of its first school on Old River Road \$50.86 to teach upwards near 70 pupils for 6 ½ months.

Many of the local school districts began to merge in the early 20th Century. The first of the towns and villages to centralize was Forestport which did so in 1927, later combining with Ava and Boonville schools to form the Adirondack Central School system. Bridgewater schools joined the Mount Markham School District in Herkimer County. Florence and Taberg had schools that centralized with Camden Central School District in 1943. By 1960, Floyd's schools combined with Holland Patent's. Marcy's schools joined with Whitesboro's in the 1940s. Steuben's schools split amongst three districts—Remsen, Holland Patent and Boonville—in 1931. Cinton's schools merged in 1931, and, by 1953, Vernon's, Verona's schools, and Sherrill's schools merged into the current Vernon-Verona-Sherrill School District. The town of Lee consolidated its numerous public schools in 1957.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Hamilton College had its beginnings in a plan of education drawn up by Samuel Kirkland, missionary to the Oneida Indians. The heart of the plan was a school for the children of the Oneidas and of the white settlers in the wake of the American Revolution. In 1793 the missionary presented his proposal to President George Washington in Philadelphia, who “expressed approbation,” and to Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, who consented to be a trustee of the new school, to which he also lent his name. The Hamilton-Oneida Academy was chartered soon thereafter. On July 1, 1794, in colorful ceremonies attended by a delegation of Oneida Indians, the cornerstone was laid by Baron von Steuben, inspector general of the Continental Army and “drillmaster” of Washington's troops during the War for Independence. The academy remained in existence for nearly 20 years. It faltered, almost failed, and never came to serve Samuel Kirkland's original purpose, which was to help the Oneidas adapt to a life in settled communities. In fact, few Oneidas came to

attend the school, and its students were primarily the children of local white settlers. Yet the academy remained the missionary's one enduring accomplishment when, a few years after his death, it was transformed into Hamilton College, which was chartered in 1812. The third college to be established in New York state, it is today among the oldest in the nation. Its history has been both long and eventful. After surviving dire difficulties in its early years, the college began to flourish in the period prior to the Civil War.¹

In 1827, the Oneida Institute, later the Whitestown Seminary, opened its doors in Whitestown. A Presbyterian Church-backed college, the school was formed to prepare young men for the ministry. From 1833-1844, under the direction of the abolitionist Beriah Green, the students, both white and African-American, were taught about the works of Charles Grandison Finney. The school is considered to be one of the first to be racially integrated.

In 1844, the institute, which was experiencing financial difficulties, was sold to the Freewill Baptists and became the Whitestown Seminary, later merging with Parsonsfield Seminary to form the Free Will Baptist Bible School. The school's matriculation had reached 550 by the middle of 1850 despite its financial struggles. The institution was of the tough, no-nonsense variety, beginning its day at 4:00 am with field work being completed by the students in the summers and factory work



where pails, buckets and some farm tools were made during the winters. The Institute counted over 2,000 alumni who performed religious and missionary work around the world.

The Utica School of Commerce was founded by Thomas J. Risinger in 1896 in response to an early demand for specialized training in commerce and finance. On July 1, 1976, the school incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. At its founding in 1896, the school, now known as USC: The Business College, was located on the third floor of the Oneida National Bank Building on the corner of Genesee and Bleecker Streets. In 1915 the school expanded its facilities and moved to the Mayro Building in which it had its facilities for



Opposite, top: Established in 1837, the Utica Female Academy existed under several names until 1907.

This class of girls attended during its time as the Balliol School in the late 19th century.

Opposite, middle: The remains of the Augusta Academy, which closed in the 1870s, were later razed. This unique stone structure featured a semicircular front façade.

Opposite, bottom: The old Rome Free Academy.

Above: Children stand beside the door of the old stone schoolhouse on River Road in Marcy.

Left: Hamilton College's chapel is one of the most iconic structures in Oneida County.





Above: Utica College students relax in a lounge at the school's original location on Oneida Square at some time in the late 1940s/early 1950s.

Below: Located at downtown Utica's "busy corner," the third floor of the Oneida National Bank building was the original home of the Utica School of Commerce (1896 to 1915).

63 years. On September 11, 1978, it moved to its current location at 201 Bleecker Street.ⁱⁱ

Utica College's history reaches back to the 1930s when Syracuse University operated extension courses in the Utica, New York, area. The College was established thanks to the efforts of business and community leaders in the Mohawk Valley who saw a need for such an institution. In 1946, Syracuse University launched Utica College. Originally, the school was located in a section of downtown Utica known as Oneida Square. In 1961 the school



moved to its current site off of Burrstone Road. Although the College became a financially and legally independent institution in 1995, it announced its final transition to full independence in the fall of 2008. Since 1998, the College has offered graduate degree programs, including master's and doctorate options in a broad range of fields.ⁱⁱⁱ

Mohawk Valley Community College was the first community college established in New York state. Founded in 1946 as the New York State Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences at Utica, it was one of five post-secondary institutions established on an experimental basis after World War II. The two-year public college offered programs leading to technical and semiprofessional employment in business and industry. The College became a constituent unit of the State University in 1950. The following year, the College was authorized to grant the Associate in Applied Science degree.

In 1953, Oneida County assumed sponsorship of the College, then known as Mohawk Valley Technical Institute. The following year, MVCC began offering classes in Rome, New York, to better serve the needs of northern and western Oneida County. Classes were offered at the former Griffiss Air Force Base from 1954 to 1958 and again from 1969 to 1974, a branch campus was established in Rome at the current location on Floyd Avenue. From 1946 to 1960, the college occupied temporary quarters in New Hartford and downtown Utica. In 1960, the college moved to its current location in southeast Utica.^{iv}

Established by the SUNY Board of Trustees in 1966, the Upper Division College at Herkimer-Rome-Utica began offering graduate education classes to 300 students in 1969 using classrooms at West Frankfort Elementary School in Herkimer County. In May 1971, the college began operating in the former Globe Mill building in West Utica. The former mill was gradually remodeled into classrooms, offices, and a library.

In 1973 the college was granted authority to offer Bachelor's Degree programs; the first 58 full-time undergraduates began attending classes in the fall. With growing enrollment, the institution leased three additional buildings in West Utica and one in Rome, and adopted a new



name in 1977: the State University of New York College of Technology at Utica-Rome.

In 1981, groundbreaking ceremonies were held in Marcy for the new campus. The first building, Kunsela Hall, was completed in 1984, and the college operated two campuses during a transitional period. In 1988-89, the college name was changed to the State University of New York Institute of Technology at Utica-Rome.^v This pattern of growth has continued to the present day. In 2014, SUNYIT announced the merger with the SUNY College of Nanoscale Engineering in Albany and again relabeled itself. The “new” SUNY Polytechnic Institute will reside on the rapidly expanding Marcy campus and has partnered with private industry to

create facilities for nanoscale research, development, and microchip fabrication.

Hamilton College established a sister institution, Kirkland College, in 1968. The faculty of this new college thought seriously about what liberal arts education should be like for women and developed a curriculum that fostered independence, creativity and self-reliance. As an experimental institution, Kirkland offered programs that supplemented and enhanced the traditional liberal arts curriculum. Students on College Hill enrolled at either Hamilton or Kirkland, but selected courses from both institutions and shared facilities, such as the new Burke Library. The two colleges merged in 1978.^{vi}



In 1999 the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute was established as a site for the Pratt Institute (Brooklyn). PrattMWP provides a two year collegiate experience for students pursuing a Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree.

COURTESY OF DR. HAROLD BAUM.

Below: The new SUNYIT logo on the Marcy campus, c. 1989





Above: Whitesboro High School as it appeared in 1968.

COURTESY OF DR. HAROLD BAUM.

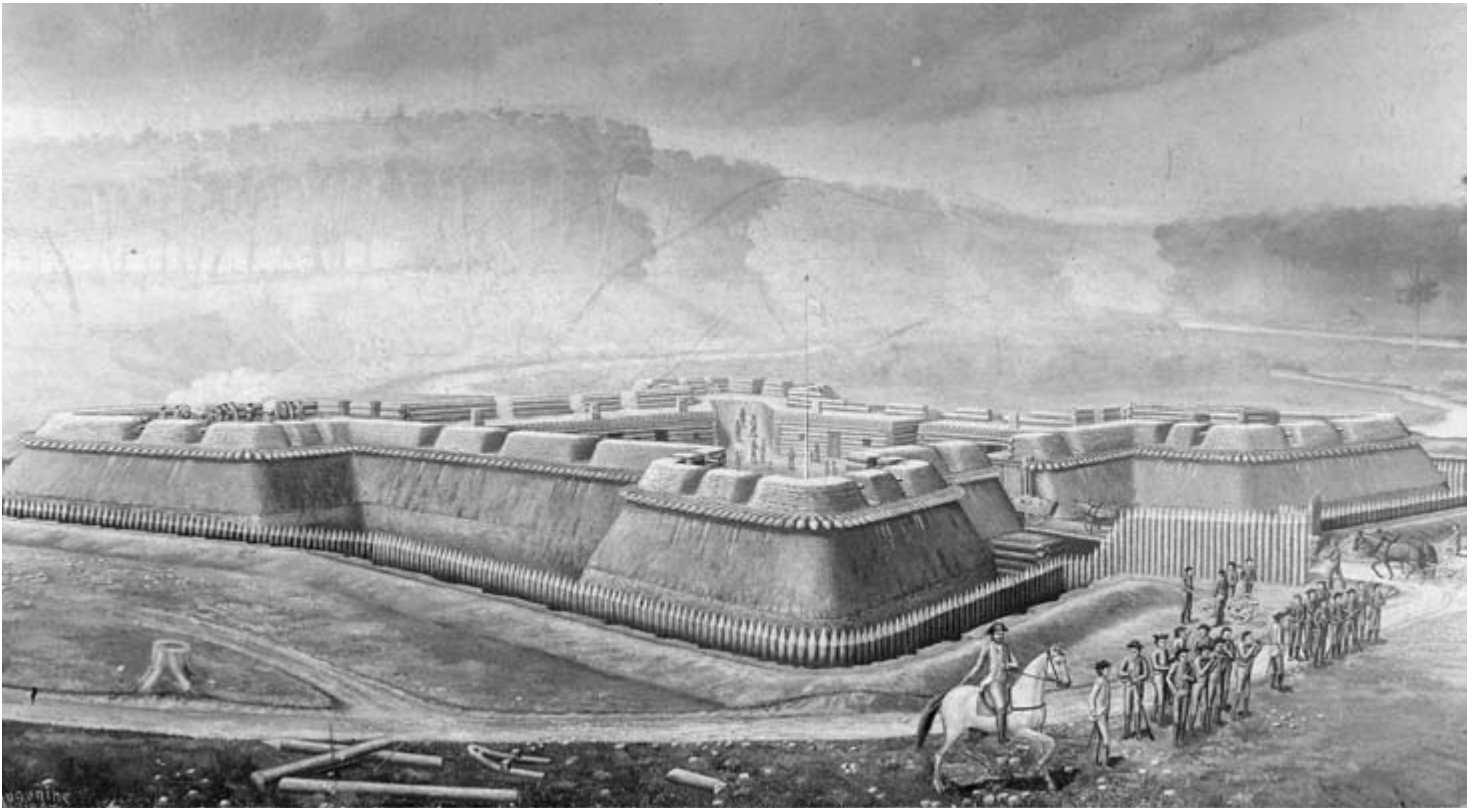
Below: The St. Elizabeth School of Nursing was established in 1904 and has prepared over 3,000 students to enter the nursing profession. It is a part of the St. E's Medical Center complex on Genesee Street in Utica.

COURTESY OF DR. HAROLD BAUM.

CHAPTER 4 ENDNOTES

- i "History of the College." HamiltonCollege.com. August 7, 2014.
<http://www.hamilton.edu/history/full>
- ii "The History of USC." USCNY.edu. August 7, 2014.
<http://www.uscny.edu?q=history&>
- iii "Utica College History." utica.edu. August 7, 2014
<http://www.utica.edu/instadvance/marketingcomm/about/history.cfm>
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<http://www.mvcc.edu/MarComm/about-mvcc-information/history>
- v "About SUNYIT." Sunyit.edu.edu. August 7, 2014.
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CHAPTER 5

OUR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND MONUMENTS

BY DENNIS WEBSTER

MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS

Monuments are erected to memorialize the sacrifice and recall the memory of those who tread this hallowed ground. Oneida County is the cradle of revolutionary freedom with bloody battles, strategic forts and buried patriots. Major historical figures from our nation lie buried under hallowed ground.

Fort Stanwix, in the midst of the city of Rome, represents the time when our country was not yet born and Oneida County but a dream. The original fort was built in 1758 as a means to protect people in the area from French attack during the French and Indian War. British Commander, General John Stanwix, was the person whom the fort was named after. The colonists would rebuild the fort, as it had decayed, and renamed it Fort Schuyler, after General Phillip Schuyler.

On August 1777, the fort stood tall during a twenty-one day siege by British, Canadian, Loyalist and Indian forces. This assisted, along with the Battle of Oriskany, to secure victory at Saratoga, where lack of troop support doomed British forces. Eventually the fort would decay and now structures were built upon the site. In the 20th century, public support in Rome would swell that resulted in a reconstruction of Fort Stanwix which opened in 1976. It remains an educational and tourist attraction to this day and is administered by the National Park Service.

The Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site showcases the ghosts of freedom fighters that gave their lives to make our country free. The Battle of Oriskany, that was fought on August 6, 1777, is considered a turning point in the Revolutionary War and was one of the bloodiest battles in the war of American independence. A memorial obelisk was erected and dedicated to the patriots on



A rendering of the original Fort Stanwix. The National Park Service replica open today exists on the footprint of the original fort.



Above: The Battle of Oriskany was the turning point in the Revolutionary War.

Below: General Nicholas Herkimer commanding the troops at the Battle of Oriskany after receiving a leg wound.

August 6, 1784. The battle was led by General Nicholas Herkimer, had 800 militiamen and 60 members of the Oneida Indian Nation who were the only members of the Iroquois Nation to side with the colonists. General Herkimer would receive a leg wound that he would die from after the battle.

Forest Hill Cemetery is a large plot of the buried within the borders of Utica that hosts many historic and powerful citizens of Oneida County.

Inside are buried famous and illustrious people from Utica's past. Some of those interred include:

- Roscoe Conkling (1829- 1888): At one time, Conkling was considered one of the most powerful men in the United States. He had been mayor of Utica, Oneida County District Attorney, United States Senator and had been asked numerous times to sit on the Supreme Court. Samuel Beardsley (1856-1932): He would participate in the War of 1812, would be





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Top, left: A view of the Gothic-style gate at the entrance to Forest Hill Cemetery, off Oneida Street in Utica.

Top, right: Baron Frederick Wilhelm von Steuben was instrumental in the colonies gaining their independence from Britain.

Middle: The Baron von Steuben Monument

Bottom: The German ambassador visits the Steuben Monument for a celebration in 1924.

the Oneida County District Attorney, served as a United States Congressman, New York State Attorney General, and Chief Justice of the New York State Supreme Court.

- John Butterfield (1801-1869): Would run the company Butterfield, Wasson & Company that would go on to be American Express. Was instrumental in the early stages of telegraph communication. His son Daniel would go on to be a general for the Union during the Civil War, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and would compose the military tune “Taps.”
- Ellis Roberts (1827-1918): Editor of the newspaper *Utica Morning Herald*, he was a member of the United States House of Representatives, Assistant United States Treasurer then became Treasurer of the United States when he was appointed by President William McKinley. There are dozens and dozens more people of distinction buried in the hallowed historic grounds of the Forest Hill Cemetery.

The Steuben Memorial State Historic Site in Remsen, New York, is the final resting place of Baron von Steuben who was instrumental in America gaining its independence in the Revolutionary War. Steuben volunteered his vast military knowledge to George Washington and converted a rag tag group of colonists into a well-trained Army. His “Blue Book” manual for training soldiers is still a guidebook for the modern military.

The Hamilton College Cemetery in Clinton, New York, hosts the final resting place of one of the heroes of the Revolutionary War, Oneida Chief Skenandoah. He was in the Wolf Clan of the



Oneida Indians and was great friends with Samuel Kirkland, a prominent local man and Presbyterian minister. Kirkland worked as a missionary with the Oneida Indians and founded the Hamilton-Oneida Academy in 1793, which later was renamed Hamilton College. Skenandoah turned the neutral Oneidas into American allies by sending brave warriors to fight alongside the colonists. He heard of the starving troops at Valley Forge and supported George Washington's men by delivering 700 bushels of corn. After the war of independence was complete, Skenandoah went back to being Chief of the Oneidas and passed away in 1816 at the reported age of 110. He is buried next to his lifelong friend Samuel Kirkland.

A solitary gravestone in Ava marks one of the most remarkable people in the history of Oneida County. Nathaniel "Nat" Foster, Jr., was the son of Nathaniel Foster, Sr., who had fought in the Revolutionary War when Nat was a lad. Nat Foster was born in New Hampshire in 1766 but moved with the family to the Mohawk Valley following the war of independence. Nat was known for his hunting, tracking and shooting skills. He was called an "Indian Killer" based upon skirmishes he had with several Native Americans. He could fire a flintlock faster than any man alive and won many contests with the best marksmen in the colony. He wore a coon skin hat and buckskins. Nat's descendants claimed that James Fenimore Cooper based his character, Natty Bumppo, from the Last of the Mohicans on Nat Foster. He passed away in 1840 and his tombstone is the only one residing in the little Quaker Cemetery.



HUMAN SERVICES

The seeds of compassion had been planted in 19th century Oneida County with the formulation of patient care facilities: Faxon Hospital, Rome Hospital, St. Elizabeth Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, Utica Memorial Hospital, and Utica Psychiatric Center. This would continue in the 20th century with expansion into specialized human services from the Central Association for the Blind and Rome's School for the Deaf, among others. This compassion and care for others continues to this day with dozens of human service agency not-for-profits that provide love and health that rivals any, not only in the state or America, but the entire planet.

The Faxon Street Home was started in 1866 by Theodore S. Faxon who had left a bequest \$20,000 to start the home to provide assistance, care and support to elderly indigent and homeless women. A small brick house on Whitesboro Street near Utica State Hospital would be the host of nine women that first year. Theodore S. Faxon had a vision that Utica needed a hospital and partnered with Dr. Alonzo Churchill to start Faxon Hospital that opened in 1874. Dr. Churchill would be the first surgeon in charge and in the year 1889, Faxon Hospital would see 25 patients.

Rome Memorial Hospital started as a small healthcare center that opened in 1884 and



Above: Samuel Kirkland founded the Hamilton-Oneida Academy in 1793 that was later renamed Hamilton College

Below: Rome's School for the Deaf catered to the 'hearing challenged' and was one of many service providers present in Oneida County.



served 19 patients in the first year. Rome Hospital would start when a railroad accident had happened and the injured would be treated in the private home of Dr. Thomas M. Flandrau and his wife, Clarissa Foote Flandrau. With no hospital in Rome, the Bureau of Employment and Relief would petition the city of Rome in 1883 to start a hospital. The original name was the Cottage Hospital and admitted its first patient on April 3, 1884.

St. Elizabeth would be the areas first hospital as it opened on Columbia Street in Utica in 1866 in a house that had been donated by St. Joseph Church. It was founded by Mother Bernardine, a nun with determination who wanted to serve the community. The first patient of St. Elizabeth would be Mary McLavey, whose fee for her week stay would be the sum of \$1.25. Merger talks between St. Elizabeth Medical Center and Faxton St. Luke's Healthcare began in 2011. If the merger is successful, the combined numbers would yield 119,000 patients a year, provide employment for over 4,900 people and have an operating budget of \$585 million.

St. Luke's Home was founded by Rev. Edwin Van Deusen and opened in 1869. The home was started for needy members of the reverend's parish and a building had been donated by Truman Butler on the corner of Columbia and Hamilton Streets in Utica. The home was started for the sick and the needy that expanded and became St. Luke's Hospital in 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick T. Proctor helped by donating land on Whitesboro Street and money to build a structure and furnish it. St. Luke's would merge with Utica Memorial Hospital in the 1949 then moved to Champlain Avenue, and opened in 1957, where the first nursing school west of Albany was established. St. Luke's would undergo another merger with Faxton Hospital, with talks beginning in 1997 with the partnership and the newly formed Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare completed in the year 2000. As of 2013, the newly formed healthcare company would employ over 2,900 people and operate on a budget of more than \$340 million dollars.

Mental health care would be at the forefront nationally with the creation of the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica that would open on Whitesboro Street on January 16, 1843, under the direction



of Dr. Amariah Brigham. The Lunatic Asylum was only the second in the United States and the first in New York State. It was the result of the Humane Movement that had been sweeping Europe. The asylum would take in patients from all over the state and would be the largest tourist attraction in New York state during the 1840s. The Utica Crib would be invented and deployed in the asylum but changes in patient care would eliminate the device and the name would become Utica State Hospital. Then, in the 20th century, the name was changed to Utica Psychiatric Center. Dr. Brigham started the *American Journal of Insanity* at the asylum and is still in publication today under the name the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.



Above: Rome Memorial Hospital as seen in a postcard from the early 20th century.

Below: St. Elizabeth's Medical Center on Genesee Street in Utica has undergone many expansions and changes over the years.





The Masonic Home was funded by free and accepted Masons and was built and opened in 1893. Utica was chosen as it was centrally located in New York state. After thirty years of operation, the Masonic Home had grown and had room for 360 adults, dorm areas for children and a large working farm that provided crops to be consumed and sold by the residents. The home is still operated today but is now called the Masonic Care Community and offers many kinds of services for seniors, adults and a camp for children.

Services for the sick and needy of Oneida County would result in the 20th century creation of specialized services offered by a new wave of not-for-profits. The Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired would open in a building on Bank Place, Utica, in 1929 and be a beacon of light for those without sight. Today, the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired services eight counties and is nationally recognized as one of the best agencies for the blind in the nation.

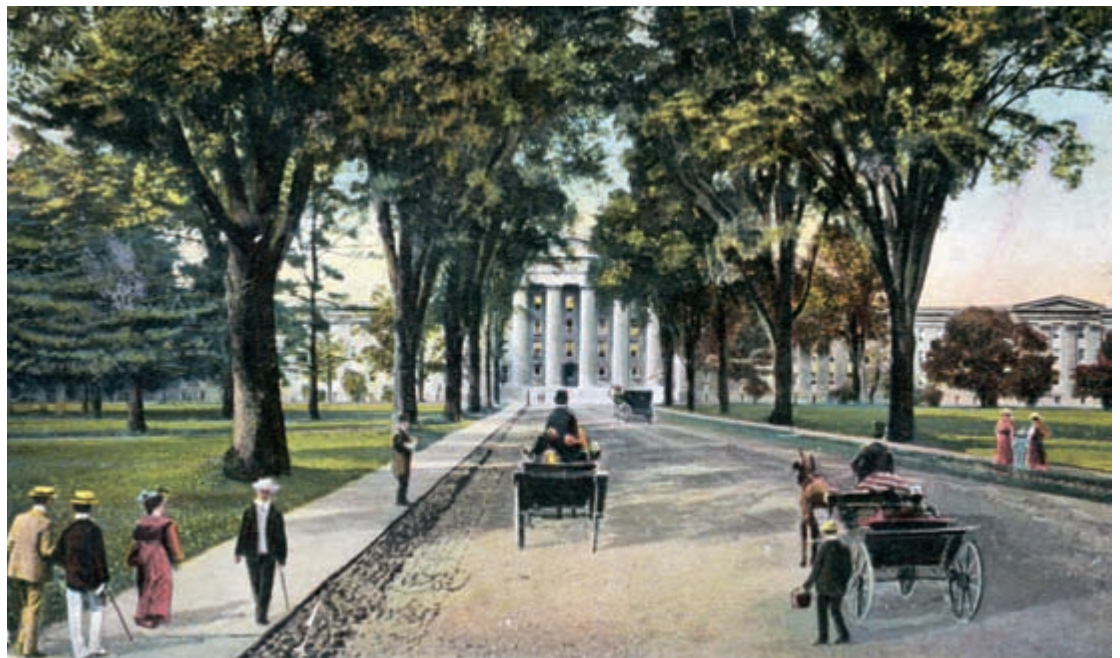
The Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees based in Utica continues the tradition of people of all ethnicities and cultures coming to Oneida County to plant the roots of their American families. Italian, Irish, German, Welsh, and Polish from the 19th and 20th centuries continues today with Bosnian, Somalian, Burmese, and many more. Oneida County boasts the country's fourth highest percentage of



Top: St. Luke's is one of many local hospitals that have serviced Oneida County residents.

Middle: The Masonic Home on Bleecker Street in Utica has provided services to the underprivileged and elderly for over a century.

Bottom: Utica State Hospital—also known as “Old Main”—was a popular tourist destination in the 19th century.





citizens who are refugees, 12%. Cultural diversity continues as the refugee center continues to bring new Americans to the area.

There are dozens of service organizations in Oneida County that offer citizens relief from many kinds of maladies and addictions. The generosity of people of the county assist many of these organizations with volunteerism, dedicated service, and donations.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The people of Oneida County have always been blessed with places to go to enjoy the beauty of the Mohawk Valley. The scenery, water flow and ambiance of the county is unmatched throughout the world. In all four seasons, locals and tourists flock to the parks in Oneida County. Our area offers all types of recreation from camping and hiking to learning about the birth of our nation.

Trenton Falls Scenic Trail offers breathtaking beauty in its naturalistic topography and a gorge that is estimated to be 450 million years old. Trenton Falls hosts a flowing waterfall that attracted flocks of tourists, and all sorts of aristocratic visitors from all over the world in the



19th century. The venture started in 1808 when Joseph Bonaparte, the brother of Napoleon, donated money to blast a trail to the falls. In 1823 a hotel was built and visitors flocked, making the falls a must-see that ranked along with Niagara



Above: Trenton Falls was a very popular tourist attraction in the 19th century until it was closed to the public.

Left: Patients from Utica State Hospital on a picnic to Trenton Falls, August 4, 1890.

Falls as a spot to relax and enjoy mother nature's beautiful grace.

Moore's Hotel would prove to be a popular destination, yet the falls would be purchased by Utica Electric Light & Power Company that built a hydroelectric plant in the falls. This caused the hotel's closure, as it was deemed unsafe to have flocks of tourists around the plant. Today, the Trenton Falls Scenic Trail is opened on a limited

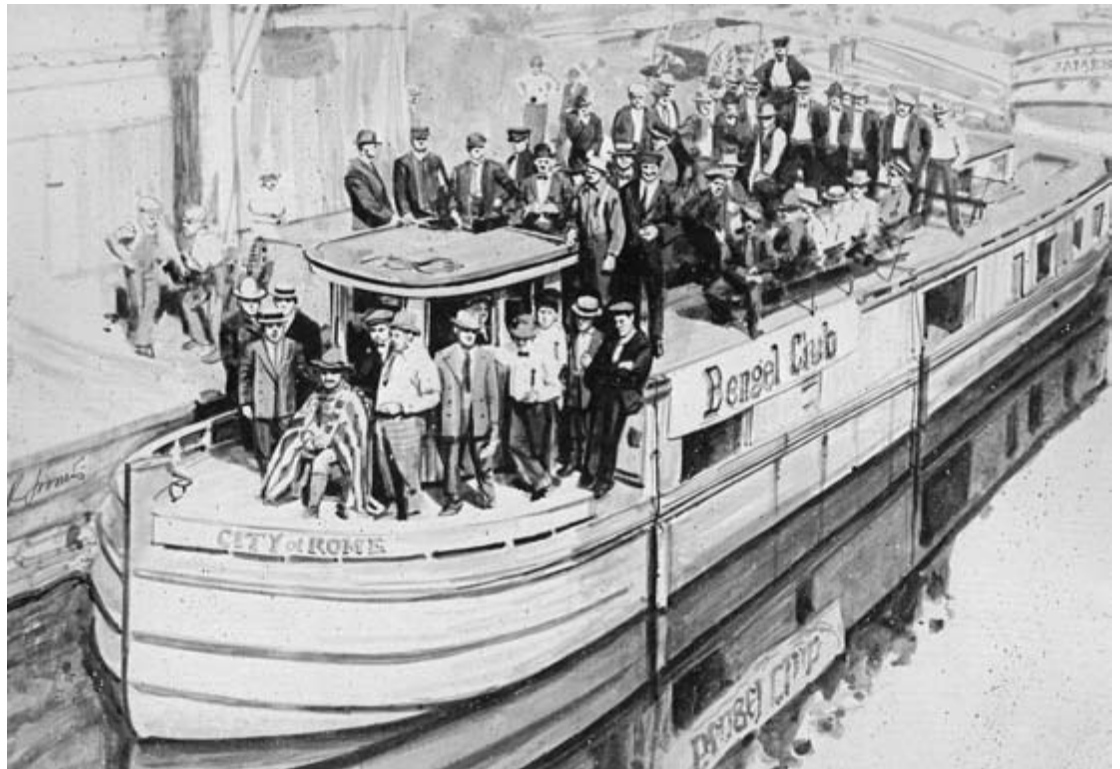
basis and thousands flock to take in the grandeur and spectacular scenery.

Erie Canal Village in Rome offers a 19th century reconstructed museum built on the site where the first ground was broken for construction of the Erie Canal. The collection of buildings offer the complete story of the building of the Erie Canal; the New York State Museum of Cheese is also on site. In addition there are



Right: The Erie Canal in Rome. The canal boosted the economy of Oneida County.

Below: The Erie Canal Village in Rome has welcomed throngs of tourists throughout its history.





buildings that are much like what would have been seen in a 19th century village: an ice house, blacksmith shop, a tavern, a schoolhouse, and a church.

Pixley Falls State Park, southwest of Boonville, offers a stunning fifty foot waterfall and a hiking trail that accommodates everything from cross country skiers in the winter to trout fisherman in the glorious babbling brooks of the summer.

For a brief time, Summit Park in Oriskany was a place where county residents flocked. In 1897, Seward Baker helped develop an amusement park in the hills of Oriskany that had a merry-go-round, roller coaster, miniature rail road, along with a grand stand, baseball field, and boat rides for \$0.25 per hour. At its peak, Summit Park had over 1,000 visitors per day and over 6,000 on the spring and summer festivals like the Fourth of July. On August 23, 1910, President Teddy Roosevelt paid a visit and spoke in front of a crowd of 20,000. The park closed in 1926; while it is long gone and the hills are covered with trees, the spirits of the past still linger amongst the timbers.

Vernon Downs has been providing thrilling harness horse racing since the track opened on



July 1, 1953. It was the first racetrack to have a 6 furlong track and entertained throngs of fans with its magnificent grandstand. On July 16, 1955, a world harness record was set in what has been termed the “Miracle Mile” when Adios Harry clocked in a time of 1:55. Jack Bailey is the all-time winningest driver with an astounding 3,323 victories. Track announcer, and the voice of Vernon Downs, Jim Moran spoke and broadcast an incredible 75,000 plus races that always included his famous phrase, “Heeereee they come!”

The Sylvan Beach Amusement Park attracts droves of locals and tourists during the warmer months. The park, on the shores of Oneida Lake, offers everything from rides and games to



Top, left: The rolling waters of Pixley Falls.

Top, right: Summit Park in Oriskany hit its peak in 1910 when 20,000 Oneida County residents welcomed President Teddy Roosevelt.

Below: Vernon Downs has hosted harness racing since the early 1950s. Seen here are favorite horse Ring-Eyed Pete and his driver, Dareld Maher.





Above: Harness Racing at Vernon Downs has been a popular attraction for over 50 years.

Right: Sylvan Beach, long time hub of fun in Oneida County.

Opposite, top: Locals enjoying the beauty and grandeur of Proctor Park in Utica.

Opposite, bottom: Clinton Arena under construction



food and a well-maintained beachfront, and has been called “The Small Coney Island”. In the summertime the park comes alive with beachgoers, fun enthusiasts and even seekers of the paranormal—Sylvan Beach Amusement Park gained nationwide notoriety in 2012 with the television show *Ghost Hunters* coming there to chronicle the haunted happenings.

On the edge of the city of Utica, is a sprawling green space of unparalleled beauty that is Proctor Park. In 1899, Thomas R. Proctor initiated the development of the Utica park system and went on to acquire farmland that was donated and made into a park that is still enjoyed to this day.

Oneida County offers indoor arenas that have hosted many events and are still in operation.



The Utica Memorial Auditorium was built in 1959 and was praised for having no obstructed views, a rarity among indoor arenas. The movie *Slap Shot* with Paul Newman had scenes filmed inside the “Aud”. The Utica College hockey team calls it home and has the highest Division 3 hockey attendance in the United States. In 2013, the Utica Comets, a professional hockey farm team of the Vancouver Canucks, began playing to packed crowds. The Clinton Arena is an indoor arena that opened in 1948 and hosted the Clinton Comets hockey team from 1954 to 1973. It currently hosts many high school hockey games and the Clinton Figure Skating Club, one of the oldest such clubs in the United States.

Animal lovers of Oneida County have a couple of fun choices. The Utica Zoo celebrated 100 years of operations in 2014 and hopes for another 100 years of providing locals and tourists with the love and joy that animals of the kingdom offer. Sea lions, elephants, bears and monkeys are but a few of the animals that have graced the rolling hills on the edge of the city of

Utica. The Fort Rickey Children’s Discovery Zoo in Rome has educated youngsters for thirty five with a hands-on petting pen and educational demonstrations with lizards, snakes, tiny mammals, and birds of prey.



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Catholic schools flourished in Utica during the 20th century, owing perhaps to the large influx of Catholic immigrants to the region's factories during the textile era. The Utica Catholic Academy girl's choir is seen here performing in the Savings Bank of Utica during the 1950s.



SHARING THE HERITAGE

*Historic profiles of businesses,
organizations, and families that have
contributed to the development and
economic base of Oneida County*

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

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MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

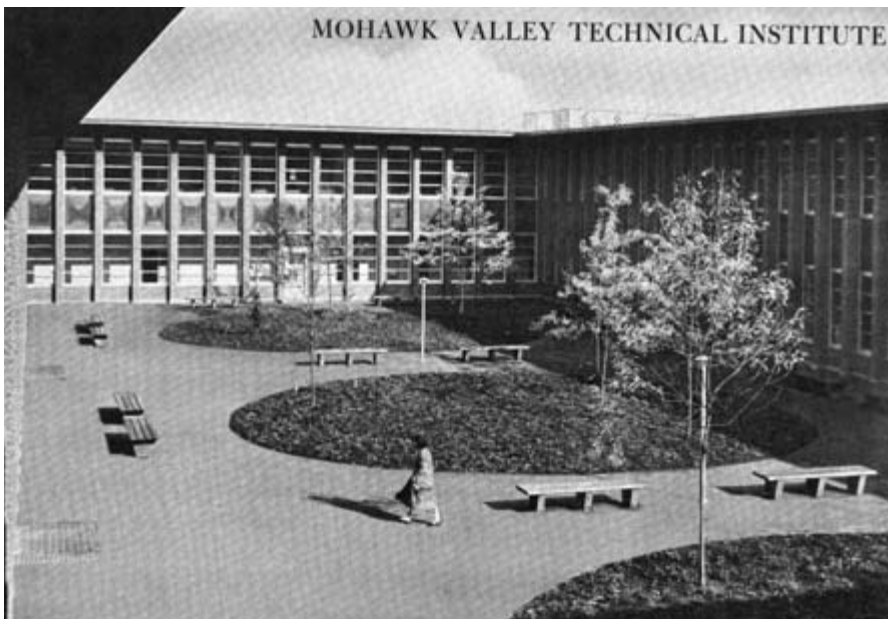


❖
Above: *The Utica Institute machine tools lab, c. 1950.*

Below: *In 1953 the State University of Applied Arts & Sciences at Utica became Mohawk Valley Technical Institute.*

Established in 1946 to help train and educate veterans returning from World War II, Mohawk Valley Community College has evolved to become New York State's first community college, the largest college between Syracuse and Albany, and the region's primary provider of college education and non-credit training.

Mohawk Valley Community College was founded as the New York State Institute of Applied Arts & Sciences in Utica. The Institute



was located in the Country Day School, and then located on Genesee Street in New Hartford, near the present headquarters of Utica National Insurance. MVCC was one of five post-secondary institutions established on an experimental basis to provide technical training for New York residents, especially for returning GI's.

The Utica Institute specialized initially in retail business management and had a reported enrollment of fifty-three students on opening day, October 14, 1946. More than two-thirds of the first students were veterans and tuition was free for New York residents. The school's first Director was Paul B. Richardson.

The Institute was organized so quickly that the Board decided to open it right away. Because of this, some faculty spent the weekend before students arrived unpacking and setting up furniture. In a thirtieth anniversary article in the *Syracuse Herald-American*, a first-day student remembered there was not a lot of furniture on the first day. Desks had to be moved from class to class, and when new desks finally arrived, students helped put them in classrooms and stencil numbers on them.

In its early days, MVCC adapted its programs to fit the needs of area industries, allowing students to have a significant and immediate impact on the area. The emergence of a textile program in 1947 gave students the ability to aid in solving some quality control problems then plaguing textile factories in the Northeast. When textile factories in the region started shutting down and electrical/metal working companies began to move in, MVCC changed its curricula to adapt. MVCC was able to train civilian and military personnel to perform in a variety of manufacturing activities from drafting and design to quality control. The courses also helped students develop the manual skills needed in such industries.

A second location was opened in 1948 in the 700 block of State Street in the former Utica Steam Cotton Mill. This building housed programs in mechanical, electrical and textile technology.

The Institute became a part of the State University System in 1950 and the name was changed to the State University of Applied Arts & Sciences at Utica. The school continued to be operated by the State Education Department during this era.

By the early 1950s, the State Education Department was seeking a way to bring the temporary educational experiment to an end. In 1952 the State developed the 'community college plan' under which the institutes could remain open only if a local sponsor took responsibility for them and they were converted to community colleges. Under this plan, the State no longer provided 100 percent of the funding, but reduced its operational support to one-third, with the other two-thirds to come from the local sponsor and student tuition. Capital support was reduced to fifty percent with the local sponsor responsible for the other half.

This created some challenges for the Utica Institute because a majority of the students came from other parts of New York. The problem was solved with a compromise chargeback system in which other counties whose students attended one of the community colleges would pay a chargeback fee to the institution. This remains the basis of community college funding in New York State today.

In 1953 the Institute became Mohawk Valley Technical Institute, a community college sponsored by Oneida County. Albert Payne was appointed as the Institute's first chief administrator with the title of president.

Over the next decade, the number and variety of instructional programs continued to grow, including several in non-technical areas such as liberal arts and sciences. The Institute was renamed Mohawk Valley Community College in 1963 to reflect this shift in emphasis.

The main campus on Sherman Drive, which opened in 1960, was designed by famed architect Edward Durell Stone, whose world-class projects included Radio City Music Hall and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. The Institute was Stone's first design of a college campus and initial construction included the Academic Building, Physical Education Building and College Center. All have been extensively renovated and expanded over the years. MVCC built its first four residence halls in 1966—making it the first New York community college with on-campus housing—and added a fifth in 2005. Other buildings have been added, including Payne Hall in 1969, a science and technology building in 1989, and the Information Technology/Performing Arts/Conference Center in 2001.



At the request of the Air Force, the college began instruction at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome in the early 1950s. Some classes were held on base, others at Staley Junior High School. The present Rome branch campus opened in 1974 in a portion of the former Oneida County Hospital on Floyd Avenue. The Plumley Complex was added to the Rome campus in 1991.



Above: Mohawk Valley Community College President Dr. Armond Festine at the MVCC Rome Extension Center in the early 1970s.

Below: Pouring concrete in the atrium of the Plumley Complex in 1991.





Above: The Information Technology/ Performing Arts/Conference Center opened in 2001.

Below: MVCC's Airframe and Power Plant Technology Program offers students practical, hands-on training for aircraft maintenance and repair.

By 1978, MVCC was generating more than \$34 million in business volume annually in Oneida County and providing the equivalent of 2,249 full-time jobs.

The school's more recent growth has been no less spectacular, with the addition of a number of innovative programs to prepare students for today's technology.

MVCC's Airframe and Power Plant Technology Program began in 2006 in the Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome. Students in this program receive practical hands-on training on such aircraft as the Boeing 727-100 freighter, which was donated to the program by FedEx. The three-semester, one-year program emphasizes hands-on experience with maintenance and repair of aircraft engines and structure, leading to a Federal Aviation Administration certification.

In 2011 the 112,000-square-foot Robert R. Jorgensen Athletic/Events Center was opened on the Utica campus. The facility is named in honor of the school's long-time athletic director and professor emeritus. The complex features a 6,000-square-foot fitness center, a field house with the capacity to host 3,000 people, and many other amenities including three basketball/volleyball/tennis courts and an indoor tenth-of-a-mile track.

MVCC enrollment grew 25 percent from 2009 to 2012, and 2014 enrollment is 5,277 FTEs (full-time equivalent students). The average age of the students is 25.6 and 76 percent live in Oneida County. Twenty-one percent are minority students.

The school is served by 142 full-time and 260 part-time faculty members. The full-time





staff totals 303 with an additional 170 part-time staff.

MVCC's campuses host more than 150 community events annually, ranging from committee meetings to the Boilermaker Expo, which draws more than 35,000 people to the Utica campus. Team MVCC promotes community activities that provide visibility and meaningful contribution of participants on behalf of the College. Each year, faculty, staff and students participate in a variety of events, including the Alex Kogut Run/Walk, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, United Way Campaign, AHA Heart Run/Walk, Veteran's Center Food Drive, MVCC Foundation Golf Tournament and many others.

Looking to the future, MVCC plans to further align itself with the progressive changes in the

City of Utica and surrounding areas, including the arterial project, the City of Utica Master Plan, the launch of the Utica Comets and the nanotechnology boom focused around SUNY Polytechnic Institute and Griffiss Air Base. The College's proud tradition of technical and trade education has positioned it perfectly for the growth in demand for science, technology, engineering and math degrees. The MVCC education helps propel students into great careers in that area. Partnerships with other colleges in the state, including Clarkson University, Rensselaer Polytechnic and Utica College are becoming even stronger, allowing students to more easily transfer to four-year institutions.

For additional information about Mohawk Valley Community College and its programs, please visit www.mvcc.edu.



Above: The Robert R. Jorgensen Athletic/Events Center opened in 2011.

Below: Each year, MVCC's faculty, staff and students participate in a variety of charitable events.



WILCOR INTERNATIONAL, INC.

An ability to evolve in an ever-changing market has allowed Wilcor International, Inc., to become a well-known supplier to the vacation industry. Wilcor offers the largest variety of products from one source, supplying a dazzling array of nearly 6,000 products to retail businesses throughout the nation. As times have changed over the decades, the family business has maintained its commitment to quality and old-fashioned values. Built on a solid foundation of values, Wilcor International, Inc., has grown to be the number one supplier to the vacation industry with the largest variety of products from one source.



❖
Above: J. Corrigan Bros. Groceries and Provisions in Utica at the turn of the twentieth century.

The Corrigan family had a wide variety of businesses back home in Ireland where their well-rounded ventures included restaurant, funeral home and grocery store businesses. In the Utica area, Joseph Neil Corrigan ran J. Corrigan Bros. Groceries and Provisions on Arthur Street in Utica in 1887. Joseph was William J. Corrigan's father. In 1921, William J. and his wife, Claris, began their own distribution business at 1921 Arthur Street, distributing meat paper, bags, napkins, bath tissue, shoe polish, light bulbs, and office and school supplies to area businesses. World War I had been over for a few years and the market for distribution of these items had grown.

In 1939, William J. and Claris bought the Dunmore Estate on Scott Street and moved the business into a two-story barn near the house. The business seemed to be growing before World War II began but war-time shortages

made products hard to purchase. Determined to stay in business, they began to purchase goods from larger wholesalers although this meant a much smaller profit.

In early 1941, the oldest son, J. C. Corrigan, joined the Marine Corps to fight in World War II. In 1944, shortly before the end of the war, the company—now William J. Corrigan and Sons—moved to a larger building, which had been the Old Saint Elizabeth's Hospital at 720 Columbia Street. The hospital had been closed due to a fire but the building was renovated and reopened as a commercial building.

The Corrigan children were in their teens when the war ended, and business efforts continued. However, the Korean War began in 1950 and William L. joined the U.S. Marine Corps and went off to fight for our country. In his absence, the business started to fail. In 1953 the war ended and William L. returned home with hopes of saving the company.

There were many changes in business during this time, with large department stores coming in and smaller businesses, and those that serviced them, were closing down. The pace of business change was fast and included a new array of discount stores. William J. and Claris tried to stay in business through trial and error but when William J. died in 1966, the business needed a boost.

The brothers parted at this time, each moving into different businesses; the older brother moved into the candy business and in 1967, William L. and Eleanor purchased the business from Claris.

The next few years brought many changes including small additions of products and changes in service. William L. had married Eleanor in 1954, and at this time they had six children and were determined to find a way to make the business work.

William L. was the president, a salesperson and a community entertainer who shared his talents with such organizations as the 40/8, the Lions Club, the Association for the Blind, the Rome and Utica centers for those with developmental disorders, and local parades and church activities. Eleanor was a stay-at-home mom during this period, taking care of all the household responsibilities and child rearing and becoming a strong participant in her church.

The energy generated by William L. and Eleanor produced new ideas and their efforts proved successful. The store now had variety store clients such as the Ben Franklin stores that they serviced regularly. Meanwhile, a plan was being formulated based on William L.'s great community spirit and his American idea that he could make it, and that he could work with other business owners to help make their businesses work, as well. He opened several temp stores at holiday time and devoted himself to whatever he did.

By 1973 several of William L. and Eleanor's children had been helping out by making bows, sorting and pricing books and toys, making Christmas stockings for the hospitals and working in the office filing and typing. By the late 1970s several of the children were in their late teens and early twenties and had worked during school in sales, book-keeping, building management, and devising inventory control systems. Merchandise at this point included holiday and party products, including costuming, and ideas for new markets were becoming reality. Additional sales, delivery and warehouse people were hired and in 1979 the business entered the vacation industry. In 1981 another move was made to 333 Lafayette Street.



Above: William and Claris Corrigan moved the business from their garage to the old Saint Elizabeth's Hospital building at 720 Columbia Street.

Left: The property at 333 Lafayette Street was much larger.

Below: Left to right, William L., Eleanor, Claris and William J. Corrigan.





❖ William L. Corrigan dressed as a Leprechaun for one of the many charitable events sponsored by Wilcor.

The business operation now included the third generation of the Corrigan family. Every week there were new ideas for the growth of the business and how to better service the customers. Working together, the family was determined to grow! The move from Columbia Street to 333 Lafayette Street was enormous for the family because it was a much larger building and so much easier to work out of. There was space for offices and room to warehouse the increasing variety of products offered by the company. The idea of opening a

showroom was in the making; the company began working with international firms and, along with the move to a new location, and the name was changed to Wilcor International. By 1985 the need for a new warehouse was again apparent and, in 1987, William L. purchased the old Broad Street Knitting Mill.

Wilcor moved in and the entire staff labored to fix up the warehouse, relocating thousands of items to new shelves. Meanwhile, management moved forward with a vision of renewed growth. This move also allowed Wilcor to begin construction of the Lafayette Building, turning it into a showroom that finally encompassed the whole building as it does now. This showroom hosts many retail business owners who spend a day or two in the Utica area during the first three months of each year viewing products for their stores.

The Corrigan family again moved together and the 1990s were filled with growing pains and thousands of ideas to sort through. The warehouse provided three levels of space, and technology changed much of what the company was doing in the 1980s. The technology changed again in the 1990s by providing better inventory systems, which left more time for fulfilling the work load. The family contributed different degrees of management skills and the business moved forward. In the 1990s, Wilcor added its own product line, which has progressed from a few dozen products to more than 2,000. This product line has played a major role in Wilcor's growth.

The building began to 'shrink' as the company continued to grow and the family began looking at one-story buildings.

After a long search, suitable property was located in Schuyler that would house the building designed by the family. The property, located at the site of the old Schuyler Drive-In, became Wilcor's new home. Construction was completed and the company moved in 2005.

The economy was changing again, and although the growth was not as great as expected, growth continued slow and steady with proper re-planning. Many of the customers who began with Wilcor years ago are still going strong. The customers and family enjoy talking about the stories of growth and look forward to the next generations doing the same.



Wilcor has changed tremendously since it was founded more than ninety years ago, but the company still has a commitment to work with its small business customers with products, ideas, and helpful discussions that help their business grow as well.

The Corrigan family has many members who have played key roles in management and different roles in the business during its growth. These include, William L. Corrigan, and his sons and daughters; Patrick (until his death in 1988), Karen, Sue, Shawn Dennis, Bill and David. Also deeply involved in the growth of the company was a key salesperson, John Wright, who began with the company in 1972.

Wilcor currently employs about forty-two people, not including family members, and the staff includes several of the fourth generation—along with their fresh ideas. Wilcor’s huge, three-story showroom at 333 Lafayette Street is a tribute to the ideas and memory of Patrick and the hard work of the family and Wilcor’s staff. Year after year between January 15 and March 15 many of Wilcor’s customers visit our showroom to purchase products that help them grow and prosper in their own businesses. A proud tradition that we intend to continue for years to come.

Wilcor proudly remains a family-run distribution company going into its fourth generation and continues to service the vacation market nationwide. The Corrigan family are vacation enthusiasts themselves. They love the outdoors and use the company’s products on a weekly basis. They understand what the consumer needs on vacation and how frustrating it can be to come across a poorly made product. This is why Wilcor constantly tests its products and uses

customer feedback to make changes quickly to improve the product line every single year.

Wilcor International, Inc. wants to be number one in vacation products, providing family fun absolutely everywhere. The company follows that vision with the ability to modify and change its products to fit market needs. The exclusive product lines manufactured for Wilcor are constantly monitored, assuring superior quality, unique designs and the lowest possible prices. Wilcor does this with all its customers in mind; providing products that ensure consumers will always be ready for fun and that their vacation needs will be met.

After ninety-three years, the company’s mission still reflects the standards of its founder: “Wilcor International is committed to servicing the vacation industry with honest suggestions and a complete product line to increase their profits.”



Below: William J. Corrigan and his sons and daughters.



MATT BREWING COMPANY

Of the thousands of American breweries established over the years, only a few have survived more than a century and are still brewing today. One of these historic regional breweries is the F. X. Matt Brewing Company of Utica, where the popular Saranac beers are produced.



Matt Brewing has survived the nation's failed experiment with prohibition, the Great Depression, several serious recessions and even a disastrous fire. The company, still owned and operated by the founder's family, has continued to prosper by constantly changing and reinventing itself to meet changing times.



The company was founded 126 years ago by F. X. Matt, who immigrated to America from the Black Forest region of Germany with a dream of someday owning his own brewery and using the skills he had learned back home at the famous Duke of Baden Brewery.

After working several years for the Louis Bierbauer Brewery in Canajoharie, Matt came back to Utica to take over the faltering Charles Bierbauer Brewery and reorganized it in 1888 as the West End Brewing Company. The new company had twelve employees who produced only 4,000 barrels of beer a year, but with Matt serving as both salesman and brewmaster, the brewery quickly became one of the largest and most successful of the dozen breweries operating in Utica at the time.

The first beer Matt brewed and sold under the West End label was a lager that reflected the founder's German heritage. However, the brewery also produced a number of ales and other craft beers.

The West End Brewing Company prospered under Matt's direction and in the early years of the twentieth century, the brewery became one of the largest and most successful in the region.

A defining point for the company came in 1920 with approval of the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The amendment prohibited the sale, production, importation or transportation of alcoholic beverages.

To survive, Matt stopped making beer and started producing Utica Club carbonated soft drinks along with near beers and malt tonics.

After the first year of prohibition, company sales had dropped nearly eighty percent, but the founder was determined to keep the business alive. Nevertheless, business was often touch-and-go during the thirteen years of prohibition.

"I think if prohibition had gone on another year or two, the business would not have made it," comments Nick Matt, the founder's grandson who runs the business today. "By the end of prohibition, they were right at the edge. The company and my grandfather had done pretty well and had a fair amount of money. That kept the place alive at the time but, they were running out of money. If prohibition had gone on, I don't think they would have made it."

Although prohibition was well intentioned, the nation grew tired of the crime and social upheaval it created, and the Eighteenth Amendment was repealed in 1933. Matt Brewing was one of the first breweries to have a license and introduced Utica Club lager at the stroke of midnight on the day prohibition ended. The brand name Utica Club was selected for the lager because it had become such a popular trademark. The demand for beer was so great following prohibition that the company stopped production of all its non-alcoholic drinks and focused exclusively on beer. However, the popular sodas would reappear three decades later.

Matt continued to guide the company through the demands of the Great Recession and the shortages of World War II. In 1951, his son, Walter, became president of the brewery. He and his brother, Frank, ran the day-to-day operation, but F. X. continued on as chairman and continued working until shortly before his death in 1958 at the age of ninety-nine.

Utica Club lager became enormously popular throughout the region in the late 1950s and 1960s, thanks to a popular television campaign. In the television spots, talking beer stein characters Schultz and Dooley promoted the mellow taste and naturalness of Utica Club lager. The voice for the talking beer steins was legendary comedian Jonathan Winters, who considered the spots a springboard to his television stardom.

In 1965 the original four-story brick building that had been used for bottling—with the name West End Brewing Company chiseled in stone across the top—was recreated as a Victorian Tour Center and opened for tours by the public. Since the opening of the Tour Center, the brewery has had more than 2 million visitors.

The opening of the Tour Center also led to a return of the company's popular soft drinks of the prohibition era.



At first, the company produced root beer by the keg to serve to children, but there were so many requests from Tour Center visitors that bottled soft drinks were finally reintroduced in the early 1990s. These hand-crafted, Saranac-branded products are available in Root Beer, Diet Root Beer, Ginger Beer, Orange Cream, Shirley Temple and Black Cherry Cream varieties.

In 1980, F. X. Matt II became president and renamed the company the F. X. Matt Brewing Company in honor of his grandfather. It was during this period that Matt's Premium became a popular beer for the brewery. The 1980s, however, were a tough time for regional breweries and Matt II soon found himself faced with major decisions. A nationwide economic



recession, coupled with the rise of mass-produced light beer, in some cases sold at very low prices, created a tough competitive situation for regional breweries. Many were forced out of business, but Matt Brewing was determined to find new ways to compete.

“By refusing to compromise on quality, F. X. Matt Brewing was able to stay in the game,” explains Nick Matt. “Our Utica Club and Matt’s Premium brands suffered significant sales declines during the era but still maintained a good reputation. Even though we were struggling, people knew we made quality beer and that made all the difference. That reputation enabled us to launch a new brand—Saranac—as well as to get into contract brewing for other breweries.”

The Saranac brand was introduced in 1985 but its potential was not realized until Saranac Adirondack Lager was named best American Premium Lager at the Great American Beer Festival in 1991.

“After we won a gold medal with Saranac at the Great American Beer Festival, we decided if we were making the best beer then maybe we

should focus on selling Saranac and that was the direction we wanted to take the company,” says Nick.

Fred Matt, now president of the brewery, recalls that he and Nick had talked about changing their focus to Saranac late one night, but that even he was surprised when Nick announced that was what we were doing. It turned out to be a great decision which transitioned us to craft brewing and allowed us to tremendously expand our distribution. Today, Saranac accounts for more than half our sales.

The Saranac brand has allowed the brewery to continue to build on its history of innovation with new packages and new products. The brewery was the first to introduce mixed packs to the craft beer category back in the early 1990s and has been first to market with a number of beer styles. In celebration of Matt’s 125th anniversary, Legacy IPA was introduced, based on an IPA recipe created by the founder in 1914, nearly 100 years earlier.

In May 2008 just after the Great Recession hit, Matt Brewing faced yet another hurdle as fire spread through the brewery bottling





operations, putting the company out of business for about a month. The company was forced to pull its ads, reduce its beer production and lost significant sales in the ensuing several months.

Making the best of a bad situation, Matt Brewing reinvested in the facility and developed a better bottling operation than it had before.

Today, the brewery has been updated with new and modern equipment, but the founder's classic brew house with the gleaming copper kettles are continually maintained and its 125 employees combine more than a century of brewing expertise with cutting-edge innovative practices to produce award winning beers. The brewery's flagship Saranac Pale Ale, a gold medal winner, was described by Charlie Papazian, founder of the Brewers Association, as balanced, refreshing and perfectly hopped. In addition to the four Saranac beers sold year round, there are special beers brewed for each

season and seasonal mixed packs as well as the 'High Peaks Series'—Saranac's line of beers that are bigger, more complex and flavorful.

The Matt Brewery and its Saranac beers have become ingrained in the region's culture and a brewery-sponsored 15K run called the Boilermaker draws over 15,000 runners each year and an estimated 40,000 people to the brewery's back parking lot for the famous post race party. During the summer, thousands gather at the brewery's Tour Center and beer garden for beer, music and friendship at Saranac Thursdays and several brewery-sponsored concerts.

Utica may seem a bit out of the way for beer enthusiasts, but no other brewery in America better reflects the history and transition of America's brewery culture than the Saranac-F. X. Matt Brewing Company.

For more information about the brewery, or to schedule a tour, visit www.saranac.com.



UTICA COLLEGE

Utica College has become one of the most innovative small universities in America by inspiring students to achieve beyond their imagining. This philosophy has been at the heart of the school's mission since its beginnings.



The school's history began in the 1930s when Syracuse University began operating extension courses in the area. Utica College was

established in 1946 through the efforts of Mohawk Valley community leaders who realized the need for an institution of higher learning in the region.

In his history of the school, *Pioneering Generations*, Professor John 'Jack' Behrens notes that, "Utica College is a success story of a major university's desire to help a neighboring city and a community's pledge to its returning war veterans and their families. The pledge was simple and straightforward, the Mohawk Valley wanted its veterans to stay, acquire an education and get on with their lives."

Thousands of veterans were streaming home from World War II in 1946, eager to take advantage of the GI Bill that would help finance a college education. Community leaders, concerned that Utica was the largest city in the state without a college or university, organized a committee and asked several existing colleges to submit plans for a school in Utica. Syracuse University was the only one to submit a proposal.

Syracuse proposed an extension center at Utica Free Academy that would offer the first two years of liberal arts courses. Upon completion of the course work, students would be able to transfer to the main Syracuse campus or to some other institution. The plan also provided courses to fill the needs of teachers and other adults at night.





“We were established as a kind of dual-purpose school—one as a GI college and the other as a college for the working poor of the Mohawk Valley, to give them more opportunity to climb the economic ladder,” explains Dr. Todd Hutton, the school’s eighth president.



Utica College opened in the fall of 1946 in the downtown section known as Oneida Square. Dr. Winston Tolles, a Hamilton College graduate with a Ph.D. degree from Columbia, was named the first dean of the college.

“From our founding in 1946 the faculty began weaving a golden thread of innovation and creativity into the fabric of the institution,” says Hutton, who has served as president since 1998. “They passed that golden thread from one generation to the next. As a result, Utica College has introduced a number of programs that were the first of their kind in the nation.”

In its first three years, enrollment at Utica College doubled from 600 to 1,200. A faculty of twenty-four grew to an instructional staff of sixty. By 1949 the college had purchased nine buildings, discontinued four others, and continued leases of the Plymouth Church House, the Science Center and the Moose Building known as the Little Theatre.

“The Syracuse University Extension Center at Utica Free Academy had become a college campus earlier by the will of active proponents, not the plodding of well-intentioned committees,” Professor Behrens explains in his history of the school.

As the school continued to grow, college and community officials continued their efforts to expand Utica College into a four-year institution. Working closely with state officials, they determined that a state hospital scheduled for abandonment could serve as a future home for the college.

The Utica College Foundation was created to raise \$3.5 million to begin the expansion and the school moved to its current campus off Burrstone Road in 1961. The 110 acre state hospital farmland known as Graycroft Farm was transformed into a college campus, but the school had only one building when it was dedicated on October 19. Additional buildings, however, were soon constructed.

The college was resolute in its efforts to offer a mix of liberal arts and career programs. It also surpassed a majority of other liberal arts colleges of similar size by instituting pre-professional and professional programs. Utica College became separately accredited in 1978, and became legally independent in 1995, but maintained an academic relationship with Syracuse University and offered the SU degree until 2011.



Above: Utica College tower bell at dusk.

Today, Utica College is a fully autonomous, private higher education institution, offering bachelor's, master's, and professional doctoral degrees.

Currently, Utica College enrolls 2,200 full- and part-time undergraduate students, and about 300 full-time graduate students. Students are enrolled from forty-five different states and thirty-nine different countries, representing a broad diversity of ethnicities, backgrounds, perspectives and experiences. Seventy-seven percent of the freshmen students live on campus. In addition, 1,700 students are enrolled in eleven on-line degree and certificate programs.

The College offers thirty-six undergraduate degrees in more than sixty areas of study as well as numerous pre-professional and special programs. The school also offers twenty-one graduate programs, including master's degrees, doctoral programs and graduate level certificates. Options include Business Administration, Cybersecurity (intelligence, forensics, and operations), Economic Crime Management, Education, Health Care Administration, Liberal Studies, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy.

The school employs 742, including 152 full-time faculty members.

"We've always been known as the school of opportunity and that 'golden thread of innovation' continues to guide the college today," says Dr. Hutton. He recalls that the school's reputation for innovation began soon after the school opened when a returning GI and professor persuaded school officials to create the first public relations program at an undergraduate level. That program has since been voted one of the 100 most influential programs in the country. One of the first post-World War II construction management programs was established at Utica College. The second Psychology-Child Life program in the country began at the school and the standards for the profession were written on its campus.





“We also have the first Economic Crime Investigation Program, which was established in 1988 when people weren’t even thinking about teaching white-collar crime investigation,” Dr. Hutton adds. “We also have one of the first security intelligence programs in the nation and are the first school in the country to be certified by the Department of Defense and the National Security Agency for our Cybersecurity program.”

In connection with these cutting-edge programs, the school constructed an Economic Crime, Justice Studies, and Cybersecurity Building that includes a certified crime lab where cybercrime analysis is done for Federal and State agencies in Central New York. The building includes a top secret-qualified research space where defense-related cyber research can be conducted.

The school’s Frank E. Gannett Memorial Library houses 145,000 volumes, 657 print journals, 5,000 electronic journals and 112 on-line databases. The library contains the largest collection of nineteenth and early twentieth century Welsh language literature in the United States.

Utica College serves locally as a vital contributor to the region’s economic development, and has also established branches in Syracuse and in St. Petersburg, Florida where it offers an innovative Accelerated Second Bachelor’s Degree nursing program that admits seventy-two students three times a year.

Utica College fields twenty-five varsity sports teams and is a member of the NCAA’s Division III Empire 8, Eastern College Athletic Conference and the New York State Women’s Collegiate Athletic Association. Students also participate in sixteen intramural sports and club sports.

In its relatively short history, Utica College has grown from a two-year extension school in makeshift quarters to a highly respected institution of higher education. Utica College’s mission rests upon a foundation of values that guide the College community’s decisions and actions. These values include individual attention for its students; lifelong learning; a pragmatic approach to teaching and learning; continued improvement in its educational and operational quality; a diversity of perspective; background and experience in an increasingly global society; community and professional service; ethical behavior and integrity in all that it does; freedom of expression and the open sharing of ideas and creativity; open, honest and collegial communication and the well being of others.



STURGES MANUFACTURING Co., Inc.

From old-timey suspenders to modern engineered straps and webbing, Sturges Manufacturing Company, Inc., has survived and prospered for more than a century by constantly reinventing itself to meet the demands of the market.

The company was first incorporated as the Utica Suspender Company, Inc., on February 3, 1909. The founders were George Armstrong, Henry Sturges, and George H. Williams. Armstrong served as president and Sturges as secretary.

The new company rented manufacturing space at 335 Columbia Street in Utica and began producing Utica Athletic Suspenders, which retailed for twenty-five cents per pair. The company promoted its products aggressively with an advertising budget of \$3,000, enough to purchase ads in such popular magazines as *Argosy* and *The Saturday Evening Post*.

As automobiles began to play a major role in American life, the company recognized an opportunity to utilize non-elastic webbing straps to secure trunks and luggage to autos. A new line of "U-T-K" straps was developed and by the end of 1915, the straps accounted for ninety percent of the company orders.

World War I created a shortage of webbing and by 1918 the company was having great difficulty in finding enough raw materials. To solve the problem, the company purchased property on Sunset Avenue in South Utica and built its own factory to accommodate twelve shuttle looms. The building was located at 2030 Sunset Avenue in South Utica.

After a four year period of declining sales of suspenders and automobile straps, the company name was changed to Sturges Manufacturing Company in 1923. A year later, both product lines were discontinued and the company became a miscellaneous strap business. Although the company reported its lowest sales in four years, 1924 proved to be the firm's most profitable to date. The "U-T-K" 4-Way Book Strap was introduced that year and a U.S. Patent was granted for the design.

As the Great Depression spread across the nation, Sturges lost two of its most significant accounts and sales declined by forty percent in 1930. To survive, the company developed the Safety Patrol Belt for school crossing guards. The patrol belts were a best selling product well

into the second half of the twentieth century. The company, however, continued to suffer financially because of declining sales and the effect of plummeting cotton prices on inventory.

The National Recovery Act, part of the government efforts to combat the Depression, implemented policies that boosted cotton prices. This also increased the value of the Sturges inventory, allowing the company to post a profit for 1933.

Meanwhile, Edwin Weiss joined the company and led the development of a new product line of surgical and corset webbings. These new offerings contributed to record webbing production and a forty percent increase in sales during 1934. The company soon added "bathing belts", which increased sales substantially in 1936. Despite the gloomy economy, Sturges Manufacturing was once again moving in a positive direction.

Sturges died in 1939 and was succeeded as company president by Weiss. The new leader was convinced that the factory needed to be expanded to accommodate more weaving equipment and, in 1941, the company added six looms and boosted production to aid the war effort.

During World War II, ninety-five percent of production was devoted to government work, including gun slings and berth straps for troop transport ships. During the war years, Sturges operated two forty-eight hour shifts each week and produced more than four million straps for the armed forces, including two million gun slings. Production workers during this era included many wives and mothers eager to support the efforts of their loved ones who were off fighting the war.

The end of the war meant another major change in direction for the company as it shifted from war production to commercial work. New products included straps for garden sprayers, baby high chairs, roller skates and improved safety patrol belts. To meet the tremendous economic boom that followed World War II, the company added an additional seven looms and diversified the product line to include straps for Kodak cameras, IBM electric typewriters and shoulder straps for Kirby vacuum cleaners. These products also introduced new materials such as nylon, polyester and polypropylene yarns.



❖
Above: Henry G. Sturges, president
1919-1939.

Below: Edwin T. Weiss, president
1939-1992.



A significant industry shift occurred during the 1960s with the introduction of the shuttleless high-speed needle looms that increased production dramatically. With orders from Kodak approaching 50,000 straps per week, an addition was added to the west side of the building to house new high-speed looms.

During the 1970s and 1980s, straps for the camping, lawn and garden, exercise equipment, safety and O.E.M markets were added to the Sturges product line.

Richard Griffith, who had joined the company in 1972, was elected president in 1992. Old style shuttle looms were phased out, freeing up space for more modern manufacturing equipment. In addition, the company purchased an adjacent bowling alley and doubled its manufacturing space to 60,000 square feet.

By the turn of the century, Sturges began to see customers migrating to offshore manufacturers for the cost advantage, although surveys showed Sturges straps were of the highest quality. Nevertheless, the time had come for the company to reinvent itself once again.

Griffith's son, Tyler, who now serves as vice president of Sales, realized the problem was



not the company, but the commodity product line. Utilizing the strengths of an ISO quality management system, the firm's knowledge of manufacturing and a willingness to innovate, Sturges reinvented itself to be a producer of engineered webbing.



Above: Sturges management team, from left to right, Vice President/Sales Manager Tyler Griffith, General Manager Bruce Brach, President Richard Griffith, Vice President/Quality Manager Norma Jean Rice and Human Resources Manager/Accounting Manager Mylissa Deetz.



Left: A production worker operates a multifunctional machine to simultaneously cut, sew and create a screw hole in an O. E. M. webbing strap.



❖
Above: A technician applies an abrasion treatment to a webbing.

Below: A weaving technician checks the width of a webbing at a needle loom.

Sturges is now recognized as a leader in webbing for producers of fall protection, mountaineering and fire protection equipment, as well as for original equipment manufacturers who have unique requirements. The company has been honored as Supplier of the Year by a number of industry-leading customers and

was selected as one of the Best Companies to Work for in New York in 2014.

After successfully meeting the changing needs of the market place for more than a century, Sturges Manufacturing Co. looks forward to a bright future. For additional information, visit www.sturgesstraps.com





PJ Green, Inc., the leading variable printing and mailing firm in Central New York, was established in 1928 by Philip J. “PJ” Green as PJ Green Advertising Service. PJ, his wife Anna Mae, and their five children began the business in the garage of the family home on Albany Street in Utica.

PJ began his career by delivering advertising circulars and promotional items door-to-door. Soon he was able to process mailed advertising and other forms of volume distribution. As the firm continued to grow, PJ’s sons Terry and Pat joined their father and the company soon became incorporated.

PJ ran the business for more than fifty years until his death in 1982. Terry succeeded his father as president and Pat as vice president and a second production facility was added in Syracuse that same year. To accommodate their continued growth, in 1987 the company moved into a four-story, 125,000 square foot facility on Whitesboro Street, Utica. The main production facility and corporate offices remain at this location today, while a third office was opened in Albany in 2009.

Terry and Pat continued to build the family business until their untimely deaths. After Terry’s passing in 1990, the family and employees were committed to keeping the company intact. Four of Terry’s children still operate the business today.

The new millennium brought diversification to PJ Green when the company purchased the *Town Crier*, a ‘good news’ publication serving

the residents of nearby communities. Since the purchase, circulation and content has more than doubled. PJ Green further expanded during this time by adding graphic design, integrated marketing, variable printing and promotional products to their service offerings.

With the recent addition of PJ’s great-grandchildren, the company is now a fourth generation family business. In keeping with the family culture, many employees have over twenty years of service. PJ Green is poised to continue its success by providing innovative solutions for its clients and by retaining its dedicated employees.



Above: Founder Philip James Green and his sons, Patrick and Terence.

Below: Employees with twenty-plus years of service along with the third and fourth generations of the Green family.

COURTESY OF TONY NARKON.



HAMILTON COLLEGE



Above: Landscape illustration of Hamilton College, 1908.

BY RICHARD W. RUMMELL, (1848-1924).

BELOW: PHOTO BY VICKERS & BEECHLER.

BOTTOM, RIGHT: PHOTO BY NANCY L. FORD.

Hamilton College, one of the nation's most highly regarded liberal arts colleges, has always been a school of opportunity. This heritage dates from 1793 when Samuel Kirkland, a missionary to the Oneida Indians, developed a plan to educate the tribe's children. His idea called for a school to serve both the Oneidas and the white settlers who were beginning to move into the area in search of land and opportunity following the American Revolution.

Kirkland presented his plan to President George Washington and Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, both of whom expressed support. Hamilton lent his name to the school and became one of the first trustees.

The Hamilton-Oneida Academy was chartered soon afterward and, on July 1, 1794, the cornerstone of the first building was laid in colorful ceremonies attended by a delegation of Oneida Indians.

The academy remained in existence for nearly twenty years, although few Oneidas attended the school and the students were mostly the children of local white settlers. The academy, however, remained one of Kirkland's enduring accomplishments when it was transformed into Hamilton College a few years after his death.

The new institution of higher learning was chartered in 1812. It is currently the third oldest college in New York State and remains one of the oldest in the nation. After surviving dire difficulties in its early years, Hamilton College began to flourish in the period prior to the Civil War. Students were expected to enter the school well prepared in Greek and Latin and continued to receive instruction in those languages in addition to studying philosophy, religion, history and mathematics.

The school placed great emphasis on 'rhetoric and elocution' and excellence in public speaking remains a Hamilton tradition.

As Hamilton entered its second century in 1912, it began preparing itself for the modern era. An ambitious building program resulted in facilities that were the envy of peer institutions, and the curriculum was revised to accommodate modern languages and the sciences. Under the leadership of President Carlos Ferry, Hamilton achieved solid academic status among America's leading liberal arts institutions. Actively supported by 1864 Hamilton graduate and Clinton native Elihu Root, the distinguished statesman and Nobel Prize laureate who was chairman of the board of trustees, President Ferry nurtured Hamilton as a place for the finest teaching.

The pace of change accelerated in the aftermath of World War II. The student body was expanded; both in size and quality, and the faculty grew in size and stature. The social sciences became a vital part of the curriculum through such course offerings as anthropology, economics, and government.





A revolutionary change occurred in 1968 when all-male Hamilton established a sister institution, Kirkland College. Kirkland provided a liberal arts education for women and developed a curriculum that fostered independence, creativity and self-reliance. Students on College Hill were enrolled at either Hamilton or Kirkland, but selected courses from both institutions and shared such facilities as the Burke Library.

The two colleges merged in 1978, but Kirkland's legacy includes an extraordinary faculty and a strong commitment to experimental

education and interdisciplinary perspectives. The physical plant has recently undergone extensive renovation and expansion, including a state-of-the-art science center and major new facilities for the arts, social sciences and recreation.

Hamilton continues to emphasize the importance of writing well and speaking clearly, long-standing Hamilton traditions. In 2010 the college adopted a need-blind admission policy, a pledge to make admission decisions without considering an applicant's ability to pay, while still meeting the full demonstrated financial need of every accepted student.

Hamilton College's 1,350 acre campus is situated on a hilltop overlooking the picturesque village of Clinton. Enrollment totals 1,850, with students coming from 45 states and 46 countries. The full-time faculty totals 190, with 95 percent of the staff holding the highest degrees in their field.

Hamilton College, thought to be the oldest continually operating private organization in Oneida County, has evolved from Samuel Kirkland's plan for a frontier school for white and Oneida Indian children, to become one of the nation's most highly respected colleges. While faithfully maintaining the tradition of liberal learning in an intimate environment, Hamilton has responded to changing needs and circumstances in preparing its students for a world unimagined by its founder.

Additional information may be found on the Internet at www.hamilton.edu.



Top, left: Clinton native Elisha Root, class of 1864, trustee from 1883-1937 and recipient of the 1912 Nobel Peace Prize.

COURTESY OF THE HAMILTON COLLEGE PORTRAIT COLLECTION.

TOP, RIGHT: PHOTO BY NANCY L. FORD.

BELOW: PHOTO BY RICH SOFRANKO.





Foundation, March of Dimes and National Alliance on Mental Illness.

The owner and employees of Darman Manufacturing are committed to the company Mission Statement, which calls on the company to remain an effective competitor as a supplier of products to industrial laundries and linen suppliers; to provide superior products, delivery and service to its customers at a fair price; to provide a safe, comfortable and secure working environment for its employees; to search for other markets and products where it can gain a competitive advantage; and to remain ethically and socially responsible while carrying out its strategies in pursuit of this mission.

With this commitment to offering the best service and products at competitive prices, Darman Manufacturing Company will continue to offer environmentally friendly products that are technologically superior.



Left: A Darman Endura II CRT Cabinet.

Below: Darman CRT cabinet generations from 1936 to the present (from left to right: 1936, 1952, 1987, and 1998).



CLINTON TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT COMPANY, INC.



For more than six decades, Clinton Tractor & Implement Company, Inc., has provided excellent products and services so that customers have little—or no—downtime. The owners sincerely believe that people are the most important part of their business and the equipment they sell is only as good as the people who stand behind it.

Clinton Tractor began in 1953 when the Calidonna brothers—Dominick, Frank and

John—responded to a newspaper advertisement seeking a farm machinery dealer to serve the area's agriculture industry.

The brothers brought a unique set of skills to the new business. Dominick was a farmer/salesman who sold fertilizers and corn seed, as well as running a saw mill and dairy farm. Frank brought much needed mechanical knowledge to the table. John's knowledge and ability to run heavy machinery





completed the well-rounded skill set Ford was looking for. John's backhoe work included everything from digging ditches to digging what is now the Clinton Pool.

When the company opened for business, the brothers were representatives of Triad Tractor, a Ford farm and equipment dealer in Yorkville. Property that had formerly served as the village's outdoor skating rink was purchased and the family built a 100-by-40-foot building. This facility at 31 Meadow Street has seen many expansions and additions over the years, but still serves as the company's main store. The company also operates an equipment set-up shop at 3225 Roberts Road in Deansboro.

When the Calidonna brothers established Clinton Tractor, the demand for farming equipment in the surrounding area was enormous. There were three machinery dealers in the Town of Kirkland, as well as a feed store and milk station. The large number of farmers in the area made doing business relatively easy and the company soon developed a market territory of about 1,250 square miles. This customer base was about a tenth the size of the company today.

In the early days, the brothers realized there was a big need for crop spraying among area farmers, so they purchased the crop spraying equipment, which was very scarce in the 1950s. The equipment was used for spraying crops throughout the area and provided a much needed economic boost for the young company's bottom line.

Dominick, Frank and John had a "go-go-go" business strategy that became ingrained in the company culture and still guides Clinton Tractor today. The second generation owners—John, Regina, Chris and Rebecca—all grew up in the business, doing odd jobs and learning the fine points of the business from their father and uncles. They quickly

learned they were in a fast-paced industry that demands on-time quality service.

As the years have passed, new technology, new companies and a larger customer base have forced organizations to grow and learn new ways of conducting business. The family leadership of Clinton Tractor has met this challenge.

Since Clinton Tractor's inception, the Calidonnas have added equipment to their inventory to keep up with customer demand. Although the company started as a Ford dealer, it added New Holland products in 1978. The New Holland Red and Yellow hay equipment line was a big hit with area farmers and the Calidonnas decided to begin what has become a long-lasting relationship with New Holland. A trailer division was added to the Clinton Tractor inventory in 1992, and the popular Ferris lawn mowers were added to the product line about ten years ago.



Today, Clinton Tractor has fifty-one full- and part-time employees and serves a market territory of 13,275 square miles. The company currently has about 350 pieces of equipment in inventory.

Clinton Tractor & Implement Company is involved in a number of community and charitable activities, including Ride for Missing Children, Relay for Life, Utica Zoo, FFA, March of Dimes, American Cancer Society and many others.

MARSHALL PRZYLUKE, INC.

When Marshall Przyluke began his sanitation business in 1969, billing was done by hand and many customers paid for their service by taping fifty cents to the top of their trash cans.

Marshall began his business by taking over a sanitation service that had been disbanded. He worked nights in area factories and made collections during the day, driving his one garbage truck over a route that covered the towns of New Hartford, Paris, Frankfort, Whitestown and Kirkland. His wife, Patricia, was very active in the business, serving as secretary and treasurer as well as looking after the many details of a growing business.

Although he was competing with much larger firms, Marshall concentrated on providing his customers with the best service possible. His hard work and reliable customer service paid off and the small, one-truck operation began to grow. Eventually there were two garbage trucks serving thousands of customers five days a week. The company was incorporated in 1982.

In 1989 the company purchased property in Frankfort and formed a roll-off dumpster service. A transfer station was added in 1991.

Marshall Przyluke, Inc., has seen many changes during its forty-five years in business, beginning with the closing of Ludlow's Landfill in 1988. The Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (OHSWA)



was established that same year and garbage was taken to its Rome facility. OHSWA built a transfer station on Leland Avenue in Utica in 1990. Waste was taken there and then transferred to a landfill in Scranton, Pennsylvania. This continued until 2006 when the Authority opened a landfill in Ava, where waste was transferred from a transfer station on Leland Avenue.

OHSWA opened a recycling center on Leland Avenue in 1991 and Marshall Przyluke, Inc., acquired two recycling trucks and hired four additional employees. Recyclables started with





only paper and glass but grew into plastics and metal, providing single-stream recycling.

Many dedicated employees have worked long and hard for the company over the years and Marshall Przylyuke, Inc., now employs fifteen people. "These are the people we credit for keeping our company successful," says Patricia Przylyuke.

The company supports a number of civic and charitable activities in the area, including the Sauquoit Valley Youth Association, Willowvale Volunteer Fire Department and Sauquoit Volunteer Fire Department.

Marshall passed away in 2007, but his family continues the business today.



MUNSON-WILLIAMS-PROCTOR ARTS INSTITUTE



Above: Fountain Elms.

Below: The Museum of Art.

Since its founding in 1919, Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute continues to evolve while maintaining traditions of fine art and culture.

The Museum of Art features a renowned permanent collection, fascinating exhibitions and education for all ages in an International-style gallery building designed by famed architect Philip Johnson, and also in Fountain Elms, a superb Victorian-era Italianate mansion.

The Performing Arts Division presents world famous soloists and ensembles, rising stars, recitals with commentary, cinema, family programs, outdoor festival concerts, special events and educational activities.

The School of Art offers professional instruction for adults, teens, and children in part-time community classes for beginners through advanced students.

PrattMWP College of Art & Design, an alliance between Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute and internationally renowned Pratt Institute, provides world-class fine art instruction in central New York.

The exhibitions, programs and instruction offered by MWPAI attract more than 175,000 visitors annually.

The Institute is named for three generations of one Utica family. Alfred Munson moved from Connecticut in 1832 and built a family fortune from such industrial ventures as the manufacture of burrstones and textiles, and canal, railroad, and steamboat transportation.

Munson's daughter, Helen, married Utica lawyer James Watson Williams in 1846. Williams soon became involved in his father-in-law's business affairs and served as a lobbyist on his behalf with the state legislature.

Helen Munson Williams, a well-known philanthropist in Central New York, was a prolific collector of decorative and fine arts. A shrewd investor who increased her inheritance several fold, Helen had the means to spend grandly on furnishings and gathered the core of what was to become the family's art collection.

Helen and James had three daughters, Grace, Rachel and Maria. In 1891, Maria married Thomas R. Proctor, a regional hotel owner. Rachael married Frederick Proctor, the younger half-brother of Thomas, who was involved in various investment ventures and very active in community activities.

Rachael and Maria inherited the fine and decorative arts collections established by their mother and married men whose collecting habits were similar to their own. Frederick and Thomas amassed watches and other objects characterized as appropriate for male collectors.





After Rachel's death in 1915, the three remaining family members—Maria, Thomas and Frederick—developed the concept of a community cultural organization. In 1919 the art institute was chartered as “an artistic, musical and social center.” A few months after Maria's death in 1936, Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute opened to the public. Fountain Elms, the home built for the Williams family, was maintained as the museum, exhibiting many of

the Proctors' paintings, prints and decorative furnishings, which became the nucleus of the original permanent collection.

In 1941 the art institute was granted the power to “provide instruction in higher education at the college level in the field of fine arts with authority to confer the degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts.” This milestone marked the establishment of the School of Art, which has flourished for more than seven decades and continues to offer courses in art to all ages.

The collection of the Museum of Art expanded in the post-war years, necessitating the need for more exhibition space. Acclaimed architect Philip Johnson was selected to design a new art museum, which opened in 1960. This historical landmark stands today in distinction and grandeur as the MWPPI Museum of Art. With the construction of the Johnson building, a decision was made to renovate and refurbish Fountain Elms as a Victorian house-museum. An education wing to unite the two buildings was constructed in 1995.

As a New York State Governor's Arts Award recipient, MWPPI remains a celebrated venue for art, music, performance and education for people of every age and background.

For more information about the Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute, please visit www.mwpai.org.



Above: A reception held at the Institute.



INDIUM CORPORATION

UTICA'S TECHNOLOGY COMPANY™



*The original offices of
Indium Corporation.*

Known as Utica's Technology Company™, Indium Corporation is a premier technology materials manufacturer and supplier to the global electronics, semiconductor, solar, thin-film, and thermal management markets. With approximately 800 employees worldwide, the company is headquartered in Clinton, New York. Indium Corporation operates thirteen facilities located in China, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States. The company has numerous field sales and technical support offices throughout the world.

Globally, the firm employs numerous scientists, engineers, and technicians, as well as

operations and support personnel at its five Oneida County facilities—its global headquarters in Clinton, New York, and four manufacturing facilities in Utica, Rome, and Clinton.

Indium Corporation was founded as a result of research done on indium by a visionary chemical engineer, William Murray. Throughout the 1920s, he was director of research at the Oneida Community where he and his team developed the initial uses and applications of indium, a newly discovered and little-known metallic element. Murray also explored sources of indium in mines throughout North America and he and the Oneida Community began working with Anaconda Mining Company to secure commercial supplies of the metal.

After extensive work to develop non-tarnishing silverware, Murray and his team were issued a flurry of patents covering numerous manufacturing processes. On March 13, 1934, armed with a unique product, protected intellectual property, a proven research team and a secure supply of raw material, Murray, the Oneida Community, and Anaconda Mining Company formed the Indium Corporation of America. Murray served as president and the business began operation in his garage at 805 Watson Place in Utica.

Interestingly, Murray also had political aspirations, serving as Chairman of the Oneida County and New York State Republican Parties.

In 1938, only four years after the company was founded, Indium Corporation's J. Robert Dyer, Jr., developed the technology for plating the first indium-treated aircraft engine bearings for United Aircraft Corporation. As a result, during WWII, the U.S. government awarded Indium Corporation the prestigious Army/Navy 'E' Award for manufacturing excellence.

In 1952 the company developed a commercially viable process for the manufacture of precision solder performs, enabling the mass production of alloy-junction transistors by Texas Instruments. In the 1960s, the company developed an extensive line of indium-based inorganic compounds, such as indium oxide, indium hydroxide, and indium-tin oxide. This was followed in the 1970s by the initial development of a world-class line of solder pastes for microelectronics assembly. In 1989, Indium Corporation—in conjunction

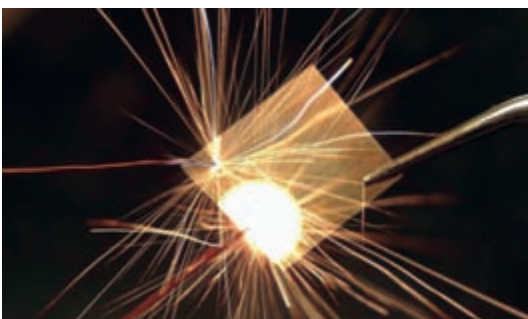




with Rockwell International—performed Indium Float Zone Purification experiments aboard NASA's Space Shuttle *Atlantis*. A year later, the company performed Microgravity Disturbances experiments aboard the NASA Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

More recently, Indium Corporation earned multiple Frost & Sullivan marketing awards for technical developments and for customer value enhancements in solder manufacturing. The Gillette Company honored the Indium Corporation with its Omnimark Award two separate times for outstanding performance in quality and service as a supplier to Duracell. And, the Indium Corporation was recognized multiple times by Intel for supplier performance, including earning the company's prestigious Preferred Quality Supplier Award.

In 2007 the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce named Indium Corporation the "Business of the Year." And, in 2012, the Indium Corporation received the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES School and Business Alliance Shining Star Company Award for its conscientious approach to providing quality job-shadowing experiences to local students.



Indium Corporation is involved with several community service activities. These include sponsorship of the STEM outreach program at SUNY Polytechnic Institute, RCIL student career exploration and job readiness, and career exploration with Mohawk Valley Community College's STEP program. The company is also involved in career exploration with various BOCES programs and serves as co-organizer and manager of the Utica-area Manufacturing Day observation. In addition, Indium sponsored the Utica Zoo's hundredth birthday celebration in 2014 and Utica College's athletic program. Company personnel serve on the boards of SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Mohawk Valley Community College, St. Elizabeth Medical Center, and Utica College's Young Scholars Liberty Partnership Program.

Indium Corporation: Utica's Technology Company™.

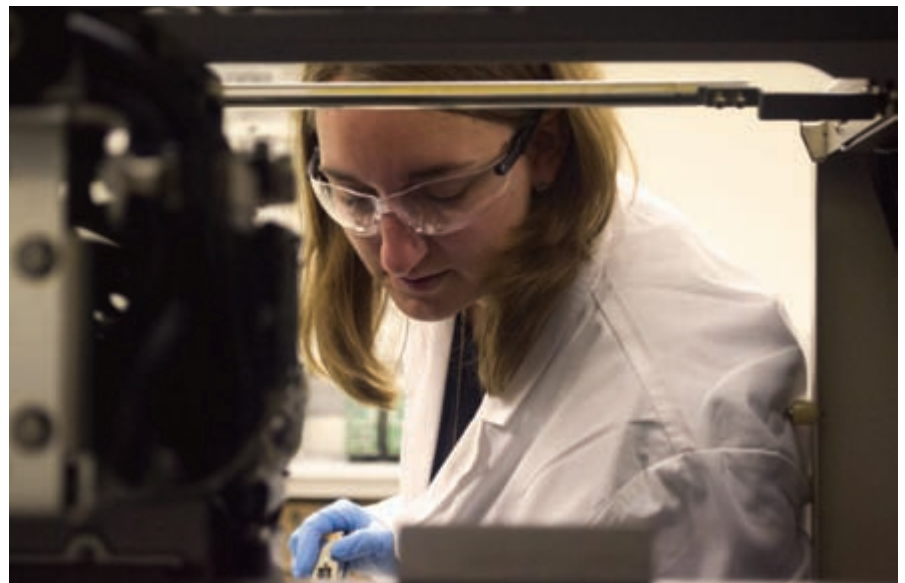


Top, left: Forms of indium.

Top, right: Indium Corporation engineers in a clean room.

Bottom, left: NanoFoil® ignition.

Bottom, right: Indium Corporation employs numerous engineers, scientists, and technicians at its five Oneida County facilities.



TURNBULL INSURANCE SERVICE



agency represented the Agricultural Company continually for more than 100 years, until the insurance company was sold. Members of the board of directors and other investors then went across the street in Watertown and started a new insurance company. The agency was appointed as the first agency in Oneida County for the New York Casualty. The agency represented the company for over twenty years until that company was sold.

Turnbull Insurance Service is a family owned and run Independent Insurance Agency located at 600 French Road in New Hartford. The agency is operated by the fourth generation, James B. Turnbull IV and Mark A. Turnbull, who are the great grandsons of James B. Turnbull, who established the agency in Utica, New York, in 1866.

Turnbull Insurance Service has outlasted many of the companies it has represented. The agency has Certificate of Authority Number 5 from the "Sun of London." Certificates one through four were turned in, making Number 5, the oldest Certificate of Authority in the United States, for the oldest insurance company in the world, founded in 1710.

James B. left his family farm in Antwerp, New York, in 1866 and walked to Watertown, New York, where he was offered a position as an agent for the Agricultural Insurance Company of Watertown, New York. When he was told that the company needed an agent in Utica, he walked from Watertown to Utica and sold fire insurance to farms along the way.

There have been many changes in the insurance coverage provided to its customers. The agency has a hand penned ID card for a Model T Ford. At that time, the purchase of insurance for a vehicle was optional. Turnbull Insurance has many original policies that were issued by James Turnbull that go back to the 1800s, insuring farms and personal belongings. Many of these old policies were returned to the agency by third and fourth generations of customers' families. These policies are one page

By the time he reached Utica he had sold enough policies to be appointed an agent with the Agricultural Insurance Company. The



Top: James B. Turnbull II, in office at the "busy corner" of Genesee and Bleecker Streets, Utica, 1916.

Above: The office at 240 Genesee Street showing the sign, 1968.

Right: James Turnbull II "J. B." and James Turnbull III, behind a desk at 240 Genesee Street, Utica.





documents that are issued on paper resembling stock certificates. Some of these policies insured for Fire and Lightning damage only. The agency has an endorsement that when added to the policy granted: "permission to use electricity." Some of the farms were insured for the total amount of \$2,800, with premium of fourteen dollars. Quite a change from present day values.

James Turnbull's son, James B. Turnbull II took over the agency and was joined in the business by a cousin, Bryon Turnbull. They continued the agency operation at a second floor office on the "busy corner" at Genesee and Blecker Streets for many years. James B. Turnbull III joined his father in the agency business around 1955. Byron retired, and the agency was operated by James II and III until the sudden death of James II in 1961. James II died of a heart failure during a dinner in his honor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Utica, where he was a lifelong member.

The office moved a few blocks up Genesee Street to 240 Genesee Street, across from the Savings Bank of Utica, the "Bank with the Gold Dome." The agency offices remained located in the heart of downtown Utica for close to fifty years. Many will remember the large yellow,

lighted sign with black letters identifying the firm that hung from the building. This sign was one of the last to come down when the city changed the rules for signs that extended over the sidewalks.

James B. Turnbull IV joined the agency in 1979 after graduation from college. Mark Turnbull, second son of James and Ruth Turnbull, joined the agency in 1983. Their daughter, Lynda Turnbull (Cioni) also worked with the agency after college until she married and left the area. Lynda is still involved with the agency. James IV and Mark are the owners of the agency today.

Needing more office space, and better parking for their customers, the agency moved to a new office in an older home at 1415 Genesee Street in 1984. The agency remained there for fifteen years before moving to a new location, next door at 1417 Genesee Street when a new building was built. The agency moved to its current location at 600 French Road, New Hartford in the fall of 1993 and remains there today.

Turnbull Insurance Service is proud of our long history in the Mohawk Valley. The agency appreciates its customers and looks forward to its upcoming 150th year of providing personal insurance service to Utica and surrounding areas.



Left to right, James B. Turnbull IV, James B. Turnbull III, Lynda Turnbull (Cioni) and Mark A Turnbull, all principals of the agency, 1983.

PRESBYTERIAN HOMES & SERVICES, INC.



Presbyterian Homes & Services' mission is to excel in providing healthcare, housing and community services while promoting individual wellness and independence in a dignified manner.

The beautiful 64.5 acre campus off Middle Settlement Road offers a full range of healthcare services while providing the tranquility of nature and easy access to shopping, restaurants, churches, banks and medical offices.

Presbyterian Homes & Services began in 1962 when the Utica Presbytery investigated the possibility of building a nursing home for elderly Presbyterians in need of convalescent, rehabilitation and nursing care. On October 16, 1963, Presbyterian Home for Central New York, Inc. (PHCNY) was incorporated. The first resident was admitted on June 1, 1967, and the facility was at full capacity only three months later. The need for expansion was obvious and several expansions over the years have resulted in the present 236 bed facility.

An adult day healthcare program opened in 1988. A special needs unit to serve those with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias was officially operating in 1990. This program provides all of the institutional healthcare services to individuals who reside in the community.

Recognizing the special needs of those with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders, the Homes' Parkinson's Residence was opened in 2001. This residence was one of the first in the nation located in a skilled nursing facility that serves as a model in the individual's care and treatment.

PHCNY, a long-term facility, also provides medical adult day healthcare, out-and-in-patient rehabilitation and aquatic classes.

Also operating under the umbrella of Presbyterian Homes & Services is The Meadows at Middle Settlement, Inc., a low to moderate income subsidized housing complex.

Plans for The Meadows began at a meeting of the board of directors in 1968 when a motion was made to have a "complete geriatric center concept on campus." This innovative idea was enthusiastically accepted.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the facility was held in November 1971 and, by 1973, apartments were sufficiently completed to open. All of the apartments were filled by September 1974 and they have remained filled ever since. There is also a very lengthy waiting list for The Meadows at Middle Settlement.



❖
Above: Preswick Glen.

Below: The Meadows at Middle Settlement.

This nonprofit corporation operates as a subsidiary of Presbyterian Homes & Services and is open to anyone over age sixty-two, regardless of sex, race, creed or national origin. The complex consists of 48 studio apartments with sleeping alcoves and dressing rooms, 76 one-bedroom, and 24 two-bedroom apartments. The Friendship House is a community building where residents may get together for social activities or meetings. Laundry facilities and a kitchen are located in this building, which also has a large outdoor patio.

Presbyterian Residential Community (PRC), which opened in 1995, provides long-term residential care and services to individuals who do not require continuous nursing care, but are unable to live independently.

PRC offers two levels of care in its 96 bed facility; 54 adult-care beds and 42 assisted-living beds. The facility focuses on providing a supportive living environment in which older persons can remain active and independent in a homelike setting.

PRC provides adult care, assisted living, home care, social adult day care and a wellness center.

Preswick Glen was incorporated in 2000 for the purpose of operating housing for older persons. Preswick Glen is an independent living community offering an array of services that include flexible dining, housekeeping, transportation, and emergency response system and outside maintenance. Preswick Glen consists of 124 one- and two-bedroom apartment homes and two-bedroom cottages located on forty acres in New Hartford.

Preswick Glen's mission is a not-for-profit retirement community committed to providing security, peace of mind and independence for senior adults by providing opportunities for personal growth in an attractive and comfortable atmosphere.

Since opening of the first facility in 1967, Presbyterian Homes & Services now offers home care, wellness, adult day services (both social and medical), long-term care, assisted living and rehabilitation.



High quality care and quality of life are important issues at the Presbyterian Homes campus. The support of friends and the community is vital in helping the institution maintain its high standards for residents and the senior community that accesses its various services. Presbyterian Homes Foundation was developed to receive charitable gifts, donations and grants to enable the organization to continue its high standards into the future. More information about the foundation may be found at www.presbyterianhome.com/donations.

The goal of Presbyterian Homes is to provide a comprehensive continuum of care from independent living through skilled nursing on its Middle Settlement Road campus between Presbyterian Home for Central New York and The Meadows at Middle Settlement.



Above: Presbyterian Residential Community.

Below: Presbyterian Home for Central New York.



GETNICK LIVINGSTON ATKINSON & PRIORE, LLP

Since its founding in 1986, the law firm of Getnick Livingston Atkinson & Priore, LLP has been recognized for its client-centered approach and legal excellence. The firm is active in all major areas of civil practice, including real estate, business law, estate planning, creditors' rights, domestic relations, serious personal injury, employment law, education law, and appellate practice. The firm's attorneys are recognized as community leaders and respected as prominent practitioners in their practice areas.

principle that clients would benefit from a team of lawyers experienced in a broad range of practice areas. This principle has been proven in practice as the firm has successfully represented businesses, financial institutions, and individuals throughout New York State in a variety of matters. In a changing world, a team of attorneys with diverse experience and expertise is crucial. Getnick Livingston Atkinson & Priore, LLP has been proud to partner with its clients for the past twenty-eight years.



The original partners, Michael Getnick, John Livingston, Thomas Atkinson, and the late Stephen Johnson, founded the firm based on the

The firm is growing and currently has nine attorneys, making it the largest law firm between Albany and Syracuse.

The firm partners are: Michael Getnick, John Livingston, Thomas Atkinson, Janet Richmond, Joseph DeTraglia, Patrick Radel, and Jeffrey Reale.



Michael E. Getnick, a past president of the New York State Bar Association, has litigated complex cases in federal and state court for more than forty years. His experience includes representation of large businesses and seriously injured individuals at trial and on appeal to the highest courts in New York. A past president of the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Mike has been recognized for his pro bono work and commitment to civil rights.

John J. Livingston, one of the premier real estate attorneys in Central New York, has represented businesses, individuals, and financial institutions since 1971 in commercial, consumer, and agricultural transactions. John has been proud to represent his clients in complex condominium conversions, bond financing, land use and rezoning, and contested foreclosure litigation. A supporter of community development, John served as president of the Utica Industrial Development Corporation and as chair of the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties.

Thomas L. Atkinson, former chair of the Oneida County Bar Association's Domestic Relations Section, is highly-regarded as a skilled domestic relations attorney. Tom has represented clients in contested matrimonial proceedings, child custody cases, and equitable distribution litigation involving substantial assets and complicated legal issues. Tom is a member of the Utica College Alumni Board of Directors and recipient of the Fifth Judicial District Award for Pro Bono Service.

Janet M. Richmond is recognized as a leader in the field of estate planning law. Committed to providing her clients with care and competence, Janet focuses in the areas of estate planning, probate and trust administration, and guardianships. She served on the Oneida County Bar Association's Judiciary Committee, and is vice president of the Mid-York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York.

Joseph A. DeTraglia, past president of the Oneida County Bar Association, has represented businesses and nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and individuals in a range of labor and employment law, union relations, and human resources matters. He chairs the Mohawk Valley Society for Human Resource Management's legislative committee. Joe is dedicated to the community, having performed pro bono legal work and also serving as president of the Utica Zoo board as well as on other local nonprofit boards.

Patrick G. Radel, a former president of the Central New York Bankruptcy Bar Association, has been recognized for his success representing financial institutions in bankruptcy and collections cases and is a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy law. Patrick's practice includes trial and appellate litigation in federal and state courts and the representation of students with special needs.

Jeffrey M. Reale, a member of the Greater Utica-Rome Board of Realtors' Risk and Legal Committee, has established a reputation for handling complex lending transactions, real estate matters, and business succession/planning issues. Jeff's practice also includes landlord/tenant and corporate law matters.

Former partners of the firm include the Honorable David A. Murad, Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, the Honorable Louis P. Gigliotti, Oneida County Surrogate Court Judge, and the late Nicholas S. Priore, an esteemed bankruptcy law practitioner.

Getnick Livingston Atkinson & Priore, LLP is proud of its place in the history of Oneida County and of the contributions its attorneys have made. The firm looks forward to continuing its work, serving its clients, and helping their dynamic community grow and prosper.

ROSEMONT INN



Visitors searching for a unique alternative to boring, run-of-the-mill motels have discovered a delightful home-away-from-home at the Rosemont Inn. The Inn offers a warm welcome and secure environment to tourists and those in the area on business.

Conveniently located at 1423 Genesee Street in Utica's Downtown District and on the Internet at www.rosemontinnbb.com, Rosemont Inn is only a few blocks from the Stanley Theater, Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute and many other cultural and recreational activities. Other

popular attractions are the Adirondack Railroad that leaves from the historic Union Station and scenic boat tours of the Fulton Chain of Lakes located in Inlet. The Erie Canal Bike Trail draws many visitors who enjoy staying at the Inn.

The Rosemont Inn's classic Italianate Victorian architecture and beautifully decorated guest rooms—all with private baths—make the Inn comfortable and inviting for leisure and business travelers alike.

The three-story Inn was built in 1866 as a home for wealthy industrialist Charles Quait Miller,

who owned Utica Pipe Foundry Company, Lead Pipe Works, and other important ventures. The house was constructed by Ambrose Howard, who was both a contractor and nurseryman. When the construction was completed Howard planted many unusual plants, shrubs and trees on the property.

It is believed that a daughter of Charles and Jane Miller was married to one of the sons of General William T. Sherman and that he, inventor Thomas Edison and President William Howard Taft were guests at the home.

The Millers lived in the home until 1912. A succession of families then occupied the house until 1942, when it was converted to apartments.

By 1977 the beautiful structure had fallen into disrepair and it was scheduled to be demolished before Bob and Brenda Michaels saved it from destruction. It took fifteen months of intensive restoration efforts to repair and update everything from plaster moldings to new plumbing and electrical systems.

The Michaels opened the Inn for business in 1998. In 2004, Rita and Bob Sleys purchased the Inn from the Michaels and continue to operate it as a seven room bed and breakfast.



Many travelers return to the Rosemont Inn often just to enjoy the sumptuous four-course breakfast served in the dining room between 7:30 and 9:30 each morning. Breakfast begins with freshly roasted and ground house blend coffee, loose leaf teas and a choice of fresh chilled juices, followed by a seasonal fruit course. Next comes the Rosemont's made from scratch, hot from the oven signature muffins, made from fresh ground whole wheat flour in a variety of flavors. Also available are rich cream scones, cinnamon rolls and flaky cherry or apple turnovers.

On any given morning, the breakfast menu might include broccoli cheddar frittatas, whole wheat rose waffles with spicy chicken sausage patties, Greek, Italian or American inspired omelets, praline french toast, or one of many other delicious offerings.

All of the breads at the Rosemont Inn come from a local bakery, all jams are handcrafted at the Inn and all baked goods are made from scratch using only fresh, wholesome ingredients.

The Rosemont specializes in preparing healthy and delicious gluten free choices and can also accommodate vegans and those who are dairy-free.

Tourists find plenty to see and do while visiting the Rosemont Inn. The famed National Baseball Hall of Fame is only a short drive away in Cooperstown, or you may enjoy touring Matt Brewing Company, one of the nation's oldest breweries or Ommegang Microbrewery. Children and adults alike always enjoy a visit to the Utica Zoo.

Those interested in historical attractions will enjoy the Erie Canal Village, site of the original Erie Canal, Fort Stannix, a reconstructed eighteenth century fort



built to protect water routes from New York City to Canadian markets, or the Revolutionary War Oriskany Battlefield.

Outdoor activities include skiing, biking, hiking and historic tours. Dozens of outstanding restaurants, with a wide variety of cuisines, including Italian, Jamaican, Sushi/Japanese, and others, are nearby.



BARTELL MACHINERY SYSTEMS, L.L.C.

MEMBER OF THE HEICO COMPANIES, PETTIBONE L.L.C. GROUP



Bartell Machinery Systems, located in Rome, New York, is a global leader in providing highly engineered industrial manufacturing equipment for the tire and rubber, oil and gas, and wire and cable industries. Bartell has delivered innovative solutions to leading manufacturers since its founding in 1940 and more than 8,500 Bartell machines have been installed worldwide.



Top: Machining center, c. 1950.

Above: Ernest Bartell, founder.

Right: Bartell Research, Development and Training Center.



Bartell was founded by Ernest Bartell, who opened a small tool and die shop to service local wire and cable customers in Rome, New York. In 1969 the company was purchased by National Standard, which consolidated Bartell with its Machinery Systems Division and transferred its line of tire equipment to Rome. The Bartell family repurchased the company in 1990 and operated it until 1999 when it was sold to the current owners, Heico Group of Companies, based in Chicago.

Throughout its history, Bartell's expertise has been associated with wire and cable handling techniques. This knowledge was fittingly transferred to the tire industry in the form of bead winding equipment. Bartell is now recognized within the tire industry as the world leader in manufacturing tire bead machinery systems, and for bringing innovative and creative ideas to the market place. Bartell products are used by well-known tire manufacturers such as Michelin, Pirelli, Goodyear, Hankook, and Yokohama.

Bartell also manufactures and sells machinery systems to the wire and cable industry, telephone and data cable industries, and the oil and gas industry. All Bartell products are fully designed and rigorously tested to optimize safety, production efficiency, operational reliability and maximized asset life cycle. Bartell prides itself on setting new standards for quality, performance, and value in every machine it



builds. With generations of industry knowledge and engineering design experience, coupled with a world-class sales and technical service network, Bartell's employees are dedicated to providing its customers with state-of-the-art technologies capable of meeting the most advanced production needs.

In addition to its Rome headquarters, Bartell Machinery Systems has sales and service offices in Telford, United Kingdom and Qingdao, China. Additionally, Bartell has sales offices in Houston, Texas; Toronto, Canada; and Moscow, Russia.

Bartell Machinery has 160 employees and services approximately 2,500 customers worldwide.

The general operating philosophy at Bartell is customer satisfaction through continuous process improvement. 'We Enable Innovation' by supplying customers with uniquely designed machinery solutions to meet their production needs. There is no doubt that Bartell's greatest strength is its people—their expertise, acceptance of responsibility, and commitment to each other and to a job well done. Employees always go the extra mile to reach Bartell's goal of complete customer satisfaction.

Bartell offers a 24/7 service support hotline so that any customer may access technical support at any time. With service offices in North America, Europe and Asia, as well as a

core Technical Sales & Services team capable of traveling anywhere in the world, Bartell is able to respond quickly and effectively to all customer needs.

Bartell Machinery Systems is a proud member of the Rome Chamber of Commerce and the Manufacturers Association of Central New York (MACNY). Bartell also supports a wide variety of local police, fire department and charitable activities. In 2015, Bartell celebrates its seventy-fifth year of success and innovation.



Above: Oil and Gas Tensile Armouring Machine.

Below: Bartell Machinery Headquarters in Rome, New York.



A TRIBUTE TO MARTIN J. NUNN



❖
Top: Martin, Nora and their five daughters at the Saranac Inn Resort, Saranac, New York.

Above: Martin J. Nunn, 1914-1986.

Right: The year was 1947 and Martin J. Nunn purchased this coach/school bus with Martin K. Birnie as driver. This coach was in operation at the driveway of Nunn's Funeral Home located on 418 George Street and remained at this location until 1953. Here we see Martin Birnie at the driver's seat at the start of a school run.

Bottom: Martin J. Nunn Ambulance Service.



Martin J. Nunn, who established several successful businesses during a distinguished fifty-year career, first displayed his entrepreneurial talents at the age of seven, when he built the largest newspaper route in Rome. At the age of eleven, he used some of his paper route income to purchase the first radio on Floyd Avenue and invited neighbors to come by and listen.

Martin, the son of Edward and Nellie Shea Nunn, was born in Verona, New York, in 1914. Family members recall that Martin was never afraid of hard work and would sweep the floors of a local grocery store at night to earn extra money.

Following graduation from mortuary school in 1935, Martin went to work for his uncle, Bob Ortner, at Ortner Funeral Home in

Utica. From 1936 to 1938, he worked for Walter B. Cook in New York City. He moved home to Rome at the young age of twenty-four to pursue a dream of owning his own business. Money was tight in those depression-era days, and when banks declined to loan him start-up money, his loving family pooled their resources to help him open the Martin J. Nunn Funeral Home. Martin's



For Maternity Cases our Private Ambulance is outfitted with a Baby Basinette with Mirrors so installed that the Mother can see her Baby at all times plus Rolling Chair Cot for Mother.

MARTIN J. NUNN
418 N. George Street
Phone 842 ROME, N. Y.

SERVICES WE OFFER
Two Private Ambulances for Local and Long Distance Calls, Oxygen Tanks, Masks and Catheter Outfits, Anesthetic and Resuscitating Gases, Hospital Beds, Wheel Chairs, Crutches, Etc. for Rent.

sister Genevieve Wallis worked by his side for nearly fifty years. In 1952, Martin and his brother, James, formed a partnership to operate the Quinn, Ryan & Nunn Funeral Home in Utica.

Meanwhile, Martin married Nora A. Sullivan of Utica in 1941 and they raised five daughters; Noreen, Sharon, Elizabeth, Nancy and Sheila.

Always aware of the community's needs, Martin organized four other businesses, three of which were the first of their type in Rome.

In 1940, he started the first private commercial ambulance service, Martin J. Nunn Ambulance Service, which he operated for forty-one years. Family members joked that when a man married one of Martin's daughters, he automatically became an ambulance driver.

In 1942, Martin established the first hospital supplies company in Rome after learning that a lady was unable to pay her respects to a loved one at his funeral home because there was no wheelchair. Martin decided to order a wheelchair so one would be available for future needs. His order was backlogged for months because of World War II shortages, and when the order finally arrived, he received twelve wheelchairs instead of the one he had ordered. Undaunted, Martin took the extra wheelchairs, added crutches, canes, walkers and hospital beds, and established Hospital Supplies Company, the first of its type in Rome.

Another business, Nunn's Telephone Answering Service, was started in 1947 to handle the 24/7 demands of his funeral home, ambulance and hospital supplies businesses. The business grew to serve hundreds of customers, including doctors, lawyers, real estate agents, and others needing constant telephone monitoring.

Martin also purchased a small transportation company in 1947 consisting of three school buses, two charter coaches and a station wagon. His brother-in-law, Martin 'Bud' Birnie, came to work for him in 1947. Bud and his wife, Mary Jo, purchased the bus company from him in 1953. Their son, Timothy Birnie joined the transportation company in 1979 and expanded Birnie Bus Company to what it is today. Tim's daughter, Kaitlin, joined the firm in 2013.

In 1985, Martin's daughters—Sheila Murphy and Nancy Ryan—after growing up in the business, purchased the Hospital Supplies Company. Nancy's husband, Joe Ryan served as president. Under their leadership, a state-of-the-art facility



was built at 1340 Floyd Avenue in 2007 to meet the growing demands of the business.

Meanwhile, Nancy and Joe's son, Brendan, joined the firm in 2004, Sheila's daughter, Erin Weiman, joined in 2006. Nancy and Joe retired in 2012, the business is currently owned by Sheila and Erin. Erin's husband, Shawn Weiman, is vice president of the company. Erin and Shawn are the third generation to join Nunn's ensuring that it remains a family owned and operated company. Nunn's Home Medical Equipment has grown to forty-three employees and serves thirteen counties within a 150 mile radius.

In 1986, shortly before Martin's death, his daughter, Elizabeth, and son-in-law Jim Harper purchased the funeral home from the family and the name was changed to Nunn and Harper Funeral Home. In 1997 they opened a second location in Camden, New York. Their son Jamie Harper, third generation, joined the firm in 2000. Jamie continues to run the funeral home in the family tradition.

By combining service to the community with hard work and a visionary business sense, Martin Nunn established a family-run organization that will continue to serve the community for years to come. Visit them at www.nunnshme.com, www.nunnandharper.com and www.birniebus.com.



Above: The original funeral home in 1938. Inset, the funeral home was renovated and expanded in 1961.

Below: Nunn's Home Medical Equipment, 2007.



CONMED CORPORATION



❖
*Above: Gene Corasanti
with employees.*

*Below: Gene Corasanti (center)
with some of the sales and marketing
team at the CONMED booth in the
early 1980s.*

CONMED Corporation, whose innovative surgical devices are distributed throughout the world, was founded in 1973 by Eugene Corasanti who saw an unmet need for single-use disposable medical products. Initially working out of his home, Corasanti and engineers developed the Company's first product—single-use ECG electrodes.

As the company grew, operations were moved to an 800 square foot building on Hopper Street. Later, additional office and manufacturing space was added at a location on Broad Street. CONMED now occupies 500,000 square feet of production and office space in a former GE facility on French Road. The facility serves as the company's worldwide headquarters.

CONMED is a medical technology company with an emphasis on surgical devices and equipment for minimally invasive procedures. CONMED products are used by surgeons and physicians in a variety of specialties including orthopedics, general surgery, gynecology and gastroenterology. The company holds more than 700 patents on surgical devices.

CONMED became a publically traded company through an Initial Public Offering in 1987. The 2013 revenue was \$762 million and the company employs 3,600 people, including 800 in central New York.

The company's employees distribute more than 10,000 medical products worldwide from manufacturing facilities in Utica, New York; Largo, Florida; Anaheim, California; and Chihuahua, Mexico. The company's primary product distribution center is in Atlanta, Georgia.

Corasanti was committed to international sales from the beginning and much of the company's success is attributed to an early emphasis on exporting. Until 1997, when the company acquired the Linvatec brand of sports medicine devices, everything was exported from facilities in the U.S. Then, sales offices were opened in the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Spain, Australia and Korea where orthopedic lines were being sold. After 1997 the company continued to add direct sales locations by opening overseas offices





and buying direct distributors. CONMED now has a selling presence in 100 countries from sixteen sales offices.

The company has grown from a small, start-up operation to a highly respected worldwide supplier of surgical devices and equipment not only through mergers and acquisitions, but also by strategic partnerships and through organic growth.

The company's growth has not come without challenges. Physicians today are demanding less invasive procedures and there is tremendous pressure from the healthcare community to contain costs. The company must also contend with regulatory compliance in most



countries, currency exchange volatility, a sluggish economy and assorted taxes imposed on medical device manufacturers.

Despite the challenges, CONMED maintains an ongoing commitment to education and training. To share the latest innovations in surgery, the company has long focused on surgeon training. Currently, three training facilities are located in Florida, New York and Germany. In addition to these training centers, CONMED also participates in more than 400 medical association courses and workshops annually, reaching out to distributors and the company's sales people, as well as physicians.

CONMED's strategy for future growth is to continue its focus on organic growth through the introduction of innovative products coupled with complementary acquisitions. The company will continue to focus on being more efficient through lean-manufacturing techniques, leveraging its technology and pricing products appropriately.



Top: Current CONMED Utica Facility—525 French Road.

Above: An artist's rendering of the 310 Broad Street facility.

Left: First CONMED ECG Electrode #11-1.



DIMBLEBY, FRIEDEL, WILLIAMS & EDMUNDS FUNERAL HOMES



For more than a century, Dimbleby, Friedel, Williams & Edmunds Funeral Homes have cared for Mohawk Valley residents during the most difficult periods of their lives. Their commitment to excellence and a passion for providing exceptional service is unsurpassed in the region.



Above: West Winfield Funeral Home.

Right: Old Forge Funeral Home.

Below: Holland Patent Funeral Home.

The roots of Dimbleby, Friedel, Williams & Edmunds Funeral Homes go deep into the region's history and a number of respected funeral homes have merged over the decades to form today's organization.

Currently, the funeral homes are owned by John W. Dimbleby, James W. Dimbleby, Donald Edmunds and James Friedel.

James W. Dimbleby founded the J. W. Dimbleby Funeral Home, Whitesboro, in 1931.



His son, John W. (Jack) Dimbleby and grandson James W. Dimbleby continue to operate the business. Jim's son, John, a great-grandson of the founder, now in college, is expected to become the fourth-generation family member to be involved with the funeral homes. Jack and Jim also operated funeral homes in Old Forge, West Winfield, and Holland Patent.

John S. Friedel founded the John S. Friedel Funeral Home; which was continued by his son, John S. (Jack) Friedel, Jr., and son-in-law, Salvatore Coriale, who later merged their business with Stewart Williams, Jr., a third generation funeral director. The Williams Funeral Home was founded in 1909. Donald Edmunds, Jack's son-in-law, became a partner in the business; Friedel, Williams, Coriale & Edmunds Funeral Home. Following the retirement of Jack Friedel, and Coriale, James Friedel joined the business, becoming a third generation funeral director. Stewart Williams has since retired.



The two businesses combined, forming Dimbleby, Friedel, Williams & Edmunds Funeral Homes, with six locations in Oneida and Herkimer Counties. The firm is comprised of several former businesses, which have become a part of the current structure over time. The current locations are at 40 Main Street in Whitesboro, 13 Oxford Road in New Hartford, 1123 Court Street in Utica, 7944 Steuben Street in Holland Patent, 365 West Main Street in West Winfield and 128 Fern

Avenue in Old Forge. The firm also operates Sansone Funeral Home and Ryczek Funeral Home, both in Utica.

With a full-time staff of ten and a number of part-time employees, the funeral homes provide decades of experience and a deep understanding of a family's needs during its time of bereavement.



All the Dimbleby, Friedel, Williams & Edmunds Funeral Homes are modern and up-to-date and provide a warm environment for families during their time of deepest need. An experienced and caring team of professionals is available to assist families in creating a meaningful, personalized and memorable ceremony to honor their loved ones. The funeral homes are designed to offer services for all faiths and to accommodate either intimate or large gatherings.

Dimbleby, Friedel, Williams & Edmunds Funeral Homes offer both traditional and cremation services and the staff is prepared to help families choose the option that best suits their wishes.



The funeral directors are also available to help individuals plan their funeral arrangements in advance. Pre-arrangement provides both emotional and financial benefits, allowing more time to consider options without feeling rushed and eliminating many family concerns. Prepaying funeral expenses also guarantees there will be no further

costs for services and merchandise at the time the service is provided.

After more than 100 years of service to Mohawk Valley families, the commitment of Dimbleby, Friedel, Williams & Edmunds Funeral Homes is to provide exceptional service to every family, every time.



Above: Whitesboro Funeral Home.

Left: Utica Funeral Home.

Below: New Hartford Funeral Home.

FORT SCHUYLER CLUB

Steeped in history and tradition, the Fort Schuyler Club is one of the oldest and most prestigious private clubs in the Mohawk Valley. Through the years, the club's membership has included distinguished business leaders, the Chief Justice of the United States, ambassadors, cabinet members, prominent military leaders and a number of U.S. senators and members of Congress. For generations, the Fort Schuyler Club has been the meeting place for Utica's community leaders.

The Fort Schuyler Club was organized in April 1883, when a group of prominent Uticans met at the Butterfield House to form a club dedicated to fostering "social intercourse among the business and professional men of Utica." Senior membership was limited to 150 and members paid a \$50 initiation fee and dues of \$40 per year.

Shortly after the purchase, the club installed 150 electric lights throughout the mansion, making it the first building in Utica with electrical wiring. The club still occupies the Hoyt mansion, which has undergone numerous improvements and facelifts over the decades and is now considered one of the most beautiful buildings in Utica.



Former New York Governor Horatio Seymour, who ran for president against General U.S. Grant, was asked to become the club's first president. Seymour was reluctant to accept because of his age and health concerns, but accepted after the membership agreed to make the office of president a purely honorary one. The vice president became the club's executive officer, a practice that continues today.



The new club first leased the old General Joseph Downer House, but soon purchased the John C. Hoyt House in 1883 for \$25,000, a price that included the gas fixtures. However,

committees were formed in the early years to subscribe to magazines and purchase a large *Webster's Dictionary* for member's use. Members also purchased new billiard balls, an extra chandelier for the game room and a chess table.

Arrangements were made to “exchange some of the high price cigars for others less costly.” Cigar smoking was apparently a popular pastime because an inventory showed \$2,095 worth of cigars on hand, but only \$840 worth of food.

The club’s tradition of serving a free New Year’s punch began when members discovered they had too much champagne stored in the cellar and were afraid it would go flat. However, the prohibition years of the 1920s took its toll on the club’s finances and the chair-

man of the House Committee complained that prohibition was resulting in an annual loss of revenue totaling more than \$5,000. He urged members to dine at the club more often to help make up the deficit.

services were relieved of dues payment for the terms of their service.



The club was a males-only organization until 1981 when by-laws were changed to provide membership and full use of the club to females. Women now make up more than a quarter of the club’s membership.



Many members of the Fort Schuyler Club were forced to resign because of the dire financial conditions during the Great Depression of the 1930s. However, some were able to rejoin as the economy improved. When the nation entered World War II in 1941, all members who joined the military

In 2004 the Fort Schuyler Club was added to both the State and National Registers of Historical Places. Because of this National Registration, the club was able to form a foundation, which helps with the preservation of the historic landmark.

Among the many amenities offered by the club today are multiple meeting and dining rooms, billiards and card room and a grand ballroom. Whether hosting events, conducting meetings or entertaining friends and family, Fort Schuyler Club members and their guests receive the highest standard of service and enjoy chef-prepared cuisine that rivals any big-city club. After 132 years, the Fort Schuyler Club continues to offer unparalleled amenities and benefits that make it the premier club for Utica’s leaders.

THE SAVOY RESTAURANT

THE BEECHES INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER

With more than a hundred years in the hospitality industry, the Destito family offers some of the finest food and accommodations in Central New York at The Savoy Restaurant and The Beeches Inn and Conference Center



Above: The Savoy Restaurant is located at 255 East Dominick Street in Rome, New York.

Below: The interior of the Savoy Restaurant.

The Savoy Restaurant was established in 1908 by the Italian immigrant family of Frank and Michelina Destito as a boarding house and, later, a saloon. Thanks to Michelina's cooking and a dedicated family kitchen staff consisting of Martha, Angela, Fanny and Yolanda, The Savoy became a popular bistro with its Italian and old American fare.

The Savoy has earned accolades from such publications as *Gourmet Magazine*, *Ski Magazine*, *Yachting Magazine*, *The Cleveland Plain Dealers* and *Bon Appetit*.

The Destito family has been host to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (a regular), Walter Cronkite, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Alfonse D'Amato, Averil Harriman, Mario Cuomo, and Joe Lewis. The Savoy has been a watering hole for many prominent writers, including Alex Haley, Edmund Wilson, John McDonald, Walter Edmunds, Jimmy Breslin, Andy Rooney; and entertainers such as Harry Chapin, John Pizzarelli, Chuck Mangione, Mstislav Rostropovich (a regular) and many many others.

The Beeches Inn and Conference Center is located on a beautifully landscaped fifty-two acre estate and mansion built in 1924 by inventor and millionaire businessman Frank M. Potter. The country estate, designed by famous 'Gold Coast' architect Harry Sternfeld, is dominated by an English Tudor home of brown stone.

The estate was purchased in 1949 by Michelina Destito and her sons, Rosario, Patrick and Orlando, who owned and operated the popular Savoy Restaurant.

After purchasing the estate, the Destitos opened the main house as a 100 seat restaurant. By 1953 a thirty room hotel was added to the estate and the restaurant had a capacity for 700 people. By the 1960s with lots of money, hard work and the addition of Rosario's sons: Dominick and Frank P. and Orlando's sons: Christopher P., Frank A. and Orlando, Jr., the hotel grew to seventy-six rooms and the restaurant grew to 1,200 seats. The complex was soon to be known as The Beeches Inn and Conference Center. The Beeches is famous for the 'Roman Wolf' statue that greets visitors at the restaurant's entrance. The story of the wolf began as an innocent joke that escalated into a burning community issue that nearly caused an international incident between the U.S. and Italy.

As the story goes, the statue was offered to the City of Rome in 1956 by Alfonso Felici of Rome, Italy, in exchange for a snowplow to help the Italian city cope with a monumental snowstorm. The tongue-in-cheek deal fell through, but Italian officials continued to offer the statue to Rome, New York. Many local citizens, however, were cool to the idea.

The statue is a replica of the famed Capitoline Wolf suckling Romulus and Remus, legendary founders of The Eternal City. However, many local residents felt the statue was unsuitable for display in a prominent public place. Following several years of delicate negotiations, which involved U.S. Senator Jacob Javits at one point, the Destito family offered to provide a circle of land in front of the restaurant as a permanent site for the Roman Wolf. After three years of controversy, the wolf was finally unveiled and has become a popular tourist attraction.





Left: The Beeches Restaurant located at 7900 Turin Road in Rome, New York.

Below: The Inn at the Beeches.

Bottom: The Roman Wolf sculpture greets visitors at the restaurant's entrance.

The Beeches has also had its share of famous guests from sports, entertainment, industry, politics, the media and the military. This long list includes such luminaries as Rocky Marciano, Joe Frazier, Sugar Ray Robinson, Rocky Graziano, Carmen Basilio, Otto Graham, Henny Youngman, Milton Berle, George Jessel, Donald O'Connor, Liza Minelli, Lou Ferrigno, Gordon MacRae, Connie Francis, Pat Boone, Patty Page, Alan Pakula, Pat Paulson, Professor Irwin Corey, Pat Cooper, John Carridine, Les Paul, Arthur Fiedler, Frank Gorshin, Tiny Tim, The Ink Spots, Broderick Crawford, Michael Lang, McLean Stevenson, Robert Stempel, Melvin Belli, President Gerald Ford, Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, Senator Robert Kennedy, Senator Barry Goldwater, General Leslie Groves, Jimmy Doolittle, Governor George Pataki, Senator James Buckley, Harry Reasoner, Roger Ebert, Tim Russert and Frank Blair.

The Savoy Restaurant and The Beeches Inn and Conference Center owes its success to a couple from Italy, who taught their children to work hard, treat all people with respect, and always, always keep a passion for great food. For more information about The Savoy Restaurant please visit www.romesavoy.com. For more information about The Beeches Inn and Conference Center please visit www.thebeeches.com.



ONEIDA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*The Oneida County Historical Society
offices at 1608 Genesee Street.*

Three weeks before Christmas Day in 1876, a group of citizens from throughout Oneida County met in the office of Utica Mayor Charles W. Hutchinson. Their goal was to make the public aware of the “careless and indifferent manner in which the early historic records of the Mohawk Valley were being preserved.”

The citizens who gathered in the mayor’s office that cold December morning were not only talkers, they were doers.

What they did was to form the Oneida County Historical Society “to collect and commemorate whatever may relate to the history of Central New York in general, and the county of Oneida in particular.”

Horatio Seymour, of Utica and Deerfield and the governor of New York during the Civil War, was elected the society’s first president. Among those elected councilors were U.S. Senators Roscoe Conkling and Francis Kernan (both from Utica); Ward Hunt, a former mayor of Utica, a judge on the State Court of Appeals and a future associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court; Philo White of Utica, U.S. minister to Ecuador, and Pomroy Jones, the county’s first official historian.

The society’s first project in 1877 was to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Oriskany by purchasing the site of the battle and erecting a monument. They accomplished this goal and on August 6, 1884, the monument was dedicated.

The society’s first home was in a building on Elizabeth Street in downtown Utica. In the late 1890s, it moved into a Flemish-style building on a triangular plot bordered by Park Avenue and John and Elizabeth Streets. Soon after that building was razed in the 1960s, the society moved into a space at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, where it would stay until 1988.

In September 1988 the society purchased the former First Church of Christ, Scientist at 1608 Genesee Street and the magnificent pillared structure is its home today. From here the society operates its research library and museum, runs a bookstore, and hosts dozens of annual programs relating to Oneida County’s rich history.

For additional information about the Oneida County Historical Society, please visit www.oneidacountyhistory.org.



Incorporated in 1959, Mohawk Ltd. of Chadwicks has evolved over the years into a diversified company specializing in the repair, refurbishment and calibration of electronic, hydraulic, pneumatic and mechanical equipment. The company also offers repair and refurbishment of trailers and mobile power units, supplies custom trailers and provides an extensive selection of new products to the Telephone, Cable, Utility and Private Industry Markets.

The company was established by Gordon J. Newell, Jr., who operated Mohawk out of one of the historic buildings once housing the Willowvale Bleachery Company. At that time the company was known as Mohawk Communications, Inc., and was established to provide logistical support of complex military ground support and airborne electronic equipment at such government bases as Griffiss Air Force Base, located in Rome, New York.

Gordon had learned two-way radio repair while serving in Europe during World War II. A self-made man, Gordon's mother died when he was seven and he was raised by his grandmother in the Piseco Lake area. He attended a one-room school house in Hoffmeister, New York, until the death of his grandmother, then moved to Utica and attended Proctor High School. Gordon returned to Utica following his tour of duty in WWII, and landed a job as a lineman with New York Telephone Company. In the meantime, he began a side business at home repairing two-way radios. When he placed an ad for his services in the newspaper, he was released by the telephone company for conflict of interest. Undaunted, he decided to expand his part-time business into a full time career and Mohawk Communications was born. A true entrepreneur at heart!

Gordon sold the business to his daughter, Cathy, in 1991. In 1992, Helen Newell, Gordon's wife and mother of Cathy passed away at the age of sixty-eight. She was a tremendous support to Gordon and Cathy through the long history of Mohawk, her love and admiration was a source of strength appreciated by all the family members. A graduate of RIT in Rochester, Cathy envisioned the company as a single-source provider, offering diverse products and services. The father and daughter team flourished until

Gordon's passing in 1999 at the age of seventy-four. Cathy has led the company through many economic challenges. A second generation entrepreneur herself, Mohawk Ltd. has continually expanded and diversified through the years. "We provide the solutions, the expertise, and the strategy to our customers nationwide on daily basis."

Employment increased as the company diversified and grew and the company now employs sixty full time people, along with reps located across the United States. Mohawk's facilities encompass more than 100,000 square feet on a five acre complex in Chadwicks.

Mohawk Ltd. became an ISO9001:2000 certified company in 2001 and was awarded GSA status for command centers in 2005. The company remains committed to its vision of helping customers excel by providing innovative solutions.

MOHAWK LTD.



Above: Gordon J. Newell.

Below: Willowvale Bleachery Chadwicks, the original buildings in the early 1900s.



O'SCUGNIZZO PIZZERIA

It is a pretty safe bet that there are few 100 year old pizza parlors in the nation, but O'Scugnizzo Pizzeria of Utica has been producing fabulous pizzas for a century and is still going strong.

It all began with Eugenio and Maria Michelina Burline, who sold small, personal-size tomato pies at local events to supplement their income. Eventually, demand became so great they opened a shop to sell their product. During the early years, Eugenio and Maria made only a tomato pie without mozzarella cheese and it sold for a nickel.

Eugenio had a unique approach to customer service. He was always happy to provide a pizza for a customer, but the type depended on Eugenio's whim. He would bake only the type he felt like making. Customers were also expected to adjust to Eugenio's schedule. He had no standard hours of operation and when he felt he had made enough money for the day, he locked the doors and went home.

After Eugenio passed away, their son Angelo "Chops" Burline took over operation of the



business. Under his direction, operations were standardized and the business began to expand. Chops' son, Steven, took over in 1989 and continued to grow the business. For many customers, a visit to O'Scugnizzos is a weekly pilgrimage. When those who have moved from the area come home for a visit, the first thing many want is a pizza from O'Scugnizzos.

Angelo started selling bottled sauce in 1959 and began providing frozen 'bake at home' pizzas to local supermarkets in 1966. Steven began a licensing program to open more pizzerias in 1995 and—in 2002—Steven's nephew, Michael, developed a plan to ship pizzas throughout the nation on a regular basis.

O'Scugnizzo Pizzeria is located at 614 Blecker Street in Utica and in the North Utica Shopping Plaza and at www.uticapizza.com. The company is actively involved with the Feed the Vets program and works with several other charities throughout the year.

Over the years, the menu has expanded to include subs, salads and a variety of pasta dishes, but the name that first comes to mind when anyone mentions pizza is O'Scugnizzo.



BAUM'S CASTORINE Co., INC.

Baum's Castorine, to make and sell the product. The company was located in Syracuse.

The Baum family became very prominent Syracuse business leaders in the late 1800s, but the company endured a number of setbacks, beginning with the loss of a family-owned theatre when a fire destroyed the town of Gilmore, Pennsylvania. In 1888, L. Frank sold Baum's Castorine to H. H. Stoddard. L. Frank eventually moved to Chicago where his famous children's book, *The Wonderful*



Baum's Castorine Co., Inc. whose superior products range from hydraulic oils to decontamination solutions for weapons of mass destruction, has a long, colorful and successful history.

Wizard of Oz, was published in 1900.

The Stoddard family owned Baum's for fifteen years, adding Crown Mold Soap, a release agent for ceramic casting, to the product line.

The company was purchased by T. J. Mowry and J. S. Dyett in 1903 and they moved the operation to Rome, New York. The Mowry family has continued to operate the company, providing lubricants for transportation and industry.

In time, the company developed a reputation for blending effective firefighting foam and, in 2000, the company

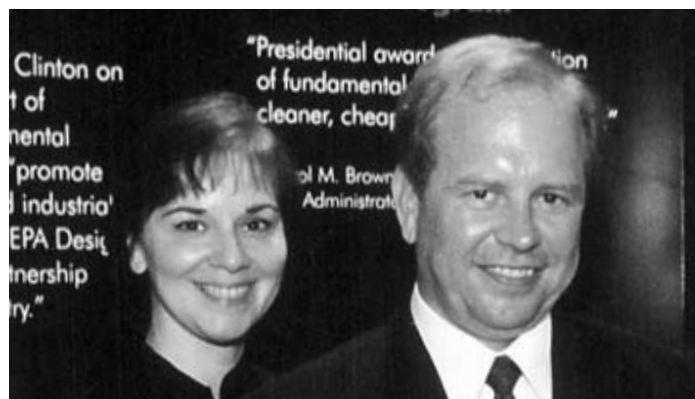


The company began in 1879 when Benjamin Ward Baum, a barrel maker, heard about the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania. Baum believed his barrels could be used for oil storage and expanded his barrel making business into the oil fields. In time, with the help of his sons, Benjamin, Jr., and L. Frank, he became a producer and refiner. Lamp oil for illumination, a basic need in those pre-electricity days, became the largest part of their product line.

After Benjamin, Jr., studied chemistry in Germany, the company began to utilize other fractions in the crude oil they were processing. The Baum's developed axle oil that was thickened and fortified with castor oil and formed a new company,

agreed to blend a weapons of mass destruction decontamination solution that had been developed by Sandia National Laboratories.

After 135 years, Baum's Castorine still takes pride in formulating superior lubricant products designed to extend machine life and reduce maintenance costs.



◇
Clockwise, starting from the top, left:

Baum's Castorine advertisement in 1884 when the Baum family were owners.

Theodore J. Mowry, co-owner, relocated the company to Rome, in 1903.

T. Clayton Mowry joined the company in 1906.

Carol M. and Paul Berger in 1998. Paul joined the company in 1976. Paul became president and Carol became vice president in 2008.

Baum's Castorine officers in 1956. Left to right: Theodore J., II, Charles F. and Lois A. Mowry.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

JOSEPH P. BOTTINI

Joseph P. Bottini, the Oneida County historian, retired teacher and army veteran. Joe is a child of God in Christ and deeply committed to his faith and the ideals of America. He is co-author of *Utica: Then & Now*. Local history is his passion in retirement with the restoration projects of the Oneida County Historical Society, the Bagg's Square Association and the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica. Joe lives with his wife Mary in Sauquoit, the parents of two adult daughters and three grandchildren.

JOAN KLOSSNER

Joan Klossner is a life-long resident of Oneida County. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in English from Utica College and has amassed graduate hours in her field. She taught secondary English at Holland Patent Central School for twenty-one years. In retirement she has conducted writing workshops as well as presenting talks on her experiences as a writer and a quilter. As a volunteer at Oneida County Historical Society, her contributions include authoring local history books, developing an exhibit of the society's quilt collection, and contributing to its Facebook page.

LOU PARROTTA

Lou Parrotta joined the board of trustees of the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica in 2013 where he served as recording secretary. He is a history teacher at Thomas R. Proctor High School in Utica and a public relations consultant for USC The Business College.

He is a member of the Oneida County Historical Society's Board of Trustees, and has served as its chairman since 2011. In 2007, he was appointed the City of Utica historian by former Mayor Timothy J. Julian, and he serves as the secretary of the Oneida County Historians Association. Parrotta has been a commissioner on the Utica Municipal Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners for the past seven years, is president of the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame, will become the president the Knights of St. John International St. Anthony of Padua Commandery No. 385 for a second time in January 2015, and sits on the board of directors of the Msgr. Carl J. Denti Foundation for people with mental and physical handicaps. He served for five years as president of Utica Dollars for Scholars and several years as a member and chairman of the Advisory Board of the Utica Salvation Army.

He has co-authored two books, *Forest Hill Cemetery: The Stories Behind the Epitaphs and Gloves Along the Mohawk* with Scott Fiesthumel, and is the author of several articles on local history, the publisher of an occasional newsletter called *The Utica Times*, and frequently speaks to local groups on Utica's long history.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

JANICE REILLY

Janice Trimbe Reilly was raised on her family's dairy farm in Washington Mills and has lived in New Hartford all her life. Her children grew up in a country setting, raising chickens, keeping horses and growing vegetable gardens. For thirty years Janice was a rural mail carrier. She has authored eight local history books, three of which focus on the farms of the Towns of Paris and New Hartford where she is active in both historical societies. Janice was recently honored as Volunteer of the Year and serves on the OCHS Board of Trustees.

DENNIS WEBSTER

Dennis Webster is the author of *Wicked Mohawk Valley*, *Wicked Adirondacks*, *Haunted Utica*, and *Haunted Mohawk Valley and Adirondack Mysteries* Volumes 1 and 2. He has a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Utica College and a master's of business administration from SUNY Poly. He lives, works, plays and is raising his family in the heart of the Mohawk Valley. He can be reached at denniswbstr@gmail.com.

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