













REMINISCENCES OF OGDENSBURG







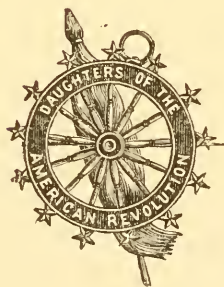


NATHAN FORD.

# REMINISCENCES OF OGDENSBURG

1749-1907

*Edited by*  
*Swe - Kat - Si - Chapter*  
*Daughters of the American Revolution*



SILVER, BURDETT AND COMPANY  
NEW YORK, BOSTON, CHICAGO  
1907

*copy 2*

F113  
.02]3  
2004

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS	
1 - Copies Received	
DEC 21 1907	
Copyright Entry	
Dec 21 1907	CLASS A
145-604	COPY A.

*Copyrighted 1907*

BY SWE-KAT-SI CHAPTER,  
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



TO ALL, THOSE WHO  
LOVE THIS OLD TOWN IN THE  
NORTH COUNTRY



## Table of Contents

---

	PAGE
THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF OGDENSBURG . . . . .	I
NELLIE MERRIAM.	
THE PIONEER FAMILIES AND EARLY SOCIAL CUSTOMS . . . . .	18
LAURA M. HASBROUCK.	
THE WAR OF 1812 . . . . .	39
MARY CHAPIN BROWN.	
THE PATRIOT WAR, 1837 . . . . .	55
LUCIA JAMES MADILL.	
DISTRICT SCHOOLS AND OLD FIRE COMPANIES . . . . .	84
CHARLOTTE L. SHEPARD.	
OGDENSBURG DURING THE CIVIL WAR . . . . .	112
ANNIE E. DANIELS.	
INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE AND THE CITY, GROWTH UP TO THE PRESENT TIME . . . . .	168
EMILY J. SPRATT.	





## Illustrations

---

	PAGE
NATHAN FORD, FOUNDER OF OGDENSBURG . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece</i>
ABBÉ FRANÇOIS PICQUET . . . . .	<i>facing</i> 4
DAVID PARISH . . . . .	<i>facing</i> 24
GEORGE PARISH . . . . .	<i>facing</i> 38
BATTLE OF THE WINDMILL (From an old print) . . . . .	<i>facing</i> 72
PICTURE OF SOLDIER'S MONUMENT, OGDENSBURG . . . . .	<i>facing</i> 166



## Preface

---

AFTER several years spent in studying the various periods of United States History, the Literary Committee of Swe-kat-si Chapter, D. A. R., thought it might not be amiss to review the history of our old town on the St. Lawrence. The work proved so pleasant, and aroused such general interest, that it was decided to incorporate the papers in a book — hence this volume. Swe-kat-si Chapter disclaims any literary pretensions for this book, but it does think, and hope, that it may preserve for future generations the early history of Ogdensburg, and many reminiscences of those days when this was only a small and remote village.

Thanks are due to Mr. Henry C. Deane, whose kindness has enabled us to publish the book. Acknowledgment should also be made of the assistance given us by the already published Histories of St. Lawrence County, from which sources we have freely taken such material as was needed for the historical part of the papers. Old diaries and family letters have been loaned most willingly by those who could aid us with such records.

The personal anecdotes have been gladly furnished by those who remember the exciting events of 1837 and the years succeeding, while the reminiscences of the pioneer days have been given verbatim as related by those of our friends who remember the tales as told to them by their grandfathers and grandmothers who were children when this old town was new.

L. J. M.



# Reminiscences of Ogdensburg

---

## THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF OGDENSBURG

IN preparing the following sketch, large abstracts have necessarily been made from Hough's "History of St. Lawrence Co.," also the later history published by Everts & Holcombe. To these and a few private sources of information, the writer makes grateful acknowledgment.

When the first settlements were made in this locality, the river front of Canada, most of the distance above Montreal, had been settled about twenty years, chiefly by Tories, refugees from the States during the Revolution. These were known as "United English Loyalists," and many of them suffered extreme privation as they hurriedly fled from their homes, leaving their property to be confiscated. Although the British government gave them lands, assisting them in settling on the St. Lawrence, yet many hardships remained which time alone could remedy.

It is a well known fact that several permanent settlements were located at an early date along the St. Lawrence, and the features of this majestic river were familiar to those enterprising explorers, before New England had a white inhabitant. With an earnestness doing credit to their sagacity and foresight, they began at once the labor of conciliating the friendship, and securing the interest of the savages, who previously roamed the forest in quest of game, or in stealthy

midnight marches in search of some poor victim of their vengeance.

The French labored to locate these wandering tribes in permanent villages near the settlements of Montreal and Quebec, of which the Missions of St. Louis and Lorette are examples. It was found, however, that an atmosphere of moral degradation hung about the white settlements, peculiarly fatal to the red man, who was more easily corrupted than influenced for good. Another plan was desired that should attach the natives to the French, while alienating them from the English. The result of these efforts was the establishment of an Indian settlement and mission on the site of our present city.

In the war between the French and English, resulting in victory for the latter, our district was the theatre of active strife, and from the Indian settlement Swe-kat-si, small war parties continually issued, falling upon the feeble settlements of the Mohawk Valley, where they slew, scalped, plundered and burned without restraint. To a considerable degree these cruel outrages depopulated the frontier, nor were the conditions changed, until in 1760, the posts along the St. Lawrence were finally evacuated to Gen. Amherst. During the war of the American Revolution similar incursions were instigated by the British.

For many years the French had ceased to be masters of Canada, but, as at the present day, a large portion of the population of the lower provinces was of that nationality. They long continued the carrying trade, the voyageurs, with incredible toil, dragging their heavily laden bateaux up the rapids. These craft usually proceeded in small brigades; the fatigue of rowing was relieved by the rustic song of the helmsman, the crew joining in the chorus, keeping time to

the measured dip of the oars. There was a poetry in these scenes that impressed itself on all observers.

Tom Moore, the sweet bard of Erin, has immortalized this quaint custom in the words of his beautiful "Canadian Boat Song," commencing:

" Faintly as tolls the evening chime,  
Our voices keep tune and our oars keep time,  
Soon as the woods on shore look dim,  
We'll sing at St. Anne's our parting hymn ;  
Row, brothers, row ; the stream runs fast,  
The rapids are near, and the daylight 's past."

At an early day the improvement of river navigation was begun, by cutting canals with locks around some of the more difficult rapids, thus encouraging emigration. Between 1802-1807, the tide of emigration from New England poured into the Black and St. Lawrence River valleys, which, especially the former, settled with a rapidity seldom equalled. Winter was usually the favored time for moving, as streams and swamps were bridged by ice, routes were passable which otherwise were impracticable.

A few of the first settlers with their families entered by the tedious and expensive waterway up the Mohawk to Fort Stanwix, now Rome, thence by canal through Wood Creek, Oneida River and Lake, Oswego River, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence to their destination. Others by the equally toilsome and more dangerous route from Lake Champlain up the St. Lawrence.

Rumors of war darkening the political horizon, emigration was stayed for a time, and at its outbreak the growth of the settlements diminished more rapidly than it had previously increased. The channel of trade down the St. Lawrence fast becoming established, was broken up, and it became apparent that other avenues to market exempt from

the casualties of war must be instituted. This need our superb system of railways has long since supplied.

Near where the black waters of the Oswegatchie mingle with the blue of the St. Lawrence, in the city, then village of Ogdensburg, could be seen as late as the year 1853 traces of a broken wall, the foundation of an edifice erected by the Sulpitians more than a century previous. Their purpose was to attach to the interests of the French, then masters of Canada, such of the Iroquois or "Six Nations" confederacy of Indians as could be persuaded to embrace Christianity and espouse the cause of their white brethren. These buildings, or others erected on their site, were subsequently for many years occupied by a British garrison, and as a court-house, jail, store, dwelling and barracks for troops. With them commences the earliest authentic history of St. Lawrence Co.

It is well known how the corner-stone of this ancient fort, with its Latin inscription, —

" In nomine ✚ Dei omnipotentis,  
Huic habitationi initia dedit  
Frans. Picquet, 1749."

(" In the name of Almighty God, was laid the foundation of this habitation by François Picquet, in 1749"), — was saved from destruction by one of our patriotic citizens, was long preserved as the keystone over the portal of the old Arsenal, and is now incorporated in the massive walls of our beautiful City Hall. At the northern terminus of Commerce Street, where some rubble half imbedded in the road is all that is left of the old French fort, now stands a tall shaft of Barre granite, erected by Swe-kat-si Chapter, D. A. R., and unveiled in October, 1899. A handsome bronze tablet affixed to the monument shows a bas-relief portrait of Abbé Picquet, with the following inscription beneath:





ABBE FRANÇOIS PICQUET.



THIS MONUMENT MARKS THE SITE OF  
FORT LA PRÉSENTATION  
ERECTED IN 1749 BY  
ABBÉ FRANÇOIS PICQUET  
FOR THE PROTECTION OF HIS MISSION AMONG  
THE INDIANS OF THE FIVE NATIONS

THIS FORT WAS OCCUPIED IN 1760 BY THE BRITISH, AND EVACUATED  
BY THEM JUNE 1ST 1796 UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE JAY TREATY

IT WAS THE FIRST BUILDING ERECTED WHERE NOW STANDS THE CITY  
OF OGDENSBURG

Before studying the missions established by the French on the St. Lawrence, it will be interesting to give a cursory glance at the earlier efforts to found European colonies in Canada.

Two years after the discoveries of Columbus became known in England, Henry VII. induced John Cabot, a Venetian merchant, to sail in quest of discoveries in the West, and in 1497 this navigator reached the coast of Labrador, which he named Prima-Vista. Others voyagers followed, his son Sebastian in 1498; Gaspar Cortereal in 1500, to whom the discovery of the Gulf of St. Lawrence is by some attributed. On a second voyage Cortereal perished at sea. In 1504 the French first attempted a voyage to the New World; in that year some Basque and Breton fishermen began to ply their calling on the Newfoundland Banks, giving their name to Cape Breton Island. In 1535 Stefano Gomez sailed from Spain and is supposed to have entered the Gulf of St. Lawrence for purposes of trade. Castilian tradition relates that, finding neither gold nor silver mines nor wealth of any kind on these inhospitable shores, they frequently exclaimed "Aca-nada," "Here is nothing," whence the name Canada, vouched for by Father Hennepin. An-

other authority claims as its origin the Indian word "Kana-ta," meaning village.

In 1534, Francis I. of France dispatched Jacques Cartier, an able navigator of St. Malmo, who sailed April 20th, 1534, with two ships of sixty tons each and one hundred twenty men, reaching Newfoundland in May. Not knowing this was an island, he coasted along for some time, finally passing the Straits of Belle Isle, and traversing the Gulf of St. Lawrence. He sailed for France July 25th, much pleased with his reception by the natives, but the following year returned with increased forces, and after encountering great vicissitudes, August 10th, 1535, they came to a great gulf filled with beautiful islands. To this gulf, Cartier gave the name "St. Lawrence," having discovered it on that saint's festival day; from this our great river and county take their name. Cartier moored his vessels where a little river flowed, which he named St. Croix, near the Indian village of Stadacona, now the site of Quebec. In the autumn he ascended the river to the populous village of Hochelaga; to the hill three miles from there, from whose summit the country lay spread in all its beauty, he gave the name "Mont Royal," since applied to the city at its feet, Montreal.

For some years expeditions came with varying fortune to the newly discovered river, but no efficient effort at colonization was made until 1608, when Champlain and Pontgrave came to establish the fur trade and begin a settlement. In 1609, Champlain with two Frenchmen ascended the great river to the beautiful lake that bears his name, and near its southern extremity surmounting a rapid, they entered another lake, to which they gave the name St. Sacrament, now known as Lake Horicon or George.

In 1614, Champlain, by his entreaties, procured four

"Recollects" to undertake a mission for the conversion of the Indians, but their efforts among the Iroquois were not successful. A few years later, 1625, five priests and laymen of the order of Jesuits were sent over, being received by the Recollects with kindness, and admitted under their roof. Thenceforward Jesuit missionaries continued to explore the country. Every canton or tribe of the Iroquois of New York had its missionary, as did nearly every nation throughout the range of the "Great Lakes" and the Mississippi valley, while many of them had a depot for the purchase of furs and sale of merchandise.

The first military post of any note above Montreal was established at Cataroqui, now Kingston, by Count de Frontenac.

For many years the tide of emigration among the Indians turned toward Canada, and it being deemed necessary and best to establish a mission at the head of the rapids, M. l'Abbé Picquet left Montreal May 4th, 1749, with twenty-five Frenchmen and four Iroquois Indians, arriving the 30th at the "Riviere de la Presentation, called Soe-gat-zy." He wrote, "the land there is the finest in Canada; oak timber in abundance, and trees of a prodigious size and height, but it will be necessary for the defense of the settlement to fell them without permission." He built a storehouse to preserve his effects, and a small fort of pickets for defense.

The manufactories of Ogdensburg date back to the year 1751, when the abbé erected a sawmill, probably a dam also, to manufacture lumber for his new settlement. The mill was used during the ten years he labored here. About 1785, it was rebuilt, or repaired, by one Capt. Lorrimer, and operated for some time. In 1796, both dam and mill were

repaired by Nathan Ford, and since then manufacturing industries have steadily increased.

To induce the natives to settle, the governor is said to have placed here a large magazine of all kinds of clothing suitable for Indians, also arms, ammunition and provisions, distributing them liberally.

The attempt of the French to establish a mission at "Swe-gat-zy" naturally excited the jealousy of the English, whose relations with their Canadian neighbors each day tended toward open hostilities. June 19th, 1754, the celebrated "Congress of Representatives" from the several English Colonies convened at Albany, to agree upon a "*plan of Union*" for the common defense against the encroachments of the French and the hostilities of the Indians, whom they incited to make inroads on the back settlements of the English. The measure which was the prime object of this Congress failed because of its strong republican tendency, but a portion of the statement laid before it is germane to our subject. "They (the French) are continually drawing off the Indians from the British interest, and have lately persuaded one half of the Onondaga tribe, with many from the other nations along with them, to remove to a place called Oswegatchie, on the River Cadaraqui, where they have built them a church and fort; and many of the Senecas, the most numerous nation, appear wavering and inclined to the French."

Hendrick, the Mohawk chieftain, warrior and orator, ever the firm friend of the English, endeavored to dissuade the confederates of New York from joining the settlement at Oswegatchie, but with little avail.

Between the French and the English, the poor savages had scarce a hunting-place left, and knew not which way to

turn. What wonder that in their ignorance they wounded the hand that fain would bless them.

An embassy from the "Five Nations," among them the Iroquois from La Presentation, held an interview with Montcalm April 24th, 1757. The Iroquois at this time called the village of "La Presentation" the "tail of the Five Nations." The scalping parties fitted out at La Presentation, that so harassed the English settlements along the Mohawk River and the frontier of New York during 1757-59, in the latter year led to an attempt, by Brig.-Gen. Gage, to stop the outrages by crushing the fortress from which they emanated. He dallied along, however, until the season was so far advanced he was obliged to postpone the expedition until the next campaign. General Wolfe captured the French fortress at Quebec in 1759, and early the next season three expeditions were fitted out to reduce the French strongholds in the interior. One after another the fortified places on the St. Lawrence fell into the hands of the English, La Presentation being surprised by James Zouch, an English officer, who came through the woods bearing letters from Lord Amherst.

The conquest of Canada by the English was completed in the year 1760. With the fall of the fort on Isle Royal, now Chimney Island, French supremacy in St. Lawrence Co. ceased. This fort was subsequently occupied by a small body of British troops and held till the summer of 1796, when, in accordance with the stipulation of the "Jay Treaty," it was surrendered to Judge Ford, who received it for the proprietors.

In the middle of the last century a cemetery still existed on the west side of the Oswegatchie, wherein were several headstones marking the graves of British soldiers.

The history of this station, from the time of the English conquest to the surrender under the Treaty, is nearly or quite lost so far as we can learn. In April, 1779, an expedition led by Lieuts. McClellan and Hardenburgh, with a small body of Indians, left Fort Schuyler intending to surprise the British garrison at Oswegatchie. Encountering some straggling Indians, a few shots were exchanged, thus alarming the garrison, and the expedition returned to Fort Schuyler without accomplishing its purpose. The English are believed to have maintained the fort at Oswegatchie for the protection of their fur trade, and this was the excuse to justify their retaining it after the "Peace" which followed the "Revolution."

The Oswegatchies continued to reside in the vicinity after the English conquest, and adopted the new allegiance, acting with the British in the Revolutionary War. A portion of the Mohawk emigration settled at the Lake of the Two Mountains. The Oswegatchies for some years occupied a village of twenty-three houses on Indian Point in Lisbon, about three miles below Ogdensburg, where they remained until driven out by command of our government at the instance of the white settlers. This village, described by one who saw it in 1802, consisted of a single street parallel with the river, the houses ranged regularly on each side with end toward the street, sharp roof covered with pointed shingles. Each house was built for two families, had two doors in front, glass windows, a double fireplace with one chimney, and a partition through the centre. These Indians spent the summers on Black Lake hunting and fishing, as many as forty being seen at one time when the settlement was new. In the autumn they returned to their cabins. "Indian Point"



is now known as "Point Airy," where is located the State Hospital for the Insane.

Directly opposite this village of the Oswegatchies lies the island that was fortified by the French, and captured by the British under Lord Amherst in 1760. Because of the ruins of the fortifications, of which slight traces still remain, it received the name of Chimney Island. Many relics of the French and Indian occupation were found on the island and shore, while it was the scene of "money digging" on rather an extensive scale by the overcredulous. A beautiful feature of the landscape as one approached the historic island, either by water or the "great highway," were two giant elms of ante-revolutionary date, forming a complete vernal arch. These reared their graceful heads until the summer of 1907, when a furious gale laid one of the "Twin Trees" low.

In February, 1796, was ratified the treaty known as "Jay's," from the statesman who negotiated it with Great Britain. This treaty provided that all forts should be evacuated and possession given on or before June 1st, 1796. Mr. Samuel Ogden had purchased large tracts of land in this locality, but was unable to obtain possession until the ratification of the treaty settled the right of ownership.

Settlement under the proprietorship of Mr. Ogden was commenced by his agent Nathan Ford, who arrived here August 11th, 1796, and was given the power of attorney for the sale of lands July 11th, 1797. The first stock of goods opened in Ogdensburg was brought by the tedious route of the Hudson River, the Mohawk, Wood Creek, Oneida Lake, Oswego River, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence, by Mr. Ford. En route up the Mohawk, one of the boats laden with goods was sunk in the rapids, and the cargo badly damaged. The stock was opened in the sergeant's room of

the late British barracks, and Richard Fitz Randolph was the first man to measure tape, or sell salt and sugar in the embryo city. Others accompanying Mr. Ford were Thomas Lee, a carpenter; John Lyon and family, and a few boatmen from Schenectady. The family of Tuttle, whom he had sent on to stay in the fort and keep things in order, he placed in the barracks adjoining the store; Mr. Lyon was placed in the mill-house. Ford at once crossed to Canada, and obtained three yoke of oxen, four milch cows, peas, wheat, etc., hired forty men and set about building a dam and sawmill.

Many persons on the other side were anxious to come and settle, but Ford had, as yet, no authority to sell lands, and was forced to defer their applications by telling them settlements could not be made until the land was surveyed. In a few days Joseph Edsall arrived and began to survey lands. He brought with him a small bag of orchard grass-seed, half for Ford, the other for Mr. Farrand on the north shore.

On the approach of winter, Mr. Ford left for New Jersey, and did not return to Oswegatchie till August 9th, 1797. He found the Canadian claimants to the lands had been over in the spring, held a town-meeting, elected civil and military officers, and sent on Eusley, their moderator, to have their proceedings ratified by the governor; they had also opened a land office for selling and settling the Ogden tracts. Ford was finally obliged to purchase the lease from these Canadian claimants for the sum of £62 10s. Canada currency, for a quitclaim, "during the rest, residue and remainder of said term which is yet to come and unexpired, to wit; so long as wood shall grow and water run, peaceably and quietly to enter into, *have, hold and occupy*, possess and enjoy." A grist-mill, that known later as the Wm.

Furniss, later still the S. W. Day mill, was completed and in grinding order December 1st, 1798.

The next great undertaking was to build roads so that the long journey might be made with more ease. In connection with laying out the highways and building roads, it may be of interest to note that the writer's grandfather, Gen. Ela Merriam of Lewis Co., his brother-in-law, Elisha Backus of Utica, grandfather of our townsman Mr. Frank Chapman, associated with Samuel Bulkley of Watertown, were proprietors of the first through line of stages to the lake and river. They held the government contract for carrying the U. S. mails from Utica to Sackett's Harbor from the year 1824-1850, when the construction of the R. W. & O. R. R. greatly shortened the route at this end. Later the construction of the U. & B. R. R. R. as far as Boonville shortened that end of the route, but for some years longer the old stage line over the State road transported passengers and mail from Boonville to Lowville, twenty-two miles.

The first 4th of July celebration of our nation's birthday in Ogdensburg, if not in the county, was held in 1802. Exercises were in the old barracks, and Mr. John King, in the employ of Ogden and Ford, delivered the oration. In 1804, a pleasant celebration was held; dinner was given by Judge Ford, for such was now his title, and fireworks prepared on the premises were set off in the evening. A party of both sexes came from Canada to assist in the festivities. At this early date were the amenities thus observed by the opposite neighbors.

In 1803, Mr. Washington Irving, then a young man, arrived with some of the proprietors, remaining a short time. His signature appears on several old deeds as a witness. In 1804, Mr. Louis Hasbrouck, the first county clerk, who had

been here for the previous two years, removed with his family and settled in the village.

The township of Oswegatchie was set apart March 3d, 1802; the village of Ogdensburg, named for Mr. Ogden, was incorporated April 15th, 1813; the city charter was issued April 28th, 1868; St. Lawrence Co. was set apart by act of Legislature, April 26th, 1803. Thus April became a memorable month in the calendar of Ogdensburg.

In 1804 there were living in the village of Ogdensburg but four families, viz.: Slosson, on the corner diagonally opposite the Seymour House, formerly St. Lawrence Hotel; Dr. Davis, on the ground where was later the residence of Mr. E. B. Allen, now the property of Capt. Lyon; Geo. Davis, who kept an inn at the old American Hotel; and a Mr. Chapin in State St., near the Ripley House. Judge Ford kept a store at the old barracks, now the Geo. Hall Co. Coal Offices, and the settlers had an occasional opportunity to purchase supplies from the Durham boats that came from Utica with goods for sale.

In accordance with the law of 1802, one of the stone buildings west of the Oswegatchie was fitted up as a court-house, and a bomb-proof magazine on the premises as a jail. Here the first courts were held, and first delinquents confined, until the Court-house was completed in 1803. An act of February 12th, 1813, required the Board of Supervisors to raise by tax the sum of \$900, "to erect a fire-proof Clerk's Office." Previous to its completion, the records were kept in the office of Louis Hasbrouck, the clerk. The date of the first record was May 29th, 1802. The house in which the clerk's office was kept was one of the first dwellings erected in Ogdensburg; completed in 1804, the lot on which it stood

was sold to Mr. Hasbrouck for one guinea.<sup>1</sup> In 1821 a new clerk's office was authorized by the supervisors, and a stone building, still standing, was erected on the corner of State and Greene Sts. It was afterward used as a land-office by Mr. Henry Van Rensselaer. Louis Hasbrouck was appointed first clerk of the Board of Supervisors, and held the office till 1810, when Wm. W. Bowen was appointed, serving till 1819. In that year Bishop Perkins of Ogdensburg was appointed, and held the office uninterruptedly till the session of 1852, when, being elected to Congress, he resigned, having held the office with entire approbation for a third of a century.

The Baptist Church was formed July 29th, 1809, with nine members, the present edifice on State St. being erected 1833. The Presbyterian Society was organized December 8th, 1819, with nine males and nine females. The first Episcopal clergyman visited the village in 1816. May 23d, 1820, a society was incorporated. In 1821, it was resolved to build a church, and in October, 1823, the building was open for worship. The first M. E. Church was incorporated February 22d, 1825, and a Universalist society was formed April 16th, 1842. The Roman Catholic Church of Ogdensburg and vicinity was organized November 29th, 1848.

In early years it appears to have been customary to name the streets after prominent citizens. This custom has given us Ogden and Ford Avenues on the west side, and Ford St. on the east side of the Oswegatchie River. Judge Ford gave the names of his six daughters to as many streets: Catharine, Isabella, Euphemia, Caroline, Gertrude, and Eliz-

<sup>1</sup> The lot of 500 acres, on which stood the village of "Ogdensburgh," was sold by John Taylor, the patentee, June 13, 1789, to Alexander Macomb, for £25.

abeth. Euphemia and Gertrude were afterward, May 27th, 1824, changed to State and Franklin. After the Revolution streets were named for the heroes of the war, generals, and statesmen, Washington, La Fayette, Greene, Knox, Montgomery, Morris, for Gouverneur Morris, Jay, Patterson, Adams, Hamilton. Following down the century, we have Van Rensselaer Ave., shortened to Rensselaer, Hasbrouck, Clark, James, Seymour, and De Villers Streets, with Procter Avenue.

In the early years of the last century, when the region that is now St. Lawrence Co. first attracted the attention of settlers and capitalists, it was believed that a great system of roads and canals would bring it in close touch with the seaboard, and that it would rapidly become one of the best peopled, most desirable counties in the United States for agricultural, manufacturing and commercial purposes, and as a residence locality, especially along the magnificent St. Lawrence River. Prominent and wealthy men from New York, New England and New Jersey entered heavily into land speculation, and many aristocratic families settled in and around Ogdensburg, which they fondly believed, situated as it was at the foot of lake navigation and with fine water-power, would soon become the great emporium of commerce for the upper St. Lawrence valley.

Among these prominent families were the Ogdens, Fords, Parishes, Van Heuvels, Van Rensselaers and others. They were all Whigs, and having abundant means, proceeded to clear the forests, make improvements, erect substantial dwellings and outbuildings that compared favorably with a similar class in Virginia, Connecticut, along the banks of the Hudson, and in the Mohawk Valley. Of this description were the mansions on the estate owned by the Hon. Henry

Van Rensselaer, now the property of our honored townsman, Maj. Wm. H. Daniels, where a vast sum of money was spent in building massive stone fences, laying out broad, beautiful grounds, and erecting buildings that would have done no discredit to the great manors of England.

The Parish mansion was erected in 1809-10, and was a great establishment in its day, being abandoned in 1869 by its last owner, Mr. George Parish, Baron Seftenburg of Bohemia.

After the American Revolution, many loyalist refugees were granted lands along the St. Lawrence, and after a time, becoming assimilated with those on the American side, a sort of landed aristocracy flourished for some years.

The prediction made by the old abbé, that a beautiful town might hereafter arise on the elevated plain opposite his fort, has been fully realized in our delightful "Maple City."

## THE PIONEER FAMILIES AND EARLY SOCIAL CUSTOMS OF OGDENSBURG

Compiled from Hough's History of St. Lawrence County and from  
private letters

AT the time Jay's Treaty was ratified in June, 1796, besides a tribe of Oswegatchie Indians, there were not more than half a dozen French and English families living near the present site of Ogdensburg.

Plattsburgh, on the east, was the nearest white settlement, with Utica on the south and Oswego on the west. The vast space between these points was a dense forest. When one looks upon the great path across our State, counting one long weary mile after another, one cannot help asking, whose fine oversight mapped out this way? Who first dared to follow the dim trail that led through many unknown perils? Who changed it from a faint, wavering foot-path, by blazed trees, to a wagon trail, cut wide and deep? Who marked the bridle path by which some of the early citizens of Ogdensburg found their way to this northern home? These same pioneers, whose names are found in the early history of Ogdensburg, led the way. They had the courage and enterprise and determination to *do* great things; these men added to the sum total of human effort, human knowledge and human progress.

In 1785 the Legislature of the State passed an act, authorizing the sale of the unoccupied lands in Northern New



York. This sale took place in New York City in 1787, when John Taylor, for twelve and a half cents an acre, bought nearly the whole front of the township of Oswegatchie.

The American settlement proper began with the arrival of Nathan Ford, his black slave Dick and several others, who on August 11th, 1796, took possession of the old French barracks. From this humble beginning the settlement increased, and soon became a village of no mean importance.

The old barracks held a very conspicuous place during the days of pioneer life, having sheltered and protected the representatives of three different nations: the French as a military post and Indian missionary station; the English as a garrison to protect their fur and lumber trades; and the Americans as a dwelling, schoolhouse, church, court-house and jail, as well as a military station and a store (besides this store, the settlers had only occasionally a chance to shop on board the Durham boats from Utica, on which goods were displayed for sale).

From that time on many notable and interesting persons have visited Ogdensburg, only a few of whom we may mention, among them Washington Irving, then a young man, who came in 1803.

At the invitation of Mr. Hoffman, on an expedition to Ogdensburg, Montreal and Quebec, he gladly availed himself of the opportunity to extend the range of his travels.

I quote from "Life and Letters of Washington Irving," by his nephew, Pierre M. Irving.

"The party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Ludlow Ogden, Miss Eliza Ogden, Miss Anne Hoffman." They found themselves on board a sloop July 31st, bound for Albany from Utica. They came from Ogdensburg, or Oswegatchie, as it was called, on the St. Law-

rence, where Ogden and Hoffman owned some wild land and proposed to lay out a town. This journey has an interest independent of any literary value as a picture of travel in those early days of our country. On Monday, August 9th, they set out from Utica for the High Falls on Black River, in two wagons, having dispatched another with the principal part of their baggage. The roads were bad and lay either through the thick woods or by fields disfigured with burned stumps and fallen bodies of trees. The next day they grew worse; the travellers were obliged to get out of their wagon and walk. At High Falls they embarked in a scow on Black River, so called from the dark color of its waters; soon the rain began to descend in torrents, and they sailed the whole afternoon and evening under repeated showers, partially screened by sheets stretched on hoop poles. After a wretched night passed in a hovel and two days more of the same forlorn travel through deep mud holes and over fallen trees, they came at last in sight of the Oswegatchie. The Journal says: "The prospect that opened upon us was delightful. After riding through thick woods for several days, the sight of a beautiful and extensive tract of country is inconceivably enlivening. Close beside the bank on which we rode, the Oswegatchie wound along, about twenty feet below us. And after running for some distance it entered into the St. Lawrence, forming a long point of land on which stood a few houses called the 'Garison,' which had formerly been a fortified place built by the French to keep the Indians in awe. They were now tumbling in ruins, except two or three, which were kept in tolerable order by Judge Ford, who resided in one of them, and used the others as stores and out-houses. We re-crossed the Oswegatchie River to the Garison as we intended to reside with Judge Ford for some time."

After a lapse of fifty years, September 19, 1853, Mr. Irving made a second visit to Oswegatchie, now Ogdensburg, and I cannot resist the temptation to take from its place the letter which gives the touching contrast. On a return from a tour by the Lakes to Niagara he writes to a niece, Mrs. Storrow of Paris: "One of the most interesting circumstances of my tour was the sojourn of a day at Ogdensburg, at the mouth of the Oswegatchie River, where it empties into the St. Lawrence. I had not been there since I visited it fifty years since, in 1803, when I was but twenty years of age; when I made an excursion through the Black River country to Canada in company with Mr. Hoffman and others. All the country was then a wilderness; we floated down the Black River in a scow; we toiled through forests in wagons drawn by oxen; we slept in hunter's cabins, and were once four and twenty hours without food, but all was romance to me. Arrived on the banks of the St. Lawrence, we put up at Mr. Ogden's agent, who was quartered in some rude buildings belonging to a ruined French Fort at the mouth of the Oswegatchie. What happy days I passed there! rambling about the woods with the young ladies; paddling with them in Indian canoes on the limpid waters of the St. Lawrence, or fishing about the rapids and visiting the Indians, who still lived on the islands in the river. Everything was so grand and so silent and solitary. I do not think any scene in life made a more delightful impression upon me. Well — here I was again after a lapse of fifty years. I found a populous city, occupying both banks of the Oswegatchie, connected by bridges; it was the Ogdensburg of which a village plot had been planned at the time of my visit. I sought the rude French Fort where we had been quartered — not a trace of it was left. I sat under a tree on the site and looked around

upon what I had known as a wilderness — now teeming with life — crowded with habitations — the Oswegatchie River dammed up and encumbered with vast stone mills — the broad St. Lawrence plowed by immense steamers. I walked to the point, where, with the two girls, I used to launch forth in the canoe, while the rest of the party would wave their handkerchiefs and cheer us from the shore. It is now a bustling landing place for steamers. There were still some rocks, summoning recollections of bygone days, and of the happy beings by whom I was then surrounded; all had passed away — all were dead and gone; and of that young and joyous party I was the sole survivor; they had all lived quietly at home out of the reach of mischance, yet have gone down to their graves; while I, who had been wandering about the world, exposed to all hazards by sea and land, was yet alive. It seemed almost marvellous. I have often, in my shifting about the world, come upon the traces of former existence; but I do not think anything has made a stronger impression upon me than this second visit to the banks of the Oswegatchie.”

During the summer of 1817 President Monroe visited Ogdensburg while touring the northern States, coming here from Plattsburgh. He was met and escorted into town by a committee of citizens, preceded by a band of music, and was entertained by Mr. George Parish; next day he received the citizens and an address of welcome delivered by Mr. Louis Hasbrouck in behalf of the townspeople: in the evening the President was joined by Major-General Brown, U. S. A., with his entire suite, who accompanied him to Morristown, where he lodged with the Honorable Judge Ford.

During the autumn of 1800 Mr. Nathan Ford writes of a visit he received from Gouverneur Morris, who was in-

specting his northern lands; Mr. Ford says, "I have tried in every way to add to his comfort, but found he had every accommodation with him, travelling in the style of an Eastern prince."

The towns of Gouverneur and Morristown were named after him, Morristown having previously been called The Hague.

Mr. David Parish, in 1808, bought all the unsold portions of the village plat, and immediately began to create, at this point, a commercial interest that should contest with every other port on the river and lake for superiority.

Mr. Ford had this same faith in the growth and prosperity of this place, where he had seen and felt the first feeble beginnings of a colony grow to a thriving town; and the howling wilderness traversed only by savages and wild beasts transformed into cultivated fields and inhabited by intelligent and prosperous people. Shortly before his death, a friend asked him if in his dreams the future aspect of the town ever presented itself. The idea instantly kindled his imagination and he exclaimed: "Dream! I see it a rich and populous *city*, a wide extent of country covered with houses, with a harbor covered with the fleet of the Lakes."

Mr. David Parish was a resident of Hamburg, the proprietor of a large tract of crown land, carrying with it the title of "baron."

He was sent to this country by the commercial house of Hope and Co. of Amsterdam, to make arrangements for the transfer of credits amounting to more than seven million dollars, to Europe from the Spanish Colonies in Mexico. He met Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris, the Ogden brothers, Le Ray de Chaumont and others interested in this part of the country. He bought large tracts, and in 1810 built

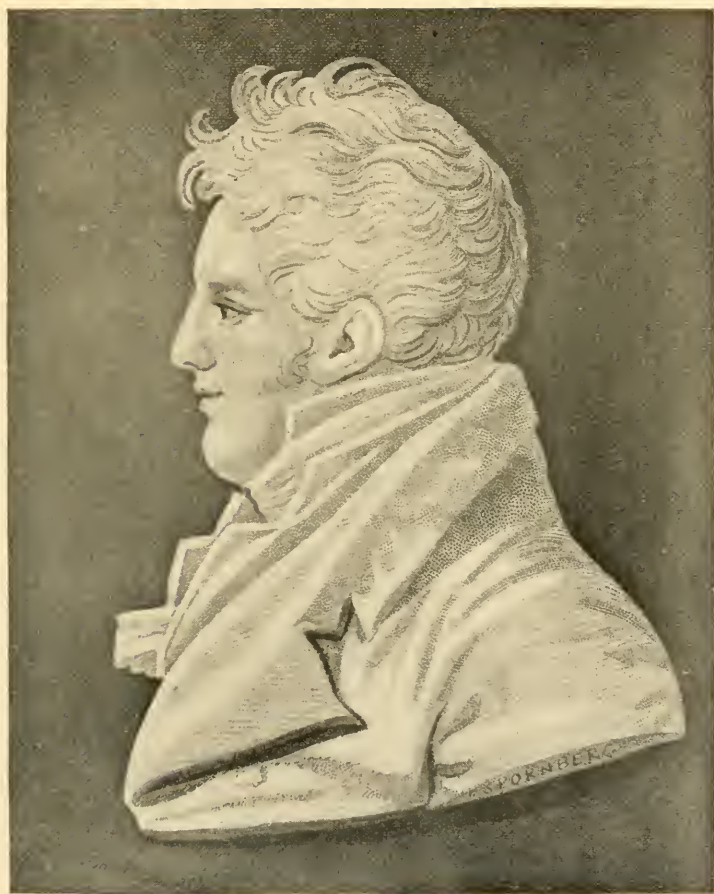
the large stone store on Water Street and his dwelling on Washington Street. He is always spoken of in the warmest terms of esteem and respect.

His younger brother George came here about 1816 to reside; he had been a collector in the East Indies, and was a gentleman of rare intelligence, most courtly manners and a great capacity for business.

David Parish was a great lover of fine horses, and in "D'ri and I" Irving Bacheller thus accurately describes him: "He was a great whip, that man David Parish, who had built a big mansion at Ogdensburg and owned so much of the north country in those days. He was a gentleman when the founders of the proud families of to-day were dickering in small merchandise. Indeed, one might look in vain for such an establishment as his north of Virginia. This side the Atlantic there was no stable of horses to be compared with that he had, — splendid English thoroughbreds, the blood of which is now in every great family of American horses. And, my faith! how he did love to put them over the road. He went tearing up hill and down at a swift gallop, and the roads were none too smooth in that early day. Before leaving home he had sent relays ahead to await his coming every fifteen miles of the journey: he always did this if he had far to go. The teams were quickly shifted; then off again with a crack of the whip and a toot of the long horn. He held up in the swamps, but where footing was fair, the high-mettled horses had their heads and little need of urging."

Mr. Joseph Rosseel came here in 1807 to look over Mr. Parish's land, and began business here, sustained by the capital of Mr. Parish, and afterward became his land agent.

Mr. Louis Hasbrouck was born in 1776 in Ulster Co.,



DAVID PARISH.





New York, to which place his Huguenot ancestors fled from France during the persecutions. He was graduated from Princeton, and studied law in New York with Ogden Hoffman and Cadwalader Colden.

In August, 1801, he was admitted to practise law in the Supreme Court, and while at Albany he met Judge Ford, who induced him to come to Ogdensburg, and procured for him the appointment of county clerk.

He came in 1802, and liking it so well, he went home and returned in 1804 with his bride, a brother, a cousin and two slaves. They came by wagon up the Mohawk Valley as far as they could, and then on horseback, by blazed trees through the unbroken wilderness, procuring supplies from the scattered settlers; through Antwerp by the old stage road to Heuvelton, where they crossed the river on a scow.

They stayed a few weeks in the old garrison with Judge Ford, until their house on Ford Street was finished; there they always kept open house, and all were made welcome.

He was adopted by the Indians, and was called the Good Father, and my aunt has often told of seeing the kitchen floor covered with Indians, all sleeping with their feet to the fire; nothing was ever stolen, as he belonged to them: my grandmother was one of the founders of St. John's Church, insisting that a clergyman should come to baptize the children, even when it was necessary to send to Canada to find one.

There was no good hotel here then, and all those who came on business, and to look after their property, stayed at their house: and many were the stores laid down, in the cellar, to meet all the festivities and necessities of the winter season, by this frugal Dutch housewife, for housekeeping was by no means an easy thing in those days.

The location of our counties upon the frontier made them the theatre of many thrilling events which were a drawback to their growth and settlement; not so much by the *actual*, as the *dreaded evils* of war, and the entire cessation of trade: in order to show the unsettled feeling of the time, I quote from some private letters written during the years 1812 and 1813.

Nov. 6th, 1812. "Yesterday between sixty and seventy Canadian boats came up the river and lodged at Prescott last evening. An attack was of course expected, and the usual bustle attending preparation for defense ensued. But our people had learned wisdom and the British prudence so that both parties remained peaceable on their own shores.

"Early this morning, the wind being fair, they proceeded up the river, and we were well content to see them go.

"The folly of attacking them from our shores, without an adequate force to sustain a landing, has become so apparent, that our officers do not pretend to molest them. They have some Indians with them and it is said some thirty or forty are stationed at Prescott. We learned that Commodore Chauncey sailed out of Sacketts Harbour, on a cruise, with the Brig *Oneida* and eight other vessels, mounting a thirty-two pounder each, meaning to sweep the lakes; so we are daily expecting great news from that quarter.

"I do not find that the soldiers have injured anything in our house. A gang of them occupy the Judge's old house opposite, and are the most noisy set of vagabond rascals in the place; they annoy me not a little as they get water out of our well."

November 14th, 1812. "A great battle was fought on the Lakes, near Kingston, on Wednesday last, between some of our schooners, and the *Royal George*, the latter retreated

into Kingston Harbour. I met Colonel Simond's regiment of about seven hundred men at Indian River and a dirtier set of men I never saw.

"We are building a Fleet, of about two hundred flat bottomed boats for the descent on Kingston, and the British are also building two vessels at Kingston and two at York, besides other smaller ones at Kingston. I must tell you of the new Russian stove which the Judge (Ford) has built in his new house (December, 1812), it is set in the wall between the hall and the dining room: I think we will have one too; they are all the rage. Mr. Schwormstede is having one built in the red house. Mr. Ramee, a French architect, who is making Mr. Parish a visit, is the constructor. They are really very fine and give a great heat, with little fuel, and have not that unpleasant odour which an iron stove always produces; they are built of brick and clay simply, and the expense is very trifling; they can be ornamental or plain as a person fancies. In spite of our unsettled times Mrs. Hill gave a very large party on Tuesday evening; the General and officers were there and many others, we had four or five card tables, and great style; she and her family go to Albany next week for the greater part of the winter.

"Mr. David A. Ogden and his wife made Mr. Parish a visit this week; and he entertained at dinner in their honour.

"Colonel Ford was down yesterday; Mrs. Ford and family are very well, but undetermined whether they will remain or move.

"The Colonel thinks that if Mr. Madison is elected, he will make the best of his way to Jersey, calculating that the war will in that case be continued."

November 20th, 1812. "On Monday night we had another glorious alarm; at half after one I was awakened by

the firing of a cannon and a general alarm was given; the firing continued incessantly, for an hour and a half, when it ceased without any bloodshed on our part. It appears that three of his Majesty's gun boats passed up the river, opposite Ranny's, and coming close in to our shore were hailed by our picket guard, and not being answered, the guard fired upon them, then the British opened a heavy fire of grape, canister and ball on our shore, for nothing else was visible to them; the few riflemen, that were on the shore, retreated, and when the main body came on the boats were so far across the river that they were beyond the reach of our small arms, and they continued their cannonading. One of our brass pieces was brought to Pigeon Point, in time to give them four shots: which was all the firing on our part.

"One ball, our people are confident, struck their boat, and a story is in circulation that it killed three men and wounded seven; but the truth is not ascertained. This is all the alarm we have had this week, rather uncommon, as we generally have two or three a week. I distinctly heard the whizzing of the shot, and in the morning, picked up six twelve pounders, very near the house.

"Mr. Parish narrowly escaped being hit, just passed over his head, as he was walking from the red house to the store, it struck just beyond him and bounded against Le Groi's garden fence.

"I think that Mr. Rosseel's wedding will take place in about a fortnight."

January 1st, 1813, 11 P. M. "Today I have been very busy with Mr. Parish organizing our Ogdensburg Turnpike Company.

"General Brown has left us, as have most of the militia, their time of service being expired and I expect we shall be

left with a very small force, only Forsyth's Riflemen, and a few three months volunteers.

"Colonel Benedict now commands again, until it is ascertained whether General Dearborn will send any troops.

"We understand that only a small force of three hundred men are at Prescott.

"A number of Yankees have crossed over this week; permission is given to every person not willing to take the oath of allegiance to leave the province, and carry their property with them, and if found after the first of February, without having taken the oath, they are to be imprisoned.

"We had a large dinner party at Judge Ford's on Sunday last, Mrs. Ford came down from Morristown for the occasion. Mr. Parish and all his family were there; Mr. Gouverneur Ogden and several others; a very pleasant party: the Russian stove keeps the house as hot as an oven.

"On Monday the Masons had a great parade and dinner, Mr. White delivered a sermon."

March 26th, 1813. "I arrived home today and proceeded to view the wreck of our village. I had heard on the road of the dreadful havock, and which I found much exaggerated. It is true the village looks desolate and deserted, but does not bear marks of that violent outrage that I was led to anticipate.

"The windows of Mr. Parish's house, McCullom's, Slosson's Tavern, and my house are the greatest sufferers.

"The lower force of the British entered the village near the Slaughter house, proceeded up the street to the rear of Mr. Rosseel's and then divided; part going up by the side of Mr. Parish's house, and the others going past Mr. Mayo's: the two met our forces (Lytle's) at Mac's corner, where the principal part of the engagement took place. When Lytle's

men retreated, the enemy took our cannon, and placing it in the street, near our house, fired from there at Forsyth, breaking nearly all our windows.

“The party that attacked above the village did not exceed one hundred and fifty men and they were driven back by Forsyth: but when the village party retreated, they again rushed on them.

“Forsyth retreated up the St. Lawrence to Milye’s, and from there crossed to the Lake, and to Kelloggs, and next day proceeded to Sacketts Harbour, where he now is; and where Lytle’s company are, who joined Forsyth just before his retreat.

“The loss on either side was small: we had three killed; and they about twenty, with a good many wounded on their side, some of whom have since died: none of our citizens were killed or wounded: a soldier’s child was killed in Tut-hill’s house, by a ball which passed through.

“Indeed so completely were our people taken by surprise that many of them were scarcely out of their beds; and the soldiers scarcely mustered before the British had possession of the place; their force did not exceed five hundred men, from all I hear; and ours was about the same. Mrs. Rosseel and her sister jumped out of bed, and half dressed, started in their sleigh, just as the British, who were coming up from the Slaughter house fired a charge of grape and canister shot, which passed just over their heads: they thought they were dead enough, but proceeding, found themselves unhurt; they went as far as Kellogg’s and the second day returned home.

“Mrs. Scott remained in her house and saved her property.

“Mrs. York fled and lost all.

“Many of the male villagers were taken prisoners and carried across the river, but suffered to return the next day.

“A great deal of private property was plundered, and many have lost nearly all their clothing, but I have no doubt, from all I can hear, that not a small part was taken by our own people, who in the general confusion decamped with their booty.

“I found scarcely anything touched inside our house; my books and papers in the office are all gone; those at the Judge’s are safe: the Judge says ‘most laughable that they should have taken your Bible; much good may it do them!’

“My barn is finely peppered, the corner nearest the house has upward of one hundred grape shot in it, caused by Forsyth shooting at the British, while the piece appeared to have been elevated a little too high, passed over their heads and entered the full charge into the barn.

“Mrs. Davies has returned home with her family and is now at Black Lake. Six Indians, a few days since, went through all our Oswegatchie settlement and frightened the people very much: they behaved very peaceably and, after travelling across the Lake, to Kellogg’s, returned home.

“They were sent by Colonel McDonald as a party of observation: learning that a military force is coming on, he wished to ascertain the facts: he promises not to send them again.”

April 13th, 1813. “We are all quiet and peaceable at present, with the exception of an occurrence which has excited the interest of all our citizens: a few days since a detachment of fifty Dragoons and Riflemen passed through the rear part of the county, and yesterday returned with eight of the inhabitants of Massena, as prisoners, on their way to the Harbour.

“Denison, Stedman, Seaton & Philips are among the number. It appears that Colonel Pike commanding at the Harbour, issued a military warrant in blank, as to names, and sent it (by his detachment) to Richards, who was to insert the names of those to be arrested; this Richards did, and the persons were accordingly arrested.

“Their crime is stated to be ‘unauthorized intercourse with the enemy,’ or in other words, smuggling.

“This order of Colonel Pike is considered a high-handed outrage against the Liberty of the citizen, and a gross attempt at military despotism. They may as well proclaim martial law at once, and do away with all civic rights; no man is safe who will not do homage to the noble Colonel and his worthy co-adjutor Richards.

“If these men had violated the laws, an appeal to them, would have punished them, and is the only tribunal to which they are subject; but it appears that the Colonel is determined to hang them by court martial.

“What an exact reproduction this is of French Revolutionism and Liberty! these men were not suffered to ride, but were driven on foot, like so many convicts, and treated with great harshness.”

May 14th, 1813. “The campaign seems to be opening on the Lake with considerable vigor, no doubt you have already received the particulars of the taking of Little York.

“They say the slaughter was very severe, about five hundred of our men were killed; General Pike, Colonel Pearce, and four hundred men are reported to have been blown up by their magazine exploding with two hundred and fifty barrels of powder.

“Our troops took possession on the 27th, Tuesday, and



embarked again on the Monday following, wholly abandoning the place.

“The Prescott folk seem to be greatly alarmed and are building a large strong Block House, and throwing up Forts in every direction; they have now about fifteen hundred men at that Port.

“They have pitched about one hundred of *our* tents, which we *lent* them last winter. You would be surprised to see how peaceably they behave to us, and with how much unconcern we stand looking on, when in half an hour, they could destroy our Village and drive us off the ground, as we have no troops here, and are not expecting any.

“Their flag was over on Monday and they told us, that General Harrison was taken by their troops on April 29th with three hundred men: that the General was made prisoner, but the men, refusing to surrender, were every soul cut off.

“Our fleet sail masters of the Lake, and the British vessels are all snugly moored at Kingston: they are not ready, their new vessels not completed, nor have they sufficient sailors to man them.

“The arrival of their Fleet from England, which they expect about June first, will, no doubt, bring reinforcements of both soldiers and sailors.

“I am very anxious for I am confident that the fate of this campaign depends upon our early success.”

May 21st, 1813. “Mr. Parish is expending immense sums of money in improvements, in different parts of the county: clearing one hundred acres of land in Cookham, and has sixty or seventy carpenters and joiners at work there, building hotels, country-seats, &c.

“The Rossie establishment progresses finely, and the

Iron works will begin to manufacture that article by October 1st, with from eighty to one hundred men constantly employed. I have this day completed contracts for the whole route from the St. Lawrence Turnpike to the Oswegatchie Town line, near Giffin's, to be completed in the month of October. We will not have to wallow through the mud as heretofore."

Dec. 18th, 1813. "Our village continues as gay as ever, I must tell you how nicely I was ushered into a large party on Tuesday evening. After closing the Polls, the Judge and myself called to see Mr. Parish, and spent the evening with him till about half after nine o'clock. The countersign being out, we went to the Colonel's to get it, to enable us to get home, as I was staying with the Judge; when, lo! we entered a room crowded with company; four card tables filled, and many others, all in great mirth. The Judge and I, of course, cut in, and at half after twelve we broke out, and walked home, had great sport and a very good supper."

In order to have some local means of defense, a regiment was formed in St. Lawrence County, April 5th, 1805, in which are found many names of those long associated with Ogdensburg: Colonel Ford, Louis Hasbrouck, D. W. Church, John King, Jacob Arnold, Jr., etc.: they formed with other companies a brigade in 1808 under General Moore.

While the rank and file drilled, like Yankee Doodle, in any uniform, or none at all, often with broomsticks for muskets, Colonel Ford mustered all his officers each year, on the Windmill Flat at Morristown, where the drills and manœuvres were held, while all Morristown entertained the families of the visiting officers; they arrived in carriage-loads, and feasting and revelry lasted as long as the officers drilled.

Very brave and gay were these same officers, mounted on fine horses, and clad in uniforms glittering with gold braid, and dazzling white plumes adorning their chapeaux. Among the generous entertainers of that day were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Van Rensselaer, whose father, Stephen Van Rensselaer, owned much land here, which he promised to give to his son if he would marry and live here. They built the lovely house still remembered by many, and entertained with gracious hospitality, endearing themselves to all who knew them. Their musical parties, their balls, and garden parties were bright spots in the reminiscences of many other entertainments.

At Ellerslie, near Waddington, lived the Ogdens, two brothers of a large family who had displeased their father by joining in the Revolutionary War. Samuel Ogden married a sister of Gouverneur Morris, and became concerned extensively in land purchases in the township of Oswegatchie.

The brothers built themselves beautiful homes, one on Ogden Island and one on the shore, where still may be seen the remnants of the old-time gardens and hidden cellars, where, they say, smuggled goods and deserters were sometimes hidden, and the homes where many friends were always welcome and entertainments were constantly given.

Tea parties were the ladies' favorite diversion, to which they would go early, with their knitting; the gentlemen would join them later; the big double sleighs in winter, comfortable with foot-warmers and fur robes, would gather up congenial loads of friends, and, with merry jingle of bells, start off for Mr. Van Heuvel's; the river road was gay with many guests.

Mr. Van Heuvel met them at the door, and stood bare-headed in the biting wind till all were safely landed in his

hospitable mansion; the great mackinaw stoves were red-hot, and the log fires in the big fireplaces were bright and cheerful. Going up the old Colonial stairs with the guests, we find in the great front room the huge mahogany four-post bedstead, decked with tester and valance of dimity trimmed with knotted fringe.

Many greetings and jests were exchanged, many showing new stitches for knitting, and, after the final adjusting of puffs and pulling out of curls, and arranging the huge tortoise shell combs, they went down to the drawing-room, and were received by the host and Mrs. Arnold, who always chaperoned the delightful parties given by Mr. Van Heuvel.

Tea was served from large trays, handed by the neat maid, on which were delicious tea biscuits, cold meats of different kinds, and pickles; then rich preserves and creams, with specially famous home-made cakes, and tea of finest flavor; the rare old china, the ancient sampler, and prints of early days shown off by the flickering firelight and mellow candle-light made a picture long remembered.

Rumor says that this courtly old-time gentleman, Mr. Van den Heuvel as his name really was, had built this house for his bride. Soon after coming to this part of the world, he fell in love with a very beautiful but uneducated girl, whom he sent to New York to be educated and then to marry him. In her absence he built "Laurentia," and brought from France handsome furniture of gold and sky-blue satin, and when everything was ready he awaited the stage which was to bring his fiancée. She came, and, stepping lightly from the old stage-coach, greeted her benefactor, and, turning, said: "Let me introduce my husband," whom she had brought with her. It is said that Mr. Van Heuvel never recovered from this disappointment.

Gossip says that many of these old French gentlemen were so exquisite in their dress, so particular in all details of costume, that they thought no one here could launder their fine lawn shirts with many ruffles, and they actually brought over enough of them, that they could send them home to France by the trunkful to be laundered.

Romance can tell no more thrilling tale than that of Madame Vespucci, who, after many social triumphs, being received and entertained in royal style in Boston and New York, and almost getting the land she came to claim, as a descendant of Amerigo Vespucci, suddenly met Prince de Joinville, son of Louis Philippe, who refused to recognize her, knowing that for a consideration she had been induced to leave Paris and his brother Duc d'Orleans. She hurriedly left Washington and within a week was in Albany with "Prince" John Van Buren, as he was called.

The story goes that she became infatuated with Mr. George Parish while at Van Buren's house.

One night, while engaged in a gambling bout, Prince John lost heavily, and finally Parish, who had won over five thousand dollars from him, offered to return the gold if Prince John would allow Madame to accompany him to his northern home.

Here they came, and in the old brick house on Washington Street, surrounded by high brick walls and lovely garden, he lived many years with this beautiful woman, who was virtually a prisoner.

Here they entertained in princely style, with sumptuous dinners, at which Madame was the only lady present.

In time Mr. Parish went back to live on his estates in Bohemia, and died there.

Madame lived here for several years, grown old before

her time, and finally selling off all the personal property given her by Mr. Parish, with something over two thousand dollars in her possession, went back to France, and died in Paris before she came to actual want.

In Ogdensburg there are still many memories of the graceful, fascinating woman, gentle, clever, kind and tender-hearted, who mourned Mr. Parish as though she had been his lawful wife.

Before she went away she gave a garden party for all the little children of the village, of whom she was always very fond.

Another favorite visiting place was Mrs. Ranney's, now Mrs. Irving's, where weary travellers, by stage and horse-back, coming through from the south, stopped to refresh themselves at the hospitable tavern, with its bountiful table, roaring fires, and hearty welcome from the hostess.

Here many gay parties danced till morning in the old ballroom, the vaulted ceiling of which can still be seen.

There is a pleasure and a sadness in looking into the lives of long ago in our quaint little town; their fears and terrors in the stress of war; their gaieties and the incidents of everyday life, all make up a chapter of intense interest that makes one wish to linger and gather up all the events in the lives of all those hardy pioneers of our northern country.



GEORGE PARISH





## THE WAR OF 1812

THE measures which led to the War of 1812 belong to our national history. St. Lawrence County being on the frontier, its growth and settlement were checked to a most lamentable degree; not so much by the actual as by the dreaded evils of war, and the entire cessation of trade, which had mainly found an outlet by the St. Lawrence. With business stopped and the brightest prospects of the future blighted, it is not surprising that the war was unpopular.

In December, 1807, Congress laid an embargo upon all ships and vessels in the ports of the United States. As a result Captains Samuel Cheney and Thomas Anderson were stationed at Ogdensburg to enforce non-intercourse. Their two companies of troops are represented as the worst set of men that ever lived. They overstepped all bounds in searching the men and women who crossed the river, and, as a consequence, the people became hostile to them and, finally, for their own protection, organized a nightly patrol to protect their gardens and hen-roosts; thus, between the preservation of national and personal rights, the village bore the appearance of a military camp. This lasted until, to the great joy of the people, the news arrived that the soldiers were to be withdrawn. As they were leaving, a citizen, who went down to their boats to recover some stolen property, was seized and thrown overboard. This instantly raised an excitement, and as they left they were followed by the hootings and cries of the irritated crowd. The old iron cannon

and the discordant music of a hundred tin horns, with as many cow-bells, assisted in expressing the general satisfaction.

April 10th, 1812, Congress called for one hundred thousand men to be raised in anticipation of war. General Brown, whose brigade included this county, sent instructions to Col. Benedict for a company of eighty men to be raised and stationed at Williamstown, now DeKalb. Darius Hawkins of Herkimer County was made captain, and John Polly of Massena and Elisha Griffin of DeKalb lieutenants. From there they were ordered to Ogdensburg, and arrived, bearing a letter from Col. Benedict to D. W. Church, the adjutant in charge of the barracks here. The letter read in part as follows:

“You will receive by Whipple four barrels of pork, four axes and one frying-pan which belong to the troops, together with one barrel of whiskey for their use. I have to request the favor of you to furnish flour, bread and other camp necessaries until my arrival.”

These troops arrived on the last of May, and for a few days were quartered in the Court-house. After their former experience the citizens disliked the idea of having troops among them, and made it difficult for them to get their bread baked. D. W. Church, the grandfather of our present mayor, George Hall, the adjutant of the company, was a carpenter. Some years after the war he wrote several letters of his experiences at that time, from one of which the following is an extract.

“I was building Mr. Parishes house and a number of other houses besides my own. The next spring I was busy fitting up Mr. Parishes furniture when the news of the war came and all business was at an end. In a few days the

Colonel of our regiment of Militia wrote me a letter and wished me to discipline the men. After getting them settled in their barracks I left them for the night—the next morning I went down and found no guard or sentinel. I told lieutenant Polly that a squaw might come and cut all their throats if they kept no guard. He said he knew nothing about the guard and it was so with all the rest of us. However, I got some old military books and went to work drilling them into camp duty and soon business went on regular.”

Among those who had just been called from the quiet labors of the field to participate in the events of war and take part in the rigid discipline of a camp, the utmost caution was required so as not to incur the death penalty. Such, no doubt, was the feeling of the sentinel, Seth Alexander of DeKalb, who was placed on duty the first night of his arrival without being given the countersign. He obeyed orders to the letter: “to know no man in the dark and to stop all persons passing by land or water.” The guard had all been posted for the night and the sergeant was returning with the relief guard. When they approached the spot where the new recruit was on duty, they were ordered to stop, one by one commanded to advance, lay down their arms and sit upon the ground. Here they were obliged to remain in perfect silence, motionless, and threatened with instant death should they attempt to rise or recover their arms. Mr. Church gives a most graphic description of this event in one of his letters, as follows:

“Capt. Hawkins was officer of the day. a squad of volunteers had come in from the near towns. had come in on an alarm. I detailed one of the best of them, Seth Alexander, on guard that day. Seth Alexander of DeKalb with

whom I was well acquainted. Ensign Holt was officer of the guard and sergeant Barheyte was sergeant of the guard. I told the sergeant to look well to the guard and see the new recruits instructed in their duty. The Adjutant of a regiment never knows when his duty is done. he is liable to be called upon by every one for something and my duty kept me busy until near midnight. and as I was going to my quarters I met the officer of the day who wished me to turn and go the grand rounds with him. When we came to the guard house we found no sentinel at the door, we went in and found the guard all asleep on the floor. Hawkins mustered them up and inquired for the officer of the guard. they said he went with the sergeant, corporal and relief and had not returned. What said Hawkins have they deserted No I said Holt or Barheyte would not desert they are true men. something very strange has happened. We started on the grand rounds and at the first post we came to were hailed who comes there. who comes there. who comes there. without giving time for an answer between the hailing. Hawkins answered the Grand Rounds. I'll grand rounds you d—n ye. Hawkins says, what does this mean. I expect it is some new recruit that don't know his duty. he ordered one of us to come along. one of the escort went up he ordered him to lay down his musket and sit down. then ordered another up. the other escort started but Hawkins stopped him and said he would go and reason the case with him. he went to him and began to speak but Alexander said damn you not a word out of your head sit down there. he sat down. now another came along. — the other soldier went up and was seated. I had reflected while all this was doing that I would rather risk his fire than go there and sit down. besides it was very dark — now darn

ye do you come along — I'll see ye darned first ye darned fool. He fired and missed me and I went up and as I came up Hawkins had closed with him and fell back saying he has wounded me do you take him off his post. I took a pistol out of my belt to drop him but on reflection concluded I would not sacrifice a man I well knew and let him stand and took Hawkins to the guard house. I went to one of the companies and got volunteers in addition to the guard and set a line of sentinels around Alexander's post leaving him to stand there, in going to my quarters saw a light in a tavern. I went in some young officers were gambling, when I told them what had happened one of them ensign emerson, pished at it and said he could get him off his post. I answered you may try. he started off and I went to my quarters — the next morning emerson was found there a prisoner. Alexander as soon as he came seated him and stood with his piece at a charge before him the remainder of the night, if he lifted his hand to brush off the moschettoes he would fly at him again darn ye sit still and would not let him say one word, sometimes the wind would stir the plume of his hat and Alexander would fly at him again — darn ye sit still — such is the way with new recruits."

History tells us that Seth Alexander of DeKalb did not leave his post at daybreak until Capt. Hawkins had been carried near enough to order him off duty.

No sooner was the news of the declaration of the war received than the greatest alarm was immediately created on both sides of the line. In St. Lawrence County especially this fear was greatly increased by rumors that parties of Indians were about to fall upon the settlements and lay waste the country with fire and tomahawk. On the slightest alarm, families would hasten off, leaving their houses

open and the table spread with provisions, laden with such articles of value as they were able to snatch in their haste, some driving their flocks and herds before them. Many of these did not return until peace was declared, and some never. To say that this alarm was general would be doing injustice to a large class of citizens who awaited whatever consequences the war might entail.

At the time war was declared there were eight schooners in the Ogdensburg harbor. These attempted to escape to the lake, but a Mr. Jones of Maitland, seeing the movement, raised a company and, seizing two of the vessels, set the passengers and the crew on an island above Brockville and burned the boats. The other six sailed back to Ogdensburg. At first the citizens proposed to sink them, but finally decided to take up the bridge and pass the vessels above it, where they could be better guarded. Later they were safely removed to the lake, and some of them entered the government service.

The effect of this upon the town is given in a letter written by Mr. Joseph Rosseel, from which I extract the following:

“ July 2, 1812.

“ The report was that two vessels had been burnt in the narrows by Indians and whites, who secreted themselves on the islands. This report which run through the county with the swiftness of lightning together with the general orders which were at the same time issued to march to Ogdensburg, all the men in town prepared for immediate action, created such confusion as is indescribable. In less than an hour all the settlements on Black Lake and St. Lawrence from hence upwards were entirely deserted — people every-

where running through the woods in great dismay. At 2 P. M. we were all under arms an immediate attack being expected from the enemy, with a view as was supposed of burning our vessels; our fears were not realized.

“JOSEPH ROSSEEL.”

An interesting incident of this period is taken from a paper written by W. E. Guest, who lived in Ogdensburg during the War of 1812 and who, as a boy, was an eye-witness of much that transpired.

“A Volunteer Company was formed here, an Artillery Company, and the spirit was such that many joined who were exempt from duty. In bad weather they would meet and drill in the Goff House (the frame building corner of State and Knox Streets) then the principal hotel in the place. Joseph York was Captain, Chas. Hill, Solomon Cleveland and Sylvester Gilbert, Lieuts. The company applied for and received from the State two brass 6 pounders. When it was known the pieces were within 15 or 16 miles it was decided that the company go out and escort them in. It is impossible to describe the roads as they were then; they would be called now impassable. The company all got as far as Remington's now Heuvelton and then many gave out, and returned, these were called in derision, the Silk Stocking Party; the rest went in and met the guns. When they were coming into the village the inhabitants went out to escort the company and guns in, and the Silk Stocking Party essayed to join their company; but the men who had gone in through mud and water would not allow them to participate in their hard earnings, and would not allow them to take place in the ranks. The guns were taken to the bank

of the river, and fired a number of times as though to advise our enemies of their arrival."

When we hear of the early settlers fleeing to the woods for safety, it is hard to realize that the village at that time was itself almost a wilderness. The father of one of our old residents, living to-day, tells a story of hunting in his boyhood in the immediate vicinity and killing two moose no farther away than the Chapin farm on the ridge.

It seems incredible how times have changed, as regards naval matters, since the War of 1812. We read of the *Julia*, at that time one of our gunboats, in an engagement with a British gunboat at Morristown, dropping anchor side by side, and cannonading each other for three hours and a quarter, with no loss of life and very little damage to the vessels. The *Julia* only received a slight injury from one shot. Although the attempt, in September of that year, to capture a number of British boats laden with supplies was unsuccessful, the bravery of the men ordered to the undertaking was remarkable. The account, taken from one of Mr. Church's letters, is most interesting.

"We got news of a number of boats coming up from Montreal and I was ordered down with a gun boat and 18 men to capture them and their boat a detachment of men was to accompany us, we landed about midnight on an island near the British shore, opposite Madrid and a scouting party sent out to reconoitre reported the boats lying in the narrow run between the island and Canada. At daylight we went around the island below while the other boat went around above in order to have the boats surrounded, when we came round the lower point of the island, we found the boats lying in a narrow run and a detachment of 150 red-coats of the 49 Regiment Paraded close by them we run



up the narrow channel against the boats and came to an anchor, they fired a volley upon us and before we had brot the gun to bear upon them they fired another volley, the first did us no harm but the second wounded five out of the 18 one Sergeant Clitz badly and others slightly. I fired the gun at their center, then to their right and then again to their left when they broke and all run helter skelter back into the field a mile off, we had no more trouble with the redcoats when I was leaning against the mast with my shoulder a rifle ball nicked a little notch out of the mast close by my ear I presume within an inch. After waiting four hours for the other boat (for I had only 10 men at the oars and six at the gun one of the best of them shot through the knee and entirely disabled) news came that the men had abandoned the boat. If the other boat had joined me nothing could have hindered the capture of the boats. I had kept the enemy at a respectful distance the space of four hours and nothing to do but shove off and go out but so it was. — We left them with regret.”

These brave men endured hardships and surmounted difficulties which would seem beyond human endurance. In writing of a trip to Madrid to guard some boats coming up the river, Mr. Church says:

“We left Ogdensburg after dark in a drizzling rain. We were accompanied by an escort of infantry under Capt. Lytle we had no horses to draw the six pounder it was extremely dark so much so that we could not see each other except one of the men who had a white frock, he was a bright active fellow and we constituted him leader. The roads were new and eight miles of woods between Lisbon and Madrid and a number of deep gulfs to pass, we got on well until we all had to help the horses at all the hills and

deep mire. the drag ropes were rigged and the officers & men were all in requisition at the bad places and a muddier set of fellows could not be found after the light of the morning came. Capt. Lytle and myself lifted at the wheels of the gun carriage until we were saturated with mud."

They stopped at Waddington at one the next morning and at daybreak afforded protection to the boats passing, pushing on later to a point opposite Iroquois for the same purpose.

Late in the fall, Captain Benjamin Forsyth, with a company of riflemen, arrived at Ogdensburg. On the 4th of October, 1812, an attack was made upon the village by the British gunboats. It had been learned from spies that the British were planning this attack, and Captain Forsythe had written to Gen. Dearborn at Plattsburg asking for assistance. The latter had sent word that he could not afford to help him, and that if he could not defend the place he was at liberty to evacuate, as the loss of the place might arouse the American spirit. Captain Forsythe sought the advice of his officers and they decided to abandon only when conquered.

On Sunday morning the batteries at Prescott opened fire. The morning parade had just been dismissed, but the order to rally was instantly given. Mr. Church writes:

"Gen. Brown came to the door and ordered me with my piece down to the shore ready to receive the enemy and by this time the shot came into the village merrily they had fourteen guns playing on us nine in the fort and five gun boats, we had only two guns, one twelve and another a six-pounder except an old four-pounder with but one ball to fit it — when they came near enough we opened up on them the twelve pounder recoiled on descending ground and being manned by villagers under Sheriff York they could not bring

it back. I sent some of my men to assist them. Gen. Brown was soon with us he asked me where my men were. I told him at the 12 pounder. Where is Cook he said pointing to him curled up under the net work. Why do you not assist at the 12 pounder. I am no Artilleryman. Youre a darned coward was what passed between them. We hammered at them. I requested Capt. Dixon a sea Capt. to see where my shot struck, he leaped up and stood on the battery, he said you have raked them quartering. I have since heard that shot took off one man's head and another's legs close to his body, poor fellows they had their work finished for this world. This is war they came on within musket distance, the 12 pounder under York began to use grape shot I had none and used only round shot but they were beaten back and that sufficed, the battle was reported next morning in the newspapers and no names mentioned of those that did the work but others who stood parade and ready and undoubtedly would have done well, however they were celebrated for what they would have if — this is the way puppies get Peoples food, by snatching — they were behind the stone store in a safe place while we with two guns against fourteen were in the field there was but one shot and two or three pieces of broken iron fired from the four pounder — this has always operated in my mind when I read accounts of battles, there is always some puppy to run away with the credit."

Writing of spying on the enemy, Mr. Church says:

"Our method was to tie a white handkerchief on our heads and a white blanket around us and walk as near as would answer and then creep as far as that we could hear and understand their conversation and ly still on the ice until morning or towards it so as to get away undiscovered."

Time or space will not allow the relation of the trials and suffering which the people of Ogdensburg bore at this time. Living as they did with the enemy constantly in sight, they were without adequate military protection, and thus exposed to continual annoyances. They were often awakened at night by cannon-balls striking the wall over their beds. Even the children could not play by the river's edge for fear of stray shots from the enemy. The American Army refused them the assistance they so much needed, and it is not to be wondered at that later the indignation of the people was aroused when some of the troops in this vicinity succeeded in impressing many of their horses into its service; horses that to most of them were a means of livelihood. It is needless to say that they did not get Mr. Church's horse. I quote from his account of it:

“I had engaged work for Mr. David Parish at Parishville and when we arrived in the vicinity of Potsdam we met people flying with their teams crying, turn about the soldiers are coming they will press your horses. Well let them press if they can I have fought the British to prevent impressment and will continue to do it as long as I live, we passed on and when we came in sight of Potsdam village I saw a squad of soldiers in the road and told Smith to stop I would meet them on my feet, he drove on before me and I hobbled after, I could not keep along so fast as he drove but they stopped him and when I came up, I said to Smith what is the matter, they say they must have the horses, they *shall not*, yes I shall sir, not while I live, what will you do you are but one and I have a guard about me, order your guard to make a motion if you dare, with thumb on the cock of my musket, What can I do I have orders to take all horses I can find but you seem like a soldier. I will tell

you the horses shall go to headquarters and if your commander will not give me a pass I will bring them back and you and me will fight for them I will never live if they are taken from me. I went to Col. Pike he gave me a pass and made many inquiries about the battle, he said he was tempted to take Prescott on his route to the harbor. I told him I would go back with him and find some good fellows to go with us but he said it was strictly against his orders to interfere another evidence of the tender conscience of the South, they say much about the agressions of the North but nothing about the recall of Harrison and sending old Wilkinson and Hampton for the very purpose of doing nothing nor do they say anything of the Florida war, their abuses to the Indians taking away their lands and the Mexican war for their Agrandisement but for sooth, Northern aggression, they heated the poker a little too much I had considerable conversation with Col. Pike and was convinced that the sacrifice of this frontier was to be the order of the day and I have never felt good natured at the dough faces."

Our ancestors suffered greater losses than the impressment of their horses. On February 22d of the following year, 1813, an attack was made upon the village. It had been previously learned from spies that the British were contemplating such an attack and the small force under Capt. Forsythe made preparations to resist it. Fifty of the residents volunteered their assistance and a company was formed under Sheriff Joseph York, great-grandfather of the writer. The total number of militia and volunteers probably did not exceed one hundred and fifty.

The British numbered eight hundred, and, marching across the frozen St. Lawrence, approached the village in two divisions. One of five hundred directed their attack

towards a point below the village where a breastwork had been thrown up but was not defended; the rest of the force approached from a point above the stone garrison. Capt. Forsythe had drawn up his men in the rear of the building facing the enemy. Lieutenant Baird was near the right line with an iron six-pounder, and Adjutant Church part way down the line with a brass six-pounder. The snow had drifted three feet in front of them on the bank. When the enemy reached this point they fired. Captain Forsythe then ordered his men to fire, and as the British were near enough to hear the order, they fell on their faces, and immediately after the volley sprang up and ran off without ceremony. Eight of their number were left on the ice dead.

The other detachment of the enemy entered the village from below and met with no resistance. Sheriff York and his company of volunteers were stationed at the corner of Ford and Euphemia (now State) Streets. The cannon was facing the bridge as they expected the enemy to approach from that direction. Great was their surprise when they turned and discovered five hundred soldiers advancing up State Street. The gun was brought to bear upon them and several shots were fired. Two of our men, however, were killed by the enemy, and the others, with the exception of Sheriff York, turned and fled. But he, disdainful to leave his post at the moment of danger, resolved to face the enemy alone. While he was engaged in charging the guns, the soldiers approached with guns levelled ready for the order to fire. Then the captain raised his hand and turning to his company, said: "There stands too brave a man to shoot."

When the British returned to Prescott, they took back with them fifty prisoners, one of whom was Joseph York.

We wonder what the families of these brave volunteers were doing during this exciting time. History tells us that the greatest confusion prevailed throughout the village, and that the women and children fled, most of them in the direction of Heuvelton, taking with them such articles of value as they could gather in the excitement.

Extracts from a letter written by Mrs. Joseph York give an idea of the hardships they endured at the hands of the British. This letter was written on February 26th, 1813, only four days after the battle.

“I did not leave the house until the British were close to it and not till they had shot a great number of balls into it. I took nothing with me but some money and my table spoons and ran as fast as possible with a number of other women. Our retreat was to the distance of about fifteen miles. The next day I returned. Our house was plundered of almost everything and my husband a prisoner on the other side. You can easier imagine my feelings than I can describe them. They did not leave any article of clothing, not even a handkerchief; they took all my bedding but left the beds; they broke my looking glass and even my knives. Thus situated, I determined to go over to Canada and accordingly went to a flag of truce which was stationed in this village, for permission, which I obtained. I went to one of my acquaintances on the other side where I was favorably received. I applied to the commanding officer for the purpose of ascertaining whether I could procure any of my clothes; he assured me I should have them if I could find them, but did not trouble himself to make any inquiry. My journey was not lost; I procured the release of my husband, who was paroled and returned with me. Most of the houses

in the village were plundered. You will be astonished when I tell you they were not contented with what the Indians and soldiers could plunder during the battle, but, after it was over, the women on the other side came over and took what was left.

LAVINIA FOOT YORK."

The looking-glass Mrs. York refers to, although only about eight inches square, was the largest owned by any one in Ogdensburg up to this time.

After this battle most of the citizens returned to the village, but the place was left without any military defense during the remainder of the war. This exposed the people to frequent insults. On one occasion, some deserters having come over from the enemy, an officer was sent across with a flag of truce, threatening to commit the village to the flames if they were not killed. To this requisition Judge Ford, with his usual promptness, replied that they would do no such thing, for that no sooner should he see them landing than with his own hands he would set fire to his own house, rally his neighbors, cross the river with torches and burn every house from Prescott to Brockville.

This practically ended the war so far as Ogdensburg was concerned.



## OGDENSBURG DURING THE PATRIOT WAR, 1837

Taken from Hough's History of St. Lawrence County, Curtis's History of St. Lawrence County, "Humors of '37," by R. and K. Lizars, supplemented by personal recollections related by Mrs. J. G. Averell, the Misses Gilbert, Miss Margaret Perkins, Mrs. Hoard, Mr. Joseph McNaughton, Mr. McClellan, the late Mrs. A. B. James, and others.

OF the causes that led to the Patriot War of 1837, it is not my purpose to write at any length. Suffice it to say that there had existed for several years in the Canadian provinces a party which labored to obtain certain reforms in government, among which were the extension of the elective franchise and the procuring of a responsible elective council. The movement grew until this handful of reformers, or Patriots, as they called themselves, even dreamed that through their efforts Canada might become an independent republic.

All this aroused bitter feeling, and late in November, 1837, the press of the reformers was destroyed by a mob, which so increased the excitement that the military force was called out, and certain prominent leaders of the reform party were arrested. Soon the prisons became filled with persons charged with conspiracy against the government; martial law was proclaimed in the lower province, and numerous instances of wanton violence on the part of the soldiers served to augment the ill feeling.

Numbers of Canadians fled to the Northern States for an asylum, and these Patriot refugees related in excited

language their version of the occurrences in Canada, enlisting the sympathy of many Americans in a cause having for its avowed object the independence of Canada. We of this generation cannot readily understand the intense feeling there was between the British and the Yankees of those days. The troubles of 1812-14 were so recent that the recollection of them was unpleasantly vivid. Indeed it is a fact that many loyal Americans really believed that to be truly patriotic presupposed utter detestation of the British, and opposition to everything that was British. Absurd as it may seem, one might paraphrase Horace and say "It is sweet and glorious to hate the British," to voice the popular sentiment of those days.

Many Americans, whose love of liberty or craving for excitement overcame their judgment, hastened to offer their services to the Patriots, and to supply them with arms and munitions to the extent of their means. Excitement along the border was at white heat, and especially here at Ogdensburg more than at any other point on the frontier. Canadians dwelling on the shores of the St. Lawrence were in constant dread of attack from this side by the Patriot forces and their recruits from the United States; while the Americans were fearful lest the acts of their impetuous compatriots might involve us in serious trouble with Great Britain.

The New York *Courier and Enquirer* had the honesty, in the recapitulatory articles which all border events called out, to say, "It is idle in this matter to affect concealment of the fact that the present Canadian rebellion receives its chief impulse and encouragement from the United States."

At the foot of the terrible three hundred and thirty-four feet of water-leaps taken in the last thirty-six miles of the river bed of the Niagara lies Navy Island, only a mile and

a half above the Cauldron, and within three-quarters of a mile of the worst of the rapids. Here on American soil, safe from the Canadian authorities, Mackenzie set up his toy kingdom, and here on December 13, 1837, the first Patriot flag was run up over the Patriot headquarters. Mackenzie's coadjutor from the United States was Rensselaer Van Rensselaer, a naturally handsome man under thirty, though looking much older from dissipation, who spent most of his time in the shabby headquarters on Navy Island in the double occupation of drinking brandy and writing love-letters.

To communicate with the main shore and to bring supplies across those turbulent waters, the provisional government of this tiny republic, represented by Mackenzie, hired a small vessel named the *Caroline*.

The *Caroline*, constructed by Cornelius Vanderbilt, afterwards known as Commodore Vanderbilt, was built of live-oak timbers, and was originally intended for use in the coasting trade along the shore of South Carolina. She was converted into a steamer and brought up the canals to Lake Ontario, had been used as a ferry at Ogdensburg, and was later taken through the Welland Canal to be used as a ferry at Buffalo, where, as already said, she was hired by the Patriots on Navy Island.

The Loyalists in Canada had for some time suspected the *Caroline* of carrying contraband goods to the Patriots, so several volunteers started out to investigate and make report. They succeeded in proving the truth of their suspicions, with the result that several determined Loyalists braved the dangers and terrors of those seething waters, and rowing to Navy Island, burned the *Caroline* as she lay at the dock the night of December 29, 1837.

The firing of the *Caroline*, the murdering of her crew, the cutting the steamer adrift and sending her over the falls of Niagara, served to increase the excitement to an extraordinary degree. It let loose the tongues of ministers and diplomats, and it gave a great impulse to the outside movement of sympathizers. Public meetings were held throughout the country to express an honest indignation at the outrage and to invoke the executive arm to protect our national rights. The subject became the absorbing topic of the press. On the 12th of February, 1838, Mackenzie addressed the citizens of Ogdensburg on the Canadian question. In the evening and again the following morning a cannon was fired several times with the intention of honoring the speaker, but with the effect of assembling crowds of excited citizens. That evening several persons from Prescott, who had heard the firing, crossed the river to ascertain the cause. They were met in the street by a party of Patriot sympathizers, who promptly arrested them, in spite of their indignant protest, and detained them until the following morning. This illegal proceeding irritated the Canadians and increased the feeling of hostility.

On the 18th of February, 1838, the State arsenal at Watertown was robbed, and the State offered a reward of \$250 for the burglars. The Patriots and their sympathizers now took active measures to assemble arms and munitions of war along the frontier, and secret associations styled "Hunters' Lodges" were soon formed in the large villages, to organize a plan of resistance, and circulate early intelligence of new movements.

On the night between the 29th and 30th of May, 1838, the British steamboat, *Sir Robert Peel*, on her passage from Prescott to the head of the lake, while taking fuel at Wells

Island, was boarded by a party of armed men, painted and disguised as Indians. "All hands ashore," called out the leader of the band. Gangplanks were run out fore and aft, and with hideous yells and violent threats they drove all the officers, hands and passengers on shore, the passengers, including several women, escaping in their night clothes. Then the pirates set fire to the steamer, and rowed away. Captain Jessup of Prescott, who was the leader of the Prescott Independent Co., which later assisted in the capture of the windmill, was among the passengers on the *Sir Robert Peel*. Burning with indignation, and full of military ardor, clad only in his night-shirt, he scrambled on a great rock, drew himself up to his full height, and, shaking his fists at the retreating pirates, repeatedly exclaimed, "J—— C——, if I only had a sword!" Just as the pirates disappeared, an anguished cry was heard above the crackling flames, "My God, will no one help me?" and those on shore were horrified to see the mate of the *Peel*, standing like Casabianca on the "burning deck, whence all but him had fled."

Willing hands seized a small boat tied to the wharf, and rowed to his aid. All on fire, he leaped into the water, and was pulled into the boat and taken back to the island, where his terrible burns were cared for as well as possible. It seems he had slept through all the commotion and excitement, and had only wakened to find himself on fire and surrounded by flames. In the cold, gray dawn of the morning, while the *Sir Robert Peel* was still burning, the steamer *Oneida* arrived on her downward trip, and her commander, Capt. Smith, rescued the passengers from their ridiculous and most uncomfortable situation, carrying them to Kingston, the nearest British port. Such an outrage as this compelled the notice of the government, and prompt and decisive

measures were adopted by the authorities on both sides of the St. Lawrence to arrest and punish the authors of the act. On June 10th, William Johnston, who held a commission from the provisional Patriot government as "commander-in-chief" of its purely mythical "naval forces and flotilla," openly paraded the streets of Ogdensburg with his belt stuck full of pistols, dirks and bowie knives, and immediately after issued a proclamation which was published in most of the papers, publicly acknowledging the act of burning the *Sir Robert Peel*, and frankly stating his motive for so doing, which was not for his own grievance, such as the confiscation of his property on the British side in 1812, but to avenge the United States for the burning of the *Caroline*.

And who was this redoubtable William Johnston, better known as "Bill?" At this time he was a man about sixty years of age, of great physical strength, bold, hardy and absolutely fearless, "a good friend and a terror to his enemies." He stated that "whoever attacked him must bring his own coffin, as he himself had no leisure for cabinet making." He made his home on an island without the jurisdiction of the United States, at a place he named Fort Wallace. From there he and his chosen followers would start on their numerous expeditions, and, their purpose accomplished, they would row rapidly away in their swift boats to elude pursuit in the many hiding-places known to them among the islands. The boat used by Johnston himself was twenty-eight feet long, twelve-oared, a marvel of swiftness; so light that two men could carry her with ease, but capable of accommodating twenty armed men.

Mr. Joseph McNaughton, who well remembers those stirring times, tells me that after the capture of Bill Johnston,

his boat served as a model for others. One in especial, named the *Banner*, built after her lines for Ogdensburg parties, was so swift that she, with her crew, of which Mr. McNaughton is the sole survivor, swept the river, and won every race for which she was entered.

Bill Johnston believed that it was a glorious thing to be a pirate king, and certainly this buccaneer, armed to the teeth, actuated by revenge for real injuries, carrying out his threat to be a thorn in Great Britain's side, flying from island to island, a price set upon his head, determined to sell his life at desperate cost, devoted to his daughter and adored by his children, has a touch of poetry about him. His four stalwart sons assisted him on his raids, but the most interesting member of his family was his daughter Kate, whom his ambition was to make Queen of the Thousand Islands. She was a beautiful girl of nineteen, courageous, armed like her brothers, and skilful enough to keep her father supplied with provisions on those exciting occasions when he had to hide among the fastnesses of his beloved islands. We have, no doubt, all seen that particular cavern among the Thousand Islands, which, to this day, is pointed out as "Bill Johnston's Cave."

All this time the troubles along the border continued, and the local authorities seeming unable to cope with the situation, in the autumn of 1838, Col. W. J. Worth, who was stationed at Sackett's Harbor, was ordered with two companies of government troops to Ogdensburg, to assist in maintaining order. Whether their coming was pleasing to the Patriots, I leave you to conjecture, but it requires no imagination to understand how they were received by the rest of the town. Then began gay times for Ogdensburg. Col. Worth and his officers were welcomed with royal hos-

pitality. I have often heard my grandmother tell of the balls and parties given in honor of Col. Worth and his officers, where the brilliant uniforms of the soldiers made such pleasing contrast with the dainty gowns worn by the belles of those days. Ogdensburg, then as now, was celebrated for its pretty girls. Cupid was very busy, and the glances of bright eyes caused many hearts to flutter. Some "loved and rode away," but one of Col. Worth's young officers, Lieut. George Lincoln, son of Gov. Lincoln of Massachusetts, wooed and won the beautiful Nancy Hoard, of whom Bancroft Davis (nephew of Bancroft, the historian), who had been chargé d'affaires to Minister Ingersoll at the Court of St. James, said in after years to Mrs. James Averell, "She was the most beautiful and gracious woman I ever saw. I have seen many beautiful women in London and Paris, but she excelled them all in grace and charm." My grandmother has told me how, just before the arrival of the officers, the lovely Nancy sprained her ankle, and while all the other girls were having the fun, she, lying on her sofa, was obliged to take her enjoyment second-hand from the girls who came each day to tell her all that she was missing. But not even sprained ankles can last forever, and Nan was able to attend the last dance, given just before the departure of the officers. There she met Lieut. Lincoln. It was a case of love at first sight. They were married six months later, and their happiness only ended when he was killed, during the Mexican War, at the battle of Buena Vista.

At this time existed in Ogdensburg an organization known as the Ogdensburg Artillery Company, whose captain was my grandfather, the late A. B. James. I have often heard my grandmother tell how fine the company looked in



its handsome uniforms, which consisted of white trousers, blue coats with gold buttons and epaulets, and cocked hats with long red and white plumes. Mr. McClellan (who for so many years has been our favorite kalsominer) says, "I was about seven years old at the time, and I can well remember how I used to go out to the Gilbert farm to see them drill. My, but they used to look handsome in their uniforms! They don't have such fine uniforms nowadays, and they don't have such fine men either. They were all tall, handsome men, and the handsomest of the lot was A. B. James. I never saw such a fine-looking officer as he was! And John Grant too!"

It was at this time that the ladies embroidered the flag, which was later presented with much pomp and ceremony to the Artillery Company. Mrs. A. B. James designed and drew the wreath of oak leaves and acorns which adorns one side of the banner. Then the question arose, what to embroider on the other side. All agreed that it should be military in character, but no one felt equal to making such a design, so Mr. George Seymour, a member of the Artillery Company, appealed to one of Col. Worth's officers, Lieut. Sully (son of the famous Philadelphia artist of that name), who had great skill in drawing, to help them in their quandary. "To be sure I will," said this accommodating young man, and forthwith he drew the design of the eagle, etc., which decorates one side of the flag. The chenille and silks had to be procured in Montreal, and the embroidery was done in the parlors of Judge Brown's house on Caroline Street. Among the workers were Miss Mary Gilbert, Miss Nancy Hoard, Miss Sophia Hoard, Miss Julia Cooper, Miss Elizabeth Fine, Miss Margaret Perkins, Miss Elizabeth Guest, Miss Elizabeth Hasbrouck, Miss Jane Brown, Miss

Louise Allen, and no doubt many others, but all unite in saying that the largest part of the work was done by Mrs. A. B. James, as she could embroider most skilfully, the eagle being entirely the work of her clever fingers.

At this time Ogdensburg was but a small village, in fact, one who remembers those days says that Prescott seemed large by comparison. But if Ogdensburg was small, it was a thriving town, and a great amount of business was done here, though the only means of communication with the outside world was either by coach or by water, railroads and telegraph lines being conspicuous by their absence. The principal part of the business section of the village was situated on Water Street, between the ferry dock and the bridge. The Tremont was the first hotel in the village, and stood just opposite the Allen Block in Marble Row, the name given to a fine group of buildings destroyed some years later in Ogdensburg's most disastrous fire. The Hasbrouck house, surrounded by its large garden, stood on Ford Street, where now the Hasbrouck Block is built, and opposite was Mr. Bell's store, where now stands the Bell Block. There were a few other dwellings on Ford Street, and some scattered shops. Where the Merriam house now stands, on the corner of Franklin and Knox Streets, was a wood-yard, and cord-wood was cut on the low ground in front of the Cathedral; Elizabeth Street was a cedar swamp where the boys used to skate in winter. The shores of the Oswegatchie were covered with fine timber, and deer and game could be found in abundance. There are several houses now standing which were then in existence, among them the Ford mansion, now incorporated in the City Orphanage; the stone house at the corner of Ford and Hamilton Streets, then occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ripley, and now used by the

nuns as a school; the old Webster house on the corner of State and Jay Streets, once the home of Preston King; the house on Franklin Street, built by Baron Van Heuvel, now occupied by the Hasbroucks; the Gilbert house on State Street, and the old Goff house built by Col. Goff diagonally across from the Post-office. The E. B. Allen house, now occupied by Capt. Lyon, was originally built for and used as a tavern, as was also the Isaac Seymour house on the corner of Caroline and Greene Streets, now occupied by Dr. Cooper. Other buildings are the James house on Caroline Street, now occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Madill; the Parish house, where Mr. George Hall is living; the George Hall coal office, originally built by Mr. Parish for his office; the buildings on State Street occupied by the American Express Company and the New York Central ticket office; the houses now occupied by Dr. Hanbidge and Dr. Bell, also the old stone dwelling at the corner of Washington and Isabella Streets. Some of these buildings have been more or less altered since the days of '37, but others, outwardly, at least, are just as they were at the time of the Patriot War. Among the families living here at the time of the Patriot War, the following have descendants now living in Ogdensburg, who, in their turn, are carrying on the friendships formed, so many years ago, by that earlier generation,—the Ford, Averell, Arnold, Gilbert, Seymour, Hasbrouck, Allen, Bell, Peters, Brown, Ripley, Perkins, Fine, Hoard, Stilwell, Myers, Ranney, Sherman, Guest, Church, James, Fairchild, Clark, Davies, York, Daniels, Lyon, Edsall, Chapin and McNaughton.

Early in November, 1838, the Patriots began to exhibit intentions of renewing demonstrations upon Canada. About the 10th of November, two schooners, the *Charlotte of To-*

*ronto* and the *Charlotte of Oswego*, were noticed as being freighted at Oswego from boats that had arrived by canal from Syracuse under circumstances somewhat suspicious. Soon after loading, they left the harbor, taking a northerly course. The next morning, November 11th, the steamer *United States*, which had been undergoing repairs at Oswego since the 6th, left on her regular trip down the river. Just as she was leaving she was boarded by about 150 men, who were without other baggage than small bundles and two or three trunks. A nail keg put on board fell in the handling, and the leaden bullets which it contained rolled all over the deck. At Sackett's Harbor more men came on board, and more were taken on at Cape Vincent. Shortly after they passed the United States government boat *Telegraph* off Point Peninsula, and the mate of the *United States* later testified that he heard the leaders of the party cautioning the men to keep out of sight until they had passed the *Telegraph*, which, unknown to them, was then on her way to Sackett's Harbor to bring Col. Worth and his men back to Ogdensburg, they having returned to their post when any necessity for their remaining longer at Ogdensburg seemed to have disappeared. On arriving at the foot of Long Island the two schooners were discovered, and at the request of a respectable-looking passenger, who represented that they were his property and freighted with goods for Ogdensburg, Capt. Van Cleve of the *United States*, as he could find no valid reason for refusing, although somewhat doubtful of the proceeding, took the schooners in tow, as the wind was in a quarter disadvantageous to sailing vessels. Soon after leaving French Creek, where more men came aboard, the nature of the business of the passengers was evident, for they proceeded openly to arm themselves

with swords and pistols taken from the boxes which had been transferred from the schooners to the steamer. A hurried consultation was held between the captain, two of the owners of the steamer and Mr. Denio (one of the bank commissioners who was on board), and it was decided to stop at Morristown, the next American port, there give information as to the character of the passengers and their supposed object, and send an express to the authorities at Ogdensburg with similar information. Just before reaching Morristown, one of the passengers, John W. Birge by name, whose military bearing and the sword only partially concealed by his cloak proclaimed a person of authority, directed that half of those men on the steamer should return to the schooners, which then were cut adrift, to be seen no more until the *United States* arrived at Ogdensburg, about three o'clock in the morning, Monday, November 12th, where she tied up at her wharf and her fires were extinguished according to the usual custom. Then it was seen that one of the schooners had grounded on the bar at Ogdensburg while the other had landed at Prescott and made fast to the upper wharf. A Polish exile, a man of cultivation, whose ardent love of liberty had led him to embrace the misguided cause of the Patriots, Von Shoultz by name, was in command, and he urged his men to land, march into the village and take possession of the fort. Had they followed his advice, there is little doubt that they would have captured the fort, and taken possession of Prescott, but discussions arose, other leaders counselled otherwise, and after some delay the schooner cast off, fell down the stream, and anchored about a mile below Prescott, nearly opposite the old windmill. At that time several massive stone houses stood close to the mill, the whole being surrounded by groups of

cedar thickets. The mill, then as now, was round in shape, and the walls heavy and massive. In fact, its architecture was such that the more the cannon battered it, the stronger it became. The interior was divided into several stories, and as no grain had been ground there for some years, the machinery had fallen into ruin.

On Monday, November 12th, in the gray dawn of the early morning, an iron nine-pounder cannon belonging to the village of Ogdensburg, and a brass four-pounder belonging to the State of New York, and in charge of the Ogdensburg Artillery Company under Captain A. B. James, were seized by the so-called Patriots, and conveyed across the river in a scow to the windmill. At sunrise the streets were filled with armed men. It was evident from their actions that they intended to seize the steamer *United States*. The marshal of the district was absent. The collector, Smith Stilwell, made strenuous efforts to hold the boat, but without effect. The leaders of the Patriots began the muster of a volunteer company to man the steamer, openly deriding the efforts of the civil authorities in trying to prevent them. A crew having been obtained, and steam got up, they left the wharf, greeted by loud cheers of the crowd, and went to the assistance of the schooner that had run aground, but not succeeding in floating her, they returned to the wharf for additional hands, hawsers, and provisions. Meanwhile, those on the river front could see that Prescott was alive with preparations to resist the movements which were in progress against them. The *Experiment*, a British steamboat, lay at the wharf in Prescott, and being armed with cannon, she repeatedly fired, but without effect, at the *United States* as she cruised up and down between the grounded schooner and Windmill Point. The crew of the *United States* re-

ceived the fire of the *Experiment* with derisive shouts, until, as she was returning with great speed on her last trip, a cannon-shot from the British steamer entered the wheel-house and instantly beheaded a young Ogdensburg man, Solomon Foster, who stood as pilot at the wheel.

When the steamer reached her wharf, it was seen that only a few of those who crossed the river in her had returned. As she tied up at the wharf, she was formally seized by Nathaniel Gorrow of Auburn, N. Y., United States Marshal for Northern New York, who had just arrived, and her machinery was taken apart. The Patriots in Ogdensburg now seized the small ferry steamboat, the *Paul Pry*, and with her finally succeeded in releasing the grounded schooner, when she passed down and took a position near the other vessel. During Monday there were frequent crossings of the river in small boats, and no attempt was made to prevent it by the authorities of either side. That night there was no disturbance, except the sound of occasional firing, but here the excitement was intense. Miss Margaret Perkins has told me that, while she was playing in the yard that Monday afternoon, she saw her uncle, Mr. John Grant, who lived with Bishop Perkins and his family, come in and walk hastily toward the stable. Curious as all little children are, she followed him and heard him tell the coachman to keep the horses harnessed, the buffalo robes in the sleigh, and to remain there himself, for, in the excited state of affairs, they might be obliged to leave at any moment, day or night. Greatly alarmed, Miss Margaret ran to her mother and repeated what she had overheard. In the absence of Bishop Perkins, whose duties as supervisor had called him away to Canton, Mrs. Perkins went at once to her brother and begged to be informed of the true state of affairs. He at-

tempted to reassure her, but she said, "If we have to go, we might just as well be ready, so I will go and pack the silver and some clothes." "Perhaps it would be as well if you did," admitted Mr. Grant.

Miss Hannah tells how her father, who lived near Lisbon, shared in the excitement, and hearing that the Patriots were fortifying the windmill, and a battle was imminent, bade good-by to his wife, saying he was off to join the Patriots. "But surely you will not leave me and the children for such a cause?" she said. "I have said I would go, so I am going," he replied. When all was ready for him to start, she appeared in her riding-habit. "Where are you going?" he asked. "To the Patriot War," she replied. "But how can you leave the children?" he demanded. "Why," she replied, "if you can leave me and the children to go to this war, I can leave the children to go with you." He stayed at home.

While the events described were taking place, the Patriots were busy fortifying the windmill and adjacent buildings, under the direction of Von Schoultz, upon whom devolved the defense of this position in the absence of his superior officers, who, it has been strongly insinuated and firmly believed, lacked the courage to carry out their own plan. In this novel and perilous crisis the citizens of Ogdensburg held meetings to determine the best course to pursue. Rumors of every kind floated through the town. Some were for aiding the Patriots; those wiser, embracing most of those of influence and property, called on every good citizen to lend his aid to discourage the movement and to protect national honor and the interests of the village. However, these meetings amounted to little else than giving an opportunity to people to express their sentiments, for so



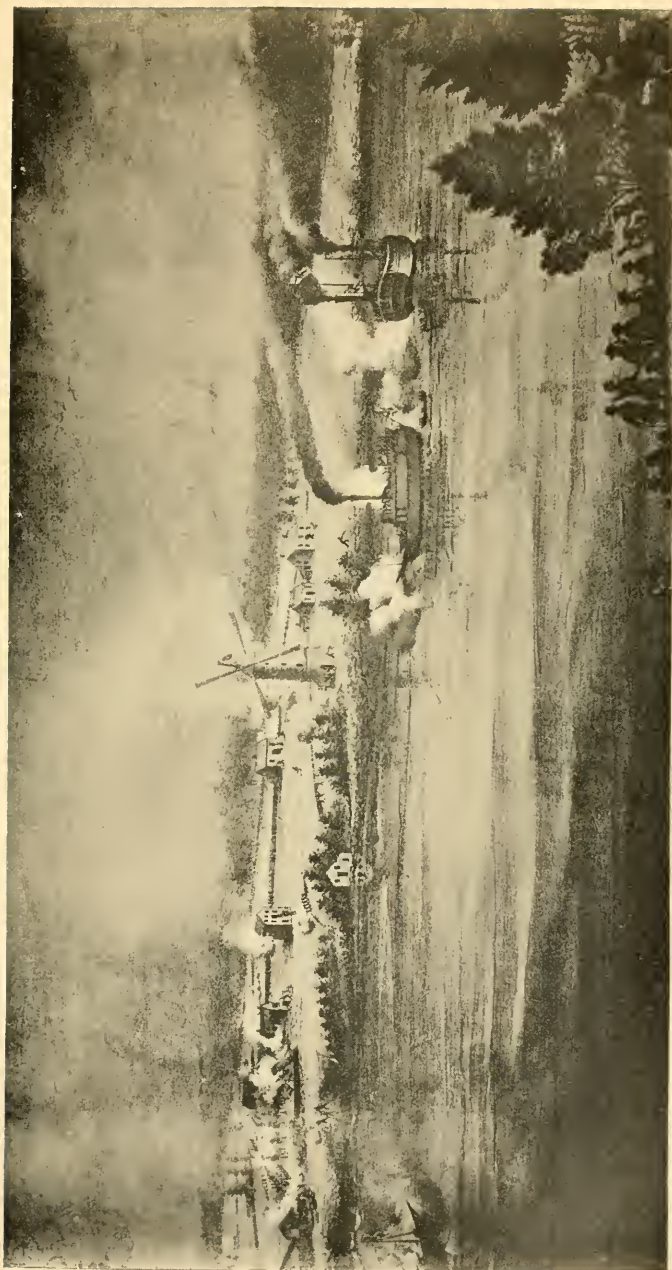
many armed strangers patrolled the streets that the good citizens of Ogdensburg, being decidedly in the minority, could only await developments with what patience they could muster.

About ten o'clock Tuesday morning, November 13th, the two schooners were seized by the marshal, as they lay at the wharf at Ogdensburg, and were placed in charge of Col. Worth, who arrived on the *Telegraph*, and were subsequently sent to Sackett's Harbor for safe-keeping. The arrival of Col. Worth and his troops also put an end to the communication that had been kept up between the Patriots and the American shore. Another circumstance which assisted Col. Worth in his efforts to maintain order was the arrival at Prescott of the British armed steamers, the *Coburg* and the *Victoria*, with reinforcements of troops. They, with the *Experiment*, commenced throwing bombs at the Patriot forces in the windmill, who returned the fire with field-pieces from their batteries on shore. The sound of the cannon was so loud that it could be distinctly heard in Canton, where the supervisors were then in session, and was heard so plainly at Lisbon that a woman living near that village became so much alarmed for the safety of her husband, who had been summoned to Ogdensburg on business, that she ran to the pasture, seized the horse, and throwing the bridle over his head, mounted and rode as fast as possible to Ogdensburg. A few miles out of town she met her husband returning on foot. "Oh, John, are you safe?" she cried, slipping down from the horse. He seized the horse's bridle, mounted post-haste, and exclaiming, "One brave man is worth a dozen women," rode home as fast as the horse could go, leaving his wife to care for herself.

The following story well illustrates the local excitement,

and the high feeling which divided friends who differed in their opinion as to the right of the Patriot's cause. To the old Washington Hotel, kept by a genial and pleasant man, came every morning a well-known citizen of Ogdensburg, who would lay three copper cents on the counter, receive in exchange his glass of toddy (liquor was cheaper in those days), and after an exchange of greetings and mutual courtesies would depart to attend to the business of the day. This citizen had large interests both in Canada and St. Lawrence County, so in the discussion that arose concerning the Patriots he could say nothing for either side lest he imperil his investments. The morning after the battle at the wind-mill, he arrived as usual for his toddy. No attention being paid him by the large group of men discussing the situation, he beckoned to his friend, "Just put in a little sugar, a little water, and stir it around a few times as usual," he called out to the erstwhile genial Boniface. Looking up he saw his host striding toward him with an expression which boded no good. Wishing to avoid an encounter, he hurried to the door, only to be forcibly assisted in his exit by his host's foot, to the accompaniment of the wrathful words, "By —, do you think I'll mix drinks for a d— Tory!"

These exciting events drew a large crowd to Ogdensburg from the surrounding towns and country. The river front and Mill Point, the present site of the Rutland Depot, were black with spectators. Miss Louise Allen, who afterwards became Mrs. Louis Hasbrouck, took a part of her young friends to watch the proceedings from the top floor of her father's (E. B. Allen) store on the water front, and my grandmother has told me how she and her sister, Laura Ripley (afterwards Mrs. Charles Shepard), watched the battle through a spy-glass from the roof of their father's house,



BATTLE OF WINDMILL POINT.



now the nuns' school on Ford Street, and how plainly they could see the redcoats fall. Most of the day the battle continued, and the people here stood watching the contest. The Patriots, protected by the thick walls of the mill, lost but five killed and thirteen wounded, but the British suffered severely from the sharpshooters posted on the top floors of the mill, and their loss is said to have been one hundred killed and many more wounded. On the morning of Wednesday, under a flag of truce, both sides buried their dead in a great trench at the foot of the mill. On Wednesday, Col. Worth, humanely anxious to prevent more of this useless bloodshed, consulted with a few of the prominent citizens of Ogdensburg, and as a result, Col. Worth, accompanied by Judge Fine, Preston King, Judge Stilwell, and Dr. S. N. Sherman, crossed to Prescott on the United States steamer *Telegraph*, where they called upon Col. Plomer Young, the British commander, who received them with marked politeness, and accompanied them back to the steamer, where a private interview was held between the two colonels. At this interview, Col. Worth deplored the useless sacrifice of life by allowing the battle to continue, as it was evident that the brave but misguided men must soon be overcome in the unequal contest, and he offered to be surety for their behavior if he might be allowed to remove the Patriots, many of whom were mere lads not more than sixteen or seventeen years of age, who had been induced to embark in this foolish enterprise. As a military commander, Col. Young could not, of course, grant such a favor, in fact, pointedly denied it, but the humanity of Col. Worth's proposition must have appealed to him, for, either by accident or design (I, myself, think the latter, for he was an unusually fine man), he intimated that the machinery of the

*Experiment*, also that of the *Coburg* and *Victoria* needed repairs which would prevent their being used until two o'clock the next morning. With mutual amenities the two colonels parted, and Col. Worth and his party returned to Ogdensburg. On arriving, Preston King undertook to raise a company of volunteers to assist him in his work of rescuing the Patriots in the windmill, and after nightfall he, with John Grant and other assistants, started off in the *Paul Pry*. The shallow water obliged them to anchor about twenty-five feet from land, and row ashore in small boats. In spite of all the arguments brought to bear by the eloquent Preston King and the men who accompanied him, they succeeded in inducing only six or seven men to return with them; the others, burning with misdirected zeal, preferred to remain, hoping for the promised reinforcements which never came. It is universally believed that the anguish of spirit at being obliged to abandon those men to their fate so preyed upon the mind of Preston King that it brought on the mental trouble which eventually caused his death.

During the whole of Thursday, the 15th, a white flag was displayed from the windmill, and three or four flags were sent out, but their bearers were shot down as soon as seen, proving that Great Britain would no longer parley with the rebels. On the morning of the 16th, the British reinforcements having arrived, systematic firing was begun to reduce the windmill, and that same day an unconditional surrender was made, and the prisoners were taken to Fort Wellington in Prescott, thence to Fort Henry at Kingston for trial. It is related that, had it not been for the interposition of the regulars, the prisoners would have been torn in pieces by the enraged militia, who exhibited a vindictiveness and animosity that has scarcely found a parallel

in the annals of French and Indian warfare. During the firing that ensued in celebrating the surrender, Capt. Drummond of the British army was accidentally shot. Von Schoultz was said to be opposed to surrendering, and besought his men to rush upon the enemy and die in the contest, but their ammunition and provisions were exhausted, and the fatigue of five days and nights incessant watching and labor had made them indifferent to their fate.

During this exciting week Bill Johnston had been seen publicly in the streets of Ogdensburg, apparently defying arrest, but after the surrender of the Patriots he and his followers returned to their old haunts among the islands. Several attempts were made to capture him, but Bill laughed at them all, and managed to elude his pursuers.

One morning not long after the surrender of the windmill, Mrs. A. B. James was doing her marketing as usual, being one of the few ladies who were not intimidated by the prevailing excitement. While chatting with friends whom she met in the course of her morning's walk, one said, "If you knew where your husband is, you would not be so full of laughter." Word had been brought into town that Bill Johnston was in hiding in the woods near by, and two parties, hurriedly got together, had gone off in search. One party was composed of Charles T. Burwell and A. B. James on horseback, the other of United States soldiers, who were to meet the first at a given rendezvous. On arriving at the place, the two horsemen found young Johnston sitting by the shore waiting for his father. After some resistance young Johnston was taken, his boat seized and the oars hidden. The capture of the father was not so easy. When he caught sight of the three, he rushed to where he expected to find the boat, warning the townsmen to keep off. He had

a pistol in each hand, but demurred to use them, as his pursuers were "fellow Americans." After considerable parley, when he realized that the second party momentarily expected by boat would put him beyond hope, he surrendered. But he stipulated that his son should receive his arms, he himself to retain only four small pistols and his bowie-knife; he then quietly fell in with James and Burwell for the return to Ogdensburg. A very short walk brought them to the other party just arrived, the United States soldiers, a sheriff and deputy marshal, to whom Bill Johnston was delivered. In spite of the large sums offered as reward for his capture, the testimony is that James's share no more than reimbursed him for the loss of the brass cannon, for the safe custody of which he had been responsible. Johnston was delivered over to Col. Worth, who had him taken to Sackett's Harbor on the government boat, and so he disappeared from the scene and his river haunts knew him no more.

On the Monday after the surrender of the windmill, the Hon. John Fine of Ogdensburg, with Charles G. Myers, consented, at the earnest solicitation of anxious friends, to visit Kingston, to carry money to the prisoners, and perhaps render them timely assistance by testifying to their previous good character, and pleading the extenuating circumstances of their extreme youth. The season of travel being past and there being no direct communication with Kingston, they wrote to Col. Worth at Sackett's Harbor, asking if he could send them over to Kingston in his boat, and also give them a letter to the commanding officer. Both of these requests were declined, as being a United States officer Col. Worth could not lend what would appear to be government sanction to a mission of such a private and delicate character.



Judge Fine and Mr. Myers then crossed the river to Prescott to confer with Col. Young, who received them courteously and gave them a note of introduction to Col. Dundas at Kingston. A citizen of Prescott gave the use of a small steamer without charge. On arriving at Kingston they found, at the hotel, several Americans from Oswego, Salina and elsewhere, who had come on a similar errand, but had been denied all access to the prisoners. The next morning the gentlemen from Ogdensburg presented their note to Col. Dundas, who referred them to the sheriff in charge of the prisoners. He was told that the sheriff had positively refused similar applications under orders from the governor. Then they added as a last resort that, being lawyers, they had some right to serve the prisoners in the capacity of legal counsellors, having been employed by their friends for that purpose. They also reminded Col. Dundas that it was the boast of the English law, which the Americans had inherited from the mother country, that every one was presumed innocent of a crime until proved to be guilty. Upon this the colonel rose, conducted them to the fort, and, taking the keys from the unwilling sheriff, with the assurance that he would himself be responsible to the governor, he led the gentlemen to the rooms where the prisoners were confined. These rooms were large, clean and airy, and each contained about fifty prisoners, who, replying to questions, said they had good and sufficient food and were well treated. Special inquiry was made as to the needs and desires of those from St. Lawrence County, of their want of clothing, etc., which was afterwards procured and sent to them. One boy, when questioned as to his wants, begged for some candy. Some of the boys broke down completely and wept piteously when alluding to the causes which had induced them to engage

in so foolish an enterprise. This so affected the Canadian officers that they proposed to leave. The Ogdensburg gentlemen managed to cheer the boys, telling them that there was hope in their case, adding that the power of England was not so feeble as to fear the loss of Canada at the hands of boys, and advised them to plead their infancy and throw themselves on the mercy of the court.

When their trial occurred, it was conducted with all fairness by Solicitor-General Draper, and on promise to keep the peace most of those boys under age were liberated from time to time and allowed to return home.

Some of the prisoners were hanged at Fort Henry, some at Brockville, some, including Von Schoultz, were shot, the others were transported to Van Dieman's Land. While detained in the penal colonies they suffered incredible hardships, and numbers of them died. Those who survived mostly came home with impaired constitutions from the privations and the hard labor to which they had been subjected. When the news of the trial and sentencing of these rebels reached Queen Victoria, she was much grieved over the brave young lives that had been sacrificed in so useless a cause, and from what she said, without doubt, many would have been pardoned had not the delay in receiving the news rendered such an act of clemency impossible.

The issue of this expedition did much to render the Patriot cause unpopular, and a healthy reaction was soon felt along the frontier, but a spirit of hostility had been engendered that led to much difficulty. On the 21st of December, the trustees of the village of Ogdensburg resolved to organize a company, to be held ready at a minute's warning, to act in preserving order and repel, if necessary, any aggression, and arms were procured for them from Russell. This

company was known as the "Home Guard." Many laughable tales are told of their drills, that were held on what are now the circus grounds on State Street. Mostly raw recruits, they were a regular "hay-foot, straw-foot" company, as absurd as that described in "Yankee Doodle," without uniforms, and supremely ignorant of military tactics. But what they lacked in some respects was more than made up for in others, for they were skilful marksmen and could shoot with unerring and dangerous precision.

On the last day of December, 1838, a crowded meeting was held in Ogdensburg, to unite in a petition to Congress for protection to the frontier and intervention in favor of the prisoners. On the 2d of January, 1839, another public meeting was held to discourage all further invasions of Canada. The call for this was signed by nearly seventy prominent citizens of all parties, and it was addressed by several of the leading men of the village, and by Major-General Winfield Scott. At the close of the meeting a series of resolutions was passed, appealing to all good citizens to aid in putting an end to these proceedings so destructive of the public peace, and so perilous to our local and national welfare. But petty hostilities still continued, and on the evening of April 14, 1839, as the steamboat *United States*, in charge of Capt. Whitney, was leaving Ogdensburg with a large number of passengers, from six to ten rounds of musket-shot were fired from a wharf in Prescott, where a crowd was assembled, but inquiry failed to find the culprit. That same evening the steamer was fired upon from the wharf at Brockville. These insulting measures were greatly aggravated by a high-handed outrage upon the schooner *G. S. Weeks* on Friday, May 17, 1839, at Brockville, where she had stopped on her way down the river to discharge some

merchandise. The usual papers were sent to the custom-house, and a permit to unload was issued by the deputy collector. There was lying on deck a six-pound iron cannon belonging to the State, consigned to Capt. A. B. James, to replace the one that had been seized by the Patriots. When this was discovered, an attempt was made to seize it, but was resisted by the crew until the collector of the district came up and took possession of the vessel under some alleged irregularity of her papers. The gun was then taken by the mob, who paraded the streets with it and fired it repeatedly. Word was immediately sent to Col. Worth at Sackett's Harbor, who repaired, without delay, to Brockville, on the steamer *Oneida*, and sent a respectful inquiry to learn on what grounds the schooner was detained. To this the deputy could give no direct answer, but from what he could learn, Col. Worth inferred that the seizure was without justification, and resolved to vindicate our national honor in recovering the cannon. On Saturday evening he went to Prescott, and peremptorily demanded of Col. Frazier a release of the vessel and her cargo, to which at ten o'clock the next day answer was given that the vessel and cargo should be released, but doubts were expressed whether the cannon could be got from the mob. To be prepared with an intelligent and prudent witness in case necessity for extreme measures should arise, Col. Worth invited Bishop Perkins to accompany him to Brockville. He also took with him on the steamer *Oneida* a company of about one hundred regulars, well supplied with a double number of muskets and ammunition sufficient for the occasion. The steamer took up a position alongside the schooner, and a demand was sent for the restoration of the gun. The wharves and block-house were densely crowded with an excited and furious

mob, many of whom were armed. The civil authorities endeavored to procure the restoration of the cannon, but found themselves unable to either persuade or compel the robbers to surrender it. The excitement was intense, and had any of the crowd on shore fired on the steamer, there is no doubt that the fire would have been promptly returned by the regulars, with fatal results to the crowded masses on the wharves. Matters remained thus for several hours, during which a collision was momentarily expected. At four P. M. a steamer from Kingston arrived with British regulars, which had been sent for by the magistrates of the town. These soldiers arrested several of the leaders of the mob, and lodged them in the guard-house. Having waited sufficiently long, Col. Worth notified the authorities for the last time that the cannon must be instantly returned, which was done with the utmost haste, and the Americans returned to Ogdensburg.

The tidings of this event brought his Excellency Governor Sir George Arthur to Brockville, where he was presented with an address signed by two hundred and sixty-six persons, attempting to justify the recent outrages. In his reply, the governor admitted that the seizure was illegal, though he recognized that the magistrates had evinced commendable zeal in their efforts to preserve order (an opinion likewise expressed by Col. Worth), and he deplored the personal abuse offered to the foreign officers who had entered the country on public duty. Governor Arthur removed the collector of Brockville from office, and the Canadian press, as well as the more considerate portion of the inhabitants, denounced the seizure as wholly unjustifiable.

On Tuesday, June 25, 1839, a party from Prescott attempted to abduct a deserter from Ogdensburg, but their

plans being discovered, the gang was surrounded by a large crowd of people, covered with tar, and marched back to their boat under an armed guard. The leader of the gang was said to have committed suicide the next day. The British steamers commenced touching at Ogdensburg in the latter part of June, and were so well received that it was hoped the animosity existing between the border inhabitants of the two nations might soon be allayed. But on the 4th of August, 1839, as the American steam-packet *St. Lawrence* was passing down on her regular trip, she was fired on by an armed British schooner lying in the river opposite Brockville. The particulars of this infamous outrage, committed, not by a lawless rabble, but by a government vessel, became the subject of a correspondence between the officers of the two governments in command of the naval and military forces along the frontier. To the explanation demanded by Col. Worth, the crew of the British schooner feebly attempted to justify their act on the ground that they were afraid the steamer contained Patriots, that they wanted to know to what nation it belonged, etc., all frivolous excuses, some of which would have been applicable on the high seas, but when applied to the *St. Lawrence* became extremely ridiculous.

On the tenth of August, 1840, Gen. Scott arrived at Ogdensburg in the steamer *Telegraph*. He came to view the condition of affairs and make report to the United States government before proceeding to Plattsburg.

Troubles along the border continued until 1841, when on September 5th President Tyler called upon all good citizens to discountenance the continuance of secret lodges for the agitation of the Patriot question as tending to evil consequences.

Little by little affairs along the border resumed their normal condition, and so gradually died out the feeling which had led to a movement that reads in history like a comedy, but which, to those who believed in the justice of their cause, must have been a heart-breaking tragedy.

## DISTRICT SCHOOLS AND OLD FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEN we look back at the early settlement of our town, and realize the hardships the pioneers of St. Lawrence County endured, we wonder that any of them had ambition enough left, after arriving here through snows four feet deep over almost impassable roads, to do anything but plan for the barest necessities of life, to say nothing of "schools and churches" and "promoting literature." But when the land on which our homes now stand was sold at public auction, in New York City (at twelve and one-half cents an acre), it was stipulated that in every township was to be one lot reserved for "the support of the gospel and schools" and another for "promoting literature," to be located as near the centre of the town as might be.

The gospel and school lots were afterward sold by authority of the Legislature, 1825, authorizing the inhabitants of the several towns at their annual town meetings to vote, directing the whole of the income of the gospel and school lots to be appropriated to the schools of the town. Mr. Nathan Ford arrived in Ogdensburg as the agent of Samuel Ogden, the landed proprietor, August 11th, 1796, accompanied by a clerk, Richard FitzRandolph, Thomas Lee, a carpenter (grandfather of Mrs. Ella Lee Austin), John Lyon and family, and a few boatmen from Schenectady.

Mr. Ford took possession of the old fort, or "garrison," as it was called, then recently vacated by the British sol-



diers, using it as a residence, and opened a store in the sergeant's room. The Lyon family established themselves in the mill house, and the barracks adjoining the store were occupied by a Mr. Tuttle, who had been employed to care for the premises during the temporary absence of Mr. Ford.

In 1804 there were but four families living in the village: "Slossons," near the present site of the Gilbert Block, Dr. Davis in Capt. Lyon's present residence, corner of the Crescent and Greene Street; Geo. Davis in the American Hotel (the old Goff house, corner State and Knox Sts.); and Mr. David Chapin on State Street near the Ripley House, afterward the home of the Webster family; and one store at the barracks. It was during this year that Mr. Louis Hasbrouck brought his family to Ogdensburg.

There were two small dwellings in connection with the sawmill on the west side; these, with the stockade or garrison, made the sum total on that side of the Oswegatchie, which was forded at low water below the dam and crossed by a ferry.

Mr. William E. Guest, who came here as a boy of five or six in 1808, tells us in an interesting lecture delivered before the Young Men's Association in Lyceum Hall, in January, 1857, of some of the conditions of the town and surroundings at that time. The place was then little more than a hamlet. There were a court-house, grist-mill and sawmill, and not to exceed a dozen dwellings. State Street much of the time in summer was impassable with mud, the road on the river-bank past the court-house was the one mostly travelled. The American Hotel and the building now occupied by Capt. Lyon as a residence completed the public houses.

The square where the Bell Block is now incorporated,

on the northerly side of Ford Street, between Isabella and Catherine Streets, was without a building.

Two paths crossed it diagonally, and it was covered with trees and underbrush and was a beautiful spot. There was scarce a house where Prescott now stands, and just below the present fort was a small log house known as "Mixters," the name of the occupant who kept a ferry to the garrison across the river.

Johnstown, three and a half miles below Prescott, now almost deserted, was a place of much business, supplying a large portion of the country on both sides with dry goods and provisions brought from Montreal and Quebec. The court-house in this place was frequently used for preaching, and, previous to the War of 1812, it was not uncommon for quite a portion of the congregation to have come from Ogdensburg; indeed it was often so after the war, for some years during the barrenness of our Sabbath ministrations.

Of the inhabitants, one may say of them mostly, they had been accustomed to the enjoyment of refined life, and their views and feelings harmonized. They had endured a common hardship in becoming members of the community, and a common danger in the absence of civilized society in close proximity around them, all operating as a band to keep them together. Sectarianism was then unknown; the one common place of worship was the court-house, and all orthodox ministers were acceptable.

Although there were no regular ministrations on the Sabbath previous to the War of 1812, yet service was held occasionally by itinerants, but, though the minister was not always present, the Sabbath was strictly observed, and indeed the habits of the population carry a sufficient guarantee of this.

Mr. Ford as early as 1805 suggested the establishment of an academy here, "to be taught by the Presbyterian minister," as "there was no such thing in Canada short of Montreal." Notwithstanding his efforts to establish so desirable an institution, it was not accomplished until 1834. Judge Ford was a zealous Presbyterian, and the story is related that when Mr. Ogden planned to send an Episcopalian clergyman to the "Burgh," Mr. Ford was as determined to establish one of his own denomination. He declared, rather than be disappointed in having a Presbyterian, he would "go to hell for one, if necessary."

"The Burgh," or "Garrison," as it was called, was surrounded on the rear and either side by impassable forests. The pioneers coming from the interior of the State were forced to take the most roundabout courses to arrive here, in the absence of suitable roads.

One family started from Rome, N. Y. To get here, they crossed the ice on Lake Champlain, went to Sorrell in Lower Canada, from thence to Kingston until their log house could be completed, then building under the hill, where now stands the house occupied by the Irving family, opposite the Klondike Lumber Mill on the river road.

When they came from Kingston in midwinter they stopped opposite on the Canadian side to obtain fire in the foot-stove, and crossed the ice to their wild home. They found the floor covered with dirt, and a carpenter's bench in the middle of the room. A stick chimney, the mud with which it had been plastered in the autumn fallen off (the floor being the only place where any plaster had remained), presented a most inhospitable appearance to the newcomers. However, the father, in the midst of his wife's very natural discouragement, soon made a fire, cleaned out the rubbish,

and the clouds of grief gave way to the sunshine of hope, and many a happy day did they spend there; and when the log house had well and cheerily performed its part, the large stone mansion arose near it, and our parents and grandparents were witnesses to the pleasant and joyous gatherings of the youth of the "Burgh" and vicinity for many a year after.

At this house, built about 1820, called "G. Ranney's Inn," standing on one of the roads leading to the village, a hearty welcome was always extended to the tired travelers, who, reaching there at nightfall, were glad to rest their wearied limbs, and warm themselves at the glowing fireside, before the coming day brought new duties to confront them. This house was afterward named "Rockingham" by one of Mrs. Ranney's grateful visitors. One of my own childhood's memories is of the story told by my mother of her arrival here in 1828, with her parents, sister and small brother, one cold autumn evening, after a long ride in the stage-coach, and the warm welcome which greeted them, with the blazing fire piled high in the capacious fireplace; and how in the morning, the young daughter of the family, about her own age, mounted a horse to ride to the village for the mail. This child was afterward Mrs. Charles G. Myers.

Mr. Guest says in his lecture, "The first schoolhouse in my remembrance was on what was called Diamond Square on Catherine Street, fronting the large stone store, northwest of the Washington Hotel. It had been erected and occupied as a store previous to the occupation of the stone store built by Mr. Parish across the street. The building was but a temporary one, and after Judge Ford had moved into the mansion, the stockade on the west side of the Oswegatchie was offered and occupied as a schoolhouse. Henry

Plumb was one of the six or eight scholars who attended this school. Many a memento of its former warlike use did the children disinter from the grounds around the building, such as grape-shot, musket-balls, and pieces of the mountings of muskets.

“The portion occupied for this purpose was low and poorly lighted, erected more for protection from a foe and the inclemencies of a northern winter, than a proper place for young ideas to shoot, but they were thankful to obtain such a place. Seven thousand dollars for a schoolhouse would have astonished the inhabitants for many a year afterward.

“The Stockade, or old French fortification, covered not far from an acre of ground. In form it was nearly square; on the eastern side, and fronting the Oswegatchie, were the two two-story stone buildings, with an opening of some sixteen feet between them, occupied by a couple of massive oaken gates about fifteen feet high. The remainder of the eastern or southeastern portion was a high, heavy stone wall; indeed this may be said to have enclosed the whole. The stone buildings had gone to decay, but the long, low one-story building on the south side was in tolerable repair, and this was the building used as a residence by Judge Ford and afterward as a school building.”

Hough says, that the earliest record of a school in Ogdensburg which he has been able to find is the following memorandum furnished by Joseph Rosseel, dated November 24th, 1809. “Upon application of some of our citizens I have granted the use of the house designed for Capt. Cherry to bivouac as the place for the use of a school for upwards of thirty children, whose parents have engaged Mr. Richard Hubbard as teacher. Mr. H. was from Charles-

town, N. H.; his numbers increased from six up to ten or twelve."

Curtis says, "On account of the impending trouble which culminated in the War of 1812 the barracks were required for the use of soldiers, and the school was therefore opened on the east side of the Oswegatchie in 1809 in what was known as Capt. Cherry's bivouac." Who was Capt. Cherry? one might ask. Mr. Guest says, "During the embargo which preceded the War of 1812, the better to enforce its enactments, the government sent a company of troops to this place under the command of a Capt. Cherry. As a large part of our supplies came from the opposite shore of the St. Lawrence, this was looked upon by the burghers as extremely onerous, even taking it in its most favorable light; but when you take into consideration the fact, that the men who composed the rank and file were of the lowest and most degraded portion of society, and their officers either unwilling or unable to restrain them from drunkenness and theft, it added to the evil. The villagers were highly incensed, and remonstrated again and again until their efforts were crowned with success. When the news of their recall was known, preparations were immediately made to give them a demonstration of the joy felt in the prospect of their departure. At last the day came, and, as the troops marched from their quarters to the vessel which was to bear them from the scene of their inglorious sojourn, the inhabitants, provided with tin pans, tin horns, cow bells, and similar sweet instruments of music, labored earnestly to provide sounds expressive of the extreme joy in their exit. Had a stranger at this time entered our hitherto quiet Burgh, he would have thought we were in the midst of a carnival, as indeed, we were, for a more joyous event had not tran-

spired than that of getting rid of such a thievish, scampish set as those who composed the company of U. S. troops under the command of Captain Cherry. Little urchins who could just crow and scream joined in the universal yell, making it one of the greatest babels of sound and assemblage that had ever been combined in these northern parts. These continued until the soldiers were well on their way out upon the St. Lawrence."

The number of pupils in the school soon increased beyond the capacity of the place, and a private house was used up to the first year of the war only.

On the return of peace in 1815, a school was again opened in a private building. In about 1817 a plain two-story building was built on the east corner lot on the corner of Greene and what is now the Crescent, where the residence of Mrs. H. R. James stands, which served the whole village for a number of years.

In 1825 the population had so increased that a stone schoolhouse was erected near the corner of Knox and Caroline Streets, opposite the Episcopalian Church.

In 1837 a house was erected on Main Street, west side, and three school districts formed, two on the east side and one on the west side of the Oswegatchie.

I can remember the "district school," which stood where Miss Kelly's apartment house is now, on Knox Street, as holding the place, in the imagination of a small child, of temporary confinement for wild and rebellious youth under the restraint necessary for instruction.

It was not until the year 1849 that the law establishing free schools in the State of New York was passed by the Legislature. This resulted in Ogdensburg in taxing school district No. 1, and in building the brick schoolhouse on

Franklin Street No. 1 between Montgomery and Jay. That this tax was not entirely a popular one is shown by a circular published by the tax collector, thanking those who had cheerfully paid their dues, and commenting freely upon the "Whiners, Croakers, Backhangers, Dodgers, Evaders, Groaners, Grumblers," etc., picturing the immense "Ball of Progress" moving irresistibly forward in spite of those unfortunates who stood in its way, only to be crushed by its onward movement; begging that the people may never be so foolish as to repeal the free school law (as an opportunity was to be given the following November).

"Let others go to California (the forty-niners), leave the children, home, kindred and friends if they will, the good work must go on while they are gone. Let *us* gain the glory of right action and progress while they gain gold.

"If any citizen has not been taxed, or any of our friends in California who should think that we are on the right road, wish to join us and come in for a share of the honor, their voluntary contribution to the prosperity fund, will be thankfully received and faithfully applied for one year and twenty days ending May 1, 1851. After that time, it is very doubtful whether they will ever have an opportunity of doing so much good with \$10, \$20, or \$100."

As the author was my grandfather, Christopher Ripley, who was then in the last years of his life, it has been preserved in the family, to show the astonishing fact that any one could oppose or think of repealing so beneficent a law as that of establishing free schools in the State of New York.

Hough speaks of this Franklin Street school-building, erected in 1850, as "spacious and elegant, a model for those who contemplate the erection of a convenient and well ar-



ranged schoolhouse." It was built under the direction of Dr. S. N. Sherman, A. B. James and Otis Glyn, trustees.

An act of April, 1833, directs that the money then in the hands of the supervisor and poor-master of the town of Oswegatchie should be delivered up to D. C. Judson, I. Gilbert, G. N. Seymour, M. S. Daniels and H. Thomas, who were appointed a committee to receive these moneys and enough more raised by tax upon the town to make \$2,000, to purchase therewith a lot and buildings for an academy.

On the 20th of April, 1835, the academy was incorporated with the following trustees: David C. Judson, Henry Van Rensselaer, David Ford, Royal Vilas, Bishop Perkins, George N. Seymour, Baron S. Doty, E. B. Allen, William Bacon, Sylvester Gilbert, Amos Bacon, Thomas J. Davies, J. W. Smith, Ransom H. Gillett, Rodolphus D. Searle, Silas Wright, Jr., William Hogan, Gouverneur Morris, George Reddington, Jr., and Augustus Chapman, together with the supervisor and town clerk of the town of Oswegatchie, and the president and clerk of the village of Ogdensburg, for the time being.

On the 8th of October, 1834, Taylor Lewis of Waterford, subsequently a teacher of languages in New York University, and later of Greek and Latin in Union College, was appointed as principal, with a salary of six hundred dollars. The first president of the board was David C. Judson. He was succeeded by John Fine.

In the summer of 1849 Messrs. Hart F. Lawrence and Roswell G. Pettibone entered into an agreement jointly with the trustees, in which they assumed the care and government of the institution, receiving whatever might accrue from tuition, literature, and the ferry fund, excepting only sufficient to pay insurance and repairs. The academy remained

under the tuition of these gentlemen for many years, enjoying every facility which the talent of competent teachers can impart.

The academy building of stone was erected for a hotel by a company in 1819, and opened in 1820 as the St. Lawrence House. Upon the organization of the academy, it was purchased by the commissioners, the village of Ogdensburg contributing one thousand dollars to its purchase, with the privilege of the use of the chapel for town meetings and elections.

Pleasantly situated at the corner of State and Knox Streets, directly opposite the old court-house, it held many happy memories for the youth of its time, and when it was burned in 1859, it was like a personal loss to many of its pupils.

Schoolhouse No. 2, on Washington Street, was used for awhile as an academy or high school.

The old academy embraced at one time apartments for a family, chapel, study and recitation rooms, a well-selected library, philosophical apparatus, and every facility to impart a thorough and practical education.

In the summer of 1851 a teacher's department was organized by the regents of the university.

In 1854 No. 2 schoolhouse was built of brick on Washington Street; No. 3, of brick on Park Street; No. 4 of stone on Ford Avenue, Second Ward, 1856; No. 5, of brick on the east side of the village; No. 6, of stone on Lafayette Street in 1864; No. 7 of brick on Barre Street, 1870; No. 8, corner of Ford Avenue and Pine Street same year; No. 9, of wood, on the engine-house lot on Knox Street that was purchased in 1847. The house was erected in 1865 and remodelled in 1889.

The grammar school building was erected of brick on Washington Street about 1877. The Free Academy, originally the Town Hall, was remodelled in 1881. The Board of Education, consisting of nine members, was organized in 1857, consolidating in one school district all the territory of the village of Ogdensburg and districts one and twenty-one of the town of Oswegatchie.

When the vote was to be taken authorizing the tax to build the present Opera House and Town Hall, it was looked upon as a great extravagance by many of our less progressive citizens. The suggestion to buy the old Town Hall for a new academy (which was sadly needed), and thereby assisting in the prospect of a new Town Hall, was frowned upon by those who did not care for extra taxes. This opposition party was well represented at the meeting called, and was rather surprised to see so many ladies there. These had been gathered by some of those most interested, who remembered that women, even in the State of New York, were entitled to vote on school matters. Miss Frances Rosseel canvassed the town, calling on those ladies known to be in favor of the plan, and a goodly attendance was the result. Earnest addresses were made by S. H. Palmer, president of the Board of Education, H. R. James and Col. E. C. James, Hon. D. Magone and others; and when the project of purchasing the old Town Hall for a new academy was put to vote, the ladies all voted on one side, and the matter was enthusiastically carried.

From the Ogdensburg *Daily Journal*, April 1, 1904 (Ogdensburg Free Academy): "The O. F. A. was opened in 1881 with an attendance of two hundred pupils under the direction of B. Whitney, A. M., principal and superintendent of city schools, assisted by Prof. O. W. Dodge, Miss Julia

M. Guest and Miss Frances L. Matheson. There were many non-resident students, young men and women who had gained from the country schools all they could give, and were eager to avail themselves of the opportunities for advanced study. They brought to their work a zeal and devotion which gave to the school a tone and dignity, the influence of which is still felt.

“Teachers of science and music, French and elocution were afterward added. The first class of eight members was graduated in 1884. W. Seward Partridge and Maurice C. Spratt were the first to enter college from the academy.

“Mr. Fred Van Dusen, Ph. D., a graduate of Union College, the present principal, came to the academy in 1891. Miss Alice Olds has been a member of the faculty since 1888. There have been graduated (in 1904), 341 students, and the academy has been represented in all the Eastern colleges. Some of the students have taken the highest honors the colleges could bestow, and the graduates are represented in the various professions and business enterprises in our own city. The standard for graduation has steadily advanced to meet the increased requirements of the colleges, and a diploma from the academy to-day represents, more than ever before, achievement and conquest, and its most loyal friends believe that the school contains within itself the elements of permanent improvement.”

Since the above paper was written, the Hon. George Hall has, in keeping with his well-known public spirit and generosity, offered to furnish the necessary funds for the erection of a new building to be used for a high school and academy as a part of the public-school system of this city and as a perpetual memorial to his deceased wife, Helen Brown Hall, upon a suitable site to be provided by the city.

Mr. Hall makes this offer with no conditions whatever, except that he will desire an ample site and a fireproof building of the best modern type, and that the building bear the name of Helen Brown, wife of George Hall.

During the year ending September 30, 1872, twenty-eight teachers were employed. The number of children of school age was 4,237; number attending school, 2,655; average attendance, 968; amount expended for school purposes, \$17,507, and the value of schoolhouses and sites, \$52,914.

The then superintendent, R. B. Lowrey, gave the following particulars relative to the educational interests of the city, which refer to a later period.

There are ten schoolhouses, six of which are built of brick, two of stone, and one of wood and one is rented. There are twenty-one schools, in which are employed twenty-five teachers. The schools are graded as higher, including an academic department, secondary and first; each grade comprising two years work and consisting of two classes. The number of scholars is 1,472 and the average attendance 1,048. Wages paid to teachers in the higher department or Educational Institute is to one, \$800, another, \$600. In the secondary, \$500, in the first grade of primary department, \$400, in the second and third grade of that department, \$350.

In 1862 population was . . . . .	7,520
No. of dwelling houses . . . . .	1,341
No. of families . . . . .	1,279
No. attending school during the year . . . . .	1,835
No. who cannot read or write . . . . .	725

Later on, No. 1 needing much repairing, it was determined to pull down the old building and rebuild, which was

done in 1897, costing about \$15,000, selling at the same time No. 6 on Lafayette Street. This soon overcrowded the new No. 1, and it was determined in 1906 to move No. 9 to the upper part of the First Ward.

In the Easter number of the *Daily Journal*, 1904, the following is printed in regard to St. Mary's Academy, a large institution under the care of the Roman Catholic Church: "In the fourteen years of its existence, St. Mary's has developed rapidly along the most approved lines of modern education. The institution has now a permanent home, and it will become a perpetually endowed school. Co-education is in vogue, and the institution is under the charge of the Gray Nuns, a Roman Catholic teaching order. It was a parochial school back in the '60's. Fourteen years since it received an absolute charter from the State Regents, and entered the academic ranks. It has taken Regents' examinations since 1884, twenty years in all. The present class numbers 475 students, has kindergarten, primary and high school departments. There are two French Catholic parochial schools, one in the lower Fourth Ward.

"The school property is valued at \$30,000. They hope to have an endowment fund of \$100,000."

Besides the scholars registered in the public schools, there have always been many private schools well attended. In the '30's Perry's Academy, standing where the Opera House does now, a two-story long wooden building, held a large and successful school, and had many attendants from out of town.

In the '40's a Miss Wheeler from Malone, whose younger brother was afterward Vice-President with Hayes as President, had many pupils.

Miss Mary Ann Lankton taught younger scholars on

Jay Street, and afterward on the location where Dr. W. N. Bell's office is. Among other names familiar as having private schools are Misses Sanford, Miss Lucy Lawrence, Miss Sarah Foster, Miss Cole, Mrs. Richard Herriman, etc. A Mr. Lake taught in what is now the Windsor House Block.

Miss Harriet M. Starks has for fifteen years taught a very successful Froebel school and kindergarten, scholars from there graduating with high records to the academy. Miss Mary Sherman has a private school at present.

*From Mayor's Report 1905-1906*

Total number of schoolhouses . . . . .	9
Total value of school property . . . . .	\$173,850
Total expenditure on schoolhouses and lots from June, 1905, to March, 1906 . . . . .	19,300
Total paid to teachers . . . . .	25,090
Total number of children between 5 and 18 years . . . . .	2,751
Daily attendance of pupils between 5 and 18 years . . . . .	1,758
Private schools . . . . .	3
Ogdensburg Free Academy, total registration (largest number in the history of the school) . . . . .	313 pupils

Number of non-residents is 64, an increase of 9 over last year and 41 more than three years ago.

Non-resident attendance has been trebled in three years. Twenty-five graduates of the academy are now in leading American colleges and three in the normal school. All statistics and facts in mayor's report, 1905-1906, prove decisively that our educational growth and educational interest are more than keeping pace with our industrial growth or our increase in population. Mr. S. L. Dawley has generously paid the expenses of instruction in a night school for two years in connection with the public schools.

*Old Fire Department*

In the early days of Ogdensburg there was no regular fire department. When a fire occurred men, women and children formed in line and passed the deep leathern fire buckets, filled with water drawn from some near-by well or cistern. These buckets formed part of the equipment of every household, and were hung near the door to be in readiness at the first alarm of fire. A painting exists, owned by descendants of Judge Stilwell which represents an actual occurrence, the burning of Judge Stilwell's home on State Street. The judge, fully dressed, even to a tall silk hat, stands at one side with a group of family friends watching the destruction of his house. This was sixty-five years ago. Judge Stilwell moved from Albany to the wilderness of St. Lawrence County, where his long life passed usefully and creditably. He was a member of the Legislature from St. Lawrence County in 1851, and again in 1862, and was collector of the port and county judge. In 1880 he was the oldest voter and oldest Mason in New York State. He was ninety-one December first of that year. He had at that time eighteen male descendants who were voters and all Republicans.

A fire department was organized in 1820, and a company formed in 1827. In the obituary notice in Hough's history Mr. Joseph York is spoken of as one who in time of danger placed himself in front, and by word and example encouraged the more timid. This was particularly the case at fires, where he never failed to take the lead in measures for repressing the consuming element and in rescuing property. He died in 1847, aged forty-six.

In 1813 some deserters having crossed the river from the



enemy, an officer was sent across with a flag, with a threat to commit the village to flames if they were not restored. To this requisition, Judge Ford, with his usual promptness, replied that they would do no such thing, for no sooner should he see them landing than with his own hands he would set fire to his own house, rally his neighbors, cross the river with torches, and burn every house from Prescott to Brockville. The British officer, seeing the consequences that might ensue, afterward apologized for his conduct.

In 1853 the village owned three hand fire-engines, a fourth one was owned by individuals, and a fifth by the Northern Railroad Company. Large reservoirs were built at central points for use at fires. A most destructive fire occurred at Ogdensburg on the night between the 16th and 17th of April, 1839, by which nearly one-half of the business portion of the village was laid in ashes. The loss was estimated at little less than \$100,000. The irritation that at this time of the Patriot War existed on the frontier led to the suspicion that it was the work of an incendiary. This fire consumed the premises on the southwest corner of State and Ford Streets, including the Post-office, *Republican* printing office and a large number of stores and shops.

Twelve years later a series of conflagrations startled the inhabitants of the quiet town. The following from the *St. Lawrence Republican* will give some idea of it — September 7th, 1852. “A destructive fire on the north side of Ford St. swept every building on that side and also on Isabella St. The fire occurring in the early morning, was well under way before help came, the buildings being of wood and dry, burned rapidly and the heat was intense, and also a deplorable want of water baffled the firemen. It was stopped by the fireproof store of G. N. Seymour, where Nathan Frank’s

Sons now are, loss \$17,700." On September 21st, the same month, a fire consumed several buildings corner of Ford and Isabella Streets. "By the active and incessant exertions of the fire department, assisted by our citizens, the fire was confined to these buildings, loss \$5,500." October 19th the wagon shop of Israel Lamb, west side of Isabella Street, burned, and in an astonishingly brief time every building on the west side of Isabella and north side of Ford west of Benedict Block was burning furiously. The flames now crossed Ford Street to the historic Hasbrouck mansion, making a clean sweep on both sides of Ford between Isabella and Catherine Streets, including offices of the *Republican* and *St. Lawrence Herald*, loss \$112,000. It was thought strange that all these fires were at the same time, between three and five A. M., and it was believed that they were *not* accidental. This was October. There were no more fires until New Year's Day, at an early hour, the houses of Amos Bacon and Dr. M. G. Sherman were burned; the Bacon house was empty, and fire starting there, was believed to be the work of an incendiary. January 18th, at 5 A. M., the carriage factory, cabinet shop and S. G. Pope shingle mill were burned, and on February 6th, between three and four A. M., the house of George Ranney, south of the Episcopalian Church; the flames were by strenuous effort prevented from spreading any further.

One of our earliest recollections is of one winter night watching through the frost-covered window the flames bursting through the roof of a neighbor's house (Amos Bacon's), while down-stairs we heard the slamming of doors and tramping of heavy feet, as furniture was brought in to a place of safety. Or again, when a young cousin rushed in, saying, "Mother sent over the silver spoons, for Mrs. Ran-

ney's house is on fire and they are spreading wet blankets on our roof." February 8th the *Republican* asks, "When will our fires cease?" For three months the "fire fiend" remained quiet. March 29th the *Republican* says, "Active preparations for rebuilding are going on over the ruins of the late fires," also "Rumor has it that it is a fixed fact that Ogdensburg is to be lighted with gas. *When?*" Same paper, May 24th, 1853: "Were we believers in demonology, witchcraft and presentiments generally, we should unhesitatingly say that Ogdensburg was a doomed spot; that its wickedness, its haughtiness, its pride or some other emphatic tendency to sinfulness has singled it out as a locality deserving an awful retribution." For on the morning of that day a fire had burned six stores, A. Vilas, J. & G. R. Bell, Chas. Hill and others. In one building R. W. Judson had a law office and Justice Bacon held his courts. The third story was used as village "black hole," or "lock-up," and contained at the time one prisoner, who was rescued uninjured, but horribly scared. Many now believed that the town contained a "fire-bug," and rewards were proposed for his discovery, and during the summer and fall a special watch was kept. As a result no more fires occurred until December 29th, at 11 P. M., a fire burst out in a long line of wooden buildings on the south side of Ford Street; the night was intensely cold and the citizens were sleeping; a few taps on the bell aroused the sleepers, but for want of water the whole row, sixteen stores, burned. January 18th, 1854, the large stone building on the west side, known as Doty's woollen mill, burned; January 25th, a cabinet shop. January 28th, a lot of pine shavings were put under the door of the Methodist Church and set on fire, but went out. There was no further alarm till May 6th, when three dwellings on Franklin

Street burned. The *Republican* of August 1st, 1854, says, "Truly our village may well receive, as it has earned the appellation of the 'City of Fires.'" July 30th, at 2 A. M., Mr. Bacon's barn and two others burned, George Guest's and Robert Wilson's. (Note this) "By unparalleled exertions our firemen prevented the destruction of the Presbyterian Church and other buildings. Some scoundrel cut the hose with a knife, rendering it useless. The fire was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary."

The cholera was at this time raging in the town, brought by immigrants from Montreal, and adding to the terror of the inhabitants. Fifteen deaths had occurred during the week ending August 1st. August 31st, at three A. M., the barn of James Averell, on the north side of Ford Street, opposite St. Lawrence Hotel, now Seymour House, burned, also the Averell's house and two stores. September 10th, Ryon's shop burned, R. W. Judson's barn and other buildings caught, and were saved with difficulty. A heavy rain prevented spreading. October 4th and November 20th a hole was bored through the door of Thomas Bacon's grocery, with intention of setting fire, but the miscreant was evidently disturbed by passers-by. Was it any wonder that in those days the red-coated fire companies marched in our Fourth of July processions, and the ladies of the village decked their fire-engines with flowers? And now came the end, after two years of fear and vigilance. We have a copy of an "Extra," published by the *St. Lawrence Republican*. Wednesday evening, November 22, 1854, eight o'clock, the day after the capture of Robert Wilson, a well-known white-washer and paper-hanger, familiar with the interior of most of the houses in town, and having constant opportunities of planning his crimes and carrying them out successfully. He

was discovered by E. W. Benedict, a hatter, and a near neighbor of Wilson's, in a house on Franklin Street, near his own home and Wilson's. It was uninhabited. Looking through a window, he saw Wilson stuff a quantity of shavings into a stove-pipe hole overhead, scratch several matches, and, after finding one that burned, touch it to the shavings, which did not ignite. At that moment Benedict burst in the front door, and Wilson retreated through the back door, closely pursued by Benedict, who caught him as he was climbing the fence. After much scuffling, in which he received severe blows, Wilson surrendered and was immediately brought to the police office by his captor. This old house, which was but recently removed from Franklin Street, was near where R. J. Algie's house stands.

The extra says, "Thrilling News! Arrest of an Incendiary! His examination on the charge of Arson! Prisoner's Confession! Police office crowded with citizens! Intense Excitement! Arrest of prisoner's son. Recovery of stolen goods. Arrest of the prisoner's wife. More goods found. The prisoner's wife feigning sickness, Officer Glynn called Dr. Bridges, who pronounced her well. Whereupon the officer lifted her out of bed, and on examination of her person found wound upon her limbs, one whole piece of Irish linen, several pieces of cashmere, flannel, etc. She is being arrested, and appearances indicate that a very foul nest has been found which stands a fair chance of being broken up." Both husband and wife were convicted of arson and sent to State Prison, where both of them died. Mrs. Wilson was sent for five years and died in the fourth year; Mr. Wilson was sent for life.

Mr. Benedict was rewarded by the grateful citizens with a gold watch and about six hundred dollars in money for

his persistent efforts in searching out and detecting the culprit.

The house in which Robert Wilson lived, which was moved to the upper part of the town, is still standing; the floor being cut in many places, either to make hiding-places for stolen goods, or by the officers in searching after them. The effrontery of this man Wilson is shown by the record of a bill presented for \$4.50, September 12th, 1854, for damages done his own property at a fire set by himself about two months before his arrest.

The St. Lawrence Directory, published by the Advance Co. in 1873 and 1874, says, "The Ogdensburg Fire Dept. consists of three companies, each comprising thirty-six men, who are paid by the city. There are two first-class steamers, and five hose-carts, supplied with 2,250 feet of hose."

A fire March 16th, 1873, Sunday morning, destroyed \$150,000 worth of property, threatened the destruction of the entire city, and demonstrated the efficiency of the Fire Department and water works which were built in 1868.

The engine-house, now demolished, stood opposite where the present General Hospital stands on Knox Street and was built in 1847.

From a bundle of old letters, etc., belong to the Fire Department, I glean the following items:—

In September, 1855, a torchlight procession was given by firemen from Malone and Fort Covington, who were received by the Ogdensburg firemen, on the occasion of an excursion to Ottawa.

July 2d, 1856, J. H. Guest was chief engineer of Ogdensburg Fire Department; E. M. Holbrook, secretary. Company was invited to join 4th of July procession.

Third of July same year, Urias Pearson, foreman Fire

Co. No. 3, declined invitation to join 4th of July procession, lacking time for preparation.

February 7th, 1857, Watertown Engine and Hose Co. invites No. 3 of Ogdensburg to Watertown to their first annual ball. Carriages in attendance at 6 P. M.

In May, 1857, \$3,000 was raised to purchase a steam fire-engine.

August 7th, 1857, Riley Johnson, foreman of Engine Co. No. 3, invited with company to Prescott to a Fireman's Jubilee.

August 17th, 1857, Iroquois Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 of O. will present a speaking trumpet for a friendly contest.

(Signed) WILLIAM WHEELER,

*Chairman of Committee.*

CHIEF ENGINEER ROCKWELL.

Judges: Mayor Gilbert of Ogdensburg, Mayor Jessup of Prescott. This contest will be between the five companies, August 25th, 1857, subject to rules and regulations as below. The contest will be, to throw a stream of water the greatest number of feet from hose pipe horizontally. Each engine to play from suction through 250 feet of hose with an inch nozzle. (Patent nozzle prohibited.) The companies will be restricted to two trials, not to exceed two minutes each, no person allowed to man the brakes but actual members of respective companies.

S. G. POPE, *Chairman.*

August 9th, 1858, \$1,100, payment on fire-engine.

H. ROCKWELL, *Chief Engineer.*

July 9th, 1858, Fort Covington firemen thank St. Lawrence Co. No. 3 for fine present. (This was a speaking trumpet.)

(Signed) C. B. HERRIMAN, *Secretary.*

Hook and Ladder Co., 1863, James C. Spencer, Chief; C. B. Herriman, D. J. Crichton, Warren Houghton, J. McNaughton, S. H. Palmer, William Stilwell, William Wheeler, H. R. James were some of the well-known members. April 8th, 1863, J. C. Spencer resigns, after serving as chief for two years.

September 29th, 1863, Firemen's tournament at Ogdensburg. Brockville accepts.

Ogdensburg, 1863. Plattsburg, to Thomas Hall, September 11th. Telegram, 35 men en route for Ogdensburg Tournament.

March 28th, 1864, Ogdensburg Fire Department is asked to assist in collecting articles to be disposed of at the Metropolitan Fair, to aid Sanitary Commission to care for sick and wounded soldiers.

The interest was kept up in these companies by many pleasant gatherings, and the balls given by the firemen, and especially the Hook and Ladder Co., which was composed mostly of the young men then active in business circles, were occasions when all ranks mingled in the festivities.

The first engines were worked entirely by hand power, sixty men, thirty on a side.

Major Osborn, who was a boy at the time ('54 to '60), tells of the friendly contests to see which companies could throw the highest streams of water. He belonged to a company of boys who fell heir to one of the old fire-engines when a better one was purchased for the men.

One of these contests was to take place in Plattsburg, and the men had been out for preliminary practice. James Lytle, blacksmith, was captain at this time; at the last test before starting, the company threw the highest stream on



record: but the captain thought he would make assurance doubly sure, and that some valve about the engine needed repacking, and so worked until the last minute before leaving, to have everything in first-class order; but alas, the captain's ambition had o'erleaped itself, and when they came to the trial, work as hard as they would, they could get nothing but wind from the engine, and instead of the brilliant success anticipated, a most melancholy failure was all that Capt. Lytle's company had to console themselves with.

Mr. Guest closes his lecture of fifty years ago, from which I have drawn a large part of my information, with this tribute to the men prominent in our early history:

"We may well pause awhile in this age of steam and lightning to pay a merited tribute to the men of other days. The pioneers, whose manliness, perseverance, and indomitable energy opened up for us the beautiful spot we now inhabit. As we trace them battling with impediments and obstacles almost herculean, deprived of the aids now so efficient, in opening and developing the resources of a new country, we feel that we owe them a lasting debt. Well may we honor our hardy pioneers, before whom the forests fell, and cities rose up in their track; a race fast fading away, and ere long will be known only in history. The scenes," he says, "through which we have briefly passed have been a part and parcel of my existence, and in reviewing them many a fond and pleasing association has been recalled of other days."

I quote to finish, not only to show Mr. Guest's appreciation of the town where he had lived so long, but also the quaint style of composition in vogue at that time, the poem that ends his lecture.

“Ogdensburgh, I love thee

There's not a spot within — around, of  
 grassy walk or wooded dell — but I have  
 trod. I knew thee in thy youth — before  
 distinction's line had sectioned thee — when  
 all were like one family — I knew thee too,  
 Before one spire for humble worshiper  
 was pointed to the skies — and I have thought  
 that He — who looks upon the soul, did less  
 Of imperfection see, when neath that ancient  
 cupola on Sabbath morn we met — one  
 voice — One heart — nor differed we who filled  
 the desk, if good ; no party jealousies,  
 no stress of strife — I saw thee  
 When the tented field was spread — when bomb  
 and ball, were flying thick, and serried hosts,  
 were marching to the fight — While plume and helmet  
 glittered in the morning sun — when  
 Freemen fought for liberty.

Again I

looked, the cloud had passed from off thy brow, and  
 Peace, mild Peace was smiling there and Commerce  
 laying at thy feet her stores — Well pleased to  
 honor thee — And Agriculture, rising from her  
 sleep, hasted to pour her treasures  
 in thy lap — Once more I view thee, pride of  
 Iroquois — and now on all the length and  
 breadth of that proud stream that laves thy feet there's  
 none so beautiful — St. Lawrence lingers  
 As she passes thee — then dashes on, nor  
 deigns the like again — and that half mad, half  
 wild brunette, Miss Oswegatchie — that  
 rushes from her wild wood home — astonished,  
 falters in her course, then side by side, she  
 joins that fair one in her courtesy — 'Tis  
 beautiful to view thee — from the western  
 wave — When Sol gilds spire and dome ; and stars and  
 stripes blend richly with the snowy sail — and  
 steamers passing to and fro — and Bark of  
 every size and hue, tell, life's upon thy  
 waters. Yet these — tho' grand, are but the  
 externals of thy loveliness — far famed  
 for industry and honest worth — courteous

alike to all — but much to those in want.  
In thee, the houseless find a home, and here  
the wanderer a rest — Thy daughters vie  
with each to mitigate the ills of life,  
and many rise to call thee blessed — Home  
of my youth — I love thee.”

## OGDENSBURG DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Compiled from the newspapers and histories of the period and from personal recollections.

THE political canvass preceding the presidential election in 1860 was a very exciting one. Party feeling ran high, and the election of Abraham Lincoln brought to many minds the query, are we to have peace or war? Many thought he never would be inaugurated, so far had men's passions carried them on to extraordinary deeds and acts.

Time flew rapidly by; a number of Southern States seceded from the Union, but the 4th of March, 1861, saw the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States. Never before, perhaps, in the history of the country was an inaugural address waited for with such anxiety. The calm, conciliating, yet powerful language in which it was couched showed the character, the measure of the man. I quote the closing words of the address:—“In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assail you, you can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it. I am loth to close. We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave to every living heart

and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely as they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

The address closing with these prophetic words, as we now realize, strengthened the hopes of the North, but it did not make the same favorable impression in the South, and matters seemed each day to grow more ominous and dark. At last the blow fell! The flag had been fired upon! For months and weeks had the feeling of anxiety throughout the country been growing more and more intense. Each day had the papers been scanned with the hope of finding that there would be no war, that the pride in, and love of, our great country would, even at the last moment, surmount all other feelings that might animate the minds of those who sought to dissolve the Union. It is sad to recall the events of that period.

In spite of the strong indications that the vindication of the law must be accomplished by force, there were many and oft-repeated assertions made, both in the North and in the South, that no matter how strained the situation might be over questions of sectional rights and other matters, there could be no war, no strife, that would call for the use of arms and armies between the beautiful South and the sturdy North.

But alas and alack! How rudely were these dreams dissolved! News came of the firing upon the *Star of the West*, the boat going to the assistance of Fort Sumter; then people trembled and grew silent and grave. Later came the stupendous news that the flag upon Fort Sumter had been fired upon. In our village, as in every town and hamlet of the land, it came like a thunderbolt. People thought themselves prepared for it, yet over the entire North and South it fell

with appalling force. It meant war! It meant death, desolation and grief. It might mean the breaking up of this grand old Union of States, the Union given to us by Washington and the Continental Army, by those ancestors whose memories we honor.

In Ogdensburg the streets were filled with excited people. Stores and workshops were abandoned, men rushing out to hear the news with blanched faces; women wept and prayed; all seemed to realize what it might mean. The news spread with great rapidity, and at the corner of Ford Street, at the Seymour House, a large concourse of people gathered. The despatch announcing the stupendous news was read aloud, and the feeling in every mind was made manifest that something must be done at once to show that the people of Ogdensburg were ready to stand by the government in enforcing the laws of our nation. It was in keeping with this spirit of patriotism that the announcement was made by the editor of the *Ogdensburg Journal* that, while he was speaking, the enrolment papers were being printed at his office, that all who desired to do so could enroll their names at once.

It was proposed to raise a regiment of one thousand volunteers in St. Lawrence County. The form of enlistment was as follows:

“ We, the undersigned, citizens of St. Lawrence County, hereby agree to enlist in a volunteer company for a period of six months and longer, if necessary. We hereby further agree and pledge ourselves to tender our services to the Governor of the State of New York for the aid of the federal government, reserving to ourselves the right to elect our own company and battalion officers, and, in case the number shall reach one thousand, our regimental officers, and expecting, if called out, to be armed at the State expense.”

It was expected three months would be spent in drilling and the remaining three in active service, when those who could would remain longer, and those who could not would be relieved.

Quite a large number had been enrolled in what was to be called "The St. Lawrence Regiment." But when, on April 19th, 1861, the official copies of the new law were received for the first time, by its provisions it seemed that the governor could accept and equip no volunteers for a shorter time than two years. There were hundreds anxious to serve their country in the emergency, and ready for an immediate start, and had so enlisted, who did not feel that they could enlist for two years.

It was decided that no further steps could be taken for the organization of a six-months regiment, and another company was started by those willing to enlist for the necessary two years. Everybody was excited, nothing but war was talked about. Flags were displayed from hundreds of places. The spirit of patriotism pervaded the community. On Monday evening, April 22d, a large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Town Hall. The company was organized and elected the following officers:

Captain, David Nevin; First Lieutenant, P. L. VanNess; Second Lieutenant, C. L. Jones; Orderly Sergeant, Isaac T. Merry; Second Sergeant, Oliver B. Flagg; Third Sergeant, Hill H. Wilson; Fourth Sergeant, Michael Cox; First Corporal, Henry C. Spaulding; Second Corporal, William H. Daniels; Third Corporal, J. Newton Carver; Fourth Corporal, Henry V. R. Patterson; seventy members of the company were present. This was the first company from Northern New York to perfect its organization. Sumter was fired upon the 12th of April; twelve days later, on April 24th,

this company left home, two days after its organization. Scarcely time for a man to arrange his business matters, scarcely time in which to say farewell to loved ones.

On April 24th, 1861, the company left for Albany, via the Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain Railroad for Rouses Point, thence by steamer to Whitehall and by rail to Albany, where it arrived on the 25th and was accepted the same day. The day of the departure of the company will never be forgotten by the people of Ogdensburg who witnessed the scenes at the depot. The sound of martial music filled the air, the flags were waving, the sad partings were said, as the train slowly pulled out, bearing away the loved ones who might never return. They were gone! The stalwart men, the brave boys, and then did our people begin to realize what war might mean. Immediately after the departure of the first company, which became Co. A, 16th Regiment, New York Volunteers, a second company was raised and on May 3d left, arriving in Albany on the 4th instant. It was mustered in as Co. K, 18th Regiment, New York Volunteers. This regiment, shortly after its organization, was commanded by Col. George Myers of this city. The officers elected before the departure from home were as follows: Captain, D. L. Bartlett; First Lieutenant, A. Seely; Second Lieutenant, H. G. Goodno; Orderly Sergeant, T. H. Brosnan; Second Sergeant, F. F. Huntington; Third Sergeant, Philip Wand; Fourth Sergeant, M. Huligan; First Corporal, A. Corcoran; Second Corporal, E. Guyette; Third Corporal, C. W. Lasher; Fourth Corporal, R. R. Grant.

The two companies spoken of so fully were known as the Ogdensburg companies, as being formed, perhaps exclusively, of the citizens of the village, but many brave men enlisted



later in the different organizations, formed in the vicinity, of which I will speak later.

In the surrounding country the same spirit of patriotism caused the formation of other companies. One of the first to leave home was that composed largely of Macomb and Depeyster volunteers, under command of Captain Newton Martin Curtis. First Lieutenant, John Snyder; Second Lieutenant, William L. Best. They came from their homes in wagons provided by the farmers of those towns, and rendezvoused at the Baldwin House on Catherine Street (since burned). This company was made up of the bone and sinew of the land, and was composed almost entirely of farmers' sons, all more or less expert with the rifle. On their way to Ogdensburg, as they came through Heuvelton, a national salute was fired and other patriotic demonstrations were made. Before proceeding to the depot in Ogdensburg, they marched through the streets, escorted by the Old's and Oswegatchie Bands. They were halted in front of Norman's Hat Store on Ford Street, and each member was presented, by James C. Spencer, United States District Attorney, with a cap. These checked gingham caps were worn until the men received their uniforms from the State. This company was Co. G, 16th Regiment, New York Volunteers.

At this time Ogdensburg had the honor of numbering among its citizens a United States Senator, the Hon. Preston King; a member of Congress, the Hon. Socrates N. Sherman; the Attorney-General of the State of New York, Hon. Charles G. Myers; a Justice of the Supreme Court, Hon. Amaziah B. James. It is a rare occurrence when the occupants of four such important offices all reside in the same small village.

It is hard to realize, after so many years, the tense, excited feeling which pervaded the minds of all. Every one felt it a duty and a privilege to do what he could to help the cause. A committee of business men was formed at the very first to raise funds to provide, where necessary, for the families of volunteers. This committee consisted of David C. Judson, Chairman; William C. Brown, Norman Sackrider, William J. Averell and Ela N. Merriam, Secretary.

On May 21st a meeting of the ladies was called at the Town Hall. The Town Hall was in the building now used as the academy. It has been added to and changed to a considerable extent. The meeting was well attended and a society was organized for the purpose of assisting in furnishing to our volunteers such articles as would contribute most to their health and comfort. It was to be called the Ladies' Volunteer Aid Association. The following officers were chosen: President, Mrs. A. B. James; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. L. D. Hoard, Mrs. T. C. Atchison, Mrs. Hiram Chatterton; Treasurer, Miss Kitty Clark; Secretary, Mrs. Roscius Judson. Committee to solicit and collect funds, First Ward, Miss Lavinia Chapin, Miss Lucy Furness; Second Ward, Mrs. George Mack, Miss Green; Third Ward, Mrs. Pomeroy, Mrs. S. L. Holmes. This society met once every week in the Town Hall, sewing and working for the absent soldier boys. I have, within a few days, seen the books of the secretary and find that about one thousand dollars were expended for materials, etc. Meetings were also held at many of the homes, where socks were knit, lint scraped and, in fact, everything that could be of service was made by these patriotic ladies. Their noble efforts did not cease during the entire war.

Previous to the outbreak of the war, the Ogdensburg

Academy had burned and an appropriation was to be voted upon at the spring election for the purpose of raising money to build a new edifice. The academy had stood on the corner of State and Knox Streets, opposite to the present Custom-house and Post-office. After the burning of the academy, school had been held in No. 2, the brick schoolhouse on Washington Street. As the time drew near for the matter of the rebuilding to be decided upon, there arose in the minds of many citizens a feeling that it would be wise to postpone the expenditure necessary until some later time. In consequence and as a result of these opinions, the following circular was issued:

“In view of the present emergency of the country and the prospective burdens to be laid on its people for its defense, we, the undersigned, citizens and taxpayers of Ogdensburg, who have heretofore intended to vote for levying \$12,500 on this village for rebuilding the edifice for an educational institute, do hereby recommend deferring the levying of said tax for the present and unite in this expression of opinion that both use and expediency require that the proposition be voted down. S. N. Sherman, D. C. Judson, Stillman Foote, B. F. Sherman, C. P. Geer, R. Atchison, J. Armstrong, A. A. Babcock, A. W. Wooley, George Hurlbut, H. Rockwell, A. B. James, Z. B. Bridges, R. W. Judson, J. F. Seely, Chester Waterman, S. F. Judd, Smith Stilwell, Benjamin Tilley, David Fields, T. C. Atchison, A. M. Herriman, N. Sackrider, N. Fine. Ogdensburg, April 27, 1861.”

We are all proud of our grand old county of St. Lawrence, and can appreciate the feeling that prompted the writer to express his admiration in the following article, taken from a paper printed at that time, in regard to a review of the Sixteenth Regiment in Albany.

“At the review, St. Lawrence County was there. The Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, besides the officers and a majority of the soldiers are from St. Lawrence County. The U. S. Senator was there, from St. Lawrence County; the State officers were there, from St. Lawrence County; the member of the military board was there, from St. Lawrence County; the member of the Court of Appeals was there, from St. Lawrence County. It was St. Lawrence County all over and first rate. This tableau of St. Lawrence County at the camp ground was eminently illustrative of its intellectual and physical powers. St. Lawrence County, long may she wave!”

The Sixteenth left Albany for Washington on June 25th, the Eighteenth about the same time.

In June, 1861, a meeting of the citizens was called to decide upon a Fourth of July celebration. At this meeting the Hon. S. N. Sherman moved that “it be the sense of this meeting that the oath of allegiance be administered to the entire audience at the public ceremonies on the Fourth of July, immediately after reading the Declaration of Independence.” Thus will be seen the trend of all minds and hearts in the days of '61. Among the features of the celebration were to be races of all kinds of oared boats, the parade of the Zouave Cadets, a grand procession, public dinner, and a torchlight procession in the evening. The Ogdensburg Zouave Cadets was the title of a military company organized by the younger men of the place. They made their first appearance on July 4th, and went through the drill peculiar to that arm of the service. They made an exceedingly gay appearance and formed an attractive feature in the celebration. The orator of the day was Rev. L. Merrill Miller; reader of the Declaration of Independence was

John Magone. The enthusiastic patriotism of Rev. Dr. Miller was well known and felt during the entire war, yes, during his long life spent in Ogdensburg as the beloved pastor of the Presbyterian Church. For over fifty years he blessed his people by his ministrations, and there never was a time when his great loyalty to his country was not considered to be one of the strongest traits of his character. The women of his church made a large flag about sixty feet long, and Dr. Miller had the necessary tackle put on the steeple and it was raised. The flag was of cotton. The merchants contributed most of the material and others gave money. When it was up at the top of the steeple, the point came below the belfry. There have been some changes in the steeple of the church since those days. The people were ready to sing —

“ 'Tis the flag that has waved through our country's bright story,  
'Tis the patriot's pride and the hope of the world,  
'Mid the clouds of the future, God grant that its glory  
From ocean to ocean may yet be unfurled.”

In fact flag-raising was to be witnessed on all sides. In many school districts in the country a flag-pole was raised and the stars and stripes thrown to the breeze. In a paper published at the time, we find the following:

“ The flag raised at Schoolhouse No. 1 was an interesting and pleasing ceremony. After the announcement of the raising, the scholars sang a patriotic piece written for the occasion, to the tune of Yankee Doodle, the scholars then adjourned to raise the flag, after which they sang a hymn to the air of the ‘Star Spangled Banner.’ Then Senator King addressed the meeting in a patriotic speech, which was followed by ‘The Red, White and Blue’ by the scholars. Remarks and singing then followed in the following order.

“Remarks by E. C. James; Song, ‘Hurrah for the Union;’ Remarks by N. Taggart; Song, ‘Hail, Our Country’s Natal Morn;’ Remarks by George Parker and Stillman Foote, followed by the recitation of the following original poem by Miss Mary Newmeyer, which was well done and highly spoken of, of which the following is the first verse.

“Behold ye, the banner we’ve lifted on high,  
To toss forth its stars and its stripes to the sky,  
That the sheen of its splendors hath been seen from afar,  
On the battlement’s heights, both in peace and in war,  
’Tis but late ’twas planted o’er church and o’er school,  
Furled now is the exception, displayed is the rule.”

And now disquieting rumors came from Washington in regard to a forward movement of the troops. On July 16th news came that the movement “On to Richmond” had actually commenced. This meant much to the citizens of Ogdensburg, for among the troops in this advance were Co. A, 16th New York, and Co. K, 18th New York, numbering nearly one hundred and fifty, all from Ogdensburg. Shortly after this came the news that in a skirmish near Fairfax Court House Sergeant John S. Allen of Co. K, 18th Regt., was mortally wounded. He was the first to fall of those who went from this place to defend the honor of the stars and stripes. Then came the news of the battle of Blackburn’s Ford on the 18th, with rumors that a general engagement of the entire army was impending. Sunday afternoon, July 21st, 1861, rumors came that a great battle was being fought. Monday brought confirmation of the battle of Bull Run and the defeat of the Union Army. Never before had the citizens of Ogdensburg felt such anxiety. Groups were gathered on all corners, the newspaper offices were besieged all day and until a late hour in the evening. The anxiety of

those who had friends in the army was most intense and in many instances very pathetic, until the welcome news came from Hon. S. N. Sherman, our member of Congress at that time, that none of our boys were hurt, when a great load was taken from all minds.

The result of this battle dispelled conclusively the illusion that many were laboring under, that the war would end in three months. All could now realize that it would be a long and terrible struggle for the preservation of the Union. The President made a requisition on the State of New York for 25,000 additional volunteers to serve for three years, or during the war. Recruiting was carried briskly on. Governor Morgan ordered the 33d Regt., New York State Militia, to be recruited and rendezvous at Ogdensburg. A camp was prepared in the large buildings formerly used by the Northern Railroad Co. as workshops for the manufacture and repair of the rolling stock of their road. These shops were located about a mile below the eastern limits of the city, on the line of the railroad now known as the Rutland Road. At that time a number of residences were erected in that locality for the accommodation of the families of the men employed in the works. This hamlet was commonly known as "New Boston." Shortly before the war these works were abandoned for the purpose for which they were erected, and the government leased and converted the buildings into quarters for the 33d Regiment. After the companies were recruited to the required strength, the regiment was designated by the governor as the 60th Regiment of New York Volunteers. The camp had been named "Camp Wheeler" in honor of William A. Wheeler, president of the Northern Railroad and member of Congress from the 16th Congressional District. This was a deserved compliment to Mr.

Wheeler, who, it is said, had from the first labored unceasingly for the vigorous prosecution of the war as well as for the welfare of the men who had gone or were going to the front. Mr. Wheeler became later, in 1876, Vice-President of the United States.

The first company fully organized of the 60th Regiment arrived at the camp on September 10th, 1861. Everything was in a bustle preparing for the men, and by September 17th the companies were nearly all in. The men were all strong, athletic men, and most of them practical marksmen, accustomed to the use of the rifle, farmers and merchants. The quarters at Camp Wheeler were ample and roomy and furnished abundant accommodations for the full regiment. There were six or eight of the buildings, as many as were used for the men's quarters, and the remainder assigned to other uses. The centre building was the kitchen and dining-room. In the kitchen were three large dairy cauldrons, a large cooking stove, a patent baker, and a large force of cooks were in attendance to prepare the meals. Gen. Schuyler F. Judd and Mr. J. B. Armstrong supplied the table. The dining-room had accommodations for five hundred men at a single sitting. Tin cups and plates were used. The sleeping quarters were arranged in berths, four tiers high, and furnished with good fresh straw. The ladies of the Volunteer Aid Association contributed extra blankets and comfortables to the men as the season advanced. A picnic was given, in fact, several picnics were given to the companies from different localities by their friends. Wagons loaded with eatables of the nicest kind were seen going to Camp Wheeler frequently; the friends of the particular company to be favored turned out in large numbers on these festive occasions. On October 24th Hon. William A. Wheeler pre-



sented the 60th a splendid regimental flag. The occasion drew a large concourse of people, not only from Ogdensburg but from all parts of the county, and a number from Franklin County. We find the following account of the affair:

“When the hour of presentation arrived, the regiment was formed in a hollow square around a stand erected for the accommodation of the speaker. In Mr. Wheeler’s address he briefly reviewed our national history and feelingly referred to the patriotic blood that had been shed in making us a nation and giving us the flag. He spoke of the great Washington who marched from victory to victory under its folds until finally the rebellion was crowned with ultimate success, and also the victory of McDonough on Lake Champlain, of Perry on Lake Erie, the gallant conduct of Scott at the Niagara frontier, and the victory of Jackson at New Orleans, all gained under the same flag. He then spoke of the unnatural rebellion that had called them from their peaceful homes to meet privations and shed their blood in defense of the starry ensign which he now presented to them and charged them to defend. The flag which was the national ensign was made of silk and mounted on a beautiful standard, the colors were the brightest and the stars in the union were of gold.

“Lieutenant-Colonel Goodrich received the flag in a beautiful reply to Mr. Wheeler, reciting Longfellow’s stirring poem, ‘The Ship of State,’ and promising on behalf of the regiment, to carry it to victory or death.”

On Thursday, October 31st, at the regimental parade, the ladies of Ogdensburg presented the regiment with a beautiful State banner. The Hon. John Fine made the presentation on behalf of the ladies. He said:

“Officers and soldiers:—I am commissioned by the la-

dies of Ogdensburg to present to you this banner, which is emblematic of the pride and greatness of the State of New York. We have confidence in your courage and patriotism, and that you will, with God's blessing, bear this banner aloft triumphant to victory. Some of you are the descendants of men who fought and died on the Revolutionary field. A descent from such ancestors is a strong guarantee that you will not disgrace this banner by cowardice. Some of you are soldiers of the cross, and have laid your vows upon the altar to be faithful to God and your country. Remember the warning in your book of discipline: 'It is better not to vow than to vow and not perform.' Most of you are natives of St. Lawrence County, and have been taught from your childhood to be proud of a county whose citizens are equal in intelligence, virtue and patriotism to any other county in the Empire State. See to it that you do not, by misconduct, tarnish the fame of a county which contains the ashes of a Silas Wright. The finest representative of man, of fallen but redeemed man, is the Christian missionary, who, after toiling to instruct and bless his fellow men, dies the death of a martyr in attestation of the truth he has taught. Next to him is the patriot soldier, who leaves his peaceful home for a distant field of battle to fight and die for his country. You have a glorious mission, and may well be envied by many of us, who, from age and sex, are unable to accompany you; but we shall follow you with our sympathies and prayers. The acceptance by you of this banner is an engagement on your part to make it your pillar of cloud by day, and your pillar of fire by night, to lead you on your march. Wherever it shall go you will go; wherever it shall stand you will stand; and on the battle-field it shall recall to your memory the charge which I now give you, in the name of

the ladies of Ogdensburg, to conquer or die. May God bless you and crown your arms with success in restoring peace and union to our beloved country!"

The flag was received by Col. Hayward, who made the following reply:

"As the representative, and in the name of the officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Sixtieth Regiment of New York State Volunteers, I accept with profound emotion this beautiful and costly testimonial from the ladies of Ogdensburg to the beloved relatives and friends who are leaving their homes and firesides, and all that life holds dearest of tenderest relations, to go forth to the defense of the Union of these States, so blessed heretofore by God, but which now is sought to be disintegrated by wicked, aspiring, ambitious men. This flag shall be our rallying point; and as we look up to its folds as they float upon the breezes which are sent from heaven, and as we catch the words 'Jehovah Nissi' (God is our banner), we shall, with blessings upon the ladies of Ogdensburg for so touching a memento of their kindness, their goodness, and their patriotism, and with a firm, unwavering trust in Almighty God to crown our efforts with successful issue, enter into the conflict strengthened by the battle-cry of God and our country!"

The 60th left Ogdensburg on the morning of November the first, 1861. The subsequent history of this gallant regiment filled with pride every heart in St. Lawrence Co. In the spring of 1862 a feeling of uneasiness was manifested along the northern frontier. There were rumors that three hundred troops were to be sent by the Canadian government to Prescott, and so, when the bill appropriating \$6,500,000 for frontier defenses came up in the United States Senate, and Senator Preston King moved that the word "Ogdens-

burg" should be inserted before "Oswego," it was felt that the interests of the place were not overlooked.

Matters went on as usual, primaries and elections were held, entertainments in the way of dramatic performances, concerts and lectures were given at the usual place, Eagle Hall. People had taken up their daily life, but under and over all was the same tense feeling of anxiety, for none knew what a day might bring. There were no troops in Ogdensburg during the winter. The papers were eagerly scanned each morning, only to find this, "All quiet on the Potomac."

The news came in February, 1862, of the capture of Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River, by Gen. U. S. Grant. When Gen. Buckner proposed an armistice to arrange terms of capitulation, he replied, "No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works." We quote from an eminent writer the following: "His resolute phrase gained him a prouder title than was ever bestowed by knightly accolade; thereafter the army and the country, with a fanciful play upon the initials of his name, spoke of him as 'Unconditional Surrender Grant.' This great success filled with renewed enthusiasm the minds of the loyal people of the North."

In April was heard no more that familiar phrase, "All quiet on the Potomac," for the magnificent Army of the Potomac had commenced its march on Richmond. Many a heart ached at the news in Ogdensburg and throughout St. Lawrence County. In May news was received of the engagement at West Point, in which a part of the 16th Regt. participated, having six men killed and eleven wounded. Among the latter was Capt. N. Martin Curtis.

In June came tidings of the terrible Seven Days' fight before Richmond. Word fail to describe the anxiety and

grief of the people of this locality at that time. In the first day of the Seven Days' fight, both the 16th and 18th Regts. were engaged, the 16th having in that one day lost, by having killed and wounded, 231 men. In this battle, among others, Captain Horatio G. Goodno of the 18th Regt., from this city, was painfully wounded by a bullet passing through both cheeks.

The Union armies, both east and west, had sustained frightful losses, and others were called upon to fill the gaps in the ranks. In June the President called for 300,000 additional men. Then came the response from the great sturdy North, "We are coming, Father Abraham, three hundred thousand more." In July news came that another regiment was to be raised in St. Lawrence County, to be known as the 106th New York Volunteers, to rendezvous at Camp Wheeler at Ogdensburg. Again were the scenes enacted that were witnessed but a short time before, when the 60th Regt. was forming here. In the latter regiment very few enlisted from Ogdensburg. In the 106th Regt. a large number were from this village. Again were seen the wagons filled with recruits, passing through the streets, always with flags flying and drums beating.

The 106th was rapidly filled. Camp Wheeler had been put into good condition, and was made even more comfortable than when the 60th had occupied the barracks there. The men received their blankets and uniforms before leaving Ogdensburg. Sunday services were held at least part of the time. The regiment, being so largely composed of men from this immediate vicinity, received many visits from friends, and the time seemed to hasten all too rapidly on to the day of the departure, August 28th, 1862, when the regiment left under command of Col. Schuyler F. Judd. The

regiment proceeded to West Virginia, arriving at New Creek on September 2d. Arms and ammunition had been provided for the regiment at New York City. Soon after reaching New Creek, Col. Judd was taken ill and resigned and returned home, and Edward C. James of this village, who was at that time major of the 60th New York, was promoted to the colonelcy of the 106th and took command.

No regiment came out of the war with a more gallant record than the 106th, which was honorably won on many a hard-fought field.

While this regiment was being recruited, the country was passing through some of the most trying days of the war.

In August came the news that General Lee was marching towards Washington and the accounts of the terrible fighting of the second Bull Run battle, and of other sanguinary engagements in that vicinity.

Soon after General Lee had forced General Pope to retire to the defenses of Washington came the startling news in September that Lee had invaded the State of Maryland, and from his position threatened both Washington and Baltimore. What depression seized, for a moment, upon the minds of the most hopeful of the citizens of this village as well as over the entire North! A cloud of despondency and gloom seemed to hang over the entire community, which was dispelled when the news came that the great battle of Antietam had been fought and Lee had retreated back to Virginia.

On September 22d, 1862, was signed, by President Lincoln, the Emancipation Proclamation. The knowledge that at last the final step had been taken in this matter caused a feeling of intense interest in Ogdensburg. By the stroke of the pen a people had been freed from bondage and the

shame of slavery removed from our land. All realized the importance and the gravity of the step. A step taken only after the most deliberate and conscientious consideration, and made necessary by the exigencies of the war. A new wave of patriotic enthusiasm seemed to sweep over the country, and the 106th had been gone but a short time when the 142d Regt. was forming at Camp Wheeler. Roscius W. Judson of Ogdensburg was made colonel of the regiment. Colonel Judson was presented by the officers of his regiment with a handsome sword and belt. This regiment was rapidly filled; recruits arrived daily from all parts of the county, many enlisting from this village, among them Capt. John D. Ransom, in honor of whom Ransom Post, the Grand Army Post of Ogdensburg, is named. This regiment was here but a short time, but during that period the same scenes were enacted, so familiar now to the citizens: the visits to the camp, the effort of the ladies of the Volunteer Aid Association to make everything as comfortable as possible for those so soon to leave for the seat of war.

The 142d Regiment left camp on the morning of October 6th, 1862, thirty-five days from the time recruiting was begun. Long before daylight and until the time of departure teams of every description continued to arrive, as well as persons on foot. Between five and six thousand people gathered at the depot upon this occasion, and the partings between husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, parents and sons, friends and neighbors, were deeply affecting.

In no place was the spirit of patriotism more manifest than in the village of Ogdensburg. In the short time of a little over three months, two full regiments had been formed at Camp Wheeler and despatched to the front, both

regiments recruited, practically, from St. Lawrence County. This, in addition to all those gone before, and still they went, marching! marching! with brave mien in response to the call for three hundred thousand more! Well might the poet sing:

“ Full many a heart is aching, with mingled joy and pain,  
For those who go so proudly forth and may not come again,  
And many a heart is aching for those it leaves behind  
As a thousand tender memories throng in upon the mind.  
The old men bless the young men, and praise their bearing high;  
The women in the doorways stand and wave them bravely by.  
Oh! mothers, when around your hearths you count your cherished ones  
And miss from the enchanted ring the flower of all your sons:  
Oh! wives, when o'er the cradled child ye bend at evening's fall  
And voices which the heart can hear across the distance call:  
Oh! maids, when on the sleepless nights ye ope the little case  
And gaze till you can gaze no more upon the proud young face:  
Not only pray the Lord of Life, who measures mortal breath,  
To bring the absent back unscathed out of the fire of death,  
Oh! pray with that divine content which God's best favor draws  
That whosoever lives or dies, He save His holy cause.”

In the fall of 1862 the Board of Village Trustees authorized a village currency. It was in the form of script and was commonly known as “shinplasters.” This currency was in fractions of a dollar, represented by these miniature bills in five, ten, fifteen, twenty and twenty-five cents. They were issued in many places by corporations, and sometimes by individuals for the accommodation of local trade, specie being increased in value and difficult to get. It was redeemed by those issuing it. Later it was withdrawn, as the general government informed the local banks that they could be furnished with one hundred and twenty-five dollars each week in government postage money of the same nature. The use of this money was a very great convenience.

While with patience and patriotism undimmed the people of the North were bearing the sad burden of the war, it



seems almost incredible, as we look back to those days, to find that even in our own village, as in other localities, there were those whose sympathies were not with the North, not with those who were fighting to preserve the Union; these persons were known throughout the North as Copperheads. It was an added pang to hearts filled with anxiety for loved ones to listen to the seditious utterances of these people. There was at the time a paper printed in Ogdensburg called the *St. Lawrence Democrat*, whose columns were filled with the most rabid writings. So incensed were the people that the probability of a demonstration against the office was openly discussed. The District Attorney, like all law-abiding citizens, felt that a resort to mob law would bring disgrace, not only upon the participants, but upon the entire community permitting such lawlessness. He issued the following: "Warning is given that steps will be taken to prevent all mob violence, and should any destruction of property occur, I shall prosecute, to the extent of the law, all persons interested in the outrage.

"B. F. VARY, *District Attorney.*"

Mr. Vary was himself a most loyal and patriotic man, and while with him, as with many others, there seemed justification for much that was said against the paper, he represented the law and that must be obeyed.

Terrible anxiety was felt when news of the battle of Fredericksburg was received in December, 1862, but no casualties were reported among the Ogdensburg soldiers. In February, 1863, Col. Roscius Judson, who commanded the 142d Regiment upon its departure, resigned and returned home. Capt. N. Martin Curtis of the 16th New York Volunteers was promoted to the colonelcy of the 142d Regiment.

In the meantime the ladies of the Aid Association, never weary of well-doing, gave a grand Union Ball on February 12th, 1863. Tickets five dollars, admitting gentleman and lady; additional ladies, one dollar each. The proceeds to be devoted to the use of the sick and wounded soldiers. This was a social and financial success.

About this time recruiting was very actively carried on, there being in Ogdensburg no less than ten to twelve recruiting offices for various organizations. In the last days of April, 1863, in many homes in Ogdensburg, in fact in the entire county, was there anxious suspense, for news came of the forward movement of the Army of the Potomac, in which were so many loved ones from this section, the 16th, 18th and 60th Regiments. Then came the tidings of the battles of Chancellorsville and Salem Church, where the 16th Regiment, on the 3d of May, went into action with thirty officers and three hundred and eight men, and lost, killed and wounded and captured, one hundred and fifty-four. This was, indeed, the irony of fate, for the terms of enlistment of this regiment expired twelve days later.

The men of the 16th New York had enlisted for two years, and on May 22d, 1863, received their discharges. Recruits who had joined the ranks later for three years remained behind and were transferred to other commands. There were a number of men that had gone with the first company who left Ogdensburg in response to the call for volunteers, who had been promoted and were serving in other commands, and who did not return with the regiment; in fact, the regiment, after the ceremonies attending the discharge in Albany, did not keep intact, but dispersed to the different localities from which the men had enlisted. The battles from Bull Run to Chancellorsville, in which this regi-

ment participated, were Bull Run, West Point, Gaines Mills, Glendale, Crampton's Pass, Antietam and Salem Church. A noble record for our first St. Lawrence Regiment.

On May 16th the 18th New York was mustered out at Albany. Co. K of this regiment being from Ogdensburg, the people had always felt great interest in the regiment. Co. K was the second company to leave this city in 1861. The regiment had left Albany in 1861 with 834 men. It had received a considerable number of recruits, the casualties of war had reduced its ranks to 425 men. Its return was with a most honorable record of faithful service.

In June, 1863, came the tidings that brought dismay to every mind, for again was Northern soil invaded by General Lee. Gen. McClellan had been superseded by Gen. Burnside, who in turn gave place to Gen. Hooker; with each new commander had the people of the North felt new encouragement. But the fateful day at Chancellorsville, when even Fighting Joe Hooker failed to win the looked-for victory, matters appeared gloomy enough. Thus, when Gen. Meade was placed in command of the army just at the critical time of the invasion of Pennsylvania by Lee, people prayed that he might prove to be the one who should lead to victory that great Army of the Potomac. On July 1st the first engagement of the terrible battle of Gettysburg occurred. We are all familiar with the result of this great battle, which lasted for three days. On July 4th, which has been said by an eminent author to have been made memorable for the second time to all generations of Americans, mingling the associations of Gettysburg and Vicksburg with those of Philadelphia in the last century; for the news had electrified the country that not only had the Army of the Potomac been victorious and the second and final invasion of

the North repelled, but that Vicksburg, the Gibraltar of the West, had also fallen before the prowess of the Union forces.

The Fourth of July, 1863, in this village was celebrated most quietly, in a fitting manner by the citizens, who, knowing of the terrible struggle taking place in Pennsylvania at Gettysburg, had decided the evening of the third of July to hold service in the Presbyterian Church. The Declaration of Independence was read and a number of extemporaneous orations made by several gentlemen. In an extract from a letter written by a young lady of this place to a cousin in the army, describing this service, we find the following: "It was with tear-dimmed eyes and a sad heart that I took part in the exercises of our church, for you know we thought that both you and Charlie (her brother, who later fell at Cold Harbor) were with the Grand Army at Gettysburg. When Stillman Foote spoke, he said that the 4th of July, 1776, was a day of peril and hope, and that to-day is a day of peril and hope; of peril, because the Northern homes are even now made desolate by the invading foe and our very life as a nation wavers in the balance, and when our beloved pastor referred to the honored names of Hopkins, Allen and others, strong men were not ashamed to weep; but the darkest hour is always before the dawn, for that very day the Southern army was retreating from the scene of the battle."

During the summer and fall of '63, the pendulum of war swung to the southwest, and we read of the battle of Chickamauga, of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. The splendid victory of the last two brought joy to the entire North. In the battle of Lookout Mountain, "the battle above the clouds," the 60th, from St. Lawrence County, took part.

In the fall of 1863 a Thanksgiving Festival was held by the Ladies Aid Association at Lyceum Hall. This was a large hall over the stores now occupied by Mr. Britton's hardware store and Mr. McGillis' furniture establishment. There were two good-sized anterooms, which served as kitchen and serving-rooms on this occasion. The object of the festival was to raise funds to furnish material to meet the wants of the sick and wounded soldiers. The hall was most tastefully trimmed, beautified by national flags, mottoes and pictures. The tables groaned under the loads of good things, the contribution of the citizens, adorned with best plate and served to the élite of the town. At three o'clock the people sat down and from that time until eight o'clock in the evening. The fee of admission to the hall was ten cents, dinner seventy-five cents, ice-cream twenty cents. At ten in the evening the floor was cleared, and those who wished spent a few hours in dancing. The total receipts of the day were \$460.

In November, 1863, came the first of the disquieting rumors which from that time until the close of the war were to affect to a greater or less degree the people of the frontier. The Governor-General of Canada notified Lord Lyon, British Minister at Washington, and the latter communicated the information to our government, that a nefarious plot, hatched by persons who had found an asylum in Canada, had been discovered. It had for its object the release of the rebel prisoners on Johnston's Island and the destruction of Buffalo and Ogdensburg; this information was communicated to the Secretary of War, the Mayor of Buffalo, and private messages were received here at the same time conveying the same information.

When war broke out, the government had some seven

or eight small armed vessels which could have been made serviceable in protecting most of the places easily accessible from the band of desperadoes from the Canadian side. They had all been taken down the St. Lawrence to the sea, so that there was but a single armed vessel, and that an old schooner, to guard the frontier from the head of Lake Superior to the foot of the Long Sault Rapids in the St. Lawrence.

In the arsenal here there were two cannon, a six-pounder and a nine-pounder, old-fashioned, and about five hundred old cast-iron hammer muskets, one perhaps out of ten of which might stand firing a dozen rounds, but the guns and muskets had disappeared, so that even had notice been received of the coming of a sacking party, all resistance that could have been made would have been with "old Long Tom."

The two years, the time of enlistment of the 60th New York, having about expired, the men decided to re-enlist. The government at this time offered a bounty of four hundred dollars and the privilege of thirty days furlough to all troops re-enlisting who had been in the service two years or more. Recruiting was done on the field. On the 24th of December, 1863, the regiment was mustered out and re-mustered as the 60th Regt. New York State *Veteran* Volunteers. The regiment started for home on Christmas day. On the arrival at Ogdensburg, they found large crowds assembled at the depot to give them a hearty welcome and escort them to the Town Hall, which was warmed and thrown open for their accommodation, after which a repast, composed of everything hungry soldiers could desire, was served at the Morton House. The next morning a formal reception was held in Eagle Hall at eleven o'clock. After breakfast the regiment formed in front of the Town Hall and marched to Eagle Hall, where a large number of citi-

zens, men and women, assembled to give formal welcome. After prayer by Rev. L. Merrill Miller, the address of welcome was made by the Hon. Charles G. Myers, and was responded to by Col. Godard in a speech full of feeling and patriotism. Quartermaster Merritt made a presentation of a cane cut from Lookout Mountain, overlooking the place where the fighting was the most severe, to Hon. Preston King. As United States Senator, Mr. King was always laboring for the efficiency of the military service and the well-being of all who were engaged in it, especially from this section. During the proceedings, the glee club sang patriotic songs, and remarks were made by different people.

Two years before the first of November, the regiment left us 980 strong, but it now returned reduced to 300, but every one of these had re-enlisted for three years longer. This example of noble and devoted men could not fail to touch the hearts and cause the wells of the soul to overflow. At the close of the exercises at the hall the regiment moved to the street, went through military evolutions, and then returned to the Town House and prepared for a dinner which awaited them at one of the hotels. These men were to leave for their several homes after their dinner. All classes of our citizens contributed to make this demonstration one worthy of our place and acceptable to the regiment.

In January of 1864 the patriotic ladies of the Aid Association gave another grand ball at Union Hall. This was a large hall in the Judson Block building on the corner of Ford and State Streets. Tickets \$5.00, extra ladies \$1.00. Supper was served in an adjoining room. This was a very fine ball, and many elegant toiles were worn, and again a very handsome sum was netted for the benefit of the soldiers' fund.

The gallant 60th Regiment marched on their return to the seat of war Saturday morning, February 12th. When it was known that they were positively to leave on Saturday, some of the ladies and gentlemen of the village interested themselves in procuring a new flag. On arriving at the Seymour House, the regiment was halted and the Rev. L. Merrill Miller, in behalf of the friends of the gallant regiment, presented a new set of colors. The emblem was inscribed "The 60th Regt. N. Y. Vols." He feelingly alluded to the many battles through which they had passed. Col. Godard received the flag on behalf of the regiment and acknowledged the many kindnesses of our citizens. He then presented R. W. Judson with the old tattered flag which was presented to the regiment by the Hon. William A. Wheeler before they left Camp Wheeler more than two years ago, with the request that he would have it deposited in the archives of the State at Albany. This flag had been carried by the regiment in all the battles in which it had participated, from Cedar Mountain to Ringold. Mr. Judson accepted the charge with appropriate remarks. The proceedings were closed with cheers from the troops, and at their close the line of march was resumed and they were followed by a large concourse of friends.

The Army of the Potomac was in winter quarters in the winter of '63-'64 at Brandy Station, Va. Will you pardon a personal note, when I tell you that in February, '64, the writer had the privilege and pleasure of visiting the Army of the Potomac. It was at the headquarters of Gen. Emory Upton, one of the bravest and most brilliant officers in the army, that this glimpse of the soldiers' life was obtained: my husband being, at that time, a member of Gen. Upton's staff. I have many pleasant reminiscences of my army visit.



An event of historical importance took place while I was there. Gen. U. S. Grant, who had just been made lieutenant-general in command of all the Union armies, visited the Army of the Potomac and decided that he would make his headquarters with that army. This was gratifying news to the loyal North, as it was to the officers and men of the Army of the Potomac, for all had the utmost confidence in General Grant. The preparations for the spring campaign were soon begun, and it has been said that "the wearers of the blue and the gray looked with the same eagerness to the fading patches of snow on the summits of the Blue Ridge, which they knew would be the signal of firm roads and marching orders." Soon after midnight on the 4th of May, 1864, the Army of the Potomac, the army which included among its brave soldiers the pride and hope of many homes in St. Lawrence County, started on the forward march, which was only to end with the close of the war. It is hard to write, to think, of the days that followed, when were fought the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania and Cold Harbor. Sherman had started on his march to Atlanta. How eagerly in our village were the daily papers watched for news from the front. How fearfully and tearfully were the long lists scanned that contained the names of the "Killed, wounded and missing," for often were seen the names of those who had gone from this village and county.

Shortly after the battle of the Wilderness I received a call from Mr. Fairchild, whose sister, Miss Nellie Fairchild of this village, was the wife of Capt. Hickmot of the 49th New York. His name had appeared in the papers among those who were killed in the battle. Knowing that my husband had known Captain Hickmot and that I had also met him while making the visit to the army spoken of before,

he came to inquire, on behalf of his sister, if I had received any definite information regarding the captain. It was with a sad heart that I told him of the receipt of a letter that morning, in which my husband gave me a vivid description of the terrible scenes when Lee attempted to turn the right of Grant's army. Among many others of our friends, poor Captain Hickmot had fallen. His body was placed by a comrade under a tall pine-tree, with his name written on a piece of paper and pinned to his coat; the woods taking fire afterwards, it is doubtful if the body of this brave and gifted man was ever recovered.

When the news of the battle of Cold Harbor reached Ogdensburg, many were the anxious hearts, for in that battle were the 106th and the 142d Regiments. The losses in the 142d were light, but the 106th suffered fearfully, losing in killed and wounded 126 men. When the news reached Ogdensburg it caused grief and sorrow in many homes. Among the killed that day was Lieutenant Charles Shepard. Anticipating the chronological order which I have endeavored to keep, I will relate how Lieut. Shepard was buried on the field where he fell. Immediately after the war, his sister, who was in Washington at the time, visited Richmond and, with some of the officers of the regiment, went to Cold Harbor for the purpose of obtaining the body of her brother. These comrades who accompanied her told her that when he was buried they had written his name with a pencil on a piece of a cracker box and put it at the head of his grave. If that were found where it had been put, the grave could be easily identified. A year had elapsed, but it was found undisturbed, and from the rubber blanket in which he had been rolled and from some peculiarity of the soil which had preserved him, there had been little change. By permission

of the proper authorities the body was placed in a metallic coffin and brought back home, when, with a military escort, it was borne to our own cemetery. The piece of cracker box with the name of Lieut. Charles Shepard and the time of his death written upon it is one of the treasures of the family.

The summer of '64 seemed to be one long continuous battle. Grant had crossed the James River and laid siege to Petersburg. Sherman's forces were encountering stubborn opposition in their march to Atlanta.

In July came the startling news that Gen. Early was marching through the Shenandoah Valley upon Washington, and that the Sixth Corps had been hurried from the Army of the Potomac to the defense of the Capital. The third division of the corps, in which was the 106th, arrived in Washington and started to intercept Early. At the Monocacy River they met the enemy, and the battle, while it did not permanently stop the progress of Early, was the means of detaining him on his journey until after the other two divisions of the corps should arrive in Washington. This delay, no doubt, saved the Capital from falling into the hands of Early. We are proud to think of the deeds of valor performed by the brave boys of this section, but, oh! the tears and sorrow each one of these engagements brought to the homes of Ogdensburg. Afterwards, when the attempt to capture Washington was abandoned by Gen. Early, the Sixth Corps joined Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley.

There was no advertised celebration of the Fourth of July, 1864. At sunrise the village bells were rung, and again at noon, and national flags were displayed. At eleven o'clock there were services in the Presbyterian Church, consisting of prayer, reading of the Declaration of Independ-

ence, remarks by several gentlemen and appropriate singing. There was also held at the French Church a service, at which a collection was taken for the benefit of the Ladies Aid Association. This was announced at the Presbyterian Church, and a collection then taken there, which together swelled the contribution to \$160. People from the surrounding country had been so in the habit of visiting the village on the Fourth of July that about noon they commenced to drive in and the principal streets were filled. No guns were fired during the day, which was, perhaps, the second time such a thing had occurred since the formation of the village.

In August the friends of the 106th Regiment resolved to present the regiment with a new flag. The funds were to be sent to Mrs. T. C. Atcheson. The response was very general from different parts of the county, and in September the order for the manufacture of the flag was given to Tiffany and Company, New York. The flag was to be of regulation make; the names of the battles in which the regiment had participated were to be embroidered on it. When it was finished it was exhibited in Lyceum Hall. It was said to be the handsomest flag ever seen here at that time. It was sent to the regiment by one of the officers who was home at that time on a brief leave of absence from the front. Permission had to be obtained from the War Department to allow the regiment to carry it before it was presented. It was said to be the handsomest flag or banner in the army.

During the summer there had been no small amount of excitement on account of discrepancy in the report of the provost marshal in regard to the quota of the town, which had been given at one time as 228, 229 having enlisted as previously reported, which number was in excess of the number of men required to fill the quota. Later, it was said,

by consent of the town supervisor, there had been several transferred to the credit of other towns, taking from Oswegatchie's accredited number and making it possible that a draft would be ordered here if enough volunteers were not found to fill the desired quota. There was much feeling on the subject; a special town meeting was called to decide the matter. The supervisors voted at the meeting held to give as a bounty for enlisting one year, \$700, for two years, \$800, and for three years' enlistment, \$900. The bounties offered by the supervisors, State and general government made a total of \$1,275 for three years' service. Surely we can feel no surprise, with such inducements, that the quota was soon filled. On September 22d the official announcement was made that no draft would have to be made in St. Lawrence County, the quota being filled.

Ogdensburg was greatly excited on Wednesday, October 19th, 1864, to receive word that a party of desperadoes had made a raid on St. Albans, robbed three banks of \$150,000, shot and killed four persons, wounded others and escaped to Canada. Afterwards it was learned that no one was killed, although some few were wounded. It seems that some thirty or forty men had quietly gathered in the place, going to different hotels, and when the time was ready had met by preconcerted arrangement at a given place and began their work of robbery. They had taken horses from stables and from the street and thus escaped. All sorts of rumors were rife in this village, and many thought that there might be a repetition of the lawless actions in other places on the frontier. After some delay three men were arrested by the Canadian government, but were released again. This action on the part of the Canadian government was viewed with amazement by our people. A public meeting was called

for the purpose of forming Home or Frontier Guards, as they were called. Two companies were formed. To add to the excited state of mind of our people, a fiendish attempt to burn the city of New York was discovered. All the principal hotels were set on fire, as well as some of the theatres and Barnum's Museum. They were discovered soon after and the fires extinguished. Some inflammable materials being placed, in every instance, in places most likely to cause a general conflagration. It was said that other towns and villages were liable to the same attempt as long as they did not exercise due vigilance. So it will readily be seen that a necessity existed for the Frontier Guards, and the companies were soon formed under command of Mr. Seth G. Pope. On Friday night, December 2d, 1864, information was sent over from officials in Canada that a raid was contemplated by persons from that side upon this village. It was in explanation of the warning that about sixty suspicious characters had left Montreal on the up train, that a portion of them got off at Morrisburg eighteen or twenty miles below Prescott, and on account of their suspicious movements the authorities of Morrisburg had arrested them and kept them in confinement overnight, releasing them in the morning. Orders were received here from the governor, ordering a sufficient number of Springfield rifle muskets to arm the Home Guard, to be placed in the hands of the village authorities, also a supply of ammunition for the same. The authorities ordered the guns to be turned over to the military commandant, to be by him distributed to the company. Every property holder felt that he should bear his proportion of the burden of having a good efficient Home Guard, which would furnish ample protection to both life and property. In the early part of December a company of

Regulars was sent here and were quartered in the Parish stone store on N. Water Street. With the forming of the Frontier Guards and the advent of the soldiers, it was the impression of many of the citizens that the government was in possession of information that there was danger of the frontier towns being attacked; at all events it showed to all that every precaution was being taken to protect them. From this time until the close of the war the Frontier Guards maintained their organization. There were also detachments of cavalry stationed here. The Vermont Cavalry under Captain Rhodes and a detachment of Massachusetts Cavalry.

It was reported at various times that the St. Albans raiders were to be rearrested. The rumors caused rejoicing in the frontier towns, as, if such was the case, persons with the inclination to plunder and burn would feel that a haven of refuge could not be found by crossing the Canadian line. If these men were punished severely, it would preserve peace and quiet between people speaking the same language and whose interests were closely woven and identical. These men were re-arrested, but it really amounted to nothing. I have been unable to learn that they were ever punished for their crime. The Canadian authorities, however, to do substantial justice in spite of the courts, refunded fifty-eight thousand dollars of the money stolen by the raiders.

In all these trying and alarming times there were many ludicrous happenings. The streets were patrolled at night for some time, and the unlucky individual who found himself out after certain hours was compelled to reach home by circuitous routes and obscure ways or to face the ordeal of arrest by the Frontier Guard. Many people sent their silver and most valuable belongings to the country, and plans were

made in many households for the spiriting away of the family in case of an attack. In many stables the horses were harnessed each night ready to be driven out at a moment's notice. It is told with laughter to this day, in one family, how one of the daughters, who had lately been married, determined, if she went, she would carry with her the most valued part of her wedding trousseau. She therefore conceived the idea of sewing two of her white skirts together at the bottom and tacking between them many articles, gowns, skirts, wraps, etc., and so on. One night when the rumors had grown more and more alarming, as such things always do, she decided to array herself in this improvised affair, it was a somewhat difficult task, but it was accomplished at last, when to her horror she discovered that she could not take a step. How could she ever mount into the carriage that was to bear her to safety? And so, to her disappointment this plan was abandoned. In another instance the cook of the household appeared in her mistress's room ready to leave the house with her, making the remark, "If we have to die, we will die together." In her excitement she had brought with her but one article, a new flannel petticoat, which was rolled up in a small parcel under her arm. The expected raid never occurred, and in later years people could look back and laugh over the many ridiculous things that occurred, but at the time these matters were serious enough, and those that passed through those days and nights of anxiety would not care to repeat the same experiences.

I have a copy of a circular issued by the Ladies Aid Association which I give. This was only one of the many appeals sent out by this organization. They always met with a generous and ready response.



*“To the Women of St. Lawrence County:*

“Our soldiers are now in the midst of an active and bloody campaign in Virginia, and while we daily await tidings from them with the most painful anxiety, we can best show our sympathy by assisting in caring for the sick and wounded. Many of our aid societies are in a languishing condition; not from any want of patriotism, but because we have not seen clearly the necessity for continued exertion. The third annual report of the Women’s Central Relief Association in New York calls upon us all for assistance and plainly shows us our duty. Let us resolve to consider ourselves ‘enlisted for the war,’ and esteem it a privilege to be untiring in our labors of love. The battle-fields seem far away from us, but many homes in St. Lawrence County are sad to-day for gallant husbands, sons and brothers who have fallen in this campaign. We mourn for them, but our hearts throb with exultant pride when we remember their patient endurance, sublime self-devotion, and unflinching courage. Let us gladly do all in our power to aid the sick and wounded; let us care most tenderly for those who have so nobly suffered for our beloved country.

“LUCIA R. JAMES,

*“Associate Manager of Women’s Central Relief Association.”*

In September came from the Shenandoah Valley news of the battle of the Opequon, and in October of that famous ride of Sheridan’s from “Winchester, twenty miles away,” to Cedar Creek, where his presence turned defeat into victory. The news, with the history of the dramatic incidents of the day, was received with wildest enthusiasm by the North. In November Sherman began his “march to the

sea," reaching Savannah in December and presenting it to the nation as "a Christmas gift." In the march to the sea went the veteran 60th Regiment. Then came good news from Thomas in the southwest, and all felt that the end could not be far off.

I have passed over the account of the excited and heated days previous to the presidential election, 1864, when every man and woman realized the importance of the result to the Union cause. There were bitter controversies, and the friends of the administration had to listen, with burning hearts, to the assertions of the disloyal Copperheads of the war being a failure, etc. But when the time came, the loyal men at the North went forth to battle at the polls, and Abraham Lincoln was re-elected. I will omit the account of the rejoicing at this result. It can better be imagined than told by me. The feeling ran high against those who had sought his defeat.

Grace Greenwood, in a lecture during the war, expressed the views of loyal people in the following illustration: "Some lads in conversation about ten years after the close of the war may be imagined as saying, the first, 'My father fell in beating back the invaders at Gettysburg;' says another, 'Mine fell at Lookout Mountain fighting above the clouds;' a third, 'My father suffered martyrdom in Libby prison;' another, 'My father went down in the *Cumberland*;' yet another, 'My father was rocked to sleep below the waves in the iron cradle of the *Monitor*;' and there will be here and there a youth most unfortunate who will steal away from his comrades and murmur in bitterness of spirit, 'Ah! God help me, my father was a Copperhead.'" But those days are gone, and it is best not to recall the bitterness of heart that was felt at times.

The Thursday before Christmas, the younger ladies of this village held a bazaar in Lyceum Hall in aid of the soldiers' fund. Preparation had been made for some time by these willing workers, and the bazaar proved a financial success; after paying all expenses the proceeds were \$612. Two hundred dollars were placed in the hands of a committee for immediate distribution among needy families of soldiers residing in Ogdensburg, and the remaining \$412 given to the Ladies Volunteer Aid Association.

In January the recruiting committee recommended David A. Piercy for the captaincy of a new cavalry company to be raised here. Captain Piercy was a native of Ogdensburg and had seen considerable service in the cavalry of the West. The men were to be enlisted for one year for service on the frontier, unless the exigencies of the war should demand their presence elsewhere. This company was recruited in Ogdensburg, but the rapid events of the closing days of the war rendered it unnecessary for them to go farther than the rendezvous at Malone.

In January, 1865, the passport system was inaugurated along the northern frontier by orders from the Secretary of State. The Secretary of the Treasury authorized the collector of the port to issue certificates of citizenship to Americans wishing to enter Canada. The stringent order of the Secretary of State and the instructions issued to collectors by the Secretary of the Treasury in relation to what classes of persons should be required to procure passports caused considerable sensation among the people on both sides of the lines, as it virtually put an end to the heretofore free intercourse which had so long existed between people of Canada and the States on the border. The large passenger travel which had hitherto availed itself of the direct route from

the East to the West had been almost suspended since the passage of the passport system. This cutting off of the travel through Canada affected the hotel business at all points of communication, and called out complaint from those classes of our population, while all persons who had hitherto had considerable business to transact in Canada felt the burden of the passport system; those were mainly the persons on this side of the lines; every class of community and every branch of industry in Canada was affected by the non-intercourse with the United States.

A gentleman from Prescott was stopped at the lighthouse while endeavoring to cross the river; he was an American who had been naturalized in Canada, and could obtain no passport from the British or American agents at Prescott. When he was stopped by the guard, he found himself in an unpleasant predicament.

A farmer back of Prescott, who wished to cross for the purpose of selling a load of potatoes, borrowed the passport of a resident of Prescott; at the same time a woman from this side who had been visiting in Canada wished to cross; it was arranged that she should represent herself as the farmer's wife. When they reached this side, the description in the passport represented the bearer to be six feet, three inches, when by actual measurement he was but five feet, seven inches, and thus the deceit came out, and the farmer and his wife were arrested, whereupon they made a clean breast. The collector was disposed to let the parties suffer the consequences of their attempt to practise deception; but the tears of the woman, which were shed copiously, won the day, and they were allowed to go at liberty with the advice to hereafter pursue the lawful course.

A cartman who had been doing business on a borrowed

passport for ten days, when the custom officials demanded his passport, refused to show it. When his case was reported to Captain Jackson, he commanded that he be arrested; after he was taken into custody, he showed a passport which proved to be that of another person, and he was locked up; in both cases the gentlemen who had so lightly treated their obligations lost their passports.

The passport order, so far as it applied to the persons entering the United States from the Province of Canada, was rescinded in March, 1865, and the free intercourse which was enjoyed by the people living on the border previous to the St. Albans and Lake Erie raids was resumed.

January 17th, 1865, brought the welcome intelligence of the fall of Fort Fisher. The daily paper was being printed at the time, and the press was stopped that the great news could be inserted. Col. Curtis, with the 142d Regt., from St. Lawrence County, was in the assault, Col. Curtis commanding the brigade. In memoirs of Gen. Grant, written after the war, we find the following: "Curtis' Brigade charged successfully, though met by a heavy fire; some of the men having to wade through the swamp up to their waists to reach the fort, many were wounded, of course, and some were killed, but they soon reached the palisades. These they cut away and pushed on through." I often think, in reading such an account as the foregoing, how little we realize the heroic deeds of our veteran soldiers in their efforts to perpetuate the Union. Col. Curtis was severely wounded, and was promoted Brig. General U. S. V. on the field, his appointment having been written on a sheet of foolscap by the Secretary of War for "gallant services in the capture of Fort Fisher."

In January Sherman began his march north through the

Carolinas to join Grant. We listen to-day with interest to the incidents of that long march as related by the veterans of the 60th, of the capture or occupation of Columbia, of the many skirmishes on the march, with loss of life in some instances. On the last of January peace commissioners from the so-called Confederate States presented themselves on Grant's line around Petersburg, and were received by General Grant, who notified the President. How all rejoiced here when it was known that President Lincoln was to have an interview with them, for it was felt that now was the time when submission to the flag would surely be made. The commissioners were Alexander H. Stephens, Vice-President of the Confederacy, Judge Campbell, Assistant Secretary of War, and R. M. Hunter, formerly United States Senator and then a member of the Confederate Senate. At Hampton Roads they met Mr. Lincoln, who told them in the short interview held that it would be useless to enter into any negotiations unless they would recognize two things, first, that the Union as a whole must be forever preserved, and second, that slavery must be abolished.

Then began the series of battles and engagements which culminated in the capture of Petersburg and the fall of Richmond. When the news was received here, people went wild with joy, for although General Lee had not surrendered, yet with Richmond, the Capital, gone, with success after success of the Union army, the end of the Confederacy must soon come, and so the people over the entire North celebrated the great victory with ringing of bells, with bonfires blazing and the firing of guns. Just one week later came the news of the great surrender of Lee's army, and the people rejoiced in a greater degree than before. Again the stars and stripes were seen everywhere floating, again was the music of the

bells heard over the North, and it seemed to all as though the music was far sweeter and clearer than before, for it bore a message of peace to a happy country. I have the copy of a letter written from this village by a young lady to her sister who was in Washington at that time; in it she says: "What did you do when you heard the news? Every one went daft here; the men left their business, shaking hands with every one they met; women laughing and crying at the same time, and the gay bells pealing forth their glorious sounds; the boys have hunted up firecrackers left over from last Fourth of July. The Massachusetts Cavalry boys stationed here went in with a gusto, tending the cannon and singing patriotic songs, and finally, to finish up with, put in such a charge in the cannon that it shattered all the windows in the Seymour House and Judson Bank. Last night the Home Guards went at it again, and to-day no one can do anything but think of the newspapers and maps. It must have been splendid to have been in Washington."

The paper of April 11th contained the following article, which I quote: "The carnival of blood, fire and destruction has come to a close, and peace with her gentle wings will once again settle down upon us to be disturbed by civil war and rebellion no more forever. There will be no further calls for quotas, no more bounties to pay, but instead we shall have rejoicings, celebrations and welcoming home of the gallant lads who have so nobly fulfilled their mission in restoring the starry emblem of the free over the States who went astray, and established the foundation of government and union so firmly that no future shock may wreck them."

The committee of arrangements appointed for the purpose, decided to celebrate by the following program:

One gun at daybreak.

Thirteen guns at sunrise, bells rung one hour.

National flags, public and private, given to the breeze.

Thirty-six guns at noon, and bells rung one hour.

At 2 o'clock P. M. a public meeting will be held, music by the band and singing by the glee club.

Fifty guns at sunset.

At dark a grand torchlight procession and fireworks.

On the morning of April 15th, the entire country was stunned by the awful news that President Lincoln had been assassinated the night before. The story of that terrible crime is well known to you all: how seated in his box at the theatre, accompanied by his beloved wife and two young friends, he had been shot and mortally wounded. No words of mine are needed to tell you of the sorrow of the grief-stricken people. I quote from the *Daily Journal* of that day:

“Like a thunderbolt from a clear sky came these successive announcements, ‘Dying, Murdered, Dead’ upon our people in the midst of rejoicing over a country saved, aye, in the very midst of a full fruition of our hopes for the last four years. Well may the nation mourn for him, whose great heart and clear head had piloted the ship of state through troubles and dangers unknown to a clear sea and the promise of a haven of rest, stilled in death, struck down in the full glory of manhood in the very hour of his greatest usefulness, at the very moment when his praise was on every lip and the deep feeling of honor and reverence in every heart, till all felt he had won the title of ‘savior of his country,’ and that his place in history was opposite our illustrious Washington. Vain are tears, vain are tolling bells and muffled drums and drooping flags and saddened hearts. The great man is gone. To us is left to honor his memory, to



study his example and avenge his murder. Thus is our jubilee turned into mourning, thus is our joy clouded with sorrow. Thus with saddened hearts and falling tears we approach the bier of our beloved President. Dear, departed noble dead. Hail and farewell.”

. . . . .

“ O glad bells of victory, ringing for peace,  
 O loud roaring cannon, your jubilee cease.  
 Take down the bright banners, wherever they float,  
 And drape them half-masted with emblems of woe,  
 For over the land goes a terrible breath,  
 With the starting of tears and the tidings of death,  
 And the nation to God in her agony cries,  
 For the hero who falls, for the martyr who dies.

“ O'er the sore smitten land let the muffled bells toll,  
 And the deep-throated cannon their monody roll,  
 Half-masted the flags with the emblems of woe,  
 For a wiser and better we never shall know.  
 He has gone to his rest and his great heart is stilled,  
 He has gone to his God with his mission fulfilled,  
 And the tears of the people shall never be dried,  
 For the hero who fell, for the martyr who died.”

“ At a meeting of a committee of arrangements for the celebration of the recent triumph of our arms held at the Seymour House on Saturday morning, on motion of the Hon. D. C. Judson, it was resolved that in consequence of the terrible calamity which had befallen the nation in the death of President Lincoln by assassination, all further proceedings preparatory to a celebration of the fall of Richmond, the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, and the glorious success of our arms be indefinitely postponed, and that the committee stand adjourned subject to the call of the chairman.

A. B. JAMES, *Chairman*.

“ A. M. HERRIMAN, *Secretary*.”

The Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches in Ogdensburg were draped in mourning on Sunday, April 17th.

When it was learned that the funeral of President Lincoln would take place at Washington on Wednesday, the 19th of April, it was deemed best that whatever demonstration of respect our citizens might adopt should be made on that day. The Board of Trustees were therefore convened in special session at two P. M. on Tuesday. Captain Rhodes, commanding Company B Frontier Cavalry, stationed here, was present for the purpose of concert of action between civil and military authorities.

By a general order from the War Department, the troops were to fire half-hour guns from sunrise to sunset. After discussion the Board adopted a resolution requesting a general suspension of business of the citizens of the village throughout the day, that the flags be set at half-mast, the clergymen of the village invited to hold suitable services, and that the bells be tolled from twelve o'clock noon to three P. M.

Although there was but a few hours to circulate the information of this action on Tuesday night, compliance with it by all our citizens was general, and the entire day of Wednesday was observed in the most solemn manner. All places of business were kept closed from morning until night, and all day half-hour guns were fired. At sunrise the bells were tolled and continued one hour, and all of the village flags, most of them draped in mourning, were hoisted at half-mast. At ten A. M. the cavalry, dismounted, National Guards, and the several organizations of the Home Guards met at the Town House, where they formed in procession and marched to the Seymour House, where a very large and imposing procession was formed in the following order:

Martial music; Cavalry (dismounted); Home Guards, Companies A and B; Martial music; National Guards; Board of Trustees; Board of Education; Citizens and Strangers.

At twelve o'clock noon, with arms reversed and slow and solemn tread to the music of the Dead March, the procession commenced moving. The procession moved up State Street to Montgomery Street, down Montgomery to Caroline, down Caroline to Greene, down Greene to Hamilton, down Hamilton to Ford and up Ford to the Presbyterian Church, where the following exercises were held:

Dirge; Prayer by Rev. Mr. Miller; Singing of a Psalm by the choir; Prayer and reading of the service by Rev. H. R. Peters; Singing of a hymn by the choir; Eulogy upon the life, character and services of Abraham Lincoln, and remarks upon the signs of the times and promises and duties of the hour by Rev. L. M. Miller; Requiem by Mr. Hull, Mr. Ashley, Mrs. Watrous and Mrs. Monroe; Benediction.

Early in the morning most of the stores, Post-office, Custom-house, Seymour House, and very many of the private residences were draped in mourning, so that the village presented a most solemn appearance. At the church the services were of the most impressive character, very few, if any, being able to restrain the struggling tear. The discourse was most appropriate and found a response in every heart. The inhabitants of Prescott, at the request of the mayor of the town, closed their places of business between twelve and two on Wednesday, the 19th, the time of the funeral of the late President and passed a resolution of sympathy with the people of the United States in their sad bereavement. At the same time a public meeting for religious services in con-

nection with the above was held in the Presbyterian Church of Prescott. The attendance was good, considering the shortness of the announcement, and was composed of the most respectable citizens.

Thursday, June the first, was set apart by the President as a day of humiliation and prayer in consequence of the assassination of the late President Lincoln. The President recommended that religious services be held at the various churches. The day was so observed in this village.

The tragical death of President Lincoln brought such a cloud of sorrow over the whole country that it was with chastened hearts that the people of this village began their preparations for welcoming home the soldiers who had gone from among us. There were also many tears shed in our homes at the thought of dear ones who would not return with their comrades, those who had fallen in defense of their country's honor, and yet, even with bleeding hearts and weeping eyes, all felt that no honor was too great to be paid to our returning heroes. It was expected that the 142d Regiment would arrive home on June 20th, and preparations were made to receive it. At six o'clock in the morning a special train arrived, bringing 425 men. They marched to the Town Hall for temporary quarters.

At three o'clock the regiment, escorted by the Frontier Cavalry, marched through the principal streets of the city, and was reviewed by C. W. Gibbs, president, at the Seymour House, and proceeded thence to Eagle Hall, where a reception took place. The speech of welcome was made by R. W. Judson, Col. Barney responded. An elegant floral wreath was presented to the gallant colonel who led the old 142d through so many battles, by Mrs. H. R. James. Rev. L. M. Miller, Col. E. C. James and S. Foote, Esq., being called

on, made appropriate speeches. Songs were sung, and the old drum corps honored us with some of their best music. The war-scarred and bronzed veterans were furnished with a most sumptuous repast, furnished by the ladies of the village. The ceremonies at the Hall lasted for more than two hours, and were as appropriate to the occasion as it was possible to make them.

When the men emerged from the hall, each one was furnished with a bouquet of choice flowers, and as they took up their line of march for the Town House, as it was called in those days, placed it in the muzzle of his musket, giving the regiment the appearance of a floral procession. During the march and the reception ceremonies, the bells rang a merry peal, and a salute was fired by the detachment of cavalry. All day the flags floated from the village poles. At the corner of Ford and State Streets a triumphal arch was erected, and upon it placed in large letters "The Heroes of Ft. Fisher," and through which the soldiers passed on their return to the Town House. Although but little time was allowed for preparation, the reception in every particular was on the grandest scale and such as brave fellows returning to their homes at the close of a successful war were entitled to receive.

When the regiment entered Eagle Hall, a hundred voices struck up the well-known song, "When Johnnie comes marching home." And when the old flags, tattered and torn, came in, they were loudly cheered and excited much interest throughout the proceedings.

The gallant 106th Regiment arrived here on special train on June 26th at 11.10; a telegram from Captain Robertson at Watertown at 7.30 announced its near approach. The regiment was met at the depot by a large concourse of

friends and citizens, eager to grasp the hands of the bronzed veterans who, for three years, had fought and won in the struggle for the protection of the Union, and very many were the affecting scenes which occurred.

Wives, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and children were there to embrace husbands, sons, brothers and fathers who had been daring death in many forms for the sake of their country.

As soon as it was fairly disembarked, the regiment formed in line, headed by the regimental band, and marched across the bridge, up through Ford Street to State Street, down State Street to Washington and down Washington to the Town House. In the morning, as soon as it was known that the regiment was so near, all the flags of the village, public and private, were set, and all along the line of march the brave fellows were greeted with cheers, waving of handkerchiefs and all kinds of demonstrations. At three o'clock the regiment fell into line of march and marched through the principal streets to Eagle Hall, where a formal reception took place, while on the march the bells of the village rang forth a merry peal and the national salute was fired. The hall was handsomely decorated with flags and evergreens and floral wreaths in profusion. At the head in large letters was this beautiful verse:

"O brothers, here's a welcome,  
A welcome warm and true,  
And here's a hearty greeting,  
To every boy in blue."

At this point a most sumptuous repast was served to the soldiers by the patriotic ladies. It was discussed with a hearty relish by the noble fellows. The repast over, Mrs. E. C. James, in behalf of the ladies, presented Col. McDon-

ald with a floral wreath, which was acknowledged by the regiment with cheers.

S. Foote, in behalf of the ladies, presented Sergeant Royal, the color-bearer who planted the new flag on the battlements of Petersburg, with a beautiful floral wreath, and Col. Judson performed a like service to Corporal Child, who carried the old flag, after which remarks were made by Rev. L. Merrill Miller, who closed by reciting a very beautiful and touching welcoming poem written by a lady who had lost a son. A steady deluge most of the afternoon was the only drawback, but the rain was forgotten in the general joy.

In anticipation of their coming, the triumphal arch at the corner of State and Ford was tastefully decorated with evergreens, mottoes and inscriptions. On the other side of the arch was the 6th Corps Badge, with the words "Welcome to the Brave," and the following battles in which the regiment participated: Sailors' Creek, Petersburg, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Wilderness, Fisher Hill, Monocacy, Winchester, Fairmount and Cedar Creek.

It was determined to inaugurate measures for the celebration of the Fourth of July, 1865, on a grander scale than ever before attempted. All citizens joined in with hearty zeal to make this Independence Day a most memorable one, with far different feeling than had pervaded their minds during the past four years. With flags flying, processions and music, with firing of guns and orations and much patriotic enthusiasm, the great celebration was held in this village.

In July the following named persons were appointed a committee to make arrangements for a reception for the 60th New York Volunteers, expected to arrive soon: Charles Lyon, Chairman; Col. E. C. James, Major William H.

Daniels, Capt. P. Robertson, Capt. T. C. Atcheson, Capt. James Young, Capt. Thomas Shaw, Adj. C. A. Vilas. The citizens made preparations to give the regiment a suitable reception, the triumphal arch at the corner of Ford and State Streets was redecorated: on one side was the 20th Corps Badge, white star and blue ground, and the words "Welcome, Veterans," with a list of the many battles in which they had taken part.

Eagle Hall was tastefully decorated with festoons of red, white and blue, evergreens and pictures, among the latter the portraits of Grant, Sheridan, Sherman, and the lamented President Lincoln. At the head of the hall the words, "Welcome, Veterans," and on the side "All hail, heroes of Look-out Mountain;" the chandelier in the centre of the hall was neatly trimmed with flags, evergreens and flowers; on the left of the hall was the word "Atlanta," an important one in the history of the war.

Seven-forty-five P. M. the regiment arrived and was met at the depot by a large concourse of citizens and strangers, and amid the booming of cannon and the joyous peals of bells marched up Ford Street, through the triumphal arch and some of the principal streets to Eagle Hall, where the gallant fellows were served with the substantial and delicacies which had been so liberally prepared by the patriotic ladies of Ogdensburg.

Remarks were made by Rev. L. M. Miller and Rev. Richard Eddy, former chaplain of the regiment, and many others. These gentlemen spoke in the happiest way, overflowing with eloquence, humor and happiness. The proceedings were closed with a benediction, and the regiment dispersed to the Town Hall for quarters for the night.

In writing this paper it has been my aim to confine myself



to the events which transpired in that four years of cruel war, that were, at the time, of especial interest to the people of Ogdensburg. I have not spoken of military organizations, and there were many of them, numbering among their members some from Ogdensburg and St. Lawrence County, except the 16th, 18th, 60th, 106th and 142d Regiments. These seemed filled with Ogdensburg boys, and the three latter rendezvoused here.

Our village felt proud of the young men who went forth in '61 to '65. In every battle that the Grand Army of the Potomac fought, to the end at Appomattox, also in the ever memorable campaign of Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley, Ogdensburg was represented; in the "battle above the clouds," in the march to and capture of Atlanta, in Sherman's "march to the sea," Ogdensburg was represented.

I have not spoken of the brilliant naval engagements, nor of the fear that assailed all when out from the city of Norfolk came that iron destroyer, the *Merrimac*, which sent the good ship *Cumberland* to the bottom; the *Cumberland*, whose crew bravely fired the guns until the waters of the Chesapeake Bay covered the very muzzles as she sank. The *Merrimac* threatened to destroy every boat in the fleet after injuring several, until the little *Monitor* arrived and routed the enemy. The success of the *Monitor* revolutionized the construction of the future navies of the world.

I have omitted the capture of New Orleans and that other naval battle that will ever be famous in song and story, where Farragut, lashed to the mast of his flagship, the *Hartford*, headed the procession of his fleet into Mobile Bay. Of many of the engagements in the war I have been silent, but in all and every one of them the people of Ogdensburg rejoiced at the victories and wept over the defeats. Elated by

success and depressed by failure, the citizens of the village lived through the days of the war, perhaps with outward appearances the same as of yore, yet we know of the bitter sorrow and aching hearts that were under all the brave show. Not only was there anxiety for those in the front of the battles, but there was a worse fate meted out to some, for in the prison at Andersonville men from this village were suffering and languishing for want of food. The end of the war had come, and with it the restoration to their homes of those who had survived. No longer were heard the sullen roar of the cannon and the sharp rattle of musketry; no longer the bells rang out the glad peals of rejoicing for victories gained on the field of battle, for peace had come, and the flag of the country was waving the length and breadth of the land.

In Library Park stands the Soldiers' Monument, the creation of a soldier's daughter and former Ogdensburg girl, Mrs. Sally James Farnham. Built of enduring bronze and granite it will always recall to memory those who went at their country's call. Many there are who sleep in Southern soil, and many in our own cemeteries on the banks of the Oswegatchie, yet wherever they rest, this beautiful monument stands before the people of the city in their honor. Victory is holding the laurel wreath over the head of the bronze soldier who stands beneath. One might deem him a sentient being, and fancy, if he were, the thoughts that would pass through his mind as he stands, a sentinel at his post. Would he dream of the camp-fire's cheer and of the comrades gone before to join the great majority, would the strains of martial music fill his ear, would he remember when he, too, sang:



*Designed by Mrs. Sally James Farnham.*

SOLDIER'S MONUMENT.  
Ogdensburg, New York.



“Tenting to-night on the old camp ground,  
Give us a song to cheer”?

On last Memorial Day, there gathered around this monument two thousand pupils from our schools. They saw the bronze soldier, symbolic of those brave soldiers of the Civil War, crowned with a wreath of flowers, crowned as a representative of the Grand Army of the Republic, and as the tiny flags fluttered in their hands and their fresh young voices joined in the hymn of the nation, the “Star-Spangled Banner,” methinks they learned a lesson in patriotism and love of country they will never forget.

“The strength of a nation lies in the patriotism of its people.”

## INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE AND CITY OF OGDENSBURG AND GROWTH UP TO DATE

TWENTY-ONE years after the coming of Nathan Ford to found a dwelling-place upon the beautiful site where, sixty-eight years before, Abbé François Picquet had effected a settlement, laying the corner-stone of a habitation to the glory of God, and had erected the first temple to divine worship in the County of St. Lawrence, a thriving little village stood. The approach of the War of 1812 had greatly retarded the growth of the village, and commerce for a time was abandoned. While hostilities raged, many families were obliged to seek shelter farther inland. With the restoration of peace, however, they returned to take possession of their property, which had suffered much destruction at the hands of a lawless people. The place was greatly impoverished with the ravages of war. With the returning citizens came many wealthy and influential men to make Ogdensburg their home, among them George Parish, David C. Judson, John Fine and Henry Van Rensselaer. Such men greatly assisted in restoring order and reorganizing society which had become demoralized. The upbuilders of our fair home in its infancy were men of superior minds, cultured and refined, of indomitable courage, energy and perseverance. Order was soon restored, and soon again the little hamlet assumed an air of industry and thrift. On the 5th day of April, 1817, Ogdensburg was incorporated a village by an act of the Legis-

lature of the State of New York; the boundary lines extended from the Oswegatchie River east to what is now Paterson Street, and from the St. Lawrence River south to Montgomery Street, comprising forty-two blocks, including the triangular block now owned by Mr. Louis C. Nash.

The first village election was held on the 12th day of May, 1817, at which Louis Hasbrouck was chosen president; Joseph W. Smith, Charles Hill and John Scott, trustees. The board met on the 17th of May, and appointed Joseph W. Smith, treasurer; Sylvester Gilbert, clerk; Louis Hasbrouck and J. W. Smith a committee to draft a code of by-laws, which were read and adopted on the 26th day of the same month.

The chief industries of the village consisted in the commerce of the St. Lawrence River and the handling of the products of the forest. As early as the year 1808-1809, two vessels were built in the village for George Parish by Mr. Jonathan Brown and Selick Howe of New York. The first built was called *Experiment*, and was launched on the 4th of July, 1809, forming part of the celebration of the day. She was subsequently commanded by Captain Holmes. The second vessel was the schooner *Collector*, launched in the later part of the summer of 1809, which made several trips up the lake that season under command of Captain Obed Mayo, and the next year she was run by Captain Samuel Dixon. Mr. Rosseel, of the firm of Rosseel & Co., became the owner of the boat; her first arrival in port was on the 15th of November, with a cargo of salt and dry goods from Oswego. In the following summer, 1810, a third schooner, the *Genesee Packet*, was launched and rigged. She was owned and commanded by Capt. Mayo. These boats were built on the same plan, with a capacity of carrying fifty tons.

Commercial and mercantile enterprise flourished for a season; the vessels belonging to the port of Ogdensburg became the carriers on Lake Ontario, and at the breaking out of the War of 1812 Ogdensburg was growing more rapidly than any port on the lake. These boats, with others plying between the village and various points along the River St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario, added much to the commerce of the village. In the meantime various highways were constructed, leading to different points in the county, and in this way communication by land and water was established throughout Northern New York.

The Erie Canal was constructed in 1825, crossing the State from Lake Erie to the Hudson River. In 1828, the Oswego Canal was built. The opening of this canal was of great importance to this village, as it furnished a direct avenue to market. Soon the smaller craft of earlier years gave way to larger and more commodious vessels. In 1833, the Welland Ship Canal was finished, and on the 20th of September, 1850, the first through train on the Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain Railroad steamed into the village station amidst the booming of cannon, ringing of bells, music of bands and great demonstrations of joy. This highway, with its connections to the east, opened up a great thoroughfare which extended from Boston to the River St. Lawrence and via the Great Lakes to the far West. As an item of interest to the people of Ogdensburg, I quote the following extract from the *Youth's Companion* of October, 1905:

“Like many another homely convenience of every-day life, the refrigerator car, which is now attracting the attention of Congressmen, claims a Yankee origin. It was never invented at all. The *Companion* was in error recently in attributing the idea to an unmentioned meat-packer. The



first refrigerator-car was 'just fixed up' by a Yankee railway man, Mr. J. Wilder, now living at Woodstock, Vermont, who needed some such convenience in his business. In June, 1851, the first car is said to have made its trip from Ogdensburg, New York, to Boston. The farmers near Ogdensburg made a great deal of butter, but could not ship it to market except in cold weather. Mr. Wilder, who was then in charge of the through freight, conceived the idea of an "ice-box on wheels," spoke to the president of the road, and got an order for the master mechanic to fix up several of them. The farmers were receiving only about twelve cents a pound for their butter. The iced car was loaded with eight tons of it and sent through, and was allowed to stand on the market in Boston till the butter was sold. It brought seventeen cents a pound after paying all expenses and commissions, and the plan was voted a success. In a short time the road had a regular service on, using a number of cars, and the idea spread rapidly. Mr. Wilder did not patent his idea, but allowed it to be used by whoever so desired."

The citizens of the place were quick to see the great opportunities thus offered to increase the transportation facilities of the village, and before long many vessels were constructed and the name of Ogdensburg was seen on many boats in the harbors of western States. A large and commodious line of passenger and freight steamers plied between the lake ports and Ogdensburg until the Civil War paralyzed business enterprise.

Later on, in 1862, the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad was extended to the village, and in 1878, the Utica and Black River Road was forming a second southern outlet for the city of Ogdensburg. Various other lines of com-

munication, together with the St. Lawrence River canals, securing safe passage of vessels to ports below the rapids, gave great impetus to the business interests of the village.

At a very early date large and substantial buildings were erected, among others the warehouses now occupied by the George Hall Company; flouring mills on the west side, and the wharves, warehouses and elevator on the grounds of the Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain Railroad. In the year 1853 the Marine Railway and Shipyard was completed, and for several years a number of transportation boats were built there. It proved a great convenience to vessel owners in the repairing and reconstruction of their boats.

Among other industries which were established in the village, and one which has proved to be one of the greatest and most important, is the Skillings, Whitney and Barnes Lumber Company. This business was founded by Daniel Whitney, Jr., in 1859, who selected the late William L. Proctor his manager. He proved to be a wise, careful and prudent man, and by his untiring energy and devotion to the business succeeded in building up and greatly enlarging the same. Originally the local plant was confined to the river front in the vicinity of the terminal of the Rutland Railroad. At this place the company had about three-quarters of a mile of dockage and many acres of yard for lumber storage. A large box factory was also located in connection with the North Yard, part of the plant. For many years lumber has been received by boat at the company's docks in the rough. It is here sorted and graded and otherwise manufactured into all the different forms requisite for building purposes, and ultimately shipped over the Rutland Railroad to the New England markets. About seven years ago the increased business of the company and the necessity of acquiring

greater yard capacity and more advantageous shipping facilities to the New York market necessitated the purchase of another yard to the southwest of the city. This new yard was advantageously situated for the transport of lumber over the New York Central lines to the market south. A large planing and finishing mill has been erected in connection with this yard, together with extensive dockage. At present the company employs approximately five hundred men, and their pay-roll averages about \$6,000 each week. During the past fiscal year they have handled in the vicinity of 100,000,000 feet of lumber, a large part of which passed through some form of manufacture in this city. Most of the lumber is received from the vast forests of Canada, in Georgian Bay region. During the winter an immense quantity of the unfinished lumber arrives by way of the Canadian Pacific Railway, being carried across the St. Lawrence River by car transfer. From two to three train-loads of finished lumber are shipped south each day. The company has an admirable force of men at the head of its office management in this city to-day. Most of them have been brought up in the business and are stockholders in the present corporation.

The milling industry of the village and city since 1833 has been of considerable importance, and has given constant employment to a number of skilled men. A great deal of capital is required to successfully operate the same. At one time quite a business was carried on in the manufacture of wool, but it never assumed large proportions, nor proved very profitable.

It seems from the beginning that the business of water transportation attracted more attention upon the part of our citizens than any other, and it would appear, from the fact that from the early days they built and operated both sail-

ing and steam vessels, it proved a remunerative business. In later days we know that the George Hall Coal Company, the Ogdensburg Coal and Towing Company, and the Rutland Transit Company have been successfully and profitably operated, have given employment to many of our people and added wealth to our city. Within a recent period new industries have sprung up in our midst, such as the Leyare Boat Factory, Randle's Skirt Factory, Algie Skirt Factory, Phair Glove Factory, and many more factories, the Oswegatchie Manufacturing Company, otherwise known as the Silk Mill, all of which inure to the benefit of the city.

I would like to dwell at length upon the many industries, but it would be impossible within the scope of this paper to give the details of the various enterprises; but, as the manufacture of silk fabrics is new in this part of the State, I have acquired, through the courtesy of Mr. Hulser, some facts which I think will be of interest. The company was formed and opened a school in this city in 1902, and began building a mill immediately. During the year 1903, the business had progressed so that they employed 150 operatives, and paid out in wages during the year \$27,000. The business has progressed steadily since then, until now, with a force of 275 employées, and an annual pay-roll of \$88,400, they are producing \$540,000 worth of silk dress goods. When the new building is filled with machinery and in operation, they will employ about 375 to 400 operatives, and pay out about \$132,000 annually. The goods manufactured by this company are of a better grade than the average popular priced dress silks, and the 1,000,000 yards turned out annually find a ready market.

Religion and education were not neglected by the early inhabitants of the village and city. Education has been fully

dealt with in a preceding paper, so it will be unnecessary for me to discuss the same. After the destruction of the Catholic Mission founded by Father Picquet in 1749, there was no religious organization until 1805, when a society was formed under the name of the First Church and Congregation of Christ. It was undenominational. The first regular church organization was the Baptist, which was organized July 29th, 1809. Services were held in private houses, school edifices and public halls until 1833, when a church was erected upon the present site on State Street. In 1855, the church was repaired and enlarged, and again in 1860. In 1871, the church was substantially rebuilt from basement up, refurnished, decorated and a fine organ installed. On the 29th of August, 1881, the church edifice was nearly destroyed by fire. This loss was courageously met by the people, and the building was restored. The Presbyterian Church was organized on the 8th day of December, 1819. Services were held in a plain wooden chapel which had been built on the southwest corner of Ford and Caroline Streets. In 1824, a new stone church was erected on the corner of Ford and Franklin Streets. This church was materially enlarged in 1848. In 1867, the old church was torn down and replaced by the present beautiful edifice. The Society of St. John's Episcopal Church was organized May 23, 1820, and on the 10th of August, 1821, a small stone church was built on the present site on the corner of Caroline and Knox Streets. In 1843, the church was rebuilt and enlarged. In 1870, the old church was removed and the present magnificent edifice erected. In 1875, a fine chapel was added, built after the same style of architecture. The seating capacity of the church is 1,000, and that of the chapel 300.

The Methodist Episcopal Society was organized February

21, 1825, and in the same year built a small wooden chapel on the corner of Caroline and Montgomery Streets on a lot donated by Mr. Parish. In 1850 the chapel was removed, and the present large and commodious edifice was erected upon the same site. In 1866 the church was somewhat remodelled. In 1890, owing to destruction caused by a severe wind storm, the church was reconstructed and a large amount of money expended in beautifying the same.

In 1828 the Roman Catholic congregation consisted of twenty-five families. Mass was occasionally said in private houses. In 1835, a small stone church was built where the Cathedral now stands. In 1852, the present church was built. In 1872, the Diocese of Ogdensburg was formed, consisting of the counties of St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Jefferson and Lewis, and Ogdensburg was named the episcopal residence. The late beloved Edgar Phillip Wadhams was appointed the first bishop, and under his direction the church was thoroughly repaired, the sanctuary and sacristies enlarged and marble altars erected.

The French Catholic congregation, under the name of St. John Baptist, was organized in 1858. Soon after this the corner-stone of the present edifice was laid, but it was not until after many years of patient toil and many sacrifices that it was finally completed. In 1865, the Jewish denomination was organized, since which time services have been continued. The First Congregational Society of Ogdensburg was organized in 1882, and the present beautiful edifice was erected on the west side of the city in the same year. For many years the Universalist denomination held services in various halls, and it was not until 1868 a society was formed here, and some years after purchased a lot on the corner of Greene and Franklin Streets and erected the present

chapel. It is but just to say that the religious denominations of this city have labored incessantly, made many sacrifices and have accomplished a great work. The clergy from the earliest times have been pious, intelligent and good men, who by their zeal and example have greatly tended toward the elevation of the community. It is a pleasure to say that religion at the present time has a greater hold on the people of Ogdensburg than ever before, and that love, respect and kindly feelings prevail throughout this community.

Ogdensburg was incorporated a city on the 27th day of April, 1868. The elective officers elected at large by the citizens were a mayor and recorder. Each ward elected its three aldermen independent of each other. On the day appointed, a very spirited election was held, the Republicans having nominated Hon. William C. Brown for mayor, and the Democrats Hon. David C. Judson. The Republicans were successful. Mr. Brown was elected mayor, and Mr. Delos McCurdy recorder. Other city officers the first year were, Charles I. Baldwin, Walter B. Allen, Henry Rodee, aldermen, 1st Ward; Benjamin L. Jones, Galen W. Pearsons, Patrick Hackett, aldermen, 2d Ward; Carlisle B. Heriman, Urias Pearson, Chester Waterman (until July), Wm. L. Proctor (after July), 3d Ward; Calvin W. Gibbs, supervisor, 1st Ward; William C. Alden, supervisor, 2d Ward; Zina B. Bridges, supervisor, 3d Ward; Nathaniel H. Lytle, clerk. Under the village charter three wards were established, and these wards were continued under the city charter until the year 1873, when a fourth ward was created. The original three wards were bounded, First and Second as at present, the Third Ward extended from Paterson Street to the Tibbets tract of land in Lisbon. The Fourth Ward was taken from the Third Ward, the division line

being Paterson Street. Since the organization of the city large sums have been expended in improving the same.

Soon after its incorporation, the services of George E. Waring, an eminent sanitary engineer, were procured, and after a careful examination he laid down a very intelligent and systematic plan for the sewerage of the city, which plan was adopted and has been generally followed except on rare occasions, when some egotistical alderman, without education or experience, has attempted to improve upon the work of this most eminent man, and signally failed, costing the city considerable sums of money.

The attention of the municipal government was early called to the necessity of establishing a proper water system. Many animated discussions took place among the citizens as to which should be used, the water of the St. Lawrence or of the Oswegatchie. A noted public meeting was held in the old town hall, and it would be of great interest were I able to reproduce the arguments of the gentlemen who addressed the meeting upon that occasion. The address of the late Gen. R. W. Judson, as recorded and delivered on many an occasion by our late beloved friend and neighbor, Col. E. C. James, is well worthy to be preserved for all time to come. After full and free discussion it was finally decided to use the Oswegatchie water, and in the summer of 1869, the City Water Works on the Holly system were erected at the south end of the dam. Water mains were laid, mostly of cement pipe, through the principal streets of the city the first year, and several fire hydrants set. Those cement pipes have been replaced by cast iron and the mains have been enlarged and largely extended, and the city abundantly furnished with hydrants for fire purposes of the most approved pattern. Sometime after the water-works buildings were enlarged and



reconstructed and new machinery installed. Not long ago the city entered into an agreement with the State authorities to furnish water to the State Hospital, and we are advised it has given entire satisfaction. It has always been a source of regret to many of the townspeople that the shores of the upper Oswegatchie, with their beautiful trees, were not preserved as a park instead of being given over for residential purposes, and it is hoped that some time action may be taken to utilize this river shore for a park, which would be both beautiful and beneficial.

For many years no systematic plan was adopted for the improvement of the streets or sidewalks, and much time and money were uselessly expended. A few years ago, by an act of the Legislature, the charter was amended, creating a Board of Street Commissioners, since which time great improvements have been made. The Fire Department of the city is probably one of the best in the State. We are all justly proud of it.

The City Library is located in one of the most beautiful spots in the city, and contains within its walls thousands of volumes which are freely read by all classes of our people. It also has a department for children, founded and largely maintained by Swe-kat-si Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. This chapter of the National Society of the D. A. R. was founded by Miss Harriet L. S. Hasbrouck, a granddaughter of Louis Hasbrouck, first president of the village of Ogdensburg. A second library, known as the Mary D. Bean Library in the Fourth Ward, is fast becoming popular.

Prior to the incorporation of the city, in the year 1866, the United States government erected the Post-office and Custom-house, one of the substantial buildings of the place,

upon the site where the old Court-house formerly stood. Since the incorporation of the city, our beautiful and commodious Town Hall has been erected at the joint expense of the town and city. Another grand and magnificent State building is the Armory of the Fortieth Separate Company. In the year 1887, a law was passed directing that a State Hospital for the Insane should be erected at Point Airy, then a part of the Town of Lisbon, but since brought within the limits of the city and made a portion thereof. Upon the site so named costly and magnificent buildings have been erected at an expenditure of millions of dollars, being the most modern and best adapted to the needs of the afflicted there treated. The liberality of the taxpayers of the State in erecting and maintaining such an institution speaks well for the Christianity of our times. The liberality of the State has been seconded by that of our citizens in the establishment of orphanages and hospitals. The City Hospital especially is a beautiful and magnificent building, well equipped, thoroughly furnished, having an excellent corps of nurses, and a most worthy staff of surgeons and physicians. It is an honor to its largest benefactor, Hon. George Hall, and I hope may stand for many generations a monument to his kindness of heart and generosity to the human race. We are also fortunate in having St. John's Hospital for contagious diseases, which is situated outside of the city limits. Another hospital where the sick can be cared for is the Northern New York General Hospital on Knox Street. The City Orphanage gives charity and care to the aged and infirm as well as to many orphan children, and orphan children also find care and shelter at the United Helpers' Home on State Street.

The first newspaper printed in St. Lawrence County was

the *Palladium*, a two-page weekly, 11 by 17½ inches. It was started in Ogdensburg in December, 1810, by J. C. Kipp and T. C. Strong; David Parish furnished the capital and D. W. Church the office building. The paper was distributed through the county by foot-post. On account of the difficulty in getting suitable paper it was sometimes printed on foolscap. This paper was discontinued in 1814.

From that period until the present many other papers have been started in Ogdensburg, the greater portion being published for only a limited time. At present we have two daily papers and three weeklies, the *St. Lawrence Republican* being one of the oldest weekly papers in the State. This paper was first printed in Potsdam in the fall of 1826. It was purchased in 1830 by the Hon. Preston King, and from that time to the present has been published in Ogdensburg under the management of various editors, numbering among them some of the brightest newspaper men of the State. The *Ogdensburg Advance*, a weekly paper, was first published in Ogdensburg in 1861. Since then many able men have been connected with it. To-day it ranks among the leading weekly papers of the State. The *Mirror*, another weekly, has been published for several years. The original editor and manager is still in control. Its circulation is confined principally to the city.

Several attempts had been made to publish a daily newspaper in Ogdensburg, none of which were successful until 1857.

*The Boy's Journal* was commenced in 1856 by H. R. James, James W. Hopkins and Charles R. Foster, all lads in their early teens. These boys had been for some time printing a little paper entitled *The Morning Glory*, on a small hand press from second-hand type. Realizing the

earnestness and enthusiasm of the youthful editors, their fathers united to purchase them a Guernsey press, and they added a *Weekly Journal* to the daily issue. In 1857 Mr. Foster sold his interest to James and Hopkins, who continued the publication of both papers until they purchased the *St. Lawrence Republican*, into which was merged their weekly issue, and the "Boy's" dropped and "Daily" substituted in the title of the daily paper. This was the first successful daily newspaper printed in Ogdensburg. Its publication in connection with the weekly *St. Lawrence Republican* has continued until the present time and enjoys a large circulation.

The *Ogdensburg News* was first published in 1883 as a semi-weekly. It was purchased by the present editor and proprietor in 1890, and was converted into a daily in 1891. It has since been ably and successfully conducted and takes rank with the daily papers of Northern New York.

In preparing this paper it would be impossible to give any subject lengthy consideration, and many things, perhaps most worthy of mention, have been left out.

We will have to turn to the press, which early in 1810 made its appearance in the village and has kept abreast of the times, faithfully reflecting the conditions existing and courageously urging the citizens towards progress and prosperity, to be better informed of what transpired in the ninety years intervening since the incorporation of the village. Could the pioneer settlers look back upon the fair city now standing where they so assiduously labored to make firm the foundation, see the extent of beautifully shaded avenues, the many handsome residences with picturesque grounds surrounding, the hundreds of pretty homes with smiling lawns and gardens, the several little parks, the numerous and vari-

ous mercantile establishments extending to every point of the land, see the increasing traffic daily carried on by boat and railroad, the palatial steamers that enter our harbor from everywhere, the innumerable pleasure craft that make merry the summer days going to and from the Thousand Islands, carrying pleasure seekers to that most beautiful Venice of America, they would recognize that the realization of Nathan Ford's prophetic dream is upon the land — "Ogdensburg is destined to be a 'Rich and Populous City.'" "

X941













LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 224 245 A ●