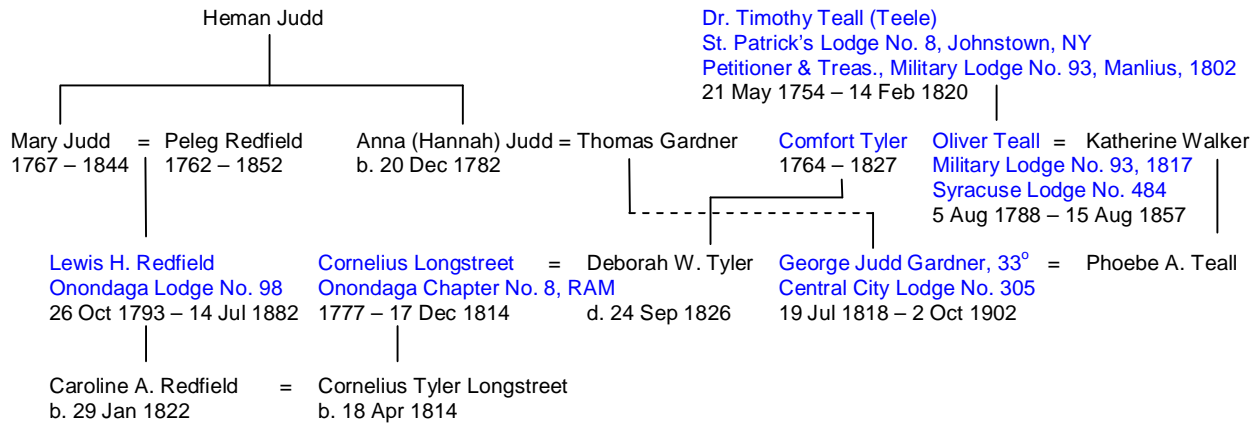


An Early Onondaga Masonic Family Connection
Gardner, Redfield, Longstreet, Teall and Tyler Families
 compiled by R. W. Gary L. Heinmiller, Director, OMDHS
 July 2007



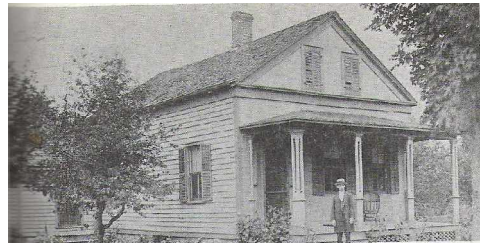
Lewis H. Redfield
 Onondaga Lodge No. 98
 Initiated per 1817, line 17 of Lodge Return.



Lewis Hamilton Redfield, the pioneer printer and publisher of Onondaga Valley and one of the leading journalists of early Onondaga, was born in Farmington, CT, 26 Nov 1792, and moved with his father, Peleg, to Suffield about 1794. Peleg was a soldier in Washington's army during the Revolutionary War and in 1799 came with his family to near Clifton Springs, Ontario county, which then consisted of a solitary cabin. There they suffered all the vicissitudes incident to frontier life.

Lewis H. Redfield, during his youth, shared in the labors on the farm, and attended such transient schools as were opened in the neighborhood, but he was his own chief instructor and read every book within his reach. He was apprenticed by his parents as a printer to James D. Bemis, publisher of the Ontario Repository at Canandaigua, and at the end of a period of six years had thoroughly mastered the trade and

acquired a large fund of general information. He then sought a place for a business opening and finally decided upon Onondaga Valley, or Hollow, as it was then called. This village and that on the Hill were then among the chief business centers in the county, and contained many eminent men and residents, who gave the young printer every encouragement. With their support, and with the aid of his former employer, Mr. Bemis, he began the publication of the Onondaga Register on 17 Sep 1814, the printing office being purchased of or through Mr. Bemis for \$1,400. The Register was an exponent of Jeffersonian Democracy, and being successful in supplying news of the war it reached what was then a large circulation. Mr. Redfield practiced strict economy, and by his industry, perseverance and ability soon won a wide prestige, and at the end of the first year the office was free from debt. After the war closed he found a still more interesting topic for discussion in his columns in the projected canal from the Hudson River to Lake Erie. Judge Joshua Forman, then living at the Valley and one of the most powerful advocates of the enterprise, wrote a series of articles for the Register in its favor, and at the same time Mr. Redfield's pen was eloquent and untiring on its behalf. In view of these stirring events it is not too much to say that the Register was for several years nearly or quite at the head of the country newspapers of the State in character and influence.



Above: Lewis H. Redfield house, Onondaga Valley, originally on the corner of West Seneca Turnpike and Milburn Drive (Mill Street), and later moved to 314 Milburn Drive when the Methodist church (now the Unity church) was built on the site. This property was purchased in 1811 by Mr. Redfield, who published the Onondaga Register in 1816 from this building. He later moved to Syracuse in 1829. Next door (west) of the original location of this house still stands the original Masonic Hall, now a residence, which was also moved to its present location when Joshua Forman relocated the path of Onondaga Creek.



< Onondaga Masonic Hall and Methodist (now Unity) Church, ca 1885.

But the canal favored neither the Valley nor Salina by passing through one of those points, as Judge Forman at different time advocated, and in submission to the wonderful changes produced by its construction through the then village of Syracuse, which spring into existence and in 1825 was incorporated, and the subsequent (1829) removal of the county seat from the Hill to the place. Mr. Redfield transferred his newspaper to Syracuse and consolidated it with the Syracuse Gazette (begun by John Durnford in 1823) under the name of the Onondaga Register and Syracuse Gazette. For its accommodation he erected a four-story building on the site of the present Onondaga Savings Bank, where he also conducted a book store. In 1832, owing to impaired health, he disposed of his newspaper property to Sherman & Clark, who change the name to the Syracuse Argus and about two years later suspended publication. Mr. Redfield continued the book business twelve years longer, when he retired with a competency. At intervals thereafter he devoted his attention to various enterprises and profitable real estate operations.

Mr. Redfield in many ways exerted a wholesome influence upon the growing village, and was enthusiastic in its adornment and improvement. He was elected its president in 1834, and was instrumental in the securing and establishment of Forman Park. He seldom permitted his name to be used for public office, but in 1872, at the age of eighty years, he was complimented by the Democratic vote of the State for presidential elector. He was for thirty years a director in the old Bank of Salina and late held similar position in the Salt Springs National Bank.

He never ceased to take pride in the fact that he has a practical printer, and in the printing offices of the village and city he was always welcome. As a journalist he left a lasting imprint of his remarkable individuality upon the local profession, which time will render more brilliant and enduring. An ardent lover of nature he continuously held to the faith that there were few fairer spots than the beautiful valley wherein he passed most of his life. He died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. James Lawrence Bagg, in Syracuse, 14 Jul 1882, aged nearly ninety years, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery beneath a shaft bearing this inscription, prepared by himself:

“Lewis H. Redfield, printer – a worn and battered form gone to be recast more beautiful and perfect.”

Mr. Redfield was married 7 Feb 1820, to Miss Ann Maria, daughter of Nathaniel H. Treadwell, of Plattsburg, NY, and they were the parents of four daughters and three sons:

Mrs. Cornelius T. Longstreet (Caroline Adriance)	George Davis Redfield
Mrs. James L. Bagg, (Mary Elizabeth)	Lewis H. Redfield, Jr.
Mrs. William H. H. Smith (Margaret Treadwell)	Charles T. Redfield
Miss Jane (Louisa) K.(sic) Redfield	

Mrs. Redfield was born in the village of L'Original, Upper Canada, 17 Jan 1800, and died in Syracuse on 15 Jun 1888. She was educated under Miss Emma Willard and took a post graduate course at Clinton, NY, and was preceptress of the Onondaga Academy for a time. She was the author of a popular work, “Zoological Science, or Nature in Living Forms,” a book commended by Professor Agassiz as one the “would do credit to a majority of college professors.” She was one of the best known women in Central New York, and for more than sixty-five years watched with interest the growth and development of Onondaga and Syracuse.

transcribed from the Biographical pages 189-190

Bruce, Dwight H., “Onondaga’s Centennial – Gleaning of a Century,” Volume II. Boston History Company. 1896 4c5r

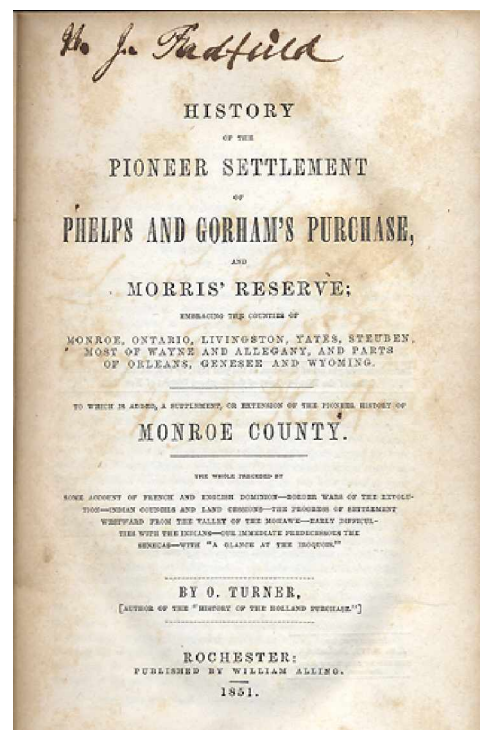
TURNER, Orsamus (1801-55). HISTORY OF THE PIONEER SETTLEMENT OF PHELPS AND GORHAM'S PURCHASE, and Morris' Reserve; Embracing the Counties of Monroe, Ontario, Livingston, Yates, Steuben, Most of Wayne and Allegany, and Parts of Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming. To Which is Added, A Supplement, or Extension of the Pioneer History of Monroe County. The Whole Preceded by Some Account of French and English Dominion—Border Wars of the Revolution—Indian Councils and Land Cessions—The Progress of Settlement Westward from the Valley of the Mohawk—Early Difficulties with the Indians—Our Immediate Predecessors the Senecas—with "A Glance at the Iroquois." By O. Turner, [Author of the "History of the Holland Purchase."] Rochester: Published by William Alling., 1851.

22½ cm. (binding 23¼ cm. = 9 inches tall). viii, [9]-624 pp.; two blank flyleaves at front and two at the back. COLLATED COMPLETE.

Original dark brown blind-stamped cloth; gilt-lettered spine. In very good condition. Some wear to spine caps without significant loss. A handsome and appealing copy of a popular historical source generally found elsewhere in rather sad condition.

\$850

FIRST EDITION. Flake 9054; Howes T425; Sabin 97489. Cited by Anderson, Backman, Bushman, Hill Quinn and everyone else. Mormon portion transcribed and analyzed by Dan Vogel, *Early Mormon Documents* Vol. 3 (SLC: Signature Books, 2000), pp. 46-54.



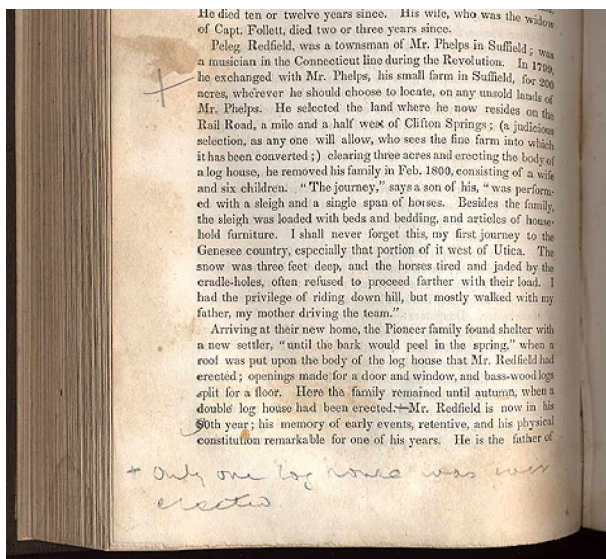
By far the nicest and most desirable copy I have owned of this classic work, it was **ORIGINALLY OWNED BY TWO DIFFERENT MEN WHO ARE DISCUSSED IN THE BOOK ITSELF, MEN WHO BY FRONTIER STANDARDS WERE PRACTICALLY NEIGHBORS OF THE SMITHS:**

SIGNED on the front flyleaf and title page by H. J. Redfield, then **SIGNED AND INSCRIBED** on the second flyleaf "To my brother L. H. Redfield, Aug. 8th 1852, H. J. Redfield."

The REDFIELDS lived a mile and a half west of the hamlet of Clifton Springs, in the town of Manchester, New York, approximately six miles southeast of the Smith Family farm. Turner discusses this family at some length, immediately before the discussion of Mormonism. Indeed, **the Redfields and Smiths take up two thirds of the entire section devoted to Manchester.** The father, Peleg Redfield, was a friend of Oliver Phelps in Connecticut, and was given his choice of any 200 acres he might want (in the New York Phelps and Gorham Purchase) in 1800 . . .

"The Journey," says a son of his, "was performed with a sleigh and a single span of horses. Besides the family, the sleigh was loaded with beds and bedding, and articles of household furniture. I shall never forget this, my first journey to the Genesee country, especially that portion of it west of Utica. The snow was three feet deep, and the horses tired and jaded by the cradle-holes, often refused to proceed farther with their load. I had the privilege of riding down hill, but mostly walked with my father, my mother driving the team."

Arriving at their new home, the Pioneer family found shelter with a new settler, "until the bark would peel in the spring," when a roof was put upon the body of the log house that Mr. Redfield had erected; openings made for a door and window, and bass-wood logs split for a floor. Here the family remained until autumn, when a double log house had been erected. [p. 210]



< Here, one of the Redfield boys or historian Franklin Chase (see further below) has added a note on the page, in pencil: "Only one log house was ever erected."

"Mr. Redfield is now in his 80th year;" continues Turner (a younger Mr. Redfield or Mr. Chase correcting this in pencil to read, "90th year"),

. . . his memory of early events, retentive, and his physical constitution remarkable for one of his years. He is the father of the Hon. Heman J. Redfield, of Batavia; of Lewis H. Redfield, the well known editor, publisher, and bookseller at Syracuse . . . "I could have made my location at Fort Hill, near Canandaigua," said the old gentleman to the author, "but a town was growing up there, and I feared its influence upon my boys." There are many Pioneer fathers who have lived to regret, that they had not been governed by the same prudent motive.

The Pioneer mother died in 1844, aged 80 years. It will appear incredible to the house keepers, and young mothers of the present day, when they are told, that Mrs. Redfield, in early years, when she had a family of six and seven children, performed all her ordinary house-work, milked her own cows; and carded, spun and wove, all the woolen and linen cloth that the family wore. But the

old gentleman thinks it should be added, that he and the boys lightened her labor, by uniformly [sic] wearing buckskin breeches in the winter; though the mother had them to make. [pp. 210-11]

SUCH WERE THE MEN who owned and lightly annotated **this very book which is now at hand.** Their father's own words appear next, in brief "Reminiscences of Peleg Redfield," pp. 211-12. He remembered sending his boys a mile through dangerous woods to school, using marked trees to find their way. The wolves were "a great nuisance," he added. "In winters, when hungry, they would collect together and prowl around the log dwellings; and if disappointed in securing any prey, their howling would startle even backwoodsmen." p. 211.

Mormon customers will not purchase this book for its discussion of the Redfields, intriguing though it may be. But in the treatment of this family, we can observe Orsamus Turner's careful attention to detail about people whom he clearly knew personally, including the future founder of Mormonism. Beyond this subject, the "Phelps & Gorham" is **an indispensable source of detail about people who crossed paths with the earliest Latter-day Saints.** It is to this book that I turn several times a month to identify the many obscure characters whose early letters and land deeds I obtain!

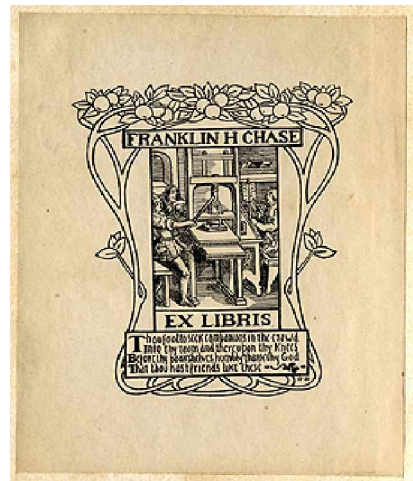
"**Gold Bible - Mormonism,**" pp. 212-17. Turner knew Joseph Smith when they were both young in Palmyra. As a printer's devil, Turner describes how he would occasionally ink the face of a "meddling inquisitive lounge-but afterwards Prophet . . ." p. 214. Did you know that Joseph Smith was once an active vocal participant in Methodist meetings in Palmyra (contrary to the impression one might obtain from the story of the First Vision)? Why did he stroll into town each week from the farm? Young Orsamus was there, and provides classic early details in this important rare source. ". . . he used to help us solve some portentous questions of moral or political ethics, in our juvenile debating club," Turner recalled of young Joseph, ". . . and subsequently, after catching a spark of Methodism in the camp meeting, away down in the woods, on the Vienna road, he was a very passable exhorter in evening meetings." (p. 214)

PROVENANCE:

- 1) Hon. **Heman J. REDFIELD**, Batavia, New York (see p. 211)
- 2) **Lewis H. REDFIELD** (ca. 1792-1882), Syracuse, New York (newspaper editor, publisher, bookseller, p. 211)
- 3) **Franklin H[enry]. CHASE** (1864-1940), Syracuse, New York (newspaper editor, historian, book collector)

On the inside front cover is the bookplate of Mr. Chase,

. . . well-known Syracuse journalist and historian, . . . son of . . . Van Buren Chase . . . [who] spent sixty-two years in the service of the "Syracuse Journal," and was in charge of the composing room of the newspaper during most of that time. Franklin Henry Chase . . . entered the composing room of the "Syracuse Journal" in 1880, having reached his sixteenth year. . . . Mr. Chase worked on the copy desk, covered news in the upper courts, served as dramatic editor of the paper and for thirteen years edited the tri-weekly "Journal." During this period, his short stories and articles frequently appeared in other publications. . . . In latter years he spent much time abroad as foreign correspondent for the "Journal" in thirty-five countries . . . The history of Syracuse and the section of which it is a part was one of his greatest interests. He was a recognized authority on this subject, author of several thousand historical articles and of . . . [several] published volumes . . . Since 1895 he had been secretary of the Onondaga Historical Association and since 1919 had served as city historian of Syracuse . . . **Collecting books and early prints was his favorite hobby.** [*Central New York, An Inland Empire*, Vol. 4 (NY: Lewis Historical Pub. Co., Inc., [1941]), pp. 386-7 (emphasis added)]

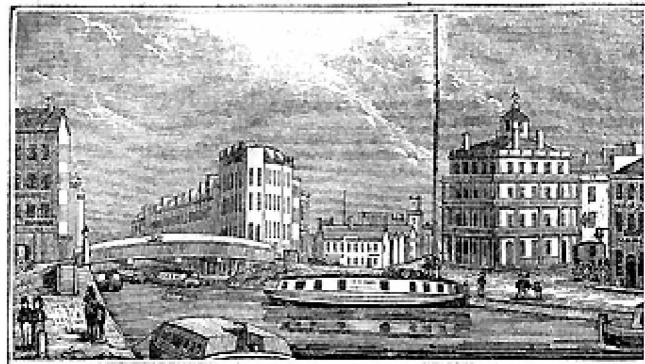


Mr. Chase, in his own work, *Syracuse and its Environs; A History*, Vol. 2 (NY & Chicago: Lewis Hist. Pub. Co., 1924), had the following to say about the man who owned this very volume now offered here, before he owned it himself. In a section sub-titled, "Why Newspaper Men Moved to Syracuse," he even obliges us with an explanation of why the previous owner had not stayed in Wayne County:

It was practically decided in 1829 that Syracuse was to be the principal place of Central New York. If it had not been so decided it is exceedingly doubtful if such keen newspaper men as Lewis H. Redfield and Vivus W. Smith would have moved their newspapers to Syracuse. . . . Mr. Redfield frankly told his readers in the Onondaga "Register" of April 22, 1829, that he was moving to Syracuse not only for the good of the newspaper, but for his own good. . . .

Now, this Lewis H. Redfield was the pioneer printer and publisher of Onondaga who lasted. Thurlow Weed, the great editor, had been apprentice printer and editor—there were no reporters—in this same Onondaga, but he sought other pastures. Mr. Redfield had learned his trade at Canandaigua, and he was looking for a prospect when he located in Onondaga. His printing office outfit cost him \$1,400, and with only one apprentice as an assistant, he ended the first year free from debt.

. . . In the first issue of the Onondaga "Register" and Syracuse "Gazette" on May 6, 1829, Mr. Redfield called attention to the fact that it was published in the handsome new brick building opposite the Syracuse House. That building was upon the site of the present Gridley Building, and was upon the bank of the canal at Salina Street.



Western view in the central part of Syracuse.

Mr. Redfield had a bookstore with his printing office at the [Onondaga] Hollow, and, when he retired from the newspaper business in 1832, he continued his book business in Syracuse for twelve years longer. He was a city builder with an eye out for the finer things of life. It was he who brought out Lewis Gaylord Clark and Wyllis Gaylord Clark, both of whom achieved literary fame in the Knickerbocker Circle. Mr. Redfield was the village president in 1834, and it was to his efforts in the main that Syracuse now has Forman Park, where the Redfield Memorial is located. He died July 14, 1882, at the age of ninety, never ceasing to take pride in the fact that he was a practical printer, and upon the shaft which marks his grave in Oakwood [Cemetery], there is the inscription which he prepared himself: "Lewis H. Redfield, printer—a worn and battered form gone to be recast more beautiful and perfect." [Chase, pp. 657-8. View of Syracuse, ca. 1840, from John W[arner]. Barber and Henry Howe, *Historical Collections of the State of New York* . . . (NY: Published for the Authors, By S. Tuttle, 1841), p. 395. I believe the brick building mentioned above would be the one just left of the center of the image.]

Onondaga, New York, is a southern suburb of Syracuse (just northwest of your present bookseller's home), where Mrs. Solomon Spaulding once kept her late husband's famous manuscript in a house which still stands, I am told, to the present day. It is by no means unlikely that Mr. Redfield would have been acquainted with another very prominent Syracuse citizen, John Farnham Boynton (died 1890), one of Joseph Smith's original twelve apostles, 1835. For additional particulars about Redfield's printing career, see Milton W. Hamilton, *The Country Printer, New York State, 1785-1830* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1936), p. 293, mentioning that Redfield was also a presidential elector in 1872.

Tombstone inscription in Syracuse's historic Oakwood Cemetery.

LEWIS H. REDFIELD, PRINTER.
A worn and battered form,
Gone to be re-cast
More beautiful and perfect.

Text of the above photo of the book pages:

<http://olivercowdery.com/texts/1851Trn3.htm>

Peleg Redfield, was a townsman of Mr. Phelps in Suffield; was a musician in the Connecticut line during the Revolution. In 1799, he exchanged with Mr. Phelps, his small farm in Suffield, for 200 acres, wherever he should choose to locate, on any unsold lands of Mr. Phelps. He selected the land where he now resides on the Rail Road, a mile and a half west of Clifton Springs; (a judicious selection, as any one will allow, who sees the fine farm into which it has been converted;) clearing three acres and erecting the body of a log house, he removed his family in Feb. 1800, consisting of a wife and six children. "The journey," says a son of his, "was performed with a sleigh and a single span of horses. Besides the family, the sleigh was loaded with beds and bedding, and articles of household furniture. I shall never forget this, my first journey to the Genesee country, especially that portion of it west of Utica. The snow was three feet deep, and the horses tired and jaded by the cradle-holes, often refused to proceed farther with their load. I had the privilege of riding down hill, but mostly walked with my father, my mother driving the team."

Arriving at their new home, the Pioneer family found shelter with a new settler, "until the bark would peel in the spring," when a roof was put upon the body of the log house that Mr. Redfield had erected; openings made for a door and window, and bass-wood logs split for a floor. Here the family remained until autumn, when a double log house had been erected. Mr. Redfield is now in his 80th year; his memory of early events, retentive, and his physical constitution remarkable for one of his years. He is the father of the Hon. Heman J. Redfield, of Batavia; of Lewis H. Redfield, the well known editor, publisher, and bookseller at Syracuse; Hiram Redfield of Rochester, George Redfield, Cass co. Michigan, Alexander H. Redfield of Detroit, Cuyler Redfield, with whom he resides upon the old homestead. His son, Manning Redfield, of Manchester, was killed in a mill where he was marketing his grain in 1850. One of his daughters, was the wife of Leonard Short, of Shortsville, and the other, of Marvin Minor, a merchant at Bergen and Johnson's creek. "I could have made my location at Fort Hill, near Canandaigua," said the old gentleman to the author, "but a town was growing up there, and I feared its influence upon my boys." There are many Pioneer fathers who have lived to regret, that they had not been governed by the same prudent motive.

The Pioneer mother died in 1844, aged 80 years. It will appear incredible to the house keepers, and young mothers of the present day, when they are told, that Mrs. Redfield, in early years, when she had a family of six and seven children, performed all her ordinary house-work, milked her own cows; and carded, spun and wove, all the woolen and linen cloth that the family wore. But the old gentleman thinks it should be added, that he and the boys lightened her labor, by uniformly wearing buckskin breeches in the winter; though the mother had them to make.

REMINISCENCES OF PELEG REDFIELD.

In 1800, a log house had been vacated; we fitted it up and hired Elam Crane* to teach a school. It was a mile from my house, and my boys used to go through the woods by marked trees.

In early years, wolves were a great nuisance; nothing short of a pen sixteen rails high, would protect our sheep. In winters, when hungry, they would collect together and prowl around the log, dwellings; and if disappointed in securing any prey, their howling would startle even backwoodsmen. The Indian wars upon the wolf with great hatred; it is in a spirit of revenge for their preying upon their game, the deer. In the side hill, along on my farm, they dug pits, covered them over with light brush and leaves, and bending down small trees, suspended the offals of deer directly over the pits. In springing for the bait the wolf would land in the bottom of the pits where they could easily be killed. The salmon used to ascend the Canandaigua outlet, as far up as Shortsville, before mill dams were erected. The speckled trout were plenty in the Sulphur Spring brook; and in all the small streams.

In 1805, I was erecting my frame house, and wanted glass and nails. I went with oxen and sled to Utica, carrying 50 bushels of wheat. I sold it for \$1.68 per bushel, to Watts Sherman, a merchant of Utica, and paid 18 d. per pound for wrought nails; \$7.50 for two boxes of glass. (Mr. Redfield has preserved his store bill: It is made out and signed by Henry B. Gibson, the well known Canandaigua Banker, who was the book keeper in Sherman's store.)

It was pretty easy for young men to secure farms, in the earliest years of settlement. I knew many who received a dollar a day for their labor, and bought lands for twenty five cents per acre.

Redfield and Forman Memorial >

In Forman Park, the Fidarco Landi sculpture of Lewis H. Redfield (standing) and Joshua Forman (sitting) stands in memorial to the men who gave the land for the park. The memorial, which was cast in Florence, Italy, was given by Mrs. Margaret Treadwell Smith and was unveiled on January 1, 1908.



Dr. Timothy Teall

Connecticut Militia
Military Lodge No. 93, Treasurer
by Andrew Wheeler

<http://www.sar.org/azssar/Newsletters/2002-10.pdf>

Timothy Teall was born on May 27, 1754 in Middleton, CT. He was one of eleven children of Ruth (Hurd) and Oliver Teall. Timothy and his brothers Titus, Oliver, Joseph and Nathan all fought in the Revolution for the Americans. Another brother, Benjamin, was not permitted to enlist because of a loss of an eye in childhood. However, his sympathies were with his brothers and that of other Americans. However, their father, Oliver, was a career surgeon in the British army and his loyalties remained with England. One can only imagine the family disputes that occurred at this point. Timothy Teall's first action in the Revolution was to answer the call to the Lexington Alarm. This call was in response to the attack at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. Timothy first three years in the war was with the Connecticut Militia's 8th Company under Captain Samuel Gale.

The Teall family paid a price in the fight for liberty. Titus, Timothy's brother, died during the harsh winter at Valley Forge on February 2, 1778 of small pox. While serving in Colonel Mead's Regiment, Timothy was taken prisoner at Horse Neck, CT in 1780 during a battle made famous by General Israel Putnam's escape. Initially, he was held in a British man-o-war that was patrolling the New England coast. After a short time, Timothy was transferred to a hold of a British prisoner of war ship in New York's harbor. He remained a prisoner of war until the end of the revolution. He was so emaciated that upon his return to Connecticut after the war that his family failed to recognize him.

After the war Timothy returned to his profession as physician in Middleton, CT. In 1791, Timothy relocated his family to Manlius, NY. He became one of the first physicians in Manlius. He was the first Deputy Sheriff in Onondaga County, NY. He also was elected as town clerk and assessor during his life in Manlius. He was an active member and elected as one of the first vestryman of Manlius Trinity Church, now known as Christ's Church. He died on June 14, 1820 and is buried in the Fayetteville/ Manlius Cemetery, NY.

The first meeting for the organization of Lodge No. 93, Manlius, was composed of Masons of Chenango and Onondaga Counties, and was held June 30, 1802. The first officers elected were: Caleb B. Merrill, WM; Timothy Teall, SW; and David Williams, JW. The first meeting under the charter was held November 4, 1802.

Oliver Teall

Military Lodge No. 93
Syracuse Lodge No. 484

<http://www.fremonthistory.com/erie-canal.htm>



Oliver Teall was born 5 Aug 1788 in Killingworth, CT, and was a son of Dr. Timothy Teall above, who settled with his family in Manlius. Working on a farm until he was about 18 years old, he afterward engaged in making lime, the tanning business and shoe-making, iron smithing, etc. He was a lieutenant of a company in 1812, and marched to Oswego, gaining his well known title. In 1818 he took a large contract on the middle section of the Erie Canal, and after he took up his residence in Syracuse, constructed the first water works, operated mills, dealt largely in real estate, was appointed superintendent of the canal, and actively supported the public institutions of Syracuse. His wife was Catharine Walter, of Manlius, who died 30 Sep 1836. Mr. Teal died 15 Aug 1857. He was the father of William W. Teall. (p. 408, Bruce, Dwight H. "Onondaga's Centennial." 1896)

Oliver Teall (1788-1857) and his brother-in-law Rueben H. Bangs (1788-1872) had the contract for the portion of the canal about a mile west of the Limestone Creek aqueduct. Vrooman and Hempstead had the contract for the section west of the aqueduct and up to where Bangs and Teall's section. Aaron C. Hoar supplied stone for the Limestone and Butternut Creek aqueducts, as well as finishing parts of Bangs, Teall, Vrooman and Hempstead's sections.

Back in 1819, Rueben Bangs and Oliver Teall commenced a business to produce lime. It was used to make cement for canal construction. That cement went into the banks of the Erie, its face works and locks and arches. By the time the feeder extension was complete in 1828, Seymour Pratt had joined Bangs in the lime business, and had their kilns on the extension, near where the lock was located. Later Pratt would be replaced by Ed Gaynor. These enterprising men got the limestone from Dry Hill and burned it in their kilns at the lime works. Then the powdery lime would be shoveled from the bottom of the kilns and stored in their warehouse for future shipment. After Gaynor joined Bangs it became known as, Bangs and Gaynor Lime and Plaster Works. Pratt and Oliver Teall had also completed a dry-dock and boat yard on the west side of the feeder extension by 1830. Most areas along the canal needed these dry-docks for the repair of canal boats as they plied the Erie.

In 1819 Oliver Teall became a resident of Syracuse and settled in what became known as "Lodi," as seen on the map of 1834. He purchased extensive tracts of land in that section and built mills which were operated by the surplus water from the canal under concession from the State. On 27 Mar 1821 a law was passed by the Legislature (chapter 176) entitled "An act to supply the village of Syracuse with wholesome water." The franchise under this act was transferred to Mr. Teall in 1829 for the term of 20 years, he was invested with all the rights and powers granted in the original act of 1821. This act also prescribed the rates which Mr. Teall

should charge for water, viz.: a private family, not exceeding \$5 per year; a boarding house \$10, and a hotel \$10. In case Mr. Teall failed to exercise the rights and powers granted him within one year from the date of the act, they were to revert to the village, which proved to be the case, and they were then reconveyed to him for a period of thirty-five years by an act passed 22 Apr 1834.

Nothing further was accomplished until 29 Mar 1842 when an amendment to former acts was passed, permitting Mr. Teall to charge \$10 per hear for supplying water to a private family, \$20 to a boarding house and \$40 to a hotel. Under this amendment Mr. Teall began the construction of his water works. The first wooden pipes were laid in 1842 or early 1843, and brought water from springs situated at the foot of the hill above Lodi Street, on blocks 404 and 504. Subsequently Ira Seymour and (Bro.) Aaron Burt became associated with Mr. Teall in the water works, under the firm name of Teall, Seymour & Burr, which continued until 1849. (Ibid. p. 408 and 504)

Capt. Oliver Teall had two small saw mills and a grist mill near the Lodi Locks in Syracuse. Regarding the territory south of the canal and east of Salina Street, it may be stated that between Fayette Part and Chestnut Street there were no buildings and no cultivated land. The forest had been cut away on the north side of the Genesee Turnpike, but the stumps were all standing in 1827-28. South of the Turnpike, the swamp, shrubs and trees were in their primeval condition. (Ibid. p. 423)

The Onondaga County Bank was incorporated on 15 Apr 1830 by:

Bigelow, Otis ¹	Jackson, Charles	Litchfield, Elisha	Strong, Oliver R. ⁴	Wilkinson, John
Burt, Aaron ²	Jenkins, Herman	Marsh, Moses S.	Teall, Oliver ²	
Edwards, Samuel L.	Jewett, F. G.	Sabin, William H. ³	VanVleck, Matthew ⁵	

The above, as indicated, were Brothers of the following Lodges:

- 1 Pleiades Lodge No. 354, Baldwinsville
- 2 Military Lodge No. 93, Manlius
- 3 Onondaga Lodge No. 98
- 4 Onondaga Lodge No. 98; Onondaga Chapter No. 20, RAM
- 5 Salina Lodge No. 327

On 9 Apr 1838m the Legislature passed an act for the reorganization of the Onondaga County Agricultural Society, naming Oliver Teall, among others, as a Trustee. (Ibid. p. 108)

<http://boards.ancestry.com/localities.northam.usa.states.newyork.counties.onondaga/5221/mb.ashx>
LIBER ??, Page 214

This indenture made 18 December 1830 between Oliver TEAL and Catherine his wife of the Town of SALINA of Onondaga County of the first part and Sylvester SPENCER of the town of MANLIUS and county aforesaid of the second part witnesseth...for \$400.00... a parcel of land in the town of CICERO bounded and described beginning in the south west corner of LOT 80 and running east on the south line thereof one hundred and sixty rods thence with north parallel with the west line of the lot fifty rods thence west parallel with the south line of the lot to the west line thence south on the west line of the lot to the place of beginning containing fifty acres of land. This conveyance is made subject to the following conditions and reservation that if at anytime the title to sixty four acres of land on lot number twenty six in the town of Manlius this day conveyed by the said party of the second part and wife to the said Oliver TEAL by deed of warranty shall fail or prove not to be good then this conveyance and every right herein conveyed to cease and be void and the said parties of the first part reserves to themselves all the sawing timber on twenty acres of an equal which on the east end of the fifty acres herein conveyed together with the right and privilege of going on and off the lot hereby conveyed at any and all seasons for the purpose of cutting and removing the said timber whereby reserved, Oliver TEAL and Katherine TEAL...in the presence of John WILKINSON; D.G. MONTGOMERY, Coms of deeds, A. Edwards, Clerk.

<http://www.ilovethefingerlakes.com/history/historic-places-onondaga.htm>

Oliver Teall House

105 S. Beech Street, Syracuse, NY 13210
Period: 1800-1824
Ownership: Private

Historic Significance: Association with Oliver Teall (1788-1857), considered one of Syracuse's founding fathers. Teall is linked with relative Rueben Bangs (1788-1872) throughout most of his life. The two owned portions of the same military lots in Syracuse, and in 1819 started a business producing lime used in making cement for the face works, locks, and arches of the Erie Canal. The limestone was mined on Dry Hill (sometimes by Aaron C. Hoar) and was burned in kilns to convert it to a powder, then shoveled from the bottom of the kilns, and transferred to a warehouse where it was stored. The kilns were often located on the extensions near the locks. Teall and Bangs had a contract for the construction of a portion of the Canal about a mile west of the Limestone Creek aqueduct. In 1828, they were joined by Seymour Pratt. Pratt was replaced by Ed Gaynor at which point the company was named Bangs and Gaynor Lime and Plaster Works. By 1830, the men had constructed a dry-dock and boat yard on the west side of the feeder extension to allow boats to dock for repairs. Teall later became the Canal's superintendent. At one point he was awarded a 35-year monopolistic franchise to supply water to Syracuse, but he failed to take advantage of this opportunity. When Teall died in 1857, he left behind some land in California, the ownership of which was later disputed and that became the center of a famous U.S. Supreme Court decision.

U.S. Supreme Court
TEALL v. SCHRODER, 158 U.S. 172 (1895)
158 U.S. 172
TEALL et al. v. SCHRODER et al.
No. 275.

May 6, 1895

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=us&vol=158&invol=172>

F. P. Dewees and H. M. Foote, for appellants. [158 U.S. 172, 173] S. F. Leib and M. M. Estee, for appellees.

Mr. Justice FIELD delivered the opinion of the court.

This is a suit in equity brought in the circuit court of the United States for the Northern district of California by Jane M. Teall, Timothy H. Teall, and Harvey Benedict, residents and citizens of the state of New York, against A. Schroder and 334 other defendants, residents and citizens of the state of California, to enforce the transfer by them to the complainants of certain lands described in the bill of complaint, situated in the city of San Jose, in that state, and represented as covering a large part of the city. There are various charges made as to the manner in which the defendants came into possession of the property, imputing fraudulent conduct on their part, and invoking the interposition of the equity powers of the court for its correction.

The bill was filed on the 1st of June, 1889, and represents that the complainants are residents and citizens of the state of New York, and have never been in California, and that the defendants are residents and citizens of California; that one Oliver Teall, stated to be the ancestor of the complainants, was on the 1st day of August, 1857, the owner and in possession of certain real property, situated in the city of San Jose, county of Santa Clara, in the latter state, more particularly described as certain pieces or parcels of land and town lots, designated by certain numbers in blocks, on the official map or plat of the city; and alleges that on the 2d day of February, 1852, he executed and delivered to one Davis Devine an instrument of writing appointing him his attorney in fact, and authorizing him in his, Teall's, name, and to his use, to enter upon and take possession of all lands, tenements, and hereditaments in the state of California to which he then was or might thereafter become entitled, or in which he was or might become interested, and in his name to grant, bargain, and sell, or to lease and demise, the same, or any parcel thereof, [158 U.S. 172, 174] for such sum or price as to him, Devine, might seem meet, and to execute good and sufficient deeds of conveyance by quitclaim for the same.

That power of attorney was duly acknowledged and filed for record in the office of the recorder of the county of Santa Clara on the 16th day of March, 1852, and has ever since remained on the records of the county, and was unrevoked and in full force until the death of Teall on the 12th day of August, 1857.

The bill further alleges that prior to the 1st day of August, 1857, Devine, as attorney in fact of Teall, and pursuant to the authority thus vested in him, took possession of all the premises mentioned, and continued in possession thereof until his death; that, in violation of the trust reposed in him, on a day and date unknown to the complainants, but while in possession of the premises as the attorney in fact of Teall, he caused the whole of the premises to be conveyed to himself in the following manner, to wit: 'Pretending to act as attorney in fact of Teall, he executed and delivered to one A. L. Rhodes a deed of release and quitclaim of all of the premises, bearing date as of the 1st day of August, 1857, and reciting a consideration of \$5,000, and that on the same day said A. L. Rhodes, by a similar deed, with a similar consideration recited, reconveyed all of the premises to Devine; that the conveyances were acknowledged on the 17th day of September, 1857, and were recorded on the 8th day of October thereafter, and have ever since remained on the records of the county of Santa Clara.'

The bill further alleges that the alleged conveyances, and each of them, were fraudulent and void as to Oliver Teall and those claiming under him; that no consideration passed from Rhodes to Devine, or from Devine to Rhodes, therefor; that the same were not authorized by Teall, nor was any consideration paid to him therefor, nor was any ratification thereof ever made by him, but that the deeds were made solely for the purpose of enabling Devine to deal with and dispose of the property as his own, and to defraud Teall and those claiming under him out of the property. [158 U.S. 172, 175] The bill further alleges that on the 12th day of August, 1857, Teall died in the city of Syracuse, in the state of New York, of which place he had for many years been a resident; and also, upon information and belief, that the conveyances from Devine to Rhodes and from Rhodes to Devine were not executed upon the dates borne by them respectively, but were executed after the death of Teall on the 17th of September, 1857; that during all this time the premises were, and still are, within the boundaries of the former pueblo of San Jose de Guadalupe, and are included in the pueblo and its successor, the city of San Jose, a municipal corporation organized under the laws of California, and that the constituted authorities thereof, by virtue of a grant of the Mexican government made prior to the cession of California to the United States, held the premises in trust for persons in possession or entitled to the possession thereof; that on the 4th of June, 1884, letters patent of the United States were issued to the mayor and common council of the city of San Jose, as the constituted authorities of the city, for the premises under the trust mentioned, and that the legal title is now held by the patentee, except as the same has been conveyed to others by those authorities and their predecessors; that all the defendants, except the mayor and common council of the city of San Jose, have entered upon and are now in possession of portions of the premises by virtue of conveyances from Devine made subsequently to the record of the conveyance to him by Rhodes.

It is apparent from the development of the facts in this case that the allegations of fraud on the part of Rhodes and Devine, as set forth in the bill, are made, not upon any knowledge of facts showing such fraud by the complainants, but upon surmises or conclusions inferred by them from the circumstance that no conveyance of the premises in controversy appears of record from Devine to Oliver Teall, after the execution by the latter of the power of attorney to him, or to any other person for Teall's benefit.

As appears from the admitted allegations of the bill, and the proceedings in the case, Oliver Teall, after the execution of his power of attorney to Devine, but on what particular day [158 U.S. 172, 176] is not stated, removed from the state of California to Syracuse, in the state of New York, and there resided until his death on the 12th of August, 1857. But it does not appear from anything disclosed in the record or proceedings that he ever revoked in the meantime the power of attorney to sell his property executed by him to Devine, or that Devine ever communicated with the complainants respecting the

property of which he had been constituted an attorney in fact to sell or lease, or that he made any sales or leases thereof for Teall, or remitted to him any money on their account. All that can be learned from the record in this case is that after the departure of Teall from California to New York he never exercised any control over any of the property, or made any improvements thereon, or executed any leases or made any sales thereof, or claimed any right to exercise any such control. It appears that after his removal Devine claimed to be the owner of the premises in San Jose, respecting which the power of attorney purported to be issued, and managed and controlled the same as absolute owner thereof, and, so far as disclosed, that no one ever called in question his right as owner. In the meantime, and during the several years of Devine's residence in San Jose, from 1852 until his death in 1876, a period of 24 years, the city of San Jose greatly increased in population and wealth, from a small town to a city of over 30,000 inhabitants, embracing many large houses and public buildings, and was noted for the beauty of its scenery and the healthfulness of its climate. From these advantages it naturally became an attractive place of residence in the state, and was the seat of many institutions of learning. During this period the title of the city, which rested upon an alleged Mexican grant of several leagues, was investigated by the authorities of the United States, and finally confirmed under the act providing for the settlement of private land claims in California, and a patent of the United States was issued to the municipal authorities of the city, as the successors of the pueblo, for the lands embraced within its boundaries, and under such patent the title was vested in parties in possession of the property under conveyances from Devine [158 U.S. 172, 177] executed after the power of attorney was issued to him by Teall. The titles conferred by such conveyances from the pueblo authorities have always been respected and maintained. While the property in controversy, consisting of several hundred different parcels of land in the city of San Jose, and county of Santa Clara, remained in the possession of Devine, or parties claiming by conveyances from him, without any disturbance of their asserted title and any question of its validity, and 32 years after the death of Teall and 14 years after the death of Devine, when the circumstances attending the acquisition of the title to the property involved had passed from the recollection of the survivors or successors of the claimants, consisting of numerous individuals, partnerships, companies, and corporations, numbering in all 335 defendants, the present suit was brought to obtain a transfer to the complainants of the property held by parties claiming under Devine, with allegations of fraudulent conduct on the part of some of the parties which we have mentioned, the better to enable the complainants to invoke the equity jurisdiction of the court for their protection.

To the bill the defendants, appearing in different sets, demurred, alleging, as grounds of demurrer, that more than 31 years had elapsed since the alleged causes of complaint accrued to the complainants and those under whom they claim, whereby the causes of complaint had become barred by the statute of limitations of the state, and had also become stale under the general rules of equity jurisprudence.

The law of the state creating the limitations, to which particular reference was made, is found in section 19 of the act defining the time for commencing civil actions, passed April 22, 1850, and in subdivision 4 of section 338 of the Code of Civil Procedure of California. And, further, it was contended that the alleged causes of complaint had become stale because of the lapse of time, according to the general principles of equity, and that the complainants had been guilty of laches in failing to attempt the enforcement of the same at the proper time, and it was insisted that so long a time had passed since the matters took place that it would be contrary to equity and [158 U.S. 172, 178] good conscience for the court to take cognizance thereof, and to require any answer to them. Section 19 of the act of April 22, 1850, reads as follows: 'An action for relief, not hereinbefore provided for, must be commenced within four years after the cause of action shall have accrued.' This section applies specifically to actions for equitable relief. Other sections of the act provide for the limitation of actions at law. Subdivision 4 of section 338 of the Code of Civil Procedure is as follows: 'An action for relief on the ground of fraud or mistake must be brought within four years after the cause of action accrues; the cause of action in such case not to be deemed to have accrued until the discovery, by the aggrieved party, of the facts constituting the fraud or mistake.'

The power of attorney from Teall to Devine was on record from March, 1852, and open to the daily inspection of the complainants, and of all parties interested in the title to the property. They could have ascertained by inquiry from Teall at any time previous to his death, and from many others afterwards, the character of the title, and the reasons why the property was allowed to remain in its then condition and under the control of an attorney in fact of Teall. And the conveyances from Devine to Rhodes, and from Rhodes to Devine, which are stated in the bill to have been made previous to August 1, 1857, were placed on record on the 8th of October, 1857, and remained on record ever afterwards, open to the inspection of all parties desirous of obtaining information respecting their execution or the property to which they related. As the complainants and all other parties interested could have obtained the necessary knowledge upon those subjects by proper inquiries, they are charged with such knowledge from the time those conveyances were placed on record, and held to all the consequences following its acquisition.

The court below was of opinion that these grounds of demurrer were well taken, and sustained them, and ordered the suit to be dismissed. From this decree sustaining the demurrer, and dismissing the bill, the present appeal was brought to this court.

Aside from the general considerations upon which the dismissal [158 U.S. 172, 179] of the suit must be maintained in a court of law or equity, from the fact that the statute of limitations of California bars the action, whether brought at law or in equity, there are other considerations arising upon the facts stated which show that the complainants were barred from all relief when this suit was instituted. It is evident that Devine considered himself and acted as owner of the property after the conveyance made to him by Rhodes, to whom he had conveyed the same under the power of attorney from Teall.

Wherever property is claimed by one as owner, and he exercises acts or ownership over it, and the validity of such acts is not questioned by his neighbors until after the lapse of many years, when the statute of limitations has run, and those who, for any apparent defects in the title of the property, would naturally be most deeply interested in enforcing their claims, make no objection thereto, a fair presumption arises, from the conduct of the parties, that the title of the holders and claimants of the property is correctly stated by them.

In the present case it appears that Teall, represented as having the title, executed a power of attorney to his son-in-law, Devine, and subsequently left the state of California, and settled in Syracuse, N. Y., leaving the property in the hands of his son-in-law in California, who afterwards claimed to be the owner thereof, and exercised acts or ownership over it, unquestioned by any one; and, no subsequent claim being made to the ownership by Teall, or by any relative of his, not even so far as to pay or offer to pay any taxes on the property, and many years having elapsed, covering the period prescribed by the statute of limitations for instituting suits for its recovery, and rights of property to large numbers having accrued thereunder, it may be fairly presumed by the courts that the statement of the party thus exercising unquestioned ownership was correct. The holding of property under a claim of ownership for many years operates to confer a title by adverse possession, which the courts, in the interest of the peace of the community and of society generally, will not permit to be disturbed.

It is suggested, and the suggestion is a reasonable one, that Devine was really the owner of the property, although, in [158 U.S. 172, 180] view of the many questions arising under the Mexican law as to the actual condition of the title of the land covered by the grant to the pueblo previous to its confirmation, he took the precaution, which at the time was deemed wise, to act as the attorney of the ostensible owner, rather than as the actual owner, and that subsequently a deed was transmitted to Teall for execution, conveying the title in fee to Devine, in the place of the power of attorney. But, as stated, news of his sickness having been received by Devine, it was thought best to convey the title to Rhodes, who subsequently could convey it to Devine in case a deed was not received from Teall before his death. This may seem to be a strained view of the case, but, considering the silence which Teall and his relatives observed respecting the property, the refusal of every one who might claim under him if he continued in possession of a valid title to take part in any attempt to disturb Devine's title, and the continued management and control of the property by the latter for 24 years, it does not make the suggestion at all improbable.

Whether this be true or not, the right of Devine, after so many years of undisputed and notorious possession of the property, with a claim of its ownership, shuts out, under the statute of limitations of California, the claims of all other persons either to its possession or ownership. Decree affirmed.

Cornelius Tyler Longstreet Son of Cornelius Longstreet,

Onondaga Chapter No. 20, Royal Arch Masons, Onondaga Hollow, New York

<http://john.rootsweb.com/Longstreet/History/history.html>

Cornelius' father James d. when Cornelius was 8 years old; his uncle Cornelius Ten Broeck of Harlingen, NJ became his guardian and apparently the Ten Broecks rather than the Longstreets became his mentors. His uncle Peter Ten Broeck was a surveyor on the NY frontier and became an early settler in Onondaga County, NY. (NYG&BR 16:153). This probably accounts for young Cornelius leaving his ancestral home in New Jersey and going to the new country where his uncle was. Cornelius appeared in Onondaga in 1802 and opened a store there. Soon he married the daughter of one of the founders of Syracuse, i.e. Deborah Tyler. In later years, one of Cornelius' sons (Cornelius Tyler Longstreet) gave the following information to the author of (LH15):

He d. in 1814, leaving a large property for those times, which, however, through the mismanagement of his executors, was nearly lost to the family except for their use for a few years.

Cornelius was one of the 22 trustees who organized the Onondaga Academy (LH18, p.129) His will (Bk.B, p.128) dated 11-24-1814, was written in his 37th year, reads in part as follows:

I, Cornelius Longstreet, of the town and county of Onondaga in the State of New York, do make and ordain and publish this my last will and testament as follows: First, I give and bequeath unto my wife Deborah, her heirs and assigns 20 acres in a square form to be taken off the S.E. corner of lot #120 in the Reservation aforesaid, bounded..... And I do also give unto the said Deborah all her wearing apparel and such household furniture as I now possess as may be deemed necessary for the convenience of the said Deborah and family in case she should choose to keep house, and I also give and bequeath to the said Deborah the barn now standing on lot #120 aforesaid.... I also constitute and appoint Job Tyler of Marcellus, John Van Pelt of Onondaga executors of this my last will and testament..... and to pay over annually unto the Said Deborah during her lifetime and on her personal applications the sum of \$140.00 and also appropriate such sums for the maintenance and education of my children as shall be necessary and they deem expedient.

The children are not named in the will, but their names and dates of birth were secured in 1912 from Cornelius' great granddaughter, Mrs. Sarah L. Tolman of Syracuse. These data may also be found in (FH12, I, p.395), and in the public library of Syracuse.

It was not until 1945 that it was possible to identify with certainty this Onondaga County Cornelius with the son Cornelius of #45 James. The relation was only a well-founded deduction until the discovery in 1945 of two letters in the C.T. Longstreet file in the Onondaga Historical Association. It is a strange coincidence that these letters should have been preserved. The first was addressed to "Cornelius Longstreet of Princeton, or to Samuel Beckman, near Rocky Hill, Somerset County, NJ" and was sent from Cooperstown, NY on 8-23-1800, and was signed "A. Ten Broeck", with the salutation "Dr Nephew". This letter refers to "Bro Peter", covers miscellaneous matters about real estate and taxes, and closes with the sentence, "Please to tell your Uncle Sammy know...."

In the possession of R.J. Longstreet, DeLand Florida are a London-made stem-winding watch and two Masonic emblems once owned by Cornelius Longstreet. **He was a member of Onondaga Chapter R.A.M. in 1807.**

(?)....street (NYG&BR16:153). Thus, at long last, we were able to establish the fact that the Cornelius of the old Bergen account (LH20), and which we also copied from Awry's will #8221L, was in reality our own New York great-great-grandfather. The children of Cornelius and Deborah were:

- 223. James b. 5-24-1806
- 224. Elizabeth b. 3-9-1808
- 225. Helen b. 7-15-1810
- 226. Jane b. 6-6-1812
- 227. Cornelius Tyler b. 4-18-1814

Cornelius Tyler Longstreet was born in Onondaga Valley on the 19th of April, 1814, and died in Syracuse on July 4, 1881. His ancestors were from Holland, the founders of the family in America being three brothers who came over in the seventeenth century and settled in New Jersey. Among their descendants were Judge Longstreet, president of Columbia College in South Carolina at the breaking out of the Civil war, and Gen. James Longstreet, a distinguished Southern soldier. Cornelius Longstreet, father of Cornelius P., was a native of Onondaga Hill, where he engaged in mercantile business. In 1805, **he married Deborah, daughter of Comfort Tyler**, the pioneer, and of their family of five children the subject of this sketch was the youngest. The latter was scarcely a year old when his father died; his mother's death occurred in 1826.

Cornelius T. Longstreet inherited sterling traits of character. He attended school until 1827, when he was apprenticed to a tailor in the then small village of Syracuse, where he remained for three years. He then followed his trade in Geddes for a year, and at the age of seventeen opened a shop in that place for himself. Three years later he moved his business to Syracuse and formed a partnership with Henry Agnew, then the leading tailor of the village. He soon became sole owner of a large and profitable establishment and was eminently successful from the start. For ten years his business was probably the largest and most prosperous of its kind in the State outside of New York city. But his ambition carried him beyond the confines of a village into the broader field of wholesale operations. In 1846 he went to New York and founded a wholesale clothing house, which he conducted for six years with characteristic energy and success. He was the first person to ship readymade clothing to California and other Western points. Having amassed a fortune he returned to Syracuse in 1852 and spent about three years in the erection of that landmark known as "Renwick Castle," but in 1855 he again went to New York to assist in establishing his eldest son, Charles A. Longstreet, in the wholesale clothing business, and for several years was associated with him as a silent partner. During this time, however, he maintained his home in Syracuse, whither he returned permanently in 1862.

In 1863 Mr. Longstreet became one of the first board of directors of the First National Bank, a position he held until his death. He was also one of the original incorporators and for nearly thirty years a director of the Mechanics' Bank of Syracuse, which was organized in August, 1851. In politics he was a steadfast Republican from the formation of that party, though he never sought or desired public office. He was charitable and benevolent, and gave liberally of his means to the founding and support of St. Joseph's Hospital, the Old Ladies' Home, and other beneficent charities of the city. He took a keen interest in the advancement of the community, and upon all matters of public importance his influence was effective. He won and retained warm friendships, universal respect, and high esteem, and his life was exemplary in its every phase. He died in Syracuse on July 4, 1881.

Mr. Longstreet married a daughter of Lewis H. Redfield, who with three children, Mrs. Cornelia T. Poor, Charles A., and Edward W. - survived him. Charles A. subsequently died in California and Edward W. in Syracuse.

"History of Onondaga County, New York, 1615 - 1878," by Professor W. W. Clayton, D. Mason & Co., Syracuse, 1878, pp. 214-215

CORNELIUS TYLER LONGSTREET.

Mr. Longstreet, the subject of this biographical notice, is a native of this county, having been born in Onondaga Valley on the 19th of April, 1814. He is the youngest son of Cornelius and Deborah [Tyler] Longstreet, who had a family of five children. His father was a native of New Jersey; his mother was born at Caughnawage, now the village of Fonda, on the Mohawk River. The family of Longstreet, (or Longstreth,) comes from three brothers who immigrated from Holland to America, first stopping in New Jersey in the early settlement of that State. One went to Pennsylvania and settled; a second settled in Georgia, and the third (from whom the subject of this memoir is descended) remained in New Jersey. Judge Longstreet, of the Georgia branch of this family, was President of Columbia College, of South Carolina, at the time of the breaking out of the late war of the Rebellion; he was uncle of Gen. James Longstreet, of the Confederate army, and his family is connected by marriage with some of the most prominent families of the South.

About the year 1802, Cornelius Longstreet came to Onondaga West Hill and opened a general store. He was among the first who sold goods in this county. In the year 1805, he married Deborah, daughter of Col. Comfort Tyler. Col. Tyler was one of the first settlers of the county, coming with Gen. Asa Danforth and his son, Asa, Jr., to Onondaga Valley in 1788. He was then a young unmarried man. Col. Comfort Tyler is said to have felled the first tree, manufactured the first bushel of salt, put the first plow in the ground, and built the first ten miles of turnpike in the county. When the subject of this notice was only eight months old, in the year 1814, his father died, leaving a large property for those times, which, however, through the mismanagement of his executors, was nearly lost to the family, except for their use for a few years and until about the time of the death of the mother, in 1826.

Until the death of his mother, Cornelius T. was kept in school, but about one year afterwards he engaged as an apprentice in Syracuse to the tailoring trade, and after three years he went to Geddes, where he remained until he was seventeen years of age, when he established business for himself as a merchant tailor, buying his stock of goods in New York. After three years he established his business in Syracuse, and for the next ten years is said to have carried on the largest business in this line of any man in the State west of New York city. In the year 1846, perceiving that there was a want in the means of supplying clothing in New York for the northern trade, he removed his business to that city and established a wholesale clothing house, the first for supplying the northern trade. Here his business increased and the change proved very successful. He remained in New York, shipping goods to the Northern and Western states, for six years, when he returned to Syracuse, and for the next three years was engaged in the erection of what is known as "Renwick Castle." In the fall of 1855, he returned to New York for the purpose of establishing his son, Charles A. Longstreet, in the same business which he had himself formerly carried on. He remained there until the fall of 1862, (meantime keeping his family and home in Syracuse,) when he gave up business on account of ill health, returned to his native county, where he now resides.

Since the organization of the First National Bank of Syracuse, he has been one of the directors. He has been also a director of the Mechanics' Bank since its organization.

His first vote was cast in the Whig party, and upon the formation of the Republican party he adopted its principles, and has since unswervingly stood firm upon its platform.

At the age of 23 years, he married Miss Mary E. Barlow, of Syracuse, to whom were born four children - Charles A., Juliet, James L., and Edward W. - all deceased.

His wife died in the year 1846. For his second wife, he married, in the year 1847, Mrs. Caroline A. Sanford, daughter of Lewis H. Redfield, of Syracuse.

By his second wife he had five children, viz: Cally Redfield, Alice Meeta, Comfort Tyler, Cornelius Tyler, and Cornelia Tyler Longstreet, now Mrs. Poor, of Skaneateles, the only surviving child of the second family.

The only surviving offspring by the name of Longstreet, are the three sons, C. Tyler, Jarvis Dennis, and Guy Longstreets, of Los Angeles, California, sons of the late Charles A. Longstreet, who was the eldest son of the subject of this sketch, and for many years a prominent merchant of New York city.

Yates Castle, Syracuse, New York
<http://archives.syr.edu/arch/exhibits/yts.htm>



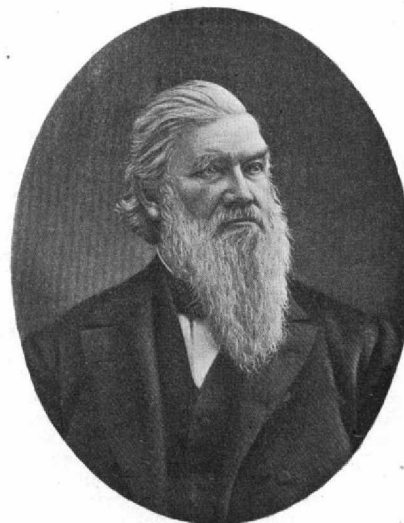
In 1852 Col. Cornelius Tyler Longstreet [Onondaga Lodge 98, F&AM], a successful clothing manufacturer, purchased 49 acres on the outskirts of Syracuse in a district known as "The Highlands". He hired the architect James Renwick, later the designer of St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Smithsonian Institution, to build a "substantial, beautiful, and distinctive" home. Renwick Castle was Tudor Gothic in style and was modeled after the supposed ancestral home of Mrs. Longstreet.

In residence from 1855-1867, the Longstreet family eventually became disenchanted living "far out in the country, cut off from town" in the castle that had become "Longstreet's Folly" to them. Fortunately, Alonzo Chester Yates, Sr., a clothing merchant who had made his fortune in the Civil War, wished to upgrade his fine James Street home to a larger one reflecting his higher station in life. In April of 1867 Mr. Longstreet and Mr. Yates traded houses and the castle was renamed after its new owners.

Improvements were lavished on Yates making it a center of social life with the balls and entertainments the hospitable Alonzo Sr. was known for. His son, Alonzo, Jr., carried on this tradition of extravagance after his father's death until the million-dollar fortune was gone. In 1898 the house was emptied of its treasures and left deserted, standing vacant until 1900.

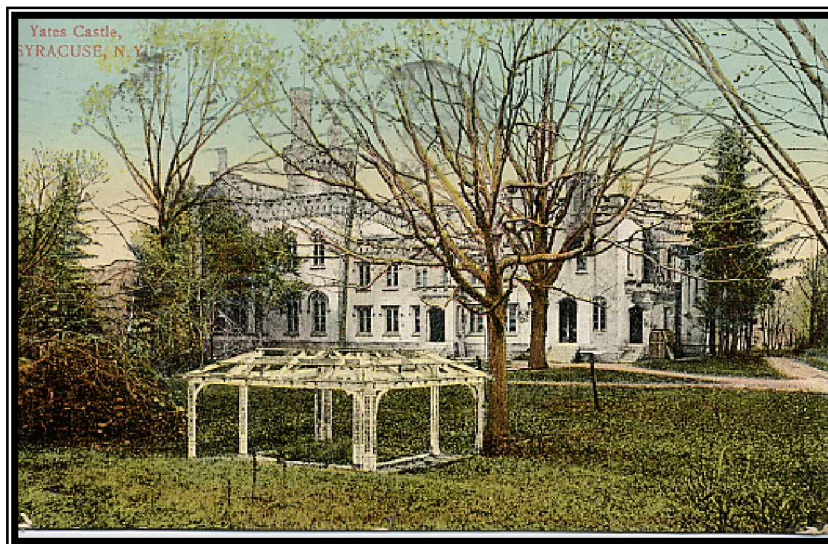
In 1900 Mr. A. Lincoln Travis, the head of a private school for boys, changed Yates Castle into the Syracuse Classical School which ran until 1906. In 1905, after Syracuse University trustees voted to acquire the Yates Castle property, trustee Margaret Slocum Sage donated a sizeable sum to renovate the castle. In 1909 the Margaret Olivia Slocum Teachers College settled into Yates where it remained until 1934.

In 1934 the new SU School of Journalism was moved into Yates Castle, which now became known simply as The Castle and the first Journalism Kastle Kids made the building their own.



CORNELIUS T. LONGSTREET.

Time finally caught up with The Castle when, in 1953, the University of the State of New York, which had taken over operation of the SU Medical School, announced plans for a new wing of the Medical School to be built. The Castle was to be demolished to make way. On April 25, 1953 a farewell ball, complete with period costumes, was held at The Castle to say goodbye. By the spring of 1954 The Castle history ended.



The grandson of early Onondaga Valley settler and salt producer, Bro. Comfort Tyler, Longstreet was a successful clothing merchant and financier noted for commissioning James Renwick, (architect of the Smithsonian Institution) to design his family home. Now demolished, "Yates Castle" as the home was known, stood on Irving Avenue overlooking the city below.

COMFORT TYLER

From *Onondaga; or Reminiscences of Earlier and Later Times, Vol. 1*, by Joshua V. H. Clark, A.M., Stoddard and Babcock, Syracuse, N.Y., 1849, pp. 365-378

[Click here for picture of Comfort Tyler's home, from *Pioneer Times in the Onondaga Country*, by Carroll E. Smith, LL.D., C. W. Bardeen, Publisher, Syracuse, NY, 1904, pg. 53](#)



COMFORT TYLER was born in the town of Ashford, Connecticut, on the 22d of February, 1764, being the fourth of seven brothers. In the year 1777, when only thirteen years of age, he manifested a strong desire to enter the army, and resolved to enlist as a soldier in defense of his country. At the age of fourteen, he entered the army with his father's consent. His term of service was of short duration, and his duties light, being mostly confined to duty in and about the fortress of West Point. In 1783, he went to Caughnawaga, on the Mohawk River, where he entered upon the business of surveyor, taught a school; and as is often the case with young men of gifted minds, he made greater advances in useful knowledge than his pupils. Among the superior men who have emigrated from New-England to the wilderness of Western New York, a large proportion of them have thought it a necessary preliminary to teach school, and to learn the art of surveying land, in order to secure a small fund and successfully to make headway in the world. While Mr. Tyler was thus engaged at Caughnawaga, General James Clinton came up the Mohawk valley with a party, for the purpose of establishing the boundary line between New-York and Pennsylvania; and by him Mr. Tyler was engaged to accompany the expedition. The party transported their bateaux and baggage from the Mohawk River to Otsego Lake, and thence down the Susquehanna, to the State line, being the same route taken by General Clinton, in 1779, in the expedition against the western Indians. Mr. Tyler continued with the party during the season, and then returned to the Mohawk. On this surveying expedition, he first made the acquaintance of Moses DeWitt, who was about his own age, and with whom he was intimately associated till the time of Mr. DeWitt's death.

The next event of importance which occurred during his residence in the Mohawk valley, grew out of his connection with the celebrated "Lessee Company." The constitution of the State forbade the purchase of lands, in fee simple, of the Indians by individuals, reserving to the State alone, the right to make such purchases. An association of men, embracing many of wealth, character and influence, was formed for the purpose of purchasing lease-hold estates of the Indians, for the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years. On their way up the Mohawk valley, they met Mr. Tyler, and offered him a participation in the enterprise, which offer he accepted. They proceeded as far as Canandaigua, where a treaty was held with the

Indians on the bank of the lake: and, so far as they could judge, their object was accomplished. As might have been foreseen, however, the State authorities interfered, and the whole affair vanished in smoke. As the history of this company is but little known, we give the following brief sketch of it. In the winter of 1787-88, was formed the memorable "Lessee Company," composed of John Livingston, Caleb Benton, Peter Ryckman, John Stephenson, Ezekiel Gilbert, Benjamin Birdsall, and others, some eighty-six persons in all*. These gentlemen, entered into an agreement with the chiefs and head men of the Six Nations of the Indians, by which, for consideration afterwards mentioned, the said Six Nations leased "all the land commonly known as the lands of the Six Nations, in the State of New-York, and at the time, in the actual possession of said chiefs and sachems," for the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years, for an annual rent of two thousand Spanish milled dollars, except some insignificant reserves, and some privileges of hunting, fishing, &c., among which are the following:

Reservation first.-"A mile square near the outlet of Cayuga Lake and Cayuga Salt Springs, with one hundred acres of land, to accommodate the same with wood.

Reservation second.-One-half of the falls, and convenient places for weirs, for the purpose of catching fish and eels, from Cross Lake to the Three Rivers.

Reservation third.-Reserving the exclusive right to one of the salt springs near Onondaga, with fifty or one hundred acres of land around the same, sufficient for fire wood, and other conveniences for boiling salt, together with an equal right in common, for eeling and fishing as far as Oneida Lake."

The Indians might reserve any other lands they chose, but the same reverted to the lessees whenever they were abandoned by the Indians. The time for the payment of the rents, was to commence on the 4th of July, 1791.

The leases were signed on the part of the Mohawks by Joseph Brant, and Hendrick Tekarihogea, by three Oneidas, eight Onondagas, twenty-three Cayugas and twenty-two Senecas, among whom were Red Jacket and Little-Beard, and also by ten principal women. Witnesses to the leases, were Samuel Kirkland, James Dean, Jos. Brant, David Smith, Benjamin Barton, M. Hollenback, Elisha Lee and Ezekiel Scott. Dated 9th of July, 1788.

One other lease, was witnessed by the same chief, Brant, as Oneida chief, James Dean, Sam'l Kirkland, Hezekiah Olcott, Jed. Phelps, Nicholas Jourdain and Abram Van Eps, and signed by ten Senecas, five Tuscaroras, five Mohawks, seven Oneidas, and ten Onondagas, besides thirty miscellaneous.

It has been intimated that Brant, Red Jacket and others, of the principal chiefs of the Six Nations, were more than liberally paid for their concurrence in these transactions.

It was thought by many discerning persons, at the time of this transaction, that the leaders in this matter, contemplated nothing less than the dismemberment of the State of New-York, and the erection of a new one, out of the fertile country of the western part.

Many of the most prominent citizens in the State were enlisted in the scheme, and although the laws and constitution expressly forbade the purchase of any lands from the Indians, yet by leasing the same, for the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years, amounted virtually to a sale; although in effect fraudulent, still, undoubtedly, many were innocently engaged in the transaction.

An act was passed, 18th of March, 1789, brought about by the energy of Governor Clinton and Senator Egbert Benson, defining the boundaries of the lessees, authorizing the Governor to destroy all dwellings, houses, barns or other erections, made on any of the Indian lands, by others than Indians, and if necessary, to call out the militia of the State, to speedily and forcibly eject all trespassers on Indian lands.

By these operations, the lessees failed to establish their title to the fertile country of Western New-York, and feeling themselves aggrieved by the interference of the State, petitioned the Legislature for relief; and finally on the 4th of February, 1793, was passed an act authorizing the Commissioners of the Land Office to direct a quantity of the vacant and unappropriated lands in the State, equal to ten miles square, to be set off for their use and benefit. This land was finally located on township No. 3, of the "Old Military Tract," amounting to about sixty-four thousand acres; and this was the final compromise of the State, with the famous "Lessee Company," who once pretended to own and hold all the lands in Western New-York, west of the "Old Line of Property." This Line of Property, often named in the early records of the State Department at Albany, was a line drawn from the north-east corner of the State of Pennsylvania across the State of New-York, in a direction a little east of North, crossing the Mohawk River, near where the dividing line of the counties of Herkimer and Oneida now crosses the same.

By the treaty of 1784, the Six Nations were to occupy all the lands in the State of New-York, west of that line, so distinguished because, beyond that on the west, no white people had acquired a title, except about six miles square, including the Fort at Oswego, and a strip about four miles wide along the Niagara River, which by stipulation in the treaty, the United States had reserved.

The journey of Mr. Tyler to Cayuga was not without benefit, for it enabled him to see and appreciate the beautiful and fertile country west of the Mohawk; and, it was at this time, that he formed the resolution of eventually settling in that portion of the State.

In the spring of 1788, at the age of twenty-three years, in company with Major Asa Danforth, he pushed into the wilderness, fifty miles beyond any white inhabitant, and commenced the permanent settlement of Onondaga county. This was nearly a year before the treaty was held on the bank of the Seneca Lake, between Oliver Phelps and the Indians.**

After the arrival of Col. Tyler at Onondaga, he enjoyed the distinction of having felled the first tree, and of constructing the first piece of turnpike road in the State, west of Fort Stanwix, and of assisting in the first manufacture of salt.

The first individuals who passed the limits of our county to live, were John Harris and James Bennet, who settled at Cayuga in 1789. Mr. Tyler obtained his first cow from Judge White, as well as some grain for seed. Having heard that cows might be had at the garrison at Oswego, he went there and purchased two or three more. Like most of the early settlers, Mr. Tyler was obliged to grind his corn in a mortar made in an oak stump. His mill was standing till the year 1845, near the barn of Mrs. Thaddeus M. Wood, when it was grubbed out and burned, to add to the improvements of the age. It was quite sound.

Col. Tyler was a favorite with the Indians, who named him "To-whan-ta-qua" - meaning one that is double, or one that is a laboring man and a gentleman at the same time, or can do two things at once. So intimate were the associations of the family with the Indians, that some of the children lisped their first accents in the Indian tongue.

Mr. Tyler married for his first wife Miss Deborah Wemple, who died a short time after her marriage, leaving one daughter, who afterwards became the wife of Cornelius Longstreet, father of Mr. C. T. Longstreet. He afterwards married Miss Betsey Brown.

His second wife survived him but a few weeks, leaving but one child, Mrs. Mary Olmstead, now of Cohoes Falls. These two daughters were his only children.

In the summer of 1793, Col. Tyler was severely bitten in the arm by a rabid dog. The wound was instantly done up in salt. He immediately arranged his affairs, bade farewell to his friends, and with the most melancholy feelings, and the prospect of a terrible and certain death before him, set out in quest of a celebrated physician, who professed to cure this horrible malady. He was successful in finding him, submitted to a severe course of treatment, which entirely eradicated the insidious poison, and in a few weeks came home restored to health and usefulness. This would appear incredible but from the fact that the dog had bitten several swine and cattle in the neighborhood, which died with all the symptoms and horrors of that most dreadful of maladies. The dog was killed.

When the Military Tract was surveyed, he was selected to render assistance, and surveyed one of the townships, and subsequently he surveyed the Cayuga reservation. In all the important improvements of the country he bore a conspicuous part, freely appropriating his time and means for the promotion of these objects. He was early selected on account of his sterling worth to fill the highest offices of trust. He was appointed a justice of the peace for the town of Manlius in 1794. He was appointed coroner for Onondaga county in 1794, with Gilbert Tracy. In 1797 he was appointed sheriff of the county of Onondaga, and after Cayuga was set off in 1799, he was appointed clerk for Onondaga, and held that office till 1802. He was the first supervisor of the town of Manlius in 1794, and held the office four years; and represented Onondaga in the Legislature in 1798 and 1799. With a physical constitution remarkably capable of undergoing fatigue, and all the vicissitudes of climate, Mr. Tyler possessed, in an eminent degree, the qualities of enterprise, sagacity, prudence and fortitude. Among the Indians, his firmness and justice soon produced respect and confidence. With the new settlers, as they gradually followed his lonely path into the woods, his intelligence, sympathy and alacrity in aiding them, produced high esteem and devoted friendship. Many of the first settlers of Onondaga, had their spirits perpetually refreshed by glowing anticipations of the future. They knew the importance of their exertions. They labored and suffered in perfect assurance that the great results would follow, which we see realized. Full of these assurances, Mr. Tyler was always active and ardent for opening roads, improving streams, establishing schools, and erecting churches. Extensively acquainted with the topography of the country, he labored assiduously on all occasions, and with much effect, in impressing upon others the views which he entertained of the real wants and true interests of the new settlements. In addition to the encouragement which he gave by his example, to the ordinary and indispensable operations of clearing lands, providing the means of subsistence, and constructing comfortable dwellings, from the first his mind was constantly laboring for the means of facilitating intercourse. With a parental solicitude, he considered the condition of the whole country into which he led the settlers, and comprehended upon the broadest scale, the means of improving it. His zeal for new roads and bridges was deemed romantic. But his knowledge and his perseverance were not to be defeated. As a member of the Legislature, and in all his intercourse with public and private meetings for the general welfare, no person sustained his part better, or effected more, than he did. These subjects were the theme of his remarks, and the object he was most anxious to promote. To him more than to any other man are we indebted for the Seneca Turnpike Road, including the bridge across the Cayuga Lake. This project, which has proved so valuable since its accomplishment, was very much opposed at its inception. The ignorant, the timid and the indolent, thought it impossible to be effected by the feeble means then in the country. It was too gigantic and expensive; even if it could be constructed, the means would be wasted, and after years of hard labor, and the most liberal appropriations for its completion, its advocates would inevitably incur the loss and mortification of finding it altogether unprofitable.

In his efforts to bring capital and influence in aid of his undertakings, Col. Tyler made the acquaintance of Aaron Burr - which finally led to his connection with the celebrated southern expedition. The history of that period shows that he entered prominently into the transaction, having spent two years at the south, in arranging plans for the consummation of the project. The minutiae of these operations have not transpired.

As this affair caused great excitement throughout the country at the time, and as Col. Tyler was a prominent actor in the scene, it may be interesting to some, to give a brief synopsis so far as he and some other citizens of Onondaga were concerned. Previous to the succession of Louisiana, to the United States, Baron P. N. Tut. Bastrop, contracted with the Spanish government, for a tract of land exceeding thirty miles square near Nachitoches. Subsequently, Col. Charles Lynch made an agreement with Baron Bastrop, for an interest in this purchase. Aaron Burr purchased of Col. Lynch about four hundred thousand acres of this land, lying between the Sabine and Nachitoches, and paid for it fifty thousand dollars.

The grant of Bastrop contained about one million two hundred thousand acres, and six-tenths of it was conveyed to Col. Lynch, and Col. Burr became interested in one half of Lynch's share, for the consideration above named.

This is the commencement of the celebrated Burr conspiracy. In the spring of 1805, Burr passed through the State of Pennsylvania to the Ohio valley, and down to New Orleans. It was at this time that he visited the beautiful Island of Herman Blennerhasset. Whatever scheme of ambition he contemplated, or what mighty project for founding a vast empire in the south-west he had planned, is unknown. There was a profound mystery in his movements, which could not be penetrated. The ostensible object of his operations was the settlement of the lands he had bargained for on the Washita River. Hundreds had been sounded on the subject of the speculation, and had assented to a participation in its profits, without knowing the destiny, or calculating on the event, of what was now in progress. In fact, the unfolding of the plan was not yet, and its result and prospects were perhaps only known to Aaron Burr, the grand projector of the hidden scheme. It has been supposed by man that his final object was the possession of New Orleans, the conquest of all Mexico and the formation of a new Republic. Many of the principal men of New-York and Ohio, were, through the wiles and machinations of this exuberant genius, drawn within the influences of his plans, and without harboring a surmise of evil, joined their fortunes with his. What communication Comfort Tyler had with the grand leader of this project is unknown. He first made the acquaintance of Aaron Burr, while they were members together of the New-York Legislature, in 1798 and 1799.

The New-York delegation was composed of Aaron Burr, George Clinton, John Swartwouth, - Gates and others. At this session Col. Tyler procured the charter for building the Cayuga Bridge, and in order to facilitate the work, Col. Burr, and Gen. John Swartwout, subscribed for, took the whole stock, and furnished the means for prosecuting the work. Israel Smith and Joseph Annin superintended the building of the bridge. Thus commenced, the intercourse of Aaron Burr with the people of Western New York, many of whom were subsequently drawn into the great south-west expedition. In process of time, Col. Tyler and Israel Smith, both of whom acted prominent parts in the affair, with others from Onondaga and Cayuga counties, proceeded to Big Beaver (formerly For McIntosh,) in Pennsylvania, on horseback, ostensibly for the purpose of making sale of salt. This article had begun to be manufactured in considerable quantities at Montezuma and Onondaga, and the sale of it in the west became a desirable object. Upon their arrival at Beaver, Messrs. Tyler and Smith entered largely into the purchase of provisions, particularly pork and flour. Having purchased a large number of hogs, they had them packed and taken down the Ohio to Natches. This is said to be the first salted pork ever taken down the Ohio River, and was considered not only something new but wonderful at Natches. Many of the most prominent men in the country courted the society of these gentlemen, and expressed themselves as fervent advocates of the project. As the boats laden with provisions proceeded down the Ohio, they were joined by others who were engaged in the expedition. These operations on the Muskingum and Ohio Rivers, awakened the vigilance and excited the attention of the government of the United States.

On the 6th of December, 1805, Col. Tyler landed at Blenerhasset's Island with four boats and about thirty men, some of whom were armed. These had been fitted out as before stated, as the towns above on the Ohio River, and were making their way to New Orleans. Boats laden with similar freight had previously passed, and others were expected. Upon these demonstrations of hostility, the militia of Ohio were called out to suppress what was supposed to amount to an insurrection. An act of the Ohio Legislature, and President Jefferson's proclamation, against these suspicious movements, dissipated the whole affair, and the expedition, whatever it was designed to be, exploded upon the arrest of the principal mover, Aaron Burr.

Col. Burr, was arrested on the Tombigbee River, Mississippi; was carried to Richmond Virginia, tried for treason in 1807, and acquitted.

Other arrests were made, viz: Generals Adair and Dayton, Blenerhasset, Swartwout, Tyler, Smith, Bellman and Ogden. Burr and Blenerhasset were the only ones tried. It has been stated that Burr's whole force at no time exceeded one hundred and fifty men.

The indictments were founded on the allegation, that Col. Tyler, with some thirty men, stopped at Blenerhasset's Island on their way down the Ohio with a view of taking temporary possession of New Orleans on their way to New Mexico, such intent being considered treason. Process was served on Col. Tyler at Natches. He came to Washington with Col. Pike, who was afterwards Gen. Pike, and who was killed at Little York, in 1812.

It has been supposed by some that President Jefferson was to close his eyes to all these proceedings; for maps, charts, notes, &c., had been furnished, of the Washita country, otherwise called the Baron Bastrop purchase, by his knowledge. It should be borne in mind that Burr's title to that purchase was considered good, and proved to be so. It is supposed that the remonstrance of Marshall Turenne, Minister from France, in behalf of Bonaparte, influenced the mind of the President in his deliberations upon the subject. He unequivocally declared that any entry of American citizens upon the territory in question, would amount to a declaration of war, which was supposed to have accelerated the President's interference.***

This affair greatly impaired Col. Tyler's private fortune, and such was popular prejudice against the participants in this enterprise that it forever destroyed his prospects as a public man. Whatever may have been Burr's ulterior object, the public will understand better when the history of this transaction is more fully developed. That the great number of influential and respectable men connected with it, had no unworthy motive, but simply sought to take possession of the Bastrop purchase, to which they believed they had a fair and legitimate title, cannot be doubted. Whatever the expectations of these men were, they were sadly disappointed, and the result proved that they had been woefully misled. The consequence of this disappointment was, that a controversy took place between Col. Burr and Col. Tyler, which resulted in a total estrangement between them, which was never reconciled.

Besides Comfort Tyler, there were some twenty-five others, all young men, who proceeded to Beaver, in Pennsylvania, to take part in the expedition. Some of these were Major Israel Smith, of Cayuga, Samuel Forman, Augustus Hopkins, George Kibbe, John Brackett, - - - Lamb, - - - Hathaway, Daniel Howlett, Jonathan Thompson, and several others, who left Onondaga on horseback, in full expectation of realizing fortunes without the slightest knowledge of the details of the expedition.

The affair, at this time, created a great sensation among the young men, who were alive to the subject of important speculation.

In 1811, Col. Tyler removed with his family to Montezuma, where he took a deep interest in the Cayuga Manufacturing Company. This company was engaged in making salt, and to extend their business, every thing would be important which could render Montezuma accessible. With this view, and very much by his advice and personal exertions, the company built two long bridges across the Seneca and Clyde Rivers, and constructed a turnpike, more than three miles in length, over the Cayuga marshes, where the earth was so soft that with one hand a man might thrust a pole with ease into it ten or twelve feet; and yet the experiment succeeded perfectly, without exorbitant cost.

Col. Tyler resided some two or three years at Hoboken, and superintended the draining of the salt meadows in that vicinity. In fact wherever any great work was to be accomplished, he was among the first consulted. Whatever affected the interest of his country, always engaged his solicitude, and in the late war he entered again into its military service, as Assistant Commissary General to the northern army. His activity, his resources and knowledge of the country, were often called into useful requisition. He served in the capacity of Assistant Commissary General, with the rank of Colonel, to the close of the war.

After the close of the war, the canal policy engaged his most earnest attention. From the beginning, he was among the foremost of the advocates of that work, and he was early in the field, side by side with Judge Geddes and Judge Forman, in advocating the feasibility and policy of the plan. His intimate acquaintance with the country through which it would pass, and his knowledge of the means which might be applied to its accomplishment, convinced him of its practicability; and it had been the peculiar study of his life, to ascertain the advantages which must flow, from opening such a channel of communication. He was industrious in supporting the measure by animated conversations, wherever he happened to be, and by letters addressed to members of the Legislature, in the early stages of its agitation. He lived to rejoice with those who rejoiced at its completion.

Few men have lived and died so well as Colonel Tyler, and his character may be contemplated with advantage by all. To him and his influence, the public have been under peculiar obligations. His character stands out in bold relief, and his merits have naturally resulted from his thirst after knowledge; his superiority to all the allurements of ease and luxury, his daring enterprise, his comprehensive sagacity, his self reliance, his energetic activity, his constancy in his undertakings, and in his deliberate purpose of doing good. In all the relations of private friendship, Colonel Tyler was uncommonly endearing. His ready sympathy, his ingenious affability, his animation, his originality of remark, his knowledge of human nature and of life, and that strong expression of benevolence, which beamed from his countenance and issued from his heart, made his society always attractive and advantageous, and his house the seat of hospitality. His extraordinary conversational powers were peculiarly attractive; no one became weary of his words, they were perfectly fascinating, and endeared him in the hearts of thousands. One who was intimate with him has said, "I never knew his equal in those qualities which constitute a man. He was nature's own nobleman, in person, in speech, in voice, in mind; in fact, he possessed every attribute of a perfect man." No man more than himself upon a first acquaintance, impressed upon the mind of another, the idea that his soul was filled with manly and generous sentiments, and none more fully confirmed that impression upon subsequent intimacy. By those who knew him best, he was most highly esteemed.

He died at his residence at Montezuma, on the 5th of August, 1827, sincerely lamented by a large circle of personal friends, and deeply mourned by numerous relatives.

<http://www.emich.edu/public/geo/gen/genealogy.onondaga.html>



Memories of a proud day in Onondaga Hollow near the end of America's second War for independence are recorded in this final scene of George Kasson Knapp's "Pioneers of Onondaga." Col. Comfort Tyler, after service as assistant commissary general in the northern army, characteristically stands with axe in hand, looking out over the community that has grown up around the fields he and Asa Danforth first cleared in the wilderness only a quarter century ago.

Tyler's tavern now is kept by his son-in-law, Cornelius Longstreet. It has been a trying year for the pioneers at Onondaga and others on the frontier. December brought word that Buffalo and all the other settlements along the Niagara River had been overrun and burned. In June, news of the defeat and exile of Napoleon brought fears that the British armies engaged in the European war would be transported to America.

Job Tyler's house on the north side of the turnpike will survive all the changes and hazards of coming decades and stand to celebrate the Bicentennial of the Nation.

No one was thinking in the mid-1800s of the preservation of historical sites. The deteriorating stone building served as a hay barn until the 1880s, when its roof was blown away. In 1894, proposals were made to acquire the Arsenal and restore it as the community's only military vestige of the past.



Home of Comfort Tyler, on the East Road, Onondaga Valley
picture taken from *Pioneer Times in the Onondaga Country*,
by Carroll E. Smith, LL.D., C. W. Bardeen, Publisher, Syracuse, NY, 1904, pg. 53

<http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec?htx=message&r=rw&p=localities.northam.usa.states.newyork.counties.cayuga&m=3130>

Will of Comfort TYLER of Montezuma 1827

Author: [Bruce M. Tyler](#)

Date: 16 Jun 2000 12:00 PM GMT

Cayuga Co NY Wills Vol. C1 page 215

Comfort Tyler of Montezuma (Mentz)
probated 9 Aug 1827
Seneca Wood Esq., Surrogate

I, Comfort Tyler of Montezuma in the Town of Mentz, County of Cayuga and State of New York, considering the uncertainty of this mortal life, and being of sound mind and memory, (blessed be Almighty God for the same) do make and publish my last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say,

First. I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Elizabeth all and every my messuages lands tenements and hereditaments with the appurtenances whereof I am seized in fee, situate lying and being in the Town of Mentz in the County of Cayuga or elsewhere and all the rents issues and profits thereof for and during the Term of her natural life, except as is hereinafter excepted and provided, which legacy given to my said Wife I hereby declare is given in full satisfaction of her dower and thirds she may claim a demand out of my real estate, and from and after the decease of my said wife I give and bequeath the said messuages lands tenements and hereditaments with the appurtenances unto my Daughter Mary and to her Heirs and assigns forever, provided however that if at the decease of my said Wife, George W. Olmsted the Husband of my said Daughter Mary shall be still living then and in that case I give and bequeath the messuages lands tenements and hereditaments with the appurtenances above devised to my Daughter Mary, to the Executors of this my last Will and testament and then Executor or Executors to hold the same during the natural life of said George W. Olmsted to manage and improve the same, to receive all the rents issues and profits arising therefrom and pay over and equally divide the same among the children of my said Daughter Mary in manner following: To such of said children, as shall have attained the age of twenty one years or shall be married their respective portions shall be paid over with all convenient speed and the portions of those who are under the age of twenty one years or are unmarried shall be managed by my Exeuctor or their

Executor or Executors as be paid out from time to time as to their discretion may seem meet and proper for the support maintenance and education of such children, and the residue (if any there be) shall be paid to such children at the time they shall have attained the age of twenty one years or shall be married, and from and after the decease of said George W. Olmsted, I give and bequeath the said Messuages, lands, tenements and heraditaments with the appurtenances unto my Daughter Mary her heirs and assigns forever.

Whereas I have heretofore sold divers parcels of land situate lying and being in the Town of Mentz aforesaid, namely to Godfrey Heller, John Farrand and Joel Sweezey and Isaac R. Smith of said Town of Mentz and upon the payment of certain sums of money and the fulfillment of certain creditors have contracted to convey the same; Now therefore I do hereby give and bequeath to my Executors and their Executor or Executors the parcels of land I have so contracted to convey and do authorize and require them to convey the same to those persons who by contract are entitled to receive the deeds, for the same when the monies due on such contracts shall be paid or the conditions of the same be fulfilled.

Also I will and ordain that the Executors of this my will shall in case they may deem it meet and proper for the payment of my debts and legacies and for the executing and perfect finishing of my will have full power and authority to sell in fee simple any part of the land of which I may die seized or of such lands as may come into their hands upon the dissolution of the Cayuga Manufacturing Company (as is hereinafter provided)(or to pledge the same by mortgage for the purpose above mentioned in such lawful way as to my Executors or their Executor or Executors may seem meet and proper. And the surplus moneys if any there be so procured by sale or mortgage shall be disposed o as is hereinafter provided in regard to my persona property.

I do also will and ordain that upon the settlement of my Stock in the Cayuga Manufacturing Company my Executors may make such arrangements as to them may seem expedient and proper, and in case they shall take lands for the portion which may be due on my Stock I hereby authorize them to receive the deed for the same in their own names and after receiving such deed, do require them to convey the lands described in such deed (except such as may be sold as above provided) to my said wife, to hold the same during her natural life, and after decease to my daughter Mary her heirs and assigns forever.

I give and bequeath to my daughter Deborah all the rents issues and profits of that House and Lot situate in the village of Onondaga Hollow, during the time she has occupied the same, and also will that she and her heirs shall continue to occupy the same during the continuance of my Estate therein.

I do hereby appoint my nephew Asher Tyler and my grandson George Tyler Olmsted, the Executors of this my last will and testament and do give unto each of them, the sum of three hundred dollars in consideration of the pains and trouble they shall have in the execution of this my will, and I do also will and ordain that it shall be lawful for my Executors or their Executor or Executors out of the premises respectively and out of the residue of my personal Estate to deduct and reimburse themselves all charges and expenses they may be necessarily put to by reason of the performance of this my Will. And also in case of the death, inability or refusal to serve of either of my said Executors, I do hereby authorize and empower the other to do all acts, pertaining to this my Will in as full and ample a manner as both could do jointly.

I do also give and bequeath all the rest and residue of my personal Estate whatsoever and wheresoever, and of what nature kind quality the same may be and not herein before given and disposed of (after payment of my debts, legacies, and funeral expenses) to my said Wife Elizabeth, her executors, administrators and assigns to and for her and their own use and benefit absolutely, hereby revoking all former wills by me made.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this thirtieth day of December Eighteen hundred and twenty four.

Comfort Tyler (seal)

witnesses:

Peter Clark, Ira Doty, Geo. W. Fitch

Whereas I, Comfort Tyler of Montezuma, Town of Mentz, County of Cayuga and State of New York, have made my last Will and testament in writing, bearing date the thirtieth day of December Eighteen hundred and twenty four, and have thereby given and bequeathed to my Daughter Deborah all the rents, issues and profits of that House and lot situate in the village of Onondaga Hollow during the time she has occupied the same and have also willed that she and her heirs shall continue to occupy the same during the continuance of my Estate therein, now I do by this my writing, which I hereby declare to be a Codicil to my said will, to be taken as a part thereof, will and direct that whereas since the publication of my said last Will and Testament, my said Daughter Deborah has died, that the parts of my last will and testament above recited be hereby revoked; But I do hereby will and direct that the Heirs, executors and administrators of my said Daughter Deborah be released and discharged of and from all claim for the rents issues and profits of said House and lot during the time the same continued in the use and occupancy of my said Daughter Deborah. And whereas at the time my said last Will and testament, myself and Alfred Hovey of Montezuma, owned lot number Six, in the East Cayuga Reservation as Tenants in common; and whereas said lot number six has since been divided between said Alfred Hovey and myself by executing releases to each other, bearing date the seventh day of December Eighteen hundred and twenty five, thereby changing the state of the title to the said lot number Six; Now therefore to prevent all disputes and misunderstandings, I do hereby will and direct that the parts of said lot number Six, of which I am seized, shall in all respects be disposed of in the same manner and be subject to the same regulations and conditions that are provided in relation to my Real Estate in my will aforesaid.

And lastly, it is my desire that this my present Codicil be annexed to and made a part of my last Will and Testament to all intents and purposes.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty seventh day of February in the year eighteen hundred and twenty seven.

Comfort Tyler (seal)

witnesses:

Peter Clark, Geo. W. Fitch, John M. Flint

<http://history.rays-place.com/ny/cayu-montezuma-ny.htm>

The first settlements were made in 1798, at what is now called the old village of Montezuma, by Dr. Peter Clarke, Comfort Tyler and Abram Morgan, who were attracted to the locality by the salt springs there ; though it is pretty certain that neither Clarke nor Tyler settled there permanently till several years later, about 1810 or '11. About the beginning of the present century they commenced the manufacture of salt, "and did a good business long before Syracuse had lain the foundations of its present prosperity and wealth."

COLONEL COMFORT TYLER was born in the town of Ashford, Conn., February 22d, 1764. At the age of fourteen he evinced that disposition to mingle in public affairs which so conspicuously characterized his after life, for at that age we find him a soldier in the war of the Revolution, though his duties were light, being mostly confined to service in and about the fortress of West Point. In 1783 he was engaged in surveying and in teaching school in the Mohawk country, and while there he was engaged by Gen. James Clinton and spent one season with the expedition to establish the boundary line between New York and Pennsylvania. In the spring of 1788, in company with Major Asa Danforth, he began the settlement in Onondaga county, where he "felled the first tree, and constructed the first piece of turnpike road in the State west of Fort Stanwix," and assisted in the first manufacture of salt. When the Military Tract was surveyed he was selected to assist. He surveyed one of the townships, and subsequently the Cayuga reservation. He filled various offices of responsibility and trust in Onondaga county, and in 1798 and '9, represented that county in the Legislature. He was foremost among the agitators for public improvements, and was conspicuously active in the construction of roads, bridges and all other works calculated to promote the general welfare. His efforts to bring capital and influence in aid of these undertakings led to his acquaintance with Aaron Burr, and his subsequent connection with the celebrated southern expedition projected by that gentleman, which resulted so disastrously. The disease which ultimately resulted in Col. Tyler's death is ascribed to his effort to evade capture at this time. This affair greatly impaired his private fortune, and, such was the popular prejudice against those who participated in it, that it destroyed forever his prospects as a public man. It also engendered a controversy between Burr and Tyler, which resulted in their total estrangement.

In 1811, Col. Tyler removed with his family to Montezuma, and took a deep interest in the Cayuga Manufacturing Company, who were engaged in making salt. With a view to increasing their business by rendering Montezuma more accessible, and very much by the advice and personal exertions of Col. Tyler, the company built two long bridges across the Seneca and Clyde rivers, and constructed a turnpike, more than three miles in length, over the Cayuga marshes, where the earth was so soft that with one hand a man might with ease thrust a pole into it ten or twelve feet.

Col. Tyler resided two or three years in Hoboken, and superintended the draining of the salt meadows in that vicinity. During the war of 1812 he entered the army and served in the capacity of Assistant Commissary General to the northern army, with the rank of Colonel, till the close of the war.

After the close of the war the canal policy engaged his earnest attention. From the beginning, he was among the foremost of the advocates of that work, and he was early in the field, side by side with Judge Geddes and Judge Forman in advocating the feasibility and policy of the plan. He lived to rejoice with those who rejoiced at its completion.

He died at his residence in Montezuma, in the house now occupied by Addison Pease. August 5th, 1827.

A Glimpse at Clinton's Ditch
The first trips of 1819 and 1820
by Richard F. Palmer

<http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/NY-CENTRA/2005-11/1132077153>

Well hidden in undergrowth near the hamlet of Montezuma, is a unique bit of canal history long since forgotten. It is the remains of the "River Lock" on the original Clinton's Ditch (Erie Canal).

Nearby are the crumbled foundations of the lock tender's house; its dug well still capped by an aged millstone, and beyond, beside the tree-lined towpath, is the site of an old inn that once catered to the boatmen, kept originally by Richard Smith.

Constructed in 1819 from stone quarried near Union Springs and transported by flat boat through Cayuga Lake and down the Seneca River to this location, the old lock has suffered from the ravages of time. Yet it remains essentially intact as it did when abandoned more than a century ago. Its location marked the western terminus of the middle section of the canal, and its construction opened the unfinished waterway to traffic between Montezuma and Utica in 1820.

Of the 83 such structures that made navigation across the state on the Erie Canal possible, only one other lock has survived reasonably intact—Fort Hunter in the Mohawk Valley. But of all the locales that played a role in the development of the canal, probably Lock 63 and Montezuma are near the top of the list.

In a little more than two years after the first earth was turned at Rome, on July 4, 1817, the canal was nearly completed through the wilderness to Montezuma. Ahead still lay the unknown and formidable Montezuma Marshes—a watery land of swamps, quicksand, cattails, and the threat of disease.

The first part of the middle section, between Utica and Rome, was completed in October, 1819. On October 21, the boat "Chief Engineer," designed by Mr. Ely, made a trial trip between the two points. It left Rome in the morning with 30 passengers aboard. More got on along the way, and there were great public demonstrations along the way. The following Saturday, October 23, the boat left Utica for the return trip, with many dignitaries aboard, including Governor DeWitt Clinton and the Canal Commissioners.

At Whitesboro, a short distance from Utica, the boat was greeted by a 21-gun salute from the local company of artillery. The boat arrived at Rome about 2:30 p.m. and returned to Utica that same afternoon, the average speed with two horses being four miles per hour. One horse was used going, and both returning. It appears, however, that the canal was actually completed to Salina, as the boat /Commodore Perry /arrived in Utica from Salina on October 25 with a cargo of salt.¹ This discounts any theory that the middle section was not navigated before 1820. Further evidence of this is found in an account of a trip from Montezuma to Jordan on December 9, 1819. The Cayuga /Republican /of Auburn, Wednesday, December 15, 1819, states:

In this age of wonders, perhaps nothing is more calculated to excite the admiration of the intelligent and reflecting part of the people, than the 96 miles of canal, principally through a wilderness, should be completed in the short space of two years and five months, from the time of its commencement—yet such appears to be the fact.

We have it from authority that from Utica to near Salina the Canal is not only navigable, but has actually been navigated; the navigation there, however, was men prevented by small job of work which was not completed. The western part of the middle section has also been completed and navigated.

Information having been given, that the canal from Seneca River to Salina, would be completed about the 10th inst., a boat was prepared at Seneca Falls, with a temporary cabin and other conveniences, and notice was given that she would leave Montezuma at 9 A.M.

It so happened, however, that on the 9th, the weather, which for several days had been very mild and pleasant, changed suddenly, and at the appointed time for starting, it was very cold and unpleasant; and to add to the difficulties to be encountered in this first voyage, the canal was covered with ice from one to two inches in thickness. A number of gentlemen, with Mr. Holley, one of the commissioners, had, however, collected, and about half past 11 o'clock the boat with two horses attached to her, left Seneca River, in defiance of the inclemency of the season and ice in the Canal. It was found on trial that two horses would propel the boat against the ice at the rate of rather more than two miles an hour.

The party proceeded and arrived at Mr. King's in Mentz, a distance of about six miles, with the two horses, and with from fifty to seventy passengers. At Mr. King's two more horses were added, and arrived at Jordan a distance by the canal of nearly sixteen miles from Seneca River, before 7 o'clock in the evening, having passed on the route three locks and stopped one hour at Mr. King's, which leaves about six hours for traveling sixteen miles. There was two feet of water in the Canal, and the boat sixty feet in length and ten feet in width. On the morning of the 11 inst. it was found that the ice had increased so much during the night, that it was deemed inadvisable to proceed farther, the horses were therefore hitched to the boat, and the passengers returned in the same way to Montezuma.

Much credit is due to Capt. Arnsbury and his associates for their public spirit in fitting the boat so as to make it comfortable and pleasant for the passengers at this inclement season.

A PASSENGER.

As far as can be determined, this is the only record of this trip. The following spring, we find this item in the Cayuga /Republican /of April 25, 1820: (communicated)

YANKEE ENTERPRIZE On Thursday the 13th instant was launched on the Seneca River, the elegant passage boat Montezuma, superintended and built by **C. Tyler, Esq.** She is 76 feet in length, with a proportionate width and depth, containing an elegant dining room, kitchen, and after cabin, with other conveniences to accommodate the passengers, finished in a style not inferior to any boats of passage on the American waters. She will be ready for running upon the canal in about ten days, and will run back and forth from Seneca River to Utica, a distance of 96 miles in 24 hours. On the day of launching, the Montezuma was taken through the lock on the canal, and drawn by two horses 2 miles in thirty minutes, with 70 passengers on board.

A SPECTATOR.

It was on April 20th that the /Montezuma /arrived from its namesake community, at Syracuse. According to contemporary

accounts this boat was 76 feet in length, 14 feet wide, and had two cabins. It arrived in Syracuse at 2 p.m. At 4 p.m. about 100 persons went aboard for a ride on the Salina branch which was a mile and a half long. The trip took only 22 minutes, and the procession, led by a band, went to Beach's Inn. A short time later, the crowd, now swelled to 150 persons came on board and returned to Syracuse. The boat, towed by two horses, averaged about four miles per hour. One horse would have been sufficient, it was said. The canal was about two and a half feet deep at this point and the boat, heavily laden, drew only 12 inches of water. On April 24, the boat "Chief Engineer" arrived from Utica for the first time, en-route to Montezuma.²

M. C. Hand, an eyewitness to this event, recalled:

This was the first great event in the place, it had been extensively advertised, and nearly every inhabitant for many miles around had gathered on the banks of the canal, anxious to see the great sight. The large crowd that had been standing for hours, became impatient; from the first, there were many who believed the scheme was not practicable, and this faction was well represented in the assembled crowd, and many who had been standing expectantly for hours became tired and joined the doubters, who were shouting that 'tomorrow you will bear that the Montezuma bumped her nose against the bank, and sunk before she had floated a mile, and we wish old Clinton had gone down with her, and sunk in the ditch he has made at our expense.'

While all this was going on, at once, there was a shout of 'There she comes! she is coming!' A team of spirited horses had been fastened to the line at Jordan and as they passed the crowd of spectators, the horses were on a fast trot, a wave of water was forced wide over the low banks, and a loud shout arose from the crowd. This successful trip silenced all doubters and the canal was acknowledged to be a success. From that hour dates a new era in the history of Syracuse.³

Exciting times for Montezuma and Lock 63 occurred in the spring of 1820. The place took on an air of a frontier town as it became the head of navigation while construction of the canal proceeded westward. Stagecoaches met the packets to take travelers to their destinations. Montezuma Post Office was established on May 25, 1820, with Richard Smith as Postmaster.⁴ In July, the line boats /Montezuma /and /Oneida Chief /commenced regular trips between Utica and Montezuma. The boats left Montezuma and Utica respectively, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8 a.m., and met in the evening at Manlius; proceeding the next day at 4 a.m. and arriving at the respective destinations at 6 p.m. The price of passage, including meals and lodging, was \$4.00. "Way" passengers were charged three cents per mile.⁹ These boats were operated by the Erie Canal Transportation Company.

A description of these early packets is given in an early-day pocket guide to the canal:⁶

Fare, including board, lodging, and every expense, 4 cents a mile. Way passengers 3 cents a mile, exclusive of board, &c, and 37½ cents for dinner, 25 cents for breakfast, or supper, and 12½ cents for lodging.

These Packets are drawn by 3 horses, having relays every 8, 10, to 12 miles, and travel day and night, making about 80 miles every 24 hours. They are ingeniously and well constructed, (though there is yet room for some improvement,) have accommodations for about 30 passengers, furnish good tables, and a wholesome and rich fare, and have very attentive, civil, and obliging captains and crews.

It is a very pleasant, cheap, and expeditious mode of traveling, where you have regular meals, pretty quiet rest, after a little experience, say of the first night; and find the time pleasantly employed, in conversation, and the variety of incidents, new topics, stories, and the constantly varying scenery.

The bustle of new comers, and passengers, with all the greetings and adieus, help to diversify the scene, and to make most persons /seem/to get along quite as fast as was anticipated. I found it so, while twice traversing the whole extent of Erie Canal Navigation, taking notes for this little thing, which, I hope /every body /will find an useful, if not an agreeable companion.

Between Albany and Schenectady, 28½ miles, a day is employed, there being so many Locks to pass: but every person is well compensated for the time and expense, of, at least, one trip, passing 27 Locks, 2 Aqueducts, and an interesting variety of natural scenery.

Little did Mr. Spafford know what a valuable record of the original Erie Canal he left behind. The book is a treasure of information, not only commentary, but a running mile-by-mile narrative of communities along the way, mileage and lock numbers, together with their rise and fall in feet.

On May 25, 1820, DeWitt Clinton himself arrived in Montezuma aboard the packet boat "Chief Engineer," a vessel 74 feet long and 13 feet wide which drew 11 feet of water when loaded. At the time this and a sister packet, the "Montezuma," operated on the 96-mile stretch, the trip taking about two days.

Enroute, Clinton said, "We passed several boats, rafts and scows on our passage. Some were built on the canal, and others transported to it from the Mohawk and Seneca rivers. At Montezuma, a boat is now on the stocks, of still larger dimensions, and more accommodating arrangements than the one of that name." He said it cost between \$900 and \$1,000 to build and equip these boats. They were principally designed by **Col. Comfort Tyler**, who at that time lived in Montezuma. At the time he was deeply involved in the local salt industry.

Tyler was one of the first settlers of Onondaga County. He served in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, served as sheriff, Onondaga County Clerk and was a state legislator. Clinton referred to him as a man "with intelligence and enterprise." The packet boats were operated under the auspices of the Erie Canal Navigation Company. The through fare, which included provisions and lodging, was \$4. Way passengers paid three cents a mile. Baggage was carried at the owner's risk.⁷

FOOTNOTES

1. Utica Patriot, October 16, 1819.
2. Onondaga Register, /April 26, 1820
3. Hand, M.C., From a Forest to a City. 1899, p 10.
4. Cayuga Republican, May 31, 1820.
5. Cayuga Republican, July 12, 1820 (dated July 1).
6. Spafford, Horatio G., A Pocket Guide for the Tourist and Traveller, Along the Line of the Canals, etc., Troy, N.Y., 1825. pp 22-23
7. Letters on the Natural History and Internal Resources of the State of New-York by Hibernicus, (DeWitt Clinton) New York, 1822. pp 6-15

Scipio Lodge 110 Aurora, New York

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~springport/pictures59/5927.html>

On December 1 1795 thirteen settlers of this vicinity petitioned the New York Grand Lodge for a Masonic lodge at Aurora. In response to this petition which is still preserved in the Grand Lodge archives, Scipio Lodge No 58 was chartered March 22, 1797. This was the first Masonic Lodge established in the Military Tract. The three highest charter officers Seth Sherwood (for whom the village of Sherwood was named) , **Comfort Tyler** and John Tillotson, had all been officers in the Revolution. Scipio Lodge No.110 in Aurora now operates under the original charter of 1797 signed by Grand Master Robert R. Livingston, a member of the committee that wrote the Declaration of Independence.

Scipio Lodge No. 58, F.&A. M., had its first lodge room in the original Cayuga Academy building which burned in October 1805. Immediately following the fire, Scipio Lodge appointed a committee "to look out a suitable place in the village of Aurora and procure the same and thereon to erect a building twenty feet by twenty-eight feet, two stories high, . . . all to be done in a plain but workmanlike manner and finished as soon as circumstances will permit." The chairman of this committee was Dr. Frederic Delano and the "suitable place" procured was the southwest corner of the lot on which his dwelling and drug store stood. Within a year after the fire, the Masonic Hall was completed. The first meeting of Scipio Lodge was held in it on October 27 1806. Christopher Morgan wrote the minutes of this meeting which was attended by forty members. This building is now the front two-story part of the "Chimney Corner." It is the oldest existing building erected by a Masonic Lodge in the State of New York.

Jonathan Richmond and his two personal friends, Christopher Morgan and Jedediah Morgan were leaders in politics, business, and Masonry in Aurora Christopher Morgan had the Morgan Store, the business center of the community. Jedediah Morgan lived on his farm three miles south of Aurora until 1822 when he moved to the village.

These three friends were the leaders in the organization of Aurora Chapter No 64 Royal Arch Masons, chartered February 3, 1819. They became the three highest officers in the new chapter and continued in these same offices for seven years. Although Scipio Lodge No.58, F. & A. M., had erected in 1806 a Masonic Hall the members of the Chapter decided to build a separate hall for themselves. On July 3, 1819, Jedediah Morgan, Christopher Morgan, and Jonathan Richmond signed a contract (in the handwriting of Christopher Morgan) with Jacops Hovey, an architect of Pheips, New York, and a member of Aurora Chapter No.64, to build a Chapter Hall. The contract states that the building is to be erected "according to the understanding of the said Jacops and the contracting party who have that confidence in Jacops Hovey as a Mason and as a mechanic as to believe that he will not slite or turn off any necessary work that ought to be done to render the building reasonably ornamental or useful."

The cornerstone was laid by DeWitt Clinton August 18, 1819, before a large assemblage. At that time, DeWitt Clinton was Governor of New York, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York and General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States. The land was not formally purchased until after the building was begun. The deed dated October 6, 1819, to Jedediah Morgan, Christopher Morgan, and Jonathan Richmond, acting for the Chapter, is for "the land on which the Aurora Chapter Hall is now being built."

The building was completed in March 1820. Long before this it had become evident that the cost would far exceed the original estimate, so the Chapter invited Scipio Lodge No.58 to share the building and also the expense of its erection. Even so, the final cost must have been startling. In the contract it had been agreed to pay Jacops Hovey \$200 as architect and builder and \$750 for all building expenses. Hovey turned in an itemized bill for materials and labor (in addition to his \$200 fee) totaling \$1,748.26, one thousand dollars more than the original estimate. As much of that as possible was raised by subscription. For the remainder, two notes were given jointly by the Lodge and Chapter, one to Jacops Hovey for \$205.60 and one to Jedediah Morgan, Christopher Morgan and Jonathan Richmond for \$486.79. The final payment on the first note was made in 1823 and on the second two years later. The building was never mortgaged and was fully paid for five years after its completion.

This building, now the Aurora Masonic Temple, is the oldest existing building in the State erected by a Royal Arch Chapter. The lodge room, decorated with Masonic emblems, is a "room within a room." A set of detailed drawings and photographs of both the interior and exterior was published in *The Architectural Review*, vol.5 (1917). A description of it also has been

placed in the Library of Congress by the Historic Buildings Survey. The design of the Masonic Temple is a harmonious combination of delicate quaintness and charm with more sturdy characteristics, affording as a whole a unique and beautiful pattern of early American architecture. Professor W. S. Rusk has called it "Aurora's chief claim to architectural fame."

III.: George Judd Gardner, 33° - Historian

19 July 1818 - 2 October 1902
Crowned June 7, 18834

GEORGE JUDD GARDNER, born July 19, 1818, in Boston, Massachusetts, was one of seven children of Thomas and Hannah (Anna) Judd Gardner. About 1830 he became one of Syracuse's first newsboys and an apprentice printer to his cousin, Lewis H. Redfield, Onondaga County's first printer (and member of Onondaga Lodge 98). He thereafter led an active and successful business and active public life.

He was deeply interested in Masonry, serving with distinction in all Bodies:

Central City Lodge 305, Master 1866-67
District Deputy Grand Master, 1872-73
Central City Chapter 70, High Priest 1890-91
Central City Council 13, Recorder 1859-66
Central City Commandery, Recorder 1860-67

Central City Scottish Rite Bodies:
Lodge of Perfection, TPM 1862-65
Council Princes of Jerusalem, JW 1862-65
Chapter of Rose Croix, MWM 1866-71
Consistory, 1862-73, held offices.
Honorable Member Supreme Council, 33°, 7 Jun 1886



Bro. Gardner founded the Masonic Veterans' Association of CNY in 1879, serving as its Secretary from 1879 to 1888, and as its President in 1879.

He was the most prominent Masonic Historian of his day. The minutes of the Onondaga Masonic Bodies indicate that he was a frequent lecturer on such historical subjects as:

"The Early History of Freemasonry in Onondaga County, 1797-1826."

"Complete History of the Various Masonic Organizations Which Ever Existed within the Present Limits of the City of Syracuse."

The History of Capitular Masonry in Onondaga County." (an unpublished manuscript, which is in the Ill. William L. Cummings Collection in Lexington, MA.)

A newspaper review by J. C. Spencer, dated Oct 22, 1851, calls attention to items from Bro. Gardner's interesting and valuable collection. His library was a veritable mine of historic lore, including:

- All known directories ever published in the City of Syracuse.
- Minutes of Syracuse and village societies.
- Autographs of all local mayors.
- Patriotic envelopes (5,000).
- Copies of all the earliest newspapers.
- Ante-bellum (1861-65) bank notes, & etc.

It is unfortunate that none of these items have survived.

Other material which has survived includes newspaper clippings, obituaries, and a copy of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Program of Central City Commandery No. 25, which contains an historical address written by Bro. Gardner.

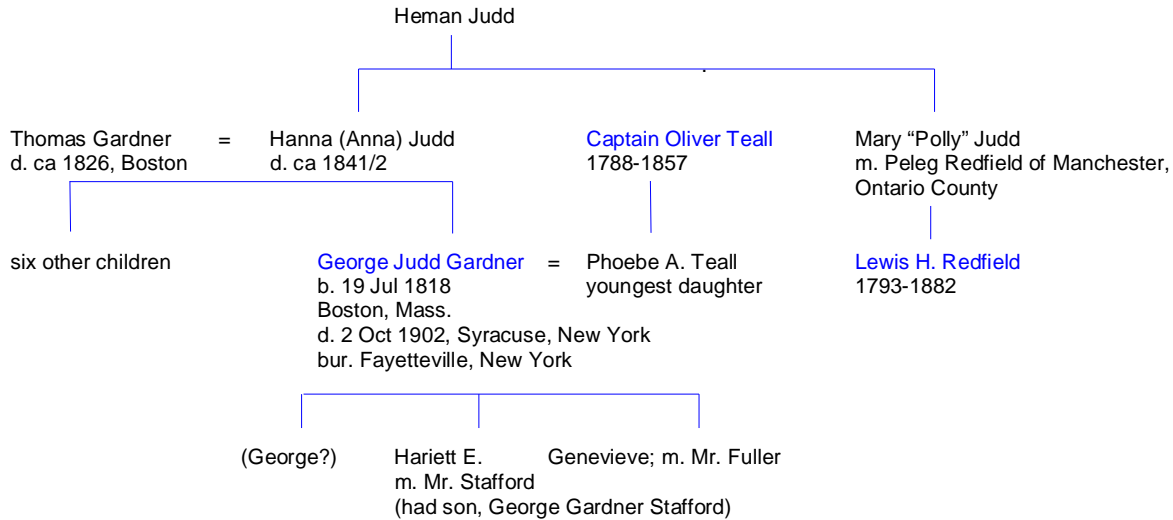
His heart began to fail in 1902, and while attempting to recuperate at Spring-Cliff, Jay, New York, he died on July 17th of that year. His historical work set a precedent which was admirably emulated by Ill. Herbert W. Greenland.

Source: "100 Year of Scottish Rite Masonry 1862-1962" by William G. Peacher, M. D., pgs. 17 & 18, photo pg. 16.

See also, photo pg. 34 (facing), "History of the Central City Bodies, A.A.S.R. - Seventy-Five Years of Scottish Rite Masonry in the Valley of Syracuse," by Dr. William L. Cummings, 33°, 1937.

Biography copied from *Ars Collegium*, Vol. 1, No. 1, journal of the Onondaga Masonic Districts Historical Society.

George Judd Gardner
 Genealogical Sketch and Time-line.
 compiled by R.:W.: Gary L. Heinmiller. Area 11 Historian



George Judd Gardner residences & misc. time-line items:

- 1818 b. Boston, Mass.
- 1826 ae 8 removed to New York City, following the death of his father.
- 1829/30 ae 11 lived in NYC 4 years; removed to Manchester, Ontario County; lived with his uncle, Peleg Redfield for 3 months.
- 1829 ae 11 George removed to Syracuse to work as a 'printer's devil' and newspaper carrier with his uncle, Lewis H. Redfield, who had recently removed from Onondaga Hollow to the city. Lewis was publisher of the *Onondaga Register* and *Syracuse Gazette*.
- 1831 ae 13 Lewis retired from newspaper, 'retaining his book store' (on the present site of the Gridley Building), in which George became a clerk.
- 1841 ae 23 George succeeded Lewis as proprietor of the book store.
- 1842 ae 24 Initiated into Oneida Lodge No. 70, I.O.O.F., Utica, New York; withdrew 1843 becoming a Charter Member of Onondaga Lodge No. 79, serving sixty years, until his death.
- 1846 ae 28 George became teller of the Onondaga County bank.
- 1854 ae 36 He, with others, organized the Onondaga Bank, of which he became Cashier.
- 1856 ae 38 Raised in Central City Lodge No. 305, F&AM, 10 June; serving in many bodies and offices until his death. Honorary Member, A.A.S.R., 33°, 7 Jun 1866 (ae 48).
- 1860 ae 42 Resigned from the Onondaga Bank.
- 1861-1866 Appointed Assistant Postmaster, serving until the expiration of the appointment term.
- 1863 ae 45 Became a life member of the (Onondaga) Historical society (Association).
- 1866-1872 Secretary of the New York State Life insurance company, until its reorganization.
- 1872-1897 'for years afterward he acted as executor and administrator of estates and general accountant, and was Secretary and Treasurer of the Genesee and Water Street Railroad company, which he assisted in organizing.'
- 1902 ae 84 died in the Adirondacks, at Spring-Criff (Cliff?), Jay, Essex County, while recuperating from 'cardiovascular disease.'