

DEDICATION OF THE SHRINE

By Edward R. Foreman

MR. CHAIRMAN and Friends: Sullivan's Campaign was of such major importance in the history of the Nation, and of New York State, that Governor Alfred E. Smith was invited to participate in these exercises to-day; also Dr. Alexander C. Flick, New York State Historian.

Though previous official arrangements have prevented them from being present in the body, that they are with us in spirit is evidenced by the correspondence which your Chairman has received, culminating in a telegram from the State Historian, that I am asked to read:

ALBANY, N. Y.

September 12, 1927.

Edward R. Foreman, City Historian,
Edgerton Park, Rochester, N. Y.

Preparations for the Saratoga Celebration make it difficult for me to fulfil Governor Smith's request to represent the State of New York at the Cuylerville Celebration, September 17. Will you address the gathering as the State's Representative and explain the Governor's regret at unavoidable absence.

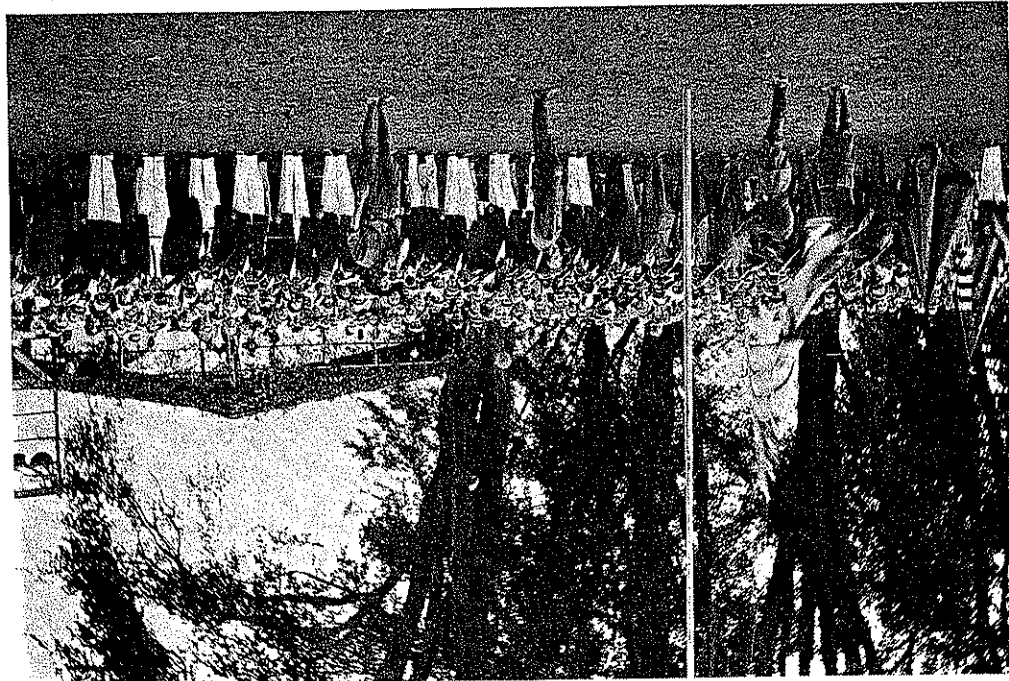
A. C. FLICK.

This message speaks for itself, and it will become part of the archives of our exercises, indicating a Statewide interest in this celebration.

On behalf of the Livingston County Historical Society, this Park and its memorials are now, in gratitude, accepted as a perpetual trust from the hands of the generous donors whose voluntary contributions have furnished the necessary funds.

This Wayside Shrine is made sacred by historic associations of a past century. Shrines erected close to death are often viewed through tears. Here, the lapse of time has removed all possibility of personal distress; but the glory dies not, though the grief is past:

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The bugler sounds "taps" as the flag is raised to half-staff during the Legion ceremonies.

Nothing is here for tears, nothing to wail
 Or knock the breast, no weakness, no contempt,
 Dispraise or blame—nothing but well and fair,
 And what may quiet us in death so noble.

By the dedication of this Shrine the Livingston County Historical Society has completed the enterprise of memorializing the brave soldiers who fell within the present limits of Livingston County, and were here buried. The initial suggestion which led to the erection of the marble monument in 1901 at the site of the Groveland ambush came from William Pryor Letchworth. In his letter to the Livingston County Historical Society, written March 19, 1897, Mr. Letchworth said: "Some of the bones of these men were removed to Rochester in 1841; but the greater part of their remains had become incorporated with the soil where they fell, and can *never* be removed from the spot made sacred by their blood."

As a representative of the Rochester Historical Society, to-day I express belated regrets that eighty-six years ago these sacred graves of your heroic dead should have been desecrated by over-zealous citizens of the counties of Monroe and Livingston, to make a civic holiday, under a great show of patriotism.

Prior to his death in 1873, Colonel Lockwood L. Doty called these graves "the first patriotic landmarks of Livingston County"; and in his manuscript which he left he referred to the removal to Rochester in these words: "Though these rites evince the reverence in which the patriot dead were held, yet a just feeling would dictate that their remains should have been allowed to sleep, uncoffined, in the rude graves beneath the sod moistened by their life-blood, where they had been placed two-thirds of a century before"; and Colonel Doty added: "Let us raise a fitting memorial to mark the spot which must forever be dear to us and our posterity, that whosoever, in all coming time, shall turn his eye hither, may behold that the place is not undistinguished."

These exercises to-day are a consummation of Colonel Doty's exhortation, and to him credit is due.

I will say no more about the removal to Rochester, because the entire story reflects no credit on my city; the only redeeming feature being the patriotic action of Irondequoit Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution which finally secured decent sepulture for the fragmentary remains of Sullivan's men.

At least we can here quote with approval that sentiment from Governor Seward's address at Mount Hope Cemetery in 1841, when, in referring to the patriot dead, he said: "God forgive the man who does not feel his blood grow warmer at the recollection of the daring, the devotion, the patriotism of those who thus acted and who thus fell."

And now we address ourselves to Lieutenant Thomas Boyd and Sergeant Michael Parker who, on this spot, met death undaunted in the line of duty.

These men stood the test and were unafraid. They revealed that to conquer death one has but to die. Here they gave eternal example of endurance under lingering torture, proving with their lives the worth of valor, the sacredness of honor, and the immortality of heroism. The march of war has been followed by the march of peace. For us, an empire, for themselves, the glory of remembrance. The memory of their courage will pass to others like a living flame.

We do well to dedicate this Shrine. It matters very much to a people to erect memorials to impress the coming generations and themselves with the significance of what has gone before. Such monuments say to the brave past, rise and walk before us, that we may realize you!

In great emergencies men are moved by example more than by precept. It is the traditions handed down from past generations that arouse public conscience and determination in every time of crisis, and it is these traditions that hold us steady in times of peace. It is the memory of the loss and suffering others have endured that we might be free and happy that stirs us like a bugle call.

It has been said that "the flag of a nation is its hopes, and that its monuments are its memories." But it is also true that the flag of a country is its memories, and its

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monuments are its hopes. Both are needed. Each calls aloud to the other. If you should go into a land and see it covered with monuments and nowhere see the flag, you would know that the flag had gone down in the dust, and that its hopes were ended. But if you should everywhere see the flag, and monuments nowhere, you could well ask, "Has this people no past to speak of? If so, why are there no memorials?" But when you see the flag flying above proud monuments, as it is here to-day, then you know that we are a people great both in our hopes and in our memories, and who live doubly through the deeds of our dead.

A people who take no pride in the achievements of their patriot dead will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered.

Longfellow said: "I like that ancient Saxon phrase which calls the burial ground, 'God's Acre'!" Therefore, in honor of the gallant men who died here, we do now dedicate this "God's Acre"; and we dedicate this memorial stone, which is erected to thwart oblivion, in the sweet spirit of remembrance—that secret charm by which the absent are recalled and the lost are found. And by this dedication we invoke that power of the human spirit by which the past is made present, and the dead live again.

Forever, may this Wayside Shrine recall the lion-hearted boys who here sounded the divine note of sacrifice, and by their example of fearlessness teach all the generations which come after them to face life without fear.

Spirits of Lieutenant Boyd and Sergeant Parker! We, who must live, salute you, who found the strength to die!

For the dead a great stillness falls; a life's affection is raised beyond chance or change by that last of sacraments, a soldier's death in the line of duty, battling for a just cause, looking to no reward except faith kept even as he passes to the unseen.

And here, Boyd and Parker will ever be remembered as *dead on the field of honor!*

On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set to-day a votive stone;
That memory may their deed redeem
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

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DEDICATION OF THE SHRINE

Spirit, that made those heroes dare
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and thee.

☪

Music by the Johnston Memorial Pipe Band during the:

(a) Unveiling of Boyd and Parker Bronze Tablet by Mr. William P. Boyd.

(b) Placing of wreath by Miss Ruth Barber for the Daughters of the American Revolution, and flowers by Girl Scouts.

Ceremonies by the American Legion were under the direction of County Commander Edward E. Brogan, and comprised: Raising the flag; salute to the dead by firing squad; taps.

Benediction by Rev. J. W. Denness Cooper, of Geneseo.



Boyd and Parker float entered in the historical parade by citizens of Conesus. Unusual interest attached to this float because of the persons who had parts in the tableau which represented "Finding the Bodies of Boyd and Parker." Lieutenant Boyd was portrayed by Paul Boyd, his distant cousin. The part of Paul Sanborn, original finder of the bodies, was taken by his great grandson, H. K. Penning. Parker was portrayed by William K. McVicar.

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A NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT OF THE CELEBRATION

THE following is the account, in part, of the Boyd and Parker dedication ceremonies appearing in the *Livingston Republican*, Geneseo, New York, in its issue of September 22, 1927:

The big day has come and gone, and Livingston County has conducted the most successful, the most spectacular and most significant event in its history; and looking back now in retrospect there can be but one verdict, and that is that there was no flaw in the entire proceedings. The weather was perfect, a cloudless sky and a temperature of 80 degrees giving September 17th a midsummer aspect and assuring comfort to all who made the trip to Cuylerville last Saturday.

For many months in advance the preparations for the event had been under way. Hon. L. R. Doty, at the Dansville meeting of the Livingston County Historical Society last winter, stated that the Society had three things in mind: 1st, To mark suitably all historic spots in the county; 2d, To inaugurate a course of local history in the schools, at least in elemental form; 3d, To conduct a pageant at Cuylerville in September in commemoration of Boyd and Parker. The first of these is receiving its proper attention; the second has been launched through the publication of a recent pamphlet about Sullivan's Expedition, which is really only a beginning; the third was last Saturday's celebration at Cuylerville.

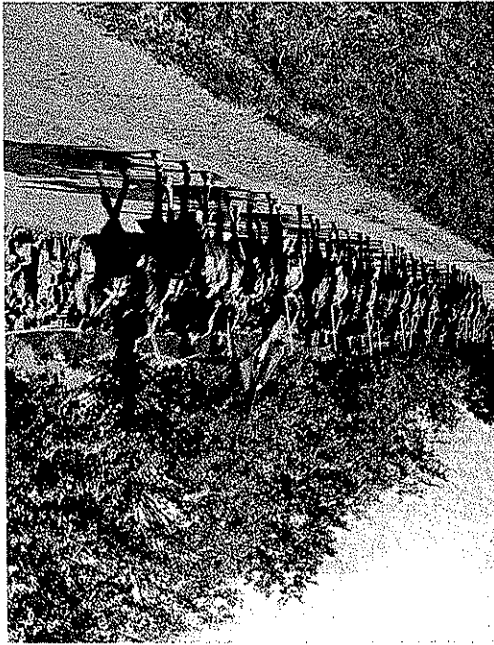
On the Wednesday prior to the celebration a few of the society officers and chairmen of committees gathered at the Wayside Shrine, as the plot of ground is generally now called, and the ceremony of fastening the bronze tablet to the boulder was briefly conducted, Judge Doty performing the significant task.

The tablet was placed there ahead of the celebration, because the date, September 14, was the anniversary of the slaying of Boyd and Parker. Three days later, a stooped old man, bearing upwards of 80 years, but still showing some of the resiliency of youth, removed the flag from the boulder, thus officially unveiling it. That man was William P. Boyd of Conesus, and it was highly appropriate that he should perform the act of unveiling the boulder, for he is a kinsman of the gallant Thomas Boyd who was slain with his companion, Sergeant Michael Parker, within a few feet of that boulder 148 years ago. Twenty thousand people stood with bowed heads while a rifle volley was fired over the boulder, and the day's exercises were closed.

Along the highways came countless automobiles; overhead were three airplanes in sight of the crowd almost all day, yet too commonplace to cause much comment; on the speakers' stand was an amplifying device so that all could hear, even many rods away; the roads were of most modern construction, cement or macadam highways

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Left: The modern motor fire apparatus exhibited by the various villages contrasted strikingly with some of the old-time hand-drawn carts. Right: Troop M of Geneseo leading the parade.



BOYD AND PARKER



Comrades George Williams and Edward G. Peterson, surviving members of A. A. Curtiss Post, G. A. R., Geneseo, rode in the parade, wearing uniforms of Civil War days. They drew hearty applause along the route of march for their representation of "The Blue and the Gray."

leading to the celebration from all directions, and the parallel railroad lines of the Pennsylvania and Erie, one on each side of the Valley with other railroads within easy distance, all tended to show rather forcefully how far we have progressed since the days when General Sullivan and his men came into this Valley to strike the last blow at Indians and Indian outrages on white settlements. At the celebration in 1841 there were some of Sullivan's soldiers present, old men in their eighties, but those men had not seen the same progress since their early manhood that has come since, nor even one-hundredth part as much.

On the speakers' platform last Saturday sat Major John Lauderdale, who was present at the ceremony in 1841. He alone of the crowd of 8,000 present at that date was present also last Saturday.

But with all the progress that has come since 1841 there was one thing in those days which we no longer have in this Valley, and that was the old Genesee Valley Canal, which bore that famous cavalcade to and from Cuylerville, starting at Rochester and returning also by canal to that city. It would be romantic to have that canal yet, but romance must yield to practical necessity, and a railroad has taken its place and occupies its old route.

Conspicuous in last Saturday's proceedings was John T. Fetherston of Cuylerville, who as President of the Livingston County Historical Society, has taken a most active part in all the work of the past months. Assisted most ably by willing committees and fellow workers he could not have been anything but successful. The American Legion under the personal charge of County Commander Edward E. Brogan of Dansville did invaluable work in planning the parade. Elbert Foland of Geneseo and Professor Robert A. Greene of the

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A NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT

Normal faculty were the committee in charge of the decorations and they showed extraordinary ability. It is the general verdict that never was there a more beautiful parade of floats. Every detail was perfect. Many visitors who have seen parades and pageants in countless numbers through many years have said that they never saw any that could equal the one of last Saturday. Each float showed originality and artistic sense that made it an object of beauty.

The Town Committeemen who had charge of raising a total of \$2,500 to conduct the celebration, actually raised a much greater sum, and the balance will be used as a fund for the care of the Plot and for a nucleus for the coming Sullivan celebration at the same place in 1929. Other committees were equally enthusiastic, and although their members lived in distant towns they were always present at every meeting to report progress and to encourage the President in realizing that the celebration was surely going to be staged as a triumph.

The floats included a series illustrating incidents connected with the Sullivan Campaign, beginning with George Washington making the decision to send out the expedition, and concluding with the torture of Boyd and Parker, while there followed a line of floats representing the peace and progress that our country has enjoyed since those Revolutionary days.

The parade was led by Grand Marshal W. J. Tennent of Caledonia, mounted. The formation was as follows:

FIRST DIVISION

Marshal, John A. Bishop, Vice Commander, Livingston County American Legion
Troop M, New York State Cavalry, Perry C. Euchner, Captain
Mt. Morris American Legion Community Band
American Legion Posts of Livingston County

Nine Boyd and Parker Floats

Conesus Float (Finding of bodies of Boyd and Parker)
Caledonia Float (World War scene)

Pomona Grange and other County Organizations

SECOND DIVISION

Marshal, James F. Ball

Boys' Band of Dansville

Towns of North Dansville, Sparta, West Sparta, Ossian, Springwater,

Caledonia, Livonia, Conesus

THIRD DIVISION

Marshal, Captain Dallas C. Newton

Band from Groveland (Sonyea Band)

Towns of Groveland, Mt. Morris, Geneseo, Avon, Lima, Nunda,

Portage, Leicester, York

Included in the march were bands, as mentioned above, which played most inspiring music, putting the right thrill into the marchers. The towns were represented by lodges, fire departments, and such organizations as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Red Cross workers, juvenile bands and countless others. The parade was fully a mile and a half in length and was a trifle less than an hour in passing a given point. When the speakers' platform had been passed the parade dispersed.

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At a very early hour in the morning the cars began assembling, and long before noon the parking places were well filled. The traffic problem was excellently handled by a most efficient police force under the charge of Sheriff Harnden and his deputies with 100 specially deputized officers assisting, while the State Troopers added their valuable aid. Not an accident or untoward incident marred the doings of the day. Policing was unnecessary except in guiding the traffic. The so-called "strong arm of the law" was not required in a single instance. And another pleasing feature was that in all that crowd of 20,000 people not one seemed to be there for any purpose but the purpose of the celebration, to do honor to the memory of Boyd and Parker and celebrate the dedication of the Plot where their memorial boulder stands, with the most dignified and appropriate ceremonies. Never for the smallest fraction of an instant was that feature lost sight of.

Under the charge of Luderne Green, lunch stands were provided where the crowd found refreshment.

In the middle of the afternoon, the parade having made its march and the crowd having assembled, the exercises from the platform were started. The speakers faced the north while thousands of assembled people, seated in chairs or on the ground, or standing, remained in rapt attention through a most interesting and significant program. On the platform with the speakers were the officers of the event, the members of the most prominent committees, representatives of many historical societies, guests of honor and press correspondents.

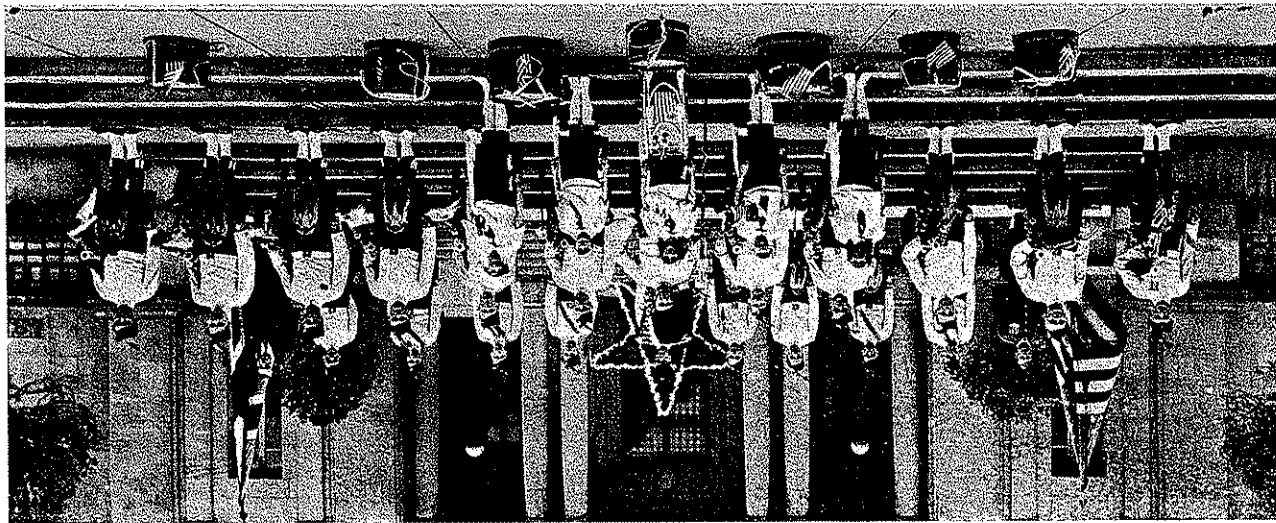
Among these guests, the renowned Johnston's Memorial Pipe Band, of Rochester, most generously put at the service of the Society for the occasion by Mr. John White Johnston, added color and picturesqueness to the meeting and provided thorough enjoyment with its stirring music; and the kilted lassies completely won the audience with their beautifully executed dances to the accompaniment of the bagpipes.

President Fetherston, in charge of the afternoon program, presented Rev. M. C. Wall, of Avon, who made the invocation, and the speakers, Dr. Arthur C. Parker, Director of the Rochester Municipal Museum and an author of eminence, and former United States Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr.

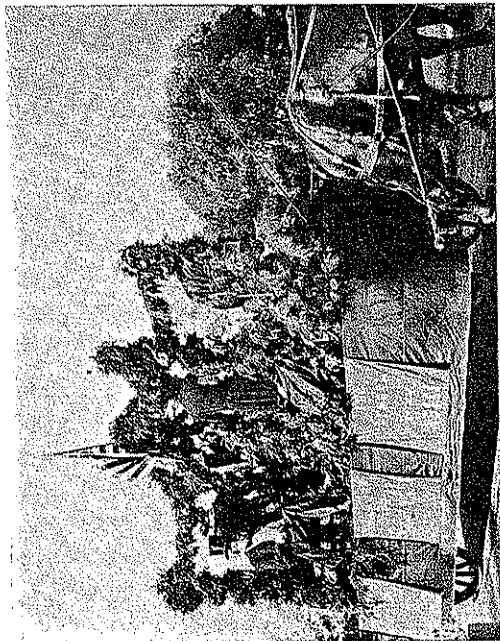
Edward R. Foreman, Rochester City Historian and a distinguished authority on historical subjects, dedicated the Shrine. The unveiling of the boulder by William P. Boyd has already been mentioned. Miss Ruth Barber, of Livonia, representing the Daughters of the American Revolution, placed a wreath beside the boulder and the Girl Scout Troop of Dansville strewed flowers at its base. Under the direction of Commander Brogan the American Legion raised the flag on a pole erected north of the Shrine, while a firing squad delivered the rifle salute, and the bugler sounded taps, to close the ceremonies of the Legion.

Benediction by Rev. J. W. D. Cooper followed and the day's ceremonies concluded with the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by the assemblage, all hands uniting to lead the singing.

Old Glory at half staff waved in mute tribute to Boyd and Parker whose names are now more revered than ever. The celebration in their memory had been a complete success. Peace to their ashes; yes, peace, recognition, honor and glory.



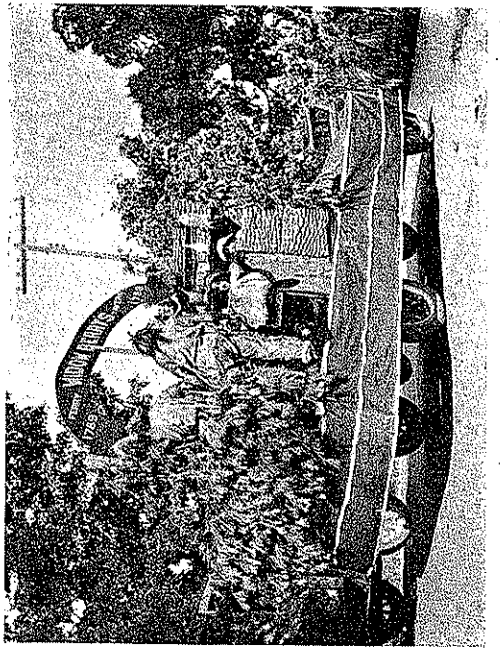
Johnston Memorial Pipe Band, of Rochester, N. Y., John White Johnston, leader.



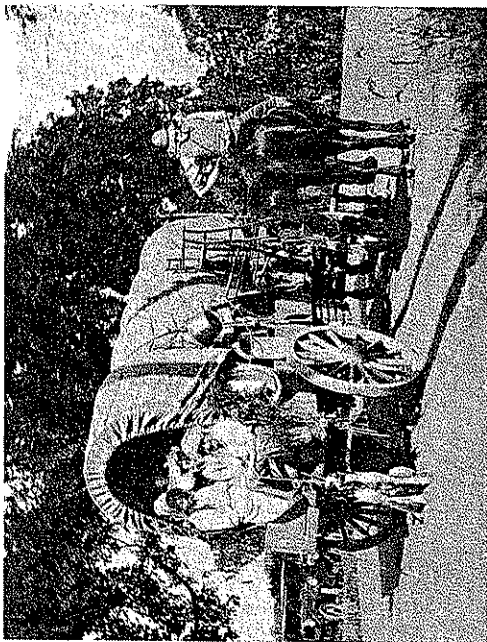
"Makers of Mt. Morris"—a horse-drawn float entered by the Mt. Morris Chamber of Commerce.



"Big Tree Treaty"—a float prepared in Geneseo to commemorate the treaty by which, in 1797, a great area west of the Genesee River was transferred by the Seneca Indians to Robert Morris, famous as the financier of the Revolution.



"Widow Berry's Ferry Tavern"—an effective float arranged by a group of interested persons in Avon.



This realistic covered wagon, contributed by Cuylerville, made an attractive picture. It was one of several such wagons, and with them helped to give the parade a distinctive pioneer touch.

THE HISTORICAL PARADE

A Community Undertaking Under the Direction of the American Legion

As noted in the Report of the President, the Livingston County Historical Society asked the County organization of the American Legion to take charge of the Historical Parade which was to be an important feature of the Boyd and Parker Dedication. Under the leadership of the Commander, Mr. Edward E. Brogan, and the Adjutant, Mr. Louis H. Frankewich, and other prominent Legionnaires, interest was aroused throughout the County.

Patriotic, civic, and fraternal organizations, and groups of individuals responded so enthusiastically that even the sponsors of the parade were surprised at the number and variety of the floats. Silk American flags were awarded as prizes at the reviewing stand, which later became the speakers' stand. Mrs. W. F. Harvey of the American Legion Auxiliary, Lima, served as chairman of the judging committee. Subsequently the American Legion awarded prizes and citations to the organizations and individuals chiefly responsible for the success of the parade.

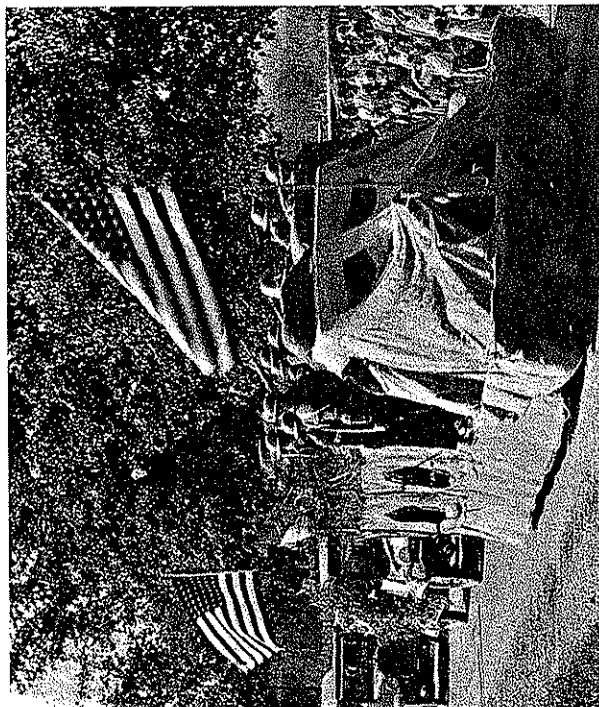
An effort has been made to obtain data for an accurate and complete record of the parade, but in certain instances the desired information has not been forthcoming. In some cases the information provided has been much fuller than in others. The pages having been held open as long as possible, it is now necessary to go to press, making this explanation of what appears to be oversight or injustice.

It is regretted that more pictures of floats and other entries in the parade could not be used as illustrations in this book. It has been possible only to show some which were representative and typical.

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"The Spirit of '76"—a faithful reproduction of Willard's famous painting of that name. This float was provided by citizens of the Town of Portage.



"The Spirit of '18"—a World War float devised by Matthew Cleary Post No. 255, American Legion, Caledonia.

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Personnel of the Parade by Villages

AVON

Avon Fire Company—Fire Truck.
Joseph Gallipeau Post No. 294, American Legion—Float, "Sullivan and His Staff Discuss Campaign Plans" (Martin P. Coyne as General Sullivan; Kenneth Wright, Fred Rowe, Theodore Bolton, and William Wheeler as Aides.)

Avon Historical Society—Float, "The First Store."
Mrs. George Squires, Miss Nisbet, Miss Linda Puffer, Mrs. James D. Anderson—In charge of Float, "Widow Berry's Ferry Tavern, 1841" (Mrs. H. I. Hall as Widow Berry; Dorris May Wright as her daughter; C. Ladd Prosser as the trader; J. D. Anderson, Jr., as an Indian Chief; Clinton Brooks and Rilly S. Clark as Indians.)
Village Board of Avon—W. Clark, Village Clerk.
Board of Fire Commissioners—F. Van Allen, A. H. Biser.

CALEDONIA

Matthew Cleary Post No. 255, American Legion—World War Float, showing machine gun nests, dugouts, and trench (Howard Amnin in charge).

Red Men—Float, wigwam and Indians, with members marching (Float Chairman: Sol Holiday).

Others who aided: Caledonia Advertiser-Era; Mrs. James Tennent.

CONESUS

Community Float, "Finding of the Bodies of Boyd and Parker" (Paul Boyd as Lieutenant Boyd; William K. McVicar as Sergeant Parker; H. K. Penning as Paul Sanborn.)

Chairmen of Town Committee: John McVicar, James Griffin.
Chairmen of Decoration Committee: Mr. and Mrs. George G. Penning.

Assistants: Mrs. William Welch, Mrs. Frank Smith, W. F. Coe.
Colonial flag made by Mrs. John McVicar. Lumber donated by James Griffin. Truck loaned and driven by John Alger. Arrowheads and Indian tomahawks loaned by George Penning. The tree on the float, to which Boyd was tied, was cut from the side of the Sullivan camp at the head of Conesus Lake.

CUYLERVILLE

Chairman of Town Committee: Charles J. Welch.
Community Float, "Covered Wagon" (Herbert Hanna as the driver; Anna Welch, Viola Alger, Freda Gibson, Gladys Alger, Jessie Alger as passengers.)

Committee in charge of building the float: Anthony Christiano, John Welch, Fred Oakley, Roy Harris, Ray Alger, Wilber Hutton, Henry Van Tyne.

Cuylerville Fire Truck: Anthony Christiano, Paul Clark, James Longfoot, Joseph Fracchi, Clifford Alger, Oliver Olmstead, Anthony Ladelfa, William Sattora, Donald Peluso, Harry Jones, Carl Fracchi, Leonard Celentano.

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"Moscow Academy—1817," depicting a notable school of early days. It was built by citizens of Leicester, and was filled with people in old-fashioned costumes.



The Pomona Grange float, a bowerlike affair representing effectively the fruits of the harvest.

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THE HISTORICAL PARADE

DANSVILLE

Marshal—F. Jay Smith.

Daniel Goho Post No. 87, American Legion—Float, "Brant Re-proaches Butler" (Dansville High School students: Allman Culbertson as Butler; Fred Robson as Brant; Thomas O'Herron, Elmer Smith, Dwight Veith, as British soldiers; Jay Kramer, Carl Dietsche, George Karns, Thomas Sonne, Milford Robertson, as Indians).

Red Men and Pocahontas—Float (Walter Gunther, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Sorg, Irving Eschrich, Miss Ida Dendlinger, Mrs. Elmer Bassett, Mrs. Nicholas Freas, William Herrick, Catherine Boylan).

Clara Barton Chapter, American Red Cross—Car, bearing legend "Clara Barton Founded American Red Cross in Dansville in 1881," carrying girls in Red Cross uniforms: Jane Van Deventer, Margaret Walsworth, Emma Stoner.

Eugene Stiegler, Fire Chief.

Fearless Hook and Ladder Company—Fire Truck.

Jackson Hose Company—Fire Truck.

Village Officers—C. E. Pickard, President.

Boy Scout Troops 38, 39, and 40—John R. Blum, Scout Commissioner.

Girl Scouts—Miss Elma L. Whiteman, Leader.

Boys' Band—Professor Surra, Director.

Firing Squad (from Daniel Goho Post)—Leo Fries, Sergeant; Ira Bates, Albert Lang, Abner Gilbert, Paul Knowlton, Fred Goho, Nicholas Freas, Clarence Short, Martin Schledorn.

Bugler—Wilbur Preble, Boy Scout Troop 39.

Lynn E. Pickard and John Acomb dropped flowers from Mr. Pickard's airplane during the ceremonies at the Wayside Shrine.

Others who aided: C. I. McNair, P. E. Blum, Charles Reigart, W. J. Braman, J. M. Stull, P. E. Brodt, Max Huber, Carl Holbrook, B. H. Knapp, E. E. Quick, William Schwendler.

GENESE

J. Livingston Wadsworth Post No. 271, American Legion Float, "Big Tree, Loyal Seneca Indian, Mourns the Folly of His People," Community Float—"Big Tree Treaty."

GROVELAND

Community Float—"Boyd and Parker Ambushed." Float made possible by Gamble Wilson, Dr. W. T. Shanahan (Soneya), Mr. and Mrs. Murray Gamble.

LEICESTER

Chairman of Town Committee: Charles J. Welch.

Community Float, "Moscow Academy, 1817" (students: Irving Redman, Elinor Strobel, Gordon Cicero, James Cicero, Blakesley Dodge, Wayne Pendergast, Carl Strobel, Winifred Welch, Ermine Eldridge, Margaret Curtis, Ritta Brough, Helen Mahoney, Austin Emery, Genevieve Gill).

Committee in charge of building the float: B. P. Reynolds, W. J. Welch, Robert Boies, J. H. Fitzgerald (driver of truck).
Fire Truck—John Lynch, Chief.

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"Trials of the Pioneers in the Genesee Country"—presented by Belwood Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Mt. Morris. The covered wagon used was eighty years old. Other details regarding the float and escort will be found in the text.



The Red Men and Pocahontas members in Dansville brought this realistic Indian float. The enthusiastic response of fraternal and other organizations to the appeal that this parade be made "the best that Livingston County has ever had" produced results that were beyond all expectation.

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