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113 Main St., Batavia, N. Y.

## If Need Be, a Land to Die For

(Continued from page 97)

speaker was Emory Upton, later a Major General. This was Company "K"'s first baptism of fire. At Appomattox Court House, Va., another Genesee County soldier, Lieutenant Colonel Ely Samuel Parker, gained undying fame. The second sergeant of this "K" company, Charles F. Rand, of Batavia, became a captain.

It is wholly unfair to the hundreds of other Genesee County young men, who gave their military services to their country, and to their kin, to refrain from mentioning them. Allotted space forbids reference to others than the famous Eight New York Heavy Artillery of 1,838 recruits, raised entirely in Genesee, Niagara and Orleans Counties, its casualties being officially reported as 1,171; the records of the War Department disclosing its loss at Cold Harbor to have been larger than sustained by any other regiment in any battle of the war, with one exception.

THREE GENESEE COUNTY MILITARY HEROES . . . Captain Charles F. Rand, 4 Liberty Street, Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y.; was the first volunteer in the entire United States to offer his military service to President Lincoln, to aid in subduing the Confederate armies in the war between the states.

Major General Emory Upton, of Upton, Town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., at Bull Run, Va., July 21, 1861, personally discharged the first piece of artillery, which opened, in behalf of the North, the War Between the States. In so doing he was shot by a rebel bullet which on its course into his left wrist, fore arm, elbow and side, passed through his pocket Testament and the original order of July 8, '61, to him by General T. W. Sherman, assigning him there. This Testament and order, plainly showing strain and tear, are, today in the Holland Purchase Historical Society's Museum at Batavia. Upton, as a Lieutenant Colonel of Engineers became the out-

standing hero at Sportsylvania Court House, Va., May 9, '64. With twelve picked regiments of infantry from the Army of the Potomac, by Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant's order he attacked and almost took possession of "The Bloody Angle," resulting next day in his promotion to Brigadier General, at age 24, and Major General at the same age.

Author of the book, "Tactics of the United States Army," then and since its official text, Commandant of Cadets at the United States Military Academy, (at age 30), General Upton died, by his own hand while in ill health, March 15, 1885, at age 45, while in command of the Presidio, California.

During the recent Sesquicentennial celebration of the founding of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, General Upton was immortalized among the young Academy's three outstanding founders. He was the foremost tactician of the institution and the first to recognize the relation between diplomatic policy and military requirements.

Brigadier General Ely Samuel Parker, full-blooded Tomawanda Seneca Indian, was born at Indian Falls, Genesee County, N. Y., 1818. As Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant's military secretary, he drafted the terms of surrender between Grant and Lieutenant General Robert E. Lee, at Appomattox Court House, Va., April 9, 1865, which terminated the War of the Rebellion.

THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR OF 1898 called into United States military service solely by volunteer enlistment 39 from this county, 36 in the Army, 3 in the Navy, the largest number with the 202d, New York State Volunteer Infantry, in Cuba.

TWO AND KOREA found Genesee County youth overwhelmingly anxious to serve their country in its Military establishment abroad and at home. During all three wars many at home gave unselfishly of their money, time and services to aid the home boys who served away from their firesides.

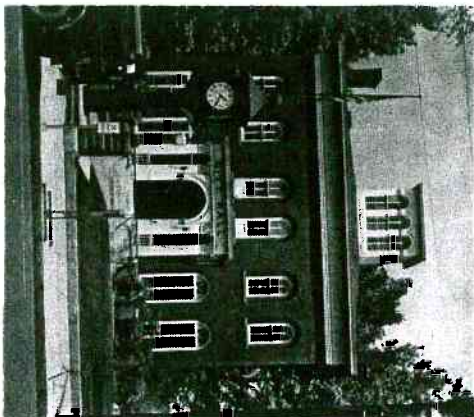
## If Need Be, a Land to Die For

The following entitled Veterans' Associations in Genesee County keep the home-fires of patriotism aflame, for those who gave their lives; and to those yet with us, in whose Military and Naval services, in the three epochs, we all take pride: In Alabama Myron Ground All-Indian American Legion Post No. 1322; in Batavia, Glenn S. Loomis American Legion Post No. 332, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 1602, Disabled American Veterans Post No. 43, and Michael Strollo Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 955; In Bergen, Sackett-Merrill-White American Legion Post No. 575; In Le Roy, Borts-Fiorito American Legion Post No. 576, Percy Luttrell Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 335, an Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9590; in Oakfield, Hiram Lushman American Legion Post No. 626 and Ira Spring Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 273; in Corfu, Veterans of Foreign Wars Community Post No. 8642.

**SENECA AND TONAWANDA INDIANS IN WARS.** Despite their having been allies of Britain in the American Revolutionary War, 600 of them, (of whom William Parker, father of Brigadier General Ely Samuel Parker, was the first) volunteered for military service in the war of 1812. They fought against their former friends, in behalf of the United States, along the Niagara frontier in then Genesee County. The original list of the 600, in the handwriting of William Parker, is in Huntington Library-Museum in California.

Their position was at first enigmatical and undefined. Their Chiefs, prominent among whom was Red Jacket, at first counseled maintenance of neutrality, which was unfavorably construed by the original Genesee County border settlers. Every breeze from Canada brought rumors of contemplated Indian forays with tomahawk and scalping knife, upon our Genesee County pioneers.

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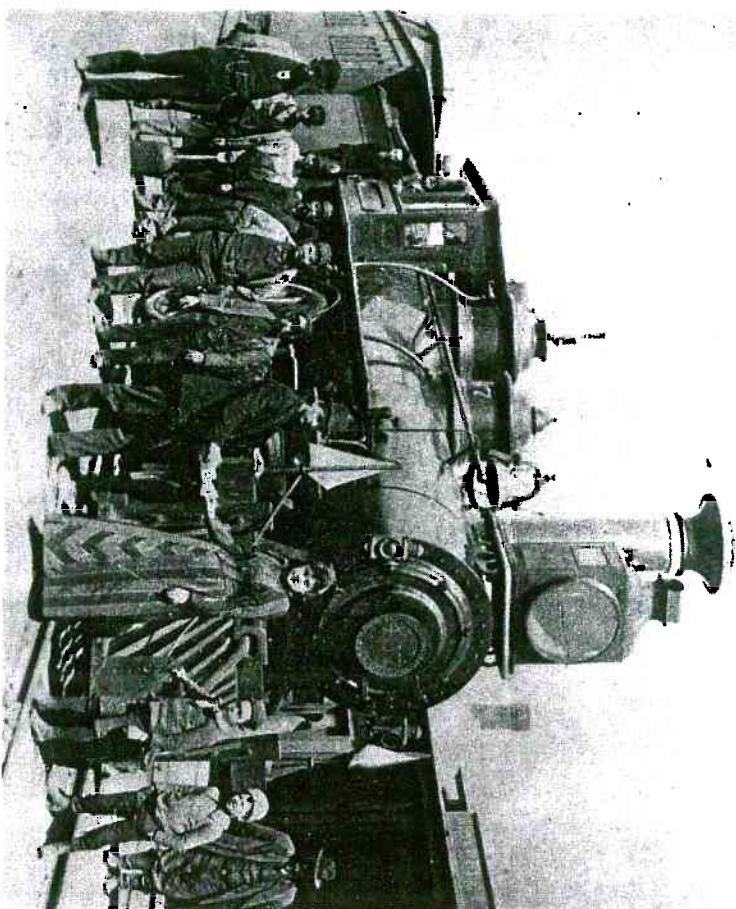


James Brisbane's former home, Batavia

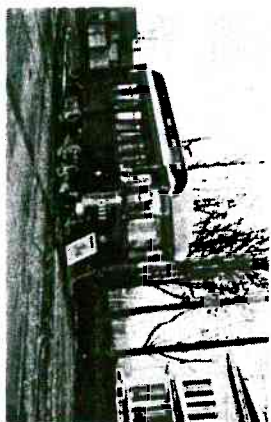
Judge Erastus Granger, then United States Indian Agent, residing on his farm on Buffalo Creek Reservation, now Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, conferred with the Seneca chiefs. As a result in 1812 the Seneca Nation, in Council, made and issued the following Declaration of War, probably the only document of its kind ever penned by an American Indian Nation or Tribe:

"We, the Chiefs and Counselors of the Six Nations of Indians, residing in the State of New York, do hereby proclaim to all war chiefs and warriors of the Six Nations that war is declared on our part against the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. Therefore, we command and advise all the war chiefs and warriors of the Six Nations to call forth immediately the warriors under them, and put them in motion to protect their rights and liberties."

Out of an average population of 450 Indians residing upon the Reservation, one-third have served in the armed forces of the United States in World Wars I and II and the Korean campaign.



Mrs. Wren, of Starford, was the first woman telegraph operator with the New York Central in this area. The engine is the No. 467 in 1886.



The first street car used in Batavia, in front of the Sweezy home on East Main Street.



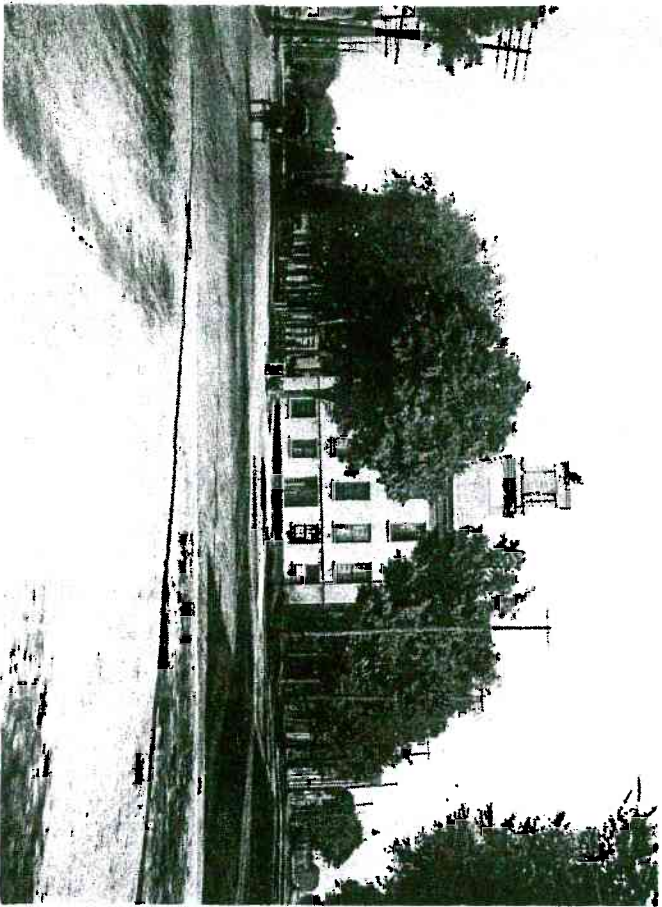
Free Will Baptist Church, West Bethany.

"By the sketch of the town whose name deriving from mine, I wish you to suppress, and to change to that of its founder, or, if you prefer it, into that of 'Batavia,' (in honor of the republic to which the Dutch proprietors belonged).

—Letter from Paul Busti to Joseph Elllicott, 1801

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WE ARE THE PAST FROM WHENCE WE  
CAME . . . THE FUTURE WHICH  
OUR STEPS WILL TROD



The Genesee County Court House stands at the junction of two ancient Indian trails

"The land of Ga-nun-no, or the 'Empire State' as you love to call it was once laced by our Trails from Albany to Buffalo . . . Trails that we had trod for centuries . . . Trails worn so deep by the feet of the Iroquois, that they became your roads of travel as your possessions gradually eat into those of my people! Your roads still traverse those same lines of communication which bound one part of the Long House to the other. Have we, the first holders of this prosperous region, no longer a share in your history? Glad were your fathers to set down upon the threshold of the Long House. Rich did they hold themselves in getting the mere sweepings from its door. Had our forefathers spurned you from it when the French were thundering at the opposite side to get a passage through, and drive you into the sea, what ever has been the fate of other Indians, we might still have a nation, and . . . I, instead of pleading here for the privilege of lingering within your borders, I . . . I might have had a country."

—Dr. Peter Wilson, Iroquois Chief

## We Keep the Western Door Epilogue

**Q**HE bark-cabined hamlets, the occasional plots of Indian corn, beans and squash—DIOHEKO—are long gone. Their heritage remains. It is found in vast patterns of golden grainlands, greening pastures, parallel plantings of truck crops, the dark dots of woodlots. Here and there on the waterways, spread white-spired villages, and, at DE-O-ON'-GO-WA, the Great Meeting Place, is Batavia—the city. GENISH-A-AU—Genesee!

At the end of a century and a half, this is, still, a country of small farms, small industries, and small communities. There is, still, about us room for a man to be himself. There is space to be, physically and spiritually, three dimensional. Man is not compressed, here, by the crush of too-crowded cities.

The Genesee Countian has maintained, through the years, not only his sense of individuality, but also his cooperative spirit. There is little conflict, here, between social strata, or between urban and rural populations. The farmer is interested in industry, the businessman in agriculture. All join hands in civic projects. From out of the wilderness has come a way of life, our way, the American way.

Of the ancient wilderness, only the famed Bergen Swamp remains. In this secluded bog of marl, untouched by civilization, nestles the delicate lady slipper, the once-abundant cranberry, exotic orchids. Here are myriad plants which once felt the moccasined tread of the mighty Seneca, the heavy boot of the pioneer. Here are, even, arctic plants, descended from seeds rolled down by the ancient glacier. From the dark depths issue songs of strange birds,

the mating cry of the panther. Here the prairie rattler, constant menace of the pioneer, slithers unmolested.

This small cup of wilderness holds unchanged the hope and hearbreak, the ache and aspiration, of two great races—the redman and the white. Its constancy in the midst of change reminds us that the greatest values are enduring. It reminds us, also, that we are not of ourselves alone, but also of the past from whence we came.

Out of the past came, from afar, the Puritan and Dutch influences to mold our character. Out of the past, from this spot to which we came, sprang the Indian heritage. Its hallmark, also, is upon us. Its union in democracy, its life-sustaining products, its techniques for battling the wilderness, its log houses, its musical place names—all these became part of that heritage.

Surpassing even these is the soil itself. The soil, still, is the root force of our prosperity. This fair and fruitful land was the Seneca's homeland. It was, also, the Western Door of the Iroquois. Keeping that door was the sacred trust of the Seneca. In taking GENISH-A-AU, the "clear and shining Place," the white man accepted also, that trust. History has yet to tell us how well we have fulfilled it.

The Western Door was not one of physical space alone, but one also of positive ideals. The Iroquois Confederal principles far more than one of blood-related tribesmen. The greatest of these ideals was democracy and universal peace. The first of these, at least, reached a high degree of attainment.

Since 1802, we have become guardians of GENISH-A-AU, the land, and its twin ideals . . . peace and democracy. In this sense, WE KEEP THE WESTERN DOOR!

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