

and included about all the best vocalists in the town and county. It performed and sang Gilbert & Sullivan's then fresh and famous light operas to crowded audiences in Wilgus Hall and later in the Lyceum. Soloists and chorus were worthy of any stage in any city. Mr. Storms's splendid bass voice was the most popular of basses in Central New York and Mrs. Atwater's soprano has been for many years among the best.

Traveling opera and theatrical companies all declared for years that the Lyceum orchestra was far better than any other that they found in any city, large or small. Ithaca audiences demanded that class of orchestra, and they demand it still. The trait is an inheritance for Mrs. Morris is a Heath and a native; John Wilson's family came from Danby, E. M. Treman is a native of Ithaca, W. Grant Egbert is a native of Danby, six miles over the southern hills. Mrs. Atwater's father was a famous violin leader and "called off" at popular dances in old times. Renney was a very intelligent importation from England, small in physique, but handsome, a student of

Shakespeare and one of the readiest men in Ithaca to see the point of a quip or a joke and play or tell one and burst into convulsive laughter. He was the singing lion of his day and generation in this county and a free lance in social and commercial circles. Renney read music "at sight". He was also a strict disciplinarian.

Two voices and the natural intelligence of their owners that have strongly impressed the writer as worthy of fame and fortune which their neglectful owners never acquired were John V. Wilson's and James Silke's. Mr. Wilson's voice was equal to the enchanting voice of Evan Williams. Mr. Silke's was as powerful as Renney's and richer, sweeter and more winning. But it was like a bird singing on a bough, for Silke had very domineering objections to the measure and time fixed by Gounod and the great composers.

A sprinkling of old residents will recall the three Halsey brothers, George, Tappen and William, songsters and popular citizens; and Charles Curtiss who died a year or two ago in the west. All four were druggists. Frank Betts was another and often sang in public entertainments and local minstrels; and fewer still will remember the Covert family, a relative of whom is said to have composed "The Sword of Bunker Hill," John V. Wilson's favorite ballad. Frank Betts has been dead many years. Kate Dean, of Newfield, had the reputation of singing hundreds of recruits into the army in the sixties. She was popular with soldiers and recruiting officers. She resides in Ithaca now. Mrs. (Wilcox) Morris and Mrs. Goodrich (Monell) are now residents of Ithaca.

#### Sunday Evening Concerts

Not a few will recall the Sunday evening concerts, after church services, by Whitlock's band on top of the round, turret-like, open top cupola on the Clinton House, Excepting church steeples it was

the highest point in the village "flats." People on the hillsides heard and enjoyed those concerts. Children were enchanted with such a thing as their popular brass band going up seemingly into the clouds to render sweet music for people down on the earth.

One of the delightful pastimes of the men singers was their frequent serenades of friends after midnight. Those serenades are fresh in some memories and still treasured by people now living in this city and elsewhere. Our musicians and singers were never stingy with their music in those faraway years. In the forties and fifties they gave elaborate concerts and published the programs for the audiences, but not the names of the performers. William H. Storms has one of them that was published in that period for a concert in the town or village hall. The entire second floor of the city hall of this day is now occupied by fire companies and city clerk. It was a popular public hall.

#### STARS WHO HAVE APPEARED AT THE LYCEUM SINCE 1893

Few cities the size of Ithaca, or much larger for that matter, have been afforded the opportunity of seeing and hearing the world's greatest actors and actresses. Yet a list of the "stars" who have been heard here since 1893 includes many of the leaders on the English speaking stage. The list compiled by Manager M. M. Gutstadt of the Lyceum theatre follows:

Sir Henry Irving, J. Forbes-Robertson, E. S. Willard, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, Olga Nethersole, Lily Langtry, Charles Hawtrey, Joseph Jefferson, Richard Mansfield, Sol Smith Russell, Otis Skinner, William Faversham, Thomas Keene, Louis James, Frederick Warde, Alexander Salvini, Mojeska, Nazimova, Maude Adams, Ethel Barrymore, John Drew, Elsie Ferguson, Billie Burke, William C. Crane.

Mrs. Leslie Carter, Mrs. LeMoyne, Eleanor Robson, Roland Reed, Nat Goodwin, Felix Morris, Louis Morrison, Henry Dixie, Robert Hillard, Ezra Kendall, John Mason, Charles Coghlan, Rose Coghlan, Julia Marlowe, F. H. Sothorn, James O'Neill, Marie Wainwright, Stuart Robson, Edward Harrigan, Mrs. Fiske, Robert Downing, Denman Thompson, Madam Rhea, James K. Hackett, Henry Miller, Viola Allen, William Collier, Louis Mann.

Clara Lipman, Marie Dressler, May Irwin, Tim Murphy, Frank Keenan, Peter F. Dailey, Bertha Galland, Kathryn Kidder, J. H. Stoddart, E. M. Holland, Elsie DeWolfe, Grace George, Kyrle Bellew, Henrietta Crosman, Dan Daly, Chauncey Olcott, Andrew Mack, Effie Ellser, David Warfield, Virginia Harned, Blanche Walsh, William Gillette, Marie Doro, Blanche Bates, Mary Manning, Amelia Bingham, Herbert Kelsey, Effie Shannon, Arnold Daly, Wilton Lackaye, Annie Russell, Robert Edeson, Dustin Farnum, Maxine Elliott, Fay Davis, Robert Lorraine, Digby Bell, John E. Kellard, Mary Shaw, Robert Mantell, Margaret Anglin, May Robson, Rose Stahl, George Arliss, William Hodge, Guy Bates Post, Kate Claxton.

Marie Tavary, Laura Shirmer Mapleson, Frank Daniels, James T. Powers, Pauline Hall, Thomas Q. Seabrooke, Francis Wilson, Camille D'Arville, Lillian Russell, Della Fox, Jeff DeAngelis, Edna May, Alice Neilsen, Hattie Williams, Sam Bernard, Jerome Sykes, Henry Clay Barnabee, W. H. MacDonald, Lulu Glaser, Mabelle Gilman, Walter Jones, Grace Van Studdiford, Marie Cahill, Rogers Brothers, Fritz Scheff, Montgomery & Stone, Eva Tanguay, Frank Lalor, Louise Gunning, Anna Held.

Gertrude Hoffman, Raymond Hitchcock, Julia Sanderson, Donald Brian, Weber & Fields, Florence Webber, Elsie Janis, Four Cohans, Marguerite Sylva, Madam Schumann-Heink, Antoine Seidl Orchestra, Victor Herbert Orchestra, Dan Godfrey's Band, Sousa's Band, The Kilties Band, Boston Festival Orchestra, Ysaye, violinist; Hoffman, pianist; Maude Powell, Joseffi, pianist; Pryor's Band, MacMillan, violinist; Robert G. Ingersol, lecture; Ian MacLaren, lecture; Eli Perkins, lecture; Marshall P. Wilder, lecture; Burr McIntosh, lecture; Pawlowa, Hermann the Great Kellar.

#### ITHACA SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT ORGANIZED 20 YEARS AGO

The history of the woman suffrage movement which comes to a crisis this fall in New York State is especially interesting in Tompkins County which has proved itself one of the most progressive counties in urging reforms of many kinds.

The first suffrage organization here was formed twenty years ago as a section of the Ithaca Woman's Club but grew so rapidly that it was soon decided to form another organization, although the women of the Political Study Club which was the outcome, still retained membership in the Woman's Club.

However, many Ithacans were not converted right away. A woman who came to Ithaca to live about 20 years ago states that one afternoon shortly after her arrival she was attending an afternoon tea when someone spoke about woman suffrage. The woman, new to Ithaca, made some remark which caused her listener to inquire, "Surely you are not a suffragist?" "Why, of course, I am," was the reply. "Sh! Don't let anybody know it, my dear, or you'll lose your social position," the older resident of Ithaca cautioned her.

Mrs. M. E. Calkins, one of the pioneer woman suffragists of this city, at whose home the first suffrage club was organized, says:

"Why write an outline of the growth of woman's suffrage in Ithaca? Would it not be more accurate to write of 'knowing ourselves' and to state that Ithaca had always believed in equality for men and women; that she was a pioneer in the movement.

#### Shock at First

"Nevertheless it was a shock when some twenty years ago a Woman's Suffrage Club was formed here for the study of civic and political questions. The name sounded formidable; but when we learned what it was all about, Ithaca began to realize that she had believed in it all the time, that she had lived it and proved its justice.

Why, yes, of course, Ithaca stood with Cornell University for equal educational privileges for men and women and had seen them alike prepared for life. Ithaca thought it just that taxpayers regardless of sex, should vote on questions of special tax, like acquiring municipal water works, building additions to schoolhouses, etc. Our neighboring cities had equal school suffrage. It was only fair that Ithaca should have the same; and it was written into our city charter.

"To-day our city bill boards have large posters depicting a young woman giving the trumpet call to the voters of New York State; asking them to support the woman's suffrage bill Nov. 2. Street corner meetings are being held and addressed by earnest men and women asking that women be made politically equal with men.

"Do you hear someone say 'they are not qualified'? Point to our High School where so many more girls than boys are graduating every year and to our splendid University on the hill.

"Does someone murmur, 'They will be no help, they should stay in their homes'? Has not Ithaca always found them helpful and capable when ever called upon from managing the Home for the old and the Home for the children in our midst, to assisting in Hospital work and Social Service uplift? Their work has always been efficient, and never to the detriment of their home duties.

"Let the voters of Ithaca live up to the traditions of our city, let them ask themselves these questions—Do I know myself? Why should not the women possess all the political privileges that the men possess? Is there any objection to woman's suffrage that would not equally apply to manhood suffrage? Is it not old blind prejudice that dims the clear vision?

"Let the scales drop from all eyes; let the Ithaca of the present live up to the Ithaca of the past and let the voters on November second stand for the principals that she has so long claimed for her own.

"The home of Cornell University must still lead the State in equality and justice for all."

#### EVENTS OF A CENTURY AGO BASIS FOR HISTORICAL PLAY

THE civic historical play to be given by Ithaca young people under the auspices of the Ithaca Municipal Players Association will deal with the Ithaca of one hundred years ago, about the time of the founding of the first newspaper here. The play will be given in an indoor auditorium for the benefit of the Cayuga Preventorium, the Social Service League and the Associated Charities of Ithaca. It is being written by an Ithacan who has been assisted by many of the older residents of the city and much old literature, and will be coached and presented by Ithacans.

The aim of the play is to give such facts

as can be discovered concerning early Ithaca. It will include pictures of all important public places—the first general store, the Ithaca Hotel, the school house that served as a meeting house on Sunday, etc. Many old customs, dances, etc., will be represented as well as old fashioned music and songs, such as our great grandfathers delighted in. In addition to this there will be some more or less fictitious characters and incidents, such as might have been real—to give interest and charm to the story.

The Rev. William Wisner, one of the chief characters, had been a promising young lawyer before he was converted to the Presbyterian faith and took orders. To his new profession he brought the keen, well-trained mind and firm, manly temper which promised to make his success in the law. In spite of the utmost discouragement he made his way in the boisterous, irreligious community of Ithaca and drew to himself the nobler elements in the town. So great was his success that the little church of twenty souls grew to eight hundred during his earlier pastorate. Part of the members were then dismissed by him to form what is now the Congregational church. He became a well-known preacher throughout New York State.

#### Material From Old Sermon

His own manly, straight-forward accounts of his difficulties in Ithaca is given in the Half-century Sermon printed about 1860. From this much material concerning him has been derived.

The play opens with a prologue bringing in the national or folk fairies of the various families who first settled in this vicinity—the French, Dutch English, etc. This will give Ithaca young women the opportunity to appear in several dances artistically costumed.

The play proper is more of a man's play, the main characters of this time represented by history being men. The first scene is before David Quigg's general store where the villagers are gathered. A meeting of the Moral Society and the visit of an itinerant street-performer to the frontier towns in those days are incidents.

Sally, a village flirt, and her faithful lover, John, are interesting characters. Sally promises four men to go to a dance, which results in a complication because there are few girls in town and lots of young men. In one scene two doctors who have gone to church decide to race their horses and set up a rival entertainment. (All of these incidents are historical facts.)

#### Persecute Minister

Great excitement is caused in the little town when eight people are excommunicated from the only church and the Moral Society plans to annihilate the preacher. They steal a sign from a local tavern, which states that rum is to be obtained

inside, and place it on the door of the Rev. Mr. Wisner. His horse is shaved in spots and whitewashed by the young men of the Moral Society, but he continues to preach against drinking and dancing. The burning of the school and meeting house takes place and also a pathetic meeting of the remnants of the little flock of religious people in a barn for services.

Many other true incidents and characters are portrayed in a way that promises well for an artistic dramatic performance.

#### Last Year's Success

Last year for the first time the nationwide movement for pageants and historical plays struck Ithaca and "The Crimson Flower," an historical pageant-play embodying the latest ideas in pageantry, was presented most successfully at four out-of-door performances the early part of August at Renwick Park.

Miss Marjorie Barstow was the author and Mrs. H. F. Dixie the coach.

The Ithaca Municipal Players' Association was formed this spring as the outcome of the pageant play of last year. Its aim is to give a historical play of Ithaca and Tompkins County every year for some time to come. The "Crimson Flower" covered the earliest days of the Indians and settlers here, more especially General Sullivan's raid on the lake region of Central New York. The play this year will deal with the period 1800-1815. Next year in all probability, the years 1815 to 1825 will be covered by a play.

Ithaca is peculiarly well situated for such a dramatic venture because there are many sources of information which have been preserved by early Ithacans.

## PLAY TREATS OF LIFE IN ITHACA CENTURY AGO

Troubles of Pioneer Parson  
Figure Prominently in Play  
to be Staged Here This  
Fall—Letter Describes the  
Early Conditions.

How many of us would like to step back for a few hours into the Ithaca of a hundred years ago to visit the Ithaca Hotel of that day or the little schoolhouse, which also served as a church, or the general store of David Quigg. How we should enjoy walking up and down the busy streets! (They were busy streets though they did need paving, for Ithaca was quite a center of trade in those days. Cayuga Lake was

dotted with boats bringing salt and plaster and other products to this industrious shipping point.) Here log cabins would stand side by side with imposing three-storied buildings designed by Luther Gere, and quaint signs and advertisements would dangle before our eyes, the punning barber recommending to us his superior headquarters, and the general merchant enumerating his motley wares in ingenious rhymes. Here we might meet the famous men of the town, or go with them to some event of the day—a wolf-drive, a dance, the performance of some itinerant player and his subsequent trial before the Moral Society, whose permission he forgot to ask, the burning of the school-house, or, if we felt more serious, the pathetic meeting of the persecuted preacher and his little flock in an old barn.

These things we cannot see in reality, but the best picture of them that we, a hundred years later, can reconstruct from the scanty records will be given this fall by the Ithaca Players. The representation will be a play in three acts, with a prologue and epilogue.

#### Sketch of Play

In the first act the present generation will be introduced to Ithaca in the days of the Moral Society. Here we shall see the general store of the town and a meeting of the Moral Society in the tavern for the trial of an itinerant street performer who disdained the authority of these keepers of the law. Between Act 1 and Act 2 there will be a country dance.

Act 2 will represent the coming of the Rev. Mr. Wisner and his numerous troubles. This act will include a typical street scene on Sunday morning, the beginning of a wolf-drive, and the demolition of the school-house by an angry mob.

Act 3 will represent the final outcome of the preacher's fight, including one scene laid in Trumansburg, then Treman's village, which used to divide with Ithaca the ministrations of the preacher. The prologue and the epilogue will be symbolical in their nature and will give an opportunity for graceful costuming and dancing and some pretty effects with colored lights.

In order that the readers of The Journal may better understand the conditions prevailing at that time, the author of the play has described some

of the events of the years 1815-1816 in the following letter which is one of a series purporting to have been written by Elizabeth, who is visiting in Ithaca, to a friend in New Haven.

Elizabeth to Prudence

Ithaca, N. Y., October, 1816.

Prudence, my dear:

The things you've been missing! You mustn't think that, all this time while I haven't been writing to you, nothing has been happening in our famous burg. Yesterday, for instance, there was a mighty battle between the red men and the white men; but how the white men beat the red men, and the red men beat the white men, and how they all smoked the peace-pipe afterwards and drank much fire-water to the great distress of the Rev. Mr. Wisner and the pious delight of the Moral Society you shall hear anon. I intend to save this for the end of my epistle, just as we used to save all the plums out of our pudding and eat them afterwards.

Meanwhile, I think you should hear all the news. In the first place we have a newspaper, which is more than other settlements in these parts can boast. It was called The Seneca Republican, but it has now attained to the more ambitious name of The American Journal. I'll send you a copy of this interesting chronicle later. In the second place we have a new preacher. My dear old Dominie has [The Rev. Gerrit Mandeville, the first preacher in Ithaca.] departed—he, and his good wife, who made very superior krullers, and his numerous little Dutch youngsters, who ate them as fast as they were made. He said he was leaving because he found his ministrations quite useless here. In the ten years since that winter day when a few faithful ones came together through the deep snows to found the first church here, the numbers of the godly have scarcely increased, though the settlement has grown and prospered. "It hath not pleased the Lord to bless my labors," said he, humbly. "Peradventure it is His will that one more worthy than I may win this wild land for His kingdom." And so he left us—the good Dominie. I miss his gentle presence and his quaint speech, with its funny Dutch accent and its Latin phrases and scriptural turns. I even miss the sight of his neat black garb, reminiscent of civilization and New Haven. But the wicked city to which he reluctantly abandoned me, with a melancholy benediction, doesn't disturb me in the least. I am afraid that I like wicked cities. They are so cheerful—at least Ithaca is. However, it is losing its gaiety under the frowns of the new preacher. Its wickedness is taking on a more dark and dreadful color.

#### Man of Might

This new preacher is a man of might. He has more brains, I think, than anyone who is interested in the welfare of the settlement except Simeon DeWitt, (who casts a friendly glance upon us now and then, and says we are going to be a great city some day). He also has a will of his own. Just before he arrived the young men of the town had been celebrating our preacherless condition with a dance. [A scene in the play.] for which they imported the belles of Treman's village and other outlying districts, girls being scarce in Ithaca. When he came, he promptly opened a war on all dancing and drinking, not sparing the Moral Society itself nor this recent entertainment, nor that honorable institution, the Ithaca Hotel. Then he excommunicated eight out of the twenty members of the church for gross immorality, and established Saturday night prayer-meetings to prepare the rest for the peace and sanctity of the Sabbath, which has little enough of these qualities in Ithaca, for the boatmen and teamsters, who crowd this busy little center of trade, work seven days in the week and celebrate the holy day only with a little more noise and rum than usual.

Of course the people of Ithaca objected to this rude onslaught upon their own peculiar method of life, and expressed their objection with their usual promptness and originality. One morning as I passed Mr. Wisner's house, I saw a crowd of people laughing at a sign, which some wag had placed at the entrance, announcing that the best of beer and other pleasant liquids was to be obtained within. Nothing daunted, Mr. Wisner appeared at the window and gave his cheerful morning visitors such a lecture on temperance as never was, with that sign as a text. Then someone (I strongly suspect the Moral Society of these pranks) fell upon his horse and white-washed it and shaved it in patterns; but the preacher rode the strange-looking beast as calmly as if nothing had happened. The humor of

the joke wore off with the white-wash, but the uncompromising courage of the man has made an impression less easily effaced. The immediate effect of this courage has been to put a certain amount of bitterness and determination into an opposition that was at first only roisterous and humorous.

A mob tore down the school-house, which served also as a church. [A scene in the play.] Whereupon the preacher gathered together the remnant of his little flock in an old barn and spoke to them so tenderly that many of them wept, though he is a stern man and of plain speech and dislikes emotional religion; and now they are bound to him with the devotion of martyrs. Nor was the solemnity of their consecration disturbed, when they came out into the daylight and saw the cupola of the destroyed meeting-house perched jauntily upon the top of the barn like a cap—a little contribution from the Moral Society perhaps.

#### Services in Stable-loft

At present the church is meeting in a stable-loft behind the Hotel, the dilapidated barn having proved too chilly, but Mr. Wisner is planning to build a fine new church. A great many people say that he will be put out of Ithaca long before the foundation is laid. What is to happen, [What did happen istold in the play.] I know not; the cheerful spirit of the Moral Society is growing bitter in the presence of this stern brave man.

But whatever storms are brewing, Ithaca still knows how to enjoy itself, as you would have thought had you seen our celebration yesterday. Of course it all originated in Ben Drake's fertile brain. Most of our amusements do. Having heard of athletic contests between the Senecas and the white settlers on the Canisteo, he persuaded the red men who are now descending from the heights to spend the winter in Six Mile gorge to come

and do likewise. "Huh! You can't run," says he to a slim, fleet-footed young Indian. "There's a woddchuck in my lot that gets over the ground faster than you. Now you ought to see how our men do it, and so on, till the youth hopped up and down in his wrath and vowed he'd show them—which was exactly what Ben wanted.

So he arranged a foot-race between the Ithacans and the Indians, with a fine new rifle contributed by the Moral Society as a prize, as well as horse races and wrestling matches, and promised unlimited fire-water and feasting and smoke afterwards for victor and vanquished alike. It was all to take place in a level meadow on the flats.

You should have seen the Indians arrive—they and their squaws and their beady-eyed papooses and their dogs and their horses and their household goods—at least the more decorative portion of it. Such a display of scarlet and purple and fine calico you never did see! The young athletes walked by themselves, clothed mainly in their own glistening brown skins. "Just look at them," whispered Mr. Gere. "They've been sleeping in oiled blankets for nights. Deliver me from wrestling with the critters! It's like hugging an eel." And so it proved.

The wrestling match resolved itself into a vain attempt on the part of our men to keep hold of the squirming creatures who wriggled and darted about like snakes. Only one of them was fairly throttled—an experience which seemed to embitter him somewhat for he rose up and vowed eternal vengeance, just as if he had been injured in a real fight, and it took the victor and the rest of our men the whole afternoon to get him into a good

again. In the foot-races the Indians were generally successful, Ben's slim, fleet-footed young friend satisfactorily demonstrating his superiority to the whole settlement. This triumph filled him with inordinate glee. Every time he saw Ben his face took on a lofty expression of contempt and pride, as much as to say, "Talk about your woodchucks!" Whereupon Ben would look very humble and amazed.

#### Indian Sense of Humor

Toward the end there was a demonstration of the Indian sense of humor. All of a sudden we heard a blood-curdling yell and a discharge of rifles, and our Indian guests descended into the midst of our pile of provisions and tomahawked the pumpkins and scalped the turnips. When Ben tried to interfere—or pretended to try—he flung him down and scalped him, too, before our very eyes and began to bear him off stiff and stark, with a sickening red spot on his head turned in our direction.

At first we thought it a joke; then we were still with a horrible suspicion, which suddenly changed to shouts and hysterical laughter as Ben turned a somersault over the heads of his slayers and alighted, cheerful and grinning, to point out to us that the wound was a piece of red calico fastened in his hair. [A similar joke was perpetrated last year by the two Indians who took part in the Crimson Flower, when, of their own accord, they added a very realistic little scalping scene to the representation of Sullivan's battle on the last night of the performance.] It was a joke—and one not much to my taste, for all the fun could not counterbalance for me that one moment of horrible fear. But the rest of the onlookers did not seem to mind, and the day ended happily in feasting and strange dancing.

I have many more things to tell you. Don't you wish to hear about the flirtations of Sally, the belle of the countryside, and the graces of a winsome lassie named Barbara, who hangs flowers on my door and befriends the severe and lonely preacher, and the romance of the country school-teacher, [all characters in the play], who has been a pedlar and once went to Yale? Well, I'll tell you about them another time. Meanwhile, farewell.

Ever yours,

ELIZABETH.

#### ITHACA Y. M. C. A. ORGANIZED THIRTY YEARS AGO

THE Ithaca Young Men's Christian Association was organized in 1886 and though it has passed through many difficulties is today in a strong position. It has an adequate, well equipped up-to-date building worth nearly \$80,000 all of which is paid or provided for and an endowment of approximately \$45,000. During these years it has made large contributions to the Christian character of men and boys. It has provided a good place where young men could spend their leisure time. It has promoted a wholesome attitude toward clean sport and social activities.

Through it large numbers of men and boys have been enabled to keep their bodies strong and their minds clean. In fact it has been one of the great assets of the city in caring for its most valuable property—the young men.

To Mr. S. Bruce Wilson, its present Secretary, is due to a very large degree the efficiency of the work today and the prosperity of the Ithaca Y. M. C. A.

The Young Men's Christian Association was organized in London, England, in 1844, by a group of twelve young men under the leadership of George Williams for the benefit of young men engaged in the drapery trades. The success of this movement was so pronounced that it soon began to spread to other cities and countries.

In 1851 there was organized the same week, associations in Montreal and Boston and there began the great movement in America that was later to take the lead in work among young men not only in this country but throughout the world.

The type of work in the early days was purely evangelistic in character. The organization was composed of young men, banded together for the definite purpose of extending the Gospel, through preaching, teaching and personal work.

The early form of organization was such that associations as a rule were short lived. There gradually developed, however, four features which have given permanency to the movement. First, the conventions where men got together and learned from one another the best methods of work. Second, the state and international committees which act as supervisory agencies, strengthening the weak places and promoting new associations on a permanent basis. Third, the erection of buildings and accumulation of property. Fourth, the securing of paid officers to give their entire time to the supervision of the local association.

The present scheme of organization is very simple, yet very efficient. The active members of a local association elect a Board of Directors, this board being entrusted with the administration of the affairs of the organization. At stated periods State conventions are held to which delegates from local associations are sent, and this convention is the governing body of all the associations of the State. There are also held international conventions to which delegates are sent from the United States and Canada and this is the governing body for the associations of these countries.

#### Wonderful Growth

Since this form of organization has been established a wonderful growth has taken place in North America. There are now 2,500 associations, an increase of 69% in fifteen years. There are 600,000 members, an increase of 161%; 800 buildings, an increase of 125%; a property and endowment valued at \$80,000,000, an increase of 204%. There are 70,000 students in educational classes, an increase of 181%. There are 300,000 different men and boys using the physical department, an increase of 404%. The attendance at religious meetings is over 7,000,000 a year, an increase of 250%. Throughout the world there are over 9,000 associations, 1,000,000 members, 1,500 buildings worth \$90,000,000.

The scope of the work has broadened. The object now is to reach the whole man,—spiritual, social, physical and mental. Organizations have been effected in the cities, colleges, universities, professional and technical schools; among colored men, Indians, soldiers; in the navy, on the railroad, in the country; among foreigners, among men in factories, in mining and construction camps, among boys, in fact wherever there are men or boys in considerable numbers the Association has established itself for their benefit.

JULIUS M. CLAPP

## HUMANE SOCIETY BROADENS SCOPE NEW BRANCH FORMED

By George B. Davis

IN accordance with the philanthropic spirit of the people of Tompkins County, a number of them met in February, 1902, for the purpose of establishing a "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals."

A charter was obtained from the State, the consent from the parent society at New York City was obtained, and in a certificate was filed in Tompkins County clerk's office, and also in the office of the Secretary of State.

It might be interesting to note that the charter members of the Society consisted of George R. Williams, D. W. Burdick, George B. Davis, Willard S. Pierce, Mrs. Chas. J. Rumsey, Miss Elizabeth Collins, Samuel B. Turner, Prof. Walter L. Williams, Wm. Hazlitt Smith, Prof. Charles L. Crandall, David Roe, jr., Mrs. Emma Pound, Francis M. Rites, and Miss Kate Lewis.

Shortly after a meeting was held, By-laws were adopted and the following officers were elected:

Wm. Hazlitt Smith, president; George B. Davis, 1st vice-president; George R. Williams, 2nd vice-president; David Roe, jr., treasurer; Miss Elizabeth Collins, secretary.

The Society went immediately to the work and soon made its influence felt among the towns of the county, and especially in the City of Ithaca; all concede that good work was done and the assistance and confidence of the people were secured.

George B. Davis succeeded Mr. Smith as president in 1907 and continued in the office for eight years, resigning in 1915.

#### Scope of Work Enlarged

The scope of the work was enlarged, and in a quiet, and unobtrusive way, the members felt that they were doing a good service to the cause of mercy and humanity. Evil doers were prosecuted, warnings were given to the unthinking, and sometimes, cruel people. The work was extended into the various towns outside of the City and the influence was felt in the care of stock. We found many people were inclined to stint in the feeding of stock during the winter, and, in many cases, horses and cattle suffered severely. In a number of instances the Society did active work in relieving the distressed animals.

In addition to this protective work the Society entered into an educational work, which was most successful. Stables were inspected, literature disseminated, and the standard was raised for the caring of stock, as well as the feeding.

Some six years ago, the Society, with the aid of some active stock men of the University, especially Professors Wing and Harper, instituted and financed a "Work Horse Parade," similar to those held in the cities of New York and Boston. Prizes were liberally distributed, and it was one of the most successful enterprises of the kind ever held here in Ithaca. It stimulated pride in the care for the work

horses as well as other horses, created a rivalry among many of the business firms, which were hauling coal, trucking, and the like, and better horses were secured for the work, and the teams that appeared upon the streets were the cause of much comment and commendation.

Strangers remarked that they had never seen in any city better horses, and better equipment. Not only was attention given to the fine work horses, but prizes were given to the owners of horses that had lived to great age and showed the effect of kindly care and treatment; horses over thirty years of age made a good showing in the parade; and children with their ponies took great delight in their prizes. Women as well as men were interested, and several women received prizes for their exhibits.

This was again carried out in connection with the County Fair two years later, and the animals paraded the streets of Ithaca going to the Fair Grounds in a grand cavalcade, where they were divided into classes, and there judged and received prizes.

We know of nothing that has been done, or could be done, that was so successful in carrying on the work of looking after our dumb friends, who patiently haul our loads and bear the burden of their employers. The work horse was elevated to rank among the finest horses, such as trotters and pacers, and they soon commanded as high prizes as did their more active and popular brothers.

One of the objects of the Society is to educate the people in the little things that make for the welfare of the animals.

Calls of other nature were answered by the Society and its agents; such as taking cats out of trees, preventing cock-fighting, rat-bating and the like. The strong arm of the law was frequently invoked against those criminal offenders, and in nearly every case the prosecution was successful. There was, perhaps, a little feeling at times that the Society was too active; but, on the whole, the justice of our demands was recognized and some of the objects of our prosecution became our warmest friends.

Considerable attention was given to the express, or delivery wagons, and prizes were offered by the Society for the best horses and harnesses to be exhibited at the Fair. Not only were better horses seen upon the wagons, but they evidently received better care, and shared with their masters the profit of their toil, in the way of good feeding and good housing.

At the County Fair, in the fall of 1914, the Society established four points upon the Fair Grounds where there were wells, and good, fresh water was pumped and delivered all during the Fair to animals that came to them, and were thus relieved from the heat and thirst after the long wait at the open hitching places on

the Fair Grounds. Men, dressed in proper uniform and wearing badges of the Society, were on duty each day, and faithful in their attendance. Men, women and children were also furnished water in sanitary drinking cups, or, in cups or tumblers which they furnished for themselves.

A sanitary drinking-fountain for horses and small animals has been established by the Society at the corner of East State and Eddy streets, half way up the hill, the water being provided by the Public Works Board. The Board of Supervisors contributed \$250 for the extension work.

Another good work done by the Society is putting painlessly to death horses that have outlived their useful days—being lame or aged—and their carcasses are disposed of by the Society. In the same way cats and dogs that are sick or homeless, are taken care of. In some cases, homeless dogs have been given homes where they receive proper care. The College of Agriculture, and especially the Veterinary College, has rendered most sympathetic and efficient aid to all the officers of the Society; many members of the University are very active in their support of the work.

This work has been purely gratuitous and no officer has received one penny for his services, although considerable litigation has occurred, with some little expense. As there were several lawyers in the Society, there was no expense attending those prosecutions.

The most gratifying feature of the whole work is in the feeling on the part of drivers and owners of animals. They have become themselves much more kindly in their nature, and inclined to report to the Society any violations of the law which have come under their observation. These voluntary assistants are themselves the best protection to society.

In the year 1915, Mr. Davis retired from the presidency and Wm. Hazlitt Smith was elected. The Society has taken rooms in connection with the various charitable organizations on East Seneca street, where its meetings are now held.

#### New Branch Formed

In connection with the work, another society has been organized for the purpose of prevention of cruelty to women and children, and, while no active work has yet been done, in that line, it is expected it will relieve the Board of Charities from considerable of their duties.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is working harmoniously with the other charitable associations of the city. The prime object of the society was to call the attention of the people to the abuse of animals, and in that we think the Society has been most successful. In many of the places about the county little bands of mercy have been formed, with officers elected among the children; and they themselves have done a good work in creating a sentiment in the minds of the young. Illustrated lectures have been given in many of the town and school districts, all of which we think will bear good fruit.

The citizens have been called upon to pay but very little in the way of dues—for, as above stated—the work has been done by the officers purely from a motive of philanthropy:

But now, that there are the two societies, it has been thought that in the future some regular agent may be employed who will be required to give more of his time to the work. That is, at present, purely a matter of conjecture.

We think the Society supplements the other philanthropic interests of the city of Ithaca, and will go on with them year after year, in this merciful work, much to the betterment of animals, and much for the improvement in the minds and hearts of the people in recognizing the claim and merit of our speechless friends.

# Ithaca Rotarians to Observe Club's Silver Anniversary

Ithaca Journal

Feb. 1939

The Ithaca Rotary Club was founded Feb. 14, 1914 by the late Edward G. Wyckoff.

The silver anniversary will be observed at dinner in Willard Straight Hall at 6:30 p. m. today.

Spending two weeks in Syracuse late in 1913 to observe "reorganization and rejuvenation" of that city's Chamber of Commerce, he was twice entertained by the Syracuse Rotary Club. He noticed they were at the "head and front" of the movement.

On his return to Ithaca, he broached the idea of a local club and became the leading light in its organization.

#### 'Toward Greater Ithaca'

The Ithaca News of Jan. 7, 1914, announces intention to form a Rotary Club—"the primary object of the movement is to aid in paving the way toward a greater Ithaca; to encourage city boosting, further local interests and discourage 'knocking'."

A formal luncheon organization meeting was called for Feb. 10, 1914 in Ithaca Hotel. Those present ate hamburger steak smothered in onions as well as boiled leg of lamb with caper sauce and "launched the club on the sea of civic and industrial endeavor."

Mr. Wyckoff was chosen president. Prof. John S. Shearer was made vicepresident; B. E. Sanford, secretary; James B. Taylor, treasurer; Dr. J. B. Howe, sergeant-at-arms, and Nathan Hanford, registrar.

Directors were: L. C. Bement, C. Tracey Stagg, G. C. Bogert, John Reamer and Walter G. Cobb.

#### Early Life Recalled

B. S. Monroe, professor of English at Cornell and charter member of the club, recalls its early life. "At first, we met every two weeks in the Ithaca Hotel," he said, "and even in those days had luncheon, a speech or some other entertainment." He remembers the auctions to raise money for the old Associated Charities of Ithaca before the days of a War or Community Chest.

Highlights in the club's 25-year existence: 1915—in March, a special train on the Auburn Short Line carried Ithaca Rotarians to Syracuse for an intercity meeting; 1917—the club aided in establishment of the Tompkins County War Chest; 1920—huge Rotary Field Day held in Drill Hall and on Schoellkopf Field; 1924—club started the now international univer-

sity-community Rotary custom of a dinner for sons of club members in other cities; 1927—Ithaca's first Rotary offspring—the Trumansburg Club—chartered in the presence of 100 Ithaca members; 1934—the club authorized and put in operation the plan of electing a number of international guest members from among foreign students at Cornell; 1938—Ithaca Club awarded plaque offered by The Rotarian magazine to the club among the 4,000 in Rotary International which performed the greatest service; Rotary Club of Groton, Ithaca's second Rotary kiddie, organized.

## Rotary Club Served by 26 Presidents

Ithaca's Rotary Club has had 26 presidents, two of them, Edward G. Wyckoff and John S. Shearer, serving in 1914, the year the club was organized.

The presidents of Rotary:

1914, Edward G. Wyckoff\* and John S. Shearer\*; 1915, Louis C. Bement\*; 1916, Edward A. George\*; 1917, Benton S. Monroe; 1918, Louis D. Neill; 1919, Clarence F. Wyckoff\*; 1920, Martin W. Sampson\*; 1921, William H. Morrison; 1922, Romeyn Berry; 1923, Fred B. Howe; 1924, Albert H. Sharpe; 1925, Louis P. Smith; 1926, R. Warren Sailor; 1927, Joseph F. Hickey; 1928, Robert E. Treman; 1929, Harry G. Stutz; 1930, Lyman P. Wilson; 1931, Albert Edmund Brown; 1932, Louis C. Boochever; 1933, Alfred Kittler; 1934, Frank Phillips; 1935, Claude L. Kulp; 1936, Paul J. Kruse; 1937, E. Victor Underwood; 1938, Edward T. Horn. (\* deceased.)

The club's charter members:

E. P. Andrews, E. E. Atkinson, G. F. Atkinson\*, F. H. Atwater, John W. Baker, William C. Blackmer\*, L. C. Bement\*, C. E. Bennett\*, H. B. Besemer\*, L. J. Bingham, Ernest Blaker, G. G. Bogart, C. D. Bostwick\*, E. H. Bostwick\*, F. D. Boynton\*, John G. Brooks, William L. Burns, H. G. Carpenter\*, R. C. Carpenter\*, J. A. Causer\*, G. W. Cavanaugh\*, Julius M. Clapp\*, Uri Clark\*, H. A. Clarke, P. K. Clymer\*, Walter G. Cobb, George L. Coleman, John H. Collins\*, Luzerne Coville, Hollis E. Dann\*, L. M. Dennis\*, P. M. Donahue, G. M. Downing\*, Robert L. Drew, H. C. Elmer\*, F. H. Eschenburg\*, Harry Estcourt\*, L. A. Fuertes\*, E. A. George\*, F. W. Grant\*, M. M. Gutstadt\*, W. A. Hammond\*, Nathan Hanford, E. E. Haskell\*, F. J. Hausner\*, R. B. Hayes, C. E. Head, H. R. Head, P. J. Herron\*, J. F. Hickey, A. G. Holland, J. W. Hook\*, F. B. Howe, J. B. Howe\*, S. L. Howell\*, D. F. Hoy\*, C. H. Hull\*.

Frank Irvine\*.

H. S. Jacoby, B. L. Johnson\*, H. L. Jones.

E. B. Kemp, G. Ervin Kent, A. T. Kerr\*, D. S. Kimball, John S. Kline, Max Kluebert, A. H. Krum, P. S. Livermore.

C. A. Mackey, S. J. Magee, T. A. Mandeville, C. A. Martin, Frank Mayers\*, E. A. Miller, Paul Mills-paugh, B. R. Mitchell\*, E. M. Mitchell, W. J. Mitchell, John F. Moakley, B. S. Monroe, V. A. Moore\*, F. L. Morse\*, Minor McDaniel\*, William H. Morrison, E. L. Nichols\*, H. N. Odgen.

R. S. Pearson, Sherman Peer, F. W. Phillips\*, R. L. Post\*, E. S. Preston.

John Reamer, W. J. Reed, Daniel Rothschild\*, Jacob Rothschild\*, W. W. Rowlee\*.

B. E. Sanford, Barney Seaman\*, A. H. Sharpe, J. E. Shea\*, J. S.

Feb. 1939

## SOCIAL WELFARE WORK IN ITHACA EFFICIENTLY ORGANIZED

By Mrs. Virgil D. Morse

IN every community it is the human interest that is of supreme importance and a city's progress may be justly measured by its interpretation and treatment of human needs. There are no problems more difficult to solve than those of the individual and the family and an enlightened public opinion now demands the services of social experts to restore normal living conditions where they have been disturbed. In other words the scientific method of study and investigation is at last being applied to social problems. Ithaca shows a marked advance during the last few years in its treatment of social needs.

In 1904 a few public spirited men and women met with Professor Frank Fetter, an expert in philanthropy, to consider the desirability of opening a neighborhood house in the western part of town. The Social Service League was organized with Prof. Fetter as president and what is now known as West Side House was obtained with the help of generous friends. A trained kindergartner was the first headworker and besides the kindergarten, clubs were organized for women, girls and boys. The membership in these clubs has steadily increased, except perhaps in the boys' clubs, although the building and equipment are now inadequate to meet the progressive needs of the club members. For several years a trained social worker has had charge of the clubs and during these years the membership in the clubs has greatly increased and many new clubs have been formed. Lessons are given in sewing, mending, rug-weaving, cooking, gymnastics, dancing, music, gardening, etc.

All the clubs are self supporting and two clubs have made payments on the mortgage and have bought furnishings for the House. There are often forty women or more sewing at one time and on Saturday there have been as many as sixty-eight children and fifteen teachers working together. The House is used by more than three hundred persons monthly and the spirit of neighborliness and mutual helpfulness grows stronger every year. Prof. E. H. Woodruff was the second president of the League. This year's printed report, written by the President, Prof. J. A. Winans, should be read by every Ithacan and may be had for the asking.

The Visiting Nurse Association was organized by a small group of women in 1907. Mrs. Virgil D. Morse has been the President since its organization. From the beginning the Association has employed a graduate nurse to freely minister to the needs of the sick. The income of the Association is derived from annual

subscriptions made by a number of women's organizations, from annual dues, and from individuals.

During the first month the highly trained nurse made more than one hundred and fifty calls and there have been many months when more than two hundred calls have been made by the nurse. The Association is often obliged to arrange for relief as well as furnish supplies and medicine. The visiting nurse has saved many lives and relieved an incalculable amount of suffering. During the past year 2,360 visits were made by the nurse to 280 patients, 46 being children.

In 1912, Mr. T. W. Summers took the initiative in a movement to organize the charitable work of the city in order to make such work more efficient in restoring families and individuals to the self supporting level; to provide for prompt and sufficient relief; to prevent the duplication and unwise giving of charity and to maintain a central office and secure a trained social worker who would investigate and study the causes of weakness and failure and endeavor to remove these causes. Several public meetings were held and the Associated Charities organization was formed. Mr. Summers being elected President. Rev. H. P. Horton succeeded Mr. Summers as acting president. The work has now been carried on for nearly three years and the results have been truly remarkable in helpful service and in constructive efficiency. Families that have been dependent for years have become self-supporting, useless waste and publication of relief have been prevented by careful investigation and wise planning. The constant services of the friendly visitors have clearly demonstrated the value of amateur work under the direction of a trained leader. The number of societies and individuals co-operating with the Associated Charities increases every month. St. John's Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church have consistently co-operated with the Associated Charities since the beginning. Any one not in close touch with this work would be surprised at the scope of the study and investigation which often reaches outside of the State, and one clearly recognizes also the inter-relation of different forms of social work and the very great importance of co-operation. The Public Welfare Building was first suggested by the Secretary of the Associated Charities.

The Social Service League, the Visiting Nurse Association, and the Associated Charities are all dependent for their support on voluntary contributions. The Visiting Nurse Association has with special effort been able to meet its obligations but has never had a sufficient income to carry out a progressive plan of

development. The Social Service League needs several hundred dollars annually more than it now receives and a special provision for increased facilities and equipment. The Associated Charities has so far had a deficit every year and should have an adequate sum of money provided for the relief work.

The Tuberculosis Committee was

formed as the result of a week's tuberculosis exhibit and campaign conducted by the State Charities Aid Association. The late Rev. C. W. Heizer was the first President. Dr. H. E. Merriam now holds that office. The educational and constructive work of the committee is of great value. The income of the Committee is derived from the annual sale of Red Cross seals and is devoted to relief work and to assisting in the maintenance of anti-tuberculosis work in Ithaca and in Tompkins County.

The Tuberculosis Nurse began her work in November, 1911, in two upstairs rooms in the house on the southeast corner of West State and Geneva Streets. These rooms were large and sunny but exceedingly bare and cold and it was with difficulty that those persons needing advice and examination could be induced to come to clinic the first winter.

"Much friendly visiting was done in the city and a knowledge of conditions obtained. Gradually the confidence of the patients was gained, the interest of physicians was aroused and the community came to a sense of realization of its needs and its opportunities. The Edward Meany Sanatorium is directly an outgrowth of the Tuberculosis Clinic. It would not have been possible to have impressed the need of the Sanatorium upon the people. This Tompkins County Sanatorium was opened on Jan. 9, 1913, and supplies for Tompkins County one of its greatest needs. Tompkins County may well be proud of its Sanatorium which is rated as one of the best for its size in the State.

"The relief work among the families suffering with tuberculosis, and the Dispensary patients, so necessary to any progress in the work, was made possible by the Tuberculosis Committee having charge of the sale of Red Cross seals. It was in doubt from the first year, 1911, that funds could be supplied in this way and a lively sale was carried on by Miss Louise Banks, Chairman of a special committee, now president, Howard Carey, and an efficient staff of young ladies who rose to the call for assistance. Since then Mrs. R. L. Post has acted as Chairman of the committee on Sale of Red Cross seals and the markedly increased sales each year show the splendid management of Mrs. Post and the co-operation she has received from the people of this community.

"In September, 1912, the Dispensary was moved to 222 East State St., where, through the courtesy of Morse & Rankin, the rear room was occupied at low rental. The location was favorable in spite of the flight of stairs and the lack of air and sunlight. No other place being available, these small quarters were occupied until April, 1915, nearly three years, but during the time much was accomplished.

"The summer of 1913, a summer camp, patterned after the Farmingdale Preventorium was opened at Esty's Point and twelve children enjoyed the pleasure of living in the open air for seven weeks. The Preventorium is another outgrowth of the Clinic. As the work progressed it became apparent to the workers in the field that there must be some provision for the children of those who have tuberculosis. In most instances these children are delicate and liable to take the disease and as there was no place where they could be sent where they could have the open air life and good food necessary to insure their escaping the infection, it was decided to build a permanent preventorium for the care of those exposed and predisposed to tuberculosis. Through the generosity of the people of Ithaca, whose clear preception made it possible for them to see the permanency of the good to be accomplished, the Cayuga Preventorium was opened April 1st, 1915.

"The educational campaign has been carried on constantly since the beginning of the movement. To the local press is due great credit for the generous use of their columns in the publicity of the methods used to combat the disease and the progress along the different avenues traveled in the fight against the Great White Plague by the Ithaca Tuberculosis Committee and the Ithaca Board of Health. The perfect co-operation of these two bodies has made it possible to present convincing arguments as to the presence of the disease and the best known methods of combating it, while the generosity of the people of Ithaca and Tompkins County has provided an efficient Clinic for examination of patients and their supervision in the homes when it is wise for them to remain there and a sanatorium when the case requires hospital treatment. An efficient nurse has been provided to supervise the patients in their homes and to advise the families how best to protect themselves against further infection. When necessary, extra nourishment, especially milk, warm clothing and bedding are provided and arrangements for out door sleeping are made when advisable. Delicate children from the families are placed in the Preventorium. All of these things are repeatedly told the public through the Press.

"The Tompkins County Fair has been taken advantage of for two years and much publicity has been given the county population by means of a tent exhibit with charts and practical demonstration of the necessary equipment for out door living by those able and willing to devote the necessary time to this important work. Much literature has been distributed and more interest aroused in that way.

The people of Ithaca may well be proud of what they have done to prevent tuberculosis. They are in advance of many larger cities and this by the united efforts of all interested in the work. Some have

an interest in personal cases, some in the general conquest of the disease, and still others because of the memory of some loved one taken from their circle because of lack of knowledge sufficiently early to overcome the disease. We have been greatly aided by the efficient work of the Associated Charities, Visiting Nurse Association and Social Service League. The Commissioner of Charities has also cooperated in the work when possible.

47  
"The opening of the Public Welfare Building on April 1st, 1915, greatly facilitated the work of all the societies housed therein. Great credit is due the Associated Charities for bringing this about. The present quarters give good light, ventilation and sufficient space to do good work and those in the community who are not familiar with the work carried on there would do well to visit the Public Welfare Building between three and five in the afternoon. At this time either a Child Welfare Clinic or a Tuberculosis Clinic will be in progress and a good idea can be obtained of the Progress of the Public Health Movement in Ithaca."

The Public Rest Room contributes to the comfort and well-being of hundreds of visitors. The room, light and heat are the gift of the Business Men's Association, the furnishings, care and supervision are given by the City Federation of Women's Clubs and are in charge of the Municipal Committee of which Mrs. F. E. Bates is chairman. Women and children of the city as well as of the country are showing their appreciation of the rest room by their larger use of it.

One of the most helpful recent efforts in the general welfare work is the Health and Housing Survey conducted by experts recommended by the Russell Sage Foundation. At one of the conferences held by the Associated Charities a plan was evolved to call a meeting of citizens to consider ways and means of having a Social Survey of Ithaca. A Central committee on survey was formed of which Prof. W. F. Willcox was elected chairman. The cost of a Social Survey was found to be large and after a preliminary survey of general conditions by Mr. Sibley Harrison of the Russell Sage Foundation, it seemed best to have surveys made of health and housing conditions in Ithaca. These surveys were made and the printed reports are now on sale at a nominal price at several bookstores or may be obtained of the Chairman. The expense of the Health Survey was met by the City Federation of Women's Clubs; that of the Housing Survey by the Business Men's Association, by sales of reports to the Russell Sage Foundation and by a number of public spirited individuals.

The Public Welfare Building is the realization of a long cherished hope of the trained social workers in Ithaca. This central office is the home of the Associated Charities, the Tuberculosis Clinic and Baby Welfare Station, the Visiting Nurse Association, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. An effort was made to furnish a quiet consulting room for the Police Woman, but, as yet, unsuccessfully. The saving of time of the various social workers the prompt referring of persons to the right agency for help, the large increase of visitors and the number of societies cooperating already show the wisdom of having a Public Welfare Building.

This very brief summary of the more recent welfare work along modern lines shows Ithaca to be in line with the progressive cities of the country that recognize the true value of the services of specially trained and efficient men and women in giving a permanent uplift to the social and civic life of the community.



The Cayuga Bird Club, organized two years ago has done a great deal to interest the people of Ithaca in bird life and, in a general way, in the great outdoors. It has a flourishing membership of both townspeople and members of the University community and interest in its purposes and its work has steadily increased.

In addition to Saturday morning bird walks, which are invariably well attended, the club has arranged a number of illustrated lectures to which the general public has been invited. Calendars detailing the migration of birds have proved very helpful. A large number of Ithacans have been persuaded to build bird houses and through them to become intimately

acquainted with a number of different kinds of birds.

One of the most important accomplishments of the Bird Club was to persuade the City to set aside the Renwick Wildwood as a public park. The Board of Public Works voted \$100 for the improvement of this tract. Under the direction of the club this property has become most attractive, a genuine asset to the City. The club has in mind other plans to make this Wildwood more attractive both to the birds and the people of Ithaca. This beautiful forest is to be perpetuated as a natural sanctuary.

The picture accompanying this article represents the proposed concrete gateway the club house hopes to erect at the entrance to the tract.

## A BRIEF SKETCH OF RENWICK PARK

When the Revolutionary War ended, a soldier by the name of Andrew Moody received from the State of New York, for services rendered during the struggle for liberty, a grant of land comprising one square mile, or 640 acres. He staked out for his grant a tract in what is now Tompkins County, and part of which is now embraced in the city of Ithaca. It was bounded on the west by the old pier road, running north to the lake; thence along the lake shore to the old dry dock, just below the Remington salt plant; thence east up the hill for nearly a mile; south for approximately 9,000 feet, thence west to Tioga street (extended) along Tioga street to within about 70 feet of Railroad avenue and west on that line to the pier road.

In the year 1790, or soon after, the property came into the hands of the Renwick family of New York and was held by them until 1895. Efforts had been made previously to purchase the tract, but had met with no success until Herman Bergholtz, who is entitled to rank among the benefactors of Ithaca, decided that Ithaca needed a park and took steps to link one up with his street railway interests. After a search for missing heirs which extended into months, Mr. Bergholtz's efforts were successful and Renwick Park was opened to the public in the summer of 1895. The grounds are now leased to the Whartons, Inc., which uses them for a motion picture studio.

Ithacans of the older generation can remember when a half mile race track graced the lake front, running through a point in the park upon which the car track was laid, and upon which the horsemen of former days indulged in the sport of racing thoroughbreds. The grounds had lain idle, however, for many years when the park plan was consummated.

## SOPHOMORE BANQUET

From The Journal, Feb. 2, 1882.

The dining room of the Ithaca Hotel echoed Saturday night to the merriment of a banquet participated in by 53 sophomores. The feast began at half past ten o'clock and kept the lively collegians pleasantly occupied until nearly 4 a. m.

During the early part of the afternoon the freshmen succeeded in capturing the sophomores' prophet, and it was the purpose to detain him until after the banquet, but the sophs ascertained that their classmate had been hidden in the upper story of the Sprague block and in the evening about 8 o'clock a squad of them stormed the freshman citadel and released the prisoner in ample time for the banquet. While searching for the prophet some very dangerous climbing was done for some of the boys made their way from one room of the block to another by passing from window to window, along the face of the building at an altitude of forty or fifty feet.

## TOM THUMB VISITS ITHACA

From The Journal, April 20, 1864.

On Tuesday next, General Tom Thumb, and General Thumb's wife, Commodore Nutt, and Miss Minnie Warren, the littlest folks of mature age in the world, will visit our village and give their exhibitions at Clinton Hall. We need not counsel our readers to go and see them. On the contrary, the crowd will be so great that we advise them to wear small hoops and be prepared to put up with a little crowding and discomfort with determined good nature.

## ALLEGED THAT PHELPS "CRIBBED"

From The Weekly Journal, Jan. 13, 1874.

For some days past there has been a painful rumor in circulation to the effect that the winner of the Woodford medal contest did not obtain it by fair means. It was intimated that Mr. Phelps, the young gentleman who took the prize this year, failed to pass "grasp the function of inverted commas," and "cribbed" a large share of his oration, taking not only his ideas but phraseology from an eminent historian, the famous Buckle. Now, though this was complimentary to Buckle, it was hardly fair to the other competitors, since, even if they wanted to crib, few other authors were so available. The matter is to be investigated, and it will be wrong to pass judgment on Mr. Phelps, in his absence, especially as his character, while at the University was most excellent, and he was a very hard working student. We trust this suspicion will prove to be unfounded.



# Three-Ton Bell Booms Ithaca's 'Curfew' Hour

4

## THE JOURNAL AND SHADE TREES

One of the greatest charms of which Ithaca may justly boast are the magnificent trees that flank her streets. Her fame as a "forest city" has gone far and wide. THE JOURNAL early recognized the importance of tree-planting and has made frequent editorial appeals to our citizens to plant more and more shade trees. The following editorial from THE JOURNAL of July 9, 1870, is an illustration of this campaign, which must have born fruit:

"Next to lemonade and ice cream, perhaps, shade trees are the greatest blessings we are conscious of, these midsummer days. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine what our condition would be, deprived of these natural protections. Think of a village or city destitute of shade trees! How the heat would roll up from the pavements! How we would blister as we walked the streets! We never pass the streets without feeling thankful for the forethought which induced the setting out of the trees which now so abundantly protect us.

"But is there nothing for us to do in this direction? Why is it so many bare places are left without a tree or the hope of some hereafter? The cost is very small originally and when once planted only a little care is needed to make the trees grow. Here and there is a vacant lot whose owner expects to sell, to realize on the rise of property. Does he think the setting of shade trees a useless expense? We doubt not that for every thrifty tree even if it be small, planted in front of such lot would net the owner five times the cost, when offered for sale.

"Again there are spots (few it is true) where it seems the owners have neglected to set trees because the buildings are not dwelling houses and therefore shade would be no object. Such a place is on Tioga street just north of Mr. Apgar's residence where a carpenter's shop stands. Now it is very probable that a dwelling house will be needed and built there in a short time and how much better shape for sale that property be in were there promises of shade!

"In view of these cases of neglect we ask if it would not be a good thing for the Board of Trustees to do, to regulate this matter under the head of street improvements? We hear it said that there is already too much shade in Ithaca. This may be true of localities but it is no reason why spots now destitute of shade should remain so. There should be an unbroken shade each side of the street on every thoroughfare off from state street. Either owners should be induced to thus improve or the corporation should take the matter under its own care, thinning and trimming where needed and planting where there are no trees. At first, some fast growing tree might be planted with those of slower growth, as the willow with the maple and when the maple tree became large enough to answer the purpose, the willow could be cut out. It seems to us that this subject is worthy of deep consideration. At least we ask those who have no shade trees to plant them without delay, thereby helping on the general improvement of the town and doing for the future what the past has so thoughtfully done for them."

## Journal

Once each day the vibrant tones of the big bell in the tower of City Hall peels out the "curfew" hour of 7 p. m. in Ithaca. On other occasions, its ringing signifies a fire, and summons volunteers from far and near.

Many Ithacans have never given the big bell a second thought, except to count its resonant booming at any time of the day or night other than 7 p. m., to ascertain the location of an alarm. A few, however, have taken the opportunity of climbing the rickety stairs to the base of the tower, and thence by ladder to the creaking belfry where the mammoth bell rests on huge beams.

### Still Weighs 6,700 Pounds

With all its wear and tear since the halcyon days of hand-drawn fire apparatus, when it was used entirely to summon volunteers, the old bell still weighs in the neighborhood of 6,700 pounds and every ounce of its resonant energy is now exerted by modern mechanism and equipment.

Suspended from the belfry and extending through the very heart of the City Hall building is a one-ton weight, and a very significant part of the bell. For many years the bell was tolled by hand by means of a rope extending through the building to Police Headquarters on the ground floor. This was all changed in 1891, however, when an automatic striker was installed.

### Winds Weights Each Day

Each day, Fire Superintendent George Frith climbs to the tower of the building to "wind the weights." This is accomplished with a hand-operated winch which draws in the chain and lifts the heavy weights upward. Each stroke of the bell thereafter lowers the weights a foot or more in the manner of an old-fashioned cuckoo clock.

Purchased in March, 1876, from the Vickers Sons at Sheffield, England, the bell was installed in the tower of City Hall three months later. Its installation represented one of the greatest feats of engineering of that day. An elevated skid was constructed from the tower to the ground, a distance of a block away, and the huge bell gradually skidded into position where it has remained ever since.

### System Modernized in 1925

When Central Fire Headquarters was built on the site of the old Reamer Laundry back in 1925, Ithaca's fire alarm system was completely modernized and an automatic alarm board installed. The big bell became a part of the new system, its creaking old weights responding deftly to the delicate electrical mechanism which was then to control it.

Not once has it failed, unless, of course, its weights had reached the extremity of the chains, when all the electrical energy available went for naught. This happened not so many years ago on a night when there was an exceptionally large number of alarms, false and otherwise. The bell weights reached the end of the chain before they could be rewound.

January 26 1938

That has since been taken care of, however, and it is now one of the duties of the desk man to "cut out" the big bell after an alarm has gone through the board twice.

### Bell Shakes Tower

One of the greatest thrills of a lifetime is to stand in the tower, directly underneath the big bell, when an alarm comes in. The sound is deafening and with each stroke of the mighty striker, the three-ton bell quivers and vibrates to an extent that the tower itself responds.

A word for the controlling mechanism behind the bell would not be complete without mention of the automatic alarm board which is located in the rear of the Central Headquarters' building. The control board is operated by two banks of batteries, working at full capacity 24 hours in the day.

Ithaca could be without power and lights for 60 hours, according to Chief B. J. Reilly, and the city's

fire alarm system would continue to function, and the big bell continue to boom out its four strokes at 7 p. m. each day, and in the event of fire.

## FATAL COASTING ACCIDENT

From The Journal, Feb. 8, 1879.

Again it becomes our painful duty to record a fatal coasting accident, the victim being Charles H. Taylor, a young man 27 years old and well known in this community. Taylor was one of the large number of young men who last night took advantage of the splendid condition of the hill and during the evening had made many trips on the large bob owned by

John McCormick, without any mishap. The track was very icy and the speed attained by the heavy sleigh was terrific; often the spectators shuddered as they

saw it swerve from side to side as the steersman momentarily lost control of it and the human freight seemed about to be dashed against some obstruction by the roadside. Some one suggested that an especially large and heavy load be crowded on the bobs so that they would run faster and farther, and accordingly the treacherous thing was taken up the hill just after 10 o'clock and thirteen young men took places for the long ride. Some

idea of the condition of the hill can be obtained when it is known that the distance from Eddy street to the Episcopal Church, by measurement two-thirds of a mile, was made in 33 seconds almost twice

as fast as a lightning express train runs.

A large crowd stood at the foot of the hill watching the coasters; they saw the big sleigh start, saw it rush down as far as Fountain Place and then suddenly a cloud of snow flew into the air and when this was dispelled they saw the young men rolling over and over in the road and the bobs lying bottom side up. A doctor was speedily on the spot and as soon as he saw the wounded man he said he could not possibly survive the injury, which was

a star shaped fracture of the skull extending four or five inches in either direction. Taylor lingered until eight o'clock this morning and then breathed his last. The deceased was formerly a student of the

University, remaining there eight terms. By occupation he was a bookkeeper and at the time of his death he was employed by the lumber dealer, Mr. Ira Rockwell.

## PICTURES ITHACA AS AN IMPORTANT CENTER FOR MOVIES

New York Writer Says City  
Will Gain Fame as Home  
of the Wharton Company  
— Came Here as Skeptic,  
Went Away an Enthusiast

1915

"Wid," writing in "Films and Film Folk," a regular feature of the New York Evening Mail, speaks in highly complimentary tones of the Wharton brothers' foresight in selecting Ithaca as a location for their motion picture plant. The writer says that when Theodore and Leo Wharton first decided to enter the Ithaca field they were much criticized by the cynics in the business and he came to Ithaca purposely to inspect the plant. Returning to New York "Wid" wrote a column article describing the Wharton's and Ithaca in glowing terms. He says:

For many moons it has been a familiar cry, "Wharton's raving again." You see, those Wharton boys, Theodore and Leopold, or as every one calls them, "Theo" and "Leo," have been making films up at Ithaca. To most film folks, especially the "wise ones" about the club, Ithaca sounded like trouble. "Theo" is naturally enthusiastic and it became great fun for the boys to hear him tell of the wonders of Ithaca, because they just couldn't be convinced. Well, I'm cured. I'm willing to join the army for the defense on "Ted's" side any day.

Feeling that a day in "the wilds" would do me good, I hied meself to the far away land of "Wharton, Inc.," on Sunday. Well, for many years Ithaca has been known, where it was known, as the town that Cornell University claimed as a home. From indications about the city these days, I'm willing to bet a red apple that

in the future Ithaca is goin' to be known to more folks as the place where they make those Wharton films, than as any university location. Those "picture people" just simply "own the town."

If you will remeber, several months ago I told you that the Wharton boys who, you know, make the Pathe serials, "Perils of Pauline," "Exploits of Elaine," etc., had purchased the entire plot of ground and all the building of what was once an amusement park on the lake at Ithaca. I didn't tell you, because I could not even imagine it, at the time, that they had gone to Ithaca, because it has one of the greatest varieties of locations within a very few miles of the studio of any spot I have ever visited, surely the greatest in the East.

### Auto Trip Eye-Opener.

Sunday afternoon "Ted" took me out for a little trip in a perfectly good auto—no, not his own. Every one working for him, well, almost every one, has one but "Ted," and he is too busy to use one. The studio plant, which is unusually complete, considering that they have converted former park buildings and have not had time to build the new structures which will go up this fall, is located at the head of the lake. On either side tower great hills and on one of these hills is Cornell, with gorges galore cutting their picturesque way down to the valley. There are enough locations at one great water fall, in one of the largest gorges, which is a hundred yards from the campus and extends directly down into Wharton's "back yard," to make beautiful scenes for ten years and still not have all of it. But this isn't all; there are at least twenty such gorges cutting down through the hills within the ten miles that we traversed up the side of the lake. All along the roadway, we were traveling along a road similar to the Jersey drive along our own Palisades, with the beautiful valley a sheer fall of several hundred feet below and hills towering beyond that wonderful expanse of water.

I thought possibly that I was looking only with the "camera eye," finding all these "locations," and so I put the trip to a test to be sure I could feel justified in acquitting "Ted" of "raving" on all future occasions. Big Jim Gordon, he who has done so many fine parts in big feature productions in the past and is now directing with the Whartons, had his sister and niece from Pittsburgh along. I counted them "general public." But the Smoky City verdict was even more enthusiastic than mine, and so I must say that the Whartons are from this date on to be continually congratulated and no longer jested with regarding what some of our best little cynics have called "Wharton's madness."

### City's Tribute to Wharton's.

There was another very gratifying item about my visit which greatly impressed me. I consider Ithaca a town of unusual reserve and of more than ordinary intelligence on account of the absence of factories and the predominating college atmosphere. Everywhere I found the Whartons regarded with the utmost respect, not as a "curiosity," and they were quite evidently considered as among the city's most prominent residents. I consider this a genuine tribute to the Wharton boys, and I can readily understand how the people of Ithaca have come to know that these "film folk" are very much "worth while." It is by gaining the respect of such communities as Ithaca that the film industry will prosper.

Among the odd sights I found about the plant was a "submarine," which had been especially constructed for the "Elaine" series. It was made of iron and surely looked like "business," as it lay moored in the lake near the plant. Just next door to the studio grounds is an aeroplane factory, and when the boys want an aeroplane or a hydroplane for a scene they simply telephone over to the plant, and it is on hand a bit quicker than you could secure an auto here in little old New York. Among the pleasure devices on the park grounds which the boys purchased, is a miniature railroad with the smallest steam engine known. It pulls eight coaches and runs about the grounds in great style. I wouldn't be surprised to see some "kid" stuff one of these days in which that train would play a star part. When it comes

to locations, in addition to the lakes, the gorges, the waterfalls, the palisades and the forests, the boys can find at every turn quaint little shacks, mining camps, mining shafts—there being salt mines 100 yards from the studio and—in the city and about the college grounds you can find every kind of architecture that any one ever dreamed of. From this date on I vote the Whartons "good pickers," and no longer will I laughing shout, "Wharton's raving again."

The boys are now doing the series built around the "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford" stories, with Burr McIntosh, Max Figman and Lolita Robertson in the leading roles. They have just completed the thirty-sixth episode of the "Elaine" series, which has broken all records as to successful length for such productions. Interested with the two Wharton brothers is J. Whitworth Buck, brother-in-law of the boys, and this trio has in the one year of the life of "Wharton, Inc." made a record that stands unique in film history. They have done big things, and from what I could see of plans for the future the old stuff is still good, "they are still in their infancy."

## Death Takes Pearl White Once Ithaca Film Star

Paris —(P)— Pearl White, first heroine of the old American movie serial thrillers, died today in the American Hospital.

She was 49 and had been ill for several weeks of a liver ailment.

In the days when the motion picture business was young, movie audiences sat on the edge of their seats thrilling to the "Perils of Pauline," an adventure-packed serial in which the beauteous heroine managed to reach death's door at the end of each chapter, never to die.

"Pauline" was blonde Pearl White; blue-eyed actress catapulted to fame as the first of the dare-devils of the screen. Young America shuddered for a week at the thought of Pauline's perilous predicament, as each instalment faded out with the black-bearded villain likely as not cackling with satisfaction, the hero somewhere on the way to the rescue.

### Rescues Never Failed

He always made the grade at the opening of the next episode, only to let "Pauline" get into deep trouble again. Besides the "Perils of Pauline" there were the "Exploits of Elaine" and a dozen other serials of the same melodramatic cast.

Pearl White grew rich on this. She went to Paris in the early twenties, and afterward saw little of the United States.

For several years she was in the gay international set at Paris and Deauville. In later years she lived more quietly, either at her town house in Paris or her chateau at Gazeran, near Rambouillet.

She made short trips to the United States in 1927 and 1937. On this latter trip her hair was still blonde, her face rather full. She told news photographers she didn't like to have pictures taken any more because they "make me look too fat."

**Health Affected**

She went abroad in the first place because her movie days had affected her health. Bare-back riding and stunting for the films took a toll, and her eyes had been affected by the lights employed in the early studios.

She recovered her health in France, but it was then too late to continue the type of picture in which she was best. She appeared in Paris revues and made a few films, the last in 1927. In the same year she made her last public appearance, on a London stage.

Pearl White did many of her own stunts. She herself leaped from speeding trains, clung by fingertips from bridges and steeples, and escaped the jaws of death on swinging ladders. In those days there were no stand-ins or doubles. Once she seriously injured her back.

**Appeared as Little Eva**

Miss White was born in Green Ridge, Mo., Mar. 4, 1889. She made her debut at six as Little Eva in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and her parents got \$5 a week for her work.

At 13 she was with a traveling circus as bare-back rider, and several years later went on the stage. She went to the films in 1913.

At the top of her fame she earned \$10,000 a week, usually playing opposite Warner Oland, who was the villain.

**Made Movies in Ithaca**

Pearl White was well known in Ithaca where she played a prominent part in this city's contribution to the motion picture industry.

Twenty-three years ago Miss White was the star of "Exploits of Elaine" then in production at Renwick Park. During the filming of this blood-curdling serial she was understudied by Frances Crawford White who doubled for her in several scenes. Another Ithacan who had a part in that picture was John B. Herson, now a resident of Jackson Heights, L. I.

Pearl White was probably the most popular of the many stars of the silent era who made pictures here at the Wharton Studio. Many Ithacans engaged there in technical capacities at the time have often expressed this opinion. Several others who were here during or shortly after Miss White's stay were Francis X. Bushman, Mae Marsh, Beverly Bayne, Harry Houdini, and Norma and Constance Talmadge.

**Age Claimed As 41**

Springfield, Mo. — (AP) — Pearl White's 84-year-old father, said today she was 41 years old, not 49—explaining that she added a few years "to keep ahead of Mary Pickford."

She was born Mar. 4, 1897, Edward G. White said, at Green Ridge, Mo., and the family moved here five years later.

White said his daughter left home when she was 17 or 18 and joined a stock company.

**OUR HOSPITALS AND HOMES AND ALLIED CHARITIES**

"GOD will bless the provider for his family," is an old saying. And it is true. But if He bless such a man what must He do for him or her who goes further and provides the hospital and the children's and the old ladies' and old men's homes? And for him or her who gives freely to the allied charities?

When Senator Edward S. Esty, about thirty years ago, founded the Children's Home in this city he ennobled his name. When he founded the City Hospital he repeated the generous act and built stronger than he knew. Not a member of his family is now a resident of this county, but the Children's Home has been rebuilt in splendid manner and is doing its merciful work for deserving waifs. His City Hospital still stands, but upon a new site, a new and commodious structure that will be for many years to come a monument to his name and a tribute to his philanthropy, and to all those who have supported it.

And the Old Ladies' Home! Who can tell the good it has accomplished along the lines upon which it was founded? Who could restrain himself from uttering

an earnest word of gratitude for Mrs. Jane P. McGraw for the part she acted in its foundation and endowment? And another for Ezra Cornell for the part he acted in its organization and life?

The battle against the Great White Plague with a recruiting center at the County Tuberculosis Hospital at Taughanock Falls is the offspring of another burst of sympathy, and evidence of the opening of heartstring and pursestring of the people the county, led by the heart and hand of Robert H. Treman who gave to the county the building and the site, and money with which to strengthen it for the battle.

Our Associated Charities is an invisible institution, a union of sympathetic souls, all volunteers, and performs its humanitarian work upon wise and systematic lines.

The Cayuga Preventorium, where children threatened by tuberculosis are given a chance to grow strong, is another monument to the generosity and wisdom of this city and worthy of the spirit that inspired it, the skill that designed it, the people who maintain it and built it. Its sponsors will meet God's blessing in due time. Such people are the real philanthropists.

All these institutions differ in their material forms, but closely allied in their spiritual or active forms.

I had always heard that Ithaca was a paragon of generosity and hospitality, long before I ever dreamt of coming to it as a resident. I am now personally a witness to the truth in that statement. Such things in so small a city speak eloquently for the people of the city.

The schools of Ithaca are deservedly celebrated. The great University on the brow of an eastern hill is known and honored in the furthest corners of earth. The scenery of this section is magical and almost matchless. But what do such things avail compared to the humane institutions I have named?

The agony of the injured, the pain of the sick, the hunger of the needy, and the

helplessness of the person feeble with age and infirmities call for more sacred remedies than are dispensed in the class room of school or college. Intellect is or should be held subordinate in the affairs of humanity or else the heart goes wrong. Wealth has founded colleges on the campus, but the humanitarians of low and high degree of this county have founded the Hospitals, the Homes, the Allied Charities, and the Preventorium; and they will receive great credit for it. I would cite here the illustration of the widow and her tiny copper mite, that stands for all times as the Lord's estimate of a man's worth, the sacrifice he is willing to make for others. I would cite another example.

On the Sabine Hills, two thousand years ago, a poet prophesied that "his song would outlast the gates of lordly Rome." "I shall not altogether perish," he declared. "I have raised a monument more lasting than bronze." Today the sun streams through the ruined arches of the Colosseum, but the songs of Horace, vibrant with a beauty that cannot die, still makes music in the hearts of all mankind. What Horace said of his lines may be said of all the friends and benefactors of our charitable institutions. May God bless them all, here, and hereafter.

W. H. HARRINGTON

**T. F. CRANE APPOINTED PROFESSOR**

From The Journal, Oct. 20, 1868.

We learn with pleasure, that Mr. T. F. Crane has been appointed professor of German and librarian in the Cornell University to take the place of Professor Fiske who will be absent abroad for some time. This is a very gratifying recognition of the ability and worth of one of our own fellow townsmen. Although still young, Mr. Crane has been a hard, industrious student, and his acquirement and wonderful facility in the rapid dispatch of business, will render him an invaluable acquisition to the faculty of the University. We know that his appointment will give pleasure to a large number of our citizens.

# Bulk of Stewart Estate Left to People and Ithaca Institutions In Will Setting High Water Mark for Public Benefactions

Journal - News 1921

## \$100,000 to City Hospital, \$75,000 to Old Ladies' Home, and Park En- dowment That May Run to \$250,- 000 Among Provisions of Remark- able Document—Mrs. Stewart Has Life Estate In Bulk of Property

By the terms of the will of Edwin C. Stewart, filed for probate today by his attorney, George S. Tarbell, the people of Ithaca directly, and several Ithaca charitable, benevolent or religious institutions will eventually receive the bulk of the late Mayor's estate, which in financial circles is estimated to be in the neighborhood of half a million dollars.

In his will Mr. Stewart set a new high water mark for public benefaction. The will makes direct bequests, after a life estate to Mrs. Stewart has terminated, of \$235,000 to local institutions, while the balance of the estate goes to the people of Ithaca for the improvement and development of Stewart Park. It would not be surprising if the total park fund created by Mr. Stewart would approximate \$250,000.

After making substantial provision for Mrs. Stewart, in the form of a direct bequest, and bequeathing numerous legacies to associates and employes, both personal and of D. B. Stewart and Co. and to several relatives, the will leaves to Mrs. Stewart the life use of the residue and remainder, that is of the bulk of the estate.

### List of Benefactions.

Upon her death the bulk of the estate is to be distributed as follows:

Ten thousand dollars to the trustees of the East Lawn Cemetery.

Twenty-five thousand dollars, in trust, for the upkeep of the Stewart lot in East Lawn Cemetery, the balance to be expended for the upkeep of the cemetery.

Seventy-five thousand dollars to the Union Benevolent Society of Ithaca, N. Y., to establish the Stewart Memorial Fund as an endowment fund for the maintenance of the Old Ladies' Home on South Aurora street.

Twenty-five thousand dollars to the trustees of the First Presbyterian Church in trust, the income to be used for the benefit of the church; this fund a memorial to the late Mayor's mother, A. Louisa Stewart.

One hundred thousand dollars to the Board of Trustees of the Ithaca City Hospital, thus creating the Stewart Endowment Fund, the income to be used for the maintenance of the hospital.

### Fine Gift to City.

Then comes the epoch making bequest to the people of Ithaca for the maintenance of Stewart Park an unique and splendid demonstration of Mr. Stewart's public spirit, open-hearted generosity, and abiding affection for Ithaca and its people.

The will gives to the Ithaca Trust Company, in trust, "all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, to invest and reinvest as it deems best for the best interest of this trust, the interest to be paid semi-annually for a period of 10 years, for the improve-

ment of Renwick Park at Ithaca, N. Y., (now Stewart Park), and at the end of said years.

"The balance of my estate not hereinbefore specifically expended for the permanent improvement of Renwick Park (now Stewart Park) under the direction of the directors of the Ithaca Trust Company as they in their judgment shall deem best."

As stated before, the exact amount of this bequest to the city cannot be determined at this time, but that it will prove a magnificent gift to the people is unquestioned. Conservative estimates are that this park fund may approximate \$250,000.

All of the real property of the Mayor including the house on East Buffalo street and the cottage at McKinney's is bequeathed directly to Mrs. Stewart. The executors of the will are Mrs. Stewart and the Ithaca Trust Company.

### Gifts to Employes.

The will provides specific legacies for Ford D. Whiting, Lewis C. Perry and Gardner M. Rogers, all employes of the D. B. Stewart & Co.

Legacies of \$500 each are left to a number of persons who at the time of Mr. Stewart's death had been in his employ or that of D. B. Stewart & Co. for 10 years. The petition for probate sets out the following as beneficiaries under this clause of the will: Elizabeth McNally, Margaret McNally, William M. Eaton, V. C. Lowe, George W. Heverly, M. W. Morehouse, George O. Skinner, N. E. South, Reo Kresga, Thomas Gibbons, Bert Hammond, Arthur Seely, Bert Mabee, Fred Whitlock, Isaac Benton, Mrs. Maria Hill, Eugene Smith, Charles Harding, August Schmidt and William Crozier.

In another clause of the will provision is made for legacies of \$100 each to the following persons who at the time of Mr. Stewart's death had been in his employ or that of D. B. Stewart & Co. for one year: Helen Schmidt, Rose Gibbons, Richard Gibbons, Stephen Hutchinson, Henry Viet, Alvah Smith, Fred Huddle, Homer Bierce, Arthur Mason, Ivar Durling, Richard Hill, James McCabe, Mrs. Rilla McKay, Daniel Fisher, Mrs. William Tracey, James Oltz, Jens M. Andraessen, Fred Sloughter, Ella Snyder, Martin Conway.

Mr. Stewart also left \$1,000 to "my friend" Benjamin Milks, who for years has had general supervision of the Stewart real estate, especially the summer home at McKinney's.

Some of the late Mayor's benefactions included institutions in which his mother and father were especially interested. His life long devotion to both parents is well known to all his friends. His mother was a charter member of the trustees of The Old Ladies' Home, his father of the City Hospital.

The generous gift to the Old Ladies' Home recalls the keen interest in that institution of the late Mayor's mother. It was recalled by friends today that when the home was removed from Seneca street to South Hill the Mayor drove the old ladies to the new home.

The splendid gift to the people for the maintenance and improvement of the public park at the lakeside, which he was instrumental in securing for the people while he was mayor, is the crowning benefaction of a life that in later years was largely devoted to the public interest. The gift is made to the City of Ithaca; the Ithaca Trust Company as trustee.

The will, a straight-forward, concise and businesslike document drawn by George S. Tarbell, Mr. Stewart's personal attorney, was executed on the night of June 15, a few hours before the Mayor went to the hospital. The witnesses are Attorney Tarbell and Dr. Arthur D. White.

The petition filed in surrogate's court today merely sets forth that the personal property exceeds \$10,000; the real property is valued at \$28,000.

### RATTLESNAKES IN DANBY

From The Journal, August 1, 1870.

Two large rattlesnakes were killed on the farm of Mr. S. D. Hamlin in Danby, Saturday. Mr. Swartout, a young man from Ithaca who went up to that place, is the captor and he holds the scalps of their tails as a trophy. The snakes were four feet long and "as big around as your wrist." They seem to be twins, for they each had eight rattles on their tails, a proof that they were of equal age. Mr. Swartout shot one of them and then did successful battle with the other. It is high time these pests were driven out of Tompkins County. They will find better living over in Tioga or Schuyler counties.

# South Side Center Owes Birth To Negro Woman's Club

Ithaca Journal

April 1938

The South Side Community Center, "a dream come true" dedicated by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt Feb. 17, goes back to 1927, when the Francis Harper Woman's Club, a Negro organization, "was presented with a problem."

"At that time, the Negro youth of Ithaca had no central place for their activities," Mrs. Vera Irvin, 1927 president of that organization, explained Monday. "Realizing that the success of our group in meeting the responsibilities of citizenship was dependent on the training of our people, we raised the question, 'Why not provide a center in which this objective can be worked out?'"

## Club Lost Members

There were 135 members of the Francis Harper Woman's Club when the question was raised, but before it was answered, all but about 50 dropped out. They said such attempts had been made before and failed, and they saw no particular reason why this one would succeed. The 50 braver spirits launched a campaign among members of the Negro community with a committee of 11 Negro men and women making a house-to-house canvass which netted \$229. Mrs. Elizabeth Reesby was chairman of this earliest effort.

The committee of 11 and contributors of the \$229 joined to form the Servus-League in March, 1928, with Mrs. Jessie Cooper as president. The league's aim was to provide "a social-health - educational-cultural and recreational center for all Negroes of Ithaca." It was to be "non-secretarian and non-political, with all efforts directed toward uniting the community for the betterment of each and every individual."

## First Board Formed

The league went on for a time holding meetings at the homes of the various members, always trying to raise further money with the idea of a community center constantly in mind. Through the efforts of Mrs. Irvin and Mrs. Cooper the interest of four Ithaca business men was enlisted and the first advisory board was formed with the late J. W. Hook, the late Harold Flack, R. E. Treman and L. C. Boochever as members. Mr. Hook was president of the board and Mrs. Cooper was the first director.

The league's first "center" was at 221 S. Plain St. where a house was rented to focus activities. In 1930 the organization became known as the South Side Community Center, and, in 1932, a little house at 305 S. Plain St. was bought as permanent home for the growing group. After the adjoining Preston Melton property had been condemned and razed by the city, the Center purchased the site, razed it own building in 1936, and started the present structure on the combined plot.

Mr. Hook served as president until his death when he was succeeded by Mr. Treman who held the office until 1935 when Mrs. Treman became president.

In her speech at the dedication ceremonies on Feb. 17, Mrs. Irvin said: "It was during Mr. Treman's administration that the Center laid the foundation for the great event we are celebrating today. He kept before him the ideal of a beautiful building arising on this ground some day and he was succeeded by his wife who stimulated our whole program and brought to her board such tireless workers as Mrs. Carl Stephenson. Together they enlisted

the aid of the Common Council and the WPA. With a small committee, they labored hard and long to secure the underwriting of this project to the point where city and WPA decided to build this Center."

## Made Part of Chest in 1930

It was largely through the efforts of Mr. Flack that the Center was made part of the Community Chest in 1930. As one of the 16 chest agencies, it will continue to stress two things in addition to its recreational program—job training to provide an outlet for Ithaca Negro boys and girls, and some sort of educational training on health matters.

The two-story, brick-faced building contains a memorial lounge on the first floor—"the hoped-for center of activities, dedicated to people associated with the center who have died." An adjacent demonstration kitchen will train Negro girls for homemaking and fit them for jobs as cooks and waitresses.

## Gym Provided

A regulation-sized gymnasium with locker rooms and showers for boys and girls will be used for athletic events, and recreational activities of the community such as dances and dramatic festivals. There are also an activities room and a children's room on the first floor.

The second floor comprises a large room to be used by the six Negro lodges of the city, a game room for ping-pong and billiards, a library of donated volumes and a gallery for gymnasium spectators. There is a director's apartment in the tower.

The Center's staff, with exception of Director James L. Gibbs, will be composed of local men and women and social science students from Cornell, the latter volunteering to obtain practical experience.

## New Center's Dedication A Milestone

Dedication of the South Side Community Center by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt at 4 p. m. Thursday marks another milestone in the long contemplated development of recreational and social opportunities for an underprivileged group.

The First Lady's dedicatory comments will come at a time when the building is only 80 per cent complete but WPA has given assurance that the new house of simple Georgian design will be finished shortly. There have been many unavoidable delays in the \$48,000 construction program, twice deferring formal dedication.

## Others to Take Part

Words Progress Administration representatives, Mayor Myers, prominent public benefactors who played so important a role in the achievement and spokesmen from 30 organizations included in the Community Center will join with Mrs. Roosevelt in the ceremonies. The history of this development dates back to a dozen years when a group of Negro women, enlisted under the banner of the Frances Harper Women's Club, proposed the community center.

In March, 1927, the Serv-Us League was organized with Mrs. Vera Irvin as president. A \$229 "hope chest" raised at that time was the nucleus of the \$14,442 sponsors contribution in the current enterprise. Mrs. Irvin and Mrs. Jessie Cooper, executive secretary and later president, formed the first advisory board which included such prominent Ithacans as the late J. W. Hook, R. E. Treman, Louis C. Boochever and the late Harold Flack. Mr. Hook became president, retaining the post until his death when he was succeeded by Mr. Treman. The latter in turn was succeeded by Mrs. R. E. Treman, who continues in that capacity.

## Chest Aid Won

Through the efforts of its advisory board the Community Center became a participant in Community Chest funds and was enabled to obtain rented quarters on S. Plain St. until the place it occupied was razed for the new structure.

Mayor Myers and Louis P. Smith, his predecessor, together with the Common Council and a host of WPA officials co-operated to make the project possible. Among the WPA group were Lester W. Herzog, Clement V. Conole, James Conley, Hamilton V. Miles, Hugh McHorter and George Whitaker.

Thursday's dedication program: Mrs. Robert E. Treman, presiding Star Spangled Banner—Audience.

Invocation—The Rev. B. H. Payne, Calvary Baptist Church.

History of the Center—Mrs. Vera L. Irvin.

Remarks—Clement V. Conole, former district director WPA; Alfred Edgar Smith, administration assistant to Harry L. Hopkins, and Clarence W. Post, deputy state administrator, WPA.

Selection—Utica Jubilee Singers.

Remarks—Claude L. Kulp.

Key Ceremony—Chester E. Hewitt, architect; Mayor Myers, and Isaiah M. Murray, chairman, Board of Managers.

Dedication — by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Negro Spirituals — Utica Jubilee Singers.

America—By the Audience.

Benediction — The Rev. Renn F. Pile, St. James AME Zion Church.

The program will be broadcast over Station WESG from 4:45 to 5:15 p. m., with Lawrence W. Bruff announcing.

Officers of CCC Company 1225 at Candor will be guests of honor. The center's Boy Scout Troop 14 will conduct the flag ceremony. Everett J. Reesby will be head usher, and Curtis Milton is chairman of the decorating committee.

The dedication committee: Louis

C. Boochever, chairman; James H. Cooper, R. E. Treman, Mrs. Carl Stephenson, Miss Alzie Robertson, Prof. Julian L. Woodward, Mrs. Charles K. Burdick, Mrs. Gerald C. Williams, Frank E. White Sr., Miss Eugenia Van Cleef, Isaiah M. Murray, Mrs. Vera L. Irvin, and James L. Gibbs.

## Center Rites Stress Understanding

On a keynote of "a dream come true" the as yet unfinished South Side Community Center was formally dedicated Thursday afternoon by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Seven hundred persons listened intently as the First Lady said "I dedicate this building to the service of the people of the community." Mrs. Roosevelt's remarks were briefly impressive as she lauded members of the Francis Harper Women's Club "who realized a community need and went to work in a practical way to solve the problem."

### Sees Better Understanding

The gracious Mrs. Roosevelt, simply attired, hoped that the building would be not only useful to its people but serve as a reminder of the interest of those who made it possible. "I am glad the two races are working together," she added, "for in that way we will have a better understanding. And here in this building you will find a happier, healthier, better future for your children and therefore a happier and better community."

Accompanied by Mrs. Henry Morgenthau Jr. and Miss Flora Rose, the First Lady arrived midway through the ceremony. Her entrance brought the crowd to its feet in the midst of a talk by Claude L. Kulp, superintendent of schools. "This is a most welcome interruption," the school superintendent said, turning to smile at Mrs. Roosevelt. When she was seated, he resumed with a request that the new center would "serve valuably present and future generations of the Negro race."

### Key Presented

Another impressive program item was presentation of the key. From Chester Hewitt of the Hewitt and Metzgar architectural firm, the key was passed to Mayor Myers who accepted on behalf of the Common Council and the city. Referring to the key as "a symbol of what can be accomplished when men and women work together," the Mayor then presented it to Isaiah M. Murray, chairman of the board of managers. "In behalf of the members, I accept this key to the edifice which shall stand as a monument to the character of those who made it possible," Mr. Murray declared.

Meanwhile a little bird that had been flitting about the auditorium took this occasion to depart through an open window, flashing straight out as though he was the harbinger of tidings to the community. The bird arrived earlier, unquestionably attracted by the soft singing of the Utica Jubilee Singers.

### History of Movement Recited

Mrs. Robert E. Treman, president of the center and together with Major Treman, a member of that group devoted to the accomplishment of this recreational and social ideal, presided. She briefly cited the history of the accomplishment which began on the "faith and imagination" of others 12 years ago, leaving to Mrs. Vera Irvin, first president of the Serv-Us League, the detailed story of how "the dream came true."

The part the Works Progress Administration played in actual erection of the building was told by other than WPA officials although four spoke at the ceremonies. Each had contributed understanding and interest in the community need, it was said of them, and WPA officials in turn praised the community spirit behind this movement.

### Delays Explained

Clement V. Conole, a former WPA district director and to whom the first appeal for assistance was made, said, "I realize that the completion of this splendid South Side Community Center is a permanent step toward better understanding among men." Of the delays encountered during its progress he explained, "they were due to a depletion of skilled workers and to added improvements." The project, originally estimated at \$22,000, will cost \$48,000 by virtue of two additional supplements.

Ithaca's quarter million dollar construction program to aid the unemployed before the state and federal governments joined in such measures was lauded by Clarence W. Post, deputy upstate administrator. He praised the "worthwhile" programs under CWA and TERA, adding, "then WPA was glad to allot funds in making work for your unemployed who wanted work, not dole. Today we see the tangible results of this co-operation."

### Sees Prejudice Dying

The dedication exercises were seen by James Conley, WPA field director, as "significant of the development of a national consciousness in which we are outgrowing the narrow confines of prejudice and making progress toward a sounder social structure in which false barriers will have no place." He said of those who dreamed of this center, "they were men and women possessing a true sense of social values."

The Rev. B. H. Payne, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, offered invocation while benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Renn F. Pile, St. James A.M.E. Zion Church. A Negro Boy Scout color guard stood throughout before the flag bedecked temporary stage set up in the center's gymnasium.

The now four-square Reconstruction Home property became a realization a short time ago when the board of directors acquired the Calkins property at 310 S. Albany St. Workmen now are completing the renovation and redcorating of the building.

Constructed in 1883, the house is of brick construction and matches almost in size and type the administration building which was formerly the old Bostwick home. It will not only be used as an isolation wing, but for ambulatory cases as well.

Given the name "Lindamere" when it was first constructed, directors of the Reconstruction Home are thinking seriously of retaining this name, which is engraved in wood over the huge front door. The building has 12 rooms and will accommodate at least 16 more patients, according to present plans with facilities for therapeutic treatment.

### Occupies Entire Block

The acquisition of the new property gives the Reconstruction Home, which was founded during the war days of 1918, four-square frontage on Albany, Clinton, Fayette, and Center Sts. In connection with the opening of the new building, a printed history of the home.

bound in felt, prepared by Miss Rita Carey and dedicated to the memory of Virgil D. Morse, friend and benefactor of the home, will be published.

In addition to the history of the disease — poliomyelitis — and after care, the booklet traces the history of the home from the founding days of Miss Mary Hibbard.

Springing from the response of women to the need of crippled children, the home grew through the sympathy of those who gave money, time and service.

### After-Cure Begun

During the World War days an epidemic of infantile paralysis left many victims. The State Department of Health immediately began work on the after-care of children who had been paralyzed. State clinics were conducted and nurses assigned to different areas.

Miss Anna Quackenbush was delegated to this region and planning to take up residence here, obtained a room at Miss Hibbard's home. Miss Hibbard became interested in the work and took a few children into her own home. Her friends immediately launched a campaign to awaken interest.

The movement continued under its own power until 1920 when funds were obtained to lease the Bostwick home which was first opened on June 11, with a public reception. By 1926 the Home had become an incorporated organization and was administered by the

# Reconstruction Home To Open Addition

Ithaca Journal

Sept. 1938

Another addition to the Ithaca Reconstruction Home — a much needed isolation building for communicable diseases — will be ready for occupancy soon. It will be open for public inspection on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10 and 11.

Infantile Paralysis Home Association.

Since Miss Hibbard's death in 1927, the old Bostwick house has undergone a transformation.