

# The Pompey House And Other Stories

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May 22, 2018

## Introduction

While pulling together a web page for Jerry Conan's General store, to incorporate some new pictures and architectural drawings of the store, I began to notice some more connections. Jerry Conan was the postmaster of Pompey and his 1<sup>st</sup> cousin, Thomas Mahar, was the mail carrier and also the Pompey stage coach driver. This led to a connection with the Jamesville plank road, the Pompey House hotel in Syracuse, and to one of its more well-known proprietors named Frank Jewell. One of Jewell's early employers, after he arrived in Syracuse, was Jacob Crouse, a wealthy businessman, and a boulder with his name on it that became a moving tourist attraction and billboard in 1904. There was also a possible Pompey House connection with a strange character named Lew Smith and then that led to a really strange roadhouse on the Jamesville plank road, also run by Smith, called the Strawberry Mansion.



This picture from 1897 shows Ryan's Hotel on the north side of Jerry Conan's General Store in the village of Pompey. The owner was Daniel Ryan and he later renamed his hotel the Pompey House.

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# Pompey House on the Hill

## The Pompey House on Pompey Hill

The trail of connections began with an excerpt from Roy Dodge's book "An Historical View of Pompey Hill."

After the great fire of 1874 which destroyed all of the corner buildings south of the Petrie stone store, that site was acquired by the owner of this building and left vacant. Just which owner put the two properties together we have not ascertained but certainly by June of 1900 they were both owned by Daniel Ryan. He sold them to Jerry Carroll on March 7, 1905 and later that year Carroll raised this building up to a full three stories and called it "The Pompey House", a saloon and hotel. That name had been used before when the original "Pompey House" stood at the corner of East Fayette and Montgomery Streets in Syracuse. "...The Pompey stage stopped there to take on and discharge passengers. It was kept in those days by a picturesque character in a beaver hat named Lew Smith who made and lost a fortune. It was moved in 1884 to Cedar and Almond streets when St. Paul's Episcopal Church was to be built. It burned November 16, 1933..." (P.S. November 17, 1933) From J. Roy Dodge [JRD], *An Historical View of Pompey Hill*, N.Y., Vol II, pp. 591-2

It took a while to sort out all the information but it now appears that this Pompey House, in the city of Syracuse, possibly had a small connection to the town of Pompey but apparently the Pompey stagecoach never stopped at that Pompey House.

Daniel Ryan was born in 1859, probably in Fabius, NY. His parents were John Ryan (b. 1820, IR) and Honora Keily (1823, IR) who were married in Clonoulty, Clonoulty civil parish, Co. Tipperary on February 17, 1847. They had one son (James, b. Jul 25, 1847, Clonoulty, IR) born in Ireland and then the family left for the US. They arrived in Central NY in 1849 where their second child, John, was born in Onondaga Co. Daniel had nine siblings: 5 brothers and 4 sisters. On October 24, 1883, Daniel married Annie Hanrahan in Pompey, NY. Daniel and Annie settled in the town of Pompey and they had nine children; 3 sons and 6 daughters.

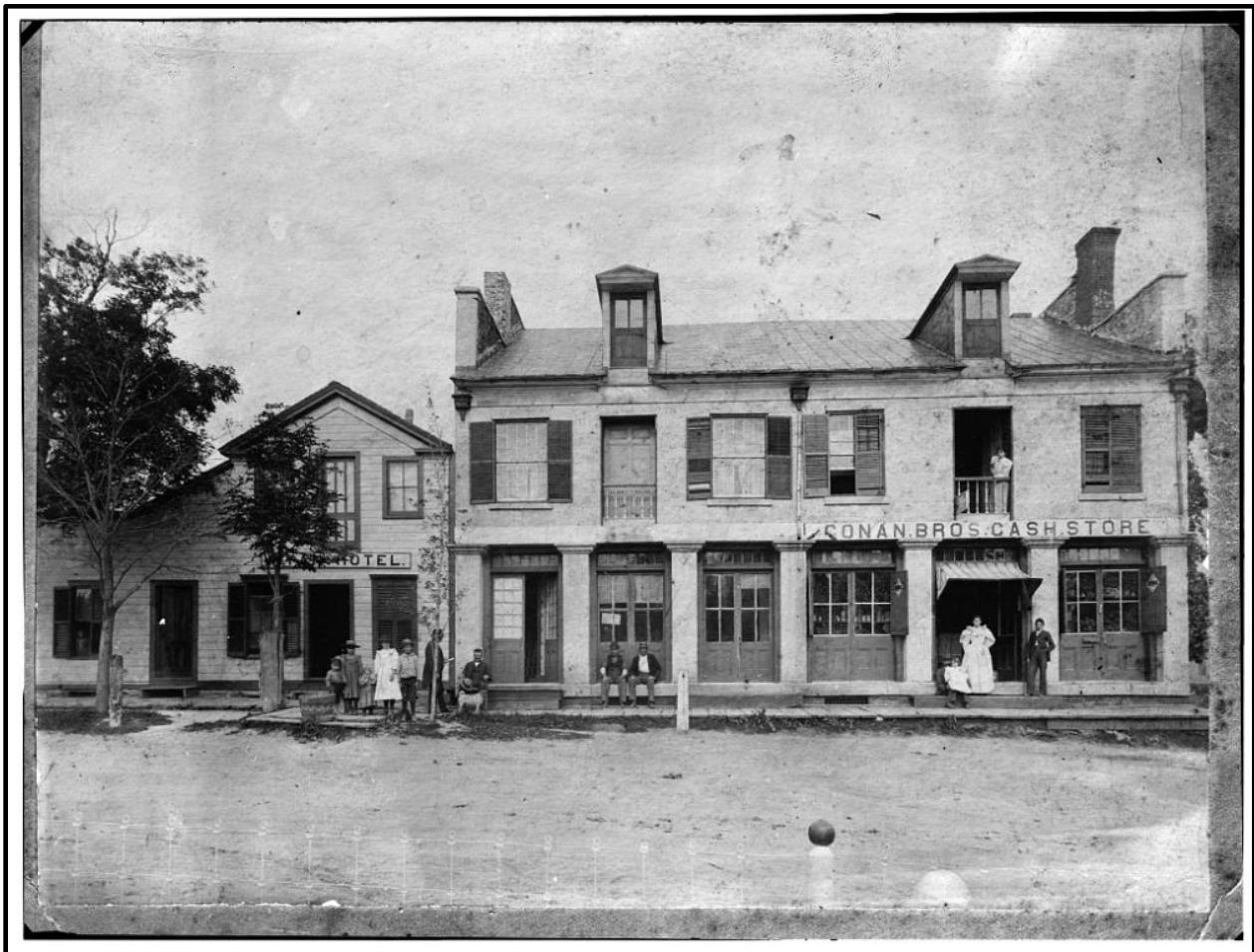
## Daniel Ryan Timeline

Date	Event
1859	Daniel Ryan born in 1859, in Fabius NY to John Ryan and Honora Keily.
1880	John Carroll sold his cottage next to the Presbyterian Church to Mr. Porter who plans on establishing a grocery store. - JRD, p. 587
1880	Daniel Ryan in Pompey by 1880
1888	Picture Caption - In 1881 the cottage, by then mostly a new building, was enlarged. It became Daniel Ryan's pool room, 1888. He added a saloon and when this picture was taken in 1897 it was marked as his hotel. ( <i>P.S. Roto</i> ) - JRD, p. 588 [See picture below]
1889	"A week ago last night a burglary was committed upon the pool room of Daniel Ryan in this village. A bottle of whisky and part of a box of cigars were stolen. No arrests have been made. Daniel Ryan has rented his pool room and saloon next south of the Presbyterian church to Mr. Yale of Fabius and is repairing the building next north (No. 471/2) of the residence of John Leonard." ( <i>Cour. April 26, 1889</i> ) In 1889 Patrick Byrne had rented this building from Mr. Smith. - JRD, p. 588
1895	"Daniel Ryan has sued Thomas Mahar for possession of a horse hoe. The case was tried before Justice Van Brocklin on Saturday April 9. After spending most of the day it was decided that there was no cause for action. The horse hoe was valued at 50 cents" ( <i>Std. April 14, 1895</i> ) - JRD, p. 588
1899-01-25	"Daniel Ryan of this village has leased his hotel for three years to Mr. Bulger of Delphi." "Mr. Ryan will work Mr. H. S. Dolett's farm of about 200 acres the coming season." The Evening Telegram, Syracuse, NY, January 25, 1899
1903-04-12	"FOR SALE - HOTEL AND BARN AT POMPEY Hill, known as the Pompey House. For particulars address Daniel Ryan. Manlius, N.Y. 7384" The Sunday Herald, Syracuse, NY, Sunday, April 12, 1903 Note: The establishment was operated as a hotel under Daniel Ryan's ownership and it was called <u>The Pompey House</u> .
1905	<i>In 1905 Jerry Carroll purchased Ryan's "hotel" and enlarged it as the "Pompey House".</i>
1905	Daniel Ryan sold his building " ... to Jerry Carroll on March 7, 1905 and later that year Carroll raised this building up to a full three stories and called it 'The Pompey House', a saloon and hotel." ( <i>P.S. November 17, 1933</i> ) JRD, p. 591
1909-10-28	Daniel Ryan dies after fall from wagon.
1931	<i>After the Pompey House was sold to Peter Brennan in 1931, he put a new gable roof on it with front porches for residential apartments. This picture was taken in 1939 or '40.</i>
1931-08-12	Jerry Carroll's "Pompey House" was obliged to go dry under the Local

Option law and later National Prohibition.

On August 12, 1931 his widow and two daughters sold both this building, on four square rods of land and the vacant corner lot fifteen feet south of Conan's store, to Peter Brennan. Then the roof was torn off and replaced with a gable style covering its full length and porches which he added onto the front. "I have enjoyed seeing the changes in the old tavern, 'Pompey House'", wrote Mabel F.E. Berry about 1940. "Like a woman getting a new hat, coat, dress and shoes for the Easter parade, the tavern has dolled up. A store keeper purchased the site with the building thrown in. Rotted sills were replaced, new partitions added, new floors laid, paint and paper not spared. Lo and behold! We have a modern apartment house, with upper and lower flats..." (*"Among the Hills"*) It was being used for residential purposes when it burned with the stone store and church on July 19, 1946.

JRD, p. 592



Picture of Ryan's hotel from 1897.

## **MAY BE MANSLAUGHTER**

### **Geo. Carroll of Pompey Accused of Assault in the First Degree**

#### **John Duggan, A Man Fifty Years Old, Hit on the Head With a Stone - A Barroom Row - The Injured Man's Skull Crushed**

"No less than four assaults with deadly weapons have been attempted in the country around Syracuse within the last month. There was another cowardly attempt made upon the life of an elderly man at Pompey Hill on Saturday evening. Daniel Ryan has for some time conducted a saloon and pool room in the village and nightly there has congregated there all the rougher element in the town. The evenings and nights were spent in drinking, pool playing, carousing, and occasional rough and tumble fight being thrown in to make the lively scene still livelier. On Saturday night the place was ablaze as usual, and John Duggan, aged about 50 years, who resides a few miles out of the village, was there. Among the crowd was George Carroll, a tough, who has given the authorities in the town much trouble by his lawlessness and general daredevil manner of conducting himself. The crowd was not in a very pleasant mood and the whiskey they had did not aid them in being friendly. A few words occurred between Duggan and Carroll, but no struggle. The game was finally finished and Duggan left the place and going outside started to get into his wagon to drive home. Before he was fairly seated, by-standers noticed that he fell forward in his wagon, and going up to him found that he had been struck in the head with a stone and that a portion of his skull was crushed in. He lay in his wagon insensible and in that condition was taken to his home by friends. Carroll was thought to have thrown the stone and search was made for him, but he was not among the crowd; neither could he be found at his home. His escape was taken to mean guilt by Deputy Sheriff Welch, who immediately swore out a warrant charging him with assault in the first degree. Since the occurrence Carroll has not been seen or heard from, and it is thought by the officers and some of the people at Pompey that he has left the State. He was traced to this city, but could not be found here and the trail was lost. He has relatives outside the State but no attempt has been made as yet to find him at those places. Carroll has been a terror to Pompey for several years. He is a fellow nearly six feet tall, weighs about 170 pounds, has red hair and moustache, and some of his upper front teeth are gone. He had a peculiar eye, and there is not another man in the State that looks like him. Not long ago he clubbed a man and made his escape, returning after a time, as he has done before, when the matter ceased to be talked about. He will probably return to Pompey when the affair has quieted down. He is about 28 years old, and has led a rough life.

"The injured man is about 50 years old. Since his injury he has lain in a very critical condition and it is feared cannot recover. His side is partially paralyzed and he is out of his head. Word from Pompey late this afternoon says that Duggan is slightly better to-day. The case may mean manslaughter for Carroll."

The Syracuse Daily Journal, Syracuse, NY, Friday, September, 24, 1886

## **HIT BY A STONE**

### **John Duggan's Physicians Decide that He Will Recover**

"Last Saturday night a number of men in a maudlin state amused themselves boisterously in Daniel Ryan's saloon and pool room at the village of Pompey. George Carroll, a rustic tough nearly 30 years old, and John Duggan, a farmer who lives several miles from the village, were among the occupants of the saloon. Carroll enjoys an unenviable reputation and is well known to the village authorities as a quarrelsome character. He and Duggan, who is about 50 years old, had an altercation but no blows were struck, and the former soon afterwards left and got in his wagon to drive home. He was observed by the bystanders to fall forward in the wagon, and close examination showed that his skull was crushed in by a blow apparently of a stone. Duggan's condition was considered extremely dangerous by Dr. Dibble, who attended him, his mind being affected and his side partially paralyzed by the blow. On Thursday Dr. Gregory Doyle was called to consult with Dr. Dibble, as it was thought necessary to trepan the skull. Dr. Doyle returned home last evening and reported that this operation was found unnecessary, and that the injured man is in a fair way to recovery. After the dastardly deed Carroll could not be found anywhere by Deputy Sheriff Welch who swore out a warrant for his arrest, and it is thought that he left the state as he has relatives at different places. He was traced to Syracuse, where all track of him was lost. He is a fellow nearly six feet tall, weighs about 170 pounds, has red hair and Moustache, and some of his upper front teeth are gone. He had a peculiar eye, and is said to be an altogether unusual and rough-looking chap."

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, Saturday, September 25, 1886

### **Arrested At Last**

"George Carroll, a Pompey Hill terror, was brought to the Court House cells yesterday from Davenport, Delaware county, by Criminal Deputy Sheriff Ryan. Carroll is the man who on September 18 struck an aged farmer named John Duggan on the head with a stone inflicting injuries to the man's skull that were so serious as to endanger his life for a time. The victim of the assault is now partially paralyzed as a consequence. The affair occurred in front of a saloon at Pompey Hill, where Carroll and Duggan had been playing pool. After throwing the stone Carroll fled and succeeded until the present time in eluding capture. The officers have traced his whereabouts from time to time, and recently located him at Davenport, where he was employed in the woods. His arrest upon a warrant charging assault in the first degree with intent to kill, quickly followed. He is now held in default of \$3,000 bail to appear before the Grand jury."

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, Saturday, December 25, 1886

## Daniel Ryan and Annie Hanrahan

(s/o John Ryan and Honora Keily)

(d/o Timothy Hanrahan and Margaret LNU)

### Daniel Ryan

b. 1859, NY  
d. Oct 28, 1909, Pompey, NY  
bur Immac Conception Cem,  
Pompey, NY

=

### Annie Hanrahan

b. Jun 1855, NY  
mar Oct 24, 1883, Pompey  
d. Feb 25, 1940  
bur Immac Conception Cem,  
Pompey, NY

1940 - Manlius

### John Ryan

b. Aug 1884, NY

1940 - Chittenango

### Margaret A. Ryan

b. Feb 1886, NY

? **John Carey**

b. 1882, MA

1910 - Pompey

### Nora Agnes Ryan

b. Oct 1887, NY

= **George Barden**

b. 1882, NY  
mar Jun 10, 1908, Pompey, NY

### Grace E. Ryan

b. Aug 1889, NY

### William T. Ryan

b. Jan 1892, NY

### Mary Ryan

b. Nov 1893, NY

1940 - Manlius

### Daniel F. Ryan

b. Mar 1896, NY

1940 - Manlius

### Julia E. Ryan

b. Mar 1898, NY

Never married

### Anna Ryan

b. 1901, NY

## Church Records - Clonoulty

Feb 17, 1847 - John Ryan and Honora Keily

Res: Clonoulty, Wit: Richard Keily and Mary Keily; Rev. Thomas O'Carroll

July 25, 1847 - James Ryan, Par. John Ryan and Honora Keily

Res: Clonoulty, Sps. William Ryan and Margaret Ryan

## Census Records - Daniel Ryan

1855 NY Onondaga Fabius                      Img 5/66

Res 41, Framed, \$100

John Ryan, 38, IR, M, 1 yrs in town, Alien

Honoria K. Ryan, 28, Wife, IR, M, 1 yrs in town, Alien

James Ryan, 8, Child, IR, 1 yrs in town, Alien

John Ryan, 6, Child, Onondaga Co., 1 yrs in town

Mathew Ryan, 5, Child, Onondaga Co., 1 yrs in town

Grace Ryan, 4, Child, Onondaga Co., 1 yrs in town

Bridget Ryan, ¾, Child, Onondaga Co., ¾ yrs in town



**1860** NY Onondaga Fabius                      M653-829-833                      Img 38/60

Res 1110, Family 1114

John Ryan, 41, Real Est \$600, Per Est \$200, IR, Cannot read or write  
Kilay Ryan, 33, IR, Cannot read or write  
James Ryan, 12, NY  
John Ryan, 11, NY, Attended school  
Matthew Ryan, 10, NY, Attended school  
Grace Ryan, 8, NY, Attended school  
Bridget Ryan, 6, NY, Attended school  
Thomas Ryan, 4, NY, Attended school  
Daniel Ryan, 1, NY

**1870** NY Onondaga Fabius                      M593-1060-211A                      Img 21/52

Res 175, Family 175

John Ryan, 50, Farmer, Real Est \$3,000, Per Est \$700, IR  
Honora Ryan, 47, Keeping house, IR  
Thomas Ryan, 14, NY, At school  
Daniel Ryan, 12, NY, At school  
Joseph Ryan, 9, NY, At school  
Mary Ryan, 5, NY, At school  
Julia Ryan, 3, NY

All parents of foreign birth. Mathew Ryan (20) found on Lewis farm in Fabius. James Ryan not found in 1870.

**1880** NY Onondaga Pompey                      T9-906-213B                      Img 26/40

Res 211, Family 230 - The Matthias Welsh family (Daniel's brother-in-law)

Daniel Ryan, 21, Servant, S, Farm laborer, Cannot read or write, NY, IR, IR

**1892** NY Onondaga Pompey                      Img 8/12

Daniel Ryan, 34, US, C, Saloon keeper  
Annie Ryan, 33, US, C  
John Ryan, 8, US, C  
Maggie Ryan, 6, US, C  
Norah Ryan, 4, US, C  
Timothy Ryan, 1, US, C

**1900** NY Onondaga Pompey                      T623-XXXX-8                      Img 15/18

Res 154, Family 162

Daniel Ryan, Head, Feb 1856, 43, M, 17, NY, IR, IR  
Annie Ryan, Wife, Jun 1855, 44, M, 17, 8/8, NY, IR, IR  
John Ryan, son, Aug 1884, 15, S, NY, NY, NY  
Margaret A. Ryan, dau, Feb 1886, 14, S, NY, NY, NY  
Nora A. Ryan, dau, Oct 1887, 12, S, NY, NY, NY  
Grace E. Ryan, dau, Aug 1889, 10, S, NY, NY, NY  
William T. Ryan, son, Jan 1892, 8, S, NY, NY, NY  
Mary Ryan, dau, Nov 1893, 6, S, NY, NY, NY  
Daniel F. Ryan, son, Mar 1896, 4, S, NY, NY, NY

Julia E. Ryan, dau, Mar 1898, 2, S, NY, NY, NY

Joseph Ryan, brother, May 1862, 38, S, NY, NY, NY

Since Daniel and Joseph were brothers they had the same parents and both parents had been born in Ireland.

**1910** NY Onondaga Pompey Dist 0085      T624-1054-11A      Img 21/22

Res 167, Family 170, Owns farm # 128 with a mortgage

Thomas C. Conan, Head, 32, M1, NY, NY, NY, Mail carrier, R.F.D

Ella Conan, Wife, 23, M1, NY, IR, IR, None

**Joseph Ryan**, Hired man, Un, S, NY, IR, IR, Laborer, Farm laborer

**1910** NY Onondaga Pompey      T624-1054-1A      Img 1/16

Pompey Center, Res 11, Family 12, Owns farm #12 with a mortgage

Anna Ryan, Head, 51, Wd, 9/8, NY, IR, IR, None

Grace E. Ryan, dau, 20, S, NY, NY, NY, None

William T. Ryan, son, 18, S, NY, NY, NY, Farmer, Home farm

Mary V. Ryan, dau, 16, S, NY, NY, NY, None

Daniel F. Ryan, son, 14, S, NY, NY, NY, None

Julia E. Ryan, dau, 12, S, NY, NY, NY, None

Anna C. Ryan, dau, 9, S, NY, NY, NY, None

**1920** NY Onondaga Pompey Dist 0093      T625-1250-2A      Img 3/5

Res 32, Family 32, Owns farm #32

Anna Ryan, Head, 61, M, NY, IR, IR, Farmer, General farm

John Ryan, son, 36, S, NY, NY, NY, Farmer, Dairy farm

William Ryan, son, 28, S, NY, NY, NY, Farm laborer, Dairy farm

Julia Ryan, dau, 21, S, NY, NY, NY, School teacher, Dist school

Anna Ryan, dau, 19, S, NY, NY, NY, School teacher, Dist school

Anna was a widow. Her late husband Daniel died on October 28, 1909.

**1920** NY Onondaga Pompey ED0092      T625-1250-2A      Img

Res 43, Family 44, Owns farm #19 free of a mortgage

John Conway, Head, 67, S, NY, IR, IR, Farmer, General farm, Em

Nellie Conway, Sister, 53, S, NY, IR, IR, None

**Joseph Ryan**, Servant, 54, S, NY, IR, IR, Laborer, General farm, W

**1940** NY Oswego Oswego Dist 38-42      T627- 2715-1A      Img 5/12

224 West Seneca Street, Res 3, Owns \$2,800

John Carey, Head, 58, M, H-1, MA, Same house, Yardman, Coal Company, 52 wks

Anna Carey, Wife, 54, M, 8, NY, Same house

William Carey, son, 23, S, H-4, NY, Same house, Lineotyper, Daily paper, 52 wks, \$624

John F. Carey, son, 21, M, H-1, NY, Same house, Steward, Shipping Com, 38 Wks, \$517

Gerald Carey, son, 18, S, H-2, NY, Same house, Paper wrapper, Daily Paper, 52 wks, \$156

Robert Carey, son, 14, S, 6, NY, Same house

This might not be the correct John Carey.

## **FUNERALS**

The funeral of Daniel Ryan, who met instant death at 10 a. m. Thursday, by breaking his neck in a fall from a wagon, near Pompey Center, will be held from his home south of Pompey Center at 9 a. m. to-morrow and at 10:30 o'clock in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Pompey. Burial will be made at Pompey. Mr. Ryan was 51 years old and, besides his widow, is survived by five daughters, Mrs. George Barden, Grace, Mary, Julia and Anna Ryan; by three sons, John, William and Daniel Ryan, all of Pompey; by two sisters, Mrs. George McDowell and Mrs. Mathias Walsh, and by three brothers, Thomas and John Ryan of this city and Joseph Ryan of Pompey.

## **FALL FROM MILK WAGON KILLS RYAN NEAR POMPEY**

Daniel Ryan, brother of Thomas and John Ryan of Syracuse, met an instant death at 10 o'clock yesterday morning by breaking his neck in a fall off a wagon when he was two miles south of Pompey Center. He had taken a load of milk to the creamery at Pompey Center and was half way home when he fell. Coroner A. M. Miller, after investigating, reported that the man came to his death through an accident.

Mr. Ryan was 51 years old and besides his widow is survived by five daughters, Mrs. George Barden, Grace, Mary, Julia and Anna Ryan; by three sons, John, William and Daniel Ryan, all of Pompey; by two sisters, Mrs. George McDowell and Mrs. Mathias Walsh, and by three brothers, Thomas and John Ryan of this city and Joseph Ryan of Pompey. The funeral will be held from his residence south of Pompey Center at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning and at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Pompey at 10.30 o'clock. Burial will be at Pompey.

## Thomas F. Mahar

### The Pompey Stagecoach and Thomas Mahar

The stagecoach era was entering its last decades of existence in 1883. While the longer routes had long ago been taken over by the railroads, the stagecoach drivers probably felt secure about their local routes. The automobile, or machine, as it would affectionately be known, was not on anyone's radar screen, which also had not been invented yet. Transportation was still needed out and back to the smaller villages surrounding the larger cities in addition to shuttling passengers to and from the train depots. The hotels were the logical places for picking up and dropping off passengers as the associated liverys provided boarding for the horses in preparation for their return trips. The Pompey stagecoach route was unusually challenging due to the elevation of the village of Pompey. The trip in to Syracuse took 2 hours while the return trip required 3-1/2 hours. The stagecoach only made its Pompey to Syracuse round trip three days per week, probably limited in part by the needs of the local Pompey citizens and also by the recuperative powers of the horses.

The Pompey stage, according to the newspapers of the time, had used several hotels as its depot on the Syracuse end of the trip over the years. These included the Manhattan Hotel, the Kingsley House, another hotel on South Clinton Street and it could have also included Smith's Hotel at the corner of East Fayette and Montgomery Streets. The Manhattan, Kingsley and Smith's hotel were all in the 200 block of East Fayette Street. However, when Smith's Hotel building was moved across the city, to the corner of Almond and Cedar Streets and renamed, it was too far away from the main activity of the city to serve as a stage depot. Hence, after the move when it became the Pompey House, the Pompey stage probably never stopped there again.

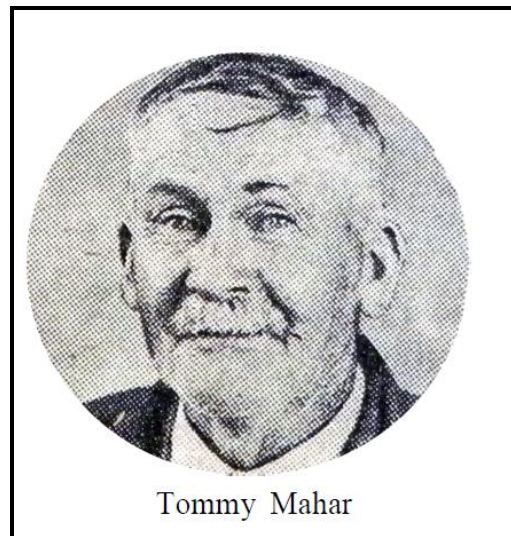
#### Picture #1 - prior to 1891



Jerry Conan had a store in Lafayette prior to moving to Pompey in 1891 and running a store in Pompey village. This Lafayette store was located on the north side of Main Street and is shown in the picture above.



## Are These Both Thomas F. Mahar?



On the left is the picture of a mail carrier in front of J. & J. Conan's General store in Lafayette, at some time prior to 1891. On the right is a circa 1927 picture of Thomas F. Mahar, the Pompey mail carrier from 1907 to 1927. Could they be pictures of the same person?

### Picture #2 - 1897



The Jerry Conan store in the stone store building has no covering over the walkway, which was added in 1897. On the left is the "Ryan Hotel," owned by Daniel Ryan and which was also known as the Pompey House.

**Pompey** - "Mr. Conan of Lafayette, is opening a new store in the Stone Block house at the old Beard store."

The Fayetteville Bulletin, Fayetteville, NY, Thursday, October 15, 1891

# The Complicated Connections of the Maher and Conan Families

**Cornelius Maher (2)**  
b. 1820, Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary  
mar Feb 2, 1845, Borrisoleigh  
Wit Con Maher and Mary Kennedy

= **Mary Ryan**  
b. 1811, Ireland (1865 census)

= **Thomas Connors (1)**  
mar Mar 3, 1835, Borrisoleigh  
Wit Phill Connors and Ellen Ryan

= **Bridget Maher**  
bap Dec 25, 1845,  
Borrisoleigh, Glenkeen par  
Sps Ellen Ryan

= **Roger Ryan (1)**  
b. 1837, Upperchurch  
d. Dec 22, 1869, Pompey, NY

James Conan was the father  
of Jeremiah Conan

Cornelius and John Maher  
were brothers

From the Conan side of the  
family Jerry Conan and  
Thomas Maher were 1<sup>st</sup>  
cousins

= **Mary Ann Ryan** = **Jeremiah Conan**  
b. 1868, NY b. July 20, 1863, NY  
d. Dec 15, 1940, d. Jun 28, 1941, Syracuse, NY  
Pompey, NY bur Pompey Cem, Pompey, NY  
bur Pompey Cem, Pompey, NY

= **James Conan (2)**  
b. Dec 9, 1830, Foilagoule, Moyaliff  
mar Sep 10, 1884  
d. Jul 2, 1905

**John Maher**  
b. 1830, Thurles  
d. Nov 1894, Pompey, NY

= **Mary Coonan**  
b. Jan 1833, Thurles  
mar in Upperchurch (Gen)  
To US 1850 (1900 census)  
d. Nov 21, 1911 (Gen)

CONAN, James married Bridget RYAN 10  
September 1884 by Rev. M. O'Reilly.  
Witnesses: Michael Heneberry and  
Margaret McDermott

= **Thomas F. Maher**  
b. Mar 1, 1865, Pompey, NY  
d. Aug 10, 1940, Pompey, NY  
bur Immac Conception Cem,  
Pompey, NY

Never married

Thomas Mahar was the Pompey stage driver from about 1901. He was also the mail carrier. After the D.L. & W. railroad came through Onativia most people didn't want to take the 14 mile stage ride from Syracuse. They took the train to Onativia and then the stage to Pompey. Thomas Mahar's runs were from Onativia and later from Jamesville. He was the last driver of the Pompey stage. In 1910 and 1920 Thomas Maher was single and living in Pompey with his sister's family - Mary De Ann Maher Skinner.

See more on the story of Thomas F. Maher - JRD, Vol II, pp 664-667

**Auto To Replace Old Pompey Stage  
Heavy Motor Vehicle to Resume Tri-weekly Trips.  
TOO WEARING FOR HORSES**

**Line Has Been Suspended Since Last Christmas - Old Residents Say Stage Service Has Been Continuous for Eighty Years.**

“Many Syracusans will remember when the Pompey stage brought its passengers to the *old Candee house*, later called the *Manhattan Hotel*, and took its departure from that hostelry. (N.E. corner of South Warren and Fayette Sts.) At one time the *Kingsley house* in East Fayette Street was the hither end of the route. During the **last ten years** with Thomas Mahar as driver, the horses were stabled at a livery in South Clinton Street and the stage started thence for Pompey.

The route was through State St. and out the Garfield road past the grove of pines on what is now the *continuation of Comstock Avenue*, through Jamesville and on over the hill to Pompey. Mahar made the journey on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays during the summer boarding season and in the winter time as regularly as the road permitted. He was not often stuck in the snowdrifts, a thing that sometimes happened to his predecessors, whose passengers have been known to spend the night snow bound in the stage. Since the railroad came it has not been as important to get through at regular intervals, for mail has reached Pompey through Onativia.”

“Residents of Pompey who have reached the age that cherishes landmarks and old customs will be sorry to see the Syracuse stage replaced by a motor truck. Last Christmas time the driver, Thomas Mahar, discontinued his tri-weekly trips because the roads were bad, and too wearing for the good of his horses. As soon as the new State roads have made the journey easier for a heavy motor vehicle, Mahar plans to put his truck in commission and carry both freight and passengers from the city to Pompey Hill. Meanwhile, the stage is stabled.”

Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, Sunday, June 9, 1912

**Note:** Searching the Fulton History Newspaper Archive for “Garfield Road” over the period 1880 to 1920 only produced one hit - the above newspaper page. By Garfield Road the article was probably referring to East Colvin Street which had previously been known as Day Road from Salina Street to the beginning of the Jamesville Plank Road (now Jamesville Road) and Rose Road going east from the plank road entrance to at least Comstock Avenue. The extended Comstock Avenue intersected the old Jamesville Plank Road which continued on its historic path into Jamesville.

On the 1874 map of Onondaga County East Colvin Street was called Day Road. In the 1886 annexation of Danforth the road was also called Day Road. In an 1898 legal description it was called “East Colvin street or ‘Day road.’ “



## The Pompey Stagecoach Drivers

Elijah L. Wheeler - Stagecoach ran Monday & Saturday - HQ at the Dixon House.

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, May 19, 1886

Wheeler, the stagecoach driver, made runs on Monday, Thursday and Saturday. Leave Pompey at 7:30 AM - Arrive Dixon House 9:30 AM. Same day - Depart Dixon House 3:30 PM - Arrive Pompey 7:00 PM. Trip in: 2 hours, Return trip: 3-1/2 hours.

The Courier, Syracuse, NY, June 1, 1886

“The names of the stage drivers are as much a part of the history of Pompey as the names of the village officers, but few men can remember the stage before William J. Curtis drove it. After him came Henry Holbrook and restored the old covered coach-bodied stage, which Curtis had replaced with an open "democrat" wagon of several seats. After Holbrook dropped the lines Fred Bishop drove and then Peter Parslow and the Wheatons, Fred and James. Somewhere during this succession the nature of the vehicle shifted back again and the covered "democrat," with four seats and a place behind for trunks, was the type in use until Mahar stopped driving last winter.

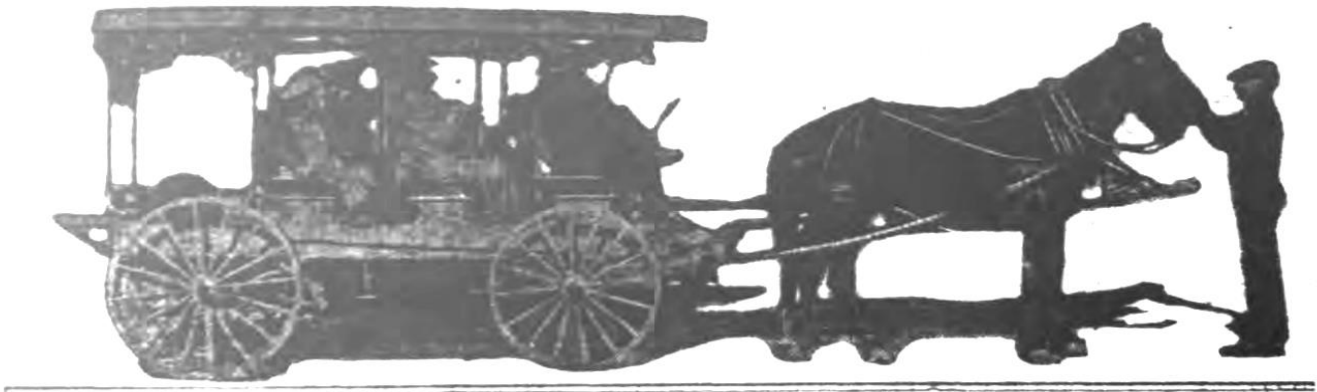
Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, Sunday, June 9, 1912

“Fred Wheaton for many years drove the Pompey stage.”

The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY, Tuesday, March 5, 1918

Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, Sunday, June 9, 1912

HISTORIC POMPEY STAGE COACH WHICH  
IS TO GIVE WAY TO AN AUTOMOBILE



## Departing Heroes

“The Elbridge and Skaneateles Junction stage driver drove his stage until he fell dead upon the wagon seat. An Oswego county stage driver was frozen to death last week while making his route to Mexico in the storm. If it were not for these reminders close at hand many persons in the cities would not know that there were stage coaches still running and that the trolley car has not yet entirely usurped the field which called so many heroes from among the common people.

“There are only half a dozen stage lines left to Onondaga county. At one time they connected almost every hamlet and town, and the stage drivers were the prominent men of the place, those who had the latest news, the whole telegraph and telephone system with the outside worked, and the hero of every boy in the village. Of the lines left, at least one, if not two, will go out of business with the opening of the new South Bay road. The two Pompey stages are the only ones left with any hope of longevity, for that 1,400 feet of altitude discourages trolley companies and any horses that are not Pompey bred.

“While Onondaga may get in tune to sing the requiem of the passing stage coach. It will be some years yet before the typical drivers who survive in nearby counties are numbered among the ‘has-beens.’ All the good fishing places are still reached by stage, for the moment the trolley car gets there the spot ceases to be a good fishing ground. It is the same with pretty camps, the exclusive spots worth reaching in the woods and good hunting grounds. When the stage driver has gone, it is goodbye to a lot of things that lovers of nature with little adornment seek. A great many are still unwilling to change the stage driver for the motorman - at least for going to the places they really love.”

The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY, Thursday, March 5, 1908

## Riding Along the Jamesville Plank Road

“Starting from the swing bridge [over the Erie Canal at Clinton Square in Syracuse] for instance, one drives directly south in Salina street nearly to Brighton, turning east past the old Burt greenhouses [onto East Colvin Street] crossing the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad [this was then an on-grade crossing. In 1939 an underpass was constructed north of and parallel to East Colvin Street. In the 1960s the railroad tracks were replaced by Interstate 81] and continuing east [along East Colvin Street] until the curious graveyards of the Jewish societies are reached. There are three graveyards in a row [along the east side of the road - still there today - 2018] at the opening of the Jamesville road, each a couple of acres in size, and guarded by a small gatehouse with heavily padlocked door. In the summer time these miniature cemeteries are all blue with myrtle blossoms, from which the white tops of the headstones scarcely emerge. [The old Jamesville plank road is now called Jamesville Road.]

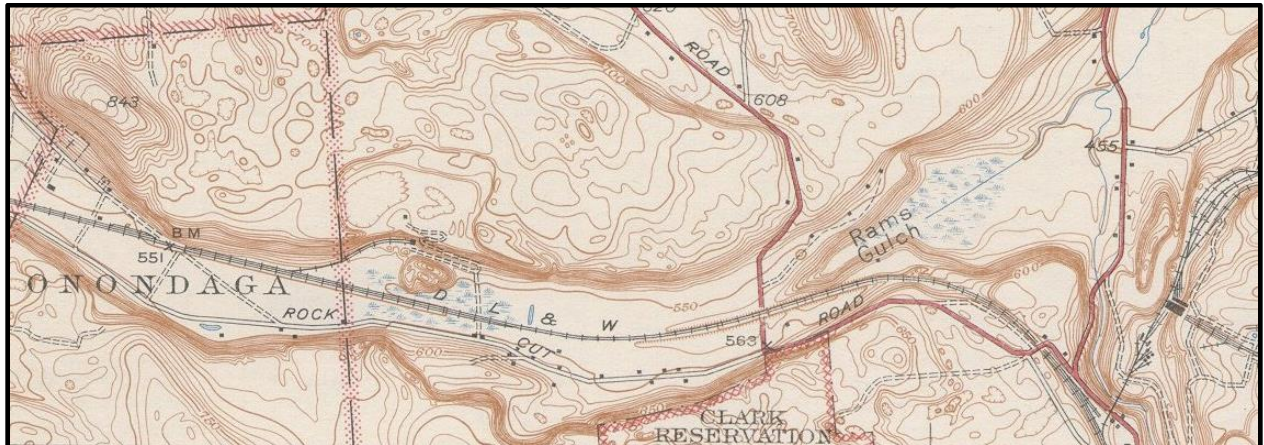
“Start then, at this point. Drive slowly up the sandy hill where so many bicyclers came to grief in the ‘ordinary’ days. From the top of this hill the opening of the tortuous valley can be seen. The road runs straightaway from here for nearly a mile, passing the cluster of tall pine trees where the crows recently, feasted on the dead body of an unknown man, and crossing the railroad tracks for the second time, at the point where the dreadful smash up occurred some four years ago. [The railroad tracks have been replaced by Interstate 481 and the old plank road was broken into two pieces. On the other side of the highway the old plank road continues as Rock Cut Road and follows the highway east until Rock Cut Road turns south and heads on into the village of Jamesville.] From now on the road winds and bends between beetling cliffs. On the right hand side, going south, is the Merrick brick yard and beyond this is the road house which has been built over the blackened ruins of the once ill-famed ‘Strawberry mansion.’ The road clings closely to the palisades which tower a hundred feet or more on the west side of the valley, and the bed of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western has been cut nearly as closely to the high cliffs on the east. [See Note 1.] The valley between is about a quarter of a mile wide and is for the most part filled with underbrush where small boys hunt for the occasional partridge that finds its way there. Not much of the land is arable. Potatoes can be raised and that seems to be about all.

“But wild flowers grow in profusion all about the valley and in the spring the farmers’ horses are hardly able to trample down all the violets that struggle to grow in the roadway. At times the trees and bushes overhang so closely that the loads of hay which now and then are brought through leave fringes behind hanging from the branches almost like festoons of Florida moss. Frequently a lazy quarryman drops a block of building stone from his broad tired wagon and when this happens the next man who comes along is forced to alight and clear the way. About half a mile south from the site of the ‘Strawberry mansion’ a branch road dives into the underbrush, passes beneath the railroad tracks and up over the hill. Just east of the tracks and near the road there is an automatic water ram operated by a diminutive fall of the brook and, except when the brook is dry, its rhythmical throbbing can be heard all through the valley, and when a lazy blue haze settles down over everything it sounds like the stentorious breathing of old Dame Nature taking a nap. For nearly a mile the Jamesville road passes through the fragrant

woods and when it next emerges into daylight it is upon the quaint little abode of Mrs. Middleton.”

Imogene Returns, December 23, 1894, The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY

Note 1: The description of the orientation of the railroad tracks and the plank road is somewhat confusing. Along this section of the county the roads are running east-west in a deep valley enclosed by “palisades.”

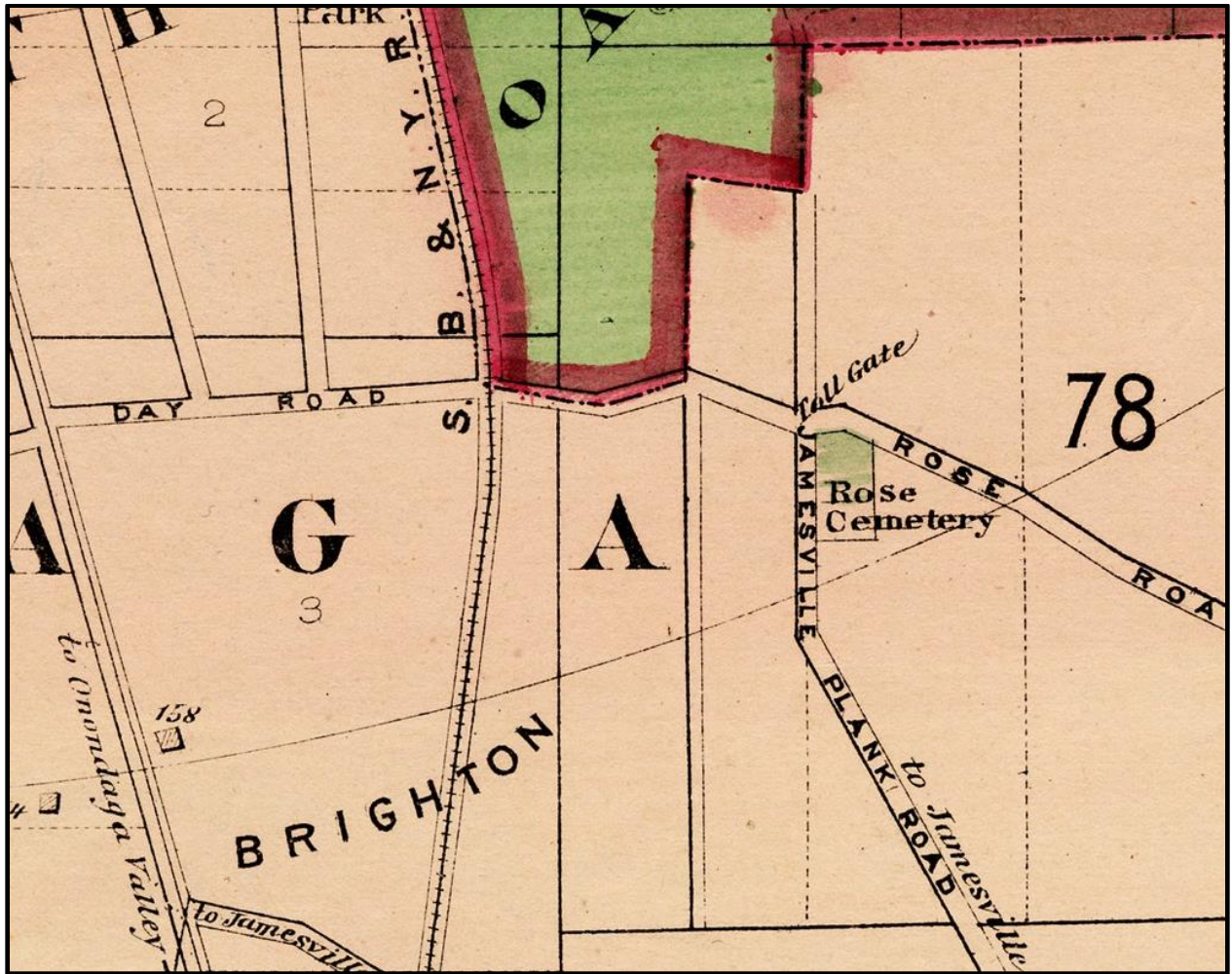


Shown in the 1938 map above the rapid rise of the palisades is shown in the density of their elevation lines. The railroad tracks are closest to the *north* side and the old plank road (Rock Cut Road) is closest to the *south* side.

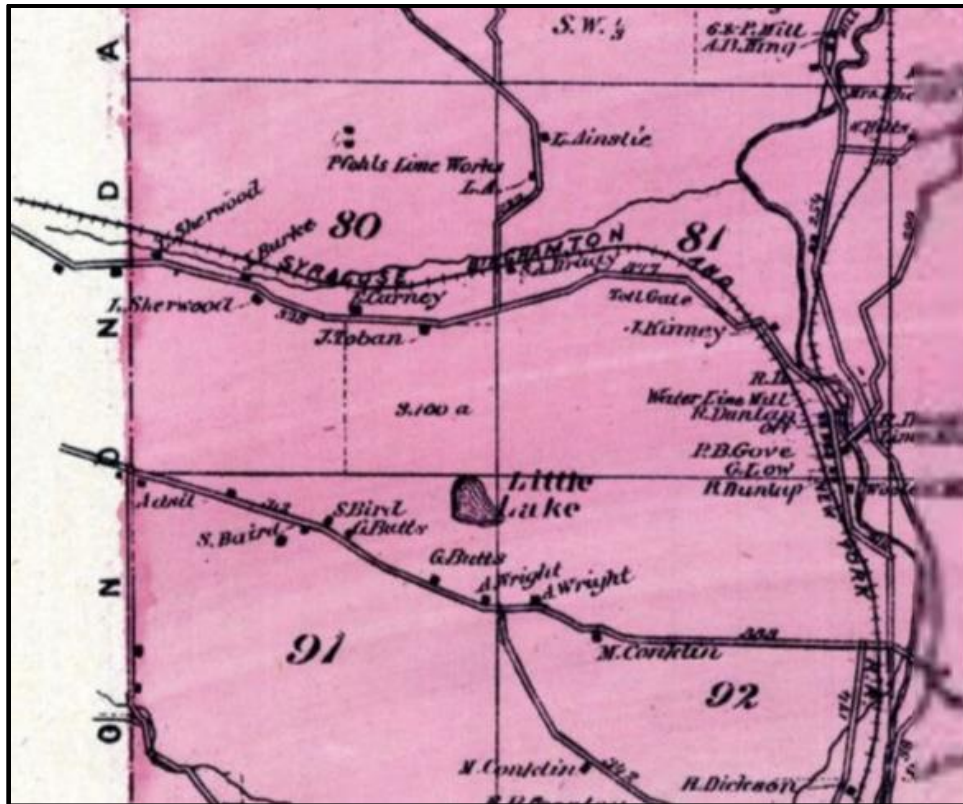


This 1898 map (surveyed 1893) might help explain the confusion in orientation. As the Jamesville plank road approaches the railroad tracks from the north they are both heading in a southeasterly direction. As they enter the valley with the tall palisades the plank road is close to the east side and the railroad tracks are closer to the west side. However, after the plank road crosses the tracks they both change direction as they continue to travel in the valley and are then heading east. This now puts the plank road closest to the former west side which is now the south side. The railroad tracks are now closest to the former east side which is now the north side.





1874 map showing the Day Road / Rose Road (now all part of East Colvin Street) and the entrance to the Jamesville plank road by the Jewish Cemetery.



This 1874 map shows the southwestern corner of the town of DeWitt. The Jamesville plank road enters from the upper left traveling east along the south side of the railroad tracks. The former location of the Strawberry Mansion was somewhere in Lot #80 probably on the south side of the plank road. The road entering Lot #91 at its northwest corner is Seneca Turnpike which passes through the village of Jamesville and crosses the railroad tracks in the southeastern corner of Lot #92.

### **Good Highways Cause Increase In Truck Value Stage Coaches Disappearing Rapidly Horse-drawn Vehicles Slow.**

“With horse-drawn vehicles an average round trip of thirty miles in one day was considered about all the horses could stand and they could not stand this every day. Such trips meant a departure shortly after sunrise and return about sunset

“Many Syracusans will recall the long stage coach trip to Pompey Hill, and particularly the interminable crawling up hill from Jamesville to the old Hill Top House; also the equally long trip to Lafayette and various other points in Onondaga county.

“Another class of people who are interested in the use of motor trucks are the proprietors of summer hotels, who have suffered from lack of visitors because they had no efficient means of transporting their guests quickly to and from the station, During the last year there has been a great increase in the sale of motor busses, and there are few well-known hotels that are not advertising motor equipment among their conveniences and attractions.”

The Post Standard, Syracuse, NY, Saturday, November 21, 1914

## The Stagecoaches

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY,  
Tuesday, July 19, 1887

### STAGE LINES.

**CICERO**—William Petrie, Proprietor. Leaves Hart House at 8:15 P. M. daily, excepting Sunday. Stops at Centerville.  
**BRIDGEPORT**—William Pixley, Proprietor. Leaves Hart House at 8 P. M. daily, excepting Sunday.  
**FAYETTEVILLE**—D. Dunlap, Proprietor. Leaves Kingsley House at 3 P. M. daily, excepting Sunday.  
**SOUTH ONONDAGA**—Leaves Dixon House at 3 P. M. daily, excepting Sunday.  
**NAVARINO**—Leaves Dixon House at 3 P. M. daily, excepting Sunday.  
**AMBER**—Leaves Dixon House at 3 P. M. daily, excepting Sunday.  
**ONONDAGA VALLEY**—Leaves Dixon House at 3 P. M. daily, excepting Sunday.  
**CARDIFF**—G. Butler, Proprietor. Leaves Kingsley House at 3 P. M. daily, excepting Sunday. Stops at Onondaga Valley and Onondaga Castle.  
**COLLAMER**—Leaves Hart House at 8 P. M. daily, excepting Sunday.  
**PLANK ROAD**—Leaves Hart House at 8:15 P. M. daily, excepting Sunday.

The Pompey stage is not included, probably because it only ran 2-3 days per week. Unlike the Pompey stage all of the above coaches ran every day, except Sunday. After the age of the stagecoach had passed and the last of the horse drawn lumbering old vehicles had been replaced by busses articles would appear in the papers about “the stage coach route,” as if there was only one road running in and out of town. Syracuse was a large city and there were roads radiating out of it in all directions. There was no one stage coach route, there were many, as shown in the Stage Lines schedule shown above. The “Plank Road” is probably the route over the Liverpool plank road to the northwest of the city. There was a plank road starting at the end of North Salina at the city limits and going to Liverpool.

According to legend the Pompey stage at various times used the Manhattan Hotel, the Kingsley House and a hotel on South Clinton for its “depots.” The Pompey House, at the corner of Cedar and Almond Streets, was not at the center of activity in Syracuse, it is therefore doubtful if the Pompey stagecoach ever stopped there.

The closest connection of this Pompey House to the Pompey stage would have come in the late 1870 - early 1880s. At that time the Pompey House, the former Alexander homestead, was located on the corner of East Fayette and Montgomery Streets, next door to the Kingsley House. The Alexander homestead was known as Lew Smith’s hotel at that time and the Pompey stage was known to stop at the Kingsley House. Therefore it might be argued that this structure (not then known as the Pompey House) was “on” the stagecoach route.

### Plank Roads in 1851

The Salina and Central Square Plank Road company was organized in 1844, and laid the first plank road in America, the road now called the Cicero plank road. Another plank road was then known as the Salina, Liverpool and Clay Plank road, and there were others, known as the Syracuse & Tully Plank road, the Syracuse & Bridgeport Plank road, the Messina Plank road, the Syracuse & Oswego Plank road, the Syracuse and Split Rock Plank road, the Fayetteville & Syracuse Plank road. Stages at that time went to Watertown, Fabius, Jordan, Cazenovia and Manlius.

Source: "City Register and Directory for 1851- 1852. First Publication. A. B. F. Ormsby, Compiler. Printed and Published by Seth Haight. Contains 6,800 Addresses"

1910-12-11, Sunday, The Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY



# The Original Pompey House Story

## Introduction

### The Pompey House in Syracuse

The original point of interest was the determination of the connection, if any, between the two Pompey Houses and that led to the “picturesque character” D. Lewis Smith, a noted hotel operator at that time. It turned out that although Smith had run a small tavern, called Smith’s Hotel, at the corner of Fayette and Montgomery, his connection with this hotel was ended in the Spring of 1883 when the Vestry of St. Paul’s Church purchased the corner property from the descendants of the Alexander family and bought out Smith’s lease. Two new characters entered the picture at this time with the removal of the tavern and other buildings from the corner to make way for the construction of the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Paul’s Church. German C. Potter and James L. Hill submitted petitions to the Common Council for permission to move the structures to a new site on the southeastern corner of Almond and Cedar Streets. Potter had operated hotels in Oswego and Baldwinsville and in 1880 he was running a hotel in the 100-block of Adams Street. His petition was for the tavern itself, which had originally been the homestead of the William H. Alexander, Sr. family, an early Syracuse pioneer. It appears that James L. Hill, a local farmer, had partnered with Potter and was planning to operate the livery in connection with Potter’s new tavern, since he submitted the petition for the removal of the livery buildings at Fayette and Montgomery. There was no hotel or tavern in Syracuse prior to 1883 that was known as the Pompey House, this name was given to the old Alexander homestead after it arrived at its new location. Since Potter had no discernible connection with Pompey it might have been Hill who came up with the name, since he grew up just east of Pompey Center. James Hill’s father, Ensign W. Hill, was one of the early settlers of the town of Pompey and appeared in the 1840 census.

The following excerpt from J. Roy Dodge set of books initiated the Pompey House research.

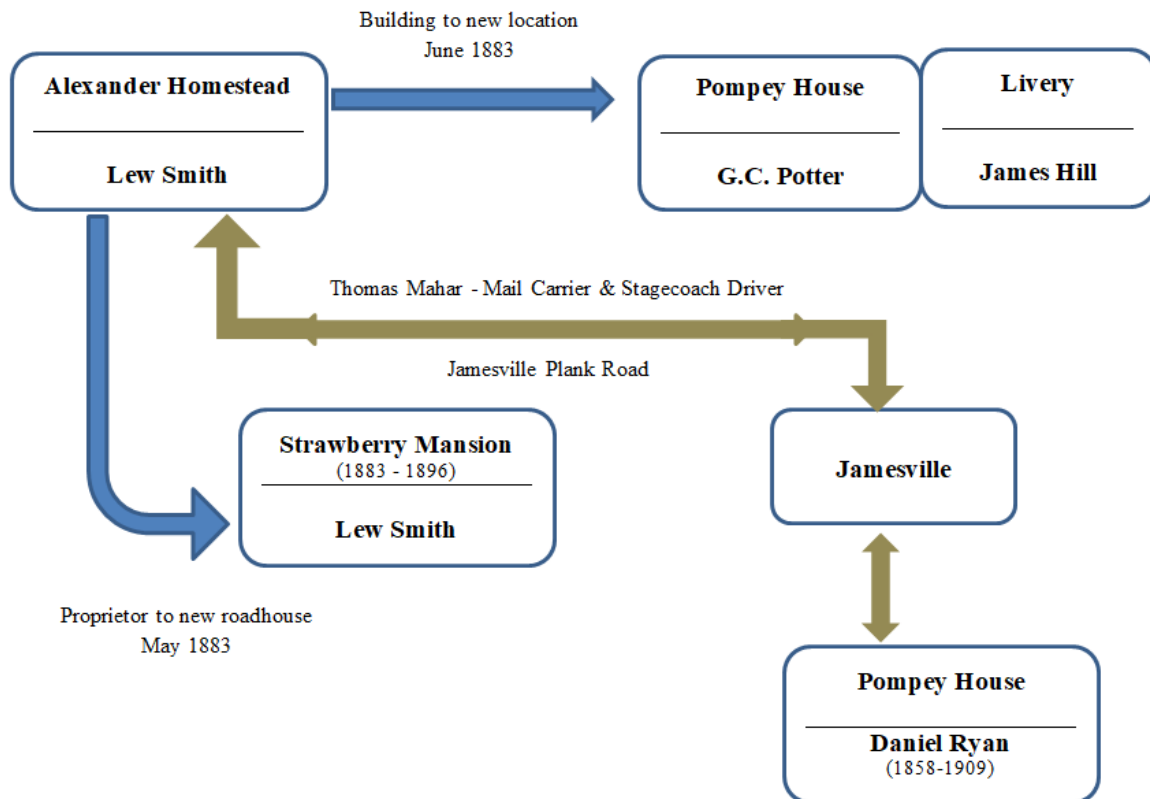
“... by June of 1900 they were both owned by Daniel Ryan. He sold them to Jerry Carroll on March 7, 1905 and later that year Carroll raised this building up to a full three stories and called it “The Pompey House”, a saloon and hotel. That name had been used before when the original “Pompey House” stood at the corner of East Fayette and Montgomery Streets in Syracuse. “...The Pompey stage stopped there to take on and discharge passengers. It was kept in those days by a picturesque character in a beaver hat named Lew Smith who made and lost a fortune. It was moved in 1884 to Cedar and Almond streets when St. Paul’s Episcopal Church was to be built. It burned November 16, 1933...” (P.S. November 17, 1933)

J. Roy Dodge [JRD], *An Historical View of Pompey Hill, N.Y.*, Vol II, pp. 591-2

This article was from the Nov 17, 1933 edition of the Post Standard and displays a not uncharacteristic style found in the newspapers of that day. A background is created by pasting together a few historical nuggets with a plausible narrative acting as glue and thus blending together several stories. That same mechanism was exhibited in the following excerpt from 1948 which was pulling on information found in Lew Smith’s 1891 obituary. The name “Pompey

House” wasn’t given to the old hotel that Lew Smith had been operating on the southwest corner of East Fayette and Montgomery Streets until it was moved to the southeast corner of Cedar and Almond Streets in June 1883.

A common problem encountered when telling the story of roadhouses and saloons is to determine the owner from the proprietor. These can be the same person but in most cases the proprietor was leasing the property from the owner. In the normal course of doing business it is the name of the proprietor that will usually appear in the newspapers, which were sometimes sloppy in distinguishing between purchasing and leasing and between owner and proprietor.



The diagram above is meant to illustrate the various changes and the connections among these persons and structures. The Jamesville Plank Road didn’t extend all the way into the city of Syracuse (it started/ended at what is now East Colvin Street), however the arrow shows the pathway of the Pompey stagecoach which did go all the way into Syracuse and stopped at hotels in the 200 block of East Fayette Street.

### Lew Smith Obit

“About 1870 Lew bought the Messina Springs hotel. Then he went to Canada and operated a hotel there. He came back and bought the Kingsley house. Later he had the Pompey house and sheds at the Southwest corner of E. Fayette and Montgomery sts. He was there until the Pompey house gave way to St. Paul’s Episcopal church. That was in 1884. The Pompey house was moved to the southeast corner of Almond and Cedar sts., where it was operated for many years by Frank C. Goodryder. “

Note: Frank Goodryder operated the Pompey House from about 1906 until he retired in 1931. Goodryder died on April 7, 1933, at the age of 55.

The Post standard, Syracuse, NY, August 15, 1948

### **“A Site Selected”**

“The Vestry of St. Paul’s church held a meeting on Saturday, at which it was concluded to purchase the Alexander lot, at the corner of East Fayette and Montgomery streets and to erect there a new church edifice. The lot has been in the possession of members of the Alexander family for more than 40 years, coming by inheritance to its present owners from William Alexander, a pioneer resident and successful business man of this city, *who erected as a dwelling for himself the wooden building that is still standing*. The purchase by the Vestry of St. Paul’s church involves obligation on certain leases on the property that are now in force.”

Note: Lots four and five in block 112.

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, Monday, April 30, 1883

### **St. Paul’s Church**

#### **The Alexander Property Finally Chosen as the Site for the New Edifice**

“The vexed question of a site for the new edifice for the St. Paul’s Church Society was finally settled by the vestry of the church, Saturday night. The site chosen is the southwest corner of (East) Fayette and Montgomery streets, the property owned by the estate of the late William H. Alexander. The purchase price is understood to be \$26,400. The purchase is subject to a lease which may, by its terms, be vacated on two months’ notice, on payment to the lease of \$500. The site is now covered by *(Lew) Smith’s hotel and sheds*. The lot purchased is eight rods square, - 132 feet by 132 feet - which is ample for the erection of a large edifice. The new church will probably front on Montgomery street.”

The Daily Courier, Syracuse, NY, Monday, April 30, 1883

### **The Stained Glass Windows of Historic St. Paul’s Syracuse**

#### **NORTH AISLE, WINDOW #2**

##### **Not Here But Risen**

This window is to the glory of God and in loving memory Of William H. Alexander and Amanda Alexander, his wife, on whose homestead this Church is erected. The gift of their daughter, Frances E. Alexander. The scripture quotation is a paraphrase of Matthew 28:6 “And the angel said, He is not here; for He is risen” and of Mark 16:6, “He is risen, He is not here”. The left lancet bears the name of the makers—Cox, Buckley and Co., London, 1885.

The present St. Paul’s was built on lots formerly owned by Wm. H. Alexander. Purchase was made of the heirs of William H. Alexander, II, (1819-1881) in 1883; work on the chapel was begun in May of that year; the cornerstone of the church was laid June 25, 1884, and the first service in the church was on December 13, 1885. St. Paul’s paid the Alexander estate \$26,400 with permission to clear the site of the two wooden houses. William H. Alexander (1786-1863) married Amanda Foote. He came to the village of Syracuse in 1828 and became prominent in civic affairs. He entered the foundry business and was a director of many Syracuse corporations, inter al., Gas Light Company of Syracuse and the Syracuse City Bank. His home was on the site of the church; the building later became the Pompey House and was removed the corner of Cedar and Almond Streets. The keeper of the Pompey House was Lew Smith, portrayed in Charles R. Sherlock’s novel, Your Uncle Lew.

**Note:** The structures were Smith's hotel and livery sheds prior to the move. German C. Potter moved the hotel structure to the corner of Almond and Cedar Streets in June 1883. After the move and under the operation of Potter the structure was renamed the Pompey House.

[https://www.stpaulsyr.org/uploads/1/0/2/4/10247344/final\\_stained\\_glass\\_windows\\_full\\_brochure\\_2017.pdf](https://www.stpaulsyr.org/uploads/1/0/2/4/10247344/final_stained_glass_windows_full_brochure_2017.pdf)

### **Common Council Proceedings**

Syracuse, May 21, 1883

#### Presentation of Petitions

By Ald. Candee - Of Homer H. Mead, to build a wooden house on Tallman street. To the Fire Commissioners.

"Of G. C. Potter, to move a wooden building from the corner of Fayette and Montgomery streets to the corner of Almond and Cedar streets.

"Of J.(ames) L. Hill, to move a wooden building from the corner of Fayette and Montgomery streets to the corner of Almond and Cedar street. Severally, to the Committee on highways."

The Daily Courier, Syracuse, NY, Saturday, May 26, 1883

"The removal of the buildings on the Alexander property, on the corner of Fayette and Montgomery streets, bought by S. Paul's society was begun yesterday. They will be taken to the corner of Cedar and Almond streets."

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, Wednesday, June 6, 1883

G. C. Potter is the proprietor of the Pompey House in the Eighth Ward (Corner of Almond and Cedar Sts.)

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, Tuesday, September 30, 1884

Hill, Jas. L. - 500-506 Cedar and Almond Sts., block 130, part lot D, 118 by 132 ft., 2 wood houses and brick shop. Tax ....40.83

The Evening Telegram, Syracuse, NY, Tuesday, September 10, 1901

"My, what a narrow escape the old Pompey House at Almond and Cedar sts. had from burning 20 years ago tomorrow. Barn in the rear caught fire, but 13 out of the 15 horses in it were saved. Barn burned. Old Pompey House used to be a tavern that stood where St. Paul's Church is now."

The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY, Saturday, January 23, 1932

### **Fires Cause \$9,500 Loss As Cold Reigns**

"While firemen were still fighting the Crouse av. fire an alarm from Box 27 at Almond and Cedar sts. brought out additional companies to fight a raging fire in the Old Pompey House at 5:03 a. m. District Chief Yeomans said that the exterior of the two.-story frame building was a mass of flame when he arrived. The fire spread to the interior, occupied as a beer garden by Jacob and Robert Rosenbloom. The old building, and a two-story wooden building connecting and used as part of the beer garden, as well as the coal and wood office of E. O. Thomas, adjoining at 603 Almond st., were wrecked.

"The building, once a widely known stop on a stage coach route, was like tinder and the flames spread rapidly. The Rosenblooms estimated that their loss on equipment and beer would

be \$4,000. According to Capt. Irving Blanchard, who investigated, the fire started in the basement. The owners told him that they were burning soft coal and that they had planned to have a defective chimney repaired today.”

The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY, Thursday, November 16, 1933

## Pompey House Timeline

There was no record of a “tavern” in Syracuse being called by the name “Pompey House” prior to the move of the old Alexander homestead from Fayette and Montgomery to the corner of Almond and Cedar in June 1883. The intent of the timeline is to capture the first and last appearances of the Pompey House and its successors in the newspapers. In between those two key events the timeline items are just to measure a “pulse” to show that the establishment was still in operation.



From The Syracuse Journal - November 16, 1933. The Pompey House recovered from the damage (estimated at \$10,000) of this fire and lived on for several years under the same name. It then continued to operate for almost three more decades under different names until this original structure, the old William H. Alexander homestead, was destroyed by a fire on October 11, 1962.

Pompey House	
1883-06	G. C. Potter moved the former Lew Smith Hotel to the southeast corner of Cedar and Almond Streets. He renamed it The Pompey House.
1886-12-27	G. C. Porter is the proprietor of Pompey House.
1887	Charles Mabie/Marble, son of Frank E. Mabie/Marble was the proprietor of the Pompey House.

1893	H. G. Stone's Pompey House - Stone was a Mason (society)
1893-02-19	Frank Jewell arrested for assault at Pompey House.
1894-04-02	Frank Jewell and Mr. Ferris buy Dixon House from Lelard and Hickok. "Mr. Jewell has been the proprietor of the Pompey House for some time."
1895-09-06	Frank Jewell back at the Pompey House.
1895-12-05	Frank Jewell (Pompey House) arrested for assault of Hugh Malloy.
1896-05-23	Frank Jewell still at Pompey House
1897-1898	No mention of Frank Jewell in connection with Pompey House
1899	Pompey House still open - 502 Cedar Street
1899-06-07	Frank Jewell selling horses. Inquire at the Pompey House.
1900 - Fall	Frank Jewell leases the Lakeview House - Skaneateles, NY
1905-07-12	Anne Cullen sues O'Donnell, proprietor of Pompey House.
1911-11-10	Pompey House for rent: 10 sleeping rooms, kitchen and dining rooms.
1912-07	Pompey House (Cedar and Almond) on site of the old Bastable brickyard. The corner was empty in 1879.
1933-11-16	The Pompey House "wrecked" by fire. Damage was repaired and operation continued.
1934-11-30	Cigarette machine stolen from Pompey House.
1935-05-31	"False alarm was sounded from the Pompey house, 500 Cedar st., at 2:02 o'clock this morning."
1936-01-04	Attempted break in at Pompey House. - Last mention of Pompey House

<b>Town Club</b>	
1936-01-08	Pompey House Re-Opens as the Town Club
1940-12-30	Last Town Club Ad
<b>Clover Club</b>	
1943-04-30	First mention of Clover Club on SE corner of Almond and Cedar Streets.
1943-04-30	Isadore Pearlman was operating the Clover Club at 601 Almond Street. He was given a 10-day suspension of his liquor license for sales after hours and for permitting gambling in the establishment.
1953-09-24	Clover Club Liquor License - 601-3 Almond Street and 500-06 Cedar Street.
1962-10-11	Clover Club destroyed by kitchen fire that got out of control.
1963-10-04	Clover Club re-opens in new building at same location.
1966-07-28	Clover Club (605 Almond Street) broken into on July 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
1967-07-01	Clover Club closes for good.



The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY,  
Monday, November 9, 1936

**Town Club** **CEDAR ST.**  
**at ALMOND**  
Syracuse's Most Intimate Theater Restaurant

**ALL STAR REVUE**  
Featuring the  
**RUTH HURLEY GIRLS**  
5 Fast-Moving, Sweet, Beautiful Dolls  
Direct From Broadway's Famous Nite Clubs  
Ruth Hurley - Valentine McGann  
Ginger Brooks - Pearl Brooks  
Blanch Miller

**NEW MUSIC TONITE**  
Featuring  
**Gene De Santis**  
**AND HIS**  
**Orchestra**

**2 SHOWS NITELY** || **3 Shows Sat.**

**DRINKS**  
Of Only the  
Finest Quality

**FOODS**  
Full Line of  
the eBat

The Herald-Journal, Syracuse, NY,  
Thursday, December 30, 1943



*Here's Where to Greet the*

**NEW YEAR**

*Join Our Gala New Year's Party at*

**The CLOVER CLUB**

**Cedar and Almond Sts.**

**MUSIC—ENTERTAINMENT**

*Featuring*

★ **THE STARDUST SERENADERS**

**ENTERTAINING BAND**

*Good Food—Your Favorite Drinks*

The advertisement is a rectangular poster with a decorative border. At the top, a banner reads "Here's Where to Greet the" in a cursive font. Below this, the words "NEW YEAR" are written in large, bold, block letters. The text "Join Our Gala New Year's Party at" is in a smaller, italicized font. The name of the venue, "The CLOVER CLUB", is prominently displayed in large, bold, block letters. Below the venue name, the address "Cedar and Almond Sts." is written in a smaller font. The words "MUSIC—ENTERTAINMENT" are written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this, the text "Featuring" is in a smaller, italicized font. The name of the band, "★ THE STARDUST SERENADERS", is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the band name, the words "ENTERTAINING BAND" are written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the phrase "Good Food—Your Favorite Drinks" is written in a smaller, italicized font. The entire advertisement is enclosed in a rectangular border.



The End of the Clover Club circa 1965 - Picture from the Onondaga Historical Association



Clover Club Close Up - A fire on October 11, 1962 burned down the old building that had been moved from the SW corner of E. Fayette and Montgomery Streets in June 1883. A new Clover Club was built on the same SE corner of Almond and Cedar Streets and opened in October 1963. The Clover Club closed for good on July 1, 1967.

## Summary

The November 1933 newspaper article claimed that the Pompey House in Syracuse had been destroyed by fire – however it lived on at the same corner of Almond and Cedar Streets. It survived a few more years as the Pompey House and then became a nightclub called the Town Club, taking full advantage of the end of Prohibition. By 1943 the name had changed again and this time it was the Clover Club, an establishment which I can actually remember. It was a hangout for the Syracuse University students where the century old Methodist charter of the university enforced a dry campus until about 1969-70. The original building which was moved, from the southwest corner of East Fayette and Montgomery Streets, to this corner in 1883, was the old homestead of the pioneer William H. Alexander family. That old building lasted until it was destroyed by a fire in October of 1962. A new structure was built on the same site and opened again the following year as the Clover Club, but the atmosphere and that sense of history that was found in the old Alexander homestead were gone. The rebuilt Clover Club had all the ambience, character, and charm of a dry cleaning store. This new Clover Club survived the construction of Interstate 81 that still runs through the city and which came so close to the Clover Club that the northbound exit ramp blended into the remaining portion of Almond Street which ran in front of the club. In the end it was Urban Renewal that caught up with the Clover Club and closed its doors permanently on July 1, 1967. Unlike before, this time there was no one to save the structure by moving it to another location, which is understandable, since no one could become attached to a four year old, one level building, which looked like a dry cleaners.

Like too many other historical locations in Syracuse, the once popular corner of Almond and Cedar Streets is now just another parking lot, one of those all too ubiquitous modern day structures which can make even a dry cleaners appear somewhat classy in comparison.

## The Two Pompey Houses

Date	Pompey on the Hill	Syracuse Pompey House
1831		James L. Hill born. Family living east of Pompey Center.
1859	Daniel Ryan born in Fabius to John Ryan and Honora Keily	
1865		James married and living in Syracuse
1880	Daniel Ryan in Pompey	
1883		Alexander homestead moved to Cedar and Almond and renamed the <u>Pompey House</u> . James L. Hill ran the associated livery.
1888	Daniel Ryan opens Pool Hall in Pompey village.	
1892	Census - Ryan a Saloon keeper	
1897	Re-named Ryan's Hotel	
1903	Ryan offers " <u>Pompey House</u> " for sale.	
1905		Apr 20 - James L. Hill died
1905	Jerry Carroll purchased Ryan's "hotel" and enlarged it as the " <u>Pompey House</u> ".	
1909	Oct 28 -Daniel Ryan fell from his wagon and died of a broken neck. He was living a few miles south of Pompey Center.	
1931	After the Pompey House was sold to Peter Brennan in 1931, he put a new gable roof on it with front porches for residential apartments.	
1936-01-04		Attempted break in at Pompey House. - Last mention of Pompey House. It later became the Town House and then the Clover Club.
1946	Pompey House structure destroyed in a fire start by a lightning strike	
1962-10-11		Clover Club destroyed by kitchen fire that got out of control.
1963-10-04		Clover Club re-opens in new building at same location.
1967-07-01		Clover Club closes for good.

There appears to be more coincidence that connection in the naming of the two “Pompey House” establishments. Daniel Ryan and James Hill were 30 years apart in age and Hill was living in Syracuse while Ryan was growing up in Fabius. The first Pompey House was the name given to the former Alexander homestead that was moved from the southwest corner of East Fayette and Montgomery Streets to the southeast corner of the corner of Cedar and Almond Streets in June 1883. German C. Hill was the owner and operator of the Pompey House while James L. Hill moved the livery stables between the same two locations and was operating the livery in association with the Pompey House. In 1888 Ryan purchased the building next to the stone store and opened a pool hall. It wasn’t until 1903, when Ryan was offering his establishment for sale, that the name “Pompey House” was used in connection with his business.



## The Keepers of Pompey House, Syracuse, NY

“The funeral of James L. Hill will be held at 2:30 on Saturday from his late home, 1905 East Genesee-st., with burial in Oakwood.”

Note: Died on April 20, 1905, aged 76 years.

The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY, Friday, April 21, 1905

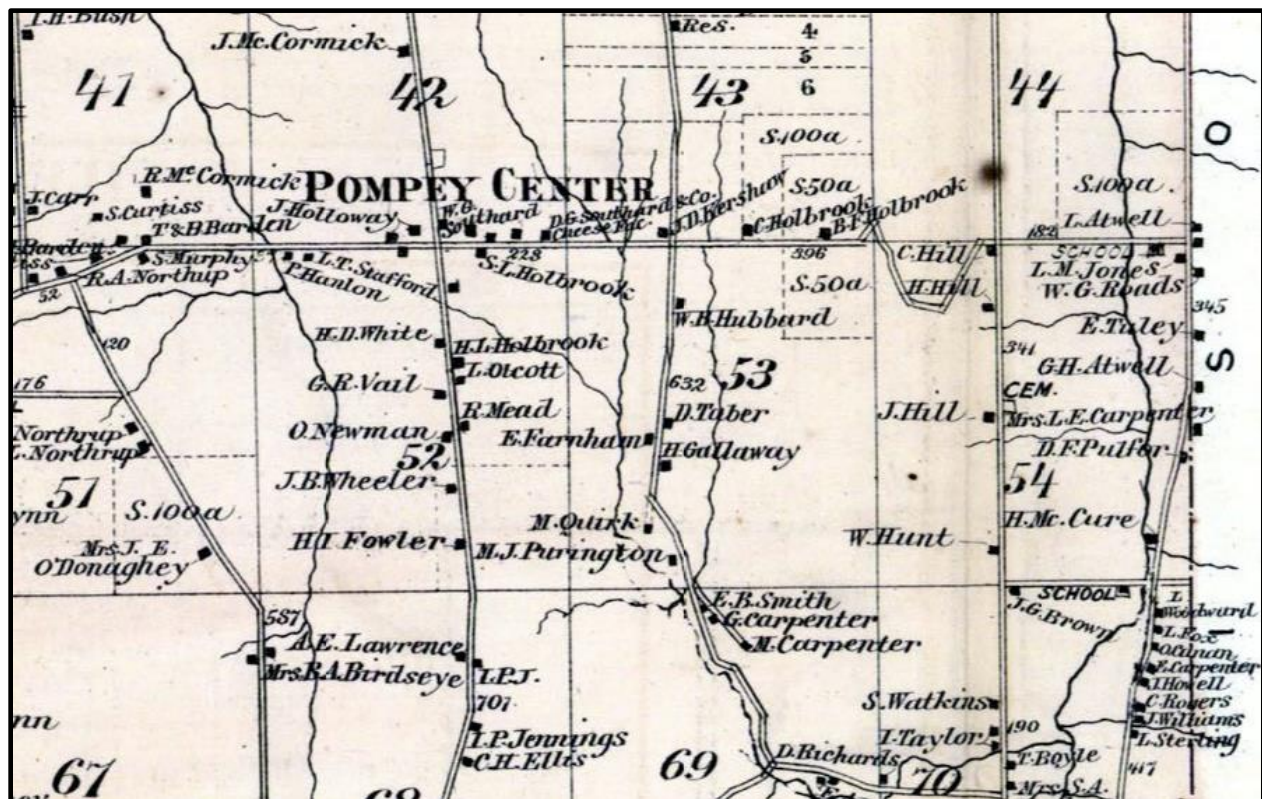
### James L. Hill Dead

“James L. Hill died yesterday morning at his home, No. 1905 East Genesee street, aged 75 years. He was a native of Pompey, but came here in 1864. He was a deputy sheriff under Sheriffs Evans, Cossett and Edwards; alderman of the old Eighth ward in 1874, and was appointed United State marshal for this district in 1892. Mr. Hill was one of the promoters of the Onondaga County Milk Association and had purchased the site of the present City Hospital. His father Colonel Ensign Hill, served in the War of 1812, was born in Pittsfield, Mass., and was one of the early settlers at Pompey. Surviving James L. Hill are a son, Attorney Everard Allen Hill, and a daughter, Mrs. Girard M. Parce.

“The funeral will be held at 2:30 o’clock to-morrow afternoon, with burial at Oakwood.”

The Post Standard, Syracuse, NY, Friday, April 21, 1905

### Three Hill Families East of Pompey Center in 1874.



## **Frank Jewell**

### **Frank Jewell**

Among the many proprietors of the Pompey House one stands out among the others and that was Frank Jewell (Benjamin Frank Jewell). Frank and his new bride came to Syracuse from Clyde, NY in Wayne County, shortly after their marriage in 1878. Initially Jewell was employed at the Kingsley House and by 1880 he was the coachman for Jacob Crouse, a wealthy Syracuse business man. In 1892, probably with financial help from Crouse, Frank Jewell purchased the Pompey House. After two years he bought the Dixon Hotel with a partner but by 1895 Jewell had purchased the Pompey House again. By the fall of 1900 Jewell had purchased the Lakeview Hotel in Skaneateles, NY. It was while he was in Skaneateles that Frank Jewell, who had been a well-known horseman in the Central New York area, really became notorious. Jewell's wife of 28 years died while on a visit to her hometown of Clyde in 1904. Within a year of his first wife's death Jewell married a second time. This time it was to a young girl employed at his Lakeview Hotel by the name of Lucy Stanley. Her sudden death, under suspicious circumstances, at the same hotel in late March 1906 was described in long articles in the local newspapers. Ultimately Jewell was found not to have caused his wife's death but the people of Skaneateles exiled him from the village none the less.

### **Jewell Was Popular Here**

#### **One of the Best Known Horsemen and Hotelkeepers**

"Born in the village of Clyde and identified with the racing game since early in the 70's, always being prominent in horse affairs and a thoroughly good judge of horse flesh, few men were better known among horsemen of Central New York, than Frank was. He began his career when a youth in the employ of William Saunders, who had a training track at Clyde, where all the light harness horses from all parts of the State were given the preliminary training, and he learned horses so well that in time he was put into the sulky and made a trainer and driver. Coming to Syracuse about thirty years ago, Mr. Jewell took charge of several fast horses for Herman Kingsley, who was the proprietor of the Kingsley House in East Fayette street. He trained these horses and under his careful eye they developed into good pieces of horse flesh and did good work on the tracks hereabouts. Later he went to work as coachman for Jacob Crouse. It is said by Jewell's old-time friends to-day that in those days he was thrifty and industrious, not addicted to drink, and that he saved his money during the twelve years he remained in Mr. Crouse's employ.

"Fourteen years ago Mr. Jewell determined upon a business career. He had come to be so well known among horsemen that he thought there would be money for him in the saloon business. He launched his new career in the Pompey House, now conducted by Charles O'Donnell. For five years Mr. Jewell prospered in the place. The Pompey House came to be a headquarters for local horsemen. They bought and traded horses there, they 'swapped' their horse stories there each night by the fireside and it was there they did most of their spending. Jewell was usually the referee or stakeholder in all the deals.

"As some of his friends remarked to-day, prosperity was something that Frank Jewell couldn't stand. His money came so easy that bad habits grew upon him and developed as the years passed. His principle failing was drink. In the days when horse racing was at its height, Mr. Jewell, continuing in the Pompey House, had the refreshment privilege at the park, and by

working two ends of the game he materially increased the size of his bank roll. After a career of five years in the Pompey House, Mr. Jewell became associated with Charles Ferris, now of Skaneateles, in the ownership of the old Dixon House, which then stood at South Salina and Jefferson street, where the Jefferson hotel is now located. He sought to make the Dixon House such a headquarters as the Pompey House had been, but he was only partly successful. The Dixon House, however, did a good business. Mr. Jewell continued as a proprietor of the place for several years and eventually he became proprietor of the Pompey House again, but the venture was not as profitable as his first and it is said he suffered financial reverses. He gave up the place and afterward, for a short time, ran a saloon known as 'The Horseman,' in South Salina street, which more latterly was conducted by John A. King.

"It is not believed here that Jewell had very much money when he went to Skaneateles. Most of what he made in the saloon business had vanished. Three fast trotting horses which he owned here, Dick Fitzgerald (2:24-1/4), which was known to horsemen as Little Dick; Sunole F. (2:26-1/2) and Victor M., known to horsemen as a 'ringer,' had passed from his possession, likewise what money they had earned for him. Down in the neighborhood of the Pompey House it was said to-day that the drink habit grew upon Jewell to such an extent that his home life was not of the best and that his first wife, who died in November, 1904, had considerable trouble with him. Three years ago Jewell went to Skaneateles and bought the Lakeview House, where he married his second wife. The news of the death of the second Mrs. Jewell was widely discussed in the city to-day, especially in the husband's old haunts, and there were comments on the fact that when the Jewells last visited here, about two weeks ago, they both seemed to be in good health and happy."

The Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, Friday, March 30, 1906

### **Mrs. Ida Jewell Obit**

Mrs. Ida Jewell was born in Hudson on March 25, 1856. Her parents moved to Clyde, NY when she was 1 year old. She married B. Frank Jewell on May 1, 1878. In 1880 they made Syracuse their home where they lived until 1902. They moved to Lake View House in Skaneateles where Frank Jewell was the proprietor. During a visit to Clyde in December 1904 Ida died from pneumonia and heart failure.

The Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, Sunday, December 4, 1904

Hudson is a city located along the west border of Columbia County, New York, United States. It is located on the east side of the Hudson River, midway between Albany and Kingston, NY (about 25 miles in each direction).

Galen is a town in Wayne County, New York, United States. The town is named after the classical physician Galen. The Town of Galen is on the south border of the county.

Clyde, New York, is a village in the town of Galen in Wayne County that is situated on the banks of the old Erie Canal and is located between the shores of Lake Ontario to the north and the Finger Lakes to the south.

Frank Jewell had a brother named George Eber Jewell and a nephew, Frank Jewell - both of Syracuse.

## Frank Jewell Timeline

Event	Dates in Ida's Obit	Times in "Jewell Was Popular"	Jewell Known to Horsemen	Newspaper Articles & Census Records	
Marriage	May 1, 1878			1878	Clyde, town of Galen, Wayne Co.
Came to Syracuse	1880	1876-1878		1878-1880	
Kingsley House		1876-1878		1878-1880	Jewel might have come in when Lew Smith sold.
Jacob Crouse (d. Nov 1, 1900)		1878-1892	1880-1892	1880-1892	1880 census - Coachman
Pompey House		1892-1897	1892 + 5 yrs	1892-1894	1892 Census - Hotel
Dixon House		1897-1900		1894-04-02	Buys Dixon House
Back to Pompey House		1900-1903	1895-1899	1895-09-06	
The Horseman		1903	1899 + 7 mos	1897-1898	No mention of Jewell at Pompey House.
Lakeview House	In Syracuse until 1902	Buys in 1903		Leases in Fall 1900	

The intervals found in the column labeled "Times in 'Jewell Was Popular' " are based on the dates and intervals mentioned in the newspaper article. The sequence of events is that found in the "Jewell Was Popular" article since they are not contradicted by any other information. It is the exact dates and the time intervals that are uncertain. The task here is to constrain the dates and time intervals by using contemporaneous newspaper articles and census records while minimizing the contradictions.

## A Portion of Lew Smith's Time line

Date	Event
1875 -06-15	Lew Smith's Hotel entirely built over, refurnished and re-fitted. It will now be known as the Kingsley House. J. H. Goodell will be the proprietor.
1876	Tried operating a hotel in Philadelphia. Lew thought that the US Centennial would bring in an increase in business. It didn't.
1878-9	Sold Kinsley House and purchased (leased) the old Alexander homestead at southwest corner of East Fayette and Montgomery Streets and operated it as a hotel.



There were no references in the Fulton History newspaper archive (43,000,000 pages) in the time period 1860 - 1875 to “Kingsley House” or “Herman Kingsley”, except the Lew Smith and Mr. Goodell Kingsley House references in 1875.

There was no Herman Kingsley in the Onondaga County census records for 1870, 1875, or 1880. There was no Kingsley running a hotel in Onondaga County in 1870, 1875, or 1880.

### **Jewell Known To Horsemen Through Central New York Came to Syracuse Three Decades Ago and for Twelve Years Was Coachman for Jacob Crouse. Later a Hotel Proprietor.**

“Frank Powell is one of the best known men among horsemen in Central New York. Practically all his life he has been in close touch with those interested in horse racing and it was with considerable sympathy and regret that the early reports that he had murdered his wife were received by his friends in this city.

“Mr. Jewell was born in Clyde and first became identified with the racing game in the 70’s, when he entered the employ of William Saunders, then a well-known horseman in that place. It was there that Mr. Saunders conducted a training track, where all the light harness horses of the state did their campaigning. Jewel handled the ribbons over many of the well-known horses on that track.

#### **Comes to Train Horses**

“About thirty years ago he came to Syracuse and entered the employ of Herman Kingsley, proprietor of the Kingsley House. At that time Mr. Kingsley had several horses and Jewell trained them. Later he entered the employ of Jacob Crouse as coachman and remained with him for twelve years.

“He then bought the Pompey House, being assisted financially by Mr. Crouse. That was about fourteen years ago. He conducted that place for about five years. While there his place was the resort of many well-known horsemen. At the same time he was the proprietor of the refreshment stand at Kirk Park, having the privilege for about six years.

“He then went into partnership in the Dixon House, now the Jefferson Hotel, with Charles Ferris. After a few years he again bought out the Pompey House. He built up the business and made considerable money. Selling the Pompey House four years later, he bought a saloon in South Salina street, which he named the ‘Horseman.’

#### **In Skaneateles Three Years**

“After conducting that saloon for about seven months he went to Skaneateles three years ago and bought the Lakeview House. For a time, it is said, the business boomed, but in the last year it has been on the decline.

“According to friends in this city, Jewell had been drinking considerably of late and his business had practically left him. Recently he was in Clyde and endeavored to buy a hotel there owned by Jerome Thomas, an old horseman. It is understood, however, that the deal fell through because Jewell was unable to produce the money.

“About two weeks ago he and his wife were in Syracuse calling upon friends. At the time they were to all appearances happy. Mrs. Jewell seemed to be in the best of health.”

The Post Standard, Syracuse, NY, Friday, March 30, 1906

### **Death Caused By Septic Poisoning Mrs. Frank Jewell Dies After Husband Had Battered in Door of Her Room While She Lay on Sick Bed - Husband Is Well Known.**

“The death of Mrs. Frank Jewell of Skaneateles was due to septic poisoning. I find nothing in the conduct of her husband to warrant my preferring charges against him.” - Coroner Daniel Mathews.

“The above statement was given out by the Coroner after an autopsy performed Friday morning by Coroner’s Physician Dr. Archer D. Babcock. There was evidence of an abortion, but the physicians could not determine its cause. Dr. G.E. Clark, the Skaneateles physician who was called at noon Thursday to attend Mrs. Jewell, said: ‘Her death may have been slightly hastened by the acts of her husband, but in my opinion she could not have survived more than two or three hours.’ Dr. Clark was present at the autopsy and Dr. Mathews concurred with him in the statement.

### **Crazed by Drink**

“After a siege of debauchery and with mind crazed by drink Frank Jewell smashed in the door of his wife’s room while she lay on the sick bed and she died almost immediately. Jewell is under arrest.

“The scene of the tragedy was the Lakeview house at Skaneateles and the time was soon after 6 o’clock Thursday night.

“Jewell was formerly proprietor of the Pompey house and later part owner of the Dixon house of this city. He is one of the best known horsemen in Central New York. About five years ago he moved to Skaneateles and opened up the Lakeview house at Genesee and Jordan-sts., and has since been the proprietor. Two years ago his wife died and a year later he married a Miss Stanley, whose shocking death occurred Thursday night.

“Mrs. Jewell and her cook, Helen Salisbury, came to Syracuse on Wednesday last to do some shopping. While returning to their home at 6 o’clock Mrs. Jewell became ill, and as soon as she reached her home went to bed.

### **The Attack**

“Thursday evening the Salisbury girl, attracted by noise, saw Jewell at the head of the stairs smashing the door of Mrs. Jewell’s room with a chair, while roaring mad. Then he secured a second chair and demolished it also against the door. The Salisbury girl immediately called for help and five men put in an appearance, among them being Edward Gillette.

“‘If there is a man among you, stop him!’ shouted the girl to the men, but not one of them stirred.

“Then said the Salisbury girl Jewell got an empty beer keg and started to ram the door. Under the storm of battery the door gave way and Jewell fell into the room. Trembling with fear Mrs. Jewell forced herself to sit up in bed and a moment later fell back and life was extinct.

“The Salisbury girl rushed into the room and with some assistance forced the infuriated man out and soon he was taken away by Constable John S. Dewitt to the village jail where the nominal charge of public intoxication was preferred.

### **Jewell’s Condition**

“While Jewell was locked up he was attended by Dr. H.B. Wright. His attorney, John W. Reynolds, when asked what move would be made in the case in view of the findings of the Coroner, said: ‘I am going to get him arraigned just as quickly as I can and if possible get him out of town to-day.’ The attorney, with G. B. Jewell, a brother of the prisoner, held a long conference with Justice of the Peace Giles in his office, and at its conclusion went to the town hall, where Jewell is being held.

“At 2:30 o’clock Friday afternoon Jewell’s condition was such that it was thought impracticable to arraign him and the hearing was adjourned until Saturday morning at 9 o’clock.”

## **Jewell's Career**

"Frank Jewell is 50 years old. He was born in Clyde, the son of a farmer, George Jewell. Jewell's first wife was Ida Mallson (Mallison). She died in 1904, and about a year later he married Miss Lucy Stanley, who had previously been employed by Mr. Jewell at the Lakeview house. She is the woman who died Thursday. Mrs. Jewell was almost 35 years old. She came here from England about four years ago."

The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY, March 30, 1906

## **Jewell Is Exiled From Skaneateles**

**Mrs. Jewell's Body Laid in Cemetery Vault Without Funeral Services and Husband Leaves Skaneateles Forever - Will Make Syracuse His Home - Closing Incidents of a Tragic Case.**

"The grave for one; expulsion for the other. That, so far as Skaneateles is concerned, ends the Jewell incident in that village.

"Late Friday afternoon the remains of Mrs. Frank Jewell were borne to the vault at Lakeview cemetery. No one read the funeral service, no prayer for the departed soul ascended. The body of Lucy Stanley Jewell rests thousands of miles from that sleepy little English village in which she was born. Slowly the news will cross the broad Atlantic and a mother's heart will bleed and a father's pride will bow. Their lassie rests among strangers; their lassie, who left the little thatch-roofed cottage with such high hopes only four years ago. Fate was not kind to her, but in the death smoothed all the rough places and brought relief to the pain-racked body. Death was the kindest of all. What does it matter that there was no funeral service over her body; what matters it that no dirge sounded? The peace of the grave is hers. Fear and hope both stop at its threshold and beyond is rest. Did she err? The price is paid. Did she make mistakes? She has suffered the penalty.

"As the hearse, bearing the body, breasted the hill to the cemetery the steady south wind, which had blown all morning, seemed to die and from the swaying top of a maple tree a robin, ruffling his red breast, warbled a few piping notes. Slowly, with many a jounce and swerve, the hearse (sic) drew into the cemetery. The casket was drawn out and placed in the vault. That was all.

## **Just Four Years**

"Four years ago Lucy Stanley, aglow with health and love of life, came to Skaneateles. Handsome with the beauty of health and happiness she seemed to find joy in simply being alive. Friends she had won by her happy disposition. A short time after her arrival in the village she found employment in the Lakeview hotel. A little more than four months ago she and Mr. Jewell were married by the pastor of the Methodist church of the village. That is her life's history.

"While the body of his wife was being borne to the cemetery Frank Jewell stood before Justice of the Peace W. A. Giles to plead to a charge of public intoxication.

"He had been confined in a cell at the Town hall since 6 o'clock Thursday evening, when he was placed under arrest after breaking through the door of his wife's room. She had been dangerously ill since the preceding night and the shock hastened her death, but the doctors who performed a postmortem examination Friday said that death was inevitable.

"Nervous, fear-stricken and trembling Jewell faced the justice. He pleaded guilty to the charge of public intoxication and was fined \$10.

"A paper was handed Jewell for his signature. It was an agreement never to revisit Skaneateles. His hand shook as he grasped a pen to affix his signature.

'At 11 o'clock he left the justice's office, boarded a trolley car for Syracuse and so far as Skaneateles is concerned Frank Jewell has ceased to exist.

## **Jewell in Syracuse**

“Upon arriving in Syracuse Jewell went to the home of his brother G. E. Jewell at 313 Gifford-st. Asked if there was any statement he wished to make he replied: ‘No, Everything is dead. I am through with Skaneateles forever.’ He shuddered as he spoke and continued with the air of a man in the clutch of fear. ‘I can never tell you how that town affects me. The people are cold and unfriendly, ready to down a man on any provocation. I am glad to be away from it and never in my life will I return.’ He will remain at the home of his brother for a time and in the meantime will look about for a location in the city. ‘I am going into business again,’ said he, ‘but never in the country.’”

The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY, Saturday, March 31, 1906

### **Can't Go To Funeral**

**Frank Jewell's Wife to Be Buried To-morrow.**

**Skaneateles, However, Has Exiled Husband And He Might Get Into Trouble.**

**Justice Giles Believes If He Came For Funeral and Got Away at Once the Law Might Not Be Enforced**

“Frank Jewell of this city, until yesterday proprietor of the Lakeview house of Skaneateles, will not be allowed to attend the funeral of his wife to-morrow in that village if the order of the court, as pronounced by Justice of the Peace W. N. Giles, is carried out to the letter. Jewell, whose wife, Lucy Stanley Jewell, died of blood poisoning shortly after he burst into her room in the hotel by smashed the door with a whisky keg Thursday evening, has expressed no intention of attending the funeral services, and Justice Giles said to The Herald last night that he did not believe Jewell would care to take a chance of showing himself in Skaneateles after being ordered out of town immediately and for all time.

“‘If he violated the order he would of course be liable for contempt of court and could be sentenced to the penitentiary,’ said the Justice, ‘but doubtless no objection would be made if he should come back merely to attend the funeral. It would be inhuman to arrest a man for wanting to see the last rites of burial performed for his wife.’”

“The Rev. Calvin L. Connell, pastor of the Methodist church of Skaneateles will read a prayer at the grave where the burial will take place to-morrow afternoon in the cemetery of that place. Mrs. Jewell's body was placed in a receiving vault yesterday until the time for the funeral.”

The Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, Sunday, April 1, 1906

### **Frank Jewell Sent To An Insane Asylum**

“Frank Jewell, formerly a well known restaurant and hotel proprietor in this city, was today sent to the Willard Insane asylum at Ovid, having been declared of unsound mind.

“Mr. Jewell has been visiting his sister, Mrs. Charles Britten of Clyde. Yesterday he was examined by Drs. J. L. Thorpe and George D. Barrett of Clyde, commissioners of lunacy.

“At one time Mr. Jewell was proprietor of the Pompey house and later of the Dixon house. He also managed a hotel at Skaneateles.”

The Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, Thursday, August 7, 1913

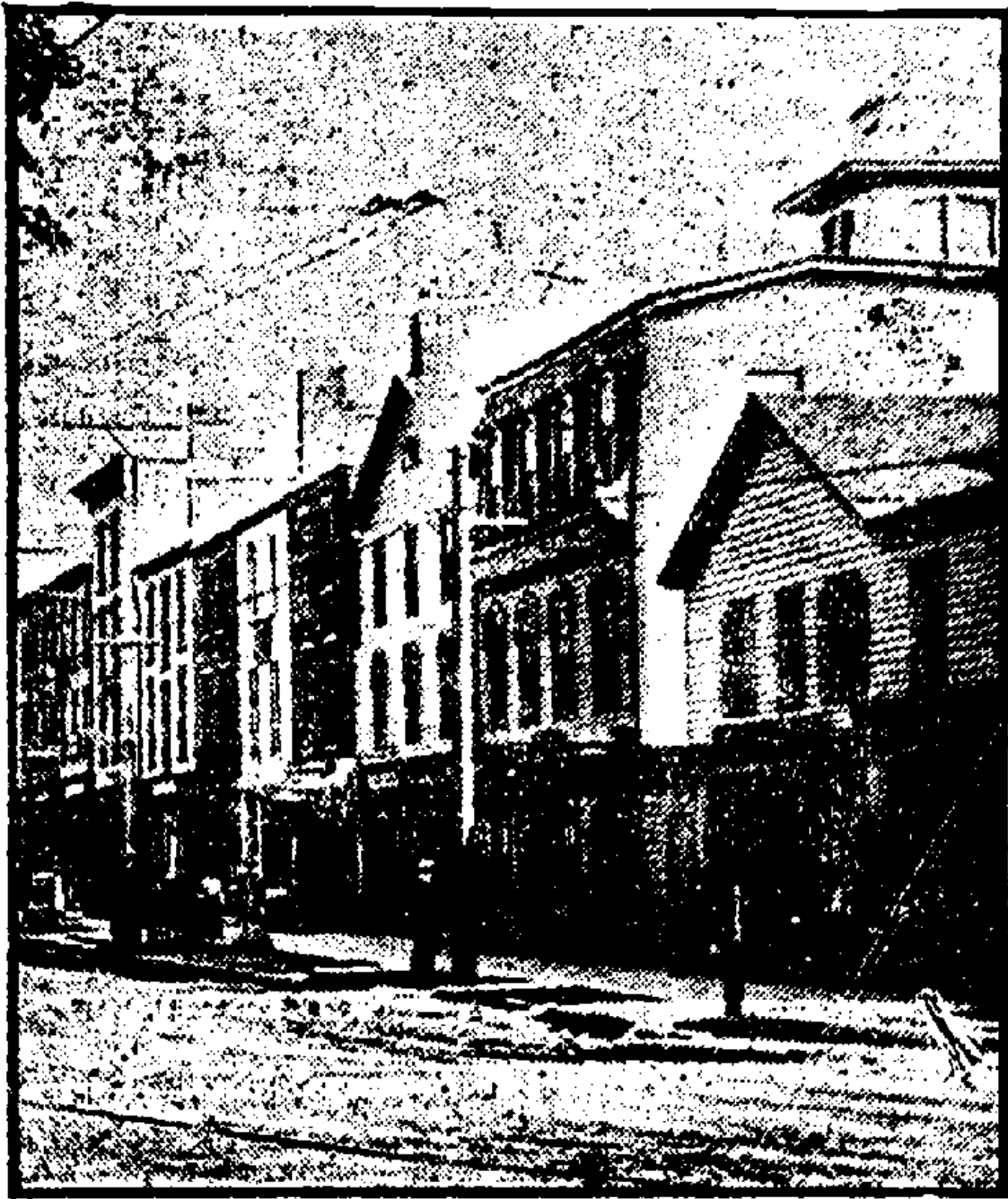
### **Frank Jewell**

“The news of the death of Mr. Jewell, a former resident of this city, reached here yesterday afternoon. Mr. Jewell died in the State hospital at Willard. Mr. Jewell at one time conducted the Pompey house and the Dixon house, now the Jefferson hotel. Of late years he conducted a business in Skaneateles.”

The Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, Friday, September 12, 1913

## The Lakeview House, Skaneateles, NY

The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY, Friday, March 30, 1906



### LAKEVIEW HOUSE, SKANEATELES.

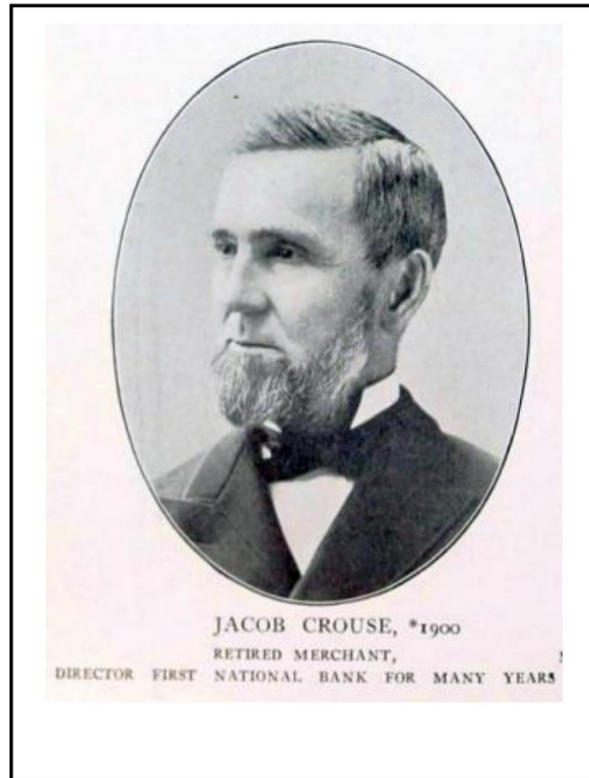
Window at extreme right of the building marked by a X opens into the room in which Mrs. Jewel died.



The old Lake View House is believed to be the building on the right. Picture from June 2016



## **Jacob Crouse (1824-1900) and His Boulder, An Original Syracuse “Rock” Star**



Jacob Crouse image from Grave Matters, Historical Oakwood Cemetery Preservation Association, Spring, 2014, Volume 22, Number 1

### **Jacob Crouse and His Boulder**

Each character seems to have a connection with yet another character and in most cases that character was a person. However, Frank Jewell’s early employer, Jacob Crouse, had a posthumous connection with a huge eighty ton granite boulder which today bears the Crouse family name. Crouse died in November 1900 and by 1904 the family had decided to have a large granite boulder placed on the family plot in Oakwood Cemetery. The chosen boulder was on a farm near Split Rock and it began its journey in February 1904 while the country roads were still frozen. The journey took about four months while the newspapers reported its daily progress over the city streets and gave its location so that interested persons might visit the traveling landmark. Saloon keepers offered money if the boulder would stop in front of their establishments while other persons posted advertisements on the moving billboard.

**Jacob Crouse Left About A Million Dollars  
Some Estimates Place It at \$5,000,000, but It Will Not Reach That Figure - Funeral Sunday.**

“The funeral of Jacob Crouse, who died yesterday afternoon from heart trouble, will be held at 3 o’clock on Sunday afternoon from his late residence in East Genesee street. The Rev. E. N. Packard, pastor of Plymouth Congregational church, will officiate. The interment will be in Oakwood vault. The pallbearers have not been selected a yet.

### **Was A Native New Yorker**

“Mrs. Crouse was born at Mindenville, Montgomery county, October 23, 1824, and was the son of George and Marin Diefendorf Crouse. After the death of his mother he went to live at Canastota with his uncle, John Crouse, and engaged in mercantile business. From 1838 to 1842 Mr. Crouse lived at Chittenango, studying at the Presbyterian school and spending all his spare time in the store of his uncle, James Crouse. From there he went to Canastota to work for his uncles, Daniel and Jacob Crouse.

“Mr. Crouse’s first business venture on his own account was made in 1846 at Manlius Center in partnership with his brother-in-law, Levi Schnell, Mr. Crouse’s capital being \$400. In 1858 Mr. Crouse embarked on a business career in this city, becoming a member of the firm of John Crouse & Co. Owing to failing health Mr. Crouse retired from the firm in 1864 and went to the oil fields of Pennsylvania and also developed realty in this city. Five years later Mr. Crouse, on regaining his health, formed a partnership with his cousins, James S. and George N. Crouse. Later, by the retirement of James S. Crouse, the firm became J & G. N. Crouse, and in 1884 Mr. Crouse retired entirely from active business, devoting himself to his real estate interests. Mr. Crouse was one of the largest real estate owners in the city, and also has large interests in mining and railroad stocks. Through careful investments and strict attention to business Mr. Crouse amassed a large fortune, which is variously estimated at from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000. Mr. Crouse married early in life Miss Elisa Mable, youngest daughter of John Mable. He leaves besides his widow two children, Charles M. Crouse and Mrs. Lizzie Crouse Klock, widow of Frank Klock of this city.”

The Evening Telegram, Syracuse, NY, Friday, November 2, 1900

## **The Journey of the Crouse Boulder**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1904-02-13 SA	On Saturday night the mass of granite (80 tons) upon the heavy sled had been hauled across fields and upon the highway (now Terry Road) between the Genesee street and Split Rock roads.
1904-02-14 SU	“‘Tomorrow morning,’ said Mr. Cutter to a Herald reporter last night, ‘we expect to put a big force of men at work getting the highway in shape for the passage of the big load. Monday or Tuesday morning we will hitch about forty horses to the load and <u>on Tuesday we expect to reach the city line</u> . We are very anxious to complete the job while the good sledding lasts. Of course, it is our purpose to draw snow along with us to dump on any bare spots we may encounter, but our progress would be much faster if we don’t have to do that.’”
1904-02-15	“Well the weather seems inclined to do all it can for the Crouse boulder. It moistened things up yesterday just in time for the freeze to-day.”
1904-02-15 MO-WE	The first three days of this week were used in digging out the snow and making as solid roadbed as possible along the cross road.
1904-02-18 TH	“This morning forty head of horses were harnessed to the heavy sled. They had

	no difficulty in moving the load but it was found practically impossible to guide the sled which lurched from side to side of the narrow highway, the runners plowing great furrows in the snow.” <u>Boulder hauled across the Terry farm and 100 yards along Fay Road.</u> Undertaking abandoned for the present. They will wait for spring.
1904-02-19 FR	The contractors abandoned the sled and decided upon rollers. They will try to reach the pavements in the city before the frost is out of the country roads. To prevent damage to city roads hardwood planks four inches thick will be placed on the pavement and the rollers will go over these planks. There was concern over the strength of the Onondaga Creek Bridge in West Onondaga Street. The <u>Harbor Brook Bridge in Grand Avenue</u> was not considered a problem.
1904-04-13 WE	“Contractor Wallace Carrick, who has the work of moving the Crouse boulder from the Terry farm to Oakwood Cemetery, <u>has received rollers</u> and other utensils for moving the huge stone, and if the roads are in good enough condition, <u>will resume the work next week.</u> ”
1904-05-05 TH	The boulder is progressing about <u>2,000 feet a day</u> . The boulder is expected to arrive at Split Rock Road next Tuesday (5/10) - however <u>the boulder has only moved 2,500 feet from where it originally rested</u> . There are six men working with a team of draught horses. Heavy rollers and two inch planks are used to rest the stone on. Note: There is something wrong with the speed of “2,000 feet a day.” In the same article it mentions that the boulder has only moved 2,500 feet from its original location and the journey started back in mid-February.
1904-05-06 FR	“... expect to have the stone onto <u>the Split rock road</u> inside of a week and by the latter part of next week to a point within the city limits. The stone is moving at the rate of about one-quarter of a mile per day.”
1904-05-15 SU	“Moved on roller, pulled by means of a windlass nearly a mile the past week, and the going is easy now.” On the Split Rock Road. Expects to have the stone in the city by Memorial Day.
1904-05-20 FR	“The Crouse boulder will be at the city line, near Split Rock hotel, to-night and tomorrow.”
1904-05-25 WE	“Crouse Boulder reaches city limits.”
1904-05-26 TH	By tomorrow morning the boulder will easily have reached the <u>Delaware street pavement at Grand Ave.</u> ” The Commissioner of public works is to decide today if <u>the boulder will go down Seymour or Onondaga Street</u> . “Whichever street is selected it will be necessary to cross the creek over the Onondaga Street bridge and Contractor Cutler has been given until next Monday to get the boulder across the bridge, after which the structure is to be torn up. Since the boulder started from the Terry farm six weeks ago several hundred rollers have been broken and Mr. Cutler expects that several hundred more will be put out of commission before the big stone reaches its final resting place. The contractor says that he expects to have the boulder on the Crouse lot in about three weeks.
1904-05-27 FR	<u>Seymour</u> has been selected over <u>Delaware</u> . “The route of the boulder is to take from now on is as follows: Through <u>Seymour street</u> to <u>West Onondaga street</u> , to <u>Madison street</u> and thence through unpaved streets to Oakwood cemetery. On paved streets the ‘one-horsepower’ crab probably will be secured to trees or stakes driven inside the curb.”
1904-05-28 SA	“The Crouse boulder has now reached Niagara and Seymour-sts. and will soon

	be to the Onondaga-st. Bridge.”
1904-05-29 SU	“Promptly at midnight last night the Crouse boulder continued its journey from the corner of Oswego and Seymour streets...”
1904-05-30 MO	<p>“The immense rock rested in the 300 block of Seymour street yesterday.”</p> <p>“The Crouse boulder continues its way down Seymour street towards the city. The boulder is now between Niagara and South West streets, and by to-night it is hoped to have it at South West street. ... The bridge over the creek will probably be crossed to-morrow night. Large crowds continue to watch the progress of the stone in spite of the rain.”</p> <p>“The Now noted Crouse boulder is causing lots of trouble. The residents of the 400 block of Seymour street assert that the pavement in that block was seriously injured when the stone passed over it.”</p>
1904-05-31 TU	<p>“The Crouse boulder is in West-st. and will reach Onondaga-st. to-morrow. The boulder moves about 1,500 feet daily.”</p> <p>“The Crouse boulder is resting today in Seymour street at the head of Granger street. It is being moved only at night while it is passing along the tracks of the Rapid Transit company. It is now within a short block of West Onondaga street and it is expected that it will be across the West Onondaga street bridge over the creek by to-morrow night at the latest.”</p>
1901-06-01 WE	<p>“The Crouse boulder is being moved toward Oakwood cemetery on schedule time and this morning it passed safely over the <u>West Onondaga-st. creek bridge</u>, no damage being done. The huge stone reached South Salina-st. and Onondaga-sts. at noon. Street railway traffic has not been interrupted.”</p> <p>“The stone is placed on strong rollers and steel corded cable is attached. Some distance ahead is a capstan to which a powerful horse is hitched.”</p>
1904-06-02 TH	<p>“The Crouse boulder <i>is now in Harrison-st. near Warren-st.</i> The route will be up <u>Harrison-st.</u> to <u>University-ave.</u> to <u>Marshall-st.</u> to <u>College Place</u> and into the rear entrance of the cemetery.”</p> <p>Note: The above is incomplete path description is incomplete.</p> <p>“The route for the remainder of the journey is <u>Harrison street</u> to <u>University avenue</u>, to <u>Waverly place</u>, to <u>Walnut avenue</u> to <u>University place</u>, <u>College place</u> and the rear entrance of Oakwood cemetery.”</p> <p>Note: The above description will work but it wasn’t the actual path chosen.</p>
1904-06-03 FR	The boulder had moved to South Salina street from near the DL&W railroad tracks. “At 8 o’clock last evening it was just across South State street in Harrison street. Work was continued during the night, and it reached Grape street early this morning.”
1904-06-04 SA	<p>“The boulder is nearing Harrison-st. hill. Two horses instead of one will be used on the windlass.”</p> <p>“The Crouse boulder which is being moved from Split Rock to Oakwood cemetery began the ascent of University hill this afternoon. At noon the great boulder reposed at the corner of Irving and Harrison streets. The south side of the latter street through which the stone is being moved is a foot or more higher than the north side between Irving and Crouse avenues. To provide against any danger of the mass of stone rolling from its carriage, it was packed up against one side.”</p>
1904-06-05 SU	“The great Crouse boulder will be one of the attractions on University hill during

	commencement week. The boulder now reposes on its carriage in Harrison street half way between Irving and Crouse avenues. Because of the grade there, it took six hours yesterday to move it about 100 feet. Even then the horse-power on the capstan and the block and tackle had to be doubled. No more work will be done on the boulder until 12 o'clock to-night, when the effort will be made to move it across the Crouse avenue car tracks."
1904-06-06 MO	<p>"The Crouse boulder viewed yesterday by hundreds of people as it rested impressively upon the brow of the hill in Harrison street, between Irving and South Crouse avenues. The contractors expect to have it in Oakwood cemetery in ten days."</p> <p>"The Crouse boulder reached the corner of University avenue and Harrison street this afternoon. <u>The contractors expect to have it well into Walnut avenue to-night</u>. The hardest part of their pull through the city has been passed without mishap. One horse is being used to operate the Capstan now."</p>
1904-06-07 TU	"The Crouse boulder will be in University place at the head of Walnut park to-night. At 2 o'clock this afternoon it was <u>at the corner of Walnut place and Marshall street</u> , and was moving rapidly. There is a good and unobstructed pavement in Walnut place."
1904-06-10 FR	<p>"The huge Crouse boulder rested at the corner of <u>Walnut and University avenues</u> all day yesterday." It is hoped to move the stone around the corner and into College place before cars started running in the morning."</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This is probably Walnut and University place.</p>
1904-06-11 SA	"To-day the huge stone reached the Walnut-ave. entrance to Oakwood cemetery."
1904-06-13 MO	"As the Crouse boulder approaches Oakwood cemetery preparations for receiving it are being made. Col. R. Griffin, Oakwood's landscape engineer, has fixed the final location of the boulder on Section 57, and the foundation is being constructed. "
1904-06-16 TH	"The Crouse boulder has completed its journey. To-day it is being set on the Crouse lot in Oakwood cemetery. The inscription in large letters will be the name 'Crouse.'"

## The Pathway of the Boulder

### Planned Path - February 14, 1904

"Through Grand avenue from the city line to Delaware street, to West Onondaga street, to Harrison street, to Almond street, to Madison street, to University avenue, to University place, to College place, to the north entrance to Oakwood cemetery."

**Note:** The underlined street names in italics in the original planned path were changed as the boulder proceeded across the city. Upon reaching Delaware Street the Syracuse Highway Commissioner decided that Seymour Street could better handle the weight of the boulder and the route was modified from Delaware to Seymour and then South West Street back to West Onondaga Street. The north on Almond, east on Madison and south on University path seems to have been a way to avoid the Harrison Street hill but in the end the boulder was taken right up the hill to Walnut Place for the turn south rather than University Avenue which would have had more traffic.

The original purpose of the Almond - Madison- University detour was probably to avoid the steep incline of Harrison Street east of Almond Street. Regardless of the path chosen, it was necessary to reach Walnut Place since University Avenue had a steep incline as it approached the main campus south of Waverly Avenue. Using the detour route to achieve the smaller incline would have been paid for with four 90° turns, whereas the direct route up Harrison Street to Walnut Place contained no turns. There was (1) Harrison to Almond, (2) Almond to Madison (parallel to Harrison, one block north), (3) Madison to University Avenue, and finally (4) University to Marshall or Waverly (or any easterly turn on a street that would lead to Walnut Place which was parallel to University Avenue, one block east). At the base of Harrison Street hill when it was time to execute the detour the team had to think long and hard about those four turns, the third turn especially, since it would have to be executed on an incline. All the previous turns had been carried out on fairly level ground. In the end they forgot the detour and went straight up Harrison Street hill and on through the Harrison- University Avenue intersection and on to Walnut Place one block further east.

### **Actual Path**

From the Terry farm, South on what is now called Terry Road to Fay Road, Northeast on Fay Road to the Split Rock Plank Road (Grand avenue), East on the Split Rock Plank Road (merges with Geddes Street just west of the city line and turns north), East on Seymour Street to South West Street, South on South West Street, Northeast on West Onondaga Street, East on Harrison Street, up the hill to Walnut Place, South on Walnut Place, East on University Place, South on College Place, into the northern entrance of Oakwood Cemetery.

### **Work At Night Now**

**Crouse Boulder Is Moving Down Seymour Street.**

**It Is Hoped To Have It In Place In The Crouse Lot In The Cemetery In Two Weeks.**

**Promptly at Midnight the Contractors Resumed the Journey With the Huge Rock Over the City Streets - May Work All Day Sunday, Too**

“Promptly at midnight last night the Crouse boulder continued its journey from the corner of Oswego and Seymour streets, where it had been left at the close of the day’s work. An arrangement was made with the Syracuse Rapid Transit company whereby no cars were run across Seymour street in Oswego street after 12 o’clock. This enabled Wallace Carrick, who has charge of the night shift, to get the huge rock across the car tracks. When people wake up this morning it is probable that the boulder will be well down Seymour street. F. T. Cutler will have charge of the work to-day, if it is decided to continue operations to-day.

“The men who have charge of moving the rock feel that the worst part of their task is over and expect to have it completed within two weeks.

“The boulder is attracting an increased amount of attention. The crowds interfere with the work somewhat. Spectators getting too near the rock when it is being moved are in constant danger. Part of the apparatus broke the other day and struck the side of a veranda with great force. Luckily nobody was in its course.

“Last night a group of men at the boulder got into a geological dispute. Some maintained that the boulder grew on the farm where it was found. Those that held the correct view that the boulder was deposited there by a prehistoric glacier were in the minority. Another dispute arose as to whether the rock had grown or diminished in size during the last few centuries.

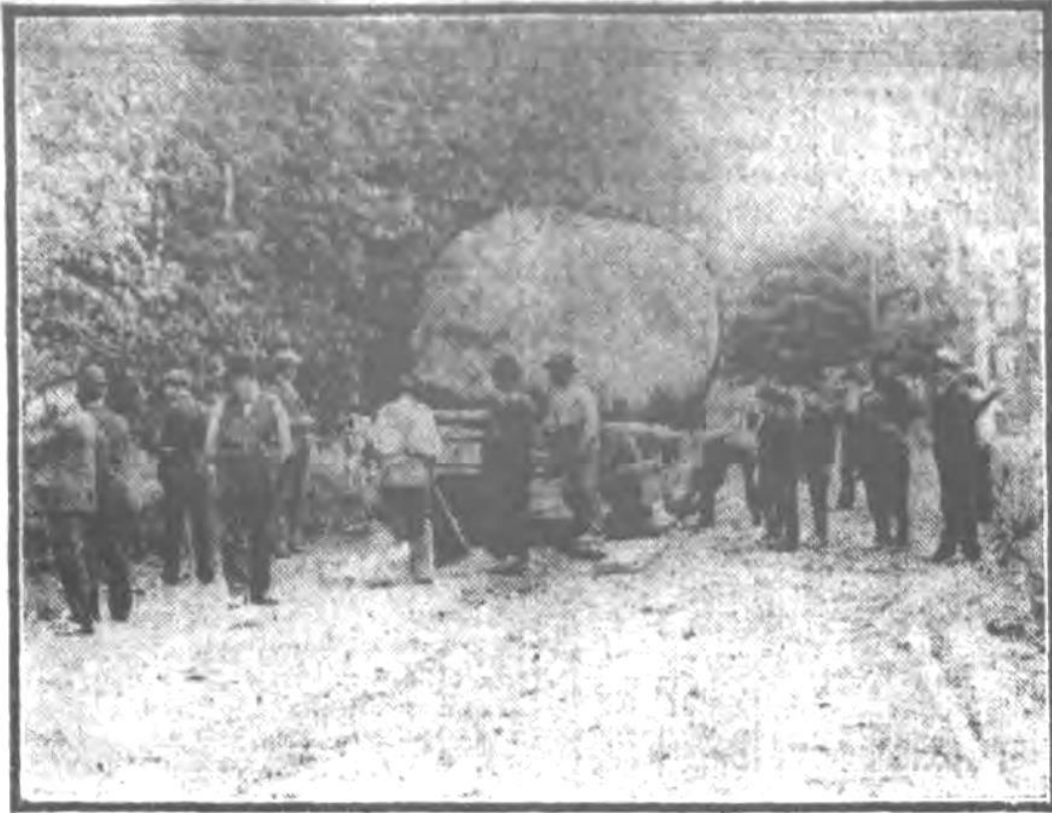
“Since arriving in the city the boulder has certainly diminished in the popular estimate of its weight. When it was dug up it was the 100-ton boulder. Later the estimate was dropped to eighty tons. Now it is stated that some hard-headed geologists from the university have applied



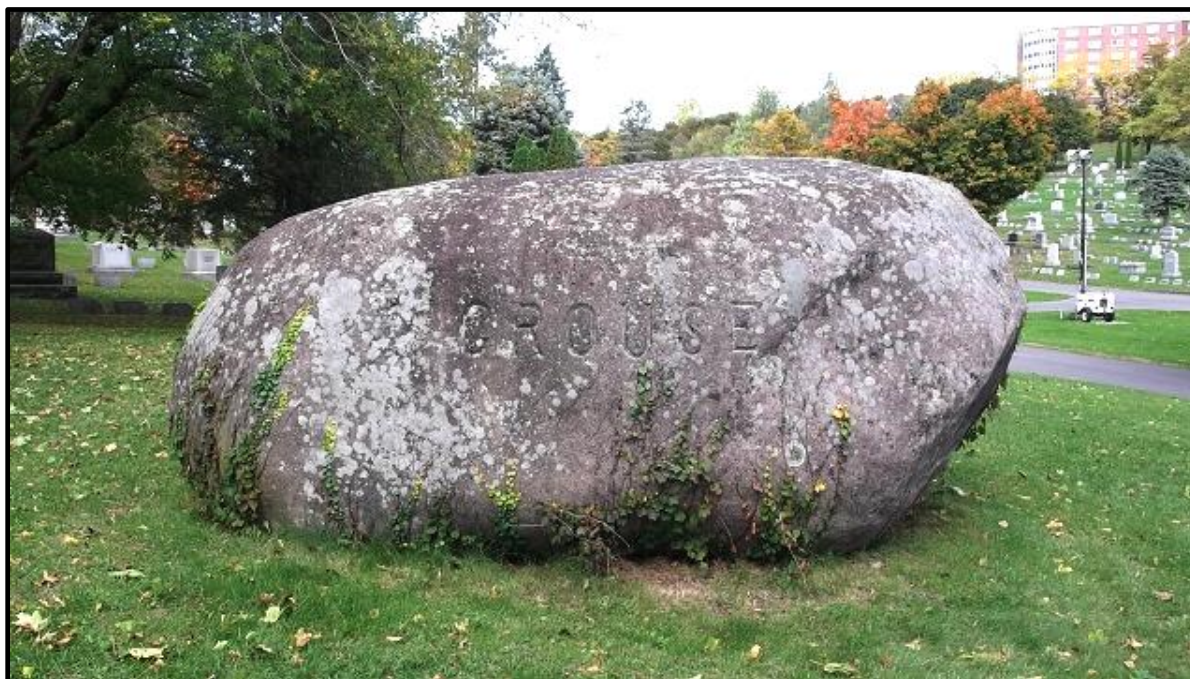
formulae and found that the boulder only weighs sixty tons. It is only far to state, however, that there is a suspicion that the decrease in weight latterly is to save the pavements and the bridge over which the rock must pass.”

The Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, Sunday, May 29, 1904

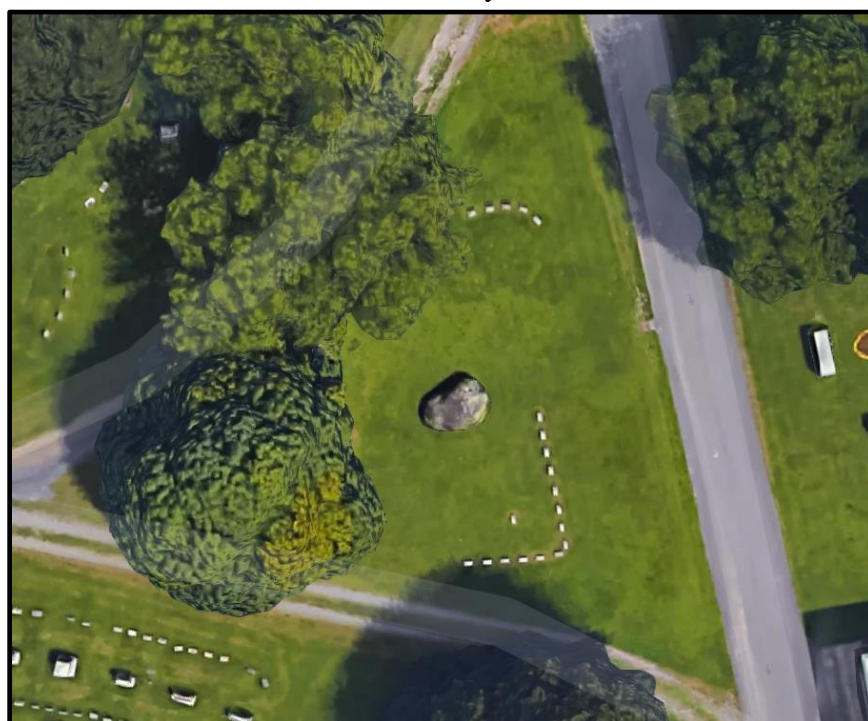
The Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, Friday, May 27, 1904



THE BOULDER IN GRAND AVENUE.



Recent picture of the Crouse Boulder in its resting spot for over 100 years in Oakwood Cemetery.



Google image of the Crouse Boulder on its triangular lot for the Crouse family.



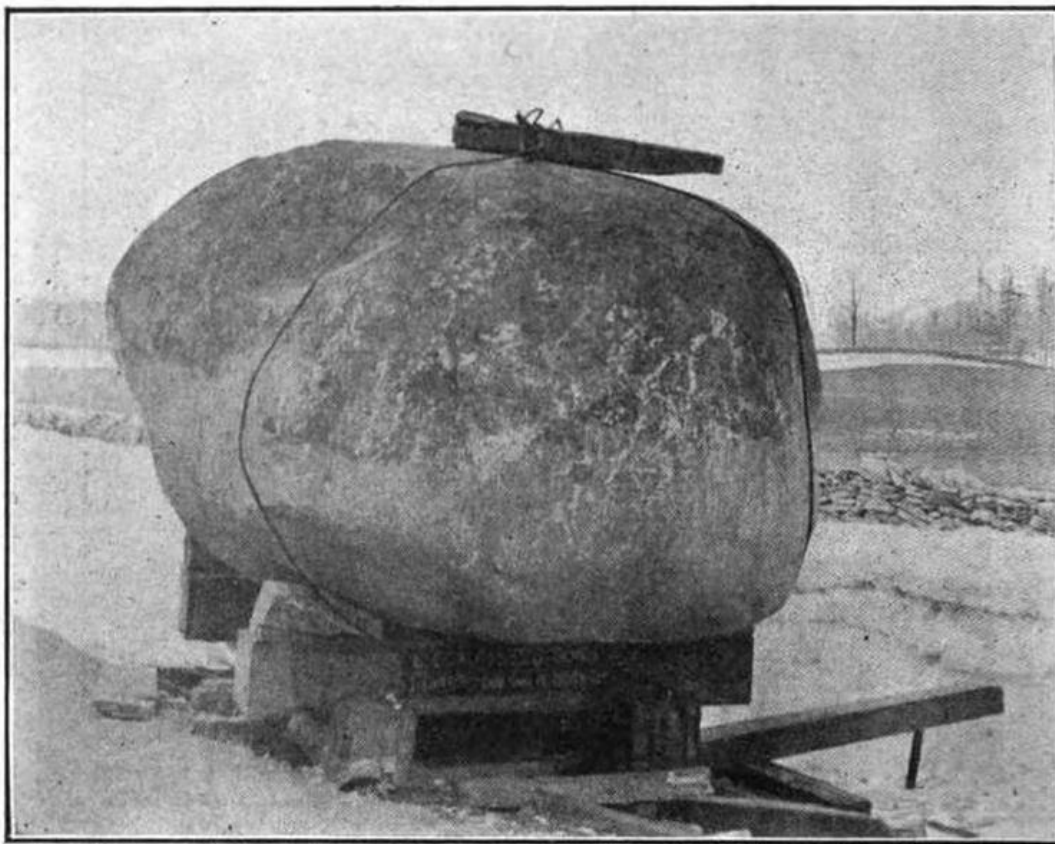


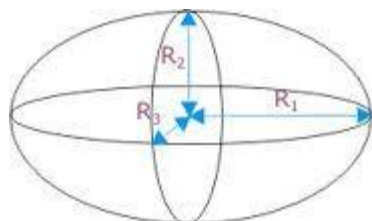
FIG. 118. A crystalline glacial boulder transported by the glacier from Canada to Syracuse, N. Y. Shown as it was being moved by man to the cemetery to serve as a monument.

Elements of Physical Geography, by Thomas Cramer Hopkins, Ph.D., Professor of Geology in Syracuse University, The Mason-Henry Press, Syracuse, New York  
Benj. H. Sanborn & Co., 1908, p. 158

From the Monumental News, Volume 16, #11, November 1904.

The dimensions of the boulder were given as 15-0, 9-6, 8-0 feet-inches (15.0', 9.5', 8.0')

By approximating the boulder as an ellipsoid and using the above dimension its volume can be calculated as 596.9 cubic feet. Using an average density of granite as 168 lbs/cubic foot gives a total weight of 100, 279 lbs or 50.14 tons.



Volume of a Ellipsoid

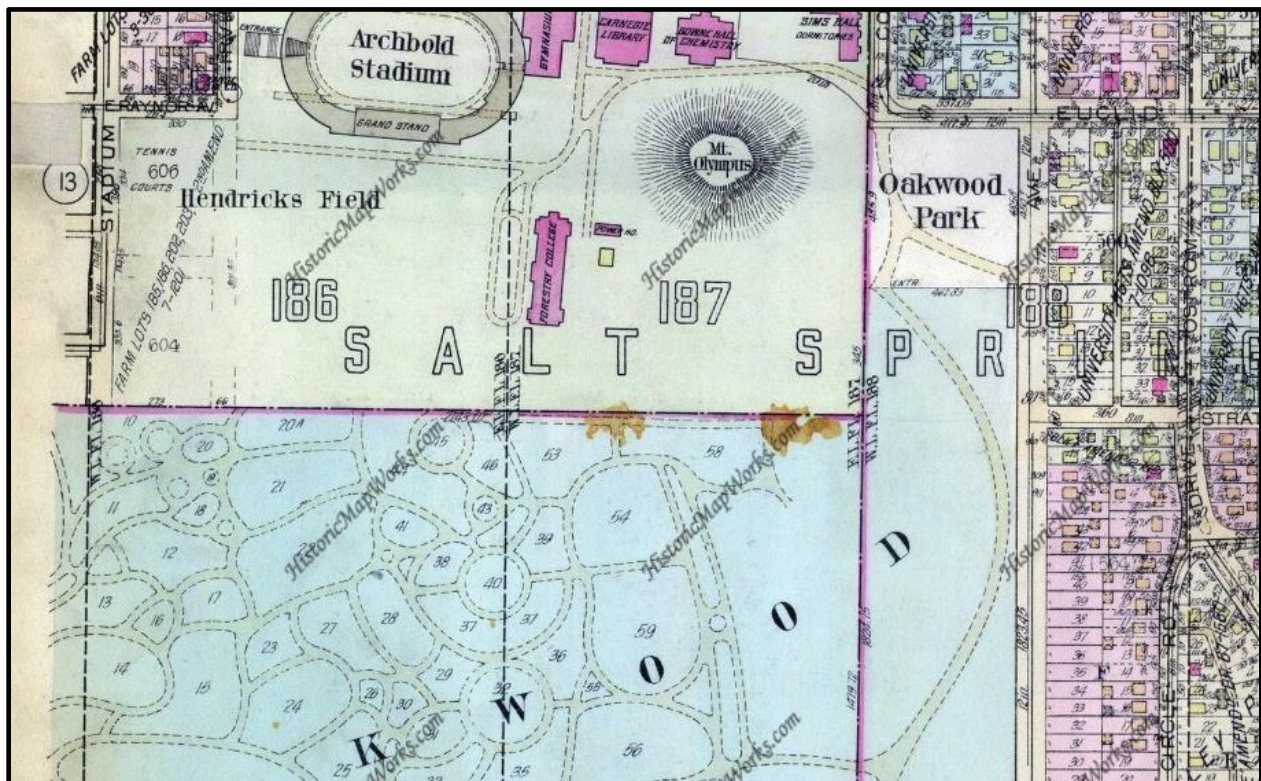
By comparison with an actual ellipsoid it can be seen that the boulder has much more bulk at its extremities and so the calculation is an under estimate. A couple geologists from Syracuse University had estimated the weight of the boulder as 60 tons. The Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, Sunday, May 29, 1904



The University and Oakwood Cemetery - 1874

The map above and the one on the following page cover a 50 year period. The above map represents the situation 30 years prior to the travels of the Crouse Boulder. The map on the following pages represents the situation 20 years after the movement of the Crouse Boulder. The road structures are for the most part the same with a few name changes, i.e. Jay Street on the east side of the Syracuse University campus had become College Place by 1904 and it still known by that name today. Over the entire 50 years period the far northeastern corner of Oakwood Cemetery was occupied by a park that provide access to the cemetery. This was the path taken by the boulder after reaching the end of College Place.





The University and Oakwood Cemetery - 1924. Section 57, the location of the Crouse Boulder, is the triangular piece of land just southeast of the first "O" in Oakwood.

## The Farmer Named Terry

### Death Of An Old Resident

#### Guy Terry's Ancestors Were Early Settlers in Onondaga County.

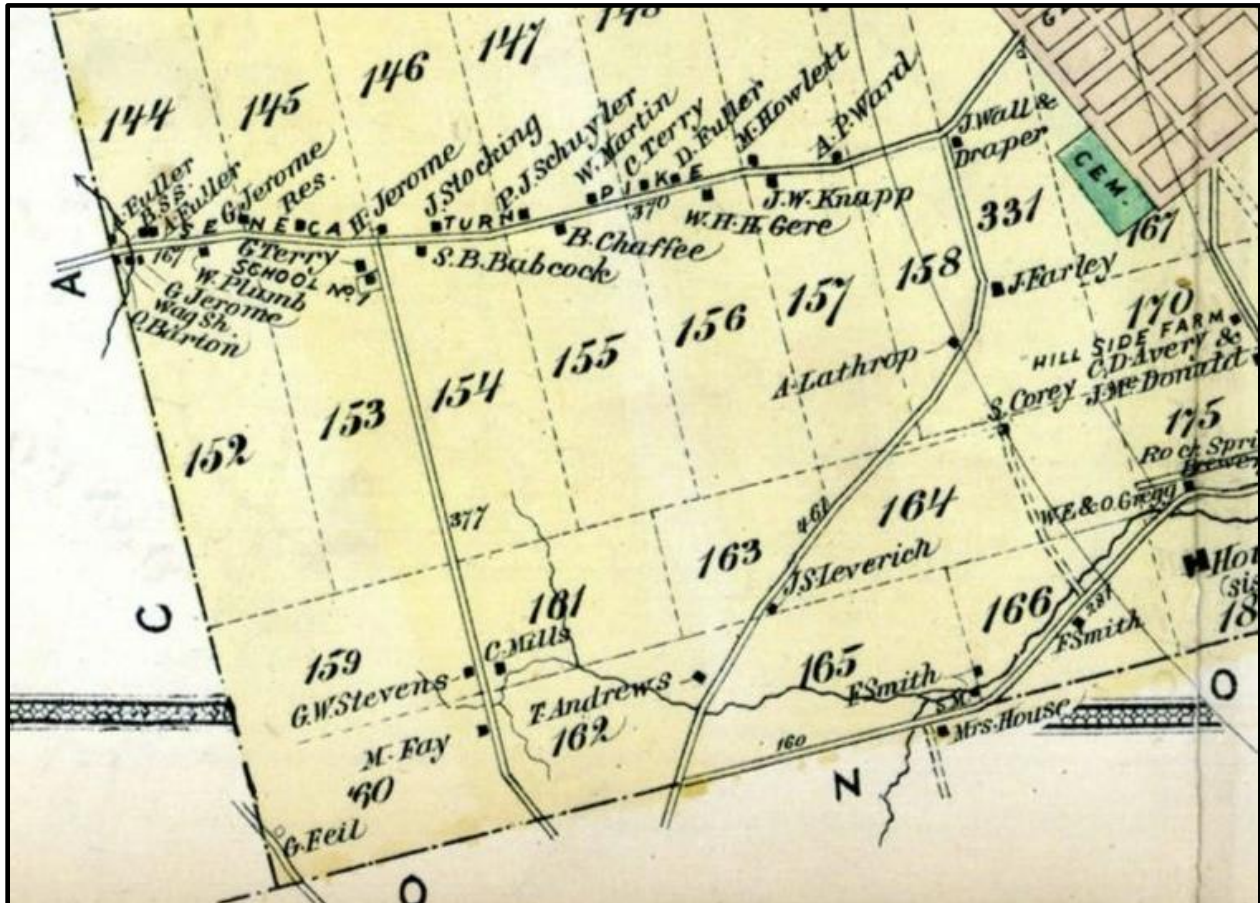
"At the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles Parsons, at Fairmount, Guy Terry, aged 82 years and 6 months, died this morning. His father, Griswold Terry, was born in Connecticut July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1794, and came with his parents to Onondaga county and settled in what is known as Terry Hollow in the town of Onondaga. His mother, Laura, daughter of James and Cynthia Edson Woodford, was born in Storington, Conn., and with her parents came to Onondaga county in 1805 and settled at South Onondaga. Griswold Terry and Laura Woodford were married January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1820, and settled in the town of Salina, now town of Geddes, one-half mile south of the Genesee turnpike, on the land now owned by Charles Mills. They had seven children, of which Mr. Terry was the second. He was born July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1823.

"On the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1847, he married Juliette M., daughter of Lyman R. and Hannah Smith Averill at Baldwinsville, and settled across the road from his birthplace. In 1849 they moved into the house on the turnpike, and lived there for sixty-five continuous years. To them were born five daughters. Myra died in infancy. The oldest, Laura Elma, was married to Burnett Chaffee; Grace Ellen to Cyrus D. Avery; Clara Louise to P. Schuyler Knapp, and Alice Adelin to Charles H. Parsons.

"Guy Terry was a typical American citizen, who lived a modest Christian life, doing unto others as he wished them to do to him. His word was his bond.

“In politics, a Whig, an Abolitionist, a strong union man and supporter of Abraham Lincoln, and since the war a consistent Republican. While never seeking office, he has been a continuous office holder for fifty years, from 1850 to 1900 faithfully and wisely attending to the duties of trustee of the First District school, of the town of Geddes. For forty-eight years he was Assessor in the town of Geddes, skipping one year, when he was defeated by one vote. His wife died on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1896. He was an Episcopalian and was for many years senior warden of St. Mark’s church.”

The Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, Friday, January 5, 1906



Source: Geddes, Salina, Syracuse, from Onondaga County 1874, New York, , Published by Walker Bros. & Co., in 1874. The Guy Terry farm is located on the Genesee turnpike on the northern end of Lot #153. The road running between Lots #153 and #154 is now known as Terry Road. In 1905 the Crouse Boulder was removed from Terry’s farm and moved down Terry Road to just below the town of Geddes border where it turned northeast of Fay Road and came back into the town of Geddes. Right at the Geddes-Onondaga border it traveled east, along the border, on the Split Rock Plank Road (now Grand Avenue).



## Strawberry Mansion

### The D. Lewis Smith Story



## Uncle Lew

Uncle Lew, as D. Lewis Smith was known to the citizens of Syracuse, had been in the hotel business for many years, conducting establishments in Messina Springs (East Syracuse), Canada, Philadelphia and of course Syracuse. As reported in the 1870 census Uncle Lew was a rich man reporting real estate of \$50,000 and a personal estate of \$10,000. These values were no doubt influenced by the rapid inflation that followed the end of the Civil War.

Starting in September 1873 and lasting until 1878/9, the economic downturn was called the Great Depression until it became known as the Long Depression after the stock market crash of 1929. Despite the gloomy economic outlook, in 1875 Lew Smith entirely rebuilt his hotel that would be called the Kingsley House. It was “refurnished and re-fitted” as the process was described in those days. However, by April 1878 Uncle Lew was operating his Smith’s Hotel out of the old Alexander family homestead at the corner of East Fayette and Montgomery streets, which was next door to his former hotel, the Kingsley House. Somehow Smith had lost his Kingsley House, a real hotel that would outlast him by several decades.

Even before his lease on the smaller Smith’s Hotel, the former Alexander homestead, was terminated Uncle Lew began his search for a new hotel. His efforts ultimately led him to a location in the town of DeWitt, on the Jamesville plank road near the Rock Cut just over the town of Onondaga border.

. “Strawberry Mansion is the cognomen by which I designate my recent hotel purchase,” said “Lew” Smith to-day, speaking of the place on the Jamesville plank road known as the “haunted house” and situated about two and one-half miles from the city.

“It contains twenty-one acres,” he continued, “and I paid \$30,000 for it, more or less; don’t forget to add less. It is prolific of granite. I propose to organize a stock company with \$100,000 paid up capital, to turn out \$1,000 worth of whet-stones every twenty-four hours for use of barbers. The tonsorial artists in Syracuse, if they kept their razors sharp, would buy enough quantity to give the company one good dividend at least. There is a cave on the place. A jewelry store filled with diamonds does not compare with the display inside of it. I was in it yesterday. But above all and beyond all I have got the “Lovers’ Leap.” In front of the house, from the middle of the road the cliff rises 3,750 feet. A young man who had been refused the association of a deacon’s daughter hundreds of years ago, was sitting with the object of his love on the pinnacle. The couple were entertaining each other, as is usual with young love’s first choice, when a fog rushed by. This startled the happy pair, who supposed it to be the infuriated deacon. The lover seized his inamorata, and together they made the awful plunge. Come out and I can show you to this day the bloody remains where the confiding twain met their fate on the rocks. It is sad to contemplate, but I consider it a drawing card.

“Don’t scare folks to death by telling anything about the place being haunted,” Mr. Smith said to a Herald reporter, “and I will give you a block of the whet-stone stock.”

The Evening Herald, Syracuse, NY, Saturday, May 5, 1883

“Strawberry Mansion, Mr. ‘Lew’ Smith Describes His Recent Purchase on the Jamesville Road.”

The exaggerated height of his 3,750 foot cliffs were in reality only a modest 250 feet in height thus yielding an Uncle Lew exaggeration factor of 15. The larger height is about 70% of the height found in the Grand Canyon. True to his habits of exaggeration and self-promotion, this description was truly worthy of Uncle Lew. The error with the “hundreds of years ago” found in the story of the Lovers’ Leap, should have been obvious to the readers back then since it had not even been 100 years since the first white men had settled in the area. As was usually the case however, none of Uncle Lew’s grand promises ever came to fruition, with the exception that he did run the Strawberry Mansion as a roadhouse for several years before moving back to Syracuse.

## **Lew Smith Newspaper Articles**

### **“Strawberry Mansion”**

“Mr. ‘Lew’ Smith Describes His Recent Purchase on the Jamesville Road.”

*“Strawberry Mansion is the cognomen by which I designate my recent hotel purchase,”* said “Lew” Smith to-day, *speaking of the place on the Jamesville plank road known as the “haunted house” and situated about two and one-half miles from the city.*

“It contains twenty-one acres,” he continued, “and I paid \$30,000 for it, more or less; don’t forget to add less. It is prolific of granite. I propose to organize a stock company with \$100,000 paid up capital, to turn out \$1,000 worth of whet-stones every twenty-four hours for use of barbers. The tonsorial artists in Syracuse, if they kept their razors sharp, would buy enough quantity to give the company one good dividend at least. There is a cave on the place. A jewelry store filled with diamonds does not compare with the display inside of it. I was in it yesterday. But above all and beyond all I have got the “Lovers’ Leap.” In front of the house, from the middle of the road the cliff rises 3,750 feet. A young man who had been refused the association of a deacon’s daughter hundreds of years ago, was sitting with the object of his love on the pinnacle. The couple were entertaining each other, as is usual with young love’s first choice, when a fog rushed by. This startled the happy pair, who supposed it to be the infuriated deacon. The lover seized his inamorata, and together they made the awful plunge. Come out and I can show you to this day the bloody remains where the confiding twain met their fate on the rocks. It is sad to contemplate, but I consider it a drawing card.

“Don’t scare folks to death by telling anything about the place being haunted,” Mr. Smith said to a Herald reporter, “and I will give you a block of the whet-stone stock.”

The Evening Herald, Syracuse, NY, Saturday, May 5, 1883

### **A Dog Fight at Strawberry Mansion**

“Two hundred and fifty men of sporting proclivities made mysterious departures in carriages from the city Saturday night between 9 and 11 o’clock. They all brought up sooner or later at Lew Smith’s “Strawberry Mansion” on the road to Jamesville, a tumble down rookery now used as a roadhouse. It had been noised about with some little (illegible) that a battle was to be fought there between John Carroll’s brindle bull terrier, Brandy, and Jerry alias “Yank” Sullivan’s Pincher, of the same breed. The match was for \$200, and the stakes were held by a well-known sport.

“Admission to the pit in the ball-room on the second floor was by card, sold at one dollar each. The seating capacity of the room was fully tested.

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY  
Wednesday, July 7, 1886

“Lew Smith left his Strawberry Mansion yesterday afternoon long enough to go to a barber shop in the city and demand the application of a lawn mower to his head.”

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, Monday, September 28, 1885

### **“Lew Smith Coming to Town”**

“For three years the road house widely known as the “Strawberry Mansion” has been under the management of that most genial and original of hosts, ‘Lew’ Smith, but after to-day he says he and the Mansion will part company. Mr. Smith intended taking up his residence in the city, and was in town last evening making arrangements for moving at once. Mr. Smith says he is tired of dwelling in the Valley of Death, to which he compares that section of country near the mansion. ‘Besides,’ said he, ‘I like your electric lights, I like your fire plugs, yes, I like to sit on a fire plug and howl like a bear.’ He added in telling his friends about the change, ‘I’ve moved my piano in to-day and to-morrow I’ll make triumphal entrance into the city with my zoological collection, which includes every known animal from a pismire to the great American mastodon’.”

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, Thursday, August 12, 1886

### **“Strawberry Mansion No More”**

“Under Lew Smith’s regime Strawberry Mansion had become famous as a roadhouse, and the most entertaining of hosts has contributed to the Amusement of many a merry party under the gothic saves of the ancient resort on the Jamesville road. Last week Mr. Smith resigned his post, and decided to take up residence in the city once more. On Saturday he moved his household furniture from the Mansion and as if unable to prolong existence without its master, *the old place burned up in the night following his departure*, leaving a mass of smouldering ruins to mark the spot where so many noted events of sporting interest had been consummated. Several weeks before Mr. Smith left the Valley, the Mansion had been rented to Edward Burke, a farmer, who was to have occupied the place as a road house. The building burned down in an unaccountable manner between midnight and sunrise yesterday morning. It was the property of LeGrand Sherwood, who had it insured for \$1,000, about \$800 less than its value. A quantity of Mr. Smith’s furniture, valued at \$600, upon which Blair & Truesdall held a chattel mortgage, was also consumed.”

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, Tuesday, August 17, 1886

### **“Fire on the Jamesville Road”**

“The barn of Jacob Pfohl, near the site of the old ‘Strawberry Mansion’ on the Jamesville road, was burned early Thursday evening.” The building “was totally destroyed.”

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, Saturday, November 20, 1886

### **“Lew” Smith Return to the City**

“The prestige of Mr. ‘Lew’ Smith has gone out with his permanent emigration to Syracuse. When Mr. Smith was the landlord of Strawberry Mansion his tri-weekly or oftener visits to town were events. The boys regarded them as like the start parade of a circus. He came in with flags and (illegible) and usually carried about three whips all decorated. His white beaver hat, his trousers tucked in the tops of his boots, his flaming scarf with its blazing pin and the extraordinary load of jugs and vegetables with which he usually travelled and the former never went back empty attracted attention. Then bets used to be laid as to whether the aged mare, Caroline, and the equally aged vehicle, an heirloom from George Washington according to Mr. Smith, would last till they got home. Strawberry Mansion, itself, became a place of wonder,

grandeur and mystery to the town people. Few knew exactly where the Mansion was. But Mr. Smith was such a firm believer in its underground river, its tunnel to Green lake, its game preserves and its cellar of rare wines, that he persuaded many that these things really were. But now that Mr. Smith is one of us and makes no more triumphal entries into town or exuberant departures for Strawberry Mansion, he seems no more extraordinary and unusual than any other man who has a cocktail before breakfast a healthful and genial habit.

The Sunday Herald, Syracuse, NY, Sunday, September 9, 1888

### **“Once More on Deck”**

“D. Lewis Smith will open his saloon, 208 Fayette street, known as Strong’s saloon, Soups and lunches at all hours. Everything in order.”

The Daily Courier, Syracuse, NY, Friday, December 27, 1889

### **“Imogene’s Return”**

1894-12-23 - “On the right hand side, going south, is the Merrick brick yard and beyond this is the road house which has been built over the blackened ruins of the once ill-famed “Strawberry mansion.”

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, Sunday, December 23, 1894

### **“Imogene’s Return”**

Start then, at this point. Drive slowly up the sandy hill where so many bicyclers came to grief in the "ordinary" days. From the top of this hill the opening of the tortuous valley can be seen. The road runs straight away from here for nearly a mile, passing the cluster of tall pine trees where the crows recently, feasted on the dead body of an unknown man, and crossing the railroad tracks for the second time, at the point where the dreadful smash up occurred some four year ago. From now on the road winds and bends between beetling cliffs. On the right hand side, going south, is the Merrick brick yard and beyond this is the road house which has been built over the blackened ruins of the once ill-famed “Strawberry mansion.” The road clings closely to the palisades which tower a hundred feet or more on the west side of the valley, and the bed of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western has been cut nearly as closely to the high cliffs on the east. The valley between is about a quarter of a mile wide and is for the most part filled with underbrush where small boys hunt for the occasional partridge that finds its way there. Not much of the land is arable. Potatoes can be raised and that seems to be about it.”

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, Sunday, December 23, 1894

### **“Joy Into Mourning”**

1894-12-26 - “The stabbing affray occurred in the road in front of the place on the Jamesville road, formerly known as Lew Smith’s ‘Strawberry mansion’.”

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, Wednesday, December 26, 1894

### **“Uncle Sam After Him”**

“Deputy United States Marshall James Shielding of this city went to Jamesville yesterday and arrested the proprietor of the ‘Strawberry Mansion,’ a saloon on the Jamesville road, on a charge of selling liquor without a government license.”

The Syracuse Courier, Syracuse, NY, Wednesday, April 22, 1896

### **“Strawberry Mansion Sold”**

“The State Buys Piece of Property at Forced Sale”

“Loan Commissioner George C. Nichols yesterday sold two pieces of property in default of the payment of interest on money loaned by the state. The first property put up was the old Strawberry mansion place of fifty-eight acres on which Jacob L. Sherwood borrowed \$1,700 in 1873 (1893?). The overdue interest amounted to \$140, and the costs to \$771.88. The state bid the property in for \$505. Anson Alvord at one time bought a strip of the property for \$300, and ran a railroad across it to an adjoining quarry. That train was yesterday sold along with the remaining property and will probably result in an action at law to win a clear title.”

. The Syracuse Courier, Syracuse, NY, Wednesday, September 16, 1896

## **D. Lewis Smith**

### **Death of This Long Time Resident of Syracuse**

“D. Lewis Smith died Thursday morning at the house, No. 609 Warren street, of a complication of diseases.

“D. Lewis Smith was sixty-seven years old and has spent nearly all his life in this city. A little before the beginning of the war he took the management of the eating house in the old New York Central passenger station which stood in Vanderbilt square. He remained there until later in the sixties, and it is said that he collected in that business a considerable property, so that when, about 1870, he bought the Messina Springs [East Syracuse] property and moved there he was reputed to be worth \$50,000. At Messina Springs he conducted a small hotel for four or five years and then sold out at a financial loss. Then Mr. Smith went to Canada and ran a hotel there for a couple of years, but that was not found to be a very paying venture and, on selling out the Canadian property, he returned to Syracuse, where he bought the Kingsley House. For three or four years he conducted that hotel and then sold again and bought the hotel and open sheds [See Note 1] at the corner of Montgomery and East Fayette streets where St. Paul’s cathedral now stands. He occupied that till the structures were torn down [See Note 2] to make room for the church, for which purpose the property had been bought. For a time Mr. Smith was out of the business [See Note 3] till he got possession of a small house on the Jamesville road, sometimes called the ‘Haunted house.’ And which he fitted up for a ‘road house’ and called the ‘Strawberry Mansion.’ He was there perhaps a couple of years when the ‘Strawberry Mansion’ was burned down [See Note 4] and its proprietor was again out of occupation. He was out of funds, too, and, with his available effects - a broken down old horse and two or three dogs - he became a familiar figure on the streets of this city. He had been often seen there before, but at this time he seemed to spend most of his time airing his pets, the old horse and his dogs. The horse was attached to a rickety apology for a buggy and the dogs generally rode with their master, who wore the high white fur hat which for years had been as well known around town as ‘Lew’ Smith himself. After a time a friend presented him with \$150, with which he started a saloon business in the place in East Fayette street formerly conducted by Ralph Strong. It took him only a few months to fail again, and that was the last attempt of ‘Lew’ Smith to figure in any way in a business capacity. For some time he had not been in good health, though he was frequently seen on the street, up to the last weeks of November, when he became confined to his bed with a complication of difficulties from which he never rallied.”



“ ‘Lew’ Smith - everybody called him ‘Lew’ - was perhaps one of the best known and oldest characters in Syracuse. The young men of the city cannot remember the time when they did not hear of his eccentricities: for nobody will deny the fact that he was eccentric. He was pre-eminently noted for that trait in his character and he constantly merited it by doing just what he was not expected to do and what nobody else would have thought of doing. If a stranger had told that he had just met a man on the street wearing a very high hat which was made a shaggy monstrosity by being covered all over with a thick, shaggy light-colored fur, an overcoat hanging open with the collar turned up behind, calfskin boots with tops reaching above the knee, and a cane struck into the top of one of his boots so that it swung like an inverted pendulum when he walked, any man about town would have said ‘that was ‘Lew’ Smith.’ He wouldn’t say so because he had ever seen Mr. Smith look just like that: perhaps when he had seen ‘Lew’ his cane was sticking into his oversize coat side pocket and hanging down behind; or perhaps he had seen him out last wearing a shiny black tile hat as he was the case once in a great while; or perhaps ‘Lew’s’ last appearance had been driving in from ‘Strawberry Mansion’ in a tumble down old hack with one boney old horse hitched by the pole, without any mate on the other whiffle tree; or perhaps he was last remembered in the act of telling stories of the pig which was his favorite pet at ‘Strawberry Mansion.’ In any event he was the only ‘Lew’ Smith and could not be mistaken.”

The Syracuse Weekly Express, Syracuse, NY, Thursday, December 31, 1891

Note 1: These properties were leased from the descendants of William H. Alexander, Jr. His father, William H. Alexander, Sr., had purchased Lot #5 (closest to the corner) in 1831 and Lot #4 (adjacent on west side of Lot #5) in 1848. After the Vestry of St. Paul’s Church bought these lots in the spring of 1883 they terminated Smith’s lease with a two month notice and a payment of \$500.

Note 2: In early May Lew Smith announced that he had bought a property on the Jamesville plank Road, near the Rock Cut at Jamesville and planned on running as a roadhouse which he called the Strawberry Mansion. The structures were not torn down. German C. Potter moved the hotel/tavern to the southeast corner of Almond and Cedar Streets. James L. Hill moved the associated livery stables to the same corner in support of Potter’s hotel which was renamed the Pompey House.

Note 3: Lew Smith got possession of his “Strawberry Mansion” property a month before his old tavern was removed from the East Fayette and Montgomery site.

Note 4: Lew Smith moved back into Syracuse in mid-August 1886, before the Strawberry Mansion burned down. It happened the night after he moved out.

### **“Strawberry Mansion No More”**

“Under Lew Smith’s regime Strawberry Mansion had become famous as a roadhouse, and the most entertaining of hosts has contributed to the Amusement of many a merry party under the gothic saves of the ancient resort on the Jamesville road. Last week Mr. Smith resigned his post , and decided to take up residence in the city once more. On Saturday he moved his household furniture from the Mansion and as if unable to prolong existence without its master,

*the old place burned up in the night following his departure*, leaving a mass of smouldering ruins to mark the spot where so many noted events of sporting interest had been consummated. Several weeks before Mr. Smith left the Valley, the Mansion had been rented to Edward Burke, a farmer, who was to have occupied the place as a road house. The building burned down in an unaccountable manner between midnight and sunrise yesterday morning. It was the property of LeGrand Sherwood, who had it insured for \$1,000, about \$800 less than its value. A quantity of Mr. Smith's furniture, valued at \$600, upon which Blair & Truesdall held a chattel mortgage, was also consumed."

The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, Tuesday, August 17, 1886

### **Death of Lew Smith**

A Well-Known Resident of Syracuse Passes Away.

The Old Hotel-Keeper Dies from a Stroke of Paralysis - Features in the Life of an Active and Original Character

"'Lew' Smith is dead. For several years he had suffered from Bright's disease, which brought on paralysis six weeks ago, and at 6:45 o'clock this morning he died. During the month and a half that he was confined to bed he was patient and cheerful, and death came to him easily. Thus passes away one of the characters of the town. Mr. Smith was well-known. When in health he was usually to be seen around the Vanderbilt house. He wore an old-fashioned white beaver hat, with the nap brushed the wrong way, and carefully pleated; high top boots with his trousers tucked inside of them, and a large diamond pin. He smoked a corn-cob pipe and generally carried a cane or a whip. The oddity of his dress invariably attracted attention on the street, and when persons sought his acquaintance they found that he had in store no end of stories and anecdotes.

"Daniel Louis Smith was born in Morristown [Morrisville, Madison Co., NY], June 12, 1822, and was therefore nearly 70 years of age at the time of his death. His father was John Smith, a cattle dealer. In his younger days 'Lew' herded cattle. The family moved to Fayetteville where Mr. Smith, jr., opened a hotel, and later he engaged in the same business at Oswego. Then they came to Syracuse, and John Smith opened the Onondaga hotel on North Salina-st. This was during the administration of Tippecanoe Harrison. 'Lew' was then 16 years old. The old man died in that hotel in 1841, and his wife died in this city four years ago.

"John Smith had seventeen children, seven by his first wife and ten by his second. John Smith, a great maister [See Note] of Cleveland, O., and Mrs. Downer of Erie, Pa., are the only children by the first wife now alive. 'Lew' was the oldest by the second wife. She had nine sons and one daughter. Dr. A. T. Smith of Oswego, Col. Andrew J. Smith of Leavenworth, Kansas, and Mrs. J. M. Jacobs of Oswego, are the only children by the second wife alive to-day. They have for years held family reunions.

"'Lew's' educational adventures were few. He attended common schools at intervals while his father was alive, but after the latter's demise he had to hustle for his living. On December 26, 1841, he married Miss Nancy M. Kelley, daughter of Charles Kelley, a mason and contractor of this city. They would have celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding next Saturday. Mrs. Smith's father moved to this city in 1835.

“Mr. Smith was in the great gunpowder explosion in this city fifty years ago last summer. He had a number of horses in a barn on the bank of the Oswego canal, adjoining the carpenter shop wherein the powder was stored. Hurrying to get his stock out he was just in time to be hurled into the canal. He was fished out more dead than alive. One of his eyes was injured on that occasion and he never wholly regained its sight.

“His older brother, John Smith, now of Cleveland, ran the Onondaga house after the death of the elder Smith.

“‘Lew’s’ first business venture was in opening up an eating house opposite the Globe hotel. This was before the days of the railroad.

“In 1849 he opened a hotel at Brighton, which he ran about a year. In that year his two brothers and Mrs. Smith’s two brothers went to California, being attracted thither by the gold excitement.

“He then conducted the California house, afterwards known as the St. Charles hotel and Remington house. The building is now known as the University block. In those days it only had two stories.

“At the time the Great Western road was built Mr. Smith was made general ticket agent, and he continued in that capacity several years, until the great Western and Lake Shore roads were consolidated. Then he opened a large eating house in the Central station, then standing in Vanderbilt square. This he ran for fourteen years and all through the war. At the same time he conducted a hotel in Messina Springs.

“In 1867 he sold out and went to Bothwell Canada, where there was great excitement over oil. He opened a hotel there and wrote to his wife:-

“‘Come and bring the children. These people are digging for money, and I am grinding it out of them.’

“With the last Fenian raid Mr. Smith left there and came back here to buy the Kingsley’s house on Fayette-st. This place he conducted for five years.

“In 1876 Mr. Smith went to Philadelphia. Mrs. Smith said to-day that her husband was worth \$80,000 when he landed in that city. He believed that he could coin money by running a restaurant and lodging house there during the Centennial. He remained there nearly two years, and during that time lost thousands of dollars. Coming back to Syracuse he opened up sort of a roadhouse at Rock Cut on the Jamesville road. It was known as “The Strawberry Mansion” and soon became famous. Among the attractions that ‘Lew’ offered there was a pig that would drink beer and get drunk, a subterranean passage under a hill, lovers’ leap with a legend about it, and a haunted house. One night this place was burned to the ground. That was about five years ago, and since that time ‘Lew’ was not engaged in any business.

“Mr. Smith leaves three children, Mrs. Louis R. Gale of Delphi, Albert D. Smith of Syracuse, a traveling salesman for the Brunswick-Balke Billiard Table company, and Mrs. Josephine L. Lefler of Syracuse. His widow also survives him. The date of the funeral has not yet been announced.”

The Syracuse Daily Journal, Syracuse, NY, Thursday, December 24, 1891

**Note:** magister (Latin) → maistre (French) → maister (Middle English) = master, lord, or ruler.

## Strawberry Mansion Timeline

Date	Event
1875 -06-15	Lew Smith's Hotel entirely built over, refurnished and re-fitted. It will now be known as the Kingsley House. J. H. Goodell will be the proprietor.
1876	Tried operating a hotel in Philadelphia. Lew thought that the US Centennial would bring in an increase in business. It didn't.
1878-9	Sold Kinsley House and purchased (leased) the old Alexander homestead at southwest corner of East Fayette and Montgomery Streets and operated it as a hotel.
1883-05-05	Lew Smith describes his newly acquired roadhouse on the Rock Cut Road outside of Jamesville, which he was naming " <u>Strawberry Mansion.</u> "
1885-09-28	Dog fight held at Strawberry Mansion.
1886-08-12	Lew Smith leaves Strawberry Mansion.
1886-08-15	Strawberry Mansion burned down in the night following Lew Smith departure.
1889-12-27	Lew Smith to open a saloon at 208 Fayette Street. The name: Strong's saloon. "After a time a friend presented him with \$150, with which he started a saloon business in the place in East Fayette street formerly conducted by Ralph Strong. It took him only a few months to fail again, and that was the last attempt of 'Lew' Smith to figure in any way in a business capacity." (Syracuse Weekly Express - Dec 31, 1891)
1891-12-24	Lew Smith died, Aged 69 years, 6 months.
1894-12-23	On the right hand side, going south, is the Merrick brick yard and <u>beyond this is the road house which has been built over the blackened ruins of the once ill-famed "Strawberry mansion."</u> [Someone has rebuilt a road house on the Strawberry Mansion site.]
1896-04-22	Strawberry Mansion proprietor, James Shield arrested for selling liquor without a license.
1896-09-16	The State purchase the Strawberry Mansion property after Jacob L. Sherwood forfeited on his loan.

## The Original Strawberry Mansion

During his time in Philadelphia Lew Smith probably heard of and possibly even visited the original Strawberry Mansion. After his return to Syracuse he was running a small hotel on the southwest corner of East Fayette and Montgomery Streets. When the land was purchased in 1883 for the construction of the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Paul's Church, Smith's lease was ended and he searched for a new place. He found a place on the Jamesville Road in May 1883 and it named it the Strawberry Mansion.



### Strawberry Mansion in 2014

Location Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Built c.1783–1789

Architectural style(s) Federal with Greek Revival wings

Philadelphia Register of Historic Places

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historic\\_Strawberry\\_Mansion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historic_Strawberry_Mansion)

“Historic Strawberry Mansion is a summer home originally named Summerville by Judge William Lewis who had it built sometime between 1783 and 1789. It is located in East Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States.

“During the period from 1846 to 1867, when farmers renting the mansion served strawberries and cream to the public, Strawberry Mansion received its current name. The house was restored between 1927 and 1931 by a nonprofit called The Committee of 1926 for use as a historic house museum and place of hospitality.”

## Smith Family Facts

### Col. A. J. Smith Is Dead

He Served With Honor Through The War

A Brother of “Lew” Smith - He Left This City Twenty Years Ago - Was Surveyor General of Montana For a Time

“Col. Andrew J. Smith died suddenly yesterday at Cucharas, Col.” He was about 65 years old. His wife, Kate R. Mickles lived in New York for health reason. She was the daughter of Philo D. Mickles. Andrew leaves one daughter, Miss Maude Smith. His brothers: D. Lewis Smith of the Strawberry Mansion, Schuyler Smith, and Dr. Charles Smith of Oswego.

“Colonel Smith, was born in this city about sixty-five years ago, being a son of John Smith, who lived where the Onondaga House in North Salina street now stands.”

He will be buried in Oakwood where two of his daughters are buried.

The Evening Herald, Syracuse, NY, Tuesday, April 28, 1903

Earliest record of Onondaga House on North Salina at Willow was August 25, 1841

May 9, 1910 - The old Onondaga House (Hotel Onondaga) at North Salina and West Willow Streets has changed its name to "Hotel Gafney" to avoid confusion with the new Onondaga on S. Warren Street.

## **Your Uncle Lew, a natural-born American, a novel**

by [Sherlock, Charles Reginald, 1857-](#)

<https://archive.org/details/yourunclelewnatu00sheriala>.

<https://ia802608.us.archive.org/24/items/yourunclelewnatu00sheriala/yourunclelewnatu00sheriala.pdf>

A review of "Your Uncle Lew" from the Albany Law Journal, A Monthly Record of the Law and The Lawyers, Volume 63, From January, 1901, to January, 1902, p. 202

By The Albany Law Journal Company

### *Your Uncle Lew A Natural Born American A Novel*

By Charles R Sherlock

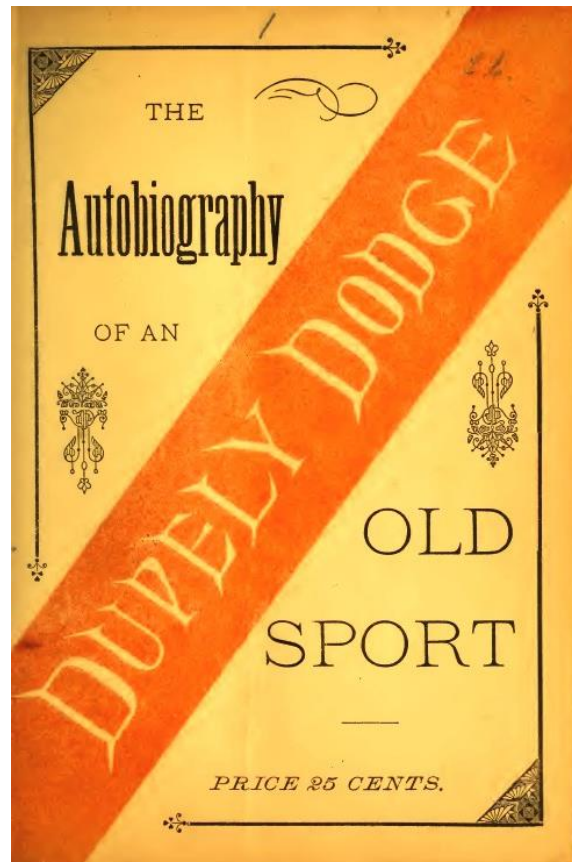
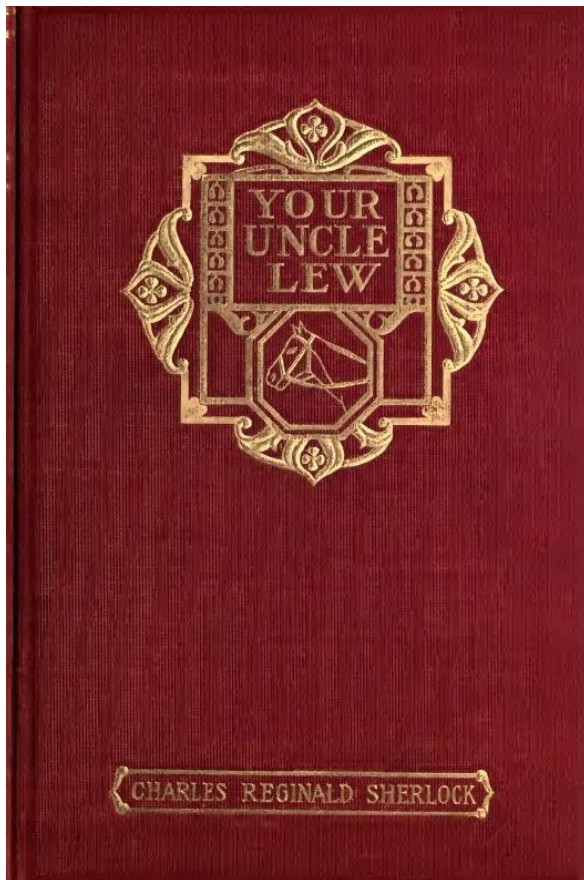
Frederick A Stokes Company New York

"Your Uncle Lew" - by the way, a very "catchy" title is the author's first essay in the realm of fiction. In his preface, Mr. Sherlock tells us that it is an amplification of a story printed in paper covers as far back as 1885, entitled "The Autobiography of an Old Sport," which was Mr. Sherlock's contribution to the very worthy project of soothing the "Old Sport's" last days on earth, and when he died decently burying him. Lewis Dunbar, who is "Your Uncle Lew" is drawn from life. Salina (only another name for Syracuse), is the scene of most of the story. Dunbar keeps a restaurant at the old depot. Peculiar, witty, shrewd, not over scrupulous as to means toward an end, but withal, possessing sterling traits of character that make him decidedly popular, he is, of course, a money-maker, rough, lacking polish of speech and manner and not "long" on religion, but filled to overflowing and dominated by a love for his only daughter. Grace, that adds a touch of native beauty to the uncouthness of the man. The book being in reality a character sketch, the author has not seen fit to detract from the central figure by attempting to construct an involved plot or to fill the story with thrilling and impossible incidents, as so many of our latter day novelists are doing, with more or less success. At the same time, Mr. Sherlock has put the story together with the skill of the true artist. Nothing is strained or unnatural. About Lew, his horse deals, his eating house, his imperturbable good nature, his homely philosophy, his views of religion, and his expose of the great Cardiff Giant hoax of 1869-70, which deceived the very elect of the scientists of that day, the reader will find an inexpressible charm.

Dunbar confided his discoveries to only one person - a young artist, who was on the scene in the interest of a New York illustrated paper, - for whom Lew conceived a strong liking and who, in a later chapter of "Your Uncle Lew," becomes the husband of Dunbar's charming daughter. It is a pretty, though not over-intense love story that the author weaves into the volume. Mr. Sherlock will be remembered by many Albanians as



a journalist who worked in other days with the lamented Harold Frederick on the Albany Journal, later filled the post of managing editor of the Syracuse Standard until that paper was absorbed by a more powerful or more fortunate rival, and is now connected with the news-gathering and disseminating agency of which the New York Sun is the head. His journalistic experience has been wide and varied, and as he combines unusual powers of observation with marked facility of expression and a lively sense of humor, it is not strange that he has produced a book at his first attempt which is worthy to rank with "David Harum" and "Eben Holden." While it may not reach the phenomenal sales of these remarkable novels, "Your Uncle Lew" gives every promise of long and wide popularity, for it touches human nature very closely on many sides. Good as it is, we have no hesitation in predicting that "Your Uncle Lew" will be followed by something far better from Mr. Sherlock's busy pen.



## **The Autobiography of an Old Sport: Fifty years at the Card Table**

by Harry P. Dodge

<https://ia800307.us.archive.org/5/items/fiftyyearsatcard00dodg/fiftyyearsatcard00dodg.pdf>

The record of a career famous for adventure and vicissitude, and in which the jester won more tricks than the gamester.

Preface

Chapter I: Birth And Early Peregrinations

Chapter II: Becoming A Patron Of The Pasteboards

Chapter III: Early Times On The Mississippi

Chapter IV: Getting A Sobriquet And Meeting Great Men

Chapter V: The Turnpikes, The Packets And The Inns

Chapter VI: Initiated In The Sons Of Malta

Chapter VII: From The Green Mountains To Pike's Peak

Chapter VIII: With The Bold Soldier Boys

Chapter IX: The Fraternity Of Gamesters

Chapter X: To Point A Moral And Adorn A Tale

## Daniel Lewis Smith and Nancy Ann Kelley

(s/o John Smith and Sarah Wilson)

(d/o Charles Kelley and Mother)

### Daniel Lewis Smith

b. Jun 12, 1822, Morrisville,  
Madison Co, NY  
d. Dec 23, 1891, Syracuse,  
Onondaga Co, NY  
bur Oakwood Cem,  
Syracuse, NY

=

### Nancy Ann Kelley

b. Aug 24, 1824  
d. 1901  
bur Oakwood Cem,  
Syracuse, NY

### Francis E. Smith

b. Oct 5, 1842, Syracuse, Onondaga  
Co, NY  
d. Jan 2, 1846, Syracuse, NY  
bur Oakwood Cem, Syracuse, NY

Never married

### Hellen L. Smith

b. 1844, NY

= Louis R. Gale

### Infant Female Smith

b. May 14, 1846, Syracuse, NY  
d. May 18, 1846, Syracuse, NY  
bur Oakwood Cem, Syracuse, NY

Never married

Albert D. Smith?

### Albert L. Smith

b. 1850, NY

### Josephine Smith

b. 1852, NY

= FNU L. Lefler