

## The Stack Houses in Syracuse

Revised: November 13, 2013



The earliest appearance for Edward Stack in the city of Syracuse appears to be 1883. This fact was inferred from an 1884 newspaper article about the arrival of Edward's wife and four children at Castle Garden in New York City.<sup>1</sup> Margaret Stack and her four children: Richard, William, Edward and Mary arrived on August 4, 1884 on board the "City of Rome." The reason for the newsworthiness of their arrival was the fact that the whole family almost got sent back to Ireland. Margaret arrived with her four children but with no money she was declared a pauper. The fate of paupers was to return them to their point of origin. The company refused to do that and Edward made his way to New York City and successfully rescued his family. In the article Edward was said to board at 52 Madison Street and so the search begins there.

Following Edward first, then Margaret and then Bernard Stack

No.	Address	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Description
1	52 Madison St.	1884	1886	In April 1884 when Edward returned from Ireland he rented a room on Madison St. He was working as a stonemason on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> St Paul's Church at the southwest corner of E. Fayette St. and Montgomery St.
2	145-1/2 Adams St.	1887		Bernard L. Stack born May 5, 1887
3	727 East Adams St	1892		Residence where Edward Stack died in May, 1892 This address is located across the street (north side) from the present day Upstate Medical Center.
4	723 East Adams St.	1895		1894-1895 Syracuse City Directory
5	1202 Orange St	1900	9/1904	1900 census
6	417 Jackson St.	1904-5	1906	Residence where Edward F. Stack died on April 29, 1906. 1906 Syracuse City directory
7	906 Irving Ave.	1908	1909	1908 Syracuse City Directory
8	137 Lincoln Ave.	1910	6/1911	1910 census; Bernard Stack on eligible list for the Fire Dept. By 10/1912 The Sweet family at 137 Lincoln.
9	512 Rich St	1914	1927	Place of death of Margaret Stack on Dec 3, 1914. Latest newspaper date - Nov 27, 1927. This house is still standing.
10	212 Slocum Avenue	1930	1932	1980 Interview with Jean Stack McGraw and 1930 census
11	117 East Colvin St	1934	1951	1940 census –Now a parking lot for public library

An empty cell in the "Latest Date" column means there was no second record at that address.

#### **William Stack, brother of Bernard**

Same as above, through 906 Irving Ave. in 1908.

215 Putnam St                      1910 census Also Patrick & Jane Finn, Daniel Crowley and Ed Finn

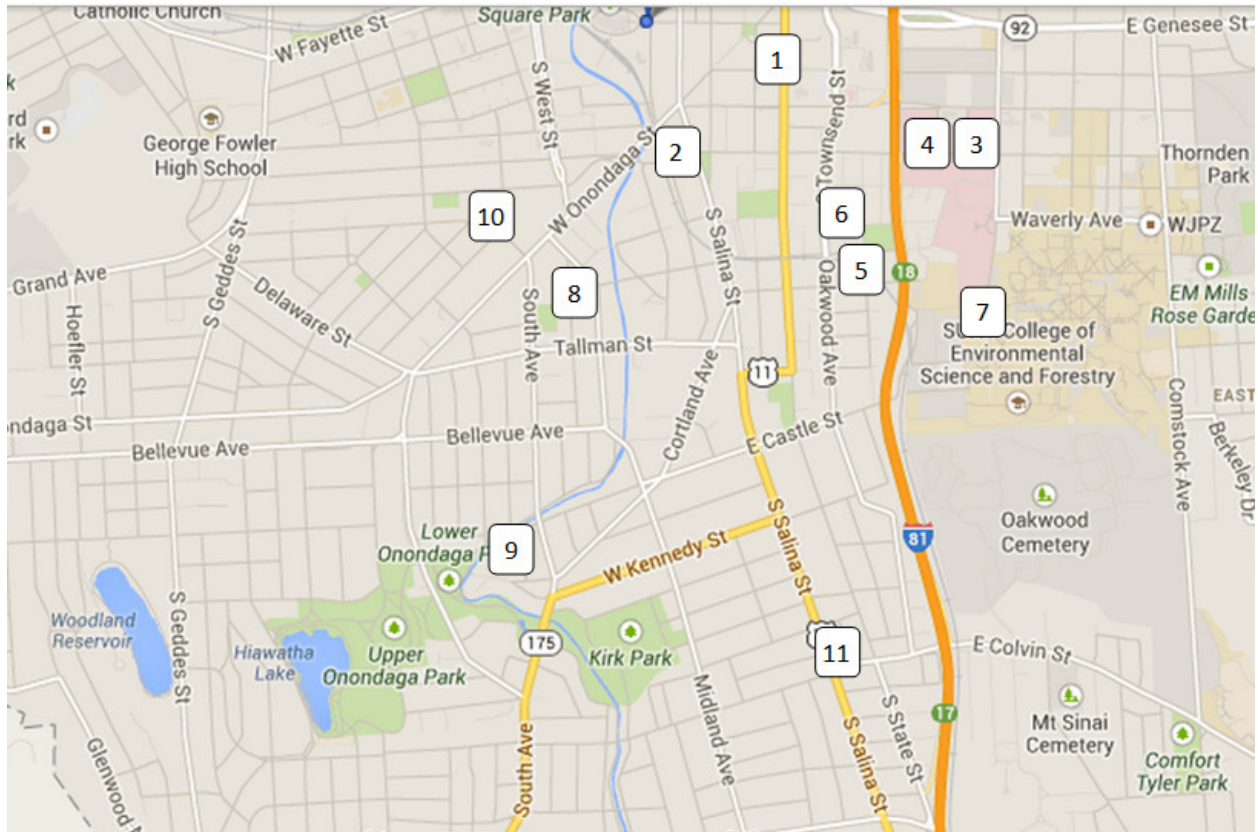
340 South Avenue                Mother's obit Dec 1914

340 South Avenue                William's obit July 20, 1915. Funeral at Bernard Stack's house of 512 Rich St.

#### **Theresa Stack Saunders, sister of Bernard**

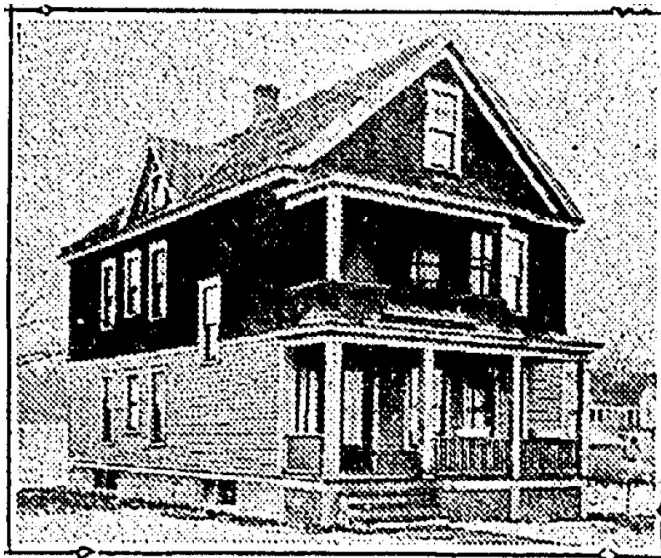
Same as Bernard above, through 137 Lincoln Ave. in 1910.

400 Roberts Ave.                Theresa died here on November 25, 1914



This map of the southeastern portion of Syracuse shows all the Stack residences described in the above table. Only the residence at 512 Rich Street (#9 below) has been determined to be still standing today.

The Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, Sunday, January 10, 1920



Several new residence locations were found during the writing of this paper. Every one of those residences was a rental and therefore the family could have moved every year or perhaps more often. There could be more residences that have yet to be found. However, it is doubtful there are any more after the Rich St. residence. Conversations with family members who were around at that time have mentioned no other residences in that time period.

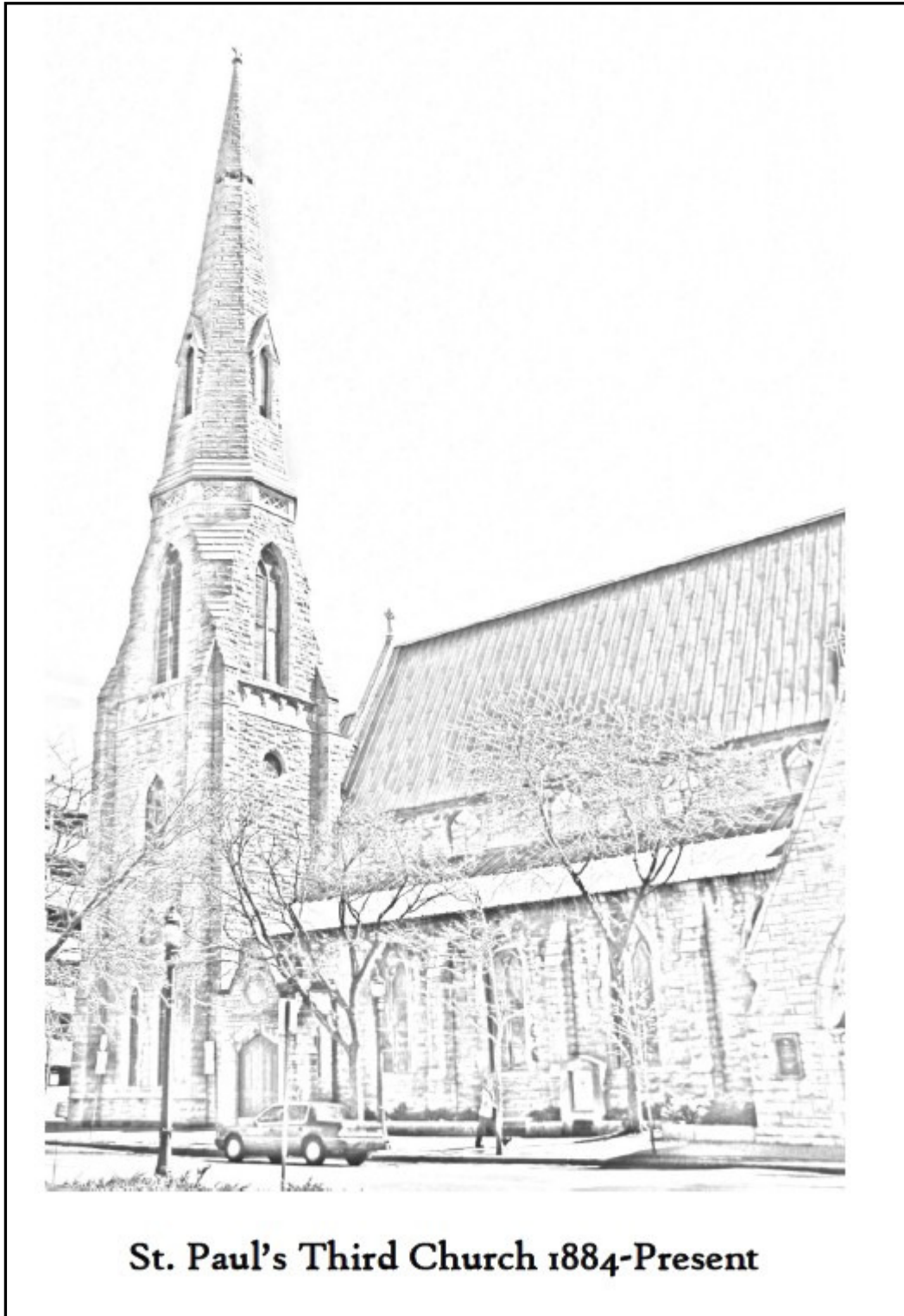
## 52 Madison St. (#1)

The exact location of 52 Madison was difficult to find because it was close to downtown Syracuse and was the scene of much construction over the years. A real estate ad from 1865 allowed a determination to be made that #52 was located about four doors west of the southwest corner of Madison and Mulberry (now S. State St.). In a shorter article about the arrival of the Stack family there are more details.<sup>2</sup> Edward Stack claimed that his family had been visiting aboard and he “supposed” she had enough money. This may not be the whole story. Edward Stack himself had just returned from Ireland around the end of April (1884), about three months earlier. Stack had been working in the US and then returned to Ireland. At that time men came to America in search of work and left their families behind. They usually sent money home and if there was an off season as in the construction trades, such as stonemasonry, the men would return to their native country during that season. After they were able save up some money they would send for their family. It doesn’t appear that the Stack family had been visiting, it sounds more like Edward had sent for them and they ran out of money.

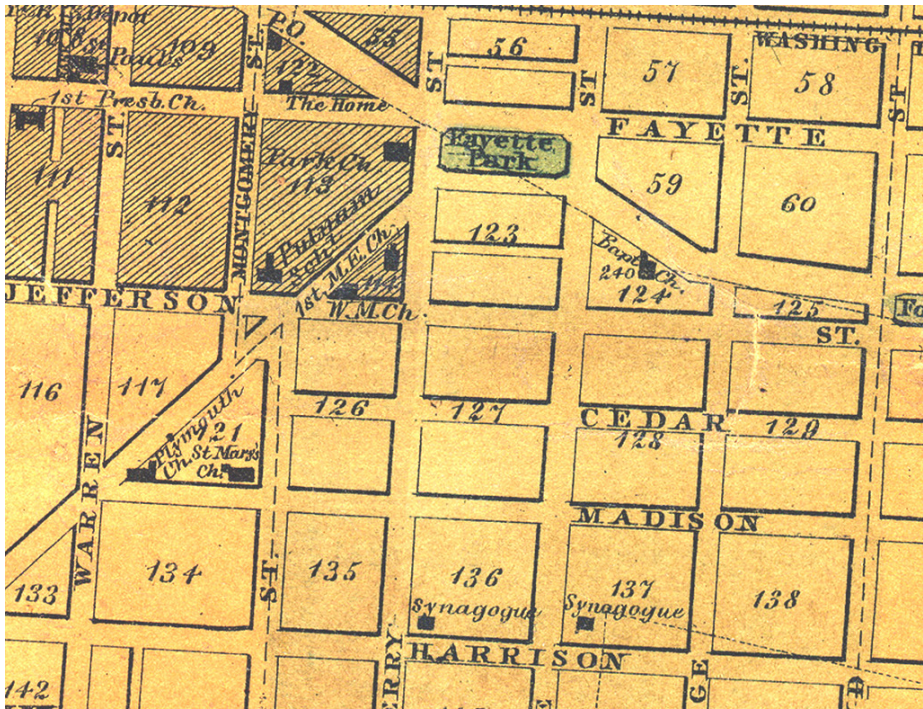
Initially the Stacks probably stayed at 52 Madison, even though it might have just been a small lodging, since Edward wouldn’t have rented a larger space just for himself. He would have given up his prior rental when he returned to Ireland after the 1883 season and newly rented 52 Madison upon his return in April 1884. They couldn’t have stayed there too long because in 1886 the City of Syracuse purchased this corner of Madison and Mulberry for the new Putnam School.<sup>3</sup> Construction of the school was completed in 1888. As a stonemason Edward might have worked on the construction of the school.

Theresa Mary Stack was born on Dec 27, 1885, the address of the family at the time of Theresa’s birth is not known with certainty. Since the city had purchased the property for the construction of the new Putnam School the Stack family would have needed to leave the property some time in 1886. Bernard L. Stack was born on May 5, 1887 at 145-1/2 Adams St. There probably isn’t room for another residence between the Madison residence and the one at 145-1/2 Adams St.

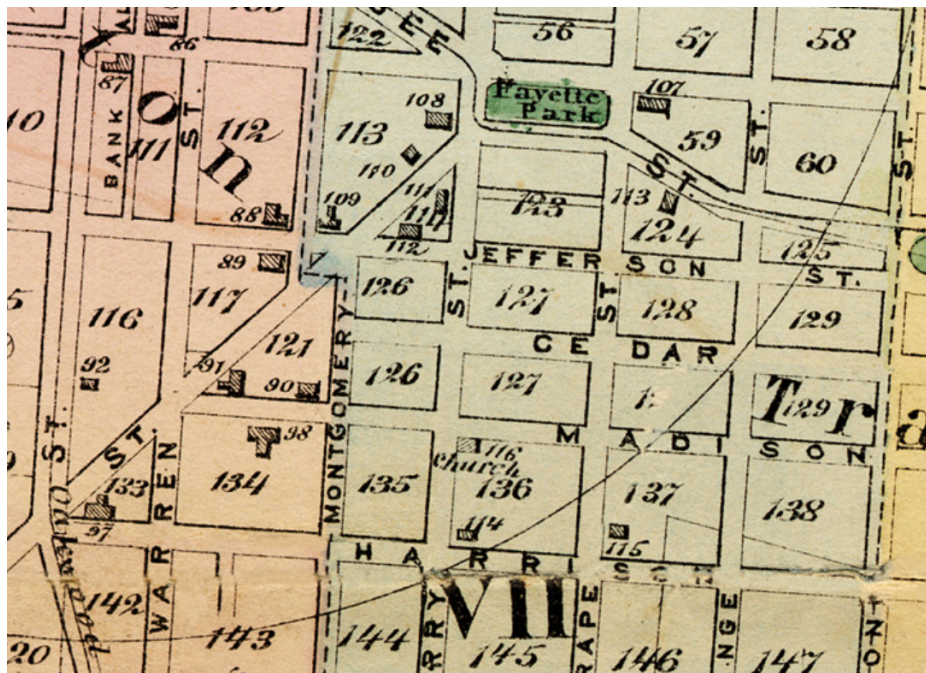




Source: A Brief Architectural History of St. Paul's Cathedral, Compiled by J. Brad Benson, 1990

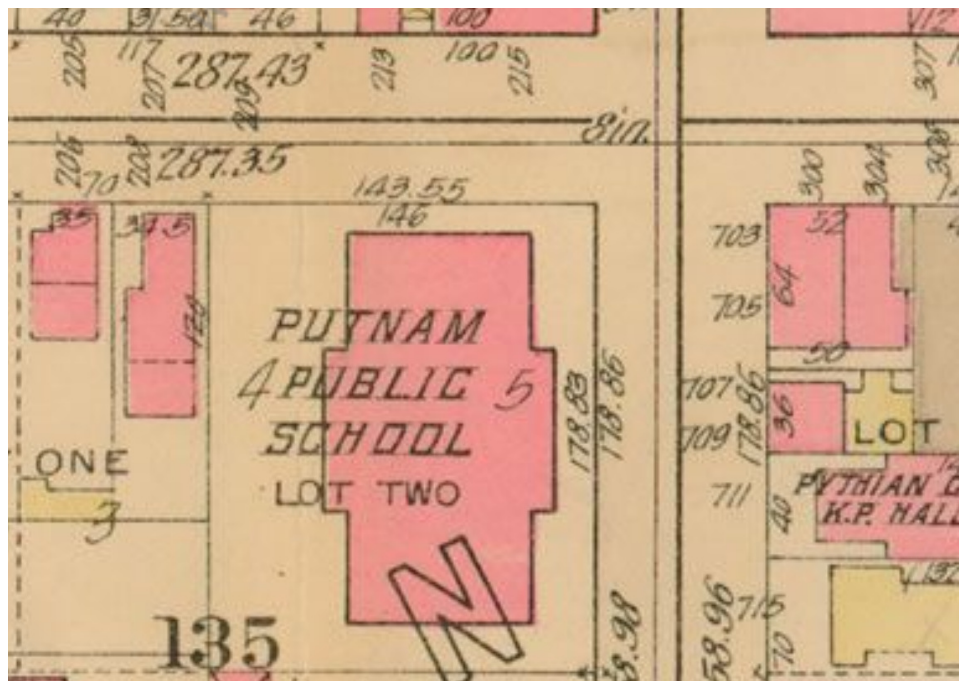


The top map is from an 1860 atlas and the bottom from an 1874 atlas. They both cover approximately the same area. The upper right hand corner of City Block 135 was the location of Edward Stack's lodgings at 52 Madison Street. Montgomery St. is running north-south, west of Block 135. On the east side of Block 135 was Mulberry St. which is now S. State St. On the southern tip of Block 113 is the old Putnam School. In the 1970s it was the site of the Carnegie Library.

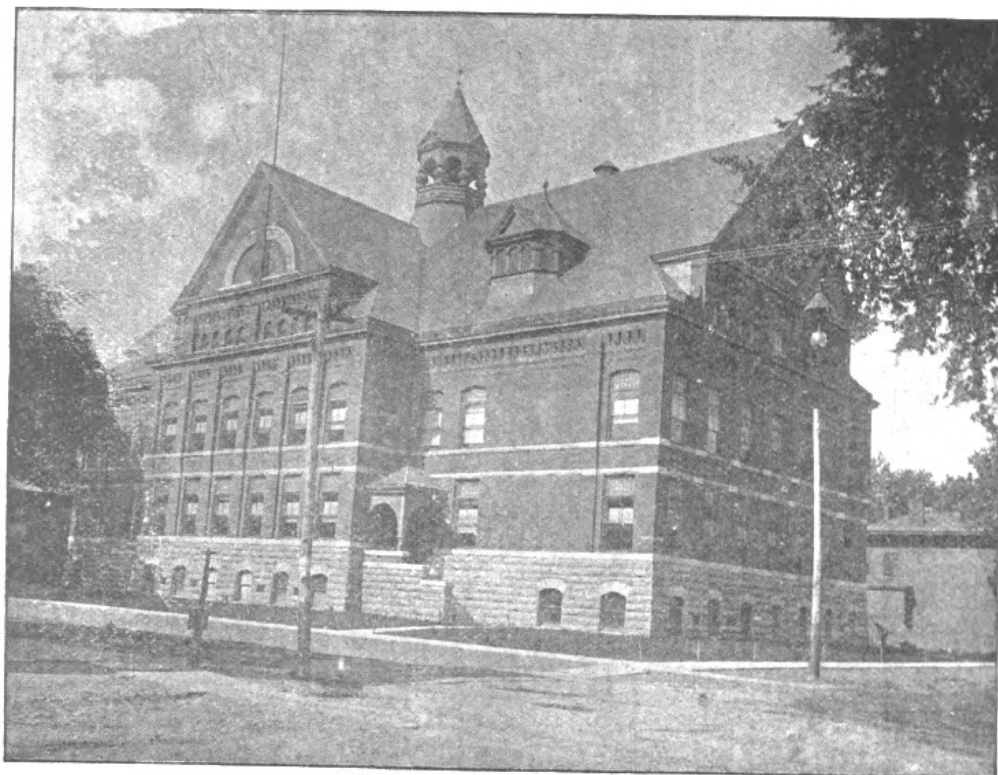


Block 135 hasn't undergone any changes that are visible at this level of detail in this 1874 map. The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, built in 1874, is located where Jefferson and Montgomery cross on Block 117. The site of the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Paul's Church where Edward Stack was working in 1884 would be built on the upper right hand corner of Block 112, at E. Fayette and Montgomery.

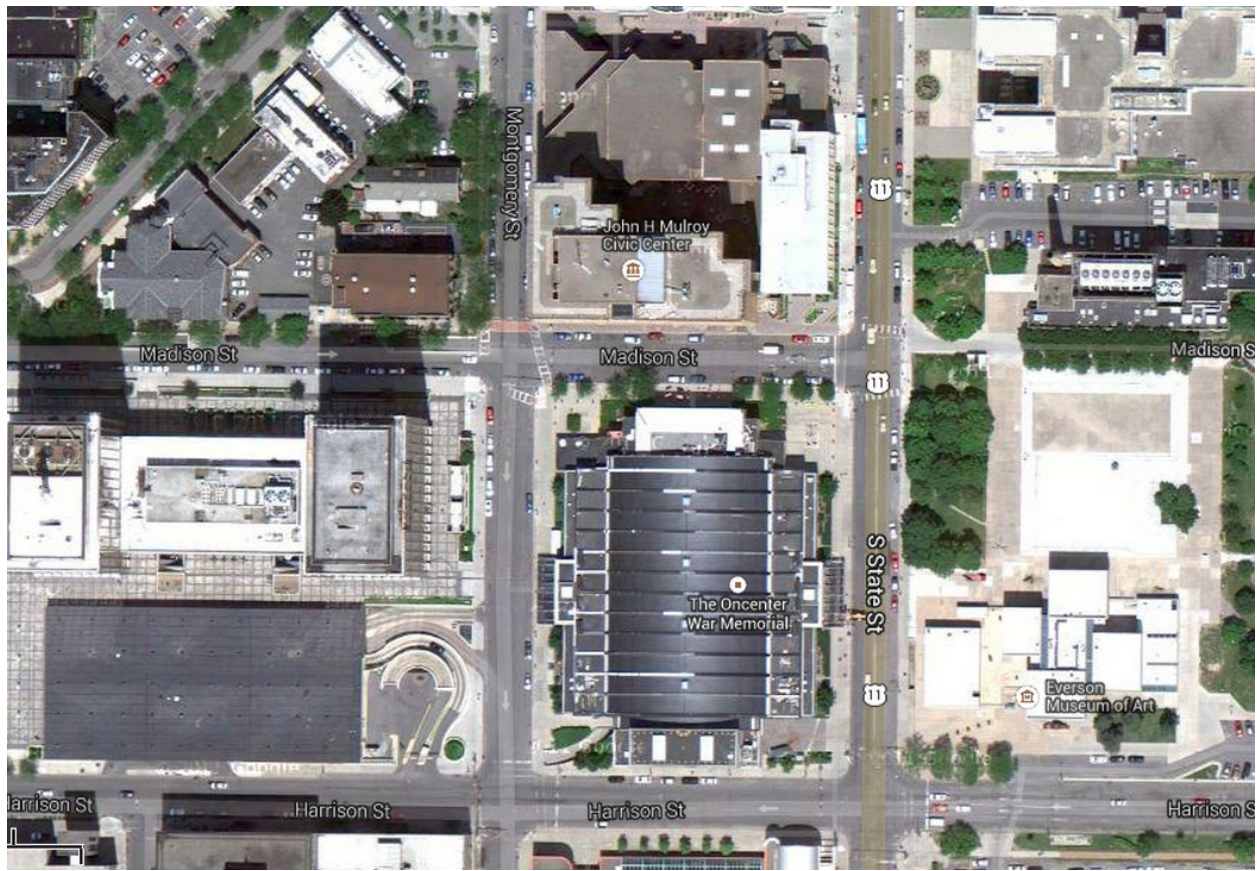




1924 Map showing the location of the Putnam Public School<sup>4</sup>



Picture of the "New" Putnam School at the corner of Madison and Mulberry Streets.<sup>5</sup>

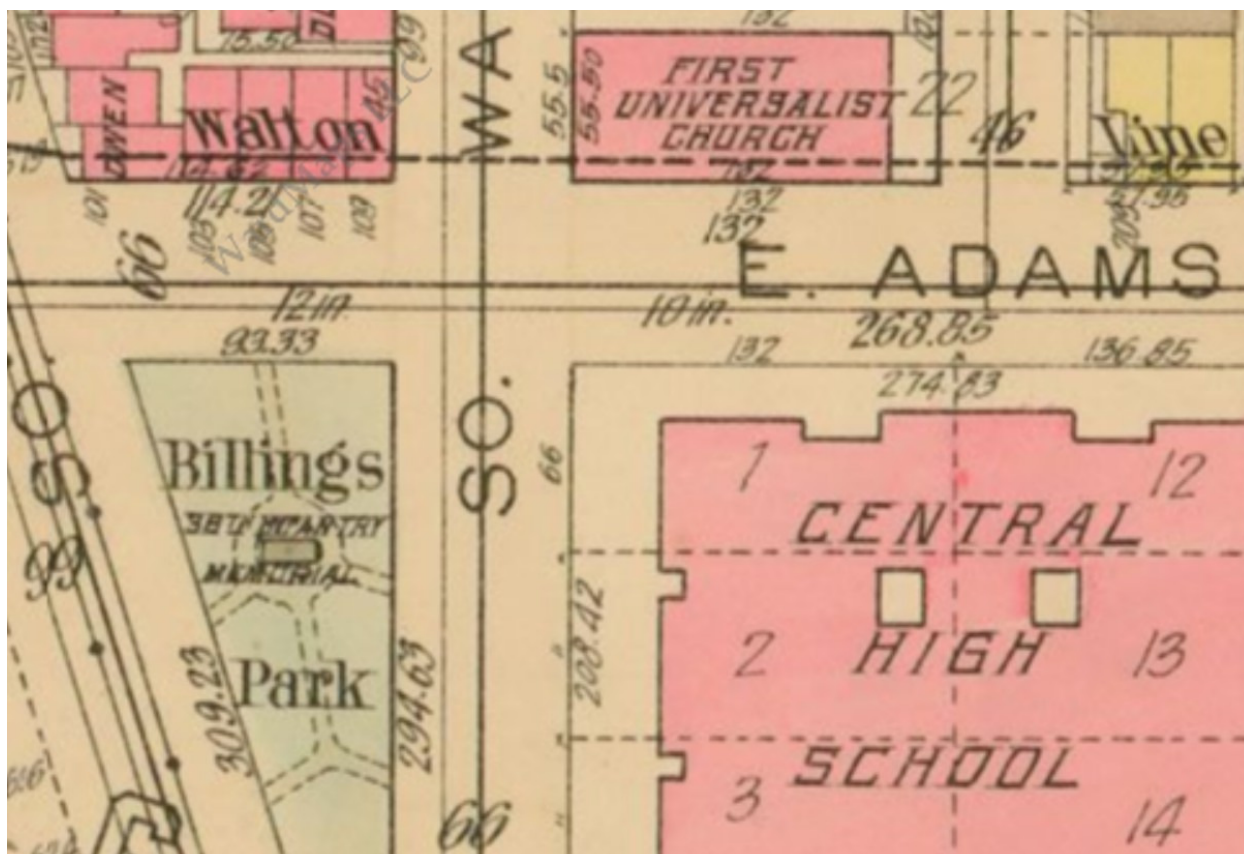


The rectangular dark ribbed structure, in the lower center of the picture, is the roof of the Onondaga County War Memorial. This is the site of the old New Putnam School on city lot 135. The location of Edward Stack's 52 Madison was approximately the third or fourth tree, along the north side of the War Memorial, counting from the upper right corner of the block.



## 145-1/2 Adams St. (#2)

The Edward Stack family was living at this address when Bernard L. Stack was born on May 5, 1887

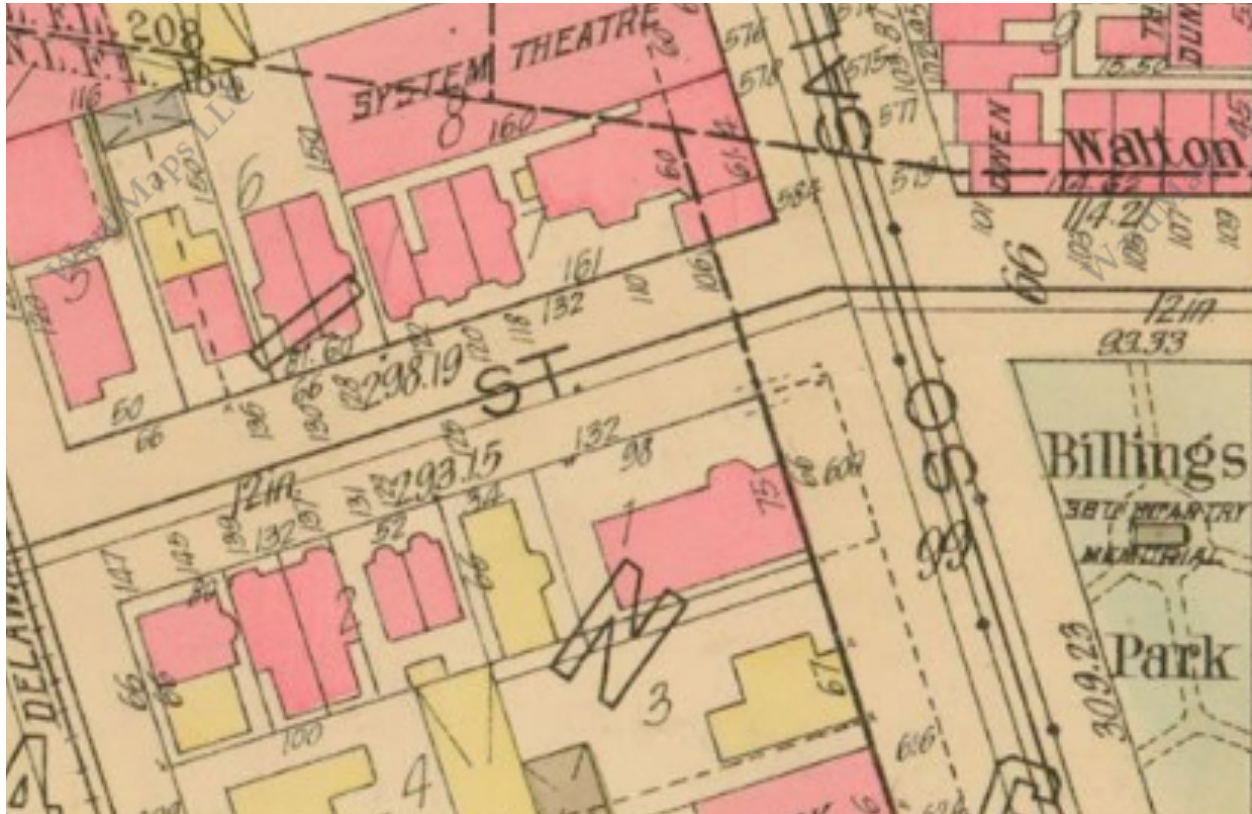


South Salina Street is running diagonally in the lower left hand corner of the above map. East Adams Street, in the upper portion of the map, is running east and west. The north-south street is South Warren Street. Central High School is in the lower right hand corner. The pink buildings in the upper left hand corner are in the odd side of the 100 block of East Adams. The odd side of the 200 block begins in the upper right corner of the map. This map is from a 1924 atlas of maps covering all of Onondaga County and contains a huge amount of information that can initially be a bit confusing. Since these maps will be used throughout this paper a little more explanation will be helpful. The purpose of the maps is to show both the original lot structure and the later subdivisions. Syracuse was originally part of something called the Walton Tract and along the top of the map there is a part of that seen in the line labeled "Walton Line." In the area of the high school the original subdivision lot structure can be seen over the high school building. Outside the larger blocks are their original dimensions and inside are the dimensions of the subdivision lots.

The block structure of this area of the city has remained the same since at least 1860. Harrison Place, indicated by the number 46 above the word "Adams," was added sometime after 1874. In a grid structure all the 100 blocks, 200 blocks and so on are lined up under each other. The block with First Universalist Church was created from the original 200 block with the creation of Harrison Place.



In the 100 block of East Adams the vertically oriented numbers, which are street addresses, can be seen: 101, 103, 105, 107 and 109. The underlying lot structure remains the same because the legal description of the property is referenced to that lot structure and lot numbering. The addresses however can change with time. Lots can be combined and a large structure can be built on those combined lots. In the end the large building will only have one address, no matter how many individual lots were combined.

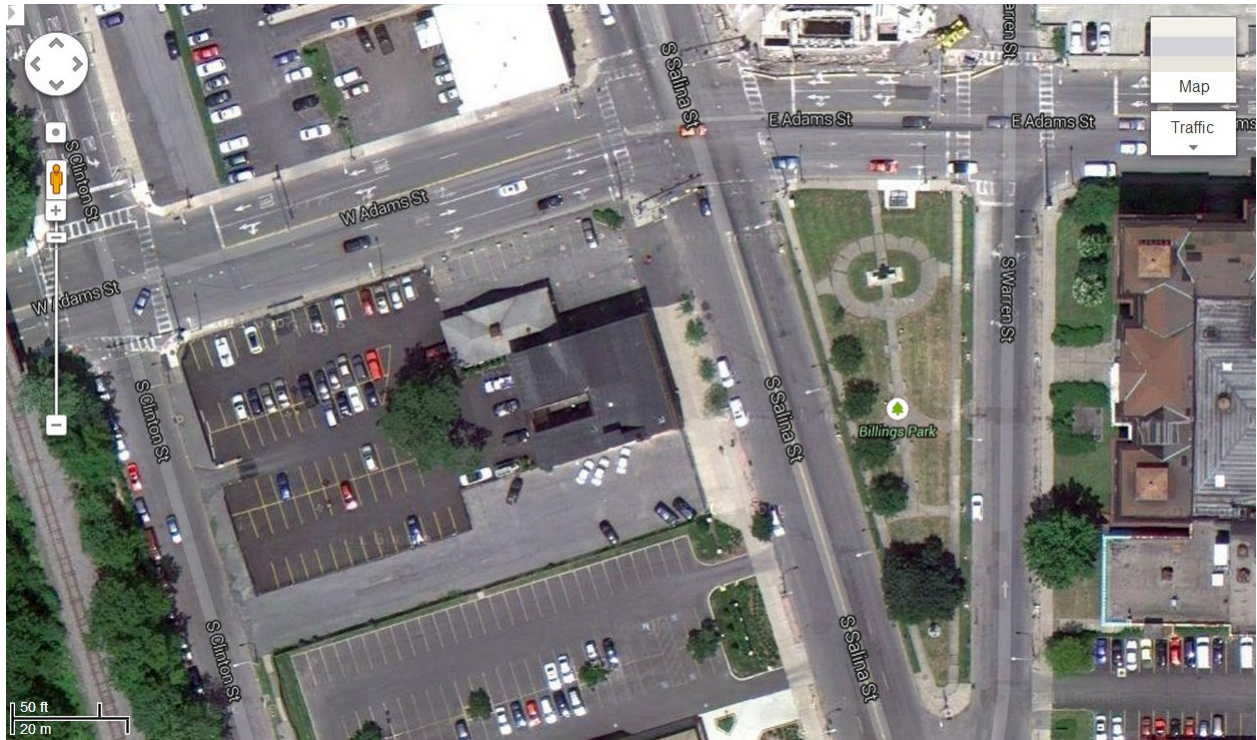


However, there is another possibility. This address, of 145-1/2 came from Bernard Stack's birth certificate and there was no indication as to whether this was East or West Adams Street. Looking across S. Salina St. there is another 100 block of Adams, this time W. Adams. There is even a 145 address. The brick buildings were colored pink. This might be a better possibility for the Stack residence than the one on E. Adams that required some interpretation and explanation.

Therefore, it seems probable that at the end of this 100 block of W. Adams St. there was a 145-1/2 in 1892 and the Edward Stack family was living there when Bernard L. Stack was born.



This aerial photo was taken on September 6, 1938. The street running north and south, through the center of the photo, is S. Salina St. The large light colored square in the lower right hand corner of the photo is Central High School. The street running east and west, just north of the school is E. Adams St. The triangular piece of land just to the west of the high school is Billings Park. Just across E. Adams St. from the north side of the park is the 100 block of e. Adams St. Following Adams across S. Salina St. it becomes the 100 block of W. Adams St. While the E. Adams 100 block looks like it has already fallen to commercial interests, the 100 block on W. Adams still looks relatively the same as seen in the 1924 map.

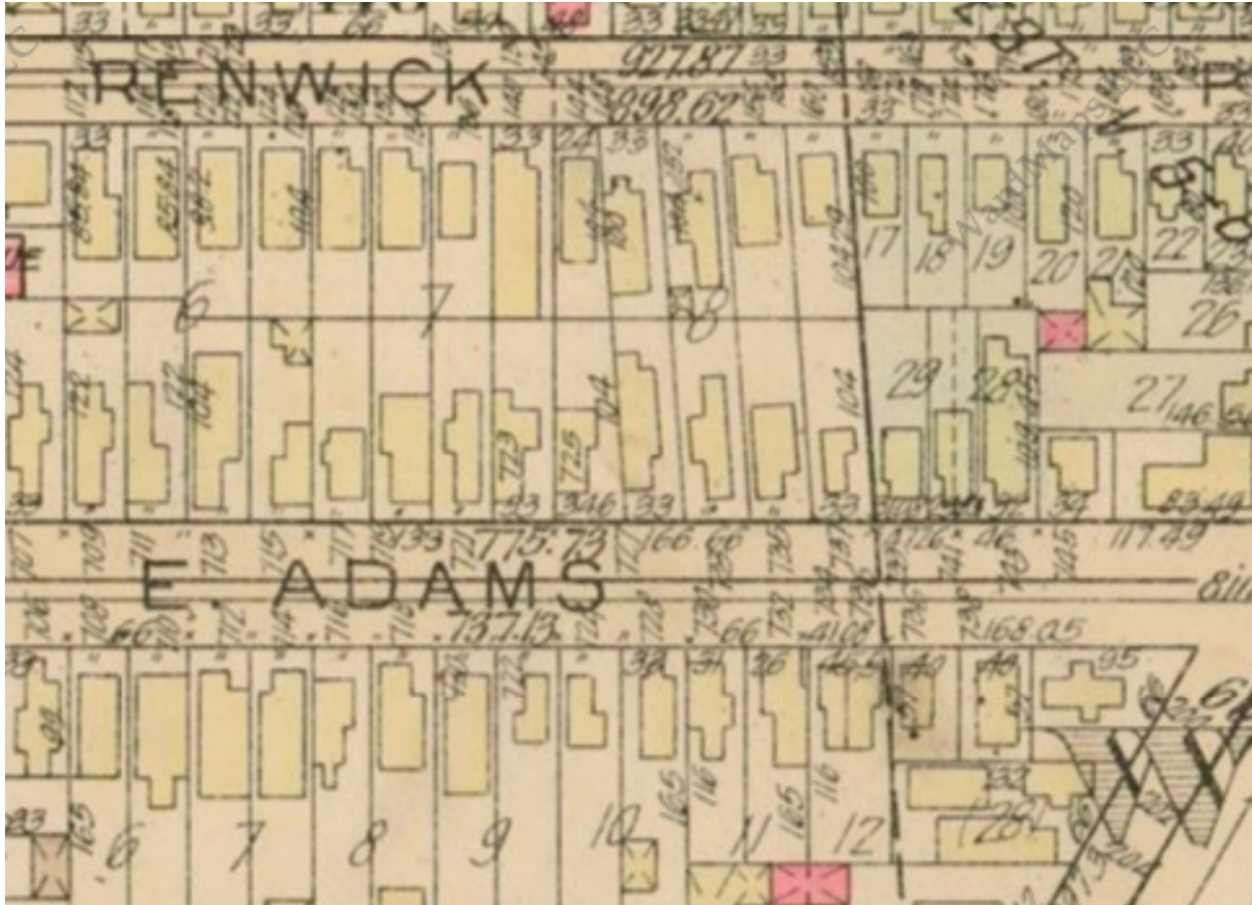


This satellite picture shows the same area today. The grassy triangular area on the right is Billings Park. In the lower right hand corner is part of the roof of Central High School. Just above Billings Park is the 100 block of East Adams Street. The area appears to be under construction once more. Following Adams St. across S. Salina St. is the 100 block of W. Adams St. The far left side of the block has been turned into a parking lot.



## 727 and 723 East Adams St. (#3 & #4)

The Stack family was living at 727 E. Adams St. in May, 1892 when Edward, the head of the family died. Two years later, in the 1894-1895 Directory for the City of Syracuse, the family was living just a couple of doors down the street, at 723 E. Adams St. These addresses are located almost across the street (north side) from the present day Upstate Medical Center.



There was nothing found in the newspapers of the 1890s that associated these addresses with the Stack family. However, it was possible to get a description of the house if it can be assumed that the same house the Stack family had occupied was still at that location in later years. From 1912 until at least 1933, Manuel Carmen was the owner of the house at 727 E. Adams. He lived in the upper flat and rented out the lower flat. In a 1912 ad and in a later 1927 ad, Carmen was looking for a renter for the lower 6-room flat. It was described as having 6 large rooms and "all conveniences." Mr. Carmen got a bit of notoriety during the prohibition years. On the evening of January 16, 1932, "members of the dry squad" arrested Manuel Carmen for violating the Volstead Act. The agents found two 50-gallon containers and two 32-gallon containers of beer.<sup>6</sup> In a second article it was reported that Carmen also had 164 gallons of whiskey mash in his possession.<sup>7</sup> Either his tenant or a neighbor turned him in because they could smell the mash.



This is a picture of Margaret Stack and her children. Mary Stack died at age 6, in 1886 so she can not be the young girl in this picture. The young girl above is about ten years old. The only daughter left was Theresa who was born in 1885. If she was 10 in this picture then the picture was taken in about 1895. At that time Margaret's children were Richard (18), William (17), Edward (13), Theresa (10) and Bernard (8). The boys in the picture are too young to be either Richard or William. Therefore the boys in the picture are Edward, behind his mother and Bernard on the far right. In 1895 the family was living at 723 East Adams St., Syracuse, NY.



## 1202 Orange St. (#5)

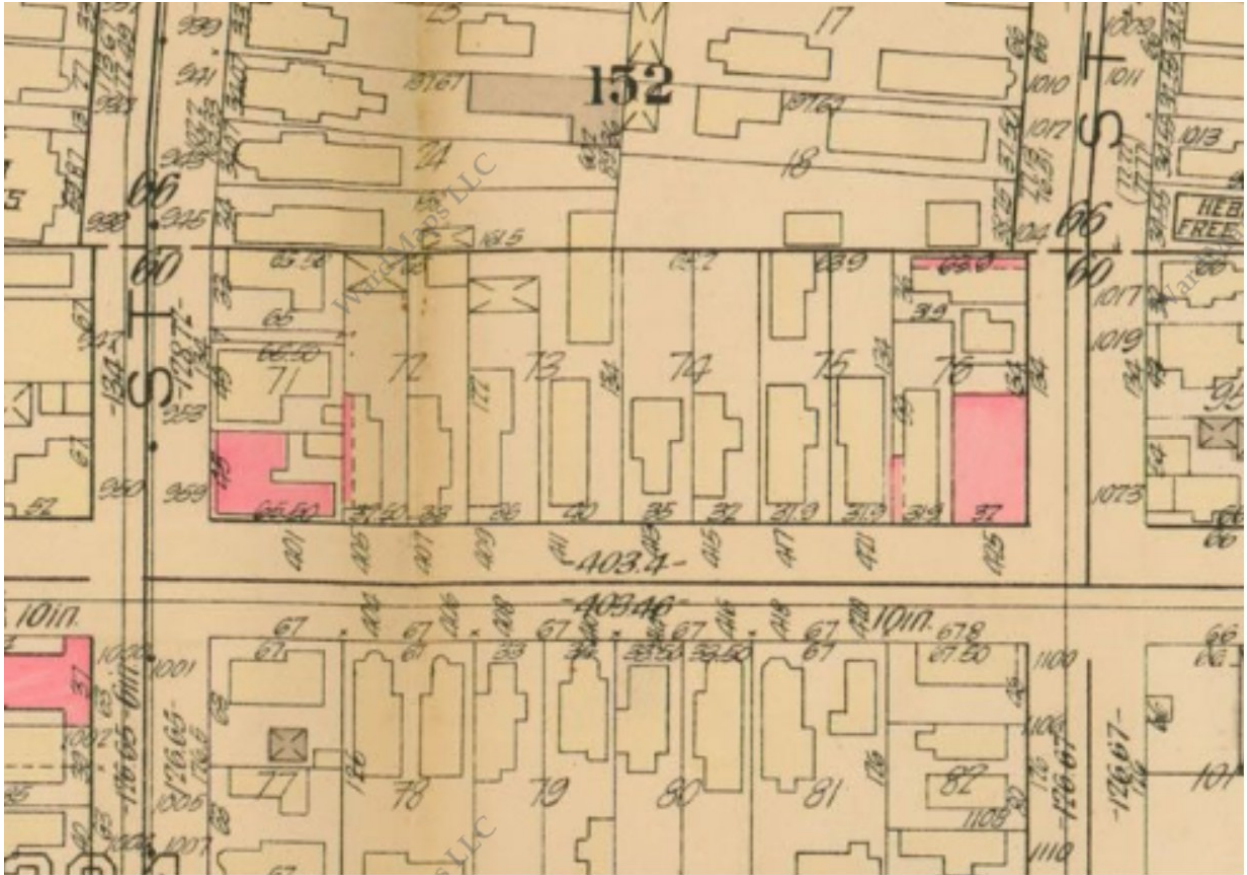


According to the 1900 census the Stack family was living at 1202 Orange Street. Margaret was a widow who had given birth to 6 children but only 5 were still alive. The year of immigration for Margaret and her three oldest children was recorded as 1885. Richard was employed as a book keeper. William was employed as a plumber. Edward was employed as a day laborer.

This was a relatively quiet period for the Stack family. There were no marriages, births or deaths. No one was arrested for misbehaving nor was any member of the family injured in traffic, by falling down or by having objects drop upon them. Any one of those events would have been sufficient to ensure an appearance in at least one of the newspapers of the day.

The 1900 census showed that 1202 Orange St was probably a single family house at that time. On September 26, 1904, a daughter was born to Frank and Gertrude Comstock who were living at 1202 Orange Street. Therefore the Stack family had left the Orange Street address and moved to 417 Jackson Street at some time prior to September 1904.

## 417 Jackson St. (#6)



On March 2, 1905 Miss Theresa Stack (age 19) hosted a gathering at 417 Jackson St. At the gathering the attendees formed the Violet Euchre club.<sup>8</sup> Family and relatives in attendance were: E. (Edward) Stack, P. (Patrick) Finn, B. (Bernard) Stack. Twelve others were also in attendance. Patrick Finn was one of Theresa's first cousins from Ireland. This was the earliest mention of Patrick in the records. In later census records Patrick Finn would claim 1905 as his year of immigration. Patrick was living with the Stack family in 1908 at 906 Irving Ave. so it can be assumed that since he had just arrived from Ireland he was probably living with the family at 417 Jackson St.

The Stack family was still residing at 417 Jackson St. at the time of the death of Edward F. Stack on April 29, 1906.<sup>9</sup> He was 25 years old. Edward had been sick since the previous September and had been confined to his bed for six weeks. The funeral was from the family home and at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Burial followed at St. Agnes Cemetery.<sup>10</sup> The family members living at the residence at the time of Edward's death were his mother Margaret Stack, his brothers Richard J., William S. and Bernard L. Stack, his sister Theresa M. Stack and perhaps Patrick Finn.

A quick review of the 1900 census showed that the residence at 417 Jackson was a two-family flat. Both families living there in 1900 were renting. Two doors away, at 421 Jackson, was a residence that appeared to be a single family house where the Samuel Silverman family was living. Silverman is of interest because in 1903 his family had moved to 417 Jackson. The Silverman family made the papers

when their daughter Sarah Silverman married Port Wolf on March 29, 1903.<sup>11</sup> Sarah's mother was dying and although a wedding date had not been previously set they decided to marry in her mother's sick room. There was hope that the joy of the wedding might help her mother's help improve. The other flat at 417 Jackson was occupied by Michael Lewis, who made the news when his horse died in a barn fire on August 28, 1904.<sup>12</sup>

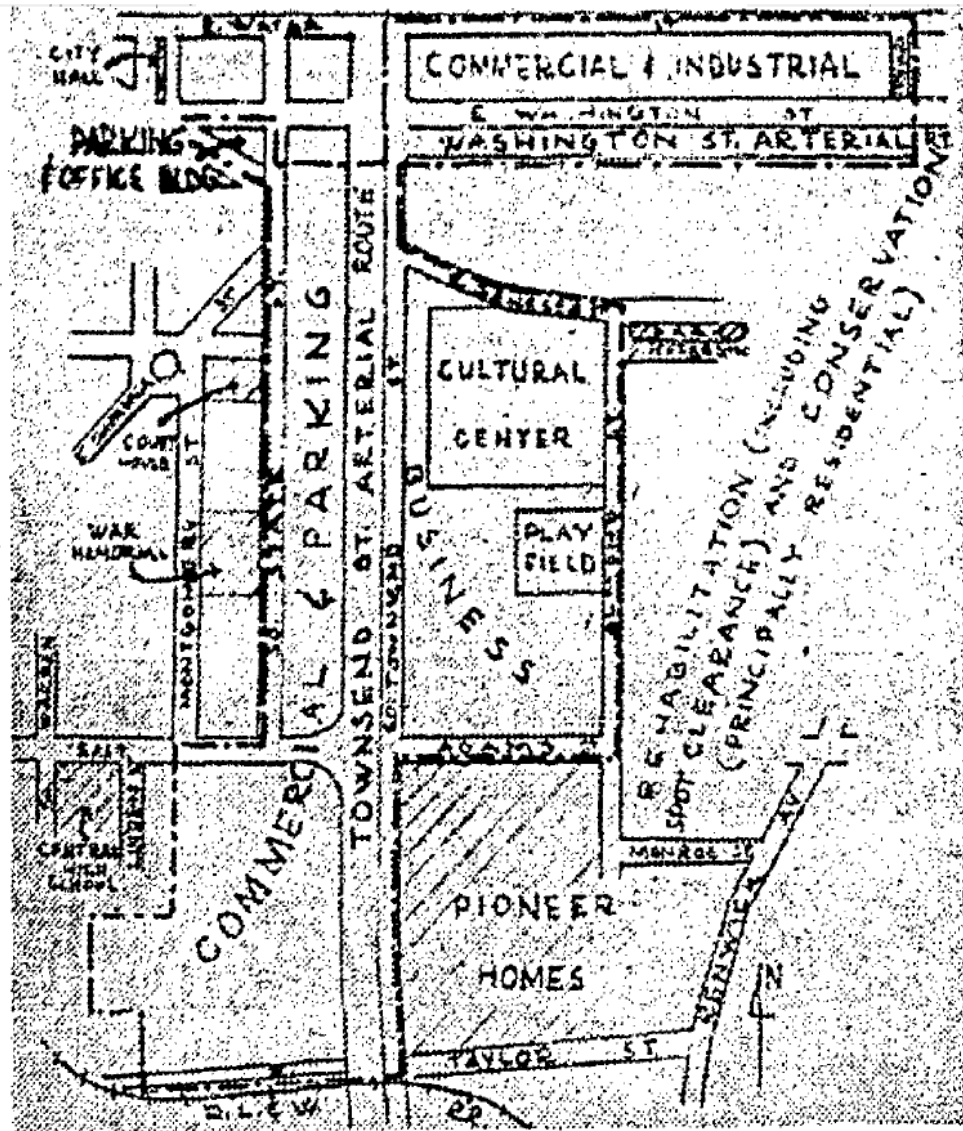
The purpose of mentioning the Silverman family and Michael Lewis was to determine as closely as possible when the Stack family might have moved into 417 Jackson. In light of the events described above that date was sometime between 1904 and 1905. In the previous section of this paper, on 417 Jackson Street, it was shown that the Stack family had left 1202 Orange Street prior to September 1904. The family would be living at 906 Irving Ave by 1908.



The aerial picture above was taken on September 6, 1938. The large white area on the right side of the picture is Wilson Playground. The street on the west side of the playground was Orange St. (S. McBride). Running along the north side of the playground was Jackson St. This view emphasizes the closeness of 417 Jackson and 1202 Orange. Along the south side of the playground is E Taylor St. At the southwest corner of Taylor and Orange (1202) was the Stack residence. Just above the curving railroad tracks the adjacent residences at 1202 and 1204 on the 1924 map can still be made out here in 1938. 417 Jackson is one block north of here. From the 1924 map it is seen that 417 was on the north side of Jackson and was the 3<sup>rd</sup> wooden residence from the brick structure on the northwest corner of Jackson and Orange. In this aerial photo the brick building would be the white roofed structure right at the corner. From there, proceeding west, 417 would have been the 3<sup>rd</sup> rectangular structure, which seems to be missing.



The Syracuse Herald-American, Syracuse, NY,  
 Sunday, August 7, 1955



This is a rather crude map of the planned Near East Side Renewal Project from the 1950s.<sup>13</sup> In the upper left hand corner City Hall is shown as extremely thin for some reason. Perhaps it was a political comment on the narrow thinking that was going on in the building. The Townsend St. Arterial was planned as a State Highway that might be on grade, elevated or recessed. The papers of the time were filled with the debate. In the end it never happened. Over to the right Almond St. isn't shown but in the 1960s it became the path of Interstate 81. Everything to the east of 81 went to Syracuse University or to the Medical Center. Pioneer Homes were already 15 years old at the time this map was made. It isn't shown but Wilson Playground survived as can be seen in the modern satellite photo on the next page. Jackson St. isn't shown either, but it ran east and west through the middle of Pioneer Homes. Therefore 417 Jackson St. disappeared in 1939 for sure, but it also looked like it was already gone in the 1938 aerial photo.

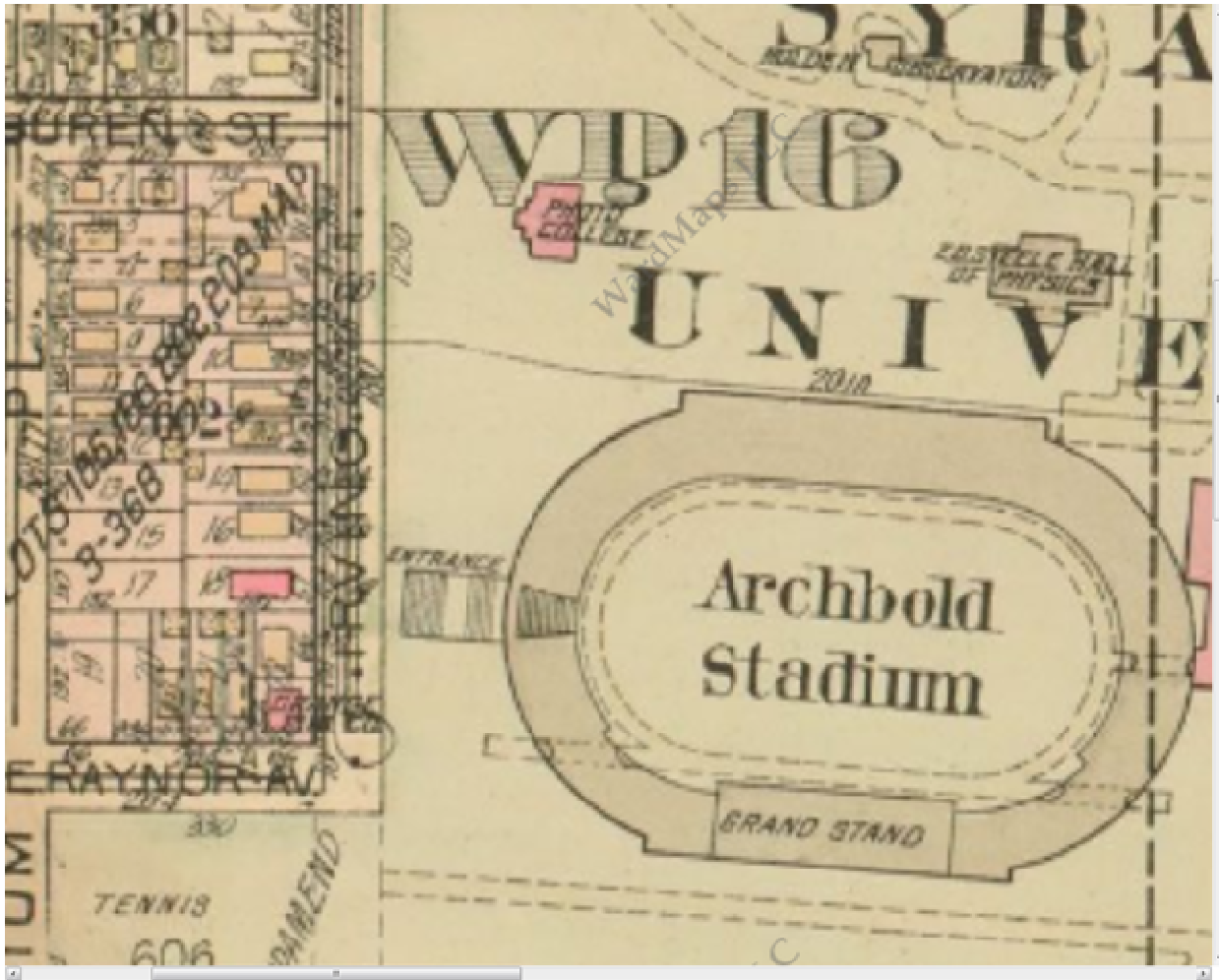


These three images depict the area just west and northwest of the old Wilson Playground. The block northwest of the playground was the location of 417 Jackson St. The 1924 map shows that the blocks were both filled with buildings. In the 1938 aerial photo, the white areas in the block west of the playground shows that many of the structures are gone. To the north of this block is the 400 block of Jackson St., where what was a continuous row of houses now has many missing. 417 Jackson, where the Stack family had lived is among those missing. This was the beginning of the construction for Pioneer Homes. The formal dedication of Pioneer Homes took place on January 4, 1940.<sup>14</sup> In the bottom satellite image one can see that the playground has survived as Wilson Park and Pioneer Homes has filled in most of the rest of the area. In the bottom photo the white square, in the center at the bottom of the photo, is the location where 1202 Orange St. had been.

The area was part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ward and had been considered the ghetto or slums. Pioneer Homes and the area to the north were all part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ward that was at first home to the Jewish population of early Syracuse. When they moved east, the Irish moved in to take their place. As the Irish began to move out the Italians and Blacks began to move in. Pioneer Homes led the way in the late 1930s and in the 1960s, under Urban Renewal, the rest of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ward was demolished.<sup>15</sup>



## 906 Irving Ave. (#7)



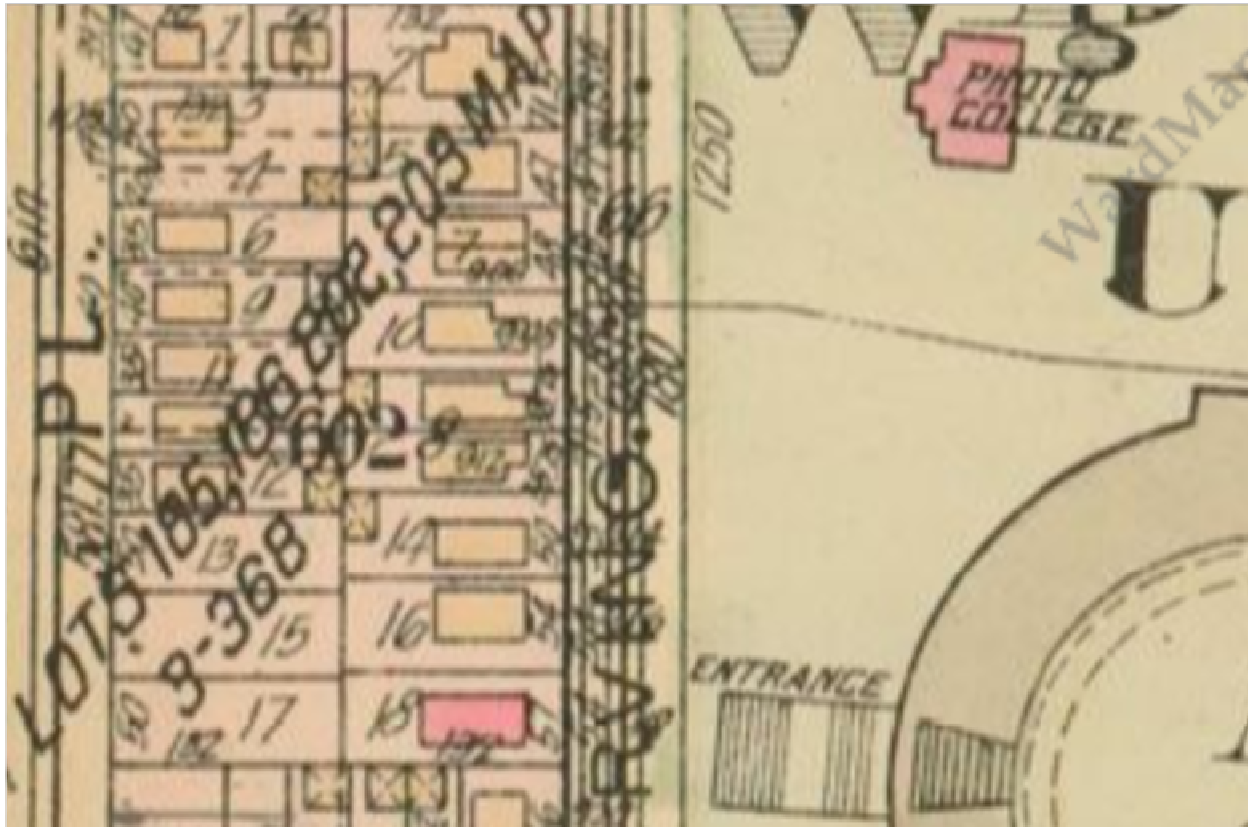
While working on another project some new information showed up. A new address was found for the Stack family in the 1908 Syracuse City Directory. They were living at 906 Irving Ave. at the time the 1908 directory had been compiled.

The map above is from the 1924 Atlas of the City of Syracuse, N.Y. and Suburbs, by Hopkins. The 900-block of Irving Ave was bounded by Van Buren St. on the north and E. Raynor Ave. on the south. There were only houses on the west side of street, with Archbold Stadium and a steep hill, rising up to the Syracuse University campus on the east side of the street.

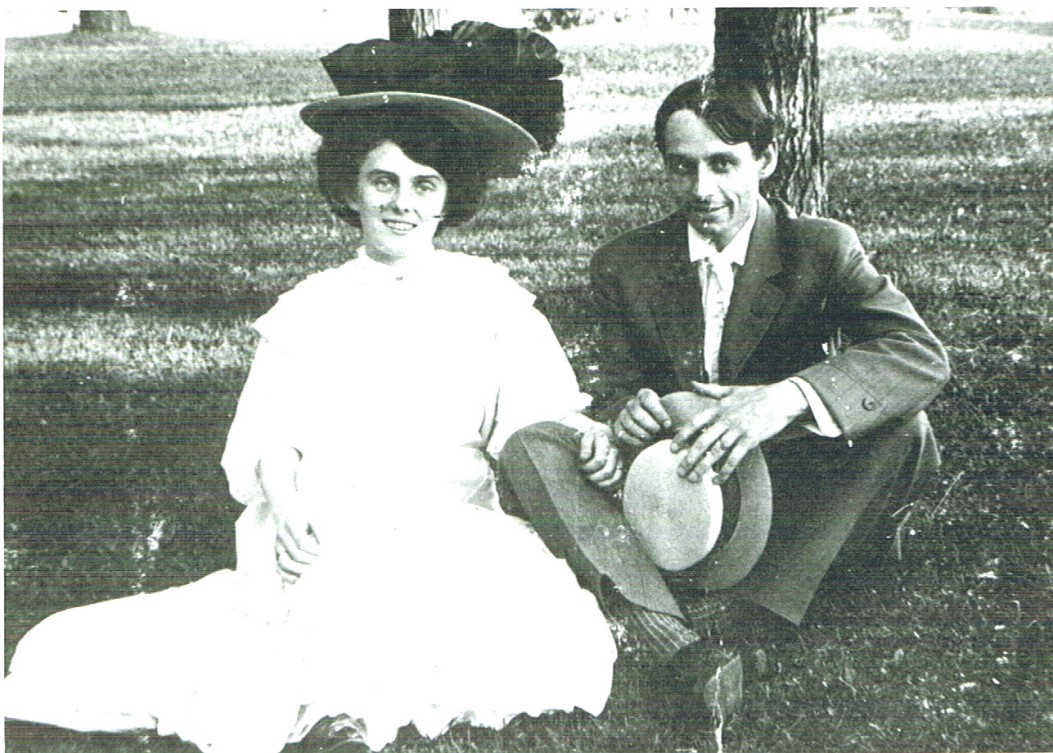
In 1908, according to the city directory, the following people were living at 906 Irving Ave.: Margaret Stack, her children Bernard, William and Theresa; nephew Patrick Finn and possible relative Daniel Crowley. After she married, Theresa's husband Frank Saunders moved in. Soon, Daniel's sister Jane Crowley arrived from Ireland. When Jane and Patrick Finn applied for a marriage license in January 1909 both were living at 906 Irving Ave. William had married in 1907 and had a daughter in 1908. Since the directory didn't seem to record non-workers or children, William's wife, Margaret, and his daughter,

also named Margaret, can be assumed to also be living at 906 Irving Ave. That makes three women named Margaret all living under the same roof. That must have been confusing at times.

This is a blown up section of the 1924 map on the previous page showing the houses along the west side of the 900-block of Irving Ave.



In the center of the map there is a house clearly labeled "912." This is the address of the house. The location of 906 is just three houses north of 912. The 906 can just be made out on the lower part of the house with the large "7," that was the number of the lot in the sub division.



The Post Standard, Syracuse, NY,  
Friday, June 26, 1908

### NUPTIAL MASS CELEBRATED.

A nuptial mass was celebrated at 5 o'clock Wednesday morning, when Miss Teresa M. Stack and Francis J. Saunders were married by Monsignor John Grimes at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Leo Saunders, a brother of the bride and a member of the Niagara University, assisted in the ceremony. The best man was Dr. George Lynch, and the bridesmaid Miss Catherine Sheridan. The bride's brother, William E. Stack, acted as the master of ceremonies, and the ushers were Bernard E. Stack and W. E. Perkins.

The bride wore white net over white silk and carried bride roses.

A reception followed the ceremony at the residence of the bride's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Stack, No. 906 Irving avenue, pink and white roses forming the decorations.

After a wedding trip to Buffalo and Niagara Falls, Mr. and Mrs. Saunders will be "at home" at No. 906 Irving avenue.

After their wedding, on June 24, 1908, the newlyweds moved in with the Margaret Stack family at 906 Irving Ave. The couple and their young daughter Helen were still living with the Stack family in 1910 when the family had moved to 137 Lincoln Ave. In six years the couple had three daughters. Tragedy struck on November 25, 1914, when after an illness of six weeks Theresa died.

Francis didn't remarry until his daughters were grown. He married Grace Stowell on his deathbed in 1933. It was a sad story that began in 1932 with the then healthy couple deciding to marry. Francis was taken ill and his death was inevitable. His fiancé fell ill from nervous exhaustion and it was feared that she too might die. In October 1933 Grace rose from her sickbed and married Francis on his deathbed.<sup>16</sup> This whole drama dragged on for over another year while all this time his mother, in the same house, was also dying of this same unspecified illness. Francis finally died and on the day of his funeral, February 26, 1934, his mother also died.<sup>17</sup> Grace Stowell Saunders recovered and returned to her job as head of Cafeteria Services for the Syracuse School District. Grace died on July 23, 1957, in Syracuse, NY and was buried in Oswego, NY.<sup>18</sup>





The Irving Ave. location has all the attributes described previously in a paper about the analysis of this particular picture.<sup>19</sup> It is a street where the Stack family had resided, it is a north-south running street and the line with the dots on it (on the 1924 map), running down Irving Ave., indicates that there was a trolley line there. It would take people right up to the front entrance of Archbold Stadium. Although it can't be seen in this map, the University area was covered with streets that were paved with bricks and they remained there until at least the late 1960s or early 1970s. Therefore the picture could have been taken in the 900-block of Irving Ave. It might be possible to find the exact house. Looking at the background of the picture, only one house is completely in view. The left direction in the picture was determined to be south as would be the case on Irving Ave. To the left of the house in the picture a garage can be seen. Looking at the houses, in the 1924 map above, only the house at 912 Irving Ave. has a garage that could be seen along its left side. Therefore a good guess would be that this picture was taken in 1908 in front of 912 Irving Ave.

As for the identity of motorcycle man, the three most likely candidates discussed in the earlier paper were living with the Stack family in 1908. There was Bernard's brother William, Daniel Crowley and Patrick Finn.

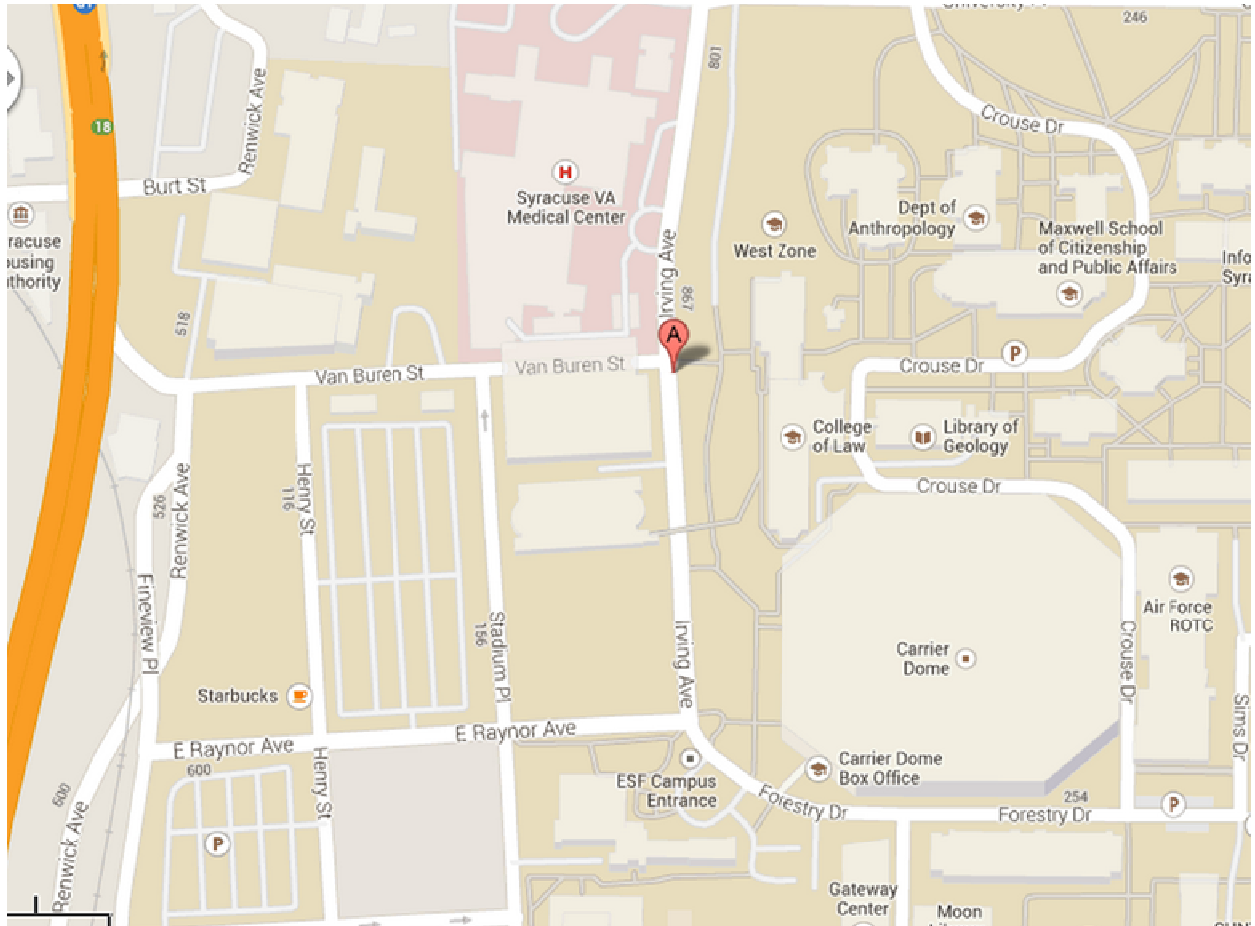


This is an aerial photo of the area around 906 Irving Ave. taken on September 6, 1938. The grassy wooded area in the upper left corner of the picture is old St. Mary's Cemetery on Renwick Ave. Van Buren Ave. runs south of the cemetery. It was largely out of use by the early 1900s and the bodies that had not been removed and reinterred by relatives were moved to St. Mary's Cemetery in DeWitt in 1958, mostly to a mass grave with a large monument. Edward Stack, Margaret's husband, died on October 18, 1892 and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. It isn't known if he was reinterred in a private plot in either St. Agnes or St. Mary's in DeWitt.

The former cemetery is now covered by a dormitory and parking garage. In the late 1960s, when I parked in that garage I had never heard of old St. Mary's Cemetery. Twice a day I would walk along Van Buren Ave., passing within 150 feet of 906 Irving Ave., never noticing it, climbing and descending the hill, on the old wooden steps, that led to the university campus.

Irving Ave., with a slight dog leg in the middle, runs down the middle of the picture, passing just west of the stadium. The southwest corner of Van Buren and Irving looks a bit empty. Counting the houses along the 900-block in the picture it appears that 906 was no longer standing in 1938.





This is the same area around 906 Irving as it appears today. The University and the Medical Centers have totally changed the area. The Carrier Dome replaced the old stone stadium. The residence at 906 Irving was three building down from the intersection labeled with the red balloon with the letter “A.”

## 137 Lincoln Ave. (#8)



The only evidence of the Stack family living on Lincoln Ave. was the 1910 census. The exact location of the house could not be determined. The address numbering scheme for the 100-block of Lincoln Avenue found in the 1900, 1910 and 1920 census records, doesn't match up with the address numbers found on the 1924 map above or with the street numbers in use on Lincoln Ave. today.

Things were getting tight at the Irving Ave residence so when Margaret and her family moved to Lincoln Ave. some of the Irving Ave. crew moved to 215 Putnam St. In the 1910 census William Stack was the head of the household at 215 Putnam Street. Living with William was his wife, Margaret, and their 2-year old daughter, Margaret. Patrick and Jane Finn were there with their 5-month old daughter Nora. Daniel Crowley was with them as was new arrival Ed Finn, brother of Pat Finn.

Living at 137 Lincoln was Margaret and her son Bernard, her daughter Theresa and her husband Frank Saunders and their 11-month old daughter. At the time of Theresa Stack Saunders death on November 25, 1914, the Saunders family was living at 400 Roberts Ave.

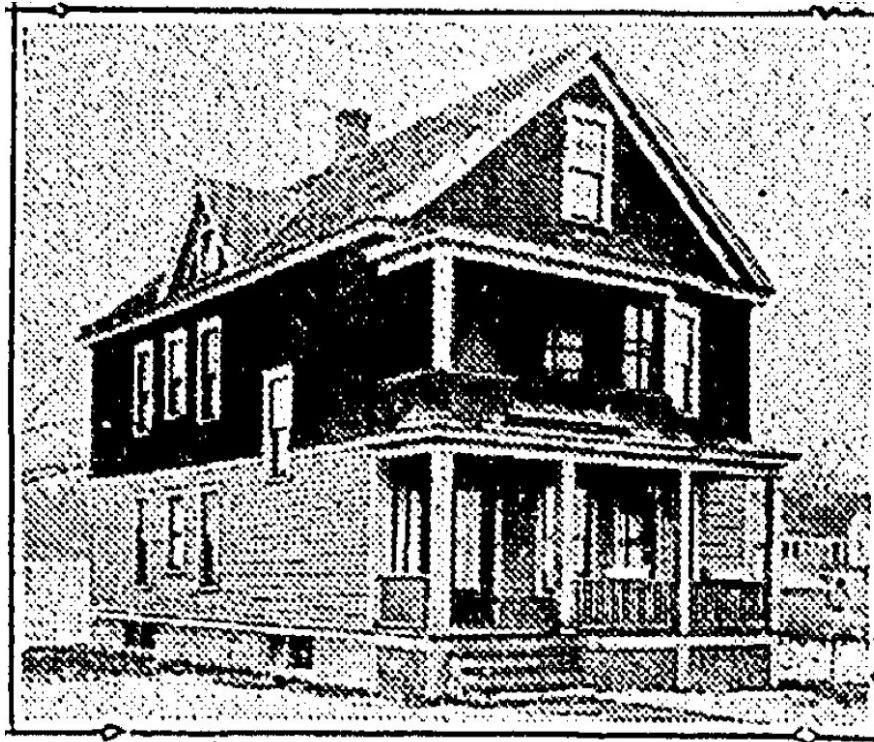
Walter E. Mills was occupying the other flat of the residence at 137 Lincoln was. Mr. Mills had a chicken coup in the backyard where he kept "a number of fine fowls."<sup>20</sup> Around Thanksgiving in 1910 Mills had noticed that some kind of animal had been trying to gain entrance to his chicken coop. One day in mid December Mills' mother noticed a commotion inside the coop and summoned her son. Mills came into the backyard with a revolver and opened the coop door. An animal ran out and Mills shot. It was a large raccoon and Mills dispatched the raccoon with several more shots. This was back in the day when people raised animals in the backyard and could discharge a weapon within city limits.

## 512 Rich St. (#9)

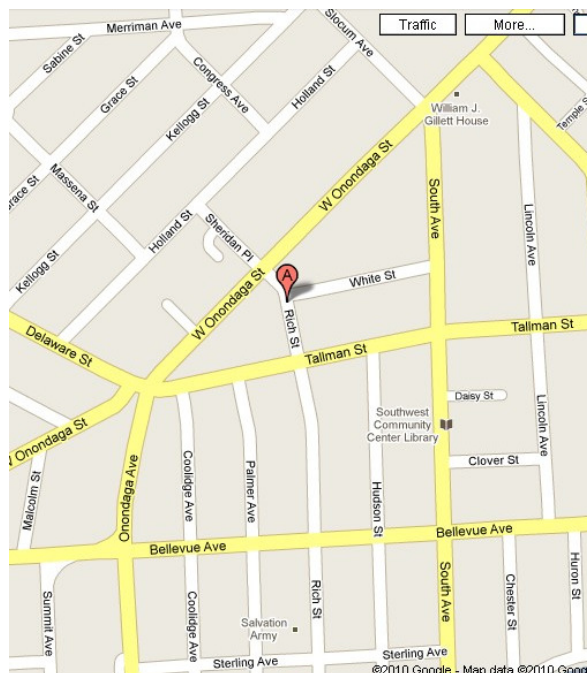


512 Rich St. is located on the left side of the street just below the letter “H” in Rich. Onondaga Creek is running diagonally, along the left hand corner of the street. The large pink structure on the corner where Rich St. makes a ninety-degree turn is the T. B. Kelley Bakery. Bernard worked as a bread delivery man for this company.





This picture of the house at 512 Rich St. was from a 1920 newspaper article describing the sale of the property. In 1920 the tenants were the Bernard Stack and James Spring families.



This map shows the location of Rich St. relative to the other streets in the area. Just east of Rich St. are South Ave. and Lincoln Ave. The Margaret Stack family had been living at 137 Lincoln Ave. in 1910. William Stack had been living at 340 South Ave at the time of his death in July 1915.



This is an image of 512 Rich St. today. It can be seen that this is the same house from 1920. The porch over the front door has been enclosed, but an examination of the size and location of the windows and doors shows that it is the same house. This was the house where Margaret Stack died on Dec 3, 1914. This was also the house where the family was living when Edward (1914), Evelyn (1917), Jean (1923) and June Stack (1925) were born.





At the wheel is Edward Stack, Janet Spring is on the running board and Bernard Stack is supervising it all. At the time of the 1920 census the Bernard Stack and James Spring families were both living in the two-family house at 512 Rich Street. Janet Spring was six years at the time of the census and Edward Stack was 5 years old. Judging by the size of the children this picture was probably in about 1918. HY-LO was the name of a type of bread made by the T. B. Kelley Bakery Company. The Kelley Bakery was located at 517 Rich Street, right across the street from the Stack and Spring families. The truck was parked behind the Kelly Bakery. Since Bernard was a bread delivery man for the bakery this might have been his delivery truck.





This picture was probably taken on the same day as the picture on the previous page. Edward Stack, in the white hat, and Janet Spring are in the side car, while Bernard is mounted on the motorcycle. In the upper right corner of the picture a portion of the Stack's residence at 512 Rich St. can be seen.

Jean Stack McGraw remembered Rich St.

"Bernard had a motorcycle with a sidecar....Jean never got to ride on it because she was a "girl," but Evelyn did. They had a player piano in their house on 512 Rich."<sup>21</sup>



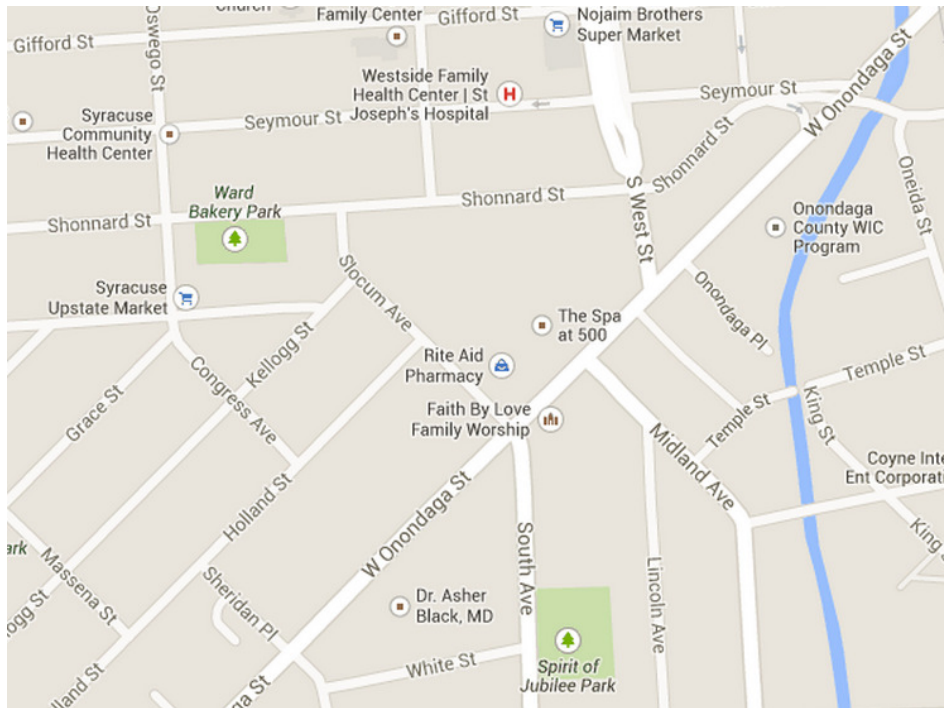
Evelyn Stack's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday party at 512 Rich St. (April 1922)

“For as long as Jean can remember, her grandmother Margaret Jane Stevenson and her daughter, Mildred, lived with Mabel and Bernard Stack and family. As a child Jean lived on Slocum St. (Avenue) and they were living there then.”

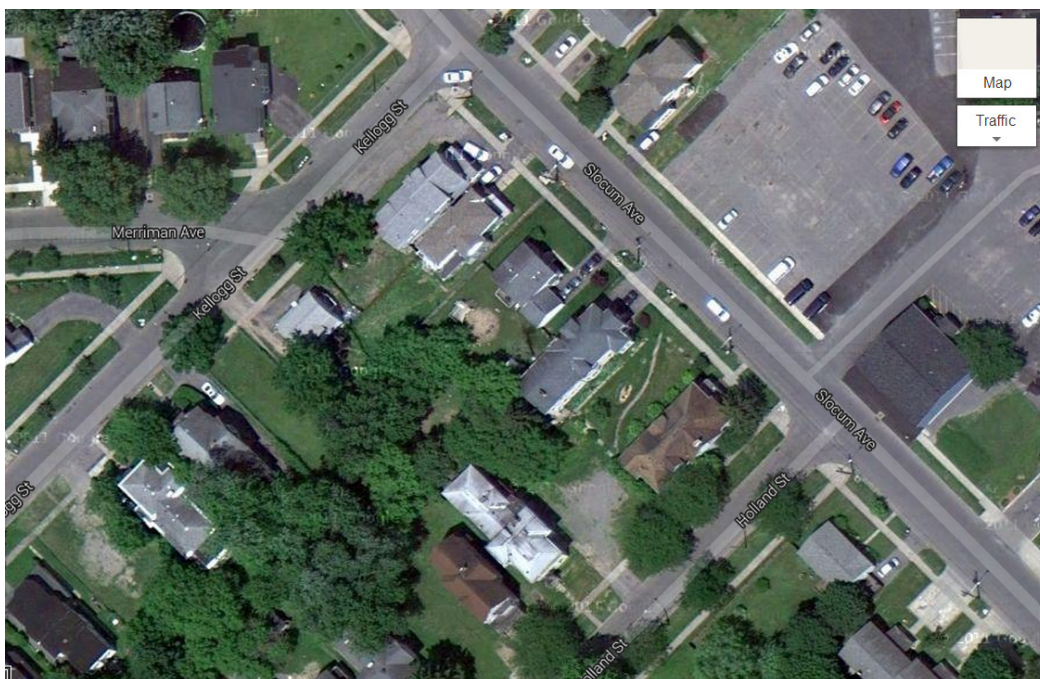
"Jean said her mother, Mabel Carolyn Vincett Stack, used to make us go to church each Sunday. She was not Catholic but my father was. He was a fireman and worked odd hours, so we kids went to church alone.



My mother was sick when Evelyn was in high school and was confined to bed. Evelyn had to do a lot of housework for us. I always remember her telling us to take off our dirty rubbers when we came in the door. Evelyn was just that much older that she got stuck doing a lot of the housework we didn't have to do.”



The Slocum Ave. residence was only a few blocks northwest of the Stack family's former residence on 137 Lincoln Ave. 212 Slocum Ave. was the second house from the intersection of Slocum Ave. and Holland St. On the map above that would be just below the “e” in Ave.



This satellite image of the 200 block of Slocum Ave is less than two years old. The house with the brown roof at the intersection of Slocum Ave. and Holland St. is 218 Slocum Ave. The empty lot next to it, with the path crossing it diagonally, is where 212 Slocum Ave. was located. The house is no longer there.



This is the street view of 212 Slocum Ave., which is the empty lot between the two houses. The house on the left is 218 Slocum Ave., located on the corner of Slocum Ave. and Holland St.



## A Little History of 212 Slocum

In December of 1915 Dr. Thomas Crimmins was offering Neuropathy services at 212 Slocum Ave. A printer by trade and a Socialist politically, Thomas Crimmins decided to try "medicine." Around 1912 Crimmins gave up the printing trade and went to Philadelphia to study neuropathy. In 1915 he returned to Syracuse and started his neuropathy practice.

# ANTI-WAR MASS MEETING

## IN THE COURT HOUSE, TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 13

**GEORGE H. GOEBEL OF NEW JERSEY**  
**JOSHUA WANHOPE OF NEW YORK**

**SPEAKERS**

**STEPHEN MAHONEY OF BUFFALO.**  
**GUSTAVE A. STREBEL OF SYRACUSE**

Every citizen, no matter what his political opinions may be, should come to this meeting. Let the voice of the people be unmistakable in mighty protest against the desperate efforts of a selfish group of individuals to sacrifice the lives of American citizens to guard their profits. Every father, every mother is interested in the safeguarding of the lives of their sons. The labor unionists have always stood for peace and should at this time be more emphatic in protest.

By a mere executive decree the President of our country has broken off diplomatic relations with the German empire and placed the people of the United States in imminent danger of being actively drawn into the mad war of Europe.

During the last thirty months, the blackest annals of human history, six million innocent men have been brutally killed, and many more millions have been crippled and maimed for life. Whole countries have been devastated and the accumulated treasures of human industry and nature's generosity have been ruthlessly destroyed.

Europe is a dread house of mourning, in which disconsolate sons of the widows and orphans at home mingle with the agonized groans of the wounded and dying on the battlefields.

In this savage carnival of wholesale and indiscriminate murder there was but one powerful member of the family of nations that preserved an attitude of comparative sanity—the United States of America. Removed by the vast stretch of the Atlantic ocean from the scene of the inhuman conflict, safe in our economic self-sufficiency and proud of our advanced and democratic institutions, we watched the self-destruction of our European brothers with bleeding hearts, eagerly waiting for the opportunity to bring them back to reason and peace, to life and happiness.

And suddenly, with little notice or warning, without the sanction or consent of the people and without consultation with the people's chosen representatives in Congress, we are practically ordered to join in the mad dance of death and destruction and to swell the ghastly river of blood in Europe with the blood of thousands of American workers.

The Socialist party, speaking in behalf of its adherents and in behalf of the working class of the country, has entered a solemn

protest against this wanton attempt to draw us into the European conflict.

We are opposed to wars between nations, because war is a reversion to brutal barbarism. We are opposed to the present threatened war in particular because no great war has ever been waged with less justification and no more frivolous pretexts.

The policy of unrestricted and indiscriminate submarine warfare announced by the German government is most ruthless and inhuman, but so is war as a whole and so are all methods applied by both sides. **WAR IS MURDER.** War is the climax of utter lawlessness, and it is idle to prate about lawful or lawless methods of warfare.

The German submarine warfare does not threaten our national integrity or independence, not even our national dignity and honor. It was not aimed primarily at the United States and would not affect the American people. It would strike only those parasitic classes that have been making huge profits by manufacturing instruments of death or by taking away our food and selling it at exorbitant prices to the fighting armies of Europe.

The workers of the United States have no reason and no desire to shed their blood for the protection and furtherance of the unholy profits of their masters and will not permit a venal press to stampede them into taking up arms to murder their brothers in Europe.

The six million men whose corpses are now rotting upon the battlefields of Europe were mostly workmen. If the United States is drawn into war, it will be the American workers whose lives will be sacrificed—an inglorious, senseless sacrifice on the altar of capitalist greed.

Citizens of Syracuse, now is the time to speak! The hour is grave; the danger is imminent; silence is criminal. Go to the Court House on Tuesday night and swell the mighty protest that is now sweeping the country.

Demand that American citizens and American ships be forbidden to enter the war zone, except at their own risk. Insist that the nation shall not be plunged into war for the benefit of plundering capitalists.

**Down with war! Long live peace!**

If you are interested in our programme of "War on War" we request your moral and financial co-operation. Bear a part of the burden. Send in your name and, if possible, a contribution to the cause, to

**DR. THOMAS CRIMMINS, NO. 212 SLOCUM AVENUE.**

Cut out this coupon and send it to the undersigned, enclosing 10 cents in stamps, and a book explaining the principles of Socialism will be mailed to you.

As a leader of the Socialist movement in Syracuse, Crimmins also helped organize an Anti-War Mass Meeting at the Court House in 1917. It seems that Crimmins was using 212 Slocum not as a residence, but just as a place of business for his Neuropathy services and Socialist Party activities.

# SOCIALISTS PAY LAST TRIBUTE TO CRIMMINS

With no clergyman present, the body of Thomas Crimmins, for many years a prominent member of the Socialist party, who died Tuesday, was buried Friday afternoon in Woodlawn Cemetery, following simple Socialist services.

Draped over the casket were a red wreath and a bouquet of carnations tied with a red ribbon. Gustave A. Strebel, organizer of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, told of the ideals of Crimmins' life and led in the singing of the Socialist anthem.

The services were carried out as Mr. Crimmins had asked Sunday when he felt that he would not

day when he felt that he would not recover. He was a printer by trade and had been a neuropath. He was best known in Syracuse as a candidate for Mayor and for secretary of state. Mr. Crimmins had been connected with the New York Times and the New York Call.

Unflinching loyalty to the Socialist cause was the outstanding thing in Mr. Crimmins' career, Mr. Strebel told the group of Socialists and Syracuse friends of the man gathered in the gray light about the grave in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Fear of death never troubled him, Mr. Strebel told the gathering. What Mr. Crimmins was interested in was life and activity. He had stood for fair play, for universal knowledge and the development of a social system where such justice would dominate.

The casket had been carried from the home at 150 South av. earlier in the afternoon by a group of Mr. Crimmins' friends. Bearers were Fred C. Scott, William Williams, William McLeavy, John Geary, Conrad Kitz and B. Fuller.

The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY,  
Saturday, February 12, 1927

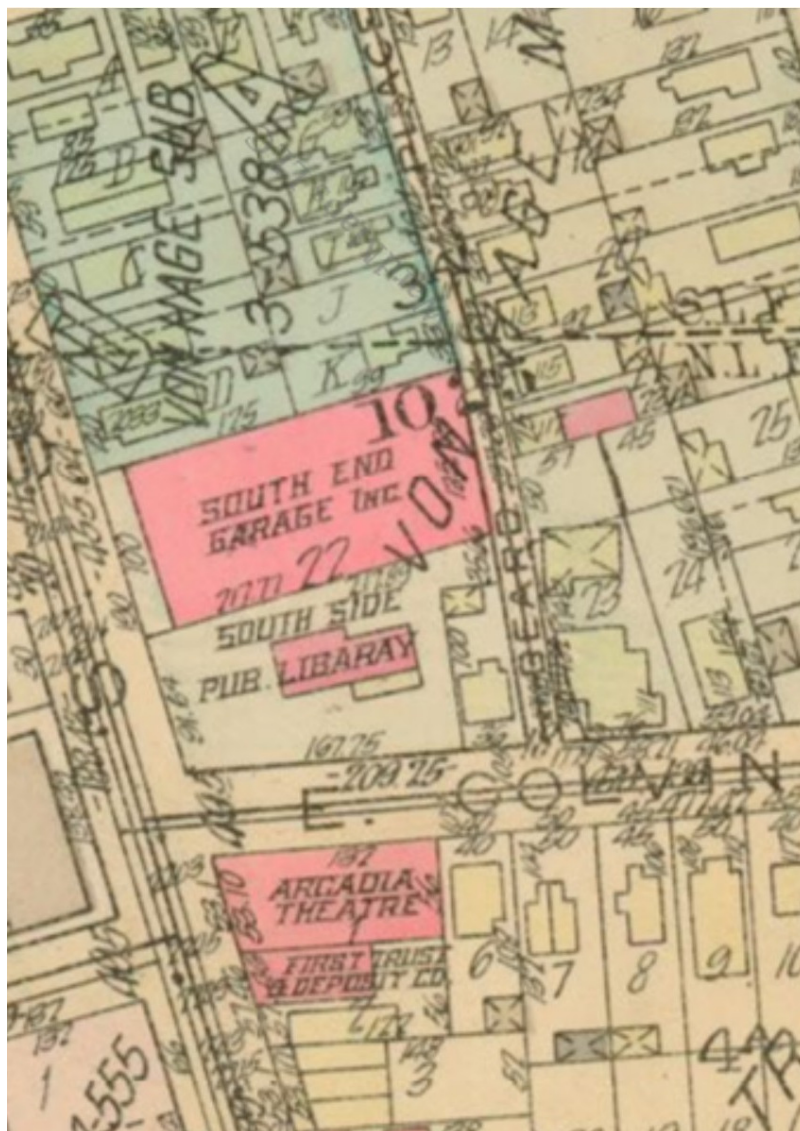
Thomas Crimmins died on Tuesday, February 8, 1927. The Socialist community in Syracuse paid their respects to Crimmins as described in the article above. At the time of his death Crimmins was living at 150 South Ave., about two blocks from 212 Slocum Ave. With his death he had no more need for the residence at 212 Slocum Ave. The last data placing the Stack family on Rich St. was also in 1927. This was probably the year in which the Stack family moved to Slocum Ave.

After the Stack family's comparatively uneventful residence at Slocum Ave ended in the early 1930s a Daniel Martin moved in. Martin, like Crimmins, was running a business out of 212 Slocum. In July 1932 Martin was fined \$100 for being "the proprietor of a disorderly house."<sup>22</sup> This somewhat vague description had nothing to do with "hoarding" and everything to do with "whoring." The authorities let him go on his promise to pay the \$100. This was a bad idea because Martin didn't pay it. Later he was arrested again for running a disorderly house in another part of Syracuse and wound up in the Penitentiary.<sup>23</sup>

"... after pleading guilty In Police Court yesterday It also developed that he was arrested In June, 1932 under the name of Dennis Martin on a charge of maintaining a disorderly house at 212 Slocum Avenue and promised to pay a fine of \$100 which he had failed to do, Unless he pays that fine, he will have to serve 100 additional days..." - Syracuse Herald - Sat, Mar 11, 1933 Syracuse New York

Since the county was providing Martin's room and board he no longer had need for 212 Slocum and it was rented to a more normal family that only hit the newspapers with the births of their children.

## 117 East Colvin St. (#11)

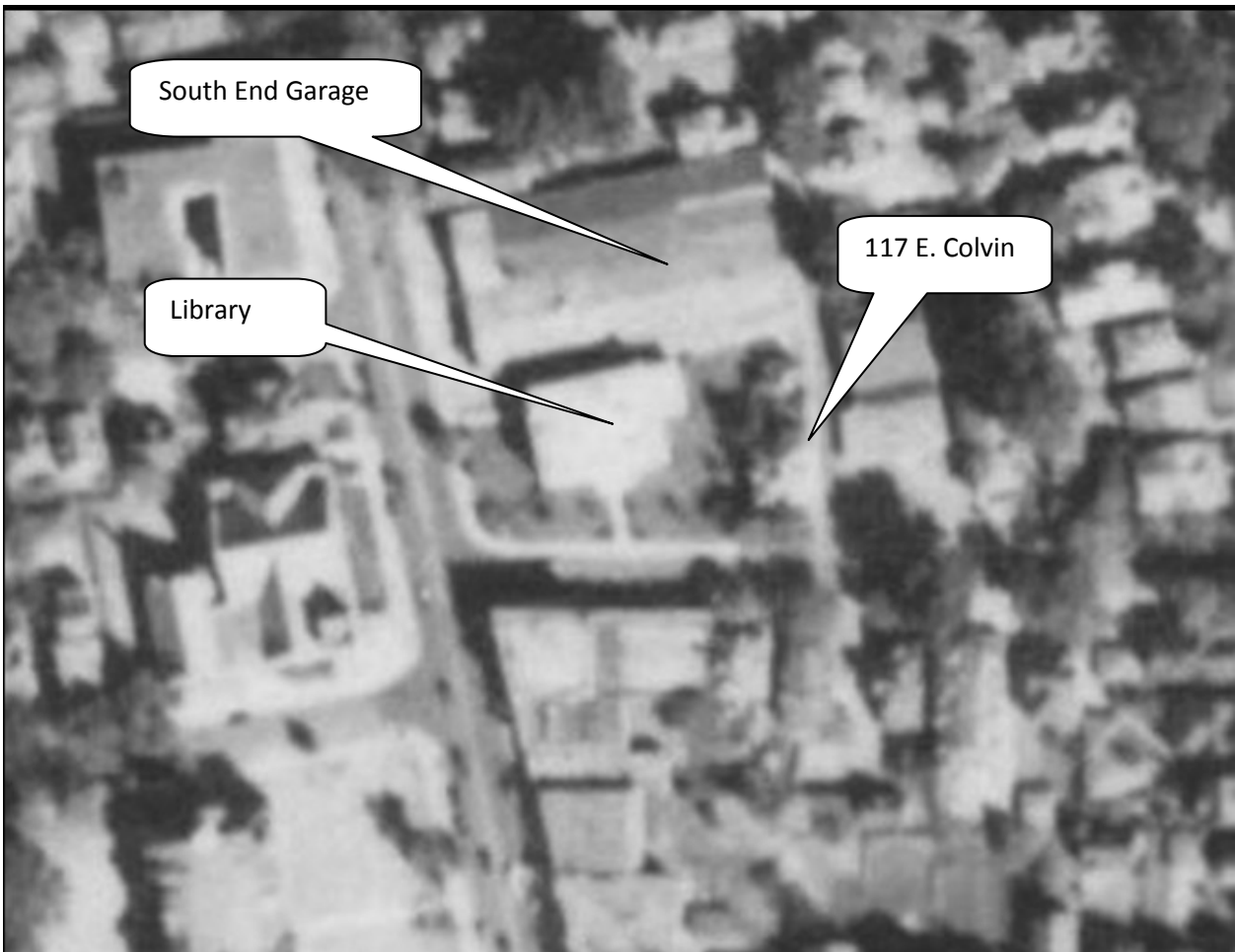


This map is oriented with north pointing up. East Colvin St. runs east and west and Salina St. is running diagonally along the lower left side of the map. The Stack family residence at 117 E. Colvin was labeled as 105 in this 1924 map. However, in all newspaper accounts the address was always 117.

The lot itself was only 36' by 100', but then they had the library lawn to spread out on. This was smaller than the lot where Bernard had built Camp Edward on Oneida Lake. There he purchased two adjacent, standard sized lots, to get a larger total lot, of 40' by 100', on which to build the camp.

The public library was on the west side of the residence. The South End Garage was behind the residence, on the north side of the house. All of these structures will appear later in the pictures.





This is an aerial photograph from September 6, 1938. Salina Street is the wide street running diagonally on the left side of the above picture. The quality of these aerial pictures begins to break down under extreme magnification but the presence or absence of larger structures can still be determined. The shadows are useful in determining the relative heights of the various buildings. The Arcadia Theater was at the southeast corner of Salina and Colvin. Its long shadow, extending to the northwest, gives an indication of the height of the theater. It appears to be a little taller than the library building. There are some overlapping circles to the east of the Colvin St. house. The lighter colored circle is one of the elm trees. The overlapping darker circle is the shadow of the elm tree. The distance between the center of the light circle and the center of the dark circle is a measure of the height of the tree. These were very tall trees with large canopies. The tree tops were over the houses, providing shade rather than being lower and obscuring the view of the neighborhood at ground level. Although their shadows obscure other details in these images, it's nice to see those old giants in their heyday before the Dutch Elm disease literally cut them down in the 1950s and 1960s.



This picture was taken in about 1945 on the library lawn next to the Stack residence. Starting from the left, there is Jean Marie Stack McGraw, Donna Jean Taylor and June Vincett Stack (in 1947 June married Robert White). In addition to identifying the persons in the pictures there is another purpose here. Somewhere there is a picture of the house at 117 E. Colvin. Its present whereabouts is unknown. In the absence of that picture, several other pictures have been selected, each of which shows a different portion of the E. Colvin St. house in the background. In the background of this picture there is the small garage at the back of the property and on the left, the southeast corner of the South End Garage.



This picture was taken at the same time as the picture on the previous page. This is Edward Vincett Stack, brother of Jean and June. He is in his army uniform, probably home on leave. Edward had married Helen Gilmore in 1940 and they had a daughter Lynda Lee Stack in 1944. Behind Edward is the northwest corner of the house. The laundry is out drying on the line behind the house. During inclement weather the laundry was hung in the attic. My mother, Jean Stack McGraw, told the story that her mother (Mabel Vincett Stack) hated housework and when she took the laundry up into the attic she would also take a book with her. She would spend hours in the attic, just reading.



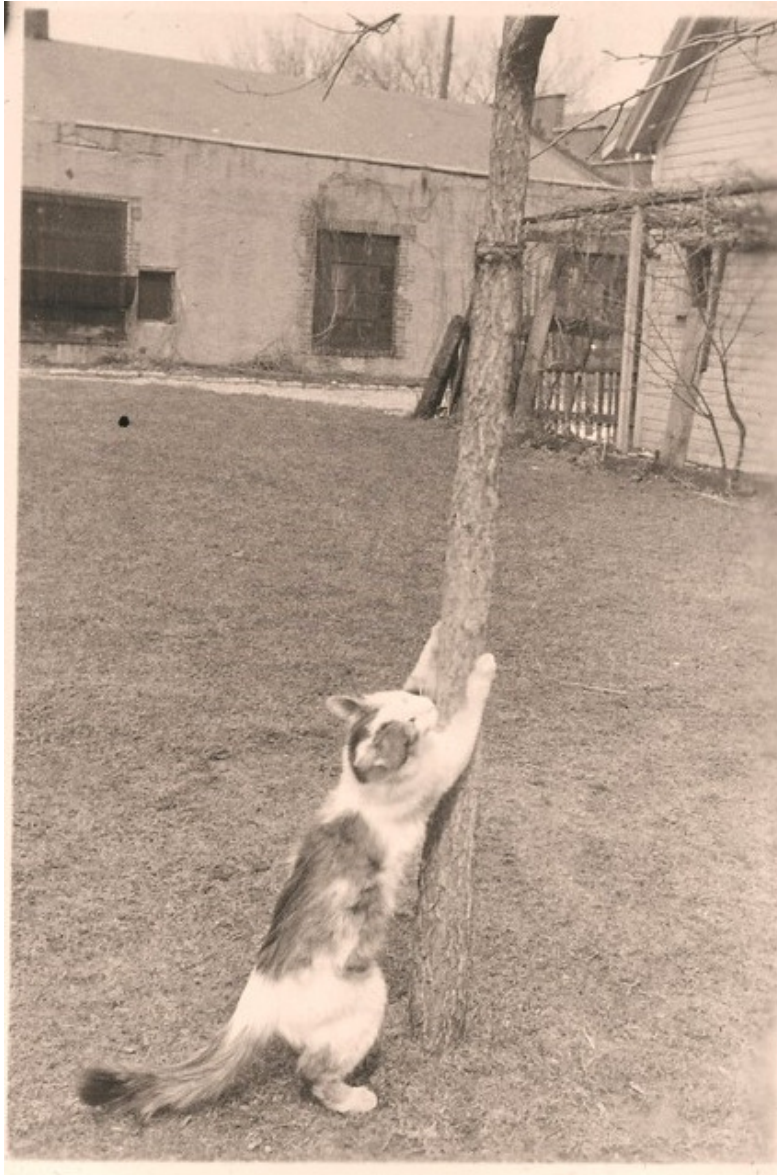


This is a picture of Mabel and Bernard Stack holding their 3-month old granddaughter, Donna Taylor. The year was 1943. In the background of this picture the large front porch can be seen on the south side of the house.



This is a picture of my parents from 1940 – Jean Stack and Francis McGraw on the front steps of 117 E. Colvin. They were married in Orlando, Florida in September 1943, while my father was on active duty with the Army Air Corps. This house wasn't that large and there were quite a few people living there in 1940. In addition to Bernard and Mabel, their four children Edward, Evelyn, Jean and June, there was also Mabel's mother, Margaret Stevenson (Murray (1<sup>st</sup>), Vincett (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Gower (3<sup>rd</sup>)) and Mabel's sister Mildred who were living with them. Therefore, when my father would go to call on my mother, they would retire to the front porch where Jean's grandmother Margaret would periodically peek through the curtain to check on things. However, before they could settle down on the porch and relax there was one more thing to deal with....

## The Cat.



This is Mickey, the cat. He was often found sleeping on the Stack's front porch. My father would go over to him, pick him up by the fur on the back of his neck and drop him over the front side of the porch. In this picture, Mickey was probably taking out his frustrations on the tree after being rudely awakened from his nap on the porch.



The house at 117 E. Colvin Street is long gone. It is now a parking lot for the library.



The population of the house began to decrease with the death of Margaret Stevenson Gower who died in April 1940. During the war Bernard and Mabel, Edward, Evelyn and her daughter Donna, Jean, June and Aunt Mildred were all living at 117 E. Colvin. In June 1940 Edward Stack married Helen Gilmore. In February 1942 Evelyn married Don Taylor in San Antonio, TX, but sadly he died in a training accident in October 1942 and Evelyn returned to Syracuse. In 1943 Evelyn gave birth to Donna Jean Taylor. In September 1943 Jean married Francis McGraw in Orlando, FL and returned to Colvin St. while her husband went overseas with the US Army Air Corp. After the war my father moved in and I was born in January 1947 (not in the actual house but at Crouse –Irving Hospital). In April 1947 we moved to 841 Ackerman Ave, just east of Syracuse University. In August 1947 June married Robert White and they moved to Leonard Ave., on the south side of the city. In June 1948 Evelyn married John Casey and moved to Apulia in the town of Fabius. John Casey had moved the old Truxton schoolhouse from the North Road, up to Berry Road in Apulia and they lived there. On September 13, 1948 Bernard Stack died. After this, Mabel remained at the Colvin St. house that they had been renting (she sold Camp Edward), and spent time living with each of her three daughters – all of who had grandchildren to keep her entertained. Mildred Vincett passed away while still living at 117 E. Colvin on Nov. 24, 1951. She was buried in Collamer Cemetery.

## ENDNOTES

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- <sup>1</sup> "Why They Let Her Land," The Syracuse Standard, Syracuse, NY, August 5, 1884.
- <sup>2</sup> "Penniless in New York," The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY, August 5, 1884.
- <sup>3</sup> A History of the Schools of Syracuse, From Its Early Settlement to January 1, 1893, by Edward Smith, Published by C. W. Bardeen, Syracuse, NY 1893, p. 207.
- <sup>4</sup> Map of City of Syracuse and Suburbs, Onondaga Co., NY, G. M. Hopkins Co., 136-138 South Fourth St., Philadelphia, PA, 1924
- <sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 206.
- <sup>6</sup> "Police Dry Sleuths Nab 2 in Raids," The Syracuse American, Syracuse, NY, January 17, 1932.
- <sup>7</sup> "Grossman Attacks Police Rum Raid," The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY, January 28, 1932.
- <sup>8</sup> The Syracuse Herald, March 5, 1905.
- <sup>9</sup> "Dies After Months of Illness," The Post Standard, Syracuse, NY, April 30, 1906.
- <sup>10</sup> The Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, May 2, 1906.
- <sup>11</sup> "Dying Mother's Wish For Daughter's Wedding Fulfilled In Sick Room," The Telegram. Syracuse, NY, March 30, 1903.
- <sup>12</sup> "Horse Roasted Alive In Morning Blaze," The Post Standard, Syracuse, NY, August 29, 1904.
- <sup>13</sup> "East Side's New Look," The Syracuse Herald-American, Syracuse, NY, August 7, 1955.
- <sup>14</sup> "As City's Low Cost Housing Project Was Formally Opened," The Syracuse Herald-Journal, Syracuse, NY, January 5, 1940.
- <sup>15</sup> "Urban Renewal, the 15<sup>th</sup> Ward, the Empire Stateway and the City of Syracuse, New York," by Aaron C. Knight, B.S. Thesis, May 2007.
- <sup>16</sup> "'Death Bed' Marriage Of Couple Is Revealed," The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY, January 11, 1934.
- <sup>17</sup> "Mrs. Nellie C. Saunders Dies Before Son Is Buried," The Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, February 26, 1934.
- <sup>18</sup> "Saunders." The Post Standard, Syracuse, NY, July 24, 1957.
- <sup>19</sup> "Photo Interpretation," Michael F. McGraw, November 15, 2013, Unpublished.
- <sup>20</sup> "Chicken Thief Proves Bloodthirsty Raccoon," The Post Standard, Syracuse, NY, December 15, 1910.
- <sup>21</sup> Transcript from a December 24, 1980 interview with Jean Stack McGraw, by her daughter Shirley McGraw Maloney.
- <sup>22</sup> "Fined \$100 As Owner of Disorderly House," The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY, July 30, 1932.

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<sup>23</sup> "Gets Two Months on Disorderly Charge," The Syracuse Herald, Syracuse, NY, March 11, 1933; The Syracuse Journal, Syracuse, NY, April 5, 1933.