



## Bench and Bar

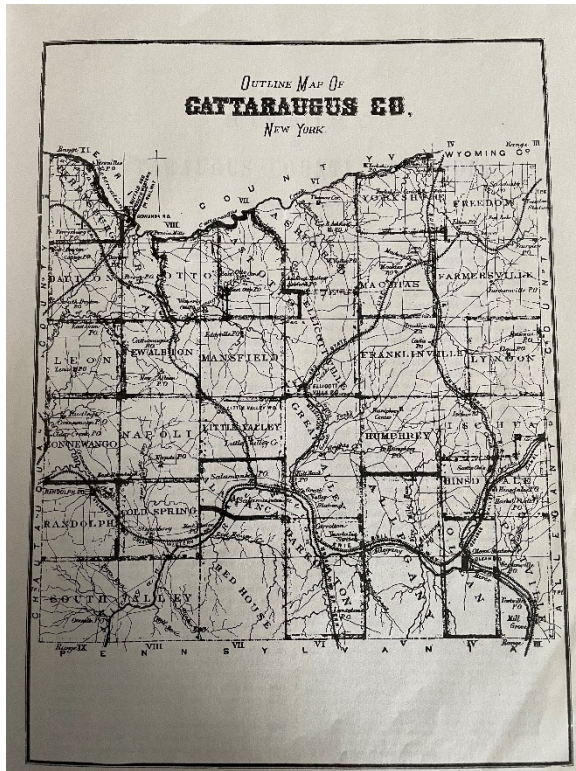


**Hon. Ronald D. Ploetz & Jennifer A. Widger, Esq.**

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## I. County Origins



Cattaraugus County Map.

The rolling hills and densely forested woodlands located near the southwestern corner of New York State were the historic home of successive Native American nations.<sup>i</sup> During the mid-1600s, the Senecas (Onödowá'ga: or "People of the Great Hill")<sup>ii</sup> gained control over what is now Cattaraugus County from the Eries.<sup>iii</sup> For the next one hundred-forty years, few non-indigenous peoples settled there.<sup>iv</sup> Quaker missionaries were among the first in 1798.<sup>v</sup>

In 1808, Cattaraugus County was established by the New York State Legislature, but a county government was not organized until 1817 when the required number of taxable inhabitants had settled.<sup>vi</sup> Within this 1,334 square mile county, the Seneca Nation

maintained governance authority over its Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Oil Spring Territories.<sup>vii</sup> To this day, Cattaraugus County and the Seneca Nation of Indians govern independently and in parallel of each other.

By the 1860s, two prominent railroads crossed Cattaraugus County: First, the New York and Erie Railroad, which was authorized by the New York State Legislature in 1832 to connect the Atlantic Coast with Lake Erie,<sup>viii</sup> and second, the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad, which ultimately established a rail line into Pennsylvania.<sup>ix</sup> Other railroads soon followed.<sup>x</sup> Ultimately, three transcontinental railroads had a junction in the City of Salamanca, which is located within Cattaraugus County and on the Seneca Nation's Allegany Territory.<sup>xi</sup>

During the mid-1800s, a group of Franciscan Friars from Italy established a college and seminary in Cattaraugus County.<sup>xii</sup> St. Bonaventure College was formally dedicated in 1858, and its first commencement exercise was held in 1860.<sup>xiii</sup> New York State granted the college a permanent Charter of Incorporation in 1883, and in 1950, St. Bonaventure was named a university by the New York State Board of Regents.<sup>xiv</sup>

Just after the turn of the nineteenth century, the railroad industry was booming in Cattaraugus County and a county resident—Frank W. Higgins—became the 35<sup>th</sup> governor of New York State.<sup>xv</sup> Cattaraugus County, however, remained predominantly rural. Outdoor

recreation drew in visitors, and a movement began to establish a state park in Cattaraugus County.<sup>xvi</sup>

In 1921, the New York State Legislature established the Allegany State Park within the geographic boundaries of Cattaraugus County.<sup>xvii</sup> It became the largest state park in New York,<sup>xviii</sup> and the 64,800-acre parkland was designated “for the use of all the people.”<sup>xix</sup> To enhance recreation, extensive development of the park occurred between 1933 and 1942, and the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration added roads, bridges, camping areas, trails, picnic areas, and a ski area.<sup>xx</sup> The CCC also completed conservation projects, like reforestation, stream bank retention, and wildlife improvement.<sup>xxi</sup>

Adjacent to the park, another major public works project was completed between 1959 and 1964, the Kinzua Dam.<sup>xxii</sup> The US Corps of Army Engineers constructed this dam near the New York and Pennsylvania border, flooding ten thousand acres of the Seneca Nation’s Allegany Territory and forcing many Senecas to relocate.<sup>xxiii</sup> The resulting Kinzua Lake, also known as the Allegheny Reservoir, now extends almost 25 miles into Seneca Nation territory and Cattaraugus County.<sup>xxiv</sup>

According to the 2020 census, almost 80,000 inhabitants live within Cattaraugus County. Within the geographic borders of the county are 32 towns, 2 cities (Olean and Salamanca), and 9 incorporated villages. Little Valley is the county seat.



## II. Courthouses

### A. Cattaraugus County Courthouses

On July 1, 1817, the court of Common Pleas held its first session in the residence of William Baker in Olean, New York. The following April, the State Legislative passed an act providing that subsequent sessions would be held in Ellicottville, New York, the then-county seat and that it would be held in the residence of Baker Leonard until a courthouse could be built. The removal of the courts from Olean to Ellicottville so dissatisfied some of the Olean people that they provided themselves with tents and provisions to avoid spending any of their money in Ellicottville. However, after one or two cool nights, they were willing to pay for rooms at the inn.



Cattaraugus County Courthouse, 1829-1867.

In 1868, the county seat was moved to Little Valley, mainly due to its location as a station for the Erie Railroad (and due to financial incentives provided by the Town). A new courthouse and jail were erected that same year at a cost of \$29,500.

In 1820, a log courthouse and jail were completed and were used until fire destroyed them in 1829. The fire was discovered soon enough that no prisoners were injured. A new brick courthouse was built in 1829, a structure that is still in use today for the Town Hall.



Cattaraugus County Courthouse, 1868-1967.



Damage from the courthouse fire, 1946.



Damage from the courthouse fire, 1946.

In 1946, a fire blazed throughout the courthouse for over five hours, causing extensive damage to the structure—and the loss of the gallows that had been stored in the loft. A bell, 36 inches in diameter, that hung in the belfry crashed to the ground, narrowly missing several firefighters. Rather than replacing the structure, rudimentary repairs were made.

Almost twenty years after the fire (and almost one hundred years after the courthouse was built), the courthouse was still being used, but it was decrepit. As the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Administrative Judge reported to the Appellate Division in 1964:

This brings me back to the courthouse at Little Valley. This courthouse must be seen to be believed. It was built in the administration of President Grant (1868) and from all physical appearances had had little attention since. A catalogue of its physical defects

rendering it not only unfit from an esthetic standpoint but more important from the standpoint of safety would be lengthy indeed. It has been through at least one fire; the repairs made after that fire were done haphazardly; the roof is held up by burned, charred and sliced rafters; dry rot has infested the floor of the courtroom so that a portion near the jury box is fenced-off to keep the weightier members of the Cattaraugus County Bar from disappearing through the floor when addressing the jury from that area; paint is peeling from most of the walls in the courtroom and jury room. The Justices'





Damage from the courthouse fire, 1946.

Chambers is probably the only such chambers in the United States which has as part of the furnishings a commode. The Grand Jury room is not much larger than a good-sized bedroom with a compost heap piled up against the north wall which on warm days brings a multitude of flies through the unscreened windows to say nothing of the rich odor of rooting vegetable matter.

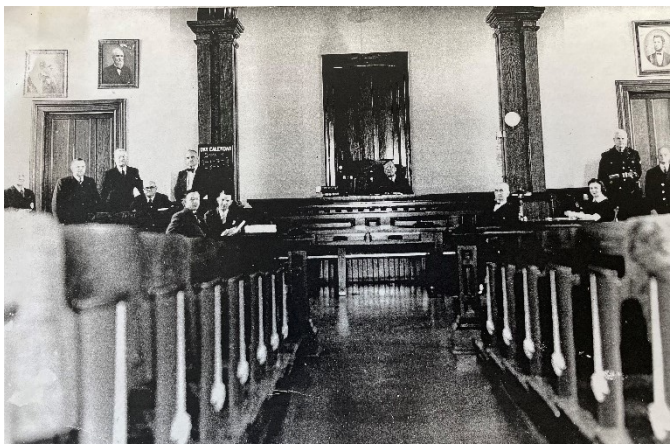
Some long-forgotten craftsman designed a system of rising seats in the courtroom so that each row of seats is a little higher than the row in front. This gives the spectators a chance to see

over the heads of those in front. This is a fine arrangement except that our hero neglected to have the center aisle rise with the seats. Because of this unique, if not unparalleled, arrangements there is a four-foot step-off from the last row of seats but not so much from those near the front. Your former beloved and distinguished member, the Honorable Raymond C. Vaughn, while holding a term of court there attempted to correct this dangerous situation by having the sheriff string a rope across the tops of the seats and down each side of the center aisle. By some quirk of the mind of the departed craftsman, he did cause the side aisles to rise with the seats. It is an unforgettable experience, gentleman, to presided in that courtroom, watch a witness in the last row when called, arise and start towards the center aisle no knowing whether he will see the rope in time to prevent stepping off into space or will turn and make a safe journey to the witness stand by way of the inclined side aisle. By long usage the local residents are familiar with this built-in booby-trap but all witnesses and litigants are not local.

The jury deliberation room is situated immediately off the courtroom with the door an arms reach from No. 1 and No. 7 jurors seated in the jury box. It is somewhat confusing to all jurors seated in the jury box. It is somewhat confusing to all when a case is being tried while a jury is deliberating to hear the discussion of the deliberating jury. The judge has on advantage, at least he can learn how the jury feels about him. Sometimes the opinions of the jury are not flattering.

Although it may not be within our province and especially mine as Administrative Judge, to examine the adequacy of County Jails rumor has it that the locks on the jail cells are in such poor state of repair that the cell doors must be locked from the inside, the sheriff passing the keys through to the prisoner for locking and hoping, I suppose, that the prisoner will pass the keys back to him.

There are no facilities here for separating juveniles from others appearing before the County Judge or Family Court Judge from witnesses, prospective indictees or hangers-on. This is a wholly unsatisfactory situation. Remedies have been in the “talking” stage for years. There is a considerable amount of internal conflict in Cattaraugus County on this subject. Architecture fees for completed plans for a new building have been paid and the plans then discarded at a considerable loss to the taxpayers in Cattaraugus County. Surely somewhere among the vast powers to the Judicial Conference, Administrative Board or the Appellate Division must lie the authority to require a county to properly house so important courts as the County Court, Surrogate’s Court and the Family court. (I suggest the language of Article 7-a, Judiciary Law, Section 212, Paragraph 7).



The courtroom in the 1940s. Judge Orla Black, presiding.

As above, the Supreme Court long since removed from this shamble to Olean.

I most urgently request this situation be corrected, if only temporarily, by an order moving the County



Court, Grand Jury, Surrogate's Court and Family Court to some other place if such order is within the authority of the Appellate Division.”



Cattaraugus County Center Building (Family Court).

A new county center building was completed in Little Valley in 1967, and it seats the Supreme Court, County Court, and Surrogate's Court. Later, a separate county office building was built in Olean, and it houses the Family Court.



The current courtroom in Little Valley, NY. The displayed portraits are, left to right, Hon. Paul B. Kelly; Hon. J. Richmond Page; Hon. Frederick W. Kruse; Hon. Edward M. Horey; Hon. James F. Crowley; and Hon. Larry M. Himelein.



Current County Office Building (Supreme, County, and Surrogate's Courts). The bell in the foreground is the bell that fell from the courthouse belfry during the fire of 1946.

## **B. Seneca Nation of Indians Courthouses**

In 1848, the Seneca Nation of Indians changed its form of governance from an appointed chief system to an elective system with three branches of government, i.e., executive, legislative, and judicial.<sup>xxv</sup> The Seneca Nation now has the Peacemaker's Court, Surrogate's Court, and the Court of Appeals. Courthouses are located on the Allegany and Cattaraugus Territories.

The Peacemaker's Court exercises general jurisdiction and upholds the Seneca Nation constitution, laws, ordinances, customs, and traditions. Three Peacemakers preside at the Allegany Territory, and three others preside at the Cattaraugus Territory. Peacemakers are elected to four-year terms.

The Seneca Nation Surrogate's Court exercises jurisdiction over estates for members of the Seneca Nation of Indians. One Surrogate presides at the Allegany Territory, and another presides at the Cattaraugus Territory.

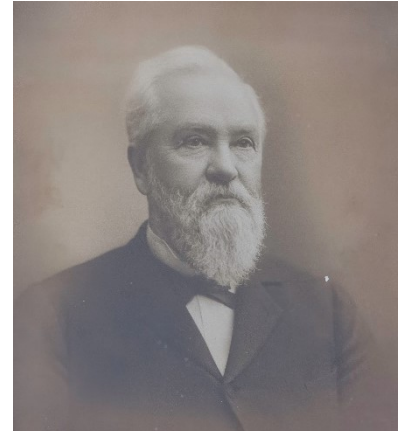
The Court of Appeals hear appeals from the Peacemaker's Court and Surrogate's Court. Six judges sit on the Court of Appeals.

### III. The Bench and Bar

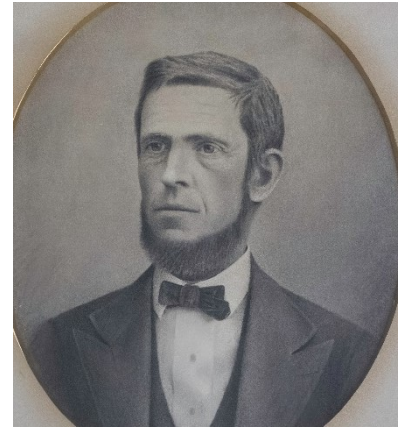
#### A. Judges

##### County Judges

1817-1820	Timothy H. Porter – First Judge Appointed
1820-1823	James Adkins
1823-1833	Alson Leavenworth
1834-1846	Benjamin Chamberlain
1847-1850	Rensselaer Lamb
1850-1855	Chester Howe
1855-1859	Nelson Cobb
1859-1863	William Woodbury
1863-1866	David Huntington Bolles
1866-1871	Rensselaer Lamb
1871-1875	Samuel Spring – died while in office
1875	William H. Henderson – appointed to complete Judge Spring's term
1876-1887	Allen D. Scott
1888-1891	Oliver S. Vreeland
1897-1900	Frederick W. Kruse – (also Supreme Court and Appellate Division)



Hon. Rensselaer Lamb



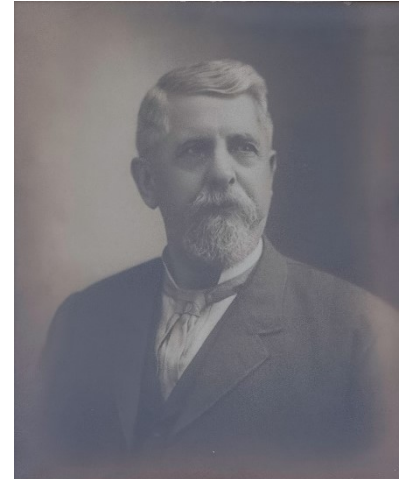
Hon. Samuel Spring



Hon. Oliver S. Vreeland



1900-1911	Winfield Scott Thrasher
1911-1916	Thomas Dowd
1920-1925	George A. Larkin – (also Supreme Court and Appellate Division)
1927-1948	Orla Black
1949	A. Edward Krieger Judge Elect – died on New Year's Eve before taking office
1950-1956	Joseph A. Nevins – (also Supreme Court)
1957-1977	J. Richmond Page
1977-1984	James F. Crowley
1985-1991	Paul B. Kelly
1992-2016	Michael L. Nenno*
1993-2012	Larry M. Himelein*
2013-present	Ronald D. Ploetz*
2017-present	Moses Mark Howden*



Hon. Winfield Scott Thrasher



Hon. Joseph A. Nevins

## Surrogate's Court

1817-1829	Jeremy Wooster*
1830-1838	Moses Beecher
1838-1847	Robert H. Shankland
1848-1857	County Judges performed Surrogate's duties these years
1857-1865	Allen D. Scott
1866-1870	Arunah Ward
1870-1875	William Manley
1875-1879	Hudson Ansley
1880-1892	Alfred Spring
1892-1915	Carey Davie
1915-1918	George Larkin
1918-1932	Albert Bird
1933-1949	Harold Congdon
1950-1971	Alonzo Prey
1971-1992	Edward M. Horey
1992-2016	Michael L. Nenno
1993-2012	Larry M. Himelein, III
2013-present	Ronald D. Ploetz
2013-present	Moses Mark Howden



The Wall of Surrogates. Pictured (top to bottom, and left to right): Hudson Ansley, Harold Congdon, Albert Bird, Carey Davie, Arunah Ward, George Larkin, William Manley, Moses Beecher, Alonzo Prey, Alfred Spring, and Robert Shankland.

## **Supreme Court**

1900-1922	Frederick W. Kruse – (also County Court and Appellate Division)
1925-1948	George A. Larkin – (also County Court and Appellate Division)
1957-1976	Joseph A. Nevins
2013-2019	Jeremiah Moriarty, III (also Court of Claims)

## **Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department**

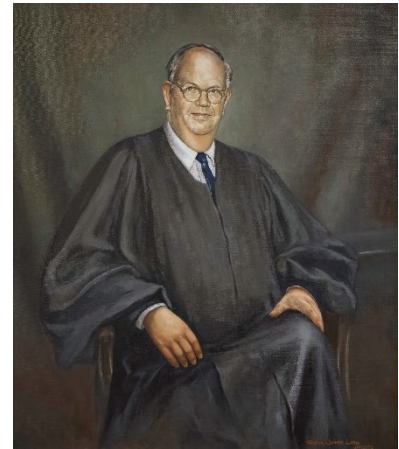
1907-1922	Frederick W. Kruse (Presiding Justice, 1913-1922) (also County Court and Supreme Court)
1945-1948	George A. Larkin



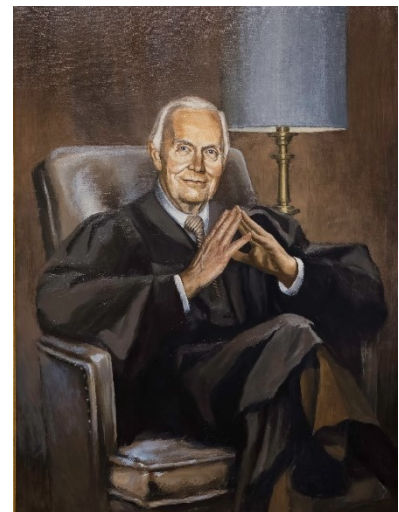
Hon. Jeremiah Moriarty, III

## **Court of Claims Judges**

1961-1973	Ronald Coleman
1974-1984	Jeremiah Moriarty, II
2005-2013	Jeremiah Moriarty, III (also Supreme Court)



Hon. Ronald Coleman



Hon. Jeremiah Moriarty, II



## **B. District Attorneys**

1818	Henry Wells
1819	John A. Bryan
1819	Timothy H. Porter
1820	John A. Bryan
1820	Milton B. Canfield
1820	Henry Wells
1821	William Smith
1821	Samuel S. Haight
1823	Henry Wells
1823	John A. Bryan
1824-1826	Timothy H. Porter
1827	George A.S. Crooker
1827	John A. Bryan
1828-1829	C.J. Fox
1830-1834	Anson Gibbs
1835-1838	James Burt
1838-1840	James Burt
1841-1844	Daniel Reed Wheeler
1847-1850	William Pitt Angel
1851-1853	William H. Wood
1854-1856	Alexander Sheldon
1857-1859	William Pitt Angel
1860-1865	Samuel S. Spring
1866-1871	Merrill T. Jenkins
1872-1877	William G. Laidlaw
1878-1883	Frank W. Stevens
1884-1889	George M. Rider
1890-1895	James H. Waring
1896-1901	Joseph M. Congdon
1902-1913	George W. Cole
1914-1926	Archibald M. Laidlaw
1926	John W. Ellis
1927-1941	A. Edward Krieger
1942-1950	Joseph A. Nevins
1950-1956	J. Richmond Page
1957-1977	Richard H. Dawson
1978-1981	Michael P. Nevins
1982-1992	Larry M. Himelein, III
1993	Robert P. Isaac, Jr.
1994-1997	Michael P. Nevins
1998-2009	Edward M. Sharkey
2010-present	Lori Pettit Reiman

## C. Notable Legal Counsel

### a. Ely S. Parker (1930-1895)<sup>xxvi</sup>

During the late-1840s and while still a young man, Ely S. Parker studied law in Cattaraugus County under the tutelage of two established attorneys. Although Ely Parker's experience "reading the law" and working in a law office qualified him for admission to the bar, he was denied. Why? He was not considered a citizen of the United States of America because he was a Native American born on the territory of the Tonawanda Seneca Nation.

This setback, however, did not prevent Ely Parker from flourishing and earning numerous distinguished positions during his lifetime. He went on to become an engineer, military secretary to his friend Ulysses S. Grant, transcriber of the terms of surrender at Appomattox, Brigadier General of the Union Army, and Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Efforts are now underway to seek his posthumous admission to the bar.

### b. Helen F. Pittaway (1895-1985)<sup>xxvii</sup>

Helen F. Pittaway was the first female lawyer to practice in Cattaraugus County. She graduated from law school at the University of Buffalo in 1917, two years before women gained the right to vote. She joined a law firm in Gowanda that has now extended through three generations of her relatives.

### c. Jean M. Pyle (1936-2006)<sup>xxviii</sup>

In 1960, Jean M. Pyle (née Musacchio) became the first woman born in Cattaraugus County to be admitted to the New York State Bar.<sup>1</sup> She graduated as valedictorian from Gowanda High School in 1954 and later became the only woman in her law school class at the University of Buffalo. After graduating from law school in 1960, she returned to Gowanda to join her father's law practice, along with her husband who she met at law school. During her 46-year practice in Cattaraugus County, Jean M. Pyle served as the managing partner of her law firm, acting Gowanda Village Justice, and trustee for private and charitable trusts.

Jean Pyle's daughter, Pamela Pyle Brown, followed in her mother's footsteps—graduating as valedictorian from Gowanda High School in 1980, completing law school at the University of Buffalo, gaining admission to the New York State Bar in 1988, and working as a lawyer at both her family's law firm and HSBC Bank.

### d. Hon. Jeremy Wooster

Jeremy Wooster, the County's first Surrogate, was a Veteran of the War of 1812. On February 15, 1864, he received a deed to 160 acres of bounty land in Vernon County, Wisconsin, in recognition of his military service. The original deed, signed by Abraham Lincoln, hung in the Surrogate's Office from 1900 until 1982 when it was removed to the county historical museum.



Jeremy Wooster's deed to land in Wisconsin, signed by Abraham Lincoln.



## IV. Cases and Trials of Note

Twelve men have been executed for Cattaraugus County murders.<sup>xxix</sup> Others have escaped the gallows or the electric chair. Some of the most newsworthy trials are as follows:

### A. Murder Hill

For almost 150 years, the moniker “Murder Hill” has been commonly used for a hill located along Route 242 and near the Little Valley courthouse. In 2013, Sue M. Cross, the Town of Mansfield Historian, wrote about the root of that nickname:<sup>xxx</sup>

When asked about the murder on Murder Hill the most common response is: “Inquiries result in more questions than answers.”

The facts that we do know: Charles T. Wimple born December 14, 1844 died on the 19th of March 1875. He is buried in the Sugartown Cemetery in a grave marked with a tombstone. Living on a small farm of about 2 acres, in the Town of Mansfield area known as Fish Hill, Wimple had come to this area from Mexico, NY in Oswego County after the war. He had an injury to his right arm. His death was caused by poison: traces of strychnine and arsenic were found in his tissue.

Age is one of the unanswered questions in this whole story. From the various accounts that can be found Wimple became “taken” with a neighbor’s daughter, Emma Marsh. Emma was much younger than Charles. At the time of his death it is said she has two children, a five year old and a two year old as well as references to her being about five months pregnant. During the murder trial and investigation Emma’s age is listed from 10, 17, or 18 as well as many ages in between. The most accurate account of her age seems to be the report at the time of her release in 1903 found in an article in the New York Times. Emma is listed as having spent 27 years in prison stating she was only seventeen years old when the crime was committed. She was imprisoned the following year which would have her age at 45 years in 1903. Therefore, if Emma was 17 at the time of her husband’s death; she was pregnant at age 11 or 12 if the ages of her children have been accurately reported. Charles would have been about age 24 or 25 at the birth of the first child.

Nelson Cool age 21 was the “hired man” who boarded with the Wimples doing odd jobs around the farm for board. He was paid for chopping wood at a neighboring residence. As noted Charles had a difficult time with manual labor due to his war injury. He was receiving a small pension.

In January 1875 Charles became very ill with vomiting followed by convulsions. This lasted a day or two. In February Charles had a similar attack and again in March. This attack was much more severe and continued. Charles did send Nelson to the doctor for medication for "stomach worms". The attack continued in March until his death on the 19th. No doctor had been summoned.

Concern that a doctor had not been called as well as the rigidity of the body although the corpse was warm prompted Emma's father to take his concerns to the authorities. It seemed he had thought Nelson may have poisoned Charles. The doctor did do an autopsy on the man at the home and samples were sent to Buffalo for analysis. The result was that Nelson Cool and Emma Wimple were both arrested at the farm.

Further investigation revealed that the Wimples had an infestation of rats in their home. Charles had sent Nelson to buy strychnine and arsenic which was then put in tins with corn. The tins were set in the pantry alongside the corn Emma used to make "corn coffee" for Charles that he drank frequently.

The jury heard testimony that a relationship had developed between Nelson and Emma and that they had conspired to kill her husband. In October 1875 Nelson was found guilty of murder in the first degree. He was sentenced to hang on November 20, 1875. However, Governor Samuel J. Tilden commuted Nelson's sentence to life in prison. Nelson died in Auburn Prison in about 1884 from tuberculosis.

Emma Wimple was tried in 1876. She was convicted of murder in the second degree. On February 26th she was sentenced to imprisonment in Sing Sing for the term of her natural life. Many accounts give varying locations as to her imprisonment: one she was sentenced to Ward's Island, another Blackwell's Island or she was in Auburn and finally, Emma Wimple was released from the Matteawan Hospital for the Insane where she had resided for the last 15 months. She was pardoned by Governor Benjamin B. Odell in 1903 after 27 years of confinement. In June 1903 according to the New York Times, Emma was on her way to her husband's sister's home in Syracuse, NY.

Some of the questions:

One story indicated Charles's sister raised the children. Were there two children or three? Where were the children when their mother is released from prison?

Women did not have the right to vote or many other rights in 1875. Women did not serve on juries during this period in history. Was there an adequate defense for Emma?

Was there an adequate defense for Nelson? Was he her paramour as rumored? Were they just friends? Did Charles ask him to get the poison and place it in the pantry? Was this a terrible accident? Why did no one else get sick? Or did they?

Did gossip and rumors influence the jury? Where is Emma buried?

With a folklore element, so many questions surround this tragedy. Will an investigation ever be done to sort truth from fiction, rumor/gossip from fact in this matter?

The lore that the truth is still waiting to be told hangs over this saga, yet, the true tragedy is: the Wimple children lost both parents on March 19, 1875.

## **B. Cynthia Buffum<sup>xxx</sup>**

Thomas McCarthy, General Secretary/Webmaster, of the NY Correction Historical Society wrote about an infamous murderer convicted twice in Cattaraugus County:<sup>xxxii</sup>

Mrs. Cynthia Buffum, 39, [was] jailed on the charge of fatally poisoning her husband, Willis, 52, a Mansfield, New York tenant farmer.

She also was suspected of poisoning five of their children, two of whom died. Cynthia had married Willis when she was 15 and he was 28.

Cynthia Buffum's jailing in Little Valley didn't take place until December 1913.

But the circumstances surrounding the August 24th death of Willis Buffum, the death the previous May of their 4-year-old son Norris Buffum, the impending death of their 10-year-old daughter Laura Buffum (Feb. 2, 1914), and the illnesses which the other Buffum children survived -- all these developments -- had aroused suspicions in the community well before mid-September.

Prompted by concern for the fate of the children at the hands of their mother, local citizens called the situation to the attention of county authorities during the first week of September.

An investigation was begun. As a result, under the supervision of Cattaraugus Sheriff John Dempsey, acting at the direction of District Attorney George W. Cole, the remains of William Buffum were exhumed Oct. 2, 1913. Even though the post-exhumation examination determined Mr. Buffum had died of arsenic poisoning, Mrs. Buffum remained free.

Needing evidence to establish that she had administered the arsenic to him, authorities were able to place a female detective, posing as a nurse, in the Buffum household to become the suspect's confidant.

Admissions by Mrs. Buffum to the nurse/detective, to another detective posing as the nurse's friend, and thereafter to D.A. Cole led to Cynthia's indictment and arrest.

The *Watertown Herald*, in a story about Mrs. Buffum's first week in the Little Valley jail, reported: "*Most of the time she stares at the farmhouse a half-mile up the hillside where she is said to have murdered her husband and 5-year-old son and attempted to kill four others.*"

The defense mounted on Cynthia's behalf at trial by her counsel Patrick S. Collins suggested husband Willis may have been the poisoner -- of himself and his children -- out of depression over his rising debts and declining ability to keep up with them.

The Buffum boys testified that at various times their father, when under the influence of drink and discouraged by his financial woes, voiced such suicidal and homicidal sentiments. They testified there had never been any horse liniment in the household.

Each day of the trial drew a long line of citizens who, seeking to assure themselves of good seats to hear the words coming from the witness stand, arrived early in the morning before the courthouse doors were opened.

But during the trial very few in the audience likely realized that the turning point in the case would ultimately prove to have been words first uttered from the bench.

After 5 hours and 20 minutes of deliberations, the jury on Feb. 27, 1914, found Mrs. Buffum guilty of first degree murder in the death of her husband. Conviction carried a mandatory death sentence, making her the first woman from Cattaraugus County to be so sentenced, according to the *Watertown Herald*.



The day after the verdict, Cattaraugus Sheriff John Dempsey and Matron Margaret Clancy of Little Valley escorted Cynthia to Auburn Prison to await execution in its electric chair during the week of April 6.

*“The proximity of the death chair in the little gray stone building a few hundred yards from her cell caused Cynthia Buffum to break down after she entered Auburn Prison.”*

So said reported identical stories in the March 7th, 1914, issue of *Adirondack News* of St. Regis Falls, the March 8 issue of the *Ogdensburg Advance*, and an issue of the *Gouverneur Press*.

*“Safe from the eyes of the world, she threw off the indifference that characterized her since she was first accused . . .*

*“[She] wept repeatedly as she lay on the cot in the cell once occupied by Mary Farmer, the Watertown murderess who was the first woman to die in the electric chair in Auburn.”*

Cynthia’s collapse -- “she was inconsolable and refused to be comforted” -- came as the Cattaraugus sheriff and matron bade good-bye to her.”

However, an appeal filed by attorney Collins on Mrs. Buffum’s behalf postponed the execution. Her conviction was overturned Feb. 5, 1915, by the state’s highest judicial panel, the Court of Appeals, in a 5-to-2 decision citing two rulings by the trial judge, Justice Charles H. Brown, that

- admitted into evidence incriminating statements allegedly made to the DA by Mrs. Buffum, as a result of the deception and trickery by the undercover detectives, but repudiated by Mrs. Buffum at trial, and
- also admitted into evidence testimony about daughter Laura’s illness preceding her mother’s Dec. 10th indictment, the girl’s death the following Feb. 2 and the autopsy on her remains.

The *New York Times*, in reporting Feb. 6, 1915, on the high court’s order, incorrectly stated:

*“A new trial was granted on the ground that the confession which the District Attorney obtained from Mrs. Buffum was induced by fraud and deception.*

*“The court also held that testimony regarding the alleged poisoning of Laura Buffum was not admissible.”*

On the contrary, a careful reading of Chief Justice Willard Bartlett’s majority opinion makes clear that despite the detectives’ deception and manipulations, in itself the confession would not necessarily have been ruled out on appeal, had not the Laura Buffum evidence been allowed in at trial.

Chief Justice Bartlett wrote:

*“ . . . to go into the circumstances of the poor little girl’s illness and death in extenso . . . thus [left] the jury at the very end of the case deeply impressed with the wickedness of any one responsible for the innocent child’s death, and certainly [suggested] the idea that the defendant was that person.*

*“To my mind the possibility -- nay, the probability -- that the jury may have been influenced to take a different view of the confession from that which they would have taken if the evidence in regard to the daughter’s death had not been laid before them with so much emphasis and particularity convinces me that we cannot.*

*“For this reason I advise the reversal of the judgment of conviction and the granting of a new trial.”*

Bartlett’s written opinion found that the Laura Buffum-related testimony did not fit any of the few narrow [Molineux] exceptions to the rule against allowing admission of evidence about crimes not charged in the indictment.

Since the December 1913 indictment on which Mrs. Buffum was tried related only to the death of her husband in August 1913, Justice Bartlett held that Judge Brown’s allowing in evidence the testimony about Laura Buffum’s illness and Feb. 2, 1914 death, was wrong legally in itself and additionally wrong in the prejudicial effect it had on jury evaluation of the questionable confession.

Had the majority opinion completely precluded admission of the confession into evidence, the court likely would not have ordered a new trial.

Justice William H. Cuddeback and Cardozo dissented on the ground that although the evidence of the illness and death of Laura Buffum was inadmissible when first offered, it became admissible and “the error was cured” as a result of the course taken at trial by the defense.

Since the indictment on which Mrs. Buffum had been tried could not have been brought forth without the alleged confession, a point widely recognized and tacitly acknowledged, a new trial under that indictment could not go forward if the high court had foreclosed prosecution use of her alleged incriminating statements.

In late July 1915, the jury at the second trial began deliberations. In a story datelined Buffalo, the *Lake Placid News* reported:

*“Twenty years imprisonment or the chance of a jury disagreement and a third trial were the alternatives that Cynthia Buffum pondered through 17 sleepless hours, coming to a decision three minutes before court opened that she would plead guilty to second degree murder for feeding arsenic to her husband. . . .*

*“The statutory sentence of life imprisonment, with a minimum of 20 years, was imposed by Justice Pound.*

*“‘Mrs. Buffum has never admitted that she had poisoned her husband, and does not admit it now,’ said Roy C. Bauer, one of her attorney’s at the jail.*

*“‘Is that correct, Mrs. Buffum?’ the prisoner was asked, and she said, ‘Yes,’ in reply, insisting that she did not commit the crime.”*

*“The trial just ended was Mrs. Buffum’s second. . . .”*

Perhaps the writer of the article assumed the newspaper’s readers would already be aware that Mrs. Buffum’s retrial on the first degree murder charge carried the prospect of death for her in the electric chair if the second trial jurors returned a guilty verdict.

But surely that had to be among the “alternatives pondered,” prompting her to plead to second degree murder, rather risk having the dubious distinction of becoming the first Cattaraugus County woman executed under a death sentence.

Mrs. Buffum already had the distinction of being the first so sentenced.

The Buffum murders garnered international interest, and a December 15, 1913 article published in the Montreal, Canadian Gazette detailed Mrs. Buffum’s confession:

In the confession, Mrs. Buffum says her love for Ernest Frahm, the dashing young man, and his urgent demands that she kill her

husband and family, caused her to administer the slow poison. The document states she believes she still loves Frahm.

Mrs. Buffum, in her confession, says the murder of her husband and child was contemplated as far back as last winter. First the poison was given to little Norris. Mrs. Buffum has passed over the killing of the little boy. In fact, it was with difficulty that she would be induced to say something about it, her confession being devoted most wholly to the methodical manner in which she went about the work of sending her husband to death.

“Ernest said he wanted to marry me, and he wanted Willis out of the way. We talked it over. Norris was dead, and Ernest thought we should get Willis out of the way as soon as possible. He said to me: ‘I suppose I could catch him out in the dark some night and put a bullet in his head, but you know an easier way.’ I knew he meant the poison.

“Then I began to place the poison in Willis’ food. I took the stuff from bottles used by my brother, James Colf, in which to keep medicines, which he used to treat his horses. For about a week Willis didn’t seem to show any effects from the poison – then he began to get sick. Each day he got worse, but I kept right on giving him the poison.

“Finally we called Dr. Hillsman. He examined Willis and asked me some questions about him. I said nothing about the poison. After the doctor had been called Ernest met me and asked me if the doctor suspected anything. I told him I did not think so.

“Dr. Hillsman sent in some medicine to be given to Willis. I mixed the poison in the medicine and kept on giving it to him. A few days after that Willis got very bad and that night he died.

“A few days later I gave the poison to Herbert, Clarence and Laura. When Laura was very sick Ernest didn’t seem satisfied with the way things were going and said we would have to hurry. Then I heard a lot of talk going around that the doctors were saying that Willis had been poisoned and I stopped using the poison. Willis was taken out of his grave after that, and nurses were sent to take care of Laura.

“I love Ernest Frahm very much, and I think I still love him. I wanted him to keep quiet about the whole thing and wrote him letters in which I told him to answer no questions and keep our secret. I am glad it is all over and that I have told everything.”





Laura Buffum's tombstone.

Cynthia Buffum died in November 1946, having been released from prison a few years earlier. She, along with her husband Willis, her son Norris and daughter Laura, are buried in the family plot in the Little Valley Rural Cemetery. All the graves are unmarked, except for the child Laura's, which bears a stone marker purchased by the journalists who covered the trials.

### C. Alfred J. Lindsay

Thomas McCarthy, General Secretary/Webmaster, of the NY Correction Historical Society wrote about another infamous Cattaraugus County murder, trial, and execution—all occurring within six months:<sup>xxxiii</sup>

The events that led to a Sing Sing execution [on] Aug. 29, 1935, can be told as a tale of two types of True Love: one real in the hearts of a farm couple, the other just words tattooed on the left hand of their killer.

About five and a half years prior to their murder [on] March 5, 1935, the romance of Bernice Kenyon and Harold Farnsworth began in Cattaraugus County's Salamanca court house.

Bernice, 50, was there as secretary to the judge sentencing Harold, 46, on a carrying concealed weapon conviction. His rap sheet, dating back to 1914, reflected a pattern of getting into trouble with the law.

\* \* \*

. . . [T]hey began a correspondence that continued throughout his next several years in Great Meadow Prison as he served the sentence her judge had imposed.

\* \* \*

[Farnsworth's] cell mate was a New Rochelle burglar about 20 years his junior: Alfred J. Lindsay.

\* \* \*

Both were released the same day in August 1934.

Harold headed for Cattaraugus County to demonstrate to Bernice that he really meant what he wrote her about making a new start in life and to ask her to share that life with him.

Lindsay headed in another direction.

Bernice accepted Harold's proposal and they were wed soon after he had arrived back in the county.

The Farnsworths took up farming in the Cold Spring near Randolph.

\* \* \*

Though Farnsworth and Lindsay had gone their separate ways after being released from prison together, they kept in touch. When Alfred informed Harold about having a hard time finding legitimate work, the older man offered to take him on as a farm hand.

Not that the job would pay much, if anything. The whole country was in the midst of the Great Depression. But at least the Farnsworths could share with him the food on their table, the roof over their heads and the logs burning in their fireplace. Bernice went along with Harold in opening their home to her husband's jobless former cell mate. After all, Alfred had made known his jobless situation around Christmastime 1934; so taking into their home someone in need seemed keeping with the spirit of the season.

The problem appears to have been that Alfred didn't enter into the arrangement with the same spirit. . . .

\* \* \*

The degree of violence inflicted upon the couple by Alfred strongly suggests that more than a monetary motive was involved in the double murder. Harold had been shot three times in the head. Bernice had been hacked to death with a double-edged axe. . . .

The slayings at the Farnsworth farm happened Tuesday March 5th but three days elapsed before the crime became known. On Friday, March 8th, Harold was found at the bottom of a flight of stairs and Bernice's body was discovered in the cellar. Missing from the farm were the couple's few valuables, their car and Alfred.

\* \* \*

On Monday, March 11th, three days after the homicides were discovered, Lindsay was arrested in New York City, tripped up by the tattoo on his left hand.

NYPD Detectives Walter Clancy and John Northeis of the West 13th St. Police Station spotted him in a restaurant at 6th Ave. and 49th St., Manhattan. His furtive behavior aroused their suspicions. Despite the March weather outside, his wearing gloves inside the warm eatery didn't seem appropriate. But when he took the glove off his left hand, they saw the letters on the back of the fingers. They spelled out the phrase "True Love." That fit a "wanted" sheet description of the suspect in the Western New York double-murder case.

Taken to the West 68th St. Stationhouse, Lindsay was questioned by Deputy Inspector Michael McDermott. Detectives said the fugitive admitted the killings but claimed self-defense, alleging he was attacked when he insisted on being paid back wages of \$10 a month for the time he had worked on the farm.

Alfred had driven the Farnsworth car to his sister's home in New Rochelle for a change of clothes and then drove to Manhattan where he abandoned the vehicle at Columbus Avenue and 96th St. Police recovered it there after his arrest.

\* \* \*

Exactly one month after the homicides, Lindsay heard judgment rendered: the penalty of death on the conviction of first degree murder. While legal processes were quicker in the 1930s, the single month between the March 5th crime and the April 5th trial court judgment still appears remarkably swift. Perhaps that reflected a determination by the law authorities in Cattaraugus to brook no delay in seeing speedy justice done in this particularly heinous case.

Key to the accelerated rate at which proceedings progressed was D.A. Krieger's decision to try Lindsay only for the savage slaying of 57-year-old Bernice Kenyon Farnsworth. Not that the district attorney credited the claim by Alfred that his killing Harold was an act of self defense. Rather, the prosecutor obviously reasoned that the self-defense claim, already straining credulity when advanced to justify shooting Farnsworth in the head three times, totally lacked the least bit of plausibility to explain away the vicious hacking to death of Mrs. Farnsworth.

\* \* \*

On July 11th, the state's highest appellate bench, the Court of Appeals -- headed by Chief Judge Frederick E. Crane -- affirmed Lindsay's conviction and sentence without issuing a written opinion (per curiam). Judges Crane, Irving Lehman, John F. O'Brien, Irving

G. Hubbs, John T. Loughran, and Edward Ridley Finch all concurred. Judge Leonard Callendar Crouch did not sit in the case.

Gov. Herbert H. Lehman declined to commute Lindsay's death sentence to life imprisonment.

On the evening of August 29th -- slightly less than six months after the homicides and about a year after he and Harold had been released together from Great Meadow Prison -- Sing Sing guards brought Lindsay his final dinner. . . .

\* \* \*

The current was applied at 11 p.m. Before he was pronounced dead at 11:08 p.m., the electricity passed through his body for a few minutes, including his "True Love" tattooed left hand, the hand that helped kill two True Lovers.

#### **D. James Swan<sup>xxxiv</sup>**

On the evening of August 30, 1982, New York State Trooper Gary Kubasiak responded to a domestic disturbance at the home of James J. Swan, a 35-year-old former mental patient who he knew. Swan was barricaded in his house and Trooper Kubasiak attempted to talk to him, but Swan shot him three times with a high-powered rifle. Swan then exchanged gunfire with two other troopers at the scene, and Swan was wounded but survived. Swan was later charged with murder in the first degree, two counts of attempted murder, and two counts of criminal use of a firearm. Swan asserted an insanity defense.

On April 9, 1984, while in open court after jury selection commenced, Swan executed a written waiver of jury trial. The court, however, rejected the waiver because the charges included murder in the first degree. Jury selection continued and the trial commenced on April 17, 1984.

During the third week of the trial, Swan escaped. When the deputies were preparing to lead Swan into the courtroom and unlocked his handcuffs and leg irons, Swan bolted out of the holding cell, down three flights of stairs, and out an emergency exit door. A massive search began engaging 100-plus officers, police dogs, three helicopters and a small plane. The next evening, Swan was found hiding in an abandoned cabin approximately five miles from the courthouse.

After the trial resumed, Swan's competency was questioned, and he was committed to the custody of the commissioner of mental hygiene. Several months later, a competency hearing was held, and the trial resumed. On September 29, 1984, Swan was found guilty on all counts. He appealed, and the Fourth Department reversed because 1) the court's reason for rejecting the jury waiver was not put on the record, and 2) the trial court should have granted counsels' joint motion to voir dire the jurors about the delayed trial and extensive publicity (130 AD2d 6 [4<sup>th</sup> Dept 1987], *lv denied* 70 NY2d 804 [1987]).

After retrial, a jury again rejected the insanity defense and Swan was found guilty of murder in the first degree, attempted manslaughter in the first degree, and criminal use of a firearm in the first degree. He was sentenced to consecutive terms aggregating to 42 years to life. On appeal a second time, judgment was affirmed (158 AD2d 158 [4<sup>th</sup> Dept 1990], *lv denied* 76 NY2d 9 [1990]).



## V. Historical Resources

### Court Records

- Records of the Supreme Court and County Court (civil proceedings) are maintained by the Cattaraugus County Clerk, 303 Court Street, Little Valley, NY 14755 (716-938-2293) (<https://cotthosting.com/NYCattaraugusExternal/>).
- County Court Criminal proceedings are maintained by the Supreme and County Court Clerk's Office, 303 Court Street, Little Valley, NY 14755 (716-379-6636).
- Records of the Surrogate's Court from approximately 1840 to present are located in the Surrogate's Court Clerk's Office, 303 Court Street, Little Valley, NY 14755 (716-379-6636).
- Records of the Family Court are maintained by the Family Court Clerk, One Leo Moss Drive, Olean, NY 14760 (716-379-6616).

### Cattaraugus County

- Cattaraugus County Clerk's Office, <https://www.cattco.org/clerks-office>, and online record search at <https://cotthosting.com/NYCattaraugusExternal/User/Login.aspx>
- Cattaraugus County Historical Museum and Research Center, <https://www.cattco.org/museum>
- Historic Path of Cattaraugus County, <https://historicpath.com> with histories and listing of libraries, history-related museums, and historical societies in the county, at <https://historicpath.com/resources>
- Painted Hills Genealogy Society, [www.paintedhills.org/cattco.html](http://www.paintedhills.org/cattco.html)
- Cattaraugus County, New York GenWeb, <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nycattar/>

### Historians – County, Town, and Village

- A listing of historians is maintained at [www.gahwny.org/historians-cattaraugus.html](http://www.gahwny.org/historians-cattaraugus.html) by the **Government Appointed Historians of Western New York** (GAHWNY), a membership organization of officially appointed local government historians

### Cities of Olean and Salamanca

- City of Olean Historian, <https://cityofolean.org/history/>
- Olean Historical & Preservation Society, <https://www.oleanhistoricalsociety.com>
- African American Center for Cultural Development, <https://africanamericancenterforculturaldevelopment.org/olean/>
- City of Salamanca Historian, [www.salmun.com/history.html](http://www.salmun.com/history.html)
- Salamanca Area Historical Society and Museum, <https://salamancahistoricalmuseum.org>
- Salamanca Rail Museum, <https://www.facebook.com/people/Salamanca-Rail-Museum>

### Town and Villages

- A listing of local historical societies by locality, <https://historicpath.com/historical-societies>
- A listing of local historical museums by locality, <https://historicpath.com/resources/museums>

- A listing of history books by locality, <https://historicpath.com/our-history-books-historical-maps-below-well>

### Seneca Nation of Indians

- Iroquois Genealogy Society, <https://www.iroquoisgenealogysociety.org>
- Seneca-Iroquois National Museum and the Onöhsagwëde' Cultural Center, <http://SenecaMuseum.org>
- Seneca Nation Libraries, <https://www.senecalibraries.org/contact/>

### Allegany State Park

- Allegany State Park Historical Society, <http://FB.com/AlleganySPHS>

### Libraries in Cattaraugus County

- A listing of local libraries throughout Cattaraugus County, who are part of the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System, with website links and phone numbers, at <https://www.cclsny.org/memberlibraries/>
- St. Bonaventure University Friedsam Memorial Library, <https://www.sbu.edu/academics/library>
- Seneca Nation Libraries, <https://www.senecalibraries.org/contact/>

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<sup>i</sup> Michael C. Donovan, Historical Review of Cattaraugus County, at 6-7, 9-11; L.E. Everts, History of Cattaraugus Co, New York. Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers, at 15-18 (1879) (republished 1987 by Whipporwill Publications); William Adams, Historical Gazetteer and Biographical Memorial of Cattaraugus County, N.Y., (Press of Lyman Bros. 1893), at 25 (available from Higginson Book Co, Salem, Mass).

<sup>ii</sup> The Senecas were the largest member nation of the Iroquois Confederacy, also known as the Six Nations of the Haudenosaunee. <https://sni.org/about>; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seneca\\_people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seneca_people); Everts, at 29.

<sup>iii</sup> Everts, at 16-17; Donovan, at 10. *Also Seneca Nation of Indians v. New York*, 206 FSupp2d 448, 458-460 (WD NY 2002), *aff'd* 382 F3d 245 (2d Cir 2004), *cert denied* 547 US 1178 (2006).

<sup>iv</sup> Everts, at 17; Donovan, at 10-11; Adams, at 41.

<sup>v</sup> Everts, at 29; Donovan, at 12-13; Adams, at 41. Settlement increased after the Seneca ostensibly relinquished much, but not all of its territory after siding with the British during the Revolutionary War. Rebecca Chapman, Protecting our Spaces of Memory: Rediscovering the Seneca Nation Settlement Act through Archives, 113 Law Library J. 173, at 180- 192 (2021) (detailing the history of claims to Seneca Nation territory).

<sup>vi</sup> Everts, at 37; Donovan, at 16-17; Adams, at 55-56.

<sup>vii</sup> <https://sni.org/about/>; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seneca\\_people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seneca_people); Everts, at 81.

<sup>viii</sup> Everts, at 56-60; Adams, at 60-62, 63; Donovan, at 88-89.

<sup>ix</sup> Everts, at 60; Donovan, at 90-91.

<sup>x</sup> Everts, 60-63; Adams at 62-64; Donovan, at 91-92.

<sup>xi</sup> *Banner v. United States*, 238 F3d 1348, 1351 (Fed Cir 2001); Everts, at 348; Adams, at 38-39.

<sup>xii</sup> Donovan, at 73; <https://www.sbu.edu/about/history>.

<sup>xiii</sup> <https://www.sbu.edu/about/history>; Donovan, at 73.

<sup>xiv</sup> <https://www.sbu.edu/about/history>.

<sup>xv</sup> The Encyclopedia of New York State, at 714 (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 2005); [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank\\_W.\\_Higgins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_W._Higgins).

<sup>xvi</sup> <https://parks.ny.gov/documents/inside-our->

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[agency/Masterplans/AlleganyStatePark/AlleganyStateParkAppendixC.pdf](#); Donovan, at 123.

xvii *Id.*

xviii <https://parks.ny.gov/regions/allegany/default.aspx>.

xix <https://parks.ny.gov/documents/inside-our-agency/Masterplans/AlleganyStatePark/AlleganyStateParkAppendixC.pdf>.

xx *Id.*

xxi *Id.*

xxii Joy A. Bilharz, *The Allegany Senecas and the Kinzua Dam*, at xv (1998);

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinzua\\_Dam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinzua_Dam).

xxiii *Id.*

xxiv *Id.*

xxv Information about the Seneca Nation courts was obtained from <https://sni.org/about-our-government/judicial/>.

xxvi Information about Ely S. Parker was obtained from many sources: Arthur C. Parker, *The Life of General Ely S. Parker*, published by the Buffalo Historical Socy. (1919); William Armstrong, *Warrior in Two Camps* (1978); Letter from Ely S. Parker to B. Benjamin Wilcox, Esq., dated Sept 10, 1860, Univ. Rochester Rare Books collection <https://rochester.box.com/s/8ciijcjjhbi8ml4pbeadku1oj9mlacne>; Ely S. Parker, biography on the website of the Historical Society of the New York Courts at <https://history.nycourts.gov/figure/ely-parker/>; The Biography of Ely Parker, available on the PBS website at <http://www.pbs.org/warrior/content/bio/ely.html>.

xxvii Information about Helen F. Pittaway was obtained from her relatives and

[https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1065&content=ub\\_law\\_forum](https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1065&content=ub_law_forum).

xxviii Information about Jean M. Pyle was obtained from her relatives and [http://buffalonews.com/news/jean-m-pyle-pioneering-woman-attorney-may-3-1936---july-19-2006/article\\_5339ffce-26e8-54e4-8a59-b5d9ff6b5582.html](http://buffalonews.com/news/jean-m-pyle-pioneering-woman-attorney-may-3-1936---july-19-2006/article_5339ffce-26e8-54e4-8a59-b5d9ff6b5582.html).

xxix [www.correctionhistory.org/html/timeline/cattaraugus/timeline.html](http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/timeline/cattaraugus/timeline.html).

xxx <https://historicpath.com/article/murder-hill-158>.

xxxi *People v Buffom*, 214 NY 53, 108 NE 184 (1915) (mistakenly citing “Buffom” instead of “Buffum”)

xxxii [www.correctionhistory.org/html/timeline/cattaraugus/georgecoyer.html](http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/timeline/cattaraugus/georgecoyer.html).

xxxiii [www.correctionhistory.org/html/timeline/cattaraugus/alfredjindsay.html](http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/timeline/cattaraugus/alfredjindsay.html).

xxxiv Information obtained from NY Times articles (<https://www.nytimes.com/1984/05/24/nyregion/defendant-who-fled-murder-trial-is-seized.html> and <https://www.nytimes.com/1984/05/23/nyregion/cuffs-removed-defendant-flees-trial-for-murder.html>), and Officer Down Memorial Page at <https://www.odmp.org/officer/7765-trooper-gary-e-kubasiak>).