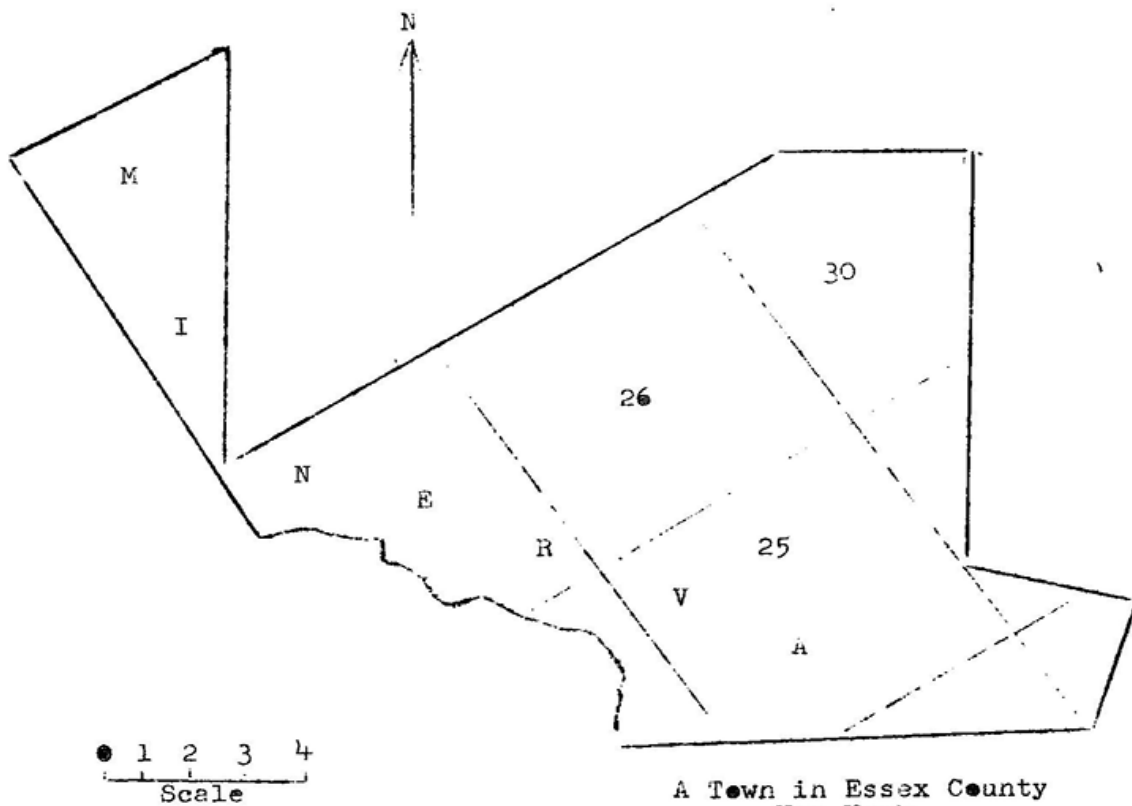


THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
THE TOWN OF MINERVA
QUARTERLY

Vol. IV - No. 4

Jan 1975



A Town in Essex County
New York

JANUARY MEETING

The January meeting will be held at the Town Hall in Minerva, the 28th at 7=30 P.M. It is important that you attend this meeting as we are planning a review of our constitution.

Our constitution was last revised in 1966 before this quarterly was started and when our dues were still one dollar. A revision should be made to agree with whatever our dues should be. Also, it has been suggested that we change our name from The Historical Society of the Town of Minerva to Minerva Historical Society. The latter is the name by which we are generally known. Shall we change it? Let's have a discussion on the above and possibly other changes you may wish to make.

Theresa Keeler will present a program of slides of Ireland and Nova Scotia following the meeting.

OCTOBER MEETING

Because of a misunderstanding, the meeting which was to be after the program was not held. However, the program of music and slides and films held at the Minerva Central School was well attended by the community.

The adult chorus under the direction of Alice Switzer, presented a splendid program of songs representative of the various periods of American history. The chorus, for the first time? wore colonial costumes which will be used by them on various occasions during the Bicentennial years.

Harold Sylvester showed slides that he has taken of many historic sites in this area. Ft. Ticonderoga, Ft. Frederick, Bennington, etc. He then showed slides which he has produced from old pictures He now has excellent equipment for this work and is willing to copy any picture which you eight like to have done. He would like to make a pictorial. history of Minerva and will not charge for copying. Eventually, it will provide our society with a fine collection of slides showing scenes and people of the past. We are most grateful to him for this offer. He says that at present *he* is concentrating on buildings and scenery and will later do pictures of people.

The Bicentennial film "And Take Me By the Hand" was shown, depicting the important part that New York State played in the Revolution.

In closing, the adult chorus sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth".

VISIT TO SCHROON-NORTH HUDSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On December 11th , "Clarence and Mabel Jones attended the meeting of the Schroon-North Hudson Historical Society and presented the subject "Delving into Local History", It was held in the meeting room provided for such groups in the basement of the Schroon branch of the Glens Falls National Bank and Trust Company. Among those present were Mrs. Virginia Beck and Van Wilson, both of whom are descended from Minerva families. It was a very interesting group.

MULLER POND

We have had one response to our query about how Muller Pond got its name. It comes from Mrs, Gladys Bachelct who lives in that area and we are very grateful to her. Here is her reply:

"Mr. Muller, (I do not know his first name) came to the area from New York to build a resort hotel, not far west of the old cemetery road near what is known as the old Brown place. He built a three-story house and brought with him his coachman, John Mahler. Apparently, he planned on fishermen, hunters and summer guests. They remained here three years. The building was never used again, but torn down after a few years and much of the lumber was used in building summer camps in the Minerva area. John Mahler did not return to New York. Instead, he bought land in this area. The Peter Wood house where Ferdinand Mahler raised his family is the locale, and two grand-daughters still have homes and live on a portion of the old farm. Muller Pond was named for Mr. Muller and I am sure his home had a magnificent view of the little pond.

MORE ON HOFFMAN TOWNSHIP

A land deal in Elizabethtown gives us further information about Hoffman Township. On May 9th 1851, William Evans and his brother Richard bought lot 68 in Hoffman Township (268 $\frac{1}{2}$ - acres) and lot 94 (also 268 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres) being known as the Cole lots and distinguished on a map of 25,200 acres granted by letters patent under the Great Seal of the State of New York dated May 15, 1795 to Mary Hoffman, Egbert Benson, Theodorus Bailey, executors of Anthony Hoffman deceased and to Annanias Cooper, Martin Vosburgh, Thomas Servis and John Van Benthuyzen, being part of a tract of land known as Toten and Crossfield or Jessup Purchase.

On January 8th, a son was born to Frederick and Rose Sheehan Morse. What makes this interesting? He is the great-great-great-great-great-grandson of Absalom Pride Morse, the first Supervisor of the Town of Minerva. He was named William Pride after Absalom and Absalom's son William from whom he is also descended.

MINERVA IN 1355

A part of the census record of 1855 was an agricultural survey which shows us some interesting facts about Minerva. The tannery was in full swing providing a ready market for whatever could be raised.

There was a great deal more improved land in the town in 1855 than there is now, 120 years later. The Evans brothers owned the largest amount of improved land - 210 acres. They owned 5600 acres of unimproved land. A. P. Morse owned 120 acres of improved land and 270 acres of unimproved. As land agent, he also had charge of 10,000 acres in addition. The Barnes brothers owned 1040 acres of unimproved land. Others had farms of from 4 acres to 140 acres and wood lots of from 10 acres to 660 acres.

The main crops planted were oats, buckwheat, corn and potatoes. Some farmers raised as much as 200 to 300 bushels of oats and from 10 to 150 bushels of corn. Nearly everyone raised potatoes and the number of bushels per acre varied greatly. One farmer might get 85 bushels from one acre of land while another got only 12.

Twenty-nine farmers reported apples raised and the yield varied from 10 bushels to 200. Only nine reported the number of pounds of maple sugar produced. Levi G. West made 250 pounds; George Morse, 158 and Cephas Clark, 2300. Only 7 reported on the maple molasses produced and this was in small quantities,

There are many farms in this area that have gone back to woods, but one can still find cellar holes and lilac bushes where homes once stood. Mr. Bernard Porter recently loaned us a large scrapbook of the McCarthy family. One of the poems to be found in it describes this same condition in the Weavertown area. It was written by George McCarthy who lived in Albany for many years and is now retired in Florida.

A LILAC AND A ROSE

Beside the brush-grown cellar hole
A lilac still grows,
And over by the old stone wall
There blooms a single rose.

A Homestead on a wind-swept hill,
Where children romped in play,
And grew apace to man's estate,
And then - they went away.

All that's left of hopes and dreams
That lived in other years;
All that's left of another day -
Its laughter and its tears.

The passing years have healed the scars,
As time unceasing flows?
Now - just a brush-grown cellar hole,
A lilac and a rose.

By George H. McCarthy
Nov. 26, 1970

INFORMATION FROM OLD TOWN RECORDS

p, 39 - I Absalom P. Morse, Justice of the peace, do hereby certify that I have married Edward Stead to Sophrona Blackman in presence of a number of witnesses, May 27, 1843.

June 5, 1871 - At a meeting of the supervisors and justices, the Commissioner of Highways reported that the bridge across the Boreas River has been burned and consequently ;it has become necessary to have one built; and, being no funds in the Commissioner 's hands for said purpose, authority is asked by said commissioner from board of town auditors to build said "bridge," Consent was given - - "We the undersigned are willing to audit and allow the expense of building said bridge if let after due notice and upon plain specifications of the lowest bidder, or if done otherwise, to pay up to that bid, if it costs so much." Henry Bradley, Supervisor Justices - Thos. Maguire> Jr., Michael Lynch, Orrin O. West, T. J. Shaw.

Aug. 24, 1871 - At a special meeting of the Beard of Auditors the account for building the bridge was presented and audited end allowed at the sum of \$225, of which \$215 was payable to Michael Lynch and \$10 to Thos. Maguire.

Sopto 19S 1871 - Special town meeting was held for the purpose of raising \$1000 to be applied to building a bridge across the North River at North Greek, said money to be paid when the bridge is built and completed. Justices - Michael Lynch, Orrin G. West, T. G. Shaw

Oct. 2, 1875 - voted to raise \$500 to complete the bridge at North Creek. At same meeting voted to pay 1/4th the cost of repairs to said bridge when needed.

March 5, 1901 - At annual town meeting the following proposition was voted in the affirmative: Shall \$500 be appropriated for a physician to locate in the Town of Minerva?

March 7, 1905 - For the first time town officials were elected, not at town meeting but on an election day. Polls were opened upon proclamation and closed at sunset. Poll clerks were James Dougherty and C. A. West. Ballot clerks were Andrew Gates and Frank Mallon. People voted for anyone they wished,

In 1907, Dr. Kenneth R. Coffin resigned as town doctor and Dr. Breen was appointed.

PROFILE

Edith Rounds Dimick

Edith. Lillian Rounds was born November 27, 1892 to Sidney and Emily Kellogg Rounds who were then living in a little log house a short distance in on the North Woods Club Road. Two years later, Sidney gave up farming and went to carpentering with his brother-in-law, Leonard Brown. He bought the land which John and Barbara Curtis now own and built the house in which they live when in Minerva. That was Edith's home from 1894 until her marriage, except for a year when the family lived in Warrensburg and two years when they lived in North Creek in order that the ^ daughters, Edith and Grace, might attend high school. During her first two years in high school, Edith boarded in North Creek and came home weekends. She was graduated in the Class of 1912. That fall, she taught school on Ridge Street, She then spent one year in Glens Falls talking the Teacher Training Course which was then offered in the Glens Falls High School. She earned a teacher's certificate and spent the next seven years teaching in the Hayesburg school in Horicon, Padanaram school in Bolton Landing, Stone Bridges Hoffman, Warrensburg and Ridge Street.

On April 2, 1921, Edith was married to Earl Dimick son of Edwon and Alice Johnson Dimick who had moved from Newcomb to Minerva and had built the house now owned by Raymond Gonyo- Sidney Rounds was at that time foreman on the state road patrol and. Earl was one of the crew, driving a truck. Edith and Earl lived for some years in a house which then stood a short distance above the Wilson Road, then in Newcomb and eventually in the home in which Edith grew up. After the death of Orrin Kellogg, they bought his home and lived there, renting the former Rounds house until 1951 when Jack and Barbara Curtis moved to Minerva from Schenectady.

Like his father, Earl Dimick loved fishing, trapping and hunting and was well acquainted with the woods of Minerva and Newcomb. He and his father were both excellent guides for fishing and hunting parties. In 1929 he began working for the Pinch Pruyn Company and was promoted to various areas of work, becoming Chief Warden in 1936 He held this position until hip. retirement in 1962e He died in 1963

Edith and Earl had six children, all of whom are still living except Emily who died at the age of 11 months. The others are Barbara Curtis, Harold and Gordon Dimick, Vivian Hopkins and Lillian Vanderwalker. The last two named are twins which is of interest since Edith had twin sisters, Grace and Daisy. The latter died in infancy.

Edith has been active in church and community affairs. She is at present clerk of the Minerva Baptist church, an office which she has held since 1950. She was chairman of the local cancer committee and has supervised the making of many cancer dressings. In 1954, when she was president of the P.T.A., the first hobby show was held at the Minerva school and one was held each year for seme years. The P.T.A. gave an annual dinner for the Boy Scouts, probably at

the suggestion of Sari Dimick, as he was much interested in that organization. Edith held offices in the Northern District P.T.A., feeing secretary and assistant director and was given a life membership in the P.T.A.

When the Senior Citizens were organized in Minerva, Edith was the first secretary and the second president. It was during her terra. as president that the women of the group "began meeting each Thursday for work days, keeping "busy with projects to help other people or to raise money for the organization,

Edith is descended from at least three of the very early settlers in Minerva, the West, Gates, and Kellogg families. She has a wonderful memory and has passed on some interesting stories such as the following:

Eunice West, Edith's grandmother, went to Long Lake to teach school before there was a bridge across the lake. Her school was on one side and her boarding place on the other, making it necessary for her to row across the lake every morning and afternoon. She soon made the acquaintance of a young man by the name of Orson Kellogg who had moved from Elizabethtown with his parents in 1345. One afternoon

when Eunice was rowing back across the lake a strong wind came up, making her progress very slow. Young Orson was watching and it is said that he anxiously paced the shore until she arrived safely. This young couple was married in Minerva on September 29, 1848, and this became their home. Their son Orson was the father of Walter, Clarence, Prank and Ernest Kellogg and Mildred Haley, while their daughter Emily was the mother of Edith Dinick and Grace Austin. A daughter Rhoda married George Stewart and lived on the farm which is still called the Stewart Place.

For several years after Earl died, Edith had two grand-daughters living with her so she was not alone. After they married, she sold her home and is now living in a trailer near that of her older son and family. She is still active and eager to go places when the opportunity comes. She has 19 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren,

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

January 39 1895 - Olmstedville - On Friday evening a donation party and oyster supper was held at the residence of John Lavery (near the church) for the benefit of Rev. J. M. Blanc hard of the Baptist Church The evening was very cold and the roads were in poor condition, yet the people came in large numbers and spent a very pleasant evening and, in token of the high esteem, in which the Reverend gentleman is held in this community, the sura of \$75.25 was realized. (Editor ' s note - John and Emeline Russell Lavery lived in the large house which still stands a little south of the Gore Church. They had a son Charles and a daughter Marion. The latter eventually married the Rev. J. M. Blanchard who was blind, but had a wonderful voice for both singing and speaking. They had a son Vernon Blanchard who died of pneumonia in France during World War I.)

ITEMS FROM MILESTONES IN EDUCATION
IN NSW YORK STATE

1853 - first compulsory education law.

1878 - Regent's examinations first held.

1895 - Office of State Historian established.

1912 - State Education "building in Albany completed and dedicated.

1928 - Compulsory school attendance law changed. Age changed from 8 to 7 and increased school year to 190 days.

1933 - Training classes for teachers abolished,

1938 - Normal schools changed to teachers' colleges and 4 years instead of 3 -

1950 - First community college established in Jamestown.

SHERMAN COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

Before there was high school in Minerva, it was necessary for those who wished to pursue an education beyond the 8th grade to go away to school. One of the places to which they could go was Sherman Collegiate Institute in Marian, I.T. YO, also known as Sherman Academy

This school was founded in 1373 by George Sherman who gave a total of \$32,000 for the building and endowment. The school had two departments - Preparatory and Academic. The first was a three-year course with a tuition of \$3 a terra. In the Academic Department there were three courses of study open to students.

1. The Special English Class, or a course of one year arranged for thorough instruction in the common English branches
- 2, The Academic Graduating Course, extending through three years and intended to give young men and women a thorough discipline which will fit them for any position in life
3. The College Preparatory Course, extending through four years, designed to prepare young men for college.

Tuition in the Academic Course was \$4 per term. There was a charge of \$1 extra for Latin, Greek, French, German, Bookkeeping and Drawing, Board could be procured for \$2050 to 34 per week in good families.

Besides the above courses there was a Teachers Class designed to prepare young people for teaching and for this there was no tuition The conditions for joining the class were these:

1. Pupil must indicate an intention to teaching.
2. Young women must be at least 16 years of age and young men 18.
3. They must be residents of Essex County.
4. They must be Regent's scholars or be able to pass the Regents

Preliminary examination before the time allotted for the class

Some of those from Minerva who attended were Mary Ryan, Richard Lynch, Margaret, Alice, Prank and Henry Mall on, Harry and Joseph Wilson, Mary Ann O'Donnell, Mary Ellen Kelso and Charles H. Shevlin. Also, Lillian Butler, Manila Peck, Frank Gallagher, Anna McGinn and Adda Barnes,

IN MEMORIAM

Harold Thomas 190? - 1974

Although Harold Thomas did not actually live in Minerva, we mention him here because he was one of the seven young people who made up the first graduating class from the Olmsteadville High School. This was in 1925. Other members of the class were: Jack Sullivan, Helen Cronin, Robert Blackburn, Roselle Ryan, Ernest Havron and Helen Barnes.

Harold's boyhood home was only a short distance beyond the Minerva town line toward Pottersville and his adult years were spent in Pottersville where he was very active in Masonic and church circles
He died November 15 at the age of 67.

Elizabeth Callahan 1880 - 1974

Elizabeth. Ella (Lizella) Callahan died December 2, 1974 at the age of 94 in the Uihleim Nursing Home in Lake Placid. She was born June 14, 1860 in Minerva to Michael and Margaret McCoullough Flynn. On June 12, 1900, she married Charles Callahan, son of Dennis and Ellen Boyce Callahan. They had four children, three of whom are still living - Anna Kellogg, Thomas Callahan and Margaret Mitchell. Howard died in 1968.

Lizella was much interested in the history of Minerva and until the last few years she could tell some very interesting stories of her earlier years and of the people whom she knew. She was the subject of the Profile appearing in our Quarterly for July 1972 .,

Lizella has six grandsons, six great grandsons, two great granddaughters and one great great grandson. Cue of her grandsons, Father Bernard Kellogg; offered the Mass of Resurrection at her funeral in St. Joseph's Church, Olmsteadville.

R. Charles Flaherty 1904 - 1974

Father Charles A. Flaherty, 70, pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Olmstedville died December 4th of an apparent heart attack at the Glens Falls Hospital, Bishop Stanislaus J., Brzann, celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial, Monday, the 9th at St. Joseph's Church. Fr. Richard Sturtz, a member of the faculty and librarian at Wadhams Hall Seminary, delivered, the homily. Sister Virgo Fideles, head of the Diocesan music department, let the congregation in singing several hymns. Miss Helen Barnes played the organ. Leaflet containing the liturgy and hymns had been given out to the congregation before the services began.

At least thirty-five priests of the diocese, as well as the Rev K. F. Estey, pastor of the Minerva and North Creek Baptist Churches, and the RevO Burnham Waldo who is the Methodist minister in North Creek, and two Episcopal ministers from Barry House in Brant Lake were among those who attended the funeral.

After the services those who wished to went to the Minerva Town Hall where the ladies of the Rosary Society served a buffet luncheon.

Fr, Flaherty had served the Minerva parish for ten years and is expected to retire on January first.

Grace Jones Atwell 1900 - 1975

Grace Jones Atwell died early Friday morning January 3S 1975? In the Glens Falls Hospital rafter a long illness* She was born in Minerva on Sept. 4, 1900 to David and Annie Eisenlord Jones and grew up in Minerva. After graduating from Syracuse University in 1922, she worked for the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities until her marriage in 1924 to Harold Atwell of Syracuse, N.Y.

They made their homo in Syracuse until May 1963 when, on his retirement, they moved to Minerva to live. They joined the Historical Society and Grace served as its secretary one year. She has been very active in the work of the Baptist Church and has made many new friends in the area as well as renewing friendships of her youth.

Grace and Harold have two daughters, Jean Weigel of Maumee, Ohio, and Barbara Kemp of Cooperstown, N. Y. They have three grandchildren

NEWS ITEMS OF THE PAST

Mabel Jones, Town Historian, has taken the following items from the scrap books which she has been keeping for many years. Some are from the Warrensburg News, but most are from the North Creek Enterprise,

- Jan. 20S 1921 - Orson Brown is at Hewitt Lake this week with his team helping with the ice harvest.
- Minerva, 1927 - Mrs. Laura Gates, who now lives at the home of her brother, David Jones, and who has been blind for several years, is knitting large numbers of men's socks and mittens for which she finds a ready sale. Mrs. Gates has led a most active life and when blindness came, she happily discovered this method by which she could still be active and still be one of the world's workers.
- 1933 -- Everyone is enjoying the horse racing at Minerva Lake. A number of the Jockey Club members are training their horses for the race which takes place Jan. 28.
- 1934 -- Irishtown - John O'Donnell and William Steves are building a bob run off Green Mountain and have hired James O'Connor and his donkey to draw the sleds back up the mountain. Irishtown is going in for winter sports.
- 1934 -- The PWA (Public Works Administration) employment work started recently with about 25 men on the Olmstedville-Pottersville Road.
- 1935 -- Wesley Barnes, 92 years old, of Olmstedville, Essex County, will be the guest of honor at the weekly luncheon meeting of the Albany Zonta Club in the DeWitt Clinton Hotel. Mr. Barnes is the only man alive who as state legislator fought for the bill creating the Forest Commission in 1885, the forerunner of the present State Conservation Department. Kale and hearty, Mr. Barnes is still enjoying life. (Editor's Note: Mr. Barnes died in 1940 at the age of 97.)
- 1939 -- The Finch Pruyn and Co.'s annual log drive in the Hudson River is under way at North Creek. Within the next two months, the company will send down a total of 43,000 cords of four-foot logs, 5000 more than last year. The wood is 85 percent spruce and 15 percent balsam.
- 1940 - Mrs. Kate Sullivan, 75 of Olmstedville retired Jan. 31st after 45 years of service in the Post Office, and has been succeeded by Francis J. Ryan

- 1940 - Dr. James A. Glenn, Jr., 1st Lieut., of North Creek has been called to active duty in the 2nd Batt=s 27th Infantry at Ft. Devens Mass.
- 1941 - The first shipment of ore from the McIntyre Iron Mines at Tahawus left North Creek March 18th.

On or about April 15th, Adirondack lumberjacks will begin to jockey 40,000 cords of pulp wood down the Hudson River.

A WPA project designed to improve skiing facilities at North Creek has been approved by President Roosevelt, with an allotment of \$25,195 for construction of a ski house, trails, roads and a parking area.

Work has been started on clearing the site for a recreation building, barracks and mess hall in connection with the opening of the McIntyre iron mine at Newcomb by the national Lead Company.

- 1942 - A twister hit North River on Juno 24. Damage was estimated to run into thousands of dollars. Miss Kathleen Osborne, local rationing representatives announces that she has just received notice that all certificates for canning sugar must be used not later than 60 days after certificates were issued.

The first titanium ore was hauled to the loading station at North Creek on July 27th from the McIntyre Development at Tahawus.

Construction has started on a \$4,500,000 30 mile railroad from North Creek to Newcomb to transport iron and metal alloys to blast furnaces, from the mines.

In spite of the gasoline and rubber shortage, Midnight Mass at Olmstedville was well attended.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

Warrensburg News - April 7, 1892 - Igera - There was a sugar party at the residence of John Lavery on Wed. evening, March 30? to secure money to purchase an organ for the Methodist Church at this place. There was quite a large gathering and the young people had a good time. The receipts were about \$28.

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