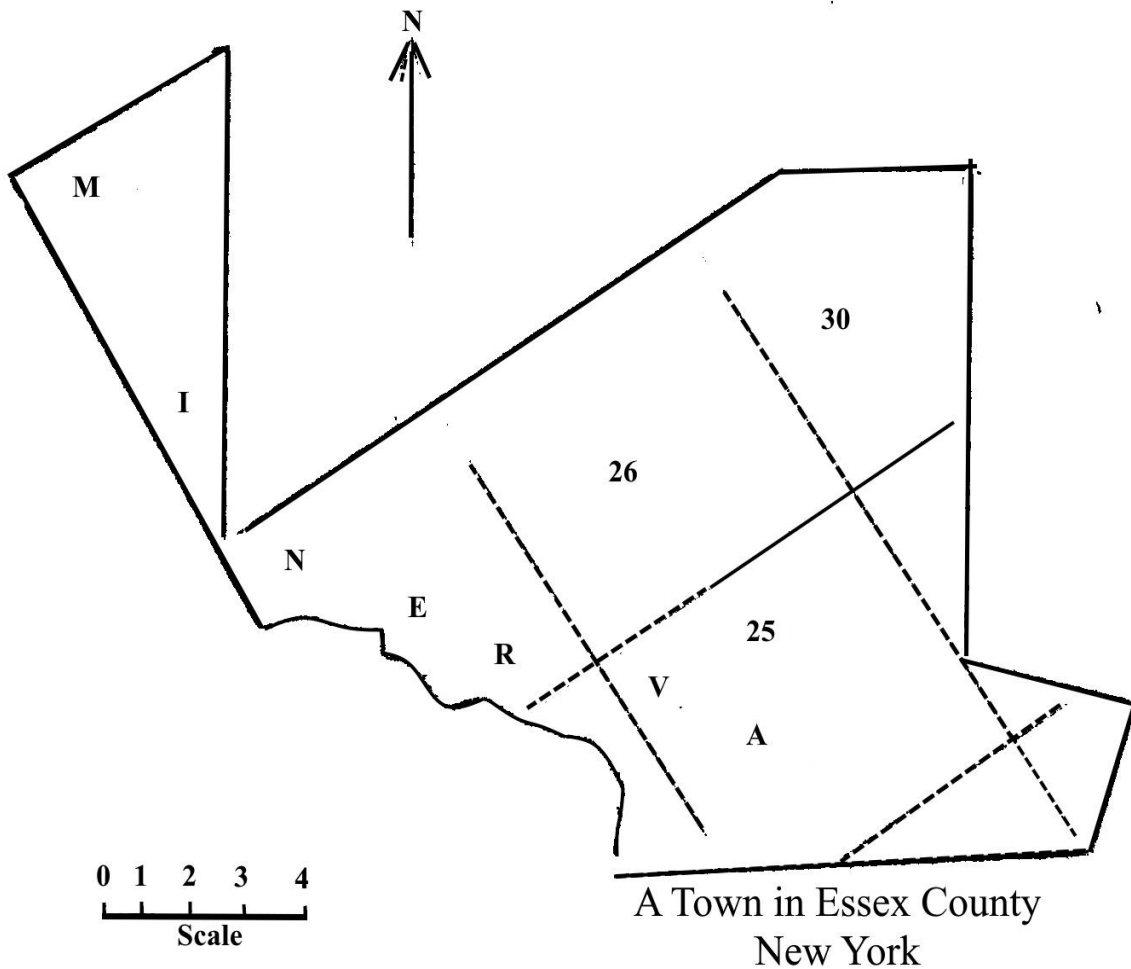


The
Historical Society
of the
Town of Minerva
Quarterly



JULY MEETING

The next meeting of the Minerva Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, July 31, at 7:30 P.M., in the Town Hall. The program will consist of a group of slides on the British Isles. These slides were taken and will be shown by world travelers, Misses Ruth Bass and Ruby Thompson, who have a summer home at The Glen. Their photography is excellent and their descriptions are very interesting and entertaining. All are invited.

APRIL MEETING

Our April meeting was held on the last Tuesday in the month at the Town Hall, with the Vice-president, Shirley McNally, presiding. Officers for the coming year were elected as follows:

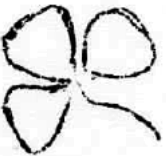
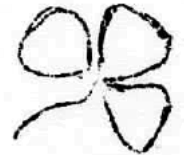
President: Alice Switzer

Vice-President: Shirley McNally

Secretary: Doris Wells

Treasurer: Katherine Halloran

The speaker of the evening was Mrs. Doris Hanley, a research assistant at the State Historic Preservation Department. She is eager to get a committee together in Minerva to list any buildings of historic interest and give their history to the state Historic Preservation Department, so that they may be recorded. A committee will be appointed at the July meeting.

**DUBLIN DINNER
PLUMP CHICKEN INN TO REOPEN!**

Everyone will be happy to hear that the Plump Chicken Inn will reopen at the same location as last year – Minerva Central School.

On August 25, a public dinner is to be served honoring early settlers of the town who were of Irish background. The event will be a part of the on-going Bicentennial Celebration now in its second year. The menu of the "Dublin Dinner" as well as the entertainment will reflect the culture of the Emerald Isle.

Because of the unusually large crowd last year, the number of tickets will be limited to 350. The cost is \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children under twelve. Serving is to start at 5:00P.M. and will continue until all are served.

For reservations, please send your check to Mrs. Patrick McNally, Olmstedville, N.Y., 12857. Further details will appear in the local paper.

ESSAY and PROJECTS CONTEST

Last October the American Revolution Bicentennial committee of our Historical Society, with Mrs. Franklin Hewitt as chairman, invited Minerva Central school students to take part in an essay and project contest to encourage interest in our nation's Bicentennial celebration.

At the spring musical concert, held on May 24 at the school, prizes were awarded consisting of: First Prize \$10 and a Trophy, Second Prize \$5 and a smaller Trophy, and Honorable Mention one Collar.

Entries listed by numbers instead of names, were judged by James Jordan and Henry Osterhoudt of the Johnsburg Central School faculty.

The 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students taught by John Alexander, Social Studies teacher, contributed 15 essays and four projects. The 5th grade won first place in Projects with "Steps to Freedom", while four 4th graders, Jim Gereau, Fred Morse, Ronnie Pratt, and Chris Dunlap, were second with "Mount Vernon". Patty and Linday Piper won Honorable Mention with their folder of Revolutionary War pictures.

Essay winners included: 4th Grade, Lisa Strohmeier with "John Paul Jones", Christine LaRocque, Second and Jean Swertner, "Nathan Hale" Honorable Mention. 5th and 6th Grades: Susan McNally, First, "Declaration of Independence"; Lisa Archambeau, Second, "American Revolution"; and Kathy O'Brien, Honorable Mention, "The Growth of Flags". 7th and 8th grades, Laurel Wells, first, "Ancestors and Revolutionaries", and Francis McNally, Second, "Freedom Fighting Presidents".

Total entries were eighteen essays and five projects. This was an excellent showing for the grades, but we are sorry that no high school students took part in the contest.

HELP

HELP

HELP

WANTED – VOLUNTEERS

Draftsmen are needed to make maps of the four cemeteries which have never been mapped. If interested, get in touch with Mabel Jones, Historian. Your help will be much appreciated.

CORRECTION

In the Profile about Henry Houghton in our April quarterly, the statement was made that the sawmill where Henry worked was owned and operated by Edmund Chase. This was an error on our part which we wish to correct. The sawmill was owned by Mr. John Anderson and operated by Mr. John H. Johnson, Henry Houghton's stepfather. Mr. Chase occasionally came there with materials to be sawed for his guide boats, spruce stumps and their contributing roots to be ripped out for the ribs of his famous craft.

**MEETING OF UPPER HUDSON FEDERATION
of
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES**

On May 5th, Clarence and Mabel Jones attended the meeting of Historical Societies which was held in Ft. Edward, beginning at 10:00 o'clock. The first meeting place was Roger's Island which is located in the Hudson River at Ft. Edward.

We have heard very little about this island, as its history was lost for 200 years. Mr. Earl E. Stott, who grew up in Ticonderoga became interested, in his boyhood, in finding the island which was headquarters for Major Robert Rogers and his Rangers during the French and Indian War (1755–1763). The island has, in the meantime, been called Freeman's Island and Bradley's Island. Finally, after a great deal of research Mr. Stott was convinced that the island at Ft. Edward had really been headquarters for Roger's Rangers and in 1960, he bought it. It was then a jungle, but has been cleared, archeological diggings have begun and the name has been changed back to Roger's Island.

A monument has been erected which tells some of the history connected with the place. There are many mounds indicating where buildings once stood and these are rich sources of artifacts such as axes, scalping knives, copper frying pans, blown glass bottles, and old coins. We were shown a number of these items. The Roger's Island Historical Society plans to eventually rebuild one of the barracks to be used as a museum.

After the visit to the island, the group saw the Jane McCrea monument and then went to the Ft. Edward Museum which is a very interesting place. It is said to be the oldest building standing in Washington County, having been built in 1772–73 by Patrick Smyth. It is called the Old Fort House because it was built from materials salvaged from the fort which stood in Ft. Edward during the French and Indian War. In 1952, it became the property of the Fort Edward Historical Society and has now become the repository of furnishings, paintings, glassware, clothing and other items, all dating back to the Revolutionary War. It is well worth a visit.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

Warrensburg News, July 12, 1894 — Hot weather hints — A large sponge hung in a room at night, or in the day time if it can be behind a convenient screen, and kept constantly wet, will greatly assist in keeping a room cool — or a wet cloth hung in a window on the blind will cool the room as though a shower had fallen. All know how fresh water sprinkled on a sheet hung in front of windows and doors will freshen the hot dry air.

PATRIOTISM

We believe that Minerva is fortunate in having as a new resident, at least a part time resident, Mr. John C. Callihan who has bought the “Dead End” of Ridge Street, the former home of George and Peggy Wilkins. Mr. Callihan is a member of the Advertising, Public Relations and Marketing Communications firm of New York City called Davi-Callihan, Inc. This company puts out a magazine called “Industry Week”, and it was in the February 21, 1972 issue that there appeared an article by Mr. Callihan which he called “How to Grow a Patriot”.

This article attracted the attention of the Hon. Joseph M. Gaydos, Rep. in Congress from Pennsylvania, whom we now quote: “I offer my congratulations to Davi-Callihan, Inc. for calling attention to something our country needs most desperately. American patriotism is one thing which cannot be manufactured abroad and imported here. We must produce it ourselves.”

The article was placed in the Congressional Record on March 1, 1972, and just this past month Mr. Callihan has been awarded the George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedom Foundation.

HOW TO GROW A PATRIOT

A patriot is a person who loves his country.

Supports his country.

And defends his country.

Patriots are great to have around
when the going gets rough.

So, let's all go out and
find some patriots.

Unfortunately,
it's not that easy.

You can't take a pill
and become a patriot.

You can't stamp patriots out of an assembly line.
Like tanks, or planes or guns.

You can't legislate patriotism.
It turns the kids off.

You also can't expect our schools, or our churches,
or the government itself to mold our patriots.

At least it isn't
working out that way.

Patriotism, it seems to us, is something that
to be passed along from one generation to the next.

In the home.

By the folks who are in the best position
to do the job.

The Mothers, and the
Fathers, and the next of kin.

Unfortunately, this isn't
what's been happening.

Those of us who fall into this category
have relegated the job of growing our patriots
to people who aren't getting the job done.

And time is running out.

So maybe the time has come.

To put some patriotism into our parenthood.

First, find a young American.

Someone about 8 or 10. Your son,
or grandson, or the boy next door will do.

Next, clear up any misconceptions he might
have about demanding his freedom without
working for it.

Make sure he learns why it was that Great Grandpa
came over here in the first place.

What he had to do to survive once he
cleared Ellis Island.

And how he felt about America the day his
papers came through.

Let him know how you feel
when the flag goes by.

Why you didn't skip town
when the chips were down.

In 42, 51 or 63.

And why you wouldn't now. Even though you
might not always agree with your Uncle Sam.

Let him be aware of how we've had to
earn our freedom over and over again.

And, while we might not relish the task,
why we will likely have to do the job more than
once again in the years ahead.

You might suggest to him the things you believe
made America great.

Things like pride and ambition.
The willingness to work hard and run lean.

Encourage him
not to be afraid to compete.

To be resourceful and
inventive.

And to turn in an honest day's work for a fair
day's pay.

And then remind him why we can't let mobs or
men with dishonest intentions run our country,
and why his special talents will be needed more,
than ever before.

If we are to win the peace that follows the war.
And keep America number one.

Why do these things?

Well, the Ben Franklins and the Tom Paines, and
the Nathan Hales frankly don't always come along
exactly when we seem to need them the most.

Sometimes patriots
are in short supply.

So maybe we ought to help
show our young people the way.

The way to get fired up
about the country
we live in.

The United States of America.

And if we do the showing,
who knows?

Maybe someday, somewhere in this world,
when your young man is asked where he comes from,
or what he stands for,
he won't fumble for an answer,
or hang his head in shame.

He'll stand firm, hold his head high, and say,
"I'm an American.
From the land of the
free,
and the home of the brave."

We are most grateful to Mr. John Mullane, one of our members, for obtaining a copy of the above article for us, and to Mr. Callihan for granting us permission to use it.

The property which Mr. Callihan bought was once the home of Patrick Cassidy who was born in Ireland about 1814 and died in Minerva in 1892. His third wife was Sarah Clifford who was born in Ireland in 1827. Their daughter Etta (1864 – 1936) married Lawrence Owens (1865 – 1943) and they lived in her parents' home. Some years after the death of Lawrence Owens the place was bought by George and Peggy Wilkins who, by dint of much hard labor on their part, made it into a beautiful home. A year or so after George's death in 1969, Peggy sold to Mr. Callihan.

"1812 Homestead"

On July 15, a new museum, called the "1812 Homestead", was opened in Willsboro with Mr. Jack Swan as director. The place is located on Mountain Road and Route 22, and is a working farm of the 1830's with split rail fences, old barns, corn crib, and a one-room school house, moved from Essex. The two-story farm house dates to the early 1830's, and a brick bake oven is found in the kitchen fireplace. Those who visit the "1812 Homestead" will have a greater understanding of pioneer life and the people who settled our great nation.

Warrensburg News, April 24, 1890: — Wevertown — A very pleasing minor drama, "Better Than Gold" was presented at the town hall in Wevertown on Saturday evening by the Minerva Dramatic Company. The play was well received by a full house.

Charles Shevlin (Editor's Note: Uncle of the present Charles) had this to say in a letter written in April 1890 — "We went over to Wevertown and had our play. Seven of us went with Chick Sullivan. There was a big crowd at the play from Chester, Warrensburg and North Creek. We got home Sunday at 2:00 o'clock. We made enough to pay all expenses which was pretty heavy."

Alice Jones

Alice Edna Jones, daughter of David and Annie Eisenlord Jones, was born in Minerva, N.Y., on December 3, 1888. She attended the Minerva grade school and North Creek High School, that being the nearest high school at the time. It was necessary for anyone going there to board during the week and be at home only over the weekends and vacations, the eight-mile trip being made by horse and buggy or horse and sleigh. Alice graduated from high school in 1908 and then taught for two years in the Ridge Street school, driving back and forth each day with a horse. There was no school in January and February.

After teaching for two years, Alice decided to go to college. Through the influence of Mr. Chilson, the high school principal, Syracuse University was the college chosen. Alice waited table, answered telephone and door-bell in a girls' dormitory to earn part of her expenses and was on call for such jobs as baby sitting and dish washing. During summer vacations she and her sisters worked at Silver Bay Conference grounds.

In June 1914, Alice was graduated from Syracuse University. That fall she began teaching mathematics in the Ilion High School and held that position for four years. The next six years she taught in Saratoga Springs, and it was during that time that she helped organize the Chepontac Mountain Climbing Club, made up of young people from Saratoga, Ilion, Brant Lake, and Minerva, besides the young student pastors who happened to be in the area at the time.

In the spring of 1924, Alice applied for a scholarship offered by the New York City Mission Society and the American Baptist Home Mission Society. She was accepted and spent the next two years studying at Teachers College, Columbia University, and working half time at Mariners Temple on the lower east side of New York City. In June 1926 she received her Master's degree in Religious Education and accepted a position as Director of the Americanization Department of the New York City Baptist Mission Society.

Alice enjoyed working with those of foreign birth and getting volunteers from the churches to go into the homes and teach English to the women who had not had the opportunity to learn the language of their adopted country. In May 1927, Alice gave up this position to come home and care for her mother who had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. By the fall of 1928 her mother had recovered sufficiently for Alice to accept a teaching position in the Minerva school where she taught the four upper grades. (This was in what is now the Town Hall.)

In the fall of 1931, Alice started on a trip around the world. She went to India and was there several months before coming home with Inez and Ben Johnson and their four children. They had a side trip to Palestine on the way home.

Alice had another year of study at Columbia and while there did some substitute teaching in the city schools. In 1936, her father died. During the next years she taught in Ithaca and Stony Creek until her mother's death in 1942.

In 1943, Alice went to Jamestown and taught in a high school there for sixteen years. During summer vacations, she was in charge of Baptist House in Chautauqua, N.Y., and spent only brief vacations in Minerva.

In the summer of 1958, Alice started on her second trip around the world. She again went to India, this time to return with her sister Olive who was retiring after thirty-nine years of missionary work there. They enjoyed a side trip to Italy, France, Switzerland, and England. A few days after getting home, Alice was back in Jamestown to complete her last year of teaching, having had a substitute while away.

The winter of 1959–60, Alice and Olive spent together in Ventnor, New Jersey, returning to their home in Minerva in April. During the next several years Alice was very busy raising flowers inside and out, entertaining friends and relatives and doing church work.

In the fall of 1970, she spent some time in the hospital and has not since then regained her normal state of good health. At the present time she is in the Fort Hudson Nursing Home in Ft. Edward, N.Y.

The Glens Falls Times, Saturday, November 26, 1881 — Olmsteadville — Nothing but the Glens Falls and Minerva railroad is talked of in this town. Hurry it up, Mr. Editor.

- Our roads are in horrible condition. They are laid up in ridges, and as hard as adamant, making it both difficult and dangerous to travel over them.
- Dr. T.C. Durant will place upon the beautiful waters of Long Lake next season a large and well- equipped steamer, and the highway from Minerva to Long Lake will be greatly improved.
- “I say, sister, have you seen the Glens Falls Times?” said an individual to me the other day. I answered in the affirmative. “Did you see anything about the railroad coming to this town? I tell you what it is,” said he, “when the Times says we are going to have a railroad it is sure pop.”
- The tannery and iron ore bed men are in favor of the railroad from Glens Falls to this town. The whole town of Minerva is in favor of it. It would open a direct communication with the outer world — a thing very much desired by the inhabitants of this pent-up section. Give us a railroad by all means. It will not only benefit this town, but add materially to the interests of Glens Falls, and will, without a doubt command all of the traffic from this section.

THE OLD TIME DANCE

Written Jan. 1931 by Mary Flynn (later Jenkins)

Sung to the tune "When the Work's All Done This Fall".

The night was bright and chilly,
And frost was in the air,
Such a good time awaited them
That they didn't seem to care.
Everyone had planned on it
For a week or so before.
The old-time dance was talked of
From Long Lake to the Gore.
The school was decked with harnesses,
Wagons and old wheels,
All the barns were raided,
We even searched the fields.
The corn stalks stood in corners,
And hay was all around
We had everything imaginable,
As much as could be found.
The fiddlers were called "cowboys"
From around the neighborhood,
Jack Loveland was their leader,
They all were certainly good.
Eddie Murphy played the fiddle,
Walt Bibby the banjo,
Lynn Clifford played the violin,
Florence Brannon the pi-an-o.
They danced till almost midnight,
Then came the jig contest,
Many people tried to win,
But Mert Hayes was the best.
At midnight crowds of people
swarmed up to Bradley's Hall;
Pancakes and sausages!
There was sure enough for all!
And after supper was eaten
Back to the school they went.
They danced till almost four o'clock
And one dollar is all they spent!

Mary Flynn who wrote this poem in 1931 became Mrs. Willard Jenkins in 1938. "Bill" works for NL Industries and Mary retired in 1970 after 32 years of teaching. She is now the Secretary-Treasurer of the Northeastern Zone of New York State Retired Teachers Association and a member of the Friendly Service Committee of that zone.

Mary and Bill are both much interested in modern square dancing and have helped to form square dancing clubs in a number of places. They have given lessons in that pastime to several groups of local children and young people and they often entertain out of town groups in their home. They were among the 100 leaders from the U.S. and Canada to participate in the Legacy meeting of square dancers held in Cleveland, Ohio, in May 1973. Mary is a regular contributor to two national square-dancing magazines.

Jack Loveland, who was the musical leader spoken of in the above poem, was the son of Fred and Mary Loveland who lived on the Newcomb, road beyond Aiden Lair. Jack worked in the woods and on river drives. He never married, but kept "bachelors' hall" with his brother Harry and died in 1945 at the age of seventy.

Jack had a keen sense of humor and a knack for story-telling. Here is one of his favorites:

"Yes, the hard topped roads made life a lot easier for us back woodsmen. Each spring, as the winter's frost was going out, the mud made us den up even tighter than the cold and snow of winter. I remember looking out toward the road once and saw a hat bobbing along crazy like. It looked like it might be a good hat and I ran out to get it. I ran a bit ahead to grab it as the wind took it by me. I got the hat but found there was a man's head under it. I says to him, 'Are you in trouble? Can I help you?' He says, 'No, I'm gettin' along fine; I'm on horseback.'"

OLMSTEDVILLE IN 1907

(As seen through the eyes of a 5th Grader)

The following was written by Catherine Powers, daughter of Edward and Ellen McCarthy Powers, when she was about ten years of age. She later married Edward McSweeney of Long Lake and is still living there.

"Olmstedville was named in the year 1866 by a man named Olmsted. It is situated in the southeastern part of the town of Minerva in Essex County in the State of New York. The town happened to grow because there was a tannery here and it was a very good lumbering region. The town contains about 250 population in the village of Olmstedville. There are surrounding villages which are Irishtown, Minerva, Leonard'sville, and the Gore.

The occupation of most of the people is farming. Olmstedville contains two blacksmith shops, three stores, one post office, two dancing halls, one grade school, two churches, two grist mills, two steam mills, one paint shop, three barber shops, and one moving picture theatre. There is one daily mail stage and two baggage stages. The baggage stages are Howe's and Mitchell's.

Perhaps one of the most attractive places is Johnny Cake Corner. Broadway is quite a busy street. River Street is quite attractive. It contains the famous Kenniston cottage, Lavery and Son Lumber Yard. On Broadway Street is the noted Thompson and St. Onge Restaurant. Another very pretty place is the Raymond Park which is situated on Johnny Cake Corner which contains many domestic animals, such as cows, pigs, and hens.

Olmstedville is a great health resort and many city people come here in the summer. Some come for their health while others come for a good time. In the summer time many ice cream socials are held and there are many ball games. It is a very good hunting and fishing village. People hunt the deer, partridges, rabbits and many kinds of birds. There is a very good pond to row boats on and fine swimming places, and in the winter, there is fine skating and many places to slide downhill. It is very cold here in the winter but in the summer it is mild."

IN MEMORIAM

Ellen Callahan 1888 – 1973

Ellen (Nellie) Callahan, a former member of our society, died on May 24 in the Tupper Lake hospital at the age of 84. She was born October 29, 1888, in Yonkers, N.Y., the daughter of Dominic and Catherine Garavin Callahan. She was, no doubt, named for her grandmother, Ellen McKeover Callahan, who was born in Ballyshannon, Ireland.

After her mother's death in 1903, Nellie became the housekeeper for her father and three younger brothers and one sister. The following year the family came to Minerva for the first time to visit relatives. Henry Callahan, the father's cousin, was then running the Mountain View hotel and others were living in the area. Many vacations were spent in Minerva from that time on until 1947 when this place became the permanent home of Nellie and her sister Mary who became the wife of John (Scottie) Hallidie, and they bought the former home of Henry and Manella Peck. For several years thereafter Nellie worked part time at the nearby hotel.

After Scottie's retirement as millwright at National Lead, the three of them spent some winter seasons in Florida. Since his death in 1965, Nellie and Mary have spent their winters in Florida and summers in Minerva. This year they had been home only a short time when Nellie became ill and was taken to the hospital where she died. Nellie was a jolly person who enjoyed fun and laughter and she made many friends in Minerva.

Emil Kraeling 1892 – 1973

Dr. Emil Kraeling died in New Canaan, Connecticut on April 15, two days after his 81st birthday. He had been ill only a very short time. A letter came in March in which Emil said, "It is sobering to see folks drop out of the world-scene when one gets toward the actual boundary lines. As the 'feller' said, 'George Washington is dead, Abraham Lincoln is dead and I'm not feeling very well myself.'"

Dr. Kraeling had spent almost every summer in Minerva since his family began coming here in 1899. His father was pastor of a Lutheran Church in Brooklyn of which Emil became associate pastor in later years. Emil was also a professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City and was called upon to translate a part of the book of Isaiah which was found among the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1949.

After his retirement, Dr. Kraeling wrote a number of religious books – "The Prophets", "I Have Kept the Faith", "Everyday Life in Bible Times", "Bible Atlas" and others. He was a member of our historical Society and was much interested in our town. He was working on his memories of Minerva at the time of his death.

There were two sons in the Kraeling family. The younger one, Carl, was professor of New Testament at the Yale Divinity School and in 1947 founded the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literature there. He served as its chairman for three years. In 1950, he went to the University of Chicago as Professor of Oriental Archeology and Director of the Oriental Institute. He directed a number of excavations in the Holy Land and in Libya and wrote up the findings. He died in 1966 at the age of sixty-nine and his wife, Elsie, died on January 19 of this year.

Emil and his wife are buried in Brooklyn near her people while Carl and Elsie are buried in Minerva beside his parents.

OLD NOISE, NEW NOISE – ????????

The cacophony blaring in your ears as you stand on a busy street corner in the midst of heavy traffic may lead to a yearning for the good old days when street noise was a stranger to people's ears. Or was it? In February, 1896, six years prior to the founding of the AAA, *The Horseless Age* magazine had this to say about sound:

"The last decade of the nineteenth century is preeminently the age of noise. In general pandemonium of the clatter of iron hoofs, the clastic of iron hoofs, the clash of steel tires, and the creak of bell-bearing less axles are prominent factors.

When the motor vehicle comes in, with its rubber tires and improved bearings, and the sound of iron hoofs becomes infrequent in our streets, then we shall realize that one of the blessings of the motor vehicle, and one, perhaps, we had not fully anticipated, is that it is a conqueror of noise."

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