

History of Versailles¹



I'm going to try and make this talk about Versailles as human as possible. Most of our history is just cold dead facts but there's a lot human interest and humanity right here and I just wonder why it happens that it is that way. Of course this isn't the first village that was here. There is a tradition that there was an Indian village here long before the white man came.

Next the river. River under the rocks. There was the Gustungo River. We'll analyze that name; Gus-river, tun-rock goeth under, river-rocks under. That real name of the Indian village. We get the same syllable down the creek here in the Burning Springs. Ju ma ga da gus; there is the gus again; the river; also the name of the Cattaraugus Creek; Got-u-geskeo or guskeo, there is the river again. So quite likely that name is correct - Gustungo or tungo. Down at Tuna-sassa; tun - there's the rock again.

The name Versailles: We don't know just where that came from. It's a French word of course. It is rather amusing when you hear the radio announcers stumble over the word; some of them call it "Ver sigh" some Versailles and some something else. Mr. Allen Parker said that he believes that it was just picked up cold out of a book of names which the surveyors had when they were surveying this area in here.

Of course the first thing to note about a community is whether it has a church or not. Well there's one up here. I don't know just how old it is. It was first a Baptist church and it's now a Methodist. It's certainly been in operation for more than 150 years². There is no question about that.

note a

The first industry that we have any record of is a tannery erected and run by a General Barker of Fredonia. If you go to Fredonia you'll find the Barker Park and the D. R. Barker library. It was this man who started this tannery here. It burned in a few years and somebody rebuilt it.

The first settler was John Clerk in 1815. It doesn't tell us any more about it. We've got no personality there at all.

There were two hotels, one of them stood right here where this building does. It was run by Sawl³ Hines. He was also stage driver and drove the stage up to Perrysburg to meet the train up there.

There was another stage driver here that must have been almost a girl when she started to drive stage. Ethie Lord, her name was. Her name later became Perkins. I don't believe that she could have been more than twenty years old when she drove stage to Lawtons. She drove it for a good many years.

There were three blacksmith shops, one owned by James Morrison, one by Orlanzo Palmer, and one by a man by the name of Jeffreys⁴. As we came up through Perrysburg you noticed on the left the tumbled-down building there? That's the last blacksmith shop in the town of Perrysburg. Four blacksmith shops and that's the last one.

Besides the Gen Barker tannery there were at least two others in this town. One of them was run by Levi Palmer.

back to the hotels -

Besides ~~Salmerus~~ *Salvenus*⁵ there was another one up there in the fork of the road. As we came down and kept to the right instead of turning to the left, that little building right there in that fork was Levi Palmer's hotel and that was the underground railroad station. That's

an old building. I don't know how old it is but it must have been
note built before 1860 at least⁶. It's Celled "underground" because
when they transported the slaves they would run away.

Then between there and the fire hall on Buffalo Street,
that is the diagonal road, was another tannery and Levi Palmer had
a tannery down the creek here. The remains of that were still
there when I was a young boy. There was a brick chimney about
seventy-five feet tall. The tan vats were still visable. I don't
know what became of that brick chimney. I think the boys kept
pecking at the base of it and eventually it fell over because it's
completely gone.

Then there's Levi Palmer again; the tannery, the hotel up
there, and right across the road here was a saw mill and a
woodworking shop. Between that saw mill and the tannery Levi
Palmer employed 108 men. That name Palmer has been a very
prominent name in this little community. The last of the male
Palmers to live here just died about two weeks ago. George Palmer
lived right next door to us here. his widow is still there. Up,
in that underground railroad station is Julia Palmer. There is
another Palmer somewhere; I think it lives in Olean. There was a
big family, an industrious family, and a prominent family.

There was a David Parker who ran a saw mill here. I don't
know just where that was. I can't find out. The people here have
forgotten where a lot of these places were.

There was a chair factory here. When we get up to the
Hiram Chapman place a Mrs. Parker up there, is a descendent of
this Franklin that ran the chair factory. John Parker ran a
shingle mill.

Now the tanneries and the saw mills indicate an industry
that very seldom gets into the histories. To have a tannery
you've got to have hemlock bark. There were hemlock here. To
have something to use in

Built before 1850 if used as Underground Railroad
station.

A tavern used as an underground railroad station
is very unusual, this will bear checking. - L.K.P.

⁷He developed quite a business here from ~~these~~ Indian remedies. One of them was a Pettat⁸ ~~ice-pack~~ eye saline. They finally moved to Fredonia and sold out to a man by the name of Fenner. That business ran there until about forty years ago. I think you can still buy in some of the drug stores around here, a Pettat⁹ corn salve. It's sold under the name of a Fredonia corn salve but it's still a Pettat¹⁰ remedy. I don't know if you can get the ~~ice-pack~~ eye saline yet or not.

You can't depend too much on ancestry. I mentioned the fact that I had a great great great grandfather in the Revolutionary War, but he wasn't enthusiastic about it, served two months and went home. ~~Went-Go~~ back to the May Flower *and the White family* and the descendents of that May Flower family all turned Tory and high tailed it for Canada. Then back to William the Conqueror. Two of William the Conqueror's men were absolutely my ancestors but they were pirates. Well we haven't got a pirate here but we've got some one else. One of these sawmill men was a moonshiner. He'd go down on the Reservation here and pick out a pine tree if he wanted and take a bottle of whisky down there and set it at the bottom of the pine tree and get his pine tree in a few days. Not only that but he was the ~~Congressman~~ here *Counterfiter*¹¹ and he had men enough working for him so if he didn't dare to circulate his ~~local~~ *fake* bills around here close but if there was a circus coming to town he paid his men in those phony bills. Consequently they went away from town. So there's our pirate. He was enterprising ~~and a good natured community~~. He developed a salve which is still known. Cook's ~~Kill-Down~~ *cure all, good for man or beast*. It's still known. I don't know if it's still in use or not but it's still known.

You people who are mothers old enough have used Robert's Worm Syrup. That developed in this town too.

~~There were three or four doctors here in this town~~ *Several doctors have practiced here.* The first one

was a doctor, by the name of Peter Wilson, an Oneida Indian, who had a license to practice medicine. He lived on the end of what they call W. Division Street, just next to the edge of the Reservation. He was very well known and got into Periodicals and Magazines.

Then there was a John Hoyt. He represented himself as being a magnetic healer. Very skeptical about the magnetism but his message certainly did help people. He was supposed to be something of a character. I didn't know him well enough to know what his oddities were but that's the reputation he had. Then Salem and Capital Parker. Salem is a strange name for a man. Capital was a magnificent-sized woman. She also had a magnificent alto voice. I never heard anybody with a richer alto voice than Capital Parker. They weren't known very far away but locally they were well known as entertainers. I bring them in because Salem married a Hoyt woman.

One of the other families was a Hamatoon. One of them was a Civil War man. I don't know what details were but he was well known here in Versailles and the family has entirely disappeared.

Another name that is familiar here is Merrill. If you go into these cemeteries out here you will find half a dozen stones in each cemetery dedicated to the Merrill families. What became of them, I don't know. Well there is a Kathryn Merrill out on the road that turns left that goes to Perrysburg.

Another name is the Ticknors. It was quite a large family. If any of you lived in Salamanca and took the early train that left Salamanca about 6:00 to get to Buffalo about 9:00 Ben Ticknor was the brakeman on that train. He didn't live here in Versailles but he has a sister. She still owns property here. Mrs. George Reed. She was born here.

You speak of the church as having been in operation more than 150 years (This was in 1962). Then later you record that John Clark was the first settler in 1815. No church was built for some years after the first settlement. The first church in Gowanda was organized in 1823, no doubt Versailles was somewhat later.

track work in 1856. He was 26 years old before he realized he was a runner and was so good that somebody took him to England and in England he made his world record of 10 miles in 52 minutes and defeated everyone that they brought to him. He is supposed to have run before all the crown heads of Europe. They brought him back here and nobody ever defeated him here.

A few months ago I was very fortunate to obtain the buckskin suit of Lewis Bennett or Deerfoot. That's down at Little Valley in the Museum where it will be safe. When I got hold of it a family had it and was letting their boys play with it. It wouldn't have lasted long.

This little community, a few years ago, supported an eighteen piece band too. You see we're getting the community spirit here too.

In back of this store directly across from us was started a little cabinet shop - well cabinet makers back 60 or 75 years ago were almost necessarily undertakers. The man's name was George ~~Yeugal~~ UBEL. He had two sons; one of them went up to Cattaraugus and eventually wound up in Gowanda, Charlie ~~Yeugal~~ UBEL. I can't get the name of the other one but he went to Johnsonburg, Pennsylvania and the business he established there - a furniture and undertaking business is worth ~~half~~ a million dollars today. There's something that started here in Versailles.

Now we're getting right down to where we can talk about some honest-to-goodness people. In 1881 there was born here a boy whom they called Mark Raymond Harrington. No relation to Paul, unfortunately. When I met him a few years ago I asked him if there were still any relatives in Versailles and he said no. Now in that same year Arthur Parker was born about a half a mile from us, just on the Reservation. They both, when they were about twenty, went into archeological work. Their first work was what we call the Silverheels site down on the Eire

note

County side, this side of Irving. This Jack Kennedy lives there on that site. They both kept on in archeological work and eventually Mark Harrington wound up in what is called the finest, most outstanding museum in the United States in Los Angeles. The Southwestern Museum. At the time that he and Arthur Parker worked together even up to twenty years ago if anybody mentioned or even hinted that the Indians had been here¹⁴ more then 2500 years why they were crazy; they were an outlaw; it was impossible, the Indians couldn't have been here more than 2500 years. Mark Harrington went down in the SandeeIA Mountains of New Mexico, excavated caves down there and proved and made *them* swallow it, that the Indians had been here 20,000 years.

As you came up out of Gowanda up that hill on the first flat, Mark Harrington called those Indians there the ~~Sandeaush~~ SANDIAMEN because it was the SandeeIA Mountains. When I saw him he said, "Do you find anything old out there in Western New York?" I said, "Yes I do," and described where I found it. He said, "Draw me a picture." He said, "That's SandeeIA." On that first flat on the highway up out of Gowanda is a 20,000 year old site. When I went to see him ~~down there~~ in that museum I had written to him and told him when I'd like to see him and I hoped to be there. I went up to his receptionist and said that I'd like to see Mr. Harrington. She went into a back room and came beck - "Dr. Harrington will see you." I found him very feeble but just as intelligent as anybody can be. He was almost overcome because somebody had AT LAST come from home to see him. He is the outstanding archeologist of the west.

I mentioned Arthur Parker being born the same year, in fact, I was born that same year myself but I'm not an archeologist.

I fear you have made the statement regarding 2,500 years and 20,000 years too strong. The arguments as to the antiquity of Indians on the American soil go back much more than the last twenty years. My father was aware of this controversy fifty years ago. Quite possibly specific dating has not been possible until recent decades. Father was interested in Indian artifacts and had read rather widely. - L.K.P.

Back in Revolutionary war times, there was a chief they called OLD SMOKE who fought on the British aide, he was ~~(can't make this out)~~ *Leader of the massacre* of Wyoming, PA. He had a son, Young Smoke *on the American Side* who captured a British officer whose name was Parker and adopted him. There has been controversy where that name Parker came from. He lived with the family for a long time and began to respect them, and in fact, he liked them immensely and when he had a chance to go back he bestowed his Parker name upon Young Smoke and upon two of his ~~brothers~~ *sons Henry & Samuel*. There was another born to Young Smoke named William. William Parker lived on the TONAWANDA Reservation. He was an outstanding Indian. Fought in the war of 1812. He married a great grand-daughter of Handsome Lake, the Seneca Prophet. They had several children; among them there was Levi, Newton, Nicholason and two more *Frank & Albert* ~~(can't hear.)~~ Nicholason was the one who moved to this Reservation. He married Martha Hoyt. Now there's that name, Hoyt AGAIN that's why I called your attention to that name back a little ways. She was an associate of (ASHER & LAURA WRAHT) THE MissionaryIES They had several children. ~~One of them was Frank, another Hank, ISAAC another one was Albert, another one was Minnie. I knew Frank and Albert. (Can't hear last part of tape about 1 foot.)~~ ALBERT MARRIED MOLLY ROBBINS A CLOSE FRIEND OF MY FAMILY

End of First Tape.

in the tan vats we must have hides, preferably from cows. This indicates that this was originally a dairy county, and milk, milk calls for something to process it in and there were at least two cheese factories.

Eventually the shallow root of Perrysburg became exhausted and as grapes thrive well on shallow ground almost the whole town of Perrysburg became a vinyard. Other market garden crops such as snap beans are now planted.

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An Indian who contributed to the picture of this area was Louis Bennett, or Deerfoot a Seneca Indian he did not know that he was a swift runner until he was about 25 years old. He began his track work in 1856.

Preceeding page 5.

Just back of us lived Eber Pettit who

Nicholason Parker, himself was a good farmer, a very outstanding man. He was a blacksmith and a wise counselor to his people.

Fred married ~~this~~ a Griswald girl, I believe from Fredonia and they had two children, Arthur and Edna. Edna used her Indian name ~~Adern~~ ADENEKA. I don't know what it means. She married Dr. Mark Harrington.

Arthur Parker from this start down here on the Silverheels site kept on working through archeology until he became a State Archeologist at Albany. While he was there he wrote and had published about thirty-five short articles in the Albany publications and various archeological magazines. Eventually he wrote and had published twelve books; one of them, "The Life of General ~~Elias~~ ELY S. Parker." This book cannot be bought now. Arthur Parker himself eventually obtained a Doctor's degree and became one of the most outstanding archeologists in the eastern part of the United States nationally and internationally known. I have six of his books and five of them autographed. Arthur Parker was the grand nephew of ~~Elias~~ ELY S. Parker. A little more about ~~Eliy~~ Parker. Apparently Nicholason Parker, the grandfather of Arthur, was the favored brother of Ely Parker. It's a recorded fact that ~~Eliy~~ spent much time here with Nicholason. So ~~Eliy~~ Parker is almost a Versailles man. There are several disputed things about ~~Eliy~~ Parker; one about his name. ~~The~~ A British Officer ~~being~~ *HAVING BEEN BY YOUNG SMOKE* captured and ~~giving~~ *GAVE HIS NAME TO THE 2 BOYS OF THE INDIAN* his name - Parker¹⁷. That is the correct way that the name Parker got into the Indian Nation. Another misapprehension about Gen. Parker is the well-known history that Gen. Parker was the secretary or aide of Gen. Grant in the Civil War. ~~Eliy~~ Parker tried to enlist and Sec. Seward turned him down because he was an Indian. Eventually some-body recognized his ability - he was an outstanding Civil Engineer. He *built Grants defenses, even planned some of his strategy and at Appomattox write the terms of Surrender and received General Lee's sword. When Lee started to sign, he noticed that Ely Parker was an Indian and remarked that he was glad that there was at least one American here. Parker replied that we are all Americans.*

He got the first bridge across the Mississippi River ACCORDING TO THE SENECAS. He built several public building in the eastern part of the United States and when it came to the New York Central he THEY tried to put their railroad through the Montazumama Swamp down north of Auburn. There wasn't a single engineer who could do it. They called on Eli~~V~~ Parker and he put it through.

Another misapprehension about Gen. Parker was this, that at the surrender at Appomatix it's commonly reported and mostly believed that when Gen. Lee stepped into the room and saw Gen. Parker that he hesitated and apparently wasn't going to come in. Grant saw it and says "You need not hesitate to enter the presence of my Sec. Gen. Parker. Here is a man whose citizenship dates back with yours and mine to Plymouth Rock." That wasn't said at all - here are Gen. Parker's own words, "Grant wrote out the terms of surrender on a piece of paper in pencil, handed it to Parker and asked Gen. Bowers to transcribe it. He says "I'm so nervous I can't." Gen. Parker, being an Indian, had no nerves, and the document was handed to him. He transcribed it, showed it to Grant, stepped over to Gen. Lee whose back was to the other man. Went around the front of him, handed him the document. Lea looked up apparently startled for an instant. Then he saw who Gen. Parker was and here's what he said, "I am glad to see one real American HERE" Parker said, "We are all Americans."

There's Dr. Mark Harrington, Dr. Arthur Parker, BOTH BORN IN VERSAILLES and Dr. Peter Wilson. There's one other man and I'm sorry that man isn't here. He'd be too modest to tell but this ~~Allen~~ ALLAN Parker whom I'll WE WILL go to see very shortly now has been an Industrial Attorney for the National (ANALINE) Company in Niagara Falls. Very recently he was granted a Doctor's degree. So we've got the third Doctor being born in Versailles or near. I don't think

Peter Wilson was. I don't know why Versailles has been so favored with these great men. There were ~~some~~ *three*¹⁸ great men to come out of here. *Arthur Parker, Mark Harrington and lately Allan Parker has been granted a PH.D. DEGREE.*¹⁹

Flood Control

As I go on I hope I can remember to tell you what a *felicitous* *fucticious* idea that is. After awhile it came out that they were going to dispossess practically all the Indians on the Allegheny Reservation and the Corn Planter also in Pennsylvania. In fact, they were going to take all the land up as far as Salamanca and flood it. The argument there is - well they've got 2,000 acres left. Seventeen thousand²⁰ Indians to relocate on 2,000 acres! But that 2,000 acres is like this; ~~permanent~~ *mostly mountain side.*²¹ The rest of it is River. Part of it is Salamanca itself, the Village of Carrollton, the Village of Vandalia and the highway and three railroads. There isn't 500 acres left in that Reservation to relocate 17,000 Indians on. Alright they've got 2,000 acres. They can just as well move up there. The other argument is - we've got to control floods. You know what that 1932²² flood was! How much do you suppose that raised the river down at Pittsburgh? Practically inundated Eldrid, Port Allegheny, Portville, Olean and port of Salamanca. That raised the river at Pittsburgh only two inches!! - yet we've got to build that dam up there to control the floods. And finally to the last Painter, the Quaker minister, who was absolutely fearless when it comes to meeting some of these big bugs, made an Army Engineer admit that all they wanted was the water to flush out the sewage at Pittsburgh. If it's a Pennsylvania problem then let them take care of it themselves. Why penalize New York State!

Louis H. Morgan, who was chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority, didn't like that idea. He was very much opposed to it and came up with the Conewango Drainage System. His idea is to build a small dam about twenty feet high at Coldspring on the Allegheny Reservation. That would

of course, flood some of the reservation. It would also flood Steamburg, part of Randolph, Cherry Creek, and South Dayton. But he claims that it would cost \$100,000,000 less than the Kinzua Dam. The protest started maybe ten years ago on this and finally they got authority through Congress to make an independent survey. It was Army Engineers that did it. Of course they came up with the figures and totals on the Conewango plan. What excavating there is to do in the Conewango Reservoir will be all soft dirt. All of the excavation of the Kinzua Project will be hard rock and yet they figure a dollar a yard for that soft (*dirt*) ~~F~~ill, just the same as the hard rock.

A little over two years ago an Indian brought me a document. I didn't realize it's value. It was difficult to read, almost impossible to read. It was on parchment. I could see that it was very old. He was having some trouble with a gravel lease and he obtained this document. I saw that it was valuable enough so I got a friend of mine to make some photostatic copies of it and when Lavinus Painter²³, the Quaker minister, over at ~~Gettage~~ *Collins*, put me on this Indian Committee for justice to the Indians I went on about it and almost really translated that Indian document. It took me several hours to do it and here it is:

By the authority of the presence²⁴ of the United States to all peoples to whom these presents may come greeting. Whereas it has been represented by some of the chief men of the Seneca and Onnadoga Nations of Indians that they're entitled to a certain reserved tract of land lying on the Cattaraugus and on or near the Allegheny and which has been surveyed, laid off and the lines regularly one and is definitely understood that they are not in possession of a deed securing land in a peaceable and undestroyed occupancy thereof. As well, therefore, to remove all the members of (section can't be read) - it goes on -²⁵

The Seneca and Onnadoga Nations are to secure to them the possession²⁶ of the said lands does hereby announce and declare by the authority of the aforesaid and on behalf of the government of the said United States, that all lands claimed and secured to such Seneca and Onnadoga Nations of Indians by treaty, convention are²⁷ Dead of Conveyance, OR Reservation lying and being within the limits of the said United States shall be and remain the property of Seneca and Onnadoga Nations of Indiana forever, unless they shall voluntarily relinquish or dispose of the same and all persons, citizens of the United States are hereby strictly forbidden to disturb the said Indian Nations and acquire²⁸ possession of said lands.

Now there is a deed; an actual deed given under the hand and the seal of the War Office of the United States the 17th day of March 1802.

Signed: H. Dearborn, Sec. of War

And then there is a memorandum along with it. The above document was delivered by President Jefferson to Gov. Blacksnake personally on the day it was signed, March 17, 1802. He kept it until April 20th, 1857, when he delivered it to an Indian (~~another name that I can't read~~) Agent²⁹ At the time that he delivered that to that Indian Agent he was 107 years old. He lived two years after that. His testimony on his death bed saved the Oil Springs Reservation to the Seneca Indians. It had been overlooked. The (OGDEN) Land Hunter COMPANY thought that they had bought all that Seneca land, but they didn't. There is a piece of land that the Seneca's actually own and nobody can take it away from them.

Another thing here is an actual deed. I went to a council meeting here several weeks ago down to Iroquois. Sat there from ten o'clock in the morning to nearly five in the afternoon. Routine business and their Indian attorney, Arthur Lazarus, a white man, was there and when they were

about ready to close up. George Herron, President of the Nation, said, "Mr. Lazarus, what have you got to say about the Kinzua situation." For a half a hour that man talked completely negative. He said, "There isn't a thing we can do. Congress passed a law and the Supreme Court decided in 1870 that treaties can be altered. That law's passed. They're going to use that Reservation and you can't atop them." The more he talked the madder I got. When he was through I said, "Mr. Herron, I want the floor." He said, "Alright, come out here." I said, "Mr. Lazarus, I'm not going to dispute you at all. I know, myself that the Canadaigua Treaty was obtained under fraudulent conditions, but Mr. Lazarus, if I sell you a piece of property, giving you a deed, and ten years, or fifty years, or one hundred fifty years can I ever get that deed?" "Why certainly not." I said, "Mr. here is a deed," and read it. That fellow when I got through, wasn't only about that high. *about 1 foot*

~~Lirus~~ LAVINUS Painter, who got me into this thing, he was ~~someone~~ SUMMONED to go down to Washington on the lest hearing we had down there; a two day hearing. He took a photostatic copy of that document with him. Allender ELLENDER wouldn't look at it. And what did he say! He says, "You damm Quakers and Indians aren't any better than the ~~natives~~ NIGGERS." And get that; a Senator; chairman of that committee. Painter didn't leave and finally EAllender said, "What business you got down here interfering with our business." The Quakers have been seeking justice for the Indians for ~~two~~ ONE hundred EIGHTY ~~twenty~~-five years and they'll keep on. *for another 185 years if necessary*

I've been collecting Indian relics for a long time, in fact, over sixty years. In 1928 down on the Erie County side of the Reservation down below Irving, I was looking over a piece which I had looked over many times. It had just, been plowed and I came across a place, maybe

The recording of my appearance before the Senate sub-committee on appropriations is sufficiently inaccurate to justify omitting the story. I was there and ought to know what happened. - L.K.P.

five or six feet across that was very dark. I looked at it and said well here must have been a burial. I picked up an arrowhead, a piece of pottery; I moved my foot a little bit and uncovered a piece of red stone and picked it up and looked at it. Well that looks like it was a piece of a child's toy, looked closer and said no, that's part of an Indian pipe and what I found wee apparently the hind quarter of the animal and the part lost was the head. That's what I thought. I went back there for eleven years³² in the same season and sifted the soil looking for the other piece. I even bribed Indian boys to look for it and the twelfth year I gave it up. The weeds were up shoulder-high. I said well no use looking this year, but that year an Indian ARTHUR WASHINGTON³³ boy did -³⁴ find it and gave it to Otto WATERMAN. He did not care for it and gave it to Everett Burnmaster. He recognized it as the missing piece of what I had found. The two pieces when joined became the *Quarles*³⁵ pipe the only authentic one in existence.

In telling about the destruction of the word undecipherable on what we call the Silverheels site now, we didn't give the date; it was somewhere in the middle 1600's or 1650's. Some historians state it exactly as 1656, which I somewhat doubt. Also the trips *OF* Lahontan up the Cattaraugus Creek; I think that is very definitely placed at 1654. And while we're on this subject I'd like to give a digest of the Ancient and Modern Indian Village sites on and near the Reservation.

Down next to the Lake on the Erie County side, only six feet above the present elevation of the Lake, was an early Iroquois site. That sets that back about the year 1000. Just to the east of that towards Buffalo also on the Erie County side and about six or eight feet higher than the Iroquois site is one of the most extensive sites there is in Western New York. It extends from the Lake up to and even possibly a little beyond Route 20, from a half mile to a mile wide. It is a much more ancient site, in fact, a very ancient site, in some ways. Dr. Parker says there are at least five occupations represented on that area. One of the peoples there was an agricultural people. We know that because we find quantities of sandstone hoes. Also either they or some other people were extensive fishermen. It's impossible to walk across that site without picking up a stone sinker. Practically all the arrowheads that are found there are the notched arrowheads. I don't know as I ever found an Iroquois *POINT*³⁶ on that site. It's very strange an Iroquois site being not more than a 1000 feet away from it and yet they're practically all notched arrowheads and some of them are very very old. Just who these people were is almost impossible to say. Usually we say that the notched arrowhead is the Algonquin, but very strangely, I never found a scrap of pottery on that

site. If it was pure Algonquin there would be some pottery. Yes, I have where in just one place I found a little bit of pottery and that was the particular spot where I found the Mastodon head piece.

Across the creek to Chautauqua County south of Route 20 there are forty or fifty acres in there that are purely Erie. A very very large site. It seems almost incredible that they could have covered so much territory. There was very little of any other occupation in that site. Just a little further west along Route 20 back of the Irving Hotel there's a pure Algonquin site with fragments of pottery and up on the bluff is one still much older - very crude implements. These, of course, are both off the Reservation. Coming back on the Erie County side again there's one village site almost historic, in fact, when it was in existence there were some European articles found in it. We called that the High Sack site. The creek has taken that all away. That in just on the west side edge or the north edge of the sand knoll that we came over coming from Gowanda to Irving. That was almost overlapping, we might say, with the Erie site. What is the Silverheels site where Jack Kennedy lives. Down on the creek flat there is another one that has entirely disappeared and that is the one that we have a name for - CatarauAgARus³⁷, as I have mentioned, that is the first mention of the name Cattaraugus that we find in history. It was from that site that Lt. John ODXTADER³⁸ and his forty warriors went out to meet Broadhead's men on the Allagheny. Right next to that was another early Iroquois site. Most of that has washed away. Then just to the right of the highway above that in a field that has been taken up in (BRUSH) almost entirely was an Algonquin site with the pottery fragments.

Coming up to the Indian school property, there are two sites. One

of them on the flat back of the school. Slightly higher than the land where the school buildings set is a very ancient site and that probably is Algonquin because what arrowheads found there are the notched type. I've never found any pottery there but it's safe to say that's what it was. Where the school stands was another historic Iroquois site and when they were excavating for the foundations for the basement of the first school house there they ran into the graveyard portion of that site and somewhere out in the front yard were buried the bones that were taken up there.

Coming up to the four corners; they call that the Plank Road, you follow that towards Buffalo and up the crooked hill, the left hand fork of that road and up the crooked hill. You get up to the top of that hill on the left is another Algonquin site and just at the east end of the Versailles bridge is still another; that was probably Algonquin also. The site of Versailles was an ancient village. I don't think that was historic but we at least have the name of that - Gustango - which means the River under the banks. There are quite a number of the Indian legends or traditions that have to do with that particular village.

Along the road west of Versailles opposite where Paul Dabolt lives, just on the edge of the Reservation was an extremely ancient site. Farther back actually than the pre-pottery people. Personally I would date that village as about 20,000 years ago. Following down the big Indian creek to Burning Springs we find another Erie site there. That is one of the best preserved forts there is in New York State. That is, the embankment on the outside of that village. The village comprised of about two or three acres. Across Big Indian about half a mile down the creek was a very ancient site also. That probably was also Algonquin although I've never found any trace of pottery there, but I've seen the arrowheads

that have come from there and they're all the notched arrowheads.

About half a mile farther down just under the bluff from the high land and probably fifteen feet above the Creek is one of the strangest earthworks that there is anywhere around here. It's a bank of earth just as straight as you could run a transit line for about one half mile. Apparently not made for defense because the area back of it is right against the bluff and just why that was there, I can't figure out and Arthur Parker never could either. It was certainly artificial and what it was for is still a puzzle and always will be.

Up on the upper land on the Reservation is an Algonquin village site with pottery in it and near by it is mound which has also been completely destroyed. That can be located by the location of the gold mine - supposed. There is a little gold there and there is quite an area in there that is pretty well populated, impregnated with the notched arrowheads. The fact of the Algonquin pottery on the edge of the bank indicated that the whole area was an Algonquin site. Between the highway and the Burning Springs fort there is another Algonquin site. That's three right along together - the Burning Springs, the Algonquin site and the very ancient one just on the edge of the Reservation opposite Paul Labolt's place.

Then farther up the Creek, that is the Burning Springs and what we call the double ring although it isn't a ring - all in Cattaraugus County. I know the Algonquin site on the bluff there, that is on the Gordon property. Those are in Chautauqua County.

But the double ring fort is another Erie site and that is a ring in name only because it's just two banks of earth cut across a point of land between a very small spring (*BROOK*) and the Cattaraugus.

Across the road from there is another Algonquin site. Strange thing, Burning Springs - double ring as they call it and the Algonquin site be-

tween Paul Labolt's and Burning Springs; the burial points of these have never been found. There's still a chance for somebody to do some archeological work there if they want to. Although personally I would discourage that. I **DONT** want to locate these places exactly. Also in that area are two mounds that have never been touched. The reason I don't want to locate them is because some amateur might go in there and destroy them. The minute you've stuck a shovel into them you've destroyed evidence right away. It takes a trained archeologist really to open a mound and to know what it represents; the story that it tells.

There are probably some other sites; in fact, the old ~~injuns~~ **INDIANS** used to say that between Versailles and Gowanda there were six ancient village sites. I don't know where they are. Arthur Parker didn't know where they were. **A RECENT AERIAL MAP SHOWS THREE**

There is one off the Reservation on the Markham property. Markham Drive there was a Sandeía a site which is dated 20,000 years back. On the Erie County side opposite the Pinewoods church (the school house is gone now) is the village of ~~Kenke~~ **GEN-TV ORGEN-TEE A PLACE DOWN UNDER**. That is the village that was established immediately after the Revolutionary War. Also there was a very intensive village site that covered quite a large area, probably 30 or 40 acres down on that flat, which was much older than the Iroquois. There is also indication that there was a village site just at the right as you start down the hill off the four-mile towards Gowanda.

It would be hard to describe this so folks would know where it is but after you straighten up onto Buffalo street there's a very short street that goes down to the right coming towards Gowanda. They call that Shanty Town and there's an area also of 25 or 30 acres that is extremely interesting. It yields practically nothing but notched arrowheads, but there have been five or six grooved axes which are not typical to anything in New York state at all. The grooved ax is a product of the

North Midwest from Central Ohio to Mississippi. Also that's where Stuart Spietler found his fluted arrow point, which we used to call it because so many people used used it. Anyway the date of that is at least 10,000 years back. That is just barely off, the Reservation as was the Sandea site up on Markham Heights. Right next to Grennis Brook, that's the brook that crosses Buffalo Street part way down, there is another site. Up on the farm that is half way between Rosenburg Corners and the corners which go down to the Pinehill Cemetery there is an area which (EVERETT) Burgaster³⁹ described to me as a pre-pottery site. That's where I lived and that's where I got interested in Indian relics. It's almost impossible to go out on plowed ground there without picking up some. But I never found a scrap of pottery. Strangely, almost all the arrowheads were notched arrowheads although occasionally I did find one of the (UN-NOTCHED) which was classified very definitely as pre-pottery. Of course that was off the Reservation, but near enough to be of interest.

Then we get up to the Broadway Road on the right up on the flat there is another small site and turning down the Forty Road across Point Peter Brook the road that turns to the left and between that road and the bank of the creek, was another early Iroquois site; the Point Peter site. Some archeological expedition excavated that probably 60 or 70 years ago. I had quite a lot of contact with the man, he was very old at the time. When he was a boy he remembered the village site - the Fort Ring. It wasn't a very big one probably 120 or 150 feet across but the opening was towards the creek bank which is about 150 feet higher right there.

He said he used to run around on that. I asked him what they found when they excavated. He said, "Everything." He was very positive in saying, "they found wagonloads." You can't find anything there today.

Another site just as we drop down into Forty was interesting. There was a stoned-up spring and one or two stone chimneys which I mentioned before.

We're quite far from the Reservation now. The strangest thing about these places is, we know the names of only three of them. Cattaraugus or Cattaraugus ~~AGERAS~~, back of John Kennedy's. That is entirely gone, the creek has washed that away. The name of the village at Versailles - Gustango. The village down on the flats below the Pinewoods school house or church - Gents. (The land down under) Of all these 15 or 20 village sites that I've mentioned, these are the only three that we know the names of.

I think that Burning Springs is one of the most unique places there is. That's on the Big Indian Creek which crosses the highway west of Versailles. Between there and the Cattaraugus there are four falls. One of them almost 20 feet high. That's down into the Dunkirk shale which is the gas-bearing shale. If gasoline got too expensive they could dredge up that shale and distill it for the gasoline in it. That brought forth the gas that seeps up through the crevices down there at Burning Springs and that is why it was called that.

The Seneca name for it is Qju-na-ga-da-gus. Dju - at; na - part of the word for water; ga - place; da gus - higher. (At the place where the water burns.) Years ago people could go down there and cook a meal over the gas, but there's not a bubble coming up today. It's a very interesting place due to the gas and the Burning Springs Fort up above which the Indians call the French Fort. There's no justification for that whatever.

Part of the reason for the establishment of that village, GentoE or the land down under village, was on account of the big spring and from that bank there for about half a mile is an almost continuous slant of water coming out there. The Indians call that ~~Djudusnleni~~ DJU-DUS-A-WAH-NE - the big spring.

I don't understand the change of name of water there because down on the Allegany Reservation what we call Cold Spring - Dju-na-ga-*NOO* - those two places are extremely interesting places on the Reservation there's another place that I've never been able to locate. Somewhere on the bluff on the Erie County side below the Indian school was the location of the first Council House. The Indians were very reticent about telling it and there is a very extensive burial ground there. I don't blame them for not telling.

There's one other point of interest on the Reservation; that's the Four Mile Level Road. We traveled it year after year, some of us every-day *ALWAYS* with never a thought as to how it came into being or who made it, or what work was involved in making it. Somewhere in the 1840's the state engaged a contractor to put the road across. The contract called for a road from (I think it was Lodi at the time *NOW GOWANDA*) to the lake.

A contractor would go down there and dig up the immense pine stumps by which the ground was covered, that's why it's called the pine woods, and go back the next morning and the stumps would be back in their holes. Contractor after contractor did that and finally they came to a man by the name of James ~~Hurley~~ *HARVEY* MacMillian and asked him if he could do it, he said, "Yes. I can." He had two small boys probably six and eight years old. He took the them down there with him. By doing so, he showed that he was not afraid of the Indians and he constructed the road from where it leaves Buffalo Street now, clear to the lake. The lower end of it is completely lost by railroads and other things. There is a letter in Briggs history commending him for the way in which he has built the road and it's excellence. It took him four years to build it. There's no in-dication now as to what he received for it, but it must have been quite a sizable sum.

Annotations to this Transcription

- ¹ This "History of Versailles" document has been re-typed from source material that was a photocopy of the original typewritten text. Based upon the phrases "End of First Tape", "Tape No. 2" and "Tape No. 3" that are contained within the document, it appears that the original text was a transcription of audio tapes recorded at some meeting or public presentation. A reference in the text (see [Endnote 12](#)) makes it appear that the talk was delivered in 1962. It is probable that the meeting took place in Versailles at the corner of Main St. and Water St. in a building located on the site of what had once been the Whitehorse Inn. This is supported by several references in various parts of the text, including on Page 2 where the following text appears: "There were two hotels, one of them stood right here where this building does." The source material for this transcription is on 8½" x 14" photocopy paper, even though it is obvious that the text was originally typed on 8½" x 11" paper. The longer paper was used to allow the inclusion of photocopied notes at the bottom of some of the photocopied pages. As you read the document, it may appear that words are omitted or misspelled. This is how the photocopies themselves appear. Because this happens so frequently, and because several words are misspelled in the source material, the use of [sic] is not pursued. Every attempt has been made to keep this transcription faithful to the original photocopies. As of 2001-12-10, the source document photocopies reside at the [Patterson Library](#), 40 S. Portage Street, Westfield, NY 14787-1496 as part of a collection dealing with the activities of [Dr. Allen Parker](#), (b.1881-d.1955) NY State Archaeologist during the first part of the twentieth century. The collection's HID Call Number is (NIC)NYCH96M-640-0030. The collection includes a typewritten statement that some of the material was prepared on "Feb. 4, 1963" by Joyce Ferris Swan (deceased), a former resident of Westfield, NY and former Buffalo newspaper columnist ("The Ferris Wheel"). Material stored at the library in the same collection (that is, in the same box) along with this "History of Versailles" document, makes it apparent that the remarks recorded herein were delivered by Mr. Eber Russell, born in Collins Twp., Erie County in 1881. Associated with this transcription are two pages transcribed from a biography of Mr. Russell contained in the same document collection at the Patterson library. These two pages claim that Mr. Russell was a historian of Perrysburg, a Seneca Indian scholar, an amateur archeologist and an acquaintance (possibly a friend) of Dr. Allen Parker. The source material contains photocopies of typewritten pages with numerous handwritten notations. In the case of "Tape No. 2" there are two copies of the type written material and each has different handwritten notations. In the present transcription of the source material, the handwritten changes are shown in a **bold script font** and hand written deletions are shown using a ~~strikeout font~~. The two versions of "Tape No. 2" are handled by Endnoting the differences between the two copies. Other endnotes are used for further clarification.
- ² The words "more than 150 years" are underlined in freehand and a handwritten word is written beneath the underlining. The word is difficult to decipher. It appears to say "Note a". This probably refers to the photocopied note that exists on the bottom of page 6 of the photocopied material.
- ³ The typewritten word appears to be Sawvenus. There is a freehand slash through the third letter and what appears to be an "L" is handwritten above the typed word.
- ⁴ This would be Stephen Jeffrey (or Jeffery), father of Maude Jeffrey and Grandfather of Marion Brown.
- ⁵ The typed word appears to be Saurenus, but it is difficult to read. This is marked off with a freehand scratch and a handwritten word that appears to be Salvenus is written above the deletion.
- ⁶ The phrase "before 1860 at least" is underlined in freehand on the photocopy and a handwritten word "note" is beside the underlining. This appears to be a reference to the note shown at the bottom of the

page. On the photocopied document, it is obvious that this note was not part of the original text but that it was added separately when the photocopying was done. There is no reference as to whom the initials "L.K.P." represents.

- ⁷ This page was not numbered on the source material but it is page 5. Page 4 was missing from the document and did it not appear to be in the document box at all; that is, it did not seem to be mixed up with the other papers stored in the same box.
- ⁸ It seems likely that the original transcription of the tape recording may have incorrectly used the word "Pettat" when the original speaker had used the word "Pettit". This reference would then relate to the eye salve first produced by Dr. James Pettit in 1807. According to a November 1999 article in the [Traveler's Companion](#) of the Greater Buffalo Bottle Collectors Association, in 1854 Dr. Pettit's son, Eber M. Pettit, was a partner in the American Eye Salve Company, based in Versailles, NY. It therefore seems probable that Eber M. Pettit may have been the father of Fred, Helen and Eber Pettit as shown in the [Versailles Photographic Scrapebook](#).
- ⁹ See [Endnote 8](#) for a comment on the word "Pettat".
- ¹⁰ Refer to [Endnote 8](#).
- ¹¹ The words "Congressman here" are struck out in longhand and the word "Counterfiter" [sic] is misspelled and handwritten above the strikeout.
- ¹² The text in this box is at the bottom of the photocopied page. It is obvious that it was a separate slip of paper that was laid on the photocopier and reproduced along with the text about it. On the on actual photocopies that are in the library's collection, the font that was used to type the text that appears in this box is different than the font used to type the main text of the transcription. This makes it apparent that the two were not typed at the same time. It seems as though the transcription of the tapes may have been given to someone to proofread and that the notes, such as the text in this box, are part of the reviewers comments. The parenthetical sentence "(This was in 1962.)" makes it appear that talk herein transcribed was delivered in 1962.
- ¹³ There was no Page 7 in the source material. See [Endnote 7](#) for further details on the missing pages.
- ¹⁴ The handwritten word "note" is entered in the margin of the source material next to this word.
- ¹⁵ At the library where the source material for this transcription is stored, this page was stapled as the last page along with the other photocopies of the typewritten pages that began with the heading "History of Versailles". This page is entirely handwritten. It does appear to be a part of the Versailles transcript as can be seen from the similarity of the text on this page about the Seneca Deerfoot with the Deerfoot comments on typewritten Page 8.
- ¹⁶ The source material contained two different copies of the "Tape No. 2" transcript. The typing on both of these copies is identical but the handwritten notes on the second copy do not exactly match the handwritten notes on the first copy. The second copy contains some additional changes from those on the first copy and rewords some of the other changes. The transcript presented here follows the first source copy and Endnotes are used to indicate where the second source copy varies from the first.
- ¹⁷ This sentence has been modified to create following sentence in the second source copy: "The British Officer being captured BY "YOUNG SMOKE" HAD given his name Parker TO THE SONS OF "YOUNG SMOKE". "YOUNG SMOKE" WAS ON THE AMERICAN SIDE IN THE REVOLUTION.
- ¹⁸ In the second copy of the source material, this phrase reads "...were some VERY great men...".
- ¹⁹ This sentence about Arthur Parker was not added in the second copy of the source material.

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- ²⁰ The phrase "Seventeen thousand" was changed to "140 FAMILIES OF" in the second copy of the source material.
- ²¹ The second copy of the source material had the word "permanent" scratched out but the new phrase shown here was not added.
- ²² The date "1932" is changed to "1942" in the second copy of the source material.
- ²³ There is a [Levinus King Painter](#) listed in the [FamilySearch™ International Genealogical Index](#) as born in 1889 of parents Henry Walter Painter and Mary B. Stubbs. The [U.S. Social Security death index](#) lists a [Levinos Painter](#) as born in 1889 and died in 1983 with a Social Security number issued in New York state. There is **no evidence** to prove that these two entries are for a single person nor that either entry refers to the man mentioned in this transcript. On the other hand, it is possible that there is a connection.
- ²⁴ The word "presence" is changed to "President" in the second copy of the source material.
- ²⁵ In the second copy of the source material, the last four lines of this page have been changed to read :...regularly RUN and DISTINCTLY understood, BUT that they are not in possession of deeds securing TO THEM THE peaceable and undisturbed occupancy thereof. As well, therefore, to remove all APPREHENSION FROM THE MINDS OF THE CHIEF MEN AND OTHERS OF THE SENECA AND ONANDAGA NATIONS, AS TO SECURE TO THEM THE POSSESSION OF SAID LANDS"
- ²⁶ The second copy of the source material strikes out the first part of this sentence "The Seneca and Onnadoga Nations are to secure to them the possession..."
- ²⁷ "are" is changed to "OR" in the second copy of the source material.
- ²⁸ The words "and acquire" are changed to "IN THE QUIET" in the second copy of the source material.
- ²⁹ Instead of just inserting the word "Agent", the second copy of the source material inserts the phrase "AGENT DAN SHERMAN OF FORESTVILLE"
- ³⁰ Neither of these margin notes appears in the second copy of the source material.
- ³¹ The initials "L.K.P." match the name Levinus King Painter" referred to in Endnote 22. Perhaps this is the same man but there is no proof of that. In any event, it certainly appears that the source transcript was reviewed by Mr. Painter and that the note photocopied at the bottom of this page is his reaction to some apparent inaccuracies in the source material.
- ³² The second copy of the source material has the word "AND" inserted after the word "years".
- ³³ The name "ARTHUR WASHINGTON" is not inserted in the second copy of the source material.
- ³⁴ The second copy of the source material does not have anything added after this dash.
- ³⁵ This is an image of the word as actually written on the source transcript. It appears to be indecipherable.
- ³⁶ There is a word scratched out on the source material and replaced by *OF* but the original word is not decipherable.
- ³⁷ The "A" and "AR" are inserted by freehand in the typed source material. The typed word was "Cattaraugus".
- ³⁸ There was a typed word beneath this handwritten word but the typed word is indecipherable.

³⁹ The spelling of this word is difficult to decipher from the source material. It may be incorrect.