

The Seventh Decade

Overview

As for the nation as a whole, the American Civil War dominated the lives of Batavians for the first half of the decade. The community contributed to the war effort in terms of both men and materials. More about this follows in the section titled, "War/effects of war."

Once again, a devastating fire swept through the downtown area. As an outcome, directly or indirectly, Batavia's first building code came into being, the beginning of a municipal water system emerged, and the appearance of the downtown area was significantly transformed. More about these developments are in the following sections titled, "Disasters," "Infrastructure," and "Government/governing structure."

Crime took a turn for the worse with multiple arsons over a four- or five-year period. When the cases were finally solved, the perpetrators were among the most unlikely group of residents. See the section titled, "Crime/crime control/law enforcement."

Finally, the population continued to grow. By 1870, according to the Federal census, 3,890 people lived in Batavia ("Genesee Community Information," *Richmond Memorial Library*, online, accessed 3 January 2014). This was an increase of over 50% from a decade earlier.

1: Infrastructure

The most significant improvement in infrastructure was a set of hydrants for the purpose of providing water to fight fires in the downtown area. It served as the forerunner of a Village-wide municipal water system.

A proposal to provide hydrants was first advanced no later than 1868 ("Batavia Water Works," *Spirit of the Times*, Batavia, N.Y., 17 October 1868). Actual construction took place in 1869. Hydrants were located in four places: the corner of Main and State, the corner of Main and Jackson, the corner of Main and Center, and on Jackson near the railroad tracks. ("Batavia Water Works," *Spirit of the Times*, Batavia, N.Y., 18 December 1869) A pumping station for supplying water appears to have been near the Creek south of the intersection of West Main

1861-1870

and Ellicott streets. A total of 1-1/4 miles of pipe were required for the installation (*The Western New Yorker*, Warsaw, N.Y., 23 December 1869).

The hydrants were not pressurized unless a fire had broken out. It then took 14 minutes to reach 70 lb. of steam pressure, although the system could operate with as little as 25 lb. At 70 lb. of pressure, streams of water could exceed the height of the tallest church steeple. It was claimed that there was “sufficient force to...quench the hottest fire.” (“Batavia Water Work,” *Spirit of the Times*, Batavia, N.Y., 18 December 1869)

The 60 horsepower steam engine was manufactured in Lockport (“What We See and What We Hear,” *Spirit of the Times*, Batavia, N.Y., 10 July 1869). The engine, plus the hydrants, pipes, engine house, and firemen’s building cost about \$30,000 (*The Western New Yorker*, Warsaw, N.Y., 23 December 1869). According to William Seaver, the only fault of the system was that it required many men to get the engine running, to tend the fire, and to fan the flames (“Batavia Water Work,” *Spirit of the Times*, Batavia, N.Y., 18 December 1869).

2: Transportation

In the decade 1861-1870, expansion of railroad facilities continued to occur. For example, in 1861, an iron railroad bridge was erected over the Tonawanda Creek just east of the current Walnut Street. In 1866, a repair shop was built at the corner of Ellicott and Liberty streets. At about the same time, a freight house was erected on Center Street. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] p. 68)

3: Housing

With an increase of over 1,300 persons in the village during the seventh decade, there necessarily was extensive new housing. The most impressive new structure of this decade was the Law Mansion located near the southwestern corner of the current intersection of Walnut and South Main streets.

George Law, the owner, was a self-made millionaire who started out as a farm boy from Washington County northeast of Albany, New York. By the 1850s, he was a multi-millionaire and lived in a mansion on 5th Avenue in New York City. During the years from 1858 to 1864, Law acquired over 200 acres on the south side of the Village of Batavia and extending into the Town of Batavia. This land included a 7-acre plot on which the Law Mansion was eventually built. (Larry Barnes, *A Brief History of the Law Mansion* [Batavia, N.Y.: self-published, 2007] pp. 3-4.)

1861-1870

It is not at all clear what motivated George Law in the acquisition of land in the Batavia area. There is no indication that Law himself ever set foot in Genesee County. In 1863, Sarah V. Law, a daughter of George Law, married Major Laurence Williams, a descendent of Martha Washington by her first marriage. The next year, George began building his daughter and son-in-law the building that thereafter came to be called, "the Law Mansion." Following completion of the structure in 1865, the Williamses occupied the property. However, George Law retained title to the mansion and land. It was said that originally there were no other houses near it and great barns standing in the rear gave the place the appearance of a Virginia estate. (Larry Barnes, *A Brief History of the Law Mansion* [Batavia, N.Y.: self-published, 2007] pp. 4-5)

The Williamses lived in Batavia no more than 10 years. Eventually, after George Law's death in 1881, the mansion passed to a succession of other owners. Finally, in 1903, it was purchased by John Pickert who, a year later, divided the structure into three separate houses. (Larry Barnes, *A Brief History of the Law Mansion* [Batavia, N.Y.: self-published, 2007] pp. 5-7) Two of the resulting houses still exist, one at 5-7 South Main Street and the other at 3 South Main Street.

4: Energy sources

There appear to be no new developments in energy sources during the years 1861-1870.

5: Communication

There also appear to be no new developments in communications.

6: County and village boundaries

There were no changes in County or Village boundaries.

7: Government/governing structure

After another disastrous fire downtown in November of 1863, Village officials took steps to lessen the likelihood of further such conflagrations. In what appears to have been the first implementation of a building code in Batavia, wooden buildings were prohibited in the heart of the Village. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] p. 77)

1861-1870

The old County Courthouse, now called Ellicott Hall, continued to change hands with the “buyers” and “sellers” involved apparently oblivious to the fact that the building actually belonged to Genesee County.

8: Crime, crime control, and law enforcement

During the seventh decade, there were two outbreaks of arson. The first had started in December of 1860 and continued to April of 1861. During that time, a number of barns were torched on the west side of Batavia. In an effort to catch the arsonists, a \$300 reward was offered by the Village Trustees for the apprehension and conviction of the guilty parties. This led to two men and two boys being arrested and jailed. However, only one, John McGraw, was tried; and he was not convicted. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] pp. 75-76)

After he was found innocent of charges, John McGraw volunteered to serve in the Union forces where he saw action that led to his death. Later, circumstances allegedly came to light that, in the eyes of local residents, proved McGraw to have been the guilty party after all. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] pp.75-76)

The second and worse outbreak of arson started in June of 1864 and continued until September of 1865. During that time, 22 fires broke out in Batavia, nearly all of which were traced to arson. At frequent intervals, hardly two weeks passed without a fire. The fires were not limited to any particular area of the Village or to any particular type of building. Large rewards were offered and various schemes tried in an effort to catch the arsonists. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] pp. 77-78)

Efforts to discover the guilty individuals finally met success in the late summer of 1865. It was discovered that there was a group of likely villains led by Philip J. Soulier and including Jacob Brill, Alfred Bender, William Dickelman, Henry Dickelman, Adam Feurstein and David Manning. All were young men, Village residents, and volunteer firemen. Several made confessions. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] pp. 77-78)

In November of 1865, 17 indictments against the “gang” were handed down by a grand jury. Following a trial, Soulier, Brill, and Bender were sentenced to Auburn Prison for six years, 11

1861-1870

months. Henry Dickelman was sentenced to two years in prison. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] pp. 77-78)

During the same time period as the second set of arsons, a Samuel Buchanan was arrested and convicted for allegedly burning a barn owned by Mrs. J. C. Smith. However, during the proceedings against Soulier's gang, one of the group confessed to the Smith barn fire. Subsequently, Buchanan was pardoned. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] pp. 77-78)

9: Retail establishments/other commercial enterprises

The types of retail establishments previously identified in Batavia presumably continued to exist. However, in records of the businesses destroyed in the fire of 1863, two appeared that have not previously been noted by the author. One was a shoe dealer, as opposed to a shoe maker, suggesting that manufactured shoes were now available. The other was a liquor store, the first apparent mention of a retail establishment strictly devoted to carry out sales of alcoholic beverages. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] pp. 76-77)

10: Factories/industries

Breweries and malt houses continued to play an important role in Batavia's economy. As reported in the chapter on the fifth decade, in 1850 John Eagar purchased the former stone church built on the northeast corner of West Main and North Lyon streets by the Methodists in the 1820s and converted it into a brewery. This brewery burned in 1862. Following the fire, Eagar erected a new brewery on the south side of West Main Street opposite the former location. This three-story building, measuring 50 x 125 ft., was also used to house a wholesale liquor store. (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-1890* [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] p. 251)

Following the fire in the former brewery building, John Eagar re-roofed the stone structure and fitted it up as a malt house (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-1890* [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] p. 251).

1861-1870

11: Banking/financial services

According to Ruth McEvoy, Batavia's newest bank, the First National Bank, was organized in 1864 just after Congress passed a national banking act. It appears to have been located on Main Street. (Ruth M. McEvoy, *History of the City of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: Hodgins Printing Co., 1993] p. 66).

12: Education

In the previous chapter, it was noted that there was a Batavia Collegiate Institute, in 1855 or shortly after, situated on the northeast corner of Main and Jefferson streets. Beers, in an apparent reference to the same facility, indicated that an E. Wildman and a Miss McCully taught there in 1864 (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-1890* [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] p. 183). The Batavia Collegiate Institute was destroyed by fire in October of 1865 (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] p. 108).

Within two years, another private institution of learning was operating in Batavia, the Batavia Business University. Established by a W. W. Whitcomb in 1867, it was located at 92 East Main Street. (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-1890* [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] p. 239)

Around 1865, the "old Davis house" on Jackson Street, previously acquired and used as St. Joseph's Convent by the Sisters of Mercy, was rebuilt and enlarged. Then a young ladies seminary was housed there. It apparently functioned, in part, as a boarding school. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] pp. 89-90)

In February of 1866, Batavia was selected as the site for the New York State School for the Blind. Other communities had also sought the facility. As an inducement to choose Batavia, the community offered the State 50 acres of land valued at \$10,000. (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-1890* [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] pp. 111-112) Dean Richmond played a key role in purchasing and donating the land ("Fate of Batavia's Richmond Mansion Hangs in Balance," *Buffalo Courier Express*, Buffalo, N.Y., 17 November 1969), hence the reason for the street in front of the school being named "Richmond Avenue."

1861-1870

The contract for the construction of the State School was granted to Henry T. Rogers of Rochester. Grading of the land commenced in May of 1866 and a cornerstone was laid in September. In July of 1868, the institution was formally transferred to the trustees, the same month that the first Superintendent of the State School, Dr. A. D. Lord, took charge. (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-1890* [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] pp. 111-112)

From the street, the school appeared to be one large building, but it was actually four separate buildings joined by corridors around a central court. The buildings housed offices, parlors, classrooms, dormitories, kitchens, dining rooms, and a chapel. When the facility opened, the Superintendent had living quarters there. Most of the teaching staff and many of the housekeeping staff also lived in the school. (Ruth M. McEvoy, *History of the City of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: Hodgins Printing Co., Inc., 1993] p. 96)

The first student arrived at the State School for the Blind on September 1, 1868 (Ruth M. McEvoy, *History of the City of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: Hodgins Printing Co., Inc., 1993] p. 95). The school opened the next day, September 2nd, with 40 pupils. A total of 74 were enrolled in the first year (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-1890* [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] pp.111-112).

In 1868, the Sisters of Mercy established an academy in a stone building on Jackson Street. It was in the same structure that had previously served as St. Joseph's Church. (Ruth M. McEvoy, *History of the City of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: Hodgins Printing Co., Inc., 1993] p.92). Incorporated as St. Joseph's Academy in April of that year, the school was governed by four Trustees: Stanislaus McGarr (Mother Superior), Rose Markham, Alexis Hennessy, and Teresa Moran (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Co., 1849] p. 90). The structure in question may have been the building standing at 19-21 Jackson Street at the time this book was written in 2015. (See *The Daily News*, Batavia, N.Y., 25 June 1948.)

13: Religion

Free Methodists had been meeting in the area since 1859. Then they formed an organized society in 1861. Twenty years later, they purchased the former Holland Land Office, which had been used for a number of other uses including that of a school, and converted it into a church. (Ruth M. McEvoy, *History of the City of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: Hodgins Printing Co., Inc., 1993] p. 116) It is not known where they met between 1861 and 1881.

1861-1870

In August of 1863, a group met at the house of John V. Horn in the Town of Batavia to incorporate as “Trustees of the Evangelical Reformed Lutheran German Church.” They built a small frame church on School Street and met there for two years. Services at that time were led by Louis Witt. After only two years, the congregation collapsed and the society became extinct. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] pp.92-93)

In an earlier chapter, it was noted that the Baptist church, which had been erected in 1836 on the west side of Jackson Street, was in need of serious repairs by the mid-40s. In 1864, the building again required significant work and was temporarily vacated. After completion of the second round of repairs in July of 1864, the church was once more reoccupied. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] p.97)

In a previous chapter, it was noted that the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church had built a church in 1841 on the east side of Jackson Street. In 1866, this building was sold to William M. Terry who converted it to other purposes. Then the Methodists built a new brick building on East Main Street immediately east of the Bank of Genesee which, in turn, was on the northeast corner of Bank and West Main streets. This new building was dedicated in September of 1869. (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-1890* [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] pp. 222-223)

St. Joseph’s congregation, which had been established in 1849 and had been meeting in a stone building on Jackson Street, by 1864 found its existing facility inadequate. That year, a lot was purchased on the northeast corner of East Main and Summit streets. The cornerstone for a new building was laid in August of 1864. The building itself was dedicated in May of 1869. A year later, an organ was purchased. The lot had cost \$2,500, the building nearly \$30,000, and the organ another \$2,200. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] p. 89) The stone building on Jackson Street may have been the structure standing at 19-21 Jackson at the time this book was being written in 2015. (See the references to St. Joseph’s Academy in the “Education” section above.)

14: Libraries/archives/museums

Although it is not certain, the Batavia Lyceum incorporated in the 1840s was probably still operating as the community’s library in the 1860s. However, that was about to change in the 1870s.

1861-1870

15: Cemeteries

In the period 1867 to 1868, nearly \$1,500 was raised by J. G. Russell, B. Griswold, O. M. Joslyn, and J. R. Mitchell for improvements to the Batavia Cemetery (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] p.87). Among other things, this money was used to repair fences and improve the walks and drives (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-1890* [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] p. 187). The Richmond Mausoleum was built in 1869 at a cost of \$28,000. The mausoleum has been the place of interment for many members of the Richmond family. ("The Richmond Mausoleum," *The Daily News*, Batavia, N.Y., 30 April 1886)

16: Firefighting

In July of 1862, the Village Trustees divided Batavia into four fire districts. When a fire occurred, a general alarm was first sounded, then the fire bell was rung a number of times corresponding to the district in which the fire was occurring. This sequence was repeated for 30 minutes. (Safford E. North, *Our County and Its People: A Descriptive and Biographical Record of Genesee County, New York* [Boston: Boston History Company, 1899] pp. 298-299)

A month after establishing the fire districts, the Trustees incorporated a single "Batavia Fire Department." Before then, there were multiple fire companies existing simultaneously. (Safford E. North, *Our County and Its People: A Descriptive and Biographical Record of Genesee County, New York* [Boston: Boston History Company, 1899] pp. 298-299)

17: Healthcare

In 1865, there were two practicing dentists: Nelson Stevens and H. H. Benjamin. Stevens was the first dentist in the County. (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-1890* [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] p. 258)

18: Care of the handicapped, aged, poor, and young

In April of 1868, the St. Thomas Orphan Asylum was incorporated. It was attached to the St. Joseph's Convent and School on East Main Street behind St. Joseph's Church. The asylum provided a home for quite a number of children. The first Trustees were Rev. Thomas Cunningham, Patrick Ward, Stanislaus McGarr (Mother Superior), Michael Daily, and John

1861-1870

Moynihan. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] p. 90]

19: Disasters

In November of 1863, another massive fire struck downtown Batavia. It started in the middle of the night in a shoe store at 76 Main Street operated by an A. Joslyn. Before it ended, the fire destroyed six wooden buildings occupied by 12 or more individuals and businesses. The losses included:

1. A small 1-story building at 68 Main Street occupied by Samuel Palmer and used as a shoe store.
2. A 2-story frame building at 70 Main Street owned by Mrs. C. P. Parsons and occupied by Samuel Cooper, a harness maker.
3. A 2-story double frame building on the west corner of Russell Place, the estate of John Kenyon, and occupied by E.L. and G. D. Kenyon, grocers. It also housed a hotel operated by Washburn and Avery.
4. A 2-story frame building on the east corner of Russell Place, owned by Mrs. C. Kirkham and occupied by G. W. Hull, a shoe dealer, and G. and H. Steuber who sold cabinet ware.
5. A 2-story frame building at 76 Main Street, owned by John Friedley and occupied by Almerin Joslyn, a shoe dealer. This building also contained the Town of Batavia records, all of which were destroyed.
6. A long-fronted, 2-story frame building at 78-80-82 Main Street, owned by Jacob Baker and X. Besinger and occupied by J. I. Baker, shoe maker; Theodore Rosentian's liquor store; N.A. C. Wilder News Room; and the Altmen and Co. clothing store.

The heat from the fire was reported to have been so intense that buildings on the other side of Main Street were threatened. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] pp. 776-77)

20: Entertainment and recreation

Beers made a passing reference to a concert hall being located at the corner of Main and State streets during this decade. He stated that the congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church reportedly worshiped there in the years 1866 to 1869 when it was between buildings of its own. (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-*

1890 [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] p. 222) Nothing further is known about this hall.

21: War/impact of war

Much has been written about the American Civil War, 1861-1865. Therefore, this section of this chapter will be limited to just some specific facts pertaining directly to Batavia.

Perhaps the best recalled of Batavia's civil war soldiers is Charles Rand. An official Congressional investigation established that he was the first in the Nation to volunteer when President Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers was received by telegraph, April 15th, 1861, at the Eagle Hotel here in Batavia. Maj. Henry Glowacki read the message and then turned to the little crowd gathered about him to discuss the situation. When Glowacki asked who would be the first to volunteer, Rand stepped forward and his name was placed at the top of the list immediately telegraphed to Washington. (Dan Winegar, "Modest Memorial Sought," *The Daily News*, 20 September 1991) Charles Rand resided at 4 Liberty Street (*The Daily News*, Batavia, N.Y., 9 July 1936).

On April 18th of 1861, a call was made for 500 men from the County. On April 29th of 1861, the first company was formed, commanded by A. T. Root. (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-1890* [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] pp. 94-95)

Early in 1861, a committee was appointed in Batavia to solicit funds for the support of those families with men who enlisted. Similar committees of three were appointed elsewhere in the County. (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-1890* [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] pp. 94-95)

Also in 1861, "patriotic ladies" of Batavia and other parts of the County organized an association for supplying soldiers in the field with comforts and luxuries that the government did not provide. That included such items as flannels, articles of clothing, and havelocks. (Havelocks were pieces of cloth for military caps that extended down the back of a soldier's neck to provide protection from sun and weather.) Items were also provided for the sick and wounded. (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-1890* [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] p. 95)

1861-1870

The surviving records of men who served in the Civil War do not distinguish between those from the Village versus those from the Town. Consequently, the numbers which follow below include both. However, the majority most likely were from the Village.

The number of men who served in the conflict was around 780. Of these, at least 51 died on the battle field. At least another 17 died in Confederate prisons. And at least another 61 died of disease or their wounds. (Civil War registration cards, Genesee County History Department, Batavia, N.Y.) The number of dead could be greater, since the records for some of the soldiers are incomplete.

Among those who survived battles, at least 94 were discharged due to disabilities, presumably from wounds in most instances. However, according to the records, many of these men later reenlisted. (Civil War registration cards, Genesee County History Department, Batavia, N.Y.) It is not possible to tell whether reenlistment was possible because these individuals had regained normal functioning or because the standards for enlistment had fallen later in the war.

Not all enlistees served honorably. At least 48 men deserted, some reportedly fleeing to Canada. At least one soldier was sentenced to death for cowardice. One was hung for raping an "aged woman." (Civil War registration cards, Genesee County History Department, Batavia, N.Y.)

22: Families/persons of special note

In August of 1871, William Seaver, one of the most prominent residents of Batavia, died at the age of 82. Seaver immigrated from Albany to Batavia in 1817. For nearly 50 years he operated drug, book, and printing businesses. For many years, he was also editor and owner of the *Spirit of the Times* newspaper. In addition to these business activities, Seaver served as Postmaster, was the first Captain of the first fire company, was an early President of the Village, and served as Senior Warden of St. James Episcopal Church. (Frederick W. Beers, *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, N.Y. 1788-1890* [Syracuse, N.Y.: J. W. Vose & Co., Publisher, 1890] p. 195) As indicated earlier in this book, William Seaver wrote the first history of Batavia, one published in 1849.

1861-1870

23: Private clubs, social organizations/service organizations/non-profit groups providing services

The first of two groups of Odd Fellows, Batavia Lodge No. 197, organized in August of 1865. It survived for 100 years (Ruth M. McEvoy, *History of the City of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: Hodgins Printing Co., Inc., 1993] p. 138).

By the seventh decade, it appears that the community had existed sufficiently long that residents began to reflect on its history and those who founded Batavia. In August of 1869, a group meeting at Union Hall in Batavia organized as the Genesee County Pioneer Association. In order to become a member, one had to have resided in the County prior to 1820 or to have been a current resident for at least 30 years. The organization lasted until at least 1906, meeting once a year for speeches about the County's history and to acknowledge the passing of its members. (Genesee County Pioneer Association records, Richmond Memorial Library, Batavia, N.Y.)

24: Sex/sexual services/sexual entertainment

There is nothing new to report from this decade.

25: Urban renewal

As in several earlier instances, fires that burned out significant areas of downtown Batavia led to an unplanned "urban renewal." The fire of November 1863 was an example from the seventh decade. However, this time a newly instituted building code influenced the direction that rebuilding took. An amendment to the Village charter prohibited the erection of any more wooden buildings in the center of the Village. Consequently, within six months of the 1863 fire, "handsome and substantial" brick buildings appeared. (William Seaver 2, *A Historic Sketch of the Village of Batavia* [Batavia, N.Y.: William Seaver & Son, 1849] p. 77)