

KIRKLAND TOWN LIBRARY



Caroline

1812

Sacket's Harbor, New York

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Caroline

Clinton, N.Y. in 1812

The Village of Clinton was founded in 1787. By the early 1800s, it looked quite different from what we see today. The 1813 Spafford's Gazetteer listed 55 buildings in town; these included private homes, farm houses, a school, a mill, a lawyer's office and the Old White Meeting house. The Marvin Homestead, 1808, next door to the current Subway Shop and the office of Othniel Williams, 1795, which is now the Burns Insurance Agency, are the only two structures from that time period still standing today. Just outside the Village, is the Barnabas Pond home on Kirkland Avenue. It was built around 1797 and has been restored and renovated over the years. There was a post office established in a lawyer's office in 1803, and a one-room school on East Park Row, built around 1810.

A small community of about 400 people lived here. Some were farmers, others were carpenters, lawyers, teachers, hunters, soldiers, or shop keepers. In 1793, Rev. Samuel Kirkland established a school for Oneida Indian and white children. Kirkland was a minister and a teacher who was good friends with the Oneida chief, Skenandoah. They are buried together in the Hamilton College Cemetery.

Foot Warmer

When Caroline made the wagon trip to visit her uncle and cousin, Lydia, she might have kept her feet warm with this foot warmer! In cold weather, people riding in a wagon or carriage would wrap themselves in heavy coats and blankets and use the foot warmer, filled with hot coals, to keep their feet warm.



Foot warmer, circa 1804; Clinton Historical Society

Spinning Wheel

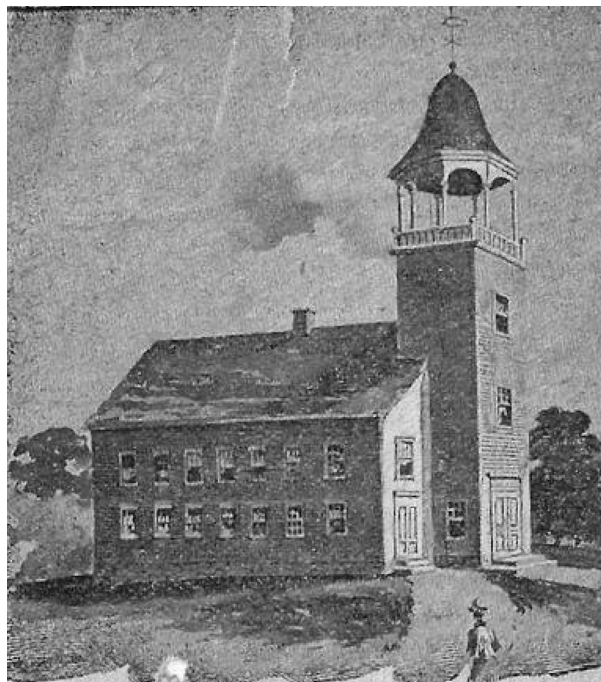
Caroline's family made most of their own clothes and blankets. They would have made yarn from wool or flax on a spinning wheel like this one. When Caroline borrowed the hoop from her grandmother's wheel, it would have been about this size.



Spinning Wheel, circa 1805 - Clinton Historical Society

Old White Meeting House

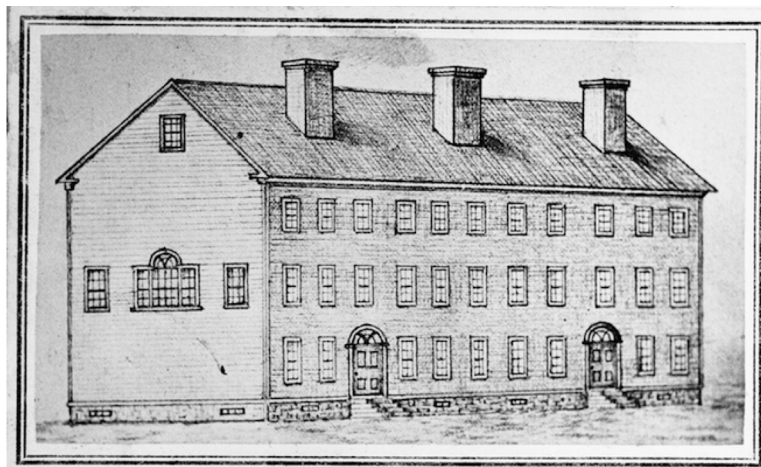
A child living in Clinton in 1812 may have attended church services or meetings in this building. The Old White Meeting House was built in 1796 and continued in service for forty years. It was situated on the present day Village Green across from the Stone Presbyterian Church.



*Right: Early sketch of the Old White Meeting House -
Clinton Historical Society*

Hamilton Oneida Academy

The Hamilton-Oneida Academy, a school for Indian and white boys and girls, was founded by Rev. Samuel Kirkland, and was located on the present day Hamilton College campus. This is an undated drawing of the building, which was constructed in 1794. The Oneida Academy became Hamilton College in 1812.
- Hamilton College Archives



School

Caroline and her sisters and cousins were taught by her mother at home and sometimes in the Abbott ship building office. In the early 1800s, both boys and girls in Clinton might have gone up the hill to the Oneida Academy for lessons, or to a one-room school located on East Park Row, like the one pictured at right.



Early Clinton one room school, possibly located on Post Street or Fountain Street - Clinton Historical Society

Lee's Tavern

Twenty-two residents of Clinton served in the War of 1812 and some may have fought in the battle at Sackett's Harbor. Many other New Yorkers passed through Clinton on their way to Lake Ontario and may even have stayed in Lee's Tavern. Some of the soldiers that Caroline met would have worn uniforms like the one shown on the next page.



Lee's Tavern, built 1804, now the Anderson Connell Alumni Building on College Hill Road; - Hamilton College Archives



1812 New York State Soldier, "New York History"
newyorkhistoryblog.com

Suggested Reading

Easy Fiction

The Town That Fooled the British:
a War of 1812 Story by Lisa Papp
(Easy PAP)

Easy Reader Fiction

The Battle for St. Michaels by
Emily Arnold McCully (ER MAC)

Juvenile Fiction

Flames in the City: a Tale of the
War of 1812 by Candice Ransom (J
Fiction RAN, Time Spies)

Little House by Boston Bay by
Melissa Wiley (J Fiction WIL, Lit-
tle House Series)

Sackets Harbor Powder Monkey:

The War of 1812 by Hope Irvin
Marston (J Fiction MAR)

The Smuggler's Treasure by Sarah
Masters Buckley (J Fiction BUC)
American Girl History Mysteries)

The Star-Spangled Secret by K. M.
Kimball (J Fiction KIM)

The Traveler's Tricks: a Caroline
Mystery by Laurie Calkhoven (J
Fiction CAL)

Washington City is Burning by
Harriette Robinet (J Fiction ROB)

Whispers of War: The War of
1812 Diary of Susanna Merritt by
Kit Pearson (J Fiction PEA, Dear
Canada Series)

Nonfiction

The Flag Maker by Susan Camp-
bell Bartoletti (J 975.2 BAR)

Jean Laffite: The Pirate Who Saved
America by Susan Goldman Rubin
(J 976.305 RUB)

The Star-Spangled Banner by Fran-
cis Scott Key (J 784 KEY)

The War of 1812: a Second Fight
for Independence by Alden R.
Carter (J 973.52 CAR)

Caroline's Accessories



Hat



Book



Nightgown



Spinning Top



Pouch

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Caroline

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To learn more about the program visit <http://kirklandtownlibrary.org>



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