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.
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

Foot warmer, circa 1804; Clinton Historical Society
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.
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
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
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.
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, Little 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)

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 Campbell 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 Francis 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
Thank you to Hamilton College for sponsoring

Caroline

To learn how you can sponsor a doll or its accessories contact Anne Debraggio, Director of Kirkland Town Library, at: adebraggio@midyork.org.

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

Sponsored by: Hamilton