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CURRENT PUBLICATION INFORMATION SHEET

## THE ONEONTA HERALD

ONEONTA, OTSEGO COUNTY, N. Y.

## ONEONTA IN OLDEN TIME & BITS OF ONEONTA HISTORY.

AN INTERESTING SERIES OF ARTICLE BY HARVEY BAKER.

PUBLISHED IN THE ONEONTA HERALD DURING THE YEARS 1892 -1893.

Compiled by the Greater Oneonta Historical Society Oneonta, NY.

History of Oneonta Detailed.
BUILDING OF THE GREAT RAILROADS.

Lives of the Leading Citizens of Onconta.

LOCAL CONGREGATIONS.

The War Between the States
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All history is a record of past events. It is composed of a register of them at the time of their occurrence, or it is preserved in memory by those familiar with the facts; or traditions hand it down from generation to generation. Of this latter class s much of our ancient history, both sacred and

The value of history depends upon its reliability and correceness. History formed from traditions, to give it value, must be substantiated and established by collateral facts and confirming circumstances. In the following pages I shall be compelled to use each of these sources of information, for my personal knowledge will extend over but a small portion of what I shall extend over but a small portion of what I shall will be successed to the second of the seco

Of the occupants of this valley we know nothing except by tradition, previous to 1600. Nor do we of any portion of our state. Tradition tells that before the European races entered this locality, it was occupied by a numerous and powerful three of Indians called "Tuscaroras," and that their control

History informs us that in IdoB, when Samuel Champlain first added up the St. Lawrence river, he found at a place called Three Rivers a bloody war ranging between an Indian tribe called the Adrondacks, whose possessions were in that vicinity, and an Indian confederacy called the Five Maions, then residing north and acts of that place. All the country occupied by these contending Indian warriors was north of the river St. Lawrence, in the province of what is now known as Lower Canada.

Champlain having with him quite a force of men at once espoused the side of the Adirondacks, and

Mr. Baker's article continues on page 3.

**Title:** Oneonta in Olden Time & Bits of Oneonta History: An Interesting Series of Articles by Harvey Baker, Published in the

Oneonta Herald During the Years 1892-1893

Author: Harvey Baker (compiled by the Greater Oneonta Historical

Society)

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Press

Book Summary: Arguably the most important presence in the history of Oneonta, New York, Harvey Baker was a prolific writer who contributed to several Otsego County papers throughout his life. In 1892 and 1893, he wrote a series of sixty-three articles for the *Oneonta Herald*, his account of how Oneonta evolved from aboriginal lands to frontier settlements, a bustling village, and eventually to a railroading powerhouse. Based on his research of the area's history dating back to colonial times and up to the current events of his lifetime, Baker covers topics as diverse as the American Revolution and Civil War, family histories, regional folklore, local newspapers, churches and schools, Native American legends, turnpikes and canals, and local geography and ecology. His description of the development of the railroad from Albany to Binghamton is of major interest; Baker is considered by many to have single-handedly built the Albany & Susquehanna railroad. This current publication of Baker's history, compiled by the Greater Oneonta Historical Society, makes it widely accessible for the first time since its initial publication more than one hundred years ago.

Author bio: Born in Broome County, New York in 1818, Harvey Baker became a mechanic and millwright at an early age. He began rebuilding water wheels in saw, grist, and other mills and factories. He first visited Oneonta in February 1841, when he made his first contract to put his wheels into the local mills. In addition to his mechanical skills, Baker was a gifted public speaker and lobbyist who worked for decades to bring the railroad to Oneonta. An original stockholder of the Albany & Susquehanna railroad, he also contracted to build the rail beds, bridges, and trestles, personally supervising the work between Albany and Binghamton. He later purchased and developed land near Oneonta, selling it to the Delaware & Hudson railroad for their machine shops. In community life, Baker served as Oneonta village president and town supervisor, was a charter trustee of the Oneonta Savings Bank, and owned the Howe's Cave Lime and Cement Company. He also owned two farms and wrote extensively on farming in the Otsego Farmer. Baker died at his home in Oneonta in 1904.

**About the Greater Oneonta Historical Society:** Founded in 1939, the Greater Oneonta Historical Society, formerly the Upper Susquehanna Historical Society, promotes the greater Oneonta area's past and future by providing stimulating educational experiences, dynamic programs and exhibitions based on authentic objects, stories and lives from Oneonta's rich traditions. To learn more about GOHS or to become a member, visit them on the web at www.oneontahistory.org.