

THE COURIER

Newsletter of the Lansingburgh Historical Society • October 2017

Another Lansingburgh Woman Suffragist! Anna Carpenter Garlin Spencer (1851-1931)



NY Evening World. 9 Aug 1922:21.

Mrs. Stanton's 70th Birthday.

Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton['s] birthday was also celebrated at the residence of Mrs. Caroline Gilkey Rogers [282 3rd Ave], in Lansingburgh, last evening. A handsome bust of the talented lady, crowned with laurel and smilax, and embowered in calla lilies and japonicas, occupied the post of honor. Nearly 100 guests were present, including prominent ladies and gentlemen of New York, Boston, Albany, Syracuse, Cohoes, Lansingburgh and Troy. The hostess of the evening in a neat speech welcomed her guests and paid a glowing tribute to Mrs. Stanton and her admirable life work. Fitting eulogies upon the services to the community, to women particularly, by Mrs. Stanton were delivered by the Rev. Mr. Spencer, of the Unitarian church, Troy, **Mrs. Spencer**, Mr. and Mrs. George Howell of Albany, Miss Kate Stoneman and Superintendent Cole of the Albany high school.

The evening was further enlivened by very fine readings, interspersed with charming music by Professor Charles White of Troy *Amsterdam Daily Democrat*. November 3, 1885: 1 col 4.

TO VOTE OR NOT TO VOTE: Able Women Advocate Suffrage Before Learned Legislators.

Members of the legislative committee either forgot the hearing on the woman suffrage bill last evening, or were kept at home by the severe weather. At all events they failed to materialize, and if the ladies get the right to vote some of the honorable gentleman may stay at home of necessity. Mr. Ainsworth, who introduced the bill in the assembly, presided, and there was a large audience. [...]

Mrs. Caroline Gilkey Rogers made the first address. She wore a rich robe of royal purple velvet, cut pompadour, with Mary Antoinette collar. Among other things she argued that this is the day of heart and brain and that the moral strength of woman's nature should now be recognized and brought into politics. [...]

Mrs. Annie Garland [sic] Spencer, of Lansingburgh, [...] made the best speech of the evening. She said some plain things about politics and politicians and insisted that unless the high moral elements which woman would bring into statesmanship were speedily secured, the life of the nation would be endangered. *Albany Morning Express*. February 16, 1888: 1 col 6.

Anna Garlin Spencer had moved to Lansingburgh because her husband Reverend William H. Spencer had been appointed Pastor for the First Unitarian Church of Troy, serving from September 1885 through 1888. The Troy City Directory for 1887 shows him at 522 2nd Ave and the 1888 volume at 525 2nd Ave. She had already been active with woman suffrage prior to 1885, and continued to rise in prominence in a number of ways subsequent to 1888. The abstract to the collection of her papers at Swarthmore College reads: "Anna Carpenter Garlin Spencer was a minister, feminist, educator, pacifist, and writer on ethics and social problems. Spencer was the first woman in Rhode Island to be ordained and served as the minister of the Bell Street Chapel from 1891 to 1902. Spencer was active in the cause of women's rights for more than forty years and served as the president of the Rhode Island Equal Suffrage Association. Spencer's interest in pacifism also led her to prominent positions with the National Peace and Arbitration Congress in 1907 and she was a founding member of the Woman's Peace Party in 1915, serving as vice chairman. She also became the first chairman of the national board of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in 1919. Spencer died at her home in New York in 1931."

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/library/peace/DG026-050/dg034agspencer.htm> The Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame adds further details, including that she "was also a founding sponsor of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)" http://www.riheritagehalloffame.org/inductees_detail.cfm?iid=580

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends and members of LHS, if you find yourself cleaning and de-cluttering in preparation for the upcoming holidays and find some treasures you would like to get rid of, please think of us. We are preparing for our annual Auction, Wine and Cheese Holiday party on November 9. We are actively looking for items in good sellable condition we can auction. If and when you do find some treasures you don't need anymore give the Wards a call (518) 885-4295 for a pick up or drop off. Thank you for your help!

John Ward



Past President of the Hurley Heritage Society Barbara Sartorius

On September 30th, members of the Lansingburgh Historical Society went on a road trip to tour a stone house and the Hurley Heritage Museum yesterday. Even though it was blustery and cloudy we had a great time. We especially want to say thank you to Barbara Sartorius our docent. She was a font of historical information and also for setting a tour of the "Spy" House, officially known as the "Guard House" up for us. Thank you too to the present owner of the "Spy" House for the informative and colorful tale of the history of his home. Sorry if you had to miss this and here's hoping next road trip you can join us.

Hurley has a Stone House tour every 2nd Saturday in July and this coming year it is set for July 15. There usually are 10 houses on tour. Hurley is just outside Kingston so only a little over an hour ride away!

Familysearch.org has many Oakwood Cemetery records online!

Index to interments, G-Z Books of interments, v. 1-2 1835-1896
 The first page of the interment records is 1219.
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007857778?cat=145354>

Books of interments, v. 3-4 1896-1938 (Volumes 3-4 contain a few dates for interments moved to Oakwood from elsewhere) Plot books, v. 1-2 1835-1985 [Last page of interment records is 464, last entry April 29, 1938; 468 is the first page of the family plot book]
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008202392?cat=145354>

Some Oakwood interments from 1851 through 1873 had been previously transcribed elsewhere at
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/cemoak1851.htm>

The transcriptions at Rootsweb ended with interment #4420. The next burial number, 4421, in the above-scanned Books of interments, v. 1-2 1835-1896, appears on its page 1330.

Familysearch.org have other Oakwood records but haven't digitized them yet.

30 1851 August 26 Deborah Powers	Lansingburgh N.Y.	3	9	-	Lansingburgh N.Y.	Dysentery	Nathaniel W. Powers	Olga Powers	4305
31 1851 August 29 Isaac Jane Brown	Troy N.Y.	24	7	-	New Brighton N.Y.	Dysentery	Samuel Fernald	Lovina Fernald	574
32 1851 Septemr 2 Loring Powers	Lansingburgh N.Y.	1	8	-	Lansingburgh N.Y.	Dysentery	Nathaniel W. Powers	Olga Powers	4305
33 1851 Septemr 7 William McMurray	Lansingburgh N.Y.	54	-	-	Lansingburgh N.Y.	Dysentery	David McMurray	Nancy McMurray	863
34 1851 Septemr 9 Fanny Gay	Dedham Mass	62	4	17	Troy N.Y.	Phumetalar granha	George Ellis		877
35 1853 August 13 Maria Agusta Bouton	Troy N.Y.	9	4	29	Troy N.Y.	Dysentary	Isiah Bouton	Emilion Bouton	89298
36 1851 August 13 Cecias Bouton	Troy N.Y.	-	10	20	Troy N.Y.	Swithing	Isiah Bouton	Emilion Bouton	89298
37 1851 Septemr 23 William Frederick Allan	Lansingburgh N.Y.	6	-	-	Lansingburgh N.Y.	Dysentary	William Allan	Betha allen	863
38 1848 January 4 Pardo Randall	Livington Conn.	61	2	6	Troy N.Y.	Cancer of Stomach	Other Randall	Larah Burdick	895
39 1802 May 11 Sally Ann Peckham	Hastley N.Y.	29	1	20	Petersburgh N.Y.	Consumption	Pardo Randall	Anna Kerry	895
40 1831 May 28 Joshua K. Peckham	Petersburgh N.Y.	1	2	16	Petersburgh N.Y.	Inflammation of Lung	Joshua Peckham	Sally Ann Randall	895

"Reclaim the Records" obtains NYS Death Index covering June 1880 through December 31, 1956!

Through a Freedom of Information Law request and some legal wrangling, the "not-for-profit activist group of genealogists, historians, researchers, and journalists" Reclaim the Records was able to obtain access to, and share online an enormous trove of death record information. See <https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/records-request/3/> for more information about how it was accomplished. Scans of the records were initially shared on archive.org and then after they were copied by Ancestry.com they were made searchable there: <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=61535> While one can of course search for specific people, it's also possible to search for all deaths for a given place. E.g. entering Lansingburgh in the Keyword search field and selecting the "Exact" checkbox, it's possible to find most deaths that were registered with the State as occurring in Lansingburgh. There's a few under misspellings or typos: Lansingburg, Lansingberg, Lansingborg, Lansingburh, and then a few identified by unincorporated areas that had been within the Town of Lansingburgh: Grant Hollow, Speigeltown/Spiegelstown, and Pleasantdale. After 1900, there was no longer a Registrar of Vital Statistics for Lansingburgh, so starting in 1901 they would mostly appear as having occurred in Troy.

We'll endeavor to extract these Lansingburgh deaths and add them in spreadsheet form to <http://www.lansingburghhistoricalsociety.org> with appropriate credit to Reclaim the Records and Ancestry.com. This may prove useful in a number of ways — for example, the City of Troy Registrar of Vital Statistics had indicated that they have for 1881-1900 "a separate register of 'The Village of Lansingburgh' birth and death books" (apparently those somehow survived the 1938 Troy City Hall Fire), but that for at least the Lansingburgh death records they lack an index (thus must search by date rather than by name). A Lansingburgh-specific index to the NYS Death Index should also work as an index to the Lansingburgh Death Index in Troy, barring any failures of the local registrar to have informed the state.

DEATH INDEX			
1896			
Roeder	Bernhard	38205	
	10 Sep Madison		
Rogers	Elias F.		
	9 May Lansingburgh		19449

On eBay in 2016 for \$5.75, this letter had been incorrectly listed as dated 1863. While the date does look like 1863, it's actually 1843. Just the 1st page of two is shown here, but a full transcription follows.

Lansingburgh April 27th 1843

My dear Sister

I have delayed writing you several days, hoping that I should be able to inform you of the time when you might expect to see me. It is yet uncertain however when we shall visit Connecticut. David's engagements will detain him here, longer than we at first anticipated. You may however, expect to see us in the course of two or three weeks.

I found on my return from Rochester, that Sister Ellnor had written to you, informing you of my marriage & whereabouts. We returned from the West, about two weeks since, having been absent nearly two weeks. We made Hester something of a visit, & left the family all well. He has a very fine boy, & is in much better health than I expected to find her. She made many inquiries about you & yours.

I am now in the midst of preparation for house-keeping, am not very well, & in very low spirits. There seems to be a great blank in all my plans, & in every thing I do. My own dear blessed brother is gone & how can I be happy!! I have loved too dearly, & the subject of my affection, "is not"

Mrs. Jane P. Allen
Woodbridge
Connecticut

Lansingburgh, April 27th, 1843

My dear Sister

I have delayed writing you several days, hoping that I should be able to inform you of the time when you might expect to see me. It is yet uncertain however when we shall visit Connecticut — David's engagements will detain him here, longer than we at first anticipated. You may however expect to see us in the course of two or three weeks.

I found on my return from Rochester that Sister Ellinor had written to you, informing you of my marriage + whereabouts. She returned from the West, about two weeks since, having been absent nearly two weeks. She made Hester something of a visit, + left the family all well. H. has a very fine boy, + is in much better health than I expected to find her. She made many inquiries about you + yours.

I am now in the midst of preparing for housekeeping, am not very well, + in very low spirits. There seems to be a great blank in all my plans, + in every thing I do. My own dear blessed brother is gone, + how can I be happy!! I have loved too dearly, + the object of my affection "is not."

I have neither seen nor heard any thing from the Albany people since you left. The miniature has not been sent, + I would like to know your further wishes respecting it. I will endeavor to see Major Smith before I leave for Conn. if you desire. We have heard nothing from Mary Ann since the proposed living with Margaret Lansing. I will [?] to see her also if you wish.

My dear mother is still very feeble. Her love is gone, + she is left desolate. She talks much about you + your darling little one. He is indeed very dear to us all — guard him well. Mother wishes to be remembered to your parents—feels quite anxious about your mother. She also sends love to yourself, + says "Kiss Eddy for grandma." Tell my precious boy that aunty loves him very dearly, + is soon coming to see him. Do not let him forget me.

Please answer this immediately. We are very anxious to hear from you. In much haste,
I am your sister,

Sarah

N. B. Ellinor is not very smart — she has taken some cold. Elias is no better. The children are all well—Elizabeth is comfortable, + coming home soon.
the rest of the news when I see yours Sarah

The date of the above-transcribed letter, April 27, 1843, was the same date the ship the *Charles and Henry* anchored at Lahaina, West Maui, Hawaii. There Herman Melville would disembark and find work for a time in Honolulu. He had by then been at Typee (Tai Pi, Nuku Hiva, Marquesas Islands, French Polynesia) and Omoo (Mo'orea, Society Islands, French Polynesia), grist for the novels he would write in Lansingburgh that would be published in 1846 and 1847.

- The recipient of the letter: Jane Penfield Goodsell Allen (1815-1887).
- The author: Jane P. Allen's sister-in-law Sarah Hull Allen Judson (1818-1848).
- The author's husband: Lansingburgh coal merchant David Judson (1810-1881).
- "Sister Ellinor": Ellinor Allen Parmelee (1802-1860).
- "Hester": Hester Van der Heyden Allen Hardenbergh (1804-1853); she doesn't seem to've had a boy who lived.
- "My own dear blessed brother": Edward Derick Allen (1816-1842), Jane P. Allen's husband.
- Major Smith might refer to Major Henry Smith (1792-1865) of Brattleboro, VT.
- "My dear mother": Hester Lansing Allen (1780-1844).
- "your parents": Isaac Goodsell (1778-1864) and Huldah [?] (1781-1859).
- "Eddy": Jane P. Allen's son Edward G. Allen (1840-1871).
- "Elias" in the Nota Bene: Elias Ripley Parmelee (abt 1799-1849), Ellinor Allen Parmelee's husband.
- Elizabeth: possibly the author's sister Elizabeth Lansing Allen Reed (1813-1879).

Not mentioned in the letter, Elias Parmelee's sister was Mary Eleanor Parmelee Bliss (1822-1896). Melville biographer Hershel Parker has written of her that "in the mid-twentieth century one of her granddaughters reported to William H. Gilman that Herman and Miss Parmelee had walked together along the Hudson and that he had given her a copy of one of Tennyson's early books of poetry, which they sat on the grass and read to each other." A number of Melville scholars hold that Mary Parmelee may have been one of the women described in Melville's pseudonymous "Fragments from a Writing Desk" in the *Democratic Press and Lansingburgh Advertiser* of May 18, 1839.



REV. EDWARD DERRICK ALLEN, B.A., '34, M.A., *phi* B.K.

Born, Lansingburg, New York, April 7, 1816. Student, Union College, 1832-'34; Princeton Theological Seminary, 1834-'35; New Haven Theological Seminary, 1836-'37. Presbyterian clergyman. Ordained, Troy, New York, October 31, 1836. Pastor Fourth Church, Albany, New York, 1839-'42.

Died, Albany, New York, December 20, 1842.

A Record of the Members of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity. NY: A. H. Kellogg, 1892.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Evangelist.

Albany, Dec. 20th, 1842.

A gloom has been thrown over the religious circles of this city to-day, by the sudden death of Rev. EDWARD D. ALLEN, the young and beloved pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian church (formerly Mr. Kirk's). Ten days ago he was in health, and busied with the duties of his calling. To-day, with peace in his heart, and a countenance that even in death, speaks of the joy of his spirit, he has left us for the presence of his Lord.

He was ordained as Mr. Kirk's successor a little more than five years ago. He was not then quite twenty-one years of age. But his wisdom, piety, and consistency of character, made him a valuable guide, and a very useful pastor. There have been several revivals of religion under his ministry, which added to the numbers and efficiency of the church. His labors have been very abundant, indeed, beyond his strength. It required the matured vigor of an old soldier, accustomed to the harness, to perform as much labor as his station often demanded of him. He did not spare himself.

Mr. Allen's disorder was typhus fever. The course of the disease was such, as to leave him in full possession of his mental powers, and of his speech. And his fidelity to those who surrounded him, will not soon be forgotten.

He has left a wife and one child, with an aged and widowed mother, whose only son he was, to weep over his early grave. The affectionate sympathy of many friends is theirs; and I trust also the presence of the Divine Comforter

Yours truly, P.P.

N.Y. Evangelist. December 29, 1842: 5 cols 4-5.

AN

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

TO THE

COURSE OF LECTURES,

BEFORE THE

**YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION FOR MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT
IN THE CITY OF ALBANY.**

DELIVERED NOV, 30 1841.

BY REV. E. D. ALLEN.

ALBANY:

PRINTED BY J. MUNSELL, 38 STATE STREET.
1841.

<https://archive.org/details/introductoryaddr00alle>

A

SERMON,

ADDRESSED TO THE

FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION IN ALBANY,

ON SABBATH EVENING, JANUARY 1, 1842,

IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE DEATH OF THEIR PASTOR,

REV. EDWARD D. ALLEN.

BY WILLIAM B. SPRAGUE, D. D.,

PASTOR OF THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

WITH

THE ADDRESSES

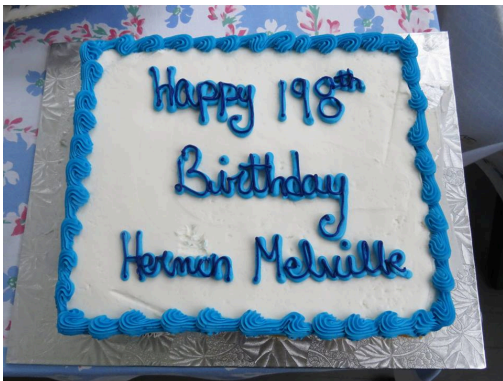
DELIVERED AT THE FUNERAL.

ALBANY:

PUBLISHED BY ERASTUS H. PEASE,
No. 82 State Street.
1843.

Herman Melville's 198th Birthday

Every year the Lansingburgh Historical Society has a guest lecturer — and a cake! — for Herman Melville's birthday. We enjoyed a great presentation by Mary K. Bercaw Edwards. Hoping to see you next year!





MURDER AT OAKWOOD

A MURDER MYSTERY ADVENTURE

In the Spring of 1870, hysteria overtook the residents of Troy, New York when one of Troy's Oldest Families, the Vanderheydens was caught up in a sensational murder/suicide. Who murdered Nanning Vanderheyden?

Historian Warren F. Broderick, in costume as County Coroner Thomas Hurley, will finally release his official report on the investigation, and sparing no details, will delineate fact from fiction, and relate a truly tragic tale for the first time after 147 years of silence!

Coroner Hurley will present his report at 10:00 AM sharp at the Herman Melville House. He will then invite the curious public to Oakwood Cemetery to visit the scene of this tragedy, and meet the Widow Vanderheyden to hear her recounting of events.

Saturday
October 21, 2017

10 AM

The Melville House
2 114th St.
Troy, NY 12182
and
Oakwood Cemetery

Member Donation \$5
Not Yet Members \$6

For Information Call
518-885-4295

*Reservations Not
Required*

*A program of the Lansingburgh
Historical Society*

Caroline Gilkey Rogers

We wish we had a date to announce for an event relating to the formal unveiling of the historical marker for suffragist Caroline Gilkey Rogers, but so far the city's crews have remained busy with other work. We'll let you know as soon as there is something new to report! In the meantime, research regarding her continues. Her husband Elias F. Rogers owned one of Troy's best-known laundries, and in the 1890s he managed a potato chip manufacturing business in the Burgh. He also was briefly involved in a steam trolley business venture:

"PHILADELPHIA BRANCH OFFICE OF THE GRAPHIC, March 26.—The recent movement in favor of rapid transit in this city, originated by one or two prominent citizens, has aroused much enthusiasm upon the subject. [...] The passenger cars propelled with steam which are successfully used by the West Philadelphia Railway Company, are owned by the 'Ransom Steam Car Company' of Troy, New York. This corporation was organized last year and has the following officers: President, E. G. Gilbert; Vice-President, Elias F. Rogers; Secretary and Superintendent, Louis Ransom; Treasurer, Walter R. Bush, Jr. The cars, of which illustrations are given, measure twenty feet in length. The passenger compartment occupies fifteen feet."

Daily Graphic. March 27, 1877: 184.



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Please visit our website

lansingburghhistoricalsociety.org

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Grethen-Cahrenger Memorials	Troy Irish Genealogical Society
Historic Eastfield Foundation	Verdile's Restaurant
J & J Auto Sales	Veterans of Lansingburgh
McLoughlin & Mason Funeral Home	Warren Fane Inc

Calendar

October 21 10 AM "Murder at Oakwood" by Warren Broderick at Herman Melville Park \$5 members \$6 new
November 4 Open House 10:00-2:00
November 9 Holiday Party/Auction 6:00-9:00 \$

Suggested donation for Open House \$5. Some other activities are being planned!

For details see our website or Facebook page or contact us!

Our membership year begins on April 1st. Those joining in January, February or March extend their membership through the next membership year. Consider upgrading your Regular Membership to a Sustaining Membership. Encourage friends to join! Regular Membership \$15/year, Sustaining Membership \$40/year. Student/Senior membership \$5/year. Corporate/Professional Membership \$200/year.

Donations are always welcome!

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing address _____ City & State _____ ZIP _____

Email address _____

Regular _____ Sustaining _____ Student/Senior _____ Professional/Corporate _____ Donation _____

Send to Lansingburgh Historical Society, PO Box 219, Troy NY 12182-0219

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