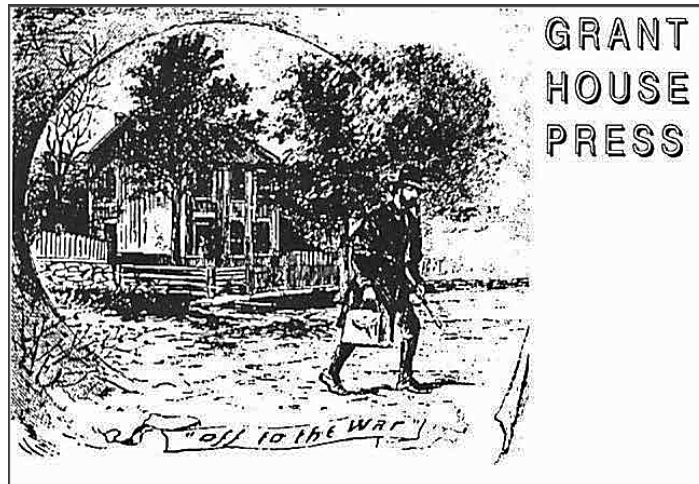


Geneva

‘thundering down through the
corridors of time’

by

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Preface

After arriving separately in Chicago in 1836 Charles Volney Dyer and Louisa Maria Gifford lived eventful and productive lives together.¹ Both the Dyers and Giffords enjoyed words and the naming of places.²

Within a year's time Louisa Maria became the principal of the newly established largest public elementary and secondary school in Chicago. Charles Volney was nominated for the Illinois Legislature but was ineligible, not having resided for the requisite period. In 1837 he became the first elected Judge of the Cook County Probate Court, married Louisa Gifford in Elgin, and both were horrified by the murder of Elijah Lovejoy. As a result, the many visits by Elijah's brother, U.S. Representative Rev. Owen Lovejoy, to the Dyers' home were vividly recalled by their children. The couple's surviving children accomplished much. Stella was the leader of the private seminary known as Kenwood Loring School, whose alumni included many of the names of Chicago's founding families. Charles Gifford Dyer dropped out of the U.S. Naval Academy to pursue his career as an artist.³ Louis was an internationally known Greek scholar and linguist who spent most of his career at Oxford. The Dyers' adopted daughter Cornelia ("Nellie") still has a Chicago street named for her (but once had two). She met Lincoln as a child, was a tutor of Tad Lincoln, and one of twenty girls in the Chicago Lincoln funeral procession.⁴

Louisa's "Address to Women on Slavery" appeared in the same widely circulated abolition tract with John Greenleaf Whittier's famous poem "A Yankee Girl."⁵ Dr. Dyer was an investor and trustee of Bell's Commercial College and of a popular private school called "The Garden City Institute". Louisa's hand is visible in these endeavors. Besides their real estate activities, the Dyers were involved with the Chicago Eye and Ear Infirmary, Rush Medical School (where Dr. Dyer was a "curator" 1846-9), The North Chicago Railway, Rosehill and Graceland Cemeteries (though they are buried at Oak Woods where Jesse Owens, Enrico Fermi and Harold Washington also repose), to name just a few interests. But the Dyer home at Clark and Diversey (in the area Dr. Dyer developed as Lake View), a block east of Dyer Street (the name was changed to Halsted, much to the eternal shame of the City

¹ "Dr. Charles V. Dyer came to Chicago in August, 1835." Andreas A. T. *History of Chicago*. Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1884. Vol 1, p462. He likely spent the winter of 35-6 near Plainfield, Illinois, and returned to Chicago as a permanent resident in spring 1836. On Aug 20th he arrived from Michigan City with a party of 9 via a chartered small sailboat captained by a black skipper. "The nine youths slept that night on the barroom floor of the small hostelry of one Trowbridge, on Dearborn Street, where the McArdle House now stands. The next morning, with deep disgust at Chicago they started for Naperville, on foot, and could not exercise too much haste in getting out of town. Nothing to detain them here." "Early Days." *The Chicago Republican*, Sunday, 20 September 1868. p5.

² An example is Port Ulao, Wisconsin. Louisa's brother James T. Gifford had already named Dundee, New York, and Elgin, Illinois, when he started a venture in 1847 on the Lake Michigan shore near Grafton, WI, to supply lake steamers with cord wood for their boilers. The town became a ghost town eventually after the steamers switched to coal (Gifford sold out in 1850 and returned to Elgin and promptly died of cholera). The name Ulao has stumped onomastic scholars, with speculation centering on names from Native Americans, American generals, the sound of a train whistle, and a river in Guatemala. Gard R. & Sorden L. *The Romance of Wisconsin Place Names*. New York, October House, 2015. p182. However, given that the year was 1847 and in that March U.S. forces in Mexico had taken Vera Cruz along with its famous Castle Ullao (variously spelled in English from the Spanish "Ulúa"), the name of the new Wisconsin maritime facility Port Ulao seems drawn from headline news. Example: "The Investment of Veracruz" *The Ottawa Free Trader* (Ottawa, Illinois) 9 Apr 1847, Fri, p1.

³ Charles Gifford Dyer was a 19th Century American visual artist who was born in 1851 in Chicago. Many of his works have been sold at auction, including 'A View of the Acropolis from the Altar of Zeus' sold at Sotheby's London' at The Greek Sale in 2005 for \$35,000. This work and others are examples of the Dyer family's interest in antiquities. C. G. Dyer died in 1912.

<https://www.mutualart.com/Artwork/The-Acropolis-From-the-Altar-of-Zeus/F707A8FC0DDCD3F3> (accessed May 1, 2018)

⁴ "Cornelia Dyer Heile Letter 27 May 1927 to Mr. Reynolds," *W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library*, The University of Alabama. Cornelia's nick name was "Nellie". Nellie Avenue in Chicago was changed to Waveland Avenue in 1891. Council, Chicago City. *Journal of the Proceedings of the [Chicago] City Council*. 1892. p872. "Cornelia [Dyer] Heile Funeral is Set for Tomorrow." *Chicago Tribune*, July 17, 1944, page 10. "Cornelia Dyer Heile Tells of Childhood Visit with Lincoln." *Hyde Park Herald* 10 Feb 1933. p9.

⁵ Blanchard R. *Discovery and Conquest of the Northwest with a History of Chicago*. Chicago, 1900. Vol 2, p295-6.

of Chicago)⁶ was best known as the corporate headquarters of the Underground Railroad.⁷ Dr. Dyer was named “President” of the concern in 1846 by the influential *Western Citizen*.⁸

Like all families, the Dyers had misfortunes. Their first child, Sarah (born 23 August 1838) lived only four days. Their twins, Mary and Charles, died on the same day in December 1844 of scarlet fever at age 10 months. The sudden accidental death in Chicago of Doctor Dyer’s sister Patience Dyer Huntington in 1861 was a crushing blow (she tripped on the carpet at the top of a stairway). Louisa’s younger brother Asa Gifford was murdered near Scott’s Valley, California in 1852.⁹ The business ventures of the Dyer sons-in-law, while interesting, were not successful. Neither Charles Volney nor Louisa survived to suffer through the ugly public divorce of their daughter Stella Dyer Loring.¹⁰ Stella soldiered through the disaster stoically and went on to support her children with her skills as an educator, emulating Louisa.¹¹ Her erstwhile husband Sanford Loring had been the partner of the famous Chicago architect William Le Baron Jenney (the firm was styled as “Loring and Jenney”). Daniel Burnham began as an apprentice in their office. But Sanford Loring died in poverty at the Buffalo State Hospital for the Insane (designed by Richardson and Olmstead) in New York, where he spent the last decade of his life.¹² To Stella and her sister Cornelia are owed many of the known details of the Dyers’ lives.

⁶ Modern Halsted Street ends at 3900 N. where it merges with the diagonal North Broadway at Grace Street. (Grace Street, one block north of Nellie, was named by real estate developer and Chicago Mayor Walter Gurnee for his daughter.) When Broadway diverges again to angle northwest the street that continues due north is Clarendon Avenue. Basically, the old Dyer Street becomes Clarendon Avenue. Clarendon near Clarendon Springs, Vermont, was where Charles Volney Dyer was born. “Streets named for Forgotten Folk.” *Chicago Tribune* (Chicago, Illinois). 03 Apr 1939, Mon p10. The Chicago Historical Museum’s “Chicago Streets” <http://www.chsmedia.org/househistory/namechanges/start.pdf> states that Clarendon was “Named after Edward Hyde [1609-1674], Earl of Clarendon and English royalist statesman, historian, premier and Lord Chancellor.” If so, the coincidence that Dyer Street runs into Clarendon is startling. On the other hand, Hyde’s daughter Anne was the mother by King James II of two English Queens, Mary and Anne. But what did the Earl have to do with Chicago?

⁷ Waterman A N. *Historical Review of Chicago and Cook County and Selected Biography*. Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1908. Vol 1, p274.

⁸ *Western Citizen*. December 22, 1846. Dr. Dyer was instrumental in founding the abolitionist paper.

⁹ “(Asa said to have been murdered by one Hinds near Scotts Valley. Mariette came out to California about 1853 via Panama, found herself a widow, settled on her husband’s place near Santa Cruz and married Hinds)” California State Library; Sacramento, California; Sacramento County, California, Pioneer Index File (1906-1934), A-Z; California History Room: MICROFILM 734; Roll Number: 43. Marriette Clark Gifford of the Des Plaines Clarks did marry Rev. Thomas Williams Hinds in Santa Cruz in December 1853. All three are buried there in Evergreen Cemetery, though Asa’s marker went missing but was later found and restored.

¹⁰ *The Inter Ocean* (Chicago, Illinois). 08 Apr 1879, Tue, p8.

¹¹ *Chicago Tribune* (Chicago, Illinois). 10 Jun 1962, Sun, Main Edition, p9.

¹² Year: 1910; Census Place: *Buffalo Ward 19, Erie, New York*; Roll: T624_946; Page: 18B; Enumeration District: 0188; FHL microfilm: 1374959. www.richardson-olmsted.com. Retrieved 2018-05-22.

This essay is a minor footnote to the chronicle of the full lives of Charles Volney and Louisa Maria Dyer. Geneva received its moniker more than 180 years ago. More than 160 years have passed since Dr. Charles Volney Dyer was first credited in print with bestowing the name “Geneva” on the Kane County seat. The available evidence still points to a Dyer, but the credit might belong to Louisa Maria Gifford Dyer, or to both. The year 2018 is the bicentennial marking the statehood of Illinois. The small City of Geneva on the Fox River should seize this opportunity to commemorate the name Dyer, a name intimately linked with that of Lincoln, Lovejoy, and the great struggle against the idea that one person can own another.



A VIEW OF THE ACROPOLIS FROM THE ALTAR OF ZEUS by Charles Gifford Dyer

‘Thundering down through the corridors of time.’



DR. CHARLES VOLNEY DYER

Geneva, Illinois, on the Fox River has long been jealously protective of its heritage. The town has aimed to keep (and monetize) the cachet of the sense of place educed by historic preservation. However, since Gertrude Stein pithily complained in 1937 of her native Oakland that “There is no there there”, American suburbia has struggled with low self-esteem.¹³ Geneva has preserved much of its history, its landscape, its streetscape, and many of its historic buildings, doing so through the constant vigilance of a dedicated core of government and citizen enthusiasts, both professional and amateur. But what of Geneva’s namescape?

Most current Genevans and its visitors alike believe the name “Geneva”

¹³ Stein, Gertrude. *Everybody's Autobiography*. New York: Cooper Square, 1971, p.289.

derives from a common midwestern onomastic,¹⁴ i.e., the name was transferred from Geneva, New York, by a person or persons who emigrated from the latter place and who wished to keep an emotional tie with “home.” A putative example is nearby Batavia on the Fox River two miles below Geneva.

Ironically Geneva is located near two Illinois onomastic academic hot spots. Laurence Seits at Wabunsee Community College in Sugar Grove founded “The Illinois Name Society” in 1980.¹⁵ He contributed an essay “The Names of Kane County Illinois” to a volume edited by Prof. Edward Callary of Northern Illinois University at Dekalb entitled *Place Names in the Midwestern United States*.¹⁶ When the Professor Callary book *Place Names of Illinois*¹⁷ was published by the University of Illinois Press in 2009, a reviewer puffed: “It is as useful a reference book as anyone could want for the study of local and state history. In years to come, bets will be settled, arguments will be resolved, and editors will be soothed with the words ‘according to Callary.’” —*Journal of Illinois History*.¹⁸

Place Names of Illinois tersely informs its readers that “Geneva was founded in 1832...”¹⁹, and was “...named at the suggestion of Charles Volney Dyer a Chicago lawyer²⁰ ... for his former home in western New York State, itself named for Geneva, the city and lake in Switzerland.”^{21,22} While the preceding quote likely has the plot of the “Geneva” toponymic historical narrative correct, its details are mostly wrong.

¹⁴ Onomastics originates from the Greek ὀνομαστικός (onomastikós), which translates to "of or belonging to naming", from ὄνομα (ónoma) meaning "name". Toponymy or toponomastics, the study of place names, is one of the principal branches of onomastics. Anthroponomastics is the study of personal names. Onomastics can be helpful in data mining, with applications such as named-entity recognition, or recognition of the origin of names. It has also been used in historical research to identify ethnic minorities within wider populations. Literary onomastics is the branch that researches the names in works of literature and other fiction. An orthonym is the proper name of the object in question, the object of onomastic study. Wikipedia contributors, "Onomastics," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Onomastics&oldid=816795305> (accessed May 22, 2018).

¹⁵ Later changed to The North Central Name Society.

¹⁶ Callary E, ed. *Place Names in the Midwestern United States*. Edwin Mellen Press, 2000. p163-72.

¹⁷ Callary E. *Place Names in Illinois*. U of Illinois Press, 2009. p134.

¹⁸ <https://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/33nxw6km9780252033568.html>

¹⁹ Geneva's first settler, Daniel Shaw Haight, arrived at Big Spring (Geneva's first name) in 1833. The year 1832 was one of either flight or “forting up” for scattered settlers in Northern Illinois. Panic swept across the prairie like fire as word spread that Black Hawk had re-crossed the Mississippi at Yellow Banks below the Quad Cities. Most settlers near the Fox and DuPage Rivers either fled to Chicago's Fort Dearborn or took refuge at Fort Payne, hastily built on a hill in Naperville. Most sources claim Fort Payne had been named for Morgan Payne, the Joliet captain of volunteers heading up men mostly from Danville, Illinois. Major Whistler had arrived at Naperville from Fort Dearborn and was in command. Military onomastics typically assign a fort's name as that of either the first commander or a fallen hero. More plausibly the fort's namesake was Christopher Payne, as stated by DuPage County historian Rufus Blanchard. The Fort was built on the claim of Christopher Payne, a prominent Naperville citizen (he built Hobson's first mill there) who was among the first to take up arms. (See: Blanchard, Rufus, 1821-1904. *Discovery and Conquests of the North-west, With the History of Chicago*. Wheaton [Ill.]: R. Blanchard & Co., 1879. p374) Payne moved to a new claim in 1833 at the head of Big Woods on Mahoney Creek in modern Batavia Township, Kane County. Payne's Big Woods claim was about 2.5 miles south-southeast from Haight's at Big Springs. Soon after Payne sold out to Judge “Daddy” Isaac Wilson.

²⁰ Dr. Charles Volney Dyer was a physician, never a lawyer, who graduated from Vermont Medical Academy in Castleton on December 29th, 1830. Dyer never formally studied nor practiced law, though he was an elected probate judge in early Chicago (hence the title “Hon.” In his 1837 wedding announcement in the Chicago *Democrat* of 1837). He was appointed by Lincoln as a Judge of the Mixed Court for the Suppression of the Slave Trade in Sierra Leone in 1863 and was thus occasionally referred to as Judge Dyer! A search of the records of the Supreme Court of the State fails to show that Judge Harmon, Judge Dyer, or Probate Justice of the Peace Kimball were ever admitted to the bar. *Industrial Chicago, Vol VI Bench and Bar*. Chicago, 1896. p342.

²¹ Dr. Dyer grew up in Clarendon, Vermont, and after graduation at nearby Castleton from the Vermont Medical Academy, practiced medicine for four years at Newark, Wayne County, New York. No evidence has been found that he ever resided in Geneva, Ontario County, New York. (vide infra)

²² Most biographical references erroneously indicate that Dyer practiced in Newark, New Jersey. Even his NY *Times* Obit listed Newark, New Jersey. NY *Times* 25 April 1978. Bessie Louise Pierce missed the mark and named New Jersey. Pierce, Bessie Louise.

The provenance of the name of Geneva, Illinois is made uncertain by quirks arising from the very tradition from which the name emanated. Professor Callary adeptly categorized the “strata” of Illinois place names by utilizing an archeologic metaphor that likens place names to “layers on the land”. In Illinois one of the thickest nomological name strata is “transfer naming”. “Geneva” is an example of the complexity of what seems at first to be straight forward.

The stewards of Geneva’s heritage, its citizens (of which the author is one), should accept the lion’s share of responsibility for any misunderstandings about the origin of its name. The name of Dyer is, and should be, forever associated with Geneva. However, Dr. Charles Volney Dyer and Louisa Maria Gifford Dyer deserve far more recognition for their parts in shaping Geneva, Chicago, Illinois, and the nation. An examination of the onomastic evidence surrounding the Dyers’ role in labelling Geneva, and a look at their lives leading up to their baptism of Geneva is in order.

Before examining the very plausible, if factually flawed, transfer naming thesis of the academics Seits and Callary about the origin of the orthonym “Geneva,” a wholly different, if unproveable, theory must first be considered. If Dr. Charles Volney Dyer suggested the name “Geneva,” then he may have done so to slyly propagatate his own moniker. “Volney” was not his mother’s maiden name (she was an Olin). The use of the maternal maiden name for a middle name would have followed a frequent naming tradition.²³ Nor were there prior Volneys in Charles’ pedigree. Who or what was a Volney? Why was this the name bestowed upon Charles at birth in 1808? His father Daniel was said to possess the same “caustic wit” and skepticism about Calvinism as his son. His mother Susan was described as “a woman of poetic temperament”.²⁴ Both parents were informed political activists and religious and political freethinkers, though not outspoken radicals. Their choice of “Volney” was not capricious.

The Dyers were pragmatic people not bound by quaint customs of chivalry, even when dealing with kin. “During the first division of parties, known as “Federal” and “Republican”, the contests were often bitter and exciting. It is related that in 1805 Daniel Dyer and cousin James Harrington [no close relation to James Herrington of Geneva fame] at repeated trials received an equal number of votes; at length Dyer says to Harrington: 'Squire, it don't look well for you and I to be voting for ourselves; suppose you vote for me and I vote for you at the next ballot.' Harrington agreed to the proposition and voted for Dyer, but when the votes were counted it was found that Dyer had two majority and was elected. When

A History of Chicago. 1st ed. New York, London: A. A. Knopf, 1937.p176n18. One (see ref 22 below) has him in Newark, Wayne County, Vermont. A few have been found that correctly name Newark, New York, as his home in 1830-1835 and site of his first medical practice. One such source is a biographic sketch of his son Louis. *Ninth Report of the Class Secretary of the Class of 1874 of Harvard College June 1874-June 1909*. Cambridge, 1909. p34-37; see also, Bateman N. *Historical encyclopedia of Illinois, with Commemorative Biographies*, 1926. Vol 2, p769-7.

²³ Charles and Louisa Dyers’ son Charles Gifford Dyer was named according to this tradition. The anthroponymy of middle names indicates that their usage increased dramatically in North America after the War for Independence. Middle names were and remain either honorific after famous persons or familial, often the mother’s maiden name. These informal traditions can lead to some odd results. The author had a relative named Winfield Scott Warren. This caused subsequent generations to claim that General Scott was a relative. Apparently, a non-familial honorific name was conflated as familial. As a result, ancestors were erroneously informed that they were related to the great general and some even received the middle name “Scott”.

²⁴ *Biographical Sketches of the Leading Men of Chicago*. Chicago, IL: Wilson & St. Clair, 1868. p73,74. C.V. Dyer was known for his ability to recite entire poems. When asked how he did this, he “half apologetically” replied: “It is easier to remember poetry than to forget it.” *Biographical Sketches*, p78.

Harrington's friends accused Dyer of voting for himself again, Dyer replied 'Damn a man who won't try to help himself when his friends are all trying to help him.' The next year Harrington was elected."²⁵

Another Susan Olin Dyer cousin, Judge Theophilus Harrington (1762-1813), after serving in the Revolution from Rhode Island, moved to Shaftsbury, Vermont, and then to Clarendon in the same state. A strict Calvinist, farmer and land speculator with no formal legal training, he was none-the-less appointed to the Vermont Supreme court in 1803. In June 1804 a case involving a runaway slave came before him. The slave's owner sought to reclaim his property. Judge Harrington required proof of ownership and he famously set the bar for such proof loftily. The owner presented bills of sale for both the slave and the slave's mother. Judge Harrington opined that the proofs were not of sufficiently ripened age.²⁶ When the owner asked for the court's requirements for proof, Judge Harrington by oral tradition ruled "Nothing short of a bill of sale signed by God Almighty Himself."²⁷

Daniel Dyer once entered a discussion with his neighbor and shirt-tail cousin Theophilus during which Daniel was solicited for a generous donation toward the religious salvation of the Indians at Green Bay. Daniel replied: "Judge, if any specified number of the human race are to suffer eternal torment, I think it will be for the glory of God to take it all out in Indians."²⁸

²⁵ *History of Rutland County, Vermont: With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers, Part 2.* 1886. p563.

²⁶ Taft RS. *The Green Bag Magazine*, "The Supreme Court of Vermont III," February 1894, p75-77.

²⁷ Shaw B. *Illegality of Slavery*. 1846, p11. <https://archive.org/details/illegalityofslav00shaw>

²⁸ *Biographical Sketches*, p73. Taken from the 1868 biography of Dr. Dyer, these stories were obviously related by the Doctor himself.

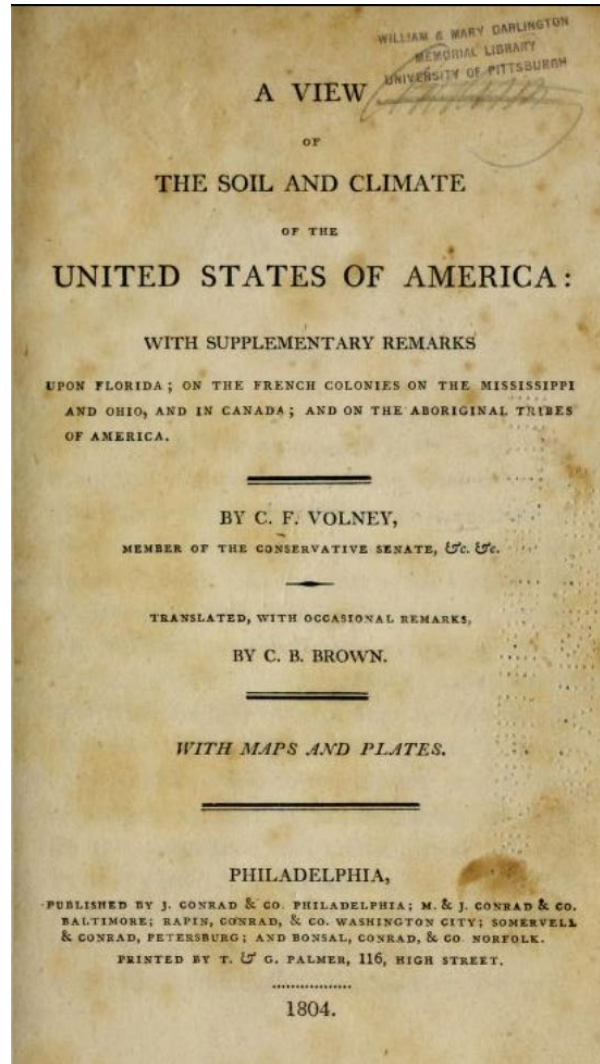


Volney

Thirteen years before Dr. Dyer's birth the French nobleman Constantin François de Chassebœuf comte de Volney sailed for America where he visited at Monticello with his old Paris friend, the former U.S. Minister to France, Thomas Jefferson, who had succeeded Franklin there in 1775. Jefferson agreed to translate his visitor's book on the Enlightenment, titled *Ruins of Empires*²⁹ from French to English.³⁰ Jefferson was anxious about the project due to the anticipated religious controversy the book was sure to inflame. De Chassebœuf had first devised and then assumed the moniker "comte de Volney" or just "C. F. Volney" (a name he had created as a portmanteau contraction of the words *Voltaire* and *Ferney*).³¹ Volney had initially studied both law and medicine, traveled extensively, wrote several books, befriended Benjamin Franklin, and, like Jefferson, was a deist. He also adroitly managed to remain unfamiliar with Dr. Guillotine's contraption. Most relevant to the Dyer connection, Volney was also a noted early abolitionist.³² Volney's book describing his three-year (1795-8) U.S. sojourn (*Tableau du Climat et du Sol des Etats-Unis d'Amérique*, 2 vols. (Paris, 1803)) began to appear in the U.S. in 1804 via reviews with excerpts and translations.³³

Thomas Jefferson was elected President of the American Philosophical Society on March 10th, 1797. When he presided over his first meeting, Volney sat on his right and the English chemist/philosopher Joseph Priestly sat on his left, both ardent abolitionists.³⁴

Charles Volney Dyer is not a major historical figure, but he was important to Geneva and Chicago, and to Lincoln, Illinois, and the nation. Oddly, no discussion or comment about his middle name has



²⁹ Volney CF. *The Ruins, Or, A Survey of the Revolutions of Empires*. William A. Davis, 1796.

³⁰ The beginning of *Les Ruines* describes what Volney saw amidst the ruins of Palmyra, on the edge of the Syrian desert. His 1791 treatise is tragically germane in 2018 as ISIS has recently destroyed much of what Volney described. "Ruins and Revolution: Volney, Palmyra, and ISIS." <https://ageofrevolutions.com/2016/03/07/ruins-and-revolution-volney-palmyra-and-isis/> accessed 10 May 2018.

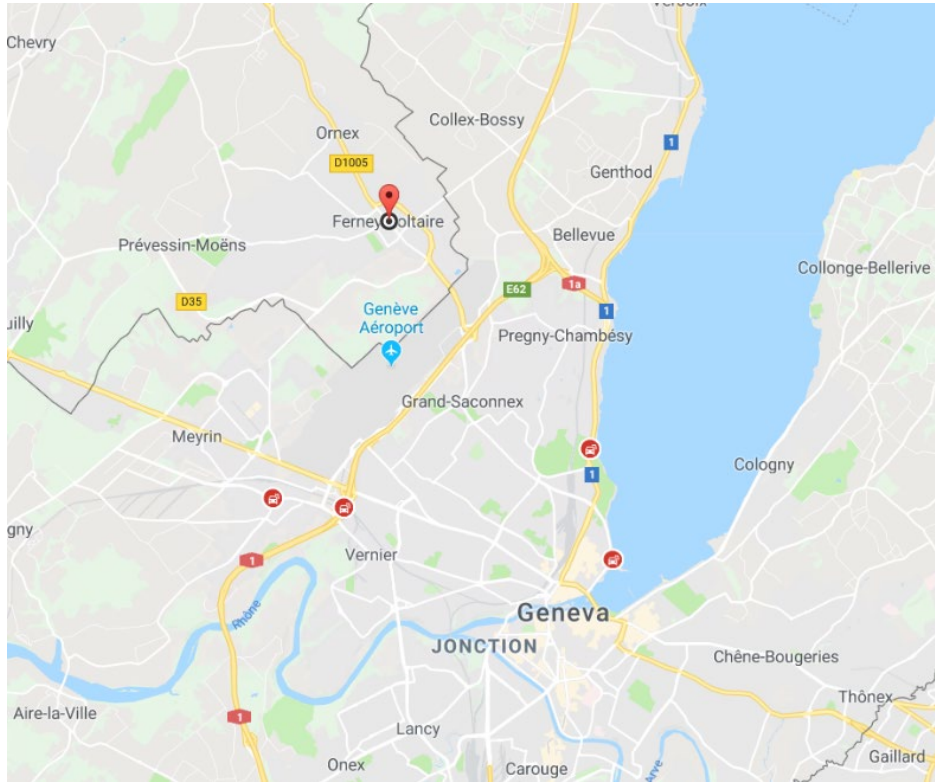
³¹ Stagl J. *A History of Curiosity: The History of Travel 1550-1800*. Psychology Press, 1995. p270.

³² Volney is a town in Oswego County, New York, United States. The town was named after the French author Constantin François de Chassebœuf, comte de Volney who toured the area in 1796. Another Volney in Iowa was possibly named for Volney New York, or for the man. Gannett H. *The Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States*. 1906. p305. Volney, NY, was originally named Fredericksburg but the name was changed in 1820 by the townspeople who were primarily Congregationalists of the abolitionist variety. Volney, lying 10 miles from Oswego on Lake Erie and close to Canada, became a noted stop on the underground RR.

³³ Akin A, ed. *Annual Review and History of Literature for 1804, Vol III*. London, 1805. p2-12.

³⁴ Nash G and Hodges G. *Friends of Liberty*. New York, 2008. p142.

been found. Count Volney was more widely known in the United States in 1810 than in 1880.³⁵ Perhaps early writers of biographical sketches of Dr. Dyer assumed most readers knew something of Volney, and later writers, who did not know of Volney, did not recognize the Doctor's middle name as a marker of a family vehemently opposed to slavery.



Ferney-Voltaire, France, juts into Geneva, Switzerland

How could all this have influenced Charles Volney Dyer to suggest “Geneva” for a small settlement on the Fox River? The answer is that Voltaire had lived in Geneva, Switzerland.³⁶ Because Calvinist Geneva banned theatre Voltaire purchased an estate in Ferney just over the border in France yet still a part of metropolitan Geneva. Ferney was re-named for its patron as Ferney-Voltaire. Voltaire had created a commune of artisans, craftsmen and actors there. Volney reconstructed the hyphenated place name into a reversed

contraction. Charles Volney Dyer was fond of his middle name, and he surely knew its derivation involved Geneva, Switzerland, and Comte de Volney. His signature shows his devotion to Volney. He rarely used initials, but did employ “Chas”, the short version of Charles. Newspapers often employed “Dr. C.V. Dyer” in part to distinguish him from the merchant and later Chicago Mayor, Thomas Dyer, who was not a close relative.

³⁵ Volney's influence in antebellum America was substantial. Poet Walt Whitman's (1819-1892) “daddy” owned a copy of *Ruins* and was a friend of Thomas Paine. The three major freethinking texts, Volney's *The Ruins* (1791), Paine's *The Age of Reason* (1794), and Wright's *A Few Days in Athens* (1822), were cherished books in the Whitman household. Erkkila B. *Whitman the Political Poet*. Oxford University Press, New York, 1989. p15. “Daddy” Walter Whitman and Daniel Dyer viewed the world similarly and raised their sons accordingly.

³⁶ Voltaire (the pseudonym of François-Marie Arouet) found no “natural law” basis for inequality or, thus, for slavery. François-Marie Arouet, *Dictionnaire philosophique* (London [Nancy], 1765), p157–60. So “Volney” was a neologistic surname drawn from a nom-de-plume that had been redeployed as a hyphenated place name that in turn was pruned into two contractions and reversed as a portmanteau of sorts. No wonder Dr. Dyer, lover of puns and words, liked his middle name.

Circumstantial familial evidence for Charles Volney Dyer's interest in words and Volney's views exists in the careers of Dr. Dyer's sons. Just as Daniel Dyer's and the senior Walter Whitman's influences can be clearly seen in the careers of their sons, Charles Volney Dyer's can be seen in that of his own son Louis Dyer. Louis (1851-1908) was a regarded linguist who began his higher education at the University of Chicago.³⁷ As a youth Louis had been sent abroad for a private education near Ferney-Voltaire in Geneva, Switzerland, of course. After a year back home at the University of Chicago he returned to Europe to the

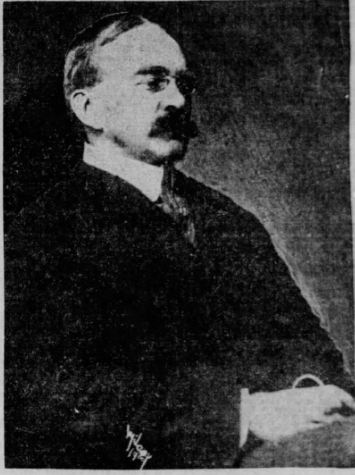
University of Munich. In his many travels, as he bore the Giffords' versatility and wanderlust, he became fluent in French and Italian.

Louis enrolled at Harvard in 1871 as a sophomore. Volney-like in his interest in antiquities, he became an Assistant Professor of Greek. His professional life was mostly at Oxford. His devotion to his father was demonstrated when he named his own first son Charles Volney. He also returned to Chicago when Charles Volney Dyer had a stroke in 1877. Louis inherited the entire Dyer estate upon the death of his father in 1878.^{38,39}

Geneva, Geneva Township, Kane County, Illinois, may have been named for Geneva, Switzerland, without the need for a stopover in Geneva, Geneva Township, Ontario County, New York. Thus, Dr. Dyer may have carried out his cleverest witticism early in his career. However, newer data also support the more traditional name transfer explanation, including evidence that corrects prior mistakes in construction of the theory that "Geneva" was transferred to Illinois from New York.

Dr. Charles Volney Dyer has been repeatedly nominated as the person who performed the appellation transplant operation of "Geneva" to the nascent settlement on the west bank of the Fox River in central Kane County, Illinois. In the three years preceding the adoption of the Geneva moniker in 1837 the spot had been variously known as Big Springs, Herrington's Ford, Campbell Ford,⁴⁰ and LaFox.⁴¹ These Dyer-as-namer assertions

OXFORD PROFESSOR REACHES BERKELEY
Louis Dyer, A.M., Will Lecture on Result of Excavations Made in Crete.



PROFESSOR LOUIS DYER, A. M. HE IS FROM OXFORD AND HAS BEEN SUMMONED BY MRS. PHEBE A. HEARST TO DELIVER LECTURES ON "MYCENAEAN GREEK ART."

BERKELEY, Oct. 29.—Professor Louis Dyer, A. M., has arrived in this city from Oxford, being summoned by Mrs. Phebe A. Hearst to lecture for the University of California.

Besides a series of seven lectures on "Mycenaean Greek Art," which he will deliver at Berkeley, he will give three university extension lectures in San Francisco, speaking before the Art Association of the university and a students' meeting.

Professor Dyer's lectures on "Mycenaean Greek Art" will cover the results of the wonderful excavations, recently made in Crete by Arthur J. Evans, the American archaeologist. These discoveries are of much importance, as they throw new light on Mycenaean civilization. Professor Dyer's description of the great Labyrinth of Minos will be of particular interest.

These lectures, which will be held at 4 o'clock in the lecture-room of the student observatory on the campus, are as follows:

Thursday, November 1, "Introductory"; Friday, November 2, "The Cretan Alphabet"; Sunday, November 3, "Dr. Schliemann's Excavations"; Tuesday, November 4, "Old Knossos and the Labyrinth of Minos"; Wednesday, November 5, "Mycenaean Gems"; Thursday, November 6, "Light on Homer"; Friday, November 7, "The Mycenaean in Egypt"; Saturday, November 8, "The Mycenaean in Connection with Events of the South African War." It will be a careful exposition of the floor war by Professor Dyer, who, although an American by birth and a graduate of Harvard, has resided for many years in England.

Professor Dyer will deliver three university extension lectures on "Machibeville," in the auditorium of the Academy of Sciences, at Market street, San Francisco, on the evenings of Monday, Wednesday and Friday, November 14 and 16 at 8 o'clock. He will also speak before the Art Association on "Light of Troy," Friday evening, November 8, probably in Ball Hall.

Professor Dyer's lectures are free to the public, excepting the one under the auspices of the Art Association, for which invitations will be sent out.

The OXFORD PROFESSOR Dyer to America is solely for the purpose of delivering the hours of lectures. He will lecture wherever in Los Angeles, Chicago and at Harvard University on his way back to England.

³⁷ Not the University of Chicago established by John D. Rockefeller in 1890, but the earlier one located on land granted to it by (gasp!) Stephen A. Douglas. Of course, Douglas had been dead for seven years when Louis Dyer matriculated there in 1867.

Johannsen RW. *Stephen A. Douglas*. 1973. pp 558, 872.

³⁸ Ninth Report, p36.

³⁹ *The Inter Ocean* (Chicago, Illinois). 02 May 1878, Thu. p3. The complicated financial dealings of Dr. Dyer and his sons-in-law are beyond the scope of this essay but were interesting including the theft of \$500,000 of the Doctor's bonds. *Chicago Tribune* (Chicago, Illinois) 06 May 1874, p3.

⁴⁰ A little quirk here is that James Campbell and Thomas Ford were two of the three commissioners charged with selecting the location of the Kane County Seat. Richard J. Hamilton, a friend of Herrington, was the third. A person with a caustic wit such as Chas. Volney Dyer might have said that Herrington's Ford was not a reference to the shallow river crossing but rather to Thomas Ford and the fact that he did Herrington's bidding. The original town of Geneva had and still has streets named Campbell, Ford, and Hamilton. "Campbell Ford" was a pun worthy of Charles Volney Dyer. Hamilton might have been the person to suggest the name Geneva as proposed by Dr. Dyer. He was the 1st appointed Cook County probate judge, and C.V. Dyer was the third (and 1st to be elected by the voters of Cook County). *Industrial Chicago, Bench and Bar. Vol VI*, Chicago, 1896. p298.

⁴¹ Laurence Seits added "Herrington's Claim" to the name list without a cited source. He also suggests the "Herrington" was "either" the early settler James, or Alfred, "an earlier postmaster". He opined "Geneva, the county seat of Kane County, is

often have often been accompanied by a disclaimer avowing that the Dyer “tradition” (usually including the reference to a Dyer association with Geneva, N.Y.) were not documented. LaFox Post Office was not renamed to Geneva until April 9th, 1850.⁴² But Augustus Mitchell’s *Illinois in 1837; A Sketch* (Philadelphia, 1837) reported “Geneva, on the Fox River, and nearly equi-distant from between Lowell [Batavia] and Charlestown [St. Charles], is a pleasant place and the county seat of this county.”⁴³

As early as 1857 Dr. Dyer was identified in print as the person who suggested the name Geneva. William C.R.E. Ferslew compiled his *Kane County Gazetteer, Directory and Business Advertiser* in 1857 and had it printed in Geneva by Wilson & Cockroft. On page 43 Ferslew wrote: “The name Geneva was suggested by Dr. Dyer of Chicago, and afterwards adopted.”⁴⁴ Ferslew was “on the ground” so he acquired his information from native Genevans.

Another link between Dr. Dyer and Geneva, Illinois, is Reverend Augustus Hammond Conant, the stepson of Dyer’s third cousin Polly Olin. Rev. Conant moved from Des Plaines (where he had settled in 1835) to Geneva in 1837.⁴⁵

Geneva should now embrace more warmly and completely the Dyer provenance of its appellation. Historical proofs can be approached asymptotically but are rarely perfected. Two confusing aspects surrounding Dr. Dyer and the naming of Geneva, Illinois, require clarification: his education and his places of residence and practice before arriving in Chicago.

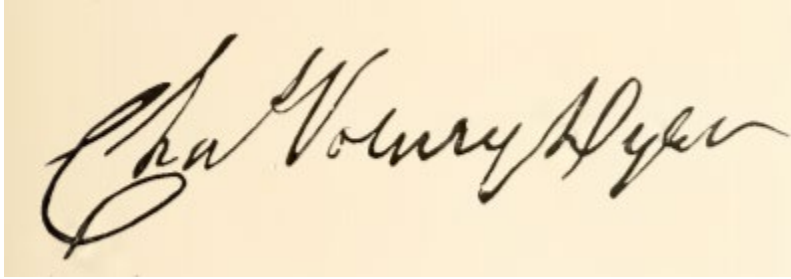
another name transferred from New York State. It was bestowed by either Captain C.B. Dodson or a Dr. Dyer of Chicago, both of whom were on the three-member commission established in 1836 to locate the new county seat.” Seits, p166,169. Of course, neither Dyer nor Dodson were on the county seat commission that was comprised of Ford, Hamilton, and Campbell. This mistake has been carried on by others regarding Dodson’s alleged role in naming Geneva. Alfred Richard Clayton “Dick” Herrington was James Herrington’s son and was eight years old when Geneva was named. James was the first postmaster in Geneva. Alfred was a postmaster in Geneva in 1853. *U.S., Appointments of U. S. Postmasters, 1832-1971* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com. Charles B. Dodson was born in Pennsylvania and had settled on property and built a mill in Clybourneville (at the mouth of Mill Creek at modern day Mooseheart south of Batavia) in June 1834. (*Past and Present of Kane County*, p297) Clybourneville (named for Dodson’s partner) was Geneva’s chief rival for the county seat in 1836. Dodson’s candidacy for “Namer of Geneva” is fatally flawed. Archibald Clybourne was an absentee partner of Dodson. A Clybourne Street still exists in Chicago. If Dodson had a favorite son in the name game, it would have been Clybourne. The Northwestern RR name compilation is particularly fanciful, averring that Herrington picked “Geneva” to honor Dodson, who came from Geneva, NY. Both Herrington and Dodson were from Pennsylvania. Stennett, WH. *History of the Place Names of the North Western Line*. Chicago, 1908. p75. “One of Chicago’s Early Settlers [Dodson obit].” *Chicago Tribune* (Chicago, Illinois) 06 Jan 1891, Tue p7.

⁴² *Illinois Place Names*, 1989. p372.

⁴³ *Rambler in the West*, Henry Leavitt Ellsworth, and S. Augustus [Samuel Augustus] Mitchell. *Illinois in 1837: A Sketch Descriptive of the Situation, Boundaries, Face of the Country, Prominent Districts, Prairies, Rivers, Minerals, Animals, Agricultural Productions, Public Lands, Plans of Internal Improvement, Manufactures, &c., of the State of Illinois: Also, Suggestions to Emigrants, Sketches of the Counties, Cities, And Principal Towns in the State: Together With a Letter On the Cultivation of the Prairies, by the Hon. H. L. Ellsworth. To Which Are Annexed the Letters from A Rambler in the West*. Philadelphia: Published by S. Augustus Mitchell, and by Grigg & Elliott, no. 9, N. Fourth Street, 1837. p84.

⁴⁴ Ferslew’s *Kane County Gazetteer*, 1857, p43.

⁴⁵ Price, N. A. and P. A. Adams. *Descendants in Illinois of Lois Richardson Olin and the Hon. Henry Olin, Lieutenant Governor of Vermont, 1827-1830*, N.A. Price and P.A. Adams, 1992. p20.



Castleton, Vermont, is about eleven miles west-northwest of Clarendon, Vermont, where Charles Volney Dyer was born on June 8th, 1808. Dyer attended secondary school at nearby Castleton.⁴⁶ The school had many name variants in the early 19th century but was often referred to as Castleton Academy.⁴⁷

Most Dyer biographers have given Middlebury College as the source of his M.D. degree. However, he received his degree on December 29th, 1830 directly from the medical school at Castleton.⁴⁸ Middlebury played no part, though the confusion is explainable.

The Castleton Medical Academy was founded in February 1818.⁴⁹ In 1819 a very loose affiliation was made with Middlebury College (thirty miles north of Castleton) that involved only the presentation of medical diplomas at the Middlebury undergraduate commencement ceremony. Middlebury exercised no academic oversight over nor financial involvement in the Castleton institution. This affiliation existed from 1819 to 1827.⁵⁰ After that, Castleton meted out its own sheepskins. With the advent of a new medical school in Burlington, Vermont, in 1827, styled as The Medical Department of the University of Vermont, the Castleton school re-named itself with a more catholic moniker: The Vermont Academy of Medicine, which was how the school identified itself in 1830 when Dr. Dyer received his diploma, three years after the Middlebury connection ended.

The first significant biographical sketch of Dr. Dyer, written in 1868, reported that he was a graduate of the medical school of Middlebury College (i.e., "the medical department of Middlebury College").⁵¹ Dyer either never proofread the sketch, or he let some errors stand. The medical school at Castleton entered a decline in about 1830 caused in large part by a vicious defamatory feud that arose between Dr. Benjamin Lincoln, Dean of the Medical Department of the University of Vermont, and the faculty at Castleton. Their competition for students was far from friendly and both institutions sustained damage as a result.

Then there was the grave robbing problem for both schools. On Saturday, November 29th, 1830, a month prior to Dyer's graduation, Marilla Gregory, wife of Phineas Penfield Churchill⁵² was buried in the cemetery in nearby Hubbardton, succumbing possibly from complications of childbirth.⁵³ Being but seven miles from Castleton and given the latter's nefarious reputation for surreptitious resurrections, the grave

⁴⁶ Dyer's roommate in the Foot home at Castleton was the future Senator Solomon Foot, a fellow anti-slavery Republican. *Biographical Sketches of the Leading Men of Chicago*. Chicago, IL: Wilson & St. Clair, 1868. p74.

⁴⁷ The first catalogue was printed in 1826 and bears on the cover the title *Catalogue of Castleton Academy*. The catalogue of 1827 has added as a sub-title the phrase "*and Female Seminary*." The name was legally changed in 1828 to Vermont Classical High School and changed back to Rutland County Grammar School in 1830. Waite JN. *The First Medical School in Vermont, Castleton 1818-1862*. Montpelier, VT., 1949. p30.

⁴⁸ Waite, p208.

⁴⁹ Chartered by the state of Vermont under this name. Waite, p55.

⁵⁰ Middlebury subsequently had a similar loose affiliation with the medical school at Woodstock, Vermont. Waite, p77-78.

⁵¹ *Biographical Sketches*, *ibid*.

⁵² Churchill GA. *The Churchill Family in America*. Privately printed. n.p., n.d, p373, 453.

⁵³ P.P. Churchill and Marilla Gregory Churchill married on Nov. 27, 1827. They had one child, a son Henry, who died in infancy (date unknown). *Op cit*. p487. In 1835 P.P Churchill, by then remarried, pre-empted a 165-acre farm in Winnebago County near Rockford, Illinois. "P.P. Churchill Dead" *Daily Register* (Rockford, IL) 9 January 1889, p2.

was subtly marked in such a way that if it were to be disturbed discovery would be prompt. The grave was robbed of its contents that night. On Sunday the 30th the crime was detected.⁵⁴

“Three hundred men, led by the sheriff, marched from Hubbardton to Castleton and surrounded the medical college building at nine o'clock on Monday morning and demanded the body. [Apparently, mob action was one of the many activities that was prohibited on Sundays.] The dean [Dr. Theodore Woodward], on the plea that he would have to send a messenger to his home to get his keys, delayed the crowd until time had been given to conceal the body, after decapitating it to prevent identification if discovered. Then a committee was admitted to make a search of the building, which was unsuccessful until a member noticed a loose nail in a board and discovered the headless body when he removed the board in the floor.



Meanwhile a student with a bundle under his overcoat had sauntered through the crowd and gone to a neighboring barn, where he deposited the bundle in the haymow. The searchers demanded the missing head and the dean said that it would be delivered if the sheriff would agree that there would be no arrests. This guarantee being given, the same student went to the haymow and, returning with the bundle under his overcoat, handed it to the sheriff. The body was taken to Hubbardton and reburied. This episode was called the "Hubbardton Raid."^{55,56,57}

Charles Volney Dyer "...graduated December 29, 1830, with distinguished honors, the favorite alike of faculty and classmates."⁵⁸ Dyer's preceptor from 1827-30 had been Theodore Woodward, M.D., Professor of Surgery and Obstetrics at Castleton.⁵⁹ Apprentices lived in the household of their preceptors and performed varied tasks as payment for their educations. Dr. Woodward was one the three founders and the "principal administrator" of the Castleton medical school in 1830, i.e., the Dean. A strong suspicion exists that Charles Volney Dyer was the "saunterer" in the overcoat above described, for he possessed a certain boldness. By 1868 he likely did not wish to over-clarify details of his medical education which any association with Castleton might resurrect.⁶⁰

⁵⁴ "Robbing a Grave," in *Vermont Statesman* of Castleton of unknown date of issue. Copied in *Woodstock Observer* (Woodstock, Vt., Dec. 21, 1830), p1, col5.

⁵⁵ Waite, p124-5. Southgate, M. "Castleton Medical College 1818-1862." *JAMA* 204, no. 8 (1968): 698-701.

⁵⁶ Hemenway AM. *The Vermont Historical Gazetteer* (Claremont, N. H., 1877), vol III. p770-71.

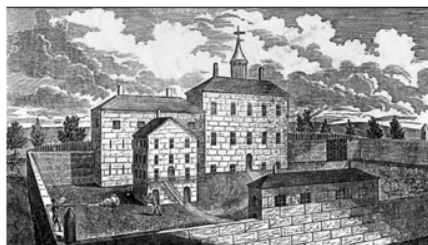
⁵⁷ The story that no arrests were made seems incorrect, as Jonathan Dike, Jr., the Sheriff, acted: "two students [not identified] were immediately arrested on suspicion. Their examination, we understand, took place yesterday. We have not yet heard the result." *Rutland Herald*, Dec. 1, 1830. from the *Rutland Daily Herald*, Jan. 5, 1871: We have to announce this morning the death of a formerly prominent citizen of Rutland County, Jonathan Dike, Esq., who died on Tuesday last, at the residence of his son-in-law, Dr. George Page, at Crown Point, N.Y., at the advanced age of 84 years. He was well known as a public officer of great efficiency and promptness. He was Deputy Sheriff from 1812 to 1819, and Sheriff of Rutland County from 1819 to 1832.

⁵⁸ *Biographical Sketches*, p74.

⁵⁹ Perkins J. "Obituary of Theodore Woodward," *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* (Boston, Mass., 1841), vol23, p349-52. Dr. Theodore Woodward (1788-1840). He was a nephew of Dr. Nathan Smith of Dartmouth, under whom he had studied as a private student, and had been a student in the medical school at Hanover in 1810 but did not continue to graduation. He began medical practice in Castleton in 1809. In 1821 Middlebury College conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine. *New England J Med*, 7 April 1932. p729-735.

⁶⁰ In 1849 another riot begotten by a grave robbing like the one at Castleton in 1830 occurred in St. Charles, Illinois, at the Franklin Institute, Illinois' first medical school. Nelson R. *The Franklin Institute, Illinois' First Medical School*. Geneva, IL, 1991. In

Dr. Dyer's brother, George R. Dyer (1818-1881), settled in Plainfield, Will County, and was in the 1850's that county's sheriff. He also lived for a time in Joliet in the same county. That town's best-known physician was then John Fletcher Dagget, M.D. (1815 -1890), who received his degree via Middlebury College under the same arrangement with the medical school at Woodstock, Vermont, from 1833 to 1837 as had existed with Castleton from 1819 to 1827. Between 1827 and 1833 Middlebury presented no M.D. degrees.



Vermont State Prison at Windsor

From 1834 to about 1836 John F. Daggett and his older brother Willard were boarding at the institution at Windsor Vermont: the Vermont State Prison. Both had been sentenced in 1834 to three years imprisonment for "disinterring the remains of the dead" and John was fined \$120.20.⁶¹ The pair's other brother, Charles D. Daggett, M.D., who also practiced medicine in Joliet, Illinois, in the 1840's until he became a '49er, was indicted for manslaughter in Burlington in 1830 after an abortion that had resulted in the death on September 19th of the mother, Experience Goodrich. C.D. Dagget was also suspected of being the father of the child, but this was speculation. While he, a medical student in 1830, almost certainly did not perform the abortion, he had ambitions of becoming an anatomy professor and he did procure the fetus for his mentor, Benjamin Lincoln, MD., of the Medical Department of the University of Vermont.⁶² Dr. Dyer was not the only Vermont medical student with grave difficulties in 1830. Dyer's education in medical jurisprudence, while hands-on, did not qualify him to be characterized as a lawyer. He luckily escaped the fate of the Daggetts.

Dr. Dyer's history contains befuddling references to a place named Newark. A consultation with the eminent and erudite Dr. Google resulted in the understanding that Dyer began his medical practice in February 1831 in "Newark, Wayne County, Vermont."⁶³ Dr. G. provides an 1868 reference for this "fact".⁶⁴ However, on pages 74-75 of that reference the reader learns that Dr. Google slightly misquoted his cited literature. "In February 1831, he [Dyer] commenced practice in Newark, Wayne County, *New Jersey* [emphasis added]" is precisely what had been written in 1868 in the cited biographical compendium.

Presumably this rather detailed sketch written during Dr. Dyer's life in Chicago was based upon an interview with its subject, lending it material historical authority. A Newark existed in 1831 in both Vermont and New Jersey.⁶⁵ The former was a post-township in Caledonia County, Vermont, that had a population of 154 in 1820, of 434 in 1850, possibly modestly fewer than in 1830. In 1820 only 30 households were enumerated in the census for Newark with no Dyers or Olins. A 1919 survey of grave

the latter case the resurrected was Marilla Churchill Kinyon, daughter of David Churchill and Maria Parker. David Churchill was active in the DeKalb Underground RR and was a subscriber to the *Western Citizen*. Beasley NM. *The Underground Railroad in Dekalb County Illinois*, Jefferson, North Carolina, 2013. p180-1. Note that in Castleton the resurrected was Marilla Gregory Churchill and in St. Charles is was Marilla Churchill Kinyon.

⁶¹ *Journal of the General Assembly of the State of Vermont*, 1834. p242.

⁶² Marshall J D. *The Inquest*. Burlington, Vt. 2006. This is an historical novel but the author, an archivist, had access to some of the primary source material involving the actual inquest. Daggett was never tried, and he left Burlington. He ultimately got his M.D. at the Berkshire Medical School in Pittsfield, MA in 1833. With his class of eighteen five men received honorary degrees. One was Elisha Bartlett, M.D., one the most highly peripatetic and storied of the era's medical pedagogues. C.D. Daggett died in Genoa, Nevada on Feb 1, 1864 from injuries received in a carriage accident while responding to a mining disaster.

⁶³ Wikipedia contributors, "Charles V. Dyer," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Charles_V._Dyer&oldid=833180131 (accessed May 28, 2018).

⁶⁴ *Biographical Sketches of the Leading Men of Chicago*. Chicago, IL: Wilson & St. Clair, 1968. p74-5.

⁶⁵ Morse J and Morse R C: *A New Universal Gazetteer: Or Geographical Dictionary*. S. Converse, 1823. p516

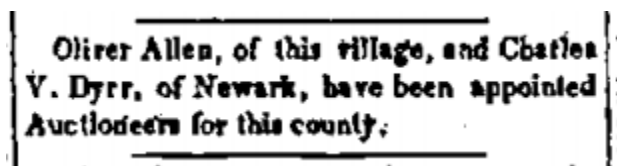
markers of persons who died in Newark, Vermont, before 1870 counted 134 deceased persons. Of the 36 unique surnames there were no Dyers or Olins.⁶⁶ Given the sparse population and apparent lack of kinfolk plus Vermont's stagnating growth and high emigration rate by 1830, Charles Volney Dyer would have been unlikely to travel one hundred miles northeast from Clarendon to Newark in northern Vermont to settle. Finally, no Wayne County exists or ever existed in Vermont.

Newark, t. Essex co. Vt. 44 m. N. E. Montpelier. Pop 154.

From Moses' Gazetteer, 1823. p516

removing to Illinois in 1835.⁶⁷ But Dyer had no known New Jersey ties either. Ironically, Newark, Vermont, was originally part of Essex County Vermont before it was added to Caledonia County.⁶⁸ Newark, New Jersey, was and is the county seat of that state's Essex County. A search for "Charles Volney Dyer" and "C V Dyer" in Newspapers.com within New Jersey papers of all dates returned zero "hits". As with Vermont, no Wayne county exists or ever existed in New Jersey.

Newark, New Jersey, is most often cited as the place where Dr. Dyer began his professional career in 1831 and where he remained until



The Western Argus (Lyons, Wayne County, NY.) 5 March 1834, p3, col 2.

In 2018 sixteen states contain a Wayne County and sixteen contain a Newark. Some of these Newarks did not exist in 1831, such as Newark, Illinois (which was originally Hollenbeck's Grove, then Georgetown to commemorate the first settler, George Hollenbeck). In 1835 only Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and New York had both a Newark and

a Wayne County. New York had two Newarks, one a township in Tioga County. None-the-less, only New York had a village named Newark (on the Erie Canal) in a Wayne County. Corroborating the conclusion that C.V. Dyer was in the NY Newark, the Wayne County historical archives contain an entry showing that a Charles V. Dyer joined the Newark Presbyterian Church on 27 March 1831 and was appointed Wayne County auctioneer in 1834.⁶⁹ Also, in 1832 C.V. Dyer, M.D., was President of the Arcadia Township, Wayne Co., New York, Young Men's Temperance Society with 80 members.⁷⁰

By Lieut. Dyer, Assistant Marshal, Washington Irving—The hero of American taste and literature. 1 gun—3 cheers.

The Western Argus (Lyons, Wayne County, NY), 11 July 1832, p3, col 5,6.

Charles Volney Dyer was a member of the Wayne County NY 16th Riflemen, starting as its quartermaster in 1832 and becoming the Adjutant in 1833. By July 1834 he was the Major, with only Col. Tinklepaugh his superior in the unit.⁷¹ In the 1832 4th of July celebration Lieut. Dyer of

⁶⁶ <https://web.archive.org/web/20160614220254/http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vtcbarne/newark.htm> One of the 36 names was Harrington of which three representatives appeared. The oldest of these was born in 1825. Dr. Dyer's mother had Harrington cousins.

⁶⁷ As examples, see: *History of Medicine and Surgery and Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago*. Biographical Publishing Corporation; Chicago Medical Society, p31; Moses. *History of Chicago*, 1819; Andreas; Kane County; <http://www.earlychicago.com/encyclopedia.php?letter=D>; Andreas, Alfred Theodore. *History of Chicago. From the Earliest Period to the Present Time. 3 vols. Chicago, 1884-1888*. [lists of early settlers, Vol. 3, pp. 394-97]; etc.

⁶⁸ Morse J and Morse R C: *A New Universal Gazetteer: Or Geographical Dictionary*. S. Converse, 1823. p516. The Moses listed five Newarks in 1823: the largest in Nottingham Co., England and from where the name probably emigrated to New Jersey, the second largest. Newark Vermont was the smallest. Other Newarks were in Delaware and Ohio. The Canadian Newark was burned by the Americans in 1813 but rebuilt by 1823. Newark New York was not yet in existence in 1823.

⁶⁹ <http://web.co.wayne.ny.us/office-of-the-county-historian/surnamesubject-database-search/>; *The Western Argus* Lyons, Wayne County, NY. 5 March 1834, p3, col 2. T.

⁷⁰ *Third Annual Report of the New-York State Society for the Promotion of Temperance*, The Society. 1832. p94.

⁷¹ Clark, Lewis H. *Military History of Wayne County, N.Y. The County in the Civil War*. Sodus, N.Y.: L. H. Clark, 1883. p176, 180

Newark was the Assistant Marshall. His toast was the only one that indicated an interest in literature.⁷² In that same issue of the *Western Argus* the first case of cholera was reported. The patient survived, and a strict quarantine was ordered by the Board of Health. The next week's issue was taken up largely by the epidemic and traced its origin to Montreal. The second page described "Another Bloody Battle" with Blackhawk's braves at Apple River near Galena in Illinois.⁷³ Lt. Dyer, lover of words and names, especially when formed into puns, must have read Captain Stillman's report of the great heroics of his men. No doubt he found out later from friends who were on the scene, like Abe Lincoln and Dyer's medical partner Dr. Levi Boone, that the name of the creek near the battlefield summarized the battle accurately: Stillman's Run.

Charles Volney Dyer liked place names. When he bought real estate north of the Chicago city limits in a place called Lake View, he quipped that he had bought "a home beyond the grave" (a reference to the fact that his home was north of the then City Cemetery — later converted to Lincoln Park).⁷⁴ His name was temporarily "immortalized" when Dyer Avenue was named for him. The street so named then ran from 2200 south as far north as 3900 in modern Chicago, but Mayor Ogden renamed it for a pair of Philadelphia banker brothers named Halsted who helped the Mayor make his fortune. (The street has also been called First Avenue and Egyptian Road.)⁷⁵

Another Dr. Dyer onomastic anecdote was that he, a notorious wit and avid punster, was anxious to have his name "... 'thundering down through the corridors of time' which might be accomplished by calling his own town [Lake View] Dyerthea."⁷⁶ Of course, Lake View, Dyer's speculative northern Chicago suburb, was swallowed up as Chicago expanded, but it lives on as the Lake View neighborhood. Given that cholera, that sudden and often lethal dysentery, was Dr. Dyer's chief professional challenge, "Dyerthea" is both wittily self-deprecating and darkly ironic. Genevans can be thankful that Dyer did not suggest such a personally commemorative name for their town. But then "Geneva" may well have been the suggestion of a different person named Dyer.

That a person named Dyer owns the naming rights to "Geneva" seems as rock solid as these historic "facts" can get. The exact details of why, when, and where are more speculative. Was the idea born of romance with Comte de Volney's philosophy or of romance between Charles Volney Dyer and Louisa Maria Gifford? The Doctor's Volneyism has already been examined. What is known of Louisa's toponymic tendencies?

Remember that before his advent in Illinois C.V. Dyer was last spotted in in Newark, NY, in 1834 practicing medicine and serving as a Wayne County auctioneer. Intriguingly, Newark, NY, is just 10 miles north of Geneva, NY. On the other side of the rhetorical romance argument's fulcrum lies the fact that Palmyra NY, named for the Biblical Syrian site of Volney's inspiration for *Ruins*, is just 7 miles west of

⁷² *The Western Argus* (Lyons, Wayne County, NY), 11 July 1832, p3, col 5,6. Dyer's tribute to Washington Irving is interesting in that his "hero" had just returned to the U.S. after 17 years abroad. Still, Dyer must have loved Irving's "The Devil and Tom Walker" in *Tales of a Traveller* (1824) in which Tom agrees to every dastardly task assigned him by the devil, except even Tom has scruples about becoming a slave trader.

⁷³ *The Western Argus* (Lyons, Wayne County, NY), 18 July 1832, p2, col 3.

⁷⁴ The Dyer home was at North Clark Street and Diversey Avenue, a block east of Dyer (Halsted) Street. A photograph of his home was donated to the Chicago Historical Society by his daughter. *Charter, Constitution, By-laws, Membership List, and Annual Report 1916*. Chicago Historical Society, 1916. p231.

⁷⁵ <https://chicagology.com/chicagostreets/streetnames/> Streets of Chicago were often named for real estate speculators who developed their holdings. This naming tradition resembles the common practice of naming towns for the man who platted them. Only a fraction of these paper towns became real settlements.

⁷⁶ Bateman N. *History and Encyclopedia of Illinois*. p685; *Geneva Times and Places*, p323.

Newark NY. Illinois has had two villages named Palmyra, one lying 30 miles southwest of Springfield.⁷⁷ Another Palmyra, now defunct, was the County seat of Edwards County, Illinois, though its former site is now in Wabash County.⁷⁸ The closest (60 miles west) Illinois Palmyra to Geneva is the township of that name in Lee County.⁷⁹ Thus, the name Palmyra was already taken in 1836.

Adam Gibbons, Geneva historian and author of a book containing, inter alia, a discussion of the Dyer naming tradition, wrote that Dr. Dyer “...never lived in Geneva NY (or anywhere else in that state)”.⁸⁰ Dyer was clearly not a native of New York. Nor has documentation been found that Dr. Dyer ever lived in Geneva, Illinois, as has sometimes also been part of the tradition.⁸¹ However, C.V. Dyer and Louisa M. Gifford did live within about 10 miles of each other in upstate New York in the early 1830’s. Dyer was in Newark and Louisa was in Geneva.

Tracking the whereabouts of a person in the 1830’s is problematic. For example, Michael Lambert, a Plainfield and Geneva architect, historian, and historic preservationist, has Dr. Dyer practicing medicine in the winter of 1835-6 in Plainfield, DuPage Township, Will County, Illinois. The Doctor’s brother George and cousin Jay later owned land there.⁸² Dr. Dyer’s daughter Stella informed historian Rufus Blanchard that her father “...came to Chicago in August 1835, from Newark, N. Y., where he had been practicing medicine...”⁸³ Another source says Dr. Dyer “...came there [Plainfield] in 1835...only remained until the following spring.”⁸⁴ “Residence” is difficult to precisely define for a young man in early northeastern Illinois. Many who came via the Erie Canal to the port of Buffalo first arrived by steamer or sail at Chicago intending to explore for a claim to preempt in the “interior”. To stake a claim “improvements” were required, but a crude fence, an incomplete hovel, or even a plowed furrow could form the basis of an “improved claim”. Often, the improvements were made by a different party than the ultimate claimant, as the government land sales did not begin until 1842. Speculation in untitled, crudely surveyed land claims was a favorite sport of the time.

The probable narrative of the onomastic origin of “Geneva” Illinois can be traced to Herkimer, Herkimer County, New York, on January 1st, 1800. This millennial date, if arbitrary, is congruent with the onset of the opening of the American West. That date was also the day Asa and Dinah Talcott Gifford welcomed their third child and first son into the world: James Talcott Gifford. James became the prototypic peripatetic westerner, and he had a penchant for naming places. Asa and Dinah moved first from Herkimer to Shelburne and then to Oneida, all in New York state. Between 1800 and 1818 the couple had eleven children. Dinah died in September 1821 while visiting back in Herkimer. (Asa remarried in 1823

⁷⁷ This Palmyra was missed in *Place Names of Illinois*.

⁷⁸ *Place Names of Illinois*, p265.

⁷⁹ *Place Names of Illinois*, p266. The author’s great great grandfather George Wolcott Baker in the 1840’s settled in Dixon, Illinois, located in Dixon Township adjacent to and east of Palmyra Township. Fred Coe, part of the Palmyra “New York Colony”, had proposed the name in the early 1840’s. The author’s family tradition is that one could walk from Chittenden County, Vermont, to Dixon, Illinois, by stepping on Baker graves, stone to stone across New York, Ohio and Indiana.

⁸⁰ Gibbons, Adam D. *The Founders and Early History of Geneva, Kane County, Illinois*. Bradenton, Florida: BookLocker.com, Inc., 2014. p83-9.

⁸¹ Bateman, p685.

⁸² “Dr. Charles Volney Dyer came to Plainfield from Vermont [actually NY] in the autumn of 1835. Dyer practiced medicine here that winter, but because of Plainfield’s small population, he relocated the following spring to Chicago, where he became the acting surgeon at Fort Dearborn.” Lambert, Michael: *Memory of Abolitionist Brothers Lives On* <https://patch.com/illinois/plainfield/lambert-plainfield-brothers-became-celebrated> ; Lambert: *A Tiny House with a Huge History, Part 3*. <https://patch.com/illinois/plainfield/lambert-a-tiny-house-with-a-huge-history-part-3> (accessed May 25, 2018)

⁸³ Blanchard R *Discovery and Conquest of the Northwest*. Chicago, 1900. p295.

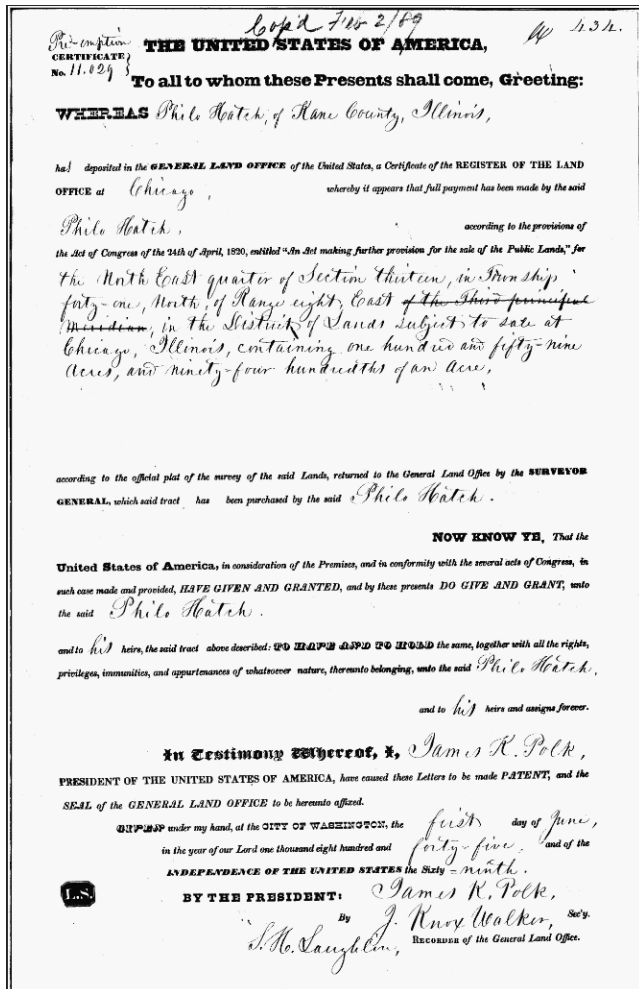
⁸⁴ Stevens. *Past & Present of Will County, Illinois*. 1907. Vol. 1, p110.

in Oneida County and he died there 1837 in the town of Vernon.) Asa and Dinah's third and ninth children, James T. and Louisa M., played roles in the Geneva, Illinois, name story.

STRAYED
FROM the subscriber, in this village, on the 26th inst. a large MILK COW nearly white, a slight mixture of red, with red ears. Whoever will give information where she may be found, at this office or to the subscriber, shall be liberally rewarded.
JAMES T. GIFFORD.
 Geneva, June 27, 1832. 78

James T. Gifford married Laura Raymond in 1823 and the Giffords first resided on a farm near Sherburne, New York, remaining there for about two years. In the ten years between 1825 and 1835 the Giffords lived in Holley, Millport, Geneva, and finally Dundee in Yates County, all in upstate New York on or near Lake Seneca. James farmed and worked as a miller. His longest stay (5 years) was in Millport. His shortest stay was in Geneva, New York.⁸⁵ He was in Geneva, New York, in the summer of 1832 when he advertised for the return a lost milk cow.⁸⁶ He may have moved on by November 1834 when he had an unclaimed letter at the Geneva P.O.⁸⁷

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The James Gifford family left for what would become Elgin in Kane County on the Fox River in Illinois in the summer 1835. Their destination was the claims James (age 35) and his younger brother Hezekiah (25) had made on a grueling exploring trip that spring. James sought a claim based upon "hydraulic power" and Hezekiah sought farm land. Fifteen people were in the Gifford party: James, his wife and six children, Hezekiah and his wife, plus James' sisters Experience (37) and Harriet (25) and daughter Caroline with her husband Orlando Davidson. James' brother in law Philo Hatch⁸⁸ was also with the party. The group arrived in Elgin on Sept. 16th, 1835. James first resided upon what is now known as the SW quarter of Section 13.

In July of the year following their mid-September 1835 arrival on the Fox River, Louisa Maria Gifford joined the Elgin Giffords in Illinois. She likely had been part of James T. Gifford's extended family since the death of her mother in 1821 when Louisa was nine years old. She and her sisters, Experience and Harriet, had become school teachers. In fact, Louisa's services were in great demand. She remained in Geneva, New York, as an assistant to Elizabeth Stryker Ricord

⁸⁵ Swanson V and Minetti R. AUTOBIOGRAPHIES OF FOX VALLEY PIONEERS. Elgin Genealogical Society, Elgin, IL, 1981. p38.

⁸⁶ Geneva Courier., July 11, 1832, p3.

⁸⁷ Geneva Gazette., November 19, 1834, p1.

⁸⁸ James T. Gifford had married Laura Raymond in Sherburne, NY. Philo Hatch had married Laura's older sister Jerusha in Sherburne in 1814. When the land sales took place in 1845 in Kane County the Hatch 160-acre farm was also in Section 13. https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=IL0940__434&docClass=STA&sid=dnam2y1u.iwu#patentDetailTabIndex=1

(1788-1865) who had established the “Geneva Female Seminary” there. This explains why she was not among the first group of Giffords to settle in Elgin.



Mrs. Ricord

Mrs. Elizabeth Stryker Ricord was a remarkable pioneer in women’s education while successfully raising four noteworthy sons as a single mother.⁸⁹ She had married a refugee from the French Revolution, Dr. Jean Baptiste Ricord-Madianna, in 1810 and travelled with him to the West Indies where he studied botany and natural history.⁹⁰ By 1829 Mrs. Ricord was separated from her husband and living in Geneva, New York, where she opened a women’s boarding school to support herself and her four young sons. Her book *Philosophy of the Mind* was the first textbook of psychology written by a woman for women students.⁹¹

Louisa Gifford was Mrs. Ricord’s assistant at Geneva, New York, in 1833-34 and possibly in the year or two preceding (the school opened in 1829). This is known because of an attempt to recruit her away to a proposed new institute to be formed in Ohio and to be called Oberlin:

“I advise that you invite Miss Louisa Gifford, assistant in the Geneva Female Seminary, N.Y., to become teacher of the female department. Last winter I requested Mrs. Ricord, the Principal of that seminary, to recommend a teacher for our manual labor female school. I had previously learned that her school was scarcely, if at all, exceeded, and fully acquainted her with our plans and circumstances. She, evidently feeling her responsibility, and acting understandingly, recommended the Miss Gifford whom I now propose. I have not time to describe her definitely but believe we shall be safe in taking her at Mrs. Ricord’s recommendation. Besides I saw her considerably and think her best qualified for the place of any lady whom we can obtain. So think the best of judges at Geneva. As our female school will be small for a season, I propose that we offer her one hundred dollars a year and her board.”⁹²

The Presbyterian minister Rev. J. Shipherd and missionary Philo P. Stewart, founded Oberlin Institute (later Oberlin College and Conservatory). The first students began classes in December 1833. The town of Oberlin was settled that same year. Oberlin was the first school to admit persons of all races and was a leader in coeducation. The Dyer home in Chicago along with Oberlin and Knox Colleges became some of the best known stations on the Underground Rail Road. In many ways, given her later involvement

⁸⁹ For example, her son John Ricord (1813-1861) was admitted to the bar in Buffalo, NY, in 1833 after studying with his uncle James Stryker. John was Secretary to President Sam Houston of Texas by 1836, was part of a wagon train to Oregon in 1843 where he represented a plaintiff in a land dispute with the Hudson Bay Company. In 1845 he designed the Hawaiian government for Kamehameha III. In Monterrey California in 1847 he unsuccessfully tried to persuade William Tecumseh Sherman to allow him to design a government for California. After several more interesting episodes, John Ricord died in Paris in 1861 at the home of Dr. Phillipe Record, the personal physician of Napoleon III. Wikipedia contributors, "John Ricord," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=John_Ricord&oldid=792687206 (accessed May 28, 2018).

Another son, Frederick William, studied law at Geneva, NY and went on to become Mayor of Newark, New Jersey! Wikipedia contributors, "Frederick William Ricord," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Frederick_William_Ricord&oldid=742612162 (accessed May 28, 2018).

⁹⁰ Wilson, James Grant. "Ricord, Jean Baptiste". *Appletons' Cyclopædia of American Biography*. New York: D. Appleton. 1900. Vol. 5, p247.

⁹¹ Ricord, Elizabeth Stryker, 1788-1865. *Elements of the Philosophy of Mind: Applied to the Development of Thought And Feeling*. Geneva, N. Y.: John N. Bogert, 1840.

⁹² “Shipherd J J to Trustees of the Oberlin Institute, 28 May 1833,” in: Fairchild J H. *Oberlin the Colony and the College 1833-1883*. Oberlin, O. 1883. p317-8.

in education and abolition, Oberlin might have been a good fit for Louisa Gifford. But the newly created frontier town may not have appealed to a single woman. For whatever reasons, Louisa did not go to Oberlin despite the hopes of its founder. Instead she joined a founder of Knox College, another storied underground RR station.



Hiram Huntington Kellogg

Louisa Gifford moved on from Geneva, New York, to a school already in operation 80 miles east: “The Young Ladies’ Domestic Seminary in Clinton, Oneida County.”⁹³ Perhaps the fact that her aging father Asa was nearby at Vernon, New York, was a factor in her decision. Also, her sister Harriet had attended the school.⁹⁴ Like the proposed school at Oberlin, the Seminary at Clinton was founded on a manual labor basis. The idea was that tuition offset by labor could be so affordable that education would be open to all, including persons of color. Hiram Huntington Kellogg, a graduate of Hamilton College near Clinton, opened his school in 1833. The school was immediately successful and was enlarged in its first year. Louisa Gifford became the assistant in 1834-6. Kellogg closed his school in 1841 when he was appointed as the first president at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois.⁹⁵ Knox and Oberlin shared the same educational manual labor model and were both racially integrated and coeducational. Kellogg and Gale were staunch abolitionists, just as were the Oberlin founders.

Back in Chicago in the spring of 1836 Miss Frances Langdon Willard opened a school for young ladies. Extracts of her letters to friends in the east indicate that her school opened on May 9th, 1836 with 17 students. Seventeen immediately became 25 with others applying so that by June 8th she had thirty scholars. Miss Willard lamented that thirty was ten more than she could handle without an assistant, but of the six applicants she interviewed “...not one is qualified.”

On July 8th Miss Willard wrote: “I have this day engaged a lady direct from Clinton Seminary, New York; an assistant there, two years; and had previously assisted two years in the Geneseo [sic] Seminary under the celebrated Mrs. R. Corde [sic]. Her name is Miss Clifford [sic]. By August 25th Miss Willard enthused “...Miss Clifford [sic] proves an excellent assistant...”. The transcriber of the letters may have been responsible for the “Geneseo for Geneva, Clifford for Gifford, Mrs. R. Corde for Mrs. Ricorde” entries or perhaps the frazzled Miss Willard made the errors herself. In any event, history records: “Miss Louisa Gifford (afterward Mrs. Dr. Dyer,) was her assistant; and after a primary department was added and it became a public school, in 1837, it passed into Miss Gifford’s hands.”⁹⁶

⁹³ Young Ladies' Domestic Seminary (Clinton, N.Y.). 1834. *Catalogue of the Young Ladies' Domestic Seminary. Clinton--August 1834*. [Utica, N.Y.]: Bennett & Bright, printers.

⁹⁴ *Autobiographies*, p36.

⁹⁵ *History of Oneida County, New York*, p228.

⁹⁶ Andreas. *History of Chicago*, Vol 1, p208.

How, when, and where did Doctor Dyer meet and woo fair Louisa? Louisa arrived in Chicago in about July of 1836 and Dr. Dyer moved from Plainfield to Chicago in the spring of the same year, so they may have met or have been first introduced in Chicago. Possibly they had met back in New York.

Dr. Dyer's sister Patience was married in Clarendon Vermont in November 1833 to Alonzo Huntington, a distant Dyer cousin from Shaftsbury, Vermont, an enclave of Rhode Islanders emigrants where the Dyers had their own roots as RI transplants. That was the year Huntington completed his legal education under the Hon. Israel T. Hatch in Buffalo New York. He began his legal practice in Wayne County New York, probably at Lyons, the Wayne County seat. Lyons is just five miles east of Newark on the Erie Canal.⁹⁷

Before Huntington married C.V. Dyers sister, they both had proposed toasts at the 1833 Newark 4th of July Celebration. Dyer, a Vice President for the day, proclaimed: "Our Federal Constitution — 'Let not time's effacing fingers blot out one line where beauty lingers...'"⁹⁸

The Erie Canal was completed to Newark in 1822, instantly making Newark the commercial center of the region. The relationship between Newark and Geneva reversed and the former became "a great wheat market". Soon after Newark (originally Miller's Basin) was settled a road had been built from there to Geneva through Vienna (now Phelps), as Geneva was then Newark's "nearest market town."⁹⁹ By the late 1820's farm families in the region like the Giffords travelled to Newark to sell their wheat and make their purchases. The proximity of Lyons, Geneva and Newark to each other together with their commercial ties suggest the possibility that the paths of the Giffords and Dr. Dyer crossed in New York.

⁹⁷ Among the innumerable scenarios that can be constructed to explain how Louisa and Charles Volney might have met in or near Geneva, NY, is the fact that John Ricard, son of Mrs. Ricard of Geneva, was admitted to the Erie County Bar in the spring of 1833 after completing his apprenticeship with his uncle John Stryker. Alonzo Huntington also was admitted to the Erie County Bar in 1833. The possibility exists that Charles and Louisa met through this potential network. *The New-England and New-York law-register, for the year 1835: containing an almanac, descriptions of the courts and the times of their sessions, the names of the judges, counsellors and attorneys at law, sheriffs and other law officers, with other useful information relative to the states embraced in the work.* J. Hayward, 1834.p215. The only hint found thus far that some one thought Huntington was in Geneva, NY, in 1832 is a notice in the *Geneva Gazette* 22 August 1832 of two "remaining letters" for Alonzo Huntington.

⁹⁸ *Western Argus*, Lyons New York 10 July 1833, p2. Dr. Dyer's toast was paraphrased from Lord Byron's *The Giaour*: "Before Decay's effacing fingers...Have swept the lines where beauty lingers," [1 gun, 3 cheers]. Byron, George Gordon Byron. *The Giaour, a Fragment of a Turkish Tale.* London Printed by T.: Davison, Whitefriars, for John Murray, Albermarlestreet, 1813. p4. Huntington rose to propose: "Americans—When they cease to celebrate this national jubilee they will have abandoned the sweets of liberty, and the birthright of freemen." [1 gun 3 cheers]. Huntington looked to a Roman Senator, Tacitus, as his muse for "abandoned the first sweets of liberty" paraphrase. Tacitus, C., and A.W. Quill. *The History of P. Cornelius Tacitus Translated into English: With an Introduction and Notes, Critical and Explanatory.* J. Murray, 1896. Vol 2, p9.

⁹⁹ Melone, Harry R. *History of Central New York, Embracing Cayuga, Seneca, Wayne, Ontario, Tompkins, Cortland, Schuyler, Yates, Chemung, Steuben, And Tioga Counties.* Indianapolis, Ind.: Historical Publishing Company, 1932. p556.

POSTSCRIPT.

THE TIDINGS CONFIRMED.

Lovejoy shot!

Letters were received in town, last night, which state that Lovejoy had three bullets put through his body. From the Alton and St. Louis papers, we can give the particulars, next week.

The following card is inserted as an act of justice claimed by some of the committee specified below, for a supposed misconstruction of their motives. There is nothing in the resolutions given us for perusal, abstractly considered, that warranted the charges which they say are alleged against them. To prevent a counter card, we here state that some of the committee request us to publish no card as emanating from the whole committee, as none such has been presented to them for approval. As this is more a matter of private than public interest, having given the committee a chance to defend themselves, no farther notice can be taken of it in our columns.

A CARD.

The committee, appointed at a recent meeting of the citizens of Chicago, have learnt with regret that the character of the report made by it, in the adjourned meeting, (which was not acted upon by reason of its adjournment,) has been most grossly misrepresented. Such being the fact, the committee feels it due to that respect which is owed to itself, and in order that the community here and elsewhere may learn how unfounded these misrepresentations are, and perceive that its views were not only legal and honorable, but unexceptionable, to say that unless these misrepresentations are immediately corrected, that report with the resolutions will be published at length.

It is hoped that the committee will be relieved from this painful necessity.

Theatrical.

Mr. LINDWOOD nobly sustained his character as a tragedian and realized quite a large sum at his benefit. All our dramatical connoisseurs now conclude that *Richard III* can be properly personated in Chicago. Mr. LAURENCE did ample justice to *Richard*; Mr. DANKS *McKINZIE* and *INGERSOLL* appear perfectly at home in the plays of Shakespeare; having gained themselves no less honor in *Lady Jane* and *Queen Elizabeth* than in *Desdemona* and *Emilia*. MRS. ARNOLD gains as much eclat as ever by her dancing. MASTER LAVETT improves in his hornpipes.

To night, we have an amusing play entitled "*The Deep Deep Sea*" or "*American Sea Serpent*." As His Equatic Majesty has never been so near us before, we may expect a general rosh. The popular comedy, *Perfection*, will also be played. Mrs. McLENNAN again personates *Kate O'Brien*.

Marrriages.

At Elgin, Kane county, on the 2d inst. by Rev. Mr. Blatchford, Hon. C. V. Dyer of Chicago, to Miss Louisa Gifford, late Principal of the Female Seminary in this city.

At Buffalo, on the 3d inst. by Rev. Mr. Shelton, Alexander Loyd Esq. of this city to Miss Susan A. Thomas of Buffalo.

Chicago Democrat 15 Nov 1837, p2

At Elgin in Kane County on November 2nd, 1837 Dr. Charles Volney Dyer and Louisa Maria Gifford, the sister of James T. Gifford, were married by Reverend John Blatchford.¹⁰⁰ Five days later another momentous event in the lives of Charles Volney and Louisa Dyer occurred: the murder of Reverend Elijah Lovejoy in Alton Illinois. The Dyers' children remembered the many visits of Elijah's brother Owen Lovejoy to their home.

Huntington, Alonzo, attorney at law, office Lake over S. W. Goss's res at C. V. Dyer's. (See card)

The 1844 Fergus directory of Chicago lists the office of both Alonzo Huntington and Dr. C.V. Dyer at 98 Lake Street and that Huntington's residence was "at C.V. Dyer's" on State Street.¹⁰¹

Huntington and Dyer shared the same low opinion of slavery. Huntington's entry in the U.S. census of 1850, the year of passage of the odious Illinois Slave Act, speaks volumes.¹⁰² The well-off Huntingtons were not clandestinely "harboring" Martha and Armstrong, they listed them as members of their household.

Name	Age	Sex	Race	Occupation	Real Estate
A Huntington	43	M		Lawyer	15000
Mrs	48	F			
Benny A	10	M			
Jas S	3	M			
Francis	2	F			
Martha	24	F	M	fugitive slave	
Armstrong	35	M	M		
John	4	M			

Huntington was not as eloquent as his friend Reverend Owen Lovejoy, but he and the Dyers shared Lovejoy's views. Representative Lovejoy once responded to his proslavery taunters in the U.S. Congress with the following soliloquy:

"I do assist fugitive slaves. Proclaim it, then, upon the housetops; write it on every leaf that trembles in the forest; make it blaze from the sun at high noon and shine forth in the milder radiance of every star that bedecks the firmament of God; let it echo through all the arches of heaven and reverberate and bellow along all the deep gorges of hell, where slave catchers will be very likely to hear of it. Owen Lovejoy lives at Princeton, Ill., three-quarters of a mile east of the village, and he aids every fugitive that comes to his door and asks it. Thou invisible demon of Slavery, dost thou think to cross my humble threshold and forbid me

¹⁰⁰ Democrat (Chicago) 15 Nov 1837, p2. Lovejoy murder at the top of the column, Dyer-Gifford marriage at the bottom.

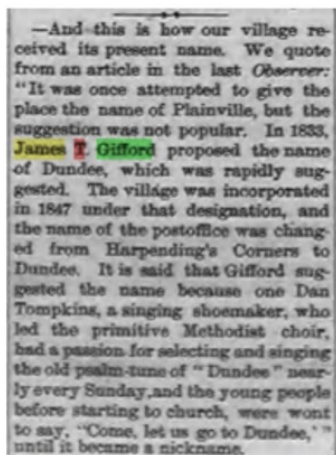
¹⁰¹ Norris JW. *General directory and business advertiser of the city of Chicago, for the year 1844: together with a historical sketch and statistical account, to the present time.* Chicago, Ellis & Fergus, Printers, 1844. p41, 67, 81.

¹⁰² Year: 1850; Census Place: Chicago Ward 2, Cook, Illinois; Roll: M432_102; Page: 179B; Image: 131.

to give bread to the hungry and shelter to the houseless? I bid you defiance in the name of God!"¹⁰³

Alonzo Huntington's simple, official, and public antislavery declaration should also echo as it "thunders down through the corridors of time".

Louisa Gifford was one of the first to be married in Kane County. Her brother James had just named Elgin for his favorite Scottish hymn. Dundee, New York, a name later transported to Dundee, Illinois, near Elgin, had also been named by James Gifford when he lived there, also after a Scottish hymn.



How Dundee New York Was Named

Prattsburg News Prattsburg NY 20 Jan 1880

But James Gifford acknowledged that he "saved the name Elgin" for his new town in the west.¹⁰⁴ Gibbons, incorrectly believing that C.V. Dyer had never lived in or near Geneva, NY, believed Louisa Gifford Dyer suggested the name Geneva. But, if so, where, when and to whom did she suggest it?

A likely answer is that Charles Volney Dyer or Louisa Maria Gifford Dyer or both suggested "Geneva" to Alonzo Huntington in 1836 or 1837 in Chicago, or in the place that would become Geneva, or if in Kane County and not in Herrington's Ford, then in Elgin. Both Dr. Dyer and his brother-in-law Attorney Alonzo Huntington were land speculators familiar with the Fox Valley.¹⁰⁵ They doubtless knew members of the small legal community. Both were abolitionists and Kane County was a stronghold of such people.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰³ *Congressional Globe*. 21 Feb. 1859, p199.

¹⁰⁴ "For the name Elgin, Ladies and Gentlemen, I had selected before leaving N. Y., for whatever point I might pitch upon, provided it had no name. I can hardly account to you for the partiality I had for the name, except it be from admiration of the tune bearing it, a tune which a celebrated critic pronounces "one of the sweetest of Scotia's Holy Lays." I had been a great admirer of that tune from boyhood and the name Elgin had ever fallen upon my ear with musical effect. This name I had selected for a post office and village in N. Y. but finding a post office was established in that State of that name, I had substituted Dundee and kept Elgin in reserve for this." "Notes of an Address Given by James T. Gifford In Elgin. Illinois January 1850." in "James T. Gifford and the Founding of Elgin, Illinois." (From Original Manuscripts.) [Edited and annotated by his granddaughter, Stella Davidson Ainsworth.] *Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society for the Year 1922*. Springfield, Il. 1923. p70.

¹⁰⁵ For example, in 1848 Alonzo Huntington bought a 40 acre claim in section 15 just NE of Kaneville Village in Kaneville Township of Kane County that is now traversed by the Reagan Memorial Toll Road. (How do these politicians always know where the roads will be built???) Patent details at:

https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=IL1140_285&docClass=STA&sid=1roztlzv.d2k#patentDetailsTabIndex=0

¹⁰⁶ Harris ND. *The History of Negro Servitude in Illinois, and of the Slavery Agitation in the State*. Chicago, 1904. p152.



A. W. Huntington

Mr. Huntington was the first Kane County State's Attorney in 1837.¹⁰⁷ He had arrived in Chicago with his wife, the former Patience Lorrain Dyer in the fall of 1835. Charles Volney Dyer arrived in August of that year. C.V.'s brother George R. Dyer also explored the Chicago area. George Dyer, like Charles Volney Dyer, married an Elgin girl: Elizabeth Howe Kimball, daughter of Joseph Kimball.¹⁰⁸

The Illinois Legislature elected State's Attorneys for the various Judicial Circuits. In 1837 Kane County, newly created, was in the 7th District. The vote for Huntington was 49; the vote for others ["scattering"] was 21. Among those voting for Huntington were Representatives Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas.¹⁰⁹

Who would be in a better position to advance the Dyers' suggested name "Geneva" for the County Seat of Kane County than the States Attorney? When the Kane County Court convened in June 1837 in James Herrington's log home at Herrington's Ford, Alonzo Huntington was there as the County's attorney.¹¹⁰ The docket was full, with several jury trials performed in the space of a few days. The grand jury had returned five indictments. Huntington, like the Dyers, never lived in Geneva, but he was a lawyer who left a legacy in the Kane County seat.

As Geneva continues down through the corridors of time, the names of Charles Volney Dyer and Louisa Gifford Dyer should be commemorated in some significant way in the town they named. Their story is a history lesson about Geneva's values, cultural roots and early times.

¹⁰⁷ The 7th Illinois Circuit District.

¹⁰⁸ *Autobiographies*, p.80.

¹⁰⁹ *Journal of the Senate of the General Assembly*, Volume 10, Illinois General Assembly, 1836. p616-17.

¹¹⁰ Bateman Vol 2, p 668; *Commemorative and Biographical Kane County*. p861.

