

The Onondaga

The New "Steamer Onondaga", built by George Coddington, was launched 20 Oct. 1870 at the foot of Castle Street in Geneva. She Commenced her daily trips between Watkins and Geneva 6 Mar. 1871. This was the stateliest steamer that ever sailed on Seneca Lake and even though not larger or faster than the Ben Loder, she could carry upwards of 1,000 passengers.

There were three decks, staterooms and complete meals. An Orchestra which also played as the boat approached and left the landings. Twelve tons of Coal were used every two days, loaded by eight men with wheelbarrows, who did this in from 15-20" with 250# as a load.

In 1884, decayed timbers were replaced and the hull and upper part of the boat were repaired.

By 1898, No longer useful for passengers, she was carrying only freight and towing a few canal boats up and down the lake. She was a burden to her owners and was chartered by the Geneva Board of Health, as a hospital for smallpox victims from a Comedy Co. playing in Geneva.

The ship was anchored about a half mile from shore, later taken to Kashong Point, about a mile from either shore and on 15 Sept. 1898, blown up before a crowd of 20,000 people - which is another tale.

By Betty Smalley for Don Campbell, who has a kettle and cover carved by Seth Young of Dresden, from a piece of the railing. This was given Don by Emma Wald Sanford when he was about 7 years old.