

## **BATAVIA**

**James Brisbane** (1776-1851) was born in Philadelphia and first appeared in Western New York when Joseph Ellicott put him in charge of providing provisions for the surveyors of The Holland Land Company. Once the survey was completed, Brisbane opened the first general store in Batavia and invested heavily in real estate, eventually buying and selling over 260 acres in the City of Batavia, alone. His son, George, built the West Main mansion that became the old City Hall. His other son, Albert, became nationally renown for promoting communes based on the ideas of Charles Fourier. A grandson, Arthur, became an associate of William Randolph Hearst and was the highest paid journalist and editor in the early 20th Century.

Submitted by: Larry Barnes, City of Batavia Historian

**Dean Richmond** (1804-1866) was born in Vermont and at the age of 12 his family relocated to Salina, New York where his father was engaged in the early salt industry. His father died two years later, leaving his widow in debt and without means of support. The following year his mother died and at the age of 15, Richmond assumed his father's business and paid off the debts. By 1842 he became involved with transporting commodities on the Great Lakes. He built the Richmond Elevator in Buffalo and founded the Buffalo Board of Trade. With his wealth he opened offices in New York City, Cleveland, Detroit, Milwaukee and Chicago.

By the 1850's the canal packet boats and stage coaches were being replaced with railroads. Richmond became involved with railroads as the director of the Utica and Buffalo Railroad Company and later the Rochester and Buffalo Railway which was the successor to the Pioneer Tonawanda Railroad. Richmond moved his family from the Syracuse area to Attica in 1848 and eventually followed the railroad to Batavia in 1852. Several small competing railroads stretched across New York State from Albany to Buffalo. The consolidation of these lines ended a duplication of services and saved money. Richmond is credited with driving the New York Central Railroad bill which had strong opposition, through the State Legislature. He became the first vice president of the New York Central line and in 1864, at the death of Erastus Corning the first New York Central President, Richmond became President of the New York Central.

When he died on August 27, 1886, all the train cars and engines of the New York Central were draped with black. Among the hundreds of mourners at his funeral in Batavia was former President Millard Fillmore. Dean Richmond's remains were laid to rest in the Richmond Mausoleum in the Batavia Cemetery.

Submitted by: Susan Conklin, Genesee County Historian

**Daniel W. Powers** (1818-1897) was born in Batavia on June 14, 1818. His parents were residents of Vermont, and moved west into the Genesee country, being among the first settlers in this part of the State. The first stepping stone to Mr. Powers' success was when, at the age of 19 years, he entered a hardware store, where he worked for his board. His wages were gradually increased, and being frugal he laid aside enough to enter into the banking business for himself in 1850. He continued to engage in the banking

business until his death and was recognized as one of the foremost financiers of Western New York. During the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Powers became synonymous with the growth and development of Rochester, New York. The Powers block and the Powers Hotel were two structures considered great modern commercial structures erected in Rochester. He was one of the founders of the park system and was a member of the commission which directed the construction of Rochester City Hall. He was a patron of the arts and founder of the famous Powers Art Gallery, one of the finest private galleries on the continent. Mr. Powers never troubled with political ambition, although he was twice elected Alderman without opposition.

Submitted by: Susan Conklin, Genesee County Historian

**General Emory Upton** (1839-1881) was born in West Batavia and in 1861 graduated eighth in a class of forty-five from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He fired the opening gun of First Bull Run and was wounded in the left arm. After his recovery he returned to his duties in the army. At his funeral the dead General's sword was placed upon the casket, representing his heroics at Bull Run, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Winchester. General Upton was also the author of the "*Military Policy of the United States*" which was used by the army for several years. He is buried in Auburn and a monument located in the center of Batavia bears a statue of General Upton.

Submitted by Susan L. Conklin, Genesee County Historian

**Charles F. Rand** (1839-1908) has the distinction of being the first in the Union to respond to a call for volunteers in the Civil War. He fought in every battle from Bull Run to the Seven Days Battle before Richmond, rising to the rank of Captain. He distinguished himself in the first Battle of Bull Run and earned the Congressional Medal of Honor. His right arm was amputated after the battle at Gaines Mill and he was taken prisoner, released in Philadelphia and returned home to recuperate. President Lincoln appointed him sub-assistant commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands in Texas. In 1873 he graduated from Georgetown University with a degree of Doctor of Medicine. Dr. Rand is buried in section Number 1 in Arlington National Cemetery and a marker honoring him was erected in Batavia by the Holland Purchase Historical Society in 1992.

Submitted by Susan L. Conklin, Genesee County Historian

**John Champlin Gardner** (1933-1982) was born in Batavia and was a novelist, literary critic and university professor. His novel, "*The Sunlight Dialogues*", was published in 1972 and remained on the *New York Times* best seller list for 16 weeks. Gardner became known for his unique writing style. He published numerous books and was the founder and editor for *MSS*, a literary magazine. Gardner taught medieval literature and creative writing at a number of colleges including Ohio, Illinois, Vermont, and Virginia. In 1982 he was teaching at the State University of New York at

Binghamton, when at the age of 49 his motorcycle crashed in an unexplained accident. Although he lived his adult life elsewhere, his novels brought much attention to this area.

Submitted by: Susan Conklin, Genesee County Historian

**Terry A. Anderson** (1947- ) is the best known, and longest held, hostage of a group of Americans captured in an attempt to drive U.S. military forces from Lebanon during the Lebanese Civil War. Anderson was born in Lorain, Ohio and raised in Batavia, New York. A professional journalist, he served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, where he was a combat correspondent during 1969-70. After his discharge he enrolled at Iowa State University, studying broadcast journalism and graduating in 1974. Then he joined the Associated Press, serving in Asia and Africa before being assigned to Lebanon as the chief Mideast correspondent in 1983.

On March 16, 1985, Anderson had just finished a tennis game when he was abducted from the street in Beirut, placed in the trunk of a car, and taken to a secret location where he was imprisoned. For the next six years and nine months, he was held captive, being moved periodically to new sites. His captors were a group of Hezbollah Shiite Muslims who were supported by Iran in supposed retaliation for Israel's use of U.S. weapons and aid in its 1982–83 strikes against Muslim and Druze targets in Lebanon. Anderson was released on December 4, 1991 and says he has forgiven his captors.

Since his release Anderson has been actively involved in freedom of the press issues. He has taught courses at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and at the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University. He has also been a frequent talk show guest, a columnist, a radio talk-show host and an activist for charitable causes. He has written a best selling memoir of his experience as a hostage, entitled "*Den of Lions*". He filed suit against the Iranian government for his captivity, and in 2002 was awarded a multimillion dollar settlement from frozen Iranian assets.

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