

LIMESTONE AMONGST BRIGHT JEWELS: A COLORFUL HISTORY OF MADISON BARRACKS

Written by Christina M. Knopf, Ph.D. – for the 10th Mountain Division & Fort Drum Museum

Introduction

*How gently here the zephyr's play,
How softly falls the sun's mild ray,
How gracefully this lovely bay
Embraces Sackets Harbor.*

*How proudly wave those Stripes and Stars,
How full and rich those martial airs
That on its wings the zephyr bears
Alone for Sackets Harbor.*

*Here, no prudes blandishments are met,
No empty airs of vain coquette,
A diamond 'midst bright jewels set
Is our sweet Sackets Harbor.*

*South, Adams wears her deacon's face,
North, Brownville stands with modest grace,
And Watertown's a little place
Just back of Sackets Harbor.*

*Soon spring with flowers and verdure gay
Will chase these wintry clouds away;
Then, bonnie lassie, stay, O stay
Awhile in Sackets Harbor.*

~Major T. Lee, circa 1838¹

Sackets (*ne*: Sackett's) Harbor, New York, now a tourist village of about 1,450 people just eight miles from the nearest retail-chain shopping centers, was once known as Niahoure – a part of the prime fishing and hunting grounds of the Oneida and Onondaga Nations of Iroquois. Wolves and panthers once prowled the land bordering Lake Ontario and the Black River, called “Riviere De La Famine” by the French and “Hungry Bay” by the British. Long the scene of battles between the Iroquois of New York and the Algonquin of Canada, the area quickly took on military prominence for European arrivals both before and during the American Revolution. It would eventually be declared by many as the most naturally beautiful government reservation and was, for a time, the commercial and industrial center of Jefferson County.

1801-1814

The Treaty of Paris allowed the land, rich with fertile soil, thanks to potash, and trees that produced sugar, vinegar, and beer, to become the English-established town of Hounsfield, founded by Augustus Sackett in 1805, with the Harbor being settled in 1801 and the village incorporated in 1814. (One of the first items of town business was to place a bounty on the region's wolves, making wolf-hunting a particular activity of the military men in Sackets Harbor for over a century.) Many northern settlers had been too busy establishing themselves to pay much attention to national and international tensions, until the Embargo Act of 1807, a desperate attempt to avoid what became the War of 1812, cut into their newfound livelihoods; potash exports had been a significant source of revenue along the northern frontier until the embargo, so many turned to smuggling.

¹ Quoted in G.G. Heiner, Jr, p. 42

England and France had been at war since 1803 and the trade suspended between the nations had given American merchants and traders an advantage – much to the displeasure of the British, who began seizing US ships and impressing thousands of English-Americans into naval service. Tensions between the United States and Great Britain mounted in 1807 when the British ship *Leopard* fired on the unprepared American *Chesapeake* near Virginia. Both France and England were disgruntled that America had not taken sides and began issuing decrees to hurt American trade in Europe. President Thomas Jefferson was essentially left with two options: make war on both countries or refuse to trade with both countries; thus the embargo of 1808 – which rapidly became unpopular as stores of produce languished and ships rotted in port. People along the northern border of America, however, were largely unaffected – excepting for the sale of goods like potash. Moreover, the embargo had no effect on improving relations with France or England. In 1811, when the American *President* dueled with and captured the British *Little Belt* at sea war appeared imminent, though President James Madison hesitated as long as he could. Congress declared war on June 18, 1812. Many in the north were opposed to the War, though it officially opened in the Great Lakes region when Great Britain captured Michigan without a shot being fired. At the start of the war, neither the U.S. nor the Royal Navy had more than a token force along the Lakes – but the British recognized the value of controlling Lake Erie, and the American aim of the War was to capture Canada, and so Lakes Erie, Huron, Champlain, and Ontario, with Sackets Harbor on its shores, soon became loci of activity.

The first regular army troops – 23 artillerymen and a few infantrymen – arrived at Sackets Harbor in 1808 to control smuggling along the Canadian border (smuggling which, it has been noted, may have kept Canada from starvation). Four years later, with war imminent, Colonel Christopher Bellinger arrived with three months militia to enforce the embargo and protect the frontier, following the discovery and capture of a British ship in American waters. *The Lord Nelson* was discovered in Lake Ontario, violating the revenue laws; after its capture by Capt. M.T. Woolsey of the brig *Oneida* it was brought to Sackets Harbor where its cargo was auctioned. (Woolsey himself bid \$5,000 for the belongings of a young bride to ensure they were returned to her.) When the War officially started, New York Gov. Daniel Tompkins ordered Brigadier General Jacob Brown of the New York Militia to reinforce Col. Bellinger at Sackets Harbor, to guard the frontier to Ogdensburg and St. Regis with the militia of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. Brown was inexperienced with battle, but not with men, and rapidly called out farmer-soldiers, yet reluctant to be at war with England. Brown appealed to the governor for munitions, explaining that the Watertown and Russell arsenals contained, “only muskets of revolutionary descent, varied in caliber, rotten accoutrements, and powder fit only for squibs.”² Tompkins, who would later serve as Vice President under James Monroe, paid for new equipment himself – an act of generous patriotism which eventually led to financial ruin and eviction from his home.

Soon, Sackets Harbor, with its proximity to the head of the St. Lawrence River and abundant forests, became a critical and strategic location of not only attack and defense but also

² G.G. Heiner, Jr, p. 3

for ship building, and it eventually became the headquarters for the Northern Division of the American fleet. The Sackets Harbor Naval Station was founded in November 1810 as a home port for the gun brig *Oneida*. The first battle at Sackets Harbor occurred when the British attacked with five naval vessels on July 19, 1812. Sackets Harbor was mostly yet undefended, protected by muskets, the 16 guns of the *Oneida* offshore, and a single 32-pound cannon. The cannon, purportedly nicknamed the “Old Sow” because it was found buried in the mud near the Harbor, allegedly fired the first shot of the War. The key defense of the day, however, turned out to be the Harbor itself; the British were defeated thanks to the natural protection afforded by the bluff overlooking the harbor. As once described by a French trader, “The land fronting this bay is raised about 30 feet and when seen from the water, these cliffs resemble the walls of an ancient fortification.”³ (Over the years these cliffs were graded down.) At the time, there was greater fear of a massacre by the Canadian Natives who had allied with the British than there was of British munitions.

During the following winter, Sackets Harbor was rapidly transformed into a more formidable naval station – soon overwhelming the frontier village. As more ships and guns appeared along the shores, so too did liquor dealers and undesirable camp followers. Life was difficult for the militia, with inadequate clothing, deficient medical care, insufficient food (such as a pig’s head as a week’s worth of meat rations for one group), and often no pay. In fact, during the War of 1812, service on Lake Ontario generally was unpopular because of its hardships. Capt. Arthur Sinclair, an experienced naval officer complained particularly of the lack of rest and claimed, “I had rather serve 12 months on the ocean than three on the lakes – the fatigue would be less.”⁴ Others complained about “Lake Fever” and the unhealthy conditions of service in the Great Lakes. About a dozen executions for desertions were recorded at the time – and such crimes, and others, would continue to plague the post for the next century. Punishment was fast and harsh.

In February 1813, the much-beloved Col. Zebulon Pike, of “Pike’s Peak” fame, arrived from Plattsburgh with 600 regulars. A number of other famous, and not-yet famous, officers[†] and dignitaries, including Major Gen. Dearborn, also came to the Harbor in 1813 in an effort to capture Kingston, York (present-day Toronto), and Montreal – a campaign that killed then General Pike. (Many



The memorial to Gen. Zebulon Pike in Military Cemetery.
Photograph by C.M. Knopf, 2012

³ Quoted in P.A. Wilder, pp. 1-2.

⁴ Courtesy of Gary M. Gibson, Ph.D., and the Madison Barracks Residential Community (posted to the Madison Barracks Facebook page on April 29, 2013).

legends were told of what became of Pike's body, though it was eventually confirmed to be inside a lead case now buried in the Sackets Harbor Military Cemetery.) A year later, the British used the attack on York as the excuse for the burning of Washington.

Thirty-three British ships, under the cover of gunboats, could be seen by nearby Horse



Augustus Sackett House, today.
Photograph by C.M. Knopf, 2013

Island and approaching the Harbor in the clear dawn's light on May 29, 1813. Their goal was to interrupt American shipbuilding, commandeer American supplies, and to gain relief from the continued American pressure on the Niagara frontier. The attack came when the Sackets Harbor post was undermanned with only 400-500 troops - the rest dispatched to take Fort George. The few thousand militiamen

who fought the battle were slow to arrive, believing the alarm to be false. As the British advanced toward the village, military stores were burned to keep them from enemy hands and the home of Augustus Sackett, at whose door a British cannonball landed in the 1812 attack, was used as a hospital – where the bloodstains in the floorboards would still be visible 100 years later. Casualty numbers vary, but American casualties including wounded and captured/missing ranged from 150-300 and British casualties from 200-265, with the Americans as the victors. The British retreated when they mistook the rallying militia as the arrival of hundreds of regulars as

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Field of Honor, overlooking Lake Ontario from the cantonment area, with cards commemorating those who fought at the Battle of Sackets Harbor, upon its bicentennial.

Photograph by C.M. Knopf, 2013

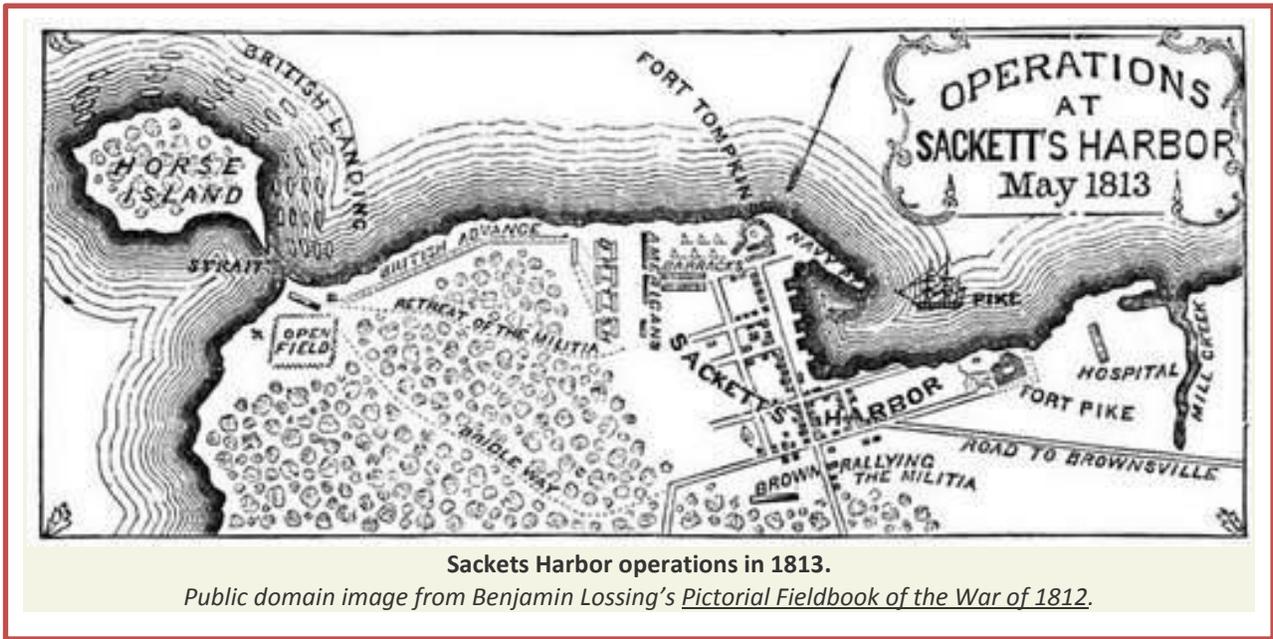
reinforcements.

Gen. Brown, who received a promotion to Brigadier General, reported to the Secretary of War that the results were “glorious.” Indeed, the Battle of Sackets Harbor was critical to the war effort. It offered hope amidst many other defeats and helped to prevent the loss of all of Lake Ontario – which was not only a significant, but also unique, naval theater. Different from the Great Lakes, Lake Ontario has direct access to the Atlantic Ocean through the St. Lawrence River. However, narrow stretches of treacherous water made passage difficult and typically impossible for ocean-going warships. This meant that both sides needed to construct a navy for

the lakes on their very shores – and Sackets Harbor was the only harbor on the American side of the Lake that could accommodate war ships.

For the remainder of the war, Sackets Harbor focused on ship building, producing more and larger vessels – though the burning of its stores delayed this program considerably. Thanks to the efforts here, the United States was able to win the early days of the ship-building ‘battle’ with Great Britain. All told, nine vessels were constructed in the Harbor: *Oneida* (1809), *Madison* (1812), *Pike* (1813), *Sylph* (1813), *Superior* (Feb 1814), *Jones* (1814), *Jefferson* (1814), *Mohawk* (1814), and *New Orleans* (never launched). The *Madison* was the first ship that demonstrated how quickly ships could be built in a lake harbor rather than a seaport; a vessel its size would have taken at least six months on the Atlantic, and took only nine weeks on Lake Ontario. The frigate *Superior* was built, for service in Commodore Isaac Chauncey's squadron, in 80 days and outfitted with 64 guns. That ship would help transport Gen. George Izard, ranking general on the Canadian frontier, and 3,000-4,000 reinforcement troops of the Battle of Big Sandy, from Sacket's Harbor to Genesee, NY. The *Sylph* schooner, also for Chauncey's squadron, was constructed in just 33 days and saw action only weeks after its August 18, 1813 launch. Built of green timber these ships were not only constructed quickly, but they also decayed quickly. The rotting *New Orleans* was eventually auctioned off in 1884 to a Syracuse speculator for \$300, who then cut the ship into 50 tons and salvage-iron and wooden souvenirs (canes made from the timbers, being a favorite) and sold them for many thousands of dollars.

Meanwhile, the military fortifications, which would become Madison Barracks, were also improved. Platforms and pickets were repaired and a two-story naval hospital, 122 feet long and 26 feet wide, was constructed – making it the first purpose-built naval hospital in the United States; Dr. Samuel Guthrie, a discoverer of chloroform through experiments with “chloric ether” (which he called it “sweet whiskey” and used as a means of greater intoxication, to the annoyance of his housecat test subject), one credited inventor of muzzleloader percussion caps, and of the “punch lock” musket, was long associated with the Madison Barracks Hospital.



The original forts of Sackets Harbor included Chauncey, Kentucky, Pike (also known as Fort Valentine, which would become Madison Barracks), Stark, Tompkins (also spelled “Tomkins,” the principle American defense of 1812), Virginia, and Volunteer. Surveyor-General of British North America, Lt-Col. Joseph Bouchette, described the fortifications as follows:

[Sacket’s Harbor] is situated on the south-east side of an expansion of the Black River, near where it flows into Hungry Bay...; as a harbor it is convenient, but rather small, with sufficient water for the large ships, and well sheltered from every wind, being nearly surrounded by high lands. A low point of land runs out from the north-west, upon which is the dockyard, with large storehouses, and all the requisite buildings belonging to such an establishment. Upon this point there is a very powerful work called Fort Tompkins, having within it a strong block-house, two stories high; on the land side it is covered by a strong picketing, in which there are embrasures; twenty guns are mounted, besides two or three mortars, with a furnace for heating shot. At the bottom of the harbor is the village, that contains from sixty to seventy houses, and to the southward of it a barrack capable of accommodating two thousand men, and generally used for the marines belonging to the fleet. On a point eastward of the harbor stands Fort Pike, a regular work, surrounded by a ditch, in advance of which there is a strong line of picketing; in the centre of the principal work there is a block-house two stories high: this fort is armed with twenty guns. About one hundred yards from the village, and a little to the westward of Fort Tompkins, is Smith’s Cantonments or barrack, strongly built of logs, forming a square with a blockhouse at each corner; it is loop-holed on every side, and capable of making a powerful resistance: 2500 men may be accommodated in it. A little further westward another large fort presents itself, built of earth, and strongly palisaded, having in the centre of it a block-house one story high; it mounts twenty-eight guns: midway between these two works there is a powder magazine, enclosed within a very strong picketing. By the side of the road that leads from the village to Henderson’s Harbour stands Fort Virginia, a square work with bastions at the angles, covered with a strong line of palisades, but no ditch; it is armed with sixteen guns, and has a block-house in the middle of it. Fort Chauncey is a small circular tower, covered in with plank, and loop-holed for the use of musketry, intended for small-arm defence only: it is situated a small distance from the village, and commands the road that leads to Sandy Creek. In addition to these works of strength, there are several block-houses in different situations, that altogether render the place very secure, and capable of resisting a powerful attack; indeed, from recent events, the Americans have attached much importance to it, and with their accustomed celerity have spared no exertions to render it formidable. . . . The country round Sacket Harbour is neither much cleared, nor in a very high state of cultivation...⁵

After the war, all that remained were the breastworks of Fort Pike, an earth work and water battery, and a row of log huts of Fort Volunteer, built by impassioned Revolutionary War veterans along Black River Bay.

⁵ J. Bouchette, pp. 619-621.

Sackets Harbor was not the only critical location in New York State during the War. The Battle of Queenston Heights was waged across the Niagara River by New York Militia (though many men refused to cross the border, preferring to stay and protect their home state) on October 13, 1812. On February 22, 1813, the British crossed the ice of the St. Lawrence River to attack Fort Oswegatchie at Ogdensburg; they burned several ships and stores before retreating. Directly across the Niagara River from Buffalo, the Battle of Lundy's Lane was fought at Fort Erie in July 1814; by August, a stalemate emerged along the Niagara frontier. Lastly, the Battle of Plattsburgh, the final battle before the official end of the war, occurred on September 11, 1814 – when a British force of nearly 20,000 soldiers descended the Champlain Valley and were forced to withdraw back to Canada by an American squadron and a small force of Regulars and militia. The War also played out in what was then the Northwest, along Lakes Erie, Michigan, and Huron; the Northeast, in New England and Nova Scotia; the Southeast, in and along the

Chesapeake Bay; the Deep South, along the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, and; at sea.

The Treaty of Ghent ended the war on December 24, 1814 but Sackets Harbor did not learn of it until February or March 1815 (and, in fact, the Battle of New Orleans was fought three weeks after the Treaty was signed; the *USS New Orleans* was christened in its honor). One-thousand four-hundred people – the equivalent of the population of present-day Sackets Harbor – are thought to have died there during the War of 1812, most of them from illnesses, such as smallpox, typhus, pneumonia, and malaria, caused and spread by filthy, poorly ventilated, quarters.

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**Sackets Harbor War of 1812 Memorial
in Military Cemetery.**

Photograph by C.M. Knopf, 2013

1815-1819

Sackets Harbor remained an important border post even after the war, but Smith's Cantonment, often housing more than the 2,500 soldiers it was built for, was insufficient for a permanent barracks. Indeed, the naval yard and station established at Fort Tompkins in 1810 was the smallest in the world. Major General Jacob Brown ordered the building of Madison Barracks in 1815, named for President James Madison. "The original one-story, hand-chiseled stone quarters of Madison Barracks were built between August, 1816, and October, 1819, on a reservation of 39 ¼ acres, by ill-fed soldiers of the Second Infantry."⁶ Constructed from limestone moved from the lake's cliffs by barges, oxen and soldiers, the buildings formed three sides of a square with open lakefront as the fourth side; two continuous blocks of officers' quarters, eventually known as "Stone Row," faced the water, separated by a sally port, closed off with large wooden gates; the soldiers' quarters faced each other. Additionally, there was a commissary, an ordnance storehouse, a guardhouse, a bakery, stables, and the blockhouses of

⁶ G.G. Heiner, Jr, p. 18

Fort Pike. A high stockade of pointed cedars surrounded the Barracks from 1817 to 1870. The barracks themselves were sub-divided into four squad rooms, mess rooms, kitchens, and storerooms; eventually, the married men were allowed to live in the attics with their families. Unfortunately, the miserable, dirty, and often frigid conditions that had plagued the post during the War continued for years and disease and death persisted among the men.

The land for the Barracks was bought in six lots, as needed, beginning with the first parcel for Fort Pike in 1813 and ending with the last parcel in 1817, at the total cost of about \$1000 – though the cost of clearing and constructing came to about \$150,000. During 1815-1819, a six-mile military road through the wilderness between Sackets Harbor and Brownville was constructed. Another military corduroy road was begun, from both sides, between Sackets Harbor and the Plattsburgh Barracks in 1817, which was ultimately abandoned in the face of wild animals, thick forest, and Native Americans.



Part of the Officers' Quarters as they appear today.
Photograph by C.M. Knopf, 2012

In 1815, Madison Barracks was filled with “Brady’s Saints” – five companies of the Second Infantry under command of Col. Hugh Brady[‡] – so named, ironically, because of their immoral behavior... and their regular church attendance. Except for three interruptions, the Second Infantry remained at the Barracks until June 1837, when they left for seven years after being deployed to assuage the Patriot Troubles/War – another northern border conflict with England and Canada.

These early post-war years in the Sackets Harbor village, a center for trade and commercial shipbuilding near the popular seasonal resort of the Thousand Islands, were prosperous – and happier without the perceived threat of “Indian massacres.” Sackets Harbor became the region’s most celebrated village, with many of the War’s veterans choosing to settle there and add elegant Federal-style homes to the Georgian and Palladian architecture of the pre-war settlers – all of which still mark the streets of Sackets Harbor. The good fortunes did not, however, always spill into the village’s relationship with Madison Barracks, despite the keen interest local residents (including the Native Americans) had in watching the building process of the post.

Bills for civilian work on the Barracks were never paid, though workers had been promised \$1.50 per day, leading to bitterness in the surrounding communities. Problems with civilian labor were seen again in 1893 when workers on the Madison Barracks sewer went on strike in support of the eight-hour labor plan, and then again in 1917 when frame barracks were not completed on schedule because workers refused to report in the rain. Exacerbating the

acrimony were the temptations and corruptions that arose alongside military encampments – fights, murders, duels, prostitution, adultery, bigamy, thefts, and intemperance, in addition to crimes of desertion and prison-breaks. (Violence was particularly bad in 1891, resulting from a fervor against the Masonic Order, of which Augustus Sackett had been a member until his death in 1824, following an alleged murder that involved Madison Barracks personnel and a high-profile statewide scandal surrounding the secrets of the Free Masons.) Military punishments included ball and chain imprisonment, gagging, whippings, beatings, public humiliation, forced manual labor, loss of wages, and execution – disciplinary measures patterned after the British.

Despite the harsh consequences, by 1818 editorials in the Sackets Harbor Gazette vehemently declared the offenses of intoxicating liquors, most notably rum – the taste of which led many military men to traverse the dangerous cliffs of the Harbor in order to bypass the guard. Conversely, in 1889, a post canteen serving beer and liquor to enlisted men was credited with the excellent discipline and low desertion rate at Madison Barracks – a condition that did not last, if it ever truly existed. By 1908, whiskey, particularly “Pig Iron Brand,” was blamed for many problems among the enlisted. By 1912 the military drunks were handled by the “pay day patrol wagon” which made monthly rounds through Watertown to collect the infantrymen who imbibed too freely after receiving their pay – alleviating the high numbers of soldiers taking “French Leave” in pursuit of women and drink. And, by 1917, when gin was the trouble-making liquor, saloon keepers in Sackets Harbor promised to not sell alcohol to the men of Madison Barracks, who faced immediate dismissal if seen entering, in, or leaving a saloon.

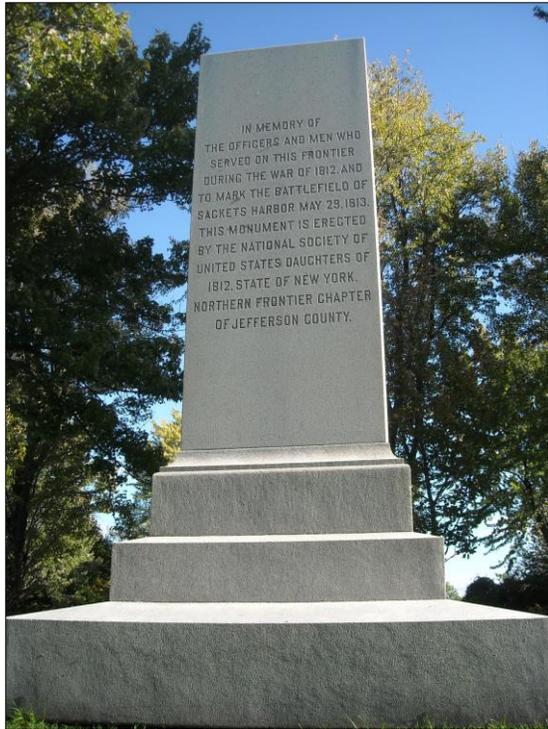
The year of 1817 was an exciting one for Madison Barracks; it saw the first steamboat in the Great Lakes, the *Steamer Ontario*, paddle past the breastworks of Fort Pike, as well as a much anticipated visit by aging President James Monroe. President Monroe’s August visit was, officially, to inspect the fortification and, unofficially, to smooth over the bad feelings left from the unpopular “Mr. Madison’s War” of 1812. This was also the year that the Rush-Bagot agreement with the British demilitarized the lakes.

1820-1840

The village of Sackets Harbor had over 2,000 inhabitants in 1820, including the garrison of 600 troops. There were ten stores, nine mills, four asheries, several mechanics shops, a distillery, a printing office, and spinners who produced 10,472 yards of cloth. It also had several schools for the children.

During that summer, at the bequest of Col. Brady, the remains of those who fell at Sackets Harbor during the War were removed and re-interred with all appropriate honors in an acre plot in the stockade of Madison Barracks, fenced off as a post cemetery. A temporary wooden monument was erected, with the intention of it being one day replaced with a more appropriate and permanent memorial; inside was placed a bottle containing a list of the fallen officers. Neither remained by the time a permanent stone was dedicated on the site of Smith’s Cantonment in the battlefield site in 1913 (the monument was rededicated on the occasion of the bicentennial of the Battle of Sackets Harbor by descendants of those present at the centennial

unveiling). Meanwhile, the post cemetery was moved in 1909 from the stockade to the village Military Cemetery; 256 bodies, including, with much controversy, that of the heroic Brigadier-General Pike (and the marble monument to him unveiled in 1885) and 140 others from the War of 1812, were exhumed to make room for more structures in the Barracks.



The Battle of Sackets Harbor Monument.
Photograph by C.M. Knopf, 2012

Though the post would continue to see many enlargements, improvements, and changes over the years, it was completed in 1838 under the direction of Col. William J. Worth, in case of another war with England – in light of the Patriot Troubles. Completions included a new stone commissary, guardhouse, and hospital – incongruously situated so that it caught the harshest of the Lake’s bitter winds. Concern about the problems at the border also brought another Presidential visitor to Madison barracks – that of Martin Van Buren, who was nearly killed during the parade and review in his honor when an iron ramrod from a discharged musket flew like an arrow and embedded itself in the ground near the President’s feet.

By 1840, the Eighth Infantry was organized and Madison Barracks was again overcrowded and diseased – especially from “camp sickness,” or diarrhea and fevers. Water

from newly dug wells was thought to be partially blamed in the typho-malaria-like fevers. The water supply of the Barracks was again questioned in the early 1890s during a typhoid outbreak, and until the Black River was repeatedly tested and shown to be safe, water was obtained from a distance out in the lake. Low ceilings also restricted ventilation, further aggravating health problems. The Eighth was, however, soon called away from Sackets Harbor to end the Seminole Wars that had been raging in Florida since 1835.

1841-1860

Sailing enthusiasts flocking to the Thousand Islands region from 1840-1880 made Sackets Harbor one of the country’s most fashionable resorts – and Madison Barracks one of the more popular posts with officers. Water and other sports flourished. Indeed, athletics became a notable pastime with the military in Northern New York, particularly at the turn of the 20th century. Drama and theater also become earnest interests of the younger officers. But, troops did not get to stay here long; problems along the Mexican border in 1846 left Madison Barracks unoccupied for two years.

During this timeframe, one of the inhabitants of Madison Barracks was a newly married Lieutenant of Infantry, who had distinguished himself in the Mexican War and was quite disgruntled to be assigned to the frozen and remote post with his bride. Plain-mannered and taciturn, he was considered slow by his fellow officers, and he battled the post's liquor problems by forming a "Sons of Temperance" chapter. Despite his displeasure of being sent to Madison Barracks, he, his wife Julia, and their son Frederick born there, made a comfortable life for themselves until leaving around 1852. Many years later, the "Little Lieutenant," as he had been known, Ulysses S. Grant, used his authority as President to keep Madison Barracks from being abandoned.

A few new buildings were constructed at the post in 1850s, such as a root house, a well house, and an ice house, but records indicated that there was roughly a decade of neglect during which floors and timbers rotted, roofs and fencing tumbled, and plumbing was plundered. The village, meanwhile, prospered with the incorporation of the Sackets Harbor Ellisburgh Railroad in the early 1850s, and its reorganization into the Sackets Harbor-Rome-New York route in 1860-1862. (The Carthage-Watertown-Sackets Harbor Railroad opened in 1875 and was absorbed in the New York Central Railroad in 1893.)

1861-1865

Secretary of State William H. Seward urged the necessity of putting northern Ports and Harbors on the seas and lakes in a condition of complete defense, and Madison Barracks was secured as a depot for volunteers toward this purpose. Many buildings, however, were found to be unfit for occupancy and it took nearly \$3,000 of repairs to make it usable; before the end of the war, another \$13,000 was needed to make the hospital and quarters actually fit. The Barracks processed about twenty-three regiments of volunteers for the Union army from 1861 to 1865. Records state that, at first, "so great was the enthusiasm for war at that time that the Ninety-Fourth New York Volunteers, organized by Colonel [W.B.] Camp [placed in command of Madison Barracks by Gov. E. Morgan], was filled up in 18 days without the allurements of bounty; one company was recruited the first day."⁷ When the wounded drifted back after the first rush to the front enthusiasm conversely lagged and bounties became necessary; men gladly signed up for \$1,000, but by the time the draft was used in 1863-1864, men were *paying* equal amounts to avoid service. Indeed, one regiment from the post, dubbed the "Belle Jefferson Rifles" suffered casualties before ever leaving the state in 1862 when their train derailed into the Hudson River, killing five men and losing their supplies.

Local boys would sell popcorn and candy to the soldiers at Madison Barracks, but as silver disappeared from circulation, postage stamps and "shin plasters" (or IOUs) worth 5-50 cents were used as currency. With 3,000 men crowded in the stockade, deliberate efforts were made to avoid the health problems that had so frequently plagued the post, with attention to nutrition, ventilation, and sanitation. By 1865, Madison Barracks had taken on the roles of guarding against a Canadian invasion of Confederate sympathizers, acting as a military depot,

⁷ G.G. Heiner, Jr, p. 47

and serving as a meeting point of state and regular troops. Sackets Harbor was also a refuge for British deserters who came across the Lake and took bounties to enlist in the Union army.

1866-1900

In 1866, part of the battlefield area was given to the Jefferson County Historical Society and the Village of Sackets Harbor for use as park; it was later donated to New York State in 1933 and augmented in 1967 by acquisition of the naval station. The Veterans Reserve Corps was formed in 1867 of men who had been wounded in the line of duty, or had other disabilities, but who were not unfit for light duties – or at least who did not *appear* unfit, as medical records revealed that the ratio of sickness at the post was considerable and that the men did not have the constitutions to withstand the fatigues of even garrison duty, particularly in the intemperate lakeside climate of Northern New York. Nonetheless, these men converted an old ordnance shed into a theater that seated 200 and hosted minstrel and variety shows; they rebuilt the picket fence and registered the identifiable graves on the post cemetery, planted the first recorded post garden, and converted the attics of the men’s barracks into laundry rooms.

The 1870s brought several more efforts at post improvement and beautification, though they were often misguided – such as an initiative to construct a slaughterhouse, which would have compromised the sanitation, and an ochre-limestone wash of the buildings to a dull yellow, which was later removed. Over the ensuing years, officers also transplanted maple trees (the shallow bedrock made reforesting the area difficult) and towering lilac bushes, which became famous symbols of the place. A combined boat and heated bath house was also built – just in time for the coldest winter, at a recorded 41 degrees below zero. Despite the improvements, 1871 alone saw 12 attempted desertions – all following the receipt of extra pay from unused clothing allowances.

Fire swept the officers’ quarters on November 6, 1876 – limited water access from a lone hand-pump, bucket brigade, and hand-suction fire engine could do little to reduce the devastation, which was finally stopped by a stone wall separating the General’s two-story quarters from the one-story quarters. The destruction instigated one of the many discussions that occurred over the decades about the abandonment of Madison Barracks. William Tecumseh Sherman, General-in-Chief of the Army, saw little point in keeping, let alone rebuilding, the remote border post, until President Grant declared, “Madison Barracks will stay.”⁸ An appropriation of \$25,000 was secured in 1879 to rebuild, and the new quarters were a significant improvement, accompanied by recommendations from the post’s surgeons on ways to improve the (un)sanitary conditions caused by an excess of refuse on the grounds.

The close of the 19th century brought about many other changes to Madison Barracks: new water towers, providing running water without reliance on the tainted wells; a hot-water system for the officers’ quarters; a sewer system; steam-heating; the first spring, rather than iron-slat, beds; new company barracks and staff quarters; a wooden administration building, “Dodge Hall;” a common mess building to seat 500, also containing a dormitory and practice room for

⁸ G.G. Heiner, Jr, p.60.

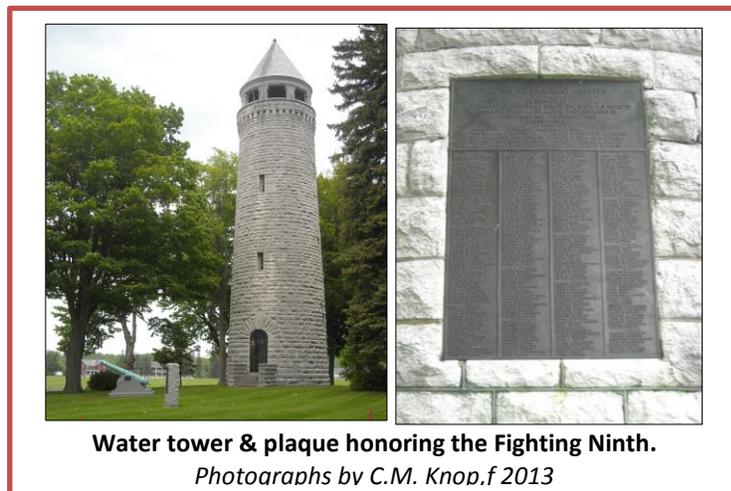
the band; new post bakery; a brick hospital; an officers' club; expansion of 53 acres to its present-day 115 acres; 1.5 miles of macadam roads and sidewalks; a common mess; an 868-acre, 1,000-yard "Stony Point" rifle range 16 miles away (to the displeasure of the sportsmen who frequented the area), and; new iron fence for the cemetery, rumored to have formerly been at Lafayette Park, the White House, Westminster Cathedral, or Buckingham Palace. Food, however, was still of poor quality – spoiled meats and no green vegetables – and thought to be a contributing factor to the number of desertions occurring at the time.

Bad food aside, by 1893 the army post at Madison Barracks was said to be healthier than any other in the United States – a drastic change from the days of rampant illness decades earlier – though there were again rumors of its abandonment. With the improved sanitary conditions of the post, soldiers suffering from disease contracted in the Cuban campaign of the Spanish-American War were sent to convalesce at the Madison Barracks Hospital, "to be cared for in the best possible manner."⁹ The Lake air was thought to be of special benefit to recuperating troops and recovery of the men there was deemed to be swift. Otherwise, Madison Barracks was rather empty and quiet while the Ninth Infantry served in the Philippines from 1899 – 1902, though it was re-garrisoned by a battalion of the 14th in 1901.

1901-1921

The board of general officers of the army recommended that Madison Barracks be made a permanent post for headquarters and eight companies of infantry in 1901, which was welcome news for the community, as local civilian-military relations had improved over the years. Indeed, the Sackets Harbor community warmly welcomed the now-legendary "Fighting Ninth" home from their victory in Santiago with a "hearty" reception and a ringing of chimes from the Presbyterian Church in 1902; the depleted ranks also received an ovation all along the Northern New York rail line, and a luncheon in Utica.

The Ninth Infantry Regiment, which first arrived in Sackets Harbor in 1892 after the Indian Campaigns, is arguably the most well-known of all the units ever stationed at Madison Barracks. The Ninth was again deployed to the Philippines in 1905 for two years' "eastern service" and were involved in the Philippine Insurrection, and the Boxer Rebellion – during which the regiment commander, Col. Emerson H. Liscom, was fatally wounded recovering the colors; as he passed them off to the adjutant, Col. Liscom gave



Water tower & plaque honoring the Fighting Ninth.

Photographs by C.M. Knopf 2013

⁹ *Watertown Re-Union*, Red Cross Nurses: October 5, 1898

his final command of “Keep up the Fire!” In 1903, a bronze plaque was placed on the post’s limestone water tower in memory of the Ninth’s casualties during its eastern service; five of its soldiers had earned the Medal of Honor. Sadly, the Fighting Ninth also suffered one on the home front at a 1902 Independence Day Celebration when one private lost his arm and another was badly burned about the face when, during a 45-gun salute at Madison Barracks, a gun exploded prematurely.

More enlargements and improvements to the Barracks came in 1903 (and again in 1905-1906, 1910 and 1917), with a particular eye towards athletics, which were quite important in 1903 and 1904, under orders from the Department of the East. In fact, sports continued to be a significant part of life at the Madison Barracks for years. A quarter-mile cinder track was constructed, and later a gymnasium; one of the last athletic additions to the post was an ice-skating rink in 1928 (when conditions were right, ice boating was popular on the Lake, but the wind was often too harsh for skaters on the Lake; the rink allowed for ice carnivals and races). There was also a keen interest in target practice at the post, with the regiment leading the division in 1903, the same year in which the officers and men at the post tested the new Springfield Rifle. Madison Barracks formed its own baseball league (or “tossers” as the teams were called locally) in 1918, a year after it received a YMCA building as a gift from the North Country, and local game highlights were reported faithfully in area newspapers. It hosted an athletic meet in September 1920, complete with a baseball series, track and field, boxing, wrestling, a horse show, and even a dog-tent pitching contest, tug-of-war, a three-legged race, and mule polo. During the 1930s, the sports teams of Madison Barracks competed with those from area schools, such as the Clarkson College of Technology and the Potsdam State Normal School in St. Lawrence County.

Around this same time, expeditions of officers and other officials began between Madison Barracks and the Pine Plains region 20 miles away. The Pine Plains were being considered as a site for one of the government’s proposed seven concentration army camps. The first troops arrived there for training in 1907, at what was briefly called Camp Hughes, before becoming Pine Camp in 1908, Camp Drum in in 1951, and Fort Drum in 1974. From 1908 to 1945 Madison Barracks and Pine Camp often worked together in maneuvers, co-participated in athletic events, and shared the Stony Point Rifle Range (pillboxes from the range now dot the landscape of Wehle State Park). Soldiers from Madison Barracks had recently returned from maneuvers at Pine Camp in 1910, with many dirty clothes, when the post laundry building burned; included in the \$4,000 worth of losses were the men’s shirts, khaki pants, socks, and underwear. Because it was Col. Philip Reade, commander of the 23rd Infantry and Madison Barracks who worked with community leaders of the North Country to establish the Pine Camp training grounds, Madison Barracks is considered the birthplace of Fort Drum – which today consists of 107,265 acres and supports the training and mobilization of approximately 80,000 troops each year. Additionally, General Frederick Dent Grant, who had lived at

Madison Barracks with his father and mother, Ulysses S. Grant and Julia D. Grant, until the age of two, oversaw the establishment of Pine Camp as Commander of the Department of the East. Ultimately, however, the proximity of the much healthier and larger Pine Camp was a significant factor in the eventual abandonment of Madison Barracks.

History was again made at Madison Barracks in 1906. Upon the death of Albert H. Metcalfe, Commandant of the United States Navy Yard at Sackets Harbor, his wife, Mrs.



"The Commandant's House," last inhabited by Frank P. Metcalfe.
Photograph by C.M. Knopf, 2012

Frances "Frank" Metcalfe (*ne*: Palmer), became the first and only woman Commandant of a U.S. Navy Yard. She served in this role as "caretaker" of the Sackets Harbor yard from 1906 to 1925 and was selected for the post by Rear Admiral Mordecai T. Endicott, over 22 male applicants. She placed duty first, but, as a woman, was not expected to be able to fire the guns at sunset, though she managed the daily hoisting and lowering of the flag regardless of the Harbor's harsh weather. Prior to Mrs. Metcalfe's historic service, Hannah Kennedy was a nurse at the Naval Hospital at Sackets Harbor during the War of 1812 and was possibly the only female navy nurse on record; it is unclear whether she deserted or was discharged in 1815. The only other place that women

had at the Madison Barracks military installation was "to offer suggestions as to carried meals, so that none will become monotonous"¹⁰ – a service that was sought beginning in 1917.

Though African-Americans had served in the War of 1812, making up 10-25% of the sailors in the area – including slaves enlisted by their owners, 50 blacks amongst Commodore Isaac Chauncey's best men aboard the *General Pike*, and "Black Julius" Terry who served the volunteer crew for 32-pound cannon that resisted the 1812 attack on Sackets Harbor and who lived with his family in the village until he died in 1851 – local inhabitants were not always pleased with the presence of black troops – though one regiment ingratiated itself with its band. In 1907 to 1908, residents in the Sackets Harbor and Watertown areas were quite aggravated at the possibility, and eventuality, that "colored troops will invade Northern New York."¹¹ Of course, such remonstrance was not unique to the area, as Congress was already considering an effort to legislate "negro troops out of the United States army."¹² Nonetheless, in 1908 two battalions of the Twenty-Fourth Infantry, the first black regiment ever stationed in that section of Northern New York, arrived. Residents were initially fearful so post officers enforced strict

¹⁰ *Cape Vincent Eagle*:

¹¹ *Watertown Re-Union*, No Orders Issued: July 20, 1907

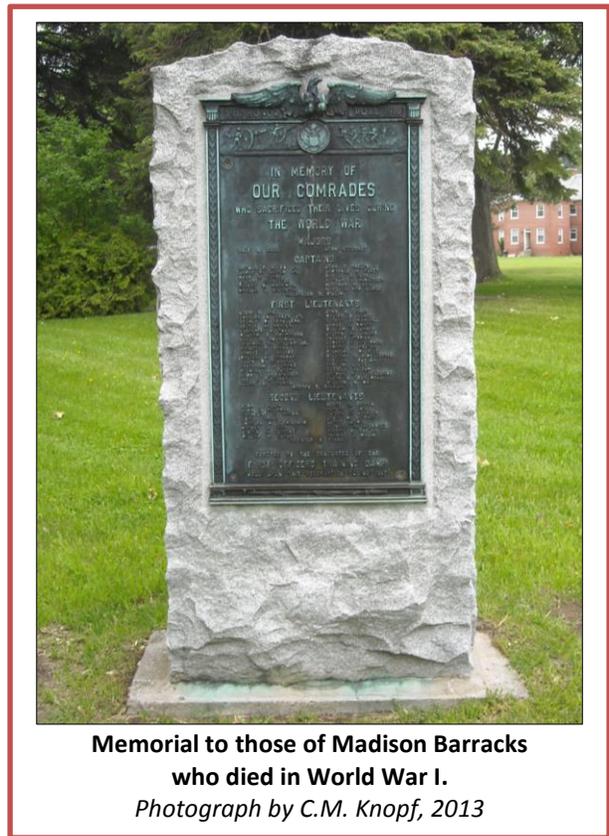
¹² *Watertown Re-Union*, Disbandment Proposed: October 23, 1907

discipline and eventually positive civilian-military relations, now also a matter of white-black relations, were restored.

The War Department threatened to abandon Madison Barracks as a military post in 1912 and 1913 – a possibility that was actively protested by the Watertown Chamber of Commerce. Not only did the post remain but by 1915 it was being considered as a site for an “aeroplane base” and as a regimental post. Though such changes did not come to pass, in 1915 Navy Point became part of the New York Naval Militia Training Station. Then, in the Great War, the Barracks were used as one of the country’s largest officers’ training camp, and as a base hospital (General Hospital Number 37, abandoned in 1919). Wartime barracks sprang up and as many as 2,500 men were housed there while being prepared to take command of 16,000 troops. The post’s bakery, said to be one the most complex of its kind in this part of the country, produced 6,000 pounds of bread each day. (In 1918, the bread was shipped by motorcar, packed tightly into 120 lbs. boxes, to a camp in Syracuse.) Each man was allowed 60 cents per day for sustenance and the camp’s daily mess included 2,500 pounds of meat, 1,000 loaves of bread, 200 dozen eggs, 1,800 pounds of potatoes, 100 pounds of coffee, and 170 pounds of dried fruit. Special meals would include fish, pork loin, veal, and Vienna sausages.

The students of the officer training camp at Madison Barracks were told by the Secretary of State that they were “living in the most momentous time in all history, in a time when the lives and destinies of nations are in the balance”¹³ – and they clearly had risen to the occasion. In May of 1917, the 2,500 students at the camp unanimously agreed to use a portion of their first month’s pay to purchase \$25,000 worth of Liberty Bonds; the plan of double service began in a training company and was known as “the Madison Idea.” Area residents were asked to do their part, too; a request was made to the people of Cape Vincent to send lonely soldier boys, far from home, a cheery word and to perhaps invite them for a day’s visit, and the Jefferson County Preparedness League started a movement to allow Sunday movies in Watertown for the benefit of the student officers.

Other wartime initiatives were also taking place at the post; the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activity determined that “a songless army would lack in fighting



Memorial to those of Madison Barracks who died in World War I.
Photograph by C.M. Knopf, 2013

¹³ R. Lansing, p. 3

spirit” and that there was “no more potent force in developing unity in an army than that of song.”¹⁴ Therefore, singing instructors were dispatched to several training camps, including Madison Barracks, to incorporate music into camp programs. Additionally, the post was made the terminal point of flights by army aviators in connection with military school of photography at Rochester; with 400 photographers reporting, the parade grounds of the barracks were used for landing, with trial photographs being taken by automatic cameras at intervals during the flights. Madison Barracks further acted as a receiving post for soldiers bringing home war brides from Europe – described as French and Luxembourg girls aged 16-21 years who enjoyed freely spending money at the area’s theaters and shops.



1922-1946

In 1922 the Second Battalion of Seventh Field Artillery replaced the infantry at Madison Barracks, requiring new stables to house the 150 horses assigned to each battery that hauled the caissons and artillery pieces. (When the artillery became motorized in the mid-1930s, even more

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changes to the post were needed, including the purchase of trucks to replace the horses and sheds to house the trucks.) The War Department instructed all post commanders that friendly civilian relations were wanted, and so the “Red Legs,” as artillerymen were known, frequently paraded their horse-drawn batteries for the people of Watertown. New war plans in 1923 brought about the formation of a Citizens’ Military Training Camp at Madison Barracks, which long remained an annual event of one month of summer training over the course of four years, fitting artillerymen for commission in the Officers’ Reserve Corps.

Continuing its tradition of athletics, particularly horse activities after the arrival of the Field Artillery, Army Olympic try-outs were held at Madison Barracks in 1922. Over the next three years, two officers’ polo teams practiced nearly year round, even in the snow using red balls, which drew crowds of spectators every Sunday. In 1928, a riding hall with jumps and rings was constructed.

Motion picture companies, such as Fox, Paramount, and MGM, visited Madison Barracks in 1930 to get pictures of the artillery and infantry men in maneuvers on the ice. In April 1932,

¹⁴ Quoted in *New York Times*, Teaching Uncle Sam’s Fighters to Sing: September, 30, 1917

Dodge Hall, which was then being used as a theater, burned during the second show, causing \$80,000 worth of damages but no casualties; a new one was soon constructed and opened its doors January 1933. That same year the Civilian Corps was inaugurated and a reconditioning camp was opened at Madison Barracks for the untrained young men. Despite all this activity, threats to abandon the post began anew; now, much to the chagrin of the area's communities who looked upon it as "a source of income and fruitful revenue"¹⁵ (while in truth the residents of Madison Barracks had long provided many other valuable services to the area – such as assisting with fires, apprehending criminals, saving drowning persons, and providing entertainment). Though it remained open, for the time, the continued threats made it difficult to obtain funds for its maintenance – though a new fire truck was acquired in 1934 in hopes of avoiding more losses to flames and the beginning of the Civil Works Administration brought with it an allocation of \$101,836, which ran out after only \$42,000 had been spent. In 1934, the post became headquarters for the ten camps within the Second District of the Civilian Conservation Corps, NY. During the largest peacetime maneuvers ever held by the American army in August 1935 at Pine Camp, Madison Barracks acted as a Base Hospital for the First Army, and one of the barracks was used for overflow of the sick.

The Public Works Administration allotted \$274,500 for a housing program in 1938 for the building of new quarters and the extension of the water supply at Madison Barracks. Cape Vincent (which had also been a site of 1812 barracks) made plans that same year for harbor improvements, in part to accommodate the equipment and resource needs for the thousands of troops at Madison Barracks and Pine Camp. A year later, the Jefferson County fairgrounds were made available to the commandant of Madison Barracks for use at any time to facilitate the movement of materials and troops to and from Pine Camp.

Madison Barracks was at its peak of operations in 1941. During World War II it was used by the National Guard and medical and quartermaster units; the western half of the post underwent fast reorganization, with many of the training camps being demolished to make room for temporary barracks to house 45 officers and over 1,000 enlisted men. It was considered one of the best equipped army camps in the nation, but at the end of the war, improvements to the post would cost \$1 million. Having outgrown it, the government ultimately decided to decommission Madison Barracks in 1945, and it was abandoned, in favor of Pine Camp, by 1946.

Conclusion

When the *New Orleans*, which had distinguished the harborscape near Madison Barracks for nearly 70 years, was sold and broken down, a Sackets Harbor resident with the initials of I.L.R. presented a poem to Mrs. Albert H. Metcalfe. While the verses initially reflected the loss of the old ship's cover-building, they now, too, capture the presence and loss of the military fortifications once known as Madison Barracks:

¹⁵ *Cape Vincent Eagle*, Madison Barracks as Permanent Post: September 28, 1933

*I've been a huge house, and during my day
Have entertained thousands in my quiet way.
Done the best I could while keeping my trust,
In shielding the ship from decay and rust;
At my post I have stood 'till I'm aged and gray,
And the Winter winds tell me I'm passing away.*

*I am old and decrepit and broken in frame,
But on my escutcheon I leave not a stain.
If as much could be said, and said in all truth,
Of the aged and the young who have passed 'neath my roof,
My timbers would yield with much less of pain,
And no one would have cause to call me cross-grain.*

*Many's the tale I could tell if I chose,
That on the ship's deck, likes under the rose.
But the ship I have kept, and her secrets as well,
And no one shall know, for I never will tell.
The strange sights I've seen, I shall never disclose
'Till my nails all drop out and I'm laid in repose.*

*When the waves are asleep on the bay's peaceful breast,
And my shadows no more on the bright waters rest,
When the weeds from the sea on the rocks mournfully hang,
When the fisherman's boat is drawn up where I stand,
When the swallow in vain shall seek for her nest,
Then the ships and their house will no longer be jest.¹⁶*

When the post first closed in 1944, Senator James Mead of Buffalo initially worked to reopen Madison Barracks as an army base hospital to handle overflow from the Utica army hospital. A housing authority took control of Madison Barracks in 1946 when the buildings were being used for low-cost, tax-free, rentals. In 1950 the possibility of turning Madison Barracks into a mental hospital, through the transfer of 969 patients from the former Sampson naval base in Geneva, NY, was discussed; residents were disappointed that the idea did not come to fruition. Madison Barracks stood mostly empty and deteriorating in 1974 when it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the fortifications of Sackets Harbor live on. At the site of Fort Tompkins and Smith's Cantonment, there is an historic state park, the Sackets Harbor Battlefield, with fifteen placards recalling the battle of 1813; over the years the site also served as a farmland (from the mid-1810s to 1910s) and as a tank farm. The 115 acres of Madison Barracks is now a residential community, spreading around the limestone walls of old Stone Row. Sackets Harbor is also home to New York State's Seaway Trail – a 454-mile stretch of Lake Erie, Niagara River, Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River that connects in many ways to

¹⁶ Quoted in the *New York Times*, Historic Navy Yard Ruled by a Woman: July 5, 1908

the history of the United States. The St. Lawrence corridor attracts millions of visitors each year and over 11,000,000 live within a three-hour radius of the area. Plaques throughout the village tell the military, and civilian, story of the War of 1812 and beyond. In the words of Mrs. William N. Meloney in 1931, “Modern roads, machinery, and many other conditions have caused Watertown to forge ahead and have left Sackets Harbor a beautiful historic spot with its many landmarks which tourists love to visit.”¹⁷

Notes:

† Other notable persons who served in Sackets Harbor during and after the War of 1812 include: Jacob Brown, who fought the British four times, with three victories and one draw, giving him the best record of any American General in the War of 1812; Winfield Scott, who earned the first victory against British regulars on an open plain during the War of 1812, at the Battle of Chippewa and who later helped capture Mexico City in the Mexican War and then developed the “Anaconda Plan” blueprint for winning the Civil War; Rear Admiral John Montgomery, who arrived at Sackets Harbor in October 1812, fought under Perry in the Battle of Lake Erie, and served as commandant of the Sackets Harbor Naval Station 1866-1869; Alexander Macomb, who was an artillery officer during the War of 1812 and succeeded Jacob Brown as commanding general of the army in 1828; Captain Melancthon Woolsey, the longest-serving commander of the Sackets Harbor Naval Station, 1815-1825, he arrived in the Harbor in 1810 with the *Oneida*; Captain George Hollins served as Commandant of the Sackets Harbor Naval Station from 1858-1860 before resigning to become a commodore in the Confederate States Navy at the start of the Civil War.

‡ A brief timeline of occupation of Madison Barracks is, roughly, select companies from:

1815-1837: Second Infantry under command of Col. Hugh Brady

1816-1821: An Artillery company under Capt. Hilerman & Lt. Leggett at Fort Pike

1838-1840: The Eighth Infantry under Col. Worth & Lt. Smith

1840-1845: The Second Infantry under Maj. Payne, Lt.-Col. Crane, & Maj. Plympton

1846-1848: Unoccupied, under Ordnance Sgt. Gaines

1848-1852: Fourth Infantry under Maj. Lee & Lt.-Col. Booneville

1852-1861: Unoccupied

1861-1864: New York Volunteers & Cavalry under Col. Camp (recruiting post)

1864-1865: Sixteenth Infantry under Lt. Clifford

1865-1866: First & Second Battalions of the Sixteenth Infantry & one company of the Fourth Infantry, under Col. Sibley, Lt.-Col. Slemmer, & Capt. Powell (HQ of the 16th est.)

1867-1876: Forty-Second Infantry (“Veterans Reserve Corps) under Second Lt. Bayne & Brevet-Maj. Gen. McIntosh

1877- 1882: Third Artillery under Gen. Robertson, Brevet-Maj. Kelley, Brevet-Brig. Gen. Graham

1882-1886 : Twelfth Infantry under Maj.-Gen. Wilcox, Capt. Egbert, & Col. Townsend

1887-1891: Eleventh Infantry under Col. Dodge

1891-1905: Ninth Infantry under Col. Bartlett, Col. Lyster, Col. Ewers, Col. Powell, Col. Robe, & Col. Regan

1905-1908: Twenty-Third Infantry

1908-1911: Two battalions of the Twenty-Fourth Infantry under Col. Paulding

¹⁷ In the *Cape Vincent Eagle*: February 5, 1931

1911-1912: Detachment of the Fifth Infantry from Plattsburgh Barracks
 1912-1916: Third Infantry under Col. Kirby & Col. Hirst
 1917-1919: Officers' training camp under Lt. Col. Sample
 1919-1921: Sixty-Third Infantry under Col. Preston, Lt.-Col. Catts, Maj.-Gen. Duncan, & Col. Alexander
 1921-1922: Thirty-Fourth Infantry under Col. Roberts & Col. Wagner
 1922-1924: Second Battalion of the Seventh Field Artillery under Maj. Pendleton, Maj. Oliphant, Col. Harts, & Maj. Greeley
 1923-1927: Citizens' Military Training Camp
 1924-1931: Second Infantry Brigade (HQ est.) under Brig.-Gen. Parker, Brig.-Gen. Traub, Lt.-Col. Bowen, Brig.-Gen. Kilbourne, Brig.-Gen. Jackson
 1926-1931: First Battalion of the Twenty-Eighth Infantry
 1931-1934: Fifth Field Artillery (155mm howitzer regiment) & Seventy-Sixth Field Artillery Band under Col. Thomas & Col. Briggs
 1934-'41(?): Second Battalion of the Seventh Field Artillery became the Second Battalion of the Twenty-Fifth Field Artillery (motorized in 1934/1935) under Col. Briggs, Col. Huntley, & Col. Murray

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