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July 19 & 20

*Le Siège French &
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August 9 & 10

*"Skirmish on the
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Revolutionary War
re-enactment*

September 12

*Star Party With
Tim Abel*



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The Early History Of Ogdensburg, New York, Traces Its Origins To Jay's Treaty (1794)

By Ted Como

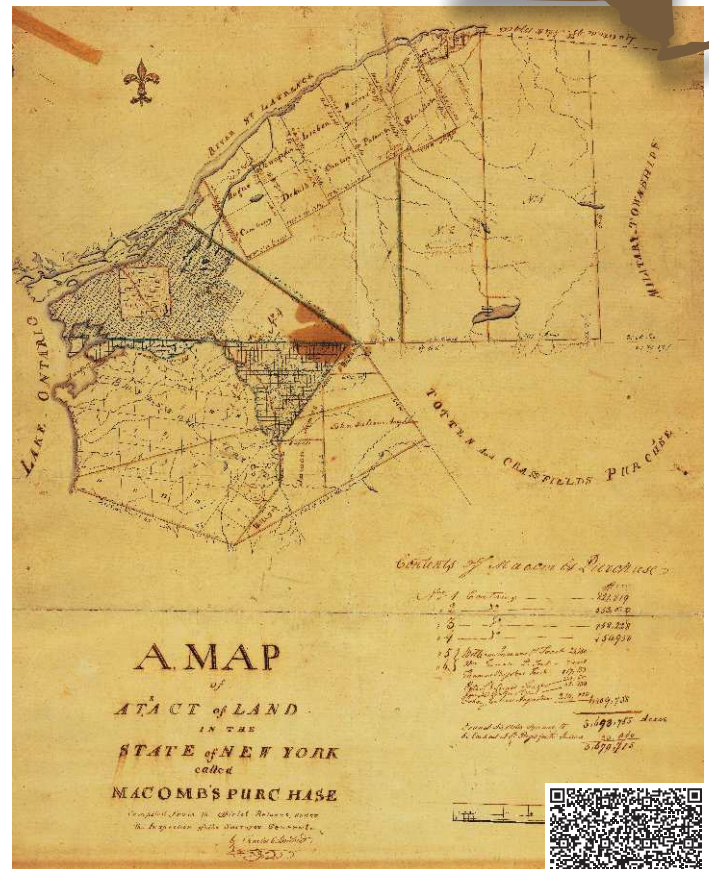
In resolving issues extant since the American Revolution, Jay's Treaty between the United States and Great Britain gave birth to the City of Ogdensburg.

The treaty was signed Nov. 19, 1794 and on June 1, 1796, the Brits packed up for Canada and figuratively handed the keys to Fort Oswegatchie to a Mr. Tuttle, agent for Nathan Ford, who arrived with his party Aug. 11 of that year.

For nearly 13 years after the close of the Revolutionary War Sept. 3, 1783, the English illegally retained possession of what began as Fort La Presentation, but which they christened Fort Oswegatchie. That prevented American settlement.

The Brits had been there since they won the French and Indian War in 1760, a total of 36 years, and during that occupation many died of various causes and a cemetery was established at the triangular block formed by Main and King Streets and Adams Avenue.

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Map of a tract of land in New York State called Macomb's Purchase. Compiled from the official returns under the inspection of the Surveyor General, by Chas. C. Brodhead. [Jefferson and Lewis Counties] **QR Code to NYS Document**

Macomb's Purchase was 3,670,715 acres in size. The tract included much of northern New York along the St. Lawrence River and eastern Lake Ontario including the Thousand Islands. The purchase was eventually divided into 10 large townships. From this purchase are derived the deeds for all the lands that are now included in Lewis, Jefferson, and St. Lawrence counties as well as portions of Franklin, Herkimer, and Oswego counties.

The Early History Of Ogdensburg, New York, Traces Its Origins To Jay's Treaty (1794) *continued*

But in anticipation of Jay's Treaty, the New York State Legislature passed an act in 1785 authorizing the sale of Northern New York.

In the Feb. 12, 1896 edition of the St. Lawrence Republican and Ogdensburgh Weekly Journal, an anonymous writer calling himself "a son of the revolution," recounted the events.

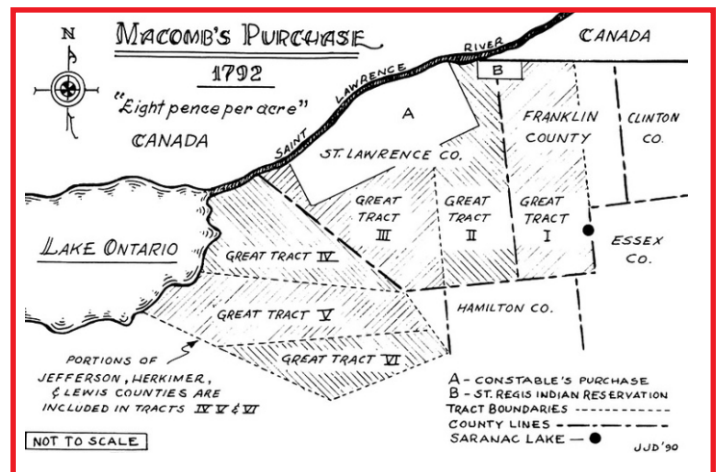
"At this time, apart from a remnant of the Oswegatchie tribe of Indians, there were not to exceed a half dozen French and English families living in the place. Plattsburgh, on the east, was the nearest white settlement with Utica on the south and Oswego on the west. The vast space between these points was a dense forest."

After the state acted to sell the land in 1786, even as the Brits occupied a piece of it, 10 townships, each 10 miles square, were surveyed with five fronting the St. Lawrence River and five in the rear. In July, 1787, sale of the land took place in New York City when John Taylor purchased nearly the whole front of the Township of Oswegatchie at 12 1/2 ¢ per acre, embracing the site on which Ogdensburg now stands.

The story reported that the original patent (a legal document issued by a government that officially grants ownership of a specific parcel) granted to John Taylor by the state

"(the original patent) is now in possession of Mrs. J. D. Judson of this city. It is written on parchment and has an impression of the state seal stamped on a composition similar to wax, and attached to the parchment by a short cord. In shape, the fob containing the seal resembles an old-fashioned English bulls-eye watch, about twice the usual size. This ancient relic ought to be secured by the city and carefully preserved in its archives for the benefit of future generations."

Does anyone know the whereabouts of this historically important patent document?



Mrs. Judson was the widow of John D. Judson who died Dec. 27, 1891 at the age of 80. He was one of 14 children of General David Judson, 1755-1818, who was born in Connecticut and raised his family at Black Lake in St. Lawrence County after he served as an officer in the Continental Army.

John D. Judson was for many years a clerk in the Village of Ogdensburg and for 22 years worked for the Ogdensburg Bank. In connection with his brothers David C. and Daniel, he established the Judson Bank. He was said to be prosperous in business and a public-spirited citizen and generous man, and was popular with the people of the city and surrounding country.

"The American settlement proper commenced with the arrival Aug. 11, 1796 of Nathan Ford, his slave Negro Dick, John Lyon and family, Thomas Lee and Richard Randolph. They took possession of the old French barracks and set up house there. From this humble beginning, the Oswegatchie settlement increased and soon became a village of no mean importance, and was called Ogdensburgh in honor of Samuel Ogden, then owner of the place, though he never set foot in it.

"The old barracks, erected by Father Picquet in 1749, became very conspicuous during the days of pioneer life, they having sheltered and protected the representatives or occupants of three separate nations. They served the French as a military post and Indian missionary station, the English as a garrison to protect their fur and lumber trade, and the Americans as a dwelling, schoolhouse, church, court house and jail as well as a military station," the anonymous writer stated.

The Early History Of Ogdensburg, New York, Traces Its Origins To Jay's Treaty (1794) *continued*

"This historic fort and barracks were burned by British raiders (during the War of 1812) on Feb. 22, 1813, and all the incidents of importance connected therewith have passed into history.

Ogdensburg, like all frontier towns, had an irregular march in the line of progress during the period of Black Salts and lumber businesses (black salts, also known as potash or caustic soda, were used by early settlers for various purposes including making soap, glass, gunpowder, and bleach.)

"But after the completion of the Northern Railroad in the fall of 1850, the village took a fresh start and business of all kinds increased to such an extent that in 1868, the population having reached 10,000, it was incorporated a city, being the first and only one on the American shore of the St. Lawrence River," he wrote.

Progress continued until Ogdensburg reached its peak in 1930 when the population reached 17,000.

Over the next 30 years, the city lost a thousand residents long before Urban Renewal was proposed in 1960. Then, in just five years from 1960 to 1965, the city lost another 1,000 residents bringing the population to 15,000. Urban Renewal demolition began in December, 1971 and from 1965 to 1975, 1,000 more residents left, dropping the population to 14,000. It took 20 years or until 1995 to lose the next 1,000 and another 1,000 left between 1995 to 2005, leaving the population at 12,000. Ten years later in 2015 it was down to 11,000, in 2020 it was just over 10,000 and today, it's about 9,000

- Ted Como is a member of the board of the
Fort La Presentation Association.

Ogdensburg's Population Decline

- 1930: 17,000
- 1960: 16,000
- 1965: 15,000
- 1975: 14,000
- 1995: 13,000
- 2005: 12,000
- 2015: 11,000
- 2020: Just over 10,000
- Today: Around 9,000 people live there.

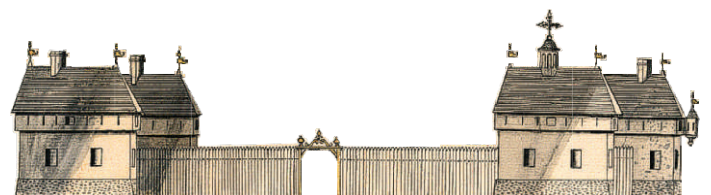
Fort La Presentation, Supporting the Community

The drop in population, as noted above, is due to the loss of industry and businesses in the region which has lead to high poverty levels. The Fort La Presentation Association wants to become a historic & cultural destination that will contribute to the regional economy.

The Northern New York Region, Is Extremely Rich In History.

The Fort La Présentation Association holds a series of events during the year. One small event generated \$10,818. in local revenue. The Association plans to recreate a larger historical venue to draw more visitors. The association will create an accurate replica of Fort de La Présentation at the site of the original 1749 fort, collect, document, protect, preserve, interpret, local and regional history & culture, become a regional destination, promote cultural & historical tourism.

The historical tourism market, also known as heritage or cultural tourism, is a growing segment of the tourism industry. It involves travel focused on exploring and appreciating a region's history, culture, and traditions. This includes visiting historical sites, monuments, museums, and experiencing local customs and practices. The market is experiencing growth due to increased interest in cultural preservation, rising disposable incomes, and the desire for authentic and immersive travel experiences.



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13669
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Le Siègue *Skirmish on the Oswegatchie*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *Star Gazing At The Fort* ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Three Event Summer At The Fort

The Fort La Présentation Association is proud to announce three upcoming events:

“Le Siegue”- July 19, and 20th 2025, a French and Indian War Reenactment (Seven Years War). The siege of Fort Levis was, in effect, the last river battle of The French and Indian War on the St. Lawrence. Jack Downing will be presenting a demonstration of Making a Dug-Out Canoe. St. Lawrence County Legislator Jim Reagen, author of *“Warriors of Fort Presentation”* will be provide a narration of the battle.

“Skirmish on the Oswegatchie”- Aug 9 and 10, 2025 is the first Revolutionary War event to be held at the Fort. At the end of the French & Indian war the British took control of Fort La Présentation and renamed it Fort Oswegatchie and used it as a base of operations through the American Revolution. Jack Downing will be presenting a demonstration of **Making a Dug-Out Canoe.**

For the first time, members of the **Native North American Traveling College**, will be here to present two programs, the First will be connection of treaties and the meaning of wampum ,the second is a Community Social- involving a Stomp Dance relating to the culture and history of the Mohawk people. Jim Reagen, will be provide a narration of the battle.

The gates open for both La Siegue and Skirmish at 10:00 AM on Saturday and Sunday. The gates close at 4:00pm on Saturday and 2:00pm on Sunday. The admission price of \$5.00 for adult and \$2 for children (ages 6-16) Free admission for children on Sunday with paid adults.

“The Star Gazing Party”-September 12, 2025, The Star Gazing Party has become a yearly event enjoyed by the public. Our resident Astronomer Tim Abel will return to help our visitors learn about the constellations, stars and planets viewed through his telescope. The event is free and open to the public. Bring your chair and your personal viewing equipment, if you desire and join us. The rain date is September 13, 2025.

22 Albany Avenue, Ogdensburg New York

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