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Rotary Club of Old Town, Maine: A History -- 1927-1944

Old Town Rotary Club

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ROTARY CLUB

OF

OLD TOWN, MAINE

Club No. 2697

District No. 193



A HISTORY

1927 - 1944



"He profits most who serves best"

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FOREWORD

The facts concerning the origin, growth and development of Old Town Rotary Club, together with the story of significant events related here were gathered from official club records, contemporary reports in the press, District Governors' letters and personal recollections of original club members. They are submitted with the hope that they may interest Rotarians whose membership began in recent years.

It is also hoped that a survey of the experiences through which the Club has passed may prove useful in avoiding pitfalls and in constructive efforts towards building a stronger and more influential organization.

Acknowledgement is made for the help received from the painstaking work of those men who have served the club as Secretaries. While little of public acclaim is associated with the work of the Club Secretary, any attempt to draw an accurate picture of what has come to pass would be useless without it. We are indebted to our Fellow Rotarians of the Bangor Club, and particularly to Felix Ranlett, Past President, for needed information and for access to the files of the Bangor Public Library. The notes of Old Town's own charter member, James Sewall drawn from his diary covering the first five years of the club's existence have been very helpful.

ORGANIZATION

One of the duties of ARTHUR H. SAPP, President of ROTARY INTERNATIONAL for the year 1927-28 was performed on November 9, 1927, when he placed his signature upon the charter of the OLD TOWN ROTARY CLUB, thus conferring upon a group of business and professional men in Old Town's locality the rights, privileges and duties pertaining to a unit of a virile and rapidly growing organization. The charter, numbered as 2697, was completed by the signature of the already veteran Secretary, of the world girdling movement, "Ches" Perry. While these official acts were of a routine nature, they were preceded by real "spade-work".

Principles of Rotary extension had been formulated by Rotary International Board of Directors and in accordance with them the Bangor Rotary Club assumed the work of surveying the field and sponsoring the club if it were formed. On August 28, 1927, a meeting was held at the Kukunsook cottage of James Sewall to discuss the feasibility of forming a Rotary Club in Old Town. Dr. Sullivan C. Andrews, then District Governor of the Thirty-eighth Rotary District, Messrs. Wilfred Finnegan and Savage of the Bangor Club, with Old Town's Mayor, John Hickey and James Sewall, constituted the group. Soon after this a meeting of citizens of Old Town locality was held at Old Town municipal court room and at that meeting, fifteen men signed an application for a Rotary Club Charter.

Wilfred Finnegan, an active and forceful member of the Bangor Rotary Club had rendered the service of interviewing prospective charter members. The date of the application was September 6, 1927.

Pending action upon the application by the Board of Directors of Rotary International, a provisional club was formed under the leadership of William A. Waterhouse, presiding officer, and Samuel Cutler, Secretary. The provisional club held luncheon meetings on Thursdays at Elks' Hall.

Formal records covering the short preliminary interval between the charter application and the charter presenta-

tion were not available for consultation, but letters from the Chicago Secretariat are preserved bearing dates as early as November 2, 1927.

These letters give clear evidence of the cordiality with which Old Town's application for membership had been received, and also of the care exercised to be of maximum helpfulness to the new club as it took its initial steps into the Rotary world.

CHARTER PRESENTATION

A representative group of the citizens of Old Town locality, a large delegation from the Bangor Rotary Club and notable guests from other Maine cities graced Elks' Hall on the occasion of the formal presentation of the Charter to the officers and members of the newly organized Rotary Club on the evening of November 29, 1927.

A banquet in caterer Spruce's best tradition was enjoyed by one hundred and forty persons. The post prandial ceremonies were presided over by John Hickey, Mayor of Old Town and president of the new club. The first guest to be presented was Bangor's "W. J." Moulton, President of his home club and President of the Bangor Theological Seminary. He voiced a warm welcome to the new club, to which President John responded. President W. J. presented each member of the Bangor club. Each responded by giving his name and classification. Mayor John Wilson of Bangor presented a thought provoking discussion upon "The Political Duties of Members of Service Clubs in Relation to Their Communities." It had been planned that District Governor Sullivan L. Andrews should present the charter, but the serious illness of his son in Philadelphia made it necessary to change this feature of the program.

Past District Governor Herbert C. Libby, Mayor of Waterville acted in place of Governor Andrews. Armed with statistics, and bubbling over with wit, Past Governor Libby set forth the fact that the Old Town charter was the twentieth to pass through his hands to clubs in Rotary District Number Thirty-eight, a statement indicating a rapid growth of the Rotary movement in Maine.

The Old Town Club was the thirty-third to be chartered in the District.

The actual transfer of the engrossed document into the hands of the president of the new club was made by Wilfred Finnegan of the Bangor club, since hailed as the "God-Father" of the Old Town Club.

When called upon by President John, Wilfred responded happily and placed the charter in President John's hands. Congratulatory letters were read from the Fort Kent and Waterville clubs in Maine and the Amesbury club in Massachusetts.

Music and dancing terminated the historic occasion.

The Thirty-Eighth District embraced the clubs then existing in Maine together with two clubs in New Hampshire and one in Massachusetts.

**ROSTER LIST OF CHAPTER MEMBERS, ROTARY
CLUB OF OLD TOWN, MAINE
Closed 6 September, 1927**

*To the Secretary of Rotary International, 221 East Cul-
lerton Street, Chicago, Illinois
(Via District Governor's Office)*

The following have been duly elected to and have accepted charter membership in the Rotary Club of *OLD TOWN, MAINE*.

It is agreed that during the first year the new club shall elect not more than three new members in any one calendar month and that no new members shall be admitted until the club has been elected to membership in Rotary International.

Averill, Albert G. (Bert)
Partner, A. G. Averill Company
Insurance—Fire
80 N. Main Street, Old Town, Maine
R. 32 High Street

Bergeron, Almanzar A. (Al)
Self
Osteopathy
46 N. Main Street, Old Town, Maine
R. 30 Fifth Street

Bussell, Stephen R. (Rex)
Partner, S. J. Bussell & Son
Logging
222 N. Brunswick Street, Old Town, Maine
R. Same

Chapman, Ralph W. (Ralph)
Proprietor
Electric Machinery Manufacturing
60 Centre Street, Old Town, Maine
R. 22 Oak Street

Cutler, Israel R. (Ira)
Proprietor, Cutler's Women's Shop
Women's Clothing Retailing
60 N. Main Street, Old Town, Maine
R. 43 Oak Street

Cutler, Samuel M. (Sam)
Partner and Manager, Edwin Cutler
Men's Clothing Retailing
70 N. Main Street, Old Town, Maine
R. 197 Centre Street

Desjardins, George R. (George)
Proprietor
Leather Specialties Retailing
68 Centre Street, Old Town, Maine
R. 122 S. Brunswick Street

Goodwin, Virgil H. (Virgil)
Treasurer and Manager, Chapman Fibre Company
Wood Fibre Products Manufacturing
North Main Street, Old Town, Maine
R. 28 Webster Avenue, North, Bangor, Maine

Hickey, John H. (John)
Proprietor
Insurance—Life
58 N. Main Street, Old Town, Maine
R. 19 High Street

Latno, Dr. Arthur P. (Arthur)
Self
Physician and Surgeon
50 S. Main Street, Old Town, Maine
R. Same

Libby, Dr. Lewis S. (Doc)
Self
Dentistry
105 Centre Street, Old Town, Maine
R. Milford, Maine

Lunt, Charles E. (Charles)
Proprietor
Crockery and Glassware Retailing
154 N. Main Street, Old Town, Maine
R. Same

Needham, Stanley F. (Stan)
Self
General Law Practice
58 N. Main Street, Old Town, Maine
R. 72 Oak Street

Sewall, James W. (Jim)
Proprietor
Forestry Service
147 Centre Street, Old Town, Maine
R. 332 Stillwater Avenue

Waterhouse, William H. (William)
Proprietor
Real Estate Agency
North Main Street, Old Town, Maine
R. 7 Bradbury Street

We the officers of the Rotary Club of Old Town, Maine, do hereby certify that this list constitutes the charter membership list and agreements of THE ROTARY CLUB OF OLD TOWN, MAINE.

JOHN H. HICKEY,
President.
SAMUEL M. CUTLER,
Secretary.

ROTARY CLUBS IN THE THIRTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT AT THE TIME OF OLD OWN'S ADMISSION

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|------|
| Portland | Chartered | 1915 |
| Augusta | " | 1916 |
| Lewiston-Auburn | " | 1917 |
| Bangor | " | 1917 |
| Waterville | " | 1918 |
| Bath | " | 1918 |
| Houlton | " | 1920 |
| Biddeford-Saco | " | 1920 |
| Skowhegan | " | 1922 |
| Fort Fairfield | " | 1922 |
| Sanford-Springvale | " | 1922 |
| Newburyport | " | 1923 |
| Presque Isle | " | 1923 |
| Portsmouth | " | 1923 |
| Rockland | " | 1924 |
| Dover | " | 1924 |
| Damariscotta-Newcastle | " | 1924 |
| Eastport | " | 1924 |
| Calais | " | 1924 |
| Caribou | " | 1924 |
| Belfast | " | 1925 |
| Brunswick | " | 1925 |
| Camden | " | 1925 |
| Kennebunk | " | 1925 |
| Farmington | " | 1925 |
| Gardiner | " | 1925 |
| Rumford | " | 1925 |
| Westbrook | " | 1925 |
| So. Berwick | " | 1926 |
| Fort Kent | " | 1926 |
| Washburn | " | 1927 |
| Milo | " | |

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 1928 Attendance of President-elect "REX" Buzzell at the R. I. Convention at Minneapolis.
Joint meeting with the Milo Club at Milo.
Joint meeting with the Belfast Club at Northport
Joint meeting with the Milo and Belfast Clubs at Old Town.
- 1929 Old Town High School Basketball Team was entertained at Luncheon.
Official visit of District Governor Bernard Archibald, May.
Official visit of District Governor David McIntosh, October.
- 1930 Ex-Governor Brewster was guest speaker on May 15.
President-elect Chase was delegate in attendance at the R. I. Convention in Chicago.
- 1931 Death of Dr. Arthur Latno, third President of the club.
Joint Meeting with Belfast Club, at Belfast, September.
Tudor Gardiner, Governor of Maine visited the club and discussed the State Code, October.
- 1932 Death of Dr. F. L. O. Hussey took from the club membership a valuable member.
- 1933 Fee for admission to membership reduced from twenty to five dollars.
The club became responsible for providing ten quarts of milk daily to children who needed it.
- 1935 Joint meeting with Houlton club was held at Lincoln.
- 1936 Redistricting operations resulted in the division of District Number 38. Old Town and twenty-four other clubs in southern and western Maine (QUEBEC was included), New Hampshire and Massa-

chusetts were formed into District No. 193, while clubs in Aroostook and Washington Counties were included in District No. 192.

- 1937 Average annual attendance dropped to a low record of 68.50 per cent.
- 1941 One hundred per cent attendance maintained throughout the month of September.
- 1942 Inspiring visit from District Governor Arthur Legueux.
- 1943 Citation for bravery was earned by Sam Shiro, mobilized member of the club serving with the U. S. armed forces in Italy.
- 1944 Total club membership reached FIFTY-THREE. Club received R. I. President's citation for noteworthy achievements.
Senator Owen Brewster addressed the club at the annual meeting and ladies' night. His theme was "Post-War Problems".

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE DATA

The total number of men whose names have appeared upon the Old Town club roster during the seventeen years of the club's existence is one hundred and fifteen.

The tables and graphs indicate the growth in membership, and the percentage of, at the regular meetings.

In August, 1937, Old Town reached the foot of the attendance list for the District with an average of 58.06.

TOTAL ACTIVE, ADDITIONAL ACTIVE
Past Service and Honorary Members

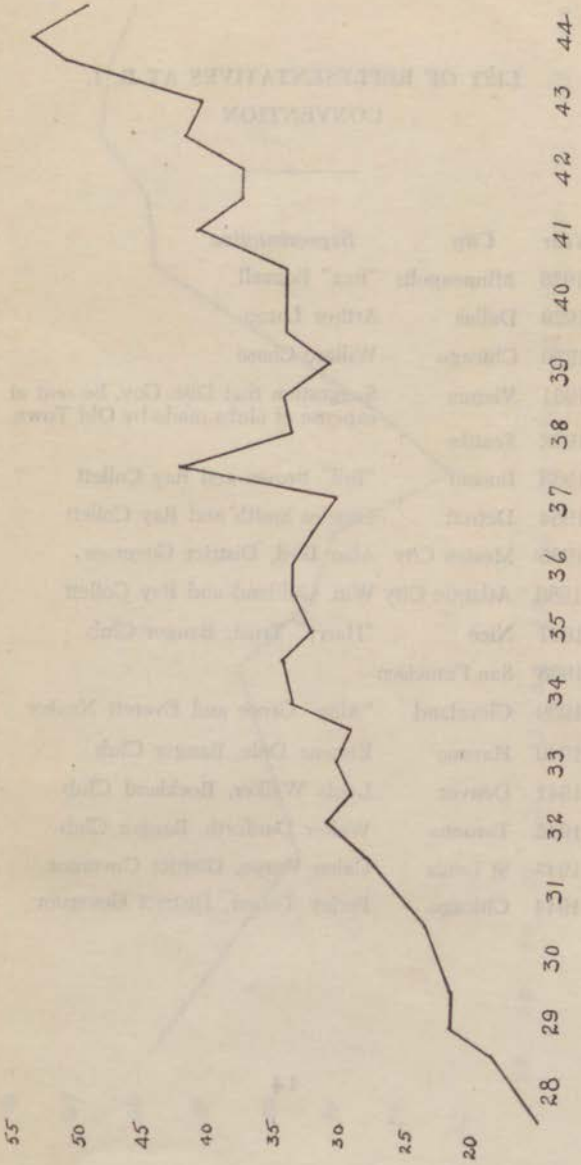
as
OFFICIALLY REPORTED TO R. I.

| | | | |
|--------------|----|--------------|----|
| Jan. 1, 1928 | 15 | Jan. 1, 1937 | 33 |
| July 1, 1928 | 17 | July 1, 1937 | 31 |
| Jan. 1, 1929 | 19 | Jan. 1, 1938 | 42 |
| July 1, 1929 | 22 | July 1, 1938 | 38 |
| Jan. 1, 1930 | 22 | Jan. 1, 1939 | 39 |
| July 1, 1930 | 23 | July 1, 1939 | 37 |
| Jan. 1, 1931 | 24 | Jan. 1, 1940 | 39 |
| July 1, 1931 | 26 | July 1, 1940 | 39 |
| Jan. 1, 1932 | 28 | Jan. 1, 1941 | 39 |
| July 1, 1932 | 31 | July 1, 1941 | 42 |
| Jan. 1, 1933 | 29 | Jan. 1, 1942 | 40 |
| July 1, 1933 | 30 | July 1, 1942 | 40 |
| Jan. 1, 1934 | 29 | Jan. 1, 1943 | 43 |
| July 1, 1934 | 33 | July 1, 1943 | 42 |
| Jan. 1, 1935 | 35 | Jan. 1, 1944 | 52 |
| July 1, 1935 | 33 | July 1, 1944 | 53 |
| Jan. 1, 1936 | 34 | Jan. 1, 1945 | 50 |
| July 1, 1936 | 34 | | |

AVERAGE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE
Calendar Years

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1928 | 88.93 | 1937 | 68.53 |
| 1929 | 84.44 | 1938 | 73.40 |
| 1930 | 80.63 | 1939 | 81.38 |
| 1931 | 77.91 | 1940 | 91.00 |
| 1932 | 78.84 | 1941 | 92.43 |
| 1933 | 79.52 | 1942 | 96.37 |
| 1934 | 82.04 | 1943 | 94.89 |
| 1935 | 77.80 | 1944 | 94.42 |
| 1936 | 75.48 | | |

SEE GRAPHS—PAGES 13 AND 15



LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES AT R. I.
CONVENTION

| <i>Year</i> | <i>City</i> | <i>Representative</i> |
|-------------|---------------|---|
| 1928 | Minneapolis | "Rex" Buzzell |
| 1929 | Dallas | Arthur Latno |
| 1930 | Chicago | Willard Chase |
| 1931 | Vienna | Suggestion that Dist. Gov. be sent at expense of clubs made by Old Town. |
| 1932 | Seattle | |
| 1933 | Boston | "Bill" Brown and Ray Collett |
| 1934 | Detroit | Charles Smith and Ray Collett |
| 1935 | Mexico City | Alan Bird, District Governor |
| 1936 | Atlantic City | Wm. Gilliland and Ray Collett |
| 1937 | Nice | "Harry" Trust, Bangor Club |
| 1938 | San Francisco | |
| 1939 | Cleveland | "Allie" Grose and Everett Nealey |
| 1940 | Havana | Eugene Dole, Bangor Club |
| 1941 | Denver | Louis Walker, Rockland Club |
| 1942 | Toronto | Walter Danforth, Bangor Club |
| 1943 | St Louis | Galen Veayo, District Governor |
| 1944 | Chicago | Perley Turner, District Governor |

100

95

90

85

80

75

70

65

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

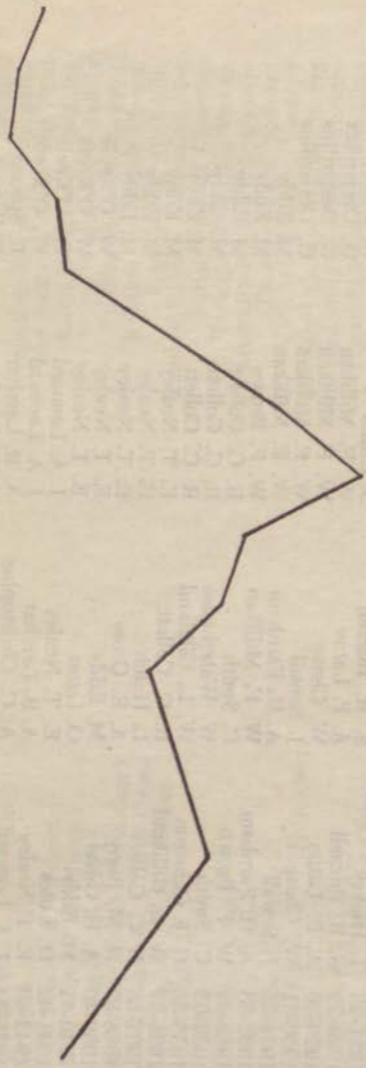
40

41

42

43

44



LIST OF OFFICERS FROM TIME OF ORGANIZATION

| Year | President | Vice President | Secretary | Treasurer |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1927-28 | J. Hickey | S. R. Buzzell | S. Cutler | G. Desjardins |
| 1928-29 | S. R. Buzzell | A. P. Latno | W. F. Millikan | G. Desjardins |
| 1929-30 | A. P. Latno | W. Chase | W. F. Millikan | G. Desjardins |
| 1930-31 | W. Chase | J. Sewall | W. F. Millikan | G. Desjardins |
| 1931-32 | J. Sewall | A. H. Farnham | W. F. Millikan | M. Eddy |
| 1932-33 | A. H. Farnham | W. F. Millikan | W. F. Brown | M. Eddy |
| 1933-34 | W. F. Brown | C. Smith | R. C. Collett | M. Eddy |
| 1934-35 | C. Smith | W. Waterhouse | R. C. Collett | M. Eddy |
| 1935-36 | C. J. Cameron | W. L. Gilliland | R. C. Collett | M. Eddy |
| 1936-37 | W. L. Gilliland | R. C. Collett | E. T. Nealey | M. Eddy |
| 1937-38 | R. C. Collett | L. Hatch | E. T. Nealey | M. Eddy |
| 1938-39 | H. M. Berry | A. E. Grose | E. T. Nealey | M. Eddy |
| 1939-40 | A. E. Grose | M. Eddy | E. T. Nealey | W. O'Keefe |
| 1940-41 | M. Eddy | O. Lutes | E. T. Nealey | W. O'Keefe |
| 1941-42 | O. Lutes | E. T. Nealey | J. A. Leonard | W. O'Keefe |
| 1942-43 | E. T. Nealey | A. B. Larchar | J. A. Leonard | W. O'Keefe |
| 1943-44 | J. A. Leonard | A. G. Christopher | A. B. Larchar | R. Spruce |
| 1944-45 | A. G. Christopher | L. Hatch | A. B. Larchar | R. Spruce |

ROSTER JANUARY 1, 1945

Classifications

Averill, Albert G. (Bert)
 Bazata, Arthur (Art)
 Bergeron, Almanzar A. (Doc)
 Boyd, John (John)
 Brooks, Francis X. (Francis)
 Brown, Wirt W. (Brownie)
 Buzzell, Stephen R. (Rex)
 Christopher, Arthur G. (Arthur)
 Clark, Thomas W. (Tom) Orono
 Collett, Ray E. (Ray) Brewer
 Craig, Alfred E. (Al)
 Cyr, Harvey (Harvey)
 Deane, Philip (Phil)
 Dennis, A. L. (Roy)
 Eddy, Maynard (Eddy)
 Farnham, Albion H. (Al) Brewer
 Fernandez, O. B. (Bill)
 Fish, Stanley A. (Stan)
 Goldsmith, A. L. (Abe) Orono
 Goldsmith, Harry M. (Harry)
 Goldsmith, Samuel A. (Sam)
 Gray, S. Braley, Jr. (Braley)
 Gray, Maurice (Maurice)
 Grose, Albert E. (Allie)

Law, General Practice
 Recreation, Bowling
 Therapeutics-Physical, Osteopathy
 Food Industry, Grain and Feed
 Radio Equipment, Retailing
 Furniture, Retailing
 Lumber Industry, Logging
 Religion, Protestant Church
 Engineering, Hydraulic
 Lumber Industry, Manufacturing
 Burial, Funeral Directing
 Transportation, Bus Service
 Therapeutics-Physical, Optometry
 Transportation, Railroad
 Finance, Banking
 Lumber Industry, Manufacturing
 Recreation, Motion Picture Theatre
 Automobile Industry, Retailing
 Insurance, Fire Insurance
 Women's Clothing, Retailing
 Chemical Industry, Cosmetics retailing
 Ships & Nautical Equip., Boats & Canoes, Mfg.
 Chemical Industry, Proprietary Medicine, Mfg.
 Electrical Industry, Light & Power Service

Hardy, Verne (Verne)
 Harvey, John Milton (Milt)
 Hatch, Lynwood S. (Lyn)
 Hooper, Henry S. (Doc)
 Huntley, C. Ivan (Ivan)
 Jordan, M. L., Jr. (Lin)
 Keith, Edward (Ed)
 Kent, Frank H. (Frank)
 Larchar, Arthur B. (Arthur)
 Leonard, Joseph A. (Joe)
 Libby, Lewis S. (Doc)
 Myers, Frank (Frank)
 Nealey, Everett T. (Doc)
 O'Connor, Thomas S. (Tom)
 O'Keefe, Wilfred C. (Doc)
 Parkhurst, Lester
 Sewall, James W. (Jim)
 Spruce, Raymond J. (Ray)
 Stevens, Ora B. (Doc)
 Sylvester, Fred M. (Fred)
 Viola, Thomas (Tom)
 Whittier, Raleigh G. (Rolly)

Leather Industry, Shoes Manufacturing
 Machinery & Equipment, Machine Shops
 Paper Industry, Wood Pulp Mfg.
 Paper Industry, Wood Pulp Mfg.
 Burial, Casket Manufacturing
 Lumber Industry, Box Mfg.
 Paper Industry, Wood Pulp, Mfg. Add Active
 Education, Elementary Schools
 Past Service
 Education, Public Schools
 Medicine, Dentistry
 Photography, Commercial Photography
 Burial, Funeral Directing
 Electrical Industry, Electrical Equipment
 Mineral Oil Industry, Fuel Oil Industry
 Wool Industry, Woolen Goods Mfg. Add Active
 Forestry, Forest Engineering
 Food Industry, Groceries, Retailing
 Paper Industry, Wood Pulp Mfg.
 Automobile Industry, Garage & Service Station
 Education, High Schools
 Wool Industry, Woolen Goods Mfg.

Members in the Armed Service of Their Country

Lt. Comdr. Hinman, Havilah E., U. S. N. R.
 Lt. Davis, Walter, Jr., Army
 1st Lieut. Shiro, Samuel H., U. S. A. R.
 Major Ward, Ierdell, U. S. A. R.