

- MT 1. ^{orig.} Letter from Mrs. Wm Selden @ with bk. by Rich. L. Selden (1827-1915)
 2. ^{Copied} Notes @ road leading from Mansford landing to Allau Mill
- MT 2-4 as The Falls. - Also letter to M.T. @ " "
- MT 3. ^{orig.} letter from Wm. Hill Baxter re. Reynolds Arcade & ^{former} Tenants
- MT 4 ^{orig.} letter from Douglas McMurrie @ The "Fred Folio" title
- MT 5 2 " " " " @ Imprentis - Ithaca + Auburn
- MT 6 ^{orig.} letter asking @ a John Stanley who painted Indians
- 7 " " from Phila @ mention of Poinsett in Roch. ^{Daily Advertiser} Sept 1839
- 8 " " from Mary Mulligan @ Tablet marking site of ^{old} Liberty Pole
- 7a " " from Phila. @ Joseph Robert Poinsett - U.S. Secy of War 1839
- 8 ~~memo @ The County Gaol situated on Hughes St.~~
- 9 ~~Biographical sketch of Wm. Hill Baxter from ^{Who's Who in Amer.} vol 18, 1934-35.~~
- MT 10 ^{orig} letter from Dexter Peckens @ "Oranus Turner".
- 11 ~~Copy of Geo's incorporating Rochesterette, Moh. Co., part of Town of Burlington - 1817-1834~~
- MT 12 ^{orig} letter from Geo. Lewis @ Orsemas Turner - in Coldwater Cemetery
- MT 13 2 ^{orig.} letters from H. Belyea (Sax. Univ.) asking for inform. @ Edw. Doyle - author of "Doyle's Improved Pocket Reckoner"
- MT 14 ^{orig} letter from Father Bray re. sources of information on Turner who was mixed up in Morgan affair
- MT 15 ^{copy} letter from Mrs. H. Slater asking for info. on ^{Wm. Lyon Mackenzie} John Montgomery
- MT 16 ^{orig} letter from Lockwood Doty @ his father + The Abell House
- ~~Osgood 17 letter bet Osgood & Capt. Kelton re. Brit. Evacuation of 1796~~
- 18. ~~Dates from Dem. @ early days also 1 from Union + advertisement 1878~~
- M.T. 19 Letter to Morley T. asking if he knew Howard Patterson
- " 20 " " @ an aside of his - " not impo.
- MT. 21 " " @ bronze plate made by Robt Fein '54 (note in The Camp)
- MT 22 " " @ Tench Cox

~~23 Note @ marriage of David Watson & Polly M. Bebee
m. in 1829 by Rev. Gideon Lanning in Methodist
Epist. Church.~~

M.I. 24 ^{orig} letter from Arthur Parker @ Mao Todor Tibio
N.T. 25 ~~4~~ " to Turpin @ ? from M. Cooper - (2) from Edw. Foreman
M.I. 26 letter from n.y. state lit @ Pickering Papers.

Us good

~~27 list of dates re. Roch. - Perrysburg. - Post Lawrence~~

M.I. 27 ^{orig} letter to M. Turpin - @ Jedediah Morgan
from Lt. of Michigan.

~~28~~

The Democrat & Chronicle's

Sunday Magazine

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1943



By Arch Merrill

He opens the

PORTALS OF THE PAST

DID you know that in Rochester there lives a man who: Has spent half a century doggedly digging into the life story of Rochester's first settler, Ebenezer Allen; whose career has been virtually dedicated to rescuing that frontier miller from historical obliquity and oblivion!

Will pursue, for years if necessary, a single, seemingly obscure point needed to complete a historical pattern, burrowing into thousands of musty old documents, traveling to out-of-the-way places, reading countless books, writing hundreds of letters, interviewing scores of people!

Has named hundreds of Rochester's streets, among them the one on which he resides, and knows the name sources of the rest of them?

Rattles off dates and historical statistics along with long forgotten events and persons as glibly as a baseball "bug" recites the exact number of home runs Babe Ruth hit in a given year?

Appeared as a character in a Kipling novel?

Has in his back yard an offshoot from the tree from which reputedly was fashioned the crown of thorns that nearly 2,000 years ago was pressed upon the brow of Jesus of Nazareth on Calvary?

* * *

THIS remarkable Rochesterian, who hereby is nominated as the most persistent and single minded seeker after historical truth in these parts is Morley Beebe Turpin.

This slightly built, gray haired man is no longer young, but mention "Indian" Allen, or in fact any historical subject, and into his mild blue eyes will flash the same glint you see when you tell a dyed-in-the-wool angler the trout are running in the Wiscoy or the collector of antiques that there is a genuine Sheraton tip-top table in a certain farmhouse in the Bristol Hills.

Maybe the fact that Morley Turpin was born in the Third, most colorful and historic of Rochester wards, accounts for his absorption with the long ago.

Maybe it is because his roots go back so deeply into the past of Rochester, for his grandfather, James Beebe came here in 1817 when the settlement by the falls of the Genesee was a tiny one indeed.

More likely it was his early friendship and close association with the late George H. Harris, one of Western New York's ablest historians, that set his feet on the path he was to tread so many years. Young Turpin was fatherless. Harris had no son. The older man transmitted to the youth some of his love for the history of this land and trained him in the meticulous ways of the true historian.

Why did he become interested in the life of that strange frontier character, Ebenezer Allen?

Because there was so little known about Rochester's first settler and because other historians had dismissed Allen as a bigamous, Tory scoundrel without bothering to delve into his real story. This treatment of the first man to harness the water power of the Genesee aroused in Turpin a burning desire to



Here in a characteristic pose, scanning a pair of ancient documents, is Morley B. Turpin, nominated in this article as Rochester's "most persistent and single minded seeker after historical truth."

find out all there was to know about the pioneer miller.

His lifelong quest led him from Court House to Court House, from library to library, to strange trails in two nations. By infinite pains and patience he finally pieced together, bit by bit, the only comprehensive account we have of our first settler. Turpin waded through some 4,000 documents—legal papers, family Bibles, faded letters and diaries, store-keeper's ledgers—and corresponded with Allen descendants and historians all over the country.

There was no trail too dim for him to follow and much of his lore came from the lips of old people in remote places.

Despite Allen's service in Butler's Rangers against the colonists in the

Revolution, despite his unorthodox matrimonial record, Turpin concluded that Ebenezer Allen was a man of considerable business acumen, of great force of character, of unquestioned personal bravery—pretty much a creature of his environment and that environment was the rough frontier.

In time the wheels of many mills ground the wheat of the Genesee Valley in the Flour City but Allen's was the first. Although he was a Tory in the Revolution, Turpin found, that in his last days in Canada, Allen incurred the displeasure of his neighbors by espousing the American cause in 1812.

Many picturesque tales cluster about the lusty Allen. Most of them, Turpin found, were as fantastic and as little founded on fact as the one that has the

miller, finding himself with one wife too many, pushing one of them noisily and chalanly into the Genesee.

Allen called three women wife but he was legally married to only one of them, Lucy Chapman, mother of Seneca Allen, who Turpin maintains was the first white child born in Rochester. The first mate of the miller was Sally, the daughter of an Indian chief, who bore him two daughters. Turpin took a picture of the grave of one of them, Mary Chow, who is buried near Delaware, Ontario, Canada.

The third "wife" was Milly Gregory and although there is no record of ring or parson, she presented Allen with six offspring.

* * *

ALLEN'S life in Canada after he left the Genesee country has particularly interested Turpin. The pioneer died at Delaware, Ont., in 1816 but his last resting place is unknown. That is what is keeping Morley Turpin awake nights. For three years he has spent his leisure time in Canada searching for Allen's grave. From old papers he learned that the miller was buried "on the north side of the River Thames, west of Komoka Creek bridge and opposite the old home of Daniel Springer."

That sounded easy but alas, he found Springer had lived in five different dwellings. He combed the neighborhood of each, some ten square miles in all, but he failed to find Allen's grave. He did uncover the ruins of Allen's old grist mill and brought home a piece of the millstone.

But don't imagine Morley Turpin has given up. He has some new clues and as soon as possible, is going back to Canada to renew the quest.

He has uncovered many hitherto unknown facts about Rochester's first industrialist. But he has found no record of Allen's birthplace. He believes it was England but only documented evidence satisfies historians of the Turpin breed. So there is another blank space to be filled in to complete the Allen entry in his log of history.

As it is, he has six notebooks, full of neatly typed sheets, in his Indian Allen dossier.

Despite his devotion to the Allen saga, he has had many other interests.

Part of his job during 39 years at City Hall in charge of records in the city engineer's office was the naming of new streets. Before he retired in 1934 he had named scores of them, just how many he does not know.

Turpin lives on Braddock Street near the intersection of Fanley Street in Charlotte. He must survey the street sign at the corner with something of an inward glow for he named both streets. He chose the name Braddock because the thoroughfare pointed toward Braddock's Bay and Henley because the day he named it was Apr. 23, in 1917. Shakespeare was born on Apr. 23. The bard lived on Henley Street in Stratford-on-Avon. Hence a little one-block long street in Charlotte came to be called Henley Street.

Continued on Page 18

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THE ROCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Office of
EDWARD R. FOREMAN
CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE
MUSEUM BUILDING, EDGERTON PARK

January 31, 1929.

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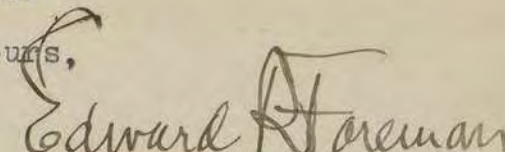
Mr. Morley B. Turpin,
City Hall,
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Morley:

Please forgive my tardiness in answering your letters of March 5th and 18th. At the time your enquiry came as to the Hanford Landing road, we did not have the Northampton records in our possession. Upon their return, I have had notes copied for you which cover your enquiry.

It was very kind and thoughtful of you to send us the copy of the Mackenzie agreement, which is a valuable item.

Cordially yours,


Edward R. Foreman.

ERF/AHC

Enclosure.



ARTHUR C. PARKER
DIRECTOR

ROCHESTER MUNICIPAL MUSEUM

EDGERTON PARK

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

November 8, 1927

Mr. Morley B. Turpin,
59 Braddock St.,
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Turpin:

Thank you for calling my attention to the article on the mastodon tibia, and the failure of the reporter to give you credit. Had you called me by telephone or in any other way informed me of the discovery, and I had given an interview, you would have been given full credit. As matters stand I did not even know that you had anything to do with the find. My first information came from a subordinate who said that James Angle knew of a mastodon bone at some point near Chautauqua Lake. Your name was not mentioned, and, therefore I cannot be held to account for not giving you credit.

When the bone was brought in the reporter, Mr. Angle, asked me to hold it for a picture. That was all I had to do with it. I gave no interview and made no statements. Your fight is not with me.

It may interest you to know that only a week before I secured a mastodon tusk from near the same place. As yet I have made no statement about it, but if I do I will quote your discovery.

Mr. Morley B. Turpin

-2-

Nov. 8, 1927

Before Mr. Foreman was taken ill he mentioned the railroad papers which you had secured and turned over. I thought him highly appreciative for he spoke in glowing terms of the historic interest of your gift. I assume that the Rochester Historical Society at some official gathering will draft suitable resolutions of thanks. Do not blame the Historical Society, however, for the incident of the mastodon bone. The Museum and the Historical Society are two distinct bodies and under separate administrations.

Allow me at this time, however, to thank you for your interest in our institution and to say that I regret that you should have been slighted by the newspaper. I think you have just cause for complaint against it.

Very truly yours,


Director.

THE DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN
63 EAST HANCOCK AVE.
DETROIT

RT. REV. HERMAN PAGE, D. D.
BISHOP

Feb. 14, 1931

Mr. Morley Bebee Turpin,
No. 52, City Hall,
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Turpin:-

Your letter has come during Bishop Page's absence from the City, and so I am answering it. I am very glad to tell you that Trinity Church, Monroe, is still going strong. In fact on the 30th and 31st of May they will celebrate their one hundredth anniversary. The name of the Rector is Rev. Ralph B. Putney.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret E. Cooper
Sec. to Bishop Page

ENGINEITE

(With Green Cap)

for Automobiles

ENGINEITE

(With Red Cap)

for Heating Systems, etc.

HOWARD E. PATTERSON

Automotive Accessories

624 South Michigan Boulevard

Chicago, Illinois

Feb. 28th, 1931.

Morley B. Turpin, Custodian of Records,
Department of Public Works,
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Friend:--

I was born in Rochester, in the old Larson home, which at the present time is No. 39 Atkinson St., where Greenwood Ave. starts and runs into Troup St. My father died when we were living at No. 1 Greenwood Ave.

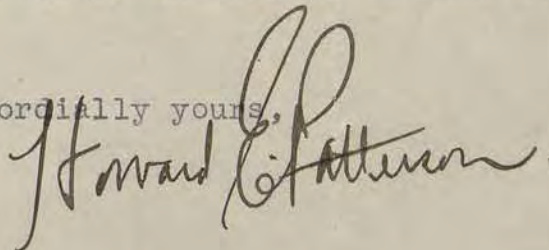
I lived in Rochester until I was nearly of age and came West and the entire family moved out here and have been Westerners ever since.

"One of the boys" in the neighborhood was Morley Turpin, whom I remember well, also his mother. They lived on Greenwood Ave., in the second house from Atkinson, I believe. I saw the name Morley Turpin in connection with an article published in the "Democrat and Chronicle" and it immediately struck me that possibly he was the same Morley whom we boys knew, else he might be a son of our old friend, and I am writing out of curiosity to know whether you may be the Morley Turpin of my boyhood days, or his son, and I should be interested in having a word from you.

My brothers were Jerome and Ellmore. There were three of us.

With kind regards and hoping to hear from you at your convenience, I am

Cordially yours,



HEP/LD

Encl. (1)

In any reply, address—
"THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL,
GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,
SOMERSET HOUSE,
LONDON, W.C.2."

and quote:—

P.S.R.4/30.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,
SOMERSET HOUSE,
LONDON, W.C.2.



16th January 1930.

Sir,

I am directed by the Registrar-General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo and to say that he regrets he is unable to assist you in the matter. I am, however, to draw your attention to the enclosed form S.5 respecting the records relating to the events prior to the Introduction of Civil Registration in England and Wales (which came into operation on the 1st July 1837) deposited here.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

John R. Campbell

M. B. Turpin Esq.,
Department of Public Works,
Office of the Director,
Bureau of Design & Construction,
City of Rochester,
New York.

DOUGLAS C. McMURTRIE

2039 LEWIS STREET
CHICAGO, ILL., U.S.A.

October 12, 1936

Mr. Morley B. Turpin, Archivist
University of Rochester Library
Rochester, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Turpin

I am much obliged to you for your note of October 9th, with a new Ithaca title for my records, and with an inquiry about an Auburn title of 1855.

Unfortunately, I can give you no information about the "Fred Folio" title. It is beyond the date range of my interest in Auburn titles and, furthermore, has a new York imprint.

Have you tried the Union Catalog of the Library of Congress for information? Or the Rare Book Room of the Library of Congress? Mr. V. V. Parma, curator of the Rare Book Room, is a mine of information about rare and curious books.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas C. McMurtree

DCMcM-AHA

DOUGLAS C. McMURTRIE

2039 LEWIS STREET
CHICAGO, ILL., U.S.A.

July 20, 1936

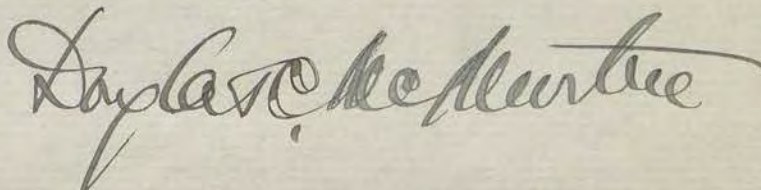
Mr. Morley Bebee Turpin
University of Rochester
Rush Rhees Library
Rochester, New York

Dear Mr. Turpin:

Thanks for checking my "Short Title List of
Ithaca Imprints" against the holdings in your
Library, and for sending me the additional loca-
tions as well as the "Oneida Almanack" title.

Very sincerely,

D.C.McM:MAT

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas C. McMurtree". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "D.C.McM:MAT".

DOUGLAS C. McMURTRIE

2039 LEWIS STREET
CHICAGO, ILL., U.S.A.

December 29, 1936

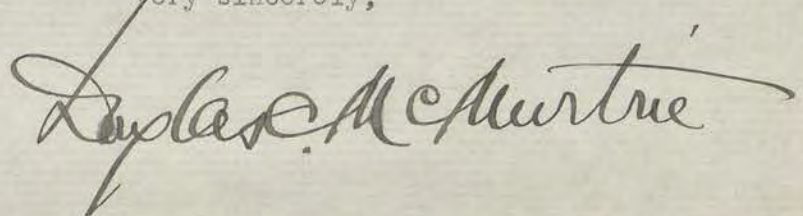
Mr. Morley Bebee Turpin, Archivist
The University of Rochester
Rush Rhees Library
Rochester, New York

Dear Mr. Turpin:

Thanks most cordially for your note of December 21,
transmitting full description of an Auburn imprint of
1850. I knew of this title in two other libraries,
but did not have as adequate a description of it as
you have provided.

With appreciation of your courtesy and with best
wishes for the New Year, I am,

Very sincerely,



DCMcM:BS

MICHIGAN STATE LIBRARY
LANSING

MRS. GRACE S. McCLURE
STATE LIBRARIAN

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO MICH. STATE LIBRARY

May 2, 1935.

Mr. Morley, Bebee Turpin,
University of Rochester,
Rush Rhees Library,
Rochester, New York.

My dear Mr. Turpin,

For information about James M. Stanley we are referring you to Biographical Sketches of American Artists, published by the Michigan State Library, also to the National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, Vol. VI., page 467. We have been unable to find anything about a painter John Stanley who painted pictures of Indians. However, isn't there a possibility that the picture was copyrighted by someone other than the artist? I know that some of the reproductions of pictures by Edwin Austin Abbey are copyrighted by Gertrude Abbey. Gertrude may not be the name, though that is as I recall it. Anyway the copyright was taken out by a woman, and that is printed on the picture.

I trust this suggestion may be of service to you.

If you do not have access to the books mentioned I shall be glad to make a copy of the material for you, as there is not a great deal in either book, but undoubtedly you have both books.

Very truly yours,
MICHIGAN STATE LIBRARY

Cora E. Lindow
Art and Music Department

CEL:L



CORN EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK
AND TRUST COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA June 13, 1936

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO

Professor Morley Bebee Turpin, Archivist
The University of Rochester
Rush Rhees Library
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Professor Turpin:

Many thanks for your welcome letter of June 12! I deeply appreciate all the trouble you took in my behalf.

Yes, I would like to have the notices from the Rochester Daily Advertiser photostated which appear in the numbers of that issue for September 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, 1839, and should be glad to promptly forward to you the price of these photostats as soon as I have received them from you. It is, of course, unnecessary that the whole paper should be photostated - merely the sheet thereof on which the accounts appear of the celebrations, *and where Poinsett's name is mentioned.*

I thank you very much in advance for your kindness in this matter, which I hope that I may some day have the opportunity to reciprocate.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Lyon Chandler
Charles Lyon Chandler

P. S. It is the intention of Dr. Edwin J. Pratt and myself to present the Rush Rhees Library of the University of Rochester with a complimentary copy of our book just as soon as it is published.

Seven hundred and eighty-eight East Avenue
Rochester, New York

Dear Mr Turpin

The tablet, marking the site
of the old Liberty Pole is to be placed
next Wednesday afternoon, May
thirteenth at three o'clock. I hope
you can be present. We want the
occasion to remain in the memories
of our citizens as one of importance.

Sincerely

Mary D. Mulligan

May 9th



CORN EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK
AND TRUST COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO

May 23, 1936

*Referred to
only in
[unclear]*

ans

The Librarian
University of Rochester
Rochester, New York

Dear Sir:

I am anxious to obtain as complete information as possible regarding the visit of Joel Roberts Poinsett to Rochester on September 4, 5, and 6, 1839. He was then United States Secretary of War and came to Rochester with President Van Buren. It is my recollection that they were given a public reception or dinner of some kind in Rochester on September 5, 1839, concerning which I am anxious to secure as complete details as possible.

It occurred to me that they might be in the contemporary newspapers in your University Library. I should be glad to pay any reasonable and customary fee to have this material copied for me to be used in a biography of Poinsett which Dr. Edwin J. Pratt of Harvard and I are writing.

I am known to Professor Dexter Perkins of your History Department.

Thanking you very much in advance, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Charles Lyon Chandler

Charles Lyon Chandler
Assistant Cashier

*Member
American Historical
Association*

CLC:EN



THE ROCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM BUILDING, EDGERTON PARK
PHONE GLENWOOD 2324

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

July 4, 1936.

Mr. Morley P. Turpin
University of Rochester Library
Rochester, New York.

Dear Mr. Turpin:

This is simply to confirm our conversation of some weeks ago with regard to your article on "Orsamus Turner." I want you to know that we recognize you as among the most valuable of our counsellors and friends. I hope we can have the article by October 15. Will this be practicable for you?

Cordially,

Dezler Perkins

GEORGE CURTIS LEWIS
LAWYER
SAVINGS BANK BUILDING
LOCKPORT, N. Y.

July 31st, 1935

Mr. Morley Bebee Turpin
University of Rochester
Rochester, New York

My dear Mr. Turpin:

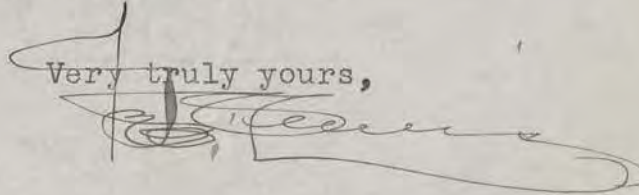
I was glad to receive your communication of the 29th inst., and agree with you that Orsemus Turner played an important enough part in the early history of this community so that his grave should be properly marked and I will take it up with the Historical Society, of which I am a Director, at its Fall meeting to see if something cannot be done.

Another noted citizen buried in Cold Springs is Jesse Hawley, who commenced advocating the building of a cross state canal as early as 1808 and published a series of letters which attracted the attention of DeWitt Clinton and others, although it took the force of Clinton to carry the plan through. I believe his grave is marked in a way, but there should be something there to show his connection with ~~the~~ great water way.

You perhaps would be interested to know that Mark Hopkins, the California millionaire and associate of Leland Stanford, Collis P. Huntington and Charles F. Crocker was formerly our Village Clerk and owned a lot at Cold Springs Cemetery in which his brother Henry is buried; but Mark Hopkins' remains are somewhere else.

Potter Palmer also at one time ran a dry goods store here in Lockport so you see our little community has had some distinguished citizens; and noting your connection with the University of Rochester may I also add that Washington Hunt, former Governor of the State, received his degree of LL.D. from Rochester University at the first commencement when awards were made.

Very truly yours,



Geo. C. Lewis,

K. T. H.



THE NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF FORESTRY
AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

SAMUEL N. SPRING, DEAN

DEPARTMENT OF FOREST MANAGEMENT

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

JOSEPH S. ILLICK
CARLYN C. DELAVAN
HAROLD C. BELYEA
JOHN C. SAMMI

October 15, 1936.

Mr. Morley B. Turpin, Archivist
Rush Rhees Memorial Library
University of Rochester
Rochester, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Turpin:-

May I trouble you somewhat further in the matter of the copy of Scribner's Ready Reckoner, Edition of 1849, which is in your files and which we discussed briefly during my recent visit.

Sometime in the near future and at your convenience when you have a stenographer available, could you have her make a copy from this book of the following?

1. The title page - complete
2. The review or statement from the Hartford Courant which as I remember is part of the Preface and follows in the page after the title page.
3. The introduction which Scribner wrote describing his method of constructing log. It occurs toward the middle of the book where he has diagram showing board ends in the end of a log and follows for a couple of pages just before his table setting forth the board foot contents of logs.

As I told you before, nobody seems to know who J. M. Scribner was, where he lived, what he did for a living, when and where he died. That he was a mature and educated man by 1846-49 seems to be evident. Beyond or before that - nothing. It is possible that we might learn something from Miss Fisher. Apparently her father, George W. Fisher, must have had some contact with him. The first handbook printed by Fisher using the Scribner Rule was printed in Rochester in 1849 about two years before she was born. But she grew up with these Scribner handbooks and when her father died in 1895 he willed them and their proceeds to her.

When she was a mature woman of 30 (in 1882) her father made the change in the handbooks, shifting from the Scribner Log Rule to the Doyle Log Rule. There must have been some reasons to which she was cognizant. Again we know nothing regarding the author of the Doyle Rule, who he was, where he lived, what was his business, when and where he died. We know nothing regarding his education or even his connection with the lumber business.

When I discussed the matter with you, I told you that I was willing but loath to interview Miss Fisher because I, as a stranger, might

M. B. Turpin

-2-

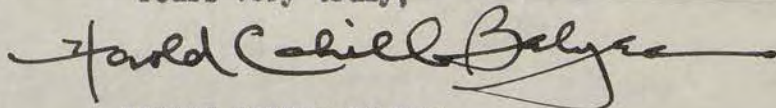
10/15/36.

confuse her and very little might be gotten out of a single interview, whereas on the other hand if the conversation of her intimates could be steered into these channels over a period of time, then a considerable amount of forgotten information might be brought to light.

It might be interesting from your point of view to find out if, when George W. Fisher willed his book to his daughter, there were any other papers or letters in connection with it which might be available and of interest from an archive's point of view.

I trust that sometime soon I may have another opportunity of discussing this matter with you. In the meantime, may I thank you for your kindness and consideration.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold Cahill Belyea". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

HAROLD CAHILL BELYEA
Associate Professor of Forest Management

M



DEPARTMENT OF FOREST MANAGEMENT
JOSEPH S. ILLICK
CARLYN C. DELAVAN
HAROLD C. BELYEA
JOHN C. SAMMI

THE NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF FORESTRY
AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
SAMUEL N. SPRING, DEAN

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

October 17, 1938.

Mr. Morley Turpin
Archives Department
University Library
University of Rochester
Rochester, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Turpin:-

I trust that since my visit last June you have been able to get some information in a biographical way in the matter of Edward Doyle, the author of Doyle's Improved Pocket Reckoner which was published in Rochester from 1825 to 1854. I want you to know that I am still interested in Edward Doyle and would appreciate hearing from you in the matter.

*Sarrows
1860*

Also if you are able to pick up any more extra copies of the early editions of the Doyle or Scribner books I would appreciate opportunity being given to acquire them for our College of Forestry and departmental libraries.

Yours very truly,

Harold Cahill Belyea

HAROLD CAHILL BELYEA
Associate Professor of Forest Management

M

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH
LOCKPORT, N. Y.

REV. JAMES B. BRAY, PASTOR

April 9, 1935.

Mr. Morley B. Turpin,
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Turpin:- Your kind letter of the 5th inst, received. It was very generous of my old professor, Msgr. Hartley, to speak so well of me. Distance, or time, must lend enchantment, for I fear in my younger days, as one of his pupils, I must have been the occasion of many a weary sigh when he looked down upon me from his rostrum.

My historical collection is rather general, than local. In picking up material on the Niagara Frontier, however, I have secured some of the early county histories and an extensive and rare collection on the Morgan affair.

I find Turner lived in Lockport from 1822, when he came here from Palmyra, and lived here until his death in 1855. While not continuously, yet he was for the greater part of the time, in the newspaper business.

From the Letters of Wm.L.Stone on the Anti-Masonic excitement (New York, 1832) and the Biography of Elie Bruce (Louisville, 1861) he was mixed up in the Morgan trouble.

In Beer's History of Niagara County (New York, 1878) he is mentioned as one of the twenty-one original members of the first Masonic Lodge which was established in Lockport, Aug., 1822. Pool, in his Landmarks in Niagara County (1897) copied much from Beer's history. He has an additional reference to Turner: he was inspector of the common schools in 1824.

In the Souvenir History of Niagara County (1902) a more extended notice of Orsamus Turner is found and also a good half-tone photo of him. It states that the first issue of his paper was dated Sept. 26, 1822.

I might add that I have Cusick's Sketches of the Six Nations that was printed by Turner and McCollum, Lockport, 1848. And also Dark Days on the Frontier of Western New York, by his brother, Chipman P. Turner, Buffalo, 1879.

I shall be glad to have you come to see me, and if I can be of any further service, or my library to you, don't hesitate to command me. I shall have one of our photographers make a copy of the half tone, if you wish it.

Sincerely yours,

James B. Bray

Hunt, N.Y. July 13 1937

Mr. Morley B. Turpin:
University of Rochester,
Rochester, N.Y.

Rush Rhees Library.

Dear Mr. Turpin:

As I have been unable, so far, to obtain the book, "The Life and Times of William Lyon Mackenzie and the Rebellion of 1837-38," published by Charles Lindsay; will you kindly give me a bit of information regarding the same? W.L. Mackenzie King informed me that some facts I seek may be found therein. I remember you also suggested I read the book, but I have been unable to get it as I mentioned.

Just what connection does the writer say Mr. Montgomery had with Wm. L. Mackenzie?

Does he mention a Captain Harrison connected with the rebellion, of his coming into New York State, probably by Rochester etc. He may have been with Mackenzie. Is there any mention of his death?

Also does he mention the reward for the return of Mr. Mackenzie or what office he was offered and he accepted, when he was later recalled to Canada?

If any of these are mentioned, are there any connecting dates?

I am trying to establish certain dates connected with Mr. Mackenzie as well as some other facts. Are there any descendants of John Montgomery, where are some of them located? Also were there any of Mr. Mackenzie by that name, any sons?

Does the book mention a Sam Sibley in any way connected with the same affair?

I shall be very grateful for any information you may be able to give me. As yet I have been unable to locate anything concerning the Gregories, of whom you wrote, other than that found in the Livingston County History, of an early date (not Doty's). I shall keep it in mind to write you in event I do find anything of interest to you. Am enclosing a self-addressed envelope for reply.

Thanking you for the trouble, I am

Sincerely yours

Mrs. Hiram E. Slater,
Hunt, N.Y.

LOCKWOOD R. DOTY

COUNSELOR AT LAW

GENESECO, NEW YORK

October 21, 1936

Morley Bebee Turpin
Rochester, New York
% Rush Rhees Library

Dear Sir:

I am very grateful for the contents of your letter of the 14th inst. containing a copy of a letter from my father to Thurlow Weed which is a very interesting contribution to my collection.

You are quite right in locating the Abell house. It was, as you say, on the Geneseo- Mt. Morris road in front of the old Williamsburg burial ground. The brick house burned several years ago.

I beg to remain,

Very sincerely yours,
Lockwood R. Doty
Lockwood R. Doty

Lrd;jt

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA
1300 LOCUST STREET
PHILADELPHIA

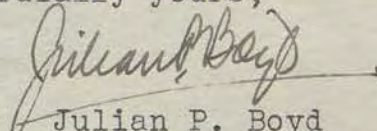
April 20, 1936

Mr. Morley Bebee Turpin, Archivist
Rush Rhees Library
The University of Rochester,
Rochester, New York

Dear Mr. Turpin:

Concerning your letter of February eleventh in which you say that you formerly had written a letter to this Society, asking for information relative to Tench Coxe, I regret to state that the letter has never been received. If you will send me a copy of it, I shall be glad to send you any references I find to him.

Cordially yours,


Julian P. Boyd
Librarian

B:P

The Picket Line Post
and **The Mount Morris Union**

HARRY M. ROLISON
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR

Mount Morris **New York**

**LEADING NEWSPAPER
IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY**

GUARANTEED CIRCULATION

September 23, 1932.

M. B. Turpin,
Rochester.

Dear Mr. Turpin:

Your valued favor of the 9th inst. was duly received, but it was not answered, as we have been trying to locate more papers containing your most interesting article. We have been unable to find any copies of that edition, however, and all we can send you is our working file, along with your manuscript, under separate cover. The edition was completely exhausted carrying this article.

Several persons have spoken about your article, and we are sure it was duly appreciated by many readers, as well as by the writer, and we should like to have the opportunity of printing any other such article that you may prepare in the future.

Very truly yours,

THE PICKET LINE POST
& MOUNT MORRIS UNION

H M Rolison

FORTY-FIVE NORTHVIEW AVENUE
UPPER MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

Nov. 28 1935.

Prof. M. D. Turpin,
Rochester Univ.
Rochester, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Turpin: I heartily thank you for your letter of the 22^d inst. and the copy of "The Campus" giving an account of the "bronce plate" made by my blind Uncle, Robert W. Funn, '54. Knowing how much casting, in plaster and metal, my Uncle did, I am wondering if your plate was not cast rather than "carved"?

However that may be, great "human interest" attaches to the plate and to its maker. My Uncle, after living for many years with my father & mother at

Pittston, Pa., died in 1913, my father
in 1921. My mother, still living
here with us, would doubtless recall
your name, but now, approaching
her 94th birthday, her memory is
largely gone. Your name has a fam-
iliar sound to me, and will surely
be recalled by my brother, Robert
W. Fenn, now living in Lindsay,
California, to whom I am mailing
your letter & paper. If I get to
Rochester someday, I shall hope
to call upon you.

Cordially yours,
Courtney H. Fenn

OFFICE OF THE
REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS

[TMM] LCS:RL

tm

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
COPYRIGHT OFFICE
WASHINGTON

December 3, 1936

Dear Sir:

In response to your letter of November 16, this Office informs you that a search in Vol. 6 of the copyright records of the Federal District Court for the Northern District of New York discloses approximately three entries in the name of J. M. Scribner. Vol. 6 covers the period February 16, 1845—April 27, 1848. Among the entries found was one covering a work entitled "Engineer's and Mechanic's Companion." The present search did not disclose any entry of a work entitled "Log Book." It is to be noted especially that the copyright records of this court as recorded in the volumes around the period mentioned above do not give the address of the copyright claimant but merely state generally that the claimant is from the particular district of the court. If nevertheless you desire us to continue our search in the district court records to locate entries of the works which you mention, please so advise, stating the period of time to be covered so that a search fee can be estimated as suggested in the enclosed letter slip No. 9.

No charge is being made for the present search.

Enclosure:
L. S. 9

Respectfully,

G. L. Bouvé

G. L. Bouvé
Register of Copyrights

Morley Bebee Turpin, Archivist
The University of Rochester
River Campus
Rochester, N.Y.

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THE ROCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

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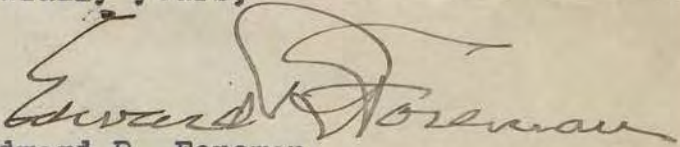
February 19, 1929.

Mr. Morley B. Turpin,
39 Braddock Street,
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Morley:

I have requested the publisher to send you a copy of Volume VII, with my compliments. This is a slight token of appreciation for your gifts to the Society and for your constant interest in its affairs.

Cordially yours,


Edward R. Foreman.

ERF/EVH

CITY OF ROCHESTER

NEW YORK



OFFICE OF THE CITY HISTORIAN
MUSEUM BUILDING, EDGERTON PARK.

September 19, 1929.

Mr. Morley B. Turpin,
39 Braddock Street,
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Turpin:

I enclose herewith copy of a Memorandum on the Centennial of Rochester, 1934, and a proposed History of Rochester, to be issued that year.

You are invited to contribute ^{to} the chapter on Public Utilities in Rochester.

Also, your opinion is requested on the various Chapters as set forth in the Memorandum. Any suggestions or criticisms you may make will be much appreciated.

I hope that you will answer at your earliest convenience.

Cordially yours,

Edward R. Foreman.
City Historian.

ERF/EVH
Enc.

The University of the State of New York

New York State Library

James I. Wyer, Director

Manuscripts and History Section

Edna L. Jacobsen

Head of Section

Albany, N. Y. 4 April 1930

Mr. M. B. Turpin
No. 52, City Hall
Rochester, New York

My dear Mr. Turpin:

The Pickering Papers to which you refer in your letter of April 1 are manuscripts and are in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society. As far as I can learn they have never been printed.

In 1896 the Massachusetts Historical Society published an historical index to the Pickering Papers which is v. 58 of the Society's Collections. We have this index and could lend it to you through the Rochester Public Library, but if you wish to see the Papers it will be necessary for you to go to the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston.

Yours very truly,

Marian P. Wiltse

MPW:MER

Marian P. Wiltse
Ass't, Mss and Hist. Section

192 Oxford Street.

Dear Mr. Turpin -

As I have
just been able to
locate the second
hand book stop, I
am sending in the
address at once -

Rev. James Hamilton
349 Clarence Street
London - Canada -

I trust this will
be satisfactory to
you -

With kindest regards
I remain to Mrs. Susan
Klein -

Sincerely
Arthur C. Ball

October 17th

ans
Nov 6 - 28

My father also prepared all, or nearly all, of the material for an Intellectual Arithmetic during the winter of 1857-58, which he handed over to Mr. Fish to be published. Mr. Fish had it published as his own work and got the credit and the pay for it, so father's name did not appear in either book.

We cannot at present lay our hand on a copy of this book, so I cannot give the exact title, or date of publication. Am not sure who published it, but presume the same company.

Wm. A. Selden,

Nov. 8, 1935.

Le Roy, N. Y.

My father, Richard L. Selden,
(1827-1913) furnished a good many
of the problems and some other
material for "Robinson's Progressive
Practical Arithmetic."

Which was entered according to
Act of Congress, in the year 1858, by
Horatio N. Robinson, L.L.D.,

and again in the year 1863, by
Daniel W. Fisk, A.M., in the Clerk's
Office of the District Court of the
United States, for the Northern District
of New York. And published by
Trison, Blakeman, Taylor & Co.

138+140 Grand St.,
New York.

133+135 State St.,
Chicago.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

COLLEGE OF LIT., SCIENCE AND THE ARTS

DEPT. OF ANTHROPOLOGY

October 19, 1935.

My dear Mr. Turpin

I hope that by this time Bill is well on his way to recovery.

Thank you very much for your notes on Jedediah, and also the copy of the letter from the County Clerk of Auburn (i.e., Cayuga Co.). I wonder if that "3/4 of an acre, Lot. 34, Scipio," is the lot on which the Morgan house, now in the Village of Aurara, stands ?

In writing to Dr. Gilchrist some time ago about photostats, I was wondering if we couldn't find some professor at University of Rochester who could put a graduate student to work on Morgan's career in the State Legislature, as a thesis, e.g. It might be a professor of history, or law, or maybe even something else. Don't you think that would be a good idea ? It would be worth while, training for the student in the methods of research, etc. Do you know of anyone who would be interested in having a student do some work on this topic ? Thanks for letting me know about the Journal of the N.Y. State Senate. I shall want to see them sometime, but perhaps I shall wait until my next visit to Rochester.

I have been writing around the country trying to locate letters written by Morgan. So far I have located two sets, and feel sure that I shall find more. I am going to arrange to have them photostated for your archives at the Library. It will greatly enhance the value of your already priceless collection of Morganiana.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Leslie A. White

Jim still smoking "Phillies."

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

COLLEGE OF LIT., SCIENCE AND THE ARTS

DEPT. OF ANTHROPOLOGY

October 9, 1935.

Mr. Moreley B. Turpin
University of Rochester
Rochester, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Turpin

I have been wondering if you ever heard from the County Clerk at Auburn about the data at which Jedediah Morgan acquired the property in the Village of Aurora ?

Also, can you tell me the name of the man who represents the district which includes Rochester in the Legislature in Albany now, and his address ?

I applied to Mr. E. R. Foreman for information concerning Morgan's career in the Legislature, but apparently that will have to be "dug out" from somewhere, somehow. You don't happen to know of anyone in Rochester, some local historian, who would like to undertake to do this, do you ?

Hope you had an enjoyable and profitable vacation. I know you must very busy now. How is the biography of Allen coming ?

Hope this finds you well. Best regards to Mrs. Turpin & Bill.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie A. White

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

COLLEGE OF LIT., SCIENCE AND THE ARTS

DEPT. OF ANTHROPOLOGY

September 19, 1935.

Mr. Moreley B. Turpin
Library, University of Rochester
Rochester, New York

My dear Mr. Turpin

This will probably arrive in Rochester shortly before you return from your vacation. I left just a week ago today. I certainly did have a wonderful time there -- even though I almost froze one or two days! I am planning to go back again as soon as I can.

Perhaps you will have heard from the Clerk in Auburn about the time at which Jedediah Morgan acquired the house in the village of Aurora.

I am going to try to carry on this work a little bit this winter by mail. Any suggestions you may have will be more than welcome.

I certainly hope that you had a pleasant and profitable vacation. Please remember me to Mrs. Turpin and tell Bill "Hello" for me. I can't tell you how much I appreciate your many kindnesses to me while in Rochester.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie A. White.

The following copies of entries in the Northampton Town Records will respond to the request of Mr. Moxley Bebee Turpin (Dec. 4, 1928) for "Notes locating the road leading from Hanfords Landing to the Allan Mill at the Falls."

"The First Book of Records in the Town of Northampton, began the 4th day of April, 1797."

Page 24

Road from the Landing Place below the Falls on the Genesee River, to the Landing Place above the Mill on said River. Bearings and Distances of a Line measured along the middle of a Public Road (four Rods Broad) beginning at the Landing Place below the Falls on the Genesee River, from thence to the Landing Place above the Mill on the said River, in the District of Northampton, County of Ontario and State of New York.

165
231
231
360
792
462
231
338
380
165
198
264
660
561
429
1386

Stations	Bearings	Distances C L	Stations	Bearings	Distances C L
1	South 84° 15'	West 8.50 = 561.0	16	South 29° 45'	East 2.50
2	North 42 45	West 7.50 495	17	South 39 45	East 3.50
3	North 85 45	West 6.50 429	18	South 42 45	East 3.50
4	South 11 15	West 105.50 696	19	South 29 15	East 5.00
5	South 3 15	West 17.75 1171.5	20	South 49 45	East 12.00
6	South 14 15	West 3.50 231	21	South 35 45	East 7.00
7	South 12 15	East 5.00 330	22	South 52 45	East 3.50
8	South 24 45	East 5.00 330	23	South 59 45	East 5.00
9	South 22 45	East 3.50 231.0	24	South 74 15	East 2.50
10	South 11 45	East 22.00 452	25	South 47 45	East 3.00
11	South 37 15	East 6.00 396	26	South 42 45	East 4.00
12	South 47 45	East 5.00 330	27	South 32 15	East 10.00
13	South 42 45	East 4.00 264	28	South 22 45	East 8.50
14	South 30 15	East 12.00 792	29	South 25 15	East 6.50
15	South 34 15	East 3.50 231	30	South 12 15	East 21.00

At the request of the Inhabitants of the Settlement at the Genesee Falls, and the Inhabitants of Braddocks Bay the above Described highway was laid June 7th, 1799.

By Reuben Heth

Cyrus Douglass

Commissioners of the Highways for the District of Northampton

The above is a true copy of the minutes of the Survey

Christopher Laybourn

Town Clerk

"Survey of a Road April 6th, 1803 at Northampton."

"Road from the Landing Below the Falls on the Genesee River to the Road Leading from the Mouth of the River to the Mills above the Falls -- Widened as followeth -- Began at the top of the Hill at a Pine Stump on the North Side of Said Road. Run North Half a Chain to a White Oak Stump then west three Degrees South Seven Chains to the above Mentioned Road Leading from the Mouth of the River -- then South Half a Chain to the former Line of Sd Road the above Addition is on the North Side of Sd Road is two Rods from the Top of the Hill to the other Road."

"Elisha Dunham
Jeremiah Olmsted

Commissioners of Highways

Recorded June the 8th, 1803

Sylvestus Atchinson

Town Clerk."

✓ 74
✓ 84
94
75
105

Ward Homestead,
Maplewood, N. J.,
March 31, 1935.

Mr. Morley B. Turpin,
Rush Rhees Library,
University of Rochester,
River Campus, Rochester, N. Y.

My dear old friend:-

I was surprised and greatly pleased to receive your letter of the 26th. We form a unique literary coterie: The only contributors to the Semi-Centennial History of Rochester who survive and have written articles for the Centennial History also. It was a pleasure to mention you in my recollections.

I always had a fondness for Reynolds' Arcade and its industrious denizens in the days of old. As a reporter I explored every nook and corner of the ancient building, and many an item of news I gathered there. Nearly all the ancient inhabitants are gone, although some of them will always be remembered by me. Next to you I have a vivid picture of Pomeroy P. Dickinson, witty, jolly, often satirical. George B. Selden was up stairs, getting patents for clients and working out his own invention which brought on his war with Henry Ford. There was the natty, gray whiskered J. Z. Culver; a police court lawyer, J. B. McIntyre, who achieved something later politically; a Jewish friend, at the other end, named Beir, and various others whose names do not come readily to mind. But the name of one does, and that was Major Jacob Spahn, who afterwards lost his life in the Park Avenue Hotel fire in New York. The Major owned stock in a brewery, but became so convinced of the poisonous substances which unscrupulous beer men put into the beverage to hasten the aging and other processes that he sold out and roundly and publicly denounced the whole industry. He was a firm friend of mine and when an agent claimed a commission for selling a house of mine which he did not sell, but I did, Major Spahn defended and won the suit for me and refused to accept a penny for his services. His speech denouncing the culprit in court was alone worth "the price of admission." I had reason to love and honor this bluff and honest German citizen.

But I must not let myself ramble. I wonder, if some day, when official duties do not weigh too heavily, you might tell me about the denizens of the Arcade as you knew them. I must not forget my namesake, although not a relative, George Butler, downstairs, manager of the Western Union office.

As regards the book you inquire about, "The Cruise of the Huff"? I am sorry that my knowledge is nil. I knew George Harris well, and other members of the Canoe club, but not being a canoeist or a yachtist, I did not become acquainted with this line of literature, although I might have heard of the book, especially as it was gotten out by my paper, The Post-Express, which brings its publication date into the early eighties. Kindest regards, and do not fail to write again. Very Sincerely,

William Mill Butler.

By Arch Merrill

DID you know that in Rochester there lives a man who: Has spent half a century doggedly digging into the life story of Rochester's first settler, Ebenezer Allen; whose career has been virtually dedicated to rescuing that frontier miller from historical obliquity and oblivion?

Will pursue, for years if necessary, a single, seemingly obscure point needed to complete a historical pattern, burrowing into thousands of musty old documents, traveling to out-of-the-way places, reading countless books, writing hundreds of letters, interviewing scores of people?

Has named hundreds of Rochester's streets, among them the one on which he resides, and knows the name sources of the rest of them?

Rattles off dates and historical statistics along with long forgotten events and persons as glibly as a baseball "bug" recites the exact number of home runs Babe Ruth hit in a given year?

Appeared as a character in a Kipling novel?

Has in his back yard an offshoot from the tree from which reputedly was fashioned the crown of thorns that nearly 2,000 years ago was pressed upon the brow of Jesus of Nazareth on Calvary?

* * *

THIS remarkable Rochesterian, who hereby is nominated as the most persistent and single minded seeker after historical truth in these parts is Morley Beebe Turpin.

This slightly built, gray haired man is no longer young, but mention "Indian" Allen, or in fact any historical subject, and into his mild blue eyes will flash the same glint you see when you tell a dyed-in-the-wool angler the trout are running in the Wiscoy or the collector of antiques that there is a genuine Sheraton tip-top table in a certain farmhouse in the Bristol Hills.

Maybe the fact that Morley Turpin was born in the Third, most colorful and historic of Rochester wards, accounts for his absorption with the long ago.

Maybe it is because his roots go back so deeply into the past of Rochester, for his grandfather, James Beebe came here in 1817 when the settlement by the falls of the Genesee was a tiny one indeed.

More likely it was his early friendship and close association with the late George H. Harris, one of Western New York's ablest historians, that set his feet on the path he was to tread so many years. Young Turpin was fatherless. Harris had no son. The older man transmitted to the youth some of his love for the history of this land and trained him in the meticulous ways of the true historian.

Why did he become interested in the life of that strange frontier character, Indian Allen?

Because there was so little known about Rochester's first settler and because other historians had dismissed Allen as a bigamous, Tory scoundrel without bothering to delve into his real story. This treatment of the first man to harness the water power of the Genesee aroused in Turpin a burning desire to find out all there was to know about the pioneer miller.

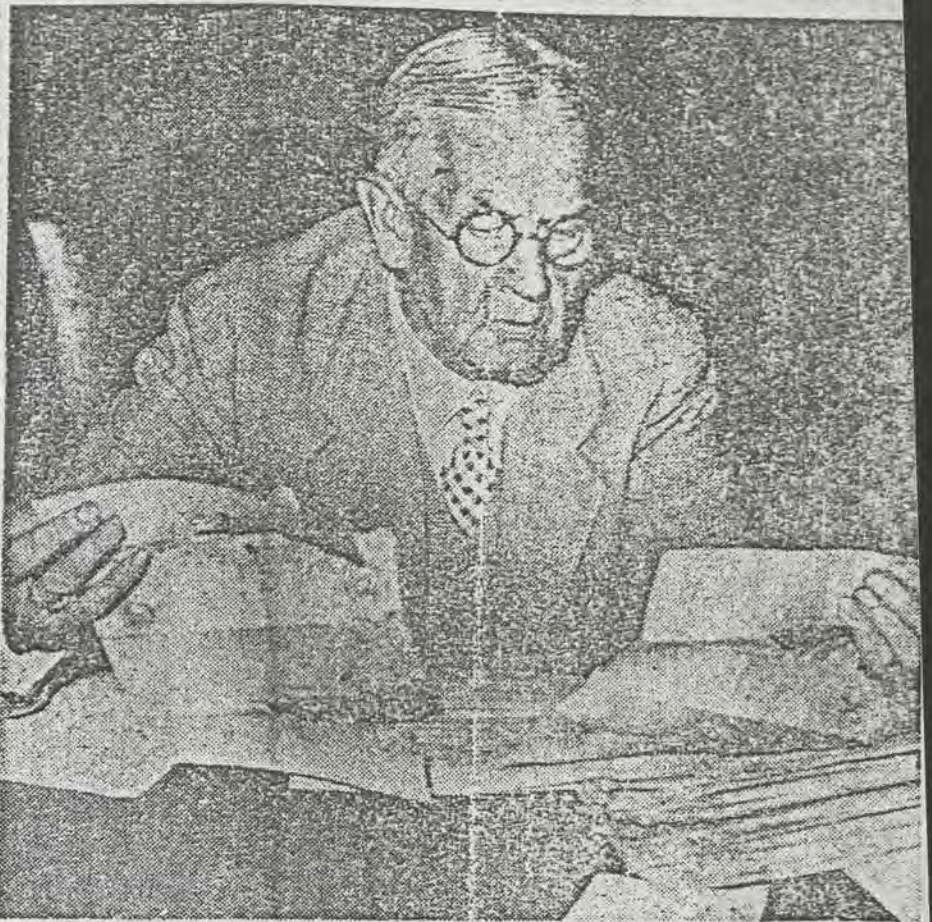
His lifelong quest led him from Court House to Court House, from library to library, to strange trails in two nations. By infinite pains and patience he finally pieced together, bit by bit, the only comprehensive account we have of our first settler. Turpin waded through some 4,000 documents—legal papers, family Bibles, faded letters and diaries, store-keeper's ledgers—and corresponded with Allen descendants and historians all over the country.

There was no trail too dim for him to follow and much of his lore came from the lips of old people in remote places.

Despite Allen's service in Butler's Rangers against the colonists in the Revolution, despite his unorthodox matrimonial record, Turpin concluded that Ebenezer Allen was a man of considerable business acumen, of great force of character of unquestioned personal bravery—pretty much a creature of his environment and that environment was the rough frontier.

In time the wheels of many mills ground the wheat of the Genesee Valley in the Four City but Allen's was the first. Although he was a Tory in the Revolution, Turpin found, that in his last days in Canada, Allen incurred the

He opens the 10+2 May 23-1943
**PORTALS OF
THE PAST**



Here in a characteristic pose, scanning a pair of ancient documents, is Morley B. Turpin, nominated in this article as Rochester's "most persistent and single minded seeker after historical truth."

displeasure of his neighbors by espousing the American cause in 1812.

Many picturesque tales cluster about the lusty Allen. Most of them, Turpin found, were as fantastic and as little founded on fact as the one that had the

miller, finding himself with one wife too many, pushing one of them nonchalantly into the Genesee.

Allen called three women wife but he was legally married to only one of them, Lucy Chapman, mother of Seneca Allen, who Turpin maintains was the first white child born in Rochester. The first mate of the miller was Sally, the daughter of an Indian chief, who bore him two daughters. Turpin took a picture of the grave of one of them, Mary Chow, who is buried near Delaware, Ontario, Canada.

The third "wife" was Milly Gregory and although there is no record of ring or parson, she presented Allen with six offspring.

* * *

ALLEN'S life in Canada after he left the Genesee country has particularly interested Turpin. The pioneer died at Delaware, Ont., in 1818 but his last resting place is unknown. That is what is keeping Morley Turpin awake nights. For three years he has spent his leisure time in Canada searching for Allen's grave. From old papers he learned that the miller was buried "on the north side of the River Thames, west of Komoka Creek bridge and opposite the old home of Daniel Springer."

That sounded easy but alas, he found Springer had lived in five different dwellings. He combed the neighborhood of each, some ten square miles in all, but he failed to find Allen's grave. He did uncover the ruins of Allen's old grist mill and brought home a piece of the millstone.

But don't imagine Morley Turpin has given up. He has some new clues and as soon as possible, is going back to Canada to renew the quest.

He has uncovered many hitherto unknown facts about Rochester's first industrialist. But he has found no record of Allen's birthplace. He believes it was England but only documented evidence satisfies historians of the Turpin breed.

So there is another blank space to be filled in to complete the Allen entry in his log of history.

As it is, he has six notebooks, full of neatly typed sheets, in his Indian Allen dossier.

Despite his devotion to the Allen saga, he has had many other interests.

Part of his job during 39 years at City Hall in charge of records in the city engineer's office was the naming of new streets. Before he retired in 1934 he had named scores of them, just how many he does not know.

Turpin lives on Braddock Street near the intersection of Fanley Street in Charlotte. He must survey the street sign at the corner with something of an inward glow for he named both streets. He chose the name Braddock because the thoroughfare pointed toward Braddock's Bay and Henley because the day he named it was Apr. 23, in 1917. Shakespeare was born on Apr. 23. The bard lived on Henley Street in Stratford-on-Avon. Hence a little block long street in Charlotte came to be called Henley Street.

Whenever possible Turpin in his role of street name giver chose one of historical significance. But his first consideration was always the wishes of the residents.

"After all they are the ones who have to live on the street," he reasoned.

He also sought to avoid duplication of existing names and to shun names that were not easily pronounceable.

Turpin chuckled as he recalled how when a terrific row arose between two groups over the naming of a new street off St. Paul, he solved the difficulty to the satisfaction of all concerned—by calling the thoroughfare Emanon, which is "no name" spelled backward.

He has a bulging card index of the city streets. Without looking at it, he can tell you that Prince Street was named either after Azariah Boody's horse or dog, (there are two schools of thought, it seems) and that Kiplingbury honors a Rochesterian who lost his life in the Greely Arctic expedition.

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an unusual one. And it is by no means done.

For there is Indian Allen's grave still to be found and Indian Allen's birthplace to be unearthed—and much more treasure to be mined from the hills of the past.

As long as Morley Turpin lives, he will keep on digging there.

Morley Turpin Passes; D. & C. MAR 22 1949 Historian of Indian Allen

Eighty-five-year-old Morley Beebe Turpin, historian and archivist, who spent most of his adult years in the task of redeeming the reputation of Ebenezer (Indian) Allen, Rochester's first white settler, died last night (Mar. 21, 1949) in Strong Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Turpin, whose home was at 39 Braddock St., Charlotte, succumbed to complications resulting from an ankle fracture he suffered in a fall last February. He was admitted to the hospital Feb. 11.

Namer of Streets

A draftsman by profession he was in the City Engineering Office for 39 years, retiring in March, 1934. In his capacity as a member of the engineering staff, he personally named hundreds of Rochester streets, among them the one on which his house stood.

After leaving the employ of the city, Mr. Turpin was for six years archivist for the University of Rochester. One of his major tasks there was reading and cataloging some 15,000 letters from the correspondence of Thurlow Weed, the one-time Rochester editor who became one of the great political manipulators of pre-Civil War days.

Delver into Biography

It was because other historians had dismissed Rochester's first settler as a bigamous Tory scoundrel that Mr. Turpin turned to the prodigious task of delving into Indian Allen's history in detail. What Turpin termed sketchy and unfair treatment of Allen by the other historians impelled him to find out all there was to know about the pioneer miller, the first man to harness the water power of the Genesee River.

Mr. Turpin's almost-lifelong, painstaking quest led him from Courthouse to Courthouse, from library to library, to strange trails in this country and Canada. He insisted that the result of his work proved a vindication of the char-

acter of Turpin was passionately interested in all phases of Rochester area history. He contributed the chapter on "The Railroads of Rochester" in Peck's History of Monroe County and Rochester, published in 1884.

MORLEY B. TURPIN

Funeral will be in Mt. Hope Cemetery.



MORLEY B. TURPIN

Mr. Turpin did not confine his interest in history to the case of Indian Allen. He was passionately interested in all phases of history relating to Rochester and this area.

Data on Auburn Road

In 1927, in a trip through Lincoln County, Canada, he discovered documents bearing on the early days of the Auburn & Rochester Railroad, the second railroad in this city to be operated by steam. Mr. Turpin found the papers in the possession of Wally S. Lantry, president of Henry B. Gibson

who was the first president of the Rochester & Auburn Railroad.

It was Mr. Turpin who wrote the chapter on "The Railroads of Rochester" in Peck's History of Monroe County and Rochester, published in 1884. Knowing of Mr. Turpin's interest in the matter, Mr. Lansing presented the R&A documents to him.

In the choosing of names for Rochester streets, Mr. Turpin always tried to select names of historical significance. He named the street on which he lived Braddock because the thoroughfare pointed toward Braddock's Bay.

Named in Kipling Book

The historian proudly used to exhibit a first edition of Naulkaha, a tale of India, written by Rudyard Kipling and Wolcott Baleister. The latter was a one-time Rochester newspaperman and his sister, Caroline Baleister, became Lady Kipling. In the book, one is a character named Tarvin. Inadvertently, however, in one place the name was spelled Turpin. Wolcott Baleister and Mr. Turpin were close friends, hence the Rochester name that appeared in the book written so many years ago.

In addition to his voluminous files of historical data, Mr. Turpin called visitors' attention to a tree growing in his back yard. It was, he said, an offshoot from the tree from which reputedly was fashioned the crown of thorns which nearly 2,000 years ago was pressed upon the brow of Jesus of Nazareth. He said he obtained it at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada. The original tree, he pointed out, had been planted there by early French priests.

Taught in Younger Days

Mr. Turpin was born in Livingston Pk., in the Third Ward. He attended School 3 and in his youth taught mathematics at Mechanics Institute.

He was a past master of Genesee Falls Lodge, F&AM. In 1945 he was given a 50-year pin.

Surviving Mr. Turpin are his wife, Grace, and a son, Morley Turpin Jr. A funeral service will be held at 2 p. m. Thursday in Ingham & Nale Funeral Home, 137 Chestnut St. Burial will be in Mt.

His History Accurate

Rochesterians of this and an older generation have learned with sincere regret of the passing of Morley Beebe Turpin, whose painstaking research and tireless chronicling of Rochester history had made him known far outside the city.

Born in the Old Third Ward, Mr. Turpin knew personally many of the famous personages who formerly resided in that historic neighborhood. Through his mother's people, he was related to Canadian families, and in the course of his long life established many warm friendships on the north side of the lake, as well as in the Rochester area.

One of his friendly correspondents, with whom he established personal relations in recent years, was William Lyon Mackenzie King, until recently Premier of Canada. He visited often at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, first capital of Upper Canada, where many relics of pioneer days are to be found.

It is said of Mr. Turpin that he never forgot names, dates or places of historical interest, once he had located them. It was equally true that he seemed to possess a particularly acute sense of where the material he sought might be found.

His pursuit of records on the career of Ebenezer (Indian) Allen won him wide recognition as a historian of meticulous accuracy in a field previously little explored.

In his work as a historian and as a member of the City Engineer's staff, Mr. Turpin contributed much to his native city. His selections of street names alone entitles him to remembrance for the painstaking care with which the work was done. He was a contributor to the semi-centennial history of Rochester, and to the centennial volumes. His work as archivist of the University of Rochester was monumental.

It can be said truly of Mr. Turpin that he has left an indelible impress on the story of Rochester, and that he will

not be forgotten.

MAR 23 1949