

## Historic Facts

In addition to the classroom previsit, you may wish to do some supplementary activities with your class. While some teachers have old materials issued by Seneca Falls and Geneva's Historical Societies, other teachers have developed their own materials. If you are a new teacher, or do not currently have any supplementary materials, please call Anne Dealy (315-789-5151) or Fran Barbieri (315-568-8412) for suggestions and materials or see the Geneva Historical Society website ([www.genevahistoricalsociety.com](http://www.genevahistoricalsociety.com)). Below are some facts that might help students understand the period, before or after their visit.

### The world of 1840

- U.S. population was 17 million
- 2.4 million Americans were enslaved
- 3.7 million Americans worked in agriculture
- NYS population was 2.4 million
- Ontario County's population was 43,501
- Seneca County's population was 27, 874
- Monroe County's population was 64,902
- The president was Martin Van Buren
- February 12, 1840: Queen Victoria of England married Prince Albert
- July 1839: Slaves took over the Spanish ship *Amistad* and sailed it to Long Island
- Michigan was the newest state (admitted 1837)
- William Lloyd Garrison and others walk out of the World's Anti-Slavery Convention, when women abolitionists, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, are not allowed to participate as delegates.
- James Fenimore Cooper publishes *The Pathfinder*.
- Popular American writers of the time were: Cooper, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe and Ralph Waldo Emerson.
- Recent popular music included: "Turkey in the Straw"; "Woodman, Spare That Tree"; "The Last Rose of Summer"; and "My Country 'Tis of Thee"

### The world of 1890

- U.S. population was 62 million
- NYS population was 6 million
- Ontario County's population was 48,453
- Seneca County's population was 28, 227
- Monroe County's population was 189,586
- NYC was the largest city in the U.S. with 2.5 million inhabitants
- The president was Benjamin Harrison, who won despite Grover Cleveland's larger share of the popular vote (sound familiar?)
- Jane Addams founded Hull House, the first settlement house, in Chicago
- Average pay for a skilled worker, \$20 per week, for unskilled, \$10 per week
- First skyscraper (10 stories) built in Chicago in 1885
- North and South Dakota, Montana and Washington were new states (admitted 1889)
- May 13, 1890, Johnstown (Pennsylvania) flood kills an estimated 5,000 people when a dam bursts 18 miles above Johnstown.
- Mark Twain publishes *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*.
- Popular authors were Twain, Henry James, Louisa May Alcott and Walt Whitman.
- Recent popular music included: "Oh Promise Me"; "The Robin"; and John Phillip Sousa's "The Washington Post".