By David W. Parish, Chapter Historian

Some Original Material by Gertrude Chanler


Before the Red Cross came to Northern Livingston County

Northern Livingston County Chapter missed these fires… some disastrous fires in Livingston County before the American Red Cross was formed.

Avon
- December 12, 1859, partially destroyed St. George Hotel.
- November 4, 1865, one of the worst in Livingston County's history. Starting in the Galligher sisters dress shop, it burned down most of the Avon business district. Water soaked carpets on roots were quite effective. December 25, 1875 brought Avon's worst fire. The rebuilt St. George Hotel was completely destroyed with a loss of $12,000, a huge amount for that era.

Caledonia
- February 6, 1892, the village saw a ghastly fire on the north side of its business district. At least ten businesses were destroyed; damage would have been worse, but a building was torn down to stop the flames.

Conesus
- January 13, 1881 - two small sons of James Buckley were burned to death. The father saved his wife and four other children. The boys "were burned to a crisp." The worst fire in Conesus history destroyed the depot, freight house, and several stores on March 21, 1892. The fire started from a spark from a passing locomotive.
- December 29, 1904 - B. F. McMillan, his sister Charlotte and nephew Charles burned trying to save their house; only their bones were found in the cellar. The Livingston Insurance Company was very reluctant to sell policies to families near railroad tracks.

Geneseo
The three great fires of the 1860's still are remembered.
- January 4, 1864 destroyed the wooden business district, starting from an overheated stove pipe.
- April 19, 1866, a grocery clerk set a lighted candle on a kerosene barrel. It burned every building from the middle of the west side of Main Street to School Street.
- Five lives were lost on February 8, 1868 at the Aims House when five disabled women were locked in a small wood building. On a winter's night, there was no water. The key could not be found to unlock the shed-like prison. On March 20, 1885, the American Hotel burned to the ground.

Leicester
- On June 17, 1900, Livingston County's worst fire. More than half the village was destroyed. Forty persons were left without shelter.

Lima
- The Genesee Wesleyan Seminary was destroyed on May 25, 1842. Soon rebuilt in another location, it would later become Syracuse University.
Mt. Morris

- Mt. Morris had five downtown fires between 1859 and 1899. In the 1880 fire, help from the Geneseo Hose was needed, but the fire progressed too fast for help to arrive.

Nunda

- Two fires in 1872 and 1897 burned the same locale, on the south side of the railroad. Mrs. Partridge was sent to the State Prison for starting the 1872 fire.
- In 1926, the Red Cross was at the scene where three children perished in the flames. Nunda was changing its water system that day do there was no water available.

Readers will notice, that with few exceptions, these major fires were in downtown areas with little loss of life. Imagine the 1900 Leicester fire with forty persons homeless!

INTRODUCTION

- "Help Can’t Wait", a History of the Northern Livingston County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 1917 to 1997" was completed and distributed on July 23, 1997. It helped to celebrate the Chapter’s 80th birthday.
- Several time periods were not covered in the original work. This supplement covers two missing periods, the 1920s and 1950s. This supplement is included with the previous work. A goal is to complete all gaps with the next few years.
  - David W. Parish, Chapter Historian

The American Red Cross and the War to End All Wars

As America realized it would enter the First World War in the Spring of 1917, there was a recognition that Red Cross nurses would be needed. At first, some nurses thought in terms of romantic angels of the battlefield. The American National Red Cross soon discouraged such thinking. Modern military medicine tried to clear wounded and dead from the battlefield, evacuating the wounded to field hospitals behind the lines and along railroad lines. A modern woman was required rather than "Florence Nightingale". There would be no room for fantasy or criticism from Red Cross workers in this terrible war fought mainly in the trenches.

As American feeling toward Germany and the Kaiser grew more bitter in 1917, patriotism grew almost to a frenzy. President Woodrow Wilson started a poster campaign to enroll Red Cross volunteers. Even American Red Cross publications stressed patriotism over traditional neutrality.

After the American entry into the War, the rich and famous joined in the Red Cross efforts. Mrs. Borden Harriman, one of New York’s richest women, led a group of Red Cross nurses in a Washington, D.C. parade as an example.

Youth were active. Schoolgirls in Buffalo formed a living cross and marched down Main Street. An unfortunate government official was convicted under the Espionage Act for speaking critically of the organization. A thirty-month prison term at Leavenworth was his punishment.

Red Cross director Hutchinson observed Florence Nightingale would have applauded to see how much of the War burden was placed on Red Cross shoulders.

Before the November 11, 1918 Armistice, thousands of Red Cross workers served in France and Italy. The Northern Livingston County was born when the Government and the American National Red Cross were almost inseparable.

The American Red Cross and Livingston County:

Northern Livingston volunteers realize that Clara Barton established the first American Red Cross Chapter in Dansville, New York on August 22, 1881 (Dansville Society). A sign at the organizational location, St. Paul Lutheran Church, marks this honorable location.
September 9, 1931 also was historic for Clara Barton Chapter Number 1. To celebrate the Chapter's 50th anniversary, a day long ceremony packed Stony Brook State Park. A marvelous video tape has been produced to tell the story, having been improved from the original 8-mm film.

Dansville's Main Street of 1931 indicated the Depression had not yet affected Foster Wheeler Corporation nor the F.A. Owen Publishing Company. Hundreds of visitors and thousands of Dansville citizens met at Stony Brook where the Junior Red Cross formed a living cross. Awed radio listeners heard President Herbert Hoover during a special radio broadcast from the White House.

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt was wheeled on stage. He honored Clara Barton and praised America for finally signing the Treaty of the Geneva Convention which protected prisoners of war. Geneseo's Calvary Troop I treated the crowd to a close order maneuver led by Colonel Benjamin Linfoot.

**Birth of the Northern Livingston County Chapter and the Early Years**

The "other" Livingston County Chapter is celebrating too. The Northern Livingston County Chapter marked its 80th anniversary on July 9, 1997. It was on July 9, 1917 that the American National Red Cross granted a charter to the Northern Livingston County Chapter.

America was ready to enter the Great War when Mrs. Charles Wadsworth and Mrs. Frederick Curtis visited Dansville seeking support to form a woman's Auxiliary. With none forthcoming, the Northern Livingston County Chapter was formed. Mrs. Wadsworth believed "in the need to organize Livingston women to contribute to the need of the wounded and sick soldiers; also, relief for starving Cubans."

Although not every nurse fell in love with an Ernest Hemingway as did Agatha VanKurowski (Love and War, 1996), Red Cross overseas work certainly was glamorous. Geneseo's Dr. Cora Allen was an outstanding overseas nurse, later living on Groveland Road until her death, age 105. Back home, with Perry Euchner as first permanent Chairman, the chapter raised $13,085.82 for the War effort.

On June 18, 1917, Dr. James A. Sturges, Normal School President, was appointed temporary Chairman. At a second meeting on June 20, Perry Euchner was elected chairman of the Chapter. Then on July 9, 1917, the American National Red Cross granted a charter to the Northern Livingston County Chapter, American Red Cross. Mrs. James W. Wadsworth was appointed Chairman of the Finance Committee at this time.

Nearly one year later, on July 1, 1918, receipts for funds were reported, a total of $53,085.82. Of this sum, $10,857.75 was paid to the War Fund at National Headquarters. The remainder was used by the new chapter for the purchase of supplies and general expenses of the war effort.

At this time, Nunda became a Chapter Branch of the Northern Livingston County Chapter and included the hamlets of Dalton and Hunt. This was established on July 3, 1918. Mr. William Baylor was elected chairman of the chapter branch. It seems that this arrangement continued until around 1956, at which time the Nunda branch was integrated with the Northern Livingston County Chapter in Geneseo. The Dake Trust lives on as an important financial aid today.

In the original bylaws of the Northern Livingston County Chapter adopted in 1917, it was written that "the jurisdiction of the chapter shall be in the towns and villages of the County of Livingston, except the town and village of North Dansville and such other towns and villages of said county as are now or hereafter may be organized under separate chapters.

The persons authorized as a temporary committee on organization of the chapter on June 14, 1917 were the following:

- Chairman, Mr. Lewis C. O'Connor
- Secretary, Mary E. Toole

Committee Members:

- Dr. James Sturges
- Dr. W. E. Lauderdale
- Mrs. Alice Arnold
- W. A. Wadsworth
- Mrs. Albert North
- Miss Carlene Barrett
- Miss Sara Goheen
- Mr. Senke
- Mr. James Frazer

Note: Dr. Lauderdale came from a famous Geneseo medical family; Dr Sturges, Normal School President

A meeting of the above committee was held at the Village Building on June 18, 1917. At the request of Mr. O'Connor, chairman, Dr. Sturges was appointed chairman of the meeting. The following slate of offices was drawn up at the general meeting to be held the following Tuesday. The names were as follows:

- Chairman, Mr. Perry Euchner
- Vice-Chairman, Mr. James Frazer
- Secretary, Mr. Walter B. Cook
- Treasurer, Miss Sara Goheen

A motion was made and carried that the Executive Committee should consist of nine members, of whom the Chairman and Secretary would be ex-officio. The following were elected as the Executive Committee:

- Hon. J. W. Wadsworth (U.S. Senator)
- Rev. Theo Carlisle
- Rev. Father Jones
- Dr. W. E. Lauderdale
- Mr. W. A. Wadsworth
- Miss Lucy Arnold
- Mr. William L. J. Olmsted (Bank President)

Incidentally, Miss Goheen was recognized as a "very beautiful woman."

As time went on, other committees were formed and many names were involved. For example, the following, Mr. E. E. Doty, Mr. James W. Dwyer, Antonio Aprile, Mr. L. C. Stapley, Mr. Harry Arnold, Dr. Charles Ley, Mr. Hunter Black, Miss Ida W. Stewart, Mr. Julian Buckley, E. A. Horton, Mr. Guy H. Bailey, Mr. William D. Shepard, Mr. John Hotchkiss. At this time, the following committees were formed: Supply, Enrollment, Publicity, Extension, and Finance Committee.

The first treasurer's report, given by the chairman Hon. James W. Wadsworth was read the meeting of July 1, 1918. Individual membership fees amounted to $11,115.50. Contributions and miscellaneous income totaled $37,761.44. Pledges to Second War Fund were $4,208.88. Total $43,085.82. In a copy of the bylaws published in 1917, article VI mentions the membership dues of that time were as follows:

- Annual, one dollar
- Subscribing, two dollars
- Contributing, five dollars
- Sustaining, ten dollars
- Life, twenty-five dollars
- Patron, one hundred dollars
- Amounts to be sent to National Headquarters were:
  - Annual, $.50
  - Subscribing, $1.50
  - Contributing, $3.00
  - Sustaining, $7.00
  - Life, $25.00
  - Patron, $100.00
In 1918, Mr. James Fraser became chairman succeeding Mr. Euchner, and Mr. Walter Carr succeeded Mr. W. B. Cook as Secretary. Euchner had been called to military service with Troop M and sent to Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina.

In 1920, the chapter, upon request from National Headquarters, contributed $1,000, and another $1,000 from its branches for the European Relief Council, a post-World War I project.

Between the wars, the Red Cross services developed and expanded.

**The Roaring Twenties**

Our Chapter faced a new type of challenge when a serious earthquake and tidal wave of September 1923 killed thousands of people and left millions homeless in Japan. The Count Sano, head of the Japanese Red Cross asked for help. The Japanese remembered American kindness, because of their aid right up to World War II.

Then a 1926 Florida hurricane left 327 dead and 6,327 injured. Northern Livingston learned there are always unforeseen emergencies waiting around the corner.

The American Red Cross enjoyed a surplus of $75 million, following World War I. On the other hand, the International Red Cross, Geneva was broke and felt a great strain trying to remain neutral, trying to help both sides, and coordinating Prisoners of War. American Henry Davidson proposed the International Red Cross become a humanitarian League of Nations.

The Nunda Unit was particularly active in the 1920s with Mrs. F. G. Olp as Chair. F. L. Dake, Secretary and Gertrude Robinson, Treasurer. An emergency kit was maintained while the Nunda Branch sponsored a nurse to assist in examinations of school children. In 1924, Miss Goldthwaite was criticized for not manning the emergency kit. A Nunda doctor would be asked to replace her. Nunda kept a balance of $650 to $700 during the 1920s.

Mrs. Roy Chase was elected Treasurer in 1930. A new membership drive was an annual event, but new members were never reported. The Dake family was very active. The Chapter was obliged to receive $315.71 from the Nunda Branch in a 1932 liquidation.

**A busy, useful time, The Second World War**

During the Second World War year 1944, twenty-six nurse’s aides graduated from the chapter, bringing the total with those already serving to thirty-one. Nine of our branches were represented in the work done in the hospital by this group. Transportation for training period was entirely provided by the Chapter Motor Corps.

During this period, the Disaster Relief program was more highly organized and most towns and villages within the chapter were involved. A chairman was appointed for each center and a disaster center was established to house supplies in case of some emergency.

The Junior Red Cross was also very active at this period. 42 schools had a membership of 4,726 pupils. The junior members produced many articles for hospital use.

The amount of money collected for the War Fund Campaign was enormous. The National Quota was $200,000,000, of which the share for our chapter was $29,100. This was in 1944. At the time, the cost of operating the Red Cross throughout the world was $7 per second.

The national quota for 1945 was $180,000,000, slightly less than that for 1944, because of oversubscription of the earlier campaigns and certain economics in the year’s operation. But there was an increase rather than a decrease in the need for American Red Cross services on the continent during the conflict and for some time after the European fighting was over. Likewise for the Pacific and all Far Eastern operations.
Until the year 1980, a Red Cross fund raising campaign was never combined with that of any other organization. Each chapter was to prepare an estimate of the sum required for its total program for the twelve-month period from March 1 to February 28, of any given year, subject to approval by the appropriate area office. Each chapter would be assigned a quota to be raised for the national program, to which would be added the estimate for its local work. The chapter goal would be the total of two amounts. As of 1981, the Red Cross fund raising is included in the United Way of Livingston County Campaign.

At our chapter, we have a nice citation from the British Embassy in Washington, dated 1939 to 1945, sent by Basil Paterson, National Red Cross President, which is a tribute to the many Red Cross men and women who brought relief to the people of the United Kingdom during the darkest days of the war. The document reads as follows:

*His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland most warmly thank the members of the Chapter of Northern Livingston County, N.Y for the valuable help which was given towards the relief of suffering in the United Kingdom by enemy action during the war of 1939 - 1945. The people of the United kingdom will hold their generosity in grateful memory.*

signed, Halifax, Ambassador
British Embassy
Washington

Even 54 years later, Livingston County service showed up. Mr. Charles A. Marr of Springfield, Illinois, recently wrote that he was given a "ditty bag" by a Salvation Army officer on January 3, 1943. Marr was stationed at Bunan, New Guinea.

It contained a paperback book, a safety razor, and blades. The bag was labeled Geneseo County Chapter, American Red Cross, Geneseo, NY. Although the Chapter name was incorrect, it proves our chapter served world wide.

Ralph Beaty was a Geneseo resident who served the American Red Cross in western Europe at the end of World War II, especially working with refugees.

The Northern Livingston County Chapter also has a file of letters showing how deserving refugees were encouraging to relocate to our County.

**The Blood Service Story**

The Northern Livingston County Chapter was born in 1917. A blood department was to wait until 1947. On January 12, 1948, delegates were guests at the opening of the Rochester National Blood Center. Eleanor Allen was sent to Washington for a six-week course in blood bank techniques. Mrs. Herman Behrens began 10 years of blood drive leadership. Helen Boyd of the Normal School became the first faculty member to donate blood. It was later to become a proud college tradition that continues to this date.

Thanks to policeman Boothby, Mrs. Kent became the first Livingston patient to receive Rochester Blood Bank plasma on January 19, 1949.

Boothby made a fast two hour trip from Rochester to save her life. Previously, Livingston residents had to provide blood in advance of need. Allowing blood to cross county lines was a new Red Cross ruling. Civilian defense was popular in 1951. In a mock exercise, Rochester was declared bombed by the Communists. Livingston County was required to set up an emergency blood bank within a few hours to help our northern neighbors.

Things were taken for granted, In 1947, Edmund Kessler told of his immediate need for an operation. Hornell Hospital had no extra blood. His friends begged for donations. Kessler lived, but some were not so fortunate.
Later that year, a curious vehicle called a blood mobile appeared on northern Livingston highways. "Give so that someone may live" became a reality. Happy 80th to Northern Livingston's American Red Cross. The 1990s brought changes in the service program including specific schedules. However, volunteers such as Sheila French and Millie Mazurowski remain important. The Geneseo latter-Day Saints Church is only one example of Community sponsorship in 1997.

Finally a salute to Mrs. Donald Warner: The Blood Bank was organized soon after the end of the war and Geneseo was selected as the first town in Northern Livingston County to be visited by a Bloodmobile on February 10, 1948. Mrs. Donald Warner, one of the Northern Livingston County Chapter's most active workers for Red Cross was a blood donor on January 12, 1948 in Rochester for the opening of the laboratory for the Rochester Region Blood Program. Mrs. Warner had been very active throughout the war as a Nurse's Aid at Highland Hospital in Rochester and also did sewing and surgical dressing production. In 1949, bylaws for the Chapter were drawn up by a committee headed by Mr. Thomas Coyne of Avon and adopted at a meeting held on January 20 of that year.

Out of the Ashes/1950s Decade
In 1950, Chapter President Benjamin Linfoot complimented the Water Safety program. Austin Erwin, Jr. was Vice-Chair. All branch headquarters were filled except for Lima. Linfoot had commanded Geneseo's Cavalry Troop M when it went on active duty in 1940, reporting to Ft. Deavens, Massachusetts. A new volunteer, Mrs. Howard Smith reorganized Nursing services.

1950 was the first year that the Chapter did not receive a certificate for fund raising merit. The Motor Corps volunteers made 50 trips to the Batavia Veterans Hospital in the "station wagon."

Chairman Linfoot honored Dr. Cora S. Allen, who resigned as Disaster Chair. Dr. Allen of Groveland Road, Geneseo was to die at the age of 101 in 1985, a pioneer woman doctor.

1951 marked the 4th year of the Blood Program in the Rochester area. Our Chapter raised 1,180 pints thanks to the Bloodmobile. There were 600 volunteer helpers, contributing 3,200 man hours. The Junior Red Cross was proud of the large disaster school chests, including health supplies. Total cost of the project would have been $200, all paid thanks to the Junior Red Cross. The chests even included musical instruments.

Can you believe? There were no Livingston disasters in 1952 nor 1953, so that $2,137.41 could be donated for national disasters.

Working with the Civil Defense organizations became important as we entered the "Cold War". More than 500 volunteers went door-to-door for the 1953 fund drive. The Korean War cast its dark shadow so the Eastern Star in Geneseo volunteered rooms to serve coffee and donuts to the boys leaving for military service. The Red Cross, with Mrs. Teall, continued to coordinate these events. During 1953 to 1954, Austin Erwin took over as Chair with Dr. Glenn Doolittle as Vice-Chair.

In an age before intensive social services, volunteers served as home care of the sick. Always interested in cooperating with the college, Miss Estelle Bassette of the faculty taught classes for 15 girls and two boys in "Mother Aid Baby Care," a predecessor to the present day "Child Care" course. Mrs. Turrell was the major driver for the Motor Corps.

Ethel Post, Vice-Chairman of Volunteers, thanked more than 1,000 persons in 1955. This included 437 who solicited during the fund drive. Home Service (later Military Services) reported a record 345 cases, 191 of these active serviceman, and 109 veterans. In an age prior to Emergency Management, Chapter members staffed first aid tents at the Hemlock Fair.

Mrs. Andrew Townsen became Chapter Chair in 1957 to 1958. Again, there were no county disasters. Edward Holcomb, Disaster Chair, reported "we are ready, should it happen."
The Canteen Committee during the 1950s had wide responsibilities, serving at Red Cross branches, but more importantly as Blood Banks. Mrs. Harold Delaney explained that whenever there were boys leaving for military service (selective service), coffee and donuts were served. If the number of draftees fell below 4 to 5, Mrs. Tabakis of Geneseo of the Genesee Valley Restaurant acted as host. Canteen workers also went to the Batavia V.A. hospital.

All branch Chair positions were filled in 1957 to 1958. The Asian Flu reduced blood collections so that the Chapter missed its quota by 169 pints. New contributors, the Trappist Monks, provided 42 pints of blood. Katherine Turrell, Home Service Coordinator, reported sending a baby to England. The Red Cross took responsibility for reuniting families from various nations. This earned the Chapter a mention in a national magazine. At the end of FY 1958, the Chapter expenditures were $15,582.97, allowing a balance of $11,332.37. There seemed to be no formal budgets presented.

In 1959, as the decade ended, the Chapter found AMCROSS to be very helpful. A reply from Korea took "only" eight hours.

Geneseo village joined the Water Safety Program in 1959, handing all non-swimmers to the Chapter. Once again, no major disasters, although the Nunda Branch called for food as searchers sought a lost youngster at Letchworth Park. The child’s body was located in the Genesee River.

In more simple time, the Red Cross First Aid program served fire departments, police officers, ambulance crews, farm groups, and church service organizations. There were sufficient volunteers. Our hard working Gray Ladies helped the Batavia Veterans Hospital celebrate its 25th anniversary. They operated a refreshment booth that served 1,500 on May 2, 1959.

Speaking of diversity, the 50 Board Members and officers of 1959 were almost evenly divided between men and women. Publicity Chair, Virginia Craveling selected the 1958/59 theme - "On the job, when needed most." The 1950s marked by wide spread volunteerism from our 13 towns, positive financial condition, a strong era for the Northern Livingston County Chapter.

Mrs. Linfoot remembers the 1950s as a time of serious training. There was no unrelated talking in Mrs. Charles Newton’s classes. And for the Motor Corps, the old 1953 station wagon gave out in 1959. A 1956 Ford Station Wagon was purchased.

As there was more winter travel, Edward Holcomb, Disaster Chair mentioned merchants who served meals to those marooned by storms, then were reimbursed by the Chapter. He worried that the Chapter "had to go $5.00 beyond the budget."

**Northern Livingston County Chapter: The 1960s**

The importance of adequate records to writing history vividly is shown for the 1960-1970 time period. Inexplicably, the chapter secretary presented no summary of business reported for most of these years, a departure from the 50’s. Instead there was merely a roster of officers included.

Unit Chairs
- Mrs. Juanita Gilbert Broad, 1960-1962
- Albert Hodges 1969-1970

Apparently the By laws called for no limit on service as Mr. Ketchum served a number of years on the board followed by six unbroken years as the Chapter Chairman.

Another important difference in organization compared to the present was an Executive Committee of eight members in addition to unit Chairpersons, the latter for Avon, Caledonia, Conesus, Geneseo, Groveland, Hemlock, Lakeville, Leicester, Lima, Livonia, Mt. Morris, Nunda and York.
Staffing was a continuous problem. As an example, 1965 Unit Chairpersons were lacking in Conesus, Leicester, York, Mt. Morris and Nunda.

The Junior Red Cross apparently was active in those years, headed by Mrs. Darryl Hanson.

An important fund raising event was held in 1962 when M. Dennison Olmstead became chairman of the Special Campaign. Over $6,664.00 was raised. A sizable 45% of funds were required by the National Red Cross at that time. An example of a treasurer's report from 1961, sheds insight into Chapter operations and outreach.

Receipts: Balance on hand: $2555.52
Junior Red Cross Drive: $17.11
Reimbursement, Rochester Blood Center: $12.00
Sale of supplies: $27.25
Taxes withheld: $106.38
Total: $2718.26

Disbursements: $231.88
Motor Corp: $110.96
Water Safety: $25.00
First aid: $6.21
Blood Program: $504.85
Fund drive Expense: $7.74
Meetings: $50.00
Junior Red Cross: $51.96
ARC Convention: $212.80
Goods for resale: $12.25
General Management: $804.78
Collection of IRS: $125.76
Total: $1424.19

The Mrs. Andrew Townson Memorial Fund was still in existence, supplementing rescue breathing and programs.

From the foregoing financial report, it is evident the Chapter was extremely volunteer oriented. Part time Executive Secretary was Mrs. Mildred Rogers, 1959-1962. A full representation from Warsaw, Ted Davis, directed the Chapter from 1962 to apparently at least 1970. However, in each year the officers, Executive Committee, Unit Chairs, Service chairs, and members-at-large totaled 40-45 annually, each with a specific duty.

As with the present day, the Blood Program was a major Chapter duty. The bloodmobile commonly visited each town, also including: The Trappist Abby in York, St. Michael's Mission in Conesus, and SUNY Geneseo twice each year.

The "Livingston Republican" noted the unity of community and college and blood mobile work (May 1963). Mrs. Thomas C.T. Buckley was a leader at that time giving special thanks to Phi sigma Epsilon fraternity that gave as a body.

Mrs. Buckley was assisted by an enthusiastic staff including George C. Teal, Mrs. John Sands, Helen Pat Kingston, Mrs. Charles Hopkins, Miss Jean Rundio, Mrs. Harold Lowe, Mrs. Charles Newton, and Mrs. D. R. Sanders.

Mrs. Betty French helped at the college while Mrs. Ross DelBarto and Mrs. James McDonald directed the Motor Corp. The Corp made home pick ups of those donating blood. The average unit number of pints collected was between 910 and 1000. In 1960 the College of Education, SUNY Geneseo broke the individual record giving 158 pints.
J. Furlong reported water safety "important" in those years but only two senior life-savers were approved in 1963.

As Veteran's Hospitals decrease in enrollment size, new generations forget the loyal Red Cross Gray Ladies Service. For example in 1960, 30 Gray Ladies gave 48 birthday parties at the Batavia Veterans Hospital, each with a home made cake. Seven Ladies helped with the Christmas party. With the help of the Motor Corp, a total of 133 veterans were taken on outings. There were two home cooked picnics, with ham and fried chicken. Chapter women also helped with the annual carnival in the chapel.

In a less frantic age, teacher-sponsors met to plan Junior Red Cross activities. Avon, Nunda, Livonia, Leicester, York, Geneseo (Holcomb) participated. The most significant Junior Red Cross project was their school chest. Made at Avon Central, supplies were bought from the six JRC service funds. The chest was completely filled, then sent to the International Red Cross for world-wide need. It contained necessary first aid supplies.

The Chapter was always grateful for a lack of major disasters. It averaged only 4 to 5 fires a year (In 1999, the chapter average is 10.3 fires a year). In 1959-1960, the Chapter stepped in when a heavy snowstorm blocked all county roads. Merchants turned to the Red Cross for reimbursement for meals served.

However, Northern Livingston Chapter was active in collecting disaster funds for nation emergencies. Hurricane Carla devastated New Orleans in 1961 then Betsey in 1965. HAM radio operators played a key roll in relaying messages during Florida's hurricane Donna.

Red Cross flags hung in Biloxi, Mississippi grocery store windows in 1969 after hurricane Camille, a symbol that donated food and clothing were available.

The earth shook violently on Good Friday, March 27, 1964 and buildings collapsed within minutes in Anchorage, Alaska. The great earthquake had hit Alaska. Northern Livingston Chapter collected hundreds of dollars to aid in the relief efforts.

Distinguished Volunteers
1960-1970
There is no doubt that every Red Cross volunteer is important in providing service. The following are only examples of public - spirited Livingston County citizens from 1960-1970.

Albert Hodges
President of the Genesee Valley Bank as well as NLC Chairman, 1969-1970.

Ivan Hilfiker
Vice chairman for several years. Highly respected Superintendent of Schools from the York Central district. The York Central School Auditorium is named in his honor.

Robert Allen
Owner of Allen Insurance Company in Geneseo, was a member of the Executive Committee and Chairman from 1967-1969.

Mrs. Bruce Klee

Nancy O'Dea
Author of the book:"Geneseo Homes", a leader in Geneseo village historic district designation, and NLC Board of Directors.
Mrs. Earl Eddy
Volunteer officer of NLC from 1930's-1960's, became familiar with Red Cross work as a young woman in post World War 1 Italy.

Mrs. John Linfoot
The most senior living Chapter member along with Mrs. Hubert Chanler.

Mrs. W. Austin Wadsworth
Long term Geneseo Unit Chair; wife of W. Austin Wadsworth, "Master of the Hounds".

The Foote Family
Continuing a long history of Foote family service to the Red Cross, Norman of Nunda and James of Caledonia, to Theron Foote in present years.

Dr. Millard Harmon
SUNY, Geneseo Education director, Dr. Harmon served the Geneseo Unit in various capacities. In the mid 1970's he was to fly across the U.S.S.R. border in a small plane, downed and returned to the U.S. after being held by the Russians.

Betty J. Keller
Chapter Public Information officer for several years. B.J. Keller helped Rosalyn Fisher in editing the "Stone Strength of the Past", SUNY Geneseo's definitive history.

Mrs. Clarence Elam
Red Cross Veteran's Hospital representatives often are those serving in silence. Mrs. Elam served the Veteran's hospital in Batavia from 1960-1970 as well as the Grey Ladies Chairman.

The 1970s, A Case Study
The 1970s brought the Korean Conflict and then Vietnam. Chapter fund raising and blood donations kept pace of needs. In the Spring of 1970, Red Cross volunteers called on neighbors as the Northern Livingston 52nd annual drive began.

Canvassing continued through the 13 unit area until March 25. Chairman Donald Mills took time from teaching. Assisting him were Mrs. Gilbert Broad, Rev. Vissher from Groveland, Mrs. Eugene (Bea) O'Keefe, Chapter Secretary Ivan Hilfiker of York, and lawyer Bill Bruckel of Avon.

As committee members left the chapter office at 83 Main Street, they faced an aim of raising $15,122. Unit Chairmen were Mrs. Robert Bradley, Avon; Mrs. Harrison Brown, Caledonia; Mrs. Leo Linton, Groveland; and Mrs. Earl Eddy, Lakeville. Mrs. Hubert Chanler led the Geneseo Drive.

Services at that time included first aid, water safety, nursing services, aid to military families, Gray Ladies, disaster services, and Red Cross youth programs. At that time, of the $15,122 goal, 56 percent was allocated for local chapter projects.

Mrs. John Linfoot explained the High School Services. Courses available to high school home economic school in the area included 7th and 8th grade Basic Nursing, Mother's Aides, and baby-sitting courses. Volunteer nurses were obtained to help with the teaching.

Modern times
The Chapter has experience "ups and downs" in the past two decades. From the stage at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Main Street, Geneseo, the chapter offices went to a medical building on Route 20A. Since 1992, the functional, attractive offices in the Livingston County Government Center, 6 Court Street, Geneseo, has been enjoyed. Records Officer Virginia Watson, of Conesus, has been a part of the chapter for these two decades. In 1999, Mrs. Watson retired and was succeeded by Ms. Jillaine M. Comardo.
In 1991, Chapter volunteers and staff submitted an erroneous report to United Way of Livingston County. This almost caused the chapter to be de-funded by United Way. Thanks to Finance Chair Steve Bangert, the chapter repaired the rift with United Way.

During the period from 1992 to 1995, volunteer leadership were gathering information on the services provided by the chapter. The purpose of this exercise was so the chapter could be rechartered by the American National Red Cross, the first time since 1917. The rechartering process resolved a long standing jurisdiction dispute with Clara Barton Chapter #1 over service in the Town of Groveland and implemented a cultural diversity policy for the chapter. At this time, United Way called on the chapter to employ a full time paid Executive Director. Over the past 50 years, chapter staff has included: Katherine Turell, Mildred Rodger, Betty Allen, Bea O'Keefe, Beverly D'Aprile, Karen Hanson, Vicky Englert, and David A. Parish.

During this time, the Board of Directors became more of a policy oriented body. From 1992 to 1995, the chapter was operating on a deficit budget. In 1992, the deficit was $20,000 a year. By 1996, the chapter was able to raise enough money to pay for expanded services.

The 1996 Annual Report indicates the core services still are important - disaster, Armed Forces Emergency Services, First Aid and CPR, Water Safety, Blood Service, the Motor Corps Program, and Veterans Services. HIV/AIDS is a new service area.

The Heating Program has become a major activity. Chapter Executive Director David A. Parish reports more than 145 applications with $26,000 in actual services were provided in the chapter area in 1996. Disaster services were tested by a 1991 Ice Storm. Since then, volunteers have been actively trained to respond to both large scale national disasters and local disasters such as house fires. Individual Chapter members continue to bring credit. Joyce Parfitt, the first chapter DSHR member has seen many national disaster relief operations. Disaster Co-Chairs Jackie Trojanoski and Dolly Klee received Regional citations for service excellence in 1996.

The Chapter has sponsored Spring and Holiday Craft Shows at the Geneseo Armory since 1993 as a fund-raisier. Mrs. Marilyn (Sam) Rider has chaired each of the shows.

In the Summer of 1994, Chapter Chair Peggy A. Tirrell challenged Chapter Staff to provide monthly First Aid and CPR courses to the public. She gave a deadline of September for this to be implemented. The first public class held in many years was held in August 1994. Since then, the chapter continues to offer monthly classes to the public.

As part of a bold experiment, related to Tirrell's challenge, Joyce Klein was hired as the second Health and Safety Director in 1997. Mrs. Klein already has improved the chapter's capability to provide both public and workplace first aid and CPR classes.

In 1991, the first computer was bought by the chapter. Over the years, manual volunteer and financial records have been transferred to the computer. A new computer was bought in 1997, allowing the chapter to access E-mail and the world wide web.

M. E. (Shem) Idiculla (who had been Chapter Chair in the 1970s and 1980s) succeeded Peggy A. Tirrell in 1994 and served a two year term. In 1997, Peggy A. Tirrell served a one year term followed by Ruth M. Herring.

The Chapter History of the past 20 years still is a mass of data. When analyzed it is sure to provide another impressive period in 80 years of history.