

ROCHESTER HISTORY

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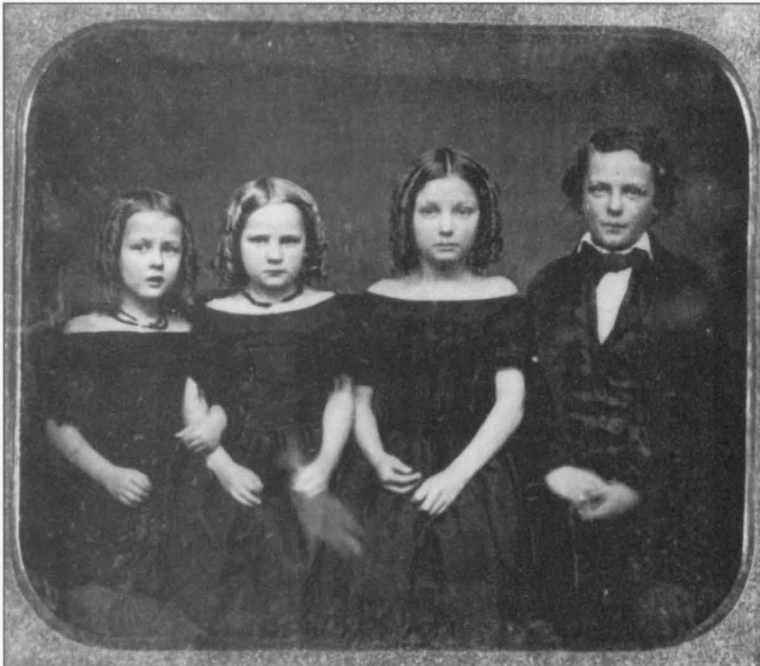
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No. 4

WILLIAM TICHENOR Early Dentist and Inventor Part Two

by Eugene Umberger, Jr.



Dedicated to
Edna Tichenor
who instinctively understood the historical
importance of the Tichenor materials that she so
carefully preserved.

This is the second of a two-part study of the
life and times of William Tichenor.

Cover: Daguerreotype of the Tichenor children (left to right, probably): Emily, Bethia Augusta, Mary, and George, ca. 1857-59. This lists the children in the order of age, but Edna Tichenor suggested that perhaps it may be Mary who is at Emily's left. Photograph by Paul Porell, Rochester Museum and Science Center.

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“The piazza is to be built like that of Dr. Faulkner’s on North St”

We do not know where Tichenor lived when he first arrived in the city in 1842 because of the gap in publication between the 1841 and 1844 city directories. But in the 1844 directory (whose data were gathered early in the year), he is listed at the corner of Sherman and Franklin Square, the frequent site of political rallies (Fig. 1).¹ Within little over a year, however, the next city directory, 1845–1846 (whose data were gathered in late May), places him on North Clinton, near the city line. However, at that time his house was actually in the Town of Irondequoit, on the northeast corner of present day North Clinton and Clifford Avenues, in an area not annexed by the city until 1874.²

From family documents we know specifically when this change in address occurred. On January 25, 1845, Tichenor signed a contract with Elisha J. Keeney and James F. Royce to have a house built on a lot that he owned on North Clinton, with a completion date of no later than June 1.³ The house was built in the Greek Revival style, the dominant style of domestic architecture in this country during the period 1830–1850. With a gable front and side wing, the house illustrates one of the principal sub-types that was particularly common in western New York and Ohio (Fig. 2).⁴ At this time there were few architectural style guides for builders: Asher Benjamin’s *The Practical House Carpenter* (1830) and Minard Lafever’s *The Modern Builders’ Guide* (1833) were the principal sources for the Greek Revival. At a time when a quickly sketched plan (if any) was the norm, it is not surprising that in the contract reference is made to certain features of other area homes, also built by Keeney and Royce: the above-mentioned piazza of Faulkner’s house, just built the previous year (Dr. Lewis K. Faulkner, located at 28 North, was a dentist, who by the 1849–1850 city directory was also listing himself as a Daguerrian Artist) and a cornice “to be as good as & similar to that on E.D.[sic] Collin’s house” (Elihu B. Collins, located at 25 Andrews, was a flour merchant).⁵

But there is something curious about the contract. It

provides that “there is nothing to be done in the inside of the front half of the upright part below, and nothing to be done in the inside of the upright part above, except to lay the floor.”⁶ Fortunately the contract came down to us complete with an attached diagram (Fig. 3), which clearly identifies the “unfinished part.” Why was part of the house going to be left unfinished? The reader may recall an earlier reference (in Part I) to a fire that destroyed Tichenor’s office on January 21, 1845—just four days before Tichenor signed the contract to have his house built. Plans for the building of this house must have been developing over a period of time; surely, to some degree, he had to reduce the cost of the house, his business having just suffered a devastating fire for which the insurance coverage fell short.

And who took up residence in this new house? At the time, William and his wife, Bethia, had three sons, Enos, Henry, and George, and a daughter, Mary, who was born on April 7, 1845, not long before the presumed actual move



Fig. 1. Plan of the City of Rochester, 1851, showing the location of Franklin Square. Photograph by Paul Porell, RMSC.

into the house. The family was yet to expand still more, with the addition of two more daughters, Bethia Augusta, known as "Gussie" or "Gusta" (born 1847) and Emily (born 1849). The Tichenor's third son, Horace, who was born in 1838 in Waterloo, had survived but a few months. One daguerreotype of the children (the absence of Enos and Henry will be explained later) has survived (front cover illustration). The only interior photograph of the home post-dates William Tichenor's death; it shows the parlor, originally left unfinished (Fig. 4).⁷

Tichenor's house was located approximately a mile and a half from the downtown location of his dental office at 16 Buffalo Street (Fig. 5). This certainly fits easily into the concept of the "walking city": "Until the 1850s the settled areas of even the largest cities, such as New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, rarely extended beyond two miles from the city center—the average distance a person can walk in half an hour."⁸ And certainly not an inconvenient distance for his patients who found themselves having to go out to his house for treatment once he relocated his office from the Arcade to his home in January 1847. Thereafter followed a steady schedule of appointments over the next couple of years, in sharp contrast to the activity of the previous year, during which time he was largely otherwise engaged.

"A Wonderful Invention of a Wonderful Age!"

Dentistry was not the only field to which William Tichenor applied his intellectual curiosity and manual skills. It is clear from one of the documents in the collections of the Rochester Museum & Science Center (hereafter referred to as RMSC) that he had "invented improvements in the method of applying the electric fluid to the Magnetic Telegraph for which he applied for letters patent from the Government of the United States in December, 1845 and did also apply on the twentieth day of January 1846 for another similar improvement in the same operation for Letters Patent."⁹ Another document



Fig. 2. William Tichenor's house on North Clinton, ca. 1883. Shown standing at the front doorway are his then widow, Bethia, and daughter, Bethia Augusta (right). Bethia Augusta's two children can be seen in the foreground, James Henry (on the left) and Florence, and a nephew, Mandeville Jacobus, the only child of Bethia Augusta's sister, Emily. Stone Negative Collection, RMSC.

shows that other individuals had faith that Tichenor had created something of merit (Fig. 6).¹⁰

Although to date no record of the granting of such a patent has been found, the existence of his invention is verified in local newspapers. The New York, Albany and Buffalo Electric Magnetic Telegraph Company first completed a section of line between Albany and Utica on January 31, 1846. The Utica to Buffalo line was completed on July 3 and the entire line was open with the completion of the New York to Albany section on September 9th.¹¹ In the meantime, the telegraph line had entered Rochester on June 1. And who was not only in charge of the telegraph office, but using a device of his own invention? Dr. William Tichenor. Under the headline "The Magnetic Telegraph—Rochester and Albany United!," the *Rochester Daily Advertiser* gave a lengthy account of this landmark event, saying in part:

The Magnetic Telegraph, the annihilator of distance, it is expected, will go into operation between Rochester

and Albany to-day, thereby establishing an INSTANTANEOUS COMMUNICATION between the two cities. Whatever of interest, therefore, which may occur in the latter city, will be given to our readers *here*, "smoking hot" from the Lightning Express, at the same moment it transpires! A wonderful invention of a wonderful age!

The station in this city will be under the charge of Dr. Tichenor, a gentleman well qualified for the discharge of duties requiring such great coolness, accuracy and precision. The room occupied will be in the basement of Congress Hall [Fig. 7]....

...By an invention, however, of Dr. Tichenor, we understand that much time and trouble is saved, and the operation greatly simplified, and made less liable to commit blunders. The machine resembles the keyboard of a piano, each key representing a letter or figure, so that by a single touch of the key the entire letter is made. For instance, instead of striking six times to record the figure 4, only one stroke is necessary to make the whole six dots. The invention is a valuable one, and should be generally adopted.¹²

Another Rochester paper gave an even more effusive and glowing account of this event, reporting that "it was perfect magic; and it was no marvel that men's mouths opened wide, as they looked upon the mysterious workings of this wonderful invention. Mr. Tichenor gives evidence of promptness as a writer. He reads and communicates readily and with accuracy. The Company was fortunate in securing his services, as the public will find him gentlemanly, assiduous and attentive."¹³

Telegraphy was still very much in its infancy. Clearly Tichenor was involved in this field at least by the latter part of 1845 if he was submitting a patent application by December of that year, and his involvement continued for most of the succeeding year (see Table I in Part I—his day book shows only a handful of dental appointments for the second half of the year and even fewer for 1846, except for the last month). And this was only a year and a half after Samuel F. B. Morse made the first successful demonstration in this country of an intercity telegraph on

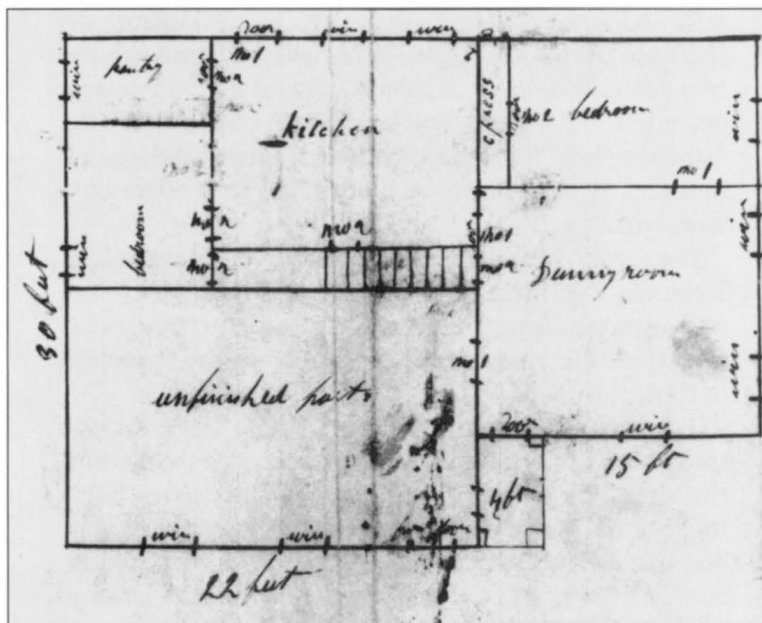


Fig. 3. Floor plan attached to the January 25, 1845, builder's contract for Tichenor's house. Photograph by Paul Porell, RMSC.

May 24, 1844 with the transmission between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. of the famous words "What Hath God Wrought?" This presaged a revolution in communications; a quantitative leap had been made from messages "transmitted," for the most part, by foot, horse, boat, and rail to now instantaneous communication. People truly did marvel at this scientific advance.

Despite Tichenor's public entry into the field of telegraphy, within six months he was out of it and apparently for good. By December 1846, he had moved into a new dental office in the Reynolds Arcade, and despite his very brief stay at that particular location, he had a steady schedule of appointments over the course of the next two years. Why the about face in the direction of his career? Had he failed to acquire a patent for his telegraphic device? Had he completely sold off the rights to it? Had its level of technology simply been superseded, overtaken by other equipment at a time when there was a tremendous amount of inventive activity taking place? These questions remain unanswered.

Tichenor's foray into telegraphy is not at all surprising when one considers the skills he could bring to such a new endeavor: intelligence, dexterity, and a knowledge of working with metals. He was not the first or the last local dentist to get involved in other technology-related activities. Dr. Faulkner, mentioned previously, took up daguerreotypy. Josephus Requa, also a dentist and who had served all or part of an apprenticeship to the renowned local gunsmith William Billinghamurst, gained local notoriety during the Civil War with what came to be known as the Billinghamurst-Requa Battery Gun (composed of 30 simultaneously-fired rifle barrels).¹⁴ Whatever the causes for Tichenor's entry into and exit from this field, it was left to others, principally Hiram Sibley, to leave an indelible connection between telegraphy and the city of Rochester. Ten years after Tichenor presided over the telegraph when it was first connected to this city, Sibley completed formation of the Western Union Telegraph Company, described as this nation's first industrial monopoly.

**"The death of this respected citizen will be
startling to many"**

Apart from his activity in dentistry and telegraphy, what do we know about William Tichenor, the person? Only a



Fig. 4. Parlor of the Tichenor house, ca. 1880. Photograph by Paul Porell, RMSC.

few clues suggest the more personal side of this individual. A very small hymnal, with his name gold-stamped on the leather cover, certainly reveals his religious affiliation: *A Collection of Hymns for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church....* It was published in 1831, but there is also a later edition, 1845, in RMSC collections that bears his name inscribed inside the front cover. There is also a copy in the collections of a pamphlet entitled *Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order of Teoronto Lodge, No. 69, I.O. of O.F of the State of New York ...* (Rochester: Daily Advertiser Office, 1849). This suggests that Tichenor was a member of the International Order of Odd Fellows, and may possibly explain, at least in part, his choice of James Royce to build his house—Royce's obituary, cited previously, identifies

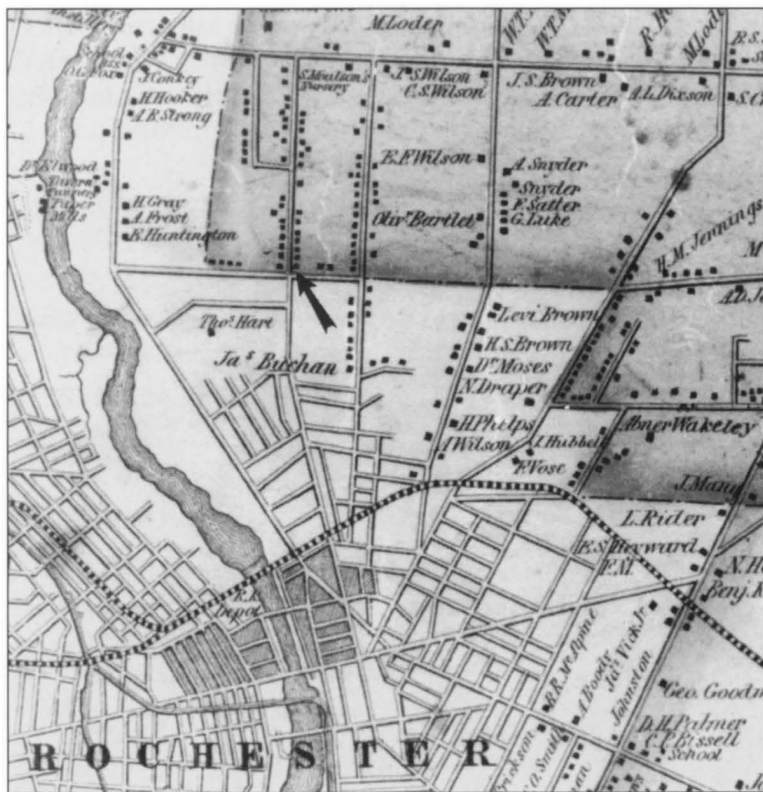


Fig. 5. The location of Tichenor's house is marked by a black square tucked into the northeast corner of North Clinton and Clifford on this 1852 map of Monroe County. Photograph by Paul Porell, RMSC.

him as a member of this fraternal organization. Further, a statement in Tichenor's obituary reveals something of his civic activities in that "he had taken an active part in a spirited caucus for delegates to the District and County Conventions."¹⁵

But perhaps most intriguing is a letter that was apparently drafted on behalf of Tichenor by one Don Mann:

Mr Seymour

Sir

Having sometime since (when you were engaged as engineer upon the Ithaca & Owego Rail Road) had the honor of your acquaintance I take the liberty of applying to you for the situation of conductor upon the road of which you are now superintendent. Of my suitableness for the place for which I apply it behooves me to let others speak but should you desire it I will endeavor to produce responsible & satisfactory certificates of my capacity for station referred to. Being disengaged from business & disliking the confinement of an office any favor which you may be pleased to render me, in procuring the place for which I apply, will be gratefully received & duly appreciated

by your

most obt svt

Wm Tichenor

I know this wont suit you & I would do better if I knew how there is one comfort you can write it right yourself wherever you try Don Mann¹⁶

Unfortunately this draft is undated, but the comment that he dislikes the confinement of an office is a somewhat surprising revelation from a man who not only worked as a dentist, but for a time worked under the restrictions of a telegraph office. Of course it could have been written before his involvement with telegraphy, but it seems more likely to come from a time following a steady two and a half year period of dental practice from December 1846 to the summer of 1849. The break in appointments at that point may have signalled a reassessment of the future direction of his career. Tichenor had family in Tompkins

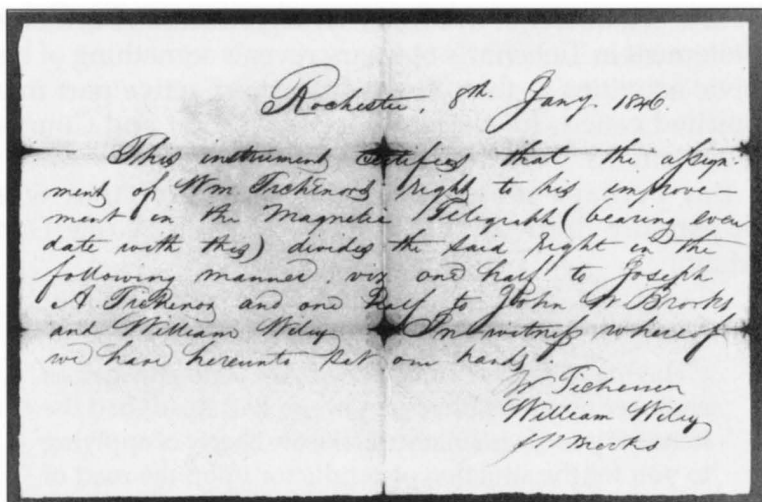


Fig. 6. Assignment of rights from William Tichenor to a brother in Ithaca and two individuals connected with the Auburn & Rochester Railroad. Photograph by Paul Porell, RMSC.

County, New York and certainly could have been aware of the pending completion of the Cayuga and Susquehanna (successor to the Ithaca and Owego) railroad in December of 1849. James Seymour was a civil engineer who was responsible for the completion of this line and who was present in Ithaca at the celebration commemorating that event on December 18.¹⁷ Tichenor may well have attempted to renew his contact with Seymour in the summer of 1849 in anticipation of future employment on this road.

But whatever the future plans of William Tichenor, they were tragically cut short in 1849. His oldest child, Enos, aged 15, died in May.¹⁸ Then his third daughter, Emily, was born in August, but within a month, almost to the day, William Tichenor died of cholera at age 38. His September 26 obituary said that "The intelligence of the death of this respected citizen, will be startling to many who saw him in health, and actively engaged about the city, on the day previous to his decease. Doct. T. was taken with cholera on Monday evening, and died the next morning at 8 o'clock."¹⁹ (The notice goes on to erroneously surmise cause and effect between his active involvement in politics, mentioned above, and being afflicted with the

disease.) Death had come quickly to William Tichenor, as was common with cholera.

Caused by bacteria that enter the digestive system via uncooked fruits or vegetables, sewage-contaminated water, or simply unwashed hands, the symptoms could be spectacular: "The onset of cholera is marked by diarrhea, acute spasmodic vomiting, and painful cramps. Consequent dehydration, often accompanied by cyanosis [a bluish discoloration of the skin and mucous membranes], gives to the sufferer a characteristic and disquieting appearance: his face blue and pinched, his extremities cold and darkened, the skin of his hands and feet drawn and puckered....Death may intervene within a day, sometimes within a few hours of the appearance of the first symptoms. And these first symptoms appear with



Fig. 7. Congress Hall on the west side of the Genesee River, looking south towards the center of the city. (The Auburn and Rochester Railroad station is located just to the lower left of the Hall.) Part of a view of Rochester, ca. 1870. Lithograph proof by William Henry Robinson, Rochester, N.Y. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Rush Rhees Library, University of Rochester. Photograph by Paul Porell, RMSC.

little or no warning."²⁰ Cholera is described as the "classic epidemic disease of the nineteenth century....When cholera first appeared in the United States in 1832, yellow fever and smallpox, the great epidemic diseases of the previous two centuries, were no longer truly national problems."²¹ After its disappearance in 1834, it returned once again during the winter of 1848–1849. Rochester's Board of Health recorded the first case of cholera on July 7, 1849 and announced the disappearance of the disease on September 8; to the death toll of 127 people must be added Tichenor, who was struck down some two weeks after the disease had supposedly disappeared from the city.²² It is somewhat ironic that Tichenor's relatives were informed of his death by the very means of technology—the telegraph—that he had played such an important role in locally (Fig. 8).

Tragedy was to strike the Tichenor family yet again. Only five years after the death of the father, the next oldest son, Henry, aged 18, was killed in a railroad accident: "H.J. Tichenor, employed as a brakeman on the Central Railroad, was instantly killed last night, in the town of Chili, while in the act of coupling some freight cars. It is supposed that his foot slipped when the cars came together, throwing him under the wheels....He had been employed on the road but a few weeks."²³ Further details are revealed in subsequent testimony before the coroner's jury: "it appeared that young TICHNOR [sic] was getting down from the deck of one freight car to what is called the way-car, in order to warm himself, and missing the handles placed on the side to assist in the descent and ascent, he slipped and fell down between the two cars, was run over and badly mangled. He lived four hours, in great suffering."²⁴

A fortuitous discovery yielded an image of Henry Tichenor. The donor of RMSC materials relating to William Tichenor and his photographer son-in-law, James P. Walter, also gave Walter materials to George Eastman House. This material includes two post-mortem (i.e., following death) daguerreotypes of a young man (slightly differing views). The detail that clinched the identification can be observed on the right cheek: a vertical suture extending from the

area of the forehead to the cheek (and one, more difficult to discern, on the left cheek). As reported by the coroner's jury, Henry had been "badly mangled," and surely this is

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SAMUEL FOSTER, Superintendent.

Rochester, Sept 25 1849

By Telegraph from Ithaca

To B Tichenor

Mrs Miles & myself start in the morning when is the funeral

J. Tichenor

B Au 27

Fig. 8. William Tichenor's relatives in Ithaca were obviously informed of his death on the day on which it occurred and are inquiring about the time of the funeral even as they prepare to leave for Rochester the very next day. The message was sent by either John or Joseph, brothers of William. Photograph by Paul Porell, RMSC.

the consequence of that injury and an effort to make him presentable for a post-mortem photograph (Fig. 9).

The introduction of photography in 1839 was soon to create competition for painters, who began to lose customers for the traditional portrait. But there continued to be a market for both posthumous mourning paintings and post-mortem photographs. Whereas the former created the illusion of life in death (the eyes of the person might well be open, and only various symbols, such as a willow tree, would identify the true nature of the portrait), the latter created the illusion that the individual was merely sleeping: "The pose seems to embody the sentiment toward death...which dominated this period. 'In the ideology of the later 19th century, death did not really occur. People did not die. They went to sleep. They rested from their labors.'"²⁵

The style of this photograph is characteristic of post-mortem photographs of the period from 1840 to 1880: the boy is shown in close-up from the waist (or higher); he is holding something in his hands, in this case a book (possibly opened to a specific page or passage); whatever he is stretched out on is covered with a temporary covering. When the surroundings for such photographs are clear (in this instance, they are not), they are usually that of a home.²⁶ The funeral industry as we know it today did not develop until the later 1880s:

Embalming was not a common practice in America until after 1880, and ready-made coffins were not generally available. Therefore, the corpse was placed on a board, with ice to retard decomposition. Viewing occurred, if at all, while the family was waiting for the coffin to be completed. Photographers advertised that they could come to deceased's home on an hour's notice because the entire burial process sometimes took only one day, with little opportunity of finding the corpse in the open coffin. Here technology and ideology were in harmony. If the sentiment was to regard death as the last sleep, then one certainly did not want a post-mortem portrait taken in a coffin. Moreover, coffins were usually made of rough-hewn lumber, without a lining; not exactly the

most pleasant setting for the last, and in some cases, only portrait of the deceased.²⁷

It is most likely that Henry was photographed at home and that the funeral was held there, just as it was when his brother, Enos, died five years earlier, and the way it would be when their mother died over thirty years later.²⁸



Fig. 9. Post-mortem daguerreotype of Henry Tichenor, 1854. Courtesy George Eastman House.

“Walter, Photographer”

James P. Walter, William Tichenor’s son-in-law, is important to this story not only because of his photographs that help to document the Tichenor family and their house, but because the specifics of his family’s history help to explain how all of the material on which this study is based—objects, documents, photographs—managed to survive intact as a collection.

As mentioned previously, he never met his father-in-law, who died 25 years before James and Bethia Augusta got married and moved in with Tichenor’s widow, Bethia, at some time between the summers of 1874 and 1875. In the collections of George Eastman House is one of Walter’s



Fig. 10. James P. Walter’s photographic gallery at 742 North Clinton. His wife, Bethia, is in the window. Left to right, at the entrance, Henry, Gip (the family dog), unidentified girl, Florence. Windows on the side and in the roof provided natural light and made possible shorter exposure times. Stone Negative Collection, RMSC.

account books that reveals, in addition to family expenses, the series of local photographers for whom he worked before striking out on his own. Starting with F.W. Bacon in March 1872 and concluding with L.R. Neuman in June 1882, he worked for five different local photographers. Two years after leaving Neuman, he built his own photographic gallery next door to the Tichenor house, squeezed in between their house and the corner of North Clinton and Clifford (Figs. 10 and 11). After the widow Bethia's death in 1887, James and his wife proceeded to build a house just around the corner from the Tichenor house (Fig. 12). Completed two years later, it faced south on Clifford Ave.

The Walters had two children, Henry (1874–1955) and Florence (1879–1960). Neither Henry nor Florence ever married and they both lived and died in the home on Clifford Ave. Following Florence's death, five years after the death of her brother, William Tichenor's grandson, Ralph Tichenor (who also lived in Rochester), settled her estate. The materials comprising this collection simply moved from William Tichenor's house around the corner to the Walters' new house; then to Ralph Tichenor's house; and finally, to RMSC.



Fig. 11. Position of Walter's photographic gallery in relationship to the Tichenor home and the corner of North Clinton and Clifford. Stone Negative Collection, RMSC.

A comment by former Strong Museum curator Susan Williams, who investigated “why we eat what we eat, and how, when, and where we do it—today,” is just as applicable to this body of material that is the legacy of the Tichenor and Walter families. She observed (about food, to be sure) that “even when all these sources are considered together, they cannot bring back the people of the previous century to answer our questions about their lives.... They can only create for us a patchwork vision of that world, which, incomplete as it may be, still helps us to recognize and understand better,” not only the past, but also the present.²⁹

Eugene Umberger, Jr., is the Curator of History and Chairman of the Department of History at the Rochester Museum and Science Center.

Acknowledgments for Parts One and Two

*As Ivor Noël Hume commented in *The Virginia Adventure* (1994)—with tongue firmly in cheek—this is the section “that nobody reads save for one’s friends, colleagues, and respondents, and then only to be sure that they have not been overlooked and that their names are correctly spelled.” A research project such as this inevitably draws on the expertise and talents of many individuals and the resources of many institutions, so at the risk of an oversight, I would like to express particular gratitude to the following: Betty Auten, Seneca County Historian; Daniel Barber, Leatrice Kemp, Eva Patry, and Victoria Schmitt of the RMSC; John S. Genung, Waterloo; Dr. William Greider; Dr. John M. Hyson, Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry; Tim O’Connell, City of Rochester; Dr. Malvin Ring; Dr. Seymour Schwartz, University of Rochester Medical Center; Joseph Struble, George Eastman House Photo Collection; John Sutton, Westlake Conservators, Ltd.; Cayuga County Historian; Dewitt Historical Society of Tompkins County; Edward G. Miner Library, School of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Rochester; Irondequoit Town Historian; Olin Library, Cornell University; Onondaga Historical Association; Local History Division, Rochester Public Library; City Archives and Records Management Center, City of Rochester; Rush Rhees Library,*

University of Rochester; Smithsonian Institution; The Strong Museum; Waterloo Library and Historical Society.

One contributor, H.J. Swinney, Director Emeritus of The Strong Museum, must be singled out for special acknowledgement. This project has benefited from both his editorial and research skills, the latter particularly honed in his lifelong effort to document the lives of New York State gunsmiths. Half the fun of doing this project was sharing my discoveries with him, and our subsequent discussions often led to further revelations and helped to focus my research inquiries. And at times, my inclination to surmise a particular fact or course of events, no matter how plausible, was met by his sobering comment "but we simply don't know."

END NOTES

Abbreviations:

col. column

RDA *Rochester Daily Advertiser*

RDD *Rochester Daily Democrat*

RDU *Rochester Daily Union*

RDUa *Rochester Daily Union and Advertiser*

RMSC Rochester Museum and Science Center

RUA *Rochester Union and Advertiser*

TA Tichenor Archives (RMSC)

1. Blake McKelvey, *Rochester: The Water-Power City, 1812-1854* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1945), p. 249.
2. Mortgage, William Tichenor to Elon Huntington, September 24, 1844 (of Lot 18 on a map of the Blumenthal or Flower Valley Tract), County Clerk's office, County of Monroe. On the same date, Tichenor also entered into a contract to purchase Lot 19 from Huntington. TA, Box 2, Series 13.3-4.
3. Contract, William Tichenor with Keeney & Royce, January 25, 1845. TA, Box 2, Series 13.5. Both Elisha J. Keeney and James F. Royce eventually moved on to other occupations as shown in relevant Rochester directories. Keeney progressed through a number of positions—policeman, Chief of Police, detective, and finally U.S. deputy marshal. A May 31, 1898, obituary notice (newspaper unidentified) claimed that Royce "became prominent as a contractor and master builder," and that he not only constructed the first House of Refuge (1849) in Rochester, but supervised the construction of various public buildings in Lansing, Michigan. He eventually got

involved in the Rochester nursery and seed business. "Death of an Old and Highly Respected Citizen of an Advanced Age," *Tengvall's Scrap Book*, Rochester Public Library, Local History Division, Vol. 1, p. 152.

4. Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984), p. 177–80.
5. Contract (note 3 above), pp. 4–5.
6. *Ibid.*, pp. 3–4.
7. A set of rococo revival furniture can be seen in the photograph: two side chairs, a settee, and a gentleman's chair (against back wall). Among the objects acquired by RMSC from Edna Tichenor were three pieces of this set, two of the original four side chairs and the settee. The Stone Negative Collection at RMSC includes this image, along with other photographs taken by James P. Walter. How these negatives came to be included in the Stone collection is unknown.
8. Howard P. Chudacoff and Judith E. Smith, *The Evolution of American Urban Society* (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1988, Third Edition), p. 77.
9. Assignment of rights, January 31, 1846. TA, Box 1, Series 9.3.
10. Assignment of rights, January 8, 1846. TA, Box 1, Series 9.2. This is only one of a number of documents detailing financial transactions—assigning portions of Tichenor's "right title & interest in such improvements"—among William and Joseph Tichenor (a brother living in Ithaca), John W. Brooks, and William Wiley. The latter two individuals turn up in only two Rochester directories. In 1845–1846, Brooks and Wiley are listed as Superintendent and Engineer, respectively, of the Auburn & Rochester Rail Road. In 1847–1848, only Wiley is listed, and he has now replaced Brooks as Superintendent. This seems to be the same John W. Brooks who went on to become the superintendent of the newly formed Michigan Central Railroad Company in the fall of 1846. He has been described as "a civil engineer who had helped build and operate railroads in New York and New England" and lauded as "an outstanding American railroad builder and entrepreneur who was foremost in the making of the Michigan Central Railroad and other lines further west." Charles Hirschfeld, *The Great Railroad Conspiracy: The Social History of a Railroad War* (East Lansing, Mich.: The Michigan State College Press, 1953), pp. vi, 3. William Wiley even contacted Samuel F.B. Morse in an effort to interest him in investing in Tichenor's invention. There is no record of Morse's response, if any. Letter, January 17, 1846, *The Papers of Samuel F.B. Morse*, Container No. 21, Reel No. 10, Document No. 19, Library of Congress.
11. James D. Reid, *The Telegraph in America. Its Founders, Promoters, and Noted Men* (New York: Derby Brothers, 1879), pp. 300–304. It should be noted that one of the earliest subscribers in support of the construction of this line was J.W. Brooks (note 10), one of the three individuals who purchased partial rights to Tichenor's invention.
12. *RDA*, June 1, 1846, p. 2, col. 2.
13. "Magnetic Telegraph to Rochester," *RDD*, June 2, 1846, p. 2, col. 3. Perhaps not surprisingly, given his central role in all of this activity, Tichenor is mentioned in Reid's history of the telegraph. Reid, p. 305.
14. Verbal communication, H.J. Swinney, May, 1997.

15. "Death of Dr. Wm. Tichenor," *RDD*, September 26, 1849, p. 2, col. 2.
16. Draft letter, William Tichenor to Seymour, n.d. TA, Box 1, Series 3.1. Neither Seymour (lacking a first name) nor Mann could be located in the Rochester city directories and are more likely residents of Ithaca (which lacks city directories for this time period).
17. "Rail-Road Festival! For the Celebration of the Completion of the Cayuga and Susquehanna R. Road." Transcription of excerpts from an article appearing in an Ithaca newspaper, *The Flag of the Union*, December 20, 1849. Seymour is not mentioned in the article, but his presence is confirmed by a letter he wrote to his wife in Ithaca on December 16, 1849. Both transcriptions furnished by Dewitt Historical Society of Tompkins County, Ithaca, New York, March 13, 1997.
18. Enos is the only Tichenor to appear in the *Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, New York, Interment Index, Volume 1, 1837 to 1860* (Rochester, N.Y.: Computer Interest Group, Rochester Genealogical Society, 1996), in which the cause of death is listed as "Congestion Brain" (p. T6).
19. "Death of Dr. Wm. Tichenor." In a scenario all too familiar to genealogists, Tichenor was located in the 1850 federal census, not under the name of Tichenor, but under that of "Totson"! Positive identification could be made based on the specifics of the entry: the occupation of the deceased was "Dentiz," he had died of "Collary," and a son, Enos, had died at age 15 (although in May, not, as recorded in the census, in June). *Census of the United States, 1850, Mortuary Schedules*.
20. Charles E. Rosenberg, *The Cholera Years: The United States in 1832, 1849, and 1866* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1962), pp. 2-3.
21. Rosenberg, p. 1.
22. Betsy C. Corner, "A Century of Medicine in Rochester: Early Physicians and Medical Institutions," *Centennial History of Rochester, New York* (Rochester, N.Y.: The Rochester Historical Society, 1934), Vol. IV, pp. 358-59. A "Board of Health" notice in the *Rochester American* for August 27, 1849 (p. 2, col. 2) noted that cholera appeared on June 20th.
23. "Brakeman Killed," *RDU*, Nov. 22, 1854, p. 3, col. 1. The Auburn and Rochester Railroad had been taken over the year before by the New York Central Railroad. The death of Henry, coupled with the death of his brother Enos five years before, explains their absence from the daguerreotype of the surviving Tichenor children (front cover illustration) taken several years after this latest tragedy.
24. Unidentified newspaper clipping. TA, Box 1, Series 5.3.
25. Jay Ruby, "Post-Mortem Portraiture in America," *History of Photography*, Vol. 8, No. 3, July-September, 1984, p. 210.
26. Ruby, p. 210. A post-mortem daguerreotype of a boy in the collections of The Strong Museum shows him holding an open book; catalog information identifies the text as that referring to a boy and his dog. Letter, Deborah A. Smith to Eugene Umberger, October 18, 1993.
27. Ruby, p. 210-11.
28. "Died." (Enos Tichenor), *The Daily Magnet*, May 12, 1849, p. 3, col. 1; "Died." (Bethia Tichenor), *RDUA*, October 5, 1887, p. 8, col. 6.
29. Susan Williams, *Savory Suppers & Fashionable Feasts: Dining in Victorian America* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1985), p. 14.



Fig. 12. James P. Walter house on Clifford Ave. Stone Negative Collection, RMSC.