

**THE WEEK IN HISTORY**

**Drivers braved mud, snow and other hazards in the Great New York to Paris Automobile Race in 1908.**

(Library of Congress)

### **Great New York to Paris automobile race had to make it up Camillus Hill**

The Onondaga Historical Association looks back at the week in local history:

106 years ago: On Feb 12, 1908, the Great New York to Paris automobile race via San Francisco, Japan, Russia, and Berlin, left New York's Time Square as 250,000 people watched. Cars participated from France, Italy, Germany, and the United States.

Three days later, the race passed through Syracuse and the cars faced a blizzard on the Camillus Hill west of the city, a place often used as a testing site for Franklin automobiles. The Buffalo-built Thomas Flyer, driven most of the race by mechanic and Buffalo native George Schuster, won in an elapsed time of 169 days, traveling 13,341 miles by land.

— *Daniel Connors of the OHA*