

THE WEEK IN HISTORY**Biking from NY
to Chicago, via
Syracuse**

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

112 years ago: On May 21, 1892, the Great Relay Race, a bicycle race from Chicago to New York, passed through Syracuse.

Despite difficult conditions, the 975-mile race was completed in five days at an average speed of 10 miles an hour. Its greatest accomplishment, besides showing the reliability of the bicycle as transportation, was to raise awareness of the terrible state of American roads. This was one of several endurance races that were popular when bicycles first became common. Others included races against horses and even trains.

In 1896, a sextuplet-tandem bike made by E.C. Stearns Bicycle Agency of Syracuse beat the Empire State Express in a race in Geddes.

— *Daniel Connors of the OHA*