

THE WEEK IN HISTORY



View of Sainte Marie de Ganentaa (French Fort) looking south toward Syracuse on Aug. 16, 1933. The Jesuit Well is just on the other side of the railroad bridge visible in the top center of the image.

Opening of 'Sainte Marie de Ganentaa'

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

81 years ago: In a large ceremony on Aug. 16, 1933, Onondaga Lake Park's "Sainte Marie de Ganentaa," which became commonly known as the French Fort, and the Jesuit Well were dedicated.

These sites and others in the park were the work of thousands of laborers who were employed through the Onondaga County Emergency Work Bureau. Over 33,000 people attended on the east shore of Onondaga Lake. WFBL and WSYR radio stations were on hand to broadcast the ceremonies.

The afternoon kicked off with a symbolic arrival of canoes and a flag-raising in the fort. Next was the dedication of the Jesuit Well, just on the other side of the railroad bridge from the fort. Finally, the festivities moved to Griffin Field, where there was a parade, chorus, and presentation of awards and medals.

— *Daniel Connors of the OHA*