

Manchester Minute:

What's in a Name?

Port Gibson was named for Henry Gibson, a prominent leader in Canandaigua in the early 1800's. When talk of building a canal across New York State was becoming a reality, Gibson was a strong advocate for having an Ontario County port on this canal. (Legend has it that the idea for building the Erie Canal was hatched in the Ontario County Jail around 1817). Having a port on the canal would benefit not only Canandaigua business, but also other Ontario County merchants. Henry was also instrumental in the design of Port Gibson. He names several of the streets after other influential Canandaigua residents, such as Grieg St (for John Grieg), Atwater St (Moses Atwater), Granger St (Francis Granger), and Bemis St (James Bemis). That there are also streets with these exact names found in Canandaigua, is not a coincidence!