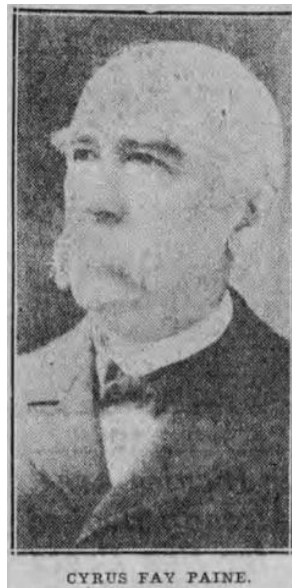


Research Notes on the Journal of Cyrus Fay Paine

Rain Milligan, '25-'26 Wehrheim Curatorial Intern

- Origins of the Journal
 - Started on October 24th, 1848 and ended on April 25th, 1852
 - Started the diary in order “to ‘commune with mine own heart’ to ‘examine myself etc.’ By writing each day the secret thoughts of ‘my own heart’”
 - Begins by detailing a “history of my own life” (up until 1848, then continuing after as a diary) and was written for the benefit of “my own perusal”

- Cyrus Fay Paine
 - Born January 16th, 1827 in the town of Galway, Montgomery Co., N.Y.
 - Died June 10th *or* July 11th, 1921
 - Buried at Mount Hope Cemetery (Section G Lot 109), Rochester N.Y.
 - Founder of the Paine Drug Company, Inc. in Rochester, N.Y.



[Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)

- Family
 - Grandparents
 - Mary *Dixon* Paine Lewis
 - b. February 12th, 1766 – d. July 19th, 1847
 - Parents
 - Dr. Lemuel Covell Paine Sr.
 - b. November 9th, 1787 – d. January 3rd, 1873
 - Hannah Buell
 - b. 1792 – d. 1872
 - Siblings
 - Julia Pierpont *Paine* Fay
 - b. 1826 – d. 1884
 - Catherine Cushing Paine
 - b. 1829 – d. 1854
 - Lemuel Covell Paine Jr.
 - b. 1831 – d. January 1899
 - James Dixson Paine
 - b. July 26th, 1832 – d. November 26th, 1897
 - Spouse(s)
 - Harriet A. *Sage* Paine (m. June 4th, 1850)
 - b. 1830 – d. 1859
 - Eliza A. *Sage* Paine (m. 1864)
 - b. 1843 – d. 1917
 - Children
 - w/ Harriet A. *Sage* Paine
 - Harriet Ella *Paine* Hamilton
 - b. 1851 – d. 1936
 - Orrin Sage “Orie” Paine
 - b. 1856 – d. 1857
 - Emma Buell *Paine* Barnum
 - b. 1859 – d. 1953
 - w/ Eliza A. *Sage* Paine
 - Edwin C. Paine
 - b. 1866 – d. 1887
 - Jessie Sage Paine
 - b. 1867 – d. 1868
 - Minnie Paine
 - b. 1871 – d. 1872

- Early Life and Journey to Rochester (1827-1848)
 - Cyrus Fay Paine was born in 1827 in the town of Galway, Montgomery Co., N.Y. where he lived until the age of about 9 years old before moving to the village of Clyde, Wayne Co. where he remained for a little over a year, until the spring of 1837 where he moved, again, to the Village of Albion, Orleans Co., N.Y.
 - He was sent to school soon after arriving in Albion where he studied until about the age of 17 years old.
 - Soon after leaving school, he acquired a job as a clerk with a dry goods merchant, Joshua Rathborn, where he remained for about a year.
 - He then acquired a job as a clerk with Nichoson & Paine in a drug and book store, where he stayed for about two years.
 - Cyrus visited Buffalo searching for work but did not find any, shortly after he went with Dr. Nichoson to visit “that far and famed” New York City where he received “some encouragement” but nothing “sufficient to induce me to stay.” On his way home, he stopped in Albany to visit the Senate Chamber and the Assembly, and after to Fulton Co. to visit his uncle Cyrus Fay.
 - After returning home Cyrus worked with his father, Dr. Lemuel Covell Paine, where his “desire for some employment increased daily.”
 - He received a letter from a friend in Buffalo offering work in a “Fancy store” owned by “Mr. B.” He hesitantly took the job, as he preferred work in the drug and book business, and planned to stay for an indefinite amount of time but was cut short after he received a letter from Messrs. Sage & Brothers, whom he had reached out to work for prior, stating that the position of Bookkeeper would be vacated soon and offered him the job. Shortly after, he received a letter from his Father telling him to go. He told “Mr. B.” and left after six months to return to his home in Albion on September 21st, 1846.
 - He left Albion for Rochester shortly after on September 24th, 1846 where he started his position clerking for Messrs. Sage & Brothers where at the time of beginning his daily journal entries in October of 1848, he had been working for 2 years.

- Details from his Journal Entries (October 1848-April 1852)
 - On November 6th 1848, the day before the election of 1848, Cyrus wrote about the affairs of elections at the time, writing that “Tomorrow is election day and both parties—Whigs and Barnburners—are making a great parade this evening. Bands of music, torches and bonfires excite the crowd and, maybe, prepare them for the contest on the morrow.” and expressed his own opinion on the election writing “after taking a sober second thought, [I] made up my mind to vote for Gen.[eral] Z.[achary] Taylor for President, although I do not exactly like the man, but on comparing him with the other candidates for that office, and their principles, have concluded, rather than throw away my vote to cast it for him.” He noted in his entry the following day that he “Voted the entire Whig ticket” and

wrote of the “considerable excitement through the city” and how “In the evening the Arcade was crowded with men eager to hear the telegraphic reports from the eastern cities.” Later that month on November 21st he wrote of the Whigs of Rochester planning to “illuminate [the city] on Friday evening...in celebration of their late victory” but the day after wrote that the Whigs “instead of firing cannons are intending to give the poor throughout the city a ‘thanksgiving dinner’” which he believed was “a first rate idea.” However, he also wrote that “the Hunkers and Barnburners do not like it much being afraid that the Whigs will make capital of it in future elections by saying that they are the ‘Poor man’s friend’.”

- Throughout the journal, in nearly every entry, Cyrus discusses his “very pleasant” evenings spent with Harriett A. Sage, “the daughter of Oren sage”, who he refers to as “H.” He often discusses their time spent with each other “at home” as well as “in the parlor” and even their time praying together, attending church meetings and even concerts like the “S. S. Concert at the State St. Cong. Church.” In April of 1852 he wrote that “on June 4th, 1850 I was married to Miss Harriet A. Sage - the Friend so often mentioned in this journal.”
- Cyrus frequently wrote about everyday life and happenings in the city of Rochester including the weather and even events such as the presence of “some talk about the cholera which seems to be approaching fast...streets and lanes are being cleaned” as well as in December of 1848 how “some stores commenced burning coal gas, the first used in the city” or when “the Erie Canal was opened today and we shall expect an increase of business.” He even wrote about significant happenings in the United States as a whole such as how “The ‘California Gold Fever’ has been the prevalent disease...arising from some reports from California where tis said the mountains, hills and valleys are shining with the precious ore.”
- Cyrus was a very devout Christian, often journaling about his faith as well as others, prayer, religious history, and attendance of meetings at various different churches but most prominently “the First Baptist Church” in Rochester of which he was a frequent attendee. On one morning in December of 1848 he wrote about when he “distributed texts in one of the western districts in the city” and how he “visited 27 families and all accepted of them but one, a Roman Catholic, may he see the error of his way and may the blessing of God crown my efforts.”
- On December 20th, 1848 Cyrus wrote of how he “awoke with symptoms of an attack” and spent the day obtaining “rest in the course of 4 or 5 hours after taking quite a number of opiates” and ends the entry writing “Oh! May I be prepared for every event and finally for death.” The next day how he wrote about how he woke up feeling “unwell, [and] have been confined to the house and to the bed all day.” Over the course of the next few days he wrote daily of how his “health continues to improve” and on December 25th wrote that he is “almost well again” but despite this, it is the last entry before a more than one-year break in the journal which doesn’t continue until April 15th, 1850. Upon returning to keeping his

journal Cyrus wrote “More than one year has passed since I left off recording in this journal. My health was not very good at that time and consequently I did not have that perseverance which a work like this requires. At last I was obliged to leave my business to seek for lost health.”

- Upon returning to keeping his journal after the first long break in writing, Cyrus wrote about what he had been up to in that time he was absent. He wrote mostly of his travels after his sister Julia was married in June when he visited Montreal with her and family where they visited the “immense Catholic Cathedral ‘Notre Dame’ and many other places of note in and about the city.” He wrote about his journey home where he “stopped at the old Fort Ticonderoga...went to Caldwell’s landing, Glens Falls and Saratoga. From Saratoga to Schenectady, visited [his] brother Samuel who was attending Union college [and], from there to [his] Uncle Cyrus Fay, Fulton Co.” and didn’t return home until “About the 1st of August”.
- Cyrus took another hiatus from keeping his journal after his entry on May 8th, 1850. He doesn’t return to writing until his final entry on April 25th, 1852 where he “hastily note[s]” the events that took place during that break. He discusses his marriage to Harriet A. Sage, moving into “the friendly mansion of O.[ren] Sage”, his continued work “for Sage & Brothers at \$400 per year”, as well as when he “was appointed accountant for the ‘University of Rochester’” in December of 1850. He also wrote about his daughter Ella who “on the 6th of July 1851...was born” and how “The first three months of her life was frequented by many crying spells but since that time she has continued to thrive and now I desire to express my gratitude to the all wise Giver of all good for His loving kindness and mercy toward me and mine.”
- In that same final entry on April 25th, 1852 he wrote about his partnership with Alfred S. Lane, a “pharmaceutist and apothecary”, and how on “the 22nd of March 1852...[they] bought the stock of goods – consisting of Drugs, Chemicals, etc. – of Mr. L. B. Swan who has conducted or carried on a druggist store in this city for more than twenty years” and closes the journal with a “Notice of Co-Partnership” stating “The undersigned successors to L. B. Swan, have formed a Co-Partnership for the purchase and sale of Drugs and Medicines, together with all other articles usually kept by dealers in the same” followed by the signatures “Alfred S. Lane” and “Cyrus F. Paine”. The business took on the firm name Lane and Paine and would go on to become the Paine Drug Company in 1897 and subsequently the Paine Drug Company, Inc. in 1910. After Cyrus F. Paine’s death in 1921 the business was taken over by his business partner, who took over Alfred S. Lane’s position after his death in 1881, and 50th mayor of the city of Rochester Clarence Duncan Van Zandt. C. D. Van Zandt ran the company until his death in 1926. The company remained in operation in various forms until at least 1968, though the specific closure date of the company is unknown.