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Oneida Community Collection: Through the Lens of a Murder Trial

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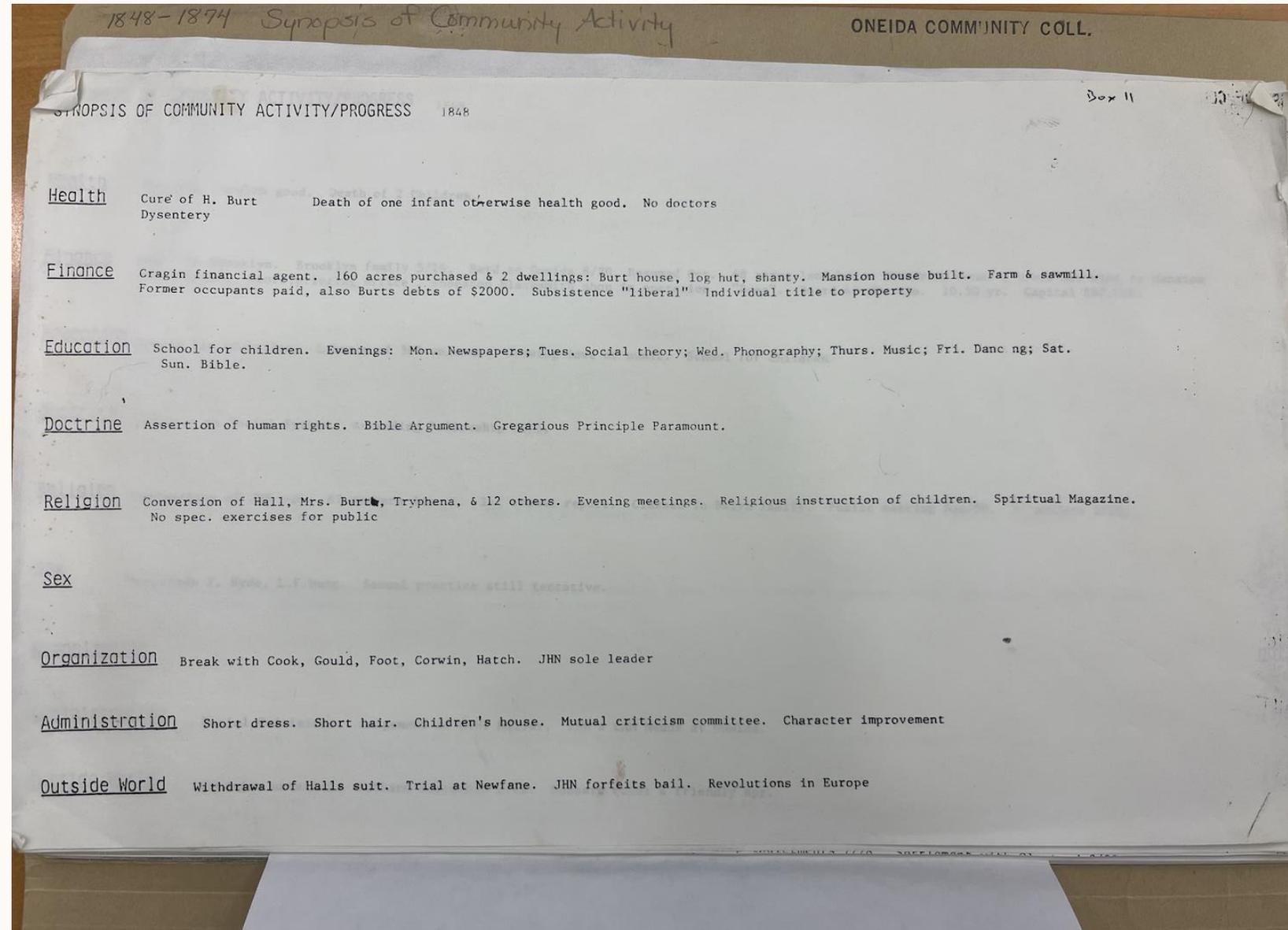
**ONEIDA
COMMUNITY
COLLECTION:
THROUGH THE
LENS OF A
MURDER TRIAL**

Franny Porreca

SOME BACKGROUND

- Perfectionist, utopian community in the town of Oneida, New York
- Established in 1847 by John Humphry Noyes
- Stuck out to me due to unorthodox views and practices and my complete former lack of knowledge of the group
- Local connection

SYNOPSIS OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITY/PROGRESS

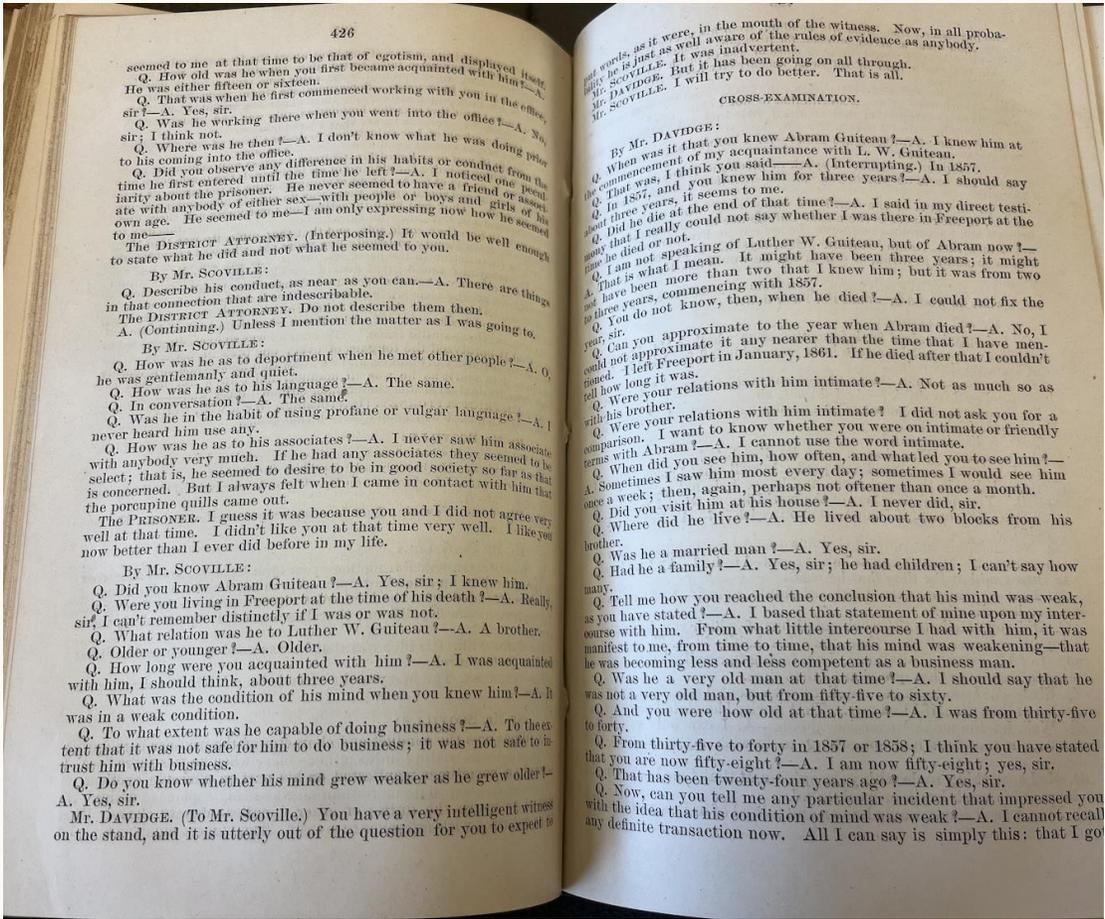
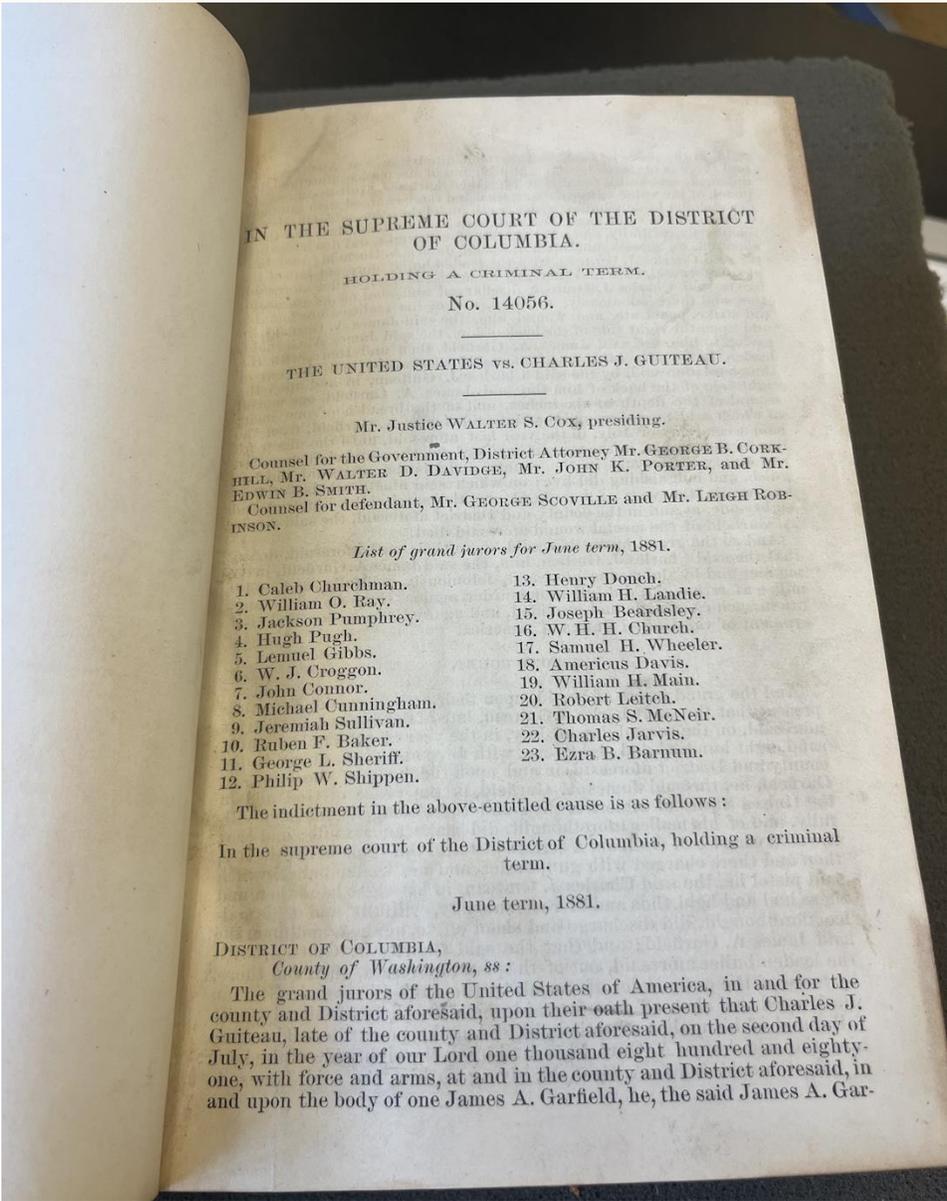




**NARROWING MY
SCOPE...**

CHARLES J. GUYTEAU'S TRIAL⁵

SUPREME COURT DOCUMENTS



Q. I see that I require enlightenment.—A. (Continuing.) That there was another view of the Oneida Community upon that subject than the one that has been evolved here in connection with this trial on the subject of matrimony.

The PRISONER. Religious first, then social. That was according to Noyes.

By Mr. DAVIDGE :

Q. Go on.—A. The Oneida Community said to all parties outside, "You must never expect the blessings of married life until you are married." To explain that, marriage in the Oneida Community sense was union with the Oneida Community—actual membership and union; that all outside parties were to consider themselves as novices, so to speak, and that as to the subject of complex marriage or universal marriage anything of that kind was to be held in abeyance by them. If they wanted to put themselves under the direction of the Oneida Community they must so conduct themselves and so investigate upon that subject.

The PRISONER. I stated it short. First religion and then socialism was Noyes's doctrine. He said that no man had a right to touch socialism until after he had thoroughly united with his Savior. You had to be a very religious person to live in the Oneida Community.

The DISTRICT ATTORNEY. It is now the hour of adjournment.

Mr. SCOVILLE. Have you finished with this witness?

The DISTRICT ATTORNEY. No, sir; not by any means.

The COURT. Let the court be adjourned.

Thereupon (at the hour of 2 o'clock and 58 minutes) the court was adjourned to to-morrow morning at 10 a. m.

CONNECTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- Charles Guiteau was unstable before joining the Oneida Community, and clearly after leaving
- John Humphry Noyes's effect
- Further questions



THANK YOU!

Any additional questions?

SOURCES

**Oneida Community Collection,
Special Collections Research Center,
Syracuse University Libraries
Box No 11
Box No 46**