

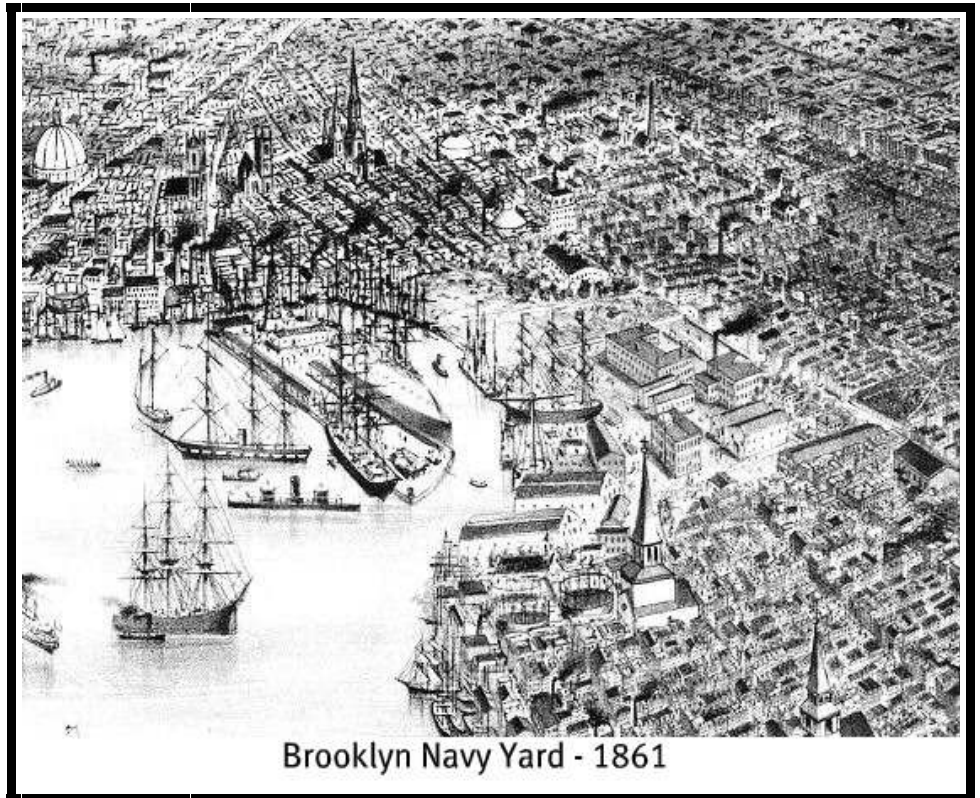
**Byron P. Drowne**, a native of Plattsburgh and well-known to many of the older residents of this city, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. **Anna Mary Guernsay**, of Montebello, CA, on December 28, 1931. Had he lived until February 22, Mr. Drowne would have been 85 years old. Mr. Drowne had lived for the past five years at Montebello, going there from El Paso, TX, where he had been for many years in the employ of the Wells-Fargo Express Company.

Although but sixteen years of age at the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Drowne sought service. He was attending Dr. King's Collegiate Institute at Port Edward NY, where he was preparing for entrance to Union College. In spite of the objections of his parents and teachers, Mr. Drown ran away from school and came home to Plattsburgh where he tried in vain to enlist in the army, and finally ran away with a company of infantry. He succeeded only in getting as far as Mooers Junction when the captain sent him back home.

Mr. Drowne's parents then took him to the Brooklyn Navy Yard where he enlisted for service in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to blockade service on the U.S. Barque, *Midnight*. With one year of service he was made Paymaster's Steward,

and then a warrant officer now called Paymaster's Yoeman. He was mustered out of the service at the close of the war, but was a semi-invalid for more than a year from a malady contracted in the swampy coasts of South Carolina where he did service on the U.S. Steamer, *Gatalap*. He was buried with military honors at Montebello.

Mr. Drowne is survived by one sister, **Louise**, and a brother, **John J. Drowne**, an actor, known on the stage as Allen Wightman, both of Albany. He also leaves two daughters, Mrs. Guernsay and Mrs. **Will Clingman** and three grandchildren, **Anna Lynn** and **Richard Clingman**, also one great-grandchild, Miss **Frances Schoomaker**, daughter of **Lynn Clingman**. The late Dr. Drowne, the first manager of the Plattsburgh theater, was a brother.



Brooklyn Navy Yard - 1861