

# INFORMER

Volume 21, Issue 1

Annual Dues \$15.00 Canadian \$19.00

January 2014



## CHILDREN WITHOUT HOMES

Orphans, Orphanages & Orphan Train Riders  
Part 3 (See Page 14)

St. Patricks Orphanage, Watertown, New York  
Information researched and written  
by Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati

Picture from Children's Home of Jefferson County on Facebook

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### INFORMER JANUARY 2014

Correspondence about dues, memberships, and lost *Informers* should be directed to:  
Jefferson County Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 6453, Watertown, NY 13601  
E-mail: JCNYSGS@gmail.com Web site: http://jefferson.nygenweb.net

**President:** Tracy Robertson, 26795 Clear Lake Camp Rd, Theresa, NY 13691  
[Tracy@TracyLRobertson.net](mailto:Tracy@TracyLRobertson.net), 315-486-2700

**Vice President:** Anne Davis, 17192 Ives Street Road, Watertown, NY 13601  
[davis24@verizon.net](mailto:davis24@verizon.net), 315-788-6045

**2nd Vice President:** Temporarily Vacant

**Recording Secretary:** Temporarily Vacant

**Corresponding Secretary:** Temporarily Vacant

**Treasurer:** Larry Corbett, 520 Binsse St., Watertown, NY 13601  
[lrcorbet@gisco.net](mailto:lrcorbet@gisco.net), 315-323-3118

**The Informer Committee:** Nan Dixon, [nandixon001@gmail.com](mailto:nandixon001@gmail.com), editor; Thomas LaClair, [tomlaclair624@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlaclair624@yahoo.com), publisher. Editorial members (alphabetically) are Jerry Davis, [maridavis@aol.com](mailto:maridavis@aol.com); The *Informer* is now being published quarterly in the months of January, April, July, and October. A special Surnames issue may also be published in December.

### Letters.....

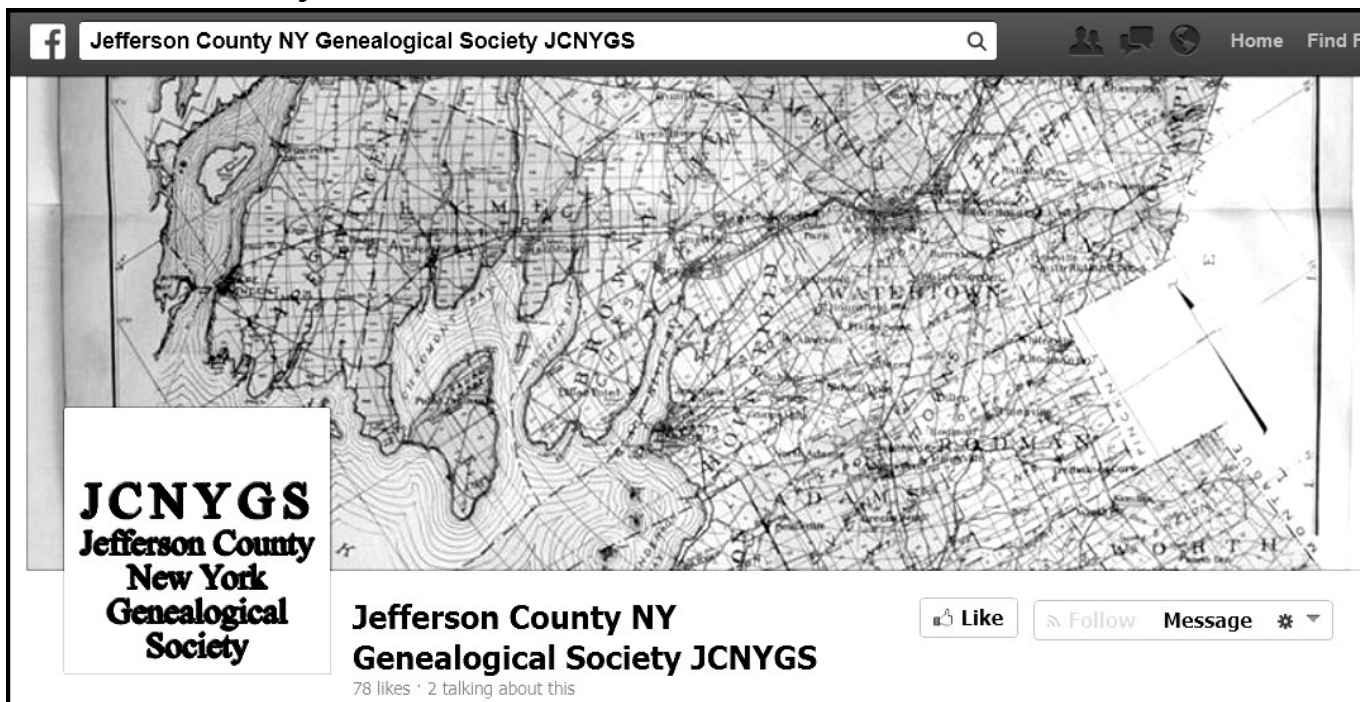
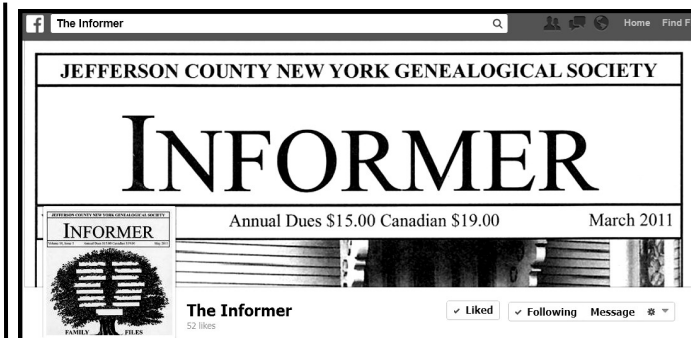
Letters to the editor may be directed to [nandixon001@gmail.com](mailto:nandixon001@gmail.com) or to Nan Dixon, 15407 Dixon Road, Clayton, NY 13624.

### Follow us on FACEBOOK !

“The Informer”

&

“Jefferson County NY Genealogical Society JCNYSGS”





## Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

September 14, 2013, 1:00 pm

Attending: Tracy L. Robertson, President; Anne Davis, Vice President; Lawrence Corbett, Treasurer; Programs, Phyllis Putnam; Beverly Sterling-Affinati, Recording/Corresponding Secretary

Guests/Members in Attendance: Alice Sykes, Paul Beers, Maribeth McFadden, Dan & Sue Grant, Jerry Davis, Mary & Bill Dasno, Tammy and Greg Plantz, Al Seymour, Phyllis Putnam, Marsha Coppoli, Jeanie Brennan

Program Presenter: Guylaine Petrin

President, Tracy Robertson, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Corresponding Secretary, Beverly Sterling-Affinati, reported on an event held today: The General Jacob Brown chapter, U.S. Daughters of 1812, held a *1812 Bicentennial Marker Dedication Ceremony* (9/14/13, 10:00 am) at Lakeside Cemetery, Sackets Harbor. Following the ceremony, a Spirit of 1812 Award was presented to Dr. Timothy Abel for his expertise and public activities in keeping the War of 1812 alive.

Beverly also reported that Larry gave her two handouts to review: *Historical Association of South Jefferson* and *DeWitt County Genealogical Society publication*.

Treasurer *Larry Corbett* reported \$2937.35 in checking, and \$399.66 in savings.

Recording Secretary, Beverly Sterling-Affinati reviewed the meeting minutes of the *August meeting*.

Phyllis handed out program schedule and shared Daniel Hayward program upcoming for October 19, Sat., at 1:00 pm, *The role that the churches played in the War of 1812*. Phyllis also said Don Whitney will speak on Cable Carry, War of 1812, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, Sat., 1:00 pm.

For the *Informer* Committee, Jerry mentioned that there is a lot of material. Only a little has been put together. He won't make the deadline. He expects it to take a few weeks before the *Informer* is published. A volunteer meeting was held on Sept 3. There were a few people in attendance with a lot of good discussion & ideas. Tom LaClair is taking over for Clancy as far as directory and mailing of *Informer*.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Phyllis read the slate of officers, and submitted the

following names: Tracy Robertson for President; Beverly Sterling-Affinati for Recording/Corresponding Secretary; Anne Davis for Vice President; and Larry Corbett for Treasurer.

Tracy asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, nominations were then closed and the secretary cast one vote for the slate of officers. A motion was made to elect the officers as submitted by the nominating committee [Greg Plantz/Jerry Davis]. All in favor.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Phyllis mentioned some books sold for Lyme Heritage area, and a list of those still for sale. She also has a list of books that were published by Lyme Heritage if anyone is interested.

### **New York State Council of Genealogical Organizations (NYSCOGO) notice –**

Jerry raised two points of discussion on the New York Council of Genealogical Organizations (NYSCOGO). It's dues renewal time. Jerry explained the organization briefly, and said they've voted to discontinue publication of their newsletter called *Lifeline*. They've also petitioned to have October named family history month through Governor Pataki's office. JCNYSGS has been an active member of NYSCOGO since 1991. Jerry made a motion to pay the renewal of our dues, which amounts to \$20.00, and Larry Corbett seconded. All in favor.

Next Jerry said the NYSCOGO Fall meeting is scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Endicott History and Heritage Center in Endicott, NY (down near the Pennsylvania border). We generally send a delegate. Lunch is catered (deli platter). Cost is \$15. A motion was made and carried to elect both Nan Dixon and Jerry Davis as delegates to attend on behalf of JCNYSGS, [Sue Grant/Beverly Sterling-Affinati]. Greg Plantz made a motion that JCNYSGS also pay for their admission cost to attend the event [Phyllis Putnam seconded]. All in favor.

A motion to adjourn was made and carried at 1:24 [Bev Sterling-Affinati/Paul Beers].

Next program to be held October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm, at the Ives Street location!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati  
9/15/13

**"A friend's 5-year-old daughter told me, 'I got to get going to get to my future.'"**



JCNYGS Members join Guylaine and her husband for lunch at Bob Evans before the September meeting!



Guylaine Petrin begins her program "Widow Elizabeth Sanders, her bigamous second husband and various cross border activities during the War of 1812"



Reverend Daniel Hayward presents his program "The role that the churches played in the War of 1812" to the JCNYGS meeting on October 19



JCNYGS Members join Rev. Dan and his wife for lunch at Bob Evans before the October meeting!

## Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

October 19, 2013, 1:00 pm

Attending: Tracy L. Robertson, President; Anne Davis, Vice President; Lawrence Corbett, Treasurer; Programs, Phyllis Putnam; Beverly Sterling-Affinati, Recording/Corresponding Secretary

Guests/Members in Attendance: Rose Dillenbeck, Donald E. Dillenbeck, Jerry Davis, Paul Beers, Maribeth McFadden, Dan Grant, Connie Barone, Jeannie Brennan, Eleanor & Warren Allen, Tom LaClair, Wally Keeler, Kathie Compeau and Tammy & Greg Plantz.

Program Presenter: Rev. Hayward (accompanied by his wife), The role that the churches played in the War of 1812.

President, Tracy Robertson, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Corresponding Secretary, Beverly Sterling-Affinati, reported an inquiry by Elaine Scott as to Don Whitney presentation, and details were provided for same.

Additionally, Tom LaClair has started sharing the feedback he's receiving on the "Going Green" segment of the *Informer*, and Beverly has emailed his collection out to members. She will also print it, and keep it in the Society's binder.

Recording Secretary, Beverly Sterling-Affinati, reviewed the meeting minutes of the September meeting with two corrections. One, to give "Tom" LaClair's full name in the minutes. Second, to correct "Larry Davis" under Election of Officers to read "Larry Corbett". A motion was made to accept as amended [Jerry Davis/Paul Beer]. All in favor. Carried.

Treasurer Larry Corbett reported \$ 2,763.96 in checking from the period 9/9-10/7 (2013); and \$399.92 in savings for the period 9/1-9/30 (2013), compounding \$.26 cents in interest since his last report. Two deposits were made of \$235 each. Two checks for the *Informer* were written totaling \$408.39. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report [Paul Beers/Anne Davis]. All in favor. Carried.

For the *Informer* Committee, Tom reported on feedback he's receiving about Going Green, with some 12 replies in favor of having an internet site with the *Informer* available online. One member was against. He said he sent out 75 letters to members who were not up-to-date on their dues, and 25 have renewed. Some did not renew listing illness as the reason. He said we continue to send the *Informer* even if lapsed,

and he is also calling members hoping to bring everyone current. A copy of the printed *Informer* will be mailed to members wanting a hard copy, even after the online version becomes available on the website.

Bev gave an update on the website, indicating she has begun putting together the template for free, but the programming aspect she would have to charge for due to the amount of time involved. It would include a member login page, and a control panel for officers and chairman to make updates. Mention of Nan's site was brought up by Tracy, and Bev said it was her understanding it did not belong to this Society, and contacting the administrator (who works at the Schenectady Public Library) has been impossible. JCNYGS should break away from the genweb site, and develop its own website, linking to the genweb site instead. Beverly has begun the initial template layout, but cannot have costs and samples ready until next meeting. Tom said he wants to help the Society but doesn't have a lot of experience. He is willing to learn. Larry said we are also on Facebook, and willing to add administrators if anyone is interested. Everyone is invited to "like" our page, and post happenings in Jefferson County and the genealogy world.

Jerry gave an update on the First New York State, Family History Conference - stating it was held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Liverpool, September 20-21. There were many events...guided tours, extended research hours, lectures, and more, plus people wishing they could have stayed longer. A copy of his report follows this set of minutes. Jerry added that September 17 - 19, 2015 are the dates targeting the next conference, and several societies wanting to sponsor it. Beverly asked if it was a way JCNYGS could get membership. If we have *Informers* on hand there, it would be easy to collect the \$15 membership by our representative.

Jerry also reported on the NYS Council of Genealogical Organizations (NYSCOGO) meeting - held in Endicott Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, and that Joe Titti and the Southern Tier Genealogical Society were hosts. The meeting was held at the Endicott History and Heritage Center, which contains a museum on the main floor and traces the history of the companies that were combined to form the International Business Machines Corp (IBM). A copy of his report follows this set of minutes.

Discussion of the Genealogy Road Show followed by both Jerry and Larry. Skyping a program with the presenter of Road Show was also discussed for future consideration.

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Larry mentioned the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and suggested JCNYSGS belong to it. Membership costs are under \$100, with rates found on their public internet site as follows ([www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org)):

| Number of Members | Annual Dues Rate |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 - 50            | \$35.00          |
| 51- 99            | \$45.00          |
| 100 -199          | \$55.00          |
| 200 - 299         | \$65.00          |
| 300 - 399         | \$75.00          |
| 400 - 499         | \$85.00          |
| 500 - 999         | \$95.00          |
| 1000 or more      | \$115.00         |

This would give our members access to the site and many other benefits. A motion was made to join the Federation [Greg Plantz/Anne Davis]. All in favor. Carried.

Phyllis said there is one program left: Don Whitney will speak on the Cable Carry, War of 1812, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, Sat., 1:00 pm. His presentation is called, "*The Battle of Big Sandy*." Phyllis then handed out posters.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Phyllis mentioned that Dave Kendall did a program on writing personal stories, and she took ideas based on his program, and made her old scrapbook into a book (using Snapfish online). Phyllis shared book and its details, indicating cost was about \$20. Bev and Phyllis spoke previous to the program about blurb.com, another site offering books of this nature, but which costs slightly more to produce.

A motion to adjourn was made and carried at 1:26 [Larry/Anne]. All in favor.

Next program to be held November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm, at the Ives Street location!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati  
10/20/13

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## The First New York State Family History Conference

Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Liverpool,  
Syracuse, New York, September 20-21, 2013

There were optional Preconference Events on September 19. Onondaga County Public Library in downtown Syracuse offered a guided tour and extended

research hours exclusively for conference attendees. It included bus transportation from the hotel at 8:30 am and return to Holiday Inn by 5:30 pm, all for \$10.

There was a Syracuse Area Guided Historical Tour from 9 am to 5:30 pm. It included again bus transportation and an in-character bus guide. The first stop was the new Haudenosaunee Heritage Center to learn about the rich culture of the Native Americans who settled the area. Then to the St. Marie Mission to explore early European settlement of the area. The next stop was the Salt Museum at Onondaga Lake Park to learn about the early salt industry. Then on to the Parisa Restaurant, a history themed restaurant for lunch. After lunch there was a short walk over to the Erie Canal Museum to learn about the impact that the canal had on Syracuse and New York State. Before the bus took us back to the Holiday Inn, we went to the Onondaga Historical Association for a tour and 10% discount at the gift shop.

From 6 to 8 that night was Early Registration and Reception for anyone who wanted to get a jump on registration and meet fellow conference attendees. It included light snacks and a cash bar.

The conference itself was planned for about 300 participants but there ended up being over 400 in attendance. The Vendor and Exhibitor Hall was open during the entire conference. Over 20 Lectures were provided by a variety of presenters. There were also 3 meals with a lecture included that were sold out very early.

There is already movement toward the next conference. It is planned for Sept 17-19, 2015 and rumor has it that the FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies) and FamilySearch have shown an interest in sponsoring the conference. They are even looking into the Syracuse Convention Center or the On-Center to be able to accommodate over 1000 attendees. It will be interesting to see the final results.

Jerry W. Davis  
October 19, 2013

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## NYSCOGO Meeting

Fall Meeting – 5 October 2013 – Endicott, New York

Joe Titti and the Southern Tier Genealogical Society were the hosts and made the arrangements.

The meeting was held at the new Endicott History & Heritage Center which contains a museum on the main floor which traces the history of the companies that were combined to form International Business

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(Continued From Page 6)

Machines Corp. (IBM), and a large meeting room on the second floor, where our meeting was held. The collection contains computing scales, time clocks, and tabulating equipment dating back to the 1880's and 1890's. The rest of the collection traces the development of automated data processing and computers to the 1980's.

The business meeting started at 9:30 with each one in attendance introducing himself and the Society he represented followed by Secretary's minutes, Treasurer's Report and Committee Reports.

Old Business included approval of the Audit Report, a call for a Publications Chair (there was no response), a call for a Site Committee for future meetings (there was no response), and a discussion on the next meeting date (try for Madison County on April 26 or May 3, 2014). Even though Madison County has no genealogy society, there are Historical Associations that might be willing to sponsor the meeting.

New Business included a discussion of County Resource Lists and a call for a volunteer to monitor the lists (there was no response). The possibility of a NYSCOGO Ribbon for conferences was discussed and will be taken up at the next meeting. Updating the Activity Calendar, Joe will put all of it on the web site if it is sent to him by email. There was a discussion on benefits of membership and a call to update the Flyer (the board of directors will meet in January and include this on their agenda). The meeting concluded with the "Up For Grabs Table."

After the meeting, Joe Titti presented a program on "George F. Johnson, a rags to riches story of a man who founded the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company" and "Thomas J. Watson, who was an ingenious salesman and organizer whose company's products led to the IBM story." Joe included the genealogy of both men.

Lunch was make your own roast beef, ham or turkey sandwich with all kinds of dressings, several salads to choose from as well as soda, coffee, tea, water and several different deserts. There was enough left that Joe invited everyone to make a sandwich to take home with them.

After a lunch, Joe conducted a tour of the IBM heritage equipment collection on the main floor. One piece of equipment was of special interest to genealogists. It is the Hollerith Tabulating system that was used to tabulate the 1890 federal census. It was the first use of the punched card to store and process data.  
Jerry W. Davis, NYSCOGO rep for JCNYGS  
October 19, 2013

## Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

November 9, 2013, 1:00 pm

Attending: Tracy L. Robertson, President; Lawrence Corbett, Treasurer; Programs, Phyllis Putnam; Beverly Sterling-Affinati, Recording/Corresponding Secretary

Absent: Anne Davis, Vice President

Guests/Members in Attendance: Arlie Wheeler, Tammy & Greg Plantz, Tom LaClair, Jean Coyne, Don & Rose Dillenbeck, Sue & Dan Grant, Kamra Rowland, Linda Whitney, Fred Caswell, Elaine Scott, Connie Barone and Jeannie Brennan.

Program Presenter: Donald Whitney presenting, "*The Battle of Big Sandy*." Cable Carry, War of 1812.

President, Tracy Robertson, called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm and Recording Secretary, Beverly Sterling-Affinati, reviewed the meeting minutes of the October meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read [Phyllis Putnam/Tom LaClair]. All in favor. Carried.

Treasurer Larry Corbett reported former checking balance of \$2,763.96 with 3 deposits totaling \$249, and one postage expense (check) for \$58.39, bringing the new balance to \$2,954.57. Savings remains the same at \$399.92. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report as given [Phyllis Putnam/Greg Plantz]. All in favor. Carried.

Tom LaClair indicates there is no further membership information to report at this time.

Corresponding Secretary, Beverly Sterling-Affinati, reported that Jerry Davis could not attend; however, he indicates that the Informer articles are being collected, and he will start preparing the 2014 issue soon with plans to have it sent to the publisher by middle of December.

Beverly was also contacted by Boni Shafer, who expressed interest of volunteering for the Society.

Larry Corbett then read from a letter from a volunteer at the Laramie County (Wyoming) Library Genealogy Department. They bind copies of the Informer for use, through interlibrary loan, of residents throughout their state and found they were missing volumes 18 and 19. Larry has copies of most of the Informers they need and will contact Jerry Davis about sending electronic copies of the missing issues.

Larry Corbett reported on the following:  
a newsletter from capital District Genealogy Society (time for them to renew)

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(Continued From Page 7)

a newsletter from Berkshire genealogist which comes with a dues notice (they don't expect money from us) a newsletter from the Historical Association of South Jeff along with a letter with Christmas ideas

Program Chairman Phyllis said this is her last program. She will not be program coordinator in 2014.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Beverly gave an update on the website, indicating she has finished the 8-page template and can begin the programming and database work as soon as those services are secured. She did contact Larry Corbett recommending that the Society consider GoDaddy, one of the cheaper domain and hosting services available. Costs of hosting are about \$50 annually, and cost of domain is under \$15 annually. Plus, they offer database services to store the programming and interactive work. Beverly has provided the 8-page html website for free, but has requested payment for 12 hours of programming, including the database work.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Tracy Robertson thanked Beverly and Phyllis for their work for the Society, and addressed the audience looking for both a recording secretary and a program chair if anyone is interested. Beverly and her husband will be moving to Coraopolis, PA. And Phyllis wishes

to resign. Ideas are certainly welcome and needed.

Phyllis Putnam reported that the Lyme Heritage Center has the ability to bind booklets. If you are working on genealogy and want it in book form, check with them first. Also, the Heritage center relies on the books it sells. She passed out a list for anyone interested in purchasing books.

Larry Corbett mentioned that Harold Sanderson has passed away. He spoke to JCNYGS group several times and Harold also passed a lot of his information along to Nan and Bill Dixon for the genweb site. Larry is also aware that Harold donated his paper research to JCC.

Tracy mentioned we're right in the middle of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War, and we could consider ideas for next year's programs based on that.

A motion to adjourn was made and carried at 1:27 [Beverly Sterling-Affinati/Greg Plantz]. All in favor.

Next program will be held in the Spring at the Ives Street location! A 2014 schedule will be released during the winter.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati  
11/9/13

**United States Daughters of 1812 Attend JCNYGS Program**

Don Whitney presents, "The Battle of Big Sandy" (Cable Carry), War of 1812



Saturday, November 9, 2013, 1:00 pm, LDS Church on Ives St, Watertown

L-R: Linda Whitney & Kamra Rowland - Whitney Hungerford Chapter; Tammy Plantz & Beverly Sterling-Affinati - Gen. Jacob Brown Chapter; stand with presenter don Whitney.

Also attending was Jeannie Brennan. Jeannie and her late husband Robert are the authors of "Images of Sackets Harbor." <http://www.amazon.com/Sackets-Harbor-Images-America-York/dp/0738502855>

**Taking care of the Business Meeting**




Available Back Issues of  
**The Informer 2012**

**JANUARY 2012**

Archer, John H., Civil War biography  
 Back issues of 2011 *Informer*  
 Comstock, Thomas, Pioneer family  
 Family files at Lyme Heritage Center  
 Map, Town of Henderson Early school districts  
 Photograph, Henderson Class of 1911  
 Town of Henderson school districts  
 about each district

**APRIL 2012**

Briggs, James E., Civil War Biography  
 Cornwell, Daniel, Pioneer family  
 Dexter Historical Society  
 Dorchester, Alexander, Pioneer family  
 Family files at Lyme Heritage Center  
 Kendall, Issac in the War of 1812  
 War of 1812, Awards on claims of soldiers  
 War of 1812, Clayton veterans  
 War of 1812 soldiers list for Jefferson Co.  
 War of 1812 veterans buried at Muscallonge  
 Cemetery

**JULY 2012**

Cobb, Perry S., Civil War biography  
 Cranker, Christian, Pioneer family  
 Family files at Lyme Heritage Center  
 List of Militia at Sackets Harbor 1810  
 Photograph, Capt. Elisha Camp  
 War of 1812 soldiers buried at Muskalonge  
 Cemetery, individual info. on each

**OCTOBER 2012**

Collins, Daniel, Are you a descendant?  
 Dixon, Curtis, Pioneer family  
 Family files at Lyme Heritage Center  
 Orleans Four Corners Cemetery restoration  
 Parsons, Byron, Civil War biography  
 Prevost, George  
 Tompkins, Daniel D.  
 War of 1812 Chronology  
 War of 1812 in the North Country by Harry Landon,  
 Chapter 1  
 Yeo, Sir James Lucas

Back issues (as available) are \$4 each including shipping. Make check payable to JCNYS and mail to Greg Plantz, 21787 Reed Rd., Watertown, NY 13601  
 tplantz1@twcny.rr.com

Available Back Issues of  
**The Informer 2013**

**JANUARY 2013**

Cable Carry eyewitness accounts  
 Evans, Talmon pioneer family  
 History of Depauville  
 Map, Great Cable Carry  
 Map, Jefferson County 1805  
 McNitt, Samuel Jr.  
 Pike's Cantonment- exact site location unearthed  
 Photographs, Daniel & Elnora Randall  
 Putnam, Levi genealogy  
 Randall, Daniel, Civil War Biography  
 Remembering Linda Malinich  
 War of 1812, a few soldiers from Jeff. Co. in CNYGS  
*Tree Talks*  
 War of 1812, interesting relic

**APRIL 2013**

English Settlement pioneers  
 Haines, Jacob, Civil War biography  
 Morsman, Pioneer family  
 Re-Dedication of the Centennial Monument at  
 Sackets Harbor  
 Remembering Bill Dixon III  
 War of 1812 ancestor, Pvt. Robert Storing  
 War of 1812 soldier, Joseph Sheldon

**JULY 2013**

Barber, John Lansing, pioneer family  
 Children without homes  
 Flag of the Albany Republican Artillery Jefferson  
 County town origins  
 Morrison, Charles M., Civil War biography  
 Sterling, William Franklin, pedigree tree  
 War of 1812, Colonel John Mills

**OCTOBER 2013**

Bates, pioneer family  
 Carthage iron works  
 Children without homes, part 2  
 Ivory, John W., Civil War biography  
 Sackets Military Cemetery iron fence  
 War of 1812 soldier, Joseph Ryder

**Our thanks to JCNYS member Bonnie Borrello for compiling these lists of articles for the 2012 and 2013 *Informer* newsletters.**

## Took Name of Blind Brother and Served Through 1812 War

(From an undated early newspaper)

Watertown, Oct. 6. – A rare story of brotherly devotion was brought to light the present week by the death in this city of Mrs. Harriet A. Mack of No. 736 Cadwell Street, a real daughter of the War of 1812, although the name of her father, Aruna Pitcher, late of the town of Pamela, never appeared on the muster rolls of the Lewis county militia with which he served, he having assumed the name and place in the ranks of his sightless and disqualified brother, Thomas, who by some blunder had been enrolled and called out for service.

The story, handed down in the Pitcher family, a prominent one for nearly a century past in the good old farming town of Pamela bordering this city, is known only in its main features to the present members, grandchildren of the unenrolled veteran. But as near as can be ascertained Thomas Pitcher, then a resident of Boonville and disqualified by total blindness from military duty, had been enrolled among the Lewis County militia, which in the old "training days" of the early part of the last century included every able bodied man of 18 years and upwards, each being obligated according to the military code to possess a serviceable musket, bayonet, cartridge box and sixty rounds of ball cartridges and a dozen flints, it is assumed that at the time the militia of Jefferson and Lewis Counties was rallied by couriers sent out by Gen. Jacob Brown late in May of 1813, to defend Sackets Harbor from threatened attack, Aruna Pitcher was not yet of military age, as he was not summoned. But his blind brother was called out, and determined that the name of Pitcher should not be called at the muster of Col. Gershom Tuttle's, shouldered musket and marched away with the rest of the Boonville company, and when on the morning of May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1813 the roll was called at Sackets Harbor and the orderly shouted "Thomas Pitcher," Aruna answered "here."

### In Sackets Harbor Battle

The story of how the bulk of the militia, entirely raw and inexperienced, but unwisely placed along the shore to repel the advance of the British veterans from their landing point on Horse Island, fled after firing a few well directed volleys when grape shot began to thin their ranks, and how the Lewis County company, under Capt. Samuel MacNitt, held their ground until nearly surrounded, not knowing that their comrades had retreated, has been told too many times to bear repeating in any detail, but Aruna, the youth answering to the name of Thomas Pitcher, was among the party so nearly cut off, and kept the family name unsullied. Later, after the remainder of the militia had been rallied by General Brown and Caleb Wescott, to aid the regulars under the mortally wounded Colonel Backus in repelling the enemy, Pitcher with the rest of the Lewis County company under MacNitt continued the steady opposition they had maintained throughout the fight, until, upon the red coats fell back to their boats and Sackets Harbor fight was won and the border saved from invaders. Of the subsequent military service of young Pitcher little is known, though it is probable that he remained with his company at Sackets until they

were discharged at the close of the war, always answering to the name of "Thomas Pitcher."

Long after the death of the veteran, which occurred in the early seventies, the fact that he had served under a brothers name worked a hardship and prevented his aged widow from securing the pension that was due her, the late Maj. James A. Dolan, pension attorney of this city, having found when he came to take up the widow's case that the name of her husband did not appear upon the roll of the Lewis County militia, but that the name of Thomas Pitcher, the blind brother, was recorded as having served, the latter having died without dependents many years before. These old militia records were among the archives destroyed at the time the State Capitol was devastated by fire a few years ago, it is said, so nothing but family tradition now remains of one of the peculiar incidents connected with the only hostile invasion of any moment ever made of Jefferson County soil.

### Down East Yankee

Aruna Pitcher came of "Down East Yankee" stock, and journeyed with his father's family to the Black River country when a small boy, the family settling amid the then wilds of Boonville where they hewed a home from the wilderness. Here he was living in 1813 when he joined the militia under his brother's name. He apparently was pleased with the region where he soldiered, for about 1835, after having married and acquired a family of several children, he journeyed back through the woods to Watertown and, going a few miles north of the city to the fertile lands of Pamela township, he selected a farm in what was known as the Parish neighborhood, and before returning put in a crop. This he returned, it is believed, to harvest, and in the spring of 1836 moved with his family to his new holdings, where they occupied a small blockhouse built by one of the Parishes, which after a few years was superseded by the present Pitcher farmhouse, which has been the home of three generations of Pitchers, the original house being converted into a barn and long since town down. Aruna Pitcher died suddenly in the early seventies at the old farmhouse from an attack of apoplexy, after which the place passed to his son, the late John P. Pitcher, whose widow, Mrs. Mary D. Pitcher, now residing at No. 543 LeRay Street, this city, is the present owner of the homestead. County Clerk Perley A. Pitcher and Miss Minnie D. Pitcher, a teacher in the city schools, who resides with her mother, are children of the late John P. Pitcher and grandchildren of Aruna Pitcher.

Mrs. Harriet A. Mack, the real Daughter of the War of 1812, whose death occurred here on Monday last, was a sister of John P. Pitcher, and Aruna and Catherine Pitcher were her parents. She was born at the old Pamela homestead July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1844, and forty-seven years ago was married to the late Edward H. Mack, a Pamela farmer, who retired about ten years ago and came to this city to reside, dying in 1914. Other descendants of Aruna Pitcher are Sheryl Pitcher of Detroit and Bert A. Pitcher of Eagle, Wis., brothers of County Clerk P. A. Pitcher and Miss Minnie D. Pitcher of this city, while the Pitcher family of Highmarket, Lewis County, are kinsmen.

# A Pedigree Chart / Family Tree

**No. 4 DAVAR STAR JEE-JO 6926517**

Female - Born - November 24, 1967

3rd 2-yr-old, Cortland Co. B&W (very strong class) 1970  
DHIC Records  
2-8 297d 2X 14661 3.4 504  
3-8 70d 2X 4639 3.9 181-  
-incomplete.

Maternal sister to -  
-Davar Shamrock Julie (EX)  
4-0 318d 2X 16945 3.7 633  
(No. 1)

FRESH - July 2, 1971  
BRED - September 19, 1971 to -  
PACLAMAR BOOTMAKER 1450228  
EX, 92-GM 2/71 PQ  
127 USDA + 1660 + 49  
96 class.pairs + 1.55 TQ

OSBORNDALE TY VIC 848777  
EX, 92 - GM  
29 Off.dtrs. to 966 fat

PENSTATE STAR MAN 1410984  
VG-SMT  
USDA Sire Summary, V2, 1971  
5423 dtrs. 2472 herds, ave.  
305d ME 2X 14471 3.70% 535  
Pred.Diff. -334 -1  
99% Rep.  
Class. Summary, 2/71 TQ  
2107 cl.dtrs. 81.8-5.3%  
1659 cl. pairs +.38  
Sire of -  
-All-American 4-yr-old, 1969  
Maternal brother VG-GM.  
2 mat.sis. 1084 & 1102 fat, 4%  
Dam's mat.sis. 6X 1000f

OSBORNDALE IVANHOE 1189870  
EX - GM  
Sire, All-American Get, 1969  
Sire, Res. All-Amer. Get, 1970  
USDA Sire Summary, VI 1971  
10,898 dtrs. 2,264 herds, av.  
305d ME 2X 14818 3.74 554  
Pred.Diff. +630 +23

QUALITY FOBES ABBEKERK GAY 2471271  
EX, 91-GMD  
6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>y 365d 3X 29905 3.7 1119  
GLENAFTON MONTVIC MARKSMAN 888511  
GP, 82-SMP  
71 HT Dtrs. to 992 fat

PENSTATE MARKSMAN STAR 2569786  
EX, 92-GMD  
HT-5y 365d 3X 21526 4.6 992  
6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>y 365d 3X 23125 4.2 962  
4 recs. 812 to 895f, 4%  
Lifetime-219,331m 9,412f  
Pa.HIR Champ. for fat, 14y.

PENSTATE PATHFINDER STAR 2171820  
VG  
2 HT recs. 1001, 1052 f, 4%  
Lifetime-181,804m 4% 7.205f

**Did I get your attention? Couldn't find a relative?**  
I'll not have this edition of the *Informer* ready for the publisher by my self-imposed deadline of the 15th. I need information for this one page to complete pages for a final proof-reading. A "Pedigree Chart" would be great! We used to have one in every issue. But I don't have any Jefferson County connections! I don't even own one of the society's Pedigree Books (See page 23). After going through 4 boxes of old material in my upstairs room and 4 legal file drawers, I still have to find a Pedigree Chart to use. But I did come across a 1971 brochure for my Dad and Brother's milking herd dispersal with some very impressive Registered Purebred Holsteins.

A coin collector on why pedigrees are so important:  
"Pedigrees tell us where our coins have been. The most desirable pedigrees trace the ownership of a coin all the way back to the day it was struck. For some reason (best understood by psychologists), collectors are fascinated with the notion of knowing where their coins have ben every moment of their metallic lives. Collectors love long pedigrees - in fact, the longer the better. The ultimate pedigree includes a long list of "name" collections that spans decades or centuries. Pedigrees provide security, a confirmation of value, and a direct link to the past. Owning a coin with a great pedigree is not necessarily expensive and it's something that every collector should experience and enjoy. That's why pedigrees are important."

On why family history is important in everyday life:

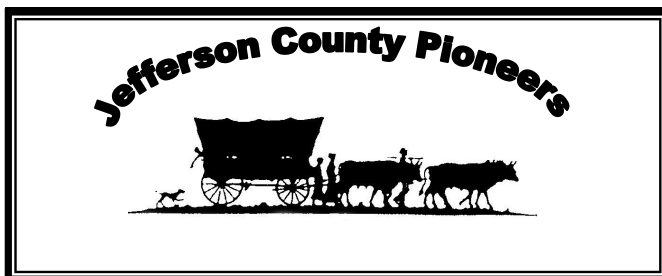
"Valuable lessons can be acquired by learning about the ethics of our ancestors. The way an individual behaves and their ideals are often passed from generation to generation. People are referred to as being a descendant of so and so. In reality, it does not matter if our ancestors were heroes or scoundrels. We cannot take credit for their achievements nor should we be blamed for their faults. It is important to realize that as individuals we are accountable for our own actions."

I found in one of my boxes the following comment on pedigrees: "Because family pedigrees are similar to family trees, they can often be used for genealogical purposes, or to trace your ancestors on one or both sides of the family. Moreover, they often provide more information than a family tree; in addition to the birth and death date of each person, they may also provide information such as the cause of death, various traits (like hair color or eye color), and other relevant information that can help you construct a more complete view of your family history."

If I've offended anyone with the use of "Jee-Jo's" pedigree, I offer my apologies. **Better yet, send us a real Jefferson County related Pedigree** (to any officer on page 2) and we may even put it in a future issue.



By the way, this is "Jee-Jo."



## PIONEER FAMILIES McCOMBS, CALKINS, PHILLIPS

1. JOHN ANDREW McCOMBS was born in the state of New York on 13 Aug. 1772 Stone Arabia NY. He married on 27 Jan. 1795 in German Flats NY MAGDALENA FRANK, daughter of Judge Frank of Herkimer Co., NY. John McCombs died at the residence of his son, Andrew, in Lyme, Jefferson Co., NY on 22 May 1849 and his wife, Magdalena, died there in 1865.

Their children were

- 2 I ANDREW McCOMBS, born 31 January 1802 in Litchfield, Herkimer Co., NY.
- 3 ii MARY McCOMBS
- 4 iii ELIZABETH McCOMBS

2. ANDREW McCOMBS, born 31 January 1802 in Litchfield, Herkimer Co., NY. Andrew married in 1836 at Clayton, Jefferson Co NY to EMILY DICKEY and they had two children—Lucy and Amelia. ANDREW McCOMBS died at the homestead in 1888 and his wife, Emily B., born 1817 and passed away in 1899.

Children of Andrew McCombs and Emily Dickey: (See Phillips Family this site and below)

LUCY McCOMBS born Brownville 30 Aug 1837; married SETH ORVILLE FLANSBURGH, son of PETER and CYNTHIA (HAYES) FLANSBURGH. Seth born 28 June 1835 in Clayton, Jefferson Co., NY. Was a miller at Depauville and worked there and at Redwood for a number of years. Later moved to Michigan where he became a farmer. Source: Oakes Hist of Jefferson Co NY 3. MARY McCOMBS of Perch River, Jefferson Co., NY, was the daughter of JOHN and MAGDALENA FRANK McCOMBS. She married, as his second wife, E(I)RVIN CALKINS, son of ASHAHEL CALKINS, a native of New York State, who died in Oswego Co., and wife, LENA SAVINS. Ashahel Calkins and Lena Savins were the parents of 12 children, one of whom, SETH CALKINS, married NANCY HOLMES and who also had 12 children. Their son, ERVIN CALKINS, married first to ABIGAIL WRIGHT and they had two children—Ann Eliza and Jane.

Ervin Calkins married second MARY McCOMBS: Child's Gazeteer says of Irvin that he was born in Montreal CA on 16 July 1803. His parents had removed to Canada from the United States and in 1812 Ervin returned to the US. At 25 he married Mary McCombs of Pamela and they lived in Perch River in the Township of Brownville. Ervin died in 1888.

Children of Ervin Calkins and Mary McCombs:

- 6 i HARRIET CALKINS
- 7 ii GEORGE CALKINS; married SARAH SPICER, born 16 Nov. 1836. Sarah died in 1932; buried Perch River. George born 1826 and died 1864. Served in the Civil War and buried in Perch River. See Migrations Part 67 for Spicer lineage.

8 iii HENRY CALKINS; corporal in the Civil War; died Antioch Church VA.

9 iv HANNAH CALKINS

10 v MARY CALKINS

11 vi WALTER CALKINS; served in the Civil War; married CHRISTINA E. LOWE, daughter of JACOB and BETSEY (HANCOCK) LOWE of Brownville.

Children of Walter Calkins and Christina E. Lowe:

a. GEORGE E. CALKINS

b. EVA M. CALKINS

c. ARTHUR G. CALKINS

12. JOHN CALKINS was born at Perch River on 10 May 1845; educated in the common schools and attended Gouverneur Seminary; on 11 Mar. 1869 he married JULIANA ALLEN, youngest daughter of CYRUS ALLEN of Perch River. - one son and two daughters: Lucy A., Jesse T. P., Mary L. LUCY A. ALLEN married T. H. NUNN of Orleans and they had a daughter, Nellie. John lived on Wells Island and was a school teacher and farmer.

13 vii EDMOND CALKINS

14 viii TAYLOR CALKINS married CLARA ROZALIE VAN CAMP.

Source: Child's

4. ELIZABETH McCOMBS was the daughter of JOHN and MAGDALENA FRANK McCOMBS of Utica, NY. (See above) John Frank, Magdalena's father, was a judge and the village of Frankfort near Utica NY was named in his honor. Judge Frank had a family of 15 children, eleven of whom reached maturity. Mrs. Frank died at 76 years. Elizabeth McCombs married LOUIS PHILLIPS, of Johnstown NY who later moved with his father in 1835 to Pamela in Jefferson County, then to Perch River.

Louis died in 1863 at 76 years and Elizabeth in 1868 at 73 years.

Elizabeth and Louis Phillips had 11 children:

Children of Elizabeth McCombs and Louis (Lewis) Phillips:

15 i MARY ANN PHILLIPS died at 84 years

16 ii SOPHIA PHILLIPS died at 80 years

17 iii ANDREW PHILLIPS, born 17 Mar. 1822; married 15 Oct. 1846 to ALMETA M. INGERSON, born in LeRay, NY of DARWIN INGERSON.

They had four children: Helen, Horace, Martha and Hattie. Almeta died 20 July 1864. Andrew died 3 July 1876.

18 iv SALLY PHILLIPS died at 76 years

19 v BENJAMIN PHILLIPS; resident of Michigan

20 vi CATHERINE PHILLIPS; married JAMES RICE of Dexter NY

21 vii CAROLINE PHILLIPS; married MANUEL GROWER

22 viii CHARLES PHILLIPS; became a resident of Michigan

23 ix HIRAM PHILLIPS; lived near HORACE A. PHILLIPS

24 x THOMAS J. PHILLIPS; resident of Cape Vincent.

JOHN PHILLIPS was a resident of Johnstown, NY. He then moved to Pamela and was a pioneer settler. He purchased a tract of land in the wilderness and there he resided for a long period of time. Until his death at 76 years. He lived with his son, Benjamin. His wife was SOPHRONIA and they had five children:

JOHN PHILLIPS

LOUIS PHILLIPS; married Elizabeth McCombs (see above)

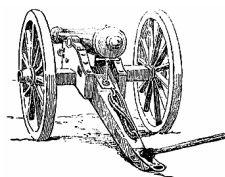
NANCY PHILLIPS

BETSY PHILLIPS

BENJAMIN PHILLIPS



# CIVIL WAR BIOGRAPHY



## Marquis D. Manville

Union Soldier - Distinguished Service

Marquis D. Manville, born in Depauville, NY, July 4, 1831, was educated in the district schools, and commenced the study of dentistry in 1860. He enlisted in Company I, 10th New York Horse Artillery at Brownville, NY., as a musician, August 1, 1862, and served to the close of the war being mustered out October 1, 1864. After the war he established a dental business in Adams village. He married, first, Sarah M., daughter of Russell M. and Olivia (Smith) Jones, and after her decease Elisabeth M., daughter of J. L. Hall, who bore him two sons and one daughter, of whom George P., born in 1863, graduated from the New York College of Dentistry in 1886, and now resides in Camden, N. Y. He died October 14, 1912 in Adams, NY.

*Jefferson County Journal*, Wednesday, October 16, 1912

Dr. Marquis D. Manville

In the passing of Dr. Marquis D. Manville Monday evening at his home, in Prospect street, this village lost one of its best known and most highly respected citizens. Dr. Manville had been a resident of Adams for nearly 50 years, and during that time he had by his kindly disposition and good character, surrounded himself with a circle of friends such as few men possess. He was born in Depauville July 4, 1831, and passed his early life in that vicinity. He was educated in the public schools of his neighborhood and in 1860 he commenced the study of dentistry in the office of the late Dr. Huntington of Watertown. In 1863 he responded to his country's call and enlisted in Co. I. 10th, New York Heavy Artillery, having been mustered out at the close of the war.

In 1866 he established a dental business in Adams and continued until 1910, when he retired. Dr. Manville was twice married. His first wife was Elizabeth M. Hall, who died soon after he returned from the war. He was again married to Sarah M. Jones and she together

with one son, Dr. George P. Manville of New York survives him.

Dr. Manville was a devoted member of Emmanuel church. He also belonged to Rising Sun lodge, F. & A. M., Adams chapter, B & O M., and DeAlton Cooper Post. G. A. R. He took a deep interest in the affairs of the community and had twice been made village president. He had also served several terms on the board of Trustees and the board of water commissioners. In politics he was a republican.

Since his retirement from practice in 1910, Dr. Manville had been gradually failing in health. During the past few months he had kept growing worse and for the last three weeks he had been confined to his bed. The funeral was held from Emmanuel church at 2:30 today, Rev. William A. Braithwaite of Lowville officiating. Interment was made in the family plot in Elmwood cemetery. Dr. Manville's death will be felt as a deep personal loss to all who knew him. He was a man of such sterling qualities that no words of eulogy can adequately describe his true nobility of character. A clergy man of his acquaintance one said : "Dr. Manville comes nearer to being a true man than anyone I have ever met."

Sources:

Hamilton Child's *Gazetteer of Jefferson County, N.Y.*, published in 1890, TOWN OF ADAMS Jefferson County NYGenWeb, US Civil War Service Records, "Electronic," for Marquis D. Manville Newspaper - Jefferson County Journal - Wednesday, October 16, 1912

Found in *Jefferson County Journal* 1885

**DENTISTS.**

**M. D. MANVILLE, DENTIST.** Office, cor  
M. near Main and Church streets, Adams, N.  
Y. All work warranted. Gas administered if  
desired.

Found in *Watertown Daily Times* 1912

\* News Notes.

Adams, Sept. 2d.—A. W. Kilby of Buffalo called on friends in town Tuesday.—Mrs. J. Lewis Hendricks of Trenton, N. J., and Mrs. Pitcher of Montclair, N. J., are guests of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Hendricks, jr.—Frank S. Kenyon is attending the Republican state convention at Saratoga as a delegate.—Mrs. A. R. Pool of Ogdensburg was a recent guest of Mrs. H. M. Buelt.—Dr. George P. Manville arrived yesterday from New York called here by the serious illness of his father, Dr. Marquis D. Manville.

## CHILDREN WITHOUT HOMES

### Orphans, Orphanages & Orphan Train Riders

#### Part 3

St. Patricks Orphanage, Watertown, New York

Information researched and written  
by Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati

Continued from the July and  
October issues of the *Informer*

As with Part 2, this article focuses on the orphanage itself, with special attention given to St. Patrick's Orphanage in Watertown, NY.

"At age six, my father was placed in St. Patrick's Orphanage, in Watertown, New York, run by the order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. I came to know my father's childhood through his stories, a family visit in 1963, and old letters discovered in a storage chest after he died. Life at the orphanage was strict. There were many chores. It was chilly inside in the fall and winter, wool underwear and sweaters provided heat that the furnace couldn't. Instead of meat there was soup." [<http://americamagazine.org/content/all-things/my-father-orphan>].

#### HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S ORPHANAGE

"At the time of Rev. Tobias Glenn's appointment to St. Patricks Church, the parish was deeply in debt for over \$16,000 and on the verge of bankruptcy," according to the following public internet site: <http://stpatrickwatertownny.org/index.php/about-us/parish-history>. "The Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York held the mortgage on the church. On October 19, 1880, they commenced a foreclosure upon it. However, within five years, Fr. Glenn succeeded in not only meeting current expenses, but extinguished the debt. He also built a three-story building at the rear of church property and opened a school at the current Pastoral Center location. The school was staffed by Sisters of Mercy, with Rev. Mother Frances, R.S.M. as first principal of St. Patrick's School. Two hundred children were enrolled in first through eighth grade."

"Even though orphanages were often located in the heart of a city, the children inside lived apart from the world around them. And this was probably true also of St. Patrick's Orphanage, located at 201 Coffeen St. Watertown, NY. Early in 1890, Father Glenn proposed plans for an orphanage. In 1896, construction of the orphanage began. The St. Joseph's Society had a membership of over 1,000 people. Each member paid one cent a day for a year, to raise funds for this venture, Father Glenn signed the formal act of incorporation of St. Patrick's Children's Home on October 27, 1896." (same website: <http://stpatrickwatertownny.org/index.php/about-us/parish-history>).

[stpatrickwatertownny.org/index.php/about-us/parish-history](http://stpatrickwatertownny.org/index.php/about-us/parish-history)).



**Orphans of varying ages at Odd Fellow orphans home in Iowa. Image taken from Catherine Reef, 'Alone in the World'.**

An orphanage was a child's home, school and church. Outsiders often called them "asylum children".

"Everyone rose early to do chores, and after this the nuns and children worshipped, sang, and chanted Latin at Mass," writes William Van Ornum in, 'My Father, The Orphan'. "Then came breakfast, school, playground, dinner, homework, and bedtime prayers." Van Ornum shares the experience his father endured as an orphan of St. Patricks Orphanage in Watertown, Jefferson Co., NY. "One day each year offered respite: at Christmas, every child attended three Masses, received an orange and substantial present, and enjoyed chocolate candies."

Here, the author has found another holiday in which the children were not forgotten:

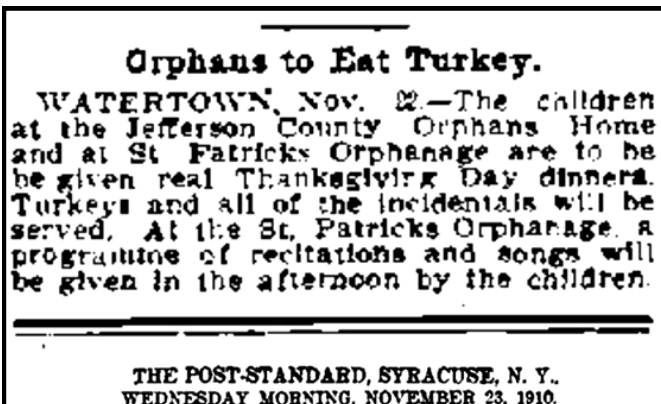
**TURKEY DINNERS FOR POOR CHILDREN  
Extensive Menus Are Being Prepared At  
Orphanage. In Fact, All of the Unfortunates to Be  
Remembered on This Thanksgiving Day.**

The orphans of the city will eat turkey on Thanksgiving day. Plans are being made for a thorough, old-fashioned Thanksgiving dinner for the children of both St. Patricks Orphanage and the Jefferson County Orphan Asylum, and the officers in charge of each institution are preparing to secure several big "gobblers" with which to grace the festive board at noon Thursday.

(Continued on Page 15)

(Continued From Page 14)

The children at St. Patricks Orphanage will also partake of the good things. There are 86 children in the orphanage and besides the Thanksgiving dinner there will be an entertainment in the afternoon when the children will deliver recitations and there will be a general program of songs" [published in the *Watertown Daily Times*, Tues., November 23, 1911



Coming to an orphanage was difficult. Parents would write final custody letters, handing their young over to the care of the institution. In her own family, the author of this article was able to trace two girls, 7 and 9 years old, from Canton, NY to NYC, where after one year of not being adopted, both were boarded onto a train headed for Burlington Junction, Missouri. These girls had no say whatsoever as to their outcome. At that other end of the line, they were accepted by a man named Austin F. Stitt. On this end, Peter and Katherine (Dashnaw) Storing gave up their rights to Anna and Ella Storing [Sterling] forever, never to see them again!

Unarguably, parents and children felt the pain of separation, and in most cases... the family had tried everything they could, and simply could not provide for their young, before turning them over to the care of an orphanage. Hardships might be an illness in the family, the death of one parent, lack of a job, a soldier killed on the battlefield, alcoholism, and so many other reasons. Back then, working people barely had savings or life insurance, and any hardship in the family's daily struggle for survival could send them reeling into poverty. It was not that parents didn't love their children, for they did. More often than not, it was that they could no longer provide for the child (ren). And so an orphanage became the only answer.

Asylums accepted them all, from newborns to pre-teens, so long as they were healthy. Because of room constraints and overcrowding, sick children would be turned away, and unruly children might also be rejected. Age limits would often find children twelve years and older also turned away, and babies might be declined, under three years old, since they were most

prone to contract (and die from) diseases.

Sickness and poverty took many young lives. It was not uncommon for orphanages to become infected with scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough or some other disease. Crude living conditions also contributed to the spread of disease. St. Patrick's Orphanage was not immune to these illnesses, but according to this account, they were spared:

"Another case of scarlet fever developed Tuesday at the Jefferson County Orphanage in Franklin street making a total of 25 patients still with the disease. All of the children afflicted are reported this afternoon to be having a light run of the fever and none are in a serious condition.

No new cases have developed at the Jefferson County Alms House in the town of Pamela. Ray Dunaway, son of Superintendent Fred P. Dunaway, who was seriously ill with the fever, and later had a very serious attack of inflammatory rheumatism, is reported as rapidly recovering. On Tuesday he was able to sit up for 20 minutes.

There are no cases of scarlet fever at St. Patricks Orphanage, nor has there been any at the Coffeen street institution since the outbreak of the epidemic in this city recently." [published in the *Watertown Daily Times*, Wed., March 13, 1911].



**Meals in the New York Foundling Hospital were quiet, orderly events. Image taken from Catherine Reef, 'Alone in the World'.**

Illnesses raged or subsided... children died or recovered, and the vicious cycle continued as time moved on. That's just how it was then.

The Sisters who raised the children at St. Patrick's Orphanage, by necessity, reared them the best they could with structure and discipline.

"When they were not in school, at meals, or at prayer,"

(Continued on Page 16)

(Continued From Page 15)

writes Catherine Reef in 'Alone in the World', "asylum children had chores to do. They swept floors, dusted furniture, made beds, helped in the kitchen, and washed and mended clothes. The children's labor saved the asylum money; instead of paying wages to maids, the managers had more to spend on food and other necessities."

Orphanages always struggled with the issue of money. St. Patrick's Orphanage was no exception. Annually, they would rely on the assistance from the Board of Charities, as well as hold annual events such as "Donation Day", to help meet expenses:

**Charities Board Asks For \$8,800. Requisition Shows Increase of \$1,300 Over Last Year. More For Orphanages**

A meeting of the board of charities was held this morning at the city hall and the requisition for the coming year made out. According to the requisition the board will need \$8,800, an increase over last year's amount of \$2,800. Of this increase the greater part will go to the Sisters' Orphanage, which will use about \$900. The county house will receive an increase of \$800. The Jefferson county Orphans' Home will receive \$1,000, but Superintendent Redmond stated today that he did not expect that this will be sufficient.

The amount of the increase here cannot be estimated exactly as the amount to be used at this orphanage as there are numerous changes during the course of the year, some of the orphans leaving for other places and others entering.

At St. Patricks Orphanage there are 18 orphans so that the expense of the institution can be estimated more exactly.

The requisitions are made for funds to provide for city charges in these institutions.

A resolution was also adopted by the board recommending Clarence V. Lodge as superintendent of the state asylum at Newark [published in the *Watertown Daily Times*, Thurs., September 23, 1909].

An account of "Donation Day" follows:

Tomorrow is the annual donation day at St. Patricks Orphanage. The orphanage is in need of any articles of clothing or food that may be given and such gifts will be greatly appreciated by the sisters in charge. The articles may be carried to the orphanage where they will be taken charge of and put to suitable use [published in the *Watertown Daily Times*, Tues., November 23, 1911].

## RECEIVE \$1,300 FROM CARNATION SALE

CONDUCTED FOR THE BENEFIT  
OF ST. PATRICK'S  
ORPHANAGE

A total of \$1,300 was realized through the annual carnation sale conducted Saturday for the benefit of St. Patrick's orphanage, according to an announcement made today by Mrs. L. G. De Cant, chairman of the committee in charge. The Sisters of the orphanage are gratified at the results. The receipts this year are unusually large. The orphanage is now caring for 101 children.

Watertown Daily Times, June 14, 1920

Below are accounts of other types of fundraisers by St. Patricks Orphanage.

As a means of acquiring funds to meet the heavy expenses incurred by St. Patricks orphanage during the present winter, friends of the institution have received Shamrock cards today, and more will be out on Monday and Tuesday. Each recipient of the card is expected to collect or provide a return of \$1 to the institution and the cards can be returned as soon as possible [published in the *Watertown Daily Times*, Sat., February 25, 1911].

Here we find another account:

On March 17, the children of St. Patricks Orphanage entertained the visitors who went there for the purpose of going through the institution and of leaving their donations for the little folks. The visitors were first escorted through the building and were finally brought to the school. Here they were entertained by the pupils in their rendition of a well prepared and an appropriate program for the occasion. They acquitted themselves well and reflected much credit on their teacher [published in the *Watertown Daily Times*, Thurs., March 26, 1908].

(Continued on Page 17)



(Continued From Page 16)

Here is another...

**ORPHANAGE WINS THE MOST VOTES IN THE CONTEST. St. Patricks Asylum Will Receive \$250 of Dunknall & Co**

With a total of 71,392, the St. Patricks Orphanage won first prize in the voting contest which has been conducted by Bushnell & Co. during the holidays and which came to a close last night.

The company offered \$500 to be distributed in ten prizes to the church or charitable organization in the city receiving the largest number of votes [published in the *Post Standard*, Syracuse, Mon., December 26, 1910].

The Sisters of St. Patricks orphanage realized \$250 as a result of their lawn festival held recently. Sister Gertrude, in charge of the orphanage, is greatly pleased with the results of the festival and is very grateful to all those who helped make it a success [published in the *Watertown Daily Times*, Fri., August 8, 1918].

Research uncovered by the author indicates that the Knights of Columbus assisted the local orphanages annually. Below are just a few examples of the types of support they offered the children of St. Patricks Orphanage (and Jefferson County Orphan Asylum):

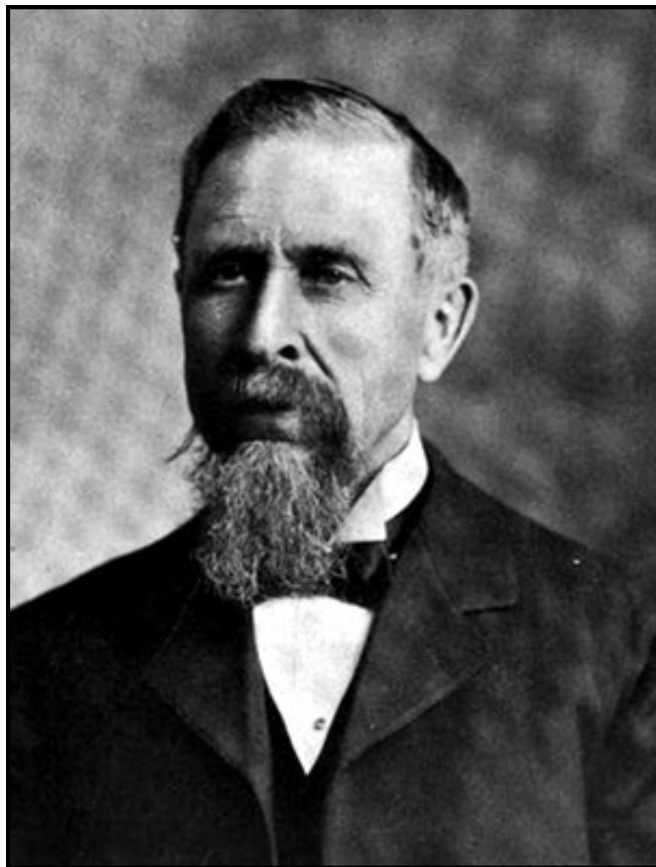
The Knights of Columbus sent a large quantity of ice cream, cake and other delicacies to the children at St. Patricks Orphanage yesterday. The sisters of the orphanage have expressed their thanks and the appreciation of the children for the articles [published in the *Watertown Daily Times*, Thurs., October 14, 1909].

The boys and girls of St. Patricks Orphanage will be the guest of the Knights of Columbus at their club house on Stone street [published in the *Watertown Daily Times*, December 31, 1923].

**KNIGHTS TEMPLAR VISIT ORPHANAGE. They Carry Gifts for the Unfortunate Children in County Home**

The Knights Templar made their annual visit to the Jefferson County Orphan asylum New Year's morning. They were accompanied by the Watertown City Band, which gave a concert to the children. The concert lasted about an hour. Charles R. Skinner of this city made a short address to the children, who responded with a program they had prepared in honor of the occasion. Presents of fruit, candies, etc., were then given to the children by the Knights. In the afternoon the band went to the St. Patricks Orphanage and serenaded the children of that institution. For their part

of the program the children gave recitations and sang several songs [published in the *Watertown Daily Times*, Tues., January 3, 1912].



**Austin F. Stitt**

**IN CLOSING**

As it turns out, the author's family members, Anna and Ella Storing [Sterling] were lucky. They ended up in a good home and became the adopted daughters of Austin F. and Caroline (McClellan) Stitt, a respected family of their community. Austin was both Postmaster (during Grant's first administration) and Mayor (three terms) at Burlington Junction, Missouri. The couple never had children of their own, but Austin and his wife ended up raising 12 or 13 orphans, who went on to lead successful lives. Every indication (and particularly newspaper accounts) show that the two young girls had an excellent upbringing, and went on to lead successful lives.

Van Ornum's own father found love, and was happily married for 45 years. He raised a family, and had a successful career.

But many children were not so lucky. Stories of abuse, torture and defilement existed among many of the children adopted out of orphanages. Not only were

(Continued on Page 18)



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many physically, mentally and sexually abused, but cruel and cunning adults in the orphan business lived well on the contributions meant for children.

Van Ornum questions whether foster care, adoption, and residential treatment actually solved the woes of abandoned children?

At least one psychological study, showed that orphans, as compared to their counterparts, had a 40% higher graduation rate, a 10 to 60% higher median income, higher happiness, and lower rates of unemployment, poverty, and incarceration.



Lou Gehrig (left) and Babe Ruth in 1927 during one of their celebrated post season barnstorming tours. They are seen visiting St. Patrick's Orphanage (Sisters of St. Joseph), Watertown, New York. The boy at the far left is the father of psychologist Dr. William Van Ornum, who provided the photograph. Private collection of Dr. William Van Ornum, Copyright 2011 [Photo credit: <http://rightoffthebatbook.com/images-from-the-book/>].

While each of us would hope that all the children who were reared in orphanages ultimately found happy homes as adults out on their own, we may never know each outcome.

In this three part series, the author has tried her best to share with members of the Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society (JCNYGS) what it was like for orphan riders heading to homes unknown all across America, as well as everyday life inside of asylums, poor houses and orphanages for all of the children without homes (Jefferson County having two such institutions).

"Perhaps there are those who are able to go about their lives unfettered by such concerns. But for those like us, our fate is to face the world as orphans, chasing through long years the shadows of vanished parents. There is nothing for it but to try and see through our missions to the end, as best we can, for until we do so, we will be permitted no calm." — Kazuo Ishiguro, 'When We Were Orphans'

Post Standard - January 30, 1919

## Watertown and Jefferson County

### RECEPTION HELD AT ORPHANAGE

Attendance of 1,000 Persons Estimated at St. Patrick's.

#### CHILDREN ENTERTAIN GUESTS

Building Inspected by Record Crowd — Rooms Prettily Decorated for Event — Sister Gertrude in Charge.

THE POST-STANDARD BRANCH OFFICE,  
NO. 344 STONE STREET,  
WILL TELEPHONE NO. 1423

WATERTOWN, Jan. 29.—St. Patrick's Orphanage in Coffeen street was the scene of a largely attended reception tonight, it being estimated that more than 1,000 persons attended the affair. The orphanage was elaborately decorated.

Knappall & Company donated the decorations on the first floor, while Bushnell & Company donated the effects on the second floor. Palms, flags, ferns and bunting given for the occasion covered the walls and were displayed about the building.

Between the hours of 7.30 and 9.30 o'clock there was a general reception and inspection of the building, a Reception Committee of half a dozen men and women being on each floor of the building. Entertainments by the children were given in the different class rooms.

Particularly noticeable were two beautiful shrines, one of St. Anthony on the first floor and one of St. Patrick on the second floor. Each had been decorated with electric lights and palms.



**Desmore children born to Franklin D. and Mary (Fitzgerald) Desmore**

*Note by author - it is felt the children gathered on this day for the funeral of their mother.*

**Front row (l-r): Frank, Jay and John Desmore**

**Middle row (l-r): Kathleen ("Kate"), Henrietta ("Hettie"), Martha ("Mattie") and Ida Mae ("Mae")**

**Back row (l-r); Isaac & Elisabeth ("Liza") Desmore**

Photo from the albums of **Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati** (originally given by Carol Sterling)

## Descendants of Antoine Desmore [Desmareaux]

In Jefferson County, New York

Written and researched  
by Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati

*Some spelling variations of the surname "Desmore" include: Desmares, Desmarais, Desmond, Dosmore & Desmareaux*

*Generation No. 1*

*~ Antoine Desmore ~*

1. **Antoine Desmore**<sup>1</sup> [Desmareaux] was born in France, and died in Canada.

Child of Antoine Desmore [Desmareaux] is:

i. **Isaac M. Desmore**<sup>2</sup> [Desmareaux], born 1815 in Canada; died 22 Sep 1877 in Brownville, Jefferson Co., NY. Married Martha Amel.

(Continued on Page 20)

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Generation No. 2

~ Isaac M. Desmore, son of Antoine Desmore ~

2. **Isaac M. Desmore<sup>2</sup>** [Desmareaux] (Antoine Desmore<sup>1</sup>) was born 1815 in Canada, and died 22 Sep 1877 in Brownville, Jefferson Co., NY. He came to Brownville in 1837, having married Martha Amel 01 Feb 1831 in Kingston, ON, daughter of Charles Francis Amel/Amell/Emell. She was born 1812 in Trois-Rivières, St. Mauricie, Quebec, Canada, and died September 22, 1877.

#### Sudden Death

Mr. Isaac Desmore, an old and highly respected citizen of Dexter, Jefferson County, died suddenly Saturday night at the residence of (Peter?) LaRock, on the east side of the river in this city. Mr. Desmore came to this city on Saturday last on the schooner McClellan, with his son, Capt. Frank Desmore, on a pleasure trip and during the day called upon the family of Mr. LaRock, accompanied by the captain, and at about 11 o'clock pm while sitting in a chair conversing and laughing, and feeling apparently well, he suddenly fell to the floor and expired almost immediately. Death it is supposed was caused by heart disease. Mr. Desmore was 68 years old. The body was taken to Watertown today [published in the *Oswego Palladium Times*, Mon., September 24, 1877].

Another obituary reads...

Isaac Desmore, of Dexter, aged 67, father of Captain Desmore of the schooner McClellan, died suddenly in a saloon at Oswego, Friday, of heart disease [published in the *Utica Morning Herald*, Wed., September 26, 1877].

Martha Amel is also seen as "Monique Hamel" (French-Canadian version).

1880 United States Federal Census Record, Martha was living in Brownville, Jefferson, New York, and was "65" years old at the time. The record shows her birthplace (and her parents birthplace) as follows:

Birthplace: Canada (estimated birth year: abt 1815)

Father's birthplace: Canada

Mother's birthplace: Canada

She was widowed and living in the home of her daughter and son-in-law: Joseph Rodrick 37, Malissa Rodrick 34, Joseph Rodrick 9, Lillian Rodrick 7, Cora Rodrick 5, George Rodrick 2, and Mabel Rodrick 7M

Children of Isaac [Desmareaux] and Martha Amel are:

i. John<sup>3</sup> Desmore.

ii. **Franklin D. Desmore, born 1835 in Canada; died 30 Apr 1911 in Dexter, NY. Married Mary Fitzgerald. ONLY FRANKLIN D. DESMORE IS CARRIED FORWARD IN THIS ARTICLE...**

iii. Isaac Desmore, born 1835 in Canada. Married Esther St. Jule.

iv. Elmira Desmore, born 1839; died 1847.

v. Arsula (Ursula) Desmore, born 1839 in Canada; died 1920. Married Pierre "Peter" LaRock.

vi. Martha "Malein" Desmore, born 1844 in Cana-

da. Married Unk. Saniule [Saniulo].

vii. Mary Desmore, born 06 Jan 1844 in Dexter, Jefferson, NY; died 24 May 1932. She married unk. Petrie.

viii. Melissa Desmore, born Abt. 1846; died 11 Apr 1919. Married Joseph C. Roderick.

ix. Hester "Esther" Desmore, born 29 Mar 1848 in Dexter, Jefferson, NY; died 10 Mar 1888. Married Zimron Blodgett Merriam.

x. Helen E. Desmore, born 23 Mar 1850 in Dexter, Jefferson, NY; died 03 Feb 1945 in Dexter, NY. Married George W. Hazelwood.

Generation No. 3

~ Franklin D. Desmore, son of Isaac Desmore ~

4. **Franklin D.<sup>3</sup> Desmore** (Isaac M. Desmore<sup>2</sup> [Desmareaux], Antoine Desmore<sup>1</sup>) was born 1835 in Canada, and died 30 Apr 1911 in Dexter, NY. He married Mary Fitzgerald 12 Dec 1857 in Jefferson Co., NY, daughter of Morris Fitzgerald. She was born 1840 in Brownville, Jefferson County, NY, and died 1922. Frank died 30 Apr 1911. The couple are both buried at Dexter cemetery, Dexter, NY. (*Note - Franklin is great, great grandfather to the author*).

Franklin D. Desmore was a "Captain" of the schooner, Cornelia. Apparently he had several boats, as the Child's Business Directory of 1890 lists the following:

**Desmore, Franklin D.**, (Dexter) r 12, sailor, captain and owns schooner McClellan, h and lot.

1870 United States Federal Census Record shows Franklin's birth year as "abt 1837". He was 33 years old at the time, born in Canada, and residing in Hounsfield, Jefferson, New York.

1880 United States Federal Census Record shown Frank living in Hounsfield, Jefferson, New York at the age of "48". His birthplace is listed as "New York". The record also lists his parents birthplace as "New York". His wife, Mary, is also in the home. His occupation is listed as "Sailor". Household Members are Frank Desmore 48, Mary Desmore 40, Isaac Desmore 21, Kate Desmore 18, Frank Desmore 15, Mattie Desmore 13, Hettie Desmore 10, Jay Desmore 6, John Desmore 4 and Liza Desmore 2

1900 United States Federal Census Record shows Frank living in Hounsfield, Jefferson, New York. He is 67 years old. Birth place is listed as "Canada French". Relationship to head-of-house shows him as "Hired Hand". Immigration year is "1836". Household Members are Mary Desmore 60, Frank d Desmore 67, and Eliza Desmore 22. *Note - Mary's estimated birth year is 1840. She is shown as birthplace:" Canada Irish " Immigration year: 1865.*

In regard to this record [1900 Census], the author writes of her "Sterling" family:

Claud, Erma (Nash) Sterling and son, Hazel, are living 3 homes away on one side, and on the opposite side

(Continued on Page 21)

(Continued From Page 20)

are found all of the following: Adolphus and Martha (Wilder) Sterling (two homes away); next to Adolphus is George and Ida Mae (Desmore) Crandall (sons Leon, Georgia and Roy are in home), along with Franklyn Wilder (and his four children: Fred, Floyd, Henrietta and James); living some 5 houses away from them are Byron and Florence (Boomer) Randall (with their children Dora and Daniel); four more homes down the row is Gilbert and Alcesta (Dell) Sterling (with "Cora?" in home marked as "son-in-law"); and lastly, next to Gilbert is Daniel and Elnora (Sterling) Randall (with daughter "Sarah" in home). *Note - Byron is the son of Daniel C. and Elnora (Sterling) Randall.*

1910 United States Federal Census Record shows Frank at the age of 78. His home is in Hounsfield, Jefferson, New York.

Obituary of Frank Desmore ...

#### **Captain Frank Desmore Dead**

Captain Frank Desmore, for over fifty years a master of many vessels on the great lakes, died at his home in Paterson, N.J. Sunday and the funeral will be held in Watertown tomorrow morning. Isaac Desmore, of this city, a son, was called to Paterson by his death. Surviving, besides the latter, are his widow, three sons and five daughters: Frank Desmore, Oswego; John Desmore, Paterson; Jay Desmore, Dexter; Mrs. John Bigwood and Mrs. Stillman Clark, Paterson; Mrs. Fred Westcott and Mrs. Will Sterling, Sackets Harbor; and Mrs. George Crandall Watertown [published in the *Oswego Daily Palladium* Oswego, NY, May 8, 1911].

*Another account was located as follows...*

#### **DIED**

**Desmore** - In Paterson, N.J., April 30, 1911, Franklin D. Desmore formerly of Dexter aged 80 years [published in the *Watertown Herald*, Sat., May 6, 1911].

Newspaper Account of Mary (Fitzgerald) Desmore and family follows...

#### **Desmore Family Reunion**

Thirty-one grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren of Mrs. Mary Desmore took part in the Desmore family reunion held at the home of Fred Wescott at Campbell's Point. Mrs. Desmore is 80 years old and since the death of her husband. Capt F. D. Desmore, she has been making her home with her sons and daughters, who number nine.

A large number of persons from other states attended the reunion, motoring to Campbell's Point for the occasion. It was decided at the business meeting to hold the next reunion at the same place on Aug. 7, 1921.

Those present at this year's reunion were: Mr. and Mrs. John Bigwood and mother. Mrs. Mattie Bigwood, Natick, Mass; Miss Henrietta Wilder, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Desmore and daughter Gertrude, Worcester; Mrs. B. S Clark and daughters, Muriel and Norma, and son, Paul, North Brookfield; Frank Desmore and daughter Amber, Buffalo; Mr. and Mrs. William Sterling and son, Franklin; Clare Sterling and daughter and son, Doris and Delos, Syracuse; Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Desmore; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Desmore and daughter, Loretta. Oswego; Mr. and Mrs. Leon Crandall. Fulton: Mr. and Mrs. John Martin, Buffalo; Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Wescott and sons Clarence and Frederick, Campbell's Point: Mr. and Mrs. George Crandall, Jr. and daughter, June, Syracuse; Mr. and Mrs. George Crandall. Sr. and son, Roy and daughter, Maudie; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilder and sons Gerald, Harold and Lloyd; Mrs. Mary Petrie; Mrs. Maggie Carnes; Mrs. Addie Nellie; Mrs. Lucy Case; Mrs. Ida Boynton and son, Morris, and daughter, Burlene; and Mr. and Mrs. William Van Winkle, Watertown; Mr. and Mrs. William Merriam and son of Brownville; Mrs. Rose Bisnette, Mr. and Mrs. Parkhurst Wilson. Watertown; Mrs. Mate Wescott, Campbell's Point: Miss Burnice Curtis, Winthrop; Andrew Shaw, North Brookfield; and Miss Alvina Ledger, Cornwall, Ont. [published in the *Watertown Daily Times*, Fri., August 13, 1920].

Children of Franklin Desmore and Mary Fitzgerald are:  
i. Addy "Ada A."<sup>4</sup> Desmore, born 25 Nov 1858 in Dexter, Jefferson, NY; died 08 Feb 1862 in Watertown, Jefferson, NY.

Notes for Addy "Ada A." Desmore:

Died 1862 at age of 3y 2m 13d, buried at Arsenal St. Cem., Desmore Addy

<http://www.nnygenealogy.com>

ii. Isaac M. Desmore, born 02 Mar 1860 in Dexter, Jefferson, NY; died Dec 1937 in Oswego, NY. Married Celenda "Libby" Dulac.

iii. Katherine "Kate" Desmore, born Abt. 1862; died 1960 in Campbell's Point, NY. Married Frederick Wescott.

iv. Ida May Desmore, born 21 Mar 1863 in Dexter, Jefferson, NY; died 26 May 1951 in Pine Camp, Jefferson Co., NY. Married (1) James Wilder. Married (2) George A. Crandall.

v. Franklin D. Desmore, born Abt. 1865; died 31 Mar 1955. Married Florence Dulac.

vi. Martha "Mattie" Desmore, born Abt. 1866. Married William A. Bigwood.

vii. Henrietta "Hettie" Lorrene Desmore, born 03 Oct 1868 in Dexter, New York; died 01 Aug 1966 in a Syracuse Nursing Home. Married William D. Sterling.

viii. M. Jay Desmore, born 22 May 1875; died 15 Aug 1924. Married Grace Enos.

ix. John Wallace Desmore, born 22 Jan 1876. Married Lena Mae Lake.

x. Elizabeth "Liza" Desmore, born 1878. Married B. S. "Stillman" Clark.

# Jefferson County Queries

Send Queries to: Jerry Davis, P. O. Box 275, Clayton, NY 13624; maridavis@aol.com

**Subject: Jefferson County Informer Query**

(Some readers don't have internet access. Please include mailing address &/or phone numbers as well as email.)

## **DOTY, WELCH**

Who are the parents of Ferris **DOTY** whose daughter Hester was born in Watertown, Jefferson, NY in about 1835? Ferris **DOTY** and his wife Celinda (Salinda) **WELCH** had 8 children, and lived in New York before moving to Lenawee County Michigan. Four of their children were born in NY and four in MI. The four NY births were Hulda (abt 1829), Harvey (abt 1831), Henry (11 Feb 1832 in Youngstown, Niagara, NY), and Hester in Watertown, Jefferson, NY. Their next child, Maila, was born in Michigan 1837.

I have exhausted all sources in Lenawee County, and am now looking for help in New York. Ferris died in Tecumseh, Lenawee, MI before 1847 in an accident building a log cabin. There is no grave. His wife and family moved to Indiana.

*Lois Ogilby  
Los Angeles, CA  
logilby@me.com*

## **LECKIE, TAYLOR, BROWN**

Someone who lives in Sacket's Harbor, NY where our Scottish engineer ancestor owned property bought sometime between 1806 (last mention in the NYC Business Directory) and 1834 (when he died in S.C.).

W. Robert **LECKIE** and new wife Mary Ann **TAYLOR** immigrated from Perthshire in 1805 to Greenwich, New York City, and he subsequently contracted for, worked on canals, US Armories, you name it. The family moved a Lot.

His sister Margaret **LECKIE BROWN** is listed in his D.C. will, 1834, to inherit his property in Sacket's Harbor on which she lived (a farm, I believe). He leaves \$\$ to her children and to children of other Scottish immigrants. I got his Estate settlement, also, 100 pages in all, via the National Archives depository in Atlanta as he latterly lived and died in Georgetown, D.C. He was Construction Supt. for the C&O Canal from Lock 4 up to Monocacy Aqueduct (which he designed and was building when he died). I had his canal Day Book transferred to microfilm by the NC State Archives and am almost through printing it out. His papers are scattered all up and down the East Coast: VA and North Carolina State Libraries, Duke

University - Perkins Special Collections, SC State Archives, NY-VA-SC-GA-D.C. census records, you name it.

I've always wondered about this connection to Sacket's Harbor. The local offices in essence told me to "come get this info in person!" Of course, in more recent years, they may be digitized and/or more user friendly! I've also wondered if his family even went there, and whether he was there during the War of 1812. He was involved in rebuilding the Senate Offices of the National Capitol Bldg. in D.C. ca. 1819 - probably as a Stone Mason, his craft learned in Scotland.

His daughter, our ancestress, Mary Ann **Leckie**, named for her mother, is listed in the 1850 VA Census as being born in New York. In 1814 by age and calculation, also in Bible Records, I have NYC? Sacket's Harbor? She and her sister Helen later married, lived and died in Mecklenburg County, VA. They were **LECKIE's** only surviving heirs.

Thank you for your time and hopefully you can point me in the direction of finding out more about this connection to New York.

*Virginia Louis Newsome Overman  
110 Puddle Lane  
Manteo, NC 27954-9595  
lou54wfc@earthlink.net  
ph/FAX 252-473-2126*

## **What to do about the Black Sheep**

The Smith's were proud of their family tradition. Their ancestors had come to America on the Mayflower. Their line had included Senators and Wall Street wizards. Now they decided to compile a family history, a legacy for the children. They hired a fine author. Only one problem arose, how to handle that great-uncle who was executed in the electric chair. The author said he could handle that chapter of history tactfully. The book appeared. It said, "Great-uncle Jarrod occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution, was attached to his position by the strongest of ties and his death came as a real shock."

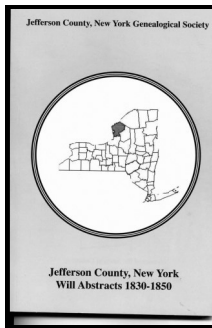


# JCNYGS MATERIALS FOR PURCHASE

## JEFFERSON COUNTY NEW YORK WILL ABSTRACTS 1830 – 1850

The Will Book contains will abstracts dating from 1830 to 1850. The book contains 194 pages, two maps, and a chart showing the formation of Jefferson County Towns.

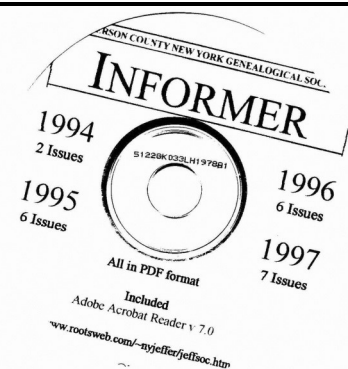
Sale Price \$15.00 + \$5.00 for postage. Checks made out to **JCNYGS**  
Mail to: **JCNYGS**  
Attn: **Robert VanBrocklin**  
PO Box 6453  
Watertown, NY 13601



## Informers

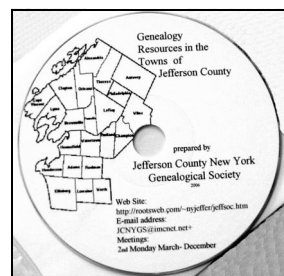
\$20 or \$23 if mailing is required  
**Al Seymour**  
110 Marian Drive  
Mattydale, NY 13211  
al@seymour.net

(If you buy 2 CDs, only a single \$3 Mail fee!)



## Genealogical Resources of Jefferson County

Collected by JCNYGS Genealogical Resources Committee  
\$7 plus \$3 Mail fee  
**Al Seymour**  
110 Marian Drive,  
Mattydale, NY 13211

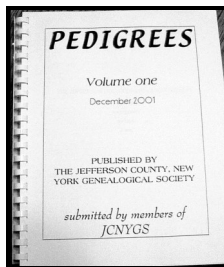


al@seymour.net

## PEDIGREE BOOK I & PEDIGREE BOOK II Each Book \$20.00 plus \$4.05 Shipping

A collection of pedigrees Submitted by members of the JCNYGS with an every name index

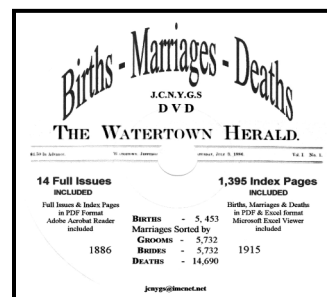
CONTACT: **Greg Plantz**  
21787 Reed Road  
Watertown, NY 13601  
tplantz1@twcny.rr.com



## A DVD of the Births-Marriages-Deaths from The Watertown Herald 1886-1915

\$25 or \$28 if mailing is required to JCNYGS at

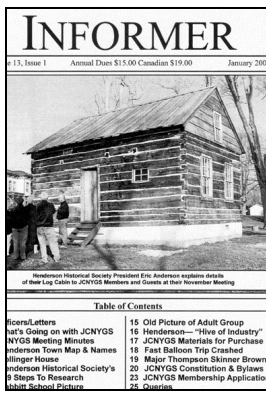
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Mattydale, NY 13211  
al@seymour.net



# THE INFORMER

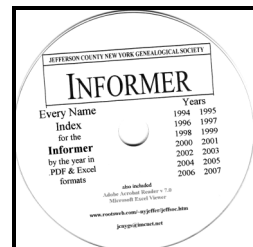
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CONTACT  
**Greg Plantz**  
21787 Reed Road  
Watertown, NY 13601  
tplantz1@twcny.rr.com



## EVERY NAME INDEX INFORMERS 1994—2008

\$7 or \$10 if mailing is required  
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110 Marian Drive  
Mattydale, NY 13211  
al@seymour.net



## **INFORMER**

Jefferson County NY Genealogical Society  
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P.O. Box 6453  
Watertown, NY 13601

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WATERTOWN, NY  
PERMIT NO. 112

Or Current Resident

## **JCNYGS PROGRAMS FOR 2014**

The Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society does not meet during the winter months of January or February. We will return to monthly meetings in March. Follow us on FACEBOOK at Jefferson County Genealogy Society or at The Informer to get more information.

If you have suggestions for programs or would like to help on any of our committees, please contact any of our officers found on page 2. Suggestions or comments on our newsletter the *INFORMER* are always welcomed and most helpful.

---

Directions to LDS Church where we are presently holding our meetings:

From Rt. 81, take exit 44 to Rt. 232 towards Watertown. Drive 1.1 miles and take the second left hand turn on to Ives Street Road. Continue straight into the city. The LDS temple is the second building on the right, across from IHC, as you enter the city limits.

From Watertown, it is on Ives Street, across from IHC. Take Washington Street to Barben Avenue. Turn on to Barben and take it until it ends at a T. Turn left and the LDS will be 300 yards on the left.

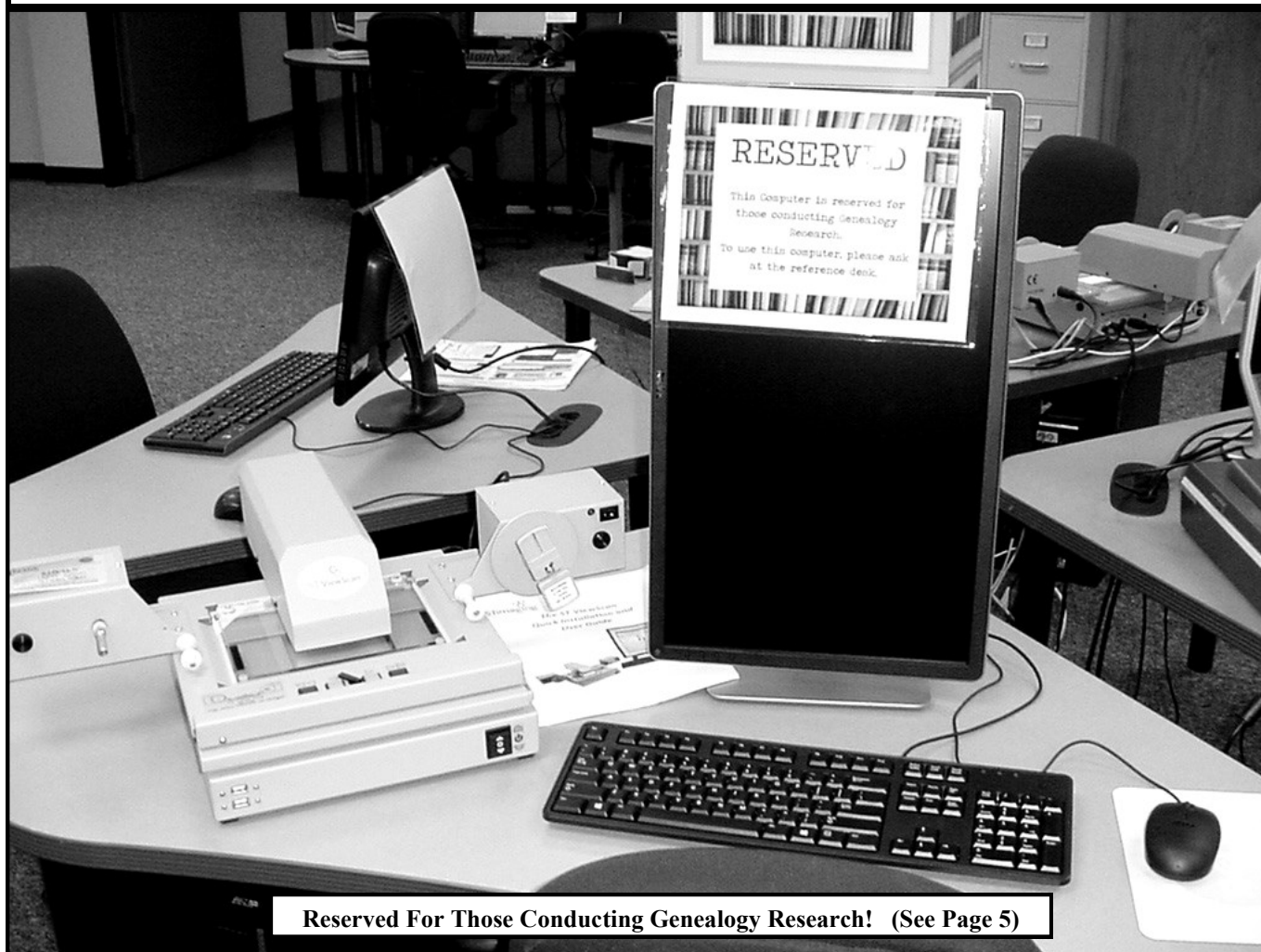
Or, from Watertown take Massey street south, veer right onto South Massey, left on to Ives.

# INFORMER

Volume 21, Issue 2

Annual Dues \$15.00 Canadian \$19.00

April 2014



Reserved For Those Conducting Genealogy Research! (See Page 5)

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## INFORMER APRIL 2014

Correspondence about dues, memberships, and lost *Informers* should be directed to:  
Jefferson County Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 6453, Watertown, NY 13601  
Temporary E-mail: [tomlaclair624@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlaclair624@yahoo.com) Web site: <http://jefferson.nygenweb.net>

**President:** Tracy Robertson, 26795 Clear Lake Camp Rd, Theresa, NY 13691  
[Tracy@TracyLRobertson.net](mailto:Tracy@TracyLRobertson.net), 315-486-2700

**Vice President:** Anne Davis, 17192 Ives Street Road, Watertown, NY 13601  
[davisa24@verizon.net](mailto:davisa24@verizon.net), 315-788-6045

**2nd Vice President:** Temporarily Vacant

**Recording Secretary:** Temporarily Vacant

**Corresponding Secretary:** Thomas LaClair, 17696 Co. Route 181. Clayton, NY 13624  
[tomlaclair624@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlaclair624@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:** Larry Corbett, 520 Binsse St., Watertown, NY 13601  
[lrcorbet@gisco.net](mailto:lrcorbet@gisco.net), 315-323-3118

**The Informer Committee:** Nan Dixon, [nandixon001@gmail.com](mailto:nandixon001@gmail.com), editor; Thomas LaClair, [tomlaclair624@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlaclair624@yahoo.com), publisher. Editorial members (alphabetically) are Jerry Davis, [maridavis@aol.com](mailto:maridavis@aol.com); David Kendall, [davek@cynergyintl.com](mailto:davek@cynergyintl.com); Greg and Tammy Plantz, [tplantz1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:tplantz1@twcny.rr.com). The *Informer* is now being published quarterly in the months of January, April, July, and October. A special Surnames issue may also be published in December.

Look for our new online *Informer* with our next July issue!

### Letters.....

Letters to the editor may be directed to [nandixon001@gmail.com](mailto:nandixon001@gmail.com) or to Nan Dixon, 15407 Dixon Road, Clayton, NY 13624.

The JCNYS website is progressing nicely and we are on schedule for a 1 July 2014 go-live date. Watch for the July issue of the *Informer* for full details on your newest genealogy website ([www.jcnys.com](http://www.jcnys.com))!

## DUES ARE DUE AND SOMETHING NEW!

July also marks the month membership dues are submitted. Dues for July 2014 - June 2015 are:

**Single Member: \$15.00.** This will give you unlimited access to the webpage to include the *Informer* on-line. You will also have voting rights. To have the quarterly *Informer* mailed to your home or business, add \$6.00, for a total \$21.00.

**Married Couple: \$20.00.** This will give you unlimited access to the webpage to include

the *Informer* on-line. You will both have voting rights. To have the quarterly *Informer* mailed to your home or business, add \$6.00, for a total \$26.00.

Mail in your dues payable to:

**Jefferson County New York Genealogical  
Society (or JCNYS)  
P.O. Box 6453  
Watertown, New York 13601**

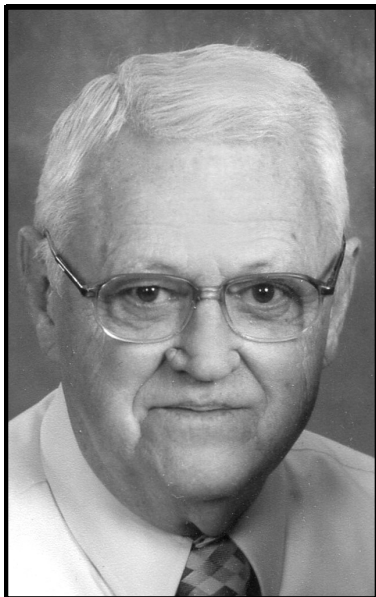
Please include a note with your full name(s), current address, home phone number, and complete mailing address. Do this even if no change has occurred as we verify that membership data is accurate.

**Look for the JCNYS at the Jefferson and  
Lewis County Fairs this summer. We are  
looking into others as well.**

**The JCNYS picnic will be Saturday,  
September 13, 2014 at Thompson Park's  
Rotary Pavilion.**

**Please note: Below is our new temporary  
e-mail address!**





**Alvah "Al" H. Seymour**

Alvah "Al" J. Seymour Jr., 75, of Mattydale, died Thursday, January 2 at St. Joseph's Hospital. Al was born on the South Side of Syracuse before moving to Mattydale in 1954. He graduated from North Syracuse High School in 1956 and was the son of the late Mary Alice (Stokes Moore) and Alvah H. Seymour, Sr.

Al served in the NY Air National Guard 174th Fighter Wing and was activated for the Berlin Crisis. He retired in 2000 from Point to Point Telecommunications in Syracuse after working for eight years as a Communications Specialist. Prior to that, he had worked for ADT Securities for 17 years and owned and operated CostCom for eight years. Al was a member of the CNY PC Users Group and taught seminars often. He was an avid woodworker, coin collector, and genealogy buff. Al maintained a summer camp in Alex Bay for the past 12 years where he enjoyed his family and time spent with them. He was a longtime communicant of St. Margaret's Church and volunteered for many projects especially those which needed woodworking.

Al is survived by his wife of 46 years, the former Mary Louise (Minni), their three sons, J. Scott (Naomi) Seymour of Port St. Lucie, FL, Andrew Seymour of Mattydale and Todd (Jennifer) Seymour of Liverpool; two siblings, Ellen (V. James) Medicis of Liverpool and Elwin (Norma) Moore of Camillus; his five grandchildren, Angelina, Aidan, Ainsley, Zoe and Nicholas Seymour, and many nieces and nephews.

Contributions in Al's memory may be made to St. Margaret's Church or it's Human Development Program, 203 Roxboro Rd., Mattydale, NY 13211.

At Krueger Funeral Home, 2619 Brewerton Rd., Mattydale, a prayer service was held Monday 9:15 a.m. at the funeral home followed by a 10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial at St. Margaret's Church. Entombment will be in Woodlawn Mausoleum, Syracuse. For more information, photos or to sign the guest book, please visit [KruegerFuneralHome.com](http://KruegerFuneralHome.com).

From those of us in the JCNYS: While his obituary mentions his interest in genealogy only in passing, Al shared his expertise with the Jefferson County Genealogical Society generously in a number of ways. He was an authority on his French-Canadian connections, and helped others with their research. He was a diligent searcher of genealogy web sites, and again, quietly aided others. However, most of his fellow members will remember him for his computer expertise, allowing the genealogy society to profit from his work. He digitized the *Informers* and the Society offered the disks for sale. When the JCNYS Genealogical Resources Committee interviewed the various sites in the county which had genealogical information available, Al digitized the unwieldy volume to make it a source easily accessible. The every name index to the *Informers* was also his idea and his work. A DVD of the births, marriages and deaths from the *Watertown Herald*, 1886-1915 was all his own work. He also gave his talents to Lyme Heritage, in their genealogical work, always refusing to accept anything but thanks.

His quiet, always good natured presence is missed.

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**J. Clancy "Bud" Hopkins**



Sackets Harbor, NY - J. Clancy "Bud" Hopkins, Jr., 89, died Thursday, Feb. 13 at his home on Campbell's Point.

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued From Page 3)

Born Dec. 20, 1924, in Syracuse, a son of J. Clancy and Julia Smith Hopkins, he attended the old Lincoln School, graduated from Blessed Sacrament School and from Christian Brothers Academy when it was located on Willow Street in Syracuse.

Mr. Hopkins was a combat veteran of the World War II serving in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater from 1943 to 1946. He received the Good Conduct Medal, the American Service Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Liberation Medal from the Chinese Government, and several Battle Stars for action in Burma, and China. He was a member of the American Legion, Post #61.

After Army service, he attended Syracuse University for two years, and then travelled N. Y. State, Ontario, Canada, and Pennsylvania as a manufacturer's representative for Marshalltown Tools, Syracuse, NY until his retirement in 1989.

Mr. Hopkins was an active volunteer. He was currently a Library Trustee on the Board of The Flower Memorial Library. In 2013 he received the Trustee of the Year award from among approximately 300+ trustees in the North Country Library System. Mr. Hopkins was the facilitator for the Man-to Man Prostate Cancer Support group, a volunteer at The Samaritan Medical Hospital, and also at the City Historians Office in City Hall along with his dog, Tiger. Mr. Hopkins was also a docent at the Jefferson County Historical Society and at the South Jefferson Historical Society in Adams.

On Sundays he was an usher at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown.

He was active in the Jefferson County Genealogical Society having served in various capacities.

Mr. Hopkins was a lifelong member and past president of "The Campbell's Point Association." In 2004 he co-authored a book with his wife, Patti, about the history of "Campbell's Point." In 2013 his friends at Campbell's Point awarded him with a lifetime achievement award that he cherished.

Survivors include: his wife, Patti L. (Wagner) of nearly 16 years; a son, Attorney James Clancy III, his wife Rosanne and children Courtney and Heather both of NYC, and Conor Hopkins, Syracuse; a son Kevin S. Hopkins, a plastic surgeon, and his wife, Seema of Corpus Christy, Texas; a daughter, Kelley S. Hopkins, her companion, Lisa Downing, and their children, Sean and Shaeleigh, all of Easthampton, Mass.; a son, Kerry S. Hopkins, his wife, Julie, and children Shane, Kyle and Jillian of Jamesville; a daughter, Kerrin S. Davis and children, Everhett, and Kohlfeld;

Skaneateles; many cousins, and many favorite nieces and nephews.

Two sisters, Mary-Margaret McGowan, Staten Island, Julie E. Walter, Fayetteville, N.Y. and a brother, William S. Hopkins, Florida, all died before him.

A memorial mass was held 10 a.m. March 1 at St. Patrick's Church with Rev. Donald Robinson officiating. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Donations may be made to the Board of Trustees at the Flower Memorial Library, 229 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601 or the American Cancer Society, PO Box 357, Watertown, NY 13601.

Condolences may be made to [www.dlcalarco.com](http://www.dlcalarco.com).

From those of us in the JCNYGS:

Clancy Hopkins was an active member of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society in all aspects of the word. He joined the society in its earliest days, always had an opinion on every topic and expressed it clearly. He was a strong believer in cooperation and worked to make the society a group to include all genealogical functions, making the study of family history more accessible to everyone. Coming from a large family himself and with an outgoing personality welcoming all comers, Clancy easily made friends for himself, and promoted the welfare of the Genealogy Society in innovative ways. He was a salesman, and "sold" the society as vigorously as he sold the tools that made his living.

He and his wife Patti were editors of the *Informer* for some years, and he retained the office of publisher almost until his death. Clancy wanted the *Informer* to be published on time, and reminded the staff frequently, until getting it published on time was a routine rarely disturbed. He also tackled the then current problem of misspellings and typos with equal enthusiasm. He was corresponding Secretary for some years, going daily to the post office to collect the mail. Proud of his Irish heritage, he had a small library of Irish genealogy from which he was able to help others.

**"All the darkness in the world  
cannot extinguish the light of  
a single candle."**

**— Francis of Assisi, *The  
Little Flowers of St. Francis***



# Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, 8 March 2014

The first meeting of 2014 was held at the Flower Memorial Library in Watertown. The meeting started at 1 PM. Attendees were William and Faye Simmons, Jean Coyne, Gail Galloway, Bev Shepard, Paul Beers, Jerry and Marilyn Davis, Dave and Cynthia Kendall, Molly Lamson, Larry Corbett, Warren and Eleanor Allen, W. Barton VanSlyke, Tom LaClair and Tracy Robertson.

Larry Corbett, the treasurer, noted balances of \$2,400.94 in checking, \$400.17 in savings and a CD with \$2,405.82. There was no other society business conducted. The president, Tracy Robertson, turned the meeting over to the program presenters.

Tom LaClair, a society member, started the program by inviting everyone to tell a little about themselves, describe what families they are researching and share



**Tom LaClair demonstrates the use of microfiche at the Flower Memorial Library and how much information can be found with it.**

the original certificate. The certificate, when received, often reveals much more genealogical related information. Go to [http://www.health.ny.gov/vital\\_records](http://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records) for more information.

Yvonne Reff, a society member and Reference Librarian at Flower Library, then described the many other resources available at the library. Yvonne mentioned that Genealogy research has changed so much just in the past ten years! We are migrating away from just the print material and into information on microfilm and microfiche, digitized collections, online material, and access to databases such as Ancestry.com. She spoke of many great resources to help genealogy researchers such as: the *Watertown*

(Continued on Page 6)



**Tom LaClair, standing, and others attending the first JCNYGS meeting of the year listen as another introduces himself.**

how they found out about today's program. He talked about his personal research and how he found much of his ancestors' information at the Flower Memorial Library. Tom did a presentation on the New York State Department of Health microfiche and specifically showed how the microfiche held vast amounts of genealogical data at our fingertips. The microfiche contain a starting point for birth, marriage and death data on New York ancestors, excluding families living in New York City. The microfiche lists names and years and a catalog number. For a fee, you can order



**Yvonne Reff, Flower Memorial Library Reference Librarian, speaking to JCNYGS members and guests about the offerings at the library.**

(Continued From Page 5)

*Daily Times* on microfilm, Watertown City Directories, historic maps, to the New York State Vital Records



**Looking over some of the historic maps available at the Flower Memorial Library at the JCNYS March meeting**

Tom spoke of. An eight year veteran of the library, her discussion led to a variety of questions including the loss of the Heritagequest database. Yvonne will investigate the price of a subscription to Heritagequest. A joint subscription may be possible. She further stated that the library has great websites for researchers. First, check out our library webpage at [www.flowerlibrary.org](http://www.flowerlibrary.org). Click on the Genealogy link and you will see a choice of Databases or Finding Aids. She added after the meeting that she loves it when she hands someone a resource and to see them smile and jump up and down with joy. Yvonne helped a patron find a map which had the location of a family farm that has since disappeared. The patron used the map and actually found the remains of the house. They were so happy! The reference desk is open all the hours that the library is open: Monday-Thursday 9-8, Friday and Saturday 9-5, and Sunday noon to 5:00.

Next, Terry Mandigo from the Genealogy Department at Flower Library talked about all the resources that were available. Terry, a dedicated volunteer since April 1999, is extremely well-versed in genealogy research. He touched on the genealogy lab having notebooks and envelopes which contain newspaper clippings for many local families; these are our Family Files he commented. We also have many church records, cemetery records and some County Clerk Records. Our resources focus on Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego and St. Lawrence counties, plus Ontario Canada. We have NYS Census Records on microfilm plus many other resources to help with your research.

Genealogy research has changed. There is less reliance on print sources and more emphasis on microfilm and online sources. The library provides local history information as well as genealogy information. A personal visit to the library offers so much more. He also added that the library has many websites that we recommend for researchers. Some of these include Ancestry.com which is available in the library, and



**Flower Library's Genealogy Department's Terry Mandigo gives an overview of what is available in the Genealogy room at the library**

<http://fultonhistory.com> and the digitized historical newspapers at <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org> that the Northern NY Network has scanned. When a researcher asks for assistance, the more background that they can provide, the better the Genealogy Department can assist them. The researcher should be specific as to what is wanted. Terry has helped hundred, if not thousands of researchers and welcomes the chance to help others. The Genealogy Department hours are Monday – Saturday 12-4.

You can contact the Genealogy and Local History Department at Flower Library by calling 315-785-7714 for Yvonne or 315-785-7711 for Terry in the Genealogy Department. Email Yvonne at [yreff@ncls.org](mailto:yreff@ncls.org) or Terry at [wat-genealogy@ncls.org](mailto:wat-genealogy@ncls.org). Or you can write to them at Flower Memorial Library, 229 Washington Street, Watertown, New York 13601.

In conclusion, Tracy Robertson, the society President thanked the program presenters and attendees for coming out and encouraged members and friends to the next meeting, 14 April at 6 PM at the LDS church. The meeting closed at 2:30 PM.



**President Tracy Robertson, standing, prepares to close the March Meeting of the JCNYS at the Flower Memorial Library**

**Our Mission Statement:**

We will...

- Aid and assist the general public in genealogical and historical research with a focus on Jefferson County, NY, the adjacent counties of Lewis, St Lawrence, Oswego, & the Province of Ontario Canada.
- Collect and preserve genealogical and historical information in any and all possible forms and formats.
- Maintain a genealogy and local history library collection.

***We are looking for Volunteers!***

If you would like to become a volunteer, please ask for a Volunteer Application at the Reference Desk or in Genealogy.

**Contact us!**

**Genealogy Department**

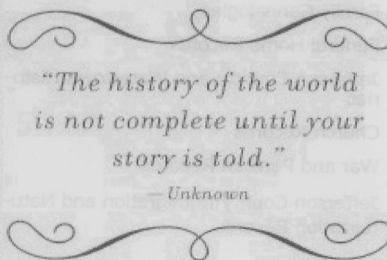
Flower Memorial Library  
229 Washington Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315.785.7711

Fax: 315.788-2584

Email:

wat-genealogy@ncls.org



**Genealogy Department**

**Genealogy Hours:**  
Monday—Saturday: 12:00-4:00

**Library Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday 9:00-8:00  
Friday: 9:00-5:00  
Saturday: 9:00-5:00  
Sunday: 12:00-5:00

Visit us online at  
[www.flowermemoriallibrary.org](http://www.flowermemoriallibrary.org)

**Genealogy Resources**

**We have a variety of resources to help you discover your family tree!**

**Online Databases:**

**Ancestry.com (inside the library only)**

- Census Information
- Immigration records
- Births, Deaths and Marriages
- Family Trees, photographs, etc.
- They are always adding new information!

**Online Information:**

- Northern NY Historical Newspapers- <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>
- New York Heritage Digital Collections (including WHS Yearbooks)- [www.newyorkheritage.org](http://www.newyorkheritage.org)
- Northern NY Genealogy (cemetery records, census, births, etc)- [www.nnygenealogy.com](http://www.nnygenealogy.com)
- Genealogical Information for the State of New York— [www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)
- National Archives-[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)
- Historic Homes of Watertown- <http://watertown.advantage-preservation.com/>

**Other Helpful Websites:**

- Fulton Postcards (digital newspapers, postcards, etc.)- [www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com)
- Cyndi's List of Genealogy Websites- [www.cyndislist.com/](http://www.cyndislist.com/)
- Daughter's of the American Revolution - [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)
- Family Search- [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)
- Jefferson County Genealogical Society- <http://jefferson.nygenweb.net/jeffsoc.htm>

**Print:**

- Watertown City Directories
- Family Files
- Cemetery Records
- Family Genealogies
- Funeral Home Records
- Jefferson County/ and Watertown Histories
- Church Records
- War and Pension Records
- Jefferson County Immigration and Naturalization Records

**Microfiche:**

**New York State Vital Records**

For Births, Deaths and Marriages in New York State. Excludes New York City.

- Births: 1881—1937
- Deaths: 1880—1963
- Marriages: 1881—1963

**Microfilm:**

**Watertown Herald**

- July 3, 1886—October 26, 1918 (also available online through Northern NY Historical Newspapers)

**Watertown Daily Times**

- 1870 To Present
- 1988 to Present available Online

**US Census Records**

- Federal—Jefferson County 1830-1930\*
- State—Jefferson County 1855, 1865, 1875

\*Ask about other Census Records.



## Pedigree Chart

We have randomly chosen  
a chart from one of our  
Pedigree Books.  
(See Page 23)

### 4 Floyd Erwin SIMONDS

B: 15 Aug 1888  
P: Town of Theresa, Jefferson, NY  
M: 3 May 1916  
P: Watertown, Jefferson, NY  
D: 20 Dec 1977  
P: Alexandria Bay, Jefferson, NY

### 2 Roderick SIMONDS

B: 25 Nov 1927  
P: Town of Alexandria, NY  
M: 15 Dec 1948  
P: Plessis, Jefferson, NY  
D:  
P:

### 5 Lucina Jane HAGAN

B: 30 Aug 1893  
P: Town of Alexandria, NY  
D: 5 Jan 1979  
P: Plessis, Jefferson, NY

### 1 David Roderick SIMONDS

B: 13 Apr 1950  
P: Alexandria Bay, Jefferson, NY  
M:  
P:  
D:  
P:

### 6 Earl Victor BRETSCH

B: 14 May 1902  
P: Omar, Jefferson, NY  
M: 1 Jun 1923  
P: Redwood, Jefferson, NY  
D: 19 Mar 1987  
P: Plessis, Jefferson, NY

### 3 Ethel Corrie BRETSCH

B: 24 Jan 1927  
P: Town of Alexandria, NY  
D:  
P:

### 7 Geneva Mary GEORGE

B: 4 Mar 1903  
P: Theresa, Jefferson, NY  
D: 22 Nov 1980  
P: Alexandria Bay, Jefferson, NY

### 8 George Boyd SIMONDS

B: 26 Jun 1856  
P: Town of Theresa, Jefferson, NY  
M: 30 Jan 1887  
P: Plessis, Jefferson, NY  
D: 28 Mar 1935  
P: Philadelphia, Jefferson, NY

### 9 Florence Adell SPRAGUE

B: 11 Jan 1867  
P: Town of Alexandria, NY  
D: 9 Oct 1954  
P: Philadelphia, Jefferson, NY

### 10 James H. HAGAN

B: 6 Apr 1857  
P: Town of Alexandria, NY  
M: 26 May 1892  
P: LaFargeville, Jefferson, NY  
D: 2 Jul 1934  
P: Plessis, Jefferson, NY

### 11 (Minnie) Alma SNOW

B: 29 Jan 1867  
P: Wolfe Island, Ontario, CANADA  
D: 12 May 1913  
P: Town of Alexandria, NY

### 12 Peter B. BRETSCH

B: 14 Oct 1856  
P: Omar, Jefferson, NY  
M: 30 Dec 1880  
P: Plessis, Jefferson, NY  
D: 27 Oct 1928  
P: Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence, NY

### 13 Cora "Corrie" GREENE

B: 20 Oct 1861  
P: Omar, Jefferson, NY  
D: 4 Jul 1910  
P: Plessis, Jefferson, NY

### 14 Frederick Page GEORGE

B: 6 Apr 1874  
P: Gananoque, Ontario, CANADA  
M: 7 Apr 1898  
P: Plessis, Jefferson, NY  
D: 13 Sep 1935  
P: Plessis, Jefferson, NY

### 15 Lillian C. SYKES

B: 28 Apr 1871  
P: Baucus Settlement, NY  
D: 10 Dec 1952  
P: Alexandria Bay, Jefferson, NY

### 16 William Freal SIMONS

B: 28 Sep 1822 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 29 Jan 1903

### 17 Helen Mary KENYON

B: 19 Dec 1825 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 20 Mar 1894

### 18 Marcellus W. SPRAGUE

B: 9 Jul 1837 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 19 Feb 1913

### 19 Eliza WHEELER [?]

B: 11 Jun 1837 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 11 Jan 1907

### 20 James HAGEN

B: 1815/1816 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 6 May 1899

### 21 Jane A. CARIS

B: 29 Jan 1835 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 13 Feb 1917

### 22 Norman Laprelate SNOW

B: 13 Aug 1823 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 26 Dec 1899

### 23 Lucina ROGERS

B: 19 Aug 1834 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 7 Apr 1914

### 24 Philip BRETSCH

B: 24 Dec 1814 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 24 May 1894

### 25 Marie Margareth PAFF

B: 2 Jun 1819 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 19 Aug 1898

### 26 Collins GREENE

B: 17 Oct 1838 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 1 Jan 1894

### 27 Mary Jane LA GRAVES

B: 30 Jan 1843 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 14 Apr 1918

### 28 Sanford GEORGE

B: 30 Jun 1833 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 14 Oct 1906

### 29 Malvina CASSELMAN

B: 18 Aug 1839 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 22 Jan 1893

### 30 Lewis C. SYKES

B: 14 Mar 1838 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 18 Oct 1916

### 31 Mary V. TIMMERMAN

B: 7 Sep 1846 cont. \_\_\_\_\_  
D: 23 May 1917

David Simons  
905 6th St. SW, Apt 304B  
Washington, DC 20024  
dave.simonds@verizon.net

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**JEFFERSON COUNTY NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

## 2014 Monthly Program Schedule

Unless noted, meetings are held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building (LDS Church) on Ives Street in Watertown, across from Immaculate Heart Central School.

**Monday, 14 April at 6 PM** at the LDS Church: Lisa Carr from the Watertown Daily Times Newspaper Archives, will provide information on the various kinds of newspaper articles available on-line and in the WDT collection files. Lisa will review the research process and hours open for research.

**Monday, 12 May at 6 PM** at the LDS Church: Jefferson County Surrogate Court Chief Clerk, Ben Cobb, will provide information on various types of proceedings/records relating to the affairs of the decedent, includes wills and administration of estates found on-line and in person. He will also include the research process and hours open for research.

**Monday, 9 June at 6 PM** at the LDS Church: Jefferson County Historian, Jim Ranger, will speak on the different Jefferson County Genealogical Data available locally and on-line, and will also explain the research process using records held at the County Clerk's Office.

**Monday, 14 July at 6 PM** at the LDS Church: Jerry Perrin of the Lewis County Historical Society will present a program on the History and Genealogy organizations in Lewis County and how they mesh together. This will allow us the chance to share ideas.

**Monday, 11 August at 6 PM** at the LDS Church: City of Watertown, Lead Clerk, Ann Saunders, will speak on the types of vital records available, the costs, as well as the rules and process for obtaining them for genealogical purposes.

**Monday, 8 September at 6 PM** at the LDS Church: Jessica Phinney and staff members from the Jefferson County Historical Society will talk about their collection and what they consider most helpful to a family historian and genealogist. The society has inventoried the Husted collection of photos; a collection that may contain a photo of one of your ancestors.

**Saturday, 11 October at 1 PM** at the LDS Church: Dave Kendall, JCNYGS member, will present a program on his Great Grandfather's life as a 1850's cargo ship horse boy who moved up the ranks to Captain of a cargo ship that sailed the Great Lakes and Canals.

**Saturday, 8 November at 1 PM** at the LDS Church: Several school students will be invited to give short presentations of their grandparents or other ancestors. This will be the culmination of sharing our interest of genealogy with several schools and scout organizations over the summer months.

**Note:** All are invited to come 30 minutes prior to a meeting—time set aside for you to get to know other members and time to share new finds and draw on the experiences of others.

**A JCNYGS Picnic is scheduled for Saturday afternoon - September 13, 2014 - at the Rotary Pavilion, Thompson Park. Plan to bring a guest. Additional details to follow. Save the date!**

## Stage Coach and Plank Road Days In Northern New York

First Mail Route Came Through the Black River Valley and Was Started in 1804 - One Round Trip a Week From Utica to Brownville - Daniel Gould, the First Carrier, Was Replaced by Reuben Chase.  
(From: Watertown Daily Times, May 19, 1928)

Four o'clock in the morning. Perhaps it is a bright and sunny morning in June, perhaps it is cold and dark, a morning in December. But whatever the month, whatever the season, the stagecoach is ready and waiting. Sleepy passenger emerge from the tavern, a sleepy driver climbs up to his place, cracks his long whip, and the stage is off. Not always, to be sure, would the coach leave at this early hour. But it frequently did, frequently enough to stamp it as a characteristic of stage-coach days, in Northern New York, as well as elsewhere. Elise Lathrop, in her "Early American Inns and Taverns," says, speaking of the stage line between New York and Albany, "Three days were required for the trip in summer and four or more in winter, a day's journey lasting from five o'clock in the morning until ten at night." Traveling by stage-coach for eighteen or nineteen hours a day, journeying over roads only in name, closely confined within the compass of wagon-box, must have been inconvenient and uncomfortable, even though it was far in advance of traveling on horseback, which in turn marked a step forward in transportation from traveling on foot.

Having referred to the Boston stage and to the condition of the roads, it may not be amiss to quote a distinguished New Englander on both, Josiah Quincy, in 1784, described his trip from Boston to New York as follows: "I set out from Boston on the line of stage lately established by an enterprising Yankee, Pease by name, which at that day was considered a method of transportation of wonder expedition. The journey to New York took up a week. The carriages were old and shackling and much of the harness was made of rope. One pair of horses carried the stage eighteen miles. We generally reached our resting place for the night if no accident intervened, at ten o'clock, and after a frugal supper, went to bed with the notion we should be called at three the next morning, which generally proved to be half past two. Then, whether it snowed or rained, the traveler must rise and make ready by a horn lantern, or a farthing candle, and proceed on his way over bad roads. Then we traveled eighteen miles a day, sometimes obliged to get out and help the coachman lift the coach out of a quagmire or rut, and arrive at New York after a week's hard traveling, wondering at the ease as well as the expedition of our journey."

Although stages are said to have been running as early as 1733 between New York and Philadelphia, it is not until 1756 that there is authentic record of such a line, and it is not until 1785 that stages were running

regularly between New York and Boston. It was not until sometime after 1800 that stage lines penetrated northern New York. The reason of course, is not far to seek. With the exception of a few Indians and a feeble settlement of whites at Ogdensburg, a thin line of pioneers along the Black River valley, and scattered clearing here and there, there was neither roads nor commerce in northern New York. Mr. Ford, with the assistance of D. W. Church, had, indeed, at the cost of much money and more labor, put through his new Ogdensburg road, supplanting the old Oswegatchie road, and there was a road from Plattsburgh through the Military Tract and across country to Ellenburgh and Malone, though Mr. Ford stoutly maintained that his road was better than the one through Chateaugay, as the old maps render the present-day Chateaugay. In 1814, writing from LeRaysville to George Parish, then in Philadelphia, Pa., V. LeRay de Chaumont says: "Mr. DeLaunay and myself went yesterday to Sacket's Harbor. We left here after an early morning breakfast in my little wagon, tandem, remaining five hours in the village, during which we saw the fleet, the fortifications, dined with the Commodore, and were back here for supper. We were 9 1/2 hours on the way (48) miles including stops, which proved that our roads are not yet impassable." This would work out to about five miles an hour, and indicated that while the roads had improved over those of 1800, there was yet some distance to go. Note that three horses were used.

But in 1800 Macomb's great purchase was in the process of dissolution and the country was rapidly filling. William Constable, Gouverneur Morris, LeRay de Chaumont, Daniel McCormick, the Pierrepoints, the Harisons, the Clarksons, Gerritt Van Horne, all owners each of them, of thousands of acres of land in Northern New York, were selling off farms and locating settlers. Watertown had begun its existence. Sacket's Harbor was a naval post of growing importance, and destined, in a few years, to play a large part in the coming war with Britain.

Mills had begun to appear at the Long Falls, now Carthage, and at Ogdensburg, and the Parishes, also land owners, would soon be building their iron works at Rossie and their distillery at Parishville. Civilization, or, if you prefer settlement, advances in waves, and so it is to be expected that the first stage lines into Northern New York would start from the settled Mohawk valley and advance up the Black River valley. So it was. The first mail route into Northern New York was through the Black River valley from Utica, and was established in 1804. Daniel Gould was the first mail carrier, and the fore-runner of the postal service of today.

Gould was soon succeeded by Reuben Chase. Chase performed one round trip each week between Utica and Brownville, for Brownville was then a place of major importance, as the home of Jacob Brown and as a mill and trading point. Chase lasted for several years, and the phrase is used advisedly. It was a task calling for herculean effort, this journey each

(Continued on Page 11)



(Continued From Page 10)

week over the Trenton hills to Boon's in the town of Trenton. (Boon's was not the Boonville of today, but the house at Holland Patent of Gerritt Boon, agent for the Holland Land Company, though Boon did later give his name to Boonville.)

Beyond Boon came Storm's, now the site of Boonville, then came the High Falls, known today as Lyons Falls, then the level stretches of Turin and then the long up-hill into Martinsburg. Here Postman Chase could see Walter Martin's new house in building for Walter Martin, later General Martin was that year beginning to the erection of the stone house which still stands on top of the hill at Martinsburg, a witness to the sturdy qualities both of our forefathers and of their buildings.

This house, it is interesting to know, was modeled on the stone house of Sir William Johnson at Amsterdam, called Fort Johnson, which house had appealed to Martin, who had once spent a night there. Indeed, so anxious was he to reproduce the Johnson house in all its details that he sent his builder, David Waters, all the way to Amsterdam to make measurements and to copy the plan. The mail rider no longer passes the General Martin house on his weekly trips and the many thousands who now travel the high grade in front of it, few know its historic association with Sir William Johnson.

But we are forgetting Reuben Chase. Leaving Martinsburg, soon to become the county seat of Lewis county (which indeed in 1805). At what is now Lowville, Nicholas Low, on one of his visits to his lands, was waiting for the post. In any event he must have heard the first rumblings of the county seat war, whereby Lowville, in 1805, tried to win the distinction from Martinsburg. The attempt was unsuccessful, and Lowville had to wait for the coming of the railroad, when the change was made almost overnight.

After Lowville, came Denmark, then Champion, then the Rutland hills and finally Watertown. Amos Lay's map of Watertown, New York published in 1812, a copy of which, once owned by William Constable, is still preserved at Constable Hall in Lewis County, bearing Mr. Constable's autograph signature on the cover, and the date, 1812, shows plainly the road these tireless postmen followed - and suggests, as well, the sparse population and primitive conditions through which they traveled.

Barnabas Dickinson, who succeeded Chase, was the progenitor of the stage line. He placed a two horse wagon in service, and carried both mail and passengers. About 1812, the roads having been improved, Parker and Company, for a year or two, ran a weekly stage over the route, but of them no more is now known. The Sackett's Gazette of October 8, 1818, says, "A new line of stages from Utica to Sacketts Harbor, through Adams and Rome is now advertised," but a copy of the paper containing this item contains no advertisement of the stage line. It will be noted that the line was to follow the western route, rather than the eastern one through the Black River valley. In 1824

there appeared upon the scene two or three men destined to play a large part in the transportation of northern New York for many years to come. These were Ela Merriam, N.W. Kiniston, E.W. Backus and a little later S. Backus. Merriam was the son of Nathaniel Merriam of Leyden in January, 1824, Mr. Merriam, in company with Mr. Backus, M. Kiniston and John McElwaine, whose connection with the business seems to have been of brief duration, began the carrying of the Utica-Watertown mail. In connection with the stage route, and Mr. Merriam, at least, continued in the business for over forty years.

In the Jeffersonian for October 12, 1826, it is announced that a new line of post-coaches from Sackett's Harbor via Adams and Rome to Utica, a distance of 91 miles, leaving Sackett's Harbor on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, arriving the same day in Utica, had been established. The line had been so arranged as to meet the steamboat Ontario and Kingston Packet at Sackett's Harbor, the Syracuse stage at Adams and the canal packet boats at Rome. This was not the only way of reaching Utica from Sackett's Harbor. In the Jeffersonian for November 20, 1826, N.W. Kiniston and Company announced that the "Old Line" of stages from Sackett's Harbor to Utica, by way of Watertown and Lowville, run through every day, and that Kingston may be reached by a line of stages from Watertown to Cape Vincent. And in these advertisements come the first suggestion of a line to Syracuse. Kiniston and Company advertise Watertown and Syracuse stages leaving Watertown every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, returning Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, "through in one day, when the roads will permit."

Significant, that last clause, and reminiscent of Quincy's note on New England roads, already quoted. And in 1828, A. Russell, proprietor of the Eagle hotel and stage house, in Adams, announces that stages leave his house for Syracuse and Oswego every morning, and for Watertown and Ogdensburg every evening. Western business has evidently picked up in the two years since 1826, when the Syracuse stages run three times a week. Mr. Russell also announces that the Utica and Sackett's Harbor stages leave his house for Utica on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the morning and for Sackett's Harbor Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday in the evening.

By RICHARD C. ELLSWORTH.

*The writer acknowledges with gratitude assistance in the preparation of this article from Mrs. Nora W. Cruikshank, Curator of the Jefferson County Historical Society; Miss Margaret Gillis, Librarian of Ogdensburg Public Library; the late Mr. Henry Miller and Mr. L.F. Hutchinson of Malone; Mrs. John Pierrpont Constable of Constableville; Mrs. Mrs. George Tuttillo of Plattsburgh; Mr. John K. Mills of Canton; Mr. Harold B. Johnson and Mr. Harry F. Landon of Watertown; Mr. S. Vigilante of the American History room in the New York Public Library, New York city, from officials of the New York State Library at Albany, and many others.*

## Jefferson County Pioneers



<http://jefferson.nygenweb.net/pions.htm>

We print here three pioneers named Daniel Arnold who are all listed on our Jefferson County Pioneers page in our Jefferson.nygenweb.net site. The first two appear to be the same man. The third Daniel is from an earlier generation with no apparent connection to the others. If you can clarify information on this Pioneer Arnold family, please let us know and we will pass the information on. Many of our pioneer listings also have links and contacts for more information.

### PIONEER ARNOLD FAMILY

1. DANIEL ARNOLD was born 6 Aug 1806 in Saratoga County, NY. He settled in Hounsfield, and died 16 June 1881 at Henderson, Jefferson County NY and is buried in Smithfield Cemetery in Jefferson County.

He married

LYDIA WILLEY who was born 30 December 1807 at Exeter, Otsego County, NY. She was the daughter of TITUS WILEY and LUCY HUNGERFORD. She died 14 October 1856

Children, ARNOLD:

- 2 I AMASA ARNOLD 1821 - 1898 m. MAHALA (--)
- 3 ii WILSON HENRY ARNOLD 1831 - 1915 m. ONELIA (---)
- 4 iii AMOS GEORGE ARNOLD 1833 - 1926 m. RUTH POWELL b 1876
- 5 iv PAMELIA ARNOLD 1835 - 1913 m. ELI WITAKER
- 6 v ELBERT ARNOLD 1837 - 1913
- 7 vi CLARK F. ARNOLD 1839 - 1892 m. ALMIRA SMITH
- 8 vii MARGARET E. ARNOLD b 1841 m. LESTER BOSWORTH
- 9 viii LOUISA C. ARNOLD 1843 - 1891 m. THEODORE H. IVORY
- 10 ix JAMES K. ARNOLD 1846 - 1882 m. LORANETTE EARL
- 11 x AMANDA ARNOLD 1847 - 1847
- 12 xi CHARLES ARNOLD 1849 - 1865
- 13 xii LUCY ARNOLD 1851 - 1908 m. WINFIELD

HOLDEN

14 xiii TITUS ARNOLD 1857 - 1890 m. (1) ALZINA FRINK, m. (2) MARY ANN SMITH

### PIONEER ARNOLD FAMILY

1. DANIEL ARNOLD came from Oswego County, and was living in Jefferson Co. before 1850. Seven children were born to them in Jefferson Co. Both he and his wife died in Henderson, and were buried in the Smithville Cemetery there in Henderson.

He married

LYDIA WILLEY

Children, ARNOLD:

- 2 i CLARK F. ARNOLD
- 3 ii MARGARET E. ARNOLD
- 4 iii LOUISA C. ARNOLD
- 5 iv JAMES K. ARNOLD
- 6 v AMANDA ARNOLD
- 7 vi CHARLES ARNOLD
- 8 vii LUCY ARNOLD

### PIONEER ARNOLD FAMILY

1. DANIEL ARNOLD, who was born in 1771, probably located in the Town of Ellisburg. He arrived between 19 Nov 1813 and 13 Oct 1831. He died at Belleville 25 Jun 1845. He must have lived in Lanesborough, MA, because his daughter was born there in 19 Nov 1813.

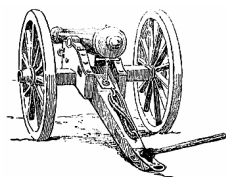
He married

MARY BARKER, who also died in Belleville, 17 Oct 1849.

Children, ARNOLD:

2. i WATIE ANN ARNOLD married HORATIO NELSON BIGELOW
3. ii HANNAH MARIAH ARNOLD

# CIVIL WAR BIOGRAPHY



## WALTER WALRATH

LaFargeville, Feb 18.- W. H. Walrath, 83, died at his home here Sunday morning, after an illness of ten days. Mr. Walrath was born June 9, 1845, the son of Alonzo and Katy Maria Walter Walrath. His parents then lived in a log house of two rooms one half mile from Shantyville, now Orleans Fours Corners, on the Henry Walrath farm. When he was two years old he, with his parents, moved to a farm two miles from Depauville, known as the Augustus Schnauber place. It was while here that he started his education. Isaac Mitchel and Jacob Shepherd, two noted teachers in their day, were his first instructors. His parents later moved to a farm near St. Lawrence and here he entered school under a teacher by the name of Aaron K. Tuttle, an honor student and graduate of the Normal school at Albany; also he had a term at Warren Settlement, under A. E. Cooley of Adams Center, then a noted teacher and later a prominent lawyer. Mr. Walrath walked three miles to and from school and did six hours of farm work each day during this term. One winter term at Clayton and later a term in Eastman college, a business school at Poughkeepsie, completed his education.

At 16 he was a licensed teacher and taught country schools in four adjoining districts and one term in the lower school at Cape Vincent. While teaching he received from \$20 to \$30 per month, boarded around and taught every other Saturday at Warren Settlement. Here he had over 80 scholars, many grown up and some teachers themselves.

In 1864 his father and a younger brother enlisted in the 186th regiment, and left Mr. Walrath and two still younger brothers the care of the farm. He was soon called himself to help guard Cape Vincent during the Ferian raids. Here he belonged to the 94th regiment, Company D, Captain J. B. Ainsworth in command. This was during the winter of 1864 and 1865. Later Mr. Walrath served 14 years in the same regiment of the National Guard, meeting once or twice a year.

On Feb 20, 1868, he married Marian E. Henry, daughter of Charles and Elida Henry. Three years later he bought the George Combs farm on the north shore of Three Mile Bay, and began farming. Mr. Walrath joined the grange, then just coming into prominence. He held many offices in this organization and then became master. A few years later Mr. and Mrs. Walrath moved back to St. Lawrence on a farm and while here he organized the St. Lawrence grange and was master here until he moved to Clayton Center, where he purchased a stock farm. This proved a success and was noted as having the best blooded Jersey cattle for miles around.

For many years Mr. Walrath was a director in the Grange Fire Relief association and helped place that company on a firm basis.

Because of failing health, Mr. Walrath was obliged to sell the stock farm, and shortly after he purchased a hardware and grocery store of W. C. Hill, to which a millinery department was added under the management of Mrs. Walrath.

In the spring of 1915 Mrs. Walrath passed away and Mr. Walrath soon sold out the business which they had carried on for nearly 28 years. Mr. Walrath was a member of the F&AM lodge, having joined that organization at Clayton in 1878. Later he was demitted to LaFargeville lodge, F&AM, No 171. In 1903 he joined the Theresa chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and the Watertown Commandery, KT, No 11, as well as Media Temple AAONMS. At the same time he joined the Lodge of Perfection, Council of Princes of Jerusalem, Chapter of Rose Croix and central City Consistory, SPRS Valley of Syracuse, NY, 32nd degree Mason. Mr. Walrath was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and for 46 years was on the official board of St Lawrence, Clayton and LaFargeville churches and an usher in the church from 1893 until within the past year. His first vote was cast for General Grant as president. Mr. Walrath supported the Republican ticket.

On Thanksgiving Day, Nov 29, 1916, he married Mrs. Frances Fuller. They have resided in this village since their marriage.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Frances Walrath; one daughter, Mrs. Jerome Darling, and one grandson, Lawrence Snell; also one brother in Troy. Funeral services will be held Tuesday at 1 pm, at the house and at 1:30 pm at the Methodist Episcopal church. This will be a Masonic funeral and the Knights Templar will act as escorts. Rev B. J. Davison will officiate at the church. Interment will be in Grove cemetery, LaFargeville.

Sources:  
Newspaper - *The Watertown Daily Times* - Monday, February 18, 1929

## Henry Metcalf War of 1812 Soldier

Researched and written by Beverly Sterling-Affinati  
Research assistance provided by Anne Davis  
(President and Vice President of the Gen. Jacob  
Brown Chapter,  
U.S.D. of 1812, Sackets Harbor, NY)

### Henry Metcalf

HENRY METCALF was born 12 Nov 1778 in England. He and his wife came to the U.S. on the ship *Jupiter*, from Downs, England, March 6, 1805, bound for New York. It sank off the coast of Newfoundland on April 6, 1805. They were among the survivors who were picked up and brought to Marblehead, MA. Later that year he and his wife, Sarah, made their way to Sackets Harbor, Jefferson Co, NY, where Sarah's sister, Anne, had settled in 1804 with her husband, David Merritt.

**MARRIAGE** – Henry married Sarah Ashby, May 4, 1804 in Battle, Sussex. She was born May 7, 1785, in England. Another source (<http://jefferson.nygenweb.net/metcalfp.htm>) suggests Sarah was born/baptized Apr 18, 1785, and grew up in Battle, Sussex, England. Sarah and (sister) Anne were the daughters of William and Anne (Guy) Ashby, who with four more children, were also on the *Jupiter* in 1805, also survived, and also came to Sackets Harbor [information taken from the following internet site: <http://jefferson.nygenweb.net/metcalfp.htm>]. **The site also mentions the couple had a son, William.**

**CHILDREN** -*The eight children below were uncovered during research. There may have been more children than those listed here... CHILD'S GAZETEER suggests there were 11 children (included herein).*

(<http://Jefferson.nygenweb.net/metcalfp.htm> records)

**William Metcalf** was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1805. He moved to Jefferson County, NY. He died 29 Sep 1892 aged 86 years and was buried in Lakeside Cemetery, Sackets Harbor. William married Emeline Taylor, born about 1807. She died 7 Oct 1881 at the age of 74 years and was also buried in Lakeside Cemetery.

**Eliza W. Metcalf** – Find a Grave information shows birth as July 1808 and death as August 11, 1861. Burial was made at Lakeside Cemetery Sackets Harbor, NY.

**Charles Metcalf** – B. Abt. 1815

**Ann Metcalf** – B. Abt. 1816

**James Metcalf** – B. Abt. 1819 – The following message board shows a James Metcalf, b. 1819 Sackets Harbor (on Lake Ontario), Jefferson Co, NY. He was the son of Henry and Sarah (Ashby) Metcalf of Kent/Sussex, England. In the 1850 census James was listed as a farmer, still part of his parents' household [<http://boards.ancestry.com/thread.aspx?mv=flat&m=616&p=surnames.metcalf>].

**Joseph T. Metcalf** – Find A Grave Record shows birth as May 26, 1821, and death as Aug. 26, 1864. Burial was made at Lakeside Cemetery, Sackets Harbor, NY

**Jane A. Metcalf** –B. Abt. 1826. She was the wife of Robert Stokes, as found on this public internet site: <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~legends/stokes.html>

Robert J., baptized 8 January 1832 at Hawk church, Dorset, England, died 18 October 1867 in Hounsfield, Jefferson Co., New York, buried at Lakeside Cemetery in Sackets Harbor. He married **Jane A. Metcalf**, daughter of Henry Metcalf and Sarah Ashby of Hounsfield. They had no children. In his will, proved on 9 November 1867, Robert named "my relation Simeon Stokes"; Simeon was a son of Robert Stokes, mentioned below, thus proving a relation between immigrants William and Robert Stokes.

According to this public internet site, Jane married second Giles W. Tremain [[www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/jefferson/hounsfield/greatdivide.html](http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/jefferson/hounsfield/greatdivide.html)]

The every name index from the 1880 federal census of the Town of Hounsfield, Jefferson County, NY, shows the couple in Sackets Harbor...  
[www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/jefferson/hounsfield/1880censusnames.txt](http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/jefferson/hounsfield/1880censusnames.txt)

TREMAINE, Giles W.  
TREMAINE, Jane

As mentioned in introduction, the below record shows possible "11 children" [at this public internet site: <http://jefferson.nygenweb.net/childhou.htm>].

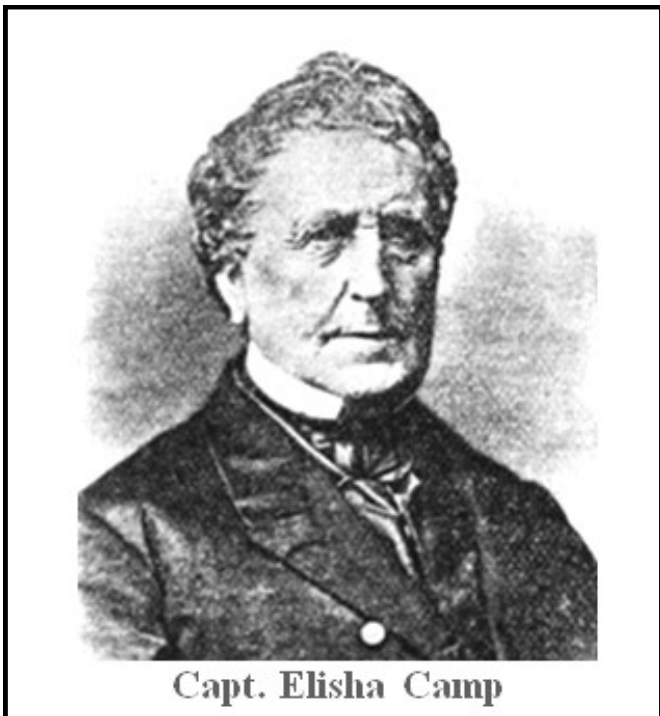
Henry Metcalf was a native of England, whence he emigrated to Boston in 1801, finally locating in Hounsfield, where he died in 1869, aged 92 years. He served in the battle of Sackets Harbor in the War of 1812. He married Sarah Ashby, of England, and of their 11 children, Francis was born in Hounsfield, and has resided on the farm he now occupies for the past 53 years. He married Sarah M., daughter of Ashbel

(Continued on Page 15)

(Continued From Page 14)

and Polly (Oxford) Case, and their children are Walter, Lucy A., Sarah J., Edwin, and Ella M. and Elva M., twins. Mrs. Metcalf died August 10, 1855, aged 43 years. Their son Walter served three years in Co. I, 10th N.Y.H.A.

**CAPT. CAMP'S COMPANY OF ARTILLERY, NEW YORK MILITIA**  
*Soldiers of the First Battle of Sackett's Harbor, 19 July 1812*



**List**

of the officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates who served thirty days or more in the United States service under the command of Captain Elisha Camp of the New York State Artillery at Sackett's Harbor in the War of 1812.

At the request of Gen. Jacob Brown they volunteered in defence of their country, (and on the 19th day of July, 1812, materially aided in repelling an attack upon Sackett's Harbor of five sail of British vessels mounting 64 cannon; on the American side, but five cannon were brought to bear upon the enemy.)

( War of 1812. )

List sworn to by Elisha Camp, .....

*March 1, 1852.*

**Summary of Company Service**  
from a private's records at National Archives

### Military -

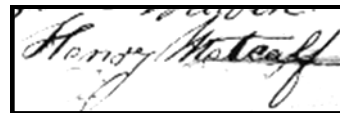
Henry Metcalf appears in Camp's roster of Artillery, found at this public internet site: <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/jefferson/hounsfield/campsartillery.html>

After the United States declared war with Great Britain in the summer of 1812, Elisha Camp, respected citizen, lawyer, land agent, and industrialist, called together a band of militiamen and offered their services for the defense of the village. Service in the artillery commenced on 28 June 1812 and was to run 30 days, expiring 28 July 1812.

As fate would have it, Camp and his men were on duty the morning of 19 July 1812 when five British ships were spotted attempting to enter the harbor. Through the efforts of the whole fort, including Camp's Company, the British were expelled from the harbor, and the First Battle of Sackets Harbor—first engagement of the War in U.S. territory— went into the history books as a victory for America.

**Refer to list at end of this document!**

Henry Metcalf



Henry Metcalf is recorded on the U.S. Daughters of 1812 website as follows:

**State of New York Society, United States Daughters of 1812 website:**  
<http://nyusd1812.awardspace.com/SacketsHarbor-1812-Soldiers.pdf> (PDF FILE)

However, he is not listed on the National Society, U.S. Daughters of 1812 site. The reason (as explained by Anne Davis, Chairman of 1812 Grave Markings & Locations) is because apparently nobody has ever submitted an 1812 application/supplemental using Henry Metcalf as their patriot. Anne adds that his grave was located and proof was submitted that he served NY in the War of 1812, which explains why he listed on the NY State website (only).

### DEATH -

From [www.nnygenealogy.com](http://www.nnygenealogy.com) (below), shows Henry died 7-12-1869, age 90 y8m, and is buried at Lakeside Cemetery, Sackets Harbor, NY. The same site shows Sarah died 08-07-1862, age 77y3m, and is buried with her husband.

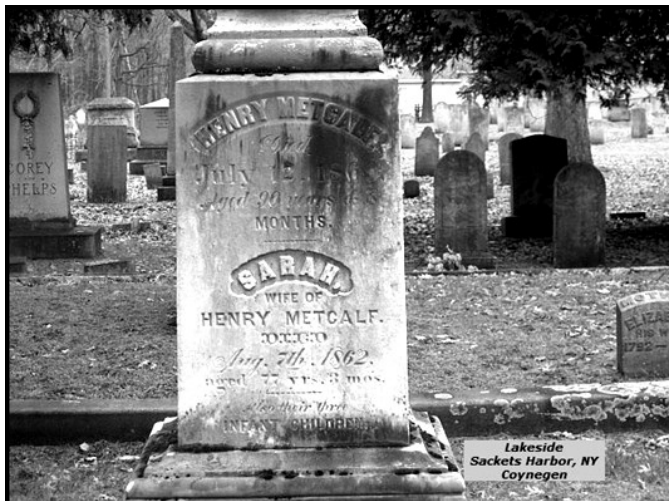
(Continued on Page 16)



(Continued From Page 15)  
 Find A Grave (shows the following)  
 Photo added by Bruce Coyne

**HENRY METCALF**

Birth: Nov. 12, 1778 - Massachusetts, USA  
 Death: Jul. 12, 1869 - Sackets Harbor, Jefferson Co., NY, USA



## Family links:

Spouse: Sarah Ashby Metcalf (1785-1862)\*  
 Children: Eliza K. W. Metcalf (1808-1861)\*  
 Charles Metcalf (1816-1864)\*  
 Joseph T. Metcalf (1821-1864)

\*Calculated relationship

## Inscription:

and their three infant children.

## Information for Sarah Ashby on Find A Grave:

Birth: May 7, 1785, England  
 Death: Aug. 7, 1862, Sackets Harbor,  
 Jefferson County, NY, USA

Born in Sussex, England, the daughter of William and Anne Metcalf on May, 1804.

## Dues Are Due

&

**There is Something New!**

**July 1st is the beginning of a new membership year! Your renewal or new membership time is now!**

**Check information on page 2 !**

# Shantyville

## Was The Name First Given Orleans Four Corners

Shantyville Was The name By Which Orleans Four Corners Was Formerly Known -- Mohawk Dutch Brought Old Superstitions With Them

The following was written by the late Ernest G. Cook who was a research writer for an area newspaper for over 50 years.

On the old plank road from Theresa to Clayton was a thrifty community called by the natives Shantyville and it was there that a toll gate was located kept by a man by the name of George Timmerman.

Leaving West Theresa, Shantyville is the next community to visit or today we know it as Orleans Four Corners where was once the post office by that name. Indeed, the name came from the post office as the government would not consider the name Shantyville when the post office was established. It is one place on this highway that was not connected on a stream of water where there was a waterfall to obtain power for the operating of a saw and gristmill. It is the center of a vast plain which has some of the best hay and grain lands in the county. It is, however, located on a rise of ground and is where another main highway crosses the Theresa Clayton road.

The settlers who came here were nearly all from the Mohawk valley, pushing up mostly from Herkimer county to establish homes here. They were known by their neighbors as Mohawk Dutch and brought to the new settlement their manners of farming, their church life and their thrift. As we drive the road today we can look right and left to distant roads and learn that these, too, were settled by this same people and one can still see the smokehouses of stone, the dairy houses and other signs of the early pioneer housewives who knew how to provide substantial meals.

This church building we see just to our right as we enter the place is the religious home of these people and is of the Lutheran denomination. It had a tall spire, painted white when it was built, but a bolt of lightning shattered the spire and the stub tower took its place."



## Lucy Esther (Wilder) Sterling and Daughter, Ethel (Sterling) Owens



Ethel (Sterling) Owens  
dau. -Walter D. and Lucy Sterling  
wife -Raymond R. Owens

Lucy E. (Wilder) Sterling  
dau. -Henry D and Margaret Wilder  
wife -Walter D. Sterling

Mother and Daughter  
(Mother is shown on right, Daughter is shown on left)

(We want to thank to Beverly Sterling-Affinati for contributing this article.)

### Generation No. 1

**Lucy Esther Wilder** was born 28 Dec 1863 in Hounsfield, Jefferson Co., NY, daughter of Henry D. and Margaret (Wilder) Wilder, and died 16 Nov 1945. She married **Walter D. Sterling** on 28 Aug 1881 in Brownville, NY by Justice of the Peace, Allen. Walter was born 15 Sep 1854, son of Jacob and Mary Ann Countryman (Snyder) Sterling. Walter died in 1906 by falling into Black river and drowning. He was 52 years old. Final resting place for Lucy is Brownville (Dexter Cemetery). Final resting place for Walter is Hounsfield (Muskingeomah Cemetery).

Census records for 1870 and 1880 show Walter living in Ellisburg; and for 1900 show the couple living in Dexter.

### MRS. LUCY ESTHER STERLING DIES

Widow of Walter D. Sterling, 82, Was in Poor Health for Year  
(Special to the Times)

Dexter, November 16 – Mrs. Lucy Esther Sterling, 82, died about 3 this morning at the home of her son,

Henry Sterling, of this village. She was in ill health for nearly a year and was confined to her bed for the past week.

Funeral services will be held at 2 Monday afternoon from the home of her daughter, Mrs. Raymond Owens, Dexter. Rev. A. E. Blundon, former pastor of the Dexter Methodist church, now of Harrisville, will officiate. Burial will be made in Dexter cemetery.

Mrs. Sterling was born Dec. 28, 1863, in the town of Hounsfield, a daughter of the late Henry D. and Margaret Wilder. Her early life was spent in Hounsfield.

She was married to Walter D. Sterling, of Boylston, August 27, 1881, in Brownville, by the late Justice of the Peace Allen, of that village. Mr. Sterling died a number of years ago.

Following their marriage, the couple lived in Hounsfield, Sandy Creek and Dexter. She has been a resident of Dexter for the past 54 years.

Surviving are three children, Edward L. and Henry J. Sterling and Mrs. Raymond (Ethel) Owens, all of Dexter; one grandchild, Clifford, Dexter; two great grandchildren, Edward L. and Jay David Sterling, Dexter; four sisters, Mrs. Claude (Suzie) Phelan and Mrs. John (Margaret) Near, Dexter; Mrs. Walter (Bessie) Vautrin, Watertown; Mrs. Harry (Mabel) Gleason, Brownville; and one brother, Henry Wilder, Dexter. One grandson, Jack, was killed in action in Germany during the war [published in the *Watertown Daily Times*, November 16, 1945].

### OBITUARY OF WALTER STERLING -

Walter Sterling, aged 52 years and a resident of Dexter, Jefferson County, was drowned Friday by falling into Black river while attempting to dip a pail of water from the stream. The water was deep near the shore where the accident occurred and as he could not swim he was unable to regain land. His cries for help were heard by men working nearby but when they reached the spot he was not visible. They dove for the body which was soon recovered, but not in time to save the man's life [published in the *Adirondack News*, September 22, 1906].

In his father (Jacob Sterling)'s pension file, Mary (Walter's mother) admits that Walter was living "somewhere in the lumber region of New York State - Star Lake."

(Continued on Page 18)

(Continued From Page 17)

Children of Lucy Wilder and Walter Sterling are:

- i. Edward L.<sup>2</sup> Sterling, born 18 Jun 1882 in Muskelonge Creek section, Hounsfield, Jefferson Co., NY; died 28 Apr 1958 in Mercy Hospital, Watertown NY.
- ii. Henry J. Sterling, born 18 Mar 1884 in Boyleston New York; died Abt. 20 Jun 1967.
- iii. Ethel Sterling, born 15 Jul 1886 in Muskalonge Creek section, Hounsfield, Jefferson Co., NY.

#### Generation No. 2

**Ethel Sterling** was born 15 Jul 1886 in Muskalonge Creek section, Hounsfield, Jefferson Co., NY, daughter of Walter D. and Lucy E. Sterling (listed above). She married (1) **Henry Sweet**. He was born Abt. 1885, and died bef. 1912. She married (2) **Albert LeRoy Catlin** 02 Oct 1912. He died 21 Dec 1914 of Tuberculosis. She married (3) **Raymond R. Owens** 12 Sep 1941, son of Abner Owens and Eliza White. He was born 16 Mar 1887 in Benezelt, PA, and died 21 Aug 1969 in House of Good Samaritan, Watertown, NY. Lucy died 16 November 1945.

Obituary of Albert Catlin (follows):

**Albert Catlin,**  
**Dexter, Dec. 21.—Albert LeRoy Cat-**  
**lin, died at his home here Sunday,**  
**aged 24 years. Death was due to**  
**tuberculosis. The funeral will be**  
**held at the home of his wife's mother,**  
**Mrs. Lucy Sterling, on Wednesday,**  
**Dec. 23, at 12:30, Rev. Mr. Wood of**  
**Dexter officiating. The funeral will**  
**be private.**  
**Mr. Catlin was born in Ithaca and**  
**for six years had been on the warship**  
**Washington as electrician. He was**  
**sent to Colorado last May for treat-**  
**ment and on Oct. 1 received his dis-**  
**charge. Since that time he had resid-**  
**ed here. He married Miss Ethel**  
**Sweet Oct. 2, 1912, who is left to**  
**mourn his loss, besides his mother,**  
**Mrs. George French and one brother,**  
**Walter, of Ithaca. Burial will be made**  
**at North Watertown.**  
*Published in WDT, 1914 (date illegible)*

Pulaski Obituary - Published *Watertown Daily Times* (Date Unknown)

#### RAYMOND R. OWENS

PULASKI – Raymond R. Owens, 82, of Pulaski, RD 3, died Thursday at the House of Good Samaritan, Watertown, where he was a patient a month.

He was born March 16, 1887 at Benezelt, Pa. He

attended school there and was married to Ethel Sterling, Sept. 12, 1941.

Mr. Owens was employed for many years by the Railroad Commissioner at Dexter.

He and his wife resided the last fifteen years on North St., Pineville.

Besides his wife, he is survived by six children by a previous marriage: three sons, Leroy and Louis, of Austin, Pa., and William Owens, of Rome; three daughters, Mrs. Loretta Raile, Mrs. Bernice Clark, and Mrs. Cecile Woolschalger, all of Copenhagen, NY; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Foster Funeral Home, Pulaski, the Rev. Ivan Greenfield, pastor of Sandy Creek United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery, Orwell. Calling hours at the funeral home are Saturday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

Child of Ethel Sterling and Henry Sweet is:

- 11 i. Thelma<sup>3</sup> Sweet, born 1909; died 1909.

More About Thelma Sweet:

Burial: Muskellonge [Muskalonge] Cemetery, Hounsfield, Jefferson, NY

Gone, but not forgotten!  
 Clancy Hopkins and Bill Dixon with  
 JCNYS Booth at the  
 2004 Watertown Irish Festival



# RESEARCH TIPS:

## Using Middle Names in Your Family

Should you enter your ancestor's middle name in the search box when doing family history research online? What is the significance of a middle name, if any. Middle names can offer significant and important clues about your ancestors. But then again, they sometimes can be misleading or have no real significance.

## Is It a Middle Name or First Name?

Some names that appear to be middle names are actually part of the first name. In your own genealogy research you may have encountered double first names such as these: Rose Marie, Mary Beth, Alice Ann, Mary Jo, Terry Kay, and Mary Ann. While these are more common among females, there are similar male names. Conversely, some of what appear to be middle names may actually be part of the last name. This is common in Latino names or some European names like Van Wagonen or Mac Graw.

Some middle names were used like a first name. A person named John David Smith may have never been addressed as John at all. He may have used the name J. David Smith or just David Smith or even David J. Smith.

In the U.S. South, the first and middle name could be switched back and forth making it unclear which name was originally intended for which purpose. It was also not uncommon for several siblings in a family to have the same middle name or, less commonly, the same first name with different middle names.

## How Middle Names Are Chosen:

It's also possible that middle names may have no family history significance at all. In some cases, the parents just picked them because they liked the name and/or it sounded good with the first name. Middle names may have been influenced by the culture at the time. During the 1970s and 80s many girls were given the middle name of Marie or Ann simply because they were popular. Parents may have liked an uncommon name but didn't want to give it as a first name, so they chose it as a middle name. These could include common words being used as middle names, nature-inspired themes, virtues, and so on.

The middle name may be a common name used among the family. The name may be another family member's first name. It is not uncommon for a son's middle name to be his father's or grandfather's first name. This can also happen with daughters although not as commonly.

## Is It a Middle Name or Last Name?

Sometimes the ancestor's middle name appears to be a surname. This can happen for males or females. A surname used as a middle name may come from the mother's maiden name. This is yet another reason why it is important to conduct research on everyone in a family and not just your direct line. However, don't assume the unusual middle name is the mother's maiden name because there are other reasons why this could occur. When you find a surname used this way, do some research on others in the area with that last name. You may discover that the parents just used the name because they liked it. Or you may discover a hidden secret. The following are three middle name examples that could help with your own genealogy research.

### Middle Name Research Case #1

A family historian found a great grandmother whose middle name was Bell. Initially, the genealogist believed this was a misspelling of the name Belle, which means beautiful. But then the researcher discovered her father also had the middle name Bell, as did several other relatives. Further research showed that there were many Bell families living near her ancestors as well. Perhaps the name was "borrowed" from the Bell family, but it will require more research to establish a clear connection. They may have just been friends or there may be another reason.

### Middle Name Research Case #2

A genealogist found the middle name Bowles in a line of her family. Searching the area where her ancestors lived at the time, she found a prominent man named William A. Bowles. William was also the given name of her ancestor. Thinking it possible that her 4th great-grandparents named their son William Bowles after this man, she did a little digging into GenealogyBank's Historical Newspaper Archives for more information. She discovered some interesting information—but didn't like what she found.

William A. Bowles became well known—and somewhat infamous. He moved into the Indiana area in 1830, just two years before the genealogist's ancestor bearing his name was born. William A. Bowles was a Mexican-American War colonel, newspaper editor, and prominent community leader. This same William A. Bowles may have been a founder of the Order of the Sons of Liberty, a great-sounding name for what in reality was an abhorrent group of the Knights of the Golden Circle—a secret society in favor of slavery and against the Union. The hope of gathering Bowles and his followers to the Southern cause was one of the reasons Confederate General John Hunt Morgan marched his troops into

(Continued on Page 20)

(Continued From Page 19)

Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio during the summer of 1863, a Civil War expedition known as "Morgan's Raid."

When she began her research the genealogist was hoping that her grandparents named their son after this man, who seemed a prominent and respectable man—but that was before her further research revealed the extent of his pro-slavery beliefs. She also discovered that her ancestor used his middle name Bowles as his first name in the census returns following the Civil War, perhaps indicating admiration for this pro-slavery leader. While she admitted being disturbed by her ancestor's possible pro-slavery, anti-Union beliefs, she's glad she pursued research into the Bowles middle name, as it may have turned up some important aspects of her ancestor's character. She's continuing to look into this connection.

*Elkhart Weekly Review (Elkhart, Indiana)*  
10 April 1873, page 4

### **Middle Name Research Case #3**

Sometimes babies were named after prominent political or community leaders to attract support from them. A poor family of several multiple births (twins, triplets, etc.) named two of their sons after political leaders. This was obvious in the name of one boy: Theodore Roosevelt Spyhalski. The plan to curry President Roosevelt's favor was answered when he, a fan of large families, sent the parents a signed self-portrait as a congratulatory letter. The second son's name was less obvious: Samuel Jones Spyhalski. However, a quick search in GenealogyBank's newspaper archives showed that Samuel Jones was the mayor of Toledo, where the family was living. The plan worked very well when Mayor Jones offered a job to the struggling father and tried to help the family as much as possible.

*Woodbury Daily Times (Woodbury, New Jersey)*  
6 January 1903, page 1

So keep in mind that searching on an ancestor's middle name may—in some cases—prove very helpful to your genealogy research, turning up family history information you might not have found otherwise, and sometimes leading you to additional, unexpected searches.

*[Editor's note: this article was adapted from a post Duncan Kuehn wrote for the GenealogyBank Blog.]*  
Submitted by the LeRay deChaumont Chapter NSDAR

*Black River Herald, Boonville, N.Y. December 10,*  
1868

From the Scrapbooks of the Leray de Chaumont  
NSDAR Chapter

*Black River Herald, Boonville, N.Y. December 10, 1868*  
From the Scrapbooks of the Leray de Chaumont  
NSDAR Chapter

## **The Old Stage Drivers Stagecoach Bill for 1827**

Who remembers Ben Hall, stage driver? He went his happy way over the roads of Southern St. Lawrence for many years. His native town was Fowler. He drove stage between Gouverneur and Fine. He was crippled in a battle of the Civil War. Possibly it was in the wilderness. A shell burst near him. It tore his abdomen seriously. Ward Glazier, also of Fowler, found him. Glazier bound up a gruesome cut with a coat and carried him to a wound-dresser.

Ben Hall recovered from the injuries after many months but the surgery employed in dressing the wound must have been crude for he was afterward pitifully bent over to one side. Yet he could ride a stage and he was a stage driver and mail carrier for many years.

Ward Glazier, the man who saved his life, was 45 years of age before he enlisted. He was the father of Willard Glazier of the Ira Harris cavalry, later well known author of "Capture. Prison Pen and Escape," "Ocean to Ocean on Horseback," and a score of other books. Ward Glazier himself was seriously crippled.

Ben Hall was something of a verse writer. He was accustomed to work out in his head the rhymes and jingles as he traveled over the rough roads of Fowler, Edwards and Fine. One that he delighted most in had to do with his own injuries:

Shot and Ball  
Couldn't kill Ben Hall  
But shot and shell,  
Came near sending  
Poor Ben to hell.

Over all Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis Counties these stage drives of a generation ago heroically made their way, in winter and summer. Weather was a minor matter with them. Usually they were philosophers who knew life in many phases. Usually they were shrewd, many times thrifty. At least they knew men and the world.

They were heroes to the farm boys. How childhood of that day watched them as they went down the road, over the hills and far away. Home boundaries were restricted in those days. Childhood didn't wander much farther than the next farm or the cheese factory. The stage drivers were world travelers. To childhood and boyhood, they had seen life. Some day childhood and boyhood would take the very stage and go far and far out into the world beyond the sunset's golden rim.

What a contrast in appearance those men of another day to our Coach drivers of the present. What if old Ben Hall could see one of the Colonial drivers of today dressed in the uniform of the organization, gray knickers with all the accoutrements. The stretch of time is the greatest wonder worker of all.

# Jefferson County Queries

Send Queries to: Jerry Davis, P. O. Box 275, Clayton, NY 13624; maridavis@aol.com

**Subject: Jefferson County Informer Query**

(Some readers don't have internet access. Please include mailing address &/or phone numbers as well as email.)

## **SNYDER, COUNTRYMAN, PICKERT, RICKERT, RICKET**

I am looking for information on John **SNYDER** born Jan 1755 in Minden, Montgomery Co., NY, and died 15 Nov 1825 in Minden, Montgomery Co., NY. He married Margaret **COUNTRYMAN** 1775, daughter of Johannes **COUNTRYMAN** and Rachel **PICKERT (RICHERT OR RICHET)**. She was born 20 Feb 1760 in Minden, Montgomery Co., NY, and died after 1840 in Stark, Herkimer Co., NY.

The many spellings include: **SCHNEIDAU, SCHNEIDER, SCHNEIDAR, SCHNIEDER, SCNEIDER** and **SCHNITTER**.

Children of John **SNYDER** and Margaret **COUNTRYMAN** are:

I Susanna, b. 1779. She married (1) Nicholas **DILLENBECK**. She married (2) Samuel **STEVENS**.

II Daniel, b. 1780 in Canajoharie, Montgomery Co., NY; d. 1863 in Stark, Herkimer Co., NY.

III Magdalena, b May 1783 in Minden, Montgomery Co., NY; d. 17 Aug 1822 in Freys Bush, Herkimer Co. NY.

IV John J. "Henry", b. 3 Jun 1790 in Renssalaer Co., NY; d. 18 Apr 1862 in Boyleston, NY.

V Abram "Abraham", b. 29 Apr 1795 in Fort Plain, Montgomery Co., NY; He married Mary **Lighthall**.

VI Maria, b. 22 Jun 1797. She married Jacob B. **SITTS**.

VII Jacob I., b. 27 Jun 1800 in Minden, Montgomery Co., NY; d. 13 Jun 1884 in Boyleston, NY.

VIII Benjamin, b. 1802 in Minden, Montgomery Co., NY; d. 1904 in Fort Plain, Montgomery Co., NY.

IX Margaret, b 12 Nov 1807.

*Beverly Sterling-Affinati  
harborsideservices@gmail.com*

## **RICKERT, PICKARD, RICKET, STARING, LOUCKS**

I am looking for information on Jacob **RICKERT (PICKARD) aka RICKET** born 26 Mar 1796 in German Flatts, Herkimer Co., NY, and died 15 Oct 1864 in DePeyster Twp., St. Lawrence Co., NY. He married (1) Catharine or Catherina **STARING**, daughter of Jacobus **STARING** and Ellisabeth **LOUCKS**. She was born 15 Apr 1797 in German Flatts, Herkimer Co., NY, and died 27 Ju 1840 in DePeyster Twp., St. Lawrence Co., NY. He married (2) Mary \_\_\_\_\_. She was born abt. 1800 in England.

Children of Jacob **RICKERT** and Catharine **STARING**

are:

I Margaretha aka Margaret, b. 29 Oct 1818 in German Flatts, Herkimer Co., NY; d. 04 Apr 1880 in Oswegatchie, St. Lawrence Co., NY.

II Elisa, b. 08 Jan 1821 in LeRay Twp, Jefferson Co., NY; d. 30 Apr 1897 in Morristown, St. Lawrence Co., NY.

III Alexander, b. 01 Jan 1823 in LeRay Twp, Jefferson Co., NLY; d. 27 May 1893 in Philadelphia, Jefferson Co., NY.

IV Moses L., b. 13 Aug 1825 in LeRay Twp, Jefferson Co., NY; d. 29 Mar 1900 in DePeyster Twp., St. Lawrence Co., NY.

V Jerome, b. abt. 1834 in LeRay Twp, Jefferson Co., NY; d. in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

*Beverly Sterling-Affinati  
harborsideservices@gmail.com*

## **DENNY, BENWAY, MALATINO, AMO, AMIO, ANGELL, MAJO, SLATE**

Greetings from Buffalo! I grew up in Watertown and am researching the following families:

**DENNY** (Clayton)

**BENWAY** (Carthage)

**MALATINO** (Watertown)

**AMO/AMIO** (Clayton)

**ANGELL** (Three Mile Bay)

**MAJO** (Cape Vincent)

**SLATE** (Watertown/Lyme)

If any of these are part of your research, I would love to compare notes.

*Joe Siragusa  
hatfulofrain@gmail.com*

## **ABOUT 50 OLD PHOTOS (1870), HART, OTTO**

I have an old photo album that has about 50 old photos (1870). It is a family album. Some have "Chas S. **HART** photographer Arcade Watertown NY" stamped on the back of them. I can't see that there are any names on the back of them except for one: "Mrs JJ **OTTO** taken at Kingston July 1970" is written. Would this be of interest to anybody?

*Daniel Curry  
Dan-curry@sbcglobal.net*

# Jonah Johnson

## Son of Solomon Johnson

Seeking proof that Solomon is the son of Jonah Johnson & wife Jerusha Town(e). A will, or transfer of land/property, or Bible records would be most helpful.

Solomon Johnson died Moscow, Muscatine Co. Iowa April 1855 BEFORE the death of his father Jonah who died we believe in Wilna, Jefferson Co., NY as he was living with his daughter Nancy A. Chambers in the 1860 census Wilna, Jefferson Co., New York.

Jonah was 75 years old. In the 1850 census we find Nancy A. Johnson, 32 yrs., living in Alvah H. Johnson's household, in Wilna, Jefferson Co, New York Alvah b. Mass is 43 yrs. (approx. b 1807). In the book notation it states that Alvah Henry Johnson was the son of Jonah Johnson. Therefore, between these two census and the book published in 1894 we can show that Jonah had a son named Alvah.

Nancy A. Johnson was living in her brother's household in 1850, and Jonah Johnson was living in his daughter's household in 1860. It is strongly suggested too because of the time period and customs that upon Jonah Jonson's death, after 1860, possibly before 1870, that he was buried by his daughter Nancy A. Chambers in Wilna, Jefferson Co., New York. (We are still seeking Jonah's death record or tombstone) Jonah's wife Jerusha Johnson (also noted a JARUSHA) CONSORT of JONAH DIED 26 MAY 1833 45 YRS buried at CARTHAGE VILLAGE cemetery. Where Alvah H. Johnson and Nancy Chambers (her children) are also buried. Information requested by a prospective DAR member.

Anne Davis - Regent LeRay de Chaumont Chapter NSDAR

Anne Davis  
17192 Ives Street Road  
Watertown, NY 13601  
davis24@verizon.net  
315-788-6045

## Joseph Tracy (1793-1878) Son of Solomon Tracy (1758-1849)

- Solomon, CT & MA Line, S32025, Sol lived at Sheffield in Berkshire Co MA at enl, Sol was b 7 Oct 1759 at Norwich CT, he appl 11 Sep 1832 Jefferson Co NY, Sol d 21 Jan 1849 leaving 2 sons; David Tracy of Ellisburgh NY in 1857 & Caleb Tracy (place of residence not given) *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files*, Vol. III: N-Z, p. 3530.

- Solomon was born in Connecticut, but moved to Tyringham, Berkshire, Massachusetts by 1776 and to Vermont before 1780. All of the children of Solomon and Lucretia Hall Tracy were born in Vermont. The family moved from Rutland, Vermont to Ellisburg between 1818 and 1820.

- New York 1820 Census Index published by Accelerated Indexing Systems, Inc. in 1977 shows five persons with the name Tracy living in Ellisburg, Jefferson, New York: Solomon, Solomon Jr., Caleb, David, and Joseph. Page 172. Given the small size of Ellisburg, it is most likely that these were all members of the same family.

- 1825 New York State Census for Ellisburg, Jefferson, New York showing under the name Tracy: David, Joseph, Solomon, Solomon 2nd. Document prepared June 1994, page 57.

- Marriage of Solomon Tracy to Lucretia Hall, 25 Jul 1779, Tyringham, Berkshire, Connecticut.
  - o Massachusetts, Marriages, 1633-1850
  - o Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988
  - o U. S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900.
  - o Vital Records of Tyringham, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850

Note: Some family trees show the wife of Solomon Tracy as Caroline Mott with a marriage date of about 1852. However, it is important to note that the same document shows that Solomon died in 1849, three years before the marriage. Moreover, all of Solomon Jackson Tracy's children were born between 1780 and 1798, well before the alleged marriage took place.

- As noted, the biographical statement on Solomon Jackson Tracy in the New York "Bicentennial Tribute to Veterans of 1776" mentions he had four boys, but only Caleb and David were living in Ellisburg when he died. Thus, providing a partial explanation as to why only Caleb and David were mentioned in the will.

- Joseph Tracy married Mary (Polly) Haven in 1815 in Ellisburg, New York.

- At least three children born in Ellisburg:
  - o Mary Janette (5 Mar 1832)
  - o George Oscar (20 Oct 1833)
  - o Otis Augustus (30 Apr 1836) – my great grandfather

Note: based on family records and census records in Virginia beginning 1850. I have no documentation specifically mentioning Ellisburg on these births.

- Joseph Tracy & wife Polly Haven Tracy first appear in Wood County, Virginia in the 1850 Census: Joseph 54, Polly 46, Mary 19, George 17, Otis 13, John 11 (born 25 Aug 1839 in Erie, Pennsylvania).

- Birth records indicate the family left Ellisburg between 1836 and 1839, ten years before Solomon's death.

Prepared October 21, 2013 by:

Martin Booth Tracy  
1519 Canterbury Drive  
Murray, KY 42071  
mbtracy1963@earthlink.net

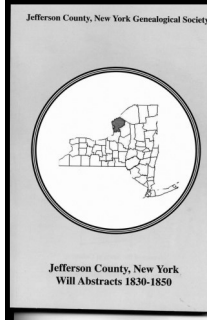


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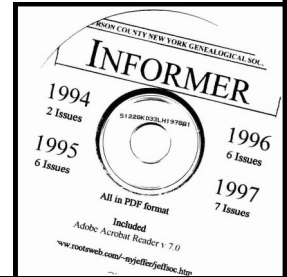
The Will Book contains will abstracts dating from 1830 to 1850. The book contains 194 pages, two maps, and a chart showing the formation of Jefferson County Towns.

Sale Price \$15.00 + \$5.00 for postage. Checks made out to **JCNYGS**  
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**Watertown, NY 13601**



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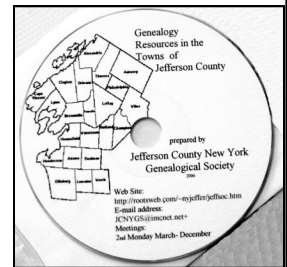
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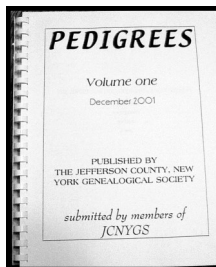
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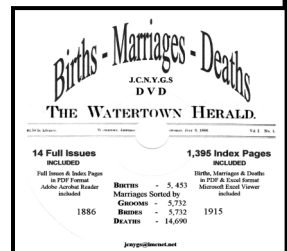
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 of the JCNYGS  
 with an every name index

**CONTACT: Greg Plantz**  
**21787 Reed Road**  
**Watertown, NY 13601**  
**tplantz1@twcny.rr.com**



## A DVD of the Births-Marriages-Deaths from *The Watertown Herald* 1886-1915 \$25 or \$28 if mailing is required to JCNYGS

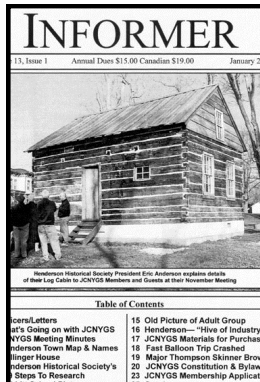
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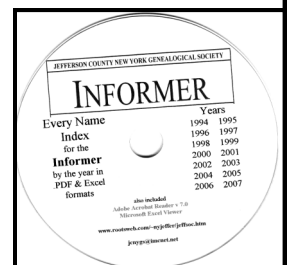
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**Watertown, NY 13601**  
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# JCNYGS PROGRAMS FOR 2014

**Monday, 14 April at 6 PM** at the LDS Church: Lisa Carr from the *Watertown Daily Times* Newspaper Archives, will provide information on the various kinds of newspaper articles available on-line and in the WDT collection files. Lisa will review the research process and hours open for research.

**Monday, 12 May at 6 PM** at the LDS Church: Jefferson County Surrogate Court Chief Clerk, Ben Cobb, will provide information on various types of proceedings/records relating to the affairs of the decedent, includes wills and administration of estates found on-line and in person. He will also include the research process and hours open for research.

**Monday, 9 June at 6 PM** at the LDS Church: Jefferson County Historian, Jim Ranger, will speak on the different Jefferson County Genealogical Data available locally and on-line, and will also explain the research process using records held at the County Clerk's Office.

**Monday, 14 July at 6 PM** at the LDS Church: Jerry Perrin of the Lewis County Historical Society will present a program on the History and Genealogy organizations in Lewis County and how they mesh together. This will allow us the chance to share ideas.

-----  
Directions to LDS Church where we are presently holding our meetings:

From Rt. 81, take exit 44 to Rt. 232 towards Watertown. Drive 1.1 miles and take the second left hand turn on to Ives Street Road. Continue straight into the city. The LDS temple is the second building on the right, across from IHC, as you enter the city limits.

From Watertown, it is on Ives Street, across from IHC. Take Washington Street to Barben Avenue. Turn on to Barben and take it until it ends at a T. Turn left and the LDS will be 300 yards on the left.

Or, from Watertown take Massey street south, veer right onto South Massey, left on to Ives.

# INFORMER

Volume 21, Issue 3

Annual Dues \$15 Individual, \$20 Family  
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July 2014

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jefferson county  
new york  
genealogical  
society



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NY Genealogical Society

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Mailing address:

Jefferson County New York  
Genealogical Society (JCNYGS)  
PO Box 6453  
Watertown, NY 13601  
President: Tracy Robertson

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MEMBER LOGIN

ANNUAL  
Membership Dues



JEFFERSON COUNTY

## GENWEB

By member, Nan Dixon

[Visit Site](#)



[www.jcnygs.com](http://www.jcnygs.com)

Please login below to access current and past issues of the JCNYGS Informer

NOTE -

Within the members only page, paid members (YOU!) have access to ALL ISSUES of the Informer, both past and present. In the past, back issues had to be ordered separately. That is no longer the case, and you can access (and read) past issues 24/7 online as a member in good standing. We do hope you find this to be an added membership benefit, and a valuable tool whenever you are researching your Jefferson County ancestors.

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## INFORMER JULY 2014

Correspondence about dues, memberships, and lost *Informers* should be directed to:  
 Jefferson County Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 6453, Watertown, NY 13601  
*E-mail:* use ONLINE CONTACT PAGE on *Web site:* jcnysgs.com

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**Recording Secretary:** Temporarily Vacant

**Corresponding Secretary:** Thomas LaClair, 17696 Co. Route 181. Clayton, NY 13624, [tomlaclair624@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlaclair624@yahoo.com)

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The *Informer* is now being published quarterly in the months of January, April, July, and October. A special Surnames issue may also be published in December.

Letters to the editor use the "contact page" on [jcnysgs.com](http://jcnysgs.com) or: Editor, JCNYSGS  
 P.O. Box 6453  
 Watertown, NY 13601



## DUES ARE DUE AND SOMETHING NEW!

July also marks the month membership dues are submitted. Dues for July 2014 - June 2015 are:

**Single Member: \$15.00.** This will give you unlimited access to the webpage to include the *Informer* on-line. You will also have voting rights. To have the quarterly *Informer* mailed to your home or business, add \$6.00 (\$10.00 Canadian) for a total \$21.00 (\$25.00 Canadian).

**Married Couples: \$20.00.** This will give you unlimited access to the webpage to include the *Informer* on-line. You will both have voting rights. To have the quarterly *Informer* mailed to your home or business, add \$6.00 (\$10.00 Canadian), for a total \$26.00 (\$30.00 Canadian).

Mail in your dues payable to: **Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society (or JCNYSGS)**  
 P.O. Box 6453  
 Watertown, New York 13601

Please include a note with your full name(s), current address, home phone number, and complete mailing address. Do this even if no change has occurred as we verify that membership data is accurate.

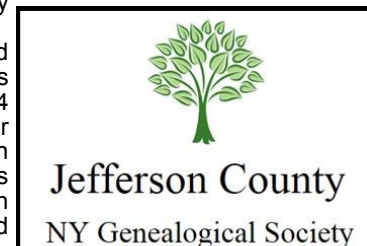
A special thank you goes to Brenda and Tina of Coughlin Printing of Watertown. When Patti Hopkins, widow of long time member Clancy "Bud" Hopkins, requested 20 more copies of the April 2014 *Informer*, Coughlin Printing was quick to provide them at no cost. Patti was impressed with the memorial written to her late husband and requested the extra copies for family and friends. Thank you Brenda and Tina!



Look for the Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society at the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds during the Jefferson County Fair July 8 - 13. Our booth will be in the covered arena. Members will be on-hand to answer questions about genealogy research and/or becoming a member of the society. Stop by and say hello!

JCNYSGS recently acquired a new logo. The logo was designed by FreeLogoServices.com.

Four logos were designed for free, and members attending the June 2014 meeting voted for their favorite. The new logo can be seen on our society's website and will be seen on society correspondence and flyers.





**Attention: Members**

JCNYGS  
PO Box 6453  
Watertown, NY 13601



Jefferson County  
NY Genealogical Society

July 1, 2014

Dear Members,

Your new website is now built, and posted live. The URL can be found at this web address: [www.jcnygs.com](http://www.jcnygs.com).

The committee has been working hard to update the pages of the site and I have been working to ensure all of the programming aspects are functioning correctly so administrators may continue to make necessary updates.

The new site is maintained entirely by Society volunteers. A committee of volunteers has done a wonderful job spearheading the website project, and I appreciate the guidance they have provided to me throughout the winter and spring seasons. The team helped kick it off initially by setting up the domain and hosting for the new site. Once that was done, I was able to access the control panel, create and build a database (with tables), and then begin programming each of the pages of the site to connect to (and function with) the database. All of the information on the pages of the new site is stored here within the database. Various tables have specific functions. For instance, one works specifically for the member login page. Another table stores the query details. Another yet collects data from the contact us page submissions. This gives you a general idea of the functions of the site's database.

You can see at the top of each page of the site, I have also added a link to Nan Dixon's website. Nan is one of the pioneers of the JCNYGS Society. Both she and her (late) husband, Bill Dixon, spent years conducting research, and including their findings on the Genweb site we've linked to. Please be sure to reference their site in your genealogical endeavors.

I have also set up a STATS program on the pages of the site. This will help volunteers track visitors to each page. Regular weekly reports are generated and can be viewed and shared at the monthly program meetings.

Members in good standing will soon receive the 'log-in and password' for accessing the **Members Only** page. The membership clerk is prepping the letter for mailing now. This letter will soon arrive in the mailbox of all members in good standing (dues paid July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015). If your subscription expiration date is unknown, your July 1, 2014 Informer mailing label will show the date. For those who submit dues after July 1, 2014, the 'log-in and password' letter will be immediately mailed upon receipt. We ask that you do not share this log-in information with anyone who is not already a paid member of our Society (thank you for your cooperation and understanding).

Within the member's only page, paid members (YOU!) have access to ALL ISSUES of the Informer, both past and present. In the past, back issues had to be ordered separately. That is no longer the case, and you can access (and read) archived issues 24/7 online. We do hope you find this to be an added membership benefit, and a valuable tool whenever you are researching your Jefferson County ancestors. Some printed copies are still available and will be advertised in our 'materials for sale' section of the website.

Do you have a query you would like to include in an upcoming issue of the Informer? We have a dedicated page for that also, found here: [www.jcnygs.com/forms/queries.htm](http://www.jcnygs.com/forms/queries.htm). Feel free to test it out. The query page is easily found on the website and goes directly to our Informer editors upon clicking 'submit'.

Would you like to contact the Society? We've included an interactive form on the contact us page, found here: [www.jcnygs.com/forms/contact-us.html](http://www.jcnygs.com/forms/contact-us.html). The 'contact us' page is easily located on the website. Feel free to contact the Society whenever you have a question, or would like to know more about current scheduling. Note: the current schedule is always posted under the menu button called "Monthly Programs". It is also found at the top of each page of the new site.

Please do take the time to examine your new site, and get familiar with it. I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have. Email me anytime, and thank you again for the opportunity to build the Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society's website. It is greatly appreciated.

Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati  
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& Proprietor, HarborSide Services  
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## Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, April 14, 2014

The second meeting of 2014 was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Watertown. After a well attended 5:30 social gathering, the meeting started at 6 PM. Those attending included Yvonne Reff, Julia Bassette, Janine Briggs, Larry Corbett, Jerry Davis, Marilyn Davis, Cynie Kendall, Dave Kendall, Mary Ransome, Tracy Robertson, Cindy Hazelton, Tom LaClair, James Eagan, Roberta Calhoun-Eagan and George Inglehart.



**President Tracy Robertson conducts the  
April business meeting**

Larry Corbett, the treasurer, noted balances of \$1,865.94 in checking and \$468.53 in savings. The president, Tracy Robertson, conducted a few items of business; the April *Informer* was sent out and that annual dues were due. She talked about the upcoming N.Y. State Council of Genealogical Organizations Spring Meeting in Chittenango, N.Y. Information was posted to the society's facebook page. Jerry Davis looks to attend. Tracy also talked of upcoming County Fairs. Committee members inquired the Jefferson, Lewis, St Lawrence and Oswego County Fairs however a decision was made to only do the Jefferson County Fair in 2014 and possibly attend more in 2015. Tom LaClair mentioned that he contacted Jefferson County School Districts about members coming into schools and teaching Genealogy 101 to interested students. This generated further discussion about other groups worth contacting; Co-op of Home Schools, Sons and Daughters of the Civil War, Boy and Girl Scouts, etc. The last business item was a brief update on the society computer site. [www.jcnygs.com](http://www.jcnygs.com) has been

created and the initial stages, of loading links and data, have started. The site goes live July 1, 2014.

The meeting was then turned over to guest lecturer Lisa Carr from the *Watertown Daily Times* Library. Lisa is a 25 year veteran of the Times and came well prepared with props. She spoke of the newspaper archives library, referred to as the "morgue" by some, as originating in the 1940's. Newspaper CEO Mr. Harold B. Johnson "saved everything" and he had large amounts of information from years previous. The idea to start the clippings library was so Times reporters could "find it again" so as to get pertinent news even quicker.



**Lisa Carr, *Watertown Daily Times* Librarian,  
presents her program**

In the 1940's there were four staff members assigned and each day they would clip out that day's news articles and save them in envelopes. Applicable names were written on the envelopes and they were filed away for future reference. Today, the clippings library is lined with metal filing cabinets filed with several decades worth of news clippings. In March 1988, staff members stopped clipping files and relied on computer storage of information. Lisa mentioned that clippings from the 1920s through March 1988 are a great value to today's family researchers and historians. She provided examples of some of the envelopes, showed photos of the cabinets, and discussed some personal stories from working and helping researchers. She added that many staff photographs, run in earlier newspapers, are available today. Knowing the exact date is required as these are filed by run date and not alphabetically like the clipping files. After 1988, the clippings library staff reduced to three, then two, and today Lisa is the sole member assigned to the newspaper morgue. Her excitement and energy carried throughout the presentation and was a delightful person to listen to. She provided a hand-out for more information.



## Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, May 12, 2014

The third meeting of 2014 was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Watertown. After another well attended 5:30 social gathering, the meeting started at 6 PM. Those attending included Julia Bassette, Janine Briggs, Larry Corbett, Jerry and Marilyn Davis, Dave and Cynie Kendall, Tracy Robertson, Tom LaClair, James Eagan, Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, Beverley Bunker, Anne Davis, Nancy Kaul, Greg and Tammy Plantz, Wally Kesler, Gary Kimball, Hollis Door, Dennis and Kathi McCarthy and George Inglehart.

Tracy Robertson, President, called on board members and conducted items of business. Larry Corbett, Treasurer, noted beginning balances of \$1,865.94 in checking and \$468.53 in savings. The ending balances were \$1,189.89 and \$468.53. Larry also spoke on several correspondences that came to the society. We send the *Informer* to several other genealogy societies and in-turn receive theirs. Jerry Davis gave a recap of the May 3rd New York State Council of Genealogical Organizations (NYSCOGO) spring meeting in Chittenango. Tom LaClair discussed the upcoming Jefferson County Fair July 8th – 13th and that we would have an information booth; members would share booth sitting slots. Tom also mentioned a website development training session was held May 9th and Beverly Sterling taught six members internet management skills and techniques. The [www.jcnygs.com](http://www.jcnygs.com) site goes live July 1st. Cynie Kendall introduced our three newest members in attendance; Gary Kimball from Nashville, TN, Beverly Bunker from Liverpool, NY, and Nancy Kaul from Theresa, NY.

After a brief introduction, the meeting was then turned over to the guest lecturer, Ben Cobb, from the Jefferson County Surrogates Court. Ben has been and is energetically

engaged Jefferson County in several capacities and understands how to navigate the court system. He has served as the Jefferson County Records Management Coordinator, the Jefferson County Historian, is currently the Jefferson County Surrogate Court Clerk and just recently branched into the Jefferson County Traffic Courts. He spoke of 25,000 boxes of county history available and that he has reviewed many.



Ben Cobb presents his program

Jefferson County was established in 1805, previously being part of Oneida County. Ben's lecture focused on decedents dying with and without wills and the processes the courts take to ensure the will, or intestate paperwork, is properly administered. He stressed that when researchers come into the office, to look over all paperwork and not just the will. The supporting documentation, in many cases, is rich with valuable genealogical information included. Per their website, in New York State, the Surrogate's Court maintains jurisdiction over all actions and proceedings relating to the affairs of decedents. This includes the probate of wills (testate) and the administration of estates (intestate), small estates, ancillary proceedings, disputed claims, discovery proceedings, accountings, compromise and settlement of wrongful death actions, guardianships of the person and property of an infant and SCPA Article 17A guardianships. For more information, visit their website at: <http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/5jd/Jefferson/surrogate/index.shtml>

## Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, June 9, 2014

The fourth meeting of 2014 was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Watertown. With some 20 members attending the 5:30 social gathering, the meeting started promptly at 6 PM. Those attending included Larry Corbett, Jerry and Marilyn Davis, Dave and Cynie Kendall, Tracy Robertson, Tom LaClair, James Eagan, Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, Anne Davis, Nancy Kaul, Greg and Tammy Plantz, Wally Kesler, Dennis and Kathi McCarthy, Jon Holcombe, Bill Pack, Nan Dixon, Kathleen Brethen, Reggie Watkins and George Inglehart.

Tracy Robertson, President, called the meeting to order and invited board members to conduct items of business. Larry Corbett, Treasurer, noted balances of \$1,746.99 in checking and \$400.43 in savings. Tom LaClair briefly discussed plans to have a booth at the upcoming Jefferson County Fair July 8th – 13th; that the new JCNYS website is going live July 1st; that membership dues were due July 1st, and that members attending tonight were to vote on one of four draft society logos on display. Lastly, Tom mentioned the JCNYS tri-fold flyer was recently revised and would be available to fair goers in July. Kathleen Brethen, a first time attendee, stood and introduced herself; as did Jon Holcombe who brought along his good friend Bill Pack.

After business items were discussed, the meeting was turned over to guest lecturer, Jim Ranger, the Jefferson County Historian, a duty aligned under the county clerk's umbrella. Although he serves as county historian, this title reflects just one of his many assigned positions that fill his time. Jim began his presentation by providing members a 30 plus page hand-out and informed attendees the Jefferson County Clerk's Office, as of June 1, 2014, now offers Land and Court Records searches online—the searches access information beginning in 1967. Jim further talked of the variety of

documents available and reminded researchers there is county and a city clerk's office and to visit both, as needed.



**Jim Ranger speaks with Dennis and Kathi McCarthy as Nan Dixon listens**

County items available include land records, deeds, mortgages, naturalization records, powers of attorney, subdivision maps and uniform commercial code filings. There are court records, criminal proceedings, divorce (matrimonials), and judgment and executions. Each type of document has a different set of rules for accessibility so review the county website for information--<http://ww.co.jefferson.ny.us>. Of note, the county clerk does not maintain vital statistics records (birth, marriage, death) as these are found at the town, village and city level. If the town, village or city does not have the vital record you need, in many instances the New York State vitals office in Albany or New York City has a copy. Jim welcomed both history and genealogical researchers to contact him personally with a visit at 175 Arsenal Street, Watertown, New York 13601, by calling 315-785-5149 or by email [jamesr@co.jefferson.ny.us](mailto:jamesr@co.jefferson.ny.us) and he would do his best to uncover what you are hoping to find. The office has fees for different searches and documents so inquire up front. Of final note, the county website provides a list of town and village clerks. If you should need to also contact a town or village historian, ask the local town and village clerk for assistance or who to contact. In conclusion, Jim received a round of applause for coming out and addressing the group.



## NYSCOGO Spring Meeting

May 3, 2014

Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum

Submitted 5/12/14 by Jerry Davis

We registered at 9 am and the business meeting started at 9:30 with everyone introducing themselves and the genealogy society they represented. Secretary Minutes, Treasurer Report, Membership Report and Publications update were all taken care of with considerable discussion and debate! Under old business there was a call for Publications Chair and Site Committee but no volunteers! An open discussion to determine the next meeting place and date ended with a possibility of a meeting at Montgomery County's Department of History and Archives in the Old County Courthouse in Fonda, NY on October 18 with an alternate date of November 8.

Between the weather and busy lives, the revision and review of the Constitution and By-Laws special meeting did not take place. There will be a board meeting at a future date.

Volunteers to monitor, research and keep County Resource lists current and monitoring of RootsWeb mailing lists was discussed. Barbara Meeks volunteered to monitor Wayne County!

There was a call for a volunteer to compose a "Welcome Letter" to new members.

A discussion on Web site updates produced suggestions for: An activity calendar (only as a benefit of membership); Posting limits (not personal activities or promotions - "I teach a class" - would not be appropriate); Only organizations and statewide events; Notice of monthly meetings.

A draft of a NYSCOGO Flyer was passed around for corrections and additions.

Several copies of our JCNYSGS *INFORMER* newsletter were eagerly received. (Many comments on how great our *INFORMER* was!)

An excellent lunch with turkey chili; make your own sandwich; macaroni salad; pasta salad; chips and dips; cup cakes and drinks! Worth the trip!

The program was by Madison County Historian Matthew Urtz - "Famous Faces of Madison County"

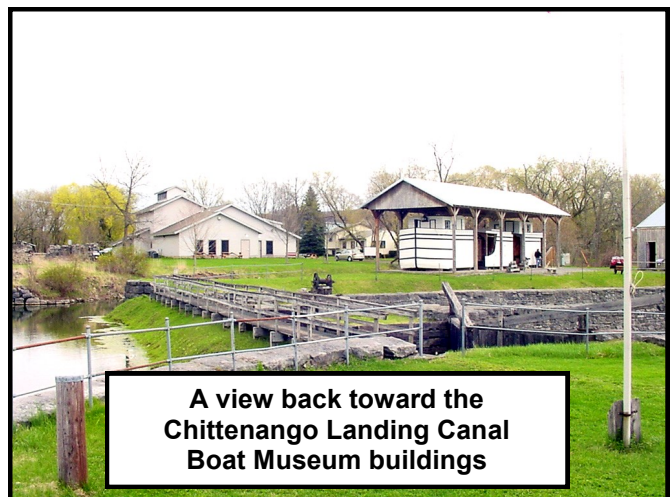
Our day's activities concluded with a tour of the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum with museum volunteers!



**Madison County Historian Matthew Urtz**



**NYSCOGO Officers at the front table**



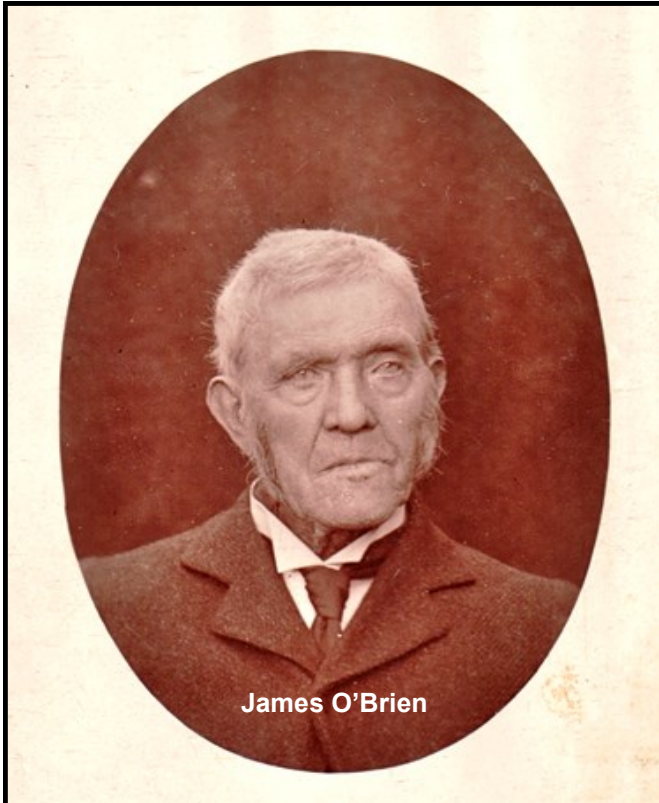
**A view back toward the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum buildings**

## MICHAEL JOSEPH O'BRIEN

of Ireland and Sackets Harbor:  
An Irish Immigrant's Odyssey

(Our thanks to JCNYS member Stephan P. Clarke, 148 Greenway Blvd., Churchville, NY 14428-9210 and at [sclarke@rochester.rr.com](mailto:sclarke@rochester.rr.com) for this article.)

Michael Joseph O'Brien was born in Bartoose, Parish of Emly, County Tipperary, Ireland on 28 September 1873 and was baptized on 14 October 1873. His parents were James and Honoria Ryan O'Brien.



James O'Brien

The *International Genealogical Index* entries from the *General Register of Births in Ireland from 1864-1955* reports that Mike was born on 14 October, 1873, but a check of the Civil Birth Records makes it clear that the 14 October date may be for either a Christening or a birth. His specific place of birth in County Tipperary is not given in the IGI records, but further research in Irish birth and census records leads to the hamlet of Bartoose, about a mile east of Emly. Bartoose is a hamlet (from maps, more likely a three or four houses at an intersection in the road) near Emly. James was a peasant gardener and farm laborer whose landlord was James Scully. That Michael should come from this specific part of Tipperary is no surprise as it has long been a focal point of the O'Brien clan for centuries. His father was a tenant farmer and farm laborer who, with his wife, is listed in Griffith's Valuation of Ireland. Michael had five siblings and at some point it was determined that some of the O'Brien

sons would emigrate and at least two of them did so: John and Michael. Michael joined John in 1895 after sailing from Cobh (pronounced as "cove," formerly Queenstown).

An unnamed brother paid for Mike's transatlantic passage and he was going to stay with that brother. John may be the brother who paid Mike's fare, but that is not known with any certainty. Mike's obituary goes on to state that he joined the U. S. Army on 20 October 1896, being sworn in to Company F of the Ninth U. S. Infantry at Albany, Albany Co., NY, and was shortly thereafter assigned to Madison Barracks, Sackets Harbor, Jefferson Co., NY.



His obituary and other published sources further state that he served during the Spanish-American War of 1898 and was in Cuba for the fighting there and for a period of time with the forces of occupation. He participated in the battle at San Juan Hill (he always claimed that Teddy Roosevelt was never anywhere near the top) and was at the capture of Santiago. He soon saw action during the Philippine Insurrection of 1899 and the Boxer Rebellion of 1900-01 where he was involved in the battle at Tientsin on 13 July and was wounded in the foot on 6 August 1900 during the battle of Yang-Tsun on the march to relieve the 55-day siege of Peking (now Beijing). During that march to relieve the British legation there, lack of adequate communication at the command level led the British and Russian forces to attack the advancing column of their American allies. While the Ninth Infantry suffered modest casualties, the 14th Infantry suffered several killed and many wounded. Mike's wound was from a bullet, however, not from shrapnel. Of interest here is the fact that the family of a Presbyterian missionary from Wyoming County, New York was among the foreigners trapped in Peking. The advancing allied forces were about to rescue, among many others, the Rev. Dr. Devello Zelotas Sheffield, his wife and children. The Sheffield family came from North Gainesville, NY, and they are second cousins twice

(Continued on Page 9)



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removed to Mary Elizabeth Hawley Clarke, wife of the author, who is a nephew by marriage to Mike O'Brien. Regardless of the weak genealogical link, this familial connection must certainly qualify for a "small world" notation.



Top Row, L to R: Spanish-American War Medal, 1898, Occupation of Cuba Medal and Philippine Insurrection Medal, 1899. Bottom Row, L to R: China Expedition (Boxer Rebellion) Medal, 1900-1901, Service on the Mexican Border, 1916; the reverse of the medals.



After the China expedition, Mike returned to Madison Barracks when he is reported as holding the rank of staff sergeant. He married Edith Mae Carter of Sackets Harbor on 23 December 1903, and they established a home in that village. After their marriage, they moved from post to post, serving at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX, from about 1908-10. From 1910-12, they were stationed in Cebu in the Philippine Islands. From 1912-15 they were at Fort Thomas, KY, where he completed the process to become a naturalized citizen and from 1915-17 he was again stationed in Texas where he was involved with the 1916 border dispute along the Texas-Mexico border.



He left the Ninth Infantry on 31 May 1917 when he was appointed First Lieutenant and was shipped to France to serve on the front lines in France from 1917 to the end of WWI. He was with the First Infantry, Field Artillery, and was involved in several major engagements during the War. Mike remained a First Lieutenant until he was discharged in September 1919. The next month, October 1919, Mike re-enlisted for a term of one year, with his previous rank of first sergeant. A point of confusion is found in the newspaper article of 1919 stating that Mike served in the Army for "more than 30 years," an impossibility given the fact that he arrived in the US in 1895. However, his obituary explains that he was granted

(Continued on Page 10)



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the equivalent of 30 years' service because of his extended periods of overseas service. An Act of Congress in 1932 permanently appointed Mike a First Lieutenant in the spring of 1933, some 12 years after he retired. His cemetery marker reflects his rank of First Lieutenant. Mike earned the Order of the Purple Heart in November 1934 for the wound obtained in China and also earned medals for his service in WWI and the various earlier campaigns in which he served.



Mike's World War I service medal with campaign bars for Montdidier-Noyon, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and the Defensive Sector.

After his service in the Army, the New York Central Railroad employed Mike for 10 years as clerk and doorman at the Watertown freight house. He retired from the railroad on 21 May 1930.

According to the 1920 federal census, Mike arrived in the US in 1896 and was a naturalized citizen in 1915. At the time, he and Edith rented quarters on Jay Street in Watertown. Of interest is the fact that Mike and Edith appear in the 1920 census twice. The first record is at their Jay Street home on Saturday, 3 January. The second record is at the home of his in-laws, William and Sadie Godkin, at 236 Flower Avenue East on the 5th or 6th of January. In both cases, Mike is also given here as becoming a naturalized citizen in 1915. The Jay Street data state "none" for occupation, but the Flower Avenue data state that he was a "retired soldier."

By the time of the 1930 federal census, Mike owned the home at 119 Colorado Ave., Watertown, and it was valued at \$7,000; he and Edith owned a radio. That census also states that he arrived in the US in 1894 and was a naturalized citizen, but his year of naturalization is not stated. Uncle Mike was a wonderful gentleman and a gentle man who had a great sense of humor. In 1918 he purchased an upright RCA Victrola gramophone for his wife, Edith, and it is still in the family. Mike (1873-1969) and Edith (1878-1943) were a loving couple, but never had children.

Mike was very proud of being a naturalized US citizen



and flew the flag from his porch every day. Family notes relate that prior to WWI, while stationed at Madison Barracks, Sackets Harbor, Mike was Color SGT for the 9th Infantry Division. As a superb equestrian, he was also in the Mounted Patrol. A Color Sergeant is one of two such non-commissioned officers who, with a Second or First Lieutenant have the specific duty and honor of guarding the Stars and Stripes. Mike held that honor both as a foot soldier and as a mounted patrolman. It was an honor he was extremely proud of and that he took very seriously.

#### SOURCES:

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"Former Lieut. Rejoins Army as Sergeant." *Syracuse Journal*, Syracuse, New York, October 1919, no page, column 1. Online. Available: <http://www.fultonhistory.com/fulton.html>.

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(Continued on Page 11)



(Continued From Page 10)

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Michael J. O'Brien. National Cemetery Administration. U. S. Veterans Gravesites, ca 1775-2006 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006. Original data: National Cemetery Administration, Nationwide Gravesite Locator.

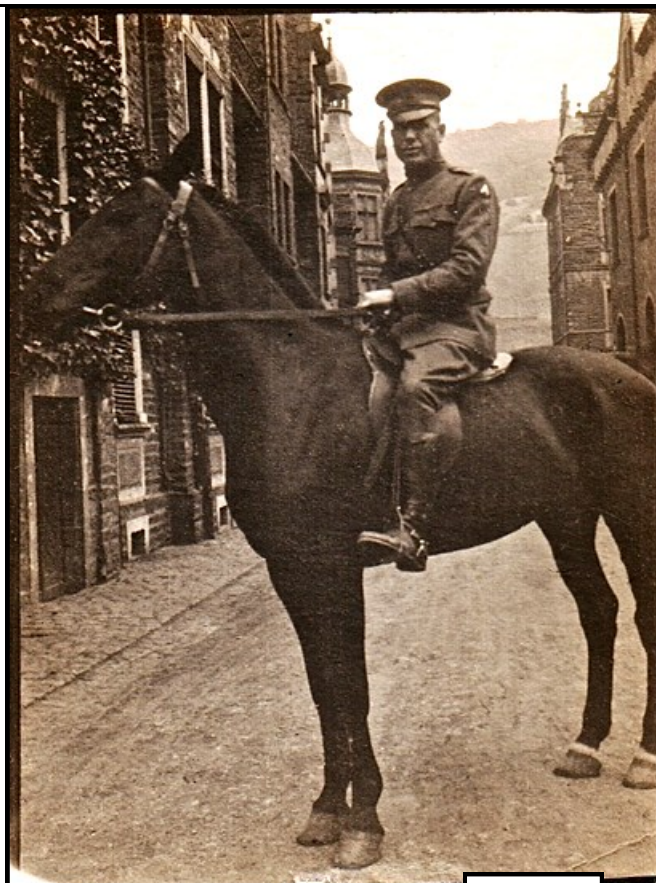
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Quarterly Returns of Births in Ireland: 1864-1955. Dublin: General Register Office. Online: Available: [http://www.familysearch.org/eng/search/frameset\\_search.asp?PAGE=/eng/search/ancestorsearchresults.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/search/frameset_search.asp?PAGE=/eng/search/ancestorsearchresults.asp). Site viewed on 14 July 2010 by Stephan P. Clarke, 148 Greenway Blvd., Churchville, NY 14428-9210.

Reichard, William. Personal interview, 21 January 2014. Bill provided opportunity for the author to obtain copies or scans of many of Mike's lovingly saved memorabilia, including his service medals.

William H. Godkin household, 1920 U. S. Census, Watertown, Jefferson County, New York; Ward: 4; Enumeration District: 49; Supervisor's District: 13; Roll: T625\_1116. Ancestry.com, [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. This census page was enumerated on 5-6 January 1920.

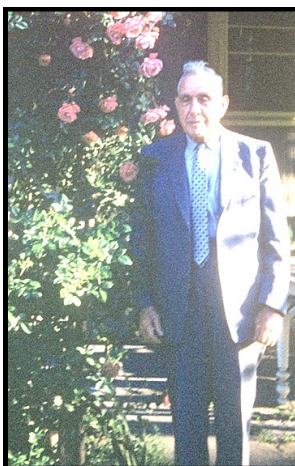


Above

Below are pictures of Uncle Mike, ca. 1954, and Edith Carter O'Brien in November 1941

Taken at Cochem Ger Many May 1919.  
Edith liked this picture

To the left is the upright RCA Victrola gramophone for his wife, Edith. It is still in the family.



**We have arbitrarily chosen a pedigree from our Pedigree Book 1. See page 23 for purchase.**

**Elmer Lewis Haas**

Born 19 June 1889 #2  
Clayton, Jefferson, NY  
Marr 14 June 1913  
Died 20 March 1956  
Clayton, Jefferson, NY

**Evelyn Viletta Haas**

Born 30 May 1916 #1  
Clayton, Jefferson, NY  
Marr 15 August 1936  
Clayton, Jefferson, NY  
Spouse: Earl Edward Charlebois

**Iva Dean Burgen**

Born 14 June 1891 #3  
Alexandria, Jefferson, NY  
Died 10 July 1961  
Clayton, Jefferson, NY

Evelyn H Charlebois  
51 Shady Lane  
Oswego, NY 13126

**William Haas**

Born 29 January 1863 #4  
Clayton, Jefferson, NY  
Marr 22 Dec 1886  
Died 4 May 1928

**Viletta A. Schnauber**

Born 15 January 1864 #5  
Clayton, Jefferson, NY  
Died 26 January 1941  
Orleans, Jefferson, NY

**William Duane Bergen**

Born 12 May 1856 #6  
Orleans, Jefferson, NY  
Marr 25 Dec. 1883  
Died 28 Dec. 1923  
Brownville, Jefferson, NY

**Martha Harriet Buskirk**

Born 26 Sept. 1863 #7  
Grindstone Is., Clayton, NY  
Died 8 July 1944  
Watertown, Jefferson, NY

**Lewis (Ludwig) Haas**

Born 29 Sep 1814 #8  
H. Darmstadt, Germany  
Died 12 January 1888  
Clayton, Jefferson, NY

**Katherine Lehr**

Born 9 Sep 1819 #9  
Germany  
Died 28 Sep 1894  
Alexandria, Jefferson, NY

**Lewis Schnauber**

Born 29 June 1835 #10  
Hesse-Darm., Germany  
Marr 11 Feb 1863  
Died 28 January 1907  
Clayton, Jefferson, NY

**Angeline Halladay**

Born 16 March 1839 #11  
Clayton, Jefferson, NY  
Died 24 April 1892  
Clayton, Jefferson, NY

**Oliver Smith Bergen**

Born 24 Sept. 1827 #12  
Orleans, Jefferson, NY  
Marr ca. 1849  
Died 21 July 1908  
Orleans, Jefferson, NY

**Matilda Denninger**

Born 14 Feb. 1833 #13  
Evans Mills, LeRay, Jefferson, NY  
Died 1898  
Orleans, Jefferson, NY

**Joel Laurens Buskirk**

Born 28 August 1834 #14  
Clayton, Jefferson, NY  
Marr 20 March 1860  
Died 10 October 1877  
Clayton, Jefferson, NY

**Amy Lydia Fults**

Born 20 March 1837 #15  
Pamelia, Jefferson, NY  
Died 3 April 1914  
Brownville, Jefferson, NY

**George Haas**

#16

**Christina Beerman**

#17

**George Lehr**

#18

Marr

**Jacob Wm. Schnauber**

Born 1798 #20  
Died 13 Mar 1863

**C.E. Rothenhauser**

#21

**Joel Allen Halladay**

Born 26 Apr 1802 #22  
Marr 28 Feb 1826  
Died 6 August 1880

**Thankful Bachelor**

Born 22 Jul 1805 #23  
Died 6 October 1878

**Eli Burgin**

Born 1800-03 #24  
Marr ca. 1824-5  
Died 1850-1855  
**Theodocia Goodrich**  
Born 11 Feb. 1802 #25  
Died 13 August 1894

**Rev. Charles E. Denninger**

#26

Marr 1831 (?)

**Hannah Christine Gould**

Born 1813 #27  
Died 1878

**Almarin Buskirk**

Born 21 August 1811 #28  
Marr September 1831  
Died 30 May 1880  
**Lucinda Noyes**  
Born 24 July 1812 #29  
Died 18 July 1895

**John Folts (War 1812)**

Born 3 October 1785 #30  
Marr 10 May 1812  
Died 4 October 1860  
**Katherine Edick**  
Born 11 January 1795 #31  
Died 8 June 1859





## PIONEER JEWETT FAMILY

1 Captain EZEKIEL JEWETT, (son of EZEKIEL and HANNAH (PLATTS) JEWETT) was born 28 Oct 1762 in Rindge NH. He arrived in Jefferson County about 1800 from Rindge. He first bought 40 acres, then sold it and bought 1200 acres from Roswell Woodruff in the area of present day Calcium, Jefferson County. He died 1 Jun 1836 at Jewett's Corners. Jewett's Corners was also known as Sanford's Corners until 1 May 1911 when the name was changed to Calcium.

He married 11 Aug 1785 ABIGAIL PLATTS who died 25 Dec 1847 aged 82 years.

Children:

- + 2 i ELECTA JEWETT
- 3 ii EZEKIEL JEWETT married
  - (1) BETSEY (---)
  - (2) POLLY (---)
  - (3) ANNA (---)
- 4 iii WINCHESTER JEWETT
- 5 iv THOMAS B. JEWETT

2 ELECTA JEWETT, (daughter of Captain EZEKIEL and ABRIGAIL (PLATTS) JEWETT) was born 20 May 1788 in NH. She died in 1862 or 1864.

She married in 1813

JONATHAN INGALLS

Child:

- 6 i ELIZA INGALLS married HENRY MERRIT as his second wife.

The following on the Jewett family was submitted by our own Anne Davis from the LeRay de Chaumont Chapter - DAR Watertown, NY

EZEKIEL JEWETT was born in Boxford MA on 22 Feb 1727, son of EZEKIEL AND MARTHA (THURSTON) JEWETT. At an early date he was in the Rowley Township of Rindge, NH. He was engaged in the French and Indian war and married on 16 June 1759 in Hollis, NH to HANNAH PLATTS. Hannah was the daughter of ABEL PLATTS. Ezekiel died on 7 Feb

1786 at 59 years and his widow, Hannah, survived him dying on the homestead on 13 Sept 1830. Children of Ezekiel Jewett and Hannah Platts:

- 1) ABEL JEWETT born 3 April 1760; engaged in Rev. War; married in Rindge on 14 Aug 781 to SARAH DWINNEL

- 2) EZEKIEL JEWETT born 28 Oct 1762; married 11 Aug 1785 ABIGAIL PLATTS, daughter of ENSIGN JOSEPH PLATTS and they settled near Watertown, Jefferson Co., NY

- 3) STEPEHEN JEWETT born 21 Oct 1764

- 4) DANIEL JEWETT born 28 Nov 1766; died 12 Dec 1784 at 18 years

- 5) HEPSIBETH JEWETT born 14 Sept 1768; married THOMAS PIPER

- 6) THOMAS JEWETT born 18 Feb. 1771

- 7) HANNAH JEWETT born 6 May 1773; married EBENEZER COLBURN

- 8) HULDAH JEWETT; born 16 April 1775; married 27 March 1796 to JOHN WAITE and moved to Watertown, Jefferson Co., NY

- 9) LYDIA JEWETT born 30 April 1777; married AMOS JEWETT

- 10) ABRAM JEWETT born 20 October 1779; built the barracks near Watertown, NY and became a successful businessman; died near Watertown

- 11) NATHAN JEWETT born 25 Nov 1781; moved to Watertown NY and married for his second wife to MILLE GRAGG, daughter of DANIEL GRAGG. He moved to Sacket's Harbor and became a large landowner; died 1873 at 92 years. Source: *Hist. Of Rindge NH*

ABEL PLATTS JR. son of ABEL, married on 26 Dec. 1786 to MELETIAH METCALF, daughter of LT. GEORGE METCALF. In 1781 Abel enlisted in the Revolutionary War and remained until its close. About 1802 he removed to the State of NY and died at or near Sacket's Harbor in 1812.

Children of Abel Platts and Meletiah Metcalf:

- 1) HENRIETTA PLATTS born 19 May 1788

- 2) MARTIN PLATTS born 8 May 1790

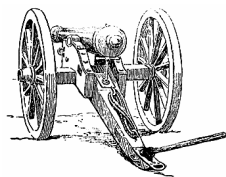
- 3) ABEL PLATTS born 9 Feb 1793; married SOPHIA PIPER and resided in Watertown NY and Fairfield, MI

- 4) ASA PLATTS born 6 Jan 1796. Source: *Hist. Of Rindge NH* PA where he conducted his photography business.

Submitted by the LeRay de Chaumont Chapter- DAR Watertown NY

**My 2-year-old daughter after watching the treetops for 10 minutes:  
"Trees can't speak but they tell you things."**

# CIVIL WAR BIOGRAPHY



## MARCUS J. WALKER

Union Soldier - Distinguished Service

Following several years of poor health and months of illness, Marcus J. Walker, aged 84 years, veteran of the Civil War, passed away early Sunday afternoon at his home on Grange Avenue. The funeral was held at the home this afternoon at 2:30 and burial was in Union Cemetery, Adams Center. Rev. Grant Chambers, pastor of the Baptist Church, officiated.

Mr. Walker was born in Chaumont, a son of Abraham and Lucinda Weaver Walker and had always lived in Jefferson County except when in the army service. In 1867 he married Miss Orpha Deavenport of North Adams, the marriage taking place at Worthville. For the past 35 years Mr. and Mrs. Walker have lived in Adams.

Mr. Walker enlisted August 13, 1862, from Worth, being mustered into the U.S. service as a private in Company D, First Battalion, New York Volunteer Artillery, the consolidation of this and the Fourth, Fifth, and Seventh battalions forming the Tenth Regiment, New York Volunteer Heavy Artillery. With his regiment he was in defense of Washington, D.C., attached to the 22nd Army Corp; was in the battle of Cold Harbor, VA; also at Petersburg; the mine explosion at Petersburg; the battle of Cedar Creek; on duty in the Shenandoah Valley until December, 1864, also on duty in the assault and fall of Petersburg, where he was captured and sent to Libby Prison from which he was paroled by their provost marshal. He was honorably discharged June 17, 1865, at Annapolis. Mr. Walker was the last member of DeAlton Cooper Post, G.A.R.

Mr. Walker told of shaking hands with President Lincoln when on duty at Washington and of seeing his body lying in state in the Capitol. His wife and two daughters, Mrs. F. J. Diefendorf of Chicago, and Mrs. F. S. Lyman, of Adams, with their children, are his immediate survivors.

Notes from Darla Bedford Moe written Feb. 18, 2010:

I descend from Eva Walker Crowe Delano, daughter of Marcus J. Walker & Orpha E. Davenport. Eva died on May 6, 1925, the year before her father Marcus Josiah Walker, so she does not appear as his survivor. Eva was born in Lorraine, Jefferson Co., NY in 1868. She married first John M. Crowe. John M. Crowe was born in Rome, Oneida Co., NY, as John M. Burtch, the son of Philo K. Burtch. He was adopted by David & Roxa Crowe of Earlville. Eva and John Crowe divorced, and John married Jennie Mae Gifford. John died when his son Ithamer (from Jenny) was a toddler, and after this, Eva married Wesley J. Delano, with whom she had children. I descend from Myrtle (Myrtie) Mary Crowe Spencer, the daughter of Eva Walker and John M. (Burtch) Crowe.

"Abraham" Walker was commonly known as "Abram".  
"Deavenport" is commonly spelled "Davenport".

### Genealogy history on Remus Rudd

Judy Harper, an amateur genealogy researcher in Northern Ontario, was doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that Prime Minister Stephen Harper's great-great uncle, Remus Rudd, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Winnipeg in 1889. Both Judy and Stephen Harper share this common ancestor. The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows at the Manitoba Provincial Jail. On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription: 'Remus Rudd horse thief, sent to Stony Mountain Jail 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the CP and CN trains six times. Caught by Mounted Police Force, convicted and hanged in 1889.'

So Judy recently e-mailed Prime Minister Harper for information about their great-great uncle, Remus Rudd. Believe it or not, Harper's staff sent back the following biographical sketch for her genealogy research:

"Remus Rudd was famous in Ontario during the mid to late 1800s. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the CP and CN Railways. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroads. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the Mounted Police Force. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

NOW, That is how it's done, Folks!



# A War of 1812 Jefferson County, Soldier Platt Homan

Written and Researched by  
Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati  
*Vice President & Bicentennial Chairman, State of New  
York Society, U.S. Daughters of 1812,  
and President, General Jacob Brown Chapter  
Sackets Harbor, NY*

Edited and Researched by  
Anne Davis  
*Recording Secretary & Chairman of Grave Locations  
and Markings for 1812 Service Personnel, State of  
New York Society, U.S. Daughters of 1812; Vice  
President, General Jacob Brown Chapter, Sackets  
Harbor, NY; and Regent of the LeRay de Chaumont  
Chapter, NSDAR*

## PLATT HOMAN

**Birth:** abt 1791

**Death:** 5/13/1850

**Wife / Marriage:** Francis Starr (Ingham) Homan

### Frances Starr INGMAN (1791-1882)

Name: Frances Starr INGHAM

Sex: Female

Father: Joseph INGMAN (1764-1853)

Mother: Sarah STARR (1767-1804)

### Individual Events and Attributes

Birth 11 Jun 1791 Middletown, Conn., USA

Death 1882 (sapp) Theresa, Jefferson Co., NY

### Marriage

Spouse Platt Homan ( - )

Above information found at this public internet site:  
<http://?whobegatwhom.co.uk/ind1016.html>

**Parents:** letter from Flower Memorial Library suggests a connection between Morris (father), Platt (son) and David (grandson), and also talks of other Homan men in the line. For more information on this letter, contact Terrie at the Flower Memorial Genealogy Department: 229 Washington St Watertown, NY 13601, (315) 785-7705.

### Children:

Samuel - the Narrative History of Remsen, NY mentions a son by the name of Samuel.

Sarah I. (Homan) Gardner - born about 1822, married Anson Gardner. Obituary of Sarah I. Gardner is found at <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=g&GSln=gardner&GSfn=sarah+&GSmn=i.&GSbyrel=>

[all&GSdyrel=all&GSob=n&GRid=80174290&df=all&burial is Oakwood Cemetery, Theresa, Jefferson, NY.](http://all&GSdyrel=all&GSob=n&GRid=80174290&df=all&burial%20is%20Oakwood%20Cemetery,%20Theresa,%20Jefferson,%20NY)

GARDNER, A.D. 23DEC1889 70YRS  
OAKWOOD CEMETERY

GARDNER, SARAH i. WF.A.D.12 AUG1873 70 YRS  
OAKWOOD CEMETERY

Charles Homan - Charles Homan is a native of Jefferson County, New York, born January 13, 1831. He is a son of Platt and Frances (Ingham) Homan, who also were born in that State. The first thirty-seven years of his life were passed in his native county, and there in his young manhood, he learned with his father the millers trade, which occupation he has always followed. During his residence in New York State he spent six years in Oswego county. On his arrival in Tama county, in 1868, he, in company with C. K. Bodfish, built a grist and saw mill, which they operated together for two years and then dissolved partnership and Mr. Homan has since continued the business alone. In politics he is a Democrat, and has held the office of Councilman for one term. He is a Master Mason and a member of Doric Chapter, Tama city. During the year 1853, he was joined in wedlock with Miss Charlotte Phillips, a native of Oswego county, New York. They have one child, a daughter, Lillian [found at public internet site <http://iagenweb.org/tama/history/ch38.html>, Tama County, Iowa].

From History of Philadelphia, NY From *Our County and its People*, a descriptive work on Jefferson County, New York, Edited by Edgar C. Emerson, The Boston History Company, Publishers 1898, **Platt appears in Philadelphia, NY as a miller.**

### Military:

Ancestry.com record:

War of 1812 Pension Application Files Index, 1812-1815 Record for Platt Homan.

Roll #46 Archive Publication #M313

### Soldier: Platt Homan

Under service: Capt Ellis' Co NY Mil

Widow: Frances S Homan

Wid Orig:4752

### Burial:

Platt Homan

Death: 05-13-1850

Age: 59y1m1d

Veteran: Yes

Cemetery: Old Theresa Cemetery / Old Town

Village: Theresa

Town/County: Theresa/Jefferson County

Photo Number: 153-426 (available by mail)

Burial ID: 80393

Record found at: <http://www.nnygenealogy.com>

Note - It is highly probable Frances is buried beside her husband, with no stone.

## A War of 1812 Jefferson County Soldier Joseph Sheldon

Written and Researched by  
Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati  
*Vice President & Bicentennial Chairman, State of New  
York Society, U.S. Daughters of 1812,  
and President, General Jacob Brown Chapter,  
Sackets Harbor, NY*

Edited and Researched by  
Anne Davis  
*Chairman of Grave Locations and Markings for 1812  
Service Personnel, State of New York Society, U.S.  
Daughters of 1812;  
Vice President, General Jacob Brown Chapter,  
Sackets Harbor, NY; and Regent of the LeRay de  
Chaumont Chapter, NSDAR*

According to the following public internet site: <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/o/n/Patricia-Ann-Long/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-1249.html>, Joseph Sheldon enlisted in the War of 1812 at Watertown, Jefferson County, New York (NY). He served in Captain Amos Hungerford's company, 76th regiment, NY Militia, commanded by Colonel Gershom Tuttle and Amariah Tucker. Joseph carried the rank of Colonel.

Joseph was honorably discharged at Sackets Harbor, Jefferson County, NY August 1814. His terms of service were from February 28, 1813 to March 19, 1813 and again from July 28, 1814 to August 21, 1814.

His wife, Hepzibah [Hepsibah], applied for a pension in 1871. At the time of application, Hepzibah did not have a written record of their marriage. Therefore, it became necessary for relatives and neighbors to support her right to a widow's pension. The case is cited as pension No. 33.376, and it was eventually awarded to Hepzibah [July 13, 1883] by the Department of the Interior.

Joseph received two land grants for his military service; one for 120 acres, and another for 40 acres.

Joseph was born on 19 Apr 1783 in Lisbon, New London, Connecticut, the son of William Sheldon Sr. (1751-1818) and Ruth Lord (Bishop) (1758-1815). He married Hepzibah Richardson (1789-1876), daughter of Capt. Tilley Richardson and Mary (Thurston), on 12 Oct 1809 in Watertown, Jefferson County, NY. Known children born of that marriage include:  
Tilley Richardson Sheldon

Susan Sheldon  
Mary Sheldon  
Harriet Sheldon  
Bishop Sheldon  
John Sheldon  
Joseph Sheldon  
Mark Sheldon

Two more children appear on this public internet site: <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/o/n/Patricia-Ann-Long/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-1249.html>

- Mary Sheldon (different birth year than the other Mary)
- Seth Sheldon

Joseph Sheldon died 6 Nov 1857 in Watertown, Jefferson County, NY, at the age of 74. Burial was made at Brookside Cemetery in Watertown, as found at this public internet site: [www.nnygenealogy.com](http://www.nnygenealogy.com).

Find A Grave also records his death at this public internet site: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=77487997>

### BY THE WAY OF CANADA

A large number of immigrants came to the United States via Canada during the mid and late nineteenth century, and for them there is no U.S. immigration record. They landed in Canada where no U.S. officer met them or recorded information about their arrival in the United States. The always-growing number of immigrants who chose this route in the late 1800s finally convinced the United States, in 1894, to build and operate the bureaucratic machinery necessary to document the many thousands who each year entered at points along its northern border.

In earlier years immigrants landing in Canada were largely from Britain, Scandinavia, northern Europe, or Russia. In the 1880s, as the United States began to impose more stringent immigration rules at its own ports of entry, even more immigrants from the same regions and elsewhere chose to travel via Canada to avoid the trouble and delay of U.S. immigrant inspection. By the 1890s, steamship companies began to advertise passage through Canada as a more desirable route for immigrants who wished to avoid U.S. inspectors. While much of this traffic remained Irish, Swedish, Norwegian, or Russian, the business of carrying Italians, Greeks, and others from Mediterranean ports to Canada grew.

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2000/fall/us-canada-immigration-records-1.html>

## A Family History Lost and Found

Our thanks to JCNYS member Roberta Calhoun-Eagan for submitting this article!

"The Calhoun family, well remembered by our older readers... were for a long time a numerous and much respected family in Watertown. Most of them have removed." --- John A. Haddock, *The Growth of a Century*, 1895

Few of us experience the privilege of growing up in an area where our ancestors lived for generations. I often wondered what it would be like to live in one's true hometown. How ironic to learn that my father actually *did* grow up in such a place—only he didn't realize it at the time.

The only Calhoun relatives Dad ever knew were his father Anson, known as Anse, and his Aunt Bess. Bess energetically channeled the town gossip, but shared nothing of her own history. While Anse told no family stories, he often sang fragments of Irish tunes he could have picked up from his mother, from work on the railroad, or from card tables at the Growler's Club.

My grandfather Anson Calhoun (1888-1973) was the youngest child born to a middle-aged couple in an era when families rarely spoke of their origins. I imagine that his brother George, born 18 years earlier, somehow amassed a treasure-house of information. The unidentified photographic portraits that George left behind suggest ties with many cousins.

Their father James Calhoun would have witnessed a great deal of history. As one of the first grandchildren of Chauncey Calhoun, the family patriarch who arrived in Watertown, NY by 1804, James had reached adulthood well before his pioneer grandfather died at 80.

However, James was already 57 when his youngest son Anse was born, and as it happened, Anse was 14 when his father died. The young man might have gone on to learn at least a few family stories from his older brother George.

But shortly after Anse turned 21, George died so suddenly one morning of pneumonia that newspapers as far away as Utica remarked on how he had taken his usual walk the night before. My grandfather never spoke of his brother again.

And that is how so much of our rich family history came to be lost.

My father grew up on the Arsenal Street Road never

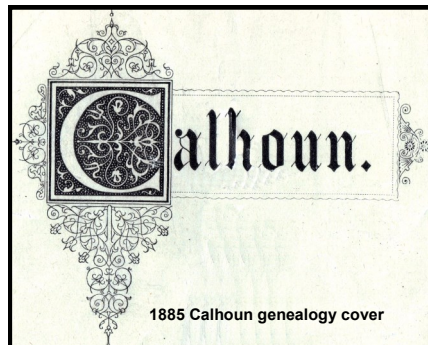
knowing the parade of events that had passed right by his house. When John Calhoun packed a hand-operated printing press in 1833 to embark on a stormy voyage across the Great Lakes and launch Chicago's first newspaper, the first leg of his journey took him alongside Anse's farm.

Thirty years later Eb Calhoun volunteered for a newly formed regiment of the Union army. In the spring of 1861 the troops made their first march from Sackets Harbor to Watertown, striding by what was to become Anse's land on their way to Antietam, Bull Run and Lookout Mountain. Whether on foot, on horseback or by stagecoach, many of our ancestors who "removed" did so by passing Anse Calhoun's fifteen acres on their way out of town. Perhaps it was here on the outskirts, where Anse so loved the view that he called it God's Country, that so many relatives turned to bid Watertown their final farewell.

Given that Anse ran a small farm, it was easy to assume our forefathers did the same. After all, the Calhouns were our country grandparents, living quaint rural lives in utter contrast to our city grandparents from New Jersey. Not once did I suspect that Anse, an accountant and railroad clerk as well as a farmer, actually broke with tradition in moving so far from the city's center.

Watertown became a city in the mid-nineteenth century, and it turns out that our family resided at the heart of it from the time Chauncey Calhoun built his log cabin near Public Square to the day Anse was born at lower Gotham Street. Ironically, the family to whom my grandparents sold their farm in 1972 relinquished it to developers who razed the property to build a shopping center strategically near route 81. Two decades after entire city blocks were transformed by urban renewal, the old Calhoun property and nearby farms became centers of commerce. God's Country had been thoroughly annexed by the city.

Dad was the last Calhoun in our line to remove from Watertown, and when his mother died in 1982 the city went on without us. Lacking a verbal tradition or an attic stocked with clues, we had to rely upon family genealogies to convey our history.



1885 Calhoun genealogy cover

(Note from your editor: Roberta has additional information on this article that we may use in our October issue of the *Informer*.)

## Something Old, Something Newsy

Searching Old Jefferson County Newspapers  
at [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com)

Our thanks to JCNYS member Roberta Calhoun-Eagan for submitting this article!

Lyme, N.Y.—In 1818, Mary Cornwell Butterfield won a silver teaspoon at the first annual Jefferson County fair.

Forty years later the prized spoon fell upon the natural rock floor of her cellar. It entered a small crevice and disappeared. Despite efforts to retrieve the treasure by forming a hook on the end of a wire, the spoon was lost.

At the turn of the century Mary's grown sons visited the spot in Lyme, NY where the old house once stood, and realized the treasure might be regained at last. The story of a family keepsake lost and found after forty years, published in the Watertown Daily Times in 1899, came to light during my Internet search of old New York newspapers using the keyword "Cornwell" at [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com).

The growing ability to search old newspapers online allows stories of generations past to come alive once more. While the greatest space was devoted then as now to high drama, a slower news day could prompt a review of old records for compelling tidbits.

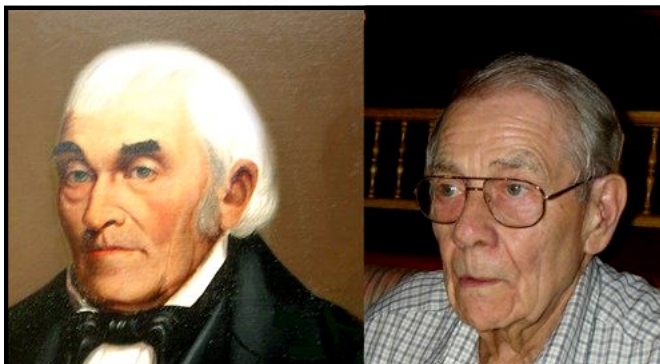
Thus, if not for *When Boys Had to Swim to Reach Beebe's Island*, how could I have known an ancestor was a champion fisherman? Or a century later in the same paper, that my grandfather's extended bachelorhood would be so well documented? "The evening was spent in feasting and storytelling" concludes a favorite article, "the feast consisting to a great extent of Limburger cheese."

A surprising number of old obituaries are still out there for you to discover. The antique newspaper type "fonts" can pose a challenge for researchers. As a solution, it helps to try several different search terms. For example, searches for Columbus and Friendly Evans in the site's search box produced few matches. However, the name of their son "John S Evans" uncovered the detailed 1895 obituary of Friendly Fisher Evans, who lived 95 Years.

Old newspapers shattered my toughest brick wall: the origins of an Irish ancestor. Fortunately for me, Mary McDonald's family disagreed about managing a small tract of land. A 1903 Watertown newspaper recorded names of all parties involved in *Margaret A. Hall v Michael McDonald et al*. Associated court records offered the testimony of an uncle, who dutifully named my great-grandmother's parents and siblings under oath.

Another revelation came from 1905 coverage of Watertown's Centennial. At *The Armory*, celebrants displayed portraits of city pioneers, including an early

settler named Chauncey Calhoun. The painting's very existence surprised us all! The forgotten portrait, found hanging in the attic of the Jefferson County Historical Society, was reunited with his family recently. Nothing brings Chauncey to life more than placing his likeness alongside a photo of his great-great grandson (my father) at the same age.



Chauncey Calhoun and his great-great grandson  
A. John Calhoun

In addition to [www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com), North Country obituaries can be searched free-of-charge at <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>. Ancestry.com and a host of other sites including [www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com) provide paid access to numerous papers nationwide. If you prefer microfilm, ask the state archives about interlibrary loan.

Good luck—you never know what long lost treasures you might find!

Search Over **26,800,000** Old New York State Historical Newspaper Pages

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- Times Staff Photo

**TO BE REMOVED** - The old cut stone vault at the rear of the former Court Street city hall will be demolished shortly in connection with the urban renewal development. Much of the cut stone, including the cross, and some of the city hall foundation stone, will be moved by Benvenuto Brothers, the razing contractor, to Cape Vincent where a vault will be built in the new section of Riverside Cemetery, overlooking the St. Lawrence River.

## Decision To Tear Down Old Vault Stirs Claim

From the *Watertown Daily Times*, Oct. 21, 1966

The city's decision to tear down the old vault at the rear of the former Court Street city hall has triggered a claim for an "Interest" in the land near and back of the municipal building now falling before wreckers in urban renewal clearance.

Mrs. Dorothy Ward Keib, 1003 Washington Street, has formally notified City Manager Ronald G. Forbes; Anthony F. Vallone, urban renewal director and Attorney John Stenard, U. R. counsel of her "interest" in the property.

Demolition of the old stone vault, used for many years by local undertakers for body storage in winter months will mark the eventual beginning of construction of a cemetery vault at newly developed land at Riverside Cemetery, Cape Vincent.

Some usable cut stone from the old vault, including the cross atop it, and some of the granite foundation

stones from the old city hall will be donated to the St. Vincent of Paul's church, Cape Vincent, by Benvenuto Brothers, the demolition contractor.

Rev. John M. Kennedy, Cape Vincent church pastor, said some of the best of the granite stone from the front of the old vault and other granite from the city hall foundation, along with the big stone cross, will be transported to Cape Vincent where a new vault will be erected later.

Mrs. Keib, daughter of the late J. Francis Ward, said that her father took title to the land in question from his brother, the late James A. Ward, a lawyer here until his death. Mrs. Keib's father, who was also the father of Attorney Norman F. Ward and Gordon J. Ward, both of this city, said her father obtained the deed under date of June 25, 1905. It was recorded in the office of the Jefferson County clerk June 30, 1905, she said in her letter to City Manager Forbes.

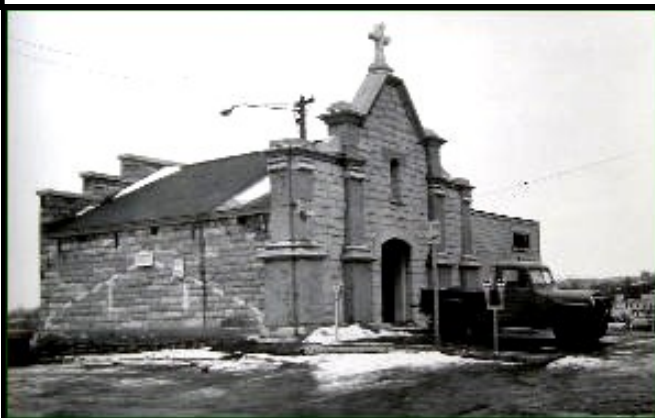
"I understand that the land described in the deed referred to is the same land granted by Henry Coffeen to the village of Watertown for a public burying ground in 1819," said Mrs. Keib.

"With the contemplated demolition of the burial vault, it is my contention that the last vestige of a 'burying ground' would pass away, and the use of the land by the city of Watertown and whatever claim it might have, if any would cease when such demolition becomes fact.

The former village of Watertown cemetery stood at the rear of the original Trinity Episcopal church for years until that edifice, erected in 1938, was destroyed in the big fire of 1949.

Subsequently, the decision came to abandon the land as a cemetery and most of the remains there were moved to Brookside Cemetery.

Below is a picture from the [www.nnygenealogy.com](http://www.nnygenealogy.com) site which has an excellent account of the Trinity Burial Ground in the Burials and Cemeteries section.





**Family Records:**

[www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org) (free) The internet Archive is a free site that contains digital images of books from libraries across the country. Many of the books included on this site are county/ local histories or family genealogies published in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Most of the digitized books are fully searchable.

**Family Records:**

<http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmuc/> (free) The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) is an online catalog that includes entries for manuscript and archival collections held by repositories throughout the country. Depending on the prominence of any particular family, the family's papers, correspondence or other materials that include genealogical information may be held by a historical society, library or archive. This catalog can assist you in identifying and locating such collections.

**Family Records:**

<http://books.google.com> (free) Google Books is a useful site for finding digitized family genealogies or county histories for a specific family or location. The full text of many older publications can be accessed for free.

**Church Records:**

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/fh.xml> (free) Many denominations and religious groups have colleges or archives where their historical records are retained. One such collection is the Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College. This collection includes the Hazard Index- a series of abstracted church records for the Quaker meetings that were part of the New York Yearly Meeting.

**Church Records:**

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) (free) Some church records for different denominations, including Baptismal

records, are available in transcribed or abstracted form in the Records section of the Family Search site. Family Search also includes a Catalog interface for collections of the Family History Library. A search of this catalog might provide you with additional information about whether or not the records of a particular denomination or congregation are available on microfilm from the Family History Library.

**Immigration Records:**

<http://www.castlegarden.org/> Castle Garden has an online searchable database of 10 million immigrants from 1830 through 1892, the year Ellis Island opened. From 1855 to 1890, Castle Garden was America's first official immigration center.

[Ellis Island](#) has an online searchable database of 22.5 million arrivals to New York between 1892 -1924.

**Cemetery Records:**

<http://nnygenealogy.com/> This site concentrates on Jefferson and Lewis Counties with over 200 cemeteries. Its distinct focus is on documenting cemeteries by photographing and recording every monument, headstone, footstone, and stone fragment in each of the cemeteries visited. The goal is to help preserve the rich history of this portion of the North Country and to assist families searching for their elusive ancestors. A gravestone photo, if available in our collection, is provided free of charge. There is a lot of Northern New York history found on this site, certainly worth a visit.

## Indentured Servants Apprenticeship Agreements

Apprenticeships, is a practice carried over from England, indentured young men and women to a Skilled Craftsmen by way of written agreement to learn a trade. In many cases the apprentice was an orphan that was bound out by a county court until the age of twenty (eighteen for young women). The Indenture Agreement may contain information such as the apprentice's name, his parents, or guardians' names, the length of the indenture term, the trade to be learned, and whether the apprentice would be taught to read or allowed to attend school. Poor children were often indentured. In colonial New England, many youngsters less than 10 years old (whose parents could not support them) were indentured to masters who agreed to teach them a trade. This practice was legalized by the "poor laws."

Because many apprenticeships were the result of a court appointment, records are often found at the local, county and state levels of courts. State Archives and historical societies may have collections on microfilm.

Submitted by -LeRay de Chaumont Chapter NSDAR Watertown NY

## Bill Johnston of the Thousand Islands: Pirate or Patriot?

By James M. Eagan

Born February 1, 1782 in Three Rivers, Lower Canada, Bill Johnston was the son of James Johnston, who fought for the British during the Revolutionary War. A member of Jessup's Loyal Rangers, it is likely that James contributed to General Burgoyne's campaign, which ended in defeat at Saratoga. As a Ranger he would have almost certainly joined with Joseph Brant and warriors of the Iroquois Nation on raids and other incursions into the Mohawk Valley.

After the war, many Loyalists fled to what is now Canada. The Canadian government granted land situated along the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario to soldiers such as James who had fought with the British. So Bill was raised on a farm with Tory neighbors. With that background, one would expect Bill Johnston would grow up to be a loyal British subject.

A series of embargo acts by both nations beginning in 1806 reduced trade along the St. Lawrence River. Such actions meant little to a population living in the midst of a frontier, separated only by a river easily crossed for much of the year. It is likely that Bill Johnston began smuggling as profits from legitimate trade were scarce. In this climate, some near-worthless goods became coveted items in high demand. Bill seized the opportunity when in addition to his dry goods store, he acquired a small boat.

As a smuggler Bill learned the ins and outs of the many channels of the 1000 Islands. This education served him well for the rest of his life. Clearly by 1807 when he courted and married Anna Randolph of North River, NY, Bill's frequent trips across the border had taken him deep into the Adirondack region. A great many of his friends and in-laws were U.S. citizens.

Early in the War of 1812, Bill was understandably viewed with distrust by his Tory neighbors. He didn't help his reputation by voicing support and providing bail money to Americans caught in Canada when hostilities began. And so Bill Johnston's loyalty to the crown repeatedly came into question. There are many accounts of his ultimate arrest. Most likely it took place after he was drafted and one of his brothers agreed to serve in his stead, which was perfectly legal. When the brother went AWOL Bill was required to serve the remainder of the term. But he refused.

Bill said he did serve in the British military, and took issue with the remarks of an intoxicated sergeant. There began fisticuffs that landed him behind bars. Whatever the true version, his support of U.S. citizens,

coupled with frequent disappearances due to smuggling, resulted in widespread belief that he was a turncoat delivering information to Americans. Bill was incarcerated in Kingston but escaped prior to trial. Soon afterwards he was picked up by a U.S. Navy schooner while paddling in a large (stolen) canoe across Lake Ontario. In the ensuing weeks he managed to smuggle his family to Sackets Harbor, during which time his lands and property in Canada were confiscated.

Bill was quick to retaliate for perceived insults by the British Crown. He offered his services to the U.S. forever disavowing his allegiance to Britain. Thus he became a major thorn in the side of the Canadian government. A spy and guerrilla fighter without equal was released to roam the border, causing havoc wherever he went. War records show that Bill "served as a spy under Major Generals Lewis, Wilkinson, Brown and Gaines." In fact, it is as a spy that he wished to be remembered. At the top of a form to secure repayment for property lost or damaged during service in the War of 1812, Johnston identified himself in his own handwriting as "The Great Northern Spy."

What else is known for sure is that he was in charge of the boat designated to carry General Wilkinson on the infamous expedition down the St. Lawrence that ended in the Battle of Crysler's Farm. During the battle, although considered a non-combatant he voluntarily helped in carrying ammunition between the boats and the soldiers on the battlefield.

During the war he routinely captained a longboat equipped with multiple oars, a small sail, and a small canon mounted in the bow with which he captured or worried shipping up and down the river. I say he "worried shipping" because he not only harassed and captured those that plied the river, but there is ample evidence that his activities caused many to avoid the river for commerce, relying on slower and more costly overland shipment. There are numerous accounts of his intercepting the British mail, committing small attacks, (yes, in a few isolated instances there were attacks on defenseless civilian farmers), while making the river an unsafe place for the enemy to do commerce. As a privateer, he received a portion of everything he captured.

Most of us have heard of the first and second battles of Sackets Harbor. The *third* battle of Sackets Harbor is far less known, thanks to Bill Johnston. As the war was drawing to a close, Bill intercepted a British courier who carried completed plans for a full scale, last-ditch, concentrated effort to take and hold the garrison at Sackets Harbor. When the commander of

(Continued on Page 22)

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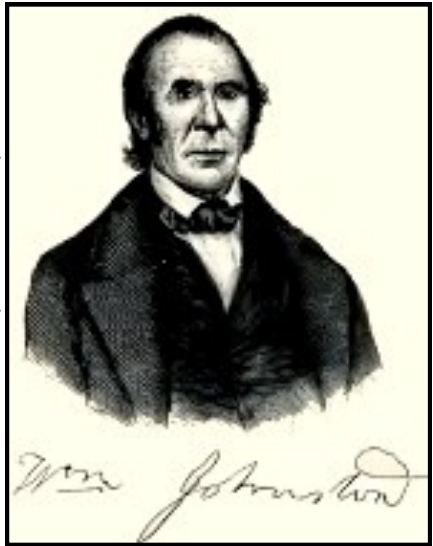
the British Forces realized that via Bill Johnston these plans had reached the hands of General Gaines, he prudently canceled the operation.

A surprise attack by an overwhelming British force would have crippled the depleted American resistance in the region. A resounding British win would have been followed by a British occupation of Northern New York. Logically, the subsequent Treaty of Ghent would have had to take such an occupation into account when drawing the new national boundary. Instead of running through the Thousand Islands, that boundary would likely have split most of New York State in half, making everything north of Oneida Lake a part of Canada. Jefferson County would have been seeded to the Province of Ontario forever. The citizens of New York State and even the nation will forever be in Bill Johnston's debt.

Upon the cessation of hostilities it was impossible for Johnston to return to Canada where he was still wanted for treason, a hanging offense. He never got over his anger or the perception of being maligned by his countrymen. So when the Patriot War of 1837 began in Canada as an effort to gain independence from Britain, he came to the aid of the revolutionaries. It was during that time that Bill sank the steam vessel *Sir Robert Peel*. (Ironically, the strict definition of the

term "pirate" according to international law does not include his actions). While by popular acclaim he will forever be known as Pirate Bill Johnston, we should also remember him as an American Patriot of the War of 1812.

After years of research I thought it would be rewarding to find living descendants of Bill Johnston to tell them about their Patriot ancestor. After all, I would be moving forward from his death in 1870 rather than



the reverse, and thought, "How hard could it be?" This shows how little I knew back then about the art of genealogy. My Johnston database contained over 400 entries before I succeeded in finding his first living descendant. Bill Johnston's family tree is available by emailing [eagan1705@rochester.rr.com](mailto:eagan1705@rochester.rr.com).

**DECLARATION.**  
by William alias Bill Johnston, the "great Southern Spy" - War of 1812

United States of America, }  
STATE OF NEW-YORK, } ss.  
County of Oneida

On this 23 day of Dec A. D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight personally appeared before me a Justice of Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid William Johnston aged 76 years, a resident of French Creek in the State of New York who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical William Johnston who was in secret service in the Company commanded by Capt. Ed Jacob Brown in the attached Regiment of New York & had a Barge commanded by him on Lake Ontario in the war with Great Britain declared by the United States on the 18th day of June, 1812. That he volunteered as was drafted under the General Orders of the Governor of this State, for its defence, at River St. Lawrence on or about the fourth day of the war of A. D. 1812 for the term of first Campaign and under further General Orders of said Governor, he volunteered at the request of Col. General on or about the Barren day of in the year A. D. 1813 '14 for the term of 2, & 3 Campaigns and continued in actual service in said War for the term of two years and was honorably discharged from said service; for which he has received from the United States his Land Warrants No. 23612 for 160 acres, and No. --- for --- acres. And further, in the performance of the service before recited, he furnished at his own cost the following clothing and equipments, as directed by the "Act to organize the Militia of the State of New-York," &c., passed March 29th, 1809, and the General Orders heretofore referred to: my

|                                |                              |                               |                               |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Hat.....\$ 2.00              | 1 Pair Pantaloon.....\$ 8.00 | 1 Bayonet.....\$ 1.00         | 1 Pr. Suwarrow Boots, \$ 8.00 |
| 1 Plate and Plume.....\$ ..... | 1 Stock.....\$ 1.25          | 1 Cartridge-Box.....\$ 1.00   | 1 Neckercloth.....\$ 1.00     |
| 1 Military Cap.....\$ .....    | 1 Over-Coat.....\$ 14.00     | 2 Belts.....\$ 1.00           |                               |
| 1 Chapeau.....\$ .....         | 1 Blanket.....\$ 3.00        | 1 Sword and Belt.....\$ ..... |                               |
| 1 Plume.....\$ .....           | 1 Knapsack.....\$ 1.50       | 2 Pr. Stockings.....\$ 2.00   |                               |
| 1 Uniform Coat.....\$ .....    | 1 Canteen.....\$ .50         | 2 Shirts.....\$ 3.00          |                               |
| 1 Ordinary Coat.....\$ 14.00   | 1 Musket.....\$ 8.00         | 1 Pr. Shoes.....\$ 2.00       |                               |
| 1 Vest.....\$ 5.00             | 1 Rifle.....\$ 25.00         | 1 Pr. Gaiters.....\$ 3.00     |                               |

*The Boots were lost while on scouts, & being from the enemy -*

*William Johnston*

## JCNYGS MATERIALS FOR PURCHASE

Contact: Greg or Tammy Plantz, 21787 Reed Road, Watertown, NY 13601  
Or email [tplantz1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:tplantz1@twcny.rr.com)

### PEDIGREE BOOK I & PEDIGREE BOOK II

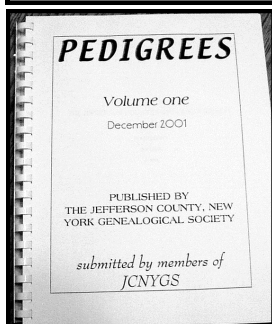
Each Book \$20.00 plus  
**\$5.00 for postage**  
A collection of pedigrees  
Submitted by members  
of the JCNYGS  
with an every name index  
Checks made out to **JCNYGS**

### JEFFERSON COUNTY NEW YORK WILL ABSTRACTS 1830 – 1850

The Will Book contains will abstracts dating from 1830 to 1850. The book contains 194 pages, two maps, and a chart showing the formation of Jefferson County Towns. \$15.00 + \$5.00 for postage. Checks made out to **JCNYGS**

### A DVD of the Births- Marriages-Deaths from *The Watertown Herald* 1886-1915

**\$25 plus \$5 for  
postage**  
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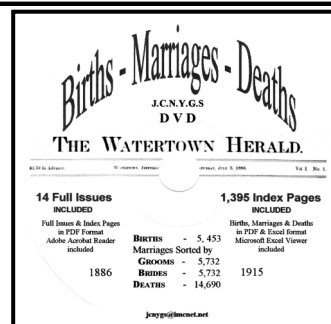


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[Jcnygs.com](http://Jcnygs.com)



Check with  
Greg or  
Tammy Plantz  
(above) for  
availability  
and hard copy  
**INFORMERS**



## Jefferson County Queries

Use the "ONLINE QUERY" on [jcnys.com](http://jcnys.com) or mail queries to:  
Jerry Davis, P. O. Box 275, Clayton, NY 13624; [maridavis@aol.com](mailto:maridavis@aol.com)  
Subject: Jefferson County Informer Query

(Some readers don't have internet access. Please include mailing address &/or phone numbers as well as email.)

### CARR, RUPERT, REUSAW, CAMERON, KELLY, WEBSTER, KERR

CARR family historian looking for information of the family of George CARR and his wife Mary (RUPERT) CARR namely  
Walter Eugene CARR  
Ford Darrell CARR married Emma REUSAW  
Elizabeth CARR married ... CAMERON,  
married Robert J. KELLY  
Mamie (Emma/Mae) CARR married Fred J.

### WEBSTER

Please advise if you would have someone on staff on a fee basis, that would conduct research for me or an independent researcher from the Watertown area that would do the same. Also, if you have any inquiries about George Leslie CARR and his wife Margaret Ann (KERR) CARR and their children Otto, Robert Emmett, Otis, Maurice Lynn, George Leslie, Everett Wayne, I will send it to you with my compliments.

Jim Jordan  
12083 County Road 4  
Morrisburg, Ontario, Canada  
K0C1X0

1-613-543-2025  
[sheldonjordan@eastlink.ca](mailto:sheldonjordan@eastlink.ca)

### BRAINARD

I am extremely frustrated in my attempt to talk with someone locally in Jefferson County regarding genealogical research. I have been trying for some time, both online, through my local Family History Center, and FamilySearch.org to find sources of birth information in Jefferson County for the early 1800s. Can anyone help me answer a fairly simple question about the availability of births and marriages for my BRAINARD family (my gg grandmother and her siblings) who lived in Jefferson County between approximately 1800 and 1818? Thanking anyone in advance who might be of assistance.

B. C. "Bud" Hopkins  
[bchopkinsii@gmail.com](mailto:bchopkinsii@gmail.com)



## INFORMER

Jefferson County NY Genealogical Society  
(JCNYGS)  
P.O. Box 6453  
Watertown, NY 13601

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# JCNYGS PROGRAMS FOR 2014

**Monday, 14 July at 6 PM** at the LDS Church: Jerry Perrin of the Lewis County Historical Society will present a program on the History and Genealogy organizations in Lewis County and how they mesh together. This will allow us the chance to share ideas.

**Monday, 11 August at 6 PM** at the LDS Church: City of Watertown, Lead Clerk, Ann Saunders, will speak on the types of vital records available, the costs, as well as the rules and process for obtaining them for genealogical purposes.

**Monday, 8 September at 6 PM** at the LDS Church: Jessica Phinney and staff members from the Jefferson County Historical Society will talk about their collection and what they consider most helpful to a family historian and genealogist. The society has inventoried the Husted collection of photos; a collection that may contain a photo of one of your ancestors.

### **Saturday Afternoon, September 13 at Noon**

The Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society will host a family style picnic, at the Rotary Pavilion, Thompson Park, Watertown. The event, beginning at 12 noon, is open to anyone wishing to attend. RSVP Tom LaClair at [tomlaclair624@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlaclair624@yahoo.com) or by calling 315-285-5032. Hamburgers, hotdogs and paper products provided. Bring a dish to pass. No alcohol please.



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Directions to LDS Church where we are presently holding our meetings:

From Rt. 81, take exit 44 to Rt. 232 towards Watertown. Drive 1.1 miles and take the second left hand turn on to Ives Street Road. Continue straight into the city. The LDS temple is the second building on the right, across from IHC, as you enter the city limits.

From Watertown, it is on Ives Street, across from IHC. Take Washington Street to Barben Avenue. Turn on to Barben and take it until it ends at a T. Turn left and the LDS will be 300 yards on the left.

Or, from Watertown take Massey street south, veer right onto South Massey, left on to Ives.

# INFORMER

Volume 21, Issue 4

Annual Dues \$15 Individual, \$20 Family  
To have the *Informer* mailed add \$6 US or \$10 Canadian

October 2014

Reunion of Wilson Family of Theresa  
100 years ago - 1914 ( See Page 8)



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## INFORMER OCTOBER 2014

Correspondence about dues, memberships, and lost *Informers* should be directed to:  
Jefferson County Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 6453, Watertown, NY 13601  
E-mail: use ONLINE CONTACT PAGE on Web site: jcnys.com

**President:** Thomas LaClair, 17696 Co. Route 181, Clayton, NY 13624,  
[tomclair624@yahoo.com](mailto:tomclair624@yahoo.com), 315-285-5032

**Vice President:** Anne Davis, 17192 Ives Street Road, Watertown, NY 13601  
[davisa24@verizon.net](mailto:davisa24@verizon.net), 315-788-6045

**Recording Secretary:** Tammy Plantz, 21787 Reed Rd., Watertown, NY 13601  
[tplantz1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:tplantz1@twcny.rr.com), 315-788-5324

**Corresponding Secretary:** Thomas LaClair, 17696 Co. Route 181, Clayton,  
NY 13624, [tomclair624@yahoo.com](mailto:tomclair624@yahoo.com), 315-285-5032

**Treasurer:** Larry Corbett, 520 Binsse St., Watertown, NY 13601  
[lrcorbet@gisco.net](mailto:lrcorbet@gisco.net), 315-323-3118



Jefferson County  
NY Genealogical Society

**The Informer Committee:** (alphabetically) are Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, [dioncalhoun@yahoo.com](mailto:dioncalhoun@yahoo.com); Anne Davis, [davisa24@verizon.net](mailto:davisa24@verizon.net); Jerry and Marilyn Davis, [maridavis@aol.com](mailto:maridavis@aol.com); Nan Dixon, [nandixon001@gmail.com](mailto:nandixon001@gmail.com); David and Cynie Kendall, [davek@cynergyintl.com](mailto:davek@cynergyintl.com); Thomas LaClair, [tomclair624@yahoo.com](mailto:tomclair624@yahoo.com), (publisher); Greg and Tammy Plantz, [tplantz1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:tplantz1@twcny.rr.com); Yvonne Reff, [yreff@ncls.org](mailto:yreff@ncls.org); Beverly Sterling-Affinati, [harborsideservices@gmail.com](mailto:harborsideservices@gmail.com).

The *Informer* is now being published quarterly in the months of January, April, July, and October. A special Surnames issue may also be published in December.

Letters to the editor use the "contact page" on [jcnys.com](http://jcnys.com) or:  
**Editor, JCNYS**  
**P.O. Box 6453**  
**Watertown, NY 13601**

The Jefferson County NY Genealogical Society elected officers Monday, September 8th. The following nominations were approved. Tom LaClair, President; Anne Davis, Vice President; Tammy Plantz, Secretary and Larry Corbett, Treasurer.

In taking office, Tom LaClair stated, "Every Member is a Contributor" and reminded us all that the society is only as strong as our all-volunteer force makes it. Over the past several years the society has lost many

long-time dedicated members to death or illness. Those carrying the workload today have dwindled and a new army of volunteers is needed. Over the coming year there will be a dedicated approach in encouraging new and current members, near and far, to help with moving the society forward. Help is needed in the quarterly *Informer* publication and the society website. Members are needed to provide for publishing Jefferson County related articles, personal ancestral stories, genealogies/genealogy charts, early town and village histories and/or tid-bits, and more. If you have time or articles to provide, please go to [www.jcnys.com](http://www.jcnys.com) and use the "contact us" page to let us know. A member of the society will be in contact soon after. This is your chance to support your society! Thanks in advance.



**Our JCNYS officers  
for the coming year  
(from the left):**  
**Secretary:**  
**Tammy Plantz**  
**Treasurer:**  
**Larry Corbett**  
**Vice-President:**  
**Anne Davis**  
**President:**  
**Tom LaClair**

## Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

### Meeting Minutes, July 14, 2014

The fourth JCNYS meeting of 2014 was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Watertown on July 14th. After 30 minutes of interactive social time, the formal part of the meeting started at 6:00PM. Those attending the meeting included Larry Corbett, Jerry and Marilyn Davis, Dave and Cynie Kendall, Tracy Robertson, Tom LaClair, James Eagan, Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, Anne Davis, Nancy Kaul, Greg and Tammy Plantz, Dan and Sue Grant, Carol Heimburg, Kathleen Brethen, William and Mary Dasno, Wally Keeler, and George Inglehart.

Tracy Robertson, President, called on board members and conducted items of business. Larry Corbett, Treasurer, noted checking deposits of \$609.05 bringing the checkbook balance to \$2,356.04. Larry also noted a savings balance of \$468.53 and a certificate of deposit worth \$2,408.84.

Tracy then talked about the JCNYS website going live July 1, 2014. Several members from in and out of state submitted positive comments on the site (see below). In addition to uploading the July 2014 *Informer* to the web site, all *Informers* since 1994 were uploaded and are now available to members in good standing. The printed version *Informer* was also sent to 200 homes and genealogical organizations and libraries. Larry Corbett also shared the fact that over 20 years of the *Informer* are now on the site; consisting of some 2,800 pages.

Member Jerry Davis gave an informative and lighter side overview of the Jefferson County Fair booth.

Member Jim Eagan gave information on Sons of the American Revolution charter. He shared, "The 1000 Islands Chapter Sons of the American Revolution has gotten off the ground and is ready to receive their charter. We anticipate it will be presented at the upcoming Old Fort Niagara festivities (State meeting) to be held on September 6 which is open to the public. The man responsible for the all the effort necessary to bring the new chapter into reality and the contact person for information on the new chapter is Parks Honeywell. He can be reached at 315-212-9077 or 315-482-4641. For information on attending the September 6 event which requires reservations in advance, just check out the Rochester Chapter SAR web page [www.RochesterSAR.org](http://www.RochesterSAR.org)."

Tracy Robertson also noted that elections were coming up in September and solicited three members to the nominating committee. The three are Anne

Davis, Larry Corbett and Roberta Calhoun-Eagan. Information on elections can be found by reviewing the by-laws on the website.



Program Chairman Tom LaClair accepts a handout from Jerry Perrin and Charlotte Beagle of the Lewis County Historical Society.

After the business portion of the meeting concluded, the remaining time was turned over to two members of the Lewis County Historical Society (LCHS)—Jerry Perrin and Charlotte Beagle. Representatives from Lewis County were invited to speak as Jefferson County ancestors often moved to and from Lewis County. Many JCNYS member researchers benefit by knowing information in neighboring counties. The two provided handouts to all members in attendance and provided tri-folds telling about the LCHS as well. Charlotte, a prior school teacher, gave not only an informative lecture, she provided many humorous stories and anecdotes. Additionally she reviewed the major research material available and discussed some of the cemetery work going on in the county. The handouts listed town and village historians for Lewis County, an overview of information available at the Historical Society, and many other unique facts about the county. Jerry Perrin added that if anyone needs township maps of Lewis County from the 1874 atlas, he has them stored on his computer and can send them by e-mail (they can be expanded without loss of resolution). To learn more information about the LCHS, you can e-mail them at [lewiscountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lewiscountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or write them at the Lewis County Historical Society, 7552 South State Street, Lowville, New York 13367, 315-376-8957..

Note: The following internet site comments were recently received:

"Kudos to the JCNYS Website Committee and

(Continued on Page 4)



(Continued From Page 3)



Charlotte Beagle presenting her portion of the program from the Lewis County Historical Society.

volunteers. I am enjoying my exploration of the new website. I am impressed with the new look, new logo and how easy navigation is through the website. I am looking forward to reading the earlier editions of *The Informer*. Although not a local member, I'm happy to volunteer my services if there is anything that can be done long-distance." Carol Rooksby Weidlich, Past President, Membership Chair, Webmaster Lee County Genealogical Society, Inc. (FL).

"I am SO impressed. You folks have done a fantastic job putting this together. And they said that it couldn't be done. Congratulations." Phyllis Putman

Received an e-mail from Karen Gould... she wrote "The new website looks great!" Karen

## Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, August 11, 2014

The fifth JCNYS meeting of 2014 was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Watertown on August 11th. Those attending the meeting included Larry Corbett, Jerry Davis, Tom LaClair, James Eagan, Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, Anne Davis, Greg and Tammy Plantz, Dan and Sue Grant, Kathleen Brethen, Nan Dixon, Kevin Leeson, Warren and Eleanor Allen, Reggie Watkins, Mary Ransom and George Inglehart.

Anne Davis, Vice President conducted the meeting. Larry Corbett, Treasurer, noted checking activity included five deposits for \$891.00 and three checks written for \$816.12. The checkbook balance stands at \$2,430.92. Larry also reported a savings balance of

\$400.70 and a certificate of deposit worth \$2,408.84.

Tom LaClair discussed the Society picnic coming up Saturday, 13 September, at the Rotary Pavilion at Thompson Park. Meat and paper products will be provided. The event starts at 12 noon and members are asked to bring a dish to pass. No alcohol, please. Anne Davis asked if there were any concerns with last month's minutes and there was none. She reminded members that the minutes are posted on the website. She then discussed upcoming elections. A committee is working nominations as the elections will be held September 8th.



Watertown City Clerk Ann Saunders presents her program to the August JCNYS meeting.

After the business portion of the meeting, the time was turned over to Ann Saunders, City of Watertown Clerk. Ann is responsible for transcribing minutes for City Council Meetings and acting as the Custodian of City documents such as legislation, official communications, contracts and agreements. She also serves as Local Registrar of Vital Statistics, recording and issuing birth, death and marriage certificates for events happening within this municipality. In 2013, her staff filed 1,731 birth certificates, 481 death certificates and issued 865 marriage licenses.

Of special interest, Ann and her staff perform genealogy searches. She said genealogy continues to get more popular as time goes by and the number of searches increases each year. "We did about 100 in 2013 and within the first six months of this year, we have exceeded more than half of last year's requests. We certainly have heard some great family stories and been able to solve a couple of family mysteries." It is always interesting to see how the spelling of names can change throughout the years. In many of the old records, we have to rely on the interpretation of someone else's handwriting and spelling which is mostly cursive and very pretty but very difficult to read.

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### **Certified Copies vs. Genealogy Copies**

Certified copies are usually needed for legal or official purposes such as a birth certificate for obtaining a passport or driver's license and a death certificate for settling an estate. These are issued on security paper and will have a seal along with a certification stating it is a true copy of the original. Certified copies can only be issued to individuals that are entitled to receive them along with proof of that individual's identity.

Certified Birth Certificates can only be obtained by the individual (if they are 18 years or older) or the parents listed on the certificate.

Certified Death Certificates can only be obtained by the surviving spouse, parent, child or sibling of the deceased.

Certified Marriage Certificates can only be obtained by the either the bride or the groom.

### **Genealogical Copies**

Uncertified copies of birth, death and marriage records may be provided for genealogical research purposes. This will result in a white copy of the certificate or a transcribed copy of the information from the certificate depending on the age of the certificate. Records from the early 1900's were written as a ledger format so the information cannot be copied without including other individuals' information so they transcribe it onto another form. This copy will be stamped as "For Genealogical Purposes Only."

The City of Watertown's birth, death and marriage records date back to 1883. Information from these records may be released under the following circumstances:

The person to whom the record relates to is known to be deceased.

Birth record must have been on file for at least 75 years (prior to 1939)

Death record must have been on file for at least 50 years (prior to 1964)

Marriage record must have been on file for at least 50 years (prior to 1964) (Both the bride and groom must be deceased)

Time periods may be waived if the applicant is a descendant and provides documentation of that. A descendant is a person in the direct line of descent such as a son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter.

Information from Sealed Birth Records for adoptions cannot be released.

### **Instructions for Requesting a Genealogy Search**

Complete the request form. The form can be downloaded from the City of Watertown's website ([www.watertown-ny.gov](http://www.watertown-ny.gov)). Go to the City Clerk's page and click on Genealogy Searches. Otherwise, go to the office at City Hall, 245 Washington St., Rm. 101, Watertown, NY 13601.

Include proof of the direct line of descent if necessary. The fee of \$22.00 is for **each** name and/or type of record requested and it includes a three (3) year search.

A No Record Certification will be issued if we are unable to find results.

Discussion during the meeting included a question on the use of burial permits. The following day Ann sent the following feedback: "In regards to the implementation of Burial Permits, I could not get a definite answer from NYS Vital Records Department. She thought it was around the 1920's and agreed that the Burial Permits do not serve a purpose for genealogy because there is more information on the Death Certificate. Also, the location of the burial plot can be obtained easier by contacting the cemetery. If the cemetery is no longer in use, she recommended contacting the County Health Department.

Regarding adoptions, she recommended the Adoption and Medical Information Registry for additional information. The phone number is 518-474-9600 and the webpage is [www.health.ny.gov/vital\\_records/adoption.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/adoption.htm).

Stillbirth registration was required in 1913 but Fetal Death Certificates are not available for genealogical purposes.

For any other questions, Ann referred members to the NYS Department of Health Vital Records Section at 855-322-1022.

The meeting closed at 7:15.

Ann Saunders answers questions after the meeting.



## **Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society**

Meeting Minutes, September 8, 2014

The sixth JCNYS meeting of 2014 was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Watertown on September 8th. Those attending the meeting included Larry Corbett, Jerry and Marilyn Davis, Tom LaClair, Jim Eagan, Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, Anne Davis, Greg and Tammy Plantz, Dan and Sue Grant, Kathleen Brethen, Nan Dixon, Cindy Hazelton, Tracy Robertson, Dave and Cynie Kendall, Nancy Kaul, Yvonne Reff, William and Mary Dasno and George Inglehart.

Tracy Robertson, President, opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. Larry Corbett, Treasurer, noted checking activity included

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deposits for \$207.00 and no checks written. The checkbook balance stands at \$2,637.92. Larry also reported a savings balance of \$400.70 and a certificate of deposit worth \$2,408.84; no change from August.

The October *Informer* is coming together. Right now Jerry Davis has some 40 pages of information that needs to be tailored down to 24. Articles from members are always encouraged and welcomed.

Tom LaClair discussed the Society picnic coming up this Saturday, September 13th, at the Rotary Pavilion at Thompson Park. Meat and paper products will be provided. The event starts at 12 noon and members will bring a dish to pass. 20 members have RSVP'd to date.

The attendees, led by Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, surprised Anne Davis and sang her Happy Birthday wishes. Roberta also brought in birthday treats shared by all.

Jim Eagan informed us that the 1000 Islands Chapter Sons of the American Revolution has received their formal charter. The charter was presented at the Old Fort Niagara festivities and state meeting held September 6th.

The next item of business was election of officers. Newly elected officers are: Tom LaClair, President; Anne Davis, Vice President; Tammy Plantz, Secretary and Larry Corbett, Treasurer. Their new terms will begin October 1, 2014.

After the business portion of the meeting, the time was turned over to Timothy J. Abel. Mr. Abel, PhD has a sole proprietorship specializing in Phase 1 and 2 archaeological as well as National Register nominations and historical research. Based in Carthage, New York he has worked throughout upstate New York since 1997, completing over 160 successful projects. Mr. Abel spoke on a dig here in Jefferson County, situated by the road and in front of the Wal-Mart in the Town of LeRay. He provided the following overview.

"The Earl Farmstead site was identified in 1986 as part of a background cultural resource impact study by Potsdam University for the NYS Department of Transportation. The site identification was based on surface reconnaissance and archaeological testing that revealed pieces of window glass, cut stone, brick, asphalt paper, and 19th century ceramics. Based on the available information, the site was given the name "Locality A" and registered in the state archaeological inventory as site A04511.00146. SUC Potsdam archaeologists interpreted the site as a disturbed pre-1855 scatter belonging to the George R. Earl farm. The exact limits of the site were not determined at the time.

The archaeological testing of the Earl Site took place in late fall of 2004, under the direction of Dr. Timothy J. Abel and assisted by one additional field archaeologist. We excavated 13 one-by-one meter test units and 115 shovel test pits in an effort to first, sample the site's archaeological deposits and second, expose a section of the residential foundation to look at the interior stratigraphy of the house. What we found was surprising to say the least.

Like the layers of a cake, within the residential foundation we found a very well-defined stratigraphic sequence of deposits. Just below the surface of the ground, about 15 cm (6 in) down, we uncovered a compact dark brown soil including nails, window glass and other structural debris. Below this was layer of grey-white soil with plaster chunks. It was clear these two layers made up the remains of a collapsed wall structure. Below the plaster chunks lay a stratum of charcoal-filled medium brown soil with badly heat-damaged glass and ceramic artifacts. Several pieces of glass sprue were also recovered, which was interesting because glass melts only in environments exceeding 704° C (1300° F). This layer capped a pinkish-grey ash deposit that contrasted sharply with underlying red-yellow sterile subsoil, representing the limit of the cultural deposit. The average depth of the overall deposit was 50 cm (20 in). There was apparently no basement in the house, which we found was typical for homes built on this type of poorly-drained soil.

Based on the limited archaeological excavation that we completed, it was clear to us that the Earl Farmstead site was truly unique. Not only did we have very good documentation about George Earl and his family, but we knew that his house burned down in the 1870s. That meant the site was a literal 'shipwreck,' an 1870s household, frozen in time. For that reason, I recommended to developers that the Earl Farmstead site was eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The collections and reports generated from this study are curated at the Jefferson County Historical Society, where they will be available for anyone interested in researching the site further. For genealogists researching this family, the archaeological study produced not only artifacts used by their ancestors, but an untold piece of family history."

Mr. Abel used an informative PowerPoint slideshow during the lecture. Once completed, he entertained nearly a dozen, or more, questions from members. In conclusion, the lecture demonstrated a wonderful blend of genealogy and archeology in uncovering the rich history of the Earl Farmstead site.

The meeting closed at 7:20.

Tim Abel presents his program



## ASK AUNT JEFF



*Letters may be sent snail mail:*  
Aunt Jeff, c/o Dixon, 15407 Dixon Rd.,  
Clayton NY 13624  
or E-mail [nandixon@Gisco.net](mailto:nandixon@Gisco.net)

Have any of you been disturbed by the deletion of handwriting from the elementary school curriculum? Does it really matter to us older folk? Then consider a conversation I had this summer with the local postmaster, who also is interested enough in his hamlet's history to have written a good, illustrated description of his home town from its beginnings. A young woman came into the post office needing some postal document which required her signature. No problem, there, one thinks. But wait: her signature needed to be in writing, not printing or lettering. Now the problem: a decently well-educated young woman, who could read, print, but who didn't know how to sign her name. Can you believe it? If you live in New York State, please call your local school and find out the truth, and if it is so, please also consider the ramifications.

Should this young woman, let's call her Jane for convenience, decide to research her family, as so many of us have done, how is she going to decipher any material not printed? Diaries? Letters? Nearly any records before 1800? Jane is going to have to depend on an interpreter for any real research. Can she walk into the Jefferson County Historical Museum, as I did many years ago, and ask to see diaries of the mid 1800s to get a feel for the weather in those years? Can she ask to look at originals of early church registers, should she be so lucky as to find any? Even last winter some one in one of our JCNYS meetings confessed she couldn't read Gramma's letters. They were written. Poor Gramma, in the early 1900s, didn't have a computer. Or phone. Or any other electronic gadgets our children and grandchildren believe are totally necessary today.

What are we going to do about this? Is it any of our business? My grandchildren, all seven of them write, and write legibly, but that's because they have mothers and grandmothers who insisted that they do so. It's no longer, like 'readin and 'rithmetic, mandatory. Our 3 rs have shrunk to 2, and all those electronic devices that are now taught as basic.

## LYME HERITAGE BOOKS AVAILABLE

There follows a list of books that the Lyme Heritage would like to exchange for a donation. Anyone who is interested can contact JCNYS member Phyllis Putnam at [phyllis@putnamfamily.com](mailto:phyllis@putnamfamily.com).

Remarkable Records of Rev. Gideon Bostwick, Great Barrington, MA 1770-1793

Records of Plymouth Colony, 1633 - 1689

Passengers on the "Lion" from England to Boston, and five generations of their descendants 1632 Part I

Passengers on the "Lion" from England to Boston, and five generations of their descendants 1632 Part II

In Search of your British and Irish Roots; a complete guide to tracing your English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish ancestors

Handbook on Irish Genealogy; How to trace your ancestors and relatives in Ireland

Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals years 1890 to 1930 Port of NY & 1904 - 1926 Philadelphia, NY, Boston and Baltimore

New England Chronicle; News of New England from January 1722 - December 1731

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register

The History of Bristol, R. I.; The Story of the Mount Hope Lands from the visit of the Northmen to the Present Time

Census of the Inhabitants of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations 1774

Rhode Island Passenger Lists; Port of Providence 1798-1808; 1820 - 1871; compiled from United States Custom House Papers

Rhode Island in the Colonial Wars; A List of Rhode Island Soldiers & Sailors in King George's War 1740 - 1748 and A List of Rhode Island Soldiers & Sailors in the Old French & Indian War 1755 - 1762

Rhode Island Genealogical Register; Vol. 15



## The Wilson family of Hyde Lake

(Thanks to Bonnie Borrello, JCNYGS member)

Philista Frost Wilson celebrated her 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday in 1914 and I believe this was the occasion for the reunion photo with family and friends at the Wilson Hyde Lake homestead. Philista is seated in the front row wearing a black dress, flanked by her brother Alfred B. and his wife on the left and her four daughters on her right. Thanks to descendant Greg Hunter who identified the people in the photo.

In 1829 pioneers Benjamin and Eunice Jenks Wilson and their four children moved to Hyde Lake near Theresa, NY from Marlborough, Vermont. He bought land that was part of lot #100 of Great Lot #4 of McComb's Purchase which bordered Hyde Lake. Benjamin died in 1839 leaving Eunice with ten children aged 2-16 yrs. of age.

Children of Benjamin and Eunice Jenks Wilson: Malvina, Charles Jenks, Sophia, Julia, Aspatio, Melissa, Alfred B., Boomer, Fernando and Sarah Ann.

His estate was insufficient to pay the debts so it was offered for sale by the Surrogate Court April 4, 1840. Of the land, 30 acres were for farming. There was a log house and frame barn and other appurtenances. Two thirds of the land was sold to George W. Jenks, older brother of Eunice, living in Rodman. Seventeen acres of land was reserved as dower, for widow Eunice.

Eunice married Osea/Oshea/Hosea [sic] Goss in 1847 and continued to live on the farm with four of her single children and married son Charles J., wife Philista and child. Charles farmed the land. George Jenks sold back to Charles the land he had bought at the time of Benjamin's death. Charles J. died in 1864 leaving Philista with five children. Philista continued to live on the property and bought more land in 1867.

Children of Charles J. and Philista Frost Wilson: Sophia, Celina, Elvira, Eunice and Charles A.

During the 1890s until ca 1910 the McHughs and Cheesemans also lived on the homestead with Philista. They built another home and farmed a portion of the land.

In the early 1900s Charles Alden lived with his mother Philista, and farmed the land. He married Harriet West and after her death married Mary Rundlett. Charles A. operated the farm until the 1940s when his son Alfred took over.

Child of Charles Alden and Harriet West: Harriet (Hattie)

Children of Charles Alden and Mary Rundlett: Lora, Alfred Charles

Alfred Charles Wilson married Margaret Honeywell and their sons inherited the land. The Hyde Lake land is in the Wilson family to this day. That is over 150 years.

Submitted by descendant Bonnie Borrello



**Wilson Family of Theresa, 1914 Reunion Picture  
Based on Greg Hunter's identification**

(Superscript refers to # of generations from pioneer Benjamin<sup>1</sup> Wilson)

### Seated (left to right):

Mrs. I. Wilson (possibly Isoline, wife of Fernando<sup>2</sup> Wilson, (Benjamin<sup>1</sup> Wilson))  
 Alfred B.<sup>2</sup> Wilson, 81 yrs., son of Benjamin<sup>1</sup> Wilson & Eunice Jenks  
 Elizabeth Branaugh Wilson, 79 yrs., wife of Alfred B. Wilson  
 Philista Wilson, 82 yrs., wife of Charles Jenks<sup>2</sup> Wilson, (Benjamin<sup>1</sup> Wilson)  
 Sophia<sup>3</sup> McHugh, 65 yrs., dau. Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson  
 Celina<sup>3</sup> Williams, 63 yrs., dau. Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson  
 Elvira<sup>3</sup> Tilley, 61 yrs., dau. Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson  
 Eunice<sup>3</sup> Stotler, 60 yrs., dau. Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson  
 Mary Rundlett Wilson, 51 yrs., wife of Charles<sup>3</sup> Alden Wilson, dau. in law Philista<sup>2</sup>  
 Lottie Hough  
 Florence Hough Sheridan  
 Florence Atwell (wife of minister?)

### 1<sup>st</sup> row standing

Ethel Tilley, dau. in law of Elvira<sup>3</sup> Stotler, (Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson)

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Nellie Hough

Dr. Fred<sup>3</sup> Pierce (son of Julia<sup>2</sup> Wilson or Melissa<sup>2</sup> Wilson? dau. of (Benjamin<sup>1</sup> Wilson)

Ina Pierce, Fred's wife, both from Chicago

Man ?

Grace<sup>4</sup> Cheeseman, 37 yrs., dau. of Sophia<sup>3</sup> McHugh, (Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson)

Helen<sup>4</sup> Gurney, dau. of Eunice<sup>3</sup> Stotler, (Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson)

Arthur Rowell, husband of Minnie Wilson Rowell

Walter<sup>4</sup> Tilley, son of Elvira<sup>3</sup> Tilley, (Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson)

James Williams, husband of Celina<sup>3</sup> Williams, (Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson)

Lady ?

Man?

William Tilley, husband of Elvira<sup>3</sup> Tille (Philista<sup>2</sup>Wilson)

Rev. Atwell, minister

M.L Stotler, husband of Eunice<sup>3</sup> Wilson, (Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson)

Man?

Man?

Lora<sup>4</sup> Wilson, 20 yrs., dau. of Charles Alden<sup>3</sup> Wilson, (Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson)

Man?

Charles Alden<sup>3</sup> Wilson, 53yrs., son of Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson

Florence<sup>4</sup> Dickout, 35 yrs., dau. of Celina<sup>3</sup> Williams, (Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson)

Eugene Sheridan

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> row:

Minnie Rowell, 75 yrs., dau. of Fernando & Isoline Wilson

Ina Rowell,

Myrtie McHugh, 32 yrs., wife of Ross<sup>4</sup> McHugh, (Sophia<sup>3</sup> McHugh), (Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson)

Jennie<sup>4</sup> Eddy, 38 yrs., dau. of Eunice<sup>3</sup> Stotler, (Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson)

#### Back row:

Ross<sup>4</sup> McHugh, 35 yrs., holding dau. Elnina<sup>5</sup>, 2 yrs., son of Sophia<sup>3</sup> McHugh (Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson)

Frank Rowell, son of Arthur & Minnie Rowell

Neil Atwell, relative of minister?

Clint Cheeseman, 40 yrs., husband of Grace<sup>4</sup> McHugh, (Sophia<sup>3</sup> McHugh) (Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson)

Alfred C.<sup>4</sup> Wilson, 18 yrs., son of Charles A.<sup>3</sup> Wilson, (Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson)

Laurence<sup>4</sup> Stotler, son of Eunice<sup>3</sup> Stotler, (Philista<sup>2</sup> Wilson)

#### Seated on the ground:

Children including:

Clifton, 11 yrs. & Spencer, 4 yrs., sons of Clinton & Grace Cheeseman

Marion, 3 yrs dau. of Ross & Myrtie McHugh

Children of the Williams, Dickhaut, Tilley and Eddy families mentioned above

<http://jefferson.nygenweb.net/theresa.htm>

## Town of Theresa History

The Town of Theresa was one of the last to be settled in Jefferson County. Covered with thick timber, and the northern part of the town studded with lakes, settlers preferred more accessible lands. Though a road was opened from Evans Mills to Theresa High Falls, no permanent settlement was made until after 1817, when James D. Le Ray began to sell lots to pioneers. Theresa lies in the northern section of the county, surrounded by the Towns of Alexandria to the northwest, Orleans on the west, Le Ray on the south, and Philadelphia and Antwerp on the southeast. Northeast is St. Lawrence County.

While today the lakes of Theresa, ranging from half a mile to several miles in length, are a sportsman's delight, they impeded the establishment of farms. They include Butterfield, Grass, Moon, Hyde, Crystal, Sixberry (named for Jefferson County's famous early hunter), Millsite, Red, Muskalonge, and Lake of the Woods. Not all are wholly within the Town of Theresa, some sharing borders with the Towns of Alexandria and Antwerp.

Theresa's main watercourse is the swift flowing Indian River, which enters the town from Le Ray and flows into St. Lawrence County. Its high falls provided the site for Theresa village. The town was organized from the Town of Alexandria on 15 April 1841, named for a daughter of the early proprietor, James D. Le Ray. Theresa village is the only populated area within the town.

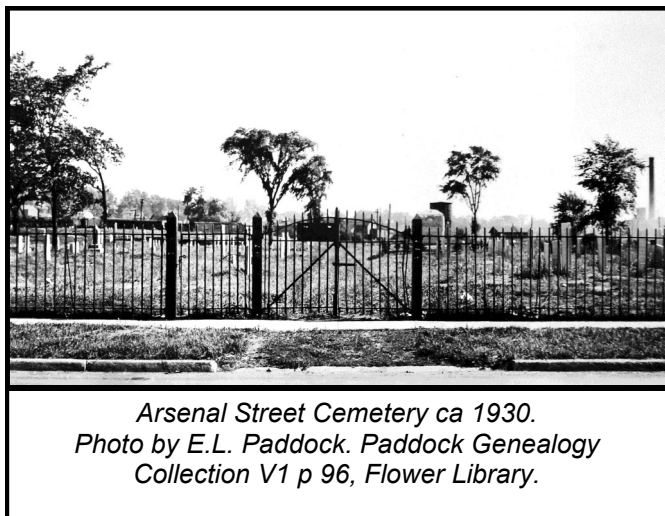
From the 1864 Jefferson County Atlas, a summary of statistics for Theresa: Acres of land: Improved, 15,667; Unimproved, 9,937; Valuation: Real Estate, 357,934; Personal Property, 89,380, Total 447,314; Population: Males, 1,208; Females, 1,200; Number of Dwellings, 397; Number of Families, 440; Freeholders, 390; Schools: Number of Districts, 17; Children Taught, 1,053; Livestock: Horses, 486; Working Oxen and Calves, 1,065; Cows, 1,808; Sheep, 861; Swine, 859; Agricultural Products: Bushels of Grain, Winter, 2,427; Spring, 40,000; Tons of Hay, 4,177.5; Bushels of Potatoes, 5,057; Bushels of Apples, 640; Dairy Products, Pounds of Butter, 163,775; Pounds of Cheese, 93,780; Yards of domestic manufacturer: 2,324.

# A Family History Lost and Found

Our thanks to JCNYS member Roberta Calhoun-Eagan for submitting this article!

(Editor Notes: Our July 2014 issue of the *Informer* included the above article on page 17 and Roberta has sent us the following information to complete her article. The following paragraph was the final one in the July issue.)

Dad was the last Calhoun in our line to remove from Watertown, and when his mother died in 1982 the city went on without us. Lacking a verbal tradition or an attic stocked with clues, we had to rely upon family genealogies to convey our history.



Arsenal Street Cemetery ca 1930.  
Photo by E.L. Paddock. Paddock Genealogy Collection V1 p 96, Flower Library.

Fortunately, we had two. Our family story from 1741 to 1884 was preserved, just barely, within a battered legal-sized document. So fragile and worn that pieces of it broke off with each contact, this history was found tied together loosely with brown shoelaces. In contrast, the sturdier 1956 Calhoun genealogy, written by a distant relative in New England, paid scant attention to our line. I suppose that our historian transcribed federal census and Watertown cemetery records in a well-intentioned effort to flesh out the book's most skeletal chapter.

|    |     |     |                  |    |   |           |
|----|-----|-----|------------------|----|---|-----------|
| 11 | 130 | 148 | Ebenezer Calhoun | 48 | m | Carpenter |
| 12 |     |     | Rebecca          | 44 | f |           |
| 13 |     |     | James            | 19 | f |           |
| 11 |     |     | Charles          | 16 | m | none      |
| 15 |     |     | Ebenezer         | 14 | m |           |
| 16 |     |     | Sarah B.         | 8  | f |           |

"Jane" Calhoun in Watertown's 1850 census.

Unfortunately, the second genealogy highlights two ancestors who were never born. The 1850 census of Watertown names the Calhoun born in 1831 as "Jane," and the Arsenal Street cemetery listing reproduced in the book mentions an "Elizabeth" Calhoun who died on March 1, 1854. When I realized that Jane was my great-grandfather James Murray and that his father Ebenezer was reported as Elizabeth, I knew I had to set the record straight. Our line was so obscure and the record so full of errors, no Calhoun cousins would be out there looking for us!

[Calhoun, Ebenezer](#) 83123948  
b. 1801 d. Mar. 1, 1854

[Calhoun, Elizabeth](#) 77282390  
b. unknown d. Mar. 1, 1854

New York, USA  
[Arsenal Street Cemetery](#)  
Watertown  
Jefferson County  
New York, USA

New York, USA  
[Arsenal Street Cemetery](#)  
Watertown  
Jefferson County  
New York, USA

*The fictional Elizabeth Calhoun recently found a home on Find-A-Grave.*

Apparently the historical record has a greater affinity for our family's fictional characters than for the real ones. Orville O. Calhoun in his four-volume Calhoun genealogy characterizes Jane as a real person, and Elizabeth does one better as Ebenezer's twin. (For this to be true, you must accept the premise that Ebenezer and Elizabeth were fraternal twins who managed to *die* on the same day). Now online, the 1850 census has breathed new life into Jane, while Elizabeth again bumps Ebenezer in the latest reproduction of the old cemetery record. Sometimes I have to chuckle when I think of "Elizabeth" Calhoun and his second son "Jane." I have a feeling these two fictional, yet ever so tenacious spirits will outlive us all.

Meanwhile, as I pursue the effort to revise old histories and document new findings, I have a perpetual fight on my hands as I wrestle with the computer's spell-check function. The machine faithfully and stubbornly renames Chauncey as "Chunky," transforms Mabel Calhoun into marble, and reduces Sauquoit, NY to squat. When a once-familiar name passes into history, it is indeed an adventure to bring it back, if even for only an afternoon's acquaintance.

**"My mother's friend's kid, 5 years old, was in a religion class once (coming from a Catholic country). The priest was giving a lesson on what 'sin' was. At the end of the class there was a recap. The priest asked: 'So, what prevents us from going to heaven?'  
"'Gravity' was the answer given by the 5-year-old."**

Watertown Daily Times June 3, 1955,  
Submitted by the LeRay de Chaumont Chapter  
NSDAR

Our Thanks to Anne Davis and Beverly Sterling-Affinati

## WINEGAR DESCENDANTS RECALL FIRST FAMILY TO SETTLE AT DEXTER

Twenty one now live in Village-- Others Nearby--  
Ancestors Came North From Mohawk Valley, By  
Marion B. Evans

The first couple to settle in Dexter, Jeremiah and Leah Burwell Winegar, will be well represented at the centennial celebration to be held here in July. Twenty one direct descendants live within the village limits and a number more within a few miles of Dexter.

A chart has been prepared by the village historian showing as many of the direct descendants as have been determined. It will be among the displays at the celebration. The couple had eleven children, seven sons and four daughters all of whom grew up and all married but one.

However, it has been possible to date, to determine the names and information about only two daughters and three sons. These were Hannah, born in 1805, Ann 1809, Charles 1811, William 1817, and George W., born 1831 who never married.

The only one living in this area to carry the family name is William T. Winegar, who moved from the village a few years ago and is now at Lacona.

Jeremiah Winegar came to Brownville in 1799 at the age of 20 from his birthplace in Herkimer. Leah Burwell, who was born Aug 28, 1788, in the Mohawk Valley, came with her family to Brownville in 1799, the year Jacob Brown began his settlement. The couple was married in 1808 when she was 15 years old. Their first three children, Hannah, Ann and Charles, were born in Brownville and moved to Dexter with them.

When the Browns began rebuilding the wooden dam over Black River at Fish Island, the Winegars came here in May, 1812. He worked on the dam and she cooked for the men who were occupied there. They lived at the first board shanty on the island until a frame home, the first in Dexter, was completed.

When the sawmill was completed and began operation in February 1812 Jera Winegar ran it making lumber which was rafted to Sackets Harbor and used in building the barracks.

A second house on the island was occupied by the Winegars for years. In 1822 they bought 60 acres on the Cape Vincent turnpike, but sold them after three years. They lived for years on a farm near Perch River bridge. Mr. Winegar was a soldier in the Patriot War, was captured at the Windmill and held prisoner for six months. He died in 1865 at the age of 86, and his wife died on May 30, 1878, when nearly 90 years old. Their gravestone in Dexter cemetery is inscribed First Settlers of Dexter.

Research into the family history has revealed several interesting items.

According to tradition, the Winegar's first grandchild, Lydia, born in 1827, a daughter of Hannah Winegar and Jedidiah Corey was the first girl born in Dexter. Her birthplace was a log cabin located where memorial field is now situated. She was married to Melza Casler, and her descendants have figured prominently into village history. Her son, Gaylord Casler, was the first president of the village chosen by popular election in 1898 (date illegible).

The Winegars second daughter, Ann, was married to John Howk, son of Matthias Howk, an early settler of the Dexter area. After her death in 1869, John Howk married her niece, Ann Corey, widow of Harry Stone.

William Winegar's son, Lewis, had three daughters, Anna, Jennie and Edna.

The deaths of William and George W. Winegar created excitement in October 1893. They were fishermen and trappers and both were found dead along Perch River where they had gone to set up camp for a week. George was in his boat and William was on the shore near his boat a short distance away.

Speculation about the circumstances of the deaths and the possibility of foul play was finally settled by the autopsy reports at the coroner's inquest held at the Underwood Hotel. By coincidence, the men had died of similar heart conditions.

The Winegar descendants who live in the village are Fred J. Casler, Miss Leila Savage, Mrs. Herbert Luther, Mrs. Hugh (Leah) Johnson, Mrs. Garland Jumps and daughter, Sylvia; Gaylord VandeWalker and daughters, Donna, Judy and Lisle; Melvin Allison and daughters, Karen, Linda and Leha; Robert Savage, Mrs. James Pierce and children, Susanne, Ronald and Deborah; Herbert Coombe and daughter Sonja, Mr. Coombe's son, Louis, and nephew, Carl Coombe, are in the Air force stationed in Europe.

Others living nearby are Ross Savage of Pillar Point

(Continued on Page 12)



(Continued From Page 11)

and son Karl, in the navy; Mrs. Ethel VandeWalker in Adams, Mrs Worth Tuttle and son Jerome, of Chaumont; Harry Gleason of Brownville, Roger Allison and daughter, Carol, near Pamela Four Corners; Clinton Maldoon of Clayton, Miss Ruby Howk, Mrs Oliver Washer, Paul Washer, Mrs Doris Barr, of Watertown; Wilber Washer of Brownville; Mrs. Donald Eveleigh of Sulpher Springs.

From Mrs. Thomas Maldoon's Scrap Book, reprinted on Ancestry.com

Mrs. Leah Winegar died at Dexter, May 30, 1878 at the age of about 90 years. She was the oldest inhabitant and also the first settler in Dexter. Her maiden name was Leah Burwell and was born in the Mohawk Valley Aug. 28, 1788. The Burwells removed to Brownville in 1799, the year that Gen. Brown began his settlement, following the Blazoned Trees for a portion of the distance. At Brownville she met Jeremiah Winegar, a young man nearly ten years older than herself, who came singly to Brownville from Herkimer the same year the Burwells came. To him she was married in 1803, being then a little more than 15 years old.

Previous to 1812 the territory about the mouth of Black River, now Dexter and its precincts, was an unbroken forest. It was then known as Fish Island, where vast quantities of fish were taken. Soon a frame house was completed, and this was the first house in Dexter.

The family moved into this and Mr. Winegar ran the sawmill, in which he made lumber that was rafted to Sackets Harbor and used in building the barracks. For a short time they were the only residents of the vicinity but soon a family named Chamberlain built and occupied a log house off the high bank in the south side of the river, just back where the boat house of Mr. John Patrick now stands. The next settler, the second in Dexter proper, was David Little, who put up a shanty on the site of the old red tavern. He took a contract from the Browns to clear 100 acres, beginning at the nearest westerly line of Mrs. Abner Reeves and extending along the river to beyond the present home of O. M. Wood. Little erected the old red tavern, which stood just back of the present post office. This was about 1815 or 1816. Not long after this, several settlers took up land and began farms along the road that now runs along the back street of Dexter, known as the old Pillar Point road. First among these was Jeremiah Phelps, who took up the place now occupied by Philander Welch. His log house stood somewhere between the present houses of John Babcock and George Winegar. Then came Shubael Little, who built a frame house, still standing, as part of the present house of Samuel Moyer. Shubael Little afterward built and lived over the river where Oscar Perry now does, and later still where Capt. H. O. Gilmore now lives. He built the present

dams on contract. He was a minister of the Christian persuasion and preached many years at Dexter and Pamela.

About this time Elijah Emerson, the father of the late Alfred Emerson, settled on what is known as the Whiney place, in the east side of Perch River, near the bridge at its mouth. But no one could stay there long for fever and ague bred in the adjoining marshes and drove them away.

Fire has removed the buildings of this place and they have never been replaced. Returning to Jeremiah Phelps, we find the next settler to be a Mr. Rogers who lived in the place now occupied by W. H. Everett. His log house stood in the lot now owned by Jacob Buss, where there is an orchard. Further on was Elam Rockwood, whose log house stood back from the present premises of George Rounds. Elam was the father of Lewis Rockwood and the father of the wife of Charles Winegar, who is the third child of Leah and Jeremiah Winegar. Amos Wheeler built a log house back of where the house lately owned by Ephraim Wilder stands. This house was torn down and a frame house erected down nearer the water,. This old frame house still stands on the lot deserted. Near the present house of Mrs. Abner Reeves, Abram Bull settled and built a log house - location now occupied by George Anderson. He was the father of Mr. John Howk, who married for his first wife, a daughter of Jeremiah and Leah Winegar. Beyond Mr. Howk on the present Riggs place, Aaron Rhodes settled and built a log house. All these settlers come in before 1823 the year in which the gristmill was built. This gristmill stood nearly on the ground of the present Newgle Mill and part of the original wall stands. A dwelling house for the miller was built and stood between the spot on which the house of T. J. Strange now stands and the bridge, a few feet from the present causeway. It is not bare rock but then the soil was deep enough for a cellar without excavating the rock. When the floods threatened it in later years it was moved back and became part of the present house of Mr. Henry Benninger. This was the second house on the island. The first house and the sawmill stood near the north end of the long dam. It disappeared long ago, and the very ground on which it stood has been partly washed away by the cuttings of a now channel in high water. The Winegars lived for a short time in the first house and many years in the second. They then went to the farm now owned by John Brothers and lived there a long time. Mr. Winegar died in 1865. He was a soldier of the Patriot War, was captured at the Windmill and held for six months.

Copied from the material loaned by Mrs. M. H. Evans  
4/9/62

# Revolutionary War Bio

## Silvanus and Thomas Billings

### of Northborough, Massachusetts

Our thanks to JCNYS member Roberta Calhoun-Eagan for submitting this article!

Silvanus Billings was born on February 10, 1745 in Westborough (now Northborough) Massachusetts. According to the diaries of Reverend Ebenezer Parkman, when he was 6 months old Silvanus survived an epidemic that ended the lives of three older siblings. He was a son of Thomas and Sarah of Concord. Both Silvanus and his father are credited by the Daughters of the American Revolution as Patriots for "services done personally in the Army, and of cash advanced for...the war." Silvanus is also credited with his public service during the Revolutionary War.

However, these men were not among the first to support the Revolution. In fact, in 1776 the town of Northborough confined them to their farms, and in '77 imprisoned them for their Tory sympathies.

The younger Billings petitioned the town for reconciliation, and asked to be restored to favor and friendship. His petition was ultimately granted in 1781. The town's forgiveness was genuine, as within two years, Silvanus was elected surveyor of highways and collector of highway taxes.

In 1786 Silvanus became one of the more visible insurgents in Shays' Rebellion, also known as the Massachusetts Regulators movement. In the letter used as evidence against him, he urged the good people of Boylston to "fly to our assistance... in this just and righteous cause..." He was indicted for waging war against the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. During the time he was a wanted man, he delivered a communiqué to General Benjamin Lincoln under a flag of truce.

Shays' Rebellion, though seemingly a local affair involving four thousand rebels, has been described as a pivotal event that gave rise to modern American democracy and brought closure to the Revolution. The uprising so shocked the nation that ultimately, the Articles of Confederation were discarded in favor of a new constitution.

Like many veterans of Shays' Rebellion, Silvanus Billings relocated to Vermont, where he and his wife Keturah Fosgate died some time after 1810. Two of their grandsons, Nathaniel Billings and Silvanus Billings Pond, are remembered today as composers of religious music. Their daughter, Caty Billings Tucker (Mrs. Caleb Tucker), died in Lorraine, Jefferson County, NY in 1852.

### John Stratton

#### Revolutionary Soldier

#### Served on the Continental Line

John Stratton, b. May 12 1755 Middlesex CT and d. Oct 11 1829 in Lyme, Jefferson County NY enlisted in Capt. Chamber's Co, 6th Regt. MA commanded by Col. Smith in 1781 and served on the Continental Line. John was discharged in 1785. He filed for a pension July 4, 1820 in Watertown and stated he lived in the Town of Lyme and listed his occupation as a cooper.

He and his wife Hannah Chilson, were married Aug 18, 1777 in the Village of Florida, Town of Warwick, Orange County, NY by Rev M. Lewis, a Presbyterian Clergyman. When John filed for a pension July 4, 1820, he stated he was sixty five years old and Hannah was sixty four and she had been a cripple for nearly 30 years. Hannah applied for a widow's pension on Mar 4, 1831 and again (pension #16745) on Nov 3, 1836. The government denied her claim a number of times because she failed to provide acceptable proof of her marriage. Finally she produced a family bible record which had her marriage and the birth dates of her children in it. However the government agent did not believe it was legitimate and it wasn't until Sally Ann Blodget, a local teacher and boarder testified she had remembered seeing the family bible with the dates recorded several years before John Stratton died. John and Hannah's son Alfred and daughter in law Betsey also testified the family bible record was by all accounts accurate.

A signed affidavit within John's pension file indicated that John and Hannah had five children and four were living in 1820, one daughter had died prior to that date. Alfred was the only child named. John and Hannah are buried in an unknown location in Jefferson County.

"The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do." – Walter Bagehot

"Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open." – James Dewar

"An apology is a good way to have the last word." – Author Unknown

*From the Scrapbooks of the LeRay de Chaumont  
Chapter NSDAR  
no attempt made to correct spelling errors*

*Black River Herald, Boonville, NY, December 10, 1868*

## **A REMINISCENCE OF TRAVEL**

The Cleveland Herald furnishes the following reminiscence. "The railroad is to be extended to the lake, we do not doubt. Then the rest of the reminiscence may be given.

We notice the Black River railroad in Northern New York now connects Utica and Lowville, Lewis County. The 'stagers' over the old route from Utica to Sacket's Harbor, should take a trip on the cars of that road, to revive memories of the hardest work ever done by travelers.

We vividly recall the perils of Deerfield Dike in high water times, safely passing that only to encounter the terrors of Trenton Hill, the passage of which was enlivened by obedience to the driver, whose command, "right" and 'left' was the signal for the passengers to lend the weight of their influence to the corresponding sides of the long square box wagon to keep it right side up. We believe it was the trick of the common carrier trade of those days always to pass that hill by night, thus shut out the terrors of that ten miles.

A very good breakfast in the cheerful village of Trenton braced the passengers up for the tedium of Remsen mud, where came in practice the implied part of the stage transportation contract, to wit: footing it three miles out of four with a fence rail on the shoulder. Along towards evening, when Boonville speckled trout darted in imagination through an empty stomach, the wayfarer struck the sand, an hour's drag over a road which stage drivers had declared was 'up-hill both ways.'

A crack of the whip and the first trot struck since leaving 'Bagg's Tavern,' brought the famished nine, with two on the outside, up to the Boonville Hotel, and the realization of a speckled trout dinner or supper. There were compensations even on the stage route, you see. Such trout! And in such quantities as would make a guest at a modern hotel "on the European plan," who orders for "one," stare at the heaped up platters, so crisp, so golden, so hot, and the trout just the size for two mouthfuls each and nothing to leave but a head and perhaps a very minute tail.

But we pass on towards Lowville, which could only be reached through the Leyden and Houseville

bottomless clay. What dragging, what cramps in the legs, until Martinsburg, set upon a hill, welcomed the vision, and a short drive of three or four miles brought you into the beautiful village of Lowville, where now repose a score of real gentlemen of the old school, among whom boyish memory recall the gifted Stowe, the reverend, quaint, Parson Clinton, the hospitable Bostwick, the talented Collins.

As the railroad is only completed to Lowville we have not the courage to pursue the journey at this season of the year further towards Sacket's."

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*From the Scrapbooks of the LeRay De Chaumont  
Chapter NSDAR*

Boonville Herald, June 1, 1882  
Reprinted in the Watertown Daily Times, January 25,  
1895

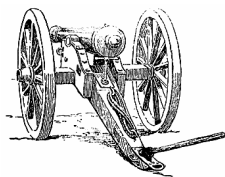
## **Ye Olden Time**

A recent ride from Boonville to Turin, through the town of Leyden, via Talcottville, Leyden Hill and Collinsville, brought up a world of memories regarding the pioneer settlers of that town, and awakening reminiscences of the men and events of fifty years ago of that locality. I remember the road as it was over thirty years ago, when General Merriam ran a line of stages on the route, and when passengers had to get out of the over-loaded coaches in the spring of the year, and foot it part of the way.

In some places pry, with rails, the vehicles out of the ruts, because of the depth of the mud; and then again pleasanter memories came, as I remember the plank road which came later, and how the four-horse stages rattled over the route, stopping at the "Hulbert House" in Boonville for the passengers to take their meals, and then push their way, at a spanking rate of speed, over the hills, and across the picturesque country; I and now and again, comes another change.

We are in the dirt and mud once more, but the old-fashioned and crowded stages are gone - the pioneer settlers are gone - those who were conspicuous and leading actors in Lewis county half a century ago, they too are gone. The thrift and busy times in the little hamlets above named, especially at the taverns when the stages arrived, are also gone. In fact not much remains to remind one what the town and men of Leyden once were, except as chronicled in the history of the past, or impressed upon the memories of those yet living, whose recollections go back for more than half a century.

# CIVIL WAR BIOGRAPHY



## HALLADAY, ROLAND PAINE and HALLADAY, CLAUDIUS VICTOR

This information on R. P. and C. V. Halladay, Company C, brothers, the sons of Lewis Halladay and Emeline Payne, has been sent to us by George Halladay. The grandparents of these soldiers are pioneers Josiah Halladay and Roxa Reed who came to Depauville, Jefferson Cty about 1820 with a large family in tow from Russia, Herkimer, N.Y.

### Civil War Service Record:

Name: HALADAY, Roland Paine  
Residence: Worth, NY  
Time and Place of Birth: 24 Sep 1836 Clayton, NY  
Enlisted - Nov. 1861  
Mustered - 9 dec. 1861  
Rank - Private  
94 Infantry Company C  
Enlisted for 3 years at Worth, NY  
Single  
Farmer  
Parents Lewis HALADAY, Emeline PAINE

### *Watertown Daily Times*, June 5, 1905

Letter to the Editor on Anniversary of Jefferson County Sanfords Corners N.Y., June 1, 1905

To the Times: My father, Rowland Payne Halladay, was born in the town of Lyme in old Jefferson County. He was one of the first boys to volunteer and enlist in the old 94th Regiment when it left Sackets to fight for liberty. He held the rank of sergeant. He was in all the big battles and at last got wounded and got an honorable discharge and returned to the town of Worth, married my mother, Miss Sarah Marvin of the town of Worth. Her father, Horace Marvin, was one of the first settlers when it was a vast wilderness. I am his oldest child. He is a brother of C. V. Halladay of Watertown city. He now resides in Washington, D. C., where he runs the Hotel Patience, 910 E. Street, Northwest, Washington D. C.

Mrs. Thomas Charlton

Name: HALADAY, Claudius Victor  
Civil War Record of Claudius Victor Halladay  
Residence: Worth  
Time and Place of Birth: 10 Mar 1840 Clayton, NY  
Private 94 Infantry Company C  
E - 17 Dec 1861  
M - 17 Mar 1862  
3 years Worth, NY  
Single  
Farmer  
Parents HALADAY, Lewis PAINE, Emeline

North Watertown Cemetery, Watertown, New York:  
HALLADAY, CLAUDIUS V. 1840-1911 94TH NY CO.C  
C.W. N.W. SEC. HE  
Page Number 342D  
HALLADAY, NANCY M WF. CLAUDIUS V. 1847-  
25MAY1910 N.W. SEC. HE  
HALLADAY, Claudius V 1840 - 1911  
HALLADAY, Nancy M 1847 - 25 May 1910  
HALLADAY, Polly Ann 1854 - 18 Feb 1937  
HALLADAY, Shumway V 1871 - 29 Jun 1929

### *Watertown Daily Times*, January 16, 1911 (Obituary) Halladay, Claudius V.

The death of Claudius V. Halladay, aged 70 years, occurred at an early hour this morning at his home at 9 West street following a severe attack of pneumonia. Mr. Halladay was born in the town of Clayton, the son of Louis and Emeline Halladay. He has resided in this city for the past 18 years. He is a Civil war veteran having belonged to Co. C 94th regiment.

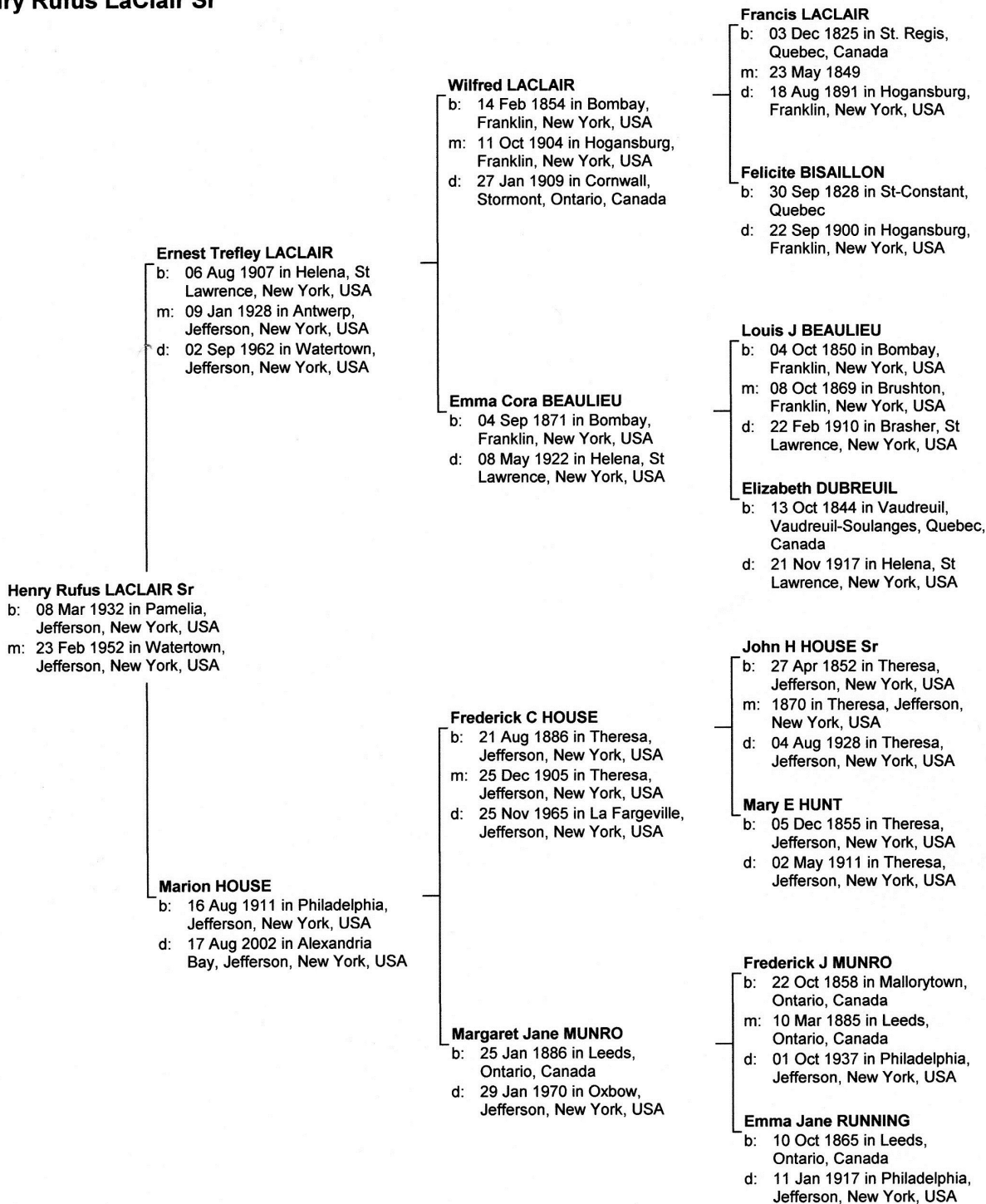
Mr. Halladay is survived by three sons, Louis, Shumway and Bernard of this city, and by one daughter, Mrs Charles Ritter of Pamela. There also survives a brother, Roland P. Halladay of Washington D.C.

The funeral will be held Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 from his late home on West street and interment will be made at North Watertown Cemetery.

**"There were many people talking about love, and what love meant. And this child says, 'Love is when my grandpa ties grandma's shoelaces, because she has arthritis ... although his arthritis is worse than hers.' To this day, I believe that's the most accurate definition of love."**



**Pedigree Chart for  
Henry Rufus LaClair Sr**



Prepared by: Thomas Frederick LaClair  
 Address: 17696 County Route 181, Clayton, New York, USA, 13624  
 Email: tomlaclair624@yahoo.com Telephone: 315-285-5032

Created with Family Tree Maker - Sunday, September 07, 2014

## IN WATERTOWN, THE NAME DELINE WAS ONCE SYNONYMOUS WITH MASONRY, PLASTERER AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

(By Thomas LaClair, JCNYS member)

Beginning in the mid to late 1880's, two energetic Deline brothers moved from Ontario, Canada to Watertown, New York, and began making a lasting impact on the local masonry, plastering and construction scene. Although primarily working separately, the two shared ideas and concepts and supported one another in their personal successes. The two brothers were George Nelson Deline, and his younger and better known brother, Charles Edward Deline.

George Nelson Deline and Charles Edward Deline were both born the sons of Delano (called Nelson) Deline and Alzina Clarke Deline, two of eleven children; eight boys and three girls. In 1871, when enumerated with the family, the Ontario, Canada, census taker noted the family was of German decent.

Research indicates the eleven children of Delano Nelson and Alzina Deline in age order were: John Henry Deline (1854 – 1935), George Nelson Deline (1858 – 1928), William John Deline (1859 – 1942), Hugh Donald Deline (1862 - unknown), Charles Edward Deline (1863 – 1950), Ezra Fletcher Deline (1864 - 1944), Phoebe Jane Deline (1866 – 1934), Mary Deline (1872 - unknown), Margaret Edna Deline (1876 - unknown), James Deline (1878 – 1960) and Herbert Deline. (1882 – 1950)

Little is generally known on nine of the Deline siblings; however George and Charles are well known based on family lore, Watertown newspaper articles, land sales, and other city of Watertown documents. Newspaper articles are the primary support for this article.

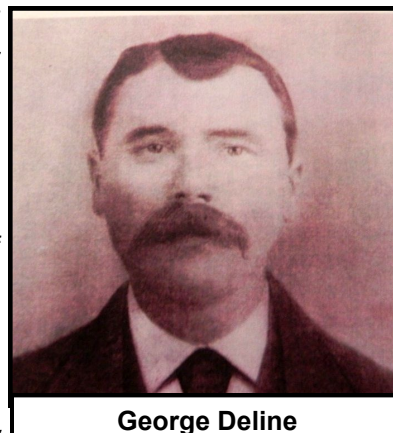
In his 1928 city of Watertown obituary, the following was said of the older brother: "George Nelson Deline, 69, of 803 Cooper Street, was born in the Mohawk Valley, near Utica (New York), 16 March 1858. When about three years old, his family moved to Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, where he resided until he was about 25 years of age. In 1880, George married Eliza Jane Holdaway. About 44 years ago (1884), the two moved to this city; George was a plasterer and contractor." The second born child of the family, George most likely encouraged his younger brother Charles to relocate from Canada to New York as well.

In his 1950 city of Watertown obituary, the following was said of the younger brother: "Charles Edward Deline, 87, retired general contractor and founder of Deline Construction Company, died at his home, 729 Mill Street. He was born in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, 2 October 1863. He came to New York in 1886 (should read 1884) and settled in Watertown where he had since resided. One of the most widely known contractors in Northern New York, Charles E.

Deline had engaged in the construction of 21 schools and scores of other buildings including the Masonic Temple in this city. Mr. Deline, a plasterer by trade, remained active in the general contracting business for 60 years (started 1885) until the spring of 1945 when he sold his interests in the Deline Construction Company to his son, Roland John Deline. The two had been in partnership in the firm for 22 years."

George Nelson Deline and his wife Eliza Jane Holdaway Deline married in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada on 25 August 1880 and moved to Watertown sometime afterwards. No exact immigration or border crossing document was found to pinpoint the day, month, and year, however based on his obituary, the two moved to Watertown in 1884. To further confirm this, their first born son, Arthur George Nelson Deline, was born in Peterborough, Ontario, on 23 November 1884. In Arthur's 1956 obituary, it states "his parents

lived in Watertown at the time of his birth and that his mother was visiting in Peterborough." George and Eliza Deline had ten children and adopted an eleventh. William's place of birth is unknown; Arthur was born in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, and the remaining nine were all born in Watertown. They



**George Deline**

were William Franklin Deline (adopted) (1879 - unknown), Arthur George Nelson Deline (1884 – 1956), Thomas Deline (1887 – 1898), Florence May Deline (1889 – 1956), Blanch Jane Deline (1892 – 1964), Mary Elizabeth Deline (1893 – 1958), Bessie Agnes Deline (1895 – 1985), Harriet Dorothy Deline (1899 – 1985), James Edward Deline (1900 – 1935), Norman Merritt Deline (1902 – 1972) and William H. Deline (1904 – 1983).

Charles Edward Deline and Leonora Margaret Norfolk Deline married not far from Peterborough in the Town of Madoc, Hastings County, Ontario, Canada on 29 May 1884. Per their marriage certificate, two of Charles's siblings stood as witnesses; his brother Hugh Deline and his sister Phoebe Deline. The young family, then numbering three, moved to Watertown in April 1888. Charles and Leonora Deline had the following ten children; the first was born in Ontario, Canada, and the remaining nine were all born in

(Continued on Page 18)

(Continued From Page 17)

Watertown: Emily Alzina Deline (1886 – 1949), George Nelson Deline (1888 – 1950), Jesse Lee Deline (1889 – 1908), William Herbert Deline (1891 – 1989), Charles Archibald Deline (1893 – 1973) Roland John Deline (1896 – 1986), Samuel Clarke Deline (1897 – 1978), Christie Edna Deline (1898 – 1997), Agnes Elizabeth Deline (1899 – 1900) and Catherine Bonnylen Deline (1902 – 1999).

Once arriving in Watertown, the two brothers immediately engaged in masonry, plastering and in related construction work. It is worth noting that per the 1881 Canadian census, George was married, living with his wife, and listed trade was plasterer. His younger brother Charles was still living at home and his occupation was listed as farmer. So it is logical to conclude that George invited his brother Charles to become involved in plastering and also relocate to Watertown. However, through the ensuing years in Watertown, it was Charles that went on to make a much bigger name for himself. Whereas George did mostly house to house plastering and relatively minor construction work, buying and fixing up homes and reselling them, he never had a formal business nor did he incorporate. In researching deed transactions, it was easily noted that George and his wife Eliza, mainly Eliza, engaged in flipping homes; the two flipped 20 or more properties throughout Watertown (flipping is buying a house or property with the intent to sell it for a profit). Now Charles, just like his older brother, started out as a plasterer doing smaller jobs. However, in time he went on to establish himself as a leader and major player in the Watertown area construction industry. Whether bidding on projects under the name of “Charles E. Deline” or “Deline Construction Company” or “Charlebois and Deline” or even “Deline, Charlebois and Wager Brothers,” he was active in the growth of the North Country.

The remainder of this article is focused on Charles and his path to success toward incorporation of Deline Construction Company. The construction firm was well known throughout Jefferson, Franklin, Lewis, Oswego and St. Lawrence Counties. Below are several articles that shed light on his career and challenges and then a long list of his successful bids. Bear in mind that although many articles are provided, this is only a partial list as uncovered using on-line newspaper search websites. A microfilm search of local newspapers would undoubtedly reveal many more. Many articles talking about Deline’s unsuccessful bids (underbid by competitors) were not used here.

By 1893, now age 30, and a Watertown resident for five years, Charles Edward Deline joined a new organization in Watertown. Per the Watertown Reunion newspaper, dated 12 April 1893, “A new organization to be known as the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers’ Journeymen’s Union of Watertown was formed Monday night. The officers are as follows: President, Jas. H. Jackson; vice president, Thomas P. Lewis; secretary, W. H. Brown; treasurer, Charles E. Deline. Meetings will be held at Carpenter’s Hall on Arcade Street.” This shows that Charles was on the leading edge of masonry and plastering work in Watertown.

A year later, on 20 October 1894, Charles was naturalized a citizen of the United States at the Jefferson County Court House, Watertown, New York. This is documented in a United States Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service record. On 30 March 1898, now age 35, he purchased a lot and house on Mill Street with a frontage of 55 feet and a depth of 192 feet. The deed states the property was purchased from the Griffin Land Company. This is known through an 1898 Jefferson County clerk’s copy of a deed transaction. The house was listed as being built in 1890. Charles lived at this residence until his death in 1950—over 50 years.

Sometime in the year 1900, Charles filed for bankruptcy. The Watertown Herald newspaper dated 22 September 1900 reads: “Attorneys G. S. and H. L. Hooker have secured a final discharge in bankruptcy for Charles E. Deline, of this city.” In addition, the Watertown Daily Times newspaper dated 13 November 1901, reads: “Charles E. Deline, No. 5 Seneca Street, went into bankruptcy, and Mrs. Hardy paid the taxes.” The exact reason for bankruptcy is unknown however speculation would say he was taking significant risks in the masonry and plastering line of work. We know that he did not lose his home in the bankruptcy action.

In 1906, Charles jumped back on the construction scene and submitted a four page artificial building block patent under United States Patent Office, 1906, alphabetical list of patentees for September and October. The patent specifications are 1984, drawing 415, official patent gazette volume 124, and page 1730. The patent reads: “Howell Thomas and Charles E. Deline, of Watertown, New York. Apparatus for making artificial building blocks. Patent No. 833,010. Patent application submitted 22 March 1906. Apparatus patented 9 October 1906.” Whether the artificial building block device was routinely used in local construction is unknown however one must believe it was used to some extent.

Jumping ahead, two articles in the Watertown Herald newspaper prove Charles is a reputable local contractor and making bids on major construction work. The first dated 5 June 1915: “Charles E. Deline is the lowest bidder for general repairs and improvements to the Naval Military Station at Sackets Harbor. The bid was \$1,850.00.” The second shows us Charles is doing masonry work on the Watertown Masonic Temple. Per the Watertown Herald newspaper on 31 July 1915, “Working on Masonic Temple: Charlebois and Deline, of this city, who have contract for the mason and carpenter work that will complete the job underway already have men at work.” Working on the Masonic Temple is also mentioned in Charles 1950’s obituary.

Although few articles were found from 1915 to 1922, the firm undoubtedly grew in size and reputation because in 1922, at age 49, Charles formally goes into the construction business with his son Roland, age 26, and the two soon incorporate the Deline Construction

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Company. Over the next few decades, work projects come in at a rapid rate. The following are highlights from local newspaper articles and are listed in date sequence.

1924: From the Ogdensburg Advance newspaper, 24 July 1924. Charles E. Deline is low bidder to rebuild Gouverneur School for \$70,505.00. The school had suffered a serious fire just two months prior.

1925: From the Ogdensburg Republican Journal newspaper, 4 March 1925, it states: Over 30 bids were received for the building of a 10 room school house in Watertown's Fourth Ward. Charles E. Deline is low bidder at \$97,550.00.

1925: From the Ogdensburg Republican-Journal newspaper on 12 June 1925: "Deline Will Build Watertown Hospital. Charles E. Deline, of Watertown was awarded the contract for the general construction of the Mercy Hospital in Watertown. D. D. Kieff, architect, furnished the plans for the building. Mr. Deline submitted a bid amounting to \$154,462.00. There were about nine other contractors bidding on the contract but the one submitted by Mr. Deline was the most favorable to the committee." Also, per the Cape Vincent Eagle newspaper, 28 May 1925, it reads: L.W. Charlebois, John P. Charlebois, Charles Deline and Thomas Breslin (combined) bid on the construction of Mercy Hospital."

1928: From the City of Watertown phone directory lists: "Deline, Charles E. Construction Company, Charles E. Deline, Thomas F. Breslin, Roland J. Deline, General Contractors, 306 Jefferson County National Bank Building, Phone 3345." Today the Key Bank of Northern New York sits on the location of the old bank building.

1929: From the Lowville Journal and Republican newspaper, 23 May 1929. The Deline Construction Company is low bidder for the general construction of Lowville's St. Peter's Romanesque Roman Catholic Church with a seating capacity of 700 members. The building is 17 foot and the square tower rises 75 feet above street level. The low bid was \$150,000.00.

1929: From the Lowville Journal and Republican newspaper 17 October 1929. Charles E. Deline is low bidder for the West Carthage High School addition. The low bid was \$102,200.00.

1930: From the Lowville Journal and Republican newspaper 5 June 1930. Deline Construction Company awarded bid for Lewis County General Hospital. The low bid was \$123,546.00. Construction was started at once.

1931: From the Lowville Journal and Republican newspaper 6 August 1931. Deline Construction Company posts a congratulations flyer in the newspaper. It's the grand opening of the Lewis County Hospital and St Peter's Church—"the two largest buildings in Lowville were both built by Deline Construction Company."

1931: From the Potsdam Courier and Freeman newspaper 25 November 1931. Aided by favorable weather work on the Potsdam Hospital is moving along smoothly. Deline Construction Company is the general contractor.

1933: From the Ogdensburg Journal newspaper 17 October 1933. Roland Deline visits Julius Frank, President of the Board, Pythian House. Deline Construction Company built the addition on the Pythian House.

1934: From the Ogdensburg Journal newspaper, 14 July 1934: Deline Construction awarded the contract to build the new High School at Parishville.

1934: From the Potsdam Courier and Freeman newspaper 12 December 1934. Deline Construction Company awarded a contract on the addition to the Potsdam High School for \$27,594.00.

1935: From the Potsdam Courier and Freeman newspaper 13 February 1935. Deline Construction Company is making extensive repairs to the Potsdam General Hospital. The interior is being repainted and the cracks in the wall, due to the buildings settling, are being repaired.

1936: From the Lowville Journal and Republican newspaper 20 August 1936. Deline Construction Company is the low bidder for Copenhagen's new school building. The bid is \$189,500.00.

1936: From the Black River Democrat newspaper 26 November 1936. Deline and Company of Watertown have a contract to erect a brick building for the Northern New York Telephone Company on Maple Avenue.

1938: From the Ogdensburg Advance newspaper 25 March 1938. Under Canton news: Deline Construction awarded contract for reconstruction of the second floor of the old county clerk's office. This is the surrogate's court building on the corner of Court and Judson. The bid was \$10,659.00. Also, per the Ogdensburg Journal newspaper 24 March 1938, this includes raising the roof over the surrogate's court.

1938: From the Plattsburg Daily Press newspaper 21 January 1938. The Peru School, Franklin County, is to begin soon. Low bidder was awarded to Deline Construction Company.

1938: From the Plattsburg Daily Press newspaper 25 August 1938. The Deline Construction Company is the low bidder on Ellenburg's new central high school in Franklin County. This is a Public Works Administration (PWA) contract for \$218,110.00.

1939: From the Cape Vincent Eagle newspaper 16 February 1939. Deline Construction Company, Watertown, awarded general contract for Clayton building with bid of \$327,500.00. The new school, a two-story building, will house 750 students. The same year Deline Construction Company is awarded construction of the Alexandria Bay School as well.

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1941: From the Cape Vincent Eagle newspaper 24 April 1941. Deline Construction awarded contract to build 250 housing units for \$1M dollars (other articles say 150 units). The homes are for enlisted members of the 4th Armored Division of Pine Camp and will be built on a 54 acre lot of land on Eastern Boulevard. Another article states they have just 120 days to complete the job.

1941: From the Cape Vincent Eagle newspaper 24 July 1941. The Deline Construction Company successfully bids for the general construction of the new 400 student school in Cape Vincent for \$155,321.00.

1944: From the Potsdam Courier and Freeman newspaper 9 August 1944. The Potsdam Bank and Trust Company awarded the contract for remodeling the interior of the former People's Bank building to Deline Construction Company. When completed it will be one of the finest banks in the region.

1945: Charles Edward Deline, age 82, sells his interest in the Deline Construction Company to his son Roland John Deline.

1949: From the Ogdensburg Advance newspaper, 10 April 1949. "Deline, Charlebois and Wager Brothers of Watertown submit a low bid of \$393,762.00 for the building of Edward John Noble Hospital in Alexandria Bay. The low bid is \$78,762.00 over what the board anticipated." Roland J. Deline sits with the board to find innovative ways to redesign the hospital so as to maintain efficiency while reducing costs.

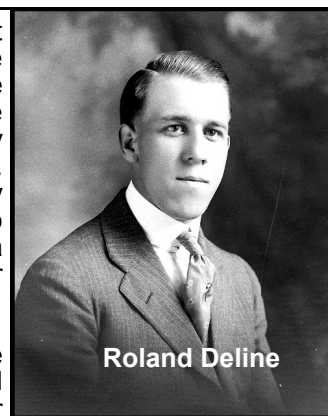
1950: Charles Edward Deline passes away at his home in Watertown. Charles Edward Deline, age 87, retired general contractor and founder of Deline Construction Company, died at 6:45 Thursday night (19 October) at his home, 729 Mill Street, following an illness of about six years. One of the most widely known contractors in Northern New York, Mr. Deline had engaged in the past 60 years in the construction of 21 schools and scores of other buildings including the Masonic Temple in this city. Mr. Deline, a plasterer by trade, remained active in the general contracting business until the spring of 1945 when he sold his interests in the Deline Construction Company to his son, Roland J. Deline.



Charles Edward Deline

1986: Roland John Deline passes away at The House of the Good Samaritan in Watertown. After Charles's death, his son Roland John Deline successfully continued, and even expanded, the Deline Construction firm until 1963.

Roland retired in 1964 at age 68 and spent the remainder of his life dedicated to serving in the community, most notably the YMCA of Watertown. Today the YMCA Family Center is dedicated to Roland J. and Marcella Colligan Deline, and their daughter Jane Deline.



Roland Deline

2014: The original Deline Construction Company still operates today, now under the name of Purcell Construction Company. Per Purcell Construction's website, the following highlights are written: This story of Purcell Construction Corporation began in 1922. Starting as a plastering contractor, Deline Construction grew steadily over the years and during the Second World War was instrumental in the construction of Pine Camp, now Fort Drum. The company was purchased by Robert Purcell and Edward Colligan in 1963 and had grown to be one of the leading general contractors in Northern New York. Many banks, churches, and other institutional structures constructed during this period, still dot the landscape of the community, in testimony to that part of our history. When the name was changed to Purcell Construction Corporation in 1973, the company had diversified. In addition to continuing its tradition as an institutional builder, it had become a leader in multi-family housing in Northern New York. Upon Robert Purcell's death in 1986, the leadership of the company passed to his son, Mark Purcell. Over the past twenty years, Purcell Construction has experienced significant growth and has evolved from a strong, local general contractor into one of the nation's leading design-build firms."

In conclusion, the legacy of George Nelson Deline and Charles Edward Deline lives on. The two came to Watertown in the mid 1880's, immediately got to work, and established industrial vision and fortitude and made a lasting impact on the local masonry, plastering and construction scene of today. Deline Construction was the first to use steel scaffolding in construction projects and the Deline Construction Company was widely known as the prime contractor during activation of Pine Camp during World War II. As one travels in and about Watertown, Jefferson County, or our neighboring counties, many of the buildings represent the vision of the Deline brothers who started out with nothing more than basic masonry tools and unbound energy. History has now proven they set about building something much larger than themselves.

Note: Article written by Thomas F. LaClair, Grandson of Arthur George Nelson Deline and Great-Grandson of George Nelson Deline, brother to Charles Edward Deline. If you are interested in further Deline family genealogy, please contact Tom at [tomclair624@yahoo.com](mailto:tomclair624@yahoo.com). Or if a member, you may access Ancestry.com where Tom has posted his Deline research for public viewing.

# First School In City Established in 1802

**Located in Arcade Street in a Barn - District  
Organized Two Years Later, Embracing the Whole  
Town of Watertown**

(Found in the *Watertown Daily Times*, August 3, 1921)

For the history of the public school system in Watertown, a considerable debt is owed to the late Fred Seymour, for many years superintendent of schools. Mr. Seymour compiled a history of the schools from 1802 to 1890. Three articles were published in *The Times* in that year and they were later included in the *Jefferson County Gazetteer*. The facts in the following articles of Mr. Seymour as they appeared in the columns of *The Times*.

In 1802, two years after Henry Coffeen built his hut upon or near the spot where the Watertown National Bank now stands, the first school was established in a barn on what is now Arcade Street. Henry Coffeen had been soon followed by Zacariah Butterfield, Hart Massey, Asaph Mather, Thomas Butterfield and others, and this pioneer school, attended by the few children of the settlement, had for its teacher Sally Coffeen, the daughter of the first settler.

She was succeeded by her sister, Heiress Coffeen, who obtained more comfortable quarters in a log house built near the corner of Washington and Sterling Streets. This school was maintained until 1804, when the first school district of Jefferson County was organized, embracing the whole town of Watertown.

Very soon thereafter there was erected a small frame building on the crest of what was then quite a steep hill, where later the Universalist church stood. It was this school to which Marcellus Massey made reference in his reminiscences, when he told of the fun the boys had sliding down the hill in the winter time, and of the dexterity with which they steered around the stumps. This school house was elevated about four feet from the ground on the west side, "underpinned" at each corner, and in the middle by three pieces of log set on end. The furniture of the school room was of the most primitive kind. Pine boards on three sides, running the whole length, were the best that could be done for the accommodation of the scholars, while the central and by far the most comfortable part of the room was reserved for the teacher.

The first supreme court of Jefferson County was held in the building in 1807 at which were present Smith

Thompson, as presiding justice, Augustus Sacket, Joshua Beals and Perley Keyes, judges, and Lyman Ellis, assistant justice. It is said that after the formal adjournment of the first court, a mock tribunal was organized and the scene of fun and frolic that ensued has seldom been equaled.

The first teacher employed in the new school house was a Mr. McGregor, a Scotchman, of whom little is remembered, as he remained but a short time. After him a missionary by the name of Leavenworth attended to both the spiritual and secular education of the community, but, after a couple of years, finding that his increasing clerical duties demanded the greater part of his time, he was obliged to resign the ferrule to Roswell Babbitt, an uncle of a former sheriff of the county. Mr. Babbitt was soon succeeded by a Mr. Laidlow, and he in turn by Jeremiah Bishop, who was commonly known as "long legged Bishop." The latter's expenses seem to have far exceeded his income, and he soon found himself plunged in hopeless debt. Although his creditors did not entirely distrust his honesty, it was thought advisable to place him upon the jail limits. His plan of ridding the common - what is now Public Square - of thistles by sprinkling them with salt, so as to make them more palatable to the cows and sheep, gives some idea of his eccentricity.

After Mr. Bishop resigned, a Mr. Cowan was employed for a short time, who was succeeded by Joe Everett, to whom tradition ascribes great efficiency and rigid discipline. Mr. Everett remained until 1816, when he left to take charge of a school at Sackets Harbor under the patronage of the army officers stationed at that post. Soon after this the old school house fell into disuse, and was removed to the corner of Arsenal and Arcade Streets, where it was burned in the fire of 1849.

The founding and the growth of the woolen and other industries had tended to increase the population to such an extent that at the time of the incorporation as a village in 1816, a division into two school districts, with Washington street for a dividing line, was found necessary. The following year the lots later occupied by the Arsenal Street school and the Methodist parsonage were bought of Hart Massey for \$215, and a plain one-story brick building was erected at a cost of \$696. This for a number of years was the only school in the western district of the village.

To get a better idea of what was done in the eastern district it will be necessary to go back to 1810. At this time the first effort was made to establish a public seminary in Jefferson County. A subscription paper was drawn up, \$2,500 subscribed, a lot bought of

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Judge Keyes for the site of an academy, and the following year a plain two story brick building about 32x40 was erected for academical purposes. This building did not stand, as some suppose, on the present site of the First Presbyterian Church, but rather directly in the rear, of the present residence of B. B. Taggart, on the corner of Washington Street and Academy Street.

Soon after the completion of this building came the war with Great Britain, and it was turned over to the United States forces and occupied by them as a hospital until 1814, the sum of \$400 being allowed Mr. Keyes for its use.

Soon after the close of the war Rev. Mr. Banks opened a select school in the lower story, which was maintained for several years, while a little later an effort was made to establish a "Lancastrian" school, something on the plan of the present kindergarten system in a portion of the building, but it was soon abandoned.

In 1817, when the new building heretofore mentioned had been erected in the western district, the building on Academy Street was taken by the eastern district for its school, and Avery Skinner, then but a youth of 20 years, was employed as a teacher. He taught from 1817 to 1823, and was no less distinguished as an efficient teacher than he was in later years as an upright and worthy legislator.

A large debt having accrued on this school property it was appraised at \$1,000 and sold on foreclosure of mortgage to the trustees of the First Presbyterian church in 1820, although the building was used for school purposes until 1823. Soon afterward it was taken down and the material used in building what was then known as the Watertown Female Academy on Clinton Street. This academy was maintained until 1837, it had a high reputation and did much toward encouraging similar enterprises throughout the country.

"Life is never fair, and perhaps it is a good thing for most of us that it is not." – Oscar Wilde

"You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it." – Margaret Thatcher

## Jefferson County Queries

Use the "ONLINE QUERY" on [jncygs.com](http://jncygs.com) or mail queries to:

Jerry Davis, P. O. Box 275, Clayton, NY 13624;  
maridavis@aol.com

**Subject: Jefferson County Informer Query**

(Some readers don't have internet access. Please include mailing address &/or phone numbers as well as email.)

### CARLYLE, NEWTON

Chloe **CARLYLE** was born in 1828. She married Orvill **NEWTON** who lived in Champion and enlisted in the Civil War there. I believe Orvill to be the son of Henry. I can only find Chloe in the 1850 census living with a family as a border. She married Orvill in the 1850s. The family lived in Lyme after Orvill died in the war. There were 5 children (George, Charles, Jane, ?, Warren. A girl Flora two years after Orvill's death?). Warren was my 2nd great grandfather. Minerva and Lydia are family names. I need the parents of Chloe.

*Vickie Fisher*  
[vfisher520@gmail.com](mailto:vfisher520@gmail.com)

### CRONKHITE, HUTCHINSON

I am looking for information about Pamela/Four Corners history. Henry C. **CRONKHITE** family, as well as Samuel and James **HUTCHINSON**, in the 1760-1800 era. Is there a cemetery transcription available, or a church roster that covers the Pamela area?

*Dianne Newman*  
POB 262  
Waters, Mich. 49797  
[kdnewman@voyager.net](mailto:kdnewman@voyager.net)

### WEISS, WISE

I am looking for the parents of Benjamin **WEISS** or **WISE**. I believe his dad is Johannes **WEISS** or John **WISE**. Ben was born in NY in 1820 and moved to Ont. Canada in 1827. I think family arrived in NY from Germany via England abt. 1818-19. I believe baptism records is what I need that would have the names of Ben's parents.

*Diane Rose*  
[drose21@cogenco.ca](mailto:drose21@cogenco.ca)

### LAMORA

Looking for information for Samuel **LAMORA** born 1918 the son of William and Christy **LAMORA**. He has Jefferson County connections and was in the U. S. Army. He also had seven children.

*Yvonne C. Angus*  
[ycangus@aol.com](mailto:ycangus@aol.com)

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## JCNYGS MATERIALS FOR PURCHASE

Contact: Greg or Tammy Plantz, 21787 Reed Road, Watertown, NY 13601  
Or email [tplantz1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:tplantz1@twcny.rr.com)

### PEDIGREE BOOK I & PEDIGREE BOOK II Each Book \$20.00 plus

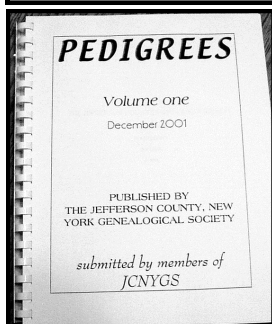
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### JEFFERSON COUNTY NEW YORK WILL ABSTRACTS 1830 – 1850

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### A DVD of the Births- Marriages-Deaths from *The Watertown Herald* 1886-1915

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postage**  
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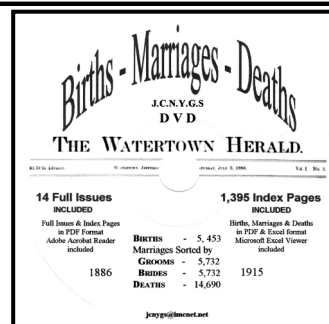


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Jerry Davis, P. O. Box 275, Clayton, NY 13624; [maridavis@aol.com](mailto:maridavis@aol.com)  
Subject: Jefferson County Informer Query

(Some readers don't have internet access. Please include mailing address &/or phone numbers as well as email.)

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### GOUDIERE, GOODAR, DUBOIS, LOWE

I am researching Polly **GOUDIERE/GOODAR/DUBOIS** born in 1782 in New Jersey. She married Gideon **LOWE** in Lewis County, New York in 1801/2 and died in 1867 in Depauville, New York. Her father was Francois Augustin Martin **DUBOIS (DUBOIS** Martin, **DUBOIS** Martin de Murville) born 1742 in France. He died 1833 in Baltimore, Maryland. Her mother was Anna de **TRIEUX** born in 1758 in France and died in 1794 in New York and married in 1781/2 in New Jersey. She had sisters named Betsey, Elsa and Nancy.

Frank D. **LOWE** SAR for Francois Augustin Martin **DUBOIS** "Dubois & LaFayette came to America 1776 same ship. Marriage New Jersey to Anna (Trieux or Truax) 1781/2. Issue: Polly, Betsey, Elsa b. Middletown, NY; 1790 moved NJ to Mohawk Valley; Nancy born. In Northern New York was called Major Francis Goodar. Anna died 1794 - daughter placed with families. Polly placed with Vrooman family. In 1794/5 gave them the name Goodar. Polly married

Gideon Lowe 1801/2." Have more info. Anyone else seen this?

*Shelley Morrison*  
[sam2813@aol.com](mailto:sam2813@aol.com)

### WILBER, HART

I am looking for information related to a Freeman **WILBER** who resided in Clayton and Adams for a time. Family history says he left his wife and children and went to Canada with another woman and was never seen from again. I also have notes that he was in the boat building industry. His wife, Catherine **HART** is in the Clayton Cemetery. Children's names are Freeman and Hiram.

*Jonathan Wilber*  
[jtWilber@yahoo.com](mailto:jtWilber@yahoo.com)

### WARNER

If you are researching **WARNER**, maybe you can help me. I am still trying to locate the parents of my illusive Erastus **WARNER**. With a name like that, how could he not be found?

*Madge Warner*  
12 Harbor Creek Parkway  
Canton, GA 30115



## INFORMER

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(JCNYGS)  
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## JCNYGS PROGRAMS FOR 2014

**Saturday, 11 October at 1 PM at the LDS Church:** Dave Kendall, JCNYGS member, will present a program on his Great Grandfather's life as a 1850's cargo ship horse boy who moved up the ranks to Captain of a cargo ship that sailed the Great Lakes and Canals.

**Saturday, 8 November at 1 PM at the LDS Church:** Several school students will be invited to give short presentations of their grandparents or other ancestors. This will be the culmination of sharing our interest of genealogy with several schools and scout organizations over the summer months.

Note: Come 30 minutes early to get to know other members and share new finds and experiences.

Directions to LDS Church where we are presently holding our meetings:

From Rt. 81, take exit 44 to Rt. 232 towards Watertown. Drive 1.1 miles and take the second left hand turn on to Ives Street Road. Continue straight into the city. The LDS temple is the second building on the right, across from IHC, as you enter the city limits.

From Watertown, it is on Ives Street, across from IHC. Take Washington Street to Barben Avenue. Turn on to Barben and take it until it ends at a T. Turn left and the LDS will be 300 yards on the left.

Or, from Watertown take Massey street south, veer right onto South Massey, left on to Ives.

## JCNYGS at the 2014 Jefferson County Fair

We were located in the center of the Arena, a 10' by 10' concrete square with red, white and blue curtains separating us from the booths around us. Members brought 3 tables, 5 chairs, a makeshift sign, table cloth, TV monitor and maple popcorn from a couple booths down the aisle. Larry had his laptop, Tammy left DAR information, Nan brought display boards with Photos, various Family History handouts, a large fan chart and some "For Free" genealogy magazines. Tom brought JCNYGS items for display and sale including *INFORMERS*, Pedigree Books, Wills books, CDs, membership brochures and fillable family history charts from the LDS center. Fourteen members participated: "all-day-floater" Larry Corbett, "all-day-floater" Nan Dixon, Yvonne Reff, Anne Davis, Phyllis Putnam, Marilyn Davis, Dave and Cynie Kendall, Bonnie Borrello, Tom LaClair, Kevin Leeson, Greg and Tammy Plantz, and Jerry Davis. Pictured is Larry Corbett, JCNYGS Treasurer with "Chee Chee."

