

INFORMER

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January 2015



"Delving into the Past" - The Webelos of Cub Scout Pack 74 in LaFargeville spent a recent meeting learning basics about genealogy and family history. From left to right: Colton Jones, Jaxon Natali, Dennis Tousley, Audie Seamans, Bowen Schermerhorn, Aiden Lamore, Addison Waterman. In the second row is scout leader Mary Ford Waterman and Jefferson County Genealogy Society President Tom LaClair.

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INFORMER JANUARY 2015

Correspondence about dues, memberships, and lost *Informers* should be directed to:
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Jefferson County
NY Genealogical Society

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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
jcnys.com or: Editor, JCNYS
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A Message

from your JCNYS President, Thomas LaClair

It's 2015 and here is hoping your holidays were full of happiness and joy. In looking back at 2014, we surpassed a milestone by going live with the Society's internet page in July. The site holds many research tools and it also provides an immediate contact page, as a way for you, our members, all across the United States and Canada to contact the society—this alone has proven an overwhelming success.

Last year we enjoyed programs from a full array of lecturers from Jefferson and Lewis Counties. They included a city historian, a county clerk, a genealogy book author, a librarian, a genealogy specialist, a Northern New York archeologist and a War of 1812 hobbyist. It was a genealogical fruitful year for sure.

Then, in the last quarter of 2014, some 60 of you answered the mailed questionnaire. Contained in the responses were volunteers to write articles, submit pedigree charts, notable suggestions for speakers, new member recommendations, and so much more. In January, after all surveys are received, the results will be closely evaluated and acted upon—thank you

for your responses! 2015 promises to be even more exciting as we continue to delve into the exciting and sometimes challenging lives of our Jefferson County New York ancestors. If you are in the area, please attend one of our meetings, as advertised in the *Informer* and on our internet page.

In closing, let me give a special thank you to all members, local and far away, who contribute personal time, resources, and volunteer research hours toward our success. Our success is 100 percent based on volunteers like you.

Happy New Year
Tom LaClair, President.

New Members Invited!

If you subscribe to the Internet only version of the *Informer* and received a printed copy in the mail, take note that it was \$175.00 cheaper to mail copies to all members, including Internet only subscribers. Had we not mailed to internet subscribers, the total *Informers* mailed went below 200 addresses. When under 200 addresses the post office charges first class versus bulk rate. Therefore our immediate goal is increase membership and have the required 200 mailings, not including Internet only subscribers. Please help recruit new membership by inviting your friends and relatives to join! Applications are on the webpage.

Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, October 11, 2014

Tammy Plantz, Secretary

The October meeting of JCNYS was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Watertown at one o'clock. Present at the meeting were Tom LaClair, Dave and Cynie Kendall, Greg and Tammy Plantz, Anne Davis, Larry Corbett, Wally Keeler, George Inglehart, Carolyn Bourgeois, Jerry and Marilyn Davis, Janine Briggs, Phyllis Putnam and Tracy Robertson. Before the business meeting began, President Tom LaClair asked each person present to introduce himself to the group and share some information about him and personal genealogy experiences.

Tom LaClair called on board members and conducted items of business. Larry Corbett, Treasurer, reported deposits to the checking account of \$87.00, bringing the current balance to \$2724.92. The savings account balance is \$400.96. Tom reported on the board meeting to discuss changes to the by-laws. Proposals to delete one committee and rename two others were made. A vote will be taken on these changes at the next meeting. Cynie and Dave Kendall and Tom LaClair will be attending the NYSCOGO Meeting at Fonda on October 18.

Tom congratulated the Sons of the American Revolution on the charter of their new Thousand Islands Chapter. He also mentioned that the Daughters of the American Revolution and The War of 1812 had marked the graves of five Revolutionary and War of 1812 Patriots in the towns of Theresa, Evans Mills and Carthage.

There will be a pot-luck Christmas party on Monday, December 8 at 6PM at the Mormon Church. Please bring a dish to pass and a toy to be donated to a local charity.

Jerry Davis said that all of his collected material for future *Informers* has been used in the current edition. Tom will be contacting current members to create articles that may be used in future *Informers*. Any contributions would be welcomed including family histories, tips on doing genealogy, articles on veterans, individual town histories and locations of genealogy resources both in physical repositories and online.

After the close of the business session, Tom introduced our speaker, David A. Kendall, PhD, one of our society's own members. Dave has recently published a book entitled "When Descendants Become Ancestors: The Flip Side of Genealogy." He suggests that we as genealogists spend our efforts looking back to find out about our ancestors, but we should also be looking forward, to provide information for our future generations. "Through transmission of our stories, each of us has the opportunity to be a teacher to future generations, including the yet-to-be-

born. Life stories, experiences, and conclusions are unique to each individual and we cannot know which ones might be helpful to a given descendent or to future generations. Our task is only to provide them." Dave has created this philosophy as a result of personal experience. He has been lucky to inherit two logs that his ancestor, Wilbur Vincent, kept, describing his adventures sailing on the Great Lakes. Wilbur's wife also kept a log of her daily life in Clayton, NY while her husband was away sailing. Many of us have only dates of our ancestors' birth and death, but Dave has great insight into his ancestors' characters and personalities as a result of these logs. He strongly believes that we should leave such a legacy for our descendants.

Wilbur Vincent's logs chronicle his life adventures from 1854 when at the age of 14 he is a horse boy on a ship on the Great Lakes. He became a second mate during the Civil War, eventually becoming a first mate. The measure of his success can be seen as he describes living in a small house 1859-69, and later moving into a large house on the waterfront. He was away from home April thru December every year and his wife turned their home into a tourist home. Her meetings with her husband in several different ports are documented in her log.

Wilbur's logs continue to document his adventures on the sea after the Civil War. He describes falling from the mast of a ship and breaking bones at the age of 17 and later being on a trip from Lake Erie to Lake Huron when a storm destroyed all his ship's sails, two men drowned and all belongings were lost and the ship destroyed. He later documents two children he lost in the 1860's and in 1883 and 1884, he lost two more children. He retired from the sea in 1896 and worked in Cape Vincent as a caretaker at the Pullman Estate. He built the 1st golf grounds in the T. I. area, what is now the T. I. Golf Club. At the time of his death, he and his wife had been married 64 years. As a result of the logs that were passed down to Dave, his ancestors have become more than just dates. He believes each of us should document our lives for future generations. Dave's book is available at Amazon and also at Barnes and Noble.



Dave Kendall presenting his program

Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, November 8, 2014
 Tammy Plantz, Secretary

The November meeting of the JCNYS was held at the Church of the Latter Day Saints in Watertown at 1:00 on November 8. The following members were present: George Inglehart, Tom LaClair, Paul Beers, Larry Corbett, Nancy Kaul, Dave and Cynie Kendall, Kathie Compeau, Jeannie Brennan, Bruce and Jean Coyne, Tammy Plantz, Nan Dixon and Phyllis Putnam.

Larry Corbett reported that our CD was at \$2,410.38, the checking account was \$2,341.22 and savings was \$400.96 for a total of \$5,152.56.

President Tom LaClair distributed a handout showing the constitution and by-law changes. He has sent out a survey to all members to determine members' interests and means to expand our members' involvement.

The Pot-Luck Christmas Party will be held Monday Dec. 8 at the church at 6:00.

Paul Beers was the guest speaker. The title of his Power Point presentation was "Welcome to the Pork Barrel Fort: A Documented Account of the Battle of Cranberry (Goose) Creek, War of 1812, July 21, 1813." This battle took place near Alexandria Bay, NY, just off present-day Route 12. The Pork Barrel Fort was a temporary fort set up at Cranberry Creek. It was so named as it was made up of pork barrels captured by the troops. At this time the area was a busy route for smugglers taking their potash to the river to Canada.

On July 4, 1813, two ships, the Neptune and the Fox, left Sackets Harbor to travel to Cape Vincent, then from French Creek to Goose Bay. On the 18th at 3 am, American troops led by Capt. John Hoover captured the British Spitfire along with its munitions and supplies. Sixty-nine prisoners were captured and sent to Sackets. Help was called in from Jacob Brown to protect the captured goods.

Paul has done extensive research on the battle by reading many firsthand and secondhand reports on the battle. Possibly more importantly, he has walked the battlefield area dozens of times with his metal detector and collected dozens of artifacts including many sizes of gunshot, metal parts of rifles used in the battle, parts of scabbards and other personal items belonging to the soldiers. By determining which gunshot was American and which was British, he has been able to reconstruct the positions of the ships during the battle. Paul had his large collection of artifacts on display at the meeting. He is currently writing a book on the battle.



Paul Beers presented "Welcome to the Pork Barrel Fort" for members at the November meeting of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society. He is shown with dozens of the artifacts he has collected with his extensive research.



JCNY DECEMBER POT-LUCK SOCIAL



Nan Dixon says 'Hello' to Barb Owens while Kathy Handschuh copies a recipe for one of the dishes the gang will soon delve into!

The presents on the table above have been brought in to donate to the "Toys for Tots" program.

Looking over some of the many dishes of food that were brought in for the Pot-Luck Social, we see some of the members and guests enjoying themselves with both food and company!



George Inglehart stepped behind the camera to take a group picture. In front from the left are Barb Owens, Kathy Handschuh, Janine Briggs, Nan Dixon, and Nancy Kaul.

In the back we find Secretary Tammy Plantz, Treasurer Larry Corbin, Vice President Anne Davis, Greg Plantz, President Tom LaClair, Jerry Davis, Jack Kaul, Dave Kendall and Cynie Kendall.

ASK AUNTY JEFF



Letters may be sent snail mail:
Aunty Jeff, c/o Dixon, 15407 Dixon Rd.,
Clayton NY 13624
or E-mail nandixon@Gisco.net

The old ditty bag!

The ditty bag...I cannot remember hearing the name for the first time, but the brown leather ditty bag was always in my mind's eye when I heard its name spoken. We were cleaning out a closet, sending unused clothing to charity and weeding out other artifacts that had hidden themselves in the back of high shelves.

"Look!" I exclaimed, glad to see an old friend. "I was wondering where it got to just the other day! The old ditty bag!"

"What's a ditty bag?" came the bored question.

"It's what sailors kept their little tools and what not in. You know, a palm, and thimble, and such things. It was my grandfather's, and he brought it home in the fall when the sailing season was over."

"Which grandfather? I thought they both were farmers..." patiently.

"My mother's father, and he was a sailor in the summer and a farmer in the winter. My grandmother kept the farm going when he was gone sailing on the lakes. He sailed in a schooner, belonging to his brother-in-law..."

"Wait! Wait! You're going too fast...you mean he got paid for it, or was it for pleasure?"

"It was a freighter, before they had steam boats. It was his job. He had to quit sailing in 1877...I have the letter when he was asking his uncle for a job on a sloop or a schooner or anything. Steam propellers... that's what they called steamboats...had made sailors unnecessary, and he had to quit sailing then and go to farming in earnest. He never found another sailing job. You must have seen the ditty bag..."

"Just another piece of junk. This house is full of it. But

now I can remember that your grandfather was a sailor. I can remember artifacts, but I don't get names and dates."

How many of you have youngsters who might be interested in some of the old junk in *your* house, junk which means memories to you but means nothing to anyone else? Aunt Kate's old doll, for instance, which she had to put in a dresser drawer at sundown on Saturday night, and leave there till sundown Sunday, because neither little girls or little boys could play with toys on the Sabbath. Granny had to put her sewing or knitting away for the same reason. Farmers had to watch the weather carefully, because they could not mow or rake or draw hay to the barn on the Sabbath, even if it meant losing a whole week of haying.

No, this is not genealogy, unless the idea of artifacts can spark interest in today's youngsters who can only enjoy a computer game if it splatters blood all over the monitor. But it is family history, and a toe in the door to youngsters who are not interested in grampa who was born in 1838, but who can relate to the fact that his brother was killed in Cleveland harbor. He was way up on a mast when his ship keeled over so far that he missed the deck, fell into the water and drowned. Another sailor? How many were there?

Well, there was Uncle David, who was drowned on Lake Superior in a storm like the one they sing about in "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald". His body was washed up on shore, and his brother, probably Curtis, went to wherever it was and brought it home to be buried in Clayton Cemetery.

And Curtis (Uncle Curt, to whom your Great Grampa wrote the letter asking for a job) had a shipping line in Detroit, which is close to Canada, if you will look at the map. Before the Civil War, it was rumored, Uncle Curt was part of the Underground Railroad that smuggled slaves to freedom in Canada.

And all that history came from the little old ditty bag, dusty and empty, but full of stories.

You have to catch them young, Grampa and Gramma, and Aunt and Uncle. Mom and Dad are in the midst of the busy part of their lives. A great-niece wrote to me last week asking about family history for a college course...and was amazed at what I told her, common knowledge to the family in Jefferson County but totally unknown to her family in California. "Doesn't your mother ever talk to you?" I asked her. "Well, we're interested in different stuff," she replied.

Evans Descendant Joins DAR, SAR to Honor Area Families

By Roberta D. Calhoun-Eagan (JCNYGS member)

Photo collage clockwise from top left: DAR marker for John-Rhoda Evans; Kelsey Bridge cemetery caretaker Richard Perrigo; Thousand Islands Chapter SAR members Jim Eagan, Joseph Fitzpatrick, Parks Honeywell & Peter Johnson; Betsey Evans marker at Kelsey Bridge; and LeRay de Chaumont DAR member Caroline Kelly Tait of Shreveport, LA.



When *Watertown Daily Times* writer Chris Brock profiled Richard Perrigo's efforts to restore Kelsey Bridge cemetery on May 26, 2013, he inspired a series of events that would take a year and a half to unfold.

By restoring the cemetery, Mr. Perrigo wished to honor the memory of his friend and employee Valerie Irvine. Shortly before her death, Ms. Irvine had discussed how badly the Theresa burial ground needed attention and care.

The Times rounded out the article by interviewing Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, a descendant of Uriel Evans, the first pioneer buried at Kelsey Bridge. After meeting Mr. Perrigo at the cemetery, she and her husband James Eagan prepared a series of before-and-after photos that came to the attention of the Rochester Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. Chapter members unanimously agreed to honor Mr. Perrigo's efforts with a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal awarded that October. They joined forces with the LeRay de Chaumont Chapter, NSDAR to make the event possible.

In preparation for the ceremony, Ms. Calhoun-Eagan invited Evans cousins across the country, including Caroline Kelly Tait of Shreveport, La. Not only did Ms.

Tait travel a great distance to attend the event, but she vowed on the spot that she would return to mark the graves of her Patriot ancestors from Evans Mills as well as those buried Kelsey Bridge.

And so on October 3, 2014, Ms. Tait returned to mark the graves of Uriel's brother John Evans and his wife Rhoda Gibbs Putnam at Evans Mills, as well as Edward and Mercy Washburn Morgan at Kelsey Bridge. For this ceremony the Shreveport, La. Chapter, NSDAR collaborated with the LeRay de Chaumont Chapter. The new Thousand Islands Chapter of the SAR attended this grave marking just one day following their inaugural meeting as a chapter. Ms. Tait was accompanied by Sharron McAvoy, Regent, and Barbara Matkins, past Regent, Shreveport Chapter DAR.

Mr. Perrigo's labor of love continues, as he faithfully serves as self-appointed caretaker for Kelsey Bridge cemetery. Shortly before the 2014 ceremony, Evans siblings Nelson and Roberta Evans disclosed their wish to find the burial place of Betsey Barrett Evans, sister-in-law of Uriel and John. Upon arrival at Kelsey Bridge they learned that Mr. Perrigo had recently uncovered her lost marker and reset it in its proper place next to her husband Eldad Evans.



(Interviewed by JCNYGS President Tom LaClair)

As I entered the Dixon home, the radiating heat and pleasant smell of the wood burning stove immediately soothed my senses. I was there to capture the “story” of one of our Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society founding members. The home, located down a quaint country road, is well-furnished with heirloom oak and walnut antiques where much loved pictures of ancestors adorn the walls. The pictures share a lasting story unto themselves.

Nancy “Nan” Elizabeth Wagoner was born October 14th, 1929, to Evard Wagoner and Florence Estelle Dixon. It was at the family home—8823 DeSoto Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

Nan’s parents originally hailed from Jefferson County, Evard from Town of Alexandria and Florence, the Town of Lyme. However, as Nan would say “They were in Michigan enroute back to New York.” After their marriage, Nan’s father first worked as a boatman for George Boldt’s daughter. On one particular occasion, Evard had a disagreement with one of the bosses that drove him to move a great distance away—to Saskatchewan, Canada. “When he had a place to live, it was Florence that packed up the household furniture and moved to Saskatchewan.”

Nan’s parents lived in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Canada, where Evard worked as a field engineer for the “Harvester People.” He taught farmers, familiar with steam power, how to run gas engines—he was an expert on Magnetos. On March 15th, 1917, their first born son Evard Dixon Wagoner arrived. On February 7th, 1922, the second came along—Robert Binns Wagoner.

In 1924, Evard purchased a Chevy dealership in Yorkton. Then in 1926 the decision was made to move to Detroit, Michigan, where he worked for the Cloverleaf Trucking Company. Once again, it was “Mother” that packed for the move. Not long after arriving in Detroit, Evard bought his own garage and the 8823 DeSoto Avenue home—where Nan was born.

In 1933, after several prosperous years, the family was thrown in turmoil—the Homeowners Loan Corporation folded and Evard lost everything, his garage, his home, his self-respect, his religion. All he wanted was to return home to the Wagoner farm in the Town of Alexandria. Florence wanted to stay in Detroit, but like many times before she packed up all

their worldly goods and traveled by car, with trailer in tow; saying she moved from the 20th century back into the 19th century. Nan was nearly five years old during the move. Evard and young Ev were ahead in the Model T truck, “Lulu Belle.”

In New York, Nan entered the 1st grade in the same school house that her dad Evard had attended years earlier. It was also the same school where her mother taught years before. Nan loved to read, play with dolls and listen to stories. As she grew toward young adulthood, she had a deep appreciation of the outdoors and country animals. In high school, she trapped muskrats and earned 35 cents per hide. Any muskrats caught were, however, skinned by her father. She preferred barn chores to household chores, and worked in the fields with her father. Nan’s family, like many other Jefferson County natives, knew their family history. Nan continued the tradition, but it was time to get an education.

In September 1947, Nan left for the State University of New York (SUNY) Albany’s New York State College for Teachers. She earned a Bachelor’s Degree in English (1951) and a Masters Degree in Library Science (1952).

In 1951, Nan met her future husband William Collins “Bill” Dixon III—she says the two met “over a tombstone.” Not literally, but coming from the genealogy minded families, there were often in-depth discussions over ancestors. Bill and Nan’s grandfathers were brothers—William Collins Dixon and John Augustus Dixon. During one of these heated ancestral discussions, Bill’s mother Thelma Dixon introduced the two and the courtship began.

On July 21st, 1953, with the Korean War on-going, Bill entered the US Army and served in the Corps of Engineers with a topographical company in Germany providing aerial survey maps of Europe. During this time Nan was employed as librarian at Bellville Central School in southern Jefferson County. She also taught 7th and 8th grade English, however she more enjoyed picking out books at the library and reading aloud. The two corresponded almost daily.

Bill was honorably discharged in June 1955 and the two continued their courtship in person. The Belleville teachers hosted a shower for Nan, and Bill was driving her there. On the drive there he “tossed” her a ring box hinting at a proposal. Nan stated “if you are doing what I think, then do it properly”, and he pulled over and put the ring on her finger. Seems Bill quietly planned and orchestrated a same day proposal and engagement party.

On September 10th, 1955 the two married at the Reformed Church of the Thousand Islands, Alexandria Bay, New York, by Rev. Henry O. Hospers. When Rev. Hospers asked how long they were engaged, they replied two months. Obviously displeased, he perked up when they explained they had dated for four years.

There was no honeymoon per se. The two married on a Saturday and drove north through the Adirondacks on late Saturday and Sunday. Monday morning Bill was at work in Plattsburg, Franklin County, where he was already working for the US Government at Strategic Air Command’s Plattsburg Air Force Base. Nan went to work at SUNY Plattsburg library.

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On October 7th, 1956, their first child, Felicitie Claire Dixon, was born at the Physician's Hospital in Plattsburg. At a time where bottle feeding was the norm, Nan strongly insisted on the breastfeeding. On March 4th, 1959, their second child William Collins Dixon IV was born. As the family grew, they built a home on Wallace Hill, North Plattsburg and lived there until 1961.

Nan says 1961 was "a horrible year" with several family deaths—most specifically her father and a brother. The same year Bill and Nan relocated to Arrow Street, Schenectady, New York, where Bill had a job with the New York State Civil Service. He wrote Civil Service test examination questions. Bill returned to college at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) working on his Masters Degree. From RPI, he finished his work at Union University in Schenectady.

In 1962, the family moved to the town of Malta, Saratoga County where Bill worked as a roadway design engineer with the New York State Department of Transportation. He would often tell the crews: "If I told it once, I've told it a hundred times, 'Don't put the road between the house and the barn.'"

The family accepted a lower standard of living and Nan remained home and raised her children. While at SLU, Bill played first flute with the orchestra—in time he was a founder of the Ballston Spa Community Orchestra.

On November 15th 1962, their third child Mary Star Dixon arrived. At this time Nan subsidized the family income with a large garden. She grew 300 foot long rows of green beans, tomatoes, strawberries, raspberries, and froze or canned much of it. On August 12th, 1967, their fourth and final child, Rachel Lark Dixon, was born at Schenectady Bellevue Maternity Hospital.

In 1966 a cousin asked for some family history. With that as an excuse, Nan started researching. When the time was right and over the next nearly two decades, Nan visited area libraries and research centers and exercised a passion in history research. Her Wagoner ancestors were of German decent and she delved in and learned all she could. Her training in Library Science proved helpful, for after 19 years of semi-interrupted research, Nan published *Palatine Roots*—"an unvarnished window into the first decades of the famous 1710 German immigration into New York State, coupled with a detailed look at the conditions in Germany in the

century leading up to the migration."

By 1993 Bill and Nan had lived in Ballston Spa for over 30 years and raised the four children who were now out on their own. Although Bill wanted to remain in Ballston Spa, it was Nan with an eagerness to move back to the country she cherished. So after 27 years with the DOT, Bill retired and the two of them moved to the Town of Clayton, more specifically to family owned "Linden Ledge." Linden comes from bass wood trees and Ledge comes from the many limestone rock ledges on the property. Bill's mom Thelma Claire Cupernall Dixon had died in 1984 and the Dixon home, outside of occasional visits, remained empty until their arrival.

In 1994, Evelyn Haas, a friend of Pat James, invited Bill and Nan to a genealogy related event in Watertown. The discussions were focused on creating a Jefferson County Genealogical Society—and that they did! Nan volunteered to be vice president, to get things moving, whereas presidential duties went to Gus Rogers. About this time the US GenWeb network was formed. Nan asked how it worked and was told she had just volunteered. Bill fresh from setting up a NYSDOT computer program, did the technical end, whereas Nan scoured Jefferson County records and information to put on the site.

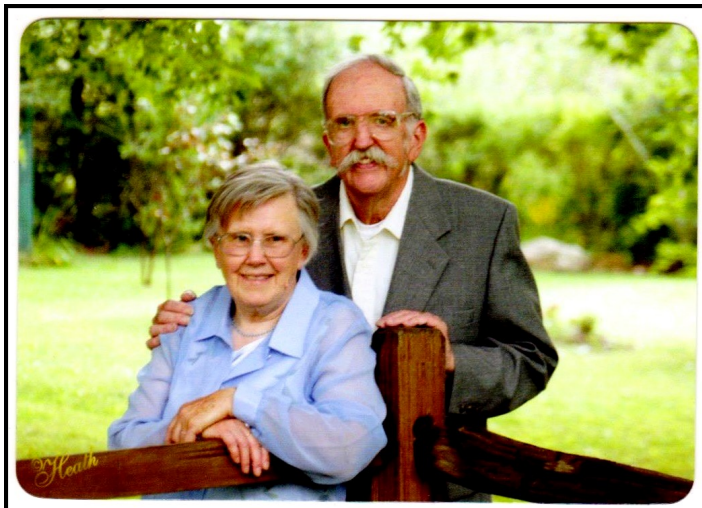
Through the years Bill served as the society's president and Nan served as the *Informer* newsletter grammar specialist. She wrote and continues to write the "Aunty Jeff," a popular column in the *Informer*. Not only were they founding members of the Jefferson County Genealogy Society, they were co-coordinators for the Jefferson County GenWeb site, a must stop for any Jefferson County genealogy researcher. With a half smile, Nan says she is still baffled by the Jefferson County "black hole" when it comes to finding vital documentation.

William Collins "Bill" Dixon III died on January 24, 2013 at age 82. In the words of his daughter Mary: "A great man, kind, generous, brilliant, curious, and above all, a family man, our Dad passed away, with his loving wife by his side."

Today Nan, more leisurely than years past, remains active at her Linden Ledge country home and continues to attend society meetings. She keeps the home and yard, organizes family histories, spends times with her children and grandchildren, consults the internet, enjoys quiet time with her cat "Lovey", and admires the many outdoor birds that come and feed in the numerous feeders. She is a pure joy to listen to with her seemingly endless experiences and stories. And just like me, she loves the radiating heat and pleasant smell of the wood burning stove. Ah, just like old times!



**1955
Wedding
Day**



**2005
50th
Anniversary**

Pedigree Chart from Nan Dixon

17 Oct 2001

EVARD WAGONER	De ELTON A. WAGONER	JACOB ABEEL WAGONER	JACOB PETER WAGONER
Born 15 Oct 1888 #2 Alexandria Bay NY Marr 22 Oct 1912 Watertown, Jefferson Co NY Died 13 Aug 1961 Wagoner Farm, Twn Alexandria, NY	Born 30 May 1863 #4 Town of Orleans, Jefferson Co., NY Marr 27 Jul 1887 Alexandria Bay, Jefferson Co., NY Died 3 May 1928 Town of Pamela, Jefferson Co., NY	Born 4 Dec 1827 #8 Ft. Plain, Montgomery Co., NY Died 30 Dec 1898 Wagoner Farm, Ding Pt, Twn Alex, Co	Born 11 Mar 1797 #16 Marr 3 May 1818 Died 26 Apr 1863
NANCY E. WAGONER	SARAH BINNS	THOMAS BINNS	CAROLINE ABEEL
Born 14 Oct 1929 #1 8823 DeSoto Ave., Detroit, Wayne MI Marr 10 Sep 1955 Alexandria Bay, Jeff Co NY Spouse: WILLIAM COLLINS DIXON III.	Born 17 Jul 1863 #5 Maitland, Ontario, Canada Died 13 Sep 1949 Alexandria Bay, Jefferson Co., NY	Born 23 May 1833 #10 Kildwick, YK Eng Marr 2 Feb 1864 ?Brockville, ON Can Died 5 Nov 1906 Twp Augusta, Grenville Co, Canada	Born 28 Feb 1798 #17 Died 6 Dec 1876
FLORENCE ESTELLE DIXON	JOHN AUGUSTUS DIXON	ALMIRA HALEY	HENRY D. VAN CAMP
Born 16 Aug 1885 #3 Twn of Lyme nr Chaumont NY Died 1 Jan 1970 Malta Ridge Ballston Spa NY	Born 29 Sep 1838 #6 Twp Orleans, Jefferson Co NY Marr 22 Feb 1861 LaFargeville, Twp Orleans, Jeff Co NY Died 1 Jan 1903 Twp Pamela, Jeff Co NY	Born 4 Feb 1837 #11 Haley's Cors, Augusta, Can Died 21 Nov 1909 Algonquin, ON Canada	Born 3 Oct 1794 #18 Marr 26 May 1816 Died 16 Feb 1865
NANCY ELIZABETH MYRES	NANCY SMITH	JOHN MYRES	CATHERINE E. ABEEL
Born 17 Sep 1842 #7 Lisbon, St Lawrence Co NY Died 14 Mar 1911 Watertown, Jefferson Co NY	Born 18 Dec 1815 #13 Twp Orleans, Jefferson Co NY Died 12 May 1905 Twp Clayton, Jeff Co NY	#14	Born 27 Mar 1795 #19 Died 30 Jan 1885
Nancy E. (Wagoner) Dixon tel: (315) 686-3463 15407 Dixon Road Clayton NY 13634-9774 email nandixon@gisco.net	SUSAN STAFFORD	GEORGE BINNS	ROBERT B. DIXON Sr.
	Born #15 Inch, Wigtown, Scotland Died 15 Jul 1864 Wolfe Island, Frontenac Co ON Canada	Marr 18 Apr 1833 #20 Died 4 Mar 1878	Marr c1804 #24 Died 18 Mar 1858
	WILLIAM F. HALEY	SARAH COWGILL	SALLY or SARAH HOOPER
	Born 6 Oct 1798 #22 Marr 14 Dec 1819 Died 14 May 1876	Born 20 May 1804 #21 Died 26 Jan 1881	SARAH EVARTS
	SARAH EVARTS	ROBERT SMITH	RACHEL COLLINS
	Born 14 Jul 1798 #23 Died 4 Aug 1841	Born 10 Sep 1784 #26 Died 23 Sep 1867	JAMES STAFFORD
	RACHEL COLLINS	JANE McMASTER	#30
	Born 21 Jul 1789 #27 Died 23 Jul 1876	Marr 20 Feb 1814	#31

A Short Life and History of the Revolutionary War Exploits of Johann Jost Foltz of Pamela Four Corners

By Stephan P. Clarke, NSSAR

Johann Jost Foltz, one of my Revolutionary War Patriot Ancestors, is a descendant of the Palatine Germans who came to the Colonies in 1710 and settled eventually along the Mohawk Valley in what is now the Rome-Herkimer area. Johann's grandfather, Melchert, was born in the area of Lambsheim, Germany, in about 1676 and died in the Colonies in 1759. Melchert is listed in Ulrich Simmendinger's *Register of Palatinates* arriving in North America in 1710, served in the French and Indian Wars in 1711 and held a commission in the British Army during the reign of Queen Anne. Melchert was one of the original Burnetsfield Patentees and on 30 April 1725 he took possession of Lot 3 of the Patent that is now part of the village of Herkimer. Johann's father was Johann Conrad, usually addressed by his middle name, who was a sergeant in Capt. Marcus Petry's Co. at Burnetsfield in 1767.

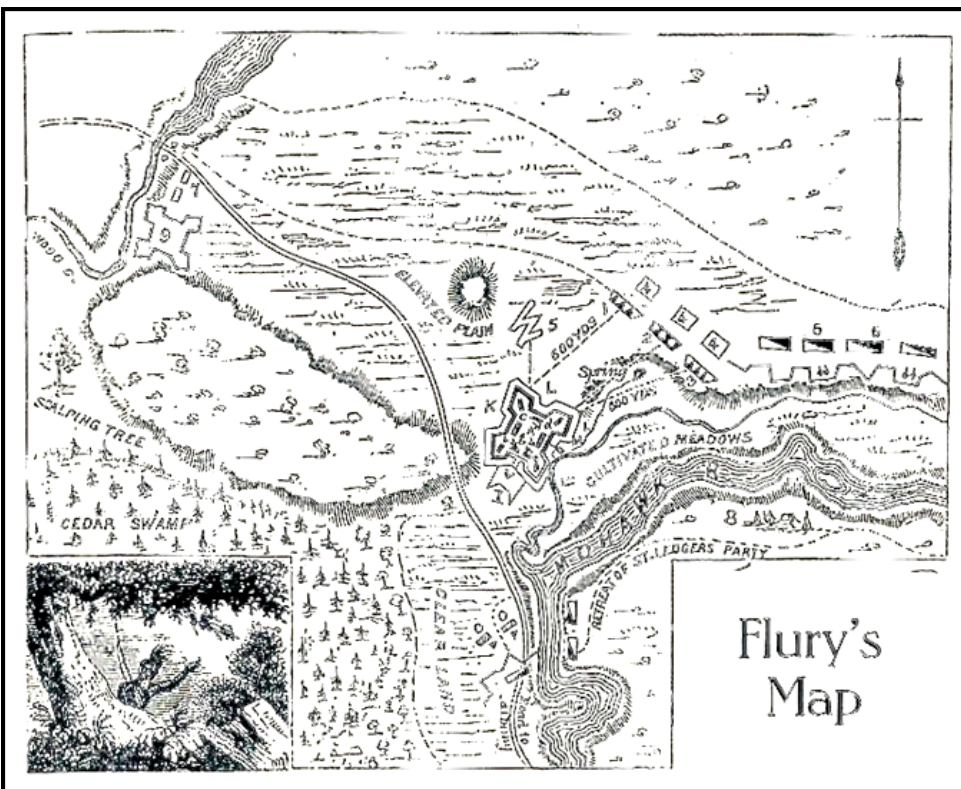
Johann Jost Foltz (b 13 Aug 1740, Herkimer, Herkimer Co.; d 15 Apr 1833, Pamela, Jefferson Co. at age 92) continued in his family's military tradition to become a hero in relief of Fort Stanwix in August 1777. He served General Nicholas Herkimer as one of three scouts [Lt. John DeMuth and Adam Helmer were the others] who took the news to Col. Peter Gansevoort in command of Fort Stanwix that Gen. Herkimer was

coming with relief troops. The three men were required to sneak through the British, Tory and Indian encampment surrounding the Fort, and run across the open ground surrounding it in order to gain access. Their news allowed the Fort to hold out against Lt. Col. (brevetted Brigadier-General) Barry St. Leger's regulars, Tories and Indians. Duped by misinformation, St. Leger and his supporters feared a much larger force than Herkimer really had and the attack was called off. St. Leger returned to Ft. Oswego, and the first of the three British assaults designed to split New York State and end the war was foiled. This allowed more American troops to fight at Saratoga and stop General Burgoyne's second assault moving south from Canada toward Albany. General Howe's third assault force never left New York City.

Foltz was a private [some records say sergeant but they are not in agreement with his muster papers at Fort Dayton] in Capt. Harter's Company, Lt. Col. Peter Bellinger's 4th Regiment, Tryon County Militia and Volunteers commanded by Brigadier-General Nicholas Herkimer [Nicholaus Hercheimer]. Other members of the Regiment were Foltz's uncle, Lt. Jacob Foltz, and his cousins Conrad and Peter Foltz. Johann's relatives all saw action at Oriskany where Conrad was wounded and Peter was killed.

Two years later, Foltz was wounded in a fight with Indians on 9 July 1779. His arm was badly cut and shattered by a tomahawk. Simms's *Frontiersmen of New York*, v. 2, p. 281, tells of the attack on Foltz and others picking berries near the West Canada Creek. Foltz felled three Indians with a single shotgun blast

(Continued on Page 12)



L. Flury's map for Col. Gansevoort showing Fort Stanwix in King's Royal Regiment August 1777 with the 600 yards of open territory between provincial of New York along troops, the British and the Fort clearly marked. (Scott, 237) with various British.

See Map Notes at end of article.

(Continued From Page 11)

and then helped fight off the others in hand-to-hand combat. The first two Indians Foltz shot were killed outright and the third died a short while later. That shotgun blast has been described as the best single shot of the Revolutionary War in New York State. Foltz's other wounds, according to his physicians, Drs. Petree and Vach, included ball and buckshot wounds to his thigh and arm. Dr. Petree charged £4 10s 0d. According to a bill sent to the State by Dr. John George Vach [see *The Clinton Papers*, V. 5, page 315], he was paid "To heeling Jost Fols's wounds his arm being badly shattered & having a cut with a Tomahawk which were dressed once a day from the 6th day of August to the 8th day of Oct. 1779 £100.0.0 N.B. I had 4 Miles to go every day to where the above mentions Folks [Foltz] was."

In the same expedition, Mrs. Catherine Hilts Durenburger was stabbed five times by a spear and scalped, all by her brother, a Tory. She survived this attack and Dr. Petree charged £16 to dress her wounds twice a day. In the fall of 1779, at Steele's Creek, near Ilion, one of the Foltz family other than Jost was captured and sent to Canada as a prisoner of war. He there met Mrs. Durenburger's brother who offered to shake Foltz's hand. Foltz confronted Hilts with his actions, refusing the offered hand. Hilts admitted the assault and, also, that he had sold his sister's scalp for the bounty money.

The *Geographical Gazetteer of Jefferson County, 1864-1890*, states that: "About 1812 John Folts settled in the southwestern part of the town." *The History of Jefferson County, New York* reports that Foltz "located in the southwest part of the town before 1812, and probably Simeon Woodruff, Peter Acker, and David and Balshazzar Tillipough." The town in the reference is the Town of Pamela, Jefferson County, NY. There was no grave marker for Foltz and no trace of the grave remains. The local historian's records of its position were lost in a house fire. However, it is known that he was buried in a field near a huge oak tree that was still well known in the Pamela Flour Corners area as late as 1930. However, that tree is now long gone as well.

An interesting sidelight is that the Palatine Germans were treated so poorly by the British government that they were more than happy to take arms against the Crown during the Revolution and became the primary defenders of the northern Colonial border along the Mohawk River from 1776-1779. Their staunch defense of the Hudson and Mohawk valleys in conjunction with the Dutch settlers there broke the British assault efforts in the north and forced the Revolution to move south where, with help from the French Navy, the British were trapped at Yorktown and forced to surrender, thus ending the war.

Foltz's NSSAR Patriot and Grave Record Index number is P-159970; there is no DAR Patriot Index listing for him (2014).

The Foltz-Clarke Descendancy:

Melchert Foltz (French and Indian War Veteran) m Anna Eva Unknown
 Johann Conrad Foltz (French and Indian War Veteran) m Anna DeMuth
Johann Jost Foltz (Revolutionary War Veteran) m Margaret(ha) Bellinger
 Margaret Foltz m James Streeter
 Lois Streeter m Joseph Denecia
 Alice Iantha Denesha m John Henry Siver (Civil War Veteran)
 Rev. Bertha Ann Siver m Myron Gleason North
 Florence Arabella North m Edwin Wilson Clarke
 Albert John Clarke m Marjory Ruth Grieb
 Stephan Paul Clarke (Vietnam Era Veteran) m Mary Elizabeth Hawley

MAP NOTES:

The map is numbered from 1 through 9 beginning at the northeast end of the British encampment. 1) A battery of three cannons, 2) one bomb and four mortar batteries, 3) one bomb battery and three cannons, 4) redoubts to cover the batteries, 5) line of approaches, 6) British encampment, 7) Loyalists (to the west by the ruins of Fort Newport), 8) Indians (south of the Mohawk River opposite the British encampment, 9) the ruins of Fort Newport. A reconstruction of Fort Stanwix is in downtown Rome, NY, and is a part of the National Park Service.

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History of Jefferson County, New York L. H. Everts & Co., 1878. The information about J. J. Foltz is on p 464 in the section for the Town of Pamela.
 Jones, Henry Z. *Palatine Families of New York, 1710, 2 v*. Universal City, CA: Privately printed, 1985.
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Felix Powell Revolutionary War Soldier Cape Vincent NY

Articles researched by Anne Davis - Regent
LeRay de Chaumont Chapter NSDAR
Watertown, NY and JCNYS member

Felix Powell or Powel enlisted September 17, 1777 in Vermont, served as a private in Captain Gideon Brownson's Company, Col. Seth Warner's Regiment. He was transferred to Captain Buell's Connecticut Company and finally to Captain Cliff's Company, Col. Butler's Connecticut Regiment. In his pension file he stated he was in 14 battles and skirmishes, although he listed only four: Battles of Bennington, Lake George, Valentine Hill and Horseneck. Felix was discharged at West Point NY on June 3, 1783. He filed for a pension application S-44260 executed May 11, 1819 at which time he lived in Jefferson County NY. At that time he gave his age as 58 years. In July 1820 he resided in Lyme, Jefferson County NY. In his pension record he referred to his wife age 50, however her name was not given, and only two daughters were listed, Mary aged ten and Minerva, seven years.

Felix Powell b. 1761 In England and died Feb 5, 1851, at the home of his daughter, Maria Brown, Cape Vincent, Jefferson County NY. Records show he married Lenora Hall in 1821. Other daughters not mentioned in Felix's pension, are believed to be Phyletta Olive Powell wife of Zimri Butterfield; Harriet Powell b. 1804 wife of Joseph Hyde; Maria Powell born 27 Apr 1802, wife of John Harvey Brown; Harriet Brown Hyde died on Wolf Island, December 1840. Several of these families moved west and settled in Port Huron Michigan.

Felix Powell Revolutionary War Soldier
1835 Pension Rolls living in Jefferson County – served as a Pvt. in the Connecticut Line.
1841 Pension Rolls for NY State living in Town of Lyme age 77y living with Olive Butterfield
1850 Census age 87y (blind) living in Cape Vincent with the Brown family

Revolutionary War Patriot Comfort Chapman Ellisburg

Comfort Chapman, Revolutionary War Patriot, born circa 1759, New London CT and died in Ellisburg 1821. Comfort enlisted in Benjamin Troop's Company,

Col. Webb and Col Burrell's CT Regts., Gen. Jedediah Huntington's Brigade of the Continental Line, in January 1781-discharged at West Point 1783. Comfort filed for a pension # 44377, Oct 3, 1820 at 61years of age in Jefferson County New York. He stated he was living in Ellisburg and he names his children; Sidney 18, Darius 16, John 9, Squire 11, and Elisha 3. He did not mention his 2nd wife Hannah Crouch Ellis, daughter of Caleb and Mary Crouch Ellis from Ellisburg, most likely Hannah died before him. A few months after he applied for a pension Comfort died in 1821. It does not appear that any Chapman family members filed for his pension on behalf of his under aged children. From other sources it was found that Comfort had two children by his first wife, Eunice Whipple and listed as Samuel and Betsey. Eunice died in Warren County New York. Comfort's father may have been William married to Anne Fisher in CT.

CALEB ELLIS FAMILY OF ELLISBURG

**Father of Daniel, John, Thomas, James and Robert
Ellis—All Served in the War of 1812.**

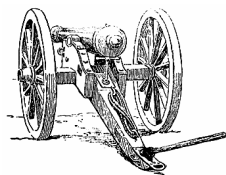
CALEB ELLIS (son of RICHARD & MARY (PHILLIPS) ELLIS) was born August 16, 1754 in Massachusetts. During the Revolutionary War, Caleb served as a private in Capt. Jeremiah Stile's company, Colonel Paul Dudley's Regiment. He served under General Gates and Ethan Allen at Lake Champlain, Ticonderoga, when Burgoyne surrendered.

In 1790 Caleb lived in Guilford Vermont, Caleb moved to Ellisburg, NY, in 1795 -1797, where he purchased 500 acres of land and built a grist mill. Mary and the family joined Caleb in Ellisburg in the spring of 1798. Caleb's daughter, Polly was the first person to die in Ellisburg in 1800. At the first town meeting at Lyman Ellis' house in 1800, Caleb was elected overseer of the poor and an overseer of highways. On February 16, 1813, he was elected a trustee of the newly formed Ellisburg Union Library.

Caleb died April 14, 1813 at age 58, and Mary died March 3, 1813 at age 55, possibly of the same illness. Both are buried in Ellisburg, NY. They left behind three minors, Robert 18, Sally 14, and Betsey 12.

The dates of birth of Caleb and his wife are taken from the Bible record sent to the Pension Department when his son Robert applied for a pension for service in the war of 1812. Caleb and Mary had the following children: Daniel, b. 8/23/1780; Hannah, b. 4/3/1782; John, b. 2/3/1784; Jane, b. 2/6/1786.

CIVIL WAR BIOGRAPHY



Albert H. Woolson

http://www.geocities.ws/civil_warcontinues/woolson.html

Albert H. Woolson was born in Antwerp, N. Y., February 11, 1847. His father, Willard Woolson, enlisted in the Union Army. His father was wounded at the Battle of Shiloh and transported to an Army hospital in Windom, Minn., where he eventually died of his wounds. At the age of 17, Albert enlisted as a drummer boy with Company C, 1st Minnesota Volunteer Heavy Artillery on October 10, 1864. The Company never saw action, and Albert H. Woolson was discharged September 7, 1865.

Woolson returned to Minnesota, where he lived the rest of his life. He was a carpenter, and later a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, a powerful political organization made up of Civil War veterans. In 1953, Woolson became the Senior Vice commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Woolson died at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth, Minn., on Aug. 2, 1956. He was 109 years old. Albert H. Woolson was buried with full military honors by the National Guard armory and is buried at Park Hill Cemetery.

After his death, then President Dwight E. Eisenhower said, "The American people have lost the last personal link with the Union Army. His passing brings sorrow to the hearts of all of us who cherished the memory of the brave men on both sides of the War Between the States."

On our web site (jcnys.com) you can click on the 'visit site' button for the Jefferson County GENWEB site and find 'Civil War Information' the Brief Biographies of Soldiers which includes a large collection of newspaper articles and references to the life of Albert Woolson. We include a few paragraphs here:

"Mr. Woolson was born in the New York farm hamlet



of Antwerp, twenty-two miles northeast of Watertown, on Feb. 11, 1847, the same day Thomas Alva Edison, the inventor, was born. James K. Polk, the dark horse Democrat, was in the White House and the issues that were to bring about the Civil War were being drawn into focus. Willard Woolson, his father, was a carpenter in Watertown and apprenticed his son to this trade. The senior Woolson had, however, a second vocation.

He was a musician in the band of a traveling circus. When President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers in 1861, the father and his fellow musicians enlisted as a body."

"Mr. Woolson married Sarah Jane Sloper in 1868. She died in 1901. Three years later he married Anna Haugen, who died in 1948. Survivors include six daughters, Mrs. John Kobus, Mrs. Arthur Johnson and Mrs. Robert Campbell, all of Duluth; Mrs. Adelaid Welcome, Mrs. F. W. Rye and Mrs. J.C. Barrett, all of Seattle, and two sons, Dr. A.H. Woolson of Spokane, Wash., and R.C. Woolson of Dayton, Wash. The Kobus family had lived with Mr. Woolson for several years. Mrs. Kobus said late today that instead of floral memorials the family preferred contributions to the Albert Woolson Scholarship Fund at the Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota."

The *Chicago Tribune*, March 14, 1953

"Only One Left of Civil War's Northern Army Albert Woolson, 106, to 'Carry On' Duluth, Minn, March 13 [1953] - Albert Woolson, last survivor of the 2,675,000 men who wore the Union blue in the Civil War, vowed today he would carry on "the highest traditions of Abe Lincoln's forces until the very end." Woolson became 106 on Feb. 11. Today he said he "feels like a million." The spry former drummer boy picked up a morning newspaper early today to learn that his only other Union army comrade, 111 year old James A. Hard - had died last night in Rochester, N.Y."

"Minnesota's ponderous cannon and their north-country cannoneers waited hopefully at Fort Oglethorpe to be called into action, but the call never came. Mr. Woolson got to fire a cannon, though. It was the outstanding recollection of his Civil War service. The bored gunners of the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery prepared to fire one of their pieces just to hear the noise. Mr. Woolson recalled it thus: "The colonel handed me the end of a rope and said: 'When I yell you stand on your toes, open your mouth wide, give a yell yourself and pull the rope.' I yanked the lanyard and the cannon went off and scared me half to death."

“FACES FAMILIAR TO MANY OF THE ELDER RESIDENTS OF WATERTOWN”



Anne Davis submitted this *Watertown Daily Times* “Old Watertown and Vicinity in Pictures - No. 21”

The article reads: “Faces familiar to many of the elder residents of Watertown and this part of northern New York are in the photograph of non-commissioned officers of the old 39th Separate Company of the New York State National Guard. The photograph was taken in July, 1886, at the state National Guard camp at Peekskill to which “the 39th” went for a couple of weeks every summer.

Front row, left to right: The late City Judge Joseph A. McConnell, late former City Chamberlain Charles R. Murray, father of Mrs. Bessie Cooper, Mrs. Edson E. Robinson and Civil Engineer Leonard C. Murray; late Capt. William R. Zimmerman, who suffered a broken back in an auto accident near Roberts Corners several years ago; Brigadier-General James S. B---- city and Sackets Harbor; the late Eugene C. Van Names, former prominent local druggist; Attorney Sam Child city.

Middle row, sitting, left to right: The late Attorney George H. Walker, formerly one of the principal counsels of the New York Central Railroad company; the late Major John N. Carlisle, former president of the Northern New York Utilities, Inc., brother of Floyd L. Carlisle and the late Lewis W. Carlisle; former District Attorney E. Robert Wilcox, now seriously ill in an Ogdensburg hospital, and former Mayor Daniel W. Cahill.

Rear row, standing, left to right: George Haskins, then connected with the Hitchcock Lamp company; Dr. Wallace N. Brown, well known physician; Elmer E. Sanfee, partner in the old Roth & Santee firm, department store proprietors, predecessors of the F. A. Empsall & Company, Inc.

“Gen. Grant habitually wears an expression as if he had determined to drive his head through a brick wall and was about to do it.” - A Union soldier

“I think I understand what military fame is; to be killed on the field of battle and have your name misspelled in the newspapers.” - William Tecumseh Sherman

WHY PROGRAMMERS WORK AT NIGHT

<http://rzamor1.blogspot.com/2013/01/why-genealogist-work-at-night.html>

By Renee Zamora in January 2013

I read a very interesting article today "[Why Programmers Work at Night](#)" by Swizec Teller on Business Insider. Even though I'm not a computer programmer I could relate to the article. I think there are several similarities on why genealogists have their best moments while working in the middle of the night. Teller says: "At the gist of all this is avoiding distractions. But you could just lock the door, what's so special about the night? I think it boils down to three things: the maker's schedule, the sleepy brain and bright computer screens."

Maker's Schedule:

"Working on large abstract systems involves fitting the whole thing into your mind - somebody once likened this to constructing a house out of expensive crystal glass and as soon as someone distracts you, it all comes barreling down and shatters into a thousand pieces."

"This is why programmers are so annoyed when you distract them." Totally agree with this logic. I hate to be interrupted when I am delving into my latest genealogical puzzle. In fact I can't work on my family history while I am working my shift at the Family History Center. I would be totally annoyed if someone interrupted me during my path of discovery. That doesn't make for a good Family History Consultant if you are annoyed with the patrons. Working in the middle of night has the great benefit of no interruptions, since the rest of the world and its demands are fast asleep. We genealogists have complex things to figure out as we delicately weave our assumptions and hunches together to unlock the truth.

The Sleepy Brain:

"Why then do we perform our most mentally complex work when the brain wants to sleep and we do simpler tasks when our brain is at its sharpest and brightest? "Because being tired makes us better coders" - In our case that's better genealogist! "Being tired can make us focus better simply because when your brain is tired it has to focus! There isn't enough left-over brainpower to afford losing concentration."

"When your brain isn't working at full capacity it looks for something to do. Being tired makes me dumb enough that the task at hand is enough." Finally I get it; yes my mind is too tired to get distracted on other things, so it makes me focus better on what is right in front of me.

Bright computer screens:

"Keep staring at a bright source of light in the evening and your sleep cycle gets delayed. You forget to be tired until 3 am." "To conclude, programmers work at night because it doesn't impose a time limit on when you have to stop working, which gives you a more relaxed approach, your brain doesn't keep looking for distractions and a bright screen keeps you awake."

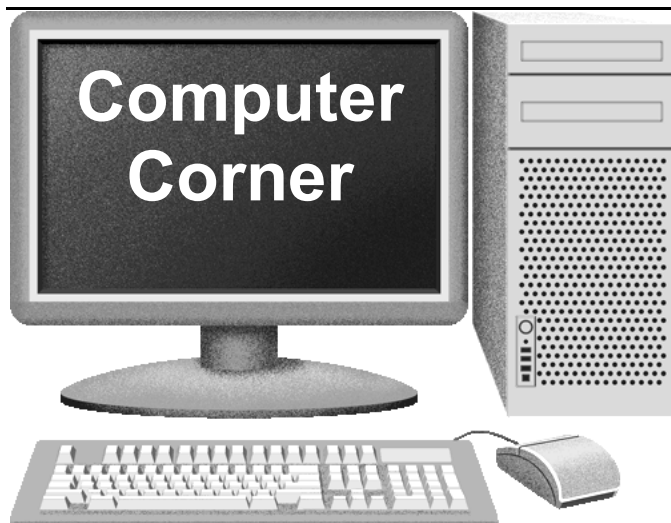
Yes, genealogists are very much like our programmer cohorts working fast in the middle of the night. I really enjoyed learning more about why it's my best time of the day (or night) to work. The mystery is solved now for me and it's only 10:00 pm. Time to get cracking on my next genealogy quest. The night is young and there is so much to find!

From *Shaking Your Family Tree*

Dr. Ralph Crandall (1986 - p. 66)

Birth and Death registration - when state laws were passed requiring this

State	Death	Birth	State	Death	Birth
Alabama	1908	1909	Montana	1907	1907
Alaska	1913	1913	Nebraska	1905	1905
Arizona	1909	1909	Nevada	1911	1911
Arkansas	1914	1914	New Hampshire	1905	1905
California	1905	1905	New Jersey	1848	1848
Colorado	1907	1907	New Mexico	1919	1919
Connecticut	1897	1897	New York	1880	1880
Delaware	1881	1881	North Carolina	1913	1913
D.C.	1855	1871	North Dakota	1908	1908
Florida	1899	1899	Ohio	1909	1909
Georgia	1919	1919	Oklahoma	1908	1908
Hawaii	1896	1896	Oregon	1903	1903
Idaho	1911	1911	Pennsylvania	1906	1906
Illinois	1916	1916	Puerto Rico	1931	1931
Indiana	1900	1907	Rhode Island	1852	1852
Iowa	1880	1880	South Carolina	1915	1915
Kansas	1911	1911	South Dakota	1905	1905
Kentucky	1911	1911	Tennessee	1914	1914
Louisiana	1914	1914	Texas	1903	1903
Maine	1892	1892	Utah	1905	1905
Maryland	1898	1898	Vermont	1857	1857
Massachusetts	1841	1841	Virginia	1912	1912
Michigan	1867	1857	Washington	1907	1907
Minnesota	1900	1900	West Virginia	1917	1917
Mississippi	1912	1912	Wisconsin	1907	1907
Missouri	1910	1910	Wyoming	1909	1909



By Beverly Sterling-Affinati
Proprietor, HarborSide Services
Web Development & Marketing
(& Member of JCNYGS)

Hello JCNYGS members! By now, you are enjoying the Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society's new website found at www.jcnygs.com. I am proud to have been asked by your Officers to build the site, as well as include a control panel (programming aspect) which allows volunteers to edit the site on their own. In having the ability to edit, volunteers can make important updates, add research and historical data as those items are located, as well as offer members a wealth of genealogical findings relating to Jefferson County, New York. If you would like to assist Officers and volunteers in "enhancing" its new website, please use the Society's contact page to express interest in helping. Inputting important historical details onto each page is a great way to learn more about the county, as well as provide needed assistance to the Society. Thank you for considering, as well as the opportunity to assist JCNYGS in getting a needed website online. It is greatly appreciated!

Online Resources - When it comes to genealogical records, you do have online records at your disposal right now. Here's where you can start to look...

FREE GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY SITES

ANCESTRY: www.ancestry.com There is a cost to use site; however, access to the site is free by visiting the Flower Memorial Library, Watertown, New York. Check your local library as they may also offer this valuable source for free.

FAMILY SEARCH (through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints). A valuable source for searching millions of names. Their goal is to provide

resources to assist you in the research and study of your genealogy and family history.

- <https://familysearch.org/search> – Search Historical records
- <https://familysearch.org/family-trees> – Search Genealogies
- <https://familysearch.org/locations> – Find a location and visit in person.

Note: For those living or working in Jefferson County, New York, schedule a visit to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Center, 20020 County Route 65 Ives Street Road, Watertown, New York 13601. Call (315) 788-4161. For more information: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Introduction_to_LDS_Family_History_Centers

ROOTS WEB: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/> (Site Index)

FIND A GRAVE: <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi> (Search Form)

ANCESTOR HUNT: <http://www.ancestorhunt.com/>

GEN WED: <http://www.genwed.com/> (Marriage Records)

CENSUS FINDER: http://www.censusfinder.com/new_york.htm (New York Records)

JEFFERSON COUNTY, NEW YORK

COUNTY RECORDS: <http://www.co.jefferson.ny.us/index.aspx?page=319> - To request a search of records that are in inactive records center call (315) 785-5149, or e-mail at jamesr@co.jefferson.ny.us. Please include the names you would like searched and the types of documents that you are looking for. Fees for searches are \$5.00 per every name searched, per 10 year period. If you would like copies of any of these documents, the Jefferson County Clerk's Office charges .65 cents per page.

PIONEER PROJECT: <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/jefferson/> - The Pioneer Portraits Project, a website under development since May 2001 showcasing old photos and sketches of people who were either born in or who settled in Jefferson County prior to 1865, recently added its 1,000th portrait!

NNY GENEALOGY (Cemetery Records): <http://www.nnygenealogy.com/> - Cemeteries are the "Great American Novel" and every gravestone represents a chapter in that novel. This site is our effort in writing a portion of that novel by documenting cemeteries. Of the six counties (Jefferson, Lewis, St.

(Continued on Page 18)

(Continued From Page 17)

Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex) that comprise the "North Country" of New York, we concentrate on Jefferson and Lewis Counties. Our goal is to help preserve the rich history of this portion of the North Country and to assist you in your family research.

CEMETERY RECORDS: <http://www.interment.net/us/ny/jefferson.htm> – For Jefferson County, New York.

GENWEB: <http://jefferson.nygenweb.net/siteindx.htm> - Website previously maintained by long time JCNYS members Bill and Nan Dixon. Although a great wealth of genealogical data exists on the site, the content of the GENWEB site is no longer actively managed.

LINKPENDIUM: <http://www.linkpendium.com/genealogy/USA/NY/Jefferson/> - Site Index for Family History & Genealogy, Census, Birth, Marriage, Death Vital Records and more.

HISTORY OF: http://gengateway.com/new_york/history_of_jefferson_county.htm - This volume has been compiled from many sources.

FLOWER MEMORIAL LIBRARY (Genealogy Dept): Located in Watertown, NY. http://www.flowermemoriallibrary.org/Genealogy_Online_Databases.html

ARCHIVES

NEW YORK STATE: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/aindex.shtml>

NATIONAL ARCHIVES: <http://www.archives.gov>

ARCHIVED NEWSPAPERS: <http://fultonhistory.com>

ARCHIVED NEWSPAPERS: <http://www.nnyln.org>

You will find many of these links at the bottom of the www.jcnys.com home page, for easy, clickable research. ----- **HAPPY HUNTING!**

A Kid's Advice

"I'm not rushing into being in love. I'm finding 4th grade hard enough."

Crafts Family Genealogy

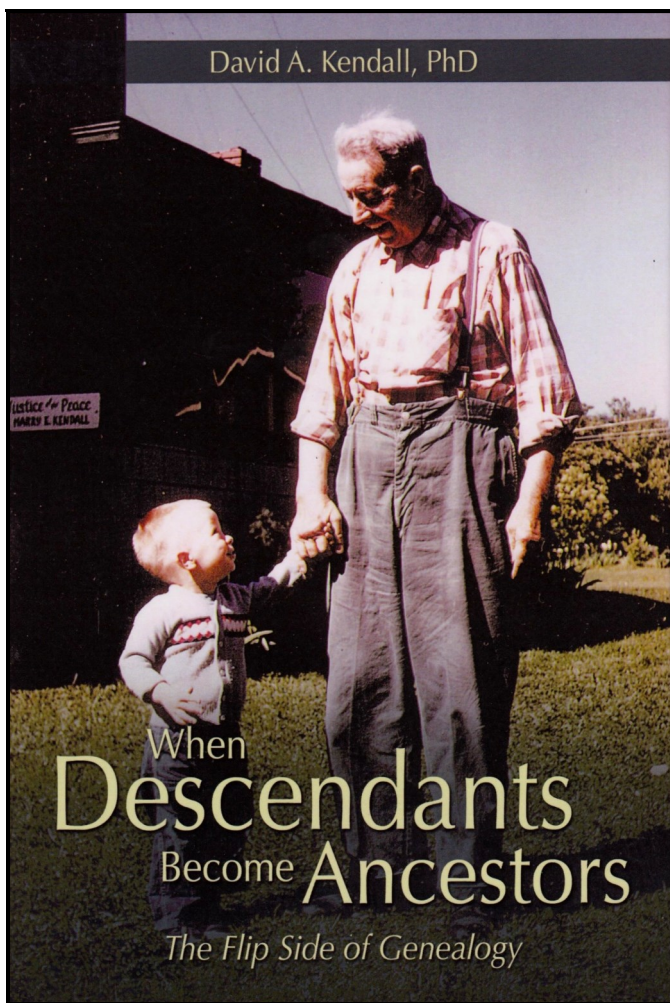
Source: Crafts Family Genealogy-submitted by the LeRay de Chaumont Chapter NSDAR

CRAFTS- PAYSON- KIMBALL (Dr.) was born in Pomfret CT on 14 Jan. 1788. He married at Rutland, Jefferson Co NY on 14 Jan. 1814 to JULIANA PORTER, daughter of RAPHAEL AND MERCY (HAMLIN) PORTER of Rutland. Juliana was born at Clinton NY on 3 June 1796. Crafts studied for the medical profession and settled in 1810 in Rutland, Jefferson Co., NY. He was a surgeon in the army during the War of 1812 and became an extremely successful physician. Juliana died in Rutland, NY at the homestead on 21 April 1868 at 71 years. He died 7 Nov. 1872 at 84 years.



SARAH CRAFTS was born in Pomfret CT on 29 April 1756. She died at Canajoharie NY on 13 Aug. 1834 at 75 years. She married 7 May 1778 to LEBBEUS KIMBALL of Pomfret CT, son of RICHARD AND ABIGAIL (HOLT) KIMBALL. He was born there on 25 Feb 1751 and died at Bowman's Creek, Montgomery Co NY on 4 Sept 1839. He was a Revolutionary War soldier but was discharged by reason of disability and returned home.

"I was once babysitting a 4-year-old. I noticed the child was playing with a ball. I asked her if she knew why it bounced. She replied, 'Because if the ball pushes against the ground, the ground pushes against the ball. Otherwise the earth would always move away when daddy did a push up.' I had a 4-year-old explain Newton to me in a way better than any of my schools have so far."



Growing up in the 1000 Islands highlighted in local author's book

By Pamela McDowell, Staff Writer

(As appeared in the Thousand Island Sun Newspaper on Wednesday, October 15th, 2014.)

1000 Islands – A non-fiction book written by David Kendall, of Point Vivian, has just been released. It is titled, “When Descendants Become Ancestors: The Flip Side of Genealogy.” Dr. Kendall is about to embark on a book signing tour to help kick off the book’s release.

Dave Kendall grew up in the town of Clayton, where his ancestors resided since the 1700s. He is the son of the late Harold and Grovone Kendall. Harold once served as Clayton historian, and he was the first executive director of the Paynter Senior Center. The author’s great-great-grandfather was Dr. William

Potter, who once owned a large chunk of the north side of Grindstone Island, known as Potter’s Beach.

Dr. Kendall writes, in a light-hearted manner, that it is the responsibility of the current generation to share one’s life’s journey – experiences and personal history – with the generations to come.

“Congratulations! You’re going to be an ancestor someday...” one of the chapters starts out. A theme that strings its way through the chapters is that this current generation’s descendants may have regrets about not learning more about their ancestors when they had the chance. If today’s descendants don’t leave their future descendants the information that they may crave in the future, the problem is being perpetuated. Dr. Kendall teaches readers how to remedy that.

He poses the question, “How many times have you wanted just one more hour with a deceased relative?” to drive his point home.

One chapter in particular provides a few anecdotes about growing up in the local area – attending Clayton High School and playing football. The book is for everyone, including those living in cities, who may not have a clear sense of community and their own history. For this reason, Dr. Kendall uses his life experiences in the small towns and villages of the 1000 Islands as examples of how people can write their own stories.

He says he thoroughly enjoyed living in the 1000 Islands, and his community was nurturing to him, which he feels had a positive impact on his life.

Following high school graduation in 1955, David Kendall received his undergraduate degree at Cornell University. He earned money for tuition by announcing, and later piloting, tour boats from American Boat Lines, which operated from Riverside Drive in Clayton.

He received his master’s degree from St. Lawrence University and his doctorate at the University of Pittsburg.

He married his wife, Cynthia Blunt, who also had strong ties to the 1000 Islands. Her mother, Ella Thompson, grew up in Clayton and married Dayton Blunt. Her grandfather was at one time the mayor of Clayton.

The author was a professor at SUNY Brockport for 30 years in the graduate school of counselor education.

He worked on his publication for a 10-year period.

(Continued on Page 20)

(Continued From Page 19)

The book is intended to be thought provoking, stimulating and challenging, and it poses more questions than answers. "I attempt to uplift people," he explains.

"From the moment of birth, each of us begins a journey that must ultimately conclude with our entrance into ancestry," he states. "Perhaps you remember a time when an older acquaintance wanted to share with you some stories about the good old days, but you couldn't be bothered. Most of us have had regrets like these, as will our descendants—unless we seek to record and preserve some stories for their use. Whether our stories are short and simple or long and complex matters not, but these stories will become part of their heritage and can certainly influence their lives....," he writes.

When Descendants Become Ancestors: The Flip Side of Genealogy is available for purchase online through Balboa Press, Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com.

From Christmas 1912

From an unidentified newspaper dated December 14, 1912: "Origin of the Christmas Tree. This custom, so far as Christianity is concerned is German in its origin, and is identified with the labors of St. Maternus, one of the earliest if not the very first of the preachers of the gospel among the Teutons.

Just how that people became latter day sponsors for the Christmas tree is doubtful, tho it is possible that is traceable to the Saturnalia and may have been imported into Germany by some of the conquering legions. The German have a legend of St. Maternus' sleeping beneath a fir tree, and of a miracle that occurred upon that occasion.

There is another theory that the notion of this tree came from Egypt. The palm tree is supposed to put forth a shoot every month, and a spray of this tree, with 12 shoots on it, was used in Egypt at their winter solstice celebrations as being a symbol of the ended year. The Germans attribute the actual institution of the fir tree as part of the Christmas celebration of Martin Luther, but there is no reliable information on this subject. The Dutch, especially in New Amsterdam, were responsible for the vogue which the tree gained in America. It is now one of our oldest holiday customs.

In England it was entirely unknown until the marriage of Queen Victoria to Prince Albert, who introduced into his adopted country the custom known in every German household."

Watertown Daily Times Library

Holdings

Clippings file - filed by subject and dating from 1920s to March 1988

Online archive - 1988 to present - free to search. Cost to see full documents. Subscriptions available.

Historical archive online - 1850-1922 - free to search. Cost to see full documents. Subscriptions available.

Microfilm - All newspapers from 1950 to current. These films are also available at public libraries such as Flower Memorial, JCC library, St. Lawrence University, etc.

Images - Negatives are filed from mid-1940s to the early 2000s. Images are currently saved digitally.

Public Research

Hours for visiting - Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 1 - 3.

Calls, emails, letters - Research for specific articles can be done by contacting the librarian and having the research done for you. Copies of stories can then be mailed or e-mailed or picked up.

315-661-2445

Lisa Carr is the POC at the clippings library.
lcarr@wdt.net

Watertown Daily Times Library
260 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Tidbits

Births were not clipped and filed. The only way to search for them is on microfilm. The Watertown Daily Times did not run the births of unwed mothers until the early 1990s.

Women are filed with their husbands in the clippings files. So when researching a woman, you really need to know her husband's name.

Sports stories were almost never filed until we computerized in 1988. The clips files have no game stories. Just feature stories.

In Praise of a Town Historian

By Roberta Calhoun-Eagan

This story chronicles a search for descendants of James Estes (1766-1828) of Three Mile Bay, including his grandson Nelson Herrick.

You know how ancestor searches often contain elements of luck? My husband Jim Eagan and I experienced this during a 2004 NY genealogy trip we took back when we lived down south. The height of our good fortune was to stumble upon a most dedicated town historian, one of many who work quietly behind the scenes to preserve our history.

Jim knew nothing about his great-great grandfather Nelson Herrick, so on our first day we visited the Onondaga County Library to search the state vital records indexes. This was back before these resources were available at Watertown's Flower Library. A search of twelve consecutive years identified Nelson's 1892 date of death in Gloversville.

We soon agreed it was vital to undertake a longer trek down from the Thousand Islands through the Mohawk Valley to Fulton County. After an extended drive, the Gloversville City Clerk said she could only mail us Nelson's death certificate, meaning we would have no new information about him to use as a lead while still in the area.

At our next stop the Gloversville Librarian had no obituaries, but suggested we search city directories. While I scanned these records, the first book Jim pulled off the shelf contained cemetery records of Northville. No information identified the burial place of Nelson Herrick, but amazingly the book listed his daughter Marion and son-in-law John Sweetman, who was raised in Cape Vincent. These were Jim's great-grandparents!

It was well into the afternoon by then, but we headed still further east to Northville. While Jim drove I phoned the Northville Library, and was instantly referred to Northville Town Historian Gail Cramer. Using the cell phone as we entered the Adirondack Park, we tried her number but lost the connection. After about ten minutes we got back through, and explained to Mr. Cramer that we were coming to the edge of the area from a distance. He told us that no cell phones worked in the region and so invited us to stop by, as they were situated less than five miles down the road upon which we were driving.

We pulled into a long gravel driveway that led to a

spacious log home on a pond surrounded by old pines. The Cramers graciously invited us into their dining room and began pulling out some of their main files. Gail could not recall having come across either name in our search—Herrick or Sweetman. She was recovering from surgery so asked her husband to run upstairs to look for family files. He did eventually find a Herrick file; it contained a copy of an email from 1998. In giving it to us Gail asked if this might be the same family.

It read, in part, "After I got off the phone with you, my husband told me that there was the Herrick farm up in back of where he grew up... his Dad always mentioned it. I have an account that a man wrote about that area back in [the] late 1800's as he remembered it. He mentions the Herrick farm and about an incident that happened to Nelson Herrick who owned the farm. Do you think that Nelson is one of your relatives?"

"That farm's location is northeast of the village of Northville... Maple Grove, actually it's easier to access from the other end of that road which is in Hope Falls. The road now is only accessible by four-wheel drive, or hiking.I just called a local man who knows so much about the past, etc. in this area... he recalls the Herrick place and says that the cellar hole is still there as well as the barn foundation."

We looked up in surprise. It seemed she had a story about Nelson; could she remember what it was? She racked her brains and could not think of it. Neither could her husband.

But you could tell by her demeanor that she wasn't about to give up trying. She kept sending Mr. Cramer upstairs to search another file, one in Word, the next one on disk. Some had not been accessed in years.

He ultimately came downstairs with an unpublished manuscript called, *The Recollections of Oscar G. Horton of Northville and Vicinity (Time - 1890)*. Oscar described events in the late 1880s that took place in the Maple Grove-Hardscrabble area northeast of Northville on the road to Hope Falls. (This is actually in another county, Hamilton county. Gail noted that the town records in Hope, where Nelson Herrick actually lived, had burned, and that she therefore made it a point to save anything she could about this town that bordered Northville).

The account read, "Several of my friends have asked me to write about Northville and vicinity while I was growing up... I will begin with the Steenburg district, a section of the lower part of Hamilton County, adjacent to the northeast corner of Fulton County. This should

(Continued on Page 22)



The Maple Grove-Hope Falls Road, 2004

(Continued From Page 21)

have been an annex to Northville, as the people living on the four mile long road all came to Northville to trade. I chose this road to start with as all living on it went by the place where I lived and grew up.

“Starting at the Mason Place, which was 1400 feet above sea level, was the Stanton family... The next place was that of Mr. and Mrs. John Sweetman. [Mrs. Sweetman was Marion Herrick]. Their children were Anna, Ida, Ella, Emma, Satie, George, Leonard, Harry, Thankful and others. At one time all had diphtheria and Leonard and one other died. William Fayette Barker, Mrs. William Strobels’ grandfather, sent up a barrel of flour and groceries from the Hard Pan Store to last a month.

“The next place was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Herrick. I was too young to remember this incident, but the story was told that Mr. Herrick fell on a scythe and cut his stomach so his intestines nearly all ran out. His wife brought a dish pan, and he walked to the house carrying it in front of him. Dr. Clarence Blake was sent for. He said nothing could be done.

“Dr. Franklin Wright had just started an office here. He was called. He replaced the intestines and sewed up the wound. The man lived many years.”

Newspaper accounts later verified that this incident took place in 1878. Nelson first appeared in the Gloversville NY city directory that same year, working as a carpenter. He lived until 1892.

Mr. Cramer drew us a map of the road between Maple Grove and Hope Falls, which was quite some distance. The road to the farm was never paved. No homes exist there now and the site has become heavily wooded, as if nothing had ever happened there. We walked a short distance at dusk until we saw that the owner of a hunting camp had blocked the path. We did find the remnants of an old stone fence much like those you see all over New England.

We have since learned that Gail Cramer earned just \$500 per year for her work as village historian. Since meeting her, Jim has expressed pride for having ancestors from Northville.

Jefferson County Queries

Use the “ONLINE QUERY” on 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.)

BARKER

I am researching John **BARKER**. He is listed in the 1820 US Census for Brownville, Jefferson, NY as John T. with 1 boy and 1 girl, both under 10 years old. His wife is about 10 years younger than John. In the 1830 US Census for Brownville, Jefferson, NY he is listed as John with 3 boys and 3 girls under 15. Again the wife is at least 10 years younger than John.

I believe that this person is John Barker, b: 1790 somewhere in NY State. His longtime wife was Meritta b: 1801 also in NY State. By 1840 they were both residing in Kane, Illinois. Both died after 1860 in Hastings, MN. My goal is to find where John was born, and who his parents were.

Bill Barker
bbarkerjr@gmail.com

SHAVER, CUSHMAN, KNAPP, BARNEY

I am searching for any documentation that Adelia **CUSHMAN SHAVER** was the daughter of Nathan and Lucinda/Lucy **CUSHMAN**. I believe Adelia was born in New York State abt 1832, in all likelihood Jefferson County. She lived in Belleville and died there on or about 7 Dec 1854. She is buried at Woodside Cemetery. Her mother Lucinda is also buried there next to her 2nd husband - Daniel **BARNEY**. Adelia's husband was Austin **SHAVER** and she had a son Nathan.

Lily Kohn
214 13th street East, Unit 5
Seattle, WA 98102
206-419-4450
fergiecat@msn.com

VAN CAMP, DIEFENDORF

I am looking for documented proof that Henry **DIEFENDORF VAN CAMP** was the son of Cornelius De Pue **VAN CAMP** and Anna Barbara **DIEFENDORF**. Cornelius was born in Montgomery County and Henry D. lived in Jefferson County.

Jack Van Camp
jaxon1usa@comcast.net
(More Queries on Page 23)

JCNYGS MATERIALS FOR PURCHASE

Contact: Greg or Tammy Plantz, 21787 Reed Road, Watertown, NY 13601
Or email tplantz1@twcny.rr.com

PEDIGREE BOOK I & PEDIGREE BOOK II

Each Book \$20.00 plus

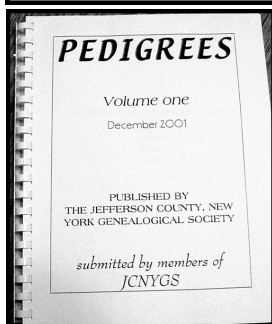
\$5.00 for postage
A collection of pedigrees
Submitted by members
of the JCNYGS
with an every name index
Checks made out to **JCNYGS**

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**
Checks made out to
JCNYGS

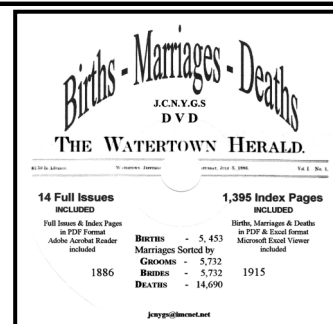


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Our website!

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 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.)

EVERETT

Oliver **EVERETT** was born September 11, 1806 in New York. He died September 15, 1882 in Guthrie County, Iowa. His first wife's first name was Susan, last name unknown, she was born December 22, 1805 and died September 20, 1863 Bloomfield, Winneshiek County, Iowa.

Children names are: Edward, Oliver E., Mary, Gilbert, Alvaro, Charley Roy and Josephine. The first three children were born in New York, the others were born in Pennsylvania. I have them in Iowa by 1854. I am related through their son Charley Roy.

Harlo Everett
heverettir@aol.com

18, 1886. She had three sisters, Olive (**WARNER**), Eva (**REYNOLDS**), Mary (**BOYD**) and lived with her sister Oliver (1900 Census) in Philadelphia, NY. Her mother passed on April 1, 1911 in Theresa, NY - but we do not have the mothers full name or her dad's name. She married Levi (**DAVIS**) sometime around 1900-1 and passed in 1956 in Watertown, NY.

Children names are: Earl, Alfred, Wilbur, Richard, Violet-Jean, Pearl William, Myrtle, Pansie and Glenn. We believe her parents lived in Gouverneur, NY in the early 1900s.

Bill Davis
joann.harig@aol.com

LAFOUNTAIN, WARNER, REYNOLDS, BOYD, DAVIS
Dora **LAFOUNTAIN** was born in or around Plessis NY June

**"A true friend is one who thinks
you are a good egg even if you are
half-cracked." – Author Unknown**

INFORMER

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

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JCNYGS PROGRAMS FOR 2015

**There will be no JCNYGS meetings until February.
Check our Facebook page for information!
Check also our internet site jcnys.com!**

Monday, 9 February @ 6PM: JCNYGS President Tom LaClair will give a presentation on researching military (genealogical) records from Pine Camp (1908), Camp Drum (1951) and today's Fort Drum (1974). He will also touch on the towns eliminated through military expansion as well as the cemeteries that remain on Fort Drum property today.

Monday, 9 March @ 6PM: Town of Clayton Historian Norm Wagner will give a history presentation on "St. Lawrence River Fishing Guides and Shore Dinners." He will also provide a handout of area fishing guides.

Monday, 13 April @ 6PM: Stephan P. Clarke will give a presentation on "The Palatines, Hank Jones, the Rochester Genealogical Society and me." Steve will discuss his research into Palatine German history, especially the confusion over the spelling of German names, in his quest to prove ancestors for SAR membership. The presentation will include a mix of history and genealogical research.

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.

INFORMER

Volume 22, Issue 2

Annual Dues \$15 Individual, \$20 Family
To have the *Informer* mailed add \$6 US or \$10 Canadian

April 2015



In this issue we have attempted to once again revive the “Lost Villages and Cemeteries” of what is now Fort Drum. We hope we have been able to provide some information before Fort Drum, before Camp Drum and even before Pine Camp. The picture above is identified only as “Lyons Residence of Woods Mills” and is undated. Woods Mills was one of the villages that vanished with the 1941 expansion of the military post.

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INFORMER APRIL 2015

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, 315-285-5032

Vice President: Anne Davis, 17192 Ives Street Road, Watertown, NY 13601
davisa24@verizon.net, 315-788-6045

Recording Secretary: Tammy Plantz, 21787 Reed Rd., Watertown, NY 13601
tplantz1@twcny.rr.com, 315-788-5324

Corresponding Secretary: Thomas LaClair, 17696 Co. Route 181, Clayton,
NY 13624, tomclair624@yahoo.com, 315-285-5032

Treasurer: Larry Corbett, 520 Binsse St., Watertown, NY 13601
lrcorbet@gisco.net, 315-323-3118



Jefferson County
NY Genealogical Society

The Informer Committee: (alphabetically) are Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, dioncalhoun@yahoo.com; Anne Davis, davisa24@verizon.net; Jerry and Marilyn Davis, maridavis@aol.com; Nan Dixon, nandixon001@gmail.com; David and Cynie Kendall, davek@cynergyintl.com; Thomas LaClair, tomclair624@yahoo.com, (publisher); Greg and Tammy Plantz, tplantz1@twcny.rr.com; Yvonne Reff, yreff@ncls.org; Beverly Sterling-Affinati, 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 or: Editor, JCNYS
P.O. Box 6453
Watertown, NY 13601

JCNYS Membership

Membership numbers as of 1 March 2015: The society has 221 memberships. Members are represented in 31 states and Canada, 29 memberships are libraries and genealogical societies and 192 are individual/family memberships. Of the 192 individual memberships, 43 subscribe to the internet only version of the *Informer*. Of the 192 memberships, 19 are past due and will drop off the records soon.

To promote new members, 5,000 JCNYS bookmarks were recently produced for dispersal around Jefferson County (recommended by a member in the survey). Bookmarks will go out to the Watertown City Clerk, all town and village clerks; historical societies, libraries and so on. The desire is clerks will provide a bookmark to visitors interested in genealogy—the bookmark comes with membership and website contact information.

If interested in joining, visit www.jcnys.com for information.

President Tom LaClair

SERENDIPITY

JCNYS member Dianne Newman of Waters, Michigan recently suggested that a “Serendipity” column could be “built” with comments from members that may connect them to the newsletter more personally. She further wrote “I enjoy listening

to others talk about serendipity moments in their research. Perhaps you could request folks to tell what their own experience was.”

A recent one for me was to stop at a cemetery in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, knowing that my grandmother’s second husband died in that area. Despite the rain, I walked into the cemetery, headed straight for a shrub in a corner, in the back. I pushed the shrub’s branches out of the way, and THERE was the headstone for him. I did not “know” where it was beforehand....perhaps I was led to it by “serendipity”?

My late cousin had a moment like that in Connecticut, and the police got involved. To confirm her identity to the police my cousin called me then she handed the phone to the officer who asked me if I knew her, and why she was in the cemetery with four others with flashlights? She told him that she wasn’t an idiot or criminal, she’d just found our 1645 connection’s gravestone...in the dark!”

If you have a serendipity moment, please share it with a member of the Genealogy Society. E-mail addresses are provided on the top of this page.



Vice President Anne, President Tom and Treasurer Larry organize bookmarks while at Flower Library

Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, March 9, 2015
Tammy Plantz, Secretary

The March 9 meeting of the JCNYS was held at the LDS Church in Watertown at 6:00. Attendees included Jim and Roberta Eagan, Duane and Cindy Hazelton, William Reynolds, Tom LaClair, George Inglehart, Anne Davis, Phyllis Putnam, Hollis Dorr, Debbie Hunter, Gail Egeressy, Bruce Coyne, John Treadwell, Tammy and Greg Plantz, Larry Corbett and Jerry and Marilyn Davis.

President Tom LaClair called on board members to report on items of business. Larry Corbett gave the Treasurer's report. The savings account is at \$401.21. The checking account has \$2546.85 and our CD is currently worth \$2411.92. Anne Davis showed us the bookmarks that were printed to advertise our website and the Genealogical Society. They will be distributed throughout the county at libraries, historical societies and village offices. Roberta Eagan gave us a preview of speakers for the next few months and introduced our speaker, Norm Wagner, Clayton Town and Village Historian, whose subject was "St. Lawrence River Fishing Guides."

Norm explained that in 1872 President Grant visited Clayton by way of the railroad. Reporters took up the story of the fresh air, clean water and excellent fishing in the area, and tourists began visiting the area from New York City and Washington DC. At the same time on the river, the first St. Lawrence skiffs were built and soon Clayton had a factory built to turn out these boats in large numbers. These developments paved the way for the era of the fishing guide.

At the time, guides with names that included LaPage, Garnsey and Seymour charged \$3 a day. Meals were extra. The area hotels began packing picnic lunches as a side business which led to the creation of Thousand Islands dressing. Standard fare included boiled coffee, "shellac potatoes," which combined bacon grease, salt, milk and butter with sliced potatoes, and fried salt pork sandwiches on the side.

Initially the skiffs relied entirely on manual labor to move around the St. Lawrence River. Between 1910 and 1920, Model T engines were converted to marine engines for the skiffs which were known as "skiffputts."

The role of fishing guide was often passed down from father to son for generations. Often guides worked at Frinks or the Clayton knitting mill or were caretakers in the wintertime and guided during the summer months.

Norm Wagner was an engaging speaker who knows the history and genealogy of fishing families up and down the St. Lawrence River. He described the array of family notebooks held at Clayton's Thousand Islands Museum, which serves as his office, and he invited everyone to stop by for a visit and a chat.



Norm Wagner with President Tom LaClair

GENEALOGY TOOLBOX

In responding to the November 2014 survey, member Dianne Newman of Waters, Michigan, shared some information about her "genealogy toolbox" presentation. A few years ago she gave a program at her public library about what "tools" a researcher would need to keep in the toolbox, and actually took a toolbox with the items inside. It was well received at their Family History Month presentation and knows it would be well received in other communities. She shares it with us today.

She writes, just put the "basics" list together directly from my "toolbox" that I carry in my car, at all times! You never know when it will be called into service.

- A ROUND protractor, which helps read Metes & Bounds descriptions, along with a small sheet of graph paper
- A 3" X 3" mirror used to direct sunlight onto a headstone, making a shadow in the grooves of the chiseled letters/numbers
- A spare set of cheater reading glasses
- An LED flashlight
- A bug wipe/spray, so critters don't carry you off
- A yellow, see-through rolodex sleeve which makes it easy to read a newspaper, see the image on a microfilm reading machine desktop!
- A 12 foot measuring tape
- A set of fold-up rain gear
- A spare set of batteries, and a spare SD card
- Pencils, a mini-sharpener and a pen
- A pair of soft cotton gloves for touching surfaces that you don't want to mar or leave skin oils behind
- If doing a rubbing, use a sheet of aluminum foil, and a soft natural brush, so no damages get done to the headstone
- A couple of thank you cards, for those who were willing to assist you in any way!
- If preparing for other tasks, such as a session with elders, take a tape recorder along, as well as a Flip-Pal. Portable, battery operated copier!
- Of course, if just doing research that doesn't require the above, group sheets, pedigree sheets, and lots of patience!

In closing her presentation, Dianne mentioned that guests who attended her presentation were VERY willing to add ideas from what they would keep in their OWN toolbox! Now go out and build your genealogy research toolbox and be prepared for your next cemetery outing.

A Tribute to JCNYGS Member



Gerald Desormeau (1921-2014)

We are sad to report that Theresa native and JCNYGS member Gerald Desormeau passed away on December 27, 2014 after a long battle with cancer. A dedicated family and local history researcher, Gerald will be remembered for his generous spirit and his love of family stories. The quotes below illustrate the enduring value of his volunteer work to our genealogy community.

"Gerald always had an answer to questions concerning local history or genealogy records. If he didn't know, he would try to come up with the answer for you. He knew just who to ask. You could tell immediately he loved the search. Gerald spent a great deal of time helping Kenneth Dejourdan with his search for his French Canadian descendants in Canada. Most of what they found had to be translated, making the search even more difficult." —Anne Davis

"Gerald & Margaret were both the kind of people that you liked even before they spoke, always smiling and approachable." ---Phyllis Putnam

"He helped many—very graciously, too—when people would call the Presbyterian Church to look up records, the pastor would refer them to Gerald. He was a wealth of information... and always with a SMILE." ---Cookie Wilcox, Theresa Historian

"My memory is teaching a JCNYGS lecture on searching newspapers on-line using my HOUSE relatives of Theresa as search topics. As I was teaching, Gerald raised his hand and mentioned that he could tell me some stories about my great uncle Jason House. Gerald and Jason worked together back in the 30s and 40s. Shortly after the lecture, I went over to Gerald's home and he shared information and photographs. He was excited to share what he knew on the HOUSE families." ---Tom LaClair

"Gerald was always interested in doing genealogy and historical work. He spent many hours organizing our museum and adding to it. Gerald set up our genealogy files and kept them up-to-date. He organized the whole section upstairs. I wasn't originally born here, and it was Gerald who taught me everything I know about Theresa history so that I could help my people. He remembered everything that happened in Theresa and was always willing to share that information with everybody. Thank you Gerald for giving the Theresa Free Library your time and expertise over the years." ---Christine Rajner, Theresa Librarian

"As a newbie genealogist I revisited the North Country in 1999. After inquiring at my campsite office about an old Theresa road, I returned to find a message to call Gerald Desormeau on my cabin door. While he was my father's cousin we'd never met, so I got over to Theresa the next day. I asked a few questions and then Gerald pulled out about ten notebooks! In the 24 hours since our call he had prepared numerous printouts on DeYoung-Evans genealogy.

So began a lively research partnership that continued for 15 years. Our last collaboration, in February 2014 when he was 92, was to identify sites of the Reuben Evans homestead as well as a Kelsey Bridge log cabin illustrated in the *Theresa Gleaner*. Without Gerald's extensive local knowledge and friendships we would not have been able to put two and two together to solve these puzzles." ---Roberta Calhoun-Eagan

Gerald told many family stories over the years. Here are three that he shared often.

Granddad drives a Model T. History clippings locally have it that Alfred Stratton used an automobile on his postal delivery route, this being a first in Theresa for

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**Gerald Desormeau 2012
In his garden**

(Continued From Page 4)

mechanized travel for that type of work. It was a Model T Ford and he used it for a couple of years before changing cars. He sold that vehicle to Uncle Harold DeYoung. By this time the car had obtained the name of Lord Baltimore. Harold used kerosene in the radiator in winter time. It started by hand crank.

Granddad (Will DeYoung) was talked into driving that car to the village one day and pulled up near the side of the town hall, preparing to stop. But the Model T started to roll and began to pick up speed. The passenger kept telling Granddad to hit the brake, but he failed to respond and the car just rolled faster. The passenger was then heard to yell, "brake, stop, brake, *brake!*" Finally, Granddad reacted to the commands, not by stepping on the brake but by calling out for the machine to "Wh-o-o-o-a-h!"

Lord Baltimore kept right on going until he came into contact with a wall in the village, where he stopped. Granddad exited and said he would never drive that car again and he never did, nor any other vehicle.

When Harold was done with the car he offered to sell it to me for five dollars, but my Dad said I was not to put my money in no car. End of story. I was 12 years old at the time, and had a two and a half dollar gold piece and a piggy bank for money. Dad made me turn the coin in when Roosevelt had the nation go off the gold standard.

Baseball at Chauffy's Corners. I was about eight years old at the time of this game. Joe Felder, Carl Chisamore, Granddad and Dad were the players, and our tool shed was used as a backstop. There was a pitch and Granddad hit the ball into the pigpen. Hens had laid eggs nearby, and so instead of retrieving the ball I grabbed one of the eggs and threw it. I do not know to this day if Granddad hit the egg with the bat or if it hit the tool shed directly. But it exploded. You know how a rotten egg will explode on a hot day? I ran off and hid in the woods until five o'clock. Aunt Mabel always said she would have whipped me if I had been her son, but Granddad never said a word.

The stain remained there on that tool shed for a very long time.

A pillow fight. One time at Chauffy's Corners when mother went outside to do the milking, there were three of us boys left inside the house: Dave Chisamore, Jerry William DeYoung and me. We got into a big pillow fight that moved its way on in to the kitchen. And then we hit the stove pipe, which fell over and it just erupted, with ash and dust everywhere.

Now you've got to remember, this was well before we had such things as vacuum cleaners. So you already know what happened next.

In closing, we have included some highlights of Gerald's history and genealogy pursuits:

Gerald was profiled in the Time Warner Cable News televised program, Theresa: Land of Lakes, on March 3, 2013. As of this writing, the recording is still available online at http://www.twcnews.com/archives/nys/central-ny/2013/03/3/village-of-theresa-land-of-lakes-NY_644162.old.html.

Given that his maternal grandmother's Evans family resided in Theresa as early as 1825, Gerald researched the Evans family extensively for two decades.

Supporting the work of JCNYS members Greg and Tamara Plantz, Gerald contributed to The History of Theresa, published in 1980.

His collections included old school pictures, area maps and deeds, and numerous family photographs.

He served his community as Mayor of Theresa.

Additional information about Gerald's life and work can be read at <http://www.newzjunk.com/obits2014/1229desormeauobit.htm>.

SURVEY RESULTS

In November 2014 the society mailed out 220 surveys and encouraged all members to reply. Sixty Seven surveys were received back for a satisfying 30 percent response rate. Here is a brief summary of the replies. Although not a scientific study, it does provide valuable insight to where our member's interests are centered and is helpful in event and planning purposes.

- 10 members volunteered to write cover stories for the *Informer*
- 7 members volunteered to be interviewed for an *Informer* article
- 5 members volunteered to interview a relative or a friend for an *Informer* article
- 24 members volunteered to submit a 4 or 5 generation chart for the *Informer*
- 4 members volunteered to submit an older Jefferson County photo for the *Informer*
- 5 members volunteered to write a war veterans story for the *Informer*
- 5 members volunteered to write a miscellaneous Jefferson County story for the *Informer*
- 6 members volunteered to write a 'How To' article for the *Informer*
- 9 members recommended meeting topics (Note 1)
- 4 members recommended meeting speakers (Note 2)
- 57 members say they use the internet in genealogy research
- 21 members say they follow our face book page
- 22 members say they use hotlinks from the website cover page
- 44 members said they knew the webpage was free to access (outside the member only portion)
- 20 members prefer the Internet version of the *Informer*
- 30 members prefer the mailed version of the *Informer*
- 17 members prefer "both" versions of the *Informer*
- 12 members chose Saturday and 10 chose Monday for meeting choice (Note 3)

Note 1: Topics included: Researching Jefferson County churches, Jefferson County churches with archives, migrations to Northern New York, Champlain returns, Revolutionary War ancestors, gravestone studies, Captain John Robbins family, and the Carthage Foundry.

Note 2: Speakers suggested by name included: Jon Appell, Jerry Reed and Parks Honeywell. A member suggested we invite a speaker to talk on our Ontario, Canada neighbors.

Note 3: In 2015, we decided for all Monday meetings in 2015 due to work schedules among several of our leadership and not to conflict with Saturday meetings held at the church.

Thank you to those who responded. Email requests have been sent to all members who volunteered to write or submit information. Articles from volunteers, like you, add an interesting flavor to the quarterly

Informers. We continually invite genealogical submissions from the membership—after all, this is your society and variety is most welcomed.

As promised previously, one responding member would receive a two year paid membership—through July 2017. Congratulations to Greta Slate, Town of Alexandria Bay Historian.

Circa 1923 Random Newspaper Clipping

LAFARGEVILLE SETTLED BY TWO VERMONTERS IN 1816 AND AT FIRST WAS CALLED "LOG MILLS"

John Duncan, agent for Peter Penet, showed canny Scotch judgment back 135 years ago in selecting what now comprises largely the towns of Clayton and Orleans when by treaty between the Oneida Indians and the government (1788) his employer was given a tract of land ten miles square at any point he might choose. This was Indian reservation in the treaty that ceded to the state all their domain. But Peter never lived on or, so far as the record shows, set foot on "Penet's Square" as it was long designated.

Through divers and devious ways and by dint of many sales and transfers this square was finally acquired by John LaFarge, who erected a land office and later a home, forced the squatters to pay for their land or vacate and led a busy life in general.

Vermonters First at Lafargeville—Dr. Reuben Andrus and Benjamin Page, both Vermonters, made a settlement on the site of Lafargeville in 1816, each building a log house and in the fall of 1816 Andrus built a saw mill near the place, the pioneer industry of the locality. This mill, on Catfish creek, gave the community the name "Log Mills" which clung even after the formal change to Lafargeville made at a Fourth of July celebration in 1823. In 1817 Mr. Moulton opened a store but it was burned in 1825, when town records also were consumed. A distillery and an ashery were in operation previous to 1820 and a tavern was soon opened. When John LaFarge arrived in 1823 a sizeable community was established. The grist mill erected by LaFarge in 1825 and the land office buildings became landmarks in the village, the latter as the Orleans House.

Railroad in 1873—The first church edifice in Lafargeville was erected in 1837. The development of schools is traced elsewhere in this issue by Principal Dewitt F. Wells of the Lafargeville school. In 1873 the Clayton and Theresa railroad, now part of the New York Central Lines, was constructed. Lafargeville being the chief intermediate town.

ASK AUNTIE JEFF



Letters may be sent snail mail:
Auntie Jeff, c/o Dixon, 15407 Dixon Rd.,
Clayton NY 13624
or E-mail nandixon@Gisco.net

(By JCNYS member Nan Dixon)

Hey, Auntie Jeff! Did you know that fellow from Yellow Island is a cousin? Or is he? He called today and told me we are related, but I told him I wouldn't believe it unless my Auntie Jeff said so!

How many of you are family historians, or the person younger family members consult in order to find out relationships? And who will be the lucky person stuck with the job when you pass on to the great gene pool in the sky? Any one? What's going to happen to "all that paper" my son refers to as he looks around my office? All *what* paper? Are you referring to my life's work of collecting data on the hundreds of descendants of my grandparents?

Unfortunately, yes. And what's the use of tracing down all those collateral lines, other than that the tracing is fun? That's what we're doing this for, after all, the fun of it. At various times this past winter a young cousin of mine has shared her excitement at finding a tidbit about her brick wall. One of her Olney ancestors appears to have been married to an ever so great aunt of mine. But this great aunt turns up in Kelly's research in Lewis County, not Jefferson, and this Nancy Dixon (yes, her real name) is surrounded by a group of men listed in census and other records from other branches on MY family tree. If I hadn't noted all Nancy's siblings and their spouses, this would mean nothing. This group of families traveled together from Massachusetts to New York State over both time and distance. It took three generations.

And my discovery of our relationship, that of the Dixon and Olney families was all an accident, anyway. Many years ago, I asked a more experienced researcher about a letter written to one of my early family historians. Bless those men in the early 1800s who painstakingly asked their relatives for their history. Shortly after the Civil War, a family historian had written a letter to John Dolney, and I asked about some facts in it. A third researcher contacted me, and asked if John Dolney could possibly be John D. Olney, and of course he was. Not only did I get the information I asked for, but some facts about the obscure Nancy Dixon, who had happened to have a son she named John Dixon Olney, the writer of the letter in question. All that paper had a use, but only to me. It meant nothing to my son, who is more

interested in his new apple orchard, rather than all that paper, which he is afraid he'll have to dispose of some day soon.

So now we're back to the question of what's going to happen to all your research. That's something this society should think about... what's your plan?

And oh, yes, we are related to the fellow from Yellow Island. A tragedy caused the family to split and move away, and the existence of the tragedy was carefully kept from the children, who grew up knowing nothing of the tragedy or the people involved. Now it's a century and more later, and to the descendants of the children, there is a gap in their family history. Old newspaper clippings reveal the details, and clippings and the scrapbooks they were kept in just adds to "all that paper" that must be disposed of.

So can't you find all this on your computer? Perhaps. But are you sure the name you are looking for is John Dolney? Or John D. Olney, written in a script you are finding hard to decipher? And will you be lucky enough to run across an experienced and intelligent person to jump across that gap and connect the two families? Did you know the teaching of handwriting has been discontinued in New York State? Do you know what roadblocks that will throw in the matter of research to people in the next century? Is this a matter of our concern? Auntie Jeff's life has been geared to helping people in family research, so this definitely matters to her.

Family History Conferences

2015 New York State Family History Conference

September 17-19, 2015 • Syracuse, New York

We will add four full pages of information to our online newsletter. You may also use www.nysfhc.org.

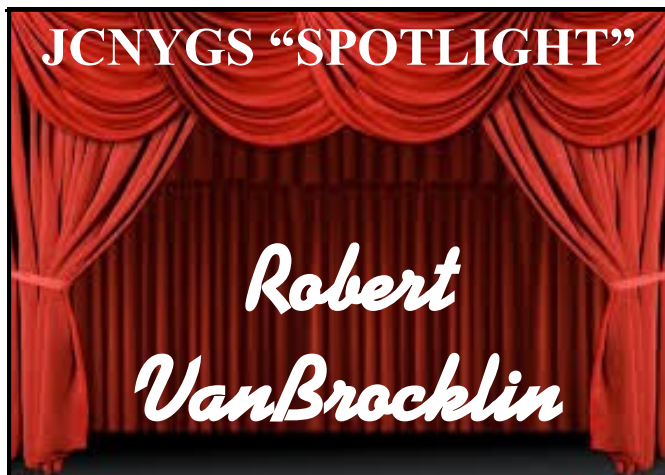
The Quebec Family History Society Presents

Roots 2015

An International Conference on
Family History in Quebec

June 19-21, 2015
At McGill University
Montreal, Quebec

Full Details available at www.qfhs.ca



(Interviewed by JCN YGS President Tom LaClair)

It has been said that everyone has a story to share! Some tell their story in headlines and others never tell their story at all. This edition of the *Informer* will hold a spotlight on a dedicated past president of the Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society. This is only a glimpse into this man's story. In talking to a couple long-standing members of the society, the following was said of him: "Highly respected, opinions always worth listening to, earnest and hard working, faithful, always pleasant, very conservative and careful not to splash things all over, and dedicated contributor of the *Informer*!" It goes without saying that he is well liked by friends and associates.

Robert Francis VanBrocklin, nicknamed Van, was born September 15, 1931 at Mercy Hospital, Watertown, New York, and baptized October 25, 1931, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, in Brownville. He was the oldest of four children born to Carl Sylvester VanBrocklin and Marguerite Mary Warren. Robert's formative years were spent in Brownville where he lived with his family on Franklin Street. He would walk one mile to school, where under the guidance of Coach Stevens, Robert played center position in basketball and covered third base in baseball. Robert was a proven athletic student, receiving health club awards during each of his grade school years. His father was employed at the New York Air Brake and once ran the military gas station on Camp Drum. In 1944, at age 15, Bob's parents separated and in 1946 Robert moved to Dexter with his mother and three siblings. In making it possible to finish the academic year with the Brownville School, Principal Frank E. Smith of the Brownville Central would pick up the four VanBrocklin children and drive them to school in his own vehicle.

In the summer of 1947 Robert worked on a farm on Pillar Point and learned some hands on skills and personal responsibility. In the fall of 1947 he entered



Robert and Lois VanBrocklin

ninth grade at Dexter High School. For the next four years he continued his formal education as well as his beloved sports. This time he pitched and played third base in baseball; continued playing the center position in basketball and now played position of left end with the school's six man football team. Through both his junior and senior class years he was routinely recognized for his superior penmanship—calligraphy like. By June 1950 Robert was preparing to graduate however lacked the required 'English 4' for the necessary approval. So he turned his focus to the military and after a few months to further ponder the decision, he enlisted in the United States Navy on January 8, 1951.

Overseas in January 1951, the Chinese had pushed the United Nations and Republic of South Korea forces back 60 miles south of the 38th parallel; however, during February and March, the Chinese and North Koreans were themselves forced back. This kind of push-and-pull fighting was continually reported. So enlisting says a great deal about a young man volunteering to place his life in harms' way. Initially Robert completed nine weeks of boot camp in Providence, Rhode Island. From there he was assigned aboard the U.S.S Wright, a Saipan-class

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light aircraft carrier. In fact he was a sailor on the U.S.S. Wright when the ship was part of the fleet at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. After about a year at sea, he came back shore-side and attended 14 weeks of schooling at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Chicago. He received training as a machinist mate as well as specialized training in aircraft carrier refrigeration and air conditioning systems—finishing at the top of his class. From there he went back aboard the U.S.S. Wright for another year. About mid-tour, he was assigned to the U.S.S. Wasp, one of 24 Essex-class aircraft carriers, a carrier ship he sailed with another two years. During his four years in the Navy, Robert sailed to many regions of the world - the Atlantic, Pacific, European and Asiatic theaters - and reached the rank of machinist mate third class. Locations traveled during his military career were many - to name just a few, the Strait of Gibraltar, Denmark Strait, Bay of Naples, Gulf of Suez, South China Sea, Korea Strait, Formosa Strait (Taiwan Strait), Hong Kong Harbor, Red Sea, Arctic Circle, Strait of Messina, Gulf of Aden, and more. With just under four years dedicated service, Robert was honorably discharged on November 18, 1954. He had



earned the National Defense Medal, the Navy Occupation Service Medal, the China Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal (Korea), and the Good Conduct Medal.

In 1955, an energetic but unemployed civilian, Robert made his way to Kingston, New York (91 miles north of NYC), seeking employment with the International Business Machines Corporation—IBM. After six months and no notable employment leads he moved back home to Jefferson County. He soon landed a job, much in the footsteps of his father, as a drill press operator at the New York Air Brake in Watertown. He was soon promoted to lathe operator and received training in 'methods engineering and time study.' It was also in 1955 that Robert met the love of his life, Lois Rose Hall of Limerick. Lois is the daughter of William and Anna McCready Hall. The two were introduced by a next door neighbor and dated for over a year. Essentially eloping, as money for a big wedding was scarce, the two married June 9, 1956 at Sackets Harbor by Justice of the Peace Isaac W. Stokes. Attendants were Mr. and Mrs. John Lamon, Dexter, cousins of Robert. The newlyweds drove south and spent their weekend honeymoon in and around the Syracuse area. In early 1957, Robert and Lois bought a home using a Veteran's Administration loan. Their first of two sons, Mark Robert VanBrocklin, was born in Watertown in February of 1957.

In 1959 Robert left Airbrake and moved to construction work. Here he performed arduous and strenuous laborer work in the building of the Limerick-Chaumont Road—a significant reconstruction project that many continue to benefit from today. However, the work also came at a personal cost. In 1961, one Robert noted as an exceptionally bad year, he spent three months in a Veteran Administration hospital with a serious case of rheumatoid arthritis—a systemic inflammatory disorder primarily affecting the joints.

Later in 1961, somewhat healed, he went to work at Black and Clawson Paper Company as a Production Controller. In asking what he controlled—he said his job was to make sure things were manufactured correctly and got out the door quickly. It was not many years beforehand that Black and Clawson acquired the Bagley & Sewall Company of Watertown, and moved their paper machine division to that location so some settling was going on with the consolidation. For Robert and Lois, the year was not all bad—their second son, David James VanBrocklin was born in Watertown in June of 1961. Robert would work for Black and Clawson for the next ten years.

In 1971 Robert went to work at Sicard Industries of Watertown. As foreman, he was with Sicard's eleven

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years and until the company sold out. Under new corporate leadership, Robert stayed on and was assigned to sales of snow blowers and parts - most of his sales were with the U.S. Government. In 1987, Robert and Lois purchased 18 acres of land just outside the village of Dexter and with the help of Lois's nephew Steve Hall, built a new home. The two moved in July 1988 and have enjoyed their time there ever since. They left behind their well-loved Dexter village home of 31 years. The home that raised the two boys still stands - it is across from the village monument. He continued to work for SMI Industries (Snowblast Sicard) handling snow blower sales and retired in 1992 - all together 21 years in the business. Call it phase one of retirement, because Robert then went to work part-time with a Canadian firm selling automotive parts. He did this until retiring altogether in 1995.

In 1997 while trying to find out a little something about his family he was bitten by the genealogy bug - and it stung hard. In time he heard about a recently established society in Watertown that specialized in genealogy and family research. Robert started attending and found the society helpful. He learned fast because in September 2003, took over as Vice President of the society under President Linda Malinich. In September 2004 he was voted in as President with Rose Dillenbeck serving as his Vice President. Under his presidency, the highly sought after "Jefferson County New York Will Abstracts - 1830 to 1850" was published and continues to be sold to this day. In September 2005 he served his third year in the presidency as Vice President; once again under President Linda Malinich. The *Informers* of 2003 to 2005, and even long after, reflect his sincere dedication and hard work moving genealogy research forward. These were the years when computer based research and attention to family research increased. He also recalls many fond meetings at the Flower Memorial Library and having difficulty finding enough chairs for those attending.

Robert has been committed to his community of Dexter for many years. In a 1965 village wide election, although not running for Mayor, he received several write-in votes. This shows his dedication to the village of Dexter long before 1965 - keep in mind he moved and bought his first home there in 1957. He is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a member of the Dexter Historical Society; a member of the Dexter Chamber of Commerce where he once served as Vice President, and a member of the Dexter High School Alumni Association where he served as President in 2006. He has played sports with other Dexter related teams—notably he was on the Dexter Fireman's bowling team that won the 1964 City (Watertown) League Championship. He is also a life member of the U.S.S. Wasp and U.S.S. Wright aircraft carrier naval



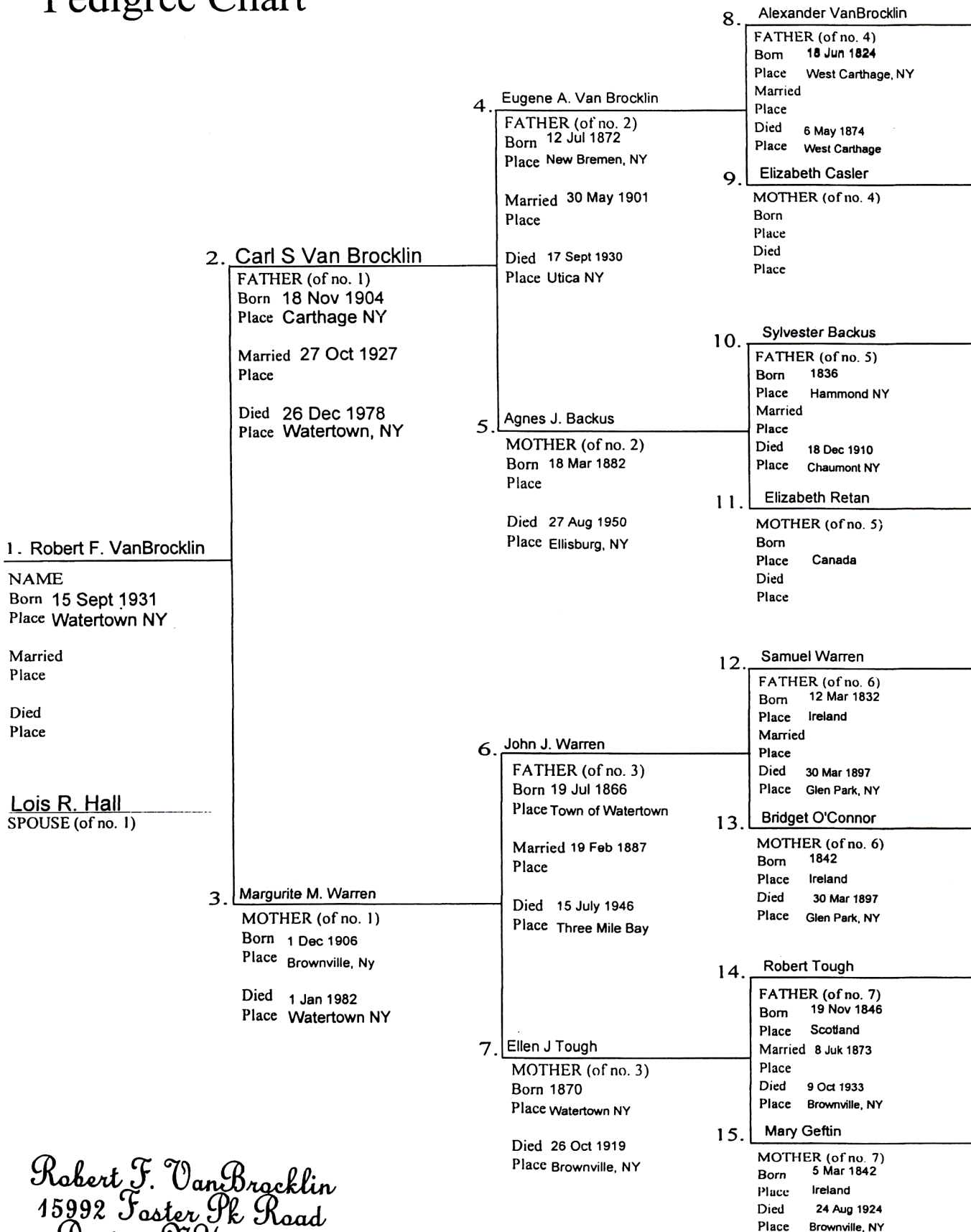
associations and enjoys receiving their newsletters. And of great significance, Robert honorably served as a Dexter volunteer fireman for over 58 years—16 of those years as fire commissioner. In 2008 he received a certificate of appreciation from the Jefferson County Board of Legislators and a year later he was honored as Dexter's Fireman of the Year for 2009. A man of many accolades!

For relaxation and get-away time, Robert loves to hunt and fish. In 1957, he purchased a hunting camp at Moose River, near Port Leyden in Lewis County, and until this past year has visited the camp every year. From deer hunting to trout fishing, he fully enjoys sports in places such as Cooper Creek, Pine Creek and the Moose River.

As I sat and talked to Robert I was greatly impressed with his documented research. Whenever I asked a question, he jumped for a certain file, some upstairs, many downstairs. His computer is filled with digital files and his paper-based filing cabinets are overflowing with years of work, with folders meticulously labeled. His bookshelves were lined with family history booklets and photo albums. Someone once said that we all hold a library in our brain and when a person passes, unless written-down, the library is lost forever—Robert's is faithfully written-down! His office, call it the repository of his life-long work, is filled with accomplishments—family photos, certificates, awards, plaques and more. I also sensed that here was a giant of a humble man who spent his life acknowledging the achievements of others and toned down his own successes. Besides his two children, and life-long successes, he has three precious grandchildren: Zachary, Hope and Nicole, of whom he is very proud.

In closing the spotlight, Robert Francis VanBrocklin most certainly fulfills the earlier comments given from other long-standing JCNYS members. Yes, he is highly respected, his opinions are worth listening to, he has proven himself earnest and hard working, he is a faithful steward, and I found him extremely pleasant. In fact, it was a pleasure capturing just a small glimpse into this man's life-long story.

Pedigree Chart



Robert F. Van Brocklin
 15992 Foster Pk Road
 Dexter, NY 13634

LOST VILLAGES AND CEMETERIES OF FORT DRUM

By Tom LaClair

As a resident of Clayton and President of the Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society, I am often asked questions by members, many who live out of state. One such member recently asked how they could best research their ancestors who once lived on land now occupied by Fort Drum. This was a very good question and one I went about researching. As I pondered the question, I said to myself, although the military installation does not touch the St. Lawrence River region, many of our local residents indeed resided and had relatives living on present day Fort Drum. Therefore this out-of-state question comes with local applicability.

To aid my research I visited the Fort Drum Cultural Resources Program (CRP) office and met with two associates, Dr. Laurie Rush, CRP Manager, and Dr. Duane Quates, CRP Archaeologist. The two have studied Fort Drum culture considerably and in particular, the 1941 expansion of the base and the elimination of several towns and villages—often referred to as Lost Villages. The two shared that “LeRaysville, Sterlingville, Lewisburg, Alpina, Woods Mills, and North Wilna” are the Lost Villages of Fort Drum. They are not called “lost” because their locations are unknown or because little is known of them. Quite the contrary, much is known about these places. They are referred to as “lost” due to the fact that the owners of the land lost their homes, farms and businesses in 1941 when the land was incorporated through eminent domain by the Department of Agriculture. Although the families could pack up their personal belongings; their homes, their businesses, their farms, and their churches were left behind. Left behind were also their cemeteries and their buried loved ones.

In the January 26, 1997 *Watertown Daily Times*, Joanne Johnson states: “By Labor Day 1941, a full 525 families were displaced. Furthermore 3,000 buildings including 24 schools, six churches and a post office were abandoned. Six entire villages were eliminated while others were reduced one-third to one-half.”

Marisa Spowles, in her on-base lectures on The Lost Villages of Fort Drum, states: “Fort Drum’s 107,000+ acres are utilized as a training base for thousands of soldiers and is home to them and their families. It employs many people who live in the surrounding area and tries to give back to those communities who give it support. In 1941, the area known as Pine Camp was only a seasonal camp and had been used for training exercises since 1907. The area was offered to the Army by the Watertown Chamber of Commerce due to the fact that it was not usable for farm land. With the looming threat of entering WWII the US government, knowing that they would need a larger contiguous area for training, set its sights on northern New York. The intended area of expansion was 75,000 acres of land that encompassed whole villages, several hamlets, and farmsteads that lay outside of these hamlets. Acting under the Farm Securities Administration, which aided families in need during the Depression, the government helped find a new location for a home or farm to those owning land in the proposed area of expansion. Many were reluctant to leave

their homes, possessing strong emotional ties to land that their families had owned for generations.”

The Fort Drum Military Installation is home to no less than 13 historic cemeteries; many of them miles away from modern infrastructure. Although these cemeteries are still owned by the various townships, they are surrounded by thousands of acres of active military training land. As a result, accessing the cemeteries can often be difficult and downright dangerous. You don’t just enter a military installation and visit a cemetery in a combat training zone. But now there is a way to do it virtually.

In a project achieved over the past several years, Michael R. Spowles, a research fellow and intern with Fort Drum’s Cultural Resources Program and the organization’s staff members cataloged and photographed the more than 2,000 cemetery markers on the installation. Included in the project, information from every head stone from each of the historic cemeteries of Fort Drum was uploaded into a single on-line database. The database allows for more effective resource management and, more importantly, grants the public access to a suite of virtual cemeteries. All together the 1,804 internments were individually photographed and tombstone writings documented to the site.

Today anyone doing family research, with internet access, can research their Jefferson County, New York ancestors from the ease of their homes. In the November 8, 2012 Fort Drum article by Michelle Kennedy, she writes: “As the years have gone by, Fort Drum has taken care of the cemeteries, but we recognize that these families lost their homes here on the installation and they’ve also lost access to the burial sites of their loved ones,” she said. “There are a couple of cemeteries that are very hard to reach now and are only open for public visitation on Memorial Day. We felt that the very least we could do was use modern technology to make it possible for these families to visit their loved ones at any time using the Internet.” Furthermore, “Using information from the project, the Cultural Resources team was able to create detailed maps of each cemetery,” commented Dr. Rush. “We get at least two or three inquiries per month,” she explained. “We’re hoping that once the public becomes increasingly aware that this information is readily available, the contacts will increase. We have received requests from all over the U.S. and Canada from families who were displaced in the 1940s and are very interested in coming back to that piece of their family history.”

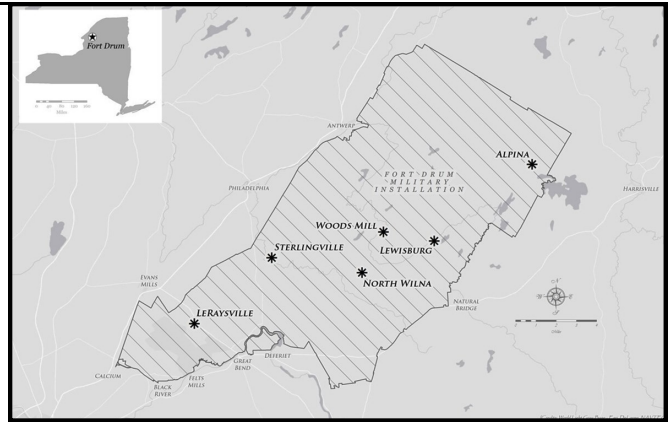
Referencing the 2012 cemetery map provided by Cultural Resources, the locations of the 13 historic cemeteries, with the 1,804 known burials, is shown within the confines of Fort Drum. The name of the 13 historic cemeteries and burials for each cemetery is listed:

Cooper Family Cemetery with seven burials
Quaker (Slocum-Child) Cemetery with 69 burials
LeRay Mansion (Baby’s Grave) Cemetery with one burial
POW Cemetery with 7 burials (6 Germans and 1 Italian)
Sheepfold Cemetery with 292 burials
Gates (Plank Road) Protestant Cemetery with 150 burials
Sterlingville Catholic (Savage-Varley) Cemetery with 99 burials

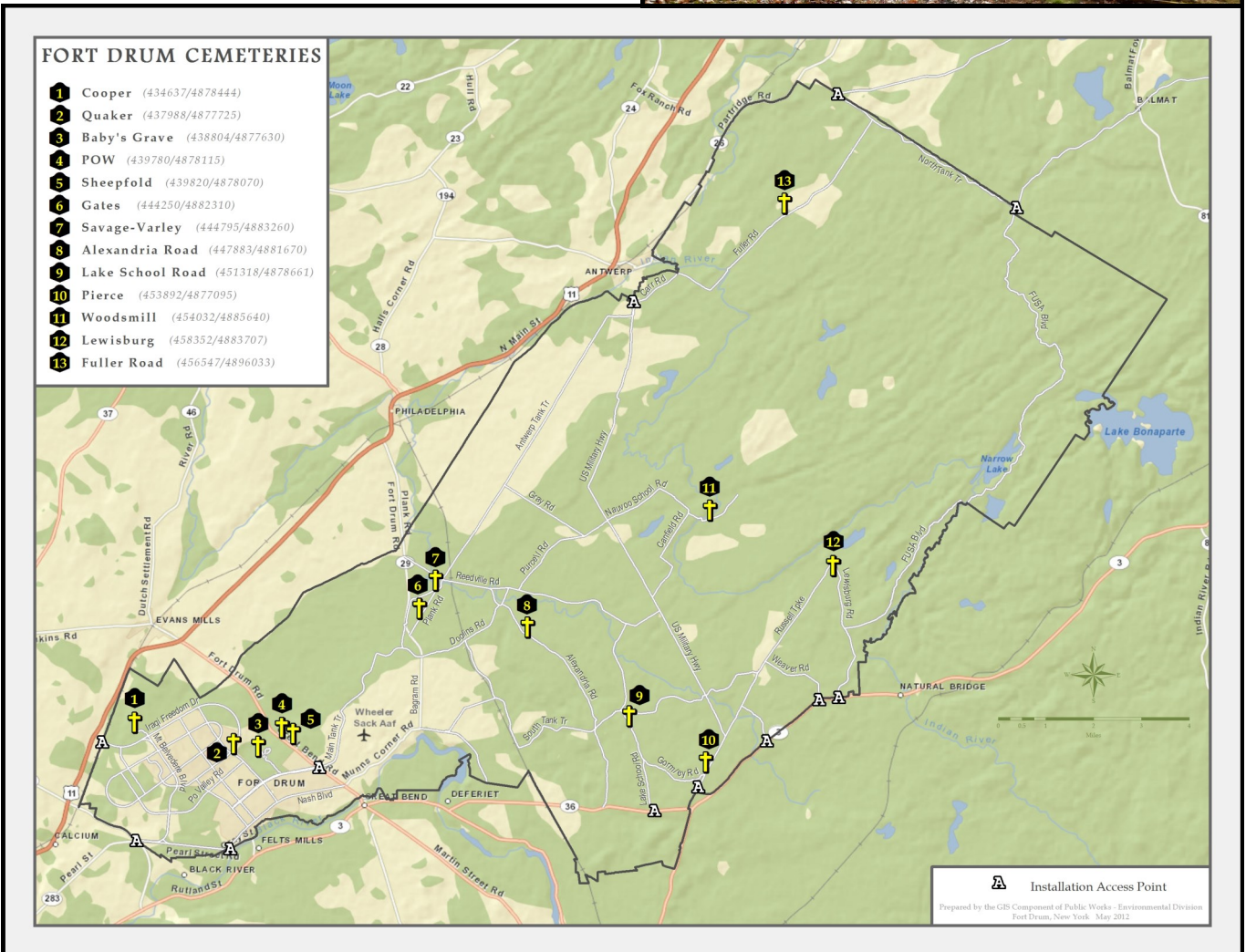
(Continued on Page 13)

(Continued From Page 12)
 Alexandria Road Cemetery with seven burials
 Lake School Road (Gormley Road) (Derby-Hubbard)
 Cemetery with 200 burials
 Pierce Cemetery with 426 known burials
 Woods Mills Methodist Cemetery with 203 burials
 Lewisburg Cemetery (Doyle-Mulvaney) with 326 burials
 Fuller Road Cemetery (Freeman-Bacon) with 17 burials

The internet site listing every burial and a photograph of the head stone is located at: <http://www.drum.army.mil/PublicWorks/Pages/cemetery.aspx>. After researching the database online, those interested in visiting the post and a cemetery in person should make arrangements with the Cultural Resources Office at 315-772-4165. Memorial Day is the day set aside each year for families to come on and visit the cemeteries. Cultural Resources welcomes guests and strives to learn of family history with ties to the land.



Sheepfold Cemetery (Below)



Daughters of 1812 General Jacob Brown Chapter
Submitted by Anne Davis

War of 1812 Veteran Thomas Baker and Thomas Baker – Early Pioneer of the Town of Watertown NY

Both men named Thomas Baker served in the War of 1812 and both are buried in Brookside Cemetery in Watertown, Jefferson County, NY.

The first Thomas Baker of this sketch was born April 30, 1788 in Sullivan, Cheshire, New Hampshire. He married Betsey Tolman, daughter of Ebenezer Tolman, and his wife Mary Clark. Thomas and Betsey are buried in the Old Ground Lot #8 of Brookside Cemetery in the Town of Watertown. Thomas died in 1841 and Betsey in 1866.

The following was published in a book by the Jefferson County Historical Society in 1905 outlining the life of our first couple.

"Thomas, third son and seventh child of Jonathan and Sarah (Holt) Baker, was born in 1788, as before noted, in Sullivan, New Hampshire, where he grew to manhood. His education was such as the common schools of his generation afforded, and he was bred in habits of industry and self-reliance such as was characteristic of his forbears. He was married April 27, 1817, to Betsey Tolman, born in the neighboring town of Marlboro, New Hampshire, a daughter of Ebenezer Tolman. In company with two of his wife's brothers and a sister, he came to the town of Watertown in 1817, and located on land in the Sandy Creek Valley, in the southern part of the town. Here he cleared up land and engaged in agriculture until his death, which occurred in 1841. His was one of the finest farms in the town, and is now owned and occupied by his grandson. He possessed the requisite qualities of a pioneer—determination, perseverance and industry—and he did no small part in establishing civilization in the wilderness. His wife was a woman of courage and fortitude, and was his aid in making a home, a fit companion for the hardy pioneer. She was a scion of one of the strong old New England families, a

daughter of a revolutionary hero who bore many hardships and exposures in the defense of his country in time of war. Their children were: William Clark, Orson M., George, Ely Collins, Nancy and Mary. All are deceased except Orson M., who resides in Clark, Clark County, North Dakota."

The second Thomas Baker of this sketch was born 1796 in Connecticut and died 1892 in Watertown and are buried in Sec F/Lot 4 in Brookside Cemetery. He was the son of Erastus Baker and Lois Whiney. He married Laura Nash born 1799 in Vermont and died May 30, 1863 in Watertown. Thomas served as Justice of the Peace in 1860 and was listed as a retired merchant on the 1880 census living, in Watertown. This couple had at least two sons, Samuel born 1823 and Thomas born 1839. There is a picture of Thomas Baker Sr. on findagrave.com.

AN EXCITING PROJECT

JCNYGS member Nan Dixon of Clayton, New York recently provided the following: "A project I got excited about the other day, one that fits Bill's (late husband) criteria that we'd better get the information while the folks are available, is to have each person who is willing take his/her childhood home, and go up and down the road, figuratively, locating the neighbors, and naming the children or anyone in the household, and giving the school district and teachers.

For instance: I was brought up on Wagoner Farm on Dingman Point Road with my parents, two brothers, and aunt. I would name them and give birth and death dates, if I can. The next neighbor lived on Number Nine Island downriver, and of course I should give the inhabitants. I could do three generations there, and some hired men. That was the end of the neighborhood, and then go upriver to the next farm and list members of the family that still live there. Again, three generations. And the next home, etc., on the road. I could go out to Goose Bay Road and do a few there.

Neighbors were much closer then, almost family. This puts names in localities and times, and should be of help to those who have moved away." If you have lived in your neighborhood for many years, consider capturing this genealogical information before it is lost forever. Your descendants will appreciate the information.

To promote new members, 5,000 JCNYGS bookmarks were recently produced for dispersal around Jefferson County (recommended by a member in the survey). Bookmarks will go out to the Watertown City Clerk, all town and village clerks; historical societies, libraries.



Jefferson County
NY Genealogical Society

Membership includes:

- Quarterly Informer—Jefferson County NY Genealogy Newsletter
- Monthly meetings with informative guest speakers
- Join forces with experienced Jefferson County NY researchers
- Surf JCNYGS website for information/hotlinks to research sites

For the latest information and membership dues, visit us on our website:
www.jcnygs.com.

In addition, stay up to date by liking us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/JeffersonCountyNyGenealogicalSociety.

Or you can write us at:
JCNYGS, P.O. Box 6453, Watertown, New York 13601



The Derosia Family Reunion

(Submitted by Larry Corbett of Watertown, New York)

Prosperity and the availability of cheap transportation helped to promote the popularity of family reunions during the 1920s and 30s. Extended families gathered for food and drink, fun and games, and just plain chatter in what often became an annual event. Travel restrictions instituted during World War II drastically reduced the size and number of reunions. Nonetheless, reunions continue to be a central part of many families. This photo was taken at a reunion of the extended family of Alexander and Adelaide Meyers Derosia at their farm which was located on the Cape Vincent Road about 2 miles west of Clayton.

Back row: (left to right) Alexander Derosia, unidentified, Laurence Meyers, Adelaide Meyers Derosia, Mary Catherine Derosia Davis, George "Dutch" Bertrand, Fred Steele.

Second row: George L. Cummings, Henrietta Cummings, Joseph William Derosia, Shirley Bowser, unidentified, possibly Elnora Derosia Steele.

Front row: Richard Bertrand, June Bertrand, George Meyers, Lena Derosia Bertrand, Anna Meyers Curtis, Gladys Cummings Bowser, unidentified, Mildred Davis. Lawrence and George Meyers, Anna Curtis, and Adelaide Derosia are siblings. Mary Davis and her

brother-in-law George Bertrand are holding a baby doll. One of the most popular entertainments at the Derosia reunions was a mock shotgun wedding!!

George L. Cummings and Henrietta J. Bergh Cummings are my maternal grandparents. They were married in May, 1930, shortly before the reunion. George Cummings' mother is Mary Catherine Derosia Cummings Davis. By 1930, his father was dead and his mother had remarried Owen Davis. Gladys Bowser is George's sister. Mary Davis was a daughter of Alex and Addie Derosia. Joseph Derosia, Lena Bertrand, and Elnora Steele were her siblings. Anna Curtis, George and Laurence Meyers were siblings of Adelaide Derosia. The men lived in Cleveland, Ohio whereas Anna Curtis lived in town of Rodman.

KLOCK INFORMATION

JCNYGS member Benny Klock provided the following. "My Great-Grandfather Ezekiah Klock was born in St Johnsville (1823) and married Elizabeth Davidson in Lyme in 1847. He lived in Cape Vincent for a while and the moved to Preble, New York (near Cortland), before he migrated to Maryland and lived with his son (William Theron) before his death in 1900. His father, Henry, was born in Stone Arabia (near St. Johnsville), married Elizabeth Klock and died in Lyme in 1871. The 1850 census listed Henry's occupation as a farmer. Henry's fourth great-grandfather was Hendrick Klock who settled in St. Johnsville in 1693." If you have a direct connection with any of these ancestors, and would consider sharing information, please contact Benny Klock at bklock@bellsouth.net

Robert Sixbery

First white man to settle Northern Jefferson County

Early History of Area Is Recalled
Great Grandson of First White Man to Settle in
Jefferson County Visiting at Theresa.

Theresa, 29 August 1941—Charles Wilson Sixbery, Bedford, Va., visited relatives here this week and related incidents in the life of his Great Grandfather, Robert Sixbery, first white man to settle Northern Jefferson County. Charles Sixbery is 80 years old and as a boy often heard Great Grandfather tell of the early history of this region. It is generally supposed that Robert Sixbery was the first white man to go through the wilderness lands of what is now Pamela, Le Ray and Theresa. He discovered the body of water known as Sixbery Lake in northern Theresa. He lived most of his life near the Hoover cemetery in Le Ray, which is about two miles out of Evans Mills toward Chaufy's Corners.

Sixbery made friends with the Indians and learned many of their secrets. He knew where they obtained their almost pure lead and where was located their own "grist mill" on the banks of the Indian River. "As I recall the story," said Charles Sixbery, "My Great Grandfather was born March 6, 1763. He was soon an orphan, both parents dying when he was but a boy. He was adopted by a family near Catskill on the Hudson. But when he was 14, or in the summer of 1777, he ran away and went up the Hudson River to above Albany and turned off west along the Mohawk Valley. He half expected to stop near Herkimer—he had stolen his master's gun when he ran away to hunt and trap there. But fear that he would be overtaken and sent back caused him to go north as far as Boonville, which only had, so Great Grandfather said, four or five houses. Hearing there was better hunting and trapping far north, he followed a trail to the Black River and started trapping toward Great Bend. "At that point he found a couple of friendly Indians. They conversed by signs. Great Grandfather followed them, as they directed, and came out to the banks of the Indian River where there was a splendid spring of water. There the two Indians had their families located. This would be north of Evans Mills, toward Theresa. The Indians, they were Oneidas, made him welcome and he lived with them and trapped and hunted.

"The first year," Mr. Sixbery said "the Indians took their furs to a point of the St. Lawrence River where there were white traders and his Great Grandfather took his along also. But the traders offered only beads and trinkets, which the Indians accepted." His Great Grandfather wanted blankets and cooking dishes. "For

two years Great Grandfather went to the St. Lawrence to trade furs with the Indians," Mr. Sixbery continued. "The third year he decided to make an Indian sled and while the ice was on the rivers, go south. He would have level going and no trees to bother. He found a good market and was able to make a better deal with his furs. He also got acquainted with the girl (a Miss Hoover) he later married. "When he did get married he marked out about 50 acres of wilderness land and there he built a log house and there he brought his bride. When Mr. Le Ray had the northern roads surveyed he hired my Great Grandfather to hunt for game to feed the workers. Mr. Le Ray wanted Great Grandfather to go to the Mohawk to bring up good settlers for the northern region and he and his brother-in-law, Captain John Hoover, did some of this missionary work.

"Great Grandfather used to tell me about planting corn and taking the grain by canoe with the Indians to their mill down the Indian River. He asked the Indians where they got their almost pure lead and, after he pledged never to tell, they showed him the place. He never told a soul where it was, but I suppose it was off the Indian River near what is now Rossie, for there was once a vein of almost pure lead there. I don't think Great Grandfather ever farmed a day in his life. He didn't need to. He could make his living trapping and hunting.

He told me many stories of his experiences with wild animals in those early days, and I remember the time I had a shooting contest with him. Father let me take his gun—a muzzleloader, of course—and I went over to Great Grandfather's to show it. He was over 100 years old at that time, and he had me put a target on a tree some distance away. I took the first shot, resting the gun on a sawbuck. Well, I hit the outside of the target. He took the gun—his own old shooting iron—and drew it to his shoulder, while he told me that if I was in the woods with wild animals, I would not have time to go home to get a sawbuck. He fired and, while he did not hit the bulls eye, he was much nearer to it than I. "When he died a neighbor took a hardwood plank and painted it white and cut his name and age on the plank. He never had a stone and I went to get him one. The way I always figured it he was 112 or more when he died. But others say he was 109. He had a daughter who was 102 when she died," he concluded. Mr. Sixbery was the guest here of a niece, Mrs. Avis Parker Carragher. He has been for twelve years in the Elks Home in Bedford, Va., a national home for the order. He plans to return in a few days.

Source: Newspaper history article pulled from a scrap book at the Philadelphia Historical Society, Philadelphia, Jefferson County, New York.

Although it is assumed that it was the *Watertown Daily Times*, the newspaper is unknown.

The Folklorist of Jefferson County, New York

Many Jefferson County researchers have come across the wonderfully informative web site managed by Shirley Farone for the past 20 years entitled, "A Prism of Memories of Jefferson County, New York." When asked recently what should be best remembered of all her posts, Shirley immediately declared that people need to know about the work of Rowena Peterson Shangraw (1916-2015).

Rowena had a talent for bringing the history of the North Country to life that Shirley has greatly admired throughout her lifetime. After reading Rowena's "Interesting True Stories of the Lake and River Region," Shirley felt strongly that, "I just had to figure out a way to let others know of this piece!" So back in 2001 Shirley obtained permission to post many of Rowena's writings on her site at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~twigs2000/>.

Rowena was a family friend that Shirley's grandmother met through the Brownville Methodist Church. Although Shirley has retired from genealogy work, the first item she posted to her site in years was Rowena's obituary just this past winter, when Rowena died at age 98.

Shirley described Rowena as a folklorist who wrote beautiful stories about people who were old timers in the North Country during the 1940's. At one time Rowena had heard it remarked that there was no folklore in Jefferson County, so she set out to record the old tales while the storytellers were still around. Shirley posted a collection of Rowena's work that included old ballads, ghost stories and superstitions; tall tales about sea monsters, buried treasure and vanished landmarks; jokes, antique expressions and poems; and even unusual weather phenomena. The subjects of Rowena's writings ranged from tinkers and fiddlers to ancient river captains and trailblazers.

Rowena was an associate editor of North Country Life and wrote a column for this journal in the mid-twentieth century. In addition to the above citation, Shirley's site offers excerpts from Rowena's 1946 Cornell master's thesis entitled, "The Lore of Jefferson County, New York." A heartfelt thanks goes out to Shirley for making these treasures available to us all!

Submitted by the
LeRay de Chaumont NSDAR Chapter
By Anne Davis & Tammy Plantz

LAND BOUNTY GRANTS

A land bounty is a grant of land from a government as a reward to repay citizens for the risks and hardships

they endured in the service of their country, usually in a military related capacity. Land grants often reflect the first recorded appearance of an ancestor into a new region. In some cases, a claimant might have lived in an area for several years before completing the paperwork to finalize ownership of a grant. Your ancestors' names might also appear on other people's grant papers as neighboring property owners, witnesses, or as surveyors or assistants. Sometimes, though, the claimant quickly sold the land to a speculator and never lived on the property.

Once a piece of land was granted or patented, further transfers of ownership were made by deed. As a researcher, you will need to locate the deeds to trace the chain of ownership down through, out of or into your family.

By the time of the Revolutionary War, the practice of awarding bounty land as an inducement for enlisting in the military forces had been a long-standing practice in the British Empire in North America. Besides Imperial Bounty Land Grants, both Colonial and municipal governments had routinely compensated participants in and victims of military conflicts with land. Land was a commodity in generous supply, and governments seized upon its availability for accomplishing their goals.

In their colonial tradition, the Revolutionary governments patterned their struggle for independence from Great Britain on the principle of bounty lands. They generally offered free lands in exchange for military service, but they strategically did so on the presumption that they would be victorious in their struggle. They would not actually award the lands until the war had been concluded and the British defeated.

Those colonies with unseated lands used their advantage to enlist support for the cause with the offer of free lands. Unfortunately, some of the Original Thirteen enjoyed no such advantage. There was no bounty land policy in Delaware, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, or Vermont. Those states lacked enough vacant land to support such a policy. Bounty lands were a feature, however, in Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia. Administratively, these nine states selected reserves in their western domains for the location of bounty lands.

Such a choice was seemingly quite logical. By placing veterans on the frontier, the states would be able to rely upon a military force which in turn would be able to protect the settlements from Indian attacks. These state governments also realized that they had to encourage the ex-soldiers to occupy their newly awarded bounty lands, so they granted exemptions from taxation ranging from a few years to life to those veterans who would locate on their individual bounty lands. Such a policy also had the effect of retarding the mass migration of a state's population.



Electronic Death Registration System

ALBANY, New York: In October 2013, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law a measure that brings a fully modern, electronic death registration system (EDRS) to the entire state of New York. Such a system is already in place in New York City, while 43 other states either employ such a system or are actively developing one. The Empire State will soon join their ranks as a result of the Governor's action. The system is to be designed by the NYS Department of Health (DOH) in concert with all stakeholders and is slated to be fully functional by January 1, 2015. Currently, death certificates are comprised of paper with carbon copy, requiring the use of a typewriter and manual filing. This includes the personal delivery of these official state records by funeral directors for signature, as well as extensive and costly travel by funeral directors to file the certificates. The labor-intensive nature of this process takes valuable time away from funeral directors - time that will now be more appropriately used to serve the needs of those who have just lost a family member or other loved one. This process is also expected to save the State's small business funeral homes costs associated with this manual process. Notably, this new law will also:

- Authorize the NYS DOH to design, implement and maintain a fully modern, electronic system (EDRS) for all counties outside the City of New York (which already operates its own EDRS)
- Allow for more accurate tracking and reporting of causes of death, especially in the event of a widespread disease outbreak or pandemic flu event, yielding a multitude of benefits from a public health and safety perspective
- Be funded through a 'public-private partnership' between the State of New York and NYSFDA
- Funeral directors will make a payment of \$20 for each burial/removal permit issued
- This amount will not be charged to families, but will be a cost of business operations
- Facilitate the collaboration among multiple death registration users - including funeral homes, hospitals and nursing homes, physicians, coroners and NYS DOH Vital Records
- Save funeral homes thousands of dollars each year in

travel time, personnel costs, gasoline expenses, and lost productivity (an average statewide savings of \$9,317 in 2013 for each funeral home)

- Eliminate the need to physically locate and wait for physicians to obtain signatures certifying to each death, thereby saving funeral directors and physicians much time and distraction from their prime duties attending to grieving families and patients, respectively
- Reduce errors by electronically verifying the decedent's Social Security number through a matching process with Social Security Administration records
- Promote uniformity in reporting death statistics to the State and Federal governments; and enable faster death registration at NYS Vital Records, increasing turnaround time for families to obtain certified copies.

ROGERS - EARLY PIONEERS OF CLAYTON

GIDEON ROGERS was born 19 Oct 1768 in Rhode Island. He married, some time before 1792, probably in Rhode Island **LUCINA CONGDON** who was born 1772 and died 1856. She was buried with her husband in Clayton Center Cemetery. **GIDEON ROGERS** died 19 Aug 1856 and was buried in Clayton Center Cemetery, Town of Clayton. **GIDEON** moved to Hancock, Massachusetts after the birth of his third child. About 1819 **GIDEON, Sr.** and the rest of his family followed eldest son **GIDEON, Jr.** to the Town of Clayton, Jefferson County, arriving in the Clayton Center area. One of his sons, **JOHN**, went to Watson, Lewis County, while son **GEORGE** went west. The rest of the family remained in the Clayton area for the remainder of their lives. Son **JOSHUA** born about 1794 in Rhode Island, settled near Three Mile Creek. **DORCAS** married **CHESTER CURTIS** in 1820 and raised her family near Limerick, Town of Brownville, where they are buried. The rest settled in or near Clayton Center. **ALONSON PORTER ROGERS** bought a place on East Line Road, Town of Clayton, from **FANNY ROGERS** in 1853. **GIDEON ROGERS JR.** born 1792 and died June 1870 served as a Private in the Massachusetts Militia, in the War of 1812. He is buried in the Weaver Cemetery, Clayton, NY.

FANNY ROGERS was the widow of a **JOSHUA ROGERS** (no family connection proved, but suspected).

JOSHUA ROGERS was murdered by **HENRY EVANS** over a property dispute in 1827 near Perch Lake, giving rise to the first murder trial in Jefferson County. **EVANS** was found guilty and hanged. The details of the murder can be found in an early edition "Jefferson County Informer", the newsletter of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society. The majority of the **GIDEON ROGERS** family are buried in cemeteries at Clayton Center, Clayton, Three Mile Creek, and Depauville. More Information on the burials can be found on nygenealogy.com



MACLARDY, PHOTO. OSWESTRY
Hannah Rogers, daughter of Joshua and Betsy Rogers

A VANISHED PAST

PART ONE

Watertown Daily Times: Sunday Weekly
Special to the Times, January 12, 1997

By Joanne Johnson

(Series reprinted April 2015 by permission
by WTD's Perry White)

Army jeeps, splotted green and brown, bounce along the rutted gravel roads that pass by them. Huey and Cobra choppers fly over them. Deep in the Impact Area, mortar shells whistle over them, and howitzers pound the ground. Soldiers on maneuvers, M16s heavy on their shoulders, slog through the mud and brush only to stop suddenly in front of one.

These are the village cemeteries of Fort Drum, familiar enough to those who work and live on the military reservation, but off-limits to civilians 362 days a year. Only on Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day are the mortars and howitzers silenced and the orange road gates lifted from noon to 5 p.m.

During these five hours, Fords and Chevys, pickup trucks and minivans, instead of the usual military vehicles, roam the roads as people visit the graves of family and friends. Most visitors are local but some come from as far away as Florida or Arizona, searching for a dimly remembered relative or a missing leaf from their genealogical tree. On Memorial Day, men and women from the Veterans of Foreign Wars arrive with miniature American flags to honor the gravestones of the dead.

But where did they come from, these forlorn markers of a vanished past? Sheepfold, Slocum-Child, Cooper, St. Mary's, Gates, Woods Mills, Derby-Hubbard, Alexandria Road, Pierce, St. Patrick's; although now all within the military reservation, these cemeteries existed long before Fort Drum, before Camp Drum, before even Pine Camp. Their stories go back to the little villages of LeRaysville, Sterlingville, North Wilna, Woods Mills and Lewisburg, all of which disappeared forever with the 1941 expansion of the post.

In The Town of LeRay: Although the aristocrat James D. LeRay de Chaumont, whose family had befriended Benjamin Franklin in Paris, owned much of the land in and around Jefferson County, it was Benjamin Brown, a brother of Gen. Jacob Brown of Brownville, who built the first sawmill and dam on Pleasant Creek in 1801, near the present Remington Pond, on land he purchased from LeRay. That community was called Brown's Mill.

It wasn't until LeRay's "grand manor house" was finished, said historian Hamilton Child, that the village became LeRaysville. Later, a larger more imposing house, with a stone façade, was completed. With its gardens, parks and artificial lake, it was described as

"The most splendid establishment west of the Hudson," according to Harry Landon in his "History of the North County" – a "miniature Versailles," where LeRay held court and once entertained President James Monroe and Napoleon's brother, Joseph Bonaparte.

In the hamlet, LeRay opened a land office and a store. Because it was located on the crossroads of routes connecting the villages of Evans Mills to Great Bend and Black River to Philadelphia and Antwerp, LeRaysville became a tiny transportation hub.

A tavern opened in 1810, then a post office in 1818. By 1821 the village had a grist mill, 20 houses and a school. By 1860 it peaked with a population of 120 and about a dozen stores and businesses; then it slowly declined, according to the 1981 "4 River Valleys Historical Society Journal."

Three cemeteries are located in and around what used to be LeRaysville, now the heart of the Fort Drum cantonment (administrative and barracks area). The most accessible, which can be visited at any time, is right off Route 26, going toward Great Bend. Everts and Holcomb's 1878 "History of Jefferson County" identified it as the Pine Plains. Long called the Sheepfold Cemetery, although the origin of the name is lost in time, it may have begun as a private burial place for the LeRay family, but no LeRay's have ever been buried there.

However, the Payens, who bought the estate, including the cemetery land, after LeRay died, are buried here. The large family monument in the front row is topped by a stone urn and includes Jules Rene Payen, a native of France and Knight of the Legion of Honor, his wife Annette, daughter Julia and her husband, William Phelps.

More interesting is the broken, crumbling headstone far in the back, almost in the woods. It is a plain marble slab, once 5 feet high, erected by LeRay's three children Vincent, Alexander and Therese, for their nurse Rachel, who died in 1834, reports Ernest Cook, who wrote many articles on local history for the Times.

It reads, "Rachel, a good and faithful nurse." Although the children called her "Aunt Rachel," she was an African American and served in the LeRay household along with other "colored conservators," according to Everts and Holcomb.

Surprisingly, New York State did a brisk business in slaves in Early Colonial times. The 1810 Federal Census records 22 slaves in Jefferson County; in the 1814 census, there were 30 slaves, four listed in the town of LeRay. Three belonged to LeRay himself, according to a 1995 article written by Jefferson County Historian Laura Scharer, which she based on original Federal Census records.

(Continued on Page 20)

(Continued From Page 19)

Although Rachel, who died free, according to historian Scharer, may have had the only marked stone, it is possible that other slaves could have been buried in unmarked graves just outside the main part of the old cemetery.

In addition to the French in LeRay, there was also a strong Quaker influence. Hidden from view, at the top of a hill along Fourth Street, lies the cemetery Fort Drum lists as Slocum-Child.

Nowadays, the visitor drives in from the rear, along a dirt road. But originally, the approach was from a road going south out of LeRaysville, then up a narrow lane that led to the crest of the hill where a low stone wall marked the beginning of the cemetery. Because of the early Quakers who settled here, this became known as Quaker Hill.

The first Friends Meeting House was a log cabin near Pleasant Creek. When it burned down, a stone one was built in 1816 near the intersection of Route 26 and Bedlam Road, or Wards Corners. The Old Stone Church, as it was called, became a local landmark.

Once inside, men sat on the high wooden benches on the right, black bonneted women on the left. No words were spoken, until someone was moved by the spirit, according to a 1935 letter to the Times by Minnie Ward Kellogg, who grew up nearby.

She recalled that "in the woods behind the meeting house, many of the old Quakers were buried." But no trace of that graveyard has been found, perhaps because, as she continued, "The graves were later removed to the LeRaysville cemetery." By this she meant the Slocum-Child graveyard.

This second cemetery was one of the results of a dispute among the Quakers over whether or not to use music and pastors in the service. The conservatives left and built another church, a simple, wooden one, in the village. They bought land from Stephen Roberts on Quaker Hill, according to Everts and Holcomb, and established the graveyard that was known locally as the old Quaker cemetery.

These early settlers, though, in keeping with the Quaker custom of avoiding signs of worldly wealth, had no headstones. But Thomas Hart, a grandson of the founding Quaker Joseph Child, from Philadelphia, Pa., told Ernest Cook that "I have seen my grandfather painstakingly go after the people had departed to mark the grave with some field stone he had picked up on the way to the cemetery."

Sometime afterwards, Child would tell a few individuals in the congregation about the shape or kind of stone he put on the grave, so that family members would have the comfort of knowing where their loved ones were buried.

In 1931 the LeRay superintendent of highways ordered the restoration of this cemetery, and Ernest Cook visited with Hart. Cook noted that after the fieldstones, the first row of graves belonged to the Child family: Samuel, who died in 1862; and then Moses, Nancy, son Amos, age 11; and daughter Lydia.

As Cook walked through the cemetery, he recorded the names of two Civil War veterans, Caleb Slocum and James H. Palmer. Also buried here is Samuel G. Slocum, the man for whom Slocumville, a tiny village north of LeRaysville known for its powder factory and woolen mill, was named.

There are families of Gardners, Robertses and Burdicks. The gravestone of one young Burdick, Mercy Jane, who died at 18, reads "God made thee as a bud too fair; To bloom on this cold earth; And chose for thee a brighter place; Among flowers of heavenly birth."

Today, the stone wall is crumbling and overgrown with weeds. There are few fieldstones. But Samuel's grave is just as Cook described it, along with his family. The Civil War veterans are easily found, and Mercy Jane's stone, her inscription almost unreadable, still stands beside those of her mother and father.

The final cemetery on the Fort Drum cantonment is the Cooper Cemetery, a family cemetery tucked away behind the post's new health clinic.

It was discovered, unexpectedly, during a 1986 survey for road construction. Research, funded by the United States Army and conducted by the cultural resource group of Louis Berger and Associates, revealed that this graveyard was on the farm of William Cooper, or Guillaume Coupart. He was also known as the "French" Cooper, a man who left his homeland to avoid conscription in the Napoleonic Wars.

The original farmstead was about a quarter of a mile northeast of the Bedlam and Conway roads intersection, but now the approach is from the rear by way of a dead-end dirt lane, off Mt. Belvedere Boulevard.

On the ridge of a low hill, surrounded by maples and enclosed by a low limestone retaining wall, are the five graves: William, who died in 1851, is buried next to his wife, Margaret; their son William Jr., who died in 1871; his wife Elvira, and their daughter Margaret, who died at 21.

Behind the gravestones, at a distance of 5 or 6 feet, stand the footstones, a common sight in old cemeteries. These are small stones, with the person's initials, that mark the end of the grave so that the burial site will not be disturbed when others are added. End of part one.

(Note: Part two and three will be in future issues.)

Member Submissions

PEDIGREE CHARTS

In response to the November 2014 survey, several multi-generational pedigree charts were received from JCNYGS members nationwide. The 11 charts have been posted to the JCNYGS facebook page for review. Please take a look for possible connections with your own ancestors. The charts received and posted include:

Edward Everette WILCOX, born 1855 in Decatur, Van Buren, Michigan. Chart submitted by member Jean Wilcox Hibben of Lake Matthews, California.

Alvah Brayton DYE, born 1859 possibly in Antwerp, Jefferson County, New York. Chart submitted by member Lynne Mitchell Corbett of Litchfield Park, Arizona.

Frederick Victor WHEELER, born 1872 in Delevan, Faribault, Minnesota. Chart submitted by member Kathryn Lord of Granby, Connecticut.

Charles Herbert BENNETT, born 1874 in Clayton, Jefferson County, New York. Chart submitted by member Lynne Mitchell Corbett of Litchfield Park, Arizona.

Hattie M. SEAVER, born 1880 in Watertown, Jefferson County, New York. Chart submitted by member Kevin Best of Parker, Colorado.

Gladys Emma Mary SPRAGUE, born 1899 in Theresa, Jefferson County, New York. Chart submitted by member John M. McGreal of Beaver, Pennsylvania.

Retha Carrie LITTLEFIELD, born 1906 in Ellisburg, Jefferson County, New York. Chart submitted by member Nancy Marshall of Weedsport, New York.

Francis Crary BATES Jr., born in Buffalo, Erie County, New York. Chart submitted by members Francis and Shirley Bates of Forrest Grove, Oregon.

Alfred Parks HONEYWELL, born 1934 in Buffalo, Erie, New York. Chart submitted by member Parks Honeywell of Redwood, New York.

Carolyn Marie VINCENT, born 1943 in Watertown, Jefferson, New York. Chart submitted by member Carolyn Vincent Bourgeois of Schenectady, New York.

Judy Lee CASE, born 1948 in Watertown, Jefferson County, New York. Chart submitted by member Nancy Marshall of Weedsport, New York.

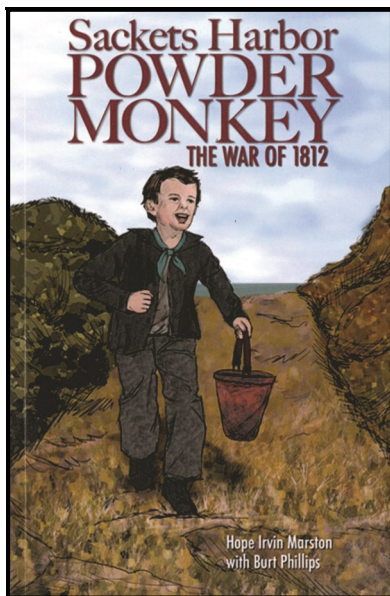
Hannah Wheeler

JCNYGS member Kathryn Lord of Granby, Connecticut provided the following and a pedigree chart (posted on the JCNYGS facebook page). "We

believe that Hanna Lear/Near Wheeler is the Hannah Wheeler who died age 93 in July 1847 in Pillar Point, Jefferson County, New York. After her husband Peter died 1820-1823 in Warren County, New York, she and her son Zachariah and his family moved to Jefferson County. Zachariah and his wife Phoebe are buried in Point Peninsula Cemetery. Their son Peter was involved with hiring for the schools. Their son Menzo remained in Jefferson County when the others moved to Fulton County, Illinois around 1850. He had a store in Three Mile Bay, Jefferson County, New York and was postmaster for a while." If any of our member readers know more information on this line, please contact Kathryn at e-mail: hglord@cox.net

VINCENT GENERATIONS

JCNYGS member Carolyn Bourgeois of Schenectady, New York recently provided the following: "Attached is my Pedigree chart (posted on JCNYGS facebook page). Please note that Samuel W. Vincent is where Dave Kendall (JCNYGS member) and I are connected. His Great Grandfather "Jenks" Vincent, about whom he spoke in October, was my Great Grandfather Nichol Vincent's brother according to Samuel W's will. Several Vincent cousins researched the Vincent line in 2000 and compiled the Vincent Family of Ancestors, taking them back to Rhode Island and England in the 1600's. There should be a copy of this document on file in the JCNYGS archives. If not, I believe the Thousand Island Museum in Clayton has a copy. Let me know if you want additional Vincent generations. I have MANY old photos of some of my ancestors, probably the oldest are portraits of William and Elizabeth Giddings PATCH, (see pedigree chart) from whom Pauline Zach, Attorney Allen Patch, former Clayton Mayor Jim Patch, Florence Vincent (my mom) and I are descended. This couple arrived in the Penet Square with several other couples/families from the Weare, New Hampshire area in the mid 1850's, presumably on land grants. Most of those folks are buried in the Depauville (Jefferson County, New York) Cemetery. The Haas, Currier, Bartlett and other gentlemen from New Hampshire married several of Elizabeth Giddings sisters and they all came to Jefferson County, specifically, the town of Clayton to settle. There could be a story about the Patch family, MAYBE! I also have a very useful genealogy tip for researching French descendants, one that opened two or three more generations of my LEYARE ancestors for me!" If you have connections to these ancestors, and could share new information, please consider contacting Carolyn at tajck@aol.com



BOOK REVIEW

Submitted by
Phyllis Putman

Phyllis shared: "A friend of mine recently co-authored a book that has to do with the War of 1812 in Sackets Harbor. I bought a copy from Amazon for \$7.95." *Sackets Harbor Powder Monkey: "The War of 1812"* Paperback – July 15, 2012, by Hope I.

Marston (Author) with Burt Phillips.

Rankin has wanted to join the crew on the Oneida since the first time he saw the ship anchored in Black River Bay. But what can a ten-year-old do on a warship? He hangs around outside the tavern listening to the farmers talk of the coming war with the British, hoping to find out. The brig Oneida has been built to patrol Lake Ontario and protect Sackets Harbor from an attack. Local farmers are frustrated with restrictions against trading with Canada which cause them to resort to smuggling in order to survive. When the ship's captain finally calls for recruits nearly a year later, many men want to sign up in hopes of putting an end to these rules. Pa gives Rankin's older brother Will permission to do so. Rankin badgers Will to take him along.

On the day set by the captain of the Oneida, Rankin and Will are the first to sign on. During their first months on board, the new crew members gain experience as the Oneida patrols the lake. Too late, they find out that until the war begins, her mission is to apprehend potash smugglers. Rankin learns to run gunpowder up from the hold to the guns on deck. He sulks when months pass with no battles on the lake. Things change soon after the United States declares war against the British.

On the morning of July 19, 1812, the lookout on Oneida spots five British warships heading toward Sackets Harbor. The brig prepares to defend the village. Rankin is assigned to carry powder to the huge three-ton long gun up on the cliff. Royal George comes into range and the locals open fire. The unique way the battle is fought and the unusual way it ends surprises both sides. Although this is a work of fiction, the historical events portrayed and the persons named are real."

A RESPONSE TO A JANUARY QUERY

Original query in January 2015 *Informer*

VAN CAMP, DIEFENDORF

I am looking for documented proof that Henry **DIEFENDORF VAN CAMP** was the son of Cornelius De Pue **VAN CAMP** and Anna Barbara **DIEFENDORF**. Cornelius was born in Montgomery County and Henry D. lived in Jefferson County.

Jack Van Camp

jaxon1usa@comcast.net

A February response to the *Informer*

Dear Jack,

I am researching the families of Tremper, Snyder and Van Camp who migrated up to Jefferson County from Orange County, NY. I've located your Henry Diefendorf Van Camp and his wife Catherine Elizabeth Abeel Van Camp who are buried in the Perch River Cemetery in Brownville, Jefferson County.

In several of the New York State censuses residents gave the states or counties (if born in NY) where they were born. In 1855 Catherine E. Abeel Van Camp said she was born in Montgomery County, NY. Then in 1865 she said she was born in Herkimer County, NY. It's hard to know which is correct unless one can find church records dating back to the person one is searching for. I've been lucky to find them sometimes in the records of the Reformed Dutch Church in various counties in NY state.

I'd suggest you try to locate baptismal records from one of the RDC parishes in Montgomery County. I don't know where you live, but the best source I've found over many years, for many New York State genealogy records in numerous counties is at the old County Courthouse in Fonda, NY. If you live nearby, you can drive there in good weather (not now!). If not, contact the County Archivists there by phone and see what they can do to help you.

I've copied pertinent information below.

Priscilla Tremper Leith
Newton, MA

Montgomery County History & Archives - Contact Information

Old Courthouse
9 Park St.
P.O. Box 1500
Fonda, NY 12068-1500
Phone: 518-853-8186 or 518-853-8187
Fax: 518-853-8392
Monday-Friday 8:30am-4pm (Sept - June)
Monday-Friday 9am-4pm (July & August)
Historian/Records Management Officer: Kelly A. Farquhar
Assistant: Earlene F. Melious

JCNYGS MATERIALS FOR PURCHASE

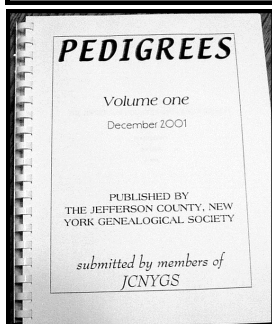
Contact: Greg or Tammy Plantz, 21787 Reed Road, Watertown, NY 13601
Or email tplantz1@twcny.rr.com

**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**
Checks made out to
JCNYGS

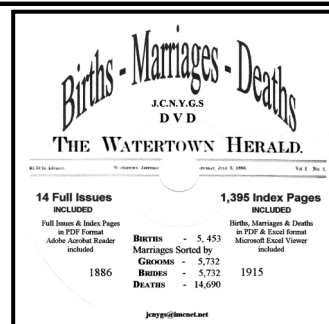


**All our
Informer
Newsletters
Are now on
Our website!**

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 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.)

MEEKS, NELSON

I am seeking information (Baptismal & Marriage records, letters, photos) for my ancestors **Joel MEEKS** (b. 30 Nov. 1795 - d. 12 July 1878) and his brother **Edward MEEKS** (b. 1798 - d. 22 July 1877), sons of Richard **MEEKS** and Jemima **NELSON**. Joel and Richard were born in Dutchess Co., NY but may have lived in Albany Co. and for sure in Jefferson County, NY. Anyone wishing to share/trade information please contact.

Jennifer
jkc@kos.net

KRUG

I am looking for any information on the family of Florian **KRUG**. He was in Jefferson County from about 1900 to 1932 as far as I can figure out. He had a wife, Ruth March **KRUG** and two daughters, Mary born 1909 and Margaret born in 1915. Is there a way I

can access the old newspapers of the area? I live in Oregon, so coming there is out of the question.

Leah Bird
theladybird142@gmail.com

From our Membership Survey:

THOMAS TANNER

JCNYGS member Cindy Hazelton of Clayton, New York, provided the following. "I am a fairly new DAR member, under Thomas Tanner. I have Weatherup, Barber, Sitts, Brasie, and Grey ancestors. I am trying to work another DAR line through Eldad Evans. Most of my families are around the Brasie Corners, Morristown (St. Lawrence County) vicinity. Grey's, Weatherup, Dekalb area, Evans family was huge. My line is from the Hammond (St. Lawrence County) area." If any of our member readers know more information on any of these lines, please contact Cindy at e-mail: clh@gisco.net

INFORMER

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

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JCNYGS PROGRAMS FOR 2015

Monday, 13 April @ 6PM: JCNYGS member Stephan P. Clarke will give a presentation on "The Palatines, Hank Jones, the Rochester Genealogical Society and Me." Steve will discuss his research into Palatine German history, especially the confusion over the spelling of German names, in his quest to prove ancestors for SAR membership. Presented will be a mix of history and genealogical research.

Monday, 11 May @ 6PM: Peter and Angela Johnson of Frankford, Ontario will speak on "Loyalists: Discovering Your Ancestors on the Other Side." Expect a lively discussion of sources for finding your ancestors who fought for the British during the American Revolution. Our speakers are genealogists and re-enactors who are well-known throughout Canada.

Monday, 8 June @ 6PM: This will be a joint 2-hour meeting sponsored by JCNYGS—Thousand Island Sons of the American Revolution (TISAR) on "Forgotten Revolutionary War Patriots of Jefferson County." Introduction by Parks Honeywell; panelists are Bruce Coyne and Anne Davis, and the moderator will be Jim Eagan.

Monday, 13 July @ 6PM: Bette Lathan will speak on the Historic Pinckney Corners Cemetery Restoration Program. She will also mention similar activities at the Hogsback Cemetery in Martinsburg; these are both located in Lewis County.

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.

2015 New York State Family History Conference

September 17-19, 2015 • Syracuse, New York

The special — and sometimes daunting — challenges of researching New York families experienced by a very large number of family historians, including those with advanced research skills, were the inspiration for the New York Family History Conference.

New York genealogical research has this challenging reputation due to New York's long and complicated colonial and state history; the patterns of immigration and migration; the diversity of its population; the challenge of uncovering and accessing an extraordinary range of records frequently created and archived inconsistently; seeking substitutes for major records lost to fire and flood, none more devastating than the New York State Library fire of 1911; and the idiosyncrasies of records dispersal among sixty-two counties. ✕

Lecture Tracks

- New York
- Genetic Genealogy
- Focus on Societies
- Records, Maps, and Skills

In addition to Thursday, Friday and Saturday lectures, Thursday evening brings an open-to-the-public Society Showcase, sponsored by the Federation of Genealogical Societies. ✕

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- New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

REGIONAL CONFERENCE SPONSOR

- Federation of Genealogical Societies

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- Findmypast.com
- New England Historic Genealogical Society
- New York Public Library
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New York State
Family History
 CONFERENCE

 A Federation of Genealogical Societies
 Regional Conference

FGS
 An FGS
 Regional
 Conference

Speakers

- Judy Russell, JD, CG, CGL, *The Legal Genealogist*
- Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, FASG
- David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FIGRS, FUGA, FamilySearch.org
- Curt B. Witcher, Allen County Public Library
- D. Joshua Taylor, Findmypast.com; President, Federation of Genealogical Societies
- Dick Eastman, author and publisher
- James D. Folts, Ph.D., New York State Archives
- Henry B. Hoff, FGBS, editor of the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*
- Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., *The Genetic Genealogist*
- Ed Donakey, FamilySearch.org, VP of FGS
- Eric G. Grundset, Library Director, DAR Library
- Jim Ison, CG, FamilySearch.org
- Matt Knutzen, New York Public Library
- Jen Baldwin, Findmypast.com

PLUS, NEW YORK-SPECIALIST, PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGISTS

- Laura Murphy DeGrazia, CG, FGBS
- Karen Maur Jones, CG, FGBS
- Terry Koch-Bostic
- Jane E. Wilcox

What, When, and Where in 2015

DATES: Thursday, September 17 through Saturday, September 19
PLACE: Holiday Inn and Conference Center Liverpool, Syracuse, NY

PROGRAM:

- Three days of lectures including a *New York* track (2 days), a *Genetic Genealogy* track (1 day) and a full day focused on societies, sponsored by the Federation of Genealogical Societies
- Welcome reception
- Three luncheons and a dinner, all with speakers
- Vendor exhibitions

WEBSITE: www.nysfhc.org

REGISTRATION: Opens February 11 with a "first rush" rate (first 75 registrants only) and an early bird rate through May 31:

- Conference Registration (3 days): \$140 first rush/\$150 early bird/\$175 regular
- NYG&B and CNYGS members (3 days): \$115 first rush/\$125 early bird/\$150 regular
- Conference Registration (Friday & Saturday only): \$115 first rush/\$125 early bird/\$150 regular
- NYG&B and CNYGS members (Friday & Sat. only): \$90 first rush/\$100 early bird/\$125 regular
- Thursday only: \$25

Register in the online store at NewYorkFamilyHistory.org

Or by calling 212-755-8532, ext. 211

Vendors/Exhibitors/Advertisers:

Visit www.nysfhc.org/exhibitors.html for fees and contracts.

QUESTIONS: Send email to education@nygbs.org or call 212-755-8532, ext. 211

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

\$129+ tax per night at Holiday Inn Liverpool.
 Use code "CGS" for discounted price.
 Reservations: 315-457-1122 or 877-834-3613

Thursday/FGS Focus on Societies Day, Sept. 17

track 1	track 2	track 3
<p>8:30– T1. Opening Session: Curt B. Witcher 9:30 Keys to Our Success in These “Best of Times”: Important operational philosophies and strategic thinking will be shared to encourage those involved in society operations to increase member engagement while enticing new members.</p>		
<p>9:45– T2. Ed Donakey 10:45 Development for Dollars: Positioning your society for the future using estates and investments.</p>	<p>T3. David E. Rencher Partnerships in the 21st Century: How to get the most benefit from non-profit and commercial partners</p>	<p>T4. D. Joshua Taylor Planning for the Future: Creating Your Society’s Long-Range Strategic Plan</p>
<p>11:00– T5. D. Joshua Taylor 12:00 Tour Guide and Travel Agent: Planning Your Society’s Next Research Trip</p>	<p>T6. Curt B. Witcher Succession Planning: Growing Tomorrow’s Leaders — <i>often an area of little active concern for a society, yet critical to an organization’s long-term success</i></p>	<p>T7. Jen Baldwin The Society Website and Search Engine Optimization: No Fear</p>
<p>12:15– T8. Lunch: D. Joshua Taylor and David E. Rencher 1:45 What FGS Is Doing for Your Society! <i>Sponsored by the Federation of Genealogical Societies</i></p>		
<p>2:00– T9. Jen Baldwin 3:00 Engaging Your Long Distance Membership</p>	<p>T10. David E. Rencher What You and Your Society Can Do for Records Preservation and Access</p>	<p>T11. Ed Donakey Governance and Protection: Structuring bylaws to ensure your volunteers are leading based on sound principles, not personal whims</p>
<p>3:15– T12. David E. Rencher 4:15 The Nominating Committee: THE most important role in the health and future of your society</p>	<p>T13. D. Joshua Taylor Overcoming “We Have Always Done It That Way” Syndrome</p>	<p>T14. Jen Baldwin Social Media: More than just being social</p>
<p>4:45– T15. Bonus Session: Open Q/A Panel Discussion 5:15 D. Joshua Taylor, Curt B. Witcher Ed Donakey, Jen Baldwin, and David E. Rencher: Bring your questions and experiences about society management to the experts — use this session to get any outstanding questions from the day’s events answered and learn from other participant’s experiences as well</p>		
<p>7:00 T16. Delegate Reception T17. Society Showcase</p>		

Friday, September 18			
	track 1—New York	track 2	track 3
8:30– 9:30	F1. Karen Mauer Jones New York Land: Patroonships, Manors, Rent Wars, and Land Companies	F2. Curt Witcher Fingerprinting Our Families: Using Ancestral Origins as a Genealogical Research Key <i>Sponsored by the Federation of Genealogical Societies</i>	F3. Jim Ison Introducing Your Grandchildren to Your Grandparents: Intergenerational Collaboration in Families <i>Sponsored by FamilySearch</i>
9:45– 10:45	F4. New York State Library Staff Civil War Records and Resources at the NYSL <i>Sponsored by the New York State Library</i>	F5. Thomas W. Jones Can a Complex Research Problem Be Solved Solely Online?	F6. Matthew Knutzen Introduction to Family History Revealed in Maps <i>Sponsored by the New York Public Library</i>
11:00– 12:00	F7. Jane E. Wilcox Up the North River: Pre-1800 Hudson Valley Ethnic Groups and Religions <i>Sponsored by the Capital District Genealogical Society</i>	F8. Judy Russell “No Person Shall ... Gallop Horses in the Streets”: Using Court Records to Tell the Stories of Our Ancestors’ Lives	F9. D. Joshua Taylor Bridging the Gap: Finding Ancestors in the United States between 1780 and 1830 <i>Sponsored by the Federation of Genealogical Societies</i>
12:15– 1:45	F10. Lunch: Dick Eastman: The Genealogy Library Inside Your Computer: How to Increase Your Personal Genealogy Library without Additional Bookshelves — <i>Sponsored by the Central New York Genealogical Society</i>		
2:00– 3:00	F11. Henry B. Hoff Colonial New York Research <i>Sponsored by the New England Historic Genealogical Society</i>	F12. Thomas W. Jones Will Your Family History Have Lasting Value?	F13. Matthew Knutzen Techniques for Finding and Extracting Family Data from Maps <i>Sponsored by the New York Public Library</i>
3:15– 4:15	F14. Karen Mauer Jones The Records of Institutions and Local Governments in New York State	F15. Eric G. Grundset An Empire’s Worth of Information: The New York DAR as an Essential Genealogical Research Resource	F16. Jim Ison Tips for Using FamilySearch.org Most Effectively <i>Sponsored by FamilySearch</i>
4:45– 5:15	F17. Bonus Session: A staff archivist from the NYSA will discuss the digitized records online at the New York State Archives website <i>Sponsored by the New York State Archives</i>		
7:00	F18. Dinner: Judy Russell: Blackguards and Black Sheep: The Lighter Side of the Law — <i>Sponsored by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society</i>		

Saturday, September 19

	track 1—New York	track 2—Genetic Genealogy	track 3
8:30–9:30	S1. Henry B. Hoff Research Strategies for Upstate New York <i>Sponsored by the New England Historic Genealogical Society</i>	S2. Blaine Bettinger Introduction to DNA <i>Sponsored by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation</i>	S3. Findmypast Team Hidden Gems at Findmypast: PERSI, Newspapers, and More <i>Sponsored by Findmypast</i>
9:45–10:45	S4. Laura Murphy DeGrazia “To You I Leave My Fortune”: Probate Records in New York State	S5. Judy Russell DNA and the Golden Rule: The Law and Ethics of Genetic Genealogy	S6. Terry Koch-Bostic The Civil War Rediscovered: Find Your Ancestors’ Stories in the Newly Available United States Sanitary Commission Records
11:00–12:00	S7. Eric G. Grundset The Revolution in New York: Advice on Finding and Using Lesser-used Sources	S8. Blaine Bettinger Using Y-DNA and mtDNA to Explore Your Ancestry <i>Sponsored by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation</i>	S9. Thomas W. Jones What is the Genealogical Proof Standard? <i>Sponsored by the Capital District Genealogical Society</i>
12:15–1:45	S10. Lunch: D. Joshua Taylor Crossing the Pond: Finding Those Elusive English Origins <i>Sponsored by Findmypast</i>		
2:00–3:00	S11. Laura Murphy DeGrazia Broadway Bound: Top Tips for Researching Your New York City Ancestor	S12. Blaine Bettinger Using Autosomal DNA to Explore Your Ancestry <i>Sponsored by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation</i>	S13. Terry Koch-Bostic Finding Your Irish Ancestral Place of Origin: Building a Bridge Back from Here
3:15–4:15	S14. James D. Folts Overlooked Genealogical Sources: Civil and Criminal Court Records in New York <i>Sponsored by the New York State Archives</i>	S15. Judy Russell Applying DNA to Genealogical Problem Solving: A Case Study	S16. Jane E. Wilcox Finding American Women’s Voices through the Centuries: Letters, Journals, Newspapers, and Court Records

Vendor & Exhibitor Hall Hours:
 Thursday: 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm
 Friday: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Saturday: 8:00 am – 3:30 pm
Sponsored by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation

ADMISSION TO THE Vendor and Exhibitor Hall is open and free to the public.

INFORMER

Volume 22, Issue 3

Annual Dues \$15 Individual, \$20 Family
To have the *Informer* mailed add \$6 US or \$10 Canadian

July 2015

JCNYGS, DAR and SAR - See Minutes on Page 5



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INFORMER JULY 2015

Correspondence about dues, memberships, and lost *Informers* should be directed to:
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Jefferson County
 NY Genealogical Society

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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 jcnyns.com or: Editor, JCNYS
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 Watertown, NY 13601

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We are pleased to provide you this July 2015 *Informer*. Many volunteers put in numerous hours to bring you this publication — thank you volunteers! Also, a large variety of articles this quarter came in from members across the country — thank you to our volunteer member writers! July is subscription renewal time. Rates are \$15.00 member and \$20.00 family. This gives members unlimited on-line access to all *Informers* since 1994. If you want the quarterly *Informer* in the mail (four per year), add \$6.00 US and \$10.00 Canadian. Although not required, we encourage all members to opt for the mailed version as well. To receive the affordable mailing rate, we have needed to mail the *Informer* to all members the last three quarters (200 mailings minimum). This will continue for the foreseeable future and as we strive to grow new members. Lastly, the genealogy society has been working closely with the Jefferson County Historical Society and on Saturday, October 3, 2015, from 10AM to 4PM there will be a History and Genealogy Fair at the Historical Society in Watertown. Please place the date on your calendar if able to attend. In closing, thank you for your membership and participation. My goal is "every member a contributor!"

Tom LaClair, President of JCNYS

"Giving a shout out with special thanks to JCNYS member Lori Briggs of Chico, California, who sent a container of California nuts that were very much enjoyed by members at the May 2015 meeting here in Watertown. It was so very thoughtful of Lori to share such tasty gift with us. Thank you Lori!"



DUES ARE DUE

July 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 JCNYS)
 P.O. Box 6453
 Watertown, New York 13601

Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, April 13, 2015
Tammy Plantz, Secretary

The April meeting of the Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society was held on April 13th at the Church of the Latter Day Saints in Watertown. Attendees included: Tom LaClair, Anne Davis, Dan and Sue Grant, Cynie and David Kendall, Larry Corbett, Tammy and Greg Plantz, Jim and Roberta Eagan, Carol Heimburg, Nan Dixon, Leigh and Robert Charron, Jerry Davis, Gary Fague, Steve Clarke, Bruce Coyne, Phyllis Putnam, Kevin Leeson and M. Russell Lee.

President Tom LaClair opened the meeting by asking first time attendees to introduce themselves and give the surnames of families each is researching. Treasurer Larry Corbett gave his report. The checking balance is \$2763.87, savings account \$401.46 and CD \$2413.43. A vote was taken and approved to give \$100 to our next month's speaker. A Jefferson County genealogy fair will be held at the Historical Society in Watertown on October 3 in conjunction with several local organizations and groups. NYSCOGO will hold a state genealogy fair in Penn Yan on May 2.



Stephan Clarke was introduced by Program Chairman Roberta Calhoun-Eagan

Stephan Clarke was our speaker, the Registrar of the Rochester Chapter of the SAR who spoke on the problems he has had while researching Palatine ancestors from Germany. A preponderance of evidence does not exist and the variations in the spellings of their surnames makes research difficult.

The Palatines, so named as they came from the Palatinate, a region in Germany along the Rhine River, came to New York State from 1708-10. Their exodus from Germany was prompted by several

events. They had suffered war devastation during extended wars, heavy taxation, and the winter of 1708-9 was especially severe, destroying their crops as most of these people were vinedressers and farmers. They were transported to New York and Philadelphia via London in 30 ships, each containing 100 people. In Philadelphia they became known as "Pennsylvania Dutch" and in New York State, "Palatine Germans."

Their transport was fraught with problems. Typhus was rampant and 446 people died en route. 2368 people finally arrived in New York at a time when the population of NY including slaves was only 5700 people. Their resettlement was poorly planned and survival was a trial. They were moved from NY City to Livingston Manor along the Hudson River and many later moved to Schoharie and the Mohawk Valley. The Palatines here became a line of defense for the British against the French and the Indians. During the Revolutionary War about 400 Palatines died at Oriskany, including Gen. Herkimer. The Palatines made up about 10% of all casualties during the Revolutionary War in 1777. After the War many moved to Jefferson County.

Mr. Clarke gave examples of the difficulty in researching Palatine names in New York State. One of his ancestors has had his last name documented as Wrott, Raed, Rath and Raught. Another example was the family of Seibert, Seeber, Seyber, Syfert and Siver. Through perseverance he has been able to prove the lines from which he has descended.

He named published works that Palatine researchers may find useful. The Vosburg collection of church records by Vosburgh, Royden and Woodward, was published in New York City by the Genealogical and Biographical Society of NYS in April 1814. Also suggested is New York in the Revolution by Fernow and Berthold, published in Albany, NY by Weed Parsons and Co., 1887. Hank Jones' volumes, Palatines to America, are also valuable. Finally, he said that contacting a professional researcher may be a help.



Stephen Clarke speaks on the Palatines

Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2015
Tammy Plantz, Secretary

On May 11, 2015 the monthly meeting of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society was held at the Church of the Latter Day Saints in Watertown, NY. The attendees included: Tammy and Greg Plantz, Roberta and Jim Eagan, Carol Heimborg, Donald and Rose Dillenbeck, Peter and Angela Johnson, Bruce Coyne, Nancy Kaul, Anne Davis, Reggie Watkins, Sue and Dan Grant, Diana and Dick Law, Larry Corbett, Barb Williams, Wally Keeler, Connie and Larry Barone, Jeannie Brennan, Cynthia and David Kendall, M. Russell Lee and George Inglehart III.

Anne Davis, Vice-president, presided over the meeting. Larry Corbett, Treasurer reported the checking account contained \$2347.72 . The savings balance was \$401.46 and the CD was at \$2413.43. Anne reminded us of the Genealogy Fair on Oct. 3 which will be held at the Jefferson County Historical Society with the Jefferson Co. Genealogy Society in conjunction with several other community associations. Dues are currently due. The June 8th meeting will be a combined meeting of presenters and attendees from the JCNYS and the Thousand Islands SAR on "The Forgotten Revolutionary War Patriots in Jefferson County." Roberta Eagan then introduced the evening's speakers, Peter and Angela Johnson, members of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada.

The purpose of Johnson's presentation was to introduce records that are useful in researching Loyalist ancestors from Canada, those who left the United States to live in Canada during the Revolutionary War. In Canada there are currently 29 branches of United Empire Loyalists and Sons of the American Revolution whose purpose is to gather, protect and promote information on Loyalist ancestors.



Peter and Angela Johnson with our May Program

The National Archives at Ottawa, Canada has muster rolls that tell where each of the men listed came from. Unfortunately these rolls are not available online. Discharge certificates are very rare, but do give the individual's age and tell where he was from. Sometimes land records may give valuable information. War loss claims are in published books that can be found in the Ontario Archives in Toronto and in the National Archives in Ottawa. The soldier seeking a claim had to go to an official place to file the form to describe his losses. He had to list his assets in the colonies and submit family information.

Circuit riders often kept excellent records. These also are not online. Rev. Langhorn, an Anglican, kept records in the late eighteenth century which can be found in the Kingston Archives. Presbyterian and Lutheran records were also kept following the Rev. War; however, there were no Methodist records until after 1820. Rev. McDowell records from 1800-1830 are kept at Queens University Archives in Kingston.

Upper Canada Land Petitions in Ontario include names of members of many families. These are available online, but not on Ancestry. Go to library archives of Canada which is a free site. Loyalists and sometimes their sons and daughters were entitled to 200 acres of land each. The records give individual's names, maiden names, husband's name and where each is from.

Local documents may be helpful. Township papers are a "catch all" of information. The Executive Council List lists all true Loyalists. Civil registrations, including births, marriages and deaths, are online at Ancestry. Before 1867, birth records do not give parents' names. Births are recorded after 1913, marriages after 1923, and deaths after 1939. Ontario cemeteries have been documented on CDs at local centers.

The Johnsons have done extensive research on the Loyalists in Canada and generously offered their email to anyone who has questions on researching Loyalist ancestors. They may be reached at johnsonue@bell.net



Members ready for the program

Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, June 8, 2015
Tammy Plantz, Secretary

On June 8th the monthly meeting of the Jefferson County Genealogy Society was held at the Watertown LDS Church. Attendees included: Tom LaClair, Bruce Coyne, Mary Erskine Coyne, Nancy Kaul, Steven Guy, Jim and Roberta Eagan, Anne Davis, Bruce and Reggie Watkins, Larry Corbett, Sylvia Fahsel, Tammy and Greg Plantz, Parks Honeywell, Pat Monroe, Barb Williams, George Inglehart, Jerry Davis and Nan Dixon.

President Tom LaClair called the meeting to order. He asked if we wished to sponsor a booth at the Jefferson County Fair in July. After discussion it was decided that the cost of the booth was too high considering the low traffic we received last year at the booth. We will have a booth at the Genealogy Fair at the Historical Society on Saturday, October 3, from 10 – 4. Several other local organizations will also be participating.

Larry Corbett, Treasurer, reported our CD is worth \$2413.43. Our checking account stands at \$2458.72 and the savings account currently has \$401.46.

Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, Program Director, introduced the evening's topic of discussion, "Patriots in Jefferson County who cannot be found in the history books." Anne Davis, Regent of the LeRay de Chaumont Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and Bruce Coyne, Registrar of the Thousand Islands Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, were presenters and Jim Eagan, President of the Rochester Chapter of the SAR, was the moderator.

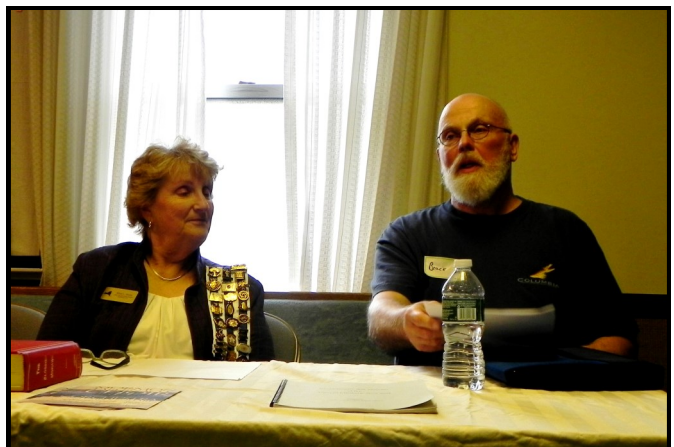


JCNYGS, DAR and SAR members prepare for their program - "Patriots in Jefferson County who cannot be found in the history books."

Anne Davis stated that 427 Revolutionary War soldiers who were buried in Jefferson County, NY have been verified at present and the list is growing. These men and their families lived in this area, moving here in the years after the war. For this presentation Anne focused on the Zimmerman, Timmerman and Snell families. These families were originally from the Palatinate region of Germany and settled throughout the Mohawk Valley and after the War ended, many settled in upstate New York. Many residents with these surnames can be found throughout Jefferson County today. During the Revolutionary War, many of these men fought under Colonel Klock. Many of his descendants also live in Jefferson County today.

For many years they held a family reunion and published a book of genealogy. The Zimmerman, Timmerman and Snell genealogies may be found on the website www.stzgenealogy.org.

Bruce Coyne was able to identify an interesting phenomena when studying the tombstones in the Perch River Cemetery and in the Brownville Cemetery. By researching the Revolutionary War soldiers he found here and their descendants, he discovered several Revolutionary War veterans whose children married the children of other Rev. War veterans in the same cemetery. Many of the soldiers with surnames including Peck, Plumb, Brewster and Strong were from Connecticut. He mentioned specific examples of their service including Noah Hutchins who was at Saratoga when Burgoyne surrendered. William Webb was held prisoner on the infamous Jersey prison ship in the harbor of New York City. Eliphalet Peck was also on a prison ship during the extreme cold of the winter of 1779-1780. Their children married each other. Both presentations were very informative and interesting.



Anne Davis, Regent of the LeRay de Chaumont Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and Bruce Coyne, Registrar of the Thousand Islands Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

Punishment in the American Army During the 1800s

By JCNYS member Paul Beers

When one reads about The War of 1812 it is usually written about as glorified conflict, but there is a darker side to war - disease, boredom, poor diet and harsh military discipline. Military discipline was harsh and the slightest infractions were punishable by the lash. For the off-duty soldiers, there weren't many diversions besides drinking and gambling, and drunkenness only could mean a trip to the whipping post or other forms of discipline.

Below is a transcribed account (as written) from the notes section of an enlistee as it appears in The Army Register of Enlistments 1798 – 1814, prior to the Peace Establishment May 17, 1815. I have to apologize for not documenting the name of the soldier and page number; thinking it was interesting at the time I just took a snippet of it for my file. Since then I have looked for it on several occasions but had no luck in relocating it; however, you will see this soldier received more than his fair share of punishment.

TRANSCRIBED TEXT

"Tried by Genl Ct MI at Ft. Adams, Nov 3/03, disorderly conduct – 50 lashes – Capt. Arbuckle's Co. - Tried again March 17/07, Drunk – 50 lashes & confined at hard labor for one month – again Sept 10/07, attempted to stab Sergt. Clark – 50 lashes – Present at Columbian Springs, July 8/08, Tried by Ct MI, Nov 20/08 Mutinous Conduct – 50 lashes – Again Jany 30/09, threatening to desert – acquitted – Again June 2 or 3/09 Drunk – 50 lashes & 20 day's confinement – Again Jany 14/11 Drunk – 50 lashes – hard labor 10 day's & whiskey stopped – remitted – Present Sept. 10/12 & Jany 5/10 – Appears to have again enlisted Jany 30/09 at Ft. Stoddert by Capt. Arbuckle, for war, at 36 years of age – Present in late Capt. Wilkinson's Co. at Ft. Charlotte, Sept 10/13 - Orders Capt. Ware's Co. - Transferred to Capt. Miller's Co. Dec 30/14 – MR Capt. Jno Miller's Co. Feby 16 & MR April 30 & June 30/15, Present tried by Regt. Ct MI (no outcome) April 6/15 – MR Capt. Ino Jones Co. "2" U.S. Infy. Aug 31/15 Present – MR Dec 31/15, on command – MR Feby 29 & April 30, & MR SAMR ? June 30/16 Present – Tried by Ct MI April 23 & may 7/16 – neglect of duty & whiskey stopped, 1 month & 20 paddles – MR Aug 31, Oct 31, Dec 31, Feby 28, April 30 – MR SAMR June 30 & Mr Aug 31, Oct 31/17, Present – Tried by Regt. Ct MI May 22/17 unsoldier like conduct – to ride Wooden Horse for 2 hours – MR SAMR Dec 31/17, on command at Ft. Seldon – Furloughed Jany 11/18 for 20 day's - Co. Book 1817 to 1819. MR Jany 31, MR Ft. Claiborne, Feby 28 & SAMR Capt. Wm. C. Beard's Co. "2" June

30/18 – Discharged at Ft. Claiborne, La Jany 31/18 Term expired - "2" U.S. Infy was made (?) after may 17/15"

Abbreviations used above; Ct MI – Court Marshal, MR – Muster Roll, SAMR – Semi Annual Muster Roll (not 100 percent sure)

Obviously, this was not your average soldier during the early 1800s, but it does illustrate the various types of discipline that were administered. If you were keeping track of the discipline you discovered that over the course of his enlistment he had received 300 lashes, 20 paddles, hard labor for 40 days, confined for 20 days, whiskey stopped 2 times (once for a month) and had to ride a wooden horse for two hours. Now you are wondering, as I did, what is a wooden horse and how is it used?

Riding the wooden horse was a common punishment for soldiers (usually for rioting or drinking) and was made by forming planks laid together so as to form a long sharp ridge or angle, about eight or nine feet long. The ridge represented the back of a horse, and it was supported by four posts or legs, about six or seven feet long, placed on a stand, made movable by small wheels; to complete the resemblance, a head



and a tail were added. The soldier was set astride this board, with his hands tied behind his back. Often a heavy weight or muskets were tied to each foot, as was jocularly said, "to stop his horse from throwing him". No wooden horse for me, I will be good, I promise.

Sources:

- 1 - The Army Register of Enlistments 1798 – 1914, Prior to the Peace Establishment May 17, 1815
- 2 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/>
- 3 - <http://www.theoriginalinstitute.com/>

"To burn with desire and keep quiet about it is the greatest punishment we can bring on ourselves." - Frederico Lorca

Submitted by JCNYS member Hollis Dorr

One of Oldest Families in Jefferson County

101 Present at Clayton—Extensive Program is
Staged by Members of the Family

Letter Written by Member of Family Who Was
Serving in Civil War is Read

June 1933

By L.L. Allen

One of the families which settled near Lafargeville in the early days of Jefferson County's history was John Valentine Dorr and his wife, Anna Catherine Haller Dorr, who crossed the Atlantic from their home in Germany in 1831, starting a home on 89 acres of land purchased from John Lafarge near Lafargeville. Another German family that came across the broad stretch of ocean about the same time was Andrew and Elnora Butts Baltz, who also founded a home in the Lafargeville section. The Baltz family had a son, John Andrew Baltz who paid court to Miss Clara Dorr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Dorr, and to her was married January 31, 1834. From this Baltz-Dorr union came the hundreds of descendants who in 1926 established the Baltz-Dorr Reunion, which on Saturday gathered at Clayton to observe the eighth birthday of the family clan.

The reunion was held at the hall of Clayton grange and was attended by about 100 descendants of these two German families, who are largely established in the northern section of Jefferson County. President Albert Eiss of Lafargeville presided.

Dinner was served shortly after noon in the dining hall of the grange hall and following the dinner officers of the clan were elected and a program presented under the direction of Mrs. Clark Sargent of Alexandria Bay. The officers for the New Year placed in nomination by Edward L. Pohl of Rutland were unanimously elected as follows: President, George Sourwine; vice president, Mrs. Maude Reed; treasurer, Norris Haller; secretary, Miss Fannie Zimmer.

The memorial committee, through its chairman, Miss Margurite Zimmer, reported the following deaths in the clan membership during the year: Mrs. Henry Baltz, Mrs. John Baltz, Floyd Haller, Mrs. Carrie Littlefield, Oscar E. Hinds, Edward Baltz, Eliza Brumm.

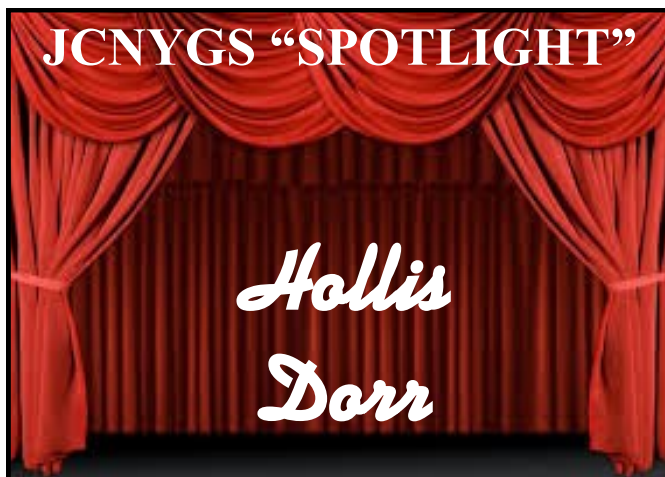
Prizes were awarded as follows by Mrs. Maude Strough: Oldest member present, Mrs. Fannie Dorr, aged 84; youngest member, Miss Frances Gailey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gailey of Limerick, aged 11 months; longest married couple, Mr. and Mrs. David Dorr of Depauville, 52 years; person coming greatest distance, Mrs. Elizabeth Weller of Lowville.

The afternoon program opened with a selection of the Stone Mills orchestra, all but two of whom were

members of the clan. They were: Rev. W. B. Howard, Clayton Douglas, Perry Belmat, Mrs. Gladys Douglas, Mildred Graham, Howard Graham, Robert Jerome, Ida Eiss, Ruth Graham and Earl Graham.

Following the singing of "America" by the assemblage, little Barbara Douglas, aged 5, starred in the pantomime, "Silent Night," the diminutive performer singing the lines of the well known hymn. Then came a short play, "Fooling the Agent," by Ruth Graham, Margery Nellis and Carlton Eiss. After an orchestra number little Helen Zimmer sang about "That Silver-Haired Daddy of Mine" and Mrs. Laura Joles, one of the veterans of the clan, gave some reminiscences of days of long ago. Howard Graham, with his mother as accompanist, sang very acceptably "Just an Echo." The Misses Mildred Graham and Margaret Nellis rendered "Whispering Hope" and after a number by the orchestra came a play, "Dot Entertains" by Arthur Eiss and Barbara Douglas; a guitar solo by Ruth Graham, the program ending with a mock wedding participated in by Clayton Douglas, Howard Graham, Ida Eiss, Earl Graham, Gladys Douglas, Mildred Graham and Robert Jerome.

Those in attendance at the reunion were: Mr. and Mrs. Albert G. Eiss, Ida Eiss, Arthur Eiss, Carlton Eiss, Lafargeville; Mrs. Anna M. Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Nellis, Margaret Nellis, Marjorie Nellis, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Resch, Evelyn Resch, Blanche Nellis, Marcus Nellis, Frederick Resch, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Dorr, Lisle Dorr, Hubert Dorr, Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Baltz, Barbara Strough, Louise Strough, Barbara Douglas, Harold Bradford, Maude Strough, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Douglas, Rev. H. B. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Hyle, Helen E. Dorr, Hollis Dorr, Alberta Dorr, Claude G Dorr, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Zimmer, Korleen Zimmer, Lois Zimmer, Margurite Zimmer, Fannie Zimmer, Lafargeville; Mr. and Mrs. John Dooley, Hazel Zimmer, Mrs. Geneva B Zimmer, L. V. Zimmer, Ida B Ryan, Redwood; Mr. and Mrs. G Henry Zimmer, Paul Zimmer, Theresa; Mr. and Mrs. William R. Sutton, Richard Sutton, Kenneth T Sutton, Carolyn F. Sutton, William H. Sutton, Watertown; Ethel I Weller, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Weller, Grace E. Rogers, Lowville, L. Maude Reed, Fishers Landing; Sarah Schruyver, Frank Schruyver, Daisy Schruyver, Mrs. Wells Zimmer, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Schruyver, Robert Schruyver, Barbara Schruyver, Omar; Howard E Lesham, Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Galley, Frances Galley, Dorothy Galley, Ruth Graham, Mildred Graham, Mrs. Ethel Graham, Earl E. Graham, Limerick, Mrs. Lulu M. Brigham, Mrs. Ellie Potter, Mrs. Clay Ferguson, Mrs. Laura Joles, Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Polley, Clayton; Elizabeth Dorr, Mr. and Mrs. David Dorr, Depauville; Mrs. Valentine Dorr, Stone Mills; Mr. and Mrs. Clark Sargent, Lloyd G. Sargent, Janet Sargent, Alexandria; Mrs. Margaret Payne, Plessis; George H. Pohl, L.L. Allen, Miss Grace Sloat, Ruth Sloat, Carlton Sloat, Watertown.



(Interviewed by JCNYS President Tom LaClair)

It has been said that everyone has a story to share! Some tell their story in headlines and others never tell their story at all. This edition of the *Informer* will hold a spotlight on a longtime dedicated and active member of the Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society.

Hollis Claude Dorr was born in the Township of Clayton (Over Bluff Road, Depauville) on May 27, 1931, the son of Claude George and Alberta May Heyl Dorr. He lived and worked on the family dairy farm until 1944 when at age 13 his father died. At this time his mother Alberta and Hollis moved to LaFargeville where they lived with his widowed maternal grandfather William Heyl. In 1946, at age 15, his mother passed away and he continued living with his grandfather while attending school classes in LaFargeville. In 1948 Hollis was Salutatorian of his graduating class (see class photo Sep 2009 *Informer*). In his Salutatorian write-up, Principal Claude M. Hutchinson wrote: "Mr. Dorr has an average of 89.86 percent for his four years of high school work. He has studied mathematics and science and has been active in sports, having played basketball three years and football two years. Starting the fourth grade, Mr. Dorr each year has been the recipient of the Weckesser award for high scholarship. Other extracurricular activities include paper staff, junior play, and senior play. He plans to enter college after graduation." Hollis added when not studying, he would be found playing pool or cards with the older men at the fire station or Odd Fellow Hall in LaFargeville.

Shortly after graduation, Hollis attended Canton Agricultural and Technical College (SUNY Canton), majoring in Electrical Technology and graduating in 1950. His first job after schooling was with the Niagara Mohawk Power Company in Potsdam where he worked for two years. He was then drafted to serve in the United States Army, being inducted



Hollis and Marian Moffatt Dorr - November 1952

March 11, 1952 in Syracuse, and left for Camp Gordon, Georgia, very soon after. He completed eight weeks of basic training and then twenty weeks of Carrier-Repeater technical training. The Carrier-Repeater specialty is a communication skill set dealing directly with boosting repeating radio signals across distances. After military schooling, Hollis returned to New York on furlough and married his love Marian Louise Moffatt on November 2, 1952, at the Dexter Methodist Church with Reverend Wright officiating. The two celebrated their honeymoon by touring through the Northern New England States.

After the honeymoon, Hollis reported to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, where he shipped to Norfolk, Virginia, then sailed to Casablanca, Morocco, then on to Naples, Italy, then onto Livorno (known by many as Leghorn), Italy. Along the way Hollis was able to tour the ancient Roman ruins of Pompeii, Italy and found

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Hollis and Marian Moffatt Dorr - May 2015

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history surrounding the 79 AD Mount Vesuvius eruption fascinating. After stops in Italy it was onto his formal station at Camp Truscott, Austria, a once busy German Luftwaffe base just outside Salzburg. He served 13 months in communications in Austria and performed on several bivouac events. Hollis mentioned that he and his fellow servicemen had to be alert to where they traveled as the Russian zone was nearby and troops could easily wander into foreign territory and be detained by Russian forces. While in Austria for the year, he took leave and vacationed to Paris, France and thoroughly enjoyed touring and learning the culture there. He also mentioned that he remembered when overseas that the beer was good at just 10 cents a bottle. Hollis was honorably discharged from active duty February 27, 1954 having earned the Army of Occupation Medal—Germany, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Returning to New York, Hollis met with his wife Marian who had been employed at Empsall's of Watertown working as a copywriter—writing and publishing newspaper ads. He also returned to work with Niagara Mohawk, this time in Watertown. He worked two years in Hydro Maintenance and then transferred to the Meter and Test Department and stayed there until his retirement in 1992—40 years with Niagara Mohawk—his two years in the military counting toward his retirement. Along the way he and Marian raised a family of three children: William, Gail and Neil.

Asking how he got started in genealogy, he mentioned that after retirement he met with distant relative Gladys Dorr, who at age 90 was living in the Mercy Hospital Nursing Home. Having the conversation with her intrigued Hollis and he soon attended a Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society meeting and has been involved every since. He also commented that when he first got involved in genealogy, and

researching his Heyl ancestor records, he learned that the Heyl name was spelled numerous ways and often had to go back and reread census reports. Over the years he served as treasurer various times from 2000 through 2010. His first time managing the funds was in November 2000 when he replaced Bill Dixon who moved up to be president. He last served as treasurer in October 2010 under President Terry Baker.

In replying to what has been the most interesting genealogy story, he refers to his Great Grandfather Peter Dorr who served in the Civil War—his Great Grandfather's Civil War letter is shared in this Informer. A few years back Hollis made the emotional rewarding trip to Virginia and visited the spot where his Peter Dorr died April 18, 1865, in Petersburg, Virginia. Readers can see Hollis Dorr's five generation chart in the July 2000 Informer or in JCNYS Pedigrees, Volume Two, Summer 2007.

For other hobbies Hollis spent time involved in stamp collecting and was a member in the Watertown Stamp Club. He is a past trustee of the Methodist Church in Dexter and has also has enjoyed casual fishing and hunting trips with friends and family. Besides raising their three successful children, Hollis and Marian have 5 cherished grandchildren: Marian, William, Sarah, Patrick and Kyle. And they have 2 wonderful great-grandchildren: Aiden and Justin.

In closing the July spotlight, Hollis Claude Dorr is well respected in the genealogy society, the community at large and most certainly in his family. It was a pleasure visiting with him and capturing but a small glimpse into his life's story.

The following letter was written from near Petersburg during the latter days of the Civil War by Peter Dorr of Company H., 10th New York Heavy Artillery, to his nephew, Peter Pohl of the Town of Rutland, father of George Pohl of Black River and Edward L. Pohl of the Rutland Hollow road. The 10th was a Jefferson County regiment organized in 1862 and until the summer of 1864 did garrison duty east of Washington. Then it received orders to go to the front and participated in several of the closing battles of the war, including the fighting before Petersburg and Bermuda Hundred. Peter Dorr was one of the members of the Dorr branch of the Baltz-Dorr clan. Peter Dorr was a native of Germany, coming to Jefferson County with others of his family in the early days of the county's history. The letter given is a highly prized heirloom in the Pohl family and although not dated was probably written during the closing days of the war. The letter is printed as written, showing that the writer had not had the benefit of much education since his arrival in America.

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(Continued From Page 9)

"Camp of the 10th NY Artillery – Near Bermudy front"
 "Dear Nefue & Niece – As I have an oportunity I will improve it in riting you a few lines. I am well & hope these few lines may find you injoying the same blessing. Many a time I have thought & sed to the boys I must write P. Pohl a leter but time & secomstansis wood not admit but I could put if of no longer. Dear friends sins we last met I have seen and experianst meny things sum pleasant & of grate interst to me & others not so pleasant ones & days but on the other hand has to go threw many hardships which people at home no nothing about for often we hear people say at home about soldering & Imyself have often taught myself but now nothing to what I now do & if I get out alive & well I never will regret this years servis & my daily prair is that God may spair my life to ones more enjoy home comforts & home blessings & I hope I may have your prair that you may pray for the family & I will not forget you at the throne of Grase. The hard is't to me to be deprived of all religious privileges for I have only heard 3 sermons & have ben to no prair meetings sins I left home & you can emagin how a cristan feals but I am thankful to no that I have a father that hears prairs even while I am on foot walking my beat. O how he has poard down his blessings upon me that I could not restrain from praising his holy name. We are in now we hav much duty to do but our health is very good & the weather is pleasant sum days quite warm so we get along well. We have had two small picket fights & lost one man & the rebel papers say they lost 162 men. We had the advantage of them for we were behind our breast works & they in the open field & we blocked up a gunboat for them one of our 100 pound shells struck her magazine & the pieces of the boat & men I (could see) go up in the air more than 500 feet & the shouts of our men were grate you can believe. I must come to a close for it is bedtime & my hed akes some for I was on gard last night I did not sleep. Give my love & best respects to all friends & to those that enquire about me so goodbye for this time hoping soon to get a anser to this ill composed letter for if you (could see) my riting table you wold surely excuse it.

My address Peter Dorr

Co H 10th NY Artillery

Washig D.C.

From your obedient friend & servant,
 Peter Dorr"

"Try to stay in the middle of the air. Do not go near the edges of it. The edges of the air can be recognized by the appearance of ground, buildings, sea, trees and interstellar space. It is much more difficult to fly there." - Basic flight rules

A letter from Edna Grant Mitchell of Alexandria, Virginia

"I'm one of those long distance members of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society and unable to attend the informative meetings. This summer the 29th annual Carter Family Reunion is being held a week later which may allow me to attend the Society's July gathering. Our Carter Family reunion brings together at a happy event the descendants of my mother's parents for a day-long picnic at Cedar Point State Park.

My paternal Grant family ancestors came to the Deferno area of Town of Clayton prior to 1840 from Vermont after stops along the way in Denmark (Lewis County, New York) and Pillar Point. In this last migration, the family legend tells us, they traveled in two groups. Apparently, the young teen aged sons went first, driving the livestock along the banks of the Chaumont River. Reaching Depauville, the youths camped under an elm tree at the top of the hill toward Clayton while waiting for arrival of the rest of the family by boat bringing the farming tools and household goods.

Currently, my brother Dan's grandson, young teenaged Daniel Richard Grant, is the seventh generation of our Grant family to live in the Deferno neighborhood!

When I was growing up during the Depression and World War II years, the closely-knit rural dairy farming community was anchored by a still-operating one-room Deferno School, District #23, and the well known Limburger Cheese Factory owned by the Kraft Company. For accomplishment of tasks such threshing grain, filling silos, butchering hogs, and sawing wood, the farmers "changed work." During these events, the neighboring farmer wives would help the resident house wife with the preparation, sewing, and clean-up duties for delicious hearty meals for the workers. A rite of passage for a young lad of perhaps ten or so years old would be given a light task such as "water boy" or sweeper of spilled grain. This would give him the right to sit with the grown up men at the first table instead of waiting to eat left-overs at the second table with the women, cooks and small children!

End of the history portion of the letter.

"People are always asking about the good old days. I say, 'Why don't you say the good now days?' – Robert M. Young

WILLIAM PATCH and Elizabeth Giddings PATCH

Early Settlers in the Town of Clayton

Submitted by Carolyn Bourgeois



William Patch, one of 10 children born to Joseph Ephraim and Sarah Cram PATCH, married Elizabeth Giddings, daughter of Thomas Giddings and unknown in Weare, Hillsborough Co., NH, 18 May 1837. Elizabeth was the eldest of six children, with four sisters and one brother. All of the Giddings siblings except Lucy, married in NH, and subsequently came to the Town of Clayton, presumably to settle land in Penet Square along with other couples/families from Weare and Hillsboro Co. NH. Sister Lucy married Enoch BARTLETT; sister Eleanor married Moses WORTHLEY; sister Rhoda married Valentine HAAS; sister Salome married Richard CURRIER, Joseph married Hannah JONES (SARFF).

Around 1846, William and Elizabeth and their 4 young children ages 2-6, along with all but two of Elizabeth's siblings' and their families, along with their neighbors Olin and Cadwell Winslow migrated to, bought, and operated large tracts of farm land in the vicinity of Depauville. Their property was on what is now Miller Road, between Depauville, and Gunns Corners. The Winslow brothers were GG Grandsons of the Winslow's who came to Plymouth MA on the Mayflower. The Winslow property became known as the Frink Farm on Route 12, just SE of Depauville. Cadwell eventually joined the Frank Woolworth firm in the early days of its development into nationally-renowned 5 and 10 Cent Store in the store started by Mr. Moore in Watertown, NY. William and Elizabeth's family and four of her siblings' families are buried in Depauville, as are the Winslows.

The Giddings Siblings and their children are listed below.

Elizabeth GIDDINGS, b. 3 Feb 1803, d. 2 Jun 1874 in Depauville, Age 71 Years; m. 18 May 1837, Weare, Hillsboro, NH to William PATCH, b. 19 May 1811 in

Johnson, Vermont, d. 5 Mar 1888 (Nov. 1888) in Depauville, Age 77 Years.

Their Children:

John B. PATCH, b. 5 May 1840, So. Weare, NH, d. 28 Aug 1921, Depauville NY. m. 25 Jul 1869 by Justice Charles Allen, Alexandria, NY to Jane SOMMERS, b. 25 Jan 1843, Canada, d. 1 Nov 1909 Depauville, NY Age. 66y, 6m, 12d. They had four daughters, Edna, Adelaide, Minnie, and Mamie, who died as an infant.

Prescott PATCH, b. 17 Mar 1844, Weare, Hillsboro, NH, d. 19 Feb 1924, m. 21 Jan 1908 to Alice FULTON, b. 1871, d. 1936, m. 7 They had one son, Wallace Fulton PATCH, m. 1871 to Olive C. BENT, b. 3 Nov. 1848, USA, d. 22 Dec 1843, Clayton, NY.

Allen B. PATCH, b. 17 May 1842, Weare, Hillsboro, NH, d. 30 Sept 1901, Depauville, NY, Age 59, m. Sophronia GLOYD, b. 22 Dec 1843, d Jun 1927 in Clayton NY. They had three Children, William J, Bertha L, and Salome (Iola)

Lucy GIDDINGS, d. 1 Feb 1902, Goffstown NH, Age 96 yrs, 8mos, 17 days, m. in Goffstown NH to Enoch BARTLETT, b. 1803, d. 188. They had four children: Perley, Elizabeth G., Mary A., Olive A.

Eleanor GIDDINGS, b. 1810, d. 25 Sep 1902, Age: 92y, 5m.; m. 28 Nov 1833 in South Weare, NH to Moses WORTHLEY, b. 23 Oct 1803, d. 9 Aug 1861 Age. 58y, 10m, 17d

Unknown GIDDINGS b. 1811

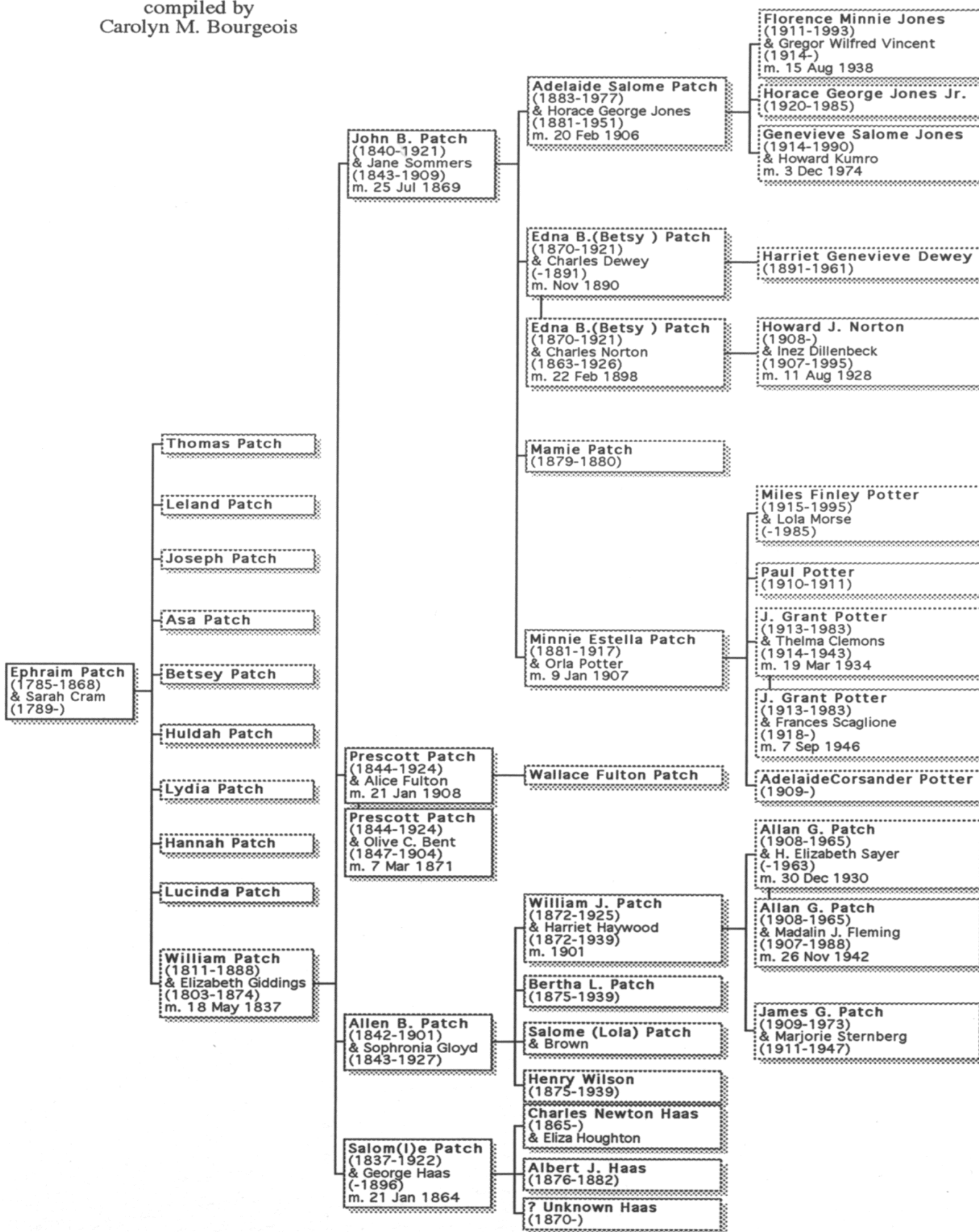
Rhoda GIDDINGS, b. 1812 most likely NH, d. 4 Apr. 1880. Second wife of Valentine HAAS. May have adopted Haas children: Lucy, Mary Elizabeth and John.

Salome GIDDINGS, b. 1818 in NH, d. Jul 1894 in Depauville. m. Richard CURRIER, b. 1817 NH, d. 16 Oct. 1888, in Depauville. They had two children, Worthley M. and Thomas II.

Joseph GIDDINGS, b. 1822, probably NH, d. 1880, bur in Depauville. m. Elizabeth JONES (SARFF) b. 1831, d. 1915.

“Well done is better than well said.” – Benjamin Franklin

The Patch Family
compiled by
Carolyn M. Bourgeois



A GENEALOGY TIP

From JCNYS member Carolyn Bourgeois

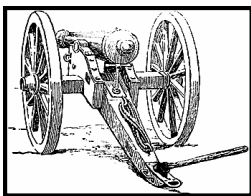
On the Member Submissions page of the April 2015 *Informer* issue, page 21 under "Vincent Generations," JCNYS member Carolyn Bourgeois talked of a tip that she would provide. It follows here and we hope you find it interesting and perhaps helpful in your research for a French connection.

I have a few "Branches" of my Family Tree that are French, mostly French-Canadian. In gathering records from St. Mary's in Clayton for some of those ancestors, (MERCIER, LEYARE/LAYARE, LAGUERRE), the name BENOIT surfaced in many of the LEYARE records. Many known dates for my Leyare ancestors, were identical to people named BENOIT. Many of these records were written in French. At the time, I had a colleague at work who was French, who translated these records. When I mentioned to her the puzzling coincidences, she told me that: It is a common practice with French-speaking people, that if a couple gets into financial difficulty and the wife's parents help them, the Husband (couple) assumes the wife's Maiden Name. Voila! This opened the door to discover at least two more generations of that "Branch," taking it across the St. Lawrence into Canada.

BENJAMIN BARNETT

(Submitted by MaryLou Klemm)

My grandfather was a Civil War veteran from Jefferson County, NY. He enlisted at Sackets Harbor. He had been living in Pentwater, Michigan, when news from the war needing soldiers came. He rode his horse back to New York and enlisted.



After the war he received land for service, and came to Michigan. He named the land "Branch" Michigan. He built a "Barnett House" there. The railroad went through there. He had a store, post office and hotel. His name was Benjamin F. Barnett, Sgt, and he married Sarah (Sally) Allen from Pamela, New York. His brother's name was Hiram Barnett.

He was wounded three times during the war, and later migrated to Wisconsin.

I would be interested in any information you might have on him.

MaryLou Klemm
malubak@t one.net

Home Was Always Jefferson County

By Jean Wilcox Hibben; PhD, MA, CGsm
6 May 2015

For most of us who are passionate about genealogy, there is an unexplainable (by modern science) draw to the place(s) from which our ancestors came. For me, it's Jefferson County, New York. My first planned trip there took place in the early 2000s. After flying into Syracuse and renting a car, I drove to the home region of my family. As I drove across the bridge and by the sign that said "Brownville," I had the unmistakable sense that I had just come home (I was raised in suburban Chicago and now live in Southern California, my home since 1973). I cannot explain exactly why I felt this way, but I've spoken to others who have had similar experiences with the regions their ancestors settled, so I know I am not alone.

I had come to Jefferson County to research my two sets of third-great grandparents: Edward and Regina (Guiwits) Freeman and Peter and Mary (Youker) Wilcox. Edward's daughter Irene had married Peter's son Nathan and they had migrated to Van Buren County, Michigan (then later to Iowa and, finally, Tennessee). The entire Wilcox family had made the trek from the shore of Lake Ontario to that of Lake Michigan (ironically, seeking better atmospheric conditions for Peter, who was failing in health – he died within three weeks of arriving in Michigan, but that's a different story). It was Edward's life that I was primarily investigating on this first trip, and a subsequent one about eighteen months later.

Edward was born in Montgomery County, Michigan, one of eleven children of Isaac and Marian (Gallup) Freeman. That was in April 1789. The family made their home in Stark, later part of Herkimer County (when that was formed from Montgomery two years after Edward's birth, so his younger siblings were born in a different county – something genealogists should always keep in mind when researching origins in specific counties).

In September of 1814, Edward left home and joined Wilson's Company, New York Militia, serving in the War of 1812. But, according to his military records, he really did not see much action. He enlisted in Little Falls, Herkimer County and was transported to Sackets Harbor, Jefferson County, where he was discharged in November of the same year. The War was over. But I believe Edward's love affair was just beginning: he had been to Jefferson County and there was no changing that. But he did return to his home turf of Herkimer where he married Regina Guiwits,

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daughter of Francis and Maria Margaret (Pickard) Guiwits.

The Freeman and Guiwits (also spelled Keywitz and Geywitz) families obviously were well-acquainted. Their son Isaac (two years younger than Regina – also called Reanna and Reny) married the Freeman daughter, Jane, who was two years younger than Edward. Their families were intertwined as they had children, moved from one part of New York to another, and experienced sadnesses of losing loved ones.

When Edward and Regina were married, they had their first two children – Francis and William – christened in the Geisenberg Church in Minden (the boys were both born in Herkimer County, as were the next two children – Mary/Polly and Isaac), but baptism records for the other children have not been located. The fourth of the Herkimer County children was born in May 1821, but after that, the four additional children (Marion – about 1824, Abram/Abraham – about 1825, John – about 1827, and Irene – about 1829) were all born in Jefferson County. It is clear that Edward (and his wife, perhaps) felt it time to go back to that country Edward first glimpsed in 1814.

But something happened after (or during) the birth of baby Irene: Regina died. Whether it was in childbirth or not, I cannot say. Nor can I say where she is buried. But there was Edward, living in the area he held most dear, with eight children, ages 0 to 13. What was a man to do? Go home. Go to the support group – family. And that is exactly what he did.

Over the course of the next two years, Edward re-established himself on a farm in Boonville, Oneida County, near Herkimer County. On examination of the 1830 census, I learned that Edward had all the children with him except for the baby, Irena/Rena, whom he left in the home of his late wife's father (Francis Guiwits). He courted the widow of Philipp Klock (Susannah Dillenbeck) – eleven years his junior and with her own daughter to raise (Susanna Louisa Carmelia Klock) and married her in Newville, Herkimer County, on 26 April 1831, according to her widow's pension application. With the large number of children, the newly-weds made what I would imagine was a difficult decision: they left all the girls with grandparents in the Mohawk Valley (Louisa with her mother's parents and Polly, Marian, and Irena with Francis Guiwits) and continued with life in Boonville where Edward worked the land. Young John died sometime between 1830 and probably 1836. Edward and Susannah had two children in Oneida County: Hannah (1832) Peter (1834).

But shortly after the birth of Hannah, the family was hit

with another blow: Francis Guiwits passed away. The judge ordered the girls be put in the care of David Elwood (a distant, shirt-tail relative). I don't know if that ever materialized as Edward was in better condition to care for young girls and in short order, his daughters were back in his care. And he was, no doubt, still desiring to return to the place that kept pulling him back. Before his wife Susannah gave birth to their third child, John (1836), they were back in Jefferson County.

It is said that John was born on the family farm: Morris Tract, Freeman District, Jefferson County, in July 1836; the property sale was completed in September of that year between Edward Freeman and Roswell and Ruth Calkins: parts of lots 456 and 466 of the subdivision of Great Lots Number 4 of Macomb's purchase, Penet Square. So there, on the bank of Horse Creek, Edward Freeman finally established his long-desired farm of just under 184 acres (for which he paid about nine dollars an acre). By 1850, the farm had been increased to 258 improved and 70 unimproved acres (according to the Agricultural Schedule of that year).

In about 1840 Francis married Mary Jane (LNU) and moved to Orleans. Polly married John Emerson and settled in Brownville on a neighboring farm sometime around 1843. William married Susan Spofford and they moved to Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, Michigan in 1845. Isaac stayed home, working the farm, for some period of time while sister Marion worked for the Pryor family when she was at an appropriate age. In about 1853, Abram married Elizabeth (called Betsy and Bonney) (LNU) and their first two children were buried in the Freeman Cemetery there on the farm; following the death of the second child, they moved to Clay, Onondaga County where they raised six more children. Isaac joined them in Onondaga County where the brothers apparently had adjoining farms and lived in the same dwelling. Irene, the youngest from Edward's marriage to Regina, fell in love with the boy next door, Nathan Wilcox, the son of a carpenter and joiner (a trade he also adopted). They married in 1848 and soon moved to Van Buren County, Michigan with the rest of the Wilcox family.

The children of Edward and Susannah – Hannah, Peter, and John – all stayed in Jefferson County. Hannah married James Jones sometime before 1858, had at least one child, and made her home in Brownville; Peter married Isora Hunter, they had three children and lived in Dexter; and John married Margaret Walrath in 1856, about the time Edward died, and made their home on the Freeman family farm where they had four children.

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Susannah's daughter Louisa married the son of Jane (Freeman) and Isaac Guiwits - Heinrich (called Henry) Guiwits - and they often came to Jefferson County to visit family, especially since Susannah's parents had settled in Stone Mills. And the Klocks, the family of Susannah's first husband, also visited often. You might wonder how I know this. The answer is the dream-come-true of all family historians.

In researching this family, about which there is nothing special (except that it is MY family), I contacted folks on the Washtenaw County, Michigan mailing list (RootsWeb), looking for information about William Freeman, who settled there and, with his wife Susan Spofford, had two children, only one of which had offspring. I wanted to know more about him. My query was forwarded to a Freeman genealogist (who was following a different Freeman family – it is a very common name as it is adopted by people who find “freedom” in America, so it is seldom that I actually connect with someone who is related to me through this line). This genealogist had researched at the Ypsilanti Historical Society, hoping to find her relatives, but found mine instead. She remembered that experience and told others about it and that was how one of those people connected her to me. She went back to that location and copied letters from Francis Freeman, still in Brownville, that he had sent to William, his brother, in Michigan. Those letters were part of the William Freeman estate and ended up being saved and archived at the historical society. They are dated in the 1840s!

As is often the case, particulars about family members are detailed in the letters from Francis to William: who married whom, who had died, who is coming to visit, where the family members relocated, etc. But, within the pages of these letters, was one phrase that hit home. It was in reference to the brothers' father, Edward Freeman, who, it seems, made frequent trips “home” to “Old Herkimer” to visit family and friends. This letter, to his son who was in the “new frontier” (Michigan) states:

“[Father] dose not prais your country very high not half as high as many do he thinks their is nothing like Jefferson Co.” [misspellings and lack of punctuation as they appear]

If Jung is right – that we are imprinted with the memories and experiences of our ancestors (“genetic memory”) – then perhaps this explains my attraction to Jefferson County. And it confirms what I had sensed from the beginning – Edward Freeman was born to live in Jefferson County and deeply loved the territory. Genealogy is more than a hobby: it's a passion, and one to which we are drawn; perhaps this is why.

Note: if anyone can fill in the missing names of the spouses mentioned in this article, please contact me. And if you are related to these families and would like copies of the letters and more details on the sources for all the data, I would be happy to share them.



Jean Wilcox Hibben is a Board Certified Genealogist with a Doctorate (folklore) and Master's degree (speech communication). She is Director of the Corona, CA Family History Center; Board member of the Assoc. of Professional Genealogists and VP of its So. Calif. Chapter and of the Genealogical Speakers Guild. She is on the boards of the Calif. Genealogical Alliance and International Society of Family History Writers and Editors. She was lead researcher for the 2013 season of *Genealogy Roadshow*. Website – www.circlemending.org

The Stone Mills Agricultural Museum received and forwarded the following inquiry:

FREDENBURGH

I am trying to find information about my grandmother's family who lived on Wellesley Island. My grandmother was born there in circa 1885. Her father was Norman Franklin **FREDENBURGH**. I really don't know a whole lot more about him, I know that he died at the age of 33 or 36. He and his wife had two daughters my grandmother Cleora Fern **FREDENBURGH** and her sister Mildred "Bober" **FREDENBURGH**. Any help you could give me would be greatly appreciated. After her dad died, my nanna Cleora Fern **FREDENBURGH** was shipped to Lansdowne Ontario to live with her uncle Charles **FREDENBURGH** (A tailor and store owner) but I don't know what happened to Mildred and her mother.

Sue Defoor McConnell
Sue.defoor@yahoo.ca

Tip Of The Day

To receive a daily genealogy tip of the day,
Subscribe at the following:

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David and Alonzo Perrigo

By JCNYS Member Shelly Morrison

Two brothers, David (1846 – 1895) and Alonzo (1844 – 1917) Perrigo of Clayton, Jefferson County served during the Civil War in Company K, 2nd Battalion, 10th New York Heavy Artillery Regiment. David is my 2nd-great-grandfather.

September 5, 1862, Alonzo, age 18, enlists for three years in the 7th Battalion New York Light Artillery, later reorganized as part of the 10th NYHA. After training at Madison Barracks, Sackets Harbor, they were sent to the forts protecting Washington D.C. for garrison duty until 1864. One half of Company K, including Alonzo, was garrisoned at Fort Ricketts. Edward P. Webb, regiment historian, wrote "The 10th New York Heavy Artillery stayed so long in Washington's fortifications that they were dubbed 'Uncle Abe's Pets.' Their familiar presence on the streets of the city reputedly ensured that no lady would be insulted by ruffians or otherwise disturbed in making her appointed rounds."

In December 1862 Alonzo came down with measles. He returns to full duty May 1863. The Tenth spent all of 1863 garrisoned around the capitol. March 24, 1864 David, age 17, enlists in the 10th NYHA, for a period of three years. He joins his brother in Company K. By the end of April he has measles and loses his speech for four months. He returns to full duty Aug. 1864. While David is convalescing the Tenth is finally ordered out of the forts and into the field.

May 25th came orders to prepare for the field and on June 4, 1864 the regiment arrived at Cold Harbor. They were drawn up in line of battle, but were not engaged. June 12th a forced march was ordered for

Petersburg. Under fire for sixty-five days in and about Petersburg the Tenth remained in their trenches on duty until August 13th when ordered to return to the defense of Washington. They garrison at Fort Whipple. David returns to full duty August 27th and on September 23, 1864, the Tenth is ordered to join the Army of the Shenandoah where they join General Sheridan's troops in the Shenandoah Valley. December 1864 the Tenth was ordered back to the army of the Potomac. They go into camp at Bermuda Hundred holding the line of works between the James and Appomattox Rivers called the Bermuda Front. April 2, 1865 it was thought the CSA were removing troops from their front. The Tenth was selected to make an assault. In 1911 John H. Forey, a member of Co. K, gave this account of April 2 to the Syracuse Post Standard "We went to see if anyone was at home," said Mr. Forey, "and we found that there were fully 15,000 of them. We got into a pocket like a horseshoe, with the enemy on three sides. They opened fire in three directions with musketry, shot and shell and grape and canister." The order was given to fall back, which was accomplished in good order with a loss of 81 killed, wounded and missing. Brevet Major-General Ferrero, commanding the division, issued a complimentary order to "express his admiration of the gallant manner in which the troops of the Tenth Artillery carried the line of the enemy this morning; it was a necessity that the line of the enemy should be developed; the result was a success." The rebels evacuated the works and the Tenth Regiment marched over to Petersburg with the division performing patrol duty in the city until ordered to rendezvous for muster out.

Alonzo mustered out August 1865 and returned to Jefferson Co. He relocated to Boonville in 1867. Occupation: boot and shoe business. In 1885, he partnered with two other men to build the Empire Block on Main Street. Member: GAR Wheelock Post No. 97 Boonville. He dies in June 1917.

David mustered out September 1865, returned to Jefferson Co. Occupation: farmer/carpenter. He was a member of GAR Steele Post No. 269, Carthage. In July 1868 he married Christiann Mullin (1850-1936) in Felts Mills. Children: Alonzo, Charles, Palmer, Minnie, Sterling, Elizabeth and Vera. The family settled in Croghan and remained there until about 1893/1894

(Continued on Page 17)

VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT.

STATE OF New York TOWN OF Montgomery

I, David Perrigo, born in Clayton in the State of New York, aged 17 1/2 years, and by occupation a farmer do HEREBY acknowledge to have volunteered this twenty fourth day of March 1864 to serve as a Soldier in the Army of the United States of America, for the period of THREE YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority: Do also agree to accept such bounty, provisions, and clothing, as are, or may be, established by law for volunteers. And I, David Perrigo do solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at Waterbury this 24 day of March 1864

Before me James D. ...

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above-named Volunteer, agreeably to the General Regulations of the Army, and that, in my opinion, he is free from all bodily defects and mental infirmity which would in any way disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

Edward Mullin EXAMINING SURGEON.

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer, David Perrigo previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service.

This soldier has green eyes, light hair, fair complexion, is five feet six inches high.

James D. ... Recruiting Officer.

Mustered into the service of the United States in Company K of the 10th Regiment of New York Volunteers, on the 24 day of March 1864 at Waterbury N.Y.



(Continued From Page 16)

when they relocated to the Town of Wilna. On November 3, 1895, while working on the construction of the Herrings Dam, a plank struck David knocking him into the water and carrying him into the cribbing. He was carried to his home where he died of internal injuries on November 6. This left Christiann a widow with three children still at home. She filed and received David's Civil War pension (pension claim no. 625313, pension certificate no. 428899). US census records 1900 – 1920 show her occupation as farmer and retired farmer in 1930. She died June 30, 1936 and is buried with David and Alonzo in Fairview Cemetery, Carthage. They share a headstone.

A Family History Project At Wiley School

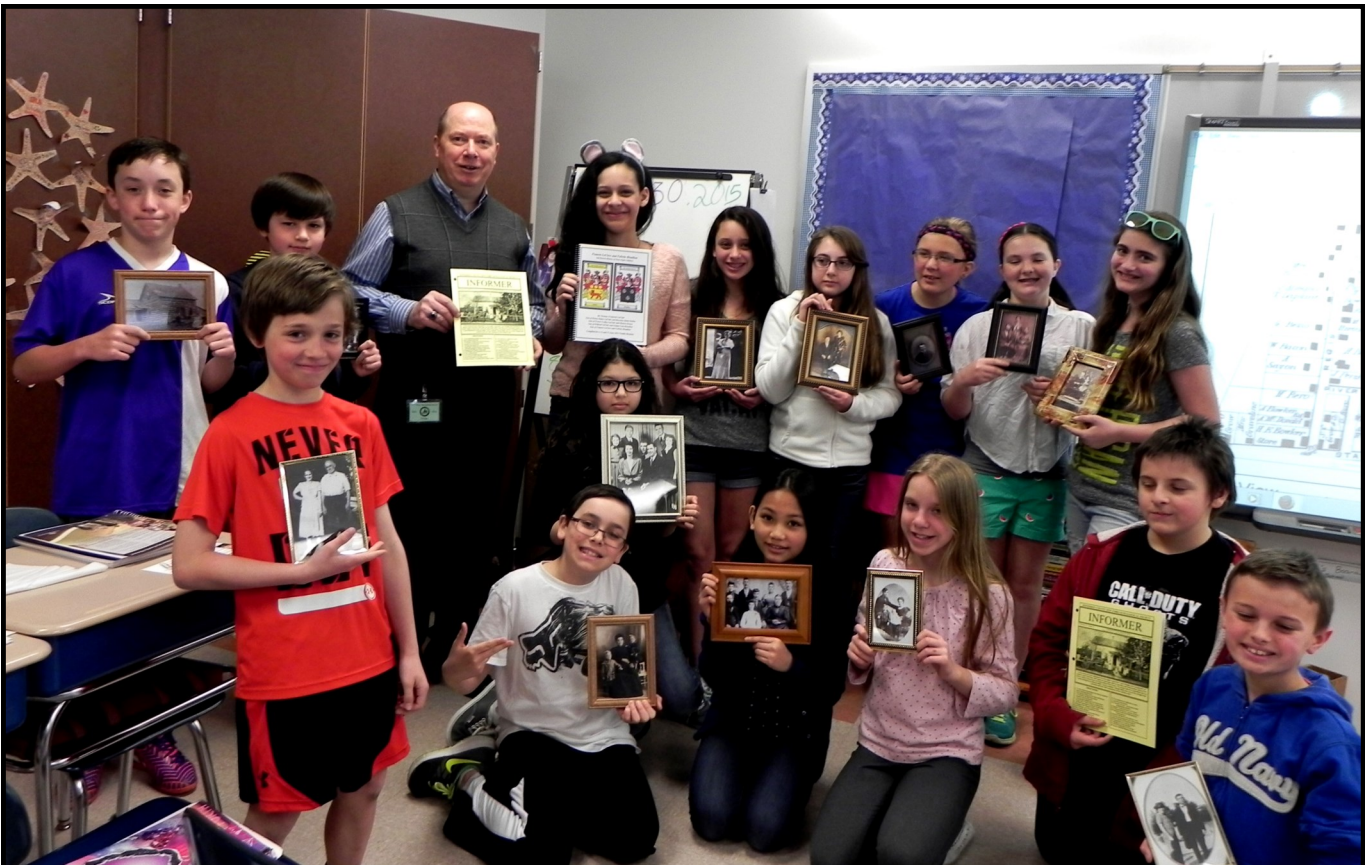
By Mrs. Ann Fillhart, Wiley Teacher

Mrs. Ann Fillhart's 5th and 6th grade social studies classes at H. T. Wiley School in Watertown have been working on a family history project this school year.

Using Ancestry.com, Northern New York Historical Newspapers, the Watertown Daily Times Archives, and other sources, the students have traced family members back for many generations. They have found and examined a wealth of sources, including photos of ancestors, military records, census records, ship manifests, birth, marriage, and death certificates, maps, wills, diaries and a variety of other primary records.

Students were amazed by what they discovered. "I've found things I never knew existed," said one of the students. Students uncovered links to many countries, including most European homelands and Australia. One student, Hannah, discovered that her name had been a family name for generations.

The classes are becoming experienced researchers, skilled in comparing information to prove their facts, using math to figure dates, deciphering cursive handwriting, and learning new vocabulary from old records. Some have even had to decode Spanish records. Many of them plan to continue their research after the project ends.



In early May 2015 JCNYS President Tom LaClair was invited to the class to answer questions from Mrs. Fillhart's students. Tom was impressed with their intuitive questions and how much they had learned about genealogy during the class project.



www.jcnygs.com

“Guestbook”

JCNYGS has added a “guestbook” on the homepage of their society website www.jcnygs.com.

Our guestbook enables you to drop in and make a few written comments. It also allows you to post information and/or ask questions pertaining to your lineage—much like a query. We are very excited for members, and visitors alike, to be able to share their genealogical material and we appreciate each contribution.

Although not required, inclusion of ancestral photos, to include pedigree charts, photos of old newspaper articles, etc., can and will be matched to your guest posting. E-mail your photo attachment to our web developer at harborsideservices@gmail.com, and it will be added to your written post in a timely manner. Please reference your name and the title of your post.

Thank you again for entering your family information into our guestbook pages.

Please note - we have a pre-approval method in place, thereby ensuring no spam is included within our guestbook pages. A 24 to 48 hour delay will occur before visitors can see your post.

Sincerely, Tom LaClair
President, JCNYGS

“I don’t have time’ is the gown-up version of ‘The dog ate my homework.’” – Unknown

Visit the NYS Historical Association Research Library

By Roberta D. Calhoun-Eagan

The New York State Historical Association Research Library is a wonderful resource strictly dedicated to history and genealogy. A little off the beaten path, the library is situated on Otsego Lake in Cooperstown, next to the Fenimore Art Museum and café. The library is also a short ride from The Farmers Museum, the Baseball Hall of Fame and Glimmerglass Opera.

The library is small and friendly, yet for its size it offers a wealth of information. “It’s almost like a surprise grab bag,” says researcher Jim Eagan. “You never know what you might find.”

Holdings include statewide family genealogies and family files, state census records and indexes, a basement full of original New York newspapers (many of which are unavailable elsewhere), and New York State history books and maps.

There is an astonishing array of unusual items such as nineteenth century sheet music and Native American art books. The library offers a collection of master’s theses about local history. The special collections department, available only by appointment, holds rare books such as early children’s books, political memorabilia, old trade catalogues and early regional imprints.

Library staff are refreshingly helpful and accessible; you feel welcomed immediately upon arrival. Resources are shared openly and responsibly. We have experienced minimal wait times and have never found the library to be crowded. Best of all, the view of Otsego Lake from our Library table is always magnificent.

The Association offers a brief series of Family History Workshops for those who are new to genealogy research. The \$15 workshop fee includes use of the research library for the day.

The library admission fee is \$5/day; admission is free for NYSHA members. The hours of operation are January-May and September-December, Mon-Fri 10-5 & Sat 1-4. The summer hours (June-August) are Mon-Fri 10-5. The library does not currently have any Saturday hours scheduled for the summer. They close for inventory mid-December through mid-January and during the usual holidays. Parking is free.

Search the NYSHA online library catalogue at <http://pathfinder.nysha.org/search~S2>

Contact the library at (607) 547-1470 or Library@nysha.org.

A VANISHED PAST

PART TWO

Watertown Daily Times: Sunday Weekly
Special to the Times, January 19, 1997
By Joanne Johnson

Scattered throughout Fort Drum are many old cemeteries, forlorn markers of a vanished past. Although now all within the military reservation, these cemeteries existed long before Fort Drum, before Camp Drum, before even Pine Camp. Their stories go back to the little villages of LeRaysville, Sterlingville, North Wilna, Woods Mills and Lewisburg, all of which disappeared forever with the 1941 expansion of the post.

In the Town of Philadelphia: Leaving LeRaysville, the traveler continues north toward Philadelphia, turns onto the old Reedville Road just before Strickland Corners, crosses a small wooden bridge over Black Creek and arrives at what used to be the village of Sterlingville. Here are two more cemeteries.

St. Mary's, stretching from the road back to the creek, is called the Catholic cemetery by folks who lived in the area. Originally the church, too, stood here, built in 1838 on land donated by James Sterling. But in the winter of 1885, it was moved across the frozen ice of the creek and into the village; in this cemetery, the family names of Savage and Varley dominate, and Savage-Varley is the name by which it is known to those on Fort Drum.

A mile farther south, on Plank Road, is the Protestant cemetery. It is referred to as the Town Burying Ground in Everts and Holcomb's 1878 "History of Jefferson County" and is listed as the Gates Cemetery by Fort Drum because it was thought to come from farmland owned by the Gates family.

However, according to Everts and Holcomb, one acre was originally purchased from Adam Comstock in 1850. Rectangular, it is larger than St. Mary's and served a variety of denominations. Around some of the larger tombstones are wrought-iron railings and thick iron posts; standing alone at intervals like solitary sentinels. Names like Hatch and Backus, Myers and Caster, Ritter and Essington, the family that built an iron forge and sawmill in the village, appear on the stones, most which date back to the last three decades of the 1800s.

James Sterling, the founder of the village, is buried here. He built the first blast furnace in 1835 to work the ore from the mines at Antwerp, forming the Sterling Iron Co. He was famous for his "cold blot charcoal pig iron," which was known as Sterling Iron, according to the Watertown Daily Times. Sterling also

gave his name to two other, shorter lived villages in the area, Sterlingburg and Sterlingbush.

Sterling weighed 396 pounds, and folklore has it that he put a 4-pound iron weight in his pocket to make it an even 400, said Mrs. Raymond Petersen, who was born in Sterlingville. He was so large that Watertown's Hotel Woodruff had a chair made especially for him, according to the Times.

In 1981, the 4 River Valleys Historical Society Journal reported that in 1865 this furnace, under Sterling's sons, produced 1,000 tons of iron for use in the Civil War, and consumed 160,000 bushels of charcoal to do so.

By the late 1860s, there were more than two dozen businesses in the village, including four mills a hotel two doctors, a carriage maker and a music teacher. But by the 1890s, industry was declining, and the village became more of a farming community.

In The Town of Wilna: From Sterlingville, one heads east toward the Indian River and what used to be the little village of Woods Mills. A trail, not much wider than a car, winds down to where the water rushes under a wooden bridge.

Woods Mills is inside the Main Impact Area, and a sign warns drivers that there are unexploded shells, or duds, in the ground. Although not likely, anyone of these could be set off by geologic or climatic changes, perhaps even by the weight of a vehicle inching along the road. Across the bridge, along the bank, are the ruins of a long-abandoned grist mill; about a half a mile up the road to the left is the cemetery.

Here, another sign reads "Families who have had headstones damaged by shelling should call the Post Commander." Most of the badly damaged stones came from an incident back in 1988 when mortar shells fell short of their target, said Cait Schadock, the National Environmental Protection Act coordinator at Fort Drum.

A Times article dates the cemetery back to 1820 and describes it as having about 50 graves. Among the families buried here are Randall, Hewitt, Canfield, Kelley, King, Swind, Mack, Hull and Tooty, as well as two soldiers from the War of 1812. Many graves, however, have no markers.

First called Woods or Woods Settlement, the village on the Indian River grew up around the saw and gristmills that Jonathan Wood built when he and his wife Betsey came from the Oneida Section in 1833. William Wood, a preacher at Natural Bridge, introduced Methodism to the area, and the first church built was a Methodist Episcopalian one in 1849, at a

(Continued on Page 20)

(Continued From Page 19)

cost of \$500, according to Ernest Cook in the Times. With its farms and a school, a blacksmith, and the Carter and Randall Butter Tub Factory, which produced more than 10,000 tubs of butter a year, according to historian Child, Woods Mills was a typical rural village.

In a 1935 letter to the Times, Ester White, a descendant of Jonathan Wood, and whose father owned a dairy farm, recalled a daily life revolving around school and church, ice cream socials, the spring sugaring season and winters of hauling ice from the river on horse-drawn sleighs.

Also in Wilna is the cemetery on the old Lake School-Gormley Road. Before Pine Camp expanded, these roads were major transportation routes for people going to church, conducting business and visiting family and friends; now they are designated as historic, and only military vehicles drive on them. The name of this cemetery is Derby-Hubbard, and like Sheepfold, Woods Mills and Pierce, it is on privately owned land. This means that the property still belongs to the towns. Fort Drum mows these cemeteries, as well as those owned by the government, even though there is no written agreement with the towns to do so, Miss Schadock said.

In this cemetery, one veteran from the Revolutionary War is buried, four from the War of 1812 and one from the Civil War. His name was William Covey, a private from the 20th Regiment of the New York Cavalry who died in 1922. Other names on monuments include Biggs, Flint, Marrieta, Ford, Ambrose and Pennington, as well as the Hubbards and Derbys. Many of the people buried here were born in the mid-1800s and died in the early 1900s.

Visitors searching for these cemeteries often struggle with outdated military maps, compiled from information dating back to the 1940s. On one, the small print reads "Map Not Field Checked." This may mean many meters' difference between where the graveyard is supposed to be and where it actually is. Even on newer maps finding roads and sites is difficult, and there are few signs in this wilderness of scrub oak and pine.

One of the most difficult to locate cemeteries is on Alexandria Road, in the heart of the old Pine Camp Reservation. Sections of the road are often under water from branches of the Black Creek, which crisscross it.

An alternative approach, requires the visitor to leave his or her car, cross a wooden bridge that is closed to traffic and hike 3/4 of a mile along a gravel road where, in summer, black eyed Susans and red spiked hawkweed

bloom. Guns boom nearby, startling the butterflies.

The graveyard comes as a surprise, a small parcel of land nestled against a sand dune. The scattered stones belong to Goodrich, Myers, Read, Maynard, Hinds and Cooper. In the Jefferson County Genealogical Room of Flower Memorial Library, this is listed as the Cooper Cemetery, Pine Plains, Wilna. But those on Fort Drum refer to it simply as the Alexandria Road Cemetery.

What looks like a willow tree is engraved on many of the monuments. The one for William E. Cooper bears the inscription "My soul is filled with love," and "Meet me in Heaven." He was 13.

Except for the Myerses, husband and wife, no one in this cemetery seems to be related. Were they interrelated? Neighbors? Is this simply the surviving part of a much larger cemetery? There are no crossroads nearby, nothing but woods and dunes. Where did these people live? The closest settlement on the old maps is Reedville. What happened here that no one was interred after 1866? These people, remembered only by crumbling, fallen headstones, seem to have no recoverable history.

As easy to find as the Alexandria Road is difficult, is the Pierce Cemetery, right off the U. S. Military Highway, north of Fargo.

The last of the Wilna group, this well-maintained, still active cemetery is administered by the Pierce Cemetery Association. Unwilling to lose touch with its living, the association reaches out yearly with a newsletter and request for dues, said Stanley Pierce, one of the two Pierces whose names appear on the entry-gate plaque.

Originally from Vermont, the Pierce family came to New York as part of the general movement of people westward. They became farmers, and one of the early settlers gave the land, thought to be part of an Indian burial ground, for the cemetery. Besides the Pierces, there are Crowners, Fishers, Averys (one of whom was a Civil War veteran), Graveses, Ashcrafts, Grahams, and Gibbs.

End of Part Two of Three - Part Three in October

"Remember, people will judge you by your actions, not your intentions. You may have a heart of gold – but so does a hard-boiled egg." – Attributed to Maya Angelou

Random Thoughts

My First Genealogy Article

By JCNYS member Kevin M. Best

I started doing genealogy about 10 years ago when I randomly typed a name in to Ancestry.com and found that a person with a very similar name (married name) as my mother had also lived in Watertown and that she had died in 1944. I was hooked!

What I knew about my family and Watertown was limited. As a child my grandmother lived on the North Side, my uncle lived in Brownville and of course I lived in Watertown. Over the next 9 years I worked with NNY Genealogy (<http://www.nnygenealogy.com>), the Leeds and Grenville Genealogical Society (<http://www.leedsandgrenvillegenealogy.com>), Ancestry.com and the great staff at the .Flower Memorial Library to see what I could find.

I learned that the first Best ancestor to come to North America, from County Armagh in Northern Ireland, was Joseph Best (about 40 years of age) who arrived in Brockville, Ontario Canada around 1845. While I had no proof, I could reasonably assume he left Ireland due to the potato famine. The first Best ancestor in Jefferson County was my great grandfather Charles and he arrived from Brockville in 1894. I also learned that through my great-grandmother's line I had a lot of Jefferson County history as she was a part of the Mcomber Family of Black River. Research showed that the Mcomber family has a long history in Black River. Lafayette Mcomber my 3rd Great Grandfather fought for the Union Army in the Civil War in the 1st NY Light Artillery and while this group did see battle I am not sure at this point if Lafayette saw any action. He is buried in North Watertown Cemetery along with most of my ancestors from this era, which is interesting to me because my grandparents' house is only a few blocks away and at no time did anyone ever mention the relatives we have buried so close.

The earliest member of my family to come to Watertown was Richard F. Seaver who arrived in Watertown from Phillipston, Massachusetts via Croghan and Lowville in the early 1840's, so in many ways while my family was not in Watertown for its birth we certainly were well represented during its infancy with many family members still living in the area.

One notable member of my family was my great uncle Alanson D. Seaver who was the principal in Seaver & Peck, the representatives for the Agricultural Insurance Company and was also the Worshipful Master of Watertown Lodge No 79 F. & A.M. and at

one point was county treasurer. My grandfather Harry Best also worked for "The AG". The Best/Seaver family has held office in local government over the years including once representing the Socialist party in city government. I also have distant ties to the Haley family for which Haley St. is named.

When the survey came asking if anyone was interested in writing articles I thought that I would like to share about my family. But what to write, I had so much to say, I am proud of my family. I decided to write a few facts about my family and end with the Kevin Best list of genealogy Do's and Don'ts (most learned the hard way) to hopefully help you in your search.

Do ask living relatives about your heritage before it is too late.

Do find out if anyone ever wrote anything down.

Do write down a story when hearing it, taking the time to put in as much detail as you can.

Do pick a method of how to complete your tree and stick to it. I started by driving through my tree adding as much information as I could to get back as far as I could as fast as possible. There had to be something good somewhere! (I am the descendant of two Mayflower Passengers.) The down side to this method has been incorrect information, half-finished documentation and of course the inevitable repeat of research to corroborate the findings.

Do go back and re-read sources that you may have used when you were first starting your research; the nugget is there.

Do a visit to different locations to verify your results if you can. Coming to Watertown to do nothing but genealogy opened my eyes to the Watertown of the past, not the one I remembered.

Don't believe everything that is on the computer (Ancestry.com or otherwise) especially if it comes from a member tree. I corrupted my first tree so badly that I had to start over and it took almost a year to fix.

Don't give up. You will hit a brick wall every once in a while and reading blogs, genealogy webpages and of course the *Informer* will allow you to see how someone else did something and tear down your wall for you.

Don't spend money if you don't have to. I enjoy the research as much or more than the actual find.

Don't assume that everything online is public domain, especially if you intend to publish.

In closing, I hope I have provided you a glimpse into my family and its ties to Watertown and Jefferson County. I also hope that the Do's and Don'ts provided a new thought or sparked an old one that may have been forgotten to make your trip into your family's past enjoyable.

Jefferson County Queries

Use the "ONLINE QUERY" on 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.)

WRIGHT

Roger **WRIGHT** was my grandfather. I know he lived in Jefferson County and had two daughters named Sonya and Teresa. I am hoping that with such little information perhaps someone might be able to add any more details for me.

Mark Hanlin
Mhanlin_mega@yahoo.com

GOVRO

I am looking for a family tree connection to Samuel **GOVRO** who was born c. 1839 somewhere (?) in Canada West but resided in Chaumont, Jefferson County, New York. He enlisted at Oswego in Co. 1 of NYSV Inf 24 reg't "Old Iron Brigade" May 1861 - May 1863, 1st Brigade 1st Div. 1st Army Corp at Antietam. A daughter's name was Lillian and his occupation at age 22 was Stonecutter. A physical description was Brown Eyes, Dark Hair, Fair Complexion and 5' 6.5".

Jared Cohen
Ish_gamzu@yahoo.com

DOANE

I am researching Ephraim **DOANE** who fought in the Revolutionary War from Mass. He settled in Ellisburg, Jefferson County, New York around 1808-1812 and died either August 20, 1819 or August 28, 1828 in Ellisburg. There was a child named Isaiah **DOANE** who lived in Ellisburg until around 1833. I am also researching Ephraim's wife who died in Ellisburg on September 20, 1828. Ephraim and his wife are buried in Woodville Cemetery.

Harry Schweitzer
schweithe@yahoo.com

LIZETTE, WALKER

A Nellie **LIZETTE** was living in the home of John E. **WALKER** in Cape Vincent, Jefferson County, New York in the years around 1920. We now reside in that home and there are some personal items that apparently were left behind. We are trying to find more information on Nellie **LIZETTE**. She came over from Canada and lived with the **WALKER** family but disappeared without a trace sometime after 1920.

Kayla Britton
Kayla.m.britton@gmail.com

ASTAZI, ANTONELLI

Enrico **ASTAZI**, my father, was the first son of two Italian immigrants, Domenico and Laura **ANTONELLI** and was born in Watertown, Jefferson County, New York. Domenico worked at the railroad service and played in the band. We are searching news about my grandparents' and dad's lives in the USA. In 1925 the whole family returned to Italy.

Riccardo Astazi
paolarduini@gmail.com

BARKER

John **BARKER** (b. 1790) and Maritta (b. 1801) may

have been in Jefferson County, New York for 15 to 20 years. I found 3 records for Brownville, New York that appear to be good matches. John T. **BARKER**: 1820 US Census w/ 2 children, John P. **BARKER**: 1825 NY Census w/ 2 children, John **BARKER**: 1830 US Census w/ 4 children. By 1840 the **BARKER** family was living at Aurora, Kane, Illinois. Marriage and births likely occurred here. Possible relatives are Abiel **BARKER** and David **BARKER**. Common son's names in the family were Edward, Joseph and Francis.

Bill Barker
bbarkerjr@gmail.com

WILSON, WARRINER, CLARK, WIGGINS, ALLEN, BRIANT, SISSON

I am seeking information about the parents and siblings of my 3x great grandmother Laura **WILSON**, the first wife of Isaac **WARRINER**, an early settler in the towns of Rodman and LeRay. She is buried in the Old Evans Mills Cemetery. Was she the daughter of one of the **WILSON** brothers, early settlers in the town of Rutland? I am unable to find any listing of their children. Names of her children include Marcia (**CLARK**), Mary Euphemia (**WIGGINS**), Laura (**ALLEN**), Helen (**BRIANT, SISSON**).

Richard A. Gould
rgould4@rochester.rr.com

RICE, HECOX

For my SAR application, I am looking for a marriage record for my great (X4) grandparents Josiah **RICE** (son of Charles **RICE**) and Ursula **HECOX** (daughter of Truman **HECOX**) married 2 May 1811 in Watertown, Jefferson, New York.

Kevin Teaford
Teaford.5@osu.edu

YATTAU, YATTEAU

I am looking for research of ancestors Ziba **YATTAU**, George Washington **YATTAU** (**YATTEAU**), who resided in Watertown, Jefferson County, NY 1850-1870.

Ron Yatteau
rfyatteau@gmail.com

ANDRESS, MEYERS, MEADS, DIETRICH

Seeking information on my great great grandfather William S. Andress (1828 - 1906) living in Omar N.Y at the time of death with his wife Sophia (Meyers) including children: Anna (Meads), Stephen (presumably died young), Virgil, Edna & Ethel (Twins). Sophia remarried to Bert Dietrich and had children Edson, Dorethea, Bertha and William. Happy to share information.

Daniel Massey
 765 McFarlane Road
 R. R. 1 Oxford Mills
 Ontario, Canada, K0G 1S0
Dan.massey@ripnet.com

JCNYGS MATERIALS FOR PURCHASE

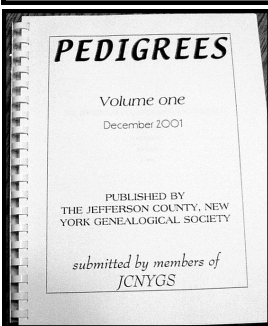
Contact: Greg or Tammy Plantz, 21787 Reed Road, Watertown, NY 13601
Or email tplantz1@twcny.rr.com

**PEDIGREE BOOK I
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PEDIGREE BOOK II**
Each Book \$20.00 plus
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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**

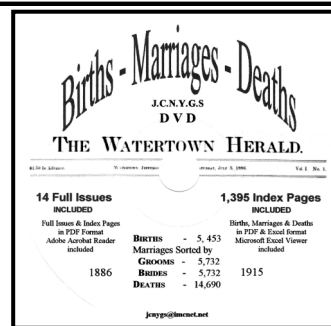
**A DVD of the Births-
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INFORMERS**



JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORY

Jefferson County was formed, 28 March 1805, from Oneida County. Oneida, in turn, came 15 Mar 1798 from Lewis County, along with parts of Madison, and Oswego. Herkimer came out of Montgomery. Montgomery, under its first name, Tryon, was formed from Albany County, one of the original counties of New York Province.

Jefferson County was named in honor of our third president, Thomas Jefferson. It occupies that corner of New York State where the St. Lawrence River empties out of Lake Ontario, and thus has a Canadian border. The nearness of Canada and these waterways have been important to Jefferson County both historically and genealogically. It is bounded on the northeast by St. Lawrence County, on the east by Lewis County, and on the south by Oswego County.

When Jefferson County was created in 1805, it included parts of eight Oneida towns: Champion and Watertown came from Mexico 14 March 1800; Adams was formed from Mexico 1 April 1802, and at the same time Brownville from Leyden; Ellisburg from Mexico 22 February 1803; Lorraine, originally Malta, from Mexico 24 March 1804; Rodman, then called Harrison, from Adams 24 March 1804; Rutland from Watertown 1

April 1802. Watertown is the county seat, containing the usual county offices. Notable features of Jefferson County include the Thousand Islands, the international Thousand Island Bridge, a continuation of Federal Interstate Highway 81 right into Canada, and Fort Drum. The military reservation of Fort Drum has preempted a large area of western Jefferson County, obliterating many landmarks and making small cemeteries very difficult to access. Large areas of the Towns of Le Ray and Philadelphia, nearly half of the Town of Antwerp, and most of the Town of Wilna are included in the Fort Drum boundaries.

Rivers of Jefferson County: the Black River rises south of Jefferson County, runs through Watertown to empty into Black River Bay in Lake Ontario. Perch River drains Perch Lake, and is now a state game management area. It also discharges into Black River Bay. Indian River, flowing through the Town of Theresa, is a tributary of the Oswegatchie which eventually reaches the St. Lawrence River in St. Lawrence County. Chaumont River runs through the towns of Orleans, Clayton and Lyme to empty into Lake Ontario in Chaumont Bay. The two branches of Sandy Creek, in the southern part of the county, also discharge into Lake Ontario.

Source: <http://jefferson.nygenweb.net/jeffhist.htm>

INFORMER

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

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JCNYGS PROGRAMS FOR 2015

Monday, 13 July @ 6PM: Bette Lathan will speak on the Historic Pinckney Corners Cemetery Restoration Program. She will also mention similar activities at the Hogsback Cemetery in Martinsburg; these are both located in Lewis County.

Monday, 10 August @ 6PM: JCNYGS member Roberta D. Calhoun-Eagan will speak on "Shattering the Family Heirloom: My Introduction to French-Canadian Genealogy." Provided will be beginner tips and resources for researching Quebec ancestors. Discussion will cover ancestry.ca, the Drouin Collection, the American French Genealogical Society and the Dictionary of Americanized French-Canadian Names.

Monday, 14 September @ 6PM: TISAR President Parks Honeywell will speak on the program "Operation Ancestor Search." Operation Ancestor Search is a free genealogy program offered to injured service members in military hospitals, veteran's hospitals and armed forces retirement homes across the country.

Monday, 12 October @ 6PM: Mrs. Fillhart's 5th and 6th grade social studies classes at H. T. Wiley School in Watertown has been working a family history project and have traced family members back for many generations. After an overview by Mrs. Fillhart, several students will present what they have learned.

Note 1: Come 30 minutes early to get to know other members and share new finds and experiences.

Note 2: Thank you George Inglehart, church liaison, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints local leadership for the free use of the building for JCNYGS programs.

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 22, Issue 4

Annual Dues \$15 Individual, \$20 Family
To have the *Informer* mailed add \$6 US or \$10 Canadian

October 2015



- ✓ **FREE – OPEN TO ALL**
- ✓ **Largest Gathering of Jeff County Historians / Genealogists in 10 Years**
- ✓ **Visit 25 Research Organizations Attending**
- ✓ **Hear Guest Speakers**
- ✓ **Network w/Others**
- ✓ **Genealogy Table for Younger Genealogists**

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HISTORY AND GENEALOGY FAIR

10:00 – 4:00

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

228 WASHINGTON ST., WATERTOWN

This ***FREE EVENT*** is brought to you by the *Jefferson County Historical Society* and the *Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society*, and is ***OPEN TO THE PUBLIC***



Jefferson County
NY Genealogical Society

INFORMER OCTOBER 2015

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 & Membership Secretary: Thomas LaClair, 17696 Co. Route 181, Clayton, NY 13624, tomlaclair624@yahoo.com, 315-285-5032

Vice President: Anne Davis, 17192 Ives Street Road, Watertown, NY 13601 davisa24@verizon.net, 315-788-6045

Recording Secretary: Tammy Plantz, 21787 Reed Rd., Watertown, NY 13601 tplantz1@twcny.rr.com, 315-788-5324

Treasurer & Corresponding Secretary: Larry Corbett, 520 Binsse St., Watertown, NY 13601, lrcorbet@qisco.net, 315-323-3118

The Informer Committee: (alphabetically) are Kayla Britton, kayla.m.britton@gmail.com; Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, dioncalhoun@yahoo.com; Anne Davis, davisa24@verizon.net; Jerry and Marilyn Davis, maridavis@aol.com; Nan Dixon, nandixon001@gmail.com; David and Cynie Kendall, davek@cynergyintl.com; Thomas LaClair, tomlaclair624@yahoo.com, (publisher); Greg and Tammy Plantz, tplantz1@twcny.rr.com; Beverly Sterling-Affinati, 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 or: Editor, JCNYS
 P.O. Box 6453
 Watertown, NY 13601

President's Message

It's an exciting time for JCNYS. We have increased membership, have enjoyed wonderful speakers and attendance at our meetings, and we are now taking the lead role for a History and Genealogy Fair as noted on the cover of this *Informer*. The networking event, sponsored by two non-profits, is set to bring in over 25 research agencies for the largest county gathering in over a decade. Attendees include: LeRay de Chaumont Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution; Alexandria Town Historical Society, General Jacob Brown Chapter Daughters of 1812, Thousand Islands Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, Historical Association of South Jefferson, Cape Vincent Historian, Lyme Heritage Center, Stone Building Society of Northern New York, Town of Rutland Historian, Jefferson County Historical Society, Henderson Historical Society, Redwood Historical Society, Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society, Jefferson County GenWeb Coordinator, the Jefferson County New York State Genealogy (Facebook Editor), 4 Rivers Valley Historical Society, Sackets Harbor Historical Society, Central New York Genealogical Society, Fort Drum Museum and Fort Drum Cultural

Resources, Watertown's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints research librarian, Dave Kendall, author of *When Descendants Become Ancestors* and Flower Memorial Library Genealogy Department. Additional agencies are signing up as I type.

In addition to those displaying, you can listen to speakers throughout the day and there will be a genealogy table for the younger genealogist. If you are in the local area, please plan to drop by at this free and must attend event!

Election of Officers

The elections have been held and the membership has spoken! The current JCNYS leadership consisting of President Tom LaClair, Vice President Anne Davis, Secretary Tammy Plantz and Treasurer Larry Corbett will remain in office October 2015 - September 2016. We appreciate your vote of confidence and support! As always, we openly invite you to be an active part of the society by attending meetings, submitting articles for the *Informer*, soliciting new members, and providing feedback. We ask that member dues are submitted on time as these vital non-profit funds maintain the internet site and ensure your quarterly *Informer* is published on time.

Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, July 13, 2015
 Tammy Plantz, Secretary

The July meeting of the JCNYS was held July 13th at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Watertown, NY. Attendees included: Anne Davis, Tom LaClair, Tammy and Greg Plantz, Dan and Sue Grant, Nan Dixon, Jerry Davis, Kathie Compeau, Jim and Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, Edna Mitchell, Bruce Coyne, Bette and Jim Lathan, Larry Corbett, Wally Keeler, Dave and Cynie Kendall, Steven and Susan Guy and George Inglehart.

After a welcome by President Tom LaClair, Treasurer Larry Corbett reported a savings account balance of \$401.72 and a checking account balance of \$2,654.72. Larry informed us that Irish genealogy including marriages and baptisms is now available online. Tom said that invitations have been sent out to many organizations to participate in the October 3 History/Genealogy Fair at the Historical Society in Watertown. Dues are now due.

Roberta introduced our speaker, Bette Lathan and her husband, Jim. Bette has been working on the restoration of the Pinckney Corners Cemetery, transforming it from an impenetrable tangle of weeds and overgrowth to a traversable cemetery with all stones cleaned and upright. The cemetery is a historical .5 acre rural cemetery surrounded by farmland, located near the Jefferson/Lewis County line. It contains 240 burials between 1810 and 1901. Bette has been responsible for the cemetery being placed on the NYS Historical Register and on the US Register of Historical Places in 2014.



Bette Lathan presenting her program

To date, 23 veterans graves have been found: two from the Revolutionary War, 17 from the War of 1812 and 4 from the Civil War. All of these veterans have been documented. Additional graves are still being found. Several descendants of the F. W. Woolworth family are also buried here.

The cemetery needs an additional \$10,000 of work to complete its restoration. Mrs. Lathan has tirelessly sought grants for the project. So far \$6,500 has been received from the Lewis County Historical Society, \$1,000 from the U. S. Daughters of 1812 and \$250 from Walmart. These funds have been used for cleaning stones, for professional stone work, and for repairing dangerous stones. Volunteer work has been vital to clearing the debris from the cemetery, uncovering the buried stones, cleaning the stones and marking the veterans' graves with American flags.

On October 10, a dedication ceremony will be held for the road sign that will designate the cemetery as an historic site. We want to acknowledge and give many thanks to Bette and her crew for their work in revealing and recapturing the history of this historic site .



There was a good turn out for the meeting. Nan Dixon, Dan and Sue Grant catch up after the meeting.



Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, August 10, 2015
Tammy Plantz, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Tom LaClair.

Attendees included: Tom LaClair; Bruce and Mary Coyne; Robert and Leegh Charron; Bill and Mary Dasno; Dave Kendall; Larry Corbett; Anne Davis; Greg and Tammy Plantz; Nancy Kaul; Jim and Roberta Eagan; Jerry and Marilyn Davis; Wally Keeler; Jeff Wood; Nan Dixon; and George Inglehart.

The Treasurer's Report presented by Larry Corbett reported as of August 3rd that the Society's checking account now has a balance of \$3,296.94. This past month Larry deposited \$147.00 and paid out \$504.78 for printing and mailing of our "Informer".

The following items were presented during Old and New Business:

1. During the Henderson Heritage Days Nan Dixon and Bonnie Borrello manned a booth representing our Society.
2. A logo is available for the making of a banner for the Society to use at public events.
3. Larry Corbett moved that the Society donate \$100 to Bette Lathan for work at the Pinckney Cemetery. (Motion unanimously approved.)
4. Tom is seeking articles for further editions of our "Informer".
5. Elections for new officers will be held next month.
6. The October 3rd History and Genealogy Fair at the Jefferson County Historical Society is on schedule with 25 organizations currently signed-up to attend.
7. The Society presently has 216 members, an increase of 10 from last year.

Following Old and New Business, Roberta Eagan shared an informative and enlightening presentations: "Shattering the Family Heirlooms (French-Canadian Genealogy)". Roberta's program shared obstacles she overcame and what she learned while researching her ancestor, Charles DeYoung, who was born in Montreal in 1835 and who died in Alexandria Bay in 1883. Roberta pointed out that when researching French-Canadian ancestry one must be aware that a researcher will encounter:

1. a lack of standardization of spellings with French names.
2. an Anglicization of French names.
3. an Americanization of French-English names.
4. many indexing and transcription errors.



Roberta presents her program

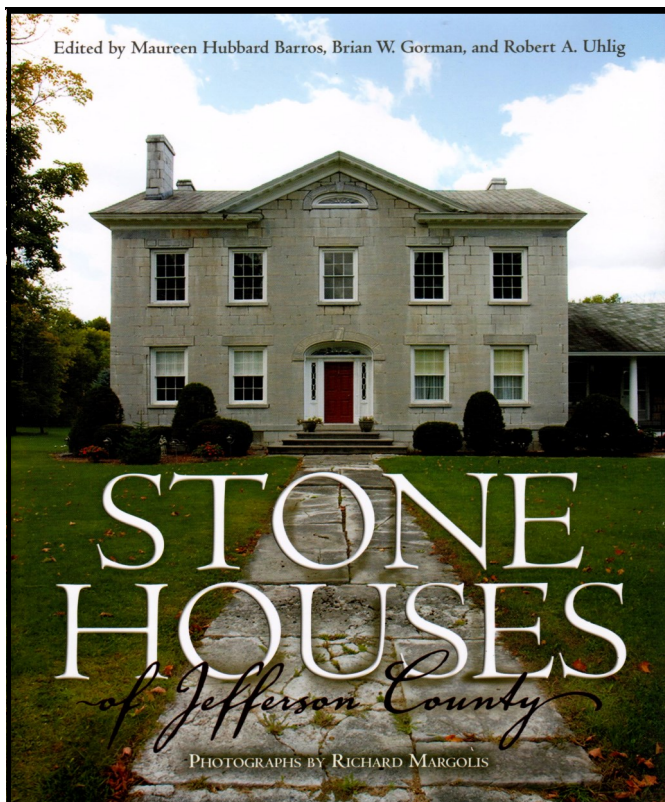
Roberta shared several handouts of genealogy sites she utilized in her research. Some, but not all included: Canadian searches on Ancestry.com; the American-French Genealogy Society; The Dorian Collection; a Dictionary of Americanized French-Canadian Names; a Dit Names book; etc.

The Society very much appreciated Roberta's organized and informative presentation.



**Another good turn out!
Lots of discussion and conversation
after the meeting!**





“STONE HOUSES OF JEFFERSON COUNTY”

Book Built Piece By Piece

Article written by Chris Brock, *Watertown Daily Times*, Sunday, June 14, 2015. The book “Stone Houses of Jefferson County” came together piece by piece.

About a decade ago, the idea for it was born. Eventually, other elements of the book fell into place, including the contributions of local historians whose work throughout the book can be seen as the mortar that holds the recently released 220-page volume together. “It was like an extended family-type of thing with this book,” said Robert A. Uhlig, Cape Vincent, one of the editors of “Stone Houses of Jefferson County,” published by Syracuse University Press. “Now, it’s here!” he said. “It’s like a child.”

The other editors are Maureen Hubbard Barros, a summer resident of Pillar Point in the town of Brownville, and Brian W. Gorman, Watertown. “We are all hobbyists and amateurs,” Mr. Gorman said. “That’s one of the charms about this; regular people can do stuff like this.” All three editors live in stone houses. They gathered June 1 at Mrs. Barros’s home for a work session that included folding informational pamphlets that will be distributed at upcoming talks about the book.

Mr. Gorman manages Jefferson Bulk Milk Cooperative Inc., a dairy cooperative that owns The Cheese Store on outer Arsenal Street. He has also worked as a commercial banker. His home on Old Rome State Road features a wood-framed section built in 1810

and a stone wing added in 1831. Mrs. Barros is also author of the book “Ornament and Object: Canadian Jewelry and Metal Art 1946–1996.” She is secretary of the Stone Building Society of Northern New York. The Watertown native has dual American-Canadian citizenship and also lives in Toronto, where she works as an artist. Mr. Uhlig is a retired Lyme Central School English teacher and president of the Stone Building Society of Northern New York.

Mrs. Barros and her late husband, James Barros, purchased what remained of her stone house on Baldwin Road in 1980. Fire had gutted it, and its roof was caved in. She recalled standing amid the house’s ruins in its basement, on bedrock, looking up through the absent roof to the sky, as they considered purchasing the property. “It was like a Greek ruin,” Mrs. Barros said. “It was beautiful.”

But they didn’t know much about stone houses and how to maintain and mend them. They co-founded the Stone Building Society in 1999, in part to address such concerns. “It was almost like a self-help group at the beginning, as we talked to each other about problems” Mrs. Barros said. “We asked people to come and give us workshops.”

The book features 81 stone structures built mainly before 1860. In addition to houses, the book highlights some churches and a bridge (over Mill Creek in Hounsfield). About two dozen of the featured homes are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. “We needed some parameters,” Mr. Uhlig said. “We know there are about 250 stone structures in our county. We wanted to push that (number) in a little.” The book notes many of the first stone homes in the county were built after the War of 1812. After 1860, Mr. Gorman said, the building of stone houses dropped off here. “There was clearly a shift in economics not to build them anymore,” he said.

Even though through today’s eyes, many stone houses look simple and rustic, they were status symbols when they were built, often by prosperous farmers. Mr. Gorman said that status could be translated to say: “I have come. I have arrived.” “Permanence seemed to be important,” he said, and the stone reflected that. “This is where they wanted to stay.”

Jefferson County’s stone houses were built with limestone that was abundant in Watertown, Black River, LeRay, Theresa, Pamela, Chaumont, Cape Vincent and Brownville.

The society has in the past tried to address the often-cited “fact” that Jefferson County has more stone houses than any other county in the nation. But documenting that would be a Herculean task. “I don’t have any idea whether there’s more here than anywhere else, but I think the numbers, the concentration and maybe the compression built in a period of time make them somewhat unique here,” Mr.

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Gorman said. There also are stone house clusters in St. Lawrence County, made with Potsdam sandstone, and south of Rochester there are homes with cobblestone facades built by masons who worked on the Erie Canal.

The editors believe Jefferson County could take advantage of the number of stone houses in the area. Mr. Uhlig said that when a tour of a handful of stone houses was held in the Cape Vincent area a few years ago, 350 people came through his house, located on Wilson Bay. "We knew then that people want to see stone houses," he said. "They are a tourist attraction if we can make it that. It would benefit each community."

The editors hope enough money can be made from the sales of "Stone Houses of Jefferson County" that the society can spread the word about the houses by having a professional website developed that would include a full list of houses, maintenance tips and GPS coordinates. The editors note that the project owes much to the late David F. Lane, a reporter for the *Watertown Daily Times*, who in the 1930s and '40s wrote a series of articles about stone structures in the county.

The book is divided into five sections: "Towns South of the Black River Inland," "Towns South of the Black River Bordering Lake Ontario," "Towns North of the Black River Bordering Lake Ontario or the St. Lawrence River," "Towns North of the Black River Inland" and "Building With Stone." Per the editors, "Jefferson County, New York, has one of the richest concentrations of stone houses in America. As many as 500 limestone houses, churches, and commercial buildings were built there before 1860. Some of the buildings are beautiful mansions built by early entrepreneurs, and others are small vernacular farmhouses. Some are clustered together; others dot the countryside near limestone outcroppings. Embedded in the fabric of each building are the stories of its location, its maker, and those who have lived there. Lavishly illustrated with almost 300 photographs, this volume highlights eighty-five stone houses in the region. The editors explore both the beauty and permanence of the stonework and the courage and ambition of the early dwellers. They detail the ways in which skilled masons utilized local limestone and sandstone, crafting double-faced stone walls to protect against fire and harsh winters. The book includes detailed discussions of the geology of the region, the stone buildings that have been lost, and the preservation and care of existing structures. Stone Houses of Jefferson County provides a fascinating look at the intrinsic beauty of these buildings and the historical links they provide to our early settlement."

Stone Houses of Jefferson County, edited by Maureen Hubbard Barros, Brian W. Gorman and Robert A. Uhlig with photographs by Richard Margolis. (Syracuse University Press, 220 pages, hardcover, \$49.95). The book is available at www.syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu.

Pvt. Benoni Patten

Revolutionary War Soldier

Served under the command of Col. Benedict Arnold

Fact or Fiction? - Benoni Patten was born Jan. 27, 1757 in Westmoreland, NH; as a boy he lived for a time in Putney, VT. In 1775, barely 18, he enlisted as a Pvt. in Capt. Isaac Gray's Co., Col. Jonathan Brewster's Massachusetts Regt. until his discharge in Dec. 1775. He enlisted again at Prospect Hill, MA, and served as a Pvt. in Capt. Daniel Whiting's Co., Col. Asa Whitcomb's MA Regt. During the winter of 1776; he is listed on the Battle of Lake Champlain's muster rolls. Again he was discharged Jan 1, 1777; later the following June he boarded the Brig "Freedom", under command of Captain John Clouston, In Sept of 1777, he started on a cruise, on his third day out he was captured by the British, and held on prison ships until the following March where he was placed in a hospital in Providence Rhode Island and kept there until he was discharged in Apr. 1778 and returned home.

Benoni Patten married Edith Cole, Sept. 14, 1779 in Westmoreland NH. After their marriage they lived in Westmoreland for a number of years with her father before moving to Herkimer Co. circa 1800 and then to Pamelia, Jefferson County after the War of 1812. Benoni Patten died August 1832 at the residence of his son Archibald Patten in Orleans, Jefferson Co., NY. His widow was allowed a pension on her husband's service in 1832 while living in the Town of Alexandria. The couple had thirteen children; Edith 1780; Polly 1781; Margaret 1783; Sally 1785; John 1787; Benoni 1789; Archibald 1791; Benoni 2nd 1792; Sally 2nd 1795; Betsey 1797; David 1799; Sophia 1801; and Ira. All are believed to have been born in NH. Edith died in the Town of Alexandria in 1839. Benoni and Edith's final resting place in Jefferson County is unknown. After Benoni's death several of the Patten children joined the Mormon religion and moved west with their extended families.

Fact or Fiction? Much more research is needed before coming to a final conclusion to this family mystery. Private Benoni Patten was in the right place at the right time in history to have served under the command of Col. Benedict Arnold; but did he? No written proof of it was found in his pension records; however generations of family members insist that it's so. Several family lines have been proven by DAR with no mention of Benedict Arnold.

Researched by Anne Davis, LeRay de Chaumont Chapter NSDAR.

THE RED SUITCASE

Submitted by JCNYS Member
Francis "Fran" Bates



It all started with a red suitcase, a beat up, well travelled red suitcase from my grandmother's closet.

My grandparents were born in the 1890's in Northern New York and moved to Buffalo, New York long before I was born. They stayed there until 1969 when they moved to Florida, a climate that was supposed to be better for my grandfather's asthma. I knew them well, spent a lot of holidays at their house and when I was in high school and college did a lot of odd jobs around their house. They were really nice people but in keeping with the rules of the time, they didn't talk about the past and I didn't ask about it either. The oldest thing my family talked about was yesterday's baseball score, but beyond that it was just 'old' and they didn't do 'old'.

I really knew nothing about family history or how to spell genealogy, or even why I should care about that old stuff until, one magic day in 1982, when my father showed up at our house in Arizona pulling a boat and carrying a red suitcase. My grandparents passed on in 1980 and my dad was acting as their care-giver in Florida for their last few years. He cleaned out their house, sold what he could and salvaged a few things that he thought interesting. I had already acquired a great Edison player and a collection of books that I loved as a child, but on that fateful day in the Arizona heat, he produced a red suitcase along with the comment "I was going to throw this junk out, but thought you might want to look at it first". This was one of those OMG moments that people have, because in that old dirty and beat up suitcase was a genealogical treasure trove of photos (unlabeled), obituaries, newspaper clippings, diaries, and assorted

ephemera that brought 'old' to life and took me back to a landing in Boston in 1663 when two brothers got off a ship and started a new life in a new land. It was amazing—my grandmother—she who talked about nothing 'old' was the keeper of a family genealogy that only she knew about. My brother and I spent a couple of days piecing it all together, identifying some of the photos (there were 102 in all) creating a time line for the Crary family on this side of the Atlantic, and reading with great sadness the diary of a grand aunt who documented her last year of life with a weather report for each day. There were dozens of cards my Grandfather Hugh Bates sent to his new wife Elizabeth (Bessie) as he travelled for work. Old obituaries and news clippings brought to life many old aunts and uncles I never knew I had. I was so hooked by all of this that I promptly closed the suitcase and put it away for 24 more years without ever thinking about it or reopening the case. I was busy; family, a military career, moving, travel, all the stuff of life that gets in the way of serious genealogy.

Time passed, Shirley, my wife, retired from teaching and began to look into some information that she received from an aunt and suddenly became obsessed with this genealogy game. Then I retired, and thought I should look into that old suitcase that we had been moving around the world for 24 years and when I did the hook was set. Now it has become my obsession too. Vacations are planned around cemetery visits and records offices, we joined genealogy societies and subscribed to on-line services, danced when we found an immigration record or newspaper clipping about a relative. We even had to buy a second computer just to stop the fussing over who was going to work on genealogy first. Most of all we kick ourselves for not asking questions when there were living people to answer them and wish that 'old' had not been such a dirty word around my house.

“Winter is the season in which people try to keep the house as warm as it was in the summer, when they complained about the heat.” – Author Unknown

**“A hug is a great gift – one size fits all, and it's easy to exchange.”
– Author Unknown**

FOR EVERY GRAVESTONE THERE IS A STORY

"Cemeteries are the 'Great American Novel' and every gravestone represents a chapter in that novel." These are the words of Sidney L. Shafer well known creator of the "Stories in Stone" nnygenealogy.com website. Today, his friends and colleagues mourn the loss of this man who spent most of his retirement years documenting, photographing every monument, headstone, footstone and stone fragment in each of the cemeteries he visited. Upon request he provided these photos free of charge to anyone researching family members who once lived in Northern New York. His goal was to preserve the rich history of our area and to help with family research.

Sid, himself a decorated Vietnam veteran felt there were too many veterans' graves that were not marked or honored in Jefferson County and surrounding areas. He worked closely with members of the LeRay de Chaumont Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, General Jacob Brown Chapter USD 1812, Sackets Harbor Battlefield Alliance Group, the SAR, numerous cemetery associations, historical societies, museums and others documenting and recording, the final resting places of our service men and women; in most cases he more than doubled the numbers on previous rolls. Sid participated in cemetery restoration projects, cleaning repairing and setting gravestones and was often called upon to speak at cemetery rededication ceremonies, grave markings, various historical society meetings and such.



**Sid Shafer talks to Friends of
Muskalonge Cemetery, at the cemetery on Evans
Road, Town of Hounsfield**

One might say Sid Shafer had some lofty goals; his collection holds information of over 119,000 burials, 427 Revolutionary War Soldiers, 14,000-16,000 War of 1812 soldiers, Civil War soldiers, church records, muster rolls, pension records, maps, various historical documents and much more. He left his friends a vast amount of historical information which he gathered in his final years and we will be eternally grateful for his

devotion to his country and for his foresight to see the need to protect and preserve our local history.

Currently the nnygenealogy.com website remains online, however private emails, requests for gravestone pictures cannot be retrieved at this time. Work is being done to fix this problem in the future.

Obituary of Sidney Shafer

LaFargeville. Sidney L. Shafer, 71, of Sunrise Avenue, died Sunday, May 17, 2015 at Samaritan Medical Center, Watertown, New York. Born on February 11, 1944 in Louisiana, he was a son of Franklin and Faith Boward Shafer. He graduated from Hagerstown High School in 1962.

Mr. Shafer entered the US Army on July 24, 1967, serving in Vietnam. He also worked at NATO headquarters in Germany and was honorably discharged on May 31, 1987, retiring from Ft. Drum as a warrant officer. Sidney was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Silver Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star, Civil Actions Medal First Class, Parachute Badge, Vietnam Parachute Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation and Good Conduct Medal with one Clasp.

He worked for Radio Shack, Watertown, NY for twenty years.

Sidney married Bonita L. Hawbaker on May 12, 1973 in Hagerstown, MD.

A member of Vietnam Veteran Groups, Jefferson County Historical Society, Vice-President of Jefferson County Cemetery Association, LeRay de Chaumont, Daughters of the American Revolution, General Jacob Brown Chapter. Mr. Shafer enjoyed racing cars in his younger years and was an amateur radio operator.

Survivors include his wife Bonita L. "Bonni" Shafer; one daughter, Stephanie Shafer, Leavenworth, TX; one son, Jason Shafer, Lake George, NY; his dog, Clee; one brother, Dennis K. Shafer, Martinsburg, WV; twin brothers-in-law, Richard Rutherford and George E. "Rocky" Rutherford, both of Martinsburg, WV; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and many good friends.

Mr. Shafer created the website, NNY Genealogy, Stories and Stones.

Donations for the continued preservation and care for veteran graves may be made to the LeRay de Chaumont Chapter - Daughters of the American Revolution, c/o Anne Davis, Ives Street Extension, Watertown, NY 13601 or Adams State Road Cemetery, PO Box 2, Adams Center, NY 13606.



(Interviewed by JCNYS President Tom LaClair)

This edition of the Informer will hold a spotlight on a very dedicated member of not one, but several Jefferson County historical and genealogical organizations.

Jeannie Irene Kafka was born on 4 July 1923 at 114 South Massey Street in Watertown across the street from Mercy Hospital. With Dr. Flint performing the newborn delivery, Jeannie arrived at 3:30 AM in her parent's third floor apartment, situated on the corner of Massey and Arsenal Streets. She was born the daughter of Stephen Walter Kafka and Agnes Keay Kafka. Her father Stephen was assigned to the 13th Fleet Division and during WWI was on the original U.S.S. Wisconsin (BB-9), patrolling in the Pacific Ocean. He had been serving in the New York Naval Reserve since 1919.

In 1928, while living on Indiana Avenue in Watertown, Jeannie began kindergarten classes at Thompson Boulevard School. During the same year, at age 5, the family moved to Sackets Harbor when Stephen was put in charge of a naval militia ship there. There was no kindergarten class in Sackets so the teachers told Jeannie if she could manage, she would go directly into first grade. Of course, she managed and jumped a year ahead of her peers.

In Sackets Harbor, her father was assigned to Sub Chaser 431 (S. C. 431) of the splinter fleet. It was called the splinter fleet because the ships were made of wood and splintered easily in an attack. The splinter fleet sailed up and down the east coast searching for submarines. In 1937, while at port at Sackets Harbor, S. C. 431 exploded after gasoline refueling and her father, Chief Shipkeeper and Shipfitter, United States Naval Reserves, died of his injuries. Jeannie, her mother Agnes and her older brother William "Bill" Kafka, who was born 19 July 1921 (deceased), remained in Sackets Harbor.

In 1935, while in 8th grade, Mr. Lawrence Robinson,

Principal of Sackets Harbor High School, suggested Jeannie and several of her classmates take regent exams in January versus June. They did, passed and went straight into freshman classes. Later in high school, she founded and was first editor of the school newspaper called *The Challenger*. She was also the editor of the school yearbook, *The Niahoure* (Native American Indian name for the local area), and went on to become Salutatorian for her 1939 graduating class at Sackets Harbor.



After high school Jeannie had visions of becoming a nurse. However Mr. Robinson, the school principal, suggested she go to college in Albany to become a teacher. He then sent a glowing recommendation to the college. In 1944 she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Albany State College, today's University of Albany. However a little before graduation, on 21 December 1943 Jeannie married Robert Edward Brennan, a military man assigned to the Air Transport Command. Jeannie and Robert had known each other all of their lives as both hailed from Sackets Harbor. The two married at the Our Lady of the Angel Catholic Church in Albany, by Reverend Ignatius Slattery. Attendants were Mary Francis Cook, a friend from Sackets Harbor, and another friend Madge Sinclair. The newlyweds celebrated on a 7-day honeymoon to snow-bound Sackets Harbor.

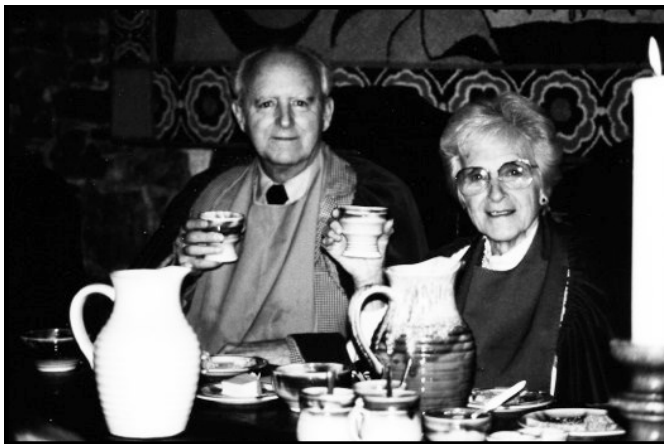
In 1945 Jeannie taught school in the Dexter school system and then taught in the Belleville school system the first half of 1947. During the second half of the year, daughter Constance "Connie" Brennan came along and Jeannie



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became a stay at home mom for the next ten years. In 1957, Mr. Robinson called on Jeannie once again. He reported that a teacher was retiring and if Jeannie would commit to earning a teaching certificate (toward a Master's Degree), he would hire her. So Jeannie accepted the job and over the next five summers went to Oswego and attended the Intensive Teacher Training Program and earned her Master's Degree in Elementary Education. Under Mr. Robinson's influence and guidance, Jeannie taught 1st grade elementary school from 1957 until 1987—30 years! She explained that she loved to teach and estimates she taught nearly 800 students through those years—sometimes three generations of the same family. One particular event mentioned, she was diagnosed with hepatitis and was out of the classroom for two to three months. On return one of her students commented that he was happy she was back because they got away with murder in her absence. You can probably guess Mrs. Brennan was more structured than the substitute teachers and the students wanted classroom structure.

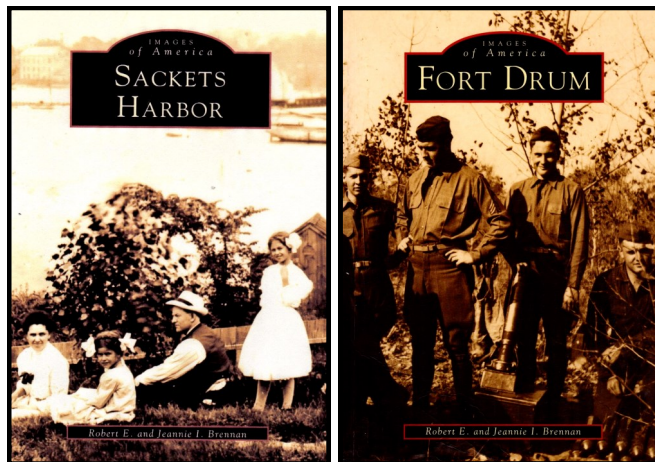


On retirement in 1987 she asked herself what to do now? As a teacher she was familiar with a regimented routine and all of a sudden the regimented process was a noticeable absence. At that same time Sackets Harbor Mayor Norman Hunneyman asked if Jeannie would be chairperson for the Pickering-Beach Museum in Sackets Harbor. Of course she said yes, and served the community for 27 years! From 1987 through 2014 she was a volunteer. In 2004 Robert and Jeannie were formally appointed Sackets Harbor Town and Village Historians. It is worth mentioning here that Robert retired in 1983, four years ahead of Jeannie.

While volunteering at the Pickering Beach Museum, Jeannie came across a notebook of honeymoon letters from Marietta Doe Pickering Hay, and her artist husband DeWitt Clinton Hay, to Marietta's sister Olivia "Livie" Pickering Beach—in all, thirteen letters. With her keen interest in Sackets Harbor's history, Jeannie

painstakingly transcribed the letters. The letters and painted sketches capture, in both words and pictures, Marietta and DeWitt's travels in Europe and the Middle East from 17 May 1867 to 5 November 1869 and offers an engaging account of a traveler's experiences during the late 1860's. Jeannie authored the book "My Dear Livie" in 2008 and proceeds of the book are donated to the village library and the Pickering-Beach Museum.

In 2000 the Brennan's were approached by Arcadia Publishing about writing a history of Sackets Harbor. From that Robert and Jeannie published two books in the Arcadia's Images of America series – one on Sackets Harbor and the other on Fort Drum. In the 2000 Sackets Harbor edition, the last chapter ends at Madison Barracks. In the 2002 Fort Drum edition, the book's first chapter begins with Madison Barracks. Arcadia wrote: "Authors Robert and Jeannie Brennan are lifelong residents of Sackets Harbor; he is the honorary village historian, and she is the chair of the Pickering-Beach Museum. They tell the story of Sackets Harbor using images from their own collection, individual collections, the Jefferson County Historical Society, the Pickering-Beach Museum, and the U.S. Naval History Center. They donate all royalties from the sale of the book to the Pickering-Beach Museum and the Hay Memorial Library in Sackets Harbor."



Through the years, from 1994 to 2012, Jeannie also volunteered at the Jefferson County Historical Society where she worked alongside the society directors, county historians and curators such as Margaret Shafer, Persijs Kolberg, Fred Rollins and Tim Abel. During the same years she volunteered at the Flower Memorial Library Genealogy Department alongside individuals such as Carolyn Perkins and Terry Mandigo. She also worked with Clancy Hopkins and helped publish the Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society's bi-monthly newsletter—the *Informer*. From 2000 to 2012 she volunteered at the Samaritan Medical Center and among other services performed, knitted over 780 hats for newborns. She quilted some 30, or more, single and double bed

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quilts. In addition to that, she quilted 27 baby quilts for deployed soldier's children. In 2012, Jeannie, with daughter Connie, created a War of 1812 Bicentennial quilt for the Seaway Trail's competition where 25 quilts were selected for a traveling show, to include the War of 1812 quilt. Over the past few years their quilt has traveled around the country with their special design reflecting the history of Sackets during the war.

In November 2014, at age 91, Jeannie sent a letter to the Village Board officially retiring from her position in charge of the Village Museum after 27 years. Mayor



Battista said that "Jeannie is one of the most outstanding citizens in our Village and has served us well for many years. Her service and expertise will be greatly missed." Through the years she and her husband's history and genealogy collection expanded. They built a personal library page-by-page and today over 30 large three-ring binders adorn the shelves in their home. The history of Sackets Harbor, Madison

Barracks, and Fort Drum cause the shelves to groan under the weight of the binders.

For Robert and Jeannie, formal accolades include, first the Sackets Harbor Alumni bestowed their distinguished alumni award to them in 1994. Then in 2001 the Village of Sackets Harbor named them Citizens of the Year. In addition to formal awards, the two answered countless genealogy inquires over the years, resulting in many friendships around the world—giving their life the richest of blessings. Then just this summer, the Village declared Saturday, August 15, as "Jeannie Brennan Day" and presented a proclamation to her at the Village Board, recognizing her 27 years as leader of the Pickering-Beach Museum. A reception was held at the museum in her honor. At the annual Village gathering to recognize the many community volunteers, a recipient will be named the "Jeannie Brennan Volunteer of the Year."

Today Jeannie spends most of her time caring for her flower garden, tending to her home, baking with her friends Mary Corboy and Robin Vincent, and listening to non-fiction history books on tape. She particularly enjoys the National Geographic and Smithsonian magazines. Jeannie also sponsors two individuals through "Unbound," an organization that supports individuals in other countries.

She is loved and watched over by her daughter Connie and son-in-law Larry. Connie is the Sackets Harbor

Battlefield State Historic Site Manager and her office is located in the very same room her mother Jeannie lived in when her dad was assigned to Sackets Harbor during the 1920's and 1930's.

Sadly, Robert passed away in July 2013. This passage from his obituary shares further insight on the entire family: "Robert was employed with Bell Telephone Company for thirty-eight years, retiring in 1983, and became a member of the 'Telephone Pioneers' retirees group. He was also a life-long member of St. Andrew Catholic Church in Sackets Harbor, and the Sackets Harbor American Legion Post 1757. In their early years of marriage they took their daughter on summer canoe trips and climbed mountains in the Adirondacks. In their retirement, Bob and Jeannie traveled to numerous destinations in the world, which brought them great joy. They were downhill and cross-country skiers, and particularly enjoyed driving their 1931 Model A Ford around their beloved village." One month before Robert's passing, the family gathered for a dual 70th Wedding Anniversary party and Jeannie's 90th birthday party.

 Jeannie Kafka Brennan Genealogy Information

Jeannie's father: Stephen Walter Kafka, born Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 5 March 1895; married 5 May 1920, Utica, New York; died 6 September 1937, Watertown, New York (article listed in the Watertown Daily Times, 7 September 1937). Stephen's father was Charles Kafka, born 28 February 1863 (listed as Vienna, Austria); died 27 May 1931, Sackets Harbor, New York. Charles's parents were Joseph Kafka (Vienna, Austria), and Josephine Bresa or Brisa (Vienna, Austria). Stephen's mother was Margaret Victoria Grebel, born 16 October 1874, (listed as Berlin, Germany); died 28 July 1936, Sackets Harbor, New York. Margaret's parents were Maxmillian Grebel, Berlin, Germany; wife unknown.

Jeannie's mother: Agnes Keay Kafka, born 22 August 1896 at Castelton Corners, Staten Island, New York; married 5 May 1920, Utica, New York; died 3 January 1974, Ogdensburg, New York. Agnes's parents were William Robert Keay, born 7 April 1864, Dundee, Scotland; married 3 January 1885; died 4 May 1915, Lowville, New York (there are Lowville newspaper articles about him as a businessman, and his untimely death from a fall). William's parents were David Keay and Elizabeth Russell. Agnes's mother was Jeannie M. Glass Keay, born 29 August 1864 Dundee, Scotland; died 3 January 1954, Frankfort, New York. Jeannie Glass's parents were John Glass and Ana (maiden name unknown) Glass.

Jeannie Kafka Brennan was baptized a Catholic in 1970, by Monsignor Francis Brennan, a family relative. At age 92, Jeannie became an Associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown.

DENING FAMILY HAS LONG HISTORY

Story told at 1921 Reunion
Author Unknown

Submitted by JCNYS Member
Charmaine Virkler Company

Shot Through the Lungs in Civil War Battle,
Given Up By Surgeons,
Lived to Tell Tale!

Adams, New York, August 24, 1921
A Reunion of the Dening Family was held at Grange
Hall, Belleville on August 20.

Remarks from the family at this reunion tell us James Dening landed April 1853, probably at Sackets Harbor as had his brothers Daniel in 1849 and Frank in 1851, it had been a six week voyage from Plymouth, England. James worked at farming and made his home with his brother Daniel. On July 4, 1852 James married Miss Elizabeth Sucky, who had recently arrived from Switzerland. The ceremony was performed by Alexander Tucker with Ellen Dening, as witness.

As the reunion notes tell us, when the war of '61 broke out he was very anxious to go except for leaving his wife and little daughter Vesta. In March of 1862 he enlisted and by then was also leaving a young son James Jr. who was just two weeks old. His family was left in the care of his brothers.

The record goes on to tell: James Dening went out with the old Ninth Regiment and saw much hard work and destructive service. After remaining a few days in New York, the regiment went to Philadelphia and were given a grand reception and a good square meal, then went on to Washington and were quartered at Fort Lyons near the city. Here he remained until the second battle of Bull Run in which his regiment took an active part. During the battle the color bearer was shot down and James seized the flag saying, "The old flag must go up" and from that time until his death, during every battle, at every Grand Army entertainment, he was sure to be seen carrying the flag. In this battle the flag was pierced with 17 bullets, but he was not hurt.

At the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, he was wounded twice, first in the left side, from which he was knocked down, almost senseless. After a little time he got up, picked up the flag and said, "Boys, 'taint no odds, come on." In a few minutes he was shot through

the lung, the ball being taken out of his back nearly a foot below the spot where it entered his body. The remarkable part of this incident is that he did not fall down, but held on to a small tree. When asked if he should be carried to the hospital, he said "Taint no odds about me, go on and do your duty. I will be dead in a few minutes, anyway." Soon, after this he walked to the hospital, which was a heap of straw under some trees, nearly two miles away. But, little was done for him by the surgeons, because his case was pronounced hopeless. It was thought he could live but a short time at best. From here he was taken to Mount Pleasant hospital and his wounds dressed. His sufferings were great for a month, but he prayed every night that he might not wake in the morning. He remained there until May when he asked for a furlough, saying he would be back and fight for the cause after a little time, but he was discharged from further service. He carried the bullet that caused his wound, about in his pocket for nearly 30 years and had taken it across the ocean several times to the land of his birth, but finally lost it.

Many incidents of interest took place during the career of this brave man. About the time the regiment was ordered away from Arlington Heights, Colonel Littlefield gave him a gold dollar for washing his shirt. This dollar was sent to his wife for little James. When he came home he took it to England and had it made into a pin with the idea of keeping it until his son was old enough to wear it. While living at Belleville, his house was burned, causing the death of his oldest daughter, Vesta, and at this time the pin was lost. It remained in the ground for about 25 years. Finally a portion of earth was cleared out to make a road and the pin found and restored to its rightful owner.

James died in 1913 at the age of 89 years, and was buried in the Mixer Cemetery, Belleville.

Author Notes: The battle of South Mountain was a turning point in the war; it was fought and won by the Union Army on September 14, 1862. Total casualties were 6,100 killed, wounded and missing. Three days later, September 17, 1862, the Battle of Antietam was fought, which led to President Lincoln's issue of the Emancipation Proclamation. The Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest one day battle in American History with more than 22,000 casualties. I imagine going into and during battles, both sides were very proud of their flag.

JOHN SPRAGUE

Submitted by JCNYS Member and Descendant
John M. McGreal and his wife Lynn
(Lynn is the Great, Great Granddaughter)

John Sprague was born 14 April 1778 in Leicester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, the 3rd child of Timothy Sprague and Mary Sargeant. John married Sally Hubbard on 12 July 1801 in Leicester. Sally was born about August 1781 in Worcester County, the daughter of Daniel Hubbard.

Their children: John Milton, born Leicester on 19 December 1801; Origin Cushman, born Leicester on 30 December 1804; Daniel Hubbard, born Leicester on 22 July 1806; unnamed male, born Leicester on 16 January 1809; unnamed male born Leicester 12 March 1811; Charles A., born Massachusetts between 1813 and 1814; Cushman Oscar born Town of Alexandria, Jefferson County, New York on 29 July 1817; Julia Ann, born New York State about 1823. (Note: As far as can be found, the two unnamed male children probably died early or were stillborn.)

In the book titled, "Historical Sketches of the Town of Leicester, Massachusetts during the first century from its Settlement" on page 404, it states that John and Sally removed to the State of New York in 1807. But this is not accurate as the records show that six of their eight children were born in Leicester or the State of Massachusetts.

On the tenth day of March 1811, John Sprague and a friend from Leicester, Bernard Upham, purchased a parcel of land containing one hundred and nineteen acres and 60 hundredths of an acre, in the Town of Rutland, Jefferson County, New York, from Issac and Anne Bronson of Fairfield, Fairfield County, Connecticut, for \$316.20. (This indenture found in the Jefferson County, New York, Court House.)

In the 1820 New York State census, John and Sally were living in LeRay and in the 1830 census, they were residents of Pamelaia.

In the 1840 New York census, John Milton was living in Alexandria, Jefferson County with an unnamed woman 30 to 40 years of age and an unnamed boy, 10 to 15 years of age. John Milton seems to have died after the 1840 census, as there is nothing in the later census.

John Sprague, (husband of Sally), died 16 November 1841 and is buried in the Old Theresa cemetery. His headstone reads, WAR OF 1812. The author has been to the National Archives in Washington, but has not been able to determine whether his service is from New York or Massachusetts.

Sally lived on, with her sons, after John's death and at the time of her death on 4 May 1874, was living with her son, Cushman in Theresa, Jefferson County, New York. She is buried alongside John in the Old Theresa Cemetery.

Daniel Hubbard married Philancy Loomis, nee Colvin, about 1842. Daniel died on 20 December 1855 in Champion, Jefferson County. He is buried along with his wife, Philancy, in Hillside Cemetery, Champion. She died in 1895 at the age of 83 years and 8 months.

Charles A. married Margaret Sheley, 14 August 1836. He served in the Civil War between 27 August 1862 and his death on 14 December 1863, at Fort Delaware, and is buried at Finns Point National Cemetery, Delaware.

Cushman Oscar married Lucy Wheeler, born 9 March



Cushman Sprague and his wife Lucy Wheeler Sprague

1822, in Rutland, Jefferson County, New York, daughter of Amos and Relief (nee Herrick) Wheeler, and died 25 May 1899. Cushman died on 1 October 1905. Their children were Mary S., born 28 March 1851; Alice S., born 14 August 1853; John M., born 27 September 1855; Edgar C., born 8 March 1859; Hubbard D., born 6 April 1861, died 5 May 1862 and is buried in Old Theresa Cemetery, Theresa, New York, and Hubbard F., born 1864. All their children were born in Theresa, New York. Cushman and Lucy are buried a short distance away in the newer cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery, also in Theresa, New York.

Julia Ann married Robert Pierce. Robert, born 26 October 1825, in Norfolk, England served in Company B, 27th Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War. Julia died 2 July 1878 and Robert on 3 February 1904 in Fife Lake, Grand Traverse County, Michigan. Both are buried in Fife Lake Cemetery.

The “Grange” and “Freemasonry”

Submitted by Tom LaClair

"As a new genealogy researcher, several years back, I would frequently come across anniversary or obituary articles telling of my ancestors who were involved in the "Grange" and or "Freemasonry / Masons." Without going into great depth, as the internet is full of detailed information, here is a brief overview of the two. Like mine, your ancestors may have belonged to one or both of these organizations. This information on each comes from the internet and the applicable source link is provided."

GRANGE

The Patrons of Husbandry, or the Grange, was founded in 1867 to advance methods of agriculture, as well as to promote the social and economic needs of farmers in the United States. The financial crisis of 1873, along with falling crop prices, increases in railroad fees to ship crops, and Congress's reduction of paper money in favor of gold and silver devastated farmers' livelihoods and caused a surge in Grange membership in the mid-1870s. Both at the state and national level, Grangers gave their support to reform minded groups such as the Greenback Party, the Populist Party, and, eventually, the Progressives.

This lithograph, published in 1875, is a modification of the Grange motto, "I pay for all." It asserts that the farmer is the central character upon which all society relies, with the central image of the lithograph being a farmer behind his plow, captioned, "I feed you all!" This vignette appears within a framework of twigs and oak branches, with stalks of corn and sheaves of wheat in the corners.

Surrounding the central farmer vignette is a series of other scenes of professionals, laborers, and military and government agents. Clockwise from the upper left corner appear: a lawyer ("I Plead for All"); a seated President Ulysses S. Grant ("I Rule for All"); an officer leading a charge ("I Fight for All"); a clergyman at his pulpit ("I Preach for All"); a ship owner watching his vessel through a window ("I Sail for All"); a shopkeeper in a general store ("I Buy & Sell for All"); a doctor with a scale and drugs ("I Physic You All"); a banker at his window ("I Fleece You All"); a trader ("I Bull & Bear for All"); and a railroad owner watching his locomotive ("I Carry for All").



"I feed you all!" lithograph by American Oleograph Co., Milwaukee, ca. 1875. (Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division)

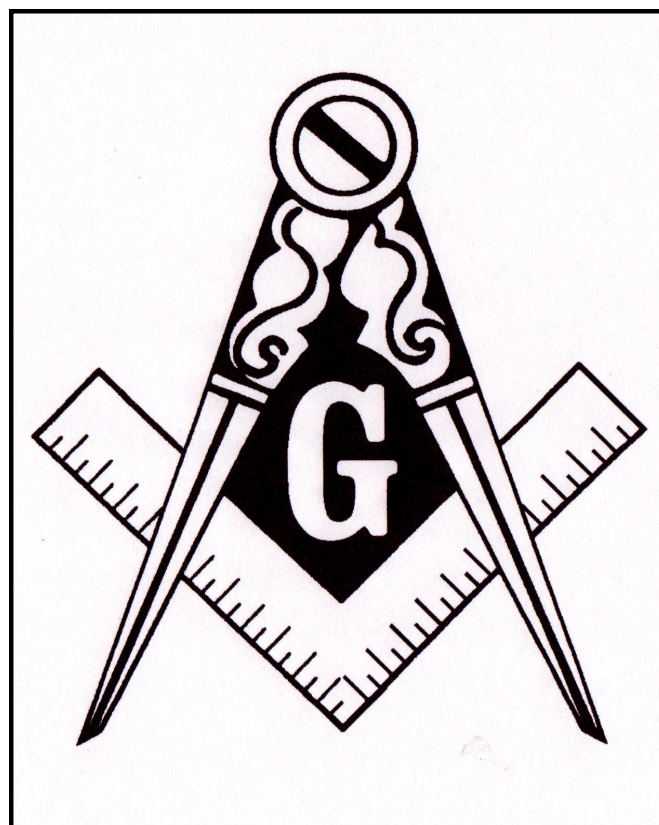
Source: www.apsva.us/cms/lib2/.../

[PopulismGrange.doc](#)

FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that arose from obscure origins in the late 16th to early 17th centuries probably in the stonemason guilds of

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Scotland. Freemasonry exists in various forms all over the world, with a membership estimated at around three million (including approx. 480,000 in Great Britain and under two million in the United States). At its heart, Freemasonry is a self-improvement organization. Through three initiation rituals, lectures and other ceremonies, combined with social and charitable activities, Freemasons seek to improve themselves as they improve the communities in which they live. To join, one must believe in a Supreme Being, be upright, moral and honest in character, and be recommended by a Mason.

Freemasonry employs the tools and instruments of stonemasonry to teach a system of morality, friendship and brotherly love, hence, the standard emblem of Freemasonry is the square and compasses. In the United States, Freemasonry is organized locally into lodges and supervised by Grand Lodges. There are fifty-two Grand Lodges in the United States (one for each state plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) and more than 10,000 local lodges. There are numerous Appendant and affiliate Masonic organizations such as the Order of the Eastern Star, Scottish Rite, York Rite and the Shrine. Each of these organizations has its own leadership but all ultimately subordinate to the state Grand Lodges.

Freemasonry is kindness in the home; honesty in business; courtesy toward others; dependability in ones work; compassion for the unfortunate; resistance to evil; help for the weak; concern for good government; support for public education; and above all, a life-practicing reverence for God and love of fellow man. Through the influence of good men such as George Washington, Freemasonry and its ideals continue to thrive around the world.

Source: <http://www.gwmemorial.org/freemasonry.php>

THE HONORABLE CLAUDE B. ALVERSON

In the death of Claude B. Alverson on December 23, 1922, one of the most eminent jurists and able lawyers passed from the courts of Jefferson County. He had been elected as judge of the Supreme Court of New York in 1920, 5th Judicial District, and was one of the youngest members of the bar to serve in that capacity. Judge Alverson was born at Hounsfield, Jefferson County, July 19, 1878, the son of Samuel and Fanny (Phelps) Alverson. Both were born at Hounsfield and are buried at Dexter.

Claude B. Alverson attended the district schools of Jefferson County and studied law in the offices of Walts and Pitcher, of

Watertown, in which the late Senator Fred B. Pitcher was junior member. In 1905 Mr. Alverson was graduated from the Albany Law School and during that year was admitted to the New York bar. He then formed a partnership with Edward W. Carroll, under the firm name of Alverson & Carroll, with offices in the Otis Building. His first political office came to him at this period when he was appointed deputy county clerk, and he was also elected supervisor from the town of Hounsfield, where his residence was maintained until his removal to Dexter. He served for two years as deputy county clerk, resigning to devote his entire time to private practice. The partnership with Mr. Carroll was dissolved and he later became associated with the late George S. McCartin under the firm name of McCartin and Alverson. In 1910 Mr. Alverson was elected district attorney of Jefferson County and reelected to that office three years later. As district attorney he handled many important criminal cases and his rise as a lawyer at this particular period was phenomenal. In 1918 he was nominated for county judge and at that time defeated Judge George W. Reeves. Two years later he was elected as judge of the Supreme Court of New York, 5th Judicial District, and during his two years in office he served in many counties in the State.

On September 28, 1907, Judge Alverson was united in marriage with Miss Grace Hilliker, the daughter of William E. and Sarah (Countryman) Hilliker, the former a native of Dexter and the latter of Stone Mills, N. Y. He died in 1921 and his widow lives at Dexter. Mr. Hilliker ran away to enlist for service during the Civil War and served with a company of Connecticut infantry. He was a farmer and the owner of the well known Hilliker Farm in Jefferson County. To Claude B. and Grace (Hilliker) Alverson was born a son and daughter, Kent Hillier, who is a member of the 1931 class of Dexter High School, and Marion C., deceased.

Judge Alverson was a Republican, and had the following lodge affiliations: Brownville Lodge, F. & A. M.; Watertown Chapter R. A. M. No. 59; Watertown Commander K. T. No. 11; Central City Consistory, 32nd degree; Media Temple; Independent Order of Odd Fellows; B. P. O. Elks No. 496, Past Exalted Ruler. He was identified with the Jefferson County Bar Association, of which he served as president, and he also belonged to the New York State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He held membership in the Agricultural Society and took much pride in his beautiful dairy farm, which was located on the outskirts of the city of Dexter. He was recognized as an authority on fine cattle and his farm was well stocked.

Source: The North Country, A History Embracing Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Oswego, Lewis and Franklin Counties, New York. By: Harry F. Landon, Historical Publishing Company Indianapolis, Indiana 1932.

Note: Fanny Phelps's formal name is Frances E. Phelps Alverson.

JOHN TURGEON, A SOLDIER IN WORLD WAR I

Submitted by JCNYS Member
Bonnie Turgeon Borrello

While doing my family research I recently came upon photos, a letter and news articles about John (Jack) Turgeon serving in World War I. To me the information about John's service was very interesting and I thought others might find it interesting also. John was my father's cousin.

It is 100 years ago that World War I was fought. It started in July 1914 and ended in November 1918. The United States joined the Allies in 1917. The Allies drove back the German offensive on the western front in the Spring of 1918. The western front was a trench line in Europe. Much of the war was fought in trenches and involved gas warfare.

John E. Turgeon was born in Clayton in 1891 to Joseph and Virginia Turgeon. The family including two sisters lived on Theresa Street. John participated in

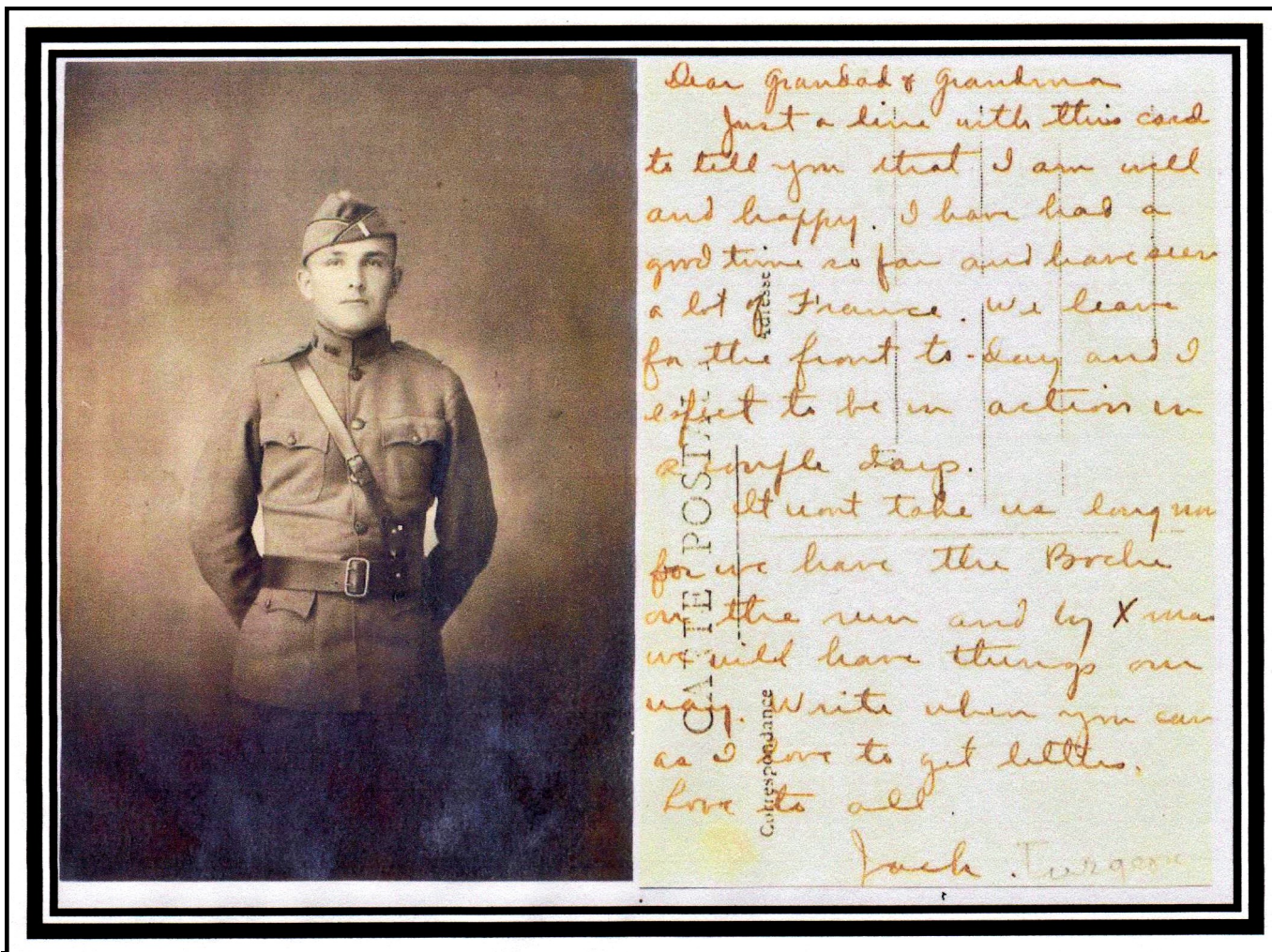
sports in high school as evidenced by photos of him with the Clayton basketball team of 1908 and baseball team of 1910. He graduated from Clayton High School and Union College in Schenectady with a Civil Engineering degree. John married Priscilla (Kilbourne) Caswell and they had two children before he entered the military service.

While in France in 1918 a *Watertown Daily Times* news article relates that John was made gas officer of his regiment, the 301st Engineers. They were to fit and train 4,000 men with gas masks. Poison gas was first used by both sides in the war in 1915 though it was outlawed by the Hague Conventions of 1889 and 1907.

He also reported that he was the district billeting officer which meant he was responsible for handling housing for the troops. It was stated that John's knowledge of the French language was very helpful with his responsibilities. He probably learned some French from his French- Canadian relatives.

The news article also relates John's impressions of his first airplane flight. "We went up for a half hour at

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sunset. I climbed in, fastened the strap while the mechanic started the motor and soon we were racing along the ground like an express train, when all at once we began to rise and then it was like drifting in a boat. The only indication of speed was the rushing of the air which was strong, but not as great as I thought it would be. We circled up and then took several dips at which time my heart came up in my throat as when going down in a fast elevator, but I wasn't the least frightened. We went up so high that the white roads looked like chalk marks and the farms with their hedges like a checker board. It was the most wonderful sight I have ever seen for the country lay spread out like a huge map. Our landing was like the lighting of a bird for we struck the ground without a jar and ran along it, back to our starting place."

Another experience he related: "I had a funny incident at lunch in B---(censored) yesterday. We were enjoying our lunch and I had eaten two pieces of meat when I spoke of how tender the "beef" was. An aviator who sat next to me and had eaten no meat said "Beef nothing, that's just plain horse." It was then I noticed the peculiar color and coarse grain, but I wouldn't let it stop me and so I finished the meat and lunch."

John also remarked that the French people had great admiration for the Americans. On one occasion "a man threw his arms over my shoulders and kept repeating, "You Americans have come to save France, and but for you we would all be under the earth."

A 1918 Times news article reported that the 301st Engineers were selected by General Pershing to be part of the Army of Occupation, to march into Germany. The Army of Occupation was a historic march into Germany after surrender. The travel was very hard because of the bombed roads and trenches. The march is well told in *A Short History of the 301st Engineers*, chapter six, found on a Google search.

A postcard John sent to his grandparents Mary Turgeon and Tom Collins is interesting. The postcard with photo reads: "Dear Grandad and Grandma, Just a line with this card to tell you that I am well and happy. I have had a good time so far and have seen a lot of France. We leave for the front today and I expect to be in action in a couple days. It won't take us long now for we have the Boche (sic) on the run and by Xmas (sic) we will have things our way. Write when you can as I love to get letters. Love to all, Jack"

After the war John and Priscilla had two more children and they lived in Youngstown, New York where he was employed by New York State as a Civil Engineer. Unfortunately John was killed in a railroad crossing accident in 1926. His obituary states that his body was returned to Clayton and burial was to be in St. Mary's Cemetery. I have not found his stone.

Shurtleff, Merrill and Burnell Family History

A Summary of Information Received

In May of 2015 JCNYS member Ruth Boy Frantz, of Sugar Grove, Illinois, sent the society an informative packet of family genealogy and history.

Among the packet was a typed 52 page history "A JOURNEY to the LAND of BY-GONES" by Helen Henrietta BURNELL with the assistance of her Grandmother Helen MERRILL Burnell, December 1925."

The co-author Helen Merrill Burnell speaks of a family photo album given to her by her father Ahira MERRILL as a wedding gift. He wrote "To my dear daughter Helen, from her affectionate father, Ahira Merrill, 8 November 1848."

Facts pulled from the history include:

James SHURTLEFF was born 17 April 1768. When James was 28, in November 1796, he married Mary ATWOOD, and resided in LeRay, Jefferson County, New York. On page two of the typed history, James and Mary's children are listed out: "Betsy, Willard, Hannah, Polly, James, Marietta, Melinda, Lucinda and Susan Ann" — nine children in all.

Betsy Shurtleff, born 20 November 1796. She married Reverend Jonathan BROOKS in May 1826 and had a very fine family of children. They were a prosperous family, and devoted Christians. Betsy died 28 August 1869. Note: At some point the family moved to Ames, Iowa. Additional information on their children is told.

Willard Shurtleff, born 16 August 1798. He first married Amanda PARKER in May 1828. She died soon after and Willard married his second wife, a Miss SWAZEY. Additional information on their children is told. Note: Willard and Amanda are buried in the Plessis Cemetery. His headstones says died 13 April 1871 and her stone reads that she died 13 August 1846.

Hannah Shurtleff, born 24 March 1802. At age 17 she married Andrew STONE on 19 April 1819 and had eight children. They resided in and around Theresa, Jefferson, New York. Additional information is told on the children.

Polly Shurtleff, born 16 April 1804. She married George CORNWELL 27 January 1830. They also had eight children however all died quite young, some as young adults. Polly died 2 October, year unknown.

James Shurtleff. Nothing further is noted on James. See additional information below.

Marietta Shurtleff, born 29 January 1808. She married John W. FULLER on 3 January 1832

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and had eight children. They resided in and around the Alexandria Bay, Jefferson, New York. Additional information on the children is told.

Melinda SHURTLEFF, born 9 April 1810. She married Ahira MERRILL, born 8 September 1803, the last day of December 1828. Ahira, the son of William Merrill, was the oldest son; he had two brothers and a sister. Ahira and Melinda are the parents of Helen Merrill Burnell, the Grandmother author of the 52 page history document. Helen was born in Plessis on/about 1 March 1830 and died 2 March 1933 at age 103. Helen first married Thomas BECKETT on 8 November 1848. Thomas died 26 March 1857. Helen married second, Mr. K. A. Burnell. Mr. K. A. Burnell died in 1907.

Lucinda Shurtleff, born 2 May 1812. She never married however she lovingly cared for her parents and stepmother Eleanor. Lucinda died 8 May 1862.

Susan Ann Shurtleff, born 7 April 1814. She married Jessie KELSEY and they had no children.

Ichabod Atwood Shurtleff, born 18 September 1800. He married in March 1824. He is NOT listed on page two by name as one of the nine Shurtleff children; however he WAS discussed in proper order with the other known children, right after Polly.

Mary Atwood Shurtleff in 1814. In the Brookside Cemetery in Plessis, her headstone reads: "Polly, Wife of James Shurtleff Esq., Died 2 October 1814, Ae 38 Years, 4 Months.



On 19 June 1816, James Shurtleff, a widower, married for his second wife Eleanor TILLSON. The nine children grew to love Eleanor. James Shurtleff Esq., Died 1 August 1846, in the 79 Year of His Age and Eleanor Tillson Shurtleff, Died 13 January 1855, Ae 78 Years, 11 Months and 24 Days. They are both buried in the Brookside Cemetery in Plessis.



In 1818 William Merrill, father of Ahira Merrill, moved his family from Washington County, New York, to Flat Rock, Jefferson County, New York. On 14 March 1826 William Merrill was killed at the Flat Rock Hotel. He was buried 15 March 1826 in the Brookside Cemetery in Plessis, Jefferson County, New York. His stone reads "In Memory of William Merrill who died March 14, 1826 in the 56 Year of His Age. He lived Beloved and died Lamented." (Stone above on right)

Also included in the packet of information was the following:

Eleanor Wilson's work in an army hospital in 1863. Eleanor's letters home as she traveled down the Mississippi River to join her husband just after the battle of Vicksburg had been won, July 1863. Letters were written while aboard the Steamer "Sunshine."

Ahira Merrill's trip across the Isthmus of Panama, leaving New York City on 15 May 1849 heading toward San Francisco and the gold rush, arriving 25 June 1849. This was taken from the Autobiography of Ahira Merrill.

A map sent to Ruth Boy Frantz by Judy Pierce of Redwood, New York, in 1997, showing the location of Flat Rock.

The history and individual narrative of William Merrill.

The history of William's son, Ahira Merrill.

A pedigree of the Shurtleff family (Ahira's wife Melinda).

Newspaper clippings about Helen Burnell.

1927 photo of 97 year old Helen Merrill Burnell.

Photos of the Flat Rock Café taken in 1990.

Photo of William Merrill cemetery stone taken in 2000.

Ruth is the Great-Granddaughter of Mary Eleanor Merrill Willson, and Great-Great-Granddaughter of Melinda Shurtleff Merrill and can be reached at e-mail: groff0605@att.net.

A VANISHED PAST

PART THREE

Watertown Daily Times: Sunday Weekly

Special to the Times, January 26, 1997

By Joanne Johnson

Scattered throughout Fort Drum are many old cemeteries, forlorn markers of a vanished past. Although now all within the military reservation, these cemeteries existed long before Fort Drum, before Camp Drum, before even Pine Camp. Their stories go back to the little villages of LeRaysville, Sterlingville, North Wilna, Woods Mills and Lewisburg, all of which disappeared forever with the 1941 expansion of the post.

In the Town of Diana about a half a mile south of Lewisburg, on a narrow gravel road that cuts through dense pine, lies the cemetery called Doyle-Mulvaney by those who work on Fort Drum.

But this used to be the parish cemetery of St. Patrick's Church, which was built in 1888 in Lewisburg, according to the 4 River Valleys Historical Society Journal article in 1982 written by Marie F. Bean. The land for the cemetery was donated by Thomas and Lucy Nolan, who came from County Meath in Ireland. Parishioners from St. Henry's in Natural Bridge also used this burial ground, according to Glen Hawkin's "History of Natural Bridge." A few stones are carved with dates as early as 1818, but most are from the mid-to-late 1800s.

Lewisburg, like the villages of LeRaysville, Sterlingville and Woods Mills, began with a sawmill in 1825. Later, when two Frenchmen built an iron furnace here, the village was called Louisburg (original spelling), after Louis Fannel, a French capitalist. In 1852 the entire iron works and community were bought by "Big Jim" Sterling for \$10,000, and the name of the village was changed to Sterlingbush.

"Big Jim" had big ideas to drain swamps and build roads, so he hired Irish laborers, many of whom had fled their homeland because of the potato famine. For this reason, the names in the St. Patrick's Cemetery are predominately Irish: O'Rourke, Taggart, Jarvis, Cain, Weeks, McDonald, Dundon, McTaggart. When the village was sold to the Jefferson Iron Co. in 1869, the name returned, with slightly altered spelling, to Lewisburg.

Rediscovered and Still-Missing Cemeteries: One cemetery that was recently "rediscovered" is off Fuller Road, which begins a couple of miles east of Antwerp at the Rockwell Creek Road, and runs northeast, skirting the perimeter of the reservation's Main Impact Area. A post forester first recorded its coordinates in

1969. Seven years then elapsed before the real-property clerk wrote in a 1976 memo that he and the forester "actually tripped over a headstone in the severe brush while looking for the cemetery."

At that time, they counted 11 headstones; but heard from area people that there may have been up to 35 burials in all there. This was possible, they thought, because of the "very noticeable depressions in the center of the cemetery." However, the cemetery record at the Flower Memorial Library lists only 12 burials: two with the family name of Bacon, six with Fuller, three with Patton and one with Pomeroy. These date from 1846 to 1870.

Mistakenly identified as Freeman by Fort Drum, its historic name is the Bacon Farm Cemetery. In the early days the graveyard could probably be seen from Fuller Road, across the meadow to the west. But for almost two decades now, woods and thick brush have hidden it from view.

Only a few older, local people with friends or relatives buried there continued to find the graves. No one from Fort Drum had located the cemetery until this past fall, when an area behind one of the ranges was being cleared of unexploded shells. For Adam King, who had recently arrived at the post to become its cultural resources program manager, this was a lucky opportunity to photograph the site and gather information on the gravestones for the first time in 20 years.

Another cemetery, though, remains elusive. Everts and Holcomb's 1878 "History of Jefferson County" states that there was a burying ground "located a short two miles from Antwerp village, on the Sterlingville (now Antwerp) Road, near the residence of J. M. Beaman, Esq." This land was donated by Ira Beaman, "whose remains are buried there, as are many members of the Beaman-Aldrich families."

This graveyard is so difficult to find that its very existence has been called into question. Mrs. Nancy Raymon, Antwerp town historian, has a letter written in 1969 by Antwerp native Mary Ruth Marney, who recalled that the cemetery was near a creek, on the "little yellow Beaman farm."

Cait Schadock, the National Environmental Protection Act coordinator at Fort Drum, however, found no evidence of this graveyard when she worked in the area from 1987-89, with the cultural-resource group of Louis Berger and Associates, her team covering hundreds of acres.

Still, sightings persist. Mrs. Raymon's son-in-law told

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her that he came across it on maneuvers about six years ago. At that time, he said, there were about a dozen stones and remnants of a metal fence. More recently, a friend, Capt. Robert Castelli, reported coming across the graveyard this past March while he was out in the field. He saw six monuments. Mrs. Raymon, however, has never found the cemetery, although she continues to look for it.

Perfect Topography for Maneuvers: Why was it that the villages to which these cemeteries belonged were singled out for extinction when Pine Camp expanded? The answer to this question lies in the topography of one of the north county's most significant landmarks - the sandy stretches of Pine Plains.

"All you can raise on Pine Plains is hell, huckleberries and children," people used to joke, yet from the start, the area seemed perfectly suited to a military camp. Stripped of its virgin pine timber by lumbering and fires, the remaining glacially deposited soil was sandy, barren and of little value, explained John Haddock in his "Growth of a Century."

When in 1906 the War Department began looking for land on which to conduct summer training of National Guard and regular Army troops, Philip Read, formerly a colonel at Madison Barracks, recommended the Pine Plains, wrote Ernest C. Gould in the 1967 Jefferson County Historical Society Bulletin. The first asking price was too high, so the Watertown Chamber of Commerce, together with land agents of New York Central Railroad, secured options on fewer acres for a lower price, and the government eventually paid about \$6 per acre for 10,893 acres, according to Gould.

Congressman Charles L. Knapp of Lowville then introduced the appropriation bill, passed in 1909, that made Pine Camp a permanent summer training facility, thus earning him the name of "Father of Pine Plains," reported the Times article, "Camp Drum Observes 50th Anniversary."

Two thousand regular Army troops and 6,000 guardsmen under the command of Maj. Gen. Frederick D. Grant, son of Ulysses S., attended the first camp in 1908. According to the Times, among the earliest arrivals was a battalion of infantrymen who marched all the way from Buffalo with its ambulances and mule-drawn water wagons, averaging 16 to 25 miles a day. And a few days later, 69 guardsmen reached Watertown after a four-day walk from Syracuse, with the 24-mile stretch from Pulaski to Adams being made in "a heavy downpour of rain and over the muddiest roads imaginable."

Photographs in the Times show the first cantonment with dozens of low tents stretched across a field. The officers' tents were pitched at the top of a steep, sandy ridge, known as the Hogs Back, that followed part of the present-day Munn's Corners Road near the Wheeler-Sack Airfield. Early postcards show young men digging ditches above the caption, "Wanted: Healthy Young Men Not Afraid of Work." The soldiers, however, may have had other thoughts, coming into an area with no real roads, no buildings, and sleeping in what was called "Tent City," while living on a "steady diet of liverwurst," as the Times reported.

Nevertheless, the camp was successful and repeated over the years. Eventually, the tents were put up on concrete slabs, concrete buildings were added, additional parcels of land acquired, and the cantonment was moved closer to Great Bend. Pine Camp was on its way.

Throughout the 1920s and '30s, regular Army and National Guard troops trained at Pine Camp. Military personnel, including Maj. Gen. Hugh A. Drum, for whom the camp was renamed in 1951, were confident that the natural topography of the Pine Camp territory "easily could be developed into one of the most practical Army training grounds in the country," reported a 1939 Times article.

But it was the threat of the World War II and the general concern for the country's military readiness that spurred the great expansion of 1940-41. Plans were made to establish a home for a new division, the 4th Armored Division in 1941, as well as training areas for the 45th Infantry and the 5th Armored Division, according to the pamphlet, "A Brief History of Pine Camp."

About 1,000 acres of land over six townships began to be acquired by the Land Acquisition Board, located in the old Electric Building in Watertown, Times articles said.

Deeds had to be traced, land surveyed and appraised and options secured before purchases could be made. Often, this was a time-consuming, frustrating process for all parties involved.

An 84,000-acre tract had to be vacated by September 1, 1941, requiring 2,000 people from 525 area families to relocate. Three thousand buildings were to be removed, including 24 schools, six churches, and one post office. Ernest Cook commented that now "armored cars will rumble over the acres where the peace loving Quakers had their church." When the dust cleared, only the LeRay mansion remained intact.

Eliminated were the villages of LeRaysville, Sterlingville, Woods Mills, North Wilna and Lewisburg,

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as well as the small settlements of Slocumville, Reedville, Nauvoo, Spraguesville, East Antwerp and Apina. Antwerp lost one third of its property taxes. LeRay lost a quarter of its area, Philadelphia a third. Part of Diana disappeared. The Pine Plains ceased to exist.

Pictures in the Times show piles of household goods in yards, and caravans of trucks carting away everything from couches to cattle. People moved to Adams, Mexico, Pulaski, Lowville, Harrisville, Oswego, even into the Mohawk Valley. For those who stayed in the area, the enlarged reservation functioned like a 107,000 acre "lake" to get around, necessitating major changes in their economic and social life.

Although some people welcomed the expansion, others did not. No one could doubt the reality of the economic impact: the North Country had landed a \$20 million construction project, Eight hundred buildings, including 240 barracks, 84 mess halls, 86 day rooms, 86 company storehouses, 99 recreation buildings, 27 officer quarters, a 41-station hospital, and miles and miles of new highways were built. The materials alone could have filled a 2,889 car train. In 10 months, \$6,403,030 was paid out in salaries to laborers, 1941 Times articles reported.

The United States was gearing up for World War II. Pine Camp was gearing up for World War II. Its cemeteries were not a priority. Everyone had a job to do, but no one's job included the cemeteries. And even if there had been a person in charge of gathering information, it would have been extremely difficult to do so.

No records of the villages were transferred to the camp at the time of the expansion. None of the villages were incorporated. None had village clerks, librarians or historians. What information there was to gather, has been gathered informally by families like the Pierces, or individuals like Keitha Petersen, who has, over the last 40 years, accumulated more than 12 scrapbooks of clippings.

Then in 1966 the National Historic Preservation Act was passed, and all federal agencies as well as federally funded actions, had to interpret how to comply with it. When the cultural resource firm of Louis Berger and Assoc. began its work in 1985, one of the goals of its research, with respect to the villages of Fort Drum, was to "provide the background information necessary for the nomination of these properties to the National Register of Historic Places and locational data for their continued protection under the evolving Historic Preservation Plan," according to Task Order

18, called the Village Mapping Program.

However, since researching the cemeteries is not part of the mission of Fort Drum, and because they are not military cemeteries, they were not included in this project. Today, the cemeteries fall under the jurisdiction of the Environmental Division, but they are still not a priority.

The division's first priority is to "survey areas of proposed impact and identify new archaeological sites," according to Miss Schadock. But in 1993 she was able to obtain funds from a federal program to inventory the cemeteries and develop a database containing the names of the cemeteries, first and last names on gravestones, dates, epitaphs, if any, and the condition of the stones. Miss. Schadock uses this information to help people who have questions about where family members are buried.

In 1941 Brig. Gen. Irving J. Phillipson stood before a packed gymnasium in Philadelphia High School, answering questions about the proposed Camp Drum expansion.

"What will happen to our cemeteries?" one resident called out from the back.

"The cemeteries on the military reservation will remain unmolested," the brigadier general promised.

And they have. Even though the expansion of Camp Drum meant the end to the Pine Plains and to 130 years of settlement in the area, the cemeteries have remained almost unchanged, except for the stresses of time and weather, for the last 55 years.

Perhaps now we can look to the preservation of their histories as well.

Joanne Johnson is an assistant professor of English at Jefferson Community College, where she teaches courses in composition and creative writing. She also is the editor of the college's literary journal, the Black River Review.

End of part three and article.

**"Someone to tell it to is one
of the fundamental needs of
human beings."**

Miles Franklin

Jefferson County Queries

Use the "ONLINE QUERY" on 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.)

BREWER, ELLIS, De GROAT, DAWLEY, TASCOTT

I am seeking information on Isaac **BREWER** (1790-1840) and his parents. Isaac may have been born in New Hampshire or Herkimer County. He may also have lived in Denmark, Lewis County and died in either Wilna or Champion. His wife was Persis **MOORE**. Children of Isaac and Persis were Theodosius (Theo or T.M.), Paulina, Irene, and Catharine. My great great grandfather Theodosius **BREWER** (1808-1864) farmed in the Wilna area. His family moved to Wisconsin in 1865. He and his 1st wife Rhobey **ELLIS** are buried in Sunnyside Cemetery. Theodosius's children by Rhobey **ELLIS** and Catherine **De GROAT** were Pauline (Married Elisha **DAWLEY**), Josephine (married William **TASCOTT**), Lydia, Hellen, Charles, George and Joseph. His father and mother, Isaac and Persis, also lived in Wilna and Lewis County. I am having trouble finding more info and could use help.

*Jeff Brewer
brewj@peak.org*

WILLARD, KEITH

I am looking for evidence for my ancestor Galio Keith **WILLARD**. Specifically I am looking for any evidence that lists his parents or siblings that include Galio in the reference. I need to verify that these are his parents. Galio E. **WILLARD** was born 19 September 1807 in Rodman, Jefferson County, NY. He died 20 November 1866 in Olympia, WA. His father is Rufas **WILLARD** born 3 February 1783 in MA. He died in 1862. His mother is Levina **KEITH** born 15 December 1789 in RI. She died in 1866 in IL.

*Diane Durando
 P.O. Box 349
 Friant, CA 93626
 559-822-2670
jimdiane@netptc.net*

PATTEN, HARRICK

I am seeking a marriage record for Henry Melville **PATTEN** and Bathsheba (Betsy) **HARRICK**. They lived in Sackets Harbor, Jefferson County, NY. This record is necessary for the Daughters of the American Revolution. Henry was possibly of the LDS faith. He had a son named Charles.

*Linda Hayes
linhayes58@mchsi.com*

PENNELL, BROWN, BELL

I am trying to discover who the parents of William R. **PENNELL** (1821-96) and Maria Esther **BROWN** (1824-1907) are. The **PENNELLS** moved from Jefferson County and settled in Kansas City, MO. They married on 21 September 1843 in Jefferson County and had four sons - Albert, William Jr., Henry and Frank. William claimed his parents were born in VT in census records and Maria was born in Colrain, MA. Her mother's name was Maria Esther (nee) **BELL**. Her family moved to Jefferson County when she was a child. Maria and the sons attended Belleville Union Academy.

*Blake Rumsey
blakerumsey@sbcglobal.net*

PRATT

Joseph H. **PRATT** was in the 1820 census in Rodman and the 1830 census in Wilna. From an obituary his son Lucullus Stacy or Stacy Lucullus was born in 1816. Joseph's wife was probably Catharine or Catharine. Joseph was in Wisconsin (came with the Jefferson Prairie Company) by 1837 with his son Lucullus and 3 daughters (including Adeline and Mariann). His wife is not found with the family in Wisconsin and presumed died in Jefferson County. I am especially looking for information on when and where Joseph came from, and the death of his wife.

*Lynette Clark
rplpclark@sbcglobal.net*

FARR, BUTTS

Vincent W. **FARR** was born on 28th Jan. 1840 in Carthage, NY. He lived in Wilna, Jefferson, NY. He lived in Kent Co., MI from (best guess) 1850-1861 when he enlisted in the 3rd Michigan infantry. He served from June 1861 - Nov. 1862 when he was discharged for aphonia. On 9 Jan. 1863 he married Julia Ann **BUTTS** of Carthage, Jefferson Co., NY. Children's names include Franklin Adam b. 1881, Elizabeth and Hattie. Vincent W. **FARR** died on Sept. 1920.

*Kenn Farr
gowinfarr@gmail.com*

(More queries on the next page)

JCNYGS MATERIALS FOR PURCHASE

Contact: Greg or Tammy Plantz, 21787 Reed Road, Watertown, NY 13601
Or email tplantz1@twcny.rr.com

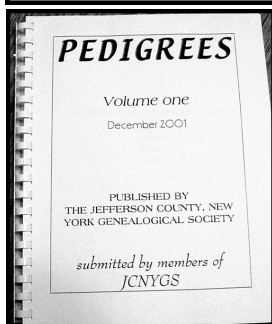
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**JEFFERSON COUNTY
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The Will Book contains will abstracts
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contains 194 pages, two maps, and a chart
showing the formation of Jefferson County
Towns. \$15.00 + \$5.00 for postage.
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**A DVD of the Births-
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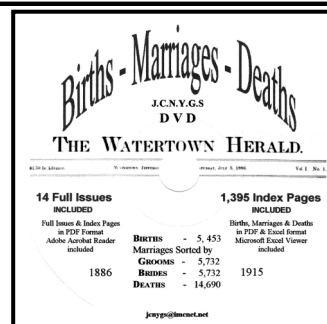


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Jerry Davis, P. O. Box 275, Clayton, NY 13624; maridavis@aol.com
Subject: Jefferson County Informer Query

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

LACY, LACEY, TAYLOR, LaTOURETTE

Henry LACY/LACEY was born in New York, possibly Schenectady; possibly 1800. He married Anna Maria TAYLOR, who was born 1 March 1800 in Schenectady, New York (I have a lot of information on her). I would like to find their marriage record. This information is from the record of their son, Yates TAYLOR b. 14 January 1825 in Watertown, Jefferson, New York. Henry and Anna's children include: Yates Taylor, Clarence E. b. September 1849 in Pennsylvania, Soloman - died as an infant, Eunice who married Peter LaTOURETTE 13 October 1852, and Dualdo - who died on Lake Erie around 1834.

Lori Ballew
loriballew@gmail.com

KELLER, FREDERICK, COFFIN

I am searching for information on Mertis Amelia

KELLER, who was born 6 October 1874. Per her marriage registration (1894; husband William FREDERICK in the state of Wisconsin, she was born in Watertown, New York and her parents were John KELLER and Mertis COFFIN. She died in La Crosse, Wisconsin in 1903. Most family members believe that she lived in Canada, possibly Quebec, before arriving in La Crosse. They had two sons, Herbert and William.

Scott Ketelsen
saketelse@comcast.net

"If you see the world in black and white, you're missing important grey matter." - Jack Fyock

INFORMER

Jefferson County NY Genealogical Society
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JCNYGS PROGRAMS FOR 2015

Monday, 12 October @ 6PM: Mrs. Fillhart's 5th and 6th grade social studies classes at H. T. Wiley School in Watertown have been working on a family history project and have traced family members back for many generations. After an overview by Mrs. Fillhart, several students will present what they have learned.

Monday, 9 November @ 6PM: JCNYGS member Larry Corbett will speak on "Mama, Don't Ge-No-Me?" A not-too-technical exploration of what's happening now at the intersection of genealogy and genomics. He will provide an explanation of how DNA testing can open a window into our deep ancestry.

Monday, 7 December @ 6PM: There is no planned lecture event, however, Vice President Anne Davis opens her home for the annual membership Christmas party. Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish to pass. In addition, although not necessary, we invite attendees to bring an unwrapped present for the "Toys for Tots" program. Please RSVP to President Tom LaClair at tomclair624@yahoo.com or call 315-285-5032, NLT Tuesday, 1 December 2015.

There is no planned meeting for January 2016. However, be watching for the January 2016 Informer for an exciting line-up of topics and speakers that will educate our minds during the February through November 2016 lecture series. Our programs chair, Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, is hard at work finalizing the details. If you wish to be a guest lecturer, or have a recommendation, please contact any member in the Presidency.

Note 1: Come 30 minutes early to get to know other members and share new finds and experiences.

Note 2: Thank you George Inglehart, church liaison, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints local leadership for the free use of the building for JCNYGS programs.

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 chapel 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.