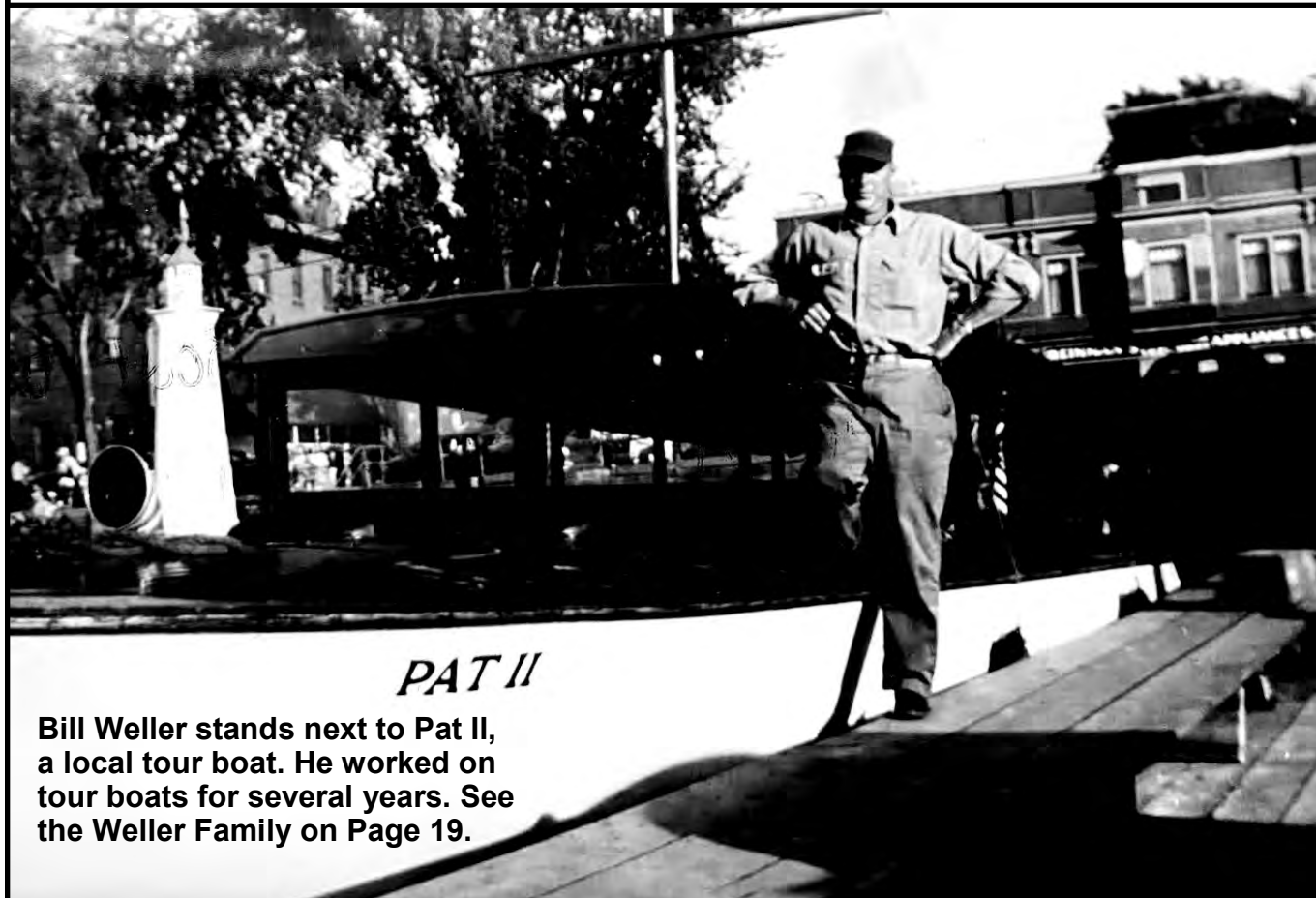


# INFORMER

Volume 30, Issue 1

Annual Dues \$18 Individual \$20 Family

January 2023



*PAT II*  
Bill Weller stands next to Pat II, a local tour boat. He worked on tour boats for several years. See the Weller Family on Page 19.

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## INFORMER JANUARY 2023

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

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Jefferson County  
NY Genealogical Society

The *Informer* is published quarterly in the months of January, April, July, and October. The *Informer* can be "searched" on our internet site using Optical Character Recognition technology. Open an *Informer*, save it to your desktop and type a name or word in the search box. If the name or word is in that *Informer*, the cursor should go to that page.

An interesting display for the Wilson's family tree with recent family photographs. Deborah and Paul Wilson are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and serve in the Family History Center. They are also our newest members of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society. (see page 4)



After the October JCNYS meeting at the Fort Drum Museum (see page 3), Past Presidents Tom LaClair and Jerry Davis took their wives (Janine and Marilyn) to the Crystal Restaurant in Watertown for lunch. Janine took the opportunity to take this picture for Tom and Jerry!





# Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, October 8, 2022  
By JCNYGS Member Larry Corbett



The Society met at the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Museum at 10 a.m. sharp. Attendants included: Tom and Janine LaClair, Jerry and Marilyn Davis, Tom and Judy Wood, Sharon Caulfield, and Don and Rose Dillenbeck.

President Leeson was unable to attend, so Past President Tom LaClair was pressed into service to run the meeting. He appointed Past President Larry Corbett to act as Secretary.

R. Patrick Corbett of Rome introduced himself. He attended at the beckoning of Larry Corbett, his first cousin. Mr. Corbett has had nearly 70 years of connection to Camp/Fort Drum, from his first job in on post 'beerhalls' to military service training on the post.

There was no Treasurer's report. The meeting was adjourned without further business.

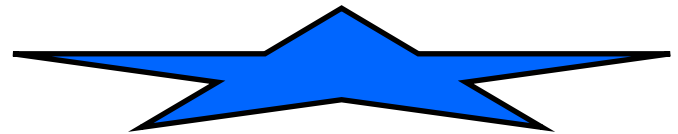
## OUR PROGRAM



Museum Curator Kent Bolke led members on a very informative tour of a very modern and excellently curated museum, which is laid out chronologically from the prehistoric archaeology of the post to the



present. The exhibits are fascinating and the tour guide was most knowledgeable.



After the program, Past President Tom LaClair gave one of his military "Challenge Coins" to Kent Bolke and the museum. The next time you see Tom ask him what the coin is used for. It is an interesting story!





# Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, November 12, 2022  
By Jcnygs Member Larry R. Corbett

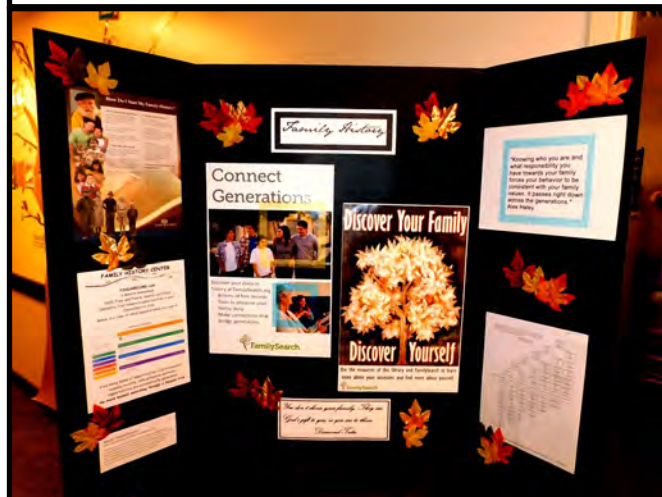
The meeting was called to order at approx. 6 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Watertown, NY by acting president Thomas LaClair.



Presenter Deborah Wilson shares information about the Family History Center of Watertown’s Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Present were: Jon Marie Pearson, Bev Shepard, Bruce Doxtater, Deborah Baker, Tom and Judy Wood, Kelly Brown, Paul and Deborah Wilson, Lawrence Corbett, Sally Daniels (Pennelville, NY), Treasurer Greg Plantz and Tom LaClair.

A trifold displays information about the importance of Family History—“Discover Your Family, Discover Yourself”



On the Web: <http://www.jcnygs.com>



Deborah and Paul Wilson pose inside the Family History Center. The two are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and serve in the Family History Center.

The Treasurer reported balances as of November 12, 2022 as follows: Checking - \$6,919.06, CD - \$2,507.44. One check was written since the previous meeting to Coughlin Press for \$636.67.

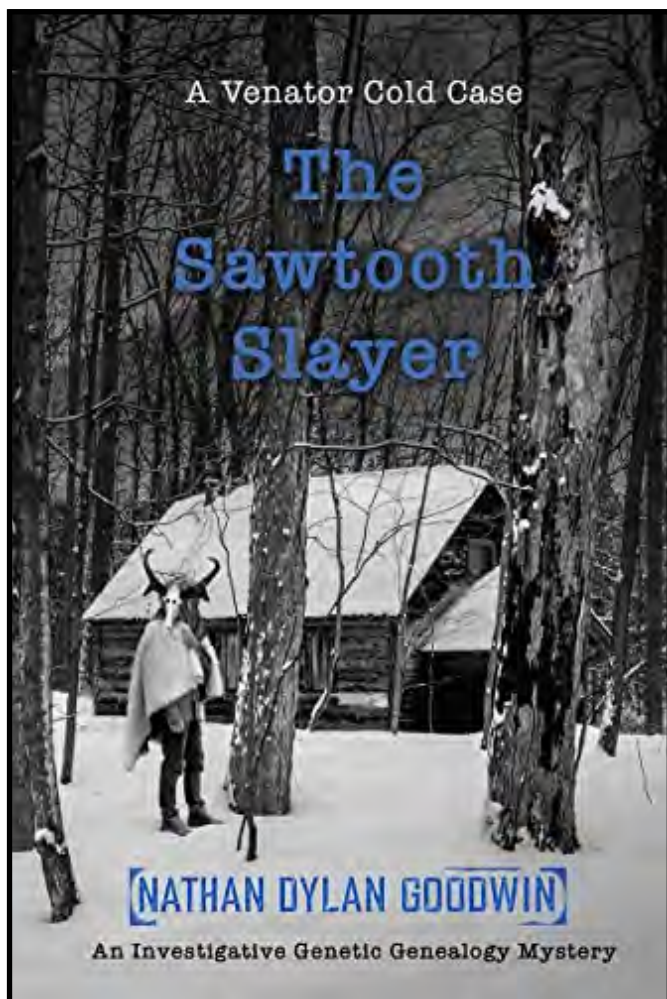
The Jcnygs Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 11 from noon until 2 at the Plantz home, 21787 Reed Rd, Watertown.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

The program was conducted by Paul and Deborah Wilson. Members were taken to the Family History Library within the church, where an overview of the Family History Center was given by the Wilsons, who are currently responsible for operation of the Center.

**It’s better to look ahead and prepare than to look back and regret. – Jackie Joyner-Kersey**





**Nathan Dylan Goodwin**

Once again, Goodwin has presented a story that combines the techniques of genealogy with all the essential elements of a good mystery.

For those new to this author, Nathan Dylan Goodwin is a writer, genealogist and educator whose Forensic Genealogist Series of seven novels, two novellas and two short stories followed the fictional Morton Farrier as he used forensic genealogy to help clients to uncover their pasts.

In 2021, Goodwin launched a second series, The Venator Cold Case mysteries, of which The Sawtooth Slayer is his second novel.

All of Goodwin's novels are available in print and e-book versions through his website [www.nathandylangoodwin.com](http://www.nathandylangoodwin.com) and on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**Book Review**

**The Sawtooth Slayer**

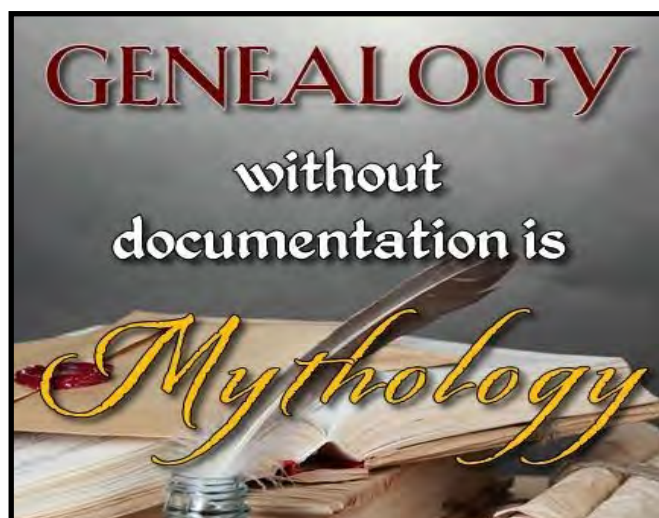
(Venator Cold Case #2)

by Nathan Dylan Goodwin

(Review by JCNYS Member Larry Corbett)

Following the success of The Chester Creek Murders, Nathan Dylan Goodwin has written another thriller highlighting the work of the fictional Venator, a company of private investigators who solve cold case mysteries and crimes through the techniques of genetic genealogy.

In April, 2020, a serial killer is brutally killing young women in Twin Falls, Idaho. Detective Maria Gonzalez seeks the assistance of the team at Venator to identify the killer. Time is essential here. Limited by the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown, the four researchers are forced to make the most of their knowledge of online sources to reconstruct the killer's ancestry through DNA matches before he kills again.





## MAYBE YOU KNOW?

Sackets Harbor Historian Connie Barone asked Clayton Historian Tom LaClair the following:

A person is asking about what this might be – a white material holder affixed to an early stone in an Ellisburg cemetery. I've asked him if he could discern the engraved information on the stone. To me, very unusual, as I've visited lots of cemeteries in my day. Possibly a tintype or ambrotype was set in the white enclosure. Seems the white material frilly design affixed to an early stone - a Victorian thing probably - rather than earlier when portrait images didn't easily exist. Have not seen this before on old stones, only more contemporary. Very common in Italian cemeteries that I saw in the 1960s or earlier 1920-30s burials. And then a tradition carried on in (for example) Glenwood Cemetery in Watertown by Italian immigrants or descendants. I was not able to Google anything helpful. Is someone in the area knowledgeable of cemeteries? Thoughts? Thanks, Connie.



Hi Connie, I am not familiar with this headstone attachment. Before I read your comment, I also thought maybe a photograph was placed on the stone and the attachment protected the photograph. Or possibly a military award or medals were stored in the

little compartment by the family. I could add one of the photos in the *Informer* and ask for readers thoughts. Thanks, Tom.



Yes, I thought also, instead of a portrait image maybe dried flowers. Like the idea of medals too. It was something important enough that someone added the appendage/enclosure to the stone. It is quite an interesting mystery, especially because it seems so unique. I didn't know what historian might be knowledgeable of that cemetery. The person who visited there was quite impressed with several very early "New England style" stones that have the willow image. One stone had a double willow, which this researcher said was rare, and very "New England-ish." Yes, would you put something in the *Informer*? Maybe someone has already researched the burial site. Thanks, Connie.

If you can assist answering their questions, please write to

[tomlaclair624@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlaclair624@yahoo.com)





## FROM PAST to PRESENT

From July 1995 *Informer*, page 14

### Town of Lorraine Marriage Data Rescued in Kingston, Ontario

From Member, David Simonds

About 50 Town of Lorraine marriage records dating from the late 1880's were recently rescued by an enterprising genealogist at a flea market sale in Kingston, Ontario. News of the find was posted on the Internet by Diana H. Bailey, who publishes a genealogy quarterly for northern Vermont and Quebec's eastern townships.

The marriage data is contained in two small autograph albums, one belonging to a young woman named Carrie (surname unknown), possibly born 18 October 1870, the other to Cora R. SHEVALDINE of Lorraine, NY. Many people signed the book belonging to Carrie, who appears to have been a student at Adams Coli. Inst. in Adams, NY., and may have taught school afterwards. Her family appears to have centered in Lorraine. Diane Bailey was able to find six of Carrie's relatives in the book - her mother (no name), grandmother (signed Grandma H.), a sister Hattie, and 3 cousins with the surnames JOHNSON, CARSWELL, and STEBBINS. One entry suggests Carrie may have married a man named EGGLESTON and had a daughter named Grace. Towns mentioned in Carrie's book include Lorraine, Adams, Worthville, Gouverneur, Pierrepont Manor, Ellisburg, Three Mile Bay and a few others. The person selling the books was vague about how they had been obtained, but apparently it was from the sale of an estate, probably in southern Jefferson County.

Diane did the data extraction from the two autograph books, and after a little "online" negotiation, Jefferson County Genealogical Society member Dave Simonds, who also "hangs out" on the computer networks, agreed to purchase them from her for a very reasonable price. Book #1 belongs to someone named "Carrie"

- 1) "Grandma H.?", Lorraine, NY. Oct 12th, 1885. "Died Aug 28, 1897"
- 2) Florence Keene, 1885, "Married Wm. Prince".
- 3) George Roberts, 28 Feb 1888, Lorraine, NY "married Lillian Smith, 1888."
- 4) Grace E. Jenks, Worthville, NY, A. C. I. (Adams Collegial Institute?), 8 Sept 1886, "married Charles Wise, 188-".
- 5) Loie A. Lyman, Allendale, NY, signed 6 Jun 1889, Lorraine, NY, "married John Shelmidine, Sept 1890."
- 6) "Your Mother, Lorraine, Dec 13th 1885."
- 7) May McCumber, Mannsville, NY, 26 Jan 1891, "married Arthur Stowell."
- 8) Helen Kellogg, A. C. I., 9 Sept 1886, "married Lewis Jones."
- 9) Stephen Moore, A. C. I., 20 Oct 1886, "married Lida Caulkins."
- 10) Jennie R. Allen, Adams, NY, A. C. I., 29 Jan 1886, "married Wm. Lawrence."
- 11) "Your sister, Hattie", 18 Oct 1885, "married G. E. L.?"
- 12) Hattie Caulkins, Lorraine, A. C. I., 15 Jan 1886, "married Frank Moore."
- 13) Lottie Landon, 21 Oct 1886, "married Mr. Everly."

- 14) Rennie Clad Adams, NY, Aug 1888, married Lena Bilkey (?).
- 15) Eva M. Owen, Adams, NY, 1 Mar 1886, married Braton Marriott.
- 16) "To Mother", Grace Eggleston, Lorraine, NY, (no date), married Frank Overton.
- 17) Wm. E. Carpenter, Lorraine, NY, A. C. I., 5 Nov 1886, "died May 1890."
- 18) Levi H Grimshaw, Lorraine, NY, 10 Jun 1888, "married Jennie Butler."
- 19) B. D. Scarles, Lorraine, 13 Nov 1887, "married Jennie Stinson, 1888."
- 20) Carrie L. Lyman, Adams, 26 Dec 1885, "married Wm. Seaman."
- 21) Mrs. Anna E. Woodward, Adams, NY, A. C. I., 22 Jan 1886, "died May 1895."
- 22) Minne A. Porter, Adams, NY, Lorraine, Jun 19, 1886, married Ellis McCumber.
- 23) Lida C. Caulkins, Lorraine, NY, 8 Nov 1885, "married Stephen Moore."
- 24) Lottied E. Tousley, Pierrepont Manor, NY, 1 Nov 1886, "married Mr. Mindall/Mendall."
- 25) Belle E. Jewett, Ellisburg, NY, 19 Jun 1886, married Fred Mindall/Mendall."
- 26) "Compliments of your Cousin", Charles A. Stebbins, No. Syracuse, NY, Mar 31, 1888, Lorraine.
- 27) Grace L. Greco, 2 Feb 1886, A. C. I., "married Ed. Jenks."
- 28) "Compliments of your Cousin", Virgil L. Johnson, Adams, NY, Feb 2, 1886.
- 29) Nellie E Lewis, Three Mile Bay, NY, Fall 1886, "married Wm. Warriner."
- 30) Nellie Grecnlay, Worthville, NY, A. C. I., Sep 8, 1881, married E. J. Bullock
- 31) Jennie Cox, 4 Feb 1886, Lorraine, NY, "married A. J. Pooler, 1887"
- 32) Cousin Lottie H. Carswell, Gouverneur, NY, 10 Sept 1887, "died Apr 1, 1889"
- 33) Florence L. Patrick, Adams, NY, 10 Mar 1886, "married Chas. Ripley."
- 34) From a student - Ada B. Watts, Lorraine, NY, Nov 21, 1888, "married Geo. Bates."
- 35) Clara G. Wilcox, 23 Aug 1886, married Gco. Caulkins.

Book Two: (apparently belonged to Cora R. Shevaldine, Lorraine, NY, as inscribed on the inside cover).

- 1) Edith Brown—9 Oct 1889, Lorraine, NY, "married Geo. Worden."
  - 2) Jennie Moore, 13 Oct 1889, Lorraine, NY "married O. L. Shevaldine 1896."
  - 3) "Your cousin, Esther M. Bailey, Barnes Corners, Nov 9th, 1889. Married May 20th, 1891, Fred S. Shaw.
  - 4) "Your grandmother, Fannie Emerson, age 59, Barnes Corners, Aug 9, 1890."
  - 5) "Your friend and sister, H. M. Gillette, Worthville, Apr 1st 1891."
  - 6) C. J. Middleton, Lorraine, NY, Jan 27th, 1890. "married April 28th, 1891, Nettie L. Caulkins."
  - 7) Delilah E. Brown, Lorraine, NY, June 10, 1890. "Married Chas. Ackley."
  - 8) Frank E. Overton, Lorraine, Jan. 24th, 1890. "married Grace Eggleston."
  - 9) "From your mother, Alzina E. Shelmidine."
  - 10) "Your friend and cousin, Mary Macomber, Lorraine, May 26, 1893."
  - 11) Annette L. Caulkins, "your friend and cousin". Lorraine, January 27, 1890, "married April 28th, 1891, Rev Chas. Middleton.
- Inside back cover: "Wesley W. Piddock married June 15th, '90, Mary Cleveland."



## John H. Graves Biography 1820 – 1885

By JCNYS Member Sue Grant  
Part 2 of 2

Editor's note: We finish Sue Grant's article here in this January 2023 issue of the *Informer*. You will find part 1 starting on page 8 of our October 2022 issue. We begin here with John H. Graves III and his wife Ida Balcomb.



**John H. Graves III (Jack) and his wife Ida Balcom Graves at their 1905 wedding**

2. John and Marion's second child, a son, was John H. Graves III, 1879 - 1981, who married Ida Balcom 1885 - 1976 from Deferno/French Creek section of the Town of Clayton at her grandparents' home in 1905. Their two children were Marion and Nellie. Marion 1910 - 1994 was a teacher in Clayton until her marriage to Thomas McHugh when they moved to Massena, where she continued her teaching career and he worked for the radio station. Their only child Ann is married to Earl Halback and lives in Watertown. She has one son Gavin. Gavin is married with one child. Nellie 1913 - 2008 married Glenn Doull. He was a teacher and administrator for Watertown Schools and she worked for the city of Watertown. Their daughter,



—Times Staff Photo

**MARRIED FIFTY YEARS** -- Mr. and Mrs. John H. Graves, 606 New York avenue, city, are shown at their marriage, Sept. 13, 1905, and as they appear today. Married in the town of Clayton, they operated farms until moving in 1929 to Watertown, where Mr. Graves operated a gasoline service station and was employed at Pine Camp, now Camp Drum, until his retirement.

Janell married Michael Keefe and was a teacher in St. Lawrence County. They have one daughter, Karlyn, and two grandchildren. Janell is deceased. Glenn and Nell's son, William (Bill) and his wife Melodee were teachers in Watertown and Brownville schools. They are retired and live near Clayton. They have one son Marc, who is married and has one child.

3. Janet Lena 1881 - 1966, John and Marion's third child, is a 1903 graduate of the House of the Good Samaritan School of Nursing, Watertown, and worked as a nurse in Watertown. She married Harry Greene 1880 - 1952 in 1908 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Watertown, New York. He was an architect with the firm Lansing and Greene in Watertown. His work is associated with many buildings in Watertown and Jefferson County. Their son Benjamin moved to California, married Fredericka (Fritzie) Powell in San  
(Continued on Page 9)



(Continued From Page 8)

Francisco, California in 1936 and raised their family of two children, Rowell 1940 and Janet 1947, there. Lena and Harry's daughter Marion (1909 - 1963) married Earl Rupert Wager in 1931, a general construction business owner in Watertown. Marion was very active in the community, served on the Watertown School Board of Education and held many positions at Trinity Church. They retired to Cape Vincent, New York. They are both deceased. Marion and Rup had three children, Rupert, Penelope Anne, and Edgar. Rupert 1935 - 2020 married and had a family, Della Wells and Barbara Wager both of whom live in New England and Carrie Wager in Watertown. Penny (1940 - 1991) was married to Gates Thruston (1940 - 1991) in 1962 and eventually moved back to Watertown. where they raised their family. Penny and Gates were killed in an airplane crash on their way to visit her father on St. Simon's Island in 1991. They had a son Gates Phillips Thruston IV, and two daughters Kathryn Louise, and Lizbeth M. Edwin 1946 - 1973 married Mary Louise Watson in 1969. They had no children. Eddie, a graduate of Culinary Institute of America in New Haven, worked in the food service industry. He is deceased.

4. After the death of his first wife in October 1882, John H. Graves, Sr. married his first wife's niece, Jane Ann Baird (1884 - 1945) with whom he had four more children. Their first child, James Edgar died at eighteen months. Penelope Edna 1891 - 1969 was a nurse, also a House of the Good Samaritan nursing school graduate and worked as a visiting nurse in Watertown and later in California. She served with the Army Nurse Corps during WWI from August 21, 1918 until June 9, 1919. Her name is on the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington, D. C. She married William Wanzer, an attorney, in 1928, in California. He was active in many political areas. They lived in Long Beach, California, and had no children. Her mother, Jane Ann, lived with them in California after John's death. Jane Ann died while visiting her family in the Clayton area.

5. John and Jane's son Charles 1894 - 1982 married Grace Ferguson 1893 - 1959, in 1915 at her parents' home in Clayton. Charlie was a farmer, and, like his brothers, started farming on the homestead on East Line Road, Clayton, after his marriage. He later lived in Sackets Harbor, Zenda Farms in Clayton and eventually in Theresa, New York. They retired to a home at Orleans Four Corners. They had four sons, all of whom served in WWII in Europe. Richard Charles (Dick) married Virginia. Their children were Sandra and Dale. John Stuart 1925 - 2002 married Frieda Peer 1927 - 2016 of Hounsfield in 1946. They had five children Terry (and Bernadette), Suzette Karelis, Peggy Buch, Jacalyn Hardy, and James S. I have very little information about their family. Johnny worked at St. Regis Paper. Raymond Hartley (1920 - 1993) married Marilyn Ferguson in 1944. They owned Hart's Toy House, a distributor of toys to local merchants. They had no children. Robert 1927 - 2021 married Dorothy

Ludlow and lived outside of Theresa. They had one son David. Bob died in July 2021, the last brother to pass.

6. My father, William Leslie, 1897 - 1985, the youngest son of John Jr. and Jane, graduated from Clayton High School in 1918 and in 1918 served for a few months in WWI until the war ended. He was stationed in a special program (now perhaps similar to ROTC) at St. Lawrence University. He is a graduate of Albany Business College. In 1925 he married June Giltz 1901 - 1995, a graduate of Potsdam Normal School, who taught at Glen Park and country schools at Hounsfield and North Pole (New York). He worked for Prudential Insurance before moving back to East Line Road in 1936 until 1943, when they bought a farm outside of Lafargeville where they lived until 1984.

I am their daughter. I am a graduate of LaFargeville Central School and Watertown School of Commerce. I worked for Metropolitan Insurance Co. for three years until my marriage to Daniel Grant. I became an income tax practitioner in the Clayton area and was an enrolled agent with the I.R.S. We operated a dairy farm outside of Clayton. Dan was a rural letter carrier until his retirement in 1990. We have three sons, Frederick, Thomas and Alan. We have three grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Their second daughter, Ann, graduated from Potsdam State College and married Harold Castle in 1959, a Clarkson University graduate. She taught in Fairport schools and he was an electrical engineer. They have two children, Diane and Dale.

Joseph F. Graves a, son of John H. Graves and Margaret Gibbons Graves, married Mary Marshall 1858 - 1882. They had no children. After her death he married Margaret Baird 1886 - 1924 a sister of John Graves Jr's second wife. After his father died he took over the business that John Sr. had built on outer State Street at the northeast corner of the bridge over French Creek. On Christmas Eve, 1924, while most of the family were attending services at the Clayton Methodist Church, a fire did serious damage to the store and home. This was repaired and the family continued to live there until the death of James and Louise Graves when the property was sold. It is now owned by the Bach family who have done much work restoring the house and building new buildings for their business.

Joe and Maggie had five children Margaret, Lloyd, Edna, Clyde, and James.

1. Margaret married Harold Brown in 1927. Margaret died very young and their daughter, Betty Graves Tiffany died in 1980.

2. Joseph Lloyd 1894 - 1982 married Kathleen Clark ? - 1970. In 1918 They had three daughters, Margaret, Helen and Betty. Both Margaret and Lloyd moved away from the Clayton area. Lloyd was in banking,

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued From Page 9)

first in Clayton and later moving to Chittenango, New York. They are deceased.

3. Clyde Watson Graves 1899 - 1980 married Doris Tallman 1902 - 1991 from LaFargeville, New York, in 1928. They lived in Watertown. Clyde graduated from Albany Pharmacy School and owned both Baker Pharmacy in Watertown and Graves Pharmacy in Clayton. Both are deceased.

4. Edna B. Graves 1902 - 1991, married Thomas Waldron 1904 - 2003 in 1926. Edna graduated from nursing school and worked private duty in Syracuse and Watertown. After their marriage, she worked with her husband in the jewelry store. Tom operated a jewelry store in Clayton for many years. They had a son Robert 1929 - 2004 and a daughter Mary Margaret. Both of whom were married and lived out of the Clayton area. Bob had two sons and a daughter. His daughter, Barbara Ann, was killed in an automobile accident at age 11 and the two boys, Tom and Steve, live away from Clayton. Mary Margaret married Robert Widdop in 1955 and lived in New Jersey and the Albany area. They had two daughters. Their daughter, Sue, is married to Wayne Penn and with her family lives in Scotia, New York.

5. James Gibbons Graves 1907 - 1995 was the third son of Joseph and Maggie. He married Louise Huntley 1907 - 2001 in 1933 and lived in the house at the northeast corner of French Creek bridge in Clayton. He worked at Frink Snowplow Company and was the town clerk for the Town of Clayton and Justice of the Peace. He had a private bookkeeping and tax preparation practice in Clayton. He was active in local politics and was the secretary treasurer of the Clayton Cemetery for many years. Jim was named Clayton's Citizen of the Year in 1991. They had two daughters. Sally married Bill Wright and lives in California. They have several children. Jo Frances married Robert Varnum and lived in the Syracuse area with their family. Both Jo and Bob are deceased and buried in Clayton Cemetery on the large Graves family plot.

Just inside the main gate of the Clayton Cemetery you can find the large double lot that was purchased by John Jr. and Joseph Graves families. The large monument in the center of the lot lists many of the earliest names. Others have headstones marking their graves. These tell a story of the loss of family members who died very early and those who lived into their eighties. And still other family members have been interred on other lots in this cemetery.

It certainly appears that John H. Graves Sr. was an important part of the history of Clayton from the farmland and village properties he owned to his presence in the activities of the community. His obituary states that he was not afraid to speak up on any topic and that his biggest fans may have been the children. It was not unusual to see him driving his horses through town with a load of children on his wagon or sleigh. He died unexpectedly at age 65 in

the community he had called home and had made major contributions to for most of those 65 years.

It is interesting to note how he and many of his descendants served their country in the many wars.

This article has been compiled by Sue Graves Grant from many sources. I have Aunt Peg's (my father's sister, who lived in California) scrapbook which has a wealth of Graves newspaper clippings, letters and announcements about weddings, births and deaths. I also have copies of William T. Graves's Bible pages showing births and deaths of his children. Frederick Grant, my son, has done hours and hours of research about the family which provided the background for John Sr's parents and grandparents, as well as his brothers and sisters. He also provided me his research of old newspapers on line. I also have newspaper articles clipped by my mother and more recently that I have clipped and saved.

When my family moved from the Graves farm in 1943, my father took boxes of letters and other written information to LaFargeville and stored them overhead in the granary. After they moved to senior housing, Fred found these and rescued them. They are difficult to read, but have information that I think may not be available anywhere else.

My hope is that this will give you a window into the life of John Henry Graves, Sr. and his impact on the lives of those he knew and worked with. I also hope that you will enjoy and appreciate how his life may have made the lives of those he knew, employed in his businesses, and the many families he created better. For those who can claim him as an ancestor, as we live and work and raise our families, may we be proud of that heritage.

-----  
Photos added on page 8 by Tom LaClair:

John H. Graves III (Jack) and his wife Ida Balcom Graves at their 1905 wedding and as they appeared in their 50th wedding anniversary article in 1965. The two celebrated 75 years of marriage together. She died in 1976 at age 91 and he died in 1981 at age 102.

Editors note:

It is with a great deal of sorrow that we report the passing of Sue Grant on November 14th. Sue let us know how pleased she was to see part 1 of her article in the October issue of the *Informer*. She and her husband Dan have been valuable members of our society for a long time. Sue had been our auditor for the treasury for several years. Both she and Dan have contributed to many of our projects and publications. While we may include her obituary in our April 2023 issue, if anyone would like to see it sooner they may find it at

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



## Are You Using The FamilySearch Wiki?

By Carol Rooksby Weidlich  
North Fort Myers, Florida

Wondering what an online Wiki is? A Wiki is a website that allows the website visitors to add and edit content which may include images, links to other websites and most importantly, sources used for the Wiki information.

My personal favorite online Wiki for genealogy is the [FamilySearch Wiki](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Research_Resources). This free, online guide has been created and is maintained by FamilySearch, and is offered as a public service to the general public. As of 27 May 2022, there are 100,667 articles pertaining to all things genealogy.

The various FamilySearch Wiki pages contain information about an area/location, historical events, links to genealogy databases, websites, and guidance recommendations. FamilySearch Wiki pages can be found for countries, state, provinces, counties, cities/towns, record types, maps, newspapers and more. I suggest visiting the [Online Genealogy Records](#) webpage link in the left column, to get a feel for information you may find. Two other links to check out are the [Guided Research](#) and the [Research Resources](#).

One thing to remember about the FamilySearch Wiki - it doesn't contain information about specific people. The Wiki is there to offer suggestions on where you might find the records.

In the upper right corner of the Wiki is the search box. Use this box to search for a record type or location. When typing in Jefferson County, there are multiple options for Jefferson County in the states of: New York, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Missouri, Texas, Tennessee, Kansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, Idaho, Montana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Colorado, Florida, Arkansas, Alabama, Washington, Oregon, and Vermont. Scrolling through the 2,256 Wiki pages for Jefferson County, you'll also see pages that have been created for various cities/towns/villages/hamlets in Jefferson County in all of the above mentioned states.

Viewing the [Jefferson County, New York Genealogy](#) FamilySearch Wiki you'll find an abundance of research information for searching in Jefferson County. Graphics include four location maps, and a photo of the Courthouse in Watertown, New York. As you scroll down the page you find information and active links to historical facts, genealogy resources, maps/gazetteers, town records and other useful websites, including our society's presence on [The USGenWeb Project](#) and our own [JCNYGS website](#).

For JCNYGS members this is a treasure trove of helpful information. See if you don't find new research opportunities using the FamilySearch Wiki.

### Links:

FamilySearch Wiki - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page)  
Online Genealogy Records - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Online\\_Genealogy\\_Records\\_by\\_Location](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Online_Genealogy_Records_by_Location)  
Guided Research - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Research\\_Resources](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Research_Resources)

### Guided Research for Online Records

Research Resources - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Research\\_Resources](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Research_Resources)  
Jefferson County FamilySearch Wiki Page - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Jefferson\\_County\\_New\\_York\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Jefferson_County_New_York_Genealogy)  
USGenWeb Project-Jefferson County, New York - <http://jefferson.nygenweb.net>  
JCNYGS Website - <http://jcnygs.com>

## Genealogy Without Sources is Mythology!

© Lorine McGinnis Schulze  
Pulled From The Olive Tree Genealogy Site

How can you tell if the information posted by individuals on Internet genealogy sites is valid? Some sites have sources, others don't. How do you know what, and when, to believe what you read online? A good rule of thumb is....

Don't trust anything you find on the 'net (or elsewhere) if it doesn't have sources. Without sources you can't verify it, and you don't know whether the information came from a reliable source or whether it came from Great Aunt Martha who may have some of it right, but may have mixed up a lot too.

Maybe the info came from a book written by someone 100 years ago who didn't have access to sources we have now, or who just plain got it wrong.

Perhaps the information was transcribed for a webpage from a book source. That book source was transcribed from a microfilm record which was itself transcribed from the original. The chance of human error is greatly increased with each succeeding transcription.

Even if the information has a source, you should double-check it personally, either from the original source or from an independent source.

### VERIFY, VERIFY, VERIFY!!!

You also want to think about the source itself. Is the source a good one? After all, if Great Aunt Martha gives me information on the birth or baptism of my 3rd great-grandpa and I put it on the 'net, and source it as "Remembrances of Great Aunt Martha", that's not necessarily a dependable or accurate source. After all, Great Aunt Martha did have that fall from a horse when she was a child and she IS 97 years old.....

However if I source the birth or baptismal dates with full details on the church where I saw the original record, or the published transcript of those church records, that's much more dependable.

When in doubt, remember...

*"Genealogy without sources is mythology"*  
<http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/articles/myth.shtml>  
Compliments of Lorine McGinnis Schulze of The Olive Tree Genealogy at <http://olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml>. Article stated that this may be copied as long as identifying information and link to website is left intact.

## ASK AUNTY JEFF



By JCNYS Member and Genealogist  
Jean Wilcox Hibben, PhD  
Riverside County, California

Q – I am curious: what can I get from a genealogy society that is not already online?

A – A genealogical society gives a variety of advantages over “going it on your own.”

Maybe this would be a valid question if, indeed, all the information a family historian needed truly was on the Internet (it's not!), but when I'm asked that, it is clear to me that the interrogator really is new to family research (we all were, and there's no crime in that!). There is a plethora of such organizations all around the world and they welcome new members, even when those folks probably will never actually meet in person. What can this “get” such a person? I'm glad you asked.

I am proud to tell folks that I am a long-time member of the Jefferson County NY Genealogical Society and am a columnist for the quarterly newsletter. I have had the pleasure of visiting the society and presenting to them, but even without that, I can attend any online meetings and stay abreast of the activities there, plus catch up by reading *The Informer*. I have done some extremely helpful networking with these folks and know I can ask someone to pull a document from the courthouse, take a photo of a headstone, or check on an address I believe was once the home of one of my Wilcox or Freeman ancestors.

But societies that are local to you also have a great deal to offer. Networking is a constant benefit: I always have another question or quandary about people and places; information that may assist me in finding what I'm looking for (even when I may not yet have known I was). This can be especially helpful for beginning genealogists who are looking for ideas on where to find an elusive ancestor (information can come in the form of conversation during a break, posts to the society Facebook page, articles in the society newsletter, or the featured program speaker, live or online). With so many organizations offering online or hybrid meetings, distance need not be as big an issue as it's been in the past. I'm presenting virtual lectures every month, and on every conceivable topic.

Misery may love company, but so does success and excitement . . . it's great to finally break through that brick wall, but isn't it even more enjoyable to share the

experience with people who care? No offense to any family members, but, with only a few exceptions, most of my relatives really don't care and actually prefer it if I would just “shut up.” But society members are folks who have been where you are or are planning to go there (figuratively and literally). Many society members are people who have been doing family history research for years and may be able to give you some ideas on how to proceed with the research. Besides, most of the folks, at least in my experience, are good people to get to know just because they are!

There is one other value that comes to mind: Operating a genealogical society is not cheap. Many do more than just meet for a social hour; those that offer assistance in various forms (already noted) are the clubs we don't want to see disbanded due to reduced membership. Speakers cost money, so do the many operating expenses that are instrumental in keeping a web presence, paying for a meeting location, maintaining a library or reference collection, etc. When I pay my dues, I know that the money is helping to ensure that the organization will still be around when my grandkids are doing their genealogy (though they could have asked me!).

### You know you're An Addicted Genealogist!

(From our July 2004 *Informer*)

**When you brake for libraries**

**When you get locked in the library overnight and never even notice**

**When you hyperventilate at the sight of an old cemetery  
If you'd rather browse in a cemetery than a shopping mall**

**When you think every home should have a microfilm reader**

**If you'd rather read census schedules than a good book**

**When you know the town clerk in every county by name  
If the town clerks lock the door when they see you coming**

**When you're more interested in what happened in 1797 than 2023**

**If you store your clothing under the bed and your closet is carefully stacked with notebooks and journals**

**If you can pinpoint Kirkcaldy and Inverness on a map but you're not sure if Whitehorse is in the Yukon or Northwest Territories**

**When all of your correspondence begins "Dear Cousin"**



## GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR INTERVIEW

Expert advice for interview day. Learn what you can do before, during, and after the interview to make your subject more comfortable and your fact-gathering more effective.

Although journalists appreciate off-the-cuff comments, oral historians are most successful if their subjects know exactly what will happen during an interview and are prepared. It is easy to establish this tone by sending the interviewee a copy of the questions that will be the basis of the exchange, as well as copies of at least some of the photographs, old letters, or newspapers that will be part of the interview. Before sending off a copy of the interview questions, the researcher should review them to ensure they provide the answers he or she is seeking.

The first rule of interviewing is punctuality. Never keep the informant waiting. After the interviewer has been invited in and is seated with the subject, it is helpful to discuss the equipment that will be used. As the tape recorder is shown, it should be turned on so that a few minutes of conversation can be recorded. If used, the same is true of a video camera.

The interviewer should point out that he or she will also be taking notes, in case the recorder fails to do its part. After a few minutes of conversation, the tape recorder or video camera should be rewound and played back. The witness has an opportunity to hear or see himself or herself and hopefully feel reassured that there is nothing to fear or be nervous about as these machines do their work during the interview.

The moments before the interview can also be used to take photographs of the respondent and his or her surroundings. This get-acquainted time also provides opportunity to look at some of the photographs or other memorabilia brought by the interviewer. Perhaps the subject will produce her or his own photo album. The album or other mementos will help the respondent remember and may provide the oral historian with new evidence he or she has not yet seen. This is the right moment to turn on the recorder and begin the interview.

Experienced interviewers never read their questions. The questions have been memorized and blend into the conversation. As the interview progresses, the note pad becomes important. Facial expressions, the eyes, and other non-verbal expressions are noted. Additional questions may come to mind that can be jotted down for inclusion when the moment is appropriate. Reminders of promises made should also be written down, so that they can be kept rather than

forgotten, once the interview is over.

After the interview has ended, the oral historian should take time to transcribe the sound or video tape as soon as possible. It will be much easier to understand the respondent's comments while they are still fresh in the interviewer's mind. Within a week of the interview, a transcript should be provided to the interviewee. He or she will then have the opportunity to correct any errors. At this time he or she can even add facts that came to mind after the interview or during the reading of the transcript. After the subject has returned the transcript it is ready for analysis and verification.

Written by: Raymond S. Wright III, a professor at Brigham Young University (Provo, Utah), where he has taught courses in family history and genealogy since 1990. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Utah.

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### Forgotten Post Offices

#### XXIV – Clayton Post Office

By Ernest G. Cook in 1934

When the township of Clayton was organized on 4 Jun 1833, the people of the town made their way to the home of Isaac L. Carter and held their first town meeting. The hamlet known as Clayton Center then seemed destined to become a trading center for much of the town. Five roads centered in the community and several roads joined on the main roads but a short distance out so that there were several roads leading into Clayton Center.

The Fox family resided in Clayton Center and Hubbell Fox was made the first supervisor of the town and reelected. Hubbard Fox and his brother, Alfred, had located in the town but a short time before. He was a physician. He and his brother are reported to have come from Cortland county. The brother, Alfred, was later elected supervisor and held the office for several years.

When the town of Clayton was formed the community at what is known as Clayton Center had a post office.

If one drives through Clayton Center today he will find a well-kept hamlet of thrifty people. Grey Stone Inn, the well preserved tavern of other days, attracts attention. The school house is located nearby.

A survey of the old directory of the place of 70 years ago shows that those residing there included: J. M. Carter, who was marked with the post office, D. Carter, M. W. Wright, L. Fox, M. Barney, J. J. Judson, A. Gould, with the tavern; W. Rundell, school house, cemetery, cheese factory; Mrs. Rogers, H. Ellis, S. Ellis, A. M. Barney, I. Chapman, V. Dorr, William Patchin, C. R. Linnel, S. Linnel, B. Brown, L. K. Patchen, B. G. B. Garlock, S. Halladay, R. Halliday, and several others quite near the Center.

## “50 Questions For Your Interview”

1. What is your full name? Why did your parents select this name for you? Did you have a nickname?
2. When and where were you born?
3. How did your family come to live there?
4. Were there other family members in the area? Who?
5. What was the home like? How many rooms? Bathrooms? Did it have electricity? Indoor plumbing?
6. Were there any special items in the house that you remember?
7. What is your earliest childhood memory?
8. Describe the personalities of your family members.
9. What kind of games did you play growing up?
10. What was your favorite toy and why?
11. What was your favorite thing to do for fun (movies, beach, etc.)?
12. Did you have family chores? What were they? Which was your least favorite?
13. Did you receive an allowance? How much? Did you save your money or spend it?
14. What was school like for you as a child? What were your best and worst subjects? Where did you attend grade school? High school? College?
15. What school activities and sports did you participate in?
16. Do you remember any fads from your youth? Popular hairstyles? Clothes?
17. Who were your childhood heroes?
18. What were your favorite songs and music?
19. Did you have any pets? If so, what kind and what were their names?
20. What was your religion growing up? What church, if any, did you attend?
21. Were you ever mentioned in a newspaper?
22. Who were your friends when you were growing up?
23. What world events had the most impact on you while you were growing up?
24. Describe a typical family dinner. Did you all eat as a family? Who cooked? Favorite foods?
25. How were holiday's (birthdays, Christmas, etc.) celebrated? Did your family have special traditions?
26. How is the world today different from what it was like when you were a child?
27. Who was the oldest relative you remember as a child? What do you remember about them?
28. What do you know about your family surname?
29. Is there a naming tradition in your family, such as always giving the firstborn son the name of his paternal grandfather?
30. What stories have come down to you about your parents? Grandparents? More distant ancestors?
31. Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives in your family?
32. Have any recipes been passed down to you from family members?
33. Are there any physical characteristics that run in your family?
34. Are there any special heirlooms, photos, bibles or other memorabilia passed down in your family?
35. What was the full name of your spouse? Siblings? Parents?
36. When and how did you meet your spouse? What did you do on dates?
37. What was it like when you proposed (or were proposed to)? Where did it happen? How did you feel?
38. Where and when did you get married?
39. What memory stands out the most from your wedding day?
40. How would you describe your spouse? What do (did) you admire most about them?
41. What do you believe is the key to a successful marriage?
42. How did you find out you were going to be a parent for the first time?
43. Why did you choose your children's names?
44. What was your proudest moment as a parent?
45. What did your family enjoy doing together?
46. What was your profession and how did you choose it?
47. If you could have had any other profession what would it have been? Why wasn't it your first choice?
48. Of all the things you learned from your parents, which do you feel was the most valuable?
49. What accomplishments were you the proudest of?
50. What is the one thing you most want people to remember about you?





## What Kids Learn From Hearing Family Stories

Reading to children has education benefits, of course—but so does sharing tales from the past.

By Elaine Reese

*The Atlantic*, December 9, 2013

“Dad, tell me a story from when you were little. Tell me the story about the time you met your best friend Chris at school.” Six-year-old Alex, who has just started school himself, snuggles into his pillow and catches his dad’s hand in the dark. They have finished the nightly reading of *Tin Tin* and now it’s time for “just one more story” before Alex goes to sleep.

Most parents know about the benefits of reading stories from books with their young children. Parents are blasted with this message in pediatricians’ offices, at preschool, on TV, even with billboards on the city bus. Reading books with children on a daily basis advances their language skills, extends their learning about the world, and helps their own reading later in school. Reading with your child from a young age can instill a lifelong love of books. A new study published in *Science* even shows that reading literary fiction improves adults’ ability to understand other people’s emotions.

### Reading books with your children is clearly a good idea.

The cozy image of cuddling up with your young child while poring over a book, however, doesn’t fit with reality for some parents and children. Parents from some cultures are not as comfortable reading with their children because books were not part of their everyday lives growing up. For other parents, reading with children is a fraught activity because of their own negative experiences learning to read. And for some highly active children, sitting down with a book is a punishment, not a reward. Fortunately, parents can learn new ways of reading books with their children to engage even the most irascible customer—and to engage themselves.

Yet what most parents don’t know is that everyday family stories, like the one that Alex’s dad spun out that night, confer many of the same benefits of reading—and even some new ones.

Over the last 25 years, a small canon of research on family storytelling shows that when parents share more family stories with their children—especially when they tell those stories in a detailed and responsive way—their children benefit in a host of ways. For instance, experimental studies show that when parents learn to reminisce about everyday events with their preschool children in more detailed ways, their children tell richer, more complete narratives to other adults one to two years later

compared to children whose parents didn’t learn the new reminiscing techniques. Children of the parents who learned new ways to reminisce also demonstrate better understanding of other people’s thoughts and emotions. These advanced narrative and emotional skills serve children well in the school years when reading complex material and learning to get along with others. In the preteen years, children whose families collaboratively discuss everyday events and family history more often have higher self-esteem and stronger self-concepts. And adolescents with a stronger knowledge of family history have more robust identities, better coping skills, and lower rates of depression and anxiety. Family storytelling can help a child grow into a teen who feels connected to the important people in her life.

Best of all, unlike stories from books, family stories are always free and completely portable. You don’t even need to have the lights on to share with your child a story about your day, about their day, about your childhood or their grandma’s. In the research on family storytelling, all of these kinds of stories are linked to benefits for your child. Family stories can continue to be part of a parent’s daily interactions with their children into adolescence, long past the age of the bedtime story.

All families have stories to tell, regardless of their culture or their circumstances. Of course, not all of these stories are idyllic ones. Research shows that children and adolescents can learn a great deal from stories of life’s more difficult moments—as long as those stories are told in a way that is sensitive to the child’s level of understanding, and as long as something good is gleaned from the experience.

Telling the story about the time the Christmas tree ignited because of faulty wiring and burned up the presents is fine, as long as you can find a tinsel lining. For example: Luckily you were able to save some favorite ornaments from the blaze, and your family ended up at a soup kitchen for Christmas dinner where you met Marion, who would become a treasured family friend.

Books contain narratives, but only family stories contain your family’s *personal* narratives. Fortunate children get both. They hear and read stories from books to become part of other people’s worlds, and they hear and tell stories of their family to understand who they are and from whence they came.

As Ursula LeGuin said, “There have been great societies that did not use the wheel, but there have been no societies that did not tell stories.” Oral storytelling has been part of human existence for millennia. Toddlers start telling primitive stories from nearly as soon as they can speak, beginning with

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simple sentences about past experiences such as "Cookie allgone." Adults quickly build on these baby stories, "What happened to your cookie? You ate it!" so that by age three or four, most children can tell a relatively sensible story of a past experience that a naïve listener will (mostly) understand. By the time they are in school, children will regale a sympathetic adult with highly detailed stories about events of great importance to them, such as scoring a goal at a soccer game, but they may fail to mention the bigger picture that their team still lost. In the preteen and early adolescent years, children tell highly proficient stories about events in their lives, but they still need help understanding difficult events, such as the time their best friend dumped them for someone else. It is not until mid-adolescence that teens can understand the impact of events on their lives and on who they are becoming. Even older adolescents still benefit from their parents' help in understanding life's curveballs.

The holidays are prime time for family storytelling. When you're putting up the tree or having your holiday meal, share a story with your children about past holidays. Leave in the funny bits, the sad bits, the gory and smelly bits—kids can tell when a story has been sanitized for their protection. Then invite everyone else to tell a story too. Don't forget the youngest and the oldest storytellers in the group. Their stories may not be as coherent, but they can be the truest, and the most revealing.

Family stories can be told nearly anywhere. They cost us only our time, our memories, our creativity. They can inspire us, protect us, and bind us to others. So be generous with your stories, and be generous *in* your stories. Remember that your children may have them for a lifetime.

Note: Elaine Reese is Professor of Psychology at the University of Otago in New Zealand and the author of *Tell Me A Story: Sharing Stories to Enrich Your Child's World*. She received her Ph.D. from Emory University and has researched and taught child development in the US and New Zealand for over 20 years.

## Forgotten Post Offices

### XXV – Burrs Mills Post Office

By Ernest G. Cook in 1934

Probably no post office of pioneer days had a more ambitious start than Burrville or Burrs Mills, as the government listed it in its records. It is located at the extreme eastern side of the town of Watertown and came about because of the stream of water at that point falls some 60 feet over a cascade of falls. It seemed like an ideal water power to the pioneer, who was fearful of undertaking to harness the mighty flow of the Black River. Mr. Stow, the land agent, suggested to Hart

Massey that a sawmill and a gristmill for grinding corn, be constructed at that point. Mr. Massey was to see that the land was cleared, the buildings erected, and Mr. Stow to furnish the mill irons and what ever needed to be brought into the country. The mills were started in 1801 and completed that summer, it is said, and so became the very first mills to operate in Jefferson County.

The following season John Burr came into the section and purchased the mills and there after the place became Burr's Mills, and later Burrville. About this time a large two-story building for mercantile purposes was erected. Jabez Foster was the merchant. Jesse Conklin came and started a tailoring business on the second floor of the store. He was known as the master flute player of the region. Captain William Lampson came not long after and erected a stone blacksmith shop. He, too, was a progressive man, and built an ox frame in connection with his shop, so that he could put shoes on oxen, the cattle being put in the frame and their foot strapped when the shoeing process was conducted. He was sometimes known as Deacon Lampson. As the population increased Deacon Lampson enlarged his shops. He installed a waterwheel and put in a trip-hammer and the shop became famous when he began the manufacturing of axes. He also manufactured other tools, knives, broad-axes and the like, all of which found a ready demand in the new country. Deacon Lampson again enlarged his business and built a furnace and foundry at the upper falls and began making castings and farm machinery such as were used at the time. The first castings for plows used in that section were made by Lampson Shops, which operated for a long term of years.

Able Harvey proved a helpful addition to the community, for he was an excellent cabinet maker. He made coffins. Nathan Fulton established a wool carding and cloth dressing shop and in 1806 James Mann erected a large tannery. He employed some 15 men in his establishment. He made use of the waterpower to grind the bark to be used in the tanning of the leather. In later years, Silas Thurston and Jay Boynton established a sash and blind factory. The Lavin Brothers started a match factory. A hotel and other shops also were located there. The people built a large frame building which served as a school, church, and town hall.

On 8 Jun 1803, a meeting was held in the new barn of Caleb Burnham for the purpose of organizing a church. This was under the direction of Rev. Ebenezer Lazelle, a missionary from New England. At the time a Congregational church was organized with 14 members. It was related that as pure liquors were considered very needful that Rev. Mr. Lazelle opened a distillery, one of the first ones in the section. In the early days Burrville outrivalled Watertown, but in the march of events it ceased to be the important center and the changing arrangements of the postal service took from that place the once flourishing post office.



## Common Mistakes We Make in Our Family Research

Carol Rooksby Weidlich  
North Fort Myers, Florida

No matter how long we've been researching our family tree, we often make some very common research mistakes. Here's a few to think about.

### We use only one or two good sources.

When relying on just census and vital records, we may easily confuse people of the same name, overlook individuals who may have relocated, and assign children to the wrong parents.

We can avoid this mistake by consulting other resources like town/city/county records for land ownership and taxation records; researching Family Bible records; investigate lineage society records; city directories and school yearbooks.

Be sure to keep track of the records you have searched. In today's world of technology, more and more digitized records are appearing online. What is not online today, maybe online within days or even months.

### We form a theory/opinion and never change it.

If the records show this information – it must be true. Remember to identify what the record is documenting and where it can be found.

Avoid one track thinking by following the three R's: Rethink - Reanalyze - Redo. Ask yourself:

Are there other documents to collaborate this information?

Are you depending upon an abstraction/transcription of information? Always try to view the original document/digital image.

### If the records do not match, we develop a good reason why they do not.

Records frequently contain errors based on who gave the information, as well as who took the information, and, who transcribed the information into currently used indexes.

Please do not think that surnames can be spelled only one way in records. Try to remember that many times our ancestors couldn't read nor write. And most importantly, if they came from another country, accents may have been involved. Think about census enumerators in the early 1900's in New York City. Many times, the immigrant ancestor couldn't speak English, or not very well. The person actually giving the information might not have been the actual person. It could have been their landlord/landlady or neighbor, and how they heard the immigrant speak and pass on the information to the enumerator, might be very different from what was actually said.

Living in Southwest Florida, many of our winter visitors are from other countries. Over the years, I've asked some neighbors to spend some time with me and allow me to record their voices as they speak different words, locations, and sentences. This has given me more understanding on why names might be spelled differently in documents based on phonetics.

Ages are not always correct on every document, including the census. It wasn't just our female ancestors who lied about their ages, but our male ancestors as well.

If your supporting documentation does not fit together, you may not be looking at the right family.

### We focus on one piece of information at a time so we do not get confused by too much information.

Do not hide records/documents away in a file. Take them out and look at them. Compare them and the information they give. Ask yourself what other documents might confirm the same information.

### Where is that "MAGIC" box or book hiding with my documents?

Stop looking for that magic document to confirm that "gut" feeling and look at what you have.

Use Timelines to give yourself a snapshot of your ancestor's life. Are there gaps in information? What other types of documents can you look for to fill those gaps.

Gather as much information as possible and examine each record carefully. Analyze the information in that record not just once, but multiple times.

### Surnames, Surnames, Surnames.

To be a successful researcher do not confine your search only to individuals who share your surname spelled exactly as you spell it. Broaden your horizons seeking out others who are researching your surnames and in the same time periods and locations. Sometimes it means searching collateral relatives not just direct line.

Be sure to keep a list of various spellings of surnames you are researching. Over the years I've come across 66 variations of my maiden name – Rooksby, which haven't always started with the letter "R", but a "B" and more recently a "W".

Search for and use other online connection options like Surname Lists, Mailing Lists, and Message Boards. Although sometimes it may feel like you are most likely not the only person researching a particular surname. Don't just search newer entries, see if older archived entries are available. Some examples to use include: (Continued

(Continued From Page 17)

Rootsweb Message Board now at [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). To search the FREE Message Boards at Ancestry.com, click on HELP > MESSAGE BOARDS. Now you can search by names, topics, locations and categories. Be sure to become familiar with the Board Help section, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and the Community Guidelines.

RootsChat <<https://www.rootschat.com>> is a free UK based genealogy message board.

Genealogy Message Boards at MyHeritage <<https://www.myheritage.com/page/genealogy-message-boards>>.

If you're interested in a specific location you can also Google search strings like "genealogy message boards", "genealogy message board <country name>".

**If a record is not online at <fill in genealogy website name> it doesn't exist.**

Not every record known today is in the public domain. States and countries have varying timeframes for release of documents. Sometimes a digitizing agreement has strict rules about what, when, and how the information can be released. Be sure to do your homework on particular documents and document collections. The FamilySearch Wiki is an excellent source for this information.

**This document is old so it must be accurate.**

Just because a document is old does not mean the information is accurate for your ancestor. Consider when it was created and for what purpose. Are there other supporting documents you should look for?

As we do our family research, there is nothing wrong with making mistakes, as long as we learn from them, and leave behind the best evidence in support of our research.

## Why Review Old Genealogy Research?

© Lorine McGinnis Schulze

Pulled From The Olive Tree Genealogy Site

I've been working hard on a McGinnis Family book. McGinnis is my maiden name and for more than 30 years I've researched the seven sons of the immigrant McGinnis line in whom I am interested. I've followed the sons (and one daughter) down through the generations, tracking their children and grandchildren. All in hopes of finding out where in Ireland my great-great-grandfather was born.

This past month I've been busy entering data I had found and filed away in my overflowing McGinnis filing drawer. Yes that's right - an entire drawer is devoted to this family. I could have sworn I had covered all my

bases, found every scrap of evidence there was to be found on each of those 7 sons. Census? Done. I'd sent for death records, church records, looked for obituaries, and thought about where else I might find a record of an origin in Ireland.

But as I looked over my old research (which I hadn't really looked at in almost 10 years) something jumped out at me - several years ago I had found the names of 3 of the sons in Michigan Naturalization records indexes. But I had never sent for the full record! What an oversight - although the records are not apt to provide an exact location of birth, there is a small chance they might give a county in Ireland. We don't even know that much so anything would be a bonus.

I also realized I hadn't put a few clues together - that one of the granddaughters of the original immigrant had been living (at the age of 6) with an unknown couple and a teenage girl in 1851 Waterloo County Ontario. Re-reading the teenager's surname I saw that it was the same as the granddaughter's mother (Cokely) - and the teen was likely granddaughter's aunt. A great clue that I had not seen first time around because I had not known her mother's surname at the time. This little clue led me to research the couple the granddaughter was living with and sure enough the wife was another aunt.

Reviewing my old material gave me fresh insight into the family and another path to follow. Now I am working on a chart to show where every son (and the daughter) lived at every land record, census record and assessment record I have already found. Hopefully that chart when complete will give me better insight into the family's movements and migration patterns. This in turn might help me find my missing great-great-grandpa after 1871.

<http://olivetreegenealogy.blogspot.com/2007/10/why-review-old-genealogy-research.html>

Compliments of Lorine McGinnis Schulze of The Olive Tree Genealogy at <http://olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml>. Article stated that this may be copied as long as identifying information and link to website is left intact.





## WELLER FAMILY HISTORY

By Jacalyn "Jackie" Gallahan Pensgen  
As shared in the *Thousand Islands Sun*  
Dated September 28, 2022

My name is Jacalyn "Jackie" Gallahan Pensgen. My maternal grandparents were William Lionel "Bill" Weller and Irene Anna Gushlaw Weller and my mother was, Marion Louise Weller (Gallahan). In this year of the Clayton's sesquicentennial, I wanted to share my family's history, as I know it to date. I want to thank Dean Wilkie for sharing some family history with me.

William Lionel "Bill" Weller was born on July 11, 1906 in Chipstead, Surrey, England. His parents were William George Weller (born 1/17/1876 in Chipstead, Surrey, England) and Annie Best Weller (born 11/25/1870 in Petherton, Somerset, England). Bill was the youngest of three brothers: George Edward (6/18/1902), Frederick Arthur (6/21/1904), and William L. (7/11/1906). William and Annie were married on August 3, 1901 in Chipstead, Surrey, England.

Bill Weller's paternal grandparents were William W. and Dinah Weller. Grandfather William W. was born about 1848 in Chipstead, Surrey, England. Grandmother Dinah was born about 1853 in Ham Common, Surrey, England. William and Dinah married in 1873 in Surrey, England. They had six children with William George being the second born. William George's youngest sibling was his brother Arthur who was born on August 27, 1887.

Bill's maternal grandparents were Lionel Best and Mary Ann England Best. Annie Best (Weller) had one sister, Mary Elizabeth Best (Masters) and six brothers: John, Charles, Joseph, William, George, Fred.

William George, Annie, and the boys emigrated to the United States in 1911. William George traveled to the United States on the SS Teutonic and landed in New York City on April 19, 1911. Annie and the three boys traveled separately to the United States. They left Twickenham, Middlesex, England and then took, the SS Olympic, part of the White Star line, from Southampton, England, arriving at Ellis Island in New York City on July 17, 1911. George was nine years old, Fred was seven years old, and William had just turned five years old. Annie and the boys brought two steamer trunks on the ship with them, in addition to Annie having one carpet bag, and the boys each having one bag. Annie and the boys were very sea sick while crossing the Atlantic. Annie spent most of her time while onboard in her room and the deck hands would bring the boys onto the deck and have them walk around for exercise and fresh air. Upon arrival at Ellis Island and processing, Annie and the boys traveled to Clayton by train. Annie's brothers Charles Best and John Best lived in Clayton which is why they settled there.



**The Weller Family**  
William L., mother Annie, Fred and George  
with father William George standing in back

William George Weller's brother Arthur Weller left England on April 3, 1912 and arrived in Clayton on April 12, 1912. He was employed by Pete Hart and later sailed on the steamer, 1000 Islands, under the command of Captain Charles Kendall. Arthur also worked for Kittle Brothers and regarded Clayton as his adopted home town. Arthur left Clayton in the fall of 1914 for the Great Lakes where he sailed for several years before turning westward to Pasadena, California in April 1922 where he took up permanent residence. He would occasionally travel to Clayton for a visit and stay with my grandparents.

My grandfather, Bill, remained in Clayton, New York for the rest of his life. I have little information regarding his growing up years. His father, William George, was a dairy farmer, though his preference, I am told, would have been to be a crop farmer. My grandfather attended Clayton schools, but had to leave school after the eight grade to help on the farm. His dream was to be a State Police officer, however a dream unfortunately never fulfilled. He and his brothers attended the Clayton Episcopal Church and were Altar servers. His tremendous work ethic was learned at an early age.

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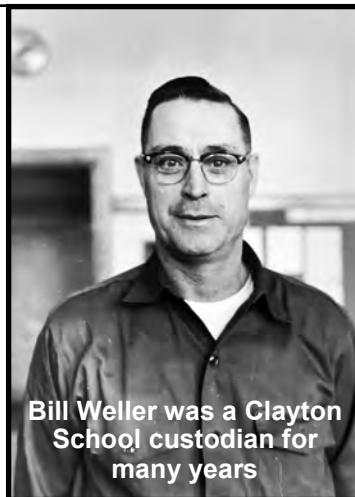
(Continued From Page 19)

Bill's oldest brother George Edward Weller (6/18/1902-7/21/1978) lived in Clayton his whole life. He married Leona Mae Danenwald (5/18/1906-9/28/1991) on November 24, 1923 and together they raised five children: Mary Elizabeth (Betty) (Vaadi/Reff), William George, Harriet Pauline (Giltz), Evelyn Mae (Herron) and Leona Ann "Nonnie" (Wilkie).

Bill's middle brother Frederick Arthur (6/21/1904-1/10/1975) lived in the Clayton and Alexandria Bay area his whole life. He married Bethel Alberta Decker on November 23, 1929 in Christ Episcopal Church in Clayton. They raised four sons: Frederick J. ("Sonny"), Howard L. ("Brub"), Morris A ("Skip"), and Albert L. ("Babe").

Bill met Irene Anna Gushlaw (3/24/1909-8/1/1988) at a dance and they were eventually married on July 11, 1927 at the Baptist parsonage in Three Mile Bay, NY by Elbert H. Conrad, a Baptist minister. Bill's brother George and sister-in-law, Leona were their witnesses. On July 8, 1928, Bill and Irene welcomed their only child Marion Louise. Marion was born at home and her grandmother, Annie Best Weller, assisted in the birth as she had practiced as a nurse midwife in England. Marion attended a one room schoolhouse in Clayton Center and eventually when the family moved into the Village of Clayton, she attended the Clayton Village School from which she graduated in 1945. Marion was involved in many activities in high school as the listing in her school yearbook shows. She had many friends with her closest being Barbara Fitzgerald (Potachuk), her cousin, Marjorie Masters (Churchill), Mary Liz Hunt (Balcom), and Mary Elaine Marshall (Contentino). She nurtured and maintained those friendships for a lifetime.

When Marion graduated from high school at age 16 years, she attended nursing school at The Genesee Hospital School of Nursing in Rochester, New York. Following graduation, she worked in Rochester as a registered nurse until her retirement. In July 1949, Marion married, Francis "Bud" Gallahan in Rochester, New York. They had three children, Jackie (Pensgen), Randy, and Cathy (Keating). Jackie, Randy, and Cathy spent their growing up years from age 4-5 years until their teenage years living with Bill and Irene for the summer. Clayton became their second home and when thinking of my childhood, I think of Clayton. Clayton and the River was a wonderful way to grow up! My grandparents lived at 607 John St. which was a two bedroom house and was approximately 700 square feet! While very small, growing up, it never seemed too small. Two adults and three children lived together there for the summer and life was good. My grandparents were strict and had high expectations, but we knew we were loved! When young, my grandfather taught us to swim and we swam at the Clayton Beach which is now the Antique Boat Museum. When older, we swam in the River at several



different locations: Slippery Hole by McCormick's Restaurant (be careful of the snails in the seaweed as you slide along the rock into the River!), off the docks and boat houses where St. Lawrence

Restoration is today, and mostly off the American Legion dock and Farrell's dock. No life guards, but the bigger kids watched out for the younger kids.

We would jump into the water as the tour boats came by since they docked near the Bank on Riverside Dr. and tourists would take our picture. We would float in the big rolling waves from the freighters and some of the more adventurous boys would jump in behind the tour boats as the boat departed from the dock. Wonderful River afternoons. We just needed to be home in time to set the table for dinner!

Bill Weller was very hard worker and worked many different jobs throughout his life to support his family. For a period of time, he farmed and throughout his life helped others on their farms. I remember as a child riding on the hay wagon with Debbie and Joe Churchill on their grandparents Masters farm, as my grandfather helped Joe Masters bring hay in from the field and load it in the barn. Fun for a child, but really hard and hot work for the adults and this was in the evening after a full day of other work! One of Bill's jobs was to deliver milk. He drove a horse drawn cart with a large milk container in the cart. He would drive to each customer who would come to the cart with their own container and he would use his dipper to fill their container. Each container cost five cents! Certainly, a change from today's prices and health department rules. Bill did many odd jobs for folks and was always ready to lend a helping hand. He drove a bread truck, drove the mail boat from Clayton to several of the islands, drove the Clayton single decker wooden tour boats, worked at Denny's machine shop, he was the care taker of a cottage on Spicer Bay and took the owner and his visitors for boat tours of the River in the owner's large Chris Craft, and well into his 80's, he mowed lawns, shoveled driveways and sidewalks and completed odd jobs for people. From 1940-1971, he was a custodian at the Clayton High School. While he was fastidious and conscientious about any task he undertook, he was especially proud of his work at the school. I remember as a child during the summer time when I would go to the school for a visit, how the hallway terrazzo floors would gleam and everything else was so clean and shiny. Bill was also a Clayton volunteer fireman and served in the Navy during

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(Continued From Page 20)

World War II after being drafted at age 38 years. I am sure there were other jobs that I never learned about. I did learn at his funeral, however, that Bill quietly helped family and others with assistance, whether it be physical help, providing food and supplies, and/or even a few dollars when he had little himself and worked so hard for it! I was also told that he hand dug a space under the Hawn factory which took him four years to complete.

My grandmother, Irene, was a homemaker for many years, but also worked outside the home at times throughout her life. She was an excellent cook and baker and people were very happy to receive a luscious treat from Irene Weller. My grandparents backyard on John Street was 90% vegetable and flower garden. Nothing was wasted from that garden. A summer time feast of fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, and yellow beans and then tomatoes were canned; ketchup, tomato juice, and chili sauce were made; and all varieties of pickles were made. After living through the Depression, they had learned to be self-sufficient. The flower garden was mostly roses which they loved and fresh flowers were always on the dining room table. I am told that Bill's father and brother George also loved roses. There must have been something in their DNA! Dean Wilkie told me that when he visited Chipensted, England, the town from which the Weller family emigrated, he was amazed at the number of roses throughout the village. It must have smelled wonderful and something which the family had loved and remembered when living there.

At one time, Irene was employed at the Hawn Bathing Suit Factory as a seamstress having learned to sew from the nuns in the orphanage where she lived from age 7 years until she was 18 years old. She was employed at Stabler and Baker and was also the manager of the Grand Union for a time. She was also a member of the Home Bureau, the Paynter Center, and the Clayton American Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

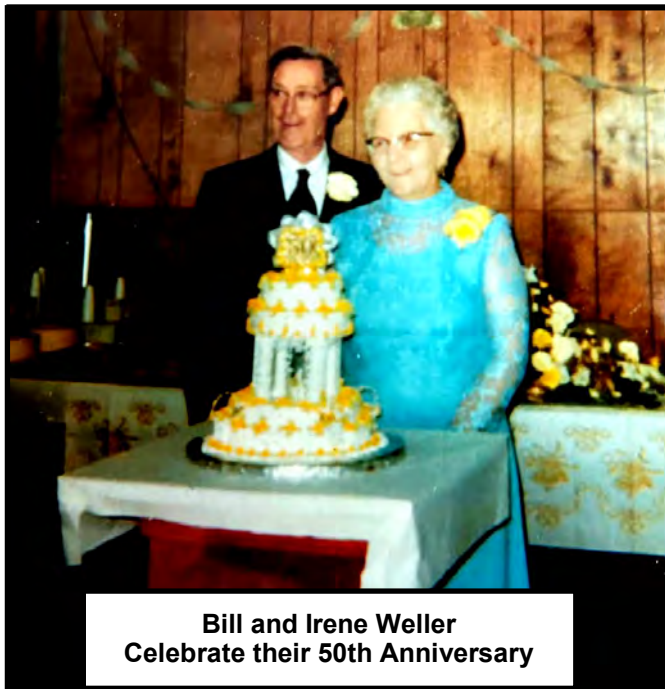
My mother loved Clayton and it was always part of her heart and soul. She said she grew up at the best time and in the best place. She would tell stories about her father carrying her on his shoulders into the woods in Clayton Center and she would get to pick out the specific Christmas tree she wanted which he would cut down and drag home along with carrying her. She said they would celebrate Christmas Day with the Masters. Another memory was when she was 8-10 years old and she was playing tag with some other kids around the boats in the area where the Antique Boat Museum is now. Her mother was working at the Hawn Bathing Suit Factory and her Dad was working at Denny's Machine Shop. She slipped and seriously cut her lower leg on a piece of plate glass on one of the boats as her foot went through the glass and she pulled it out. The kids she was playing with ran away. A stranger stopped to see if she was ok and asked where her parents were. She initially did not want to tell him as



**Marion Weller Gallahan is the author's mother**

she was afraid she was going to get into trouble. Eventually she told him and he went and he got her father. Bill carried Marion to Dr. Fowkes office. Doc Fowkes was out on the River and somehow they were able to communicate with him and he returned to his office and stitched her up. The leg became infected and they had to put Balsam of Peru on the wound, a smell she said she would never forget. The tendons had been cut when she injured her leg, so tap dancing was prescribed as a treatment. This led to Marion's lifelong love of dancing. Marion took dance lessons and she and Dorothy Cornaire became a dance duo. Marion's mother made the girls matching dance outfits: satin blouse and a pleated black skirt that had red inside the pleats which would show when they twirled. They danced together at various events around town. Marion's love of dance continued and although she was too young to attend the Clayton Casino, she could watch the Sunday afternoon dances and listen to the Big Band music there and would love every minute. One time, her parents invited some of the ladies from the Casino to dinner at their house and as a gift, the ladies gave Marion a blue dress (her favorite color) with a wide skirt and dutch wooden shoes which I guess were all the rage! She loved to twirl in the dress. Captain Kellogg (Tour Boat Captain) bet Marion 25 cents to jump into the River in her new dress and wooden shoes. She did and had a very difficult time getting to the surface, although she was a

(Continued on Page 22)

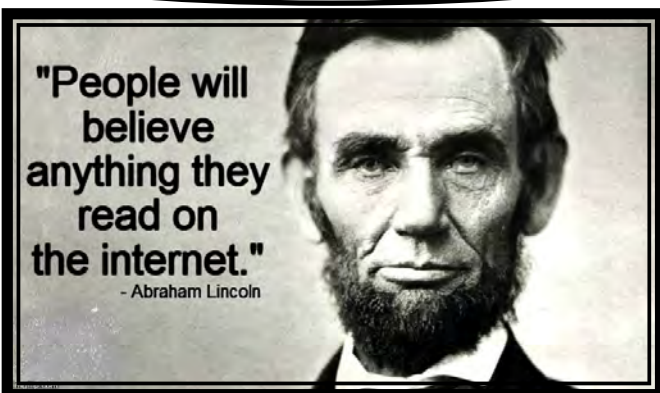


**Bill and Irene Weller  
Celebrate their 50th Anniversary**

(Continued From Page 21)

strong swimmer, as the big skirt of the dress went up over her face. Her Dad was about to jump into the water to save her, but she got to the surface. Twenty-five cents must have meant a lot to her! Her love of dancing continued as she was asked to be the Majorette for the Clayton School Band. She started twirling as a freshman in high school and her first baton was a broom handle with a ball on the end which was made by her father. Certainly different from today, when we run out to get all new equipment for our children's sports and activities

We are now the sixth generation in our family to love Clayton and the River as they both continue to nurture our souls. My grandparents had three grandchildren and now there are nine great-grandchildren. I am so proud to be a member of this family and am grateful for the lessons instilled in me by my grandparents as well as every wonderful memory. What a legacy which we will continue to preserve and instill in subsequent generations! River Rats all!



## Jefferson County Queries

Use the "ONLINE QUERY" on [www.jncygs.com](http://www.jncygs.com) or mail queries to:

Jerry Davis, P. O. Box 275, Clayton, NY 13624;  
[maridavis@aol.com](mailto:maridavis@aol.com)

**Subject: Jefferson County Informer Query**

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

### WHITE

Ozias (or some form of) Preston **WHITE** was born 1815 in Jefferson County, New York and died 1899 in Saline County, Missouri. He first pops up in the 1840 Census in Indiana. I see no records online of Ozias's birth or parents.

*McKenzie Barnett White*  
[mckenzie.white95@gmail.com](mailto:mckenzie.white95@gmail.com)

### KING, McLAUGHLIN, VINCENT

I am looking for information on Hiram **KING**. He is supposed to have been born in Jefferson County, New York Jan. 1815. I think he may have left by mid 1840s. His first wife was Clarinda **McLAUGHLIN**. I do not know where she was born. She died in 1850. His second wife was Isabella (Ibba) **VINCENT**. Names of children include John, Silas, Elmira, Elizabeth, Solomon, James, Benjamin, Laura, Rebecca and Mary. Hiram died in Missouri in 1880.

*Robin Lamoreaux*  
[robin7399@hotmail.com](mailto:robin7399@hotmail.com)

### DUNN, SHULTUS

Daniel **DUNN** is my 4th great-grandfather and I have been searching for his parents/ancestors for quite some time. He likely died in Iowa around 1860 after having moved there between 1859 - 1860. Per the 1855 New York Census, Daniel **DUNN**, age 44, states he was born in Jefferson County, New York. This is the earliest known source for his birth location. His later census records only refer to his birthplace as New York. He was married to Mary **DUNN** (unknown marriage date or location) and she likely passed between 1855-1859. He married his 2nd wife, Elizabeth **SHULTUS** in 1859 in Buffalo. Daniel and Elizabeth's marriage record is only available as an index so no parent names yet. Children's names include Henry, Daniell, Cyrus, Sarah and Imogene (Emma Jean).

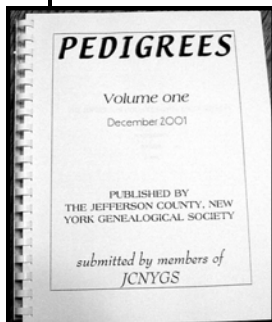
*MJ Martinez*  
[livinggenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:livinggenealogy@gmail.com)



# JCNYGS MATERIALS FOR PURCHASE

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

**PEDIGREE BOOK I  
&  
PEDIGREE BOOK II**  
Each Book \$20.00 plus  
**\$5.00 for postage**  
A collection of pedigrees  
Submitted by members  
of the JCNYGS  
with an every name index  
Checks made out to **JCNYGS**



**A DVD of the Births-Marriages-Deaths from The Watertown Herald 1886-1915**  
**Editor's note: These DVD's are no longer available! We are considering adding the information to our Jefferson County GenWeb site. Stay tuned for updates!**



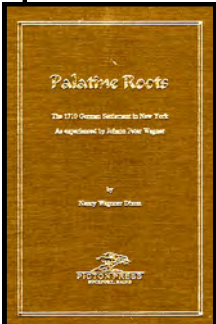
Check with Greg or Tammy Plantz (above) for availability of hard copy **INFORMERS**

All our **Informer** Newsletters Are Now on Our website! **JCNYGS.com**

**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**



**PALATINE ROOTS**  
The 1710 German Settlement in New York  
As experienced by Johann Peter Wagner  
By Nancy Wagoner Dixon  
**\$40.00 includes Postage**  
Checks made out to **JCNYGS**



(Continued From Page 22)

**BATES, MATTICE**

I am researching William P. **BATES** who was born about 1807. He lived in Jefferson County and married Amelia **MATTICE** from Canada. He also lived and died in Albion, New York 1880. I am looking for his mother and father. Children's names include Patricia, Vison, Van Rensselaer, Dorisha, Amanda, Wellington, Cindora and Ettie.

*Paul Waligorski*  
[walters364@roadrunner.com](mailto:walters364@roadrunner.com)

**DAUGHEN, BESAW**

John I. **DAUGHEN** was my 2nd cousin 1x removed who died on 1 January 1970. He lived in Theresa, New York. The records also indicate that his wife Jennie Marie **BESAW DAUGHEN** and child Arthur **DAUGHEN** died shortly after on 15 January 1970. Were there any obituaries or newspaper articles about the cause of death for this family. I could find nothing on newspapers.com or in a search for accident reports that might be available on the internet.

*Francis Bates*  
[batesf@hotmail.com](mailto:batesf@hotmail.com)

## A Hymn for Everyone

The Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns  
The Weatherman's Hymn..There Shall Be Showers of Blessings  
The Contractor's Hymn.....How Firm a Foundation  
The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy  
The Politician's Hymn.....Standing on the Promises  
The IRS Agent's Hymn.....I Surrender All  
The Gossip's Hymn.....It Is No Secret  
The Electrician's Hymn.....Send The Light  
The Shopper's Hymn.....In the Sweet By and By  
The Realtor's Hymn....I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop  
The Massage Therapist's Hymn.....He Touched Me  
The Pilot's Hymn.....I'll Fly Away  
The Paramedic's Hymn.....Revive Us Again  
The Judge's Hymn.....Almost Persuaded  
The Psychiatrist's Hymn.....Just A Little Talk With Jesus  
The Waiter's Hymn.....Fill My Cup, Lord  
The Baker's Hymn.....When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder  
The Shoe Repairer's Hymn.....It Is Well With My Soul  
The Geologist's Hymn.....Rock of Ages  
The Librarian's Hymn.....Whispering Hope  
The Mail Carrier's Hymn.....Deliverance Will Come  
The Nurse's Hymn.....Rescue the Perishing  
The Telephone Operator's Hymn.....Jesus on the Mainline  
The Fisherman's Hymn.....Shall We Gather at the River?

## INFORMER

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

WATERTOWN, NY  
PERMIT NO. 112

Or Current Resident

## 2023 PROGRAMS

### JCNYGS will not hold meetings in January or February!

**March 11, 2023: 1:00 PM** at the 1000 Islands Museum in Clayton. Clayton Historian Tom LaClair will present a program on the Museum's collection of genealogy materials and services. The ground floor of the Museum houses an extensive research library. "The library, under the guidance of Sharon Bourquin, includes documents, clippings, scrapbooks, photos, maps, books and printed local histories. It is a valuable resource for students, professionals, historians, genealogy researchers and scholars. Thanks to a recent donation we now have access to ancestry.com. Stop in, checkout our research library and start work on your family tree. Volunteers will be there to help you out with your research."

"Please review your address label for the status of your dues. We have a large number of members past due. If you wish to renew, and your dues expired July 2022 or earlier, please mail a check for \$18.00 individuals or \$20.00 family to JCNYGS, P.O. Box 6453, Watertown, New York 13601. Please advise us of any contact information changes: i.e., e-mail, phone or address updates or membership questions to Kevin Subra at [membership@jcnygs.com](mailto:membership@jcnygs.com)."

**Happy holidays Happy holidays Happy holidays**



### **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Greg Plantz took this picture at his house for our JCNYGS December party. From the left are Tom and Janine LaClair, Tom and Judy Wood, Marilyn Davis, Tammy Plantz, Tracy Robertson, Larry Corbett, Paul Beers, Kevin Leeson and Jerry Davis. They also collected some gifts for 'Toys for Tots'**



# INFORMER

Volume 30, Issue 2

Annual Dues \$18 Individual \$20 Family

April 2023



See Page 8

LOCAL  
REMINISCENCES

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## INFORMER APRIL 2023

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

**President:** Kevin Leeson, 26094 Limestone Road, Redwood, NY 13679,  
[kleesonmedia17@gmail.com](mailto:kleesonmedia17@gmail.com), 315-286-3930

**Vice President:** Paul Beers, 17481 US Route 11, Lot 10E, Watertown,  
 New York 13601, [gldnbrew@gmail.com](mailto:gldnbrew@gmail.com), 315-771-1359

**Recording Secretary:** **Seeking A Volunteer**

**Treasurer:** Greg Plantz, 21787 Reed Road, Watertown, NY 13601,  
[tplantz1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:tplantz1@twcny.rr.com), 315-788-5324

**Membership Clerk:** Kevin Subra, [membership@jcnygs.com](mailto:membership@jcnygs.com)

**The Informer Committee:** Thomas LaClair (Chairman), [tomlaclair624@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlaclair624@yahoo.com);

Brenda Becker, [bmartinobecker@gmail.com](mailto:bmartinobecker@gmail.com);

Paul Beers, [gldnbrew@gmail.com](mailto:gldnbrew@gmail.com);

Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, [dioncalhoun@yahoo.com](mailto:dioncalhoun@yahoo.com);

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Kevin Leeson, [kleesonmedia17@gmail.com](mailto:kleesonmedia17@gmail.com);

Tony McKeon, [tenosce.tony@gmail.com](mailto:tenosce.tony@gmail.com);

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Jefferson County  
 NY Genealogical Society

The *Informer* is published quarterly in the months of January, April, July, and October. The *Informer* can be "searched" on our internet site using Optical Character Recognition technology. Open an *Informer*, save it to your desktop and type a name or word in the search box. If the name or word is in that *Informer*, the cursor should go to that page.



## 100th BIRTHDAY

A photo of Gus Rogers in March 2019

We join with many others in wishing A. E. "Gus" Rogers a very happy birthday as he celebrated his 100th birthday on February 19th, 2023.

Gus, also known as Bud by his family, was born and raised on the west side of Syracuse. He enlisted in the Marine Corps where he served in WWII.

In the 80s and 90s Gus painstakingly inventoried many Jefferson County cemeteries and published cemetery booklets still used today.

Notably, in 1994, he served as the very first Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society president.





## Jean Wilcox Hibben



**Jean returns to Jefferson County for the JCNYS May Program! The meeting will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on May 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.**



**Jean Wilcox Hibben; PhD, MA (DBA Circlemending)**, has been involved in family research for over 40 years. A former Board Certified genealogist, she is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the National Genealogical Society (NGS), and is or has been on the following Boards: the California State Genealogical Alliance (now disbanded), the Genealogical Speakers Guild, the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors (now disbanded), the Assoc. of Professional Genealogists (past APG board member and past president of the So. Calif. Chapter), the Southern California Genealogical Society (for 2023), and the Corona Genealogical Society (president and webmaster). She writes the "Ask Aunty Jeff" column for the Jefferson County, NY, Genealogical Society *Informer* and maintains her own website with information about her presentations, CDs, articles, projects, etc.: <https://circlemending.org>.

Jean is associated with the Corona California Family History Center (former director, current, though informal, staff trainer); she was the lead researcher for the 2013 Season of the PBS television program *Genealogy Roadshow* and did research for *Follow Your Past*, appearing on Travel Channel in 2016. A native of the Chicago suburbs and retired Southern California college speech professor, she holds a master's degree in speech communication and doctorate in folklore. Jean is a national speaker known for her entertaining, as well as informative, presentations, and is a frequent writer for various genealogy publications.

A former square dance caller, Jean has been playing guitar for over 55 years, learning a variety of other folk instruments along the way. She sees a connection between family history and music because, in learning about our forebears, we try to piece together the various elements of our ancestors' lives in an effort to create a complete (or as complete as possible) picture of who they were in their homes, families,

occupations, religions, and activities. Their musical interests/involvement should be considered part of this whole picture, or circle, of their lives and that is the primary focus of much of Jean's writings and programs.

Jean's philosophy is that "who we are is a compilation of our experiences and associations as well as our biological connections. When we understand our ancestors we can better understand ourselves. By doing this, we can complete our personal family circles." This connects to her mission statement: "My goal is to assist others in their efforts to connect generations (past to present), completing the family circle."

Jean will present the program:

### ***Means, Motive, & Opportunity: The Sad Saga of George Richards***

This case study of a man whose choices served to confuse his descendants is reconstructed in this lecture. He was there, then gone, then back – see how a variety of records unlocked his real story. From England to the US, George's life was filled with conundrums and poor choices. See how to locate original records (not all online), separate fact from fiction, and assess evidence for accuracy.

We were saddened by the passing of Nancy "Nan" Dixon earlier this year. After her passing, Nan's son William graciously donated 16 of Nan's "Palatine Roots" books. These books are sold through JCNYS for \$40.00 and once they are gone, sales will likely discontinue.

Noted on FamilySearch Catalog website: *Palatine roots: The 1710 German Settlement in New York as Experienced by Johann Peter Wagner*. Johann Peter Wagner was born in 1687. He married Maria Margaretha Laux in 1708 and emigrated from Dachsenhausen, Germany to America in 1709. "What Johann Peter went through, with but a few variations,

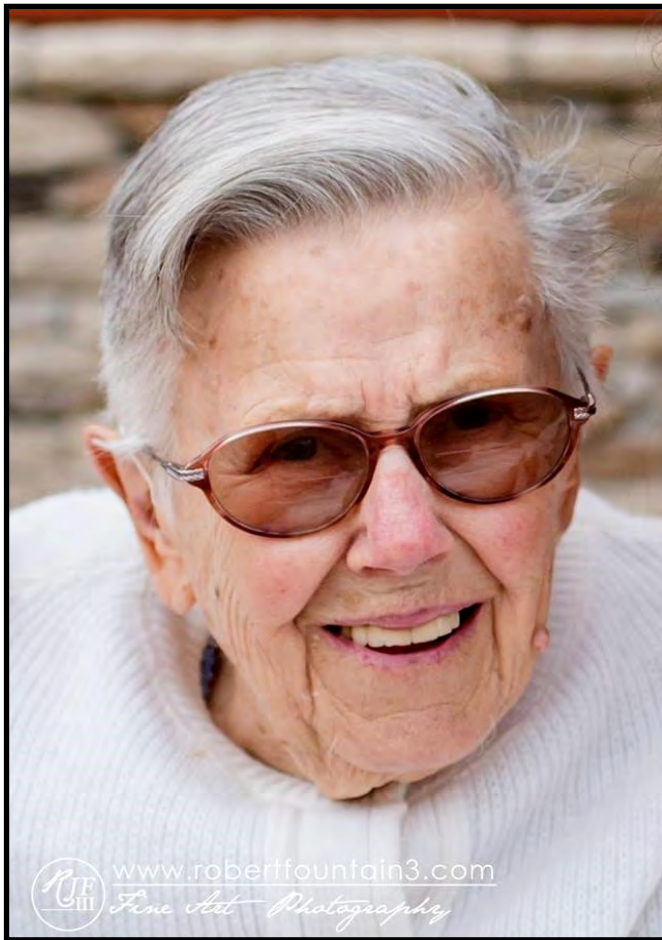
was what happened to his compatriots in the other 846 families who arrived in New York in 1710."

In this Mar 2023 photo is JCNYS President Kevin Leeson (left) and Treasurer Greg Plantz (right). Each are holding a copy of the book. *Palatine Roots* is advertised for sale on the inside back cover of the *Informer*.





## Remembering “Nan”



Nancy (Nan) Elizabeth Dixon, 93, passed away at home in Clayton, NY on February 4, 2023, after a full and adventurous life. Her son William was by her side. She was born at home in Detroit, Michigan on October 14, 1929, to Florence Estelle (Dixon) Wagoner and Evard Wagoner. When she was five, the family lost their house during the Great Depression and her parents along with her brothers Evard and Robert, moved to an old family farmstead in Alexandria Bay, NY, perched above the St. Lawrence River. She enjoyed boating and fishing on the river, and exploring the nearby marshes.

For her grade school years, she made the daily walk to Swan Hollow School one room schoolhouse, and in 1947 she graduated salutatorian from Alexandria Bay High School. She earned money by selling strawberries, cleaning fish for tourists and trapping muskrats, and in the fall of 1947, took the train to attend the University at Albany. Her parents electrified the farmstead that fall and when she returned home for Christmas break, she found to her delight that their first purchase was a set of electric Christmas tree lights.

Nan graduated with a BA in English and a teacher certification in high school English in 1951, then continued on to earn her Master of Library Science in 1952. Her first librarian job was at Bellevue Elementary School. She also worked summers as a librarian at T. I. Park, by boat every day from her farm to Wellesley Island.

She met her husband, William Collins Dixon III (Bill), over a family tombstone. When they started courting, he visited her at the farm only if her geese, Washington, Jefferson, and Alexander were confined so they wouldn't chase him. Nan and Bill married on September 10, 1955 at the Dutch Reformed Church in Alexandria Bay, and moved to Plattsburgh, NY. They built a house there and had two children, Felicitie and William. In 1961 they moved to the NY Capital District and in 1962 purchased a home in Malta Ridge, NY. There, they had two more children, Mary and Rachel.

Nan spent as much time as she could outside at Malta Ridge working in her wholesale produce garden acres, selling her produce at her own farmstand, and delivering fresh produce to local businesses. She took long daily walks with her dog, always a sheltie, and stayed active through her 93rd year. An avid family historian and genealogist, she always found time for primary research. After 30 years of work, in 1994 she published *Palatine Roots: The 1710 German Settlement in New York As Experienced by Johann Peter Wagner*, which was well-received and went through numerous printings. The book also launched her onto a lecture circuit of Palatine History. She wrote several smaller books which were never published.

When her husband Bill retired, they moved back north to Clayton to live on the farm where Bill had been raised. Nan had a zest for travel and, in the last few decades of her life, explored Santorini, Greece, walked through the highlands of Scotland, visited the pink sand beaches of Bermuda, ziplined in Costa Rica, and saw volcanoes in Hawaii. However, she always loved returning to the peaceful farm affectionately known as Linden Ledge, tending to her garden, and battling the pesky porcupine living under the porch. When grandchildren visited, she always had warm chocolate chip cookies waiting for them, and would never refuse a game of Boggle.

Nan and Bill, both passionate about history, joined the Jefferson County Historical Society. Nan published an award-winning genealogy website for Jefferson County history as part of the national GenWeb project, which was recognized several years in a row as the paragon of GenWeb sites.

She loved animals, and she and Bill donated to Alleycat Allies, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Thompson Park Zoo in Watertown, NY. She enjoyed feeding wild birds, attracting a wide variety, and participating in the annual Cornell Lab of Ornithology

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued From Page 4)

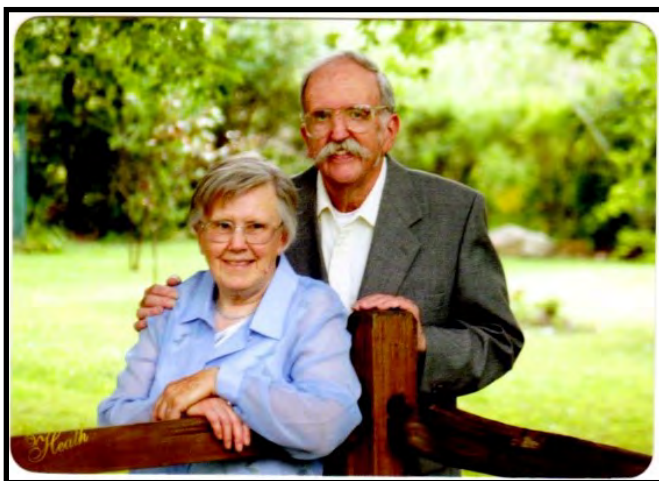
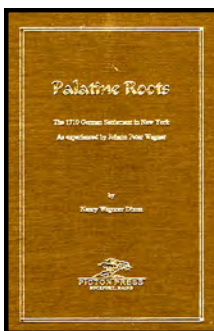
Backyard Bird Count. Cats were one of Nan's favorite animals, and she always had one or more since childhood.

Nan is predeceased by her beloved husband Bill, and her brothers Evard and Robert. She is survived by her four children: Felicitie Bell (Andrew) of Ellicott City, MD, William of Clayton, Mary Evans (John) of Malta Ridge, NY, and Rachel Phillips of Savannah GA; her seven grandchildren: Anne Bell of Columbia MD, Johanna Weiss (Fred) of Boynton Beach, FL, Morgan Bell (Liz) of Windsor Mills, MD, Sarah Evans-Price (Colin) of Allentown, PA, and Byron, Peter, and Zuzu Evans of Malta Ridge, NY; and her four great-grandchildren: Emma, Olive, Harrison, and John-Britt. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Hospice of Jefferson County, 1398 Gotham St, Watertown, NY 13601, or to Alleycat Allies by going to [alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org) and clicking on the "donate" button.

Editor's note: Nan's funeral service was held at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc., Clayton, NY on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 11 am. A graveside service will be held at Depauville Cemetery in the spring. The date is to be determined. Online condolences to her family may be posted at [www.cummingsfuneralservice.com](http://www.cummingsfuneralservice.com).

Editors note: We would like to remind our readers that in January 2015 *Informer*, pages 8 & 9, we featured Nan in our "JCNYS Spotlight" that was also followed by Nan's pedigree chart on page 10.

Nan's book, *Palatine Roots*, is still available. The information is in the *Informer's* "Materials For Sale" on each issue's page 23.



**2005 On their 50th Anniversary**

## Forgotten Post Offices

XXX – Pillar Point Post Office

By Ernest G. Cook in 1934

Directly north from Sackets Harbor by water about one and one-half miles across Black River bay, is located the site of a bustling hamlet on Pillar Point. Pillar Point once boasted a ship yard. It was surrounded by rich farming lands and the thrifty farmers made the place a port to reach by ferry from Sackets Harbor. The section once boasted a sawmill. Samuel F. Hooker built one years ago.

Among the first families to located on Pillar Point were Horatio Sprague, Eleazar Ball, Peter Ingalls, Soloman Ingalls, Elephet Peck, Isaac Luther, F. Daniel Ackerman, Jere Carpenter, Jesse Stone, George Rounds, James Douglas, Henry Adams, Samuel Reed, Luther Reed. Henry Ward, also the Burligames, the Folsams and Shermans. But back before there was the estate of Nicholas Olive, consisting of 4,050 acres known as the Olive tract. The executors of the estate conveyed this to Bartholomew Hounsfield, Thomas Ludlow and Samuel F. Hooker. Hooker's part consisted of 1,459 acres of land. He had excellent land and it was he who caused the sawmill to be erected. The place boasted an excellent fishing industry. About 65 years ago several thousand barrels of fish were sold out of this place each year.

Asa Wilcox was the builder of one of the larger ships constructed at Pillar Point. This ship was named the Congress and had a tonnage of 140 tons. Other ships were built, but in time this industry was lost. Pillar Point was named because waters of the lake wore away the softer portions of the stone ledges and left what seemed to be pillars standing. With ship building and fishing, the place had a store or two. There was also a hotel. The Baptist people formed a society on 22 Sep 1838 with about 30 members. This society did not continue for long. The Methodist organized on 9 Jan 1836 and elected John D. Ingerson, Isaac Luther, Lyman Ackerman, Smith Luther, and Stephen P. Bracket as trustees. This society erected a church, also a parsonage. At one time, this society had a membership of nearly 200. With the decline in business the church membership fell off and now the place is no longer listed in the Conference records of the Black River district.

Of course such a thriving village had a post office. At one time W. Ward was listed as postmaster. At about that time A. B. Knowlton was the carpenter there, J. Stone and N. Stone lived nearby as did J. Carpenter and K. Skersey. H. A. Knowlton lived next to the church while the Denisons lived not far from the parsonage. The hotel was almost across from the parsonage and the school house a little farther down the street. J. Carpenter, A. Otis and L. Reed lived just beyond the school house. When the fishing and boat industry went, the place declined.



## The Grand Army of the Republic And It's Influence on the Evolution of Memorial Day

Written by JCNYS *Informer* Committee Member  
and Curator National, N.S.U.S.D. of 1812  
Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati

Following the Civil War, General John Alexander Logan was instrumental in the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). He served as the G.A.R.'s second elected national commander (*General Stephen Hurlburt was the first commander in chief of the G.A.R.*).

The G.A.R. was founded in 1866 in Decatur, Illinois. It grew to include hundreds of "posts" across the North and West. At its height, the G.A.R. had nearly half a million members. [The G.A.R.](#) was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army (U.S. Army), Union Navy (U.S. Navy), and the Marines who served in the American Civil War.

### G.A.R. INFLUENCED MEMORIAL DAY

General John Alexander Logan (1826-1886), a former Union general and commander-in-chief of the G.A.R. at the time was instrumental in establishing Memorial Day, formerly called Decoration Day.

General Logan established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. **On 3 March 1868, Logan issued General Order No. 11, which called for a national day of remembrance for Civil War dead.** This order served as the basis for what became the national holiday of Memorial Day.

### HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, WASHINGTON, D.C. MAY 5, 1868 General Order No. 11

"The 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in the defense of their country during the late Rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose, among other things, 'of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late Rebellion.' What can aid more to assure this result than be cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the

revelle of freedom to a race in chains, and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.



If other eyes grow dull and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they save from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us, a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude – the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan."

More information on General Logan can be found at this website link: <https://armyhistory.org/general-john-a-logan-memorial-day-founder/>.

The final Encampment of the G.A.R. was held in Indianapolis, Indiana (1949).

The G.A.R. dissolved in 1956 at the death of its last member, Albert Woolson, age 109 years.

### Sources -

Documents of the Senate of the State of New York, Volume 13, Page 221 (1869-'70)

G.A.R. Records: <https://www.suvcw.org/garrecords/garposts/ny.pdf>

General Logan, Memorial Day Founder: <https://armyhistory.org/general-john-a-logan-memorial-day-founder/>.

Records of Member of the Grand Army of the Republic

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War <https://suvcw.org/>

The Evolution of Memorial Day <https://www.neh.gov/divisions/preservation/featured-project/the-evolution-memorial-day>

Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand\\_Army\\_of\\_the\\_Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Army_of_the_Republic)





## FROM PAST to PRESENT

Our *Informer* newsletter heading from its  
Vol. 1 #1 beginning to our present Vol. 30  
Issue #2



### JEFFERSON COUNTY FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

First seen August 1994 Vol. 1 Issue 1

*Jefferson County NY Genealogical*



First seen May 1997 Vol. 4 "Extra Edition"

Jefferson County Genealogical Society

## INFORMER

First seen January 1999 Vol. 6 Issue 1

Jefferson County Genealogical Society

## INFORMER

First seen January 2002 Vol. 9 Issue 1

JEFFERSON COUNTY NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## INFORMER

First seen July 2014 Vol. 21 Issue 3

JEFFERSON COUNTY NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



First seen January 2019 Vol. 26 Issue 1

JEFFERSON COUNTY NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



First seen January 2020 Vol. 27 Issue 1 & Today!

## Limerick Cemetery

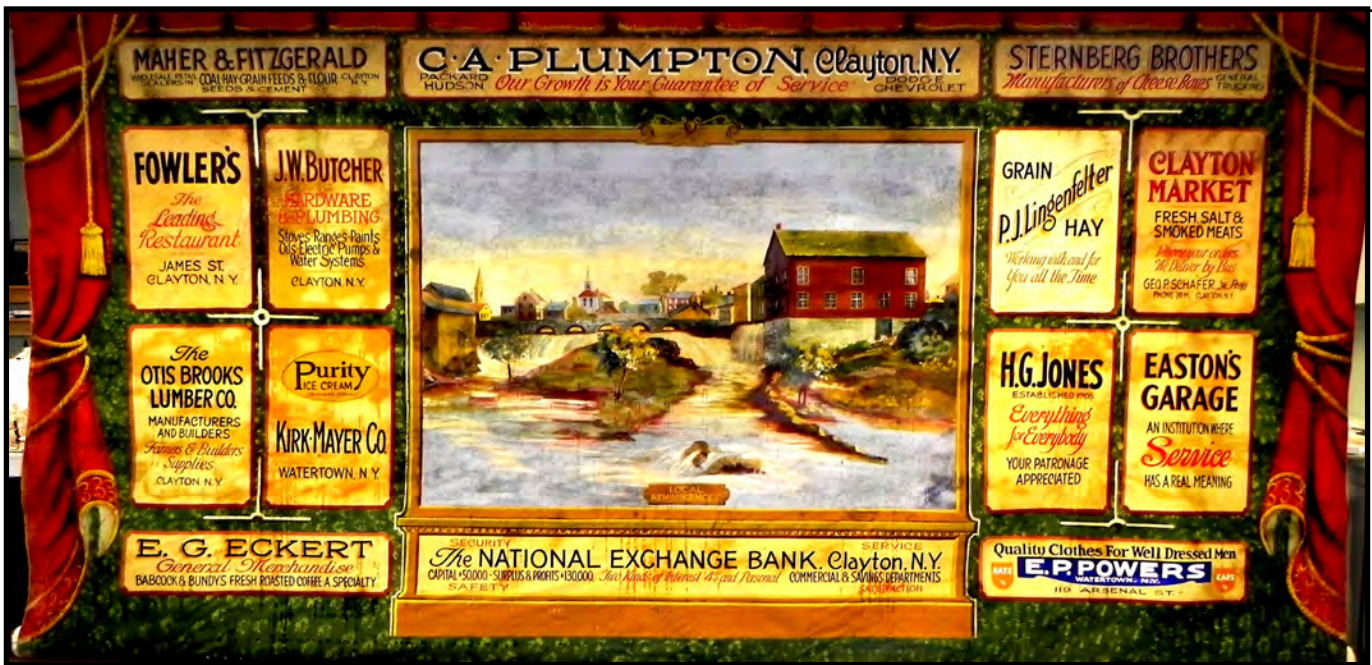
Jefferson County Cemetery Inscriptions  
Compiled By Mrs. Charles P. Gruman  
Indexed By  
Genealogy and Local History Department  
Syracuse Public Library 1960

Transcribed by JCNYS *Informer* Committee  
Member: Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati  
Source: <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/442345-jefferson-county-cemetery-inscriptions?viewer=1&offset=1#page=1&viewer=picture&o=&n=0&q=> (page 47)

### Limerick Cemetery, Limerick, Town of Brownville, Jefferson Co., N.Y.

Copied by Mrs. Chas. P. Gruman, Chairman  
Genealogical Records  
Comfort Tyler Chapter D.A.R.

- Botton, Alvira wife of Robert – d Feb. 23, 1832 ae 33 yrs.  
Casler, Sally wife of Nicholas Casler – d May 19, 1840 ae 38 yrs  
Curtis, (Justine?) – d May 30, 1833 ae 53 yrs.  
Curtis, Dorcas wife of Chester Curtis – d May 14, 1845 ae 44 yrs.  
Edwards, Hiram – d Aug. 12, 1837 ae 55 yrs 1 mo 2 da.  
Easterly, Mary Ann wife of J.A.S.N. Easterly – d May 10, 1850 ae 24 yrs.  
Edwards, Hiram – d Jan. 6, 1863 ae 81 yrs 6 mo.  
Gillingham, Mary wife of Joseph Gillingham – d Apr. 1, 1845 ae 40 yrs  
Gillingham, son Joseph – d Apr. 10, 1854 ae 23 yrs.  
Gilson, William son of Jerry & Mary Gilson – d Nov. 16, 1848 ae 32 yrs.  
Phelps, Lucinda wife of Jonathan E. Phelps & dau of Samuel & Jane Harlow – d Oct. 14, 1843 ae 18 yrs. 10 mo. 2 da.  
Phelps, Polly wife of J. E. Phelps – d Sept. 12, 1857 ae 38 yrs.  
Rogers, John – d Apr. 9, 1892 ae 104 yrs. At rest.  
Rogers, Mary wife of John – d Stone broken so could not read.  
Shelly, Samuel – d Aug. 16, 1838 in his 73<sup>rd</sup> year. Rev. War. marker  
Varnam, James – d Jan. 29, 1863 ae 44 yrs.  
Varnam, James – d Oct. 20, 1849 ae 79 yrs.  
Wheeler, Adaline dau of Leonard & Emma Wheeler – d Sept. 18, 1837 ae 21 years.



## Depauville's Historic Hand Painted Stage Curtain

By Clayton Historian Thomas LaClair  
As Published in the *Thousand Island Sun*  
February 22, 2023

Clayton—In January 2020, I visited the Depauville Free Library and was shown the historic painted stage curtain on display downstairs. I was immediately captivated by the early depiction of Depauville as well as the many advertisers listed.

Although this was not my first Jefferson County hand painted stage curtain, I had seen (I viewed one in Redwood and one in Chaumont), it was the first Town of Clayton curtain brought to my attention. I snapped a dozen or more photos of the front and reverse, gathered information on file at the library, inquired the internet, and set about writing an article. Somewhere along the line, my attention was distracted to other historical topics and the article fell to the wayside.

Now three years later, I recently read a social media post that Assemblyman Scott Gray visited the Depauville Free Library in early February. A photo captured the Assemblyman's visit standing in front of the historic curtain. Seeing the photo, I was reminded to follow through with the article that I had set out to write three years ago.

When standing in front of the stage curtain, one can examine the painted scene of Depauville, as well as the business advertisements, which are prominent and visually appealing. The brilliant color remains spectacular after several decades, if not a century later. The painted landscape depicts the Chaumont River, with water flowing from under the six arched

stone bridge into various waterfalls, the background dotted with churches and their tall steeples, a vibrant red building with a dozen windows, and other buildings. An island in the river supports two trees and large rocks in the stream. The bottom of the painting has a label stating: "Local Reminiscences." Many of these commercial buildings no longer stand, making the painting all that more inviting in that it seizes a bygone era. Upon exiting the library, the viewer will undoubtedly want to find the exact spot where the photographer stood when capturing the original scene.

Per information online from Curtains Without Borders site, "a hundred years ago, grand drapes and painted backdrops were the primary artistic feature in the cultural life of most every village and town in northern New England. The scenery was permanently installed, available as set backdrops for traveling troupes, speakers, locally produced variety shows and various societies and clubs."

Furthermore, "Most historic scenery was created using water-soluble paint on cotton muslin attached to a wooden or metal downspout roller. The scenes feature country views—often with a European flavor—streets or interiors, but several are also advertising venues that document relationships between local business sponsors and the arts. Many advertising curtains are in grange halls, since that is how Grangers paid for them, while town hall curtains were paid for by donation or public money."

There are 14 advertisers on the Depauville drape. They include C. A. Plumpton Automobile Sales (Clayton); Maher & Fitzgerald Wholesale Dealers in Coal, Hay, Grain, Feeds & Flour, Seeds & Cement (Clayton); Sternberg Brothers, Cheese Box

(Continued on Page 9)





Close up of painted depiction of Depauville on the stage curtain.

(Continued From Page 8)

Manufacturer, and General Trucking (Depauville); Fowler's, The Leading Restaurant (Clayton); J. W. Butcher Hardware & Plumbing, Stoves, Ranges, Paints, Oils, Electric Pumps & Water Systems (Clayton); The Otis Brooks Lumber Company, Manufacturers and Builders (Clayton); Kirk-Mayer Company, selling Purity Ice Cream (Watertown); E. G. Eckert, General Merchandise, Babcock & Bundy's Fresh Roasted Coffee; The National Exchange Bank, Security-Service-Safety-Satisfaction, Commercial & Savings Department, Capital of \$50,000, Surplus & Profits \$130,000, 4% interest (Clayton); P. J. Lingenfelter Hay & Grain, Working with and for You all the Time; George P. Schafer Jr.'s Clayton Market, Fresh Salt & Smoked Meats, Phone your orders, We Deliver by Bus, Phone 26M (Clayton); H. G. Jones General Merchandise, Everything for Everybody, Your Patronage Appreciated, Established 1906; Easton's Garage, An Institution Where Service Has A Real Meaning; and lastly E. P. Powers, Quality Clothes For Well Dressed Men, including Hats & Caps, (Watertown).

Although the curtain is not dated, on the front right lower corner is the notation: "Photo by S. A. Devendorf." Interestingly, the reverse has handwritten names and graffiti, including "The Family Next Door Depauville Grange;" "F.A.B 4-12-29;" "Carlton Bates, Nov. 3, 1931;" "William Huchzermier;" "Red" Neale, 1931;" "Nancy Blake, '44;" "Maryliz Hunt, 1944;" "Rosemarie Fournier, 1944;" and Dexter High School Class of 48 play "No Where Fast." These handwritten notes do not formally date the curtain's creation date, but rather date when authors (possibly actors and actresses) wrote on the reverse. Additional notes and names can be found with closer inspection.

Visit the Depauville Free Library to speak to Depauville Free Library Director Kate Wehrle or a



Close up of some of the fourteen advertisers on the Depauville historic stage curtain.

library staff member about seeing the curtain. It is certainly worth your visit and time. Additionally, ask about acquiring the book on Depauville's earliest history. The 200-page book was originally published in 1976 comes with a later revision. "The Changing Years—A History of Depauville" will undoubtedly help you better understand the historic and beautiful scenes on this irreplaceable stage curtain.

For information on Clayton history, visit the Thousand Islands Museum at 312 James Street. The museum is open Tuesday's and Wednesday's, 10:00 – 4:00. The historian is available on Wednesday walk-ins or by appointment by writing [historian@townofclayton.com](mailto:historian@townofclayton.com).

**"The inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant, asthmatic pig under his arm."  
- Alfred Hitchcock**

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**"I know only two tunes: one of them is 'Yankee Doodle', and the other isn't."  
- Ulysses S. Grant**



# My Blodgett-Ladd-Loadwick Family of Jefferson County

By JCNYS Member Stephen Rutigliano  
[srutig1250@yahoo.com](mailto:srutig1250@yahoo.com)

There are so many paths to take when you start to study your family history. Just a few years ago I headed down the path of my military history and discovered many patriot veterans from our Revolutionary War to Vietnam, and Gulf wars.

My next path led me to some of the first settlers in the Houndsfield and Watertown areas of Jefferson County. Like many of us that search out a grandfather or grandmother, some of our ancestors are very difficult to find.

One such direct decedent was Laura Sophia Ladd Loadwick born in 1831 wife of Isaiah Loadwick. My mom was born a Loadwick. After searching the Ladd name, trying to find a family connection, I discovered that Ladd was a real common name all over the country. I then started searching old newspapers of Jefferson Co, and after reading many, many newspapers clippings from the 1800's, I found an obituary of a Martha Ladd from Field Settlement (Houndsfield). She was survived by a sister Mrs. Isaac Loadwick and a brother, B. E. Ladd from Virginia, and that eventually led me to Martha's mom, Laura Blodgett Ladd. I was now on the path to my descendent Ladd-Blodgett family. Laura Sophia Loadwick's mom was born Laura Blodgett in 1803. Laura's dad was Aaron Blodgett, one of the first settlers in the Houndsfield-Field Settlement area. Many of the first settlers came from the New England area.

(From Lena Ackerman's Emmeline Inglehart history)  
Aaron Blodgett, born in 1773 came here in the fall of 1801, along with Samuel Bates from Brimfield, MA. At this time there were no settlements north of Whitestown region known today as Utica. Aaron Blodgett, 27 was an Indian trader and an adventurer ready to take on the forest covered land making his way through trails that had been established. He built a log home that first winter in the North on approximately 160 acres. He and Samuel Bates returned to Brimfield in the spring and the following fall returned with their wives to settle in their new land in Houndsfield, 6 miles from Watertown. Aaron married Esther Perkins also from Brimfield, MA in the summer of 1800. They lived a long life together.

Aaron died in 1845, Esther in 1847 and are both buried in the Sulphur Springs Cemetery.

Laura Ladd Blodgett b.1803 was married to Eliphalet Ladd b.1801 the son of Elisa Ladd b.1766 in Coventry, Conn. and in 1812 Elisa Ladd and his wife Susan Dorman established their homestead in Hounsfield also. Elisha died in 1860, Susan in 1849 and both are buried in Sulphur Springs Cemetery.

It is very satisfying to find your roots and to search the forgotten cemeteries in Jefferson County to find its first settlers.



Esther



Elisha



Susan



Aaron

To understand and reconnect with our stories, the stories of the ancestors, is to build our identities. When one walks up to a tombstone or a memorial site, there arises a feeling of brevity and wonder. You might run a finger across the etched birth and death dates. You know that between birth and death, there is a lifetime of stories. An understanding arises that they have been where you are now – and someday you will be where they now rest. When you stand before the grave of a loved one, you understand that their story intermingles with yours. Their influence has contributed to your own story.  
- Frank Delaney

## JOHN LANSING BARBER

Compiled Under The Supervision of the Late R. A. Oakes, Custodian of the Jefferson County Historical Society 1905

"Knowledge of kindred and the genealogies of the ancient families deserveth the highest praise. Herein consisteth a part of the knowledge of a man's own self. It is a great spur to virtue to look back on the worth of our line."—Lord Bacon.

John Lansing Barber, a retired farmer, residing in Carthage, is descended from an old Massachusetts family. His grandfather, Samuel Barber, came from Massachusetts to New York in an early day, and died while still a young man. Chauncey, son of Samuel Barber, was born in Herkimer county, and never knew his mother. By the early death of his father he was left to the care of a stepmother, who reared him kindly. When a young man he came to Carthage, and here married Melinda, daughter of Colonel Samuel Mack, who built the first dam in Black River. Colonel Mack died here more than sixty years ago.

Soon after his marriage Chauncey Barber went to Boonville, where he was employed as a carpenter and builder. He also acquired the trade of mason, and was enabled to do most of the work of building houses. For a time he was engaged in lumbering at Caulkinsville, and also did some farming. Like most Yankees he could take hold of many kinds of work successfully, and he was always industrious in whatever he undertook.

In the spring of 1856 he came to Carthage, and was engaged several years in building houses here. On account of an injury he was compelled to abandon the use of tools, and spent two or three years in a vineyard in New Jersey whence he returned to Carthage, locating on the west side of the river, where he was engaged for a time in gardening. Subsequently he purchased a farm on Pleasant street, in the town of LeRay, and continued to till it until his death, in the fall of 1895, at the age of eighty-three years. He was a Spiritualist, and always adhered to the Democratic party in politics. Three of his four sons are now living. Edwin, the first, died at the age of twenty-four years. Henry H. is a resident of West Carthage.

John L. is the third son. June resides on the paternal farm in LeRay. The mother died on Pleasant street a number of years before her husband. John L. Barber was born December 1, 1840. in Brownville. He was fifteen years of age when his parents came to live in Carthage, and he received his education in the district schools at Boonville and here. He was accustomed to aiding his father in building operations, and became familiar with the use of carpenter's tools. He began to learn the trade of blacksmith, but his preceptor enlisted and went to the war, and he then turned his attention to farming. He purchased a farm in the town of Champion, which he operated with such industry and success that he was enabled to buy another in the

same town. After a time he sold one of these and bought a farm in Denmark, Lewis County, which he tilled ten years. After a life of severe toil, in which his health became somewhat broken, he finally disposed of his rural property and moved to the village of Carthage in 1889. Here he built several tenant houses, and gives his time to the care of his property, which is located in the vicinity of James and West streets, his own residence being on the latter, near Mechanic street. Mr. Barber is a stockholder in the Carthage National Bank and the local Building and Loan Association. His mother was reared a Methodist in religious faith, and he adheres to her teachings. Always a Democrat in politics, he has been nominated frequently for an official position, but has uniformly declined to be a candidate. Mr. Barber was married July 4, 1865. to Miss Lucy Ann Phillips, a native of Champion, born September 7, 1843, daughter of Josiah and Lorean (Crook) Phillips. Her brother Orrin, who resides in Champion, was born May 29, 1842. Her parents were of early families in that town. Mrs. Barber's first known ancestor was Ebenezer Phillips, whose will, dated November 20, 1745 and proved August 21, 1746, mentions his wife Mary. By this it is known that his death occurred at Southboro, Worcester county, Massachusetts, between those dates.

2. His son, Ebenezer, resided in Southboro. He married Hannah Lyscom, born April 29, 1722, being the second child of Israel Lyscom (or Liscomb).

3. Ebenezer, son of Ebenezer Phillips (2), was born February 23, 1752, in Southboro, and was a very powerful man, being six feet and two inches in height and well proportioned. He served in the Revolutionary army and participated in the battle of Bunker Hill. He married Rachel Gale, and they had twelve children.

4. Silas, son of Ebenezer (3), was born October 27, 1775, in Grafton, Massachusetts, and settled in Rutland, Jefferson county, New York, in the spring of 1805. He was an influential citizen of the town, in whose reclamation from the wilderness and organization he bore an active part, served eighteen years as collector, and was a leading member of the Methodist church. He died August 29, 1850. His wife, Lucretia Scott, of Ward, Massachusetts, died May 1, 1852, aged seventy-six years. They had eleven children, of whom Josiah was the seventh.

5. Josiah Phillips was born September 11, 1810, in Rutland, and lived most of his life in Champion, dying in Denmark in 1885. He was married February 20, 1839, to Lorean Crook, who was born January 11, 1821, and died November 6, 1898, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Barber, in Carthage. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips were members of the Methodist church, in which he was trustee, class leader and steward. In early life he was a Democrat, but became a Republican before the civil war.

## ASK AUNTY JEFF



By JCNYS Member and Genealogist  
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**Q)** Help! I just inherited everything my mother had about her family. I have photos, letters, documents . . . I have no idea how to handle it all. Mother just died so I can't ask her and I am overwhelmed; honestly, I just want to throw it all away. But I am the family historian and something keeps telling me I need to keep everything. I simply don't have the room!

**A)** I cannot tell you how many genealogists face this precise dilemma in their lives (and sometimes more than once). Often, the "family historian" also ends up with such items from other relatives if their descendants, knowing you care, are feeling at an impasse. If they send the same types of materials on to someone else – that family representative – they get to unburden themselves of the physical "stuff" while still maintaining a sense of keeping family materials sacred. Nonetheless, space can be a major factor in the "what to keep/what to toss/what to give away" dilemma. And this is going to vary from one person to the next, for various reasons. So let me address some options in this column and the next two issues of *The Informer*. For some concrete suggestions (as opposed to the hypothetical ones), I am going to share my own solutions from personal experience.

I inherited from not one or two, but from five households, each with at least one "line" of materials (husband and wife having collected from the respective side of the family). My parents were only children, but their parents were not, yet an amazing number of adult couples did not have children, or any who lived to adulthood; or those that did really didn't care about the material side of family history. So, what was left behind? Neither parent's family understood the purpose of a wastebasket so, rather than throw out everything, it was all retained. I am one of two children born to my parents, and my brother has no interest in the numerous files, boxes, envelopes, etc. Neither of us has biological children and my step-kids really aren't interested in the accumulation of things with which I would otherwise endow offspring.

My parents lived interesting and involved lives and so collected items that related to unique events and regions such that the interest would be more historical than personal. These were the easiest to pass along – to museums, libraries, archives, and historical societies. In some cases (like my dad's original notes from John von Neumann lectures at Princeton in 1938, copies of which sell for \$1500), repositories were more than happy to receive and issue letters of donation as receipt for our tax purposes (Princeton personnel were clamoring for that prize). Sermon notes for noted Chicago pastor, Paul Rader, found a new home at the Billy Graham archives;

photos of the Harley family (of motorcycle fame) ended up in the Wisconsin Historical Society archives; original radiograms from an archaeological expedition to Isle Royale, in Lake Superior, were re-housed in the Isle Royale museum; etc. Some of the items had been viewed many times and/or stored in poor containers, causing them to be partly disintegrated in some cases, and I carefully selected locations where the archivists could do (and wanted to do) restoration. In all cases, I contacted the potential repositories in advance (I did not want the items to end up in their trash cans nor did I relish the idea of them never being seen or used in any way).

Yes, some of the items could have been sold on eBay (and some remaining ones may still), but some things are priceless and should become the property of a community or a facility where they can have a worthwhile purpose. There is something very satisfying in knowing my family has possibly contributed to scholarship or other worthwhile venture of future generations.

But most folks don't have such unusual documents and materials. What to do with the WWII ration stamp books? Yes, eBay is an answer, but if any stamps are used, then the item is essentially useless. But a WWII museum might be interested. And those samplers made by our grandmothers when they were children – who would want them? A lot depends on what is depicted and whether there is historical interest (either to a family or community). Some historical societies and libraries like to have period items for seasonal, or permanent, displays. Check around . . . OK, maybe the items won't interest anyone in your community, but take them along on trips and visit places where there may be an interest. I will never forget the vacations we took, after my grandaunt, a hairdresser and wigmaker, had passed away, leaving a very large collection of curling irons for my mother to take care of. Stopping at museums and antique shops, she gave items to the former and sold some to the latter (keeping track of every penny received – yes, I still have that tally book . . . does anyone have an interest in it?). Of course, she kept about a half dozen curling irons and combs to pass down to me and I gave a couple to my own hairdresser when she told me of her collection of period hair dressing equipment. I'm hanging onto the rest . . . who knows, maybe they will be useful if our electricity issues get much worse! Besides, I can always hang them on a wall as a decorative touch to my bathroom.

OK, that's just fine, for items that hold a more global interest, but what about all those papers, photos (so many not identified), and ephemera (the things most people throw away, but others, like my family, hang onto – theater programs, ribbons from the county fair, recipes, and on, and on)? I think I have some helpful ideas for those, too. And some might still find a welcome in historical societies and libraries. I'll share a few of those options next time. Meanwhile, identify the likely repositories for those one-of-a-kind things that may feel to you or your relatives like white elephants or albatrosses, but others would "give their eye teeth" (as my mom would say) to have or even just look at.



## Marietta Holley



By Librarian Ashley Pickett  
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The Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library was presented to the City of Watertown on November 10th, 1904. The majority of the funds to build the library were donated by an extremely generous soul who lived in Watertown – Emma Flower Taylor. Without her philanthropic spirit, the library as we know it would not exist today; her stamp, passion for knowledge, and love of the arts is all over the original portion of the library. Emma's dedication to the arts is evident everywhere you look, even after the passing of nearly 120 years. One such room on the main floor, originally named the Colonial conversation room, is now dedicated to an early feminist and humorist, Marietta Holley. The 'Marietta Holley Room' features a portrait of the author herself (pictured here) created by artist Theodore Pine.

Marietta Holley was born on July 16, 1836 in Jefferson County as the youngest of six children. Her family lived on a farm just south of the Adams village on a road leading to Pierrepont Manor. Marietta received a basic education at a local school and, with the exception of French and music, later continued her studies at home.

Blessed with the "ability to describe whatever she saw," she published her first book in 1873 at the age of 37. The title was *My Opinions and Betsy Babbett's* and

she listed her name as 'Josiah Allen's Wife.' Between 1873 and 1914, Marietta's writing career included over 25 books, one of which was a collection of poems, two were dramas, and one was a long poem. Writing under the penname allowed her the freedom to use satire to comment on US society, politics, and the treatment of women in general. In fact many of her writings share the theme of women's rights. Because her characters at the time were "some of the most amusing and mirth-provoking...that [had] ever been given to the public," people were quick to laugh at the bumbling absurdities of Josiah Allen's Wife. But she wielded the quaint and homely expressions her characters used like a weapon, using the quick laughter of her readers to draw them in and remind them of the oppressions she aimed to relieve.

A successful author Marietta Holley passed on March 1st, 1926 in Jefferson County. Copies of her works still live on the shelves of the New York State reference section of the Flower Library, connecting her back to the building whose roots tie into a passion for the arts once again.

Source: Haddock, J. A. (1894). *The Growth of a Century: As Illustrated in the History of Jefferson County, New York from 1793 to 1894*. Sherman & Co.

### From Dear Abby

*Watertown Daily Times*, January 5, 2023.

Discovery of family secret troubles surviving relative

Dear Abby, While doing some genealogy research during the pandemic, I came across my maternal grandfather's death certificate. I knew he had died at a fairly young age during the Depression. But I was shocked to learn that he had committed suicide by carbon monoxide poisoning in his car in the garage of their home. His little restaurant was not doing well, and money was scarce. I imagine he was desperate and depressed.

My mother had anxiety issues, which may have been the result of her father's suicide or a genetic issue. Should I share this information with my adult children? Could it be helpful to them in any way? My mother didn't share this with me. I have a close relationship with my children, and this secret is troubling me.

Withholding Information

Your mother didn't share the details of her father's death because, back then, suicide was considered a source of shame. The stress of keeping her father's suicide a secret may have contributed to her anxiety. Fortunately, attitudes are more enlightened today, and the subject of suicide can be discussed.

Because this secret is troubling you, you should definitely bring it out in the open. It might be helpful to your children to know that depression may run in the family.

## “The Mother of Methodism for the town of Alexandria”

Article by Ernest Cook, Theresa Town Historian.  
Reprinted from the Feb 28, 1946 issue of the  
*Thousand Island Sun*.

“The Mother of Methodism for the town of Alexandria” is the statement often made when referring to the Methodist society at Plessis, for from this single stem sprang other churches and societies that have become strong and useful within the township known as Alexandria.

Two factors probably combined to make Plessis the early seat of the Methodist activities. One would be the early settlement there under the supervision of Mr. LeRay, land owner, who built a gristmill there in 1817 and later the land office was established there, which would make it a headquarters for the settlers of the town. The second reason would be the fact that the early Methodist circuit riders, in going from Ogdensburg to Carthage, often passed through the early settlement at Plessis and made it a preaching place. From such fertile seed sprang the society known as the Methodist.

Probably as early as 1820 the circuit riders were visiting Plessis, for they are known to have been holding services in Theresa even before this date. As Plessis would be on their trips north, services must have been held there as early as the 1820's. At first the services were held in homes and, as time went on, additions to the Class grew, for these early ministers organized a Class to begin with, and by the 1830's a society was in active work. Next came the building of the old Union church, built of stone, and in this endeavor, there were three societies uniting. They were the Methodist Episcopal, the Methodist Protestant and the Presbyterian. The Methodist Episcopal church sponsored a very active Sunday school and this, in turn, brought additions to the church membership.

Records show that in 1849 Rev Josiah Zimmerman was the stationed pastor at Plessis and he was followed in 1850 by Rev Thomas Brown, and 1851 by the Rev C.H. Austin. These men formed circuits of which Plessis was the center. They opened preaching places at Alexandria Center, Alexandria Bay, Bailey Settlement, Barnes Settlement, Hart school house, Redwood, and the Lake section. The ministers had a busy life and the work grew rapidly.

In the year 1857 the sentiment had grown so strongly for a church building that a meeting was called on Nov 28, 1857, to elect three trustees to take the matter in charge.

The society elected William Peck for three years, Morgan Augsbury for two years; and George

Augsbury for one year. They ordered a building committee appointed and George Augsbury, Daniel Roof and Amos Shumway were elected. A canvas was made for funds and the sum of \$1,922 was subscribed, and, what is most remarkable every pledge made was paid in full.

During this period the society was holding services in a hall, a building now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Reynolds. Only at that time the hall was across the street from its present location.

In the year 1860 the new church was dedicated and located on a lot next to the parsonage, built at a little earlier date. Rev Allen C Castle was the pastor when the church was dedicated. When Rev William M Holbrook came to the church in the spring in 1872, he led the people in the work of painting the church and parsonage and the making of some repairs. This was at an expense of \$450. The next year the church sheds were built, costing \$250, a sum that seems unusually small today for so much timber and lumber.

In the spring of 1888 the Rev Chamberlayne Phelps was appointed as pastor of the Plessis church and he started a movement for the entire remodeling of the church. In 1890 the work started and consisted of installing new pews, buying cushions for the pews, new carpets for the floor, installing new stained-glass windows, frescoing of the interior, changing of the choir loft, painting the church and putting on a new roof. This was at a cost of \$2,381.70. This made the church modern and very attractive and the people were proud of their work.

In 1923 Rev William H Bradley started a movement to place steel ceilings and side walls on the auditorium, and a steel roof on the building, as well as other repairs.

It is interesting to note that Alexandria Bay became a separate preaching charge from Plessis in April 1876 having built their new church at that time. The Redwood Class was organized and incorporated into a society on July 19, 1889. The new church at Redwood was made a separate charge in 1923, but is now connected with Alexandria Bay as an out-appointment for the minister there.

But the fact remains that the Plessis Methodist church has been in truth the Mother of Methodism for the town of Alexandria.

Additionally, the late Daniel Boyer submitted an article called: 'Weather Vane 75 Years On Plessis Spire, Gift Of Shurtleff.' Plessis, May 21, 1937. At the top of the tall, white spire of the Methodist church in this village is a weather-vane, which has told its story of the shifting breezes for over three-quarters of a century. This arrow, about four feet in length, a designed worked along its side, was a gift to the church from

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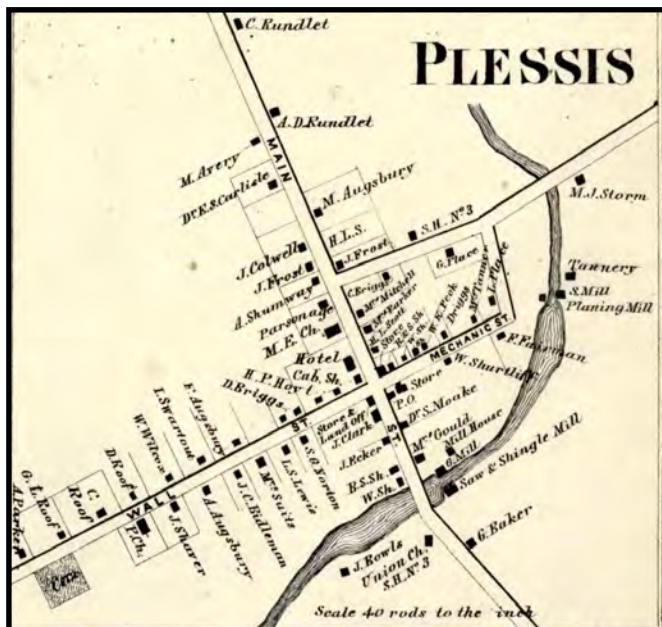




1909 picture-postcard of the Plessis Methodist church, which later became Plessis Town Hall and then after that a garage. The building was razed in the 1960s era.

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Willard Shurtleff. His home was long in a house about opposite to the present Grange Hall in Wall street. Near the center gate of the Plessis cemetery, and near to the fence, is a substantial monument upon which is cut the name of Willard Shurtleff, died April 13, 1871, aged 73 years. That was eleven years after the church was dedicated. Amanda, wife of Willard Shurtleff, died August 13, 1846, in her 47th year. On the adjoining stone there is cut the name of Polly, wife of James Shurtleff, died Oct. 2, 1814, aged 38 years. This shows that Brookside cemetery in Plessis was started as a burial ground at a very early date. Records show that the church, when built in 1859, and dedicated in 1860, was built on land donated to the society by Samuel Adams.



1864 Map of Plessis

## Finding the right Thomas Holmes

By May Lyn Wake  
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For over a hundred years it has been believed that the Thomas Holmes (#1) of Woodstock, Connecticut and Chesterfield, Cheshire County, New Hampshire; and the Thomas Holmes (#2) of Wethersfield, Connecticut were the same person. The question of Thomas Holmes (#1) death in Wethersfield, CT has puzzled me for years. The distance between Chesterfield, NH and Wethersfield, CT was too great. And, there was too much data that linked him to New Hampshire. I hope the following will prove that they are two different people; and set the record straight.

### Thomas Holmes of Woodstock, CT and Chesterfield, NH

Susan Holmes, his youngest daughter, relocated to Jefferson County. She married Daniel Smith in 1802; and they had fourteen children. Many descendants still live in Jefferson County today.

The DAR application of Clarissa Bucklin Smith, a great-granddaughter of Susan Holmes Smith, and a great, great, great granddaughter of Thomas Holmes (#1) provides his American Revolutionary record, his marriage record, and references to his parents, and grandparents; along with the bibliographical sources but it inaccurately provides the death date and place of Homes (#2). The Biography of Jay Hungerford Smith, another descendant of Susan and Daniel Smith, inaccurately relates the American Revolutionary record of Holmes (#2), but it does provide other fairly accurate biographical family data. The History of Chesterfield, Cheshire County, NH provides a brief biography for Holmes (#1). He is reportedly on the 1790 census for Chesterfield, NH, but the image is very poor; I found his father-in-law and a few of his brother-in-law's, but not him definitively. I found Tamar Holmes, his widow, on the 1800 and 1810 Federal census for Chesterfield, Cheshire County, NH.

According to the *History of Woodstock, CT*, there was a Thomas Holmes, of Woodstock, CT that fought in the American Revolution, which correlates with the DAR application. Perley Harris and Abner Harris, Jr, brothers of Tamar Harris Holmes are also mentioned and they also relocate to New Hampshire. Thomas and Abner Harris enlisted for six months in the 7th Company formed in Woodstock.

The marriage data on the application concurs with the marriage record found in the Vital Records of Woodstock, CT. They married on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 1771, she was the daughter of Abner and Deborah Harris, of Woodstock, CT. Her parents relocate to Chesterfield, Cheshire County, NH sometime between 1777 and 1779.

We do not know his death date nor his final resting place. Some believe he died after 1787 when he last appeared on the tax records, but if we do indeed find

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him on the 1790 Federal census, then we can narrow his death timeline to sometime between 1790 and 1798, because Tamar is listed as being "paid upon receipt" in the probate papers of her father and not Thomas in 1798.

### Thomas Holmes of Wethersfield, CT

There is enough documentation for Thomas Holmes of Wethersfield alone to clearly say he is not the Thomas Holmes of Chesterfield, NH. We have his military records, marriage record, census records, cemetery records, pension records, and his will. The Federal census records between 1790 and 1840 show he remained in Wethersfield, CT.

He married Hannah Goodrich on May 3, 1786 in Wethersfield-Rocky Hill, Hartford County, CT. I can see how a person could mis-read a hand-written record and confuse T A M A R for H A N N A H. It would be so easy to confuse a "T" for an "H" an "M" for two "N's" and an "R" for an "H".

Thomas Holmes of Wethersfield, CT applied for a pension in 1818 and he was approved eight dollars a month. His service was in Captain Riley's company and a foot soldier and his length of service was six years from 1777-1783. His rank was that of sergeant. The pension affidavit stated he had lived in Wethersfield for the past 60 years.

His will was written on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 1840. It was probated in Hartford County Connecticut in 1841. His surviving daughter, Mary inherited everything. He is buried in the Rocky Hill Cemetery in Wethersfield, Conn. He died 20 Sept 1841 at the age of 85. His wife, Hannah, died 26 Oct 1838 at the age of 73; and their two daughters: Mary (4 Mar 1842 at the age of 45) and Jerusha (10 Aug 1823 at the age of 23) are also buried there.

In summary, both men clearly fought in the American Revolution. Both men were from Connecticut, but the records of each support the fact that they are indeed two different people. Thomas Holmes of Woodstock, CT and Chesterfield, NH served for only six months. He married Tamar Harris in Woodstock, CT in 1771. They had numerous children; some in Connecticut and some in New Hampshire. His death and burial place are not known today. The other Thomas Holmes served for six years and was a Sergeant. He collected a pension. He lived in Wethersfield, CT for over sixty years and married Hannah Goodrich; had two daughters, who had no children.

Separating these two men will create a few hiccups with six DAR records and the biography of Jay Hungerford Smith. All the DAR applications are from descendants of Thomas and Tamar Harris Holmes. I hope they can forgive a cousin who wanted to set the record straight. I hope I have proved my case and that history can be made right.

Post Script:

May Lyn Wake is a descendant of Thomas and Tamar Harris Holmes. She is a DAR member and will soon be submitting a supplemental application for Thomas Holmes #1. She can be reached at mlwake14@gmail.com.

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## McCOMBS FAMILY HISTORY

By Dale Samuelson  
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30 August 2001

Note: This McComb's research story was submitted by Dale Samuelson and submitted to Nancy "Nan" Dixon back in 2001. Nan and her husband were the coordinators of the Jefferson County New York GenWeb. This article is now on GenWeb, as of 2017, however we wished to highlight it in this quarter's *Informer*. Dale's email address may or may not be active. We sent an email in early 2023 and to date have received no response. The address may or may not be current.

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This story is based on proven facts, a bit or supposition, a bit of hope, and maybe circumstantial evidence enough to make it essentially true.

We believe John A. McCombs was born to Joseph and Elizabeth (Batts) McCombs in Salem, Essex Co., Massachusetts, a few years before 1790. Joseph and Elizabeth were married on 15 December 1782 and if John was the first born of the four children shown in the 1790 US census, he could have been born as early as 1783, or a couple of years later. A Salem North Church report appears to show his birth in 1785.

Unfortunately, by 1790 Joseph had died and the head of household became Elizabeth "McCoombs", widow, the only McCombs listed in the 1790 US Census for MA. She is shown with one male member under 16 (John at 5) and three females.

Interestingly, there are no McCombs (McCoombs, etc) shown in the 1800 US Census for Massachusetts that we have been able to locate.

There are two good reasons why we believe this is the correct John A. McCombs:

Three of his known children in their 1880 US Census reports (a daughter in Knox Co. IL (Rhoda Ann) and the others, a son in Marshall Co. KS (Albert), and a second son in Milton, IA, (John)) all said their father was born in MA and

John A. McCombs is the only young male McCombs in the 1790 census reported in MA.

There remains the possibility that John A. McCombs' wife and her mother were members of the Badger family because in 1850, one of the McCombs descendants (Albert McCombs and family in Knox Co., IL) had an 83 year old man, Edmund Badger, living with them who could be the father of John A. McCombs' wife. There were Badgers living in Salem, MA area in the 1790/1810 period, and there were Badgers living in Morgan Co., IL, before 1850.

A major problem confronting this information is that the daughter, Rhoda Ann, and sons Albert and John, mentioned above, relative to the reports for the 1800 US Census, indicated their mother had been born in New York State. There is no statement, of course, as to where in NY she was born, but considerable weight must be given to the fact that these siblings were physically apart when they separately provided the information that their father was born in MA and their mother in NY. A second daughter, Mary Jane, in the 1880 US Census, did not answer the question on parents' birthplaces, as though she did not recall.

We are left with the mystery of how in that time period John A. McCombs and his wife could have got together. Where were they married? We assume it was in NY since this is where she was born and where they lived for so many years.

John A. McCombs was living in Champion, NY Jefferson County before 1820, by the fact he is in that town's 1820 US Census. How and exactly when he moved with his family to Champion, NY before 1820 is not known yet. He is shown as John A. McCombs, and/or John A. McCoombs, in the church membership records of the Baptist Church of Champion during sometime in the period 1819 – 1824.

In the 1820 census for Champion Township, John A. McCombs, then about 35, and his wife, are shown as having two boys under 10, (Albert, 6, and young John, 5) and at least one boy over 16. He has two unknown girls under 10 and one between 10 and 16. Also in the household is another man between 26 and 45. Three members of the nine were engaged in agriculture.

By the time of the 1825 NY State census, there were 5 males in the family including John A., and 5 females including John's wife, and Rhoda Ann and Mary Jane. There appears to have been at least 6 or 7 siblings plus a couple others. Maybe one or more children of John A. and his wife had left home. It is evident that in addition to Mary Jane (1821), Rhoda Ann (1822), young John (1815) and Albert James (1816), there are brothers and/or sisters of whom we have no specific knowledge, yet their descendants exist and maybe someday will show up.

My great-grandmother, Rhoda Ann, was born in Champion on 25 March 1822, according to our family history.

We have added "young" John McCombs to the list of John A. McCombs' children because in 1850 "young" John was 35 years old and living and working right in the Philadelphia township area where the rest of his family had been living. His birth in 1815 would fit him right in with the young boys in the family, in addition to the fact his father was born in MA and his mother in NY. (Continued on Page 18)

(Continued From Page 17)

In 1840 John A. McCombs is shown in the US Census as living with or next door to his daughter, Rhoda Ann, and her new husband, John Kenney, and then, at this point, John A. McCombs disappeared! Whether he died at this point (he would have been only 55), or went west with an unknown member of his brood, we have been unable to determine.

Albert McCombs married Phoebe Jane Mosher 8 January 1838 (possibly 1839).

Mary Jane McCombs married Rueben Mosher (brother of Phoebe Jane) in 1838.

Rhoda Ann McCombs and John Kenney were married 14 June 1840.

John McCombs (the younger) probably married his wife Dorothy about 1839. This is based on their oldest child, Nelson, being 10 in the US 1850 Philadelphia, Jefferson Co census. In addition they had 3 other children, Samuel O., 8; Martin A., 5; Emily, 3.

Both John Kenney and Albert McCombs are known to have worked in the Sterling iron ore mines in Philadelphia township with the Kenney family having their home in Sterlingville, now part of Fort Drum. John hauled ore from the mine to the smelter in Sterlingville, a distance of about four miles.

Mary Jane (McCombs) and Rueben Mosher then moved to Knox Co., Illinois, in 1845. We have found no specific background information on what led to this move, but others in either/or the McCombs or Mosher families probably had them moving West.

Albert and Phoebe McCombs left for Illinois in 1848 where they are recorded in the US 1850 Census for Knox Co. Edmund Badger, 83, is recorded living in the home.

Rhoda Ann and John Kenney sold their Sterlingville property in 1855 and followed Albert and Phoebe, and Rueben and Mary Jane, to Knox Co.

There is a family story about the birth of Rhoda Ann's first child born in Illinois, after seven children born in Jefferson Co. New York. It was recorded by Margaret Evans who wrote the genealogy of the Kenney family.

Margaret reported her father, Elisha Mortimer Kenney, telling the story of his own birth just after Rhoda Ann and John Kenney arrived by wagon in Knox Co. in the dead of winter. He was born to Rhoda Ann on 26 December 1855 with the temperature near 40 degrees below zero. He said his Aunt Jane (Mary Jane) had to hold him over the cookstove wrapped in a blanket to keep him warm!

Young John McCombs remained with his family working in the Philadelphia area at the time of the US 1850 census, and in 1860 moved to the Alexandria

Township in the western section of Jefferson Co., all yet together except that Samuel was living and doing farm labor for another family. Nelson C. had also left home, and a new child, Ann H., 8 years old, had been added to the family.

John Kenney became a successful farmer and he and Rhoda Ann remained in Knox Co the rest of their lives. John died 6 January 1900 in Oneida, Knox Co; Rhoda Ann passed away 28 October 1903. A large headstone marks their graves in Oneida Cemetery.

The Kenney's had 13 children, seven born in NY and six in Illinois. All 13 lived to maturity. One died in the Civil War. There were 55 children in the third generation. The last member of the 2nd generation, John Fowler Kenney II, died at Mineola, Iowa, 14 May 1945.

In 1856 Albert and Phoebe moved to Iowa where they lived in Muscatine Co. They lived in Iowa for 23 years. They are shown in the 1870 US Census in Cedar Co. Iowa. (The call # is M593 Roll 380). Albert is 56, Phoebe 53, and six children (John, Jane, Caleb, Emma, Francis, and Julia) are still living at home.

By 1879, the family had moved to Kansas except for possibly some of the mature children. Caleb, 17, in the 1870 US Census is shown working as a laborer for William Borland, who was born in Ireland. There is no indication in the Census for Lake Township, Muscatine Co. as to Mr. Borland's business and he is not identified as a farmer.

We also find it interesting that Albert and Phoebe left Knox Co. soon after John and Rhoda Ann arrived, after having lived there for eight years. That should be an interesting story itself.

Once in Kansas, Albert and Phoebe settled in Centralia, Nemaha Co. They had 10 children, five sons and five daughters, eight of whom survived their mother who died 9 February 1905. Albert had died 19 October 1892.

Mary Jane and Rueben Mosher lived in Knox Co. until about 1859 when they apparently moved directly to Nemaha Co. Kansas. They had nine children, five girls and four boys. In the Kansas State Census of 1885, Mary Jane is described as a widow, 63 years old. Rueben had died between the 1880 US Census, where he is shown as 72 years old, and 1885.

As a result of obtaining the complete 1880 US Census on CDs from the Latter Day Saints Church, we were able to locate John and Dorothy McCombs very quickly in Iowa. Along with them came a surprise! After carefully studying the CD and the Ancestry.com Images, the spelling seems to be Mc Cooms, (sic) much as it was back in MA. Of course

(Continued on Page 19)



(Continued From Page 18)

the enumerator was the transcriber, so we can't know what he heard. (My father who was probably born in Rhoda Ann McCombs Kenney's home in Knox Co. in 1883, always pronounced McCombs as if it had two long o's).

Both John, 65, & Dorothy, 68, are shown at the proper age for 1880, and John's father is indicated as having been born in MA while his mother is shown born in NY, just as indicated by his siblings Albert and Rhoda Ann in their 1880 census reports. Dorothy reported again that she had been born in Canada and both her parents were born in NY. John & Dorothy were living at Dwelling 71 in the Milton, Van Buren Co. IA US Census for 1880.

In Dwelling 72 next door to John & Dorothy are Charles, 34, & Ann Bartlett, 30, with their two young boys. Ann, by age, and the indication that she was born in NY, and that her father was born in NY, while her mother was born in Canada, makes it pretty evident she is the daughter of John & Dorothy.

And next door beyond, at Dwelling 73, is the family of Frank, 41 & Mary Badgley, 35, with their daughter Minnie. Frank was born in Michigan, but both of his parents were born in NY. Mary was born in NY but her father was born in MA, while her mother was born in NY. I note a few unique aspects of this family that suggests they should be included in the family, with little evidence. The name Badgley is very similar to badger but that maybe stretching things too far. This needs checking.

John and Dorothy's son, Samuel McCombs, was found in the 1880 US Census for Milan, Sullivan Co., Missouri (See Microfilm T9-738, Sullivan Co., Polk Township, p. 14, line 36). He was married to a Mary, 32, born in IA and they had 2 children, Anna, 4 and John, 1, as usual a first son named for his paternal grandfather. Samuel, a laborer, is shown as 39, born in NY, with father born in NY, and, most importantly, mother born in Canada!

Then to make the identification even more positive, I found on the next page, p. 15, of the same census, his older brother, now shown as Charles N. rather than Nelson C. He is married to Charlotta, 32, born in Canada, didn't know birthplace of her mother but father born in NY. They have one child, Charles N., 9. The facts for Charles N. Sr. show the proper age and again that he was born in NY, his father was born in NY, and his mother was born in Canada!

A check of the map shows that Sullivan Co., Missouri, is just across the southern border of Iowa, near van Buren Co., Iowa, so Samuel & Mary probably did not move far from her home in IA. No information so far on how Charlotta from Canada met Charles N. McCombs, who in growing up somehow had reversed his given names.

Now all we have to prove is that John A. McCombs went to Nevada Co (CA?) and at what age?! Any help and information provided will be greatly appreciated.

## Jefferson County, NY Pioneers

### JEFFERSON COUNTY, NEW YORK

#### PIONEER ANTOINE DESMORE FAMILY

By JCNYS Member Beverly Sterling-Affinati

1. ANTOINE<sup>1</sup> DESMORE came from France to Canada, where he remained until his death. Of his five children, Isaac was born in Canada, and came to Brownville in 1837. Only known child of ANTOINE DESMORE is: 2 ISAAC<sup>2</sup> DESMORE, b. 1810, Canada; d. 1877.

2. ISAAC<sup>2</sup> DESMORE, son of ANTOINE DESMORE, was born 1810 in Canada, and died 1877. He married MARTHA (---), daughter of CHARLES AMEL/AMELL/EMELL. She was born abt. 1803 in Trois Rivers, Canada. Children of ISAAC DESMORE and MARTHA (---) are: Note: these may not be all the children. These are only those confirmed by the researcher.

3 i FRANKLIN D<sup>3</sup> DESMORE, b. 1832; d. 1911, Dexter Cemetery, NY.

4 ii ISAAC DESMORE, b. 1835

5 iii MALEIN DESMORE, b. 1844.

6 iv HESTER DESMORE, b. 1847.

7 vi HELEN DESMORE, b. 23 Mar 1850, Dexter, NY; d. 03 Feb 1945, Dexter Cemetery, NY.

3. FRANKLIN D<sup>3</sup> DESMORE (ISAAC<sup>2</sup>, ANTOINE<sup>1</sup>) was born 1832, and died 1911. Child's Business Directory 1890: DESMORE, FRANKLIN D., (Dexter) 12, sailor, captain and owns schooner McClellan, and lot. FRANKLIN was buried in Dexter Cemetery. He married 12 Dec 1857 MARY FITZGERALD, daughter of MORRIS FITZGERALD. She was born 1840 in Brownville, Jefferson County, NY. Children of FRANKLIN DESMORE and MARY FITZGERALD are:

8 i. HENRIETTA "HATTIE" L.<sup>4</sup> DESMORE, b. 03 Oct 1868, Dexter, New York; d. 01 Aug 1966, Syracuse Nursing Home—as a patient for 4 years.

9 ii. ADDA DESMORE.

10 iii. ISSAC DESMORE, b. Mar 1860.

11 iv. KATE DESMORE, b. Abt. 1862; m. FRED WESTCOTT; b. Abt. 1863.

12 v. IDA DESMORE.

13 vi. FRANKLIN D. DESMORE, b. Abt. 1865.

14 vii. MARTHA DESMORE, m. UNK. WOODWORTH.

15 viii. JAY M. DESMORE, b. May 1874.

16 ix. JOHN WALLACE DESMORE, b. 22 Jan 17. ELIZA DESMORE.

## EXAMPES OF DOCUMENTATION FOR GENEALOGY

Genealogy is the science of studying family history. Perfect and/or imperfect documents, as almost all documents are, are not the holy grail of truth in genealogy. Documents must be combined with consistency and logic to arrive at the best approximations of genealogical truth. There are many kinds of documents that are used in genealogy. Such documents often have dates, names, places and events errors. Sometimes those "errors" are purposeful by the persons who provided the information for the documents.

Some of the types of useful documents can be found by researching:

- Personal recollections**
- Letters**
- Bibles**
- Birth, marriage and death certificates and records**
- Journals and diaries**
- Baby books**
- Yearbooks**
- Scrapbooks**
- Family histories**
- Wills, deeds, land grants, etc.**
- Citizenship papers, naturalization papers**
- Social Security records**
- Passports and applications**
- Tax records**
- Insurance papers and records**
- Hospital records**
- Employment records**
- Census records**
- Church records**
- Funeral home records**
- Cemetery records**
- Military records**
- Local histories**
- Court records**
- Land records**

Choosing Between Contradictory Documents:

Given that any two documents are often contradictory about one or more events, how does one decide which document to believe? Here is the most logical way to proceed: Compare the contradictory "facts" of the two documents with the "facts" as already recorded from many other documents and make logical consistency judgments about which document is more likely to be correct. Sometimes previous documents are judged to be more correct than the two new documents. If such a judgment appears impossible, list both facts as possible facts. This is an iterative process: as new documents are discovered, their consistency with all other relevant documents must be judged in deciding what the best approximation of the truth is. One must always be open to the possibility of a document being incorrect

about some of its "facts."

## RESEARCHING LOCAL JEFFERSON COUNTY FAMILIES

**Old Fulton New York Post Cards (free):** This site is not just about post cards. It is fully loaded with many newspapers from all over New York State; in fact, you can search over seemingly endless old New York State historical newspaper pages. <http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>

**Northern New York Historical Newspapers (free):** Northern New York Historical Newspapers are provided by the Northern New York Library Network to enhance access to the region's local history. The online collection currently consists of more than 11,776,000 pages from newspaper across all counties across the state. <http://news.nynln.net/>

**Watertown Daily Times:** Their online newspaper site allows one to search for current and limited past articles. You can search for articles from the Watertown Daily Times in three separate locations, depending on the year required. 1870 – 1922 available by subscription (or by microfilm at the Flower Memorial Library), 1988 to the present available with Flower Memorial Library card or by subscription if outside Jefferson County. Contact the Watertown Daily Times or Flower Memorial Library for genealogical based research questions.

**County and Town Clerk Offices:** Typically the first stop for gathering birth, marriage and death records and information. Unless directly related (spouse, child), the individual you are researching must have died 50 years ago to receive unofficial copies of documents (red stamp placed on document). No town or village is too small for checking to see what they have available. Expect each location to be a little different on their local policies toward searches.

**Watertown Deed and Land Record Offices (Watertown):** You can find when ancestors bought homes in the area. This is helpful to trace where ancestors lived and moved about.

**Flower Memorial Library Genealogical Research Room (Watertown):** The staff is trained to get you pointed in the right direction. They have several "family files" with newspaper clippings—mostly obituaries. This is a must stop when researching Jefferson County ancestors.

**Watertown Daily Times Newspaper Morgue (Watertown):** For many years the Watertown Daily Times had a staff saved pertinent family articles and placed them in "family files." This is a must stop when researching Jefferson, St Lawrence and some Oswego County ancestors.

(Continued on Page 21)

(Continued From Page 20)

**Jefferson County Historical Society (JCHS) (Watertown):** The JCHS has local history and photographs. A popular Watertown photographer passed away and his family donated his collection of photo negatives to the society. The society has inventoried the collection. Check the inventory on-line on the JCHS website.

**Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society (JCNYS) (Watertown):** The society has met for well over 25 years and has published quarterly multi-page newsletters (*Informer*) with histories and genealogies of local families. All *Informers* are online and are available with a membership subscription. Check them out and see if your ancestors have been discussed.

**Town Libraries and Historical Societies:** You will be likely amazed what some small town libraries have. Local families donate scrapbooks and town histories speak of early settlers, etc.

## ‘My Mind Is Blown’

Julia Roberts Learns She’s Not Really A ‘Roberts’  
After Taking DNA Test

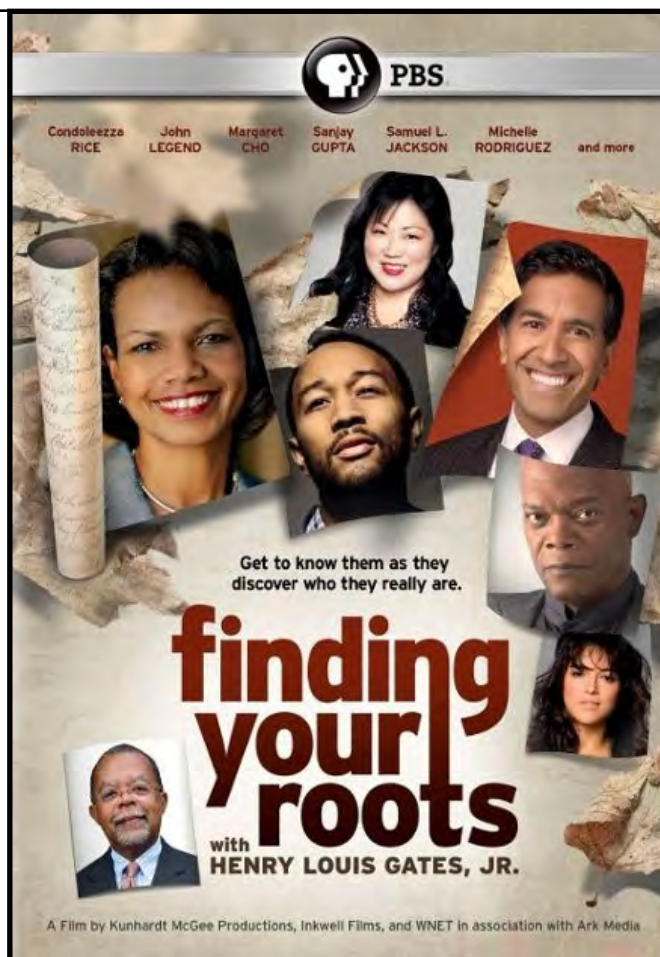
Oscar-winner Julia Roberts appeared on PBS’ ‘Finding Your Roots’ on January 11th & discovered a shocking truth about her family’s lineage.

By *Celebrity News* writer Sabrina Picou  
January 12, 2023

Beloved actress Julia Roberts, 55, discovered that she is not a Roberts after all during an appearance on PBS’ Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. on January 11th, 2023. Julia’s great-grandfather, John Pendleton Roberts, was the son of a woman named Rhoda Suttle, but beyond that, there was a “gap” in her family tree. When looking at Georgia’s 1880s Census, Henry asked Julia if she noticed anyone missing, to which she replied, “A dad?” Later, the TV host revealed to the Notting Hill star that she is actually the descendant of a man named, Henry McDonald Mitchell Jr., and not of Rhoda’s late husband, Willis R. Roberts. The latter died in 1864, over a decade before John was born in 1878, therefore making it “impossible” for Julia to be a biological descendant of Willis.

“Julia, Willis Roberts could not possibly be your great-great-grandfather... he was dead,” Henry said. After hearing the shocking breakdown of her family’s lineage, Julia replied, “Oh, wait — but am I not a Roberts?” The researchers searched Douglas County, GA for records of John’s father but they found “absolutely nothing.” Julia and one of her father’s [Walter Grady Roberts] first cousins agreed to do a DNA test and that led them to a “cluster” of matches to Henry Mitchell. “So we’re Mitchells?”, she asked, to which the host replied, “You’re Julia Mitchell.”

On the Web: <http://www.jcnys.com>



After Henry told the Golden Globe winner that she “is not a Roberts biologically,” Julia couldn’t help but be shocked. “Wow. Is my head on straight still? Am I facing you?,” she joked before adding, “Truly my mind is blown.” The data also revealed that Rhoda likely kept the identity of John’s dad a secret because Henry was actually married to a woman named, Sarah, at the time of John’s birth. They also interestingly lived “a few miles” apart making the story all the more believable. “It is fascinating, and on the other hand there’s part of me that when I’m calmer,” Julia continued... “you know can still wrap my arms around the idea that my family is my family.” Towards the end of the shocking episode, the blonde beauty expressed that she “prefers the name Roberts.”

As many already know, Julia is the aunt of Scream Queens star Emma Roberts, 31, who is the daughter of Julia’s brother and actor, Eric Roberts, 66. The mom-of-three also has two other siblings: actress Lisa Roberts Gillan, 58, and a late half-sister, Nancy Motes. Julia started her own family in 2004 when she gave birth to twins: Phinnaeus and Hazel Moder, 18. And just three years later, in 2007, Julia and her husband, Daniel Moder, 53, welcomed a second son, Henry Daniel Moder, 15.

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## Read Cemetery

Jefferson County Cemetery Inscriptions  
Compiled By  
Mrs. Charles P. Gruman  
Indexed By  
Genealogy and Local History Department  
Syracuse Public Library 1960

Transcribed by JCNYS Informer Committee  
Member: Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati

Source: <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/442345-jefferson-county-cemetery-inscriptions?>

viewer=1&offset=1#page=1&viewer=picture&o=&n=0&q= (page 57-58)

[Read Cemetery, Sherwin's Bay, Pillar Point, Town of Brownville,](#)

Jefferson Co., N.Y.

Copied by Mrs. Chas. P. Gruman, chairman  
Genealogical Records  
Comfort Tyler Chapter D.A.R.

Ackerman, Asa C. – d Mar. 26, 1865 ae 70 yrs.  
Wife Rhoda – d Feb. 29, 1872 ae 71 yrs 6 mo 6 da.  
Son William S. – drowned May 1, 1899 ae 19 yrs 4 mo. 14 da.  
Ackerman, Fanny Louisa wife of Azariah P. – d Nov. 2, 1865 ae 32 yrs  
Dau Fanny L. – d Mar. 29, 1866  
Ackerman, John – d Nov. 5, 1855 ae 66 yrs 2 mo 3 da. Broken stone – Post 188 G.A.R. marker.  
Ackerman, Mary Ann – wife of David W. – d. Nov. 12, 1864 ae. 51 yrs 1 mo 25 da. – broken stone.  
Ackerman, Robert – d May 29, 1823 in his 61<sup>st</sup> yr.  
Consort Roxel Ane – d Nov. 5, 1839 ae 60 yr.  
Ackerman, Seymour – d Jan. 2, 1840. Stone broken  
Baldwin, Jane – d Mar. 24, 1866 ae 32 yrs.  
Baldwin, Leonard – d Nov. 16, 1849 ae 55 yrs. 1812 marker  
Burlingame, Barbara wife of Asahel – d June 25, 1852 ae 75 yrs 9 mo.  
Burlingame, Milce – d Mar. 22, 1861 ae 29 yrs 4 mo 8 da.  
Burlingame, Urial – b 1796, d 1883.  
Wife Sally – b 1796, d 1859  
Cirtwell, Cornelia wife of Talmon – d Aug. 6, 1847 ae 40 yrs 9 mo.  
Douglass, Laura wife of Alexander – d Aug. 23, 1844 ae 45 yrs.  
Douglass, Laura S., dau of Alexander & Laura – d Nov. 8, 1864 ae 21 yrs.  
Douglass, Ozander son of Alexander & Laura. Stone broken.  
Drury, James – b 1832, d \_\_\_\_\_  
Wife Margaret, - b 1830, d 1878  
Wife Melissa – b 1841, d 1889  
Drury, Maria mother of James Drury – b 1804, d 1884.  
Farr, Arad – d Apr. 24, 1834 ae 63 yrs.

Federly, Daniel – d Feb. 23, 1854 ae 77 yrs.  
Wife Margaret – d June 5, 1853 ae 72 yrs.  
Garrison, Hannah – Consort of Horace Garrison – d Aug. 21, 1828 ae 22 yrs.  
Harris, Elisha – d Nov. 2, 1881 ae 84 yrs.  
Wife Polly – d Aug. 15, 1882 ae 84 yrs.  
Hazelwood, George – d May 22, 1869 ae 87 yrs.  
Johnson, Annis wife of David – d Dec. 5, 1849 ae 63 yrs.  
Kenyon, Sally wife of Benjamin – d July 3, 1837 ae 35 yrs.  
Dau Martha A. – d Mar. 1838 ae 11 mo.  
Rogers, Mrs. Mother of Sally Kenyon – d 1831.  
Mills, Lucinda wife of George Mills – d July 29, 1845 ae 56 yrs, 11 mo. 4 da.  
Read, Samuel – b Nov. 2, 1793, d Oct. 29, 1882  
Wife Sally – b in Townsend, Mass. Nov. 23, 1795, d Apr. 18, 1868.  
Reed, Stephen – d Sept. 20, 1892 ae 84 yrs.  
Wife Mary – d Mar. 23, 1892 ae 83 yrs.  
Rogers, George – d Mar. 19, 1841 ae 49 yrs. 5 mo 7 day.  
Sherwin, Azariah Proctor – b May 27, 1769, d May 18, 1831 ae 67 yrs.  
Wife Sarah Sherwin – b in town of Bilrocky, state of Mass., June 27, 1776, d Brownville, Feb. 26, 1815 ae 88 yrs 7 mo 5 da.  
Smedley, Sukey wife of Benjamin – d June 12, 1840 ae 55 yrs.  
Spencer, John – d Jan. 30, 1844 ae 31 yrs.  
Spencer, George – d Oct. 29, 1841 ae 27 yrs 6 mo 11 da.  
Spencer, David – d Mar. 27, 1869 ae 87 yrs 11 mo 11 da.  
Wife Jerusha – d May 28, 1860 ae 66 yrs 11 mo 11 da.  
Swart, Elias – d Feb. 1, 1815 ae 32 yrs.  
Watson, Marlin – d July 24, 1834 ae 39 yrs.  
Watson, Elizabeth – d Feb. 22, 1832 ae 62 yrs.  
Wescott, Susan – wife of Daniel Wescott – d Dec. 9, 1866 ae 80 yrs.  
Wescott, Daniel – d Nov. 3, 1832 ae 45 yrs.  
Williams, Smauel G. son of Martin & Susan – d at Washington D.C. Ae. 22 yrs 11 mo 15 da. Co. H. 10 Art. July 11, 1863 NYS Volunteers  
Williams, Morgan – d Oct. 19, 1894 ae 77 yrs 4 mo 19 da.  
Wife Calista – d May 29, 1893 ae 72 yrs 6 mo 24 da.  
Williams, Martin – d Sept. 7, 1881 ae 70 yrs 7 mo.  
Wife Susan – d Mar. 1, 1883 ae 73 yrs 8 mo.  
Williams, Samuel son of Martin & Susan d at Washington, D. C. July 11, 1863 ae 22 yrs. 11 mo. 15 da. Member of Co. H – 10<sup>th</sup> Art. NYSV.  
Williams, Polly sister of Martin – d Dec. 29, 1891 ae 83 yrs.

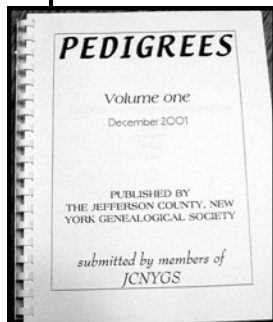
## JCNYGS MATERIALS FOR PURCHASE

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

### PEDIGREE BOOK I & PEDIGREE BOOK II

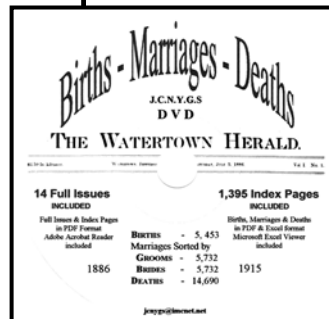
Each Book \$20.00 plus  
\$5.00 for postage

A collection of pedigrees  
Submitted by members  
of the JCNYGS  
with an every name index  
Checks made out to **JCNYGS**



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

**Editor's note: These  
DVD's are no longer  
available! We are  
considering adding  
the information to our  
Jefferson County  
GenWeb site. Stay  
tuned for updates!**



Check with Greg or Tammy Plantz (above) for  
availability of hard copy **INFORMERS**

All our *Informer* Newsletters Are Now on  
Our website! **JCNYGS.com**

### 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**

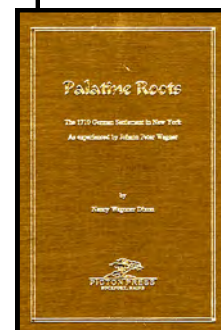


### PALATINE ROOTS

The 1710 German Settlement  
in New York

As experienced by  
Johann Peter Wagner  
By Nancy Wagoner Dixon

**\$40.00 includes  
Postage**  
Checks made out to  
**JCNYGS**



## Jefferson County Queries

Use the "ONLINE QUERY" on [www.jcnygs.com](http://www.jcnygs.com) or mail queries to:  
Jerry Davis, P. O. Box 275, Clayton, NY 13624;  
[maridavis@aol.com](mailto:maridavis@aol.com)  
Subject: **Jefferson County Informer Query**

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

### BOOMER, REED, WELD

William **BOOMER** married widow Elizabeth Wordell  
**REED**. William's parents were Mathew **BOOMER** and  
Jane **WELD**. Mathew **BOOMER** died in 1812. I am  
looking for Mathew **BOOMER**'s will, and any other  
documentation of this family. I believe William  
**BOOMER** was in the Hopkins Unit in the War of 1812.  
William's son Alfred was born in Jefferson County.  
William **BOOMER** was born out east and traveled with  
his family in 1790 by oxcart from Massachusetts. His  
father is documented in the state of Massachusetts  
genealogy and is a confirmed descendent of the  
Mayflower. I need to find an exact birth date and place  
for William.

Julie Frisk  
[Julie.frisk@gmail.com](mailto:Julie.frisk@gmail.com)

### MACKEY

I metal detect in the area and found an old 25 cent  
token that has **GEO MACKEY**, Sackets Harbor on it. I  
am trying to find out more about the token and what  
business and/or who **GEO (George ?) MACKEY** was.

Jeremy Stoddard  
[www.stoddardjn@gmail.com](mailto:www.stoddardjn@gmail.com)

### OLDS

I am a member of the Miriam Benedict DAR in LaPorte  
County, Indiana and I am doing some research on one  
of my patriot ancestors. I am trying to find out where  
he is buried. His name is John **OLDS**, born May 31,  
1757, in Ashford, CT., died 3/10/1825, Wilna,  
Jefferson County, NY (other sources say 1830). His  
wife's name was Lucretia. Seeking any records or  
information of John **OLDS** being buried in your area:  
**OLDS, JOHN**, Ancestor#: A086072, Service:  
Connecticut, Rank(s), Private, Birth: 5-31-1757,  
Ashford, Windham County, Connecticut, Death: 3-10-  
1825, Wilna, Jefferson County, New York, Pension  
Number: \*S43102, Service Source: \*S43102, Service  
Description: Captains Denny and Keyes, Colonels  
Ward and Ely. His son John was b. 6/25/1793, d.  
November 21, 1875, N. Wilna, Jefferson County, New  
York. He is buried in the Lake School Road Cemetery,  
Jefferson County, New York. I would appreciate any  
assistance that you can provide.

Jane Antonetti  
[Jlantonetti@gmail.com](mailto:Jlantonetti@gmail.com)

## INFORMER

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WATERTOWN, NY  
PERMIT NO. 112

Or Current Resident

## 2023 PROGRAMS

**Monday, April 10, 6:00PM.** Searching Online Newspapers: Old newspapers are a great source of biographical and historical information. As printed papers from cities around the world become digitized, indexed, and made available online for free or fee, it's important for researchers to know how to find online newspapers, master search engines, and work to fill in the blanks in your family tree. Presented by JCNYGS member Larry Corbett.

**Tuesday, May 2, 7:00PM** (doors open 6:30PM). This is a special JCNYGS event. See page 3 of this Informer for bio and lecture details. Presented by Professional Genealogist and JCNYGS member Jean Wilcox Hibben.

**Monday, June 12, 6:00PM.** Honoring Lieutenant Samuel Phippen, Revolutionary War veteran son of Samuel Phippen and Emme/Amy Averill, born 20 Jan 1743 in Massachusetts. He died 23 Jul 1820 in Watertown, first buried in the Trinity Church Cemetery, then moved to the Arsenal Street Cemetery Phippen Family plot. See the process of obtaining a replacement stone from the Federal Government. Presented by Anne Davis, JCNYGS member, and LeRay de Chaumont Chapter NSDAR.

---

**UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED,** JCNYGS lectures begin at 6:00 PM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building. Come 30 minutes early to get to know other members and share new finds and experiences.

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 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 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 onto Ives Street Road. Continue straight into the city. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chapel is the second building on the right, across from IHCS, as you enter the city limits.

From Watertown, it is on Ives Street, across from IHCS. Take Washington Street to Barben Avenue. Turn on to Barben and take it until it ends at a T. Turn left and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be 300 yards on the left.

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



# INFORMER

Volume 30, Issue 3

Annual Dues \$18 Individual \$20 Family

July 2023



“Though erected in honor of those who fought for the Union in the Civil War, the Soldiers' and Sailors' monument nevertheless honors the sacrifices made for freedom and stands as a symbol of patriotism. George Cook and his wife Adeline, who lived remarkable lives and answered their own call of duty, gifted the city the monument in 1891.” (Found on the Facebook page for “You haven't lived in Watertown, N.Y., if -”)

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## INFORMER JULY 2023

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

**President:** Kevin Leeson, 26094 Limestone Road, Redwood, NY 13679  
[kleesonmedia17@gmail.com](mailto:kleesonmedia17@gmail.com), 315-286-3930

**Vice President:** Paul Beers, 17481 US Route 11, Lot 10E, Watertown,  
 New York 13601, [gldnbrew@gmail.com](mailto:gldnbrew@gmail.com), 315-771-1359

**Recording Secretary:** **Seeking A Volunteer**

**Treasurer:** Greg Plantz, 21787 Reed Road, Watertown, NY 13601,  
[tplantz1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:tplantz1@twcny.rr.com), 315-788-5324

**Membership Clerk:** Kevin Subra, [membership@jcnygs.com](mailto:membership@jcnygs.com)

**The Informer Committee:** Thomas LaClair (Chairman), [tomclair624@yahoo.com](mailto:tomclair624@yahoo.com);

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Kevin Leeson, [kleesonmedia17@gmail.com](mailto:kleesonmedia17@gmail.com);

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Ashley Pickett, [apickett@ncls.org](mailto:apickett@ncls.org);

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Jefferson County  
 NY Genealogical Society

The *Informer* is published quarterly in the months of January, April, July, and October. The *Informer* can be "searched" on our internet site using Optical Character Recognition technology. Open an *Informer*, save it to your desktop and type a name or word in the search box. If the name or word is in that *Informer*, the cursor should go to that page.

### 1000 Islands Museum does Guardino Elementary Walking Tour

After a lesson on the "History of the Guardino Elementary School," a walking tour of the school was requested. On the evening of April 5th, former students, teachers and guests took the opportunity to see their "Old School" again with now principal Lisa Freitag. Clayton Historian, Tom LaClair, posted this comment on his Facebook page: "Principal Lisa Freitag took this photo today! The history class students standing on the first floor of Guardino Elementary School. A great time by all students reliving their early days at Clayton Central School!"

English is  
 difficult.

It can be  
 understood  
 though through  
 tough thorough  
 thought.

Okay!

Say that one  
 five times  
 fast!





# Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, April 10, 2023  
By JCNYS Member Tom LaClair

The monthly JCNYS gathering was held April 10, 2023, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in Watertown. Those in attendance included President Kevin Leeson, Vice President Paul Beers, Treasure Greg Plantz and his wife Tammy, Thomas LaClair, Thomas and Judy Wood, Bruce Doxtater, Debbie Wilson, Marilyn and Jerry Davis, Lynn Waite, Tracy Robertson, Larry Corbett, Kathi Compeau and George Inglehart.

The meeting opened at 6:00 PM and Kevin welcomed all. Greg Plantz provided the treasurer's report: As of April 5, the Watertown Savings Bank balances were Checking at \$6,826.31 and the Certificate of Deposit at \$2,514.76. Three payments since December's meeting include; January 2023 *Informer*, \$644.72; P.O. Box 6453 rental, \$182.00; and April 2023 *Informer*, \$654.03. Larry Corbett offered a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Jerry Davis seconded. The motion carried. Membership chair Kevin Subra has been actively soliciting members to bring their dues up to date.

President Leeson reviewed the May 2, 2023, program. JCNYS member and Genealogist Jean Wilcox Hibben will speak on researching ancestors. Greg Plantz motioned to provide Jean \$300.00 to help defray travel and hotel costs. Tom LaClair seconded the motion. The motion carried. Kevin also discussed that he is checking into the possibility of hosting a 2023 History and Genealogy Fair at the Jefferson County Historical Society in the fall.

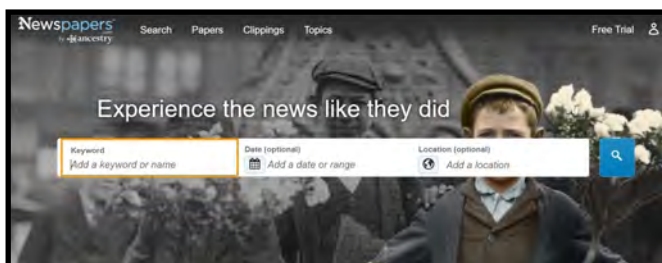
The society is seeking a secretary to capture and draft meeting minutes. Jerry Davis noted he has been formatting the quarterly *Informer* newsletter for 20 years and is seeking someone new to take over the position. Our compliments to Jerry for the work he is doing and has done for two decades.

Tom LaClair provided his research concerning combining the on-line *Informer* newsletters into one large file allowing a method of querying all the *Informers* in one name based search. After research, and talking to Beverly Affinati, there is no easy method without purchasing expensive software. Nothing more will go forth at this time.

JCNYS member Larry Corbett was introduced and provided a program on researching historic newspapers on-line. He spoke of sites for Jefferson County as well as our neighboring counties. Among the best known sites are [www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com), [www.nyshistoricnewspapers.org](http://www.nyshistoricnewspapers.org), the *Watertown Daily*



Times, sites accessible at the Flower Memorial Library, as well as sites available through the NYC Public Library at [www.nypl.com](http://www.nypl.com). Larry spoke of fee based sites such as Genealogy bank at [www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com) and Newspapers.com at [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com).



He iterated before going about researching on-line, know what you wish to find as it is extremely easy to get sidetracked with thousands of other non-family although interesting articles. Expect to find references from birth, marriages and deaths to seemingly mundane happenings, to details on local family stories to national news. You can find articles on items such as estate sales, letters to the editors, accidents and tragedies, to job promotions, jury selection, organizational memberships, sports teams and so much more. All these new finds can bring your ancestors life to a new level of understanding. Researching historic newspapers is a must in any genealogy research!

The meeting concluded at 7:30 PM with refreshments provided.





## Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, May 2, 2023  
By JCNYS Member Tom LaClair

The May program for the Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society (JCNYS) was not a typical program—it was even more exciting. Professional Genealogist Jean Wilcox Hibben, JCNYS member and writer of the “Aunty Jeff” newsletter column, arrived to do a special presentation. This was Jean’s first time in the area since her April 2018 trip when she did a program called “Clue to Clue.” The July 2018 *Informer* has a short story on that earlier visit.

Before Jean’s latest presentation, seven members of the society took her for dinner at the Olive Garden—an event filled with enjoyable conversation and tasty food. After dinner it was off to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) to prepare for the presentation. Table displays were set up in the foyer by local members and Jean prepared the video and sound system for her lecture. At 7:00 PM Bishop Bunker, local LDS Church leader, welcomed attendees and noted family history is a unified mission for both organizations. Debbie Wilson then spoke briefly about the Family History Center. She was followed by Larry Corbett who spoke briefly about JCNYS. He was followed by Tom LaClair who introduced Jean.



Without hesitation, she jumped right into her lecture: *Means, Motive, & Opportunity: The Sad Saga of George Richards*. “This case study of a man whose choices served to confuse his descendants is reconstructed in this lecture. He was there, then gone, then back – see how a variety of records unlocked his real story. From England to the US, George’s life was filled with conundrums and poor choices. See how to locate original records (not all online), separate fact from fiction, and assess evidence for accuracy.”

In my own words, Jean’s presentation laid out the organized process of researching an individual. In short, know what you are researching before starting out. Review as many sources as possible, talk to local



genealogical societies to know unique sources to that area, search off-line like church records or area clerk offices; on-line sources like historic newspapers, census reports, etc. All the time keep notes, compare data, and look for parallels so as to know you are searching the same individual and not someone with the same name living nearby.

After she was finished, she addressed several questions from the attendees and provided guidance and recommendations across several genealogy related topics. At 8:30 PM President Kevin Leeson closed up the evening by thanking everyone for coming. He thanked the LDS Church leadership for the use of the sanctuary and welcomed all to stay for light refreshments and a chance to review literature on the two table displays in the foyer. It was an evening well spent.

In closing the synopsis, “the JCNYS purpose is three-fold: first, to promote and encourage original genealogical research. The second purpose is to encourage and disseminate a greater knowledge of genealogy and its history in the county of Jefferson, State of New York. And the third purpose, to gather, preserve, and display and make available: genealogy information, manuscripts, papers, books, photographs, electronic data, and other records and materials relating to genealogy and history of Jefferson County.” Tonight’s presentation fit the goals and purposes of our organization.



JCNYS Officers pose with speaker Jean Hibben

# Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, June 12, 2023  
By JCNYS Member Greg Plantz

Attendance: Kevin Leeson, Larry Corbett, Paul Beers, Tracy Robertson, Dave Wilson, Bruce Doxtater, Marilyn and Jerry Davis, and Greg and Tammy Plantz



Call to Order at 6:14

Treasurer's Report:

Checking account: \$7317.31  
CD account: \$2514.76

Motion to accept by Paul Beers, Second by Anne Davis, Approved

Checks recently written:

- #1257 on 5/3/23 to Joyce Wilcox-Hibben for \$300 (speaker fee)
- #1256 on 4/5/23 to Coughlin Printing for \$654.03 (April Informer)

Old Business:

Larry Corbett asked if a new password is now used for our web page. He also discussed a topic from the past, the consolidation of old Informers being placed on line.

Jerry Davis discussed our July Informer which usually goes to print on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to be available for distribution by the end of the month. He suspects the 15<sup>th</sup> deadline will be a little late this month.

A discussion as to presentations for July, August and September occurred.

July presentation will be by Tom LaClair at the Clayton Historical Museum

August is tentatively at the Flower Library Genealogy room. (Kevin is to check availability this week and contact Jerry.)

September 11 meeting will be held at the Half-Shire Historical Society, 1100 County Route 48, Richland, NY 13144. Shawn Doyle will provide a program and tour of the Society

and the materials it provides. Half-Shire is a rich resource especially for ancestors of Oswego County.

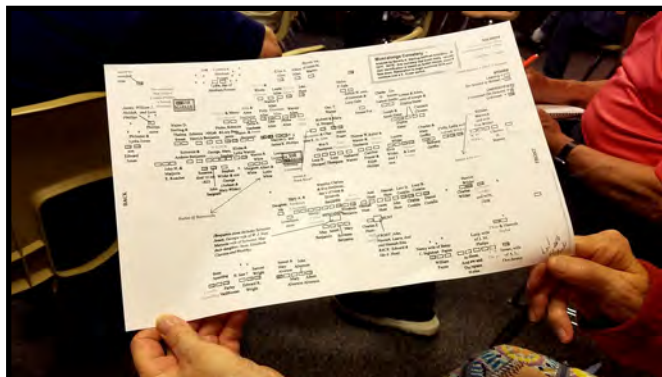


Presentation:

Anne Davis presented a program of the dedication of new gravestones for veterans Solomon Livermore, Revolutionary War, and Ebenezer Allen Jr., War of 1812, in the Muskalonge Cemetery located near Sackets Harbor. Anne discussed the steps for getting approval for the placement of the stones and the forms necessary for ordering such. The ceremony for this recent dedication occurred this past Memorial Day. Over 45 people attended the dedication.

(See Page 22)

Adjournment at 7:25 pm



**The map of the Muskalonge Cemetery  
Such a map is a considerable aid when trying to  
locate an old gravestone in the cemetery.**



## EVANS MILLS MAN AMONG FIRST BURIED AT ARLINGTON

Capt. Chauncey Wilkie, who fought and died in the Civil War, interred at national cemetery.

By Contributor Rick Hess -- Special to the  
*Watertown Daily Times*

Published Tuesday, May 23, 2023

EVANS MILLS — There is an impressive monument and cenotaph within the Evans Mills Cemetery (“newer” section), dedicated to Capt. Chauncey Wilkie and Company ‘I’ of the 14th New York Heavy Artillery, which he commanded. Jefferson County sent 5,000 men to the war in which he died. It was called “The Civil War” in the North, the “War of Northern Aggression” in the South, but I will take the middle ground and just call it “The War Between the States.”

My name is Rick Hess — full name Richard Wilkie Hess. I grew up in Henderson during the 1950s and 1960s, graduating from Henderson Central School in 1971. My mother, Jean Wilkie Hess, was the kindergarten teacher at Henderson Central School for many years. But this story is about the man who was



Capt. Chauncey Wilkie

my great great-grand uncle, and it is about his unique contribution to American history.

My great-great grandfather was too old to serve in the War Between the States, staying at home in Evans Mills to tend the farm to help feed the troops. But his youngest brother, Chauncey Wilkie, eagerly volunteered to serve. He was mustered into the 14th New York Heavy Artillery on Jan. 1, 1864 and appointed captain, commanding Company ‘I’. His company was composed of volunteers from Jefferson County, many of them from the Evans Mills area. Under the overall command of General Ulysses S. Grant, 28-year-old Chauncey served bravely in The Wilderness Campaign, The Battle of Spotsylvania, the horror of the Battle of Cold Harbor, and finally the siege of Petersburg.

Due to crowded bivouac and poor sanitary conditions, more soldiers on both sides of that war died of disease than died from battle action. Chauncey became deathly ill with typhoid fever in late July 1864. He died on Aug. 1, 1864, en-route to Washington, D.C., from City Point, Va., aboard a hospital ship. Chauncey was one of 301 men in his regiment who died of disease, 75 more than died in battle. His survivors included his wife, Betsy, and his 8-year-old son, Howard C. Wilkie.

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln asked Gen. Montgomery Meigs, the quartermaster general of the U.S. Army, to find a suitable spot to bury the tens of thousands of Union dead who were accumulating in temporary graves during recent battles. Gen. Meigs had recently lost his own 22-year-old son in battle. Perhaps out of retribution, he decided that the mansion and property of Gen. and Mrs. Robert E. Lee, seized earlier in the war and just across the Potomac River from Washington in Arlington, VA., would be the perfect spot to bury all the Union dead. And to be sure that Gen. and Mrs. Lee would never feel comfortable returning to live at their Arlington Mansion, Gen. Meigs ordered that 26 recently dead Union officers be buried around the perimeter of Mrs. Lee’s rose garden, adjacent to her mansion ... an honor guard of the dead.

The remains of Capt. Chauncey Wilkie were one of those 26 chosen. He is buried in the southeastern corner of Mrs. Lee’s Rose Garden.



(Continued on Page 7)



(Continued From Page 6)

So it was that a soldier from Evans Mills, Jefferson County, New York, otherwise likely forgotten to history, and the other 25 chosen few would become the first of over 400,000 brave American fighting men and women who would be buried in honored glory in what was to become Arlington National Cemetery during the next 158 years.

Incidentally, General and Mrs. Lee successfully brought their case all the way to the Supreme Court to regain legal possession of their Arlington Mansion, but they never did return there after the war's conclusion. The 26-man honor guard in Mrs. Lee's Rose Garden must have haunted them that much.

Rick Hess is a resident of South Carolina. He's a retired lieutenant commander in the U.S. Naval Reserves, where he served 20 years, and a retired marketing and sales vice president in the paper industry. You may write to him at [rh29485@gmail.com](mailto:rh29485@gmail.com).



**Chauncey Wilkie  
G.A.R. Monument  
Evans Mills Cemetery**

## Forgotten Post Offices

XXIX – North Adams Post Office  
By Ernest G. Cook in 1934

North Adams was another one of those rural communities that seemed to be well born and ideally located. A Vermont Yankee, Roger Read, was the first settler, coming in 1806. He became one of the leading men in the region. Before the War of 1812 Willet Ranney operated a grist mill on Stony creek, and continued to operate this industry for quite a term of years. The mill is said to have been built by a pioneer by the name of Waddell. However, before the grist mill was erected Roger Read began to have farming neighbors. Herman Colton came up from Otsego county soon after Read located and opened up a large farm. He was a youth of only 19. Other earlier settlers came, among them Albert Rice and Benjamin Sweet.

A meeting was held at the home of Roger Read, pioneer, on 1 Nov 1809, and Rev. D. Spear organized a church society. Those to join included Timothy Betts and wife, Simeon Read and wife, John Barnard and wife, Ebenezer Root and wife, John Patrick, Elizabeth Miller, Esther Price, Lydia Read, Sally Lyon, with probably some others. In the meantime the population of the community demanded a better mill and E. and A. Read purchased the plant and made some improvements upon it. They, in turn, sold it to Samuel Cook, Mr. Cook brought into being the "Pioneer Mills" of North Adams. He built a new dam to get more power and constructed a new mill, a two-story frame structure of quite imposing proportions.

Sawmills were built upon the stream. Herman Colton built a sawmill above the gristmill, which he operated for some 15 years. Philo Ellenwood also had a sawmill which was burned but rebuilt by him and sold to James Hodge who later moved it to the east branch of the stream and this mill kept in operation for a long term of years. On the stream a turning mill was located, doing a very good business. Later a corn-grinder was installed in connection with the mill. Richard Oatman was the operator for a term of years. Gideon Gifford put up a sawmill below the Pioneer Mills and began operating them. There were two blacksmith shops located in the community and the business life of rural North Adams was thriving.

On 5 Dec 1816, a meeting was held at the home of Asher Robbins when the church society was again formed and John Barnard, Asher Robbins and Ruel Pearson were elected trustees. On 28 Jan 1817 three more trustees were added to the board. They were Simon Read, Daniel Hall, Jr., and Amos Bosworth. By the end of the year the society had 70 members and it was decided that the time had come to build a church. In 1818 a frame structure, 30 x 40, was built and on 11 Nov of that year Rev. Edward W. Rossiter was installed as the first pastor. It is stated that by the early 1820s this church society became one of the largest for miles around and had several hundred members.

About 1845 the government established a post office. Benjamin Sweet became the first postmaster. This office was on the stage route from Watertown to Salisbury's Mills. Albert Rice was the second postmaster. At the time of the Civil war William Stanley became postmaster. The mills became idle, the once thriving business community became mostly a farm center and the North Adams post office was discontinued.



## FROM PAST to PRESENT

From *Informer*, January 2004, Page 13

### The Name Game: Community Name Origins Fact or Fiction?

**WHY DID THEY CALL THIS PLACE ... Alexandria?** Both the Town of Alexandria and Alexandria Bay were named for Alexander, a son of James Le Ray de Chaumont. Alexander Le Ray obtained a colonel's commission during Texas's struggle for independence from Mexico, and died in a duel in 1836. Alexandria is the north easternmost township in the county. Alexandria Bay, originally a wooding (fueling) station for wood burning steam boats, became known as the heart of the Thousand Islands district in the latter part of the nineteenth century, and has been supported by the tourist trade ever since.

**WHY DID THEY CALL THIS PLACE ... Brown's Corners?** Parley Monroe Brown started off in life with only the barest rudiments of reading, writing, and arithmetic. He aspired to become a Baptist minister of the gospel, and to this end he was largely self educated. Combining his calling with farming to support a family, he found he had to move his growing family from their comfortable stone house in Stone Mills to a better farm in the Town of Alexandria. There he settled at the corner where the road from Alexandria Bay to Redwood branches off to Plessis and built for his wife a larger house to supplant the log cabin they found at their new site. As his sons and daughters became teachers, ministers, evangelists, and solid business men, the family became the most important one of that little settlement, and the four comers there has ever since been called Browns Comers.

**WHY DID THEY CALL THIS PLACE ... Deferno?** According to a resident of this neighborhood in the Town of Clayton, Deferno was named by the French Canadian, or newly American citizens of French Canadian extract, who lived in Frenchtown, on the outskirts of the village of Clayton, near French Creek. One of the early industries of the area was burning limestone to extract the lime, a process which required lime kilns. The foundations of these kilns are

still to be found today, some miles to the southwest of Clayton. In those far off times, all the trees had been stripped from the area between Clayton and the bluff. The residents of Frenchtown had a clear view of the lime kilns, which burned all night and day. Pointing them out, they said something which sounded like "look at de ferno," perhaps meaning "look at the furnace," or some similar phrase in French. Deferno stuck as a name, and today we have the Deferno Road, or someone might say, "Oh, they lived over in Deferno," meaning that general area.

**WHY DID THEY CALL THIS PLACE ... Plessis?** From some jokester, probably running out of explanations, the name Plessis has been attributed to James de La Farge's dog. The town historian of the Town of Alexandria, in which Plessis is a hamlet, scoffs at the idea. Plessis was named, age avers, for a place in France.

**WHY DID THEY CALL THIS PLACE ... Smithville?** This hamlet derives its name from Jesse Smith, one of the most energetic and active business men who have lived in the county. From a small beginning, he arose to affluence. He first settled in Rodman, when the town was new, and began life as a jobber, clearing land and making potash. At Smithville, he engaged in milling, distilling, and merchandise, and gradually became interested in the lumber trade, and Great Lakes shipping. He removed to Newark, Ohio. [from Hough]

**WHY DID THEY CALL THIS PLACE ... Stone Mills?** The extended Collins family, with their in-laws, came too late to settle in the more desirable land in the Town of Brownville, and followed a little creek up past Perch River Flats to a place where they could build a grist mill. The area still has a number of lovely old limestone houses, and their mill was built of stone. Using the same dam and water power, a Dr. Andrus built a saw mill on the opposite side of the creek, thus providing for the surrounding farmers both grist and saw mills. Other activity sprang up around the mills, including a stagecoach tavern which was also a general store and post office, known as Collins's Mills. Church and school followed quickly, and newcomers, not knowing the Collins family, spoke of going to the stone mill. The name took root, and the pleasant little community is still called Stone Mills.

**“Shoot for the moon.  
Even if you miss, you’ll  
land among the stars.”  
– Les Brown**

**#188 Julius Broadbent Post, G.A.R.,  
Dexter, New York  
A Fraternal Organization Composed of  
Civil War Veterans**

Written by JCNYS *Informer* Committee Member  
and Curator National, N.S.U.S.D. of 1812  
Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati

My great, great grandfather, Adolphus D. Sterling, was a member of the #188 Julius Broadbent Post, G.A.R., Dexter, New York. The G.A.R. was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army (U.S. Army), Union Navy (U.S. Navy), and the Marines who served in the American Civil War. In order to qualify for membership, men had to be an honorably discharged veteran of the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps or the Revenue Cutter Service who had served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865.

The organization was Founded in Decatur, Illinois on April 6, 1866 by Benjamin F. Stephenson.

"The community level organization was called a 'Post' and each was numbered consecutively within each department. Most Posts also had a name and the rules for naming Posts included the requirement that the honored person be deceased and that no two Posts within the same Department could have the same name. The Departments generally consisted of the Posts within a state and, at the national level, the organization was operated by the elected 'Commander -in-Chief.'" [Brief History of G.A.R., <https://www.alleganyhistory.org>].

According to the Geographical gazetteer of Jefferson County, N.Y. (1684-1890), the Broadbent Post #188 G.A.R. was chartered 5 July 1883.

A local newspaper article supports this timeframe:  
***Watertown Daily Times, Mon., July 9, 1883***

G.A.R. at Dexter

Our Dexter correspondent writes:

A Post of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized in this place Friday night. It will be called Broadbent Post No. 188, the name being in honor of Julius Broadbent of Co. R 35<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Vol. Infantry, who was killed at the battle of Antietam, he being the first soldier from Dexter who was killed. The Post was organized by Adj. W. D. Parker, of Post G. D. Bailey, No. 200, Lowville, assisted by Comrades Dolan and W. B. Taylor, of Post Joe Sprat, No. 323, Watertown, Adj. Porter, of Theresa, Post G. W. Flower, No. 300 and C. Fredenburg of Post C. Wilkie, No. 354, Evans Mills.

After muster the following officers were elected and installed: C. Albert Foster, S.V.C., W.H. Underwood; J.V.C., A. Seebert, Adj., G. Penny, Q.M.; G.W. Wood;

Chap., W.H. Wino; Surg., C. Douglas; M.D., C.D., T. Strainge; O.G., W. Anderson; S.M., T. Reaves; Q.M. Sergt., N. Baker.

With membership limited strictly to "veterans of the late unpleasantness," the G.A.R. encouraged the formation of Allied Orders to aid them in its various works.

The objects of the Order are briefly stated in the organization's articles and regulations.

Article 1. To preserve and strengthen those kind and fraternal feelings which bind together the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines who united to suppress the late Rebellion, and to perpetuate the memory and history of the dead.

Article 2. To assist such former comrades in arms as need help and protection, and to extend needful aid to the widows and orphans of those who have fallen.

Article 3. To maintain true allegiance to the United States of America, based upon a paramount respect for, and fidelity to, its Constitution and laws, to discountenance whatever tends to weaken loyalty, incites to insurrection, treason, or rebellion, or in any manner impairs the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions; and to encourage the spread of universal liberty, equal rights, and justice to all men.

Article 4. Defines the qualifications of members in the following terms: Soldiers and Sailors of the United States Army, Navy, or Marine Corps who served between April 12, 1861, and April 29, 1865, in the war for the suppression of the Rebellion, and those having been honorably discharged therefrom after such service, and of such State regiments as were called into active service and subject to the orders of United States general officers, between the dates mentioned, shall be eligible to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. No person shall be eligible who has at any time borne arms against the United States.

#### **ROSTER OF VETERANS / BROADBENT POST**

In attempting to locate a roster for No. 188 Broadbent post, the following chart reports 56 veterans as members (1869-1870).

From various *Watertown Daily Times* newspapers [fultonhistory.com search results] the author was able to uncover the following 56 veterans recorded as members of the Julius Broadbent Post No. 188, G.A.R. Dexter NY (this list likely is not all-inclusive):

(Continued on Page 10)



(Continued From Page 9)

1. A. L. Morgan
2. A. L. Rice
3. Adolphus Sterling
4. Albert Foster
5. Albert Gotham
6. Almond Wilder
7. Alton T. Foster (nephew of Julius Broadbent)
8. Bert Flanders
9. Bert Weldman
10. Charles Blair, (at one time) commander
11. Charles Foster
12. Charles Potter
13. D. A. Randall
14. D. Whitman
15. David Zimmerman
16. E. S. Clark
17. F. D. Seeker
18. F. W. Spicer
19. F.A. Carter
20. Fred Lamon
21. Fred Rhines
22. Frederick W. Bennett
23. G. W. Waters, (at one time) commander
24. George Berry
25. George Clark
26. George Crandall
27. George Harrington
28. George W. Walters; S.V.C.
29. H. O. Gilmore, (at one time) commander
30. Henry McAfee
31. J. F. Kimball
32. J. S. Shaver

33. James Brennan
34. John Losie (Losle?)
35. Joseph Mark, (at one time) commander  
*(is he also called Joseph Markham?)*
36. Michael Christie (nickname 'Mack'?)
37. O. B. Grinnell
38. Philander Bowker
39. Rufus Zimmerman
40. W. D. Pettit
41. Walter B. Christie
42. Warren H. Starkweather
43. Wellington McNett
44. William E. Hilliker
45. William Ross, Jr.

**Charter Members:**

46. A. Seebert
47. C. Albert Foster, S.V.C.
48. C. Douglas
49. G. Penny
50. G.W. Wood
51. N. Baker
52. T. Reaves
53. T. J. Strainge
54. W. Anderson
55. W. H. Wino
56. W.H. Underwood



(Continued on Page 11)

**Annual Report of the Inspector of the Department of New York,**

NAME OF POST.	Number of Post.	Number of members in good standing.	Is the work in the ritual properly exemplified?	Are the officers and guards properly uniformed and equipped?	Are the members uniformed?	Are the officers regular in their attendance?	Are the members regular in their attendance?	Are the records complete and well kept?	Are orders received regularly and read to the Post and filed?
A. D. Shaw.....	186	18 No.....	No.....	No.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	
B. F. Dupont.....	187	56 Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	
Julius Broadbent.....	188	56 Yes.....	No.....	No.....	Fair.....	Fair.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	
C. A. Shepard.....	189	9 Fair.....	Fair.....	Fair.....	Fair.....	Fair.....	Fair.....	Yes.....	
J. L. and C. S. Thompson.....	190	30 Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	
Ward.....	191	39 Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	
Steinwehr.....	192	56 Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	

Documents of the Senate of the State of New York, Volume 13, and Page 221.

(Continued From Page 10)

According to one *Watertown Daily Times* article, there were 18 charter members. It reads, "The sons of veterans organized a lodge in connection with the Julius Broadbent Post, G.A.R., on Saturday evening last. There were 18 charter members. There is no doubt that a large and flourishing lodge will be the result of this movement on the part of the young men." [*Watertown Daily Times*, Watertown NY, February 10, 1891].

A typical gathering would look something like this:

Julius Broadbent Post, G.A.R., held their annual campfire at Woods Hall on Friday afternoon and evening. There was a very large attendance of old veterans and their invited friends and families. Comrades D. L. Cornwell, Col. A. D. Shaw and James Felt, of Watertown, were present; also a large number of invited comrades from Sackets Harbor. Comrade Charles Foster acted as Chairman. The afternoon was spent in a general social time, greatly enjoyed by all the large company assembled. Col. Shaw made one of his pleasant after dinner speeches, followed by D. L. Cornwell, James Felt, J. D. McWayne and Newman Potter. The Barton family, of Brownville, were present and rendered several instrumental selections upon the mandolin, banjo, guitar and accordion, which received a loud applause. The ladies of the Julius Broadbent Relief Corps, under the management of Mrs. Farnum Corey, Mrs. George Francis, Mrs. William Barry, Mrs. George Walters, Mrs. Jenny Lossie, Mrs. Warren Anderson and Miss Frank Wood, assisted by Comrade George Clark, provided one of the most bountiful spreads ever served in Dexter. The tables were very artistically set with silver and china. A number of floral pieces adorned the table arrangement, while the quality and quantity of the vianda and delicacies served was a most delicious spread of good things from beginning to end, and greatly enjoyed by all who partook. The number of plates was over two hundred and fifty. After the dinner a program of entertainment was introduced by a musical selection given by the Frontenac Band, followed by the Frontenac Orchestra, which rendered several fine selections. Miss Emma Barton and Miss Madge Barton sang a beautiful song, 'The Moon', which was given a deserved encore. They responded by Miss Emma Barton singing, 'Kiss Me Good Night', accompanied by her sisters Marjorie and Jessie, and Mr. B Hickock. They received loud applause, Miss Cora Reeves gave two very pleasing recitations, as did also Miss Maggie Bailey, Mr. Brayton Foster and Mr. Walter Christie; Miss Lizzie Morgan and J.F. Kimball favored the audience with a duet that was received with an encore. Col. Shaw, the speaker of the evening, delivered one of the most interesting addresses that have been given in Dexter this season. It abounded in patriotic sentiments and truth that filled the hearts of his hearers to overflowing. Loud burst of applause followed the speaker throughout his

address. The large company remained in social assembly until a late hour. It was pronounced by all the old "vets" the most enjoyable gathering in the history of their organization, and it was with reluctance on the part of all that the gathering disbanded. The friends from out of town were cared for by the comrades of the post. The committee having the arrangements in charge are deserving of great praise for the very efficient manner in which they were carried out to perfection [Article published in the *Watertown Daily Times*, Watertown NY, Tues, February 20, 1894].

I can only assume my great, great grandfather, Adolphus D. Sterling, and likely his wife Martha, would have been in attendance and greatly involved in the evening's festivities. His participation in the #188 Julius Broadbent Post, G.A.R., Dexter, New York was likely a comfort throughout his life. It is known in historical records that he stayed close to his comrades from service in the Civil War. Lifelong friends he served with can also be found interred in the same cemetery, several of them in the same lot. D. A. Randall is one headstone over.

#### Sources -

Fulton History Newspapers [*Watertown Daily Times* articles] <https://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>

Documents of the Senate of the State of New York, Volume 13, Page 221 (1869-'70)

G.A.R. Records: <https://www.suvcw.org/garrecords/garposts/ny.pdf>

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Geographical gazetteer of Jefferson County, N.Y. 1684-1890

Records of Member of the Grand Army of the Republic

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War [<https://suvcw.org/>]

The Evolution of Memorial Day [<https://www.neh.gov/divisions/preservation/featured-project/the-evolution-memorial-day>]

*Daily Times Newspapers* [[fultonhistory.com](https://fultonhistory.com)]

Wikipedia:[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand\\_Army\\_of\\_the\\_Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Army_of_the_Republic)

Abstract of General Orders and Proceedings of the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment, Volume 49, By Grand Army of the Republic, Department of New York G.A.R.

Brief History of G.A.R., <https://www.alleganyhistory.org>

## ASK AUNTY JEFF



By JCNYS Member and Genealogist  
Jean Wilcox Hibben, PhD  
Riverside County, California

Q) I asked this last time, and am waiting for more suggestions about what to do with all that “stuff” my mother left for me. I so want to throw it away, but when I mentioned that to a fellow genealogist, she was horrified. I got the idea that disposing of ancestral items is tantamount to defacing Mom’s headstone.

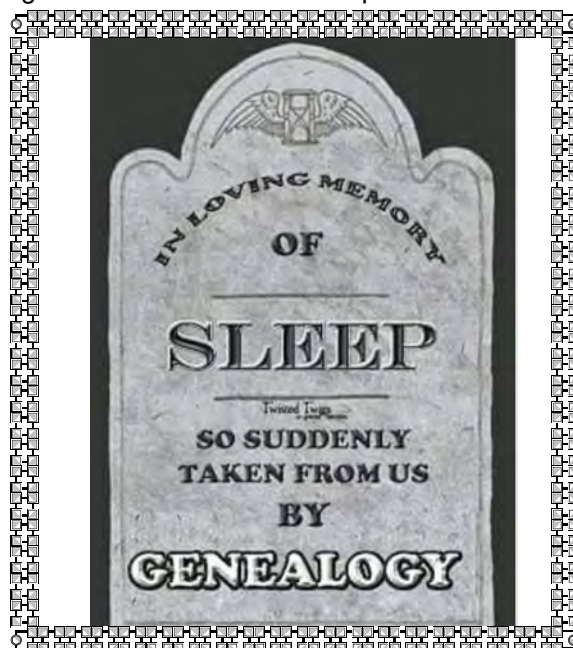
A) Last time I talked about the disposition of some of those unique items that are likely to have value for people beyond a single family. I also mentioned that my family “graciously” endowed me with a plethora of papers and similar items that likely no one would care about, except possibly a relative. My biggest problem there has been that I have the family photos for many people (thankfully, most are identified, in some way – “Our Sainted Mother” label could be identified by the household in which it was located and noted as such by the dear relative who held onto it). Some unique documents (deeds, wills, passports, etc.) might be of interest to “shirttail” relatives, but there is just the one copy of each. Now what?

Let me address my favorite: the passport that got my g-g-grandparents from Bohemia to the United States. It’s a huge document, in German, listing all the people (parents and children, with names, ages, and, as applicable, occupations) that traveled with it. At this writing, though I have no biological children who care, g-g-grandparents had a good many children, who had children, etc. And it seems everyone wants it! These are 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> cousins for whom I do not wish to show partiality. My mother kept it in her safe deposit box until she could physically hand it over to me. I have scanned the entire document, had it translated, and posted it all to DropBox with a link to send to any and all relatives who want to see it. And the original? It’s on its way to an appropriate repository in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where that family settled (and were pioneers of the state). Problem solved. On to the next.

I already mentioned step one: scan. Documents, photos, even objects (which might be better photographed) so everyone who wants a “copy” can be satisfied. The originals, then might be passed to, as I mentioned last time, historical societies (always with advanced notification and permission, of course, along with the name to whom it should be directed . . . without a specific direction, the item might still end up in the trash can).

When I look at the vast amount of paper I have collected, I do discover that a number of “documents” are actually photo copies (or the equivalent) of ones I found online or on a library microfilm. My first reaction is: I can always go back to the source and get it again, if needed. STOP! Perhaps that is true, but perhaps, for any one of a number of reasons I won’t list here, the item may no longer be attainable. Therefore, immediately scan and save a digital copy WITH FULL CITATION (including where and when you found it originally) and then file it on your computer, external hard drive, flash drive, on the cloud, and with your genealogy program (notice, I said “and,” not “or”: no one knows what technology awaits next decade, or next year, or next month, even, so backups using various media is essential for peace of mind). So, what to do with the (now scanned and digitally filed) photocopies? I am not going to tell you to throw them out, but that may be an acceptable action, as long as all those potentially interested in them are OK with that and that you have sufficiently saved the digital files. You do not need to retain multiple census schedules for every ancestor if they are already saved to your technology (and labeled so you can find them again). After all, once they are digitized, they are much easier to read than they usually are in the paper format. Again, this is recommendation for copies of documents, not originals.

But not all your certificates and papers may fall in the “public document” category. What about the items that hold special family information but of which there is just the single (and often very personal) item (e.g., letters, diaries, journals, Bibles, etc.). Those items will likely require specialized evaluation and decision-making. We will look at options for those in the next *Informer*. Meanwhile, start (or continue) scanning and digitally filing, backing up, accurately labeling, and citing those files or notebooks of public documents.





# CLAYTON MARRIAGES 1866

## From Jefferson County Directory 1866, 1867 & 1868

Date	Groom	Age	His Residence	Occupation	His Birthplace	His Father	His Mother	Bride	Age	Her Residence	Her Birthplace	Her Father	Her Mother
7 Jan 1866	Fitzgerald, William	38	Clayton, NY	Farmer	Ireland	Fitzgerald, James	Mullen, Mary	Vignerou, Louise	33	Clayton, NY		Vignerou, Nicholas	Gerdin, Anna
10 Jan 1866	Doolittle, Edwin A.	34	Clayton, NY	Hotel Clerk	Theresa NY	Doolittle, Jesse	Cunningham, Maria	Gardner, Emma J.	26	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Gardner, Putnam	Howard, Mary
27 Jan 1866	Cantwell, Patrick B.	22	Clayton, NY	Farmer	Clayton, NY	Cantwell, John	Barry, Ellen	McCarn, Florence W.	23	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	McCarn, Michael	McNett, Clara
1 Feb 1866	Cummings, Milo	26	Clayton, NY	Farmer	Clayton, NY	Cummings, Philand	Merrill, Caroline	Collin s, Frances	18	Clayton, NY	Kingston, Ont. Canada	Collins, Solomon	Berry, Caroline
2 Feb 1866	McKinley, Frank	23	Clayton, NY	Farmer	Clayton, NY	McKinley, Arthur	Hayes, Mary	Kelsey, Minnie	22	Clayton, NY	Theresa NY	Kelsey, Frank	unknown, Ellen
9 Feb 1866	Ratray, Edward R.	28	Wolf Island Ont. Can	Farmer	Wolf Island, Ont. C	Ratray, William	Farr, Catherine	Horne, Isadore	22	Wolf Island, Ont. Can	Wolf Island, Ont. Can.	Horne, William	Cslasby, Mary
3 Mar 1866	Graves, John H.	34	Clayton, NY	Farmer	Clayton, NY	Graves, John H. Sr.	Gibbons, Margaret	Baird, Jenni Watson	22	Lanark Ont. Can	Lanark Ont. Can.	Baird, James	Watson, Penelope
9 Mar 1866	Spencer, Winslow	33	Clayton, NY	Farmer	Clayton, NY	Spencer, Solomon.	Frye, Mary A	Bass, Luella	24	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Bass, John	Tiernan, Catherine
8 Mar 1866	Berridge, George H	46	Gananoque, Ont. Car	Boiler	England	Berridgek Harry	Bailey, Eliza	Feris, Margaret	34	Gananoque,	England	Feris, Peter	Earl, Ann
9 Mar 1866	Carpenter, Nelson	35	Clayton, NY	Carpenter	Clayton, NY	Carpenter, Nelson	Rubiard, Zellie	LaLonde, Mary	30	Clayton, NY	Canada	LaLonde, Levi	Lawson, Angela
15 Apr 1866	Dye, Albert E.	25	Ogdensburg NY	Bookkeeper	Antwerp NY	Dye, Warren	Burrell, Rose Ellen	Avery, Ada M.	28	Clayton, NY	Worth NY	Avery, Solomon	Bradley, Margaret
25 Apr 1866	Brotherton, Edward	25	Brownville NY	Farmer	Gouverneur NY	Brotherton, Nathan	Stevenson, Susan	Gould, Etta	16	Brownville NY	Brownville NY	Gould, Curtis	Beebe, Elizabeth
27 Apr 1866	Taylor, James C.	28	Fishers Landing NY	Farmer	Orleans NY	Taylor, Benjamin	Conant, Jane	Hose, Jessie	22	Clayton, NY	Orleans NY	Hose, William	Snell, Catherine
1 May 1866	Buchanan, George	22	Clayton, NY	Farmer	3-Mile Bay NY	Buchanan, John	?, Mary	Greeney, Belle D.	19	Clayton, NY	Wells Island	Greeney, Peter	Birch, Mary
11 May 1866	Marcellus, Lorenzo	45	Clayton, NY	Farmer	Lewis Co. NY	Marcellus, Phillip	Lamberkin, Lucretia	Brown, Betsy	25	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Brown, Rial	O'Conner, Mary
12 May 1866	McCormack, Michael	26	Lafargeville	Farmer	Lafargeville	McCormack, Michael	Gillick, Alice	Carpenter, Matilda	18	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Carpenter, Cyril	Jacob, Matilda
26 May 1866	Young, Albert E.	31	Angola Indiana	Farmer	Indiana	Young, Jacob	Failing, Nancy	Failing, Ida	27	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Failing, Benjamin	Augsbury, Lucy
1 Jun 1866	Morse, Horace W.	23	Clayton, NY	Cashier	Clayton, NY	Morse, Horace E.	Eddy, Helen	Hill, Sarah A.	25	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Hill, George, F.	Wilson, Elizabeth
4 Jun 1866	Vincent, Alfred Dea	22	Clayton, NY	Printer	Clayton, NY	Vincent, Wilber J.	Sears, Dorleska	Dodge, Nettie Alida	19	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Dodge, Francis	Thomas, Lucinda
9 Jun 1866	Walter, William I.	45	Newville, NY	Farmer	Danube NY	Walter, Jacob	Spooner, Catharine	Rasback, Libbie M.	30	Clayton, NY	Dolgeville NY	Rasback, Samuel	Smith, Margaret
15 Jun 1866	Petrie, Martin	23	Depauville NY	Farmer	Clayton Center, NY	Petrie, John	Cook, Jane	Bordel, Almira	20	Depauville NY	Rosiere NY	Bordelm Ignatius	Relf, Mary
29 Jun 1866	Avery, William Jam	23	Clayton, NY	Cab. Maker	Gananoque, Ont	Avery, Solon	Avery, Margaret	Davis, Priscilla	19	Clayton, NY	Battersea, Ont.	Davis, Robert	Lisson, Fannie
30 Jun 1866	Parker, Charles Her	25	Lowville NY	farmer	Groghan NY	Parker, Henry S.	Stowell, Maria	Stetson, Mary E.	23	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Stetson, Nathan	Arnold, Rodelia
7 Jul 1866	Hughes, George H.	22	Gananoque, Ont. Car	Painter	Ontario Canada	Hughes, James	Acaus, Eliza	Hunter, Bessie C.	16	Gananoque, Ont. Cana	Clayton, NY	Hunter, William	Brown, Hannah
13 Jul 1866	Blandeau, Wallace	54	Clayton, NY	Farmer	Gouverneur NY	Blandeau, Samuel	Burt, Eunice	Pennoch, Sarah A (4th	63	Clayton, NY	Jefferson Co. NY	Pennoch, William	Ferry, Betsey
3 Aug 1866	Gravelle, Felix	51	Montreal QE, Canada	Barber	Quebec	Gravelle, Felix	Brisbee, Mary	Cosmicas, Adeline	44	Gananoque, Ont. Cana	Lachine QE, Canada	Cosmicas, John	Jeacivau, Margar
19 Aug 1866	Robbins, George	20	Fishers Landing NY	Laborer	Fishers Landing NY	Robbins, Edwin	Murphy, Abi	Cook, Flora	16	Fishers Landing NY	Alexandria NY	Cook, George	Cook, Mary
28 Aug 1866	Woolledge, Addis M	22	Clayton, NY	Painter	Theresa NY	Woolledge, William D	Knight, Augusta	Shurtleff, Sadie	23	Gananoque, Ont. Cana	Gananoque, Ont. Cana	Shurtleff, Kenyon	Cross, Olive
3 Aug 1866	McBride, John J	49	Ottawa, Ont. Canada	Painter	Ireland	McBride, Michael	O'Reilly, Ann R.	O'Sullivan Margaret	33	Gananoque, Ont. Cana	Ireland	O'Sullivan, Patrick	O'Neil, Jane
25 Aug 1866	Curtis, Fred W.	28	Rochester NY	Signwriter	Milwaukee WI	Curtis, Jabez	Ward, Jane	Kennedy, Mattie A	24	Rochester NY	Rochester NY	Kennedy, James	Gill, Maria
1 Sep 1866	Shed, James D	26	Leray NY	Farmer	Clayton, NY	Shed, Bronson	Gloyd, Marion	Doxtater	26	Leray NY	Leray NY	Stottler, Jacob	Davis, Catherine
5 Sep 1866	Nims, John W	21	Orleans NY	Farmer	Wells Island	Nims, Charles	Tyler, Mary	Emmert, Ruth	19	Orleans NY	Sharon Spgs. NY	Emmert, Gordon	Phillips, Margaret
29 Sep 1866	Eckert, John	46	Depauville NY	Farmer	Germany	Eckert, Phillip	Eckert, Margaret	McNett	43	Depauville	Clayton, NY	McNett, Nelson	Otis, Anna
29 Sep 1866	Graves, Alfred	25	Clayton, NY	Engineer	Clayton NY	Graves, William	Nadlan, Sophia	Denny, Mary	18	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Denny, Leander	Pelow, Mary
28 Sep 1866	Mellon, George	27	Alexander/Alexandria	Farmer	unknown	Mellon, John	Rassal, Sarah	Barker	35	Alexandria	Alexandria NY	Barker, Hiram	Barker, Rhoda
7 Oct 1866	Warren, N.S.	34	St. Lawrence NY	Farmer	Cape Vincent NY	Warren, Charles	Vorhis, Phoebe	Patchin, Mary P.	19	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Patchin, Albert	Henry, Maggie
6 Oct 1866	Flansburgh, William	26	Lafargeville NY	Merchant	Lafargeville NY	Flansburgh, Timothy	Richardson, Helen	Christina	23	Orleans NY	Orleans NY	Brightweiser, Valer	Otis, Catherine
6 Nov 1866	Giles, Julian	28	Oswego NY	Machinist	Homer NY	Giles, Henry L	Kaiser, Anna	Wetterhahn, Sophia	25	Lafargeville NY	Lafargeville NY	Wetterhahn, John	Rapp, Eustina
10 Nov 1866	Schell, William E.	21	Cape Vincent NY	Farmer	Cape Vincent NY	Schell, Nicholas F.	Dodge, Addie A	Benway, Nellie	28	Cape Vincent NY	St. Lawrence NY	Benway, Henry	Graves, Caroline
16 Nov 1866	Marshall, Willard R	39	Clayton, NY	Carpenter	Clayton NY	Marshall, Archibald	Hawes, Juliana	Mills, Kate	26	Clayton, NY	Ogdensburg	Mills, George	McDonald, Mary
24 Nov 1866	Russell, Joseph	21	Alexandria NY	Farmer	Alexandria NY	Russell, Allen	Houghton Martha	Pierson, Effie	20	Brighton, Ont. Canada	Brighton Ont. Canada	Pierson, John	Flauvet, Elizabeth
23 Nov 1866	Farrell Daniel	28	Clayton, NY	Engineer	Orleans NY	Farrell Charles	Mullin, Bridget	Payne, Mary	25	Clayton, NY	Ireland	Payne, John	Fine, Mary
26 Nov 1866	Amo, Napoleon	28	Clayton, NY	Laborer	Canada	Amo, Cleophile	LaLonde, C.	Moneau, Virginia	29	Clayton, NY	Canada	Moneau, John	Russell, Anna
15 Dec 1866	Cadwell, Jay	33	Clayton, NY	Painter	Ellisburgh NY	Cadwell, V. R.	Cook, Reba	Heyl, H. Etta	37	Clayton, NY	Orleans NY	Heyl, Henry	Heldt, Catherine
22 Dec 1866	Dillenbeck, Fred A.	24	Lyme NY	Farmer	Lyme NY	Dillenbeck, Alva	McCombs, Amelia	Lingenfelter, Elma	19	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Lingenfelter, Willia	Wilson, Mary
22 Dec 1866	Haas, William	24	Clayton, NY	Farmer	Clayton NY	Haas, Lewis	Lehr, Catharine	Schnauber, Villeta A.	23	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Schnauber, Lewis	Halliday, Angeline
30 Dec 1866	Rees, Thomas J.	38	Clayton, NY	Engineer	Clayton NY	Rees, David	Labou, Marceline	Faire, Alice A.	37	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Faire, Thomas	Beard, Margaret

## THE GENTLEMAN BANDIT

Book details life of - infamous coach robber from Plessis

By *Watertown Daily Times* Writer Chris Brock  
Email: [cbrock@wdt.net](mailto:cbrock@wdt.net) May 13, 2023

Approval to publish this *Watertown Daily Times* article in the Jefferson County NY Genealogical Society *Informer* was approved by writer Chris Brock on May 16, 2023.

While growing up in the hamlet of Plessis in the town of Alexandria in the 1800s, Charles E. Boles realized one fact that would become the first building block in creating the attributes of a deceitful rascal and a notorious thief who holds an infamous record. He hated to farm.

Mr. Boles had several more experiences that would later benefit his life of crime and becoming America's greatest stage coach robber - from seeking his fortune in the California gold rush to honorably serving the Union in the Civil War, with some heroics. Later, along the way as he robbed, Mr. Boles developed a reputation as the best-behaved crook in the Old West. He held up stages with polite demands, stealing from Wells Fargo express stages and the U.S. Mail, but never robbing a passenger. He became known as "The Gentleman Bandit" and lived a second life as a genteel man-about-town in San Francisco.

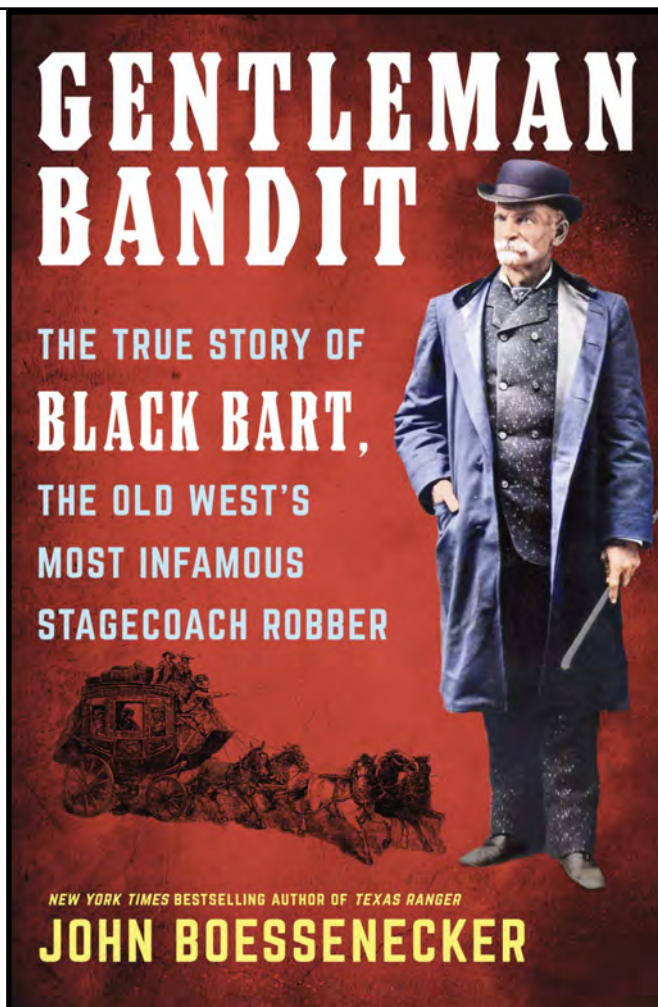
There has been lots of folklore and mythology related to the life of Mr. Boles, but *New York Times*-bestselling author and award-winning historian John Boessenecker separates fact from fiction in the first biography of the infamous crook in decades with his new book, "Gentleman Bandit: The True Story of Black Bart, The Old West's Most Infamous Stagecoach Robber," published by Hanover Square Press, an imprint of HarperCollins.

Mr. Boles, a voracious reader, took on the alias "Black Bart" in his thieving exploits from the story, "The Case of Summerfield" by American author William Henry Rhodes under a pseudonym in the early 1870s and first serialized in 1871 in the *Sacramento Union* and then widely reprinted by other newspapers. "Black Bart" was one of the villains in the story.

As he recounts the life and exploits of "Black Bart," Mr. Boessenecker also details the lawmen Mr. Boles eluded but who were constantly on his tail. He also tells of the family that Mr. Boles abandoned in favor of a life in crime.

"It's interesting that he encompassed the best and worst of a pioneer," Mr. Boessenecker said in a phone interview from his home near San Francisco.

Mr. Boles was born in England, the youngest of seven



children born to John and Maria Boles. Mr. Boessenecker explains that Charles's grandfather was the "base child" of Elizabeth Birch and a man with the last name of Bowles, which account for different spellings of the thief's name through the ages. In the *Times*' clipping archive, a 1946 article, containing incorrect information according to Mr. Boessenecker, is filed under "Bowles, Prof. Charles E." Mr. Boles was never a professor and the only type of educator he became was when copycats tried to match his robbery exploits. In a sea voyage filled with sickness, Charles's family arrived in New York City on July 1, 1830.

"The Erie canal was then only five years old, and it provided the best route west," Mr. Boessenecker writes in his book. "John (Charles's father) and Leonard Boles made their way to Jefferson County. The brothers each managed to acquire a 100-acre farm, where they began raising crops and dairy cows. John Bole's farmstead was located just south of Godfreys Corner, midway between the village of Plessis and the larger town of Alexandria Bay on the St. Lawrence River."

Mr. Boessenecker said that Charles Boles detested  
(Continued on Page 15)

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farming, and when word reached Plessis in 1848 of gold in California, the young man, then 19, wanted part of the rush. Instead of ship or wagon train, Charles hopped on a horse. "In the spring of 1849, as soon as the winter snow melted, he and his 19-year-old cousin David Boles started west, mounted on old farm plugs," Mr. Boessenecker writes.

Mr. Boles didn't find his fortunes in that gold-seeking trip or on others he went on as he roamed between east and west. In 1856, he married Mary Elizabeth Johnson in Iowa. Mary had also come west from New York State. A year later, they returned to the farm of Charles's father at Godfreys Corner, Jefferson County.

"Mary had a dowry, for Charley soon borrowed \$400 from her, which was probably every cent she owned," Mr. Boessenecker writes in the book. "In the spring of 1860, he returned to Iowa, where he signed a deed transferring ownership of his farmland to Mary in exchange for the \$400. Though Boles apparently deeded the farm to her as security for the \$400 she loaned him, he had originally acquired the property for less than a quarter of that sum. What Charley did with the money is unknown, but Mary's decision to trust her husband would turn out to be the biggest mistake of her life."

The author explains that in 1860, Charles returned to Godfrey's Corner and moved his wife and two children to Decatur, Illinois. In August 1862, Charles enlisted as a private in Company B of the 116th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, assigned to the Army of the Tennessee, commanded by William Tecumseh Sherman. Engagements ranged from the siege of Vicksburg to the Battle of Atlanta. Charles was a brave, "quiet and gentlemanly" soldier and seemed to thrive on long marches. "His intelligence and schooling distinguished him from his fellow riflemen," Mr. Boessenecker writes.

"Those three chapters of the Civil War were probably the most difficult chapters I've ever written for a book because it was outside my wheelhouse," Mr. Boessenecker said. "Then it occurred to me that this stuff really explains the type of pillaging and foraging they did on the March to the Sea, surviving on miniscule rations and the whole idea that 'We can march through the south and take anything we want.' That sort of entitlement clearly influenced his later career."

Mr. Boles's Army service, the author writes, was the highlight of his life up to that point. But he sought something more: the financial success that kept eluding him. Mr. Boessenecker shares the story of one of Mr. Boles's friends, who theorized on the moment that Mr. Boles decided to be a thief.

He was traveling about one day and sought food at a

stranger's house. The food offered was an embarrassment to him. Charles, his friend's tale goes, and after rejecting the scraps and feeding them to the family dogs on the porch, told the man who offered him the meal, "Hereafter, when I want anything, I will take it."

"It just seemed that he felt he had this entitlement," Mr. Boessenecker said. "He didn't strike it rich in the gold rush, he then served his country and when it came time to be promoted to lieutenant, he got the promotion on paper but not the actual promotion because they didn't need another. Nothing seemed to go his way and I go into some of the events that his friends later said that led him to a career of banditry."

### STRUGGLING BACK HOME

In the 1870s, while her husband was away on one of his mining unsuccessful escapades, Mary moved her family to Hannibal, Missouri, the home of her brother and his wife. "There Mary lived on the brink of poverty, eking out a living as a seamstress," Mr. Boessenecker writes.

Charles's parents, John and Maria, remained in Plessis. They both died in 1872 and are buried in the hamlet's Brookside Cemetery, with their grave stones noting the "Bowles" spelling of their surnames. Charles's uncle, Leonard, also died in 1872 after a fire struck the Plessis farmhouse of his son, Robert, where he lived, Mr. Boessenecker explains in his book. The fire also claimed the life of Robert.

Beginning in July 1875, Charles Boles robbed a total of 29 stagecoaches. He disguised his face with a flour sack.

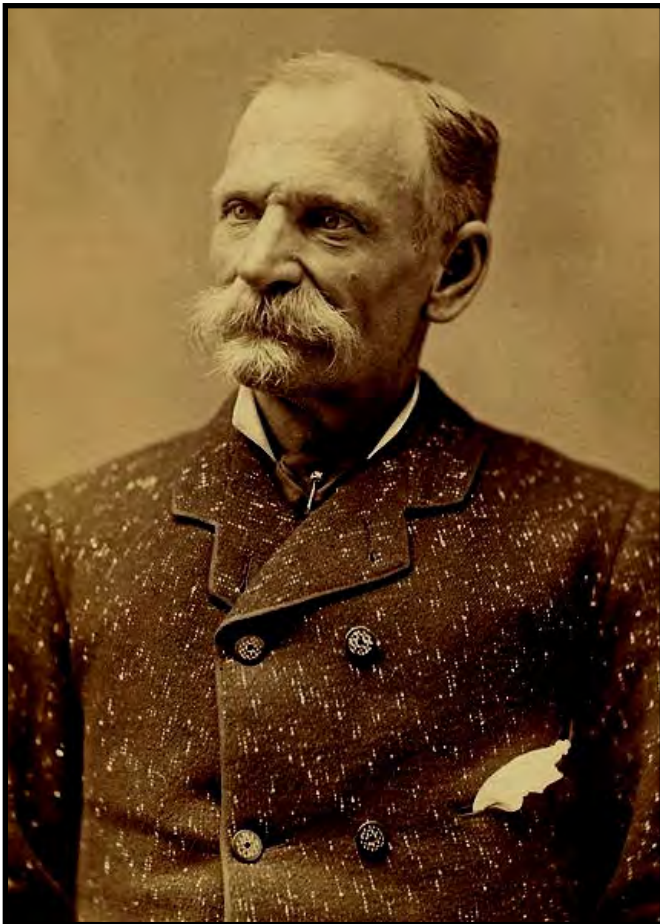
Mr. Boessenecker, an award-winning historian on matters of the Old West and whose other books include, "Shotguns and Stagecoaches: The Brave Men Who Rode for Wells Fargo in the Wild West," said that robbing stage coaches wasn't like what is seen in Western movies.

"It's not like John Wayne with his Winchester '92, which had not been invented yet, on top of a stagecoach and the robbers are the Apaches or whatever chasing him," he said. "If they really wanted to stop the stage, they'd just shoot the horses."

But it was rare to be a lone bandit in a stage robbery, which was the modus operandi for Mr. Boles. In most cases, the horses of the bandits would be hid, the author explained.

"People back then knew horse flesh and often they'd give a better description of a horse than they would of the rider," Mr. Boessenecker said. "So the robbers would hide in the brush and rob the coach while it was going very slowly on an uphill." (Continued on Page16)





Charles Boles, aka gentleman bandit Black Bart, taken by San Francisco photographer Isaiah W. Taber in 1883.

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But Mr. Boles would only rob stages while on foot, and not, Mr. Boessenecker writes in the chapter, "Myth and Mystery," because he was afraid of horses. "He walked to and from his holdups because that made it easier for him to avoid detection," the author writes.

Mr. Boles's first stage robbery occurred on July 26, 1875, on "the gradual slope of Funk Hill" in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Shortly after, readers are introduced to James B. Hume, Wells Fargo's chief and only detective.

The Delaware County, New York, native first went west to seek gold. But he would end up tracking Mr. Boles and Mr. Boessenecker writes an adventurous narrative of how Detective Hume and those he hired spent years tracking Mr. Boles and how he was eventually captured.

Mr. Boles would rob stages and return to San Francisco, finely dressed. The author writes that Charles did not drink, fight or consort with prostitutes.

He explained his routine absences by telling

associates that he was involved in a mining company out of town that often needed his attention. In reality, when he needed more money to keep up his charade, he left town to rob more stages.

After Mr. Boles was caught in 1883, he spent his sentence at San Quentin Prison. He was 48 when he arrived to serve his six-year sentence, but due to good behavior, was released early on New Year's Day, 1888.

In the chapter, "A War of Words," Mr. Boessenecker shares a letter written to Charles while he was in prison from brother Hiram Boles, back in Jefferson County, asking "if he was his long-dead older brother." Charles responded that indeed he was, but "lost and in disgrace."

Mr. Boles would then write to his wife and daughters back in Hannibal, Missouri, saying that he would never return to a life of crime.

"He was full of it," Mr. Boessenecker said. "He'd become a real con man at that point. It's horrible to see the letters, 'I love you,' 'I'm coming back to you,' 'I miss you.' It was all a big lie. Maybe he meant it at the time, but then, why didn't he send money back when they were struggling in Hannibal?"

Upon his release in January 1888, Mr. Boles would go back to robbing at least three more stages. He was never caught, and would disappear from everyone's radar.

The final fate of Black Bart isn't known but Mr. Boessenecker shared a "best guess." It involves a letter a Civil War comrade received from Charles, who apparently wrote that he was living in either Arizona or New Mexico as a successful rancher.

"Then again, it could have been Charley with his bologna, bragging because you couldn't believe anything he said," Mr. Boessenecker said.

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BOOK DETAILS:

WHAT: "Gentleman Bandit: The True Story of Black Bart, The Old West's Most Infamous Stagecoach Robber."

PUBLISHED BY: Hanover Square Press, an imprint of HarperCollins. 376 pages. Highly illustrated.

PUBLISHER'S DESCRIPTION: John Boessenecker sheds new light on Black Bart's beginnings, reputation and exploits, bringing to life the glittering story of the mysterious stage robber who doubled as a rich, genteel socialite in the golden era of the Wild West.

A REVIEWER'S VIEW: "Scrupulously researched and smoothly written, this is an entertaining slice of Americana." - *Publishers Weekly*.

LISTEN TO A SAMPLE: [wdt.me/blackbartsample](http://wdt.me/blackbartsample)  
COST: \$33

The following 1916 – 1924 deaths were noted at the Philadelphia Historical Society, Philadelphia, Jefferson County, New York, during a April 2017 visit. They appear to have been noted by a local insurance company. Therefore this is not a complete list of **PHILADELPHIA DEATHS**, just deaths as covered by the insurance company. There is no information on payout or such. Information in parenthesis was added after a search of Philadelphia area deaths on Ancestry.com.

Last Name	First Name	Year	Month	Day	Age	Cause Death
Allen	Mrs. Ben (Laura)	1919	January	8	82	Spanish Flu
Ashley	Theodore	1916	December	17	46	None Noted
Avery	Mrs. Amanda	1917	March	23	80	None Noted
Baker	Mrs. Kate (Catherine)	1917	February	1	71	None Noted
Bennett	Mrs. Dexter (Eunice)	1917	December	15	79	None Noted
Berry	M. O. (Michael)	1919	July	26	Non	none Noted
Bodman	Relief	1918	October	20	45	None Noted
Bolton	D. (Dwight E.)	1919	December	24	Non	none Noted
Briggs	Wesley	1917	February	18	75	None Noted
Caltago	Corneil	1918	October	19	27	Spanish Flu
Carpenter	Henry	1917	April	4	53	None Noted
Carr	Morris	1916	December	30	9M	None Noted
Childs	Mrs. John (Lydia)	1916	September	22	68	None Noted
Churchill	Russell	1916	December	11	72	None Noted
Clark	Montgomery	1916	September	2	72	None Noted
Clark	George	1918	December	23	81	None Noted
Cole	Jacob	1917	October	15	76	None Noted
Colluf	None listed	1917	March	1	2	None Noted
Coolidge	Charles	1919	September	8	84	none Noted
Cooper	Robert	1918	February	5	76	None Noted
Cornwell	Linal (or Linel)	1917	September	19	40	None Noted
Crandall	Mrs. Fred (Philinda)	1917	January	3	69	None Noted
Crandall	Hiram	1917	February	17	81	None Noted
Drake	Agatha	1918	October	15	6	Spanish Flu
Draper	Mrs. Phoebe	1917	March	30	64	None Noted
Fall	Mrs. Lucy	1917	February	12	93	None Noted
Fall	Robert	1918	July	10	62	None Noted
Fuller	Frank	1918	July	28	70	None Noted
Fults	Mrs. Andrew (Cora)	1917	January	1	53	None Noted
Garsau	Carl	1918	September	30	18	Spanish Flu
Graves	S. Freeman (Silas)	1917	August	22	43	None Noted
Hagan	Alfred	1918	October	25	29	Killed
Hart	Anna	1917	May	17	18	None Noted
Hewitt	Harrison (William)	1917	April	21	76	None Noted
Hicks	Mrs. Wm	1916	December	1	79	None Noted
Holkins	Mrs. Milo (Elhira)	1916	August	None	75	None Noted
Holkins	Milo	1917	February	21	79	None Noted
Kellar	Pearl Welch	1918	January	22	25	None Noted

Last Name	First Name	Year	Month	Day	Age	Cause Death
Kirkbride	Mrs. Carl	1924	February	17	65	None Noted
Knaff	J. C. (John)	1918	November	13	36	Spanish Flu
Lovejoy	Mrs. Janet	1919	April	10	74	none Noted
Markwick	Robert	1918	October	21	25	Killed
Mart	Mrs. Mary	1920	October	9	76	None Noted
Mather	Mrs. D. J. (Cordelia)	1920	January	9	59	None Noted
Matron	Frank	1919	September	30	68	none Noted
McAllister	Jessie	1918	October	22	11M	None Noted
McMullin	Mrs. James (Florence)	1918	October	17	32	Spanish Flu
Miller	Mrs. George (Catherine)	1916	November	12	Non	None Noted
Munroe	Mrs. Fred	1917	January	11	51	None Noted
Neville	James	1916	October	22	70	None Noted
Nutting	Mrs. Jane	1916	November	5	67	None Noted
Parker	Mrs. Frances	1919	March	6	72	none Noted
Pollock	Alonso (Alonzo)	1919	September	28	71	none Noted
Purcell	Mrs. Robert (Sarah)	1916	November	14	64	None Noted
Reonke	Patrick	1916	September	22	67	None Noted
Reynolds	Myron B.	1919	March	3	32	Pneumonia
Richardson	Newby C.	1918	October	12	31	Spanish Flu
Roberts	Mrs. Wm (Sarepta)	1917	March	14	84	None Noted
Rogers	Charles	1918	March	30	79	None Noted
Scofield	Mrs. Eliza	1917	March	31	82	None Noted
Scramp	Mrs. Anna	1918	January	4	41	None Noted
Smith	Jacob	1918	December	9	73	None Noted
Smith	Mrs. Mary	1919	March	30	64	None Noted
Southwell	Mrs. (Sarah)	1917	November	22	72	None Noted
Swind	Mrs. John (Helen)	1916	November	18	64	None Noted
Swind	Lewis	1918	September	15	53	None Noted
Swind	John	1919	August	8	75	None Noted
Taylor	Mrs. Nancy	1919	September	21	71	None Noted
Tooley	Mrs. Elial (Mertie)	1918	January	26	38	None Noted
Traffarn	Mrs. Dora Smith	1919	October	7	49	None Noted
Uniss	Joseph	1918	October	21	24	Spanish Flu
Wagner	James	1918	January	22	64	None Noted
Washburn	Frank	1918	May	12	Non	None Noted
Webb	Nelson (John N.)	1916	November	19	64	None Noted
Wells	G. Sloat	1918	October	2	77	None Noted
Whiting	Mrs. Sarah	1920	February	13	70	None Noted



## The Clarke Lineage To 1509

by JCNYS Member Stephan P. Clarke

I have been working on my lineage for 30 years now and am making good progress for both my family and my wife's. She is Mary E. Hawley whom I met in college. Neither family had ever heard of the other before we met in the spring of 1963, and some 35 years later learned we are 10 or 11C1R on a couple of lines. I also learned my Clarke line was from Rhode Island and had a long history there, but could not get past my G3-grandfather, Samuel Clarke, because I had no secure identity for his father. I had family notes from a distant cousin written down in the early 20th C, but she provided no documentation for any of it. I also hired a genealogist who specialized in early records for eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island and she was able to provide the first solid data for the connection from G3-grandfather Samuel to his father, James, and his grandfather, Joseph. I had a good start, but the real proof came only after I became involved with DNA testing and waited for the results.

The wait was a long one, some 10 years, but my DNA test paid off well with a solid match to a distant cousin in Texas. It provided not only the DNA connection to a common ancestor, but she had the paper trail to go with it. With the two elements of data I felt I had legitimate connection, but wanted to go one step further and submitted a supplemental application for my G5-grandfather, Joseph Clarke, Jr., to the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Having outside approval for my work was the final step for this first step, but I then learned serendipitously of another group, The Order of Founders and Patriots. Joining that group would provide support from another outside source for the whole family lineage back to my 9G-grandfather, another Joseph Clarke, called "The Immigrant," who left Westhorpe, Suffolk, England circa 1637 and moved directly to Rhode Island where he became a freeman on 17 March 1641.

The Order of Founders and Patriots of America (OFPA) is a hereditary fraternal organization whose purpose is to collect and preserve records related to the original American colonists and their Patriot descendants, and to promote camaraderie among them. Its bloodline mandates and small size (currently —2023—slightly more than 1,000 members) has earned it a reputation as the most exclusive lineage society in the United States. However, unlike the Society of the Cincinnati, membership eligibility does not descend through family lines by order of father to eldest son only, meaning multiple members of a family can hold OFPA memberships simultaneously.

The OFPA was founded in 1896 and is the only organization to require descent from both a Founder and a Patriot. Membership is limited to male U. S. citizens who are directly descended in the paternal line from a person who settled in colonial North America prior to 13 May 1657 anywhere in the territory that would become the thirteen colonies, and whose family later helped achieve independence for the United States. The ancestor who served the cause of the Revolution must also have direct male descendants who were alive after 16 Mar 1896.

### Generation 1: Stephan Paul CLARKE

b 18 Jan 1945, NY -  
m 23 May 1970, NY to Mary Elizabeth HAWLEY  
b 28 Mar 1945, NY

### Generation 2: Albert John CLARKE, Sr.

b 27 Dec 1914, Harrisville, Lewis Co., NY  
d 28 Jan 2010, Ballston Spa, Saratoga Co., NY  
m 14 May 1938, NY, Carthage, Jefferson Co., NY to  
Marjory Ruth GRIEB

b 22 May 1915, Carthage, Jefferson Co., NY  
d 18 Feb 2008, Guilderland Center, Albany Co., NY

### Generation 3: Edwin Wilson CLARKE

b 19 Jun 1886, Lake Bonaparte, Lewis Co., NY  
d 19 Mar 1972, Carthage, Jefferson Co., NY  
m 10 Apr 1911, Harrisville, Lewis Co., NY to  
Florence Arabella NORTH

b 26 Dec 1892, Harrisville, Lewis Co., NY  
d 18 Feb 1952, Harrisville, Lewis Co., NY

### Generation 4: John Wilson CLARKE

b 14 Apr 1855, Diana, Lewis Co., NY  
d 13 Jun 1917, Croghan, Lewis Co., NY  
m ca 1879, NY to Arvilla ("Villa," "Villy") Wright  
HOOPER

B 09 Nov 1857, South Bonaparte, Lewis Co., NY  
d 12 Aug 1897, Lewis Co., NY

### Generation 5: Alanson CLARKE

b 02 Sep 1806, Madison Co., NY  
d 29 Jul 1877, Diana, Lewis Co., NY  
m 26 Mar 1847, Lewis Co., NY to Dorcas  
Sherman BLANCHARD

b 20 Jul 1826, Wilna, Jefferson Co., NY  
d 10 Nov 1887, Diana, Lewis Co., NY

I am fortunate enough to have photographs of my eight ancestors listed here.

### Generation 6: Samuel CLARKE

b 24 Jun 1783, Westerly, Washington Co., RI  
d 11 Nov 1870, Watertown, Jefferson Co., NY  
m ca 1805, MA? to Martha WAIT  
b 18 May 1785, Chester, Hampshire Co., MA  
d 27 Mar 1853, Diana, Lewis Co., NY

### Generation 7: James CLARKE

b 07 Aug 1745, Westerly, Washington Co., RI  
d bef 1795 ?  
m ca 1770, RI? to Phebe TUCKER ?  
b ca 1750, RI, d ?

### Generation 8: Private, Civil Service, Joseph CLARKE, Jr., RI

#### ~REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT

b 05 Mar 1728/29, Westerly, Washington Co., RI  
d 25 Oct 1792, Westerly, Washington Co., RI  
m 26 Dec 1746, Richmond, Washington Co., RI to  
Hannah PERRY

b 13 Apr 1728, Westerly, Washington Co., RI  
d 05 Nov 1795, RI ?

The DAR's *The American Monthly Magazine*, February 1906, pp 14-6, lists Joseph Clarke, Jr., as one of the signers of the Test Act in an article entitled "The Patriots of Westerly, R. I., 1776." This list is also provided online by the Office of the Secretary of State of Rhode Island as "Test Act Subscribers, 1776." He also served as a Justice of the Peace for Westerly, RI for several years and throughout the period of the Revolutionary War.

Joseph Clarke's data from the First Hopkinton Cemetery as compiled by Gayle E. Waite and Lorrain Tarket-Arruda in *Hopkinton, Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries* offers: "And though after my skin worms destroy this Body yet in ye flesh shall I see God whom I shall see for myself and not another." His wife, Hannah Perry Clarke was not buried with him. A note appended to the entry in the graves list states:

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He was a member of the Sabbatarian Church [Seventh Day Baptist] at Westerly and a profitable man in the Society who we trust has made a happy exchange.”

It is unknown why, but Joseph and Hannah both died destitute with no money to pay Joseph's funeral debts. It is further unknown what happened to James and his wife, but Samuel appears to have been sent to live with relatives in Hampshire Co., MA where he met his wife, Martha. They then moved to Madison Co., NY where there were many Clarkes from Rhode Island. Their first son was born there, but they eventually moved north to Lewis County.

**Generation 9: Joseph CLARKE, Sr.**

b 29 Aug 1705, Westerly, Washington Co., RI  
d Sep 1783, Westerly, Washington Co., RI  
m 15 Nov 1727, Richmond, Washington Co., RI, to Sarah REYNOLDS  
b 21 Oct 1709, RI, d ?

**Generation 10: Samuel CLARKE**

b 29 Sep 1672, Westerly, Washington Co., RI  
d 25 Jul 1769, Stonington, New London Co., CT  
m 19 Jan 1698/99, Westerly, Washington Co., RI to Anne CHAMPLAIN / CHAMPLIN  
b 1678-79, Westerly, Washington Co., RI  
d aft 06 May 1719, ?

**Generation 11: Joseph CLARKE, II**

b 11 Feb 1642, Westerly, Washington Co., RI  
d 11 Jan 1726/27, Westerly, Washington Co., RI  
m 16 Nov 1664, Newport, Newport Co., RI to Bethiah HUBBARD  
b 19 Dec 1646, Springfield, Hampden Co., MA  
d 17 Apr 1707, ?

**Generation 12: Joseph CLARKE, I, "The Immigrant."**

**~FOUNDER**  
b 09 Dec 1618, Westhorpe, Suffolk, England  
d 01 Jun 1694, Newport, Newport Co., RI  
m ca 1640, RI to Margaret TURNER  
b ca 1620, England  
d 1694, Newport, Newport Co., RI

G9-grandfather Joseph Clarke traveled to Rhode Island with three of his brothers, G9-granduncles Carew, Thomas and John, but is the only one of the four to have children survive him. The Rev. Dr. John Clarke, John, the only one with a college education, took his bachelor's degree in divinity from Catherine's College, Cambridge University in 1631, a law degree from Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and an MD from the University at Leyden, the Netherlands. The three men quickly joined forces with the Rev. Roger Williams, credited as founder of Rhode Island and who is also my 10G-grandfather, and began work to set the colony on a firm foundation. They were freemen, but not of the nobility.

John and Joseph, along with the Rev. Roger Williams, were among the primary movers in the establishment of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. The Rev. Dr. John was appointed ambassador to the Court of King Charles II and spent twelve years in England working to obtain a Royal Charter from King Charles. The original of the charter is held by the Rhode Island Department of State who very kindly sent me a high definition digital scanning of it. It is a scroll of parchment about 32 inches wide and 60 inches long that bears a likeness of King Charles and the Royal Seal, but not Charles's signature. The signature is "By the King, Howard." Howard may be Robert Howard who was the Clerk of Patents for the King. ("Rhode Island"). John and

Joseph Clarke, and Roger Williams are mentioned by name in the Charter for Rhode Island dated 8 July 1663. The Rhode Islanders asked specifically for freedom of religion and assembly for Christians and non-Christians, and freedom of speech for all, which were granted, but with the proviso that the freedoms did not apply in England. Still it is the first time known in history when a ruling monarch granted such freedoms to his subjects. The Charter is the basis for the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution and it is worthy of note that scholars credit the Rev. Dr. John Clarke as its author.

The opening lines of the Charter are transcribed here as written:

**"CHARLES THE SECOND**, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c., to all tow home these presents shall come, greeting: Whereas wee have been informed, by the humble petition of our trustie and well beloved subject, **John Clarke**, on the behalf of Benjamine Arnold, William Brenton, William Codington, Nicholas Easton, William Boulston, John Porter, John Smith, Samuell Gorton, John Weeks, **Roger Williams**, Thomas Olnie, Gregorie Dexter, John Cogeshall, **Joseph Clarke**, Randall Holden, John Greene, John Roome, Samuell Wildbore, William Ffield, James Barker, Richard Tew, Thomas Harris, and William Dyre, and the rest of the purchasers and ffree inhabitants of our island, called Rhode-Island, and the rest of the colonie of Providence Plantations, in the Narragansett Bay, in New-England, in America, that they, pursueing, with peaceable and loyall mind, their sober, serious and religious intentions, of godlie edifieing themselves, and one another, in the holie Christian ffaith and worshipp as they were perswaded...."



The Rhode Island Charter with the drawing of King Charles II and various royal insignias along either side. Near the top are three arrows: The one on the left points to Roger Williams, line 4, and the two on the right point to John Clarke at the top, row 2, and his brother, Joseph Clarke, below in row 4. The blank gap near the bottom of the illustration is where the first piece of parchment is joined to the second of three parchment sheets; the Charter is nearly five feet long. Each sheet of parchment made from the inner skin of one sheep.

Historian Thomas Bicknell wrote in his *History of Rhode Island* that "The Royal Charter of of 1663, the grandest

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instrument of human liberty ever constructed...has become the inspiration and guide to the Declaration of Independence and to the State Constitutions of every Commonwealth in the American Republic." (Bicknell 1022)

Of curious interest is the fact that during WWII the Rev. Dr. John Clarke, had Liberty Ship #1458 named for him as the S. S. *John Clarke*. The *John Clarke* was in service from 1942-47 as a freighter and limited troop carrier.

It is also important to note one particular section of Dr. Clarke's will: "At decease of wife, the trustees to distribute and dispose of profits of the farm and marsh for relief of the poor and bringing up of children unto learning (to be a perpetual trust)." (Austin 46) The trust is still in force and in use, and is generally accepted as the oldest educational charitable trust in the U. S.

Prior generations in England, all located in Westhorpe, are:

**Generation 13:** Thomas CLARKE married Rose HERRIGE. He was born in Westhorpe in 1570 and died there.

**Generation 14:** John CLARKE married Catherine COOKE. He was born in Westhorpe in 1541 and died there.

**Generation 15:** John CLARKE married Margaret SWEET. He was born in Westhorpe ca 1509 and died there.

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# Jacob Perry Nash

Submitted by Allyson Zegarelli Stephenson  
[timelessgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:timelessgenealogy@gmail.com)

Tucked into a small cemetery on a hill just over the Jefferson County line in Denmark, is a small marble headstone for a man who's name was Jacob Perry Nash. The stone is weathered, and damaged from a metal pin that was placed in the base to hold the stone upright. Jacob was born in October 1737 in Braintree Massachusetts to parents John Nash (1698-1745) and Mary Turbefield (1700-1761) and was Baptized Aug 25, 1745. He married Margaret Higgins March 5, 1764 and it was recorded in Weymouth Massachusetts records on March 31, 1764. In total, they had 11 children.

On April 19, 1775, he came to the call of his Captain, CPT Silas Wild, to engage the 700 British forces that were marching through Lexington on to Concord. At day's end the British counted 273 casualties out of a total of 1,800 men engaged; American casualties numbered 95 men, including the toll at Lexington. Jacob was not a young, green lad that day. He was a husband and father of 4 sons, and was about 38 years old when Paul Revere and William Dawes made their famous ride.

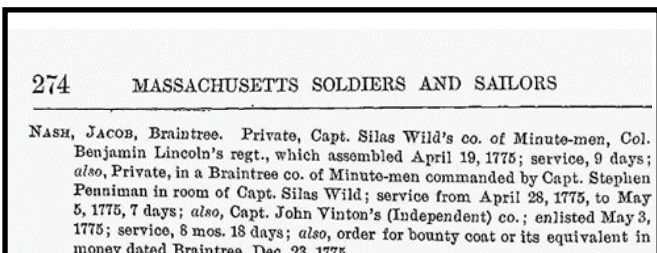
1780 saw him selling his property in Braintree and moving to Cummington, Mass. His wife Margaret died there on Aug 12, 1812. After his wife's death, Jacob moved in with his daughter Mercy and her husband Daniel Reed. Shortly after that, he moved to Denmark, Lewis County to live with his son James. During the celebration in Lowville on July 4, 1826, for the semi-centennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, he was one of the 55 Revolutionary Veterans that were present at dinner. It is listed in the *History of Lewis County* by Hough that "Jacob Nash, Denmark, Former residence, Braintree, age 90".

Children: Jacob P., Ephraim, Oliver, (Capt.) John, Dyer, James, Polly (1), Joseph (1), Joseph (2), Polly (2) and Mercy.

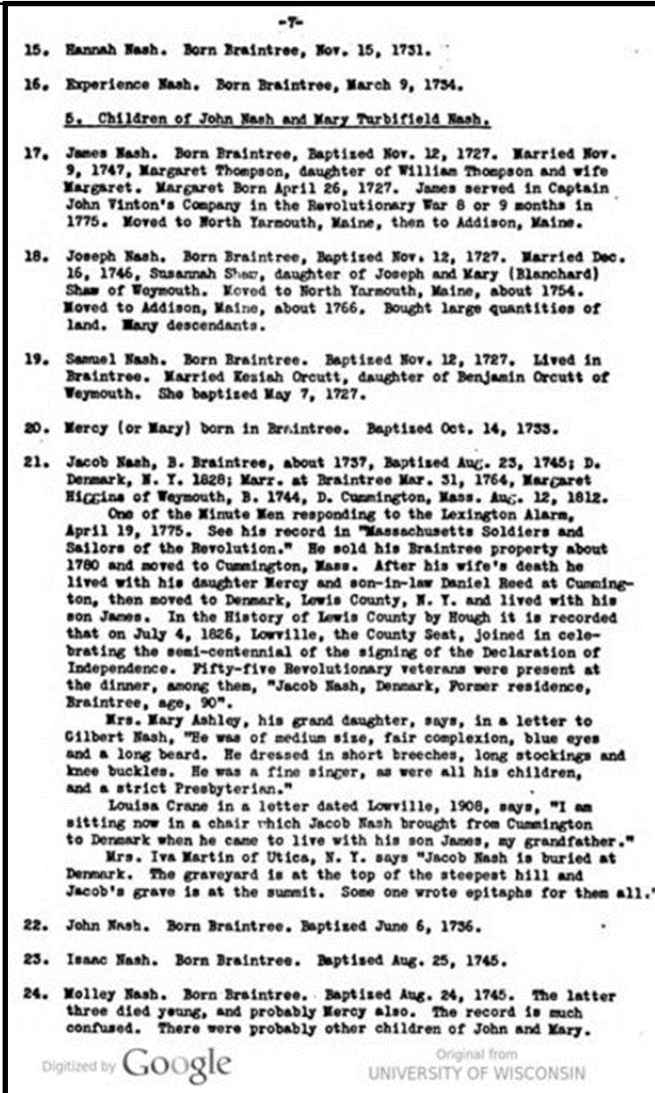
PS. I will be doing my best to clean and restore this cemetery this summer. All helpers welcome or those that want to learn how to safely clean headstones, feel free to email me and we can plan a time.

[timelessgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:timelessgenealogy@gmail.com)

Original data: Massachusetts. Secretary of the Commonwealth. *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War. Vol. 1-17.* Boston, MA, USA: Wright & Potter Printing, 1896-1908.



On the Web: <http://www.jcnys.com>



<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/141400254/jacob-perry-nash>



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**The General Jacob Brown Chapter,  
Sackets Harbor, NY  
Paid Special Tribute to Two Veterans  
Interred at Muskalonge Cemetery  
On Memorial Day (2023)**

Prepared by Beverly Sterling-Affinati, Curator National  
Edited by Anne Davis, Honorary Vice President  
National (NY) & GJB Chapter President  
N.S.U.S.D. of 1812  
Both Women are JCNYS Informer Committee Members

On Memorial Day (5/29/23), the General Jacob Brown Chapter, Sackets Harbor, NY, National Society United States Daughters of 1812, and the America 250 Committee NSDAR paid special tribute to two veterans interred at the Muskalonge Cemetery, Hounsfield, Jefferson County, NY.

Recognized with their new military headstones were the following interred veterans:

**Ebenezer Allen, Jr., 3/17/1788–12/10/1859**, War of 1812 Ebenezer Allen, Jr. was a New York resident and served as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sergeant with Elisha Camp's Artillery NY Volunteers. His father, Ebenezer Allen, Sr., was both a War of 1812 and Revolutionary War soldier. He came to be known as Hounsfield's 'Paul Revere' during the War of 1812.

**Solomon Livermore 2/10/1762–7/12/1849**, Revolutionary War

Solomon Livermore served as a Lieutenant with Captains Nye and Coburn and as a Colonel with General Lafayette.

The ceremony opened with the Sackets Harbor American Legion Post 1757 conducting a wreath laying and 21-gun salute with taps. The Ladies Auxiliary accompanied the Honor Guard. An Invocation by Rev. Leon VanWie followed. He is a Chaplain with the Sons of the American Revolution Thousand Islands chapter. Chapter President Anne Davis presided, having organized the event alongside Bette Lathan, the chapter's Vice President. Ms. Davis conducted the Veteran Roll Call. VP Lathan spoke of the role each man played during their military careers.

**Program Speakers:**

Curator National Beverly Sterling-Affinati was invited to speak; providing an overview of the work that originated at the cemetery, a vision which continues today.

Karen Sheehan, Regent of the LeRay de Chaumont chapter, Watertown. DAR America 250 was in attendance, as this was a day to pay special tribute to Revolutionary War patriot, Solomon Livermore, for his service to our country.

Mark Crandall, Chapter President of the Sons of the American Revolution, Thousand Islands Chapter.

While not on the program, Sackets Harbor Battlefield Historic Site Director, Constance Barone was in attendance and invited to give a few remarks on the

battlefield property located at Ambrose Street.

A wreath was placed for:

**Ebenezer Allen, Jr.**, War of 1812  
Placed by descendant Warren Allen, JCNYS member and member of the 'Friends of the Muskalonge Cemetery'

**Solomon Livermore**, Revolutionary War  
Placed by descendant Janina Shoemaker  
The (late) **Sidney Shafer**, former member of the 'Friends of the Muskalonge Cemetery'  
Placed by Bette Lathan.

The (late) **Edwin Davis**, former member of the 'Friends of the Muskalonge Cemetery'  
Placed by Beverly Sterling-Affinati

The July 2012 Issue of the JCNYS Informer (Volume 19, Issue 3) features an 11-page article on this cemetery, called, 'War of 1812 Soldiers, Muskalonge Cemetery, Hounsfield, New York'. It was only discovered after that article had been published that Solomon Livermore had also served in the military. While the article does not record Livermore's service to our country, it does recognize Ebenezer Allen, Jr.

**Veterans Buried in Muskalonge Cemetery,  
Hounsfield NY**

Veteran Roll Call

Ebenezer Allen Sr.	Revolutionary War and War of 1812
Ebenezer Allen JR	War of 1812
Ethan Allen	War of 1812
Jesse Benjamin	War of 1812
Jonas Benjamin	Revolutionary War and War of 1812
Alexander Dorchester	Revolutionary War and War of 1812
Hooker Dorchester	War of 1812
Amasa Fox	Revolutionary War and War of 1812
Theron Hinman	War of 1812
Charles E. Hunt	World War 1
Elisha Livermore	War of 1812
Solomon Livermore	Revolutionary War and War of 1812
John M. Phelps	War of 1812
Robert T Richardson	WW II
John Roacher	WW II
Evander Spaulding	War of 1812
Alexander St. John	War of 1812
Elias Taylor	War of 1812
John M. Thompson	War of 1812
David Wilder	War of 1812
Ephraim Wilder	War of 1812
Jotham Wilder Sr.	Revolutionary War and War of 1812
Jotham Wilder Jr.	War of 1812
Samuel Wilder	War of 1812
William D. Wilder	Civil War 94 <sup>th</sup> Co. E NY
James Wright	Civil War



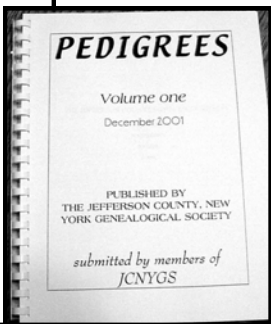
War of 1812 Ebenezer Allen, Jr. was a New York resident and served as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sergeant with Elisha Camp's Artillery NY Volunteers. His father, Ebenezer Allen, Sr., was both a War of 1812 and Revolutionary War soldier. He came to be known as Hounsfield's 'Paul Revere' during the War of 1812.



Revolutionary War  
Solomon Livermore served as a Lieutenant with Captains Nye and Coburn and as a Colonel with General Lafayette.

**JCNYGS MATERIALS FOR PURCHASE**  
Contact: Greg or Tammy Plantz, 21787 Reed Road, Watertown, NY 13601  
Or email [tplantz1@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:tplantz1@twcnny.rr.com)

**PEDIGREE BOOK I & PEDIGREE BOOK II**  
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A collection of pedigrees Submitted by members of the JCNYGS with an every name index  
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**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**



**Jefferson County Queries**  
Use the "ONLINE QUERY" on [www.jcnysgs.com](http://www.jcnysgs.com) or mail queries to:  
Jerry Davis, P. O. Box 275, Clayton, NY 13624;  
[maridavis@aol.com](mailto:maridavis@aol.com)  
Subject: **Jefferson County Informer Query**  
(Some readers don't have internet access. Please include mailing address &/or phone numbers as well as email.)

**SENECAL, TASSEY**  
I am looking for information about the Leon **SENECAL** family in the Redwood, New York area. I believe they were glass blowers. There may also be a **TASSEY** family in the Redwood area too! A **SENECAL** son may have been named Leon as well.  
*Jeanette Hubbard*  
[j.t.hubb79@gmail.com](mailto:j.t.hubb79@gmail.com)

**ADAMS, TRUDE, BAKER**  
From the 1820 & 1830 federal censuses for Wilna, Asahel **ADAMS**, poss. 1785 Canterbury, Windham, CT - 1871 Allen, Allegany, NY. Adam married Margaret **TRUDE** before 1806. Margaret **TRUDE** 1788 RI - 1872 NY—daughter of John Albert **TRUDE**, SR (b. France- 1830, Wilna). Children were John B, Sarah B, Mary Ann, Penelope, Susan, Margaret, Asahel Jr and Emogene "Emma." **ADAMS** has known brothers Alvin & Benjamin (Benedict?). Large family, frequent moves, **TRUDE** & other **ADAMS** adjacent in all censuses. Parents are NOT John & Mary/Molly Rollins **ADAMS** of VT (DNA proven). I do have other info available on him & **TRUDE**. I apologize if I have written before. Not

sure if I received a response or not. We are looking for Asahel **ADAMS'** parents and origins. Did Mary Phoebe **BAKER TRUDE** die in Jefferson Co?  
*Sue Wemett*  
[swemett@gmail.com](mailto:swemett@gmail.com)

**PARKER, KENYON, WILDER**  
Franklin Marcellus **PARKER** born January 20, 18?2 in Watertown, son of Jermiah and Francina **KENYON PARKER**. Jermiah **PARKER** - son of Cracus **PARKER**, whose father was Ezra **PARKER**. Ezra came to Jefferson County in 18??, the title to his land on Dry Hill was the fourth deed ever given in Watertown. He married Miranda H. **WILDER** in October 1861. Children were Charles J., Nettie and Maude. Franklin may have belonged to the following societies or groups: R. A. M. Watertown Commandery No 11, Knights Templar and was an active member of the community for 40 years, member of the Jefferson County Republican Committee and several others.  
*Deena Galloy*  
[deenagalloy@gmail.com](mailto:deenagalloy@gmail.com)

**CLARK, SMITH**  
I am looking for any information or connections among the following items:  
John **CLARK** b 1803—d 1874; Black **SMITH** ( blacksmith ?); wife Ann: son David b. 12/25/1832; 1850 in the Brownville Cemetery.  
*Thomas Burke*  
[thomasoburke@hotmail.com](mailto:thomasoburke@hotmail.com)  
239-848-7019

## INFORMER

Jefferson County NY Genealogical Society  
(JCNYGS)  
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Watertown, NY 13601

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## 2023 PROGRAMS

**Monday, July 10, 6:00 PM, at the Thousand Islands Museum, 312 James Street, Clayton, New York.** JCNYGS members will tour the research department with Clayton Historian and JCNYGS member, Tom LaClair. He will provide a tour of the museum, highlighting the wide assortment of family files and history related binders. There is parking in the rear of the building off Riverside Drive.

**Monday, August 14, 6:00 PM, at Watertown's Flower Memorial Library.** JCNYGS members are encouraged to attend a gathering in the Genealogy Research Department, 229 Washington Street. The department's mission is to aid and assist the public in genealogical and historical research with a focus on Jefferson County New York, and the adjacent counties of Lewis, St. Lawrence, Oswego, and the province of Ontario.

**Monday, September 11, 6:00 PM, at the Half-Shire Historical Society, 1100 County Route 48, Richland, New York.** JCNYGS members will be excited to hear Shawn Doyle who will provide a program and tour of the Society and the materials it provides. Half-Shire is a rich resource especially for ancestors of Oswego County. Many of our JCNYGS members have ancestors in Oswego County.

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**UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED,** JCNYGS lectures begin at 6:00 PM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building. Come 30 minutes early to get to know other members and share new finds and experiences.

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 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 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 onto Ives Street Road. Continue straight into the city. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chapel is the second building on the right, across from IHCS, as you enter the city limits.

From Watertown, it is on Ives Street, across from IHCS. Take Washington Street to Barben Avenue. Turn on to Barben and take it until it ends at a T. Turn left and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be 300 yards on the left.

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



# INFORMER

Volume 30, Issue 4

Annual Dues \$18 Individual \$20 Family

October 2023



OCTOBER  
**07**  
SATURDAY  
11AM - 2PM  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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*at the Jefferson County Historical Society*

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The 120th Anniversary of Flower Library

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## INFORMER OCTOBER 2023

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*E-mail:* use ONLINE CONTACT PAGE on *Web site:* [www.jcnygs.com](http://www.jcnygs.com)

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[kleesonmedia17@gmail.com](mailto:kleesonmedia17@gmail.com), 315-286-3930

**Vice President:** Paul Beers, 17481 US Route 11, Lot 10E, Watertown,  
 New York 13601, [gldnbrew@gmail.com](mailto:gldnbrew@gmail.com), 315-771-1359

**Recording Secretary:** **Seeking A Volunteer**

**Treasurer:** Greg Plantz, 21787 Reed Road, Watertown, NY 13601,  
[tplantz1@twcnr.com](mailto:tplantz1@twcnr.com), 315-788-5324

**Membership Clerk:** Kevin Subra, [membership@jcnygs.com](mailto:membership@jcnygs.com)

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Ashley Pickett, [apickett@ncls.org](mailto:apickett@ncls.org);

Carol Rooksby Weidlich, [crweidlich@gmail.com](mailto:crweidlich@gmail.com)



Jefferson County  
 NY Genealogical Society

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## THIS INFORMER ISSUE

JCNYGS is pleased to bring you this fourth quarter 2023 newsletter, the *Informer*. Although there is much going on in the nation with current events, there is also much going on with local history. The Jefferson County Historical Society in Watertown recently reopened their doors after a hiatus due to Covid as well as significant renovations. We recommend you take a visit to see the new displays throughout the three floors (basement, main level, and second floor). As part of the renovations, the roof was replaced, and an elevator was installed to allow easy access between the floors. See pages 9 and 10 for more information. Of course, see the flyer on the cover of this newsletter-attend if able.

## FLOWER LIBRARY TO CELEBRATE 120 YEARS

The Flower Memorial Library, across the street from the Historical Society, is another Jefferson County treasure. In January of 2025, the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library will celebrate 120 years of service to the community of Watertown and the surrounding area. The library's story began when revered philanthropist Emma Flower Taylor offered to purchase a site within the City of Watertown for a public library, erect the building, and fund the collections. On April 5, 1901, after years of fund raising with others such as George Massey and Edwin Paddock, Emma Flower Taylor presented a gift of

\$60,000 to the city. In celebration of this milestone achievement, library staff will host special anniversary events and activities at the library throughout the next couple of years. JCNYGS will share information in the January 2024 *Informer* and subsequent *Informer* updates during the 2024 and 2025 celebrations.

## MEMBERSHIP ON OUR MINDS

In the past few years our membership has fallen off for various reasons. We welcome all current members to stay, and we invite all past members to return. On the top of page 3 and the top of page 4, we share membership information. Feel free to cut out this portion (or photocopy it), fill it out, and send in your check payment for initial or renewal membership. Please include name, address, phone number and email. If no email, state no email. If a current member, the address label on the back cover will show your expiration date of membership. Cash payments are welcomed at our local meetings. We encourage renewals before the expiration date arrives.

"When a society or a civilization perishes, one condition can always be found. They forgot where they came from" – Carl Sandburg, American poet.



# Membership

## Application and Renewal

### MAIL TO:

**JEFFERSON COUNTY NY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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Watertown, New York 13601**

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**Annual membership provides you the most current issue of the *Informer* via the mail, as well as unlimited internet access to current and past *Informers* since 1994! There are no on-line payments at this time.**

## Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, July 10, 2023  
By JCNYS Member Tom LaClair

The monthly JCNYS gathering was held July 10th at 6:00 PM at the Thousand Islands Museum in Clayton, New York. Those in attendance included Greg and Tammy Plantz, Bruce Doxtater, Tom LaClair, Paul Beers, Marilyn and Jerry Davis, M. Russell Lee, Linda Thomas, Jean (Tina) Thorp, and Tracy L. Robertson. President Kevin Leeson was excused on business.

Past president Tom LaClair opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and welcomed attendees. Greg Plantz provided the treasurer report: As of today, the Watertown Savings Bank balances are: The checking balance stands at \$6,882.90. The Certificate of Deposit balance stands at \$2,519.85. The only disbursement to report was the July 2023 *Informer* (Coughlin Printing) for \$626.41.

The meeting was opened for discussions. Initially discussed was dwindling membership. Membership include personal memberships (like you and me) as well as 36 societies and museums that receive complimentary copies of the *Informer*. Membership numbers fell to 204 in July after 37 personal members were dropped from the rolls; all 37 were delinquent in dues more than 12 months. Emails and letters were sent requesting dues renewals. A concern is the *Informer* is sent out using a non-profit permit that requires 200 mailings—we are sitting at only 4 above this number. To increase membership, placing the society tri-fold at museums, historical societies, libraries, and clerks offices was agreed. Additionally, the October 7th History & Genealogy Fair must be a focus for new membership.

Tom LaClair, the Clayton Historian, then gave a overview of the extensive Thousand Islands Museum family files collection. These files are vital for area genealogical research with pertinent articles from area newspapers (*Thousand Islands Sun*, *Watertown Daily Times*) and magazines (*T. I. Life*, *NNY Business*, *NNY Living*) being routinely cut out and filed into the



binders. Tom also highlighted the numerous history folders on topics like cheesemaking, ice harvesting, ship building, tourism, and much more. Even if your ancestors didn't live in Clayton, the research capabilities are valuable when writing family histories. A brief tour of the historians office and the museum followed. You are encouraged to visit the museum website at [www.timuseum.org](http://www.timuseum.org).

In closing, Tom provided a motion to give the Thousand Islands Museum \$50.00 for allowing us the use of the museum for the meeting. Marilyn Davis and Jean Thorp both seconded the motion, and the motion unanimously carried.

The next JCNYS meeting scheduled is Monday, August 14th, at 6:00 PM, at Watertown's Flower Memorial Library, 229 Washington Street. A general reminder that upcoming lectures are advertised on the back cover of the quarterly *Informer*.

Additionally, plan to attend the annual History and Genealogy Fair on Saturday, October 7th, from 11:00 AM at 2:00 PM at the Jefferson County Historical Society, 228 Washington Street, Watertown. There is a \$5.00 admission fee.

The meeting concluded at 7:20 PM.



In addition to the monthly meetings (Mar - Nov), the two most important means of providing information to our members, and prospective members, is through our 24 page quarterly newsletter, the *Informer*. Regular features include articles on ancestors in and about Jefferson County. We provide news about the society and discuss genealogical happenings from the surrounding area. Members can contact us through the website as well as submit queries which are printed in the *Informer* at no charge. Secondly, members have unlimited access to [www.jcnygs.com](http://www.jcnygs.com) for research links. This site provides the society increased exposure and efficient means of passing along genealogical information to help you, the researcher, learn more about Jefferson County and most of all, leads to direct ancestors.

### Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, August 14, 2023  
By JCNYGS Member Larry Corbett



The Jefferson County Genealogical Society met on August 14 at 6 pm at the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library in Watertown, NY.

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Leeson. There were 8 members present including all the current officers. The president asked Larry Corbett to keep minutes.

There was correspondence from Tom LaClair, who was unable to attend. The History and Genealogy Fair has been scheduled for Saturday, October 7 at the Jefferson County Historical Society Museum on Washington Street in Watertown. A query was received from an author who wants to interview Gus

Rogers on his World War experience. This was forwarded to PP LaClair who will pass it along to Gus' niece. Tina Thorp is looking for photos from Hounsfield District 8 School, which was located at Baggs Corners, and operated into the 1930s and possibly later.

Treasurer's report as follows:  
Checking account balance on 5 July 2023 was \$7375.30.  
Deposits were made of multiple dues totaling \$1017.00.  
2 checks were written, (\$616.41 and \$50) totaling \$676.40.  
New balance on 7 August 2023 is \$7715.90.

The meeting was adjourned and we were given a tour of the Genealogy Department, and then of the full library by Librarian Ashley.

Ashley's Tour →



That dome is a great big "Wow"



## Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, September 11, 2023  
By JCNYGS Member Larry Corbett

The meeting was held at the Half-Shire Historical Society in Richland, NY. President Kevin Leeson was unable to attend due to another commitment. Past President Tom LaClair stood in his place to conduct the meeting. Past President Larry Corbett was invited to record the meeting minutes.

The meeting was called to order at a little past 6 p.m. In attendance, in addition to Mr. LaClair and Mr. Corbett, were members VP Paul Beers, Anne Davis, Tammy Plantz, Bruce Doxtater. Representing Half-Shire were president Shawn Doyle and volunteers Sue and David Bristol.

The Treasurer's report was read. The checking account balance as of 9/11/2023 is \$7883.90 and the Certificate of Deposit is valued at \$2519.85. Our normal receipts from dues and donations continue to arrive, and the cost of printing and mailing the *Informer* continues to make up the majority of our expenses.

A draft of the October edition of the *Informer* has been circulated. It will be submitted shortly and should arrive in mailboxes by the first week of October.

There will be no October meeting. Instead, members will be present at the History and Genealogy Fair in the Jefferson County Historical Society Museum on October 7, 2023 starting at 11 a.m. Doors will be open for setup one hour prior to arrival of the public. December 3 was chosen as the date of the Holiday/Christmas party at the home of Greg and Tammy Plantz. This is a covered dish event, open to all members and their invited guests. Members are invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy to be donated to Toys for Tots. Starting time is 12 noon. We do not have a scheduled program for the November meeting as of yet. Program will be listed on the back page of *Informer* if one can be arranged.

A question from Dave and Sue Bristol who would like to clean gravestones at Dugway cemetery. References were given them of others who are conducting similar projects and have information of accepted techniques and chemicals.

Election of officers was discussed. Nominations are due. A nominating committee needs to be appointed to determine if current officers are available for another term, and to find suitable candidates if necessary. Tabled until November meeting.

Past-president LaClair presented a check for \$100 to Half-Shire Society, accepted by President Doyle.



Front row, left to right, Shawn Doyle, Larry Corbett, Bruce Doxtater, Anne Davis. Middle row, Sue Bristol, Paul Beers. Back row, Dave Bristol, Tammy Plantz. Photo by Tom LaClair.

Shawn Doyle spoke on the history and mission of the Half-Shire Historical Society, its building, organizational structure, and continuing projects. "Half-Shire Historical Society is a dynamic historic and genealogical research organization and museum headquartered in the Hamlet of Richland, Oswego County, New York and encompasses the neighboring eastern Lake Ontario/Tug Hill townships of Albion, Amboy, Boylston, Camden, Florence, Orwell, Osceola, Parish, Redfield, Sandy Creek and Williamstown. It is located in the former Richland school at 1100 County Rte. 48, Richland, NY, and is open weekdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. or by appointment. They maintain a comprehensive digital database on the early settlers, families and communities of the region served, collecting photos, documents, vital records and stories to help visiting researchers and area residents understand the unique shared past of the Eastern Lake Ontario /Tug Hill region.

Mr. Doyle displayed a collection of freshly re-bound family Bibles, newly acquired Tyler coverlets and other important materials. He suggested methods for organizations to raise money, encourage members to volunteer, and build membership. The talk was live-streamed to Half-Shire members as well as the assembled audience.

**HALF-SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 P.O. BOX 73, 1100 COUNTY RTE. 48  
 RICHLAND, NEW YORK 13144  
 WWW.HALFSHIRE.ORG



OPEN WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAYS 10AM-3PM. OR BY APPOINTMENT.

315-298-2986 "Mary White" on Facebook  
 halfshire@hotmail.com



**GENEALOGISTS SAY STATE HINDERS THEIR RESEARCH INTO ANCESTRY STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SINCE PANDEMIC CAN TAKE YEARS TO DIG UP DEATH OR BIRTH RECORDS SOUGHT BY FAMILY TREE RESEARCHERS  
RICK KARLIN—APRIL 23, 2023.**

ALBANY — The popularity of TV shows like as “Finding Your Roots,” advances in DNA technology, websites like [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and growing interest in immigration have led to a genealogy boom.

More and more amateur genealogists are researching their family trees to trace their lineages, searches that may lead to towns in Ireland or Italy, long-lost shtetls in Eastern Europe or ancient villages in Africa or Asia. New York state is a ground zero for such research, given how many families can trace their roots through Ellis Island, and thanks to the state’s earlier role as one of the original 13 colonies.

Ironically, state government is now being blamed for running in reverse of the trend, hindering work of researchers. In particular, genealogists are roundly criticizing the Department of Health over the time they are taking to respond to record requests.

The agency, genealogist say, has dropped what used to be an efficient system for providing key data like indexes or lists of birth, death and marriage records.

Until a few years ago, the health department could expedite requests and even had a walk-up window at its Albany headquarters where people could ask for records in person. Now, requests have to be made online and wait times can easily run for two years or longer.

Interviews with several genealogists and genealogy organizations suggest New York has emerged as one of the most difficult states nationally for finding vital records.

“New York was one of most notorious,” said Michelle Cohen, executive director of the 2,200-member Association of Professional Genealogists.

“It’s taking forever and it’s taking forever for people who are working professionally and who are not working professionally,” Judith Herbert, a Guilderland-based genealogist said, describing how long it takes to get state records.

“They are about two years behind ... they just do not put any effort into genealogy at all,” added Brooke Schreier Ganz, founder of Reclaim the Records. A native New Yorker and amateur genealogist who now lives in California, she created the nonprofit group in part after growing frustrated in her search for up-to-date records from New York.

### DEATH INDEX WOES

Schreier Ganz’s organization last month won a lawsuit

seeking an updated, usable death index, or list of people who have died in New York dating back to the late 19th century. Those are crucial starting points in genealogical research, which can be akin to a complex task of connecting the relationships between people across multiple generations in distant locations.

Health department officials said they use a vendor for retrieving records. But it’s imperfect. Searching for a death certificate, for example, requires knowing the date of death.

There are alternatives for birth and death records. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, informally known as the Mormons, maintain extensive genealogical records which can be accessed for free at their local church libraries and on a website, [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org).

And some localities have vital records lists, although that is often a patchwork. The importance of a statewide index is due to its completeness, said Schreier Ganz. Her group had been repeatedly rebuffed by the health department when it tries to get lists such as death indexes through the state Freedom of Information law. That prompted them to sue in state Supreme Court in Albany County.

The health department is appealing the court’s decision in recent weeks that such an index should be made publicly available.

State officials suggest the backups stemmed from the pandemic’s start three years ago, but they did not elaborate.

“The Department remains committed to providing essential documentation, such as birth and death certificates, in a timely fashion, and is constantly exploring ways to overcome delays caused by the pandemic,” an agency spokesperson said in an email.

There are no delays when it comes to paying for records requests though. “The checks get cashed right away but the records could take two to three years,” said Schreier Ganz.

### FEDERAL PROPOSAL PANNED

Rising cost is another issue, especially on the federal level. Genealogists nationwide are raising cries about a proposal by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to establish a \$100 fee for each index search, which is the basic listing of information on births and deaths as well as immigration records. That’s the cost if they are already digitized by Citizenship and Immigration Services and even then they will take 245 days to provide them.

If the records aren’t digitized, the fee would be an additional \$240 and the wait time would be extended by another 275 days. The current price for any record of that type is \$65. (Continued on page 7)



Continued From Page 6)

The federal records, in addition spanning state boundaries, contain immigration, visa and naturalization records. That's important said Rich Venezia, a Pennsylvania-based professional genealogist who has led one of the pushback efforts against the plan and is involved in the Records Not Revenues website.

"Genealogist are upset by it because there is such a treasure trove of information," saidCarolynn Duffy Presser, a Washington County genealogist.

Those records can also lead to dead ends. A steep increase in the cost of searching federal indexes could discourage some from trying in the first place. And professionals like Duffy Presser or Herbert say it would add to the cost for such searches.

### MAKING IT HAPPEN

Professional genealogists often do this work as second careers. Herbert, for instance, has been fascinated by genealogy since she was a young girl. After retiring from a career in IT, she launched a professional service, becoming certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists. She said people often seek her out when they've reached a dead end in their own genealogical pursuits.

If one knows where to look, there are a lot of avenues to pursue in ferreting out one's lineage.

Genealogical searches can lead overseas. Venezia has combed through dusty records rooms in Italy, trying to reconcile different spellings of names for families that wanted to see if they are related.

Records also can be used when people are seeking dual citizenship and for other immigration matters. DNA technology has become a tool for genealogical searches as well.

Thanks to advances in research, people can now seek out, for example, lists of those with similar DNA or genetic profiles, regardless of whether they are in, say Athens, N.Y., Athens, Ga., or Athens, Greece. Then if some of the matches have the same or similar names, a researcher can find if they are related.

Genealogists stress, though, that resources like state indexes are key data points, thus the unhappiness about delays in New York.

There is a common thread with these complaints. Genealogists like Herbert, Cohen and Brooke Schreiber Ganz say the information should be maintained in state archives rather than the health department.

And on the federal level, Venezia notes that the Citizenship and Immigration Services is a part of Homeland Security. There have been calls to have the National Archives take possession of the records.

In fact, Customs and Immigration in the past has tried to raise its rates, being stopped at the last minute by a court injunction. The proposed increase, some believe, may be the agency's bureaucratic way of saying it needs help with the task, or needs someone to take the data off their hands.

Most states over the years have shifted their vital records from departments of health to archivists, said Schreiber Ganz. New York has not.

"New York state never got its act together to make accessible and preserve these old records," she said.

Rick Karlin covers the environment and energy development for the Times Union. Has previously covered education and state government and wrote about natural resources and state government in Colorado and Maine. You can reach him at rkarlin@timesunion.com or 518-454-5758.

## Stone Cemetery, Pillar Point Town Brownville, Jefferson County

Transcribed by JCNYS Informer Committee  
Member: Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati

Page 59 as follows: Indexed By Genealogy and Local History Department Syracuse Public Library 1960

Copied by Mrs. Charles P. Gruman, chairman  
Comfort Tyler Chapter D.A.R.

**Alger, Betsey** wife of **John Alger** – d. Oct. 7, 1858 ae 40 yrs.

**Beeman, Sylvia** wife of **Ocalba Beeman** – d. Oct. 1, 1828 ae 20 yrs. 26 da.

**Carpenter, Levi G.** – d. Aug. 28, 1890 ae 91 yrs.

**Carpenter, Daniel** – b Sept. 20, 1807, d Sept. 6, 1893

**Dora n, Eliza** wife **Win [Wm?] Doran** – d Nov. 12, 1855 ae 27 yrs.

**Hunter, John** – d Oct. 11, 1839 ae 29 yrs.

**Harrington, Polly** wife of **Almond Harrington** – d Mar. 30, 1875 ae 64 yrs. 10 mo. 27 da.

**Ingalls, Mercy** wife of **Capt. Peter Ingalls** – d May 5, 1869 ae 73 yrs.

**Knowlton, Jemima** wife of **Joseph Knowlton** – d June 9, 1854 ae 64 yrs. 8 mo. 6 da.

**Mixer, Penny** wife of **Mixer W. M.** – d Nov. 13, 1852 ae 60 yrs.

**Read, Polly** wife of **Luther Read** – d May 3, 1879 ae 78 yrs. 5 mo.



## FROM PAST to PRESENT

Smithville As It Was 1915 To 1933

By Harold C. Weldon, March 1995, Pg 1

"Having lived happily in Smithville as a boy and young man during the years from 1915 to 1933, it is my pleasure to reminisce over the various activities and some of the people who were active during those years. I hope that there may be people who will remember those long-ago years. For others I hope "Smithville As It Was 1915 to 1933" will be interesting.

In early 1915 I moved to Smithville with my Father and Mother. Father (Bill Weldon) was to operate the general store in the middle of the village which he and his partner, Mr. Munford C. Lee of Ellisburg, had purchased from Mrs. Cora LaFountain. The general store was operated as Weldon & Lee. Groceries, shoes, dry goods, meat, patent medicines, gas and oil and many other items were sold there. Store hours were from early morning until 9 p.m. or later. Credit was granted and many miscellaneous services rendered.

Across the street from Weldon & Lee was the hardware store operated by Mr. A. A. ("Ab") Robbins and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Robbins. They carried a full line of hardware including glass and metals and sold gas and oil. The local hardware was the store you went to when you needed any kind of glass, metal or other farm or household item. At election time the polls were upstairs over the hardware store.

Across the street in the other direction was the Cheraw Hotel where meals were served, rooms were rented and there was a pool table. On many Saturday nights public dances were held in the upstairs ballroom. In the early days there were different operators, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Bullis and Miss Leath Bullis. In later years the wooden portion was removed, and the brick building was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Higgs as a residence, with the Post Office in the rear of the building.

Bringing much business to the village were the two milk plants, the Rosemary Creamery and the cheese factory. The Rosemary Creamery was located on the north side of the creek and was operated for years by Mr. Roy Gibbs. The cheese factory was located on a street back of the hotel and was operated at one time by Mr. Cleon Thornton. In the morning it was a common sight to see horse drawn, milk laden wagons lined up as far as the hotel, waiting their turn to deliver their milk either to the Rosemary Creamery or the cheese factory.

The U. S. Post Office was an important facility in the village, efficiently and pleasantly operated by Mrs. Frank Higgs, postmistress and a lovely lady. It was located in the beautiful stone house (one of the original houses of Smithville) in which Mr. and Mrs. Higgs lived in the center of town. At intervals an inspector riding a horse would come to inspect the Post Office.

The two-room school was an important place to the

families of Smithville and the surrounding area. Teaching the first four grades were several teachers in my remembrance, but the one teaching the longest was Mrs. Berenice Tousley, an excellent teacher and a kindly, motherly person. The upper four grades were upstairs, taught by Mr. Elon Pope. "Mister Pope" was a scholarly, clean cut Christian gentleman who commanded everyone's respect. Both classrooms were heated by large stoves. At intervals the superintendent, Mr. Lillie, visited the school. We were also served by the state with library books which came from time to time in a wooden box.

Across from the school was (and is) the Baptist Church, a beautiful stone building. This was served by the Baptist minister in Adams Center and was used at times for special school performances and community functions. The church had a pump organ on a raised section for the choir and pulpit. There was a long shed in back of the church where horses and carriages were kept during services.

Back of the Weldon & Lee store on the street going to Sackets Harbor was the Grange Hall, a two-story frame building, the scene of many pleasant community functions. In addition to Grange Meetings the Hall was used for various community dinners, for card parties and many other happy gatherings. Meals were served in the spacious downstairs dining room and community functions were held in the upstairs hall.

Toward the creek from the Grange Hall was the machine shop operated by Mr. "Bill" Allen. Here were many interesting and powerful pieces of machinery. These were operated by Mr. Allen to make various items and to repair farm machinery used in the area. Mr. and Mrs. Allen lived in a large house across the street from the shop, in one room of which Mrs. Allen sold Watkins Products.

Behind Mr. Allen's machine shop, located on the mill pond near the dam, was the grist mill and saw mill owned and operated by Mr. Frank Higgs. The grist mill was supplied feed for surrounding farms, as a cider mill in fall to make cider by grinding apples, and as a saw mill. During certain seasons of the year the yard around the mill was full of logs waiting to be sawed. The mill was operated completely by water power from the beautiful Smithville Pond. In winter time, when the pond was frozen, ice would be cut, hauled away on sleighs and stored in ice houses in town and on farms for use in summer.

Across the creek on the left was the farm of Mr. "Len" Hill. He and his family lived in a beautiful large stone house (one of the original houses of the village) until it burned in later years. Mr. Hill's farm was very productive. In addition to being a dairy farm, it furnished milk (picked up at the bam in a tin pail) and "pick yourself strawberries to the village residents. I remember beautiful old fashioned roses growing by the old house.

In later years (perhaps after 1933) Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Robbins operated a commercial flower garden and nursery. They grew and sold a line of beautiful annuals and perennials and were patronized by customers from a wide area. Living in the house formerly occupied by Mrs. Alice Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Robbins' home was surrounded by beautiful flowering plants. During the summer they supplied resorts in the Henderson Harbor area with cut flowers to grace their tables. Mr. "El" Elmer owned and operated a blacksmith shop on the north side of town near the pond. With his home nearby, he operated his blacksmith shop for years.

# HISTORIC REVIVAL JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS BACK OPEN

Watertown Daily Times Editorial, 24 Aug 2023

It seems like an eternity since the Jefferson County Historical Society was last open. We've had a world-changing pandemic, and some of us have had children and watched them learn to walk, talk and play in the course of the last 3 1/2 years.

But now the time is here, and after much planning and work, the Paddock Mansion, home to the historical society is back open. It's roof no longer leaks, so its leaders don't need to worry on rainy nights about what treasures may be damaged, and now it has an elevator so all members of our community can access all levels.

The closure began in March 2020, when the world shut down. But when the rest of us emerged and started going out again, dropped masks and forget about the importance of handwashing, the heavy work was just beginning at the historical society. It was shrouded in scaffolding and the sounds of construction could be heard from Washington Street.

The project included a new roof and the installation of an elevator. The society received a Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant of \$506,600 for the elevator. The roof project was funded through a Community Capital Assistance Program grant of \$125,000; a New York State Parks Environmental Protection Fund grant of \$500,000; and a State and Municipal Facilities grant of \$50,000.

Olive Paddock bequeathed the home, built between 1876 and 1878, to the society in 1922. The mansion became a museum two years later. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. To say it needed a little work is an understatement. The leadership should be commended on the outcome of the construction.

More than 100 people attended a grand reopening celebration at the mansion on Aug. 5. "It was good to have people back in," said society executive director Toni Engleman. Visitors can view three floors of exhibits: the basement and on first and second floors. Visitors can also stroll the mansion's Victorian garden. Earlier this month, Engleman shared some highlights of exhibits on the second floor, including the "Curiosity Collection." "These are things the collections committee pulled out and thought were cool, things that probably never would be displayed in a normal exhibit, so we put some of our favorite things out that are unusual," she said.

A recent donation to the Jefferson County Historical Society has left its administrator and board stunned and will provide for many years to come. The meat of the donation is a collection of about 3,000 envelopes from Civil War veterans and in some cases, their widows, seeking pensions or an increase to pensions earned during the war. They were written to a Watertown "pension attorney" who served as an intermediary linking Civil War veterans and the Commissioner of Pensions at the Department of Interior in Washington, D.C. But as amazing as the collection is, how it was saved is also an amazing tale, was explained in a story published Saturday by the Times. It was sorted by a World War I veteran, and nearly thrown out a couple times before it found its way to the historical society.

"Once I opened an envelope or two just to kind of see what it was, I realized that for local historians and genealogists, this was a treasure trove. It was just priceless," said society board member and Dexter historian John Stano, who went to the town of Watertown to pick up the collection. Each envelope contains up to 12 documents. One was pulled out at random. It involves the case of Jacob Wilson of Brier Hill. He received a gunshot wound to the head in the Civil War and wrote at least three letters seeking an increase to his pension. There are thousands more stories like that to be told, and the envelopes are in the right hands at the historical society.

The historical society is a gem for Jefferson County and it has emerged stronger and better positioned to continue to maintain our history while teaching us what we have long forgotten. Congratulations to a job well done, and we look forward to the community reconnecting to history.





## Jefferson County Historical Society Reopens After 3 1/2 Year Hiatus

Article and Photos by Thomas F. LaClair  
JCNYGS Newsletter Committee Chair

On Saturday, 5 August 2023, I was delighted to walk among the lush grounds and amazing exhibits of the Jefferson County Historical Society (JCHS), the day the historical society reopened its doors to the public in more than three years. From walking completely around the exterior of the building, taking photographs, to touring the interior three floors of attractively prepared exhibits. The main floor is beautifully arranged with photos adorning the walls, display cases with newly exhibited items, and several examples of early lady dresses on display. The rooms of the Paddock Mansion show the patinas of both furniture and paintings. From the rooms with fireplaces and mantels, built in bookshelves, to unique collections throughout the main floor, to the recently repaired ceilings, as well as items for sale in the museums shop. There is an eye catching bust and display of Frank Winfield Woolworth (1852 – 1919), the entrepreneur and founder of F. W. Woolworth chain of five and dime stores.

Walking up the grand staircase to the second floor was visually appealing with additional items and paintings on display. Distinctive items include such items as the Jefferson County Civil War Draft Lottery Barrel, a typical military soldiers uniform of the WWI American Expeditionary Force, a musical drum that was carried during the Civil War by members of the 94th Infantry Regiment, a regiment exclusively recruited in Jefferson County. There was also a wooden trunk, and clothing items, belonging to Governor Roswell P. Flower on display, donated to JCHS by Dr. Robert O Kimball in 2023. Many of the rooms were filled with unique exhibits like a foot powered dental drill, a vacuum cleaner manufactured by the Keller Manufacturing Company circa 1910, and an example of a spring cushioned bed—invented by Mr. James Liddy of Cape Vincent. Mr. Liddy based his spring bed after the springs on a road traveling buggy. At the top of the staircase, on an interior wall, was a large “New Map of Jefferson County by Edgar G Blankman of Central Square, dated 1892.” The map is worth a look during your visit and will entertain any Jefferson County resident for an extended length of time.

To top it all off, a brand new elevator promotes easy movement from one floor to another—this is especially important for handicap individuals and those whose stair climbing days are behind them. Among the basement exhibits, there are a dozen or more cast iron parlor stoves, multiple examples of Watertown’s early industrial equipment including lathes and multi-ton steel wheels and turbines. An old newspaper printing press fills one room. Another room simulates

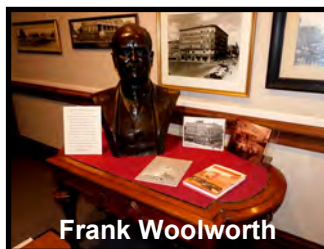


JCHS Building 2023

the interior settings of log cabin living, with all the items needed to keep a family warm and happy. A new display in the downstairs this year is an antique fire equipment exhibit by the Thousand Islands Hose Haulers.

In addition to my words, WWNY TV personality Brenden Straub reported on 5 August 2023, “After a more than 3 1/2 year hiatus, the Jefferson County Historical Society is open again to the public. More than a million dollars worth of restoration work on the building is finished. The newly restored building has a new roof, a state of the art elevator to navigate different floors, and new exhibits for the public to browse through. The Jefferson County Historical Society’s Executive Director says a grand reopening exhibit will be on display for about a month as they look to include a rotation of several different exhibits heading into the fall. “We are overjoyed to have our doors open to let the crowds in. There has been so much excitement leading up to this, people have been calling, and today is the day,” said Historical Society Executive Director Toni Engleman. Engleman says they wanted to make sure the doors were reopened because of their historical significance. The Paddock Mansion once belonging to Edwin and Olive Paddock, who were bankers and entrepreneurs as well as one of the founding families of Watertown.”

In closing, the next time you are in Watertown, and especially if you live in the city today, plan an hour or two to visit the historical society and quietly walk among the artifacts and settings that your Jefferson County ancestors would have seen or used themselves.



Frank Woolworth



A Room Inside

# The Lamplight

The Quarterly Newsletter  
of the Chancellor Robert R. Livingston  
Masonic Library of the Grand Lodge of New York

[nymasoniclibrary.org](http://nymasoniclibrary.org)

(212) 337-6620



## An Overview of New York Masonic Genealogy Resources

A significant part of the Livingston Masonic Library's collections contains information on the members of Masonic Lodges chartered by the Grand Lodge of New York. The Library's collections contain a variety of records that can confirm Masonic membership in New York. The earliest of these records are the Grand Lodge Member Registers. Before 1787, there was no statewide registry of Master Mason for the Grand Lodge of New York. By 1787, the Grand Lodge of New York began to record the names and information of Masons who were members of its Masonic Lodges. There are three sets of these Registers: 1787-1832, 1832-1853, and 1854-the end of the 19th century.

One of the largest collections of member records is the Lodge Returns. These records dates from 1840-1952. The Lodge Returns (also called Lodge Registry Returns) are the worksheets that Masonic Lodges submitted to the Grand Lodge at the end of every year to report on their members (who was initiated, who affiliated, who paid their dues, etc.). The original copies of these Returns are stored at the Masonic Home in Utica, NY. The Library uses a microfilm set of these returns to help answer Masonic genealogy requests. In addition, there is also the Docuware card catalog of New York Masons. This record series documents New York Freemasons from 1920-1990.

These member records can provide a lot of genealogical data for researchers. They list the Grand Lodge ID number, the Lodge number (the number the Mason was assigned once initiated in the Lodge), their Lodge name and number, their Masonic degree, the dates they were initiated, passed, and raised, and if they paid their dues. Also, these records show non-Masonic information: the age of the candidate at his initiation; his occupation, birthplace and residence. If the member affiliated or was a dual member with a Masonic Lodge in New York, these records also document where the Mason was originally raised. When a Mason demits, withdraws, is expelled, dropped from a lodge's roll or dies, this information is also recorded in these Returns and catalog cards. A recorded date of death indicates that a Mason was in good standing with his Lodge when he passed away.

The Library also has secondary resources that can assist with answering Masonic genealogy requests.

For instance, the Library has many biography and photo files of past members. In addition, there are complete sets of the Grand Lodge of New York Proceedings, which document members' involvement with the Grand Lodge of New York, as well as the American Lodge of Research Transactions. There is also a section in the Library for locally-published Lodge histories, many of which list information on their past members. The Lodge Historical Files contain papers that document the Masonic membership and activities of Lodge members. Furthermore, the Library has the series of Individual Lodge Files, which contain the founding documents for every Masonic Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of New York. These papers document early Lodge members, founders of Masonic Lodges, and early Masonic Lodge officers.

Information on how to submit a Masonic genealogy request is available on the Library's website at [MasonicGenealogy.com](http://MasonicGenealogy.com). This service is free for Master Masons in New York State and Masons from other Grand Jurisdictions that the Grand Lodge of New York recognizes. Non-Masons must pay a \$35 processing fee to have their genealogy request answered. Beyond a family member understanding the fraternal journey of their ancestor, the Library's genealogy information is important when confirming Masonic membership for a Lewis Jewel candidate. Similarly, with the Order of the Eastern Star, confirmation of Masonic ties is important to membership.



A Couple Old Post Cards





# ASK AUNTY JEFF



By JCNYS Member and Genealogist  
Jean Wilcox Hibben, PhD  
Riverside County, California

Q) So you have told us about “disposing” of concrete items and retaining documents, but some of us have very personal things – letters, diaries, and similar items for which there would be a very specialized audience. What happens to them?

A) As I mentioned before, I got the collections from a number of relatives and I am overwhelmed by the collections of personal correspondence my various relatives retained. I ended up with the love letters from a granduncle and grandaunt, who had no children. I understand why they kept them, but should I? And my mother kept letters, not only ones received, but many she sent by retaining a carbon copy for her records (and setting up a hard copy file of those with replies and any subsequent correspondence). Some of the these have resulted in rather large files, with topics I am fairly sure no one would be interested in reading (e.g., an ongoing communication about the size of M&M packets – in 1950 – with the Mars Candy Company: it is interesting and tells me a lot about my mother’s concerns, but otherwise are, don’t get angry, Mom, useless to anyone else).

So, first step, is analysis. Possibly set up a spread sheet or table into which each letter dealing with a given subject can be entered. Be sure to include identification of sender and recipient, date(s), location(s) and of sender and recipient, date(s), location(s) and the general topic. Include any special notations in a “comments” column to list particular sub-topics (e.g., birthdays, planned activities, memories, historical event references, if there is a written or comparable response, other friends or family discussed in the missive, etc.). Record the information so that you can find/use the material later by including where you have stored the original item, and possibly cross-reference to others whose data is discussed in the correspondence. But, how to store them? In archivally safe materials (files, envelopes, sleeves, boxes, etc.). If available, you want to keep the envelope, but not with the letter inside – few envelopes, even today, are acid-free. Keep the envelopes near the letters. In an archival sleeve with the letter in a separate sleeve or division next to it. Only one item or piece of paper per sleeve and do not store items folded; it is important to be able to read the item without removing it from its container and if, in order to read the letter, it has to be unfolded, it means there is yet another handling it goes through. Besides, fold and unfold a letter enough and the document will tear along the crease.

If your ancestors are like mine, and especially in times of rationing or scarce availability of materials, much of the exchanges are written in pencil. No matter how many attempts are made to keep the letters out of the

sun, fading is inevitable and legibility may also be hampered by a lot of handling simply because the graphite has worn off. Solution: transcribe all letters (do this as they were written, including grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors, by including a “translation” of the communication, retaining the context wherever possible). Keep the transcription and any related commentary with the respective letters, but not stored such that they physically touch each other.

I know, I have not told you what letters to keep, what to toss out, what to give to someone else, what to return to where it was found, etc. It’s rather personal, right? I might want to keep my mother’s correspondence with the Mars Candy Company while no one else would see its value (the comment about “my 5-year-old son is disappointed that M&Ms no longer includes the purple color” tells me something sweet about my mom’s communication with my brother . . . if she is being sincere, of course). And there is a good chance that the letter you have no interest in keeping just might find a welcoming home with someone else. I have letters that my parents received from friends who were proud of the accomplishments of their son and detailed those feelings in that communication. I wonder if that son heard those very sweet remarks from his parents; would he like that letter? My mother’s cousin left a large envelope with her letters to him, labeling it to be sent to me after his passing. His children sent it on and I treasure the letters my mother wrote to her cousin (mainly because she boasted about her brilliant daughter . . . my mother was a very discerning person).

In fact, my mother was meticulous in other ways and kept a daily diary in which she recorded information about anyone with whom she connected during each given day. Talk to Mom for five minutes and you made the diary! And many bits of information are personal about others (Mom named names). Our community historical society is interested in these because they are also a very detailed record of the village (both parents were active in different civic groups), but what do I do? Do I redact things that could bring embarrassment to folks still alive (or their descendants)? Do I select just specific entries? Well, these are questions only I can really answer (it’s a task I may address when I no longer want to spend time on genealogy . . . right).

And the family Bible? Please don’t post it on eBay! Consider historical societies, community libraries, other (extended) family members, etc. And scan those special pages that list your family (see earlier columns about retaining data digitally). Scanning can be done with a smart phone and need not involve potential damage to the tome by trying to fit it onto a flatbed scanner. Even if you decide to keep the Bible, it’s still a good idea to scan the information about the family in the front, middle, and/or back of the book; ink fades over time and you want to make a permanent record before that happens.

So there are a few thoughts on how to maintain competence as the family historian while not causing family to have to move out because of the vast amount of material that has provided education and enjoyment for the clan. And with holidays right around the corner and all that material digitized, you could always present specialized books as presents for the rest of the folks. Or not.



# CLAYTON MARRIAGES 1867

## From Jefferson County Directory 1866, 1867 & 1868

1 Jan 1887	House, Menzo	42	Phoenix NY	Farmer	Herkimer Co. NY	House, John	Shimmel, Malissa	Barlo(w), Mary J.	50	Orleans NY	Orleans NY	Barlow, William	Lynds, Mary
25 Jan 1887	Dillenbeck, Menzo	26	Evans Mills NY	Farmer	Evans Mills NY	Dillenbeck, John S.	Failing, Nancy	Rogers, Mary E.	26	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Rogers, Solon	Lewis, Sarah
26 Jan 1887	Patterson, Samuel	46	Orleans NY	Farmer	Orleans NY	Patterson, Franklin	Bouts, Hannah	Carlisle, Mary	26	Omar NY	Alexandria NY	Carlisle, Eber	Brown, Lucy
22 Feb 1887	Fitzgerald, James	25	Thurso, NY	Quarryman	Clayton NY	Fitzgerald, Michael	Deford, Sarah	Garnsey, Carrie E.	20	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Garnsey, George f.	Chase, Emmoret
22 Feb 1887	Whittier, Clarence A.	26	Depauville NY	Farmer	Depauville NY	Whittier, Daniel	Holliday, Charlotte	Seeber, Mary A.	24	Depauville NY	Depauville NY	Seeber, Eli J.	Lewis, Amanda
4 Mar 1887	Harwood, Albert	22	Grindstone Island NY	Farmer	Clayton NY	Harwood, Daniel	Stallark, Sarah	Bererly, Mary	24	Glendale NY	not given	Bererly, John	Garrett, Betsey
4 Mar 1887	Perrigo, George O.	25	Clayton, NY	Farmer	Clayton NY	Perrigo, Truman	Westcott, Adeline	Pennock, Jennie	18	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Pennock, James	Glass, Annette
20 Apr 1887	Hagen, John	33	Plessis NY	Mason	Alexandria NY	Hagen, James	Caris, Jane	McKinley, Ellen	31	Orleans NY	Clayton, NY	McKinley, John	Murphy, Ellen
16 May 1887	Frinnell James T.	22	Gananoque, Ont. Can	Photographer	Spencerport Ont. Ca	Frinnell, William	Topping, Ella	Buker, Nellie	23	Detroit MI	not given	Buker, Daniel	Pain, Clarissa
8 May 1887	Lavers, Benjamin	47	Watertown NY	Mason	Canada	Layers, Joseph	Villeneuve, Catherine	LaRue, Sophia	36	Clayton, NY	Canada	LaRue, Dominic	Darile, Maryette
1 Jun 1887	McCormick, Peter	27	Lafargeville NY	Farmer	Lafargeville NY	McCormick, Michael	Gillick, Alice	Maher, Maryette	29	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Maher, Michael	Mullen, Johanna
1 Jul 1887	Cummings, Charles W.	29	Grindstone Island NY	Farmer	Grindstone Island NY	Cummings, Walter	Farris, Jane	McCarthy, Mary	21	Howe Island, Ont. Canada		McCarthy, John	Costello, mary
1 Jul 1887	Guilford, John E.	25	Canada	Farmer	St. Johns N.B. Canada	Guilford, William	unknown, Bridget	Peck, Lillian	18	Canada	Gouverneur NY	Peck, Daniel	Jans, Nancy
6 Aug 1887	Burridge, George Albert	23	Gananoque, Ont. Can	Carriage Maker	England	Burridge, George	not given	Hunter, Lottie	19	Gananoque, Ont. Canada	Gananoque, Ont, Canada	Hunter, William	Farris, Maggie
27 Jun 1887	LaLonde, Michael	25	Clayton, NY	Laborer	Clayton NY	LaLonde, John	Thibault, Sophia	Longton, Mary	26	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Longton, Joseph	Pelow, Mary
13 Aug 1887	Hasner, Edward	22	Alexandria NY	Farmer	Alexandria NY	Hasner, Archibald	Sweet, Minerva	Dillen, Mary	20	Gananoque, Ont. Canada	Gananoque, Ont, Canada	Dillen, Michael	Stacy, Anna
20 Aug 1887	Senecal, Isaac	27	Alexandria NY	Sailor	Oswego, NY	Senecal, John	Miller, Mary	Stowell, Anna	18	Alexandria NY	Wells, Island NY	Stowell, Jesse	Porter, Ellen
30 Aug 1887	McCarthy, Frank	23	Clayton, NY	Clerk	Clayton NY	McCarthy, Louis	Sholette, Julia	Mackey, Ella	19	Clayton, NY	Brownville NY	Mackey, William	Pelow, Adelaide
7 Sep 1887	Kenyon, Lewis A	24	Clayton, NY	Engineer	Clayton NY	Kenyon, Albert	Rozelle, Elizabeth	Green, Ella M.	21	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Green, James	Avery, Sarah
14 Sep 1887	Hanscomb, Thomas J.	24	Gananoque, Ont. Can	Laborer	England	Hanscomb, William	unknown, Mary	Leakey, Hannah	18	Gananoque, Ont. Canada	Gananoque, Ont, Canada	Leakey, Abram	Lloyd, Nancy
27 Sep 1887	McIntyre, Gordon O.	21	Alexandria NY	Photographer	Ogdensburg NY	McIntyre, A. C.	Baker, Jennie	Ostrom, Fankie B.	20	Utica NY	Buffalo NY	Ostrom, George	Smith, Sarah
14 Oct 1887	Griffin, Stephen	49	Alexandria NY	River Guide	Alexandria NY	Griffin, Charles	Duclon, Polly	Weller, Sophia	56	Alexandria NY	Dexter NY	Curler, Peter	Lull, Polly
15 Oct 1887	Leonard, F.K.	68	Lowville NY	Ret. Merchant	Lowville NY	Leonard, James	Parrish, Mary	Lowe, Delia A.	46	Stone Mills NY	Clayton, NY	Lowe, John	Phelps, Eunice
25 Oct 1887	Burgen, Edward A.	38	Orleans NY	Farmer	Orleans NY	Burgen, Oliver	Denniger, Matilda	Buskirk, Mary M.		Orleans NY	Clayton, NY	Buskirk, Jesse	Cheeseman, Jennie
26 Nov 1887	Fitzgerald, Michael	31	Clayton NY	Farmer	Clayton NY	Fitzgerald, Barrington	Hayes, Nancy Mary	Delaney, Bridget	30	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Delaney, William	Cantwell, Bridget
29 Nov 1887	Fetterly, Wilson E.	37	Theresa NY	Engineer	Orleans NY	Fetterly John	Timmerman, Alzina	Trickey, Elizabeth	30	Canada		Trickey, Ordell	Thismore, Lucinda
10 Dec 1887	Carnegie, Robert H.	30	Rockport Ont. Canada	Sailor	Canada	Carnegie, Rober	Tallett, Susan	Sturtevant, Anna	19	Grindstone Island NY	Grindstone Island NY	Sturtevant, Stephen	Thompson, Mary
14 Dec 1887	Wetterhahn, William	28	Lafargeville NY	Farmer	Lafargeville NY	Wetterhahn, John	Rapp, Eustina	Herse, Mary	36	Grindstone Island NY	Grindstone Island NY	Herse, Moses	Bridgen, Anna
22 Dec 1887	Schnauber, William	23	Clayton NY	Farmer	Clayton NY	Schnauber, Lewis	Halladay, Angeline	Garlock, Sarah L.	24	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Garlock, George P.	Edmunds, Harriet
22 Dec 1887	Turcott, Lawrence A.	25	Grindstone Island NY	Laborer	Paris France	Turcott, John	LaRock, Angeline	Garnsey, Celia	18	Grindstone Island NY	Grindstone Island NY	Garnsey, Frank	Chase, Emmoret
28 Dec 1887	Gillett, Hiram	30	Depauville NY	Farmer	Clayton NY	Gillett, Ira A.	Keech, Catharine	Wagner, Nettie	23	Depauville NY	Clayton, NY	Wagner, George	Miller, Annie

## Gazetteer and Directory Of Jefferson County, New York 1866 – 67

Compiled by Hamilton Childs

Transcribed by JCNYS Member Tom LaClair

JCNYS was loaned an original edition of the directory for the year 1866 – 1867. The delicate booklet is 5 by 8.5 inches and contains 207 pages. After an introduction, a several page overview of Jefferson County is provided, then an overview on the naming of the towns. The 22 towns in 1866 were: Adams, Alexandria, Antwerp, Brownville, Cape Vincent, Champion, Clayton, Ellisburgh, Henderson, Hounsfield, LeRay, Lorraine, Lyme, Orleans, Pamela, Philadelphia, Rodman, Rutland, Theresa, Watertown, Wilna, and Worth. Incredibly, over 150 years later, these same 22 towns remain in 2023.

Each town has a segment in the booklet where prominent businessmen and businesses are noted. Additionally, there are partial and full page advertisements from some of these businesses throughout the booklet. Over the next few Informer newsletters we will strive to meticulously transcribe the listed history behind each of the towns incorporation. In this edition is provided the first three towns; Adams, Alexandria, and Antwerp.

"Introduction. In presenting the initial number of "Gazetteer and Directory of Jefferson County" to the public, the publisher desires to return his sincere thanks to all who have so kindly assisted in obtaining the valuable information which it contains, and without whose aid it would have been impossible to have collected it in the brief space of time in which it is essential that all such works should be compiled. The design is to establish a biennial publication, adapted to the wants and devoted to the interests to the people of Jefferson County; to furnish the regular calendar tables, with astronomical calculations for this part of the State; to supply a full and complete directory of the businessmen of the county; alphabetically arrange and classified; and to present such other matter as may aid in establishing the fact that "Old Jefferson" contains all the elements necessary to render her one of the most prosperous, intelligent and happy counties in the land. For the facts contained in the "Gazetteer," we are, to a great extent, indebted to Hough's admirable history of Jefferson County, and to French's Gazetteer of the State of New York. That no errors may be found, it is hardly possible to expect. Yet the publisher has labored long and faithfully, and has spared no expense, endeavoring to make the work what it should be; and he confidently believes, that if any omission or errors should be discovered, the reader will pass the lightly by. None were intended. Our only aim has been to be truthful, brief, and to the point. The advertisers in this work represent the leading business men of the county, and we most cheerfully recommend them all to the patronage of those under whose observation these pages may come."

## Town of Adams

"**ADAMS**, named in honor of President John Adams, was formed from Mexico, April 1st, 1802. Rodman was taken off in 1804. It is an interior town southwest of the center of the County. Its surface is rolling and generally inclined toward the lake, and, with the exception of its southeast border, is underlaid by Trenton limestone. Several remarkable upheavals of this formation occur along its north and west borders, and a bold terrace extends into Watertown and Rutland. It is well watered by the Big Sandy and Stony creeks. The soil is a clayey loam, with occasional sand gravel, especially along the ancient lake ridge which may be traced through this town. It is very productive, and equally adapted to dairying and the cultivation of grains. Manufacturers are carried to some extent. **Adams Village**, formerly "**Smith's Mills**," incorporated November 11, 1851, situated on the North Sandy Creek, is the third village in population in the County, containing 4 churches, a bank, a printing office, and several manufactories, and is also the seat of the "Hungerford Collegiate Institute," a large and flourishing school; it is also important station on the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg R. R. It has several times been visited by disastrous fires, but has in every case been promptly rebuilt. **Adams Center**, near the center of the town and station on the R. W. & O. R. R., is a thriving village. Smithville, on the line of Henderson, was a station on the Sackets Harbor & Ellisburg R. R., when the road was in operation. **Honeyville** and **North Adams** (P. O.) are hamlets. The Town was mostly settled under Isaac W. Bostwick, agent of Nicholas Low, proprietor. The first permanent settlers were Nicholas and Alexander Sailsbury, and others, in 1800. The first inn was kept by Abel Hart, and the first store by Jesse Hale. Daniel Smith erected the first grist and saw mills in 1801 – 2, the former superseding the stamp mortars of the first season. Schools were first taught in 1803. The remains of several ancient fortifications are found in the town. The town has an area of 26,145 acres."

## Town of Alexandria

"**ALEXANDRIA** was formed from Brownville and LeRay, April 3d, 1821, and named from Alexander LeRay, a son of the proprietor. Theresa was taken off in 1841. It lies on the St. Lawrence, in the northern extremity of the County, and embraces the east part of Wells Island, and a considerable portion of the Thousand Islands, which here present the most delightful scenery. The surface underlaid by gneiss is rough and rocky, but the portion underlaid by sandstone is level, with a thin, clayey and sandy soil. A vein of lead has been discovered near Redwood and examined to a depth of 40 feet. **Alexandria Bay**, a port of entry and wooding station for Steamers on

Continued on Page 15)

(Continued From Page 14)

the St. Lawrence River, has, within a few years, become a favorite resort for fishing and excursions among the Thousand Islands. It contains three hotels and several stores. The place was surveyed and laid out for a village by Edmund Tucker in 1818. Sunken Rock Light House was built in 1847. **Plessis**, named for a town in France; formerly called "**Flat Rock**," from the naked sandstone in that vicinity, -- is a small village south of the center of the town. A grist mill was built here in 1817, for Mr. LeRay. Wm. Merrill, the first inn-keeper, was murdered in 1826. **Redwood**, now a thriving village at the head of Butterfield Lake, near the line of Theresa, owes its origins to a glass factory established at this place in 1833, by John S. Foster. The factory is now carried on by a joint stock company, known as the Redwood Glass Manufacturing Co. A stream, a few rods in length, flowing from Mud to Butterfield Lake, has here a fall of ninety-four feet, and furnishes water power for the mills of the place. Settlements commenced in 1809, under Mr. LeRay. An engagement took place within the limits of this town during the war of 1812. The "Neptune" and "Fax," two small American armed vessels, captured a brigade of bateaux belonging to the enemy, July 20, 1813, and took their prizes into Cranberry Creek, in this town. They were pursued and a sharp skirmish ensued, resulting in the retreat of the British with considerable loss. During the years 1848 – 51 and elegant Ref. Prot. Dutch Church was erected at Alexandria Bay through the agency of Rev. G. W. Bethune, of Brooklyn, and it is called "the Church of the Thousand Isles." The town has an area of 37,431 acres."

## Town of Antwerp

"**ANTWERP** was formed from LeRay, April 5, 1810, and named from the Antwerp Company. It is the extreme east town in the county. The north and east portions are broken by low rocky ridges parallel to the river. The southwest part is more level. The soil in the valley is a clayey loam, and is very fertile. The ridges are made up of masses of gneiss, white crystalline limestone, especially valuable for lime, and as a flux for iron ore, and excellent as a building material and is used for the lining of furnaces. Between the gneiss and sandstone, in this town, are several of the richest iron mines in the State. The "Sterling Mine," owned and worked by the heirs of the late Jas. Sterling, lies about three miles north of Antwerp village; another less extent, one mile north; a third, known as the "Keene Mine," immediately adjacent. In this same range are found the mines of Rossie and Gouverneur, which have furnished most of the ore used at the furnaces in this region. Bog iron ore is found near Ox Bow. This ore is of the red specular variety. The region in which it is found is one of the richest in the country for specimens of rare minerals. One or two sulphur springs are found in the town. **Antwerp**, a

station on the R. W. & O. R. R., lies on both sides of the Indian River, near the center of the town; it was incorporated July, 1853, and contains the Antwerp Liberal Literary Institute, a fine stone structure situated upon a commanding eminence. It also has two hotels, several stores, grist mills, saw mills, foundry, shops, etc. **Ox Bow** is situated on the Oswegatchie River and derives its name from a remarkable bend in that stream. It is prettily located, but of small business importance, there being no water power at this point. **Sterlingburgh**, one mile above Antwerp, is a hamlet, and the seat of an Iron Furnace built by James Sterling, in 1846, which has for several years past, been idle. A grist mill and saw mill owned and operated by Alexander Copley, of Chaumont, are located here. **Sprague's Corners**, on the line of St. Lawrence County, is a hamlet. The first improvements were made in 1803, at Ox Bow, under the direction of Lewis R. Morris, the original proprietor. The first settler was Capt. Wm. Lee, about 3 miles north of Antwerp Village. In 1808, Morris sold 29,033 acres to George and David Parish, under whose agents the greater part of the settlements were made. A party of Militia was stationed near Antwerp village in 1808, to enforce the embargo, and a blockhouse was built at the village in 1812. The first church was built in 1816, by Mr. Parish, at an expense of \$9,692.26, and was the second church in the county. The town has an area of 71,523 acres."

**GAZETTEER AND DIRECTORY**

OF

**Jefferson County,**

NEW YORK,

**FOR 1866-7.**

COMPILED BY

HAMILTON CHILD.

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## The 1845 New York State Census Henderson, New York

By Elaine J. Scott  
Henderson Historical Society

Within the Henderson Historical Society's local history & genealogy center, there are amazing treasures. Imagine our surprise this past year to discover the actual 1845 NYS Census for the Town of Henderson, NY. Last winter the President of the Society challenged us to take home a winter project. The transcribing of this document was my opportunity. It is a wealth of information.

To begin, I typed up the categories for the census questions. As I was typing, I was glad to see that there were no "Idiots" or "Lunatics" in the Town at that time. [Though, some would differ with this census record.] Also, I enjoyed the agricultural categories. But all that math will be for another transcription.

Then, I transcribed by page number all the surnames of the householders. Then I made an alphabetical index to those names. There were about 433 heads of households. The bottom of a couple of pages was difficult to read, so an estimate was made.

There were about 2,516 people in the town at the time of the census: 1,274 males and 1,242 females. About 185 were subject to military duty and 538 were entitled to vote. About 1,830 were born in New York State, 380 in a New England State, 19 in other states of the Union, and 94 born in Great Britain or its possessions.

Time was running out to complete the winter project so this will be continued another time. After some of the sections on pages 2, 3, and 4, I put the (number) for the saw mills, fulling mills, distilleries, or the number of churches, clergy, taverns, retail stores, farmers, mechanics, attorneys, physicians and surgeons, etc.

I am placing here the entire transcription for the census categories understanding that the editor will edit and eliminate as needed due to space constraints.

Editor's note: We have printed here only page 1 of the 4 pages available to us.

### 1845 New York State Census

The Name of the Head of Each Family.  
Number of male persons in the family, including its head if male.  
Number of female persons in the family, including its head if female.  
Number of male persons in the family subject to military duty.  
Number of persons in the same family entitled to vote for all officers elective by the people.

Number of aliens not naturalized in such family.  
Number of persons in the same family who are paupers.  
Number of persons in the same family not taxed.  
Number of persons of color in the same family not taxed.  
Number of persons in the same family who are legal voters.  
Number of married females in the same family, under the age of 45 years.  
Number of unmarried females in the same family, between the ages of 16 and 45.  
Number of unmarried females in the same family, under 16 years of age.  
Number of marriages in the family during the year preceding.  
Number of births in the same family during the year preceding.  
Males  
Females  
Number of deaths in the same family during the year preceding.  
Males  
Females  
Number of members of the same family, born in the State of New York.  
Number of members of the same family born in any of the New England States.  
Number of members of the same family born in any other States of the Union.  
Number of members of the same family born in Mexico, or South America.  
Number of members of the family born in Great Britain, or its possessions.  
Number of members of the same family born in France.  
Number of the members of the same family born in Germany.  
Number of the members of the same family born in other parts of Europe.  
Number of children in the same family between the ages of 5 and 16 years.  
Number of children in the same family attending common schools.  
Number of children in the same family attending private or select unincorporated schools.  
Number of children in the same family attending academies or incorporated seminaries of learning other than colleges.  
Number of children in the same family attending colleges or universities.  
Number of yards of fulled cloth manufactured in the same family during the preceding year.  
Number of yards of flannel and other woolen cloths, not fulled, manufactured in the same family during the preceding year.  
Number of yards of linen, cotton, or other thin cloth, manufactured in the same family during the preceding year.

(Continued on Page 17)

(Continued From Page 16)

**ACRES OF LAND**

Number of acres of improved land occupied by the same family.

**BARLEY**

Number of acres of barley under cultivation.  
Quantity of barley raised there during preceding year.

**PEAS**

Number of acres of peas under cultivation.  
Number of bushels raised.

**BEANS**

Number of acres of beans.  
Quantity raised.

**BUCKWHEAT**

Number of acres of buckwheat.  
Quantity raised.

**TURNIPS**

Number of acres of turnips.  
Quantity raised.

**POTATOES**

Number of acres of potatoes.  
Quantity raised.

**FLAX**

Number of acres of flax.  
Quantity raised. (Pounds)

**WHEAT**

Number of acres of wheat sown.  
Number of acres of wheat harvested.  
Quantity of wheat raised.

**CORN**

Number of acres of corn sown.  
Quantity harvested.

**RYE**

Number of acres of rye sown.  
Quantity harvested.

**OATS**

Number of acres of oats sown.  
Quantity harvested.

**NEAT CATTLE**

Number of neat cattle owned by the family.  
Under one year old.  
Over one year old.  
Number of cows milked.  
Number lbs. of butter made during preceding yr.  
Number lbs. of cheese made during preceding yr.

**HORSES**

Number of horses owned by said family.

**SHEEP**

Number of sheep owned by said family.  
Under one year old.  
Over one year old.  
Number of fleeces.  
Number of pounds of wool.

**HOGS**

Number of hogs owned by said family

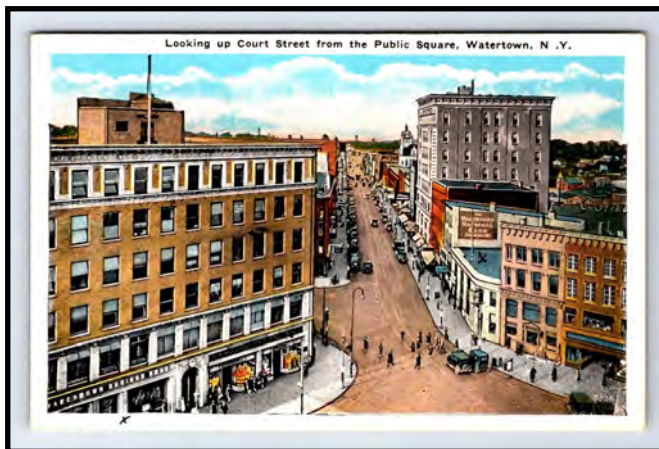
**Complete Cemetery in Belleville  
Jefferson Co., New York**

Transcribed by JCNYS Informer Committee Member: Beverly K. Sterling-Affinati

Page 59a as follows: Indexed By  
Genealogy and Local History Department  
Syracuse Public Library 1960

Compiled By Mrs. Charles P. Gruman  
Copied by Mrs. Thomas W. Kenefict.

- Avery, Elizabeth** wife of **Eliss Avery** – d June 8, 1817 ae 52 yrs.
- Boomer, Harriet** wife of **Collens** – d Feb. 22, 1836 ae 37 yrs. 17 da.
- Clark, Nancy M.** wife of **George H.** – d Dec. 20, 1845 ae 43 yrs.
- Cushman, Susan** wife of **Myron Cushman** – d Aug. 24, 1836 ae 23 yrs. 2 mo.
- Eaton, Samuel** – d Dec. 27, 1832 ae 48 yrs.
- Freeman, Charles** son of **John & Lucy** – d Mar. 5, 1845 ae 21 yrs. 12 da.
- Hubbard, David** – d Oct. 23, 1851 ae 42 yrs.
- Hubbard, Harry** – d June 8, 1846 ae 42 yrs.
- Power, Nancy M.** wife of **Wm. S.** – d Sept. 6, 1869 ae 54 yrs. 2 mo. 25 da.
- Rand, Abigail** wife of **Solomon** – d Jan. 19, 1829 ae 27 yrs.
- Sturtevant, Zadock** – d Nov. 25, 1847 ae 84 yrs. 3 mo. 21 da.  
**Wife Rebekah** – d Aug. 29, 1844 ae 81 yrs.  
**Wife Zilpha** – d Apr. 6, 1833 ae 44 yrs.
- Sturtevant, Melinda** wife of **Luin Sturtevant** – d Aug. 27, 1852 ae 43 yrs. 3 mo. 21 da.
- Wakefield, Sally** wife of **Wyman** – d Jan. 21, 1828 ae 34 yrs.
- Wakefield, Eunice D.** wife of **John** – d Feb. 14, 1851 ae 32 yrs.



Some collect postcards out of nostalgia to reminisce about a certain time or a certain place. Historians use them to interpret the history of a town or place, and some genealogists use them to help document family histories.

**“Yesterday is history.  
Tomorrow is a mystery.  
Today is a gift.”  
– Eleanor Roosevelt**

Highlighting My Paternal Great-Great-Grandfather

## Frederick James Munro

By JCNYS Member Thomas Frederick LaClair

Email: tomlaclair624@yahoo.com

My Great-Great Grandfather Frederick James Munro was born October 22, 1857, in Mallorytown, Leeds County, Ontario, Canada, the son of James Munro and Annice Elliott. Frederick, his two wives Emma and Cedell, and his four children Margaret, Edward, Alvin, and Pearl, are the grounds for this article. Although I have no personal stories handed down to highlight Frederick's life in real time, I can share the following information from census (via [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)) and newspaper articles (local research centers), as well as a few photographs collected from family over the years.

Noted in the 1861 Canadian census for District No. 67 of South Leeds, Township of Yonge, Frederick, age 4, was enumerated along with his father James, age 31, a Cooper, his mother Annis, age 33, as well as suspected siblings Suffrona, age 10, Emma, age 8, and sister Lory A., age 1. The family's religion is listed as Methodist.



My Great-Great-Grandparents Frederick J. Munro and Emma Jane Running Munro. The photo came from Michael Patrick Munroe, a direct line descendent. The photo was restored through a genealogy based restoration service.

During the 1871 Canadian census for the Township of Yonge, Frederick was listed as age 13. His father James, of Scotch origins, a miner, is 41, mother Annas, of English origins, is 40, and siblings Ann is 20, Emma is 18, Elizabeth is 11, Ella is 8, Francis is 7, and Eddy is 2. The family's religion is Methodist and all the children are all listed as having Scotch origins.

On March 10, 1885, Frederick married Emma Jane Running at Lansdowne, Ontario, Canada—across the St. Lawrence River from Alexandria Bay, Jefferson County, N. Y. This marriage is noted among the Ontario, Canada, Marriages for 1801 – 1926. Frederick J. Munro, age 26, living in Lansdowne, born Mallorytown, a bachelor, a farmer, son of James Munro and Annis (Elliott) Munro, to Emma J. Running, age 19, living Lansdowne, born Lansdowne, a spinster, daughter of Hugh Running and Jane (Knox) Running.



My Great-Grand-Grandmother Emma Jane Running Munro holds her Granddaughter Marion House circa 1912. My paternal grandmother Marion House was born August 16, 1911, in Philadelphia, N.Y., and passed away in Alexandria Bay, N.Y., in 2002.

Noted in the 1891 Canadian census for the Province of Ontario, District No. 8 for the City of Kingston, Sub District No. 7, Fred Monroe, a wage earner tanner, is 37, Emma is 26, Maggie (Margaret) is 7, Eddie (Edward) is 5, and John (Alvin) is 2. The family religion is Presbyterian. Fred and Emma state their parents were born in England (Great Britain) whereas the three children list their parents birth in Ontario, Canada. Note: A daughter Pearl is born in January 1892 and dies eight months later with her father Frederick Munro listed as the informant.

Between 1891 and 1900 the family emigrates to the United States. Based on the 1900 census report, it appears they emigrated from Canada circa 1895, possibly 1896. There are no immigration records showing Frederick and Emma ever becoming citizens, however all three of the surviving children did naturalize in their adult years.

The 1900 U.S. Federal Census showed Fred J., a 40 year old farm laborer (born October 1858), Emma is 33 (born October 1866), Maggie (Margaret) (born June 1886), is 14, Eddie (Edward) is 12 (born October 1887), and Alvin is 9 (born July 1890). Fred and Emma are listed as married 15 years, and that Emma has three children, all living (notably, there is no mention of the fourth

(Continued on Page 19)



(Continued From Page 18)

child Pearl, born and died in Kingston, Canada, in 1892). The two boys were attending school, but not Maggie. The parents and the two oldest children can read, write, and speak English. The family was living in Pamela, Jefferson County, N. Y., and all been in the USA five years.

On the 1905 N. Y. State census, Fred J. Monroe is 42, Emma is 33, Maggie is 18, Eddie is 17, and Alvin is 15. The family is living at Bentley Corners in the Town of Antwerp.

Dedicated searches of the 1910 census in and around Jefferson County have come up empty. I look forward to the day I find it.

During the 1915 N. Y. census for the Village of Philadelphia, Jefferson County, Fred, age 50, born Canada, in the USA 19 years, employed as a railroad laborer; Emma is also showing age 50, born Canada, in the USA 19 years, and does housework; son Alva is 24, born Canada, in the USA 19 years, and is employed as a barber.

On Jan 11, 1917, Emma Running Munro passes away. A newspaper account reads: "Mrs. Frederick J. Munro. Philadelphia, January 12, 1917—Mrs. Frederick J. Munro, who had been ill the past three months, passed away at 8:45 Thursday morning at her home in Mill Street. She had been in ill health for 15 years. The funeral services will be held from the house at 2 Saturday afternoon, Rev. C. M. Smith, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church officiating. Mrs. Munro was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Running and was born in Lansdown, Ontario, Canada, in October 1866 (sic: 1865). She was married to Mr. Munro at Lansdown, March 10, 1885, and they resided there on a farm until about 20 years ago, when they moved to Philadelphia, where they have since resided. They resided on a farm near here until four or five years ago and have since resided in the village. Mr. Munro is employed as a section hand by the N. Y. Central. Mrs. Munro was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Besides her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Fred House, of Antwerp, two sons, Alvin and Edward of Philadelphia; two sisters, Mrs. James Male of Redwood, and Mrs. Samuel Fair of Lansdown; and five brothers, Samuel Running of Alexandria Bay, Richard, William, and Josiah of Lansdown, and James of Toronto, Canada." Emma was buried in the Sandy Hollow Cemetery, Philadelphia, N. Y.

Frederick J. Munro, a widow, remarries a mere ten months after Emma's passing. A *TimesWatertown Daily* newspaper account reads: "Munro-Gratz. Frederick J. Munroe and Mrs. Anna Cedell Gratz, both of Philadelphia, who were married Tuesday (October 16, 1917) by Rev. Cauley H. Perrin, pastor of First Methodist Episcopal church, at the parsonage, 214



Frederick J. Munro and Cedell Ann Clark Gratz Munro stand beside an classic automobile of the day. The photo originated with my father, Henry Rufus LaClair Sr. My father received it from his mother, Marion House LaClair.

Massey Avenue, will make their home in Philadelphia. Each has been previously married."

On the 1920 Federal census for the village of Philadelphia, Fred J. Munro, a railroad laborer, age 56, and his wife Sedell E. Munro, age 50, are living in Philadelphia, N. Y. It shows that Frederick, born Canada, immigrated to the USA in 1879 (sic: 1885 or 1886). Sedell's (Cedell) birth is listed in NY. Living with them is Cedell's father, Nelson Clark, age 87, born Vermont.

On the 1925 N. Y. census for the village of Philadelphia, living on Mill Street, Frederick Munroe, age 61, born Canada, an alien, 20 years in the USA (sic: 30 years), is employed as a night watchman laborer; Cedell is age 56, born in the USA, does housework for a living.

On the 1930 Federal Census for the village of Philadelphia, Frederick J. Munro, age 67, born Canada, age at first marriage was 21, is employed as a laborer in a cheese factory; Cedell, age 61, born in the N. Y., and her age at first marriage was 39, no employment is listed.

On October 1, 1937, Frederick J. Munro passes away. The following *Watertown Daily Times* article was retrieved from the Philadelphia Historical Society in 2013. "Fred J. Munro's Funeral is held: Philadelphia, October 4, 1937. The funeral for Fred J. Munro was held from the home in Garden Road this afternoon at 2. The burial was in the family plot in Sandy Hollow cemetery. Rev. E. Earle Eaton, pastor of the Congregational church, officiated. Miss Joyce Reynolds sang a solo. Mr. Munro suffered a heart attack about three months ago, and had been confined to his home since, although he had been able to be about for the past month. He was stricken again last week and died Friday night. He was

(Continued on Page 20)

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born in Youngs Mills (sic: Yonge Mills), Ontario, Canada, 22 October 1863 (sic: 1857), a son of James and Annis Elliott Munro. He was the last of a family of five children. He came to the United States about 45 years ago after he had married Miss Emma Jane Running of Lansdowne, Ontario, Canada. For many years they were engaged in farming near Pamela and later moved to this town. Three children were born to them. Edward C. of this place, Alvin J. of 142 Court Street, Watertown, and Mrs. Margaret House of Perch Lake. His wife died January 11, 1916 (sic: 1917), and he married Mrs. Cedell Gratz of this village October 16, 1917. At the time of his first illness he was employed at the Borden Cheese Company, Antwerp. He had been in their employ for the past eleven years. Besides his three children and his wife, he is survived by nine grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

On November 15, 1946, Frederick J. Munro's widow Cedell passes away at age 77. The following *Watertown Daily Times* article dated November 16, 1946, was retrieved from the Flower Memorial Library in Watertown: "Widow of Fred Munro, 77, Dies. Mrs. Cedell Ann Munro Expires in County Sanatorium. Philadelphia, November 16 – Mrs. Cedell Ann Munro, 77, widow of Fred M. (sic: J.) Munro, this village, died Friday afternoon at 5:30 at the Jefferson County Sanatorium, Watertown, where she had been for the past four weeks. Mrs. Munro was ill at her home on Garden Road for three weeks and was then removed to the home of a cousin, Mrs. Floyd Williams, Black River, where she stayed for three more weeks before being removed to the sanatorium four weeks ago today. Death was caused by hardening of the arteries and high blood pressure.

Mrs. Munro was born in Philadelphia, March 16, 1869, a daughter of the late Nelson and Ellen Spencer Clark. She attended the local school and was then married to John Gratz of Rochester. They resided for a time in Watertown, later going to Rochester where Mr. Gratz was a chef in a restaurant. He died there. Following his death, Mrs. Munro returned to Philadelphia, where she married Fred M. (sic: J.) Munro of this village in the summer of 1918 (sic: 1917). They went to live in their home on Garden Road, where Mrs. Munro still resided. Mr. Munro died October 1, 1937. This was a second marriage for both Mr. and Mrs. Munro. Surviving are three stepchildren, Edward Munro, Antwerp; Alvie Munro, Watertown; Mrs. Fred (Margaret) House, LaFargeville; and two cousins, Mrs. Hubert (Blanche) Alcombrak, Dexter, and Mrs. Floyd (Wealthy) Williams, Black River. Funeral services will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 from the family home on Garden Road with Rev. Walter J. Sults, pastor of the Methodist church, officiating. The burial will be in Sandy Hollow cemetery, Philadelphia.

In closing out this article, I have enjoyed learning details about my Great-Great-Grandfather Frederick J.



Headstone at Sandy Hollow Cemetery in Philadelphia, N. Y. Fred J. Munro (1857 – 1937), Emma J., His Wife (1866 – 1917), and Cedall A., His Wife (1869 – 1946). Cedall should be Cedell. We assume an error was made as Cedall is never seen in any other source document.

Munro who died nearly 25 years before I was born. Today, in doing family research, it is common place to see Munro descendants using Munro or Munroe as their sir name. Additionally, it is worth mentioning that early on in my genealogy travels, as far back as 1988, my wife at the time suggested naming our daughter in honor of Cedell Ann Clark Gratz Munro. I was easy to persuade and today I am proud to say my daughter Cedell Marie LaClair carries on Frederick J. Munro's second wife's namesake.



## THE QUEST TO LOCATE A STILLBORN BURIAL SITE

Seeking Ideas From Our *Informer* Readers

Recently we received a quest to locate a stillborn burial site inside Jefferson County, New York. Although there are many possible questions, and few definitive answers, this query and subsequent communication, is being shared in hopes one of our readers has traveled down this research road and may be able to provide insightful recommendations. The following transcript was shared between the researcher Denise Brown, Fort Drum's Dr. Laurie Rush, and Tom LaClair, the *Informer* Committee Chair. As of this writing, the quest to find definitive information continues.

Received by Dr. Laurie Rush in July 2023. "Good evening. My name is Denise Brown. I live in Atlanta and wanted to see if you could help me find some information about a deceased relative. My parents had a baby girl in the early 1960s that was stillborn. My father was stationed at Camp Drum. Retired Army LTC. Earl D. Brown, xxx-xx-3055, Wife: Helen J. Brown (Langlanais). Is it possible their daughter (my sister) is buried in one of the cemeteries in or near Ft. Drum? My father died in 2015 and my mom is 86. I don't have any more information than my mom's fading memories can provide. I'm bringing my mom to Rochester, New York, July 21-24 and was hoping to locate the burial site so I could bring my mom there. It would mean a lot to her and to me. I know this may be a strange request but I thank you for any help you can provide! Be well, Denise Brown, 404-932-7475."

Denise Brown later added the following. "Her name was Michelle Renee Brown. My mom was admitted to the local hospital where the still birth happened. I'm sorry I don't have more information! The only other thing I can think of is since my sister was born during/around segregation she might be in a cemetery or a section of a cemetery that was for blacks only at that time."

Dr. Rush forwarded the communication to me, Tom LaClair. "Hi Tom, do you have any suggestions for how we could help Ms. Brown find her sister's grave? Her father was a soldier here when her sister was still born, but her sister is not interred in any of our Fort Drum cemeteries - or at least not with a marker. Thanks! Laurie Rush."

My reply to Dr. Rush. "Hello Dr. Rush, this is a tough one to say the very least. It is quite common that still-born children did not receive a headstone in the cemetery. Even young children were often buried without a headstone. I went to do a birth query through NYS births on-line (Ancestry) however births are not released past 1942 and still born babies are generally not ever released unless to a direct descendant. There

is no telling if a birth record with an accompanied death record were documented-information is not searchable online. Depending on where the family lived on base, there might be a birth record at the Philadelphia, or LeRay, or Watertown, or Pamela clerk's offices. The baby could have been born in any community (or friend's home) depending on where the mother was when the child was born. Even though the husband was assigned on base, there is no saying it was on the installation. She could have been in the Mercy Hospital in Watertown. Sadly, most local area clerks charge families anywhere from \$10.00 to \$22.00 just to see if they have a record. So that puts the family hunting for a needle in a haystack somewhat. I checked Find-a-Grave and did not find anything useful."

Dr. Rush replied. "Dear Tom, thank you so much for your reply. I wish there were more we could do to help this family. Do you know where the historically African American sections of the Watertown cemeteries might be? Maybe that could narrow down their search. Otherwise, do you think the hospitals might have had designated areas for still birth interments? Mom was Roman Catholic and Dad was Baptist, so I don't think we can narrow down possible cemeteries by religion. Thanks again, Laurie."

My reply to Dr. Rush. "The only cemetery I am aware of that had a young child area for burials is Watertown North Cemetery. I am not aware of any for African American specifically. I have never queried a hospital directly, but I feel confident they would send you to town or village clerks. Hospitals, to my knowledge, have never maintained copies of state required vital records. I wish I could offer a recommendation, but this is a very unique case. Possibly I could author an article for our newsletter and see what recommendations come in from readers. The next newsletter goes out in October 2023."

Dr. Rush replied back to me. "Thanks Tom! I talked to Jack about it last night, and he agrees that the County Clerk would be the best place to go. It would make an interesting article. Have you ever written about the segregated sections of cemeteries in our area? We have two cemeteries where there is no question that there is an African American section. Thank you again for your time and thoughts on this. Ms. Brown is very appreciative, and I know it means a lot to her 86 year old mother. I wonder if they just took the baby away, and perhaps she never saw the grave. Laurie."

This concludes the communications on the query. If you have a suggestion or additional information to share, please write me at [tomlaclair624@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlaclair624@yahoo.com).

**Can a first cousin once removed  
be returned?**

**Thanks Bev!**



## Need Advice on Gravestones and Cemeteries in Northern Jefferson County

Query from JCNYS Member Dave Simonds  
Response by JCNYS Member Tom LaClair

I am contacting the society for advice on gravestones and cemeteries in Northern Jefferson County. This past May when I visited the SIMONDS plot in Grove Cemetery in LaFargeville (Town of Orleans), where my SIMONDS grandparents are buried along with several aunts and uncles, I found that the SIMONDS family plot stone is sliding backwards off its base, as the back of the base is settling into the ground. Someone had placed a 2 x 4 against the back of the plot stone, but it was clear this would not stop the stone from toppling off its base, probably in the next few years, if not sooner. Both the stone and the base look very heavy to me, maybe 300 - 400 pounds each." My questions are:

**Question 1.** Do you know if any of the monument companies or some other company in the Watertown area, or further afield if necessary, offer the kind of repair services that would be needed to fix the situation described above?

**Response:** There are several monument companies in the area that provide new headstones as well as providing services after the burial. Calling them for a consultation and estimation is my best recommendation. Three local headstone companies include: 1. A. Cozzi Monuments, 619 Mill Street, Watertown, NY 13601, or calling 315-788-3450 or emailing them at [acozzico@yahoo.com](mailto:acozzico@yahoo.com). 2. Wilson Monument Company, 861 Coffeen Street, Watertown, NY 13601, or calling 315-782-6970 or emailing them at [wilsonmonuments@aol.com](mailto:wilsonmonuments@aol.com). They also have a Facebook presence at Wilson Monument Co, Inc. 3. North County Memorials can be reached at 5260 Dayan Street, Lowville, NY 13367, or calling 315-376-3498 or emailing them at [nmcchristian@live.com](mailto:nmcchristian@live.com). They have a Facebook presence at North County Memorials, Inc.

**Question 2.** I am sure the Grove Cemetery Association would have to be involved in any such project. I don't have any contact info for them and cannot seem to find anything online. Do you have contact info for them?

**Response:** On the topic of cemetery associations, the city of Watertown has three or more Cemetery Associations whereas the smaller communities are not always easy to find as they have little to no on-line presence. Calling the town or associate village clerk is often the best recommendation. Of the larger communities, there are: 1. The North Watertown Cemetery Association can be reached at 811 Bradley Steet, Watertown, NY 13601, or calling 315-782-5960. 2. The Brookside Cemetery Association can be reached at 19000 County Route 165, Watertown, NY

13601, or calling 315-788-1411. 3. The Glenwood Cemetery Association can be reached at 23348 County Route 67, Watertown, NY 13601, or calling 315-782-4419. To locate county town and village clerks, visit the online Jefferson County Clerk's Office site.

**Question 3.** Do you have any suggestions for how I could deal with this? I am prepared to pay the expenses. I hate to let the stone just topple over. And it does represent a danger, if anyone happened to be behind the stone when it does eventually tip over backwards.

**Response:** This returns us back to contacting a headstone company or cemetery association as mentioned in the two previous responses. JCNYS Member Anne Davis provided the following: From my experience, not all cemeteries have an association. If they do then that association has complete control over what work is done in their cemetery. In our area, many of our cemeteries are under the jurisdiction of the township that they are located in. However there are businesses that do gravestone repairs. A couple that I have used and do an excellent job is Artisan Engraving, David Shelmidine, Sandy Creek, New York. Dave did an awesome job setting the gravestones in Muskellonge Cemetery, also Cozzi Monuments in Watertown would be another I would recommend. In fact I believe any of our monument companies in the area can reset gravestones. Something else to remember is if a gravestone is in danger of falling and hurting someone and the cemetery is run by the town and not an association then there are state funds available to make repairs.

In closing, I visited the Grove Cemetery in LaFargeville (Town of Orleans) and can happily report that your Simond headstone was already repaired. I further learned the Town of Orleans does not manage the cemetery, rather refers all questions to the Grove Cemetery Association. Contact the Town of Orleans Town Clerk at '[orleanstownclerk@aol.com](mailto:orleanstownclerk@aol.com)' and the clerk will provide the current association contact information.

(Updated August 29, 2023)

 NYS HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS

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## Jefferson County Queries

Use the "ONLINE QUERY" on [www.jcnygs.com](http://www.jcnygs.com) or mail queries to:  
Jerry Davis, P. O. Box 275, Clayton, NY 13624;  
[maridavis@aol.com](mailto:maridavis@aol.com)

Subject: [Jefferson County Informer Query](#)

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

### LAWTON, SANDERSON, MUNRO

Researching Sylvester **LAWTON**, born circa 1815, the son of Joshua **LAWTON** and Margaret. Land records show he was a tenant farmer about midway between Chaumont and Depauville along the river in the mid to late 1830s. Joshua's name is mentioned in a history of Depauville without details. Baptist records at the Lyme Heritage Center show the **LAWTON**'s attended Baptist services in both Chaumont (or Three Mile Bay) and Depauville (Catfish Falls) at different points. Sylvester fought at the Battle of the Windmill at Prescott, was captured, and hanged in Kingston on 4 Jan 1839. Sylvester's neighbor, Mahala **SANDERSON** (later Mahala **MUNRO**) raised a child named Sylvester **LAWTON**, born about 1839. What I'm trying to find out is whether Sylvester and Mahala were married and whether the child was actually the son of one or both of Sylvester and Mahala. At Sylvester's trial, he reported that he was unmarried, but that does not mean he did not have a child. The child's Ohio death certificate many decades later lists the father as a **MUNRO**, but this is Mahala's husband whom she married about 1845 and was not actually Sylvester's father. The **MUNRO** man was married to someone else and living in Canada in the late 1830s. I have information on the Patriot War and Sylvester's involvement, so that is of less interest to me. Maybe a reader will have a helpful source on a **LAWTON/SANDERSON** connection? I have not seen any of the Baptist records from Depauville, which might show a marriage.

*Andrew Quackenbush*  
[aeq.contact@gmail.com](mailto:aeq.contact@gmail.com)

### JEWETT, NASH

I am researching Abram **JEWETT** who lived in Sackets Harbor. He was married to Diantha **NASH**. They had a son named Benjamin **NASH JEWETT**. His military service was in the War of 1812.

*James Maltbie*  
[jimmaltbie@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmaltbie@hotmail.com)

### BLODGETT, SHERWIN, WOLFE, CHRISTY

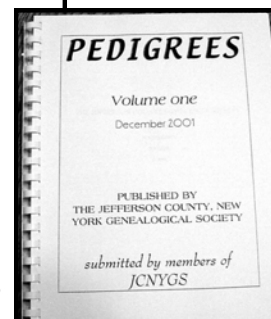
I am looking for death information 10 Feb 1878 for James **BLODGETT**. He was born 1814 in Chaumont, N.Y. He married Sarah Elvira **SHERWIN** in 1862. James' parents were possibly Almond **BLODGETT** and Hannah **WOLFE**.

*Deborah S. Christy*  
[dcdebdeb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dcdebdeb@sbcglobal.net)

### JCNYGS MATERIALS FOR PURCHASE

Contact: Greg or Tammy Plantz, 21787  
Reed Road, Watertown, NY 13601  
Or email [tgplantz@gmail.com](mailto:tgplantz@gmail.com)

**PEDIGREE BOOK I**  
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Each Book \$20.00 plus  
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A collection of pedigrees  
Submitted by members  
of the JCNYGS  
with an every name index  
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### 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**



## Worried About Losing Their Rootsweb Page

Bruce Coyne, a member of JCNYGS, and local coordinator of Jefferson County Gen Web passed this note onto us on 3 September 2023. Written by Timothy Stowell, a member of the NYGenWeb Project. Timothy wrote in response to a question by Bruce Coyne. "In answer to your question about all the counties in New York and where they are hosted, of the 62 counties, 43 are hosting on NYGenWeb.net, 10 are currently on Rootsweb and are in various stages of moving to NYGenWeb.net. There are 9 other counties hosted elsewhere. Of those 9, 2 are in the process of moving over as well. So hopefully by 2024 - 55 of the 62 will be on the domain, leaving 7 hosted elsewhere."

For more information on NYGenWeb, visit  
<http://www.nygenweb.net>

## INFORMER

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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## 2023 PROGRAMS

**Saturday, October 7th, 11:00AM to 2:00PM.** JCNYGS will not hold a formal meeting, however all members and their guests are invited to the 2023 History & Genealogy Fair at the Jefferson County Historical Society. There will be over 15 historical and genealogical agencies on site. There will be two guest speakers. See the newly renovated Paddock Mansion. View the front cover for full details. A \$5.00 admission fee will support the historical society and their mission.

**Monday, November 13th, 6:00PM.** JCNYGS member Tom LaClair will discuss some of the features of the Family Tree Maker program. Family Tree Maker is genealogy software for Windows and Mac that allows the researcher to keep track of information collected during research and to create reports, charts, and books containing that information. Once owned and operated by Ancestry.com, the software program is today operated by Software MacKiev.

**Sunday, December 3rd, beginning at 12 Noon.** JCNYGS will host its annual Christmas party at Greg and Tammy Plantz home at 21787 Reed Road, Watertown. Meat will be provided while guests are asked to bring a dish to pass. Guests are also encouraged, although not required, to bring an unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots Program. Members, as well as their family and friends, are invited and welcome to attend—the more the merrier.

**UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED,** JCNYGS lectures begin at 6:00 PM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building. Come 30 minutes early to get to know other members and share new finds and experiences.

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 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 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 onto Ives Street Road. Continue straight into the city. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chapel is the second building on the right, across from IHCS, as you enter the city limits.

From Watertown, it is on Ives Street, across from IHCS. Take Washington Street to Barben Avenue. Turn on to Barben and take it until it ends at a T. Turn left and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be 300 yards on the left.

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