

INFORMER

“OUR 30TH YEAR”

Volume 31, Issue 1

Annual Dues \$18 Individual \$20 Family

January 2024

ROSWELL P. FLOWER MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WASHINGTON STREET, WATERTOWN, N. Y.



4A-H1697

This old post card of Watertown's Flower Memorial Library starts our celebration of the library's 120 years of being open to the public. The cornerstone for the library was laid on July 11, 1903, by Emma Flower Taylor herself! On November 10, 1904, the construction of the library was complete. On January 4, 1905, the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library officially opened its doors to the public. See more with articles by Chris Brock of the *Watertown Daily Times*, on pages 9-10; Suzie Renzi-Falge, Executive Director, R. P. Flower Memorial Library, on pages 10-11. The *Informer* plans to keep its readers informed of special anniversary events and activities at the library in the coming months.

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INFORMER JANUARY 2024

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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.

Editor's note (1):

About Aunty Jeff

Jean Wilcox Hibben has been in and out of the hospital with knee surgery. We have copied some of Nan Dixon's "Dear Aunty Jeff" articles from our 2002 issues of the *Informer* to fill in for Jean. Jean promises to be back for our next issue. We hope her recovery is going, or has gone, very well and we look forward to her next "Aunty Jeff" article.

Editor's note (2):

We believe that this issue of the *Informer* has a "FIRST!" For the first time in our memory, no query has been sent to be published in the newsletter. That must mean that everyone has finished all their ancestry research! "NO!" you say? This is your newsletter, use it.

Editor's note (3):

We are embarrassed to say we goofed and our proofreading committee didn't catch it either. We finish a three issue series on Clayton Marriages on page 13. But, the 1866 book referred to in the heading does not contain the 1886 Clayton Marriages. We have not yet found the source from which we used the actual list we have been printing. We did find the same information on our GenWeb site. We have left our mistake in our January Issue of this *Informer* so readers can chuckle when they see our goof. Check out the [JCNYGW \(nygenweb.net\)](http://nygenweb.net) site. Lots of good information.

President Tom's note:

I'm back! Maybe I should say "I'm still here!" We are pleased that we have a full slate of officers as noted above. We welcome Kelly Brown as our new recording secretary. We wish to thank those officers and members who brought us through the COVID years.



Membership

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CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS ON THE BACK COVER ADDRESS LABEL

HISTORY AND GENEALOGY FAIR 2023

On Saturday, 7 Oct 2023, from 11AM – 2PM, the Jefferson County Historical Society hosted the 2023 History and Genealogy Fair. This annual event, first held in 2015, continues to bring local researchers in to meet various organizations gathered under one roof. This year saw representatives from the Sons of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Colonial Dames XVII Century, the Daughters of the War of 1812, General Brown Chapter, the Jefferson County Clerk’s Office, the Clayton Historians Office, the Redwood Historical Society, the Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society, the Sons of Union Veterans Civil War, the Henderson Historical Society and Museum, the Town and Village of Adams Historian, the Dexter Historical Society, the Historical Association of South Jefferson, Timeless Genealogy, the Central New York Genealogical Society, the Flower Memorial Library Genealogical Research Department, and others.

Kevin Leeson, President of JCNYS, managed the society table. During the day Kevin shared the highlights of the society, handed out dozens of *Informer* newsletters, and signed up and welcomed several new members.



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



Members of the Walter H. French Camp #17 Sons of Union Veterans Civil War (SUVCW) and 1,000 Islands Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) join for a photo. Seated, left to right, is Leon VanWie and Mark Crandall. Standing, left to right, Jeffrey French, Dan Ames, Sam Lundy, and Milt Taylor. All six are members of Union Veterans. All except Sam Lundy are members of the SAR.

Featured talks were given by Suzie Renzi-Falge on the 120th anniversary of the Flower Memorial Library as well as Baylor Durant speaking on local Jefferson County history. Those attending were able to share research stories while exploring the local resources and asking the experts questions.

Attendees were also able to explore the newly renovated Historical Society that recently opened after a three year hiatus due to Covid-19 and for extensive renovations that included a new roof and the installation of an elevator for easy access to the different levels of the Paddock Mansion. The event was well attended and unquestionably a successful event.

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. 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 lead to direct ancestors.

Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, November 13, 2023

By JCNYS Member Lawrence Corbett

At the Watertown Church of Latter-day Saints, our meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Past President Thomas LaClair acting in place of President Leeson who was unavailable. Attending were Thomas and Janine LaClair, Michael and Vicki Walrath, Greg and Tammy Plantz, Tom and Judy Wood, Tracy L. Robertson, Paul Beers, Jerry Davis, Anne Davis, Paul Wilson, Kelly Brown, Judy Fiorentino and Lawrence Corbett.

Treasurer's Report - Greg Plantz reported a current balance in the checking account of \$8054.80. The CD balance is \$2525. Report was accepted as read, pending audit.

The necessity of having a certificate of deposit was questioned, since the return is negligible. The treasurer will investigate how much of our balance



Our newly elected officers: Thomas LaClair, President; Kelly Brown, Secretary; Anne Davis, Vice President; and Greg Plantz, Treasurer.

could be converted into something which would pay a better return.

The chair mentioned that the History and Genealogy Fair had taken place in October.

The Society's holiday party will be held on Dec. 3 from Noon to 2 pm at the Plantz residence, 21787 Reed Road, Watertown. Bring a dish to pass and all are welcome to bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to Toys For Tots.

Election of Officers - The nominating committee has submitted the following nominations for officers: Thomas LaClair, President; Kelly Brown, Secretary; Greg Plantz, Treasurer. Seeking a nomination from the floor for Vice President, Anne Davis was nominated and accepted the nomination. Seeing no further nominations, by motion of Paul Beers, the slate of new officers was accepted for a term of one year.

(Continued on Page 5)

Adding the speaker and photographer, this was one of the best attended meetings since well before the COVID era.



(Continued From Page 4)

Past President Corbett moved that the Watertown Savings Bank be designated the official depository of Society funds, that all deposits be made in an account at Watertown Savings Bank, and that all checks be written from said account. Motion was seconded and carried without objection. Tom Wood moved that either the Treasurer and President, or the Treasurer and Vice President be signatories of any checks exceeding \$1000 in value. Motion carried unanimously. It was ordered that those three officers will appear at Watertown Savings Bank to be placed on the signature card for the Society account(s).

Michael Walrath has agreed to perform a two-year audit of the society accounts and make a report at the first meeting of 2024. Seeing no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM



Thomas LaClair was introduced by the chair who gave a comprehensive report on Family Tree Maker including many of its features. It is one of the most popular genealogy software programs available today. Genealogists use it to organize their research, create charts and reports, and share their findings with others.

Family Tree Maker offers a range of features such as the ability to import data from other genealogy software, access to online records, and sync with Ancestry.com. It also allows users to create custom charts and reports and add photos and other media to their family trees.

CHRISTMAS PARTY



Our December Holiday Party at Greg and Tammy’s house. Front row from the left is Tammy, Anne and Tracy. Back row from the left is Marilyn, Tom, Greg, Jerry and Kelly.

Our collection of Toys for Tots!



Shepard Cemetery

Submitted by JCNYS Member Larry Corbett
Watertown Daily Times, August 28, 1934
 This story has been edited slightly for clarity.

Walled Burial Plot of Shepards Attracts Notice
 Enclosure on Treadwell Farm Holds Remains of
 Henderson Pioneers, Sackets Harbor.

What is the walled enclosure on the right hand side of the Henderson Harbor-Sackets Harbor Road on the farm of Brainard Treadwell, ask tourists. To answer that question, one must turn the pages of history back nearly 100 years.

Enclosed within a stone wall about eight feet high on what is known as the Bunnell farm, now owned by Brainard Treadwell of Watertown, is the family burial plot of the Shepard family where nine members have been laid to rest. The last Shepard to be placed in the private plot was Captain Elihu Hotchkins Shepard who died in St. Louis in the year 1876. His body was shipped back to Sackets Harbor by the Masonic order and hauled over the high wall by ropes and laid to rest with his ancestors.

An excerpt taken from the *Adams Journal* of April 12, 1876 says, "Captain Elihu Hotchkins Shepard died at his residence on Chambers Street, St. Louis, Missouri at 2 a.m. Sunday. He was born Oct. 15, 1795 at Halifax, Windham County, Vermont."

"The long life of Captain Shepard was an eventful one from his earliest recollection, among the first of which was his participation [in his fifth year] in the obsequies of General George Washington. Leaving Halifax in the year 1803, Capt. Shepard was taken by his parents with his brothers and sisters to a town in the township of Shelbourne in Franklin County, Mass., where he remained until October, 1806, when [they] moved to Jefferson County, New York."

"Captain Shepard was engaged while serving as a three months' volunteer in the first fight in which blood was shed in the War of 1812. After the expiration of his three months term for which he had enlisted, Capt. Shepard went to Lewiston (NY) where on Oct. 12, he joined the company of [Gansevoort] of the New York Militia, then under the command of General Van Rensselaer, who was preparing for the invasion of Canada. On the day following, the command embarked for Queenston [Heights, across the Niagara River], and Capt. Shepard was one of the 100 brave men who spiked the guns of the Lunette battery at that place. In this engagement, [Shepard] was wounded twice, neither wound being of a serious nature. Other battles of the War of 1812 in which he was engaged were: The battle of Little York, where General Zebulon Pike was killed, the battle near Newark (now called Niagara-on-the-Lake), the battle of Sackets Harbor, the fight at Sandy Creek and the battle of Lundy's Lane.

Capt. Shepard continued to reside in Henderson until his departure for the west in 1819, reaching St. Louis which has ever since been his home, Aug. 10, 1820.



Capt. Shepard had other military experience, consisting of three campaigns during the war with Mexico, and a short term of service during the [Civil War.] With a fine classical education, Capt. Shepard early became a teacher and established and conducted a school here in St. Louis for many years, where many of our oldest citizens obtained their education.

Other members of the Shepard family who are resting in the stone walled enclosure are:

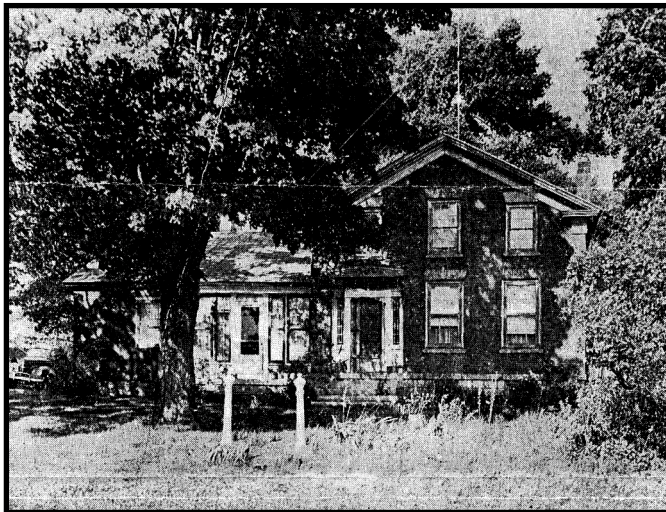
- Abel Shepard**, esq., died Nov. 23, 1815;
- Sarah Shepard**, widow of Abel, died Dec. 12, 1852;
- Mary C. Shepard**, born July 13, 1799, died June 13, 1813;
- Polly**, daughter of Abel, esq., died June 16, 1813;
- Mary Thomas**, wife of Elihu Shepard, born, Wytheville, Va., died in St. Louis, June 6, 1864;
- Livina B. Shepard**, daughter of Samuel and Polly, died Dec. 18, 1831, aged 29 years;
- Andrew D. Shepard**, died Dec. 3, 1827, aged 21 years, 16 days;
- Abel D. Shepard**, died April 14, 1838, aged 38 years;
- Esther Reed Shepard**, daughter of Sarah and Abel, born Sept. 24, 1794, died May 23, 1804.

Our local histories give very little about this family who must have taken an active part in the settling of the lands around Henderson. In one place, we find the name of Elihu Shepard as president of the Henderson Woolen Manufacturing Company.

The burial plot is now overgrown with briars and brush, but within the stone walls sleep some of the earliest settlers of the town of Henderson.

Col. Elias Sage House In South Champion

Old Houses of the North Country
Watertown Daily Times, 29 September 1951
Picture and article by David Lane



Col. Elias Sage who, under the tutelage of Deacon David Granger, became one of the most skilled carpenters in northern New York, is distinguished in north country history for having been chosen to work on James D. LeRay's beautiful mansion when it was constructed 1825-7 near LeRaysville.

Born at Sandisfield, Mass., Feb. 27, 1799, son of Elias and Elizabeth Sage, he moved with his parents to Lewis county in 1800, attended district school and when 15 moved to South Champion. The next year he was apprenticed to Deacon Granger and at 21 was a full-fledged journeyman carpenter.

From then on he pursued his trade "with gratifying success," and when Deacon Granger was made master builder of the LeRay Mansion, young Sage was selected to work with him. Many houses and other buildings were erected by him in the ensuing years, and it is said that as fast as his earnings accumulated he bought land. Also, it is said that he was the first to raise a building in the town of Champion without the use of liquor.

Colonel Sage's first land purchase was approximately four acres from David and Lucy Granger for \$100 on March 8, 1824. On July 2, 1824, he bought 85.1 acres in the same locale from Willard and Lois Knowles for \$800. Undoubtedly he shortly began construction upon his brick house shown above, for the Oakes history of 1905 comments as follows regarding the Sage home: "Built over 80 years ago was one of the handsomest in location and general character to be found in the county. It is now occupied by his

daughter, Mrs. Seymour A. Woolworth, and retains its desirability in every way, being the abode of cultivated taste and hospitality. Mr. Sage himself did most of the interior work on the house."

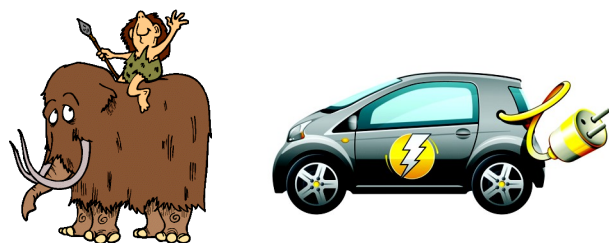
In early manhood Elias Sage, Jr., became a corporal in the 14th New York Cavalry. Promotions were steady until his colonelcy. On Jan. 17, 1827, he married Hannah White of Rutland. She died Oct. 25, 1844. On Jan. 18, 1847, he married Emily O. Randall of Troy. Of their two daughters, Martha J. married Seymour A. Woolworth and Emily G. married Chauncey Loomis. Colonel Sage died Aug. 25, 1884, and Mrs. Sage Dec. 28, 1896. The name Sage, typifying wise man, was first found in the Battle Abbey Roll of William the Conqueror after the battle of Hastings in 1066. The family line in America was established by David Sage, who settled in Middletown, Conn., in 1650 or 1652, having come from Wales with his mother, the former Elisabeth Randall.

On Sept. 37, 1884, Emily O. Sage, widow, and Martha J. Woolworth, daughter of Colonel Sage, quitclaimed their interest in this house and 259.69 acres to Mrs. Emily G. Loomis, wife of Chauncey A. Loomis, and he with Otis C. Loomis on Dec. 24, 1902, conveyed the property to Mrs. Matilda Edghill of Copenhagen.

The widow of Robinson Edghill, Mrs. Matilda R. Edghill, transferred the place on Aug. 5, 1910, to John and Mary Wallace Edghill, William D. Edghill and Lena E. Hall, all of Watertown, Edith E. Wolf of Rochester, and Mabel E. Gray of Clayton. Then on April 9, 1936, former local Police Capt. William D. and Sarah H. Edghill, city; Lena Hall Weller and Edith M. Wolf Power, Rochester; Mabel A. Gray, Carthage, sold to Nelson J. and Bertha L. Hastings of the town of Denmark, the present owners.

Mr. Hastings is descended from Emeral Hastings, who was one of the earliest settlers of the town of Champion and Jefferson county, and he keeps the old Colonel Sage house looking practically identically today as it did when Colonel Sage resided there three-quarters of a century ago. It is one of the historic landmarks of the county. Elias Sage, Sr., father of Colonel Sage, died in the town of Champion Feb. 29, 1852, at the age of 93. He was a Revolutionary war veteran drawing a pension of \$60 per annum.

**"Give me an old house full of
memories and I will give you
hundred novels!"
— MEHMET MURAT ILDAN**

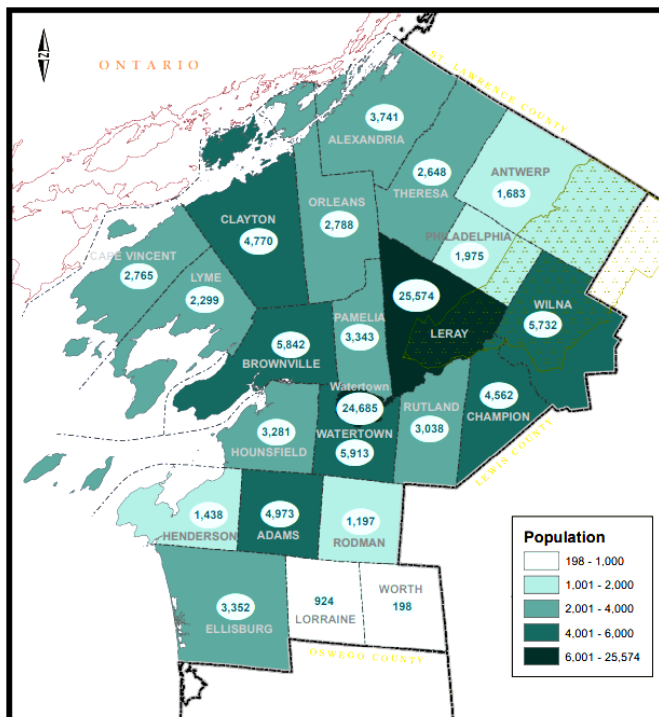


FROM PAST to PRESENT

Vol. 2 Issue 2, March 1995

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Editor: Shown below are the 2020 figures for the population of Jefferson County's towns, and the city of Watertown, found on the internet. The 1995 *Informer* article that Irma Repas contributed to the March issue is reproduced on the right. We hope you might find it at least, interesting to make comparisons.



"By the time you're eighty years old you've learned everything. You only have to remember it." George Burns (1896-1996)

County's Population 1905

contributed by Irma Repas

The population of Jefferson county, as announced by the State Enumeration Bureau, is 80,459, a gain of 3,711 over the Federal census of 1900. The population in 1905 by cities, towns and villages, with the changes since 1900, is as follows:

- Watertown city 25,477 increase 3,751
- Towns— Adams, 3,177, increase 96.
- Alexandria 4,261, increase 367.
- Antwerp 2,932, decrease 76.
- Brownville 3,904, increase 206.
- Cape Vincent 2,297, decrease 85.
- Champion 2,668, increase 143.
- Clayton 4,095, decrease 218.
- Ellisburg 3,740, decrease 148.
- Henderson 1,517, decrease 98.
- Hounsfield 2,346, decrease 426.
- LeRay 2,684, increase 108.
- Lorraine 959, decrease 70.
- Lyme 2,098, decrease 102.
- Orleans 2,433, increase 66.
- Pamelia 898, decrease 133.
- Philadelphia 1,699, decrease 51.
- Rodman 1,144, decrease 68.
- Rutland 1,883, decrease 2.
- Theresa 2,022, decrease 108.
- Watertown 1,128, decrease 31.
- Wilna 5,866, increase 694.
- Worth 729, decrease 147.

Madison Barracks in Hounsfield town, in June, 1905, was not garrisoned, whereas in the United States census of 1900 the enumeration of said barracks included 318 soldiers, civilian employees, etc.

- Villages—Adams 1,449, increase 157.
- Alexandria Bay 1,854, increase 343.
- Antwerp 1,014, increase 85.
- Belleville 346, decrease 38.
- Black River 969, increase 98.
- Cape Vincent 1,231, decrease 79.
- Carthage 3,404, increase 509.
- Chaumont 691, decrease 47.
- Clayton 1,918, increase 5.
- Dexter 1,031, increase 86.
- Ellisburg 310, increase 18.
- Evans Mills 451, no change
- Glen Park 582, increase 88.
- Henderson 344, decrease 30.
- Mannsville 350, decrease 2.
- Philadelphina 855, decrease 17.
- Sackets Harbor 903, decrease 363.
- Theresa 892, decrease 25.
- West Carthage 1,377, increase 242.

FLOWER LIBRARY BOOKISH ABOUT ITS HISTORY, SUCCESS

By Chris Brock, *Watertown Daily Times*
30 Sep 2023, cbrock@wdt.net

It was a "simple and modest" ceremony in July 1903 when the cornerstone for Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library was laid. The library is marking the 120th anniversary of that event with a bit of quiet fanfare but won't be shy in the next year and a half to mark more milestone anniversaries.

EMMA'S ARTISTIC VISION

One of the attractions for Flower Memorial Library is its history and its preserved artistic elements. "A 120-year-old building is a labor of love," Renzi-Falge said. "One of the most popular comments we get is, 'It's such a beautiful building.' "

For that, citizens can thank Emma Flower Taylor (1870-1934). "She donated money to build it and she had a hand in designing and choosing all of the items that went into it, very meticulously, very thoughtfully," Renzi-Falge said. "We've been able to keep it just as nice, especially after the major renovations in the 2000s. We try to keep that piece of history as museum quality so people can come in and enjoy the original side of the building." If Emma somehow walked in today? "I hope she would be happy with the way things are going. I don't know how she'd feel about the 1975 addition off the back," the director said.

An addition, completed in 1976, was made possible by a \$100,000 gift (more than half a million in today's dollars) from the Watertown Foundation. In 1988, Lewis County became part the foundation and its name was changed to the Northern New York Community Foundation.

In the late 1890s, Watertown citizens sought funding to build a public library. They approached industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919). Emma, living in New York City at the time, heard about that request and offered to build a library in honor of her father, Roswell.

When Henry Keep, former president of the New York Central Railroad, asked Flower, a Jefferson County native, to manage his estate, he moved to New York City and established himself as a top financial administrator. Roswell served two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1881 to 1883 and from 1889 to 1891 and was the 30th governor of New York, serving from 1892 to 1894.

As governor, Roswell signed into law the bills creating the Adirondack Park and the City of Niagara Falls. Having signed a constitutional amendment changing the governor's term from three years to two, he was

the last New York governor to serve a three-year term. Emma went well beyond her initial budget of \$60,000 (about \$2 million in today's dollars) to create a uniquely designed marble structure that ended up being an architectural jewel as well as the first free library in Watertown.

A TEMPLE OF ART

Renzi-Falge grew up in the library, checking out books as a youngster and getting a job as a library page at age 15 - 23 years ago. She's been at her current job as director for 1 1/2 years. "I like to say I drank the Kool-Aid because once I started in the library, organizing and shelving and seeing what the library clerks did, I was like, 'I could make a career out of this,' " she said.

Giving library tours is part of her duties now, which she relishes. In its rotunda, she walked over to the focal point - a bust of Roswell by Augustus St. Gaudens, who also designed the statue of Roswell on Public Square. It's not the original bust designed for the rotunda. Emma didn't like the original bronze version, which was moved upstairs to the 1812 Room. "It didn't go with her theme," Renzi-Falge said of the marble-heavy architecture.

The steps to the front entrance are also marble as is the floor of the rotunda. The floor features a circle of bronze astrological signs. "That's purely from Emma," Renzi-Falge said. "She loved astrology, different occult things and was into the spiritualist movement. This was her way of getting her own little perception. People still love astrology and getting their picture taken with their astrological sign."

A key artistic feature of the rotunda may be missed if visitors don't look up to the dome. It was done by Frederick Lamb and features four figures placed at the main axis of the building, surrounding a stained-glass dome window. The figures personify history, romance, religion and science. There are also intermediate figures of Fable, Drama, Lyric and Epic Poetry. Each of the figures has the names of two of the most recognized people in the field. The inscription around the dome is from Proverbs in the Bible: "To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding."

Off the rotunda, there are two historic rooms, viewable by the public but closed off to enter. The Bonaparte Room reflects the north country legacy of the Bonaparte family. Joseph Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon, arrived at Natural Bridge in the town of Wilna in June 1822. The former King of Spain had fled France and the Bourbon dynasty in 1815 after his younger brother, Napoleon, saw his empire crumble.

James LeRay de Chaumont, son of a French count

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued From Page 9)

who lost his fortune in the French Revolution, had acquired 350,000 acres of land in Northern New York as payment for loans made to the United States during the American Revolution.

Joseph, calling himself the Count de Survilliers, purchased 150,000 acres, mostly wilderness, from James LeRay. Bonaparte had left his Philadelphia home because of a scandal involving a daughter of a Quaker. He then spent a brief period in Bordentown, New Jersey, lured north by LeRay's land. Joseph Bonaparte arrived in Natural Bridge with an entourage of coaches and a small army of woodsmen and laborers.

"Emma happened to be friends with his mistress and ended up with a lot of Napoleon artifacts," Renzi-Falge said. One of those artifacts is an oil painting of Napoleon Bonaparte by Paul Delaroche, a historic portrait painter.

The other closed-off room off the rotunda, a former "conversation room," is dedicated to the Flower family with several artifacts, including a table featuring the likeness of family members.

On both floors of the old section, there are nearly two dozen artistic treasures - from the "First celebration of the Declaration of Independence" to the

"Unconscious" sculpture by Launt Thompson, depicting a young woman captured by the Delaware Indians and opted to stay with them after her family found her. Details for all highlights can be explained by picking up a free walking tour brochure at the library.

Two large murals stand out on the second floor, which is rich in military history. One is the large "Battle of Sackets Harbor" painting by Massachusetts artist H. Peabody Flagg. He extensively researched the battle scene and authored a plaque, with words in cursive, placed below the painting that explains what's happening. Visitors who may find it hard to read should refer to the tour brochure, which contains the passage in print. "He didn't mess around with his research when he was painting," Renzi-Falge said.

"We don't have any other murals in the building that are this specific - what each ship is, the name of each ship. Sackets Harbor is in the background, with the little houses."

Another War of 1812 painting on the second floor, also by Flagg, depicts the Battle of Lake Erie. "Emma thought very hard about what to put in here before she put it in," Renzi-Falge said.

JCNYGS Note: Only portions of the original article is shared.

Thanks from David Simonds

October 1, 2023

JCNYGS
P.O. Box 6453
Watertown, NY 13601

Dear JCNYGS,

Please find enclosed a donation in the amount of \$250.00. I am making this donation especially in recognition of all the time and work that JCNYGS member Tom Laclair did in helping me resolve a problem with the Simonds family plot marker in Grove Cemetery (LaFargeville), as detailed in the most recent issue of the Informer. I would also like to recognize the many other ways Tom has helped me with my genealogy over the years, through his Informer articles and postings to Ancestry.com, jefferson.nygenweb.net, and jcnys.com.

Finally, I would like to thank all the JCNYGS members who write articles for the Informer, or work on getting it printed and mailed. It always contains something of interest to me. Thanks also to all members of JCNYGS who help to keep the society going in these times of declining membership.

Sincerely yours,

David R. Simonds
Dave Simonds

ROSWELL P. FLOWER MEMORIAL LIBRARY CELEBRATES 120 YEARS

By Suzie Renzi-Falge, Executive Director,
R. P. Flower Memorial Library

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, Taylor presented this \$60,000 gift to the City after a few years of fundraising with other supportive Watertown natives such as George Massey and Edwin Paddock. This gift was presented in the form of a letter written to the *Watertown Daily Times* on stationery from the Waldorf Astoria:

New York, April 5, 1901.

The Watertown Times, Watertown, N.Y.:

Dear Sirs: Rather than have the city of Watertown go outside her own community to secure a public library, I would be willing and glad to pay for the land, lately purchased for this purpose and with the balance of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) build a library and buy books for the same, and give to the city of Watertown, subject to the same conditions as would exist had the gift been made by Mr. Carnegie, which, I understand, is that the city of Watertown will provide for the maintenance, buying new books, keep the building and books insured, etc., to the extent of at least five thousand dollars annum.

Further, that it shall be named the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library. That Mayor Wilbur F. Porter and Mr. W. D. McKinstry be appointed a building committee, with power to increase their numbers to not more than 11 members. That plans be procured from both local and out-of-town architects, none of which, however, shall be accepted without my approval. That the money already subscribed be used toward the first year's maintenance, or returned to the subscribers.

If this meets with the approval of the committee having the matter in charge and of the citizens of Watertown, please advise me.

Sincerely yours,

Emma Flower Taylor

Before this gift could be accepted, the New York State Legislature had to enact a bill allowing municipalities to receive such gifts. The cornerstone for the library was laid on July 11, 1903 by Emma Flower Taylor herself! The library was planned and built on the former Emerson household location on Washington Street.

On November 10, 1904 the construction of the library was complete and a ceremony was held to present the library to the City of Watertown. The total cost to construct the building and decorate the library was \$250,000. In 2023, that cost would be over \$9 million!

On January 4, 1905 the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library officially opened its doors to the public and has been serving Watertown ever since with books, services, and events, as well as providing a sense of community and fostering a love of education and learning.

In celebration of this milestone achievement, library staff will host special anniversary events and activities at the library throughout the next couple of years. Please help us honor this accomplishment and join us for the festivities!

DO's and DON'Ts of Joining and Helping Genealogy Groups

DO

- ✓ Find groups about your interests
- ✓ Donate your money and time: membership dues, record projects, fundraising, and more
- ✓ Talk with other members, in person and online
- ✓ Show up for in-person events
- ✓ Invite others to participate
- ✓ Seek educational opportunities, then put what you've learned into practice
- ✓ Serve in leadership roles

DON'T

- ✗ Assume everyone is at your experience level
- ✗ Be disrespectful, especially on social media
- ✗ Watch webinars as if they were TV shows
- ✗ Limit yourself to societies in your region
- ✗ Focus only on what a group can do for you

**ASK AUNTY
JEFF**  2002 & Nan Dixon

Dear Aunty Jeff

I see the abbreviation (Thurso) frequently on the nyjeffer (GenWeb) site. I must have a mental block and can't make a connection. Could you help enlighten me? Thanks. Kurt Hyneman.

Aunty Jeff sees no mental block here: Thurso is a place and not an abbreviation. Grindstone Island, in the Town of Clayton, once had a thriving hamlet called Thurso, with school, post office, church, cheese factory and stores. It is now a summer community, and the main reference is to its cemetery.

Dear Aunty Jeff

What is a query? What do I say? Puzzled Beginner.

Aunty Jeff reminds Puzzled Beginner that a query is a question. Generally speaking, simply give the basics of one nuclear family: birth, marriage, death dates and places if you have them and who their children were. Be specific: what exactly do you want to know about them?

Put all surnames in CAPITAL letters. This helps avoid possible confusion when surnames sound like given names.

Write short sentences! Be as concise and 'tight' as you can without leaving out essential information. Study queries written by others. Which writer makes sense and which is confusing? What's the difference in their writing style?

One last hint: when recording a couple's 14 children, for example, it's hardly necessary to write out each of their full names and full birth dates! In most cases, give only the first name (possibly the middle initial if the family surname is very common) and the birth year. If a potential inquirer is interested, he'd respond based on the brief information given in your query.

If you write by snail mail, not email, it's a good idea to include both a self-addressed stamped envelope and a copy of your pedigree chart which holds the ancestor about whom you are querying.

There's no guarantee how quickly you'll receive a response, but you are all the more likely to get an answer if your letter is short and to-the-point, and includes SASE.

Dear Aunty Jeff

Fred A. LaMonda died January 15, 1928. and his wife Nellie Jean LaMonda died May 1, 1921. They are buried in Watertown Cemetery, Town of Pamela. Where could I send for their death papers and newspaper obits? Don't know where to get records. Thank you very much. Janice.

Aunty Jeff regrets that the one vital fact for getting death records is not in your excellent query. Death records in NYS are kept in the township or city in which the death occurred. This is not necessarily the place where they died, which might be at the home of a relative, or a hospital or in an accident. Death records are the responsibility of the town clerk or the city clerk, and you cannot get them anywhere else. Your dates are well within the time frame needed, so once you have figured out where they died, you should have no trouble requesting the records from the appropriate clerk. Be prepared to pay for the certificate.

A good place to find place of death is in the obituary. Writing to the *Watertown Daily Times* Library might be your first choice. It's possible that Flower Library might have your obit, but not a sure thing. Three more places that will answer a query are: Historical Association of South Jefferson in Adams, the Heritage Room collection of obituaries in Carthage Free Library, Carthage, and Lyme Heritage Center at Chaumont Library, Chaumont. .

**ASK AUNTY
JEFF**  2002 & Nan Dixon

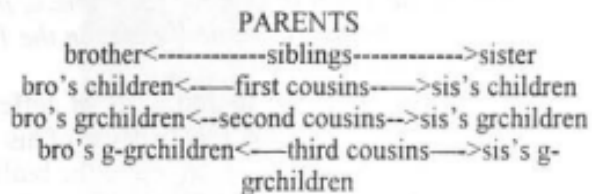
Dear Aunty Jeff,

What does the "removed" mean in, for example, second cousin, once removed?

Love your column.

Phyl

First let me refer you to the *Informer*, March 1999, page 14, which has a chart showing how to determine cousinships. *Removed* refers to a difference in generations. Your first cousin is the child of your uncle or aunt. You are the same generation as your first cousin. A first cousin once removed to you, is the child of your own first cousin. Twice removed, or two generations removed, would be the grandchild of your first cousin. Aunty Jeff's grandchildren and her brother's grandchildren (he has about 30 of the little dears) are second cousins. His four great grandchildren are second cousins once removed from Aunty Jeff's grandchildren. A chart might look like this:



Mixing these cousins up, you find that brother's g-g-children are sister's *children's* first cousins twice (two generations) removed, **not third cousins!** Third cousins must be the same generation. When you get to your fourth cousin, three times removed, the ties that bind are pretty weak.

Dear Aunty Jeff:

If I were to request information from a public source, could you give me some kind of baseline information on one individual, beyond postage and materials? Thank you, Kurt Hyneman

There is no standard but a good minimum would be \$3 - \$5 per lookup, while \$10 would be generous. Donations are important to our non-funded institutions. I just found out that one town historian here is Jefferson County not only gets no salary, but is expected to pay all costs out of his own pocket!

CLAYTON MARRIAGES 1868

From Jefferson County Directory 1866, 1867 & 1868

Date	Groom	Age	His Residence	Occupation	Place	His Father	His Mother	Yops, Emma	Age	Her Residence	Her Birthplace	Yops, Anthony	His Mother
8 Jan 1868	Bellville, Joseph	23	Clayton NY	Barber	Canada	Bellville, Anthony	Pilon, unknown	Yops, Emma	21	Clayton, NY	Montreal, DE, Canada	Yops, Anthony	Campbell, Margaret
9 Jan 1868	Flood, John	25	Kingston Ont. Canada	Stone Cutter	Ireland	Flood, John	Cullen, Sarah	Sturdivent, Charlotte	26	Grindstone Island NY	Grindstone Island NY	Sturdivent, Stephen	Thompson, Mary
17 Jan 1868	Nolan, John	33	Ulaca NY	Clerk	Newport NY	Nolan, James	Kinsella, Julia	McKinley, Mary	27	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	McKinley, Arthur	Hayes, Mary
24 Jan 1868	Hayden, James	23	Grindstone Island NY	Stone Cutter	Ireland	Hayden, Edward	Garrou, Mary	Charlebois, Elizabeth	25	Grindstone Island NY	Clayton, NY	Charlebois, Eli	Bertrand, Elizabeth
25 Jan 1868	Luther, George A.	26	Lyme Twp NY	Farmer	Lyme NY	Luther, Jeremiah	Henry, Maggie	Punam, Addie	21	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Punam, Albert	Henry, Harriet
30 Jan 1868	Kay, George M.	28	Thurso, NY	Stone Cutter	Scotland	Kay, Angus	Molter, Anna	McRae, Minnie	22	Thurso NY	Thurso NY	McRae, Farquhar	McGowdy, Mary
2 Feb 1868	Murdock, William C.	33	Grindstone Island NY	Framer	Clayton NY	Murdock, William	Marshall, Margaret	Potter, Ellen E.	26	Grindstone Island NY	Clayton, NY	Potter, Augustus W.	McEwen, Mary
16 Feb 1868	Smith, Edward H.	47	Lafargeville NY	Farmer	Fairfield NY	Smith, Leland	unknown, Emeline	Allen, Sarah J.	32	Depauville NY	Scriba, NY	Allen, J.J.	unknown, Almira
13 Feb 1868	Cavanaugh, Edward	30	Theresa NY	Carpenter	Theresa NY	Cavanaugh, Cornelius	Maher, Mary	Hayes, Mary	28	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Hayes, John W.	Mullen, Margaret
13 Mar 1868	Steele, Charles Elton	21	Clayton NY	Sailor	Clayton NY	Steele, William M.	Garner, Sarah	Lawson, Clara E.	20	Clayton, NY	Gananoque, Ont. Canada	Lawson, John	Elliott, Elizabeth
14 Mar 1868	Baxter, Millard F.	32	Stone Mills NY	Teacher	Lafargeville NY	Baxter, Albert	Collins, Mary	Miner, Jennie A.	21	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Miner, Niel	Carter, Lydia
20 Mar 1868	Kelly, Horace B.	20	Thurso, NY	Granite Dealer	Rockland ME	Kelly, James	Horton, Mary	Potter, Elizabeth A.	20	Thurso NY	Thurso NY	Potter, Orlando	Miller, Mary
19 Apr 1868	Gillett, Ira H.	51	Depauville NY	Farmer	Clayton NY	not given	not given	Babcock, Florence E.	31	Depauville NY	Clayton, NY	not given	not given
15 Apr 1868	Austin, Charles F.	20	St. Lawrence NY	Farmer	St. Lawrence NY	Austin, Charles	Dillon, Clara	Charlebois, Olivia	20	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Charlebois, Anthony	Seymour, Lucy
12 May 1868	Marshall, Charles, M.	43	Clayton NY	Insurance Agent	Clayton NY	Marshall, Archibald	Hawes, Juliana	Longton, Emma	25	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Longton, Joseph	Pilon, Susan
	Groom	Age	His Residence	Occupation	Place	His Father	His Mother	Bride	Age	Her Residence	Her Birthplace	Her Father	Her Mother
23 May 1868	George, Henry	28	Chamumont NY	Merchant	Brownville NY	George, Frederick	unknown, Sebina	Hills, May	23	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Hills, William	Phelps, Maryette
31 May 1868	Charlebois, Alphonse	27	Clayton NY	Sailor	Clayton NY	Charlebois, Eli	Bertrand, Elizabeth	McCann, Anna	20	Sterlingbush	Sterlingbush	McCann, James	Murray, Mary
12 Jul 1868	Hayes, Joseph M.	24	Brooklyn NY	Conductor	Meadville PA	Hayes, John B.	Mead, Fanny	A.	24	Lowville NY	Lowville NY	McCarvey, Michael	Callahan, Ann
28 Jun 1868	Gould, Horace G.	28	Clayton NY	Mechanic	Clayton NY	Gould, John	Carey, Ruth	Shire, Ida M.	27	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Shire, John C.	Wheeler, Elmira W.
1 Jul 1868	Slate, Phillip S.	24	Thurso, NY	Teacher	Turso NY	Slaate, Sylvester	Cronk, Charlotte	Horne, Fanny	21	St. Lawrence Ont. Canada	Ontario Canada	Horne, William J.	Gillespie, Mary Jane
15 Jul 1868	Denny, Leander	24	Clayton NY	Stone Cutter	Clayton NY	Denny, Leander	Pelou, Major Ann	Johnson, Amelia	32	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Johnson, Julius	St. Thomas, Julia
7 Aug 1868	Lake, Sheldon	20	Gananoque, Ont. Can	Blacksmith	Battersa Ont. Canada	Lake, John	Hartley, Mary	Johnson, Elizabeth	23	Gananoque, Ont. Canada	Newburg Ont. Canada	Johnson, Jeremiah	Gillespie, Catherine
14 Aug 1868	Walker, William Henry	27	Little York NY	Laborer	Little York NY	Walker, David	Alevonse, Mary	Apple, Sarah J. Stowell	32	Fine NY	Fine NY	Stowell, Solomon	Russell, Phebe Ann
18 Aug 1868	Carter, William	20	Clayton NY	Railroad	Clayton NY	Carter, Judson	O'Neil, Amelia	Pilon, Ida	20	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Pilon, Cyprian	Denny, Zola
22 Aug 1868	Murdock, Robert Lind	23	Thurso, NY	Quarman	Thurso NY	Murdock, Peter	Marshall, Mary	DeLancett, Alice	23	Thurso NY	Fandolph WI	DeLancett, Albert	Livingstone, Mary
4 Sep 1868	Mitroy, William	29	Thurso, NY	Quarman	Scotland	Mitroy, Neil	Patterson, Angeline	McCracken, Agnes	25	Scotland	Scotland	McCracken, John	McClure, Agnes
10 Sep 1868	Bertrand, John	26	Clayton NY	Carpenter	Clayton NY	Bertrand, Edward	Thibault, Angelle	Carpenter, Mary Ann	22	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Carpenter, Benjamin	Sawyer, Julia
16 Oct 1868	Seymour, Jacob (Indi)	20	Hogansburg NY	Basketmaker	Hogansburg NY	Seymour, Thomas	White, Sarah	Waters, Sarah (Indian)	18	Hogansburg NY	Hogansburg NY	Waters, Jacob	unknown, Mary
26 Oct 1868	Britton, William Henry	33	Excelsior WI	Railroad	Providence RI	Britton, Isaac	Hudson, Elizabeth	Force	31	Wisconsin	Madison WI	Baraboo, Daniel	Katchikan, Elizabeth
30 Oct 1868	Sonorsa, Albert (Indi)	25	Clayton NY	Basketmaker	Chicago IL	Sonorsa, Thomas	Turgeon, Delina	(Indian)	18	Clayton, NY	Orawa Ont. Canada	LaForce, Andrew	Ebill, Theresa
13 Oct 1868	Knight, Cornelius	30	Clayton NY	Engineer	Lafargeville NY	Knight, William	Kelly, Kate	Farrell, Sarah	25	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Farrell, Charles	Mullen, Bridget
7 Nov 1868	Bertrand, Napoleon	23	Clayton NY	School Keeper	Paris France	Bertrand, Edward	Bedard, Angello	Carpenter, Clara	25	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Carpenter, Benjamin	Sawyer, Julia
13 Jun 1868	Casavant, Gilbert	25	Clayton NY	Upholstery	Paris France	Casavant, Joseph	DeMarse, Adeline	Gardner, Effie M.	24	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Gardner, Putnam	Howarth, Mary
31 Oct 1868	LaLonde, Joseph	23	Gananoque, Ont. Can	Springmaker	Clayton NY	LaLonde, Frank	Lonsway, Caroline	Bellville, Ida	21	Canada	Canada	Bellville, Anthony	Pelou, Adeline
28 Nov 1868	Cummings, Riley	48	Gananoque, Ont. Can	Laborer	Lyme Twp. NY	Cummings, Thomas	Linnie, Sally	Harris, Julia Ann	46	Gananoque, Ont. Canada	Walle Island Ont. Canada	Harris, Thomas	Warder, Mary Ann
23 Nov 1868	Riddler, John	25	Thurso, NY	Paving Ctr	Scotland	Riddler, Robert	Mine, Margaret	Johnson, Sarah	19	Thurso NY	Thurso NY	Johnson, Sylvester	Farr, Margaret
4 Dec 1868	Boot, Frank (Indian)	39	Clayton NY	Basketmaker	St. Regis NY	Boot, Charles	Savoyts, Theresa	Boy, Elizabeth		Clayton, NY	Smith Falls NY	Boy, Charles	Foot, Theresa
6 Dec 1868	Bretch, Ernest W.	23	Clayton NY	Farmer	Alexandria NY	Bretch, Adam	Gillette, Alice	Pierce	29	Clayton, NY	Clayton, NY	Lingenfelter, W.H.	Wilson, Mary
17 Dec 1868	Wise, John	23	Depauville NY	Railroad	Clayton NY	Wise, Edward	Lonsway, Elizabeth	LaRose, Matilda	16	Depauville NY	Canada	LaRose, Joseph	Birch, Lovina

Gazetteer and Directory Of Jefferson County, New York 1866 – 67

Compiled by Hamilton Childs

Transcribed by JCNYS Member Tom LaClair

JCNYS Note: We were loaned an original edition of the directory for the year 1866 – 67. The delicate booklet is 5 by 8 1/2 inches and contains 207 pages. After an introduction, an several page overview of Jefferson County is provided, then an overview on the naming of the towns is discussed. The 22 towns in 1866 were: Adams, Alexandria, Antwerp, Brownville, Cape Vincent, Champion, Clayton, Ellisburg, Henderson, Hounsfield, LeRay, Lorraine, Lyme, Orleans, Pamela, Philadelphia, Rodman, Rutland, Theresa, Watertown, Wilna, and Worth. These 22 towns remain active today. 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. This is continuation from the Oct 2023 Informer that included the Towns of Adams – Antwerp.

Town of Brownville

“**BROWNVILLE** was formed from Leyden, April 1st, 1802, and was named from Gen. Jacob Brown, its founder. LeRay was taken off in 1806; Lyme in 1818; Pamela in 1819, and Orleans and part of Alexandria in 1821. It is situated on the north side of the Black River and Black River Bay. Its surface is level or gently undulating. The soil is sandy and clayey loam. Sulphate of barytes is found on Pillar Point, and the vein has been worked to some extent for lithic paint. Upon the west bank of the Perch River, a few rods below Limerick is a cave extending 150 yards into the bank and 30 feet below the surface. Manufacturers receive considerable attention. **Brownville**, on Black River, four miles below Watertown, was incorporated April 5th, 1828. It has a valuable waterpower, and contains a cotton factory, built in 1814—15, now working 3,200 spindles and 80 looms, and gives employment to about ninety hands,—two grist mills, a saw mill, woolen factory, two extensive foundries and machine shops, a cabinet shop, cheese factory, etc. At several points between this village and Watertown, fine opportunities for waterpower exists, which are at present entirely unimproved. At one of these, 1 1/2 miles above the village, Mr. James Wood, originally from New Hampshire, about 1830, began the erection of a dam and woolen factory, which had been nearly completed, and partly stocked with machinery, when it was swept off by the spring floods of 1838, proving a total loss to the owner. **Dexter**, named in compliment to S. Newton Dexter, of Whitesboro, one of the proprietors, is situated at the head of Black River Bay, and is also the head of navigation on Black River. The

place was formerly known as “Fish Island.” It is the seat of an extensive woolen factory, built in 1837, at an expense of \$140,000. It is fitted for 10 sets of machinery, and employs 75 hands; is capable of making 7,000 to 8,000 yards of broadcloths and cassimeres per month. It also contains several saw mills, a grist mill, plaster mill, several establishments for the manufacture of wood, etc. It has been a place of ship building to some extent, about a dozen schooners, the propellers James Wood and Clifton, and the steamer Telegraph having been built there. **Limerick**, on the Perch River, 1 1/2 miles from Dexter, is a station on the Cape Vincent branch of the R. W. & O. R. R. It contains a small store, tavern, depot, and about a dozen houses. A dam was built, and mills erected here at an early day. The dam was found to overflow the flats above, and render them sickly, when it was presented by the Grand Jury as a nuisance, and removed by order of the Court, in 1829. It was afterwards built below. **Moffattville**, (Perch River P. O.) on the west bank of the Perch River, three miles from Limerick, is a hamlet containing a church, an inn, stores, and a few shops. It is in the midst of a highly cultivated district, but destitute of waterpower. **Pillar Point** is a hamlet, situated across the bay from Sackets Harbor. This point has been somewhat important for its ship building. Gen. Jacob Brown began the settlement of the town in 1799, as proprietor and agent. In 1800 he built a saw mill, and in 1801 a small grist mill, at the mouth of Philomel Creek. A bridge was built in 1802, and a dam across the river in 1806. In 1828 Henry Evans was hung, near Watertown, for the murder of two men, committed in this town—the only execution by civil authority that ever took place in the county. During the war, Brownville village became the seat of a hospital, and on different occasions large bodies of troops were posted in the vicinity. For several years it was the residence and headquarters of Maj. Gen. Brown, commander-in-chief of the northern department, and afterwards by Col. Edmund Kirby, his son-in-law, who held the office of paymaster in the army from 1824 till his death, April 18, 1846. Perch River, in this town, from the lake of that name to Limerick, meanders through a flat, which originally was flowed by several beaver dams, and in the early settlement of the country was too wet for cultivation, and gave rise to sickness from malaria. An act was passed May 26, 1841, providing for the draining of the drowned lands, by a tax upon the property to be benefited. The lake has been lowered two feet by improvements since made, and the locality has since been considerably healthy. The town has an area of 34,352 acres.”

Town of Cape Vincent

“**CAPE VINCENT** was formed from Lyme, April 10, 1849, and named in honor of Vincent LeRay, son of proprietor. It is the northwest corner town of the

(Continued on Page 15)

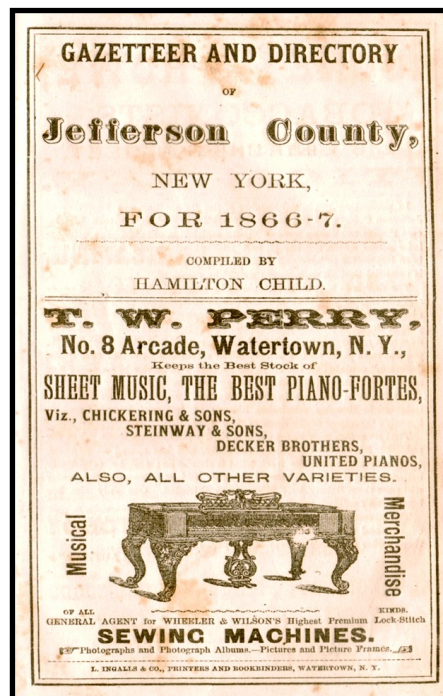
(Continued From Page 14)

County, and embraces Carlton, Grenadier and Fox Islands, in the St. Lawrence. The surface is level, or slightly undulating, and the soil is a clayey loam. Kents Creek is the principal stream. There are two or three sulfur springs in this town. Quite a fleet of vessels have been built here. Cape Vincent, called "Gravelly Point" by many of the old inhabitants, the terminus of the Cape Vincent branch of the R. W. & O. R. R., is located near the head of the St. Lawrence River. It was first settled in 1809, laid out as a village in 1817, and incorporated in 1853. A lighthouse was built at Tibbets Point, two miles distant, in 1826. The R. R. Company has built here a wharf, 3,000 feet long, two immense freight houses, a grain elevator, &c. The Lake Ontario line of steamers touch at this point, and ferry boats run regularly to Kingston. A few years since, a canal was dug across Wolf or Grand Island, to afford a more direct route for this ferry. This place received several visits from the enemy during the war. It has a bank, several hotels, stores, shops, &c. A few months ago a disastrous fire destroyed a large amount of property in the business part of the village. **Saint Lawrence** and **Millens Bay** are post offices and hamlets. The first settlement in the town and county was made upon Carlton Island, at about the time of the revolution. A regular fortification, known as "Fort Carlton," was erected upon the Island, and a tract of 30 acres was cleared and cultivated, and long known as the "King's Garden." This fort commanded the south channel of the river, and was an important post during the revolution. It was mostly excavated in the rock, and the materials taken out were used in construction of the rampart and escarpment. The first settlement upon the main land was commenced in 1801, at Port Putnam, two miles below Cape Vincent, by Capt. Abijah Putnam, who established a ferry from this point to Wolf Island. Count Real, chief of police under Napoleon, and other French families of note, resided in this town for some time. A custom house was established in 1819. Upon the shores of Grenadier Island, and of the main land opposite, are valuable seine fisheries. The town has an area of 31,193 acres."

Town of Champion

"**CHAMPION** was formed from Mexico, March 14, 1800. A part of Harrisburgh was taken off in 1803. It is the central town on the southeast border of the county. The surface is broken and hilly. The most elevated portions are the slate hills, in the south angle, (known as the "peak") which are about 1,700 feet above tide water. From their summits the land descends in a series of broken and irregular terraces to the Black River. The north part is more level. The soil is generally a clay loam, but near the river in some places it is sandy. The town was No. 4, or "Howard, of the "Eleven Towns." It fell to the share of Harrison and

Hoffman, and by them sold to Gen. Henry Champion, of Colchester, Conn., and Lemuel Storrs. It was settled under Judge Noadiah Hubbard and Alfred Lathrop, agents of the last named proprietor. The name was given in honor of Gen. Champion, who presented the town with a bell, for the compliment. **Champion Village**, near the center of the town, and **Great Bend**, on the Black River, near the northeast corner of the town, are small villages. **West Carthage**, also on the Black River, in the east corner of the town, is a thriving village. It contains a hotel, grist mill, saw mills, clothing works, linseed oil mill, two pail and tub factories, a flax mill, shops, &c. The first settlement was begun in 1798, by Noadiah Hubbard, as agent for Storrs. The first settlers came by water down the river as far as Long Falls, and the town was settled with great rapidity. Among the first settlers who came in 1798-99, were John, Thomas and Solomon Ward, David and Samuel Starr, Joel Mix, Ephraim Chamberlain, Jonathan Mitchell, Bela Hubbard and David Miller. The first school was taught by E. Chamberlain, in 1800. The first saw mill was built in 1802, by John Eggleston and Wm. Hadsell. The first church (Cong.) was formed in 1805. The first grist mill was built at West Carthage, by David Coffeen, in 1806. A furnace was built at the same place in 1834, by Wm. Bones, Joseph C. Budd and Benj. Bentley, and about 1,000 tons of iron produced. It was abandoned in 1836. Several prominent lawyers, among whom were Moss Kent, brother of the Chancellor, Egbert Ten Eyck and Henry R. Storrs, settled in Champion, in expectation of it becoming the county seat of the new county, to be erected from Oneida. The town has an area of 25,991 1/2 acres."



TAMBLIN 1808 TO SPENCER 1950 ANCESTRY

By Donella (Dee) Spencer
usmcspencers@usa.net

The earliest ancestor of my husband to be in Jefferson Co., NY was Capt. Timothy Tamblin, leader of the militia in Rutland, Jefferson Co., NY in 1808. Source: "The growth of a century: as illustrated in the history of Jefferson County, New York, from 1793 to 1894" During the War of 1812, Capt. Timothy Tamblin led a company of "Silver Grays" (military volunteers "of a certain age", who were above the age of mandatory service) to service at Sacketts Harbor, and built Fort Volunteer.

Timothy Tamblin was born on 11 Nov 1756, in Holliston, Middlesex, MA. His father was Seth Tamblin aka Tombling, and his mother was Susannah Thompson, both born in MA and married in Holliston, MA, in 1746. Seth was a Revolutionary War Veteran. In 1781, Timothy Tamblin married Susannah Webster, (daughter of John Webster and Lucy Coburn) in Windham Co., CT. Children documented at this time were Polly Tamblin (Coburn/Colburn), Leonard



Andrew Colburn
approx 1879

Tamblin, May Tamblin (Shaw), and probably Lucina Tamblin and Phoebe Tamblin (Clark). Timothy and his wife Susannah settled in Rutland, Jefferson Co., NY. Timothy died 31 Aug 1845, in Rutland, Jefferson Co., and is buried in Great Bend, Jefferson Co. Susannah Webster Tamblin lived in Theresa, Jefferson Co., NY in 1850, with the Clark family.

Timothy and Susannah Tamblin's daughter Polly was born in 1784, probably in CT or VT. Polly Tamblin married, before 1810, Andrew Coburn/Colburn, who was born in Chesterfield, NH in 1787 to Amos Colburn/Coburn (b. MA) and Sarah Dodge (b. CT). Amos Colburn was a Revolutionary War Veteran in NH. Polly and Andrew were related, their shared ancestors being Andrew Coburn (1708-1780) and his wife Jane Allen (b. 1712), who were Polly's maternal Gr. Grandparents and Andrew's paternal Grandparents. They were also both descendants of Roger Conant, founder of Salem MA, through Andrew Coburn (1708-1780).



Chauncey and Abigail Thompson Colburn

Andrew Coburn/Colburn (1787-1873) and Polly Tamblin Colburn settled in Champion, Jefferson Co., NY. They had three children before Polly's death on 27 Apr 1841. She had a son Chauncey Colburn in 1810, a daughter Susan Webster Colburn in 1812, and a son Cornelius Dodge Colburn, in 1814. Polly was buried at Hillside Cemetery in the town of Champion, Jefferson Co., NY. Andrew remarried to Louisa O'Dell, in 1843, in Philadelphia, Jefferson Co., NY, and had 3 daughters. Andrew is shown as a farmer, in censuses that list occupations. Apparently, the Colburns were a prominent family, and various

(Continued on Page 17)

(Continued From Page 16)

members had several homes in Champion. Andrew was a Veteran of the War of 1812, having served in Tuttle's 76 Regiment of the NY militia, from Jefferson Co. Andrew Colburn died 9 Apr 1873 and is also buried in the Hillside Cemetery in Champion, Jefferson Co., NY.

Chauncey Colburn, who was born 4 May 1810 in Champion, Jefferson Co., NY married Abigail Thompson on 18 Jan 1836. Abigail was the daughter of James Thompson (b. 1771 in Chesterfield, NH, and d. 1858 in Champion, Jefferson Co., NY, and his wife Margaret Robertson Thompson (b. 1772 in Merrimack Co., NH and d. 1845, in Champion, Jefferson Co., NY). Abigail herself was a descendant of several Revolutionary Patriots, on both her paternal and maternal sides. In the 1840 census, Chauncey is enumerated in Lewis Co., NY, but by 1850 the family was back in Champion, Jefferson Co., where he and Abigail lived until their deaths. Chauncey is shown in census data as a farmer. Abigail died 10 Feb 1873 and Chauncey died 10 Mar 1885. They are buried in the Hillside Cemetery in Champion, Jefferson Co., NY. Chauncey and Abigail had daughters Katy Lucinda Colburn (Crook) b. 1838, and Susan Almeda Colburn (Spencer) b. 1842. Katy lived most of her life in Champion, Jefferson Co., but died in 1900 in Denmark, Lewis Co., NY. However, she was buried at Hillside Cemetery in Champion, Jefferson Co., NY. Her husband was Ambrose Spencer Crook.

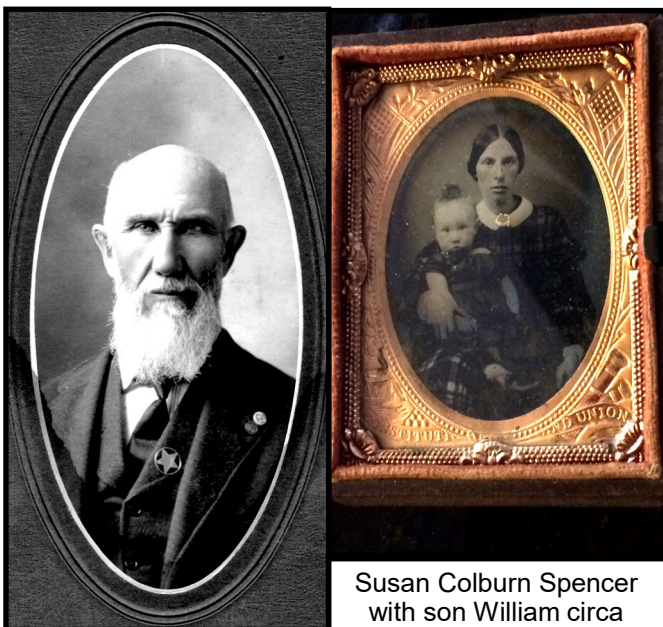
Susan Almeda Colburn, born 22 Apr 1842 in NY (probably either Lewis or Jefferson Co), was living with her parents in Champion, Jefferson Co., NY by the 1850 census. At age 18, she married John Spencer on 1 Jul 1860, and they settled in Champion, Jefferson Co. John Spencer was born in 1836 in Martinsburg, Lewis Co., NY to William Spencer and Diadema Root Spencer, both of



John Spencer and wife Susan with their surviving adult children William and Ida.

NY. William Spencer was a Veteran of the War of 1812, from Lewis Co., NY. Both William and Diadema's fathers were Revolutionary War Veterans. John Spencer then served in the Civil War, which he enlisted in on 21 Aug 1862 in Champion, and mustered out 26 Jun 1865 at Harper's Ferry, VA. John and Susan had three children: William Chauncey Spencer b. 1861, Ida A. Spencer, b. 1867 and Widner A. Spencer b. 1877. Widner died young and is buried at Hillside Cemetery, Champion, Jefferson Co., NY. Ida married Clinton J Twining, but they did not have children. The Twinings settled in Denmark, Lewis Co., NY. She died in 1943 and is buried in Copenhagen, Lewis Co., NY. John is shown as a farmer in census data. John and Susan Colburn Spencer lived many years in Champion, Jefferson Co., however, there was quite a bit of movement between Lewis and Jefferson Counties in their lifetime. Lewis County towns included his birth in Martinsburg, 1836; Croghan in 1855; Denmark in 1867, and again in 1890-1910. Jefferson Co towns included Champion in 1850 and 1860-1880; and Rutland in 1914, where he died. John Spencer is buried in Champion, Jefferson Co., NY at the Hillside Cemetery, with his wife Susan, who died in 1902.

William Chauncey Spencer, b. 6 May 1861 in Jefferson Co., NY to John Spencer and Susan A Colburn Spencer, married 6 Jan 1886 to Hattie Lena Branagan, in Carthage, Lewis Co., NY. Hattie was from Croghan, Lewis Co., NY, and was the daughter of Samuel Branagan, a Civil War Veteran, and Maryetta Margaret Yule, both born in Lewis Co., NY. Hattie was born in 1867 and died in 1950 in Ogdensburg, NY but is buried in Carthage, Jefferson Co., NY. William was a dairy farmer in Lewis Co., NY. William Chauncey Spencer died on 19 Aug 1931 in Denmark, Lewis Co., NY, and is also buried in Carthage, Jefferson Co., NY. This is the last generation with ties to Jefferson Co., NY. William and Hattie had only one child who lived to adulthood, and that was Royal Reed Spencer born in 1896 in Lowville, Lewis Co., NY, and died in 1960 in Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence Co., NY. Royal was a farmer, before getting into the maple syrup supply business and working for Vermont Evaporator Company, in Ogdensburg, NY. He was my husband's grandfather.



John Spencer later in life. The star pin he is wearing, is his 5th NYVA, Co M, service pin.

Susan Colburn Spencer with son William circa 1862 and may have been carried by John Spencer during his Civil War service.

HOW OUR NAME CHANGED

As Published in *NYANDO Roots Genealogical Newsletter* in Oct 1993
Written by Tony Romeo

A very interesting facet of our history involves the changing of names. There are many reasons for the changing of names that may have been handed down through the generations only to wind up something completely remote from its inception.

It would be a herculean task to take into consideration the names of all the many nationalities we have in this very cosmopolitan community, so let us dwell on one nationality and thereby get an insight of what happens to names. Let us for example select the French for they were an integral part of our early history.

First off let us consider the oft used phrase "he changed his name." There may have been instances of a man changing his own name but if he did it was usually because someone else couldn't pronounce or spell it so a simpler spelling and pronunciation was developed.

More often perhaps was the fact that the early settlers here and about had little education and if they applied for work were not able themselves to spell the name but could of course pronounce it.

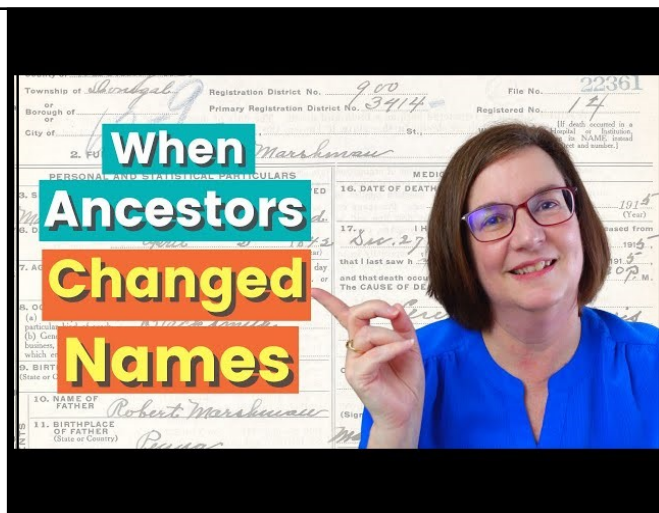
The man who employed him in a mill or mine or quarry was equally at sea as to the correct spelling. The main thing, of course, was a matter of identification so the man could get his wages. The employer printed the name the best he could from the phonetic pronunciation so thus, Taillon became Tyo, St. Thomas became Santimaw, Thibault became Tebo, and Deschamps became Dishaw.

Thus when we accuse a man of changing his own name we should consider that someone else did the chore for him and he was not immediately the wiser. As time went on it didn't matter so the new and easier spelling was retained.

The same held true when a child started school. The child certainly could not be expected to spell his name but he could pronounce it as he had learned by the phonetic method having heard it over many times. The teacher was not expected to know the original spelling of all names and every nationality so she proceeded much like the employer did.

Occasionally this did not follow because the parents did have an education and in many instances insisted on the original name be retained. Again, very often a family will revert back to the original after it had persisted under the new spelling for many years. Thus many names were preserved.

Again we find names that have been literally



translated into English. Thus LeBlance became White; LeBrun, Brown; Boisvert, Greenwood; Lariviere, Rivers; Amour, Love; and LeNoir, Black.

These are but a few instances of direct translations but with the exception of the task that presents itself in looking up family trees and history, no great harm was done.

Because of nature of the language where almost every vowel and consonant has a sound, the Italian name has retained its spelling rather faithfully but has suffered the pronunciation fate of other nationalities. Rare is the announcer or scholar who can give, offhand, the pronunciation of any given family name.

Going back to French again we find many interesting things and if you ever wondered where the fancy and unintelligible calls used in square dancing come from we might offer that they are a contortion of the French calls and are of the phonetic variety. Even Saint Nicholas, the name of merry Ho! Ho! Ho! Of Christmas fame, becomes Santa Clause when pronounced in true French fashion.

Indeed the French influence has been tremendous upon the history of our Country.

JCNYGS Note: NYANDO (New York and Ontario) Roots Genealogical Club was based out of Massena, St. Lawrence County, New York, in the 1980s and 1990s and published a quarterly newsletter. The club has since disbanded, year unknown. This article first appeared in the *Massena Observer* newspaper, date unknown, and later published in the club newsletter.

"Good name in man and woman is the immediate jewel of their souls."

— William Shakespeare, 'Othello'.

FORMER SLAVES CAME TO JEFFERSON COUNTY FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR

by JCNYS Member Larry Corbett

DOUGLASS LUCAS

According to an obituary published in the *Watertown (NY) Herald* on March 10, 1888, Douglass Lucas was born in Washington, D.C. in about 1854, of free parents. He was about 8 or 9 years old in late 1863 when he began to run random errands for officers of the 20th NY Cavalry in exchange for food. Douglass formed an attachment to Lt. W. Fred Ryther of Gouverneur in late 1863, and served as the lieutenant's shoeshine and errand boy, remaining with the regiment when they returned north and were mustered out of service.

It isn't known how long Doug stayed with the Rythers after coming to Gouverneur. It has been reported that he lived for a time with Dr. N. M. Davison in Theresa. Years later, some claimed that Doug had been employed by the Flower family of Theresa. Grace Yost Ostrander recalled, years later, that Doug lived in a barn on her father George W. Yost's farm, where he was employed to care for the horses. He is listed as a 17 year old laborer in the 1870 Census in the household of George Dresser, a cabinet maker and part-time undertaker in Theresa, where he was remembered by George's daughter, Florence. "He was deathly afraid of a dead person and must have had some real frights while working for an undertaker." By 1875, at age 21, Doug was living with the Ambrose W. Clark family in Watertown, employed as a coachman.

Doug returned to Theresa and to the employment of George E. Yost, the village banker, where he cared for the carriage house and Yost's stable of fine horses. Grace Ostrander reported that Doug was popular with the young people of Theresa and was often invited to participate in local sports.

It was while living with the Yosts that Doug developed tuberculosis. Grace remembered that when Doug was close to the end of his life, he called George Yost to his room in the Yost home and gave to George the pearl-handled pen knife that Doug treasured. Douglass Lucas was buried in the Yost family plot in Theresa's Oakwood Cemetery, under a stone simply marked "Doug".

ROBERT FREEMAN

In December, 1864, Major Abram D. Sternberg of Perch River, an officer in the 186th NY Infantry came home on furlough and brought Robert Freeman with him. Major Sternberg had spotted young Bob hiding behind a tree near their encampment and offered to employ the boy as his body servant. (While the

enlisted men slept in tents, officers shared cabins while encamped for extended duty, and were allowed to hire male servants. Adult blacks were in short supply once the Congress had authorized Federal colored regiments. As such, officers employed boys, too young to fight to care for their horses and their uniforms, to clean their boots, to cook and to "keep house.") Robert found a strong liking for horses and was quick to agree to come north with Sternberg when the Major was furloughed.

"Maj. Sternberg of the 186th has just returned to our village on a leave of absence. He brings with him an 'intelligent contraband' named Robert Freeman. He is an African of the darkest dye, is very pious, sings a good song and tells the most marvelous stories." Robert had a room in the Sternberg stable at their home at Reynolds Corners on the Morris Tract Road, where he cared for the horses and did general work for the family.

Harness racing was a popular sport in the years following the war. Men of considerable means spent great sums on well-bred trotters and took great pride in having a champion stable. Wagering was widespread. Watertown alone had three racetracks; one at the county fairgrounds, the Riverside track which was adjacent to the fairgrounds, and the Young Men's Driving Park off Washington Street.

Following the death of Major Sternberg in 1891, Robert Freeman became associated with both Jack Phillips, a well-known horse trainer; and with Mr. Dewolf of Sackets Harbor before going to work for Dr. Isaac Munson of Sterling Street in Watertown. He was responsible for the care of Dr. Munson's horses and also served as Munson's coachman for 28 years.

Freeman was active in the A.M.E. Church in Watertown and was majordomo of the 39th Separate Company of militia. In 1898, when the men of the 39th gathered at the Watertown Depot on their way to serve in the Spanish-American War, Robert Freeman was at the Watertown passenger depot to see them off. His face was streaked with tears. "I'se sorry to see the boys go," he said. "I know war."

Later, Robert was employed by Mr. Addison T.E. Lansing of Watertown until his death in August, 1913. He is buried in the Freeman Cemetery at Reynolds Corners near the graves of Major and Mrs. Sternberg.

JAMES WESLEY

James Wesley came to Jefferson County with a Union officer from Rossie, Captain Walter Robb of the 20th Cavalry. He settled in Antwerp. Born into slavery in Georgia, James had been sold to the Sheriff of Richmond, Virginia, but escaped to Union
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lines, where he attempted to join the 20th NY Cavalry. (His name does not appear on the unit roster, possibly because units were segregated by race.) He joined a body of irregulars commanded by Captain Robb.

At the conclusion of the war, Wesley came north with the Captain and hired on as a farm laborer to James Austin. In about 1870, he was employed by Julius Gill of Spragueville, where he remained for about 35 years. He then started a livery business in Antwerp, residing in the Baldwin block in that village, and dying in 1924 at the age of 71 in 1924. He is buried in St. Michael's Cemetery in Antwerp.

PETER BOOKER

Peter Booker had been enslaved for about 45 years when he escaped slavery and sought refuge with the 35th NY Infantry who were encamped in Virginia. Captain S. J. Mendell of Adams hired Peter as his servant. In a long letter to the Jefferson County Journal after Peter's death, Capt. Mendell wrote, "(In) April, 1862...slaves of both sexes, young and old, poured into our lines day and night. At one time, nearly every soldier had his black 'squire' to carry his rations and knapsack on the march and cook his gruel in camp."

The Captain hired Peter on July 31 1864 while the 35th was encamped at Falmouth, Virginia. Peter became a favorite in camp and did extra work for the other officers, for which he was paid well, but none could lure him away from Capt. Mendell for higher wages. Peter remained with him until the Regiment was mustered out at Elmira and came home with him to Adams.

Having accumulated considerable cash savings from his work, Mr. Booker acquired a horse and wagon and became a cartman in Adams, hauling furniture, construction materials and freight for villagers. He married Miss Susan Anderson of Pillar Point and they had ten children. Four died during an influenza epidemic. Susan survived all but one son Fred, including four who all died in a diphtheria epidemic in the 1870s. Peter died in 1883. Susan moved to Watertown to live with her son's family on Morrison Street on the city's north side. Along with Fred and his wife, Mary, Susan was an active member of the Thomas Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, raising money door to door to support the church. She worked as a private laundress for many years, celebrating her 85th birthday by washing by hand, a load of laundry. She died at age 87 in 1928. Mary Booker died in 1950 and Fred in 1969. They are all buried in North Watertown Cemetery.

ELIZA GORDON

For the most part, the Civil War was fought during dry weather, as it was extremely difficult to march or haul cannon and supplies when roads were deep in mud or snow. During their winter encampments, officers often had the comfort of a cabin with a stove or fireplace. Many received leaves of absence to travel home by

train to visit their families during the holidays, while some families came south and rented homes for weeks or months to be near their husbands or sons. Captain S. J. Mendell wrote a long letter that detailed a visit by his wife and two daughters in the winter of 1864 to his camp near Washington. While she was visiting, Peter Booker brought a young, escaped slave named Eliza Gordon to Captain Mendell, seeking work for the girl.

Mendell explained to him that General Patrick had ordered all women out of camp and for that reason he couldn't hire her. Mrs. Mendell persuaded Eliza to come with her when she returned to Adams when the Spring campaign began. Eliza agreed to this, and she hadn't been in Jefferson County very long when she met and married David Leonard, David's father, Cato Leonard, was a free black man who lived on Grindstone Island in the St. Lawrence River, and who had been active in the last leg of the Underground Railroad, rowing escaped slaves across the River to Canada in the dark of night.

Captain Mendell sent Eliza to school in Adams where she "made great proficiency in her studies - studying spelling, reading, arithmetic, geography and grammar, and wrote nice letters... she bought a home and in her effort to pay for it, however, overtaxed her strength and endurance and death came --- to her relief."

OTHERS ALSO CAME NORTH

A number of other former slaves came to the county following the war. Some of them likely came with other officers as the post-war censuses are marked with the names of African-American residents who had been were born in the South in the days of enslavement.

Information for this story came from Tim Minnick, Theresa Town Historian, who share an obituary and an Ernest Cook story about Douglass Lucas. Other references were found in the newspapers of the day as well as census schedules.

Where African Enslaved People Came From

Number of enslaved Africans forced to embark to Europe or the Americas, by region (1514 - 1866)

Senegambia	603,140
Sierra Leone	246,155
Bight of Benin	2,480,117
Bight of Biafra	1,116,827
West Central Africa	3,472,025
Southeast Africa	408,087
Other Africa	2,301,770

Includes outlying islands
Source: Slavevoyages.com



statista

CONNECT WITH YOUR ROOTS

How to plan your genealogy trip

By Sheeka Sanahori of the *Washington Post*

Printed in the *Watertown Daily Times* 23 Jun 2023

When Ginny Seccuro and her daughter, Kim, traveled from the United States to Ireland to learn more about her grandfather's homeland, they felt as if they were coming home to a place they'd never been. They felt a sense of homecoming when they roamed the cobblestone streets of Killarney near the place their family had once lived. There was even a familiarity in small talk with strangers.

"Oh, there's no doubt you're Irish with those eyes and that hair," Seccuro, 52, remembers a woman saying about her blue eyes and reddish-brown hair. "I laughed, and she said, 'May the road rise up to meet you.' That phrase, part of a longer Irish blessing, was something Seccuro recalled hearing her grandfather say.

"It was an expensive trip, don't get me wrong, but it was worth every bit of it," she said. "It's just magical. It's so fulfilling to see where you came from."

THE RISE OF HERITAGE TRIPS

Seccuro is one of countless American travelers who've combined a passion for researching their genealogy with visiting the faraway places they uncover in their family tree. Countries have been luring U.S. tourists with heritage trips since the 1950s, but the number of travelers visiting these homelands has increased in recent years as consumer DNA test kits and digitized genealogical records have become available.

"You do all this research, sitting at home behind your computer, but the past and your ancestors only really come alive when you're there on the ground," said Jackie Hogan, a sociologist and professor at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill.

Hogan writes in her book "Roots Quest: Inside America's Genealogy Boom" that ancestry tourism is most popular in settler countries like the United States, Canada and Australia, where many people can trace their ancestry back to countries in Europe, Africa and Asia. "It gives people this really profound, really moving, even a spiritual sense of connection with those who came before them," Hogan said.

For some heritage travelers, learning of an ancestor's home country is reason enough to visit to experience the land, culture and food.

HOW TO START YOUR PLANNING

When genealogy enthusiasts decide to take an ancestry trip, their itinerary may be full of specific



Kim Seccuro takes a selfie in Dingle, where she and her mother traveled from Killarney.

places, like a town or even a home where an ancestor lived. It can require hours of genealogical research or hiring a researcher before booking the trip.

The next step is setting expectations with travel companions about the goals of the trip so that they aren't bored with an itinerary full of visiting gravesites and archival libraries. Kim Seccuro, 28, said it was important to prioritize their itinerary.

"My mom had so many places that she wanted to go," she said. "I kept saying, 'Mom, we're only going for a little over two weeks. We have to narrow this down to be able to enjoy the trip while we're there, too, and not be in a car all the time.'"

Hogan warns that a trip centered on viewing original documents in another country can lead to disappointment. Rare records may require advance appointments or even credentials to review them. Researchers may need local language fluency and archival skills to find and interpret data. She recommends using digitized records ahead of an ancestry trip as much as possible.

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WHAT RESOURCES TO USE

For those beginning research at home, Ellis Island - once the busiest entry point for immigrants - is a well-known source to search for European ancestors. The historic site allows you to search 65 million passenger records and ship manifests for immigrants who entered the Port of New York between 1820 and 1957. Ellis Island opened as the first federal immigration processing center in 1892.

But a corporate genealogist for Ancestry notes that the United States has more than 300 ports of entry, including Boston, San Francisco and Galveston, Texas.

"Tons of families have the story of 'My ancestor immigrated through Ellis Island,'" Crista Cowan said. "So they search Ellis Island records and are not successful. Well, it's because their ancestor came in 1870 or 1880 when Ellis Island didn't even exist."

Cowan says that once you know which port your ancestors used to enter the United States, tracking down naturalization records is a great way to confirm countries and even towns of origin. Records from the U.S. census, taken every decade since 1790, may also list countries of origin. "It becomes a cross between a treasure hunt and a jigsaw puzzle," Cowan said.

For those who want help putting the puzzle together to take an ancestry trip, companies such as Ancestry are available. Ancestry's ProGenealogists service offers genealogy help and heritage trips, but the travel offerings start at \$3,000 per day.

Black Americans who are descendants of enslaved people face more challenges when researching their ancestors. The earliest census to record all Black Americans by name was in 1870, although the 1850 and 1860 censuses named free Black people.

The descendants of slaveholding families may have records of the names of the people their families enslaved, but these records are often private and not accessible online. This makes tracing each generation more difficult than the last, with near impossible chances of tracing an ancestor back to their country of origin.

Consumer DNA tests remain an option for descendants of enslaved people as well as for adults who were adopted and others who may not be able to access information from genealogy records. African Ancestry offers package tours for customers who've gotten results from their DNA tests.

"I believe that those who came before us wanted to go



Kim Seccuro Ginny Seccuro on a rock at Ladies View, a popular scenic stop on the Ring of Kerry route.

home," said Gina Paige, co-founder and president of African Ancestry. "We use science, but at our core, we are an identity company. We help people change the way they view themselves."

A LASTING IMPACT

D'uandre Drain visited Cameroon in March on an African Ancestry group tour after his DNA test revealed Bamileke ethnicity. He took Paige's advice to journal about his journey so he could later share the details with his family.

Before he left the airport, a Cameroonian man started to talk to him, mistaking him for someone born and raised in Cameroon. He felt a strong sense of coming home to a place he'd never been.

"It was the first time I'd actually been somewhere where I'm like, 'Yo, this is mine. This is my place,'" he said.

All the ancestry travelers interviewed for this article described a similar homecoming feeling. For some travelers, that feeling of being home brought them to tears. Hogan says it's because ancestry travel is a journey into the self.

It's what makes ancestry trips unforgettable. The old stories held in the land combine with the sensory experience of the present-day tourist. It's up to the ancestry traveler to make sense of it all.

Jefferson County Queries

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

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

No queries submitted for this issue!

Forgotten Post Offices

XX—Elmdale Post Office
By Ernest G. Cook in 1934

When the Scotch colony came in 1818 and located in a section of Rossie, near Oxbow, there was in the number a youth by the name of George Lockie. About 1830 he located in the northwest part of the town of Gouverneur, now known as Elmdale. A grandson of the pioneer, George R. Lockie, now resides in the Elmdale section and from him many items of information was obtained about the Elmdale post office, which was established about 45 years ago.

Probably the first sawmill at the place was built about 1825 by Aaron Carrington, who was an early settler there. Later Hiram Drake took over the mill and about the year 1835 the mill burned. Asa Hunt rebuilt the mill and operated it for a time. Later R. K. Smith enlarged it and remodeled it. R. K. Smith is reported to have conducted a store at one time at Little Bow. The property passed in to the possession of Stephen Johnson and again it changed hands and this time Jason Smith bought the place. Jason was the son of Benjamin Smith of Little Bow.

Benjamin had the distinction of being the pioneer settler at the Little Bow, locating there in April 1806, and the place is said to have received its name because of a small bend at Oxbow. He had two brothers, Rufus and Stephen, who settled near him in 1807. He built the first sawmill at the Little Bow. His oldest son, Jason, went over to Elmdale to take charge of the mill there. He not only had a sawmill but a grist mill. His son Benjamin continued in the business. During these years the settlement was known as Smith Mills. Jason Smith opened a store in the community and the place had a blacksmith shop run by

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Volume one
December 2001

PUBLISHED BY
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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, New York Genealogical Society



Jefferson County, New York
Will Abstracts 1830-1850

James Easton and later his son ran the shop. Some years previous a man by the name of John Brown started a tannery at this point but it was abandoned not long after. Smith Mills never had a church building but religious services were regularly conducted there mostly by the Methodists in the school house. The settlement at Smith Falls, or Elmdale, as we know it, was about at its height at this time. A William Sudds had the mill for a time and later a Benjamin Olds purchased the property. For a time it was sometimes called Olds Mills.

About the year 1890, it was decided to open a post office there, and the mail was put off on the post route leading from Gouverneur to Popes Mills. James Russell is believed to have been the first postmaster. The surrounding section was a rich farming country with dairying as the big farm industry. The village succumbed to the march of progress and the post office was removed.

INFORMER

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

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2023 PROGRAMS

NO JANUARY MEETING



NO FEBRUARY MEETING

Saturday, March 8th, 1:00 PM. At the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Kenny Knapp, a local and knowledgeable researcher, will discuss Indigenous American Culture in the Thousand Islands!



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 and Paul Wilson, church liaisons, 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.