

INFORMER

“OUR 30TH YEAR”

Volume 31, Issue 3

Annual Dues \$18 Individual \$20 Family

July 2024



JCNYGS member Carolyn Bourgeois provided this photo of the Immaculate Heart Academy Class of 1933, which was found in her Dad's (Gregor Vincent) memorabilia. He is in the third row, second gentleman from the left. Muriel Brown Kettinger is the second lady from the right in the first row. Can anyone identify the other folks in this photo? Carolyn's email is tajck@aol.com

CONTENTS

| | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 2 | Vital Records/Annual Dues/Save The Date | 14 | Childs' Gazatteer and Directory |
| 3 | April Meeting Minutes | 16 | Henderson Cemetery |
| 5 | April Meeting Photos | 17 | St. Lawrence County Center for History |
| 6 | May Meeting Minutes | 18 | First Edition of The Times |
| 7 | June Meeting Minutes | 19 | Uncle George Cook/History-Genealogy Fair |
| 8 | From Past To Present | 20 | Flower Library 120 Year Celebration |
| 9 | Remembering "Gus" | 21 | A Theresa Bible |
| 11 | Family History Repeats Itself | 22 | Fazekas Donation |
| 12 | Aunty Jeff | 23 | JCNYGS Materials For Purchase/Queries |
| 13 | Depauville Artifact | 24 | 2024 Programs |

INFORMER JULY 2024

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

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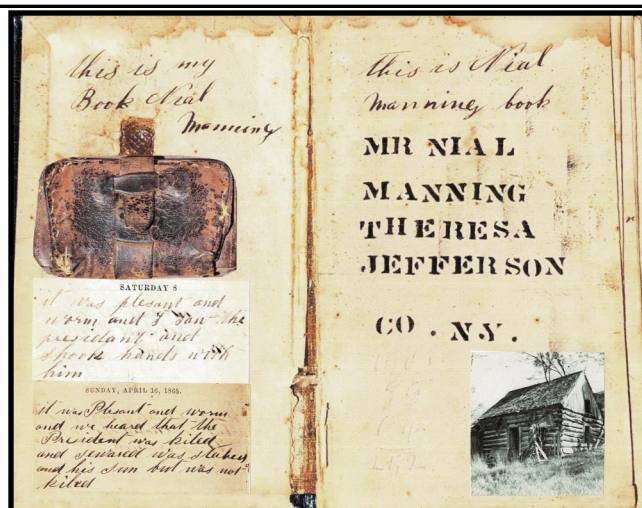
Getting A Vital Record

Did you know that genealogical requests for birth, marriage, and death certificates from the NYS Department of Health, Vital Records Section, Genealogy Unit, P. O. Box 2602, Albany, NY 12220-2602, is taking a minimum 36 months to work? Your best avenue is to order from the local municipality clerk's office. If the vital certificate is not available, then by all means order from New York State. However, with the knowledge you are looking at three or more years to get a reply. I know this personally as I have requests in the queue, and I called the Department of Health office today (855-322-1022) and spoke to a representative.

Regards, Tom LaClair

ANNUAL DUES

Annual dues of \$18.00 individual or \$20.00 family are due July 1, 2024 (unless you paid for multiple years). If you are past due, and no longer wish to be a member, please let us know. We prefer not to delete memberships without a note for confirmation but will need to if we do not hear from you soon. If you are unsure, please check the address label on the back cover of the *Informer*. Your dues status is provided. If you have any questions for us, write President LaClair at tomclair624@yahoo.com.



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, July 13, 2024

Headstone Dedication for Civil War Veteran
Nial Manning, Private,
Co K, 14th Regt NY Heavy Artillery
Ceremony offered by the Walter H. French Camp
#17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, at
Vrooman Hill Cemetery, Antwerp

Pictured above: Manning's entries from his Civil War Diary about President Lincoln, an image of the wallet he carried, and his Theresa, NY log cabin. The dedication is set for July 13 at 11am at Vrooman Hill Cemetery, Antwerp. For any information, contact Jeffrey French at ffrench@aol.com.

Membership

Application and Renewal

MAIL TO:

**JEFFERSON COUNTY NY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 6453
Watertown, New York 13601**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual.....\$18.00

Family.....\$20.00

Donation (if desired) \$ _____

Payment Total.....\$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

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.

CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS ON THE BACK COVER ADDRESS LABEL

Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, April 15, 2024
By Recording Secretary Kelly A. Brown

The meeting was held on April 15, 2024, at the Paddock Mansion in Watertown, New York. The Jefferson County Historical Society hosted and provided a presentation on the Montrois collection. There were 22 attendees: Tom LaClair, Greg Plantz, Kelly Brown, Toni Engleman (JCHS), John Stano (JCHS), Jason White (JCHS), Paul Beers, Peg Bootie (JCHS), Larry Corbett, Jerry Davis, Marilyn Davis, Patricia Donahue, Ann Fillhart, Pete Forney, Timothy Minnick, Tammy Plantz, Tracy Robertson, Tiffany Sanders, Allyson Stephenson, Barbara Tucker, Judy Wood, and Tom Wood.

President Tom LaClair opened the meeting at 6:00 pm. Treasurer's Report: we reported a current balance of \$6,845.18 in the checking account and a balance of \$2,543.94 in the CD. Paul Beers made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Tom Wood. The motion passed.

The following upcoming programs were announced: On May 13th, Larry Corbett will speak from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Marcy building. The date is the 175th anniversary of the Great Fire in Watertown which occurred in 1849. On August 11th, at 2:00 p.m., Larry will also be speaking at the Lyme Heritage Center about the history of cheese making in Jefferson County. On August 12th, Allyson Stephenson will be demonstrating her gravestone cleaning skills at the Watertown North Cemetery on Bradley Street Road. Keep checking our Facebook page for the time!

A question was asked if the LDS Church members can do a program to show us how to utilize their tools in Watertown and if they've changed their search engine in FamilySearch? We're not aware of any changes but our May meeting will be at the LDS location in Watertown and the hosts from the LDS church will be speaking on how to identify your Ancestry DNA matches using your Ancestry premium account. They are sure to answer any questions at the end of their program.

Larry Corbett made a motion to close the business portion of the meeting. Tracy Robertson seconded, and the Montrois Collection presentation began.

Toni Engleman, Executive Director of the Jefferson County Historical Society, gave us a peek into the history of the Paddock Mansion. It was built around 1876 and was home to Edwin and Olive Paddock. Edwin passed away in 1909 and his wife, Olive, passed away in 1922. Olive bequeathed the mansion to the historical society to be used as a museum. This year is the 100-year celebration of the mansion's grand entrance as a museum. They'll be throwing a Roaring Twenties gala to celebrate, and Toni encouraged everyone to check their Facebook page for upcoming details; JCHS members will receive the information via mail.

The Montrois Collection began with James A. Dolan, a Civil War veteran, and a pension attorney. It seems that he worked as the middleman linking the paperwork between the pension department commissioner for the Department of Interior in Washington, D.C., and the Civil War pensioners. He collected data of every man who ever served in Jefferson County including the muster rolls, pension applications including approvals and denials, affidavit

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued From Page 3)

letters of character, medical conditions and everything in between for Jefferson County. His collection included a few records for Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties.

Peter B. Montrois was married to Alice and their son was Raymond C. Montrois. Peter was from Quebec and was a painter in Watertown. It's not yet known how he came into possession of the collection, but he was being paid five dollars each month to store everything. According to Raymond's son, Edward C. Montrois, the government discontinued payments and so the collection sat stagnant in his barn.

Raymond was a World War I veteran. His mother, Alice, died while Raymond was in France, and his father, Peter, married Mary Kelso. Raymond brought artifacts back from WWI and added them to the collection. After Peter died in 1941, Mary asked Raymond to "come over and clean out the barn and burn all the old papers and other junk" but Raymond chose to store everything in his attic. In the 1950s, he alphabetized the collection and asked his son, Edward, to watch over the collection after he died. Raymond passed away in 1978.

Edward, who is in his nineties, is a Korean War veteran who moved the collection to his house and covered them in his attic. One of his friends, a retired master sergeant from the Air Force, strongly suggested that Edward find a place that would take the collection. He had moved everything to his garage and knew he had to unload the documents. He was tempted to bury it in the backyard but that same day, he called the JCHS and asked them to look at the collection.

John Stano, who is the Village of Dexter historian and on the board of trustees with JCHS, told Toni Engelman that he'd drive out and look at the collection. Both laugh about being astounded with the collection; John texted Toni, "OMG!", and loaded his extended cab pickup truck to the brim. He told the group that he was happy to have made the trip alone because he wouldn't have been able to fit everything into his vehicle had there been another passenger.

As genealogists, historians, and lovers of history and the Civil War, this acquisition is something that words alone cannot describe. We feel elated, fortunate, and perhaps even a little breathless to know that this collection will be forever preserved by the JCHS. The next thought that crosses our minds is to wonder what comes next; what are the plans for the collection?

John Stano said everything will be "individually indexed so that they become available to genealogists and historians." The alphabetization process is in progress and each document will be stored in archival boxes. There are over 3,700 envelopes, and each

might contain up to 12 documents. Each document will be stored in its own sheath to avoid being folded and unfolded every time someone goes to the JCHS and wants to view it. They are unsure if they're duplicates from the National Archives, but if they are, at least the documents will be readily available in Watertown.

John mentioned how hard it is to get distracted when sorting through the collection because it's so fascinating. They found one veteran's information and saw that he was applying for his pension due to his war injury, but a neighbor wrote that the applicant "limped before the Civil War." So that shot down any chance for the veteran if his disability wasn't war-related.

Toni found a Navy veteran who "started looking for his pension in 1898 and the last letter that's in there is from 1908." Apparently, the long lapse in approval determination was due to confusion. The veteran eventually admitted to using an alias when he enlisted.

Toni also came across a lady who was looking for her husband's pension. Her husband had signed up for three years and was discharged after two due to chronic bronchitis. He reenlisted in 1864 and after a few weeks, he deserted. He not only deserted the military but also his wife as it was the last time she'd heard anything from her husband. She was notified by the military that her husband had already received everything owed to him and so she wasn't able to receive money.

It will be a very long process to complete the plans for the collection since the JCHS has been closed for over three years they're still catching up with accessioning and deaccessioning their regular items. Running the day-to-day operations including changing exhibits and running programs takes up time. They are limited to a paid staff of one with only five or six people volunteering once or twice a week to operate. They're hoping to find some interns from Cornell to speed up the process. Eventually, they'd like to have them digitized and put online for everyone, but it will take time to get to that point.

Each of the archival boxes can cost between \$40.00 to \$50.00 each and the collection will require a lot of these boxes. Edward Montrois recently donated \$1,000.00 towards archival boxes. After a discussion, Ann Fillhart made a motion for the JCHS to also donate \$1,000.00 towards archival boxes. Tracy Robertson seconded the motion, and it was passed. Browsing the artifacts began at 6:35 p.m. The meeting concluded at 7:15 pm.

JCHS Note: JCHS Treasurer Greg Plantz presented the 1,000.00 dollar donation to the JCHS Collections Staff on April 18, 2024

PHOTOS FROM OUR APRIL MEETING



President Tom opens the meeting!



Documents and an Archival Box



Museum personnel: Jason White, Ann Fillhart, Toni Engleman, Peg Bootie and John Stano

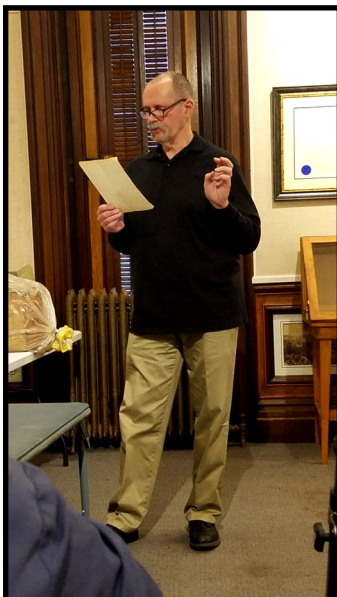


Refreshments!

“Toni”



“John”



“Artifacts”



“Donation”



Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, May 13, 2024
By Recording Secretary Kelly A. Brown

The meeting was held May 13, 2024, at the LDS Church in Watertown, New York. There were 14 attendees: Tom LaClair, Greg Plantz, Kelly Brown, Tim Abel, Tom & Judy Wood, Tracy Robertson, Larry Corbett, Tammy Plantz, Janine LaClair, George G. Inglehart III, Bruce Doxtater, Tina Thorpe, and Mary Blanchard. President Tom LaClair opened the meeting at 6:03 pm.

Treasurer's Report: we reported a current balance of \$6,045.18 in the checking account and a balance of \$2,543.94 in the CD. We donated two \$500.00 checks to the Jefferson County Historical Society for the Montrois collection. President Tom LaClair, Vice President Anne Davis, and Treasure Greg Plantz completed Watertown Savings Bank paperwork authorizing all three to sign any check of \$1,000.00. The society dictates all checks over \$1,000.00 have at least two signatures. Motion was made by Tina Thorpe to accept the report, seconded by Tom Wood, and passed. Greg Plantz made a motion to close the business portion of the meeting. Tracy Robertson seconded, and it was closed at 6:12 pm.

On June 8th, Tom LaClair will attend the burial of the first JCNYS president, Gus Rogers, who recently passed away. Anne Davis will run the member meeting in Sackets Harbor that day. The JCNYS picnic will be on July 8th at the home of Anne Davis. On August 12th, Allyson Stephenson will be demonstrating her gravestone cleaning skills at the Watertown North Cemetery on Bradley Street Road.



An Ancestry Display
Photo by Tracy Robertson

Larry Corbett introduced Tim Abel. Among many things, Tim is a master archeologist and anthropologist; he's active in several statewide and regional groups. Tim delighted the audience with his presentation on utilizing your DNA test on Ancestry.

He explained that the cM notation stands for centimorgans and is a unit of genetic measurement. The higher the number, the more DNA you share with someone (and the closer the relationship is). He discussed the power of shared DNA matches and the ThruLines feature. Tim gave us great examples of how he uncovered roadblocks utilizing both. He taught us how to use color labels for different branches and how to plug in a possible ancestor's name to see if you're on the right track in your research. Many other topics were covered, and questions were peppered throughout his presentation. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.

The meeting concluded at 7:58 pm.



Tim Abel presents his program.
Photo by Tracy Robertson



Some of our members. Photo by Tracy Robertson

Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, June 8, 2024
By Recording Secretary Kelly A. Brown

The meeting was held on June 8, 2024, at the Sackets Harbor Union Hotel in Sackets Harbor, New York. The Smithsonian has a *Voices and Votes: Democracy in America* traveling exhibit at the Hotel from May 18th through June 29th. We met before the planned presentation by Dr. Melissane Parm Schrems, Chair/ Associate Professor of History, Faculty Advisor, and President of the Native American Student Association at Saint Lawrence University in Canton, New York. There were 11 attendees: Anne Davis, Greg Plantz, Kelly Brown, Jerry Davis, Tammy Plantz, Tina (Jean) Thorp, Jacqueline Radke, Bob Radke, Marilyn Halstead, Parks Honeywell, and Jason White. Vice President Anne Davis opened the meeting at 1:05 pm.



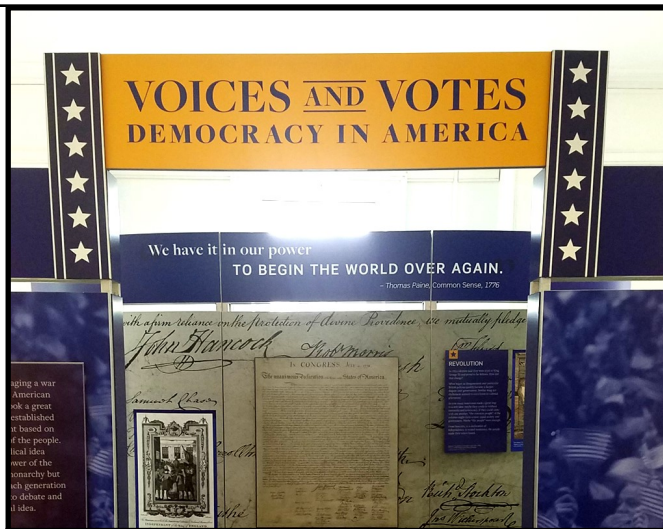
JCNYGS Vice President Anne Davis, Connie Barone for the Sackets Harbor Historical Society and JCNYGS Secretary Kelly Brown.

President Tom LaClair was excused to attend the memorial/burial service for our first President of JCNYGS, Augustus Edwin "Gus" Rogers, in Clayton. The Treasurer's Report will be available at the next meeting which will be a picnic on July 8, 3:00 pm, at the home of Anne Davis in Watertown. Friends and



Playing one of the games!

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



Entering the exhibit "Voices & Votes: Democracy in America," a traveling exhibit presented by the Smithsonian Institution "Museum on Main Street."

family are welcome, and more information will become available. The meeting concluded at 1:09 pm.

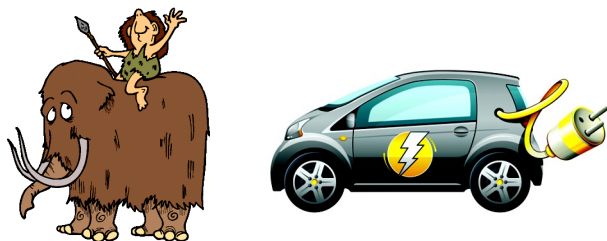
Unfortunately, Dr. Schrems had a family emergency and was unable to be in Sackets Harbor. However, we were able to enjoy both exhibits including the *Sackets Harbor in the North Country*. The latter exhibit showcases examples of both military and civilian courage and civic duty. This year, NYS Parks celebrates and advances the "Our Whole History" initiative. The historic site staff proudly shared this milestone with our audience including interactive historical games.



Yet another game with magnets!

From JCNYGS President Tom LaClair
On Saturday, June 8, 2024, I was honored to attend and represent JCNYGS at the burial of 101-year-old Augustus Edwin Rogers, the society's first president. The organization was formed in 1994 at the Flower Memorial Library in Watertown. Augustus was known as "Gus" to some and "Bud" to many others. His military burial was a solemn event with taps, a 21-gun salute, and a flag-folding ceremony. He was laid to rest at the Clayton Cemetery, Clayton, Jefferson County, New York. A reception at O'Brien's Bar and Restaurant followed the burial.

©Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society



FROM PAST to PRESENT

From Vol. 1, #2, Nov. 1994, Page 9

Editor's note: Helen McDonald was the original recording secretary of Jefferson County Genealogical Society. We marvel at how she was able put together this article 30 years ago. Wouldn't she have loved to have all the resources that we have today! We welcome any article that you may have that may be published in "Your Informer."

TIMOTHY GREENLEY OF RODMAN JEFFERSON COUNTY, NEW YORK

By Helen and Elizabeth McDonald

Timothy GREENLEY left Glastonbury, CT. as a young man of 22. He is descended from the GOSLEES who were prominent land holders in Glastonbury. He migrated first to the newly established township of Litchfield, Herkimer Co., NY in about 1790 and this is where he met and married Ruth the daughter of Solomon and Ruth KELLOGG on 29 MAR 1792. Timothy and Ruth are listed as being from Whitestown in land records.

Timothy set out for the Promised Land in Black River Country in 1802 traveling by the Indian Trail. Tired of his way, he is purported to have purchased the first lands he found, buying 2,663 acres in the Town of Rodman, the largest single purchase by a settler, (Coughlin's Jefferson County Centennial of 1905). Many of his friends and neighbors from Litchfield came later to settle Rodman and Worth in 1803. It was a very difficult trip on wood trails as there were no roads to follow at this time. The major form of transportation was a drag formed from the crotch of a tree and drawn by oxen.

Jefferson County History by Durant and Pierce states that the first school was housed in Timothy Greenley's house in Rodman, near the "Corners".

Timothy and Ruth Greenley had sons Francis, James, Orasmus, Solomon K., George, Albert and Robert, daughters Amanda, Lucy Ann, and Sophia (my ancestor who married Lorenzo GLASS). Ruth died 27 MAR 1813 and Timothy's second wife Sally died 2 APR 1837 age 56. They are buried on either side of Timothy in Fairview Cemetery in Rodman. Timothy died at the age of 84 on 19 FEB 1852 leaving a will listing an inventory worth \$22,540.26.

Timothy Greenley is an example of how surnames were changed through-out early American history. Child's History of Jefferson Co., tells that the original Greenley name was really STONE. The names designated them Desiring to come to America, (mechanics were prohibited from coming to America at that time) they assumed the name of GASSELEE and afterwards GREELEE. This corresponds to a family story told by Evelyn GLASS KIEUCHLE of Fort Lauderdale, Florida of a relative coming to visit but leaving in disgust because the family name had been changed. We have not found the reason for Timothy and brother Thomas who emigrated to Herkimer and Madison Co. changing the name to Greenley.

TIMOTHY GREENLEY's will was recorded in the Jefferson County Surrogate's Court on 19 FEB 1852. This is also the date of death that appears on his tombstone in Fairview Cemetery, Rodman, W. Ora Cooley was the executor of the will. He is the husband of Timothy's daughter, Amanda, who was deceased. The will lists son, Francis, as deceased, leaving sons James of full age and William and Orasmus, minors living somewhere in the state of Indiana. Listed next are Alfred G. Cooley of age of Jefferson Co., Wisconsin, Emily R. Adams, wife of Hubbard Adams of Clarkson, Monroe Co., NY. Charlotte and Nelson West, minors of Oswego Co., NY and Delos Cooley, minor of Rodman, NY. Also listed are Solomon K. Greenley of Rodman. George Greenley of New York City, Lucy Ann Loomis wife of Milo of New York City and Robert Greenley, Rodman, NY. Legacies were also left to James Willet, son of grandson Philo of New York City and Mary Thompson, wife of Cephus Thompson of Rodman. Also, the children of Ekka Root, a deceased granddaughter, living in Upper Canada received a legacy. Author's note: We have not found the reason for Timothy and his brother Thomas' reason for changing the name to Greenley.

OUR FIRST JCNYS PRESIDENT PASSES AWAY

Obituary for Augustus Edwin "Bud" Rogers
By JCNYS President Thomas F. LaClair

On the same day our last *Informer* was released, our society's very first president, Augustus Edwin "Bud" Rogers passed away in Liverpool, New York. He died on April 1, 2024. He was called "Gus" by us and "Bud" by his family.

Our organization's history reminds us that the Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society was formed in 1994 with six members attending the inaugural meeting on August 8, 1994, at the Dillenbach Room of the Flower Memorial Library in Watertown. Those six were Maurice Herron of Belleville, Gus Rogers of Clayton, Mary Lou McCreadie of Adams, Helen McDonald of Alexandria Bay, and John and Ellen Bartlett of Syracuse.

Soon after, Gus went on to be voted in as JCNYS President, with Nan Dixon as the Vice President, Helen McDonald as the Recording Secretary, Maurice Herron as the Treasurer, John Bartlett as the Correspondence Secretary, and Ellen Bartlett as the Newsletter Editor. We have come a long way since those early days. This year we celebrate our 30th year of monthly meetings, quarterly *Informers*. Over the years the society has had many hundreds of members come and go with nearly 200 active members today. Our Facebook presence began in 2012 and today we have over 1,050 followers. Our Internet presence began in 2014 and 30 years of *Informers*, dating back to 1994, are accessible to members. The society has an average of nine programs a year, so the society has held approximately 270 informative programs on the topic of genealogy.



A. E. "Gus" Rogers at his home
In the summer 2019.

In 2019 the society held a special 25th anniversary night in Watertown—held on the actual anniversary of the genealogy society's first meeting in 1994. Gus Rogers proudly attended the anniversary special and was presented a plaque and certificate of appreciation for his years of work in genealogy, his cemetery inscriptions, and for being our first president. The certificate read: "The Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society Presents This Volunteer Recognition Certificate To ~ Gus Rogers ~ On the Evening of August 8th, 2019. In Recognition as our first President, and Leadership and Service Provided. Through Your Efforts, and Volunteers Like You, We Are Celebrating 25 Years of Genealogical Presence in Jefferson County! We Truly Appreciate Your Dedication And Your Selfless Contributions." We all send our most sincere condolences to Gus and his family. He will be missed!

Added here is his obituary as published online. Augustus E. "Bud" Rogers, 101, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday, April 01, 2024, at Brookdale Senior Living, where he was residing. A graveside service with military honors will be held a

(Continued on Page 10)



JCNYS 25th Anniversary (1994 – 2019)
Celebration held August 8, 2019.

Our first President Gus Rogers received an appreciation plaque. Left to right, Treasurer Greg Plantz, Gus Roger's daughter Sally Watson, Augustus E. "Gus" Rogers, and Larry Corbett, Vice President.

(Continued From Page 9)



A. E. Gus Rogers WWII Award

Clayton Village Cemetery at a date to be determined. Bud was born in Watertown to the late Earl and Emilie Rogers on February 19, 1923. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in August of 1942 and married Marion Widdrington on January 04, 1947.

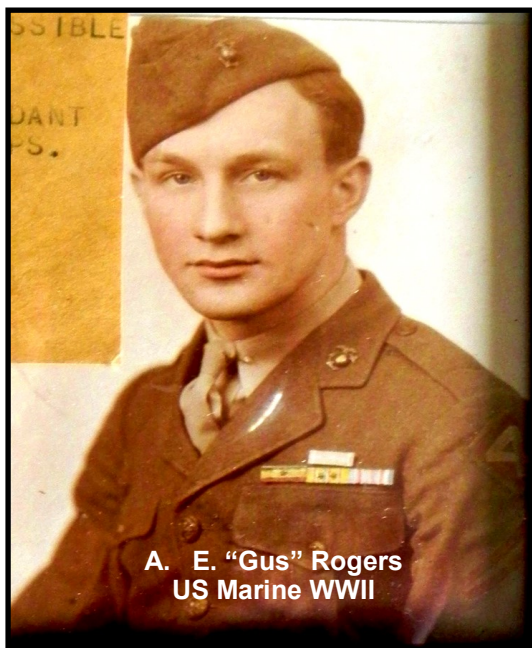
Gus was truly a legend. He served his country as a communication expert in World War II, fighting during the Pacific Theatre on Saipan, in the Mariana Islands Archipelago. It was there that he was wounded, and earned the Purple Heart Medal for injuries he received in the line of duty. He was a proud Marine to the end. He was the recipient of various medals and awards.

He was known for his red pickup truck, his cowboy boots, and his cowboy hat. His ability to fix anything for anyone at any time may have involved electrical tape and gorilla glue, but he got the job done. Bud was a man of few words, but he did love Bluegrass music. A self-taught guitar player: he was more than happy to camp out in his sleeping bag at Bluegrass Festivals. He also enjoyed camping in the Adirondacks and on Limekiln Lake, golfing, and watching SU Basketball.

History and genealogy were always a subject of interest. Bud is the former president of the Jefferson County, New York Genealogical Society, and he helped to connect people all over the country to their relatives. He also dedicated his time and knowledge to the repair and restoration of many headstones across cemeteries in Jefferson County.

Gus is survived by his daughter; Sally (Ed) Watson, his grandchildren; Erin (Bill) Cusworth, Jessica Watson, and Kiel (Christine) Watson, and great-grandchildren; Caden, Ava Logan, Makayla, and Bryce, as well as several nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, Gus is predeceased by his wife of over 70 years; Marion, his daughter; Ellen (John) Bartlett, and his siblings; Eleanor (Jim) Timmons, Cora (John) Hart, and George (Mary Ellen) Rogers. To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Augustus "Bud" E. Rogers, please visit our floral store.

Augustus Edwin "Bud" Rogers was laid to rest with a dignified ceremony at the Clayton Cemetery on Saturday, June 8, 2024.



**A. E. "Gus" Rogers
US Marine WWII**

On Saturday, June 8, 2024, Gus was laid to rest at the Clayton Cemetery. Clayton American Legion Post 821 honor guard carried the colors while six U.S. Marines performed military honors, including taps and flag folding. Gus' daughter Sally was presented with the flag.



FAMILY HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

By Jeffrey French, Past Department Commander
 Secretary/Treasurer
 Walter H French Camp #17, SUVCW
 Department of NY

It all started in the late 90's, my wife Ethel Beyer French and I embarked in doing our family history. We started the French family research. It took many years of researching, visiting cemeteries and town/county clerks for records. The adventure took us on many twisted roads where we discovered new information about our family and meeting cousins, we never knew we had.

We didn't really engage on my grandmother Ethel McBain's side of the family until our Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Walter H French Camp #17 started to support Save our Statue organization led by Charlotte Beagle. It started out in a fundraising attempt to help Charlotte reach the goal of having the Statue repaired and restored to its original state.

The Save Our Statue movement did well in their fundraising efforts raising \$142,965. This was the halfway mark. Our Camp contacted the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation to see if we qualified for their grants. To our surprise we did if we have the Village of Lowville apply for National or State Historical Site Registry. Once approved on this registry the Save Our Statue organization could apply for the matching grant. Charlotte quickly went to work on making all this happen. The Grant was approved, and the statue is now being repaired. Now we started to research on the history of the Statue.

It was in this research that we discovered that our 3rd Great Grandfather Luman Carter was the Finance Officer from the Guildford D Bailey GAR Post in charge of raising funds for the new proposed GAR Statue. Luman Carter not only raised funds for the statue that was erected in 1883, but he was a stonemason who built the foundation for the Statue. Here my brother Scott French and I were part of helping with the fundraising process and the rededication of the GAR Statue. Before we get into that, who was Luman Carter?



Luman Carter was the son of Jarvis and Hannah Carter. At 34 years of age Luman enlisted in the 50th NY Infantry which later was reorganized as the 50th NY Engineers Company K on 16 August 1861, at



Seneca Falls. On 17 September 1861, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal. Due to his disabilities, he was discharged on 12 August 1862, from the Fairfax Seminary Hospital in the District of Washington. Two years later Luman enlisted in the 15th NY Engineers as a private on 26 August 1864. Luman mustered out at Fort Barry, Virginia on 13 June 1865. After the war Luman worked as a mason in Lowville, NY. He was an active member of the Bailey GAR Post for years. Luman Carter passed away on 22 July 1909, and was buried in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Now we are doing the rededication of the Lowville GAR Statue as part of Memorial Day Parade. It was awesome to be part of this rededication ceremony as Luman Carter was the speaker at the original dedication so would his 3rd Great Grandson Jeffrey French. It was truly an honor for Scott French and me to follow in our 3rd Great Grandfather's footsteps. It was in this respect that family history repeated itself. It was purely coincidental or was it Fate?

If you have an ancestor that served in the Union Army, Navy, or Marines and are interested in joining the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, please contact Jeffrey French at frenchcamp17@aol.com. Help Preserve the memories of the Boys in Blue.



ASK AUNTY JEFF



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

Aunty Jeff – Part two of a three-part series on Artificial Intelligence (AI):

Question – Thank you for the basic information on the AI system. You promised to provide some examples or helpful possibilities for genealogists. Can you elaborate?

Answer, Part 2 – Elaboration to follow here, but first, I need to put in a disclaimer. I communicated with a number of tech-literate people and attended 3 or 4 presentations on AI, where the positive aspects of the latest and greatest of this “new” element of research was explored; anything written or said when these steps were taken may be out of date.

Remember this intro from *The Outer Limits* TV show in the 1960s: “There is nothing wrong with your television set: computer. Do not attempt to adjust the picture. ~~We~~ ~~are~~ AI is controlling transmission and results. For the next ~~hour~~ millennium, ~~we~~ it will control all that you see and hear. You are about to experience the awe and mystery which reaches from the inner mind to the outer limits?” OK, I made a few state-of-the art adjustments, but this may give you a sense of what you experience as adjustments are made to your online life.

My friend, an experienced professional genealogist and man with an ear to all the latest and greatest, Thomas MacEntee, recently presented at RootsTech, with permission for the attendees to share his handout information. He tells us: “While AI (artificial intelligence) might be the current ‘hot’ buzz word, the fact is that many genealogy vendors and even genealogists have already been using this technology for years. The AI industry is at a crossroads and, within the next five years, it will permeate almost every aspect of business and society.” (From RootsTech 2024, syllabus: Thomas MacEntee, *AI and Genealogy: Trouble Ahead?* Website: <https://genealogybargains.com> Email: hidgefgen@gmail.com.) (References provided here are for a few options about finding more information and, hopefully, providing the most current data.)

RootsTech 2024 provided attendees (virtual and in-person) a great many discussions on AI and its ups-downs and pros-cons. Another I (virtually) attended

was by Matt Armstrong, online learning supervisor at BYU Library, whose topic was “How to Use AI for Family History Experiences.” He points out that AI can be a tool, but to use it as/for “augmentation, not automation.” I take this to mean we must keep the human being in the equation. When it comes to such things as writing up our family history and including family stories, the information comes from what the “bot” (robot) is given. And the same is true for our research endeavors: it cannot provide what it doesn’t have. (Given that a bit of a thought, if the AI bot has incorrect information, that will also be presented as a search result, bringing up a negative component for genealogical research. But this borders on the direction of my next discussion: the negative elements of AI in the world of family history, so we will table some of the horror stories and caveats for now.) So, with these thoughts in mind, I decided to give it a whirl with a couple of genealogy questions.

I entered “JCNYS” into ChatGPT and the first hit was for “John Cabot University in New York City.” I tried with a little more info (I added “Genealogical” and then “Jefferson County”). The AI “helper” told me that “JCNYS’ *could* refer to the “Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society” [italics added]. The description added that “this organization likely provides resources, assistance, and support for individuals researching their family history in Jefferson County, New York. If you’re interested in genealogy or researching your family history in that area, they could be a valuable resource.” So, I thought I’d try, what I once believed was, the location of the marriage of my 2x great-grandparents: Depotville, NY. I got: “Depotville, New York, is actually a historical location. It was a hamlet located in the town of Le Ray in Jefferson County, New York. The hamlet was established around a depot on the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad. However, over time, it seems to have faded away, and there might not be much left of it today.”

Of course that’s wrong (that is, not what I was verifying and seeking) ... The spelling is the problem, but pronunciation would bring it to the correct spelling “Depauville.” General location is close, but wouldn’t get me to the right records. It might have been a good enough clue, however. What about other research issues?

With just enough knowledge to be dangerous, I attended a lecture by Steve Little, Instructor and AI Program Director of the National Genealogical Society, that was presented on the virtual platform of the Utah Genealogical Association, ProTalk, where he discussed “Intro to AI Genealogy: The Basics and a Bit Beyond, the Good, the Bad, the Ugly, the 2024 Edition.” Going back to what I said earlier, AI generates results based on what is already there, so then the burning question is “Is using AI to write family history (or any other) reports and stories ethical?” It depends. A couple of extremely helpful ways in which

(Continued on Page 13)

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 was provided, then an overview on the naming of the towns was discussed. 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. 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. The October 2023 Informer shared the written history of the towns Adams – Antwerp. The January 2024 Informer shared the towns of Brownville – Champion. The April 2024 Informer shared the towns of Clayton – Henderson. This is a continuation of the towns in alphabetical sequence, transcribed as originally published.

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD

HOUNSFIELD was formed from Watertown, February 17th, 1806. It embraces No. one, or “Hesiod” of the “Eleven Towns,” and was named from Ezra Hounsfield, one of the early proprietors. It is situated on Black River Bay, on the west border of the County. Its surface is very level, and the soil is a clayey and sandy loam. Ship building and manufacturers have received considerable attention. **Sackets Harbor**, is the principal village. It was a principal military and naval station on the northern frontier during the last war with Great Britain, and millions of dollars were spent in fortifications and in building vessels. The village was named for Augustus Sackets, the first settler, and was incorporated April 15th, 1814. **East Hounsfield** and **Stowell’s Corners** are hamlets. Amasa Fox was the first settler. In 1802, there were 30 families in town; among them were John and Wm. Evans, Squire Reed, Amasa Hollibut, and Charles Baird. In 1805 several English families came in. In 1808 Samuel F. Hooker brought to Sackets Harbor a stock of goods worth \$20,000, and in fifty days sold \$17,500 worth. During the war this town was the center of important military events. Several expeditions were fitted out against Canada; and, in turn, the town was invaded on several occasions. Large bodies of troops were frequently quartered here, and the citizens became familiar with the lights and shades of military life. On the 29th of May, 1813, was fought the battle of Sackets Harbor, when that place was attacked by a force of 1200 British troops, under

Sir George Provost and Sir James Yeo; who effected a landing on Horse Island, from their fleet of six sail. The action was contested with spirit on both sides, which however, resulted in victory to the American troops under General Brown. Our loss was, Killed, Lieut. Col. Mills, 20 privates, regulars, and one volunteer. Wounded, Lieut. Col. Backus (who died a few days later), 3 second lieutenants, 1 ensign, 7 non-commissioned officers, 2 musicians and 68 privates,—regulars—and 1 musician and 2 privates—volunteers; Missing, 2 non-commissioned officers, 7 privates—regulars; 1 non-commissioned officer, 1 musician and 15 privates—volunteers. Aggregate loss about 156. The British loss was 150 killed and wounded of whom Capt. Gray, Capt. Blackmore, and Ensign Greggs, were killed, and 8 commissioned officers wounded. After the battle the enemy re-embarked on board their fleet and sailed for Kingston, leaving many of their dead and wounded, and a number of prisoners in our hands. After the war, most of our troops were withdrawn, leaving only enough to keep the works in repair. A prominent and attractive relic of the war at this place, is the hull of the frigate New Orleans, which had a keel of 187 feet, beam 56 feet, hold 30 feet, and a measurement of 3,200 tons. She was pierced for 110 guns, and could have carried 120. The British had got out the St. Lawrence, a three-deck man-of-war of 120 guns, and this rendered it necessary to produce some vessel to match the enemy, and led to the commencement of this undertaking. The vessel was never launched, and has been preserved at considerable expense by the Government, who have caused it to be covered by a house. She was to have been named the New Orleans. The Chippewa, a vessel quite as large, was building at Storr’s Harbor, further up the bay, when the news of peace put a stop to the building, which had not advanced so far as the New Orleans. A house was built over this also, and it was preserved many years, but finally taken down for the iron it contained. Modern improvements in navigation, and especially the use of steam, have rendered vessels of this class, especially on this water, entirely unavailable, and the question of keeping up this vessel may be regarded as one of doubtful expediency. There are but very few ports on the lake, where a vessel drawing water to the depth that this would require could enter. A short distance from the village, but within the corporation limits, and forming three sides of a square that is open to the bay, are **Madison Barracks**, which were built between August, 1816, and October, 1819, under the direction of Thomas Tupper, D. Q. M. G., of the 2d Infantry, at a cost of \$85,000; the plan of the buildings was drawn by Wm. Smith. A few rods further up the bay, was erected of cut stone, a large and commodious hospital. A canal twenty feet wide at top and twelve at bottom, four feet deep, was made in 1830, from Huntington’s Mills, above Watertown, to the Big Swamp, and in 1832 it was finished, supplying to the village of Sackets Harbor a valuable water-power, upon which there was erected a grist mill, two

(Continued on Page 15)

(Continued From Page 14)

saw mills, plaster mill, paper mill, furnace, &c. The greatest difficulty encountered, was the maintaining the first half mile of the ditch, which was constructed along the margin of Black River, where it was liable to be washed away on one side, and filled by slides of clay and sand on the other. This difficulty finally led the work to be abandoned, after having been in use about ten years, to the pecuniary loss of all parties concerned. A destructive fire occurred at Sackets Harbor on the morning of August 21st, 1843, originating in a ware house on the wharf, and consumed 40 buildings; loss over \$35,000. On the 4th of August, 1817, while making a tour of the Northern States, James Monroe, then President, visited Sackets Harbor, where he was greeted with demonstrations of joy by the citizens. While the Great Rebellion broke out, Sackets Harbor again became the scene of active military life, Madison Barracks being the rendezvous for recruiting the 94th, and the 186th regiments of the infantry, the 10th heavy artillery and 20th cavalry. Dr. Samuel Guthrie, one of the discoverers of chloroform, and inventor of the percussion compound for firearms, which has superseded flints, resided at Sackets Harbor. A Union School was established in the village in 1840. The town has an area of 27,790 3/4 acres.

TOWN OF LERAY

LERAY, named from James De LeRay de Chaumont, the proprietor, was formed from Brownville, February 17, 1806. Antwerp was taken off in 1810, a part of Wilna in 1813, and a part of Philadelphia and Alexandria in 1821. It is an interior town, east of the center of the County. The surface is level or gently rolling, and the soil is principally a clayey loam. A strip of barren sand, known as the "Pine Plains," once covered with pine, but now almost a desert, extends along Black River into Wilna. The streams are Black and Indian Rivers, Pleasant Creek, and several small brooks. **LeRaysville**, on Pleasant Creek, was formerly the residence of Mr. LeRay, the proprietor. Here he built his residence and land office, which was occupied until 1835, when it was removed to Carthage. P. S. Stewart, Esq., has been the agent for many years, and has been in Mr. LeRay's employ in various capacities, about fifty years. L. J. Goodale is the present agent. **Evans Mills**, named from Ethni Evans, who built the first mill in 1805-6, is situated on Pleasant Creek, near the centre of the town, and is a station on the R. W. & O. R. R. It is a very pretty village, and contains two hotels, several stores, two saw mills, grist mill, brewery, cheese factory, shops, &c. **Black River**, a smart village on Black River, is partly in this town. The first settlement was made in 1802 by a party under Benj. Brown, agent for Mr. LeRay. Among these first settlers were David Coffeen, Dyer Rhodes, Gershom and John Mattoon, Joseph Child and Sons, Thomas Ward, William Cooper and Benj. Kirkbride. Margaret Comstock taught the first school. Mr. LeRay moved

into town in 1808, and began a liberal system of settlement, by opening roads and building bridges and mills. The town has an area of 52,856 and 1/4 acres.

TOWN OF LORRAINE

LORRAINE was formed from Mexico, March 24th, 1804, as "Malta." Its name was changed April 6th, 1808. **Worth** was taken off in 1848. It is the central town on the south border of the County. The town is elevated and is underlaid by slate and traversed by immense gulfs. The surface is rolling, and the soil is clay and loam. It is drained by Sandy, Bear, Skinner, and other creeks. **Lorraine**, the only village, is located on a branch of Deer Creek, north of the center of town. Settlement began in 1802, by James McKee and Elijah Fox. The State Road to Sackets Harbor, was laid through this town in 1804. The town has an area of 19,870 and 1/2 acres.

TOWN OF LYME

LYME, so-called from a place of that name in Conn., was formed from Brownville, March 6th, 1818. A part of Clayton was taken out in 1833, and Cape Vincent in 1849. It lies upon Chaumont Bay in the west part of the County. The surface is very level. The west border is deeply indented by Chaumont Bay and its branches. The soil is principally clay. There are several sulphur springs in town. Near Chaumont are extensive and valuable limestone quarries. These quarries have furnished large quantities of stone for the piers at Oswego, locks on the canal, and for other public works. **Chaumont** is situated upon a bay at the mouth of Chaumont River. It has a large grain elevator and store-house, gristmill, hotel, stores, &c., but is chiefly noted for its fisheries; it is a station on the R. R. **Three Mile Bay** lies upon a bay of the same name, and is so named from it being three miles west of Chaumont. The bay is also celebrated for its fisheries. In 1856, \$90,000 worth of fish were taken, consisting principally of "ciscoes" (lake herring) and whitefish. It has been the seat of considerable shipbuilding. It has a station on the R. R., about one mile distant. **Point Peninsula** (P. O.) is a scattered settlement of twenty to thirty houses, on the south shore of the Peninsula. The first settlement was begun under Jonas Smith and Henry A. Delamater, agents for LeRay, in 1801. During several years much sickness prevailed, but this gradually disappeared as the country became settled. In 1812 the inhabitants, numbering about a dozen families, built a blockhouse, which was taken and destroyed by the enemy. The town has an area of 28,912 acres.

**"A real friend is one who walks in when
the rest of the world walks out."
— Walter Winchell**

Carpenter Cemetery (complete), Town of Henderson, Jefferson County, New York

Copied by Mrs. Chas. P. Gruman

Transcribed From:

Jefferson County Cemetery Inscriptions

Compiled By Mrs. Charles P. Gruman

Indexed By Genealogy and Local History Department

Syracuse Public Library, 1960

Transcribed by:

JCNYGS Informer Committee Member: Beverly K.

Sterling-Affinati

Source: <https://www.familysearch.org>

(page 83-85)

Alexander, Harry – d June 15, 1860 ae 51 yrs 60 da

Wife Phebe – d Aug. 8, 1880 ae 67 yrs 8 da

Aspinwall, Salmon – 1783 - 1856

Wife Mary Montague – 1784 - 1850

Aspinwall, Truman – 1852 - 1933

Aspinwall, David Montague – 1817 - 1853

Wife Harriet Alden – 1825 - 1905

Brown, Rhoda wife of Sylvenus Brown – d May 20,

1817 ae 32yrs

Boomer, Betsey Leonard wife of William Boomer – d

Apr. 19, 1830 ae 21 yrs 11 mo

Bullock, Emily – d Mar. 11, 1850 ae 35 yrs 7 mos 10 da

Carpenter, Sophia Barrand wife of John Carpenter - d Jan.10, 1876 ae 40yrs

Carpenter, DeJohn B. – d Dec. 6, 1831 ae 65yrs

Wife Anna – d Dec. 5, 1834 ae 65yrs

Carpenter, Jane Cook, wife of John Carpenter – d Apr. 5, 1895 ae 89yrs

Carpenter, John – d June 13, 1860 ae 79yrs

Wife Jane Cook – d Feb. 24, 1828 ae 22yrs

Carter, Charles – d Nov. 7, 1826 ae 45yrs

Cole, Betsey, wife of Samuel Cole – d Aug. 16, 1813 ae 71yrs

Crittenton, Sylvenus – d May 2, 1834 ae 30yrs

Crittenton, Abram – b Dec. 28, 1798 – d May 15, 1888

Crittenton, Jason C. – d Apr. 17, 1813 ae 52yrs – Rev. soldier

Wife Keziah – d Sept. 13, 1820 ae 56yrs

Danley, Samantha K. – b Feb. 7, 1821 – d Dec. 16, 1894

Davis, Abigail, wife of Alfred K. Davis & dau of A. & L.

Hungerford, d July 20, 1844 ae 24yrs 11mo

Dobson, William – d Apr. 2, 1884 ae 69yrs 3mo

Wife Mary Jane – d Sept. 2, 1872 ae 45yrs 6mo

Dobson, Thomas – d Jan. 6, 1896 ae 76yrs 2mo 11 da

Wife Julia Ann Olden – d May 8, 1860 ae 26yrs

Dobson, Elizabeth – b June 5, 1825 – d Mar. 27, 1900

Dobson, Thomas – Apr. 19, 1868 ae 11yrs 11mo

Dobson, Thomas – d April 28, 1921 ae 77yrs

Dobson, Fanny, wife of Thomas Dobson – b Aug. 4, 1783 – d Mar. 30, 1874

Drury, Thomas – d Nov. 11, 1811 ae 33yrs

Eggleston, Alexander – d Nov. 12, 1883 ae 36yrs 22 da

Wife Betsey Bassett – d Dec. 22, 1882 ae 81yrs 9mo 29da

Eggleston, Chas. - d Aug. 20, 1899 ae 77yrs

Wife Doris Hungerford – d Dec. 6, 1907 ae 84yrs

Edna M., dau of Chas. & A.M. Eggleston – d Dec. 15, 1904 ae 24yrs

Eggleston, Chas., Corp 18th NY M Cav. – d Jan. 16, 1927 ae 81yrs

Eggleston, Viola D, dau of C.D. & A.M. – d Nov. 1, 1898 ae 25yrs

Eggleston, Fred B., son of C.D. & A.M. – d Oct. 28, 1897 ae 19yrs

Farman, Louisa, dau of John H. – b Sept. 20, 1826 – d Jan. 16, 1897

Farman, John H. – b N.H. Mar. 16, 1799 – d Dec. 13, 1893

Wife Lois Whittier – b Danbury, VT. May 21, 1796 – d Mar. 8, 1896

Finney, Harry – d Jan. 16, 1854 ae 64yrs

Finney, Rebecca, wife of Harry Finney – d July 24, 1868 ae 72yrs

Finney, Rebeckah, wife of Sylvester Finney – d Aug. 19, 1836 ae 76yrs 10 da

Geeson, John L. – d Nov. 24, 1890 ae 30yrs

Hubbard, Marie E., wife of T. G. Hubbard – d Aug. 5, 1877 ae 22yrs 5mo 8da

Hungerford, Uriah, son of Amasa & Lucy – d Sept. 26, 1842 ae 30yrs

Hungerford, Maryette, wife of A.E. Hungerford – d June 9, 1856 ae 26yrs 8mo 26da

Hungerford, Capt. Amasa – d Dec. 6, 1859 ae 79yrs 7mo 2da

Wife Lucy – d Aug. 5, 1859 ae 79yrs 7mo 2da

Wife Elisabeth – d Oct. 31, 1825 ae 69yrs

Maitland, William – d Aug. 4, 1851 ae 59yrs 9mo 9da

Maitland, Orrin – d Oct. 14, 1811 ae 52yrs 7mo

Molainaux, Francis? – d June 21, 1847 ae 21yrs

Montague, David – d Apr.26,1880 ae 84yrs 9mo 19da

Montague, Mary, wife of David – d Aug. 26, 1817 ae 37yrs 9da

Montague, Elizabeth, wife of David – 1831 ae 33yrs 8mo

Moody, Ransaw W. – d Aug. 27, 1881 ae 82yrs

Wife Polly – d Nov. 27, 79yrs

Moody, George – d July 7, 1886 ae 60yrs

Moody, Blanche, dau Melvin & Nellie Moody – b Aug. 14, 1881- d Mar.4, 1882

Nutting, William – d Nov. 3, 1865 ae 76yrs 5mo 8da

Wife Mary – d Jan. 26, 1863 – ae 74yrs 11mo 13da

Rankin, Viola Eggleston, wife of Frank Rankin – d Nov. 1, 1898 ae 27yrs

Sawyer, Ebenezer – 1756-1840. Engaged at Bunker Hill 2 battles of Stillwater

Surrender at Burgoyne

Wife Hannah Whittier – b 1766 -----

Sias, Mary, wife of Jeremiah Sias – d Dec. 10, 1846 ae 38yrs

Stevens, Orrin – d May 27, 1883 ae 79yrs

Wife Amanda F. – d Apr. 4, 1885 ae 78yrs

(Continued on Page 17)

Stevens, Washington, Co. F. 168 Reg't Pa. Inf., vet of Civil War – Post 275, GAR, d Apr. 9, 1903 ae 69yrs 14mo 14da
 Wife Fidelia A. – d Mar. 2, 1915 ae 79yrs
 Thomas, Elizabeth Dobson, wife of John Thomas – d Jan. 6, 1840 ae 69yrs
 Tubbs, D. (Noah)? – departed this life Dec. 16, 1827 41st yr of age
 Warner, Mary G. – b July 19, 1856 – d May 1, 1855
 Warner, Henry R. – b Nov. 17, 1807 – d Aug. 19, 1886
 Wife Theda L. – b Oct. 15, 1809
 Warner, Theda A. – b Sept. 15, 1834 – d Dec. 19, 1851
 Warner, Sibelia Carpenter – 1830 - 1915
 White, Fred A., son of Amos & Mariett White -d Apr. 23, 1881 ae 23yrs
 White, Dempster – d June 8, 1879 ae 46yrs 11mo 23day
 White, Amos – d May 6, 1865 ae 37yrs 1mo 2da
 Whitney, Erastus – b Mar. 10, 1787 – d Nov. 13, 1855
 Wife, Hannah – b May 8, 1785 – d May 10, 1822
 Whitney, Betsy wife of Erastus Whitney – d Sept. 21, 1871 ae 86yrs 2mo 18da
 Whitney, Abramantha – wife of Allen Whitney – d Jan. 8, 1833 ae 33yrs 9mo 14da
 Whitney, Nancy M., wife of J. S. Warner - d June 13, 1875 ae 63yrs 2mo 18day
 Whitney, Stephen – d Oct. 13, 1854 ae 76yrs 2mo
 Wife, Sally – d Sept. 26, 1852 ae 72yrs
 Whittier, Oliver, son of D. & C. Whittier – d Sept. 21, 1827 ae 16yrs 9mo
 Whittier, Aghash – d Apr. 12, 1884 ae 70yrs
 Whittier, Caroline, dau of D. & C. Whittier – d Feb. 20, 1895 ae 88yrs
 Whittier, Robierson, so of D. & C. Whittier – d June 28, 1866
 Whittier, David – d Sept. 27, 1815 ae 22yrs 3mo
 Wife Charlotte – d May 20, 1847 ae 72yrs
 Whittier, David, son of D. & C. Whittier – d July 12, 1820 ae 20yrs 5mo
 Wilkinson, John F., Co. E., 10th NY Heavy Art. – d Mar. 20, 1905 ae 71yrs
 Wilkinson, Mark – Dec. 22, 1828 – d July 1, 1907
 Wolley, Willard W. – b July 17, 1838 – d Feb. 11, 1863 ae 24yrs
 Wolley, Frances, dau Francis & Joanna W. – b Dec. 25, 1835 - d Dec. 4, 1851
 Wooley, F. – b Apr. 7, 1799 – d Nov. 7, 1854
 Joanna Wooley, relict of Francis Wooley – b Dec. 29, 1801 - d Sept. 30, 1857

“Consider the postage stamp. Its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing till it gets done.” – Josh Billings

The St. Lawrence County Historical Society
 Is Rebranded
The St. Lawrence County
Center for History and Culture
 Official News Release

“Canton, NY (May 2024)– The St. Lawrence County Historical Association (SLCHA) is excited to announce a significant milestone – a rebranding initiative that illustrates a future-focused mission to serve as a dynamic center that promotes community engagement, inclusivity, and continued growth. Henceforth, we will be Doing-Business-As The St. Lawrence County Center for History and Culture (SLCCHC), accompanied by a fresh logo symbolizing our evolving identity.

When the St. Lawrence County Historical Association was founded in 1947, it consisted of a small group of passionate St. Lawrence County residents and historians who desired to preserve the rich history and material culture of our region. Today, we continue to preserve and share the Silas Wright House, galleries, research room, hands-on Children’s Attic and our permanent collection of over 250,000 historic items related to St. Lawrence County. We are now more than an association of history enthusiasts. We are a regional resource to be celebrated as a dynamic cultural center, promoting community stewardship and engagement for all ages, striving to make history exciting, relevant, and fun for everyone.

While our old name has served us for 77 years, our visitation and reach in Canton and beyond is changing. As we look ahead to the next 77 years, we believe that a new name and logo is necessary to encompass the ways in which we have grown and to ensure our relevancy well into the future. Accompanying our new name is a dynamic logo inspired by the Red Barn addition and North Country Folk Art. This fresh logo, designed by Valisha Arnold of Clever Toad Design, breathes new life into our organization and will help modernize and suffuse new life into our organization.

Despite our name and logo undergoing a transformation, our core values remain steadfast. The St. Lawrence County Historical Association will continue to offer engaging exhibits and education programs along with engaging in seasonal outreach and multiple renovation and restoration projects. We are committed to fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of history while empowering individuals to connect with St. Lawrence County and its community in meaningful ways.

The rebranding process will officially take effect this month. We look forward to welcoming our members, patrons, and the wider community to join us in this exciting new chapter. We hope you’ll remain an integral part of our future and we look forward to seeing you soon.

For more information about the St. Lawrence County Center for History and Culture and our rebranding initiative, please visit slcha.org, call us at (315) 386-8133, or email info@slcha.org.

JCNYGS Note: This is shared for those Jefferson County researchers who also do research in St. Lawrence County.



**FIRST EDITION OF THE TIMES
PUBLISHED 163 YEARS AGO TODAY**

By ALEC JOHNSON
aej@wdt.net, April 21, 2024

The daily newspaper that evolved into the *Watertown Daily Times* published its first edition today in 1861. That was 163 years ago, at a time when our nation was embroiled in the Civil War.

While weekly papers were the standard at the time, news from the battlefield prompted the need for more regular publication, and so the *New York Daily Reformer* was published.

The first edition had four pages, the front page is reprinted today, some of the text is difficult to read, but the cover gives a sense of the time.

The War News was published on Page 2. "Friday last was the anniversary of the first blood shed in the Revolution at Concord and Lexington," the story begins. "On that day, American volunteers for the defense of the National capital, were moved on their way to post of duty, and two, three or four of them — for the reports vary — were killed.

The mob and the authorities in Baltimore combine to dispute the passage of Federal troops, while Jeff Davis with an invading army (according to a dispatch in the *N.Y. Eve. Post*) is within twenty-four hours' march of the National Capital!"

It is somewhat difficult to make up an intelligible account of this atrocious affair, the telegrams are such a jumble. The first indication of trouble was found in the fact that the railroad track had been taken up

BY TELEGRAPH.

To the New-York Daily Reformer.

THE NORTH ARROUSING!

7th Regiment go through Annapolis

Origin of Baltimore Troubles.

STAR OF THE WEST

Captured by Texan Rebels!

GRAND OVATION IN NEW YORK!

LARGE MILITARY MOVEMENTS

Reports from Louisiana, Mississippi, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Vermont, New York, &c., &c., &c.



through the city. The troops (The 7th Regiment from Massachusetts) attempted to march through, and were attacked by a mob with bricks and stones and were fired upon. Some of their number were killed and others wounded. The troops then fired upon the mob, it is said, killing ten. The regiment then broke through the mob, and went aboard the cars for Washington. After the departure of the train, a meeting was held in Monument Square, which was addressed by the Mayor of the city. In the course of his remarks, he stated that he "had telegraphed the President that no more troops should pass through the city."

Gov. Hicks was called for. He said that although opposed to secession, "the right of resolution should not be disputed." He wound up by saying that he should "bow to the decision of the people," that is, *the mob.*"

The dispatch continues from Carlisle, Pa., reporting the burning of Harper's Ferry Armory."

Locally, there were reports of a special meeting of the Black River Corps, called an emergency to recruit members to its ranks, and a mail carrier drowned on the St. Lawrence River.

"Patrick Sullivan, mail carrier across Wolf Island between Cape Vincent and Kingston, was drowned in the St. Lawrence on the 19th, by the capsizing of his boat. The Canada and New York mail was greatly damaged, and the Boston mail had not been recovered at last accounts."

The first edition, also shared the news of an April 10 marriage in Henderson. Mr. Forest A. Sprague of Houndsfield and Miss Ellen M. Johnson, daughter of Franklin Johnson, Esq. of Henderson were married by Rev L. Muzzy.

The weekly *Reformer* dates back another 15 years.

The year was 1850, and the Fugitive Slave Act provided for the return of slaves brought to free states. Millard Fillmore was sworn in as president after Zachary Taylor's death.

Watertown's population was a bustling 4,500.

Lotus Ingalls, a Rodman School teacher was the impetus behind the birth of the weekly *New York Reformer*, a temperance paper, and an anti-slavery advocate. The business was started with \$700, of which \$500 was borrowed.

The earliest edition located, and preserved in the *Times* digital archives, is Vol. 1, No. 2. The second

(Continued on Page 19)

(Continued From Page 18)
 edition, was published Thursday, Sept. 5, 1850.

The first edition was badly damaged and could not be saved, Harold B. Johnson wrote in a news story published April 22, 1936, when the *Watertown Daily Times* celebrated its 75th anniversary.

“Published on Thursday morning of each week — Office Paddock’s Block, third story entrance, Arcade, opposite Permins’ Hotel, Watertown, N.Y. - by L. Ingalls, A.H Burdick, & L.M. Stowell. Subscriptions, delivered by mail, or picked up at the office were \$1 per year, paid in advance. The paper could be delivered to doors in the village only, for \$1.50.

The *Weekly Reformer* continued to be published on Thursday mornings until 1861 — a time when the national debate over slavery had split the states. The dawn of the Civil War prompted the necessity of getting news quicker.

“The leaders of the *Reformer* gilded to the pressure of events to undertake daily publication,” John B. Johnson wrote in the 1960s. “The changeover from a weekly publication to the daily variety was not to be made without some anxiety on the part of the management and one of the most anxious about such a move was Beman Brockway, then editor of the *Reformer*, and by 1875 the sole owner of the *Times*.”

Ten days after the Civil War began, and with no announcement in the final weekly edition of the *Reformer*, the *New York Daily Reformer* started publishing daily on April 22, 1861. This is the date the *Times* considers first published.

“In obedience to a popular demand of some months’ continuance, and after mature consideration, we have reluctantly embarked on the enterprise of publishing a morning daily,” Mr. Brockway wrote. “We say reluctantly; for we can count the certain cost, the wear and tear of mind and body and material its production will increase, while the returns are in a great measure uncertain, often inadequate and wholly dependent on popular favor.”

With a circulation of over 5,000 of the weekly *Reformer*, the daily paper drew about 1,500 readers, but it began to take on the shape of a familiar daily newspaper experience. Breaking news is reported in brief by telegraph. There are dispatches from the war, but also from around the state and nation.

The *New York Daily Reformer* was renamed the *Watertown Daily Times* in 1870.

The *Times* will revisit its history with periodic publishing of historic articles and photos of life in the north country

IS THIS YOUR UNCLE GEORGE COOK?

This tintype photo was recently given to JCNYS by Elaine Scott of the Henderson Historical Society.

It was given to her by a family in Henderson cleaning the house of a related family member.

On the reverse of the photo is written, Uncle George Cook. Per Ancestry.com there is a George Cook, born circa 1827, and enlisted on 25 Aug 1863, at Alexandria, Jefferson, New York, age 36, a Private in the 11th Calvary. We do not know if it is the same George Cook.

If you have Cook’s in your ancestry, take a closer look at this. We are trying to find a loving home for this tintype photo.

For information, write the JCNYS President at tomclair624@yahoo.com



HISTORY

and Genealogy Fair

at the Jefferson County Historical Society

Share your stories and learn about climbing your family tree!
 Speak with local historians and explore the historic Paddock mansion.

Saturday, September 28th
 at 11am - 2pm

LUNCH AVAILABLE ON SITE. PURCHASE ITEMS FROM THE MIKE AND COLLEEN HANCOCK FOOD TRUCK.

EVENT ADMISSION: \$5 PER PERSON

Poster #2 of 3 (#1 In April *Informer*) Celebrating 120 Years of Service

Flower Memorial Library listed on National Register

The Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, built in 1903 in honor of Watertown's most prominent native son, has been listed on National Register of Historic Places, according to Orin Lehman, State Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. Com-

Historic Preservation Officer, said that the building was the first public library in Watertown, that it provides northern New York with one of its best examples of historic architecture and that its history illustrates the philanthropic spirit of the city's wealthy citizens at the turn of the 20th century.

A crusade to establish a public library in Watertown started in the late 19th century. It culminated in 1903 with an offer by Mrs. Estess

the project, and A.F. Lansing, a Watertown resident, served as supervising architect.

The building is particularly noteworthy for its architecture and its illustration of the interrelationship of the arts. They were produced by the Lewis Studio of New York.

When the building opened, a dedication brochure stated proudly that:

... Here is not only a library but also a people's palace combining all the substances of a well-



Flower Memorial Library Goes On Line

1980

The Flower Library was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. State Historic Preservation Officer Lehman recognized the library as illustrating the philanthropic spirit of the city's wealthy citizens at the turn of the 20th century.

(Watertown Daily Times, May 12, 1980)

1996

The Flower Library became the third fully automated library within the North Country Library System. More than 200,000 items had to be barcoded but now patrons could check the status of a book with a few simple keystrokes.

(Watertown Daily Times, August 10, 1996)

1977

In January, the addition project was completed. Flower Library was closed while staff moved materials to the new shelving before reopening for patrons on the 13th.

(Watertown Daily Times, January 11, 1977)



(Watertown Daily Times Photographer)

September of 1977 also marked the return of an organization called "The Friends of the Flower Memorial Library." Their purpose is to stimulate increased awareness and use of the Library.

(Watertown Daily Times, September 9, 1977)

1995

A computerized check-out system for books was introduced in April. A donation of equipment saved the library more than \$4,000 and helped complete the automation process. Along with the new plastic library cards, the traditional card catalog would be replaced by computer terminals.

(Watertown Daily Times, May 31, 1995)



(Watertown Daily Times Photographer)

1997

Internet access was made available to patrons. Flower Library received four personal computer terminals with printers through an initiative of the Northern New York Community Foundation.

(Watertown Daily Times, March 19, 1997)



(Watertown Daily Times Photographer)



Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library

A THERESA BIBLE



An old bible was recently donated to JCNYS by the Gill family, owners of the Evans Mills Raceway Park.

The owners wanted to ensure the information was preserved for those interested in history and genealogy. The pages note a few HUBBARD and YOUNG family names of Theresa, Jefferson County, New York.

There are also three photographs inside. Among the genealogical data noted, listed is the November 16, 1868, birth of Charles A. Young at Theresa; the January 12, 1868, birth of Elsie May Hubbard at Theresa; the February 11, 1891, marriage between Charles A. Young and Elsie M. Hubbard, both of Theresa. There are also listed the deaths of Charles A. Young on December 3, 1915, at age 47 years; Robert Abram Young died on December 25, 1934, at age 14 years; Wilbur J. Plank, died April 1953, age 65



years; Elsie M. Young died in September 1948, at age 80 years; and Charles Earl Young died in 1967, age 75 years. Photos are of Henry Hubbard, Elsie May Hubbard, and Melissa Elmore Hubbard. We are trying to find a devoted home for this bible.

If you are connected to this line and are interested in the bible, for more information contact JCNYS president Tom LaClair at tomclair624@yahoo.com.

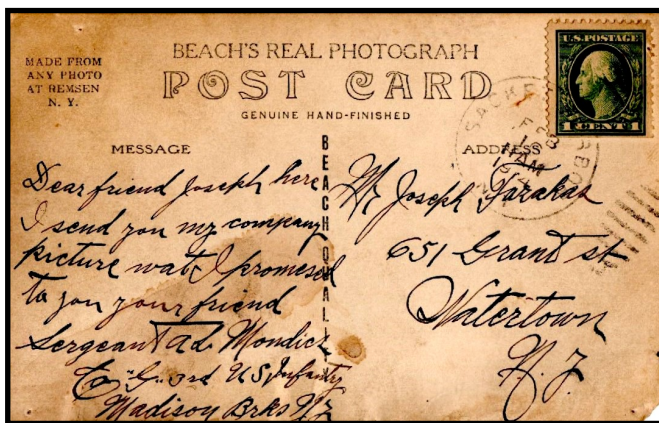


Joseph and Mary Fazekas of 651 Grant Street, Watertown, New York

March 16, 2024. Genealogy information and donation to JCNYS.

My name is David Doss, and I am writing to you regarding a donation. Enclosed are three photos of Joseph and Mary Fazekas of 651 Grant Street, Watertown, New York. I hope you can use them for your collections. I could not find any information on the photo taken in the cemetery of Gyulas Fazekas. Sincerely,
David Doss,
Allen Park, Michigan.
Email: dbld-doss@att.net

JCNYS Note: If you are related to this Fazekas line, write the President of JCNYS at tomclair624@yahoo.com and he will arrange for you to receive the family photos.



Jefferson County Queries

Mail queries to:
Thomas LaClair, 17696 Co. Rte. 181, Clayton, NY 13624
tomlaclair624@yahoo.com

Subject: Jefferson County Informer Query
(Some readers do not have internet access. Please include mailing address &/or phone numbers as well as email.)

DODICAN, DOUDICAN, THOMPSON, HEALEY

I am a grandson of Florence **DODICAN** who grew up at 15 Woodruff in Watertown back at the beginning of the 20th century. Florence and her siblings were raised by their Aunt Mollie and Aunt Nellie. My great-grandfather Thomas **DODICAN** (or **DOUDICAN**) left Florence and the other children and went to Dayton Ohio in 1903. His wife (a **THOMPSON**) had died after the birth of their last child and Thomas was suffering from a muscular form of tuberculosis. He ended up dying in Ohio. I have a lot of information about my **DOUDICAN, HEALEY, and THOMPSON** relatives but am looking for more. Yesterday, I had a pleasant phone conversation with Terry at the Flower Memorial / North Country Library System Genealogy Library. He was very helpful, and I ended up at your website as I explored further. I am very grateful that I live in the present time. We have such a rich menu of resources to draw upon. My dad and mom went to Watertown as Florence was his mother. That was back in the 90s. While they had a great time, the ability to get information was slow and not always consistent. I look forward to connecting further.

David Porter
trlboss49@comcast.net

FULLER, POST, BUCKLIN, TERRILL, WEAVER

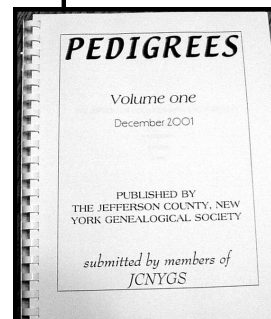
I would like to connect with any **FULLER** Family researchers in Jefferson County. I am researching Abner **FULLER** of Colchester, CT b1724 (married Ruth **WEAVER**) and his descendants. Many of the **FULLERs** in Jefferson County have roots in Montgomery and Washington counties. The first Abner was born in CT, served in the French and Indian War 1759/60, settled in Schaghticoke, which later became Easton, Washington County. His son, Abner Jr (married Polly **TERRILL**) settled in Palatine, Montgomery County. His son, George (married Charlotte **POST**) moved to Lyme, Jefferson County about 1840. His son George Washington b 1841 (married Marcia **BUCKLIN**) and many of their descendants stayed in the Watertown area for many generations.

Kevin Fuller
kifuller7@gmail.com
585-678-1553

JCNYGS MATERIALS FOR PURCHASE

Contact: Greg or Tammy Plantz, 21787
Reed Road, Watertown, NY 13601
Or email tgplantz@gmail.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**



All our *Informer* Newsletters Are Now on
our website! www.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**



REED, JOINER, JOYNER, SALNAVE

I am seeking documents to prove Jane Submit **REED** **SALNAVE** was the daughter of John Savage **REED** and Submit Sophia **JOINER (JOYNER)**, and/or the brother of Roland **REED**.

Jane **REED** (possible middle name Submit), DOB 27 Jun 1817 Bainbridge, Chenango co. NY, d. 1 Aug 1890 Beaver Crossing, Seward, NE

Husband: John Deuel **SALNAVE**, DOB 1Jul 1813 Chemung, Chemung, NY, d. 21 Mar 1880, Beaver Crossing, Seward NE

Father: John Savage **REED** wife Submit Sophia **JOINER**, DOB 12 Sep 1784, Deerfield, Franklin, MA, d: 23 Feb 1878 Clayton, Jefferson, NY, m. 1808, Submit Sophia **JOINER (JOYNER)**, DOB 20 Oct 1785 Deerfield, Franklin, MA, d. 9 Nov 1846 Chenango, NY

Grandfather: Amos **REED**, DOB 15 Feb 1762 Newton, MA, d. 11 May 1847 Clayton, Jefferson, NY

Brother: Roland **REED**, DOB 6 Feb 1819, Bainbridge, Chenango co, NY, d. 8 Feb 1884 Beaver Crossing, Seward, NE

Any documents, bible copies, newspapers, etc., would be tremendously appreciated.

Carol Hilton
Carol97383@yahoo.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. 108

Or Current Resident

2024 PROGRAMS

Monday, July 8, 2024, 3:00 PM. JCNYGS Summertime Picnic at the home of JCNYGS VP Anne Davis, 17192 Ives Street Extension, Watertown. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy a picnic meal and fellowship. Consider bringing along a lawn chair and a recent genealogy find and/or interesting story. For weather related updates, visit the society Facebook page.

Monday, August 12, 2024, 6:00 PM. Allyson "Ally" Stevenson, a well-known area genealogist prominent with cleaning headstones, also known as the Crazy Cemetery Lady, will give a visual presentation of headstone cleaning techniques at the North Watertown Cemetery on Bradley Street. Come prepared to learn the dos and don'ts of cleaning family headstones. For weather related updates, visit the society Facebook page.

Saturday, September 28, 2024, 11:00 AM. The Jefferson County Historical Society, 228 Washington Street, Watertown, in partnership with the Flower Memorial Library, Watertown, will host the 2024 History & Genealogy Fair. Guest Speakers: 11:30 am - Lori Atkinson, Inspiring Our Next Generation: A Legacy Project at Copenhagen Central. 12:30 pm - Kent Bolke, History of Fort Drum, Including the Lost Villages. 1:30 pm - John Stano Montrois Collection: Civil War Documents at the Jefferson County Historical Society. There is a \$5.00 donation to enter. Note: See flyer on page 19.

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 Paul and Deborah 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.