

INFORMER

“OUR 30TH YEAR”

Volume 31, Issue 4

Annual Dues \$18 Individual \$20 Family

October 2024

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

Featuring Guest Speakers:

11:30am - Lori Atkinson

Inspiring Our Next Generation: a Legacy Project at Copenhagen Central

12:30pm - Kent Bolke

History of Fort Drum, Including the Lost Villages

1:30pm - John Stano

Montrois Collection: Civil War Documents at the
Jefferson County Historical Society

Event location: 228 Washington Street, Watertown NY

Event is held in partnership with Flower Library.

Contact Librarian Ashley Pickett with questions at 315-785-7714.



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INFORMER OCTOBER 2024

Correspondence about dues, memberships, and lost *Informers* should be directed to:
Jefferson County Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 6453, Watertown, NY 13601
Web site: www.jcnygs.com

President: Thomas LaClair, 17696 Co. Rte. 181, Clayton, NY 13624
tomlaclair624@yahoo.com, 315-209-3449

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

Recording Secretary: Kelly Brown, 35688 Co. Rte. 136, Theresa, NY 13691
bookwormcny@gmail.com, 315-224-1047

Treasurer: Greg Plantz, 21787 Reed Road, Watertown, NY 13601
tplantz1@twcny.rr.com, 315-788-5324

Membership Clerk: Kevin Subra, membership@jcnygs.com

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

Brenda Becker, bmartinobecker@gmail.com;

Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, dioncalhoun@yahoo.com;

Larry Corbett, lrcorbet@gisco.net;

Bruce Coyne, cynegen@aol.com;

Anne Davis, davisa24@verizon.net;

Jerry & Marilyn Davis, maridavis@aol.com;

Ann Fillhart, afillhart@gmail.com;

Tony McKeon, tenosce.tony@gmail.com;

Ashley Pickett, apickett@ncsls.org;

Greg & Tammy Plantz, tgplantz@gmail.com;

Yvonne Reff, yvonne99@yahoo.com;

Beverly Sterling-Affinati, harborsideservices@gmail.com;

Carol Rooksby Weidlich, crweidlich@gmail.com



Jefferson County
NY Genealogical Society

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DEVELOP THOSE FAVORITE DIGITAL PHOTOS

A day will come when they are lost to technology
By JCNYS President Tom LaClair

Whenever I download my digital files to my desktop, I often ponder how many of these potentially important ancestral photos will survive future computer technology upgrades or new platforms. Or how many of my digital photos will be permanently lost to a home computer crash or accidental internet dump? Digital photos that I snapped back in the late 1990s are long gone. I remember uploading photos online from Qatar, England, and Turkey, to share with family. Many of those photos were from my military days when I was traveling with the USAF overseas.



Take for instance, when "Myspace, the once mighty social network lost every single piece of content uploaded to its site before 2016, including millions of songs, photos and videos with no other home on the internet." The

company blamed a faulty server migration for the mass deletion, which appeared to have happened. This was first noticed when users were unable to access older content. The company later confirmed to online archivists that digital files were lost permanently, dashing hopes that a backup could be used to permanently protect the collection for future generations.

Today, with just our cellular phones we have so many more photos than our ancestors ever thought of, however, unless we take time to develop or print the photographs, our descendants will end up with fewer, if any, photographs of our current generation. Honestly ask yourself, will any of those photos on the cell-phone be developed?

The following comes from an online forum and provides five reasons to develop a few of the most precious ones.

1. Time capsules. Every photo is a time capsule... of that day, that time, the occasion, the moment, the outfit, the hair style, etc. It will likely be remembered a little extra just

because it was the day you got your photos taken. Maybe it was your wedding, portrait session or family shoot – all of which are wonderful and should be printed for your enjoyment for years to come.

2. Sharing (is caring!). Photo prints are such wonderful mementos that you can share with friends and family. I've been known to give photos in the form of prints, books, calendars, etc. for all occasions. So often, it's a favorite gift because there is so much meaning behind the photo and has a personal touch.

3. Home décor. You can easily personalize your space by printing an important photo and displaying it in your home or office. As a fan of gallery walls (and generally hanging prints), I suggest finding a frame or display piece that you love, and then printing images to fit. Or work the other way, and print photos and then find frames. Do what works for you, but be sure to get the images off the screen on onto paper. You won't regret it! Plus, there are so many cute ways to decorate! Frames, washi tape, letter boards, DIY – so many options!

4. Tangible memories. Having a print that you can hold in your hand makes your memories all the more meaningful. Physical prints are a profound way to remember, to look back on, and to cherish. Don't let your photos stay stuck on Instagram or your phone forever! Print them, love them, share them, adore them!

5. Reminders. The most important part of prints is the magic they carry. The way they make your memories come back and remind you of that moment. I think it'll put a smile on your face.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/TashaSkyeCreative/posts/5-reasons-to-print-your-photos-1-time-capsules-a-photo-is-a-time-capsule-of-a-day/812643180865880/>



Let me add a number 6. Your genealogy-minded descendants will celebrate with a spectacular happy dance the day they discover the photo they didn't know existed! Yes, a printed photo is your best backup of your digital treasures!

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, July 8, 2024
By President Tom LaClair

The gathering on Monday, July 8, 2024, was a social picnic event at the home of Vice President Anne Davis on the Ives Street Extension Road, Watertown Center. Fourteen members and guests attended. They were Larry Corbett, Anne Davis, Greg & Tammy Plantz, Tracy Robertson, Jerry & Marilyn Davis, Tom & Judy Wood, Stephen Solar, George & Karen Sheehan (newest members), and Tom & Janine LaClair. Secretary Kelly Brown was excused due to work. There were a few moments dedicated to society discussions before the socializing began.



Our newest member, Karen Sheehan took our picture!

Finance report: In the checking account is \$5,704.52. Since the last finance report during the May 8th meeting, \$375.00 in dues were deposited, and we paid \$715.66 to Coughlin Printing for the July 2024

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

Informer. The Certificate of Deposit balance is \$2,556.83, up a little over \$10.00 since May 2024.



Warm, **Hot!**, and muggy outside!
We decided to eat inside.

There was a discussion to give John Austin, of DeKalb in St. Lawrence County, \$50.00 for a Jefferson and Lewis County historic map book he researched, printed, and donated to JCNYS. The book of maps covers both Lewis and Jefferson Counties and the early progression of county and town lines—a helpful tool for any researcher. Tracy Robertson approved the motion and Marilyn Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There was a discussion to give the local chapter of the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, \$50.00, on behalf of Anne Davis who hosted today's picnic event. Anne personally paid the cost of meat and paper supplies, so we honored her by donating on her behalf. Anne chose the Colonial Dames as her donor organization. Larry Corbett approved the motion and Tracy Robertson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued From Page 3)

There was a discussion on fourth-quarter events. October and November programs may be filled with a visit to the Dexter Museum and with Lori Atkinson speaking on her subject "Inspiring Our Next Generation: A Legacy Project at Copenhagen School." President LaClair will reach out to both and invite their acceptance. The December program will be a Christmas party on Sunday, December 8th, at noon, at Greg and Tammy Plantz's home. More information will be shared closer to the fourth-quarter events.

A potential new member joined us for the picnic. Stephen Solar, 619 Academy Street, Watertown, has been active in the Find-A-Grave project and is looking to join JCNYSGS.



Treasurer Greg Plantz deciding if he should reAllyson take a 3rd helping of that "Yummy Yogurt Salad."

The picnic started at 3:00 PM. There was food galore, hamburgers, hotdogs, salads, devil eggs, drinks, chips, and all your normal picnic-related foods. The casual conversation was contagious and exciting. Tammy Plantz brought along a book of headstones carved by one of her early Connecticut ancestors. His style of carvings was notable on many early headstones.

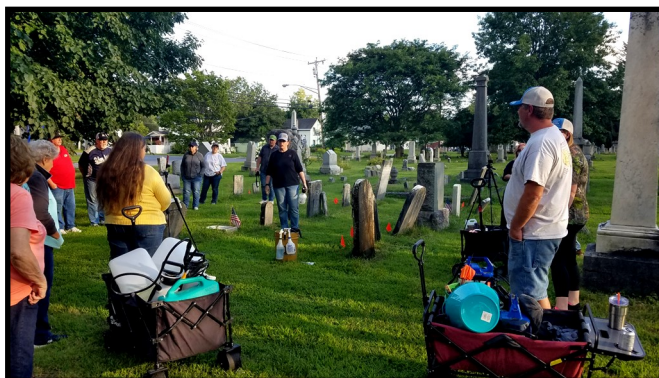
Most stayed well past 6:00 PM.

A great summertime event!

**Picnic is pretty much my favorite word, after hamburger and fudge.
- Unknown**

Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes, August 12, 2024
By Recording Secretary Kelly A. Brown



A presentation was held on August 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the North Watertown Cemetery on Bradley Street Road. Allyson Stephenson, JCNYSGS member, headstone cleaner, genealogist, and local celebrity gave a headstone cleaning demonstration to members and the public. Allyson was joined by several members of the "Tug Hill Cemetery Hunters"—a group specializing in headstone cleanings.

We had a great turnout of roughly thirty people. Allyson discussed her recommended products and procedures to use. Attendees asked Allyson many questions and she was happy to answer each one. We then migrated towards some headstones for a hands-on demonstration. Anyone who wanted to clean a headstone was given supplies and guidance to tackle one on their own. It was an excellent presentation and learning experience! JCNYSGS leadership provided \$150.00 toward headstone cleaning products.

Be sure to check out Allyson's headstone cleaning videos. She honors each person by allowing us to peek into their past and recognize them as more than just a name on a stone. Allyson can be found under the name @crazycemeterylady on TikTok (over 72K followers!), YouTube, Instagram, and under Crazy Cemetery Lady on Facebook.

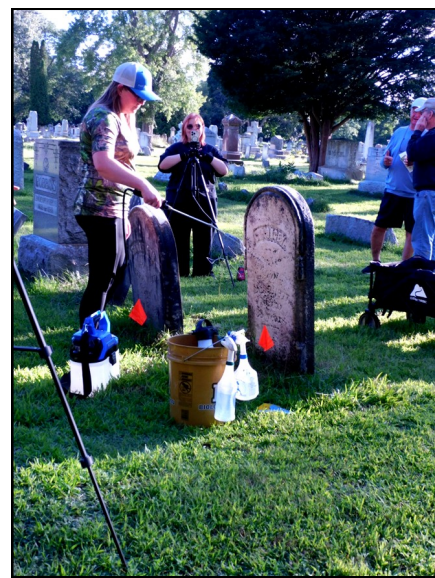
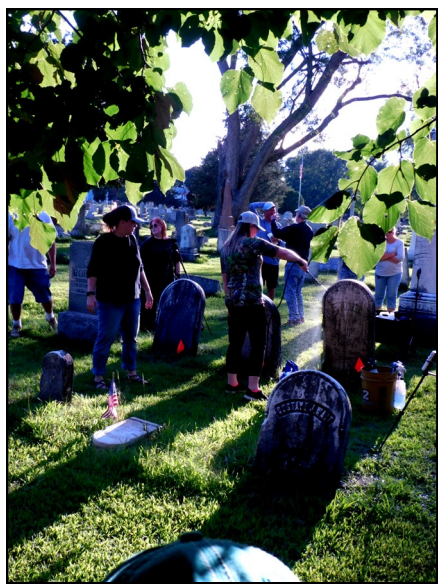
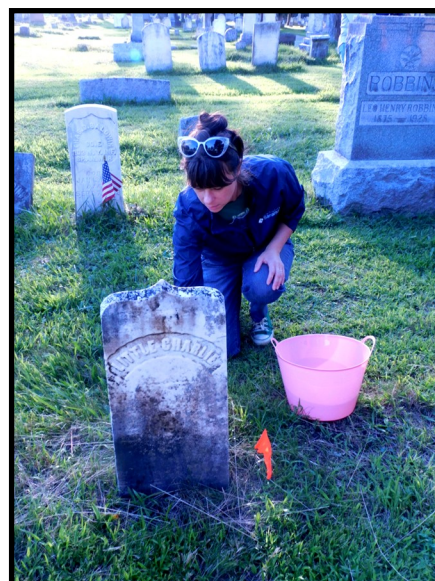


Material on how to properly clean a gravestone.

PICTURES FROM AUGUST 12th CEMETERY MEETING



Allyson with the Tug Hill Cemetery Hunters



NEVER USE BLEACH OR ANY HOME CHEMICAL CLEANER.

NEVER USE A SEALANT.

NEVER USE A POWER OR PRESSURE WASHER.

NEVER USE ANYTHING MADE OF METAL ON THE STONE, e.g., scrapers or brushes

For video demonstrations, visit Allyson's site at: <https://www.facebook.com/>

Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society

September 28 Meeting, 2024

In place of a regular Monday night meeting, we are encouraging all to attend the History and Genealogy Fair at the Jefferson County Historical Society.

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 our cover page.

AN ERROR IN THE "INFORMER"? NO WAY!!

By JCNYS Member Warren L. Allen
April 2021 *Informer* "Farming in the City"

Sorry, yes-way! Others and I had thought that the paved walk from Academy Circle, then going up a steep slope towards the Pinnacle, was officially named the "Steep Walk" because its slope is steep and the metal sign at its bottom gives that name while being parallel with that walk, just as are other metal signs on other Park walks, drives, and roads. But NO; the "Steep Walk" it seems is the official name for that other walk having many steps, going towards Kite Hill. Our paved walk up the steep hill towards the Pinnacle seems to have no official name. Let's fix this!

Let us name this the Farm Access Walk, since the upper portion of it seems to be the old farm access route for the Moore and perhaps also Graves Farm, so that the farmers could get up the hill to the majority of their farmland before 1900.

Here's something interesting: if we walk up this Farm Access Walk just after a heavy rainstorm, we might see water gushing out of drains, especially the upslope drains installed over 100 years ago under where are now leaves, to the right (south edge) of this walk. Apparently, the Olmsteds installed a storm drain

that passed under this remainder of the farm's access route. The upper end of this drain pipe seems to be the pair of drains, within Pinnacle Wood Drive, which are just west of the Pinnacle. In past decades, likely those old leaves weren't cleaned from that drain, so around 2020 the City installed another and short drain pipe only under that roadway and the stone wall nearby.

An interesting public work built in this Park, after many farming evidences were gone, was the 1930's WPA retaining wall on North Entrance Drive. Alex Duffy told a friend of mine that he had been one of the unemployed workers who gained income and pride by improving the earlier Olmsted wall. The WPA made this wall cantilevered, so it shouldn't tip over ever.

In 2023 a City effort installed concrete curbstones along most of this North Entrance Drive, except no curb was built next to or just downslope from this WPA wall. The uncovering of the base of this wall showed a surprise. Briefly uncovered along the width, between roadway and base of the wall, is an expanse of well-dressed stones. These stones do not wear tuxedos, but rather their usual round curves have been removed, leaving six-sided cobblestones which fit snugly together. These cobblestones look to me identical with those cut in Italy, during the early 1900's, and piled as ballast into ships' holds while the decks of those ships filled with families of Italians, hungry for work, who came to these shores. These lovely cobblestones were probably installed by the WPA alongside most of their new wall, but at the lower or western end the shoulder of this Drive is marked only by rough irregular stones, downslope until where concrete curb resumes. Once uncovered, these stones on this shoulder soon in 2023 had a flexible drain tile laid on top, and about five inches of crushed stone which now cover the cobblestones and rough local stones.

The original *Informer* article was printed in April of 2021. It refers to the western boundary of the Moore farm as going past a rabbit hutch next to Thompson Boulevard (and just south of Monroe Ave). The rabbit has apparently retired and moved its hutch to a farm. That location in 2024 has a kid's jungle-gym.

**"Success does not
consist in never making
mistakes but in never
making the same one a
second time."
- George Bernard Shaw**

The Jefferson County Historical Society Celebrates 100 Years

By Chris Brock, *Watertown Daily Times*, June 15, 2024

The Jefferson County Historical Society, established in 1886, faced a dilemma in the 1920s. It had lots of historical relics, but the items were busting the seams of its small room on the second floor at Flower Memorial Library, where it moved following the library’s opening in 1905. “Right around the time of the early 1920s, the historical society kind of started fizzling out,” said Toni Engleman, executive director of the society. “People just weren’t interested in it anymore.”

Down the street at her mansion, Olive A. Wheeler Paddock, known in the community as a gracious hostess and a teacher of the social graces, likely noticed the situation. She lived at the brick building with her husband — financier and banker Edwin L. Paddock. Outside, peacocks wandered the well-kept grounds like watchdogs — with the alarming, wailing calls of the birds traveling for blocks around the mansion.

In her spare time, Olive enjoyed gardening, a tradition now kept alive on the smartly kept grounds by volunteers headed by Thomas Catalano. The Paddocks wanted a home that was reflective of their world travels and slight disagreements arose about its design. As a compromise, architect John Hose, who also designed the Jefferson County Courthouse, combined Tuscan villa elements “for him” and a Swiss chalet theme “for her.”

The red brick mansion, finished internally with black walnut and ash, was built by John Griffin between 1876 and 1878. Edwin died in 1909. On May 16, 1922, Olive died at the age of 87 at the 228 Washington St. mansion following a long illness.

The couple had no children. In her will, Olive bequeathed the mansion to the Jefferson County Historical Society. The terms of the will stated a decision had to be made within six months. If the society wasn’t able or willing to take it, there was a possibility that the city would take over the property.

Among those lobbying for the Historical Society to accept the building was New York State Historian James Sullivan, who wrote a letter to the *Watertown Daily Times* congratulating the community on the gift: *“It is through the medium of such local historical societies and the rooms and the museums in which they have their exhibits, that we can best encourage that spirit of local patriotism and kind of citizenship. It is a remarkable coincidence that in communities where local historical societies are the civic spirit, the community is at its best.”* It’s been 100 years since the Jefferson County Historical Society accepted Olive’s

gift and moved into the Paddock Mansion in 1924. “When Olive left the mansion to the historical society, it started a new fire within the society,” Engleman said. “It reinvigorated it.”



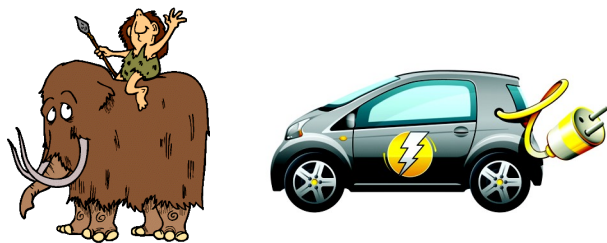
**The Paddock Mansion
The Jefferson County Historical Society**

JCNYGS note: The Jefferson County Historical Society celebrated its 100 anniversary on June 29, 2024, with an Anniversary Gala paying tribute to Olive Paddock and the Paddock family. Only a portion of the June 15, 2024, article is shared here. For a copy of the full article, please contact the *Watertown Daily Times* in Watertown.



A View Inside The Paddock Mansion





FROM PAST to PRESENT

From Vol. 2, #2, Mar. 1995, Page 1

Smithville As It Was 1915 To 1933 by Harold C. Weldon

From The Jefferson County Journal, August 1992

Having lived happily in Smithville as a boy and young man during the years from 1915 to 1933, it is my pleasure to reminisce over the various activities and some of the people who were active during those years. I hope that there may be people who will remember those long-ago years. For others I hope "Smithville As It Was 1915 to 1933" will be interesting.

In early 1915 I moved to Smithville with my Father and Mother. Father (Bill Weldon) was to operate the general store in the middle of the village which he and his partner, Mr. Munford C. Lee of Ellisburg, had purchased from Mrs. Cora LaFountain. The general store was operated as Weldon & Lee. Groceries, shoes, dry goods, meat, patent medicines, gas and oil and many other items were sold there. Store hours were from early morning until 9 p.m. or later. Credit was granted and many miscellaneous services rendered.

Across the street from Weldon & Lee was the hardware store operated by Mr. A. A. ("Ab") Robbins and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Robbins. They carried a full line of hardware including glass and metals, and sold gas and oil. The local hardware was the store you went to when you needed any kind of glass, metal or other farm or household item. At election time the polls were upstairs over the hardware store.

Across the street in the other direction was the Cheraw Hotel where meals were served, rooms were rented and there was a pool table. On many Saturday nights public dances were held in the upstairs ballroom. In the early days there were different operators, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Bullis and Miss Leath Bullis. In later years the wooden portion was removed and the brick building was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Higgs as a residence, with the Post Office in the rear of the building.

Bringing much business to the village - were the two milk plants, the Rosemary Creamery and the cheese factory. The Rosemary Creamery was located on the north side of the creek and was operated for years by Mr. Roy Gibbs. The cheese factory was located on a street back of the hotel and

was operated at one time by Mr. Cleon Thornton. In the morning it was a common sight to see horse drawn, milk laden wagons lined up as far as the hotel, waiting their turn to deliver their milk either to the Rosemary Creamery or the cheese factory.

The U. S. Post Office was an important facility in the village, efficiently and pleasantly operated by Mrs. Frank Higgs, postmistress and a lovely lady. It was located in the beautiful stone house (one of the original houses of Smithville) in which Mr. and Mrs. Higgs lived in the center of town. At intervals an inspector riding a horse would come to inspect the Post Office.

The two-room school was an important place to the families of Smithville and the surrounding area. Teaching the first four grades were several teachers in my remembrance, but the one teaching the longest was Mrs. Berenice Tousley, an excellent teacher and a kindly, motherly person. The upper four grades were upstairs, taught by Mr. Elon Pope. "Mister Pope" was a scholarly, clean cut Christian gentleman who commanded everyone's respect. Both classrooms were heated by large stoves. At intervals the superintendent, Mr. Linell, visited the school. We were also served by the state with library books which came from time to time in a wooden box.

Across from the school was (and is) the Baptist Church, a beautiful stone building. This was served by the Baptist minister in Adams Center and was used at times for special school performances and community functions. The church had a pump organ on a raised section for the choir and pulpit. There was a long shed in back of the church where horses and carriages were kept during services.

Back of the Weldon & Lee store on the street going to Sackets Harbor was the Grange Hall, a two-story frame building, the scene of many pleasant community functions. In addition to Grange Meetings the Hall was used for various community dinners, for card parties and many other happy gatherings. Meals were served in the spacious downstairs dining room and community functions were held in the upstairs hall.

Toward the creek from the Grange Hall was the machine shop operated by Mr. "Bill" Allen. Here were many interesting and powerful pieces of machinery. These were operated by Mr. Allen to make various items and to repair farm machinery used in the area. Mr. and Mrs. Allen lived in a large house across the street from the shop, in one room of which Mrs. Allen sold Watkins Products.

Behind Mr. Allen's machine shop, located on the mill pond near the dam, was the grist mill and saw mill owned and operated by Mr. Frank Higgs. The grist mill was supplied feed for surrounding farms, as a cider mill in fall to make cider by grinding apples, and as a saw mill. During certain seasons of the year the yard around the mill was full of logs waiting to be sawed. The mill was operated completely by water power from the beautiful Smithville Pond. In winter time, when the pond was frozen, ice would be cut, hauled away on sleighs and stored in ice houses in town and on farms for use in summer.

Across the creek on the left was the farm of Mr. "Len" Hill. He and his family lived in a beautiful large stone house (one of the original houses of the village) until it burned in later

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years. Mr. Hill's farm was very productive. In addition to being a dairy farm, it furnished milk (picked up at the barn in a tin pail) and "pick yourself" strawberries to the village residents. I remember beautiful old-fashioned roses growing by the old house.

In later years (perhaps after 1933) Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Robbins operated a commercial flower garden and nursery. They grew and sold a line of beautiful annuals and perennials and were patronized by customers from a wide area. Living in the house formerly occupied by Mrs. Alice Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Robbins' home was surrounded by beautiful flowering plants. During the summer they supplied resorts in the Henderson Harbor area with cut flowers to grace their tables.

Mr. "El" Elmer owned and operated a blacksmith shop on the north side of town near the pond. With his home nearby, he operated his blacksmith shop for years. Mrs. "Lil" Mullen operated a small grocery store in her home opposite the Post Office.

There were several self-employed individuals who lived in Smithville and served the community well in one way or another. Mr. "Art" Richmond was an excellent carpenter who worked in the community and at times in other towns. He was very ingenious working in various remodeling jobs.

Mrs. Alice ("Trot") Hill was an accomplished seamstress working in her home, and a lovely lady. She was a tremendous help to Smithville ladies, making new clothes and altering old ones. On each side of the walk leading to her front door was a row of peonies which presented a beautiful showing of pink, red and white flowers in summer.

Mr. Norva Collins was a talented mechanic and a good salesman. He sold cars, repaired cars and was a mechanic of much talent. He repaired anything and everything.

Remembering those long-ago days it is hard to realize that, until about 1927, we did not have electricity, that in the early days there were few telephones in the village and not many automobiles. In winter, roads were not plowed so that in stormy weather we were actually "snowed in" except for travel by horses. There was no TV and, in the early days until 1924 or so, no radios. There were, however, places which served the public with materials and services and a happy community spirit.

**"At the end of the day,
memories are all that
matters. Money fades,
people change, but
memories live on forever."**

— Unknown

OLD FOLKS IN RODMAN

Where People Live To A Good Old Age – Has Many
Octogenarians

Watertown Daily Times, June 7th, 1907

Transcribed by JCNYS Member Larry Corbett

A partial list of those of the town who have passed the Biblical allotment of man's time on earth and are still happy.

Rodman is one of the most healthful towns in the county of Jefferson. Its high elevation, hilly surface and pure water everywhere is conducive to the health and longevity of the inhabitants. There are a good many people between the ages of 65 and 80 years who are still doing business and are fairly well and active. There are others over 80 who are still young at heart, if not in years, and are growing older happily, comfortably and gracefully. Following is a brief record of a few who are from 10 to nearly 16 years past the Biblical age of "three score and ten."

Miss Harriet R. Merwin is the only surviving member of the family of the late Jesse and Rebecca Merwin and was born in the town of Pinckney, April 14, 1827. Most of her life has been spent in the town and village of Rodman. Though in feeble health, she is young at 80, having the happy disposition possessed by some of always looking on the sunny side of life with abiding hope and faith for the future. She has been a most worthy lifelong member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Rodman.

Miss Cordelia Merwin was a daughter of the late Noah and Mary Carpenter Merwin and was born in the town of Pinckney, Lewis County, April 15th, 1828. Twelve years later, Mr. Merwin purchased the "Moody farm" in Rodman, to which the family moved, and Miss Merwin has been a resident of the town and village since then. She enjoys fairly good health and takes great pleasure in social calls and church attendance and keeps well informed of the general news of the day. She has been a faithful member of the Methodist Church for 67 years.

John Mack is the only surviving member of the large family of the late Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Mack of Antwerp. He was born there, July 15, 1826 and lived in Antwerp until 1849, when he moved to Watertown and learned the shoemakers trade of Jason Fairbanks. He married Miss Mary Eva Sourwine on September 20th, 1849. Four years later, they moved to Rodman village where they have since resided. Mr. Mack was a member of Company B., New York Heavy Artillery and has an honorable discharge. His health has been poor for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Mack have four children: Mrs. Mary J. Chafin, Mrs. Estella L. Camfield, John of Chicago and Clarence A. of Watertown.

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued From Page 9)

Philip R. Wright was born in the Town of Rodman, April 16th, 1826 and has always been engaged in farming, a part of the time in the Town of Lorraine. He enjoys good health and is quite active. Mr. Wright has been married twice and with his surviving wife now lives with his son Charles about two miles from Rodman village.

Moses Clinton Washburn still lives on the farm in Rodman where he was born over 85 years ago on September 2nd, 1821. He was married to Miss Caroline Burton, December 24th, 1846. His wife died several years ago. To them were born two children: Mrs. Adelaide Fralick of Watertown and Delbert J. Washburn of Rodman. Mr. Washburn partially retired from business about eight years ago and sold his farm to his son Delbert with whom he lives. He is the only survivor of a family of ten children. His present state of health is of the best and he possesses a clear memory unimpaired by age.

Cyrus Flynt was born in the Town of Rodman in 1821 on the farm where he has lived nearly all his life. He is in fairly good health, active and industrious. His late wife, Mary L., his faithful companion of more than 50 years, died a few months ago, aged 86 years. Since her demise Mr. Flynt has resided with one of his daughters at Adams and is at present with Mr. and Mrs. Washington Cornell.

David M. Todd was born at East Rodman, December 18th, 1820 and has always resided there on his farm. In early life he was married to Miss Phoebe Babbitt, who died about six years ago. Four children were born to them. Edward, Arthur, Herman and Mrs. Eunice Clemens, all residing at or near the old homestead. Mr. Todd is remarkably well preserved for a man of his age.

Nathan G. Whitford was born in Allegheny County, N.Y., November 24th, 1819 and soon after becoming of age came to Rodman where he has since pursued the avocation of farming. He married Charlotte Heath January 5, 1844, and to them were born three children Jesse, Aldro and Albert. Mrs. Whitford died about two years ago. Mr. Whitford served in the Union Army from 1862 until honorably discharged. He has been a highly esteemed member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church for many years.

Daniel Todd was born at East Rodman, December 20th, 1818, and has always lived there. He was engaged in farming until the infirmities of age compelled his retirement. He married Miss Elizabeth Jane Sizemore, January 30, 1845, and they lived together over 62 years until her death April 11th, 1907, at the age of 82. Mr. Todd is in poor health with physical and mental faculties much impaired. He has one adopted daughter, Mrs. Harriet Hibbard. He has been a lifelong member of the Methodist Episcopal

Church.

Albert Rathburn Heath was the fifth son of the 10 children of the late Jacob R. and Dorina Heath and was born on the farm where he now lives on August 9th, 1818. This place has been his home since then. He married Miss Lora A. Hosmer, December 31st, 1840. Her death occurred on September 25th, 1904. To them were born seven children, of which five are now living. Marietta, Alice, Ella, Newell and Homer. Mr. Heath and one sister, Mrs. Mary Ann Glazier are the only survivors of their large family. He was a member of the militia company that did service at French Creek during the trouble of 1839 and has been a worthy member of the first Adams Baptist Church since 1836.

Hiram Priest was born in Claremont, Vermont, June 25, 1811 and when 18 years of age came with his parents to Rodman where he has lived ever since. He married Miss Lydia Whaley, November 16th, 1837 and their happy married life extended over a period of 59 years, her death occurring January 2nd, 1897 at the age of 81 years. To them were born eight children, these three surviving: Mrs. Saretta Simmons and Mrs. Ermina Lawton of Watertown and Miss Hester Vandevort of Rodman. Mr. Priest was engaged in farming nearly all his life and by industry and strict integrity won a competence. About 40 years ago he moved to Rodman village and has led an active, industrious life. Of late, he has been secluded in his home by the infirmities of age and his declining years are made as comfortable and happy as possible by his daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vandervort and his granddaughter Lena. As far as ascertained, Mr. Priest is the oldest inhabitant of the town.

— Forwarded Message —

From: "Larry Corbett" <lrcorbet@gisco.net>
To: "Thomas LaClair" <tomlaclair624@yahoo.com>
Sent: Mon, Aug 26, 2024 at 9:04 PM
Subject: How to complete your genealogy

From the Watertown Daily Times, 27 Aug 1874

If you have any doubt as to your genealogy, go to the first party to which you are invited, eat plenty of black cake, scalloped oysters and salad; then go home and put a bouquet of tube roses close by the bed; go to sleep, and by the time you wake you will be able to write your family history entire, provided one of your great, great grandmothers hasn't thrown pepper in your eyes.

**Nial Manning Headstone Dedication Ceremony
 Jeffrey French, Past Department Commander
 Camp Secretary/Treasurer
 Walter H French Camp #17, SUVCW
 Department of NY**

It all started with a posting on Facebook Civil War Veterans of the Civil War about Othoniel N. Manning. Joyce Manning responded to Ethel French that this was her husband's Great Grandfather and would like to have a headstone for his grave. The Walter H. French Camp #17 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) sprung into action to procure a headstone.



Ethel and Jeff French worked with the Town of Antwerp to receive the headstone and the exact location of the grave. Lucas Whitmore marked the grave site making it easier for us to find the correct location. The Town of Antwerp loaded the headstone in the vehicle for Joyce and brought it to Vrooman Hill Cemetery. Jeff French, his Cousin Albert French, and Paul Kellogg (friend of Joyce) set the headstone in place with Joyce and her daughter Pat Hunneyman present. After the work was completed, we conversed on the ceremony to take place at 11 AM on 13 July.

The wheels were in motion. The French Camp contacted Dave Garrish to request the Antwerp American Legion Post 916 to help support the ceremony. The Post Commander Brian Cull eagerly agreed to the support and asked the Philadelphia American Legion Post 798 to assist with the ceremony. Now everything was set for the ceremony.

13 July arrived; all three organizations got together to finalized positions before starting the ceremony. At least 14 descendants of Nial Manning were present for the event. What an awesome turnout. It was then we learned that Joyce husband wanted to get a headstone for his great grandfather before he passed away. As we did the ceremony, everyone could feel his presence as the headstone was dedicated and blessed. It was a great day to pay honor to this veteran who was missing a headstone. The Antwerp



Jessie Scheer post 798 Sgt at Arms, David Goodnough post 798 Flag Barrier, James Goloski French Camp #17, Alex Rodriguez French Camp #17, Charlie Miller post 916, Sally Goloski, Lynn May Post 798, Rita Gerrish post 916 Chaplin, Blake Moore French Camp #17, Robert Roshia III French Camp #17 (young boy), Robert Roshia II French Camp #17 (behind Robert III), Jeffrey French French Camp #17, Brian Cull post 916 Rifle (Post Commander), Francis Thornton 798 rifle, Craig Howard 798 rifle, James Saffin 798 rifle (Post Commander), Sam Lundy French Camp #17

and Philadelphia American Legion Posts formed the Color Guards and the Fire Team with two members of the French Camp, James Goloski and Alex Rodriguez, 3 of the French Camp members formed a detail with the two youngest members Blake Moore and Robert Roshia III to lay the wreath on the grave and Sally Goloski in Civil War period dress laying the roses on the grave. After the firing of volleys and TAPS being played by James Goloski, everyone visited and got to know each other. Friendship was formed as we all appreciated each other for recognizing and honoring this Civil War Veteran for his service to our country.



1st row: Debra Cole. 2nd row: George Ledger (friend of family), Bill Manning, Pat Hunneyman, Joyce Manning, Kaelin Watson, Sue Boyer, Aiden Castle, Ron Cole, 3rd row: Sherri Manning, Corey Watson, Jamie Watson, Terry Boyer, Kris Haskins

ASK AUNTY JEFF



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

Question – Thank you for the basic information on the AI system and some of the ways it can be helpful for genealogists and family history research. Now, can you share some of the potential problems we might encounter when using the Artificial Intelligence tool?

Answer, Part 3 – As I did in our last examination, I need, again, to enter a disclaimer. I have been continuing my exploration into the positive and negative uses or results of the use of AI and realize that whatever I write here will be outdated by the time it comes out in print and, if you are anything like I seem to be, by the time you have a moment to read all of the material. While some of my comments may be dinosaur-ish when that happens, some (hopefully most) will be applicable on some level.

I remember my mother's adage: "If you can't say something nice about someone [something?], then don't say anything at all." I thought of using that as a way to side-step this question, but that is a cop-out. And that same mother was also an editor and could be very blunt in her corrections, so perhaps I can still follow in her footsteps and consider how she would handle this (after retiring to her bed with headache powders).

Last time I used the example of asking questions on ChatGPT about the location of "Depotville" (the misspelling of and my first introduction to "Depauville") and how, with that erroneous spelling, I failed to get the correct response. So, I tried again (after a couple of months, I thought the tool might have gotten smarter). Entering both "Depotville" and "Depauville," this time the responses were very close, though the former puts it in Henderson and the latter in Clayton. The basic information is identical: "hamlet" and "agricultural land" and "small communities" or "residential." Well, I guess it is learning!

So, what's the harm, or is there any, in using one of the AI generators (which I am still not listing here because of the possibility, and even the likelihood, that any or all may be out of vogue by the time this goes to press)? My first thought is a frustration with my family tree on FamilySearch (which, as a wiki, is open to editing by anyone) and my irritation with having to remove a number of extra grandparents, great-grands, etc. (Thank you, AI, for proving that one's genealogy is never actually "done.")

There are many types of AI discussion groups online (and probably as Special Interest Groups in genealogy societies) where your specific questions about its use are examined or explained. I went to one on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogyandai>) where I've seen some unusual (to me) applications for the tool (and, as mentioned before, different tools yield

different results, some more accurate than others, depending on a number of factors – see previous two issues of *The Informer*). One Facebook group member pointed out that asking an AI generator to draw a map of a particular area gave her a very elaborate, and not particularly accurate, image. Since it was created with an illustration tool, "literary license" was acceptable to the user, but it did suggest to me that such a tool could provide period graphics to illustrate regions for ancestors (making certain to include caveats: "AI generated" and/or "not to scale," etc.). But using such a method could very easily be misconstrued so those caveats should not be hidden within the image. That said, any material that is a creation of an Artificial Intelligence tool would be best if accompanied by a similar clarification.

I think that the main watchword here is not "Beware" but, rather, "Be Aware." Whatever the researcher includes, whether a genealogy product is for private or public consumption, it should be clearly noted that/how/where AI has been involved. No matter how private our genealogical product is, it can always find its way into hands currently unknown to the producer of the "publication," remembering here that I am in possession of the private collection of a second cousin's maiden grandaunt (not my line). I am fairly certain that the creator could not have imagined how or why I ended up with the materials, whether accurate or not.

Consider, also, that the different generators will yield different results, so to be as accurate as possible, the query should be entered into more than one generator and, if need be, even a third and fourth. The AI tools do not do "cross training": While inputting information into your preferred generator will add something to the device's database, that will not put it into the databases of other generators (consider the need to use a number of sources, whenever possible, to reach conclusions regarding ancestral details – birth record, baptism record, baby announcement, census schedules, etc. to qualify a forebear's birth date and place).

Are you considering using AI to help translate ancestral documents? That's probably the first place I figured I could use it. In our last issue, I provided an example of the wording and possible results when entering a sentence into ChatGPT; the inaccuracies were not dynamic, but there was a change in the "emotion" of the statement. In such a situation, I would take the results and have the tool translate it back into the original language. Then I would compare that result to the original (which I don't read or speak) to see if there is a difference. From there, proceed as appropriate. Sounds rather time-consuming? Not when you figure in the actual time spent to get the results (just typing a quote to be translated will likely take more time than the machine literacy translation program takes to translate out of and into the desired language).

So how do you know if the result you get from the "search" is accurate? This is not only a good question, but not an easy one to answer. One way to make a determination is to consider whether or not your finding is a hallucination. I know, the first thing that pops into my mind about that term is when I'm driving on a hot day and the road ahead looks like a pool of water. An AI hallucination is not much different: "AI hallucinations are

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incorrect or misleading results that AI models generate. These errors can be caused by a variety of factors, including insufficient training data, incorrect assumptions made by the model, or biases in the data used to train the model. AI hallucinations can be a problem for AI systems that are used to make important decisions, such as medical diagnoses or financial trading.” (<https://cloud.google.com/discover/what-are-ai-hallucinations>)

Most of the AI “experts” (term used loosely; I consider an expert on AI use to be anyone who knows more about this than I do . . . that’s almost everyone) caution folks *not* to use a public (online) AI generator for confidential or sensitive information. This is just as private as any online family tree (yes, even private ones, though they are less likely to be hacked than, say, one’s financial statements – both bearing the closed lock icon, meaning “secure”). And, in certain cases, can be altered as well. Not likely, dear readers, that you will be in such a circumstance, but, as Grandma said, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” (not to mention the time involved to undo the “damage”).

In a recent correspondence with professional genealogist Bryna O’Sullivan, I was enlightened about the hallucination phenomenon. One of my most thoughtful take-aways was that, while translation via AI (a form of machine translation) can be quick and definitely cheap, the “accuracy” factor is most important and often overlooked. We can say that about a lot of things that suggest a need to get a second opinion, such as what we would do when faced with a medical condition requiring surgery. It is a good idea to ask if there are other options which is best (accurate)? Can we live with the results (even those that are not promised 100%)?

So, as I mentioned last time, here are some suggestions: Check online blogs, seminars, videos, courses, workshops, etc. on the specific topic you are considering (e.g., “using AI to write family stories,” “YouTube videos on what to avoid with AI,” “best AI generators for compiling a bibliography,” “translation accuracy with AI,” etc. . . . yup, all those are searchable). Specifically for family history use, check the webinars from RootsTech, at Legacy FamilyTree Webinars, and wherever fine webinars are created. Caution: avoid using resources that are outdated (that can mean older than yesterday, it depends on the specific topic); regulations and laws are constantly being updated and changed. I checked on FamilySearch for information on AI and found articles over 2 years old and a few just 2 months old (probably there are more recent postings on the topic by the time you are reading this).

For a bit more on the use of AI in translating documents, check out Bryna O’Sullivan, “Machine Translation: Considerations for Genealogists,” *NGS Magazine*, Vol. 50, No. 3, July-September 2024, pp 36-39. Even if translating is not your intended use of the tool, the bibliography of state-of-the-art resources is fabulous.

Now, is AI your virtual fairy godmother? It could be. (Fictitious creatures probably should be avoided.)

Forgotten Post Offices

Chauffys Corners Post Office

By Ernest G. Cook in 1934

One of the earlier post routes established in Jefferson County was from Champion village to the St. Lawrence River at Alexandria Bay. This route followed a rather unusual course, judged by present day populations, but over a century ago it connected some of the important communities in a line of postal service. From Champion the route passed through Felts Mills, LeRaysville, Evans Mills, Theresa, Plessis and into Alexandria Bay. This route was established May 8, 1822 and made use of the newly constructed Military Road part way.

When this route was established, the first post office in Theresa was opened with Ebenezer Lull as postmaster. At that time, and directly following, taverns began to open along the line of the Military Road, it being a main line of travel going north and in 1828 John L. Farrar built a tavern near the town line of LeRay-Alexandria (now Theresa) on the Military highway. Mr. Farrar was more than a tavern keeper, he was a manufacturer of pumps. The section around this tavern was then quite thickly populated and the post office department decided that the settlement was worthy of a post office and established one there under the name of Military Road. The tavern built by Mr. Farrar passed into other hands. Austin Bates operated the place for a time and later came Marcius B. Ashley. But the village of Theresa, some miles to the north, offered a better stand and Mr. Ashley went to that community. It was at this time that P. Shuffy came to operate the tavern. The place now is known as Chauffys Corners. The Chauffys came from Alsace and located on the Military Road about 1830. A daughter, Julia, worked for the Fayel family. Another family came into the Chaufy neighborhood about this time. It was the Stratton family from Vermont which arrived in 1832. The family of eight came from Bennington and cleared for themselves a farm on the nearly level acres there and built a fine home. It was known as the Jonathan Stratton place. The house still stands near the present state highway. Jonathan became interested in the first cheese factory of the community. His father, Jefferson, later moved to Michigan. M. L. Stotier, Theresa, is now the owner of the farm. Near Chauffys Corners is the Red School House and here religious services have been held down through the years until a recent date. The Methodist Protestant Church had a parsonage built near the school house for their minister. It was lately town down.

Chauffys Corners, like many another rural neighborhood, suffered from a decline in population and the post office was discontinued many years ago and newer ways of transportation caused the old post route to be abandoned. The Hoover family came into the neighborhood and at one time Elbie Hoover had a store of much patronage. Before leaving Chauffys Corners the Hoovers built a fine modern house, which is now owned by Earl Young. Today, no one can remember ever seeing a post office at Chauffys Corners.

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 Clayton – Henderson. The July 2024 Informer shared the towns Hounsfield – Lyme. This is a continuation of the towns in alphabetical sequence, transcribed as originally published.

TOWN OF ORLEANS

ORLEANS was formed from Brownville, April 3, 1821. A portion was annexed to Pamela, April 1, 1829. Clayton was taken off in 1833. The boundary between it and Alexandria has twice been changed. It lies on the north border of the County, and embraces the west part of Wells and several smaller islands in the St. Lawrence. The surface is level or gently rolling. The principal streams are Perch River, Catfish and Mullet Creeks. Perch Lake lies upon the south boundary. The soil is clay and loam. **La Fargeville**, named from John La Farge, the proprietor, formerly known as "log Mills," situated on the Chaumont River, is the seat of Orleans Academy. It has two hotels, several stores, shops &c. **Omar** on Mullet Creek, in the north, and **Stone Mills** in the south part of the town, are small villages. **Orleans Four Corners** (P. O.), near the east boundary, **Port Orleans** and **Collins Landing** on the St. Lawrence, are hamlets. Penet's Square, which embraced most of this town, was settled by squatters. The first settlements commenced about 1806. Among them were Roderick Frazier, Peter Pratt, Dr. Reuben Andrus, Samuel and Daniel Ellis, and others. Alvah Goodman kept the first inn; Lemuel George, the first store; Collins & Platt erected the first grist mill; and Dr. Andrus the first saw mill in 1819. In 1824, John La Farge, a large owner in these lands, came into town to assert his claim. After a great deal of difficulty and some resistance, he succeeded in establishing his title. In 1838 the

mansion and farm of La Farge, one mile south of the village, was purchased by Bishop Dubois, as the site for a Catholic Seminary. This institution, named "**St. Vincent de Paul**," combining a theological seminary and classical boarding school, was soon after opened; but in two or three years it was removed to Fordham, Westchester Co, and was afterward incorporated as St. John's College. Rock Island Lighthouse was built in 1853. The British steamer "Sir Robert Peel" was plundered and burned on the night of May 29, 1838, while taking wood at Wells Island, in this town, by a party of twenty-two self-styled patriots, led by Bill Johnston. In 1853 Johnston was appointed keeper of the Rock Island Light, which shines on the spot where the "Peel" was burned. The town has an area of 28,922 and 1/2 acres.

TOWN OF PAMELA

PAMELIA, named from the wife of Gen. Jacob Brown, whose maiden name was Pamela Williams, was formed from Brownville, April 12th, 1819. In 1824 its name was changed to "**Leander**," but soon after the former name was restored. A portion of Orleans was annexed April 1st, 1829. It is the central town of the County. The surface is level or gently undulating, and the soil is clay and sand. Near the cascade, opposite Watertown, are several caves in the limestone rock. These caverns have been traced nearly 500 feet. Just below and partly under the village of Juhelville, the open mouths of several caves appear on the river bank, opening at both ends of the cliff. The passages are lined with calcareous deposits, in the form of agaric mineral, stalactites and tufa. These caves are evidently all formed by currants of water flowing through the natural seams in the rock and gradually wearing away the soluble and yielding limestone. In the rear of the principal cavern, a large area of land has sunk to a considerable depth, as though a portion has fallen in. In the vicinity of Perch Lake have been found several barrows, or sepulchral mounds. **North Watertown** and **Juhelville**, the former opposite the lower part, and the later the upper part of Watertown Village, are places of considerable manufacturers, some account of which will be given under the head of Watertown. **Pamelia Four Corners**, is a small village near the east border and about three miles from Perch Lake. The town has an area of 23,646 acres.

TOWN OF PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, named from Philadelphia, Pa., was formed from Le Ray, April 3d, 1821. It is an interior town, east of the center of the County. Its surface is level in the east, but rocky and broken in the west. The soil is generally a clayey loam. Indian River and Black Creek are the principal streams. Iron ore is found in considerable quantities. The principal bed that has been worked is known as the Shurtleff Mine, in the north corner of the town. A large portion of the

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ore used at the Sterlingville, Carthage and Redwood Furnaces, is taken from this mine. Chalybeate springs are numerous in this town; at Sterlingville is quite a large one. **Philadelphia**, often called "**Quaker Settlement**" by the old inhabitants, situated upon Indian River near the center of town, has four churches, three hotels, several stores, saw mills, a grist mill, shops, &c. It is a station on the R. W. & O. R. R. **Sterlingville**, named from James Sterling, the founder of the iron works is situated on Black Creek, four miles from Philadelphia, and is the seat of a large blast furnace and a forge, the former built by Mr. Sterling in 1837, and the later by Caleb Essington in 1839. The first settlement was commenced in 1804, by Friends from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. These settlers purchased sixteen lots of 440 acres each, lying in the corners of a square containing twenty-five lots, of which the central range each way was reserved by LeRay. The center lot, (No. 611), embraced the site of the present village, was conveyed to trustees "for the promotion of religion and learning," under the care of the Quakers. This trust afterwards occasioned much contention and led to a miniature antient war. The matter was finally settled in 1844. Cadwallader Child, Mordecai Taylor, and Samuel Evans came in the first year (1804). Robert Comfort kept the first inn, Samuel Case, the first store, and Thomas and John Townsend built the first mill. Anna Comstock kept the first school. The first child born was John Townsend, and the first death was a daughter of Robert Comfort, in 1807, and the first buried in the present burying grounds. The town has an area of 21,840 acres.

TOWN OF RODMAN

RODMAN embraces No. 8 or "Orpheus" of the "Eleven Towns." It was formed from Adams, March 24, 1804, under the name of "Harrison," from Richard Harrison of N. Y., a proprietor; its name was changed to its present one, April 6, 1808, in honor of Daniel Rodman, of Hudson, Clerk of the Assembly in 1808-09. A part of Pickney (Lewis Co.) was taken off in 1808. It lies upon the borders of Lewis, in the South part of the County. The surface is hilly, and broken by deep ravines of Sandy Creek and its branches. The soil is generally a fertile, gravelly loam. There are three sulphur springs in this town. **Rodman**, on Sandy Creek, west of the center of the town, is a thriving village, containing two hotels, a seminary, several stores, mills and shops. **Zoar** or **Unionville** is a hamlet on Sandy Creek, one mile above Rodman village, where there is a church, inn, store, and a few shops. **Whiteville** (East Rodman P. O.) is on Sandy Creek. It derives its name from Thos. White, a sub-agent and early settler. It has a store, grist mill, inn, and a few shops. Settlement began in the town in 1801, and from 1803 to 1806 it progressed with great rapidity. Miss M. Nobles taught the first school, in

Anson Moody's barn, in 1803. Willard Sykes kept the first store; and Wm. Rice built the first saw mill, in 1804, and grist mill, in 1806. The first child born was Walter Harrison Moody, and the first death that of the same child, three years after. His father received 50 acres of land from Mr. Harrison for the name. Timothy Greenly moved into the southwest corner of the town, in 1803. In 1813 an epidemic prevailed, causing sixty deaths in three months. The town has an area of 22,597 acres.

TOWN OF RUTLAND

RUTLAND, No. 3, or "Milan" of the "Eleven Towns," named from Rutland, Vt., the former home of an early settler, was taken from Watertown, April 1, 1802. It lies upon the south bank of Black River, east of the center of the County. Its surface consists of the narrow river valley on the north, a terraced plateau in the center, and a hilly region in the south. The central plateau, embracing the greater part of the town, is 300 or 400 feet above the flat country farther north, and it descends by a succession of steep declivities to the level of the river. It is underlaid by Trenton limestone. Upon the south, the surface gradually rises to the summits of the slate hills which occupy the south part of the County. A remarkable valley known as "Rutland Hollow," extends through the town upon the lower terrace of the plateau, parallel to the river. It is deeply excavated in the limestone, and appears like the bed of an ancient river. Another smaller and deeper valley extends in the same direction across the summit of the plateau, and forms the bed of a deep narrow lake. Pleasant Lake, in Champion, is situated in the continuation of this latter valley. These valleys and terraces seem the result of abrasion rather than upheaval. Upon the edge of the terrace, 100 feet below the summit, may be seen the ancient lake ridge before described. The soil is a very fertile loam upon the plateau, and a sandy loam upon the river. **Felts Mills**, on the Black River, was named from John Felt, who purchased the site in 1813 and still resides here. It was formerly the seat of extensive lumbering manufactory, now changed to a tannery. **Black River**, locally known as Lockport, is also on the river about two miles below Felts Mills, and lies partly in Le Ray. It is somewhat noted for its manufacture of chairs, house-rakes, &c. **Tylerville** (South Rutland P. O.), in the narrow valley of Sandy Creek, and **Rutland Center**, are small villages. This town fell to the share of Wm. Henderson, and settlement was begun in 1799, under Asher Miller, his agent. The greater part of the land was sold to New England farmers, who came in within three years after the first settlement. An old Indian fort is to be seen on the farm of Geo. Wilson; and a bone pit was found near the line of Watertown. The town has an area of 27,238 1/2 acres.

GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER DOUDICAN

By David Porter

Email: trlboss49@comcast.net

Thomas Doudican, my great-great-grandfather, was born in Easkey Ireland about twenty-six miles west by road from the town of Sligo the largest community in the county of the same name. In 1832 when he was four years old, cholera broke out in the area. Thomas was just seventeen years old the year that the potato crop first failed. 1845 was a chilly, foggy year and the ground never did dry out. No one thought much of the weather. Ireland's weather is as changeable as the mind of a teenager. The Great Hunger that resulted lasted seven years, about a million died, and as many more fled wherever they could go. Thomas made his way, probably via Canada across the St. Lawrence to Watertown N.Y.

According to family lore, he was hard-working and practical. He cleared land in the forested area south of the town and built his house on Chestnut St. about 1850. He married Margaret Haley who had also emigrated from Ireland at about the same time. The house on Chestnut Street still stands. Thomas ultimately purchased more land closer to the city on Woodruff St. He built more than one house there for his offspring. He worked at the Knowlton Mill up until his sudden death from "summer cholera", a disease that came on quickly and killed him by the end of the afternoon in 1888.

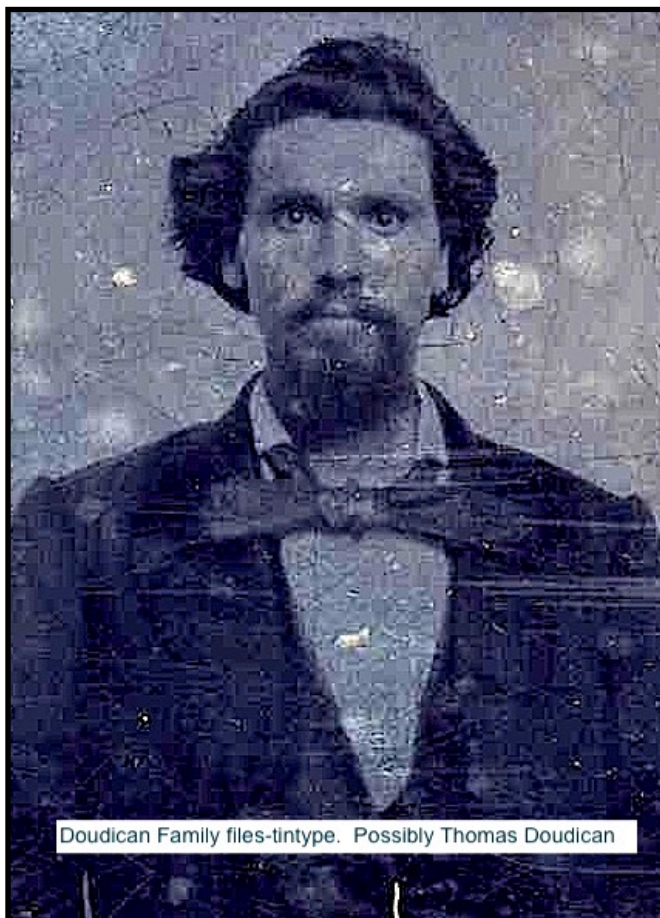


Thomas and Margaret's son, Thomas, was born in 1858. He was my great-grandfather. He married Margaret Thompson, daughter of Malcolm Thompson and Isabella Clink. They had eight children: John F., Mary E., Anna Isabel, Grace V., and my grandmother Florence A., Daniel A., Helene P., and Margaret. Thomas and Margaret were the only offspring of Thomas Sr. to have children. The other siblings, Mary Anne known as Mollie and sister Nellie lived in the

house at 15 Woodruff St. well into the 20th Century. Mollie was 98 when she died. Along with their brothers Edward, James, William and John all remained single. John died at age 5 in 1873. James died in 1889. William in October 1905. Edward died in 1932 the same year as Nellie. Thomas, my great-great grandfather, was diagnosed with a form of tuberculosis affecting muscle tissue not respiration. In 1904 he left his children with his two sisters, Mollie and Nellie, and went to Dayton Ohio seeking treatment at a hospital that focused on the disease. He never returned and died in Ohio in 1906.

When I was growing up, my grandmother spoke very little about her family except to note that she was raised by Aunt Mollie and Aunt Nellie. If asked she would often say, "I don't know." or "The past is past." However, one day when I was a young adult, she brought me a packet of papers. She told me that they were about the death of Will Dodican, her uncle, who had left Watertown on the train to go to California and had been found dead in the desert in New Mexico some weeks later. She told me that the mystery troubled Aunt Mollie and Aunt Nellie, Will's sisters, because they didn't know what had happened. She knew I was interested in history and family history and asked if I could try to decipher what had happened in this family tragedy. I was moved by her plea and said I would do what I could. That search led me to write an

(Continued on Page 17)

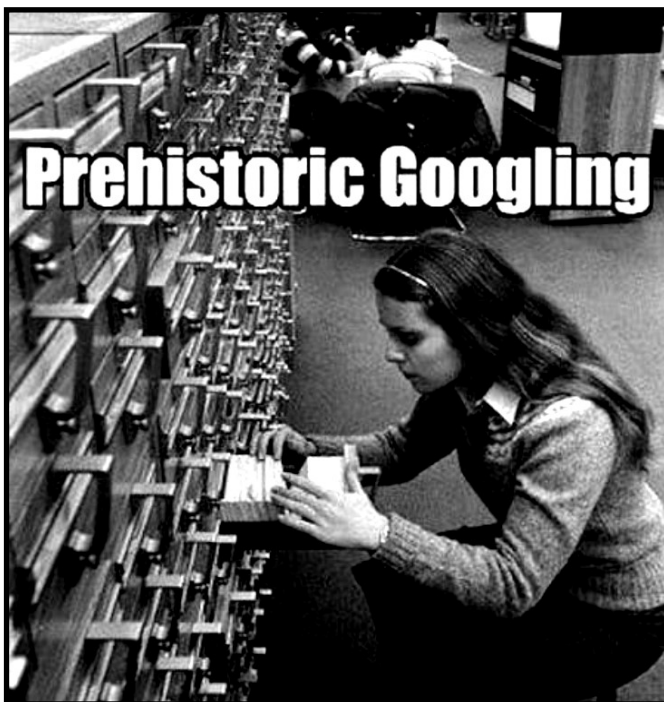


Doudican Family files-tintype. Possibly Thomas Doudican

(Continued From Page 16)
entire book about this part of my clan.

The previous image from a tintype was among my grandmother's possessions. It is one of two images that appear to be early 19th Century based on the clothing styles. This is likely a picture of Thomas Doudican, my great-great-grandfather. The other one is of a couple. I guess they might be my great-great-grandmother and her brother. The Dodicans (or Doudicans, Dowdicans, or Doudigans) came to Watertown and Jefferson County with the Healys, Thompsons, Gilligans, and other Irish immigrants. They worked together to support each other and often intermarried. They were interesting early citizens of Watertown New York and the region.

As mentioned above, my grandmother gave me a quest regarding my great uncle William Dodican. In October 1905 he boarded a train to San Francisco from Watertown. Along the route was a water stop in Ancho, New Mexico, where the train stopped at night. Will is reported to have left the train saying it was going the wrong way. His body was found some days later in the desert. The packet she gave me contained letters and documents about the death. They raise more questions than they answer. The most notable question at this point in my sleuthing is to understand a relationship between Will and a widow named Hattie Revell Dodge who lived in Carthage just miles from Watertown. Questions or information can be sent to David Porter at trlboss49@comcast.net. I live in Portland Oregon where my grandfather Fletcher Porter settled with his wife, Florence A Dodican, in the 1930s. Their younger son, David Dodican Porter, was my father. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have thoughts or questions. David Porter.

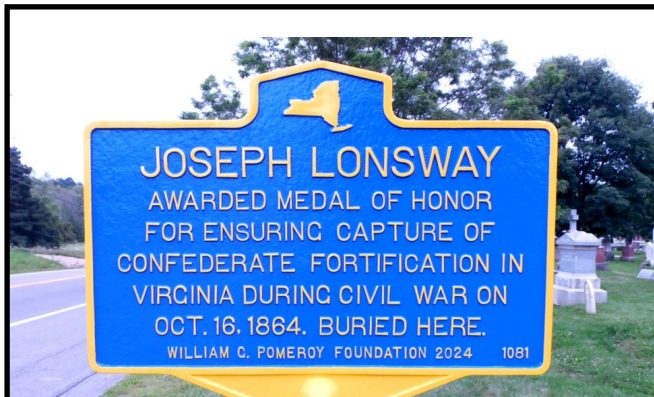


On the Web: <http://www.jcnygs.com>

Private Joseph M. Lonsway Pomeroy Foundation Historic Marker Unveiling

By JCNYGS President Thomas LaClair
Watertown Daily Times, August 13, 2024

Clayton – Lonsway descendants, guests, and friends gathered at St. Mary’s Cemetery on Aug. 2 to unveil the William G. Pomeroy Foundation Historic Marker for Private Joseph M. Lonsway, Clayton’s only known Medal of Honor recipient.



Presenting the colors and providing military honors were members of Colon-Couch Post 821 of Clayton. Legionnaire Terry Fox sang the National Anthem. Speakers at the event included a welcome by Clayton Village Mayor Nancy Hyde followed by Deacon Neil Fuller of St. Mary’s Catholic Church who shared comments about the Lonsway family.

Fuller was followed by Lonsway descendant Delinda Fuller who read comments from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation recognizing the significance of honoring Private Lonsway. Historian Tom LaClair then spoke on Private Lonsway’s early life, his military life, and the timeline of the Medal of Honor bestowed upon him late in life.

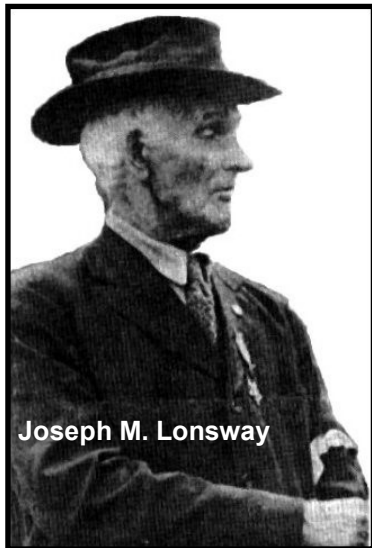
The ceremonious unveiling of the marker was performed by Lonsway descendant Sharon Bourquin, Director of the Thousand Islands Museum, as well as Mayor Hyde. Soon after the unveiling, Lonsway descendant Deacon Gerry Bouchard of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Brownville, blessed the marker.

More than 50 attended with over 20 Lonsway descendants in the audience, all wearing a yellow ribbon made by Janine LaClair, wife of the Clayton Historian. Sam Lundy, a reenactor from the Walter H. French Camp #17 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War attended for visual effects. After the unveiling, all descendants, guests, and friends met at the Thousand Islands Museum for a reception where old stories and recent memories were shared.

Joseph Micheal Lonsway was born in Clayton on March 17, 1844. He was similar to any other boy

(Continued on Page 18)

(Continued From Page 17)



Joseph M. Lonsway

growing up in the river community. In his youth, he experienced lumber harvesting and shipbuilding first-hand, two important industries along the riverfront. He learned to swim and he learned to work around ships; he was quite good at both. As he grew into a young man in the early 1860s, the nation was also growing and experiencing challenges. The individual states were at odds over politics, industry, and the ownership of slaves.

On April 12, 1861, less than a month after Joseph turned 17 years old, the first shots of the Civil War occurred in Sumter, South Carolina. For 2- and 1/2-years Joseph watched and listened to what was happening. Wanting to contribute to the war effort, he enlisted on a three-year term at Sackets Harbor on October 12, 1863. He was 19 and 1/2 years old.

During his first year in uniform, he learned the traits of a military soldier and prepared himself physically and mentally for battle and whatever else came his way. He had been on active duty for one year and four days when he volunteered for the mission that earned him the Medal of Honor. It was at Murfree's Station, Virginia, October 16, 1864.

Joseph was a Private in Company D., 20th New York Volunteers Calvary. The Southern rebels had captured a ferry boat, called a flat, belonging to the Union forces, and the officer commanding Private Lonsway's company called for volunteers to swim the Blackwater River and retrieve the flat. With his company sending over a protective barrage of shots, and under a returning fire from the enemy's forces, he swam across the 600-foot stream on his back, with only his face showing above the water, and succeeded in bringing back the ferry boat. Using the seized ferry, a detachment of Union troops floated across the river, and after a spirited night engagement, captured the rebel fortification, called a breastwork. His courageous actions that day would be remembered and celebrated for years to come—even at a historic marker celebration, 160 years later.

Throughout the war Joseph retained the grade of Private though he was often offered the chance of promotion. He was discharged and mustered out of the Army at Sackets Harbor on July 31, 1865, less than a year after his actions at Murfree's Station. He ended

up serving just under two years of a three-year enlistment as he was released from service—the war was over.

Joseph's commander submitted the Medal of Honor package soon after the 1864 raid, however, the medal was not approved, for reasons unknown, and was filed away. Then in 1916, Congress passed the Medal of Honor Review Act initiating the review of all previously disapproved or unapproved submissions. A committee of five generals examined over 2,500 Medal of Honor packages and subsequently approved Private Lonsway's award. Joseph, now home from the war for 50 years, received notification he was being awarded the Medal of Honor. That was in a letter dated March 22, 1917, a few days after his 73rd birthday. Many in Clayton knew Joseph as a veteran of the Civil War, and filled an active role in Clayton's Albert Dennis Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R) Post 410 membership. That said, many were not aware of his notable Medal of Honor level actions during the war.

The Congressional Medal of Honor certificate for Private Joseph Lonsway reads: "To whom it may concern: This is to certify that Joseph Longsway was enrolled on the Twelfth day of October, 1863, to serve three years, and was discharged on the Thirty-first day of July, 1865, by reason of mustered out of the company while holding the grade of Private, in Company D., Twentieth Regiment of New York Volunteer Calvary, that a medal of honor was awarded him on the Twenty-seventh day of February, 1917, for distinguished gallantry in action at Murfree's Station, Virginia, October, 16th, 1864, taking cover of rapid fire from Artillery from the carbines of the calvary, he volunteered to swim across the Blackwater River to get a large flat used as a ferry boat on the other side making it possible for the detachment to cross the river and take undisputed possession of the enemy's breastworks, that his name was entered and recorded on the Army and Navy Medal of Honor Roll on the Twenty-sixth day of July, 1917, as authorized under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved April 27, 1916, and that he is entitled to receive the special pension granted by that Act." The certificate is dated January 20, 1919.

On November 11, 1921, Joseph, now a Medal of Honor recipient, traveled by train to Washington D.C. to attend the inauguration of the tomb of the unknown soldier at Arlington National Cemetery (first Veterans Day). He was proudly wearing his Medal of Honor when General John J. Pershing, also attending the ceremony, came up and personally congratulated Private Lonsway for his achievements. The accompanied handshake was captured in a photo printed in major newspapers propelling Private Lonsway to receive overnight notoriety across the nation. Until this time, he lived a relatively quiet life in and around Clayton. His last few years of life were a bit less quiet. Joseph died on January 22, 1925, and was given a hero's funeral. He was 80 years old.

LIBRARY OPENS OLD WATERTOWN ROOM

Watertown Daily Times dated January 30, 1980
Transcribed by JCNYS President Tom LaClair

The Genealogical Department of Flower Memorial Library has expanded its facilities with the addition of a second room for the use of researchers.

This room, the Old Watertown room, will house the department's periodicals, the microfilm reader, and miscellaneous other books and supplies.

The new facilities, plus an enlarged committee, will make it possible for the department to be open another afternoon each week starting in the middle of February. The new hours will be Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1 – 4 p.m.

Plans are now being made to hold a seminar in May 1981 when the department will be 25 years old. There will be speakers from Vermont, Canada, and other areas of New York State. The department has also been asked to furnish information on its facilities for a seminar being held in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, in May.

The volunteer committee staffing the Genealogical Department is composed of Mrs. Homer Perkins, chairman; Mrs. Clifford Wray, vice chairman; Mrs. Lyle Campell, treasurer; Mrs. Catherine Nevin, secretary; Mrs. Warren Johnson, Miss Edith Caldwell, Mrs. Theron Edwards, Mrs. Marshall Lynch, Mrs. William Hayes, and Mr. Rodney Abare.

Additional department helpers are Mrs. Francis G. Hodge, Mrs. Richard Schwerzmann, Mrs. Donald Blodgett, and Mrs. Henry George.

JCNYS Note: This article was provided to JCNYS by Flower Memorial Librarian Ashley Pickett.

**“My grandma always said
that God made libraries so
that people didn’t have an
excuse to be stupid.”
- Joan Bauer**

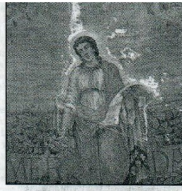


—Times Staff Photo

The expanded volunteer committee staffing the Genealogical Department of Flower Memorial Library includes, from left, Mrs. Lyle Campbell, treasurer; Mrs. Catherine Nevin, secretary; Mrs.

Marshall Lynch, Miss Edith Caldwell, Mrs. Clifford Wray, vice chairman; Mrs. Theron Edwards, Mrs. Warren Johnson and chairman, Mrs. Homer Perkins.

Poster #3 of 3 (#1&2 In Previous *Informers*)



Preserving the 'People's Palace'

By Tracy Valentine
Times Staff Writer August 5, 2001

Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library has been called a "people's palace" because of its fine artwork, stained glass and ornate wood- and plasterwork. The public building was a gift to the city of Watertown, and now it's hoped that the same giving spirit will pre-

2001

Talk of a capital campaign was underway to fund the library's first interior renovation since its opening in 1905.

The campaign was truly underway in 2004 with the goal of raising \$1.5 million to redesign the library's layout and restore the deterioration of the historic section.

(Watertown Daily Times, August 5, 2001)

2011

In 2010, the Board of Trustees was presented with a request from the library's Teen Advisory Board to relocate the teen section to a larger space in the building.

The request was approved and in April, the new Teen Space on the second level was opened to the public.

(Watertown Daily Times, April 18, 2011)

\$75K levy approved for city library

Times staff report
WATERTOWN — A proposition on the city school budget referendum to provide \$75,000 annually to the Flower Memorial Library passed 2,622 to 906, according to figures provided by the Board of Education.

These funds, raised by the annual levy of a tax on district property owners, will be considered separate and apart from the annual school district budget. Any future modifications to the annual levy would require a new vote on the matter.

According to district Superintendent Patricia Labaree, Flower Library officials approached the district last summer about the proposition. They were starting to explore the idea because they were

looking to fill a void in funding.

Libraries can request funds from school district taxpayers by asking them to vote on a resolution that's placed on the annual school district budget. And then taxpayers pay an amount for the library based on their assessed property value, just like they do for school taxes.

The money would be used for items like books and DVDs, according to Yvonne Reff, the library's director.

"New York state education law allows us to put a proposition along with the school ballot so the school acts as the mechanism for the vote and the counting and all that; we're one of the last libraries in the county to use this source of funding," she said in May. "Over the last ten years, the city

financial situation has gotten worse and worse. We have a little over a million-dollar budget, but most of it goes to salaries and the building. So anytime there was a cut required because of the city budget, it happened to books and other items." At one point, according to Mrs. Reff, funding for books and other things went down to zero. After these last few recent budget discussions, \$10,000 is set to be put back, but that also includes eBooks. The library will have to spend \$8,000 of it to pay for the eBooks because they're part of the North Country Library System, so the \$2,000 left won't go very far, which is why the library decided to go on the district's ballot to cover the cost of additional materials.

2020

The library successfully placed a funding proposition on the city school budget referendum. The annual levy improved Flower Library's budget situation after years of cuts to material budgets.

This funding source was first considered in 2004 but did not move forward.

(Watertown Daily Times, June 18, 2020)

2023

In an effort to remove barriers of access to the library and to encourage reading among all members of the community, the Board of Trustees and staff announced in May of 2023 that the library will not charge users for materials that are returned late.

(Press Release, May 10, 2023)

2007

Great care was taken restoring the historic section of the library. This included extensive work by conservation technicians for the rotunda artwork.

In December, a public reception was held to thank donors for their generosity renewing the grandeur and vibrancy to that of 1904.

(Watertown Daily Times, December 4, 2007)

2017

Protecting the materials that are housed inside its walls, staff and trustees successfully lobbied the City of Watertown for a heating and cooling system renovation in 2017. The \$1.12 million for repairs took over 7 months to finish and required the basement to be completely empty of books before work could begin.

(Watertown Daily Times, September 22, 2017)

2021

The library's logo received a modern update in 2021 to draw attention back to our beautiful building.

In 2006, a logo with a flower book concept had replaced a line drawing depiction of the building.

(2021 Logo designed by Brandon Kraeger)



Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library

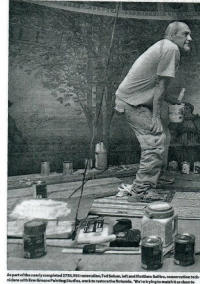


until 2006



2006 - 2021

Restoration at Flower Memorial Library



www.FlowerMemorialLibrary.org



REFERENCE WORK NEARLY FINISHED

Project Started 20 Years Ago On Genealogical Data
Almost Completed

Watertown Daily Times dated 4 May 1960

Transcribed by JCNYS Member Larry Corbett

A project started a score of years ago by Mrs. Frank M. Williams and the late Mrs. Louis S. Lansing, leaders in the LeRay de Chaumont Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution and the Northern Frontier Chapter, Daughters of 1812 is nearing completion in the collating, classifying, cataloging and indexing of a vast collection of genealogical and Northern New York historical material in the historical rooms of the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library.

For the past four years a group of historically and genealogically minded women, headed by Mrs. Keith E. Stanton, city historian, and consisting of Mrs. Williams, Miss Clara Martin, Mrs. Lena Quinlivan, Mrs. Allen J. Lehr, Miss Blanche L. Sloat, Mrs. Homer J. Perkins, Mrs. Marjorie Markwick, Mrs. Aiken Montague, Mrs. Samuel Williams, Mrs. Ethel C Swaffer, Miss Vera E. Huddleston, Miss Christine A. Devendorf, and Mrs. Ernest G. Halley have been

collecting, collating, classifying and augmenting the collections and permanently binding the material.

When finished, the project will provide a broad assemblage of material of immense value as a reference to persons engaged in researching a genealogy and the history of Jefferson County, adjacent areas, their communities, political units, and families.

It is expected that the finishing touches will have been placed on the project by late summer so that the material can be made available to the public at least two afternoons a week under the charge of librarians at the library.

In the collection are most of the bound volumes of the 1790 federal census records published of the original founding states of this republic.

Important in the collection are the immense collections of newspaper clippings, obituaries, genealogical letters and historical material assembled by Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Lansing through a long period of years. These have been placed temporarily in durable envelopes and arranged in alphabetical order.

(Continued on Page 22)

In this 2017 photo by Tom LaClair, Terry Mandigo assists a visitor to the Flower Memorial Library Genealogy Department. Terry continues assisting visitors four hours a day, six days a week.



(Continued From Page 21)

Mrs. Stanton who has also been engaged during the past three years in placing in classified order and cataloging material of every nature at the Museum of the Jefferson County Historical Society, began working originally with Mrs. Williams about 15 years ago.

Burial records such as are decipherable in all of the cemeteries, large, small and obscure in the city and all of the townships of the county are classified by townships and communities and accessible in properly titled hard binders.

There are family records copied and classified from a huge number of family bibles that have been made available.

Over 2000 genealogies have been covered and there is source material of over 150 families arranged in books. In addition, there are approximately 50 large bound volumes of genealogies which this group of women hope to have substantially augmented in coming years through purchases of genealogies by the library and the gift of other volumes of genealogies by private individuals.

In this genealogical section are large collections of genealogical material procured from the genealogical pages of the old Boston transcripts and the Hartford Times which have been contributed by Charles H Scott and others. There is a shelf devoted to books and engravings of coats of arms of families there are copious records of vital statistics there are collections being built up of Revolutionary, Civil, and War of 1812 veterans. There is a set of large books of Plymouth Colony records.

There is a partial collection of books on counties of the state and there are copies of outstanding currently published genealogical magazines to which the library has subscribed. Everything is numbered and placed in an orderly system for quick accessibility. There are accession books showing everything in the entire collection, and when all is completed, it will be one of the finest projects of its kind upstate at the present time

Miss Martin is nearing completion of the cataloging of the 730 pictures and historic captions of old northern New York houses made by David F. Lane of the Watertown Daily Times staff and published in series in the times over a period of 15 years. These are not only being cataloged by their consecutive numbers but with the dates of publication names of the original owners whenever known names of the owners at the time the photographs were taken and other pertinent data these pictures and captions as taken from the times have been pasted on loose leaf sheets of a fine quality of paper selected for its long a durability and have been bound into three expensive hardcover

books also chosen for their stout serviceability.

For some time, Mrs. Stanton, Miss Martin and Mrs. Lehr have been spending three afternoons a week at the library in whipping the collection into final shape but much still remains to be done before all is ready to admit them to public use.

JCNYGS Note: The Genealogical Department today is on the second floor of the library and is open Monday – Saturday, 12:00 – 4:00 PM. Volunteer Terry Mandigo has been a three-decade volunteer maintaining continuity with his expansive knowledge of Watertown and its people.



GENEALOGY ROOM TO OPEN

Watertown Daily Times dated 31 Jul 1957

Transcribed by JCNYGS President Tom LaClair

2,000 Jefferson County Family Names in Flower Library Archive. The genealogy room of the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, the only genealogical archive between Syracuse and Ottawa, will be formally opened to the public on Friday at 2 p.m.

The eleven members of a volunteer committee which has, for the past four years, been organizing the genealogical materials, will be present to explain the contents of the room and its function to the public.

The contents of the room include extensive records on more than 2,000 Jefferson County family names, as well as nearly 300 complete family histories. Mrs. Keith E. Stanton, spokesman for the committee, explained that these records are not exhaustive but are, rather, a nucleus from which a complete genealogical record of the county may be built in the future.

She said that in opening the room to the public the committee hoped to both to be of service to persons seeking genealogical information, and also to encourage the public to contribute any genealogical material they may have.

The genealogical room will be open every Friday afternoon from 2 to 4. A member of the committee will be present during these hours to help researchers.

Mrs. Stanton said there are many valuable genealogical records owned by private individuals in the county. Mrs. Stanton said the library offers a safe repository for such records and, in cases where the owners wish to keep them, she added that "if people will notify us of the records they don't want to part with, we will gladly copy them if they will permit us."

(Continued on Page 23)

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.)

DODGE, REVELL, DOUDICAN

Hattie **REVELL** was the daughter of Thomas **REVELL** of **REVELL** Tannery, in Carthage. She was born in June 1864, married to Walter **DODGE** in 1889. Their children were Carlton and Dorothy. Walter died of tuberculosis. In the 1900 census Hattie is a widow. Hattie's younger brother died tragically at 14, crushed in a sand pit. Her older brother, William, was a civic leader in Carthage. My great uncle, William Doudican, Watertown, NY, lived at Hattie's address in 1905 but left in October, died in New Mexico. I hope to find more about their relationship.

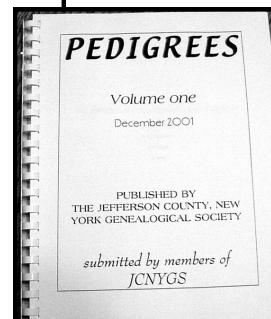
David Porter
trlboss49@comcat.net

“I don't have to look up my family tree because I know that I'm the sap.”
 — *Fred Allen*

JCNYGS MATERIALS FOR PURCHASE

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

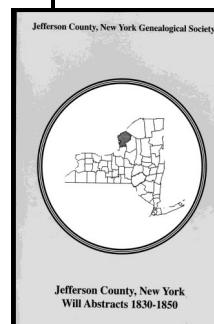
PEDIGREE BOOK I
 &
PEDIGREE BOOK II
Each Book \$20.00 plus \$5.00 for postage
 A collection of pedigrees
 Submitted by members
 of the JCNYGS
 with an every name index
 Checks made out to **JCNYGS**



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**



(Continued From Page 22)

The contents of the genealogy room are mostly source materials and include only a few published books. There are thousands of newspaper clippings, copies of the 1790 federal census for five of the 13 states the census covered, Revolutionary war and War of 1812 pension records, cemetery records, and marriages culled from old newspaper and public records, copies of funeral books, church records, and records from many other sources. Many of these records are for areas outside this county from which Jefferson county settlers later migrated.

Although the work of the committee is only four years old, the work of its members began much earlier than that. Eight years ago the library gave the late Grace M. Lansing a room in which to store her private collection of genealogical materials, gathered by Mrs. Lansing over a period of 50 years. Mrs. Stanton worked with Mrs. Lansing in organizing this mass of material, and gradually others joined them, adding their own private collections, until the group now totals eleven volunteers.

Last year, the group gave its entire collection to the library, and now received financial assistance for the purchase of paper and other materials needed in the continuing work of organizing their records for easy access.

Members of the volunteer committee are Mrs. Adda Williams, Miss Clara Martin, Miss Christine A. Devendorf, Mrs. Ethel Swaffer, Miss Vera E. Huddleston, Mrs. Allen J. Lehr, Miss Blanche Sloat, Mrs. Homer J. Perkins, and Mrs. Stanton.

JCNYGS Note: This article was provided to JCNYGS by Flower Memorial Librarian Ashley Pickett.

“Don't join the book burners. Don't think you're going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed. Don't be afraid to go in your library and read every book...”
 — *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

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, October 14, at 6:00 PM. Meet at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Ives Street for a Civil War Program. The Rev. Canon Samuel P. Lundy, a member of the Walter H. French Camp #17 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will speak about the Civil War from the perspective of a chaplain in the military. Other aspects of the Civil War will be discussed.

Saturday, November 9, at 12 Noon. JCNYGS will take to the road and meet at the Dexter Historical Society Museum. The once church, now a museum, is on the main street in Dexter (corner of County Route 59 & Hunters Run). Dexter Historian John Stano will give a brief overview of the museum's holdings and then members and their guests will have the opportunity to check out the displays and relics firsthand.

Sunday, December 8th, beginning at 12 Noon. JCNYGS will host its annual Christmas party at Greg and Tammy Plantz home at 21787 Reed Road, Watertown. Meat will be provided while guests are asked to bring a dish to pass. Guests are also encouraged, although not required, to bring an unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots Program. Members, as well as their family and friends, are invited and welcome to attend—the more the merrier.

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

Thank you Donna Trumbo, church liaison, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints local leadership for the free use of the building for JCNYGS programs.

Directions to Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Church where we are presently holding our meetings: From Rt. 81, take exit 44 to Rt. 232 towards Watertown. Drive 1.1 miles and take the second left hand turn onto Ives Street Road. Continue straight into the city. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chapel is the second building on the right, across from IHCS, as you enter the city limits.

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

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