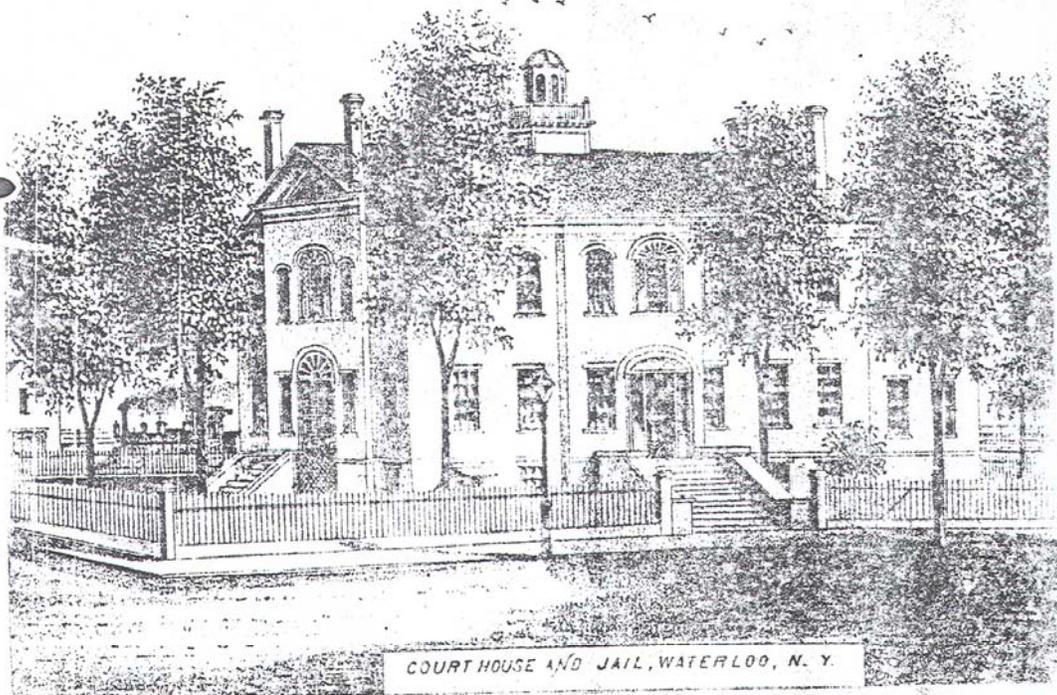


SEVEN COUNTY HISTORY

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COURT HOUSE AND JAIL, WATERLOO, N. Y.



THE SENECA COUNTY ALMS HOUSE

One of the principal duties of the officials of the towns of Seneca County and the county officials was providing for the poor of the communities. The earliest town and county records indicate that concern. Usually an individual or sometimes a family that needed help was boarded in someone's home and the town provided for their care.

As the communities grew it became more difficult to handle such matters on an individual basis. The board of supervisors decided to coordinate the welfare program as a joint effort.

The first meeting of the superintendents of the poor of Seneca County was held on Feb. 3, 1830 at the Waterloo Hotel, kept by L. Lynch. The appointed superintendents were: Dr. Anthony D. Schuyler of Romulus, Dr. Claudius C. Coan of Ovid-Lodi, William Hoskins of Seneca Falls; William Larzelere of Fayette and Joel W. Bacon of Waterloo.

William Larzelere was asked to look for a suitable building to rent that would accommodate the poor. The other members of the committee were asked to visit the poor houses of the adjoining counties and then report back on their programs.

They met again on February 26, at the inn of William Hoskins. William Larzelere informed the other members of the committee that he was not able to find a suitable house that could be rented but said that

John P. Silvers offered to sell a house and land on Lots 7 and 16 in Romulus (Fayette). Other offers of land were received from other area farmers: Peter Dey, Alexander Parison, Daniel Rhoades and George McAlister.

At the February 6 meeting, the superintendents voted to hire Zephaniah Lewis as keeper of the poor house. His salary was to be \$350 a year. For this, Mr. Lewis was to provide a good span of horses, a wagon, one good cow and the labor of himself, his wife, his sixteen year old son and eleven year old daughter.

The committee met again the next day at the inn of Benjamin Lemmon in Varick after visiting the farms that had been offered for sale.

On March 8, they met at the inn of S. Wood in the Village of Seneca Falls to discuss the various offers. Then at 6 a.m. the next morning, they met again at the inn and after considerable discussion they decided they would make an offer for the Silver's and McAlister farms which adjoined each other.

They agreed to pay Silvers \$1,420 for the house and 36 acres which included seven acres of wheat on the ground. They offered George McAlister \$20 an acre for 65 adjoining acres excluding the winter grain. The offer was accepted with the board of supervisors to take full possession of the premises on April 1.

The men again contacted Zephaniah Lewis and he agreed to come with his family to the farm beginning April 1. In the interim his salary had been cut to \$325 a year. Before Lewis and his family could move in some repairs had to be made to the building.

Dr. Samuel Elder of Waterloo was appointed physician and surgeon of the poor house. He would receive \$80 a year. He was to furnish the necessary medicine, visit the poor house twice a week at stated times and any other time he would be called by the keeper.

By April 9, the superintendents were meeting at the poor house. They planned to put an addition on the building but decided to delay it for a time. There was litigation in the courts at the time to divide the county.

They did complete plans to remodel the upper story of the building which was just a garret at that time. They laid floors and divided the attic into separate rooms.

Men, women and children who had been boarded out with families were moved to the farm. The first boy was indentured. He was James T.M. Dutton who was bound to Benjamin Rial of Fayette as an apprentice to the blacksmithing business. Rial was to pay Dutton \$30 in cash at the expiration of his working term.

At the next meeting, the superintendents bound out two brothers and two sisters: Gordon and Curtis Needham; Loretta and Emily Gilbert.

If circumstances warranted it some of the paupers still remained with individual families and the superintendents were also in charge of setting a cost for such allotments. Isaac S. Mills of Tyre had been boarding Eleanor Russell for \$1 a week. His allotment was cut to 75 cents. Clarissa Rogly was to be kept by her mother and her mother would receive 10 shillings per week.

In the meantime the superintendents issued a notice which was sent to all the town poormasters, urging them to send their paupers to the county poor house and to settle their final accounts.

Harris Usher was one of the overseers of the poor for Seneca Falls at that time. Ucal Howell for Lodi; Nathaniel Wakeman, Covert; Jacob Hathaway, Varick and Nathaniel French, Junius. At the next meeting the superintendents settled with the remaining overseers: Theodore Chapin of Seneca Falls; Abraham Sebring, Ovid; Daniel W. Bostwick and

Thomas Pitcher, Waterloo; John Sayre, John Williams, Romulus and William Sweet Fayette.

Rules and regulations for the alms house were established by the superintendents and approved by the judges of the county court on April 9, 1830. Among the rules set for the keeper were:

He shall register the names of each and every person sent to the poor house with age, occupation, town from which sent and the time of their stay.

He shall admit no person of a suspicious appearance to visit the house nor shall he suffer any person to present to any pauper, money or any other article unless it shall pass through his hands.

He shall cause the children to be taught to read and write and shall attend strictly to their morals.

He shall see that the proper attention is paid to the sick; that the kitchen and rooms are kept clean and in good order; that the meals are prepared punctually; that provisions and wood are used with economy and that nothing is wasted.

He may confine any pauper for ill conduct at his discretion but not for a longer term than 48 hours, without the direction of at least one of the superintendents.

He shall on Sunday mornings before breakfast have a change of clothes given to each pauper and immediately after; all the dirty clothes shall be collected and early in the week shall be washed and returned to their proper palces.

He shall on Sunday morning after breakfast, cause the paupers to be assembled in a convenient room and have a portion of the Sacred Scriptures and a suitable sermon read and such other religious exercises as he may think proper.

Rules for the paupers included: At the first ringing of the bell in the morning, every person, the sick and those in confinement excepted must immediately rise, dress, wash and report to the work assigned to them.

19

The bell will be rung just before a meal when all will leave their work, wash their hands and faces and be ready for the ringing of the second bell, when they will repair to the eating room and take such seats as are assigned them by the keeper. They must strictly observe decency, silence and good order. A reasonable time will be allowed by the keeper at each meal. A bell will again be rung when every person must immediately repair to the work assigned them.

Those guilty of intoxication, disorderly conduct, profane language, theft or waste shall be severely punished.

In all cases of solitary confinement the prisoners shall be debarred from seeing or conversing with any person except the keeper or the persons employed by him. They shall be subject to the severest privations and their food shall consist solely of bread and water. Any person who shall converse with one thus confined shall be punished by like confinement.

On the Sabbath at the ringing of the bell for the purpose of assembling for religious instructions every person shall appear dressed in clean apparel and shall behave with decency and sobriety. No noise or disturbance shall be made by anyone in any part of the house and the day shall be strictly observed as a Holy Day without recreation or unnecessary labor. Any persons willfully absenting themselves from the place of meeting or violating the Sabbath shall be subject to severe punishment. No visitor shall have admission to the house on the Sabbath without the permission of one of the superintendents.

Apparently Zephaniah Lewis did quite well with his salary of \$325 per year. On October 7, 1830 when the superintendents met to prepare a report for the board of supervisors, they borrowed \$150 from Lewis to complete repairs to the building. They agreed to repay him by the first of April, with interest.

At the end of the first year of operation they reappointed Lewis as keeper and Dr. Elder as physician. Elder was to receive \$100 for his year's service. He resigned at the end of the year and Dr. Stephen B. Gay was named in his place.

The first black orphan to be indentured was George Pierce who went to James W. Boomer and was to receive \$100 when he completed his term.

After two years of operation the poor house appeared to be a busy place, as indicated by the minutes of the superintendents. The keeper was instructed to sink a new well on the west side of the house and to hire the work out by the day so the cost would be less for the benefit of the supervisors.

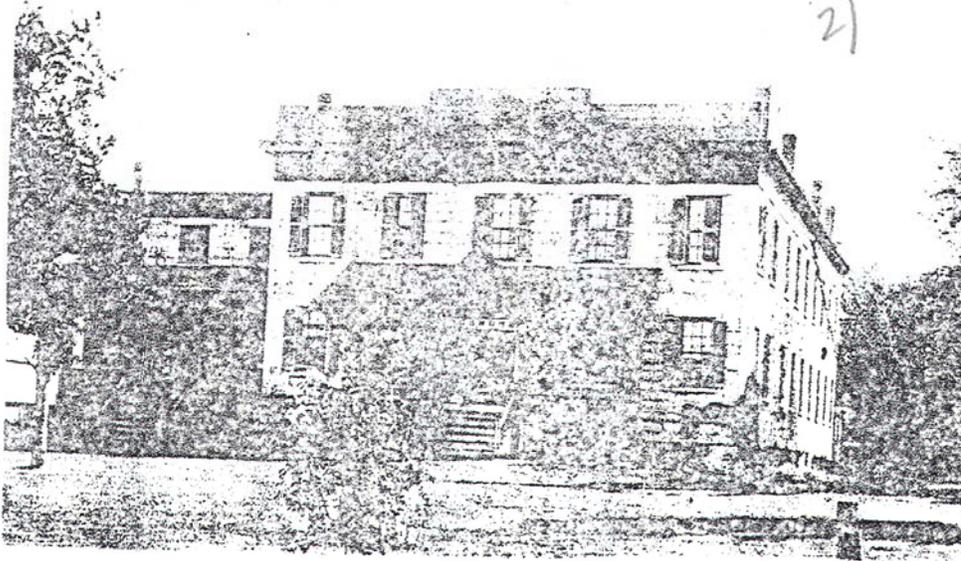
Dr. Gay was re-appointed for a year but his salary was cut to \$70. The same day the superintendents cut the doctor's salary they dismissed 12 people from the poor house naming only D. Stowell.

Reports of the activities of the poor house had to be sent to the state and in October, 1832, the superintendents had to prepare an audit of the poor masters and justices of the towns for the state under a new law passed at the last session of the legislature.

That year an additional 25 acres of land was purchased. In March 1833 Dr. Jesse Fifield was named poor house doctor at a salary of \$75 a year, to be paid quarterly.

Zephaniah Lewis was re-appointed keeper in 1834. Apparently he had managed to save most of his salary. He stipulated that he should have time off to superintend the building of his new house. He was allowed to take three weeks providing it did not interfere with his work at the poor house. His son Harry, now an adult was hired to labor on the farm at a salary of \$96 a year.





SENECA COUNTY ALMS HOUSE.

Dr. Silas Keeler of Seneca Falls was appointed physician, surgeon and man-midwife. Claudius Coan still continued as superintendent but the others were replaced by Amherst Childs and Charles M. Baker

Although nothing was recorded in the minutes relating to deaths or the specific number of cases it was noted that at the Oct. 1, 1834 meeting, the superintendents settled with nurses they had hired during a cholera outbreak.

Childs and Baker were replaced by Harris Usher of Seneca Falls and Franklin Gage of Waterloo; Zephaniah Lewis left and Alpheus A. Baldwin took his place at the same salary and the same provisions. In November 1837 the superintendents authorized the erecting of several new buildings including a wash house and a wooden cistern.

In February 1838, the State Assembly sent a questionnaire asking for information regarding the poor house. The answers of the board gives one a good picture of what the building was like in those days.

It was originally built for a private dwelling and that section was about 18 years old. Another section was added about eight years before. It was made of wood and stone.

The building was 46 by 42 feet with a wing 22 by 26 feet. It was two stories high with basement. The basement was divided into six sections: a dining room for men, a sleeping room, sitting room, two cells and storage cellars.

The main floor had a sitting and lodging room for the women, another sitting room also used

or a lying-in room for expectant mothers, and a room for sitting or nursing. There was also a sleeping room for the men and a bedroom and parlor for the keeper and his family. In the wing there were more rooms for the keeper.

The second floor had a number of lodging rooms and two cells for females. These were five by nine feet in size. One of the rooms was used by the physician when he visited the house and another was where the superintendents met for their meetings.

In total there were five rooms used by the keeper and his family and 15 rooms and four cells for the paupers. The bed rooms had from two to seven beds according to size. A husband and wife were allowed to share a bedroom. The greatest number of inhabitants at the home during the year was 80 but the average was about 50.

There were usually a few inhabitants who could be classified as idiots and a few as lunatics. The superintendents noted that the idiots were quite placid and were allowed to be with the other people. During a period of violence, the lunatics were locked in cells but were released when they became lucid but they could only be with people of their own sex.

Asked about women in confinement the men wrote, "From the first organization of our poor house, we have been very cautious to provide at all times, proper accommodations for females during their lying-in and have always observed that delicacy in their treatment during their confinement and recovery which humanity and decency dictate."

According to the superintendents the general health of the inhabitants was good and not many became sick during the year. They felt that the poor house was large enough to take care of all that needed help in the county.

Baldwin remained as keeper until 1838 when he was replaced by Edward Crane. The salary remained at \$325 a year with the same stipulations. 22

In December 1838, the superintendents met with the poor house committee of the board of supervisors and it was agreed that some repairs and additions would be made to the property. They would build a new oven and cistern; fence in a yard so the idiots and lunatics could have the benefit of fresh air and exercise. The building with the oven was to be built large enough so an upstairs room could be used as a school room.

In reading the superintendents minutes one has the feeling that they and the county strived to provide decent and adequate care for the poor and the homeless. Yet, one can't help wonder what caused the superintendents to pass the following resolution on March 27, 1840. "Resolved, that no pauper shall enter into any political strife while in the poor house; nor shall they attend any political meeting or any political election whatever." One can't help wonder if the politicians of the day saw a way to get a few more votes.

William Spader took over as keeper in 1841. He only remained one year and was replaced by Samuel Garlick. For the next number of years there was little in the minute book except the paying of bills and the occasional changing of superintendents. Dr. Claudius C. Coan who was one of the first superintendents continued to serve until 1846, except for one year in between. It is possible there was a political change that year. During his terms of office Dr. Coan rarely missed a meeting. Those he did miss were usually in February and the weather probably had a lot to do with his absence.

VARIK

23

23

There is no record in the minute book or in the records of the board of supervisors to indicate that these men who served as superintendent of the county poor ever received any remuneration for their service. Dr. Coan's record of over 16 years of service; traveling from the Ovid-Lodi area to Fayette in all kinds of weather certainly demonstrates his humane concern for the poor and homeless of this county.

The superintendents of the county poor in 1850 were, James Rorison, Peter C. Covert and Henry Feagles. That year, they bought seven acres of woods from Gary V. Sackett. The records, still filed in the record book noted they would have five years in which to cut down and timber, the only use of the land was the wood. They were to put the brush in piles and if any limbs were broken over the line they were to chop and cord the wood and pay \$1 a cord for all they broke down.

The first minute book ended on Oct. 29, 1852.

Among the old county records being inventoried can be found hundreds of papers relating to town and county charges. Scidom has this type of record survived through the years but Seneca County is fortunate that many remain for the period between 1840 and 1870. Many have been damaged through neglect and time but enough remain to provide an accurate record of the official operation of the various county departments of that period.

Among these papers are the decisions of the board of supervisors relating to the building of the county poor house in

Fayette, now the offices of the department of social services.

A committee comprised of John D. Coe and Richard R. Steele reported to the board of supervisors at the November 25, 1850 meeting on their study of poor house construction. They had visited poor houses in other counties and examined the building in Seneca County. They suggested it would be better to build instead of trying to fix up the existing building.

The next year Charles K. Watkins, Joseph Gambee and Silas Keeler were appointed an impartial committee to study the need of a new building. Their report was very graphic. They stated, "The dilapidated, rickety state of the building is so badly arranged that any attempt to rebuild, reconstruct or improve it would be useless. It must entirely fail in its main object of preserving the health and comfort of the ill-fated being reduced to the hard necessity of becoming its suffering inmates."

"There is no fit rooms for the accommodation of the sick, none comfortable for the well and the whole establishment, without any fault of its officers, is less inviting than the common jails of this land."

The committee recommended the construction of a new building, or if not that, the abandonment of the present one.

The supervisors in 1852 were: Henry Parks, Waterloo; Robert L. Stevenson, Tyre; William P. Pollard, Seneca Falls; Orin Southwick, Junius; Alanson

Woodworth, Fayette; Jesse Abbott,
Valick; Truman Boardman, Covert;
John Ferguson, Ovid and Fernando
Williams, Romulus.

At the March 2 meeting, five bids were presented to the board. They were from : Henry C. Vreeland, Burton & Savage; Gibbs & Egleston; Stephen W. Childs and Franklin B. & Obadiah B. Latham. The original bids as they were presented to the board have also been preserved.

Although the specifications had stated that the estimates should be for a stone or brick building, Henry Vreeland's plans were for a wood house. He did not have a complete estimate of what it would cost but he offered to superintend the work for \$2 a day; plane all the lumber with the machine at 30 cents per hundred feet surface and would do all the slitting with buzz saw at \$1 per thousand feet in length.

The county was to furnish men to work free of charge. He said, "All the men I should have to hire I should charge you the same that I have to pay per boy, \$2 per day. I think you will find it a great saving to have your work done by machinery, say at least 25 percent."

The estimate submitted by Burton & Savage for building the poor house according to plan was \$8,400; Stephen Childs would build it of brick for \$8,200, of stone for \$9,200; Gibbs & Egleston price was \$7,499.

The Latham Brothers of Seneca Falls were the ones who got the contract. Their bid was, for brick, \$7,395; for stone, \$7,249. The Latham Brothers, notable builders of their day who built the stone mills in Seneca Falls and a number of other buildings throughout the state, got the contract for building the poor house because they submitted the lowest bid.

One fact cannot be denied. They did an outstanding job. Its walls are at least 16 inches thick and without outside interference, it will be standing for many years to come.



WINNERS - ONE AND ALL

A historic baseball game was played Aug. 11, 1984 at Watertown. The Waterloo Little League All-Stars became New York State Champions when they beat the Rome All-Stars.

The players were: Mike Valder, Brian Oddi, Erin Pierson, Scott Bartucca, Jeremy Clingerman, Mike Davoli, Charlie Faust, Steve Hey, Bob Kraft, Tom O'Brien, Aaron Montaglione, Tim Russ, Mike Slywk. The manager was Jack Burnett, assistant manager, Tom O'Brien.

They won by a score of 6-0. They then played the State of Delaware at Newburgh and a consolation game with the State of Vermont. Regretfully they lost these games.

This was the first time that Waterloo won the State Championship. In 1969 they took 4th place.

New York State has put up signs at the entrance of the village to announce that the Waterloo team was this year's champions.

ROMULUS

The first meeting of the town board of Romulus was on April 1, 1794. This area was then a part of Onondaga County but settlements had been made for several years prior to the formation of the town.

There is a document at Albany; "A Memorial of Inhabitants between the Seneca and Cayuga Lakes in the Military Tract" which was presented to the Legislature, June 27, 1795.

It reads in part, "Your petitioners did in the year 1788 settle themselves between the lakes with the expectation of enjoying the lands on which they were each settled and as at that early day they were not informed that the said lands were assigned for military purposes.

"Your petitioners therefore pray, that they may not be looked upon as intruders and violators of the laws, and as they have made large improvements between the lakes which a few years ago was wild, savage and uncultivated; but now has become an inhabited, fruitful and fertile country; which in a few months we expect to leave to the legal owners of the soil. Your petitioners think it reasonable that a compensation should be made to them for their improvements."

It was signed by 23 persons including: Nathaniel, Anthony and John Swarthout, David Depue, James Cooley and James King. These men would certainly fit under the category of pioneers of Romulus and Seneca County.

The memorial was printed in the history of Romulus by Diedrich Willers, Jr. in the Centennial of Romulus", published in 1895.

One can learn who the pioneers were through the early military tract deeds, recorded prior to 1804; through the early town records and

the list of electors of the Town of Romulus for 1801.

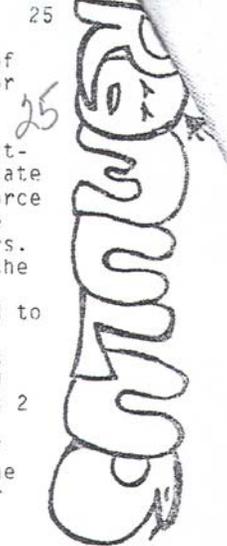
Under the first constitution of New York State adopted 1777 and in force until 1822, there were three classes of voters. The first, which had the right to vote for all elective officers, had to possess an estate or freehold of 100 pounds (about \$250), over and above all debts. Class 2 were those who had a freehold with value of 20 pounds (\$50) and the 3rd class, was a renter or tenant with yearly value of 40 shillings (\$5). The last two classes could only vote for the member of assembly and all local offices.

In the return of electors for Romulus in 1801, 168 names were listed in the census. There were 95 in the first class; 14 in the second and the remainder in the third. At that time Romulus included all the military township of Romulus from the Ovid town line to the Seneca Outlet.

One can print such lists and learn the names of the pioneers but this would have little historic value except to establish that they were at a certain locality at a given time. Trying to put shape and substance to these individuals is difficult because of the lack of pertinent information from the early years.

In researching all early documents one can learn little facts about some of these men and develop a personality, although unfortunately, it is usually only part of a picture of an individual.

The earliest settlements in Romulus were made along or near Seneca Lake and on lots 71 and 78 on Cayuga Lake. These were made before George Washington was inaugurated President.



Lot 94, which includes the hamlet of Millard was patented to Lt. Robert Provoost. He sold the lot to William J. Vredenburgh in 1790 for 30 pounds. Vredenburgh, who was one of the surveyors of the military tract, later settled and died at Skaneateles. He sold the lot to Anthony Swarthout, Sr. in 1792 for 300 pounds. Anthony was a Revolutionary soldier listed as a lieutenant in the 3rd Regiment of the Line and later as a member of the Associated Exempts.

He sold 150 acres of his lot to Samuel and George Bailey and divided the remainder among his sons: John, Nathaniel, Anthony, Jr. and Barnabas usually called Barna. He reserved a small portion, about two acres for himself. He deeded part of his land for a cemetery, probably the first in the county. He and his sons held a number of town offices, usually overseer of the highway in the early years.

Mary Swarthout, wife of John, was held as captive by the Indians during the Revolutionary War. They later moved to Steuben Co. and his share of the lot was turned over to his brothers. The names of John and Barnabas Swarthout also appear in the Revolutionary War files.

Mention should be made of Benejah Boardman who was elected the first supervisor of Romulus in 1794 and re-appointed in 1795 and 1796.

He was born May 14, 1749 in Weathersfield, Conn. the son of Israel Boardman. He did not live in the area which now is in the Town of Romulus. He first settled in the Town of Ovid and built a grist mill there about 1791-2, his later, and permanent residence was on Lot 29, now Fayette.

Among the many enterprises in which he was involved he operated a tavern and the area became known as Boardman's Burgh, later shortened to "The Burgh". The first town meeting was at his inn.

Alphabetically speaking, among the other pioneers of Romulus was Silas Allen, son of Gilbert of Morristown, N.J. He was town clerk and justice in 1811; commissioner of highway for several years; assessor and census taker in 1814 and again appointed justice in 1815. 26

He married twice: his first wife Esther Gardner died in 1818; he married second, Mrs. Sallie Pinkerton probably the widow of another early Seneca County resident, John Pinkerton. He was one of the first deacons of the First Presbyterian Church of Romulus.

His son Isaac, born 1799 in Morristown was also prominent in early Romulus history. He married Saletta Ayers, daughter of Nathaniel of Seneca County. Members of the Allen family continued to serve as outstanding citizens of Seneca County throughout the years.

GEORGE & SAMUEL BAILEY: Although they had fairly common names, making it difficult to determine accurately, they both probably served in the Revolutionary War. Both names appear in the Albany County Militia.

Shortly after settling on their 150 acres in the southwest section of Lot 94, they laid out a village plot and sold off several lots. Some of the lots went to George Wilkins, Nathaniel Hallock and Andrew Dunnett. Because of the lack of funds, creditors forced them to give up the property. It was sold at a sheriff's sale to Guy Maxwell of Newtown (now Elmira). Maxwell never settled on the property and died shortly after he took it over. His partner, Thomas M. Perry, lost the property when the company went bankrupt. At that time, according to the deed, there was a distillery at Baileytown.

George Bailey was named town clerk in 1795. He was supervisor of Romulus in 1797, 98, 99 and 1800. At a special meeting of the board, Sept. 2, 1800, John Sayre was appointed supervisor in place of

George Bailey, deceased.

MAHLON, PETER, JOHN AND ABSOLOM BAINBRIDGE: In the early 1790's these four brothers came from Maryland and settled on Lot 66 in Romulus. This is in the area taken over by the Federal Government for the Seneca Ordnance Depot. Members of the family resided on their land until the takeover.

They were charter members of the Romulus Baptist Church and Absolom was its first pastor. He and Peter did not remain in Romulus but left and settled in Fayette Co. Kentucky. Mahlon married Elizabeth (Betsy) McMath on Dec. 22, 1796. John married her sister Polly. Both were daughters of Alla Mc Math of Seneca County.

Peter who had married in South Carolina became the owner of 65 slaves which his wife had received through inheritance. According to tradition, he was opposed to slavery and freed the slaves - all but five who refused their liberty.

He brought them with him to New York State. Gave one named Henry to his brother Mahlon. Mahlon died in 1814 and is buried in the Baileytown Cemetery. On his deathbed he gave Henry his freedom but asked him to stay with the family until his two sons were old enough to work the farm. He managed the farm for about 10 years, taking one-third of the crops on shares.

In 1825 he bought 100 acres of land in Middlesex, Yates Co. He lived there until he died on June 11, 1836. In his will he left his estate to three of the children of Mahlon. One of these, a daughter, Joanna, (Mrs. Thomas J. Folwell) recalled the events in a notebook.

27
In 1925, the remains of Henry Bainbridge, buried for 90 years on his farm in Middlesex, were brought back to Seneca County and reburied in the Baileytown Cemetery with the only family he ever knew.

HAYNES BARTLETT: He was in the First Regiment of Militia of Orange County under Col. Jesse Woodhull and a member of the Dragoons in the New Jersey Continental Army. He was at New York City when it was taken by the British in 1776. He was placed on the pension roll in 1833 when he was 76.

Born March 4, 1757, he was listed in New Walkill, Orange Co. in the 1790 census. He came to Seneca County with John Sayre and settled on Lot 65 along Seneca Lake. His property was next to John Sayre according to the deed.

His daughter Keziah was born in Romulus in 1795, one of the first recorded births. He was a blacksmith and had a weaving shop. The rooms of his shop were used for a school which was taught by John Bainbridge.

An early justice paper remains which demonstrates his free spirit. In 1829 when he was 72, he was arrested for driving a stage sleigh too fast. He passed another sleigh on the road. The driver complained and had him arrested. If he were living today he would probably be driving at Watkins Glen.

He was overseer of the highway from 1795 to about 1799 and in 1801 and 1802 was named overseer of the poor. The property on Lot 65 remained in the Bartlett family for many years.

THOMAS BLAINE: He served in the Orange County Militia in the Revolutionary War. He was from Warwick, Orange Co. and settled on Lot 90. He was overseer of the highway in 1795.

Research did not bring out much about Mr Blaine except: his avocation was farming but his avocation was making dulcimers, an early stringed musical instrument.

JOHN CATON: He served in the First Regiment of the Orange Co. Militia during the war and later moved to Lot 82 in Romulus. He was a Baptist minister, ordained at Cornwell, Orange Co. He was pastor of the Romulus Baptist Church beginning in 1808 and remained at the church until the membership grew from 62 to 105.

He attended the visit of Gen. Marquis de la Fayette when he visited Seneca County in 1825. LaFayette recognized him in the crowd and greeted him warmly. They had served together in the war.

After leaving the Romulus Baptist Church in 1818, Caton organized a church in the eastern part of the town called the East Romulus Baptist Church. This organization lasted only about 10 years. He later moved to Zanesville, Ohio and died there.

JOHN D. COE, JR. Lot 70 in Romulus went to a soldier named John Green. In 1789 he sold the lot to John D. Coe. He never settled on his lot but his two sons, John D. Coe, Jr. and Matthew did come to Romulus. Matthew later left the county but John D. remained here for the remainder of his life and was a very important member of the community.

He was born in Hempstead, Rockland Co. in 1790. He came to Seneca County in 1814. He married Sophia Stone who was probably a daughter of John Stone, a Seneca County resident, in 1818.

Both he and his brother Matthew were owners of slaves in the early years. He was county superintendent of the poor and represented Seneca County as its assemblyman 1834-35; he was also a county judge and surveyor.

He was a charter member of the Seneca County Agricultural Society when it was organized at Bearytown in 1841 and served as treasurer of the society for 33 years. He died Nov. 11, 1878.

DAVID DE PUE: He was a private and sergeant in the New Jersey Militia and was placed on the pension roll in January 1834 when he was 74. He and his family settled on Lot 68 in Romulus. His name is often mentioned in early records but there is little personal information. He had a tavern and early justice records showed he often had to sue someone for payment. This was a problem which seemed common among most of the early tavern keepers. He served as overseer of the highways a number of years.

HENRY DE PUE: Son of David, he was also in the Revolutionary service. In 1807, Henry and his wife Clemence sold two acres of land to the First Presbyterian Church of Romulus to build a church and for a burying ground. There were among the early members of the church and after the church was built, services were held in their home during the winter months because there was no heat in the church. He died in 1813 and named, David, his father as executor.

PETER DE PUE: Also a son of David was a veteran of the War of 1812. He married twice. His first wife, Mary, was killed in 1845 when



horses hitched to a wagon she was riding became frightened and threw her to the ground. His second wife was Eliza Ann Brown, daughter of John Brown. Peter died in 1868 at 73 and is buried with his two wives and two of his children in Mt. Green Cemetery.

ANDREW DUNNETT: Probably born in Scotland he moved to area of Baileytown about 1797 and became a merchant. He is credited with changing the name of the village to Lancaster.

Among the early justice papers there are many writs showing that money was owed to him. Perhaps that is why in 1818, he had to file insolvent debtor papers. He said he had no property and had four children. He hoped to get some money to pay his debts through the sale of a distillery and the house in which he lived.

He filed as an insolvent debtor a second time in 1819 and at that time he said he rented from William P. Seeley and Eleanor, widow of John Seeley. He had three suits of wearing apparel and some shares of stock in the Ithaca & Geneva Turnpike Co. He died June 26, 1846 at 83.

JOHN FLEMING: The father, John Fleming was born 1752 in Chester Co. Pa., and was probably a Revolutionary veteran when he came to Seneca County sometime before 1800. His daughter Elcy was the first girl born in Romulus on July 21, 1791. Son Samuel was born 1793 and son Jess, who died April 29, 1795, was the first death recorded in the town. John died in 1800 and they are buried in the Baileytown Cemetery. Sons

ROBERT FLEMING, born 1763 and JOHN FLEMING, born 1780 in Hanover, Dauphin Co. Pa., were also early citizens of the area. John served several years as pound keeper and fence viewer. In 1799 he was commissioner of the poor and of the schools and trustee of the gospel lot. They were active early members of the First Presbyterian Church of Romulus.

JOSEPH FOLWELL: Born in Hunterdon Co. N.J. in 1748, he lived in Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary War and in 1777 commanded a company of the Pennsylvania Militia. He and his wife Elizabeth, their sons and daughters and possibly grandchildren moved to Romulus from Southampton, Bucks Co. about 1802. They were early members of the Romulus Baptist Church. Joseph died in 1824 but his sons and grandchildren brought fame and honor to their birthplace. One grand son or possibly great grandson, William W. Folwell, after graduating from Hobart College, moved to the west. He settled in Minnesota and became the first president of the University of Minnesota. 29

ABEL FRISBIE: He settled on Lots 71 and 78 and ran a ferry from Romulus to Aurora in the early years. He took naturally to the lakes because during the Revolutionary War he was in the navy.

Some years ago, one of his ancestors came to Seneca County to put a Revolutionary War marker on his grave. An interesting story came to light at the commemorative ceremony regarding Abel Frisbie and his wife. During the war, while his ship was at sea, the ship and its men were captured by the British and sent away from America as prisoners. They remained captive for several years and Mrs. Frisbie assuming her husband was dead, remarried.

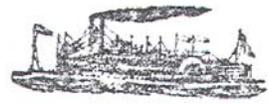
At the end of the war he was released from confinement and returned to his home only to find his wife belonged to someone else. He did not question her act but gave her a choice, "Remain with your present husband and I will go away or come away with me." She chose to go with him and they moved to Romulus. Capt. Abel Frisbee died in 1825 at 82. His wife Rebecca died in 1827. They are buried in Mt. Green Cemetery.

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ARLES GORDON: That name appears in the Albany Militia. He came from Geneva to Baileytown and had a mercantile business. He was in business with Elijah H. Gordon of Geneva, possibly a brother.

He was the first postmaster of Baileytown, established Jan. 1, 1804. He organized the First Cavalry Company of Romulus. Members included Ephraim Kinne and Thomas Blaine.

He is somewhat unusually compared to the other pioneers of Romulus. Although a good deal of historic information is available about him through deeds and historic documents, he does not appear in any of the censuses. Apparently he left his mark in the community and then moved away.

(to be continued)



REMEMBER THE VALIENT

This will be a column devoted to the men and women who served their country in the military services and have echoed their last farewell.

MRS. WILLIAM KELLEY (MARGARET SMITH), born Seneca Falls, Dec. 20, 1917, daughter of Joseph and Alice McCarthy Smith. Enlisted in the WAAC's, Aug. 12, 1943. Served as a clerk-stenographer and was stationed in England for 18 months. She died in Seneca Falls, April 13, 1984

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JOHN A. HANSEN, JR. Born Seneca County, son of John A. and Fannie Savage Hansen. Veteran of the US Army Air Corps in World War, II. Died in Auburn, May 27, 1984, 62

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JOHN MILLER, born Waterloo, son of Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Miller. Served in the US Navy during the Cuban crisis. Died May 29, 1984 in Geneva, 42.

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JAMES P. KENNELLY, a former member of the New York State Police and a US Navy veteran of World War, II. Formerly of Seneca Falls, he died June 30, 1984 at Royal Palm Beach, Fla. 63.

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LESTER BENNETT, born Fayette, March 8, 1917, son of Fred L. & Mabel Morehouse Bennett. He was an infantryman, a veteran of the US Army in World War, II. Died Town of Waterloo, July 8, 1984, 67.

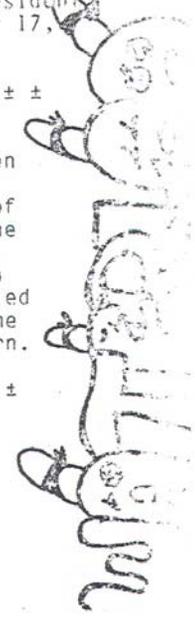
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JAMES H. ADAM, a veteran of the Vietnam War and former resident of Seneca Falls, died July 17, 1984 at Clay, 32.

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FRANCIS J. TRIPP, born Jan. 14, 1905 in Ovid, son of Caleb and Catherine Bracken Tripp. A member of the military police of the US Army in World War, II, he was the recipient of a Purple Heart medal. He died Aug. 22, 1984, in the same house in which he was born.

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CHARLES A. GROVER, born in Weedsport, son of Adelbert Grover was a World War, I veteran in the US Navy. He was past commander of the Finger Lakes County Council, VFW. He died Aug. 25, 1984 at Mac Dougall, 87.

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GERALD W. BOHMAN, born in Danbury, Conn. Nov. 5, 1914. He was a Tech. Sgt. in the US Air Force and a veteran of World War, II and the Korean War with 22 years of military service. He died in Waterloo, Aug. 28, 1984, 69.

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MRS. RUSSELL HACKER (MARGARET LEGOTT), was a veteran of World War, II, having served with the WAAC's as a medical technician at Mason General Hospital, Brentwood, NY. She died at Waterloo, Aug. 29, 1984, 60.

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HOWARD L. LEMBKE, born in Lock Berlin, Wayne Co. was a US Navy veteran of the Korean War. Formerly of Seneca Falls, he died Sept. 15, 1984 at Edmond, Okla.

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NICHOLAS TIASKKUN, born in Seneca Falls, he was a US Army veteran and served in World War, II. His brother Joseph, died in France, July 15, 15, 1944, the result of wounds received that date. Died Sept. 23, 1984 at the Waterloo Hospital, 65.

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CARL J. IRLAND, born in Seneca Falls, April 24, 1916. He was a sergeant with the 303rd Station Hospital in England and a veteran of World War, II. He died in Waterloo, Sept. 29, 1984.

MYRON R. BREWER, born May 13, 1921 in Ovid, son of Myron H. and Mildred Roan Brewer. He was a PFC in the 9766th Military Police Technical Service in World War, II. He died Aug. 18, 1984 at the Geneva Hospital.

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RICHARD K. BIXBY, born June 8, 1913 in Waterloo, the son of Archie F. and Mary E. Strayer Bixby. He was a member of the Waterloo Memorial Post, VFW. He died Nov. 7, 1984 at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Syracuse, 71. He lived in Seneca Falls.

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DR. WILLIAM K. MAJOR, was born at Richmond Hill, NY Dec. 21, 1919. He was a veteran of World War, II and served in the Pacific area. He was a general practitioner in Waterloo from 1948 until 1981 and was a physician at Willard Psychiatric Center from 1981. He died Aug. 6, 1984 at Waterloo.

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REAR ADMIRAL JOHN CAMPBELL LESTER US Navy, retired, was born in Seneca Falls, July 4, 1900. He was the son of Dr. Frederick W. and Elizabeth Campbell Lester. He was graduated from the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD. in 1922. During World War, II, he was in command of the USS Fayette, an attack transport. After retiring from the navy he became a professor of mechanical engineering at Pennsylvania State University. He died in Montclair, N.J. July 11, 1984. Burial was in the US Naval Academy Cemetery, Annapolis, Md.

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Subscriptions to "Seneca County History" are \$5 a year; \$1.25 a single copy, \$1.75 by mail. Mrs. Betty Auten, Seneca County Historian, 31 Thurber Dr. Waterloo, NY 13168

31

A LETTER BACK HOME

When Earl Clark gave up his position as publisher of the Seneca Falls Reveille, just before the beginning of the second World War, it was taken over by a man named Edward Bowman. Clark left to do his bit for the "Cause" and he became an American Red Cross Field Director.

Bowman did his share in putting out an excellent newspaper. It was quite an unusual publication. From the day the first man from Seneca Falls entered the service until long after the war had ended Bowman printed reams of space about the men and women who had gone away to serve their country.

Each week the paper carried letters from the "boys" and "girls" who were training and later fighting. Each promotion was catalogued and from the start he sent each man free copies of the paper no matter where they were.

Before the war was half over, Bowman noted that over 40,000 newspapers had been sent. At first they went to the places where the men were training in the United States but as time went by, more and more papers were being sent overseas. After the war he continued to devote a great deal of space to welcome the men back by giving an account of their service record.

If a family received a letter that Mr. Bowman felt would be of interest to the readers, he asked permission and printed it.

One such letter came at the end of hostilities in the Pacific.

When the USS Missouri was taken to Tokyo Bay for the official surrender ceremonies, a number of other ships served as escort and flagships. One of these was the USS De Haven which was selected as flagship for Rear Admiral J.F. Shafroth. A young Seneca Falls man who was a radarman aboard the USS De Haven wrote home about his experience.

He wrote, "We were all broken out of our bunks about 0430 for breakfast in order to get everything in readiness to anchor in the bay by 0630. Upon arrival in the bay we were ordered to drop our hook about 1,000 yards off the port bow of the Missouri."

The men had a ring side seat to witness all the ships bringing the general, admirals and other high ranking officials from the Allied Nations who would witness the signing of the documents.

The seaman continued, "The climax of the ceremony was when a great fleet of B-29's and carrier planes flew over the Missouri. It was indeed a display that made all proud of our armed forces. Imagine 500 superbombers plus 800 assorted navy planes all sweeping across the sky in one sprawling group. It was a sight that we shall probably never see again."

The young radarman who witnessed this most important historical event and wrote home to tell about it was Edwin G. Nelson, presently one of the county supervisors of Waterloo and owner of the Wood Shoppe.



GAR POSTS

These are the Civil War soldiers in whose honor the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Posts were named, in Seneca Co.

COVERT

WILLIAM E. AVERY POST

William Elias Avery, the son of John B. and Elizabeth Starkweather Avery was born in Farmersville (Interlaken). John B. was a merchant and was one of the first postmasters of the village.

William enrolled on Sept. 18, 1861 as a first lieutenant in Co. F. 75th regiment. He was commissioned on Nov. 30, 1861. He was 23 at the time of his enrollment.

He was killed in action, May 27, 1863 at Port Hudson, Louisiana.

His father was born in Tompkins Co. and had moved to Seneca by 1840. He had one brother, Albert; and four sisters, Mary, Helen, Lucy and Frances. He is buried in Lakeview Cemeter, Interlaken, with his parents and three sisters.



WILLIAM E. AVERY

LODI

33

ANDREW CHESTNUT POST

Andrew Chestnut, the son of Patrick and Margaret Chestnut was born in Ireland about 1841. The family was in Lodi by 1859 for Patrick applied for his citizenship papers on March 12, 1859. They were farmers.

Andrew enlisted Aug. 8, 1862 in Co. C. 126th regiment under Capt. Winfield Scott. He was appointed corporal

He was in the battles of Harper's Ferry, Gettysburg, Auburn Ford, Bristow Station and Mine Run. He was killed in action Feb. 6, 1864 at the battle of Morton's Ford.

Andrew had one brother, William and two sisters: Isabel and Jane. All were born in Ireland. He is buried in the West Lodi Cemetery with his parents and brother.

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CHARLES P. LITTLE POST

Charles P. Little was born in New York State. He married Phebe Brokaw, daughter of Peter V. Brokaw, on March 21, 1857.

He enlisted in Co. E. 148th regiment on Dec. 21, 1863. Less than six months later he was killed at the battle of Petersburg, Va. on June 18, 1864. He was 29.

He left three small children. Catherine was five; John was four and Harriet was one and a half. He is buried in Union Cemetery in Ovid, with his wife. She died in 1884.

SENECA FALLS

CROSS POST

Among the enlistments of the men who went into the Civil War, there are many examples where

34
a father and son or two or more brothers enlisted. The Cross family for whom the Seneca Falls post was named is certainly a shining example of courage and patriotism.

William H. Cross and five of his sons enlisted in the service. Three of the sons died in service.

William H. Cross was born in Greene County Oct. 28, 1809. He came to Seneca Falls as a young man. He was married on Dec. 23, 1833 to Lucy A. Boardman, daughter of Deming, an early settler of Seneca County. They had at least 13 children.

On Sept. 16, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Co. K. 50th Engineers at Seneca Falls. According to his enlistment he was 43 but on the 1860 census, he was 51. He was discharged for disability June 12, 1862 at Fairfax Seminary in Washington, D.C.

Asa D. Cross, the eldest was 25 in 1860. He was a private in the 4th New York Artillery. No record is available for his service but he died in the war.

Amos N. Cross, enlisted on May 18, 1861 at Seneca Falls as a private in Co. K. 33rd Infantry. He was 24. He died in Newark, N.J. on Nov. 11, 1862.

James G. Cross enlisted Sept. 9, 1862 as a private in Co. A. 148th regiment. He was 21. He was captured in action on June 15, 1864 near Petersburg and died in a prison camp at Florence, S. Carolina.

34
George M. Cross enlisted April 30, 1863 as a private in Co. D. 11th Artillery. This later became Co. M. of the 4th Artillery. He was wounded, date and place not stated and was discharged for disability, July 25, 1865 at Harewood General Hospital at Washington.

After the war he moved to Michigan. He died July 26, 1918 from injuries received at a barn raising the year before. He was 68.

Lemuel B. Cross enlisted as a private in Co. A. 148th Regiment under Lt. Horace N. Rumsey at Seneca Falls. He was 23. He was wounded in action, June 3, 1864 at Cold Harbor and was discharged with his company June 22, 1865 at Richmond, Va.

WATERLOO

TYLER J. SNYDER POST

Tyler J. Snyder was born April 20, 1840 in Gorham, the son of Hamilton J. and Sardinette Stewart Snyder. He enlisted Aug. 14, 1862 at Waterloo. He was 21. He was appointed corporal on Nov. 1, 1862 and promoted to sergeant on March 4, 1863. He was in Co. G. 126th Regiment under Capt. John F. Aikens.

He served in the battle of Harper's Ferry and was mortally wounded in action at Gettysburg, July 2, 1863. He died the next day in the field hospital.

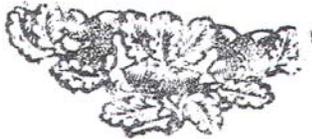
His grandfather was Anthony Snyder, a pioneer gunsmith and merchant of South Waterloo. According to an early record, Anthony was a brother of Mary Snyder Bear, the wife of Samuel Bear. Other children in the family were; Harriet, Augusta, Charles, Mary, Gardner and David.

NECROLOGY

Vincent A. Napolitano of Geneva president and chief executive officer of Goulds Pumps, Inc. died Aug. 18, 1984 at a Boston, Mass. hospital.

Mr. Napolitano had been with Goulds since 1963 when he joined the company as a sales engineer. He would have been 54 on August 19.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanne; two sons, Steven and Kenneth; daughter Lisa; his parents, Michael and Assunta Napolitano; two brothers, John and Joseph, all Brooklyn; and a sister Mrs. Marie Spichiali of California.



Peter M. Doran, the oldest active business man of Seneca Falls and Waterloo and friend of all who knew him, died August 19, 1984 at 93.

He was born in Ovid, son of Lawrence J. and Catherine Farrell Doran. His family moved to Seneca Falls when he was one. He was possibly the oldest practicing funeral director in New York State. He first entered the business in 1907.

He was married to Lottie M. Hill, daughter of John Hill of Waterloo. He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Kathleen Suffredini, Seneca Falls; Mrs. Elizabeth Zone, Wayland; eight grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

35

35

STARK ST. CEMETERY
(continued)

DRESSER

Roland L. 10/9/1862, 60
Emily, 3/26/1865, 37
Albert R. 8/23/1841, 1-4-18
Helen S. 10/31/1841, 2-0-18

DUNHAM

Sarah, 3/27/1840, 19-7-7

DURAM

Tolford, 10/1/1843, 73
Elizabeth, 3/27/1844, 64
Minerva, 11/23/1847, 49-3-0
John R. 3/10/1842, 23
David N. 4/3/1839, 19-7-0
Lany L. 6/2/1837, 14-5-0
Henrietta, 6/30/1842, 2-3-6

DURPHY

Marcellas, 2/20/1852, 23-0-13

EATON

Mary Stuart, 9/16/1831, 38
Francis J. 5/30/1845, 21
Noah Henry, 3/1/1831, 4

EBERT

John H. 11/9/1827, 30
Catherine, 7/25/1828, 20
John, 10/1/1828, 0-5-0

EGGLESTON

Joseph, 11/12/1841, 33-2-16

ELDER

Cassius C. 1/11/1836, 6-4-0
Henry S. 1/9/1835, 0-4-24

ELLIOTT

Russell, 11/15/1836, 26-6-0
Lucy, 2/22/1840, 32
Ermina, 10/11/1834, 0-4-16
Ezekiel O.P. 2/26/1836, 3-9-0
Charles N. 9/27/1836, 1-1-0

ELMENDORF

Nellie, 12/22/1864, 71-2-8
Rachel C. 10/1/1835, 0-10-0
Albert, 8/13/1843, 0-9-0

ESTES

Martha Emeline, 1/26/1847, 19-11-5
James S. 7/28/1847, 0-9-22

FARNSWORTH

Polly; 11/19/1819, 26
Eliza; 7/4/1818, 1-6-0
Silas Porter, 10/16/1819, 22
Susan F. 7/22/1835, 1-9-0
Cynthia, 8/17/1835, 7
Oren, 10/10/1843, 52
Lucinda, 11/15/1876, 77
Eliza, 9/24/1852
Eliza, 12/5/1844, 2-2-0
Francis, 5/31/1853, 9-11-0
Inf. son., 3/23/1837
Inf. son., 9/5/1827
James J. 7/24/1825, 0-4-0

FECK

Catherine, 4/9/1882, 78

FERRIS

David L. 4/27/1880, 28
Matilda, 7/26/1880, 24
Oliver A. 5/15/1903, 24-9-14

FINN

John, 4/1/1901
Maria, 4/15/1869, 50

FISKE

Sarah, 12/25/1846, 74

FORCE,

Isaac, 1823, 44
Dina, 10/26/1826, 69
Mary, 10/6/1865, 62

GENUNG

Lucius H. 8/30/1848, 1-0-22

GILLIS

William, 8/2/1826, 0-3-7

GILBERT

Laura R. 10/1/1858, 48

GOODRICH

Alice Ann, 3/11/1864, 43-0-;6

GORMAN

Barney, 10/5/1880, 60

GRIDLEY

Rev. George W. 9/20/1846, 32

GRUSS

Bernard, 4/28/1864, 56
Mary, 3/12/1873, 54
Fanny, 5/27/1873, 27
Frederick, 9/3/1882, 21

36

GLASBY

Mary Jane, 8/26/1898, 45

HATGH

Betsey, 8/28/1843, 33-6-29

HAMELL

Nancy A.D. 10/14/1840, 19-10-0
Charles E. 2/17/1841, 2-1-17

HARDY

Sam, 9/26/1892, 50

36

HARRINGTON

Jane, 9/21/1841, 78

HARRIS

Fred, 1/30/1888, 31

HART

George, 10/26/1866, 50-8-6
Orrin, 11/14/1870, 63
Eunice, 6/12/1843, 63
Lucinda, 8/18/1869, 85
Julia Jane, 10/15/1852, 0-8-0
Charles H. 5/22/1848, 4-7-25
Caroline F. 3/31/1842, 2-8-4

HATCH

Charles, 12/28/1841, 0-2-4
Mary, 10/13/1852, 1-4-0
Nathaniel, 5/15/1848, 0-10-14

HENDERSON

Mary Ann, 5/15/1848, 14-10-5

HENDRICKS

Elizabeth, 10/25/1903, 62

HENDRICKSON

Charity, 6/4/1892, 70-11-21

HENTON

Cornelius, 12/9/1864, 76-0-23
Ann, 8/3/1860, 70-1-13
Catherine, 11/18/1854, 23-1-2
Lovinah, 2/11/1850, 23-1-0
Andrew J. 9/7/1841, 12-0-29
Ann, 12/30/1856, 2-5-17

