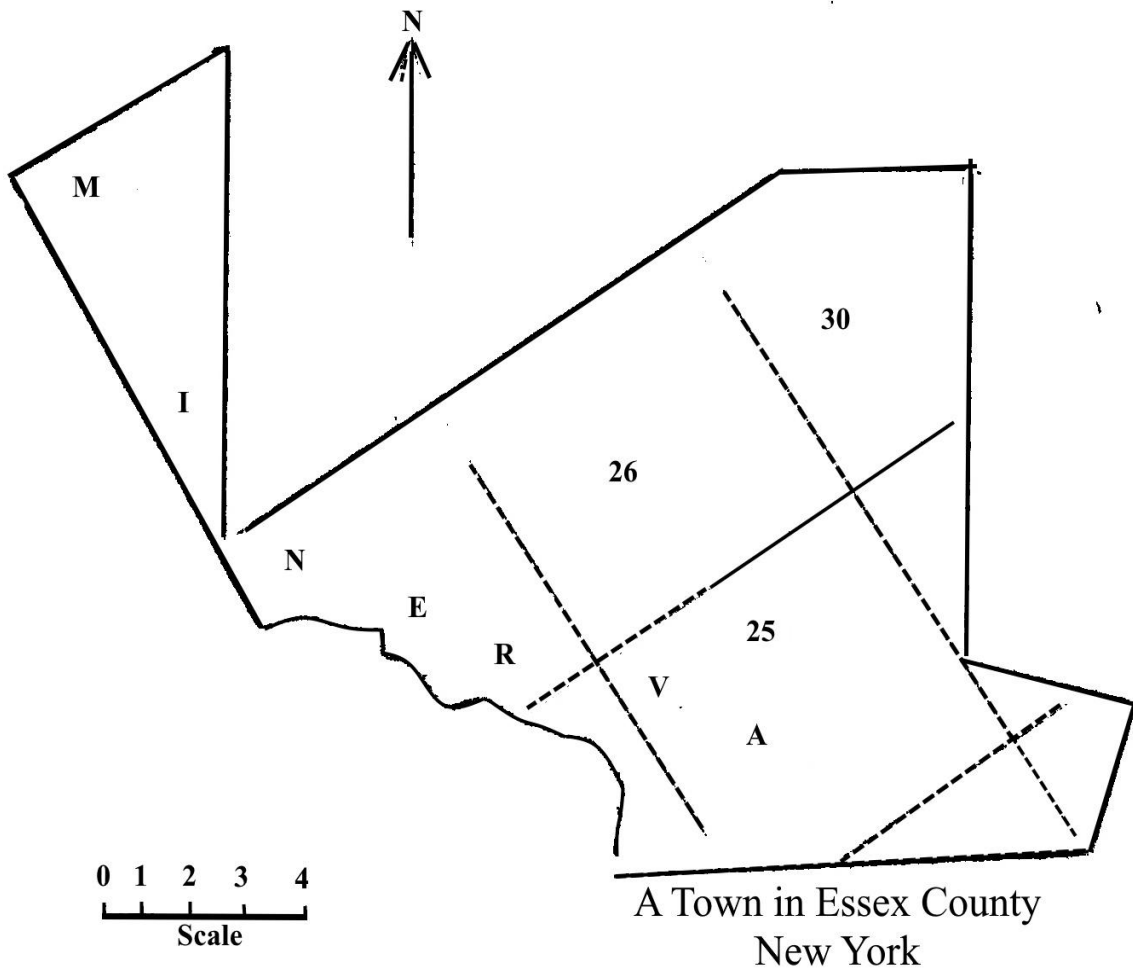


The
Historical Society
of the
Town of Minerva
Quarterly



JANUARY MEETING

Just how does the average layman go about looking up his family tree? Would you be interested in doing this for yourself, for your children? It's never too soon (nor too late) to begin such a project.

Come to our January meeting and hear our Town Historian, Mabel Jones, explain her methods of genealogical research. On display will be actual prepared genealogies of local families. Books related to the subject and sketches of family trees will also be shown.

An opportunity will be given to begin your own family tree under the guidance of Mrs. Jones.

TIME: Tuesday evening, January 30th at 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Minerva Town Hall

OCTOBER MEETING

The Bicentennial Committee of the Town of Minerva Historical Society planned the fall meeting with the objective of awakening interest in the future celebration of the 200th birthday of our nation in 1976.

On Tuesday, Oct. 24th at the Minerva Central School a movie in color on Fort Ticonderoga was shown. David Carver, 7th and 8th grade history teacher showed a film strip with narration on the recent excavations being done near Crown Point. Jack Alexander, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade Social Studies teacher, assisted with the program.

At the conclusion of the program, an invitation was extended to Minerva Central School students in grades 4 through 12 to participate in an essay contest. The purpose of this contest is part of the awakening phase and education on the American Revolution. The due date is April 19, 1973, with prizes awarded in May. The essay requirements were given out and Mr. Mangine, Principal, appointed a committee of 5 to work with our Bicentennial committee on the essay contest as consultants – David Carver, Chairman, Jack Alexander, Ann Hornbeck, Judy Strohmeyer, and George Trombly.

DID YOU KNOW

That John Butler Yeats, father of Nobel prize winner William Butler Yeats and a writer and artist in his own right, is buried in the Chestertown Rural Cemetery?

That an old farm house between Wevertown and North Creek commemorates the home of E. E. Rexford who wrote "Silver Threads Among the Gold"

UPPER HUDSON FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Upper Hudson Federation held its annual meeting on Oct. 6th at the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake. Clarence and Mabel Jones attended from our society. At the business session, Miss Eleanor Hall of Port Henry was elected to the Board for a term of five years, giving Essex County its first representative on the Board of Directors.

Afternoon speakers were Mr. Graig Gilborn, the new Director of the museum and Miss Cornelia Brooke, a researcher for the New York State Historic Trust.

It was decided that the spring workshop will be held on May 5th at the Old Fort House Museum in Ft. Edward and the annual meeting will be on Oct. 6th at the Adirondack Center Museum in Elizabethtown.

Each historical society has five representatives for whom the society pays one dollar each for the year. Our representatives are: Mildred Lynch, Theo Owens, Helen Shevlin, Alice Switzer and Mabel Jones.

GARAGE CLOSED

Gallagher's garage in Minerva was closed on October 28th when its owner, Norman Hall, retired from active business after 25 years in Minerva. Until such time as it is reopened, or some other place is started, the hamlet of Minerva is without a gas or service station. Fortunately, Norman Sullivan runs a gas station in Olmstedville.

Gallagher's garage was built in 1919 by Claude and William Gallagher on land which they bought from John J. Anderson who then owned the Mountain View Hotel. The two brothers ran the garage together for a few years, when Claude moved to Albany and William became the owner.

William was such an efficient mechanic that people came from a considerable distance to have him service their cars. Unfortunately, he developed a back ailment which made him give up hope of continuing with the business and in 1947, he sold the garage to his nephew, Norman Hall of Newcomb, who retained the name "Gallagher's Garage." An operation restored Bill to an active life and he is still running the garage at Tahawus for N. L. Industries.

Norman Hall has maintained the same high standards set by his uncle and it is with regret that we see him retire. The building is being rented to the town Highway Department for storage of its equipment.

JAMES GALLAGHER

James Gallagher deserves to be mentioned here even though he did not live in Minerva during his active career. Six of his eleven children have lived here. In addition to Claude and William, there is Elizabeth who is still living at the age of 91, Frank who died in 1943, John who died in 1963, Margaret who is Mrs. Harry McNally of Olmstedville, and his daughter Ella who married Norman Hall, Sr. of Newcomb and is still living there.

James was born in 1837 in Canada of Irish parents and came to the United States in 1872. His wife's maiden name was Ellen Bryant. They lived between the Lower Works and the Upper Works at Tahawus in the Town of Newcomb.

First and foremost, Mr. Gallagher was a lumberman, but the area of land known as "the Gallagher clearing" would indicate that farming was a substantial sideline. He had experience as a hired lumberjack, a manager for the Finch and Pruyn Company, and finally as a contractor managing his own jobs. His advice and estimates carried great weight with the company. It is a well-known fact that the trail coming down from Indian Pass follows the log road laid out by Mr. Gallagher. Hikers who were trained engineers have marveled at the skill shown in effecting a practical route for getting logs out of the area. Mr. Gallagher, once when informed of this, smiled reminiscently and said that when bids were sought for lumbering the spot, his was not the lowest bid, but he estimated that he could begin delivering logs much sooner than other bidders. The company relied on his judgment and he did not default on his promise.

During his later years, Mr. Gallagher lived in Minerva where the Mangine family now resides. Elizabeth, the oldest daughter, lived with the old folks and continued to live there after their death.

IN MEMORIAM**Paul Clifford 1902 – 1972**

Paul Clifford was born in Olmstedville on March 4, 1902, died on Dec. 27, 1972 in Brant Lake after a long illness. He was the son of John and Susan Lynn Clifford. He served in the Navy in W.W. II with the 35th Seabee Battalion. He married Edith Barton of Brant Lake and has lived there, serving as rural mail carrier for 14 years before his retirement.

Edith is the Historian of the Town of Horicon and has been very helpful to us in supplying needed information and in copying Minerva items from the Warrensburg News. Paul has also been much interested and was kind enough to supply us with a picture taken about 1912 when the Olmstedville dam went out. Unfortunately, we did not have it in time to include it in "Minerva 1817 – 1967".

EPIDEMICS**Diphtheria**

Anyone wandering through the cemeteries of Minerva is sure to notice the number of deaths that occurred in the years 1869 and 1881 and 1882, especially among the children. These are the years when there were diphtheria epidemics, a deadly disease. It still would be if it were not prevented by inoculations. It was rare for anyone to recover from it.

In 1869, a daughter of Loren Gates died in April of diphtheria. Stephen Jones and his wife took their three children to visit in a home where there was sickness and the next month their children all died. Stephen and wife moved to Wisconsin and had a son Freeman who is still living at 97 and has many descendants.

The epidemic of 1881–82 was much more widespread in Minerva. In 1881, Dr. Wall and wife lost three children within a few days. Patrick Sullivan, James Lindsay and Charles Ilginn families each lost one.

In 1882, there were two children taken in the home of Matthew Clifford. Mr. Clifford was the coffin maker for the town — it must have been a sad task for him to make coffins for his own children. John and Mary Hoy Doughty (his second wife) lost four children, only one child of Mary and John's survived, Joseph who lived to a ripe old age.

The David Lahey family lost two small daughters in July. Terrance Lynch lost three children in November and December, and Daniel Harmon lost 3 children about the same time. Patrick McNerny had one child die in July and another in August. In the McGarr family three died in September and October. The previous May their father had been drowned in a log drive on the Hudson. There were three McGarr children when John Gates married widow McGarr. The family later moved to Queensbury, and their son William Gates, served as fire chief in Glens Falls for a number of years.

The Daniel Lynch family lost three of their eight children in the fall of 1882, — daughters aged 14, 9 and 7. The family lived at that time about half way between Shevlin's and Lester Plow in quite an isolated spot. We are told that when the third daughter died on December 15, there was deep snow and her body was brought out on a hand sled, probably by some of the men who were working in the woods for Mr. Lynch.

Of course, there were diphtheria victims before and after the dates given, but these were the real times of epidemics. It is known that Philonzo Jones died of diphtheria in 1865 at the age of 31. In 1866 Ethel, daughter of Henry and Julia West Middleton developed the disease and the doctor decided that all members of the family should be inoculated. Inoculation at that time was in the experimental stage and it was not known that people who have asthma are allergic to the serum which was used at that time. The fluid dose was given to all members of the family and within a few hours the sick daughter lived, the rest were dead. Several other members of the family were very ill, but recovered, among them Arthur Middleton who is still living.

Smallpox

Smallpox was another dread disease of those days and many people died of it. Among them was Elias Jones who was living between the Lower Works and Boreas Ponds. His family consisted of his wife, the former Diantha Gates, and their children, Laura, Hannah and David. It was probably in December of 1860 that a man who was ill stopped at the Jones home and asked to stay over night. Permission was given and the man went on the next day in worse condition than when he came. Two or three weeks later the whole Jones family was sick and the illness proved to be smallpox from which Elias died on January 15th. Diantha gave birth to a son who died three days after his father. The other four members of the family recovered eventually. Laura is said to have been the only one who was able to even get drinks for the others for a time. Elias was buried in their yard, but he has a tombstone in the Minerva Baptist cemetery.

A copy of the Chicago Tribune has some interesting information on vaccination as it used to be done:

"Vaccination (including inoculation) has saved more human lives than all other medical discoveries or drugs! Dr. Jenner noticed that milkmaids who had developed sores on their hands while milking cows, later were immune to smallpox; so he pioneered smallpox vaccination.

In Shakespeare's century, it was estimated that 60 million died of smallpox in Europe, not to mention the greater number of deaths in Asia, etc... George Washington had smallpox as a boy, for Dr. Jenner did not expound his discovery till 1798 (one year before Washington's death).

In those earlier days (even in New England till about 1900), the family physicians had little concept of germ infections; so they carried an ivory toothpick in their vest pockets. They'd take it out, spit on a child's arm; cleanse the wet skin with their handkerchief; then scratch the skin with that ivory toothpick and place a drop of the vaccine on the raw spot. Occasionally, therefore, a child might thus develop some other ailment, due to contamination by the toothpick or the doctor's spit or his handkerchief. Thus it wasn't the vaccination that caused the trouble, but lack of sterile methods by 19th Century doctors."

VISITORS

Early in October we were visited by Arthur and Lena Constantine of Markstay, Ontario, near Sudbury. This was their first visit to New York State to get acquainted with Lena's many relatives here. She is the great-granddaughter of Martin Jones who at one time lived in Minerva. She is also related to the Cowles, Morrissey and Zufelt families. She and her husband drove from here to Glens Falls and Gansevoort to look up other relatives.

PROFILE**Mary Ryen Ratigan**

Mary Rebecca Ryen was born December 15, 1883 to James and Mary Gilliland Ryen. James was the son of Edward and Ellen Smith Ryen. Mary was the daughter of Robert and Rebecca Hoy Gilliland. It is interesting to note here that Robert Gilliland and Rebecca Hoy were both born in Ireland, he in County Wickham and she in County Fermanagh. She came to America in 1855, taking seven weeks to come on a sailing vessel. Robert came in 1857 on a steamship, taking three weeks. They eventually got acquainted in New York City, were married and lived there for several years before coming to Minerva. Their first three children were born in the city and Mary (Mollie) was born in Minerva in 1868. In 1885, Mollie married James Ryen and they had one more daughter who was born in 1883 — the present Mary (Mayme) Ratigan. Mayme was five months old when her mother died and she was brought up by her Gilliland grandparents.

Robert Gilliland had bought 70 acres of land in lot 34, Dominick patent, land which lies along the road from Minerva to Irishtown, beyond the long hills. He later bought land in lot 44 and lived in a house near the O'Neil bridge. The house has long since disappeared.

In 1907, Mayme married William Ratigan, son of Patrick and Eliza O'Neil Ratigan. Patrick came here from County Connemaugh, Ireland, and is said to have worked in the tannery before buying land in Irishtown. He married Eliza O'Neil, daughter of Richard and Nancy O'Neil. William and Mayme lived in the Ratigan home in Irishtown for some years and their four children were born there. In 1913, the family moved to North Creek where they bought a home and William worked in the Smith store. He died in 1948.

Mary was appointed postmaster in February 1934 and held that position until Dec. 31, 1953 when she retired at the age of 70.

The four Ratigan children now live in different parts of the state. Robert married Alice Raymond of Minerva and they live in Plattsburgh where he has a garage. Mary married John Wasserbach who died very suddenly in 1962. She still lives in Delmar. Frank lives in Saranac Lake where he has served several terms as mayor. William married Madeline Brown, daughter of Mabel Brown VanDewerker of Olmstedville, and they live in Beacon.

In September 1968, these families gave a surprise birthday party to celebrate their mother's 80th birthday. It was given early in order to avoid the cold and the roads of December and also to have the use of the ski hut which was necessary to accommodate the large crowd of relatives and friends who came to show their regard for Mary Ratigan.

Mrs. Ratigan was one of the very early members of our Historical Society and has been most helpful in supplying information and assisting in other ways.

GILLILAND – RYAN WEDDING

Mrs. Ratigan has given us the following account of the wedding of her parents on December 28, 1885. It was a double wedding held in St. Joseph's Church in Olmstedville. The second couple was Catherine Dougherty, daughter of John and Mary Lynch Dougherty and Joseph Burtou, son of Benedict and Elvira Brault Burtou.

Mayme tells us that her mother wore a beautiful dress of blue taffeta and her sister Rebecca wore a similar dress of black taffeta. The witnesses for the Gilliland – Ryan couple were Rebecca Gilliland and Francis Shevlin, while those for the Dougherty – Burtou couple were Mary Lahey and Peter Dougherty. All eight of these young people stood together at the altar. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. G. B. LaGrand.

The wedding was held in the evening and was followed by a dance and oyster supper at the Gilliland home. The new Mr. and Mrs. Burtou drove to Chestertown for a wedding trip.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

NO LONG HAIR — The length of the human hair early became an important issue, and the wearing of long locks by men came under the eye of the “sober and serious members of Society”. About the year 1650, the practice was denounced in a paper signed by an association of leading members of the community, in these words: “Forasmuch as the wearing of long hair, after the manner of the Russians, and the barbarous Indians, has begun to invade these colonies, contrary to the rule of God's word and the commendable custom of the godly, until this few years, we, the magistrates, who have subscribed this paper (for the showing of our innocency in this behalf) do declare and manifest our dislike and detestation against the wearing of such long hair as against a thing uncivil and unmanly, whereby men do deform themselves, offend sober and modest men and do corrupt good manners.” The grand jury was then bound to prevent the wearing of long hair, and the court instructed to punish all such offenders.

This court ruling met with little opposition, although it is recorded that a few dandies with their hair long, and a few others too lazy to bother to cut it, voiced some opinions.

MINERVA 1817 – 1967

Page 60 – “Mrs. Mary Ratigan tells us that representatives of the tannery met the ships in New York and hired men to come to Minerva to work in the tannery and girls to work in the boarding houses. Mrs. Ratigan's grandmother, Ellen Smith, was one of the girls who arrived from Ireland and was hired to come to Minerva to work in the boarding house. Her sister had been hired by someone else and taken to Boston; her brother was left in New York City and Ellen never succeeded in getting the three of them together. Ellen married Edward Ryan and one of their small sons drowned in a vat in the tannery.”

SCHOOLS

From Agricultural Survey of Essex County up to 1852 by Winslow C. Watson: Page 718 – Schools — The first impulse and almost instinct of the settlers, even when their cabins were scattered over a wide area of several miles, seems to have been to secure the erection of a school house. For many years in the early stages of the settlements, these schools had no legal organization and were sustained alone by the voluntary contributions of the people, unaided by the public bounty.

Same source: Schools 1850 — Minerva had 7 schools with 154 children, average number of months taught 7-3/4. Money received from district \$111.21, from public money \$108.56.

Report of State Supt. of Public Instruction – 1896.

Minerva had 11 schools with 270 children attending.

The value of the school buildings was \$4,600.

Assessed valuation of the districts was \$153,930.

Amount of public money received \$1,272.80

Amount of money raised by public tax \$2,071.40

C. H. Wilson was Commissioner of the schools of Essex Co., Second District. He was born and reared in Minerva, the son of John R. and Mary Jane Middleton Wilson. He married Bertha Pitkin of Schroon and lived there the remainder of his life. He was an uncle of Van Wilson of Schroon and Dorothy Wilson Berggren of Minerva.

Charles attended Sherman Academy and at the age of eighteen began to teach, continuing this occupation until 1890 when he was first elected School Commissioner. It was a part of the Commissioner's work to examine prospective teachers and certify them to teach. Here is a part of his report in 1896:

“Two hundred eighty three different candidates have been examined; sixty-two have passed for third grade, sixty-nine for second grade, and five for first grade certificates; 147 failed to obtain a certificate of any kind. Thirty-two teachers have been licensed without previous experience in teaching, which is too many. I am of the opinion that something should be done to lessen the number of third grade teachers. I would suggest that a candidate for third grade be allowed only two trials, and that the teaching age be advanced to eighteen.

By comparing the work of the past year with that of previous years, I am pleased to report steady advancement along the line of the schools under my supervision. The graded course of study has done much toward bringing our schools to a higher standard. Teachers are beginning to think that they cannot do without it, and pupils are encouraged and stimulated by its use. To those teachers who have not as yet adopted the system, I would recommend that they do so at once.”

Willet Randall – "Getting to School in the Winter"

The following was written by Willet Randall and appeared in the North Creek News Enterprise on March 22, 1967. Mr. Randall was born in 1876 and died in 1970. Even though he lived in the North Creek area, the same conditions no doubt existed in Minerva.

"I vividly recall how the 'path-master' used to stop at the door to 'warn out' every able bodied man with his shovel to open the roads that were drifted full sometimes to the point where the horses hitched to the bob-sled bogged down to wait for us to dig the snow out from under them; then they'd move on a short distance and wait for us to catch up again.

It was great fun to follow the men; among them my dad who was the first to grab his shovel and obey the orders of the 'path-master'. Sometimes we had to repeat the following day what we had done before when a twin storm hit and the roads were blocked again; but nobody complained — it was a jovial and jolly crowd we followed. These men felt a responsibility that men know nothing about in these days. The kids started for school with their dinner pails and wallowed belly deep in the snow drifts to join the kids at the next house until we reached the school; all had come together for the last mile — and we loved it, though the cold may have been severe and we sparsely clad, we made it safely and warmed our old noses beside the big box stove the teacher had roaring and waiting for us.

When we were warm and our frozen wraps were hung in the hallway, we took our places and started the lessons for the day. There were about 45 of us, and all in the one-room schoolhouse, yet there was always room for more."

From the Warrensburg News – April 3, 1890

"School teachers are very scarce. Some districts have been unable to secure one to teach their schools yet. The present law, in our opinion, is very defective in some respects. Districts that have sixteen weeks of school to keep in order to fill the bill, had to commence March 31, in order to get in the time before the school year closes. This is a bad time for small children in the rural districts to attend school — mud, slush and snow — but they must attend. Abe Burdick has travelled over 100 miles to find a teacher and has failed."

April 5, 1900 – Igerna: "Our school began March 21, with Miss Carrie Dunkley as teacher. The attendance has been very small and will continue to be so for some time on account of the snow being so deep and there not being much travel on the crossroads. This makes the walking so bad that it is impossible for some of the children to get to school, especially small children and those who have to go two miles, as some of them do. I think that if the superintendent of public instruction had to wade through the northern snowdrifts for getting to school, you would advocate different laws. He would at least know how he came by his education."

GIFTS RECEIVED**BANKS – DONNELLY WEDDING INVITATION**

Mildred Lynch has given our society a wedding invitation found among Mr. Dan Lynch's old papers. Issued in 1895 by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Banks, it summons friends to the wedding of Maggie Banks and John Donnelly. The Banks family lived about where Fred and Rose Morse now have their home. In 1898, John Donnelly bought the home which is still owned, and occupied in the summer by his daughter, May Donnelly.

The wedding gown worn by Margaret Banks was one of the dresses used in our program "Fashions on Parade" in July 1971. It was worn by Marie Hewitt. Here is the description used in the program: "It is of brown Henrietta wool. Eight gores form a full sweep of the skirt which is slightly longer in the back to accommodate the many petticoats. The hem is bound in velvet to form a dust ruffle. The blouse is of herringbone silk with leg o'mutton sleeves. Three stripes of wool form an interesting effect on the sleeve from the shoulder to the elbow. The attached dog collar has a bow of self-silk at the back. The hat is of natural peanut straw trimmed with brown silk bows and heather."

VISITING CARDS

Mildred also gave us two cards of the kind that were very popular near the turn of the century. We are told that it was the custom for friends to exchange these lovely cards which bore pictures of birds and flowers, under which would be found the name of the donor. The cards were small, measuring about two by four inches. One of those given us bears the name of Annie McMahan and the other Horace D. Lawrence.

A third card is no doubt of an earlier vintage as it is done in black and white and bears only the name "Minerva Johnston" along with a design at the top in which is the date 1879 and in small letters across it "Happy New Year". We are told that Minerva Johnston was the sister-in-law of Agnes Johnston of Olmstedville.

These cards bring to mind a story which must have originated about that time:

The new maid answered the door bell, allowed the caller to enter, and in answer to the query "Could I speak with Mrs. — — —?" said, "What's your name?" "Hand her my card," was the reply. The maid went to her mistress and reported, "Hanner McArde is here and here's her ticket."

BEAVER HAT

Gene Porter has presented the society with a handsome stovepipe hat, made of beaver, which will prove very useful whenever someone is to be attired in a costume of the Revolutionary era or later. It was bought by the Porters at an antique sale in Watertown some years ago. It came in a heavy leather hat box on the bottom of which is an American Express shipping label giving the valuation at \$125. The date was 1916. Gene also gave us a very unusual cooking utensil, the use of which we do not yet know.

CARD SHOWING FORMER HOUSE IN MINERVA

Mary Flynn Jenkins has given us a postcard bearing a picture of the house which stood on the vacant lot just south of the home of William and Laura Gallagher.

This was the second house which had stood on that lot, the first being built about 1896 by Ashley Kellogg. Ashley was the son of Orson and Eunice West Kellogg who owned what later became the property of Charles and Lizelle Callahan. Ashley had married Carrie Bissell of Newcomb and they had two children, Daisy and Harry while living in Minerva. Twin daughters were born after the family moved, about 1900, to Warrensburg where Ashley ran the Warren House.

The next occupants of the Minerva home were Lawrence and Margaret Flynn Lynn who were married March 31, 1890. Lawrence (who was called Dick for some reason) was the son of Daniel and Ann Ward Lynn and grew up on the farm that his father bought with the gold which he brought back from the California gold rush — the farm now owned by Bernard Lynn. Margaret (or Lee, as she was called) was the daughter of Patrick and Sarah McCullough Flynn.

The first years of their married life were spent mostly in the lumber woods where Lee cooked for the men and Dick supervised the work of as many as 50 men with perhaps a dozen teams.

About 1900, they bought the Ashley Kellogg home, added a “men’s room” and “kept” the freight teams and men over night. During the seasons when Mr. Anderson’s teams were not working in the lumber woods, they did the “tooting” to Newcomb. Local men of the area “cooked” by drawing freight under the season when Mr. Anderson’s teams were in the woods. Two trips a week were routine with horses for that period and the end of each day would find the stopover places at Havron’s, Keyes’, Gibney’s and Lynn’s all filled to capacity.

Dick Lynn died of pneumonia in 1910 and Lee married William J. Burns. Not long afterward they had the misfortune of having their home burn. They then built the little house on the card given us by Mary Jenkins. Mr. Burns died January 25, 1917, age 42. Later, Lee married Fred Butler whose first wife, Bessie Keys, had died, leaving a son, William. Fred was the son of Edwin and Jennie Ward Butler. Fred and Lee built a men’s room of the house and made their income from travelers. A few years after the beginning business was taken over by truckers which would make the trip from North Creek to Newcomb and

back in a day and “stopping places” were no longer needed. The Butlers and others now depended largely on summer guests, hunters and fishermen.

No matter how much work Lee Butler had to do at home, she always had time to visit the sick and comfort the bereaved. Fred Butler died March 3, 1939 at the age of 59.

About 1942, the house was divided into three apartments which were rented much of the time. Mrs. Butler lived in a small house which had been built at the rear of the big one and she worked some of the time at the hotel.

Early in 1944, Lee was taken to the Ticonderoga Hospital suffering from high blood pressure and hardening of the arteries. She came home much improved, but later in the same year she had to be taken to the hospital again and then to Ogdensburg where she died December 5, 1950 at the age of 80.

The house in Minerva was vacant for a time, but was occupied by three families in 1946 when on the night of April 6th, it burned to the ground. One of the families was away for the weekend and the other two escaped with no injuries, but with a total loss of their belongings. It was said that one woman tried to save some of her clothing by throwing it out of a window. Out of seven shoes, there was not one matching pair.

The land where the house stood was bought by William and Laura Gallagher as an addition to their home lot.

ELIZABETHTOWN POST FOR JANUARY 10, 1918

This gift from Florence Fitzsimons carried some interesting Minerva items, especially as it was written during the time of World War I and shows something of what Minerva Ladies were doing to help the war effort.

“Our local auxiliary of the Glens Falls Chapter, American Red Cross, now enrolls the following members — Mesdames Roxana Brown, Lena Lorimer, W. L. Coburn, Rodney West, Hollis Jones, David Jones, E. P. Farley, Sidney Rounds, W. E. Dimick, Daisy Lynn, R. E. Smith, Patrick McGinn, John Galusha, Margaret Starbuck, Misses Olive Jones, Edith Rounds, Margaret Lynch, Gertrude Middleton, Lorretta Owens, and Rev. F. M. LaBar.

The ladies have been meeting weekly for several months and the supplies already sent in include 4 sets pajamas, 4 sweaters, 4 pair socks, 3 scarfs, 6 caps, 14 pairs wristlets, 2 helmets, 1 bathrobe, 1 cap and 6 sets needles. Miss Margaret Lynch is the secretary of this auxiliary and Mrs. David Jones is president.”

GLENS FALLS POST–STAR, FEBRUARY 25, 1926

This paper came to us from Frank Owens, brother of our president, Alice Switzer. It contains a story about ice cutting which reminds us that we have not always had electric refrigerators, but rather ice chests which were cooled by big chunks of ice, placed in the top of the chest above the food compartment. Of course, the ice melted and the lady of the house had to make sure that it was replaced before her food spoiled. She also had to remember to empty the pan of water under the refrigerator before it overflowed. Here is a part of the article on ice cutting: “Hudson Falls ice dealers were never better prepared to take care of the trade than they are this year. Yarter Brothers have completed filling their houses in Kingsbury with ice measuring 12 to 15 inches in thickness, cut from Lake Bertha. They have cut more than sixteen hundred tons while private ice houses all over the village as well as those belonging to the farmers of Kingsbury have been filled with ice from Lake Bertha.

John H. Smith, Oak Street iceman, yesterday completed filling one of his large houses. The ice, from 13 to 15 inches in thickness, is of first-class quality and was cut from the Hudson River above the dam at Mill No. 5.”

ALMANACS — 1921 and 1934

These two bank almanacs were passed on to us by Mr. Frank Owens. They were put out by the North Creek National Bank which is now The North Creek Branch of the Albany Trust Company. Here are a few short items taken from the 1921 Almanac:

Farewell to Smokes?

“Nicotine Next” is the cry of reformers since national prohibition of liquor has gone into effect. But if they banish tobacco they will have conquered a custom antedating the discovery of the continent. After Columbus had sent two men ashore on the island of Cuba, he reported they saw great many people going to their villages, men and women with brands in their hands, made of herbs, for taking their customary smoke.” America gave tobacco to the world, and the annual crop aggregates nearly 1-1/3 billion pounds.

Highest Flight of Men

All prior altitude records were eclipsed when on February 27, 1920 Major R. W. Schroeder ascended from McCook Field at Dayton, Ohio, to the height of 36,020 feet, where he fell five miles, righted his plane and descended in safety.

Longest Highway

Lincoln Highway is the longest road in the world. It connects twelve states and is laid out between New York and San Francisco as directly as is practicable. Its length is 3,284 miles. (1921)

TOWN HIGHWAY ACCOUNT BOOK

Florence Fitzsimons has given us the book in which her father kept records of the work done in caring for Minerva roads from March 1, 1935 to August 31 of the same year. John Owens was Superintendent of Highways for several years before his death in 1937. He was the son of Thomas and Rosetta McCullough Owens and he married Lena Ratigan. Their children who grew to adulthood are William, Benjamin and Florence Owens Fitzsimons, and Charles.

The account book shows that the price paid for day labor was 43-3/4¢ per hour, that for a truck driver 50¢ and that for a man with team 87-1/2¢. Gallagher's garage was supplying gas, oil, storage, etc. for the town machinery.

CORRESPONDENCE

We have now received from Norman Gates of Chicago a copy of the material that he has collected on the descendants of John Gates who went from Minerva to Illinois in 1856. Mr. Gates and his brother Karl are both teachers in a suburb of Chicago and they plan to take a trip East during their spring vacation. We shall, no doubt, be seeing them.

Mr. Arthur Latham of Hayward, California has sent us a copy of a letter written Nov. 15, 1881 by the Rev. H. J. S. Lewis of Graeffton to his nephew. The heading is Olmstedville, Essex County, N. Y. The letter tells of a revival meeting which he had just held in the Minerva Baptist Church and one which was then going on in the North Chester Church. One sentence reads: "Though things are dark and going bad, the people crowd in from miles around."

In 1889 Mr. Lewis had been pastor of the North Chester Church for three years when he died suddenly in Caldwell on his way back from Irafton (Graffton) where his family was still residing.

Editors Note: Spelling of Graeffton is suspicious.

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