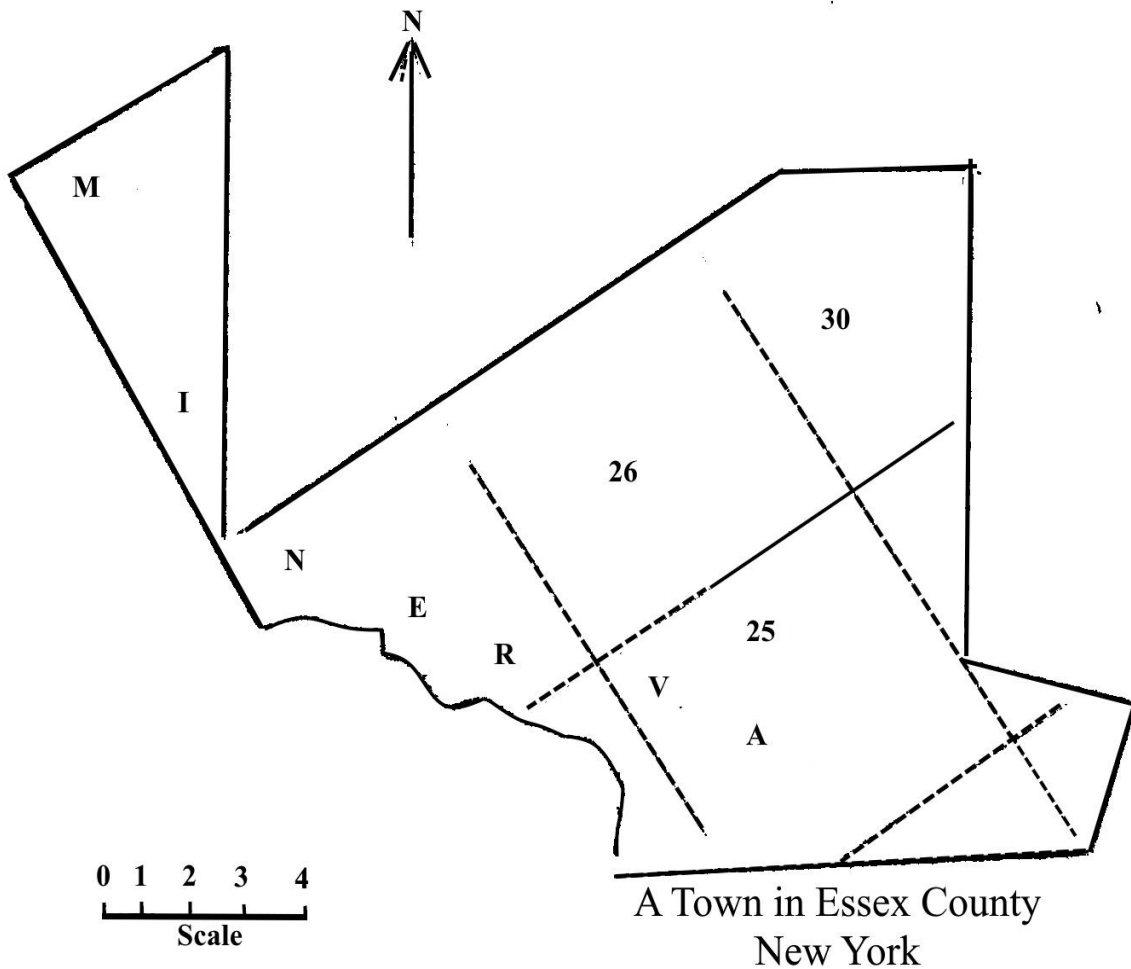


The  
Historical Society  
of the  
Town of Minerva  
Quarterly



**OCTOBER MEETING****"Four More Couple!"**

The familiar cry of the caller will be heard at the fall meeting of the Minerva Historical Society. The event will be an old-fashioned square dance planned by the Bicentennial Committee as a reminder of our heritage.

Mike Leddick will furnish music and while there is no official admission, the hat will be passed to defray expenses. If you like to square dance, come and join us. Refreshments will be served. A short business meeting will precede the evening's entertainment.

Time: Friday, October 26 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Minerva Town Hall

**JULY MEETING**

The program for the July meeting consisted of slides and a talk by Miss Ruth Bass. She and Miss Ruby Thompson are retired teachers who live at The Glen when they are not away on a trip. Almost every year they go on a long voyage on a freighter and they spend enough time in one country to visit many of the out-of-the-way places not usually seen by the tourist. Consequently, their beautiful slides are unusual and the manner in which they are presented is also different, the talk being spiced with amusing incidents which have happened to them. The subject of the July meeting was Great Britain, but was confined mostly to Scotland and Ireland as there was not time to take in England and Wales. We may do that at another time.

**BICENTENNIAL QUIZ**

1. What besides the tax so infuriated the Massachusetts Colony that it brought on "the Boston Tea Party"?
2. Did England assist in defeating the colonies from Indians?
3. Why were there British soldiers in Boston?
4. Did the colonies elect their own governors?
5. Name three commodities eagerly sought by England that were supplied by the colonies on this side of the Atlantic.

The answers to these questions will be discussed at the meeting on Friday, October 26th.

### **UPPER HUDSON FEDERATION**

We had five delegates attending the annual meeting of the Upper Hudson Federation of Historical Societies on Saturday, October 6th, in Elizabethtown. Mildred Lynch and Theo Owens attended all day and were delighted with the tour of the Hand house and law office in the morning. Augustus Hand came to Elizabethtown in 1831 as county surrogate. He built the law office in 1840 and the house in 1849. His son, Samuel Hand, was a lawyer in Albany and first president of the New York Bar Association. Samuel's son, Learned Hand, was a lawyer in New York City when Mildred Lynch was working there in a law office. Naturally she was much interested on Saturday in seeing the huge library of law books from which he and his father and grandfather studied. She and Theo were both thrilled by all the beautiful antiques in the house.

Those who attended the afternoon session only were Alice Squitier, Helen Shevlin and Mabel Jones. A report was given by Mr. James Bailey who is County Historian and chairman of the County Bicentennial Committee. He is not making special plans for the county as a whole, but stands ready to assist any town that would like his help. The afternoon speaker was Mr. Edward Winslow, Senior State Historian, who said that we need not feel awkward if our town does not have any direct connection with the Revolution. All towns and cities across the country are expected to participate in the Bicentennial celebration, making the most of their own town history and learning about the Revolution and its effect upon all of us. We are to celebrate our national birthday. He also said that we should get back our sense of humor and develop the friendly, helpful spirit of an earlier day.

### **ENTERTAINERS STAR AT DUBLIN DINNER**

The Dublin Dinner held on August 25th at "The Plump Chicken Inn" (Minerva Central School) was an outstanding success. The Dinner was a tribute to the early Irish settlers of the Town of Minerva and as such, featured Irish entertainment.

Historically, the most exciting facet of the evening lay in the fact that a number of the entertainers were actual descendants — one to the sixth generation — of early Irish settlers.

Kathy Halloran, who played the guitar and sang traditional Irish ballads, is the great granddaughter of the Shevlin family; Dennis Kellogg, guitarist and singer of ballads, is a great great-grandson of the Shevlins.

Ernest Kellogg, who danced Irish jigs, is a former resident of Minerva whose great, great grandfather donated the land for the Irish church in 1847. Another dancer was Joan Buckley Colton, a great, great, great granddaughter of the Dougherty family.

Nancy Pagan Gereau sang to the accompaniment of her accordion and Franklin Collard was the fiddler of the evening who played for singers and dancers alike.

Impromptu singers included Geri Plumley and Dick Dodge, who sang the familiar "Peggy O'Neill," a ballad in which his father collaborated. Mr. Dodge also led in the singing of several numbers.

Terrence Curren as master of ceremonies showed remarkable proficiency in guiding the variety of entertainment and in drawing the audience into the atmosphere of the early pub.

Birthday greetings were sung to Philip Fitzsimmons and Catherine Powers McSweeney of Long Lake, now 75, who lived during her childhood in a lovely old home which stood on the site of the present Minerva Central School.

While continuous entertainment was offered in the pub room, guests were greeted with the Gaelic expression "Céad míle fáilte" (a hundred thousand welcomes). Those who attended were enthusiastic about the entire evening including the delicious dinner.

Patricia Hewitt, general chairman, expressed her appreciation to all those who helped to make the affair a success.

## **THOSE WERE THE DAYS**

### **A Dancing Party – 1905**

Wednesday evening of last week the second dancing party of the season given by the young folk of the village to their city friends was held in Bradley's dancing pavilion. Preceding the dancing a very entertaining concert was given under the direction of Sig. Alberti Urbani of New York, the visitors contributing many numbers to the program. Among those taking part were Miss Angela Elmer, who gave a piano solo; John Sullivan, tenor solo; Miss Bert Thompson, violin obligato with Miss Alice Sullivan accompanist; Miss Minnie Clifford, vocal selection; Miss A. Quinn, fancy dances; Olmstedville Glee Club, plantation melodies; Signor Alberti Urbani, vocal selection; Miss Mamie Harrington, elocutionist; Empire State trio, Messrs Doyle, Wilson and Harrigan; Knockout Comedians; Miss Helen Armitage, cornet solo; Miss Jane Stanton, cello solo; J. Scott King, monologue. Frappe was served during the dancing and at midnight all sat down to a collation. The visiting friends included Messrs Carpenter, Pendergast, and Leonard of Boston; Misses O'Neill and Grant of North Creek; from Olmstedville and Wevertown the following: George Wallace, Michael Flynn, Carrie Galusha, Lida Galusha, Anna Dwyer, Nellie Brady, Charles Lynn, John Halloran, Theo Owens, May Heffernan, Frank Mayo, Thomas Maguire, Nellie Shevlin, Frank Miller, Jennie Owens, Mrs. Gerry, Mrs. Chase, White, Bertrand, James Owen, John Donnelly, Misses Maceland and Quinn.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

New Rochelle, N.Y.

Aug. 17, 1973

Dear Mrs. Halloran,

Enclosed is my check to continue my membership in the Minerva Historical Society for another year. Yours is such a friendly publication I think you may be interested in knowing why I continue.

My husband's father — Warren Cole — was an Adirondack boat builder. When they put the blacktop road on the east side of Long Lake the Coles sold the property to the road builders. They used the residence, barn and boat house to house the men and equipment. This was in 1910. After a year in Saranac, the Coles went to Vermont and purchased a farm in the area where Mother Cole's grandfather had been a pioneer.

In 1911, John graduated from Clarkson and we were married in 1912. John's first employment was with the government and in 1914 we spent his three-week vacation in a trip home. We took a sleeper to Raquette Lake, a boat across the lake, Marion River Carry, over Blue Mountain Lake and hired a man with horse and wagon to take us over to Long Lake where we spent a week at Anna Plumley's. John was right at home handling one of his father's boats — getting into a boat was a new experience to me. We had a guide and climbed Owl's Head. We hiked up the road to see where John went to school in the Deerland school.

The Adirondacks have been my favorite spot on earth ever since that first week in Long Lake. John and I never spent a week in the Adirondacks again, but after he bought a car in 1923, we did manage a day or two quite a few times.

History is one of my favorite hobbies. Since I so love the Adirondacks, it is natural that I should be looking to learn all I can about that area. When your history book came out, I purchased a copy. The same when I learned of the Quarterly.

My eyes are not so good as I wish they were. Thank God I can see to type, but I have to use a magnifying glass to see what I have written. I shall have to cut down on some of my subscriptions. After reading this July copy of the Minerva Quarterly, with your friendly reminder attached, I decided that this was not going to be cut out this year.

Thoughts that come through "How to Grow a Patriot" are worth the price of the year's subscription. It is good to know in these awful times, that there are people who still believe in our country and hope to return to saner times.

Best wishes to Minerva Historical Quarterly. I shall be looking forward to the following issues.

Sincerely,

/s/ Abigail S. Cole

Ask ChatGPT

SCHOOL SOUVENIR

Olive Jones loaned us a souvenir booklet which has been saved for seventy years by her sister Alice. One inside page bears this information:

Souvenir  
 West Side School  
 Minerva  
 Essex County, New York  
 1902–1903  
 Gertrude Lahey, Teacher  
 School Officers  
 Joseph Mitchell, Trustee

On the opposite page are the names of the thirty-four pupils for whom that one teacher was responsible. The list follows:

Lida Galusha	Nellie West	Edward Lynch
Alice Jones	George Cochlin	Walter Kellogg
Lillian McGinn	Marguerite West	May Donnelly
Irene Jones	Orson Morse	George West
Lena Lynn	Carrie Galusha	Arthur Callahan
Edith Rounds	Olive Jones	Walter West
Bessie Morse	Mabel Belkin	Laura McKee
Clara Morse	Clarence Jones	Hazel McIntyre
Henry Lynch	Edward Lynn	Harold Morse
Benedict Lynch	Grace Rounds	Mason Hunt
Anna Brasley	Earl Morse	Harold Lynn
	Westley Morse	

On the front and back pages are “Some Vacation Thoughts”—several short poems. One is entitled “Nobility” and goes like this:

True worth is being, not seeming, —  
 In doing each day that goes by—  
 Some little good — not in dreaming  
 Of great things to do by and by.  
 For whatever men say in blindness,  
 And spite of the fancies of youth,  
 There’s nothing so kingly as kindness,  
 And nothing so royal as truth.

Gertrude Lahey was the ninth child of David and Catherine Lynch Lahey, born April 24, 1881. Her father came to Minerva from Trout River in Franklin County, N.Y., the same place from which came the three Flynn brothers, and it may be that they all came together about 1865. All married Minerva girls, David Lahey choosing one of the daughters of Patrick and Bridget Lynch. This couple lived at first in a part of lot 16 which is still called by old-timers “the Lahey lot.” David later bought 96 acres in lot 24 and lived where the Sturdevants do now. This is where Gertrude grew to young womanhood and attended the Minerva school. She later lived with cousins in Ticonderoga while attending the academy there. This was followed by a teacher training course at the Sherman Institute in Moriah. It was there that Gertrude met her future husband, Timothy O’Mara. Both taught school for some years before they were married in 1913.

... and moved to Bloomfield, N.Y. Gertrude died in 1972 at the age of 91. Her daughter, Jenet Severs, tells us that her mother loved teaching so much that she continued to substitute in the Bloomfield schools until she was 80. She was quoted as saying, "There are no problem children — just problem parents." She greatly enjoyed attending the Minerva sesquicentennial celebration in 1967 when she was 86 years old.

### **SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF 1899**

Anna James

Mrs. Helen James Jenkins of Hudson Falls has given us the certificate of promotion which was received by her sister, Anna James. In 1899 when she completed the sixth grade in a Newcomb school. Her teacher was Lizzie A. Maloney and the School Commissioner was Fred V. Lester.

Anna was the oldest and Helen the youngest of the ten children of John and Nellie Johnson James. Anna was born March 31, 1886 in Elizabethtown and that is where she started her education. In 1897 her father was one of the workers who helped build the Will S. Sage house at Hewitt Lake and he remained there as caretaker until 1920.

Anna attended school in the Kays district, just over the line in Newcomb. After finishing the eighth grade she attended high school in North Creek. After finishing her boarding for her room in some home. In the spring of 1907, she had signed a contract to teach in the Newcomb district when she became ill and died on March 13. She had pneumonia and the doctor insisted that her only chance was to be given the diphtheria serum. This was administered and she died within a few hours. Anna had suffered most of her life with asthma and doctors did not yet know that horse serum would be fatal to asthma patients.

Two weeks later Bessie James, a younger sister, also died of pneumonia after she developed a cold at her sister's funeral. Both are buried in the Baptist cemetery in Minerva and their funerals were conducted by the Rev. F.W. LeBar. Helen is the only one of the family now living.

### **PALLAS ATHENA**

Minerva, in Roman mythology, Pallas Athena in Greek mythology, is the goddess of Wisdom, Skill, Contemplation, Spinning and Weaving, and of things related to mother earth. Her helmeted profile occupies the obverse of the famous 50¢ gold commemorative issued in 1915 honoring the Panama-Pacific Exposition.

More recently, Pallas Athena (Minerva) was made the symbol of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) – U.S. Army when it was activated in 1942. Her helmeted profile is also used on the insignia worn on the uniforms of these service women.

(See bottom item on Page 7)

**MY MOST UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTER****RODNEY WEST**

by Clarence Jones

Is it because he was as odd as Dick's hatband, or should we say headband? For he certainly was. Is it because of his extremely wide range of interest? Is it because he was so tedious or interesting to listen to according to one's own interests? An enigma!!!

Born in 1856, Rodney went at an early age to live with a maiden aunt, Betsy Morse. She had been born with a wretched bodily deformity but a decidedly keen mind. There were no near neighbors and no others in the family after the death of her parents. I believe she was Rodney's only teacher and he her only pupil. He learned to read well — and much. It is the firm belief of all who knew him that he never forgot anything he ever read: Old Testament history, law, prophecy, the Gospels, Paul's writings or — you name it; herbs and their medicinal value, chemistry, anthropology. He might have had quite a medical practice if he had lived in an earlier age. He was something of a dentist as he pulled teeth. He was a veterinarian — preferred cattle and hog patients to horses. He was skilled as a butcher. Could rub the violin strings very creditably, play cornet or clarinet and sing by note. Oh, yes, he was skilled at grafting apple trees!

An accident in doctoring a cow resulted in a broken hip and he was confined to his bed for some years thereafter. A trip to the hospital made it possible for him to get about on crutches. Earlier, in 1911, the year the road was hard topped from Minerva to Aiden Lair, Rodney was one of the workmen and came in contact with Spanish-speaking people who were also on that job. So, when he was handicapped, he taught himself Spanish and seemed to prefer his Spanish New Testament to any other translation. Whether he prayed in Spanish or English I'm uncertain. The prayers I heard were in English, but that may have been for the benefit of his listeners — who were limited to English.

Rodney conferred a great deal with Dr. Emil Kraeling and gave him some of his writings, newspaper clippings and such. Now, with the passing of Dr. Kraeling these have been offered by his daughter Cecile, to our historical society for scrutiny. Excerpts from these will be appearing in subsequent issues of the Quarterly.

**PANAMA–PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION** – The Essex County News for May 1915 contained the following:

“An act of congress provides for five special coins to be struck at the San Francisco mint in commemoration of the opening of the Panama Canal and its celebration, the Panama–Pacific International Exposition.”

We learned from the World Book that this exposition opened in San Francisco Feb. 20, 1915 and closed Dec. 4. The average daily attendance was 60,000, and accounting of the success of such enterprises, the exposition was a financial success.

**WEDDING IN A LOG HOUSE**

1973

The children of Harry and Hazel Morse were brought up to respect the home of their ancestors — a little log house on a hill, quite far from other habitation, but once the center of activity for a pioneer family.

In a recent letter Marion Morse Smith describes the house as having about it an air of “humble serenity” reflected in the personal feeling experienced by family members visiting there. “To us,” she says, “it is a sacred place dedicated by time.”

As the years passed, the Morse grandchildren came to share the same feeling of respect and affection for the “little Log House.”

It was Marion’s daughter Paulette, a quiet, unassuming young woman with a strong sense of tradition, who asked her grandfather if she could be married in the house. The answer, of course, was “yes” and the elder Morse’s eyes were no doubt wet with a secret feeling of pride.

Paulette’s grandparents had lovingly repaired the windows broken by vandals and had trudged through spring mud to replace them. Curtains were washed and ironed and hung. The plain board floor that had known the patter of so many children’s feet was swept and swept.

Invitations to the wedding which took place on May 19th, were designed and crafted by the bride. These were in the form of booklets with covers of Scherenschnitte (the old folk art of scissor cutting) and contained, handprinted in gold ink, a favorite poem of Paulette’s. The rings, too, were of her design and especially crafted in Buffalo. Paulette made her own wedding gown and decorated it with antique lace and buttons. The groom, in a suit of frontier design, and the guests in their old-fashioned attire contributed to the nineteenth century atmosphere.

Here in this remote setting far from today’s world the familiar vows were exchanged. For young Paulette and Kevin those who would officially witness the ceremony were the two who had made it all possible — her grandparents.

**The Glens Falls Times, December 10, 1881**

— Olmstedville: Ex-supervisor John Dougherty says he will give the Glens Falls and Minerva railroad the right of way through his property for nothing.

— Now that the inhabitants of this town are troubled with railroad [of] the brain it should be known that the disease differs in various people, and the affliction seems to be equally divided between those favor the Glens Falls Road and those who favor the Adirondack road running through the town. The latter road, it is thought, will commence operations in the spring, and by the fall will have their trains running this town. If the road is not extended here during the summer, there will be a collapse somewhere.

**GOING WEST BY BOAT IN 1830**

In our April issue there was an article about a family who in 1832 traveled by covered wagon to the West. Following is the story of two young men who left Enfield, Conn. in 1830, going by stage to Schenectady and then by the Erie Canal and Lake Erie to Chicago. All information is taken from a letter written by one of the young men, Calvin Chapin, to his family in Connecticut.

Colbrook, Conn., April 26, 1830 — The commencement of our journey was not as pleasant as we had anticipated. We did not proceed more than a mile when it began to rain but we continued to press on. When at the tavern we concluded that you would be looking for us back but we came to the resolution not to return to be laughed at, for we never expected to go to Ohio on downy pillows, and we adopted the motto that we long since learnt, that perseverance is necessary to success. And now that it is over we are glad that we did not return.

Arrived in Norfolk at half past ten and left there at the same time on the 29th and arrived in Albany at the same hour P.M. Left Albany at a quarter after 8 on the 30th, arriving at Schenectady at 12:00. Thus far we came by the stage. We are now three miles out from Schenectady waiting for a lockage up.

May 2. We were detained at the above place 19 hours in consequence of a break in the canal and when we started, we met with considerable difficulty in passing boats from want of water. It is now 3:00 o'clock P.M. on Sunday and we are 19 miles from Utica.

Lockport, May 8 — We passed Utica late in the evening of the 2nd. On the two days following we were detained by a break at Oneida Creek 33 hours. Again, on the 6th we were hindered 6 hours by another break. We arrived in Rochester on the morning of the 7th, made a short visit and left before noon.

Buffalo, May 9 — We arrived here last evening at 10:00 o'clock. Today I have attended church, in the morning at the Presbyterian and this afternoon at the Episcopalian. Had I not been previously informed of the licentiousness of the people in the vicinity of the canal, I should have been astonished beyond measure at the violation of the Sabbath. A great mass of the people pay no more regard to it than any other day of the week. Excepting the inducements I have had, as agreeable a journey through this state as I anticipated. The respectability of the company has far exceeded my expectations; a great share of them were bound for Ohio and Michigan. We had the company of a merchant from Cincinnati who was the most intelligent and possessed the most experimental knowledge of different parts of the country of any man I ever saw.

Ashtabula, Thurs. 13 — A line of six steamboats run regular between Buffalo and Detroit leaving each place each day except Sunday, but the one on Monday did not arrive in time to return. Tuesday's boat was so crowded that we did not take that. Among the variety that constituted its loading were the following — hens, geese, turkeys, wagons, ten horses, all kinds of household furniture, and men, women, and children almost without number. It was universally admitted in Buffalo that the village was never before so crowded as on Monday.

Friday at 8 o'clock we set sail on a schooner. After 22 hours fair wind we arrived at the border of Ohio. Here a squall struck us and we made the port of Salem. There for the first time I set foot in Ohio. Hurlburt was quite seasick and chose to walk from there. I continued with the vessel and arrived in this port at 10 o'clock A.M.

Ashtabula, 14th — The wind is unfavorable and we have lain in port all this day. I have been into town, dined with Mr. Brown, went to a piece of land of his of five acres from which a few years ago he took 200 bushels of wheat at one crop. In the evening of Friday, May 14, left Ashtabula. The next morning was awakened by the stamping of the crew on deck, being tossed about by the surge of the sea. The wind had risen during the night in our favor which brought us early the next morning to Cleveland. The waves sometimes broke over the deck. Took a boat at Cleveland and went up as far as Boston, 21 miles and there left our trunks.

May 16, Sunday — Attended meeting in a log school house in the fore part of the day and in the latter part went to Mr. S. Henry's.

We, 19 — Have continued with Mr. Henry till this day. Last evening Hurlburt met me again. Monday of this week was rainy. Tuesday and the forenoon of Wed. looked at land in Bainbridge; in the p.m. went to Mantua, found Mrs. Holkins enjoying usual health. From Mantua we went a southwest direction to Guilford. Stayed with Mr. Harris three days. We there came to the conclusion that if we proceeded still farther west it would be like a boy taking a book and turning the pages over from one end to the other and then pretend that he knew all that was in it. We took a new tack and went east to Warren in Trumble County, then to Astabula County, then to Cleveland, then to the border of Lorain County and thence to Guilford again. We have crooked around in various directions and after all our search have pitched upon a tract of land lying in the edge of Westfield bordering Guilford. The reason of our taking a lot on the line of a town is that there is a considerable village in Guilford within three quarters of a mile, and the turnpike leading from Cleveland to the center of the state passes through it, and all business must always center that way, Westfield being west of Guilford and the canal east at the distance of 15 miles from our lot. We have agreed on 150 acres for which we are to pay \$3.25 per acre. \$100 we paid down and the remainder is to be paid in two equal payments.

Guilford, June 13 — Yesterday for the first time I set foot on land that I could call my own. The first thing I did was to cut a tree and make an ax helve for Hurlburt. Our trunks arrived safely last night.

You will see by this that I have stopped short of Michigan. The reason was not that we got discouraged or out of money but we seriously considered the subject and came to the conclusion that we should not enjoy ourselves as much there as here. The society must be worse there than here I think and it is at a low ebb here. I have not so great a desire to see the country still west now as when I left home although there is some here that have the Michigan fever, so hope it carries them off.

I have spent a longer time in traveling than I expected but have not been as far west. Since I came into this state I have traveled 450 miles. I now think that I have a pretty good knowledge of the face of the country and quality of the soil in the Reserve. My traveling expenses since I left home have been \$26. When you eat bread and milk again you may think that I have many times in my travels paid from six pence to a shilling for a bowl of that food.

#### **DIARY OF — Margaret Bradley**

Loaned to Historian by the late Ruth Jackson

- 1881
  - March 15 — Tom Maguire went away.
  - May 14 — Minnie Gonoud and Lizzie McLaughlin sick with diphtheria.
  - July 17 — Henry Banks and I went to Schroon to mass — the first mass that was said in the church.
  - Aug. 14 — Jerry Callahan was buried.
  - Oct. 23 — Anne Brannon was married.
  - Nov. 6 — John McLaughlin was married.
  - Nov. 24 — I stayed up to Mrs. McCoy's wake.
  - Dec. 28 — Frank Morrissey's baby died.
- 1882
  - Jan. 19 — James McGaughran died.
  - Jan. 20 — There was a dance in Dornburg's hall.
  - Feb. 14 — There was a load of boys and girls went up to the ore bed.
  - April 5 — Maggie Lindsey died.
  - May 6 — Nell Lindsey's baby was born.
  - May 16 — Pat Rattigan was robbed of whiskey.
  - Aug. 7 — Went up to Mr. Bell's wake.
  - Dec. 3 — Mr. Maguire died.
  - Nov. 10 — Fred Bennett died.
- 1883
  - Jan. 11 — Maggie Cassiday was married.
  - Feb. 15 — Mary Doherty died.
  - March 7 — Nell Lindsey's baby was born.
  - March 17 — Mrs. Husselback died and they had a dance.
  - July 4 — The bell was blessed.
  - Aug. 28 — Mrs. Lavery died.
  - Sept. 11 — Annie Lynn was married.
  - Sept. 7 — I went to Ben Burto's wake.
  - Dec. 12 — Pa and Ma went to W.W. Durant's wedding.
- 1884
  - June 26 — Rob Lindsey was buried.

**SUMMER VISITORS***Jones Descendant*

Mr. & Mrs. Norris Edwards of Wettsburg, Penn. called on us in July. Mr. Edwards wished to see the place where his ancestors lived many years ago, he being descended from James Jones who left Minerva about 1832. He is employed as a welder for a construction company and he works for the Welch Company in their plant which makes grape jams and jellies. They recently became interested in Minerva when he began reading his mother's copy of "Some Other Joneses", a genealogy of the Minerva family and their descendants who are scattered far and wide.

*Evans*

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Kneip of Mt. Arlington, N.J. again spent their vacation at Morningside Camps in Minerva. Mrs. Richard Evans of Excelsior, Minn., Mrs. Kneip's mother, came with them and their family, and we were glad to make the acquaintance of this member of our society who had not been in Minerva before. Our Quarterly for April 1972 contains much information about the Richard Evans who left Minerva about 1870, the grandfather of Mrs. Kneip.

*West*

Other visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Paul West of Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. West is a descendant of Anson West, Jr., brother of Cynthis West who married the first Richard Evans and of Alanson West, grandfather of Fenton and many others who still live in Minerva and area. We knew that Anson, Jr., had gone to Fairfield, Iowa, but we had no further information about him. His descendants knew that Anson was born somewhere in Essex County. Mr. and Mrs. Paul West decided to make an effort to find out more and were greatly surprised at how much more they did find out. They went first to Elizabethtown where they met Mr. Heyward of Essex who spends much time looking up land and census records at the Court House. He told them to come to Minerva. At Muriel's store they bought a Minerva history and were told where the town Historian lives. They spent the better part of the day at the Jones home, going back six generations to the first ancestor who came to America about 1634. An unsuccessful effort was made to contact some of Paul West's second and third cousins who live here. He has promised to send us a copy of the obituary of Anson West, Jr. and other information for our files.

*Brundage*

In September we had a call from Mr. and Mrs. Donald Brundage of Toledo, Ohio who, a year ago, were in town looking up ancestors. This year they brought pictures and information about Isaac Bennett and Joseph Burt and their descendants. We learned that Joseph Burt (originally Borteau) was born in Lower Canada in 1836, the son of emigrants from France. His father died when he was seventeen and Joseph joined his brother Benjamin in Minerva. In 1856 he married Matilda Bennett, daughter of Isaac and Mary (Layne) Bennett, both of French descent.

In 1872 the Joseph Burto family moved to Michigan and was prominent enough in 1883 to be written up in "Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of Mecosta County". The Bortos, as they were called in Michigan, had seven children who grew to adulthood, five of whom were born in Minerva. The sketch notes the fact that the French language was often spoken in the home and was taught to the children. Joseph died in 1889 and Matilda in 1904.

Isaac and Mary Bennett had nine children, all born in Minerva. Their son Hesard served in Co. K., 1st Vermont Cavalry during the Civil War and, at the close of the war, he went to Michigan. It was no doubt his success there that induced his parents and the rest of the family to journey to that state with the Bortos in 1872. Isaac Bennett died in 1885 and Mary in 1886. We are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Brundage for the pictures and xeroxed material. Mrs. Brundage is descended from the Scott family of the Glens Falls area.

### **TIDBIT OF HISTORY**

1977

Norman Sullivan has recently installed in his store a counter which was formerly in the Fred Johnson store. The counter is said to have been made by Henry Dornberg, a great-great-uncle of Norman's after he built the home and store about 1854. Henry was the architect and chief carpenter who built St. Joseph's Church and many other buildings in the area.

### **WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE**

The *Pictorial Review* for March 1915 contains an excellent article on "Why Women of the Nation Demand the Right to Vote". It points out that the states which already had equal suffrage were the ones that had laws for the prevention of child labor, and to provide better working conditions for all. This was a very live topic in our nation until the vote was given to women in all states in 1920. New York was one of the states that did not allow women to vote until the national law was passed and ratified.