

# Town of Ossian Historical Society Newsletter

29<sup>rd</sup> Edition

December 2018

## Woman Suffrage

Women of the State of New York won the right to vote in this State in 1917, several years after the first Women's Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. Women in New York had the right to vote in local and state elections three years before the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment was ratified.

In February 1915 at a meeting of the Dansville Grange the question of suffrage for women was debated and the judges decided in favor of the party who advocated for women to vote. All voters but one signed the cards usually distributed at such meetings.

Suffragists held school to study vote getting methods. One of the schools was held in Olean and one in Medina.

Suffragists swarmed into the Polo Grounds on May 18, 1915 to see a battle between the Giants and the Cubs. It was promoted as "Suffrage Day on the Diamond" and society turned out in force to see the teams play ball. For weeks the suffrage fans had been in training to master the finer points of the game from the view point of baseball fans. The fusion of suffrage and baseball interests

certainly resulted in a great turnout for the game. When it was over one suffragist stated that the results was suffrage fans know more about baseball and baseball fans know more about suffrage. The score was Cubs 1, Giants 0.

In 1917 the Hon. Charles S. Fairchild, former Secretary of War, was president of the Men's National Anti-Suffrage committee. He stated that the committee could not believe that the voters of New York State would make the vital mistake of introducing an entirely new element into the electorate and that they would give their unqualified support to the anti-suffragists.

The men weren't the only ones objected to suffrage for women. One of the women who objected was Mrs. Alice Wadsworth, wife of US Senator James W. Wadsworth from Geneseo, New York. She served as president of the National Association Opposed to Women Suffrage.

Mrs. Alice Wadsworth and Mrs. Grace Duffield presented arguments at Livingston Hall in Avon as to why nine tenths of the women of the state do not want to vote.

Mrs. Wadsworth stated that there was work connected with the war which could be better accomplished by women and that suffrage leaders should “call off” for the duration of the war.

She stated that men were doing the best they could for the best interests of the state and country and that the change might be fatal to the smooth running of the government. As a mother she stated that she had learned to watch for symptoms and that her observations predict that the country was threatened with illness-feminism.

On November 6, 1917 women in New York achieved the right to vote in local and state elections. Woman suffrage carried the state by over one hundred thousand. In Livingston County and Burns, NY the suffrage amendment was defeated. Since it was carried in the state the comment was made in the Nov. 10, 1917 issue of “The Nunda News” – “Now watch out for women on jury duty.” New York was the first state in the east to pass the suffrage amendment.

The following is an article that appeared in “The Canaseraga Times” on Friday, November 16, 1917:

#### Women Suffrage Wins

The Times congratulates the women of New York State of having won the fight for suffrage in what may be called a credibly short time. It is indeed noteworthy that the great Empire State is

the first of the Eastern States to recognize women’s political equality with men and remarkable indeed is the fact that the battle should have been so overwhelming won is only the second time the issue was presented to voters of the state.

The lesson for the women of the state is this: that no Federal Amendment is needed and that the efforts of the pickets at Washington will serve no useful purpose. Decisive as was the vote given on November 6 the majority would have been for the senseless annoyances caused by a few misguided women by continually picketing the White House during a critical period.

During the past four years the Times has been an unceasing advocate of Women’s Suffrage and we believe that the reform will result in better political and moral conditions in the public service. Editor of the Times

In March of 1918 it was reported in Canaseraga that the annual village election was held on March 15 and it created quite a little interest as it was the first the women were privileged to vote.

From May 16 and June 15, 1918 the women of Livingston County could enroll in any of the political parties of the state by applying to the election commissioners for enrollment blanks or by going to the commissioner’s office and filling out the required information.

If they want to take part in the fall primaries they must enroll at this time.

The suffragists continued to pursue the right to vote in federal elections and Senator and Mrs. Wadsworth continue to fight suffrage. Mrs. Wadsworth only left Washington long enough to get her children settled at home and returned to be the leader of the “antis” and prides herself that she will stay and fight. The “Dansville Express” reported on October 3, 1918 that the woman suffrage amendment was defeated in the Senate Tuesday. Senator Calder voted for it and Senator Wadsworth against, ungallant Jimmy!

The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving women the right to vote was passed by Congress on June 4, 1919 and was ratified on August 18, 1920.

In 1918 the following women in Ossian registered to vote and were on the Enrollment List dated December 24, 1918:

Blanche H. Bonner, Ella Bonner, Addie Bush, Jennie Bush, Jennie R. Christian, Anna E. Coultry, Carrie J. Covert, Dora M. Covert, Mae A. Covert, Clara M. Covill, Edith J. Fenton, Agnes L. Fontaine, Louisa M. Fuchs, Dana J. Gibson, Maud H. Gibson, Elizabeth Graham, Lillian Gruschow, Clara A. Hanna, Marion Hartman, Evalena E. Holdridge, Emma Hyde, Alida Jaggard, Marie Kennedy, Blanche A. Linzy,

E. Elizabeth Linzy, Grace E. Linzy, Grace M. Linzy, Harriet A. Linzy, Ida A. Linzy, Grace A. Luce, Maude A. Luce, Chriszina L. Marble, Rose G. McCurdy, Sarah McTarnaghan, Myrtle M. Moore, Bertha R. Neu, Dora R. Nichols, Martha Pike, Edna M. Price, Lottie A. Price, Flossie Reed, Agnes E. Scott, Dalena Scott, M. Vivian Scott, Addie L. Shay, Eleanor V. Shay, Elizabeth Shay, Nellie Sherman, Esther E. Sleggs, Josephine Sleggs, Anna Struble, Emmeratta Thomas, Joanna Tracy, Rodina Van Valkenburg, Florine E. Vogt, Mary A. Vogt, Mary Walsworth, Libby M. Weidman, Bessie Wilkins, Mary Wilkins, Calista A. Wilkins, Neva Wilkins

Submitted by Rhea Walker, Historian  
Sources: Dansville Express, Canaseraga Times, Nunda News, Rochester Democrat, Livingston County Enrollment Records

### **West View Cemetery**

We would like to thank all who participated in the dedication ceremony on August 25, 2018 for the new memorial and sign in the cemetery.

The project started with a small idea with family and friends. Our granddaughter, MacKenzie Tucker, suggested going to the welding department of Genesee Valley Education Partnership.

Lyle and I went to the center and talked to instructor Olie Olson and to our surprise he stated he would be able to help but he had to talk with Mr. Flowers, head of the center.

Mr. Olson asked us to create a picture of what we would like made. A few days later, I had an idea. I created a kindergarten style drawing and took it to Mr. Olson's class to see if it could be done and he said it could be done.

While the memorial and sign was being created by the senior class of student welders, who put all of their heart and sole in their creation, family and friends helped prepare the flag pole and the site for the memorial sign. After the sign was completed, Mr. Olson and his class came to the cemetery to erect the soldier and the cross. They created the most amazing pieces of art that generations will enjoy for years to come.

The West View Cemetery Association would like to thank our family and friends for all of their hard work, time and dedication that was put into this project. We want to extend a big thank you to Mr. Olsen, Mr. Benkleman and the students for their creativity. We also wish to thank all of those who donated to support the effort. We want to extend special thanks to Reverend Dave Hotchkiss for his words of wisdom and the American Legion Post 87 of

Dansville for making our dedication a special event.

Submitted by Barb Moore and Lyle Moore, President of West View Cemetery Association



### **Reflections on an Ossian fire**

In the September 2018 newsletter, you were given the history of the Heath Homestead. Now I would like to tell of the fire. I lived next door and can remember placing my hand up to the kitchen window pane and I could feel the heat from the fire through the pane. Also I remember one of the kids running up to our house asking us to call the fire department. My brother Bill reflects on

coming home from work and thinking his own house was on fire as he got closer to the fire. The newspaper article reads the following:

January 21, 1965

Genesee Country Express

### **Four Blazes in Six Days Keep Firemen on the Jump**

...The most destructive one came Sunday afternoon when the Ray Galton house near Ossian Center burned to the ground, leaving a family of 10 homeless.

...Sparks from a torch being used to thaw frozen water pipes was listed as the cause of the fire, which destroyed the Galton home. Galton, his wife and eight children escaped from the burning structure but all their personal belongings, except for a few pieces of furniture, were destroyed. Damage to the dwelling was set at about \$6,000 by Chief Welch. The family has been unable to put a dollar value on personal possessions lost.

Submitted by: Nancy Walker Smith

### **Flag Code**

#### **Sec. 1. - Flag; stripes and stars on**

The flag of the United States shall be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; and the union of the flag shall be fifty stars, white in a blue field.

#### **Sec. 2. - Same; additional stars**

On the admission of a new State into the Union one star shall be added to the union of the flag; and such addition shall take effect on the fourth day of July then next succeeding such admission.

#### **Sec. 3. - Use of flag for advertising purposes; mutilation of flag**

Any person who, within the District of Columbia, in any manner, for exhibition or display, shall place or cause to be placed any word, figure, mark, picture, design, drawing, or any advertisement of any nature upon any flag, standard, colors, or ensign of the United States of America; or shall expose or cause to be exposed to public view any such flag, standard, colors, or ensign upon which shall have been printed, painted, or otherwise placed, or to which shall be attached, appended, affixed, or annexed any word, figure, mark, picture, design, or drawing, or any advertisement of any nature; or who, within the District of Columbia, shall manufacture, sell, expose for sale, or to public view, or give away or have in possession for sale, or to be given away or for use for any purpose, any article or substance being an article of merchandise, or a receptacle for merchandise or article or thing for carrying or transporting merchandise, upon which shall have been printed, painted, attached, or otherwise placed a representation of any such flag, standard, colors, or ensign, to advertise, call attention to, decorate, mark, or

distinguish the article or substance on which so placed shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$100 or by imprisonment for not more than thirty days, or both, in the discretion of the court. The words "flag, standard, colors, or ensign", as used herein, shall include any flag, standard, colors, ensign, or any picture or representation of either, or of any part or parts of either, made of any substance or represented on any substance, of any size evidently purporting to be either of said flag, standard, colors, or ensign of the United States of America or a picture or a representation of either, upon which shall be shown the colors, the stars and the stripes, in any number of either thereof, or of any part or parts of either, by which the average person seeing the same without deliberation may believe the same to represent the flag, colors, standard, or ensign of the United States of America.

#### **Sec. 4. - Pledge of allegiance to the flag; manner of delivery**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, *I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*, should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over

the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

#### **Sec. 5. - Display and use of flag by civilians; codification of rules and customs; definition**

The following codification of existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America is established for the use of such civilians or civilian groups or organizations as may not be required to conform with regulations promulgated by one or more executive departments of the Government of the United States. The flag of the United States for the purpose of this chapter shall be defined according to sections 1 and 2 of this title and Executive Order 10834 issued pursuant thereto

#### **Sec. 6. - Time and occasions for display**

(a) It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaves in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

(b) The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

(c) The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all weather flag is displayed.

(d) The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on New Year's Day, January 1; Inauguration Day, January 20; Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, third Monday in January; Lincoln's Birthday, February 12; Washington's Birthday, third Monday in February; Easter Sunday (variable); Mother's Day, second Sunday in May; Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May; Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), the last Monday in May; Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, first Monday in September; Constitution Day, September 17; Columbus Day, second Monday in October; Navy Day, October 27; Veterans Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November; Christmas Day, December 25; and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of States (date of admission); and on State holidays.

(e) The flag should be displayed daily on or near the main administration building of every public institution.

(f) The flag should be displayed in or near every polling place on election days.

(g) The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every schoolhouse.

### **Sec. 7. - Position and manner of display**

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, should be

either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

(a) The flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade except from a staff, or as provided in subsection (i) of this section.

(b) The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle or of a railroad train or a boat. When the flag is displayed on a motorcar, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.

(c) No other flag or pennant should be placed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the flag of the United States of America, except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea, when the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for the personnel of the Navy. No person shall display the flag of the United Nations or any other national or international flag equal, above, or in a position of superior prominence or honor to, or in place of, the flag of the United States at any place within the United States or any Territory or possession thereof: Provided, That nothing in this section shall make unlawful the continuance of the practice heretofore followed of displaying the flag of the United Nations in a position of superior prominence or honor, and other national flags in positions of equal prominence or honor, with that of the flag of the United

States at the headquarters of the United Nations.

(d) The flag of the United States of America, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the right, the flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

(e) The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

(f) When flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right.

(g) When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

(h) When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the

window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

(i) When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

(j) When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.

(k) When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience.

TO BE CONTINUED IN NEWSLETTER #30