

# Town of Ossian Historical Society Newsletter

**36th Edition**

**December 2020**

## **Caretaker for a While**

By Nancy Walker Smith

We are a caretaker of old homes for a while and a new caretaker is in town. It doesn't matter the color of the house or the changes made within but the love and making of a home. We are talking about Lot 68 that used to be acres and now is less than 1 acre located on McNinch Rd.

### The quick breakdown

Robert Troup to James Armstrong (12/22/1821), to Tom Paddock and Sam Morley. Liber states Sam Morley (wife Rebecca) built house on #68 in 1841 and "transfer" to William (son) 1843. This would be filed in Belmont as Ossian was not part of Livingston County yet. Here is where a gap happens as abstracts usually go back 60 years or so. We pick up at Robert J. Holden (d10/8/1941) and Margaret Holden, wife, (d12/24/1958). Executors sold to (John) Katon Walker Recorded 4/2/1959 ½ ac. (d.10/14/1975). Executor Russell J. Vroman sold to Chester B. Knapp and Bruce Knapp, Recorded 3/9/1976. Knapps sold to Michelle E. Smith (Moulton) Recorded 12/21/1987. Her parents Paul J. Moulton and Mildred Moulton squared the lot off for their daughter adding 0.376 ac. to Lot

#68 recorded 7/1/1991. Michelle E. Watson f/k/a Michelle E. Smith sold to Daniel K. Lowrey and Isabella R. Lowrey (wife) Recorded 2/19/1993. Lowreys sold to Jeffrey VanZandt and Teresa Gibson Recorded 5/21/2003. Gibson to VanZandt Recorded 10/17/2006. Five Star Bank/VanZandt to Nancy Walker Smith and W. James Smith, husband and wife, Recorded 4/2/2010. Smiths sold to Jordan D. Mitchell and Katlyn N. Tatu. Recorded on or after 9/27/2019 the new caretakers.

Upon doing renovations in 2010, we found the beam framing had pegged mortise and tenon joints. A sample of this can be found at the Historian's office in the Ossian Town Hall. We found a horseshoe left in the walls of the home along with square nails throughout the renovation. Oh yes, we put them back into a new wall along with old nails, a copy of a recent newspaper and a letter addressed to the home. Who next will find these gems.

Source: Morley information copied from Allegany County Belmont County Seat by Cathy Moulton Saunders, Liber 106. Abstract No. 8164677, Geneseo, NY Findagrave.com - Samuel Morley b?- d 1/19/1898 age 80 years. Rebecca

Morley, wife of Samuel age 82 b? - d 1/23/1892. Bu. Canaseraga Cemetery Bennett Annex.



### West View Cemetery News

On September 24, 2020 a call came in to President Lyle Moore saying that there was a surprise in the cemetery. Upon arriving at the cemetery he found a refurbished road on the west side of the cemetery donated by Harvey Teed in memory of his late wife, Leola Teed.

West View Cemetery Association would like to give a big thanks to him and everyone who helped in this endeavor.

President Lyle Moore  
West View Cemetery



### Research Sources

By Rhea Walker, Historian  
Property Abstracts

Abstract of land west side of McNinch Road, Hamlet of Ossian Center, Town of Ossian. When writing about Albert Barney Clendenin, I was also interested in his family members. He had two sons, Ralph and Jacob, that I thought had possibly stayed in Ossian after Barney and their mother, Jane, had passed away. They did own the land until they sold it to Robert and Margaret Holden. The abstract states that Ralph Clendenin and Jacob D. Clendenin, both single men, conveyed the property to the above in 1935. Ralph, at the time, lived at 5 Clark Street, Canaseraga, NY.

This abstract also contains the information that Robert and Margaret Holden conveyed property, a half an acre, to Martin R. Gibson and his wife, Esther Gibson, on November 28, 1939.

### County and Village Directories

I have three directories, 1868 Livingston County Directory, 1907-1908 Vick's Standard Directory of Dansville, Wayland and a Dansville, NY Directory, 1923. The Livingston County Directory has a short history of every town in the county, where the residents of the town get their mail, census, elected and appointed officials and some advertising. The residents of Ossian got their mail at

seven different places, Byersville, Canaseraga, Dansville, Doty's Corners, Nunda, Ossian and Scottsburg. The following is the history of Ossian as written in the directory.

#### Ossian

This town was formed from Angelica, Allegany County, March 11, 1808 and became part of Livingston County in 1856. It is one of the southern towns, and is a broken and hilly region, some of the hill-tops being 600 to 800 feet high. The principal stream is Sugar Creek, which passes through the centre of the town. Soil, sandy loam on the hills, and gravelly loam in valleys. There is a small gas spring in the north-west part. The principal villages are Ossian Centre and West View.

The first settlement in the town was made at the centre by Hon. Richard W. and James Porter in 1804. They came from New Jersey. The first church was formed September 29, 1818. The two churches in town are Methodist and Presbyterian. Abraham Porter was the first child born, 1805. John Gelson and Betsey Shay were the first couple married, 1816. John Turner was killed by the fall of a tree in 1807. This was the first death in the town. The first school was taught by Mr. Weston, 1813-14. The first Inn was kept by Oliver Shay in 1817. Daniel Canfield kept the first store in 1824. Nathaniel Porter built the first

saw-mill in 1806, and John Smith the first grist-mill in 1826.

Phelps & Groham sold the town of Ossian at an early day to Jeremiah Wadsworth, and he sold it to Robert Troup.

The Vick's Directory lists the residents in alphabetical order, their address and occupation and also if a farmer how many acres of land own.

The Dansville, NY Directory, 1922-1923, cost \$5.00. The residents are listed under the street name where they live but not alphabetically. They are listed by the street number of the house where they live and in addition there is an Alphabetical Directory.

#### **Days Gone By**

Rhea Walker, Historian

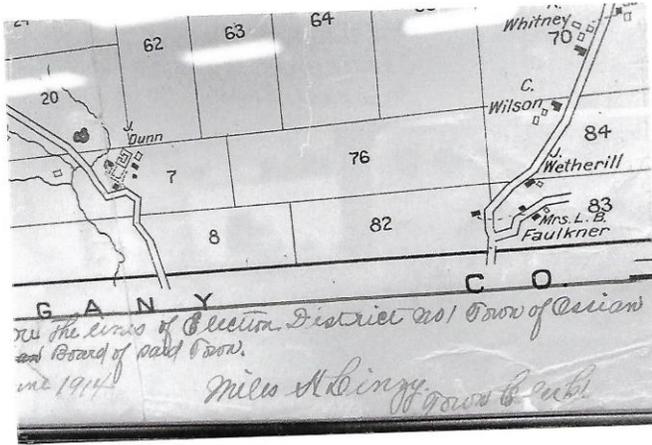
#### **The Faulkner Mill Burned**

Fire last Saturday night destroyed the Faulkner Mill near Canaseraga. It was one of the oldest in this section. It was owned for a hundred years by the Faulkner estate. During its time it was operated by a number of millners among them being John and James Boyd, brothers.

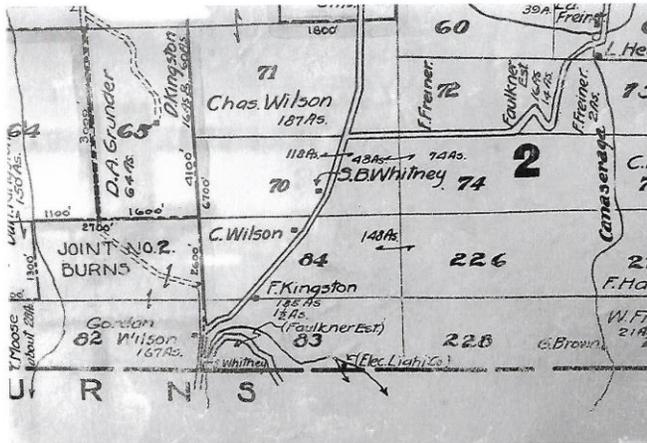
Dansville Express 1/23/1919

It is rumored that the Faulkner estate, through its executor, Chas. Grant, and F. S. Kingston will start proceedings to collect damages for their recent fire.

Canaseraga Times 1/30/1919



1914 Map – Canaseraga Rd. and Faulkner Rd.



1926 School District Map – Canaseraga Rd. and Faulkner Rd.

Election held 3/18/1919 – trustees decided to use paper ballots instead of using the machines. This is an important election, the first to be held under the general law, and it was feared trouble might ensue if the machines were used, as comparatively but few understand how to vote on them as yet.

Dansville Express 11/10/1920

The Canaseraga Times says the blacksmith shop of John Hann in Ossian was destroyed a few days ago.

Canaseraga Times 9/18/1919

### Pioneer Meeting

A meeting was held by the citizens of Livingston County at the American Hotel in Geneseo on the evening of September 20, 1859 to organize a Pioneer and Historical Association in and for the county of Livingston. The chairman appointed a committee which made recommendations for officers and appoint a committee to report a constitution to an adjourned meeting to be held at the same place tomorrow. On September 21 they met again and the committee who was entrusted the duty of reporting a constitution presented a report which was accepted and the constitution adopted. George Hosmer, Esq. from Avon was elected President and directors from each town were elected that night. The director from Ossian was Samuel Bonner.

Nunda News, October 8, 1859



To All A Safe and Healthy New Year