



BICENTENNIAL BIOGRAPHIES

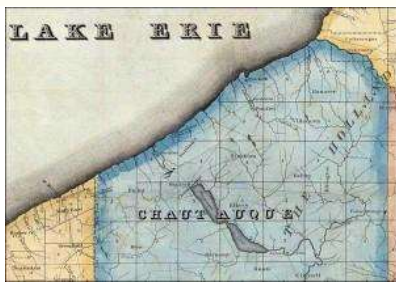
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AMOS SOTTLE

Amos Sottle was the first white man to permanently claim Chautauqua County as his home, arriving in June 1796 on land that would eventually become the Town of Hanover, near the present community of Irving. He cleared the land to build a cabin and raise crops and he traded with the local Native Americans. He lived here at the time he worked for the Holland Land Company helping to survey the town and county lines. Historians know this because he is listed several times on the payroll during the years Joseph Ellicott completed the “Great Survey” from March 1798 to October 1800.



Sottle and his wife Chloe had four sons. Chloe may have been the daughter of Joseph Hodge, a black trader who settled on what is now the reservation side of Cattaraugus Creek. Hodge was married to an Indian and early writers stated that Chloe had Indian features, or that she was “decidedly black.” In addition to four sons, it’s believed Amos and Chloe also had one daughter who ran away, and Amos had advertised for her in one of the early newspapers in Fredonia. For ten weeks during the summer and fall of 1796, Amos was sent to Ohio to work for the Land Company. He returned in October 1796 and spent the remainder of his life here, dying in 1848.

[Editor’s note (May 17, 2011): Since the initial publication of this biography, Hanover, NY historian Vincent Martonis has brought to our attention an article he wrote and published in December 2003 entitled “When Amos First Saw heaven.” (The Hanover Historical, Volume 18: No. 4). In the article, Martonis provides proof that Sottle permanently settled in the area by October 1796. This refutes past claims that Sottle spent too much time out of the area to be considered Chautauqua County’s first settler.]

Ref: Vince Martonis, Hanover historian; Jack Ericson, Chautauqua County Historical Society; *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). Map: www.co.chautauqua.ny.us. [Audio file](#)

McMAHAN BROTHERS

History says **Colonel James McMahan** and **General John McMahan** – two brothers – were destined to play a key role in the early settlement of Westfield. James McMahan first visited the region in 1795. In 1801 he returned and contacted his brother, John, who then purchased a large track of land from the Holland Land Company. It contained over 22,000 acres of unsurveyed land in what are today the towns of Westfield and parts of Chautauqua. James also bought more than 4,000 acres in the present town of Ripley for himself.



James McMahan

In 1802 James built his home near the old “Crossroads,” or crossing of the trail between Buffalo and Erie by the old Portage Road that ran from Lake Erie to Chautauqua Lake. James would go on to survey the first road of the county in 1805 and establish the county’s first post office in 1806 and serve as postmaster. Meanwhile in 1804, John built a gristmill and a sawmill on Chautauqua Creek near the present settlement of Barcelona. In 1805 the first meeting of the Town of Chautauqua took place and John McMahan was elected the first supervisor. He also served as a justice of the peace.

Ref: Information and portrait from *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). [Audio file](#)

EDWARD McHENRY

In the spring of 1802, **Edward McHenry** settled near the area where Colonel James McMahan also settled, west of the village of Westfield. McHenry had purchased land from the Holland Land Company shortly after the McMahan brothers had made their purchases. In the summer of 1802, Edward’s wife gave birth to John McHenry, making him the first known white child born in the county. That same year McHenry had also opened a small tavern along the Erie-Buffalo Road, making it the first such establishment in Chautauqua County.

The following year, a tragic incident took place. In August 1803, Edward McHenry and two men named Culverson and Degeer started from the mouth of Chautauqua Creek near present-day Barcelona. The three had taken a boat to travel west to Erie, Pennsylvania for provisions. However, a storm is reported to have moved through the area, causing the boat to upset and McHenry was drowned. His body was never found. Culverson and Degeer clung to the bottom of the boat and were saved. McHenry left a widow and 8 children. It is said she later married a Mr. Perry.

Ref: *Brown’s History, 1843*. [Audio file](#)

JUDGE WILLIAM PEACOCK

Judge William Peacock was born in 1780 near New York City during the American Revolution. He first came to Chautauqua County in 1804 as a land agent for the Holland Land Company and was charged with surveying the area around present-day Mayville. It’s said that he did such a fine job with this task that no corrections were needed. In 1810, Peacock became resident agent of the Holland Land Company and placed in full charge of its dealings throughout the Chautauqua area. For the next 25 years, Peacock not only worked as a land agent but also served a county court judge, county treasurer, and surveyor for the western portion of the Erie Canal.



In 1836 a group of disgruntled landowners organized a raid on the land company office in Mayville. Afterward, the land company made the decision to move the office to Westfield and Peacock stepped down as resident agent. In the following years, Peacock continued to live in Mayville and remained involved in various local and state affairs. He died on February 21, 1877, a day before his 98th birthday. When he died, he left an estate of around \$79,000, making him one of the wealthiest men in Chautauqua County.

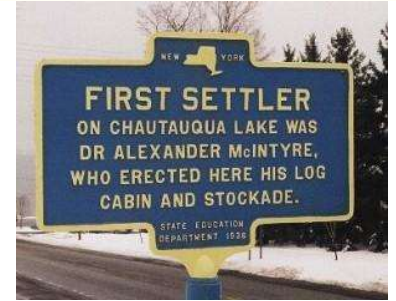
Ref: *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875); William J. Doty, former Chautauqua County treasurer; Jack Ericson, Chautauqua County Historical Society. Portrait of William Peacock from *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, 1875*. Further reading: “History of the Portage Trail,” by Herbert F. Hern and originally presented in the *Portage Trail Handbook*. [Audio file](#)

DR. ALEXANDER McINTYRE

Chautauqua County has had its fair share of eccentric and colorful characters throughout its 200-year history. The first of these notable individuals was **Dr. Alexander McIntyre**, who became Mayville's first settler in the spring of 1804 when he moved here from Meadville, PA. He built a log cabin on what is today South Erie St. and around it erected a stockade. It is said he named the place "Fort Debbie" and built it to protect his so-called wife from her husband in the Meadville area. McIntyre claimed that he had been captured by and resided with Indians many years, acquiring their habits, and said he learned the healing art from them.

McIntyre is credited with causing some grief to surveyor William Peacock, who left a supply of food with McIntyre during the summer of 1804, and McIntyre's family had eaten all but a few bushels of potatoes. McIntyre also claimed that he had discovered a salt spring near Fort Debbie. He sold it for \$5,000 but following the sale an investigation found a barrel of salt had been placed in the ground near the spring, giving the water its "salty" taste.

McIntyre spent his final years in Westfield where he moved to in 1814. Here, he erected several cabins and bathhouses for people to take advantage of the healing powers of the local water.



Ref: Devon A. Taylor, *History of the Town of Chautauqua and A Brief History of Mayville*; Jack Ericson, Chautauqua County Historical Society. Historical marker is located on South Erie St. in Mayville, NY where Alexander McIntyre built his stockade. (Source: New York State Museum website). [Audio file](#)

DR. THOMAS RUSHTON KENNEDY

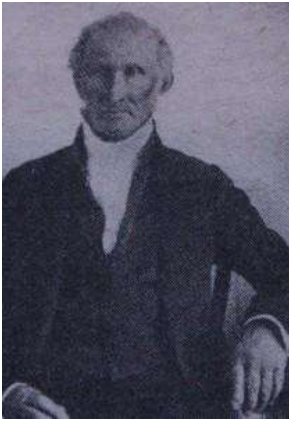
The man primarily responsible for the first settlement in southern Chautauqua County was never a resident of the area, but his influence on the region lasted for more than a hundred years and as a result, it was felt necessary to include him. **Dr. Thomas Ruston Kennedy** was born in Chester County, PA in 1763. In 1794, Kennedy was appointed surgeon for the battalion at Fort Le Boeuf (near present day Waterford, PA). The troops were under the Charge of Andrew Ellicott, brother to Joseph Ellicott of the Holland Land Company. Kennedy eventually married Andrew Ellicott's daughter.

Kennedy made a name for himself around Meadville, PA. There, he formed a partnership with Edward Work, and the two laid plans for buying land in New York and beginning a lumber enterprise. In 1804, Kennedy found a location for a mill on the Conewango River, named it "Kennedyville," and used it to manufacture lumber after purchasing the acreage from the Holland Land Company. This was the first work to establish a settlement anywhere in southern Chautauqua County. It is said that much of the lumber used to build the first mills in present-day Jamestown came from Kennedy's Mills. During the next 100 years, the settlement of Kennedy and the surrounding town of Poland thrived as a result of Dr. Kennedy's efforts, although he was never able to see the full fruits of his labor. He died in Meadville in 1813.

Ref: *History of Chester County, Pennsylvania; Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People (1875)*. [Audio file](#)

EDWARD WORK

Most people in Chautauqua County know where Falconer is, but the community just to the east of Jamestown didn't always go by that name. The village was originally called "Worksburg" after **Edward Work**, who purchased the land from the Holland Land Company in August 1807.



Work was born in Franklin County, PA in 1773. In early life he was a lawyer who settled in Meadville, Penn. about 1798. Work eventually formed a business partnership with Dr. Thomas Kennedy. In 1807, they purchased over 1,200 acres east of present-day Jamestown, Falconer, and Levant.

Work soon moved to the new property and built a home of hewn logs and a year later, set up a milling operation to harvest timber from the virgin forests located throughout the region. A gristmill was then built in 1809. Both milling operations served as a key asset in the later development of southeastern Chautauqua County, including the building of the first lumber mill in what is present-day Jamestown. Edward Work sold most of his property and retired from business in 1840 but remained a resident of the area until his death in 1857.

Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). Portrait of Edward Work, founder of Worksburg, later renamed Falconer. [Audio file](#)

ZATTU CUSHING

The first white man to settle in what is now Fredonia was Thomas McClintock. But the first to permanently settle on the waters of Canadaway Creek was **Zattu Cushing**, who came in 1805 from Oneida County.

A ship's carpenter by trade, Cushing was born in Plymouth, MA and had worked in Boston and then in Oneida County. In 1798 or 1799 he went to Presque Isle to oversee the building of the first large American vessel built on Lake Erie. Returning with horses along the lake, he was impressed with the land that is now Fredonia and determined to come back.



Cushing returned in 1805, but not before a narrow escape with his family on the frozen waters of Lake Erie in February of that same year. While traveling from Buffalo to their new home via the iced-over Lake Erie, the family had become stranded in a winter storm out on the ice. Cushing had a dinner horn which he blew from time to time hoping someone might hear it; and luckily at about 1 a.m. two men did hear it and came with lanterns to guide them ashore. The next morning would have been too late, for the ice broke up during the night.

Cushing built a home and barn in 1808 at what is now 171 Eagle St. that also served as a Baptist Church. As late as 1820, the structure was the most commodious place for a religious assembly in all of northern Chautauqua. Cushing served in the War of 1812 and from 1811 to 1824 held the office of "First Judge" of the county. He may not have literally been the first settler of Fredonia, but he was for a long time its "first citizen."

Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). [Audio file](#)

HEZEKIAH BARKER

Hezekiah Barker, a native of Rhode Island, settled within the limits of the present village of Fredonia in the fall of 1806. The village common, in the center of the village, was a donation from him to the corporate village and bears his name. He built a gristmill in partnership with Richard Williams and traveled 80 miles to Pennsylvania with an ox team to get the grist stones and then to Buffalo to get the mill irons, making the trip in 21 days. In the fall, as the mill neared completion, a freshet washed away the milldam. The closest mills were Black Rock (Buffalo) or Erie, Penn. Local settlers volunteered to help rebuild the dam, and the mill was soon in operation.

Barker came to the county at the age of 50. After building a cabin he brought his wife and eight children. When he donated the land for the village common, it was full of tree stumps. The Justice of the Peace sentenced every man found

“uproariously drunk in a public place” to dig a tree stump. With nine distilleries in town, and whiskey over the bar at three cents a drink, it did not take long to get the stumps removed.

Ref: *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People (1875)*. [Audio file](#)

CAPTAIN JAMES DUNN

The first settler in the town of Portland was **Capt. James Dunn**, who came from near Meadville, PA, in 1804, and located about 1,100 acres near the center of the town, not yet surveyed into lots. In 1805 he built a log cabin on lot 31, town five, and moved in with his wife and six children, and in 1808 opened a tavern, the first in Portland, on the road surveyed by James McMahan.

It is said that Dunn was well-fitted for an innkeeper and provided substantial, if not luxurious, fare for those who stopped by. Mrs. Dunn was well skilled in the culinary art of the times. To the weary traveler, “Dunn’s Tavern” was considered an acceptable “lodge in some vast wilderness.” Dunn also opened the first school in the town in the spring of 1810 – in a small log building near his home. At first only his children attended.

The first religious service in Portland was at the home of Dunn, in 1810, Rev. John Spencer the preacher. Dunn also played a role in starting what would become a rich history of agriculture in Portland. In 1807, he brought a small bundle of young apple trees from his Pennsylvania home to his new home in New York and it’s said the later orchard was one of the best in all of Chautauqua County.

Ref: *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People (1875)*. [Audio file](#)

WILLIAM & MEHITABLE PRENDERGAST

It can be said that no other family has had a more significant impact on the early settlement of the Chautauqua Lake Region than that of **William Prendergast** and his offspring. It’s fascinating, then, to consider that the Prendergast arrival may never have occurred, due to an event 40 years earlier.

The year was 1766 and 39-year-old William Prendergast (born in Ireland), was put on trial in the Hudson Valley, charged with leading an armed revolt against landowners. When it was time for his trial, his 26-year-old Quaker wife **Mehitable Prendergast** assisted in his defense and made a notable impression. However, the jury returned a verdict of “guilty,” and William was to be hanged for high treason. But Mehitable refused to give up and she rode on horseback from Poughkeepsie to Manhattan – 80 miles – to beg for his life. Wearing a white dress with blue stripes, the young wife persuaded the governor to issue a stay of execution. King George III eventually issued a full pardon, and William was set free.

Nearly 40 years later the couple and their family headed for Tennessee. In all, 29 persons made up the travel party including all nine of their children. Upon their arrival in the south, they were very dissatisfied with the country and the entire group turned back. They arrived in Erie, PA in September 1805 and it was there they resolved to settle in the sparsely populated area of Chautauqua Lake. By the winter, the family had purchased 3500 acres of land near Mayville and on the lake. William died on February 14, 1811, at the age of 84. Mehitable soon followed, passing on September 11, 1812, at the age of 74.

Ref: *Carl Lamson Cramer’s “An Explosive Combination,”* March 9, 2010; *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People (1875)*. For additional reading, visit Prendergast and Hunt cemeteries featuring information compiled by Edna Ingham and originally published in the *Jamestown Journal*; Fenton History Center’s *“Deserted Cemetery Series,”* 30 Aug. 1969. [Audio file](#)

WILLIAM BEMUS

William Bemus was born in 1762 at Bemus Heights, Saratoga County. At the start of the Revolutionary War, he moved to Pittstown in Rensselaer County. In 1782 he wed Mary Prendergast, daughter of William and Mehitable Prendergast.

Early in 1800, the Prendergasts and Bemus sold their property and made the decision to migrate to the west or to Canada. Bemus and his bro-in-law, Thomas Prendergast, traveled to Batavia where they met William Peacock, who had recently been surveying the Chautauqua Lake area. Before returning to their families, they paid a visit to Chautauqua Lake, and both favored the surrounding country. When the group decided against settling in Tennessee in 1805, it was the earlier trip to the Chautauqua region that convinced them to settle there instead.

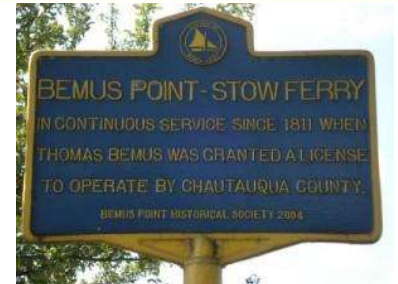
The following winter, Bemus bought a land contract for about 100 acres of land on each side of Chautauqua Lake at the narrows, the current location of Bemus Point and Stow, located in the towns of Ellery and North Harmony, respectively. There was unmistakable agricultural evidence a native American settlement had formerly existed on the Bemus Point side, and Bemus used the grass and corn to secure a crop his first year at his new settlement. Bemus later built a sawmill in 1808, the first in the town, and the first gristmill in 1811. He remained active in the early development of the area for the rest of his life, dying January 2, 1830, nearly 68 years old.

Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). [Audio file](#)

THOMAS BEMUS

Thomas Bemus was born May 19, 1786, in Pittstown, NY. The second of nine children born to William and Mary Prendergast Bemus, Thomas was 19 years old by the time he and his extended Prendergast family made their way to Chautauqua County in 1806.

Thomas built a cabin in the area that is now Stow upon land purchased by his father. This effectively made him the first settler of the land that would eventually become the Town of Harmony and later North Harmony. His parents, along with younger sibling, opted to live across the narrows of Chautauqua Lake in what is now Bemus Point. To stay in contact with his family, Thomas would use a rowboat to get across the water. He married Jane Atkins in 1809, and the couple eventually had 7 daughters and 2 sons.



In 1811, Thomas applied for a license to operate a flat bottom raft. The license was granted on July 11 of that year at the Court of Common Pleas in Mayville. Since then the ferry, known today as the “Bemus Point-Stow Ferry” has carried passengers, vehicles, and other items from one side of the narrows to the other.

In the spring of 1815, Thomas made the first survey of village lots for a new community at the outlet of Chautauqua Lake, which was being established by his uncle, James Prendergast.

Thomas Bemus died on June 23, 1829, at the age of 43.

Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). The historical marker is located in Bemus Point, NY, noting the Bemus Point-Stow Ferry. [Audio file](#)

JAMES PRENDERGAST

When it comes to the early settlement of Jamestown, no individual played a greater role than **James Prendergast**. Prendergast was born March 9, 1764, in Dutchess County, NY to William and Mehitable Prendergast. In 1806, he arrived in Chautauqua County with the rest of his family, but soon returned to Pittstown, NY in the fall of that year.

Prior to his return to the Hudson Valley, it is said that James first found the land that would eventually become Jamestown while searching for a team of horses that had run away from the Prendergast home in Mayville. Two years later, he instructed his brother Matthew Prendergast to purchase 1,000 acres of land where McCreaPoint is located in Jamestown. Mathew then deeded the land to James.

In 1809, James Prendergast (now married) returned to the area and visited the purchase with one of his employees, John Blowers, and shared his plan of developing a settlement, using the waterpower from the outlet for a lumbering operation. In 1810, Blowers built the first home in the area, and Prendergast and his family moved to the banks of the outlet in 1811. A dam, sawmill, and gristmill were soon built, and the settlement became known as Prendergast Mills and The Rapids. In 1815 the name Jamestown was adopted, and a year or so later a post office was established.



For more than 30 years, Prendergast would continue to help oversee the development of the community. He owned a mercantile with his brother, was the first postmaster, paid for the school, donated land for cemetery use, overlooked debts, and subsidized the early churches and other development projects.

Prendergast moved out of Jamestown in 1837 to Ripley, then to Kiantone in 1841. He died in 1846 at the age of 82.

Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875); Norman Carlson, Fenton History Center [Audio file](#)

JOHN BLOWERS

Not much is known about **John Blowers**, only that he was born in Rensselaer County, NY in 1785 and moved to the Chautauqua County area in 1810 with his wife, Phoebe. The couple had come to the area from Pittstown, NY when John's employer, James Prendergast, also returned to the area.



In November 1810, Blowers, built a log cabin near what is today Fairmount Avenue and 8th Street. A historical marker sits on the approximate location where the structure was erected, as it is the first home built on land that would later become the city of Jamestown. It's believed that in May the following year, the Blowers had a daughter, Mary, who is considered the first white child born in Jamestown. However, this has been disputed and some claim she may not have been born until as late as December 1813. Blowers also operated a tavern for keel boatmen trading between Pittsburgh and Mayville.

In the fall 1813, Blowers moved into a frame house in Jamestown, which he built at what would have been 113 North Main St. It was a licensed tavern, boarding house, school, church, and general meeting place until the Fenton Tavern was built in 1814. Phoebe died in 1820. Blowers remarried in 1829 and between his two marriages, he had a total of nine children. He died in the town of Ellery in 1863 at the age of 77.

Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). Drawing of John Blowers's log cabin in 1810, built a short distance to the south of the present boat landing in Jamestown, NY. [Audio file](#)

DR. SQUIRE WHITE

Dr. Squire White was born in Guilford, VT on November 20, 1785. He studied medicine in the office of his brother, Dr. Asa White, in Sherburne, NY, and in the office of Dr. Joseph White, of Cherry Valley – at that time one of the most celebrated physicians and surgeons in New York state.



When he arrived in Canadaway (later Fredonia) in 1808, he was the first licensed physician in Chautauqua County. He soon acquired a large practice, and he became known for visiting various patients via horseback. He was also noted for “the depth of his medical knowledge, the clearness of his observations, and his nice discrimination in everything relating to his profession.”

When the county was organized in 1811, Dr. White was appointed surrogate, which office he held for two years. He was also elected three times to the state assembly, being a member in the years 1830 to 1832. He consented also to serve as supervisor of Pomfret in 1838 and 1839.

Dr. White was twice married; first, to Sally, daughter of Hezekiah Barker, in October 1813. They had four children. Sally White died in July 1823 and three years later Dr. White married Lydia, daughter of Judge Zattu Cushing. The couple had three children together. Dr. White died April 2, 1857, at the age of 71. His son, Devillo, built the historic White Inn in 1868, on property originally purchased by Dr. White.

Ref: *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). [Audio file](#)

JUDGE JACOB HOUGHTON

Judge Jacob Houghton was born in Bolton, MA in 1777. His father, Simon Houghton, was for many years a member of the Massachusetts Legislature. As a young man, Jacob went to Vermont, taught school, was clerk in a store, and then removed with his employer to Troy, NY. There he studied law for three years with David Jones and was admitted to practice in all the courts of the state. He was married, Jan. 28, 1806, at Wallingford, VT to Lydia Douglass, daughter of Capt Daniel Douglass, of the army of the Revolution.

In June 1811 he came to Mayville and began the construction of a home. While the home was being built, Houghton statted on the north side of Cattaraugus Creek. There he practiced his profession and traded with the Indians.

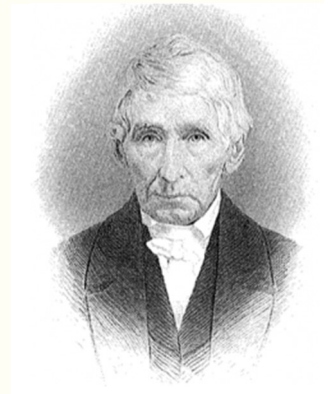
In 1812, he moved to what was the called Canadaway, and built a house, which remained in his family for many years afterward. It’s said that Houghton is the individual responsible for suggesting the name of Canadaway be changed to Fredonia.

Houghton attended the first court held in Chautauqua County in June 1811. In March 1813 he became a judge of the court of common pleas. He was for two terms Supreme Court commissioner and held the office of justice of the peace for four years. Houghton also held other offices including Supervisor’s Clerk (1816) and was also for some time postmaster at Fredonia (1813).

Houghton also served as chairman of the regional anti-war movement “Friends of Liberty, Peace, and Commerce” during the War of 1812. He also defended Joseph Damon, who was charged with murder and sentenced to death. It was the last public execution in Chautauqua County.

Houghton had 7 sons and 2 daughters, including Douglass Houghton, who eventually became the first state geologist of Michigan. Judge Houghton died July 30, 1861, at the age of 85.

Ref: *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). [Audio file](#)



MAJOR SAMUEL SINCLEAR

Major Samuel Sinclear was born in New Hampshire in 1762 and joined the army when he was only 14, serving for four years. While in service, he was present at the Battles of Bemis Heights, Monmouth and Valley Forge. He was discharged at the age of 18 and after spending time in Maine as a ship builder, he came to New York in 1788, where he lived in Utica and Cherry Valley.

In 1809, Sinclear purchased land from the Holland Land Company at the Batavia land office and started building a log cabin in what is today Sinclairville. The cabin was built at the intersection of two roads, one lead to Cherry Cheek, the other to Charlotte Center.

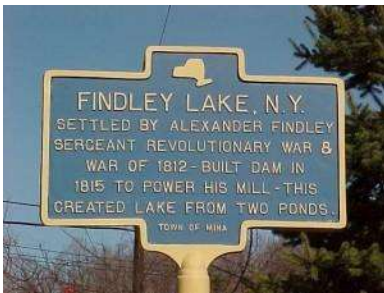
Other settlers soon came to the area, and Sinclear's cabin came to serve as a dwelling for new settlers while they built their homes, a schoolhouse and a church. In the fall of 1810, Sinclear cut a wagon road from Fredonia to Sinclairville, the first opened into the central part of the county; and in October 1810, his family, which included his stepsons, Obed and John M. Edson, arrived.

During the summer of 1810, he erected a sawmill and in the fall a frame dwelling house which was for many years the village tavern. In 1811 he built a gristmill in 1813 he was elected the first supervisor of Gerry, then comprising the present towns of Charlotte, Gerry, Cherry Creek, and Ellington, and continued as its supervisor for six years. Sinclear died on February 8, 1827. It was not until after his death that Sinclairville assumed its name (with the alternate spelling).

Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People (1875); Sinclairville's History in Text and Pictures.*

[Audio file](#)

ALEXANDER FINDLEY



Alexander Findley came to the U.S. from Northern Ireland with his family in 1790 and eventually settled in northwestern Pennsylvania. During his youth, he would hunt and fish in an area that is now the town of Mina. He liked the area so much that in 1811, he purchased land next to a small lake.

Four years after buying the property he built a dam and sawmill there, and the following year he established a permanent home, becoming the first resident in that area of the county. Because he was the area's first settler, the lake was given the name "Findley's Pond," later renamed "Findley's Lake."

Others soon arrived, but his first dam flooded people's land giving rise to lawsuits. The dam went out and before a second dam could be built, weeds and grasses grew and later decomposed under the water. This led to sickness for some area residents and more lawsuits. Soon the problem was resolved, and more settlers came into the area.

Findley was named Clymer commissioner of highways during the first town meeting in 1821. When Mina was set off from Clymer in 1824, he was named overseer of the poor and commissioner of schools. Findley had a total of 11 children, ten of which reached adulthood.

Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People (1875).* Historic marker located in Findley Lake, NY.

[Audio file](#)

CATHERINE HARRIS

Catherine Dickes Harris was born on a farm near Meadville, PA on June 10, 1809. Her father was a free black man, and her mother was a white woman of Dutch descent. In 1828 at the age of 19, Catherine married for the first time and moved from Meadville to Buffalo, NY Her husband died, leaving her with one daughter, and together they moved to Jamestown, NY in 1831, becoming the first black residents of the growing community.



In 1835, she married her second husband, John Harris, and they moved into a small house at 12 West Seventh Street. More African Americans began moving to the area around the Harris home and by the 1849 it was referred to as Africa, with nearly 100 blacks living in that part of town.

It's not known when Harris began serving as a conductor of the Underground Railroad, but it is known that she was one of the few blacks in the entire U.S. to maintain a station. It's said that she could hide as many as 17 runaway slaves at one time in the attic of the original house. In 1852, John Harris died. In 1881, her home became the site of the A.M.E. Zion Church in Jamestown and in time it served as the church's parsonage.

In the last years of her life, she was known as Jamestown's oldest citizen and was known throughout the community for her kindness and happy disposition. Catherine Harris died of pneumonia on February 12, 1907, at the age of 97. In appreciation and in honor of Mrs. Harris' contributions to the history of Jamestown and to blacks of generations past and present, the church erected a monument marking her grave in Lakeview Cemetery in March 1976.



Ref: *African American History of Western New York*; "The Circle Of Distinction Welcomes Catherine Harris," B. Dolores Thompson, *Jamestown Post-Journal*, 10 March 1984; *obituary of Catherine Harris, Jamestown Evening Journal*, 13 Feb 1907. Image courtesy of StarNewsDaily.com. Historical marker located in Jamestown, NY. [Audio file](#)

THE DEXTER BROTHERS

The **Dexter brothers** were among the earliest settlers of Chautauqua County. Darius Dexter was the first to arrive, coming to Mayville, NY in the spring of 1808 from Herkimer County, NY He was hired by the Holland Land Company to cut a mile and a half of road from the lake through Mayville towards the Cross Roads [Westfield]. He returned to Herkimer County and returned in the spring of 1809 with his wife and eight brothers. Both he and his brother William Dexter purchased land on the eastern shore of Chautauqua Lake that November.

At the county's first meeting in 1811, brother John Dexter was appointed assistant justice. Starting in 1815, he served off and on as county clerk for a total of 11 years. He was also Town of Chautauqua Supervisor in 1817. Darius fought in the War of 1812. At the close of the war, he became a colonel and was the first commanding officer of the 162nd Regiment of NY State Militia.



For several years, the brothers had a store and ashery at Dewittville. In 1818, Darius moved to the area that is now east Jamestown – then known as Slippery Rock – and the locality soon after assumed the name of Dexter's Mills, and afterwards, Dexterville. They operated a tavern, which still stands today – at the corner of Buffalo and E. 2nd Streets in Jamestown.

Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People (1875)*. Historical marker noting the Dexterville Tavern is located on the northwest corner of E. 2nd and Buffalo streets in Jamestown, NY. [Audio file](#)

JACOB FENTON

Jacob Fenton was a native of Mansfield, CT and was a potter by trade. He was the second cousin of George Fenton, father to future governor Reuben E. Fenton. He enlisted in the continental army at the age of 15 and served in the Revolutionary War.

In 1813, Jacob arrived in Chautauqua County from Burlington, NY and started a pottery business in Mayville. The following year, James Prendergast convinced him to move his operation to “The Rapids” – under a promise of assistance in building a tavern house and pottery. Fenton’s businesses – the first pottery and hotel in Jamestown – were located southeast of the present intersection of Main and 2nd streets. The house faced the keelboat landing, and extended to Potter’s Alley, so named from the adjoining pottery.

Jacob moved to Fluvanna, where he resumed his trade, and died June 21, 1822, aged 57 years. His son, William Fenton, took over the business and would become a prominent member of the community. He served for a time as deputy sheriff and from 1823 to 1871 served as Ellicott Town Justice.



Ref: City of Jamestown Historical Marker Program; *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875); *Geneological and Family History of Western New York: a record of*, volume 2. Photo of historical marker by Paul Kidder. [Audio file](#)

DAVID EASON

The first sheriff of Chautauqua County, **David Eason**, was born in Northumberland County, PA on April 3, 1771. His father came to the colonies from Ireland. In 1805, he married in Washington, PA and that same year moved to Canadaway, NY [Fredonia]. Within a year he and his wife relocated to what is today Westfield, NY.



His first public office was as justice of the peace for the Town of Chautauqua, which was then still part of Genesee County.

In 1811, on the organization of the county, he was appointed Chautauqua County sheriff, which office he held four years. The only property he was obliged to sell during this time was one horse; nor did he take a man to jail for debt. He suspected and arrested two horse thieves, and took them to Batavia jail, the owners residing east of Buffalo.

In 1813 and 1814, he took the assessment of the county for a U.S. direct tax and found most of the people to be generally poor.

In 1821, he was a candidate for the New York State Assembly. Eason was initially declared the winner. But his opponent had reportedly received some informal votes, which, if allowed to him, would give him the majority. Eason, believing the votes should count, surrendered the seat. In 1823 and 1824, he would serve as a member of the New York State Senate. After the expiration of term, he retired to his farm in Westfield. Eason died at his home on April 8, 1853, at the age of 82.

Ref: Information and portrait from *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). [Audio file](#)

SETH COLE

Seth Cole was born in Chesterfield, MA in 1756. He served in the Revolutionary War and married Celia Sampson in Chesterfield in the early 1790s.

Cole came to the area with his family in 1805 from Paris, NY and settled at the mouth of Canadaway Creek, near the shore of Lake Erie. It is believed he was the first settler of what is now known as Dunkirk. He contracted with the Holland

Land Company to cut and clear a road from the town line between Pomfret and Portland to Silver Creek, at a price of \$10 per mile. He died June 10, 1810, at age 54 years.

It is said his widow did great service in the War of 1812 by calling help when the British invaded. In July 1812, a salt boat chased by a British cruiser came into the mouth of the creek for protection near the Cole homestead. The cruiser anchored a quarter of a mile from shore and sent a boat of 13 men out to seize the salt boat. When they came near the mouth of the creek, they were fired upon by a group of 40 men. During the fight, Mrs. Cole acted as a general patrol. She mounted her horse and went to Fredonia to rally the men to the mouth of the creek; and after her return, she was actively engaged in carrying food and drink to the little army. This has been called the first naval fight of the War of 1812.

Ref: Meissner Family website; *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). [Audio file](#)

WILLIAM STORUM

The history of the Underground Railroad in Busti is associated with the efforts of several men, most significantly, **William Storum**. The Storum farm was located on Sanbury Rd., about a mile to the southwest of Busti corners.



A free black man, William Storum came from Connecticut and his wife, Sarah, came from Massachusetts. The Storums had eight children, three sons and five daughters. Their family was held in high esteem by their neighbors and the community. Their farm was a stop on the Underground Railroad and used to aid, hide, and assist runaway slaves on their way to Canada.

One of Storum daughters, Catherine Storum, married Lewis Clark on February 25, 1860. Clark was a runaway slave himself and he gained fame as a writer, lecturer, and abolitionist. Harriet Beecher Stowe used his life to develop her character George Harris of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." One of the Storums' granddaughters, Amelia, married the son of Frederick Douglass.

In 1850, seven fugitive slaves from Virginia had reached Busti by way of the Underground Railroad. One of the slaves, Harrison Williams, decided to remain in Busti and work on the Storum Farm. In September 1851, the owner of Williams from Virginia, a slave catcher, and Sheriff Cotton from Fredonia, caught Williams while he was outside milking a cow. It was the only time a runaway slave would be captured in Chautauqua County.

The Storums never left Busti. Sarah died in 1856 and William in the 1880s. They are lying in unmarked graves and their graves have not been found in any of the Busti cemeteries.

Ref: Albert S. Price in *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875); *Town of Busti History – Underground Railroad*. [Audio file](#)

JUDGE DANIEL SHERMAN

Judge Daniel Sherman was born in Busti, NY on November 29, 1821, to Daniel and Eunice Clark Sherman. His father was an early settler of Busti and had served as the town's first supervisor as well as the county sheriff. He was also instrumental in the creation and management of the Chautauqua County Bank.



Sherman attended local schools and later studied at both the Jamestown and Fredonia academies. In 1844, he studied law with local attorneys Abner Hazeltine and Emory Warren and was admitted to practice July 4, 1848. He then moved to Forestville and opened a practice which continued until 1882, when he was elected county surrogate.

In 1856 he was appointed by Governor Myron Clark attorney for the Indians, in which office he served under different administrations for twelve years. During that time, he assisted the Seneca Nation by reversing prior court decisions that went against the tribe. One of those cases involved the acquisition of the Oil Spring Reservation near Cuba, NY. That claim had been inadvertently omitted in the Treaty of Big Tree, in 1798.

Sherman was also active in promoting the interests of education. He served for several years as town superintendent of schools, he helped to establish the Free Academy in Forestville, and he was a member of the board of education for many years.

Sherman married Mary Colvill on April 28, 1852. They had five children together. He died March 27, 1903, at the age of 81.

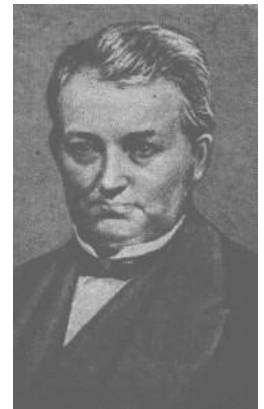
Ref: Information and portrait from *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). [Audio file](#)

OLIVER LEE

Oliver Lee was born in Lebanon, CT on December 23, 1791. He was married in Connecticut, October 30, 1813, to Eliza Downer. That same year, Lee came to Genesee County, NY and settled in Orangeville – now Wyoming County – and started a farm. He was an early constable and a deputy sheriff for Genesee County.

In 1823, Lee went into the mercantile business in Sheldon, NY and continued it for one year. In 1825, he came to Westfield and began a mercantile business and by the fall of 1827, he started trading in Silver Creek, having purchased the mill and farm previously owned by John E. Howard.

By 1828 Lee and his family had moved to Silver Creek and in the same year, took into partnership Clark C. Swift, and, under the firm name of Lee & Swift, continued business until 1832. During that time, he built up a large trade with the Indians and settlers reaching to the south line of the county. Lee also is credited with building the Silver Creek House in 1831 and 1832.



From 1833 to 1835, Lee served as Supervisor of the Town of Hanover. In 1840 his son, Charles H. Lee, became a business partner and soon retired from the mercantile business. In 1839, Lee established the Bank of Silver Creek and was its first president. He then established Oliver Lee & Co.'s Bank of Buffalo in 1844.

Lee and his wife had 11 children, nine of which reached adulthood. He died suddenly in Buffalo, July 28, 1846.

Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). Further reading: *Oliver Lee and Eliza Downer Genealogy Page*. Portrait source unknown. [Audio file](#)

GEORGE WASHINGTON TEW

George Washington Tew was born in Rensselaer County, NY in April 1804. He was the son of William Tew, a carpenter and millwright originally from Nantucket, MA who moved to central New York in 1796.

George Tew grew up in Fly Creek, NY at the home of his parents, and there he learned the trade of tinsmith. In 1825, Tew came to Jamestown and started in the tinware and sheet-iron business. His shop was located just north of Shaw's

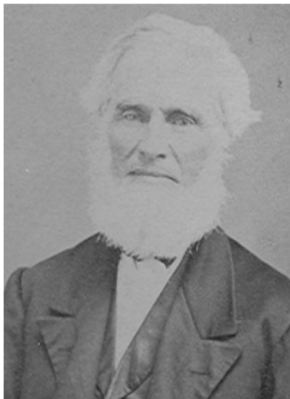
Hotel, which stood at the northwest corner of Main and Third streets. Later it moved to the southeast corner of Fourth and Main streets. He was engaged in that work for a few years until taking an interest in the law profession. He read his subject in the office of Samuel A. Brown, who was the first man to practice law in Jamestown and later became a prominent attorney of that area of the county.

In 1831, Tew was admitted to the practice law and became a partner of Brown, which continued until 1834, when Tew was elected County Clerk of Chautauqua County. He then lived in Mayville and served as clerk until 1840. In April 1841 Tew moved to Silver Creek. There he became cashier of the Bank of Silver Creek, founded by Oliver Lee. Tew would succeed Lee as president and continued in that capacity during the remainder of his life. He died in Silver Creek on November 27, 1875 and was buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Jamestown.

Ref: Information and portrait from *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). [Audio file](#)

EBER PETTIT

The Pettit family played an instrumental role in the western New York Underground Railroad. Doctor James Pettit was born in 1767 and practiced in both Madison and Onondaga counties in New York state prior to coming to Fredonia. His son, **Eber M. Pettit**, was born in 1802.



For about 25 years, Eber and his wife Euretta operated an Underground Railroad station in Versailles, NY, about 15 miles northeast of Fredonia. While there, they also produced herbs and seeds for his father's patent medicine company. Their daughter, Helen Pettit Barker, and her husband, Darwin R. Barker, assisted in the effort of helping fugitive slaves.

James and Lucy Pettit were also active in the Underground Railroad from their home in Fredonia. The family's medicine business led them on several trips into Ohio to get supplies. This also provided opportunities for both father and son to transport runaway slaves on the road to freedom. James died prior to 1850, but Eber and other family members continued as conductors in the Underground Railroad even after that time.

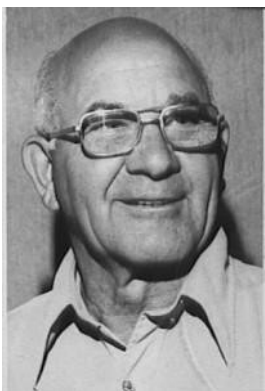
Shortly after the Emancipation Proclamation took effect in 1863, Pettit and his family closed their station and returned to Fredonia. In 1879, Eber Pettit wrote a memoir entitled "Sketches in the History of the Underground Railroad." The memoir was dedicated to Frederick Douglass, and was published by Willard McKinstry of the Fredonia Censor.

Ref: "Pettits and the Underground Railroad," Wendy J.W. Straight, 2006; *The African American History of Western New York*. *Further reading:* "Sketches in the History of the Underground Railroad," Eber M. Pettit, W. McKinstry, 1879. Photo of Eber M. Pettit from Fredonia Baptist Church scanned by archivist Wendy J.W. Straight. [Audio file](#)

LLOYD MOORE

When it comes to stock car racing, no event is bigger than the Daytona 500. The roots of the Daytona 500 go back to the early 1950s, when several short-track races were held on Daytona Beach. One of the drivers who took part in some of those early races was Chautauqua County's own **Lloyd Moore**.

Born on June 8, 1912, in Frewsburg, Moore was a major factor in the start of auto racing in this area. Developing his skills in several grass fields around Frewsburg, Moore eventually approached Findley Lake car owner Julian Buesink about becoming a driver.



He first started racing in 1939 at the old gravel pit track in Onoville, NY, “Dipsy Do Raceway,” and “Satan’s Bowl of Death” on the Big Tree-Sugar Grove Rd. in Busti. He raced there and other local tracks into 1941, when WWII put the kibosh on racing in the area until 1947. In the late 1940s he resumed racing at the Penny Royal Track in Leon, NY. From there, he and teammate Bill Rexford eventually moved to the NASCAR Grand National (later called the Winston Cup) to race for Buesink. He participated in both NASCAR and MARC(ARCA) until 1955.

Moore had many accomplishments during his career, one being selected as the only “Yankee” to make the NASCAR Top 20 in 1951. It was that year that he recorded the fastest time in the Daytona Qualifier. In all, he competed in five NASCAR sanctioned races at Daytona between 1950 and 1952, finishing in the top 10 on three different occasions.

Among his most notable victories was a 150-mile race at Dayton, OH on June 6, 1954. He managed to win despite local drivers doubling up on him trying to run him into the ground. He also had wins at the Detroit Speedway, Kokomo, Indiana, most of the New England states and many of the local and regional tracks of the time.

He retired from racing in 1955 and later accepted a job at Frewsburg Central School as a bus driver. Additionally, he oversaw the bus garage. Moore was the third auto racer inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 2000. He died in May 2008.

Ref: Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame - Lloyd Moore; Reg Houghwot, Frewsburg resident and long-time Moore acquaintance. Further reading: *Legends of NASCAR*, Lloyd Moore page; *Ultimate Racing History*, Lloyd Moore statistics. Photo courtesy of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame. [Audio file](#)

GRACE BEDELL

Abraham Lincoln is considered one of America’s greatest presidents, and also one of the most identifiable, thanks in part to his beard. It’s fascinating to consider, then, that the roots of his iconic facial hair can be traced to Chautauqua County and an 11-year-old girl from Westfield.



Grace Bedell was born November 4, 1848. On October 15, 1860, Grace wrote a letter to the republican presidential candidate from Illinois, urging him to grow a beard to improve his appearance.

In her letter, she wrote, *“My father has just home from the fair and brought home your picture. I hope you won’t think me very bold to write to such a great man as you are... I have got four brothers and part of them will vote for you any way and if you let your whiskers grow I will try and get the rest of them to vote for you. You would look a great deal better for your face is so thin... All the ladies like whiskers and they would tease their husbands to vote for you and then you would be President.”*

Lincoln responded to Grace in a letter on October 19, 1860, making no promises. However, within a month, he grew a full beard that he wore for most of the remainder of his life. During his inaugural train ride from Chicago to Washington, D.C., he made a point to stop in Westfield where he met with the 11-year-old and gave her a kiss on the cheek. A statue depicting the meeting is in the center of the village.

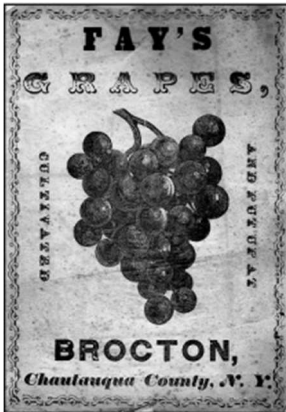
Bedell wrote a second letter to Lincoln in 1864, asking for help in gaining employment so she could support her parents. She later married a Union veteran and moved to Kansas, where she died in 1936.

Ref: Grace Bedell Wikipedia page; The Grace Bedell Foundation. Photo of Grace Bedell as a young woman. The two statues in Westfield depict the meeting between Bedell and president-elect Abraham Lincoln. [Audio file](#)



ELIJAH FAY

Elijah Fay was born in Southborough, MA September. 9, 1781, and was married to Lucy Belknap, of Westborough, MA. The couple came to Portland in 1811 and settled on 179 acres. it was the first residence of Salem Cross Roads [what is today the village of Brocton].



The residents of Portland soon regarded Fay as one of the best of the good men of the area. He was prominent among the founders of the Baptist church, and one of its early deacons. But his biggest contribution to not only Portland, but also the entire Chautauqua Region, was the introduction of grapes.

Fay first started growing in 1818. The vines grew profusely but the fruit was inferior quality. After attempts at growing different varieties without success, he introduced, in 1824, the Isabella and the Catawba type of grapes, which proved to be well adapted to the soil and climate. In the meantime, other settlers purchased nursery stock from Elijah's brother, Lincoln Fay, and began growing their own vineyards.

From his crop of 1830, he made from five to eight gallons of wine. This is considered the first winery from the cultivated grape in western New York. In 1851, Joseph Fay, son of Elijah, started growing Concord grapes, and in 1857, along with another early settler H.A. Burton, planted the first large planting of grapes on a quarter of an acre. This was the beginning of the grape industry in Portland.

For the last four years of his life, Elijah Fay is supposed to have made nearly 300 gallons of wine a year. His cellars contained 1,500 gallons at the time of his death, on August 23, 1860.

Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People (1875)*; RootsWeb.com - Fays in the History of Chautauqua County: Joseph Belknap Fay. [Audio file](#)

HEMAN BUSH

Heman Bush came to Chautauqua County in June 1812 from Litchfield, NY and settled in Frank's Settlement [today known as Busti]. There, he built the settlement's first tavern, store, ashery, and sawmill. The sawmill was located a quarter of a mile south of Busti hamlet on the bank of Stillwater Creek. Later he built a gristmill nearby on the same creek. The mill still stands today as the centerpiece of the Busti Historical Society.

In 1816, a group of masons in the area petitioned the state grand lodge for a charter, which was obtained the following year. On Sept. 27, 1817, the first meeting of the Mount Moriah Lodge No. 145 took place in Bush's tavern and Bush was named Master.

When the town of Busti was set off from Ellicott in 1824, the first town meeting was held in the long room of Bush's hotel. Daniel Sherman was elected town Supervisor, while Bush was named overseer of the poor. Bush also previously served as assessor and commissioner of schools for the town of Ellicott.

Bush died in May 1839 at the age of 62. His widow, whose maiden name was Abigail Frost, died in 1872. In 1921 the lodge honored the memory of its first Master by erecting a large monument at his grave in the Busti Cemetery.



Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People (1875)*; RootsWeb.com - Descendants of Richard and Sarah Rogers Knight. Photo of the historic Busti Mill built by Heman Bush. [Audio file](#)

ELIAL T. FOOTE

Judge Elial Todd Foote, the son of Deacon Samuel Foote and Sybil Doolittle Foote, was born in Greenfield, MA in May 1796. In 1798, he moved with his parents to Sherburne, NY and received his education in the common school and Oxford Academy, eventually becoming a licensed physician in Chenango County.

At the age of 19, Foote came to the Rapids [today known as Jamestown] seeking a place to practice his profession. He is considered the first physician in Jamestown. Soon after his arrival he turned his attention from medicine to public office. In 1817, he was appointed assistant justice of the court. A year later he was appointed associate judge. At the age of 25, he became first judge of Chautauqua County, a position he served for 20 years. In addition, Foote would also serve as a state assemblyman, sheriff and postmaster.



In 1822, Foote purchased a portion of "reserved land" in Jamestown from the Holland Land Company. This tract, with its valuable waterpower, was quickly developed and the growth of the village greatly promoted. A year later, he used a portion of the land to build a home on the present site of Jamestown High School. He was also involved with other developments throughout the county, including the Chautauqua County Courthouse and Barcelona Lighthouse. When the Chautauqua County Bank was established in 1831, he was named its first president.

Foote was also a philanthropist and donated much land and money to various religious groups and services for the poor and needy. He was also heavily involved in the temperance movement and was a staunch abolitionist.

Soon after 1820, Judge Foote conceived the idea of collecting materials for the early history of Chautauqua County. An avid historian, he would eventually gather hundreds of volumes of early newspapers, land documents, and first-hand accounts related to the area's early settlement. This became an invaluable asset to later books outlining the early history of the county.

Foote was married three times and had five children. He died on November 17, 1877, in New Haven, CT, but was returned to Jamestown to be buried in Lakeview Cemetery.

Ref: Information and portrait from *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People (1875)*. [Audio file](#)

SILAS SHEARMAN

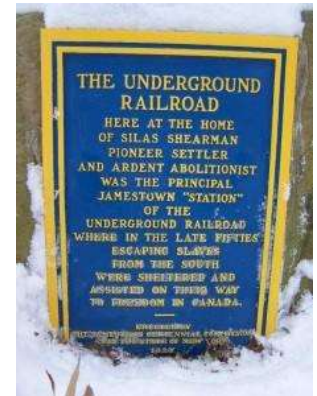
A journeyman saddler, **Silas Shearman** came to Jamestown in 1822. He was employed by William Knight who kept a small harness shop on the east side of Main Street, between Second and Third streets. He held many military commissions, among which were Captain of Cavalry, Major and Lieutenant Colonel of the 162nd regiment of the 43rd Brigade, New York State Militia.

Shearman was what was termed a rabid abolitionist at a time when active opposition to slavery was most unpopular. In the 1850s he became a conductor of the “underground railroad” and his home was the principal station in Jamestown. It was not uncommon for him to come down in the morning and find his kitchen filled with escaping slaves who were brought to Jamestown during the night and directed to his home. He would feed them and hid them during the day in his barn on Stillers Alley and then arrange for their transportation to the next station, often in the village of Ellington.

He was also active in the cause to temperance. As a result of his decided views upon both temperance and the slavery question, he lost many friends.

The Shearman home stood at the southeast corner of Pine and Fourth Streets until 1910. Today at this site, visitors will find a plaque detailing the location of the Shearman Homestead.

Ref: Historical marker in downtown Jamestown, NY notes the work of Silas Shearman and the Underground Railroad. [Audio file](#)



ROYAL KEYES & JOHN BREED

At one point in its history, the city of Jamestown was known as the “Furniture Capital of the World.” When someone purchased a piece of furniture, they could rest assured it was of top quality if it was “made in Jamestown.”

Jamestown’s robust furniture industry sprung from a two-story carpenter shop near the southwest corner of Main and Fourth Streets. The shop was established in 1816 by **Royal Keyes**, who came from New Haven, CT to assist in the construction of new homes in the area. In his spare time, he made simple articles of furniture. He soon hired a journeyman cabinetmaker and increased his furniture making. But it would be a few years later that the manufacturing of furniture came into its own.

In the spring of 1820, carpenter and joiner William Breed came to Jamestown from Pittsburgh. By 1822 he formed a partnership with Keyes. Shortly afterward William’s brother, **John Breed**, bought out Keyes’ interest in the company and the firm of Breed & Keyes erected a good-sized factory at the “lower dam” on what is now Winsor St. It was the first water-powered furniture factory in the area.

By the 1850s, the W. & J.C. Breed & Co. was a major force in the furniture industry, selling all types of quality-made furniture throughout the country. The original business established by Royal Keyes in 1815 remained in operation under various ownerships but without interruption until the second half of the 20th century.

Ref: Information and portrait from *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875); City of Jamestown Historical Marker Program; The Grand Rapids Furniture Record: Volume 32, p. 337 (1916). [Audio file](#)

JAMES MCCLURG

James McClurg was born in Ireland, and, when a youth, moved with his family to Philadelphia. His father took an active part in the famed Irish Rebellion, which culminated in 1798. The failure of rebellion is said to have been the cause of their removal to this country. Later in life he would say he had seen President George Washington while living in Philadelphia.



The family eventually moved to Pittsburgh, where James and his father became extensively engaged in the iron foundry and furnace business. In 1810, James came to Westfield and opened a small store, which some claim to be the first business in Westfield. When the War of 1812 broke out, he returned to Pittsburgh and made cannons for the government. These cannon, it is believed, were the first ever made in the U.S.

After the war, he returned to Westfield, where he spent the remainder of his life. He served as a local merchant in the area and helped to construct the Westfield Mill. He also invested in real estate, purchasing the property owned by David Eason and converting it into lots, which greatly contributed to the growth and prosperity of the town.

McClurg is also responsible for the construction of the McClurg Mansion. It was built in 1818 and was dubbed by locals as “McClurg’s Folly” because it stood in sharp contrast to the crude log cabins of the time. He died May 26, 1872, aged 87 years.

Ref: *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). Portrait courtesy of McClurg Museum, Westfield, NY. [Audio file](#)

PATRICK FALCONER

Patrick Falconer was born in Brooklyn, NY on January 5, 1814. He was the son of Robert Falconer, a Scottish immigrant who was engaged in the cotton trade in the New York City area.



In 1819, Robert moved to Sugar Grove, PA with his family. Ten years later he moved to Warren, PA and established the Lumberman’s Bank of Warren, and then back to Sugar Grove in 1840, where he lived until his death in 1853. Though never a resident of Chautauqua County, he made several land purchases in Dexterville, Worksburg, and Kennedy.

Patrick Falconer came to Jamestown at the age of 18, where he studied law with Judge Abner Hazeltine, Sr. In 1840, he bought his father’s interest in his property in Dexterville and Worksburg, selling his share of the Dexterville property four years later. He then became the sole owner of the Edward Work property in Worksburg, where he finally settled.

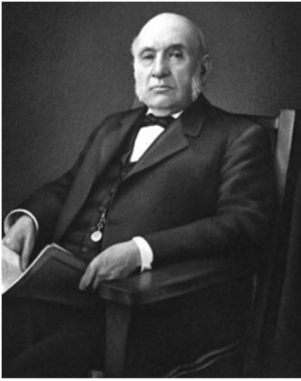
In 1867 Patrick Falconer became member of the board of directors for the Dunkirk, Allegany Valley and Pittsburgh Railroad Company and donated a generous amount of his land, ensuring the railroad would pass directly through the community. Because of his efforts in developing Worksburg, the community changed its name to Falconer in 1874.

Patrick Falconer married Martha T. Hallock, and they had six children, including William T. Falconer, who was born in 1850 and also served as a key developer in the community. Patrick Falconer died in 1887.

Ref: *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). [Audio file](#)

WILLIAM BROADHEAD

Considered the city of Jamestown’s foremost manufacturer, **William Broadhead** was born on February 17, 1819, in Yorkshire, England and worked in his early adult life as a blacksmith. He came to Chautauqua County in January 1843 – first to Busti where his uncle, Rev. John Broadhead, was living.



Broadhead eventually found work in Jamestown and later started a business with Adam Cobb, whose daughter, Lucy Cobb, he had married in 1845. Later, Broadhead purchased an ax factory in town and began to manufacture axes and forks. Soon, he became interested in quality textiles and formed a clothing store with his children called William Broadhead and Sons. Their business increased rapidly and soon they had the largest clothing store in the county.

In 1873, after visiting his homeland where the weaving industry flourished, he helped to form the Jamestown Alpaca Mill with local businessmen William Hall and Joseph Turner. It was located on Harrison St. and was the first worsted mill to be operated west of Philadelphia.

The business quickly grew to large proportions and was conducted on an extensive scale. Its products were known from coast to coast.

In 1875, Broadhead withdrew and founded the Broadhead Worsted Mills on East First St. In this venture he was joined by his two sons, Almet Broadhead and Sheldon Broadhead. The Broadhead family later acquired the Jamestown Alpaca Mill and renamed it the Jamestown Worsted Mills. Together, the two mills employed thousands of people until the early 1930s.

William Broadhead had a total of four children and one adopted daughter. He died at his home at 130 South Main St. in May 1910, at the age of 91.

Ref: "Grand Old Man," *Jamestown Evening Journal*, 21 May 1910; "Leading Citizens Built Homes On The Hills South Of The River," *Jamestown Post-Journal*, 29 March 1986; City of Jamestown Historic Marker Program; *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). [Audio file](#)

ASAHEL BURNHAM

Arkwright was the first town in the New York state to extensively establish the cheese co-op, and it was largely due to the work of one individual – **Asahel Burnham**. Burnham was born in Arkwright, about 1826. He had poor opportunities for education and no business experience. What he did have, however, were energy and natural business ability.

He spent much of his life as a farmer and in 1861, he built in Arkwright the first cheese factory in the county based on the cooperative plan. It was located in Burnham's Hollow on Canadaway Creek and was called the Canadaway Cheese Factory. He built a second of that kind in Sinclairville in 1865, which at that time is believed to be the largest in the state. That year, the factory used nearly 4,350,000 pounds of milk from 120 different farms to 432,000 pounds of cheese.

Burnham eventually built and owned factories in adjacent towns and was soon called the "Cheese King," because he bought and handled a large portion of the cheese made in western New York. His cooperative system grew into a great industry and by 1902, he had 35 cheese factories that produced over 3,300,000 pounds of cheese. Under the cooperative system and Burnham's management, Chautauqua County became a statewide leader in not only the quantity of butter and cheese produced, but also the quality of the product.



Burnham was also noted all over the U.S. as the owner of a famous stable of thoroughbreds, his most noted racer being "Brambaletta." He had for an emblem a pineapple cheese, which he emblazoned on his jockey's colors.

Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). Historical marker notes the location of the first cheese factory, which was built in 1861 by Asahel Burnham, in Chautauqua County. [Audio file](#)

ALVIN PLUMB

Alvin Plumb was born in Paris, NY on September 6, 1802. He came to Fredonia in 1816 with his elder brothers, Joseph Plumb and Ralph Plumb, who opened a store there. When he was about 24, He came to Jamestown and entered general merchandising and the manufacture of pearl ashes.



He was an important member of the Jamestown community those early days. He was elected a village trustee upon the incorporation of Jamestown in 1827. For a time, he also served as Postmaster. Later, he would be twice elected a member of the state assembly and was elected county clerk in 1843.

Plumb may be most noted in local history for building the first steamboat on Chautauqua Lake. A company was formed for this purpose and the side-wheel steamer known as Chautauqua commenced running from Mayville to Jamestown on July 4, 1828.

In 1830, Plumb went into the lumber business, moving to the “Jonathan Southland Farm,” between Jamestown and Kennedy, and erected mills near the mouth of Cassadaga Creek. He was married in 1835 to Mary Ann Davis of Westfield and together they had 5 children, although only three reached adulthood. Plumb moved to Westfield about 1845 and served as town supervisor on two separate occasions.

On August 4, 1871, another steamboat, also named Chautauqua, was about to land at Mayville when her boiler exploded, killing eight people and severely wounding several others, including Plumb, who was crippled for the remainder of his life. He was a resident of Westfield until his death on May 13, 1877, age nearly 75.

Ref: *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). [Audio file](#)

GEORGE STONEMAN

George Stoneman was born in Chenango County but came to the area of Busti during its early settlement. He lived near the waters of Chautauqua Lake and was a neighbor of Daniel Sherman, the first supervisor. For several years he was justice of the peace for Busti.

Stoneman is described as somewhat eccentric. He built a sawmill just to the east of the present-day intersection of Routes 394 and 474, but there was no visible waterpower. Stoneman was often asked where he was going to get water, and he would say that he would haul it from the lake in corn baskets. But Stoneman and a group of men constructed a race and for many years his mill would remain operational.

Another instance of Stoneman’s eccentricity could be found in a type of boat he had constructed. Stoneman constructed a horse-boat called “the Twins,” which was built upon two huge dugout canoes. An immense horizontal wheel extended across the deck, upon which the horses traveled to power a shaft the spun a paddle wheel. His unique water vessel soon earned him the nickname of “Commodore Stoneman” from his neighbors and friends.

George Stoneman had two children who went on to make a name for themselves. His son, George Stoneman Jr., became a general of the U.S. Army during the Civil War and later governor of California. Another son became a state senator out west. And one of the four daughters, Katherine Stoneman, went on to become the first woman lawyer in New York state.

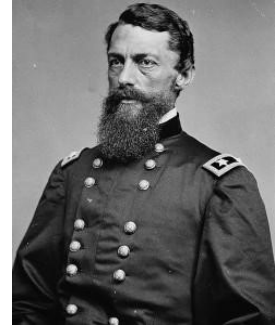
Ref: *Young’s History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). [Audio file](#)

GEN. GEORGE STONEMAN

General George Stoneman was born on a family farm in Busti on August 8, 1822. He was the first of ten children born to George Stoneman and Catherine Rebecca Cheney.

Stoneman studied at the Jamestown Academy and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1846. His roommate was future Confederate General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson. His first assignment was with the 1st U.S. Dragoons, with which he served across the West and in California. After promotion to captain of the 2nd U.S. Cavalry in March 1855, he served mainly in Texas until 1861.

At the start of the Civil War Stoneman was in command of Fort Brown, Texas and refused to surrender to confederate authorities. He escaped to the north with most of his command. In late 1862, Stoneman led the Union Cavalry Corps and conducted raids into enemy territory, destroying supplies and gathering intelligence. However, he failed a key assignment to raid and disrupt the Confederate army of Robert E. Lee during the Battle of Chancellorsville and the Union Army was defeated. Much of the blame was given to Stoneman and he was sent to Washington.



General Stoneman soon returned to service, only to be captured by the enemy during the Atlanta Campaign, becoming the highest-ranking Union prisoner of war. He was released after three months and continued service in the war, conducting various raids in Virginia and Tennessee. Following the defeat of the south, he was placed in charge of the occupation of Memphis, where riots broke out among the still rebellious citizens angry at the presence of black Federal soldiers. Stoneman was criticized for inaction and was investigated by a congressional committee, although he was exonerated.

Stoneman continued service in the Army until 1871 and then moved to California. He was a state railroad commissioner from 1876 to 1878. In 1882, he was elected governor of California as a Democrat and served a single four-year term. After his house was destroyed by fire, Stoneman was broken financially and in poor health. He returned to New York for medical treatment. He died in Buffalo on September 5, 1894, following a stroke. His body was returned to Chautauqua County and buried in the Bentley Cemetery in Lakewood.

Ref: Wikipedia - General George Stoneman. [Audio file](#)

KATHERINE STONEMAN

Katherine “Kate” Stoneman, a native of Busti, was the first woman admitted to practice law in New York. She was born in April 1841 on the Stoneman farm in Busti. She grew up on the farm but left for Albany in 1864 to attend the New York State Normal College, pursuing her ambition to graduate from a teacher’s college.

While a student in Albany, she worked as a copyist for the state reporter of the Court of Appeals. She graduated in 1866 and began a teaching career that spanned 40 years.



Her interest in studying law began when she was designated executrix of her great aunt’s estate. In 1882, she began a clerkship in the office of an Albany attorney. After three years of studying the law, Stoneman took the New York State Bar Examination in 1885, becoming the first woman to pass. But her application to join the bar was rejected because of her gender. She then launched a successful campaign to amend the Code of Civil Procedure to permit the admission of qualified applicants without regard to sex or race. On May 20, 1886, with the new legislation in hand, Stoneman reapplied for admission to the bar. It was accepted and she became New York’s first woman lawyer. Twelve years later, at age 57, Stoneman became the first woman graduate of Albany Law School.

In addition to her careers as a teacher and attorney, Stoneman also had an interest in women's suffrage and helped to form the Woman's Suffrage Society of Albany. In 1918, as a poll watcher in Albany city elections, Stoneman saw New York's women vote for the first time.

Kate Stoneman died on May 19, 1925, at the age of 84. She is buried in the Albany Rural Cemetery.

Ref: Albany Law School - Kate Stoneman Biography. [Audio file](#)

MARY S. LOCKWOOD

Mary Smith Lockwood was born in the area of Smith Mills in the Town of Hanover in 1831. She was the daughter of Henry Smith and Beulah Blodgett Smith and the granddaughter of Isaac Smith, the original settler from whose mill the sparse little community takes its name. She grew up in Smith Mills and became very interested in education. Once she became an adult, she taught school in Brocton.



After her marriage to Henry Lockwood of Silver Creek, the couple eventually settled in Washington, D.C. where she became interested in some of the progressive movements of the time. She espoused the cause of women's rights and was a close friend and adviser of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

As a newspaper contributor, Smith Lockwood wrote often on the subject of woman's rights and began to subtly sow the seed which was germinating in her mind, and which was one day to blossom in the founding of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1890. For this reason, she was known as the "pen founder" of the organization. The first meeting was held in October 1890 in Mrs. Lockwood's home.

Smith Lockwood would become a well-known Washington hostess and many of the Capital's most distinguished persons, as well as international guests, were familiar figures in her home. She also found time to write two notable books – "Historic Homes of Washington" and "Hand Book of Ceramic Art."

Mary Smith Lockwood died in 1922 in Plymouth, MA. A memorial boulder and plaque commemorating Smith Lockwood was placed at the four corners of Smith Mills in 1940 with several hundred people in attendance.

Ref: "Mary Smith Lockwood: Famous Woman of Hanover" by Marion Thomas. [Audio file](#)

BILL REXFORD

Bill Rexford was born March 14, 1927, in Conewango Valley, NY located in the town of Ellington. As a young man, he made a name for himself driving stock cars in various races throughout the region, including the Penny Royal Speedway in Leon. After competing there for several years following a two-year stint in the Navy, Rexford's talents were recognized and he made the move to NASCAR in 1949, participating in three late season Grand National races.



In 1950, Rexford became the first of two Northern drivers to regularly race in the Grand National division. The other driver was his teammate, Lloyd Moore. That year, he won his first career NASCAR race at Canfield, OH. By the end of the same season, Rexford was involved in the race for the championship and ended up benefiting from the misfortunes of three other contenders, including the legendary Lee Petty, who had been stripped of over 800 points by NASCAR for racing in non-NASCAR sanctioned races. In the final race of the year, Rexford placed high enough to win the Winston Cup Championship. At the age of 23, he remains the youngest driver to win a championship in what has become the Nextel Cup series.

Rexford returned to racing in the Northeast in 1951, making a handful of appearances at some of NASCAR's bigger races in the southeast and a few northeastern Grand National events. Following that season, he entered only four more Grand National events and his final NASCAR race was July 1953 in Rochester, NY where he finished fifth.

After retiring from racing, Rexford and his wife, Peggy, moved to Parker, AZ and started a trucking business. The latter relocated to Hemet, CA. Rexford died on March 18, 1994. He is a member of the New York State Auto Racing Hall of Fame, the Friends of Auto Racing Hall of Fame, and the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame.

Ref: Wikipedia - Bill Rexford; Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame; *Legends of NASCAR* – Bill Rexford. Photo courtesy of the Chautauqua Sports HOF). [Audio file](#)

ELNORA MONROE BABCOCK

Elnora Monroe Babcock was a woman suffragist born in Columbus Township in Warren County, PA on January 11, 1852. From early childhood, Elnora felt the injustice of denying to women a voice in government but found few outlets as a result of growing up in rural area in northwestern Pennsylvania.



She was married at the age of eighteen to Prof. John W. Babcock of Jamestown. The couple eventually moved to Dunkirk, where John served as superintendent of Dunkirk public schools.

It was in 1889 and at the age of 37, Elnora finally took an active role in the suffragist movement and created the Political Equality Club of Dunkirk, of which she was made president. This club flourished remarkably under her management, and before the close of her first year as president of the local club, she was elected president of the Chautauqua County Political Equality Club which was then considered the most thoroughly organized county in the U.S., having twenty-five local clubs within its borders and a membership of 1,400.

On July 25, 1891, she had the honor of presiding over the first woman suffrage meeting ever held at the Chautauqua Assembly. Among the speakers was Susan B. Anthony. And as a member of the national American Woman Suffrage Association, Babcock was also effective in spearheading a letter writing campaign to various newspapers throughout the country. In 1900, when she was chairperson of the Press Committee, more than 50,000 suffrage articles were distributed. Several of the articles were penned by Babcock herself.

Ref: *A Woman of the Century* (1893); Warren County Biographies; *The History of Woman Suffrage* (1922).

Further reading: "A Few Suffrage Questions" by Elnora Monroe Babcock; "Woman and Suffrage" [PDF] by Elnora Monroe Babcock. [Audio file](#)

CHARLES GOODELL

Charles Ellsworth Goodell was born on March 16, 1926, in Jamestown. He attended Jamestown Public Schools and then attended Williams College, graduating in 1948. He then served in the Navy until 1946. In 1951, he graduated from Yale Law School and received a graduate degree from Yale University Graduate School of Government in 1952. He also served in the Air Force in 1952 to 1953 during the Korean War.

Goodell was admitted to the Connecticut bar in 1951 and the New York bar in 1954. That same year he returned to Jamestown to begin his law practice and became a congressional liaison assistant for the Department of Justice, serving through 1955.

In 1959 Goodell ran for Congress for the Republicans in a special election to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Daniel Reed. He won on May 26, 1959. He was reelected four times afterward, only to resign on September 9, 1968, to accept an appointment to



the U.S. Senate by Governor Nelson Rockefeller to fill the vacancy caused by the assassination of Robert Kennedy.

While in the Senate, Goodell authored and sponsored many bills, including several to provide conservation and development aid to small towns and rural areas. He also was an advocate of a withdrawal from Vietnam. He was unable to win the 1970 election for the Senate seat, eventually losing to Conservative Party candidate James Buckley.

After leaving Congress, Goodell resumed the practice of law. In the mid-1970s, he served as vice chairman on President Gerald Ford's committee to draft rules for granting amnesty to Vietnam era draft evaders and deserters. He remained a resident of Washington, D.C. until his death on January 21, 1987. Goodell's son, Roger Goodell, is the current commissioner of the National Football League.

Ref: Wikipedia - Charles Goodell. [Audio file](#)

GEORGE CARTER

The month of March has become synonymous with college basketball, and there was perhaps no better college basketball player to come out of Chautauqua County than **George Carter** who played at St. Bonaventure University.



Carter was born January 10, 1944, in Buffalo, but spent much of his formative years in Silver Creek, making a name for himself as a member of the Black Knights basketball team. After graduating from high school, Carter went to St. Bonaventure and played for the Bonnies from 1964-1967).

In each of his three seasons at St. Bonaventure, Carter scored over 400 points. He also totaled 849 rebounds in 68 games, averaging of 12.4 per game – good enough for fourth among all-time St. Bonaventure rebounders. He was team leader in 1966 with 285 and in 1967 with 305. Carter served as the captain of the team his senior year.

Following college in 1967, Carter was drafted by the Detroit Pistons of the NBA but was also drafted by the U.S. Army and served a two-year hitch. After his service career, Carter began his pro basketball career with the Washington Capitals of the ABA for the 1969-70 season and was named to the league's all-star team. In 1970-71 he played with Julius Erving on the Virginia Squires. He continued playing until 1976, retiring with 8,863 combined ABA/NBA career points.

In 1974 Carter was inducted into the St. Bonaventure University Athletics Hall of Fame and was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1984.

Ref: Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame; Wikipedia - George Carter. [Audio file](#)

WILLIAM HART

William Hart was born in Litchfield County, CT in 1797, and moved to Fredonia in 1819, bringing with him only a rifle and a pack of clothing. A skilled tinsmith and gunsmith, Hart was awarded a U.S. patent for the percussion lock in 1826.

It wasn't soon after Hart arrived in Fredonia that he became interested in the natural gas found in the area. He soon developed a plan to drill for the gas and use it for commercial purposes. In 1825, he drilled the first commercial well on the northeast side of the Main Street bridge in downtown Fredonia. There are some claims that the drilling occurred as early as 1821, but the first documentation of a well being drilled was found in the Fredonia Censor dated August 31, 1825. The hole was drilled 27 feet into shale. He then built a simple gas meter and piped the natural gas to a local innkeeper. He called his operation the Fredonia Gas Light Company, making it the nation's first natural gas company.

By November 1825, 36 village streetlights were fueled by natural gas and this "modern marvel" of the time frequently attracted travelers, often causing them to make a significant detour to see this new "wonder." The original Hart well produced gas until 1858.

Due to poor health, Hart changed professions and became a nursery operator, where he was known for his beautiful flower garden that expanded from the back of his home down to the creek. He also ran a small amusement park and spa baths with hot water located along the creek.

In 1838, Hart and his family moved to Buffalo, where he became a successful businessman. William Hart died in Buffalo on August 9, 1865.

Ref: SUNY Fredonia Shale Research Institute. [Audio file](#)

JAMES JESSE STRANG

James Jesse Strang was born March 21, 1813, in Cayuga County, NY, the son of Clement Strang and Abigail James Strang. In June 1836, James moved to Clear Creek in the town of Ellington and began practicing law in nearby Randolph. In November of that same year, he married Mary Abigail Perce in Silver Creek.

While living in Chautauqua County, Strang also served as owner and editor the Randolph Herald and as Ellington postmaster for five years. On August 18, 1843, Strang and his wife loaded their belongings into a carriage and left their home in Clear Creek for Burlington, WI.



A year after arriving in Wisconsin, Strang met the founder of the Mormon Church, Joseph Smith, in Nauvoo, IL. Despite an earlier philosophical skepticism, Strang became a Mormon convert and was ordained an elder by Smith.

Smith assigned Strang to establish a branch in Burlington and while Strang was away, Smith was killed. Shortly thereafter Strang produced a letter naming him as Smith's chosen heir. He was challenged by Brigham Young, and Strang led those who accepted him to Nauvoo and eventually to Beaver Island, WI, where he formed a colony in 1848. It grew in a short period of time and soon had the numbers to elect Strang to the state legislature. A disruption, known as the "War of Whiskey Point," grew between the Mormons and non-Mormons of the area and by the early 1850s, most non-Mormons had left the Island.

The ensuing degree of absolute power went to Strang's head and he had himself crowned king and began taking additional wives. Attempts to oust him by legal means failed, and in 1856 he was assassinated by two disgruntled followers. His people were then driven off the Island by an unruly mob.

Ref: Wikipedia - James Strang; Signature Books Further reading: The James Strang Papers; James Strang and the Midwest Mormons; *"The Rule of King Strang," The Jamestown Post-Journal*, April 7, 2009. [Audio file](#)

ELLEN YATES MILLER

Ellen Yates Miller was born and raised in Jamestown, graduating with the class of 1900. After completing school, she worked in the dry goods and notion store of Samuel Thompson on Main Street, Jamestown.

In 1918 Yates Miller entered the field as a candidate for the Republican nomination for the office of Chautauqua County Clerk. She nominated in the party primary and elected at the general election. This made her the first female county clerk in New York state history. Yates Miller held office from 1919 until her death in 1940. At that time, she had held public office longer than any other woman in New York state's history. She was opposed in only one primary and was serving her eighth term at the time of her death.

Yates Miller also played a role in organizing the State Association of County Clerks and served as the secretary-treasurer of that organization from 1921 when it was formed. She was active in the American Legion, Dunkirk-Fredonia Zonta

Club, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the County Public Health Committee, and the County Republican Women's Club.

A historical marker was dedicated to Yates Miller's accomplishment and can be found in front of the Chautauqua County Courthouse in Mayville.

Ref: Chautauqua County Historian Michelle Henry. [Audio file](#)

GEORGE PULLMAN

George Mortimer Pullman was born on March 3, 1831, in Brocton, but his parents soon moved to nearby Portland. Shortly after the death of his father, Pullman dropped out of school at the age of 14 and went to work in a general store, becoming the main source of income for his family. In 1848 he joined his older brother in Albion, NY where he worked as a cabinetmaker.

In 1853 Pullman became a general contractor and helped move several buildings that stood in the way of a project to widen the Erie Canal. Upon completion of that work in 1855 he moved to Chicago, where he entered the business of raising buildings onto higher foundations to avoid flooding.

In the 1860s Pullman made a name for himself nationally when he developed a railroad sleeping car, the Pullman sleeper, or "palace car." By arranging to have the body of President Abraham Lincoln carried from Washington, D.C. to Springfield, IL on his car, he received national attention and the orders began to pour in. Throughout the rest of the 1860s Pullman designed more service trains known for their luxurious amenities. He also created a model of using former slaves to serve various duties on his trains, making him the biggest single employer of African Americans in post-Civil War America.



In 1880 Pullman built a new plant south of Chicago and to solve the issue of labor unrest and poverty, he also built a new town adjacent to his factory. This move was initially hailed by the national press, but by 1894, business began to fall off and Pullman cut jobs and wages while increasing working hours. This led his workers to launch the Pullman Strike, a violent upheaval which spread throughout the union and was eventually broken up by federal troops.

Pullman's company town was found to be "un-American", and he was forced to divest ownership in the town, which was then annexed to Chicago. Pullman died of a heart attack in 1897. He was 66.

Ref: Wikipedia - George Pullman. [Audio file](#)

EDITH AINGE

Edith Ainge was born in England in September 1874. She was the daughter of William and Susan Ainge, who had a total of ten children. The family came to the U.S. in 1884 and eventually settled in Jamestown.

As an adult, Ainge worked for state suffrage in New York as early as 1915. She eventually began practicing a more militant approach to women's suffrage and by the spring of 1917 she had moved to Washington D.C. to join the National Women's Party and began picketing in front of the White House. By summer, police in the nation's capital had started arresting women picketing for suffrage. On July 14, Ainge and 15 other women were arrested, tried, and sentenced to serve 60 days in the Occoquan, Virginia Workhouse. There, the women staged hunger strikes, and some were force-fed brutally and otherwise treated violently.



The mistreatment did not dissuade the members of the NWP and by New Year's Day, 1919, they had staged a "Watch Fire Demonstration" in front of the White House. Ainge was the first member to light a fire in an urn, while a fellow member tossed copies of President Woodrow Wilson's speeches into fire. Other protesters held a banner reading "President Wilson is Deceiving the World When He Appears as the Prophet of Democracy." The women were arrested again and released again, only to hold other similar protests. The effort was to exert pressure on Wilson to secure the remaining two votes necessary for Senate passage of an amendment granting women the right to vote.

On June 14, 1919, Congress finally approved an amendment to the Constitution granting women the right to vote. It was ratified on August 18, 1920.

From September 1917 to January 1919, Ainge had served a total of five jail sentences. After securing the right to vote for all women, she returned to Jamestown where she lived – and voted – until her death in 1948.

Ref: RootsWeb. com; *The Iron-Jawed Suffragist*, Annie Arniel. [Audio file](#)

GERTRUDE HARRIS WILLIAMS

Gertrude A. Harris Williams was born in the town of Poland, July 2, 1868. As an adult, she became married Stanley Williams and had two daughters, Beryle and Mildred.

Williams was the first woman justice in New York state. She was elected soon after the amendment was made to the Constitution providing for the election of woman to the office of justice of the peace. From 1920 to 1924, she held court in her home in the village of Kennedy, on the Kennedy-Frewsburg Rd. (Rt. 62).

An early newspaper account mentions Williams and her court. It involves the dances that were commonly held in Kennedy and the "Rowdyism" that was often present. The article says that everyone who attends the dances "must behave, or they will fare ill in court before the woman judge, who is determined to wipe out the dance hall disturbers who attend merely for the purpose of creating a disturbance."

The home that Williams held court in, and the hotel mentioned in the article both burned in 1937. The foundation of the Williams home is still on the property and can be viewed from the roadside.

Williams died in Lockport on October 3, 1961. In 2005, a historical marker was erected, noting her accomplishment of being the first female justice of the peace in New York State.

Ref: Rebecca Lindquist, Town of Poland Historian. [Audio file](#)

LUCILE WRIGHT

Lucile Miller Wright was born in 1900, in Beatrice, NE and grew up living on her family's ranch in Billings, MT. In 1922 she went on her first flight with General Billy Mitchell, who was a personal friend of her father, Henry A. Miller. The aviator took young Lucile for a spin in his X-5 Jenny, and they flew over New York's Long and Staten Islands. Mitchell also allowed her to hold the control stick while in flight. It was at this point that Lucile fell in love with flying.

Because she was a woman, Lucile had a difficult time getting into flight school. She bought her flight time, but male instructors were unwilling to admit she was ready for her flight test, even though she received the same training as the men, including flight time and written exams. But with a persistent determination, the feisty redhead finally earned her pilots license in 1935.

Shortly afterward, she joined the “99s”, the International Association of Women Pilots founded by Amelia Earhart and the two became good friends. During World War II, Lucile flew with the Women’s Ferry Command doing search and rescue missions for the Civil Air Patrol. She also flew machine parts wherever they were needed and flew VIPs around the world.



Wright’s journey to Jamestown began when she met John H. Wright, founder and president of the Jamestown Telephone Corporation, at a Chamber of Commerce fly-in breakfast. After the two married, she served as his pilot and treasurer of his company for many years.

In civic affairs, Wright was chairperson of the Airport Commission from 1951 to 1957, the only woman serving in that capacity. It is said she had a contentious relationship with city officials and those who remember her describe her as controversial, authoritarian, volatile, strong-willed, and incapable of compromise – but equipped with the ability to get things done. She was instrumental in the further development of the airport and fundraised and donated money so it could accommodate DC-3s.

In 1977, Wright left Jamestown. In 1986, she donated \$50,000 to a fund administered by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation for the establishment of an air museum. She died June 12, 1990, in Cody, WY at the age of 89. During her time in the cockpit, the woman known as “Western New York’s First Lady of Aviation” logged 8,000 hours of flying. The Air Museum at the Chautauqua County Airport is named in Lucille Wright’s memory.

Ref: “Jamestown’s First Lady of Aviation, *Chautauqua Mirror*; “Lucile Wright’s Heart Was in Jamestown,” *Jamestown Post-Journal*; “Lucile M. Wright, Early Aviatrix and Amelia Earhart’s Friend,” Jean Henry Mead. Photo courtesy of Jean Henry Mead. [Audio file](#)

EVELYNN CRANDALL

Evelynn Stone Crandall was born in the Town of Randolph, NY on December 27, 1926. She was married to Vernon Crandall Sr. in 1946 and had two sons, Daryl and Vernon Jr.

Crandall lived in Kennedy and is noted for being the first woman to serve as a Chautauqua County legislator. She was elected from District No. 7 (Towns of Cherry Creek, Ellington, and Poland) from 1978 to 1981 and again in 1984-1989. Crandall served as a Republican majority caucus leader. She was the chairperson of the Public Works Committee in 1988.

Crandall was also dedicated to local history. She also transcribed cemetery records, accumulated information on past and present town of Poland residents. She typed and indexed official town records.

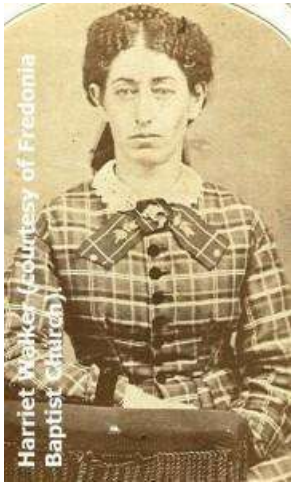
Crandall died in Kennedy on January 10, 1991. Her extensive collections were donated by her husband Vernon to Kennedy Free Library and copies were sent to the Reed Library at the State University of New York at Fredonia.

Ref: Rebecca Lindquist, Town of Poland Historian. [Audio file](#)

HARRIET ABIGAIL “PANTSY” WALKER

Harriet Abigail Walker was an eccentric woman of Fredonia who was known as “Pantsy” for the way she dressed, which was especially daring for the time. She was born on March 2, 1833, to Ephram S. and Amanda Walker in Tompkins, NY.

By 1837, the family had moved to Flint, MI. Ephram died at some point after 1850, and Amanda moved to Fredonia, NY to be near her sister with Harriet and her younger sister Elizabeth coming along as well.



It is said that in the late 1850s, Harriet and her sister were at the Dansville Sanitarium – a water cure establishment in Dansville, NY. While there, they wore a short dress and pants, an outfit that was popular in that area at the time. It was invented by the sanitarium’s Dr. Harriet Austin, who was an advocate for women’s dress reform.

Even after leaving Dansville, Harriet continued to wear the outfit because she found it comfortable, and that’s how “Pantsy” was given to her as a nickname, which stayed with her for the remainder of her life.

According to the 1860 and 1870 censuses, Harriet was a schoolteacher, although the location is not given. By 1880, Harriet and her sister Elizabeth became corset saleswomen.

Harriet died at her home on East Main St. on May 5, 1923. Elizabeth followed her in June. Both were buried in the family plot in Forest Hill Cemetery along with their mother.

Ref: “Pantsy Walker” by Douglas Shepard. Photo courtesy of Fredonia Baptist Church. [Audio file](#)

HUGH BEDIENT

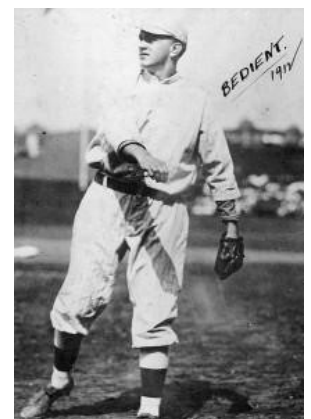
The start of spring marks the start of the Major League Baseball season, and perhaps no Chautauqua County baseball player was more legendary than **Hugh Carpenter Bedient**.

Bedient was born October 23, 1889, in the town of Gerry. He became a well-known right-handed pitching star for Falconer High School and then for an amateur team from Falconer. It was while playing for the Falconer semi-pro team on July 25, 1908, that he struck out 42 batters in 23 innings against Corry.

Two days later, the Jamestown Evening Journal ran the headline: “Broke All Records.” Bedient of Falconer struck out 42 men, and the Corry Journal stated, “Corry and Falconer Make World’s Record.” Twenty-three years later, Robert LeRoy Ripley, in his syndicated “Believe It Or Not!” of September 5, 1931, informed the world of Bedient’s feat, giving the first national recognition of this event.

The strikeout performance led to 19 offers from pro teams, including the Boston Red Sox, which he signed with in 1910. In 1912, he won 20 games as a Red Sox rookie and outdueled legend Christy Mathewson, defeating the New York Giants, 2-1, in game five of the 1912 World Series. He also pitched the first seven innings of the final game, won by the Red Sox in the tenth, 3-2.

In 1915, he became a member of the outlaw Federal League. Pitching for the Buffalo Blues, he went 16-18 with 106 strikeouts and a 3.12 ERA in 269-1/3 innings, leading the league with 10 saves. He finished his career with Toledo of the International League. The New York Yankees offered him a contract for the 1918 season, but Bedient was drafted and after World War I his professional career was essentially over, although he still made appearances at various venues and leagues.

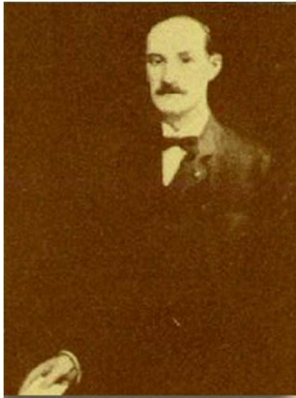


Bedient died on July 21, 1965, in Jamestown at the age of 75. He was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1983. A group of baseball historians have named him the unofficial American League Rookie of the Year for the 1912 season.

Ref: Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame; Wikipedia - Hugh Bedient. Hugh Bedient in 1912 (Photo courtesy of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame). [Audio file](#)

BENJAMIN F. GOODRICH

Benjamin Franklin Goodrich was born November 4, 1841, in the town of Ripley. His father Anson died June 17, 1847, his mother, Susan, almost two years later on May 6, 1849. At the age of 8, he was sent to Westfield to live with Silas and Harriet Goodrich Dinsmore, his uncle and aunt.



At the age of 17, Goodrich began studying medicine with his cousin John Spencer, and then completed his studies at Cleveland Medical College (now Case Western) and served as a battlefield surgeon for the Union Army in the Civil War.

After a few years in a struggling medical practice, he went to work in Pennsylvania's oilfields, then became a real estate speculator. In 1869 he used most of his real estate profits to purchase the Hudson River Rubber Company, a small business in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. The following year Goodrich accepted an offer of \$13,600 from the citizens of Akron, OH, to relocate his business there.

According to legend, Goodrich had seen a friend's home burn to the ground, with firefighters rendered helpless because their leather hoses had frozen and cracked. So once settled in Akron, his company began producing cotton-wrapped rubber hose, impervious to freezing. A few years later Goodrich started selling garden hoses and bicycle tires. Still, the company teetered near bankruptcy and went through numerous name changes, and its success was still uncertain when Goodrich died at the age of 46, in 1888.

A few years after his death, business began booming at BF Goodrich Company. The company introduced a pneumatic tire that could bear the speeds and loads of the emerging automobile market. Goodrich company chemists invented plasticized polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in 1926, synthesized rubber in 1937, and built early space suits for NASA astronauts in the 1960s.

The Goodrich Corporation abandoned the tire business in 1988, and now describes itself as "a global supplier of systems and services to the aerospace, defense and homeland security markets."

Ref: Marie B. McCutcheon, Town of Ripley Historian, "Golden Glow of History Past"; Wikipedia - Benjamin Goodrich. [Audio file](#)

HENRY ROUSE

Henry R. Rouse was born in the village of Westfield on October 9, 1823. He was educated in both Westfield and Jamestown, including the Westfield Academy. At about the age of 15, Rouse started to "read law" in the office of Abram Dixon, a widely known attorney who later was a member of the New York State Senate.

Rouse developed a talent as a public speaker and Dr. Samuel S. Seward, father of William Seward – the U.S. Secretary of State who successfully negotiated the purchase of Alaska – heard Rouse speak once at Westfield and was so amazed at his ability that he donated a sum of money toward his education.

It's said that one day Rouse decided to leave Westfield, heading south to Pennsylvania with only a dollar in his pocket. By the winter of 1840, Rouse had settled in Tidioute, PA and served as the village school master. With his earnings as a school master, Rouse was able to purchase an interest in a small sawmill. By 1844 he had left his work as a teacher and opened a general store at Enterprise, PA. In less than 15 years he found himself the owner of a large farm, several sawmills, and a thousand acres of pine timber.



Rouse was known throughout the region for his unmatched kindness toward others, especially children, and his square business dealings. He was eventually urged to run for the Pennsylvania legislature. In 1858 he was elected by the Republicans to represent Crawford and Warren counties in Harrisburg.

In 1859, the first commercial oil well was successfully drilled in Titusville, and Rouse at once appreciated some of the potential of crude petroleum and he was astute enough to move promptly to benefit from his opinion. Evidence indicates that Rouse partnered with two other businessmen and started to drill a well in Titusville PA, which would become the second successful commercial oil well in the world.

On the evening of April 17, 1861, Henry Rouse was called to the location of one of his wells after it made a major oil strike, with oil gushing as high as 60 feet above the derrick. Rouse was standing just 20 feet from the structure when an explosion took place, and the entire area went aflame. Rouse was pulled from the inferno but was so badly burned that he died within five hours. Still, he was able to dictate his will to his close friend and manager, giving the entire balance of his estate to the commissioners of Warren County, half to be used for the benefit of the poor and half for improving the roads. The total sum realized was just over \$186,000.

Today, the Rouse Home remains a showpiece of Warren County, serving as a nursing facility. A children's center also remains in operation. Consistent to its mission, the Rouse Estate continually seeks to understand and serve the needs of Warren County, its people, and its economic development.

Ref: *The History of Henry Rouse*. Further reading: *The First Oil Well Fire*. [Audio file](#)

FRANCIS BREWER

Francis Brewer was born October 8, 1820, in Keene, NH. He was raised and educated in Vermont and New Hampshire, graduating from Dartmouth College in 1843 and from the medical department of the same institution in 1846.



From 1849 to 1861, Brewer practiced medicine in several locations including Barnet, VT, Plymouth, MA, and Titusville, PA. He was also involved as an oil operator and lumberman while in Titusville.

In 1861 Brewer moved to Westfield and engaged in banking, manufacturing, and agricultural pursuits. He was a state military agent with the rank of major during the Civil War. Following the war, he served as member of the board of supervisors of Chautauqua County from 1868 to 1879. In 1872 he served as delegate to the Republican National Convention and as a member of the New York State Assembly in 1873 and 1874.

He was the government director of the Union Pacific Railroad for four years under Presidents Grant and Hayes. In 1881, Brewer was appointed manager of the state insane asylum in Buffalo. He was elected to the 48th Congress, serving one term but was not a candidate for reelection in 1884.

Following public office, he resumed the practice of medicine in Westfield and died July 29, 1892. He was interred in Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh.

Ref: Wikipedia - Francis Brewer. [Audio file](#)

BAINBRIDGE COLBY

Bainbridge Colby didn't become a resident of Chautauqua County until leaving public life. But because of his accomplishments, and the fact that his final resting place is in Bemus Point, it was felt that we include Colby in this series.

Colby was born on December 22, 1869, in St. Louis. He went to local schools before graduating from Williams College in 1890. He then earned a law degree from the New York Law School in 1892, the same year he was admitted to the bar and opened a New York City law practice. Among his clients was author Mark Twain.



Colby engaged in Republican politics, but in 1912 he walked out of the Republican national convention to support Theodore Roosevelt's bid for the presidency under the banner of the Progressive, or Bull Moose, Party. Colby himself ran as a Progressive candidate for a U.S. Senate seat from New York but was defeated in both 1914 and 1916.

Following American entrance into the First World War, President Woodrow Wilson appointed Colby to the U.S. Shipping Board. In 1917, Wilson named him to serve as U.S. delegate to the Inter-allied conference to promote cooperation between the Allies. In 1920, he took over as Wilson's Secretary of State.

Following the end of the Wilson administration in 1921, Colby formed a Washington, D.C., law practice with former President Wilson until he founded his own practice. He remained there until retirement in 1936. It was while in Washington D.C. that Colby married Ann Ahlstrand, who had family in Chautauqua County. Upon retirement, Colby moved to Bemus Point and lived there until his death on April 11, 1950.

Ref: Wikipedia - Bainbridge Colby; Loraine C. Smith, Town of Ellery Historian, 2002-06. [Audio file](#)

OLIVER SMITH

Oliver Smith was born in 1806 near Utica, NY, the first of seven children. At the age of ten, he moved with his parents to be among the first settlers of Busti. His father was the community's first commissioner of schools and was an important organizer in the abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad.

His younger brother, Harvey Smith, was a lawyer and an active abolitionist who started many newspapers in the state.

Oliver and three of his brothers were all in the building trades. Ransom Smith was a carpenter-joiner and inherited the family farm in Busti. The youngest brother, Jewett Smith, followed a path like Ransom's. Sheldon, learned architecture from Oliver and set up schools in Ohio, eventually becoming an important architect in Detroit.



Even though he was the traditional heir to the family farm, Oliver turned his energy toward building houses in Jamestown. He also advertised in the local newspapers to promote classes in architectural theory and drawing. In 1843, his published lecture demonstrated detailed knowledge of classical architecture and described steps to becoming an architect, although how he himself was educated is unclear.

Oliver remained a builder in the Jamestown area for about two-dozen years, utilizing Greek Revival and neo-classical designs. Among his works were the Smith Bly House in Ashville and the Allen Tavern, William Hall Mansion, Nathan Breed Mansion and Arthur Wade House – all in Jamestown. William Hall – one of Jamestown's first industrialists – went so far as to describe the Allen Tavern as the best building in the county.

Later in his career, Smith moved to Buffalo and continued to make a name for himself building homes in the Queen City. Examples of Oliver Smith's work can still be found today in communities like Ashville, Sinclairville, and Panama. He is considered one of the foremost domestic architects of the 19th century.

Ref: *American Architects and their Books, 1840-1915*. A 1960s photo of the Smith Bly House in Ashville, NY by Jack Boucher. [Audio file](#)

SIMEON CLINTON

Simeon Clinton was born in Ballston, NY on February 13, 1779. In early life he moved to Fly Creek, NY, where he remained about fifteen years.

In 1813 at the age of 34, he journeyed to Buffalo and then traveled along the shores of Lake Erie until he nearly reached the present site of Dunkirk. From there he headed south until he found land in the town of Gerry that he thought desirable. He secured purchase of the land and then returned to Fly Creek to get his wife and three children and started with his ox-team back to Chautauqua County.

After many hardships – including witnessing the burning of Buffalo during the War of 1812 – Clinton and his family arrived at their Gerry home. He remained there only a short time, for the creek overflowed and came near carrying away his dwelling. Selling his land in Gerry, Clinton then purchased a new farm at the center of the present site of the town of Arkwright.

Clinton, an honest and educated man, took great interest in public affairs and was instrumental in forming the township of Arkwright. He was the first postmaster and held that office for twenty years. The first town meeting was held at his house, May 2, 1830. At different times he also held the office of justice of the peace, superintendent of schools, town clerk, and commissioner of deeds. He made the first survey of the plot of Dunkirk. He also surveyed the present site of Sinclairville, and with the help of William Peacock, laid out the Chautauqua road.

A short time before his death he was talking to a neighbor, when a fly landed on his hand, which he killed with the other. "There," said he, "when I pass from time to eternity, I wish to go just as quick as that."

It seems that his request was granted. On April 29, 1858, Clinton was standing in his barn door when he was struck by lightning and instantly killed. He was 79 years old.

Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People (1875)*. [Audio file](#)

JUNE CARD

Chautauqua County has had its fair share of international celebrities over the years. One of the individuals who is often overlooked is a famous soprano and stage director from northern Chautauqua County.

June Card was born on April 10, 1942, in Dunkirk. After high school she studied singing at the Mannes College - The New School for Music. While a student she began her career performing as an ensemble member in the original Broadway production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music," including the opening night. She also appeared in the ensemble of the original cast of "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" and then appeared in the ensemble of the original production of "The Gay Life".



Card made her professional opera debut in 1963 as the Southern Girl in the world premiere of “Gentlemen, Be Seated!” at the New York City Opera. She then moved to Germany to perform the rest of the decade, ultimately forging a more than 30-year long partnership with the Frankfurt Opera. During her long opera career, Card appeared in several world premieres.

Card also appeared as a guest artist with major opera houses internationally and worked as a soloist in the oratorio repertoire. She was awarded the title “chamber singer” by both the Frankfurt and Munich Operas.

She was active as a stage director for opera productions in Germany, France, and America, and worked as a voice teacher and master class instructor.

Ref: Wikipedia - June Card. [Audio file](#)

DANIEL E. BUTTON

Daniel E. Button was born November 1, 1917, in Dunkirk. He graduated from the University of Delaware in 1938 and received a master’s degree from Columbia University in 1939.

Button immediately began making a name for himself as a journalist. He wrote for the *Wilmington Morning News* in Delaware and the Associated Press from 1943 until 1947. That same year he turned to public relations at the University of Delaware. After Delaware, Button served as assistant to the president of the State University of New York from 1952 until 1958. Button returned to the newspaper business in 1960, serving as executive editor of the *Albany Times-Union* until 1966.

By this time Button had made quite a name for himself in the Albany area and he decided to run for Congress, being elected in 1966 as a Republican in a traditionally heavily Democratic district. He served from January 3, 1967, until January 3, 1971. He unsuccessfully ran for re-election in 1970 as an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War. Following his stint in Congress, Button served as president of the National Arthritis Foundation (1971-75) and was editor of the national consumer magazine *Science Digest* (1976-80). He also published a book, *Take City Hall*, about Albany politics (2003). From 1994 to 2003 he was executive assistant to the president of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities in New York State.

Button spent his final years in Delmar, NY. He died on March 7, 2009, at the age of 91 in the Albany Medical Center in Albany, NY.

Ref: Daniel E. Button obituary, *New York Times*; Wikipedia - Daniel Button. [Audio file](#)

JOHN BIRDSALL

John Birdsall didn’t benefit from a long life, but he was able to get much accomplished in his 37 years, including becoming the first Attorney General of Texas.

Birdsall was born in Chenango County, NY in 1802. It is said he benefited from a liberal education at some of the eastern colleges and began studying law in the office of his uncle, James Birdsall. By 1817, he entered the office of Robert Monell as a student. He was admitted to the bar before even becoming of legal age and became Monell’s law partner.

In 1823, Birdsall moved to Mayville to practice law, where his shining abilities soon attracted attention and led to his appointment as Circuit Judge of the 8th Circuit. He was just 25 years old. While serving as circuit judge, Birdsall lived in Rochester, but returned to Chautauqua County in 1829 following ill health. In 1831 he represented Chautauqua County in the New York State Assembly. From 1832 to 1834, Birdsall served in the New York State Senate.



In 1837 Birdsall is said to have moved to Texas and began a law partnership with Thomas J. Gazley in Harrisburg (now Houston). There he met and became friends with Sam Houston. Houston appointed Birdsall Attorney General of the Republic on August 15, 1837, and Birdsall held that post until Houston appointed him chief justice pro tempore of the Supreme Court of the Republic following the death of Chief Justice James Collingsworth in July 1838. The Senate, however, did not confirm his appointment. Birdsall served as chief justice for approximately one month from November to December, never sat at any session of the court, and therefore wrote no opinion.

He went into legal practice with Sam Houston in January 1839 but died of yellow fever on July 22, 1839. He was the first individual to be interred at Houston's Glendale Cemetery.

Ref: Tarlton Law Library; *The Historical Magazine*: Vol II, Third Series. [Audio file](#)

JOHN BIDWELL

John Bidwell was known throughout California and across the nation as an important pioneer, farmer, soldier, statesman, politician, prohibitionist, and philanthropist. He is famous for leading one of the first emigrant parties, known as the Bartleson-Bidwell Party, along the California Trail, and for founding Chico, CA.



Bidwell was born August 5, 1819, in Ripley. His family moved to Erie, PA when he was only 10, and then to Ashtabula, OH when he was 12. At the age 17, he attended and shortly thereafter became Principal of Kingsville Academy.

In 1841 Bidwell became one of the first emigrants on the California Trail. Shortly after his arrival in California, John Sutter employed Bidwell as his business manager. Bidwell soon discovered gold on the Feather River and established a productive claim in advance of the California Gold Rush. He obtained land grants in 1844 and 1845, only to later sell them so he could establish a ranch and farm on Chico Creek. That area would eventually be developed into the city of Chico, CA.

Bidwell fought in the Mexican American War and obtained the rank of major. He served in the California Senate in 1849, supervised the census of California in 1850 and again in 1860. He was a delegate to the 1860 national convention of the Democratic Party. Four years later, he was a delegate to the national convention of the Republican Party and was a Republican member of Congress from 1865 to 1867. Fort Bidwell was built in 1865 and named in his honor.

In 1868 Bidwell married Annie Kennedy, the daughter of a socially prominent, high ranking Washington official. Both President Andrew Johnson and future President Ulysses S. Grant attended the ceremony. Upon arrival in Chico, the Bidwells used their mansion extensively for entertainment of friends. Some of the guests over the years included President Rutherford B. Hayes, General William T. Sherman and Susan B. Anthony.

In 1875 Bidwell ran for Governor of California on the Anti-Monopoly Party ticket. He was also the Prohibition Party candidate for governor in 1880. In 1892, he was the Prohibition Party candidate for President of the U.S. He died on April 4, 1900.

Ref: John Bidwell - Wikipedia. [Audio file](#)

WALTER EDWARD WASHINGTON

Walter Edward Washington was born in Dawson GA on April 15, 1915, the great-grandson of an American slave. When he was 2 months old, his mother, Willie Mae Thornton, took him to Jamestown.

Washington's mother died when he was 6. His father never remarried and worked in a factory and as a bellhop, hotel valet, and cook. Washington was educated in the Jamestown public school system and ran track. He also managed the football team at Jamestown High School. He was one of two African Americans in his 400-member senior class.

In 1934, Washington enrolled in Howard University. He majored in public administration and sociology and graduated in 1938. For the next four years, he took night classes at American University to study public administration. He received his law degree from Howard in 1948. In September 1941, he began his career in government as a junior housing assistant –, an entry-level white-collar job, with the Washington D.C. Alley Dwelling Authority, later renamed the Capital Housing Authority. The agency had been established in 1934 to find homes for the thousands of city residents living in slums.

Washington worked his way up and in 1961 he became director of the Capitol Housing Authority. He pushed to get more people into public housing by raising the income eligibility ceilings, pioneered efforts to rent buildings from private landlords and then re-rent them to low-income tenants and pressed for federal rent supplements.

In 1966 Washington accepted a chance to head what he called the "Supreme Court of housing," signing on as director of public housing for New York City. Within a year, however, President Lyndon Johnson issued orders reorganizing the District of Columbia government and Washington was his first choice to head the new government. He was appointed mayor-commissioner in 1967, becoming the first African American chief executive of a major U.S. city and kept the job in the District of Columbia's first mayoral election. He remained mayor until Jan. 2, 1979, when Marion Barry, who defeated him the previous fall, was inaugurated.



Walter Washington died in October 2003. His survivors include his wife Mary, a daughter from his first marriage, two stepchildren, four grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

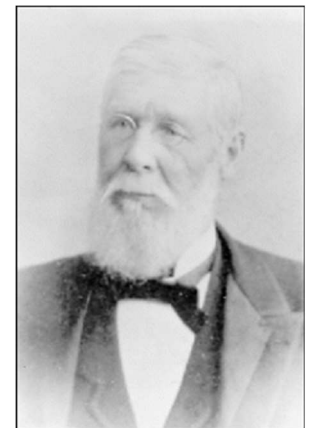
Ref: African-American Registry; Wikipedia. [Audio file](#)

DAVIS HANSON WAITE

Davis Hanson Waite was born April 9, 1825, in Jamestown. He was the son of a lawyer, and after a course in the Jamestown Academy he started the study of law in his father's office. At the age of 25 he went west and eventually settled in Princeton, WI and engaged in merchandising.

In 1856 Waite was elected a member of the Wisconsin legislature. In 1857 he moved to Houston, MO, where he taught until the breaking out of the Civil War broke out, when his strong Union sentiments forced him to leave the state. He therefore went to Warren, PA, and later returned to Jamestown where he became interested in the publication of the Jamestown Journal. He continued in this business until 1876, when he moved to Kansas.

Waite was elected to a term in the Kansas Legislature in 1879, before eventually moving to Colorado, where he started a local newspaper in Aspen. Waite was elected Governor of Colorado in 1892 as a candidate for the Populist Party. A passionate supporter of his party's Omaha Platform, he was nicknamed "Bloody Bridles" for an 1893 speech, in which he proclaimed, "It is better, infinitely better that blood should flow to the horses' bridles rather than our national liberties should be destroyed."



Waite supported the Western Federation of Miners in its successful 1894 Cripple Creek Strike and that same year the American Railroad Union during the national Pullman Strike. He was also instrumental in the passage of women's

suffrage in Colorado during his governorship. He was defeated for reelection in 1894 but continued to be active in the Populist movement until his death on Thanksgiving Day, 1901.

Ref: David Hanson Waite - Colorado.Gov; David H. Waite - Wikipedia. [Audio file](#)

CLARISSA D. WHEELER

Clarissa D. Wheeler was born about 1815 and came to the Jamestown area in the 1830s and began teaching at the Quaker School which had been established in 1833. However, just ten years later the school was closed following a murder involving a family member of the founder of the school.

After the closing of the Quaker school, Wheeler started the Female Seminary of Jamestown in 1849. Known as “Dame Wheeler,” she distinguished herself in drawing, painting, and intricate needlework. She taught her pupils techniques of embroidery and lovely French designs in addition to offering the usual subjects of the period for young ladies, such as penmanship, grammar, spelling, and geography.

At this time in history, a classical education was considered too rigorous for women. She died on October 18, 1860, in Jamestown.

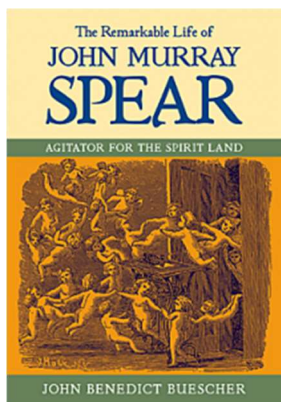
Ref: City of Jamestown Historical Marker Website - Female Seminary. [Audio file](#)

JOHN MURRAY SPEAR

John Murray Spear was born in the city of Boston in 1804 and was from a young age a member of the Universalist Church of America. In 1830, Spear was ordained and became minister of the Barnstable congregation. In the 1840s, Spear was active in petitioning for social reform including women’s rights, labor reform, and the removal of the death penalty.

Also a prominent abolitionist, Spear organized the first Universalist anti-slavery convention and helped to oversee the stretch of the Underground Railroad which ran through Boston, leading to a relationship with Harriet Tubman.

In 1852, Spear broke all ties with the Universalist Church, and instead turned to Spiritualism. He claimed that he was in contact with a group of spiritual consultants including Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.



Spear believed that the purpose of this group was to bring new technology so that greater levels of personal and spiritual freedom could be achieved. In 1853 Spear and a handful of followers retreated to a wooden shed atop a hill outside of Boston where they set to work creating the “New Motive Power” or “God Machine” –,” a mechanical Messiah which was intended to herald a new era of Utopia. At the end of nine months the contraption was “birthed.”

That same year Spear came to Chautauqua County and established a spiritualist community called Harmonia in the Town of Kiantone. That same year Spear came to Chautauqua County and established a spiritualist community simply called “Harmonia.” It was located in the Town of Kiantone. He selected the location after hearing of two magnetic springs on the New York-Pennsylvania border that boasted great healing powers, among other things.

Harmonia became his “model” community with a modest beginning. Everything about the creation of Harmonia came from his spirit advisers who urged him to begin making radical changes in government and religion. With him John Murray brought his “God Machine” with him, hoping that the stronger magnetic properties would cause it to work as it should. Not much is known of the machine after that other than supposedly it was stored in a barn in Randolph until one day a group of locals broke in and demolished it.

The community of Harmonia continued to thrive in the area until the operation was picked up and taken south toward New Orleans. Local members stayed to run the businesses that were created out of the movement. John Murray Spear then went to England where he became acquainted with great leaders of the Spiritualist movement. In 1972, Spear claimed to receive a message from his esteemed spiritual advisors to retire from the ministry. He died in October 1887 in Philadelphia.

Ref: *Chautauqua Ghosts - John Murray Spear and Harmonia; The Remarkable Life of John Murray Spear: Agitator for the Spirit Land* by John Benedict Buescher; John Murray Spear- Wikipedia. [Audio file](#)

SIMEON HOWES

Simeon Howes was born in Massachusetts in 1815 and moved to Silver Creek as a young adult. Howes became one of Silver Creek's most enterprising citizens after 1853. By 1856, he was a local leader in manufacturing and selling the Eureka smut and separating machines – used to clean grain.

There had been several changes among the proprietors, and Howes from 1859 to 1864 was out of the business but came back on in 1864 and from 1859 to 1864. He became partners with the Babcock brothers, who had started a repair shop for grain cleaners., in 1864. About 1888 Howes bought the interest of the company from the Babcock brothers and Carlos Ewell, who had all died, and became sole proprietor.

The first year Eureka was in business, it sold 120 machines. By 1892 more than 2,000 were being sold and it was the national leader in the manufacture of grain cleaning equipment.

Howes married Angeline Ewell and together they had seven children. He also served as mayor from 1889-1890. Howes died in 1892, and the business was continued by his executors.

Ref: "Once Upon a Time" by Marion Thomas. [Audio file](#)

OLIVER WILCOX NORTON

Oliver Wilcox Norton – known to his family and friends as O.W. – was born in Allegheny County, NY on December 17, 1839. The son of a Presbyterian minister, he was the oldest of thirteen children. O.W. received his education at the Montrose Academy in Montrose, PA. During 1857, the family moved to Chautauqua County where O.W.'s father preached at the Open Meadows Church and O.W. finished schooling in Sherman. O.W. began to teach in the district school at Waits Corner in 1858.



By the start of the Civil War, the family had moved again, this time to Springfield, PA where O.W. was teaching and working on a farm. Norton was among the first to enter the Union army when the Civil War broke out. He initially joined on April 21, 1861, but it wasn't until July of that year that he became part of the 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteers. O.W. enlisted with Company K and became the bugler for the unit. He sent many letters to his sister, Libby, during his service. She had married a farmer and moved to Sherman in 1862.

It was while serving with General Daniel Butterfield in March 1862, that O.W. sounded "Taps" as directed by the General. It is believed that O.W. was the first bugler ever to play "Taps." After the war, O.W. wrote of his wartime experiences in three books, and was instrumental in bringing the true origin of "Taps" to light in 1898.

Following his discharge from the Army, Norton worked as a clerk for the Fourth National Bank in New York City. It was there that he met Lucy Coit Fanning and married her in October 1870. O.W. and Lucy had five children.

In 1871 the couple moved to Chicago, where O.W. went into business with his younger brother Edwin. This partnership eventually became the American Can Company in 1901, a very successful and profitable business venture. That same year Norton built a summer home at Chautauqua.

Among his many contributions was a financial donation to help in the building of the Minerva Free Library in Sherman, which opened in 1908. He gave money for its construction, upkeep, and renovations and donated books from his personal collection. The library still holds the original letters he wrote to his sister during the war.

O.W. died on October 1, 1920, in Chicago at the age of 81. Following his death, his wife contributed money to build a concert hall at Chautauqua Institution. Norton Hall, dedicated to the performing arts, opened in 1929.

Ref: "Twenty-Four Notes That Tap Deep Emotions" by Jari Villanueva [pdf]. [Audio file](#)

CHARLES S. ABBOTT

Charles Stuart Abbott, only child of Edwin Elisha and Mary (Sanderson) Abbott, was born in Panama on December 11, 1858. Shortly after his birth his parents moved to New York City where he was educated in the public schools, and the famous Flushing Institute on Long Island. He had planned to attend Columbia University, but instead left his schooling to help his father with finances.

Abbott worked in various employments to help make ends meet, including serving as captain of the Chautauqua Lake steamer Waukegan. In addition, Abbott studied law at Warren, PA, and was later business manager of *The Countryside*, a weekly educational and agricultural journal. During a return to New York City, he was associated with the Allen Brothers advertising agency, which was afterward removed to Jamestown. On February 4, 1880, Abbott married Pauline Allen of Jamestown and the couple had two children.

Abbott's independent business career began in 1889 when he partnered with Jamestown businessman Porter Sheldon in the manufacture of photographic paper. It was the first successful attempt at making photography paper in the U.S. They later formed the American Aristotype Company, with Sheldon as president and Abbott as secretary and treasurer. This business rapidly developed into one of the leading of its type in the nation and was one of Jamestown's principal industries. In 1899 the General Aristo Company was formed, embracing several other similar concerns, and which were afterward consolidated as the Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, of which Abbott served as vice-president. During his time with Eastman Kodak Abbott spent two years in Europe promoting the company with great success.



Abbott was also president of the Seed Dry Plate Company of St. Louis and a director of the Chautauqua County Trust Company. In all his business relations he was eminently successful, and he was held in high estimation for abilities of a high order and unflinching integrity and was recognized as a prime leader among those whose energy and enterprise gave Jamestown its nation-wide fame as an industrial city.

Abbott fell into a decline early in January 1905 and went to North Carolina with his family in hopes of a recovery. He died suddenly on March 1, 1905, in his 47th year.

Ref: *Illustrated History of Jamestown, Chautauqua Co. NY (1900)*. [Audio file](#)

PORTER & RALPH SHELDON

Porter Sheldon was born September 29, 1831, in Victor, NY. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1854 in Batavia, NY. Afterwards he started a practice in Randolph, NY. In 1857 Sheldon moved to Rockford, IL and continued to study law. He served as member of the Illinois constitutional convention in 1861. In August 1862, while living in Illinois, Porter's son, **Ralph C. Sheldon**, was born.



Following the Civil War, Sheldon came to Jamestown and continued his law practice. He became a well-known and well-respected member of the community, and was voted into the 41st Congress on March 4, 1869, on the Republican ticket. He served for only one term and was unable to secure renomination in 1870

After failing to return to Congress, Sheldon returned to his law profession, while also pursuing other business affairs. Among them was the establishment of the American Aristotype Co. with Charles Abbott. He retired in 1899 when the company was sold to the General Aristo Company.

Ralph Sheldon was also a successful businessman in the area. He served as treasurer of the General Aristo Company until 1901, when the Eastman Kodak Company acquired the stock. Eventually, the business was moved in its entirety to Rochester. The plants in Jamestown were razed, the last one in 1964 to make room for the Fenton Park Nursing Home.

Following the acquisition, Ralph Sheldon became a banker, civic leader, and owner of Jamestown Newspaper Corporation.

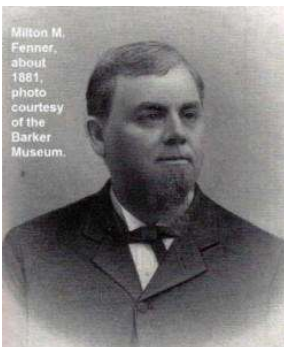
Porter Sheldon died on August 15, 1908. Ralph Sheldon died in 1948. The Sheldon names remains prominent in Jamestown thanks to the generous grants from the Sheldon Foundation, which was created from the Sheldon family estate.

Ref: *The Illustrated History of Jamestown, Chautauqua County, NY (1900)*. [Audio file](#)

MILTON FENNER

Milton M. Fenner was born in South Stockton on July 28, 1837, to Christopher and Lucinda (Fross) Fenner. Milton was only 13 years old when his father died, and he spent the next several years working as a farmer. He eventually was able to attend Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. He then entered a medical college in Cincinnati, OH, and obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine on May 22, 1860.

Dr. Fenner began practicing medicine in Flint, MI, but on July 12, 1861, following the outbreak of the Civil War, he gave up his newly established practice to enlist as a private in Company A, Eighth Michigan Regiment. He was appointed hospital steward for the regiment and war correspondent for two of the leading state papers. He received several promotions, eventually becoming First Lieutenant and assisted in the fall of Fort Wagner, SC in July 1863. He was



commissioned an assistant surgeon in the U.S. Navy and in September 1863, was on board the Union flagship in the naval night attack to retake Fort Sumter.

In spring 1864, he discovered an opportunity to practice medicine in Jamestown. So inclined to live near the area he was born, he resigned his commission from the military and began practicing medicine in the city until 1869, when he moved to Fredonia.

While in Fredonia, Dr. Fenner continued his practice while also establishing his People's Dispensary of Medicine and Surgery. He gained great popularity throughout the U.S. with the sales of his medicinal tonic Fenner's Golden Relief which was said to be a cure-all liquid.

In 1870 the U.S. government appointed Fenner examining surgeon. He also was involved in various medical societies and community projects, including the Dunkirk and Fredonia Electric Railroad. He also held several public offices, including Supervisor of the Town of Pomfret and State Assemblyman.

Dr. Fenner married Georgia Grandin, daughter of Daniel H. Grandin, an extensive woolen manufacturer of Jamestown, on June 5, 1866. She died September 5, 1881. In April 1883, he married Florence E. Bondeson of Jamestown, who survived him with their one son, Milton Fenner, Jr. Dr. Fenton died March 14, 1905, in Fredonia. [Audio file](#)

SHANE CONLAN

Shane Patrick Conlan was born on March 4, 1964, in Olean, NY to Dan and Kay Conlan. At the age of 2, Conlan moved with his family from Salamanca to Frewsburg. It was growing up in the small town of Frewsburg that Conlan first made a name for himself as talented athlete, excelling in various youth sports. He was scouted for his ability in both baseball and football.

In the spring of 1982, Conlan signed a football scholarship to Penn State. He was “redshirted” in 1982 so he didn’t play until the 1983 season, during which he tallied 27 tackles, two sacks, and an interception as an outside linebacker. In 1984, Conlan made 77 tackles to lead the Nittany Lions. In addition, 15 of those stops were a team high for losses. By his junior season (1985), Conlan was named First Team All-American by the Newspaper Enterprise Association and second team by *The Football News*. He was also selected as the defensive Most Valuable Player in the Orange Bowl loss to Oklahoma.



During his senior year, Conlan helped Penn State win the national championship with a thrilling 14-10 win over previously unbeaten Miami in the Fiesta Bowl. Conlan was named defensive MVP of the game after making two interceptions. He was a consensus First Team All-American status and Penn State coach Joe Paterno said he was the best linebacker in the school’s history.

In the 1987 NFL draft, Conlan was selected eighth overall by the Buffalo Bills. In his rookie season he collected 114 tackles and was named NFL Rookie of the Year. In 1988, Conlan was selected First Team All-Pro by several groups, including *The Sporting News* and the Pro Football Writers of America. Additionally, he was named to his first Pro Bowl in Hawaii.

Conlan was named to two more pro bowls in 1989 and 1990, the latter season culminating with Super Bowl XXV, where the Bills lost to the New York Giants 20-19. Conlan led the team with 13 tackles in the game. He appeared in two more Super Bowls with the Bills before being traded to St. Louis following the 1992 campaign. He finished his NFL career following the 1995 season.

Throughout his career Conlan was heavily involved with charity, donating both time and money to various causes. He was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1992, and he was named No. 27 amongst the Top 50 Buffalo Bills of all Time by Buffalo Rumbings, a Buffalo sports website. [Audio file](#)

WILLIAM MADDOX



William Maddox was born in 1854 in Pennsylvania, the son of an English immigrant. As a young businessman, Maddox had invented a machine that was able to produce a fine wooden tabletop at a reasonable cost. Before this, tabletops were all hand-finished, which required a great amount of time. His machine drastically reduced production time and cost, making his products far more affordable compared to his competitors.

Using his machine, Maddox came to Jamestown and soon started the Maddox Table Company, in 1898. Under the founder’s stewardship, the company was one of the first furniture manufacturers in the U.S. to trademark its products. Maddox was also an excellent promoter. In the company’s first year, he sent one of his showmen on an international tour to demonstrate his products, ensuring his tables would be known throughout the world.

In 1919 the Maddox family sold its table making business to the Shearman Brothers Lounge Company. In 1978 the company was again sold to the Crawford Furniture Manufacturing Company. It ceased operation around 1985.

Ref: *The Illustrated History of Jamestown, Chautauqua Co., NY (1900)*. [Audio file](#)

ALBION TOURGÉE

Albion Tourgée was born May 2, 1838, in Williamsfield, OH, the son of a Methodist farm family that had migrated to Ohio from Massachusetts. At the age of 21 Tourgée enrolled at the University of Rochester and attended school until the Civil War, when he enlisted in the Union Army.

During the Civil War, Tourgée participated in the battles at Manassas, Perryville, and Chickamauga. He was initially injured in July 1861 only to reenlist the following year, but finally left service in December 1863. For the remainder of the war, he served as a journalist, studied law, earned his M.A. at the University of Rochester, and taught school.



Following the war Tourgée moved to North Carolina to take advantage of opportunities provided by Reconstruction. He became a vigorous promoter of political, legal, and economic reform, including civil rights.

Despite strong opposition because of his “northern roots,” Tourgée served as one of three commissioners charged with rewriting North Carolina’s law and in 1868 he was elected a state superior court judge. Following his judgeship, Tourgée ran for Congress on the Republican ticket but lost. He moved to Colorado to work as an editor for the *Denver Evening Times*. While out west he also wrote several books on the Civil War and Reconstruction. Two of his books, *A Fool’s Errand*, *By One of the Fools* and *Bricks Without Straw*, remain historical classics.

In 1881 Tourgée purchased a home in Mayville. From 1881 to 1884 he published and edited a weekly literary magazine and wrote a variety of additional novels, including *Button’s Inn* which was based on this historic Inn located in Westfield.

Tourgée also set his sights on a variety of social reform issues, including civil rights. He founded his own civil rights association in 1891 and was appointed chief counsel by Louisiana black leaders in a legal struggle that culminated with the Supreme Court’s *Plessy v. Ferguson* “separate but equal” decision of 1896.

Tourgée spent his final years as a diplomat and was appointed consul to Bordeaux, France. He died in France on May 21, 1905, and his body was returned to Mayville. Most of his possessions, including his writings, are in the collections of the Chautauqua County Historical Society.

Ref: *Documenting the American South (DocSouth)*. [Audio file](#)

JAMES H. MCGRAW

James Herbert McGraw was born in 1860 in the Town of Harmony. In his early years as an adult, he worked as a teacher. To help bring in additional income, he sold subscriptions and advertising for *American Journal of Railway Appliance*, a trade periodical. In 1885 at the age of 25, McGraw spent his life savings of \$2,500 to become part-owner of the publication, and three years later he bought the business outright.



After making a quick success in the trade journal business, he formed The McGraw Publishing Company in 1889 as a holding company for his magazines. The firm soon expanded into book publishing, and in 1909 McGraw’s book division was merged with the book publishing arm of John A. Hill’s Hill Publishing Company, while both companies remained competitors in periodicals publishing.

The combined business, McGraw-Hill Book Company, absorbed the original companies' periodicals division in 1917. In 1929, McGraw-Hill bought a struggling business-themed monthly called *The Magazine of Business* and re-launched it as a weekly, publishing its first issue (called *The Business Week*) six weeks before the stock market crash that began the Great Depression.

He died February 21, 1948, at the age of 87 in San Francisco, but was buried in Morristown, NJ. Despite his great success in publishing, McGraw frequently said that he had enjoyed his time as a teacher more than anything in his business career.

Ref: NNDB - James H. McGraw. [Audio file](#)

FRANK BURNS

Frank Burns was born about 1863 in Westfield and spent most of his life in the area. An avid inventor, Burns is credited with developing several different devices, most notably, a typewriter, although it would never actually go into mass production.

Burns first received a patent for his typewriter in 1889. In 1894 he started the Burns Typewriting Company in Buffalo, but only pre-production typewriters were ever manufactured. However, the company was successful in producing metal type for other typewriters as well as metal stamps, dies, and other light machinery and tool specialties. The company lasted at least into the 1940s.

Beside his typewriter, Burns had other inventions, including a steam automobile, which he drove around the streets of Westfield when he was a teenager. He also developed a vaporizer for allergy sufferers, and a device to prevent clogging of cartridges as they were fed into the rapid-fire aircraft machine guns of WWI.

After his death at the age of 74 in 1937, *The Westfield Republican* said Burns "was a remarkable genius as an inventor."

Ref: *ETCetera: Newsletter of the Early Typewriter Collectors Association*, January 1988 (No. 2). [Audio file](#)

EVERETT R. BURMASTER

Everett R. Burmaster was born in 1891, the son of Henry and Mary Baird Burmaster. Burmaster was born in the Town of Hanover in a house beside the Cattaraugus Creek across from the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation. He played with Native American children, attended school with them, and in later life was adopted by the Seneca Nation.

When he was 14 years old, Burmaster worked with Dr. Arthur C. Parker in the excavation of the "Silver Heel" site on the Irving-Gowanda Road. Dr. Parker at the time was associated with the Peabody Museum and Institute of Archeology of Boston. Burmaster worked with him in uncovering the Erie Indian village at Ripley for the New York State Museum in Albany. After that Burmaster became assistant state archeologist and later joined the staff at Rochester Museum.

In the 1930s he was an archaeologist at the Buffalo Museum of Science and helped excavate the Richmond Mastadon in Indiana. This now stands in the Buffalo Museum. He also built the reproduction of the Indian Village in the museum and constructed reproductions of Iroquois Indian dwellings for the Henry Ford Museum in Michigan.



Burmater was an avid student of history and had devoted much of his time to research and collecting historical material. He was responsible for locating a "horse-head fiddle" that had been made by the county's first settler, Amos Sottle. In addition, he preserved three pieces of the historic "Hanover Elm," the largest tree of its kind ever found east of the Mississippi. He died January 19, 1965.

Ref: Hanover Town Historian Vincent Martonis. Photo courtesy of Hanover Historical Society. [Audio file](#)

IRV NOREN

Irv Noren was born in Jamestown in 1924. His family operated a bakery on Newland Avenue. In 1935 his family moved west. It was during his teenage years in California that Noren began to hone and sharpen his skills as a baseball player. He became such a good player that following World War II, he began his professional career.

In 1946 Noren made a name for himself playing for the Santa Barbera Dodgers in California. He batted .363 with a league-leading 518 at bats, 188 hits, 129 RBI and 27 assists. He advanced to Fort Worth of the Texas League and played outfield and first base while batting .271. The following season he was named the league's Most Valuable Player after batting .323 with 10 home runs and 71 RBI.

In 1949 Noren played for Hollywood in the Pacific Coast League where he batted .330 with 29 home runs and 130 RBI. He also led the league in outfield putouts and assists and was named league MVP.

On April 18, 1950, Noren made his Major League Baseball debut, playing for the Washington Senators. In a career that stretched ten years, he also played for the St. Louis Cardinals, New York Yankees, Kansas City Athletics, Chicago Cubs, and Los Angeles Dodgers. He appeared in three World Series (1952, 1953, and 1955) while a Yankee and was on the American League All-Star team in 1954. He batted .300 in the 1952 World Series.

After his big league career, Noren managed the Hawaii Islanders in 1962-1963. He was a scout for the Washington Senators in 1964. He managed the Niagara Falls Pirates in 1970, then turned to coaching. He was on the Oakland A's staff from 1971 to 1974 and the Chicago Cubs staff in 1975.



Noren, who died November 15, 2019, at the age of 94, was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1985. [Audio file](#)

MARCUS & CHARLES AHLSTROM

Marcus and Charles Ahlstrom were brothers who immigrated from Sweden to America during the 19th century. Marcus was born in 1845 and Charles was born eight years later in 1853. In 1869 the two came with the rest of their family to the U.S. and settled in Jamestown.



Charles was a musician and considered a “piano expert.” In 1875, he and Marcus established the Ahlstrom Piano Company. Their factories were located at 112-114 East Second Street, Jamestown. The company built a full line of square grand pianos and uprights at first but discontinued the square pianos before 1895. After the turn-of-the-century, the firm added grand pianos and player pianos to their product line.

The Ahlstrom Piano Company was known for building very good quality, durable pianos and player pianos and the company aided in the development of the entire piano industry. A device developed by the Ahlstroms for dividing tone volume was so well received that it became a universal standard and is still used today by virtually every piano maker in the world as the left pedal on every vertical piano manufactured.

Marcus died on June 15, 1909, in Jamestown. Prior to his death he had served as vice president and traveled the country and the world selling his top quality pianos. The company continued to manufacture pianos until 1926.

Ref: Historical marker noting the location of the Ahlstrom Piano Company in Jamestown, NY. [Audio file](#)

KARL PETERSON

Karl Peterson was born in January 1866 in Sweden and came to America at the age of 20. It is said he was an avid inventor and had a natural gift for mechanics.

In 1903 Peterson entered a partnership with J.P. Danielson to create the J.P. Danielson & Company in Jamestown. The company initially operated as a maker of pliers and wrenches, including a type of plier-wrench known as a “lightning wrench.”

In 1907, Peterson founded the Crescent Tool Company of Jamestown. Crescent Tool initially produced pliers. Other early tools included a type of wrench-plier known as a “lightning wrench.” The products were well received, but the company soon became better known as a maker of adjustable wrenches. Crescent’s particular adjustable wrench design became very well known, even to the point that all makes of this style came to be called “crescent” wrenches. This despite the fact the actual wrench design did not originate with his company. But Peterson still held the patent for the device, which allowed him to make a very profitable business from their manufacture.

Crescent tools were with Charles Lindbergh when he flew across the Atlantic Ocean, as well as with explorer Richard E. Byrd when he departed for the Antarctic. In addition, during World War II, the Crescent Tool Company was awarded the coveted Army Navy “E” pennant three times for outstanding production and quality product.

Karl Peterson’s legacy continues today. Through a fund created in his name at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, more than \$30,000 is awarded annually to various organizations. [Audio file](#)

FREDERICK GURNEY

Frederick W. Gurney was born in Massachusetts in 1867. He spent time living out west before eventually finding work in Jamestown.

In 1903 Gurney established the Gurney Ball Bearing Company. By 1905 he was manufacturing bearings for the automotive industry, with his company working out of the Gokey Shoe factory building in downtown Jamestown. In addition to housing a ball bearing company and a shoe manufacturer, the building also contained two worsted mills operations and a metallic door company.

In March 1910, the great Gokey factory fire took place, burning for three days. Afterward, Gurney Ball Bearing moved to Scott St. after the fire and moved again to Chandler Street in 1920. During that time, Gurney saw his radial-thrust angular-contact bearings find use in early aircraft engines. Those same innovative bearings permitted a major advance in aircraft propeller technology – allowing the pitch to be adjusted in flight. Gurney also invented the Radial Type R ball bearing, which enabled unprecedented accuracy for high-speed machine tool spindles.

By 1924, the Gurney Ball Bearing company merged with several New England companies and became the Marlin Rockwell Corporation in Jamestown. It continued to have a strong relationship with Jamestown throughout the 20th century and operated as part of the SKF Group in Jamestown and Falconer.

Gurney lived to the age of 77 and died in Florida in February 1944. [Audio file](#)

CHARLES DAHLSTROM

Charles Peter Dahlstrom was born September 4, 1872, on the island of Gotland, Sweden. He was educated in Sweden and at the age of 12 attended a school of technology in Stockholm. He had an inventive mechanical mind and was a skillful mechanic. A natural inventor, he was noted for his genius in devising improvements on machinery from a very young age. In 1891, after learning the trade of tool and die making, Dahlstrom came to the U.S.

Dahlstrom found work at his trade in Buffalo where he worked for several years. He also spent time in Chicago and Milwaukee before eventually finding employment with the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company. Here he formed a personal acquaintance with George Westinghouse and the two became friends.

Dahlstrom eventually made his way to Jamestown and entered the employ of the Art Metal Construction Company. It was during his time with Art Metal that he invented a metallic door. After obtaining the patent to the door, Dahlstrom severed his connection with Art Metal and organized the Dahlstrom Metallic Door Company in 1904.



The door was immediately met with public favor, with its special adaptation to high buildings and hotels being quickly recognized. The door was adopted almost universally by all construction companies, and the company was soon compelled to erect a four-story brick plant on Buffalo Street. From there the construction industry demanded other materials, and roll forming began for all types of construction material for high-rise buildings throughout the county.

During its heyday, the Dahlstrom plant was considered the largest and most important in Jamestown. By 1920, the company comprised ten buildings and employed 500 men. But Charles Dahlstrom did not live to see the full fruits of his labor. He died in Jamestown on April 10, 1909, at the age of 36.

Ref: An aerial view of the Dahlstrom Metal Door Co. on Buffalo St., Jamestown, NY. [Audio file](#)

REGINALD LENNA & ELIZABETH LENNA FAIRBANK

Reginald Lenna was born in Jamestown on December 3, 1912. He was the son of Oscar A. Lenna, president of the Jamestown Metal Equipment Company of the Blackstone Manufacturing Company. Reg graduated from Jamestown High School and the Manlius Military School before attending the engineering school at Lehigh University. Upon his return to Jamestown, he became identified with the Blackstone Manufacturing Company and the Jamestown Metal Equipment Company.



Lenna became an assistant sales manager at Blackstone and served as a director of the Jamestown Malleable Iron Company. Following service in World War II, he became assistant to the president of Blackstone in 1947 and was instrumental in entering the Blackstone Company in the international market.

In 1961 Lenna married **Elizabeth “Betty” Smith** and shortly thereafter he became president and CEO of Blackstone. Together, the couple transformed the company into an international business enterprise with plants in Sweden, Canada, and Mexico. They also formed a partnership in local philanthropy toward the community and the arts that has remained unmatched to this day. The Reg Lenna Civic Center in Jamestown and Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall at Chautauqua Institution are two examples of their generosity.

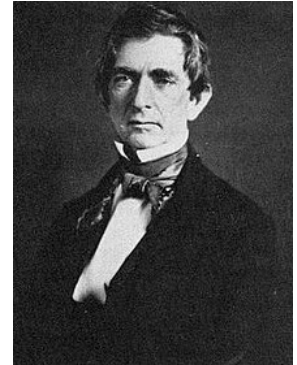
In 1976, Reg Lenna was knighted by the King of Sweden with the Royal Order of the North Star and received an honorary doctorate in 1981 from St. Bonaventure University. He died on February 15, 2000. In 2002, Betty married Joseph A. Fairbank, the owner of Fairbank Farms in Ashville. She died on April 15, 2011. [Audio file](#)

WILLIAM SEWARD

William Henry Seward, Sr. was born May 16, 1801, in Florida, NY. He studied law at Union College and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1821. That same year he met Frances Adeline Miller, the daughter of Judge Elijah Miller of Auburn, NY.

Seward soon entered a law partnership with Judge Miller and married Frances on October 20, 1824. In 1830 he was elected to the state senate as an Anti-Masonic candidate. He ran for governor of New York in 1834 as a candidate for the Whig party but lost.

In 1836 Seward came to Westfield to serve as agent for the Holland Land Company. He was successful in easing tensions between the company and local landowners in Chautauqua County. On July 16, 1837, he delivered to the students and faculty of the newly formed Westfield Academy a Discourse on Education, in which he advocated for universal education.



Seward remained in Westfield until 1838, when he returned to Auburn to run once again for Governor, which he won and took office in 1839. He was reelected to a second two-year term in 1840.

As a state senator and governor, Seward promoted progressive political policies including prison reform and increased spending on education. He was also a staunch abolitionist. In the 1850s, the Seward family opened their Auburn home as a safehouse to fugitive slaves.

Seward resumed law practice following his second term as governor. He then ran was elected to the U.S. Senate as a Whig in 1849 and emerged as a leader of the anti-slavery faction in Washington. Seward believed that slavery was morally wrong, and said so many times, outraging Southerners. He was an opponent of the Fugitive Slave Act, and he defended runaway slaves in court. In February 1855, he was re-elected to the U.S. Senate and joined the Republican Party following its creation later the same year.

Seward was expected to receive the Republican presidential nomination in 1860, but he was perceived as too radical by some members of his own party and the nomination instead went to Abraham Lincoln, who Seward almost immediately threw his support behind. After winning the election, Lincoln rewarded Seward by appointing him his Secretary of State.

It was as Secretary of State that an attempt was made on Seward's life. On April 14, 1865 – the same night Lincoln was shot – Lewis Powell made an attempt on Seward's life but was thwarted by Seward's son, Frederick. The event took a toll on Seward's wife and Frances died in June 1865 from the stress of almost losing her husband.

Seward emerged as a major force in the administration of the new president, Andrew Johnson. His most famous achievement as Secretary of State was his successful acquisition of Alaska from Russia in March 1867 for the cost of 2 cents an acre. At the time it was viewed a mistake and dubbed "Seward's Folly" and Seward's Icebox." Seward viewed it at his greatest achievement as Secretary of State.

On October 10, 1872, Seward died in his office in his home in Auburn, NY.

Ref: Wikipedia - William H. Seward. Photo of William Seward circa 1850. [Audio file](#)

OLIVE RISLEY SEWARD

Olive F. Risley was born in Fredonia on July 15, 1844. She was the daughter of the former Harriet C. Crosby and Anson A. Risley, a prominent civil servant who later worked for the Secretary of the Treasury and resided in Washington, D.C.



Olive became a close companion of William Henry Seward in the last years of his life, beginning about 1868, following by a few years the deaths of Seward's wife Frances and daughter, and shortly after the death of her own mother in 1866. To curtail gossip and family worries about their relationship, she was formally adopted by Seward in 1870.

Both Olive and her sister, Harriet Risley, traveled extensively with Seward through Asia, the Middle East, and Europe in 1870 and 1871, an experience recorded in the book William H. Seward's *Travels Around the World*. It was a best seller after being published in 1873 and Olive was credited as editor. She and Seward's three surviving sons were named joint heirs of the Seward estate.

Olive died in Washington, D.C. on November 27, 1908, but was returned to Chautauqua County to be buried with her parents in Fredonia. In 1971, sculptor John Cavanaugh created a statue honoring her. It stands in front of a private residence in Washington, D.C., the subject's head gazing toward nearby Seward Square, named for her adoptive father.

Ref: Wikipedia - Olive Risley Seward.

CALISTA JONES

Calista Jones was born May 25, 1823, in Ellicott, the daughter of Ellick and Louisa Walkup Jones. In 1841 at the age of 18, Jones became a teacher in Jamestown's private schools.

It is said that Jones took her teaching career seriously and tried to keep up with the latest advancements in education. When a male teacher was fired by the Jamestown school district for failing to properly manage the school, the board approached Jones and asked if she would replace him. Jones said she'd accept the offer, but only if she was paid the same salary as the man who was let go. At first the board refused her, but Jones won them over and she became the first woman in Jamestown's history to receive the pay of \$1 a day for schoolwork.

Through her teaching career, Jones tried to improve the quality of education in Jamestown. She helped establish Jamestown Union School and convinced its board of education to include manual training in the school's curriculum, such as sewing, homemaking, and industrial arts. Jones is also remembered as the first woman to vote in Jamestown.

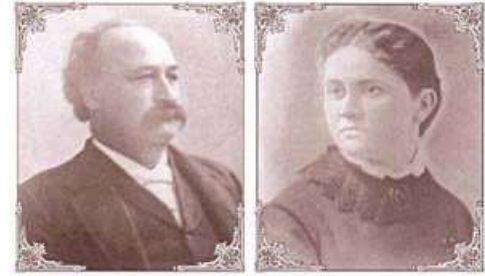
After teaching 50 years, Jones was appointed Jamestown High School librarian in 1894. She served the school until her death in 1900.

Ref: *Early Jamestown Women*, Prendergast Library, Jamestown, NY. [Audio file](#)

HORATIO BROOKS

Horatio Brooks was born in Portsmouth, NH on October 30, 1828. At a young age, Brooks showed an interest in the new "locomotive" and would often bring home pieces of the machine to examine. At the age of 16 he moved to South Boston, MA to work with his cousins as apprentice to the trade of machinist. But he preferred railway and locomotive service, and in 1846 at the age of 18 he entered the shops of the Boston and Maine Railroad.

He progressed rapidly at learning both business of railroads and the construction of the locomotive. By May 1849, he was promoted to the position of engineer. In October 1850, he left Boston in charge of engine No. 90, built by Hinckley & Drury for the New York & Erie Railroad. He arrived in Dunkirk via Erie Canal on November 28, 1850.



Horatio and Julia Brooks

Brooks remained a locomotive engineer until November 1856, when he was called to the position of master mechanic of the Dunkirk shops. In October 1862, he was appointed superintendent of the western division of the newly organized Erie Railway, still retaining the position of master mechanic of the Western & Northwestern divisions. In March 1865, he resigned from both positions to serve as superintendent of motive power and machinery of the entire railroad, a position he held for over four years.

In October 1869, Jay Gould – then president of the Erie Railway – ordered the Dunkirk shops to be permanently closed and the machinery removed to other locations. To prevent this from taking place, Brooks conceived the idea of leasing the property from the Erie Railway for the purpose of establishing the business of locomotive manufacturing. The company accepted the proposition and on November 13, 1869, Brooks Locomotive Works was organized, the capacity being one locomotive per month. New tools were added, and facilities improved until 1872, when 22 locomotives were turned out during the year.

Despite economic setbacks throughout the 1870s, the operation remained open for business and turned out 100 locomotives in 1880 alone. In 1883 the Brooks locomotives were named the Best in Show at the National Railway Appliance Exhibition in Chicago.

In addition to his significant contribution to the local economy of Dunkirk, Brooks also contributed to a civic capacity, serving as mayor for three terms. He died April 20, 1887, but his plant continued to operate for nearly 40 more years. In 1901 the operation merged with American Locomotive Company, and it continued to produce locomotive until 1934. From 1934 until its final closure in 1962, the plant produced spare parts for ALCO locomotives.

Ref: *1881 Atlas of Chautauqua County*; Wikipedia - Brooks Locomotive Works. [Audio file](#) Photo: www.brookshospital.org.

MARION DICKERMAN

Marion Dickerman was born April 11, 1890, in Westfield. After high school she studied for two years at Wellesley College before transferring to Syracuse University. There she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1911 and a graduate degree in education in 1912.

Dickerman taught first in Canisteo, NY. In 1913 she moved to Fulton, NY, where she taught American history at Fulton High School. It was here she met up with former Syracuse classmate Nancy Cook, who was teaching arts and handicrafts at the same school. The two become lifelong partners, spending almost their entire adult lives together.



In 1921, Dickerman became the dean at the Trenton State College in Trenton, NJ. One year later, she joined the faculty at the Todhunter School. Through her relationship with Cook, Dickerman was introduced to Eleanor Roosevelt in 1922 and the two struck up a friendship.

Dickerman, Cook, and Roosevelt found a common dedication to politics, education, and progressive reform. In 1927 they purchased the Todhunter School in 1927. The three women also shared the Val-Kill property in Hyde Park, NY and helped to establish and finance Val-Kill Industries, a small factory that would make furniture, pewter, and homespun cloth using traditional craft methods. It was used to provide jobs and supplement income for local farming families in the area.

In 1936 Val-Kill Industries was disbanded. Dickerman and Cook continued to live in Stone Cottage until after Franklin D. Roosevelt's death in 1945. They sold all interest in the Val-Kill property to Eleanor in 1947 when they moved to Connecticut, where Dickerman became the educational programming director for the Marine Museum. Dickerman died May 16, 1983, in Kennett Square, PA.

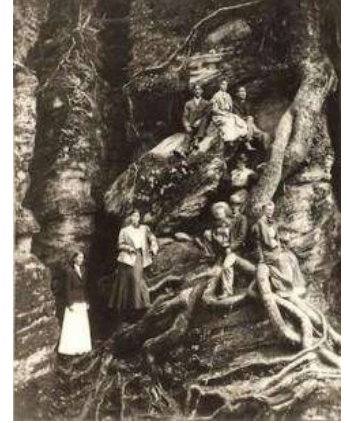
Ref: Wikipedia - Marion Dickerman. Photo of Dickerman during her service with the Red Cross. [Audio file](#)

GEORGE HUBBARD

George Hubbard was born in December 1850. While in his 30s, he purchased a piece of property in Panama with a farmhouse. Also located on the property was a piece of land known by locals as the "Rock Farm."

Hubbard opened his property to visitors and called it a park. Using oxen to haul a building from across the road, he added to the farmhouse, making it into a summer hotel. He also operated a stagecoach to transport sightseers from the railroad station in Ashville, located seven miles to the east.

By the turn-of-the-century, Panama Rocks had developed a reputation as a lover's retreat, due to the concealed niches in the rocks where lovers could avoid the prying eyes of the public. It became a popular destination for honeymooners.



For more than nearly 25 years, Hubbard continued to operate his park on a seasonal basis. But around 1910, he sold the property to D.L. Davis, who picked up where Hubbard left off and started the Panama Rocks Co. At this time, he developed the scenic area by constructing a small access road and he added stairways down into deep, cavernous dens. He built a large dining hall. People drove from as far away as Buffalo to enjoy the Sunday chicken dinners and to see the rocks.

Hubbard lived in the area the remainder of his life. Today, the tradition he started in 1885 continues with Panama Rocks still open to visitors on a seasonal basis, under the operation of Craig and Sandra Weston.

Ref: Photo: Ginny Schroeder - www.rootsweb.ancestry.com. [Audio file](#)

BRAD ANDERSON

Brad Anderson was born May 14, 1924, in Jamestown. Anderson grew up in Portland and graduated from Brocton Central School in 1943. It was in high school that the young aviation buff began submitting cartoons for publication in specialty magazines like *Flying* and *Flying Aces*. He then served with the U.S. Navy until 1946.

Initially aspiring to be an industrial designer, Anderson attended Syracuse University on the G.I. BIL Throughout his undergraduate years, he frequently published cartoons in the student magazine *The Syracusan*, as well as in popular commercial publications like *Collier's Weekly* and the *Saturday Evening Post*.

In 1951 he graduated with a B.F.A. in fine arts with a major in advertising. He went to work for Ball & Grier, an advertising agency in Utica, NY; however, in 1953, Anderson decided to focus on freelance magazine cartooning. From 1954 to 1966, Anderson drew the comic strip *Grandpa's Boy*.

Anderson is best known for creating the comic strip *Marmaduke*. He said he was drawing various types of dogs in his other cartoons and was also trying to develop a dog character specifically for newspaper syndication. In 1954 Marmaduke appeared in his first newspaper. At its peak, the strip appeared in more than 600 newspapers in 20 countries worldwide.

Anderson received a National Cartoonists Society Award for *Marmaduke* in 1978. He appeared on two television shows and was featured on *Animal Planet*.

One of his favorite inclusions in his comics was the old Cave's Meat Market in Brocton. Anderson and his wife had a daughter, Christine, and three sons, Craig, Paul, and Mark.

Anderson died of congestive heart failure on August 30, 2015 at The Woodlands, TX at the age of 91. He is buried at Portland Evergreen Cemetery in Portland, NY. A statue of Anderson and a dog representing Marmaduke was dedicated in 2016.



Ref: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Anderson_\(cartoonist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Anderson_(cartoonist)). Photo courtesy of unitedfeatures.com. [Audio file](#)

DR. JAMES TOWNSEND

James G. Townsend was born in Pittsburgh on May 26, 1839. At the age of seven his family moved to Buffalo where his father became involved in politics. He became very popular and expected to be elected mayor of the city. But in 1852, Buffalo experienced an epidemic of cholera and in three days Townsend's father, brother, sister, and uncle were dead and his mother became an invalid.

Townsend attended Oberlin College and became a schoolteacher in western Pennsylvania. In the summer of 1862, he left the teaching profession to serve in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Following his service in the war, he turned to the Methodist Church and became principal of Carrier Seminary, later Clarion University, in Pennsylvania. Eventually he became a minister, traveling to various churches throughout northwestern Pennsylvania and western New York, until returning to Buffalo. It was during his time with the Methodist Church that Townsend became familiar with a summer retreat on the shores of Chautauqua Lake. In 1873 he was invited to speak at this camp meeting and soon he was making regular appearances as the camp grew into the Chautauqua Assembly.

In 1885, the Universalist Society in Jamestown recruited Townsend to serve as its minister and he released himself from affiliation with Methodism. He came to Jamestown to preach what he called "The New Theology." After his first address to the local public, over 200 people signed up as attendees. With his first sermon, he laid the foundation for the current Unitarian Universalist Church. He called the new group the Independent Congregational Church of Jamestown.

Townsend also created an alternate Chautauqua that would embrace his "new theology." He chose Lakewood as the location and the Lakewood School of Theology was unveiled in July 1886. The school was moved to Bemus Point for the 1887 season and new facilities were built to accommodate more than 4,000 students who enrolled.

In 1887 Townsend's health forced him to retreat from the ministry in Jamestown and the school on Chautauqua Lake. While recovering he went to Pittsburgh and revived the city's Unitarian Church. Within three years he returned as pastor in Jamestown before going to the New York City area to establish new churches there.

Townsend retired from the ministry in 1900 and returned to Jamestown. He died in 1917, but even today, Townsend's "new theology" is still a prominent message with the Jamestown Unitarian Church. [Audio file](#)

DOUGLAS HOUGHTON

Douglass Houghton was born September 21, 1809 in Troy, NY, the son of Jacob Houghton, a lawyer and later a County Judge of Chautauqua County. He was raised in Fredonia. Douglass was described as a small person with a nervous, active temperament inclined toward the practical and scientific. Early in his life he exhibited an interest in the natural world, and despite a slight speech impediment and facial scarring from a youthful experiment with gunpowder, he was at ease with all levels of society.

In 1829 Houghton entered the Rensselaer School at Troy where scientific training was emphasized, particularly in geology. That same year he received both a bachelor's degree and a teaching appointment in chemistry and natural history. He also studied medicine and was licensed to practice in 1831.

In 1830 Houghton became associated with the Michigan Territory, when the city fathers of Detroit began a search for a public lecturer on science, and one of Houghton's instructors gave him a strong recommendation. He was enthusiastically received in Detroit and rapidly became one of its best-known citizens, with the young men of his acquaintance soon styling themselves "the Houghton boys."

During the next two years, Houghton became a physician-naturalist on expeditions through Lake Superior and the upper Mississippi valley. On these trips Houghton did extensive botanical collecting, investigated the Lake Superior copper deposits of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and provided medical services to the Indian tribes they encountered.

In 1833 he married his childhood friend Harriet Stevens, with whom he had two daughters. By 1836 he set aside the medical profession to concentrate on real estate speculation. His scientific interests remained strong, however, and as Michigan achieved statehood in 1837, Houghton was named the first state geologist, a position he held for the remainder of his life.

In 1839 Houghton was also named the first professor of geology, mineralogy, and chemistry at the University of Michigan. His fourth annual report appeared February 1841 and helped to trigger the first great mining boom of American history and was then dubbed "father of copper mining in the U.S." He was so liked by the people of Detroit that in 1842 – against his wishes – they elected him mayor.



On October 13, 1845, Houghton was conducting a geological survey of the Lake Superior region when the boat he was in capsized in a storm. Houghton and two companions drowned. His remains were discovered the next spring and returned to Detroit, where they were buried in Elmwood Cemetery.

Several municipalities and locations throughout Michigan named after Houghton, including the city of Houghton, Houghton Lake, and Douglas Houghton Falls. A plant is named after him: Houghton's Goldenrod, a variety he discovered in 1839 along the southern shore of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Ref: Douglass Houghton image used for Douglass Houghton USPS postcard issue. From painting by Robert A. Thomas included in *A History of Michigan in Paintings*. [Audio file](#)

ABNER ALLEN

Abner E. Allen was born in 1847 in Jamestown. At the age of 28, Allen opened the first theatre in the city, known as the Allen Opera House. It was located at 14 Spring St. and later East Third St. near the present location of the Reg Lenna Civic Center.



With the use of his opera house, Allen presented vaudeville companies known for "general high character of attractions." One of the most noted appearances at the Allen Opera House was by William "Buffalo Bill" Cody on March 14, 1878. Cody's Wild West show performance was advertised on a billboard that was hidden under a building façade until 2002, when it was discovered.

Following a fire in 1881, a new structure was built on Second St. in Jamestown, where the current Lucille Ball Little Theatre is located. However, a second fire occurred in 1894 and Allen never recovered financially. In 1898 he sold the theater to Charles Samuels, who continued the tradition of excellence of live theatre in Jamestown.

Ref: Historical marker commemorating the original location of the Allen’s Opera House can be found in front of the Reg Lenna Civic Center on Third St. in Jamestown, NY. [Audio file](#)

DR. CHARLES WELCH

Dr. Charles Welch was the son of Dr. Thomas Bramwell Welch, a physician and dentist who worked in Vineland, NJ during the mid-19th century. In addition to his medical practice, the elder Welch also served as the communion steward for the local Methodist church.

Based on a desire to serve grape juice during communion, the father and son began to experiment with Concord grape juice in 1869, using the pasteurization techniques developed by Louis Pasteur just four years earlier. They soon perfected a process for preserving grape juice and began marketing it with the label Dr. Welch’s Unfermented Wine. The product was developed with churches in mind and at the time neither envisioned it could be used as a beverage for the public.



In 1873, Charles Welch bought the business from his father. Afterward, he first came to Westfield to take advantage of the large concentration of Concord grapes that were growing throughout the region. The next 20 years, Welch spent his time perfecting a pasteurization process for Concord grape juice. By 1893 he was satisfied with his product, and it was introduced to a wide audience at the World’s Fair in Chicago, and it quickly became a popular drink across the nation.

In 1897 Charles Welch built the world’s first large grape juice plant in Westfield. He also changed the name of the product to Welch’s Grape Juice. Westfield quickly became known as “The Grape Juice Capital of the World.”

Ref: Photo of *Dr. Charles Welch (left) with his father (seated), son (standing right) and grandson.* [Audio file](#)

WILLIAM CARPENTER

William Lewis Carpenter was born January 13, 1844, in Dunkirk. He was the only son of three children born to William Carpenter and Mamie Frances Bristol. During the Civil War he served as a midshipman in the U.S. Navy from 1861-1864. Wanting to see more action, he resigned from the Navy and joined the Army. Thus began his long career with the U.S. Army.

During the Civil War, Carpenter served at the Siege of Petersburg, Va. and with the Army of the Potomac. Following the war, he was appointed as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army on April 5, 1867. He wrote several geological articles for the Army and was encouraged to continue his scientific research on the frontier. Between 1872 and 1874 Carpenter issued a series of reports involving various minerals, including gold, in the Black Hills of South Dakota.



In 1875, Lt. Carpenter became part of the 1875 Newton-Jenney Party, which was a scientific expedition sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey to map the Black Hills. His reports led the way for more mining operations to come into the Black Hills Territory. This escalated tension between Native Americans and the mining groups, culminating in the Great Sioux War of 1876. Carpenter was a participant in the Battle of the Rosebud, in which 1,200 cavalymen under General George Crook were attacked by about 1,500 Sioux and Cheyenne warriors under Chief Crazy Horse.

In 1877, Carpenter made his final report on the “Geology and Natural History of the Big Horn Mountains.” The report was well received by the scientific community. As a result, Carpenter was elected a “Fellow” of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Later in his career, Carpenter worked in Nebraska as an enumerator in the 1880 U.S. federal census. He also performed scientific collections and observations in that area. He was promoted to captain in 1887.

Carpenter spent his final years at the Madison Barracks in Jefferson County, NY He died from Bright's disease on July 10, 1898.

Ref: A painting depicting the Great Sioux War of 1876, which was an indirect result of Carpenter's reports on minerals in the Black Hills. [Audio file](#)

MILTON FLETCHER

Milton J. Fletcher was born in Chenango County, NY on October 5, 1862, the son of Joseph and Susan Sherwood Fletcher. Fletcher graduated from Syracuse University in 1888 with a teaching degree. During his period at the university, he taught one year in the rural schools.

After graduation, Fletcher began his career as a teacher, serving as principal of Dryden High School for six years and principal at Unadilla for five years. In the fall of 1899, he came to Jamestown as principal of the high school and held the post for twenty years. During that time, he also taught American history and government. One of his most notable students was Robert H. Jackson. In 1919 he became superintendent of the entire city system.



During his tenure as superintendent, the first guidance department was established. Fletcher was also responsible for the establishment of the junior high school system in Jamestown, along with the building of three Junior high school buildings. He also served in several civic groups, including serving as president of the Centennial Commission of 1927.

After his retirement in 1932, Fletcher began working on a book entitled *Lincoln's Democracy*, designed for use as a supplementary reading course for high school students of American history. Failing health delayed the preparation of the book and it was not until a few months prior to his death in 1952 that it was completed. However, no company was willing to undertake the publishing of the book. As a result, a memorial fund was established by Fletcher's former students, teachers and admirers who wished to see his work preserved.

The book was published, and copies can be found in the libraries at Jamestown Community College SUNY Fredonia, and Syracuse University.

Ref: *History of New York State - Biographies: Part 38*. Photo of the Milton J. Fletcher elementary school in Jamestown, NY. [Audio file](#)

JEAN WEBSTER

Alice Jane Chandler Webster was born in Fredonia on July 24, 1876. She was the eldest child of Charles and Annie Moffet Webster. Her mother was niece to Mark Twain and her father was Twain's business manager and publisher of many of his books. Initially the business was successful, and Alice was five when the family moved to New York City. However, the publishing company ran into difficulties and her father's relationship with Twain broke down. In 1888 the family moved back to Fredonia and her father committed suicide in 1891.

At the age of 18, Alice attended the Lady Jane Grey School in Binghamton. It was at the school that Alice began to be known as Jean Webster. She graduated from the school in 1896 and returned to the Fredonia Normal School for a year



in the college division. In 1897 she entered Vassar College, where she soon became interested and active in various social issues, including penal reform and women's suffrage. While at Vassar she also began writing, contributing stories to the student newspaper and writing a weekly column of Vassar news for the *Poughkeepsie Sunday Courier*.

After graduating in 1901, Webster returned to Fredonia and began writing *When Patty Went to College*. It was published in March 1903 to good reviews. Other stories soon followed. In 1911 Webster began writing what would be her most famous work, *Daddy-Long-Legs*. It was published in October 1912 to popular and critical national acclaim. In November 1915, *Dear Enemy*, a sequel to *Daddy-Long-Legs*, was published, and it too proved to be a bestseller.

Jean married Glenn McKinney in September 1915 and was due to have their first child a short time afterward. On June 10, 1916, she gave birth to a daughter. All was well initially, but Jean soon became ill and died of childbirth fever the next morning, June 11, 1916. The daughter survived and was named "Jean" in honor of her mother. [Audio file](#)

THE HOWARD BROTHERS

The Howard brothers were some of the most well-known businessmen of Fredonia during the second half of the 19th century. Lewis, Edward, Frank, and Clarence Howard were four of eight children born to Edward and Emily Howard between 1839 and 1850.

Lewis and Edward got their start in Fredonia working for the local post office. In March 1865, Lewis began buying various jewelry items from a company in New York City, including various makes of watches. In 1866, the two began selling five different grades of watches from the American Watch Co.

In February 1868, along with others, Lewis and Edward bought the corner lot at Water and East Main streets in the village and put up a three-story brick building, the Union Block. The building contained several operations, including the Howards' Bros. bookstore and jewelry business. Lewis, who had been ill with consumption for some time, died in October 1874.

In September 1875 Edward and Clarence formed the Independent Watch Co. in Fredonia. This was followed by the Lake Shore Watch Co. and the Empire Watch Co. All three were used to resell watches that were purchased from other manufacturers. At the end of 1876, the two brothers bought the Pettit-Barker Eye Salve Co. A year later the two sold the book and jewelry store to their youngest brother, Frank.

In 1881 the Howard Brothers started their own watch making company. On March 24, 1881, the Independent Watch Company of Fredonia was incorporated. The stockholders included Mark Twain. Unfortunately, by September 1882, Twain had become suspicious that a swindle was in the works and prepared to expose the Howard brothers in the press. But the brothers prevented any public controversy by giving Twain his money back.

In 1883, the Howard Bros. established the Fredonia Watch Co. and by early 1885 they had established the company office in Chicago. By December of that year, they had organized the Peoria Watch Co. in Peoria, IL, to which they transferred the Fredonia Watch Co. operation and closed the East Main Street factory. The medicine factory continued to operate in Fredonia until March 1888 when it was moved to Buffalo.

Frank Howard continued his jewelry store in the same location on East Main Street until June 1892 when he sold the business. Thus ended all ties of the Howard Brothers in Fredonia.

Ref: "The Howard Brothers and their Fredonia Enterprises," Douglas Shepard; "Mark Twain and the Fredonia Watch Company," Barbara Schmidt and Dave Thomson. [Audio file](#)

ARTHUR R. MAYTUM

Arthur Richard Maytum was born October 13, 1866, in County Kent, England. At the age of 19 he arrived in the U.S. and less than two years later, he married Gertrude Prushaw in Fredonia, NY.

When he arrived in Fredonia, Arthur first apprenticed as a grocer before opening his own business on Water Street in the village. Around 1892, Maytum strung a phone line from his store to the train depot so he could get advanced notice of the specific time the train came in. This allowed him to offer more efficient service and fresher produce to his customers by calling the railroad depot for up-to-the-minute reports on his shipments. It was the first telephone line installed in the village.

As a result of installing the telephone to better serve his customers, he initiated something that would soon serve the community on an even broader scale – the Dunkirk & Fredonia Telephone Company.



The telephone company was incorporated in February of 1898 and started business that August, serving 64 customers. It was only fitting that Maytum serve as the fledgling company's first secretary and general manager. Over the years, he would guide the company as it grew, prospered, and brought new communications services to the people of Dunkirk and Fredonia.

In addition to his work with DFT, Maytum also served as chairman of board of visitors of Fredonia Normal School and Teachers College from 1927 to 1953. He also served on the village board for several years and was president on several occasions. From 1931 to 1938, he served as supervisor for town of Pomfret. He was a member of the Fredonia Rotary, Masons, and Odd Fellows. He received the Fredonia State University (now SUNY Fredonia) College Alumni Association Award of Merit in 1942.

Maytum died on October 7, 1953. In 1968, the administration building at SUNY Fredonia was named in his honor (Maytum Hall). To this day, the DFT Company still serves the residents of Dunkirk, Fredonia, and surrounding areas.

[Audio file](#)

ALOYSIUS A. & RICHARD J. LUTZ

Born in 1903, **Aloysius A. Lutz** grew up near the shores of Lake Erie in a Polish neighborhood of Dunkirk. One of eight children, he was born in the early years of the 20th century and grew up hearing stories of immigration to America from his grandparents. During the Great Depression, he promoted amateur boxing in Dunkirk, and later worked in Dunkirk industries.



In the 1940s, Aloysius retold stories he heard as a boy to his own son, **Richard J. Lutz**. In the 1950s he began writing a fictionalized historic account of Polish immigration entitled *Jadwiga's Crossing* but died in 1966 before completing it.

Richard worked in commercial and public radio and television in Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin before moving to New York City as a digital technology and mass communications consultant. He holds degrees from The University of Michigan, where he was also a journalist in residence in 1978-79.

As a fellow at University of Michigan, Richard completed his father's work after further research. *Jadwiga's Crossing* was released in 2006. One contemporary author said the book "is a must-read not only for Polish-Americans, but for all readers who are interested in learning about the challenges and joys of the trans-Atlantic crossing made by millions of European immigrants in the late nineteenth century."

In retirement, Richard edits and publishes The Main Street WIRE, the fortnightly community newspaper serving Roosevelt Island in the City of New York. He also is working on completing *Jadwiga's America*, the sequel to *Jadwiga's Crossing*.

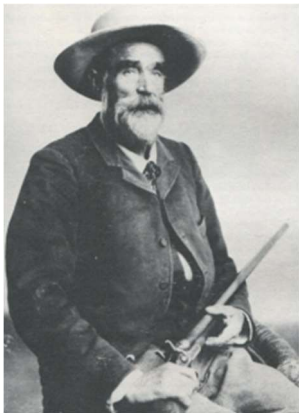
Ref: Photo of Richard (upper left) and Aloysius Lutz. [Audio file](#)

TOM JEFFORDS

Thomas Jonathan Jeffords was born January 1, 1832, in the town of Chautauqua. Jeffords grew to be a tall, quiet, red-haired man and in 1862, he arrived in Arizona while serving as a scout for the U.S. Army.

A year prior to his arrival, warfare between the Army and group of Apaches had begun, when Cochise, one of their chiefs, was accused of kidnapping an 11-year-old white boy from a nearby ranch. Cochise came forward under a flag of truce to declare his innocence, but the Army chose not to believe him and tried to place him under arrest. Cochise escaped, but six men who had accompanied him were held and then hanged.

Jeffords was the superintendent of a mail line that later became part of the famous Pony Express system. After some of his mail riders were killed by Apache raiding parties, he rode alone into the camp of Cochise to parley. This bravery so impressed the chief that he became friend and blood brother to Jeffords, granting his mail riders safe passage.



President Ulysses S Grant sent General Oliver Howard to the Arizona Territory in 1871 with orders to end the Apache Wars by negotiating treaties with the tribes. Howard enlisted the help of Jeffords in concluding these treaties. A treaty was signed in 1872, ending the decade-long war. Among other terms, Cochise requested that Jeffords be made Indian agent for the region. Cochise died a year later of natural causes.

However, certain white residents disapproved of the arrangement because it denied them access to the copper and silver that had been discovered on Apache lands. They branded Jeffords "Indian lover" and wrote scathing reports to politicians back in Washington. In 1875 he was removed as the federal agent and Cochise's Apache tribe was relocated to the San Carlos Reservation. The Indian wars began again but were ended in 1918 in Arizona with the Battle of Bear Valley.

Jeffords became a stagecoach driver, a deputy sheriff of Tombstone, AZ, and finally a gold prospector. He lived out the last 22 years of his life in the Tortolita Mountains north of Tucson, AZ. He died on February 21, 1914, and was buried in Tucson's Evergreen Cemetery.

The story of Tom Jeffords, General Howard, Cochise, and the Apache wars was told in historically based but dramatized form in a novel entitled *Broken Arrow* by Elliott Arnold. It was adapted into a 1950 film starring Jimmy Stewart. A 1956 television show ran for 72 episodes based on the same story. [Audio file](#)

BRAD RENDELL

When it comes to Chautauqua County track legends, it's hard to beat the accomplishments of **Brad Rendell**. Rendell was born in 1918 and attended the Falconer school district.

During his time at Falconer, Rendell became a track standout where his time of 4:28.1 in the mile was a county record for 37 years. His sectional record in the mile stood for 30 years. In 1936 he was awarded the Governor Roy Smith trophy for the world high school record in the Schoolboy Olympics in Albany. His time was 4:22.4. He also held the unofficial world's record for five-mile cross country at Cato with a time of 23.35.



After graduating from high school, Rendell went on to run track at Alfred State. In 1939 he was the fourth fastest two-miler in the U.S. which qualified for the Princeton Invitational Track & Field Meet. Rendell broke the cross-country record at West Point when Alfred beat Army in 1939. As co-captain at Alfred he was fourth and fifth in the collegiate cross-country championships.

He won the 1500-meter steeplechase at the 1939 Penn Relays and was selected to run that event for the U.S. in the 1940 Olympics. Unfortunately, the games were cancelled when the war with Finland and Russia began. During his track career, Rendell also ran 17 times at Madison Square Garden by invitation.

Rendell taught at Panama Central School for one year and started the track team in 1946. He served on the Panama Central School board of education for eight years. He was co-owner of B&B Fur and Fox Ranch in Ashville. He was also vice president of the Western New York Fur Harvesters.

In 1965 Rendell was awarded the All-American status from the National Collegiate Cross Country Coaches Association. He was inducted into the Alfred State Athletics Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1982. He died in 2002. [Audio file](#)

GEORGE F. ABBOTT

George Francis Abbott was born June 25, 1887, in Forestville. While growing up, his family moved to nearby Salamanca and residents twice elected his father mayor. In 1898, his family moved to Cheyenne, WY, but later returned to western New York, where he graduated from Hamburg High School in 1907. Four years later, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Rochester, where he wrote his first play, "Perfectly Harmless," for the University Dramatic Club.

Following Rochester, Abbott went on to Harvard University, where he studied playwriting under George Pierce Baker. Under his tutelage, he wrote "The Head of the Family," which was performed at the Harvard Dramatic Club in 1912. He then worked for a year as assistant stage manager at the Bijou Theatre in Boston, where his play "The Man in the Manhole" won a contest.

While acting in several plays in New York City, he began to write. His first successful play was "The Fall Guy," opening in 1925. Abbott acquired a reputation as an astute "show doctor." He frequently was called upon to supervise changes when a show was having difficulties in tryouts or previews prior to its Broadway opening. His first great hit was "Broadway," written and directed in partnership with Philip Dunning. It opened on September 16, 1926, at the Broadhurst Theatre and ran for 603 performances. Other successes followed, and it was a rare year that did not have an Abbott production on Broadway.



Some of his most popular works include "Damn Yankees," "The Pajama Game," and "Broadway." Among those who crossed paths with Abbott early in their careers were Desi Arnaz, Leonard Bernstein, and Liza Minnelli.

Abbott died of a stroke on January 31, 1995, in Miami Beach at age 107. Even a week and a half before his death he was dictating revisions to the second act of “Pajama Game” with a revival in mind. Among numerous honors, New York’s “George Abbott Way,” the section of West 45th Street northwest of Times Square, is named after him. [Audio file](#)

HENRY C. FRISBEE

Henry C. Frisbee was born in Essex County, NY in March 1801. He came to Fredonia in 1817, with the rest of his family. But when his father died just a few months after arriving, the entire family returned east, except for 17-year-old Henry, who stayed behind.

Having some knowledge of typesetting, Frisbee began working in the printing office of James Hull, publisher of the *Chautauqua Gazette*. After about two years, he attended school and worked evenings to pay for his board. After six months he returned to Hull but was informed that his services were no longer needed. Young Henry felt this was unfair, and he worked to start a paper in opposition to the *Chautauqua Gazette*.



In March 1821, he purchased a printing press and type in Buffalo and brought it to Fredonia. The first number of his paper, the *New York Censor* — afterwards, changed to *Fredonia Censor* — was issued February 8, 1822. For 17 years Frisbee worked on the paper both as compositor and editor. In 1838 it was taken over by E. Winchester, and was published by him two years, and by R. Cunningham one year. In 1841, the *Censor* was bought by Willard McKinstry.

In addition to his work with the newspaper, Frisbee was also engaged in the bookselling and bookbinding business. When Fredonia was incorporated in 1829, Frisbee was elected village clerk. He was also chosen by the people of the county to represent them in the legislature of 1845. He died November 9, 1873, at the age of 72.

Ref: Chautauqua County Bicentennial Seal. [Audio file](#)

ADOLPHUS FLETCHER

Adolphus Fletcher was born in Croydon, NH on September 3, 1796, but his early years were spent in Massachusetts. There, Fletcher served as an apprentice for the *Massachusetts Spy*, established by Isaiah Thomas prior to the American Revolution. As a young adult, Fletcher married Sarah Stow, of Worcester, MA.



In 1818, Fletcher accompanied his father’s family to Ashville. where an elder brother and a sister had already settled. Fletcher was engaged at farming, keeping a tavern and a store. At the request of friends at Jamestown, he moved there in 1824 and established the *Jamestown Journal*, which began printing in 1826.

Fletcher published the *Journal* for about 20 years, and then sold out to his son, John W. Fletcher. He subsequently became proprietor of the *Northern Citizen*, a paper that grew out of the free-soil movement in 1848. He afterwards transferred the press and materials to the gentlemen who started the *Chautauqua Democrat*, and became interested in its publication, but took no part in its editorial management.

For the remainder of his life, Fletcher assisted with various other publications as well, but he will always be remembered as the founder of Jamestown’s oldest newspaper, *The Jamestown Journal*. It merged with the *Jamestown Evening Journal* in 1941 to become the *Jamestown Post-Journal*.

Fletcher died April 4, 1866, in Jamestown. [Audio file](#)

SAMUEL S. WHALLON

Samuel S. Whallon was born in Washington County, NY, on April 20, 1804. At the age of eight, he came with his parents to Mayville, where would remain the rest of his life.

Whallon took advantage of the education provided by the early schools of the time. Combined with good sense and correct principles, he commenced an active career as a young adult and attained a high and an honorable position.

In 1834, Whallon partnered with two other men to establish the Mayville Sentinel newspaper. About year after its establishment, it was sold. Whallon took up several offices in the Town of Chautauqua from a young age onward. He also commenced his mercantile career as a clerk, became a partner, and at length sole owner of the establishment in which he first engaged.

In 1855, Whallon was elected to the State Assembly and in the fall of 1856, he was elected canal commissioner, a position he held until the time of his death in Erie, PA on July 6, 1858. [Audio file](#)

MARTIN RICE

Martin Rice was born in 1827 in St. Lawrence County, NY, the son of Calvin Rice. He came to Chautauqua County in 1832 with his family, who settled in Westfield on Westfield Hill. Rice received a local education and went on to become a well-known attorney in the area.

In 1855, Rice helped to establish the *Westfield Republican*, the first Republican newspaper in the country. It commenced about the time of the national convention at Pittsburgh, in that year, at which meeting measures were taken which resulted in the organization of the party. The first issue was printed on April 25, 1855 and was funded with the support of George W. Patterson, William H. Seward, Alvin Plumb and Austin Smith. Rice also served as editor. The circulation was about 1,000 copies.

Among the events covered by Rice during his 18-year tenure as editor of the *Westfield Republican* was the 1861 visit to Westfield by president-elect Abraham Lincoln. It was during this visit that Lincoln met Grace Bedell and Rice was the one who provided the detailed write-up in the *Westfield Republican*.

Martin continued to serve as editor of the *Republican* until 1873, when it was passed to Frank Hall. [Audio file](#)

JULIEN T. WILLIAMS

Dr. Julien T. Williams was born in Dunkirk on November 15, 1828, the son of Dr. Ezra Williams who had arrived in the area from Oneida County in 1822. Williams was brought up in the area and was well educated, eventually receiving a law degree and becoming a practicing attorney.

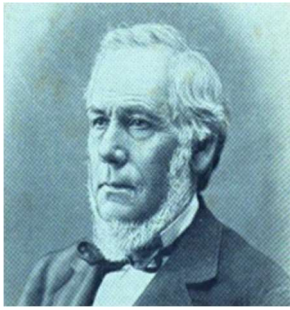
In addition to his legal profession, Williams also served for several terms in the State Assembly and was considered a close friend of Governor Reuben Fenton, Roscoe Conkling, and many others of that time. Williams was also active in the Dunkirk community, serving on the board of education for many years.

In 1882, Williams entered the publishing business and established the *Dunkirk Evening Observer*, which went into print on December 4, 1882. He continued to serve as editor-in-chief of the paper up until shortly before his death on April 10, 1905.

After his death, Williams's son, Henry Kirk Williams, took over as president of the Dunkirk Printing Company. The company continued to print the *Observer*, as well as the semi-weekly *Grape Belt* newspaper. [Audio file](#)

WILLARD MCKINSTRY

The McKinstry family had a history of publishing in Chautauqua County that stretched for more than 60 years.



The senior **Willard McKinstry** was born in Chicopee, MA on May 9, 1815. Willard lived on the farm until his apprenticeship with a local printer got underway. He continued to work in various printing jobs through the 1930s, including working for the publishers of *Webster's Dictionary*.

In November 1839 McKinstry came to Mayville and worked a year at the *Mayville Sentinel*. He also spent six months at the *Erie Observer*. In 1842, He then purchased the *Fredonia Censor* and stayed on as publisher until the 1880s. He also served as postmaster in 1863 and 1867.

McKinstry was married in 1843 to Maria Durlin of Fredonia. Together they had four children, including Louis McKinstry, who became a partner in the publication of the *Censor* in 1867. His other son, Willard D. McKinstry, learned the printing business in the office of the *Fredonia Censor*. In 1872 he purchased the *Dunkirk Journal*, remaining there until 1884. He then moved to Watertown, NY to serve as news editor of the *Watertown Times* before eventually becoming its editor.

The elder Willard McKinstry died on January 27, 1899.

Ref: Further reading: "Selections of editorial miscellanies and letters," *Fredonia Censor*. [Audio file](#)

ALMET & SHELDON BROADHEAD

Sheldon Brady Broadhead was born August 24, 1846 to William and Lucy Cobb Broadhead. In January 1851 his younger brother, **Almet Norval Broadhead**, was born. Together the two would not only help to continue their father's legacy as one of the leading businessmen and industrialists in Chautauqua County, but they also established their own individual legacies along the way.

The two sons first became engaged as business partners with their father when they helped him operate the William Broadhead & Sons clothing store in Jamestown. Later, they would also form the Broadhead Worsted Mill on East First St. They later acquired the Hall's Mill on Harrison St., which then became the Jamestown Worsted Mills.

While Sheldon helped to manage the family's large Worsted Mills operation, Almet focused his attention on transportation, buying the Jamestown Street Railway in 1890 and converting horse-drawn cars to electric trolleys. He also purchased the Chautauqua Lake Navigation Company, which operated one of the fleets of lake steamers on Chautauqua Lake. He further promoted access to the lake by building the Chautauqua Traction Company in 1904, which ran on the west side of the lake connecting Jamestown with Westfield. He later purchased the Jamestown, Westfield and Northwestern Railway Company in 1913.



SHELDON B. BROADHEAD, Comp. Photo

To help promote the use of his trolley lines, Almet also acquired Celoron Park and established the Midway Amusement Park in Maple Springs (Town of Ellery). In West Ellicott he built what was then the largest greenhouse in the nation, the Lake View Rose Gardens. The Broadheads' Jamestown Shale Paving Company furnished bricks for many Jamestown streets.

Throughout their lives in Jamestown, the Broadhead brothers were also very active in various civic capacities and were well respected by all men they did business with. Almet died on May 5, 1925, and his older brother Sheldon died less than four months later on August 24.

Ref: Image courtesy of "*The Illustrated History of Jamestown*" by Vernelle A. Hatch (1900). [Audio file](#)

WARREN PACKARD

Warren Packard wasn't born in Chautauqua County, but his presence in the area left an indelible mark on southern Chautauqua County. Packard was born in Austintown, OH in 1828. His father, William, brought the family to Lordstown, OH in 1834 and became its first postmaster.

At the age of 18, Packard moved to Warren, OH, carrying everything he owned in a cotton handkerchief. A relative helped him get a job with an iron and hardware business in Warren. Packard continued to work in the store until 1851 when he established the Warren Packard Company.



Packard married his first wife, Sylvia Camp, in 1852 and the couple had two sons, both dying at a young age. In 1856, Sylvia died of illness as well. In the years that followed his wife's death, Packard's iron and hardware businesses continued to grow so that by 1863 he was the owner and operator of the largest iron and hardware business between Pittsburgh and Cleveland.

Packard remarried in 1856, this time to Mary E. Doud, and the couple had five children together, including James W. Packard, founder of the Packard Motor Car Company.

In 1861, Packard founded a lumber business that eventually expanded operations into western Pennsylvania and New York, adding that the company supplied much of the lumber used in building the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad.

In the mid-1870s Packard, along with his brother John, came to what was then called "Lakeview" on Chautauqua Lake and purchased the Lakeview House (formerly the Cowing House). On their lakefront property, which they called the Lakeview Tract, the two brothers built Gothic style summer cottages for rental purposes. Warren also built his own villa near the hotel. By 1879, their adopted summer community had changed its name to "Lakewood."

The Packard family continued to spend time in Lakewood each summer throughout the remainder of the 19th century. Warren Packard died on July 28, 1897, but even afterward, his son James would return to the community.

The fortune that was made in the automobile and electrical business by the Packards was shared with their summer community by liberal philanthropic donations, including such worthy causes as the school and Lakewood Fire Department.

Ref: Image from "History of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, Ohio, Volume 2" by Joseph Green Butler (1921).

[Audio file](#)

ROBERT ALEXANDER CARTER

Robert Alexander Carter, also known as "Ellick" Carter, was an African American born into slavery in Oxford, MD on March 6, 1838. Not much is known about Carter's early childhood, only that at some point prior to 1860 he found his way to the north side of Jamestown and lived with other African American residents in the part of the community known as "Africa."

In the decades following the Civil War, the "Gaslight Era" began in Jamestown and several gas streetlights began to appear throughout the community. Carter was hired as the city lamplighter and he became a familiar figure as he helped to make the streets at night take on a warm, friendly glow. He rode a small brown horse in his work, and upon arriving at a lamp post, stood up on the patient animals back to reach the lamp.

Carter became a well-respected citizen and homeowner in Jamestown, living at 626 Spring Street in the city. He even owned 10 acres of land and the property was referred to as "Carter's Woods" by the locals who lived in the area. Carter died at his home on June 6, 1892, at the age of 54. He was buried in Lakeview Cemetery.

Today he is still fondly remembered as Jamestown's Lamplighter and a photo of him can be found on display at the Fenton History Center in Jamestown.

Ref: Karen Livsey, Town of Ellicott Historian; "The Conquest of Chautauqua" by Arthur Wellington Anderson; The Lakeview Cemetery Association. [Audio file](#)

MARION & THOMAS SKIDMORE

Dr. Jeremiah F. Carter of Pomfret had been a member of a society of spiritualists since 1850 and the group would regularly hold grove meetings and picnics in the area. In 1873 the group began meetings on a piece of property on Cassadaga Lake owned by fellow member Willard Alden. From 1873 to 1877 a one-day meeting was held each year and was known by the organizers as the "June Picnic."

In 1878, Dr. Carter believed spirit voices had requested he go to Alden's property and start a camp meeting there, complete with guest speakers from throughout the U.S. It was decided to hold the camp from September 11-16, and thus the first spiritual assembly on Cassadaga Lake took place.

Similar meetings continued until 1879 when Alden died. To ensure the meetings would continue, a board of trustees was established, and the organization became known as the "Cassadaga Lake Free Association." Among the founding members was Thomas J. Skidmore of Laona, NY.

Soon, cottages began being constructed on the grounds, along with a hotel to accommodate seasonal guests. The camp of 1881 ran from August 6-28 and ended with just an \$8 shortage in funds. However, it appeared some of the financial pledges would not be made and the annual assembly would end. But Skidmore's wife, Marion Skidmore, made a generous donation in 1882 to ensure the assembly would continue. That year, it ran from June 10 until August 27 and enough money came in to ensure the assembly would continue the following year.

Thomas Skidmore became president of the Assembly in 1883 and throughout the rest of the decade the camp grew, with an auditorium, lyceum, and orchestra all becoming regular features. Under Skidmore's guidance, the assembly developed into a destination for spiritualists around the world.

Skidmore's wife, Marion, also played a crucial role during the "golden age" of the assembly. Among her accomplishments were the establishment of a library devoted to Spiritualism (later named in her honor) and incorporating other social issues onto the agenda, including women's suffrage. Susan B. Anthony made her first public appearance in 1891. Marion Skidmore also served for a time as president of the assembly.

The name of the assembly was changed to the City of Light Assembly in 1903 and to the Lily Dale Assembly in 1906. Today the camp's grounds, now 167 acres, remain a place of peace and renewal.

Ref: *The Historic Annals of Southwestern New York*, Vol. 1, Part II, Chapter XXVII. [Audio tour](#)

JOHN HEYL VINCENT

John Heyl Vincent was born in Tuscaloosa, AL on February 23, 1832. When he was six years old, his parents moved to Northumberland County, PA where he received his education, eventually attending Milton and Lewisburg academies. Both his parents were also firm believers in the Christian faith, which would have a strong influence on not only his upbringing but his entire adult life.



When Vincent was barely 18, he preached his first sermon and soon became licensed as a preacher. He began preaching in different communities throughout the Northeast. In 1863 he was transferred to Illinois and successively held pastorates in Joliet, Mount Morris, Galena, Rockford and Chicago, going to the latter pulpit in 1865.

Also in 1865, Dr. Vincent established the Northwestern Sunday School Quarterly. A year later he established the Sunday School Teacher. With these periodicals, Dr. Vincent began to emphasize the importance of instructing the youth of the church. While in charge of a congregation in Plainfield, NJ, Dr. Vincent began to formulate a plan to create a general assembly at which Sunday school teachers could meet and exchange ideas.

One of the first individuals to support Vincent's plan was Lewis Miller of Akron, OH. Together, the two organized the Chautauqua Assembly, a summer institute held at what was then known as Fair Point on Chautauqua Lake. The first assembly was held August 4-18, 1874. Out of this has grown the Chautauqua Institution.

Dr. Vincent was made a bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church in 1888. In 1890 he became resident bishop abroad. He resigned in 1904, but from time to time filled pulpits at several distinguished universities. After his retirement as chancellor of Chautauqua Institution, he was retained as chancellor emeritus and had a place on the Chautauqua program every season.

He also wrote several books, including *The Chautauqua Movement*, which laid out a clear and concise statement of the founders' plans and hopes for this great institution of popular education.

Bishop Vincent's only son, Dr. George E. Vincent, became an officer of Chautauqua Institution upon his graduation from Yale in 1885 and was president of the Institution from 1907-1915.

Bishop Vincent died on May 9, 1920, in Chicago at the age of 88. [Audio file](#)

LEWIS MILLER

Lewis Miller was born in Greentown, OH on July 24, 1829. During his adult life, he grew to become a successful and well-respected Ohio businessman. His greatest business success was the invention of the first combine with the blade mounted efficiently in front of the driver, rather than pulled behind. The equipment resulted in more efficient farming and its use was widely seen throughout the U.S.

Miller was devoutly religious and devoted much of his wealth to charitable causes associated with the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was the inventor of the "Akron Plan" for Sunday schools, a building layout with a central assembly hall surrounded by small classrooms. Miller conceived the configuration with the help of Methodist minister John Heyl Vincent and architect Jacob Snyder.



In 1874, interested in improving the training of Sunday school teachers for the “Uniform Lesson Plan” he had developed with Vincent, the two worked together again to found what is now the Chautauqua Institution on the shores of Chautauqua Lake. Soon, the Chautauqua Assembly developed into an eight-week summer program. Half revival meeting and half recreation camp, Chautauqua drew thousands of participants each year.

Miller also designed a chalet-type cottage, which was the first permanent cottage in Chautauqua. Unfortunately, his son, Theodore Miller, was killed in action on San Juan Hill while serving with Colonel Theodore Roosevelt in the Spanish American War. His daughter Mina Miller married fellow Ohio inventor Thomas Edison on Christmas Day 1886.

Miller died in 1899 of kidney disease and was buried in Glendale Cemetery in Akron, OH. [Audio file](#)

ARTHUR BESTOR

Arthur Eugene Bestor was born May 19, 1879, in Dixon IL, the son of Orson and Laura Bestor. He attended school in Illinois and, at the age of 22, he graduated from the University of Chicago. From 1901 to 1903, Bestor served as a professor of history and political science at Franklin College in Indiana and was a noted political science lecturer.



In 1905, Bestor became assistant general director at Chautauqua Institution and in 1907 he was named director, which he served as for eight years. In 1915, Bestor became president the Institution and would continue to serve in that capacity for the remainder of his life.

Almost immediately after his presidency began, he became a national force for adult education. Under his 25-year administration, the Institution grew from an assembly for teachers and ministers with modest facilities to a wide-ranging summer program with a symphony orchestra, an opera company, a resident theater company, and celebrated lecturers.

Bestor was married to Jeanette Lemon, and their three children who survived to adulthood were Arthur E. Bestor, Jr., Mary Frances Bestor Cram, and Charles Lemon Bestor. Arthur Jr. became an important critic of American educational practices. Mary Francis was a leader of lay organizations in the American Baptist Church and the Young Women’s Christian Association. Charles became a composer of contemporary classical music and a music educator.

Arthur Bestor died on February 3, 1944, while still serving as president of Chautauqua Institution.

Ref: Photo, provided by the Chautauqua Institution, of Arthur E. Bestor welcoming Amelia Earhart during her 1929 visit when she landed on the 14th fairway. [Audio file](#)

EMILY MULKIN BISHOP



Emily Montague Mulkin was born in Forestville, on November 3, 1858. After leaving school she taught four years, serving as assistant principal of the union school in Silver Creek, NY.

At some point during her time in Silver Creek, Mulkin became interested in the Delsarte style of acting and public speaking, made famous by the French musician and teacher Francois Delsarte. The system relies on outer movements being related to inner states, motion to emotion. Mulkin left Silver Creek and spent several years of her life studying the Delsarte system in various cities.

In 1884, Mulkin became the wife of Coleman E. Bishop, editor of *The Judge* in New York. They soon went to Black Hills, SD to live. Mrs. Bishop was elected superintendent of public schools in Rapid City, SD, being the first woman thus honored in the territory.

In the late 1880s Mrs. Bishop was invited to establish a Delsarte department in the Chautauqua School of Physical Education, in the Chautauqua Assembly. In 1891 it was the largest single department in the assembly.

A large public work in lecturing and teaching grew out of Bishop's work at Chautauqua. She wrote several articles for various magazines and published one book, *Americanized Delsarte Culture*. She lived in Washington D.C. until her death in 1916. [Audio file](#)

ALPHEUS HODGES

Corporal Alpheus Hodges was born May 4, 1843, in Crawford County, PA to James and Lucinda Hodges. His mother died when he was 11 months old, and Alpheus spent his first 10 years with his grandparents in Waterford. Meanwhile, his father had remarried in 1845 and moved to a farm near Ashville. In 1853 Alpheus joined the family.

At the age of 18 and at the start of the Civil War, Alpheus enlisted in the 9th New York Cavalry, Company F, at the regiment's formation on September 20, 1861, in Ashville. He was appointed corporal in his company on September 26, 1862.

In 1863 Hodges was put in charge of an advanced picket post in Gettysburg, PA. On the morning of July 1, 1863 – along with three other troopers of his company – Hodges claimed to have been fired upon by advancing Confederates. He retired to a bridge where, from behind its stone abutments, he fired several shots at the advancing enemy. This exchange of shots is believed to be the first shots fired at the Battle of Gettysburg, although there are some accounts which dispute this claim.

Hodges is reported to have done "distinguished service" throughout the remainder of the battle. On August 1, 1863, during the fighting near Brandy Station, Hodges' horse was shot out from under him. Hodges suffered a broken ankle, and he was taken prisoner. Since his ankle was never properly set, it caused him to limp the rest of his life. Hodges was released in a general exchange of prisoners in March 1864, and returned to the regiment until mustered out on October 29, 1864, in Middletown VA.

After he was mustered out, Hodges returned to his family farm near Ashville. But shortly after the war, Hodges moved to Topeka, KS, where he worked on several ranches as a ranch hand. On March 6, 1873, he married Lucy Althea and they had six children, two of whom died in infancy.

A few years later, the Hodgeses moved to Westfield NY, where the 9th New York Cavalry had been raised, and in 1907 they moved to East Rochester. Hodges worked for the Merchants Dispatch Transportation Company for about 10 years, retiring in 1921. Hodges developed heart problems and died at his home on August 1, 1922.

Ref: "Faded Hoofbeats - Cpl. Alpheus Hodges, 9th NY Cavalry" by J. David Petrucci. [Audio file](#)

REUBEN FENTON

Reuben E. Fenton was born in the Town of Carroll on July 4, 1819. He was the youngest son of George W. Fenton, an early settler in the region. Fenton went to school in a local schoolhouse in Carroll and at the age 15 he left to attend school near Cincinnati. Two years later he returned and finished his education at the Fredonia Academy and spent two years as a student at the law office of the Waite brothers in Jamestown.

As a young adult, Fenton left his studies due to ill health and embarked on the lumber trade in southeastern Chautauqua County, in which he was successful. In 1840 he was elected a colonel of the New York State Militia.



He got his start in politics running for and winning the seat of Carroll town supervisor, which he held from 1846 to 1852. In 1852, Fenton was elected to Congress as a Democrat. In his first term in Congress, he strongly opposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, a leading measure of his party. Fenton unsuccessfully tried to persuade President Franklin Pierce to oppose the bill, and as a result cooperated with the Republican party. He lost reelection in 1854 but was again elected in 1856 and served four consecutive terms.

In 1864 Fenton ran for and won the office of New York State Governor. He was reelected in 1866. Fenton was known as “The Soldiers’ Friend” for his efforts to help returning Civil War veterans. Fenton worked to remove tuition charges for public education, helped to establish six schools for training teachers, and signed the charter for Cornell University.

In 1868, he was among the candidates for vice president, but the nomination went eventually to Schuyler Colfax. In January 1869, Fenton was elected a U.S. Senator from New York and served from 1869 to 1875. Fenton died on August 25, 1885. His body was interred at the Lakeview Cemetery in Jamestown.

After his death, a building at the State University of New York at Fredonia, Fenton Hall, was named in his honor because he had attended the previous incarnation of the school, the Fredonia Academy. His former home in Jamestown is the site of the Fenton History Center. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. [Audio file](#)

THOMAS HORAN

Thomas Horan was born in Dunkirk in 1839. Not much is known about his early life, only that he remained in the area until becoming an adult. At the age of about 21, following the start of the Civil War, Horan enlisted in the Union Army on May 28, 1861, and was attached to company E., 72nd New York Infantry.

Horan served in the Union army for the next two years, eventually being promoted to rank of sergeant. On July 2, 1863, he and the rest of his company was present during the Battle of Gettysburg. During the fighting, Horan bravely led his regiment of Union soldiers in pushing back a group of Confederates from Florida and Horan himself captured the regimental flag of the 8th Florida Volunteer Infantry. For his conduct and bravery in battle, he was later awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Horan continued to serve in the Union Army for much of the remainder of the war and was wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness on May 27, 1864. Following the war, he returned home and lived in Dunkirk the remainder of his life, dying on January 4, 1902, at the age of 62.

A plaque in his memory was dedicated on May 27, 1979, in Dunkirk. It can be found on the back of the city’s Civil War monument that stands in Washington Park. [Audio file](#)

ALONZO CUSHING

Alonzo Hersford Cushing was born January 19, 1841, in what is now the city of Delafield, WS. At the age of six his family came to Fredonia, where his grandfather, Zattu Cushing, was the first permanent settler.

Cushing graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in the class of June 1861 and became active in the Civil War. In July 1863 Cushing commanded Battery A, 4th U.S. Artillery at Gettysburg, and was hailed by contemporaries as heroic in his actions on the third day of the battle.



On July 3, the third day of the battle, Cushing was wounded three times. First, a shell fragment went straight through his shoulder. He was then hit by a shell fragment, which tore into his abdomen and groin. Despite being grievously wounded, Cushing continued to command his battery due to the limited number of men left. Because he could not shout over the sounds of the battlefield, he was held aloft by his 1st Sergeant, who faithfully passed on his commands. Cushing was killed when a bullet struck his head at the height of the assault. He was 22 years old.

Following his death, Cushing was posthumously promoted to first lieutenant and his body was interred in the West Point Cemetery. His headstone bears the inscription "Faithful unto Death."

In May 2010 – 147 years after his death – Cushing was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. [Audio file](#)

WILLIAM B. CUSHING

William Barker Cushing was born November 4, 1842, in Delafield, WS. At the age of five his family came to Fredonia, where his grandfather, Zattu Cushing, was the first permanent settler. He was the youngest of four brothers, the second youngest being Alonzo Cushing, who lost his life in the Battle of Gettysburg.

Cushing was raised in Fredonia and attended school at the U.S. Naval Academy. However, he was expelled for pranks and poor scholarship. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he pled his case to U.S. Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles and was reinstated and went on to acquire a distinguished record, frequently volunteering for the most hazardous missions. His heroism, good luck, and coolness under fire were legendary.



What defined Cushing's military career was his daring plan and its successful execution to destroy the Confederacy's ironclad ram CSS Albemarle. The powerful ironclad dominated the Roanoke River through much of the war and by the summer of 1864 the U. S. government decided that something should be done to either capture or destroy it. On the night of October 28, 1864, Cushing and a group of 14 men made their way upriver and were able to detonate an explosive charge, sinking the vessel. Only Cushing and one other man in his group were able to escape.

After the war Cushing continued to serve in the Navy and eventually earned the rank of captain. While he was on leave at home in Fredonia, Cushing met Katherine Louise Forbes and the two eventually married and had two daughters.

Cushing suffered from severe back pain the remainder of his service in the Navy, and it's believed it may have been caused during the sinking of the Albemarle. His health deteriorated so that by December 8, 1874, it became impossible to care for him at home and he was removed to the Government Hospital for the Insane. Commander Cushing died on December 17, 1874, and was buried on January 8, 1875, at the U.S. Naval Academy Cemetery in Annapolis, MD.

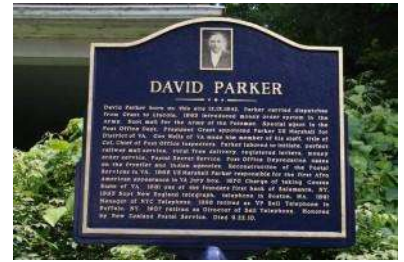
Five ships in the U.S. Navy have been named USS Cushing after him, the last one was decommissioned in September 2005. A memorial to the commander hangs in Memorial Hall at the US Naval Academy at Annapolis. In the hall hangs a portrait of Commander Cushing in full dress uniform. Nearly all the other portraits in the hall are of admirals. [Audio file](#)

DAVID B. PARKER

David Bigelow Parker was born in Ashville in 1842. He was raised in the area and like many men his age, Parker enlisted in the Union Army at the start of the Civil War, joining the 72nd New York State Volunteers. It is said that Parker felt a sense of duty to the North, largely because he was a strong supporter of President Abraham Lincoln.

In 1864, he met General Ulysses S. Grant at an officers' meeting. There, General Grant outlined his entire campaign plan to Lieutenant Parker and asked him to arrange for the delivery of military mail. As a result, Parker began to personally carry dispatches directly from General Grant to President Lincoln.

In addition to serving as a message courier between General Grant and President Lincoln, Parker was also asked to devise a system to pay soldiers serving in the Army of the Potomac. Grant wanted to pay his soldiers before sending them to battle, but it was difficult to do so by providing them money in the field. Parker created a money order system that allowed the payments to be mailed directly to the soldier's families. The money order system worked so well that it continued to be used after the war.



Following the Civil War, Parker became U.S. Marshal for Washington D.C., appointed directly by Abraham Lincoln. Later he became the Chief Postal Inspector for the U.S. Post Office, during which time he developed the railway mail service, rural free delivery, and registered letters.

Parker eventually returned to western New York and became one of the founders of First Bank of Salamanca in 1883. He then headed to Boston to serve as superintendent of the New England Telegraph and Telephone Companies. Later he was manager of the New York City Telephone Co. By the end of the 19th century, he was back in western New York working for the Bell Telephone Company in Buffalo. He retired as company director in 1907.

Parker died September 22, 1910. A historic marker is located in front of his childhood home in Ashville, near the Ashville Library.

Ref: David Parker historical marker in Ashville, NY. [Audio file](#)

ALFREDA IRWIN

Alfreda Locke Irwin was born in Dunkirk on March 16, 1913, the daughter of Methodist minister Rev. Alfred C. and Nellie Hess Locke. She graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1933, with a degree in English and journalism, and continued as an English graduate assistant in 1934. In October 1935 she married attorney Forest B. Irwin and settled in Franklin, PA to raise their family of one son and five daughters.



Alfreda's career as a writer and journalist began in Franklin, where she served as a staff writer for the *Franklin News-Herald*. She also hosted a children's radio program entitled "Aunt Mae's Story Hour," which aired in front of a live audience Saturday mornings from 1959 to 1963. She also appeared as a guest storyteller on "Dimple Depot" on WQED-TV in Pittsburgh and she also visited many schools and children's groups as a storyteller.

Alfreda and her family began spending their summers at the Chautauqua Institution in 1955. She became a reporter for the *Chautauqua Daily* in 1958, assistant editor in 1959, and editor in 1966. During her time as editor, she introduced several new features.

Alfreda retired from her post as editor in 1981 and was named editor emeritus and Chautauqua's official historian, a post she held until 1999. As an historian, Alfreda wrote *Three Taps of the Gavel* in 1970, with a second edition published in 1977 and a third edition in 1987, titled *Three Taps of the Gavel: Pledge to the Future* and considered the standard, modern introduction to Chautauqua.

Upon retirement she was named historian emeritus and honored by the renaming of the Chautauqua archives to the Alfreda Locke Irwin Archives. Alfreda Locke Irwin died January 22, 2000.

Ref: “Remembering Alfreda” by B. Dolores Thompson. Photo: *Jamestown Post-Journal*. [Audio file](#)

FORREST CRISSEY

Forrest Crissey was born June 1, 1864, in Stockton. In 1877, at the age of 13, his family moved west to Illinois and settled in McHenry County. There, Crissey completed high school and went to work. Among his early jobs was as a bookkeeper to a local bank and in the office of a local lumberyard. Crissey married Kate Shurtleff, the daughter of the lumberyard’s owner, in July 1882.

It is said Crissey had a gift for writing from an early age. At the time of his marriage, Crissey was employed as a country correspondent for the *Chicago Times*, and in 1884, at the age of 20, his first work of short fiction was published in a Boston-based magazine. He soon found work as the editor of a weekly newspaper, *The Patrol*, printed in Geneva, IL. In his spare time, he also continued to write fiction.



Before long, Crissey attracted the attention of several editors in nearby Chicago, and he again began to accept assignments from several newspapers, including the *Chicago Times*. By 1906, he had become a regular feature writer for the *Saturday Evening Post* and continued to contribute articles until 1934. He also traveled extensively, writing for several major magazines, but his home always remained in Geneva.

In addition to his work as a journalist, Crissey wrote several fictional books. His first book, *The Country Boy*, was a popular children’s book published in 1897. His most famous work was *Tattlings of a Retired Politician*, a 1904 book which entails the humorous but fictional letters of William Bradley.

Crissey died the morning of November 5, 1943, in Geneva, IL. The street on which he lived in Geneva was renamed Crissey Street in his honor.

Ref: “Famous Author Called Geneva Home” by Kelly Nowak; Wikipedia. Photo: Geneva History Center, Geneva, IL. [Audio file](#)

CHARLES WEBSTER

Charles L. Webster was born in the Town of Charlotte in 1852, but when he was still quite young his family moved to Fredonia. There, he received his education, graduating from the normal school.

After graduation Webster chose the profession of civil engineer and met with marked success in that line. While engaged in an engineering project in the west, he formed the acquaintance of General Ulysses S. Grant, and they became firm friends.



Webster’s fate would take a turn in 1875, when he met and married Annie Moffett, the daughter of Pamela Clemens Moffett and niece to Mark Twain. Soon after, he formed a partnership with Twain and established the publishing company Charles L. Webster and Co. In 1881, he and his family moved to New York.

Webster’s publishing company not only printed the works of Mark Twain, but also several other notable individuals. When General Grant’s memoirs were ready for publication, he entrusted Webster with the publication. Also, while on a trip to India, Webster was knighted by Pope Leo, who conferred upon him the title of Pius. A few years later Webster’s company would publish the pope’s memoirs.

In 1887, Webster's health began to fail, and he developed severe headaches. As a result, he and his family moved back to Fredonia in 1888. It is said that the responsibility, fame, and fortune that accompanied working for the temperamental Twain may have caused the condition.

After Webster's partial recovery, Twain refused to allow him to return on the grounds of inefficiency and lack of management. Twain bought Webster out for much less than his share was worth and stopped speaking to him until Webster's death in 1891, which some say was self-inflicted because of his failed relationship with the author. Webster was 39 at the time of his death. His daughter, Jean Webster, went on to become a notable early 20th century author.

Ref: TwainQuotes.com - A Rare Interview with Charles Webster. [Audio file](#)

HOWARD EHMKE

Howard Ehmke was born in Silver Creek in 1894. He lived in the area throughout his formative years and played baseball for Silver Creek High School.

Ehmke began his Major League career in 1915 at the age of 20, pitching 18 games for the Buffalo Blues of the Federal League. The Detroit Tigers purchased Ehmke from the Blues in February 1916. After seeing limited action in 1916, Ehmke appeared in at least 30 games a year for the Tigers in five of the following six seasons. He delivered his first of several historic starts on August 8, 1920, when he shut out the New York Yankees 1-0. The game lasted just one hour, 13 minutes, making it one of the shortest games in American League history.



In October 1922, the Tigers traded Ehmke in a deal with the Boston Red Sox. He flourished in his first season in Boston, winning 20 games and pitching a no-hitter against the Philadelphia Athletics on September 7, 1923. In his very next game, he pitched a one-hitter against the Yankees.

In the middle of the 1926 campaign, the Red Sox traded Ehmke in a deal to the Athletics. By 1929 his number of starts had diminished, but the Athletics won the American league pennant and manager Connie Mack selected Ehmke as the surprise starter in Game 1 of the 1929 World Series against the Chicago Cubs. Ehmke responded with a complete game and struck out a then-World Series record 13 batters in a 3-1 victory. The A's eventually won the series in seven games.

Howard Ehmke retired from Major League Baseball after the 1930 season. His career record was 166-166 with 338 starts and 199 complete games. He also tallied 1030 strikeouts and finished with a career ERA of 3.75.

Following retirement, he operated a canvas fabricating business in partnership with his wife, Marguerite. He died in Philadelphia in 1959. [Audio file](#)

JOHN OWEN

When it comes to the longest-living member in our Bicentennial Biography series, no one did better than **John Owen**, who reportedly lived until the age of 107.

Owen was born in 1736 in Windsor, CT As a young man, he was a soldier for the English in the French and Indian War, taking part in the attack on Quebec in 1759. When America declared its independence from Great Britain, he served in colonial army in the Revolutionary War. Following the war, he settled in eastern Pennsylvania in an area near the Susquehanna River.



In about 1806 Owen came with his family to settle in Warren, PA. Within two years, they had moved up the Conewango River into an area that is now the town of Carroll, near the state line. In a short period of time, Owen built a tavern, and it was known as "Owen's Tavern" the remainder of his life. He used the building to house and entertain lumbermen and flat boat operators of the time. It also assisted those who were traveling between New York and Pennsylvania.

Owen is said to have been a good-natured man who enjoyed telling jokes and stories to any traveler who would listen. Many a night when his tavern was filled with weary raftsmen, they were kept awake till a late hour by his witty stories. He was married three times. His son Ira Owen was a distinguished member of the Chautauqua Militia, serving in the War of 1812.

Owen was a stranger to sickness, and it might be truly said that he "died of old age." He died in Carroll on February 6, 1843, at the age of 107.

Ref: *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY and its People* (1875). An illustration of a flat boat, like the types used to navigate local waters during the early settlement of Chautauqua County. [Audio file](#)

SI GOLDMAN

Simon Goldman was born January 18, 1913, in Carthage, NY, a small village in Jefferson County about 25 miles east of Watertown. Goldman attended local schools in the Carthage area and then attended Syracuse University, graduating with a degree in advertising in 1935.

Shortly after graduating, Goldman found work at WSYR Radio in Syracuse. In 1936, he was promoted to serve as the station's merchandising manager. Also in 1936, WSYR's owner, Colonel Wilder, purchased WJTN Radio in Jamestown and sent Goldman to Chautauqua County to serve as sales manager. By 1940, Goldman was appointed general manager of the station. He was just 27 years old.

In 1943 during World War II, Goldman enlisted in the Army and spent one and a half years with the Armed Forces. He served as a member of the Communications Division of the 12th Army Group and participated in several major battles, including the D-Day Invasion of Normandy.

Following the war, Goldman returned to Jamestown to resume his position as vice president and general manager of WJTN. In March 1955, he became president, general manager, and chief owner of the James Broadcasting Co. Over the next four decades, the company would grow to own several more stations in the Northeast, and Goldman became a well-known and well-respected pioneer in the industry. He was a leader in various national broadcasting organizations and chaired several committees.

Among his many honors, Goldman was the 1974 recipient of the National Conference of Christians and Jews Brotherhood Award. He was also named Outstanding Broadcaster of Western New York by the Buffalo Pioneers in 1998. In the 1990s Goldman spent his winters in Florida, but he never completely retired from James Broadcasting. During the months he lived in New York, he still went into work every morning. In early 1999, he was named to the millennium edition of *Who's Who in America*.

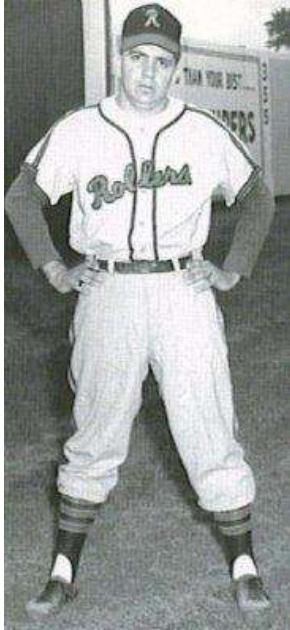
He died in May 1999 at the age of 86.

Ref: Andrew Hill, operations manager at Media One Radio Stations (WJTN/WWSE). [Audio file](#)

RUSS DIETRICK

Russ Diethrick was born in Patton, PA, and moved to Jamestown when he was five. He is a graduate of Jamestown High School where he played baseball for coach Al Ayers. After graduation he began work at Marlin Rockwell before becoming a part-time assistant to city recreation director Jim Sharp in 1958.

Diethrick became full-time recreation director after Sharp's retirement. The title was later changed to Jamestown Parks, Recreation and Conservation Director and entailed supervising about 20 youth baseball leagues, all recreational sports for boys and girls in the city and several adult programs.



In the 1970s he served as assistant general manager, with Eric Gougin, of the Jamestown Expos of the New York-Pennsylvania League and is a past director of the league. Diethrick was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1982.

Diethrick is a past district commissioner of the Amateur Softball Association of America, was tournament chairman for the Middle Atlantic Regional Babe Ruth Tournament and the first two 13-year-old Babe Ruth World Series which were held at College Stadium. He became a member of the National Babe Ruth Baseball Advisory Board in 1997.

On August 9, 1997, Diethrick was inducted into the Babe Ruth League Hall of Fame. That same day, it was also announced that college stadium where pro baseball has been played since 1941 would be renamed in Diethrick's honor. Diethrick has also been fondly referred to as Jamestown's "Mr. Baseball" for several years.

He has been the host president of five Babe Ruth World Series held in Jamestown, including the first ever 12 and Under Softball World Series in 1999.

In addition to his involvement with sports, Diethrick is involved in various community organizations. For several years he co-hosted the weekly "Times of Your Life" radio show with Jim Roselle on WJTN Radio.

Ref: Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame. [Audio file](#)

ABBY PETTENGILL

Abby Louise Pettengill was born on March 9, 1843, in Cleveland, OH. She was seven of nine children born to Matilda Wheelock and her husband Willard Burnham. She attended the Hillsdale Michigan College and at the age of 21 married Charles Pettengill, of Springville, MA. They had four children.

One summer while Pettengill was traveling with her daughter from Cleveland to the Atlantic seaboard, she made the acquaintance of Mariann Skidmore, who was traveling on the same train. Pettengill soon became interested in two issues that Skidmore was involved with – the women's suffrage movement and Spiritualism.



Skidmore told Pettengill about the Cassadaga Assembly, a small colony of spiritualists on the shores of Cassadaga Lake. She became so interested in what she heard that she changed her plans and instead spent her summer there. Afterward she attended each summer session and gradually became associated with the organization.

In 1895, Pettengill bought a hotel at the assembly known as the Alden house and renamed it the Leolyn after her granddaughter. She operated it for many years, entertaining dozens of famous guests including Susan B. Anthony. Today the hotel is owned by the Lily Dale Assembly is known as the Maplewood Hotel. In 1904, Pettengill was made the first female president of the City of Light Assembly.

Ref: Barker Museum blog: Abby Louise Pettengill - Lily Dale's First Woman President. Photo, courtesy of the Barker Museum, of Abby Louise Pettengill with her daughter. [Audio file](#)

DONALD MACKENZIE

Donald Mackenzie was born in Scotland on June 15, 1783. Mackenzie emigrated with his family to Canada when he was 17 years old. Soon, he and his brothers became involved in the fur trade and were engaged with the North West Company.

In 1810, Mackenzie left the North West Company to become a partner in the Pacific Fur Company, financed principally by John Jacob Astor. He was involved in the historic Astor Expedition, which led to the discovery of several western rivers. Mackenzie spent two years exploring and trading for the Pacific Fur Company in the Pacific Northwest. When the Pacific Fur Company sold all of its property to the North West Company in 1813, Mackenzie was appointed to return all important papers back east, which he did in 1814.

Mackenzie became reacquainted with the North West Company and returned to the Columbia region in 1816. He and his trappers made the first extensive exploration of southern Idaho starting in 1818 with annual expeditions through 1821. His trapping ventures covered most of southern Idaho and parts of eastern Oregon, northern Utah, and western Wyoming. Many of the names for rivers in this region can be traced to this period.

With the merger of the North West Company and Hudson's Bay Company in 1821, Donald Mackenzie was appointed governor of the Red River Settlement. He left the Pacific Northwest and moved to Fort Garry for a decade, serving as governor of the area including most of present-day Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, Canada.



In 1834, Mackenzie retired, and moved to Mayville where he lived for the next two decades. Among the distinguished visitors Mackenzie entertained and advised were Daniel Webster and William H. Seward, who later served as Secretary of State. He gave advice on where the international boundary should be established for Oregon and may have planted the seeds that led to the purchase of Alaska from Russia.

Mackenzie died January 20, 1851, in Mayville. [Audio file](#)

LESTER DYE

Lester "Les" Dye was born in Forestville on July 15, 1916. He attended high school in Wellsville, NY and Williamsport, PA and excelled in both basketball and football. After graduating from high school, he attended Syracuse University.

While a student at Syracuse, the 6' 1" Dye was a star on the football team, as a wide receiver on offense, and defensive back on defense. He earned three varsity letters in football in 1939, 1940 and 1941. He was also a reserve on the basketball team, playing one game his sophomore year.

After graduation Dye spent one year in the Army during World War II. He then played two seasons in the NFL as an offensive end for the Washington Redskins from 1944-1945. After ending his career as a player, he was a scout for Washington for a few seasons.

In 1948, Dye moved into coaching, as the head coach of Clarkson University's football team. In 1949 he came back to Syracuse to begin a lengthy career there in many different capacities. From 1949 to 1959 he was the freshman football coach and an assistant on the varsity. It was Dye who named Ernie Davis the captain of the 1958 freshman team, helping to integrate the team.

From 1959 to 1968 he worked in Syracuse University's admissions office with different director responsibilities, and from 1969 to 1973 he was the university's dean of admissions. In 1973, Dye became the athletic director at Syracuse, and

would serve in that capacity until 1978. During his tenure as athletic director, the basketball team would reach the Final Four for the first time – in 1975 – and he would hire a new basketball coach by the name of Jim Boeheim.

Dye was honored as a Syracuse Letter Winner of Distinction in 1974. He died in August 2000. [Audio file](#)

JIM ROSELLE

James Roselle was born in Jamestown in 1926 to Joseph and Josephine Roselle. He grew up in Jamestown, graduating from Jamestown High School in 1944. Among his classmates was Charles Goodell, who would go on to become a congressman and U.S. Senator.

Throughout his youth, Roselle was fascinated with the growing industry of radio and spent many hours in front of his family's radio listening to various programs on the dial. Following graduation, Roselle attended St. Lawrence University to study communications and was a member of the KSLV radio club.



After graduation, Roselle found part-time work on the radio in Jamestown, but by 1951 he was offered a full-time position at a station in Harrisburg, PA. Roselle worked there for two years before he was offered a full-time position by Si Goldman at WJTN radio in Jamestown in 1953.

During his time at WJTN, Roselle became a well-known and well-liked host, taking part in various station promotions and even hosting a long running “sock hop” for area teens at local schools and Midway Park.

In 1974, Roselle's profile increased when he started to do live broadcasts from Chautauqua Institution. His first guest was former classmate Charles Goodell, who was scheduled to give a lecture. He spent every weekday at the Institution, interviewing thousands of guests including noted cultural, business and political leaders. In 1988, Roselle travelled with a group from the Institution to the Soviet Union to cover an international conference.

Roselle received numerous awards for his service to the Jamestown community. He died March 23, 2016, at the age of 89.

Ref: Jim Roselle at his studio at Bestor Plaza in Chautauqua Institution in 2009 (photo credit: Jason Sample). [Audio file](#)

ABNER HAZELTINE

Abner Hazeltine was born June 10, 1793, in Wardsborough, VT, the son of Daniel and Susanna (Jones) Hazeltine. In 1815 he graduated Williams College, and that same year came to Jamestown and engaged for a time in teaching. In July, 1816, he commenced the study of law with Jacob Houghton at Mayville, and spent a portion of his time in the office of attorney Samuel A. Brown in Jamestown.

In August 1819, he was admitted as an attorney in the Supreme Court and in November in the common pleas of Chautauqua County. In November 1819, he opened an office in Warren, PA and in March 1820, was admitted as attorney in the court of common pleas of Warren County, PA.

In 1823, Hazeltine returned to Jamestown, and opened an office in the front part of the building occupied by attorney Joseph Waite. In 1828, and again in 1829, he was elected to the New York State Assembly. In 1832, he was elected a member of Congress as a member of the anti-Masonic party and reelected in 1834. In June 1847, he was elected District Attorney of Chautauqua County.

In 1845 Hazeltine moved to an office at the north side of Third street, near Main, in Jamestown. In 1855, he went into partnership with Charles G. Clark, with whom he was connected several years.

Hazeltine married Polly Kidder, a native of Wardsborough, on September 21, 1819. He married his second wife, Matilda Hayward, on July 21, 1834. Matilda was born in Pomfret, CT, July 22, 1799.

Hazeltine served as U.S. Commissioner for the Northern District of New York until his death. He died in Jamestown on December 20, 1879 and was interred in Lakeview Cemetery. [Audio file](#)

ALVAH BRADISH

Alvah Bradish was born in Fredonia in 1806. His early life was spent in the village. As an adult, he moved to Detroit in the mid-1830s and there followed the profession of portrait painter. In addition to working in the Detroit area, he also painted in Minnesota, Canada, and Jamaica.

In 1839 Bradish married Lydia Douglass Houghton, the daughter of Judge Jacob Houghton and Lydia Douglass. Her brother was Douglass Houghton, Michigan's first state geologist. Together, Alvah and Lydia had three children.

In 1852 Bradish was engaged to give lectures on the fine arts at the University of Michigan and held this position for eleven years with the title of professor of fine arts. He was the author of various literary works, including a life of Professor Douglass Houghton.

In 1852, the Regents of the University conferred upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts. During his career, Bradish was commissioned to paint more than 100 portraits of noted individuals – including Michigan Congressman John Biddle and Michigan Governor Lewis Cass. He died in Detroit, April 19, 1901, and was buried in Fredonia. [Audio file](#)

LUCETTA BELLE WEAVER COLE

Lucetta Belle Weaver was born in the Town of Harmony in 1853 to Philander Weaver and Mary Ruth Ann Harford. "Belle" – as she would come to be known – was the ninth of 11 children and was educated in the area. It is said that musical ability ran in her family. She soon studied singing and excelled in opera, becoming a well-known American contralto.

It was during her early years as a performer that Belle married J. Calvin Cole and changed her stage name to Belle Cole. Her first national success as a singer took place when she toured with famous opera singer Theodore Thomas, during his Grand Transcontinental Tour of the U.S. in 1883.

In 1887, Cole went to London to perform as part of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. The British public was immediately charmed by the singing of Cole. Her advance to the front rank of English singers was exceedingly rapid, and she secured a place among the most notable performers in England for the remainder of the 19th century.

Cole performed at many notable venues in England, including the Crystal Palace and Royal Albert Hall. In 1901, she toured Australia and did a world tour in 1902, which was the last time she would visit the U.S. Cole made a few records in England where she made her home, but they are rare.

She died in London in 1905 at the age of 52.

Ref: *Image from The Strand Magazine, Jan. 1894*). [Audio file](#)



H.B. HALICKI

Henry “Toby” Blight Halicki, also known as H.B. Halicki, was born to a Polish American family in Dunkirk on October 18, 1940, one of 13 children. Halicki started to develop his fascination with cars while working in the family towing business. He started driving at a young age and developed a wide knowledge of automobiles by the age of ten. When he was a teenager, after the loss of two of his brothers, Halicki decided to move to California and live with one of his uncles.

Halicki began working at a local gas station in Gardena, CA. He started collecting cars at the age of 16, eventually ranging his collection from 1920s classics to lowriders and Ferraris. By 17, Halicki owned and operated his own auto body shop. At 17 and still in high school, he signed a contract with an insurance company to detail and do minor repairs on 2,000 new cars. By the age of 21, Halicki was enrolled in real estate classes and began investing in commercial properties, which led to numerous land holdings and a successful junkyard business.



In 1974, Halicki decided to make the film that became “Gone In 60 Seconds”. He wrote, directed, produced, and starred in the film. With his business sense, he copyrighted the terms “Gone In 60 Seconds” and “Eleanor.” Following the film, Halicki became known as “The Car Crash King” by his fans. During the 1970s, Halicki was classified as the owner of the world’s largest antique toy and automobile collection, consisting of over 100,000 collectible items.

Halicki was introduced to Denice Shakarian in 1983, and in 1988 they got engaged. The couple lived in southern California, and married on May 11, 1989, in Dunkirk. On August 20, Halicki began to shoot “Gone In 60 Seconds 2” in Dunkirk and Buffalo. Preparing for the most dramatic stunt sequence in the film, during which a 160-foot-tall (49 m) water tower would suddenly topple, a cable attached to the tower snapped. The cable sheared off a telephone pole, which fell on and instantly killed Halicki. Hallicki was just 48 years old.

In 1995, Denice agreed to a contract with Disney and Jerry Bruckheimer for the film “Gone In 60 Seconds”. Filming began in 1999, with Denice as executive producer. The movie premiered on June 5, 2000. [Audio file](#)

LUCILLE BALL

Lucille Desiree Ball was born to Henry and Evelyn “DeeDee” Hunt Ball on August 5, 1911, in Jamestown. Her father died when she was four, and she and her mother and brother were raised at her grandparents’ home in Celoron. Her grandfather, Fred Hunt, enjoyed the theater and frequently took the family to vaudeville shows and encouraged young Lucy to take part in both her own and school plays.



After high school, Lucy attended the John Murray Anderson School for the Dramatic Arts in New York City, only to return home a few weeks later when drama coaches told her she had no future as a performer. She returned to New York City in 1929 and landed work as a fashion model. In 1932 Ball briefly worked on Broadway, but a year later she moved to Hollywood and found bit parts in various films. Through the rest of the 1930s and 1940s, Ball would achieve moderate success in movies and on radio.

In 1940, Ball met Cuban-born bandleader Desi Arnaz while making the film “Too Many Girls.” By the end of the year the two had eloped. In 1948, Ball was cast as wacky wife Liz Cooper on a radio program called My Favorite Husband. The program was successful, and CBS asked her to develop it for television. She agreed, and by October 1951, CBS put “I Love Lucy” in its lineup.

The I Love Lucy show became a star vehicle for Ball. Ball also was involved in several firsts, including being the first woman in television to be head of a production company. Ball and Arnaz also took a pay cut so the networks could film their show, on the condition they retain the rights to the use of the film reels after they aired. CBS agreed and the Desilu Production Company made many millions of dollars as a result through syndication of the show.

Having the “I Love Lucy” show on film also allowed for new audiences and generations to see the program through re-runs, introducing Lucy to hundreds of millions of people throughout the world. I Love Lucy dominated the weekly TV ratings in the U.S. for most of its run and continued until May 1957. During its time on the air, it won five Emmys and was nominated for many more.

Throughout the remainder of her career, Lucy was involved in various television, movie, and theatre projects. Her last public appearance, just one month before her death, was at the 1989 Academy Awards telecast in which she and fellow presenter, Bob Hope, were given a standing ovation.

Lucy died from complications resulting from an aneurysm on April 26, 1989. She was 77 years old. Her ashes were initially interred in Los Angeles, but in 2002 her children moved her remains to the family plot at Lake View Cemetery in Jamestown. [Audio file](#)

FRANK MICHAEL O’BRIEN

Frank Michael O’Brien was born March 31, 1875, in Dunkirk to Michael and Ann Cryan O’Brien. He was raised in Dunkirk and educated at St. Joseph’s College on Long Island.

After college, O’Brien found work as a reporter for the *Buffalo Courier*, staying with the paper for 11 years. From 1895 to 1904, he worked for the *Buffalo Express*, first as a reporter and then as city editor. He moved to New York City in 1904 after getting a job with the *New York Sun*.



O’Brien left the newspaper business in 1906 to take a job as secretary for New York Mayor George McClellan, Jr., serving in that capacity until 1910. Also in 1910, O’Brien married Marion Mously and the couple had one son, Frank Michael O’Brien, Jr. In 1912 O’Brien took a post as special writer for the *New York Press*, serving in that capacity until 1915.

In 1916 O’Brien began writing editorial for newspapers in New York City, first with the *New York Sun* (1916-1918) and then with the *New York Herald* (1918-1924).

It was during his time with the *Herald* that O’Brien gained critical acclaim for an editorial he wrote in November 1921, reflecting on the burial of America’s “Unknown Soldier” in Arlington Cemetery. The editorial – entitled “The Unknown Soldier” – made such an impact that it was reprinted in other papers throughout the country. It was also so moving to the American public that O’Brien was given the Pulitzer Prize for Best Editorial in 1922. To this day, it is considered one of the most well-known newspaper editorials ever written.

In 1924, O’Brien served as chief editorial writer for the *New York Sun* and in 1926 he was named editor for the *New York Evening Sun*. He was awarded an honorary degree in journalism from Manhattan College in 1928. O’Brien died in New York on September 22, 1943, at the age of 68.

Ref: *Who’s Who of Pulitzer Prize Winners* by Elizabeth A. Brennan, Elizabeth C. Clarage. Image: Pulitzer Prize Medal. [Audio file](#)

JOSEPH DAMON

The Damon family came to the town of Pomfret in 1816. The group consisted of a mother and father along with four “rough and intemperament” sons – Stephen, Martin, Joseph and North. Martin Damon was the most well-known of the family, serving as a skilled stone cutter and creating fine headstones for local cemeteries in the area, many of which survive in good state to this day.

Joseph Damon quarried the stones used by Martin, many of which came from the Damon Quarry in Laona. Joseph was described as a powerfully built man, fully six feet tall and proportioned accordingly.

On April 24, 1834, Joseph, who was 33 at the time, murdered his wife with a fireplace poker, because, it is said, she read the Bible. He was tried for murder in Mayville in September of that same year and was defended by attorney James Mullett and Jacob Houghton of Fredonia. Samuel A. Brown of Jamestown was prosecuting attorney. Joseph was convicted of murder and sentenced to death by public hanging.

The date of the execution was set for May 15, 1835, in Mayville. It was declared a local holiday and an estimated 10,000 men, women, and children came from all over the county to witness the hanging. When the drop fell, the fastening of the rope broke, and Damon fell to the ground. At that point he pleaded to the sheriff to postpone the execution, but it was declined, and he was again led up the gallows again, this time proving successful.

Following the execution, a general outcry against public hangings arose across the state. The death of Joseph Damon would be the first and only public execution in Chautauqua County's history.

Ref: *Joseph Damon: A Murderer Swung Twice.* [Audio file](#)

JACK COX & THE GERRY RODEO

Jack Cox, a retired cowboy, moved to Gerry in the early 1940s. In 1945, he had become well-known in the community, and when it came time to brainstorm for an idea to raise money for the Gerry Volunteer Fire Department, Cox suggested a rodeo.

There were more than a few people in the community who had their doubts that such a project would work, but Cox wasn't someone to back out of a project. In just over two months he – along with members of the fire department and other volunteers – turned four acres of swamp into an arena and parking lot, just in time for the arrival of Colonel Jim Eskew and his livestock. Bleachers were borrowed from area schools and portable lights were rented.

In those early days, the stock arrived by train, via the old Dunkirk, Allegheny Valley and Pittsburgh Railroad. They were then unloaded in the middle of the hamlet and the animals were herded down the middle of Route 60 to the rodeo grounds. From the beginning, Cox and other members of the Gerry fire department also felt from the beginning that their rodeo should be "top-notch", so they contracted for a rodeo sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys' Association. Participants paid an entry fee and points earned in Gerry counted toward qualification to the annual National Finals Rodeo. The practice continues today.



Over the years constant improvements were made to the rodeo facilities. Additional land has been acquired, a large midway was created, and permanent bleachers have been installed, allowing for the seating of 3,600 people. Over a thousand pounds of beef is also cooked daily for the famous Gerry Rodeo barbecue beef dinners.

The money raised from the rodeo over the years has enabled the fire department to purchase modern fire and rescue equipment for the protection of the residents of the town. And to think it all started with Jack Cox and his vision of introducing a part of the wild west to Chautauqua County. [Audio file](#)

JOHN WALTON SPENCER

John Walter Spencer was born on June 12, 1843, in Cherry Valley, NY, but soon afterward his parents moved to Westfield. Spencer grew up on the family farm and attended the local school. During his youth, he would get involved in various enterprises to help make additional money for his family, including raising and selling ducks.



After a year at the Westfield Academy, Spencer set off to see the world. He went west and saw San Francisco, then sailed the Pacific Ocean to the Sandwich Islands, today known as Hawaii. Eventually he returned to Westfield to work on the family farm once again.

As is the case even today, there was simply too much work to do on a farm for a family member to leave to receive a proper education in agriculture. As a result, the New York State Agriculture College at Cornell University established its “extension department.” Spencer felt that he could help the new department and became a member of the staff in 1896.

Soon after joining the college, Spencer began the publication of “Farmers’ Reading-Course Bulletins” and “Nature-Study Leaflets” for public schools. Both were carried on by correspondence plan and it was found to be of genuine, practical value for both young students and farmers alike. Soon the farmers receiving the reading course and returning discussion papers were numbered by the thousands, and more than 25,000 children had signed up to become “Junior Naturalists.”

The lessons prepared for the pupils in the schools strove to help the children better understand agriculture. They were encouraged to write to “Uncle John” – as Spencer had come to be known – about what they saw, and to ask questions concerning things they wished to know of the living, growing world about them. For several years, the number of letters received from his “nieces and nephews” was more than 30,000.

Uncle John not only wrote to the children, but he also visited and talked to them in their schools, generally at their urgent invitation. Once each year, when the children of the home county were invited to Cornell for a day, it was not the picnic on the campus nor the various things to be seen in the buildings which held the foremost place in their thoughts, but the meeting with Uncle John.

At the age of 65, Spencer retired from his work at Cornell. He died four years later on October 24, 1912, in Ithaca.

Ref: “John Walton Spender: ‘Uncle John’” by Anna Botsford Comstock. [Audio file](#)

ENOCH CURTIS

Enoch Arnold Curtis spent most of his life making a name for himself in Chautauqua County, first while serving in the Civil War, and later as an architect who designed the historic Fredonia Opera House.



Curtis was the eldest child of Isaac and Susan Curtis. He was born in Busti on July 19, 1831 and was educated in the public schools and the Jamestown Academy, finishing his studies at the age of 17. He also spent his youth working at his father’s two farms in Busti and Ashville. After school, he took up trade as a carpenter and began to study architecture. He married Mary Jane Elizabeth Norton in Ashville on October 3, 1855. Together they had two children.

Curtis worked on various building projects until the start of the Civil War. When it appeared, the war would be longer than expected, he closed up his business in the spring of 1862 and enlisted for three years’ service. He recruited a company of volunteers and was elected captain. This was Company D, 112th Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry. In June 1864 during the battle of Cold Harbor, Curtis received severe wounds that made him unfit for further military service. He was honorably discharged September 13, 1864, with the brevet rank of major, conferred by Governor Reuben Fenton.

After returning from the war Curtis located in Fredonia where he engaged in the hardware business for five years. He then returned to his profession as an architect. Many of the residences, churches, and public buildings of western New York and northern Pennsylvania were designed by him and erected under his supervision. One of his most famous buildings still standing today is the Fredonia Opera House, constructed in 1891.

Curtis was also involved in several community projects, including the establishment of the Fredonia water works and sewerage system. He served successive terms on the board of water commissioners, the board of village trustees, and was president of the village corporation. He was also a delegate to the Republican national convention in St. Louis that nominated William McKinley for president in 1896.

Curtis' last days were spent in Fredonia, where he enjoyed the respect and highest esteem of the entire community. He died in Fredonia on October 4, 1907.

Ref: *Biographical and portrait cyclopedia of Chautauqua County, New York (1891)*. Image: the 1891 Fredonia Opera House, designed by Enoch Curtis. [Audio file](#)

GRACE RICHMOND

Grace Louise Smith was born on March 31, 1866, in Pawtucket, RI, the daughter of Rev. Charles Smith, a Baptist clergyman. During her childhood, her family moved to Fredonia, where her father found work at the Baptist Church. In 1887 at the age of 21, Grace married Dr. Nelson Richmond.

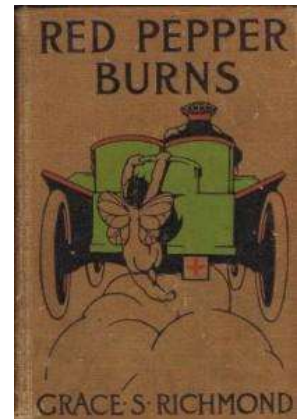
It's said that Richmond was an imaginative and energetic young woman who, soon after her wedding, turned her hand to the writing of fiction. She soon became Fredonia's most prolific writer of short stories and novels, many of which received national attention the first three decades of the 20th century.

As early as 1898, Richmond's initial reduced stories were published in assorted women's magazines together with the *Women's Home Companion*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, and *Everybody's Magazine*. Between 1905 and 1936 she wrote 27 novels. *Red Pepper Burns* was published in 1910 and was one of her most popular, with several follow-ups, including *Mrs. Red Pepper*, *Red Pepper's Patients*, and *Red of the Redfields*.

Other books by Richmond included *The Second Violin* (1906), *On Gay Street* (1908), *On Christmas Day in the Morning* (1908) and *Strawberry Acres* (1911).

Richmond died at the age of 93 on November 28, 1959. She was buried in the Forest Hill Cemetery, Fredonia.

Ref: The book cover for *Red Pepper Burns*. [Audio file](#)



ERASTUS DOW PALMER

Erastus Dow Palmer was born April 2, 1817, in Pompey, NY. As a youth he moved with his family to Utica where his father, a carpenter, taught him the basics of woodworking. In 1834 at the age of 17, he moved to Dunkirk to start a career in woodcarving and joining. He helped build many houses in Dunkirk and surrounding area for the next six years.

While in Dunkirk, Palmer met and was married to Malinda Alton. Sadly, he lost his wife and their first child to complications of childbirth. With no further reason to stay in area, he returned to Utica in 1840.

The death of Palmer's first wife would have a lasting impact on the rest of his life. For if she hadn't died, he very well may have remained in Dunkirk working his trade as a carpenter. But as fate would have it, Palmer returned to Utica and as a result, his path would take an unexpected turn that presented him with wide and critical acclaim throughout the artistic world.



Shortly after returning to Utica, a neighbor showed Palmer a cameo portrait imported from Europe. Palmer was impressed by the delicacy of the carving and was determined to try his hand at the medium. His first undertaking was a portrait of his second wife. It was shown to local lawyer attorney who was so impressed with it that he hired Palmer to create a cameo with his image on it. Thus, the beginning of Palmer's career as a sculptor.

Palmer soon began sculpting in marble and was heavily influenced by neoclassicism, which had gained popularity on both sides of the Atlantic. His first full-length sculpture was entitled *The Mariner's Wife*. In 1849 Palmer and his new family moved to Albany and he soon opened a studio near the State Capitol building and he flourished as a sculptor.

In the 1870s, Palmer was commissioned by the state of New York to create a full-length statue of statesman Robert R. Livingston. It was cast in bronze twice, with one of the statues located in the U.S. Capital and the other in Albany in the State Court of Appeals. A plaster version of the statue is also located at the Albany Institute of History and Art.

Palmer died in Albany on March 9, 1904 and was buried in Albany. He was survived by his second wife and five children. Palmer's marble sculpture *White Captive* remains a prized exhibit at the New York Museum of Art. [Audio file](#)

THOMAS LAKE HARRIS

Thomas Lake Harris was born in Buckinghamshire, England on May 15, 1823. His parents were Calvinistic Baptists and very poor. In 1828 the family came to America to start a new life and settled in Utica. Harris received a local education and at the age of 20 he became a Universalist preacher.



About 1850 Harris professed to receive inspirations and published some long poems. He had the gift of improvisation in a very high degree and was able to compose verse in his head and dictate it in essentially finished form. This talent supported his claim that he was in mental contact with spirit entities and led to the leadership of a small religious cult.

In 1860 Harris founded a commune, or utopian religious community in Wassaic, NY, about 20 miles east of Poughkeepsie. There he opened a bank and a mill and had about 60 converts. In 1867 the community, known as *The Brotherhood of the New Life*, moved across the state to settle in Brocton.

In Brocton, Harris established a winemaking industry. In reply to the objections of his followers who were against the use of alcohol, Harris said that the wine prepared by himself was filled with the divine breath so that all noxious influences were neutralized. Harris also built a tavern and strongly advocated the use of tobacco. He required complete surrender from his disciples, even the surrender of moral judgment.

Harris stayed in Brocton until 1875, when he travelled cross-country to Santa Rosa, CA where he created the *Fountain Grove* community. In 1891 he announced that his body had been renewed, and that he had discovered the secret of the

resuscitation of humanity. He visited England intending to remain there, but was called back to Brocton by a fire, which destroyed large stocks of his wine.

Harris died on March 23, 1906, but his followers believed that he had attained the secret of immortal life on earth and declared that he was only sleeping. It was three months before it was acknowledged publicly that he was dead.

Ref: *Thomas Lake Harris (photographer, date unknown)*. [Audio file](#)

CHARLES COWDEN

Of the colorful and eccentric individuals from throughout the county's history, none were more colorful than **Charles "Left-handed Charley" Cowden**, better known as the Hermit of Chautauqua Lake.



Left-handed Charley was probably born around 1843. For many summers, Charley lived on a small island, a short distance from Prendergast Creek in the Town of Chautauqua. His residence was a makeshift structure of a dilapidated tent over a tripod of poles, sheltered by tree branches and brushes, which also hid it from sight. Cooking was done outside over a campfire and he would treat his visitors to the delicacy of cooked carp, which he prepared.

Charley usually wore his gray hair hanging down to his shoulders, although he sometimes twisted it into a knot at the back of his head. He always dressed in a highly picturesque fashion. He was an avid fisherman and would often show off his bow and arrow and tomahawk skills. He dressed somewhat like an Indian, although it is not believed that he had any Native American blood.

Charley claimed to be over 150 years old, and it is said that he had been a cowboy in the West, a sailor, a soldier, and a circus performer with the Dan Rice Circus. He had a left-handed fiddle, which he always carried with him. Many people visited him during the summer months, and he would entertain them with his songs plus his delightful and colorful stories of his life.

As soon as definite signs of winter arrived, Charley gathered his belongings, put on his big cowboy hat, and looked for shelter from the cold. It was his habit to "visit" his friends and people whom he knew in the country during the winter. During the long winter evenings, he was always willing to play his fiddle, handling the bow with his left hand. When he decided that his "visit" was outwearing his "welcome," he would tuck his fiddle under his arm and leave to seek another family or find refuge at the County Farm in Dewittville.

In his later years Charley lived for two years at the Soldier's and Sailor's Home at Erie, PA. It is reported that he died on July 15, 1908, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ida Adams, in Harbor Creek, PA. He was 65 years old.

Ref: *The Hermit of Chautauqua Lake* by Loraine C. Smith. A postcard depicting Charles Cowden. [Audio file](#)

WALTER SMITH

Walter Smith was born in Wethersfield, CT on March 21, 1800. At the age of 15, he moved to Cazenovia, NY, about ten miles southeast of Syracuse, to work as a clerk. Four years later, in 1819, Smith came on horseback to Fredonia to work as a merchant under the name Walter Smith and Co. His partner was his former employer in Cazenovia, who provided the capital to start the business.

The same year he opened his mercantile shop in Fredonia, Smith purchased a store and ashery from brothers Ralph Plumb and Joseph Plumb. His business sense was so good that it's said that his sales exceeded \$20,000 during his first year in Fredonia. By his sixth year in business, sales exceeded \$75,000 although only 10 percent of that was actual cash, the rest was in trade – mostly pearl and pot ashes.



Smith said that of all the ashes exported from the county during his first six years, nearly 75 percent was handled by his business. Smith also helped to supply food for local settlers by working out deals with early farmers. Among the owners of the early farms he did business with were Hezekiah Barker, Zattu Cushing, and Seth Cole.

By the late 1820s, orders on Smith's store and due bills payable in goods over his signature became the currency of the county. In 1826, Smith became associated with Gov. DeWitt Clinton and others in the proprietorship of Dunkirk, where he invested his capital, prestige, and talent to the development of that community. Smith was still heavily involved in the growth of Dunkirk when the Depression of 1836 hit the country. Because of the outstanding debts owed to him and failures of his own investments, Smith was left in financial ruin.

A lesser man would have been unable to overcome such a financial loss as what Smith endured following 1836, but he was determined to rebuild his reputation and wealth. In 1843, he moved to Vermillion, OH to manage an extensive iron establishment, steering the business, and himself, into prosperity. In 1852, Smith returned to Dunkirk to help the city prosper with the arrival of the railroad. He remained involved in local and regional commerce until his death on September 21, 1874.

Following his death, it was said that no man was more intimately associated with the early history of Dunkirk than Smith and no other in the early history of the county had been so widely and so favorably known as a businessman. It is said that a history of Chautauqua County without mention of Walter Smith would be like the play of "Hamlet" with Hamlet left out. [Audio file](#)

SOPHIA WILLIAMS

Sophia Morton was a local folk hero who was born September 25, 1776. She came from a distinguished family. Her brother – Rev. Salmon Morton – was one of the thirteen individuals who founded Colgate University.

In November 1794, Sophia married Richard Williams (of East Hartford, CT) in Oneida County, NY. The couple settled in Fredonia in June 1807, coming to the area with Richard's sister and brother-in-law. Each family had six children.

In 1813, with the War with Britain underway (War of 1812), Richard Williams was responsible for carrying the weekly mail between Erie and Buffalo. During one trip in the spring, he arrived in Fredonia with the mail from Erie, sick and unable to sit upon his horse. As a result, Sophia, who was pregnant at the time, took the mail and set out on horseback to complete the delivery to Buffalo.



All the streams were swollen due to the winter thaw, and many were beyond their natural limits. Rather than turning back, Sophia plunged her horse into an angry flood at the Cattaraugus Creek, Eighteen Mile Creek, and Buffalo Creek, each time holding the mail above the water. She also passed through the territory of two tribes of Indians suspected of hostility and wild animals, such as wolves and bears, still hovered around the path she traveled. Despite the many obstacles and challenges, Sophia was able to get the mail delivered to Buffalo on time.

If this incident wasn't enough to illustrate Sophia's bravery, she was challenged yet again a few years later when one of her daughters – who had moved to Indiana – wrote to Sophia saying she and her family were very sick and that there was no chance for them but death.

Richard had already passed, and so Sophia took a span of horses and a lumber wagon and set out on her own to rescue them. Her journey was hundreds of miles through an almost unbroken wilderness. She was able to make it to her daughter's home and return the entire family back to Fredonia.

Sophia lived a full life and died April 13, 1854, at the age of 77. She has long been considered one of the greatest heroines to come out of Chautauqua County. [Audio file](#)

CLARA ELIZABETH SACKETT

Clara Elizabeth Sackett was born on May 13, 1859, in Westfield to Charles D. Sackett and Mary Anna Dickson.

Before turning two, her parents moved to Jamestown where Clara received her formal education. After school in Jamestown, she went on to study art in Albany, Boston, and New York City. She also studied in Paris for five years.

Following her education, Sackett returned to the U.S. and began working as an artist in the Buffalo area, where she made a name for herself as a portrait painter, along with painting landscapes and miniatures. In 1913, Sackett opened the Buffalo Guild of Applied Arts and served as its first president. Meanwhile she also began to have her work featured in galleries in western New York and New York City.

During World War I, Sackett expanded from work as a visual artist and put on a reconstruction pageant in Wilmington, NC. She also worked on other plays and pageants with Percy and Hazle MacKaye. Meanwhile, Sackett continued painting and in 1915 had thirty pastel portraits featured at the San Diego Exposition. Some of her subjects included the wife of John D. Rockefeller and the wife of socialite and congressman Oliver Belmont.

Sackett was put in charge of the art department at the Cambridge Haskell School in 1922. Sackett continued to work in New York City throughout the 1920s, while also having an art studio in Nova Scotia. She also occasionally returned to Westfield.

She returned to the area in 1933 and 1934 to start the Guild of Applied Art in Chautauqua County. Sackett was also included in the book entitled "Who's Who of Leading Women of America" in 1934.

Several of Sackett's artwork can still be found in galleries throughout the Northeast and mid- Atlantic states, including the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo. [Audio file](#)

GRACE GALLOWAY

Grace L. Galloway's death has captured the interest and imagination of generations of visitors to Jamestown's Lakeview Cemetery.

Grace Galloway was born in 1872 in Jamestown to John and Sara Galloway. She had two brothers, John and Fred, who lived to be adults. Her father made a fortune in the oil business in Titusville, Bradford, and Oil City, PA during the late 1800s.

Grace graduated from Jamestown High School in 1889 and was a member of the First Baptist Church, where she sang in the choir and was a soloist. It is said she had a beautiful voice and as a result, she sang in many operas during the summer at Chautauqua Institution. Following school, she attended a music conservatory in Boston to further develop her vocal talent. She was offered an opportunity to perform with the New York City Metropolitan Opera, but her father was against the idea.

In 1897, Grace contracted tuberculosis, while still studying in Boston. Her parents sent her to Saranac and Asheville, NC, to get well, but on a trip home to Jamestown she died.



To honor their only daughter, the Galloways created a life-size memorial statue at her grave in Lakeview Cemetery. It was designed by a Pittsburgh artist and carved in Florence, Italy from Italian marble. She wears a dress that was described as a "lawn outfit." When signs of decay began to show on the statue, the family encased the statue in glass to protect it.

Since Grace’s death, many people have been attracted to her memorial, and as time passed, stories surfaced that didn’t always reflect who she was – including a common urban legend that she was a bride on her wedding day. But now you know the true story of Grace Galloway – more commonly known to those who visit the Lakeview Cemetery as “the Lady in the Glass Case.”

Ref: “19th Century Gravestones of Chautauqua County, New York” by Rebecca Jo Rosen. The memorial honoring Grace Galloway in the Lakeview Cemetery, Jamestown, NY (Photo courtesy of FentonHistoryCenter.org). [Audio file](#)

JENNIFER STUCZYNSKI SUHR

Jennifer “Jen” Stuczynski Suhr was born February 5, 1982, to Mark and Sue Stuczynski of Fredonia. Jen got involved in sports at a young age, playing softball and golf before the age of 10. As a student at Fredonia High School, she played softball, basketball, soccer, and track and field, and won the New York State pentathlon title as a senior in 2000.



After high school, Jen attended Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester where she excelled in basketball and track and field, but it wasn’t until 2004 that Jenn was first introduced to pole vaulting. She quickly caught on to the sport and in 2005, she entered the USA Indoor Championships in Boston as an unknown, unseeded competitor and won the U.S. title.

Jenn started the 2006 indoor season with personal bests at nearly every meet and captured her first USA Outdoor title, while also finishing third at the 2006 World Athletics Final. In May 2007, Jenn set a new American outdoor pole vault record and became the top female pole vaulter in the country. The next month, she cleared 16 feet, becoming only the second woman in the world to ever do so.

On July 6, 2008, Jenn cleared 16 ft. 2 in., breaking her own American record while also winning the U.S. Olympic trials. The next month at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, she was the focus of international attention as she competed against the top female pole vaulter in the world, Yelena Isenbayeva of Russia. While Jenn was unable to supplant the world’s number one female pole vaulter, she did finish second and brought home a silver medal. She was also named the “American Female Athlete of the Year” by *Track and Field News*.

In 2009 and 2010, Jenn continued to set the bar for female pole vaulting in the U.S. and won several more American titles at various indoor and outdoor events. She also took time away from the track in 2010 to marry her coach, Rick Suhr.

On February 27, 2011, Jenn continued her dominating performance in pole vaulting, winning her tenth national title overall with a win at the 2011 USA Indoor Track and Field Championships. She holds the American record for both indoor and outdoor pole vaulting.

Ref: Jennifer Stuczynski Suhr at the 2008 Olympics (Photo by Jeff Gross/Getty Images AsiaPac). [Audio file](#)

SAMUEL G. LOVE

Samuel G. Love was born in Orleans County, NY, on May 30, 1821. He attended the local public schools of the area and then went on to Hamilton College to study education.



Following college, Love became a teacher in the public schools of Buffalo and then moved to nearby Randolph to teach and also serve as a principal. There, in 1865, he came to Jamestown after the consolidation of the local schools under the Jamestown Union School and Collegiate Institute, today known as Jamestown Public Schools, and was the first principal and superintendent.

Professor Love, as he was always called, pioneered the teaching of physical education, manual training and commercial education. He believed in education of the hands and the whole body, as well as of the mind, physical, manual and vocational education.

It's believed that Love was one of the first administrators in the country to emphasize the importance of gymnastics under a trained instructor in American public schools. Love's vocational courses were so well-received that he wrote a book entitled *Industrial Education*, which was eventually distributed to other schools throughout the state.

In 1883, Love became one of the founders and the first president of the Chautauqua County Historical Society. He contributed many valuable papers and research during his time with the organization.

He remained principal of the Jamestown Union School until 1891, while staying on as superintendent until he retired in 1890. Following retirement, Love accepted the position of librarian at the James Prendergast Free Library. Love was the first librarian of the library and devoted himself to cataloging the books in accordance with the most advanced systems of the day.

After the library was opened, he applied himself unremittingly to make it what it was intended by its founder in aid for the education of the people. He died on November 12, 1893, at the age of 70. [Audio file](#)

JOHN O. BOWMAN

John Oliver Bowman was a native of Jamestown, born in 1884. He was educated in Jamestown and graduated from Jamestown Business College in 1914.

In 1916, he enlisted in company E, 74th Infantry, and defended the Mexican border against the incursions of Pancho Villa. He also fought on the frontlines of World War I in France and Belgium between 1917. In 1919, Bowman returned to Jamestown and found work with the county as an auditor, purchasing agent, and deputy county clerk.

He also did extensive volunteer service with the Chautauqua County Historical Society starting in the 1930s, eventually serving as a curator and director in 1950. Bowman was involved in negotiating a 75-year lease that allowed the society to be headquartered in the McClurg Museum, where it remains today, in 1936 at the age of 52.

He purchased his first box camera with \$0.75 and six coffee coupons. He then spent his free time photographing a wide range of subjects, with the majority of his photos featuring small town living farmers plowing the fields or the sun setting over Chautauqua Lake. In 1939, Bowman presented a solo exhibit of 99 of his prints to the New York World's Fair, earning him nationwide praise in the popular press throughout the 40s. His images appeared in various magazines throughout the country, and in 1946, *Collier's* magazine even called him the undisputed box camera champion of the universe, in fact.

In 1936 until his death, Bowman produced an estimated 8,000 gelatin silver prints, mostly images taken from one of the many box cameras that he owned.

Bowman died in 1977. After his death, all of his prints were given to the Chautauqua County Historical Society and are available for viewing upon request. [Audio file](#)

VERN HOLTZ

When it comes to the well-known residents of Cassadaga Lake, you'd be hard pressed to find anyone who is better known than **Vern Holtz**, Cassadaga boatbuilder. Holtz was a native of Cassadaga, born in 1895 in the early years of the village.

Vern purchased a piece of land along Dale Dr. and since it was swampland, he had it filled so that a boat livery could be built. He then started his boat building operation, but rather than sell the vessels, he decided to rent them and many people would travel far distances to rent one of his boats and take it out on Cassadaga Lake.

Vern also built his own log cabin on the lake edge of his property and it still stands there today.

He had many designs of boats and by renting the boats that he himself built, he was able to make a successful business of it for nearly 60 years. The boat livery was his special business and he became a well-known and well-liked resident of the community and surrounding area.

Vern was married to his wife May, for many years. He died in 1983 at the age of 88.

Today, nearly 90 years after being built, his boat delivery can still be seen at the corner of Dale Dr. and Park St. in the Cassadaga village. [Audio file](#)

LORIN BLODGETT

Nearly 150 years before the term climatology became part of our popular vernacular, a native of Jamestown was introducing the term to scientists throughout the world.

Lorin Blodgett was born May 23, 1823, near Jamestown. He was educated in local schools and attended the Jamestown. Afterward, he attended what is now known as Hobart College in Geneva.

Blodgett became assistant professor at the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, and it could be said that he laid the foundation of American climatology. In 1855 he published his first observations based on climatology, and in 1857 he published climatology in the United States, a work extensively circulated and very favorably received in Europe.

Besides his work for the Smithsonian, Blodgett worked for the War Department to conduct climatological research. Afterward, he worked for the Treasury Department, preparing statistical and financial reports and later working in specialized positions in the customs and treasury departments.

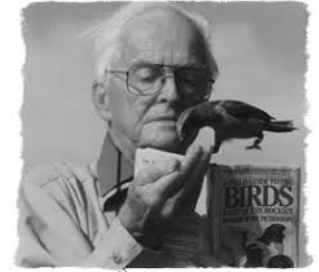
Blodgett was also editor of the *North American*, published in Philadelphia, and secretary of the Philadelphia Board of Trade. From 1858 to 1864, he contributed articles on finance to the *North American Review*. In 1866 and 1867, besides making contributions to various other publications, Blodgett also wrote the *Commercial and Financial Resources of the United States* in 1864 and *Census of Manufacturers of Philadelphia* in 1883.

He died in Philadelphia, PA, March 24, 1901. [Audio file](#)

ROGER TORY PETERSON

Roger Tory Peterson was born in Jamestown on August 28, 1908 to Charles and Henrietta Bader Peterson. He grew up at 16 Bowen St. with his parents and sister.

Peterson was drawn to the outdoors and, at the age of 11, birds took over his life. He was hiking with a friend and the two spotted what they thought was a dead Northern Flicker. Peterson poked it gently with a stick. And when it suddenly came to life, he marveled at its colors and movements and soon made learning all about all kinds of birds a top priority.



In 1925, Peterson finished high school at the age of 16. During the summer of 1925, Roger painted furniture at the Union National Furniture Company in Jamestown, and the supervisor noticed his talent. He encouraged Peterson to attend art school.

The same year, a national publication solicited artwork for a bird art show in New York City. Peterson submitted two paintings, both of which were accepted. He made connections and soon had other pieces of artwork displayed in other shows across the country. He was becoming a nationally known artist even before his 18th birthday.

Peterson left Jamestown for the Art Student League in New York City in 1927. In 1929, he advanced to the National Academy of Design, receiving his degree in 1931.

In the fall of 1931, Peterson joined the science department at Rivers Country Day School in Boston. While in Boston, Peterson became a member of America's oldest ornithological organization in the Nuttall Club. It was here that he met fellow member Francis H Allen and editor of Houghton Mifflin Company.

Allen accepted Roger's first book for publication, which was called *A Field Guide to the Birds*. Published in 1934, the book's meteoric success transformed Peterson's career. For the remainder of his life, he became known as a brilliant field ornithologist and inspiring teacher, and a gifted painter of birds.

Peterson died in 1996 at his home in Old Lyme, CT, The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History in Jamestown, NY is named in his honor and continues to support the legacy of Chautauqua County's greatest naturalist and lover of birds. [Audio file](#)

ROBERT H. JACKSON

Robert Houghwout Jackson was born in Spring Creek, PA on February 13, 1892. Five years later his family moved to Frewsburg.

From an early age Robert was recognized for his public speaking skills and even before finishing school, he was speaking before various clubs and organizations in Frewsburg and Jamestown. He graduated from Frewsburg High School in 1910 and spent a post-graduate year at Jamestown High School. He did not attend college but apprenticed in a law office and attended Albany Law School for one year.

At the age of 21, Jackson took the New York State Bar exam and became a prominent trial lawyer in Jamestown. Over the next 20 years, he became a very successful lawyer in New York state and, through bar association activities, a rising young lawyer nationally.

In 1934, Jackson answered the call of President Franklin D. Roosevelt to serve as general counsel at the Internal Revenue Service. His decision to move to Washington, D.C. as a public servant was a fateful one, as it steered his life into becoming one of the most remarkable personal stories in American history.

In 1936, Jackson became assistant attorney general heading the tax division of the Department of Justice, and in 1937 he became assistant attorney general heading the antitrust division. In 1938, Jackson became U.S. Solicitor General. In early

1940, President Roosevelt appointed Jackson Attorney General, replacing Frank Murphy. He served in that capacity until 1941, when there was an opening on the U.S. Supreme Court and Roosevelt tapped him to fill the vacant seat. In just seven years, Jackson rose from relative obscurity in a small western New York town to be a Supreme Court Justice.



Jackson was involved in several high profile cases while serving on the court. In 1943 he wrote the majority opinion in a case which overturned a public school regulation making it mandatory to salute the flag. In the case of *Korematsu v. The U.S.*, the Supreme Court upheld the authority of the government to establish Japanese internment camps during World War II, Jackson was one of three dissenting justices.

Despite his remarkable achievements in government service, Jackson believed his greatest accomplishments were the international legal principles established by the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany following World War II. Jackson served as Chief of Counsel for the U.S. in charge of prosecuting the highest ranking Nazi leaders at Nuremberg.

After serving at Nuremberg, Justice Jackson returned to the bench of the U.S. Supreme Court. Shortly after participating in the unanimous decision in the famous desegregation case of 1954, *Brown vs. Board of Education*, Jackson suffered a fatal heart attack and died on October 9, 1954. He was 62. Every justice of the Supreme Court came to Jamestown for his funeral. He is buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery in Frewsburg. [Audio file](#)

HERMANN COOPER

Hermann B. Cooper wasn't a native of the county, nor did he didn't spend a significant amount of time in the area. But during the three years he lived here, he played a key role in turning the state normal school in Fredonia into Fredonia State College, making it one of the most well-respected teacher colleges in western New York.

Cooper was born December 31, 1895, in Wilbraham, MA to Richard and Emma Cooper. Because his father was involved in education, Hermann Cooper also pursued a similar career, majoring in both education and music at Upper Iowa University, where his father was president.

Following military service in World War I, Cooper was appointed director of research of the Bureau of Educational Services for Citizens of Delaware, where he was influential in shaping curriculum within Delaware's public school system. He also returned to school and received his master's degree from Columbia University. In 1930, he received his Ph.D.

By the late 1920s, Cooper had left Delaware and had become the head of the education department and director of training at the State Normal School at Geneseo. In 1929, he left Geneseo to serve as principal and director of the Normal School at Fredonia. It was at this time that the school purchased 58 acres of land west of Central Avenue, with the goal that one day it would become a campus. Cooper left a year later, but the vision of turning the school into a larger college remained, and in 1939 ground was broken on the first building of what would soon become the main campus of Fredonia State College.

In 1933, Cooper was appointed assistant commissioner for teacher education and certification. He was responsible for the preparation of teachers at the eleven publicly-supported campuses – including Fredonia – that reported to the State Education Department.

With Cooper's help, normal schools throughout New York became degree-granting colleges. Fredonia State, along with ten other campuses, were absorbed into the newly formed State University of New York in 1948, and Cooper became the university's executive dean for teacher education. He continued to play a prominent role in the rapidly expanding state university until his retirement on his 67th birthday, December 31, 1962.

Ref: *Biographical Dictionary of American Educators, Volume 1* by John F. Ohles. [Audio file](#)

NATHAN BROWN

Nathan Brown was born in Madison County, NY on November 19, 1812, one of nine children to Nathan and Levia Smith Brown. At the age of ten, Nathan came with his family to Chautauqua County, where his father bought a piece of land in the Town of Ellington.

Nathan Brown spent his early life working for his family farm in Ellington. In 1823, he made his first trip to Jamestown to pick up supplies for his family and fishhooks for his friends. The complete details of the adventure can be found in the book “The Early History of the Town of Ellicott” (pp. 31 – 34). In 1832, at the age of 20, Brown moved to Jamestown and started a pail manufacturing business.

Brown continued with his pail business for 11 years. In 1843, however, he was left with many pails he could not sell locally, so he decided to ship them with other wares down river to sell them. While the first trip did not yield any profit, Brown felt that with time he could make a go at it, and he began his store boat business, which involved shipping building materials on flatboats down to the Allegheny, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers and selling the merchandize in larger towns.

Brown spent the next 40-plus years running his shipping business. During his career he took 154 store boats down the river, the aggregate value of the cargoes being over \$500,000 and most of it was manufactured articles made in Chautauqua County. It is said there wasn’t a product made in Jamestown and the surrounding area that didn’t find its way onto one of Brown’s boats for export down river. “Commodore Brown,” as he was called, was said to have been the most widely known man along the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers, as a trader in “Yankee notions.”

When Brown finally retired at the age of 73, it wasn’t old age that forced the decision, but rather the dominance of the railroads when it came to shipping goods out of Chautauqua County.

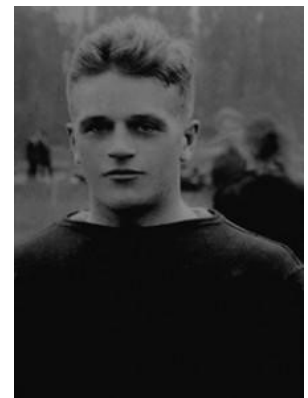
Ref: “The Early History of the Town of Ellicott” By Gilbert Wilkinson Hazeltine. [Audio file](#)

MURRAY NORCROSS SHELTON

Murray Norcross Shelton was born April 20, 1893, in the city of Dunkirk. As a young athlete at Dunkirk High School, he excelled in all sports he took part in, especially football. After graduating from Dunkirk High School, Shelton spent a year at Philips Andover Prep School in Massachusetts where he played both football and basketball.

Following his year at prep school, Shelton went on to attend Cornell University, where he played football and basketball and spent a season with the freshman crew. However, he gave up the latter because he knew he could not compete in three sports and keep up with his academic workload.

Shelton played varsity football for three seasons with the Big Red as a blocker on offense and a tackler on defense. He was selected as one of Walter Camps All-Americans in 1915, the year Cornell finished undefeated. He was described as a cautious, painstaking player who waited for just the right moment to unleash his blocking and pass-catching talents as an offensive end. Not only was Shelton named an All-American in football and basketball in 1915.



His greatest feat also came in 1915 in a game against Harvard. He recovered a fumble on the Harvard 25-yard line that led to the only touchdown of the game. Cornell won 10-0 for its first win over Harvard in 25 years. In Shelton’s three years, Cornell had a 22-6-1 record.

After graduating from Cornell, Shelton spent a year coaching in Joliet, IL. Then came a stint as an officer in the field artillery during World War I. His sports career continued with professional football when he returned to the U.S. Shelton played with a team called the Buffalo All-Americans and played with and against Jim Thorpe.

Following professional sports, Shelton lived in Columbia, MO. In 1973 he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. In 1984, he was also inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame. He died on August 15, 1985, at the age of 92.

Ref: Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame. [Audio file](#)

JEHUU CAULCRICK

When it comes to athletes who've overcome adversity to reach the highest level of their chosen sport, it's hard to find a more compelling story than that of **Jehuu Caulcrick**.

Caulcrick was born August 6, 1983, in Liberia. His father, Jerome Blamo, was a politician and security chief for the secretary of state when civil war broke out in Liberia in 1989. Fearing for his family's safety, Caulcrick's father left his children in the care of their grandparents.

For the next three years, the family bounced from refugee camp to refugee camp. Finally, in August 1992, they reached the U.S. Embassy and waited two weeks to receive their visas. During that time, Caulcrick learned that his father had been murdered by rebels.

In September 1992, Caulcrick's family finally escaped the horrors of Liberia, settling in Clymer where his mother had friends. While attending high school at Clymer, he wanted to play soccer, but the school did not have a team, so he instead tried out for the football team and was hooked from the start.

From his freshman year to his senior year, Caulcrick started at running back and led the team to four straight Section VI Class D championships. He accumulated 100 career rushing touchdowns and is the Section's all-time rushing leader. As a senior, he was named the Class D New York State Player of the of the Year.



After high school, Caulcrick attended Michigan State University and played football for the Spartans from 2004-2007. He totaled 2,395 career yards and 39 rushing touchdowns – the second-most in MSU history.

After going undrafted in the 2008 NFL draft, Caulcrick was signed as a free agent by the New York Jets and played on the practice squad for two years. He also spent time with Tampa Bay and San Francisco.

In October 2010, Caulcrick returned to western New York as a member of the Buffalo Bills practice squad. In November of that year, he played his first game with the Buffalo Bills and got his first carry in an NFL regular season game.

Ref: "Prospect for NFL First Ran From Liberia," New York Times, Feb. 24, 2008; Wikipedia. Jehuu Caulcrick during the 2011 pre-season with the Buffalo Bills (James P. McCoy / Buffalo News). [Audio file](#)

REXFORD TUGWELL

Rexford Guy Tugwell was born July 10, 1891, in Sinclairville. In his youth he gained an appreciation for workers' rights and liberal politics from the works of Upton Sinclair, James Bryce, and Edward Bellamy.

Following high school, Tugwell began studying economics at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance and Commerce and completed his doctorate at Columbia University. After graduation he served as a professor at the University of Washington, American University in Paris, and Columbia University.



In 1932 Tugwell was invited to join Franklin Roosevelt's team of advisers known as the "Brain Trust," which helped develop policy recommendations leading up to Roosevelt's 1932 election as President. Tugwell subsequently served in FDR's administration for four years, first as Assistant Secretary and then in 1934 as Undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He was instrumental in creating the Soil Conservation Service in 1933 to restrict and restore poor quality land. He additionally played a key role in crafting the 1938 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

In the wake of the opposition to his policies, Tugwell resigned from the Roosevelt administration at the end of 1936 and became a vice president at the American Molasses Co. Then, in 1938 he became the first director of the New York City Planning Commission.

Tugwell served as the last appointed American governor of Governor of Puerto Rico and served as Chancellor of the University of Puerto Rico. From 1945-48, he also participated in the Committee to Frame a World Constitution. He viewed a revised national constitution as necessary to enable economic planning, and late in life composed a new constitution for the "Newstates of America."

Tugwell wrote several books including a biography of Grover Cleveland. He also wrote a biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt and released his memoirs of his years in Puerto Rico. He died on July 21, 1979. [Audio file](#)

CHARLES AUSTIN FOSDICK

Charles Austin Fosdick is not widely known or read now, but in the post-Civil War era he was the best-selling author of adventure books for boys, using the pen name "Harry Castlemon." He wrote most of his books in his home on South Portage Street in Westfield.

Fosdick was born September 6, 1842, in Randolph (Cattaraugus County) and received a high school diploma from Central High School in Buffalo. He served in the Union Navy from 1862 to 1865 during the Civil War, acting as the receiver and superintendent of coal for the Mississippi River Squadron.



Fosdick had begun to write as a teenager and drew on his experiences serving in the Navy in such early novels as *Frank on a Gunboat* (1864) and *Frank on the Lower Mississippi* (1867). He soon became a prolific author of dozens of books and was considered the most-read author for boys in the post-Civil War era, the golden age of children's literature.

Fosdick once remarked, "Boys don't like fine literature. What they want is adventure, and the more of it you can get in two-hundred-fifty pages of manuscript, the better fellow you are."

Fosdick and his wife, Sarah, married in 1873 and spent the rest of their days in Westfield; he followed her in death in 1915 and they are buried next to each other in the Westfield Cemetery.

Ref: Photo courtesy of Patterson Library, Westfield, NY. [Audio file](#)

JIM McCUSKER

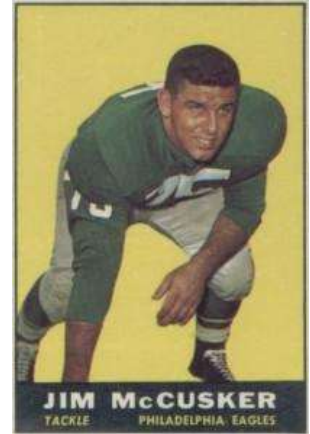
James Brian "Jim" McCusker was born in Jamestown in 1936. He played football for Jamestown High School in the early 1950s and was a star defensive lineman. During his junior and senior years, he was named as a Western New York All-Star.

Following high school, Jim played on the offensive line for the University of Pittsburgh football team. He started for the Panthers for three years, from 1955 to 1957, and was named an Associated Press All-Star 3 three times and a United International All-Star twice. During the three seasons McCusker played for Pitt, the Panthers had an overall record of 18-

13-and-1. He also played in the East-West Shrine Game, the Senior Bowl, and played for the College All-Stars against the NFL Champion Detroit Lions. Today, more than 50 years after playing for the Panthers, he is still considered one of the Panthers' greatest linemen.

In 1958, Jim was drafted by the Chicago Cardinals in the 2nd round (14th overall) of the 1958 NFL Draft. He was on the roster for only one season and didn't start any games. In 1959 he was sent to the Philadelphia Eagles, where he stayed for five seasons. Among the highlights of his career was the 1960 season, where he started every game and the Eagles beat Green Bay 17-13 in the NFL championship game. He also started every game for the Eagles in 1962. He played one season in 1963 with Cleveland and finished his career in the AFL, playing with the New York Jets.

Some of Jim's teammates during his NFL career included such Hall of Famers as Chuck Bednarik, Sonny Jurgenson, Norm Van Brocklin, and Tommy McDonald with the Eagles and Jim Brown during his season with the Cleveland Browns.



Following retirement, Jim returned to Jamestown. For many years he has owned a restaurant and bar on North Main St. in Jamestown called The Pub with his wife, Mary. He was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1982.

[Audio file](#)

VAN MILLER

Van Miller, for years known as "The voice of the Buffalo Bills," was born in 1927 and raised in Dunkirk.

Miller began his broadcasting career at Dunkirk radio station WFCB, calling play-by-play for high school football games. In the 1950s, he moved to Buffalo to work in radio and broadcast various sporting events. By 1960, he was a well-known sports broadcaster in the Queen City.

In 1960, Miller was selected to be the announcer of the city's new AFL professional football team, the Buffalo Bills. On July 30, 1960, Van debuted on the air at War Memorial Stadium to call play-by-play for the Bills' inaugural contest against the Boston Patriots. He continued to serve as the team's radio play-by-play man through the 1970 season.

In 1971, the broadcast rights of the Bills were carried by a rival station, and so Van stepped away for the next six seasons, instead focusing his attention on the Buffalo Braves of the NBA. He resumed covering the Bills in 1977. Some highlights for Miller during his year covering the Bills were the AFL championship games in 1964 and 1965, and the team's unprecedented four-year Super Bowl run of the early 1990s. He also called the greatest comeback in NFL history when the Bills beat the Oilers in the 1992 AFC wild card game. The game was blacked-out on television and so it was Miller who delivered the dramatic comeback to most fans in western New York. He retired after the 2003 season.



In his 55 years in the business, Miller earned legendary status in Buffalo by doing everything imaginable behind the microphone. Besides his status as the "Voice of the Bills," Miller was the sports director for WBEN-TV/WIVB-TV for many years. During that time, he served as a sportscaster, weather reporter, and as host of several local television shows. He also hosted a popular afternoon program for many years on WBEN radio.

The Pro Football Hall of Fame presented him with its Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award in 2004. He was an inductee in the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame (1999) and the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame (2002).

Miller died July 17, 2015, at the age of 87.

Ref: Photo from www.remembertheafl.com). [Audio file](#)

10,000 MANIACS

The **10,000 Maniacs** formed in 1981 in Jamestown with several Chautauqua County natives serving as original members. They included Robert Buck and John Lombardo on guitar, Steven Gustafson on bass, Dennis Drew on keyboards and 17-year-old Natalie Merchant on lead vocals. The group went through several different drummers in its early years before finally settling on Jerry Augustyniak from Buffalo in early 1983.

In 1984 10,000 Maniacs recorded their first full length album and the song “My Mother the War” became a minor hit in the United Kingdom. In the spring of 1985, they recorded a second full-length album, “The Wishing Chair,” garnering them significant critical acclaim.



After Lombardo left the band in 1986, the remaining five members recorded *In My Tribe*, released in July 1987. The album peaked at no. 37 and eventually sold more than two million copies. The next album, 1989’s “Blind Man’s Zoo,” reached no. 13 on the chart and eventually sold over a million copies. In the early 1990s, two more albums – “Our Time in Eden” and “MTV Unplugged” – were both multi-platinum hits.

By the end of 1993 Merchant had left the band to pursue a solo career. Lombardo returned and Mary Ramsey was added to the lineup. In 1997 10,000 Maniacs released “Love Among the Ruins” and followed up in 1999 with “The Earth Pressed Flat.” On December 19, 2000, Buck died of liver failure at the age of 42.

During the past decade, 10,000 Maniacs has undergone some changes in the lineup, although Augustyniak, Drew, and Gustafson have remained constant members. The current edition of the band remains active, recording new music and recently touring at several cities across the country. [Audio file](#)

JIMMY CLARK

James “Jimmy” Clark Atkinson was born in Norfolk, VA in February, either in 1914 or 1915, depending on the source. His father died when Jimmy was five years old and his mother moved with her young son to Titusville, PA to be near friends. Jimmy attended public schools and when he reached adulthood, he moved to Jamestown to make a name for himself as an amateur boxer.

As an amateur Clark compiled 23 titles, winning tournaments in Pittsburgh and St. Louis, as well as local bouts at the Washington Street Auditorium in Jamestown and in Celoron Park. He fought for the American AAU team in Paris, France in 1935, winning all three of his matches. He was the U.S. Amateur Welterweight Champion, the New York State Middleweight Champion, and defended his Golden Gloves title eight times.



Jimmy was described as a clever boxer who relied on bobbing and weaving and powerful left and right hooks. He was known as the “Jimtown Express.”

In 1936, Jimmy earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team as a middleweight by scoring five knockouts in the national trials tournament. At the Berlin Olympics, Clark lost a controversial decision in the quarterfinals to Polish boxer Henryk Chmielewski. U.S. officials and media both cried foul about the loss by Clark, a black fighter, and a Detroit newspaper called it “A complete jobbing by boxing officials.” During his time at the Berlin Olympics, his roommate was Jesse Owens.

Clark turned pro after the Olympics and was managed by Marshall Miles who also managed Joe Louis. He never fulfilled the promise of his youth, compiling a 20-19 record. He did, however, knock out eventual world middleweight champ Tony Zale in the first round on February 21, 1938, at the Marigold Gardens in Chicago. Zale later exacted revenge for the loss by beating Clark twice that same year.

A World War II Army veteran, Jimmy Clark died at the age of 80. His legacy to the fight game was not forgotten as he was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1983 and the Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame in 1998. He died in Jamestown on September 12, 1994.

Ref: Photo courtesy of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame. [Audio file](#)

JOSEPH MCGINNIES

Joseph Albert McGinnies was born November 7, 1861, in Ireland. His family emigrated to U.S. in 1864 and settled in Ripley, where Joseph was raised and attended school.

At the age of 16, McGinnies began working at the Ripley drugstore of Dr. Simons, learning the pharmacist's profession. After five years he became the owner and developed the business into a prospering general store. McGinnies also began running a grape-growing operation and eventually became one of the most expert grape growers in the region.

In about 1897, McGinnies began organizing the Chautauqua and Erie Grape Growers' Association, based in Westfield. For many years he served as a director, secretary-treasurer, and manager. Afterwards, he was chosen a director of the First National Bank of Ripley and of the Dunkirk Trust Company of Dunkirk.

In 1896, McGinnies was elected a member of the Chautauqua County Board of Supervisors as a Democrat and was re-elected continuously. In 1905, he changed parties, and became a Republican, but continued to be re-elected to the County Board of Supervisors annually for more than 20 years. From 1906 on, he was clerk of the Board.

He was a member of the State Assembly from 1916 to 1935 and was Speaker from 1925 to 1934. He was also an alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1924, and a delegate in 1928 and 1932.

McGinnies died in Ripley in 1945. McGinnies Hall at SUNY Fredonia is named in his honor. [Audio file](#)

CHARLES HAMILTON

Charles Mann Hamilton was born in Ripley on January 23, 1874. He was the only child of Lydia Mann and Lucius Hamilton. He was raised in Ripley and attended Ripley High School and afterward, the Fredonia Normal School. Hamilton then went to the Pennsylvania Military College at Chester.

Following school, Hamilton became interested in agricultural pursuits and in oil production. He was a member of the New York State Assembly from 1906-1908 and served in the State Senate from 1908-1912. During his time on the senate, he served on the New York State Factory Commission and was a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Chicago in 1912.

During the election of 1912, Hamilton ran for Congress on the Republican ticket and won. He served for three terms from 1913-1919 and during his second and third term in office he was minority whip.

Following public office, Hamilton returned to Ripley to engage agricultural pursuits and later was involved the production of oil and gas in Kansas. He died in Miami Beach, FL on January 3, 1942. He was interred in Quincy Rural Cemetery in Ripley.

Following the death of his widow, Bertha, in 1944, the Hamilton estate was left to town of Ripley and a family of dogs which lived in the little house on the west end of property. The mansion later served as the Ripley Library for many years and an animal research hospital. The Bertha Hamilton Foundation is still in existence and is administered by the Fredonia Animal Hospital. [Audio file](#)

DANIEL A. REED

Daniel Alden Reed was born September 15, 1875, in Sheridan. After attending local schools, he graduated from Cornell University in 1898, where he was a member of the Quill and Dagger society and played football for the Big Red.



Following graduation from Cornell, Reed coached at the University of Cincinnati, Penn State, and his alma mater. From 1899 to 1900 he coached at Cincinnati and guided the Bearcats to an 8–6–1 record. He coached at Penn State in 1903, compiling a 5–3 record. From 1903 to 1909, Reed stepped away from football and was attorney for the New York State excise department. But he went back to football in 1910 to serve as head coach at Cornell for two seasons, where he led that team to a 12–5–1 record. His career coaching record was 25-14-2.

In 1918 Reed ran for public office and was elected to the House of Representatives as a Republican. His first term in office began in March 1919 and he remained in office serving as the area's congressman until his death 40 years later.

During his years in Congress, Reed was the one of the most conservative members of the New York delegation and was one of the few isolationists remaining in the New York delegation after World War II. As leader of the House Ways and Means committee in 1953, Reed helped to reform the federal income tax laws. Reed was also one of the few Republicans to consistently oppose banning the poll tax through, although he did vote in favor of anti-lynching legislation and the Civil Rights Act of 1957.

During his 40 years in Congress, he served as chairman of the Committee on Industrial Arts and Expositions (68th Congress), Committee on Education (69th through 71st Congresses), and the Committee on Ways and Means and Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation (83rd Congress).

Reed died in Washington, D.C., February 19, 1959, and was interred in Sheridan Cemetery, Sheridan. [Audio file](#)

DONALD REINHOUDT

Donald C. Reinhoudt was born in March 1945 in Brocton. He attended the Fredonia school district and excelled in several sports. He was an All-League basketball player, an All-Western New York football player, and an All-Western shot putter.

Following high school, Don went to Parsons College in Iowa to play football as a defensive end. He also was on the varsity track team. To condition himself for sports, he began weightlifting and competed in six competitions, including the 1967 Junior Nationals.



After experimenting with weightlifting, Don began powerlifting in 1969. He took 3rd place in the Open Division at the inaugural 1972 AAU World Powerlifting Championships and finished in 1st place at the World Powerlifting Championships from 1973 to 1976. He was also the first man to break the 2,400-pound barrier in powerlifting with a 2,420 lb. total, achieved in 1975. During his career, Don was also the only super heavyweight to hold world records in all three lifts (bench, squat, deadlift) simultaneously.

Don also became somewhat of a celebrity after competing in three World's Strongest Man competitions. He won the competition in 1979 and became widely known as "The World's Strongest Man" to thousands of residents in Chautauqua County. He also finished 2nd in 1978.

Following competition, Don served as the director of the Chautauqua County Youth Bureau for several years, retiring in 2008. He was inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame in 2005 and the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1983.

Don's been called the nicest guy to ever participate in the sport of powerlifting. He often tells kids that he loves them and he's quick to give a hug. So, despite all his records and accomplishments in weight training, it's said that Don's strongest muscle will always be his heart.

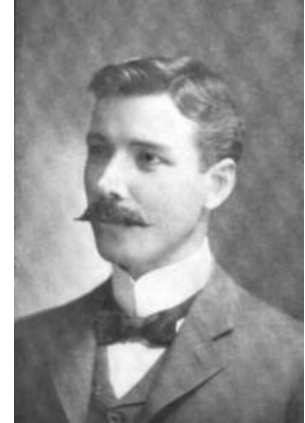
Ref: Image of Don Reinhoudt during a powerlift competition in the 1970s. [Audio file](#)

SAMUEL CARLSON

Samuel Augustus Carlson was born in Jamestown on October 26, 1868, on what is known as English Hill. His parents, John Frederick and Matilda Charlotta Carlson, immigrated from Sweden a year earlier. Carlson was educated in the Jamestown public schools and at the age of 14 he became a member of the YMCA and its debating society.

In 1891, together with his father and brother, he purchased a furniture factory from his uncle, which was then located at the foot of Willard Street. In 1893 he sold his interest in the business and assumed the management of a Swedish weekly newspaper, Vart Land ("Our Country"). Also in 1893, Carlson entered politics for the first time, after being elected as a Jamestown city councilman.

In 1895, Carlson became a member of the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities. He spent the next 12 years guiding the BPU and making it a viable commodity for the city. In 1908, he was elected Mayor of Jamestown on the pledge promising expansion of the city electric plant. He served a total of 26 years as mayor – one four-year term and 11 two-year terms, losing twice for re-election. He also served two terms as president of the New York State Conference of Mayors.



While in office, it can be said that Carlson led the charge in making Jamestown a "modern" city. Some of the highlights of his career included the establishment of the Board of Public Utilities, his proposal for a municipal hospital and public market, his establishment of a sewer and water district, the effort to begin paving all city streets, and movement to bring about the establishment of a municipal milk plant.

In 1933, the Carl Schurz Foundation of Philadelphia chose Carlson as a member of a group of 17 Americans to conduct study and research in European cities to stimulate good will between the peoples of the two countries. He was the only mayor so chosen and was named chairman of the group. During his visit to Europe, he met several leaders, including Adolph Hitler in Germany. Upon his return from Europe, he wrote a book, "The Sage of a City and a New Concept of Government."

After stepping down from the office of mayor, Carlson continued to serve as mayor emeritus of Jamestown. He also again served on the Board of Public Utilities from 1940 to 1951. He died in 1961 in Jamestown at the age of 93.

Ref: "Autobiography by Samuel A. Carlson - Mayor Emeritus and Comments on His Fifty Years of Public Service," 1943. Image of Samuel Carlson, circa 1900. [Audio file](#)

STAN LUNDINE

Stanley Nelson Lundine was born in February 1939 in Jamestown. After graduating from Jamestown High School, Lundine attended Duke University, receiving his undergraduate degree in 1961 and then attended the New York University School of Law, receiving his degree in 1964. After passing the state bar exam, he returned to Jamestown to practice law.

In 1970 Lundine ran for mayor of Jamestown on the Democratic ticket, winning election and serving until 1976. While he was mayor, the city received national attention as a result of the labor management strategy that Lundine implemented, and Jamestown soon became a model for labor/management co-operation.

In 1976, Lundine ran for Congress after the resignation of James F. Hastings and won office. As a congressman, he brought his labor/management ideas to Washington, and was instrumental in developing legislation that created labor/management councils and employee stock ownership plans. He focused on finance, banking, and economic development policy, and served on the Science Committee. He was a subcommittee chairman on the House Banking Committee.

Lundine was elected six times to Congress. He served until 1987, when he then stepped down from office to become Lt. Governor of New York State under Governor Mario Cuomo. As lieutenant governor, Lundine worked on housing, technology, economic development, and job training programs and policies. He was an advocate for the creation of a high-speed rail link connecting New York state cities together. He was a frequent surrogate speaker for Cuomo around the state. He also used his position as president of the State Senate to be a legislative liaison for Cuomo.



After Cuomo lost the 1994 election, Lundine returned to Chautauqua County and began serving as executive director of the Chautauqua County Health Network and chairman of the board of the Chautauqua Integrated Delivery System. He also served on the board of directors of several private businesses, including American Capital Strategies, Ltd., US Investigations Services, Inc. and John G. Ullman and Associates, Inc. He also served on the boards of directors for several not-for-profit organizations including Chautauqua Institution, the Robert H. Jackson Center, and the Fredonia College Foundation.

In July 2007, Lundine retired as executive director of the Chautauqua County Health Network.

Ref: U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Stan & Sara Lundine, and Jamestown Postmaster Dana Klein pose in August 2009 with the plaque noting the Jamestown Post Office being named in honor of Lundine. (Photo by Jason Sample, courtesy of the Chautauqua Star). [Audio file](#)

JESS J. PRESENT

Jess J. Present was born July 28, 1921, in Jamestown to Abe and Frances Price Present. After graduating from high school in 1939, he attended Allegheny College and later served in World War II in the 8th Air Force in England. Following the war, he returned to Jamestown and operated a jewelry store for many years with his father and brother.

In 1959 Present ran for and won election to the Jamestown City Council. By 1962 he was serving as the council's president. In 1965 he was elected to the New York State Assembly. Three years later he ran for the State Senate in a special election and won. He would then serve as Chautauqua County's representative in the Senate for the next thirty years.

During his time in the Senate, he was instrumental in bringing several projects and improvements to the area, including the effort to turn Route 17 into a four-lane expressway and eventually into a federal interstate. He also worked toward bringing a greater parks presence to his district. It is said that in all, there were 200 to 300 pieces of state law enacted under Present's signature, many of which had a positive impact on Chautauqua County.

While in the Senate, Present served as the state deputy Senate Majority Leader and worked on the Senate Agriculture and Markets Committee, the Commerce and Navigation Committee, and the Labor and Industries Committee. He also served on the Chautauqua County Planning Commission, the Welfare Board, and the Industrial Development Commission.

In addition to his work in politics, Present also served as director of the Jamestown area YMCA, the Chamber of Commerce, and the first National Bank of Jamestown. In 1997, a year before he died, the museum in Allegany State Park was dedicated in his honor.

Present died August 8, 1998, in Jamestown. Following his death, Route 430, which stretches across much of Chautauqua County from Jamestown to the state line with Pennsylvania, was renamed the Jess J. Present Memorial Highway. [Audio file](#)

ROY ORTON

Joseph Roy Orton was born in Ripley in 1938, the son of Ross and Martha Orton and the middle of three children. Orton was raised in a farming environment and worked alongside his father in the chicken coops and orchards on the family farm, which grew into the largest poultry and cherry operation in Chautauqua County. At age 20, Orton purchased a Concord vineyard next door to his parents' farm.

Hand-picking grapes in those days was time-consuming and costly. To make his vineyard operation go faster, Orton and his Uncle Max worked on a machine that would make harvesting quicker and cheaper.



Despite detractors, Orton continued to work on his machine and by age of 26, he had built a prototype harvester and reached a deal with Chisholm Ryder Co. In 1967, the company built a model using Orton's patented machine and it soon became a runaway success. With the help of Orton's machines, grape growers could now harvest four to five tons per hour. Previously, they were lucky to harvest a ton per day.

In 1970, Orton was elected to the National Grape Board. In 1981 he became chairman of the two-board system of National Grape and Welch's, a position he held for 13 consecutive years. Orton's accomplishments with National Grape also led to his election to the board of the Springfield Bank for Cooperatives (in Massachusetts) in 1992. Two years later the bank merged into CoBank and Orton was eventually elected chair in 2002.

In 2008, Orton was chosen as the Director of the Year by the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives for his 53 years of involvement with cooperatives, including service as president of National Grape Cooperative, and chairman of Welch's and CoBank.

Ref: "A Nice Guy Who Finished First," by Patricia Daugherty. [Audio file](#)

JULIAN BUESINK

Julian E. Buesink was born in Mina on September 24, 1921, and was involved in the automobile industry his entire life owning Ford dealerships in Corry, Clymer, North East, and Westfield. He also owned a recreational vehicle dealership, as well as several used car dealerships in the area.

Buesink's first involvement in NASCAR Grand National racing came just days prior to his 28th birthday when he entered Bill Rexford, driving a 1949 Ford, in a race at the 1-mile track in Langhorne, PA. Rexford finished 14th out of 45 starters. A week later, Buesink and Rexford finished fifth at the NASCAR-sanctioned event at the Hamburg Fairgrounds. On October 2, 1949, Buesink entered two cars at the Heidelberg (PA) Raceway. He was rewarded with a third-place finish by Rexford and a sixth by his other driver Lloyd Moore in the NASCAR race won by Lee Petty.



For the 1950 season, Buesink entered at least two cars in each of the 17 races on his NASCAR schedule. His team earned NASCAR victories at Canfield (OH) with Rexford and at Winchester (IN) with Moore. When the final NASCAR points were tabulated, Rexford was declared the Grand National Champion and Moore finished in fourth place. Bill France, Sr., president of NASCAR, recognized Buesink as its National Champion Car Owner of 1950. Speed Age magazine honored Buesink for "outstanding achievement as stock car racing's Car Owner of the Year."

In 1961, Buesink hired Tom Dill to drive his 1961 Ford at Daytona and Darlington. For three years he also developed a partnership with a young driver named Cale Yarborough, who would go on to be rated one of the Top 50 Drivers in NASCAR History. In the 13 total years of NASCAR Grand National competition, Buesink competed in 107 races, entering 156 cars, driven by 15 drivers. He earned two pole positions, won two races, had 29 top-five finishes, 64 top-ten results, and earned \$42,841 in race purses. Most significantly was his GN Championship in 1950.

Throughout the 1960s up to 1973, Buesink also sponsored drivers for local and regional races. Following the 1973 season, Julian's racing career was essentially over. Although he would occasionally sponsor a car, as late as the 1990s, he refocused his attention and energy to his businesses.

He died September 23, 1998. He was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

Ref: Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame. [Audio file](#)

CELESTINE DAMIANO

Celestine Damiano was born November 1, 1911, in Dunkirk to Italian immigrants Vito and Stella Damiano. Receiving his early education at public schools in Dunkirk, he studied at St. Michael's College in Toronto for two years before entering the Urban College of the Propaganda in Rome, where he studied philosophy and theology.

On December 21, 1935, Damiano was ordained to the priesthood. He did pastoral work in the Diocese of Buffalo until 1947, when he became an official of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome.

On November 27, 1952, Damiano was appointed Apostolic Delegate to South Africa by Pope Pius XII. Damiano was highly influential in changing the face of the local church in South Africa, where he became a vocal opponent of apartheid. He remained in South Africa until 1960, when he was named the third Bishop of Camden, NJ (with the personal title of Archbishop).



While in New Jersey, Damiano made a name for himself by initiating various programs in the diocese. In September 1960, he launched a drive to raise \$5 million for the construction and improvement of Catholic secondary schools in the diocese. He made significant improvements in education and with community outreach.

Damiano was a member of the Central Preparatory Commission and attended all four sessions of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). He delivered the invocation for the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City.

While recuperating from gall bladder surgery at his home in New Jersey, Damiano died from a blood clot. He was 55 years old. [Audio file](#)

THOMAS LEACH

Thomas Andrew “Wee Tommy” Leach was born in the town of French Creek on November 4, 1877. He was a direct descendant of Alexander Findley, the founder of Findley Lake. He lived in French Creek until he was about five years old, when his family then moved to Cleveland in the early 1880s.

Leach started playing professionally near the turn of the century. He played for the Louisville Colonels in 1898 and 1899. In 1900, he began playing for the Pittsburgh Pirates and stayed with them for 12 and a half seasons. During his time with the Pirates, he took part in the first modern World Series in 1903 between the Pirates and the Boston Red Sox. In the series, Leach hit four triples to set a record that still stands today, more than a hundred years later. Among his teammates was the legendary Honus Wagner.



Leach was well-known for his small stature and was nicknamed “Wee Tommy.” In 1902, while with the Pirates, he led the National League in home runs with a total of six. Forty-nine of Leach’s 63 career home runs were inside-the-park, which is still a National League record. Among the swiftest runners of his era, Leach is also in the top 100 all-time in stolen bases and runs scored.

In the middle of the 1912 campaign, Leach was traded to the Chicago Cubs, where he played through the 1914 season. He played one season in 1915 with the Cincinnati Reds, took two years off, then finished his professional career in 1918 with Pittsburgh. He finished his career with 2,143 hits.

After his playing career was over, Leach managed in the minor leagues, was signed as an infield coach for the minor league Atlanta Crackers in 1929 and did some scouting for the Boston Braves. He eventually retired in Florida where he went into the citrus business. At the age of 86, Leach was interviewed by Lawrence Ritter for his famous *The Glory of Their Times* book published in in the 1960s.

He died on September 29, 1969, in Florida. He was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

Ref: Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame. Image of Tommy Leach in 1911 as a member of the Pittsburgh Pirates (From the Bain News Service). [Audio file](#)

BINA WILLIAMS FULLER

Bina Williams was born November 9, 1878, in Maryland. Her family came to the Town of Carroll when she was still a child and she graduated from the Frewsburg Union School in 1896.

After school, Bina became a teacher. For a period, she taught in local schools. She eventually married George Fuller and the couple then moved west in the 1920s to settle in an area of Santa Barbara, CA.

Near the end of the 1920s, the Fullers saw the population of their small community boom, thanks primarily to an oil strike on the property of Lee Blochman. The children who began arriving in the area needed an education and a small, two-room schoolhouse was built on property donated by the oil company, with Fuller becoming the head teacher.

While working as a teacher in New York, Bina had come up with a lesson plan that would help children better understand the duties of citizenship. In 1931 she built a miniature post office and used it to teach children geography and how money works. A bank and a general store were also built, along with a nursery. Soon, Fuller and her pupils ran out of room in the schoolhouse. But rather than stopping, they simply moved the operation outside and continued to add new features until an entire miniature town had been constructed.

Fuller’s educational community was soon known as “Blochman City” and was comprised of about 50 children who worked in various capacities, from working in government to running a small business. The students even elected officers to help run the town.

Educators all over the world became interested in the project and Fuller received a lot of press. Fuller and her “town” was featured in the October 1939 issue of *Popular Science* magazine. In 1947, a newspaper from Sydney Australia wrote about the unique school.

The program continued at the school until the early 1950s, when Fuller retired as principal. She died October 30, 1957, in Santa Barbara.

Ref: “County School Students Run Model City,” *Popular Science*, October 1939. [Audio file](#)

HALL R. CLOTHIER

Hall R. Clothier was born November 13, 1896, to Hamilton and Birdie Clothier of Silver Creek. He was born on the family farm – located on Bennett State Road – which would serve as his residence for his entire life. He was a graduate of Silver Creek schools and attended Cornell University.



Clothier spent his adult life growing grapes on his family farm. He played a key role in establishing the National Grape Cooperative Association, serving as its first president. He was also a delegate to the Co-op, representing Silver Creek. In addition, Clothier was partly responsible for the purchase of the Welch Grape Juice Co. by farmers of the Lake Shore area.

In addition to his work in the grape industry, Clothier also was involved in politics, being first elected as Hanover town supervisor in 1939. He would be reelected to that position 11 times in a row. During his time as leader of Hanover, he helped to see improvements in the town hall, town park, town highway system, and town government.

In 1948, Clothier became chairman of the County Board of Supervisors. He would continue to serve in that position for 15 consecutive years, guiding the county throughout the 1950s. He led the charge in creating the County Senior Citizen Home and Infirmary in Dunkirk – without borrowing a dollar to pay for it. He also worked to establish a county tax map program and a mental health clinic.

At the end of 1962, Clothier stepped down as chairman of the Board of Supervisors. He died less than a year later on June 2, 1963, at the age of 66, still holding the office of Hanover town supervisor. On October 4, 1970, the county’s Hall R. Clothier Building in Mayville was named in his honor. [Audio file](#)

JOHN M. SCHOFIELD

John McAllister Schofield was born in Gerry. After attending local schools, he went on to study at West Point, graduating in 1853. He served for two years in the artillery, was assistant professor of natural and experimental philosophy at West Point from 1855 to 1860, and while on leave, was professor of physics at Washington University in St. Louis.

When the Civil War broke out, Schofield became a major in a Missouri volunteer regiment and served as chief of staff to Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon until Lyon’s death during the Battle of Wilson’s Creek in August 1861.

Schofield was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers on November 21, 1861, and to major general on November 29, 1862. From 1861 to 1863 he held various commands in the Trans-Mississippi Theater. He was eventually relieved of duty in the West, at his own request, due to altercations with his superior Samuel R. Curtis.

On April 17, 1863, he took command of the 3rd Division in the XIV Corps of the Army of the Cumberland. In 1864, as commander of the Army of the Ohio, he took part in the Atlanta Campaign under Major General William T. Sherman. Later that year, Schofield took part in Major General George H. Thomas's crowning victory at the Battle of Nashville. However, during the buildup towards the battle, Schofield spoke out against Thomas, feeding Grant false information through various correspondences to try to succeed his senior in command.

Schofield continued to serve the Army until the end of the Civil War, eventually receiving the rank of major general.

After the war, Schofield was sent on a special diplomatic mission to France, on account of the presence of French troops in Mexico. During Reconstruction, Schofield was appointed by President Andrew Johnson to serve as military governor of Virginia.

From June 1868 to March 1869, Schofield served as Secretary of War. In 1870 he wrote an article criticizing his wartime rival George Thomas, who subsequently died of a stroke while writing a response.

In 1873, Schofield was given a secret task by Secretary of War William Belknap to investigate the strategic potential of a U.S. presence in the Hawaiian Islands. Schofield's report recommended that the U.S. establish a naval port at Pearl Harbor.

Starting in 1876 Schofield was superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy. However, in 1881 he was removed from the post due to a congressional investigation that found a black cadet at West Point was wrongly court-martialed by Schofield's administration.

From 1888 until his retirement in 1895, Schofield was commanding general of the U.S. Army. He had become a major general on March 4, 1869, and on February 5, 1895, he was commissioned a lieutenant general. Schofield retired on September 29, 1895, upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 64.

He died March 4, 1906, in St. Augustine, FL, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Today, Schofield is remembered for a lengthy quotation that all cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, and the U.S. Air Force Academy are required to memorize. It is an excerpt from his graduation address to the class of 1879 at West Point, Schofield wrote:

"The discipline which makes the soldiers of a free country reliable in battle is not to be gained by harsh or tyrannical treatment. On the contrary, such treatment is far more likely to destroy than to make an army. It is possible to impart instruction and give commands in such a manner and such a tone of voice as to inspire in the soldier no feeling, but an intense desire to obey, while the opposite manner and tone of voice cannot fail to excite strong resentment and a desire to disobey. The one mode or other of dealing with subordinates springs from a corresponding spirit in the breast of the commander. He who feels the respect which is due to others cannot fail to inspire in them respect for himself. While he who feels, and hence manifests, disrespect towards others, especially his subordinates, cannot fail to inspire hatred against himself."

[Audio file](#)

SAMUEL HOPKINS ADAMS

Samuel Hopkins Adams was born January 26, 1871, in Dunkirk, the son of Minister Myron Adams and Hester Rose. Hopkins entered Hamilton College in Clinton, NY in 1887. From 1891 to 1929, he was a reporter for the New York Sun and then joined *McClure's Magazine*, where he gained a reputation as a muckraker for his articles on the conditions of public health in the U.S.





Samuel Hopkins Adams

In "The Great American Fraud," a series of eleven articles he wrote for *Collier's Weekly* in 1905, Adams exposed many of the false claims made about patent medicines, pointing out that in some cases these medicines were damaging the health of the people using them. The series had a huge impact and led to the passage of the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act.

In 1911 the Supreme Court ruled that the prohibition of falsifications referred only to the ingredients of the medicine which meant companies were again free to make false claims about their products. Adams returned to the attack and another series of articles in *Collier's Weekly*, Adams exposed the misleading advertising that companies were using to sell their products.

Adams also wrote fiction as well. "Night Bus," one of Adams's many magazine stories, became the basis for the film *It Happened One Night*. His best-known novel, *Revelry* (1926), based on the scandals of the Warren G. Harding administration, was later followed by *Incredible Era* (1939), a biography of Harding.

Among his other works are *The Great American Fraud* (1906), *The Flying Death* (1906), and the *Unspeakable Perk* (1916).

In the 1920s Adams wrote two novels, *Flaming Youth* and *Unforbidden Fruit*, dealing with the sexual urges of young women in the Jazz Age. These novels had a frankness that was shocking for their time, and Adams published them under the pseudonym "Warner Fabian" so that his other works would not be tainted by any scandal accruing to these novels. Both novels became bestsellers.

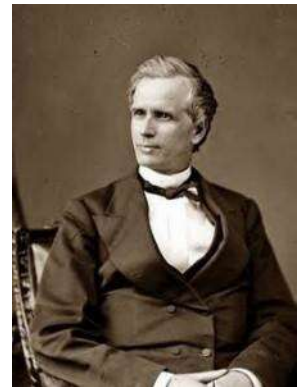
Adams continued to write several other books during the remainder of his life. He died in Beaufort, SC on November 15, 1958. [Audio file](#)

WALTER & LOREN SESSIONS

The Sessions family was a successful and celebrated family from Panama.

Walter Sessions was born in Brandon, VT on October 4, 1820. Seven years later, his brother **Loren Sessions** was born on October 12, 1827. In about 1835, their family moved to the Clymer area. Both boys attended school in the area and then went on to study at the Westfield Academy. Walter went to Hamilton College and the Maynard Knox Law School, while Loren studied at the Albany Normal School.

Walter Sessions taught school before moving to Panama and read law under the honorable Abner Lewis. He was admitted to the state bar in 1849 and began to practice law in the village.



Walter was elected to the New York Assembly and served one term from 1853 to 1854. He also served in the New York State Senate from 1860-1861 and from 1866-1867. From 1870-72 he was the Town of Harmony Supervisor and served in the 42nd, 43rd and 49th U.S. Congress.

Walter Sessions' daughter, Edith Sessions Tupper, was a published novelist and Broadway playwright. She was born in 1855 and educated in Fredonia, Buffalo, and Vassar College. From 1888 to 1926 she penned over 40 novels, short stories and plays.

In 1893, Walter was appointed commissioner of the state of New York to the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago. He retired in Panama but continued to practice law in Jamestown until his death on May 27, 1896, at the age of 76.

Loren Sessions taught school for a time after college, then read law in his brother's law office in Panama. He became a member of the Chautauqua County Bar in 1853. He also was responsible for masterminding his older brother's political fortunes.

In 1877, he accepted the nomination for state senator and was elected for two consecutive two-year terms. He was also town supervisor of Harmony for 23 years, serving 17 of those years as chairman of the county board of supervisors. Loren Sessions died in 1897 at the age of 70. [Audio file](#)

VICTOR M. RICE

Victor M. Rice was born in Mayville on April 5, 1818, to William and Rachel Waldo Rice. He studied in local schools and later attended Alleghany College. In 1842 after graduating from college, Rice began studying law in Mayville and was admitted to the bar, though he did not follow the profession. Instead, in 1843, he moved to Buffalo and became a teacher at Buffalo High School.

While living in the Buffalo area, Rice also spent time as editor of the *Cataract* and the *Western Temperance Standard*, and then returned to teaching.

In 1851, Rice was elected to the New York Assembly, where he served as chairman of the committee on public education. In 1852, Rice was elected city superintendent of schools in Buffalo and his talents as an organizer and administrator of education became well known. In 1853, he was chosen president of the State Teachers' Association, and in 1854 was elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction, to which position he served until 1868.

It's said that among his many accomplishments, Rice's greatest achievement was in 1867, when he convinced the state legislature to abolish tuition rates, making public education through secondary school free to all residents of New York state.

Other accomplishments included the Office of School Commissioner, which was created upon his advice, and the creation of the Code of Public Instruction, which was to be followed by all teachers in the state.

He also published a report on the State of Education in the U.S. and Other Countries in 1867, which was read by education officials throughout the country.

Rice died in Oneida on October 17, 1869. [Audio file](#)

PAULINE G. STITT

Pauline G. Stitt was born May 28, 1909 and raised in the Frewsburg area. She was the daughter of Austin and Allene Davis Stitt. Pauline graduated from Frewsburg High School in 1926 and from the University of Michigan College of Medicine in 1933. After receiving her degree and becoming a pediatrician, she first began working in the Buffalo City Hospital before moving back to Chautauqua County to start her own practice.

In 1940, Stitt left private practice to go to a tuberculosis sanatorium in Cassadaga. There she was told she could not go back to private practice because of the irregular hours that could take a toll on her health. After leaving the sanatorium, Stitt returned to Buffalo to serve as an assistant medical superintendent at the city hospital.

When World War II broke out, she went to Hawaii in 1943 and worked as a physician at Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children. Following the war, she went to Washington D.C. to serve in the U.S. Children's Bureau.

Stitt then went on to serve at several prestigious colleges and organizations throughout the remainder of her career, providing input and guidance in the field of pediatrics.



Among the posts Stitt held were clinical professor of pediatrics at Howard University College of Medicine. She also served at the Harvard School of Public Health in several capacities, and she was associate professor of preventive medicine and associate professor of pediatrics at Boston University Medical School.

She also taught courses for nurses, social workers, and nutritionists at various schools, and during 1967 she went on a three-month World Health Organization assignment as consultant to the School of Public Health in Bangkok.

Stitt spent her final days in Honolulu, HI, where she died September 11, 1996, at the age of 83. The Pauline Stitt Scholarship is given annually to an outstanding student at the University of Hawaii School of Public Health. [Audio file](#)

KATHERINE BEMENT DAVIS

Katherine Bement Davis was born in Buffalo, NY on January 15, 1860, to Oscar and Frances Freeman Davis. Her mother was a strong proponent of women's rights and a zealous advocate for women's suffrage. Katherine and her family lived in Dunkirk for most of her childhood until she was 17 when they then moved to Rochester, NY.

In 1879, Katherine graduated from Rochester Free Academy and returned to Dunkirk to teach at Dunkirk Academy. While at Dunkirk Academy, she established a women's equality club and led a women's literacy group. She taught chemistry for ten years in Dunkirk before saving enough money to continue her schooling.

In 1890, Katherine enrolled in Vassar College. After graduating from Vassar, she continued her studies at Columbia University's Barnard College and taught at the Brooklyn Heights Seminary for Girls in New York City.

While studying at Barnard, Katherine managed a project to develop a model home for a display at the Chicago World Fair. As a result of its success, she was offered a job running a settlement house in Philadelphia. There, she worked with Pennsylvania University and the Wharton School to do groundbreaking research of blacks in urban America.



After Philadelphia, Katherine studied at the University of Chicago where she became the first female Fellow in Political Science-Economics to earn a Ph.D. In 1901, she became the first superintendent of the New York State Reformatory for Women at Bedford Hills. Her work there led to groundbreaking reforms in the female prison system.

As a result of her work at Bedford Hills, Katherine became head of the Correction Commission in 1914, making her the first woman to lead an agency in New York City. She was also on the Progressive party's 1914 slate for State Constitutional Convention seat, making her the first woman to run for a New York statewide office on a major party ticket.

In 1918, Katherine became the head of the Bureau of Social Hygiene and arranged for groundbreaking research on women's sexuality. She remained at the post until retirement in 1927. In February 1928, the Waldorf-Astoria ballroom was filled with Progressive Era reformers to honor Davis at a testimonial dinner. The guests including Eleanor Roosevelt and John D. Rockefeller Jr. The Panama-Pacific Exposition also designated her one of the three most distinguished women in America.

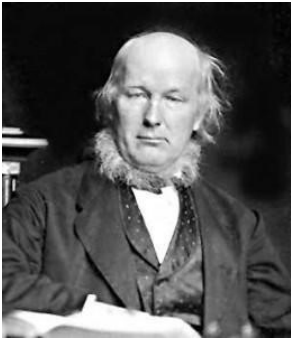
In 1928, Katherine Davis retired to California with her sisters. She died on December 10, 1935, at the age of 65. [Audio file](#)

HORACE GREELEY

Horace Greeley was one of the most well-known journalists and reformers in 19th century America. Although he never lived in Chautauqua County, he spent considerable time in the Town of Clymer.

Greeley was born February 3, 1811, in New Hampshire, the son of poor farmers Zaccheus and Mary Greeley. When he was a teenager, his parents moved to Wayne Township, PA, about a mile south of the village of Clymer. Horace, however, did not come to the area with his parents and instead stayed behind to serve as a newspaper apprentice in Vermont.

When Horace was about 15 years old, he made his first trip to northwestern Pennsylvania to visit his parents, traveling some of the way on foot. Upon his arrival in Clymer in 1826, there were only four or five houses. He returned for another visit in 1831, this time attempting to stay with his parents and help on their farm. This only lasted about five months before he realized he did not have the physical fortitude to live a pioneer's life, and he soon found work in nearby Erie with the Erie Gazette newspaper.



In the summer of 1831, Greeley moved to New York City to work as a journalist. He eventually found work at the *New York Tribune*, the country's most influential newspaper. From the 1840s to the 1870s Greeley served as editor and was considered the greatest editor of his day. He used his position to promote the Whig and Republican parties, as well as opposition to slavery and a host of reforms ranging from vegetarianism to socialism.

Greeley would return to visit his parents on a semi-regular basis, and during those visits he often spent time in Clymer talking with the residents, discussing various issues facing the country. He even used his influence to initiate a demand for pumpkin flower from Clymer, making for several prosperous seasons for pumpkin growers in southwestern Chautauqua County.

Greeley also owned property in Clymer and purchased a cemetery plot for his family. When his mother and father died in the 1860s, they were buried in Clymer Village Cemetery.

Crusading against the corruption of Ulysses S. Grant's Republican administration, Greeley was the new Liberal Republican Party's candidate in the 1872 U.S. presidential election. His last trip to Clymer came in September of that year while campaigning for president. Despite having the additional support of the Democratic Party, he lost in a landslide. He died shortly after the election on November 29, 1872, at the age of 61. [Audio file](#)

GEORGE PATTERSON

George W. Patterson was born on November 11, 1799, in Londonderry, NH to Thomas and Elizabeth (Wallace) Patterson. He was the youngest of twelve children, eleven of whom lived to mature age. Patterson received a common school and academic education in his native town. At the age of 18 he taught school in New Hampshire for three months before moving to Livingston, County, NY with his older brother.



Patterson and his brother ran a successful business dealing with the manufacture and sale of fanning mills. In February 1825, he married Hannah Dickey and continued to operate his business and farm. In addition, Patterson was a member of the New York State Assembly in 1832, 1833, and from 1835 to 1840; the last two years he was speaker of the house.

In May 1841, Patterson was asked to come to Westfield and take over as land agent for the Holland Land Company. While in Westfield, he was elected as a delegate to the constitutional convention of 1846. In 1848 he was elected lieutenant governor, on the ticket with Hon. Hamilton Fish, who was elected governor. He was also chairman of the harbor commission at New York from 1855 to 1857.

Later in life, after stepping away from state politics, Patterson served as Westfield town supervisor and president of the board of education. He was a delegate to the Republican National Conventions of 1856 and 1860 and was elected as a

Republican to the 45th U.S. Congress, serving from March 4, 1877, to March 3, 1879. He died on October 15, 1879, in Westfield and was buried at Westfield Cemetery.

Patterson's daughter, Hannah, recognized the need for a public library for the citizens of Westfield and following her death on May 12, 1894, she willed enough funding to establish the Patterson Library, dedicated to the memory of her mother and father. [Audio file](#)

RICHARD T. ELY

Richard Theodore Ely was born April 13, 1854, in Ripley, the eldest of three children of Ezra Sterling Ely and the former Harriet Gardner Mason. He received his early education in the public schools of Ripley and later attended the state Normal School at Fredonia. At the age of 18, he entered Dartmouth College. One year later he transferred to Columbia University, from which he graduated in 1876.



After three years of graduate study abroad Ely received his degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Heidelberg in Germany. In 1881 he was appointed to the chair of political economy at Johns Hopkins University. In 1892, he went to the University of Wisconsin to serve as director of the School of Economics, Political Science and History. He stayed at the school until 1925, although in 1894 an unsuccessful attempt was made to depose him from his chair at Wisconsin for purportedly teaching socialistic doctrines.

Although regarded as a radical by his detractors on the political right, Ely was in fact opposed to socialism. However, he strongly favored competition over monopoly or state ownership, with regulation to "secure its benefits" and "mitigate its evils." He also supported labor unions and opposed child labor. He was close to the Social Gospel movement, emphasizing that the Gospel of Christ applied to society as a whole and was not merely individualistic; he worked hard to convince churches to advocate on behalf of workers.

Ely edited Macmillan's Citizen's Library of Economics, Politics, and Sociology and its Social Science textbook series, Crowell's Library of Economics and Politics, and was a frequent contributor to periodical literature, both scientific and popular.

In 1925, Ely moved to Northwestern University in Chicago, where he accepted a position as professor of economics. He remained at Northwestern until his retirement in 1933. He died in Old Lyme, CT on October 4, 1943.

The American Economic Association instituted the annual "Richard T. Ely Lecture" in 1960 in his memory, which, unlike the Association's other honors, is also open to non-American economists. [Audio file](#)

AARON HALL

Aaron Hall was born in Otsego County on March 9, 1830, to Jacob and Eliza Woodburn Hall. In June of that year, his family came to Chautauqua County to live in a log cabin in the Town of Charlotte built by Aaron Hall's grandfather, David Woodburn. Hall was raised in the area and at the age of 24, he married Martha E. Parkhurst of Chautauqua. In 1855 he and his wife moved to Westfield, and he took up work as a builder.

While Hall was considered an able builder, it was his skill as an architect that would help steer him through the remainder of his life. He first gained renown while living in Westfield, where he designed several homes and buildings, including the Westfield Presbyterian Church. When the church was destroyed by fire, he planned and rebuilt the church, which still stands today.



In 1860 Hall moved to Jamestown and was soon recognized as an architect of unusual talent and ability. His most famous and well-known work is Governor Reuben Fenton's mansion, which was built in 1863 and occupied by Fenton and his family up to the time of his death in 1884. Today, the structure serves as a museum and the home of the Fenton History Center.

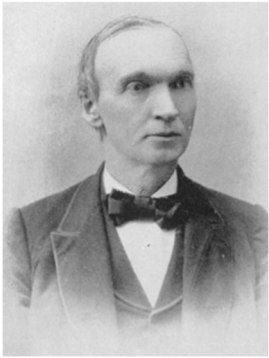
Hall also was responsible for many of the downtown buildings and landmarks that were built during Jamestown's boom years during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His work included the original City Hall building, the Sherman house, the Prendergast building, the New Gifford building, the Wellman buildings, several local churches, along with many notable mansions and residences that still stand. He also did considerable architectural work in Randolph, Olean, and Warren, PA.

In addition to work as an architect, Hall held the office of Ellicott highway commissioner for 12 years and in 1882 and 1883 he was a Jamestown village board member. He was also long-time Mason.

Hall died April 4, 1911, at the age of 81. [Audio file](#)

OBED EDSON

Obed Edson was born February 18, 1832, in Sinclairville. His father was the Hon. John M. Edson, a native of Madison County who came with the family of Samuel Sinclair to settle Sinclairville in 1810.



Edson obtained a good education at the common schools in Sinclairville and at the Fredonia Academy. In 1851 he commenced the study of law in Sinclairville, and in 1853 attended the Albany Law University. He was admitted to the bar on April 8, 1853, and returned to Sinclairville to practice law.

Edson also had experience as a surveyor and a civil engineer also, having assisted in the survey of several railroads in New York and Pennsylvania.

At the age of 22, Edson was elected for two years as Superintendent of the Common Schools and in 1856 was chosen justice of the peace. He also served as Justice of Sessions of the county and town supervisor of Charlotte. In 1874 he was elected to the New York State Assembly, despite being a Democrat in a heavily favored Republican district.

As a member of the state legislature, he worked diligently on writing a law allowing for the establishment of incorporated community libraries outside of large cities. Under his act, many libraries were created throughout New York state.

Edson also devoted considerable and invaluable attention to local historical research, including the history of the Chautauqua region prior to being settled in the early 19th century. He contributed to several local history books, including *Young's History of Chautauqua County, NY* and *Biographical and Portrait Cyclopaedia of Chautauqua County*.

Edson died November 22, 1919, at the age of 87. [Audio file](#)