

District of Ross Mills
Ross Mills Newsletter
December 2017



*Merry
Christmas*



Contact Emory ~ 338-5792 or email us at rossmillsnewsletter@gmail.com

My Wandering Mind...

While we are going in many ways we are losing in others. When we have been around as long as some of us ~ and looking back as time has advanced - we can see the many differences.

The majority of our people's attitudes are so much different - a big share of the time our character is developed from how we grew up.

I have seen some of the best people that have come from a poor family the word work was not abad word its an honor to have a job and not complain about every little thing. Always trying to do

things the right way, like the saying goes "If a job is worth doing, it is worth doing right."

A lot of good citizens come from families that had their own business. Many times the children become part of the business. If people were raised upon an operating farm they would know you need to work to get along. We are losing our family farms because of the economy. A living cannot be made on a dairy farm, a lot of hard work with little return.

As we look around we have a lot to be thankful for our communications, our roads our electric, our phones, and our traveling. Have all these good things come along because of the hard work our father's had?

Remember the trains that was one of the biggest things that go the country going. After all that, they wanted to get rid of the trains. They were in our way, "We don't want you now.

The hard working people in the past helped us get what we have. Are the same kind of people that are pushed aside, "We don't need you - you're in the way"

On and on it goes. It takes kindling to get a fire going, but when it is going we don't the kindling now.

~Emory Holmquist

Sister's Restaurant on Rt. 380

Sunday thru Saturday 7am - 2pm

Fridays 7am - 2pm and again later for dinner 4pm - 8pm

*The photo below is the last class held in District No. 1 School in Ross Mills
Ross Mills Schoolhouse 1952-1953*



Teacher: Miss Cowan

Front Row: Gail McChesney (Machemer), Laura Crow (Teff), Lois Burch (Bowder),
Joni Miller, Kay Penhollow (not sure), Chloe Pangborn (Vincent)

Back Row: Jim Jones, Donald Everett, Merle McChesney (deceased), Dick Wetsel,
Ralph Penhollow, Clarence Dowd (deceased), Rusty Jones, David Crow,
Dwight Engstrom

Not only were the students of Ross Mills transferred to Falconer School District their teacher Miss Cowan was as well. She became a Second Grade teacher at Falconer's North Side School, note the document on the following page. The transfer of the Ross Mills Children was during the middle of the school year. The school operated for so many years it was sad to see it close. In the 1860's it was located further north on the corner of Knight Road and Gerry-Levant Roads by the name of Chamberlain School No. 14. It is unknown if the district lines moved or if the distance children had to walk determined the move of the school. Children were to only walk 2 1/2 miles to school and more children lived closer to the new school location at the point where Ross Mills and E. Ross Mills Roads now meet.

Levant was next established, on May 14, 1810, at the small hamlet that took root where the Cassadaga joins the Conewango, about a mile northwest of the present village of Falconer, on the Kennedy road. This settlement was entirely on lot 5.

Samuel B. Winsor was the first postmaster and, we believe, lived just over the present town line, in Poland, on the Kennedy road. Just where the office was kept is unknown. Levant was noted in the county for the thriving brick industry centered there, and the settle- ment had several business buildings and the Levant House grouped about the crossing of the two roads. At one time the post office was kept in the Levant House. Samuel Winsor was succeeded by John W. Winsor, July 15, 1845, and he by Joseph Shurt. The post office was discontinued May 10, 1854.

For a period of 28 years this location was without a post office, until on June 2, 1892 the Levant office was re-established and Carl E. Miescuker appointed postmaster. He kept a store in a building later known as the Fred Mosher hotel, located directly across the highway from the old pumping station of the Jamestown water supply system that used to stand on the southeast side of the bridge that crosses the stream. He kept the office in the second story. Patrick Murran was appointed June 20, 1896 and moved the office from the Miescuker store into his own store at the north west corner of the streamside. Carl Miescuker succeeded Murran on May 3, 1898. William Frank kept the office across the Gerry road from the Murran location. The Levant post office was discontinued September 30, 1903, and the mail was ordered sent to the Falconer office.



During the early existence of the Jamestown and Levant post offices, there were two settlements rising on the highway connecting the two places. These were known as Dexterville, near what the location of East Second and Buffalo streets, in Jamestown; and Tiffany's or Work's Mills, now Falconer.

The closing of the Levant post office, in 1864, left the residents of these three settlements with no mail service closer than Jamestown. So on February 25, 1872, at Falconer's Station on the D. A. V. & P. railroad, *Devoletown* post office was established. Mrs. Lorenza Tracy was the postmaster and lived the second door east of the four corners, on the north side of the street. On May 1, 1871 the name *Worksbrough* was changed to *Falconer* and Cyrus M. Carter appointed postmaster. He held office but a short time when Mrs. Tracy returned to the position. Falconer is an important manufacturing village, and the post office is very much in operation.

Ross Mills, on the southern part of lot 3., where the railroad crosses the highway in northern Ellcott, acquired itself a post office on June 19, 1874. Emory A. Ross was the postmaster. It is said that

the railroad thought a station at Gerry and another at Falconer was enough, so Mr. Ross built himself a station for the use of his employees and those who resided in the settlement about the mill. The station was a two-storied affair, with a hall for general letterings on the second floor. Mr. Ross kept a general store on the ground floor, and kept the post office there also. Patronage came largely from the lumber mills owned by E. A. Ross and E. A. Loucks, with near at hand. Mr. Ross was succeeded on October 11, 1895 by Elliott K. Ross, and he by Willis Kilborn on January 19, 1892 who served until the office was discontinued August 31, 1893. The mail being ordered sent to the Gerry post office.

The last post office to be established in the town, at a spot needing no introduction to anyone in Chautauque county, is named *Civilton*. This settlement at the foot of Chautauque Lake takes its name honoring Capt. de Calorin Bernierly who, with a force of some 150 men, camped along the lake shore in 1749, passing this point as they descended the outlet toward the Conewango river. The post office was established December 9, 1897 and Flora Jane Frank was the first postmaster. She was followed on Mar 22, 1911 by Cyrus H. Wilson. For many years Colarou Park, a small scale Coney Island, drew people by the thousands during the summer months, the only amusement park of the type between Buffalo and Erie. Colarou Park no longer draws the crowds of past years, but the village has become a permanent one, the post office still remaining in operation in spite of attempts in recent years to have it close.

Stafford's Gazetteer for 1824 makes mention that "it would seem there is another, called Outlet Chautauque Lake post office, tho' not in a list of post offices made for me by the postmaster at the court house." This assumption evidently stemmed from a description of an early mail route from Meadville, Pa., which was described as running "by way of the fork of Oil Creek, Warren, the outlet of Chautauque Lake to Mayville". No post office of such name ever existed in the county.

The
of
EARLY POST OFFICES
CHAUTAUQUE COUNTY, NEW YORK

C. MALCOLM NICHOLS
Jamestown, New York
1961