## **Town of Ossian Historical Society Newsletter**

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition

### December 2016

#### **Smallpox**

In the late 1800's and early 1900's the Town of Ossian officials were also the Town Board of Health. The minutes of the meetings tell how the town board handled the disease smallpox, which threatened the town.

Ossian February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1889

Ordered that all persons attending any district schools in the Town of Ossian and all persons over the age of 2 years old must present to the Board of Health they have been successfully vaccinated, or that in the judgement of the physician some sufficient reason exists why they should not be vaccinated. All persons who do not do so will submit to be vaccinated by the direction of the Board of Health and health office.

Communications with the Town of Burns is hereby ordered to cease and all persons residing in the Town of Ossian are strictly forbidden to enter or pass through said Town of Burns or any other town known to be infested with smallpox and any person entering the Town of Ossian known to be infested with smallpox will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.
Board of Health members,
James B. Hampton, supervisor and
president of the Board of Health
William Bonner, Town Clerk
E. H. Price, I. J. Knapp, Wm. R Shay,
J. M. Kennedy
Dr. A. V. Watkins, Health Officer

January 11, 1902

Special meeting of Town Board of Health to determine if there does exist in this town a contagious disease as reported to be in (one) Harvey Wampole family.

Dr. T. H. Lamonte and Dr. A. T. Bacon visited Harvey Wampole report to this Board of Health that Wampole has a contagious disease which is known as smallpox.

Motioned and seconded that A. T. Bacon shall visit for one day, Sunday January 12, 1902, our health physician T. H. Lamonte in taking charge of Wampole.

Motioned and seconded that Mr. John C. Scott shall be committee to procure a nurse to take care of Mr. Harvey Wampole. Motion and seconded that those who are unable (financially) or unwilling to be vaccinated at their own expense shall be vaccinated at expense to town.

Motioned and seconded that T. H. Lamonte shall purchase of Frank A. Kysor groceries for Harvey Wampole family during this sickness and to be a town charge.

Motioned and seconded that Charles Bush shall post – four notices at places as stated and reading small-pox, the places stated at Harvey Wampole, one at road by Adelbert Wilkins, one above Lamonte Grove and at fork of road leading to Wampoles.

Motioned and seconded that T. H. Lamonte shall be physician to take care of Harvey Wampole and his charges shall not exceed twenty dollars a day and to be a town charge.

Motioned and seconded that T. H. Lamonte may employ Dr. A. T. Bacon as council and Bacon's account to be a low charge.

Motioned and seconded that T. H. Lamonte shall furnish during this sickness Harvey Wampole family with wood if necessary and to be a town charge.

Meeting adjourned to meet next Wednesday Jan. 15, 1902 at 2 PM January 13, 1902

Special meeting of Town Board of Health to decide about burying Harvey Wampole who died this 13 day of January 1902 of a contagious disease known as small-pox.

Motioned and seconded that T. H. Lamont shall have the contract to buy a coffin, dig the grave and bury Harvey Wampole and for those services – we agree to pay one hundred dollars to him.

Motioned and seconded that T. H. Lamont shall purchase such disinfectants as necessary to cleanse or purify the house now occupied by Harvey Wampole family.

Motioned and seconded that we pay Isaac Bush (\$3.00) three dollars to go to Dansville and purchase a lot of Fremont Hampton to bury Harvey Wampole.

Board of Health also town officials

T. H. Lamonte supervisor,

F. A. Kysor Town Clerk,

J. C. Scott Justice of Peace,

E. F. Sanford Justice of Peace,

Thomas Gibson Justice of Peace,

Edwin Luce Justice of Peace,

A. B. Clendenin Citizen Member

January 15, 1902

Board of Health

Measures adopted by Dr. Lamonte in burying Harvey Wampole in the burial lot where he is entered against the protest of Mrs. Knapp meets our approbation and we fully concur in what he had done.

Motioned and seconded that we appoint Edwin Luce and A. B. Clendinen as committee to place all persons that have been exposed to small-pox by Harvey Wampole or in any other way under quarantine and remain at home.

Dansville Express, Thursday, January 16, 1902 Ossian Correspondence

The school at the Center is closed. Miss Stella Woolworth of Nunda being the teacher.

Dansville Express, Thursday, January 16, 1902 Small Pox in Ossian

Harvey Wampole, a farmer in the Town of Ossian, died of smallpox Sunday night. It is said that he was at Canisteo a short time ago and got on an emigrant train to ride to Hornellsville, and it is supposed that he caught the disease at that time. He was attended by Drs. LaMonte of Ossian and Pratt the elder of Canaseraga. He left no family except his wife, who with her father, Joseph Hiuman, are confined at home, the house being located on a cross road and some distance from neighbors. Rhea Walker, Town of Ossian Historian Source: Minutes of Town of Ossian **Board and Dansville Express** 

One Hundred Year Anniversaries in 2017

#### When Women Won Right to Vote

New York women achieved the right to vote in State elections in 1917, three years before the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the constitution giving women the right to vote in national elections. The result followed 50 years of fund raising, marching and rallies. This was achieved despite the fears that when a woman received the right to vote, "political gossip would cause her to neglect the home, forget to mend our clothes, and burn the biscuits" Source: The New York Times

#### World War I

World War I started July 28, 1914 and ended November 11, 1918 at eleven am – the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of 11<sup>th</sup> day of 11<sup>th</sup> month. The United States entered the war on April 6, 1917, joined its allies – Britain, France and Russia – under the command of Major General John J. Pershing.

We entered the war because of unrestricted attacks by German submarines on American ships and also on ships carrying American passengers. Additionally a telegram, intercepted by Britain, contained information that Germany sought an alliance with Mexico. The "Zimmerman Telegram", which increased tension, stated that the German foreign minister promised U. S. territory to Mexico in return for help in the war effort.

The Great War to End All Wars was so destructive that nations wanted to prevent such slaughter from ever happening again. The negotiations were prolonged by such solutions as the League of Nations. The terms of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 were so harsh that it set the stage for World War II.

Rhea Walker, Town of Ossian Historian Source: History.state.gov

#### **Town House**

At the annual town meeting held at Ossian Center on April 6, 1880 it was voted upon and carried by a majority of the Electors that the sum of five hundred dollars be raised according as the law directs to be used for the purpose of erecting a town house and buying a site for the same at or near the center of the Town as practicable.

> A. McCurdy, Supervisor I. F. Hampton, T. Clerk

At a special town meeting duly called and held at the old Hotel Ossian Center, Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1880 for the purpose of voting on the following resolution: said resolution was voted upon by the ballot (to wit). Resolved – that we ask the Board of Supervisors at next annual session to borrow (\$500) five hundred dollars on the credit of the Town payable Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1881 – for the purpose of building a town hall at Ossian Center for the use of said town. This five hundred dollars is in addition to the five hundred voted at the last annual Town meeting. The resolution carried by 44 majority 76 votes cast 60 in favor and 16 against.

A. M. McCurdy, Supervisor

I. F. Hampton, T. Clerk

At a meeting held at Ossian Center the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 1880, 7 P.M. notice of which was duly posted. The building of and furnishing all materials for a town house was let to Elias Geiger for \$765.00 to be paid \$500 the first day of February 1881 – the balance \$265.00 with interest in one year from February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1881. The said Geiger being the lowest bidder. The building to be built according to specifications and contract this day. Signed by the officers of the town board and said Elias Geiger and filed in the town clerk office.

I. F. Hampton, T. Clerk Ossian July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1880

At the annual meeting held at the town house in the Town of Ossian April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1881 the following officers were elected. Rep. Supervisor. Isaac F. Hampton T. Clerk, Ezekel Dennison Collector, Stewart Milliman Highway Commissioner, John McCarthy

Dem Justice, David McCurdy

#### Fall Walk

October 15, 2016 was a beautiful fall day for our fall walk. A group of us met at the town hall and drove to the Canaseraga State Forest off of Blank Hill Road. We walked through the forest for a ways and then entered a field. The view from the field was amazing. We could see Groveland, the Acomb farm on the Hornell Road, McCurdy Road and some of us could see our own barns and other buildings. The main idea of the walk was to be on part of the McCarthy Road which ran from Blank Hill Road to near the Canaseraga Town Line. The road was supposed to be another road to Canaseraga and is shown on the 1916 map of Ossian. Sometime later it was abandoned.

#### Chili or Soup Lunch and Cookie Sale

Our lunch and cookie sale on December 10<sup>th</sup> was successful. We sold all the chili and soup and around 40 dozen cookies. It was a nice winter day in the country, seeing neighbors and friends and also meeting new people. Thank you to everyone who made cookies for our sale.

# Up-coming 2017 Events of the Ossian Historical Society

Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> our annual chicken barbeque.

Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> a community yard sale – *something new!* Set-up your own booth or donate items to our booth. To be held at the Ossian Community Center. Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> our annual ice cream social.

Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> will be the youth summer recreation program.

Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> Cider and Cookie Sale.

**Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>** our annual chili and soup luncheon and cookie sale.

It is time to pay your yearly dues and enclosed is the form to use. If you are receiving this newsletter and are not a member but wish to become one use the form to join.

#### **Dansville Express**

On November 30, 1916 the Dansville Express reported that Livingston County has two towns in which there is no post office-Ossian and West Sparta. Ossian had two post offices at one time, one at Ossian Center and the other in West View. They both were closed in 1902.

#### **Christmas Advertisements**

At this time of year all of us are overwhelmed with advertisements which are in newspapers, our mailboxes, on television and the Internet. I decided to see what advertisements for Christmas looked like in December of 1916 and the following are examples of what I found in the local papers. I did not, however, find any Black Friday ads.



A 10 DAY SPECIAL SALE FOR XMAS

\$1.49

A Fine Mixed Candy loc a Pound !

Dinner Sets

April Steels

\$2.71 to \$25.84

JARDINIERS

From 75c to \$2.00

Sugar and Creamers

23c to \$1.50

Christmas Nuts

English Walnuts, Paper Shelled Almonds, Ferans and Filberts,

Mixed Nuts 20c lb.

Ribber Minel Marshrada Stick Craby R SUGAR SANDS- ARA CORDER

Bielory Nats, Block Walness RAYO

Salad Dishes

From 23c to 73c

Jelly Setts

From 73c to \$1.30

Some OM Pieces

dr Bordbers, illery Tears, of Lard Mile Sets, a Pin Holders,

Sult and Pepper Sir Batter Tales,

044 Createrns

Downer Netw, Table Sept.

Perup Ages Mustard Int

Carlon Lan. Anima, etc.

CANDIES

Marshine Barry Butter Cap B+1 Charmen Capities

La - Pves

H de R

LAMPS

A Happy

hrista

WORKER

RAYO

LAMPS

Parlor Lamps

Cups and Saucers

10 m 50e each

Toothpick Holders

CAKE PLATES

25 to 89c each

TOILET SETS

Finney Chronolates After Disnor Minta

Ship Jarc 50e

CHRISTMAS

\$5.95 4.98 3.98

3.50

57.00 Now 6.00 " 3.00 "

4.78

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