

TOWN OF OSSIAN

Board Meetings:
2nd Tues of the Month at 7:30pm
Clerk Hours:
Tues 8:00am-Noon
Thurs: 1:00pm to 4:00pm
585-335-7600

2020

TOWN OF OSSIAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

4706 Ossian Hill Road, Dansville, NY 14437

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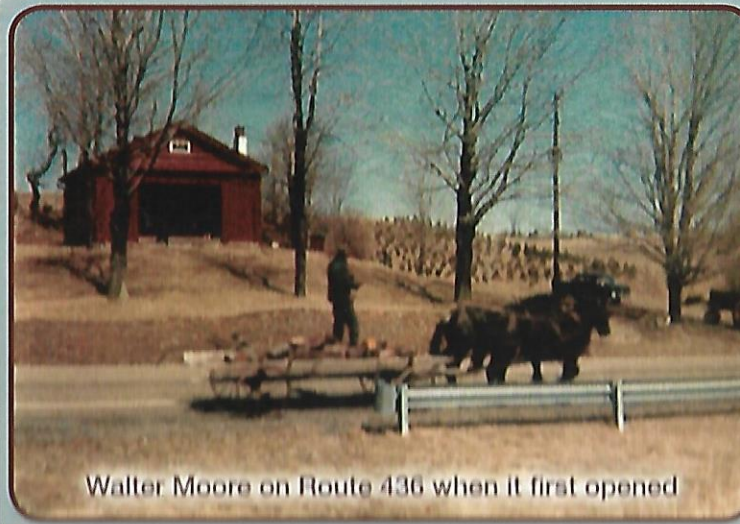
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Walter Moore on Route 436 when it first opened



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December, 2019

Walter S. Moore

Walter Moore was born on November 13, 1895, the son of Mary E. White and Augustus Winter Moore. He was a World War I veteran and he began his service in the United States Army on November 26, 1919. He was stationed along the Mexican Texas border. He was there after The Border War or it was also known as The Border Campaign which ended with the Battle of Ambos (Both) Nogales that was fought on August 27, 1918 between the Mexican Military and the U.S. Army. The result was that the two countries agreed to divide the two border communities with a chain-link fence, the first of many U.S.-Mexican border walls, along the two countries' border. While stationed there Walter was in the Signal Corp and was discharged on July 30, 1921 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

In 1930 Walter came to live with his step-father, John Hann, who his mother married after his father passed away, to help on the farm in Ossian. When his step-father passed away in 1948 the farm became his. The farm was a dairy farm with

about ten cows or sometimes there was a bull and nine cows. There was no electricity in the barn so all the cows were milked by hand. He also raised some crops, potatoes and corn.

Our calendar picture is of Walter driving his team of horses and wagon on the newly completed Route 436 past the former schoolhouse #4. He owned 100 acres of woods at the end of Frost Road and he would take his team there to cut wood and haul it to his home and farm.

Walter was married to Glenna Johnson Moore and was the father of two sons, Lyle and Paul, and one daughter Leola Teed and also a grandfather and great-grandfather. He passed away on February 25, 1988 at age 92.

Historical Matters 1918

After World War I ended the New York State Historian, James Sullivan, outlined work that must be done to collect and preserve materials having to do with the progress of the war. It was felt that in years to come

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what part Livingston County played in the war will be a matter of historic interest. It was stressed that the best time to collect accurate data would be now. The historical societies were asked to do this in 1918 and a year later, 1919, the town historians' law was put in place and they were appointed with the main purpose being to collect correct World War I information. At that time the scope of historical societies was being confined to musty records. Besides getting accurate information it was suggested that they obtain copies of war posters, war sermons, lectures, files of newspapers and accurate information on the activities of local organizations which will be of great importance in years to come.

Livingston County will be taking an active part at the meeting of the New York State historical society that will be held in Rochester for three days in October 1918. The Livingston County Historical Society, which held its annual meeting on January 10, 1918, will be officially represented at the meeting. At the Livingston County Historical Society meeting Andrew McCurdy of Ossian was elected as one of the councilmen.

The Genesee County Historical Federation, organized last June and covers the entire western section of New York State from Seneca Lake to the Niagara frontier is behind the general plans to stimulate activities in Livingston County and adjacent territory. Several societies affiliated with this society are already collecting and preserving materials pertaining to the war.

Rhea Walker, Ossian Historian

Source: Dansville Express, January, 1918

Bits and Pieces

The Dansville Express 1918

The Livingston Democrat says the military census shows 8492 females in this county (Livingston). We didn't believe there were that many women fighters in Livingston.

The Geo. Arndt Chair Co. elected the following officers last week: President and Manager, James M. Brogan; Vice President, T.H. Lamont; Secretary Treasurer, E.E. Brogan.

The old fashion red box sleigh of Ossian was brought out on Friday

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with a spanking team hitched to it, and it raced up the street to the great delight of the boys who caught on.

Fire in Ossian

Last Thursday afternoon the house on the Harvey Knapp farm in Ossian and occupied by Wm. Leiter and family burned down together with all the contents. The fire caught from a stove pipe and was discovered by Mrs. Leiter who was alone in the house with a small child, the other children being in school. The wind being in the right direction, drove the flames away from the barns. The only thing saved was the clothing the family had on their backs. Mrs. Leiter had 500 bushels of potatoes, a quantity of apples, pork, flour, canned fruit and vegetables in the cellar. Mr. Leiter's loss was about \$1000 with \$500 insurance on the contents also \$500 on the house. Mr. Knapp expects to rebuild at once, and in the meantime the family will occupy the Preston house.

State Road in Ossian

The town of Ossian intended to start a piece of road as soon as the spring opens, and nearly enough

stone has been drawn to lay the subbase.

The road will start at the Dansville town line on the north or Telegraph Road, extending to Covert's corners, then south through Ossian Center to the Canaseraga line. It is not expected the whole six miles will be completed this year, but the whole may be graded and a portion built. Fred Simerson will have charge of the work.

Source: Dansville Express, January, 1918

John Nichols of Ossian saw a deer near his house last Thursday.

Source: Dansville Express, October 31, 1889

In Ossian the candidates for supervisor are T.H. Lamont, Democrat and Arthur Covert, Republican. Dansville Express, March 2, 1911.

Dr. Lamont elected supervisor in Ossian. Dansville Express, March 16, 1911.

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W.C.T.U and Prohibition

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized on December 23, 1873 in Hillsboro, Ohio and was officially declared in Cleveland, Ohio in 1874. It was devoted to social reform and played an influential role in the temperance movement. It supported missionary work, woman's suffrage and the 18th Amendment. They called for the entire prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors and beverage. There were temperance meetings held in Ossian, two of which were announced in the Dansville Express. A temperance meeting was held in the schoolhouse near the Bisbee settlement in Ossian on Sunday afternoon, September 23, 1877 and a social under the auspices of the temperance association of Ossian was held on September 21, 1877 at the residence of Thomas Mitchell. Also, two W.C.T.U. meetings were posted in the Canaseraga Times, one on January 8, 1918 at Mrs. Eugene Hubbard's house and another meeting at Mrs. Walter Bacon's on January 22, 1918

at which time Red Cross work was done.

In the March of 1911 elections in the town of North Dansville there was an effort that had been made by the advocates of temperance to drive out all places where liquor is sold, and they made a determine fight in that direction, but they were defeated.

The following article was printed in the July 11, 1912 edition of the Dansville Advertiser.

"Charge It Up To Whiskey"

"John Johantgen Hangs Himself"

"Last Thursday evening we saw John Johantgen staggering up Main Street drunk. The next morning his lifeless body was found in an upper room of his home in Ossian hanging by the neck. He went home from town Thursday night and drove his wife and family out of the house which was not a new experience for them. They came to town and the next morning he was found dead.

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Coroner Driesbach went up and the body was taken down and laid upon the bed for the undertaker to attend to.

The funeral was held Monday morning from the home of his sister, Mrs. Louis Meyers, Park Avenue, Rev. Father I.G. Hofscheider officiating.

John Johantgen was 41 years old and a farm hand. He could do a bigger day's work than any other man in the vicinity. He was addicted to drink, and when intoxicated was always ugly, especially to his family. Everybody in town knew this fact and yet he could always get liquor in town when he had the coin to put up for it. Somebody filled him up on that last day of his life. Somebody sold him the last drink he swallowed. That somebody is alive and enjoying life and health, while John, the victim, fills a suicide's grave, sacrificing even the privilege of burial from the church to which he pledged allegiance when a child, because its rules forbid the right to suicides.

Let the dealers who furnished John with booze quiet their own conscience in their own way. They

never could have sold it to him unless they had been granted a license.

Who made it possible for John Johantgen to obtain liquor in endless quantities in Dansville? It was the men who voted against no-license a year ago last spring. Are you one of them? If you are, then it is up to you, like the liquor seller, to quiet your own conscience in your own way. John Johantgen is the victim of the cursed system this time. Who will be the next one? How do you feel about it, anyway?

It is neither pleasant or polite or customary to talk about these things in the papers but it is a condition and not a theory that confronts us. It is in your own hands and when you get disgusted with the cursed traffic, pull yourself together and get rid of it, the same as you kill mad dogs and quarantine smallpox and diptheria."

In April of 1918 20 cities in New York Stated voted to go dry. The women carried the vote in the dry cities by being more zealous than the men in their activities. The dry cities were to become dry legally on the first of October 1918 and they could

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not vote again on the question of local option for three years.

The Volstead Act – National Prohibition Act was passed on October 28, 1919 and it became the 18th amendment to the constitution on January 17, 1920. On March 22, 1933 Franklin Roosevelt signed into the law the Cullen-Harrison Act which made beer legal, 3.2% alcohol by weight. On December 5, 1933 the 21st amendment repealed the 18th amendment.

Sources: Dansville Express, Dansville Advertiser, Wikipedia

Pull For The Cure

Tom Bellanca of Ossian has held a tractor pull for the past three years to raise money for the cure of cancer. His tractor pulling team, Lawn Dart, donates their time for the tractor pull and friends, relatives and local businesses donate money and goods to this project. The past two years the tractor pull has been held in a beautiful setting in Ossian on Shay

Road and the first one was held at a different location. All money raised is donated to the Cure for Cancer. Last year \$7032 was raised, in 2018 \$5012 was raised and \$3025 was raised in the first pull.

The next Pull for the Cure will be held on Sunday, September 6, 2020 at the same location in Ossian. Be sure to join Tom and his team to support this cause, have a great time and enjoy our beautiful town.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR