

# Town of Ossian Historical Society Newsletter

**41st Edition**

**January-March 2023**

**The Book of Records for School  
District No. 3 in the Town of Ossian,  
Allegany County  
Ossian, Oct. 17, 1846**

At a special meeting of the legal voters of Dist. No. 3 in the town of Ossian held at the school house in pursuance of notice to all the legal voters therein on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 1846.

Isreal P. Price was chosen Moderator and David McCurdy was present as Dist. Clerk. Voted that we buy five rods square of ground of Nathan Covert where the house now stands for site for school house. Voted that we raise thirty five dollars for purchasing a site and other repairs for school house and purchasing a record book for district.

D. McCurdy, District Clerk

Isreal P. Price, Moderator

To the town Supt. of Common Schools of the town of Ossian,

We the trustees of School Dist., number three in the town of Ossian, in conformity with the statistics relating to common schools, do certify and report that the whole time any school has been kept in our district during the year ending on the date hereof and since the date of the last report for the said district is

seven monthes and that the time during said year and since the date of said last report such school has been kept by teachers after obtaining a certificate of qualification according to law is 5-1/2 months, that the amount of money received in one district from the town Supt. of common schools during said year and since the date of the said last report excepting Library money is thirty nine dols and twenty eight cents. And the said sum has been applied to the payment of the compensation of teachers employed in the said district and licensed as the Statutes prescribes.

That the amount of library money received in our district from the town Supt. of common schools during said year and since the date of the said last report is six dols and one cent, and that the said sum has been applied to the purchase of a library for the district.

That the number of volumes belonging to the district library and on hand on the last day of December last is ninety six. That the number of children taught in said district during said year and since the last report is Fifty. That of the said children ten attended less than two months.

Fifteen attended two months and less than four eighteen four months and less than six. Seven six months and less than eight. And that the number of children residing in our district on the last day of December last who are over five and under sixteen years of age are forty one, and that the names of the parents and other persons with whom such children respectfully reside and the number residing with each one as following,

Samuel A. Hopkins	2
Isaac C. Dimick	1
Tever I. Osborn	1
James Covert	1
James Vanscoter	6
Mary Dimick	2
Owen Hughes	2
Ismael P. Price	2
William M. McCurdy	1
David McCurdy	1
Catherine Boyles	1
George Ralph	2
Fredrick Covert	3
Charles Raymond	2
Wm. Fish	1
Elias Dimick	4
Harry Hyde	1
John Sisson	4
Samuel Decker	2
John Ralph	<u>2</u>
	41

And we further report that our school has been visited by the County Supt. of the county twice and by the town supt.

once in company with the County Supt., and that the sum paid for teachers wages over and above the public money appointment to said district during said year amounts \$8.75 that the school books in use in said district.

Dated at Ossian this first day of July A.D. 1847

William McCurdy

Nathaniel Covert

Trustees

David McCurdy – District Clerk

Ossian, October 7, 1848

At an annual meeting of the legal voters of school district No. 3 in the town of Ossian held pursuant to appointment and public notice at the school house in said district on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> day of Oct. 1848 at six o'clock P.M.

Nathaniel Covert was chosen moderator and David McCurdy was present as dist. Clerk.

Voted that Corydon Hyde be district clerk for the ensuing year.

Voted that David McCurdy be Trustee.

Voted that Tever Dixon Osborn be collector.

Voted that Frederick Covert be Librarian.

Voted that we have a winter school taught four months by a man teacher.

Voted that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the public money be applied on the winter school.

Voted that each scholar shall furnish  $\frac{1}{2}$  cord of wood fitted for the stove.

Voted that the teacher be wood inspector of each mans wood.

Voted that our winter school shall commence about the middle of November.

Voted that our next annual meeting be adjourned until the first Saturday in October A.D. 1849 at six o'clock P.M.

David McCurdy Clk.

Nathaniel Covert Mod.

The annual meeting record contained a list of all the books in the school's library, totaling 106, a report to the Town Superintendent of common schools of the Town of Ossian.

The number of students residing in the district between the ages of five and sixteen years, the names of the parents of the students and the names of the students and their age.

Name of Student	Age
Griffith VanScooter	15
Sarah VanScooter	11
Celonso VanScooter	10
James VanScooter	9
Catherine VanScooter	8
Hanson VanScooter	6
Elizabeth VanScooter	5
William Philips	12
Elizabeth Philips	9
Loas Philips	7
Sarah Philips	5

George Hopkins	13
Melvin Hopkins	10
Richard B. Dimick	14
William Peat	12
Olive Osborn	5
George Dimick	14
Margaret Graham	15
Rebucal Rolf	15
Jackson Rolf	13
Silas Fish	5
Nathan Dimick	15
Reed L. Dimick	13
David D. Dimick	10
Mary I. Dimick	8
Isabel Dimick	6
Emily Decker	11
Mary Ann Price	14
James C. Price	10
Isreal P. Price	5
Eunis Evens	11
Freeman Covert	13
Mary Jane Covert	5
Isabella Graham	13
Rebecca Hill	14
Alexander McNit	7
Henerietta McCurdy	12
Robert Hughs	

Dated at Ossian the first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty nine.

David McCurdy trustees  
Wm. M. McCurdy trustees  
Corydon Hyde D.C.

The names and ages of the students were listed for a few years.

At the October 11, 1870 annual meeting of the legal voters of School District No. 3 it was voted that they build a new school house and that a tax of \$400 be raised for the building of the same and they levy and collect one half of that amount this fall and the other half one year from this fall.

At a special meeting of the legal voters of School Dist, No. 3 in the Town of Ossian held at their school house on Saturday Nov. 12, 1870 at at 9 o'clock AM called by the Trustees of said district for the purpose of reconsidering a vote taken at the Annual meeting held at their School House on Saturday Oct. 11, 1870 where a vote was taken to raise tax the sum of \$400 on the taxable property of said district to build a new school house. At the special meeting it was moved to change the site for the school house in said district to the North West corner of lands purchased by S. W. Bonner of the heirs of R. W. Porter. Another vote was taken recinding the sum of \$400 for building the new school, thirteen voted against recinding said tax and one voted to recind the tax.

Moved that the trustees of said District be empowered to sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the present school house and site of said District No. 3. School House between 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> days of April 1871.

Moved that the trustees of the District be empowered and directed to let the job of building a new school house to the lowest bidder.

It was motioned and seconded that a tax of \$500 be raised to build a school house on the site procured by the district.

At a special meeting of the legal voters of School Dist. No. 3 in the town of Ossian held at their School House in said district for the purpose of building a new School House on the site procured one year ago, Harman Hartman was called to the chair and David McCurdy was present as District Clerk.

It was moved and seconded that David H. Porter and N. P. Covert be associated with trustee as a building committee.

It was also voted that the House be about 20 feet in width by 26 feet in length. They also voted that the present House and site be sold to the highest bidder for cash.

The annual meeting of District No. 3 was held on Oct. 8, 1872. At the meeting it was voted that David McCurdy be trustee, Andrew McCurdy be District Clerk and David H. Porter be the Librarian. They also voted that the balance of the \$500 not be used after the completion of the school house of \$46 be allowed A. McCurdy for his services. They also voted to dig a well at the new school using money accruing from the

sale of the old school house and site. They voted to have a four months school kept the coming winter. Voted to adjourn to meet at this School House at the time appointed by law at 7 o'clock PM 1873.

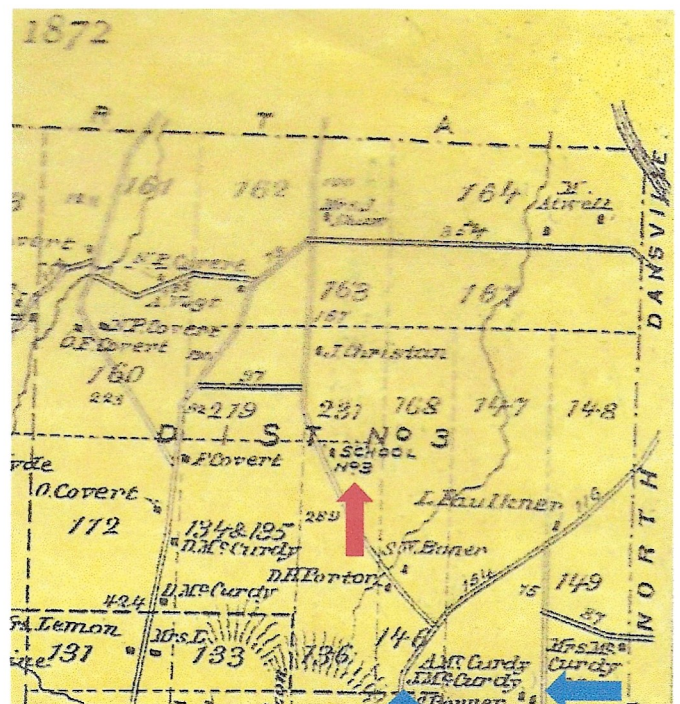
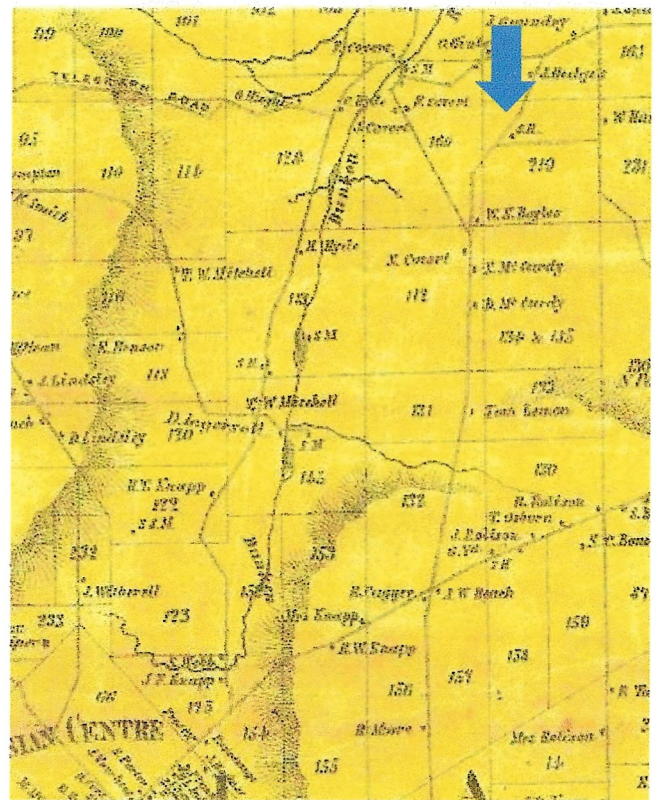
District #3 School continued until the following order of dissolution was issued.

In the matter of the Dissolution of Common School District no. 3 of the town of Ossian, County of Livingston and the annexation of the territory thereof to Dansville central rural school District No. 1.

It was decided that for the best educational interests of the community that Common School District No 3, town of Ossian, county of Livingston be dissolved and that the territory included within the boundaries of said district be annexed to Dansville Central Rural School District No. 1. The order took effect on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1937.

By Rhea Walker, Ossian Town Historian Source: The book of Records for School District No. 3 in the Town of Ossian, Allegany County. Borrowed from Cathy Moulton Saunders

### 1857 Map of Ossian



Today's Ossian Hill Rd. McCurdy Rd.

### **Rhoda Roberts Clendenin**

Rhoda Roberts was born in 1772 in Morristown, Morris, New Jersey. Her father was Peter Roberts Sr. and her mother was Rebecca VanWinkle.

Rhoda married Jacob Clendenin in 1803 in Sparta, NY. Jacob was born on Jan. 5, 1778 in New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey. His parents were Isaac Clendenin and Mary Ann Breese.

Rhoda and Jacob were charter members of the Ossian Presbyterian Church which was formed the 29<sup>th</sup> of September in 1818. Rhoda was one of the first 11 women who became members of the church. Jacob was appointed the clerk of the church on November 22, 1818 and Jacob, infant son of Jacob and Rhoda Clendenin, was baptized that day.

Rhoda and Jacob had six children –  
Mary Clendonning Adams 1804-1823  
Eleanor Clendenin Scott 1806-1850  
Catherine Clendinin Thompson 1811-58  
John Clendenin 1815-1896  
Jacob Clendenin 1817-1906

In the early days of the first settlers there were many Native Americans who were very friendly and kind to the settlers. A group of them held winter camp one year on Rhoda and Jacob Clendenin's land. They had various names and one man's name was called Yankee John. He was a good hunter and

would share his bounty with the settlers. The Clendenins were out one evening and when they came home they couldn't open the door to their log cabin. Mrs. Clendenin gave the door a push and when it flew open a heavy object fell on her. The object was a quarter of venison which had been left above the door. When she told Yankee John about it and how it had frightened her he danced around and laughed and shouted "Me! Me!"

Rhoda and Jacob stayed the rest of their lives in Ossian and both of them are buried in the Wood Cemetery, Ossian, NY

By Rhea Walker, Ossian Town Historian  
Source: Book No. 1 of Ossian  
Presbyterian Church, Ossian, NY