

Town of Ossian Historical Society Newsletter

42 Edition

June-August 2023

The Book of Records for School District No. 7

School Record Book, 1835.

Steal not this book my honest friend for fear the gallows will be your E.N.D. Ossian 1835. Mr. Edward Rathbun

The above was written on the title page of the Record Book for School No.7 located on Linzy Road.

School District No. 7 Ossian

The annual school meeting of District No. 7 was held pursuant to public notice by the trustees at the school house on the 3rd day of September 1838. Oliver Thompson was moderator and Edward Rathbun Clerk Protent.

Reuben Walworth, Samuel Porter and Joshua Rathbun were voted to be Trustees. It was then voted to rescind the vote to elect the following: Reuben Walworth, Trustee, John Scott, Trustee, Russel C. Thompson, clerk and R.C. Thompson, collector. The trustees then voted to purchase a book worth \$3 for district records. They voted to hold the next annual meeting on the first Saturday of September at 4 o'clock P.M. at this house.

The trustees hired Alixa J. Clark at \$2 per week. She began her school on Dec. 3, 1838 and school closed February 25, 1839. The trustees next hired Miss Mary A. Kemp on April 17, 1839, who commenced school at \$1.00 per week. Miss Kemp held school six months. On Nov. 18th, 1839, R. C. Thompson commenced school at \$18 per month and board himself.

The amount of Publick money used for 1839 was fifty-seven dollars.

Jan. 9, 1851, met according to special appointment organized. The meeting was called to order. D.P. Dunn was appointed chairman. They voted to raise money for a Free School. Motion lost – Ayes 5 and Nays 15.

On May 1, 1852, by order of the trustees, met according to Special Appointment for the purpose of ascertaining a new date and the propriety of building a new schoolhouse in District No. 7. A meeting was organized with D.N. Dunn moderator and on motion the meeting was adjourned to May 4, 1852.

At the adjournment meeting May 4 with D. Dunn Moderator a unanimous vote was held by the legal voters present to move the site across the road opposite the old house, the land portion of it belonging to William Canfield and the remainder to Edward Rathbun.

At a special meeting held on Feb. 19, 1859, it was resolved that they build a school house and raise three hundred and fifty dollars to build the school house. 15 ayes 3nays

A meeting was held on February 26, 1859, of the building committee, Samuel Porter, T. Gould, James Voorhees be building committee.

May the 7, 1859, at an adjourned meeting in the School District No. 7 in the town of Ossian James Voorhees was called to the chair and W. Bovee was present as clerk. Resolved that the trustees purchase of Matthew McCarty, opposite of the old site ten rod in depth and three rod on the highway of lot No. 68 of lands owned by Mathew McCarty and adjoining land owned by Rebecca Rathborn

the same amount contiguous and bounded the same as former price being part of lot No. 68 also. 14 in favor 1 not.

Resolved that there be sixty dollars raised by tax to pay for above site unanimous vote. Resolved that the former plan for building the school house be rescinded by unanimous vote. Resolved that we adopt the plan presented by James Voorhes similar to the Bisbee school house – width 26 feet, length 32 feet, joists fourteen feet high.

At a special meeting at the school house in Dist. No; 7, Aug. 27, 1859 at 6pm, resolved that there be a tax on the district of three hundred and fifty dollars to build a school house according to the contract now made and in the hands of JJ Hubbard.

The results were 13 ayes and 11 noes. At the October 9, 1860 meeting and also at the annual meeting at the school house the trustees were authorized to fence or caused to be fenced the school house lot. The old school house #7 was on the 1858 map of Ossian at the old location but was on the 1872 map of Ossian at the new and current location.

School #7 continued to be open until June 21, 1954. Mrs. George Weidman (Mary DePuy) was the last teacher at the school. The last students were Gerald, Bonnie, Daniel and Sandra Guy, Susan Fenton, Gerald Rudesil and Barbara Yanni. Some other teachers at the school were Beatrice Shay, Gladys Newville, Irene Bonner, Helen Boyd and Mrs. Goodrich.

Rhea Walker

School # 7

At one time there were ten different schools in our town of Ossian. Some are still standing, converted into homes (school

number 6 left town to live in Canaseraga), five are gone and one, to our great joy, school #7, is still here. It still resides on Linzy Road. As stated, it closed as a school on June 21, 1954. When the school closed, it was sold to a couple of different families who used it as a second or summer home. The son of the last family left the school house to Kenny Guy who is now giving it to The Ossian Historical Society. We are so happy and appreciative.

While this is a joyful occasion the school house needs work and we are asking the community to help with this work. We have some ideas of what to use the school house for such as historic programs, have old school desks in there so children can see and participate in school like it was in the old days. The possibilities are endless. Ever since we started the Historical Society a lot of our members have wished for this opportunity. If you are able to donate your time and skills and expertise, please stop in the Ossian town hall and leave your name and number or call the town hall, 335-7600, and give them your name and number. Thanking you in advance for your help. Thank-you Kenny for the school house.

Austin Road Grader

By Michele and Cathy Moulton

In the yard of our Highway Department sits an Austin Road Grader, pre-1901. What a beautiful restoration job the highway department did on it! My father, Mike Moulton, had this grader since shortly after we moved here in the 60's. To the best of Michelle's and my knowledge, this is how the story goes. Please bear in mind that this story involves more than an old out of date grader, it involves a circus wagon!

We will start with Harold Guy, Highway Superintendent of the Town of Ossian. This grader had to be pulled around. It had no engine and was quite difficult to maneuver compared to the new ones. So, Harold left it on the Philips Rd. in the gravel pit. My father asked if he could use it, Harold had no problem with that. The grader had to be moved and for some reason the grader was moved with a quite rugged Circus Wagon. Over the years the grader may have been used by someone else besides my Father, but it did end up in our pasture on the Linzy Road farm. We moved to Shay Rd.; Dad lugged the grader too. For years Dad did not think about what to do with it, it's not costing him anything to store it. Michelle felt the same way for a while, but then decided to clean up the property and asked the Ossian Highway Department to take it back, they did and now it's made a full circle. It served its purpose for Harold Guy for some years and my Dad and now it's back home again!

The Circus Wagon had a place in the Moulton's Museum for many years, we remember seeing its yellow and pink colors. It was a heavy-duty wagon that's for sure, it had to be able to carry the grader. The story of how the Town of Ossian or our father got it is a mystery, but it goes like this: The Circus came to Canaseraga and went bankrupt, apparently leaving behind the wagon. There is this no proof of that and I do not see a way to prove it or disprove it! Could the Circus arrive from the train in Canaseraga, it's possible, could they have left their Circus equipment behind, it's possible, but who knows? Maybe someone in Canaseraga will be able to shed some light on this story!

