

Town of Ossian Historical Society Newsletter

34th Edition

May 2020

Teen Recognition Award

Each year the Livingston County Youth Bureau recognizes and awards youth in our county who have had a positive influence on their community by service participation, volunteering and performing good deeds. High school students as young as 15 who are committed to community improvement, demonstrate leadership or are a role model because they have overcome personal challenges earn these awards. The award winners are usually honored at a banquet but unfortunately this year it had to be canceled due to the pandemic. Five students from the Town of Ossian were the award winners in 2020.

Award Winners

Sawyer Barron

Sawyer Barron is a junior at Dansville High School and as he says "is just a regular member" of school activities, Boy Scouts Troop 38 and a sports team. But being a regular member does not mean he doesn't give his best or sits back to watch others. Sawyer is a worker, a person

who is willing to try new things and loves the adventures of traveling. He holds his soccer coach in high esteem for taking the time to inspire and giving tips for improvement to his team players. Not only that but Mr. French takes the members to places to volunteer their services. Sawyer has been to the mountainous areas of Peru building an addition to an orphanage and repairing the building. A terrific experience for a small-town person to visit an area so different from home. This summer he will travel to New Mexico for a Boy Scout High Adventure camp. He will spend a week building trails and repairing hiking trails which then will be enjoyed by the hundreds of other Scouts. At home he spends time volunteering at the NYS Balloon Festival, Rotary Club Thanksgiving Day meal, Rotary Club Christmas bear give away at the hospital and at church. He also fits in time to help an elderly neighbor. Way to go, Sawyer! Nominator: Mary Ann Scharmburg

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Augustus Swyers

Augustus "Gus" Swyers has been a great influence on others this past year and throughout his life. This past summer was a life changer for several family members including Gus. The family farm, Swyers Dairy Farm experienced a barn fire that stored hay, equipment and heifers. On July 28, 2019, Gus was unloading and putting away hay bales. The bales caught on fire, Gus started pulling bales out and tried to also start the combine but because of the smoke there was not enough clean air to get it started. While he was on the combine, he heard rafters fall and he decided he needed to get out of the barn. He suffered 3rd degree burns on 10% of his body. The burns were on his forearms, neck, face and ears. He spent 8 days in the hospital having 1 surgery to move some skin from his hip to the burns. The pain was so bad that he was put out every day to have them cleaned and packed. He also had vacuums on his arms to help the skin underneath grow over the wounds.

Gus persevered through the pain and healing in time for football season. He practiced and played the whole season and was named defensive lineman of the year for the Mustangs. He was also named to the Homecoming Court this year as well. He continues to work on the family farm running the chopper, mechanical work and helped build the new barn. In the past he has been involved in 4-H, including showing animals at the Hemlock Fair, he has volunteered his time helping at church dinners and helped the Livingston County Dairy Princess Program when his sisters were involved. He has remained positive throughout his life and is always there to make you laugh. Since the fire, he has realized that he is not invincible and every day has a new enthusiasm for life. He has shown others this year to be resilient, speak up for yourself and others, listen to people, use his talents and focus on his relationships with friends and family. He continues to attend BOCES for diesel mechanics and focuses on keeping his grades good.

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He attends school functions to support his fellow classmates and to cheer the Mustangs on in games. He is a great and talented young man who will do many things and influence others to do great things also. He has made the Ossian community proud and we are honored to call him a neighbor.
Nominator: Heather Overholt

Michael Thomas

Michael Thomas is a bundle of energy who loves helping those in his community, members of his track team, as well as coworkers at his job. When home he often can be found cutting wood, caring for horses, mowing lawns and cleaning barns for all his neighbors. When at work his employer, Mr. Lang, describes Michael as "Head and shoulders above any of his peer coworkers. He is first to check in at work, dependable, and an excellent role model for all others. He is quick to teach new workers what is needed and he selflessly helps those that struggle to keep up." At school Michael is an influential member of both the indoor and outdoor track teams where he shines as a high

jump, sprint and relay specialist. Here too he is recognized as helping and encouraging his teammates through practices and competitions, conducting himself as a leader and upbeat representative of his teams. Michael also speaks fondly of being a regular contributor to the Carter Davis Walk, helping to raise money for Juvenile Diabetes Research. Michael's favorite classes in school involve math, science and technology. After graduation he hopes to enter the trades where he can put his outstanding work ethic, dependability and positive leadership skills to use. Always on the go Michael is maturing into a well-rounded young man who cares greatly about his community and is compassionate about helping others.
Nominator: Heather Pero

Savannah Tucker

Savannah Tucker is an exceptional young lady. She is the definition of a person who is dedicated to our Ossian community and to her school community. She helps her church, Ossian Presbyterian Church, by volunteering to clean as asked. She also helps clean and do some

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beautification at the church's Heath Homestead. She readily volunteers to help with the church's dinners and euchre card parties by setting up, serving food and cleaning up. She is also a member of the Junior Youth Group at the church and was involved with singing Christmas carols to the housebound and making cards for them. Savannah gave time and labor to the West View Cemetery Association's dedication of the new sign by helping prepare the cemetery for the event.

The Ossian Historical Society has benefited greatly from Savannah's help with their various functions, dinners and delivering calendars, and especially with the Ossian Summer Recreation Program held by the organization.

Savannah is also quite involved with her school starting with Girls on The Run, in which she participated and has been a helper in 9th and 10th grade. This year she would like to be a coach for the group. She has also been active in Girls in Power Through Technology and worked on the school yearbook last year. She is the reporter for Future Farmers of

America at BOCES and recently attended an FFA leadership conference in Syracuse. She has been nominated to attend an FFA conference in Albany and has won a scholarship to attend the FFA Leadership Conference in Washington, DC this July. Even though she has been quite busy she has had the time to help one of her friends fulfill that friend's volunteer hours requirement.

Savannah is studying Agriculture Production at BOCES and is considering making agricultural business a career.

Her willingness to be involved is a wonderful benefit to her town and to her school. The Town of Ossian is very fortunate to have such a person as Savannah as a citizen and she will continue to be an asset to the town and to any place or anyone in her future.

Nominator: Rhea Walker

Kylie Young

Kylie Young is a sweet, hardworking young lady, who has found her niche in many leadership

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activities at BOCES where she has taken criminal justice for two years. Her leadership skills were evident early on as she was assigned as a patrol sergeant her first year and as a media sergeant her second year at BOCES. These duties involved the management of her peers' daily logs, scheduling of student patrols, as well as establishing multiple media communications with fellow students keeping them informed of daily and future activities along with deadlines of assignments throughout the year. Kylie has also participated in USA Skills Competitions for two years. Here she focused on leadership skills related to criminal justice. While at the competition she was selected as an Alpha representative. This honorable position made her responsible for setting up, managing fellow criminal justice students, and securing a building during the Skills Competitions. This intense, real training has provided her the knowledge and confidence necessary to work in many aspects of law enforcement. Kylie is also a member of the BOCES Honor Guard where she is responsible for the care and

presentation of the flag every day and during special events. Kylie has been active in her community cleaning Letchworth Park each fall and as a volunteer representative promoting USA skills competitions to other schools and teachers. Kylie has learned much from her criminal justice classes. As graduation nears, she hopes to continue on this path working in one of the many facets of law enforcement.

Nominator: Heather Pero

Our town is very fortunate to have these students as residents. They are active in and committed to and contribute to our community and also to their school community.

Little Ditties from 1917

Victor Wilkins of Ossian has a new Chevrolet touring car.

F.H. Bluestone closed his school in Ossian Tuesday.

George Graham took the Military Census in Ossian district No.6.

Miss Mabel Luce closed a very successful term of school on Tuesday in Ossian district No.6.

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Invitations are out for a variety shower given in honor of Miss Mabel Luce in the Baptist church parlor Saturday afternoon. Her marriage to Stanley Sibley of Hornell will take place next week.

Baseball Stories

Victor Aldridge, the Hoosier schoolmaster, has gained a new nickname since joining the Cubs. It's Blossom.

We note that the Yankees have a left-hander in Love.

Another thing to worry about – filling the shoes of Honus Wagner.

From The "Canaseraga Times" June, 1917

Food Control Bill 1917

The name of this act was An Act to Provide Further for the National Security and Defense by Encouraging the Production, Conserving the Supply, and Controlling the Distribution of Food Products and Fuel. This act became law on August 10, 1917 and the short title was the Lever Food Act.

The act allowed the president to regulate the price, production, transportation and allocation of feeds, food, fuel and beverages and distilled spirits for the remainder of World War I. The president was also empowered to nationalize certain private factories and requisition storage facilities for military supplies. Private individuals and proprietors were entitled to be compensated for the fair market value of property taken.

The act banned the production of "distilled spirits" from any produce that was used for food. It was an emergency wartime measure and was designed to expire at the end of World War I. This was done to conserve food and fuel so the Americans could feed themselves, their growing army and their allies.

Herbert Hoover was named the head of the Food Administration. He had the authority to fix food prices, license distributors, coordinate purchases, oversee exports, act against hoarding and encourage farmers to grow more crops. He emphasized the needs of our allies for American produce and

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encouraged American households to consume less meat and bread. There were voluntary “meatless Tuesdays” and “sweetless Saturdays”, also Tuesdays and Saturdays were “porkless”, Mondays and Wednesdays would be “wheatless”. Compliance was voluntary however the baking industry, hotels and restaurants, were limited to war bread and rolls which were called “victory bread and rolls”.

The effectiveness of the rules depended solely on the goodwill of the American people. They had to depend on the co-operation of the trades. Hoover stated that there was but one police force – the American woman – to organize in co-operation with our state and local Food Administrators to see that the rules are obeyed. Citizens grew victory gardens, children were organized into United States School Garden Army, Boy Scouts were urged to be “patriotic to the core” when eating apples and slogans like “By all means, save the beans” became popular. During the first year Americans reduced their food consumption by 15%.

Harry Garfield, director of the Fuel Administration, directed efforts to save coal, oil and gas. Citizens were encouraged to save fuel with “gasless” Sundays, “heatless” Mondays and “lightless” nights.

The Fuel Administration ended in May 1919 and the Food Administration Quickly declined after the Armistice of November 11, 1918. The act was repealed on March 3, 1921.

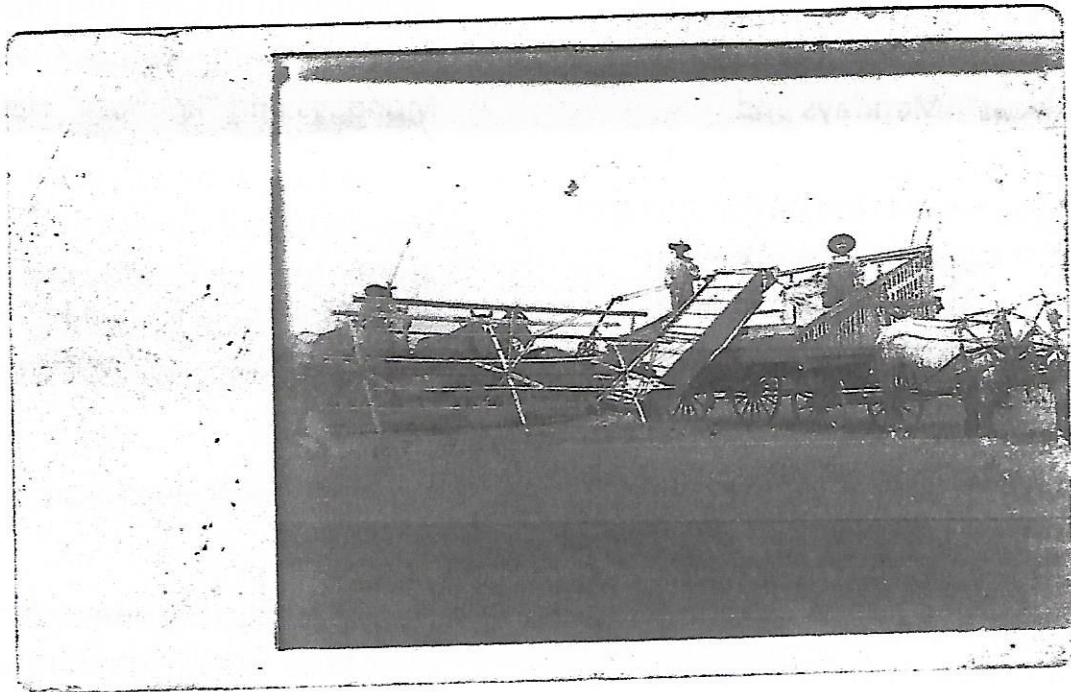
Sources: Encyclopedia.com, Wikipedia

During our stay at home period many of us have turned into bird watchers.

Picture by Terry Walker



The postcard pictured was sent to Harriett Bonner Linzy. We are not sure who sent it to her and where this is but we thought the picture and the responses were interesting.



These folks only had one header box we run two
 as when one box is full the other can go while
 one is being unloaded.

POST CARD

PLACE STAMP HERE

CORRESPONDENCE HERE

NAME AND ADDRESS HERE

You can see how we
 harvest our grain by
 this girl took the picture
 last year. Come out
 and see us harvest
 next year.
 M. J.

Miss Hattie Bonner
 Danville
 N. Y.