

Town of Ossian Historical Society Newsletter

35th Edition

September 2020

Albert Barney Clendenin

Albert Barney Clendenin was born in Ossian on January 8, 1943 and lived his entire life in Ossian. His parents were Jacob Clendenin, who was also born in Ossian and Mary Ann Kemp, who was born in West Sparta. His father passed away on May 22, 1905 at rather age of 88 and is buried in Ossian. His grandfather was also named Jacob and was born on January 5, 1778 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He died on November 3, 1859 at age 81. His grandmother was Rhoda Roberts of Sparta who died on February 9, 1860 at age 74. His grandparents were members of the Presbyterian Church in Ossian from its first formation and Jacob was made an elder on November 21, 1818.

Albert Barney was a Civil War Veteran who, at age 19, enlisted on September 27, 1861 at Dansville in the 74 Infantry to serve three years. He mustered in as a private, Co. 1, on October 6, 1861 and was discharged on January 6, 1863 for disability, at the Third Corps Hospital, near Fort Lyon, Virginia.

He married Martha Jane Rathbun, whose parents were Edward and Rebecca McCurdy Rathbun. Martha Jane was

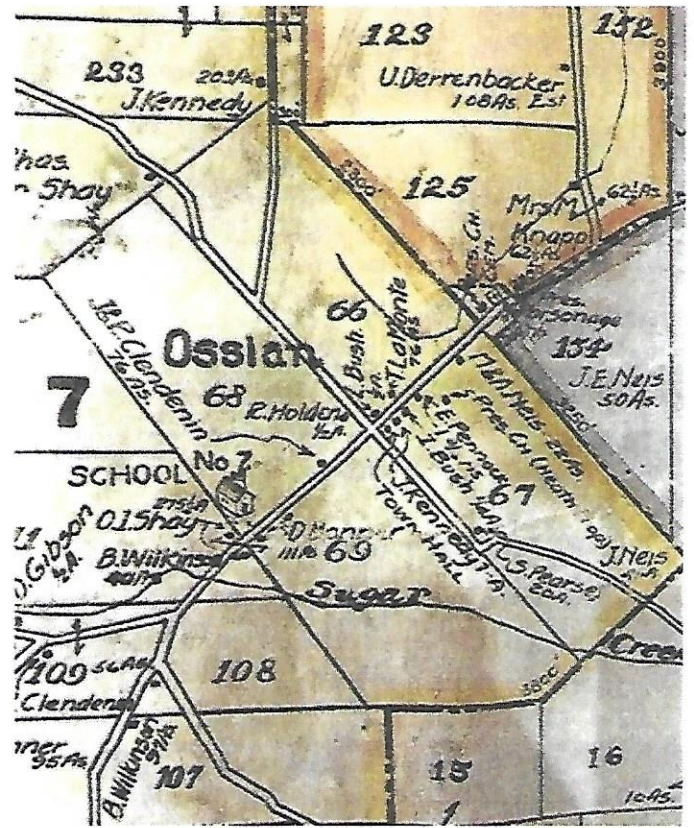
born in 1846 and died on August 2, 1918. They had two sons, Jacob D., who was born in 1880 and died on April 12, 1878 and Ralph, who was born on July 21, 1878 and died on November 27, 1961.

A. B. or Barney's, as he was called, grandparents and parents, had lived on Linzy Road and Bonner Road, see 1856 map. Barney and his family lived on Linzy Road near school house #7, see 1914 map. The house that they lived in appears to have been a Rathbun house, see the 1856 map. His sons continued to live in that house (see 1926 map) but not for the rest of their lives. At some point in time Russ Vroman and his family became owners of what we all still call the Clendenin house. Russ later sold it to Raymond Johantgen Jr. After there was a fire in the house Raymond sold the property to Mike and Sue Duffy.

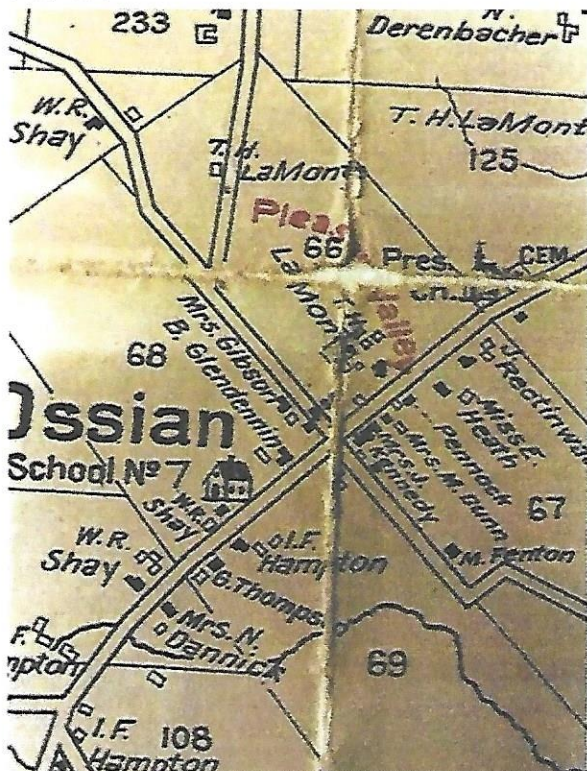
Barney was a farmer as were his grandfather and father. He was also active in the town of Ossian serving on the Board of Health for several years starting sometime in the 1890s and into the early 1900s. He was also an Inspector of Elections in 1898 and 1899 as far as I could find. In 1899 I found the election results where the Inspection of Elections were voted on in the regular

town elections and Barney received the most votes – 128. In some years he was a ballot clerk and in 1891 he was paid \$4 for doing this job and in 1902 he was paid \$24. He was also an excise commissioner in 1895 and excise clerk in 1896. He was elected as Justice of the Peace in 1903, 1905 and it was written in the Board Minutes that his term for Justice of the Peace expired on December 31, 1909.

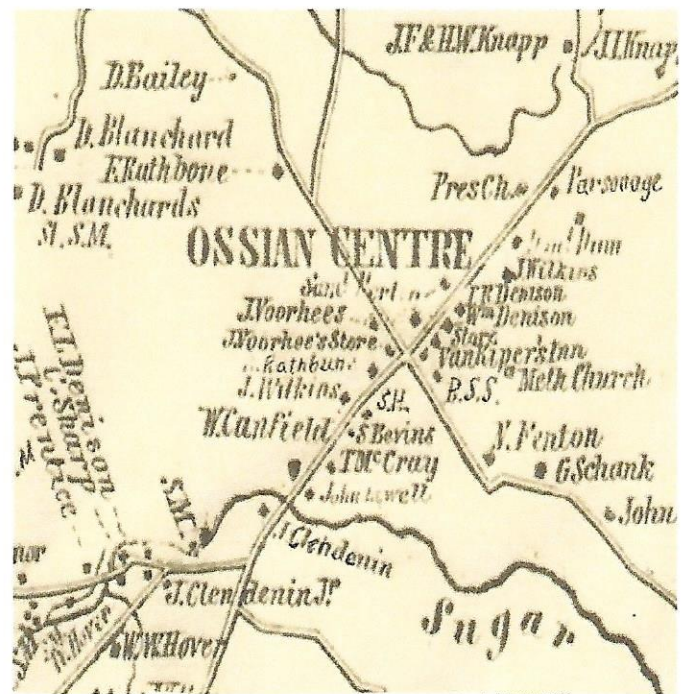
This summer the Ossian's Historian's office received a letter from the Dansville Area Historical Society written to Barney by Dr. R. W. Green of Geneseo answering Barney's request to be appointed as a Census for the Town of Ossian.



1926



1914



Bonner Rd. Scott Hill Rd. Blank Hill Sug

1856

S.H. = School House

SM = Saw Mill

B.S.S. = Blacksmith Shop

Office of
R. W. Green, M.D.
Geneseo, NY

July 15th, 1890

Friend Barney:

Yours just received and in reply will say that I will make some arrangement to wait until fall for the interest on your notes. In regard to the appointment of census enumerators the facts are as follows: Of course Wadsworth dictated all the appointments in Livingston County, but in some of the towns in the southern part of the county where there were several applicants from each town he was not well enough acquainted with the applicants to make a selection. A friend of Wadsworths came to me to inquire about the men in several of the towns, and finally told me if I would select the enumerators for Sparta, West Sparta, Ossian, and one of the enumerators for Nunda they would appoint whomever I recommended. Of course I recommended you from Ossian and that is the way your appointment was brought about. Since I became acquainted with Wadsworth I think he is one of the squarest and finest men I ever met. There isn't a little, nor a mean thing about him. He is a friend to everybody and puts on no airs, and while he is not a speech maker he has a great deal more ability than I used to think he had. He gave the preference to soldiers in every instance where they were qualified and on the whole did the square thing all round. I wish you would try to be one of the congressional delegates from Ossian and give him what help you can. You know such things often help a man at some future time in an unexpected war. Of course this census business is confidential between you and I as I would not like to have Lute Fenton know that I had any things to do about it. Lute and I are good

friends and if anyone besides you had been an applicant against Lute I should certainly have sent in Lutes name. If you came to the congressional convention, come down the night before and stay all night with me. Let me hear from you in regard to the delegates from Ossian.
Yours truly,
R. W. Green

Articles above submitted by
Rhea Walker, Ossian Historian

Chocolate Chip Cookies

Nancy Walker Smith

Bake at 375 deg. for 10 to 11 minutes

Mix thoroughly: 2 C. Crisco

1 C. White Sugar

1 C. Brown Sugar

3 Eggs

3 tsp. Vanilla

Add and Mix to above: 5-1/4 C. Flour

1-1/2 tsp. Soda

Dash of Salt

Add: 12 oz. Bag Semi Chocolate Chips

Tips: I buy Crisco in the smaller can (16 oz.) so I don't have to measure the Crisco. Semi Chocolate doesn't burn like the milk chocolate chips do onto the cookie sheet. Freezes well.

History: The original recipe came from my Mother's 1940s Betty Crocker Cookbook. When I entered cookies from this original recipe at the Caledonia and Hemlock Fair (4-H) in the 1960's, I only got a "red" ribbon as they told me to cut down on the sugar. Bingo, it worked as after that, I received blue ribbons. Then salt is not good for you so a teaspoon was downsized to a dash or two. Mom's cookbook is long gone as it had so many stains on some of the pages just like my 1972 Betty Crocker Cookbook.

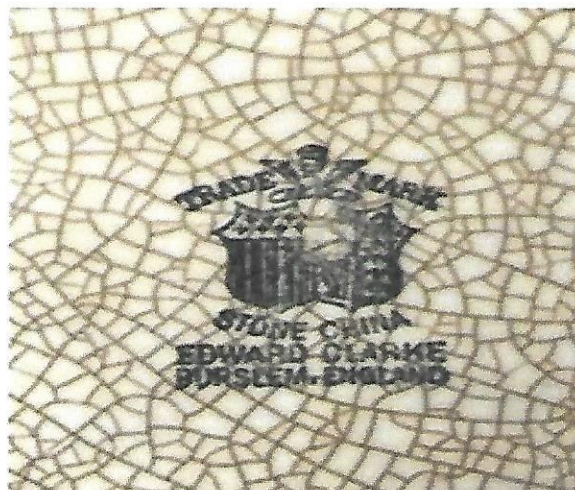
Old Dumps are windows to the past.

By Cathy Saunders

This summer, my sister Michelle and I spent a bit of time digging up the past, literally. Finding old dump sights is a great treat. We are always intrigued with Zaida Price's old foundation. She was one of Ossian's pioneers. So that is a great place for digging up relics from the past. Remnants of their fences are on the trees, we like to piece together where they had their pastures and barns. We find wagon, buggy and farm equipment parts, not in great shape but they tell a story. We know that Zaida died, at age 70, after returning home from her buggy trip to Rochester to see her youngest grandson who was not expected to live. Imagine Zaida driving to Rochester and back with her horse and buggy. At home, her heart gave out finally, so we wondered if she didn't feel well on the trip home.

Michelle was out and about and happen to spy a piece of a plate just laying by an older tree. A huge old tree that has stories to tell us. She started to dig around the bottom of the trunk and low and behold, broken dishes were under the tree. She called me and I came running, digging tools in hand. Grandkids in tow, we all started to work on the area and see what comes of this mystery. (yes, my grandkids love to help with digs) we got our old maps out and figured out who had a place way back then. Reading a map seems to be a lost art, so the grandkids are getting some lessons. Anyway, back to the dishes under the tree, left by a family, 3 different types of dishes, old lantern parts. The dishes were obviously left when the tree was very young sapling and it grew over the dishes covering them up completely. The two patterns we found is the Flow Blue Vermont and Flow

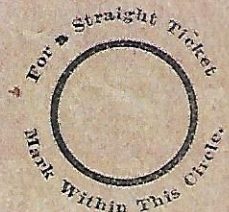
Blue China – England. Also, an Edward Clark Pattern may have been carried in The Ossian store. We have found this pattern in many different places.



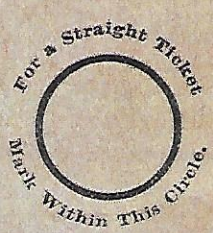
We have many times found quite a few Elixir bottles. Some lovely lavender glass and lots of ketchup bottles. We were puzzled by so many ketchup bottles, till an old timer told us that they were perfect for folks who made their ownElixir. Of course a decent dump site always has Ball and Atlas jars and crocks...its always a plus to find all the pieces and put them back together. I once found parts to a wagon that Warren Fenton told me belonged to a Democrat Wagon. He remembered that Ike and Hugh Porter drove one, the one in town he thought. He was 8 at the

time!





REPUBLICAN TICKET.



DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

THE ELECTOR THE I
THE COLUMN BELOW. UNDE
THE TITLE OF THE OFFICE
THE NAME OF ANY PERSON
WHOSE NAME IS NOT PRINT
ED UPON THE BALLOT, FO
WHOM HE DESIRES TO VOTE

23	For Supervisor, WILLAM R. SHAY.
30	For Town Clerk, FRANK A. KYSOR.
11	For Justice of the Peace, (long term) FRANK MILLIMAN.
3	For Justice of the Peace, (long term) JOHN C. SCOTT.
	For Commissioner of Highways, WILLIAM JAGGARD, SR.
9	For Assessor, (two years) GEORGE D. CRAHAM.
1	For Assessor, (two years) JAMES MC CARTNEY.
4	For Assessor, (short term) FREEMAN COVERT.
	For Collector, HOSEA FROST.
	For Overseer of the Poor, JAMES LOCKWOOD.
	For Constable, HOSEA FROST.
	For Constable, FRANK M. BURSE.
	For Constable, ELISAPH SANDFORD.
	For Constable, ROBERT HOLDEN.
	For Inspector of Election, A. B. CLENDENIN.
	For Inspector of Election, FRANK LINSLEY.
	For Game Constable, FRANK M. BURSE.

23	For Supervisor, THAYER H. LA MONT.
	For Town Clerk, JACOB E. NICE.
	For Justice of the Peace, (long term) CHESTER S. DENTON.
	For Justice of the Peace, (long term) JOHN W. VOGT.
9	For Commissioner of Highways, JOHN R. PENNOCK.
	For Assessor, (two years) JOEL WEIDMAN.
	For Assessor, (two years) HOMER BLANK.
	For Assessor, (short term) ADELBERT WILKINS.
	For Collector, PETER J. WAGNER.
	For Overseer of the Poor, JOSEPH HILLMAN.
	For Constable, PETER J. WAGNER.
	For Constable, THOMAS COUNTRY.
	For Constable, GEORGE MOORE.
	For Constable, NICHOLAS DERRENBACHER.
	For Inspector of Election, CHARLES W. EBERT.
	For Inspector of Election, JOHN FONTAINE.
	For Game Constable, NO NOMINATION.

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	For Town Clerk,
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