

TURNPIKE TALES

by Jim Ford

"TURNPIKE TALES" #31

(Historical items from the "Madison Bouckville Antique Week" region)

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The Madison-Bouckville area has been rich in history from the arrival of the first settlers to the present day. As an addition to the newsletter, we have decided to share some of that history in order that the patrons who travel to the Madison-Bouckville Show will have a better understanding of our truly unique region.

CEMETERIES CAN GIVE US A WEALTH OF INFORMATION

When we hear the word cemetery, we often have thoughts of death and a final resting place. Our current society does not speak of death very often, whereas decades ago death from disease, childbirth, or accident was a part of everyday life.

A cemetery can be a unique place of learning about former family members, past leaders of the community, unusual happenings that caused a person's death, or simply to view the beautiful art work that decorated many of the gravestones.

In this "Turnpike Tales" article I would like to highlight some of the people who have their final resting place in the Madison Village Cemetery. Contrary to the idea of a cemetery being a place to be feared, we will see that it can be a valuable source of education.

EDWARD ROGERS – A graduate of Yale College, Rogers settled in Madison from Cornwall, Connecticut at the close of the War of 1812. He was an attorney in Madison for nearly 30 years.

Edward Rogers was a member of the United States Congress – 1839-1841, from the 23rd District. His home was just to the south of what is now Taylor's Auction Service. This home was later the Congregational Church Parsonage.

NATHAN CLARK – Youngest soldier of the Revolutionary War. His father was a member of the Massachusetts Militia. Nathan's father was dealing with a personal illness and also wanted to be home to help his wife with the birth of their 8th child, Samuel. Nathan took his father's spot in the Militia. He was 14 years old at the time. Following the war, Nathan settled in Madison and when elderly, lived in Eaton, N.Y. with his nephew. He died there in 1858.

CHAUNCEY CRAIN – Lived in Bouckville in the cut stone house on the north side of Rt. 20, as you enter the community from the east. Today, this building is the home of Stone Lodge Antiques. Crain manufactured scales in the back of the house. These scales were used by individuals and businesses. His most famous scale was called the "Double-Bar Family Steelyard." An example of it can be seen at the Museum of Science and Technology in Syracuse.

REV. ALBERT FARGO – 1817-1900 – On the side of the gravestone is listed: Anthany A. 2 months, Charles G. 8 months, Hellen S. 8 months, Johnney 8 months, and A. Louie 3 years, 3 months. This was followed by the statement – Children of A.G. & C.A. Fargo. It was not unusual for families to lose a number of children at a young age due to disease and epidemics.

SAMUEL GOODWIN – Goodwin was born in Hartford, Connecticut. When he arrived in Madison, he bought the hotel on the northwest corner in Madison from Samuel Sinclair. He was the founder of the first line of stagecoaches which carried the mail through Madison Village. Goodwin had his horses stabled in buildings in the area that is now behind Tanner Insurance and Peavey Realty. Samuel Goodwin was chosen as the first President of the Incorporated Village of Madison in 1816. He later sold the stagecoach business to Colonel Thomas Nye and then operated the Park Hotel in Hamilton on the site of the current Colgate Inn. He died at Waterville, N.Y.

SOLOMON ROOT – He followed the lead of James D. Coolidge and planted a hop yard at his farm on what is now Rt. 12B. In recent times this was known as the Burkert Farm. In 1818 he took his crop to market and sold two tons of hops for \$1,000 per ton. This encouraged others to grow hops and the boom was underway in Madison and surrounding counties.

SAMUEL WHITE, JR. – Mr. White lived in the house now owned by Ron and Viola Neff, one mile east of Madison. The home was built c.1835. Samuel White, Jr. married Lucretia Berry, the youngest daughter of John Berry. He was a popular Town of Madison Supervisor, serving a total of 11 years.

ERASTUS CLEAVELAND – Mr. Cleaveland built the brick house on South Street. He married Rebecca Berry, a daughter of John Berry. Cleaveland began his career by building a saw mill on the Oriskany Creek. He later built the brick store in Madison, which is now the home of Tanner Insurance and Peavey Realty. Erastus Cleaveland was a Lt. Colonel of Militia during the War of 1812 and was promoted to General of Militia in 1820. He served two terms in the New York State Legislature – 1807 and 1833.

JOHN BERRY – Bought Lot #36 of the Town of Madison that later became the site for the Village of Madison. He is credited with being the “Father of the Village of Madison.” His home was located near the southern limits of the village and in his barn was held the first services for the Congregational Church. Mr. Berry sold the lots that became the four corners area of Madison Village.

THE MOWRY STONE – GRAVEART – DECORATIVE GRAVE STONE – As you travel through this cemetery or others in the area, notice that the creators of gravestones were also artists. Symbolism was common in gravestones and it is very interesting to research what the various symbols stood for.

OTHER GRAVESTONE SYMBOLS – Here are some common symbols found on the gravestones of our area:

BIBLE – denoting a Christian

BIRD – eternal life

CHALICE – the Sacraments

CHILD SLEEPING – death of a young child

CROSS – Christianity

DOVE – Resurrection

GRAPES – the blood of Christ

HOURGLASS – time has expired

IVY – friendship

LAMB – innocence

LAUREL – worldly accomplishment

OLIVE BRANCH – symbol of peace

PINEAPPLE – hospitality

ROSE (open) – death in the prime of life

ROSE (closed) – death early in life

TREE – tree of life

URN – immortality

WEEPING WILLOW –grief

WHEAT SHEAVES – divine harvest

WREATH – victory in death

MOSES MAYNARD – Maynard was a member of the planning committee for the proposed Chenango Canal. When the canal was approved, he built a warehouse on the canal bank and also the “White House,” later known as the Bouckville Hotel. Mr. Maynard owned several properties at the western edge of Bouckville, one of which became the site for the “Stone Store,” now known as the Landmark Tavern. The sons of Moses Maynard became quite prominent. Butler Maynard operated a book shop in Bouckville and Edward Maynard invented a breech loading style of rifle at the time of the Civil War, which was used by the armies of both the North and South.

THOMAS JOHNSTON – Johnston drowned at Madison Lake. He and a friend had gone to Madison Lake with a horse and buggy. They wanted to wash the buggy and drove it into the lake. The spot was near a drop off and the horse and buggy went down. Johnston jumped toward the shore, but could not swim. His friend tried to save him but the weight of Johnston in the water was too much. Both Johnston and his horse drowned.

JONAS BRIDGE – MASONIC SYMBOL – On some stones in the cemetery, we can see a symbol of an organization that the deceased person belonged to. The Masonic symbol is a common one. Many of our community members were very active in the Masonic organization and held officers in the Order.

JOHN LUCAS – Lucas originally established a store at Indian Opening. With the construction of the Cherry Valley Turnpike, he moved the store to the Northeast corner of the intersection of the new community known as Madison Four Corners and later, Madison Village. The Lucas store featured all of the necessities needed for townspeople and travelers.

RUTH MONTAGUE LUCAS BRONSON – Ruth was the daughter of John Lucas. She met her future husband, Miles Bronson, when he was a student at the Literary and Theological Seminary in Hamilton. Following their marriage, the couple traveled to India to work as missionaries. In 1868 Ruth became very ill and was brought back to the United States. She died the following year and was buried in the Madison Cemetery. Her husband remarried twice and is buried in Michigan beside his third wife.

JOHN DYE – Soldier of the Civil War. He was a member of Company A, 157th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment. This regiment was formed from Madison and Cortland counties. They were trained at Camp Mitchell in Hamilton, at a site just north of the Madison Street Cemetery. The 157th fought valiantly in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg among others. During the course of the war, the regiment lost 30 officers and 503 enlisted men killed, wounded, or missing.

DR. SEYMOUR CURTIS – Dr. Curtis was a physician in Madison shortly after the Civil War c.1868. He died on 9/19/1877 at 58 years of age. The Village of Madison had the services of a doctor from the time of settlement until the 1950's. The Curtis family name was very prominent in the Town of Madison.

DR. M.H. SUTCLIFFE – Born: 10/2/1844 and Died: 1/15/1882 at 38 years of age. Dr. Sutcliffe was born in Canada and came to Madison in April of 1873. His residence was on North Street, as shown on the 1875 Map of Madison County. Across the street from Dr. Sutcliffe was the residence of Dr. E.B. Hopkins. The Village of Madison had two doctors in 1875.

ISAAC FORD – Isaac was a soldier of the Civil War and a prisoner at Andersonville, the most notorious Confederate prison during the war. Thousands of Union soldiers died at Andersonville. Isaac returned home following the war as nothing but "skin and bones." Before the war he was nicknamed "Center" because he was the centerfielder on the village baseball team.

RICE – GRAVE ART – TREE – Oliver Rice owned the red cider mill which still stands behind Taylor's Auction Service. He was a carpenter and made cider for local citizens in the fall. His mill was operated by a kerosene engine. The gravestone is a tree that represents the "Tree of Life."

DR. WILLIAM WHEELER – Dr. Wheeler owned a farm on the corner of Cole and Stratford Streets, just outside of Solsville. The name of the farm was "Stratford Field." Dr. Wheeler practiced medicine in New York City and operated the farm as a "Model Farm." On the farm his employees used the most modern farming techniques. This was a common farming idea in the 1890's-early 1900's period. His summer cottage is now the home of Janice Bourdeau.

REV. ALBERT MARSHALL – 11/13/1824-2/16/1892 Rev. Marshall was Pastor of the Universalist Church for 32 years. At times the Pastor of a church so loved the community in which he served, that he wished to be buried in the area cemetery. This was the case with the Rev. Marshall. Following the closing of the church, the building was purchased by the American Legion in 1947.

It was designated as Legion Post 1556. Recently, the American Legion sold the former Universalist Church to become the home of the Town of Madison Historical Society.

GROVE AND AGNES HINMAN – Grove Hinman was certainly the best known businessman in Madison's history. He started his career buying calves and soon expanded his holdings by purchasing two feed mills, planting peas and beans, and buying over 50 farms in the area. He owned the property at Madison Lake, a road construction company, and ran a successful car dealership on Rt. 20. The building where the cars were sold stands across the street from the Madison Fire Department. Grove also sold the property where Madison Central School is located. The annual Hinman Scholarships, given at graduation ceremonies at the school, are the result of his accumulated wealth.