

County Printers

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Ballston Spa, conceive it my duty to correct the inadvertent, erroneous statements made by me on several occasions ...made under peculiar excitements, before and during a contested election at which James Thompson was a candidate for member of Congress.”¹⁴ Thompson never held political office, but was a powerful force in local politics.

The People’s Watch Tower was introduced by Comstock in 1818, succeeding the Independent American. Over the years the names and ownership changed until 1822 when Comstock launched the Ballston Spa Gazette which he published until 1847.¹⁵ In 1849 James Comstock was honored with his appointment as Postmaster to provide financial support in his declining years. He died in 1851 and is buried in Ballston Spa Village Cemetery.¹⁶

In 1813 the Federalist Independent American was the only newspaper in Ballston despite the Jeffersonian-Republican majority in the village and throughout Saratoga County. The need for a newspaper to reflect their Jeffersonian views attracted Isaiah Bunce to Ballston in early 1814. An attorney who had practiced law in Onondaga and Oneida counties for the previous decade, he established the first Republican press in the county, the Saratoga Journal, and immediately became embroiled in a major dispute that split the party.

Samuel Young, a long-time local politician, was first elected to the State Assembly in 1813, one of four Republicans elected that year from Saratoga County. He was able to leverage his political skills to become Speaker but in so doing apparently lost the support of his fellow county assemblymen, who led a revolt that split the party in 1815. Bunce supported the breakaway faction which became known as the “Old Liners.” Among the leaders of this group was John W. Taylor, who later became the only New Yorker ever to serve as Speaker of the House of Representatives. The split in the party led to victory for the long-suffering Federalists in the 1815 assembly election in which Young was defeated. Amid accusations that Young’s supporters, the “New Liners,” had offered a deal to local Federalists to support their candidates in turn for support for Young, the split became public and both sides published pamphlets to support their side of the story.¹⁷

The New Liners struck first with a polemic called “The Defense” signed by A Citizen and published by Ulysses F. Doubleday, newly arrived printer brought in by Young and Judge James Thompson to parry the thrusts of Bunce.¹⁸ Doubleday who had served as an apprentice to future Albany Evening Journal editor Thurlow Weed in Cooperstown, moved into the former wash house of the Sans Souci hotel today known as the Abner Doubleday house and launched the Saratoga Courier in December 1815.¹⁹ In the prospectus printed in the first edition he maintained his neutrality: “With regard to local politics, the editor of the Courier is an enemy to the schisms and divisions in the republican party.”²⁰

The Old Liners replied with their own pamphlet, presumably published by Bunce, signed “An Elector” which

The Saratoga Register: or, Farmer’s Journal.

THE SARATOGA ADVERTISER.

The INDEPENDENT AMERICAN
SARATOGA JOURNAL.

SARATOGA COURIER.

included signed statements from numerous local leaders attempting to place blame on Young and the New Liners for their party’s debacle at the polls. Bunce was not shy in taking on the county’s Republican establishment: “Ah, Mr. Thompson you make too many blunders; you must manage better or you may not be able to ride on Young’s back into a seat on the bench of our Supreme Court.”²¹

The split in the party ranks continued on for several years, but the newspapers that took sides in the dispute did not last long. With the community unable to support two Republican newspapers, both ceased publication in 1817, although Doubleday reentered the field with the Saratoga Republican which he published until 1820. It was during his short stay in Ballston that his son Abner Doubleday was born – the future Civil War general who incorrectly received credit for the invention of baseball. Ulysses moved on to publish papers in Auburn, New York and served two terms in Congress in the 1830’s. Bunce moved back to his boyhood home in Connecticut where he established the Litchfield Republican.

The country printers of Ballston engaged the community in the heated political issues of their time, both on the local and national level. Their time in Ballston Spa was often short, but their impact on the community was significant and is an important part of the early history of the village.

¹Elias Child, *Genealogy of the Child, Childs and Childe Families*, p.79 Also, “Increase;Child”, Stagge-Parker blogspot.com; ²The County Printer, p.58-68; ³Kim McCartney and Jam:s Richmond, Milton, New York: A New Town n a New Nation, p. 158; ⁴The Saratoga Advertiser, November 12, 1804; ⁵The Independent America; September 27, 1808; ⁶Saratoga County Deeds, Book E Page 317,319; ⁷Republican Advocate, July 20, 1824. Also ;The Mystery of the Masons”. Slate.com/news and politics/2015; ⁸William H. Hill, A Brief History of the Printing press in Washington Saratoga and Warren Counties, p.61 ⁹David C. Miller, A Narrative of the Fact and Circumstances Relating to the Kidnapping and Murder of William Morgan, 1827; ¹⁰The Country Printer, p.193; ¹¹David Bernard; Light on Masonry, p 353; ¹²The National Freeman, February 16, 1867; ¹³Cyrus Comstock, A Comstock Genealogy, p.87. Also Ancestry.com; ¹⁴The Saratoga Sentinel, November 14, 1828; ¹⁵Lists of the various newspapers and their publishers are best summarized in Our County and Its People, George Baker Anderson, p.286. Also, Nathaniel Sylvester, History of Saratoga County, 1878 edition, p 100; ¹⁶Albany Evening Journal, July 30, 1851; ¹⁷An Elector, A Review and Exposition of the Falsehoods and Misrepresentations of a Pamphlet Addressed to the Republicans of Saratoga County, Isaiah Bunce, presumed pub.,1816; ¹⁸A Citizen, The Defense, or an Apology for the Majority of the Republican Electors in the County of Saratoga, Ulysses F. Doubleday, pub., 1816; ¹⁹John Cromie, “Doubleday Slept Here”, in Local History, Saratoga County Historical Society, January 1992; ²⁰Saratoga Courier, December 6, 1815; ²¹Saratoga Journal, February 7, 1816

The Remarkable Sherwoods of Ballston Center, Saratoga County, NY

By **Bruce M. Manzer, PH.D.**

From 1854 until 1864 five children were born to Thomas Burr Sherwood and his wife Mary Frances (Beattie) Sherwood on the family farm one mile west of Ballston Center, just south of Ballston Spa. The children were Sarah Belknap "Belle," Mary, Margaret, Sidney, and Abigail. The first four, with a larger vision of the world, were destined to lead distinguished lives, one as a missionary, two as scholars, and another as a physician. The fifth chose a simpler yet equally noble profession — Motherhood. Their lives, beginning humbly on the family farm, were truly remarkable and, curiously, except for obituary notices, completely overlooked in the literature of Saratoga County's history. It is the purpose of this article to attempt to remedy that situation.

SARAH BELKNAP SHERWOOD HAWKES

Sarah (1854-1919), or Belle as she was familiarly known, was a Presbyterian missionary to Persia for some 36 years, from 1883 until her death in 1919.

She attended Chestnut Grove Seminary in West Milton and Elmira College, graduating in 1875. She, like so many of her counterparts at the time, pursued a career in education from 1879 to 1882 as a teacher in a female seminary in Newburgh, New York, but found it spiritually unfulfilling. Having come from a religious home she soon quite naturally found her calling in missionary service.

Sarah was appointed to the Mission in Persia by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. There she met and married the Reverend James W. Hawkes in 1884, also a member of the Mission to Persia. A son was born to them but died shortly after birth.

She ministered not only to the women and children of the Christian community there but also to those of the Jewish and Muslim families as well. It is reported that she acquired a mastery of Farsi and that her home became a center of missionary service and hospitality welcoming the flow of travelers between Tehran and Baghdad.

Those interested in her beliefs and service in Persia are referred to the Heuser article cited below as well as the literature of American missionary work, especially that of women, in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Another rich source are her papers and reports housed in the Presbyterian Historical Society and the papers of her husband, the James W. Hawkes Collection in the Indiana State Library.

Sarah Sherwood Hawkes died of typhoid in 1919 in Hamadan, Persia, and is presumed to be buried there.

MARY SHERWOOD

Mary Sherwood (March 31, 1856-May 24, 1935) was a physician, women's rights advocate and women's health pioneer. Her special medical interests were public health and maternal and child welfare, particularly for the poor. After obtaining a bachelor's degree at Vassar College in 1883 she taught chemistry there from 1883 to 1885; sub-

sequently she taught astronomy, geometry and mathematics at Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn from 1885 to 1886.

She was interested in pursuing a career in medicine but found few opportunities for medical education for women in the United States. Thus stymied she studied medicine at the University of Zurich graduating with an M. D. degree in 1891 (her thesis being in German and most probably defended in that language). It is there, in Zurich, that she met fellow physician and lifelong companion Dr. Lillian Welsh. She returned to Baltimore where she became co-director of the Evening Dispensary for Working Women and Girls in Baltimore and medical director at the Bryn Mawr School for Girls, a position she held for more than 20 years. She was also a teacher and later a trustee at Goucher College. She had come to Baltimore at the time of the creation of the Johns Hopkins Medical School and Johns Hopkins Hospital. She was later instrumental in opening this latter institution to women.

In 1919 she created and became the first director of the Baltimore Health Department Bureau of Child Welfare, which counseled and treated the needs of young women, expectant mothers and children, especially the poor, and put trained obstetricians within the reach of the poor. Further useful information on Dr. Mary Sherwood can be found in the Vassar College alumnae record and the Goucher College Archives. Literature on women in science and medicine, especially articles like that by Sandra Singer and Stephen Novak cited below which deal specifically with women who, finding themselves stymied at home, went abroad to study, is also useful. (Interestingly, the Novak article reproduces a letter from Mary Sherwood to the then President of the Philadelphia College of Physicians and Surgeons, John Dalton, where she had previously been denied admission, asking that, as she had completed two years of her training in Zurich, she be admitted to the Philadelphia school to complete her training. Her letter was annotated by Dr. Dalton, "Laid on table," meaning there was to be no reply. Women were not to be admitted to the College until 1917. The extensive literature on her companion, Dr. Lillian Welsh, is also useful.

She belonged to the League of Women Voters, the College Club, numerous civic clubs in Baltimore, and several medical associations. She attended the Unitarian Church. Dr. Mary never married. She died of coronary occlusion in Baltimore on May 24, 1935 and is buried in Briggs Cemetery, Saratoga County.

MARGARET SHERWOOD

Margaret Pollock Sherwood (November 1, 1864-September 24, 1955) was an educator and author.

She was educated at Vassar College (A. B.; Phi Beta Kappa; 1886), attended the University of Zurich and Oxford University, and received her Ph.D. in 1898 at Yale University. She also received the degree of Doctor of Humane

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Letters (Hon.) from New York University. She was associate professor of English literature at Wellesley College (1898-1912); full professor (1912-1931); and professor emerita from 1931 until her death.

Her writings were prodigious, including monographic studies of English literature as well as much short fiction and poetry appearing in such magazines as *Scribners*, *North American Review*, the *New Yorker*, and *Atlantic Monthly*. Her works frequently appear also in anthologies.

For a complete listing of her writings see the fourth edition of my *Saratoga County Bibliography*. Sketches of her life appear in numerous who's who's and other biographical directories. Her papers are to be found in the Wellesley College Archives.

Dr. Margaret was a member of numerous societies, including the Child Health Association, the American Forestry Association, the Audubon Society, and the Hawksley Society for the Protection of Animals and Birds in Italy.

A donation in memory of her mother enabled the Ballston Center Presbyterian Church to build a new vestibule and entrance to the church. It was dedicated in July 1956.

Dr. Margaret never married. She died September 24, 1955 and was buried in Briggs Cemetery.

SIDNEY SHERWOOD

Sidney Sherwood (May 28, 1860-August 5, 1901) was an educator and economist, being an associate professor of economics at Johns Hopkins University.

He graduated from Princeton in 1879 and entered Columbia University where he studied law. Becoming increasingly interested in economic questions he entered Johns Hopkins University to study economics, graduating in 1891 with a Ph. D. Subsequently he took up a position with the University of Pennsylvania as an instructor in economics. In 1892 he joined the Johns Hopkins University, becoming an associate professor of economics in 1895. He was an early American exponent of marginalism, the theory in economics that attempts to explain the discrepancy in the value of goods and services by reference to their secondary, or marginal utility.

In 1891 he married Mary Abigail Beattie of Cornwall-on-Hudson. Though they lived in Baltimore, Cornwall was their summer home. He led an active social life as is reflected in the many social notes recorded in Ballston area newspapers. These can be found in the following website: Old Fulton New York Post Cards ([HYPERLINK "http://www.fultonhistory.com/fulton.html"](http://www.fultonhistory.com/fulton.html) <http://www.fultonhistory.com/fulton.html>).

While spending the summer of 1901 at the family farm in Ballston Center Dr. Sherwood cut his hand while trimming a tree. Blood infection ensued and, despite the best medical attention, he died there on August 5, 1901. The funeral was held in Ballston Spa and interment followed in Winter Dell Cemetery, Cornwall-on-Hudson. He was survived by his wife and five children. His widow, Mary Abigail was very active in the community of Cornwall. She lived until 1968 and her extensive obituary contains much useful information also about Sidney.

In addition to the works cited below dealing with his life, a number of brief sketches can be found in the who's who type of reference books.

His obituary notice in the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* contains an extensive bibliography of his publications.

ABIGAIL ADELE SHERWOOD BAILEY

Abbie A. Sherwood Bailey (1857-May 16, 1943) was the wife of Allen Eaton Bailey. She was a graduate of the State Normal School in Albany class of 1875.

She had no world-engaging ambition like her siblings and was content to be a devoted wife and mother. She married Allen E. Bailey on September 4, 1878. She and her husband celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 1938. They lived most of their lives in nearby Burnt Hills where he was a farmer and charter member of the Burnt Hills Methodist Church. He died in 1939 at age 81.

Abigail died May 16, 1943, age 89, leaving a daughter and five sons and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey are both buried in Briggs Cemetery.

Thus, four remarkable, talented people went forth from a small farm in upstate New York, carrying homely, simple virtues with them and leaving behind provincial ways determined to engage the world and make a difference — a worthy Saratoga family overlooked no more.

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