

# Carpenter

Continued from previous page

stop to – baseball games on Sunday. In August of 1903 *The Saratogian* reported that at the urging of local clergy Sheriff Carpenter put an end to the Sunday afternoon games played on the baseball diamond just below Geyserville because they were breaking the laws of the Sabbath.

After completing his second term as sheriff Carpenter returned to Gansevoort and continued farming as well as returning to his position as postmaster in 1906. He became very involved in the Methodist Church, serving in various positions. He continued to add acreage to his farm and became one of the founding members of the Grange at Gansevoort. Known as a staunch Republican, a notice in the paper demanded that the sheriff explain himself after a cow he sold from his farm was found to have swallowed a campaign button for Van Wyck, the Democratic candidate for the New York City mayoral race (*The Warrensburgh News*, 13 Nov 1902)!

In 1907 Carpenter and his wife traveled to Canada and stopped at the famed Niagara Falls on their way back. In 1909 a gold watch given to the ex-sheriff by prominent citizens of Saratoga County wound up in a pawn shop in Mechanicville. As *The Saratogian* reported on September 30, Elmer Lablanche took the watch from Carpenter under the auspices of repairing it but somehow got himself into a financial pickle and needed to pawn the watch for a half dollar, not knowing that the watch was engraved with some well-known names. Luckily Carpenter's watch was returned to him and Mr. Lablanche was taken into custody.

In his later years Carpenter continued as postmaster in Gansevoort. His wife Matilda passed away in April of 1911 at the age of 81. Her funeral was held at the Methodist Church of Gansevoort where she and her daughter had donated a piano the year before. Her friends Mr. and Mrs. Otis Hall sang "My Latest Sun is Sinking Fast" and "Shall we Gather at the River" at her service.

On February 10, 1912 the Gansevoort Post Office burned to the ground in the middle of the night taking with it an adjoining two-story building. According to *The Saratogian* the flames were spotted by a passing D&H train around 2:30am and the engineer blew the whistle continuously, attempting to wake the residents of the hamlet. The building was a total loss but Carpenter had taken all of the mail to his residence the evening before for safe keeping and thus saved it from the flames. Within weeks of the fire Mr. Carpenter became ill, resulting in his death. His obituary, published in *The Saratogian* on April 20 1912, stated that "Until the destruction of the Gansevoort post office by fire a few weeks ago Mr. Carpenter had been in good health, but the worry and extra work he underwent at that time resulted in his sickness." (*The Saratogian* 20 Apr 1912) A full report of the funeral including all the prominent citizens that attended was added as a special to *The Saratogian* the day

after the service in which bits of the sermon were quoted as well as Mr. Carpenter's creed, "The Methodist Church and the Republican Party can save the world." (*The Saratogian* 24 Apr 1912) Carpenter's body was interred in the Carpenter Cemetery in his native town of Corinth.

Though he had been married at least four times he left behind only one child, Franklin W. Carpenter, who was serving as secretary to the Governor General of the Philippines at the time of his father's death. Franklin W.'s family, however, had remained in Omaha, Nebraska and they returned to Gansevoort after being told of the ex-sheriff's illness. In Carpenter's Last Will and Testament, filed at the Saratoga County Surrogate Court, he left his entire estate to his two grandchildren Margarita Amanda and Franklin W. Carpenter Jr., under the care of their mother Lucia.

The Saratoga County Historian's Office is extremely grateful to Mr. Antis of Moreau for obtaining and donating the sheriff's badge of Franklin Carpenter so that it may be preserved and Sheriff Carpenter's story may be told and his life of public service in Saratoga County remembered.

## Do you know what happened to the mills of Milton?

All of the Mills in Factory Village and Bloodville met their demise by fire. The Old Red Mill (1874), Cook's Mill (1882), Eagle mill (1917) and National Mill (1922) in Factory Village, all paper mills, burned and were not rebuilt. The Scythe and Axe factories established by Isaiah Blood in Bloodville were destroyed in 1900-1901. In Milton Center the Tannery owned by Samuel Haight burned in 1881, putting 140 men out of work. Haight relocated his business to Ballston Spa as the Bulls Head Tannery, later

## George West was known in Kansas

The following newspaper snippet comes from a small newspaper in rural Kansas in 1888. It concerns Ballston Spa's leading businessman, George West.



### Spider-Web Paper.

Hon. George West, of Ballston Spa, N.Y., is in possession of a curiosity in paper sent him by a friend in Hong Kong, China. It is a sheet eleven by fourteen inches, made from the web of the "sacred white spider" of the Flowery kingdom. It is as light as air and almost as transparent, but is also beautifully printed, and contains about the equal of two columns of matter, giving in English the story of "How Midshipman Copplestone Was Presented at the Court of Pekin." Mr. West has made the manufacture of paper his life work and study, but it is safe to say that he never ran a spider web-paper factory.