



OTSEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

172 County Highway 33W
Cooperstown, New York 13326

RICHARD J. DEVLIN, JR
SHERIFF



CAMERON S. ALLISON
UNDERSHERIFF

SHERIFF'S OF OTSEGO COUNTY FROM 1791 TO PRESENT

Researched by Hugh MacDougall
Official Historian
Village of Cooperstown

PHASE ONE: 1791-1822

Until 1822, New York State Sheriffs were appointed annually by the Council of Appointment, a State agency composed of four State Senators (one from each of the four Senatorial districts) chosen by the State Assembly, and the Governor. A very political agency, it was usually -- but not always -- a political arm of the State Assembly of the moment. Sheriffs were required to own property in the County from which appointed, and no Sheriff could serve more than four consecutive terms.

In 1821 a new State Constitution was adopted, effective in 1822, under which Sheriffs were elected for a three-year term, and could not serve in consecutive terms.

Richard R. Smith, February 17, 1791 [Federalist]

Richard Rodman Smith (Sheriff 1791-1792), Otsego County's first Sheriff, was born in Burlington County, New Jersey on June 30, 1765, the son of Richard Smith (1735-1803) and Elizabeth Rodman (b. ca. 1743). His father, had visited the Otsego country in 1769 and kept a journal, which is today a major source for our early history.

A long-time friend of William Cooper, Richard R. Smith came to Cooperstown in 1790. Here he lived with the Cooper family and helped run the newly established Village Store. He was appointed Sheriff of Otsego County on February 17, 1791, for what was then a one-year term. In April 1792, after his term had expired but before his successor had taken office, he delivered Otsego County's 1792 election returns under his seal and signature; this was eventually ruled illegal, the ballots were invalidated, allowing George Clinton to be re-elected over John Jay by a narrow margin. In that same election, however, Smith was elected as a Town Supervisor in the Town of Otsego.

Smith returned to Philadelphia in 1794, where in 1796 he married Ann Emlen Howell (1773-1812). He remained a close friend of the Cooper family, and it was to his home that, in 1806, the 16 year-old James Fenimore Cooper, went after deciding to run away to sea. He ran a store on Chestnut Street in Philadelphia for many years, and died there on November 16, 1811.

In his novel "The Pioneers" (1823), set in the Cooperstown ("Templeton") of the early 1790s, James Fenimore Cooper used Richard R. Smith as the model for his "Richard Jones." In the book Richard Jones, like Smith, is named Sheriff. And like Smith, he paints the sign of the village's principal tavern on the corner of Main and Pioneer Streets -- "The Bold Dragoon" in Cooper's story; "The Red Lion" in real life.

Benjamin Gilbert, March 30, 1792; February 21, 1794; March 16, 1799; February 26, 1810 [Federalist]

Benjamin Gilbert (Sheriff 1791-1792, 1794-1798, 1799-1802, 1810-1811), was born in Brookfield, Massachusetts on May 31, 1755, the son of Captain Daniel Gilbert and Lucy Barnes. He served in the Revolution between 1775 and 1783, some of it in his father's Company. He fought at Lexington, Bunker Hill, and Saratoga, rising to the rank of Lieutenant. After the war he became a founder of the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati. In 1786 he married Mary Starr Cornwell of Danbury, Connecticut (1766-1857), and moved to Middlefield, Otsego County, New York, where he became a farmer. They had ten children. His father had been a part of the Sullivan-Clinton Expedition of 1779, which may have led Benjamin to settle here.

In Otsego County Benjamin Gilbert occupied many public posts, and was a staunch Federalist supporter of William Cooper. In addition to serving as Sheriff on four occasions -- twice for the maximum of four consecutive annual terms -- he represented Otsego County in the State Assembly in 1794, 1798-99, and 1810, as well as being a Town Supervisor in Middlefield in 1803-1809 and 1810-1827. He ran unsuccessfully for Congress, as a Federalist, in 1802.

In Cooperstown, Benjamin Gilbert was a contributor (\$30) to the Academy building in 1795, and when Otsego County's first Masonic Lodge was formed in 1786 he was its first Treasurer. In 1819 he advertised that his

Administration 607-547-4270	Civil Division 607-547-4271	Pistol Permits 607-547-6451	Criminal Division 607-547-4273	Corrections Division 607-547-4252	Fax Number 607-547-6413
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apprentice, a 16-year old boy named Seth Jones, had run away from him. Gilbert died on January 17, 1827, and is buried with his wife in the Middlefield Baptist Cemetery.

**Harriet R. Rogers submitted the following
Town of Middlefield Historian**

Benjamin Gilbert served four terms as Otsego County Sheriff- in 1792, 1794, 1799 and 1810.

He was a Town of Middlefield pioneer. He came from Brookfield, Massachusetts, after serving eight years as an officer in the Revolutionary War. He is listed with the rank of Lieutenant, and saw action at Lexington, Bunker Hill and Saratoga. His father, Daniel, went down the Susquehanna in the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign and this probably influenced his choice of residence after the war.

Lt. Gilbert purchased lands just off the Hubble Hollow Road on Shell Creek and the remains of the home, later used as a barn, still stands. I took the current Benjamin Gilbert, of Darien, Connecticut, there for a visit a few years ago.

The complete history of the Benjamin Gilbert family is in the Town of Middlefield and Middlefield Historical Association files, and is in book form.

**Researched by Hugh MacDougall
Official Historian
Village of Cooperstown**

Samuel Dickson, March 11, 1793 [anti-Federalist]

Samuel Dickson (Sheriff 1793-1794) was born in Cherry Valley on April 1, 1765, the son of William Dickson (1728-1811), who came to Cherry Valley in 1742 from Londonderry, New Hampshire, as one its original Irish-born settlers, and Elizabeth Campbell (1729-1778) who was scalped and killed by Indians during the Cherry Valley massacre. The surviving family members fled, and only returned to Cherry Valley in 1783. Ten years later William sold his son Samuel a lot there for 600 pounds. In 1790 Samuel married Eleanor Campbell (1770-1844) of Cherry Valley, and they had six children born between 1795 and 1813.

Samuel Dickson was named Sheriff in 1793 by anti-Federalist Governor George Clinton, as retribution for the political support given William Cooper by the previous Sheriff, Benjamin Gilbert, but the following Gilbert was renamed to the office. Samuel Dickson's principal accomplishment seems to have been Elizabeth Campbell Dickson's tomb in the Cherry Valley cemetery, inscribed "Monument erected by her affectionate son, Samuel Dickson. Samuel Dickson died on August 26, 1822, and he and his wife Eleanor are buried in Cherry Valley.

Benjamin Gilbert, February 21, 1794 [see above]

Uriah Luce, February 6, 1798 [Federalist]

Uriah Luce (Sheriff 1798-1799) was born on Aug. 18, 1763 in Windham, Windham County, Connecticut, and served in the American Revolution. He moved to Hartwick about 1787, and in 1792 married Dille Lyon (ca. 1768-1838). He was a member of the first Grand Jury in Otsego County in 1791, and in 1795 contributed \$10.00 towards the construction of the Academy in Cooperstown. During his period as Sheriff, the newspapers contain many legal notices -- often sales of debtors' property -- that Uriah Luce has signed.

Uriah Luce engaged in various business activities. In 1791 he, together with Joseph Griffith and Samuel Huntington, mortgaged 2815 acres in the Morris Patent (Butternuts) to William Cooper, for 1410 pounds, 10 shillings; five years later they were in default and the land was announced for auction. In 1795 he advertised the services of his stallion Janus, described as having "the genteelst carriage (perhaps) of any horse in the state." He seems to have prospered, though, since in 1817 he was listed as having paid \$220.50 in United States "internal duties" -- more than almost anyone else in New York's 18th Collection District.

In September 1804, a 12 year-old orphan boy named Timothy Johnson, who had been living with the Luce family for six weeks, was found to have hanged himself in Uriah Luce's barn.

Uriah and Dille Luce had eight (possibly more) children. Following his wife's death he lived in Cooperstown with his son-in-law Capt. Henry Knowlton, and collected a Revolutionary War pension. He died on Dec. 9, 1841 in Cooperstown; he and his wife are buried in Pierstown Cemetery.

Benjamin Gilbert, March 16, 1799 [see above]

Solomon Martin, March 29, 1802 [Republican-Democrat]

Solomon Martin (Sheriff 1802-1806) was born in Woodbury, Connecticut on June 15, 1762, son of Solomon Martin and Esther Mitchell. He moved to Unadilla before 1790, and opened a small store; he also ran a distillery. On August 18, 1798 he married Susan Scott of Catskill, New York. They had four sons: Benjamin Franklin and William Scott Martin (twins, born 1802); Edward Martin (born 1804); and Robert Harper Martin (born 1807). He had close business relations with Unadilla pioneer Sluman Wattles of Unadilla, for whom Wattles Ferry was named, including the Susquehanna Turnpike of 1800. He was also a founder of St. Matthews Episcopal Church in 1809, and Father Daniel Nash baptized his four sons in 1808.

Martin led an active civic life, serving as Unadilla School Commissioner in 1796, Town Supervisor from 1798-1803, and Assemblyman for Otsego County in 1800-01 and 1802. He was also active in the Militia (said to have fought in the Revolution in Connecticut), rising to Captain in 1792 and Colonel in 1806; early in 1814 he was appointed Brigadier General in charge of the Second New York Infantry Brigade.

As Sheriff in 1806 Solomon Martin conducted the ceremony in which Stephen Arnold of Burlington, a teacher convicted of beating to death Betsy Van Ambrugh, a six-year old schoolgirl in his charge, was to be executed in Cooperstown on the bank of the Susquehanna. Though Martin had received a stay of execution order that morning, he went through with the execution until the last moment so as not anger the large crowd gathered for the occasion.

Solomon Martin died in Unadilla on December 27, 1816, at the age of 55. His widow and their four sons lived on for many years in the family home in Unadilla.

Arunah Metcalf, February 22, 1806 [Republican-Democrat]

Arunah Metcalf (Sheriff 1806-1810) was born on Aug. 15, 1771 in Lebanon, Connecticut, the son of Zebulon Metcalf (1729-1802) and Linda Bourne (born 1734). He moved to Cooperstown in 1802. In 1793 he married Eunice Williams (1775-1844), and they had five children.

Metcalf was Town Supervisor of the Town of Otsego from 1804-1810, served as Deputy Sheriff for four years, and was named Sheriff from 1806-1809. He was then elected a Republican (Jeffersonian) member of the 12th Congress (1811-1814), where he voted against the War of 1812. He continued his political career as a Republican member of the State Assembly for Otsego County from 1814 to 1816, and again in 1828. He was involved in a number of heated public political disputes. In 1819 he ran unsuccessfully for the State Senate, in a hotly contested election in which he was charged with collaborating with Federalists.

Metcalf was a founding Trustee of Hamilton College in 1812. In 1817 he became a founding member, and first Vice President, of the Agricultural Society of Otsego County, the first in the State (of which James Fenimore Cooper was the Corresponding Secretary). Metcalf became its President in 1818, and tried to promote the universal wearing of homespun clothing.

Arunah Metcalf died on August 15, 1848, and buried beside his wife in Cooperstown's Lakewood Cemetery.

Benjamin Gilbert, February 26, 1810 [see above]

Isaac Williams, Jr., February 26, 1811 [Republican-Democrat]

Isaac Williams, Jr. (Sheriff 1811-1813) was born in Goshen, Connecticut, on April 5, 1777, the son of Isaac (ca. 1729-1814) and Mercy (ca. 1755-1828) Williams. The family came to Pierstown in Otsego County in 1793. Isaac Jr., an active Republican (Jeffersonian) was appointed Undersheriff in 1810, and Sheriff in 1811. In 1813, when Federalists had returned to power in Albany, he was replaced as sheriff (leading to charges of political favoritism), and instead ran for Congress to fill the seat vacated by the death of William Dowse. He won, but in a contested election that was only resolved by the House of Representatives in December 1813, which determined that he should be given credit for votes that left out the "Junior" in his name.

Once in Congress he was re-elected in 1815, and ran again successfully in 1823. After leaving the House in 1825, he ran unsuccessfully for Sheriff (which became an elected position in 1821) in 1828, and continued active in Republican politics until at least 1830.

His wife (ca. 1780-1847) was named Elishaba, and they had a number of children, including a son Isaac who was employed by *The Freeman's Journal*. They were members of Cooperstown's First Presbyterian Church. Isaac Williams died on November 9, 1860, and he and his wife are buried in the Drake (sometimes called Warren) cemetery in Pierstown.

William Sprague, February 23, 1813 [Federalist]

William Sprague (Sheriff 1813-1815) was born in Smithfield, Rhode Island, on April 23, 1763, the son of Joseph Sprague (1738-1808) and Deborah Brown (1741-1766). He served in the Revolution, and afterwards moved to

Ballston, New York, and then, with his father, to Cooperstown in the early 1790s. He owned a lot on Main Street, and also engaged in the papermaking business in Fly Creek. In 1813 he was a Federalist, and in 1813 was named Sheriff of Otsego County; and re-appointed in 1814. He went on to be Otsego Town Supervisor from 1820-23, and was a Justice of the Peace in 1825.

He became the second Captain of the Otsego Militia in 1799, and rose to Major and then Colonel.

In 1796 he married Abiah Hubbell (1770-1796), by whom he had 3 children. His father and first wife are buried in the Old Fly Creek Cemetery. In 1798 he married again, to Mary Gregory (1775-1852) [one source says Mary Angell], by whom he had 8 children.

From 1807-1809 Sprague was Master of the Cooperstown Order of Free and Accepted Masons.

In 1825 (he may have been having financial difficulties) he moved to Pomfret, in Chautauqua County. He died in Dansville, Livingston County, on July 31, 1842. His widow moved in with a daughter in Stockton, Chautauqua County.

James Hawks, February 28, 1815 [Republican-Democrat]

James Hawks (Sheriff 1815-1819) was born in Petersham, Massachusetts on December 13, 1776, son of Daniel Hawks (1749-1830) and Rhoda Perham (1750-1840), and came with them to the Town of Richfield in 1789. He started out as a schoolteacher in Burlington and Richfield, and before 1804 owned land near Schuyler Lake. By 1808 he was Richfield's tax collector. In 1820 he helped direct the Agricultural Ball at the annual Otsego County Cattle Show and Fair.

In 1813 Hawks was Burlington's delegate to an Otsego Republican (Jeffersonian) nominating committee. In 1815 he was named Sheriff, and was reappointed in the three years that followed (the maximum allowed). In 1820 he served a term as Assemblyman for Otsego County. Then in 1821 Hawks was elected for one term as a Republican member of the House of Representatives.

After 1823, Hawks began to move away from the Republican Party. In January 1828 he helped promote the pro-tariff message of a "Friends of the American System" meeting held in Cooperstown, which would later become the watchword of the new Whig Party. Later that year he chaired a County "Anti-masonic Convention", and shortly afterwards became Vice-President of the State Anti-masonic Convention in Albany. In 1832, when William Wirt ran for President on the Anti-Masonic Party ticket, Hawks was its candidate for Elector in Otsego County. By 1834, he had publicly bolted the Republican Party and joined the Whigs, but does not seem to have remained politically active.

About 1805 Hawks married Laura Davis (1782-1825), and they had five boys. She is buried in Montecello, near Richfield. In 1830 he married Charlotte Seelye (1793-af. 1870) of Herkimer County, but they had no children. About 1839 he left Otsego County and moved to Rochester, where he built a house and spent the rest of his life. He died there on October 2, 1865; his widow moved back to Herkimer County.

Pascal Franchot, March 6, 1819 [Federalist]

Pascal Franchot (Sheriff 1819-1820) (first name often spelled Paschal), was born on March 30, 1774 in Chamouilly, Department of Haute-Marne, France, the son of Charles Franchot (born ca. 1748) and Marie Gabrielle Richard (died ca. 1775). In 1790 Charles Franchot brought four of his many sons to America, including Pascal, the youngest. Charles returned to France, but the four settled in the Butternuts area of Otsego County, which had become the haven for many French immigrants fleeing the French Revolution of 1789.

Franchot was an active businessman who established wool and cotton mills, and in 1812 petitioned for a County Bank. In 1816 he helped the Otsego County Agricultural Society, and remained deeply involved in its activities, and he was a charter member of the Meriden Sun Lodge of the Masons founded in Butternuts in 1809. He served as Town Supervisor of Butternuts in 1801, from 1812-16, and again in 1819, 1821, 1825, and 1828

Pascal Franchot married Catharina Hansen (1783-1813) in 1806, and they had eight children; following her death he married her sister Debora Hansen (1787-1862) in 1820, and they had another three children. There have been numerous descendants, including the 20th century movie star Franchot Tone.

Though a Federalist, Franchot seems to have been considered as non-partisan, and his choice as Sheriff in 1819 was welcomed by both Federalist and Republican newspapers. He was replaced in the middle of his second term of office to make room for the Republican Seth Chase.

Pascal Franchot died on August 30, 1855. He and many of his relatives are buried in the Hillington Cemetery in the Town of Morris.

Seth Chase, June 5, 1820 [Republican-Democrat]

Seth Chase (Sheriff 1820-1821) was born in Sutton, Massachusetts, on April 1, 1781, the son of Josiah Chase (1747-1813) and Hannah Goddard (1749-1801), and moved to Worcester, Otsego County with his parents and most of his 10 brothers and sisters about 1790. He settled in East Worcester, where he worked as a tanner.

In 1814 he became Town Clerk of Worcester, a position he also held from 1816-1818. He became involved in local Republic Party politics, and in 1818 was elected from Otsego County to the 1819 State Assembly. In that year there was a split in the Otsego Republican Party, and controversy as to whether Chase or David Tripp should be

nominated to run in the 1819 election; Chase won and was re-elected, but , and was re-elected to the 1820 Assembly. On June 5, 1820, however, he was named Sheriff of Otsego County, unseating the incumbent Pascal Franchot, and served until 1821 when the new State Constitution provided for elected Sheriffs.

Chase remained active in politics, however, serving as Worcester Town Supervisor from 1825-27 and again in 1831.

Seth Chase was an active member of the Free and Accepted Order of Masons, whose Worcester Lodge was located at his house, and he publicly opposed the Anti-masonic Movement in 1830, though the Worcester Lodge had temporarily to cease activities.

In 1803 Seth Chase married Clarissa Waterman (1781-1828), by whom he had five children. Following her death he married, about 1832, Anna Davenport (ca. 1786-1857). He and both his wives are buried in the Congregational Cemetery in East Worcester.

Joseph B. Walton, February 12, 1821

Joseph Belcher Walton (Sheriff 1821-22, and, by election, 1822-25) [Republican-Democrat] was born in Middletown, Vermont in 1785, the son of John Walton (1762-1812) and his wife Mary Belcher (ca. 1761-1840), and came with his parents to Cherry Valley about 1793, where his father became an Innkeeper. Joseph moved for a time in Canada before returning, probably on his father's death in 1812, to Cherry Valley, where he ran the "Stone Store," supported a project to establish a Cherry Valley bank in 1817, and by 1818 was Cherry Valley postmaster.

Walton became active in Republican party politics in 1813, supporting the War with Great Britain. He served as Cherry Valley Town Clerk in 1817, and in February 1821 he was appointed Sheriff of Otsego County, where he continued until the Constitution of 1821 came into effect. He was then in November 1822 elected under its provisions as Sheriff for three years. Following the end of his term in 1825, Walton in 1827 acquired, and for several years operated, the Stage Hotel in Cooperstown.

Joseph B. Walton married Eliza (possibly Smith) (ca. 1788-af. 1850) about 1800, and they had at least four children, some of them born in Canada. At some time about 1830 they moved to Honesdale in Wayne County, Pennsylvania, where their daughter Lucy married a local physician. They lived in Honesdale until his death on December 6, 1848.

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??????? Possibly Paschal Franchot 1824 to 1825
John H. Hiser 1826 to 1828
Harvey W. Babcock 1829 to 1831
Don F. Herrick 1832 to 1834
Levi Judson 1835 to 1837
Halsey Spencer 1838 to 1839
Henry Jones 1840 to 1842
Amos Winsor 1843 to 1845
John Brown 1846 to 1848
Jonas Platner, Jr. 1849 to 1851
Seth H. Field 1852 to 1854
Harmon Edmonds 1855 to 1857
Thomas Heath 1858 to 1860

Andrew A. Mather

1861 to 1863

(December 24, 1903 Obituary of Sheriff Andrew A. Mather)

Andrew A. Mather, one of the oldest and best-known residents of Otsego County, died in the house in which he was born and which was Erected by his father, the late Dan Mather, in 1810, in the Town of Burlington, this county, Sunday, at 11 o'clock, aged 91 years, two Months and three days.

Dan Mather, the father of the subject of this sketch, settled in Burlington in 1810, purchasing a farm. He erected a tannery there and For several years manufactured boots and shoes. Later he followed Farming until his death in 1856.

Upon this farm Andrew A. Mather resided practically his entire Life. He received a good education in the district schools and at the Academy at Sherburne. In September 1834, he was married to Miss T.D. Cummings of New Lisbon, who died in 1860. In 1862 he married Adelaide Birdsall of Otsego, who survives him. He followed farming upon the old Homestead nearly all his active life. In 1846 he was elected Supervisor of his town and in 1853 was sent to the legislature upon What was called the "Maine Law Ticket". In 1860 he was chosen Sheriff of Otsego County and served three years faithfully and well in times that was turbulent.

Mr. Mather was in early life, a Democrat, but when his party repudiated the Wilmot Proviso he joined the abolitionists and voted with the Republicans until 1872, when he became a prohibitionist. He was a devout Presbyterian and enjoyed, to the fullest degree, the esteem and confidence of his fellows. He is survived by the following children: Andrew E., who resides in Albany and was for years a member of the well-known firm of Mather Bros.; Elias C., now Sheriff of Otsego County and residing in Cooperstown; Mrs. A.H. Bacon of Albany and Mrs. Brown of Denver, Col..

William Comstock	1864 to 1866
Harvey W. Brown	1867 to 1869
Daniel Franklin	1870 to 1872
Alexander H. Benedict	1873 to 1875
Peter Barton	1876 to 1878
James F. Clark	1879 to 1881

John Kelly

1882 to 1884

The following is a reprint from a local newspaper article
 The Otsego Farmer, February 1895
 Submitted by Mrs. Frank C. Druse, Sr.
 Great Granddaughter of Sheriff John Kelly

"John Kelly of Springfield Center, ex Sheriff of Otsego County, was born at Stark, Herkimer County, January 27th, 1822, and is of Scotch-German descent. He was educated in the district school of Herkimer County and in local select schools. Until 1857 he was engaged in farming, but in that year he turned his attention to the produce business; and for fifteen years he was an extensive dealer in butter, cheese, and wool, such was his success along that line that he won the reputation of being the best judge of butter in central New York.

While Daniel Franklin was Sheriff, Mr. Kelly assumed a temporary position with that official and so well did he perform his duties assigned to him that he was retained, not only for the remainder of Sheriff Franklin's term, but have Sheriffs Benedict, Barton and Clark.

His vigilance as deputy sheriff is observed in the following incidence.

James Banegan, a noted criminal had escaped to New York City. Sheriff Benedict notified Captain Byrnes of the matter and the Captain detailed three men to handle the case. After a fruitless search of four days at an expense of \$400, Captain Byrnes reported that Banegan was not in the city, whereupon Mr. Kelly made the trip to the metropolis and after four days pursuit located the criminal, whose

headquarters were within a quarter of a mile of Captain Byrnes' office.

At another time, Wakeman, a desperado, stole \$4,100 from a woman in Unadilla, attempted to burn her house over her head, and succeeded in making his escape. After following him nine months, Mr. Kelly finally captured the man in Youngstown, Ohio. For this triumph he was complimented by Captain Williams of Brooklyn, who had been at work on the same trail for a year, and who had said that Mr. Kelly deserved the belt.

Again he was looking for a member of the famous Loomis gang of Madison County. The sheriff of the county refused to accompany him in making the arrest. Mr. Kelly undertook it single-handed and succeeded in conveying the prisoner to Morrisville. Upon his return to Cooperstown, he was followed by twenty-two of the gang, without serious results, however.

While attempting to arrest a criminal in Herkimer, he sustained a broken arm, and the lawbreaker were thus enabled to escape. Of all those that he got his hands on, this are the only one that he lost. As a rule his grip was as tenacious as his perseverance in following a clue. Mr. Kelly's reputation as a man hunter brought several offers from the Pinkerton Detective Agency, which he was, obliged to refuse.

In view of his excellent record, it was but natural that he should be elected in 1881 to succeed James F. Clark Sheriff and he made a faithful officer.

In politics, Mr. Kelly was a Whig until the formation of the Republican Party when he associated himself with new organization.

When he was twenty-six years of age he was married to Miss Margaret A. Genter of East Springfield. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly are the parents of three children, William, Perry and Abbie."

The following information is from genealogy records of Mrs. Druse:

John Kelly was born January 30, 1822 (tombstone) in Town of Stark, Herkimer County near Van Hornesville, NY in the area commonly known as Willsey Hill. He was the son of William and Catherine Baum Kelly.

He married Margaret Ann Genter on July 5, 1846. They had three children, William H., Abigail E. and Perry C. Kelly.

According to census records, he was listed as a farmer and later a "produce merchant" who, after the Civil War, traded in produce such as hops for sale to breweries.

Daniel Franklin, Sheriff 1870-1872, was John Kelly's brother-in-law. John Kelly served a Deputy Sheriff under him while Margaret, John's wife, "ran the boarding house and cooked for the jail".

When John and Margaret Kelly lived in Springfield Center, southeast corner of Routes 20 & 80, now owned by Webster, the railroad bed was being built to cross their land and "hobos" traveled by and received handouts from Margaret, This kept their house free from any harm and a favorite stop.

It seems he served his office well. For may years, a relic of one

He held membership in the Mohican Club of Cooperstown, Otsego Lodge, F. and A. M., Otsego Commandery, Knights Templar of Cooperstown, the Mohawk Valley Consistory, A. A. S. R., of Utica, and Ziyara Temple of the Mystic Shrine of Utica.

A man of the strictest integrity, he was beloved also for his genial personality, His sense of keen business judgment contributed largely to the success of his business undertakings, and served him well as a valuable public servant, to whom his constitution many times entrusted their civic affairs, which he carried through with great credit to himself and his community. In his passing a wide circle of friends will experience a keen sense of irreparable loss.

Holbrook Funeral Largely Attended
Hundreds Pay Final Tribute to Prominent Cooperstownian
Officials Attend in Body

More friends than could be accommodated gathered this afternoon at the Holbrook home at 15 Leatherstocking Street to pay final tribute to Ziba Lee Holbrook, former Otsego County Sheriff and native and life-long prominent resident of the county. At 1:30 members of local Masonic bodies, of which Mr. Holbrook was a member, marched to the home in a body. Officers of Otsego Lodge, F. and A. M., conducted a prayer service, and then took their farewell. At 2 o'clock, Rev. Charles Kramer, pastor of the Church of the Messiah of this village, gave an eloquent funeral oration.

The bearers were six intimate friends and neighbors, Postmaster B.G. Johnson, Frank M. Smith, Frank B. Shipman, Howard N. Michaels, Moses E. Lippitt and J. Harry Cook. As the family and relatives departed from the home preceding the coffin, five past commanders of Otsego Commandery, Knights Templar, in full Templar uniform, stood as a guard of honor. They were Eugene Becker, Ellra Ballard, Bruce Hall, James Hall and Clyde S. Becker.

Members of the Village Board of Trustees, Fire Department officials and village department heads, attended the services in a body.

The floral tributes, numbering nearly 100 pieces from many organizations and personal friends, filled three cars. The long funeral cortege, led by State Police Sergeant John L. Cunningham and Trooper Matthew V. Haskins drove to Hartwick where interment was made in the family plot in Hartwick cemetery.

Orlo J. Brown

1915 to 1917

Benjamin F. VanZandt

1918 to 1920

(Notes from Sheriff VanZandt's daughter Emilie Elsass)

Mr. VanZandt was born in Albany, August 1, 1864, son of Benjamin and Agnes Cady VanZandt. He came to the village of Maryland in a stagecoach when he was about a year old and had resided there since, except for one term as Sheriff of Otsego County, from 1918 to 1920. Daughters, Marjorie and Emilie, both graduated from Cooperstown High School. William Michaels was his Undersheriff at that time.

He was a member of the Republican County Committee for 46 years,

President of the Maryland Cemetery Association since 1934, and a member of the County Alcoholic Beverage Control Board since it originated. Mr. VanZandt died at his home, in Maryland, on September 3, 1944.

Fred S. Williams

1921 to 1923

Robert Converse

1924 to 1926

Died December 2, 1930

Submitted by Marjorie Tillapaugh

Friends throughout Otsego county will be shocked to learn of the death of Robert Ralph Converse, which occurred suddenly at his home, 10 Pine Boulevard, this village, shortly after noon today, being stricken in apparently good health without even the slightest warning to even the immediate members of his family.

Mr. Converse had been under a physician's care for the past year for a slight heart difficulty, but at no time had it given him any cause for anxiety. Arising at his accustomed hour this morning, Mr. Converse had busied himself during the morning with his usual duties about his home and had just entered his house and was warming himself over a register previous to the noon meal when he was stricken. The family physician pronounced death due to an acute heart attack.

Funeral services will be held from the family residence Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. Dr. Edward C. Petrie, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, officiating, assisted by Rev. Fr. Miles Lowell Yates, rector of Christ church. Interment will be made in the Converse family plot in the cemetery at Hartwick Seminary.

Robert Ralph Converse was the only son of the late John Lawyer Converse and Amanda (Parshall) Converse, and was born at Hyde Park, near this village, November 11, 1863. He attended school at Hartwick Seminary and since 1885 he had been associated in various capacities in the business life of Cooperstown.

He first engaged with his father in the meat business, theirs being the first meat and vegetable market in this village, originally located in the present Hoke block and later in the Russell block at 53 Main street. Following the death of the senior member of the firm the son carried on the business until about 1900.

Mr. Converse during this time also owned and for five years operated the Park hotel, which at that time was one of the best known hostelries in Central New York. After the sale of the hotel property, Mr. Converse was for a time connected with the Cooperstown branch of the Bell Telephone company.

During more recent years, he devoted his time primarily to a political career, having all of his life been a staunch member of the Republican party and one of the political leaders of the county. He served as local member of the Otsego County Republican committee for many years and held the office of overseer of the poor in the township of Otsego for 10 years.

After serving for three years as Deputy Sheriff in Otsego county, Mr. Converse was in 1923 elected Sheriff of the county, serving efficiently throughout that term. Since his retirement from public office, he had been engaged in the real estate business in this

village, having substantial holdings.

On May 2, 1888, Mr. Converse took as his bride Miss Fannie Houck of Toddsville, who survives him, together with an only daughter, Mrs. J. Andrew Gilchriest and two grandchildren, Harriet May Gilchriest and Robert Converse Gilchriest, all of Cooperstown. To them the sincere sympathy of wide circles of friends throughout Otsego county will be extended. The only other surviving relative of the family is a cousin, George E. Northrup, of New York City.

Mr. Converse was a man widely known, generally esteemed and respected by all who came in contact with him, either in his private or official life, and in his passing hosts of acquaintances will feel the loss of a person friend.

Funeral of Robert Converse Attended by Many Friends

The funeral of Robert R. Converse was very largely attended on Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock from his late home, 10 Pine boulevard there being present many political friends from all parts of Otsego County.

The many beautiful floral pieces expressed only in a small way the very high regard in which he was held by neighbors, friends and political associated. The Rev. Dr. Edward C. Petrie, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, gave the funeral service. He was assisted by the Rev. Miles Lowell Yates, rector of Christ Episcopal church. Interment was made in the Converse family plot in the cemetery at Hartwick Seminary.

The bearers were F. Hamilton McGown, H.L. Brazee, Clermonte G. Tennant, A.J. Telfer, John Smith and Eugene Becker.

Donald W. Rose **1927 to 1929**
Died December 7, 1959
Submitted by Marjorie Tillapaugh

Former Sheriff Dies at 69

Don W. Rose, 69, of 27 Leatherstocking Street., former Otsego County Sheriff, a life long resident of this area, died in Bassett Hospital Monday morning following a long illness.

The funeral will be at 2 p.m. Thursday in Ingalls Funeral Home here. The Rev. Merlin W. Bradley, Baptist Church pastor, will officiate. Burial will be Hartwick Seminary Cemetery.

He was born Oct. 6, 1890 in Exeter, son of Byron and Ann (Yates) Rose. He married Isabella Horan Sept. 9, 1919, in Cooperstown.

He was a former game protector for Otsego County, Otsego County Sheriff for three terms and was the founder of the Leatherstocking Fish Lures Co.

He is survived by his wife; a nephew, Richard Rose, Oneonta; a niece, Dorothy Luberto, Long Island.

Friends may call at the funeral home at their convenience.

Don Rose Dies County Sheriff

The death of Don W. Rose of Cooperstown, who served three terms as Otsego County Sheriff, occurred early Monday morning in the Mary Imogene Bassett hospital following a long illness. He was 69 years old.

Mr. Rose was the first man to serve as Otsego County Sheriff for consecutive terms. This was made possible by a change in a state law which prior to the mid-1940's prohibited a sheriff from succeeding himself in office.

He served one three-year term from 1927 to 1930. He was elected again in 1943, and re-elected again in 1943, and re-elected in 1946, retiring from public office on December 31, 1949.

William G. Wright

1930 to 1932

George Mitchell

1933 to 1935

Died January 8, 1957
Submitted by Marjorie Tillapaugh

Held Office During Famed Coo Trial

Former Sheriff George H. Mitchell, 70, the county's chief law officer during the investigation, which led to the trial and conviction of the notorious Eva Coo on a charge of murder, died suddenly in Bassett Hospital yesterday, about an hour following his admission after a heart attack.

Rosary will be recited at 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Tillapaugh Funeral Home. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated in St. Mary's Church at 9 a.m. Thursday by the Rev. Robert Murphy. The body will be placed in the funeral home vault for burial later in St. Mary's Cemetery, Index.

Mr. Mitchell was born June 12, 1886, in Cooperstown, son of Joseph and Bridget (Murphy) Mitchell, He married Mary Crain Jan. 1, 1911.

A life-long Cooperstown resident, Mr. Mitchell was the only elected Democratic sheriff in Otsego County during the last three-quarters of a century.

He won the election in 1933 when he was 45 years old and served as sheriff until 1936.

Burial services for George H. Mitchell, who died January 7, will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, at St. Mary's Cemetery, Index, the Rev. Robert Murphy, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Cooperstown, officiating.

Mr. Mitchell was active in the trucking business in Cooperstown. His ties with the business began in 1904 when he took over a draying business at the age of 17 from his ailing father. Later, he established a taxi service in the village.

A son, Jack, expanded the business to include moving and coal delivery while Mr. Mitchell held the Sheriff's office.

Stepping out of that office, Mr. Mitchell was employed at the

Virginia estate of Robert Sterling Clark, who died recently. He then returned to Cooperstown, rejoining his son in the trucking business and later was with the staff of the Farmer's Museum.

He is survived by his wife; a daughter, Mrs. Robert Biunno, Baltimore, Md.; two sons, Joseph of Oneonta and Jack of Cooperstown; eight grandchildren; a sister, Mrs. LeRoy Charles, Albany; a brother, Charles Mitchell, Woodside, L.I.; a cousin, and several nieces and nephews.

Fred F. Fox

1936 to 1941

Perry Bennett

1942

Died November 24, 1942

Submitted by Marjorie Tillapaugh

Perry Bennett, Otsego Sheriff, Dies Suddenly

Perry R. Bennett, 67, of Milford, Otsego County Sheriff since the beginning of the year, died in his sleep at 3:15 Tuesday morning in Bassett Hospital, Cooperstown, where he had been under medical treatment for 12 days. His unexpected passing was attributed to coronary thrombosis. When visited by members of his family Monday evening he appeared in good spirits, and his condition was considered at that time satisfactory in all respects.

Funeral will be held in the Milford Methodist Church Friday afternoon at 2:30. Rev. Wilber C. Dodge, Milford Methodist pastor, will officiate, assisted by Rev. C. Frederic Fraser, pastor of the Milford Presbyterian Church. Interment will be in the Bennett family plot in Milford cemetery where Oneonta Lodge of Elks will conduct its ritual.

Born at West Laurens Dec. 23, 1874, he was the son of James Morrell Bennett, and the late Jennie (Chase) Bennett, He was married Feb. 3, 1898, to Miss Nellie Hoag, formerly of Binghamton, who survives, with his father, now in his 93rd year; an only son, Martin J. Bennett, 11 Reynolds Avenue, Oneonta; one brother, Fred M. Bennett, proprietor of the Tower Inn, Amsterdam; a sister, Mrs. Estella B. Drazeau, Hollywood, Cal.; and nieces, nephews, and cousins. They will have the sympathy of wide circles of friends.

Mr. Bennett, the major portion of whose life had been spent in Milford, was educated in the Milford schools. From 1898 to 1917 he conducted the Prospect Hill Farm here and since 1942 he had conducted a general insurance business in Milford, purchased from his uncle, the late William Chase. For 12 years during the administrations of Presidents Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge, he also acted as Milford Postmaster. During World War I he was the County Farm Labor administrator.

A life-long Republican and member of the County Republican committee for more than 20 years, he was elected in November, 1941, to the office of Sheriff, and had served 11 months of his three-year term at his death. He had previously served six years as under-sheriff under the administration of Sheriff Fred F. Fox.

Always interested in the civic affairs of his home community, he had been trustee of the village of Milford, and also a justice of the peace.

He was a life-long member of the Milford Methodist church, State Sheriffs Association, Milford Lodge of Odd Fellows, and Oneonta Lodge of Elks.

Kenneth F. Wick **1943**

Died September 1, 1971
Mr. Wick took office due to the death of Perry Bennett and held office until the next election.
Submitted by Marjorie Tillapaugh

Kenneth F. Wick, 67, died September 1, at his residence, 94 Pioneer St.

There will be a Requiem Mass at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Mary's Church, with the Rev. John R. Sise, administrator, as celebrant. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery in Index.

He was born August 31, 1904 in Cooperstown, the son of Charles and Katherine (Kenny) Wick. He Married Dorothea King September 4, 1937 at Saratoga. He was a member of St. Mary's Church, and the Leatherstocking Council of the Knights of Columbus. He was a graduate of Cooperstown High School. In 1943 he was Sheriff of Otsego County, appointed by Governor Polletti. He was employed in various government offices until his retirement.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, Mr. Joseph (Susan) Battaglia of Chappaqua and Mrs. Wayne (Nancy) Adams of Webster, one son, Captain Kenneth Wick 2nd, United States Air Force, five grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews, one brother, Charles A. Wick of Cooperstown.

Friends may call from 7-9 p.m. Friday. Rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. Friday.

Donald W. Rose **1944 to 1949**
(See Donald W. Rose 1927)

W. Mills Miller **1950 to 1958**

Died February 22, 1962
Submitted by Marjorie Tillapaugh

Former Otsego County Sheriff, W. Mills "Wink" Miller died Thursday, February 22 in Panama City Florida.

Mr. Miller started his long public career in 1925, after he was elected constable of Otego where he served until 1931. In 1933 he was elected Justice of the Peace in Otego.

He later became known as "Wink", an affectionate nickname.

In 1935 he became a member of the Otsego County Board of Supervisors where he served for 14 years, representing the Town of Otego.

When his term expired in 1949 he campaigned for Sheriff. In 1950 he became Sheriff of Otsego County, serving 3 three year terms and ended his public life by retiring in 1958.

After his retirement as Otsego County's top lawman he returned to his farm in Otego.

For the past 14 years Mr. Miller and his son have operated a 170 acre farm in Otego.

In the February '62 issue of "Successful Farming", a nationally circulated farm magazine, Mr. Miller and his son John were featured in a three-page picture and story article titled "30 Cows Are Enough For Me".

Funeral arrangements are pending at the Bailey Funeral Home, Otego.

Harold F. Knapp **1959 to 1973**

Jack R. Nevil **1974 to 1982**

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Jack R. Nevil, 84, died Thursday, Dec. 16, 1999, at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center.

He was born March 5, 1915, in Montoursville, Pa., a son of the late Harry and Gladys Romig Nevil. He was predeceased by a son, John R. Nevil.

Mr. Nevil was associated with the Otsego County Sheriff's Department for 40 years, serving two terms as its sheriff. He was a World War II veteran of the Army Air Corps and was a member of the American Legion, the VFW and numerous civic organizations. He was a member of the Cooperstown Fire Department and the First Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include his wife, Anne R. Nevil of the home in Myrtle Beach; a son, William and his wife Kathleen of Wanakena; three daughters, Nancy Hall and her husband Greg of Cooperstown, Jean Skinner and her husband Philip of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Paula Snowden and her husband Donald of Brevard, N.C.; a brother, Harry Nevil Jr. of Fly Creek; his twin sister, Jane Tennant of Cooperstown; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date in the First Presbyterian Church in Cooperstown.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for memorials to be made to the charity of one's choice.

McMillan-Small Funeral Home of Myrtle Beach is in charge of arrangements.

Martin A. Ralph **1983 to February 6, 1994**

Martin A. Ralph was born in Belfast in 1934. He grew up in an area split by religious animosities, and when he was seven, he lost his mother, who was expecting her eighth child. His father died in an industrial accident in Birmingham, England, the following year and

Originally, the Academy was situated at the Otsego County Sheriff's office in Cooperstown, NY, but quickly outgrew those facilities. As the Oneonta State College University Police Department became more heavily involved in assisting the Academy, the Sheriff sought to expand University Police Department's role. Session #6 of the Basic Course for Police Officers was moved to the Oneonta State campus, to take advantage of the increased space, modern physical fitness facilities and educational classrooms that are available at the college. University Police joined with the Sheriff's Office to co-sponsor all the training offered by the Otsego County Law Enforcement Academy. Captain James H. Small, who had served the Academy as an instructor and administrative assistant, was named the Director and took over all of the responsibilities of coordinating training programs.

The Academy, under the direction and leadership of Sheriff Richard R. Devlin, Jr. and University Police Chief Barton R. Ingersoll, has grown into the premier training center in Central New York. With the addition of a \$50,000 grant from New York State Senator James L. Seward, 50th District to purchase equipment, the Academy will have the only F.A.T.S. simulator in Central New York, as well as an E.V.O.C. computer simulator and a critical incident scale town. This will enable the Academy to expand the training and educational courses that we can offer.

Richard J. Devlin, Jr.

Sheriff 01-01-07 to