

Fredonia Gas Light and Waterworks Company
By Lois Barris

A bronze plaque on a boulder along West Main Street on the bank of Canadaway Creek marks the site of the first natural gas well drilled in the United States. To William A. Hart, described as a practical and energetic man, goes the credit for drilling that first well and establishing Fredonia's claim as the first community to be lighted by natural gas. Mr. Hart was a skilled gunsmith and machinist who fashioned his own tools used to sink that first well. A bubbling gas spring in the bed of the creek led to the location of the well at that exact spot. Mr. Hart made three attempts at drilling--he left a broken drill in one shallow hole and abandoned a second site at a depth of forty feet because of the small volume of gas found. In his third attempt, Mr. Hart found a good flow of gas at seventy feet. He then constructed a crude gasometer, covered it with a rough shed and proceeded to pipe and market the first natural gas sold in this country. Several stores, shops and a mill near the site of the well were among the first customers in late summer and early fall of 1825. These early gas customers paid \$1.50 per year for each light, and a gas light was claimed to yield the light of two good candles. The owner of a mill, on whose land the well was drilled, received two free gas lights for his office as royalty.¹

The early customers were connected by pipes to this system by the fall of 1825 and several more were added during the next year as more pipes were laid. The burner in Noah Whitcomb's shop was described as "made by pinching the end of the lead pipe together so as to spread the flame." The Hart well and lease changed hands several times. The second owner, James H. Starr increased the rate per light to four dollars a year. Much detail of this early operation can be found at the D. L. Barker Museum in Fredonia.² The centerpiece of the Fredonia village seal is a standard with five flaming gas lights to commemorate the pioneer well.

The flame of those early lights fueled by natural gas was not as steady or as bright as areas lit by manufactured gas such as in the larger Eastern villages and cities. At the height of early operation, this first well never furnished more than 100 lights.³ By the mid 1850s forward-thinking Fredonians petitioned the State Legislature for a charter to organize a corporation to supply the village with a more efficient gas supply and also a supply of pure water for the growing community. Such a bill was introduced in the New York State Assembly on April 4, 1856, but that very day it became bogged down in the Committee on Cities and Villages and never found its way out of this committee.⁴ In 1857 Rev. Isaac George of Fredonia was the Assemblyman from this second Assembly district of Chautauqua County and he vigorously pursued the reintroduction of the required act to establish the company. The record shows that he was a very vocal and visible chairman of the Committee on Colleges, Academies and Common Schools, and may have made enough friends and/or deals to accomplish his goal. When he introduced the bill on Friday, the 13th of February, the title was, "An act to incorporate the Fredonia Gas Light Company." When the act was reported out of the Committee on Incorporation of Cities and Villages on March 2

it was, "An act to incorporate the Fredonia Gas Light and Water Company." On March 16, on motion by Mr. George, Bill number 385, an act to incorporate the "Fredonia Gas light and Water Works Company" was passed by the Legislature and was sent to the Senate. On March 25, the act was returned from the Senate with several amendments. Neither the Journal of the Assembly or the Journal of the Senate afforded the space to publish the text of these amendments. These were discussed three more times in the Assembly. On each occasion, Mr. George was a prominent speaker. On Monday, April 13, 1857, the Senate unanimously passed the act to incorporate with amendments and on Tuesday April 14, the Assembly passed "An act to incorporate the Fredonia Gas Light and Water Works Company, receding from its non-concurrence to the amendments to this bill," ayes 66, noes 12.⁵

With the required legislation passed, the company was formed. Its object, as stated in the accepted charter was, "By boring down to slate rock and sinking to sufficient depth to penetrate the manufactories of nature; to thus collect from her laboratories the natural gas and purify it; to furnish the citizens with good, cheap light." The incorporators and first directors were: Preston Barmore, Rosell Greene, Orson Stiles, Thomas Glisan, Isaac George, Stephen Palmer, and George Lewis.⁶ In July the directors announced its organization with \$10,000 in capital stock at \$25 dollars a share and proceeded to make a survey of needs in establishing a water department. Officers were elected including Orson Stiles, president; Preston Barmore, secretary; and Thomas W. Glisan, treasurer. S. Miner Newton was named as engineer. A committee of three for preliminary examination was chosen consisting of Stephen Palmer, George W. Lewis and Thomas W. Glisan. The editor of the Censor, Willard McKinstry, encouraged cooperation by stating that "The company thus being fully organized, there is no good reason why the work should not progress rapidly if our citizens back up the enterprise with liberal subscription as it deserves.⁷ The following week the Censor announced that \$2000 had been subscribed in the first two days of the stock sale.⁸

Within a month it was reported that exploration made on the land owned by T. W. Glisan of Green Street resulted in development of springs of pure cold water in volume sufficient to supply the citizens of Fredonia three times over. These springs were located near Prospect Street, and within a few days a temporary channel would be cut in the banks for the conveyance of water.⁹

Meanwhile, Preston Barmore purchased a quarter of an acre of land surrounding the gas spring in the bed of Canadaway Creek, one mile north of the village, from the owner of the Risley Seed Farm.¹⁰ By mid December he had drilled into the rock a four inch hole to a depth of 127 feet. Every time this young man is mentioned by his contemporaries he is described as energetic, enterprising, and similar adjectives. That he was years ahead of his time in practical science is indicated by what he did next. In 1864 in the oil fields of Pennsylvania, Colonel E. A. Roberts, developed a "torpedo" to open oil wells that were not producing and made a multimillion dollar fortune from that patent. In 1857, the Censor tells us that Preston Barmore, finding no gas at 127 feet, "tried an experiment of blowing out the crevices of the rock with gunpowder. A canister

of eight pounds was...sunk to the bottom of the boring...connected to the top by a hollow tin tube. Through this a red hot iron was dropped and the explosion which expelled the water in the shaft was followed by a plentiful supply of gas." The editor informs us that Mr. Barmore has embarked on this project with "energy and perseverance" and that he hopes his experiments may meet with more substantial recompense as his geological theories have "thus far been tested entirely at his individual expense."¹¹

By early January a second well had been completed and his operations announced to be successful. "The gas arises in large quantities from the second boring and there is every indication of a constant and sufficient supply."¹²

The Fredonia Advertiser on December 18, 1857 gives us this report of progress:

"The company chartered and organized for the purpose of supplying the village with water and gas have succeeded in laying down for their water works the "Street Main" from the reservoir (situated about 100 rods in the rear of the residence of T. W. Glisan on Green St.) to the corner of Main and Mechanic Street, a distance of about one mile. The pipe is called 'stone pipe' made of fine clay, burned to vitrified body and glass glazed. From the reservoir to Green Street, its caliber is four inches; from Green to Eagle, three inches, and through Main Street, two and one half inches. The pipe has been put in communication with the three corporation reservoirs respectively located on main Street at the corners of Eagle, Temple, and Center Streets, so that these tanks will hereafter be abundantly supplied for the use of the fire department. The expenditures thus far has been \$2,500, the stone pipe costing about fifty per cent less than iron or lead of the same caliber. The pipe was manufactured by E. and D. Fosdick of Middlebury, Summit County, Ohio, and had been laid down under their supervision. These gentlemen notwithstanding the very unfavorable state of the weather have fulfilled their contract with commendable dispatch and fidelity..."

"It is expected they will resume operation in the spring for completing both the water and gas communications. They have the contracts for completing the waterworks and among the first undertakings will be the supply to the two fountains purchased for erection on the village commons.

"If the experiments now in process by the secretary of the company (P. Barmore) prove to be successful, it is expected the lay of gas pipes will be commenced by the same contractors as soon as spring arrives.

"When it shall be determined that a plentiful supply of gas can be obtained, we trust that our citizens will be ready to take hold and give the company full vitality by filling up the stock subscriptions."¹³

In March an article summing up Fredonia's improvements appeared in the Cleveland Herald and was promptly reprinted in both Fredonia papers:

"...Another thing concerning which the citizens of this place flatter themselves (and we think not without reason for so doing) is the project of lighting the streets with natural gas, is certainly worthy of notice...For years back, a portion of the main business blocks have been favored with the light by means of a cheap structure for its collection on the river bank. But conceiving the laudable of introducing this natural illuminator into every dwelling and house of

business in this place and also supplying of each family with 'sparkling and bright' spring water, a petition asking for a charter authorizing a company to enter upon this double enterprise was presented to the legislature last winter. The charter was granted and acting under it, the company are at this time making the necessary surveys and tests. They have sunk one well 130 feet and another about 40 feet, from either of which, in the opinion of the best judges, enough gas is emitted to amply supply the entire village.

"The water is to be brought from a group of springs directed into a main reservoir about 100 rods east of the corporation. This water is of purist quality and of great abundance. The pipes for its conveyance are nearly all laid. Two fountains from Springfield, Massachusetts have been imported for each square.

"With these projects consummated, Fredonia, with its already many allurements, will certainly become one of the most inviting residences in the country..."¹⁴

Residents of Jamestown also looked with envy toward their north county neighbor when the Jamestown Democrat commented that there was no other place as beautiful as Fredonia with its village square and beautiful fountains. The people of Jamestown were urged to "quit bickering about petty affairs and get something similar to Fredonia's."¹⁵

But everything about the new Gas Light and Water Works projects was not beautiful. An unusual feature of the new gas wells was that a chamber was excavated which was six feet in diameter at the top, twenty feet in diameter at the bottom and about thirty feet in depth. The two gas producing wells were then drilled into the rock from the floor of this chamber.¹⁶ Workers were reminded of the properties of gas when sometime in March a man named Mr. Burt Flanders was injured "from lighting a match in this cavity immediately above and surrounding the orifices drilled into the rock. The flame exceeded in volume all anticipations and such was the force of it that Mr. Flanders was thrown bodily out of the pit and made a very judicious exit though attended with serious consequences." It was reported that two weeks later the effects of this explosion were still visible on Mr. Flanders's "face and hands in large encrustations."¹⁷ Was Mr. Flanders the topic of discussion when at a later date men gathered at the Taylor House discussing the early gas wells and remembered "The man, who dug the well years ago, was badly burned by the explosion of the gas ignited when he lighted his pipe while at work?"¹⁸

The fountains to be placed in the commons were put on display at Reddington's Hardware Store in April and the people were invited to view them there and to give suggestions as to the precise location to "subserve taste and convenience." Ground was broken to install the first fountain in the Western park on May 27th. Sometime the second week in June the water was turned on into the pipes recently laid down to supply the park fountains from the "Street Main" of the Fredonia Water Works. It was reportedly "made a fine display of vigorous jets describing graceful curves in obedience to existing pressure and gravitation. The height of the jets was from fifteen to eighteen feet in each above the ground, notwithstanding the water company's reservoir is not yet filled to within eight feet of its proper level."¹⁹ The fountains were described as:

*"...of tasteful design, each comprising one principal and four smaller jets and ornamented with Naiads, Dolphins, and winged Mythological figures. The water plays about 15 feet in height, but the altitude will be somewhat increased when the full head is on. The basins are of cut stone, laid in water lime about two feet in depth and twenty feet in diameter surrounded with a raised grassy border. The additions of these fountains will contribute much towards the attraction of our handsome village which may now for beauty and scenery as well as healthfulness and educational facilities challenge comparison with any village in the state. The cost of the fountains, we understand, amounts to about \$500."*²⁰.

Someone writing in the Advertiser in August reported to have observed a "music box" powered by a fountain, an invention of a Professor Lewis of Boston. It played "Pleyel's Hymn", "Vesper Hymn," "What Fairy Likes Music?" "Waltz of Water Nymphs," "God Save America," and other tunes of which the writer could not remember the names, but he suggested such an item would be well worth the cost of procuring for one of "our fountains in the common." No evidence was found that such an addition was ever procured, as there was no further mention of musical fountains.

The citizenry apparently did not line up too enthusiastically to subscribe to water service or the laying of the pipe progressed slowly, for it was the following May that the Advertiser encouraged people to subscribe--the cost only "six dollars a year for a constant unlimited supply of clear cool water." Subscribers to date were H. C. Frisbee of Eagle Street, James P. Mullet's Livery establishment on Main Street, The Johnson House, The stores of Palmer & Barrett and G. W. Starr, and Mr. H. N. Marsh's house on Cushing Street.²¹

Meanwhile, in July 1858, the Censor reported that the Fredonia Gas Works was:

*"...Progressing toward conclusion...In about two weeks the amount of gas supplied will be measured...four borings have been made--one 84 feet, one 55 feet and two others a less distance in the rock. A pit is also dug about 30 feet in depth, 14 feet in diameter at the bottom and six feet at the top. The upper part of this is enclosed in mason work made tight so as to prevent the escape of gas except through the aperture which will be provided for it. From the excavation will run a conductor pipe to the gasometer in the village from which supply pipes will be connected to different parts of the village. Judging from the ebullition of the water in the excavation, there will be an abundant supply of gas for illuminating purposes. Mr. Preston Barmore, who has had the direction of the work, has exhibited very much energy and perseverance in the undertaking and there is every prospect of success. This gas which is manufactured in Neptune's laboratory, if burned under an equal amount of pressure it is believed, will be found fully equal in illuminating quality to the artificial gas..."*²²

In August the Censor announced that Mr. Preston Barmore had completed the arch over his gas well, the excavation of which has occupied eleven months. This account further stated that the amount of gas evolved in the pit would soon be determined by the gas meters under the direction of the chief engineer of the Buffalo Gas Works and Mr. William A. Hart, Esq.²³ This is the same William A.

Hart who drilled the first well in Fredonia in 1825. Later a reporter from the Censor visited the operation at “Barmore’s gas works” and noted progress, this time giving mention of Mr. Hart’s historic connection:

“The well is arched over and two pumps are in operation for clearing it of water, cost \$150. Measure of the gas was made under the supervision of William A. Hart, Esq. (who was one of the pioneers of natural gas exploration) with one of Samuel Dawn’s Dry Meters, owned by the Buffalo Gas Company. The total amount being a little over 9,600 cubic feet, the well can supply 1200 lights or burners. Results exceed the most sanguine expectations of Mr. Barmore...”²⁴

This same Censor reporter suggests that since pipe will be laid from the gas reservoir along Main Street that fall, would it not be a good idea to light the streets during the winter.²⁵ The following week both Fredonia weeklies announce that Mr. Barmore has signed a contract with Messrs. Sabbaton of Albany to furnish and lay the pipe for bringing the gas to the village by the first of December.²⁶

On September first the Censor reported that a Monsieur Goddard had made an ascent in a balloon at Lockport, and suggested that a similar balloon “might be filled at the natural gas spring of Mr. P. Barmore in our village, conveyed as described in the article, to the County Fair Grounds from whence the ascension might take place. We have received a letter from Mr. B. F. H. Lynn, aeronaut, who offers to make an ascension for our village for \$100 and necessary expenses paid. His balloon will contain 3,600 cubic feet of gas when filled and will carry three passengers. What Say?”²⁷ That same week the Advertiser claimed to have seen a letter from Monsieur Goddard himself stating that he would arrive in Fredonia within the next few days to make arrangements for such an event at the upcoming fair.²⁸ The fair came and went with no news of a balloon ascent, so apparently arrangements were never finalized.

At a meeting of the Gas Light and Water Works Company in September, held in the law offices of Glisan and Barden, the company reorganized. There is no mention of dividing the company into a separate water works and a gas company, but this may be what happened. The board of directors elected at that time seem heavily weighted on the side of the water works by electing as president of the company Thomas W. Glisan, upon whose property the water source was located. Glisan’s father-in-law, Henry C. Frisbee was elected treasurer and Preston Barmore retained his seat as secretary. New directors were Mr. Frisbee, William A. Barden, Glisan’s law partner and brother-in-law, and Epesetus Fosdick who held the contract to lay the water pipes, and was earlier reported to be expected to also to lay the gas pipes. Retaining positions formerly held as directors of the company were Rosell Green, president of the Fredonia Bank and George W. Lewis, a Main Street merchant whose daughter-in-law was Glisan’s sister.²⁹

In November of 1858 the company apparently reorganized as a separate entity from the Water Works as the Censor reported that “The Fredonia Natural Gas Company” is the name adopted by the new company now making rapid progress. Elias Forbes, who had for many years carried on various mercantile

endeavors in the village, but due to ill health had recently sold out to Mr. H. Pemberton, purchased half interest in the company. Mr. Forbes was named as Treasurer of the "Fredonia Natural Gas Company" and Preston Barmore, secretary. Mr. Forbes contribution to the new company was described as "capital, energy and business experience," while Mr. Barmore's contribution was "great energy, persevering scientific and practical knowledge." The laying of pipe had commenced with the main pipe four inches in diameter and branches two and three inches. The joints were packed with lead. The branches were being laid on Garden, Temple, Mechanic and Barker Streets. A one third acre lot on Center Street had been purchased from Mr. G. W. Shelly on which to construct the gasometer.³⁰

When the gas pipes reached Main Street, the first burners were installed in the Barmore and Brothers grocery owned by Preston Barmore's brothers, L. Avery and Amon Barmore. They were described as burning with a clear bright flame with the pressure ample for the purpose. Arrangements were being made for the introduction of the lights in a number of other stores and businesses. The corporation also contracted with the village for lamp posts for the street, four of which were already installed, which were intended to be illuminated on Christmas Eve.³¹

It was reported that the trustees of the village had collected \$300 to purchase eight lamp posts which were located at:

- 1) the west corner of Main and Eagle
- 2) the west corner of Main and Water
- 3) the west corner of Academy and Center
- 4) The north corner of Barker and Temple
- 5) the north corner of Barker and Center
- 6) the north corner of Main and Center
- 7) the north corner of Main and Mechanic
- 8) the east end of the Main Street Stone Bridge on the north side.

The trustees contracted with the gas company to light these posts from dark until midnight from January 1st to the first Monday in April at a rate of \$16 per year per lantern. The future supply of such light will be decided upon by the citizens at their annual meeting in April.³² The people must have appreciated having the streets so supplied with light, as at the annual village meeting they voted to pay the gas company for claims to date and an additional \$125 to keep up the eight gas lights.³³

In the annual report of the Board of Trustees, tax receipts into the Gas Light Fund were reported at \$300, expenditures for purchasing and setting the lamp posts and fixtures at \$179.89 and for lighting 6? lamps for three months \$24, leaving, before the annual meeting, \$96.11 of this fund "unappropriated." The Water Fund in this same report showed assets of \$275.50, all but \$22 to be paid on "fountain basins and for trenching and conducting pipes."³⁴

During the spring of 1859 the Fredonia Natural Gas Company resumed the work laying pipe and extended the service on Main Street east to the corner of Green Street (now Cushing), and westward to Hamlet. Pipe was also laid along Mechanic, Temple, Dunkirk, Eagle and Water Streets. By May the excavation was completed for the gasometer on Center Street, the Johnson House was lighted and the editors were lamenting that the public should participate at a higher level in this company's offering as 1000 gallons of the natural gas was wasted daily from non-use, while money was being spent on whale oil, tallow, and burning fluids, all of which have to be imported.³⁵

As the installation the gas works was completed, Mr. Elias Forbes took over the business end of the company, dealing with the customers etc., as Preston Barmore's energies were directed elsewhere. He and his two brothers purchased from Mr. Peter Blom of Dunkirk the lot on which the "celebrated Dunkirk gas well" was located with design to commencing operations to supply light to the citizens of Dunkirk.³⁶ Unfortunately, this researcher has no further information about this project.

That same summer, a man named Alfred L. Drake showed the world that oil could be brought to the surface in large quantities in a manner very similar to that used by Preston Barmore in obtaining natural gas. It did not take long for Mr. Barmore to direct his attention to Oil Creek, Pennsylvania. In the fall of 1860, a reporter for the Titusville Gazette visited the site on Oil Creek where Preston Barmore's "Empire State Rock Oil Works" had several wells. He was described as "commencing as though sure of ultimate success." Unlike most of the early wells which were drilled in the flats along the creek, Mr. Barmore was drilling under the bluff, back from the creek, and he already had one good well producing 14 barrels a day and 500 barrels in the past six weeks. The working machinery about this well received much attention in the article. This machinery was described as in perfect order, wasting nothing. Gas off the well was confined in reservoirs, then used for fuel with the aid of special burners to heat the boilers which ran the steam engines for the drilling operations.³⁷

The greatest of the early oil fields was that on Buchanan Flats on Cherry Run, soon to become a village named Rouseville, for the Hon. Henry Rouse. Rouse was a successful lumberman and merchant, originally from Westfield, who happened to be on the scene at the first moment and had the means to take up leases on much of the best oil land in the area. Mr. Rouse was one of 13 persons killed in a widely publicized oil well explosion at Buchanan Flats on April 17. Among the owners of that well, which still produced great quantities of oil after the fire was quelled, was Preston Barmore.³⁸

The next mention of Preston Barmore's name was found the following December when both Fredonia papers carried the identical message, "Preston Barmore died Wednesday night, 4 December 1861, age 30. One of the most enterprising and energetic young men of the county."³⁹ The interment record of Forest Hill cemetery cites his cause of death as "inflammation of rheumatism, producing insanity." The undertaker and person keeping the official mortality records at that time was his brother Amon, who recently succeeded his late father in that position. Preston was at first interred in section C, lot 10, owned by

his father-in-law, Philip S. Cottle, on December 6, 1861. He was reinterred one year later, December 6, 1862 in the Barmore family plot.⁴⁰ Perhaps to compensate for the lack of eulogy at the time of Preston's death, included in his brother, L. Avery Barmore's obituary is this statement, "His brother, Preston, who died many years ago, was a man of force and enterprise and was the principal factor in developing the natural gas and putting it on a good financial footing."⁴¹

Alvah Colburn who owned the mill on Mill Street, now Norton Place, drilled a gas well in 1871 hoping to produce enough gas to run his mill. When it failed to produce gas sufficient for his needs, he purchased the Preston Barmore heirs interest in the Fredonia Natural Gas Company, piped the gas from his well into the company lines, drilled many other wells and ran the company for many years.⁴² Thus the connection to the original directors of the Fredonia Gas Light and Water Works Company ended. Following is some biographical material collected concerning those original incorporators and directors.

PRESTON BARMORE

Preston Barmore, the eldest child of Lewis and Diana Trask Barmore, was probably born in Forestville, Chautauqua County, New York, in 1831, the same year his father established in that village a cabinet making and undertaking business which was moved to Fredonia in 1848.⁴³ Preston enrolled at the Fredonia Academy in August of 1847, where he was listed as 16 years old and from Hanover, the township in which Forestville was located. He attended the Academy through the spring term of 1851.⁴⁴ In 1855 his name is listed as the census marshall who enumerated individuals and businesses in district two of the town of Pomfret.⁴⁵

Preston must have been an effective speaker as well as an ardent Republican, as he went around the county speaking at meetings of local "Fremont Club" in the summer of 1856.⁴⁶ He must also have been very busy that fall as he convinced others to invest with him in the Fredonia Gas Light and Waterworks Company and set about acquiring the property on which to drill new wells.

Amon H., and L. Avery Barmore were the younger sons of Lewis Barmore whose family came from Rhode Island to Chautauqua County and settled in Hamlet, in the township of Villenova. Preston, everywhere described as enterprising and energetic, apparently struck out on his own in establishing the Fredonia Gas Light and Waterworks Company, as contemporary sources never mention him in connection with the family businesses. When Lewis Barmore moved his business to Fredonia in 1848, it was known as L. Barmore and Sons Furniture. One son, L. Avery later went into the grocery business known as Griswold and Barmore. In 1956, Amon Barmore bought out Mr. Griswold and the grocery became known as Barmore Brother. In June 1860, the Barmore Brothers, dissolved their partnership with L. Avery continuing the business and Amon entering into co-partnership with their father in the cabinetware and undertaking business.⁴⁷ In the summer of 1861, several advertisements announced that L. A. Barmore had opened a new "bakery and refreshment saloon" on Water Street near Main Street.⁴⁸ The 1855 census, with Preston

Barmore as Marshall, shows that among other items, the Barmore cabinetware establishment had manufactured 84 coffins in the previous year.⁴⁹

Amon Barmore was married May 2, 1855 to Harriet E. Hart, daughter of Aaron Hart, brother of William A. Hart. Aaron Hart was a substantial Fredonia merchant who also owned a tin and coopersmithing establishment in Laona.⁵⁰ Another uncle of Mrs. Amon H. Barmore was Salmon Hart, brother and former partner of William A. Hart in the gunsmith, stove and mercantile business, who carried on the business in Fredonia following William's move to Buffalo. Salmon Hart's first wife was Mary Ann Starr, sister of the second owner of the 1825 gas well.⁵¹ Harriet Starr, another sister, was married to Noah Whitcomb, the Fredonian chosen to greet Lafayette upon his arrival in that village in his famous 1825 visit to America.⁵² Mr. Whitcomb's shop was earlier described as one of the first to be lit with a gas flame, the burner fashioned by pinching the end of a lead pipe together so as to spread the flame. Mrs. Whitcomb's niece, Sarah J. Starr, age 23 is listed in the Whitcomb household in 1855. To bring this Hart-Barmore-Starr saga full circle, Miss Sarah Starr became the second wife of Col. David Forbes, brother of Preston Barmore's partner, Elias Forbes.⁵³

L. Avery Barmore was married August 29, 1860 to Lovinia Steele, who had been educated at Stevens College for Women in Springfield, Missouri. Lovinia was one of six daughters of Buffalo merchant, Austin Steele and Calista M. Lewis (brother of George W. Lewis, director of the F.G.L. & W.W.Co). After Mr. Steele's death, Calista Lewis Steele and her family lived in Fredonia, where she taught at the Fredonia Academy.⁵⁴ The 1860 census shows all six Steele sisters, listing their occupations as "school teacher," or "music teacher," living with their grandmother, Polly Lewis.

On January 10, 1860, Preston Barmore was married to Augusta H. Cottle, second daughter of Fredonia Attorney, Philip S. Cottle--an interesting relationship that is pursued in Chapter 3 of Chautauquans in Oildom, "Chautauqua County Oil Companies," by L. Barris. It is a mystery that when Augusta was widowed less than two years later, so little information was given on Preston's life and untimely death in his obituary. Preston left no will, but letters of administration were issued on March 24, 1862 to his widow, Augusta H. Barmore and Fredonia attorney, Lorenzo Morris. David Barrell and Franklin Bernett were appointed as "disinterested parties" to prepare an inventory of the estate, but no record was found of such an inventory being filed with the court. His heirs were listed as:

Widow: Augusta Barmore
Mother: Diana Barmore
Brothers: Amon Barmore
L. Avery Barmore
Sisters: Alice Barmore
Mary Barmore
Children: No child or children⁵⁵

There was probably considerable property in Preston Barmore's estate and some struggle for its control. Chautauqua County Surrogate Court, Guardian Book Two, page 278 indicates that on 13 August 1862, Robert W. Wheelock was appointed to protect the interest of Alice E. and Mary M. Barmore,

minors, in this estate. Alice E. Barmore was married in Fredonia on January 7, 1864 to Levi V. Casselman of Jamestown. Mrs. Alice E. Casselman, died in Meadville on March 17, 1866. Mary M. Barmore married Albert H. Hilton in Fredonia May 27, 1868.⁵⁶ This researcher did not locate the record of the sale of the Barmore gas company interest, but upon the sale of another piece of property in Preston Barmore's name in 1877, his heirs that signed were:

Augusta H. Barmore, widow

Diana Barmore, mother

L. A. Barmore, Lovinia S. Barmore, wife of L. A.

Mary M. Hilton

Harriet E. Barmore

(her sons) Lewis A. Barmore

Carleton H. Barmore

Aaron H. Barmore⁵⁷

Alice and Amon are not mentioned as they are no longer living at the time this deed was executed.

And we know so little of the life and character of Augusta Barmore. Our only glimpse into her later years is this obituary which states:

"DIED in this village May 27, 1896, Mrs. Augusta Barmore, widow of Preston Barmore and daughter of the late Maj. P. S. Cottle. She died at the residence of her sister, Mrs. John Miller, quite suddenly. She had gone to bed and prepared to inhale some medicine and set the quilt on fire; when found she was nearly gone. The fire was easily extinguished and she evidently died of heart failure, aged 68. She had been in poor health a long time."⁵⁸

GEORGE W. LEWIS

As mentioned earlier, George W. Lewis, was the son of Polly Lewis and brother of Calista Lewis Steele. A prominent Main Street merchant, Mr. Lewis was born in Buffalo March 13, 1816, as a young man worked in Canada as a clerk, and came to Fredonia in 1843 with a stock of goods to open his "Canadian Store" in the Center Block. Advertisements in the local papers during the early 1860s feature sewing machines. In 1843, Mr. Lewis, married Eliza Wheelock of Mendon, Mass. at Woonsocket, R. I. The family lived in a large house on Chestnut Street where many Steele and Lewis family marriages and funerals (and perhaps many another festivity) were held.⁵⁹ Mr. and Mrs. Lewis raised two sons and four daughters who received good education. All but Clarence, who was married to Emma Glisan (sister of F.G.L. & W.W.Co. director, T. W. Glisan), had left Fredonia by the time of Mr. Lewis's death in November, 1885. George Lewis's obituary gives us this insight, "He was a great reader with probably the best individual library in town, many of the books being rare and valuable."⁶⁰

ROSELL GREENE

Rosell Greene, born in 1815, was the second of seven sons of Nathaniel Greene, who came from Herkimer to Chautauqua County in 1818 and settled near Mayville, moving in 1838 to Sheridan. In 1832 Rosell came to Fredonia where he worked in the business of General Leverett Barker. He married Barker's daughter, Eliza, on November 30, 1837, and when General Barker died

in 1848, Mr. Greene was left with the sole management of a large estate including tanneries and mills in Fredonia, Versailles and Gowanda, and guardianship of Barker's minor children. Mr. Greene enlarged and modernized these businesses. While he managed the Fredonia establishment, he gave his older brother, William, charge of the tannery in Versailles, while another brother J. Norton Greene gained ownership of the flouring mill, called "the Cascade Mill," at Versailles.⁶¹

The 1855 listing in the New York State Census of "Industry other than Agricultural," gives us an idea of the extent of the Fredonia operation--Stock on hand: 600 kids worth \$2400; 1500 calfskins, \$1125; 100 cords bark, \$200; 135 bushels lime, \$50; 15 barrels oil, \$330; 800 pounds tallow, \$100. Hires four adults at an average pay of \$27 per month.

When Rosell Greene died, he was cited as, "One of the most wealthy and enterprising citizens of Chautauqua County." He was president of the Fredonia Bank and owned a large amount of real estate. In connection with our topic, in 1858 Rosell Greene owned the parcel of land on which the gas wells were drilled by Preston Barmore. They were transferred by Mr. Greene to Hamilton and Putnam on July 9, 1858, then from Hamilton and Putnam to Preston Barmore and Elias Forbes October 14, 1858.⁶²

Items in the Censor throughout the spring of 1859 indicate a concern for Rosell Greene's health as he made at least three trips to Clifton Springs, including extended stays, for treatment of a lung ailment.⁶³ Mr. Greene may have known his death was imminent when he wrote his will May 28, 1859. In that document he directs that the family continue running the tannery at Versailles, for the benefit of his wife and children "not to exceed five years, or sooner if judged proper," then it be sold and the money given to his wife and children. His brother, Supreme Court Judge Benjamin F. Greene, and son, Leverett B. Greene, were named executors of the Chautauqua County portion of his Estate, and his brother William was named executor of the Cattaraugus County holdings. Orson Stiles, vice president of Greene's Fredonia Bank (and another original director of our F.G.L. & W.W.Co.) was named guardian of his minor children.⁶⁴

In August of 1861, the Cascade Mills at Versailles were destroyed by fire. On that same date, the "tannery owned by the heirs of Rosell Greene suffered somewhat but was saved by desperate exertion of aroused citizens among which were a number of brave and energetic women."⁶⁵ In spite of that valiant effort, many of those "aroused citizens" lost their means of livelihood when this same tannery was destroyed by a second fire in November, \$18,000 loss, insurance \$10,000.⁶⁶ Apparently "sooner had been judged proper" by a higher authority than the executors of Rosell Greene's estate.

ORSON STILES

Orson Stiles was the epitome of the bright young man made good--Phi Beta Kappa at Union College, practiced law in Irving with Ezekiel Gurnsey, and married Gurnsey's daughter, Frances. He was Chautauqua County Clerk, member of New York State Assembly, and came to Fredonia as vice president of the Fredonia Bank, becoming its President when Rosell Greene died in 1859.

Our mystery question on Mr. Stiles concerns his resignation from the Fredonia Bank in 1868 and the organization of a new establishment called the Union Banking Company, becoming its president that same year. He resigned as president of the Union Bank in 1874, and by 1879 sold his beautiful home on Central Avenue to Ralph N. Hall, who was then president of the Fredonia Bank, and moved to join other members of the Stiles family living in Irving, Kansas. Mr. Stiles died at age 79, March 14, 1892. His obituary contains one most interesting statement, "A resolute and active man, he won a competency in his business and official relations, but by misplaced confidence, it was swept away."⁶⁷

STEPHEN PALMER

Stephen Palmer was one of seven brothers who came to Fredonia with their father from Madison County in the 1820s. The Palmers ran a meat market on Main Street. Advertising of that day indicates that Stephen and his brother Nelson were proprietors of this store during the 1850s. Fredonia Academy records that Stephen attended nine terms from 1830 through 1833. His wife was Anna S. Manton and they had a son Stuart, one year old at the time of the 1860 census. Mr. Palmer served for many years as an assessor of Internal Revenue for the local district and was 54 years old when he died in 1873 after only a two week illness, leaving a "family."⁶⁸

THOMAS W. GLISAN

Born April 26, 1821 in Liberty, Frederick County, Maryland, Thomas Glisan came to Fredonia in 1845 to complete his education at the Fredonia Academy. He married Catherine Deet Pond, who was but 16 in 1847. Catherine died in April, 1853, and on July 11, 1854, Thomas Glisan remarried, Miss Lucy Frisbee, only daughter of Henry C. Frisbee, editor of the Fredonia Censor and owner of a Main Street book store. Three of Glisan's sisters came to Fredonia over the following years: Malvina Glisan married William A. Barden (a latter day director of the F.G.L. & W.W.Co.), with whom Glisan formed a law partnership; Ashsah Elizabeth Glisan married George Barker, lawyer, District Attorney and Justice of the N. Y. State Supreme Court, and Thomas Glisan's law mentor. Emma Glisan married Clarence S. Lewis, son of the earlier mentioned George W. Lewis.⁶⁹

Thomas Glisan was the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for Assemblyman from the second district of Chautauqua County in 1856, was Captain of the 69th Regiment, New York State Militia during the Civil War, and in 1867 was in the surveying party under chief engineer S. M. Newton to lay out the route of the Dunkirk, Allegheny Valley and Pittsburgh Railroad.⁷⁰ Thomas and Catherine Glisan had one daughter, Jessie, who married Lance Tiffany, son of Jesse Tiffany of Fredonia. Thomas and Lucy Frisbee Glisan had two daughters and one son. Jennie married Frank Cushing, grandson of Zattu Cushing. Sarah Glisan married Dr. Nevin N. Fenneman, professor of geology at the University of

Cincinnati. Henry lived in Fredonia and died in 1920. Thomas W. Glisan died in Fredonia February 16, 1905 and is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery.⁷¹

ISAAC GEORGE

Isaac George was born May 1, 1818 at Gainesville, Wyoming County, New York. His parents were Benjamin George from Calais, Vermont and Martha Patty Coston from Litchfield, Herkimer County, New York. In his own words, "In early life the desolating scourge of intemperance sundered for him the paradise of parental home and left him from the age of six with little protection or aid except the charities of the world." He also spoke of his "Honored Mother's tearful sacrifices." His mother later in life married Robert Steele and lived at Yorkshire, Cattaraugus County. He was reared principally in the vicinity of Springville, residing with different families until the age of twenty. He succeeded in obtaining an education at the Springville academy and taught in the common schools in the Springville area. He embraced the doctrines of the Universalists and became a minister of that denomination in 1840. In 1844 he was given pastoral charge of a Universalist Society in Perrysburgh, Ohio, remained there for two years, then returned to Springville where he organized a Universalist Society and supervised the building of a church.⁷²

Rev. George married Miss Mary Brewer in Cuba, Allegheny County, New York on February 4, 1841. One report said they had four and another three "beautiful daughters," but information was found on only these two: Hattie (described in her obituary as his eldest child) married C. L. Danforth of Sinclairville, and died at her home in Hand County, Dakota in 1884; Julia was born in Lirchfield, Herkimer County on December 26, 1843, married at Dunkirk, Rev. E. L. Rexford of Clymer, Oct 5, 1865. Dr. Rexford was pastor of the First Universalist Church in San Francisco and they had an only daughter, May, age seven, when Julia died in San Francisco on Jan 27, 1877.⁷³

Rev. George came with his family to Chautauqua County in 1851 and served several Universalist Societies as pastor. He removed for a short time (1854-55) to Middleport, Niagara County, where he organized a Universalist Society and served as its pastor. Disgusted with the necessity of ministerial charge and failure of his health and energy, he turned his attention to the study and practice of law in Fredonia. He was admitted to the bar in Chautauqua County in 1856.⁷⁴ During that year he became a prominent speaker in politics rather than religion and when a Fremont Club was organized in Fredonia, he was one of its vice presidents. One report says that, "Rev. I. George, being called upon, made a brief and pertinent address in vindication of the objects of the Republican Party."⁷⁵ On the 25th of October, a nominating convention of the second Assembly district was held in Sinclairville and Isaac George's name was one of eight placed in nomination. He received only 16 of the 68 votes on the first ballot, but increased in popularity with the group and won 41 votes by the fourth ballot and on a fifth ballot was "unanimously" named the candidate of the Republican party for that office. The election followed in just ten days, and

though Fremont was defeated, he and the Republicans swept New York State, Rev. George winning more than double the votes of his Democratic opponent, T. W. Glisan.⁷⁶ As already noted, Rev. George was able to get a bill passed in the Legislature to allow incorporation of the Fredonia Gas Light and Water Works Company.

While Isaac George was in Albany staying at the American Hotel, he was given exclusive rights in Chautauqua County for "Watson's \$10 sewing machine," and ran large ads in the Fredonia papers including endorsements of that product by a long list of New York State leaders including the Lt. Governor, the Secretary of State, 15 senators, the Speaker of the House, 66 assemblymen and various other state officials. Later ads were smaller and indicated that A. K. Warren was the local agent for this company in partnership with I. George.⁷⁷ Upon his return from the legislative session, Mr. George opened a law office in Fredonia, his front page ad reading, "Isaac George, Attorney and counselor at law, office in H. J. Miner's Block, Main Street, upstairs."⁷⁸

The ad, and probably the law practice, disappeared after a few weeks. During that same time, his former democratic opponent for the assembly, Thomas Glisan, left his association with his one brother-in-law, George Barker and formed a new law firm with another brother-in-law, William a Barden.⁷⁹ On November 2, 1857, the Censor ran the following letter to the nominating convention:

Sinclairville, Oct.
3, 1857

*Dear Sir--As it has been suggested to me that my name will probably be presented to your convention for the political suffrage of the voters of this assembly district, I desire to assure you that I aspire to no office, and hold no relation to partisan politics that would justify this partiality. Grateful for the confidence, and content with the honors already received from my political friends, I am at present only anxious to render myself an acceptable minister of Jesus Christ, trusting that Providence will in the future as in the past, sufficiently indicate my duty in other relations of life. Very respectfully your obedient servant,
I. George.⁸⁰*

There are interesting subtle differences in the account of Rev. George's move from Fredonia, appearing in the two local weekly papers:

"REMOVED--Rev. Isaac George, our late assemblyman and fellow townsman has removed to Sinclairville where he takes charge of a Society as pastor. He has while a resident of this village won many warm friends who will regret to learn of his removal from our vicinity."⁸¹

"REV. I. GEORGE resumed the Christian ministry and has removed to Sinclairville where and at Charlotte Center he is officiating as pastor of Universalist churches. In the social circle, he has numerous friends who will regret his transfer of residence."⁸²

In October of 1860, Rev. George took up residence in Jamestown and took charge of the Universalist Society there, and in July 1861 it was reported that, "Rev. I. George has removed from that village to a farm on 'Shumla Hill' near Fredonia where he intends tilling the soil and preaching occasionally as opportunity offers."⁸³ By 1863 he had become the proprietor and editor of the Dunkirk Journal, where he received the praise of Coleman Bishop, editor of the Jamestown Journal who announces, "Dunkirk Journal impresses--it is now printed on white paper. Mr. George is infusing life and energy into its editorial and business management. It has improved wonderfully since he took hold of it." and, "The Dunkirk Journal is now using a Campbell Power Press. Brother George is bound to make it the best country paper in this state."⁸⁴

Mrs. Mary Brewer George died in Dunkirk December 5, 1868, and Rev. George married for his second wife, Mrs. Caroline Calista (Robertson) Klumser, of Yorkshire, Cattaraugus County (where Mr. and Mrs. Robert Steele lived). Isaac and Caroline George lived for a while in Springfield, Ohio, where he took up a pastorate, but they returned to Fredonia where Caroline died April 25, 1879. Rev. George seems to have functioned as minister in the Universalist Society which met in the church on Day Street at the corner of Lambert Avenue from about 1877. He continued preaching in other local areas, organizing Universalist Societies in Laona and Silver Creek. During 1878, the Silver Creek Local published the texts of his sermons.⁸⁵ On October 23, 1879 he married for a third time, 23 year old Alzora A. Town of Arkwright, who died July 19, 1881, nine days after the birth of Isaac George, Junior, who also died that September. When Rev. George died at age 64 the following year, he was described as a distinguished writer and preacher.⁸⁶

An earlier biography written while he served in the New York State Assembly described him as, "A tall, well-formed man, with brown hair, blue eyes and an earnest face. He speaks distinctively and deliberately and is a man of considerable power. He commands the respect of the House. He is an untiring student, a close thinker and has peculiar tact to win golden opinions from his associates."⁸⁷ Isaac George was apparently just the man necessary to get the bill passed so that the Fredonia Gas Light and Water Works could be formed in 1857.

Isaac George had at least three brothers: Selum George, described in his obituary as being the oldest brother of Rev. Isaac George, born April 1816 and died Oct 1880 in Boone, Iowa. Orlando George, brother of the late Rev. I. George and formerly Fredonia Censor's Florida and Central America correspondent. He visited Fredonia in the fall and winter of 1882-83.⁸⁸ And, Eugene George, died January 17, 1862, "...brother of Rev. I. George, age 16 years. He was body servant of Captain A. J. Marsh of Jamestown Company K, New York Volunteers, who writes to Rev. George as follows:

"Rev. I. George--It is my painful duty to inform you of the death of your brother Eugene...He died last evening at 5 P. M. of measles. He has been sick most of the time since we arrived in Virginia...had just recovered from typhoid fever when he took the measles, which was prevailing in camp, of which he died.

*He has had all medical attention...faithful boy, had endeared himself to the whole company...first death in the company.*⁸⁹

There is much more detail here on Isaac George than any of the other directors except perhaps, Preston Barmore. In preparing a study of Chautauquan's in Oildom, this writer was attempting to prove that Isaac George was the author of letters from Oildom signed "IZAAC," and therefore pursued all information concerning him with enthusiasm. Was his father such a bounder? What of his mother's tearful sacrifices? What was the nature of this family that they did not care for Isaac in their own home and yet this "brother" was born in 1846 when Isaac was 28 years old? Was Isaac named a director of the F.G.L.& W.W.Co solely on the basis of his efforts in the assembly, or did he have substantial wealth to purchase sufficient stock to be named a director? The name Rev. Isaac George appears on marriage records and accounts of meetings throughout the Western New York region and this researcher would like to learn more of the real story of this man as well as the others associated with that nineteenth century FREDONIA GASLIGHT AND WATER-WORKS COMPANY.

This company was certainly an important part of the power structure in Chautauqua County in the mid-nineteenth century and just as certainly the individuals who were directors of the company were influential in development of the newly founded oil industry. This amateur researcher will eagerly continue to look for insight into the organizations and the people of that era.

ENDNOTES

¹John P. Herrick, Empire Oil: The Story of Oil in New York State (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1949), 318-321.

²Fredonia Censor 31 August 1825, 30 November 1825, 29 November 1826, 20 May 1885, 1 June 1904. There is also a collection of in notebooks in the Barker Museum in Fredonia with information on the early well in Fredonia and efforts by the same William A. Hart to light the lighthouse on Lake Erie at Barcelona Harbor, and attempts by others to run a gas line to the Dunkirk Lighthouse.

³J. P. Herrick, Empire Oil, 321.

⁴Journal of the Assembly of the State of New York at Their Seventy-Ninth Session, starting the 1st day of January, 1856. (Albany: Charles VanBenthuisen, 1856), 822, 856.

⁵Journal of the Assembly at their Eightieth Session...1857,366-7, 527, 706, 852, 1069, 1077, 1276, 1356. Journal of the Senate of the State of New York at their Eightieth Session, (Albany: Charley VanBenthuisen, 1857) 895.

⁶J. P. Herrick, Empire Oil, 322.

⁷Fredonia Censor 22, 29 July 1857.

⁸Fredonia Censor 2 August 1857.

⁹Fredonia Advertiser 28 August 1857, Fredonia Censor 2 September 1857.

¹⁰Deed Book 56, page 11, Chautauqua County Court House, Mayville, New York.

¹¹Fredonia Censor 16 December 1857.

¹²Ibid. 6 January 1858.

¹³Fredonia Advertiser 18 December 1857.

¹⁴Fredonia Censor 17 March 1858, Fredonia Advertiser 19 March 1858.

¹⁵Fredonia Censor 8 September 1858.

¹⁶J. P. Herrick, Empire Oil, 322.

¹⁷Fredonia Advertiser 2 April 1858.

¹⁸Fredonia Censor 16 November 1870.

¹⁹Fredonia Advertiser 30 April 1858, 28 May 1858, 18 June 1858.

- ²⁰Fredonia Censor 16 June 1858.
- ²¹Fredonia Advertiser 20 May 1859.
- ²²Fredonia Censor 20 July 1858.
- ²³Fredonia Censor 18 August 1858.
- ²⁴Ibid. 13 October 1858.
- ²⁵Ibid.
- ²⁶Fredonia Censor 20 October 1858, Fredonia Advertiser 22 October 1858.
- ²⁷Fredonia Censor 1 September 1858.
- ²⁸Fredonia Advertiser 3 September 1858.
- ²⁹Fredonia Censor 28 September 1858. Family relationships established by the index of deaths and marriages located in the D. L. Barker Museum, Fredonia, New York.
- ³⁰Fredonia Censor 23 November 1858.
- ³¹Ibid. 14 December 1858.
- ³²Fredonia Censor 12 January 1859.
- ³³Fredonia Advertiser 8 April 1859.
- ³⁴Fredonia Censor 30 March 1859 p 2, c 6.
- ³⁵Ibid. 20 May 1859.
- ³⁶Fredonia Advertiser 27 May 1859.
- ³⁷Mayville Sentinel 14 November 1860.
- ³⁸Fredonia Censor 24 April 1861.
- ³⁹Fredonia Advertiser 6 December 1861. Fredonia Censor 11 December 1861.
- ⁴⁰Forest Hill Cemetery Association Interment Record Books viewed in the office at 57 Lambert Ave, Fredonia, New York.
- ⁴¹Fredonia Censor 3 January 1906.
- ⁴²Obituary of Albert N. Colburn, son of Alvah Colburn, Fredonia Censor 16 November 1921.
- ⁴³Fredonia Censor 28 April 1875.
- ⁴⁴Fredonia Academy Records, extracted and indexed by JoAnn Kaufman, Reed Library, Fredonia State University College.
- ⁴⁵New York State Census Book, Chautauqua County Courthouse, Mayville, N. Y.
- ⁴⁶Fredonia Censor 24 September 1856.
- ⁴⁷Ibid. 16 July 1856, 29 June 1860.
- ⁴⁸Fredonia Advertiser 7 June 1861.
- ⁴⁹New York State Census 1855, Court House, Mayville, New York.
- ⁵⁰Barker Library Museum, Family Notebook, Vol. 2, (unpublished collection).
- ⁵¹The author apologizes for a lapse in absolute historical certainty here. She holds a strong feeling that this relationship exists and cannot refrain from stating it as such. In fact, Herrick is the only place she has found mention of James H. Starr and is valiantly attempting to prove this link. When the accuracy of this statement is proved or disproved, it will be here amended.
- ⁵²Barker Museum, Marriage and Death Index.
- ⁵³Ibid.
- ⁵⁴Barker Museum, Marriage and Death Index.
- ⁵⁵Chautauqua County Surrogate Record, Letters of Administration, Book 3, page 394.
- ⁵⁶Barker Museum, Marriage and Death Index.
- ⁵⁷Chautauqua County Deed Book #164 page 221.
- ⁵⁸Fredonia Censor 3 June 1896.
- ⁵⁹Ellen Adams, Tales My Father Told Me (typescript in Barker Museum), 81-83. Mrs Adams suggests the domineering nature of Mr. Lewis's personality in describing a party given by young Eldora Lewis for a group of friends while Mr. Lewis was away on a business trip. His early return and disapproval of the gathering caused the young people to scurry homeward without the expected desserts and much embarrassment for the young hostess.
- ⁶⁰Barker Museum, Marriage and Death Index.
- ⁶¹Notebook in Barker Museum, Families, Vol. 2 (unpublished).
- ⁶²Deed, Rosell Green to Hamilton and Putnam, 9 July 1858, Chautauqua County New York. Deed, Hamilton and Putnam to Elias Forbes and Preston Barmore, 14 October 1858, Chautauqua County Court House, Mayville, New York.
- ⁶³Fredonia Censor, 13 Apr 1859, p. 2, c. 7, 4 May 1859 p. 2, c. 8.

⁶⁴Will, Rosell Greene, 28 May 1859 (probated 8 July 1859), Chautauqua County, New York, Will book 3, p 128-130, Chautauqua County Court House.

⁶⁵Fredonia Advertiser 16 August 1861.

⁶⁶Ibid. 15 November 1861.

⁶⁷Barker Museum, Family Notebook, Vol. 4.

⁶⁸Barker Museum, Marriage and Death Index.

⁶⁹Ibid.

⁷⁰Fredonia Censor 12 November 1856. Fredonia Advertiser 10 May 1861. Andrew W. Young, History of Chautauqua County (Buffalo: Matthews and Warren, 1875), 155. Mayville Sentinel 18 September 1861, "T. W. Glisan of Fredonia and Samuel Little of Stockton are endeavoring to raise companies of cavalry for the war."

⁷¹Obituary of Jennie Glisan Cushing, Fredonia Censor 20 July 1921.

⁷²Fredonia Censor 17 March 1857.

⁷³Barker Museum, Marriage and Death Index.

⁷⁴Fredonia Censor 17 March 1857.

⁷⁵Fredonia Censor 13 August 1856.

⁷⁶Fredonia Censor 12 November 1856.

⁷⁷Fredonia Censor 11 and 18 February, 25 March 1857.

⁷⁸Fredonia Censor 22 April 1857.

⁷⁹Fredonia Censor 10 June 1857.

⁸⁰Fredonia Censor 2 November 1857.

⁸¹Fredonia Censor 9 December 1857.

⁸²Fredonia Advertiser 18 December 1857.

⁸³Mayville Sentinel 15 February 1860, 24 July 1861.

⁸⁴Jamestown Journal 6 March, 4 September 1863.

⁸⁵Fredonia Censor 13 February 1878.

⁸⁶Barker Museum, Marriage and Death Index.

⁸⁷Fredonia Censor 17 March 1857.

⁸⁸Barker Museum, Marriage and Death Index.

⁸⁹Fredonia Advertiser 31 January 1862.