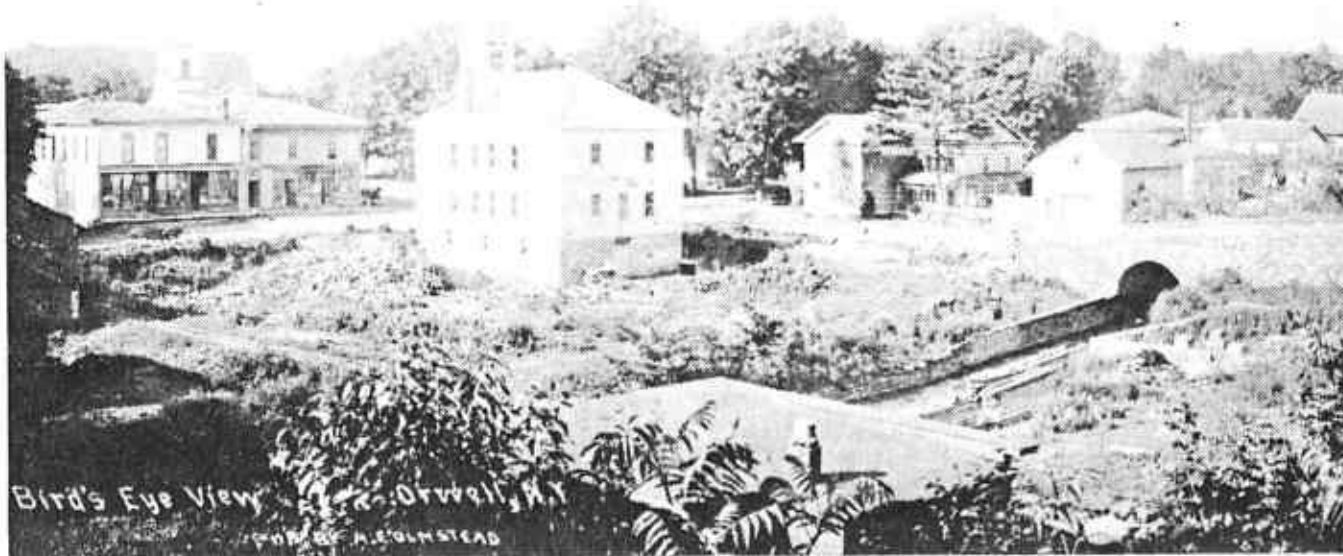



J. Helen Hartings
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11-1-92

ORWELL REMEMBERED

Oswego County Sanitarium 1916-18
Blodgett Family



1806
ITS HISTORY  YOUR HISTORY
1976

Compiled By
Orwell Town Historian
Mrs. Betty (Robert) D. Martin

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Hall lot but it has since disappeared and only bits and pieces have been found of the original fountain.

Standing on the west side of the Town Hall is a

Oswego County Sanatorium



Annex-Women's Building-Hunt Building.

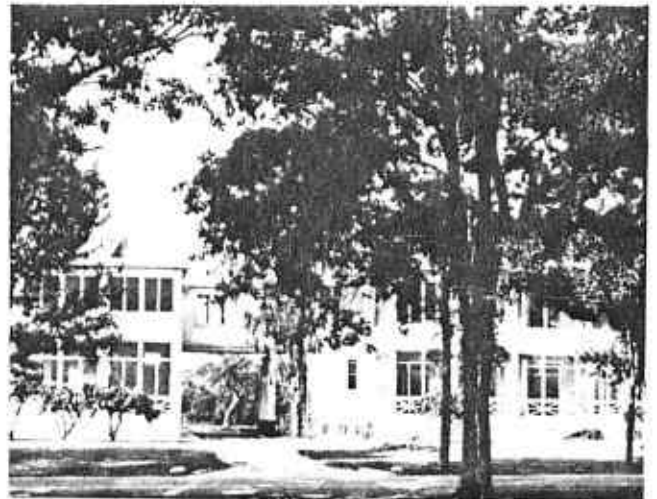
In 1910, the County of Oswego, legislators voted to have a place set apart for the care of its tuberculosis sick. Many sites were considered and in 1912-1913, a Sanatorium was established in the western part of the Town of Orwell, on County Highway No. 2. It is said that it was through the endeavors of Albert S. Barker, a lawyer of Orwell and also on the Board of Directors, that the Orwell site was chosen.

The homestead farm of Seymour Currier Davis was obtained by the county. It consisted of 160 acres of land which included 50 acres of woods. What was known as the Main building of the Sanatorium, was the main building on the tract of land that the County purchased. This building, plus the addition of an annex, (added later), was all the room there was at its start, for the patients, staff and help. It opened October 15, 1913.

At its start, the patients were in what later became Ward 12, the front of the upstairs of the building, and in the small annex. The rooms later used by Miss Carriere and Mrs. Walsh were nurses' quarters and the maids slept in the back part of the building. The head nurse roomed in what later was known as Ackerman's domicile. Eating arrangements were for the nurses to dine in the room later reserved for maids, and the maids ate in the dining room, later used by the ambulatory patients. Cooking was done in the original kitchen.

As time went by, it was soon realized that the original building was too small, so another

building, the Hunt building, was erected to the east of the main building and was separated by a driveway that encircled the buildings. To facilitate passage from one building to another, by the staff, a bridge was added that connected the second floors of the two buildings. This added building provided additional room for patients as well as proper space for the laboratory, x-ray room and also made it possible to provide treatment for children. The children were placed in the row of rooms that was later made into one long ward and called Ward 30. The x-ray room was placed in the basement. This later proved not satisfactory as an x-ray room so it was moved.



Hunt building showing walk thru across 2nd floor.

father was James Barker. Andy died at the age of 22. Ed lived in the house where Harold White now lives. George married Florence.

James Barker, a native of Bridgewater, Oneida County, son of Ebenezer Barker, who was a farmer and a native of Mass. James was in the mercantile business 8 years and for many years in law practice in Albion. He also served as Justice of the Peace and as Postmaster. He married Hannah M. Sterns of Camden, Oneida County. Their children were: James R., Albert S., Mary E., Helen M. and Edward W.

They moved to Orwell about 1884 and lived on the Orwell-Redfield road about one mile east of Orwell Corners.

Dora, daughter of Albert Sternes Barker and Nancy Jones Barker married Albert F. Graham, July 4, 1890. Their children were Eva May (Lee Stowell), Albertha (Thomas-Garvin-Schumaker). Franklyn (Mildred Squires).

BARRETT

Sands Forman Barrett, son of Charles Ezra and Eva Louise Kelly Barrett, was born in Syracuse, N.Y. January 9, 1917. He married Elva May Larkin, daughter of Roy Kibby and Cora May Trett Larkin, born in Syracuse, N.Y. May 18, 1919.

They lived in Baldwinsville, N.Y. 19 years and it was while they lived here, that their daughter, Dawn Holly, was born in Syracuse, September 19, 1954.

In 1964, he came to Orwell and purchased land from his uncle on which to build a home, and in the summer of 1965, they moved to Orwell and built their home on the Orwell-Redfield, Rt. 2, road in 1966.

He was a Corporal in Army in WWII stationed in the Phillipines and New Guinea.

BARTLETT

Warren Lincoln Bartlett, born in Missouri in 1869. He lived in Orwell since 1904. He died in 1944 age 75. He was school teacher and also a proprietor of a small grocery store in Orwell on the northeast corner of Church and East Main Street. He also had a small farm and raised beautiful strawberries.

He had a son, Howard, who now lives in the family house.

BLODGETT

1. Thomas Blodgett-England
2. Samuel Blodgett-England-1633
3. Samuel Blodgett-America-1658

4. Nathan Blodgett-
5. Benjamin Blodgett-Preston, Conn.-1717
6. David Blodgett-
7. Nathan Blodgett-Mass. 1800-1829
8. Miles Blodgett 1825-1906
9. Frank J. Blodgett 1858-1921

From the records of I.D. Blodgett, Boston Mass. October 1912. "He who does not cherish the memory of his ancestors does not deserve to be remembered by posterity".

Edmund Burke.

Number 7. Nathan Blodgett, son of David and Annie Smith Blodgett, assumed to have been born in Salisbury, Conn. in 1800 and having learned the gunsmith business in Mt. Washington, Mass., about 1821, he married Deborah Curtis and they had a son, Miles born to them in 1825. In 1828 they moved from Mass. to Oswego County, N.Y., a long and eventful journey from the comforts of New England, to plough into an unbroken forest. He bought a tract of land which he began to clear and he built a shop for his work as a gunsmith. Their son, Samuel Nathan was born here in 1828.

One day Nathan was repairing a gun for a man who had a spirited team of horses. The horses took fright and ran away. Nathan, without hat or coat, ran after and caught and brought them back to the man. He caught a violent cold which turned into pneumonia and he died three weeks later on April 30, 1829. The repairing price of the gun paid for Nathan's coffin. The family was left destitute in the unsettled woods. His wife Deborah and his two sons, Miles and Samuel, lived on the homestead and in 1837, Deborah married Ephraim Goff and they lived on the homestead for thirty years. She died in Sandy Creek in 1869 at the age of 64.

Miles Blodgett, son of Nathan and Deborah Curtis Blodgett, left fatherless at a very early age, contributed toward the support of his mother and younger brother, by hard work and duties which very few children of his age were called upon to do. In 1843, when he was 18 years old, he started the tannery business located near the home where the family had originally settled (now Bremm Road area), then a part of Orwell. It did a thriving business until it caught fire and burned. Besides the tannery, Miles owned large tracts of timber in the town of Boylston. In early days of the tannery, it is said that he performed every task necessary in tanning, from falling the trees to taking the finished product to market.

Miles was married three times. His first wife

was Lovina Rawson. Their children were: Ellen Margaret, Nathan Duane, Elvin Samuel, Edward Miles, Frank J. Lovina died in 1863. In 1865, Miles married Mary F. Molthrop. Their children were: Mary Lavina, William M., Nettie. His second wife died and in 1890 Miles married Lorette Knollin. He died in 1906. Of his children:

Elvin Samuel, born 1851, followed the occupation of farming. About 1870 he married Emeline Tanner, daughter of Charles and Mary Hamer Tanner of Boylston. Their children were: Miles Charles, E.D., Emaline. Elvin died in 1922. Of his children:

His son Miles Charles, born April 1880 in Boylston, married Lillie May Hilton, daughter of Don and Isabelle Weston Hilton. Their children were: Cecile Anna (Joseph Hutchins), Edna Blanche (Earl Barlow), Mary (died young), Harold Weston (Dorothea M. Butts), Howard Elvin, Lester Miles (Ruth Palmatier), Marshall Duane. Miles and Lillie lived on the present Nemier farm on Nemier Road in Boylston. Later they moved to Orwell on the big farm on east side of Orwell-Powerhouse Road. Here they raised their family and conducted the farm. Lillie died in 1932 and Miles died in 1943. The farm burned prior to the death of Miles. Since then a small house has been built on the site and the business of their son, Marshall, Furniture refinishing and sales. Marshall died in 1972. The business is now conducted by Earl Barlow.

Of the children of Miles and Lillie Blodgett:

Harold Weston Blodgett, was born in Orwell, February 12, 1907, in the house in which he now lives. On July 11, 1925, he married Dorothea Maude Cunningham Butts, daughter of John and Mona Cunningham but adopted at the age of three weeks by Loren and Maude Maynard Butts. She was born in Scranton, Penn. March 23, 1908. She and her parents, the Butts, moved here and took possession of the Hugh Hilton farm on the Orwell-Redfield Road in November of 1919.

In April of 1925, Harold and Dorothea purchased the home in which they now live, from Frank Minor. They have four children: Betty Dawn, Elvin Don, Duane Richard, Nancy Lillian. When Harold was a young man he worked for Ed Barker in his ladder factory. Later he worked as a fireman for the Oswego County Sanatorium, then he worked as a truck driver on the Orwell Town Highway Department and retired from that job after working there thirty years. Dorothea became a Practical Nurse and worked in numerous homes in the area, during the birth of their babies. She

has delivered at least three babies before the doctor arrived. Later she worked as a waitress in different restaurants and in 1950 she went to work at the General Electric Company in Syracuse and retired from there in April of 1967. Harold joined the Navy in 1944 and served until 1946. He was in the E.T.O. and served on the U.S.S. Philadelphia.

One of the many things recalled by the couple when they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary was when their two boys went fishing down the creek which runs by their home. They were barefooted and it was chilly so they decided to build a fire to warm themselves, which they did but the fire got out of control and set the hill behind the barn on fire. They dumped their worms from the cans and proceeded to carry water from the creek to put out the fire. In the meantime, they were bawling and rubbing their faces, which made them look very funny. Dorothea on seeing the smoke went out and helped put out the fire. Needless to say, the boys were much more careful with fire after that.

Being snowmobile enthusiasts, with the help of their son-in-law, Robert Martin, a snowmobile bridge was made across the creek by their house and many trails have been cut out. They also helped build a bridge on the creek on Mill Street.

Of the children of Harold and Dorothea Blodgett:

Betty Dawn, born October 1926, in Orwell, married Herbert E. Thomas, son of Herbert and Bertha Graham Thomas. They had one child, Catherine Mae (Adrian O'Keefe). This marriage ended in divorce. She later married Robert D. Martin, son of Lorenzo and Ruth Lillian Schaffer Martin. They have three children: Sharon Lorraine (Gary Yerdon), Sue Ann (Terry Harlander), Robert D. Jr. (Deborah Waggoner). They live in Orwell.

Elvin Don, born October 1928, in Orwell, married Ruby Pearl Hammond, daughter of John Bunyon and Pearl Mae Carter Hammond, October 1948.

Elvin attended Orwell Union School and Sandy Creek Central School. He quit school in 1945 November, and enlisted in the Navy. He was stationed in Alaska for two years. In January 1948, he enlisted in Army Paratroopers and was stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. It was while he was stationed here that he met and married. In 1951 after his three years in the Paratroopers was served and in the same year he enlisted in the Army Air Force for three years and four months. While in the Air Force, he spent 19 months in Korea. Also while

in Korea, he took tests and received his high school diploma from Seoul, Korea. Elvin and Ruby have the following children: Linda Lou (Earl Frank Jr.), Terry Lee (Sandy Ellen Law), Jeanette Ann (Karl Trumble) and twin sister, Janice Ann (William Daino), Mark Keith (serving in Paratroopers), Darcy Dee, Jo Ann (Rick Weaver), Theresa Lou, Patricia, Don Kelly.

They live in Cleveland, N.Y. on Martin Road in the house they built. Elvin is a tractor trailer driver for Halls in Syracuse.

Duane Richard, born September 1928 in Orwell, married Betty Jean Cone, daughter of Earl A. and Ida Mae White Cone, April 1952.

Upon graduation from Sandy Creek High School, he enlisted in the Air Force. 1948-1952 he served in the following places, Texas, Alaska, Illinois, Mass. and Newfoundland. In Newfoundland he worked as Control Tower Operator. He left the service with rank of St. Sgt. The family lived in the former Hoop place and when their new home was completed in 1971 and they moved in to it, the old place was burned by Fire Company and the cellar covered over. He is presently employed as apprentice tool maker at New Process Gear, Syracuse, N.Y. For a number of years he was Scoutmaster of the Orwell Boy Scouts and he was also a member of a horseshoe pitching team.

Their children are: Richard Duane (married Signe Beebe. They are both in the service), James Harold, Judith Anne, Timothy Howard, William Weston.

Nancy Lillian, born November 1934, in Orwell, graduated from Sandy Creek Central School and Oswego State Teachers College. In Aug. 1956, she married Harvey E. Jenkins Jr. son of Harvey and Iva Jenkins. They had a son, Michael David, born Sept. 1960. This marriage ended with divorce. In 1969, Nancy married Charles Richard Trust in July, son of Charles and Claudia Viar Trust. Their children: Debra Ann, Charles Richard Jr. Dick, played baseball on the Yankee farm club, left it to come to N.Y. state with a friend where they invested in a Christmas Tree farm. Dick bought the other man out and proceeded to build a nursery, gift shop and florist shop on the land, as well as a home for himself and his family. He joined Army in 1963 and served six years. Nancy is now a teacher at Sandy Creek Central school and Dick is busy with the Trust Nursery and Florist business.

At present, Harold and Dorothea are at their home where they are enjoying their retirement. Dorothea raises plants for her enjoyment and Harold is active with farming and beef cattle.

Samuel Nathan, son of Nathan and Deborah Curtis Blodgett, born in Orwell in 1827, was a pioneer cheese maker of this locality. In Orwell, it was said that he built the first cheese factory in Oswego County. He also built the Finster cheese factory in Lacona. In 1848 he married Mary Bartlett, daughter of Emory Bartlett. Their children were: Alice, (Orlo Porter), Alice (died young), Lina (Charles Porter), Addie (Nathan Sage), Malcolm, Fred.

Frank J. Blodgett, son of Miles and Lovina Blodgett was born in 1858. During his early life he worked as a tanner in his fathers business, later he became a successful farmer. In 1880 he married Mary M. Hamer, daughter of Thomas and Nancy Catherine Ackler Hamer. They had three children: Allen Ward (taught school married Rozella Nemier), Bessie May (Howard Markle) Edward Frank (lives in Lacona). Frank died in 1921 and his wife in 1925.



In 1923, Miles Blodgett possessed a beautiful specimen of a long lost art, which was made by his mother in 1875. It is a wreath of flowers made from the white geese feathers and is in perfect condition as when first made. It is in a box frame and covered with glass. Miles's daughter, Edna (Barlow) now owns the work of art 1976.

BUTTS

Decatur Butts was father of Peter S. Butts. The name was spelled Butz at one time. This line migrated from Germany to Scotland then to America. Peter Butts had 13 children. Charles Place Butts was one of them. Charles had 6 children, one being Loren Grant Butts.

Loren Grant Butts, son of Charles and Elizabeth Luce Butts was born July 3, 1871. He married Maude, daughter of Henry and Amanda Walters Maynard. They had two children: Blandine, and an adopted daughter,