

Portville Lodge No. 579, Portville, New York

Warrant: 05 Jun 1866

Fire 1875 when they met 'over Gaston's Wagon Shop'; second fire which destroyed 'a good part of the town,' date unknown.

Organized in Jan 1865, and chartered 9 Jun 1866, with the following named officers: Wilson Collins, M; M. B. Bennie, SW; Massena Langdon, JW; T.S. Jackson, Treas.; Henry C. Scofield, Secy.

The officers for 1878 were **Ezra M. Bedford**, M.; H. D. Smith, SW; **C. W. Van Wart**, JW; M. B. Bennie, Treas.; **B. A. Packard**, Secy; **John H. Warden**, SD; Charles Parks, JD; H. M. Hopkins, Tyler.

The Past Masters are **M. B. Bennie**, Schuyler M. Gaston, John H. Warden, **Lewis D. Warner**, John Hendy, and **Ezra Borst**.

Schuyler M(oses). Gaston, b. 14 Feb 1828 [twin of Luther S. Gaston]; d. 13 Apr 1906; son of Ebenezer Gaston and Hannah Hammond; m. 29 Aug 1852 Adeline M. Call (1832-1906). He had a wagon shop on the north bank of the creek.

Children:

Highland B. Gaston b. 09 Dec 1853; d. 5 Jun 1907

Marmie Gaston b. ca 1855, NY

George Colwell Gaston b. 17 Sep 1868, NY; d. 11 May 1930

see also <http://home.mindspring.com/~bgaston2/images/D-Chart.pdf?q=david-morales-coln>

http://www.portvillehistory.org/Holcomb_3.html

The first officers were Rev. Wilson Collins, Master, and supported by M. B. Bennie, S. M. Gaston, C. W. Van Wart, Marcena Langdon and others. The late John H. Warden was the first man to be initiated after the lodge was organized and among the early members was A. G. Packard, M. P. Keyes, B. A. Packard, **C(harles). K(napp) Wright** [q.v. - who married Mary M. Bennie], and E. M. Bedford.

<http://files.usgwarchives.net/ny/cattaraugus/bios/adams/portville.txt>

Ezra M. Bedford, son of Jacob and Marilla (Wright) Bedford, was born in Rushford, NY, 16 Jan 1837. The family is of English origin and came to Portville in 1851, settling in the east part of the town. Ezra M. has been both a farmer and a lumber manufacturer. In Jan 1876, he opened a grocery store in Portville, which he conducted until 1882. In 1886 he bought the site of his present building of William F. Wheeler & Co. and placed his store on the foundation of the establishment formerly owned by J. E. Dusenbury, where he is still engaged in general trade. Mr. Bedford has served as justice of the peace, assessor, and commissioner of highways. 24 Dec 1863, he married Ellen Deming, of Genesee, Allegany county, and has one son. Mr. Bedford enlisted in the **85th NY Volunteers**, served through the Peninsula campaign, and was discharged on account of disability in 1862.

BEDFORD, EZRA M.—Age, 24 years. Enlisted [85th Infantry], 8 Oct 1861, at Elmira. to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. D, 16 Oct 1861; promoted sergeant, 1 Jan 1862; deserted, 14 Sep 1862, at Newport News, Va.

Marcus Burdett Bennie, son of Dr. David Bennie and Dalia Bachus. Enlisted in Co. C, 76th NY State Volunteers; age 25 years., 3 Dec 1861, at Olean, to serve three years; mustered in as private., Co. C, 4 Dec 1861; discharged for disability, 5 Oct 1862, at Washington, DC. He was a hardware merchant in Portville and Olean. On Indian Creek, Mix Creek, and Haymaker, more than fifty years ago, oil was discovered and I believe the first well on Indian Creek was drilled by a company composed of **B. A. Packard**, now of Douglas, Arizona, M. B. Bennie, and Frank Tyler. Mr. Bennie was a hardware merchant owning a store on the corner where Smith Parish now has his store. He afterward sold out and went to Olean where he continued the hardware business for some years. The Olean Weekly Democrat wrote on 26 Mar 1889 – "M.B. Bennie and family left for Topeka, Kansas." bur. N.W. Section, Harris Cemetery, Willow Springs, Howell County, Missouri [alone, with no adjoining markers]. >

LDS Census, 1880 - Olean, Cattaraugus, New York

Marcus B. BENNIE	Self	M	Male	W	45	NY	Hardware Mrcht	NY	NY
Caroline A. BENNIE	Wife	M	Female	W	42	NY	Keeping House	NY	NY
Carrie B. BENNIE	Dau	S	Female	W	9	NY	School	NY	NY
Kate I. BENNIE	Niece	S	Female	W	12	NY	School	NY	NY
Eliza DONAVAN	Other	S	Female	W	20	NY	Housework	IRE	IRE
Charles JOHNSON	Other	S	Male	B	45	NY	Carriage Driver	MD	MD
Lewis S. SIMMONS	Other	S	Male	W	24	NY	Clerk-Hdwe Store	NY	NY



Ezer [Ezra] Borst b. Middleburgh, NY, in 1832. In 1857 he came to Weston's Mills and engaged as a contractor in the manufacture of staves and lath for Weston Brothers, where he employed from twenty to twenty-four men. He still continues the business with ten or twelve hands. In the spring of 1888 he instituted the "Borst Wood Company" and began the manufacture of kindling wood, which he still carries on. In 1854 he married Miss A. M. Kinney, of Nelson, PA. Children: Jabez W; James H. of Hawley, MN; Charles H.; Morris (deceased); Kate married A. J. Crannell, of Weston's Mills; and Russel L. Jabez W. is superintendent of the Wood Company,

and C. H. and R. L. have each a position in this manufactory. Mr. Borst married his second wife in 1877; she died in 1874; and in 1885 he married Mrs. L. A. Kinney, who is the mother of his daughter Libbie.

http://www.portvillehistory.org/bio_holcomb_harry.html

Henry "Harry" Cerell Holcomb – 23 Dec 1861 – 23 Feb 1951

In every community, however small or large, there are always to be found men and women who stand out from their efforts in community welfare, church activities or fraternal life. Portville has many such, but one in particular, who we all love and respect, and who seems to fill the requirements of an all around citizen better, perhaps than most others, is Harry C. Holcomb.

Mr. Holcomb has lived in this community for over fifty years and during all that time has held the esteem of his neighbors and townsmen to an extent seldom equaled. He has served as a public official, has been a leader in church life, and has taken an active interest in fraternal affairs. He has been engaged in business here and now serves the community as Post Master.

Harry Cerell Holcomb was born in Ceres township, Pennsylvania, on December 23, 1861, and was the oldest of fourteen children. For many years, he was engaged in the lumber industry in one capacity or another and in 1880 came to Portville where he has since lived. In the early 90's, he was elected to public office for the first time, taking the office of Justice of the Peace. Later, he served the town as Supervisor and in 1903 he was appointed Post Master and held that position for twelve years. He was again appointed in 1924 and has held the office continuously since that time.



He is a member and an elder in the Presbyterian church. For years, he has taught one of the classes in the Sunday School of the church. He is vice president of the Chestnut Hill Cemetery Association and is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Portville Free Library.

Early in life, he united with the Masonic fraternity and, although never advancing beyond the Blue Lodge, has been prominent in that order. He has held every office that is possible for a member of his rank to hold, including that of District Deputy Grand Master. Shortly after becoming a Mason, he united with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is also affiliated with the Knights of the Macabees and the Order of the Eastern Star. For nearly half a century, he has been a Mason and an Odd Fellow, being active in both fraternities.

On July 7, 1892, occurred the marriage of Mr. Holcomb to Miss Mattie McDowell of Eldred, Pa., at Rochester, NY.

(The above article appeared in the Portville Review, about the time that his book was published. He would live for another twenty years to the grand old age of eighty-nine. His home was on Brooklyn Street next to Guenther's Funeral Home, now a parking lot.)

H. C. Holcomb, Former Postmaster, Dies

Harry C. Holcomb, a lifetime resident of Portville, passed away Friday afternoon (February 23, 1951) after a long illness. He was born in the Township of Ceres, Pa., December 23, 1861. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Marion Holcomb Brundage of Westons Mills, four grandchildren, one sister, Mrs. Ella Wood of Port Allegany, and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Holcomb moved to Portville in 1879, when he came here to work for H. C. Crandall. He was in the undertaking business for seven and one-half years, and postmaster for twenty-four years, serving six appointments of four years each without any opposition. He was supervisor of the town for six years and Police Justice for two years. Mr. Holcomb served as elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Portville for the past thirty-nine years. He was superintendent of the Sunday School for a good number of years and was teacher of the Holcomb Class for more than twenty-five years.

Mr. Holcomb has been a member of the Portville Lodge No. 579 F&AM for 64 years, a member of Tyler Chapter No. 97, Order of the Eastern Star, for 55 years. He served two terms as District Deputy Grand master of the Masonic Order and for two terms as Assistant Grand Lecturer of Cattaraugus District of the Eastern Star. He was patron of Tyler Chapter for nine years, and **Master of Portville Masonic Lodge for four years, in 1894, 1895, 1905 and 1917**. He was presented with the sixty year palm on 14 Feb 1947. He was a member of Portville Odd Fellow Lodge No. 779 for fifty years and was very active in their Lodge work. Burial was in the Chestnut Hill Cemetery.

Charles W. Van Wart, son of William and Mercy (CARPENTER) VAN WART, was born in Johnstown, NY, 21 May 1832. His parents removed to Black Creek when he was a small boy and thence they went to Michigan in 1844, where his mother died in 1846. They soon after returned to Black Creek where his father married Polly Alexander. In Nov 1847, they settled in Portville. He became an equal partner at the blacksmith's trade with the late Adam T. Warden, which partnership continued twenty years. When Mr. Warden withdrew, Mr. Van Wart conducted the business alone. In politics a Republican he has served his town as constable, collector and a member of the Board of Health. In religion a Methodist he has been a member of that church the past forty-five years and has served as one of its stewards 25 years. He has also represented his church as a layman every fourth year since laymen were admitted to the General Conference. In Jun 1850, he married Rachel Phillips, of Portville; their only living child, Kate, married Herbert F. Keyes, a blacksmith with Mr. Van Wart.

Ashley G. PACKARD was born in Naples, NY, 5 Nov 1857. His father [John Packard], a small farmer and tanner, removed to Tioga county, PA, when Ashley G. was two years old, where he died about 1840. At the age of twenty the son came to Portville and has since resided in the town or near vicinity. His paternal ancestor, **Samuel Packard**, emigrated from England and landed at Old

Colony, Mass., 10 Aug 1638. His mother, Rebecca (Rose) Packard, was born in Litchfield, Norfolk Township, Litchfield Co., CT, 13 [11] Oct 1795. Her mother, a Webster, was a cousin of Daniel Webster and is still living in Tioga county, PA, where an annual reunion of her descendants is attended by five generations. Both of Mr. Packard's grandfathers were Revolutionary soldiers and four of his brothers did service in the Rebellion. Mr. Packard was a raftsman 36 consecutive years, for thirty of which he was a pilot. Since then he has been a farmer. He has served as justice of the peace eight years and also as assessor. 31 Dec 1847, he married Virtue V., daughter of Capt. Matthew M. Randall. She was born in Cortland county, 7 Oct 1824. Their only child, **Burdett A. PACKARD**, born 1 Nov 1848, married Ella Lewis, and now resides in Tombstone, Arizona.

See also: <http://www.joycetice.com/srqp/rebekahrose.pdf>

<http://genealogytrails.com/ariz/cochise/bios.html>

Burdett Aden Packard, stock raiser, miner, was born 1 Nov 1848, in Portville, NY. Since 1882 he has been engaged in mining, banking and the cattle business in Arizona. He developed several mines at Tombstone, Ariz. He is the owner of three hundred thousand acres of land and thirty thousand head of cattle. For two terms he was a member of the Arizona state legislature, He is president of the First National Bank of Douglas, Arizona.

For many years Colonel Packard, as he was called, was one of the most prominent cattlemen and bankers in Arizona. Born in Portville, NY, 1 Nov 1847, he came to the Territory in 1880 with his first wife and settled in the booming Tombstone silver camp during its "man for breakfast" days. Two years later, he started a cow outfit in the Dragoons, with head-quarters at the Cochise Stronghold. However, he sold out in 1885 and bought a large ranch in Sonora, just below Douglas.

In the late 1880's Packard and Colonel Bill Greene, of Cananea fame, entered into partnership, running cattle on both sides of the border in what was known as the Turkey Track brand.

At one time, Packard and Greene ran around 15,000 cattle and controlled 15,000 acres of range land in addition to a large, cultivated ranch near Tempe. Part of the land on which the city of Douglas was built once belonged to Packard. Packard and Greene dissolved their partnership in 1908, with Packard retaining 5,000 cattle, the range near Douglas and the Tempe farms. In the same year, he acquired control of the First National Bank of Douglas, and was its president until his death on March 12, 1935. He also served in both the Senate and House of the state Legislature during this time.



As a lover of good horses, Colonel Packard — along with J. C. Adams and Tom Pollock — is said to have been responsible for the first Fair in Phoenix and to have financed it for several years. Colonel Packard's first wife died in 1893 and in 1903 he married Mrs. Carlotta Holbrook of Tucson.

A son, Ashley B. Packard and two daughters, Gertrude and Dorothy — all dead now — resulted from his marriages. Of the Packard family, only Ashley's wife, Mrs. Rachel Packard, now lives in Douglas. After Colonel Packard's death, part of the old Turkey Track range in Mexico was sold to D. V. and Kemper Marley, who still operate it.

<http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/jo-conners/whos-who-in-arizona--nno/page-19-whos-who-in-arizona--nno.shtml>

Burdett Aden Packard, miner and cattleman, is one of the most prominent and interesting men of Arizona, with whose history he has been actively associated since 1880. Mr. Packard was born in Portville, New York, November 1, 1847, and was educated principally under private tutors, but later attended Alfred Academy, New York. His parents, Ashley G. and Virtue V. Crandall Packard, were of English descent. Mr. Packard's business life began at the age of sixteen, when he went into the lumber business with his father; at eighteen he became associated with the mercantile business, and after six years of service in this capacity, located in Bradford, PA, where he operated in oil. His next move was to Arizona, where he took up mining and cattle business, and located at Tombstone, and during his residence there owned, developed and sold several large mines at remunerative figures. Since 1884 his interests have been largely in the cattle business, and he was formerly associated with William C. Greene in the ownership of the Turkey Track Cattle Company, operating in Sonora, Mexico, and Arizona, whose holdings comprise about 700,000 acres of land and 40,000 head of cattle.

Politically, Mr. Packard has been actively interested in the affairs of the Democratic party, but the demands of business have prevented his devoting but little time to official life. He has, however, represented the County of Cochise in the Council during the 18th and 19th sessions of the Legislature. In the former he gained much distinction as author of their districting bills and other measures that have proven of great benefit to the state. In the latter he was member of the Committees on Mines and Mining; Ways and Means; Enrolled and Engrossed Bills; Claims, and Territorial Affairs, and was a strong influence in the Council. He is president of the First National Bank of Douglas, to which position he was chosen in 1907. **He is a prominently known Mason of the 32nd degree and member of the Mystic Shrine.** Mr. Packard has been twice married. His first wife, formerly Miss Ella Lewis, of New York, to whom he was married in 1879, died in 1891, leaving three children. In May 1903, Mr. Packard was again married to Mrs. Carlota W. Holbrook, of Tucson.

Adam T. Warden, born in Scotland in 1806, married there Elizabeth HENDERSON. He was a boiler maker by trade and removed to England and thence to Germany during an agitation among the trade unionists. In 1841 he emigrated to America and engaged in blacksmithing. About 1848 he came to Portville, where he died 19 Apr 1891.

His son, **John H. Warden**, was born in Hamburg, Germany, in Feb 1841. He came to Portville with his parents and learned of his father the trade of blacksmith. He subsequently became a harness maker and started in that business about 1865. In Dec 1879, besides his harness business, he had a half-interest with his father in a furniture store and undertaking establishment. In Dec., 1886, he purchased his father's interest and has since conducted the business alone. He served as town clerk; eleven years and

was postmaster of Portville during Cleveland's first administration. Mr. Warden married Miss M. P. Smith, of Portville, children: Grace E. married H. Watts; and Maggie A.

Dennis WARNER was born in Phelps, Ontario county, 13 Jul 1799, and was descended from New England stock. His grandfather, Deal Jesse WARNER, at a very early day emigrated from Connecticut to Phelps, where he bought a large tract of land at the nominal price of eighteen cents per acre and subsequently gave to each of his boys a farm of fair dimensions. Deacon WARNER died at the great age of 96 years. Dennis WARNER resided in Phelps until he was eighteen, when he went to Olean and entered the store of Judge F. S. Martin as a clerk. 8 Feb 1820, he married Miss Clarissa ANDREWS, a niece of the pioneer, Luman RICE. She was born in Homer, NY, 8 Oct 1801. Soon after their marriage they settled on the southern bank of the Allegany, opposite where the village of Weston's Mills is situated. Mr. WARNER purchased a saw-mill and engaged in the manufacture and sale of lumber. Allen RICE owned a saw-mill across the river, and both mills were furnished power by the same dam. Mr. WARNER died in Pittsburgh, PA, 21 Apr 1826, on one of his trips to that place to market his lumber. He was an active and prominent young man of pleasing address, and served the town of Olean efficiently in town offices. After Mr. WARNER'S death Mrs. WARNER fought the battle of life for herself and three children for many years until her children were of an age to lend her a helping hand. She died in 1850 at the home of her daughter in Gloversville, NY.

Col. Lewis D. WARNER, oldest son of Dennis WARNER, was born in the home on the Allegany in 1822. He was early accustomed to labor and deprivations and when old enough was bound out as an apprentice to learn the tanning and currying business, in which he endured so hard a life of service that even now he regrets he did not run away. At the close of his apprenticeship, and at the age of 21, he received a decent suit of clothes, his first pair of boots, and \$6 in cash. In the fall of 1845, he returned to Portville, where he has since resided. He was several years in the employ of Smith PARISH and made an annual trip down the river. About 1854 he began business as a carpenter and joiner, which trade, with rafting, he carried on until 1862.

His patriotism then impelled him to serve his country as a soldier. Accordingly he recruited a company and went to the seat of war as captain of **Co. C, 154th NY Vols.** This regiment was organized in Jamestown, NY, and transferred to Virginia in October of that year. "From that time until the first of May," Colonel WARNER says, "we did a large amount of marching and counter-marching, but were in no engagement. May 2d, at Chancellorsville, we were a part of the Eleventh Corps, the record of which is well understood by readers of war history. The most unfortunate thing about the 154th was that we had not learned to run when we ought to have done so. The regimental loss on that day was over 200 in killed and wounded. Our next engagement was at Gettysburg, where the losses were heavy. The remainder of the summer we were with the Army of the Potomac. The following autumn the Eleventh and Twelfth Corps were transferred to the west. Our first work was relieving the army shut up in Chattanooga. We took an active part in the battles of Chattanooga and Mission Ridge and then marched to the relief of Knoxville. Returning to Lookout Valley we remained in winter quarters until the commencement of the Atlanta campaign of 1864, and participated in nearly all the battles and skirmishes incident to that campaign, which closed with the occupation of Atlanta. In the organization of the march to Savannah our corps (the Twentieth) formed a part of the left wing of the army. In that and the march northeast through the Carolinas and until the close of the war we were ever present for duty. After Johnston's surrender we started home, marching all the way to Washington, where we were mustered out and sent home, arriving there about the 1st of July, 1865." Colonel WARNER was commissioned captain in Aug, 1862; major in May 1863; lieutenant-colonel in Sep 1864; and colonel in Jan 1865. With the exception of two short periods, when the regiment was in winter quarters, he was with his command continuously during its term of service; except sixteen months, during which he held the rank of major, he was in command of and responsible for the regiment, and was never accused of cowardice. He was always ready and present to lead his command, never flinched from any duty, and a truer, braver, soldier never drew a sword, and it is the unanimous testimony of his comrades that he never knew fear.



Since his return he has followed his trade with the exception of a six years' clerkship in the office of Weston, Mersereau & Co. and a year and a half in the county clerk's office. He has also had political honors. He has served as supervisor of Portville ten terms, has filled the office of justice of the peace nearly twenty years, and has been inspector of elections about fifteen years. Colonel Warner is modest and extremely unassuming, a true patriot devoted to his country, is one of Portville's most honored citizens, and a leading representative war hero of Cattaraugus county. In Jul 1893, at the unveiling of the statue erected by the State of New York at Gettysburg to the memory of the New York soldiers who participated in the battle, Colonel Warner was marshal of the Second Division, Eleventh Army Corps. In Dec 1857, he married Miss Mary M. COSSITT, of Pompey NY, and their surviving children are three sons and a daughter, all married.

http://www.portvillehistory.org/bio_Warner.html

Lewis Dennis Warner was born on June 26, 1822, to Dennis and Clarissa Andrews Warner. His father died when he was only four years old. By the age of ten, he began an apprenticeship in tanning in Phelps, NY, Ontario County, the home of his father's family. He married Mary M. Cossett on 31 Dec 1857, in her hometown of Pompey in Onondaga County, NY. Mary Cossett was born on 11 Apr 1831. Of French descent, her family left France for America during the Revolution of 1789. Their children were Clarence L., b. 6 Dec 1858, Charles H., 24 Jan 1862, both born before the war, then Ralph C., b. 14 Mar 1866, and Bertha A., b. 8 May 1868.

Lewis Warner was 40 when he first enlisted in the Union army. Besides the positions listed above, Col. Warner was a charter

member of the Portville Library Association, trustee of the Portville Union School, and a **Master of the Masonic Lodge**. He was a member of the Republican party and an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Portville.

Col. Warner held several positions in the Grand Army of the Republic, including three terms of commander. Begun in 1879, Portville's H. W. Wessel Post No. 85 was the oldest continuous G. A. R. post in Cattaraugus County. A Sons of Veterans group was also formed in Portville. Affiliated with Post 85, they named it "L. D. Warner Camp, No. 23" in his honor.

Col. Warner lived out the rest of his days at his home in Portville, at the corner of Brooklyn and South Main Streets, where the Sugar Creek Gas Station is today. He died on 18 Nov 1898, of heart disease. He was laid to rest in the Chestnut Hill Cemetery in Portville, NY. Unassuming in death as in life, his gravestone simply reads "Lewis D. Warner 1822 – 1898" and "Mary M. Warner 1831 – 1903."



(The following is an obituary that appeared in the newspaper after his funeral service on February 20, 1898).

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Touching Tributes Paid to the Memory of Col. L. D. Warner

The funeral of Col. Warner was held in the Presbyterian church at Portville yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, Rev. S. J. Clark officiating. Mr. Clark, among other appropriate remarks, said that Col. Warner was a man who, when he saw his duty to his God and fellow men, was always ready to perform that duty no matter how much personal effort and self sacrifice it required. Mr. Warner was one of the few men of whom too much could not be said in his praise by one whose duty required him to officiate at the last service which could be rendered the deceased.

The Wessel Post, No. 85 of Portville, attended the funeral in a body and accompanied the remains to their last resting place in the pretty cemetery overlooking the valley in which Col. Warner spent the 76 years of his life and in which his influence for good will be felt for many years. The floral offerings were many and beautiful. The bearers were Wm. Holden, **E. M. Bedford**, H. J. Crandall, F. E. Tyler, J. H. Fairchild and A. McDougald.

In the evening, a memorial service was held in the church where Mr. Warner had spent many happy hours and of which he was an active member. The friends and neighbors of the deceased, including the Grand Army Post of Portville and 30 members of Bayard Post No. 222 of Olean, filled the church to overflowing. This service was entirely informal and void of any ostentation, which was fitting, as Mr. Warner was a modest, unassuming man and one whose noble deeds were done without display. At this service, his pastor, Mr. Clark, officiated, assisted by the Rev. Reed, pastor of the M. E. church of Portville. Capt. Wm. Holden, in a few well-chosen words, spoke of Col. Warner's enviable military record and of his association with him as a member of the G.A.R. Although it was not Mr. Holden's fortune to serve during the rebellion in the same regiment with the deceased, he was familiar with the history of his bravery and had learned, from those who served with him, of the many kinds of acts and of his ever ready willingness to assist those under his command when fatigue and sickness was their lot.

Supervisor W. B. Mersereau next spoke of Mr. Warner as a public servant and of the interest he always took in public affairs.

Among other important offices to which he always brought honor, was the supervisor of his town. He was given this office ten consecutive terms, an honor which Portville has never conferred upon any other person. Mr. Mersereau stated that it was not only years that made history but deeds and the history of Mr. Warner's public service is full of good deeds. As a public officer, he was always upright and ever worked for the best interests of those whom he served. Hon. W. E. Wheeler next spoke of Mr. Warner as one whom he had known, honored and respected from early boyhood. In connection with Mr. Wheeler's remarks, he read portions of letters written by Col. Warner when he was at the front fighting to maintain his country's honor and for the preservation of the flag. These letters were written to the late Wm. F. Wheeler and to Mrs. Wheeler, who were warm friends of the deceased. It is hard to realize that the letters, so scholarly, could have been written by one who in early life had so few educational advantages.

These communications portrayed the man as he was known by his associates, ever modest, true and faithful to his God, his country and mankind. During his services as a soldier, he always gave the credit of his success to others and took no share of it to himself. Mr. Clark, as these interesting services were about being brought to a close, briefly, yet eloquently, presented a few lessons from this noble man's life, which all could well remember and profit by.

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=deggler1849&id=I6511>

Charles Knapp Wright, b. 7 Oct 1825 in Ceres Twp, McKean, PA; d. 16 May 1905 in Portville, Cattaraugus, NY; bur. Chestnut Hill Cemetery, Portville, Cattaraugus, NY [Historical Gazetteer and Biographical Memorial of Cattaraugus Co. NY, ed by William Adams, pub 1893, History of the Town of Portville, Chapter XLIII (43), p. 1025:]

Conspicuous among the early business men of Portville, an active force in all that goes to make up the better elements of community, and a liberal, popular, yet unostentatious citizen, we find Charles K. Wright. He is of English ancestry, which has come down through generations of New England representatives to New York State. His father, James Wright, a lumberman, located in Delaware County, where by his first wife he had eight children. In 1814 he removed to Eldred, then Ceres, Allegany county, and by his second wife, Urania Holiday, had children: Alfred, John H., George P., Eliza A. (Mrs. George Crandall), Hiram E., Caroline A. (Mrs. Edward Percival), **Charles K.**, and Albert J.

Charles K. was born 10 Jul 1825, and was six years old when his father died. Work on the farm and attendance at pioneer schools occupied him until he was twelve years old. He then remained on the farm with his mother and brother William until he was seventeen, then worked as a farm hand elsewhere nearly two years, and in 1843 came to Portville to learn the wagon maker's trade, and worked two years, receiving \$6 a month as wages. He then started in business on his own account, but in nine months' time was seized with inflammatory rheumatism, which ultimately settled in his chest and has made him a life-long sufferer....He expended his money in a vain attempt to recover his health by a residence on the Atlantic coast of New England. He returned to

Portville in 1848 in circumstances that would dishearten many men. In broken health and with only \$5 as his entire capital the outlook was not promising. He had, however, become known to the people as a reliable, temperate, and religious man, worthy of trust and confidence, and Hon. Smith Parish, a leading lumberman, offered to stock a store if Mr. Wright would become his partner and conduct it, his services to be equivalent to Mr. Parish's capital. This offer was gladly accepted, the store was erected under Mr. Wright's supervision, and was conducted successfully by him for five years, when his health again failed and compelled him to sell his interest. Mr. Wright now became a pioneer tanner. Mark Comstock was running a small tannery in which he was tanning 500 hides annually. Foreseeing that a rapid increase of this industry could be made Mr. Wright bought one-half of the tannery. After two years, becoming thoroughly conversant with the business, and Mr. Comstock not being sanguine enough to believe in its extension, Mr. Wright bought the whole plant and enlarged it to a capacity of 10,000 hides a year. In 1857 B. F. Thompson & Co., of Boston, became partners, and continued as such until 1861. For the next two years Mr. Wright ran the business alone, but in 1863 J. & H. H. Clark, of Keokuk, Iowa, purchased an interest, and the tannery was enlarged to produce 30,000 hides annually. In 1870 the Clark's sold to William F. Wheeler & Co. and another enlargement was made, increasing the output to 52,000 hides annually. In 1887 Mr. Wright sold his share of the tannery to his partners. The same year, in company with James E. and N. E. Clark, of Keokuk, Iowa, he established and built the tannery at East Olean of a capacity of 32,000 hides yearly of "Union Crop Sole Leather." Here he was very successful in business. 1 May 1893, the firm was merged in the U. S. Leather Company.

Under the religious care of his mother Mr. Wright became a Sabbath school scholar at a very early age, and has, from that time, interested himself in Sabbath school work, and since he has lived in Portville has been either teacher or superintendent. He has been a member of the Presbyterian church for over thirty years and has been an "elder" for many years. He was a commissioner in attendance at the General Assembly that met at Portland, Oregon, in 1892, and has frequently been a delegate to the Presbytery. While living at Eldred, and at the age of ten or twelve, he joined the old Washingtonian Temperance Society, and from that time he has been actively connected with some temperance organization. In politics he has been an unswerving Whig and Republican, but never sought office, and has taken the Royal Arch degree in **Free Masonry** and the Encampment degree in Odd Fellowship. He married, 26 May 1851, Mary M. Bennie.

In 1880 Charles K Knapp 55 b. PA, leather manufacturer, was living in Portville with wife Mary M 52 b. NY and children Frank H 20, store clerk, and Nellie B 18.

Father: [James Wright](#) b: 27 Jul 1766 in Massachusetts; *Mother:* [Urania Holiday](#) b: 14 Apr 1789

Married 26 May 1851 [Mary M Bennie](#) b. 8 May 1827 in New York

Child:

1. [Frank H Wright](#) b. ca 1860 in Portville, Cattaraugus, NY