

ISCHUA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FRANKLINVILLE FIRSTS

In researching the historic information on Franklinville we have come across some interesting facts we would like to share with you. Joseph McCluer first came to the Franklinville area in 1804 as a surveyor. McCluer, together with Solomon Curtis and Ira Pratt built a log cabin where the former Martiny's Hardware Store on Elm Street is located today. Curtis built his cabin on a lot across the street.

In February of 1806 nine families arrived from Angelica, New York led by McCluer and became the first settlers of Franklinville. The state decreed that the first town meeting to be held in all of Cattaraugus County would be at McCluer's cabin on March 11th, 1808.

Hiram Warner was the first settler child born here on April 30th, 1806, near Cadiz. The first recorded marriage was between John Warner and Naomi Hollister in 1811. In 1807 Henry Conrad opened and first mill. John McCluer was the first doctor and teacher in town. He was also the first reported death in 1811.

The first road between Buffalo and Olean was opened in 1810 but was often impassable. In 1816 the first mail route from Centerville was begun and riders on horseback delivered the mail. Later mail arrived by stagecoach. In 1820 Franklinville had a post office and Joseph McCluer served as the first postmaster. John Spencer, a Congregationalist minister, arrived in 1813 to provide the first religious services.

In 1819 Jonathon Lyon built the first tannery and in 1821 Flavel Partridge opened the first store. James Bishop came here in 1823 and began the first Sunday School.

In 1824 the first government officials were Isaac Searle, Supervisor, Flavel Partridge, Town Clerk and Jonathon Lyon, Justice of the Peace. Other offices included assessors, highway commissioners, school commissioners, collectors and a constable. In 1814 there were 261 people in Franklinville and by 1820 the number recorded was 1453. A militia was formed for protection in 1830.

This timeline shows that from 1806 to 1830, a span of 24 years, an area of wilderness quickly formed the basis of the Town and Village of Franklinville today.

Submitted by: Maggie Fredrickson, Village of Franklinville Historian and Bruce Fredrickson, Town of Franklinville Historian