

ISCHUA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE (BONY) DEIBLER

At last the storms and winds of nearly 80 years have blown down the stalwart form of our old dray man, and "Bony" Deibler has fallen to join his "kindred dust." He was a human landmark in our village, and one of the living links that joined us to its early history. So begins the obituary of one of Franklinville's most interesting public characters.

He knew everyone and everyone knew him. His round rugged face was as familiar to the citizens as the native trees and hills that surrounded the town. He was strong of lung and limb, hale and hearty. He was a man of iron who served the community behind team or horse, sometimes as Uncle Sam's mail carrier and always as dray and 'bus man. There was something perpetual about his endless meeting of trains. He never failed and was never late even though he never carried a watch, disdaining such as frivolity and luxury. He moved as certain as the sun in its course. Bony had a large physique, and was known for being industrious, alert and accommodating. His stalwart form was erect and straight, his step light and his eye bright. Few wrinkles marked his forehead.

N.B. Deibler was born in Machias on January 5th, 1831. He came to Franklinville in 1844 with his family and was the fifth child of Daniel and Mary E. Deibler who for many years ran the old grist mill at Cadiz. The other children of this large family were Joseph, Betsy, Henry, William, Mary, Addison, Nathan and Esther.

When he arrived here he began teaming for Barse and Graves and others. He soon purchased a team and outfit of his own. On the completion of the Erie Railroad he secured the contract for carrying the mails between this point and Hinsdale. This business gradually developed into a 'bus and passenger business of considerable dimensions. He carried on his business with great energy for many years and up to the time of the building of the W.N.Y. and P. Railroad. When this was accomplished he shortened his route and commenced his daily traffic to and from the home depot.

In 1856 he married [Lavina Howard](#). They had one daughter, Cora who married William Thompson. Bony was a hard-working, honest man who paid his debts, had a good and comfortable property accumulated for the evening of life and got it by honest toil through the years of strenuous life. It would be interesting to know how many thousands of passengers he carried or how many thousands tons of freight.

[Mr. Deibler](#) passed away in 1912, survived by his aged widow and daughter Cora who came from her Iowa home and tenderly cared for her father in his declining days. He leaves 3 grandsons, James, Ray and William Thompson and 4 surviving brothers and sisters. Services were held at his residence by Rev. B. A. Gates.

Information from the Collection of Virginia Ross Scrapbook of news items from Franklinville 1908.

Submitted by: Maggie Fredrickson, Village of Franklinville Historian