

ISCHUA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE CHANDLER BROTHERS AND THEIR SISTER

Andrew B. Chandler and his wife Lucinda were of Massachusetts stock, the father and mother with the eldest daughter locating in Franklinville in the early 1830s. Their first Cattaraugus home was in Lyndon for a few months, when a place on the Ischua road just north of the Johnson farm was purchased by the father.

The father took to a mercantile life rather than that of a farmer, so established a general store at the old home. He ran it for several years. When the drift of population seemed to center at Cadiz, the father moved his store there, and with the aid of his two sons Andrew B. and George H. did quite a thriving business.

Upon the death of the father, George and Andrew assumed the responsibility of the business, which they continued successfully for many years.

Finally, the growth of the community seemed to change once again, this time to come toward Franklinville Village, whereupon the brothers decided to move to Franklinville. In 1866 they bought the lot where the building still stands and moved their business to a new frame building. The building was destroyed in the fire of 1880, afterwards being rebuilt in the same location.

Chandler Brothers store was for years known as the principal trading place in this section, their knack of pleasing customers drawing them a very large patronage. Both brothers, so to speak, died in the harness, George passing away before Andrew, retaining their interest in this business to their final day.

Andrew Chandler held many public positions of trust and honor, which he filled with credit. He had been collector of the taxes nearly all the years since 1878, his nomination by the Republicans, nearly always being equivalent to an election, this rule holding good many of the years when Franklinville was regularly giving solid Democratic majorities.

Every man had a hobby and Mr. Chandler had his. It was horse trading: not only horse trading, but trading anything from a jack knife to a house and lot. "Dad" Chandler was known all through this section for this talent in this line, which developed in later years to become his principal recreation. He seemed to trade for the pleasure of it rather than for the profit, and many a "swapper" had made an unexpected deal with "Dad" Chandler. Andrew Chandler passed away in June 1905 and is buried in Mount Prospect Cemetery.

From - THE FRANKLINVILLE CHRONICLE, June 10th, 1906 - Contributed by: William Watkins, Machias Deputy Town Historian.

SARAH CHANDLER McCLUER ROBBINS

Sarah Chandler was the second of four children of Andrew and Lucinda Chandler. Her brothers Andrew and George were the founders of Chandler Department Store. Her sister Roxy was the second wife of Simeon Robbins. She was born in Cadiz and her father opened a mercantile establishment, one of the first in Cadiz. Sarah attended the Cadiz schoolhouse.

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In 1857 she married Joseph McCluer, a descendent of General Joseph McCluer, the pioneer settler of Franklinville. They had two sons. Will, the eldest was a successful oil prospector. In 1898, while prospecting for Standard Oil Company he developed a fever and died in Hong Kong China. Her son Gus became a dry goods merchant and succeeded to the old stand of Graves and Holmes, making it one of the most profitable mercantile houses in town. He had also worked as a traveling salesman for the William Hengerer Co. in Buffalo.

After the death of her husband and sister, she married Simeon Robbins in 1876, becoming his third wife. Although they did not have any children of their own, Mr. Robbins treated her two sons as if they were his own. Both sons he had by his first wife Mary Ann Ray died early. Sarah and Simeon adopted a daughter into their family for several years. She became Mrs. Edward Phettepiece of Cadiz.

She lived most of her life in Franklinville, except for a few years when her husband Simeon moved to Salamanca when he was in the furniture business. They spent a few short years in Buffalo while he engaged in the furniture business there.

Simeon Robbins went to the Klondike in Alaska where he met with good luck and fortune in the gold fields. On his return, he and Sarah built a handsome, roomy house at 9 Pine Street, today known as "The Miner's Cabin." In church and society, Sarah Robbins was a leading spirit. She joined the First Presbyterian Church and was active in the interest of the organization and its branches. She was known for her Christian work, good judgment, untiring zeal and energy. She loved to share her hospitality and beautiful home with young and old. She was always one of the first to assist in all charitable and social work. Although physically frail, she could outwork women companions who thought themselves stronger. She had run a millinery store in her earlier years. She had good taste in costuming, a fact apparent in her personal appearance.

In April 1902, at the age of 65, she collapsed while returning home. She was carried into her home and placed on the couch. She was unconscious and passed away the next morning. The funeral was held at her home and attended by great numbers of mourners. The house and casket were smothered by floral arrangements. She was remembered by others as a person who loved to enter into the pleasures of young people and arrange social affairs for them. No affair was complete without the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Robbins. She used to say it was the mingling with younger people that kept her young, and in appearance and manner she was many years younger than she was in actual age.

Information was obtained from her obituary in THE CHRONICLE, April 25, 1902.

Submitted by: Maggie Fredrickson, Curator of the Miner's Cabin