

Chapter 7

MARY AND WILL JR.

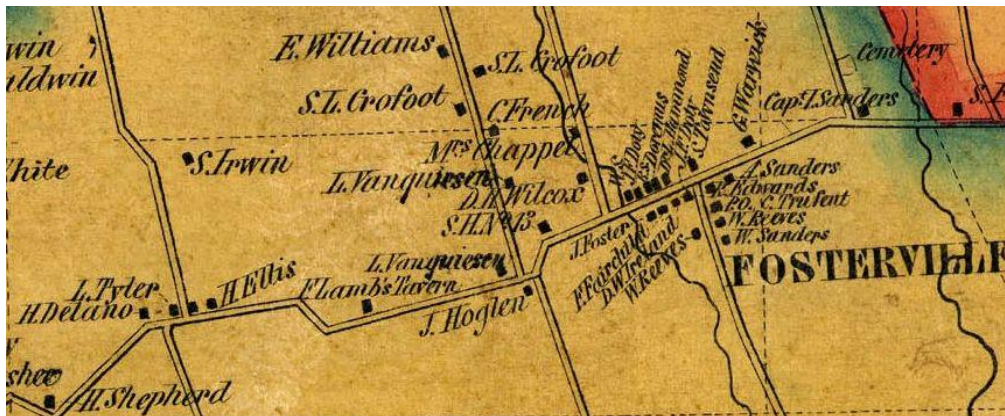
Mary Delano Hoagland (1818-1891) and William Bell, Jr. (1801-1881)

The Widow and the Widower

In the early summer of 1852, Mary Hoagland and her husband John were working a 30 acre farm in the Town of Aurelius of Cayuga County, New York. John had been ailing more than a year and, after consulting a physician, he retained a lawyer to draw up his Last Will and Testament. Then, on July 22, two weeks to the day after signing it, he died at age 54.¹ That left 34 year-old Mary to run the farm on her own while also comforting and rearing their three children: Sarah Emeline (who had just turned 10), Cornelia Louisa (6), and Hiram Romaine (4).² She had no middle name herself, but called all the children by theirs, and they went by them the rest of their lives. In time, they even inserted the middle initial “D” on Mary’s tombstone in recognition of her original surname: Delano. (*cf. p. 41*)



She was born April 21, 1818, to Cornelia Miller and Cornelius Knickerbocker Delano, who farmed 115 miles north of New York City in Columbia County’s Town of Copake, and she had three siblings: Hiram (1816), Miller (1820) and Almira (1822).³ After marrying John, she had her first child at 18, then another four before she was 30. The second was stillborn and never named, and the eldest, Ann Eliza, died in the spring of 1844, two weeks shy of her eighth birthday, so it’s clear Mary had grieved (and grieved deeply) long before losing John. And yet, the arrival of Emeline after the stillbirth, and of Louisa and Romaine after Eliza’s death, all reinforced a powerful resolve on her part always to move on. And, somehow, she did.⁴



Map 7A: Hoagland (“Hoglen”) Farm, Aurelius, NY – 1853

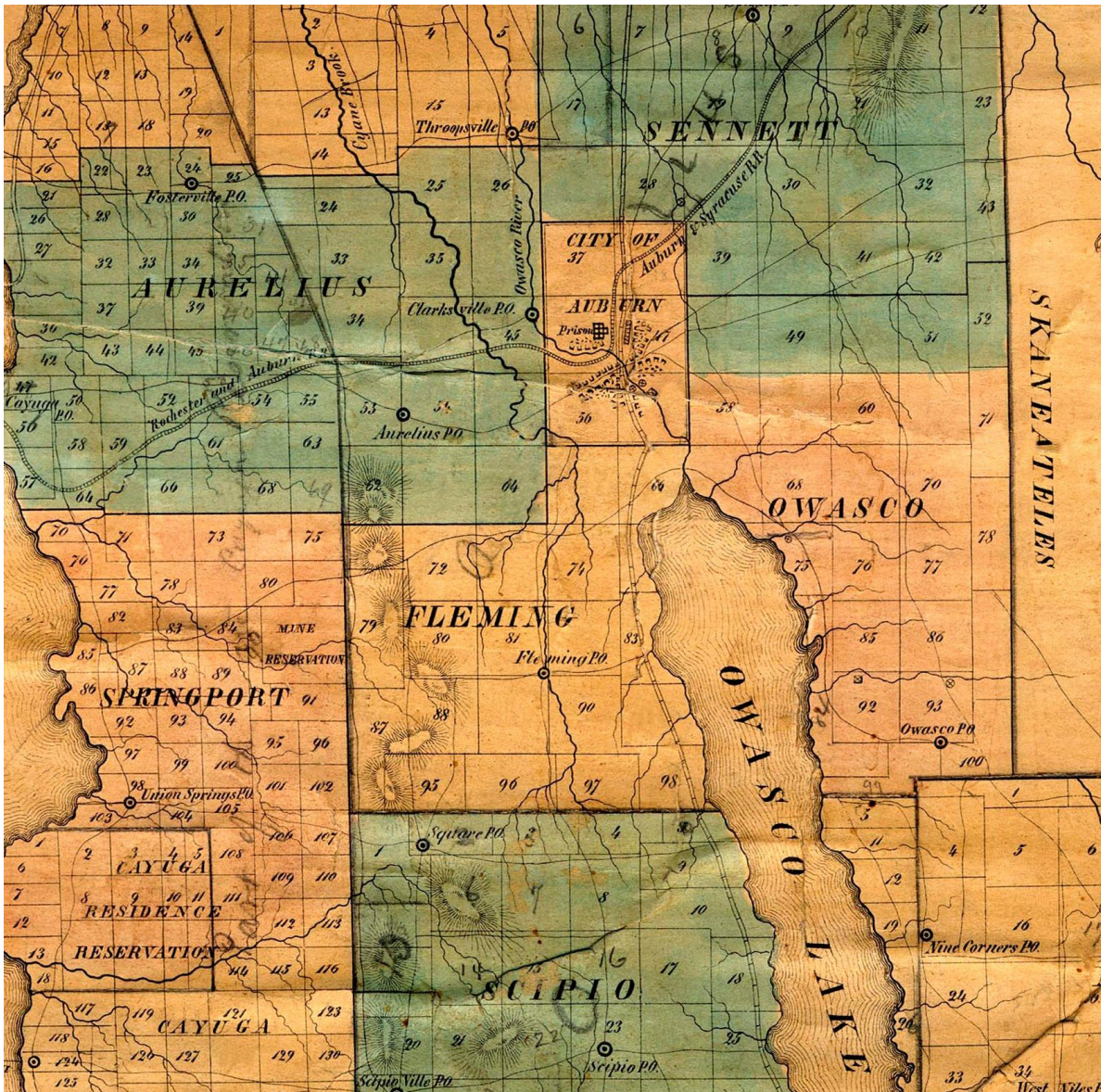
Cast of Characters – Chapter 7

Cornelius K. Delano		(1783-)	m (c1814)	Cornelia Miller		(-1822?)
❖	Hiram Delano	(1816-1900)	m (c1839)	Hannah Tyler	(1820-1887)	
	•	At least 12 children				
❖	Mary Delano	(1818-1891)	m (c1835)	John Hoagland	(1798-1852) ²	
	•	Ann Eliza	(1836-1844)	Died two weeks prior to 8 th birthday		
	•	Unnamed Child	(1840)	Stillborn		
	•	Sarah “Emeline”	(1842-1931)	m (1861)	Frank Mullen	(1838-1882)
	✓	John Mullen	(1861-186?)	Died between 1865 and 1870		
	✓	Pearl Mullen	(1876-1954)	m (1897)	Claude Foster	(1868-1924)
	•	Cornelia “Louisa”	(1845-1930)	m (1862)	Charles Foster	(1838-19__)
	✓	Frederick Foster	(1864-c1940)	m (1897) div.	Almira Bristow	(1870-1945)
	✓	Then Frederick Foster		m (1903)	Margaret Myers	(-)
	✓	Claude Foster	(1868-1924)	m (1897)	Pearl Mullen	(1876-1954)
	•	Hiram “Romaine”	(1848-1874)	Never Married		
	Then ,	Mary E. Delano		m (1854)	William Bell, Jr.	(see below)
	•	William H. H. Bell	(1856-1919)	m (1879)	Mary Louise Hoagland	(1858-1942)
❖	Miller Delano	(1820-1864)		Died at Andersonville, Georgia		
❖	Almira Delano	(1822-btwn1837/1850)	m (allegedly)	George Knickerbocker	(-)	
	•	Miles Knickerbocker	(1838-1862)	Died in West Virginia during Civil War		

Peter Hoogland (1769 -1853) m (c1835) Engeltje Storm (c1773-1805)

❖	Derrick Peter Hoagland	(1796-1847)	m	Sarah (Sally) O. Van Liew (1804-1870s)		
❖	John Hoagland	(1798-1852)	m (c 1835)	Mary E. Delano	(1818-1891)	
❖	Thomas Hoagland	(1798-1840)	m	Ida Van Liew	(1806-1863)	
❖	Three more children with Engeltje Storm plus four with Femmetje “Phebe” Adriance (1772-1850)					

William Bell Jr.	(1801-1881)	m (1825)	Sally Beach	(1806-1853)
❖ Robert Bell	(1826-1879)	m (1847)	Margaret Weston	(1826-1892)
❖ Milo Bell	(1831-1891)	m (1853)	Margaret Wright	(1824 Ire-1901)
❖ Electa Bell	(1833-1874)	m (1854)	Jacob Post	(1827-1877)
❖ Lavinia Bell	(1835-1894)	m (1869)	Wm. Frank Albro	(1837-1906)
❖ Mary Catherine Bell	(1842-1907)	m (1862)	Franklin McKone	(1836-1874)
❖ Martha Sarah Bell	(1848-1922)	m (1872)	Preston Wm. Ross	(1847-1929)



Map 7B: Central Cayuga County and Western Onondaga County - 1849
Including Aurelius, Scipio, Auburn, and Skaneateles (*William Hecht collection*)

The inscription on John’s tombstone (*cf. p. 1*) says he was 52 when he died (“52 Y’RS, 3M. & 11 D’s”), but he was, in fact, 54. He and his twin brother, Thomas, were born April 11, 1798, on a farm in Fishkill, New York – a few miles east of the Hudson River and 70 north of New York City. Like Mary’s father, their parents, Engeltje Storm and Peter Montross Hoogland, were of Dutch heritage and, over time, “Hoogland” (*trans. “highland”*) became anglicized as “Hoagland”. “Engeltje” translated to “Little Angel”, and some records identify her as “Angela” or “Angelia”. They baptized the twins at Fishkill’s Dutch Reformed Church on July 1, 1798, as they had their first child, Derrick Peter, two years earlier. Engeltje then bore two girls and another boy before dying in 1805 at age 35 or 36. Soon afterward, Peter married Femmetje “Phebe” Adriance (also of Dutch heritage), who delivered another four sons, the last arriving in 1816. ⁵

After the newly completed Erie Canal opened on October 25, 1825, the small towns and backwoods hamlets along its banks grew rapidly, and its hinterlands became rife with opportunity for young farmers. Derrick, Thomas and John were among the first to join the rush there, taking a steamboat 90 miles north on the Hudson River to Albany before switching to a mule-drawn packet boat for the 175-mile journey west to Cayuga County (*cf. illustration*). Upon disembarking, they headed south to



the Town of Scipio (a township), where, according to the U.S. Postal Service, Thomas was receiving mail by April 1, 1826 – just five months after the Canal opened. He had married Ida Van Liew by then, and Derrick had married her sister, Sarah “Sally” Van Liew. In 1828, Sally gave birth in Scipio to a son they named “Peter” after Derrick’s father. Then, on May 12, 1834, with Derrick as his cosigner, their brother John paid \$3,841 for 167 acres of farmland in the nearby Town of Aurelius. It’s unclear when their father, Peter, arrived in the area, but in 1835, he was buying acreage in Onondaga County’s Town of Skaneateles (*Skane-ee-at’-less*), which was seven miles east of Auburn, the burgeoning seat of Cayuga County. John’s land was 7 miles west of Auburn, and both Derrick and Thomas were ten miles south of it. (*cf. 1849 Map 7B, above. John’s farm ran along the left stem of the first ‘U’ in “AURELIUS”*). ⁶

Mary Delano’s early life is harder to trace, but a few posts on *Ancestry.com* may offer some clues. They claim her mother, Cornelia, died in 1822, shortly after giving birth to Mary’s sister, Almira. That would have left Mary’s father, Cornelius, entirely on his own to rear a newborn and three small children (ages 2, 4 and 6) while also tending to all the house and farm work – similar to Mary’s own situation 30 years later. Primitive medical practices made that a fairly common dilemma, and the typical options for the bereaved husbands and wives included: a) securing a new spouse or live-in nanny and/or b) placing at least some of the children with other families. So far, none of those online posts has provided any concrete evidence that Cornelia, in fact, died in 1822, much less that her death spurred Cornelius to pursue any of those options; and yet, Mary and her brother Hiram were soon living up near New York’s Finger Lakes, 230 miles from Copake and their siblings.

ERIE CANAL PACKET BOATS.



THE regular line of PACKET BOATS between Schenectady and Buffalo, will be run the present season by the Utica and Schenectady, and the Erie Canal Packet Boat Company, in connexion.

Two Daily Lines will run between Schenectady and Utica.

The Morning Line will leave Utica at 9 o'clock, A. M. on the arrival of the western boats, and Schenectady at 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Evening Line will leave Utica and Schenectady at 8 o'clock, P. M. all running through in twenty-two hours.

One Daily Line will run between Utica and Buffalo, leaving Utica at 8 o'clock, P. M. on the arrival of the Eastern Boats, and Buffalo at 8 o'clock, A. M.

Utica and Syracuse Line, will also be run between Utica and Syracuse—leaving Utica at 8 A. M. and Syracuse at 6 A. M.—running through by day light.

The Packets will touch at all the principal villages on the Canal, to receive and land passengers. Stages will always be in readiness to receive and carry passengers between Schenectady and Albany or Troy, on the arrival of the Steam and Packet Boats at those places respectively, and also at such points on the Canal as may accommodate passengers passing to and from the principal villages situate off the line of it.

Utica, April 22, 1828.

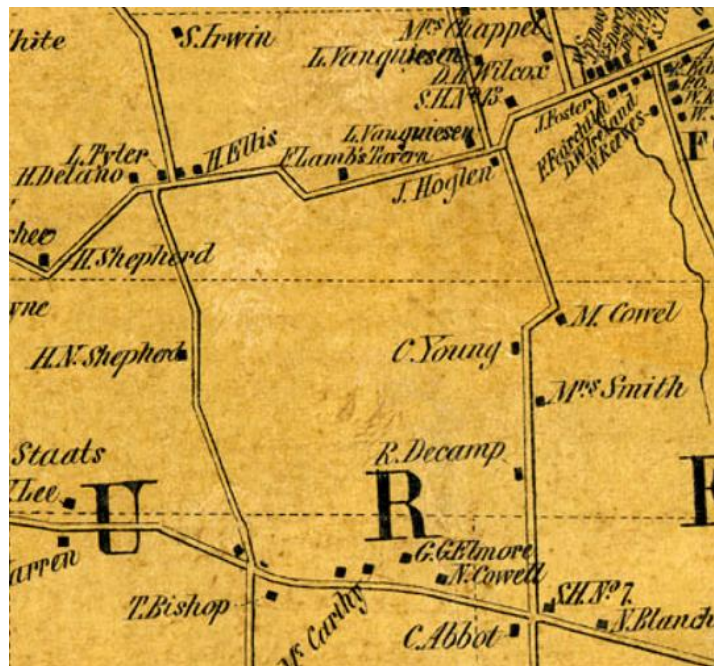
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Mary and Hiram made their way to Cayuga County when “quite young” and perhaps as early as the mid-1820s, no doubt travelling on the Erie Canal, as the Hoaglands did.⁷ We know they were there by at least September 1835 because Mary gave birth to Ann Eliza, her first child with John, nine months after that, and he’d been toiling away in Aurelius the past two years. Why she and Hiram migrated to that *particular* county, though, remains unclear for now. Distant Delano kin were in the vicinity, but there’s nothing to show either sibling was even aware of them. Their younger brother, Miller, meanwhile, was still back in Copake, a surmise based on his appearance in Albany in March 1838 to enlist in the U.S. Army. Albany was a day’s journey by horse from Copake, but three days from Cayuga County via the Canal, on which a one-way ticket cost a few days’ wages. Had he been living near Mary and Hiram, then, he almost certainly would have enlisted at Cayuga County – and, as it happens, he *re*-enlisted there more than 20 years later, after having moved there following his 1841 discharge.⁸ Their youngest sibling, Almira, on the other hand, spent her entire life in Columbia County. At 15, she married a distant relative there named George Knickerbocker and, in 1838, the year Miller first enlisted, she gave birth to a son, Miles, in the Town of Gallatin. By the time he was twelve, though, Miles was living with Mary and John over in Cayuga County, a sure sign that Almira, like her mother, had died young. (*cf. fn. 2*)

Having started their family, Mary and John added 38 acres to their farm on April 1, 1839, for a total of 205. Then, a year to the day later, they sold 100 of those at a profit to Nathan Cowell (*cf. Map 7C*). They did well financially throughout the 1840s and, by 1850, had one of the more productive farms in the area, with 5 horses, 6 oxen, 16 pigs, and 20 sheep, plus a harvest of 410 bushels of wheat and 150 of Indian corn.⁹

Their personal lives, on the other hand, whipsawed between celebration and sorrow. Eliza’s birth in 1836 was followed by the stillborn child in 1840 and, then, the arrival of Emeline in 1842.

After Eliza’s heartrending death in 1844, Mary gave birth to Louisa in 1845 and Romaine in 1848; but Mary’s sister, Almira, apparently died around the same time, which led to Almira’s son, Miles, coming to live with them – as did nine-year old Alinia Tyler, a relative of Hiram Delano’s wife, Hannah Tyler. In the midst of all those transitions, John’s health began to fail – possibly from cancer, although there’s no way to be certain. Despite having a thriving enterprise, he and Mary sold the 100 acre farm on May 1, 1851, to George Elmore for \$5,000 (*cf. bottom center, Map 7C*) and, a week later, paid \$1,620 for the 30 acre farm a mile north of there, the one misspelled “Hoglen” on the map.



Map 7C: Hoagland Farms - 1853

Their first farm, where Mary gave birth to all their children, looked out on what is now Highway 5 & 20, and the smaller “Hoglen” farm was alongside what is still called the Turnpike Road, a once-privately owned route on which travelers paid tolls.¹⁰ All the structures on the first farm have since been replaced, but the current house at the Turnpike Road site has early to mid-19th century features. From that farm, the village of Montezuma was 4½ miles north, and Fosterville (comprising a few houses, a store and a church) around a half mile east, with Auburn five miles south-east of that. Mary’s brother, Hiram, and his wife, Hannah, farmed a mile to the west, right next to the log house of Hannah’s parents, Lonson and Betsey Tyler.¹¹ (*cf. Maps 7A and 7C*)

Chart 7.1: John and Mary Hoagland’s Primary Land Transactions					
Date	Amount	Buyer	Seller	Acres	Map 7B
May 12, 1834	\$3,841	John + Derrick Hoagland	William Henry	108.53 + 58.58 = 167.11	Elmore + Cowell
April 3, 1839	\$1,520	John Hoagland	Daniel + Tabitha McIntosh	38	Unknown
April 1, 1840	\$4,200	Nathan Cowell	John + Mary Hoagland	100	N. Cowell
May 1, 1851	\$5,000	George Elmore	John + Mary Hoagland	88½ + 12	G.G. Elmore
May 8, 1851	\$1,620	John Hoagland	Fred + Sarah Lamb	30	J. Hoglen
Mar. 22, 1852	\$170	John Hoagland	Walter Ball	0.3	North of “H. Ellis”
April 4, 1854	\$2,150	Myron Doty	Mary Hoagland + Hiram Delano	33.3	J. Hoglen + North of “H. Ellis”

John died fifteen months after they moved, and Mary then took the steps required of widows to: 1) retain her possessions, 2) protect her children’s inheritances, and 3) remain financially stable. She and Hiram served as co-executors of the estate while John’s Will was in probate, and the Court followed the standard practice of assigning a Special Guardian for the children. Then, on August 23, Lonson Tyler (Hiram’s father-in-law) and William Reeve (a neighbor) inventoried the family’s possessions, excluding only those items set aside by law, such as legal documents, personal belongings and survival necessities. They even counted the spoons. The list is akin to a window into Mary and John’s daily life: their furnishings, food, pictures, books, tools, appliances, livestock, crops, linens, cash and – a third of the way down – two spittoons (which we prefer

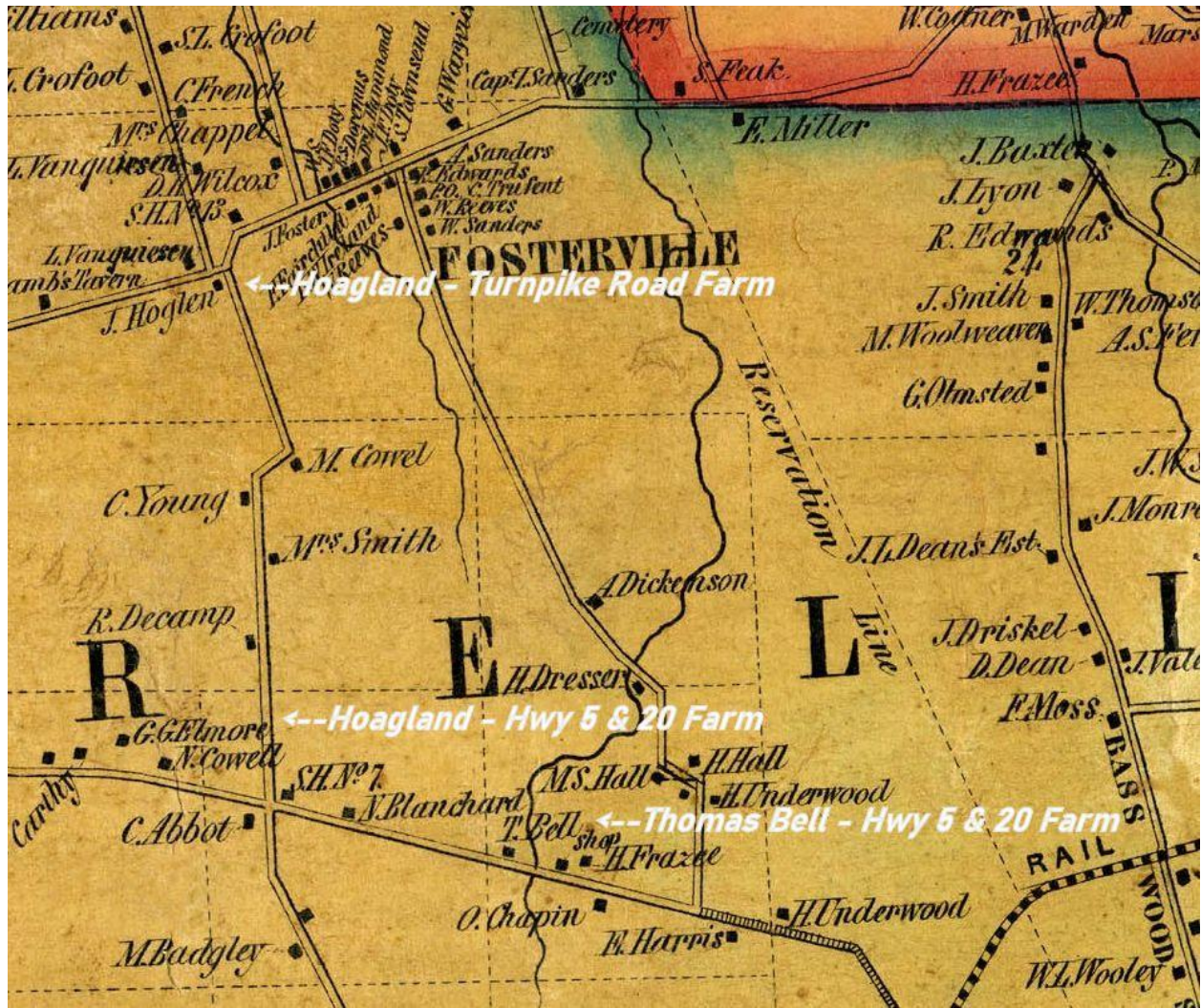
to believe Mary herself never used). After settling debts, she had some \$1,950 in assets and \$2,150 worth of farmland, for a total estate of \$4,100, the equivalent of \$159,150 in 2020 dollars (cash and farmland inflation rates differ). What became of the \$3,375 cash *surplus* from selling the first farm (\$100,000 in 2020) is unclear. Maybe she collected spittoons.¹² (*cf. Endnotes*)

On April 4, 1854, some 20 months after John's death, Mary and Hiram sold the Turnpike Road farm to Myron Doty for \$2,150, the exact amount they had estimated (and \$525 more than John and Mary had paid in 1851). The deed lists Hiram as co-seller, but Mary alone garnered the proceeds, which she invested in bonds and other land. Then she used dividends from the bonds and payments from farmers who rented her land to pay daily expenses. After selling whatever else she and the children no longer needed, their net cash inheritance from John's estate came to \$4,275, around half of which went to Mary alone. The rest, along with a \$593 legacy from John's father, Peter (who died in 1853), would later provide \$1,600 to each child upon turning 21 or, in the case of the females, marrying. Mary and her three children might have moved down the road at that point to live with Hiram and Hannah, but her nephew, Miles, became a live-in farm-hand for another family nearby, and young Alinia Tyler just seems to have disappeared.

It was during that late winter into early spring of 1854 that William Bell Jr. made his way to Mary's door, wherever that happened to be at the moment. His wife, Sally Beach, had just died in November, leaving him alone on their farm with four daughters and a ton of responsibilities. Like the widowed Cornelius Delano in the 1820s and, now, Mary herself, he needed another adult in the house, so he arrived with marriage in mind. They'd been living at least four miles apart and attending different M.E. churches (she in the village of Cayuga and he at Mentz), but had been aware of one another for some time. Four miles in that sparsely settled region, with its thriving network of family members and friends, made them neighbors. The Hoaglands' first farm had been just up the road from that of Will Jr's brother, Tom, and their 30-acre "Hoglen" farm was a field or two over from the late Sally Beach's sister and brother-in-law, Nancy and Cyrus French. Will Jr. also was a colonel in the state militia, which, in that era, made him a prominent local citizen, and both he and John Hoagland had been involved in the local Whig Party as far back as 1838, attending the same conventions and other events. Their names even appeared side-by-side once in a published list of Whig convention participants. Now, both Will Jr. and Mary were widowed with young children and heavy burdens, and they came to see one another with new eyes – eyes focused more on practical solutions than on romantic adventure. (*cf. Maps 7D and 7E, below*)

They married on Saturday, June 24, 1854 – just shy of two years after John's death and seven months after Sally's.¹³ Mary was 36 and Will, 52, and there would have been little or no fanfare. Most weddings were quite simple in those days, and second marriages, little more than formalities. Someone served as a witness and some of their children might have attended, but in essence, a pastor showed up at somebody's house, led a brief ceremony and left – and that was it.

However modest the event, it's clear they had given this merger of families considerable forethought because, three days earlier (June 21), Mary bought Will Jr's farm on Beach Road. She



Map 7E: Proximity of Each Hoagland Farm to the Thomas Bell Farm - 1835-1854

(All maps in this chapter are public domain)

Shaken and Stirred

Blending the two families had its challenges, especially for the five children under the age of 13 – Emeline, Louisa and Romaine Hoagland and, on the Bell side, Mary Catherine and Martha Sarah (called “Sally” like her mother). Mary’s three had lost their father and home and were moving to someone else’s house to live with people they barely knew. Despite having things in common with Will Jr’s daughters – farming, Methodism and the death of a parent – the farm on Beach Road was foreign territory, and the aura of Sally Beach, gone less than a year, still radiated from everything she had crafted, every routine she had established, and every child she had reared. It would be normal for Mary and her children to feel awkward and wary as they arrived.

The Bells would have been wary, too, still mourning their mother when another woman and her brood – marginal acquaintances at best – showed up at the door and moved in. The transition was easiest for Will Jr’s older offspring. His sons, Robert and Milo, already had married and moved out, and Milo’s family headed for Michigan later that year. Then, two days before Christmas, 21 year old Electa married Jacob Post and they soon followed Milo. The following spring, 19 year old Lavinia left, too, moving in with Robert’s family, a mile northeast. That left Mary and Sally, who had the same names as their step and birth mothers respectively, and who might have welcomed the arrival of other children their age. The next spring, someone distinguished the younger Mary from her step-mother by including her middle initial ‘C’ on the 1855 state census, and she went on using it the rest of her life. Sally, in turn, switched to “Martha” during her mid-teens.

Both Mary C and Emeline had turned twelve the year their parents married, and Sally and Romaine had been six. Louisa Hoagland had turned nine shortly after the wedding and was the odd one out – a bit young for Mary C and Emeline and a bit old for Sally and Romaine. Yet all five had endured grief, and sharing a home at least offered the comfort of other children who could empathize. Even Romaine, who now had a veritable flock of sisters, adapted over time.

The union became more tangible on April 2, 1856, when, three weeks shy of her 38th birthday, Mary Delano gave birth to a son they named William Henry Harrison Bell (*cf. Chp 11*). He was the sixth child born on the Beach Road farm, the fourth son of the two parents combined, and the twelfth (as well as last) of all their children – counting both Mary’s stillborn child and Ann Eliza, who had died twelve years earlier. Sally Beach might have lost children, too, but there’s no evidence of it. Baby William, in any event, was the only person, adult or child, who was biologically related both to Mary and Will Jr., plus every sibling in the blended family – a half-brother instead of a stepbrother. His three given names paid homage to the ninth U.S. president, a Whig Party hero to Will Jr. and, probably, to the late John Hoagland, too. Thousands of other Americans, including Mary’s brother Hiram and his wife Hannah, also named their sons after Harrison, which seems a bit odd, given that he died after only a month in office (*cf. Chp 10*). In keeping with Mary’s custom of calling her biological children by their middle names, this one with *two* middle names eventually became “Henry”. As he matured, he wrote his signature a few different ways, but settled primarily on “W.H. Bell” and, sometimes, “Wm. H. Bell”. (*cf. Chp 11*)

In 1850, New York farms averaged 113 acres with an estimated value of \$3,250, a bit less than \$29 per acre. Will Jr. and his first wife, Sally, had owned 130 acres that year (i.e., 1850), worth roughly \$4,600, a bit more than \$36 per acre. More than 80% of their land was “improved” (i.e., tilled) and the rest, wooded or otherwise uncultivated. They also had bought and sold smaller tracts on a regular basis. Upon selling the 91 acres to Mary in 1854, Will Jr. was left with just 35 in his name (along with a barn-full of cash) – but only temporarily because he regained the 91 when they married three days later. The county assessor, in fact, continued listing him as the official “inhabitant” of the Beach Road farm. By law, a husband residing on property owned by his wife was still considered head of the household, thus the primary inhabitant. The following year, the assessor also listed Will Jr. as “Guardian for [the] Hoagland Heirs”, meaning he was responsible for paying taxes on whatever acreage Mary’s children owned. He even had authority to sell or rent it out until they turned 21 or, in the daughters’ cases, married. (*cf. Chps 8 and 10*)

Over a 13 year period, Will Jr. deeded land of his own to at least four of his six birth children: Robert in 1848, Milo in 1853, and then Mary C and Martha together in 1861. Each of the sons’ deeds, cosigned by Sally Beach, was for the same 31 acre farm immediately south of Will and Sally’s on Beach Road. The third deed, cosigned by Mary Delano, was for a 56 acre parcel extending east from *behind* the Beach Road farm. The three deeds were spread over 13 years, the third parcel was larger than the first two, and land values were constantly changing, yet the purported price on each deed was exactly \$1,560 – so, it’s clear, they were no ordinary land transactions. A brief clause in the last one finally clarified the intent of all three, saying: “... this *grant* (italics added) is intended to be in and for and against all claims that [Mary C and Martha] may hereafter have against the estate of [Will Jr. and Mary].” In short, the deeds represented outright gifts of land – nominally valued at \$1,560 each – in lieu of any future inheritance.

That nominal price is deceptive, though, because the true value of the land given to each son was twice that given to each daughter. Robert sold the 31 acre farm two years after receiving it and used the proceeds to buy a larger one. Then his parents bought it a second time and deeded it to Milo, and he too later sold it to buy another. By contrast, the parcel deeded to Mary C and Martha, although larger, was just a tillable field with no buildings, and each sister received only a half share – the equivalent of \$780, compared to each son’s \$1,560. Mary C also was just 19 at the time and Martha, 13, so all they could do was rent it to others, which they did. For each son, the deed was a career starter; for each daughter, a dowry – an investment to help them establish a household upon marrying. No similar deed has yet surfaced for either Electa or Lavinia, but the pattern implies Will Jr. (and whichever wife) gave them something comparable to what Mary C and Martha received. The following table shows key components of the deeds unearthed so far.

Year	“Seller”	“Buyer”	Acres	\$ Per Acre	Value
1848	Will + Sally	Robert	31	\$50.32	\$1,560
1853	Will + Sally	Milo	31	\$50.32	\$1,560
1861	Will + Mary	Mary C + Martha	56	\$27.86	\$1,560
		Mary C	28	\$27.86	\$780
		Martha	28	\$27.86	\$780

Again, the purpose of such grants to male progeny was to help them establish farms or other vocations, whereas dowries were designed to attract husbands and set up households. A movement was underway, though, to challenge, not only gender-based practices of that sort, but the assumptions underlying them – that is, to redefine the rights, roles, and responsibilities of both females and males. In 1848, the year Will Jr. and Sally deeded the land to Robert, Elizabeth Cady Stanton (*upper right*), Lucretia Mott (*lower right*), and other now-renowned figures launched a campaign for sexual equality at the first ever Women’s Rights Convention. Several men, including abolitionist Frederick Douglass, also attended. The convention was in Seneca Falls, just nine miles southwest of the Bells’ home. Will participated in dozens of political conventions over the years, but the gender-based gifts to their children, however loving and well-intended, make clear he and Sally missed the one in Seneca Falls.



One social movement Will Jr. did embrace was Temperance. Methodists had long associated the use of liquor with crime, poverty, family violence and other social ills. Whether imbibing was a cause or a result of such things, they saw it as a major problem in itself. Over time, they moved from advocating temperance (i.e., moderation) to demanding the outright prohibition of everything from whiskey to beer. The message from Methodist pulpits and parachurch organizations was that Christians had a moral imperative to remove such products from society; but Christians from other ethnic and theological backgrounds, such as Irish and Italian Catholics, had a different view. Consuming alcohol was integral to their subcultures and they feared Prohibition would delegitimize their way of life, impose Anglo-Saxon Protestantism as America’s official culture, and further consolidate wealth and power in the hands of those already at the top – all of which was true. Over time, Methodist concern for the afflicted became a crusade for social dominance.

Whatever their own motives, Will, his brother, Sam, and Sam’s son-in-law, Erie Ward, eventually joined a call to end liquor sales in the Town of Mentz, as outlined in this 1850 press release.

NOTICE

The undersigned inhabitants of the town of Mentz, would respectfully recommend the friends of temperance in said town, to meet at the house of W.W. MILK in Port Byron, on Saturday, the 2d day of March next, at 2 o’clock, P.M., to take into consideration the propriety of nominating suitable persons to fill the several town offices, who are opposed to the present system of granting license to retail intoxicating liquors.

**J.V. GRIGGS,
SAMUEL BELL,
GARRETT POST,
S.M STOKES,
J. MILLENER,
WM. BELL, JR.,**

**JOHN W. SAWYER,
JOHN A. TAYOR,
ROBERT B. JEFFERS,
ALOARUS TUPPER,
E.J. WARD
HENRY LEMON.**

Dated, Mentz, Feb. 20, 1850

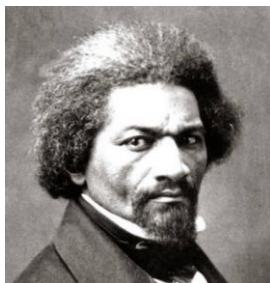
(Cayuga Chief, Feb. 26, 1850)

Twenty-one years later (1871), while members of the local Farmer's Club were discussing their crops, one member said he was having trouble growing barley, a crucial ingredient for distilling whiskey. Will Jr., by then long retired from farming, responded, "Being a strictly temperance man, barley never would grow for me. A bushel per acre is all I could ever raise, and 65 bushels of oats." If nothing else, he could at least joke about himself – sort of. (*Cheryl Longyear*)

In time, Will Jr. joined the Prohibitionist Party, and on September 19, 1874, he and his nephew, George Bell, served as two of four Montezuma delegates to a "Prohibition County Convention" in Auburn. The participants then appointed Will Jr. and two others to a resolutions committee to draft proclamations condemning the consumption of alcoholic beverages and calling for their legal prohibition (*Auburn Daily Bulletin*). Almost half a century passed before Prohibition became federal law, and when it did, in 1920, it created more problems than it solved, leading Congress to repeal it after just 13 years. It had been a naïve response to complex social ills.

After retiring from the state militia around 1854 (*cf. Chp 5*), Will Jr. fulfilled his longtime interest in public service by running for elected office. He served, first, as one of seven elected highway commissioners in Mentz and then, in 1860, became the first Commissioner of Highways for the newly formed Town of Montezuma. A year after that, he won election as one of the town's original three Justices of the Peace, a position he held well into his 70s.

He performed a different kind of public service in August 1859, when the County called him to serve on a "Petit Jury", which listens to evidence in a civil or criminal matter and delivers a verdict. Whether he actually adjudicated anything or not isn't clear, but he returned to court later that year to sue fellow farmer and political cohort Daniel D. Buck, who happened to be a County "Undersheriff", i.e., a sheriff's deputy. The *Auburn Daily American* said the case went before the County Circuit Court on October 21, with C.C. Dwight representing Will Jr., and H.V. Howland representing Buck. Howland, as it happened, was serving alongside Will at the time as one of those seven highway commissioners for Mentz, which must have made his role in the suit a bit awkward. He also lived next door to Mary's nephew, Miles Knickerbocker, over in Port Byron. The paper later said the Court "referred" the case, but never clarified the suit's purpose or outcome. In an unrelated article, though, it revealed the amount the Town of Mentz had paid each highway commissioner for his work the previous year. A man named Elbridge received \$100 and Will Jr., \$78. By contrast, Buck's lawyer, Howland, received just seven dollars. If the payments reflected the amount of time they each put into the job, he must have been a champion slacker.



That report on Will's lawsuit appeared right below the notice of a lecture in nearby Syracuse that evening by the renowned abolitionist and former slave, Frederick Douglass (*left*). His subject was "Self-made Men" and the notice referred to him as "an embodiment of his subject". The Syracuse-Auburn region was rife with abolitionists during that era, and included several stops on the "Underground Railroad", helping escaped slaves to reach Canada. (*Auburn Daily American, October 22, 1859*)frf

The nation had debated slavery from the outset, but southern threats to perpetuate it by seceding from the Union made the 1860 presidential election the most momentous and divisive ever. Cayuga County was an active campaign region, not only because of its anti-slavery activism, but because Auburn's William H. Seward, a long-time associate and political ally of Will Jr., was the leading contender for the new Republican Party's presidential nomination. When Abraham Lincoln snared the nomination instead, Seward, Will Jr., and other area Republicans set aside their disappointment and campaigned fiercely on Lincoln's behalf – and on November 7, 1860, they reveled in his election (*cf. Chp 5*). Five months later, the nation went to war with itself.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas the laws of the United States have been, for some time past, and now are, opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed, in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the Marshals by law :

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution and the laws, have thought fit to call forth, and hereby do call forth, the militia of the several States of the Union, to the aggregate number of seventy-five thousand, in order to suppress said combinations, and to cause the laws to be duly executed.

The details for this object will be immediately communicated to the State authorities through the War Department.

I appeal to all loyal citizens to favor, facilitate, and aid this effort to maintain the honor, the integrity, and the existence of our National Union, and the perpetuity of popular Government, and to redress wrongs already long enough endured.

I deem it proper to say that the first service assigned to the forces hereby called forth will probably be to repossess the forts, places, and property which have been seized from the Union ; and in every event the utmost care will be observed, consistently with the objects aforesaid, to avoid any devastation, any destruction of or interference with property, or any disturbance of peaceful citizens in any part of the country.

And I hereby command the persons composing the combinations aforesaid to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes within twenty days from this date.

Deeming that the present condition of public affairs presents an extraordinary occasion, I do hereby, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution, convene both Houses of Congress.

Senators and Representatives are therefore summoned to assemble at their respective Chambers, at 12 o'clock, noon, on Thursday, the fourth day of July next, then and there to consider and determine such measures as, in their wisdom, the public safety and interest may seem to demand.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one
[L. S.] thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and of the Independence of the United States
the eighty-fifth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President :

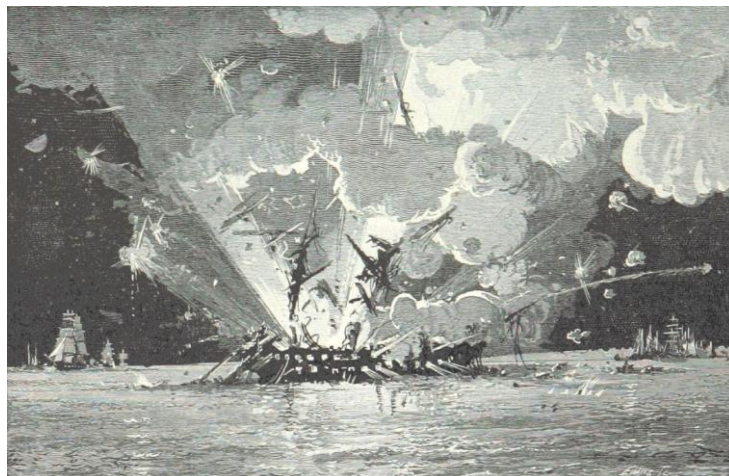
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State*.

War and Tribulation

Will Jr. had been a cavalry officer for 30 years and was a vigorous advocate for the Union, but he had been retired from the militia for close to seven years. Now sixty years old, he focused instead on farming and fatherhood, which also were important to the war effort. The Union cause needed farmers to grow food and also needed fathers to support their families. His son Robert registered for the draft, but he too was a farmer with a wife and child and, so, was exempt – as was Milo in Michigan. Overall, farmers accounted for three-fourths of adult males in the north, but fewer than half the Union soldiers; and seven in ten Union soldiers were single, including Mary's brother Miller Delano, her nephew Miles Knickerbocker, Will's nephew John Wesley Bell, and Lavinia's beau, Frank Albro. Of those four, only two made it home. (*cf. Chp 5*)

Like Will Jr., Miller Delano was already a veteran, having enlisted in the U.S. Army shortly after turning 18 in March 1838. His induction record from back then said he had hazel eyes, brown hair and a ruddy complexion – and he stood just 5 feet 4 inches tall, a little guy even among men who generally were shorter than they are now. He served at Ft. Brooke in what today is Tampa, Florida, taking part in the Seminole Wars before mustering out in 1841. By the onset of the Civil War, he was a 41 year old bachelor farmer in Montezuma and had been drawing a military pension for nine years; but he re-enlisted on July 13, 1861, mustering in on September 1 as a Private in Company D of New York's 99th Infantry, a naval infantry brigade.

On March 8, 1862, then, he was aboard the U.S.S. Congress, participating in a blockade of the port at Newport News, Virginia, when the Confederates' futuristic looking ironclad C.S.S. Virginia (built on the hull of the former U.S.S. Merrimack) arrived with five smaller ships. The ensuing engagement killed 120 men aboard the Congress before the remaining crew, including Miller, surrendered and were ferried off. The Confederates then tried seizing the vessel itself, but on-shore Union batteries repelled them, so the Virginia pounded the now-deserted ship with round after round of red-hot cannonballs until the Congress caught fire and its magazine exploded in a huge fireball. (*Sketch: "Explosion and Burning of the U.S.S. Congress, March 8, 1862". Robert Underwood Johnson and Clarence Clough Buel, Authors, 1887, now public domain*)





The Virginia also sank the U.S.S. Cumberland, but put off attacking the U.S.S. Minnesota, which had run aground, until the next day. The Union ironclad U.S.S. Monitor, however, arrived before dawn and engaged the Virginia on March 9th in what became known as the “Battle of Hampton Roads”, the first encounter ever between two ironclad warships (*right side of map*). After pounding one another for four hours without inflicting terminal damage, an exploding shell temporarily blinded the Monitor’s captain. The Monitor then withdrew briefly to reconnoiter and, by the time it returned, the Virginia had set off for Norfolk for extensive repairs, leaving each side mistakenly believing itself the victor. During the battle, Miller Delano and the other U.S.S. Congress survivors had been in captivity aboard another ship in the vicinity and, unless deafened the day before, they heard (and perhaps witnessed) the historic encounter. The Confederates then held them a while longer before “paroling” them to Union forces (really), and Miller mustered out May 21.



(Map: *Battle of Hampton Roads*, James Taylor Wood, *Century Magazine*, Vol. XXIX, 1885, now public domain. Another map, now in the National Archives, places all the key ships directly between Newport News and Sewall’s Point. Rendering: “*The Monitor and Merrimac[k]*”, Louis Prang & Co., Boston, 1886. This digitally enhanced rendering is based on a work in the public domain and the author, Morgan Riley, also has placed this in public domain.)

Three months later, Miller enlisted a third time, mustering in at Auburn as a 42 year-old foot soldier with Company C of the New York Infantry's 111th Regiment. He was a Private once more and, having barely survived the horrific demise of the U.S.S. Congress, he now took part in some of the war's bloodiest land battles, including Gettysburg, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor. During the battle at Cold Harbor in early June 1864, the Confederates captured him a second time. Instead of "paroling" him as before, though, they sent him to Camp Sumter, the prisoner-of-war camp more commonly known as "Andersonville" because of its location at Andersonville, Georgia. It also happened to be just 11 miles from the village of Montezuma, Georgia, but the prison itself had absolutely nothing in common with home, either for Miller or anyone else. ¹⁵



The first captives had arrived on February 24, and conditions soon became so appalling as to make Ft. Sumter the most infamous prison in American history. A double stockade wall enclosed 26 barren acres with no protection from the elements beyond a sea of crude shelters the prisoners fashioned from blankets and scraps of wood. The only source of water was a narrow creek flowing from one end to the other that devolved into "a cesspool of disease and human waste". ¹⁶ Writing about it years later, a prisoner who had entered on May 2, five weeks after the first group arrived, said, "[T]he center of the whole was a swamp, occupying about three or four acres. A part of this marshy place had been used by the prisoners as a sink [latrine], and excrement covered the ground, the scent arising from which was suffocating." New arrivals tried not to ponder how they were going to "live through the warm summer weather in the midst of such fearful surroundings." ¹⁷ Scurvy, diarrhea and dysentery were rampant, and 12,920 of the more than 35,000 confined there perished. Three-thousand died in August alone – an average of 100 per day. Miller Delano was among the last of those, dying August 30, 1864, of "*debilitas*", i.e., "weakness". Alongside a mass grave just outside the prison wall, stone marker No. 7261 confirms his burial there. His siblings, Mary and Hiram, undoubtedly learned of his fate at some point, but if fortunate, were spared the details. Three days after Miller died, General Sherman captured Atlanta, and the war ended the following April. (Photo above: Andersonville prisoner upon release in 1865.

Right: Andersonville in August 1864, while Miller was there. Both are in public domain) ¹⁸



Miles Knickerbocker, who had lived with the Hoaglands before John's death, enlisted at Seneca Falls in September 1861 (the month Miller mustered in with the naval brigade) and then served in New York's 8th Cavalry, which formed in November. The unit's first engagement was on March 26, 1862, at Winchester, Virginia, and its second, at Harper's Ferry, lasted from September 13 to 17, after which they headed south for skirmishes in such quirky backwaters as Snickersville, Snicker's Gap, and Barber's Cross Roads. On November 8,



Map 7F - Sulphur Spring VA - 1862

they engaged the Rebels near the Rappahannock River at a railroad stop called Sulphur Spring[s] (cf. Map 7F). Twenty-four year old Miles was wounded during the skirmish, and then lingered four days before dying on Wednesday, November 12. Given the circumstances, it's all but certain he was buried nearby, possibly without a grave marker. During the course of the war, enemy fire killed 91 of the 8th Cavalry's 800 soldiers, many of whom, like Miles, held on awhile before succumbing; but combat was only part of the danger. Accidents and disease killed another 200.

Interspersed with all the conflict and death, though, were rare, fleeting moments when enemy combatants acknowledged and indulged their common humanity. Long after the war ended, another soldier in Miles' regiment wrote a book about day-to-day life as they had moved in and out of battle, including this encounter with a Confederate soldier just two weeks after Miles' death:

We had a brush with the rebels at Sulphur Springs, November 15th (*ed. it, in fact, was November 8*). Then we marched with the main army to Fredericksburg, arriving there about the 24th. Then we were sent to guard Banks' Ford, on the Rappahannock River. After we had been there a few days, one of the rebels on the other side of the river yelled out to me: "Hello, Yank!" He received no answer at first, and he yelled out again: "Yank, come over here." I replied that if he wished to see me he must come where I was. It was not long before he started to come over. When he was about half way across, I asked him what he wanted, and told him he could not play any game on me. He replied: "It is all right between you and me. I don't want to harm you. I want to trade with you. Do you want to trade horses?" I said: "No." He replied: "All right; but I would like to trade some tobacco for some coffee." I told him I would be glad to trade with him. I saw that he meant no harm to me, so I told him to come up on the bank where I was. When he arrived, the first "thing he asked was: "What regiment do you belong to?" I told him the Eighth New York Cavalry. He said: "I belong to the Second North Carolina Cavalry. Do you remember the cavalry fight at Barber's Cross Roads?" I told him I thought I did. Said he: "That was my regiment that you fellows charged. The Eighth New York Cavalry is the worst regiment we ever had any fighting with. They can handle the saber to perfection. You fellows gave our regiment gowdy." We talked a while and then we traded. I gave him some coffee for a quantity of tobacco, and he re-crossed the river. The rebel pickets used to trade quite often with our boys, but we were obliged to be shy and not let our officers know it, for it was strictly against orders.¹⁹

Meanwhile in Montezuma



A year before the war began both Emeline and Mary C were 17 and teaching at School House No. 4, a one room affair abutting the Bells' northern property line down by the lane (cf. *Map 7D*, p. 9). The students included Louisa, Romaine, and Martha (who was still going by "Sally"), along with children from neighboring farms. The school only went through the eighth grade, so Louisa finished that summer. Their half-brother, William Henry Harrison Bell (*left*), turned four that April (1860) and, when not helping with chores (e.g., feeding the chickens), he was engrossed in the imaginary adventures of boyhood; but by the fall of 1863, he was the only family member heading down to the school every morning – 132 mornings a year versus 180 nowadays. Emeline, Mary C and Louisa had all married by then, making them ineligible to teach, while Romaine and Martha, at 15, each followed paths of their own: he to full-time farming and she, evidently, to more schooling elsewhere. She also stopped going by "Sally" around then – although her father went on calling her that to his dying day. (*Ambrotype: William Henry Harrison Bell, ca. 1863*)

On Sundays and perhaps one evening a week, the family walked or, in inclement weather, took the family carriage a quarter mile west to the Mentz Church for worship, Bible study, hymn singing and prayer. Once the war was underway, prayers for the president, local soldiers and nation were frequent. Will Jr., like his father and three brothers, served as a trustee and in other leadership roles. Mary and the older daughters, in turn, taught Sunday school and helped gather clothing and personal supplies for local boys and men who had gone off to war – no doubt including Miller and Miles. Romaine, now in his teens, was the same age as his step-cousin Andrew Bell and a year older than his nephew, Delevan Bell, the son of his stepbrother Robert, and when not flirting with girls or being rowdy, those three and other boys their age were learning from their elders how to be faithful servants and responsible leaders in their church and community.

Within a year of turning 18 in July 1860, Emeline 1) married a fellow named Frank Mullen, 2) gave birth to a son – named "John" after John Hoagland – and 3) bought a 30-acre farm with her own money. The farm was immediately southeast of present-day Route 90 and Laraway Road (cf. upper "*E. Dodge*" on *Map 7G*"). She bought it April 1, 1861, exactly two weeks before Lincoln invoked martial law and the



1859 Map 7G – Sarah Emeline Mullen Farm

war began. By plan, her mother and Will Jr. bought a nearby 122 acre farm the same day. That one was across the road and a bit south of Emeline's, encompassed a one-room school and extended west to the Seneca River (*cf.* "S. H. No. 17", Map 7G). It's clear they bought it with the intention of conveying it to Emeline and Frank, but things seem to have gone awry. Two months passed before they closed a deal with Frank and, then, just two days later, he and Emeline sold it back to them, whereupon Mary and Will Jr. sold it to someone else. Emeline held onto her 30 acre farm, though, for some 21 months before selling it in January 1863 to her uncle, Hiram Delano – who sold it to Will Jr., who sold it to someone else. Makes you dizzy. And, in all those exchanges, no one in the extended family ever occupied either farm or turned a profit. It's as if they all were playing "hot potato" with property deeds and no one came out ahead.²⁰

In early 1862, meanwhile, Emeline's then-16 year old sister, Louisa, had married 21 year old Charles Foster, after whose ancestors the nearby Fosterville settlement had been named. Louisa was five years younger than average for Civil War era brides, but her mother, Mary, had been 16 or 17 when she married John Hoagland *circa* 1835, and Emeline had been 18 when she married Frank Mullen. Will Jr's first wife, Sally Beach, also had been 18 on her wedding day. Charles, in turn, was some five years younger than the median for grooms that decade, but he already had assumed other adult responsibilities. When he himself had been 16, he bought the 101-acre farm of his recently deceased grandfather for \$4,000, undoubtedly with his parents' assistance. His mother, Maryette, died a few years before the wedding, and his father, Howard, like Will Jr., was both a farmer and Justice of the Peace.²¹ Neither Charles nor Frank Mullen fought in the War.

Within a year of Louisa's marriage, her stepsister, 20 year old Mary C, married Franklin "Frank" McKone, who was 27 at the time. According to the *Auburn Daily Advertiser*, they held the wedding on Monday, January 22, 1863, "at the residence of the bride's father, Col. William Bell", with the Rev. F.M. Warner officiating. Technically, the "residence" (i.e., the Beach Road farm), belonged to Mary C's stepmother, but using her father's name was standard newspaper etiquette.

The earliest known reference to Frank McKone concerns a 1.58-acre parcel in nearby Aurelius. Married couples in New York needed, and often paid, intermediaries to transfer real estate from one spouse to the other. So, on December 1, 1857, Frank bought the 1.58 acre parcel from Isaac Doremus for a dollar and, a week later, sold it to Isaac's wife, Mary, for the same price. Then, after marrying his own Mary, Frank appeared on both the 1865 state census and 1870 federal census as "Franklin" McKone, listing his birthplace on each one as New York. News reports, his tombstone and a few other government documents also refer to him as either Frank or Franklin McKone, but information concerning his birth family and early life has yet to be located.

Upon marrying into the Bell family, both Frank McKone and Charles Foster moved onto the Beach Road farm, sharing the house with Mary C and Louisa, Will Jr., Mary Delano, Martha, Romaine, and Henry – nine people in all. Cramming three married couples and three dependents into one modest house could be what prompted the decision to expand its floor space by affixing part of a second house to the original structure Will Jr. and Sally had built in 1830 (*cf.* *Chp* 5).

Will Jr. had been shifting from farming to public service by then, immersing himself in the roles of Justice of the Peace and Highway Commissioner while supplementing his income through real estate investments. Frank, Charles and Romaine, in turn, took on most of the outside farm work, while the three married women tended to chores in the house and farmyard. Martha and Henry were still in school, but had farm chores as well.



Farmers typically bought and sold acreage according to projected pasture and crop needs, but as their transactions with their children reveal, Will Jr. and Mary also treated parcels of land as investment opportunities – market commodities to be exchanged in pursuit of direct profit. Together and separately, they completed more than 20 real estate deals during the 1860s and 1870s that had no obvious connection to any agricultural aims of their own. In 1862, for example, Will Jr. bought the “Torry & Thorn Salt Works” alongside the Erie Canal in the village (cf. *Erie Canal photo and Map 7H, below*). Native Cayuga bands had been drawing salt from the area’s natural springs for centuries before Europeans arrived and began producing it commercially. We don’t know how long Will Jr. owned the Salt Works or whether he profited by them, but the area’s salt production already was slowing by then, and the State of New York recently had abandoned a nearby site. Even so, the Salt Works in the village remained in operation several more years. (*Photo above: William Bell, Jr., Jacob H. Harter Photography, Auburn, ca. 1870*)²²



**Erie Canal and Towpath looking west toward the village of Montezuma
(Left: Salt Works with derrick. Right: Exchange Hotel in far distance)**

(Courtesy of Town of Montezuma Historian’s Office, public domain)

Will Jr's father, William Bell Sr., had sold the family's homestead farm to his youngest son, John, in 1852, whereupon he and his second wife, Margaret, moved to a nearby farmette – a small plot with few crops or animals. Then, when William Sr. edged into his late eighties, they moved in with Tom and Ann down in Aurelius, about a mile from where Mary and John Hoagland had farmed. He was 87 when he died there April 16, 1863, and the family interred him at the Mentz Church Cemetery next to his first wife, Mary Gilmore Bell. In keeping with Ulster-Scot tradition, it was only then, at age 61, that Will Jr. began omitting “Jr.” from his signature.

Just shy of two years later, on April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, effectively ending the Civil War and spurring jubilation throughout the north – which came to an abrupt halt a week later with the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. We have no way of knowing the precise impact of all that on Mary and Will, but it was right around then that they left the farm and moved into the village of Montezuma. Mary had sold the farm to Louisa and Charles on March 3, and the Census of June 1 found Will and her in the village with Martha and Henry. It had been just the second or third move for Will since arriving in Mentz at age twelve, and his first since buying the Beach Road farm in 1830. Their village neighbors included boatmen, fishers, civil engineers, blacksmiths, carpenters, clerks, masons, stage owners, wagon makers, laborers, schoolteachers, and, even, a “horse doctor”. He listed his own occupation as “Justice of the Peace”, the first time he identified himself on a census as anything other than a farmer. In comparing their neighbors that year with the villagers identified on Map 7G from 1859, it's evident Will and Mary were renting the large Eliza Jacobs house at the village's south end (*see Map 7H, p. 26*). Eliza, a milliner and realtor, lived two blocks north near the Canal with her husband, Roswell, who was a Protestant minister. (*cf. 1865 New York State Non-population Census*)



Erie Canal and Basin – Montezuma, New York, ca. 1910
(600 ft. x 600 ft. x 7 ft. deep)

(Courtesy of Town of Montezuma Historian's Office, public domain)

Post-War Transitions

One reason Will had shifted to real estate was that bank money was losing value during the war, while New York land values were increasing. Mary and her daughters followed his lead. Louisa, who had delivered a son, Freddie, at 17, was just 19 when she bought the Beach Road farm, using a \$200 down-payment with a \$5,800 mortgage from both her mother and Charles' father. After Mary, Will, Martha and Henry moved out, Louisa and Charles went on working the farm with Romaine and the McKones (which sounds like a 1950s rock group). But the Fosters sold it that same October and, in August 1866, bought a different 50-acre farm from Mary and Will – all without ever moving. Two months later, they sold the second farm, too, and moved to Michigan.

Mary C had been pregnant during all that, and then gave birth to a son, William James, on August 23, 1866, thereby becoming the only person ever born in the Beach Road farmhouse to give birth there, as well. The downside was that caring for the baby limited her participation in daily chores and delayed their moving elsewhere. Another complication was that her husband, Frank, had joined New York's National Guard, which allowed him to continue living at home (hence the baby), but took time from farming. He had risen to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant by 1865, but his precise dates of service (like his precise birthplace) have yet to be traced. (*cf. Chps 8 and 10*)

After the Fosters left for Michigan, Will bought the Beach Road farm again, before selling it for good in December. The McKones, in turn, bought Martha's share of the 56 acre field that Will and Mary had deeded to Mary C and her in 1861. It lay just over a rise behind the Beach Road farm, but had no buildings, so, if the McKones and Romaine vacated the farm after Will sold it, they might have rented one of the nearby tenant houses now owned by Mary C's cousin, George Bell. The map segment here shows the relative locations of the Beach Road farm (*Wm. Bell* + [*Milo*] *Bell*) and the tenant farms (*J. Bell*) as of 1853 (i.e. 14 years earlier). The 56-acre parcel is in the lower right quadrant, abutting "Wm. Bell". The creepy illustration resembling a centipede is just a large hill.



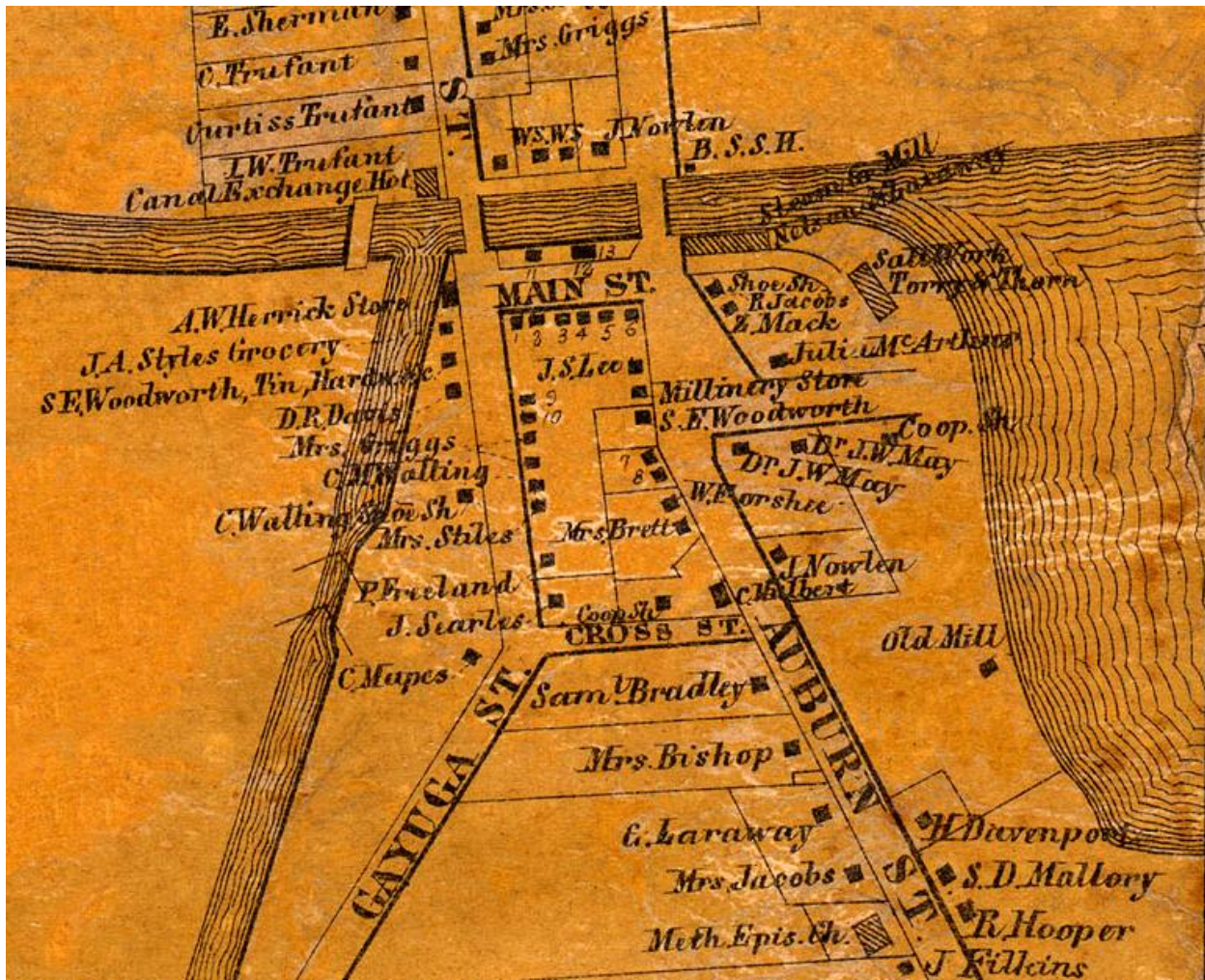
After renting Eliza Jacobs' house for two years, Mary and Will actually bought it in March 1867 for \$1,400. They also paid \$900 for the two houses just north of it, giving them seven acres in all (*cf. Jacobs et.al. on Map 7H, below*). Then, in January 1870, they sold the big house to Frank and Mary C for what they themselves had paid, and sold the other two houses to a coal and lumber dealer named Nelson Ross, raking in a net profit of \$25 (woo-hoo!). One of the two Ross houses disappeared by that June, and the other, sometime before 1875. Most wood structures of the era were firetraps, so if Ross himself didn't raze them, they might have burned accidentally. The McKone's house, though, has remained to this day – although barely. Now worn and decrepit, it's the first house north of the Tollway on the west side of Auburn St. (*cf. annoyingly blurry photo. The wrap-around porch and color were added later*)

The McKones also had a second child now – Mary “Belle”, born in September 1869 – and by June 1870 they were sharing the big house with Romaine, Martha, and a young laborer named Charles Gunmore. Frank and Romaine had gone in together on a stagecoach business with routes to Auburn and nearby villages, evidently keeping the horses and coach in a stable out back. Martha, for her part, was 22 and teaching at the village school. Life was going well, but it was also precarious. Just up the street, Emeline and Frank Mullen lost their little boy, John, sometime before 1870, and then, on August 19, eleven-month old Belle McKone died, too.

Will and Mary were a mile south by then, in what remained of his brother, Sam’s, farm. Sam and Polly had retired, sold most of their land, and headed 160 miles west to Dunkirk, New York (*cf. Chp 4*). Will, in turn, bought their house, outbuildings and remaining 2¼ acres on April 1 and moved there with Mary and Henry (who turned 14 later that month). They identified themselves as farmers on that year’s census, but Will, in fact, devoted much, if not most, of his time to his elected positions in and around the village. That September, they sold the place at a profit of \$200 (the equivalent of some \$3,944 today), which reads like modern-day house flipping.

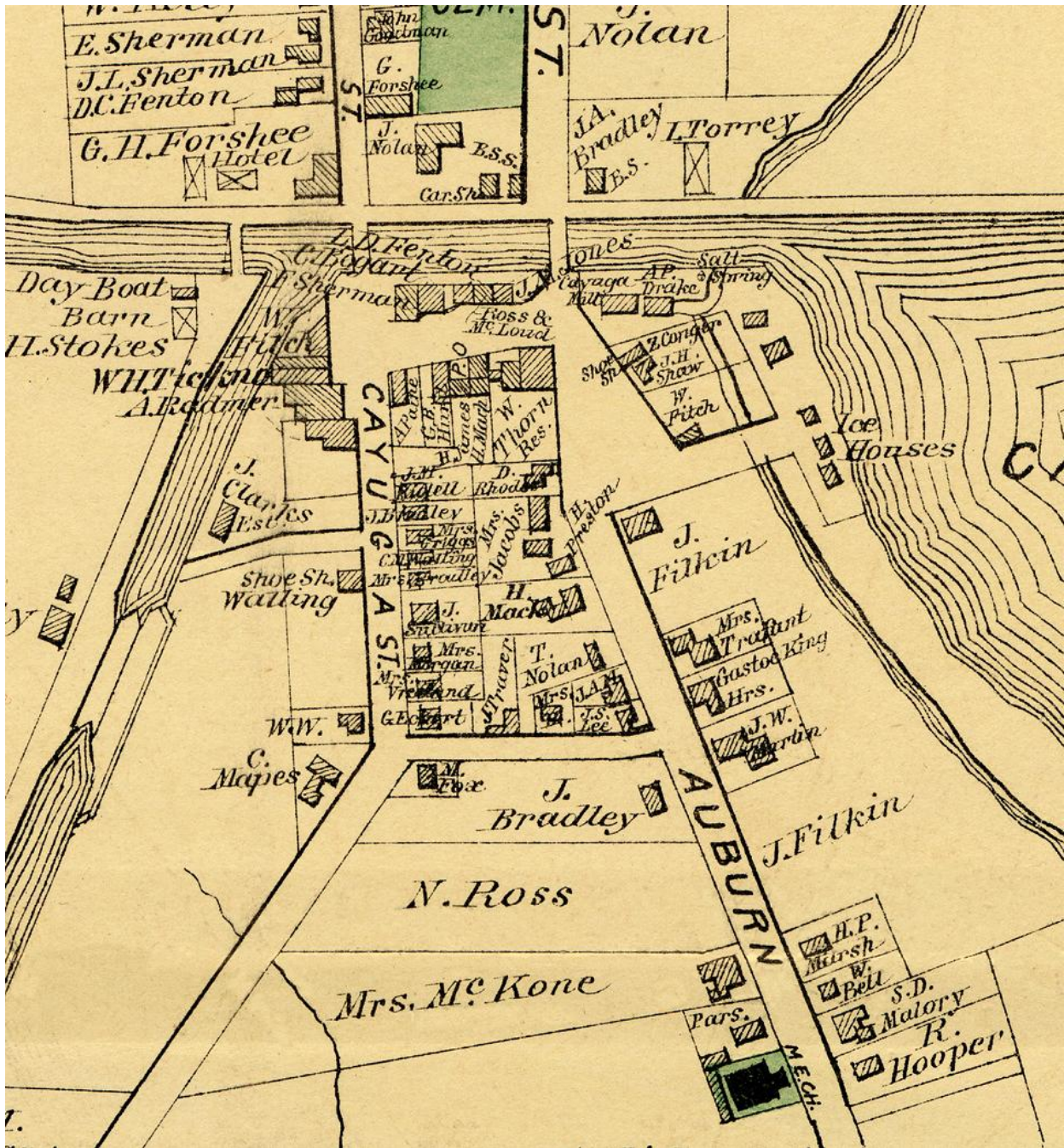
There’s no record of Mary or Will buying another home just then, so if they vacated Sam and Polly’s farm after the sale, they must have rented somewhere or moved in with either the McKones, who had just lost Belle, or similarly bereaved Emeline and Frank, a block to the north. In October 1870, they paid Sam and Polly \$25 for yet another parcel – a land-locked, five-acre plot with no house just northeast of the village. The deed locates it (unhelpfully) by naming only former owners of the abutting parcels, but it seems to have been behind a residence on the east side of Salt Street, north of the Canal and parallel with the village cemetery. Will evidently bought it as a favor to Sam and Polly and never cultivated it. Then, after four years, he and Mary sold it to a woman named Charlotte Allen for exactly what they themselves had paid.

Comparing maps from 1859 and 1875 (*see below*) reveals some of the changes in Montezuma during and after the war. Babies arrived, children matured, people grew old and died, and most who went off to battle returned – although some never did. Most villagers knew one another, but there were strangers, too – people gliding in and out, day after day, aboard the canal’s mule-drawn packet boats or barges loaded with goods, livestock and grain. Mule drivers and boatmen slept aboard or in stables, while passengers stayed in the boats’ cabins or in rented rooms at either the Exchange Hotel beside the canal or the Prosser, about a half-mile north. On any given day, someone somewhere in the village was erecting, repairing or razing something or other. Boat liv-eries, repair shops, and a steam mill spread along the canal banks, while doctors’ offices, shoe, drug and hardware stores, a tailor, a grocer, and a milliner all huddled around Main Street. Some stores had walk-up apartments, and one second floor housed the Masonic lodge. The Methodists met on the south side, the Baptists on the north, and as the war came to an end, the Catholics built over on Salt Street, just east of the Baptists. Montezuma was nowhere near as bustling as Buffalo, Rochester or Albany, but it was seldom still, and one of the central figures in its ongoing life was Col. Wm. Bell.



Map 7H – Village Center, Montezuma, NY – 1859

Will's political activism and thirty years as a regional cavalry officer already had made him well-known, but living in the village, trading in real estate and holding a variety of elective offices made him an integral part of daily activities. His work as a county justice of the peace included overseeing the exchange of hundreds of property deeds each year, adjudicating minor legal disputes, and administering oaths to other local officials. As the commissioner of highways, he was responsible for the construction and maintenance of the township's public bridges and roads, and their adequacy for farm, residential, and commercial traffic. Pursuing real estate deals for profit entailed researching and interpreting property descriptions, assessing the ever-changing market for various forms of land use, estimating the value of tracts of differing dimensions, features and structures, understanding the legal obligations of private mortgages and loans, and interacting with banks. He also needed to communicate with land owners and buyers long before the invention of telephones, the Internet, and horseless vehicles. Within that same period, he also won election as the Montezuma Town (i.e., township) Supervisor, its Police Justice, and the Village President (1874). Each successive obligation, in its turn, came in addition to his roles as a husband, father, and leader of various church, farm and fraternal organizations. One assumes he also slept now and then.



Map 7-I - Village Center, Montezuma, NY - 1875

At the close of the Civil War in 1865, there were 1,440 people living in the Town (ship) of Montezuma, including 550 in the village, which incorporated the following year. Half of all Americans were under the age of 19 as the decade began, so it's reasonable to assume there were some 720 adults in the Town as a whole, including 275 in the village. Social networking centered on face-to-face engagement, and Will and Mary's activities suggest that, between them, they must have known the vast majority of area residents – relatives, neighbors, shopkeepers, farmers, business associates, politicians, and members of churches, parachurch organizations, and fraternities. They also had friends and extended family members in neighboring towns, villages and the

City of Auburn whose children, siblings, cousins and friends created an even larger web of inter-relationships. Some twenty-first century statistical scholars estimate that American adults in the age of the Internet and cell phones know an average of 600 people well enough to contact them and be recognized. The median is closer to 400, meaning half of us know more people than that and half know fewer. We marvel that technological advancement has made that possible; but Mary and Will were personally acquainted with that many people while living in a small village during the horse and buggy era. Will, in particular, seems to have been energetically outgoing.²³

His youngest daughter, Martha, married a merchant named Preston W. Ross in 1872 and they took rooms north of the Canal on High Street, which, for reasons no one can now fathom, originally had been called “Morocco Street” – named, no doubt, by the same imaginative booster who came up with “Montezuma”. Mary and Will, meanwhile, had either been renting or staying with one of their daughters since selling Sam’s farm. Then, on September 23, 1873, Mary paid \$400 for a vacant 66 by 132 foot lot across the street from the McKones. Its northern property line was opposite the one separating the McKones’ yard from that of the Methodist parsonage, which, in turn, was next to the church. The rear of the Bells’ lot overlooked the Erie Canal basin, an immense pond that maintained the Canal’s water level and enabled barges and boats to turn around or just moor (*cf. photo, p. 23*). The Canal itself was some 200 yards to the north of their lot. Will, Mary and 17-year old Henry then built a modest two-story house in the fall and settled in. According to Tax Assessment records, they also had a dog, whose name is long lost. Mary was the official homeowner, but the map labels the house “W. Bell” because, again, social custom and the law deemed a resident husband the “primary inhabitant” (*Cf. “W. Bell”, lower right, Map 7I*)



The “New” Montezuma M.E. Church and Parsonage, ca. 1885
Looking WSW from the Bells’ yard
(Photo courtesy of Town of Montezuma Historian’s Office)

Earth's Joys Grow Dim

The Civil War had been the most traumatic episode in the nation's brief history, with an estimated 720,000 dead from battle, disease, and other war-related mishaps.²⁴ Mary Delano Bell alone lost a brother and a nephew, but peacetime afflictions took even more loved ones at early ages. Life expectancy in the 1870s was just 39 years, around half what it is today. Death among children and young adults was so common that families often became numb to it or immersed themselves in religion, clinging to the assurance by faith that life continued in some other realm. Others emulated Job, enduring the loss while trusting in God's righteousness. For the blended Bell-Hoagland family, the most severe trials had begun with the deaths of Emeline's little boy, John, and then Mary C's infant, Belle, which were mere harbingers of what was to come.

Andrew Bell, a son of Will's brother, John, had been buying, selling, and intermittently working the fields immediately north of the Beach Road farm since the late 1860s. In the fall of 1872, he and his wife, Phoebe, deeded their last 45 acres to Will and Mary as security for a short-term loan. Then, within two weeks of buying back the acreage the next spring, they sold it to Andrew's brother, George. Now out of farming for good, they were living in Auburn with their infant son, Frederick, on January 27, 1874, when Andrew died at age 25. (*cf. Chp 6*)

Mary's son, Romaine, who was born the same year as Andrew, died three months later – and in circumstances just as obscure. Instead of leaving a wife and son, though, he apparently was still single and rooming with the McKones. We can't be certain because the only known reference to his passing is a "Resolution of Respect" from Montezuma's Masonic Lodge. An Auburn paper carried it on May 6, 1874, but the resolution failed to mention either his first name, Hiram (after his uncle, Hiram Delano), or the names of any survivors. It didn't even say when, where or how he died, or where they interred him. The lack of information seems oddly indifferent on the part of his family and friends, and yet, their affection for him is clear. Six years after Romaine's death, his half-brother, Henry, named his own first-born son "Frederick Romaine". (*cf. Chp 10*)

Romaine's stepsister, Electa, who was fifteen years older, had married Jacob Post at the end of 1854 and moved to Michigan, where they farmed outside the village of Leslie and reared four children. A fifth arrived in February 1874, but died a month after Romaine. Then, in June, a month shy of her 41st birthday, Electa herself died of a stroke. Jacob might have telegraphed the news to her family in Montezuma, but it's doubtful any of them made it to the funeral. It would have taken a day or two to absorb the shock, spread the news, and grieve with one another before boarding a train over in Auburn for the two-to-three-day journey to Leslie. In that era, Electa would have been in the ground before they arrived. Her brother Milo, however, lived just 40 miles south of the Posts with his wife, Maggie, and they probably got there within a day. They had inspired Electa and Jacob to follow them to Michigan in the 1850s and, three years after Electa's passing, they took charge when another member of her family died. (*cf. Chp 8*)

On Saturday, July 23, exactly six weeks after Electa's death and some three months after Romaine's, Frank McKone was returning the stagecoach to Montezuma when one of his horses injured a rear leg. The next day, while he was bathing the horse's sore limb,



it kicked him on the right side of his abdomen, sending him to bed in severe pain with a ruptured appendix. After an Auburn physician stopped by on Monday, someone (perhaps Will, as Justice of the Peace) helped him draft and sign a Last Will and Testament, naming Mary C as executor and sole beneficiary of his estate. The village's Baptist minister, Levi Reynolds, served as a witness, along with a 19-year old neighbor named Curtis Trufant. Frank died the next afternoon, July 26th and, after the funeral, they buried him beside Belle in the Mentz Church Cemetery. A village map issued the next year (*cf. Map 7I*) listed "Mrs. McKone" as the owner of their house and, by 1880, she and her son, William (whom family and friends called "Willie" or "Will"), were its only inhabitants. Without ever remarrying, Mary C went on to host faith-based Temperance meetings in their home, and William continued his schooling, becoming a teacher, school principal, and, finally, "Prof. W.J. McKone", President of Michigan's State Board of Education. (*Photo: Mentz Church and Cemetery, by Tom the Backroads Traveler, 2014; cf. also, Chp 8*)

After Frank's demise, there was a respite of three years before Electa's widower, Jacob Post, died over in Michigan, leaving behind four now-orphaned children, ages eight to seventeen. Milo and Maggie took in the youngest, eight-year old Ordie, and put the other three on a train to Montezuma, where two of Electa's siblings and a cousin each took one into their home. Ten-year old Ferris Post moved in with Robert's family, 13-year old Maggie with Martha's, and 17-year old Bell (spelled with no 'e' at the end) became a live-in housekeeper for Orrin Paddock, a widowed cousin with young children. The arrival of Electa's children in Montezuma might well have been the first time Will, Mary and the others ever had met them. There's no way to know whether Milo or anyone else accompanied them, but if not, he and Ordie might have made the trip a bit later. Another death was on the horizon. (*cf. Chp 8*)

Milo's brother, Robert, farmed a half-mile east and a bit north of the Mentz Church with his wife, Margaret, and son, Delevan. They had taken in 19 year old Lavinia in 1855 and, then, Margaret's infant niece, who died within a few months. Lavinia stayed until she married in 1869, and then Ferris arrived in 1877. Electa had named him "Robert" as a tribute to her brother, but like Mary Delano, called all her children by their middle names. The origin of "Ferris" is long lost. He fit in well with Robert's family, and the household expanded again in October 1879 when Delevan brought home a bride; but just a month after that, Robert contracted Typhoid Fever and died at age 53. They interred him with Masonic rites at the Mentz Church Cemetery, not far from his mother, Sally, his paternal grandparents, and other family members and friends. (*cf. Chp 8*)

Singing was a major component of 19th century Methodist worship, and one of the most popular hymns during times of peril and grief was Henry Francis Lyte's "Abide with Me", sung to the tune "Eventide" by Wm. Henry Monk. During the 1870s, members and friends of the Bell family must have sung it with somber regularity in the Mentz and Montezuma M.E. churches before turning, each time, to move on with their lives.

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word,
But as Thou dwell'st with Thy disciples, Lord,
Familiar, condescending, patient, free.
Come not to sojourn, but abide with me.

Come not in terror, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for every plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile,
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee.
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me

Henry Francis Lyte ²⁵

The Persistence of Hope

Grief had come often that decade, but there were celebrations, too, with weddings in 1872 and 1879 and the arrival of grandchildren in seven different years. Lavinia, who had married Civil War veteran, William F. “Frank” Albro, in 1869, gave birth to three children: Robert (yet another tribute to her brother) in 1871, Zeno (really) in 1872, and Iva in 1875. They spent the first decade of their marriage moving from house to house in the Auburn area, always as renters, and then moved to Scranton, Pennsylvania, where they remained the rest of their lives. Her sister Martha, who had married P.W. Ross in November 1872, also, had three children: Sarah “Belle” Ross, born in that otherwise terrible year of 1874, followed by Julia in 1877 and George in 1878. On the Hoagland side, Emeline, after having lost her firstborn, John, the previous decade, welcomed a daughter, Pearl, in 1876. Then, two years after that, Henry, the half-brother to everyone else, married a woman named Mary Hoagland, the same name his mother had the day she married his father. The name “Oedipus” comes to mind. (*cf. Chps 8, 10 and 11*)

Henry had been only nine when his parents moved to the village, so his life trajectory differed from those of his brothers. Among other things, he seems to have been the only one of that generation who remained in school past the 8th grade, finishing at the Port Byron Free Academy in 1873.²⁶ The next year, at 18, he was clerking in an Auburn store and boarding nearby with Lavinia’s family when both Romaine and Frank died. Their deaths might be why he was back in Montezuma in 1875, working, according to the state census, as a “farm hand”. Decades later, he said he had once worked in a stable, so “farm hand” might have been a catch-all term for helping Mary C tend to the horses in the stable behind her house, and then sell the stagecoach and them.

He was still in town as of March 1878, hawking newspapers and posting ads for mail-order books, when he submitted snippets on life in Montezuma to an Auburn paper. Using the pen name “Hiawatha”, he emulated the “sick and visiting” columns in thousands of other town and country papers, and they paid him for it. Then, within a few weeks, the paper sent him off to visit and write about resort areas in the Adirondacks and Lower Canada. He also submitted a short, clichéd love story that ran as a serial. He was 22 and must have been well-paid because, during a stop at home in October, he bought his parents’ house for \$1,000. After Closing, he headed off to write more travelogues while Will and Mary went on occupying the house. (*cf. Chps 8 and 11*)

Will was 77 by then and, despite the litany of family deaths that decade (including his brother, Tom, in June 1878) he went on serving in elected positions, such as Justice of the Peace. That November, in certifying that he had issued the oath of office to some tax assessors, he inscribed what would become one of only a few remaining examples of his signature and handwriting.



Will Bee Justice of the Peace

Henry returned home again in March 1879, but stuck around this time and resumed his Hiawatha pieces, submitting at least 20 by December 1880. He supplemented his income by competing in the then-popular sport of race-walking, called “pedestrianism”. Competitors split the prize money from each race according to the order in which they finished. Fans and participants alike bet on the outcomes – which seems odd in Henry’s case because Methodists objected to gambling. One of the world’s foremost race walkers at the time, a teen-ager named Willard “Bill” Hoagland (a distant relative of Mary Delano’s first husband, John Hoagland) lived 13 miles to the south in Union Springs, but he and Henry had come to know one another earlier, when his family had spent a few years in Montezuma. His father was a well-known blacksmith and horse trainer, and his uncle and grandfather had run the village drug store. With Bill’s coaching, Henry did fairly well as a pedestrian, and also won the heart of Bill’s sister, Mary Louise, whom he married October 28, 1879. She then moved in with Henry and his parents, creating the oddity of two couples named William and Mary Hoagland Bell in the same household. The younger Mary also had an aunt in the village named Mary Hoagland, although the aunt, who owned a large house two doors south of the Methodist Church, used the middle initial “E”. (*cf. Chps 10 and 11*)

Sharing the house with Henry’s parents lasted only four months, though. Around one in the morning on Monday, February 16, 1880, a fire broke out and caused enough damage to make the six-year old house uninhabitable. Everyone escaped, but they lost some cash and an untold number of belongings – some undoubtedly precious to them. The items they managed to save included a handful of individual photos (including ambrotypes) and some Masonic procedural volumes. An 1866 “Freemason’s Guide” includes the penciled inscription: “The Property of Col. W^m Bell, WM Montezuma Lodge No. 176 Village of Montezuma, Cayuga Co. NY”. “WM” stood for “Worshipful Master”. Across the street, Will’s daughter Mary McKone and her son, William, had no roomers at the time, so the refugees probably stayed there awhile, temporarily creating a household with *three* sets of people named “Mary and William”. Nicknames must have abounded. If Henry had fire insurance, he never used it to rebuild the house. By June, he and his bride were renting an upper flat over in Auburn, and his parents had moved up near the Canal, next to Emeline’s family. No one knows what became of the dog.

Eight weeks after the fire (April 12), Henry, signing as “Wm H. Bell”, sold the lot and whatever remained there to his father-in-law, Joshua Hoagland, for \$100. Will, in turn, signed off on the sale as Justice of the Peace. Then, five days later, Joshua sold the parcel to his daughter, the younger Mary, for the same amount. Like Frank McKone back in 1857, Joshua was the intermediary enabling the legal transfer of property from one spouse to the other. That law might also explain why Will sold the Beach Road farm to Mary Delano Hoagland three days *before* their wedding back in 1854.

The final deed in the 1880 property saga also highlights another challenge of having two people with the same name in one family. Henry’s mother had been buying and selling parcels as “Mary Bell” for a quarter century, including the lot on which they had built the now-burned out house. When Henry’s *wife* bought the lot after the fire (from her father, Joshua), the deed recorder clarified which Mary Bell was the new owner by inserting the middle-initial “H” for “Hoagland”

which, technically, could have referred to either woman. That year's census made the distinction more obvious by using the younger Mary's middle initial "L" for "Louisa", but she herself used the middle initial "H" the rest of her life. She remained the official owner of the parcel for another eight years before selling it in 1888 to a person named Susan Bush for \$50.00 – a net loss of \$950 for Henry.

After their move to Auburn, Henry continued writing his Hiawatha column and, on June 1, 1880, used it to plug a new business he started in Montezuma: "W. Henry Bell can be found at the old stand of S.T. Delano, where he would be glad to see some of his old friends. Success attend him in his new vocation" (*Evening Auburnian*). S.T. Delano, as it happened, was his cousin, Sam, one of Uncle Hiram's sons, and the "stand" was in one the buildings up by the Canal – perhaps the lobby of the Exchange Hotel. Henry sold groceries, tobacco and newspapers there, along with book subscriptions. (*cf. Chps 10 and 11*)

Earlier that spring, Mary H's parents and her two siblings (including Bill, the race walker) had moved from Union Springs to a house on Genesee Street southwest of Auburn's downtown. Mary H and Henry moved in with them sometime after mid-June and, on September 11, a day after turning twenty-two, she gave birth to the boy they named Frederick Romaine (*cf. "Earth's Joys" above*). He was Mary Delano's fifth grandchild and Will's sixteenth, although each had lost at least one by then.

Henry submitted his final Hiawatha column that December (1880) and, soon afterward, closed the Montezuma grocery/news stand in order to open a picture frame shop at 13 State Street in the heart of Auburn's downtown. The previous occupant again was his cousin, S.T. Delano, who had run a grocery there. In addition to selling picture frames, Henry represented a printing service called the Globe Copying Company and published a monthly compendium of articles and poetry called "The Agent's Dispatch". His subscribers included students at Allegheny College, 250 miles away in Meadville, Pennsylvania. (*cf. Chp 11*)

Back in Montezuma, Will and Mary had been having health problems. In mid-1879, Henry had reported that his mother was "improving" after having been "very sick". Then, on October 21, a week before his wedding, he again said she was "very sick" and, a month later, that she was "recovering". The following June (i.e., after the fire), the 1880 U.S. Census included the far too personal comment that she was experiencing "Hemorrhage loss", i.e., bleeding, and that Will had developed "paralysis". Will had been processing deed transfers and carrying out other Justice of the Peace duties as recently as April, a few weeks before the census enumerator came by, so he might have suffered a stroke late that month or early in May. Then, on February 13, 1881, almost a year to the day after the house fire, he died at age 79.

For reasons unknown, the new village reporter, using the pen name "St. Elmo", took eleven days to submit Will's obituary, and yet another week passed before the *Cayuga County Independent* published it. When it appeared March 3, though, it provided a rather thorough, if sentimental,

synopsis of Will's life and funeral. On the downside, it said he and Mary were married in 1855 instead of 1854 and that he had been born in Oneida County when, in fact, it had been Montgomery County. We're noting or correcting those errors here to minimize confusion in years to come. It also would have been helpful to include the names of all his family members. He instead mentioned only Henry ("W.H.H. Bell"), which suggests Henry provided the information or actually wrote the obituary – which is unsurprising in that he preceded St. Elmo as Montezuma's village pundit. But then, that would mean Henry himself made the factual errors. Awkward.

For nearly six thousand years, death has held a high carnival. The people that tread the earth are but a handful to the vast armies that lie entombed beneath its surface. The cruel monster has invaded the cradle of sleeping innocence, has slain the youth, just as they were weaving the garlands of hope. The business man has closed his ledger, and retired to sleep amid the lilies of the valley. The man of middle Age has fallen while his son was at meridian. The aged tree which has withstood the winds of many winters too has fallen. Sunday, Feb. 13, Col. Wm. Bell, one of our oldest and most esteemed citizens died. Mr. Bell was born in Oneida county [*Ed: actually Montgomery County*], Aug. 31st, 1801. In 1811, his parents removed to the town of Mentz, (Cayuga County). In 1825, he was united in marriage to Sally Beach, who died in 1853, leaving six children to mourn the loss of an excellent mother. In 185[4], he married Mrs. Mary Hoagland, who survives him. Their union was happy and amid the changing scenes of their lives, they were fortunate in their mutual love and affection, which is the only true foundation of married life. One child, W. H. H. Bell of Auburn, was given to them as a pledge of their second marriage. In early life Col. Bell was identified with the state militia, and was a conspicuous figure in the days of general training. In 1825, when Gen. Lafayette visited Auburn, he was [part] of the escort [that] met the General at Cayuga [B]ridge.

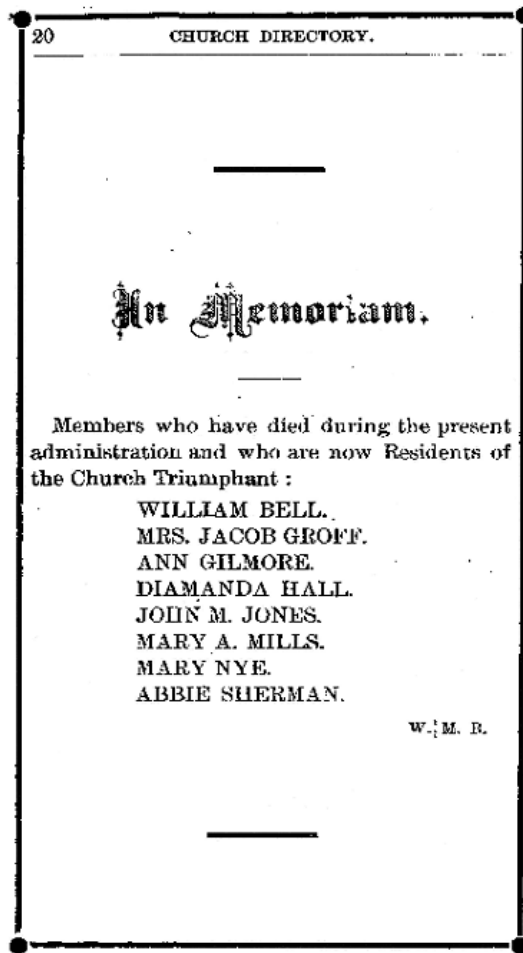
He was a member of the M. E. church, and died a firm believer in the Christian faith. He was an active and influential member of the Masonic fraternity, and several times Master of the lodge, and a member of Morris Chapter. In middle life he was an active politician, was supervisor, justice of the peace, police justice, president of the village. His funeral services were held at the M.E. church Wednesday, Feb'y 16. Rev. W.M. Benger preached an appropriate sermon. He was buried with Masonic honors at the Mertz cemetery, and as the sun was sinking in the west at close of day, we laid him to rest amid the friends of his youth. Kind brethren, who knew him as a brother and friend, laid the sprig of acacia gently and tenderly on the casket, and left him there to sleep his last sleep until the morn of the resurrection, when our brother shall rise again. May the cherished wife, children and friends and the members of the fraternity so live as to meet him in the morning.

St. Elmo. Montezuma, Feb. 24. '81

A simple headstone with the Masonic square and compasses at the top marks Will's grave at the Mentz Church Cemetery. The one for his first wife, Sally Beach, stands to the right, mirroring his except for a hand pointing toward the heavens in place of the Masonic symbols. Together, the stones serve as a testament to the couple's almost 30 years of marriage; but one wonders how Mary D and Henry felt about the arrangement.



Col. Wm. Bell (1801-1881) and Sally Beach Bell (1808-1853)
 Mentz Church Cemetery, Montezuma, New York
(Photograph by Cheryl Marie Longyear)



From 1882 Directory of the Montezuma and Mentz M.E. Churches

Resolutions of Respect.

At a regular communication of Montezuma Lodge, No. 176, F. and A. M. held February 19, 1881, the following resolutions were adopted :

WHEREAS, It has pleased God in his infinite wisdom to remove from us by death our worthy brother, William Bell, therefore,

Resolved, That while we recognize the wisdom of him "who doeth all things well," and mourn the loss of our dear brother, no more to be in the lodge on earth, yet we rejoice in the belief that he has been raised to an immortal life and admitted to the perfect in the building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens ;

Resolved, That we have reason to cherish the memory of our deceased brother for his many virtues, brotherly love, temperance, justice, and fidelity to the craft.

Resolved, That the lodge be draped in mourning for thirty days ; that these resolutions be recorded and a copy under the seal of the lodge be presented to the family of our departed brother, and that a copy be furnished the Auburn papers for publication.

L. W. THOMPSON, }
EDWARD ROSS, } Com.
ALMERON JAMES. }
Montezuma, N. Y., Feb. 19, 1881.

Auburn News & Bulletin, February 22, 1881

The family endured a more shocking loss a year later. A story in the *Auburn News and Bulletin* of February 26, 1882, said Mary's daughter, Emeline, recently had come into a few hundred dollars, which her husband, Frank Mullen, demanded she turn over to him. Emeline refused because he had become "dissipated in his habits", meaning he squandered money. On the morning of the 26th, she relented and offered him half, but he wouldn't take any unless he could have it all, and when she refused, he left the house. Sometime afterward, a village boy told their neighbor, Horace Davenport, he'd seen Frank going into Davenport's barn, which didn't concern Davenport because Frank had been doing "horse work" for him. But when he went to the barn later on, he found that Frank had hanged himself – tying a rope around his neck, looping the other end over a beam, and jumping from a wagon. There was no obituary as such and his gravesite is now lost.

Shortly afterward, Emeline and six year old Pearl moved to a rooming house at 144 Genesee St. in Auburn. It was right next to the County Courthouse and within 200 feet of Henry's store over on State Street. A year later, they were in a boarding house at 98 Division Street and Mary had come to live with them. Then, by 1887, all three had moved to 121 Wall Street, a block west of the Auburn State Prison, and Emeline had begun listing herself in directories as Frank's widow and a dressmaker. Henry had boarded on the same street with Lavinia's family in the 1870s, and his cousin, Ann Bell Barlow, lived there with her husband in the 1890s. (*cf. Chps 6 and 8*)

Mary visited friends in Montezuma now and then even as her health remained fragile. A note in *The Auburn Weekly News and Democrat* of June 2, 1886, said, "Mrs. Col. Bell of Auburn, while on a visit [to Montezuma], was taken very sick. She is improving." A later note in the *Auburn Bulletin* said, "Mrs. Colonel William Bell, for many years a resident of [Montezuma], is very sick at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Emeline Mullen at Auburn." Over the course of that decade, though, Mary outlived Will's two remaining brothers and two of his grandchildren. His brother, Sam, and Electa's daughter, Sally Bell Post, both died in 1883, and then, his younger brother, John, died in 1888, along with Milo's son, Samuel, over in Michigan. (*cf. Chp 8*).

Henry and Mary H, meanwhile, welcomed a second son, Lester Howard, on May 23, 1883. Baby name books, obviously, were hard to find. Henry also acquired a new storefront, expanded into music, and mounted an impressive ad campaign, but profits remained meager. So, in the summer of 1886, he and Mary H began exploring options outside central New York. They visited her sister and brother-in-law in Connecticut and then Henry went to see Lavinia in Scranton before heading to Michigan, where Milo, Mary C., Martha and Louisa had all moved. Upon returning, he and Mary H said good-bye to their mothers and other loved ones (both fathers had died) and, on August 14, boarded a train with their two sons and moved to Michigan. (*cf. Chps 8, 10, 11*)

Mary Delano's decline continued and, on June 19, 1891, the *Auburn Argus* reported: "W.H. Bell of Bay City, Mich., reached Auburn yesterday in response to a telegram advising him of the dangerous illness of his mother, Mrs. Col. Wm. Bell, an elderly lady residing with her daughter Mrs. Mullen, of Wall street (*sic*)." It made no mention of her daughter, Louisa, who also was in Michigan. Henry's visit was brief and, evidently, the last time he spoke with his mother.

She died at Emeline's home at 10:20 a.m. on Wednesday, August 5, 1891. She had survived Will by ten and a half years, but at 73, her lifespan was six years shorter than his. A Dr. W.M. Laird said she died of pneumonia and jaundice, which she had endured for three months before slipping into a coma near the end. (*Auburn Daily Bulletin*, August 6, 1891)

Mrs. Mary Bell, widow of Col. Wm. Bell, died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Emeline Mullen, at Auburn, Aug. 5th, aged 73 years. Mrs. Bell formerly resided in this village and leaves a large circle of friends to cherish her memory. She leaves two daughters, Mrs. Emeline Mullen, Mrs. Chas. Foster, one son, William H. H. Bell, of Michigan, one brother, Hiram Delano, of Auburn, to mourn her death.

At least three notices of her death appeared in local newspapers, yet only one included the time and date of her funeral, which they held at Emeline's house. Two identified her three surviving birth children (Emeline, Louisa and Henry) plus her brother, Hiram, but, evidently in accord with standards of the time, made no mention of her three surviving stepchildren (Lavinia, Mary C and Martha). Two obits also blessed her with the middle initial 'E', which, in fact, she did not have. Of the dozens of legal documents referring to her during her lifetime, not one even hints that she had anything other than a first name and last name. The only "Mary E. Bell" even remotely connected to her was the far younger (and still breathing) wife of Will's nephew, George W. Bell, who, like George, had been a member with Mary and Will at the Mentz Church and who still lived near the Beach Road farm. (Cf. "Deaths", *Auburn Daily Bulletin*, August 6, 1891; "Montezuma", *Syracuse Weekly Express*, August 13, 1891)

Although Mary and Will had been married more than a quarter century at the time of his death (ten years longer than her time with John Hoagland), her children laid her alongside John, Eliza and their stillborn daughter at the Lakeview Cemetery in the village of Cayuga. Their graves are at the far west end, overlooking Cayuga Lake, and as noted at the beginning, the children added the middle initial "D" to Mary's impressive granite stone in honor of her birth name, Delano.

Deaths.

WRIGHT—In the town of Throop, Wednesday morning, Aug. 5, 1891, Mary A. Wright, in the 90th year of her age.

Funeral on Friday, the 7th inst., at 10 a. m. from the residence of her brother, John Wright.

Burial at Mentz church cemetery.

BELL—In Auburn, Aug. 5, 1891, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. S. E. Mullin, 121 Wall st., Mary E., widow of the late Col. Wm. Bell, aged 73 years.

Funeral services Saturday, 6th inst., at 1 p. m. Interment at Cayuga.

27

Montezuma.

MONTEZUMA, Aug. 12.—Mrs. James Daley and family of Brooklyn are visiting her mother, Mrs. Mary McNamara, and friends at her former home. Mrs. Mary E. Bell, widow of Col. William Bell, died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Emeline Mullis, at Auburn Thursday, aged seventy-three years. Mrs. Bell formerly resided in our village. She leaves two daughters, Mrs. Mullis of Auburn and Mrs. Charles Foster, and one son, William H. Bell of Michigan, and a brother, Hiram Dolans of Auburn. Her funeral services were held at Auburn Saturday afternoon. Interment at Cayuga. Charles Higgins, Sam-



Ann Eliza and the Unnamed Infant, John Hoagland, and Mary D. Bell
 Lakeview Cemetery - Cayuga, NY

ENDNOTES – Chapter 7

¹ John’s tombstone, as eagle-eyed readers will have noticed, says he died July 22, 1852, at the age of “52 Y’RS, 3M. & 11 D’s”, which would make his date of birth April 11, 1800. The U.S. Census, however, listed his age in 1850 (two years earlier) as 52, implying he was born in 1797 or 1798. Of course, that census enumerator listed Mary’s age as 53, when, in fact, she was just 32 (and looked it). Reputable biographical sources, including formal Hoagland family histories, refer to a “John Hoogland” who was born April 11, 1798 – the same day (but not year) inscribed on the tombstone of Mary’s husband. The parents of John “Hoogland” were Peter and Engeltje Storm Hoogland, and when Peter died in 1853, he left a legacy for John and Mary’s three children. The weight of the evidence, then, is that Mary’s husband, John Hoagland, was born April 11, 1798, to Peter and Engeltje Storm Hoogland in Fishkill, New York, which is some 60 miles south of Mary’s birthplace of Copake. He was 20 years and 10 days older than Mary, hence 36 or 37 to her 16 or 17 when they married. As for the tombstone, either the person placing the order (perhaps Mary’s brother) or the monument maker made a mistake.

² It’s possible that Cornelia’s middle name was “Louise”, but it appears most often on census and other records as “Louisa”, which she used as her primary name throughout her life.

The Hoagland household also included two young, unmarried relatives as of 1850: 9 year-old Alinia Tyler and 12 year-old Miles Knickerbocker. Alinia appears to have been a sister-in-law or niece to Mary’s brother, Hiram, who had married Hannah Tyler around 1840. Hiram and Hanna lived less than a mile down the road, and Hannah’s parents and other siblings occupied the farm immediately next to theirs (cf. Map 7A). Alinia’s exact identity is uncertain because she doesn’t appear on any other census under that name. Even searching for “Alinia” with no surname, age or state produces only that one entry, as does a search of people named Alinia on Findagrave. Searching for “A. Tyler” has yet to produce helpful results either. It’s also possible the enumerator simply misspelled her first name. He was the same person, after all, who recorded 32-year old Mary as “53”.

Miles Knickerbocker was a son of Mary’s sister, Almira, who, according to at least one Ancestry.com contributor, had married a man named George Knickerbocker back in Columbia County, where all of them were born. Mary’s paternal grandmother was a Knickerbocker by birth and had passed the name on to Mary’s father, Cornelius, as a middle name. In that sparsely settled area, then, it’s all but certain that Almira and George were related by blood, although no closer than second cousins. The Ancestry.com post naming George as her husband, however, offers no evidence to support that claim. It also reiterates the frequent – and demonstrably false -- claim that Mary was born in 1820, so the source is unreliable. Three years after John Hoagland’s death, the 1855 NY State Census listed Miles as a “servant” (i.e., a paid worker) living with the family of George and Harriet Warwick in Aurelius. Then, five years later, the 1860 Census listed him as a “laborer” living with the family of an innkeeper named Horace Christian in or near the village of Port Byron, around five miles east of Montezuma in the Town of Mentz.

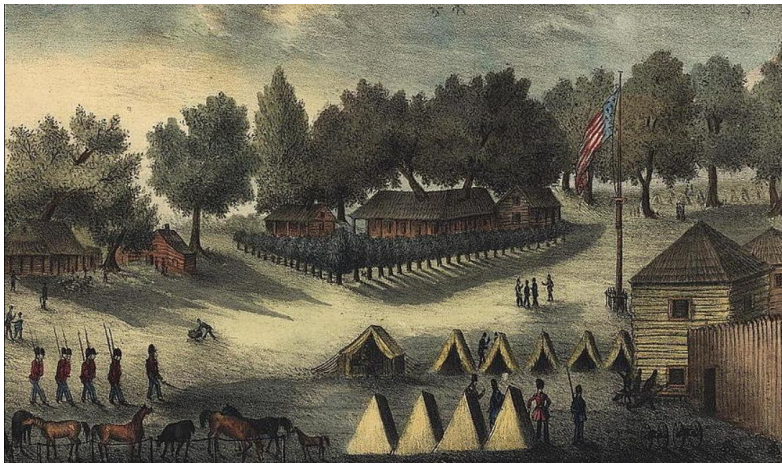
³ Cornelius Knickerbocker Delano, was of Dutch heritage and a direct descendant of Philip Delano (born Philip De La Noye), who sailed from Leiden, Netherlands, to the Plymouth Colony in 1621 aboard the *Fortune*, the first ship to do so after the *Mayflower*. Cf. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Delano. “Knickerbocker” was the surname of Cornelius’s mother, Margery. Every post referencing the family on Ancestry.com seems to spell it “Knickerbaker” (with an ‘a’) without offering any documentation to support that variation. However, the more historic documents cited above spell the surname with an ‘o’. The 1850 U.S. Census and 1855 New York Non-Population Schedule, as well as New York state draft records, also spell the surname of Mary’s nephew, Miles, as “Knickerbocker” – with an ‘o’.

⁴ Counting back from the age and date of death on Ann Eliza’s tombstone puts her birth date at June 5, 1836. John Hoagland had been in Cayuga County since the mid-1820s, so Mary had to have been there with him by at least September 1835 (nine months before Eliza’s birth). The mores of the time make it reasonable to assume they met even earlier and courted before marrying. Hiram’s obituary, in turn, says he was “quite young” when he arrived in the county. Their journey there at such young ages while their even younger siblings remained behind in Columbia County makes it at least plausible, then, that their mother, Cornelia, did, in fact, die shortly after Almira’s birth in 1822, and that their father, Cornelius, then sent Hiram and Mary to live in Cayuga County. We just don’t know exactly when or with whom they made the trip, or with whom they lived after arriving. Cornelius’s brother migrated west of Cayuga County early on, and some distant Delano relatives lived adjacent to it, but no evidence has surfaced that Hiram and Mary lived with any of them or that Cornelius himself ever left Columbia County.

Several posts on Ancestry.com claim Mary was born in 1820 and had a second brother, named Milton Delano, born in 1818. Multiple and far more reliable sources, however, including Mary's tombstone and various census reports, make it indisputable that she was born in April 1818. Census and New York State Militia records, moreover, show that a farmer named "Miller Delano", born in 1820, was living in Montezuma in 1860, enlisted in the Union Army in 1841, 1861 and 1862 before dying at Georgia's Andersonville Prison in 1864. The Army's record of his death, moreover, identifies his parents as "Cornelius Knickerbocker Delano" and "Cornelia Miller". The upshot is that many of those posting online mistakenly assume "Miller" was a misspelling of "Milton".

- ⁵ Cf. "Book IV, Genealogy of Dirck Jansen Hoagland, Hoagland Family in America, Nos. 60, 144, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281".
- ⁶ Per "Letters Remaining at the Scipio Post Office", various Auburn newspapers, April 1, 1826. Illustration: *A Packet Boat, from "Traveling the Erie Canal, 1836", EyeWitness to History, www.eyewitnessto history.com, 2004*
- ⁷ Hiram Delano Obituary, 1900.
- ⁸ U.S. Census, 1860, Town of Montezuma, Cayuga County, New York.
- ⁹ Deeds, Cayuga County, 1839, plus State of New York Non-Population Schedule, 1850, Cayuga County.
- ¹⁰ The north-south road immediately east (i.e., right) of the "Hoglen" farm on maps 7A, 7C, 7D, and 7E was later rerouted to the west side of the farm, aligning with the road heading north from there.
- ¹¹ Hiram and Hannah Delano eventually had 12 children. She died of pneumonia in January 1887, and Hiram died in 1900 at age 83, outliving, not only Hannah, but five of their children and all three of his younger siblings. Although Map 7A shows the Delanos' farm was close to a mile west of the Hoaglands' farm, the 1850 Census lists the Delanos immediately after the Hoaglands (spelled "Hoogland" by the enumerator). Maps 7A, 7C and 7D also show the Tylers on the farm immediately next to the Delanos, whereas the 1850 Census shows Hannah's parents occupying a separate dwelling from that of their children.
- ¹² A reproduction of the Inventory appears below. Formal printing on the original appears here in Times New Roman and handwritten material on the original appears in Lucida Handwriting. I've added a table format and column headings to make it easier to discern the appraised value of each item or set of items, which the appraisers simply recorded by hand on unlined paper. Question marks (?) indicate guesses on otherwise indecipherable words in the original. Capitalizations and misspellings match those in the original. See "A True and Perfect Inventory", below.
- ¹³ Per Christine Bell. A researcher named John Teeple of Oneida, New York, also found evidence they married in 1854. The Cayuga County Record of Deeds shows that William Bell Jr. sold 91 acres, the bulk of his farm, to Mary Hoagland on June 21, 1854, which confirms they knew each other and implies they were preparing to marry – which, of course, they did (cf. fn.14). Will Jr's later obituary said they married in 1855, but it included several demonstrable errors and could have been a simple typo.
- ¹⁴ Compare <https://www.acrevalue.com/map/NY/Cayuga/?lat=43.019626&lng=-76.50289&zoom=9> and "Deeds, Cayuga County, Vol. 100, 1861". The original record of the sale on June 21, 1854, was not transcribed to a County deed book until 1861, hence the disparity between the year of the sale and that of the book.
- ¹⁵ New York Town Clerks' Register of Men Who Served in the Civil War, Cayuga County

Illustration below: Ft. Brooke in 1835. Charleston, S.C.: T.F. Gray and James. Downloaded from <http://memory.loc.gov/> TITLE: Tampa Bay on the Gulf of Mexico. No known restrictions on publication. SUMMARY: View of barracks and tents at Fort Brooke during the Seminole War in Florida in 1835. CREATED/PUBLISHED: [Charleston, S.C. : T.F. Gray and James, 1837] CREATOR: Gray & James. This work is in the public domain in the United States because it was published (or registered) with the U.S. Copyright Office before January 1, 1925.



Miller Delano's Second Enlistment:

12

RECORD OF SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS

NAMES. (Give Middle Name in full.) RESIDENCE, TIME AND PLACE OF BIRTH.	PRESENT		Letter of Co.	E.—WHEN ENLISTED. M.—WHEN MUSTERED. AND RANK.		Enlisted for M.—Months Y.—Years.	PLACE OF ENLISTMENT.	W.—White, C.—Colored.	Bounty Paid by Town.	Bounty Paid by County or Adjutant-General Superior.
	RANK.	REG'T.								
66-908 Name: <i>Delano Miller</i> Residence: <i>Montezuma NY</i> Time and Place of Birth: <i>Jan'y 1820 Columbia Mt.</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>III</i>		<i>E July 22 1862</i>	<i>M. W. Aug 19 1862</i>	<i>3 Y</i>	<i>Montezuma N.Y.</i>			
<i>Comelius Delano</i> <i>S Jamies</i> <i>Comba Miller</i>	<i>Died in Andersonville Prison Ga</i>									

(Source: "Complete Record, Relating to Officers, Soldiers and Sailors, Composing the Quotas of the Troops Furnished to the United States, by the Town of Montezuma, County of Cayuga, State of New York, in the War of the Rebellion, from the 15th day of April, 1861 to the date of the Certificate of the Town Clerk," Benjamin Jane. August 10, 1865, p. 12)

DELANO, MILLER.—Age, 41 years. Enlisted, July 13, 1861, at New York city, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. I, August 6, 1861; transferred to Co. D, September 1, 1861; captured in action, March 8, 1862, on frigate Congress, in Hampton Roads, Va.; paroled, and joined company, no dates; discharged, May 21, 1862, at Washington, D. C.

Miller Delano's Third Enlistment:

Miller Delano, Private, 111th Regiment, Co. C, New York Infantry, Enlisted July 22, 1862
 Mustered in on August 19, 1862; Enlisted for 3 Years at Montezuma, New York
 Time and Place of Birth: January 1820, Columbia County, New York
 Parents: Cornelius Delano and Cornelia Miller
 Marital Status: Single
 Occupation: Farmer
 Time and Place of Death: August 30, 1864, Ft. Sumter (Andersonville Prison), Andersonville, Georgia
 Cause of Death: "debilitas" (Latin for "weakness") – probably due to starvation
 Location of Grave: Andersonville National Historic Site, Route 1, Andersonville, Georgia, Site 7261



1717

Snickerbocker, Miles

AGE	ENLISTED.					PERIOD YEARS.	MUSTERED IN.					
	WHEN.				WHERE.		WHEN.			GRADE.	COMPY.	REGT.
	YEAR.	DAY.	MONTH.	YEAR.			DAY.	MONTH.	YEAR.			
	M.O.R. 73	75	September	61	Seneca Falls	3	10	October	61	Privt	5	Regt
LEFT THE ORGANIZATION.												
HOW.	WHEN.			IN WHAT GRADE.	EXPLANATION.							
	DAY.	MONTH.	YEAR.									
M.O.R. <i>Died Killed</i>	12	November	62	Privt	<i>Shot wound Right Right hand not stated in action near Sulphur Springs Va.</i>							
REMARKS: <i>Wounded Jan 30. Sulphur Springs Va.</i>												
J.R. <i>Born in N.Y. Residence Montezuma N.Y.</i>												

- ¹⁶ <https://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/andersonville>
- ¹⁷ Kellogg, Robert H. Life and Death in Rebel Prisons. Hartford, CT: L. Stebbins, 1865.
- ¹⁸ Photo above: “Union Soldier Upon Release from Andersonville Prison”, May 1865, Photographer Unknown, public domain. Photo below: “Andersonville Prison”, August 1864, Photographer Unknown, public domain.
- ¹⁹ Norton, Henry, Deeds of Daring Or History of the Eighth (Containing a complete record of the battles, skirmishes, marches, etc., that the gallant Eighth New York Cavalry participated in, from its organization in November, 1861, to the close of the rebellion in 1865), pp 49-52. Norwich, N. Y.: Chenanoo Telegraph Printing House, 1889. A precise definition of the term “gowdy” has yet to be located.
- ²⁰ A sidelight to this series of land transactions is that Will Jr. and Mary eventually sold the 122-acre farm to Josiah Woodworth, whose brother, Stephen E., had a prior claim on a small section of the property, which is noted in each deed. Stephen was the surviving spouse of Will Jr.’s niece, Rachel Bell, the second child of Thomas and Ann Bell. Rachel had died in 1845 (*cf. Chp 3*), leaving a young son, Thomas Woodworth, whom Tom and Ann then reared. Stephen Woodworth remained in contact with his son, and both later moved to Michigan. See Chapter 3 for further details.
- ²¹ Catherine A. Fitch and Steven Ruggles, “Historical Trends in Marriage Formation, United States 1850 – 1990”, University of Minnesota (no date provided).
- ²² “A History and Description of the Manufacture and Mining of Salt in New York State”, Charles Jolly Werner, Published by the Author, Huntington, Long Island, NY, 1917, pp. 44-48.
- ²³ “How Many People Do You Know? Efficiently Estimating Personal Network Size.” Tian Zheng, in collaboration with Tyler H. McCormick and Matthew J. Salgranik. Columbia University. National Science Foundation Report, 2009.
- ²⁴ J. David Hacker, a demographic historian at Binghamton University in New York.
- ²⁵ "Abide with Me". Risa song lyrics archive. Archived from the original on 16 October 2014. Retrieved on February 4, 2012. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abide_with_Me
- ²⁶ Most schools in the village of Montezuma and surrounding area went only through the eighth grade, so those seeking further education often attended either the Free Academy in Port Byron or similar schools in Auburn. High school students living outside of Port Byron paid tuition of \$4.00 per term to attend there, with additional fees for classes in Latin, Greek, German, French and/or bookkeeping. The school entrances, as well as in-class seating, were segregated by sex. The academy opened its doors around 1860, and its first “graduating class” consisted of just one student, who finished in 1872, a year before Henry. <https://www.portbyronhistory.com/search/label/Education>.
- ²⁷ Mary A. Wright, who died the same day as Mary Delano Bell, was the sister of John G. Wright, who married Nancy Gilmore. Nancy, in turn, was Will Jr’s first cousin, a daughter of his maternal uncle, John Gilmore.

MAPS

- Map 7A Town of Aurelius. Map of Cayuga County, New York. Samuel Geil, Philadelphia, 1853. www.loc.gov/resource/g3803c.la000478/. (William Hecht collection)
- Map 7B Central Cayuga County and Western Onondaga County. Including Aurelius, Scipio, Auburn, and Skaneateles. Map of Cayuga County, from Surveys made in 1848. Derby, Miller and Co., Auburn, 1849. (William Hecht collection)
- Map 7C: Op. Cit.
- Map 7D: Ibid. Towns of Aurelius and Mentz, 1853.
- Map 7E Ibid. Town of Aurelius, 1853.
- Map 7F Sulphur Spring, Virginia. Historic Map, 1862. National Park Service. www.nps.gov/articles/shenandoah-civil-war-connection.html.
- Map 7G Hamlet of Montezuma. Philadelphia, PA., 1859. O. W. Gray and G.D. Lothrop. www.loc.gov/resource/g3803c.la000479a/. (William Hecht collection)
- Map 7H Ibid.
- Map 7I Village Center, Montezuma, NY. Beers, F.W. 1875. County Atlas of Cayuga, New York. Walker & Jewett, New York, NY.

Illustrations

- Page 4: Packet Boat on Erie Canal, ca. 1830. "Traveling the Erie Canal, 1836", EyeWitness to History. 2004. www.eyewitnesstohistory.com. Illustration is in the public domain.
- Page 5: "Erie Canal Packet Boats", Advertisement from: American Traveller, Boston, May 30, 1828. www.eriecanal.org/boats. Public domain.

Photographs

- Page 1: John Hoagland Tombstone, Lakeview Cemetery, Cayuga, New York.
- Page 13: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, ca. 1840
- Page 14: Frederick Douglass, ca. 1859
- Page 15: A Proclamation. April 15, 1861
- Page 17: Unidentified Union Prisoner, Andersonville Prison, 1864. Library of Congress
- Page 18: Andersonville Prison, August 1864. Library of Congress
- Page 19: William Henry Harrison Bell. Ambrotype, ca. 1862
- Page 21: William Bell, Jr. by Jacob H. Harter Photography, Auburn, ca. 1870
- Page 21: Erie Canal and Towpath. Montezuma Historical Society, Undated
- Page 22: Erie Canal Basin. Montezuma Historical Society, Undated
- Page 23: Home of William and Mary Bell 1865-1870, then Mary C McKone family 1870-1883. Photograph ca. 2015
- Page 27: Montezuma M.E. Church and Parsonage. Montezuma Historical Society, ca. 1885.
- Page 29: Mentz Church and Cemetery, Courtesy of Tom the Backroads Traveler, 2014.
backroadstraveller.blogspot.com/2014/12/the-historic-mentz-church-and-cemetery
- Page 35: Headstones of Col. Wm. Bell and Sally Beach Bell, Mentz Church Cemetery, Montezuma, New York. Cheryl Longyear, Photographer.
- Page 40: Headstones of Ann Eliza, John Hoagland, and Mary Delano (Hoagland) Bell, Lakeview Cemetery, Cayuga, New York. Gary Wm. Bell, Photographer.

A TRUE AND PERFECT INVENTORY ¹⁴

Of all and singular the Goods, Chattels, and Credits of *John Hoagland*, Deceased,
made the 23rd day of *August* 1852 by

Hiram Delano and Mary Hoagland with the aid of *William Reeve and Lonson Tyler*

The following articles are set off to the Widow and minor children of the deceased to which they are entitled by law and not appraised, to wit : Three stoves + furniture for the same, Family Bible, all family pictures + school books, all of the Family Library, 1 white cow, 2 hogs + all the pork, wearing apparel, 6 beds, bedsteads + bedding for the same, necessary cooking utensils, all clothing of the family, clothes of the widow, all ornaments, 1 table, 6 chairs, 6 knives + forks, 6 plates, 6 tea cups and saucers, 1 sugar dish, 1 milk pot, 1 tea pot + 6 spoons

The following are set off to the said Widow and minor children by virtue of an act passed April 11, 1842:

Items	Appraised Value
<i>Cash</i>	\$125.75
<i>1 clock</i>	2.50
<i>1 settee + cushion</i>	2.50
<i>6 chairs</i>	2.25
<i>2 chairs</i>	1.25
<i>1 bureau</i>	11.00
<i>1 Stove'?</i>	1.25
<i>1 looking glass</i>	3.50
<i>2 candle sticks</i>	0.63
<i>1 stew pot</i>	0.13
<i>2 tea canisters & tea</i>	0.25
<i>1 tea spoons + large spoon</i>	0.21
<i>6 knives + forks</i>	0.13
<i>1 pepper box & salt set</i>	0.06
<i>2 tumblers</i>	0.13
<i>1 lantern</i>	0.21
<i>16 old bottles and medicine and wine</i>	1.00
<i>15 old vials</i>	0.28
<i>1 sugar pot</i>	0.06
<i>2 meat dishes</i>	0.25
<i>1 flour duster</i>	0.06
<i>3 candle sticks</i>	0.06
<i>8 plates</i>	0.25
<i>5 plates</i>	0.30
<i>9 tea cups + six saucers</i>	0.13
<i>1 bowl</i>	0.06
<i>6 sauce plates</i>	0.13
<i>8 plates</i>	0.50
<i>1 pitcher & meat dish</i>	0.50
<i>1 tin pail of eggs</i>	0.63
<i>1 milk strainer, a tin dipper + 8 ???????</i>	0.06
<i>1 rolling pin</i>	0.06
<i>1 box salt</i>	0.12
<i>1 cake cutter</i>	0.03
<i>1 lot of hens</i>	1.75

2 plates & dusting pan	0.25
1 steelyards?	0.13
2 beetle woods & trowel	0.19
2 spittoons	0.38
13 ½ cords of wood	15.19
2 ½ cords of wood	3.13
1 lot of lumber	7.69
1 chest of tools consisting of 4 augers, 1 broad axe, 1 adz, 1 screwdriver, 1 shaving knife, 2 saws, 1 square, 1 hammer, 2 gauges, 10 chisels, 3 planes, 14 match + moulding planes, 1 wrench	8.50
1 p? pencils, chalk line, and compass	.25
1 rocking chair	.75
1 disk	2.00
4 bags	1.13
1 box nails	1.00
Scoop + lime sieve	0.19
1 griddle	.025
1 iron tea kettle	0.25
1 swifts?	0.25
Flour chest, flour + ladle	1.86
1 window sash	0.09
1 cradle	0.25
1 medicine mortar	0.31
1 back saw	.25
1 clothes cupboard	2.00
1 table	0.50
9 old chairs	1.00
1 coffee mill	0.13
1 stand	0.25
1 crock	0.25
1 jug	0.38
1 brass kettle	0.31
1 pail	0.25
1 dish pan	0.25
2 old tin pails	0.12
1 tin strainer	0.06
1 coffee pot	0.13
1 teapot	0.12
2 tin basins	0.06
Milk pot, old pitcher & platter	0.13
Undivided half of crop of wheat estimated at 75 bushels	60.00
2 tons of hay	12.00
2 old forks, 1 scythe swath, 1 couter + band, 1 dung hook	1.00
1 barrel + salt	.025
1 ladder	1.50
1 grindstone	2.25
1 shovel	0.25
1 axe, 1 wedge, 1 saw buck + buck saw	1.25
1 hog	7.00
1 spotted cow	15.00
1 red cow	18.00

1 lot of corn on the ground about ½ acre	16.00
1 lot of potatoes on the ground about 1/3 of an acre	5.00
1 hoe	0.13
1 wash tub + soap dish	0.50
2 iron kettles and old pot	1.50
1 grub hoe	0.25
1 soap tub + soap	3.00
2 pork barrels	1.50
1 cask + mackel?	0.50
1 barrel + salt	0.50
3 old barrels	0.50
Oil and cask (about 8 gallons)	6.00
1 churn	0.50
Keg + boiled cider	0.75
4 stone crocks butter + preserves	2.62
16 tin pans	1.81
Box, barrel + pickles	0.38
Butter bowl	0.18
1 old fat tub and box	0.06
5 old oil jugs	0.30
1 box of candles	1.75
11 barrel white vinegar	2.50
1 brass kettle	1.00
1 half-bushel of oats	0.19
2 wash boards	0.31
1 log chain	1.00
1 lot of wood at house	3.75
1 lot of plank and boards	1.50
1 box white lead, and small paper of red lead	1.60
1 med. chest	0.50
1 trunk	0.38
1 rag carpet	2.00
1 ditto	1.25
1 yarn carpet	6.25
1 lot of dried cherries	0.75
1 lot of dried currants	0.75
1 lot of dried peaches	0.25
1 old pail + wash dish	0.18
1 lot cabbages, 1 lot beans, 1 lot beets, onions, etc.	1.00
½ barrel water lime	0.38
1 dye pot	0.13
8 linen table cloths	6.25
2 cotton table cloths	0.38
12 linen towels	4.00
Cash or current bank bills	32.00
1 tier trunk	0.63
1 snuffer	0.06
1 pr shears, 1 pr scissors, 1 chopping knife, 1 old funnel	0.25