



Peconic Bay SHOPPER

FREE

preserving your North Fork history

FEBRUARY



2020



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...preserving North Fork History

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On the Cover—



Valentine cards for the early 1900s.

Reader feedback:

Dear Rita & Mike - and Happy New Year!

This is actually a story that's meant to say "thank you" to the Peconic Bay Shopper. About two years ago (I think) you published a picture of a kindergarten class during my early years of teaching at the small brick school in Cutchogue which I believe now houses the Mattituck/Cutchogue school district business offices.

The following summer I received a phone call from one of the "youngsters" now obviously an adult. Could she come and visit with me. Of course I said "yes" and we had a lengthy visit, recalling memories of those long ago days!

This past September my house was badly damaged [by fire]. Within days I received a call from that "youngster" who was glad to know I was okay and could she do anything for me. I thanked her for her thoughtfulness. She also told me she was now back "home" and living with her Dad in Cutchogue.

I was coming up on "Step Back in History Week" for the youngsters in Southold Elementary. Always in need of volunteers I thought of my "old" student, called her and she joined the list of volunteers, filling in gaps in a variety of programs — proving to be a very capable and willing volunteer. My next project was the Society's Holiday Fair. I needed someone to replace a key position, called my "new" volunteer who responded "of course", did a very fine job, is planning on being part of the Fair in 2020!

So my reason for writing is to say "thank you" because through the "Shopper" the Southold Historical Society has acquired a new energetic volunteer!

Peg

A correction to our November issue, page 15:

The second sentence in the second paragraph should have read Rte. 58 instead of Rte 48 in Riverhead (It was where Riverhead TOYOTA is now.) End of same paragraph after mention of TRYAC having been "...in full swing at their Riverhead location..." should have continued on "... while maintaining a Southold branch in that former Fanning & Housner building for several years until they, too, pulled back to Riverhead."

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BALDWIN TUTHILL PAYNE

- 1840 - 1916 -

He was a soldier, farmer, carpenter, Justice of the Peace, teacher, husband and father. His life was recorded daily in his many diaries' passages.

He and his brothers were 8th generation Southolders with a rare family history. In the year 1637 his ancestor, Thomas Payne, purchased a ship in Yarmouth, England named *Mary Anne*, and with 75 family and fellow Puritans, left their homes and emigrated to Salem, Massachusetts. Aboard the vessel were future prominent Southold names including Dickerson, Goodale and the Reverend John Youngs and family.

Worth noting, Baldwin's father Charles Payne purchased the eight acres of land at Horton Point in 1850 for \$100.00 and sold it to the Federal government in 1855 for \$550.00.



The following is a story and diary excerpts of Baldwin T. Payne following his return from war and the harsh realities of life during that time.



Baldwin Tuthill Payne, c. 1910



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B.T. PAYNE DIARIES (1865-1916)



In the summer of 1865, Southold welcomed home her returning Civil War veterans; among them was 25 year old Baldwin Tuthill Payne.

For the Payne family, at least, the reunion was saddened by the absence of Baldwin's older brother who had died shortly after Baldwin's last leave home to marry his childhood sweetheart, Dora King of Orient.

Prior to his enlistment in 1863, Baldwin had graduated from the well known Southold Institute, subsequently his qualifications for teaching in the Southold School District were adequate. However, unable to find a position of his desired vocation, he applied for a clerical job in a local business. Having no luck, his frustrations are expressed in his diary:

I to Greenport at 7:40 A.M. on Jack (Family Horse). Applied for position with J.H. Newins. Failed with him. My typical luck!

Eventually, work was found —a temporary teaching job at the Arshamoque school for a wage of \$25.00 a month.

Shortly thereafter, the Paynes became a family of three with the birth of a daughter, Jessie King Payne. Baldwin writes:

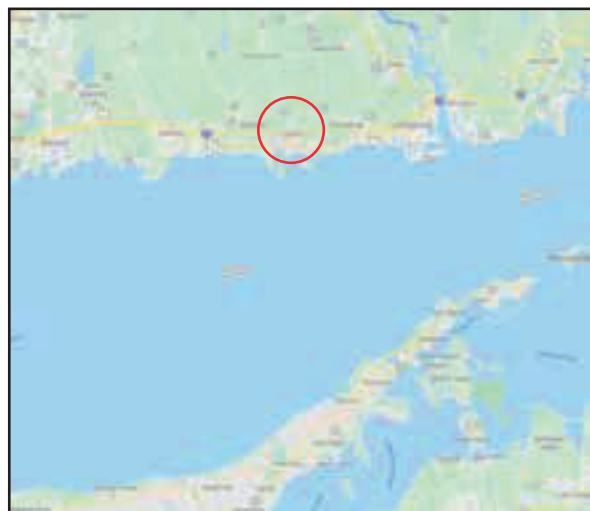
Feb. Sat. 24th To P.O. on foot. Dora sick and I to Greenport at 6:30. Returned with Dr. Skinner before 8:30. Rained and blew very hard both coming and going. Elma came over, all hands up all night. Constant suffering.

Sun. 25th Pleasant. Baby born at 11:45 A.M. Elma stayed and helped like a sister. After dinner carried Dr. home and reported to Mary and Lydia (Dora's sisters).

Their life seemed stable for the next few years and on February 8, 1872,

another child was born, this time a son, Clifford Truman Payne. Baldwin's excitement to have a boy was apparent by the many referrals made of Clifford's daily actions.

In January of 1873, seeking to better provide for his own expanding family, Baldwin, along with Army chum David D. Conklin, purchased a gristmill in Clinton, CT for \$1500.00. After securing a two-year contract for the removal of timber from nearby acres, the mill was converted to a functioning lumber mill. The hours were long and the work was hard but the business prospered for a time.



A third child was born in January of 1875 — Grace Tuthill Payne. Gracie (as her father called her) would always remind them of the happier times of their short stay in Clinton.

It is not clear whether it was the end of the two-year contract for the timber that served as the mill's lifeblood or simply a failing business, but for whatever the reason, the following spring had the Payne family back in Southold.

The now family of five managed on Baldwin's talents as handyman, supplementing their farming income. Having seemingly recovered from the interruption of their two years away from their beloved Southold, the family settled into the many activities the environment had to offer.

Jessie, now a young lady of nine, was a frequent companion to her father on his daily errands and occasional clamming ventures. Dora, happiest to be home, was now closer to her two sisters and failing mother. Clifford and Gracie could now benefit from the "upbringing" of a normal lifestyle. But in January of 1876 Baldwin sadly records:

Monday 24th Clifford and Gracie both have bad colds. Letter to brother Edwin.

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Baldwin and Dora Payne



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Above: Gracie

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24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

Tuesday 25th Jessie home. Clifford very sick. Dr. called once.

Wednesday 26th Clifford no better. Dr. called. I to court (J.B. Terry against W.H. Squire) a little while. C. very sick _ gastric fever. P.M. I thought C. better but toward night he was taken with vomiting and was somewhat delirious. Dr. Called, gave him powders but they took no effect and at 10:30 I first realized that he must leave us. At 11:00 he easily breathed his last. The Angels came for our darling boy. God enabled us to say, "Thy will be done". Sister Mary with us.

Thursday 27th With sad hearts prepared for funeral. Sister Lydia here.

Friday 28th Funeral 1:30. Weather, traveling very bad, but many friends came to sympathize with us. We were able to bid goodbye to dear little Clifford with the full assurance of a happy resurrection.

Life went on and later that spring the farm was sold to James Thomas of Brooklyn. The family the "hired" a home with one acre from John Wickham.

For the next few years Baldwin worked for an average wage of 50¢ per hour plowing, cultivating, reaping and carting for many local families. Names recored include Mullen, Grattan, Stelzer, Robinson, Vail, Cochran, Merrill, Prince, Goldsmith, Peters and Burke.

While continuing to work for others, it was back to teaching. At the end of 1881 he writes:

November Mon 14th Opened school at Arshamomaque at \$36 per month. 14 scholars.

February Friday 10th Visited the Academy Public School. Have applied for this school at the close of my own.

March Friday 31st Finished my term at Arshamomaque. 100 days \$180.00

April Mon. 3rd Began teaching in this district.

In May the Paynes were able to buy a place of their own and moved from

the Wickham house. These brighter days were short-lived as was his term as Principal at the Southold Academy. In July of 1883 he records with no apparent animosity:

Last night trustees rejected my application for school.

This event would prove to be the beginning of a low period that would last for several months. In November of that same year, Baldwin sadly accepted a night watchman position from his sister-in-law's husband, Captain Henry Akley. Boarding the steamship "Olympian" on Thanksgiving Day in 1883, he arrived in California several months later.

Having re-read his diary in 1897, Baldwin added the following footnote to the 14-year old diary:

Note: a sad day for all the family. Reached California April, failing to get employment with Singer Sewing Co. BTP 1897

Having been separated from his "3 girls" for four months, he sent the following letter upon learning his services were no longer needed:

Fri 21st Mach 1884

My Never Forgotten Dear Ones,

It must be time to begin another letter to you, as I think I shall soon have an answer to my "Frisco" letters. Yesterday, I began, and early this morning finished, a letter of "experience" to Br. Gordon, which I mailed. Then I slept to 11 o'clock, when a noise much louder than usual (the noise is not inconsiderable much of the time with so many working overhead, but it does not generally disturb me) woke me and I rose and had a good bath. Yesterday P.M.

I went to sleep after a foolish cry, and dreamed that I was home, but found myself obliged to come back here to make a living, and I could not talk or eat -- only cry!! So I guess I had better hold on a while! The work goes on every day, and I note its progress each noon & night. It is said that we shall make our first trip on Monday. Now I will take another nap before going to the P.O.

Monday 24th. Yesterday I had a talk with Captain Clancy, and learned that there is to be no watchman! This morning I applied for a position

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as quarter master, but Taylor was to have that, and I would not take it from him if I could. But 1st invited me to remain aboard one trip and look around. He judged that some other business will suit me better, and I said that was so. (That reminds me of the old Pantryman that he noticed from the first that I was "no common man". I sent a card to Sr. Lydia that I was not wanted here and should have to send another or she would think I am lost in Portland! I have felt pretty badly lately, but the act that I am not wanted here seems to decide the question for me. My idea is that I should not find anything on the sea and shall go to Portland and look a little. I want to earn some money and then start for home.

I cannot tell what may modify my plans.

Day-Day my pets
Love (not much of a pioneer)

Immediately following Baldwin's return home, he acquired yet another teaching position, this time in the Locust Grove school of Southold.

In February of 1886, Jessie married William Hagerman and moved to Brooklyn.

No longer farming, his teacher's salary being inadequate, Baldwin again turned to his skills as handyman and in 1887 he records building a home for George Miller for the meager sum of \$400.00. The following year he writes:

Wednesday 28th Cutting tops of trees -- fell off ladder. I fell on left foot and smashed it. Dr. Hartranf and Skinner amputated. D.T. Conklin and Orrin A. Prince watched.

Several months later:

Aug 16th Walked a few steps with my "peg leg".

Aug 17th Improved my "peg", used it some on trip to village, also used it to ride on my tricycle.

His "peg leg" served him well. Although a constant source of discomfort, he labored many hours in efforts to perfect its motion.

In April of 1896 Baldwin was elected Justice of the Peace of Southold Town, thus inheriting the title "Squire Payne". The following is a letter which appeared in the L.I. Traveler, dated April 8, 1896:

Permit me to express through your paper my thanks to the voters of the Town who have raised me to office of Justice of the Peace. The result is doubly pleasing because both the nomination and the votes were entirely unsolicited upon my part. I trust that no good citizen will have cause to regret the choice of the majority.

B.T. Payne

In 1899 he failed in gaining a second term and retired to a quiet life having served the Town for four years.

By the turn of the century, Gracie married a local man (Halstead Rhodes), while Jessie and Will Hagerman returned to Southold, building a home on Boisseau Avenue large enough to house their seven children. From that point on, hardly a day went by without Baldwin mentioning at least one of his grandchildren. On August 27, 1908 he proudly records:

Celebrated 44th Wedding Anniversary. Dora and I to Lydia's with Jessie and Marjorie (granddaughter). Good time!

It was to be their last anniversary, however. Four days later, on August 31st, in large deliberate script he mournfully states:

Dora taken sick and woke about 1 A.M. and between 3 & 4 she passed to her eternal home. Gracie and I with her all the time, and Dr. Hartranf came twice. The second time she had gone beyond recall. Sister Lydia came. Jessie & Halstead at night.

Baldwin's remaining years were spent with Jessie and family. His final entry into his diary reads:

Nov. 2st, 1913 I helped to move Jessie's piano - \$175 to truckmen and \$1.00 to Arthur Downs.
P.M. Looking over old books of mine - school books and others.
Eve Looking over Church trustees records.

The next day while boating on the Town creek with grandson Earl, Baldwin suffered a crippling stroke which rendered him helplessly paralyzed for the next 2½ years. Finally, on the morning of March 8, 1916, Baldwin died with his beloved daughters Gracie and Jessie at his side.

Having written for the L.I. Traveler for many years, it now seems appropriate in re-publishing his obituary that appeared in that paper:

BALDWIN T. PAYNE

After years of suffering, Baldwin T. Payne passed away on Wednesday morning. Two years and a half ago he was stricken with paralysis while out in a boat with his grandson, and he has been confined to his bed ever since.

Mr. Payne was one of Southold's best known residents. When the call came for volunteers to enlist in the armies of the North for the preservation of the Union, Mr. Payne enlisted in Co. H., 127th Regiment, N.Y. Vol., and served with credit throughout the war, until he was mustered out in 1865. He has now answered the last roll call. Returning home from the war, he engaged in farming and other pursuits and also taught school for several years, being a former principal of the Southold public school. He served as Justice of the Peace of Southold Town for four years. He was an honored member of Peconic Lodge, F. and A.M., and for four years was a member and Trustee of the Southold M.E. church, in which he was very active. The church was very dear to him, and when health permitted he was always to be found there, at the church services, Sunday School, Epworth League, prayer meetings and all other means of grace. Mr. Payne was a man of much ability, and as a writer he had few equals. He had a style that was very pleasing and readable. Nothing came from his pen for publication or reading at social gatherings that was not perfect English, for which he was a stickler, and the article was just as good as he could make it. He has contributed many columns for the Traveler, which were much appreciated by the editor and the readers.

The funeral services will be held at the M.E. church on Saturday, at 1:30 p.m. The services at the grave will be conducted by Peconic Lodge, F. and A.M.



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