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JUNE 2021

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“Benesta Lodge”, Greenport, L. I.



BENESTA LODGE



“To Find Out
What One Is Fitted to Do”
Mayme E. Tanner’s Class
Sept 6, 1897 - June 10, 1898





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...preserving North Fork History

publisher/editor — Michael P. Hagerman
art department — Rita M. Hagerman | rita.academy@gmail.com
sales — Chris Witczak | chris.witczak2017@aol.com



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42 Horton Lane - POB 848, Southold NY 11971
PH 631.765.3346 EMAIL rita.academy@gmail.com

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On our Cover

Benesta Lodge

The elegant “Benesta Lodge” that stood on the south side of the North Road in Greenport. This estate was the summer home of the W. D. Faulkner family. Mr. Faulkner was an engineer (obviously a very successful one).

Many local Greenport residents will recall how the building became derelict and was torn down in the 1990s.

We would love to learn more history about the home and the Faulkner family and welcome and information from our readers. Please email rita.academy@gmail.com



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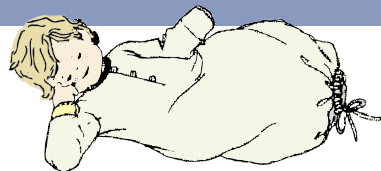
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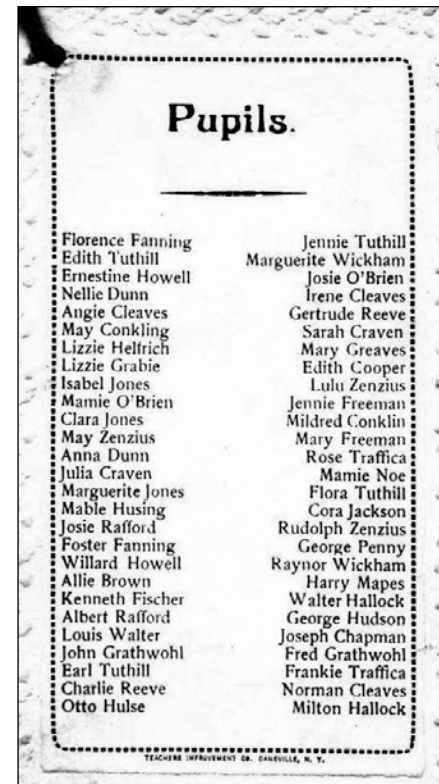
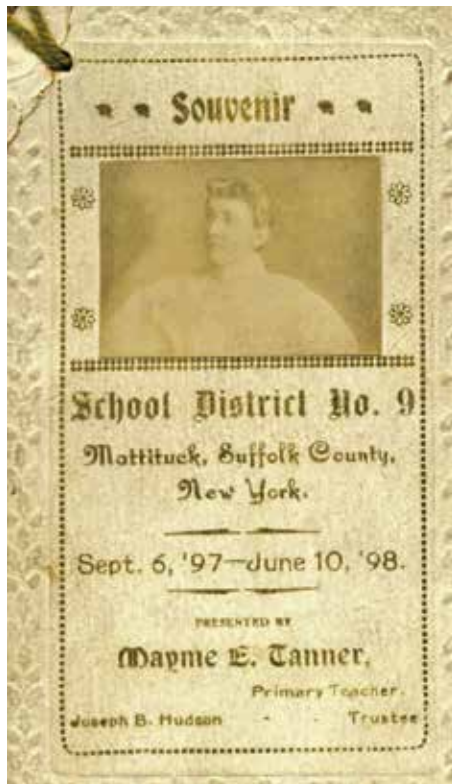
"To Find Out What One Is Fitted to Do"

Mayme E. Tanner's Class

Sept 6, 1897 - June 10, 1898

by Jerry Matovcik, Reference Librarian at Mattituck-Laurel Library and Joe O'Brien, Researcher.

In our February 2021 issue we presented a brief history of students from a photograph of Miss Effie Tanner's intermediate class at the Mattituck Public School; the photo was taken at some point during her tenure from January 1897 to June 1899. In this new installment, we present a brief history of the students who attended primary school in the same building for the 1897-1898 school year with Effie's sister, Miss Mayme E. Tanner, as their teacher. Here we present, from the primary class graduation "Souvenir" list, the first group of eight students in alphabetical order. Future articles will present additional groups of students from this class.



In the fall of 1897, Miss Mayme Tanner had a formidable task before her – shepherding a roving flock of fifty-four students, in a startling age range of three to twelve years old, through a precarious year of primary education at the Mattituck Public School. Here, in Miss Tanner's class, was a miscellaneous brood: the children of the town minister, the blacksmith, butcher and barber; the children of farmers, carpenters, and businessmen; and the children of German, Irish and Italian immigrants. For the 1897-1898 school year, Mayme would be joining her sister, Miss Effie Tanner, who had been hired earlier in January 1897, and they would be teaching in the newly renovated Mattituck School. The sisters had traversed the entire State of New York from their native village of Panama, in Chautauqua County, at the state's westernmost border, to the hamlet of Mattituck on the North Fork, virtually the state's eastern limit.

In November of 1896, before the Tanner sisters had arrived, it had become clear that the Mattituck Public School was overcrowded. In December, 1896, the newly widowed Martha Alice Taft, Principal, presented a special school board meeting with the stark news – in the two-room schoolhouse, her classroom was full and the primary classroom comprised nearly seventy children. Two weeks later, funds were provided to hire a new teacher for the coming term and to rent a space at the nearby Glenwood Hotel for a classroom, until a second floor with two new rooms could be added to the present school building. The school district hired Miss Effie Tanner in January 1897 and she taught her intermediate class at the Glenwood Hotel, and for a few months she taught her class as well as the primary class while their teacher, Miss Flora Tuthill, was ill with the flu.

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The construction of a second floor of the Mattituck Public School began in earnest with the good weather of spring and summer, and by late July of 1897, builder Boss Floyd Ruland and his men had enclosed a second story addition to the school and put a new roof in place, and they were hurrying the work to completion. It's not hard to imagine, then, that the second story addition was not fully finished by opening day in September, and there were still carpenters and handymen hammering and sawing as the school year got off to a start.

Under these circumstances, twenty-two-year-old Mayme Tanner would provide a primary education to the fifty-four students in her charge. Mayme's older sister, Effie Tanner, would be conducting the intermediate class in the same renovated building (see the *Peconic Bay Shopper*, February 2021). This sororal pair of teachers would work in the spirit of the 19th century educational reformer, John Dewey, who described the goal of schooling very directly when he said: "To find out what one is fitted to do, and to secure an opportunity to do it, is the key to happiness." Miss Mayme Tanner's primary students were beginning their educational journey to find out what they were "fitted to do".

In this article we present the first group of eight students and their siblings from Miss Mayme Tanner's class list, and others will follow in future articles. In the form of brief biographies, photographs, and stories we survey the lives of some of the children who attended school in our small town at the turn of the century. The accounts will also include, where possible, stories of their families. Of course, no public document or description from a newspaper column or lines from an obituary can account for an entire life. In fact, what often makes print are life's tragedies because they are so unexpected, so counter to what is hoped for. Nevertheless, we offer what we have discovered for your consideration: youngsters who walked just across Main Road, or crossed the fields of their farm, or rode by bike, or were driven by wagon to the Mattituck Public School and Miss Mayme Tanner's classroom to begin the journey of their lives.

The two-story Mattituck Public School after it was completed, circa fall of 1897. The school was located on Main Road, near the center of town, in the location of the present Mattituck-Laurel Library. The school was in an L-shape with an inserted tower and steeple. There were two large rooms on the first floor at a 90 degree angle to each other, and these rooms were overcrowded in November 1896. Two matching rooms were built above these when a second story was added by the fall of 1897.



Miss Mayme Tanner's Primary Class

(The age of each student is given in parentheses as of September 1897, the first day of class.)

Norman "Allie" Brown (Age 6) was born on December 2, 1891, the son of Abram Knight Brown, a grocer by trade, and Ida V., and the younger brother of Elsie and Mabel Brown, who were, at the time, students in Miss Effie Tanner's intermediary class. Allie served overseas in an ambulance company in World War I. In July 1918, his friends and family gave Allie a send-off party with a collection to buy a watch for his time of service in France (Gildersleeve Scrapbook). He married Alice Adelia Goldsmith on November 6, 1921 at Speonk. Alice was the daughter of Oliver Sherman Goldsmith and Amanda Hulse. Norman worked as an hourly employee at a variety of jobs: a worker in a canning factory, a glass blower in Rhode Island, a chauffeur in Southampton, and a factory worker for Fafnir Bearing Company in New Britain, Connecticut, which manufactured ball bearings for motorcycles, cars, and trucks, as well as for other industrial applications. Alice died March 20, 1933, but her death notice does not mention children or a husband. Norman, who appears to have married a second time, died January 4, 1964.



World War I era Fafnir Bearing Company advertisement showing border control motorcycle. Allie Brown worked in their Connecticut factory for a time.

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Joseph Henry Chapman (Age 7) was born September 6, 1890 at Mattituck in Southold, the son of Edward Olin Chapman and Estelle Brown Parker. His father was a farmer. Joseph's mother died January 25, 1892 and his father Edward married a second time to Frances Octavia Hammond. [Note: Edward O. Chapman was on the building committee of the new Methodist Episcopal Church, Times Union, 18 Jan. 1897 (see Rev. Julius Nelson below)]. About August, 1907, Edward bought fifty acres at North Haven, Connecticut, and moved his family there to farm. Joseph reports that he finished eighth grade and became a farm hand. His first marriage was to Lucy Almira Shepherd, January 28, 1913 at North Haven, New Haven, Connecticut. Lucy was born about November 23, 1895 in Connecticut, the daughter of Roswell



Jacob Shepherd and Louise Nichols Linsley of North Haven. She was a talented local piano player.

In 1917, Joseph started as a clerk and then advanced to Vice President with the Morgan & Humiston Company at New Haven, manufacturer of home building and home products such as doors, windows, sashes, etc. He was later Department Manager at Lampson Lumber Co. (incorporated 1929-1935). The Lampson Lumber Company was one of the largest building materials firms in the area. One of its early accomplishments was supplying building materials to Yale University for various buildings when the University was expanding. In 1914 the firm supplied the form work and lumber for seats and other purposes for the Yale Bowl.

Lucy died October 12, 1962, and is buried at New Center Cemetery, North Haven. Lucy's letters to her son Edward, a Sailor in World War II, are part of the North Haven Historical Society's collection. Joseph married a second time to Olive May Morgan, born Larabee, widow of Edward Payson Morgan. Joseph died August 5, 1975, and is buried with Lucy at New Center Cemetery. They had six children: Joseph Parker; married to Vivie Helena Ericsson; Douglas Linsley married to Mary Ann Dobbs [born Dobkowski]; Edward Tracy; David Linsley married to Edna Roncaioli; Malcom Shepherd married to Anna Mae Melion; and Linsley Shepherd married to Joyce Wardle.

The Cleaves Children:

Angie May Cleaves (Age 7) was born Feb. 4, 1890 at Mattituck, the daughter of George Orin Cleaves and Frances Elizabeth Case. Her father was a day laborer. Angie married the widower Joseph Thomas Corrigan, October 9, 1915, at Southold. Joseph was a house carpenter who worked for Wines & Homan, a local construction company that had helped to remodel the interior of the Presbyterian Church around 1915 and 1916. Angie lived on Love Lane in 1920, but after her husband died in 1925, Angie moved in with her sister Irene Cleaves Worthington in Queens, until her son Chester could provide for her and her daughter Mary. Angie died May 19, 1955 at Islip. No obituary was found. Her four children were Thomas B. and William A. (the children of Joseph and his first wife, Abbey Kelly Corrigan), Chester F. and Mary Corrigan (the children of Joseph and Angie).

Irene Elizabeth Cleaves (Age 9) was born Oct 6, 1887, the daughter of George Orin Cleaves and Frances E. Case, and sister of Angie May (above) She married Walter Henry Worthington; February 17, 1909, at Southold. Walter was born October 25, 1887 at Laurel, Suffolk Co., the son of Edgar F. Worthington and Eva E. Smith. Walter was a Freight Train Conductor. In 1920, Irene's parents were living with her and her Worthington family. Irene's children were Louis, Russell, and Dorothy.

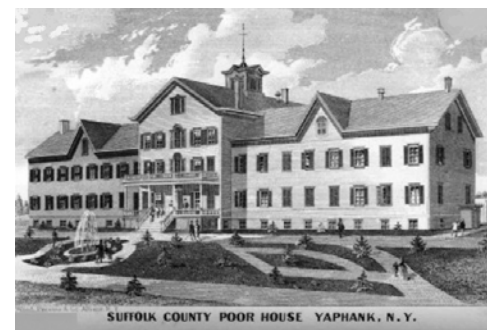
SIGN COW BARN CONTRACT.
Wines & Homan Bid \$8, 454.56 for
County's Structure at Yaphank.

Riverhead, L.I., October 29 – Wines & Homan of Mattituck have been awarded the contract to build the large modern cow barn and dairy at Yaphank for the herd on the Suffolk County Almshouse property. Their bid was \$8,454.56.

Twenty-one contractors in the county bid on the job and of course there was a wide discrepancy in bidding. Between the highest and the lowest the difference was \$6,213.

The contract has been signed and the builders expect to begin operations right away. It was expected that the barn would cost at least \$10,000 and the supervisors think they are getting off lucky.

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle. October 29, 1913, p. 4.



Angie Cleaves's husband, Joseph Thomas Corrigan, worked as a house carpenter for Wines & Loman, a Mattituck construction company that built the large cow barn and dairy for the Suffolk County Almshouse in Yaphank, c. 1914.

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Norman Smith Cleaves (Age 5) was born June 12, 1892 at Mattituck in Southold, the son of George Orin Cleaves and Frances E. Case. He married Edith Hallock Lester, December 22, 1915, at East Hampton.

Edith was born January 11, 1893 at East Hampton, the daughter of William Bennett Lester and Ada Marietta Hallock. Her father was a house carpenter. Her mother died July 28, 1908, the result of being run over by a locomotive, while returning from her garden across the tracks. Apparently Mrs. Lester was hard of hearing and possibly distracted, and simply stepped in front of the engine. Edith would have been about fifteen years old at the time of her mother's tragedy.

Norman was an enterprising lad. When he moved to East Hampton at the age of eighteen, he operated a moving picture house on the second floor of Asa Jones's Paint & Hardware Store. Later he partnered with Edward Strong to build houses. He then had a lasting business with his own hardware store on Main Street.

Edith died February 6, 1946 at her home on Pantigo Lane in East Hampton. She's buried at Cedar Lawn Cemetery, East Hampton. Norman died November 29, 1951 at Riverhead; buried with Edith at Cedar Lawn Cemetery. There one child, Evelyn Adele, married Lyndon Wood English, Sr., who died in action, in France, during World War II. She was married a second time to James N. Edwards.



Private Raymond L. Cleaves

Raymond Cleaves ("Slim" as he was affectionately known in Mattituck) was the youngest of the children of George Orin Cleaves and Frances E. Case. During World War I, Raymond was enlisted in Company K, 107th Infantry. On October 17th, 1918, he participated in the Ypres-Lys and Somme offensives and was wounded severely by shrapnel while in action, resulting in a fractured spine and paralysis from the hips down. He boldly insisted, "I will not die," when doctors shook their heads. He died at the U.S. Army General Hospital, No. 41, Fox Hills, Staten Island, NY, on May 7, 1919. The Mattituck Raymond L. Cleaves American Legion Post 861 is named after him.



In the spring of 1874, Mr. Isaac N. Teed moved from his farm to the village house belonging to the estate of J. Smith Tuthill, which he had hired with the intention of keeping summer boarders. In 1895, Bryant Conklin bought the property, and his wife Abbie conducted the boarding house known as "Hillside Farm." For a number of years their house was also the location of the N.Y. Telephone Company's "central office" for this section. The building is now the DeFriest-Grattan Funeral Parlor. (Mr. Isaac N. Teed went on to open a boarding house in "Oregon" called "Maple Cottage.")

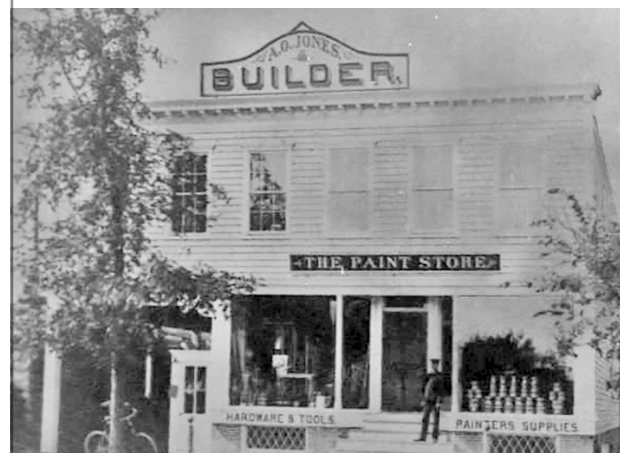
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Norman Cleaves owned and operated his own hardware store on Main Street in East Hampton for many years, selling the business on August 1, 1947 to Baker and Lester, Inc. but retaining the building. The advertisement above is from The Easthampton Star, 1927, for a special sale at his hardware store on Main Street.

**Asa O. Jones's
Paint & Hardware Store**



When Norman S. Cleaves moved to East Hampton at the age of eighteen, he operated the moving picture house on the second floor of Asa O. Jones's Paint & Hardware Store (above), located on Newtown Lane. The second story was converted to the "Majestic Theatre," East Hampton's first regular movie house. The opening at the left, where the bicycle stands against the tree, was an alley-way for the use of wagons. The adjoining doorway was used as an access to both the basement plumbing shop and the second story theatre, and since each one required an entrance from the street, some way had to be found to accommodate both. Mr. Jones, being an excellent builder, devised a very ingenious solution. During the day when the theatre was not in use, one opened the door and descended directly down a flight of stairs to the basement. In the evening, when the theatre was opened, an overhead stairway mounted on hinges was lowered with a rope and pulled directly over the basement stairs and theatre patrons ascended directly from the street. In later years, when it was no longer used as a theatre, the name was changed to "Majestic Hall." A. O. Jones's Paint & Hardware Store later became the East End Hardware Corporation. Through the 1920's the former movie theater became a very popular dance hall as well as a gathering place for many village affairs.

Courtesy of the
Easthampton Library Digital Collection.

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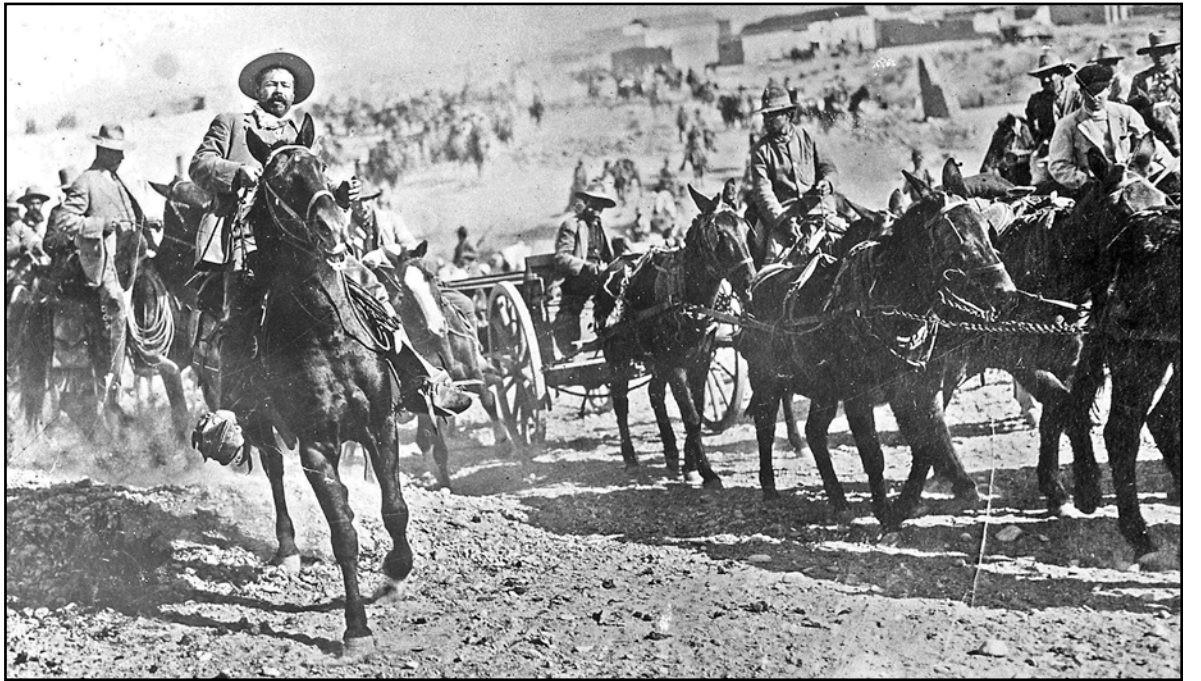
The Conklins and the Luptons

Mary ("May") Case Conklin (Age 7), the second daughter of Bryant Smith Conklin and Abbie Case Goldsmith, was born November 10, 1889 at Mattituck. Her father was a farmer. May married Russell Edwards Lupton, September 22, 1914, at Southold, the son of John Mather Lupton and Cornelia T. Edwards. Russell was a lawyer, and the couple had just moved into a new home when he died young at age thirty-one. May, who did not remarry, eventually worked in real estate sales. She became a library benefactor. Their one child, Mary C., married Jesse Goodale.

Russell Edwards Lupton, Obituary, 1920

Russell Edwards Lupton, younger Son of former Assemblyman and Mrs. John M. Lupton, died at his new home on the Main road last Saturday at the age of 30 years, three months and 29 days, his death being caused by tuberculosis of the intestines, from which he has suffered during the last four years. Mr. Lupton was a graduate of Yale in 1912, and shortly after was connected with the law firm of Winthrop & Stimson in New York.

He was a member of Mattituck Council, No. 34, Jr. O. U. A. M., and of the New York National Guard, and was in service in Mexico during this country's troubles there four years ago. On his return from the border his illness developed and he spent some time at Asheville, N. C. Returning to Mattituck, he set up a law office here last winter, building up a good practice, until his sickness caused him to discontinue it. Besides his widow, who was May Case Conklin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bryant Conklin, of this place, and a young daughter, he is survived by his parents, a brother, Robert M. Lupton, of Mattituck; and a sister. Mrs. Otis G. Pike, of Riverhead.



PONCHO VILLA ON HORSEBACK, 1916.

Russell Lupton Goes to War

June 1916. How near home it comes, "In the midst of wars' alarms" . . . Russell Lupton, son of Hon. John M. Lupton, goes to the border with the Seventh on Wednesday. His wife, formerly Miss May Case Conklin, we understand will, with many other wives and sweethearts of this regiment, join a class for instruction in Red Cross work.

While we sincerely trust war with Mexico and all other countries may be averted from our fair country, we think it's wonderful what a spirit of patriotism seems to be abroad. One mother of these boys said to the writer, while it hurt her to have her son go, it would hurt her much more if he didn't want to go. May the God of Battles watch over them all and bring them back safe and sound. ~ Mattituck-Watchman
(In 1915, Pancho Villa, operating at the border with the United States, led revolutionaries against the Mexican government. His forces then raided the town of Columbus, New Mexico, on March 9, 1916, resulting in the death of sixteen Americans and much larger casualties for Villa's forces. At this point, a "punitive expedition" into Mexico with the goal of capturing Pancho Villa was organized.)



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