



Orleans County Historical Association

Table of Contents MRS. FLORENCE IVES COLE Interview

SUBJECTS and NAMES

Dr. Chamberlain
Chamberlain Grove
(NOTE: now State Street Park, Medina)
Silas Burroughs

The Timmerman Family

Sicilian workers

Chamberlain Mansion as PEST HOUSE

** Photo of Chamberlain Mansion

(Photo courtesy of Mr. Chester Broughton, Medina)

"Paddy Hill" .. English Settlement

O'Donnell and Maines Lumber Yard

Lewis S. Ives, father

Rose Bowles Ives, mother

Kirk M. Cole, husband

1890 - 1989



Orleans County Historical Association

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT INTERVIEW

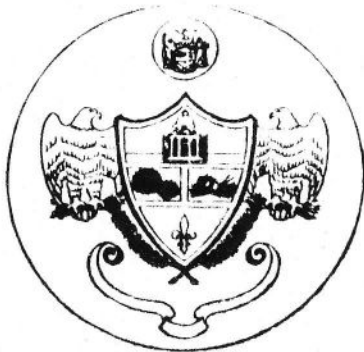
Mrs. Florence Ives Cole
2 A Meadowbrook Drive
Albion, New York

Mrs. Cole was born in Barre, New York November 16, 1890.
Interviewed by Mrs. Marjorie Radzinski of Albion, New York.

C Cole

R Radzinski





Orleans County Historical Association

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to collect information about the historical development of Orleans County by means of tape-recorded conversations with people whose experiences reflect the county's growth.

These tapes and transcriptions will be preserved as educational resources and possible publication (all or in part).

I hereby release this tape and transcription to the Orleans County Historical Association.

Florence J. Cole

Signed

Sept. 26, 1980

Date

Understood and agreed to:

Margaret C. Radzinski

INTERVIEWER

Sept 26, 1980

Date

I, Marjorie Radzinski, am conducting an Oral History Interview with MRS. FLORENCE IVES COLE of 2A Meadowbrook Drive, Albion, New York, for the Orleans County Historical Association.

R Mrs. Cole, will you tell me when and where you were born ?

C I was born in Barre, out in the country, November 16, 1890.

R What were your parent's names and their birth dates ?

C My father was Lewis S. Ives and he was born in February, 1864, in Pine Hill, Barre. Mother was born in England in January, 1865, and came to this country when she was about 16. (Rose Bowles Ives).

R She died in what year ?

C She died in 1957. Father died in 1945.

R What was your husband's name ?

C He was Kirk M. Cole. He was born in Holley in January, 1892.

R Mrs. Cole, you lived in Medina during your early years. Suppose we go back through the years. What do you recall of your early days in Medina ?

C I lived on State Street and lived right next to the Chamberlain Grove. There were no children in the neighborhood, excepting the Timmerman children who were grandchildren of Dr. and Mrs. Chamberlain. They were small and I think perhaps I was about 5 at this time and the children were a little younger than I, but they used to be brought over to our house occasionally and played with me. I don't have any outstanding memories of my childhood. I just was an only child and I had a sled and in the winter I used to play with my sled and in the summer I spent most of my time, I guess, gathering wild flowers. I gathered wild flowers over in the woods next

to me until I was told that I was stealing them. Then I picked Myrtle out in my own yard and I made all kinds of bouquets and chains and so forth. My early memories, I guess, are going over to the Chamberlain home. I had to be taken over, of course, because I wasn't allowed to go through the woods alone. The Chamberlain home was a beautiful, large home and it was an English type home. It was really just beautiful. The grounds were beautiful and it had been, by that time, - - - Dr. Chamberlain was ill, he never went out, hardly at all. It was a real treat to go in the house and talk to Dr. Chamberlain and the children lived over there and they thought their grandfather was just "tops". My early memories are of the library over there. The library went from the floor to the ceiling and you entered in the library and I can remember so well the ladder that had a runner on it and we children used to be so anxious to get up on that ladder and it was a "no-no" so we weren't allowed to. But it moved and it was an awful temptation to climb it if we didn't do it. The grounds were very lovely, although at this time they had begun to out-grow themselves; there were dead trees now and then, and so forth. The property went from the Oak Orchard Creek, which crosses East Center Street, and it went to the corner of State Street, then down State Street to what we used to call the Hagg property and that was all part of Dr. Chamberlain's home. It went back to the Canal so there were several acres in this property.

R Was the Paddy Hill Bridge there at that time ?

C No, that was built many years later. I don't know the date of it. But there was a bridge back of the Plummer property on East State Street. There was a dock for the boats to land and be moored there because there were many stone quarries over across the Canal and the Towpath was on that side also, ~~and~~ The boatmen used to drive their horses over and there was a farm across the Canal, across the bridge, and it was where the horses were exchanged and many of the drivers stayed nights at this farmhouse.

- R Do you recall the name of that street that went across that bridge ?
- C I suppose at that time it was called Paddy Hill, but later on it was called the English Settlement.
- R No, the bridge that went across, by the Plummer's home ? Was it called Bennett's place ?
- C I don't think it had a name. Bacon's lived - - - the man who owned the farm was Bacon, Mr. Bacon. There was a drive-way at the Chamberlain home that went from East Center Street right through to State Street. It drove right around. When I first remember the place, the home, there was a little office on East Center Street and it was the Doctor's office, had been the Doctor's office, but later it was torn down.
- R Which street did the home face ?
- C It must have faced East Center Street, but you couldn't see it from the road. Perhaps there were turrets on the house and perhaps some of those showed, I don't remember that. This house was built more like a Vermont home, a New England home, because you went on and on back of it and they all seemed to join. It was amazing for a child who hadn't had all this space to run over. As I recall, the buildings were beginning to ~~get~~ - - - show their age and they were covered with moss. Of course it was damp there anyway with all the trees, because it was really a dense woods. Wild flowers grew in the woods and it was really a lovely, lovely place.
- R I understand that the home was built by a man by the name of Silas Burroughs ?
- C I hadn't heard that. I didn't know who built it. But, I remember Mrs. Chamberlain's sister built a home in Rochester after the same pattern. It was on West Avenue in Rochester and it's the place where now the Senior Citizens have the house. Mrs. Danforth gave it away, gave it to them.
- R Have you seen it ?
- C I've never been to it but I've seen it when I've gone by.

No doubt it was changed somewhat when it became the Senior Citizens home.

Dr. Chamberlain died while I lived next door and eventually the Timmerman family moved up to a house on the corner of State and East Center Street that was built for them. The family all moved up there. The old Chamberlain house was boarded up and not used for several years. Then we had an epidemic, Smallpox, and there was no hospital in Medina at that time, so the house was used for a hospital and the patients were taken there for treatment. It was quite a serious epidemic. At the close of the epidemic it was closed up again and left until Mr. A. L. Swett widened Oak Orchard Creek and made it into Glenwood Lake. And it was a power house and all of these - - - there were about 200 Sicilians shipped in to this house and he rented it or bought it or I don't know. They were all men and they had their cook and they used to go to Glenwood Lake. You see that was about 3 miles. Every Sunday people would all go to see the progress that was being made. Of course it was not done like it would be today with all the equipment, modern. It was a real, real project. Then later the building burned and I don't think they know how it was started. But it was burned and you have told me that certain parts of the house, the frame, was salvaged by other people who were interested and I'm glad to hear that.

- R Did you mention to me something about Wooden Sidewalks ?
- C Yes. All sidewalks were wooden then. There were very few cement sidewalks. What a waste it would be today ! They had wooden sidewalks all along State Street and they were quite wide, too; they weren't narrow little things. They were real sidewalks.
- R The boards were laid cross-wise ?
- C Many of them, yes. And some of them length-wise.
- R How wide were the boards ? Did you say 2 by 8s ?
- C Probably. Why they probably were 4 by 8s, because they

must have been heavy; I mean thick.

R Is there anything else that you can recall about the structures in Medina, the changes ?

C Oh, there have been many, many changes.

R Anything that's outstanding, that you recall ?

C I couldn't begin to think. The Lumber Yard ends on East Center Street, Maine's. The office was a house. My uncle owned the house; it was a double house.

R What was his name ?

C Will Ives. O'Donnell's were the first ones to own the Lumber Yard. Later it became Maines.

R How did your husband get in to the Lumber business ?

C Oh, he was born a lumberman. His grandfather was a lumberman.

R In Medina ?

C No, in Holley.

R I suppose at that time there was a booming business in house building ?

C Oh, mercy, yes ! And, there weren't automobiles in those days; enough to go around, at least. They always took their load of men to the building project, miles away, you know, every morning, and every night the men had to be picked up and carried home. The lumber business really used to be a lumber business. It wasn't like it is now, with mostly hardware. (Laughter)

.....

This taped interview was conducted by Mrs. Radzinski.
This was transcribed in its final form by Mrs. Lysbeth Hoffman of Lakeside, New York.

