

Bethinking of Old Orleans

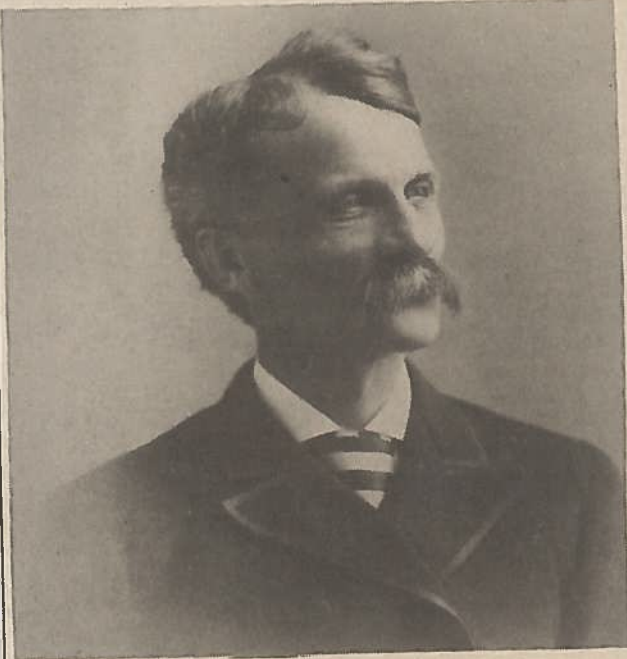
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FREEMAN A. GREENE 1844 - 1900



Let there be no other difference between human beings than those of age and sex. Since all have the same needs and the same faculties, let there be one education for all, one food for all.

*Manifesto of the Equals (c. 1795)
Francois Noel Babeuf (Gracchus)*

Before George W. Wolfe, Carl I. Bergerson or Willis G. Carmer, there was Freeman A. Greene. Older residents of the Albion Central School District will remember the first three names as men who have served as school superintendents. But in the line of superintendents who have served the district, Freeman A. Greene was the first.

He came to Albion in 1876 and helped organize what was first known as the Albion Union Free School. Here he served as the first principal and superintendent for over twenty-two years. Prior to 1876 the Albion Academy, a private institution for higher education, served the community. With the establishment of a Union School, higher education (grades 9-12) became tax supported as

opposed to the earlier idea of Academy attendees paying their own tuition.

By the end of the 19th century, most communities had formed Boards of Education and gone to a tax based education for all. Medina was a leader in this direction and hence had one of the first high schools in N.Y. State which dates back to 1850. By contrast, the people of Albion were content with an academy for 26 more years.

Freeman A. Greene was born in the Town of Yates in 1844. His parents were Abram Greene and Polley Goodell of Ridgeway. He received his early education in the common schools and at Yates Academy. He then attended the University of Rochester graduating in 1869 with the degree of B.A. Following this he taught at the Yates Academy and also at a school in Wilson, N.Y. In 1876 he was called to superintend the Albion Union Free School which he helped mold in its formative years. Here he was known to all as Professor Greene, achieving a reputation of success and excellence in education which was greatly admired.

In 1873 Freeman Greene married Cora L. Aber of Niagara County by which three children were born. Following her death, he married Susan Ida Price of New York. Miss Price had been a preceptress at Albion High School.

Mr. Greene first served in a dual roll as Superintendent and Principal of the Albion High School. But in 1883 took on the full time job as Superintendent. He resigned this position in 1898 due to ill health. During his administration, the Albion High School graduated 257 students.

During his career in Albion Mr. Greene was active in several organization including the Orleans County Pioneer Association where he served as Recording Secretary; Renovation Lodge No. 97 F & AM and the First Baptist Church. He was survived by his wife and one son Louis F. Greene a government weather bureau service man in Cuba.

Our photo of Mr. Greene was taken in June of 1889. Upon his death in 1900 he was laid to rest in Mt. Albion Cemetery. His portrait presently hangs in the periodical room of the Swan Library. It is a memorial and a remaining testament to the esteem with which this early educator as held within the Albion community.