

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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GEORGE W. POSSON 1850-1915

Blessed is he that considereth
the poor; the Lord will deliver
him in the day of evil

Psalm 27

George Warner Posson was born in the Town of Shelby on Oct. 2, 1850. He was the youngest of five children of Cornelius V. and Artemesia Posson, pioneer settlers of that town.

In fact, Posson Road takes its name from this early Orleans County family.

George Posson was raised on his family's farm and received his early education in the rural schools. He took his high education at Medina and Knowlesville High Schools before attending Brockport State Normal School.

In 1873, Mr. Posson married Jennie M. Clute of Shelby and they had four children who were: Mrs. R.F. Bourn, Mrs. Chester Hakes, Mrs. Artemesia Traver and Howard C. Posson.

Mr. Posson was engaged in farming and taught five successive winter terms in the rural schools of Shelby until 1879. He then purchased a farm at West Barre and became a very successful and enterprising farmer. He was known as one of Barre's most progressive and influential citizens and did much to help his community.

In politics Mr. Posson was a prominent Republican and was three times elected supervisor of the Town of Barre serving the years 1891, 1892, and 1893. He also served the town as assessor for several years.

In 1908 he was elected by county wide vote Superintendent of the Poor. In this capacity for five years, he administered the Alms House or County Home and Farm which was located on County House Road. Here, the poor and indigent were cared for in the days before we had a county nursing home. Mrs. Posson's obituary in part, states:



"In this capacity he rendered the county splendid service in caring for the poor unfortunates. And when he left the Orleans County Alms House there were a number of inmates whose eyes were filled with tears, regretting his departure ... Mr. Posson was a kind and devoted husband and father, a good citizen, honorable and upright in all his dealings, always pleasant and courteous and willing to grant a favor if within his power."

When he retired in 1913 he and his wife moved to a residence on Caroline Street in Albion. Mr. Posson was a member of the East Shelby Methodist Church and the Albion Lodge of Elks. He was laid to rest in Millville Cemetery upon his death in April 1915.