

The Life of Henry D. Richardson

BY C. W. LATTIN

Henry D. Richardson was born in Lebanon, Madison County on July 24, 1853. In 1866, the family moved to Gaines where they purchased a farm.

Naturally, growing up on the farm, he attended district schools and was himself engaged in the family enterprise during the summer. However, during the winter months he taught in the local rural district schools. This was not

uncommon years ago as a college education was not necessary to obtain certification to teach, as long as you had passed the eighth grade and a teachers test administered by the New York State Education



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Department.

In politics Richardson was a strong Republican leader achieving many party successes through his untiring efforts. He was known for his honesty,

integrity and worthy ambition. He was very public spirited, and seen as a benevolent community figure. In the late 1890s, he was elected Orleans County sheriff serving in that position from 1899 to 1901.

In his private life, Richardson was a most successful farmer devoting his interests to apple orchards and the raising of sheep. He and his wife, Celestia, however, lived on West State Street in Albion. This was often the case that farmers lived in the village and had hired help to work and stay on the farm.

H. D. Richardson passed in June 1907 and is buried in Mt. Albion Cemetery. Our accompanying photo shows him when he served as sheriff.