

## [Bowlby, James Newbold Wilson]

### Complete History of Babcock Hollow School District No. 11 (excerpt)

James Newbold Wilson Bowlby was the eighth child of Jas. and Catherine (Mayberry) Bowlby. He was born Oct. 25, 1826 in the town of Dryden, Tompkins Co., N.Y., and was married Feb. 22, 1853 to Miss Emily Aubert King of Bath. Shortly after his marriage he purchased of George M. Brown the present Bowlby farm and went there to live, where his two sons George K. and James Hubbard were born. The house at first stood near the bridge that spans the ravine on this farm, and later Mr. Bowlby erected the fine buildings on the present sites. It was here he commenced life for himself, and by perseverance and manual labor he made for himself and family a home from the lands which at the time of his purchase was [were] partly covered with a forest. He changed it into an attractive country home. To say the least he was a successful farmer. The neat appearance of his farm and premises indicates that the mind that directed and controlled his affairs was intelligent, and the ability and skill with which he executed his affairs was of a high order. He was a man of a very reserved disposition, strong determination, and frank and fearless in his expression. He was strictly honest in his dealings, and it was always said of him, that his word was always as good as his bond and that what he said today he was ever ready to repeat tomorrow. He was very fond of fine horses and stock, and to train colts was always a source of great pride and pleasure with him. Nothing suited him better than to get hold of a vicious horse to train.

About twenty-five years ago Mr. Bowlby tried grape culture on his farm as an experiment. He met with success and from the small vineyard raised some very fine specimens. He never sought political honors but in politics he was a staunch Republican and in his religious views a Universalist. When Mr. Bowlby first moved to this farm it was infested with black snakes which seemed to live in countless numbers in the woods on the old roll way. Many snakes of all sizes and lengths were killed, the longest being eleven feet in length. After the woods were cleared away their numbers grew less, and now it is only an occasional one that is found.

Of the direct descendants of James N. W. Bowlby he leaves one son, James Hubbard, a retired farmer of Savona, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren, viz: Martha, Ruth, Dorothy, James Edward, George Aubert, Charles Ernest, and the two great grandchildren, Edna Luella and George, children of J. Edward Bowlby, the well known real estate dealer of Bath. The other son George K. died in Bath March 17, 1908. A rather remarkable coincidence and one that deserves special mention in this history is the following: When James N. W. Bowlby's great granddaughter Edna Luella Bowlby was born she had at that time five living great-grandparents and

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four living grandparents, viz: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dudley, Mr. and Mrs. James Bowlby, and Mrs. Edward Hardenbrook, the five great-grandparents; and Mr. and Mrs. George K. Bowlby and Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Dudley, the grandparents.

The above named persons were all present at the wedding of J. Edward Bowlby and Miss Luella M. Dudley on September 2, 1903 and seemed to heartily enjoy the occasion.

Mr. Bowlby served as trustee in this district a great many years, and was always loyal to his duty and the cause of education. He departed this life at his family home on the 29th of Oct. 1910 at the age of eight-four years—“full of years and full of honors.” His widow still survives at the home of her son, J. Hubbard in Savona, and it is the wish of her many friends and acquaintances that she may yet be spared many years to come.

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Transcribed on 15 Feb 2015 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY