

[Bowlby, John A.]

COMPLETE HISTORY OF BABCOCK HOLLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 11
(excerpt)

Then the farm¹ passed into the hands of his son John A. Bowlby, who was born in Dryden, Tompkins Co., N.Y., Feb. 6, 1829. He was the youngest of the family. He was a man of great determination[,] upright in all his business relations, very active as a member of the Republican party, for several years was assessor of the town and was respected by all who knew him. He was the first assessor that carried the assessing of railroads to law and made the railroads pay taxes. By that act this district gained quite a percentage of taxes from the railroads. He was an ardent lover of fine stock and especially interested in Devon cattle of which he had many. In his religious belief he was a Universalist, and in occupation he was a successful agriculturalist. He was a man that was positive in his likes and dislikes, and strong in his friendships and attachments.

On September 30, 1854, he married Miss Lydia Hunter of Bath, whose parents were Orange County Dutch from Orange Co., and came to Bath about 1824. To them four children were born as follows: Helen C., Frank H., John H., and Carrie L. The youngest daughter, Carrie, wife of D. M. White, now owns and occupies the farm. The story of a mud turtle which has been a resident on this farm for a great many years will here be told. When the sons of John A. Bowlby were small boys they caught a mud turtle and carved some initials on its back. A short time ago the turtle was found, bearing the same initials and still residing on the same farm and near the same place where it was first found. It had grown in age, but not in size. John A. Bowlby died Jan. 17, 1899 in his 70th year. His wife followed March 25, 1908. She was a woman that was noted for her evenness of temper and one who had a vocabulary of kind words for everybody no matter who or what they were. She left a record of devotedness to her family , and to them her memory will be ever green.

Steuben Farmers' Advocate, Bath NY, Wed. 6 Oct 1915

Transcribed on 20 Jan 2015 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

¹ The farm was that of his father James Bowlby, who died on 14 Sep 1862, age 84. The farm was passed on after James Bowlby's death.