

[Carley, Alanson]

Alanson, son of Ebenezer Carley, was born June 6, 1797, in Unadilla, New York, died at Marathon [Cortland Co.] that state, April 8, 1879. When he was but two years old he removed with his father's family to the town of Marathon, then a dense and rugged wilderness. His home in early childhood was on the Carley homestead, situated on the west side of the river, lately occupied by Mrs. Esther A. Hunt. In those pioneer days the public schools were open during short winter terms, and during the remainder of the year the boys were kept hard at work in the clearing of the forests and cultivation of the new farms. Like the other boys of this section, he had consequently a very limited amount of schooling, but he managed by taking advantage of such opportunities as were at his command to round out his education and to qualify himself for the important offices of trust and responsibility with which in after years he was honored. As justice of the peace and supervisor he was for many years a member of the town and county boards, and as a magistrate he won a reputation for judicial ability, learning and fairness. In 1828 he was elected to the New York state assembly and represented his county creditably. In 1840 he was elected sheriff of the county and served his term in that office. As one of the projectors of the Syracuse & Binghamton Railroad, he was active in its organization and in supervising its construction, serving on the board of directors until it was in successful operation. It was part of his duty to purchase for the company the rights of way in the southern part of Cortland county and northern Broome county, and from his own private funds he built the railroad station at Marathon. He also built Hotel Lynde in that town, formerly known as the Carley House, later as Rogers House, and was one of the first merchants, establishing the first dry goods store in town in the thirties and conducting it with notable success until 1857, and becoming one of the most successful business men of the town. For a long time he was the owner of the Marathon Flouring Mills, and in partnership with his son, A. F. Carley, enjoyed a large and profitable business. For many years he was a director of the First National Bank of Cortland. During the tiring scenes of the civil war he was active in public affairs and was postmaster of the town of Marathon. He was one of a number of loyal citizens who pledged themselves to support the families of volunteers during their absence and the pledge was strictly fulfilled. He was possessed of a kind heart, an amiable and benevolent disposition, and was popular among all classes of citizens. In his younger days he was a Whig in politics, but when the Republican party was formed and the Whig party dissolved, he became active and prominent in the new organization. In religion he was a Universalist, but he gave generous financial support not only to the church he attended but to all denominations in the town.

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He married, in February, 1818, Sally, daughter of Thomas and Hester Cortright, of Union, Broome county, New York. She was born May 15, 1799 and died October 5, 1872. She was a very amiable and capable woman and was greatly respected and beloved by all for her kind, benevolent and Christian virtues.

Their children: 1. Louisa, born December 27, 1818, died March 10, 1839. 2. Ezekiel Clark, born June 23, 1820, died September 23, 1894; a lifelong resident of Marathon. 3. Nancy, born April 12, 1822, married Dr. E. H. Barnes, and died June 9, 1846. 4. Polly Ann, born September 8, 1823, died April 10, 1841. 5. Mersena, born March 5, 1825, married Dr. Barnes after the death of her sister Nancy, his first wife, and Marsena died January 4, 1874. 6. Eleanor, born July 14, 1827, died July 23, 1857; married Washington Wheeler. 7. Hester, born February 10, 1829, died February 18, 1830. Esther A., born December 4, 1830, died May 12, 1909; married Daniel Delos Hunt. 9. Albertis Alanson [born in Marathon on January 6, 1833; married on October 22, 1884 to Anna (Brockett) Feeter, born in Herkimer Co., the daughter of Zenas and Candace (Salisbury) Brockett. Albertis was her second husband.] 10. Sally, born June 10, 1835, died December 6, 1836. 11. Sarah Jane, born March 3, 1837, married C.C. Adams, of Marathon. 12. Cassius Clay [born in Marathon on 23 Jul 1844, married first to Mercy A. Tarbell and second to Mrs. Annette (Eades) Glover].

William Richard Cutter, *Genealogical and Family History of Central New York* (NY: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1912) III: 370-372.

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