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ROSENDALE NEWS
Edited for the Past
Friday, December 13, 1940

Pages Out of the Past

No. 100

Joseph Fleming

Here is a picture which reveals a violent phase of a troubled period. It shows the dynamited bridge at DeWitt Mill shortly after it was wrecked thirty-nine years ago. The damage is being inspected by a group whom we believe to be the officials of "The Consolidated." This is indicated by the presence of that company’s works manager, Daniel A. Barnhart among them.

Mr. Barnhart stands near the telephone pole with his arm raised as if pointing. We cannot definitely identify any of the others. Can you?

This bridge crossed the public highway at DeWitt Mill. It was an important part of the private road that connected several inland mills with tide water at Eddyville. Over it was transported most of the output of those mills and many of their requirements in stock, feed and other supplies, hence it was a vital point to the Blauweswater, Wappington section of the Consolidated enterprises and criticism was felt for equally important sections. In "Nineteen seventeen" Rosendale Cement was on the way out and all efforts to bolster local manufacture seem only to have postponed the inevitable.

Responsibility for this act still remains one of our local mysteries. This was the largest bridge along the six mile private tract of the Consolidated. This transport facility and ten miles of canal could only at great cost be protected against the repetition of the dynamiting. The companies were likewise ex-pelled, however, there is no record of any similar attempt being made upon the property of this corporation which, after desperate attempts to compete with the increasingly popular Portland cements, finally abandoned all its local mills. This picture was bought by Mrs. Corinellus LeFever. It was originally the property of her grandfather Daniel A. Barnhart who at the time of this incident was general manager of the Consolidated offices from Lawrenceville to Eddyville. Mr. Barnhart was born in High Falls in eighteen forty-three and was, except for the bare rudiments, wholly self-educated. He was a veteran of the Civil War and was captured by the Confederates at Gettysburg. He became superintendent of the DeKalb and Baxter Cement Co. at High Falls when twenty-eight years old. He later operated the Hudson River Cement Works and was also the owner of two stores, one at Creek Locks, the other at East Kingston. In the eighteen-seventies he entered the coal business with James McCasland at Roundout. Later he supervised the T. R. Baxter Cement Works which he purchased. In the middle nineties he engaged as superintendent of the Beech Point (Blauweswater) and at the formation of the Consolidated became their first works manager, thereby acquiring the superintendency which his son the late Mower Barnhart to whom this writer still feels obligations for an important promotion made nearly forty years ago.

A Message From The
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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