

On September 15th in the year 1837
a boat sailed out from Oswego
harbor as the autumn sun with its
beautiful autumn rays was sinking
in the west. Carrying a family
from the home and friends they
so much loved, to a new home,
two little girls saying good bye
to their playmates whom they
feared they would never see
again, these little girls became
more and more attached to each
other as the years passed - their
names were good bible names -

Ruth and Martha, the choice of
their very religious parents -

After a delightful sail on the
beautiful blue waters of Lake
Ontario, that they so much loved
they arrived at Buffalo and
after a restful night at a hotel
in Lower main Street kept
by S. T. Kelsey a cousin

of their father, they resumed their journey to Barcelona on Lake Erie where a Cousin of their mother kept the Right-house, what a treat for them to see candles lighting the sailors on their way through the darkness. After a time spent in Westfield with relatives they took up their home on a small fruit farm on Hard Scrabble Road so named because of the steep hill and stony road.

Hard Scrabble is situated not far from Button's Inn - on Portage road - midway between Westfield and Mayville - made famous in later years - by a Book written by the late Albin W. Turgar - called Button's Inn.

A barn situated on Road opposite the hotel - is said to have formed a Water shed - Water falling on one side the roof going to Chautauque Lake thence to Allegany River and Gulf of Mexico. While that on other side

3.

the road went to Lake Erie - thence
to St. Lawrence River - and Atlantic
Ocean.

Living in this quiet country was
expected to benefit the health of
the father, but did not seem to gain
in strength - and soon went to his
reward - the family moved to
Mayville where the different members
of the family became teachers,
and when not so employed,
Ruth and Martha did sewing
for the aristocratic families of the
town, receiving six shillings
per day - which in modern language
is seventy-five cents -

When Ruth was teaching one summer
she used to go horse back riding
evenings with one of her pupils
who would go to her home to see
her sister Martha, the outcome
of which was that her pupil became
her brother-in-law.

Ruth about the age of 22
married Henry Van Vaeckenburg

4

one of Westfield's galamb young men
and they became Hotel people - having
their first experience in the Hammond
House in Mayville - ^{when} Sister Martha
was married to that charming pupil
of previous years -

These four people lived many
pleasant years together -

Henry & Ruth later owned a Hotel
in North Main Street where they lived
with their family consisting of five
daughters - Mary Helen who married
Dr. James Granger.

Hattie Elizabeth who married John Kessel
of Girard Penn. they kept the
Mayville House till twice of his
death -

De Emma married Willis H.
Tennant a young lawyer - with
whom "Ma Van" as she was known
made her home in South Main St.
Myrtie - married John C. Jones a
thriving business man of Westfield
who later was elected Sheriff of
Chautauque County -

Frances married a successful merchant of Westfield who died at an early age leaving her with two small daughters -

"Ma Van" as she was known in the family was a unique character always equal to any emergency - full of wit and cunning - she could say the unusual things - that no one else could say - often when the dishes were to be washed she would say - the one who leaves before they are done will be punished - she would slip a dime in the hand of one of them and say "be gone". that one might be found on the steps of the Dutch Church with a Churn eating peanuts -

If a Circus came to town she would arrange for the children and all their Churns to go - that Apron pocket seemed to hold countless quarters and as long as they lasted all could be happy - "Ma Van" was very fond of her grand children - and they were

never more happy than when
listening to his experiences -
which she related with a touch
of enthusiasm and a twinkle
in his eye - that made them
more interesting -

Written by Helen Margretta
Beaufrau