

HISTORY OF  
THE GALLUPVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT INC.

AND

THE TOWN OF WRIGHT FIRE DISTRICT

COMPILED BY

CHESTER ZIMMER

December 1962

## FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

There was a Fire Department organized in 1925 known as the Callupville Fire and Hose Co.. There is no minute book available for any records. Lester Thornton and Clarence Barber remember a home talent drama being put on to raise funds and some money also was raised by subscription. Lester found in his fathers diary where on Jan.26,1925, he and Ira Chandler went to Schenectady to see about fire apparatus. Clarence Barber discovered the old receipt when the Chemical Tank was purchased Feb. 29,1929, amount \$189.00. Also the old bank book with Chas. Warner, Treas. and the bank failed to record any year date in this.

There is a book on hand with the list of apparent members and a date recorded Jan.28,1925.

Here is the list of names

Edward A.Thornton  
Lester W.Thornton  
Alvin Manchester  
Harold Holt  
Frank Chrysler  
P.Wallace Stahlman  
John Osolneek  
Jesse B.Ostrander  
Charles Warner  
Adam Manchester  
Max Wise  
Autin J.Weidman  
Harry C.Gallup

Harvey Bellinger  
W.Staats Pomeroy  
Clarence E.Barber  
Clifford J.Dailey  
Chas. E.Bradt  
Wiley Gage  
Luther Schell  
Marin Schell  
Howard D.Warner  
Frank C.Hinman  
Ira Chandler  
Fred Westfall Sr.  
Jesse Hargrave  
Edward Zimmer

Three men in the above list of names are present members of our fire depart,ent(1962) Lester Thornton, Adam Manchester and Alvin Manchester.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

Apparently after the chemical tank was purchased in 1929 the old company came to a halt. There was a little money on deposit at the Schoharie Bank and it just lay there all through the thirties. Mr. Fain, resident of the bank spoke to someone here in town why they did not do something about this. Talk was started and Clarence Barber former secretary of the old company called a meeting for Jan. 24, 1942.

Here is a minute record for Jan. 24, 1942

This meeting was called for the purpose of reorganizing the Gallupville Fire and Hose Co. Meeting called to order by Clarence Barber former secretary of said company.

Lansing D. Finch was elected chairman and Clarence Barber Secty. of said meeting.

Motion made and seconded and unanimously carried that we reorganize the Gallupville Fire and Hose Company as a voluntary fire company. Motion made and seconded that we proceed with the election of officers. The following were elected.

William Chase	Chief
Harold Barber	1st assistant
Chester Zimmer	2nd assistant
Lansing Finch	Treasurer
Clarence Barber	Secty.

Motion made and seconded and carried that all who wanted to join the company should sign up at this meeting or before the next meeting. 23 members signed at this meeting and the roll call book shows 34 listed by the next meeting as charter members.

Motion seconded and carried that the next meeting be held on Fri. night, Jan. 30, 1942 at which time the chief was to secure a speaker on fire apparatus.

Motion made and carried to adjourn.

Clarence E. Barber, Secty.

Here is the list of 34 members signed before the January 30th meeting

William Chase	X	Clarence Barber	
Harold Barber		Earl Salsburg	
Chester Zimmer	X	David Ostrander	
Lansing Finch		Allen Burton	
Otto Schultz	X	Willard Sellick	
Rudolph Schultz	X	Ross Snyder	
Edward Manchester	X	Clarence Chase	
Rudolph Sturm	X	Harold Murphy	
Colman Babcock		Lester Thornton	X
John Dome		William Benninger	
Ivan Roe		Orvill Finch	X
Maurice Becker	X	Clarence Conklin	
Howard Salsburg		Arthur Plue	X
John Osolneek		Charles Bogardus	X
George Weidman		Grover Becker	X
George Schultz		Alvin Manchester	X
Harry Gallup		Adam Manchester	X

X-- These 14 members are the ones left in the Company out of the original 34 charter members. (Dec. 1962)

## FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

After this reorganization meeting and with our new treasurer in office, the old account at the bank became active in the amount of \$213.60. April 25, 1942 the new organization had a roast pork supper with proceeds of \$140.00. Sept. 31, 1944 a Masguarade dance with proceeds \$160.50.

In 1944 the department joined the Schoharie County Firemen's Association.

With the purchase of the new fire truck by the Fire District with taxpayers money in 1945, the organization of firemen decided they could incorporate and provide the building to house it.

Along about this time the Schoharie Central School District decided to sell the village school in Gallupville. The firemen got busy with plans on buying the property. The taxpayers in the school district were contacted and the feeling was almost unanimous that the fire department should have it. To follow the law it had to be put up at auction and the taxpayers paid off by check from the Central School headquarters.

The sale was February 20, 1945. The Fire Dept. bid it in for \$750.00 plus \$20.50 for the stove, secretary desk, Treas. desk and two chairs. The incorporation papers were not complete yet within the law and a gentlemen's agreement was the property to be held in our Treasurers name, Lansing Finch, until July 24, 1945. At this time the corporation papers were complete and our new name was created, GALLUPVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. INC. The official date was May 7, 1945.

It is of interest how the purchase of this building was handled. At the time of the sale, 7 men, Edward Manchester, Chester Zimmer, Martin Daring, John Osolneek, Lester Thornton, Max Wise and Finch Bros. each loaned the fire department \$100.00. This being a temporary loan as the building had to be paid for, check going to the Central School District. They, in due time redistributed the proceeds back to the individual taxpayers in said school district. The taxpayers turned their checks endorsed right over to the fire department. March 30, 57 checks were recorded and the amount \$589.83, with \$47.53 coming in a little later. At the April meeting there were donations by the members of \$210.00 and through the year when the building of the addition was going on donations of \$300.00 are recorded.

As soon as the building was purchased plans went ahead to build the addition for the trucks and a small kitchen on the back of the meeting room.

The grand total cost of this is recorded \$4,071.68.

Money was needed to finance this new building project. The bank was not interested unless some of the members would back the loan or be holding in case of failure of our so new organization.

After some discussion and some ideas expressed the plan was formulated to borrow \$3000.00 in ten loans of \$300.00 each with interest at 4%. Some interested members made these loans. If anyone needed the money someone else took it over and payments were made yearly. If no one requested the need of their loan the names to be paid off were drawn from a hat.

The record shows the following payments...

Dec. 2, 1946	Thomas Darling.....	\$300.00
Nov. 17, 1947	Finch Bros and John Usolneek.....	600.00
Nov. 1, 1948	Karl Usolneek and Clarence Conklin	600.00
Nov. 8, 1949	Alvin Manchester .....	300.00
Nov. 6, 1950	Harold Murphy.....;	300.00
Nov. 4, 1951	Edward Manchester.....	300.00
Nov. 3, 1952	Ralph Haner.....	300.00
Nov. 2, 1953	Chester Zimmer .....	300.00
		<u>\$3000.00</u>

The pool table was purchased April 9, 1946 for \$225.00 This did not come out of the treasury. Those interested in playing went together and bought it.

The Ladies Auxiliary was created in April 1949. November 1949 the parade uniforms were acquired by members interested.

It was April 1953 when the office of president and vice president was established. The chief presided over the meetings until this time.

At the meeting of November 2, 1953, with the last loan of \$300.00 being paid off the department was free of debt, for the original school building, truck addition and small kitchen.

There being a need for a larger kitchen this project was started at this meeting with a committee to look into it, and present ideas later. At the next annual meeting April 5, 1954 it was voted to go ahead with the building program presented, for the present large kitchen on the back. May 25, the trustees were authorized to borrow ~~\$250.00~~ \$2500. at 4% interest for this kitchen annex. It was planned to pay this off at not less than \$300.00 per year/ The loan was made to the fire department by Mark and Leta Zimmer. It was paid off in six years. The last payment being May 2, 1960.

In 1959 some work was done by the firemen themselves on painting the outside of the building. March 6, 1961 a contract was let to Charles Funk for \$390.00 to paint the inside of the building complete.

July 3, 1961, it was voted to lease the G.L.F. land for a ball park and a committee appointed to go ahead with it.

August 20, 1962, at a special meeting it was voted to have a central heating system installed for the complete building. The bid of Ottman and Enders was accepted for \$1500.00. This was completed in January 1963.

HISTORY OF FIRE DEPARTMENT

LIST OF OFFICERS

Jan.24,1942

Chief, William Chase Treasurer, Lansing Finch
1st Asst. Harold Barber Secretary, Clarence Barber
2nd Asst. Chester Zimmer

George Schultz was elected Secty. Jan.27,1944

Apr.5,1944

Chief William Chase Treas. Lansing Finch
1st Asst. Edward Sellick Secty. George Schultz
2nd Asst. Rudolph Sturm

Apr. 5, 1945

Chief Chester Zimmer Treas. Lansing Finch
1st Asst. James Estenes Secty. William Claus
2nd Asst. Karl Osolheek

During the year James Estenes moved away and Karl Osolneek
became 1st Asst chief, and Otto Schultz 2nd Asst.

Apr.4,1946

Chief Chester Zimmer Treas. Lansing Finch
1st Asst. Ralph Haner Secty. William Claus
2nd Asst. Otto Schultz

Apr.3,1947

No Change

Apr. 8,1948

No Change

Apr. 4,1949

No Change

Apr. 3,1950

No Change

Apr.2,1951

Chief Chester Zimmer Treas. Everett VanSteele
1st Asst. Ralph Haner Secty. William Claus
2nd Asst. Otto Schultz

Apr.7,1952

No Change except a new office created
Asst. Tras. Jack Straub

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT CREATED IN APRIL 1953

Apr.6,1953

President John Funk Chief Ralph Haner
Vice Pres. Harold Murphy 1st Asst. Luter Miller
Treas. E. VanSteele 2nd Asst. Steve Sturm
Secty. William Claus
Asst. Tress. Jack Straub

FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

LIST OF OFFICERS CONT'

Apr.5,1954

President John Funk	Chief Ralph Haner
Vice Pres. Harold Murphy	1st. Asst. Luther Miller
Treas. E.VanSteele	2nd Asst. Steve Sturm
Asst Treas. Melvin Senecal	
Secty. Gordon Fry	

Apr.4,1955

No record of election

President James Weaver	Chief Luther Miller
Secty. Gordon Fry	1st Asst. Frank Westfall appointed
<del>REXX</del> Treas. E.VanSteele	Sept. 28.

(The above officers were found in the minutes for the year)

Apr. 2, 1956

President John Funk	Chief Luther Miller
Vice Pres. James Weaver	1st Asst. Frank Westfall
<del>REXX</del> Treas. E.VanSteele	2nd Asst. William Tryon
Asst. Treas. Lester Thornton	
Secty. Rudy Sturm Jr.	
Walter Mickel was elected Secty. in September (Sturm going in service)	

Apr.1,1957

President Arkel Fancher	Chief Luther Miller
vice Pres. James Weaver	1st Asst. Frank Westfall
Treas. E.VanSteele	2nd Asst. William Tryon
Asst. Treas. Lester Thornton	
Secty. Walter Mickel	
Melvin Senecal elcted Secty in Sept. (Mickel moving away)	

April 7,1958

President Arkel Fancher	Chief Luther Miller
vice Pres. Ernest Barber	1st Asst. Frank Westfall
Treas. E.VanSteele	2nd Asst. William Tryon
Asst. Treas. Lester Thornton	
Secty. Melvin Senecal	

Apr. 6,1959

President Frank Westfall Jr.	Chief Luther Miller
Vice Pres. Arkel Fancher	1st Asst. Frank Westfall Sr.
Treas. E.VanSteele	2nd Asst. William Tryon
Asst Treas Lester Thornton	
Secty. Melvin Senecal	
Asst. Secty. Arthur Plue	

Apr.4,1960

President William Mooney	
Vice Pres. no record	
Rest all the same	

FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

LIST OF OFFICERS CONT'

Apr. 3, 1961

President William Mooney	Chief Luther Miller
Vice President Richard Carl	1st Asst. Frank Westfall Sr.
Treas. Evertx VanSteele	2nd Asst. William Tryon
Asst. Treas(no record)	
Secty. Alex Luniewski Jr.	
Asst. Secty (no record)	

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Apr. 2, 1962

President Wellington Ranks	Chief Frank Westfall Sr.
Vice Pres. Richard Carl	1st Asst. William Tryon
Treas. E.VanSteele	2nd Asst. Arthur Plue
Asst. Treas. Lester Thornton	
Secty. Richard Bogardus	
Asst. Secty Rudy Sturm Jr.	

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## MEMBERSHIP LIST

## EXPLANATIONS:

The first 34 names are the charter members. UNDER REMOVAL FROM RECORD..Roll call book not exact on some dates. Active members of December 1962 have this before the name-----

NAME	DATE OF JOINING	REMOVAL FROM RECORD
William Chase	Charter member meeting Jan.24-30,1942	Exempt Dec.1,1954
----Chester Zimmer		
Harold Barber	"	<del>12</del> Dec.3,1962
Lansing Finch	"	Deceased SEPT 17, 1951
Clarence Barber	"	Resigned Mar. 1943
Earl Salsburg	"	Sept. 28,1943
David Ostrander	"	July 7,1944
Allen Burton	"	Apr. 16,1945
Willard Selick	"	Apr. 1948
----Otto Schultz	"	
----Rudolph Schultz	"	
Ross Snyder	"	Deceased AUG 17, 1944
Clarence Chase	"	Feb.2,1944
----Edward Manchester	"	
Harold Murphy	"	Deceased AUG 13, 1956
----Lester Thornton	" "	
Colman Babcock	"	Deceased MAR. 5, 1951
William Benninger	"	Apr. 48
John Dome	"	July 1944
----Orville Finch	"	
Ivan Roe	"	April 1949
Clarence Conklin	"	April 1948
----Maurice Becker	"	
----Arthur Plue	"	
Howard Salsburg	"	Resigned Aug.1945

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

NAME	DATE OF JOINING	REMOVAL FROM RECORD
----Charles Bogardus	Charter member meeting Jan.24- 30,1942	Deceased Feb.23,1950
John Osolneek		
----Grover Decker	"	
George Weidman	"	April 1948
----Alvin Manchester	"	
----Adam Manchester	"	
George Schultz	"	April 1947
Harry Gallup	"	June 1944
----Rudolph Sturm	"	
Robert Shultes	Feb.6,1943	June 1955
Edgar Lambert	"	April 1943
Max Wise	Mar, 1943	Deceased APR. 23, 1948
Milton Daring	April 1943	Sept. 1943
----Alfred Chrysler	Jan. 1944	
Martin Daring	"	Deceased May 30,1951
----Myron Hotaling	"	
Delbert Keyser	"	April 1946
Edward Sellick	"	April 1948
Norman Philips	July 1944	April 1945
Webster Dilenbeck	Sept.1944	Exempt April 1960
----Karl Osolneek	Nov.1944	
Frank Chase	"	Resigned & Exempt Apr. '52
Ivan Roe Jr.	"	April 1946
James Estenes	Feb.1945	Moved Oct.1945
Alfred Slater	"	April 1948
John Plepzuck	"	April 1950
Patrick Plepzuck	"	April 1948
Geard Remmers	"	August 1948

NAME	DATE OF JOINING	REMOVAL FROM RECORD
Percy Sherman	Mar. 1945	Apr. 1957
Ernest Westfall	Mar. 1945	Deceased <i>Aug. 2, 1961</i>
William Groth	"	April <del>21</del> 1948
----William Claus	"	
Robert Loden	"	April 1949
George Catlin	April 1945	Moved Oct. 1945
Clinton Manchester	"	Exempt April 1952
----Thomas Darling	"	
Morgan Taggart	"	Moved April 1950
Walter Durrer	"	Moved May 1946
Herbert Stolzenberg	May 1945	Deceased <i>Nov. 28, 1948</i>
Arthur Hannay	"	Moved Mar. 1948
Marcus Zimmer	May 1945	Resigned Aug. 1946
David McCutcheon	June 1945	Aug. 1946
Peter Perry	"	Apr. 1947
Ralph Hunner	Aug. 1945	Exempt Oct. 1945
William Birner	"	Moved Sept. 1949
Lloyd Hilts	"	Deceased <del>1950</del> FEB. 10, 1960
Herbert Schmidt	"	Deceased SEPT. 12, 1959
Kurt Schwalbe	"	June 1955
Charles Widin	"	April 1956
Raymond Manchostor	Nov. 1945	April 1962
David Newcomb	"	Sept. 1946
Douglas Loach	Jan. 1946	April 1946
----William Przyseicki	"	
----Donald HoLaling	Feb. 1946	
Harold Jesse	"	September 1947
Albert Loden	"	April 1949

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

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Name	Date of joining	Removal from list
Arkel Fancher	May 1946	Resigned May 1962
Robert LeVine	June 1946	April 1951
Phillips Ferry	July 1946	April 1953
Fred Schultz	Aug.1946	Moved Sept. 1952
Clifford Schell	Sept. 1946	August 1960
Herman Stolzenberg	Mar.1947	Resigned May 1955
Chester Conklin	Mar. 1947	Nov 1947
----Frank Westfall Sr.	Apr.1947	
Raymond Wise	"	April 1948
Roland Wilhelm	June 1947	April 1948
----Everette Van Steele	Dec. 1947	
Keith Saddlemire	"	Moved July 1951
A.Maciorowski	April 1948	Feb. 1952
LeRoy Wright	April 1948	Resigned April 1952
Albert Coons	May 1948	April 1953
Oscar Schwalbe	July 1948	April 1960
Harry Thomas	Aug.1948	Moved May 1952
Wilber Barger	Sept.1948	April 1950
Rudolph Basha	Dec. 1948	April 1951
Howard Mann	"	April 1949
----Edward Westfall.	"	
----James Weaver	"	
----Marcus Zimmer	Jan.1949	
Claude Sherman	May 1949	Deceased July <sup>23</sup> 1955
----Luther Miller	Jan. 1950	
Jack Straub	Feb.1950	April 1955
Kenneth Skinner	"	Resigned Apr. 1953
Fred Posson	"	Deceased Dec. 24, 1952
----Kenneth Bogardus	Apr. 1950	

MEMBERSHIP LIST  
DATE OF JOINING

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REMOVAL FROM LIST

NAME	DATE OF JOINING	REMOVAL FROM LIST
Robert Durie	April 1950	Exempt 1959
Milton Daring	"	April 1961
Steven Sturm	Oct.1950	June 1955
Gene Murphy	Dec. 1950	June 1955
<del>earl</del> Carl Stolzenberg	"	
Robert Merritt	"	April 1957
----John Funk	Feb.1951	
Willard Sellick	Apr.1951	Deceased Feb.14,1957
----Martin VanVoriss	May 1951	
William Alvarez	Nov.1951	Moved July 1952
Milton McGrath	Dec.1951	May 1953
----Hiram Westfall	March 1952	
----William Tryon	"	
Richard Carman	April 1952	April 1955
Walter Doman	"	Moved August 1952
Herman Wilms	"	Nov. 1959
<del>Richard</del> Bert Funk	July 1952	Deceased SEPT 18 1956
Gordon Fry	May 1952	April 1956
LeRoy Gaigo	July 1952	Exempt July 1960
----Robert Bentley	Aug 1952	
----Alex Luniewski	Sept. 1952	
William Sherman	Sept. 1952	Apr 1956
Charles Ewald	Dec. 1952	Apr. 1956
George Paro	"	July 1953
----John Miller	April 1953	
Charles Hotaling	July 1953	Resigned July 1968
----Melvin Senecal	"	
----George Hotaling	Aug.1953	
William Slater	Oct.1953	June 1954

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

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NAME	DATE OF JOINING	REMOVAL FROM LIST
----Gerhard Fuss	May 1953	
Frank Trestick	"	June 1955
Walter Mickel	April 1955	Resigned May 1957
----Rudolph Sturm Jr.	June 1955	
Ojurs Jurjans	April 1955	April 1960
----Harold Jesso	"	
Harry Rogers	Oct.1955	Jan. 1959
Chester Conklin	May 1956	August 1960
Robert Sellick	June 1956	July 1958
Willard Arnold	June 1956	July 1958
----Warren Thornton	June 1956	
Gene Sellick	July 1956	Apr. 1962
Karl Jurjans	July 1956	Nov. 1959
----Frank West fall Jr.	Jan.1957	
Walter Chapman	Mar.1957	Apr. 1957
----Ernest Barber	Mar.1957	
----Richard Lunieswki	June 1957	
Grant Schell	Dec. 1957	April 1960
Merwin Castle	July 1958	August 1959
Raymond Mead	Sept. 1958	Dec. 1962
Robert Sievers	Oct.1958	Aug.1959
Eugene May	Mar.1958	Aug 1959
----Rpnald Chase	May 1959	
Robert Merritt	June 1959	April 1960
William Delligan	June 1959	April 1960
William Butt	June 1959	April 1960
Anthony Maciorowski	July 1959	never active
Robert Finch	Sept. 1959	never active

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

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NAME	DATE OF JOINING	REMOVAL FROM RECORD
Leonard Hanson	Sept. 1959	Nov.1959
George Abjornson	Sept. 1959	Aug.1962
Robert Schell	Sept. 1959	Dec. 1959
----Richard Carl	Aug.1959	
----George Gallup	"	
----William Mooney Alex	Oct.1959	
---x Luniewski Jr.	Jan 1960	
Edward Rolle	April 1960	Nov. 1962
David Miller	June 1960	In service
Richard Hanson	July 1960	Aprøl 1961
Raymond Dearstynø	Dec. 1960	Dec 1962
----Thomas Westfall	Dec. 1960	
Michael Gausp	April 1961	Dec. 1962
----James Chase Charles	June 1961	
---- <del>Les</del> Hotaling	July 1961	
----Harold Hayward	Dec. 1961	
----Wellington Ranks	Dec. 1961	
----Herman Zimmerman	April 1962	
----Lester Williams	"	
----Howard Griffeth	" "	
----Walter Mickel	"	
----Bernard Bogardus	"	
----William Bentley	"	
----Paul Mickel	"	
----Richard Bogardus	"	
----Joseph Franolich	"	
----Chester Conklin	"	
----William Claus Jr.	"	

LIST OF EXEMPT FIREMEN AND DATE OF EXEMPTION

Clinton Manchester	April 7,1952
Frank Chase	April 7,1952
William Chase	Dec.6, 1954
Ralph Haner	Aug.6,1956
Robert Durrie	July 15,1959
Webster Dillenbeck	Apr.4, 1960
LeRoy E.Gaigo	July 11,1960



FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

DECEASED MEMBERS

Ross Snyder	Aug.17,1944
Max Wise	April 23,1948
Herbert Stolzenberg	Nov. 28,1948
John Osolneck	Feb. 23,1950
Colman Babcock	Mar. 5,1951
Marin Daring	May 30,1951
Lansing Finch	Sept. 17,1951
Fred Posson	Dec.20,1952
Claude Sherman	July 23,1955
Harold Murphy	Aug.15,1956
Bertram Funk	Sept.18,1956
Willard Sellick	Feb.14,1957
Herbert Schmidt	Sept. 22,1959
Lloyd Hilts	Feb.10,1960
Ernest Westfall	Aug.8,1961