

FOREWORD

A basic requirement of good government is an enlightened citizenry. Fundamental to understanding our government is a knowledge of the local unit on which all governmental superstructure is built. Only a clear comprehension of the principles and procedures of our own village government can enable us to act as constructive members of the community. The responsibility of the individual in maintaining and improving all the aspects of our community life is universally recognized. This attitude of *informed action* is fundamental to democracy.

THE ALFRED LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS (provisional) feels that its unique function is to encourage the understanding of the privileges of citizenship; to help the individual citizen to meet his responsibilities, and analyze and act on the issues that confront him; and to engender a feeling of individual worth and influence. This report is undertaken as a means of presenting in brief form much pertinent data about our village and our town. In common with the great *non-partisan* political organization of which the ALFRED LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS is a part — The National League of Women Voters with its division, the New York State League of Women Voters — we will endeavor to "promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of the citizens in government."

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The information in this report was compiled by members of the League with the generous assistance of many individuals and officials of the town, the village and the school. It has been extremely encouraging to discover the deep interest of all these people and their concern for the continuing improvement of our local government. We take this opportunity to express our gratitude for their co-operation.

We wish also to thank Mr. Harold Altman for the drawings, and Dr. John Freund for the map which appear in this report.

Alfred, New York. August, 1953



A Glimpse of the Past

When the first white men came to this vicinity they found boundless forests, rocky gorges and rugged hills, with few spots suitable for farming. Not until the early years of the nineteenth century was it possible for farmers to make a reasonable living. As there are no large navigable rivers, commerce was dependent upon the development of roads on which ashes for soap-making, maple sugar, skins and furs were sent to Philadelphia markets. In spite of severe hardships, the early settlers who arrived from Seventh Day Baptist communities in Rhode Island and eastern New York were sociable folk who enjoyed sugaring-off parties and logging and house-raising bees. Somehow they survived the famous "starving year" of 1816 in which snow fell in each of the twelve months. Alfred temperature is still consistently lower than that of surrounding communities, summer and winter.

Early commercial travelers in this section found resemblance to the country around Sterling Castle in England, so the settlement was named "Alfred" in honor of Alfred the Great, who was, incidentally, a patron of education. The First Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church was organized in 1816, and it was responsible for establishing in 1836 a "Select School" which was later incorporated as Alfred University. To this school, a Christian Seneca Chieftain brought some of the girls of his tribe. Several warriors were also early students and went back to the forests as missionaries and as teachers of their people.

In the new settlement, tanning, ash production and manufacturing harness and cheeseboxes were means of livelihood. Allegany cheese was, and is, famous throughout New York. The first printing office in Alfred was established in 1859. In 1884 the first issue of *The Alfred Sun* was published, and the following year Frank A. Crumb became its editor and continued as publisher of the paper until 1950. His public service, covering seventy-five years, is a record which has seldom been equalled. The red tile roofs which are landmarks in Alfred today were products of the famous Terra Cotta Company, founded in 1888 with D. S. Burdick as its first president. Superior brick and tile were produced, using the celadon clay found in the Canacadea Creek. Through the influence of Jake Merrill, a stockholder in this company, there was established at Alfred University in 1900 the school which is now The New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, a unit of State University of New York. In 1953 the State completed an addition to its building — Binns-Merrill Hall. Magnificently equipped, our Ceramic College has no equal in the world.

Alfred became part of a greater world when the isolated community was reached by the Erie Railroad, completed in 1851. Colorful stories are told of the "war" between the townspeople and the Irish railroad workers. The name of one section of the village, "Garyoon," endures as a reminder of this long ago feud.

The Village of Alfred, incorporated in 1881, is a part of the Town of Alfred, an area of thirty-one square miles.

A View of the Village

Alfred lies in the foothills of the Alleghenies, in a high wooded valley, at an elevation of 1800 feet in the center of the village. Our tumbling brooks find their way to the Susquehanna, but streams on the other side of "Jericho," the hill south of the village, flow into the Genesee River and so to the St. Lawrence system. The beauty of the town lies in its white houses, red tile roofs and spreading elms. The campus in the center of the village is picturesque with its various types of buildings and its many trees of different kinds.

The Economic Picture

Education is the chief industry in Alfred, the seat of Alfred University and State University of New York Agricultural and Technical Institute at Alfred. The University includes the New York State College of Ceramics, the Liberal Arts College, the School of Nursing, the Graduate School and the School of Theology (Seventh Day Baptist). It grants degrees in course: Bachelor of Arts, Science, Fine Arts and Divinity; and Master of Arts, Science and Education. The Research Department of the Ceramic College conducts applied and fundamental research. Research programs under grants from both the Air Force and the Navy are occupied with specific ceramic investigations and developments. State University of New York Agricultural and Technical Institute at Alfred grants an Associate degree in Applied Science.

Alfred University has consistently been an accredited institution under the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and other accrediting agencies. "Ag-Tech" is fully accredited in its division. There were 1120 students enrolled in the University in the year 1952-1953, instructed by 102 faculty members. A "Branch-General Type" R.O.T.C. unit was established in 1951 at Alfred University under the direction of the First Army Corps.

The New York State University Agricultural and Technical Institute at Alfred is a school offering terminal courses in specific skills, designed to fit the needs of students for whom four-year courses are not practical. Its 63 faculty members present 18 different courses to its 800 students. State University of New York is currently erecting a very large industrial building for "Ag-Tech" at a cost of about one and one-half millions of dollars.



In compiling this report, the committee was astonished to discover the many businesses conducted in our small community. Among the unusual establishments, we found handcraftsmen working in weaving, wood-working, wrought iron, enamelling and pottery. The Glidden Pottery is world-famous for quality and design, and the Rogers Machine Shop produces boring mills which are in use all over the United States. Honey candy produced at the "Honey Pot" has a country-wide clientele. The Terra Cotta, a gift shop specializing in handmade articles, a very modern jewelry store, a book store and two florist shops are located here. Two Sand and Gravel Companies operate at the end of the terminal glacial moraine found at Alfred Station. A Concrete Block plant and an outstanding poultry farm are among our business enterprises. We also have two barber-shops, two poolrooms, a hardware store, a drug store, a bank, a telephone company, a Mutual Loan Company, a laundry, a beauty shop, a haberdashery, a dry-goods store, a newspaper and printing office, gas stations, garages, three grocery stores, a Studebaker agency, insurance businesses, several restaurants, an electrical service, a baker, a tailor, a plumber, two doctors and a dentist, all active, and, we hope, prosperous in our midst. Many townspeople provide housing for the students who overflow the dormitories.

CIVIL DEFENSE



Survey of Community Services

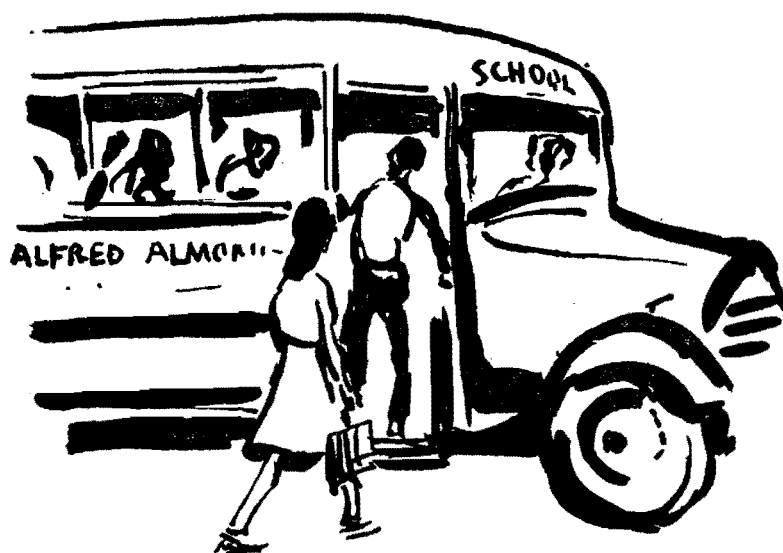
Our health and welfare program includes a blood donor clinic which has been oversubscribed because of enthusiastic student participation. Chest X-ray clinics under the sponsorship of the Allegany County Tuberculosis Association and immunization clinics held at the school under the direction of our health officer, are regular contributions to public health. Welfare in our village is under the care of the Allegany County Welfare Department in Belmont. Wellsville and Hornell Hospitals are supported by and serve this community. Monday is garbage collection day in Alfred. The village collects rubbish the first Wednesday in every month.

Alfred has consistently supported the Civil Defense effort with DeForest W. Truman as local director, and has maintained its observation post, keeping twenty-four-hour watch during the school year. In case of emergency, a Civil Defense welfare organization is set up at the school under the direction of Mr. John Gilmore.

An unusual feature of this report is that we list the Campus Theatre (movies) under "Community Services," as we are indebted to the University and to Prof. and Mrs. Varick Nevins for our non-profit cinema.

Dr. J. N. Norwood served as weather recorder for many years, and he has been succeeded by Dr. Paul C. Saunders whose extensive observations are published monthly in the *Alfred Sun*.

The intensive educational life of this village affects our community activities and, also, creates a loyalty which is one of its most valuable intangible assets. But other institutions, agencies, businesses, and industries make our village unusually rich in resources. "Alfred in Focus" attempts to bring these into clear-cut relief. Our village is a good place to live in. If more and more of us exert ever-increasing effort we can make it better. By so doing we shall become better citizens, not only of our community, but of our state, our country, our world.



The Alfred-Almond Central School

Our school is controlled by a central rural school district established by vote of the people under state law. The Board of Education has five unpaid members elected in rotation at the annual meeting of the district in July. Candidates are nominated by petition signed by at least twenty-five qualified voters. The Board meets regularly at the school on the second Tuesday of each month, and these meetings are open to the public. At the time of this report, the members of the School Board are: Margaret Warren, Harold Reid, George Whitney, Francis Grimes and Richard Braack.

The Board of Education is responsible for educational policies and supervision of the district. Our district is one of five under the direction of a district superintendent of schools — the present incumbent being William Garwood. He is the local representative of the Board of Regents of the State of New York, which has general supervision over all educational activities of the State and is responsible for the enforcement of the law, the certification of teachers and the auditing of accounts.

Our beautiful fourteen-year-old school building housed 735 children from a radius of twelve miles last year. An addition is being built at this time to accommodate our increasing school population. Mr. John Gilmore is principal of Alfred-Almond Central School. We participate in the federal school lunch program, and have a full time nurse, a school physician and a school dentist. A very active Parent Teachers Association assists the thirty-nine teachers in a well-rounded program.

A popular service offered by our school is a well-equipped and supervised canning center used by many of us. Adult education classes are a recent development serving and stimulating an ever-growing group of people in our community.

On the Scene

Community life is necessarily geared to the University. However, there is little of the traditional separation of town and gown in Alfred, as town and university people co-operate in service and social groups. The University is non-sectarian. Students from many lands are attracted by the famous colleges here, so that the character of the community is surprisingly cosmopolitan.

The First Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church was the original church here. It generously shares its century-old building with the inter-denominational Union University Church, which meets on Sundays. A full-time Chaplain serves the University students. Friends Meeting and Episcopal and Jewish services minister to their groups. Masses are said on Sunday in the University Chapel.

The Champlin Community House, named for its donor, Miss Eva St. Clair Champlin, contains an assembly room used by many groups for meetings. Public rest rooms are also maintained in the building.

Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, Rebekahs and the Grange are active in Alfred. The American Legion and Auxiliary have extensive programs. The Crandall Hook and Ladder Company is a venerable volunteer organization inhabiting Firemens Hall. Its ever-alert members are an essential and efficient group in the service of the community, fighting fires and providing ambulance service for the district. A Community Chest fund is raised each year with remarkable success, and the various other fund drives are generously supported. The Alfred Rod and Gun Club has an attractive clubhouse and program. Dramatic, literary and garden clubs flourish, and Campfire Girls and Boy Scouts are staffed with energetic and capable leaders. We unblushingly recommend the Alfred League of Women Voters (provisional) as a recent community service. Adult education classes, providing varied programs, are popular.

A Forum Series of high quality is available to everyone, and the excellent dramatic and musical productions of the University and the Technical Institute are patronized by the whole town. The famous Davis Memorial Carillon, given by loyal alumni in memory of the University's eminent Dr. Booth Colwell Davis and his equally beloved wife, is unique in that it is composed of ancient Hemony Bells of Flentish origin. Two recent gifts to Alfred University will provide a new carillon tower and additional modern, deep-toned bells to complete the scale. The Rosebush Memorial organ in the First Seventh Day Baptist Church is a three-manual Moller of excellent tone and quality.

The Carnegie Library serves both the town and the University. The libraries of the Technical Institute and the Ceramic College are also available to the community. In addition to the invaluable *Alfred Sun*, *The Hornell Evening Tribune*, *The Wellsville Daily Reporter* and *The Allegany County Democrat* are generous in their coverage of Alfred news.

Stations WWHG and WLEA in Hornell broadcast our local events and include in their regular programs a student program, "Calling Alfred."

While no permanent recreational facilities are provided for our youth, there is an excellent summer program conducted for six weeks under professional supervision.

A Profile of Our Village Government

The scope of Village Government is outlined by State Law. Alfred is classified as a Fourth Class Village according to the type of its governing body, which is The Board of Trustees. It has five members including the Mayor and four trustees, of whom two are elected each year on the third Tuesday in March. The Mayor is elected every two years.

The Village of Alfred has, at the time of this report, the fourteen following people on its payroll:

Mayor — John Jacox, re-elected March, 1953, for two years at a salary of \$100 a year.

Trustees — John Gorton, Robert Campbell, Donald Baker and Evert Pearcy, receiving \$5 for each meeting. Monthly meetings usually held on the first Monday of each month at Firemens Hall, are open to the public.

Village Clerk — Evelyn Thomas, appointed by the Board for two years at a salary of \$300 a year.

Village Treasurer — M. Elwood Kenyon, appointed for two years by the Board and receiving a salary of \$200. His accounts are audited every two years by state auditors.

Police Justice — Fred Turck, elected for four years and receiving \$30 a month.

Policeman — Herrington Stebbins, appointed by the Board at a salary of \$2400 a year. He has passed the required Civil Service examination.

Village Attorney — Everett Shults of Hornell, appointed by the Board and paid for work done.

Custodian of the Town Clock — John Gorton, appointed by the Board and paid \$25 a year.

Superintendent of Public Works — Robert Place, appointed by the Board after passing Civil Service examination. He receives \$155.83 twice a month. He has entire charge of village maintenance from water to waste, and serves us night and day, ungrudgingly, winter and summer.

Two Public Works Assistants — appointed by the Superintendent and approved by the Board, employed at the current wage rate.

Alfred derives revenue from three sources, village taxes, water rents and state aid. Taxes are levied by the Board of Assessors appointed by the

Mayor from the Board of Trustees. At this time, all Board members are serving on this committee. The valuations are published and are on record with the Village Clerk. They are open for scrutiny and appeals can be made on "Grievance Day," the second Tuesday in August. The water rents, including large amounts paid by the "Ag-Tech" and the University, comprise one-third of the village revenue. State aid is received on the basis of population. The tax rate is \$18.61 per \$1000; water rate is 60c per thousand gallons. State aid amounts to \$3 for every person in the village census. In 1950, for the first time, all registered students except those who commute from their homes were included in our census, making our population 2053.

The budget, prepared by the Mayor and the Board of Assessors, is published in *The Alfred Sun*. Taxes are collected on published days by the Village Clerk and deposited in the University Bank. Bonds are issued to finance major village improvements, and short term notes, renewed annually, care for emergency expenditures. The current village indebtedness is \$131,500, accounted for in large measure by the necessity of developing new sources of water for the village. The present budget amounts to \$69,808.03, of which \$19,265.23 is estimated to accrue from village taxes. This year the assessed property valuation exceeded one million dollars for the first time.

The Village of Alfred, in the Town of Alfred, has a Town Supervisor (Richard Fenner) elected every odd-numbered year on the first Tuesday of November, to represent the Town on the Allegany County Board of Supervisors. This Board is in control of all public services not under the authority of the Village Board. Listing its functions could occupy a lengthy report.

All primaries are party primaries and only enrolled party members may vote. Party members may enroll at November elections and at other advertised times. During the summer, party enrollment may be made at the county seat.

In order to qualify as a voter one must be twenty-one years old on or before election day. Naturalized citizens must have been naturalized at least ninety days before election. One must have been resident in the county for four months and in the election district or village for thirty days on or before election day. Registration in the village is "non-personal." All voters should check with a local committeeman to be sure that they are properly registered. New voters must appear in person at advertised times.

The School District and the Election District are distinct. There is an election district comprising the Town of Alfred, and also one within it of the Village of Alfred. The School District is entirely separate and includes the district served by the Central School. At the School Meeting, any bona-fide resident of the district may vote.

The Alfred

League Of Women Voters

Reminds You

To

VOTE

Election Panorama

MONTH	TIME	PLACE	OFFICES TO BE FILLED
March	3d Tuesday	Firemens Hall	Mayor and trustees
July	2d Tuesday	Alfred-Almond Central School	School Board Mem- bers. Relative business is trans- acted.
November	1st Tuesday after 1st Monday	Firemens Hall Town Board	{ Town Supervisor 2 Justices of the Peace 2 Councilmen
Primaries:			
May	Set by Governor	Firemens Hall	Presidential electors
September	Set by the Legislature	Firemens Hall	County Officers Town Officers and State Representa- tives.
Village Caucus	Set by Village Board	Firemens Hall	Village Officers

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Appointed:

3 Assessors
Town Tax Collector
Custodian of Town
Clock
Town Clerk
Supt. of Highways
Custodian of town
voting machine
Town Historian
Registrar of Vital
Statistics

Snapshots for Reference

United States Senators — Herbert Lehman and Irving Ives

Representative in Congress — Daniel Reed

State Senator — Austin Erwin

Assemblyman — William MacKenzie

Republican Committeeman, Town of Alfred — M. Elwood Kenyon

Democratic Committeeman, Town of Alfred — Lee Darling

Clerk of Board of Electors of Allegany County — Sidney Hixson, Cuba

Town Supervisor — Richard Fenner

Village Mayor — John Jacox

Village Clerk — Evelyn Thomas (Mrs. Roger)

Superintendent of Public Works — Robert Place

Policeman — Herrington Stebbins

Fire Chief — Stanley Butts

Health Officer — Dr. Raymond Hitchcock