

THE DELAND FAMILY

Part Two

The influence of the DeLand family in Fairport continued despite the death of Daniel DeLand in 1872 and the demise of the DeLand Chemical Company in 1903. Minerva Parce DeLand, Daniel's widow, raised their five children in the house at 185 North Main Street. Levi DeLand, the eldest son, who served as company head, is also credited with starting the DeLand Hose Company, Fairport's first fire department, and adding to the community's pleasure by underwriting the L.J. DeLand band. He also inaugurated the village's first electric street light system by lighting North Main Street from the factory to his Whitney Road home. Like his father, he was active in Democratic politics, and served as State Assemblyman in the 1880's. Levi and his wife, Mary Lewis, raised their eight children, first in a house at 176 North Main Street that Minerva Parce DeLand had had built and then sold to them for \$1.00 and "love and affection," and then in a large shingled mansion on the northeast corner of Whitney and Nine Mile Point Roads, which was surrounded by 600 acres of fruit trees. Eventually that house would become the first Baptist Home.

Daniel and Minerva's three daughters were all educated at Vassar. Leora married Walter Hubbell and moved to a house at 149 North Main Street, a site that is now occupied by Bright Start Pediatric Services. Minerva married Dr. J.J. Bennett in 1891, but died in 1892. Stella married Baptist minister the Rev. Dr. James Taylor Dickenson and was called "an ideal minister's wife, devoted and loving, leaving behind her memories like a rich perfume."

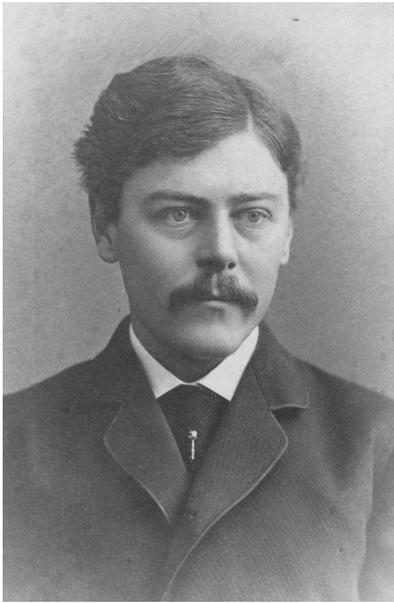
Son Wayland also made his home in Fairport and worked as an engineer on the Great Lakes.

Daniel and Minerva DeLand's grandchildren continued the DeLand family involvement in the village of Fairport. Minerva Lewis DeLand, daughter of Levi and Mary Lewis, was an educator in Fairport for nearly 40 years. A graduate of the Fairport Union School and Vassar College, she prepared for teaching at Albany Normal School and in 1900 returned to teach Classical Languages and Ancient History in Fairport. By 1908 she had been named preceptress or head teacher at Fairport High School, which at that time was on West Church Street. In 1924, when the new high school on West Avenue was opened, she was named principal. In addition to her administrative duties, she also continued to teach Latin because "there was no one else." Miss DeLand, described by Superintendent Thomas Coffee, as a "brilliant teacher, noble guide, and faithful friend," retired in 1935 after 35 years of teaching. Her name, of course, lives on at the Minerva DeLand School on Hulburt Avenue, which was built in 1958-9. Miss DeLand was present at the laying of the cornerstone and at the dedication in 1959. She died at the age of 89 in 1965.

Two of Minerva's sisters were also educators. Mary, also educated at Vassar and the Albany Normal School taught in Auburn and Rochester. Onetah was Supervisor of the Rochester School for the Deaf.

Two more of the Levi DeLand children were involved with the canning business in Fairport. Leora Lewis DeLand married George Cobb of Cobb's Preserving Company, who was instrumental in developing the sanitary can, making it possible to have safe canned food, and also who was one of the founders of the Sanitary Can Company. Daniel Brown DeLand first worked for both Cobb's Preserving, then the Sanitary Can

Company, and finally the American Can Company, eventually becoming vice president in charge of manufacturing. The American Can Company was a major Fairport employer for many decades in the mid 20th century.



Levi DeLand



DeLand Mansion



Mary Lewis DeLand