

Mindwell's Legacy:

Women of the Granger Homestead

1816 - 1930



By Wilma T. Townsend, Curator

Mindwell Pease Granger

(1770-1860)

Family Matriarch

Mindwell Pease was the ninth of eleven children born to Joseph and Mindwell King Pease in Suffield, Connecticut in 1770. Of these children, all but two - their only other daughter (also named Mindwell) and a son, lived to adulthood. Both of her parents were members of families that first settled the town in the 1670s. Their home, built in 1760, was located near the Suffield Common.

Mindwell grew up in a lively household with nine brothers and no sisters. Her mother must have welcomed the help of a daughter once she was old enough to assist with the many necessary household activities. She would have learned to do all of the domestic duties required to run a busy household including: prepare and preserve food in a kitchen with an open hearth, sew and launder linens and clothing, oversee servants, build her knowledge of family health care remedies, and entertain the many family members and notable guests who would have frequented their home.



Photos courtesy of
Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum
Wethersfield, CT

As part of her preparations for her marriage to Gideon Granger, **Mindwell** created a stunning crewel work bed hanging for their bed in their new residence in Suffield. Now owned by the National Society of the Colonial Dames in Connecticut, the “*bedspread and valance, 1787, was spun, woven and embroidered in crewels in the home of Mindwell Pease of Suffield, Comm., before her marriage to Gideon*



Granger of that place...” Mindwell’s great granddaughter, Antoinette, gave the bed hangings to the Colonial Dames in 1918.



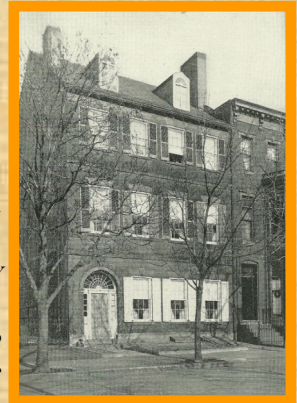


Granger Family Homestead,
Suffield, Connecticut, c. 1790

Mindwell Pease married Gideon Granger in Suffield, Connecticut in January 1790 at which time she moved into the Granger family home. Gideon was the son of an influential lawyer and politician in Connecticut. After graduating from Yale in 1787, Gideon set up his law practice next to their home and continued building his political connections in Connecticut and Washington, DC.

As a young wife, **Mindwell** was busy managing a household, welcoming Gideon's colleagues, and raising a family. During the first six years of their marriage, she bore three sons: Ralph in November 1790, Francis in 1792, and John Albert in 1795. Because of his political activities Gideon was away from home for months at a time; **Mindwell** spent much of her time raising their sons alone.

When their youngest was only 6 years old, Gideon moved to Washington, D.C. where he was Postmaster General under Thomas Jefferson. **Mindwell** and the boys remained in Suffield as Washington was not yet a well established city. Although **Mindwell** would have had the support of family members, the next several years must have been difficult for her. A letter from Gideon in 1804 to **Mindwell** touches upon this situation: "*I am really homesick. If you suffer my absence, you are not alone. The boys must all write to me, and I intend to write to you each Sunday. Kiss the Rogues for me and accept the homage of a steady heart. Your affectionate, Granger*".



Gideon Granger's Residence
Washington, D.C.

Once the boys were older and attending Yale College, the family moved to Washington in about 1810 where they lived for three years.



Early photo of the Granger Homestead, c. 1858-60

In 1813 Gideon resigned from his position as Postmaster General, and **Mindwell** and family moved to Whitesboro (Utica), Oneida County, New York. From there Gideon made plans to move to Canandaigua and build a Homestead that would be "*unrivaled in all the nation*". He also came to administer the Oliver Phelps estate and the many land tracts he had acquired further to the west.

In 1816, **Mindwell** and Gideon moved into their beautiful new mansion in Canandaigua. Mindwell had servants to assist her in managing the home and entertaining guests. Their oldest son Ralph had moved to Ohio to help with his father's business dealings in the west. Son Francis married Cornelia Van Rensselaer in 1817 and moved to a home just north of the Granger Homestead. The youngest John Albert settled in nearby Livingston County but later moved to Canandaigua.

Once in Canandaigua perhaps **Mindwell** felt that their lives would be more settled. For six years that may have been the case. However in 1822, Gideon died, leaving her alone in the large home. Tragedy struck again in December 1823 when Francis' wife Cornelia died in childbirth for their third child, who also died.

Grief stricken and in need of care for his two young children, Francis and family moved in with **Mindwell**. While she may have been overjoyed to have them living with her, she also took on the task of raising her two young grandchildren. Like his father Gideon, Francis was away much of the time on business leaving her with this responsibility.



Mindwell's health is mentioned in many letters as being "poor", yet she lived to be nearly 90. She wrote in a letter to her brother in 1831: "*My health has been very poor for the last year, tis as much as I can do to keep about and take care of my family, for the past few weeks I have felt somewhat stronger and better*". She also wrote that Francis was away in Washington and her close friend, Mrs. Greig, is in Europe, "*I miss her very much*". It is quite possible that Mindwell suffered from depression and loneliness during the long periods of time that family and friends were away.

Mindwell, 87, drawn by Agnes Jeffrey, 1857.
From original owned by Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY

For the remainder of her life, **Mindwell's** son Francis maintained his residence at the Homestead. Her grandchildren also lived there well into adulthood: Gideon II married at age 30 and Cornelia at age 36. Cornelia may have delayed marriage to help with running the Homestead. After a long and full life, **Mindwell** died in 1860; her death notice simply read: "*Died, At Canandaigua, New York, on the 17th of April, in her ninetieth year, Mrs. Mindwell P. Granger, relict of Gideon Granger, and mother of Hon. Francis Granger and Gen'l John A. Granger.*"

Several of **Mindwell's** personal items have remained at the Homestead since she lived here over 150 years ago. Some of these would have been transported across New York from Suffield, Connecticut to Whitesboro, New York to Canandaigua in 1816 when she and Gideon moved one final time.

Open Armchair: pale green damask reproduction upholstery, Sheraton style, label fragment reads: "*Mrs. Gideon Granger, Canandaigua*".



Black Satin Dress
worn by Mindwell, c. 1825



Silver Sugar Tongs: Made by "STORRS", a silversmith in Utica, the tongs are inscribed with the initials "M.G." for Mindwell Granger.



Serving Dish and Platter: Made in China c. 1800

Cornelia Van Rensselaer Granger

(1798-1823)

Young Mother



Utica, New York, c. 1820

Cornelia Van Rensselaer was the daughter of Jeremiah and Sybilla Kane Van Rensselaer, born in 1798 in Utica, New York. The oldest of eight children she grew up in a prosperous family involved in the many economic and social activities of this rapidly growing trade center. Her father was a prominent businessman engaged in the West Indies

trade of sugar, coffee and spices, and transporting grain from western states.

In 1813, when **Cornelia** was about 15, the Granger family along with her future husband, Francis, moved to Utica. Their parents knew each other through political and economic connections. Their fathers were staunch Federalists involved with the economic development of the region. Cornelia and Francis were married in 1817 in Utica thus uniting these two prominent families.



Candlewick bedspread made by Cornelia in 1812 as part of her trousseau.

*Collection of
Ontario County Historical Society*

Cornelia's wedding shawl, hand embroidered in silk on fine cotton. Her Empire style wedding gown was made in a matching design.



Soon the young couple moved west to Canandaigua to reside near Gideon and Mindwell's newly built homestead. As a wedding gift, Gideon had a fine Federal style house built for them. The residence still stands at 426 North Main Street.

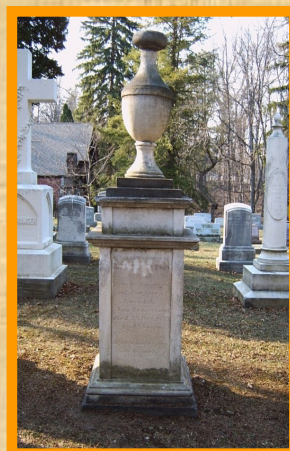
Francis and **Cornelia** quickly settled into their new home. Francis set up his law practice in a small brick law office in front of his father's home. Over the next four years they had two children: Cornelia Adelaide born in 1819 and Gideon II born in 1821. Like his father, Francis was involved in politics and often was away from home leaving Cornelia with very young children.



Based on a letter Mindwell wrote in early 1822, it appears that **Cornelia** did not recover quickly from the birth of their second child: *“Little son that was born the 30 August was a firm Child but owing to its Mother not having Milk it has been sick most of the time. . . it was violently seized with an uncommon complaint. Francis was absent, Cornelia was feeble, myself unable to go and see them. We brought the Family to our house – it was the most distressed and sickest child for 2 weeks, that I saw that lived by doing every thing that could be done & the will of Almighty God. . . he grows finely but is feeble still.”*

Although little Gideon II survived, **Cornelia's** third pregnancy in 1823 ended in tragedy. On December 29, Cornelia gave birth to a daughter and died two days later. She may have not fully recovered from the previous pregnancy. Their unnamed daughter lived only three weeks.

In a letter to a family friend, Francis described his loss: *“My dear **Cornelia** has for some time been in extremely delicate health, and although we feared the final result, no one dreamed of immediate danger, when like a whirlwind, death came upon her, and I commenced a melancholy year by consigning her to the tomb on Thursday last. It is useless to dwell upon her virtues, every thing that youth, beauty, a refined education and an ardent, warm heart could bring to engage the affections were hers. But the scene has closed and my highest duty is to my children.”* Francis moved his family into the Granger Homestead where his recently widowed mother, Mindwell took on the responsibility of caring for her little grandchildren. Later that year, Cornelia's parents moved in with the Grangers after Jeremiah Van Rensselaer's business failed in Utica. Francis never remarried after the death of his wife, Cornelia.



Gravestone of
Cornelia and infant daughter
Woodlawn Cemetery,
Canandaigua, NY

Cornelia and her baby's deaths were noted in the Ontario Repository as follows:
Died: December 31, 1823, Mrs. Francis (Cornelia R.) Granger in Canandaigua.
Died: Jan. 21, 1824 infant of Francis Granger in Canandaigua.
They are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. The inscription on the stone reads:
“An infant daughter sleeps beside her mother.”

Cornelia Adelaide Granger Thayer Winthrop

(1819-1892)

Early Benefactor of the Boston Children's Hospital



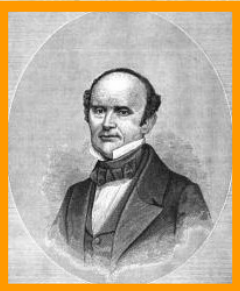
Born in 1819 in Canandaigua to Francis and Cornelia Granger, **Cornelia Adelaide** grew up in the Granger Homestead where she and her brother Gideon II were raised by her grandmother, Mindwell. Her mother had died when she was only four years old and her father was often away from home on business.

Not much is known about her childhood. **Adele** (as she came to be called) attended school at the Ontario Female Seminary in Canandaigua from 1826 to 1837. She also often visited her Van Rensselaer relatives near Albany. Her father Francis always wrote to her and her brother Gideon while he was away.

Painting of Cornelia Adele Granger Winthrop
by George Lethbridge Saunders
Collection of Memorial Art Gallery,
Rochester, NY

When she was nine, he wrote: *"My dear little daughter, Father will catch up a moment to say the he was sorry to hear that you have been sick with the measles but was happy that you had got almost well again. You need not study any harder than you choose until you are quite well and strong again."* (Nov. 1828) In early January 1830, he wrote: *"I have been fancying you and Gideon reading your Christmas books in Grandma's room being very quiet and taking good care of her and the yellow kitten."*

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John Eliot Thayer
(1803-1857)

As a teenager and young adult, **Adele** had many opportunities to accompany her father, Francis to social and political events locally, in Albany, Boston and Washington, D.C. Despite these many chances to meet suitable, well-connected men, Adele did not marry until she was 36. In 1855, she married John Eliot Thayer of Boston, a widower with adult children. A very wealthy businessman and friend of her father, he headed one of that city's leading private banking and brokerage firms, J. E. Thayer & Brother.

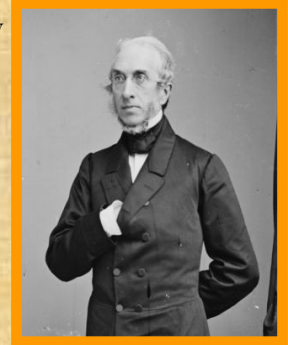
After their marriage in Canandaigua, **Adele** and her husband returned to Boston. She gave birth to a daughter, Adele Granger Thayer in November 1857. The event was bittersweet as her husband had died just two months earlier. Fortunately, John Thayer's substantial estate of about three million dollars provided his family with the means to live very comfortably. **Adele** received \$600,000; she and her young daughter remained in Boston.

By 1865 **Adele** had remarried to the prominent Massachusetts politician, Hon. Robert C. Winthrop. About ten years older, Robert had known her since childhood and was very close friends with her father, Francis. He also had been previously widowed. **Adele** and her daughter moved into her husband's expansive home in Brookline outside of Boston. Robert's daughter Eliza also lived there. The residence was cared for by seven domestic servants and two groundskeepers.



Brookline, Massachusetts
c. 1890

Robert C. Winthrop
(1809-1894)



As a member of the wealthy Boston upper-class, **Adele** was involved in the promotion of charitable causes. In 1872, she organized the Ladies Aid Association for the newly opened Boston Children's Hospital. The patients were mostly Irish immigrants, many with traumatic injuries or infectious diseases. Under her direction, the Association provided the hospital with much needed linens and medical supplies. She also was instrumental in establishing a Convalescent Home near it.

The Winthrop family traveled extensively in the 1870s visiting England, the Netherlands, Germany and many other parts of Europe. They spent one winter on the Mediterranean to improve **Adele's** health. They also often traveled to Canandaigua to visit Granger family members.



Tomato Server—silver. Monogrammed "A.G.T."
for Adele Granger Thayer.

Ornately carved four-
poster doll bed
Given to Adele in 1825 by
Mrs. Thomas Morris
*Collection of the Ontario
County Historical Society*



Cornelia Adelaide died in Brookline in 1892 two years before her husband. She is buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her daughter Adele Thayer remained in Boston. She never married but like her mother was active in philanthropic work and world travel until her death in 1918.

Isaphine Pierson Granger

(1826-1905)

Widow and Mother

Born in 1826 in New York City, **Isaphine Pierson** was the third of Isaac and Nancy Smith Pierson's four children. Isaphine also had four half-siblings from her father's first marriage to Helen Fort who died in 1820. Isaac Pierson was a prominent businessman in New York. Very little is known about her early childhood other than her mother died in 1836 when she was ten years old. In 1838, her father moved the family to Canandaigua, NY. He ran a successful hardware business - Parrish & Pierson Hardware on Main Street.



Ontario Female
Seminary



Crayon Drawing of
Isaphine Pierson Granger c. 1865

Isaphine attended the Ontario Female Seminary in Canandaigua from 1835 to 1841, first as a boarder and later as a day student. Most of her classmates were from the well-to-do families of the area. By 1848, her father had died. Isaphine, her brothers Charles and Richard, and her sister Antoinette continued to live in the large family home at 186 North Main Street along with two other younger Pierson relatives and four servants.

In 1850 **Isaphine** married Gideon Granger, son of Francis Granger thus joining with one of the most prominent families in New York. Her father-in-law built a beautiful Gothic Revival "wedding cottage" for the newlyweds on the southeast corner of North Main and Granger Streets. Their three daughters Cornelia, Antoinette and Isaphine were born in this house in 1851, 1853 and 1859. Sadly their oldest daughter died from a childhood disease in 1857. Younger sister Antoinette, later wrote in her memoirs that one of her earliest memories was her mother holding and rocking little Cornelia on the porch when she was ill.



In 1860, **Isaphine**, husband Gideon and their two little daughters moved into the Granger Homestead to be with Gideon's father, Francis. The family matriarch, Mindwell Granger had died that year at age 89. The North Wing was added to the Homestead to accommodate the new family members including a nursery and office space for Gideon. As the new Granger family matriarch and mistress of one of the finest homes in the area, Isaphine needed to be sure that her household ran smoothly and efficiently. The old basement kitchen received updates including the installation of a new cook stove to replace the open hearth, and a modern pantry with built-in cabinets.



Silver Cup, engraved
*"C. V. R. Granger,
Dec. 25, 1853."*
for oldest daughter
Cornelia who died in 1857



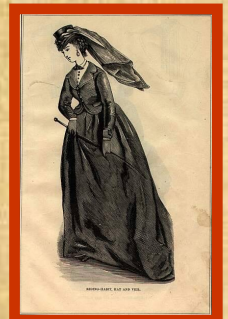
North Wing, Granger Homestead, built 1860



Fish Serving Knife and Fork,
owned by Isaphine P. Granger

From 1860 to 1868, **Isaphine** was busy raising her two daughters, caring for her husband and father-in-law, and managing the day-to-day household activities. Her husband Gideon practiced law and was involved in activities supporting the Civil War. On August 31, 1868, Francis Granger, Isaphine's father-in-law, died after several weeks of illness. Tragically, her husband Gideon, who had been briefly ill, died on September 2, 1868, less than a week after his father. Shocked by these two deaths, Isaphine refused to live in the Homestead any longer, so the family moved back into the cottage. The house remained vacant for several years until in 1876, Miss Caroline Comstock purchased it to open a girls' school - the Grange Place School.

Although widowed at a young age, **Isaphine** followed the norms of the day and withdrew from society along with her two daughters to mourn her loss. Duty obligated daughters, Antoinette and Isaphine, to dedicate their lives to their mother as companions and caregivers. Both were active in charities in Canandaigua, yet neither married, feeling that they could not leave their mother alone. Isaphine Granger quietly lived out her life in Canandaigua, dying from a stroke in 1905 at the age of 79.



Mourning Dress, c. 1870

Antoinette Pierson Granger

(1853-1930)

Isaphine Pierson Granger

(1859-1916)

Sisters and Philanthropists

Antoinette and **Isaphine Granger** were the daughters of Gideon and Isaphine Pierson Granger born in 1853 and 1859 in Canandaigua. They were the last generation to live in the Granger Homestead. The sisters were very close and lived most of their lives together. Although neither woman married, their lives were very full with community activities, entertaining and travel.

The two sisters spent much of their early childhood at the nearby Granger Cottage and the Granger Homestead. When their great-grandmother died in 1860, the family moved into the more spacious Granger Homestead to be with their grandfather Francis. **Antoinette** recorded fond memories of her childhood - playing with her cousins, having pets such as an Irish setter named "Larra", being a bit of a tomboy by playing in the woods and local streams, but also enjoying her dolls. Her younger sister, **Isaphine**, was quieter, and appeared to suffer from more illnesses than her sister.



Antoinette and
her dog, Larra



Isaphine



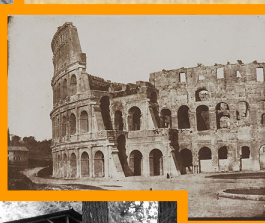
Antoinette's Doll
Collection of
Ontario County
Historical Society

The summer of 1868 was a sad time for the girls and their mother. Their grandfather Francis passed away, and within a week their own father Gideon had died as well. Their bereaved mother moved her young family out of the Homestead and back into the Granger Cottage. The deaths also were a turning point in the sisters' lives as noted later by a family friend: *"Mrs. Granger retired from the world and led, with her two little girls, a completely secluded life. Her daughters gave up normal living to devote themselves to a mourning mother who was supposed to be in feeble health because of the death of her husband."*

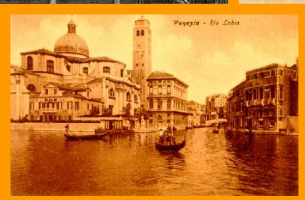


Granger Cottage where the sisters and their mother returned in 1868 after the deaths of Francis and Gideon.

When very young, **Antoinette** and **Isaphine** attended a school run by Miss Kate Morse at a small house on Gorham Street. Both later attended the Ontario Female Seminary as had their mother. They took the standard academic classes but **Isaphine** also was listed as taking art and ornamental classes. **Antoinette** attended school in New York City in the early 1870s. For a time, **Isaphine** attended the Granger Place School which was located in her childhood home—the Granger Homestead.



During early adulthood, **Antoinette** and **Isaphine** both traveled, often with their mother to numerous places in the northeastern United States and Europe. They would go away for the winter to Boston, Philadelphia or New York. They traveled abroad many times to London, Paris, Cannes, Florence, Rome, Berlin. Favorite summer vacation spots included the Adirondacks, and the islands off the coast of Maine.



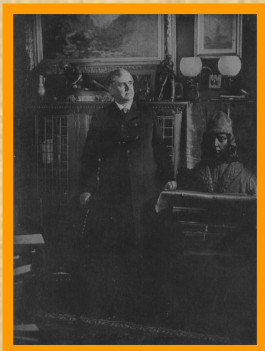


Antoinette

As an adult, **Antoinette** had an outgoing personality and was an active citizen of Canandaigua. She was a leader in community organizations including the Congregational Church, the Ontario Orphan Asylum, the Ontario County Historical Society, Travelers Club, Scientific Association, Red Cross, American Ramabai Association and many others.

Although **Antoinette** never married, she was courted by a longtime family friend, Bishop Phillips Brooks, an eminent Episcopal theologian who lived in Boston. One friend wrote well after Antoinette's death: "*He came many times and begged her to marry him, but she felt she must not leave her mother, so she gave him up.*" The two did remain life long friends.

Bishop
Phillips Brooks



Isaphine



Isaphine, the younger sister, was gracious but shy and less outgoing than Antoinette. She also appeared to have suffered from various illnesses throughout her life. She was very artistic, having received formal training at the Ontario Female Seminary, and produced a number of paintings of people, animals, and landscapes. She also was interested in flower gardens and for many years had a beautiful garden.

Isaphine suffered from neuralgia and gout and searched for many years for relief. In 1892, she found a spiritual healer who followed the "*New Thought*" movement. This movement focused on positive thinking, personal power, and that all sickness originates in the mind. Followers also believe there is a "supreme being" and divinity resides within each person. Within six weeks of working with the healer, Isaphine was "*rid of a load of pain and fear that had been accumulating for twenty years.*" She later went on to publish a booklet, [A Law of Liberty](#), in which she described the theory of mental healing.

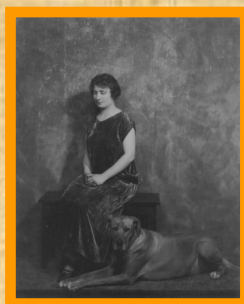
After the death of their mother in late 1905, **Antoinette** and **Isaphine** decided to close the Granger Place School and return to living in the Homestead. They probably had fond memories of living there as children. By 1907, the house had been completely remodeled returning it to its pre-1868 appearance. While they retained the Granger family furnishings, they added their own touches with the many beautiful items purchased abroad.



THE GRANGER HOMESTEAD—Built by Gideon Granger, in 1815. Known as the Granger Place School from 1874 to 1905, and now occupied again by the family.



Granger Homestead
Interiors, c. 1910



A Visit from Helen Keller

In their later years **Antoinette** and **Isaphine** became more active in community service in Canandaigua and entertaining. They continued their work to aid the poor, children, women in India and other charities. They offered up their home to groups for meetings and entertainment. They also had many overnight guests such as Helen Keller, scholars and lecturers, as well as longtime family friends.

Isaphine passed away in 1916 at age 56; her older sister, **Antoinette** lived to age 77 dying in 1930.



Antoinette and Isaphine
enjoying the company of
their Granger cousins,
1909.



Women Servants at the Granger Homestead

(1816-1930)

Those Working Behind the Scenes



Like many upper-middle and upper class households in Canandaigua, the Grangers had several domestic **servants** to help with housekeeping duties.

Little documentation, other than the census records, exists about the **servants** employed at the Granger Homestead. While most probably lived here, some were day servants who lived nearby. Many were young Irish immigrant women in their late teens and early twenties seeking employment before marriage. Domestic service was not the most desirable employment, but few other options were available to these women. Although a servant worked closely with the mistress of the household,

the nature of the work constantly reminded her of her subservient role and social distance from her employers.

A **servant's** workday was long - usually about ten hours. A woman had to be in good health to keep up with the rigors of domestic service. Her work included daily household chores such as preparing meals, cleaning, maintaining the kitchen fireplace and later the cookstove, heating water, washing dishes, and sewing. Weekly chores included baking, laundry and ironing. Monthly or seasonal work such as preserving foods added to an already full schedule. Servants often performed the less desirable, monotonous chores thus allowing mistresses and other family members more leisure time.



The principal **servant** lived in the servant's chamber in the Homestead's basement kitchen area. Other servants would have lived on the third floor. Although the head servant's basement bedroom were nicely finished with adequate space in the kitchen itself to serve as a sitting room, her quarters were far simpler than of those she served.

Who were the Granger Homestead servants? From 1816 until her death in 1860, Mindwell Granger had at least two live-in domestic servants. Her principal servant for many years was **Laney Sewell**. Laney probably was born in Albany in 1792 and moved to the Genesee Country as a child with her family. As a young adult she went to work for Mindwell's brother-in-law John Albert Granger as nurse for his young daughters whose mother had died. When John Albert remarried in 1829, Laney went to serve Mindwell. She remained with the family until her death in 1874. Her obituary read: "*SEWELL—April 30th, 1874, Laney Sewell, aged 82 years. Cherished to the end of her long life by those to whom she had given the faithful services of her best years.*"



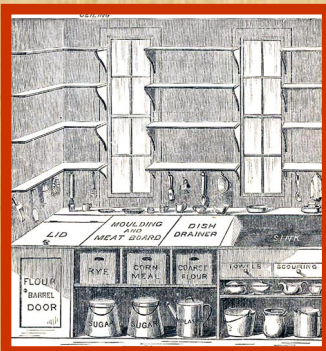
Mason's Canning Jar
c. 1858

Most of the other female servants to the Grangers in the 1800s were young Irish women who served less than five years, usually until they married. Little more is known of them other than some of their names: **Bridget Tarty, Mary Poland, Sarah Phillips, Jane McHale, Margaret Paine, Catherine Judge, Anne Ewart.**



Earthenware Jug
late 1800s

After Mindwell died in 1860, **Mrs. Isaphine Granger** became mistress of the household. She modernized the kitchen by installing a cookstove in front of the hearth. She also had a modern pantry added. The photo below right shows the Granger kitchen c. 1900 during the Granger Place School era. Most **servants** would have welcomed the addition of the cookstove. Although the stove was still hot to work over and had to be cleaned often, the **cook** did not have to lift heavy pots onto a hook over a fire or risk catching her skirts on fire in the open hearth.



Modern Pantry
c. 1860



Basement Kitchen
c. 1900

In the basement of the North Wing (added on in 1860) at the eastern-most end was the laundry room. Doing laundry was very labor intensive and required several **servants** to complete. Shown here is a photo of the laundry room in about 1900 on “Ironing Day”. Note the servant that is ironing with a sadiron while other irons are reheating on the stove behind her. The other servants are working mangles used to press larger linens or everyday items without heat. Also, note the washtub with ringer on the far left and the clotheslines hanging overhead.



Laundry and Ironing Equipment



When Antoinette and Isaphine Granger returned to live in the Granger Homestead in 1906, they would have had domestic servants to assist them in running their home. In the 1910 census two servants were listed in the Granger household – **Ellen Melvin** and

Katherine Brennan



Katherine Brennan. **Ellen** was born in 1860 in Ireland, most likely married there, and came to this country in 1887. Listed as widowed in the census, working as a servant in a private residence may have been one of the few options available to her to make a living.

Katherine was much younger, listed as 32 and single in the 1910 census. Although born in New York, her parents were from Ireland. Kate remained at the Homestead for over 30 years. She worked for the sisters until their deaths in 1916 and 1930, and then continued as a housekeeper during the era of the Congregational ministers' retirement home at the Granger Homestead.

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The Granger Homestead Society, Inc.
295 North Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 394-1472

www.grangerhomestead.org

