

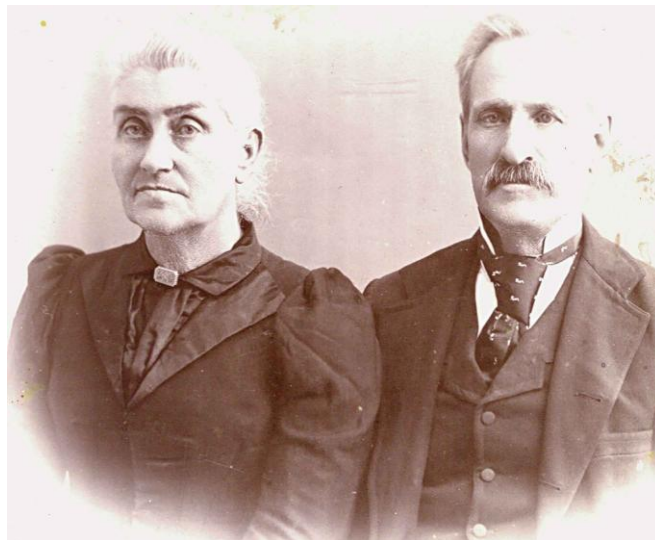
THE SPALDING STORY...

We are all so excited about having been able to move Spalding Store into Coloma from Coloma Corners. Many have been working together to put it into shape to serve as a small museum to house and display items representing the Coloma area.

Now we are seeking to learn more about the Spalding family that ran this store. Who were the Spaldings and why did they choose to move to Coloma Corners? Who exactly ran the store? What was sold in the store? How many years was it in operation? When and why did it close? If anyone can add to our information or can correct errors in what we think we now know, please do come forward.

Using genealogical research of Susan Hansen which has been placed on the internet (<http://susanhansen.name/secondsite/p4.htm#i107>), we have learned that James Farley Spalding was born on September 5, 1824, in Wilton, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, son of Sampson Spalding and Ruth Ball. He married Augusta Beckworth on July 5, 1848, probably in Wilton, also in Hillsborough County.

We also came across a reference that suggested James F. Spalding and Augusta were married at a Congregational Church in Richford. Could this be referring to Richford, VT, the area in which many early settlers in Richford Wisconsin had first lived? Was there an active Congregational Church in our Richford's early history? It seems highly unlikely, though, that James and Augusta were married in Wisconsin since their first two (or maybe three) children are said to have been born in New Hampshire. It seems we must dismiss the idea that the couple was married in Richford WI unless we find more decisive information.



James F & Augusta Spalding

James Farley and Augusta had five children; Ida Matilda was born in New Hampshire in 1850. She married Welcome Burdick Richmond in Coloma. Daughter Cora was also born in NH in 1855 and married John W. Smith in Coloma in 1880. The third Spalding child, Leslie, was born in 1863 (where?) and passed away at age seven. The fourth, Isabel Alvira was born in 1865 in Coloma and married Americus Brown in 1885 in Coloma. Isabel and Americus had three children and the genealogical report cited above states all of them born around 1885. They were Jay 1887, Byron 1889 and Sylvia 1894. The fifth child of James Farley and Augusta Nelson was James Nelson Spalding, born in 1867 in Coloma. He married Susie Ross, sister-in-law of Vilas Follett. They had one child Gertrude Spalding. Gertrude was the mother of Norma Wiesjohn who still resides in Coloma.

We know that J.F. Spalding took over being Coloma postmaster from the first postmaster Huntress Ross. We found an article written by E.D Richmond of Probert CA that stating J.F. Spalding bought the store from Huntress Ross in the fall of 1865. Lulu Belle Swick remembers always being told that he built the store... One assumes that the post office in the years of his tenure was in the Spalding Store. When the Post Office closed and a rural route was established to service the area, he received a pension of 20 dollars a month. He was postmaster for over 40 years. J. F Spalding lived to be 92 years old.



Isabelle & Americus Brown

As best as we can learn, Isabel and Americus Brown continued to maintain the Spalding Store at Coloma Corners after her father (J.F. Spalding). We presume that Isabel ran the store until her death in 1926.

After Isabel's' death, her daughter Sylvia and Guy Hurlbut ran the store for awhile, but were forced to close the store and move to Adams in 1929 (?) when Guy needed to obtain other employment.



Sylvia & Guy Hurlbut

Isabel Spalding Brown's father James Farley Spalding lived until 92 years of age. His wife, Augusta, also lived into her 90s and was cared for during her last years by her husband. James Farley Spalding is said to have been buried at the Coloma Corners Cemetery in 1922.

This is a humble attempt to gather the history of the Spalding Store by Barb Schweger, Sue Semrow and Norma Wiesjahn and several others. If you have other information, please don't hesitate to share it! We are trying to learn all that we can!

Please find a short family tree to help simplify the Spalding family genealogy included.

James Farley Spalding married Augusta Amanda Beckworth July 5, 1848

Five children were born:

1. **Mrs Ida Richmond** born in Milford New Hampshire on Dec 4, 1850 and Died August 21, 1926 as a child she moved to Wisconsin. Three children were born to her:
 1. Edith Webb
 2. Chas. D. Richmond
 3. ?
2. **Mrs Cora (John) Smith** born 1855 in New Hampshire
 1. Martha Pierce
 1. Elaine
3. **Isabel A(Americus) Brown** 1865-1926 Born in Wisconsin
 1. Jay Brown 1887-1962
 1. Virginia
 2. Leslie
 2. Byron Brown 1889-1959
 1. Lloyd
 2. Dorothy
 3. Sylvia Hurlbut 1894-1974
 1. Lulu Belle Swick (living in Westfield)
 2. Laurence
4. **James Nelson Spalding** (spouse: Susie Ross—her sister was married to Vilas Follett) born in Wisconsin 1867-1939
 1. Gertrude Blackmore Oct 1, 1885 to Nov 7, 1971
 1. Glenn
 2. Arden
 3. Norma Wiesjahn—living in Coloma)
 4. Veva Sawicki
 5. Keith—living in Tyler Texas
5. **Leslie**—died at age 7

Article compiled and written by: Barb Schweger, Norma Wiesjahn and Sue Semrow