

Stagecoach Days

Stagecoaches were one of the earliest forms of public transportation. This led to the formation of local stage companies, such as the South Station Union Line of Stages. This company was sometimes referred to as the South Union Line or The South Section Union Line, which was a stock company organized about 1826. Shares sold for \$50 each with some investors trading services for shares.

The Alexander investors in this company were: Emory Blodgett 3 shares, Henry Hawkins 2 shares, David Walden 1 share, Bela Joslyn 1 share, Elisha Ashley 1 share, Amagial Wood ½ share to be paid in blacksmith work, Edmund Tracy 1 share to be paid in oats and hay, W. Blossom 1 share to be paid in oats and hay, R.D.W. Gladding 1 share and O.T. Fargo 1 share.

This line was to run from Buffalo through Clarence, Alden, south Pembroke and Alexander to Batavia. It also connected to the Union Line of Stages that had many routes throughout the state. The advertisement noted that “this route is through a delightful, fertile and pleasant section of country and a beautiful road”.

Records of sales from the general store are still in existence today and show sales of tickets for the stage at the time. In 1832, Mrs. Hawkins, the mother of Henry Hawkins a shareholder, purchased a ticket for the stage at the general store. Her destination was Clarkson at a cost of \$1.50, a distance of about 35 miles.

J. D. Bartlett commenced running a mail coach and stage in 1841. It ran from Alexander to Geneseo every Monday, Wednesday and Friday passing through Attica, Vernal, Linden, Middlebury, Pearl Creek, Covington, Peora, Piffard to Geneseo. He advertised good horses and carriages and none but careful drivers employed,