

PINCKNEY TOWNSHIP

Embracing township No. 9, or *Handel*, Pinckney was annexed from Harrisburg on February 12, 1808. This name is thought to have been arbitrarily chosen by the New York Legislature to honor General Thomas Pinckney of South Carolina and has no connection whatsoever with Lewis County. The whole township is of high elevation and in the last century, before air pollution, allowed one to see Lake Ontario in the west and the hills surrounding the Black River in the east. Due to the high elevation, the growing season is two weeks shorter than the rest of the county and has severe winters. In 1816, a time known as “the cold season” was reported to have brought ankle deep snow on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of June.

Barnes Corners, located on a branch of Sandy Creek, was the only hamlet in Pinckney township of any consequence and at one time contained 400 residents, two churches, a hotel, four dry good stores, sawmills and a cheese factory. Today, Barnes Corners is much reduced in size, with one or two stores catering to outdoor adventures. New Boston, near Deer River, was an even smaller community, consisting of a church and one or two houses.

