

Belle Lawson

1874-1973

Teacher, Librarian, Gardner, and Collector

Louisa LaBelle "Belle" Lawson was a prominent member of the Ripon community. She occupied the historic Pedrick-Lawson House at 515 Ransom St. for over five decades before leaving the property to the Society to serve as a house museum.

Born in 1874, Belle moved to Ripon from Rosendale with her mother, Melissa in 1917 to be near friends, after the death of her father.

She worked as schoolteacher for 6 years at the Town Line School near Rosendale and spent 10 years as a librarian at the Ripon Library.

On her 94th birthday in 1968, the Ripon Historical Society honored her with a celebration, gifting her a new television that allowed her to watch the historic 1968 presidential election.

She enjoyed being outside, enjoying nature and gardening. Her favorite flower was the Christmas Rose. She spent decades collecting buttons from people that she knew and kept extensive notes on various types of buttons, who owned them, and the garments they came from. She also kept scrapbooks about her life, and the lives of her neighbors, and friends.



Belle Lawson with her students at Town Line School 1895
Belle is back row, third from the right.