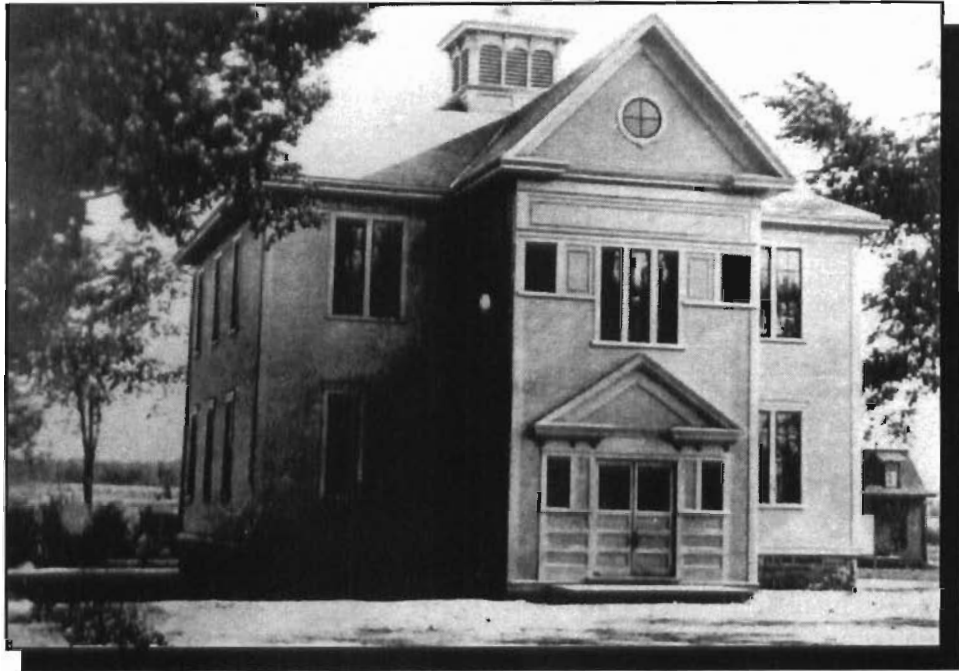


A Collection  
of  
ARTICLES



A HISTORY of PERU, New York - Vol I  
By J. Warren Harkness and others

A COLLECTION OF  
ARTICLES  
THE HISTORY OF  
PERU, NEW YORK VOL I

J. WARREN HARKNESS and others

SECOND EDITION (2003)  
(500 copies)

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J. Warren Harkness (taken 1902)



Ann and Lincoln Sunderland

## Introductory Notes

This is Volume I of a two-volume set containing writings by J. (Joseph) Warren Harkness. His daughter Georgia Harkness contributed by adding insights. J. Warren Harkness was born and lived throughout his life at the Harkness Homestead, situated on the south side of the Hallock Hill Road, in the Township of Ausable, New York. Not more than a mile to the west of his homes is the hamlet of Harkness, named after one of his ancestors. It was more than a half-century ago that J. Warren Harkness had left us, but his writings provide a remarkable window into the past life of folds residing in southern Clinton County and northern Essex County a century ago.

Mr. Harkness not only told of events of the past, but noted hundreds of specific names and detailed descriptions of buildings, places, etc., thus providing original sources for future researchers to grasp. A practice common a century ago, but nearly nonexistent now is that of moving buildings from one location to another. Several structures specifically identified still exist, and one wonders how they could possibly be transported.

Throughout this book there are typing errors and omissions. On occasion errors have purposely been disregarded, as the editor attempted to maintain original wording, spelling and phraseology. A fact of which most historians are aware is that the language usage continuously changes, and what was once common may now seem rather quaint, or peculiar. I ask you to "enjoy" these differences and imagine yourself living in by-gone times. Certain names of people or places vary in their spelling. Please accept all the above with good humor. Should anyone note errors in data please contact the editor, providing corrections and proof where possible.

Specific thanks are due for those who aided in preparing this book for its second printing. In 1975, 350 copies were sold. The present or second printing contains 500 copies. My wife of over 38 years, Ann (Talbot) Sunderland, scanned the book into our computer, retyped many of the pages, did proof reading and editing, traveled to McMasterville, Quebec, where we worked with the printer and, generally, gave aid and support. Also, Peru Town Historian, Ronald Allen, and his wife, Carol, assisted. Mary Clackler provided computer support. All expenses involved in the second printing were assumed by Ann and me.

### THE COVER

Once located on the site between Pleasant Street and Elm Street in the hamlet of Peru, the "Old" Peru High School was bounded on the east by Lewis Street. Various folks have told me they attended this school; some as early as 5<sup>th</sup> grade. When the "New" Central School opened, a couple years before the United States engaged in World War II, the wooden building was closed. Many senior citizens of Peru recall having classes within this school now lost except to memory.



In keeping with the spirit of the Bicentennial Celebration of the founding of our country, the citizens of Peru are becoming very interested in our beginnings and development. We are making available this 2nd edition of the writings of J. Warren Harkness so that anyone interested may read about our forefathers.

Grace Arnold, Eleanor Spaulding and Cora Stafford are responsible for printing the first edition some years ago. I thank these people for their diligent efforts in this regard. They have given me permission to, and supported my efforts in getting the second edition printed.

The Peru Bicentennial Committee consists of Joseph Alexander (Chairman), Paul Allen, Marjorie Angevine, Rudy Blixt, William Finney, Harold Lieherthal, Albert Mason, Jane Metcalf, Lincoln Sunderland, and Lynn Wilke. The town of Peru paid for the materials used to print the book, and any monetary profits will be used for other projects relating to the bicentennial celebration.

Typing students at the Peru High School have generously given of their time and skills by typing the mimeo stencils and printing the pages. These people are:

Debbie Babbie  
Gina Casaleno  
William Caster  
Elizabeth Dashnaw  
Debbie Davison  
Martha Hicks  
Lynne Liberty  
Karin Luro  
Tish Pritchett

Lucinda Rock  
Lorraine Rosado  
Shirley Rosado  
Debbie Smith  
Alan Solathy  
Catherine Swager  
Cindy Taylor  
Pamela White  
Carla Vandoh

As coordinator of this project I thank everyone concerned with this printing.

*Lincoln Sunderland*

Lincoln Sunderland

June 1, 1966

To All Readers,

It was quite by accident that this historical project came about, in 1963.

It had been thought that most of Mr. J. Warren Harkness' writings were lost. It was lamented by many of us who are interested in local history.

The first copies that were found came from the attic of the home of Miss Bertha Anson, who lived on the corner of the State Road and the Arthur Road for about eighty-five years. Later more stories were found in a scrapbook in the Clinton County Historical Society rooms in Plattsburgh. At this time we had some twenty-four stories.

As Mr. Harkness had told in his writings of the location of old roads where our forefathers and their neighbors lived, it was decided to bring them up to date. This year 1966, as more stories had been found, it was decided to extend the project.

Our sources of stories have been varied. Miss Georgia Harkness sent us some, others came from scrapbooks. We had the map of Clinton County dated 1856 and the Atlas dated 1869. The assessment rolls copied by Mr. Harkness in 1923 and the description of the roads were very helpful sources of information. That book into which he copied these records in the Clinton County Clerk's Office, is now in the possession of the Clinton County Historical Society.

Much credit is due to the late Mildred Gordon Keese for her help with personal knowledge, maps and stories. Many other people aided with a story here and there.

Mr. Harkness did not claim that his writings were absolutely correct, neither do we. As it will be noted, in many cases we are only 150 to 175 years too late.

Add to these stories your own personal knowledge, and correct any statements with which you do not agree. But on the whole, it is hoped that you will enjoy reading the results of our efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eleanor A. Spaulding*  
*Grace E. Arnold*

*Cara M. Stafford*

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J. WARREN HARKNESS

It seems fitting and proper that a short biography of Mr. Harkness be included in these volumes.

To him we are indebted for much of the history of the Old Town of Peru, the Quaker Union and the families who lived within its boundaries.

Mr. Harkness was born in the Town of AuSable on September 25, 1848 at the Harkness Homestead and lived there until his death on April 1, 1937. Blessed with remarkable vitality, he had not been ill during his entire adult life until a few weeks before his death.

He married Lillie Merrill August 28, 1878; she died in 1929. They had two sons and a daughter; Charles lived on the homestead all his life, Everett lived in Palmerton, Pa. and Dr. Georgia who is a famous teacher of theology, author of many books on religious subjects, also an ordained minister. An older daughter, Hattie, died at 17 years of age.

Mr. Harkness was active in a large number of enterprises. He was a faithful member of the Harkness Methodist Church and taught the Adult Bible Class for more than sixty consecutive years. He was interested in every type of educational pursuit. He attended Keeseville Academy in the 1860's, studying by tallow candles, and continued studying under changing conditions all his life. He graduated from Oswego Normal School in 1869 and taught in a good many rural schools. But the death of his father, Nehemiah Harkness in 1870, made him feel the obligation to stay on the home farm and to this he gave his life. Throughout his life he read widely and remembered what he read. He probably knew more of local history than any other citizen of Clinton or Essex County, and fortunately much of this wisdom has been preserved in the newspaper clippings of the fifty or more articles which he had published in the local newspapers.

He was for many years a land surveyor, and knew the old roads and line fences as no one else did. Many people went to him for information on these things.

Mr. Harkness was the chief instigator in the founding of Peru Grange, of which he was the first master. He later promoted the founding of the Clinton County Pomona Grange in November 1902, and the Clinton and Essex County Patron's Fire Relief Association. For a time he was secretary of the latter. He was also active in the establishing of the Champlain Valley Telephone Company and a director for many years. We are also indebted to him for our first Rural Free Delivery of mail. The Post Office was in Harkness and served the Town of AuSable. (James Felio was the first mail carrier, driving a horse and buggy.)

He also had a part in the establishment of the State Normal School and the City Library in Plattsburgh. In 1892 he secured for his community.



J. Warren Harkness

a travelling Library from Albany, the second person in the State to apply for one.

In the proceedings of the tenth annual meeting of the Clinton County Teachers Association, held in Keeseville, Dec. 29-31, 1875, there is a notation which reads: J. W. Harkness read a paper upon, "The State of Education in Clinton Co." The records indicate that this led to a movement to secure "a Normal and Training School in or near the County of Clinton," though the effort was not finally successful until 14 years later.

These are but a few of the public services in which he had a part. In 1890 he was president of the Clinton County Farmers' League, resign, this office with dignity to avoid implicating the organization in partisonship when he was nominated for Member of Assembly. He was not elected to the Legislature, but more important than this, his action led the politicians and candidates of both parties in the County to sign an agreement that there should be no bribery at the polls.

1966

Mr Harkness' paper advocated more training for teachers and the suggestion was met with a great deal of opposition by the teachers of that time. They thought "they had enough education."

### THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSES AND BURYING GROUND

The history of the Peru Friends, commonly called Quakers, began about the year 1788 when William Keese, a Quaker land surveyor, from Dutchess County, was employed by Ziphaniah Platt to survey the 12,000 acre location. While doing so he discovered that a tract of very level land lay just north in what is now called "The Great Location". One of Platt's surveyors, Capt. Edward Everett, had already settled with his family on one of those lots and Keese resolved to do likewise. So in the month of March, 1789, William Keese came on the ice from Whitehall to Peru Landing, as it was called later, with his axe, gun and some provisions and built a log house on the land which is known as the William Keese Farm, now the Davern Farm.

In 1791 his brother Richard also came and settled on lot no. 22, which joined Edward Everett's farm and lay on the west side of Rogers Road. About the same time their father, John Keese III, and their brothers John, Stephen and Oliver, came to live in the new township of Peru and settled on the farms known later as Joseph Lapham's (now Kermit Irwin's), William Severance's (now Avery Stafford's) and Solomon Clark II (now The Northern Orchard).

Other Quakers, mostly from Dutchess County, N.Y., Ferrisburgh, Vt. and Berkshire County, Mass. gathered around the nucleus formed by the Everett and Keese families and it was not long before there was a sufficient number to organize a "meeting" of respectable size.

The meeting for worship in the Society of Friends at this time were all of the "unprogrammed" type. Friends met at an appointed time and sat in reverent and expectant silence until someone was moved by the Spirit to bring a message. According to the free vocal ministry of Friends, anyone was privileged to speak except on occasion of Monthly Meetings, when recognition of an individual's special gift for the ministry made him a Recorded Minister. Recorded Ministers were unsalaried laymen, and while many of them traveled extensively in the ministry they continued their regular occupations as a means of support. When a minister wished to visit other meetings he laid this concern before his Monthly Meeting, and if the Meeting approved he was given a "minure of travel". This would be endorsed by the Meetings he visited and returned by him to his own Monthly Meeting. The travels of Quaker ministers were a means of strengthening the ties between widely scattered groups of Friends, and of bringing new members into the Society.

Among the Recorded Ministers of the Ferrisburgh Quarterly Meeting were Joseph Hoag (brother of David Hoag of Hallook Hill) and Huldah his wife and four of their children. The Hoag family came from Dutchess County, N.Y. in 1789 or 1790 and settled in Charlotte near Monkton, Vt. The Journal of Joseph Hoag records extensive travel among the settlements of Friends in the United States and Canada. In 1803 Joseph Hoag is said to have had a vision which was deemed worthy of publication in newspapers including New York City papers, and in pamphlets and Quaker writings. In this vision he saw the division of churches, the problems that developed in the political field, and in slavery; he prophesied the Civil War, the dividing spirit in the Society of Friends and civil rights movements. Whether these ideas were of Divine origin or just the workings of his own mind regarding the condition of affairs he had seen and learned about in his ministry of travel into the north-central and southern states, your guess is as good as mine.

However, his wife Hulda held the first Friends Meeting to be appointed on the west side of Lake Champlain at the "Peru Union". After arriving at the Lake about nine miles from her home, with an infant in her arms, she, with a man and woman in company, set out in a small boat. In a short time they were overtaken by a storm of wind and rain. They succeeded in landing on an island known as one of the Four Brothers Islands. The next morning they proceeded on their journey across the Lake having about ten miles to go by water and five by land. This last distance they covered on foot, arriving at the Union in Peru just in time to hold the meeting which had been previously appointed. Not long after this visit a Friends Meeting was set in that place, and subsequently a Monthly Meeting which was still continued

THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSES AND BURYING GROUND

in 1850 when the History of Early Quaker Meetings in Vermont was recorded, from which the above paragraph is copied. This is believed to be the first religious meeting held in the Town of Peru.

The first meeting house was built entirely of split logs, floor, sides, roof and benches. It is said not a single nail was used, the pieces being all fitted together by hand. The exact date of its erection is not known, however, it was standing in 1799 and may have been as early as 1795. Before that, meetings were held in various barns. This meeting house stood at the corner opposite the Beadleston Farm, now Ray Trombly's. It was used both as a meeting house on 1st and 5th days of the week and as a school as well. Benjamin Earl was the teacher for some time. He lived in the house on the corner of State Road and Bear Swamp Road which was demolished in 1964 a restaurant. This building was also once used as a tavern and was one of the oldest buildings in Peru.

The first meeting house burned and another one like it was built on the same spot, it was also used as a school which was taught by Benjamin Sherman who settled here from Rhode Island.

During the year 1802 a large frame building was erected not far from the center of the front part of the three-acre plot formerly purchased from Henry Green for this purpose and for a burying ground; the committee chosen by the Quakers to make the purchase was composed of William Keese, Peter Hallock and Benjamin Sherman. This was an Orthodox Quaker Church until a division came in the Society caused by the preachings of Elias Hicks of Long Island. About the year 1828 this feeling became so strong that the Orthodox Friends built a separate meeting house of greater dimensions than the former, directly south of the first one then occupied by the followers of Hicks. For several years the meetings were kept up with good attendance at each meeting house, on the 1st and 5th days of each week. The first Monthly Meeting was on the 4th of 7 mo. in 1799. For the Quarterly Meetings the Societies of Peru and Grand Isle met together. The records show that Peru had 171 Orthodox and 84 Hicksite members.

The two churches have long since been removed from in front of the burying ground. The first one built was sold in 1875 to Henry Arnold and removed to his farm (North Bend Farm north-west of Peru in the Clark Neighborhood). This farm is now owned by Forrence Orchards, and the church building used for many years as a horse-barn was destroyed by fire. The original lock and key of this meeting house is treasured by Rodney North of Peru as are some of the pews. The second meeting house built was sold about 1900 to James T. Felio and moved across the Rogers Road to the northwest of the corner, the site of the Delord House which had been destroyed by fire. That property was later sold to Lester Bombard who lived there for 37 years, and recently to Robert Rulfs.

The minutes of the Peru meetings are contained in several large volumes and were formerly kept by Elihu H. Hoag. In 1906 these books were sent by his daughter, Mrs. Horatio E. Baker, to John Cox Jr., 226 East 16th St., New York City where they were carefully preserved in a vault. Any member of the Society of Friends could examine these records by applying to Mr. Cox at 156 Fifth Ave., New York. Others were charged one dollar for a search by the custodian. These minutes, I assume, are of the Orthodox Church and those sent later on by others are of the Hicksite Church.

The Monthly Meetings were assessed according to membership by the Yearly Meetings for funds to promote the work of the Society. The following is a copy of a receipt for such payments:

\$29.00

Charlotte, Vt., 5th da 7 mo 1867

Rec'd of Platt Arthur twenty-nine dollars, it being Peru Monthly Meeting's portion of money called for by New York Yearly Meeting in 1866.

J. M. Dean

Attending Yearly Meeting was a real event in the life of the Friends and no inconvenience or hardship was great enough to deter one when once they had been chosen to represent their Monthly Meeting, even though it meant traveling many miles by horse and buggy to where the Yearly Meeting was to be held, sometimes as near as near as Glens Falls, but usually in the vicinity of New York City. However, there always seemed to be plenty of time in those days and many good visits were enjoyed on the way. To say the least, the Friends were friendly people in every sense of the word. It was not uncommon to spend three or four weeks on such a journey. Records and old communications tell of many who were preachers in the Peru Society spending much time in these and other meetings, including Elizabeth Keese Irish, Cynthia and Samuel Knowles, Mrs. Isaac Hallock, Samuel Keese, David Harkness, Elihu Hoag and wife Ruth, and others. The story has often been related to us of the trip our great-great-grandmother Elizabeth Earle Hoag made on horseback from Hallock Hill to Poughkeepsie, carrying a small child in her arms. The side-saddle which she rode on was until a few years ago in the attic at the home of her grand-daughter Ruth Anna Hoag Baker. It was said to be made by hand of course, of very fine leather, and quite elaborate for a Quaker lady.

This vicinity where the meeting houses stood was and still is known as "The Union," where a thriving village sprang up with forty or fifty houses, an academy, post office, two taverns, two blacksmith shops and at least two stores, very few of which remain to mark the spot.

The Academy was a large frame building where the boys were taught the three R's on the first floor and the girls on the second floor. It was sold to John Osborn and moved to Hallock Hill and occupied by his family for many years. It is now the home of Mr. Harold Perlee. Some of the teachers at the Academy were C. Stoddard, Elihu Marshall, Samuel Rogers, and Phoebe Keese.

There was one wedding at least in the first log meeting house, that of Cyrus Benedict and Hannah Barker in 1799. The first wedding in the framed meeting house was completed when Benjamin Smith married Elizabeth Keese, daughter of Stephen Keese, in 1803 soon after the building was completed. The last wedding was that of Cynthia Hoag Knowles and William Keese in 1861 when she was 64 years of age and he 75. This wedding certificate I have preserved.

At a Quaker wedding the ceremony was performed by the bride and groom before the assembled Friends without the assistance of a minister. The certificate was signed by everyone present and by the clerk of the Meeting.

The Friends were quite different from others in plainness of dress and manner of speaking. The Church was divided by rather a high partition, and the men sat on one side and the women on the other. They took no chances of distraction glances. The building was heated by a wood stove or in the early days a potash kettle turned upside down. Therefore it was not unusual in winter weather to see the worshipers bringing heated bricks or stones wrapped in heavy woolen cloth to keep their feet warm during the service. Some might have iron boxes filled with live coals for this purpose.

The burying ground was at the rear of the lot and was enclosed by a board fence which fell into great disrepair and finally was replaced by a new iron one. According to a list compiled by Miss Pauline Keese with the help of Mrs. Merritt Keese and recently typed by Eleanor A. Spaulding, there are over 200 marked graves and many, many more that are unmarked. In the early days the Quakers did not believe in erecting monuments, so most of the markers are of field stone with a name or initial cut into them. For many years a few men who were descendants of these Friends came every year or two to cut the brush, and tried to keep the place looking respectable. I recall some of these men were R. P. Keese, Wm. Everett, Seward Arnold, J. W. Harkness, H. E. Baker, H. J. Macomber, George and Bion Arnold, G. W. Annis, O. K. Smith, Nelson Lapham, Samuel Smith, Job Sherman, the Arthurs, Peter Rickatson and others. After some years, when these men were no longer equal to the task, the burying ground was sadly neglected and became almost a disgrace to the memory of the faithful, staunch, thrift religious people called Quakers who lie buried there.

### THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSES AND BURYING GROUND

This became a disturbing factor in the minds of Eleanor A. Spaulding, Clarence Arthur, the Keese family and others, so on Oct. 21, 1950 Mrs. Spaulding invited those interested in the preservation of the Quaker burying ground to meet at her home and discuss the subject. At that meeting an organization was formed, a name chosen, The Quaker Union Society, its purpose being to restore the burying ground and improve the site of the first Church in this area, also to bring to the meetings any available facts regarding the early settlers of the community, most of whom were members of the Quaker Church and whose bodies lie buried here. Those present at this first meeting besides Mrs. Spaulding were Mr. & Mrs. Merritt Keese, Mr. R. Percy Keese, Mrs. Wm. Ladue and her son Mr. Wm. Ladue, Mrs. Ada Thew, Mr. Clarence Arthur, Mrs. Walter Stafford. Others interested were expected to join later. It was noted that Mr. R. P. Keese and Mrs. Ada Thew were still members of the Society of Friends, and they were elected president and vice-president respectively of the new organization, and Mrs. Walter Stafford secretary and treasurer. The Society appealed through the Press to anyone having any information about these early settlers and Quakers to contact the secretary.

The following year four meetings were held: at the Keese Homestead, at the Elkanah Arthur Farm (Clarence Arthurs), at the Cemetery for a work meeting, picnic and business meeting, and the fourth at Walter Stafford's.

On Aug. 5, 1952 the Society met with Mrs. John Laurenatis (nee Diantha Lapham) at the old Lapham Homestead, a perfect setting for a Quaker Meeting. At 10:30 AM the day's meeting began with a "quiet time", then Miss Lila Willets, a granddaughter of Stephen Keese, was moved to speak, reading from Galatians. This typical Quaker Meeting was a new experience for most of those present. After a bountiful picnic lunch, partaken of by 43 people who for the most part were direct descendants of the original group of Friends, a business meeting was held and plans made for a work meeting on the following Saturday. On request Miss Willets spoke, touching on highlights of the Yearly Meeting at Silver Bay which she had recently attended, and of the extension work of the Friends at home and abroad.

The next April a meeting was held at Everest Allen's home in Paru.

In 1958 the Quaker Cemetery was completely restored. Much credit is due Eleanor A. Spaulding the president of the Society for her untiring effort and leadership in accomplishing so much. All brush was cut as well as the large old Lombardy poplars, and the stumps sprayed to prevent new growth. Some of these trees were dead, as a disease had hit most of the Lombardy Poplars in the whole area. The dead trees in the front area where the churches stood were cut, the stumps removed and the ground graded and seeded. This is kept clear, the grass cut each year and the old Burying Ground may be seen from all approaches. This land dates back over 160 years, and is now a place where the descendants of those early settlers may feel proud to say, "My great-grandparents rest there."

During the 350th Champlain Anniversary in the summer of 1959, plans were made to take part in this celebration of historical events. A State marker was secured through the efforts of Mrs. Spaulding and Mr. Roy Kennedy, Exec. Dir. of the Interstate Comm. and of the Celebration, and erected to mark the site of the Meeting House and Burying Ground. Programs were printed which read as follows:

7

THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSES AND BURYING GROUND

Dedication of Historic Marker  
at  
The Quaker Union Cemetery  
Peru, New York  
August 3, 1959

copy of marker:

Quaker Union  
1789 - Site of Friends  
Meeting House and Cemetery  
First School and Post Office  
In Town of Peru  
On Old Rogers Road  
1609 --- 1959

350th Champlain Anniversary

Some 200 people attended the dedication of the historic marker. Dr Georgia Harkness of Berkeley, Cal., a descendant of a Quaker family, who was born at the Harkness Homestead on Mallock Hill, took as her topic "Our People". Clarence Arthur of Schenectady, N. Y., also a descendant of Quakers gave the "History of The Quaker Union Society. Miss Lila Keese Willets spoke on "Present Day Friends". The Dedication of the Marker was made by the Rev. Walter Whitney, District Superintendent of the Glens Falls District of Troy Conference.

The day's program started at one o'clock with a tour of historic sites, during which 56 points of interest were visited, the tour ending at the Cemetery for the Dedication. Following the Dedication a great number of those attending visited the Keese Homestead where many historical articles of early Union settlers were on display. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Keese and others in authentic Quaker dress formerly worn by their ancestors, which created an atmosphere in keeping with the occasion.

From 1960 to 1966 meetings have not been held quarterly as first planned, but as frequently as deemed necessary. On March 5, 1966 a very interesting and well-attended meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Walter Stafford and Mrs. Maude O'Connor with Mrs. Eleanor Spaulding, president, presiding. She gave a report of the work that the Society had accomplished and presented each person with a list of the marked graves in the Cemetery, with dates. There was a short program with a few brief speeches on local history, pictures etc. followed by the election of officers, as follows: president, Rolland Maders; vice-president, Eleanor Spaulding; sec. & treas., Cora Stafford.

Plans were made to re-set the fallen headstones at the Cemetery, and two days have been spent at this task, with more planned.

Shortly after this meeting Mr. Maders visited the Friends Records Headquarters in New York City, doing some research, and finding that the records are kept in extreme security in a recently constructed underground vault, and cannot be removed. He found the custodian and assistant very cooperative in helping him search the records.

About 1803 or 1804 the first public Arbor Day in the Peru Township was observed at the Union, when Samuel Peasley brought on his back some poplar trees which some of the other Friends assembled there helped plant on the Meeting House Lot. The little trees became the giant Lombardy Poplars which were landmarks for so many years. We miss the stately old trees with their branches growing upward like arms uplifted to God. The trees are gone and so are the Quakers who planted them, but each has left us a priceless heritage which need never pass away.

June 1, 1966

Miss Grace E. Arnold

Supplement to "THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSES AND BURYING GROUND"

Zephanish Platt received the Patent Rights in 1784 to 30,000 acres.. That constituted the Great Location of 17,983 acres surveyed by Thorpe and the 12,000 acres, the Little Location, "be the same more or less."

At that time many later settlers made "exploring expeditions." Settlers began to come in as early as 1787 and 1788. As a settler was required to remain two years on a tract before a deed was issued, these deeds are dated 1790.

Not all of the early settlers were "birthright" Quakers as were the Keese family.

"Richard Keese I, was born in Nine Partners, married Anna Hallock in 1784, and came to Peru in 1785 or 86. His father came with him, John III. His wife, Elizabeth, we think, is buried in Nine Partners. Richard Keese and his wife Anna Hallock are both buried in the Friends Burying Ground."

(Note taken from the Keese Genealogy)

When Richard Keese returned a few years later, 1790 or 1791, he found "only one small clearing in the territory." (Clinton and Franklin History) his deed is dated Jan. 24, 1792-- "This Indenture made this twenty-fourth day of January, in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two between Richard Keese of Lake Champlain, farmer and John Taylor of Albany....." (Present Merritt Keese farm.)

"Zephanish Platt's location of 12,000 acres, bounded on the north and south of the first location. On the South line running through Keeseville Westward. It was surveyed by William and John Keese IV. of Dutchess Co. in 1788, who also made later subdivisions of the Tract." (Clinton and Franklin History) Mr. Harkness writes this story-- "For their services they received \$500, having worked 100 days and that they could select any site they choose." The farm is now the Frank and Anna Davern farm on Davern Road. The deed is as follows: From Zephaniah Platt to William Keese, Yeoman, Feb. 8, 1792, 318 pounds, 17 shillings, 637 acres, Lot 14, northwest corner of Lot 13, southwest corner of Lot No. 15. Recorded in the County Clerk's Office Vol. A, page 258. Another little story, after coming in the winter, "March 1789, built a log cabin and returned to Dutchess County, married a wife, Pamela Allen in March 1790 and returned a little later to the Town." (Clinton and Franklin History--see map dated 1869)

Following the ownership of the old meeting house by James T. Felio, was Herbert Arnold. He inturn sold the place to Joseph and Anna Jarvis Barber. They sold the place in 1929 to Mrs. Barber's sister, Marguerite Jarvis and her husband, Kester Bombard who lived there 37 years. It has only recently been sold to Robert H. Rulf.

## THE MARRIAGE

OF

Cyrus Benedict and Hannah Barker

Nicholas Barker and Clorinde Folger were married and settled in Peru in 1785 where their eldest daughter, Hannah, in 1799 with the approval of the Society of Friends, to which the contracting parties belonged, married Cyrus, son of Aaron Benedict and Elizabeth Knowles Benedict who had come to Peru in 1795.

The marriage was in good degree, orderly accomplished in the log meeting house after the establishment of the Peru Monthly Meeting. This first meeting house was built entirely of split logs, benches and all-- not a nail or board used in the structure.

Such was the first religious edifice in the County.

Taken from "Three Centuries in Champlain Valley."  
By Mrs. Tuttle

This story may also be found in the book containing the "Keese" genealogy as compiled by Miss Pauline S. Keese in 1900.



## THE UNION FIFTY YEARS AGO

By Courtesy of Miss Conro

The following article was written in 1862 while its author, Judge Watson, resided at Fort Covington, N. Y., and was read by his nephew, Henry W. Brown, at one of the meetings of the Union Mutual Improvement Society. Mr. Brown afterward loaned the original manuscript to Thomas Watson, Jr. of Chicago, and in the great fire of 1871, it was destroyed. Fortunately a copy of it had been made by Mrs. N. G. Axtell a daughter of the author, and it is still in existence.

Thomas B. Watson was born in or near Bolton, Mass, in 1811 and came to live in the Union in 1815, when less than four years old. His mother, Mrs. Peace Watson, married James Rogers and the family resided in the old mansion which was erected by Henry De Lord in 1798 and which still stands on the corner opposite the meeting house lot. (This has since burned down, and the second Quaker Church moved onto the site.) He chose the law as his profession, was elected County Judge and Surrogate of Clinton County in 1851 and died in Peru, Dec. 9th, 1882.

All that part of old Peru comprising about a mile square of which the old Quaker Meeting House is the center, has ever since been known, since its first settlement as "the Union." The name was given to this locality on account of the harmony and friendship which existed among its settlers, who many years previous to the commencement of the present century entered the then unbroken wilderness, lying west of the central part of Lake Champlain.

At one time, the Union was quite a hamlet. From the old two story school house, then standing opposite the present residence of John Green, down to the corner of the road leading past Ricketson's where Dr. Ralph P. Allen used to live, the street was thickly settled.

In addition to mansions, dwelling houses since burned down or removed there was a large tavern, a store and quite a number of mechanic shops.

Here also was the Post Office, and the street (Rogers Road) leading north and south was the principal thoroughfare for travel on the west side of the Lake.

During the winter season lumbering was carried on quite extensively. The corner at Battey's (corner of Arthur Street and Union Road) used to be thronged by teams and teamsters while the bar and store were often crowded with cold and thirsty men.

Town Meetings, Elections, Company Trainings, General Muster, and Fourth of July celebrations used to be held there (In the Union) in the patriotic spirit of the olden time.

Keeseville, Birmingham, and even Peru Village, then known as Hackstack's Mills are of much later growth.

Both stories of the old house already alluded to were finished off into school rooms. This was quite an institution in those days.

The Union school, from its central location and the superior learning and other qualifications of its teacher, was thronged with pupils, many of them coming several miles every day to enjoy its advantages.

Among the most celebrated teachers were Elihu F. Marshall, a lame man who could not walk without crutches. He was a Quaker, and after teaching the school several years he emigrated to the West and finally settled in Rochester. He died in 1840.

Near the meeting house stood the mansion of Henry DeLord, a refugee from France at the time of the first revolution. He was an educated gentleman, possessed of considerable property, and cultivated taste.

As the world takes great interest in the peculiar customs which prevail in respect to marriage, and as among no civilized people are those customs more peculiar than those prevailing among the Quakers prior to the alterations of their discipline on the subject. It may not be amiss to take a rapid survey of the proceedings and machinery by which "two willing hearts were joined in one." In olden time, the Quakers were allowed to marry only their own numbers. It was believed and taught amongst them that they were to be guided, not by worldly prudence only, but were to look for divine direction in making a choice.

But among the Quakers, the successful wooing and obtaining consent of parents was but the beginning of the desired end.

When the affianced lovers were ready to proceed, they drew up, subscribed and sent to the Preparative Meeting a paper like the following:

We, Thomas Fox, son of George Fox and Rachel Penn, daughter of Wm. Penn, propose taking each other in marriage which we hereby submit for the approbation of Friends.

Thomas Fox  
Rachel Penn

This proposal was referred by the preparative meeting to the next monthly meeting, where, after being read, a joint committee of men and women, Friends of the pair, was appointed to enquire into the suitability of the proposed marriage and whether the parties to it were free from other marriage engagements, and they were required to report at the next meeting. At which time, the young couple appeared arm in arm and desired an answer. The report of the committee was then taken up and if favorable, they were left at liberty to consummate their marriage, according to the custom of Friends.

On the next "fifth day" the society including, of course, the young couple and their friends assembled at the Meeting House to witness the ceremony. The happy pair sat side by side with their especial friends near them. After an interval of silence broken perhaps by exhortations as to the duty of bringing up children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" they arose and each taking the other by the hand, friend Thomas Fox proceeded to say, "In the presence of this

The Union Fifty Years Ago.

assembly, I take this my friend, Rachel Penn to be my wife, promising through Divine assistance to be unto her a faithful and affectionate husband until separated by death." Whereupon Rachel Penn on her part said, "In the presence of this assembly, I take this my friend, Thomas Fox to be my husband promising through Divine assistance to be unto him a faithful and affectionate wife until separated by death." But that was not all. There was then produced a regular marriage contract drawn up with all the care and formality of a legal document, which was subscribed to by the bride and groom and numerous witnesses.

Over the site of the old school house, and where the sign post stood, the plow moves smooth and evenly along, herds graze placidly in the adjoining fields and the busy hum of the hamlet is heard no more.

Judge Watson

1862

This article has been condensed, omitting many paragraphs of the description of the surrounding scenery. There has been taken the names of people and places that can be located today. 1966. Copy loaned by Maurice Turner of Keeseville.

I have been repeatedly asked the questions: What did the Friends believe? What were their Doctrines? How did they differ in belief from other Denominations? It is much easier to ask such questions than it is to answer them. Why? Because some of them believed things which others did not. Because all of them held doctrines which in many points agreed with other Christian beliefs and at the same time differed in other respects, so that to enumerate all the points of agreement is not an easy task even if I understand them all. Finally, because I do not pretend to have studied Quaker Theology, in fact I may as well confess that though I have owned a book on that subject more than twenty years I have not yet taken the trouble to read it.

But, of course, having lived in the same neighborhood with Quakers all my life, having often conversed with them, and having occasionally attended their meetings, though that was so long ago that I have forgotten most that I heard there, I should not be entirely ignorant of their belief, and I am as willing to tell the little that I know on that subject as I was to discuss their discipline and peculiarities in a former paper

The orthodox Quakers have always believed in the great fundamental principles of Christianity. There is nothing in the Apostle's Creed which they do not believe as firmly as do Christians of other denominations. But I think I can safely say of all Quakers that their principal distinguishing doctrine is that of the "light of Christ in man". That doctrine is founded upon words found in St. John's gospel. "In him was life and the life was the light of men." "That was the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Even of those whom a knowledge of Christ had not come it was said: "And the light shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not.

That doctrine of the "internal light" accounts for many of the peculiarities of the Friends. Since they believe that the Holy Spirit, not formerly, if they do now, consider human learning essential to a minister. Fitness for the ministry they held to be a free gift of God and quoting the Saviour's command, "Freely ye have received freely give" they claimed that the work of the minister should be freely bestowed "without money and without price", but he should be as freely entertained, and have all his wants supplied in the spirit of Christian love, while away from home engaged in the work of the gospel. All religious obligations they claimed should be voluntary, and performed for love and not for money.

They also knew that the "inner light" could shine as brightly in woman as in man, that is, the spirit of Christ could move one sex as powerfully as the other, so they claimed it was perfectly proper for a woman to accept a call to the work of the ministry and many of their most gifted preachers were women. They objected strongly to the set form of worship which is common to most religious bodies. If their ministers had "naught to say" they could "hold their peace" and were not expected to either preach or pray aloud in meeting unless they felt so disposed. It seemed to them little better than blasphemy for a minister to preach simply because he was employed and expected to do so, whether he felt devoutly inclined or not. So their prayers and praises were often silent they preferring to make melody in their hearts to God rather than give "lip service" or praise with the voice. They rejected the ordinance of baptism and the Lord's supper, as they are usually observed, for they believed the Christian Baptism to be a spiritual one.

## THE DOCTRINES OF THE FRIENDS

the kind of baptism which they considered necessary. They also said that the believer is nourished and strengthened by daily communion with Christ through the Holy Spirit, and that the true Christian supper is set forth in the words "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in unto him, and will sup with him and he with me."

They always protested against war in every form and thought it wrong to aid or assist an army in any way, even to transport provisions for its use. The doctrine of non-resistance was so firmly held that a Quaker would not kill a robber who was trying to kill him, for as one argued, "If the robber kills me I am prepared to die and he may live to repent and be also saved, or if he does not his case is worse than mine, but if I kill him he is surely cut off in his sins and I may by the act also lose my own soul."

They objected strongly to balls, gambling-places, horse-races, and theatres, as being "nurseries of debauchery and wickedness" and their members who attended such "places of diversion" were promptly disowned unless they acknowledged and condemned the offense and promised to do better in the future. They objected also to the reading of novels, plays, and other pernicious books and urgently advised every member to discourage and suppress such in his family.

The wearing of mourning, and all extravagant expense about burying the dead, were discouraged as being vain and useless, intended only for outward show, and no evidence or indication of real sorrow for the loss.

It has been said of the Quakers that they denied that the Bible was the word of God. If they did so their meaning was not such as to disparage the Bible in the least. They claimed that Christ was the Word of God as plainly shown by the first verse of St. John's Gospel. But I believe that all Quakers considered the Bible to contain the words of God as written by inspired men, and they consulted it daily, and followed its teachings as they understood them, recommending that it be read in all families instead of the "pernicious books" which they so condemned.

The followers of Elias Hicks differed in many important points of doctrine from the orthodox Friends but in stating what they did believe it is necessary to proceed with caution for some things are imputed to them which some of them, at least, disclaim. It is said that Hicks denied the doctrine of the atonement of Christ, and also the authenticity and divine authority of the Holy Scriptures. But if that was true it seems hardly reasonable that at least half of the Friends in America and some of those in England would have become his followers. At the risk of giving offense to the orthodox branch of the Society I will venture to suggest that he may have been either misrepresented or misunderstood. Perhaps he may have said as thousands had said before him, "The Bible is not the Word of God", meaning, as they did, that Christ is "the Word" referred to by St. John. Perhaps he also denied that

"Jesus paid it all, all the debt I owe,"

simply meaning that we should not consider that our debts are all paid, that we owe nothing to God, or to the world, but are free now to fold our hands and walk straight into Heaven. I do not assert that such was his meaning. I only know that his views were accepted by man and rejected by others and thus occurred the first great division in the Quaker Society.

## THE DOCTRINE OF THE FRIENDS

But that was not the last. Soon a new prophet arose among them, one named John Joseph Gurney of Norwich, England. He claimed that education was a good thing for Quaker preachers as well as other members, that the strictness of the Friends' discipline was turning out many members of the society, some of whom were as good as those who remained, in short that the world moves and that Quakers must move with it or they would surely be left behind.

Half of the Orthodox Friends "be the same more or less" agreed with Gurney, adopted his views, and henceforth were known as the Gurneyites. The other half led by John Wilbur strongly dissented from those new ideas, claiming that all the principles and peculiarities of the society must be maintained and if a person differed in his views from the original founders of the sect he could not be a Friend. Of course this branch had to have a name to distinguish it from the others and it was natural that those who thought as Wilbur did should be called Wilburites

Just how many more times the sect was divided I am unable to say but at least one more division occurred, for in 1853 a body of Quakers calling themselves Progressive Friends seceded from the branch to which they had belonged, but whether it was from the Hicksite, Gurneyite, or Wilburite branch I am unable to say. Perhaps this new denomination drew its members from all of the others for it is said to have embraced those who advocated the equality of the human family, and recognized that lives of benevolence and charity were better than mere assertion of creeds to show their faith in God. They did not insist upon similarity of theological opinions, but based their principles upon unity of spirit and their admiration of the pure and holy. They were not advocates of discipline or restraint, but opposed all churches alike, considering it imposture to claim to speak or act by the authority of God.

It is no wonder that a house so divided against itself became much too weak to stand. It is estimated that the number of Quakers in the world at present does not exceed 100,000, whereas sixty years ago it was about 200,000.

Peaceable as they always were, they still fought valiantly with tongue and pen against the three great evils: war, intemperance, and slavery. Through the influence of public opinion which they did so much to help form, slavery has already been abolished in all civilized lands, and the nations are fast learning that arbitration is cheaper and better than war. If now those "scattered tribes" could all unite against the one giant evil which still remains to curse the human race, perhaps even that might be at last subdued, and thus might "all the nations of the earth be blessed."

J.W. HARKNESS

From the Grace E. Arnold Scrapbook

### THE PASSING AWAY OF THE FRIENDS

It is believed that the first public Arbor Day exercises of the Town of Peru were performed at the Union eighty years ago. There is a tradition that Samuel Peasley, then a young man working for William Keese, brought the Lombardy Poplars on his back from Keese's farm to the Meeting House Lot where some of the other Friends assembled to help plant them. When the work was done and the people were about to disperse, one of them, a respected member of the Meeting, spoke these words: "When all the trees which we have planted here this day will be dead, the Quakers of Peru will all be dead."

To the members of that society, at that time growing stronger by new arrivals and admissions that every month, it no doubt but all will admit, seemed an unreasonable prediction that in a few years more it would be literally fulfilled. While there are quite a large number of birthright members in Peru and AuSable, which were then one town, those of them who still comply with the requirements of their discipline can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

It is eleven years since a Quaker meeting was held in the Union and the last ones were simply a series of revival meetings conducted by a Friend from abroad. The regular "first and fifth day meetings" stopped about 20 years ago for want of attendants; the Hicksites' meeting house built in 1802 was sold, removed, and converted into a horse-barn, and the Orthodox house and the shed still remain as relics of the past, both rapidly going to decay. It is my purpose in this article to mention some of the causes which have led to the present state of affairs, and endeavor to show what became of the Quakers who once constituted a very important, if not greater part of the population of Old Peru.

The discussion of the first of those causes properly comes under the head of Quaker Discipline. The Friends were very strict in their principles and practices and any member who disregarded the rules and requirements of the Society were sure to be disowned unless he "made satisfaction to the Meeting".

In looking over the first of the Minutes of the Peru Monthly Meeting it is seen that in less than twenty-two years, sixty-four members of the Society were disowned. Even that number was enough to make quite a congregation, but if we multiply it by three we shall see that if this 'turning out' continued at the same rate during the sixty-odd years that the meetings continued the total number disowned was nearly two hundred.

It is not for me to say that any member was ever disowned by the Society without sufficient cause but I will mention some of the more common offenses and let the reader judge for himself. Of the sixty-four disowned in the first twenty-two years, twenty-seven had each "so far disregarded the wholesome discipline of the Society as to be married to one not a member among Friends". No one was ever disowned without being visited by a committee and "laboured with in the hope that he would make satisfaction to the Meeting" but some young married people did not often "appear to be in suitable frame of mind to condemn the offense and ask to be continued under the care of Friends", so instead of such a marriage bringing a new member into the Society, it invariably took one away. Each child born to Quaker parents was a birthright member so it is safe to estimate that for every parent disowned three or four members were lost to the Society.

One couple, man and wife, were both disowned for performing their marriage before a magistrate instead of according to the established rules of the Society. One young man was disowned for "appearing out of plainness and also attending the marriage of one who went out from us". Many others were disowned for "appearing out of plainness and attending places of diversion" and two for attending trainings, one of whom went "so far as to answer to his name".

The Friends were so much opposed to war and all that pertained thereto, that they would neither train in the militia nor pay the exemption tax which the law required of those who did not train. Two worthy members of the Society, one of whom afterward became a noted Hicksite preacher, would have been disowned if they had not acknowledged and condemned the offense of buying back the sheep which had been seized by the collector for their "exempt tax". Another had to make "satisfaction to the Meeting" because of the offense confessed in the following:

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"I sometime past made an agreement with Peter Saily, agent for the government contractor, to Transport--and did transport a small quantity of wheat and flour, that was public property used for the Army, which I condemn as being a practice repugnant to the profession of Friends."  
Peru 5 mo. 12th 1813  
John H. Keese

Of the other offense for which Friends were disowned, I will only say that some of them were of such nature as might be expected to bring reproach to any religious society which retained them as members. If the Quakers were more likely than members of other denominations to break the wholesome rules of the society, it was perhaps owing to the fact that a very large share of them were only "birth-right members", had experienced no "change of heart", had made no vows and therefore felt that they had none to break. It does not seem strange that such young people, brought up among those who were not Friends, should frequently be tempted "to appear out of plainness" and sometimes to "attend places of diversion".

The second cause which led to a reduction of the number of Friends in Old Peru was the settlement of the new States. During the first decade of the Meeting's existence large numbers of families and individuals were "received by certificate" from the other meetings to which they belonged, but after the year 1810 the number of departures greatly exceeded the arrivals. Ohio was the first of the Western States to be admitted and settled, Quakers could see as plainly as others the advantage of "going West and growing up with the country", so the number of removal certificates directed to "Short Crick Meeting in the State of Ohio" granted by the Peru Monthly Meeting between 1810 and 1820 was very large. Then other western states began to draw population from the East. Michigan, Iowa, California, and I know not how many others, contain to this day flourishing Quaker communities in each of which are descendants of those who emigrated from Old Peru. A few old families seem to have taken root and still remain where they were planted at the beginning of this, or the end of the last century, but the number is very small in comparison with that of those who have departed.

I think that no one will deny that the division of the Society, caused by some accepting and others rejecting the doctrines preached by Elias Hicks, did much to weaken it and hasten the decline of Quak-



### THE PASSING AWAY OF THE FRIENDS

ism in Old Peru. It may be hard, even at this day, to make an orthodox Friend admit that it was not a good thing for the Meeting to get rid of the Hicksites, or to convince a Hicksite that the Society was not better off without the Orthodox, but whether they acknowledge it or not it is still a fact that Kentucky's motto, "United we stand, divided we fall", applies to religious societies as well as states.

When the division occurred there were doubtless members to make two fair sized congregations, but when other causes had reduced the members 'till there were only half enough for a congregation in each house, they could have still kept up the meetings for several years if they had been united.

It is a significant fact that the early settlers named their village which sprung up around the meeting house "The Union." They seemed to realize that union was essential to their prosperity, but disunion came as a blight upon the next generation and where once a thriving village was, of forty-five houses and stores, with an Academy, a post-office, hotel and shops, there are now only farm houses far apart, and this deserted meeting house and dilapidated shed, monuments which will doubtless soon be removed or else will decay, and then only the old Lombardy poplars and the well-filled burying ground will remain to show the passing traveller where the quakers used to meet.

Let us visit the old burying ground which is just back of the meeting house lot and then we shall see what became of the rest of the Friends not already accounted for. As we climb over the dilapidated stile, or pass through the gate where so many have been borne to their last resting places, we are reminded by the number of graves before us that "it is appointed to all men once to die."

The head stones here bearing inscriptions have been erected within seventy years, those which have anything more than initials upon them are less than sixty years old. It was against the principles of the early Quakers to mark the graves of the dead, so many of them will be perhaps already have been, forgotten and nothing exists to show that such people have ever lived or died.

But there are some plain inscriptions and let us see if we cannot find some interesting ones. Here is the first, if we begin in the corner of the yard:

Martha Sherman  
Died 12m 14th 1839  
Aged over 100 years

This Martha was the wife of Job Sherman who lived in Rhode Island

## THE PASSING AWAY OF THE FRIENDS

a hundred years ago, and the grandmother of the Job, Pliny, Franklin and Elwood who are remembered by the present inhabitants of Peru. Here is the grave of her son:

Benj. Sherman  
Died 12m 1839  
Aged 75 years

He was the grandfather of the present Job Sherman and for many years he served the Peru Monthly Meeting in the capacity of Clerk. When the time for which he was appointed expired, 26 of 12mo 1805, he wrote at the bottom of his last page this sorrowful question: "Is there a dreg in the cup of bitter affliction, that my poor soul has not awfully partaken of?"

Elisha Arnold  
Died Feb. 22 1851  
Aged 83 ys 24 ms.

This was one of the wealthiest farmers of Old Peru. The man who was sharp enough to buy the land since known as Arnold Hill, without letting the former owner know that a valuable bed of iron ore had been discovered upon it. When the seller proposed that he would reserve all minerals on said lots, this worthy Quaker declined to purchase unless he could have all there was 'from the center of the earth up to as high above the surface as he could see'.

Here is the grave of William Keese who died in 1835 at the age of 73. He was the first Quaker, if I am correctly informed, who set foot upon the soil of Old Peru. Perhaps I should say one of the first two Quakers: it is said that he and his brother John were employed by Zephaniah Platt to survey the 12,000 acre location. I am told that he paid for his farm of 500 acres of the best and levellest land in Clinton County by doing 100 days' surveying. His brother John also came to live in the Union, but met with financial embarrassment, removed to Ohio and died many years ago.

Now we come to a broad, red sandstone tablet bearing the brief inscription:

A. H.  
Aged 99 years

Probably there are not a half dozen people now on earth who know who this venerable A. H. was, or anything about her history. Perhaps there is less than that number who care, and yet her life was long and useful, if not eventful, and she ought not to be so soon forgotten.

Anna Green was born in 1763, the same year as was the child who afterward became 'the father of his country'. She was the sister of Israel Green who kept the United States Hotel in Plattsburgh during the early years of the present century, the house which after the memorable 11th of September, 1814, bore the marks of British bullets for more than fifty years.

This Anna Green married Peter Hallock Jr. and had three sons named Isaac, Isreal and Peter. Isreal, doubtless named for his uncle Isreal Green, married Mary Eliot, a descendant of John Eliot "the apostle of the Indians" and in 1800

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Guilford, Conn., a boy whom they named Fitz-Green. I need not say that this Fitz-Green Hallock, or Hallock, for he changed the spelling of his name, became a famous poet, for his "Marco Bozzaris" has been known to almost every school boy for over sixty years.

Anna Green Hallock, grandmother of the poet, came to Old Peru to live with her son Peter in 1806, and there passed her remaining years, 26 in number, for she died in 1832 at the age of 100. Her grandson, the Hon. George Hollock, who died but a few weeks ago, told me that he marked the stone which stands at the head of her grave giving her age as 99 by mistake. When it was noticed it was agreed that it would make little difference and so the stone remains as he marked it to this day. But I must not stop by each grave to tell such a long story for there are too many here.

In this yard are the graves of the old Revolutionary Captain, Edward Everett, and his wife and four sons who were the first settlers of AuSable, and who built their log dwelling a half mile south of this spot in 1786. Here also lie the mortal remains of Gilbert and Garrett Thew and their wives, who were the first settlers of Hallock Hill, locating there in 1789. Here, too, is the grave of Stephen Keese, the brother of William the surveyor and father of Samuel the Hicksite, and of John H., whose acknowledgement I have copied above.

Here are two more brothers of the surveyor, Richard, the grandfather of the present Richard Peter, and Oliver, who lived on the farm now owned by John Ricketson, and here too are Benjamin and Elizabeth Keese Smith, the parents of the venerable Stephen K. of Peru. This couple was the first to marry in the new meeting house, their marriage being performed in 9th month 1803.

And here is the grave of Col. Robert Pierce, who died in 1853 at the age of 73. He could not have been a Quaker, for if he was, that military title would not have been carved on his headstone; but if "cleanliness is next to godliness" he and his good wife "Aunt Mary Ann" did as much for the Quaker Meetings as did any member of the "straightest Sect." They lived in a little cottage almost on the south line of the Friends' lot and for many years took care of the meeting house, but among the descendants of this Col. Pierce are some of the most respected citizens of our country.

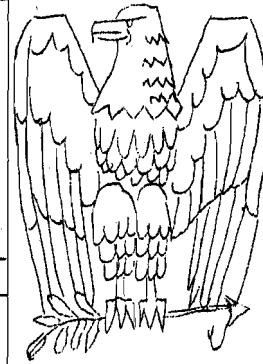
If I stay much longer among these mossy tombstones, I shall earn the name of "Old Mortality." I could not name all who are buried here if I would, and would not if I could. Perhaps I have said too much already on this subject but if anyone has a right to talk about the Friends it seems as though it might be a man who had six great-grandparents that were respected members of that Society, and who would probably himself have had a birth-right among them if his grand-sire had not been disowned "for marrying out of Meeting."

Probably 1890

J. W. Harkness

Copied from Mr. Horace Ackley's Scrapbook, 1966

N ↑	4 5 6 7 8	2 1 3 9 10	
Davern Road			
	12 13 14 15 16	11    17	
To Jackson Bridge		Brown Road	
	18    24 23	19 20 21	
Harness Road		22 25 26	27
		Arthur Road	
		30 29	28
		31	
	32 34 36 37 39 40 41 42		
Hallock Hill Road			
33	35	38	43
		44	45



1. Abraham Haff 1813
2. Steve Smith 1852
3. John Haff 1793
4. S. Ketchum
5. C. Stoddard
6. Steve Keese
7. Oliver Keese
8. Jos. Iapham 1822
9. John Keese
10. Wm. Keese 1789
11. 1st. Log Meeting House
12. N. Hanson
13. 2-story school 1812
14. Averill Tavern
15. Henri Debrd
16. 1st. Post Office
17. Henri Green 1790
18. W & V Blacksmith
19. Meeting house 1802
20. Cemetery 1828
21. Stone School
22. Robert Battey
23. Peter Keese 1837
24. Richard Keese 1792
25. A. Rickerson
26. A. Arthur Constable
27. r. Arthur
28. Tom Arthur
29. J.B. Arthur 1788
30. G. Irish
31. Capt. E. Everett 1787
32. Dyer Arnold
33. E. Arnold 1804
34. Tom Miller
35. Dan Harkness
36. Laban Arnold
37. Southwick
38. G & G Thew 1789
39. Stone School 1800's
40. John Osborn
41. Dave Osborn 1796
42. Elihu Hoag 1861
43. Dave Cochran
44. Ed Hallock 1816
45. Robert Whitcomb

Prize essay read by Miss Bertha Bentley of Peru, N. Y., before the Clinton County Teachers' Association at Plattsburgh on Monday evening May 7, 1888

About the first of July 1786, a small sailing vessel arrived at the mouth of the Great River Sable.

On board this vessel was a family of ten persons who had come from the vicinity of Boston to find them a home in this wilderness. The father of this family was Capt. Edward Everett. He was a tall straight man about forty-five years of age, and had served his country during the Revolutionary War. His wife's name was Rachel. Their oldest son, George was a drummer boy at the Battle of Saratoga. Besides this son there were seven other children, Edward, Robert, Susan, Hannah, Ruth, Polly, and David Allen. The last was about six weeks old at this time. He was born in what is now the State of Vermont, while the family stopped at the house of a David Allen for whom he was named.

This was not the first visit of Capt. Everett to this section of country, for he being a land surveyor had, the year previous been employed by Zephaniah Platt and his associates to help survey their land. He was promised at this time 150 acres, on condition that he would "improve and settle on this land within one year from the date of the deed and remain with his identical family for a term of six years next to come, unless he or his heirs have leave first obtained from Zephaniah Platt or his heirs under hand and seal, to sell or remove from the same--the calamities of war only excepted."

Capt. Everett accepted Platt's offer, returned home for his family, and was now on his way to the land which had been promised him. The sloop left them at the mouth of the AuSable River and Capt. Everett with his wife and younger members of his family were rowed up the river to the Basin at the lower end of AuSable Chasm. The elder sons took the team and load of household goods and followed the banks of the river until they came to the same place. Here they joined the rest of the family and they started again, following a line of marked trees for three miles to the westward. This led them to the foot of what is now called Halleck Hill, the place selected for their future home. There was no house, of course, so Capt. Everett and his sons had to commence building one immediately, and in this manner they probably celebrated the fourth of July which was the tenth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Edward Everett's lot comprised that part of Richard P. Keese's present farm which lies east of the "Union," and the whole home farm of Alexander Arthur. The consideration mentioned in his deed was only "ten shillings lawful money of New York." His nearest neighbor was John Hay who lived on the lake shore, ten miles away. But very near Edward Everett's south line was a lodge of Indians, who were friendly and gave the settlers no trouble. In order to furnish the table with fish, the girls would go to the Basin below AuSable Chasm, following the same path they travelled when they first came to their new home. Here they could catch salmon and all they could carry.

One of the grandsons now living says he remembers his Aunt Polly say that one time when she went to the Basin to fish, a salmon bit her

hook, and it was so large that if her brother who happened to be with her at the time, had not caught hold of her she would have lost the fish pole and all. It is said that Edward Everett once took a half bushel of corn on his back, walked to Plattsburgh to mill, following a line of marked trees, and returned the next day with his grist in the same manner.

Four years after, in the year 1790, under authority of the Commissioner of the State Land Office, Zephaniah Platt and Platt Rogers built a road commencing in Warren Co., and extending through Plattsburgh to Champlain village thus making the route to Plattsburgh easier. About this time John Keese, Peter Halleck, Caleb Green and others came to live near Capt. Everett. When in 1792, the Town of Peru was organized he was selected as its first supervisor and he was re-elected to that office three times in the four years from 1793 to 1797. The box in which Capt. Everett kept his compass, the original deed, and also the bond from Edward Everett, Jr. to Capt. Edward Everett and his wife are still in possession of one of his grandchildren. From this bond we find that in 1807, a little over twenty years he came to this country, Capt. Everett, doubtless feeling the infirmities of age, saw fit to resign his property and its cares to his son and namesake, Edward Everett, Jr.

The condition of the bond read as follows: Edward Everett Junior shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid all just and lawfull demands that may be brought against Edward Everett or Rachel Everett, his wife of whatsoever name or nature. Secondly, the said Edward Everett Junior shall well and truly provide or cause to be provided for the said Edward Everett and Rachel Everett, his wife in the house that we now live in. Good and serficient food and rayment together with all the necessaries of life suitable for persons of our age and station in life dewring our success and health, "uther the said Edward Everett Junior is to provide horses sleigh or wagon covenant for the worship and discipline further the said Edward Everett is to pay or cause to pay one dollar every thee months to the said Edward Everett and Rachel Everett during our nstrill lives." Also "the said Edward Everett and Rachel his wife shall have their choice of any room to live in and free access of any room to live in and free access through the whole house and barn. Lastly, the said Edward Everett Junior is to give us a decent burial after the manor of Friends."

If Edward Everett, Jr., did not live up to these requirements he must forfeit \$1500. The writing of this bond was evidently the old Captain's and it shows that he was a man of some education though his spelling was not perfect according to the modern standard. One of the conditions quoted above shows that Capt. Everett and his wife were regular attendants of the Quaker or Friends meetings and no doubt the horse was used for this purpose every "First and Fifth Day." Tradition says Edward Everett, Jr., ran through the property very soon, so it is very likely that Capt. Everett and wife did not always get their "one dollar every three months." But they certainly had their living from some source and no doubt a decent burial according to the manor of Friends, which did not allow them to have any tombstones.

The First Settler of AuSable

Capt. Everett's sons and daughters married and went to different parts of the county to live. His descendants are now numbered by the hundreds. He probably died about the year 1815 and must have been at least seventy-five years old for his oldest granddaughter, born in 1811, remembers seeing him but once and then he was an old man, tall but bent and shaking with palsy.

Notes: The First Settler of AuSable

This prize essay was written by Miss Bertha Bentley, daughter of George Bentley and Miranda Harkness Bentley. Miranda Harkness was a sister of J. Warren Harkness. The Bentley's lived at what is now 14 Pleasant St., Peru, N. Y. and is presently owned by Mrs. Halsey Stafford. Bertha Bentley married Dr. Thomas Rogers and lived in Plattsburgh. They had one son, Avery, a musician, who lives in New York City.

Copied from the Rolland Waders Scrapbook 1966



## OLD PERU

### Its Extent and Boundaries, Oldest Roads, Bridges, Etc.

When the county of Clinton was taken off of Washington in 1788, it embraced not only its present territory, but also that of Essex and more than half of Franklin County in New York and the counties of Addison, Chittenden, Lamoille, Franklin and Grand Isle, in what is now the State of Vermont.

Its entire area was about the same as that of the present State of Massachusetts and the part which lay west of Lake Champlain was nearly as large as Connecticut. That part of the county was divided into four towns, the average size of each being about 1000 square miles or very near the same as the State of Rhode Island. Two of those towns, Plattsburgh and Crown Point, had been organized a few years before as divisions of Washington County and the other two, Willsborough and Champlain were made by act of the Legislature the same day that Clinton County was separated from Washington. For nearly five years these four towns kept their original boundaries but in the last days of the year 1792 (Dec. 28) the Legislature decreed that a fifth town to be called Peru should be formed from the south part of Plattsburgh and the north part of Willsborough. This new town embraced all the land which now lies in Peru, AuSable and Black Brook, and part of the town of Chesterfield in Essex County, which lies north of the line which forms the southern boundary of Adgate's 3600 acre tract (patent), and the continuation of that line toward the west which would just touch the southern extremity of Augur Pond and nearly or exactly coincide with the line which forms the southern boundary of the western part of the town of Black Brook. It will be seen by the above that the writer who said that old Peru was "Almost an empire in extent" did not exaggerate as badly as he might for if the territory was too small for an empire it certainly was as large as some republics.

It would be interesting to know the number of inhabitants which Peru contained at the time of its organization; but if an enumeration was made, there appears to be no record of the result. But the number was not very small for they had been coming in quite rapidly for a few years. The principle settlement was that of the Quakers which they called the Union lying upon the old Rogers Road, but there were settlers all the way along the road which ran from the Union by way of Arthur Street to the Lake Shore at the point which is still called Peru Landing and then continued northward along the Lake Shore to the Plattsburgh town line. The above mentioned road was the first regularly established highways in the town, it having been laid out by the Commissioners of Highways of the town of Plattsburgh in the year 1790 before Peru was organized. The part of this road which lay between the bridge which crosses the Little AuSable near its mouth, and that of Joshua I. Arthur has been changed from where it was originally laid out, but the Lake Shore Road from the Little AuSable to Plattsburgh line and the west end of Arthur Street across the farms of Thomas Lynch, Alexander Arthur and Richard P. Keese are still travelled just where they were first located one hundred years ago.

The next most ancient road of old Peru will also finish its first century of existence during the present year. It was called Rogers Road

### Old Peru

because its maker or director was Platt Rogers one of the original proprietors of Plattsburgh Patent. This "Rogers Road" came from Willsborough over the mountain where it is travelled still, entered the town of Peru where it crossed the line which forms the north boundary of the farms now owned by Robert Hinds and Jerry Davern and continued where it now runs till it passed the four corners east of where Interlaken House now stands. But somewhere north of those corners westward to the foot of Fordway Mountain and ran down the steep bank to the river where traces of it can still be plainly seen. The water was shallow so that no bridge was needed and the road after crossing the river ran westward to the east line of lot No. 20, which is the line between the farms of Banker and Robarge better known as the Goodrich and Hatch farms. There the Rogers Road turned north, ran over the hill west of the farms of Jerry and James Hayes, through the pasture now owned by Elihu Hoag, came down Hallock Hill west of the the place where Edward Hallock's house, now owned by Harrison Arnold, was afterward built, and followed the east line of Elihu Hoag's present farm to its northeast corner. From there it jogged east ten or fifteen rods to what was then the S. W. corner of Captain Edward Everett's farm and then ran north where it does not through the Union, passing one-half mile west of the present village of Peru and crossed the south line of Plattsburgh at what is now called Stephen Weaver Corners about three-fourths of a mile from Schuyler Falls. In December 1799, this road was changed from what was then David Osborne's but now Elihu Hoag's southeast corner to that instead of running directly south over the hill it ran "threw Edward Hallock's wheratt field on a southeast course or near it and thence southerly by Samuel Brown's and Stephen Taylor's to the fordway into Rogerses Road again." In April, 1803, another change was made and from that time onward the road ran from "the S. W. Corner of Edward Everett's farm in a straight course two rods east of Edward Hallocks's barn then across the road southerly up the hill" etc., just where it runs today It is interesting to know that Edward Hallock's barn, referred to above is still standing two rods west of the road though it must be at least eighty-seven years old.

"Rogerses Road is mentioned very frequently in the old Town Book of Peru in which are recorded all of the highways that were laid out by the Commissioners and the limits of the road districts as they were established from year to year. But in 1796 a slight change was made in its name and from that time forward it was in variably called "Rogerses old road." The reason of that was simply that Rogers had made a new road and the adjectives had to be prefixed to distinguish them.

This new road crossed the AuSable Chasm upon the celebrated High Bridge and ran very near the Lake View House where it now stands, went through the Davis neighborhood continued south just east of Prospect Hill through what as then or soon after called the Macomber neighborhood and met Roger's Road (old) at the Bosworth place, as it was formerly called, that being the farm now owned by Alfred Mace. I am aware that some historians assert that this last mentioned road as well as the bridge across the Chasm were completed in 1793, but I feel certain that all who think so are mistaken.

The bridge was probably built in the fall of 1795; though it was not

mentioned in the town records till the spring of 1796. On the 20th of March, in that year the Commissioners of Highways of the Town of Peru, John Cochran, Jr., Rufus Green, and William Morehouse, at the request of twelve reputable Freeholders viewed the premises and declared that they found "it necessary to lay out and Establish the Road or Highway (to wit): "Beginning at a certain Norway pine tree marked H standing at the parting of the Road about one hundred rods southwest of Douglass Mills from thence southwesterly corse as it is now cut and improved to the Great Bridge over the Great River Sable thence a Crost the River to the Bridge and Southwesterly and Southerly as it is now cut and Improved up the east side of the River by the great falls and by Isaac Wrights & Asher Adgates & Aaron Leonards through the south part of a patent of fourteen hundred acres of land granted to Wm. Thorn and from thence about one hundred & twenty Rods to the South line of Peru said Road to be four rods wide from the banks of all Brook Rivers etc. Allowing the said Overseer or Overseers to straighten said Road at their own Discretion so as to be of Public Advantage Without Doing Injury to Individuals.

"Douglasses Mills" mentioned in above record were a saw mill and a grist mill upon what is still called "Dry Mill Brood" which runs into the Great AuSable a little above the residence of James Baggs. "The saw mill belonging to Mathew Adgate, Esq. and Asa Douglass" is mentioned in the town records as early as October, 1793, and the word "mills" is first used under date of March 20, 1795, so it is probable that the grist mill was built in 1794. The records continue to mention "Douglass Mills" in 1797, 1798 and 1799, but in 1800 and the years which follow it, only Douglass saw mill is mentioned which indicates that the grist mill did not remain there long. "Douglass Sawmill" continued to be mentioned in the records of the Road Districts of Peru until 1807 but from 1808 to 1810 it was called Coles sawmill and in 1811 it was called "Dry Mill" and by that named it has been called ever since. In the "Reminiscences of Alvin Colvin" on page 208 of the History of Clinton County published in 1880, Mr. Colvin says, "I think the Dry Mill stopped finally about forty years ago. It had a very large over shot wheel, which was outside the mill and on the end of the main shaft, and the water was carried across the road about ten or twelve rods in a flume down to the mill." He also says, "This Dry Mill was a grist mill" and makes no mention of a saw mill at that place. Now Mr. Colvin's description of the mill may be all correct but he made the natural mistake of estimating the time that had elapsed since the grist mill stopped at only about one half of its true length.

He was nearer right when he said that the bridge across the Chasm, "It was used about 1813 when the State Road was changed farther west, after which it crossed the AuSable about a mile above Keeseville." From 1796 to 1814 inclusive the 2nd Highway District of the town of Peru described as "Beginning at the Centure of the great Sable Bridge Northerly to the Centure of the Little Sable Bridge." After 1814 the "Great Sable Bridge" is not mentioned in the bounds of any road district and after 1816 no reference to it is found in the Peru Records.

"The State Road" was first called by the name in the Peru Town Book in 1814 but the survey of the road itself was made March 21, 1811,

and no doubt the bridge was built in 1810. The description of the new road as surveyed and established in 1811 is as follows: "Beginning at the Big River AuSable at the Bridge that was built by David Fuller by Jonathan Begilow's, thence North 32 degrees west forty chains thence north 235 Chains to Uriah Watermans Black Smith shop."

This blacksmith shop is believed to have stood on or near the Morehous corners and the distance from there comes to the point where the bridge crossed the river as measured upon the map is just 275 chains or 1100 rods. "The Bridge near John Anderson's" was where the lower bridge in Keeseville now stands and was first mentioned in the Peru Town Book in 1815.

J. W. Harkness

Written in 1890

## FIRST TOWN MEETING OF OLD PERU

Records of notes and proceedings of the Town of Peru in Clinton County and State of New York which town was taken from the south part of Plattsburgh and the north part of Willsborough and made into the Town by an act of the Legislature of the State of New York, bearing date the 28th Day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two. Directing the first Annual Town Meeting to be held at the dwelling house of Samuel Jackson in said Town, agreeable where-to the inhabitants and freeholders met, after having been duly notified, and the meeting being opened and conducted by two of the Justices of the Peace, Residents in the said Town. They proceeded to nominate and vote for a person to act (as) Moderator in the said Meeting. When it appeared that John Cochran, Jr., was by a majority of votes chosen Moderator, they proceeded to nominate and vote for the several officers requested by Law for the said Town, when it appeared that the following persons (were) by a majority of votes made choice of for the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three.

Edward Everett	Qualified Supervisor
Asa Adgate	Qualified Clerk
Richard Keese )	Qualified Assessors
Isaac Finch )	
John Howe )	
Lott Elmore )	Qualified Commissioners of Highways
John Finch )	
Gilbert Thew )	
Reuben Arthur )	Qualified Constables
John Elmore )	
Reuben Arthur	Qualified Collector
Jabez Allen )	Qualified Overseers of the Poor
Richard Keese )	
Ezekiel Lookwood	Qualified Poundmaster
Jabez Allen )	Qualified Fence-viewers or Damage Prisors
Samuel Jackson )	
Issac Finch )	Qualified Overseers of Highways
Jabez Allen )	
Daniel Chapman )	
John Cochran, Jr. )	
Ezeiel Lookwood )	
Samuel West )	
Henry Green )	

## FIRST TOWN MEETING OF OLD PERU

Voted that every seed hors running at Large after the 2nd of April 1793 shall be liable to be taken up by say Freeholder or Inhabitant of said Town, who after giving notice their to the owner shall be entitled to five shilling per Day for Keeping such hors until the owner shall pay such Charges and secure such hors.

Voted that the next Annual Town meeting be held at the Dwelling hous of Reuben Arthur in the Town of Peru.

The above Recorded this 2nd Day of April 1793

Attest Asa Adgate Tn Clerk

The following notes have been written in the book from which this information has been copied:

Notes by J. W. Harkness: The Town of Peru made at that time comprised besides the present town of that name, the Towns of AuSable and Black Brook and the north half of Chesterfield, all of Brighton and most of Franklin and the east part of Brandon. The south line of Peru was at the south end of Auger Lake and ran thence east to Lake Champlain and west to the Great AuSable River at or near AuSable Forks and continued west to the east line of Montgomery County which is through what is now the middle of Brandon, Franklin County.

The dwelling house of Samuel Jackson was of logs and stood near the bend of the road at the north end of Allen Street, and about half a mile west of the bridge across the Little AuSable River. (Allen Street is the old Lake Shore Road on which Paul Allen lives.) (This would be in the neighborhood of the R. R. overpass and the Blockhouse Cemetery.)

John Cochran, Jr., was the founder of Peru Village. He lived where the Hiram E. Heyworth house now stands, and built a grist mill 28 x 28 and a saw mill 45 x 16 where the Peru Mills now stand.

Edward Everett, the first settler of that part of Plattsburgh that is now AuSable, was born in Dedham, Mass., in 1739. He was Capt. of N. H. troops at the siege of Quebec in 1776 and removed from N. H. to Clinton County N. Y. about July 1, 1786. He lived east of the Union Road and south of Arthur Street on land now owned by Percy Keese. (That Everett lot is part way up Hallock Hill; Arthur Street was the first road laid out in the present town of AuSable and was and is just where it is now, from Keese's Corners to Dwyer's Corners, but in the year 1790 it continued to the Lake.

Notes by your copyist: It is interesting to note that there are still descendants of most of the first officers of the old Town of Peru still living in and around the Towns of Peru and AuSable: The Earl Everetts, Whitney Adgate of AuSable Chasm, Merritt Keese, the Finches of Jay, George Elmore of Peru, the Thews of West Peru, all the Arthurs in the Town of AuSable and in Plattsburgh, which includes the Days (not Lake Shore Days) of Plattsburgh and the Finneys of Peru, Paul Allen of the Lake Shore Road and his brother Fuller Allen in Plattsburgh.

This story and notes are copied from the book into which Mr. J. Warren Harkness copied the description of all of the roads in Old Peru from 1750 to 1836. That book, given by Miss Georgia Harkness to the Clinton County Historical Society, is their rooms in the Public Library in Plattsburgh.

## RECORD OF SOME REVOLUTIONARY HEROES

Your correspondent has been studying the military and civil records of several revolutionary soldiers whose graves are in the Quaker burying ground in the Union and believes that he has learned some facts that may be of interest to others.

Captain Edward Everett was born in Dedham, Mass. in 1739. His father, also named Edward, being the brother of Ebenezer Everett who was the father of Judge Oliver Everett, whose son, Edward was a famous orator and statesman fifty years ago. He removed with his family to Ramney, N. H. in 1770, and at the outbreak of the Revolution was chosen Captain in Col. Bedel's regiment of militia. When the news of the defeat of General Arnold and the death of Gen. Montgomery at Quebec reached New Hampshire, Capt. Everett and his company started for Quebec to reinforce Gen. Arnold. His active service began Jan. 22, 1776 and probably ended July 22 of the same year, when his regiment, retreating from Canada left Ticonderoga. In 1783, Capt. Everett and his family came to this county and settled in part of the farm now owned by R. Percy Keese. (The "elm tree lot, now owned by Walter Severence.)

He was the first supervisor of Peru, elected April 2, 1793 and was re-elected to the same office in '94 and '97. The exact date of his death is unknown, but it was about the year 1815 or '16. George Everett, the oldest son of Capt. Everett was born in 1763. He served as a drummer boy in his father's company in the Canada campaign of 1776, when he was only 13. He re-enlisted in March 1777, for three years in the 7th N. H. regiment and was finally discharged when he was 23, married and lived upon the farm now owned by Fred Arthur. (Now Albert Dupra) He died early in 1825 and perhaps before that year. His son, George, who lived in Lawrence, N. Y. and his daughter, Rachel, the Thomas Lynch farm (John Shortell, Sr.) in the Union are well remembered by people of middle age in this vicinity, while his grandson, John Ricketson and several great grand children still live in this county (Rolland Maders, Keeseville) and others in Colorado and Minnesota.

Gilbert and Garrett Thew were born in Rockland, Orange Co., N. Y. about one hundred and fifty years ago. It is believed that they were sons of Abraham Thew, who was a Lieutenant in Capt. James Howell's company in 1760. (Graves of Gilbert and Garret Thew, marked in Quaker Buryingground, 2nd Orange Co. Reg't 1775)

Among their neighbors was a man who bore the somewhat feminine but none the less homely name of Ann Hawks Hay. I spelled his name as it is spelled in the Civil List of New York. How he came to be called Ann Hawks when he could as well have been named Tommy Hawks, I shall not attempt to explain, but only assert the fact that he was given the name Ann Hawks Hay and made it a very honorable name before he was done with it. This Ann Hawks Hay was a delegate to the convention that met in New York, April 20, 1775, to choose delegates to the Continental Congress. The day after that convention adjourned, the news of the Battle of Lexington reached the city. At once the wildest excitement prevailed. Military companies were organized and paraded in the streets. A powder house was seized as well as a large quantity of arms that were stored in the city hall. Delegate Ann Hawks Hay hurried home to Orange County but he did not content himself with merely raising a company of soldiers, he raised a whole regiment and was chosen as its Colonel. So many men from his district enlisted that afterward when more were wanted to carry on the war, that district was exempted because it had sent its full quota or share. See French's Gazetteer,



Page 693. Among those who enlisted in Col. Hay's regiment, which was called the Second Orange County militia, were Gilbert and Garrett Thew. How long they served or in what battles they fought I have not yet been able to ascertain. Three years after the close of the war, they bought of Zephaniah Platt of Poughkeepsie, two lots of land, lying two miles west of Plattsburgh village, now known as the Gosgrove farm, but I am not certain that they ever lived there. In 1789, they sold those lots to Simen Newcomb and bought of Nathaniel Platt 300 acres on what is now called Hallock Hill. Ninety acres of that land remained in the possession of Gilbert Thew, his son, John and grand-son Nelson for over 100 years but was sold about seven years ago to W. H. Carpenter. Sixty-four acres of the original 300 are now owned by a great grand daughter of Garrett Thew, Mrs. Joseph Allen.

Neither of the four soldiers of whom I have written, ever applied for or received a pension. Before me is a letter, dated Nov. 15, 1852 and directed to Garrett Thew, his widow or heirs. It is from an enterprising pension agent who says that he can obtain a pension for them if they will give him the Power of Attorney and fill out an affidavit, but the Thews did not consider that the government owed them anything and did not comply with the agent's request. But our government furnishes headstones to mark the graves of its defenders, and I see no reason why those four soldiers should not be remembered. Only rough sandstone slabs, without a word of inscription, now mark the resting place of those old heroes who helped to make our country free and independent. In a few years more, no one will be left to show, even approximately, where they were buried. There is some uncertainty even now, which graves are theirs, but the location of their family lots or rows are known and the monuments can be placed within a few feet, if not exactly in the proper places. Surely 55 or 85 years is long enough to leave graves unmarked.

J. W. Harkness

From a clipping belonging to Mr. & Mrs. Earl Everett

In the year 1640, just twenty years after the Mayflower landed the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock, another little band of Pilgrims from England, driven by persecution on account of their religious belief sought refuge in the wilds of America. The spiritual leader of this flock was Rev. John Younge and his followers were Peter Hallock, Isaac Arnold, Richard Terry, William Wells, John Conklin, Barnabas Horton, Thomas Mapes, Robert Akerly, John Tuthill, Mathias Corwin, John Budd and Jacob Corey. They first landed at New Haven where a settlement had been begun two years before, but wishing to plant a colony of their own they soon crossed over to the eastern part of Long Island and settled upon the shores of Peconic Bay.

It is related when they approached the shore they found it swarming with Indians which made most of them fear to land but Peter Hallock, a strong, bold man, leaped ashore and the others seeing that he was not molested ventured to follow. This Peter Hallock bought of the Indians land that occupied the extreme eastern end of the northern arm of the island but having occasion to go back to England some time later to get his wife and son, he found on his return that the Indians had resold his land to another and he was obliged to buy again a few miles farther west. There he passed the remainder of his days and there his only son, Willie lived also and died in 1684. From this father and son are descended all the Hallocks and Hallecks of who the writer has ever heard.

William had four sons, Thomas, Peter, William and John. Thomas was the grand-father of the grand-father of John Hallock, Jr., and eminent Judge in Orange County, who was twice elected Member of Assemble and twice Member of Congress. Peter, son of William, was the great grand-father of Deacon Jabez, who was the grand-father of Gen. Henry W., who was for a time, in 1863, Commander-in-Chief of the land forces of the United States. It was Deacon Jabez who first wrote the name "Hallock" and his descendants have continued to so spell it to the present time. William, son of William, was also progenitor of a numerous branch of the family which comprised several judges, doctors, ministers, and statesmen.

John, son William, joined the Quakers, very much to his father's displeasure, and from him descended a numerous posterity many of his descendants being like him, followers of George Fox. He was the ancestor of Fitz-Greene, the poet, and his namesake the Adirondack guide, also of Hon. George E., the father of George P. of Peru, and the Hallocks of Hallock Hill. His grand-son David settled in Ferrisburg, Vt., married a Miss Burling, one of the family that gave its name to Burlington, and died about the year 1795 leaving a family of four sons and several daughters. The oldest son, Edward, about that time married Persis Earle, the daughter of a wealthy gentlemen named Pliny Earle, and his unmarried brothers and sisters continued to live with him.

In the fall or winter of 1796 the report reached Ferrisburg, that a man named David Osborne living in Peru, N.Y. had raised that season forty bushels of wheat to the acre. When Edward Hallock heard it he declared that was the place for him. "I am going over to Peru and shall buy a farm just as close to that wheat-field as I can get," he said and at once began to make preparations for the journey.

The farm in Ferrisburg was sold and early in the spring of 1797 the family started with their household goods loaded upon one or more wagons, the cattle and other stock being driven across the lake to some point in the present town of Essex and thence made their way over Willsboro Mountain and past the place where Keeseville was afterwards built, crossing the AuSable River on the high bridge which had been built three or four years before across the chasm. They now reached Peru and found by inquiry that David Osborne, the famous wheat raiser lived about five miles away on the hill that lay south of a Quaker Settlement called "The Union." When they got there they found Osborne living on the farm that is now owned by Elihu H. Hoag, a farm which was then and is still one of the best in the town.

Across the road from Osborne's was a farm of 140 acres owned by a man named Robert Whitcomb, and Edward Hallock bought it without delay and moved into a log house which stood nearly opposite the place where Hoag's horse-barn now stands. But that small farm was not sufficient to satisfy so ambitious a man as Edward Hallock so he bought a lot of 500 acres lying east of both Osborne and Whitcomb farms and 50 acres or 60 acres that lay west of the south part of his original purchase making nearly, if not quite 700 acres in all. Then he went to farming on a much larger scale than any of his neighbors and succeeded so well that sixteen years after coming to Peru, he and his brother Isaac, then a man of about 80 years, owned 180 heads of cattle, 100 hogs, and other stock in proportion. But the land they had bought was not all paid for and at the time they still owed about \$3000.

The war of 1812 was in progress, fat cattle were in demand and the Hallocks were offered \$30 apiece for 100 head, Isaac wanted the money to use to pay the debts but Edward said he must build a house and now was the time to do it. He never did things on a small scale. He began by making a cellar that "astonished the natives." It was divided by stone partitions into four rooms each of which was larger than the average cellar of those days. When it was finished \$1000 had been spent and before the house was, the money which the cattle brought was all gone and the debts were not paid. This house, the one now occupied by Harrison Arnold, is still one of the largest farm-houses in Clinton County.

To fatten the 100 hogs they drove them back three or four miles into the woods where the beech trees were plenty and herded them while they fattened upon beechnuts. But the pork did not pay the debts. The 500 acre lot, or large part of it, was mortgaged to Richard Burling of Purlington and after his death the mortgage was foreclosed and the farm sold to satisfy it.

Isaac had taken as his share the original Whitcomb farm, built him a substantial frame house large enough for comfort and convenience, married Phebe Underhill whose father lived in the "Union," and his living in comfortable circumstances

Another brother named Richard had removed to Erie County, and another called David lived with Isaac till his death at the age of 60 years.

### The Hallocks of Hallock Hill

Edward had two sons, the older he named for his grandfather Burling, and the younger for his father-in-law Earl, both of whom went to the central or western part of the State.

Edward Hallock after the loss of his farm lived for a time in a small house near the northwest corner of the 500 acre lot he had formerly-owned, but his mind lost its balance, he was taken to the asylum at Brattleboro, Vt., and there he died about the year 1845.

Isaac passed his days upon his Whitcomb farm and died in 1848. He left one son, named David, and two daughters, Mary and Paulina. The daughters married and went away but David still owns and occupies the farm left him by his father. He has one son named George Hallock of Peru and also of the Fitz-Greene Hallock of New York. He is fourth cousin of the Hon. John, Jr. of Orange County who was a member of Congress from 1825 to 1829 and also of the Hon. Joseph, of Oneida County, Member of Assembly in 1841, the father of General Henry W. Hallock.

The hill on which the Hallock settled in 1797 is called for them, Hallock Hill. On it still lives besides this family, the Thews, and Osbornes, whose ancestors settled there about 95 years ago, the Hoag and Harkness families that have lived there nearly 90 years, and the Arnolds who came about 70 years ago.

It is the writer's intention to some time prepare a sketch of each of these "First families."

J. W. H.

Note: Mr. Harkness did complete a sketch of each of the families, there are six. This is Chapter I.

## EARLY SETTLERS OF HALLOCK HILL

## II

## David and John Osborn

About the year 1790 there came to that part of the township of Plattsburgh which soon after came to be known as Peru, and which has now for fifty years been in the Town of AuSable, two brothers named John and David Osborn. I spell the name as they spelled it, and as it is found written in old deeds and records, though some of their descendants have in recent years spelled it Osborne.

But little is known of their ancestry except that they were descendants of Thomas and Aquilla Chase, who were born in England, the former in 1639 and the latter in 1646. The Osborn brothers came to this locality from Danvers, Mass., a place about twelve miles north or Boston.

They bought of one of the Platts two hundred acres of land in the north part of Lot No. 4 of Platt's 12,000 acre location. The present Hallock road was soon after laid out along their south line and their land was all that lies on the north side of this road and south of Richard P. Kees farm from the west line of Harrison Arnold's orchard, to the barns of the present Osborn family.

They divided their two hundred acres into four lots of unequal sizes by lines running north from the road and David took the first and third, counting from the east, while John took the second and fourth. David's eastern division contained sixty acres and he built his house upon it about thirty rods north of the south line and perhaps ten or more from the eastern bounds. The exact position can still be seen by the old cellar into which stones have been thrown till it is more than level full. This monumnet is a little southwest of the old barn which still stands in Elihu Hoag's eastern field and about half way between that barn and Harrison Arnold's west line fence.

The house that stood over that cellar was a framed one and since has been moved though it still stands upon the farm and is now used as a hay barn. It is asserted by the present owner of that farm, that the first house built and occupied by the Osborn family was of logs and stood farther west than this later built framed dwelling, and directly south of the old barn.

It was in the clearing that he had made in front of that house that David Osborn in the summer of 1796 raised his crop of forty bushels of wheat to the acre, the fame of which spread at least as far as Ferrisburg, Vt., and caused Edward Hallock to decide to sell his farm in that place and move to this hill which has since borne his name, and as Hallock afterward influenced his brother-in-law David Hoag, and others to come, it will be seen that the settlement of neighbors, and the destiny of a great number of people, some of whom were at that time unborn, depended upon the weather of that

Early Settlers of Hallock Hill--David and John Osborn Part II

season and the condition of the soil which enabled this farmer to harvest an unusually large crop.

David Osborn and Anna his wife were the parents of four sons named, David Daniel, Azor, and Henry and one daughter, Doras. His brother John also named a son David and a daughter Doras and it is presumed that those were the names of the parents of the subject of this sketch.

About the year 1800, the Osborn brothers bought of Gilbert Thew and Garrett Thew the 120 acres which the Thews owned north of the Hallock Hill Road. In 1801 they sold fifty acres of it to their brother-in-law Caleb Southwick and in 1804, fifty-five acres to David Hoag. The remaining fifteen acres which lay north of the Southwick lot, David Osborne sold in 1814 with both of his other lots to Samuel Peasley for the sum of \$1,900, and with his wife and all of the other children remaining of their years, which were many, for both of the parents lived until 1850. Their sons and daughter married, lived and died in the same locality, Henry's death occurring before those of his parents and all of the others since.

John Osborne, the brother of David, Sr., married, one of the twin daughters of Garret Thew, and his first wife who died before the Thew's came to this neighborhood. He settled upon the second division of the original 200 acre purchase. His house was the building now used by Elihu H. Hoag as a horse barn and the east line of his lot was only a few feet east of the dwelling. He had five sons, Samuel, Isaac S., commonly called Sherwood, Abram, David and John, and four daughters, Rebecca, Abiah, Dorcas and Anne.

Samuel Osborn married Eunice Jacobs, a sister of Leonard Sherwood's first wife was Sallie Ann Arnold and his second who is still living, Mary A. Iraman. Abram married Eliza Calkins, David married Martha Reed and John's wife was Harriet, daughter of Turner Calkins of Calkins Street.

Rebecca, born in 1806, married Samuel Ames. Abiah married Festus Jones of Willsboro, Dorcas married Daniel Anson Arnold and went with him to Ohio, and Anna married Stephen Calkins and died in the same State. John Osborn, Sr., died in 1825, was buried near the center of the Quaker grave yard in the Union and at his head his neighbor, Pliny Hoag, erected a plain sandstone slab upon which he had marked the brief inscription which is still plainly legible.

I x O  
1825

In 1834, Samuel Peasley sold the sixty acre farm that he had bought of David Osborn twenty years before to Isaac S. and Samuel Osborn for \$1,600. During the time that he owned it he had built the brick house, and after its purchase Samuel and Eunice Osborn lived there about eight or ten years and then re-moved to Ohio.

Early Settlers of Hallowell Hill II David and John Osborn

From 1825 to 1834 they had lived in a home which stood on the east side of the road which leads to Clintonville, on the land which now belongs to J. W. Harkness, and is used as a pasture.

Sherwood Osborn and his family lived in the brick house built by Peasley from 1842 to 1861, when having sold the farm to Elihu H. Hoag, he also re-moved to Bennington, Ohio, where he and his wife are still living. Abram Osborn and his wife had also settled in Ohio, and in 1859 their brother David sold the farm on which their father had lived to Elihu Hoag and with his family re-moved to the same locality where he died about four or five years ago.

In 1836, David Hoag sold fifty-four acres of the fifty-five which he had bought of David and John Osborn in 1804, to Samuel, Isaac S., and John Osborn for \$1080. This lot together with the forty acres which constituted the west division of the original purchase and the ten acre lot south of the road which formerly belonged to Garret Thew, became the farm of John, the son of John Osborn, Senior. There he lived until his death in 1883, and there his widow, Harriet, still lives with the daughter, Lorette, now Mrs. Joseph Allen. Of all the children of those pioneers, Isaac Sherwood is the only one now living.

J. W. Harkness

## EARLY SETTLERS OF HALLOCK HILL

## III

## Whitcomb, Cochran and Starks

Between the times of the Osborns' coming to Old Peru and the spring of 1796 three more settlers had made their homes in the same neighborhood, Robert Whitcomb, David Cochran and Stephen Starks.

Robert Whitcomb is believed to have come first of the three though the only evidence thus far found is the fact that in 1796 his farm of 50 acres was taxed the same as Cochran's 150 and more than Starks' 100. The amount of the assessment depended partly on the improvements made, so if the small farm was taxed the same as the large one it shows that it had been most improved, hence the inference that it had been longest settled.

Whitcomb was a son-in-law of Capt. Edward Everett of the Union, his wife being that worthy gentlemen's daughter, Hannah. His fifty acre farm lay directly south of the east half of the Osborn brothers' two hundred. It went south as far as the north end of what is now Elihu Hoag's pasture, and ran west from the southeast corner of the farm owned by Elihu Hoag to the east line of the land which belongs to George L. and Bertha Hallock. Whitcomb's log house stood just south of the main road where the lane comes down to David Hallock's house. There he was living in 1797 when Edward Hallock came and bought him out. There is a tradition that Whitcomb offered Hallock the farm for a yoke of oxen but that was not the price paid, for the deed reads "in consideration of three hundred dollars." Whitcomb did not at once leave the hill or if he did he returned within three or four years but probably moved into some house farther west than the one sold, for his name is found on road warrants with those of Gilbert and Garrett Thew and Caleb Southwick, and as late as 1803 he was overseer of highways of that district while at the same time the Hallocks and Osborns were taxed in a different district. In 1804, he had gone from the hill and worked his tax in a district with Wm. Sunderland, Earl and John Howard and John Howe. That is believed to have been the district where Herbert Stafford and Joseph Gordon now live, but the exact location of his new home is unknown. It was back from the road where only a foot path led to it and he did not live to see a highway made to his dwelling for when he died a few of his old neighbors went to his house on foot and brought his remains out a long distance to the road, where teams awaited them, from whence he was taken to his grave in the Quaker burying ground.

His widow afterward became the wife of Eleazer Nichols. He left at least five sons, their names being Joshua, Eben, Edward, Linus and Robert, and one daughter named Ruth.

Robert, the youngest son, was brought up by his uncle, David Allen Everett, married Martha Bragg of West Peru, lived many years in the vicinity of Franklin Falls but returned to old Peru, bought a farm on Allen Hill and died in the fall of 1887, his widow surviving him but a few months.

David Cochran was another son-in-law of Captain Everett, his wife's name being Susan. He came from Pembroke, a small place near Concord, N. H. His farm joined Whitcomb's on the west and ran south about three times as far. It has in late years been called the Pliny Hoag farm and is now owned by Isaac Roberts except about thirty acres off the east side which belongs to the Hallocks. Cochran first sold to Edward Hallock 25 acres in a nearly square form out of the northeast corner of his farm. Afterwards he sold David Hoag the remainder, 125 acres, and



EARLY SETTLERS OF HALLOCK HILL  
Whitcomb, Cochran, and Starks III

Hallock made a trade with Hoag deeding to him 15 acres on the west side of above mentioned 25, for which he received 20 acres which lay south of the remaining 10 which made a straight line between the two farms where it remains to this day.

After selling his farm to Hoag, Cochran re-moved to what is now called Telegraph Street and bought the farm now owned by Wesley Rider.

His son Edward Everett Cochran, commonly called Everett, married and lived many years upon that farm and another son named William re-moved to Michigan where he became a Baptist clergyman.

The oldest daughter, Rachel married Cyrus Ward. Abigail commonly called Nabby, married Aaron Boynton, lived in Ellenburg and was the mother of Hall Boynton and Mrs. Prosper Roberts.

Polly married Godfrey Cornell and had a son named Mortimer and a daughter Narcissa. Susan married James Reed and in her last year, lived on Burnt Hill in the town of Saranac where the son Furman Reed, Esq., still resides.

David Cochran married a second wife and two other daughters named Sophia, and Mary, the former of whom married a man named Lewis Fundy.

Narcissa Cornell married a gentleman named Bailey whose home was in New Orleans. After living there with him a few years, she came back to Peru to visit her relatives, leaving her husband and a little son named Peter. Her mother had died when she was quite young; and her father, Godfrey Cornell, had married again and had other children, one of whom was named Candace.

After remaining at her father's a few weeks, Narcissa Bailey started for her southern home, having with her an infant daughter, born during her visit and her half sister, Candace Cornell, a young girl of about thirteen. The ship on which they sailed from New York was wrecked; and of all on board, only two were saved, one of them being Narcissa Bailey's infant which was carried by the waves to the shore and deposited among the rocks where it was found entirely uninjured and restored to its relatives, the mother and sister both being drowned.

In 1814, when the British invaded the county, David Cochran and a Peru militia of whom he was chosen Captain, performed very efficient service in the defense of Plattsburgh. It is stated in the history of Clinton County that these Peru men under the command of Captain Cochran were the first to meet the foe. This encounter is said to have taken place on the 6th of Sept., five days before the battle, about four miles north of Plattsburgh. When on the 11th a detachment of British succeeded in fording the river near Pike's contonment they found the militia on the south bank ready to meet them. Of course, they retreated before the superior numbers of the trained British regulars but kept up an incessant firing from behind the large pines which covered the Plattsburgh plains and thus greatly annoyed the enemy. Instead of retreating towards the forts they went in the direction of Peru and the British, not knowing the way or supposing that the main body of Americans was before them, were thus led away from the forts which they had crossed the river on purpose to attack. About three miles from the river on the road toward Peru stands a small stone house on the west side of the road. In front of that house the British column stopped and an officer was about to enter, perhaps to inquire the way to Plattsburgh, when as he stood on the steps he was struck by a ball from a field piece which had been planted by the Americans in the road on a little hill about half a mile further south. About that time, it was

EARLY SETTLERS OF HALLOCK HILL  
Whitcomb, Cochran, and Starks

discovered that they had "got too far from Canada" and began a hasty retreat towards the river. This was an opportunity for Captain Cochran and his men, and they availed themselves of it. Running from tree to tree, they kept up a rattling fire which caused many a Briton to bite the dust,

"Behold the hedges and the ditches  
 And the trees and every stump  
 In their homespun shirts and breeches  
 See the Yankees farmers jump."

It is said that Captain Cochran was a very prominent one in this fight, being known by his broad-brimmed hat and sheep's gray suit, but while that might indicate that he was a Quaker, such was not the case unless he joined "the meeting" after he left the hill. Positive proof exists that in the year 1802 when he sold his farm to David Hoag, the Cochran family were called "world's people" and the fact that he was a "bloody man of war" in 1814 indicates that he never became one of the Society of Friends. The exact date of his death is unknown, but the REPUBLICAN'S worthy correspondent "Scribe" says that in 1836 the old Captain was living but very feeble and probably died soon after. He is believed to have been buried in the little graveyard near the present residence of George Everett, his grave being very near the spot where the old blockhouse formerly stood.

After Nathaniel Platt deeded the 300 acres of land in Lot No. 5 to the Thew brothers, he still owned 200 acres in that lot. He soon sold that land to Cyrenus Newcomb who sold the south half, 100 acres, to Silas Pomeroy who sold the same to John Parker who sold it to Stephen Starks. All of these changes of ownership had taken place within six years, and it is not known that any of the owners before Starks ever lived upon the lot.

Stephen Starks' 100 acres included the north 70 acres of the Harkness farm and 80 acres of the east part of the farm now owned by George Arnold. In 1797 Starks deeded the west half of his lot, 50 acres, to Lodoma Parker, of Plattsburgh who is believed to have been the wife of the John Parker, from whom he bought it. In May, 1801, he sold his remaining 50 acres to Daniel Harkness and removed to Chateaugay which is thought to be the place from whence he came. How long he remained in Chateaugay (he spelled the name Shatagee) is not known but old inhabitants of this town say that he returned and about the year 1820 was living on the present Theodorus Baker farm near the lake. Whether he died there or moved away again "tradition sayeth not." His wife's first name was Elenor. He had a brother David and a brother or son Ebenezer who lived in the neighborhood in 1799.

Ira Starks, a son of Stephen, was elected Town Clerk of Peru for four successive years, from 1816 to 19 inclusive. His beautiful penmanship and correct spelling indicate that his education was much superior to that of the average farmer or town officer. It is believed that he died in November 1819, for in the latter part of that month Chauncey Stoddard was appointed to fill a vacancy and serve as Town Clerk until the annual Town Meeting in April, 1820.

This Ira Starks had a brother, Thomas, and sister, Nabby and Rachel, and the latter of whom married Ezekiel Hodges and lives on the farm now owned by Richard Irwin in West Peru.

J. W. Harkness

## EARLY SETTLERS OF HALLOCK HILL

## IV

## Hallock, Southwick and Baker

The year 1797 is a memorable in the annals of our quiet neighborhood for the coming of the Hallock family from Ferrisburg, Vt.

A sketch of that family was printed in the REPUBLICAN of June 30, 1888, and it is not my purpose to repeat here any statements made therein, but only to correct one or two mistakes and supply such omissions as seem to be important.

Edward Hallock married the daughter of Robert, not Pliny, Earl and the farm which he bought of Robert Whitcomb contained but 50 instead of 140 acres, but he purchased of other parties land lying on three sides of that farm till he had, before he divided with his brother and sisters, 680 acres. The portion that fell to Isaac was about 45 acres of the Whitcomb farm and enough of the other to make 140 acres.

The mother of the Hallocks came with them to Peru and for some years after the new houses were built lived with her daughters Grace and Dinah in the east rooms of Isaac's house on the Whitcomb farm.

After the death of his first wife, Edward married Hannah, the widow of John Osborne who survived him and passed her last years with her sons in Ohio.

The tract of land which since the coming of this family has been known as Hallock Hill, consists of about 1,500 acres of tillable soil besides an equal area that is unfit for cultivation. It lies in the central part of the Town of AuSable, and on the northern slope of the watershed which separates the valleys of the Great and Little AuSable Rivers. The eastern slope of the same elevation of land is called Taylor Hill after William and Stephen Taylor who were among its first settlers. The southern and western slopes have never been settled and are still covered with forest.

The main street or road of Hallock Hill runs west from the corners where Edward Hallock lived, a little more than one and a half miles and then descends rapidly to the Little River valley. Another road which forms right angles with this, runs south from the Union past the Edward Hallock place, over the eastern part of the hill, and down through the Taylor neighborhood to the village of Keeseville. Another runs south from a point in the main street one and a fourth miles west of the eastern extremity and leads through about three miles of unsettled forest land toward Clintonville and a short piece of road about one-fourth of a mile east of the one last mentioned runs south from the main street to the Thew and Quarter residences.

The exact elevation of this hill above the lake is unknown but it is sufficient to afford most magnificent views of that part of that country which lies north of it. From every point along the main street and the other roads except that which passes through woods toward Clintonville, the spires of Plattsburgh, the islands in Lake Champlain, the

mountains of Vermont and almost the entire towns of Peru, Schuyler Falls, and Plattsburgh are distinctly visible.

But if you wish to obtain a view that is equalled by few if any nearer than the summit of Whiteface you should ascend to the top of the hill that rises a little southeast of the present Hallock home - stead. No words of mine are adequate to describe the beauty, sublimity, or extent of the prospect which the visitor to that point will find awaiting him and the only way to obtain an idea of it is for each to come and see. Among its other features are at least a thousand fields of almost every color, shape and size, like the blocks in a woman's crazy quilt and the great variety of borders including stone, stump board, rail, bush, pole, and wire fences, hedges, ditches and highways help to make the resemblance still more complete.

The soil of Hallock Hill is fertile and not difficult to cultivate where it has been subdued, but the walls which surround almost every field and great heaps of stones that, on some farms, have been accumulating for about a century bear witness to the industry of our ancestors and the amount of hard labor which they were obliged to perform.

In 1799 or 1800, Caleb Southwick, whose wife Phebe was the sister of John and David Osborne, came from Danvers, Mass., to old Peru and settled on the west side of the brook that still bears his name though it might as appropriately be called the Thew Brook for the Thews had owned the land through which it flowed for ten years before he came and have continued to own a part of it to this day.

Southwick was a tanner and currier by trade and he built a tannery near the brook and a few rods north of the road. The foundation wall on which that building stood can be seen there though it is overgrown with a dense thicket of wild plums which in these early May days appears to be one solid bank of whiteness and fragrance. Just south of that stone foundation some depressions in the surface of the ground mark the places where the vats were located. The great stone wheel lay near them till a few years ago when it was drawn to the school house yard and now supports the central from post of the shed in which the people tie their horses when they came to meeting. Southwick's fifty acres now belong to Sidney Reynolds and his lot extended from the place where Reynolds' west barn now stands to a point about five rods east of the north end of the Thew Road. Afterward he, or his son Paul, bought of Dr. Mathews one acre of land which joined the fifty acre lot on the east side and was bounded by the east line of the present school house yard. On that acre, Dr. Mathews had built a framed house and was living about the year 1815.

After the Southwick family bought it they moved into that house and lived there several years. It was burned more than forty years ago but the old cellar still marks its site. Caleb Southwick is said to have died in 1819. His widow, "Aunt Phebe" died in 1843, at the age of 79. They had a son David who died when a young man soon after he was married. Paul was born in 1796, died in 1858, leaving one son, Dr. David Southwick of Ogdensburg, and five daughters whose present names are Mary Griffin, Phebe Childs, Deborah Harris, Hannah Rowell, and Sarah Southwick.

Hallock, Southwick and Baker

Abigail, daughter of Caleb and Phebe did not marry. She died in 1870 aged 70 years. Edward Married Maria Miller and died in Peabody, as old Danvers, Mass is now called, in 1870, at the age of 63. His widow died about April 1, 1889, at the residence of their only son, Caleb, who lives in Massachusetts, a few miles south-east of Boston.

At the time of the Massacre of Wyoming by the Tories and Indians under command of Col. John Butler, in July 1778, there lived in that valley a family by the name of Baker. It escaped the fate to which so many were doomed, death by the tomahawk, by leaving all of their goods, except what could be carried on the backs of two horses, and journeying on foot to Danby, Vt., a distance of nearly two hundred miles.

One of the sons who with his parents took that terrible journey was named Reuben, his age being 12 years. He grew to manhood in Danby, married Elizabeth, daughter of Andrew White, who was the grandfather of the Andrew, who lived and died near Lapham's Mills, and in 1796, removed with his family and that of his wife's father to old Peru. He settled first in the Union on land now owned by Richard Keese II but after a year or two removed to Taylor Hill where he leased some land that is said to have been owned by the Schuylers. About the year 1800 he sold his lease and moved to Hallock Hill where he bought 12 acres out of the northwest corner of Gilbert Thew's farm and built a log house a few rods east of the north end of the Harkness Road. He worked for Caleb Southwick in the tannery three or four years and then resold the land to Gilbert Thew and bought of Richard Hallock, a brother of Edward, the farm about a mile further west in the valley of the Little AuSable where he lived until 1857, and where his son Stephen still lives. He worked for Dyer Arnold in the tannery at the foot of the hill on the farm now owned by Nelson Quarter, and with the help of his sons made brick just south of the brook which runs through the pasture where traces of the old brick kiln can still be seen.

His son Ezekiel and his daughters, Ruth and Mercy were born in Danby, Vt., Amy in the Union, Andrew on Taylor Hill, Gideon and Spencer on Hallock Hill, Stephen and Seneca on the present Baker farm, the former in 1808, the latter in 1813, Ruth became the wife of Peter Weaver of Schuyler Falls, and Seneca in Chesterfield, three miles south of Clintonville.

The some year that Baker came to the Hill a man named James Unber bought of Garret Thew the acre lot which now belongs to the Osborne farm. He lived on it several years but never got a deed. He too, worked for Southwick in the tannery. His wife's name was Christiana, and they had several children. What became of the family is unknown to the writer.

Probably written in 1889.

J. W. Harkness

## EARLY SETTLERS OF HALLOCK HILL

David and Daniel Harkness and David Hoag.

A century ago there lived in the town of Adams, county of Berkshire and State of Massachusetts, a worthy Quaker by the name of Adam Harkness. He was a solid man in more than one sense. The great arm chair that was made expressly for him, because no ordinary one was sufficiently large to furnish him a comfortable seat, is now in my possession and my two hundred pounds avoirdupois fills but a fraction of its ample capacity. Like the ancient dweller in the land of Uz he was "one that feared God and eschewed evil." Before me is one of his autograph letters dated "Adams, ye' 22 of 3 mo. 1803," in which he reminds his "respected son, Daniel" of some "expressions in a letter dated 11 of 11 last" and wishes him to "heartily give up in full obedience and let him that names the Name of the Lord depart from Inequity." He was a man of some means for it said that when he came to visit this same Daniel and found him living on a fifty acre farm he offered to buy one hundred acres adjoining and make him a present of it, but Daniel answered that the one hundred acre lot was covered with great overgrown pine trees and he didn't care anything about it. These same overgrown pines were afterward sold for more than enough to pay for the farm and thus proved to be worth a fortune to the man who bought it.

This Adam Harkness had two sons and two daughters who came to live in (old) Peru besides about as many who did not. The oldest daughter, Thankful, came on horseback by way of Willsboro, crossed the AuSable at the fordway about a mile above where Keeseville is now located and settled on Hallock Hill in 1799 or 1800.

David bought the fifty acres that Stephen Starks had deeded to Lodeme Parker now owned by Geo. Arnold, and at subsequent times other lots adjoining till he owned nearly or quite 500 acres. He married Ruth Hoxey, and after her death found another wife in the southern part of this State whose maiden name I have not been able to ascertain. The names of his children were Asa, Joseph, Elizabeth, David, Gideon, Adam, William, Richard and Mary.

He built the stonehouse where George Arnold now lives. He was a noted preacher among the Friends or Quakers and it is said that when the Spirit moved him to speak it was with great power. He removed with his family to Michigan and his sons Gideon and Richard also became preachers and the latter continues to preach to this day, the other sons and daughters being now dead. It was the practice of the Quaker preachers of the olden time to take long journeys, stopping with Friends or people of their own denomination, and preaching the Gospel or our Lord or Saviour wherever they could find a meeting-house, a school-house, or any other place where the people could congregate to hear them. It was while on one of those preaching tours about the year 1810 that an interesting incident occurred to David Harkness that may be worth relating. He was stopping over night with some Quakers in a newly settled region not far from the Pennsylvania line and during the evening his host asked him if he had never seen water burn. Harkness replied that it had never been his fortune to meet one who was smart enough to set a river on fire and was told that he should see the thing done. The whole family then went out, one carrying a lighted torch and

Early Settlers of Hallock Hill-David, Daniel Harkness and David Hoag

when they reached the bank of a small stream that flowed near the house the torch was applied to its surface when lo! a bright flame sprang up and spread all over the water and followed the stream down through the woods as fast as it could be seen. That was at least forty or perhaps fifty years before people began to realize that valuable oil could be obtained from the ground and if David Harkness had not been a man whose simple statement or affirmation was more reliable than some other people oaths it is doubtful about this story being believed by those to whom he related it.

Thankful Harkness married William Kirby and settled in the district still called West Peru, though now in Ausable, on the farm which her son Adam, named for his grand-father Harkness still owns. About two years, after coming of David Harkness to old Peru, his brother Daniel followed him and on "the forth day of the fifth month in the year of our Lord on thousand Eight hundred one," "Stephen Starks of Shatagee in Clinton County and State of New York" deeded to him the east half of the south half of the west two-fifths of Lot No. 5, containing 50 acres of land. A year later, the 21st of the sixth month 1802, his brother David sold him twenty acres from the south end of his fifty acre lot making seventy acres in all. This Daniel was, course, a birth-right Quaker but he was not destined to remain one very long for when in the fall of 1802 he married Nabby Cochran, the sister of Captain David, he committed an offence which caused him to be disowned by the Society. He was faithfully "laboured with" but would not say that he was sorry for what he had done, so at last a notice was served upon him of which the following is a true copy:

"Daniel Harkness Having so far Disregarded the Wholesome Disapline of our Society as to be married to one not a member amongst friends and by a magistrate for which he had been laboured with, but without the desired effect.--Therefore the meeting Unites in Disowning him from being any Longer a member, Untill he makes Statisfaction to the Meeting.

Extracted from the minutes of Peru Monthly Meeeing

Held on the 28th of the 4th mo, 1803.

By Benj'n Sherman C'l'k."

The marriage above referred to took place in the log house which David Cochran the brother of the bride had just sold with his farm to David Hoag and it was but a few days before the Cochran family moved from that farm to their new home on what is now called Telegraph Street.

Daniel and his wife at once began house keeping in the log house where Starks had lived which stood near the northeast corner of the farm in what is now the Harkness Orchard. There they continued to live till about 1820 when the house was built in which the present Harkness family still lives. Daniel and Nabby Harkness had three sons named Nehemiah, William and Lovejoy and one daughter, Anna. William and Lovejoy died in early childhood but Nehemiah, born in 1803, grew up and married Deborah, the oldest daughter of David Allen Everett and

His wife Betsy the daughter of Garet Thew. With her he lived upon the farm where he was born till his death in 1870 and on that farm his widow still lives.

Anna, the daughter of Daniel Harkness had one son, Daniel D., who lives in Cerrillos, New Mexico, and a daughter, Mary Ann, who married Lewis B. LaFountain and now lives in Dow City, Iowa. The name of Anna Harkness' husband was David Robinson. She died in Aug. 1860, aged about 52.

After Daniel Harkness was disowned by the Quakers for having married one of the "World's people" he joined the Methodist Church and continued a member of it until his death in 1859 at the age of 82. His wife must have been four years his senior for she died in 1844 at the age of 71. For 14 years after the marriage of Nehemiah Harkness he and his family lived in a house at the south end of his father's original lot but in 1848 he moved into the house which his father had built in 1820 and there the Harkness family still resides. It is on the road that leads from the main street towards Clintonville.

Deborah Harkness, another sister of David and Daniel, came to Peru a few years later, and afterward became the second wife of Stephen Keese, whose daughter, Elizabeth married Benjamin Smith and was the mother of Stephen Keese Smith, who still lives in Peru.

In the last half of last Century there lived in the County of Dutchess, New York, another Quaker farmer named Elijah Hoag. Like most of the farmers of that day, he knew how to do other work besides farming and there is a stone Quaker meeting house still standing about 18 miles east of Poughkeepsie which is said to have been built by his hands.

About the year 1785 or '90, he removed to Ferrisburgh, Vt. with his wife and family consisting of four sons named Joseph, David, Jonathon, and Elihu, and one daughter, Hannah. The oldest son, Joseph, afterward became famous by having a wonderful vision while at work in his field at Monkton, Vt., in the year 1803, in which was revealed to him most of the great events which were to take place in our country including the Civil War, the abolition of slavery, and other things which have come to pass. Jonathon Hoag settled in Lincoln, Vt., and was the father of Elijah who came to old Peru about 1825 and whose son Richard now lives in Keeseville. Hannah Hoag married Stephen Carpenter and her son was the first husband of Mary, the daughter of Isaac Hallock.

David Hoag married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Earl and sister of Persis Hallock. In company with his youngest brother, Elihu, he went to Starksboro, Vt. and there erected a grist and a saw mill which afterward burned. The grothers rebuilt these mills but again had the misfortune to lose them by fire and David feeling very much discouraged when he received a letter from his brother-in-law Edward Hallock advising him to sell out his interest there and come and buy a farm in Peru. He decided it was the thing to do, and so it came to pass that in 1802 he bought of David Cochran his remaining 12 acres on Hallock Hill. Two years later he bought of David and John Osborn fifty-five acres that they had bought of Gilbert and Garret Thew, and some years afterward he bought of Samuel Peasley 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres which lay north of the road directly opposite his house on the Cochran farm. He passed the remainder of



his life on that farm, dying in 1848 at the age of 78, and his widow lived till 1856 when she was 87. They had seven daughters, the first four of whom were born in Vermont, and four sons named Pliny, Embree, Russell and Elihu. Pliny was born in 1802, the same year that his father bought the Cochran farm, and passed a greater part of his life on that place, dying in 1874. The number of his children was the same as that of his father's, eleven.

Embree Hoag, who was by many erroneously called Emery, was a teacher for many years. He finally removed to Wisconsin and there died in 1872. Russell died when a young man. Elihu the youngest son of David Hoag was born five days after the Battle of Plattsburgh. He married Ruth Leggett who was the sister of Pliny's wife, and in 1851 or about that year bought of Sherwood Osborn the 60 acre farm which has been the original homestead of David Osborn, Senior. A few years later he bought of David, 2d, the son of John Osborn, Senior. the farm which lay directly west and thus became the owner of one of the best farms in AuSable. His wife died but a few months ago and he is still living at the age of 75. He is the sole representative of the old Quakers who formerly owned almost every farm on Hallock Hill though the meetings in this vicinity have long since been discontinued for lack of a sufficient number to make a congregation, he still attends the quarterly and yearly meetings of the Society which are held at Glens Falls, N. Y., Ferrisburg, Vt., Portland, Me., and other parts of the United States.

J. W. Harkness.

This story was the first one found, when those of us who have been studying them and bringing them up to date, thought they had been lost. It was in a PLATTSBURGH REPUBLICAN, dated 1889. The paper was given by the late Miss Bertha Anson.

Notes: The Hallocks of Hallaac Hill--David and Daniel Harkness and David Hoag.  
Article V.

The "overgrown pine tree lot" is now the farm of Mrs. Dorothy Macomber Felio (Mrs. Clifton Felio)

The George Arnold farm with the large stone house is still in the Arnold family, the present owners being Mr. and Mrs. Ray Arnold and son, Robert, and a sister Miss Grace E. Arnold. Their father was Bion Arnold, son of George.

Richard Hoag of Keeseville married Lucia Pope, sister of Dr. Willis Pope. Their home was on Beach St., the present home of Charles Smith. Once owned by Dr. K.J. Severence.

The William Kirby farm in West Peru was passed down through four generations, Leon Stafford being one owner, presently owned by the Ray Banker family. (Ronald Banker)

The home of Capt. David Cochran on Telegraph Street was the home of Wesley Ryder and is now owned and occupied by his daughter, Mary Ryder Mace. (Mrs. Clarence) David Cochran lived on the farm now owned by Wm. McCormick.

Stephen Starks lived on the part of the farm now owned by Dorothy Macomber Felio (Mrs. Clifton) on the rejected "pine tree lot."

The Thew farms of the Gilbert and Garrett Thew are up a lane from the Hallock Hill Rd. One of the farms was once owned by Will Carpenter, the other is presently owned by Damase Martin. That road once continued over to the J.W. Harkness Road.

The Stephen Keese farm is now owned by Avery Stafford.

The "Journal of Joseph Hoag" has been preserved. Miss Grace Arnold has a copy, revised edition. Joseph Hoag was born April 22, 1762 and died November 21, 1946.

Isaac Hallock married Phebe Underhill and lived on the farm now occupied by John T. McCormick. The Edward Hallock farm is now owned by Roger "Benny" Bezio. David and John Osborn farms, the late Samuel Gordon, now W. T. McCormick. Samuel Peasley once owned this farm and is said to have built the brick house. He married Jane, daughter of Henry Green and Elizabeth Keese. I. He is also the founder of Peasleyville. Ross and Ruth Arnold McRae own a part of this old Cochran farm. Samuel Peasley owned the Hoag-Osborn farm from 1814 to 1834. Elihu Hoag died in 1905 at the age of 90. His daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Horatio owned the farm for many years, on retirement sold it to Samuel Gordon. After his death, his son Forest kept the farm, and then sold it to William McCormick. Horatio Baker will be remembered as the donator of the Peru Public Library.

Henry Green, who sold the land for the Quaker Cemetery married Elizabeth Keese I, the daughter of John II and Elizabeth Titus Keese.

The farm of David Hoag and son Pliny was later owned by Isaac Roberts and is presently owned by Peter Martin for the last 50 years or more. Mr. and Mrs. Martin celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1963. Mr. and Mrs. Victor Martin, Peter's parents lived in the early 1900 on the next farm west on one of the Thew farms, now occupied by Damase Martin. Gilbert and Garrett Thew settled on these farms in 1789, the first settlers on Hallock Hill.

Dr. Georgia Harkness, in her address before the Quaker Union Society in 1959, said that her great grandmother was considered worldly as she wore a "red coat."

Historians say that the Rogers Road crossed the fordway to a Goodrich farm, which is now the farm of the late Raymond Pray. The house on the Pray farm and the one on the Wm. Thimpson farm were built by two brothers, Jeremiah and Elihu Hayes.

Notes compiled by Mildred G. Keese and Grace E. Arnold. 1963.

## EARLY SETTLERS OF HALLOCK HILL

## VI

Miller, Bowron, Sanborn, and the Arnold Brothers

Scrapbook owned by Miss Grace Arnold

Thomas Miller and Keziah his wife came to old Peru in 1804 and settled on a farm of 62½ acres which lay on the northwestern slope of Hallock Hill on both sides of the road that descends toward the little AuSable.

Miller was at that time 36 years of age, a millwright by trade and a good workman as some of the buildings which he erected still testify. The land on which he settled had formerly belonged to David Harkness who deeded it in 1812 to Jeremiah Sherrill, and in 1817, "in consideration of love, good-will and esteem," deeded the same to his daughter Keziah Miller. The stone house, on the brow of the hill, now owned by Miss Sallie M. Arnold, was built by Miller in 1822, and in 1830, he and his wife deeded the farm to their son-in-law Samuel Boorne who lived there and cared for his wife's parents during their declining years.

Mrs. Miller died in 1838 and her husband in 1852, when he died he was 84 years of age. Besides Mrs. Cornelia Boorne they had four other daughters, Phebe, the oldest married Emanuel Beardsley, Sally married Eleazer Arnold, and Betsy, his brother Alvah. Maria became the wife of Edward Southwick and lived until the early part of this year, 1889. Samuel Boorne sold the Miller farm to Eleazer Arnold and removed to AuSable Forks where he had a wheelwright shop which was destroyed by the great freshet of 1856 when he moved to Lowell, Mass., where he has since died.

Sometime between 1807 and 1810, a man named Jacob Bowron bought the 100 acre lot which the contented Daniel Harkness had declined to accept as a gift from his father because of those "great overgrown pine trees" which covered it. That lot lay north of both David's and Daniel's fifty acre lots and between Southwick's fifty acres which lay east of it and the Miller farm, which was west. Bowron's wife, who is now mentioned by the old inhabitants by the familiar name of "Aunt Molly," was an English woman and when the war of 1812 broke out her sympathies were naturally on the side of her mother country. On the 11th of September, 1814, as the wife and children of Daniel Harkness were standing in front of their log house listening to the roar of the cannon and watching the smoke of battle as it rose above the waters of Cumberland Bay, Mollie Bowron came up the road from her own home about fifty rods farther north, and raising her hands as if imploring Divine assistance exclaimed in fervent tones, "Success to the British."

Nabby Harkness, whose heart was as loyal as that of her brother David Cochran who was at that moment fighting the redcoats on Plattsburgh plains, never forgot to her dying day how indignant she felt towards her Tory neighbor, but there is no record of the answer that she made and perhaps the words would have scorched the paper if they had been written. It will be remembered that Nabby was not a Quaker.

Early Settlers of Hallock Hill--Miller, Bowron, Sanborn and the  
Arnold Brothers

Jacob and Molly Bowron sold their farm in 1811 to Nathaniel Hanson and removed to the Union where "Aunt Molly" died in 1833, at the age of 80 at the house of her son Jacob who lived on the farm now owned by George Howard. The date of her husband's death is unknown.

When in 1812 Edward Hallock resolved to build the big house where Harrison Arnold now lives he saw that he would need the help of a carpenter so he promised Isaac Sanborn who was known to be a good workman, house and five acres of land if he would come and do his wood-work, Sanborn agreed, the five acres were measured off from the northwest corner of the 500 acre lot which Hallock had bought of the Rogers family, and a house was built where William Baker's house now stands. It was finished on Saturday night and Sunday morning Mrs. Sanborn and her children came to see their new home. It was already for occupation except that there were large quantities of shavings made by the carpenter's planes lying on the floors, and the mother directed her sons to gather them in their arms and carry them all to the north room, and burn them in the great open fire place which in those days was used instead of the more modern stoves. The six boys, Isaac, Ira, John, William, Daniel and Silas or as many of them as were at that time old enough to help, enjoyed that task and soon a hot fire was roaring up the chimney but their fun was of short duration for a spark from the fireplace fell among the dry shavings which were scattered on the floor and in a moment the new house was in flames. No wonder the poor family that had been looking forward to the comforts of their nice new house could not restrain their grief at thus seeing it vanish in fire and smoke, but early the next morning Edward Hallock came on with his men and teams, the other neighbors came and helped more or less and the next Sunday morning another new house, all complete and ready, stood on the spot where the first one was burned.

The same vessel that brought old Peter, the ancestors of all the Hallocks, to America in 1640, had another passenger by name of Isaac Arnold who is believed to have been the ancestor of all the Arnolds in this country. That he was a worthy man is proved by the fact that he was chosen by the townsmen to represent them in the convention at Jamaica Long Island, in 1673, and either he or a son of the same name was elected first County Judge of Suffolk County in 1693. In the early part of this century, two brothers named Daniel and Dyer Arnold lived in Berlin, Rensselaer County, N. Y. Dyer Arnold was a tanner by trade and he came to Peru as early as 1810 and bought about thirty acres of land between the farms of Thomas Miller and Reuben Baker and there built a tannery.

In 1819, Eleazer Arnold, the oldest son of Daniel, and his brother Laban who was a few years younger, left their father's farm in Rensselaer County and came on foot to Clinton. As they came over Taylor Hill to Hallock they stopped in the road and divided equally between them all of their money which was about five dollars. Eleazer hired out by the month to Gilbert Thew and Laban went to work for his uncle Dyer in the tannery.

Early Settlers of Hallock Hill--Miller, Bowron, Sanborn  
and the Arnold Brothers

In 1824, in company with their brother-in-law, David Spencer, Eleazer bought the 100 acre farm that Nathaniel Hansen had bought of Jacob Bowron and in 1827, Eleazer and Labah bought of Spencer his interest in the said farm. Eleazer married Sally, daughter of Thomas Miller, and in 1835, bought of David Harkness the farm where his son, George, now lives and afterward bought the Miller farm and the Edward Hallock farm all of which, except the Harkness which he sold to George, he owned till his death in 1888. He moved to the Hallock Hill farm in 1851 and there passed the remainder of his years. His wife died about the year 1844, leaving sons named George, Henry, Stutely and Harrison and daughters, Jane Ann, who married Richard Thew and Sallie M. Another son named Franklin who was older than George died when a child, Henry died when a young man, and Stutely went to the war and came home sick and died about the year 1864. Eleazer married a second wife named Mariette Gordon, who died about 1852, leaving a daughter named for her mother who is now Mrs. Charles Wells, of Hancock, Mass.

Laban Arnold bought out his brother Eleazer's interest in the Bowron farm about 1835. He married Katie Beardsley and had two sons named Henry and Richard and four daughters, Hannah, Sarah, Maria, and Clarissa. Richard died when a child. After the death of his first wife he married Della Ann Gaines and had two more daughters named Elma and Olive. He bought the Southwick farm of 51 acres, and about ten acres more that lay north of it but sold his brother Eleazer about 30 acres from the west side of his Bowron 100 acre lot, thus keeping in the whole farm about 130 acres. He died in the fall of 1866 and his widow now lives in Keeseville with her daughter, Mrs. Elma Hart.

A few years after the coming of Eleazer and Laban, their other brothers Alvah, Ashley and Daniel and their sisters, Louisa, wife of David Spencer, Polly and Sally Ann came also to old Peru and lastly their father Daniel Arnold sold his farm in Berlin and followed his children.

He was living with his wife in the Southwick house when it burned and afterward lived in the Edward Hallock house till his death in 1848. His widow married Solomon Clark of Peru but died many years ago. His sons and daughters are now all gone, the oldest son, Eleazer being the last. His age was 91.

The old log school-house in which the sons and daughters of the earliest settlers were educated, stood on the south side of the road about midway between the present residences of Harrison Arnold and Elihu Hoag. That is absolutely all that is known concerning it by the present inhabitants of the neighborhood. Though it must have been built less than one hundred years ago and doubtless was used at least twenty or twenty-five years, there appears to be no record of it in existence and even the names of the teachers who there found employment are unknown to the people of this generation.

If anyone now living was a pupil in that school-house and can give any information concerning it, that one is probably Garret Thew of Rand Hill. If his memory reaches back to those old times and he can throw any light upon this or any other dark point in our early history, a chapter of his personal recollections written by someone who can conveniently have an interview with him would be of interest to many besides the writer of these imperfect sketches.

J. W. Harkness

Dated 1889

Notes: Early Settlers of Hallock Hill, Osborn, Whitcomb, Cochran and Starks, Hallock, Southwick and Baker, Miller, Bowron, Sanborn and the Arnold Brothers.

The Hon. George P. Hallock (born 1806) lived on the River Road, which Mr. Harkness sometimes called the Hallock Road. He married Polly Calkins of the Calkins Road as his first wife. He had three. The farm is now owned by Robert Sherman. George E. Hallock, son of George E. lived on the farm where he was born. After his death, his widow sold the farm to Datus Clark II and she and her son, William built a house in Peru Village William was an accomplished violinist. He married Marian Turner of Plattsburgh and moved to California and he died there.

The George Issac Hallock (1860-1891) was the father of Harry David Hallock (1889-1957) of Hallock Hill and Plattsburgh.

The Whitcomb farm bought by Edward Hallock in 1797 and sold to his brother, Issac Hallock in 1811, was passed down through two generations of Hallocks, and is now owned by John T. McCormick.

The farm just east of the Whitcomb farm, on the corner of Hallock Hill Road and Union Road, is the additional one Edward Hallock bought and where he built such a large house. It was later owned by Harrison Arnold and now owned by Roger ("Benny") Bezio.

The Elihu Hoag farm is now owned by William McCormick. The brick house was built by Samuel Peasley who woned the farm from 1814-1834. He removed to Peasleyville for whom the hamlet is named. He married Jane Green, daughter of Henry Green and Elizabeth Keese I. Elihu Hoag died on this farm in 1905 at the age of 90. It is presently owned by Wm. McCormick.

The Osborn farm is an interesting one. The house was the Quaker Academy at the Union which Osborn bought and moved to its present location. At the time of these writings it was owned by Mrs. Joseph Allen, later Frank Felio, Francis Hogan and now Mrs. Harold Perlee.

The Baker farm, next to the one at the foot of the hill going into Harkness, was passed from Reuben Baker to his son, Stephen and is still owned by Baker descendants, Mrs. Mary Goff.

Thomas Miller's daughter, Sally, married Eleazer Arnold I, father of Harrison and George Arnold. The Arnold Homestead which Eleazer purchased from David Harkness in 1835 is presently owned by Ray Arnold and his son, Robert. Four generations of Arnolds have lived in the same stone house which was built about 1800.



Articles published about 1888. by J. W. Harkness  
Notes by Grace E. Arnold and Cora M. Stafford 1966

The Grace E. Arnold scrapbook contains all of the six articles on the  
Early Settlers of Hallock Hill.

Wm/Bowron married Mary Keese, daughter of Richard Keese I and Anna  
Hallock

## ROGERS ROAD

## The Farms Upon It a Century Ago.

Next in importance to the main or post road among the thoroughfare of old Peru one hundred years ago was that highway called Rogers Road because it was made under the direction of Platt Rogers, one of the thirth associates of Zephaniah Platt in the purchase of the various patents and locations that bear his name. That road ran north and south across the town of Peru passing through the Union as the Quaker Settlement was called (and still is) and about a half mile west of Cockran's Mille (first called Hackstaff's) in what is now Peru village. It was made between 1790 and 1793 and was from three to five years older than that part of the main road which crossed the High Bridge and ran from there southward to the Willsborough line, that having been laid out and established by the commissions of highways, March 26, 1796, though it may have been made by the Commissioners of Highways and used a little before that date. Where it crossed the Willsborough line, the two roads, keeping nearer to Augur Pond and striking the fordway of the Great AuSable about two miles above the present village of Keeseville. (About where the Northway now crosses the river) Crossing the flats on what is now the farm of Dr. Talmadge<sup>(1)</sup> (Raymond Pray Sr. Farm) and then turning upstream ran westward to the east line of Lot No. 20 of Platt's 12,000 location,<sup>(2)</sup> and then turning north it followed the direction of the lot lines for three miles to the north of that location (Great Location) which is the south line of Richard Keese farm. (Merritt S. Keese). There the road turned east and ran about 12 rods along the north line of what is now LeRoy Signor's land (the Signor house has long since fallen into decay. Land now owned by Raymond Trombley) to the south corner of Capt. Everett's Lot No. 13 of the Great Location. (Now Keese property) which is now the southeast corner of Richard Keese's elm tree lot. There the road turns north and ran just where it runs today across the town of Peru to what was then the south line of Plattsburgh but now Schuyler Falls, crossing that line three-fourths of a mile east of Stephen Weaver's Corners. <sup>(3)</sup>

It is said that this road began in Warren County and continued north to the Village of Champlain passing through the present town of Schuyler Falls, Plattsburgh, Beekmantown, and Chazy, and the John S. Banker of West Plattsburgh lives upon a section of this old road. (Banker Road) At least one man mentioned upon the assessment roll of Plattsburgh for 1798, for that item reads, "Asa Hayes, 100 acres adjoining David Beach and Rogers Road, 1 log house (28 dollars) Mr. N.R. Weaver of Peru says that he has faint recollection that he has sometimes read that there was once a road running north from near the Lyman Thompson place now owned by Chauncey Turner ( the late Claude M. Turner 1965) That undoubtedly the section of the Rogers Road that crossed the present town of Schuyler Falls and has been abandoned so long that the knowledge of it has almost faded from the memory of man. It would be interesting to know what the old residents of Schuyler Falls and Peru can tell about that abandoned road. But it is only that part of that that was in Peru 100 years ago that I have undertaken to describe. All of it that lies south of Richard Keese's south line has been changed from its original location, one change has been made in 1799 and the other in 1803,<sup>(4)</sup> since which the road has run straight south from the

ROGERS ROAD

Union past the Edward Hallock place now owned by Harrison Arnold (Roger "Benny" Bezio) then bearing eastward over the top of the hill (Taylor Hill, south side--Hallock Hill, north side) and down through the Taylor neighborhood, crossed the river at Keeseville, instead of the Fordway. (5) Of course, that road to Keeseville is not the Rogers Road and I only mention it as being now used instead of that one which is so often mentioned on the old assessment roll of Peru.

If there were any settlers in Peru upon the Rogers Road south of the Fordway in 1798, they do not seem to be mentioned upon that assessment roll. North of the Fordway, the first farms were found upon what has ever since been called Taylor Hill where the land then belonging to the heirs of Zacheus Newcomb (a land broker) lived William Taylor (the famous old Deacon of the Baptist Church) Stephen Taylor, William Banker, and Samuel Brown. Those were undoubtedly the farms now owned by Moses Lattrell, John Davey, Thomas Collins and James Hayes. (6) The Taylors certainly became the owners of the farms on which they lived and both Banker and Brown lived upon their's several years, whether owners or lessees, I am unable to say. It should be remembered that in 1798, the Rogers Road ran through the pastures west of those Taylor houses, only one farm, that of William Banker (7) being located on the road while the Two Taylors were said to live near it and Samuel Brown's 100 acres was on a by-road joining William Taylor. Another not mentioned on the roll, lived at that time on the Rogers Road in what is now James Hayes pasture (Raymond Bezio) were a number of old apple trees that still mark the location of Reuben Baker's house. (8) Passing over the hill north of that settlement, the traveller came to the farms of Edward Hallock, of which the present farm of Harrison Arnold forms a part, the remainder being owned by six or eight different persons. On the west side of the road opposite to the north part of Hallock's lay the farm of David Osborn which was owned by Elihu Hoag. (William McCormick)

North of Hallock's lot was No. 3 of the 12,000 location, was No. 13 of the Great Location, the west part of which, lying on Rogers Road, belonged to Capt. Edward Everett, "first settler" of the Town of AuSable but it is not a part of Richard P. Keese (known as Percy Keese). On the west side of that road opposite Capt. Everett's farm was Lot No. 22, containing 418½ acres of Richard Keese I, the grandfather of the present owner. (Richard Percy Keese III) In the northeast corner of that lot was the one acre assessed to Waterman and Wood. Uriah Waterman and Daniel Wood, blacksmiths (Henry Sorrell). If that frame house is still standing (1966) is over 100 years old. North of Capt. Everett's was a two-acre lot of Peter Saily, non-resident, (Plattsburgh) and next to it the farm of Henry Green, which now belongs to Hiram Heyworth. (Geo. Curtis) It was from Henry Green that the Quakers bought in Jan. 1801 (Deed recorded in County Clerk's Office) the three acres of land for a meeting house lot and burying ground. (See marker erected in 1959) bordering upon the road which forms the line between the present town of AuSable and Peru. (Closed for many years, re-opened 1963 and given original name, Brown Road) Passing that road, we come to the 100-acre farm of Henry Delord, now owned by James Felio (Lester Bombard 1929-1964) (9) and north of that Nathaniel Platt's 1799 acres that lay on Rogers Road, it being known as the George Beadleston farm (now Raymond Trombly).

### Rogers Road

Next we come to the farm of John Keese, the father of all the other Keeses who emigrated from Dutchess Co. in 1789-1790. He lived on the east side of the road opposite the present residence of Nelson Lapham, (that farm stayed in the Lapham name until the death of Diantha Lapham Lauranatis, March 1963) (The present owner is Kermit Irwin) but this farm comprised the Richard Lapham farm and the James Redmond farms which lie on both sides of the road. (Since has been owned by Wm. Severence, Martin Conway, now Avery Stafford.)

North of John Keese lived his son, Stephen (also Oliver) (10) on the west side where Sanford R. Forrence now lives (11) and joining him was the 212 acres assessed to Benj. Brown, now owned by Ezra Harmidue where Nathan Bigelow now lives. (12) His name was sometimes spelled Bown, and sometimes Bourn. On the west side of the road was the Haff farms of 325 acres, now owned by his grandson, Schuyle Haff. (13) North of John Haff's was the 200-acre farm owned by Rowland Stafford including all the land of the east of the road between O. K. Smith's north line and the road or street which runs west from Peru village.

West of that road was the farm of Stephen Ketchum ( his daughter married Henry DeLord) now owned by Michael Davern, Ketchum's land joined Ebenezer Olmstead whose tenant lived at the four corners where Sanford McIntyre now lives (McIntyres Corners).

Lawrence Ryley or Riley had 100 acres on the Rogers Road joining Olmstead which afterward must have been the Elisha Button farm, (Button was the first sheriff of Clinton County) (14) where George Adcock now lives, and north of him the farms of Jonathan Griffith, now owned by Michael Downs and Elisha Arnold now owned by John L. Clark. On the east side of the road, north of McIntyres Corners lived Samuel Taylor on the 100 acres owned by Zacheous Newcomb, and across the road from Elisha Arnold lived Stukely Arnold on the farm now owned by Myers. (14)

North of Elisha Arnold on the west side of the road lived Simeon Bells (Abraham LaMar) on the 210 acres joining a farm of 120 acres assessed to Wm. Lowing. (Francis Hughes). How far that farm went I cannot say but far enough to include the farm of Nathan R. Weaver (Francis Hughes) with those lying south of it and north of John Clark's. On the east side of the road was the 700-acre farm of John Cochran, Sen., which may have comprised the present farm of Horace Brand (Donald Cromie), John Ricketson (Davis Dairy Farm) and Peter Soulia (Arthur LaMar) or may not have gone so far.

I have reached the end of my rope, who owned the rest of the land between John Cochran, Sen., and the town line I am unable to say. A lot of 25 acres on Rogers Road was assessed to Isaac Cole, whose name elsewhere was spelled Coal, but it was said to have joined Stephen Keese. That may have been where Peter McGee now lives but this Isaac Coal worked his road tax in the district with Simeon Bells and not with Stephen Keese. In that Simeon Bells road district which extended "from Olmstead's southeast line" there was also in 1798, besides the parties already mentioned a Joseph Arnold, a Christopher Dennie and an Asa Call.

If there is a man living who can tell where any of them lived it is not

J. W. Harkness

Notes: Rogers Road--The Farms Upon It a Century Ago.  
 Compiled by the late Mildred G. Keese and Grace E Arnold,  
 1963-64

1. The Northway crosses the river about where the old ford was.
2. The lot owned by Capt. Edward Everett is east of the highway and in 1965 is owned by Raymond Trombley. The Richard Keese that Mr. Harkness writes about is the father of R. Percy Keese, father of Merritt S.
3. The Stephen Weaver's old home was once a tavern and is now owned by John J. Coffey, Supt. of Highways for Clinton County.
4. Harrison Arnold place now owned by "Benny" Roger Bezio. Taylor Hill so-called for the Taylor families that lived upon it. William Taylor I came to this section early in 1800 and in 1810 became the second Deacon of the first Baptist Church of Keeseville and it is he who did so much to raise the funds to pay for the first church building, now St. John's Hall.
4. The changes in the Rogers Road in 1799 and 1803, have been known since 1799 as the Taylor Road. For many years, it was thought of as Basket Ave. Gilbert Spooner lived on that road and made baskets and caned chairs with splint. The one in 1803, is designated on a map of Keeseville dated 1869 as Hill St. The name has since been given back to it because of the new housing projects in the last ten years.
5. The Taylor farms are owned as follows today:  
 William Taylor--Moses Latterall--Julius Tellier  
 Stephen Taylor--John Davey--Wm. P. Davey  
 William and Samuel Brown--Thos Collins--Raymond Bezio  
 William Banker--James Hayes--Old Fred Bezio home, now owned  
 by a son, Raymond Bezio
- 6-7 William Banker and Reuben Baker, the forebear of all the Bakers lived on this old road back of the present Bezio farms.
8. William McCormick bought this old farm from the heirs of Samuel Gordon.
9. One of the early owners of the Beadleston-Trombly farm was Nathaniel Hanson. Nathaniel Hanson first lived on Hallock Hill. The home of James Felio and later Lester Bombard (37 yrs.) was once the Orothodox Quaker Church. It was sold for \$150 in about 1903 or 1904 to James Felio, who had it moved to its present location.
10. Stephen and Oliver Keese came in about 1794, following their brother, Richard Keese I (present Keese farm) Stephen married Ruth Hull in Dutchess Co. Oliver married Pauline Lapham. The Laphams came from Danby, Vt. They owned the present Northern Orchard farm, now owned by Marcus Mulbury. Other names that are familiar who were owners are Richard Harrington and Amos Avery. Many of us can remember when there was a road from Union Road around that house to the Starch Factory in Goshen.

Rogers Road and the Farms Upon it a Century Ago.

11. Perhaps following the Keeses Johnathan Ricketson, brother of Abednego, who lived on Arthur Road once lived. Solomon Clark II once lived on this farm and his daughter, Mary Eliza married Sanford R. Forrence, as his first wife. This Sanford R. Forrence was a brother of William, Fred, Raymond, Sarah, Eliza Clark, Mrs. Job Sherman.
12. This Nathan Bigelow was a son of Chas. Bigelow whose old home is in the Clark neighborhood now owned by Rolla Wakeman. This farm as far as we know was the Chauncey Stoddard farm. Mr. Stoddard was the first church clerk of the Congregational Church in Peru. He has always been remembered for his perfect Spencerian writing. Now Earl Ladd.
13. The Haff farms are now owned by Richard Stafford and John Neyenhouse. In the early days of the John Haffs the farms were reached by a lane. The only other farm beyond the Stoddard farm was the Rowland Stafford farm near the R R crossing.
14. Elisha Button was a member of the Baptist Society. In the momentoes of the First Baptist Church in Keeseville is a document bearing his signature. In 1804, he headed a committee to wait on the Solomm Clark I to ascertain if they would be suitable members of the Baptist Church, as there was no Methodist Society in Peru at that time. The Button farm on Button Brook is now owned by the heirs of John McCarrell. The Elisha Arnold and John L. Clark property is now Champlain Orchards, recently owned by Silas Clark, deceased. That farm had the first planting of McIntosh apple trees in this section by Mr. John L. Clark. Zacheous Newcomb was a land broker. McIntyres Corners are the corners just south of the Peru Central School.
15. John Richetson was the grand-father of Marguerite Morse Wright. Her mother was Eva Ricketson.
16. Mrs. Anna Down FitzPatrick says her father bought his farm from J. D. White. Both names Johnathan Griffin and J. D. White may be found on the map of Peru for 1869.

Article sent by Dr. Georgia Harkness in 1963. Notes compiled by Mildred G. Keese and Grace E. Arnold.

An Historic Spot on Old Rogers Road  
1838

This is a story of an historic spot on the Old Rogers Road that should not be forgotten.

The "Patriotic War" or sometimes termed "Papineau War" (a smugglers war) began in Canada in 1838. While it was no great conflict, there was considerable excitement. In fact several companies of sympathizers were independently formed and joined the patriots of Canada in their rebellion. Finally, President Van Buren issued a proclamation warning all citizens of the United States to abandon their designs or suffer the penalties incurred by their conduct.

So great was the sympathy for the rebellious Canadians, that several citizens raided the State Arsenal in Elizabethtown. One day in January, 1838, the muskets were found to be missing. One sleighload was found at the famous "Bostwick's Stand." in a barn covered with hay, and the other was found in a school house on Taylor's Hill near Keeseville. The Canadians had failed to get them before they were recovered.

History of Essex County by Doc Smith

The old red school house on the Keeseville Plains which later became the property of the late George Washington Smith of Keeseville was the site of what is now a housing development on Hill St.

The school house stood almost directly back of the present home of Joseph Turner and near a stone quarry nearby. It was large enough to accommodate twenty-five pupils. This quarry was also operated at one time by Mr. Smith as recently as 1906.

Teachers of that school are still remembered by relatives and friends who still live in this area.

Emily Arnold, eldest daughter of Alvah Arnold, one of the four Arnold brothers who came to Hallock Hill in the early 1800's and settled near the brook not far from the school house. She taught there at least 100 years ago. Mr. Peter Martin of Hallock Hill tells of visiting this school while it was in session about 80 years ago. His cousins John, Alfred and Ellen Perrett were three of the pupils.

A more recent teacher was Minnie Murphy, a sister of the late Will Murphy who lived on Hallock Hill opposite the farm home of Roger Bezio. That property was once part of the Edward Hallock farm. Minnie Murphy also taught in the stone school house on the Hallock Hill Road and was the first teacher of Frank Arnold. This school house still stands and is a dwelling.

The school house on the plains was subsequently sold to a Mr. Fleury and moved to Pine St. and used as a barn.

Above notes given by Miss Grace E. Arnold  
1966

### THE OLD MAIN ROAD THROUGH WILLSBOROUGH IN 1799

Essex County was formed from Clinton, March 1, 1799, one hundred years ago last Wednesday.

From that date to Feb. 20, 1802 when the town of Chesterfield was taken from Willsborough the northern boundary of Willsborough was the Great AuSable.

I now propose to describe as briefly as possible the route by which the post-road, otherwise designated in official records of that day as "Rogerses new road," crossed that town from the high bridge across AuSable Chasm to the old ferry south of the present town of Essex.

If any who have read my recent article "The Main Road of Old Peru" discovers statements in this one that disagree with that, I can only explain by saying that in the month that elapsed since that was written certain facts concerning the original location of the old road have come to my knowledge and caused me to realize that the changes of a century should be taken into account in describing the course of a road as ancient as the one under construction.

That "Rogerses new road" crossed the chasm on the high bridge and ran up the river to the present site of Hotel AuSable Chasm, no will deny and that it followed the brow of the hill to the Asa Adgate farm now owned by Frank Signor is, I believe, generally agreed. But, from that place it kept more to the eastward than the present road runs, crossing the farms now owned by Henry York, Elihu B. Hoag, and Mrs. Sloan, passing between the house and the barn on the last mentioned farm and there continuing southward came down the hill and across the Page (Paige) farm and that is now owned by Mr. Moses Bombard. I am convinced that in 1788 Asher Adgate lived upon that Page farm and that his "220 acres on the main road joining Isaac Wright" included the Whitney farm now owned by Wesley Bigelow. Three elderly gentlemen, with excellent memories Luther Whitney, Elihu B. Hoag and Elihu H. Hoag agree that Captain Isaac Wright certainly lived on the Sloan farm and Mr. Whitney says that Barzilla Handy lived on the Conway farm where Thos. F. Conway of Plattsburgh was born and brought up.

Asher Adgate's land joined Isaac Wright's and Barzilla Handy's and therefore could have been no where else than the place above designated though no one seems to remember that he ever lived there and several assert that he did live on the Patrick Javey farm.

A little south of Asher Adgate's stood a school house and from that in 1799 a road was laid out "Running West or thereabouts, crossing a brook to Zadock Bates (Baits) and on near a West Corse to Rogerses old Road be from the beginning in the whole distance two miles and one-half then north on Rogerses old Road to the fordway."

The assessment roll of Peru for 1798 says that Zadock Bates had "350 acres of from the road joining number one" and we know that Lot No. 1 includes the Doughty farm. The land of Truman Skeels, Lots No. 3 and 4 of Adgate's Patent, joined that Lot No. 1 on the east and the Macomber's Lots 2 and 5 of Thorn's Patent joined on the south and west which proves that Zadock Bate's land was north of the Doughty place. The cross road above mentioned is believed to have run across the southern slope of Prospect Hill above the present residence of Luther Rowe.

This entry appears on the oldtown book of Peru over the date 2nd of November 1797: "Rogerses New Road Altered, beginning sixty rods south of Asher Adgate's Dwelling house thence south westerly Corse to the south line of Peru."

It is believed that the southwesterly course took it across the lands now owned by Benjamin Thew and Mr. Buckley, the Lansing farm is



Willsborough Road

now owned by Edwin H. Merrill and the farm of Edwin Bigelow to the Mussen corners where on the land now occupied by the school house John Macomber's log house stood, as proven by this entry on the old town book dated March 2, 1799, "One cross Road from John Macomber's on the post road the north side of his house then to Elihu Briggs and Continue to Mr. Rogerses old Road being about three Quarters of a Mild."

From John Macomber's southward I will not attempt to say whether the post road to Willsborough Falls ran where the present highways does or not as far as the Mace farm but from that point on I know that it did not, for instead of running southwesterly toward Pok O' Moonshine as Rogers old Road to Sandy Hill or Warren County did, this road climbed over the mountain range where it can be easily traced today and came down into the valley where the so-called "shun pike road" now runs, crossing the Hathaway farm and striking the line of that road at the the farm of Frank P. Mussen. It then ran eastward where the Highlands Furnace was afterward built. Passing around the north of Warm Pond, it turned south and randalong the east side, instead of the west side where the present road runs, and after passing the south end it continued across the lots now owned by Mrs. J.B. Fisk and Mr. Henry Jacobs being back of the mountain that we now pass as we drive along the present road past Long Pond or Echo Lake as it has recently been named.

The old road ran down into the valley where Patrick Cushion's house stands, then up past Aiken Currier's residence and through the Currier orchard striking the line of the present road below Mr. Currier's and withing two miles of Willsborough Depot.

From that point it followed the course of the present highway with but slight variations down to the foot of the mountain and from there through Willsborough Falls Village where it crossed the Boquet River on a bridge said to have been built by Platt Rogers in 1790 and from there through Essex which was then a part of Willsborough to a point near Split Rock and thence southward to the landing ferry established by Platt Rogers from Basin Harbor on the Vermont side of the Lake

The last statement is made upon the authority of Wason's History of Essex County, but for my information concerning the course of the old road over the mountain I am indebted to Theodorus Sheldon Esq., of Willsborough who has lived by the side of this road near the Falls all his life and is probably better informed upon all points of local history than any other man in the county. Mr. Sheldon tells me that he can point out the sites of taverns that once stood beside that old abandoned road, that stage coaches carrying passengers as well as the U.S. Mail went along it in both directions night and day carrying in t night tin lanterns with holes punched in the tin to let the rays of the tallow candle shine out, and that the part of the road that passes his house was an Indian trail before the coming of William Gilliland, the old pioneer whose mortal remains lie in the grave yard at Essex.

When people speak of going "over the mountain" to Willsborough they use an expression that has been passed down from father to son through several generations. A century ago travellers to and from Willsborough did go over the mountains without going up or down any steeper or longer hills than are found upon the roads of AuSable and Peru.

J. W. Harkness

Written in 1898

This story was taken from the  
Plattsburgh Republican, dated  
March 11, 1899.

It is one of the old newspapers  
given to us by the late Miss Bertha Anson  
in 1963.

Notes: The Main Road Through Willsborough in 1790

These notes have been prepared by Mr. Maurice Turner of Keeseville  
N. Y.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Who lives there in 1965, 1966</u>
Asa Adgate, first Town Clerk of Old Peru Late Charles Barber home Wallace Finne Farm opposite	Frank Signor, now Maynard Soper
Henry York Col. Begelow Elihu Briggs Brick house Anna & Ruth Hoag	Michael McCusker Wm Stone Robert Pasho
Mrs. Sloan and Capt. Isaac Wright	Believe this John LaRose place house moved to Hugh Bishop farm
Riley Page and Moses Bombard	Dau. of Riley Paige, Ellen married W. W. Finney I. Place now owned by Roy Bombard
Asher Adgate	At the above place
Luther Whitney and Wesley Bigelow	Maud Begelow and the late Roy Bigelow
Elihus H. Hoag lived on Hallock Hill	
Barzilla Handy Conway (Birthplace of Lt. Gov. Conway)	Delore LeClair owns land
Patrick Davey (House foundation on corner, Hammond House)	Mrs. Walter Davey and son Warren
Zadock Baits (Bates)	West of the Post Road, "of from"
Doughty Farm	Site of Claubonnie, now Geo. Beckwith (Hiram Jordan)
Truman Skeels	
Luther Rowe (Norman Rowe)	Arline Taylor Thompson and son, James
Benj. Thew 1795	Ruth Thew Finney and Harry Finney Place has been continuously in the <u>Thew</u> name
Pat Buckley	Claubonnie owned by Hermie Jordons parents, then Robare, then Chas. Breen, now Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Beck- will Originally Elihu Briggs

Notes: The Old Willsborough Road in 1790

<u>Name</u>	<u>Who lives there now 1965-1966</u>
John Macomber Farms, Old Wendel Lansing farm, later E. H. Merrill after he moved from farm in West Peru (Emma Merrill old home until they moved to Chesterfield St. Keeseville	John Overhold, wife Peggy Harkness
Edwin Bigelow	Arch Lacey
John Macomber	See Overholt
John Mussen Corners	Heirs of Sidney Ford (Glen Clair)
Elihu Briggs (Buel Briggs)	Site of old Claubonnie Hotel Wm. Robare, Geo. Beckwith, 1965
Alfred Mace and Alfred Mace Corners Bosworth Tavern, Chesterfield P. O. on this corner 1813.	Owned by heirs of Alfred Mace, Mrs. Bishop. Now Major Knight, SAC Have kept the old style and did some restoring
Hathaway Farm	Part of Burnham Park bought by J. D. Burnham
Frank P. Mussen	Donald Mussen
Warm Pond, (Highland Forge Lake-old name) now owned by Koert Burnham	Burnham Park
Mr. J.B. Fiske	
Mr. Henry Jacobs	Jacob lot part of Burnham Park, bought by J. D. Burnham
Long Lake, now called Echo Lake	Now a camp and Motel site
Patrick Cushing	Farm near Currier house as one goes past Currier's, it can be seen from the Valley. On Willsboro Mt. has a blue roof. Owned by Catherine Currier Lawrence and continues in Currier family.
Aiken Currier Son, Gilmas Currier and wife Mary Cohern Catherine Lawrence Currier says home is still in the family and has been for about 150 years. The house was built by her people. It is on Willsboro Mt. and has a blue roof.	

Other bits of interesting history on the old Willsborough Road

The old Willsboro Road seems to have begun at the top of the hill on what is now the AuSable Chasm property and proceeded to the Maynard Soper farm (Signor, Adgate) (The road did not go through that neighborhood as we know it today) The road went back of Henry York (Michael

The Old Willsborough Road Notes

MCCusker) back of Elihu B. Hoag (present owner Robert Pasho) to Mrs. Sloan John LaRose farm) That house has been moved to the Hugh Bishop farm. Then over the hill (Note: All roads and houses for the most part were built on high ground) to the Riley Paige farm (Moses Bombard, present owner, Roy Bombard) In 1798, Paige, Bombard farms were owned by Asher Adgate in the Adgate Patent. The Whitney farm later W sley Bigelow, owned by his children Maud and the late Roy Bigelow. Barzilla Handy farm, present owner Delore LeClair from his father Gilbert. The T. F. Conway farm on the Joshua Wells farm was later a part of the Carlos Rowe place. (See story by J. W. Harkness, "The Abandoned Farm") In 1876 County Atlas of Essex County indicates a road from the Sloan farm (John LaRose) to Cyrus Andrew's (The Bardford Brinton farm) The road, at present, meeting Douglas highway. The school house mentioned stood on the site now occupied by the new home of Ronnie Ryan (near fork in the road to Douglas dock and the Highland Road.

I think the Frank Mussen place is now owned by Donald Mussen or heirs. The road turning off that left on Willsborough Mt., part of the Thomas (John Lynch-George Delorme farm.

Major Knight (formerly of Plattsburgh Air Force Base) now owns the Alfred Mace farm and in the early days the Bosworth Tavern. The first Chesterfield Post Office in 1813 is across the way from the house. Mrs. Knight has an old saddle bag found in the walls of the house.

On Willsboro Mountain near the Harrington (Crowningshield) near the road to Reber, which still stands, is the old Cemetery and if followed through this would have come on to the old road.

Belows the Harrington house (Crowningshield) the Cooley place, later John Flora and going down the hill stands the Currier house. If one were to stop here looking over the valley, would notice the Cushing farm.

The Alfred Mace Farm--Mary Bishop Inglebretson, daughter of Nellie Mace Bishop sold the old farm back to her uncle, James Bert Mace. I believe all of the Mace family were born there, Nellie, Catherine and J. Bert Mace.

Before coming to Patrick Davey's (Mrs. Walter) there was a very old house in the pasture where the Davey's first lived, then they moved into the Beaumont house. The old house has fallen down and only the cellar remains. Also on the same side of the road near the corner turning to Luther Rowe's (now Mrs. Arlina Taylor Thompson and son, James) is the foundation of another building and directly across the opposite side are ruins of an old log cabin. This was on the property of Beckwith (Pat Buckley) down the road to the brick yard of John Mussen near the brook, small brick building, the office of the brickyard. Somewhere near the present Davey farm was the Town of Chesterfield burying ground. No markers remain. It is believed to be one of the oldest in the Town.

The Harrington Place is a very old house, one with the large square chimney in the center of the hip roof.

The Old Willsborough Road Notes

The Theodorus Sheldon (Genealogy of Sheldon family in the Willsborough Library given by Diantha Lapham Laurantis) is one of the older houses on the left hand side of the road, going past the Willsborough Depot toward the Village.

In talking with Ruth Thew Finney (Mrs. Harry) she said the Old Willsborough Road is part of the old Drake Road back of the Benj. Farm (1790) Deed dated 1800, and it was believed to come down from Cyrus Andrews (road turning left below Maud Bigelow Farm) across Bigelow and Paige farm. The road was built to by-pass the brook.

Claubonnie owned by Hirma Jordon burned many years ago and stood where the George Beckwith's do today. Pat Buckley bought this and made a house from some of the outer buildings of the Bigelow Farm.

Seen in the field where the Keeseville Riding Club riding course is today (1965-66) is a clump of brush that would indicate the foundation of a building.

Buel Briggs and wife are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Keeseville.

In talking with Donald Mussen, their home was the Frank Mussen farm, and still in the family. He said Hathaway and Jacobs lots belong to Koert Brunham part of the Brunham Park. The Hathaway house burned years ago. Burgoyne Road (Revolutionary War) also went through part of this land so the two roads could not have been too far apart. In the area, there must have been a skirmish when the army camped there as shot and cannon balls and blacksmith tools have been found.

Thank you Maurice, I know that many will be interested in the facts you have written. May, 1966

Notes on the Old Willsborough Road submitted by Arlina Taylor Thompson  
1966

The cellar on the four corners beyond Ida Davey's is the old Hammond place (we have the old deeds) later it was owned by Charles Stranahan and now by James Thompson.

The ruins on the opposite corner going toward Geor. Beckwith's was one of the old log cabins. This is part of the Davey farm, the line being next to the Beckwith driveway.

On the other corner of four corners (left side as you go down to the Benj. Thew farm) is the old cemetery now a meadow of the Davey farm. At the time the Thew road was widened, there was unearthed a skeleton because it was dug too far into the bank. The State Troopers came to see my mother, Emma Rowe Taylor to have her verify the fact that there was once a cemetery there. Some of her family were buried there and she remembered it when the markers were still there.

Buel and Susan Briggs are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Keeseville, Buel's father and mother, Elihu and Elizabeth Briggs were among the very earliest settlers. Their first home, a log cabin, is contained in the frame building on the cross road, commonly called the Robare farm. (I think Sponner owns it now) The original fireplace and oven can still be seen in the building. The Indians were frequent visitors as there was a settlement of them just beyond the Prescott place on Augur Lake.

On the "V" in front of Glen Ford's or Arch Lacy's was another old cemetery.

THE MAIN ROAD OF OLD PERU  
Post Road

The assessment rolls of the Plattsburgh and Peru of 1798 which have recently been published in the REPUBLICAN were not made by the regular assessors of these towns, but they were made by men who represented the three towns of Plattsburgh, Peru and Champlain.

Reuben Arthur was Supervisor of Peru, William Beaumont, Supervisor of Champlain and Caleb Nicholas a resident, but not the Supervisor of Plattsburgh, for that office was held in 1798 by Nathaniel Platt.

The other Supervisors of Clinton County at that time were Thomas Stowers of Willsborough, Elijah Bingham of Crown Point, Issac Kellogg of Elizabethtown, and Ebenezer Newell of Jay. Doubtless those towns constituted another assessment District in the Sixth Division of the State of New York.

The town of Peru comprised all of the territory in the present towns of Peru, AuSable and Black Brook, the north half of Chesterfield and a portion of Jay. But the lapse of a century has made great changes in old Peru and in nothing are those changes more marked than in the roads of the town.

The "Main Road" upon which so many farms were located is not the Main Road of Peru now. In fact, a considerable portion of it has not been a public highway for the last four score years and a still larger portion has not been in Peru or even Clinton County since the century began.

"Rogers Road" is only known by that name to a few antiquarians and some of them think it was so-called because a worthy Quaker couple, James and Peace Rogers lived upon it many years. (Rogers Road was built by Platts Rogers in 1790-1793, from Warren County to the Canadian line.)

Some of the public roads of 1798 are public roads still and some have been abandoned so long that trees two feet or more in diameter are growing in the wheel tracks of our forefathers. Some of the back roads on which those farms were located are front roads now, if that name can be properly applied to any of our highways. Some that were called by-roads have now become boulevards in importance, if not in excellence, and some places which in the quaint language of the old assessors were "of from any road," are now upon public roads that are far more travelled than was the Main Road of Peru in 1798.

The Main Road of Peru when that assessment was made entered the town from Plattsburgh a little south of the Gilliland place, at the mouth of the Salmon River and ran southward near the lake shore where it runs still to the little AuSable River. Crossing that stream by a bridge a little farther up than the present one (near the R. R. overpass) it ran through the Allen neighborhood to the "Dry Mills" as Asa Douglass' grist mill and saw mill were called, and from there to the High Bridge across AuSable Chasm a few rods down stream from Table Rock (Some of the buttresses may still be seen-bridge built in 1795.)



### The Main Road of Old Peru

After crossing that bridge it ran uphill and very near, if not exactly, to the Hotel AuSable Chasm and thence by way of Signors Corners, Finnegans Corners, the Stranahan Corners and the Mace Corners to the south line of Peru and the north line of Willsborough, crossing the line about half a mile east of the south end of Augur Pond.

That was the Post Road that led from Plattsburgh toward Albany, and its importance was certainly great a hundred years ago, but when Essex County was organized in 1799, Peru lost that part of it which lay south of the Great AuSable, which was then in Willsborough till Chesterfield was organized in 1802.

The Post Road continued to be used till the High Bridge got old and unsafe, but about 1810 a new State Road was built, crossing the river a mile above Keeseville up the hill, passing corner of road leading to Signors Corners, mentioned above; since 1815 there has been no public highway from the AuSable River where the highways crossed northward for more than a mile.

Believing that it may be of interest to some of your readers, I will attempt to tell which of the farms on that main road were north of the Little AuSable, which of them between the two rivers and which lay south and west of the high bridge in what is now Chesterfield. Doubtless, there will be some errors and omissions and if any such are noticed, nothing will please me better than to have them corrected.

Beginning with Elizabeth Campbell who is believed to have been the widow of Alexander Campbell whose house stood near the south line of Friswell's Patent which was and is the north line of Peru, the other farms on the lake shore were those of Amos Day, David Weatherwax, Martin Weatherwax, Benjamin Walden, Abijah Ketchum, Isaac Finch, John Douglass, 2nd, and John Howe. Asa Douglass owned a large tract of land besides the grist mill and saw mill upon Dry Mill Brook and Henry Delord also owned a mill privilege in that neighborhood though it was not mentioned on the assessment roll.

Crossing the High Bridge into what is now Chesterfield, the traveler soon came to the lands of Asa Adgate who also owned a sawmill at the falls, and farther to the southwest upon the main road the farms of John Douglass, Isaac Wright, Asher Adgate, John Macomber, Edward Palmer, Benj. Macumber and Ezekiel Palmer.

Asher Adgate lived on the eastern slope of Prospect Hill, and it is believed that his land included the present farms of Patrick Davey and Chas. Stranahan.

Isaac Wright's farm joined Adgate's on the north, while John and Benjamin Macumber lived farther south on the farms now owned by Edwin Bigelow and Edwin H. Merrill.

Near the main road but not upon it, was the farm of Elihu Briggs. Truman Skeels and Barzilla Handy. The Briggs farm is now owned by William Robare and Handy lived east of the main road on or near the

Main Road of Old Peru

farm now owned by Benjamin Thew. (Since 1797)

Joshua Wells and Daniel Parks lived upon the lake shore south of the place afterwards known as Port Douglass.

Zodak Bates lived west of the Post Road so far that he was said to be "of from the Road" but his house was on or near the line of the present road from Keeseville towards Willsborough and Elizabethtown.

J. W. Harkness

Probably written in 1898  
Given by Miss Georgia Harkness

Notes: The Main Road of Old Peru.  
Compiled by Mildred G. Keese and Grace E. Arnold. 1963

Reuben Arthur was one of the four Arthur brothers who settled in old Peru in 1788 and their land formed the four corners known as Arthurs Corners and later Dwyers Corners. Reuben and his brother Augustine were active in the administration of town affairs. They were Commissioners of Highways. Their land mark is "Arthur Road."

Clinton County in the year 1798, included Essex, Franklin, and St. Lawrence and was as large as Massachusetts but contained only seven the seven town named above, though it would have made seven States as large as Rhode Island. J. W. Harkness

The south line of the town was the north line of Augur Lake or pond as it was once called.

The north end of the "Main Road or Post Road" is now called the Lake Shore Road from Plattsburgh to AuSable Chasm.

The "Gilliland Place is now the Royal Savage. House, Gilliland home and the restaurant is the barn where during the war 1812, the night before the Battle of Plattsburgh, British housed their horses here. The Royal Savage is owned by Newton Keith.

About 36 years ago, a new section of road was built that by-passed the Allen neighborhood. (1936)

"Dry Mills" on the Dry Mills brook. A road must have ran from the mills southwest to have crossed the High Bridge and go "up the hill through the AuSable Chasm property" to join the old "Willsborough Road.

#### The High Bridge

The famous "old High Bridge" crossed the AuSable Chasm Gorge just about at the boat landing. The following story was written by Marjorie Lansing Porter.

"The High Bridge at the Chasm, the settlement itself being called High Bridge for sometime. (Also Birmingham) was built in 1793 by Platt Rogers and his associates, assisted by nearby settlers. Mr. Rogers stated that it was the highest and cheapest bridge he ever built. Tall trees were felled on the west side or AuSable side of the river so that their tops rested on the Chesterfield side, at a point where the gorge is about 45 feet wide, and 130 feet deep. The trees felled across the river, six of them served as stringers and were about 20 inches in diameter. On these were laid planks to form a flooring and heavy timbe timbers at each side that served as protection for vehicles. A few old residents have said that there were railings, also. A stringer of this bridge of this bridge remained as late as 1827 and two legends persist about the bridge. One is a story of Captain Samuel Jackson who is said to have walked from the AuSable side to the Chesterfield side on a stringer, carrying an ox-yoke in each hand by their rings to balance himself. This hazardous exploit

Notes:  
The Main Road of Old Peru

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was made necessary because the oxen were on one side and the yoke on the other. The other story concern a man who also came across the bridge on the only remaining stringer when the bridge was no longer in use riding his horse in the dark, unaware that nothing was left but that single piece of timber. It is said that this report was verified the following day when hoof prints of the horse could plainly be seen. The author's grand-father Edwin A. Prescott of Keeseville, born 1837, was one who believed the truth of this story. (See Mr. Harkness comment--Bridges over The AuSable River)

At the mouth of the Little AuSable River is now a State Campsite opened in 1965 and is called "AuSabe Point."

Amos Day, forebear of the present Days still on the Lake Shore Road only those that we know definitely where they lived will be mentioned. Isaac Finch owned land that bordered on the old Hobart Fuller farm. Both Abijah Ketchum and Isaac Finch are buried in the Blockhouse Cemetery. The Elmore property was the Fuller Farm.

South of the Little AuSable were the farms of Isaac Finch, Junior, (A Major in the war of 1812, buried in Jay, N. Y. John and Lott Elmore (Fuller Farm) Jabez Allen, still owned by Paul Allen a great grand-son (See sign over the driveway, "Since 1788") Allen Bay has been known by that name since 1788. Other farms were Abraham Beaman, Moses Warren, Ezekiel Montgomery, Moses Dickson (On gift lands) Isaac Allen and John Douglas, owned land on Dry Mill Brook.

For the notes on farms mentioned from now on see "The Old Willsborough Road.

Notes compiled by Mildred G. Keese and Grace E. Arnold 1963-64

Notes: The Main Road of Old Peru

The Post Road

The Gilliland place is now the Royal Savage owned by Newton Keith.

The Allen neighborhood now is the old Lake Shore Road between the two bridges. The Allen Homestead, (1788) is on this road.

The "Dry Mills" were on the south side of the river near the James Baggs, now Robert Baggs, farm. A brook runs into the river near by that they call the Dry Mills Brook. The road ran on the west side of the river, south to south west to the High Bridge built in 1795 by Platt Rogers.

"After crossing the bridge and ran up hill--" it joined what was called "The Main Road to Willsborough"

Abjah Ketchum and Isaac Finch are buried in the Blockhouse Cemetery Amos Day is believed to be the forebear of the present Days on the Lake Shore Road. David K. Day must have been a brother and lived on the AuSable River near Keeseville. The late Arthur Day families are his descendants.

Henry Delord as we know had the first Peru Post office in the Union.

The notes on the Willsborough Road will explain further names and places.

Notes compiled by Mildred G. Keese and Grace E. Arnold 1963-64

ROBERT BATTEY  
BURYING GROUND

There is a little cemetery between the farms of Albert Dupra and Merritt S. Keese on Arthur Road in the Town of AuSable, which is the burying ground of Robert Battey, his wife and a son. There are three graves:

Robert Battey, died Mar. 26, 1836

Jemimah Ketchum\*, his wife, died June 18, 1811

Robert Battey, son, died Jan. 1821.

Robert Battey was a store keeper in the Quaker Union Village from about 1800 to 1826. His house, store and tavern were on the Union Road. He also had a shed for horses in inclement weather. Mr. J. W. Harkness has written three or four stories on Simeon Barber, a clerk in Battey's store and the Blockhouse where Simeon Barber is buried.

In 1963, when Arthur Road was to be made into a Farm-to-Market State Road, neighbors and friends sought to save the cemetery. Through their efforts, the cemetery was restored in 1964. When it was complete, the Town of AuSable and the Clinton County Highways Department combined to put a very fine fence around it. A suitable marker completes the historic spot.

By EAS

1966

Arthur Twa, Supervisor, Town of AuSable

John J. Coffey, Superintendent, Clinton County Highway Department

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stafford of Schuyler Falls gave the marker.

\* Mrs. Ethel Ketchum Stafford (Mrs. Harold) is a descendant.

## SIMMON BARBER, JR. AND HIS PLACE OF BURIAL

One hundred and twenty years ago there lived on the east side of the Union Road, opposite the dwelling of Richard Keese, a merchant named Robert Battey, whose bones have lain for 100 years, "be the same more or less," in the little yard across the road from Fred Arthur's tenant house. (and in the corner of lots owned by Albert Dupra, since 1935 and The Keeses since 1833.)

South of Battey (or Batty) house was a horse shed for the accommodation of his customers, (That horse shed is now and has been for many years the horse-barn on the Keese farm) who came to trade and south of that his store in which he sold dry goods, wet goods, and groceries.

In the early spring of 1811, Mr. Battey found that his stock of some kinds was getting low; and he needed to go to Canada to replenish it.

There was so much small-pox in Canada that it was unsafe for one to go there unless he had had that disease. Simeon Barber, Jr. had been a clerk for Mr. Battey several years, was honest and capable, and he offered to go in Mr. Battey's stead.

It was finally decided that Barber should go but that he must have the small-pox before he went. Vaccination was not much understood at that time, but it was thought that inoculation was comparatively safe, so Barber was inoculated, had the small-pox and died, April 15, 1811, as his grave stone shows.

There was a girl in the Battey family to whom Barber was engaged to be married, and it was agreed that the ceremony would be performed as soon as he returned from Canada. His death interfered with that plan, and he left the intended bride without a husband. In due time she became a mother; her little daughter was kindly received by the Battey family and brought up as if she were their own.

She married Cornelius Calkins, who lived on what is now the Andrew place and had a son who was named Seth Cornelius, and a daughter, Louise. Seth C. married a sister of the late Charles Signor and Louise married a brother of Robert Signor. Both couples have lived in Burlington where Seth C. died some years ago, and Louise's remains were recently brought to Peru for burial.

The grave of Simeon Barber is in the little Cemetery (Blockhouse) across the road from the farm of Lydia and Jennie Everett on the Bear Swamp Road, about one-fourth mile from the lower bridge across the Little AuSable. Miss Phoebe Underhill (Cora Macomber Stafford and Maud Macomber O'Connor are descendants of Phoebe Underhill) who in later life was the wife of Isaac Hallock of Hallock Hill, was present at Barber's burial and stood near the old Blockhouse that was built as a refuge for settlers if attacked by the Indians.

By Act of the Legislature of New York, the building of five block houses were authorized in 1794, one at Skeenesborough, now Whitehall, one at Thurmantown, in Warren County, and three in Clinton County, at Plattsburgh, Peru and Willsborough, now Essex County.

The Peru block house was built in the Spring of 1794 and so had been standing there 17 years when Barber was buried. If it stood as much longer before it rotted down, it has been gone about 100 years, and if "Aunt Phoebe Hallock" had not told where it stood, its location might not be known.

It is believed that its builder was Isaac Finch though another authority gives his name as French. Isaac Finch lived near that place (founder of Baptist Church of Keeseville in 1788) and was buried in 1813

Simeon Barber, Jr. and His Place of Burial

close to the blockhouse. There is no other grave between his and Simeon Barber's and doubtless, the block house stood in that place.

The price paid for the building was 150 pounds or \$374. A pound was then worth twenty York shillings.

It is said that the blockhouse was used as a church meeting house and later as a small-pox hospital. Quite likely, Simeon Barber died in it, but that is uncertain. Things that happened more than 100 years ago are hard to prove unless a record was made of them.

Written by J. W. Harkness, June 1927. The story was submitted by Mildred Keese from the R. Percy Keese collection. It was given to Mr. Keese by J. W. Harkness.

Isaac Hallock lived on what is now the John T. McCormick Farm.



Notes: There are these stories on the Peru Blockhouse and Simeon Barber, namely,

Simeon Barber and his Place of Burial

The Old Peru Blockhouse

An Old Historic Spot, The Blockhouse Burying

The Battey Burying on Arthur Road marks the spot near the store house and horse sheds of Robert Pattey.

The Blockhouse Cemetary is on the Bear Swamp Road in the Town of Peru at the intersection of the old Lake Shore Road.

The old horse shed is now the Keese horse barn. The land is now owned by Merritt S. Keese and has been in the Keese family since about 1836. They call it the Battey Lot. It is on the north-west corner of Arthur Road known as Keese's Corners.

The Calkins family have always lived on Calkins Road in the Town of AuSable, direct desendants of Seth I and have lived on this farm since early 1816. Five generations have lived there.

Charles Signor was the father of William Signor.

Robert Sifnor-father of Mrs. Katherine Signor Thew. (Mrs. Fred) Lydia and Jennie Everett (Everett girls), daughters of George Everett, who was the son of Edward Everett.

Miss Phoebe Underhill was the great grand-mother of Cora Macomber Stafford and Maud Macomber O'Connor. The cemetary is marked by a state marker. Isaac Hallock lived on what is now the John T. McCormick farm.

Johnathan Battey married a daughter of William Keese I. Amos Battey had a nursery on the farm owned at one time by Frank Clark. The Gordon Davins farm was once owed by a Battey. These men must have been brothers of Robert Battey.

THE OLD PERU BLOCK HOUSE  
And Cemetery

I am requested to tell what I know about the old block house near which Captain David Cochran is supposed to have been buried. It is but little, and not doubt there are others who can tell more about it than I, but if so they may neglect to do it unless the inquiry is made of them, so I shall introduce the subject and trust that they will continue the discussion of 1860, when I was a boy of twelve years, I went with my father to look for some stray cattle which we found on the farm of John Stratton Boynton which is now owned by George Everett and lies about one-fourth of a mile west of the lower bridge across the little AuSable where one branch of the road turns toward Peru village and the other toward the fordway of the Great AuSable River near the residence of James Baggs.

Before startin for home my father took me across the north side of the Peru (bear Swamp Road) at a point ten or fifteen rods north-west of the corners and climbing ober the fence we found ourselves in an ancient burial ground which was not at that time separated by any fence from the woods which lay north or the fiêld west of it.

Looking around among the old headstones, very few of which were marked with any inscriptions, my father soon found one bearing the named of Simeon Barber, and the date 1811, and calling me to his side he told me that Mrs. Phoebe Hallock, the wife of Isaac Hallock, had told him that when she was a girl she came to the funeral of this Simeon Barber and while the grave was being filled she stood near and leaned against the old Blockhouse that had been built by early settlers for a place of refuge in cases of attack by the Indians.

No trace of the old building remained to show its exact location but the graves appeared to be arranged in groups, there being a large number, including that of Barber, in the eastern group which lay along the brow of a steep side hill, then there was an unoccupied space large enough for a larger building than is likely to have every stood there and west of that another group of graves none of which appeared to be quite as ancient as the eastern ones.

There is no good reason apparent why that vacant space between the two groups was left unless it was the site of a building that stood there at the time when the space east of it became filled with graves and so people began to bury their dead on the west side of that building and have continued to use that part of the ground ever since. The stone at the head of Simeon Barber's grave is of marble while all the rest are plain sandstone slabs without inscriptions. The oldest marked grave in any other part is the grave of Isaac Finch who died in 1813, two years later than Barber. It is very likely Barber was the last person buried east of the blockhouse and that Finch was one of the first to be buried west of it.

No one that I have asked seems to know anything about who the others were that were buried in the eastern group of graves. Some say that they were soldiers byt that seems very unlikely unless some who were killid in the battle of Plattsburgh were brought home by their friends and buried there. I think there is no record or tradition

The Old Block House Cemetery and Blockhouse

that this blockhouse was ever garrisoned by soldiers or that it was ever attacked by any enemy. It was admirably located for defense against invasion for it stood at the top of a steep bank of the little AuSable and if the woods were cut away as they doubtless were at that time an enemy coming up that river in boats would have been seen within musket range of its loopholes while passing around that part which is called "ox-bow bend". Between the river and the foot of the bank on which the blockhouse stood is a marshy strip of ground which in a wet season would have been difficult to cross. The Blockhouse also stood within a short musket range of the road which was laid out in 1790 (called the Post Road) from "the mouth of the Saranac southward to the southern most settlers in the township of Plattsburgh," which was the first laid out in the territory which afterward became the town of Peru.

Some of the settlers along that road were Lott and John Elmore, Moses Dickson, Brian and Nicholas Palmor, John Rowe, Jebez and Peter Allen and no doubt those men helped to build the blockhouse and perhaps some of them are buried by the side of it. (See notes)

It is said that in later years that the blockhouse was used for a pest-house or small-pox hospital and perhaps some of the occupants of the unmarked graves died of that disease in the building. Simeon Barber died of small-pox but I do not know whether it was there or at his home. He was a clerk in the store of Robert Battay in the Union which was at that time the largest village of Peru. His employer wishing to send me to Montreal on business, but it was considered dangerous for anyone to visit Canada, it was decided to inoculate him so he would have the disease at home. Whether that inoculation was the cause of his death or whether he contracted the small-pox in Montreal, I am unable to say, but he died and his tombstone above referred to bears the inscription:

Sacred  
to the memory of  
Simeon Barber Jun  
who departed this  
life April 16th, 1811  
in the 23rd year of  
his age  
He was spoken of as a  
young man whose knowledge  
surpassed his years.  
Fairest flower in nature's garden  
But transient hope affords  
Blooming, fading-----

The last line has been sunken beneath the surface so long but the words "blooming and fading"---were followed by others and perhaps a fourth line to complete the stanza.

It will be noticed that his grave was made the week after the first number of the Plattsburgh Republican was printed, that paper being issued April 12th, 1811 while this young man died Friday the following week.

The Blockhouse Cemetery and Blockhouse

Of course, that has little to do with the blockhouse, but I mention it to show that when the Republican was first started the blockhouse was standing as proved by Phoebe Underhill Hallock. Now let me ask how long had it been there and how long did it remain? These are the questions that I cannot answer positively but I know it had been there at least fifteen years and probably stood as many more.

The first mention that is made of this blockhouse is in the records of the Town of Peru which gives the limits of Highway District No. 9 as follows: "From the blockhouse westwardly by John Cochran to Haff on Rogereses Road." The "haff" was doubtless John Haff who lived on the farm where his grandson, Schuyler, still resides. The same description was given in each road warrant for that District until 1800 when it was changed to the following: Beginning at the blockhouse at the Post Road thence westerly by Benjamin Wells Mill then through Bells patent to the Road that comes from Arthurs to Esq. Cochran Mills." In 1801, the bounds of District No. 2 were as follows: "Beginning Center of the little Sawble bridge and from Beamans and Douglas sawmill on Southerly to the Great River sawble Bridge and from said road by the blockhouse to William Crums house." Lastly from 1818 to 1824 a district which is, at first, called the 9th and afterward changed to the 8th is described as "Beginning at the old Post Road near the blockhouse thence west through Bells Patent out to Silas Cochran."

But the fact that the blockhouse is mentioned in a road Warrant in 1824 does not prove that it stood that date for doubtless the description was copied from one year's warrant to another and may not have been changed till years after the building disappeared. It is only a guess but I venture to say that I presume the blockhouse was built about 1790 and stood till about 1820. If I am wrong, I hope that some one will correct my errors.

J, W. Harkness

Copied from the Grace E. Arnold Scrapbook

MR. HARKNESS WRITES ON OLD  
HISTORIC SPOT

Tell of Blockhouse Burying  
Ground In Peru

Dates Back To 1792

J. Warren Harkness Says Cemetery Being Cleared of Trees Etc.

THE BLOCKHOUSE BURYING GROUND

I am out of the habit of writing for newspapers and should not now undertake, if my subject was not one in which I have long been interested. I am lately informed that the old cemetery near the farm and home of the Everett sisters in Peru is being cleared of trees and bushes by the Supt. of Highways and that the Town is authorized by the State Historian to Expend \$100 per year, if necessary to keep it clear of brush.

The history of the blockhouse for which that burying ground is named dates back to 1792, so it is just as old as the town which was taken off Plattsburgh in December of that year.

In November 1791, an army of 2000 under command of General Arthur St. Clair was surprised, defeated and almost annihilated by Indians, led by Little Turtle, a famous chief. That battle was fought in Western Ohio on a branch of the Wabash River.

The news of that disaster caused great alarm throughout the country and the Legislature of New York voted for the erection of four blockhouses of refuge for the people in the northern part of the State, if they were attacked by Indians. One was located in the Town of Thurman in Washington, now Warren County: one in Willsborough, now Essex County, then in Clinton: in Peru and one in Plattsburgh.

The records kept in Albany say that the Peru blockhouse was built by Isaac French, but that name French is doubtless a mistake. There was an Isaac Finch with sons, John, Justin and James who lived in the neighborhood and that Issac Finch with the help of these sons undoubtedly, built the blockhouse.

Neither one of those four blockhouses was ever needed for the purpose for which it was built, but those in Essex and Plattsburgh served their counties as court houses before the present courthouses were built.

The Peru blockhouse was in later years a small-pox hospital. In the spring of 1811, within a few days of the first copy of the PLATTS - BURGH REPUBLICAN was printed, a young man named Simeon Barber died of small-pox and was buried near that blockhouse. A young woman, named Phebe Underhill was present at the burial and many years after when she was Mrs. Issac Hallock she told my father that while the grave was being filled she stood by the old blockhouse.

In the falls of 1860, when I was a 12 year old boy, my father took

Blockhouse Cemetery--Historic Spot

me into that old Cemetery, found the grave of Simeon Barber and showed me the spot where the blockhouse must have stood.

Twenty-five or thirty years after, when I was writing a sketch of the life of Captain David Cochran who led the Peru Militia at the Battle of Plattsburgh, I mentioned the fact that he was buried in the Blockhouse burying ground. Dr. Geo. P. Bixby, editor of the REPUBLICAN, wrote me, asking to tell what I knew about the location of the blockhouse and I wrote an article stating the above facts. After the death of Dr. Bixby, his file of the REPUBLICAN were sent to Albany where they are kept in the State Educational Building.

A few years ago, Mr. Harmon Noble of Essex, went there and found my article and sent me a photographic copy of it and also a copy of the record which shows who built the four blockhouses and what each of them cost the State.

I deposited those documents in the Peru Free Library where they can doubtless be seen by anyone interested in the subject.

The grave of Isaac Finch, the man who built the blockhouse, is marked by a marble headstone and there are others thus marked but many have no inscriptions to tell where whose they are. Capt. David Cochran has none that I have been able to find but his son-in-law, James Reed has one and the grave of Captain Cochran may be near it.

J. Warren Harkness

Written of the  
Plattsburgh Republican, 1934.

From the Horace Ackley Scrapbook

## A PAGE OF HISTORY

Copied from some old books found in the Fred Thew barn, Mrs. Bion Arnold

Robert Battey came to Peru about the year 1805 and lived on the east side of the Union Road opposite the home of Richard Keese I. He kept a store farther south between his house and the Arthur Road Corner. This daybook was kept by Battey between June 21 and April 1823. Other such books having no doubt been filled with his accounts before.

Jan. 12th, 1824, Sidney Ketchum and Robert Battey began trading in partnership which continued until 1826. They sold Dry goods, wet goods and groceries and their accounts are found on the 118 pages before this. The names of their customers are given farther on. In 1826, Sidney Ketchum and two partners named Hart and French formed the Peru Smelting Co. and built blast furnaces in the hollow south of the house where Elisha Allen, and where Robert Signor and Edward have since lived. They kept a store in the building which is now the horse-barn of that farm. (The late Fred Thew farm, now owned and occupied by Mrs. Fred Thew (Katherine Signor) and her son, Chester.) The blast furnace was driven by an overshot water wheel. The water being brought in a ditch or a flume from a dam further up the brook. The ore was probably obtained from the Arnold ore bed, separated into iron in the Forges on the Little AuSable but some of it may have been mined at the Battey ore bed, for Battey is said to have had two Forges and a separator on the Little River.

Some other mines were being worked at that time, one called the Rutgers mine being west of the present farm of Hugh O'Neil (Farm just west of the Old Arnold Hill R. R. Station, at times called Cocksockie, and Ferrona).

Another blast furnace known as the Etna Furnace was located near the Dillon (Wm H. Dillon, Reservoir Rd. 1964) on the bank of the Brook that now furnishes the water supply for the village of Peru.

If anyone now living knows how long either of the furnaces were operated, or when they were abandoned, we should like to be informed.

Information given by

J. W. Harkness

See "An Attempt to Steal a River" written by D. D. Harkness for the Plattsburgh Republican, Aug. 20, 1892  
Story and list of customers given by Miss Grace Arnold, a daughter of Mrs. Bion Arnold

LIST OF CUSTOMERS AT THE BATTEY-KETCHUM STORES  
1805-1836

Joshua Arthur	Aaron Cleland
William Allen	Martin Chase
John Allen, Jr.	Gilbert Calkins
Ralph P. Allen Dr.	David Darrow
Augustine Arthur	John Duel
Elizah Annis	William Day
Joseph Allen	Benj. Darling
Lovi Annis	John Davis
A & P Ayers	Samuel Dewey
Henry Beadleston	Gardner Davis
David Baker	John D. Estes
David Buck	John D. Estes
Samuel Brown	William H. Fournes
Amos Battey	Patrick Finley (Forrence)
Ashel Button	David Fish
Reuben Baker	Adolphus Fisher
Arden Barker	Susan Fletcher
Benjman Bragg	William Frasier
Bosnic Buck	David Ferris
Jacob Bowron	James Gilmore
Michael Barey	John Green
Robert Battey	Parker Grundy
Allen Chase	Richard Gove
Zeliah Campfield	Edward Griffin
Isaac Coolidge	Caleb Green
B & F. Calkins	Hiram Garlick
Seth Calkins	Edward Hallock
Trumen Calkins	John Marvin
Earl Hallock	Anthony McDonald
Joseph Hodgson	Robert Morrison
Burling Hallock	Bainard McCulley
Timothy Harrington	Luther Marvin
David Hoag	Thomas Miller
David Harkness	Elnathan Nichols
Polly Handy	John Osborne
Haskins & Baldwin	Abraham Pensley
Ezekiel Judges	James Pilling
Peter Hallock	John Platt
John Signor	Robert Pearce
Nathaniel P. Hoag	J. P. Preston
William Howard	Abednego Ricketson
David Jackson	James Ricketson
Isaac Jackson	James G. Reed
B. T. Ketchum	James Rogers
Samuel Kendrick	Samuel Rising
John Kent	Paul Southwick
John Kirby	Isaac Snaborn
Peter Keese	Herman Spargue
Stephen Keese	Henry Signor
Susan Ketchum	Benjman Smith
William Kirby	Johnathan Gove



Customers of the Battey and Ketchum Stores 1805--1836

Samuel Keese	Avery Sanders
Joseph Lapham	Ira Smart
Hiram Moore	Thomas Stearns
John McGuire	David Smart
Davins Lavarney	Sam. el Smith
Hoshua Manland	Francis Smart
David Spencer	Francis Shambo
Chancney Stoddard	Sam. el Sprague
Chester Sherman	Coylin Smith
Parley Towle	Seth Thomas
Isaac Turner	John Taylor, Jr.
Elihah Townes	Ruel Tiffory
Stephen Taylor	

Notes: Battery Cemetery on Arthur Road, Robert Battey and family.

The Keeses have always called the lot bordering on this Cemetery, the Battey Lot. Bought from the Battey's

The farm now owned by Gordon Davins was always called the Battey lot and barn. That Battey was probably Johnathan Battey who married two daughters of William Keese I.

The Lang place (1965) also on the State Road across from The Davins property was a farm owned by Amos Battey. That family had a nursery and there will be found in these stories an item which says that at one time Amos A. Battey sold "trees and shrubs and issued a catalog." At one time the Frank A. Clark family lived there. The house was surrounded by rare trees, shrubs and flowers. Childhood home of Frank Clark and Maud Clerk Potter.

Stories written by J. W. Harkness about the Battey's:

- A page of History
- An Attempt to Steal A River
- Simeon Barber and His Burial Place
- The Old Peru Blockhouse and Cemetery

AN ATTEMPT TO STEAL A RIVER  
A reminiscence of D. D. Harkness  
Printed in the Plattsburgh Republican August 20, 1892

"Did you ever hear about the attempt that was made to steal the Little AuSable?" asked Daniel Harkness one evening as we sat talking about old times.

"No", I replied, "that is about the last thing that I should have thought anybody would try to steal. Please tell me about it, and when it was, who was the thief, and what he wanted of the river."

"It was 70 or 80 years ago, and I presume there are few people now living who know anything about it. I cannot give the exact date, but it was not far from the time when the Ketchum furnace was built in the hollow south of the Elisha Allen house where Robert Signor now lives. The blast for that furnace was driven by an immense overshot wheel, said to be 42 feet high and 16 inches wide. The water was brought from a dam near Kirby Corners in a ditch that was dug along the side of the ravine to a point near the furnace, and was thence carried to the top of the wheel in an eight-inch square pipe or trough."

"But it was found that the brook sometimes got so low that it did not furnish sufficient power to turn the wheel, and the owners of the furnace saw that unless more water could be obtained the furnace would have to stand idle so large a portion of the year that their profits would be greatly diminished."

"Explorers were sent up the brook to see if there was any other stream that could be turned into it to augment volume, and they reported that the Little AuSable rose about two miles west of the head of the furnace brook, and that by digging a ditch between the two the water of the little river could be brought down to the furnace."

"But a serious difficulty stood in the way of this enterprise and that was the fact that the Little River contained no more water than was needed to drive the sawmills, separators and forges at Cooksockie or what is now called Ferrona. If an attempt was made to divert any of that water from its natural channel, and Cook found it out, he could put a stop to it, and the only way it could be done was to do it without Cook's knowledge. It was suggested that the ditch might be dug in that uninhabited wilderness without much danger of discovery till it was completed, then large hollow logs could be laid in it, the earth and stones carefully replaced and covered with leaves and brush so that if any of Cook's men went up to the head of the stream they might walk over the aqueduct without knowing it was there."

## AN ATTEMPT TO STEAL A RIVER

"The plan was considered practical, and the ditch was actually dug for a considerable portion of the distance, but so many men were employed upon it that it was hard to keep the secret from leaking out. In some way Cook heard what was being done and promptly threatened criminal prosecution if it was not stopped at once. So this ingenious plan had to be abandoned also. And it was not many years before the furnace was also abandoned."

"I think the matter was hushed up and but little said about it at the time. I never heard it mentioned but once, and that was accidental. Some time in the forties, Elias Hurlbut and one or two other Keeseville gentlemen came here and asked Uncle if he could get them some yellow birch logs 36 inches through, to be sawed into planks 32 inches wide, to make segments of the undershot wheel which was being built to run the Keeseville rolling mill. Uncle said that those of that size were getting scarce, but he thought he knew where to get a few, and they told him to take what men and teams necessary to get out the logs and deliver them at the saw mill, and his bill would be promptly paid."

"I drove one of Uncle's teams, and we went up the road that runs along the south line of Peru till we reached the foot of the hill below Mr. York's. Then we left the highway and continued west of southwest into the woods. After driving some distance, I noticed that we were in what seemed to be an old road that had been worn down till it was two or three feet lower than the surface of the ground on each side. I asked Uncle how there came to be so much travel as that, and he said it was not a road at all, but a ditch that was dug many years before for the purpose of stealing the water of the little AuSable."

"I think we followed it more than a mile, but before we reached the head of the little river we found the trees we had come for and stopped to cut them. I never saw the ditch before or since that day, and do not remember ever hearing it spoken of on any other occasion, but I have no doubt that it can be found there still and perhaps it has been seen by hundreds who have thought as I did, that it was once a well-travelled road."

J. W. HARKNESS

## THE LITTLE AUSABLE AND THE INDUSTRIES THAT HAVE FLOURISHED UPON IT

(Continued from Jan. 20, 1906 -- Written Feb. 3, 1906)

There is a great difference between the above described method of separating ores from rock and the one now employed by the Arnold Mining Co. The lumps that came from the mine are no longer burned or roasted but thrown between the jaws of an immense stone crusher which works upon the same principle as the crushers that are used for breaking stone to use upon highways. Then the finely crushed ore and rock pass through a nearly horizontal cylinder, the interior of which is partly lined with electro-magnets. A powerful current of electricity causes the fine ore to adhere to those magnets, while the rock is sifted out, but at a certain point in the revolution of the cylinder the electric circuit is broken and the ore drops from the magnets upon an endless belt or carrier by which it is conveyed to a car placed to receive it. The rock that is thus separated from the ore instead of being washed into the river, as it was by the old process, is now preserved, mixed with cement and used in making bricks which are the very best of building materials, as hard durable as rock and as convenient in form and size as the old-fashioned clay bricks that are baked in a kiln.

Perhaps the fact is known to a few of the present generation that one of the separators that was built in the first half of last century within less than a mile of the place where this modern process is now in use, employed magnetism or at least tried it for separating ore from rock. But the electro-magnet, if then known to science, was not in its present state of improvement; and the permanent magnets that were used were not well adapted to the purpose. They could pick up some ore but they would not let go of it as the electro-magnets do. Before me lies a little bar of steel  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long,  $\frac{5}{8}$  of an inch wide at one end and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide at the other and about  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch thick. This is one of the permanent magnets that was used in that ore separator 60 or 70 years ago. This was plowed up a few weeks ago by Wm. H. Baxter who owned the land where the separator stood. Though covered with a thick coat of rust which has been accumulating upon it at least three score years, it will still pick up and hold suspended from its end iron or steel pins, a dozen at a time. Fifty years ago when I was a boy, Fred Gaines, who was one of my classmates, gave me a magnet precisely like the one here described. When asked where he got it, Fred replied, "In the separator at the Sockie." So it appears that those magnets are not of much use to the owner of the separator, have furnished amusement to children of three generations.

Resuming our walk down stream from the reservoir or storage dam, we come to the point where the highway from Clintonville, after crossing the railroad by the water-tank comes the river, and there stood the separator, which 60 years ago was owned and operated by Calvin Cook. A few rods farther down about where the dam was recently erected by the Arnold Hill Mining Co. to fill with water the pipe which runs to their present engine house, was another of Cook's separators. Next below the highway bridge near Ferrona, now called Arnold Station. All of the works thus far mentioned were in existence, if not in operation, in 1845 or 60 years ago. At a later date, probably in the first half of the

Little AuSable and Industries Upon it

fifties, a new separator was erected above the Cook forge and below the saw mill. It was sometimes called the Kingsland separator though P. S. Whitcomb tells me that the property up to and after that time was still owned by Arnold, Southmayd & Stickney, the original proprietors of the Arnold Hill mines. Mr. Whitcomb, who was in charge of the business of the Kingslands at Cooksockie explains the cause of their engaging in it by saying that they had been making iron from Port Henry Ore which was so lean that it made poor iron and a large quantity sold by them to a western purchaser was shipped back to them. So they found it necessary to make some iron from better ore and sent him there for the purpose. Part of the ore was obtained from the old Arnold blue vein, part of it from Barton ore bed and some from the Mace bed on the east side of the valley. It was raised by whimseys turned by horse-power and brought down in wagons to the new separator last mentioned above. That separator was driven by an immense overshot wheel 60 feet high, the water being conveyed to the top of it in a large wooden pipe, called penstock. The wheel was so large that it took very little water to run it. Mr. Whitcomb repaired the old forge; and when he got some ore separated, made it into iron. For repairing those buildings, lumber was needed, and the old Cook sawmill was used to saw it. Mr. Whitcomb kept a small store near the former residence of Calvin Cook and supplied his employees with needed goods and groceries.

For the benefit of those young people who have never seen a Catalan forge like this one where Calvin Cook made iron 60 years ago and Preston Singletary Whitcomb at a little later date, a brief description will be given.

The forge of this country was called Catalan Forges because they were like those Catalonia, an iron-producing province of Spain. The name forge was applied to the building in which iron was forged, for each forge contained several fires according to the amount of business to be done. The forge fire was a shallow pit or box something like an old fireplace in a dwelling except that its bottom was below the level of the floor. Charcoal burnt in coal pits was drawn to the forge, brought into it in large shallow coal baskets and poured into the fire, then fine separated ore was thrown into the burning coal with shovels by the bloomers, as the iron-makers were called, because the iron was to be shaped into blooms or heavy bars four or five inches square. A bloomer kept throwing on coal and shoveling on ore till he had used enough to make a loop, as the molten mass was called. The heat was greatly increased by blowing the fire with hot air. This wind, while cold, came from immense bellows worked by water-power but passed through many feet of pipe that was heated by the fire till red hot. When enough ore was melted together to make a loop of the required size, the bloomer pried it up with a bar and worked it out of the fire till the hammerman could grasp it with great tongs which were hung from a crane so that the weight of his body would balance the mass of molten iron. The arm of the crane was swung around till the hammerman could place the loop under the trip-hammer which was also driven by water-power. The loop was hammered till it began to cool and was then returned to the fire and again heated, after which it was taken out and hammered again till it was reduced to the required shape; and all of the open pores or air holes in it were closed up by the metal being hammered into a compact mass.

Little AuSable and Industries Upon it

Farther down the stream on land owned by Wm. H. Baxter, was another forge which Mr. Baxter says was afterward changed to a separator, and it was there that an attempt was made to separate the ore from rock by magnetism. Years before a forge was built there was at that place a sawmill owned by Rufus Green, who held offices of Commissioner of Highways and town clerk of Peru between 1795 and 1815. The proper was also owned by Ketchum and Battey who bought the land of John Allen sometime early in the century.

A mile farther down the river near the present Kenefick farm buildings was another forge which was afterward changed to a separator. Barker & Lapham of Goshen operated it in 1844; but on a map made a few years later, the name C. D. Barton is printed near the word "separator."

Mr. Nicholas Barker informs me that the forge had two fires and stood on the east side of the river, and that there was an old saw mill on the west side. He also says that there were two separators, one old and the other new, owned by Barker & Lapham, above their forge and below the stone forge of Calvin Cook.

Barker & Lapham had a store to supply their employees with goods, groceries, and provisions and the building in which that store was kept by Nicholas Barker still stands on the south side of the door-yard of Mrs. Kenefick's house. Nathan Lapham lived in that house in 1844, and it was there that his oldest son, Arden Lapham, now of Chicago, was born. The entire plant of Barker & Lapham was bought by Caleb D. Barton between 1844 and 1850.

J. W. H.

(To be continued)

The other parts of these articles have not been found.

From Edith Arnold Scrapbook  
Clinton County Historical Rooms

Notes: The Little AuSable and the Industries that Flourished Upon it

Wm. Baxter and his son, Samuel, lived just west of Harkness in the two houses near together; and one is owned and occupied by Chas. H. Collins.

Sockie, better known as Cooksockie, was a hamlet at the Arnold Hill mines and named for Calvin Cook.

Ferrona and Arnold Stations have both been names of the RR station on Arnold Hill. The Station house stood about where the RR crossing is now.

Kingsland, Jacob of Keeseville.

Arnold, Southmayd & Stickney. Elisha Arnold, John Southmayd, and Stickney. Elisha Arnold lived on the road from Peru to Schuyler Falls, now Champlain Orchards. Mr. Southmayd lived in Jay in one of the gray stone houses on the road from Jay to Upper Jay. Mr. Stickney lived on the Clintonville Road over the bridge that has always been called the Stickney Bridge. It is believed that Rockwell Kent owns the farm now.

Rufus Green lived in the Union on the present Ray Trombley farm.

Ketchum & Battey, See "Page of History."

John Allen was of the Allen family on Allen Hill.

Thomas Kenefick came from Ireland and lived on the first farm, right side of road from Harkness to Clintonville. The house is gone, but Ernest Roberts is the present occupant of the land.

Barker & Lapham. Nicholas Barker and Nathan Lapham. The Laphams lived at what is now Forrence Orchards. Nicholas Barker lived on what was long known as the David Sharpe place, now owned by Earl Weatherwax.

The great grand-mother of the Daveys of Taylor Hill was Ida Kenefick.

These notes must contain the story by J. W. Harkness of an incident connected with Nicholas Parker Store near the Kenefick Farm. See "Nicholas Golden Wedding." "A little incident that occurred at the time has long been forgotten but this may remind him of it. A Hallock Hill boy, who is now an old man, was sent to carry a small pail of cherries to a relative at Cooksockie. He stopped at the store and there met some other boys who suggested that they take a swim in the little river nearby. So he set down by the fence, the pail of cherries, and went with the others; but when he returned, he found the cherries all gone and his pail filled with sugar. What became of the fruit, one can only guess; but if there was as much capacity under "Uncle Nick's" vest as there is now, he was able to store away without any trouble.

J. W. Harkness

C. D. Barton for whom Bartonville is named and sometimes called Laphams Mills.

Notes: by Mildred G. Keese, Grace E. Arnold

1963-64

## OTHER OLD ROADS IN OLD PERU A CENTURY AGO

I shall speak briefly of the ordinary roads made by the people of the town for their own use or convenience. Each was important to those who lived upon it or had occasion to visit those who did, but none of them were of such general interest to the inhabitants of Northern New York as those great trunk lines of highway travel, the main or Post Road (The Post Road is what is now called Lake Shore Road and it joined the Willsborough Road near Mace's Corners near Augur Lake) and the Rogers Road.

To begin with, the oldest, let me say the very first road established by the Commissioners of Plattsburgh in the territory that afterward became the Town of Peru (now Town of AuSable) was the one we call Arthur Street (see map of Clinton County for 1963 as it has been given back its original name) from the fact that several families of Arthurs lived upon it more than a hundred years ago. (It was voted to build this road the next year following the first town meeting which was Dec. 28, 1792. The deed to the Arthur Farms as recorded in the Clinton County Clerk's office is dated 1790 and the farms formed the four corners called Arthur's Corners for nearly 100 years. See Old Keeseville Tales.) When the road was laid out in 1790 it comprised a road to the lake, all that part of the main road north of the Little AuSable River. But in 1798 this Arthur Street began at Capt. Everett's west line on Rogers Road, now called Kees's Corners, and ended at the Post Road (Lake Shore) about 100 yards south of the Dry Mills near the mouth of the Big AuSable River. The taxable inhabitants or the people who were assessed with farms were Edward Everett, land both north and south of the corner, now in the Keese farm, and George Everett\*his son; Abednigo Ricketson, now John Shortell; Joshua B. Arthur, one of the four brothers, now the late Elenor Arthur Spaulding and Albert Dupra and Gordon Devins; Reuben Arthur, another brother, now Louise Eisen and the Rustic Restaurant; Thomas Arthur, another brother, land now owned by Alan and Cedric Patnode; John Morehouse, now Ralph Arthur and William Morehouse, later the Welsh farm, now Joseph Allen. Each Morehouse was assessed with half of a saw mill which is believed to have been on the brook between the residences of Ralph Arthur and Joseph Allen.

The next road to consider was established in 1792 and 1793 in two parts or three which taken together extended from the main or post road near the Old Blockhouse (Blockhouse Cemetery) on the bank of the Little AuSable River to Rogers Road at the corner where Peter McGee lives (now belongs to the Northern Orchard). The people upon it whose names are on the assessment roll were John Haff (later Schuyler and Ralph Haff, Nathaniel Haff, now John Neyenhouse (on the home-  
stead) Glen Lea and Richard Stafford) Rowland Stafford, John Cochran Jr. and Noble Averill.



## OTHER OLD ROADS IN OLD PERU A CENTURY AGO

One of the longest road districts in the town extended from Beverly Beardsley's on the Great AuSable where A. M. Edwards now lives, to the Sand Hill about a half mile north of the High Bridge where it joined to the Post road. On it lived James Weston, James Bean, Andrew Debar, Norman Bull, William Clyde, David Day, David George, Joseph Beach, John Raymond and Samuel Hawley. Above Beverly Beardsley, on the same road which extended to the south line of Peru were Emanuel Beardsley and his son, Jehial, Jr., John Beardsley, George Shave, Zephaniah Palmer, Zachariah Palmer and Sylvanis Palmer.

George Shaver whose name was sometimes spelled Shaffer was the first settler of Clintonville and the discoverer, in the year 1800 of the first iron ore found in Clinton County at what has been known as the Winter Ore Bed, as I suppose the land on which it is located was owned by Elisha Winter.

Zephaniah Palmer was also the discoverer of a valuable ore bod on Palmer Hill and is said to have been the first settler of AuSable Forks and of the Town of Black Brook. But three different authorities say that he located in that town in or about 1825. I will venture to assert that he was living in what is now the town of Black Brook and I believe at AuSable Forks as early as 1798 and not he alone but at least three other Palmers who were probably his father and brothers. To that I will add that as early as 1802, a man named Luis or Lewis Ferris had a saw mill on Palmer's Brook in the present village of AuSable Forks and another man named Isiah Ferris who was probably his son lived there with him.

In 1793, a highway was established beginning at the south west corner of Lot No. 9 and running thence west to Henry Green's on Rogers Road. When it is remembered that Henry Green sold in 1801, three acres of land to the Quakers for a meeting house lot and burying ground, the location of this road will be understood. (Brown Road) The town line between Peru and AuSable now runs along the center of it.

In 1795, this road was extended eastward to the Mills "belonging to Matthew Adgate, Esq., and Asa Douglass" afterwards known as dry mills and in 1796 was extended westward to the west line of the Great Location that being to the corners west of where Smithdale cheese factory now stands. In 1798, the tax payers who lived on that road east of Henry Green's were Ebenezer Baker, John Mosley, Robert Anson, Robert Moon and John Stanton. Robert Moon's 100 acres joined Reuben Arthur and must have been about where Frank Clark now lives. John Stanton's 50 acres joined Augustine Arthur and was the place owned by George Howard. This John Stanton was the naughty old hero who gave his angry wife the long ride from Peru to Poughkeepsie, 250 miles, on a hand sled. This story has been in print almost 40 years so I need not stop to repeat it. (This famous ride took place about 1850)

West of Henry Green's on that road lived Daniel Jackson, whose son, Daniel, Jun., wrote the famous novel, "Alonzo and Melissa," Peter White and Samuel West. Peter White's 50 acres, formerly Seth C. Calkins, are now owned by Andrew Walker, and Samuel West's 100 acres are

OTHER OLD ROADS IN OLD PERU A CENTURY AGO

now a part of James Black's farm. The Calkins school house lot occupies the south east corner of Samuel West's farm. John Osborne is assessed for 212 acres on the back road joining Samuel West, but neither in that year, 1798, nor any other was he assessed a road tax on any such land so he must have owned it but a very short time. The back road mentioned was probably Calkins Street or the road that runs north from the school house, both of which were made public roads in December 1799.

A half a mile north of Henry Green's, on Rogers Road was another road running east on or near which lived Wm. Keese I, where Timothy Davern does now, (Davern Road), Elisha Howard, Aaron Benedict, Aaron Benedict, Jr., Cyrus Benedict, John Phillips and Benjamin Earl. The last was a teacher and taught in the log Quaker meeting house that stood in the corner south of John Keese's house and directly east of the present Beadleston residence. Afterwards this road was extended past Peter Hallock's and along the south line of what is now Silas Wesver's lot to the corners east of the Smithdale factory. All of it is west of the Hallock Road near the little AuSable has since been abandoned.

That Hallock Road just mentioned ran from "Cockran's Mills" westerly (River Road) by Olmstead's and southerly by Peter Hallock's to Daniel Jackson. On it near it lived Pardon Irish, Jesse Irish, Elihu Allen, Benj. Bragg, Caleb Simmons, Eleazer Nichols and Peter Hallock. The farms of the last two mentioned are now owned by Samuel and William Tanners but where the others were I cannot say positively but have reason to believe that Benjamin Bragg lived on the Sherman farm. Caleb Simmons on E. S. Arnold farm, Elihu Allen on land owned by Nelson De Lorme near the corners south of Henry Arnold's and the Irishes were his near neighbors. The road from Elihu Allen's west to Dyer Arnold corners was laid out in 1799. The road did not go through Goshen but ran nearly due west from Cochran's Mills to a point a half mile south of the present residence of Henry Arnold. There it turned due south and followed the east line of Lot No. 26 toward Daniel Jackson's. From that same corner a road ran due north to the corner where Arnold now lives, then turned west a few rods to the corner of Lot No. 27 from which it ran north to the north line of Lot No. 5 in the four thousand acre location. On or near that road lived Josiah Terry and Waterman Eells, John Evers and Hosiiah Howe.

From that corner where Henry Arnold lives, a road ran west where it does still to the west line of the Great Location on which Palmer Stafford, Jonas Stafford, Jonathan Stafford, John Green, William Lewis, Samuel Irish and Samuel Francis worked their tax but most of them were said to live "of from any road."

From the corner of Elisha Arnold's, now John L. Clark on Rogers Road (now called Crommie's Corners) a road ran due east to the Lake where it runs still and on it Asa Elmor and Oliver Sanders. I believe that John Cochran lived on that road at the Stephen Brand Corners and Robert Cochran whose land joined John's, was overseer of the road district that ran south from Plattsburgh line to Cochran's Mills, the road on which the Gate family now live. As Silas Cochran also lived on this last mentioned road in 1798 probably either on the place still

known as Silas Cochran farm now occupied by Commadore Derby or that other Silas Cochran farm which lay east of the present village of Peru. On the road which ran from Cochran's Mills southerly to Thomas Arthur's lived Nathan Averill, Nathan Averill, Jr. Isreal Buck and Reuben Benedict.

In January 1795, a road was laid out and established by the Commissioners of Highways that was described as follows: (Hallock Hill Road) "beginning at Robert Whitcomb's north east of said Whitcomb's lot thence south eight chains, thence west thirty-six chains so to be continued." Robert Whitcomb owned the farm on which David Hallock now lives so this road that ended so much like a story in the Ledger began a litter west of Harrison Arnold's present residence and ran west where it is now to the corner of the original Hallock farm which was about 20 or 25 rods farther east that it is now, then it ran south 32 rods and turning west ran parallel with the present road past the Robert's place then owned by David Cochran to the Osborne ten-acre lot then owned by Garret Thew. It was probably as far as Gilbert Thew's log house which was west of the brook about half way between W. H. Carpenter's residence and the present road which was laid out on the 2nd day of March, 1899 and therefore exactly 100 years old.

In the above description, I have named all the taxpayers who lived on the old road in 1798, and one who lived off of it. David Cochran's house, afterward David Hoag was just east of the present Roberts residence and therefore about 25 rods north of the old road. Another farmer who was said to live "of from any road" was Stephen Starks who owned part of the present Harkness farm and lived near its north east corner in what is now the orchard. That place continued to be off the road till 1827 when it was connected with main road (Hallock Hill Road) and in 1828 connected with the road south toward Clintonville was established here it is today. Before that as early as 1799, a road had established along the line between the two Thews and bearing south westward which led to Beverly Beardsley's on the river road.

I have mentioned about all the roads that were in Peru in 1798 except a few that were abandoned so long ago that no one remembers them now. A chapter might be written upon the abandoned roads of old Peru which would surprise some people who do not dream that roads have ever been where they were.

I could mention a few more farms that were off from any road in 1798 like those of Nicholas Barker where his grand-son and namesake now lives, David Fish lived on or near the Harvey Everett homestead. The widow Martha Stafford whose 334 acres included the J. P. Hewitt estate and Elisha Green whose home was near the Severence farm in Smithdale. But this article is far too long already.

J. W. Harkness

AUSABLE

Written March 2, 1899.

Notes: Other Roads in Old Peru a Century Ago.

This Arthur Road mentioned in this article was first settled by the four Arthur brothers, Joshua E, Augustine, Thomas, and Reuben. They arranged their land to four the four corners. At one time and not until after the War of 1812 was the road from Peru ("from Peru to Thomas Arthurs") completed beyond the Big Rock which is on the Peru-Keeseville Road, to the young village of Keeseville. The Arthurs took up 425 acres in 1788 and the deed is recorded in 1790. At that time Arthur Street extended to the lake at Peru Landing, which is in front of the Straight farm now owned by the Orchard Camps. It began at Keese's Corners. In later years it became only the mile from Keese's to Dwyers Corners. In 1965, the State made that mile into a Farm-to-Market Road.

The next settlers on that Road was Abednego Ricketson who came in 1795, just west of the Arthurs. They came from Washington Hallow, N.Y. The sons married into the Everett and Hallock families. The present president of the Quaker Union Society is a descendant of this family.

The Arthur Homestead is now owned by Mrs. Kathryn Curran, the house being built in 1804. In 1833, the Ricketson's sold 60 acres to Alexander Arthur and he built the brick house, now owned and occupied by Albert Dupra.

Notes: Other Old Peru Roads a Century Ago. Notes Written in 1963-64

Back in 1923 Mr. Harkness copied from the records in the Clinton County Clerk's office the description of all the roads in the Town of Peru from 1792 to 1836, and the assessment rolls.

The date of the first town meeting was Dec. 28, 1792, when the old town of Peru was taken off Plattsburgh. "The meeting was held at the home of Samuel Jackson. The dwelling of Jacksons was of logs and stood near the north end of Allen Street, about a half mile west of the bridge across the Little AuSable." (Quotation from Mr. Harkness) Allen Street is the old Lake Shore Road where Paul Allen lives on the farm called "Allen Homestead since 1788." Another old family on that road was the Baker family.

Early in the expansion of the Keese Farm, the Everett and Battey lots were purchased from the Everetts and Batteys. It is claimed that the horse barn on the Keese farm was the horse shed at Battey's store, which was near the south-east corner of the Battey lot, near the Dupra farm.

George Everett moved to the lake shore near the Blockhouse Cemetery and had two unmarried daughters, Jennie and Lydia.

All of the Abednego Ricketson farm, on the north side of Arthur Road, remained in that name until about 1833, when Alexander Arthur bought of the heirs 80 acres of land and built the brick house still there. Albert Dupra bought the farm in 1936

The rest of the Ricketson farm was owned by Thomas Lynch and heirs for 46 years, from 1875 to 1921, and then owned by Charles Jarvis family for 31 years, from 1921 to 1952. It is now owned by John Shortell.

The Joshua B. Arthur farm on the south side of the Aruthur Road is the homestead, and he was the progenitor of all the Arthurs in this section. The house was built in 1804, and the following generations after Joshua B. were Joshua Van Ronsselare and his son, Joshua I. The latter sold the farm to Arthur Martin of Hallock Hill, brother of Peter. After it changed hands twice and is now owned by the widow of the late Frank Curran, Mrs. Kathryn Curran, and son Francis.

The next Arthur place, Augustines's on the north side of the road, is now divided into three parts, one owned by Eleanor Arhur Spaulding, the last Arthur to own any part of the original 425 acres surrounding the four corners called Arthurs Corners for 137 years. The other two parts of the Augustine Arthur land are owned by Albert Dupra, and Gordon Devins.

This accounts for two of the original four brothers. Thomas Arthur lived on the south-east of the corners, whose land was sold to Gorton T. Thomas I, then to James Hinds, a maternal great grand-father of Philip E. Baber of Keeseville, later Dennis Dwyer and his heirs owned the place for 75 years. "Deo" Dwyer died in 1940 and was well known over most of Clinton County as a dealer in farm machinery and junk dealer. The property is now owned by Cedric Patnode and Mrs. Louise Eisen and the Rustic Restaurant. The brick house that is still there and occupied by Mrs. Eisen was built for Gorton T. Thomas I in 1835 by Isaac Ferris.

Notes: Other Roads of Old Peru a Century Ago.

The fourth brother, Reuben, owned the 110 acres on the north-west side of the corners. This land was also later owned by the Dwyers and thus became Dwyers Corners, and is now owned by Cedric Patnode and Alan Patnode.

It is interesting to note that the lines of those old farms have not changed much as they were originally set up in 1790.

The Robert Battey Cemetery is on the Arthur Road and dates back to the times of the Union Village. 1805-1836. It has recently been restored and fenced by interested people. The Battey Store already referred to stood on the Union Road and near the Cemetery, his house was on that lot and about opposite the Keese house.

The Arthur Road was first black-topped in 1930 or 1931, and in 1964 and 1965 it was rebuilt and widened for a farm-to market road or County Road.

The George Howard farm referred to on the Brown Road was later owned by Lester Bombard and now Robert Rulfs.

Aaron Benedict lived on the north-east corner of Davern Road and Route 22, between Peru and Keeseville. It was long owned by Sanford K. Forrence and heirs and now by Oppman.

Cyrus Benedict probably lived where the late Harley Fallon lived on Telegraph St. and presently owned by Mrs. Harry Pray. (Esther Signor)

The Nicholas Barker farm is north-east of the residence of Wm. Forrence, on a dirt road. It was more recently owned by David Sharpe, now by Earl Witherwax.

The Peter Hallock Homestead on the River Road was later owned by Wm. Taner, by Patrick Butler and now by Robert Sherman. What we call "River Road" was called by Mr. Harkness "Hallock Road."

Waterman Eells lived on the Falton Road, out of Schuyler Falls. The brick house still stands.

The land where Judge Winter lived on the Clintonville Road is now owned by Perley Stoughton, Editor of the Essex County Republican.

Notes compiled by Mildred G. Keese, Grace Arnold, Eleanor A. Spaulding in 1963. Mildred G. Keese died July 3, 1965.

### THE STORY OF FOUR MORE OLD TIME ROADS

The four AuSable river bridges mentioned in a recent article were the terminal points of four roads of old Peru.

Of course the roads did not stop at those bridges but went on into the adjoining town, but they were not Peru roads beyond those bridges for the river formed the southeastern boundary of that town during the forty years from 1799 to 1830.

The road now to be described is not remembered by anyone now living and it is not likely that any such one ever heard of it. But the town records are indisputable and help to prove that there was a settlement at AuSable Chasm earlier than at Keeseville. On Sept. 5th, 1800 a road was laid out by Elisha Arnold, Benjamin (Green) and Robert Cochran, commissioners of highways, that was described as follows:

Beginning about five rods south of Stephen Taylor's house at the road from widow Hallocks's to the fordway, thence easterly to Adgate's Mills. Stephen Taylor's house was where John Davy now lives. The widow Hallock was the mother of Edward, Isaac, Richard and David and the road from her place was the same as now traveled from Harrison or Eleazer Arnold farm over the hill toward Keeseville. Adgate's Mills were above the high falls at AuSable Chasm. The road running easterly from Stephen Taylor's to Adgate's Mills must have crossed the state road, or rather the place where the state road now is, a little south of the sand hill and continuing east was very near the place where the late Elkanah W. Arthur recently lived.

If any part of that road is still used it must be only between the Chasm school house and the bridge, but that whole road was used and worked as one of the Peru highways, for at least six years. During that time the men who lived upon it were William Banks (or Banker), John Hawley, a Mr. Presby, John Ganang, John Dobs and Lanadar Prindle. Only one, William Banker, seems to have been a permanent settler and his name is not found after 1806. There is good reason to believe that he lived on what was afterward the Joshua Hallock farm, where the late Fitz-Green Hallock was born about 80 years ago, and where Lewis Rock lived many years since that time. Two other men, Harris Beach and Elijah Weston worked on that road in 1807 but we have no proof that they lived upon it.

The oldest road in the village of Keeseville seems to be Sable Street for on March 24th, 1810, one was laid out described as beginning at Jonathan Bigelow's running northeasterly near said Bigelow's saw mill near the great River Ausable until it strikes the road near Martin Adgate's. As we believe, Jonathan Bigelow lived on the present Geo. B. Thompson farm and Martin Adgate at or near Ausable Chasm. Bigelow's saw mill must have been on the Peru side of the river and this road must have followed the river about where Sable Street does still.

## THE STORY OF FOUR MORE OLD TIME ROADS      Continued

Under date of March 21, 1811, another road is described as follows:

"Beginning at the Big River Ausable at the Bridge that was built by David Fuller by Jonathan Bigelow's thence North 32 degrees West forty chains, thence North 235 chains to Uriah Waterman's Blacksmith shop."

To understand that description we need only to know that the bridge that was built by David Fuller was the one at the foot of the hill west of the Jed Bliss house, the forty chains, or one half mile, that the road ran northwest took it to some point on the Thompson farm west or northwest of the present stone house and from there the road ran directly north to what we now know as the D. J. Dwyer farm corners. The part south of the sand hill a mile or more out of Keeseville on the road to Peru was abandoned more than 100 years ago, but one old landmark still remains upon it, the Joshua Hallock, now better known as the Lewis Rock house. That house now stands away from any road but the reader will see that it was not always so. If it was built before 1807 it stood at or near four corners where the road that ran east from Stephen Taylor's crossed the road from Jonathan Bigelow's.

One more road remains to be mentioned before this series is closed.

"Road beginning where the state road strikes the pine plains a little south of Joseph B. Covell's thence S. E. till it strikes the north end of the bridge that crosses the river by Boyle's Mills. The same is laid out as a public highway the 6th of April 1812." It is needless to say that the part of this road south of the village limits is now called Main street, Keeseville. The state road here mentioned was called the Great Northern Turnpike when it was built to the High Bridge in 1805, but about 1811 its course was changed to the bridge near Jonathan Bigelow's since which time it has been called the state road. In 1812 Joseph B. Covell must have lived at "the Sand Hill".

J. W. HARKNESS

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Copied from the Edith Arnold Scrapbook  
Clinton County Historical Rooms

Notes compiled by Mildred G. Keese and Grace E. Arnold 1963-64



This road, while not remembered as a road, is still known to be there by William P. Davey, across whose land it passes, by Roger (Benny) Bezio who as a boy fished in the brook over which the road probably lay and by Clarence Arthur, grandson of Elkanah Arthur, who used to tell about going to the Chasm over an old road. The Fitz-Green Hallock mentioned here was one of the famous Adirondack guides. The autobiography of Dr. Trudeau of the Saranac Lake Sanitarium tells the story of how Fitz-Green met him in Plattsburgh and carried him from the train, a very sick man, about to die of tuberculosis. The story goes on to tell how "Fitz", as he called him, would take him on the fox runs to go for hunting. After a while Dr. Trudeau was able to go fox hunting, and on one occasion said that this would be a fine spot for a sanitarium. Fitz-Green and two or three other guides got together and presented to Dr. Trudeau the deed to fifty acres of land on which the sanitarium now stands.

This Fitz-Green Hallock retired after many years with the Webbs of that region (the Webb private pullman car may be seen at the Adirondack Museum at Blue Mt.) and came to Keeseville to live and die. He married his childhood sweetheart, Agnes Sanborn Morgan, and bought the Alfred Baber home on Pleasant Street where Lawrence Holdridge now lives. He died about 50 years ago and was buried at Saranac Lake. Some of those who knew the story of Fitz-Green Hallock are Harlow Nichols, James McAlcon and Julius Tellier. The book by Dr. Trudeau was loaned by Miss Emily McMasters.

Fitz-Green Hallock is mentioned in the story by J. Warren Harkness, "The Hollocks of Hallock Hill", John, son of William (and grandson of Peter of 1640) joined the Quakers, very much to his father's displeasure, and from him descended a numerous posterity, many of his descendants being like him, followers of George Fox. He was the ancestor of Fitz-Green, the post, and his namesake the Adirondack guide, also of Hon. George E. the father of George P. Hallock of Peru and the Hallocks of Hallock Hill. (The home and story of the Hon. George Hallock appears in the History of Clinton and Franklin Counties published in 1880, and the home still stands and is in use.)

The childhood sweetheart whom Fitz-Green married, Mrs. Morgan, was an accomplished musician and gave organ and piano lessons. She had two daughters, Maud and Ruth. Miss Maud Morgan was a public school music supervisor in Ticonderoga. Ruth became the wife of the late Dr. Holcombe.

Every school boy knows the following lines from a poem written by Fitz-Green Hallock, the poet for whom this Fitz-Green was named:

Strike - for your altars and your sires;  
Strike - for the green graves of your sires;  
God, and your native land!

From Marco Bozzaris  
by Fitz-Green Hallock

## Notes on THE STORY OF FOUR MORE OLD TIME ROADS

As near as it can be ascertained, the Johnathan Bigelow mill was near the Upper Bridge in Keeseville.

Martin Adgate lived where the late Whitney Adgate did. The Geo. B. Thompson farm is now owned by his son, William.

At one time, there was a bridge across the river at the Fordway about where the new twin bridges are on the Northway. The Jeditha Bliss house was of brick which was demolished when the overpass to the Dugway was built in 1964. It was on the Essex side of the river.

From studying the descriptions of the old roads, it is learned, that for some time there was no road across the pine plains, it stopped at what was called the Big Rock. Later it was extended to the Sand Hill and during the war of 1812 was extended from there into Keeseville as it does now. The Road from Taylor Hill came into Keeseville on the Taylor Hill Road. Just over the Big Rock, after a time Oliver Keese took up land. The road to the Main Road of old Peru ran past the Gorton T. Thomas farm (Stanley Thompson). Joseph Lavarnway owned land on that corner and nearby lived Phinias Olcott. The Lavarnway land was owned by Stephen Ricketson afterward the William Taylor II farm, now John Connell. When the Keeses took up the land on that corner on the "Road to Birmingham" they owned the Thomas place as well. The Connells have lived on their present farm a hundred years. Samuel Vinette owned the farm formerly owned by Stephen Ricketson, whose daughter, Marriette, married Charles Weston. The farm was known for many years as the "Weston Place."

Uriah waterman had a blacksmith shop in the Union Village where Joseph Sorrell does now. That house is the oldest frame house in the area. Waterman also had a blacksmith shop on the farm of Wm. Morehouse, now Joseph Allen.

AuSable Chasm was once called Adgate's Mills, then Burmingham Falls. The Stone Bridge in the Chasm was built in 1936. The Arch bridge in Keeseville "was built in 1805, was of wood". The stone Arch Bridge, to replace the existing wooden bridge, was built jointly in 1842 by the Town of Chesterfield and AuSable. Mr. Townsend being the contractor. Native stone was used." By Dr. John H. Evans, Sept. 1942.

The Keese place owned for many years by Julius Rock is now owned by Claude Ouillette.

## FIRST BRIDGES OVER THE "GREAT SAWBLE RIVER"

Doubtless the readers of the Republican are tired of following old roads, some of which have been abandoned for more than a hundred years, and will be glad to rest while they examine some of the wonders of nature to be seen from them.

We will stop first at the High Bridge across the chasm for it was not only the first one built but it had the most remarkable location.

Below Table Rock there is a straight and narrow passage through which the river flows where the side walls rise vertically about one hundred feet and at the top cannot be much more than thirty feet apart. It was there that in the year 1793 Capt. Platt Rogers, assisted by farmers of old Peru, built what was then quaintly called the "Great Bridge a Croast the Great River Sawble".

At least three different men, none of whom were born until after that bridge was built, have told us how it was constructed and no two of them agree in all particulars, but the account of it given by the late Theodorus Sheldon, of Willsboro, seems to be the most reasonable and will be quoted as he wrote it.

Referring to that narrow part of the chasm he says that it was "crossed on a log or large tree which it is supposed the Indians had burned down and caused to fall across the chasm. Capt. Rogers had some help from the good old Quakers of Peru when he built that Bridge. He said it was the highest and cheapest and best bridge he ever built.

A few large pines were felled on the Essex County side, they were trimmed out full length. The large ends were squared the proper length to span the chasm, they were got as near to the walled bank as possible, the squared end pointing across. Chains were passed over and ox teams on the Clinton County side drew the tree until the squared end pointing across. Chains were passed over and ox teams on the Clinton County side drew the tree until the squared part of it rested on the opposite wall, the top was then removed and the others put in place.

A smaller class of trees, a quarter split through the center, dressed down to five inches in thickness, and used as plank fastened on with wooden pins. This made a substantial and safe bridge."

It will be noticed that Mr. Sheldon said nothing about Capt. Samuel Jackson crossing the chasm on that single log with an ox yoke on his shoulders. That is one of the traditions which may be true but no one explains why a pair of oxen was in the woods at least two miles from a house, without a yoke, or why the yoke was there on one side of the chasm while the oxen were on the other side. If Capt. Jackson was credited with carrying the heavy log chain or the rope by which that heavy chain was drawn across the chasm, the reason for it would be obvious.

## FIRST BRIDGES continued

One who claimed to remember the building of that bridge said that it was in 1806 or 1807, that plank to cover it were drawn from Jay or Keene, and that he had drawn lumber with Capt. Wright's team over the High Bridge from Robt. Hoyle's mill in Keeseville to Plattsburg. There was at least one saw mill in Plattsburg, 20 years before 1806. Hoyle's lumber was all needed in Chesterfield and Peru and little if any of it was drawn across that bridge. There were no sawmills or settlers in Jay or Keene when it was built. But the most improbable of that man's stories was his statement that he himself traced the calk marks of a horse clear across the chasm on the single stringer that was left after the others had fallen in, the horse and rider having crossed in the night supposing that the whole bridge was still there.

Anyone who wants to believe that story may, but the writer of this article will ask to be excused.

That bridge was the only one that connected those two parts of Peru, while Peru included what is now a part of Chesterfield, but there were three or four places between the Beardsley farms and the lake where the river was so shallow that it could be forded.

About the year 1800 or perhaps a few months earlier a second bridge was built about a mile from the first. It was at the place then called Adgate's Falls but afterward Birmingham and now Ausable Chasm. It was of wood and was succeeded by several other wooden bridges for the mist from the falls kept the timber damp and caused it to rapidly decay. But at last an iron bridge took the place of the wooden ones, and if it is kept well painted it should remain while the river continues to flow. No words of mine are adequate to describe the views from that Bridge.

In 1801, or thereabouts, a third bridge was built about three miles further up the river. It has been called the Fordway Bridge and no doubt the river was sometimes forded at that place but it was about a mile below the fordway on Rogers old road. In 1802, 1803 and 1804 it was called "the bridge at the foot of the hill west of Bean's. in 1805, 1806 and 1807 it was called "the bridge west of Covell's" and in 1810 "The Bridge that was built by David Fuller by Jonathan Bigelow". Those different designations may be explained by saying that a man named James Bean lived on what is now known as the Jed Bliss farm where the brick house was afterward built on the Chesterfield road to Clintonville. He moved away and Joseph B. Covell lived there three years or more before he moved farther south and lived west of Augur Lake. Then in 1810 the Commissioners of Highways told who built the bridge and near whose house.

1. The brick house was demolished to make way for the overpass over the Northway to the Dugway Road.

2. Joseph Covell also lived at Sand Hill. There was at one time quite a settlement there. The road did not go all the way into Keeseville then, but went over toward the Rogers Road "thence to the Fordway". (See story by J. W. H., "Four more old roads".)

## FIRST BRIDGES                      continued

on the Peru side of the river it was built. Just how long that bridge remained in use we are unable to say but it was probably gone before the great freshet of 1856 which destroyed so many bridges.

Now it seems time to consider bridge number four which was doubtless the first in what is now Keeseville and was according to French's Gazeteer of New York, built in 1802 by Robert Hoyle. As the bridge has already been mentioned in the article on the beginning and growth of Keeseville, it need only be said that it was the Main Street bridge, the other two Keeseville bridges being of more recent though of somewhat uncertain dates.

Winslow C. Watson, Jr., said on page 55 of Old Keeseville Tales that on Sept. 13th, 1842 "a new suspension bridge, nearly done and standing where the present one does, was the principle means of communication between the two sides of the river", the stone arch bridge being at that time unfinished. That would indicate that the upper bridge was not in use at that time but it must have been built long before that date. The foot bridge was broken down because too many militia men were on it at one time but they could have crossed the river if the foot bridge had not been there.

J.W. HARKNESS

(Edit. Note-My grandfather George Throop of Willsboro bought and moved into the house on the Chesterfield side of the river, now occupied by Joseph Rondeau, in March 1841, and there was then a bridge where the "upper bridge" or "iron bridge" is now located. S.E. Keeler)

Story given by Georgia Harkness and copied from her father's scrapbook.

One more road that crosses the town of Chesterfield remains to be described before we, in imagination, leave Essex County and pass over into Clinton. It is not as old as those already mentioned in this series of articles; having been established by act of the legislature in April 1805, sixteen years after the old Rogers road was made, and six years after the cross roads were laid out and recorded by authority of the Peru Commissioners. It was known as the Great Northern Turnpike and the part of it that crossed Essex County was surveyed and measured by Samuel Young who may, or may not have surveyed the whole route.

It began at the little village of Kingsbury in Washington County, about two miles west of the present D & H R.R. station of Smith's Basin between Fort Ann and Fort Edward. It ran northwesterly till it passed the south end of Schroon Lake and then turned north crossing the south line of Essex County about forty miles from Kingsbury, where it began.

From that point it continued northward across Essex County, a distance of sixty miles passing through Pleasant Valley, now better known as Elizabethtown, through Pok-O'-Moonshine Pass, and past Butternut and Augur lakes to what is known as the Alfred Nace Corners. From there it ran northeasterly past "Esqr. Mcimburs," now the John Mussen farm, across the eastern slope of Prospect Hill, along Davis Street, west of the site of the present Hotel AuSable Chasm and continuing in about the same course to the High Bridge across the Great AuSable. From there it continued northward near the eastern border of Clinton to Canada; but its exact location north of the AuSable need not be further described.

The oldest road west of Keeseville was the one surveyed by Platt Rogers in 1787 from the Great Chazy River a little south of Canada line to the fordway above Keeseville, where it met the old Rogers road that came from the south. This Clinton County road passed half a mile west of the present location of the bridge in Peru Village, south through the Quaker Village of the Union or rather where that village was afterwards built, went directly south of Hallock Hill nine or ten years before any Hallocks had come there, crossed the pasture lots now owned by Bezio and Collins and so on direct to the Fordway. In the field notes of Platt Rogers' survey of that road had mentioned three settlers who already lived near the place now known as Beadleston's Corners: Captain Edward Everett, who lived on what Percy Keese now calls his Irish lot; and Robert Whitcomb who owned what has since been the David Hallock farm, now owned by John McCormick. All three lived in log houses there then being no saw mill nearer than Plattsburgh.

The next to be laid out in what was then the Town of Plattsburgh but afterward Peru, and now AuSable, was the one now called Arthur Street, beginning at the Rogers Road on Captain Everett's west line and running thence east toward the present Dwyer Corners. From the east line of what is now called Lynch Farm, the road bore northeastward at first but was soon changed to its present location. In 1793 a road was built out from the lake shore through the Elmore neighborhood where Hobart Fuller and the Baggs brothers now live past the Dry Mill so called because the brook on which it was built did not furnish enough water to keep it running and thence through the woods to the High Bridge. From that time onward to the opening of the Great Northern Turnpike in 1806 this road to and across the High Bridge was the main or post road between Plattsburgh and Albany.

In 1793 a road was built out from the lake shore through the Elmore neighborhood where Hobart Fuller and the Baggs brothers now live past the Dry Mill so called because the brook on which it was built did not furnish enough water to keep it running and thence through the woods to the High Bridge. From that time onward to the opening of the Great Northern Turnpike in 1806 this road to and across the High Bridge was the main or post road between Plattsburgh and Albany,

Early in the seventeen nineties four brothers named Beardsley, John, Jehiel, Emanuel and Beverly settled upon Platt River location east of the present village Clintonville. No doubt a road to that neighborhood had been cut out before they came but it was not till March 1796 that it was adopted as a highway and recorded as follows:

Beginning at the Willsboro road on the top of the high sand hill about half a mile north of the great Bridge over the great river Sawble then running southwesterly across pine plain then beach and maple land on a second pine plain continuing nearly the same course until it strikes the great River Sawble about half a mile east of the fordway on Rogers old Road, then on said Rogers Road westerly as it is now improved to Lot No. 20 thence up the bank above the intervale by John Danties house then on the bank above the intervale until it strikes the Dugway to the road that is now improved from Emanuel Beardsley thence a south westerly course down the Dugway to the north side of James Weston's house thence nearly the same course to Emanuel Beardsleys house, said road to be four rods wide.

Just how near that road came to the present village is now impossible to say. It may have passed east of the present Evergreen Cemetery in which case it crossed the village limits but as no part of it north east of the point where it struck the river is now used as a road its location is not important.

Another road of which only the first one fourth of a mile is still in use was recorded April 4, 1797 and described as "Beginning at the center of Lot No. 12 thence running on the line between Joshua B. Arthur and Thomas Arthur, thence running a southwesterly course of near it strikes the line between Lot No. 2 and 3 a little north of the north east corner of said lot thence southerly to the Fordway."

That road began at what we now call the Dwyer Corners and ran south as it does now between Arthur Martin's and D. J. Dwyer's and the La Fountain sisters present farms to the point where the rock has recently been blasted to straighten the Macadam road. (1908) There it turned to the southwest till it came to the west line of what is now the William O'Neil's farm and then ran south passing near where Miss Hanretta Smith now lives and across the lands of Geo. W. Smith to the present residence of Charles Beardsley, and from there southwest to the old fordway.

All of the roads thus mentioned were made before there was a Keeseville but if more are described they will be nearer, if not exactly in the village.

J. W Harkness

Written about 1908

### THE OLDEST ROADS NEAR KEESEVILLE

The two Rogers roads described in a former article were unquestionably the earliest highways around Keeseville but it was not proper to call them the oldest roads for large sections of both of these sections were in fact nearest to Keeseville, were abandoned so long ago, even before there was such a village as Keeseville, that it may be truly said of them that they died young, before they had been made more than fifteen or twenty years.

The roads now to be mentioned were not only early but are truly old, large sections of them if not the whole length of them having been in constant use more than a century.

These through roads were recorded in the Peru Town book in March 1790, after that part of Peru had been taken off and annexed to Willsboro, but before the news of that change of boundaries had come from Albany. It must be remembered that news travelled slowly before the days of telephones, telegraph, railroads, steamboats and newspapers.

The following descriptions are copied verbatim from the old town book:

1. "One Cross Road from John Maccombers on the post road the north side of his house then to Elihu Bridges and continue West to Mr. Rogers old road being about three quarters of a mile."
2. "One other road laid out in the following manner beginning on The post road at a new school house on Asher Adgate's land running west or therabouts crossing a brook in Zadock Barts and on near a west course to Rogers old road being from the beginning in the whole distance 2 miles and 1-2 then north on Rogers old road to the fordway."
3. "One other road beginning at the post road near Asher Adgate's running from thence nearly east to Barzilah Handy's then southerly to the lake shore or landing place then to turn under the hill or bank of the lake then across a brook south on or near the lake shore then turn west about 29 rods then runs south on the old road one mile and 1-4 about 30 rods west of Joshua Wells house to spring brook."

Returning to description No. 1, we must agree that John Macomber's log house on the post road in 1799 stood about where the school house in the John Mussen district now is. Elihu Briggs lived on what is now the Robare farm and the 3-4 miles was just about to the corners north of the Pitkin place now owned by Davern. That "cross road" is doubtless the oldest unchanged road in Chesterfield.

The new school house mentioned in description No. 2 was south or south west of the Moses Bombard house and near the corner where the road comes down from the fox farm or Drake place. Zadock Bates must have lived on or near the present Thew farm and this road No. 2 ran westerly past Luther Rowe's present home and along the south line of



The Oldest Roads Near Keeseville

the McGuire Farm now occupied by Mr. Wright. It crossed the macadam road and continued west to the foot of Hordway Mountain when it came to the Rogers old road. In the prosperous days of old Peru Iron Company this road was planked and thousands of tons of iron were drawn over it to Port Douglass.

The road described as No. 3 began at the corners near the Moses Bombard house and ran thence down the valley to the landing place now known as Port Douglass. There it turned south and ran along or near the lake shore to about the north end of Kessel's camp. The 20 rods that it went west took in the present location of Douglass Station where it came to an old road that it followed 1-4 miles to a brook, passing about 30 rods west of Joshua Well's house.

Here let me pause to ask, how came that "old road" in that part of the town that had been settled only a very few years? The main or post road was laid out in 1796 when the High Bridge was built, it was only six years old in 1799. Were these other roads in that part of Willsborough before Peru was taken from it? I do not think that the Town records of Willsboro show that they were.

But history tells us that only a part of John Burgoyne's army of 12,000 including British, Hessians, Canadians and cap followers went south by water, the rest following the western shore of Lake Champlain. There was a large number of horses to draw the baggage, provisions and artillery and roads had to be open for their passage. One authority states that traces of those roads in Champlain and Chazy remained for fifty years. From 1777 to 1790 was only 22 years and it seems reasonable to suggest that the old road south of Port Douglass was made be the land forces of Burgoyne's army.

J. W. Harkness

"The History of a Few More Old Vicinity Roads"  
 "The Oldest Roads Near Keeseville"  
 "Article on Dr. Ralph P. Allen" written by A. H. Allen  
 "Earliest Highways Around Keeseville"

Copied from a scrapbook, the clipping in which were collected by the Misses May, Grace and Florence Ricketson. The scrapbook is now owned by their nephew, Rolland S. Maders.

## EARLIEST HIGHWAYS AROUND KEESEVILLE

In this article only those roads that are now in Chesterfield, but were in the town of Peru during the six years and two months before March 1, 1799, will be mentioned and their location at least partly described.

Before 1793 those roads were in Willsboro, and after Essex county was taken from Clinton in 1799, they were again in Willsboro till Chesterfield was taken from that town, Feb. 20, 1802.

The oldest of those roads of which there is any record was known as the old Rogers road because it was surveyed and its course marked by Platt Rogers, about the year 1789. It came through Pok-o-moonshine pass and crossed what was soon after the south line of Peru, at or near, the southwest corner of the land now owned by Paul Klimpke. From there it continued northward past what is now F. B. Corey's summer home and keeping east of Augur Pond (it was not then called a lake) but west of the location of the present macadam road, and north of the pond, or lake, bearing still more to the west till it reached the Fordway at the foot of Fordway Mountain about two miles above the present location of Keeseville.

It is not known that there was any house on that road while it was still in Peru, but about the year 1302, a man named Jekax or Jecox, whose named was afterwards spelled Jaquish, settled upon it near the south line of what is now Mr. Davern's pasture. His daughter Hannah, married John Thew of Hallock Hill and became the mother of Gilbert, Nelson and Joseph Thew all of whom long since joined "the great majority."

A sister of that Mrs. Hannah Thew married Geo. Fowler of Chesterfield and afterward lived and died in what has since been known as the interschools around and the Keeseville Academy about sixty years ago. There were two or more sons also.

The next road to be located in that part of old Peru was the one that crossed AuSable Chasm on the high bridge and ran southward to Willsborough Falls in the present village of Willsborough.

It was called "Rogers new road" having been surveyed and cut out by the same Rogers. We only know that the High bridge was built in 1793 and suppose that the road was made about that time, but it was not till March 26, 1796, recorded in the Town Book by order of the Commissioners of Highways of Peru. At that time, there were twentyfour men who were assessed for road work on that highway, but fifteen of them had only a poll tax to work out, so there were probably only nine families settled upon or near it. There is also good reason to believe that some of those nine lived at considerable distance from that road but were assessed for work upon it, there being no other roads for them to work upon.

The description of that "Platt Rogers new road" as given in the old Town Book reads as follows: Croast the River at the bridge and southwesterly and southerly as it now is cut and improved up the east side of the river by the great falls and by Isaac Wright's and Asher Adgate's and Asa Leonard, through the south part of a patent of fourteen hundred acres of land granted Wm. Thorn and from thence about

Earliest Highways Around Keeseville

one hundred and twenty rods to the south line of Peru."

Without describing the location of that road across all of the present farms I will say that Capt. Isaac Wright's Tavern was at the Sloan place now owned and occupied by John LaRose, Asher Adgate's was the Riley Page farm, now owned by Moses Bombard or his son, and it is believed that Aaron Leonard lived on one of the farms that two years later were owned by John and Benjamin Macomber. They are now owned by Peter Lacy and Edwin Merrill. Their houses are connected by a lane that was part of that Rogers road, and if that road was never discontinued by official action of the Commissioners and a jury, that lane is still a public highway and has been for nearly one hundred and twenty-eight years. But it has been closed to the public a large part of that time, and is likely to so remain in all future years.

Several other roads that are now in Chesterfield were laid out by the Commissioners of the Town of Peru but a description of their location would make this sketch too long.

J. Warren Harkness