

A Collection
of
Articles



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

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THE HISTORY OF
PERU, NEW YORK VOL II

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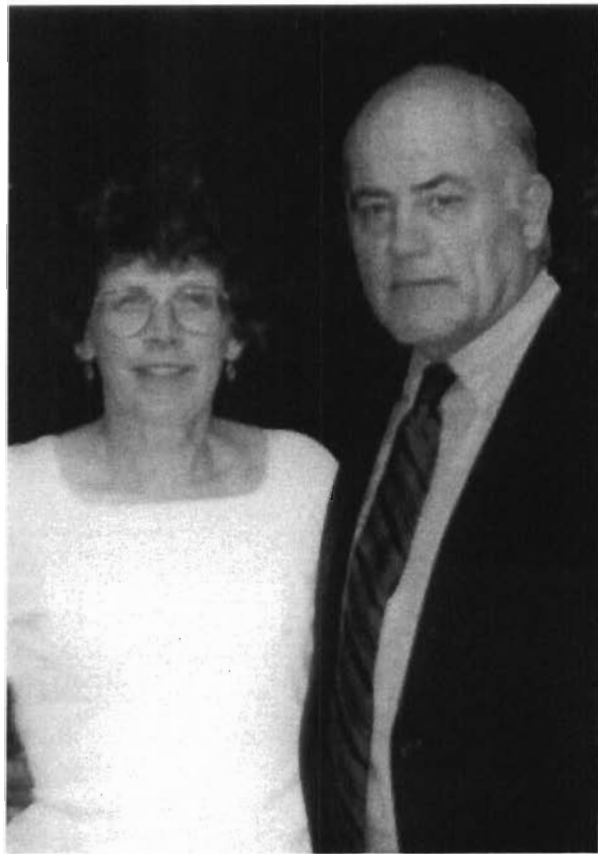
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J. Warren Harkness (taken 1902)



Ann and Lincoln Sunderland

Introductory Notes

This is Volume II of a two-volume set of writings by J. (Joseph) Warren Harkness. Almost a century ago Mr. Harkness began writing historical sketches that were printed in local newspapers. As a farmer living along the south side of the Hallock Hill Road, on the original Harkness Homestead, Mr. Harkness grew up hearing the many stories about his ancestors and their neighbors. His father, Nehemiah Harkness, was a prominent figure in earlier days, when "The Union", as the Quaker settlement in that general vicinity was known, thrived.

During 1963 Grace E. Arnold, Eleanor A. (Arthur) Spaulding and Cora M. Stafford gathered from many sources the writings of Mr. J. Warren Harkness. Each story was typed and printed in very limited number by the use of "ditto" copying, which produced a purple color. It was my great pleasure to personally know and work with these three ladies, all now passed to a greater place. They gave me incite, advice and multiple suggestions as the Peru Bicentennial Committee proceeded with our project of publishing 350 copies of each volume in 1975.

Volumes I and II are reprinted (2003) in their entirety as they appeared in the first printings, with a few additions and corrections. If you, the reader, note any errors of fact please notify Lincoln Sunderland, providing evidence to verify your thoughts. These improvements will be graciously received, and everyone will gain by making a possible third edition more accurate. J. Warren Harkness, Grace Arnold, Eleanor Spaulding, Cora Stafford and I have made no claim that all things herein printed are absolutely correct.

Also, the editor is anxious to gather additional historical facts, photos, anecdotes, etc., anyone is willing to provide, that they may be added to future writings.

THE COVER

On the front cover of this volume is a photograph of buildings once situated along the south side of Pleasant Street, also known as Rt. 22B, Peru, NY. A great fire occurring in 1919 destroyed all the structures from the far right to the brick 3-story building bordering Rt. 22. Davern House was an inn shown here as the long double-porched section and the taller main front. A. Mason and Sons erected the Mason Block to replace these structures. That too has since been destroyed. Note the white posts of the present Peru Community Church lawn.

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Volume II of A Collection of Articles - The History of Peru is a continuation of the writings of J. Warren Harkness and Others. Mr. Harkness was a farmer and surveyor who lived on Hallock Hill, at the homestead owned previously by his forefathers, and now by his descendants. J. Warren Harkness wrote extensively of the earlier days of Peru, its people, customs, businesses, and activities. Most of his recordings were printed in the area newspapers.

Grace Arnold, Eleanor Spaulding, and Cora Stafford are responsible for bringing together the many newspaper articles and adding to them other related essays. These were printed in a limited edition several years ago. We are here reprinting the second volume, having made available Volume I during 1975.

As the years passing by turn to centuries the past histories become blurred. The memories passed from one generation to another are changed and the details that add so much meaning to stories are lost. Each time a photograph is taken, each time a line is written into a scrapbook, each time a history is printed that bit of exciting past is frozen for the world of the future to read and experience. It is only fitting that something of the past and present be preserved for the future.

Our Peru Bicentennial Committee has endorsed and financed this printing. Jane Metcalf, Secretary-treasurer of the Committee, typed much of the copy for this volume. Any profit realized from sales will be used by the Peru Bicentennial Committee for other projects relating to the Bicentennial celebration.

As coordinator of the printing of this volume I thank everyone involved in this endeavor.



Lincoln Sunderland

THE FIRST QUAKER AND HIS FOLLOWERS

Two hundred and fifty years ago there was only one Quaker in the world and he had not been called by the name. He was a sixteen-year old boy, shoe maker's apprentice, working in a shop in Leicestershire, England. He had not begun to preach, and it is not likely that he had formulated in his own mind those peculiar doctrines that afterward made him famous, and yet I do not hesitate to say that he was a Quaker then, and even before that time, for he said of himself when only eight years old in a book which he afterwards wrote, "Even in those young years when I have seen carry themselves wantonly toward each other, a dislike thereof hath risen in my heart I have said within myself, "If I ever come to be a man, surely I should not do so, nor be so wanton."

This sensible boy's name was George Fox. His first occupation had been tending sheep and doubtless while so employed he had found much time for meditation. Whether he liked shoemaking or not I cannot say but before he was nineteen years of age he abandoned that avocation and began to wander about the country dressed in a leathern doublet which he had made, and absorbed in reveries. He says, "I fasted much, walked abroad in solitary places many days, and often took my Bible and sat in hollow trees and lonesome places till night came on, and frequently in the night walked mournfully about by myself, for I was a man of sorrows in the time of the first workings of the Lord in me."

It was at the period in England's history when bigotry, fanaticism, and persecution of all who failed to conform in belief with the members of the established church, were seen on every side. William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, was causing the ears to be cut off, and the noses slit open, of those who ventured to express the opinion that Bishops and Archbishops were not ordained of God. He was also insisting upon those forms and ceremonies, the use of robes, candles, and images, which caused many to declare that the Protestant Episcopal Church was no longer Protestant, but was surely returning to the Church of Rome.

A few members of the sect called Puritans had more than twenty years before been forced to seek a refuge in the wilderness of America where they could, without molestation, entertain their own religious views and in their turn persecute those who disagreed with them, but they were growing so strong that in a few years more, one of their leaders the redoubtable Cromwell became Lord Protector of the Commonwealth.

But even the Puritans, much as they differed in belief from the established Church, were still too formal to suit George Fox. The result of all his meditation and the study of the Bible in those "hollow trees and lonesome places" was a firm conviction that man must depend upon the word of the Lord for guidance, and in that order to receive that word, the truth must not be distorted by the lust of a carnal heart. So he must live on simple food and dress in plain garments. He must not conform to the ways of the world for

they were not the ways of God. Cleanliness and chastity must be observed for God would not dwell in an unclean temple, but to one whose life was pure and virtuous, the word of the Lord would come in full strength and must be obeyed implicitly whatever it directed. This doctrine of the "inner light" which he claimed should be the guide of every man in speech as well as action led naturally to the other that learning was useless for the work of the ministry. He held that if a man preaches that which his intellect or learning has gathered it is the work of mere human intelligence and not Divine inspiration. He also argued that if a man receives wages for preaching the word of the Lord he debases it and his heart is turned to the benefit of himself rather than the exaltation of religion. He said that men build fine and showy houses and call them churches or houses of God and are consumed with worldly pride at their beauty and cost and thus their hearts are turned from heaven to the world. So he and his followers, for as soon as he began to preach many fell in with his views, looked upon ministers as false prophets and blasphemers and did not hesitate to enter churches during the hour of worship and as soon as the service was through would denounce in strong and expressive language the minister and his congregation. Here is an example of the practice which I will give in the words of Fox himself so that the report cannot be doubted. First, let me explain that all ministers he called "priests" and all church members "professors."

I went into the steeple-house and staid till the priest was done. The words which he took for his text were these: "Ho, everyone that thirsteth come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money come ye, buy and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price." Then I was moved of the Lord to say to him: "Come down, thou deceiver: dost thou bid the people come freely, and take the water of life freely, and yet thou takest three hundred a year of them for preaching the Scriptures to them?"

It was in 1648 when Fox was 24 years old that he began to preach, and the excitement that he caused was so great that he was thrown into prison at Manchester as a disturber of the peace. When he was released he began to travel through the island counties of England exhorting the people to forsake all vicious practices such as swearing, drunkenness, unchastity and gambling. His manner was winning and extremely earnest and many were converted to his belief. He and his followers called themselves "Friends" but it was only two years after that he began to preach that Justice Bennet of Darby named them "Quakers" because Fox bade them quake at the word of the Lord.

Great crowds gathered to hear him preach, but not until the Lord opened his lips would he speak to them. Here is a sample description of one of those occasions:

"I passed to another town, where was another great meeting and there came many professors of several sorts to it. I sat in a hay-stack and said nothing for hours, for I was to famish them from words. At last I was moved of the Lord to speak; and they were struck with the Lord's power.

The word of life reaching them, and there was a general conviction amongst them."

The Quakers were very harmless but it cannot be said that they were inoffensive people. It was against their principles to injure any one even in self defence and they were often beaten and misused for they were so plain spoken and even bitter in their denunciation of everything which seemed to them sinful or immoral that they made many enemies who unlike them had no conscientious scruples against the use of violence. Fox himself was nearly killed on more than one occasion and says: "It was the manner of the persecutors of that country for twenty or forty to fall upon one man. They fell so upon Friends in many places, so that they could hardly pass the highways, stoning, beating and breaking their hands."

The Friends were also persecuted by those who pretended to be executing the laws of the land. They were fined and imprisoned, their meetings were broken up by force and often they were publicly scourged in the streets and compelled to leave the towns in which they were to preach. It is not strange that under such circumstances some of them thought best to leave England and seek refuge in America but they found the people of the new world worse than those of the old had been.

As early as 1657 a law was passed in Massachusetts which provided that on a first conviction a Quaker should have one ear cut off, on a second the other ear, on a third, the tongue should be bored with a red-hot iron and anyone who entertained one of the "accused sect" should be fined.

In 1659, two Quakers were hanged for returning to Massachusetts after being banished, and in 1660 two more, Mary Dyer and William Sedden shared the same fate. Besides these, 30 Quakers were scourged, fined or imprisoned and some were branded in the hand with the letter H for heretic.

In 1658, a fine of 10s, was imposed on every person present at a quaker meeting, and 15 for speaking in one, and Quakers were banished on pain of death.

This persecution was stopped for a while by royal order from England but soon began again. Men and women were "whipped at the cart's tail in three towns, each receiving "forty stripes save one" and then banished. These severe measures naturally checked the emigration of Quakers to Boston but their persecution in England still continued. It is said that in 1665 that there were over 4,000 Quakers in English prisons, 500 of them being in London. A few had tried Virginia but laws were passed against them there, but in 1663 John Burgess was expelled from the Assembly for being "well affected to the Quakers." In Rhode Island and New Jersey they were better used and yet it seemed as though no suitable place of refuge had been found for them. Fortunately for the Quakers it happened at the time of their deepest affliction that a young man was converted to their belief who a few years proved to them a second Moses to lead them from the land of bondage.

William Penn was the son of an eminent English admiral of the same name who had won both honor and fortune in fighting his country's battles. When young Penn became a Quaker, old Penn was so angry that he gave his son a beating and turned him out of doors. After he had become somewhat reconciled, he again disowned the obstinate young man for refusing to remove his hat in the presence of the king, the Duke of York, and the admiral himself. But through his mother's influence William was again allowed to return home and when the old admiral died he left to this only son a valuable estate, including a claim against the government of 116,000. But his wealth did not save the Quaker from being several times imprisoned, for speaking and preaching, refusing to take an oath, publishing a book called "The Sandy Foundation Shaker" and performing other acts which copied as printed, his conscience told him were right and proper, such as attending meetings, etc. When cast into prison he kept right on doing all he could to propagate the doctrines of his sect by writing books among which "No Cross, No Crown," "Innocency and her Open Face," and "The Great Cause of Liberty of Conscience" became the most famous and popular.

In 1681 the continued persecution of Quakers and the need of some place to which they could go for refuge led Penn to turn his attention to America. His claim against the government had never been satisfied, so he applied to the King, Charles II, for his payments and told him that he would accept instead of the 116,000 and the interest due thereon, a grant of the unoccupied territory which lay between New York and Maryland. The King accepted the proposal, granted him the land and greatly against his wish insisted that the word Penn should be prefixed to the name Sylvania which the Quaker had proposed. (Penn Sylvania)

Much has been said in history about the little band of Pilgrims that crossed the ocean in the Mayflower in 1620, but very little about that other band which came in the Welcome in 1682. The numbers at starting were almost exactly the same. One hundred and two passengers sailed from England on the Mayflower and one hundred and three reached Plymouth, one having died and two having been born upon the ocean. One hundred Quakers sailed from the town of Deal upon the Welcome but only seventy landed at the little village of Upland on the Delaware.

The frightful disease of smallpox had taken thirty of them in the eight weeks that they were upon the ocean and their bodies consigned to watery graves. Penn was among the survivors that landed on the 27th of October, and a few days after within the present limits of the "city of brotherly love" of which he was the founder, he made the famous treaty with the Indians which was only written on the heart. "It was never sworn to and never broken." While Penn lived not a drop of Quaker blood was shed by an Indian.

The subsequent history of this Quaker colony is well known to all Americans and it need not be written here. I will only say that unlike the Puritan settlers of New England, the Quakers never persecuted the members of any denomination that saw fit to settle among them. Much as they detested "hiring priests" and "steeples

houses" and the manners and customs of the "world's people" all were allowed perfect freedom to worship God in their own way, or to neglect His worship if they chose that course.

The first Quaker, George Fox, died in London in 1691, just ten years after his disciple, Penn, provided for his much abused followers that home which must have seemed to them as welcome as was Canaan to the Israelites after their bondage in Egypt and their wanderings in the wilderness.

J. W. Harkness

Published in the Plattsburg Republican
May 10, 1890

Grace Arnold scrapbook

QUAKER DISCIPLINE AND PECULIARITIES

Have you ever seen the interior of a Friends Meeting House?

Come with me to the Union and I will show you one, not as it exists today, for an effort was made about eleven years ago to convert it into a modern church, but as it was in the days of Quaker prosperity when two meetings for worship were held every week and the house was well filled by the plainly but neatly dressed members of the sect that was founded by George Fox. There are two outside doors in the front of the building, one for the women and one for the men, for the sexes did not mingle in the congregation of Friends. Between these doors a wide stairway with a railing through the center leads up to a gallery which extends the whole length and at least half the width of the building thus adding fifty percent to its seating capacity. But this gallery is divided in the centre by a partition running from front to back so that when it was necessary or desirable to do so, those upon one side could be prevented from seeing or hearing what was being done on the other. There is a horizontal door in this partition hung by hinges attached to its upper edge, the lower edge being a little higher than the backs of the seats so that when it was thought advisable this door could be swung up and fastened to the stationary part of the partition above it.

Below the gallery the arrangement was the same. That is, the partition between the women's and men's sides or rather ends of the house could be opened above the backs of the seats which were very high and straight, made of clear, wide, first-growth pine, and neatly painted with white lead. In the older meeting houses no paint was used and it is said that many opposed it here claiming that it was "vanity". Each half of the house has a water aisle seats placed on each side, as they usually are in churches, and as each seat is large enough for five or six persons the whole number that could be seated was quite large. But in front of these seats that were occupied by the congregation, were three rows which ran the whole length of the house and faced the other way. The first of these was but little if any higher than those which faced it. Back of that one which was about two feet higher than the first, there being a narrow platform on which the feet its occupants stood, and the boards which framed the backs of the lower seats went up high enough to form hand or book rests for those who sat in the seats next above. Then running along the wall of the house four or five feet above the floor was a third "high seat" with its platform and rests like the ones below. These "high seats" were for the use of preachers and elders of the meeting, the visiting Friends from abroad, and all those whose age or abilities gave them pre-eminence which the ordinary members did not possess. They were reached by short flight of stairs which ran from the ends of the aisles in each half of the house, the seats two lower rows having passages between them for that purpose.

Let us now in imagination go back forty or fifty years and attend a meeting in this building which I have been attempting to describe. It is almost eleven o'clock and Friends are beginning to arrive. They drive up to the platform in front of the meeting house in their lumber wagons and seated in splint-bottom chairs of double

width made on purpose for wagon seats. The women and girls step out upon the platform, which is nearly as high as the wagon box, and pass in through the right-hand door. The men and boys then drive to the shed which being about 180 feet long affords room for many teams. Then they return to the house, walk in through the door on the left and take their seats with their broad-brimmed hats still on their heads. The women wear bonnets of drab silk which completely cover the backs and sides of their heads and unlike the stylish head gear of the later day afford some warmth in winter and protection from the burning sun in summer. Beneath her bonnet each elderly woman wears a neat white cap, and if in meeting she finds her bonnet too warm she does not hesitate to remove it. About her neck was a kerchief of snowy whiteness, and her gown of drab hangs in folds as smooth as they can be made with a flatiron. The hour for commencement of service has passed but no one is speaking or singing, nor is there any minister present whom a stranger could distinguish from the rest. All are engaged in deep meditation, or silent prayer, and the Spirit has not as yet moved any one to speak. This silence may continue to the end of the meeting hour but that is not common. Usually the Spirit moves one or more of those who sit upon the "high seats" to speak to the people and when it does it is often with such power that the hearts of the hearers are moved thereby. The tone of voice used in this preaching is a peculiar one. It may seem affected at first but it is full of solemnity and is often very sweet and musical. When it begins, the sleepers, if there are any in the room, awake and listen, with respectful attention. The speaker may be followed by others if there be those present whose words are edifying. At funerals and perhaps on some other occasions it is customary for one of the elders of the meeting to remark, after the usual period of silence, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. Therefore if anyone present hath ought to say, let him say it. But if he hath ought to say then let him hold his peace." Free use of the Holy Scriptures is made by those who preach and sometimes their discourses seem to be almost wholly composed of Bible quotations joined together, all bearing upon the chosen subject.

Usually one or more prayers are offered but no singing is customary in meeting. When the time for closing comes no one dismisses the congregations but one of the Friends shakes hands with another by his side. That is the signal for a general hand shaking to begin and spread through the meeting house, and on all sides can be heard the kindly questions, "How does thee do?" "Is thy mother well?" "Will thee go home with me to dinner?"

It will be understood that the meeting above described was one of the regular "first or fifth day" meetings for worship. At such times the doors in the partition through the meeting house were open, the women and men all listened to the same speakers, and the speakers were men or women or both, as they happen to be present. But on one "fifth day" of each month a business for meeting and discipline was held and then the doors were all closed in the partition and the women held a meeting by themselves at the same time than the men were holding one. The reason for that is obvious

to those who know the applications of women for admission to membership were freely discussed and considered in the women's meeting and if it was agreed that the life, character, and conversation of the applicant were of such as to make her a desirable person to admit, notice of such conclusion was at once sent into the men's meeting, and if the meeting concurred with the women's meeting, she was received as a member. When a man applied for admission his case was first considered in the men's meeting and then, if the women's meeting concurred, he was usually received, after first being visited by a committee that was chosen "to feel after his sincerity and make inquiry concerning his life and conversation." Also when men or women who were members of the meeting were known to be guilty of any misconduct or behavior "unbecoming to Friends" their cases were first considered in the meeting of those of their own sex, committees were sent "to labour with them and if possible obtain satisfaction, "which was acknowledgment of the offense and promise of not repeating it, and if the committee failed to obtain such satisfaction as the meeting would accept, then "the meeting became easy to disown such persons from being any longer members among Friends" and with the concurrence of the other meeting the offenders were disowned.

Once in three months a "Quartely Meeting" was held in connection with the regular monthly meeting. At the "Quartely" a number of queries found in Discipline of the Society were asked, and the answers recorded and a copy of the record sent to the yearly meeting which was usually held in New York.

I will copy some of the answers from the record of the First Quaterly Meeting after the Monthly Meeting was established, held in Peru the 1st of 8 mo., 1799. The expression "some care taken" so frequently used means that efforts are being made by the meeting to suppress the evil of prevent the misbehaviour of its members.

Answer the first. We believe that all our Meetings for worship and discipline are attended by the most, though a slackness in some and some are taken. The hour generally observed by those that steadily attend. Not all clear of sleeping. Some care taken. Clear of other unbecoming behavior as far as appears.

2. We believe that love and unity is in a good degree maintained amongst us as Brethren except one instance of unity which is under notice. No difference that we know of.

4. We believe that Friends are mostly Careful to keep themselves and all those under their care in plainness of speech, behavior and apparel, a deficiency in some and some care taken.

5. We believe Friends are generally Careful to Read the Scriptures and to guard against Reading Pernicious Books and the Corrupt Conversation of the World.

- - - - (Note some missing.)

9. There appears to be a neglect on account of wills and some care taken. No misapplication of public gifts or legacies that we know of.

10. We believe all Children placed under our Care are in a way to get School Learning to fit them for Business.

11. We believe that Friends are in a good degree Careful to perform their promised & pay their just debts, none known to launch into Business beyond ability to manage.

12. None gone but some come without Certificates.

13. We believe that Friends are careful to deal with offenders measurably in the Spirit of Meekness and agreeable to Discipline.

It will be noticed by those who read the first of above answers that the Friends were "not clear of sleeping" in meeting. I have examined the reports of a large number of Quaterly Meetings and find the same answer given every time. There was reason for this as there is for all things. The half hour, more or less, devoted to meditation and silent prayer was no doubt great help to those who used it in that way, but it had such lulling effect upon those who were weary and all those who did not keep their minds actively engaged that it is no wonder that some seemed to think it a proper season for repose. Whenever an audible snore awoke echoes in the high walled room, one of the elders, man or woman as the case might be, approached the sleeper and gently shaking him till he awoke, reminding him that it was unbecoming to thus sleep in meeting.

There were many gifted and very eloquent preachers among both men and women Friends, but all preached because they felt called of God to do so, and no one of them ever preached for hire. Well I remember the bitter, scornful tone, in which I have heard an aged Hicketts Friend speak of Methodist ministers as "hiring priests." Some have said that Quakers were not strict observers of the Sabbath, "Every day is the Lord's day" was a common expression among them, but they were very regular in attending the meeting and I believe that most of them regarded "first day" as the proper day for rest.

But if the Friends did not always seem to regard the Fourth Commandment they were very particular about keeping the Third. Doubtless that was because it was supported by our Saviour's injunction, "Swear not at all." That law was authoritative and they thought it should be obeyed to the very letter. So a Quaker could not be induced or compelled to take an oath of office when elected nor would he swear to tell the truth when summoned as a witness in a court of justice. But he was always willing to affirm and a Quaker's simple word or affirmation was as binding and reliable as another person's oath. I have said that they were very plain speaking people. It is related of that famous Quaker, William Penn, that when he was negotiating with King Charles II of England for the grant of the land which is now the State of Pennsylvania, he not only kept his broad brimmed hat firmly set upon his head but he addressed the king always by his full name "Charles Stuart" as though he were a private citizen. So it was also with the persecuted Quakers of Boston in 1635. When brought into court they refuse to remove their hats and when they addressed

the judges they called them by name "Humphrey Atherton" "Thomas Danforth" etc., not prefixing the title "Judge" or using the words "Your Honor"

The Quakers of old Peru were just as plain spoken and firm in their adherence to principle. They had no use whatever for the titles Mr., Sir, Esq., Hon., Rev., Mrs., or Miss, but called familiar acquaintances by their first, and others by their full names. When they desired information their questions were plain and to the point. A worthy Quaker attended one of the early Clinton County Fairs and some "Son of Belial" appropriated his horse-blanket. When our Friend discovered his loss he resolved to recover his property if he could, so he went around the fairground accosting each stranger he met with these three plain questions: How does thee do?" "What is thy name?" "Did thee steal my blanket?" Strange to say, no one answered the last in the affirmative.

This article may already be too long but it will be incomplete I omit giving an account of a Quaker marriage. To properly show the preliminary requirements I will again copy extracts from the Minutes of the Peru Monthly Meeting:

"Peru the 1st of 11th mo, 1799"

"Cyrus Benedict and Hannah Barker appeared in this meeting offered proposals of Marriage with each other and Edward Mallock and Harry Green are appointed to enquire into the young man's clearness and Report to next Meeting where they are desired to come for their answer."

"28th of 11th mo., 1799."

"Cyrus Benedict and Hannah Barker appeared in this Meeting and renewed their proposals of Marriage with each other and nothing appearing to hinder their proceeding they are left at liberty to accomplish the same between this and another month according to the good order used among Friends & Daniel Jackson and William Keese are appointed to attend their said Marriage and endeavor that it be orderly accomplished and Report to next Meeting producing their Marriage Certificate for Record."

"The Friends appointed to attend the Marriage of Cyrus Benedict Report they attended and that it not appear but that it was in a good degree orderly accomplished likewise produced their Marriage Certificate for Record."

Not having the record of that marriage certificate before me I cannot give its exact date but will say that one some "first day" in the 12th Month 1799 the Friends assembled as usual in the old log meeting-house. Cyrus Benedict and Hannah Barker sat upon one of the high seats facing the congregation. After the usual period of silence they arose and joining right hands in a slow and distinct tone Cyrus Benedict spoke these words:

"In the presence of this assembly I, Cyrus Benedict, take this Friend, Hannah Barker, whom I hold by the hand and promise and promise to be unto her a faithful and affectionate husband

until death doth us part."

Then the blushing bride took her turn at speaking:

"In the presence of this assembly I, Hannah Barker take
this friend, Cyrus Benedict whom I hold by the hand and
promise to be unto him a faithful and affectionate wife
until death do us part."

Then the marriage certificate which had already been prepared was
passed around to be signed by some of the members of the meeting
who had witnessed the ceremony, and the meeting concludes with the
usual hand-shaking and congratulations of the happy bride and groom.

J.W. Harkness

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Grace E. Arnold Scrapbook
Micro film Plattsburg Public
Library

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
And Its Meeting Houses in Old Peru

When you go by highway from Flattsburg to Ausable Forks, or from Peru Village to Clintonville, you will see on your left, just after you cross the road which marks the town line between Peru and Ausable, a grassy lawn of an acre or more in extent sloping gently toward the west and shaded by a dozen or more immense Lombardy poplar trees whose gnarled trunks and vertical limbs have withstood the storms of more than four score years.

On the north and west, this lawn or yard is bounded by the road and is not separated from them by any fence but by a long shed in the form of an L runs along the north side more than a hundred feet then turns and runs south about sixty feet and thus partially encloses the ground upon two sides. The wall of a stone school house, and a board fence mark its southern boundary, and on the east another fence separates it from another yard of about the same size in which a single tall granite monument, a large number of marble and sandstone slabs, and innumerable low undistinguished mounds, plainly show this to be the place where:

"Each in his narrow cell forever laid
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

Near the southeast corner of the first mentioned yards stands a large weather beaten building which might be taken by a stranger to be either a deserted dwelling, a school house, or a church. But if its interior is seen all doubt concerning it is at once removed and no one who has ever seen its like before, will not hesitate to pronounce it a Quaker Meeting House. Do not call it a church for its builders and users never did. They were plain people and they believed not alone in plainness of dress but of speech and action. So they called their places of meeting not a church, but a meeting house; their place of burial not a cemetery, but a burying ground. Their teachers occupied not a pulpit but a high seat, their meetings were held not on Sunday or any other planet's day, but not on Thursday or any other heathen god's day, but on the first day and fifth day, for so the elders of the meeting had decreed.

This meeting house was the place of worship of the orthodox Friends and was built about the year 1828. The Hicksite meeting-house stood in the same yard between the east end of the long shed above described and the gate of the burying ground. For more than a quarter of a century the Friends of old Peru met for worship and discipline in one house and were agreed in discipline and belief, till the preaching of Elias Hicks of Long Island caused a division among them. It appears that the followers of Hicks were either more numerous or more obstinate than those who held to the old doctrine; or the Society for the former retained possession of the meeting-house while the latter were compelled to build a new one.

The history of the Peru Friends begins about forty years before the building of this orthodox meeting-house. It is said that in 1788, William Keess, a Quaker land surveyor from Dutchess County

was employed by Zephaniah Platt to survey his 12,000 acre location. While doing so he discovered that a trace of very level and fertile 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 upon one of those lots and Keese resolved to do likewise. So in the month of March, 1789, he came on the ice from Whitehall to Peru Landing (opposite Stanley Dew home) as it was afterwards called, with his axe, gun and some provisions, built a log cabin on the land which is still known as the William Keese farm. He then returned to Dutchess County, married a wife and came back with her and their worldly possessions to occupy the land which he had purchased.

In 1791 or 1792, his brother Richard also came, and settled upon Lot 22 which joined Edward Everett's farm and lay on the west side of the Rogers Road. About the same time, their father, John Keese, and their brothers Stephen, John and Oliver, came to live in the new town of Peru and settled upon what are now called the Richard Lapham, James Redmond and Solomon Clark farms. Other Quakers mostly from Dutchess County, N.Y., Ferrisburg, Vt., Danby, Vt. and Long Island and Berkshire County, Mass. gathered around the nucleus which the Everetts and the Keeses had begun and it was not long before there was a sufficient number to organize "a meeting" of respectable size. The first Friends meeting house was built of logs and stood on the corner opposite the present residence of George P. Beadleston. The exact date of its date of erection I have not been able to ascertain. It was standing in 1799 and may have been as early as 1795. One authority says: "In 1790 numerous other settlers followed, and being Quakers, a meeting-house is supposed to have been their first necessity, which was speedily built. This meeting house is supposed to have been the first religious edifice erected in the county. "A scholl taught by Benjamin Earle was kept in the meeting house." Another, the Gazetteer of New York, "tells us that the "first religious society (Friends) was organized in 1799."

It is true that a Monthly Meeting for business and discipline was first established in 1799, but there are good reasons for believing that weekly or semi-weekly meetings for worship were regularly held for several years before that time.

The minutes of the Peru Monthly meetings are contained in six large leather-bound volumes and are kept by Elihu Hoag, one of the oldest birth-right members of the Society of Friends now living in the territory of Old Peru. (now on micro film in the Feinberg Library, Plattsburg)

An examination of these records shows that the first of those Monthly Meetings was held on the 23rd Birthday of American Independence, and to show how the Meeting was established and how its business was conducted I will take the liberty to quote the minutes of that first meeting in full:

"At a Monthly Meeting at Peru held of 7 mo. 1799 Benj'm Earle is appointed to serve as Clerk for this time."
 "Representatives called and both present."

"Received the extracts of Easton Quaker Meeting which have been handed down to this meeting through Danby Monthly Meetings are as follows:-- "At a Quartely Meeting at Eaton held on the 15th of the 5 mo. 1799-- The Case Respecting Granting a Monthly Meeting to Friends of Peru and South Hero to be held at Peru Coming again under the solid Deliberation of this Meeting after which is yuttet in favor of granting them a Monthly Meeting under the Care of a Committee for the space of one year to be held the fifth day preceeding the first day in the Month-- their first Meeting to be held the fifth day preceeding the first day in the Seventh mo. next: And to attend with them in several monthly meetings in the course of the year this Meeting appoints John Upton, Wm. Odel, George Southwick, John Barker, Adam Harkness, Micaiah Covil, George Briggs, John Gifford, Leonard Cook, Ebenezer Smith, Elihu Hoag, George Bowen & Elihu Anthony, and they to report to this meeting in the 5th mo. next their satisfaction & prospect of a further continuance of said Monthly Meeting. We have Womehs Concurance in the foregoing Case"..... Taken from the Minutes by Stephen Taker, Clerk .

"The Quartely Meetings committee called and three present. The subject relative to procuring a Meeting House and Burying Ground Coming before this Meeting and being weightily Considered Resulted in the Appointment of Wesson Macomber, Voluntine Jinker, Warren Corbin & Daniel Hoag to service who are to find a place for that purpose and a price to the same and Report to next Meeting....."

"Received some lines from James Tobias Condemning his misconduct in too freely partaking of Spiritous Liquors so as to be disguised wherewith and to offer to bet and wrestle-- which after being considered Appoints Edward Everitt & Edward Hallock to visit him on that account and Report their sense of his Sincerity to next meeting. Richard Keese is appointed to procure a Book of Records for the use of this Meeting and report to the next Meeting-- This Meeting adjourns to Meet at the usual time."

The Committee which was at this first Monthly Meeting appointed to procure a Meeting House Lot and Burying Ground, was not ready to report at the next meeting or the one following, but on the 3rd of 10th mo. 1799 they reported that "It is their Judgment that the Corner on which Henry Greens House Stands is the most suitable place for that purpose and the price of 5 acres is L50 which is referred to next month for further Consideration."

At the next meeting "The subject in regard to procuring a Meeting House lot and Burying Ground coming again under the solid Consideration of this Meeting united in the Report of the Committee appointed for that purpose and appoints Edward Hallock, Nicholas Barker, Stephen Keese, Benjamin Earl and Richard Keese to the necessary Care in procuring the land and to make such alterations as may appear necessary and Report to next meeting."

Finally on the 28th of 11th mo 1799, "The Friends appointed to agree with Henry Green for a piece of Land for Meeting House

Lot and Burying Ground Report they have agreed with him for 3 acres in being a part of the pitch of the first Committee and the price is 130 pounds which this Meeting directs the Preparative Meeting to raise and Report."

Thirteen months later it was reported that the money was ready and a committee was appointed to pay to Henry Green and take a deed "on behalf of this Meeting." On the same day 1st mo. and 1st day, 1801, "This meeting taking into Consideration the Building of a Meeting House at this place and after a free communication of sentiments on the subject Resulted in favor of making trial for the Building. Therefore this meeting appoints Peter Hallock, Edward Everett, Israel Buck, Daniel Jackson, Richard Keese and Benj'm Sherman to Think on some Plan and Signess of house Estimate the Cost and Report same to next Monthly meeting."

At the next monthly meeting "the Committee to think on some plan and Signess of Meeting House for Friends at this place and estimate the cost thereof Report that they have attended to the matter and propose that the house be 30 feet by 50 feet with 20 feet posts and that the cost according to estimation will be 440 pounds which is united with and this meetings subscription toward the same is 176 L 8s."

On the 3rd of 9th mo 1801, this minute was recorded: "We find by the extracts of our last quarterly meeting that the meeting for sufferings have approbated the Building a meeting house at this place and the Quarter directs Building the house shorter and wider than was proposed viz, two feet taken from the length and added to the breadth of said Building."

"And in order to Carry same into effect this meeting appoints Richard Keese, Peter Hallock, Edward Everett, Edward Hallock, Henry Green, Jonathan Wood and Wm. Keese to superintend the building of said house as Trustees and also to receive the monie raised by each monthly meeting for the purpose."

But little more is said in the minutes about the progress of the work but at the yearly meeting held the 29th of the 4th mo. 1802 it was reported that no meeting house had been built within the charge of this meeting and at the next yearly meeting held 28th 4 mo. 1803 the report was made. "One meeting house built at Peru." There is no doubt that most if not all the work of the building was done in 1802 but the month and day when the new house was first used does not appear in the records.

What became of the old lot of meeting house? I can only say what it remained on the corner "a little south of John Keese's house" till about 1809. But it had been gone from there about eighty years and it is extremely doubtful if there is a person now living who can remember having seen it. It may have been used as a school house until the Union Academy was built in 1812, but if so it cannot be proved by the writer who was born in '48.

J. W. Harkness

This story comes from the Scrapbook probably made by Emma C. Merrill as her handwriting appears in it. The book is now owned by Marguerite (Feg) Harkness Overholt

Published Plattsburg Press Republican
April 12, 1890
Micro. filmed Plattsburg Public Library

QUAKER CHURCHES

The first Quaker Church was made of split logs and stood at the corner, opposite the Beadleston Farm, now owned by Ray Trombley. However, the exact date of its erection is not known but it was standing as early as 1799, and may have been as early as 1795. (In 1799, Cyrus Benedict and Kannah Barker were married in this church.)

During the year 1802, a large frame building was erected not far from the center of the three-acre lot purchased for this purpose and for a burying ground. Here the Quakers all worshiped until the disension in the Society became so strong that the Orthodox Friends built in 1832, another meeting house on the same lot directly south of the one then occupied by the Hicksites. For several years these meetings were kept up with a good attendance at each meeting house, on the First and Fifth day of each week.

In later years, both meeting houses were sold and removed. The first one which was known as the Hicksite meeting house, was sold to Henry Arnold for \$150 and moved to his farm (now owned by Forrence Orchards) and used for a horse barn. It was destroyed by fire a few years ago. (Rodney North is the proud possessor of the lock and key to that old building.)

The second meeting house, known as the Orthodox meeting house, was sold to Jas. T. Felio and moved across the Union (Rogers) road, about 1903 or 1904, to the former site of the Henry DeLord house. It was later known as the Henry Brown house, which was destroyed by fire after it had been purchased by James Felio. Thus the old meeting house became a dwelling and has been owned and occupied by Herbert Arnold and Lester Bombard who lived there thirty-seven years. It is now owned by Robert Rulfe.

Grace E. Arnold

December 1966

DATES ON PERU FRIENDS MEETING

Meeting for worship established by Saratoga (Easton) Monthly Meeting in 9th mo. 1794.

Preparative Meeting (local meeting for business) established by Danby Monthly Meeting in 6th mo. 1796.

Peru Monthly Meeting, which included the preparative meetings of Peru and Grand Isle, was established 7th mo. 4th, 1799.

AFTER THE SEPARATION OF 1828

Peru Monthly Meeting
Hicksite

Peru Monthly Meeting
Orthodox

Ferrisburg Monthly Meeting was laid down 12th mo. 2nd, 1846, and its members attached to Peru Monthly Meeting.

This meeting was laid down 10th mo. 22nd, 1868.

When Peru Monthly Meeting was laid down, the remaining members were attached to Saratoga (West of River) Monthly Meeting.

(copied from Peru Records by Mr. A. Day Bradley)

MEMBERSHIP OF PERU PREPARATIVE MEETING IN 1828

From the census taken by the Orthodox Meeting for Sufferings

ORTHODOX - 90 adults, 81 minors HICKSITE - 52 adults, 32 minors

NAMES OF ORTHODOX MEMBERS		
George Irish	Edward White	Joseph Arnold
Elizabeth "	Pauline "	Rachel "
Deborah "	Samuel Smith	Nathan " minor
Allen "	Phebe "	Joshua " "
Lydia "	Abigail "	Elisha " "
		Mary " "
Abigail H Irish minor	Phebe Smith Jr.	Darius " "
Hannah R Irish "	Samuel " Jr.	Henry " "
Persis K " "	Benjamin "	Sidney " "
George Jr. " "	Mary Ann " minor	
Mary Sherman "	Elizabeth " "	Anna Underhill
Cheaney B " "	Sarah " "	Margaret West
Joseph Bowron "	Wanton H " "	Elizabeth Sheldon
		Eliza Ann Legat
Mary Everett	John " "	Hannah Gove
John H Keese	Rachel " "	William " minor
Mary "	Deborah " "	
Deborah " minor	Almina " "	Martha Ricketson
Stephen " "	Charles H " "	William " "
		Abednego " minor
Ruth Keese minor	Garret Thew	Hannah " "
Charles " "	Deborah " "	Phebe " "
Lydia Keese "	David " minor	
David Ferris minor	Kesiah Miller "	Nathaniel Hoag
Peter " "	Ruben Baker	Isabela " "
	Elizabeth "	Ann Elisa " minor
Joseph Davis	Stephen " minor	Jonathan " "
Amilia "	Seneca " "	John Milton " "
George " minor		Sarah Jane " "
Isaac Tobia	Hannah Disburn	
Ruth Bunker	David " minor	David S. Hoag
Stephen Keese		Achsah " "
	Isaac Hallock	William Kirby
Deborah Keese	Phebe " "	Thankful " "
Esther Irish	Paulina " minor	Deborah " minor
Stephen " minor	David " "	William J. " "
Daniel " "		Adam H. " "
Phebe " "	Samuel Peasley	Thankful " Jr "
Millie " "	Henry G. " minor	Chloe " "
Rachel " "	Susanna "	
	Enoch " "	Anna Hallock
Hannah Irish minor	Mary J. " "	Peter " "
Israel Allen Irish minor	Phebe Ann " "	Mary " "
Enoch Irish minor		George " minor
		Adison " "
		Mary Ann " "
		Sarah Hallock

NAMES OF ORTHODOX MEMBERS(continued)

David Harkness		Nicholas Barker	
Mary "		Mary Bowron	
Phebe Southwick		William Keese 2nd	
Paul "		Lydia "	
Abigail "		Robert "	minor
Edward "		Anderson "	"
		Mary "	"
John Hackstaff		Anna "	"
Robert Everett		Elizabeth"	"
Jane Hayworth			
		Lydia Keese	
David Harkness Jr.	minor	George B. Everett	minor
Gideon "	"	Charlotte "	"
Adam "	"		
William "	"	George Davis	
Richard "	"	Susannah "	
Mary "	"		
David W. "	"	Abran Peasley	
		Phebe "	
David Hoag		Esther "	
Elizabeth Hoag		Ruth "	
Plinney E. "		Hannah "	minor
Persis "			
Embry "			
Eliza "			
Russel "	minor		
Sarah E. "	"		
Elihu "	"		
Edward Hallock			
Burling "			
Earl "			
Persis "			
Dinah "			
Grace "			
David "			

(copied from the Peru Records by Mr. A. Day Bradley)

NAMES OF HICKSITE MEMBERS

Benjamin Sherman			Eleazor Nichols		
Philena	"		Sarah	"	
Ann	"		Jonathan Gove		
Maria	"		Mary Jackson		
Job	"		Mary Fish		
			Amy Wood		
Flinry	"	minor			
Sarah	"	"	Nathan Nichols		
Franklin	"	"	Abigail	"	
Richard	"	"	Susannah Meaker		
			Abigail	"	minor
Elizabeth Smith					
Margaret	"		Isaac Roberts		
Stephen	"		Ruth Keese		
Ruth K	"		Anna R	"	
			Permillia	"	
Sarah Smith		minor	Anna	"	
Samuel	"	"	Peter	"	
Thomas	"	"	Mary	"	
Elizabeth " Jr.	"	"			
Hannah	"	"	Joseph Lapham		
Benjamin Franklin Smith Jr	"	"	Anna	"	
			Elizabeth	"	
Azden Barker			Richard	"	minor
Ruth	"		Cynthia	"	"
John	"	minor	Nathan	"	"
Hannah	"	"	Oliver	"	"
Jane	"	"			
			Nathaniel Hanson		
Samuel Keese			Susannah	"	
Hannah	"		Rhoda Purchard		
John	"	minor	Ira Peasley		
Hannah Hurlburt			James Rogers		
Lydia Keese			Thomas	"	
Julia	"	minor	Peace	"	
			Rhoda	"	
John Green					
Sarah	"		Thomas Watson		
Elizabeth	"	minor	Mary	"	
Mary Bunker					
Alvin Keese			William Keese		
Pauline	"		Jemima	"	
Cynthia	"	minor	Keziah	"	
Maria	"	"	Gulia	"	minor
Jane	"	"	Willets	"	"
Phebe	"	"	Eliza Ann	"	"
John	"	"	Pamelia	"	"
			William	" Jr.	"
			Jemima	"	"

(copied from the Peru Reclrds by Mr. A. Day Bradley)

PERU ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The following condensed form from a U. S. Assessment Roll headed as follows: Particular List or Description of each dwelling house which with the Outhouses appurtenant thereto and the lot on which the same are erected, not exceeding two acres in any case, were owned, possessed or occupied on the first day of October 1798, in the town of Peru being within the seventh assessment District in the sixth division in the State of New York and exceeding in value the sum of one hundred dollars.

Elisha Arnold on Rogers Road joining Stukely Arnold, one new wood house, not finished or glazed 80 perches land, \$150.

Allen, Jabez, on Main road joining Lott Elmor, one wood house, new, two-thirds finished, \$200.

_____ and Warren on Main Road joining Jabez Allen, one wood house, new and good, 80 perches. \$500.

Campbell, Elizabeth on Main Road joining the lake, one wood house, out of repair, part glazed, 80 perches. \$250.

Douglas, Asa, on Main Road near the river Ausable, one wood house new, part finished and one horse shed, 80 perches. \$145.

Elmor, John on the Main road joining Lott Elmor, one wood house, new and good, one stable, 80 perches. \$550.

Finch, James (owner John Taylor) on Main road joining the lake, one wood house out of repair, part good, part glazed 80 perches. \$160.

Griffith, Jonathan, on Rogers road, joining Elisha Arnold, one wood house, new part finished, 80 perches. \$200.

Keese, William on a by road joining Herry DeLord, one wood house, new part finished, 80 perches. \$350.

Keese, Richard near Rogers road joining Herry DeLord, one wood house, new and good, 80 perches. \$600.

F. Edmond and Co. near Main road joining Isaac Finch, one wood house, some out of repair, 80 perches. \$150.

Weldon, Benjamin on Main road joining Martin Weatherwax, one wood house, out of repair, 80 perches. \$150.

Weatherwax, David on the Main road joining Martin Weatherwax, one wood house, out of repair, 80 perches. \$300.

Arthur, Augustine on a public road joining Joshua ~~Arthur~~ Arthur, one wood house, new, part finished. \$150.

Published in the Plattsburgh Republican
Oct. 29, 1898
on micro film

PERU A CENTURY AGO
THE INHABITANTS AND WHERE THEY LIVED

The following is fully explained by its title. The Assessment Roll from that rich treasury of local historical information, the Benjamin Moore papers, from which we have already drawn largely for our Historical department. The roll is copied carefully and also the description with assessment of houses, and total assessment in each case. In all cases, except those noted, the occupant of homes was also the owners, thereof. It should be born in mind that the Town of Peru was organized Dec. 28, 1792. (The Union having been settled in 1786), and at this time, 1798, it comprised the present town of Peru, Ausable, and Black Brook. (Ausable and Black Brook were taken off in 1839). The list of all other houses and lands in the Town of Peru not contained in this list viz: lots not acres exceeding in value the sum of \$100. was published in this Department, Oct. 1898. The assessment roll is signed "Reuben Arthur, Assessor, William Beaumont, Caleb Nichols, Assessors".

Particular List or Description of all lands, lots, Buildings and Wharves; owned, possessed or occupied on the first day of October, 1796 in the Town of Peru, being within the seventh assessment District in the Sixth Division, State of New York: excepting only such dwellings houses with the outhouses appertenant thereto and the lots on which they were erected not exceeding two acres in any case (as) are above the value of one hundred dollars.

Asher Adgate 220 acres on the Main Road joining Isaac Wright, one log house (\$40). \$1160.

Asa Adgate, 100 acres on the Main Road joining the falls on the river Sable. One log house \$50, sawmill 44x16, single saw \$1880.

Mathew Adgate non-resident, 400 acres in a patent of land granted to Mathew Adgate, \$750.

Lucy Adgate, non-resident 300 acres in a patent of land granted to Mathew Adgate, \$200.

Hannah Adgate, non-resident 100 acres in a patent granted to Mathew Adgate, \$300.

Martin Adgate, non-resident, 100 acres in a patent granted to Mathew Adgate, \$300.

Luther Adgate, non-resident 190 acres \$340.

Adams, John 96 acres on the river Sable \$2000.

Elisha Arnold, 212 acres on Rogers road joining Jonathan Griffith, one frame barn, 53x30, \$1268.

Robert Anson, 172 acres by road joining Daniel Ross, one log house, \$18, the half of 1 saw mill, 1 saw, \$1113.

Jabax Allen, 169 acres, 80 perches on the Main Road joining Lott Elmor, one log house \$20. 1 log barn, 30x20, \$1087.

Isaac Allen, 100 acres on the Main Road joining John Douglas, one log house, \$15. \$489.

PERU A CENTURY AGO AND THE INHABITANTS AND WHERE THEY LIVED(cont.)

Nathan Averill, 50 acres on a public road joining Nicholas Barker. Two houses, \$29. 1 frame barn, 40x36. \$575.

Calvin Averill, 32 acres joining Noble Averill on a public road, \$160.

~~Nathan Averill, 23 acres on a public road joining John Barker, one log~~

Nathan Averill, Jr. 23 acres on a public road joining Nathan Averill, Sr.

Noble Averill, 60 acres on a public road joining John Cochran, one log house, \$20. \$330.

Thomas Arthur, 100 acres on a public road joining Joshua Arthur, one log house, \$12. barn 20x20. \$630.

Augustine Arthur, 106 acres on a public road joining Joshua Arthur, one barn, 30x20. \$730.

Reuben Arthur, 96 acres on a public road joining Robert Moon, 1 log house \$25, 1 log barn 30x18. \$820.

Elihu Bragg, 160 acres "of from" the road joining John Macomber. One house \$30. \$750.

Isaac Bates, 350 acres of from the road joining Number One. One log house, \$10. \$1430.

Joseph Barnes, non-resident, 300 acres in a patent of land granted by Mathew Adgate. \$300.

William Boardman, non-resident, 100 acres in a patent of land granted to Mathew Adgate. \$300.

Samuel Brown, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb, owners) 100 acres by road joining William Taylor. one log house, \$15. \$446.

William Banker, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb) 100 acres on Rogers Road joining Samuel Brown.

Beach, Joseph, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb, owners) 4 acres exempted from taxation, State land 145 acres near the river Sable.

Ephraim Bigelow, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb, owners), 72 acres near the river Sable. One log house \$20. \$690.

Norman Bull, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb, owners), 166 acres near the river Sable, joining Andre Debar, one log house \$20. \$1025.

PERU A CENTURY AGO, THE INHABITANTS AND WHERE THEY LIVED

James Bean, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb, owners). 165 acres near the river Sab le joining Andres Debar. One log house, \$28. \$849.

Beverley Beardsley, 150 acres near the river joining Jehial Beardsley. One log house, \$25. \$1025.

Jehial Beardsley and John Beardsley, 155 acres near the river Sab le joining Beverle y Beardsley. One log house, \$15. \$1156.

Benj. Bragg, 100 acres by road joining Eleazer Nichols. \$502.

Isaac Baker, 11 acres, 80 perches, by road joining Daniel Chapman, one log house, \$18. \$114.

Warren and Beaman, 199 acres, 80 perches, on the Main Road joining Jabez Allen. One log house, \$20. \$1500.

Benj. Brown, (ezra L. Humedieu, owner). 212 acres on Rogers Road joining Stephen Keese. One log house, \$25. \$1222.

Emanuel Beardsley, 125 acres near the river Sable joining Jehial Beardsley, one log barn, 10 x 28. One log house, \$25. \$1266.

Aaron Benedict, 125 acres by road joining John Philips. One log barn, 30 x 10. One log house, \$30. \$993.

Cyrus Benedict, 50 acres by road joining Joseph Jakers. \$280.

Aaron Benedict, Jun., 43 acres joining Rauben Benedict. One log house, \$15. \$297.

Isreal Buck, 75 acres, on a public road joining Nicholas Bakker. One log house, \$25. \$520.

Nicholas Barker, 170 acres off from any road joining Isreal Buck. One log house. \$20. One log barn, 25 x 20. \$1250.

Israel Barker, 170 acres of from any road joining Nicholas Barker. \$774.

Joel Buck, (Reuben Arthur, owner). One log house, \$20. \$180.

Said to be in Bell's Patent, 1900 acres joining Joseph Jakers. \$13850.

Samuel Byard, 520 acres, said to be in Great Location. \$1850.

Jan. 21, 1899 Particular List or Description of all lands, lots, Buildings, (same as first heading). Publication date, Plattsburgh Press Republican.

William Clyd, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb, owners), 60 acres near the river Sab le, joining Norman Bull. One log house \$5. \$275.

Jehial Beardsley, 100 acres near the river Sable, joining Jehial Beardsley Jun. One log barn, 36 x 18. One log house, \$25. \$845.

Ebenezer Baker, 11 acres, 80 perches, by road joining Daniel Chapman. One log house, \$18. \$114.

PERU A CENTURY AGO-THE INHABITANTS AND WHERE THEY LIVED

David Chapman, 107 acres, by road joining Abram Beaman on e log house, \$12. \$727.

Elizabeth Campbell, (William Gilson, owner), 100 acres, on the Main Road joining Elizabeth Campbell. \$680.

Elizabeth Campbell, 199 acres, 80 perches on the main road joining the lake. One frame barn, 50 x 30. \$1332.50.

David Cochran, 75 acres of from any road joining David Osborn. One log house, \$15. \$470.

Robert Couchran, 130 acres on a public road joining John Couchran, Sen. One log house, \$30. One frame barn 48 x 32. \$1240

John Couchran and Silas Couchran, 235 acres on the little river Sable joining Noble Averill. One small framed house, \$30. One grist mill, 28 x 28. One saw mill, 45 x 16. \$2925.

Isaac Cole, 25 acres on Rogers Road joining Stephen Keese. \$112.50.

Donald Campbell, non-resident, (said to be), 5000 acres lying west on Great Location. \$6250.

John Douglass, 220 acres, on the Main Road joining Isaac Wright. One log house, \$15. One frame barn, 44 x 34. \$1420.

Asa Douglass, non-resident, 1089 acres, 80 perches, part on Main Road joining Jabez E. Allen, and river Sable. One grist mill, 30 x 24, one saw mill, 30 x 16. \$3465.50.

Zabulon Douglass, non-resident, 225 acres near the Main Road south of Asa Adgate. \$1237.50.

David K. Day, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb, owner), 125 acres on the river Sable joining William Fulton. One log house, \$20. \$500.

Andres Debar, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb, owner), not given, acres on the river Sable joining Norman Bull. One log house. \$664.

John Douglass, 2nd., 160 acres, 80 perches on the river Sable joining Beaman and Warren. One small frame house, \$25. One frame barn, 25 x 30, part enclosed, \$660.50.

Moses Dickson, 100 acres on the river Sable joining Jabez Allen. One log house. \$10. \$1000.

Amos Day, 300 acres on the Main Road joining David Weatherwax. One log house. \$25. \$2064.

Henry DeLord, 160 acres on Rogers Road joining Richard Keese. One log house, \$60. One log barn, 35 x 25. \$900.

Reuben Doe, 50 acres on the river Sable joining John Howe. One log house, \$20. \$300.

PERU A CENTURY AGO—IT'S INHABITANTS AND WHERE THEY LIVED

George Everett, 100 acres on a public road joining Edward Everett. One log house, \$20. One log barn, 34 x 20. \$850.

Simeon Bells, (heir of Zacheous Newcomb, owner), 160 acres of from any road joining Joseph everest. One log house, \$20. One log barn, 26 x 20.

Joseph Everest, joining Waterman Bells, 107 acres by road. One log house. \$15. \$497.50.

John Elmor, 167 acres on the Main Road joining Lott Elmor. The half frame barn 40 x 32. \$1341.

Lott Elmor, 193 acres on the Main Road joining John Elmor. The half frame barn, 40 x 32. \$1400.

Benjamin Earl, 53 acres on a public road joining Aaron Benedict. One log house, \$20. \$405.

Edward Everitt, 75 acres on Rogers Road joining George Everitt. One log house, \$15. One frame barn, 38 x 20. \$800.

Asa Elmore, 100 acres on a public road joining robert couchran. One log house, \$15. \$635.

Abram Elghts, non-resident, 425 acres on a public road on 2 sides joining John Morehouse. \$2125.

David Fish, 50 acres of from any foad joining Caleb Simmons. One log house. \$20. \$291.

Samuel Francier (Nathaniel Platts owner), 20 acres of from any road joining Nathaniel Platt. \$5. \$146.

William Fulton (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb, owner), 250 acres on the river Sable joining David K. Day. Two log houses, \$40. \$828.

Isaac Finch, Jun. 80 acres on the Main Road joining Samuel Jackson. \$80. \$740.

James Finch (John Taylor, owner) 130 acres on the Main Road joining the lake. One frame barn, 40 x 30. \$1085.

Isaac Finch, 100 acres on the Main Road joining David Weatherwax. One log house, \$20. \$592.

Nathan Ferris on a public road, 100 acres joining John Haff. Three log houses, \$30. \$742.

Noah Gridley, non-resident, 200 acres in a patent granted to Mathew Adgate. \$600.

Nathaniel Gridley, non-resident, 60 acres in a patent granted to Mathew Adgate. \$180.

David George, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb, owner), 125 acres on the river Sab le joining Joseph Beach. One log house, \$15. \$575.

PERU ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO-THE INHABITANTS AND WHERE THEY LIVED

Elisha Green, 100 acres of from any road joining Benjamin Green. One log house \$20. One log barn, 30 x 20. \$452.

Benjamin Green, 100 acres of from any road joining Samuel West. One log house, \$30. One log barn, 30 x 20. \$512.

John Green, 100 acres back road joining Caleb Green, Rufus Green, son. One log house, \$30. One log barn, 30 x 20. \$830

Jonathan Griffith, 212 acres on Rogers Road joining Elisha Arnold. \$1180.

Henry Green, 156 acres on Rogers Road joining Richard Keese. One log house, \$25. One log barn 28 x 24. \$1293.

Caleb Green, Rufus Green, son, 100 acres lying back joining John Green \$350.

D. Gilson (said to be), 1000 acres on a public road joining ~~JAMES KEENE~~ Joseph Lavernway. \$4000 .

Barzella Handy, 80 acres between Main Road and lake joining /sa Adgate. One log house, \$40. \$450 .

Peter Hamilton, non-resident, 350 acres in a patent of land granted to Mathe w Adgate. \$1050.

Samuel Hawley, 200 acres. state land on the river Sable, south of David George. One log house, \$90. \$370.

Bela Hills, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb), owner, 166 acres on the river Sable joining James Bean. \$724.

Hallock, Edward, 325 acres on Rogers Road joining George Everett. One log house, \$30. \$1835.

John Howard, 200 acres on State Land of from any road joining the Great Location. One log house, \$20. \$280.

Peter Hallock, 125 acres back joining Eleazer Nichols. One log house, \$30. One barn, 30 x 33. \$1014

Josiah Howe, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb), 147 acres back road joining Elisha Arnold. One log house, \$10. \$486.50.

John Howe, 200 acres on river Sable joining Beman and Warren. One log house. \$30. \$890.

Elisha Howard, 255 acres on a public road joining William Keese. One log house, \$30. \$1455.

John Haff, 325 acres on Rogers Road joining William Keese. One log house, \$25. One frame barrack barn (Dutch) 34 x 30.

Noah Hobart, 125 acres back road joining Peter White. One log house, \$20. \$512.

FERU A CENTURY AGO-THE INHABITANTS AND WHERE THEY LIVED

- Jeremiah Hackston, non-resident, 250 acres joining Thomas Arthur. \$1240
- Philip Hart, non-resident, 250 acres joining Joshua Arthur. \$1250
- John S. Hobert, 726 acres on a back road joining Noah Hart. \$2904
- Ezra Humidue (said to be), 213 acres joining Benjamin Brown. \$852
- Johnathan Irish, (Nathaniel Platt, owner), 100 acres of from any road joining David Fish. \$392.
- Samuel Irish, (Nathaniel Platt, owner), 70 acres back road joining John Keese. One log house, \$20. \$200.
- Pardon Irish, (Nathaniel Platt, owner) 50 acres back road joining Samuel Irish. \$334.
- Joseph J. Jekax, 53 acres joining Solomon Brown. One log house \$25. \$424.
- Samuel Jackson, 54 acres on the Main Road joining John Elmore. One log house, \$20. One frame barn, 40 x 30. \$624.
- Daniel Jackson, 122 acres on a public road joining Peter White. One log house, \$35. One log barn, 36 x 26. \$855.
- Stephen Ketchum, 106 acres on Rogers Road joining Ebenezer Olmstead. One log house, \$12. One log Barn, 36 x 20. \$639.
- Abijah Ketchum, 35 acres on the Main Road joining Benjamin Welden. One log house, \$10. \$285.
- William Keese, 318 acres on a public road joining John Haff. One log house, \$15. One frame barn, 46 x 30. \$2915.
- John Keese, 318 acres on Rogers Road joining William Keese. One log house, \$40. One log barn, 30 x 20. \$2123.
- Richard Keese, 418 acres, 80 perches on Rogers Road joining John Osborn.
- William Lewis, (Nathaniel Platt, owner), 116 acres from any road joining Jonas Stafford. One log house, \$15. \$422.
- William Lowing, (heirs of Zacheus Newcomb, owner), 128 acres near Rogers Road joining Simeon Bells. \$550.
- Joseph Lavarway, 56 acres of from any road joining William Morehouse. One log house, \$20. One frame barn, 20 x 16. \$450.
- Gilbert leaving stoh, 424 acres, (no description). \$627.
- John Macomber, 150 acres on the Main Road joining Benjamin Macomber. One log house, \$50. \$875.
- Benjamin Macomber, 85 acres on the Main Road joining John Macomber. One log house, \$20. \$417.50.

PERU A CENTURY AGO- IT'S INHABITANTS AND WHERE THEY LIVED

Ezekial Montgomery, (Theophilus Jackson, owner), 62 acres on the Main Road joining Jabez Allen. One log house, \$5. \$500.

Onday Major, 100 acres on Salmon River joining Platt Rogers. \$430.

John Mosley, 40 acres on a public road joining Robert Anson. One half a saw mill. \$343.

John Morehouse, Sen. 200 acres on a public road joining William Morehouse One-half log house, \$20. One frame barn, 40 x 30. One-half saw mill, 45 x 16. \$1520.

William Morehouse, 150 acres on a public road joining John Morehouse, Sen. One-half log house, \$20. One-half saw mill, 45 x 16. \$1104.

Rufus Norton, non-resident, 300 acres on the Lake joining Joshua Wells.

Eleazer Nichols, 100 acres on a back road joining Peter Hallock. One log house, \$20. One log barn, 30 x 22. \$845.

Heirs of Zachaeus Newcomb, (said to be), . 3295 acres, a part lying on the River Sable in the Town of Peru. \$12346.

David Osborn, 320 acres on Rogers Road joining Richard Keese. One log house, \$30. One frame barn, 40 x 30. \$2044.

John Osborn, 212 acres on back road joining Samuel West. \$1026

Daniel Parkis, 175 acres on the lake joining Joshua Wells. One log house, \$30.00 \$945.00

Edward Palmer, Jun. 100 acres on the Main Road joining Ezekiel Palmer. One log house \$20.00 \$365.00

Uriah Palmer, 180 acres on a public road joining Bell's Patent. One log house \$40.00 One log barn 30x20 \$1200.00

John Phillips (Thaddeus Shelton, owner) 106 acres on a public road joining Robert Moon. One log house \$20.00, One log barn 36 x 20 \$800.00

James Platt (heirs of Zachaeus Newcomb, owner) 80 perches near the Main Road joining Isaac Finch.

Nicholas (Reuben Arthur, owner) 6 acres on a public road joining Reuben Arthur. One frame house \$75.00 \$133.00

Said to be owned by Zephaniah Platt 2465 acres part of it joining the Lake. Four log house \$50.00

Nathaniel Platt 1798 acres 80 perches part of Rogers road joining Henry Delord \$5397.00

Charles Platt 500 acres in the 12,000 acres location, next to the river Sable \$7250

PERU A CENTURY AGO-IT(S INHABITANTS AND WHERE THEY LIVED

John Raymond, (heirs of Zacheus Newcomb), 175 acres State Road on the river Sable joining Joseph Beach. One log house, \$20. \$1000.

Lawrence Riley, 100 acres on Rogers Road joining Ebenezer Olmstead. One log house, \$20. \$470.

Daniel Ross, non-resident, 117 acres, 78 perches, on a public road joining Uriah Palmer.

Isa Reynolds, non-resident, 153 acres near the Main Road joining Samuel Jackson. Two log houses, \$50. \$1630.

Abednego Ricketson, 135 acres on a public road joining Joshua Arthur. One log house, 26 x 20. One log stable. \$1100.

REAVES, (said to be a non-resident), 500 acres. \$1500.

Heirs of Platt Rogers, (said to be), 920 acres, a part of it joining Edward Hallock. \$5100.

Truman Skeels, 240 acres, near the Main Road joining Number 1. One log house., \$35. \$1181.

Melanton (Melanoton) Smith, 500 acres on the river Sable, joining Bela Hill. \$2000.

Stephen Starks, 50 acres of from any road joining Gilbert Thew. One log house, \$26. \$329.

Ebenezer Starks, 50 acres, on a back road joining Stephen Starks. One log house, \$5. \$260.

Caleb Simmons, 50 acres, joining Benjamin Bragg. One log house, \$30. \$369.

Martha Stafford, 180 acres, on a back road joining Ebenezer Olmstead. One log house, \$30. One log barn, 46 x 30. \$1976.

Palmer Stafford, 180 acres, on a back road joining Ebenezer Olmstead. One log house, \$30. One log barn, 35 x 18. \$1081.

Jonas Stafford, (Nathaniel Platt, owner), 118 acres of from any road joining Wm. Lewis. One log house, \$20. One log barn, 32 x 24. \$382.

Jonathan Stafford, (Nathaniel Platt, owner), 118 acres of from any road joining William Lewis. One log house, \$15. \$429.

Rowland Stafford, 200 acres on Rogers Road joining Samuel Taylor. One log house, \$25. \$1045.

John Stanton, 50 acres on a public road joining Augustine Arthur. One log house, \$20. One log barn, 40 x 20. \$500.

Oliver Sandres, (heir of Zacheus Newcomb), owner, 100 acres of from any road joining Robert Couchran. One log house, \$12. \$380.

PERU A CENTURY AGO—IT'S INHABITANTS AND WHERE THEY LIVED.

Peter Sully, non-resident, on Rogers Road, 2 acres joining Edward Everett.

Peter Steward, 1100 acres, joining Fishwell Patent. \$3300.

William Taylor, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb, owner), 100 acres near Rogers Road joining Samuel Brown. One log house, \$12. One log barn, 30 x 20. \$520.

Stephen Taylor, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb, owners), 50 acres on Rogers Road joining Samuel Brown. One log house, \$25. One log barn, 28 x 18. \$303.

Gilbert The w, 85 acres, back road joining David Osborn. One log house, \$25. One log barn, 40 x 24. \$600.

Garrett Thew, 85 acres, on a back road joining David Osborn. One log house, \$30. \$540.

Josiah Terry, 147 acres, on a back road joining Elisha Arnold. One log house, \$25. \$319.50.

Samuel Taylor, (heirs of Zacheous Newcomb, owners), 100 acres on Rogers Road joining Rowland Stafford.

Abraham Tenbroeck, non-resident, 426 acres joining JOHN Morehouse near the River Road. \$2125.

John Taylor, non-resident, 425 acres joining Lot No. 33. \$148.50.

William Thorn, non-resident, 150 acres No. 1, joining John Macomber and 150 acres No. 4, joining Elihu Briggs. \$1200.

Joshua Wells, 147 acres joining Rufus Norton on the lake. One log house, \$20. \$265.

John Williams, non-resident, 960 acres on a patent granted to Mathew Adgate. \$4320.

This Assessment Roll published in the Plattsburgh Republican under dates, Jan. 14, 21, 28 and Feb. 4, 1899.

It is in all probability that J. Warren Harkness had the assessment roll published, also the notice published Oct. 29, 1898. Notice—corrections to this assessment roll was published by George Bixby, Editor of the Plattsburgh Republican on 1898.

Micro-film

PERU A CENTURY AGO- IT'S INHABITANTS AND WHERE THEY LIVED.

Isaac Wright, 250 acres on the Main Road joining Asher Adgate. One log house, \$70. One frame barn, 40 x 30. \$1920.

Lupton Warner, non-resident, 100 acres on a patent granted to Mathew Adgate. \$100.

William White, (heirs of Zacheus Newcomb owners), 100 acres on a public road joining William Taylor. \$522.

Peter White, 50 acres on a public road joining Daniel Jackson. One log house, \$15. One log barn, 24 x 18. \$375.

Samuel West, 100 acres on a public road joining John Osborn, 5th. One log house, \$20. One log barn, 24 x 18. \$670.

Robert Whitcomb, 100 acres States Land back west of the settlement joining John Howard. One log house, \$15. \$223.

James Weston, (heirs of Zacheus Newcomb owners), 100 acres on the river Sable joining Beverly Beardsley. One log house, \$15. \$505.

Benjamin Weldin, 250 acres on the Main Road joining Martin Weatherwax. One log house, \$20. One frame barn, 40 x 30. \$1970.

David Weatherwax, 300 acres on the Main Road joining Amos Day. One frame barn, 50 x 30.

Andrew White, 54 acres off from any road joining Richard Keese. One log house, \$25. One log barn, ~~24~~ 24 x 18. \$493.

Waterman & Wood, 1 acre on Rogers Road joining Richard Keese. One frame house, \$30. One blacksmith shop, 30 x 20. \$70.

James White, 150 acres on a public road joining Lott Elmore. One log house, \$30. One log barn, 30 x 20. \$975.

William Wrantham, 8 acres on the River Sable, joining John Howe. One log house, \$15. \$125.

Uriah Waterman, 4 acres on the Main Road joining Uriah Palmer. \$24.

Melanton L. Woolsey, 475 acres being near Palmer Stafford.

Manius Willet, 637 acres, 80 perches joining Lot No. 35, \$1275, and 125 acres on Lot. No. 40 in the Grate Location, (owner unknown). \$1062.

Lott Elmore, on Main Road joining John Elmore, one wood house, new and good, one stable. 80 perches. \$550.

Elihu Allen, .60 acres joining John Keese on a back road. One log house, \$25. One log barn, 34 x 24. \$160.

Stukeley Arnold, 106 acres on Rogers Road joining Elisha Arnold. One log house, \$75. \$569.

PERU A CENTURY AGO - THE INHABITANTS AND WHERE THEY LIVED

Samuel Irish, (Nathan Platt, owner), 70 acres back road joining John Keese. One log house, \$20. \$200.

Jessie Irish, (Nathaniel Platt, owner), back road joining John Keese. One log house, \$20. \$355.

Pardon Irish, (Nathaniel Platt, owner), 50 acres back road joining Samuel Irish. \$334.

Robert Moore, 100 acres on a public road joining Reuben Arthur. One log house, \$20. \$800.

Edmund Prur & Co., non-resident, 79 acres, 80 perches near the Main Road joining Isaac Finch.

Lott Elmore on Main Road joining John Elmore, one wood house, new and good, one stable, 80 perches. \$550.

Joshua B. Arthur on a public road joining Augustine Arthur. One log house, \$21. One log barn, 25 x 25. \$672.

John Cochran, Sen. 390 acres on Rogers Road joining Robert Cochran. One log house, \$40. \$2320.

Isaac Finch, 100 acres on Main Road joining David Weatherwax. One log house, \$20. \$800.

Robert Moore, 100 acres on a public road joining Reuben Arthur. One log house, \$20. \$800.

Edward Palmer, Sen., 50 acres near the Main Road joining Thorn Patent. One log house, \$365.

Jonathan Stafford, (Nathaniel Platt, owner), 118 acres of from any road joining William Lewis. One log house, \$15. \$429.

John Stanton, 50 acres on a public road joining Augustine Arthur. One log house, \$20. One log barn, 40 x 20. \$500.

David Weatherwax, on Main Road joining Martin Weatherwax. One wood house, out of repair, 80 perches. \$300.

PERU'S FIRST ACADEMY

The public are respectfully informed that the Union Academy will be opened in the Union Village at Peru, on the twenty-third of next May, for instruction of scholars in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Geography, etc., under the instruction of Chauncy Stoddard and Mary Rogers, that there will be a vacancy for a number of scholars of both sexes, who, as the committee flatter themselves will meet with a kind reception and a favorable prospect of their improvement.

Boarding will be furnished at one dollar and twenty cents a week, in respectable families where every attention will be paid to the health and morals of the pupils.

The term of tuition will be two dollars per quarter^{es} and for those studying Grammar, two dollars and fifty cents.

For further particulars, application may be made to either of the subscribers.

ROBERT BATTEY)
WILLIAM KEESE) Committee
JAMES ROGERS)

Peru, N.Y. April 24, 1812

Published in the Plattsburgh Republican June 13, 1896

THE UNION ACADEMY

Readers of the Republican who have seen in the June 13th, the notice of the opening of the Union Academy dated April 24, 1812 and reprinted after a lapse of four score and four years, may have some desire to know more about the institution of learning, the location, teachers, pupils, and what became of it when as a school house it had outlived it's usefulness.

The Union Academy was a two-story frame building which stood on the West side of Rogers Road, directly opposite the residence of John Green, now Hiram Heyworth, (George Curtis, 1966). It was built on land which James Rogers whose name is signed in the notice, as one of the committee, who had recently bought of Henry DeLors, who, about that year, 1812, removed to Plattsburgh where he passed his remaining years as an honored citizen.

Chauncy Stoddard, the first male teacher of the Academy was a long resident of Peru where he is still remembered by all who have arrived at middle age. His assistant, Mary Rogers was probably the daughter of James Rogers, he having another daughter named Lucia, who is still remembered as a teacher. How long they continued in charge of the school cannot now be ascertained and the names of only two of their successors are known to the writer, though others may be remembered by our older inhabitants.

Elihu F. Marshall, a lame Quaker, who was obliged to use crutches when he walked, taught in this academy for several years, but finally removed to Rochester where he died in 1846. The other teacher whose name I can mention was Phoebe Keese, whose father Stephen Keese, resided in the Union. She afterward married a man named Cromwell.

PERU'S FIRST ACADEMY- -THE UNION ACADEMY

Among the pupils who attended school in those days were the younger people of the Laphams, Keeses, Greens, Sherman, Hallocks, Arthurs and Ricketsons, families who lived in the immediate neighborhood besides many who came from a distance, Thomas and Mary Watson, children of Peace Watson who became the second wife of James Rogers were also educated at that Academy and many years afterward, Thomas Watson who became an eminent lawyer and held at one time, the office of Clinton County Judge and Surrogate of Clinton County gave his reminiscences in an interesting article entitled, "The Union Fifty Years Ago", from which some of the statements in this sketch are derived.

Nehemiah Harkness was another who attended that school, boarding at his home on Hallock Hill and going on foot the distance of three miles by road, being usually shortened by cutting across lots.

Very few are now living who were pupils in that old academy. It is believed though, not positively known to the writer, that among that few and perhaps constituting it's total may be mentioned Alexander and Platt Arthur who are nearly or quite ninety years old. Schuyler Haff who still lives in Peru where he was born, says that when he attended the Academy his teacher was Phoebe Keese.

It would be interesting to know the date of the close of the last term of school in that old building, but probably that could not be ascertained. It is believed that for several years it stood empty and unused. During that time it had the reputation of being haunted, it's specters being a number of young men who used to meet in it's upper rooms to play cards and eat stolen melons.

In 1836, the Osborn brothers, Samuel, Sherman and John of Hallock Hill having bought of David Hoag fifty-five acres of land lying directly East of the Southwick farm began to talk of erecting a house upon it. The old Union Academy was standing idle and there was little prospect that it would be needed again as a school house for the Union was fast becoming a deserted village, so it was bought by the Osborns, taken down and removed to the newly purchased farm, it's posts were cut off to reduce it from a two-story to a one and one-half story house. It was put up and made into a dwelling after which John Osborn's family took possession and has been occupied ever since. Since the death of John Osborn in 1883, his widow has still lived there with her daughter, now Mrs. Joseph S. Allen. No one would imagine that the handsome, well-painted residence which stands about fifty rods east of the Hallock Hill school was the old Union Academy in which eighty-four years ago our ancestors were being taught reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and if they paid an extra fifty cents tuition were also instructed in the rules and principles of English Grammar.

This sketch would be incomplete without a few words concerning the members of the Committee whose names are signed to that notice, Robert Battey, William Keese and James Rogers were representative citizens of old Peru and doubtless leaders of that educational movement that resulted in the establishment of this academy. Robert Battey was the principal, if not the only merchant of the Union Village. His store stood on the east side of the road some distance north of the Arthurs Corners, (west), and was well stocked with groceries, dry goods and more or less of wet goods also. I remember seeing in one of his old account books some years ago, an item under the date July 27, 1811 which reads as follows, "David A. Everett, Dr. to-----1 pint of brandy". There is nothing about that entry that would have attracted my attention if I had not known that July 27, 1811

(continued next page)

PERU'S FIRST ACADEMY - - THE UNION ACADEMY(cont.)

was the date of my mother's birth, she being the oldest child of the said David A. Everett. Those who knew him are aware that he had no use for brandy upon any ordinary occasion.

That Robert Battey was not a Quaker is indicated by the fact that when he dies in 1836 at the age of 64, he was not interred in the Friend's Burying Ground, but by the side of his first wife, Jemama, who died in 1811, and his infant son, Robert, in a little private yard beneath an old Lombardy poplar in the southeast corner of the field he once owned, now a part of the Richard P. Keese farm, William Keese and James Rogers were both Quakers. The former was one of the pioneer settlers of old Peru to which he came first in 1786 or 1787, while it still was a part of Plattsburgh, in the County of Washington. In 1789, he came with an axe which he brought on his shoulder, from his home in Dutchess County, he cut down the trees to build himself a log house in the wilderness and then went back for his wife and their few possessions. The house stood on or near the site of the ancient frame house which is now owned and occupied by Timothy Devern. His daughter, Eunice was born in 1797 and was 15 years old when the academy was opened and was, no doubt, one of its first pupils. She afterward married John Macomber, lived until 1880 and her descendants are almost too numerous to count. Her father died in 1836, the same year as Robert Battey, at the age of 73.

James Rogers was the oldest of the three committeemen having been born in 1756, twenty years before the Declaration of Independence. His Quaker principles would not have permitted him to take part in the war or he might have been a soldier of the Revolution. By his first wife, Deborah, who died in 1813, he had at least one son, James Rogers, Jr. who became a partner in the firm of Keese, Rogers and Keese, merchants of Goshen and the two daughters, Mary and Lydia, mentioned above. He lived in the old DeLord mansion until his death in 1832, and his widow, Peace Rogers continued to live there 31 years longer. She died in 1863 at the age of 90 years.

The old academy and the members of its first committee have all passed away about 60 years ago and the people who remember any of them are few and growing fewer.

J.W. HARKNESS

Published in the Plattsburgh Press Republican
June 13, 1896 and July 11, 1896

THE OLDEST HOUSE IN PERU

For the first time in four score years, there was a social gathering last Wednesday evening, Dec. 7th, in the old house in Peru, the historic mansion of Judge DeLori, now the residence of Henry W. Brown and his daughter Alice.

About fifty guests attended and doubtless all enjoyed the visit as much as did Louis Phillip, heir to the throne of France when entertained by his countrymen in the same house almost a century ago.

The storms of a hundred years have left their marks upon the exterior but within, all is bright and comfortable though there are many proofs that this is not a modern dwelling, or a sample of the rudely constructed habitations of the early settlers. Here still can be seen in as many rooms, the four immense fire places in which a considerable portion of the primeval forest of old Peru was converted into smoke and ashes. Above the doors of the antique drawing room are lofty arched casings that are seldom seen in any American house and the heavy iron knocker upon the front door is still capable of making a clatter that would arouse the seven sleepers if they were beneath the roof.

In this house was the only Post Office of the Town of Peru during the first decade of the century when Peru comprised one-fourth of the present county of Clinton.

In the northwest corner room can still be seen numerous indentations of the floor near the wall which were made by chairs which our ancestors tipped back upon two legs as they sat around the room reading the latest news from newspapers which had been printed from three to six weeks before. If the walls of this room had ears and tongues, they could doubtless repeat interesting discussions which took place among those ancient citizens during the exciting period when the House of Representatives was trying to decide the question, shall Jefferson or Burr be president.

Henry DeLori, the builder of this mansion, was a native of the city of Nimes in France. While quite a young man, he married and emigrated to the West Indies where for some time he owned an extensive plantation and many slaves. But at the time of the French Revolution, there was a negro insurrection and many slave owners were massacred. DeLore's slaves warned him of the danger so he was able to escape with his wife and a few of them to the United States. Just what year he settled in old Peru seems somewhat uncertain, but he was a resident of the town in 1796 for his name is found in records of the town for that year. About 15 years later, he sold his farm to a Worthy Quaker named James Rogers and removed to Plattsburgh where he spent the remainder of his years being always an honored and respectful citizen.

His only living descendant is the wife of Rev. Francis B. Hall of Plattsburgh. In 1815, James Rogers lost his first wife by death sometime before he married Mrs. Peace Watson of Bolton, Mass. and brought her and her two children, Thomas and Mary, from Bolton to the Union in a two-wheeled gig. He died many years ago but his widow, "Aunt Peace Rogers", is remembered by middle-aged people of the town. Her son, Thomas became an able lawyer and in 1811 was elected County Judge and Surrogate of Clinton County. He lived in the Union many years, but died in Peru Village ten years ago. His sister, Mary, was the mother of Henry W. Brown and from her, he inherited the dwelling that forms the subject of this sketch.

J.W. HARKNESS

Plattsburgh Press Republican Dec. 31, 1892

POST OFFICES

With the aid of Kenneth L. Dubuque, Postmaster at Peru, N.Y. 12972, the following information has been received regarding the Post Office in Old Peru and the one at Harkness.

From the General Service Administration, St. Louis, Mo. 63118 is the following paragraph, dated Nov. 28, 1966:

"The Harkness, N.Y. Post Office was discontinued August 31, 1933.
Rural Free Delivery Service was from July 1, 1903 to Aug. 31, 1932.

Note: James Felio was the mail carrier. He retired in 1932.
The Post Office was housed in the store and home of Casper Baker. It is the first white house, to the right of the four corners at Harkness.

From the National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20408, dated Jan. 18, 1967, this information has been received.

"We have made a search among the records of the Post Office Dept. in the National Archives but have not found any information about the establishment of the Post Office at Peru, N.Y., or a change of location of this post office from the Union to Peru Village. The earliest reference to Peru, Clinton County, N.Y., shows that Moses Warren, postmaster, submitted a quarterly return on July 1, 1798."

"A post office was established at Harkness, Clinton County, N.Y., on June 8, 1888, with Casper W. Baker appointed as its first postmaster."

Note: Mr. Baker continued as postmaster until his death in 1921. Mr. Bert Holden was postmaster in Peru at the time the Harkness post office was discontinued and the Rural Free Delivery came from the Peru Post Office.

In the book which Mr. Harkness copied assessment rolls and descriptions of roads from old record books of Old Peru, "3rd Dist. 1797, Moses Warren is listed as having to work nine days to work out his road tax. In that same list we find the names Jabez Allen, Henry DeLord (owner of a mill in that district), John and Lott Elmore, Moses Dickson, Nicholas Palmer and Wm. Wrentham. (Old Post Road) Also for the years 1798 and 1799, as Abraham Beman and Warren.

PERU ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO: Assessment Roll, 1798, October, Beman and Warren on Main Road joining Jabez Allen, one wood house, now and wood 80 perches, \$500, 199 acres.

Henry DeLord lived in the Union until sometime during 1812. His farm was then sold to James Rogers.

E.A. Spaulding

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

PERU, CLINTON COUNTY, NEW YORK

<u>Postmasters</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
Moses Warren	*July 1, 1758
Cornelius Staatz	July 1, 1801
Herny DeLord	April 1, 1804
Asa Elmore	July 1, 1813
Nathan Taylor	April 6, 1818
Nathan Rice	July 10, 1841
Franklin Elm ore	Aug. 14, 1843
Edgar Beckwith	June 6, 1849
Leon L. Channell	June 6, 1853
Henry o. Larraber	August 6, 1859
Daniel F. Barker	April 19, 1861
Richard C. McIntyre	July 1, 1862
Leon L. Channell	July 8, 1885
Datus Clark	June 20, 1889
David Lyons	August 24, 1893
Datus Clark	January 17, 1898
Nathan L. Bigelow	May 21, 1904
Bert E. Holden	June 12, 1914
Kete L. Holden	March 11, 1924
(sucessor aprointed after 1929)	

*Date of the first return of the postmaster to the Postmaster General

** Date of establishment - not of record here

Kenneth L. Dubuque	May 2, 1946
Glays L. Darling	April 17, 1971

REMINISCENCES AND EARLY HISTORY
OF OLD PERU

Pioneer Days In Peru--Nathan R. Weaver

Excerpts

There is much obscurity concerning the primitive days in the history of our country, after a lapse of more than a century. No one identified with that age and generation is here to testify, and it is no easy task to reproduce the situation or approximate thereto. The paramount idea in any such effort should be accuracy.

The history of Peru and AuSable are inseparable. The town of Peru was formed Plattsburgh and Willsborough, December 29, 1792, and included the town of AuSable and Black Brook. (Reapportionment puts the town back where they started, 1966). These two were taken off in 1839, since which time there have been no changes. (1913) (In 1792, the town of Peru and AuSable were unbroken wilderness. While we do not believe in the worship of our ancestors, yet we ought to keep the memory green of those who endured the privations of pioneer life, who subdued the forests, built the roads, bridged the streams, built many of the houses, (See "Pioneer Homes of Clinton County" by Dr. Allan S. Everest, 1966)., in which we live., and trod the streets just as we do today, and made possible a better civilization for us than they enjoyed.

One of the most pressing needs of the pioneers was roads. They had lived in log huts, most of them, and followed blazed trees. One of the first of these was the Rogers Road built in 1790 to 1795.

The main road of Peru was the present road on the lake shore from the north line of the town to the Little AuSable, beyond which it bore eastward somewhere midway between the railroad and the present highway to Baggs'. This was the Old Lake Shore Road that ran past Hobart Fuller, the Bedell Farms and The Allen Homestead. New cut made in 1936, where it ran on a lower level near Galen Stafford's. (1966) Now a recreation center called "Twin Ponds", owned by William Sullivan, and so on to the Lemuel W. Page place, or Ashel Adgate's, (there is a well indicated road from the wood-house, just west of the house, that follows the edge of the chasm for some distance) and crossed the river at or near Table Rock in AuSable Chasm.

This excerpt and the one by J.W. Harkness were written in 1913 for the Peru Grange and other stories by Sarah B. Hewitt; Helen Eells Fallon; Ezra J. Day. This booklet may be found in the Peru Library.

PERU'S FIRST NOVELIST

A few years ago Job Sherman was taking down an old chimney for the Jackson house near the south line of Peru when he discovered a brick which when made was marked with the date 1788. The end which bore the 1 and part of the 7 was broken off but enough of the 7 remained to show what figure it was and the 88 was perfect and distinct. This shows that the house was built 109 years ago, for in those days bricks were in good demand to have been kept so long before they were used, and it's age was approximately known by the fact that the first settler in the Union, came (Edward Everett) in the summer of 1786 and that Daniel Jackson, Jun., Peru's first, if not only novelist, was born in this house May 31, 1790. The old house is now a heap of ruins and has not been occupied for 15 years, but it was in it's day a very comfortable dwelling and deserves to be remembered as the house of the author of "Alonzo and Melissa" and the place where a large part of it, if not the whole of that remarkable story was written .

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about that story is the fact that it was written ten by a young Quaker school master and published when the author was only 21 years old, for it was ~~published~~ printed in Plattsburgh in 1811, the year the Plattsburgh Republican saw the light. Indeed it was thought by some that the novel was a piece of job printing done in the office of the Republican, but if it can be proven either by the office files of the paper or in any other way, I am not aware of the fact.

The parents of Daniel Jackson, Jun., were Daniel, the builder of the house and his wife was a Mary Green from Dutchess County. The Jacksons had lived on Long Island before Daniel and his family came to Peru. Whether they were originally Quakers or joined the Society after they came to the Peru Monthly Meeting on the 1st of 1st month, 1801, he was chosen as one of the committee of six members "to think on Some Plan and Bigness of the (Meeting house), estimate the cost, then report the same to next monthly meeting". As Daniel, Jun., was then 10 years old, it is very possible that he was born a Quaker and brought up like other Quaker children, "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord".

He began teaching school at the age of 17½ years and continued in that business till he was 42. When he was about 20 he taught in the Plattsburgh Academy and it is said that while thus engaged he heard a story about the troubles and trials of some young lovers upon which he founded his novel, "Alonzo and Melissa".

It would be interesting to know what novels this young Quaker had read which pleased him so much as to cause him to become a novelist. It is certain that neither Walter Scott nor Charles Dickens nor even Fenimore Cooper had begun to write novels at that time, so he did not model his work after theirs and it is evident to all who have read "Alonzo and Melissa" that neither of these great writers of fiction took his work as a model.

PERU'S FIRST NOVELIST(cont.)

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

And yet with all it's faults, his book was a popular one in it's day and generation and even the story will prove interesting to all who see fit to read it. Indeed, it was considered so remarkable at the time of it's publication that some of his towns-people doubted that Jackson was the author. It was believed that he must have copied the story from a newspaper but those who thought so did not seem to consider that even if that were the case someone must have written it and thart a young teacher like Jackson was a likely to be capable of it as some other was.

It must have cost him considerable sum to get published for it made a book of 128 pages. It was aft erward reprinted in a volume of 253 pages, the last four of which were devoted to a poem by another author. When and where this edition was published, I am unable to say, as the copy which lies before me has lost it's title page. There may have been other editions but the fact that there were two editions proved that the first was not such a failure as some books prove to be. The author probably did not realize a large sum from it's sale for we have no knowledqe that he ever wrote another novel. He was married in 1815, four years after the publication of his book, to a lady named Mary Hyde. He settled upon Grand Isle and there passed the remainder of his life, an honored and respected citizen.

J.W. HARKNESS

Written 1897, according to dates given in the story.

From Edith Arnold Scrapbook
Clinton County Historical ~~Rooms~~ Rooms.

MAPLE LODGE (AUSABLE CHASM) ABOUT 1898 OR 1899

We noticed in the Historical Department of the last REPUBLICAN an article written by J.W. Harkness in regard to the old Jackson Homestead and the first novelist, Daniel Jackson, Jr. We never, at our present knowledge knew who wrote "Alonzo and Melissa." We were born at the old homestead fifty-five years ago, and our earliest recollections there were a number of copies of the book in the family, and a copy of "Jane Eyre." I remember hearing the girls, my mother's younger sisters reading them evenings. They would shed tears over the misfortunes of the characters. The circumstances made a great impression upon us at the time.

Sometime before Daniel Jackson left the old place, there was a nail factory there, perhaps the first in the country. I think there were 10 to 20 men employed at a time. Of course, it was before our time, but we knew of its existence. Our grandfather, James Jackson, used the building for the manufacture of wrought nails, in our time, for a corncrib and granary. When we were children, playing hide-and-go-seek, we got behind a barrel in the granary that was nearly full of those wrought nails. It is our impression that Daniel Jackson, Jr. had something to do with their manufacture.

Daniel Jackson, Sr. died while hoeing corn in the lot just west of the house.

Perhaps there are some people still living that can throw some light upon the nail factory. Daniel Jackson, Jr. has some grandsons living in Grand Isle, Vt.

From Horace Ackley Scrapbook

THE JACKSON FAMILY

Daniel Jackson, an Irish Quaker came from Long Island to Old Peru about 1790. He is listed on the 1796 Assessment Roll, "Daniel Jackson, 22 acres on a public road joining Peter White, one log house, \$35, one log barn 36 x 26, \$855." That farm was located at the west end of the Brown Road and connected with the road "to Peter Hallock's." Mr. Harkness called it the "Hallock Road" to Peru. It is now called the River Road. The little bridge that spanned the Little Ausable River, at that point was known and still is as the "Jackson Bridge." Daniel Jackson and his wife are buried in the Quaker Burying Ground.

Daniel Jackson had five children: three sons and two daughters. James became the founder of Port Jackson, now called Valcour. Their land was owned for many years by the Sibley family, but is now owned by the Valcour Educational Conference Center, a unit of the State University College. He married Elizabeth Hallock, daughter of Mary Keese and Peter Hallock. Mary was the daughter of Richard Keese L. They had three children; George Hallock Jackson, the father of William Henry Jackson, born April 4, 1843 in the Town of Peru. He became the famous photographer of the West. He wrote, "Time Exposure", his autobiography. His son Clarence S. Jackson wrote, "Picture Maker of the Old West", which contains 305 photographs, sketches, and paintings, also the details of his father's life.

Daniel, Jr., a brother of James was born May 31, 1790, in the log house. It is this Daniel, Jr., whose novel, "Alonzo and Melissa" that has caused so much controversy as to who wrote it first. Daniel, Jr., that wrote the story in one volume in early 1811 was a teacher in the Plattsburgh Academy. While teaching in Plattsburgh, he became acquainted with two army officers who gave him the points of the story and asked him to write it and have it published in a book. The elder of officer said he was a cousin of "Melissa", and knew the facts he gave. So "Alonzo and Melissa", was written and printed by Reynolds of the Plattsburgh Republican in the spring of 1811. A book of that same name, in two volumes, was written by Isaac Mitchell of Poughkeepsie and was printed in October, 1811. So! Who was the "Pirate"? (See York State Tradition—Spring 1966.) This contains the comment by J. W. Harkness, Plattsburgh Republican, Dec., 1897. "It (the story), was considered so remarkable at the time of its publication that some of its townspeople doubted that Jackson was the author. It was believed that he must have copied it from a newspaper". 'A man is always without honor in his own country'.

The third son, Israel, born in Old Peru, 1796, is the one whose descendants still live in Plattsburgh, N.Y. Israel married Kaster Allen. They had eleven children. Melvin Jackson, born 1821 married Hester Ann Rogers Sheldon. We are the descendants of Melvin and Hester, the parents Alice Gertrude Jackson. She married Luther Hagar. Their children are William Jackson Hagar (deceased), Albert Addoms Hagar, Benjamin Sheldon Hagar and myself, Alice Elizabeth Hagar Ladue. My children are Dr. Wm. L. Ladue, Robert H. Ladue, surveyor, John Sheldon Ladue and Ruth A. Ladue. We are the direct descendants of Daniel Jackson L who came to Old Peru in 1787 and settled at what has always been known as "Jackson Bridge".

Alice Elizabeth Hagar Ladue

Note: A settler had to remain on the land two years before a deed was issued. That may account for the difference in dates.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY PIONEERS

Sketches of Famous Personages from
The Plattsburgh Sentinel - 1891

Daniel Jackson, Author of "Alonzo and Melissa"

The following facts have been presented by the daughter of Mr. Jackson:

She says, "Father's ancestors, on the paternal side, were from Long Island and were farmers or gardeners. His great grandfather was captain of a trading vessel between New York and the African coast. My grandfather Daniel Jackson was born on the 22nd of the 4th month, 1757 and died the 31st day of the 5th month, 1820. Grandmother, born Mary Green, came from Dutchess County. Her birth occurred the 14th of the 6th month, 1759, and her death the 1st of the 6th month, 1839. Their children were Betty, who married a Mr. Mosher, Mary, married to Bostwick Buck, brother of Ephraim Buck of Plattsburgh, Daniel, of Grand Isle, Vt., James Jackson of Peru, and the late Israel Jackson of Cumberland Head.

Father was born in Peru, N. Y., May 31, 1870. He was a frail child but early showed a fondness for books beyond his years. He was given all the advantages of the times. He taught school when very young and I have heard him say that his first teaching was the winter before he was eighteen. He made that his principal business until 1832. While he was teaching in Plattsburgh Academy he became acquainted with two officers stationed at Plattsburgh who were from Connecticut. They told him about Alonzo and Melissa, gave him the points of the story and wished him to write it out and have it published in a book. The elder officer of the two said he was a cousin of Melissa and knew the facts he gave. This was the way he came to write the story.

Sept. 27th, 1815, my father married Mary Hyde, daughter of Jedediah Hyde, Esq. He had two children, Dr. N.H.W. Jackson who died in 1889 and Julia A.E. Jackson who married Charles Watkins of Brookfield, Mass., and who now resides in Worcester the same state.

Father taught in the town of Junius, N.Y., but in a little over a year went back to Grand Isle and settled on the farm given mother by her father and both spent there the remainder of their days, he taking care of the farm summers and teaching during the winters. He was made deputy postmaster in 1835, holding the office until 1840. He was justice of the peace, overseer of the poor, and held other positions of honor and trust. He lived the religion he professed and was generous to all, "a most worthy record."

Written by J.W. Harkness in 1931 -- Annotations by Georgia Harkness 1966

Daniel Harkness the son of Adam Harkness, Jr. who was the son of Adam Harkness who was moved from Glasgow, Scotland to northern Ireland with the other members of the family of his father, John Harkness and had emigrated to America with his brother James about twenty years later. (2) James went to the West Indies and is not known to have ever returned but Adam married and settled in Smithfield, Rhode Island, where Adam, Jr. and at least two brothers, Nathan and Samuel were born. Adam, Jr. bought a farm in Adams, Berkshire Co., Mass. and there raise a large family of which two sons, David and Daniel and two daughters, Thankful and Deborah came to live in old Peru. (3) Daniel bought in 1801 when 24 years old a fifty-acre farm of Stephen Starks, lying east and adjoining the farm owned by his brother David which has since been owned by the descendants of Eleazer Arnold. (4) Thankful married William Kirby and Deborah became the second wife of Stephen Keese. (5)

1. My great-grandfather, who bought the Harkness farm in 1801 and build present Harkness homestead about 1820.
2. Apparently a numerous Harkness progeny was left in Ireland, for in Belfast, a few years ago, I found 33 Harknesses listed in the telephone book.
3. For many years I had in my possession the large wooden chest with an enormous iron key in which Daniel Harkness brought his possessions from Adams, Mass. On leaving Evanston in 1950, I gave it to my niece, Marguerite Harkness (Mrs. John Overholt) who still has it in her summer home in the town of Chesterfield, Essex Co. (Old John Macomber farm, see "Old Willsborough Road" by J.W. Harkness)
4. The big stone house erected on the David Harkness farm is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Arnold and sister, Miss Grace Arnold.
5. Adams Harkness, Jr. had at least two other sons, Thomas and Adam III. I have in my possession an urgent letter from Adam Harkness in Adams, Mass., dated Dec. 12, 1826, telling him of the death of our "Dear Brother Thomas," on Nov. 19 and urging him to come and help settle the estate both of Thomas and their father, of whose estate he had not yet taken inventory.

They were all Quakers till Daniel married in 1802 Abigail Cochran, who with her brother David had come from Pembroke, N.H. and lived on what has since been the Hoag farm now owned by Peter Martin. (1) The Cochrans were not Quakers and Daniel and Abigail were married by a magistrate and for that reason he was disowned by the Quaker Society, so their children were not "birth-right Quakers."

Nehemiah Harkness was born Nov. 3rd, 1803 in the log house that stood near the northeastern corner of the 50 acre farm that his father had bought. (2) He helped to build the house in which his descendants still live which was built about 1820. His schooling consisted of three months at Union Academy (3) to which he went on foot and across lots, the distance by road being over three miles and the way he went was about two and one-half.

In the Spring of 1825, when he was only 21½ years old he and Samuel Osborn, a neighbor, bought of John Clapp of New York City the west half of Lot No. 12 of Platt's 12,000 acre Location (See Atlas of Clinton County dated 1869) supposed to contain 250 acres, more or less, and the entire cost

\$562.50. They paid \$100 down and the rest in just two years. Osborn lived in a small house on the land while they were getting off the timber. (1 see next set of notes)

1. This refers to the Fliny Hoag farm on the south side of the Hallock Hill road, not the Elihu Hoag place on the north side. Peter Martin lived there until his death recently, in 1966. The Cochrans were not Quakers and Abigail did not wish to submit to Quaker discipline. It is said that she shocked the neighbors by wearing a red coat. I have the dismission. (See Early Settlers of Hallock Hill--David and Daniel Harkness and David Hoag, by J.W. Harkness.)
2. There is no record of what became of this. It was apparently not the same log house in which Nehemiah and Deborah Harkness lived in after marriage in 1832 and which is still standing, clapboarded over, west of the road and a little north of the woods. That would have been at the southeast corner of the plot. This house was probably erected by Lodema Parker from whom Stephen Starks bought the 50 acre lot that he sold to Daniel Harkness. The house was assessed at \$20 and the farm at \$329. Nehemiah Harkness was born in this house.
3. This two-story Academy building, with two teachers for the boys and girls separately, was cut down to a story and a half and moved by John Osborn to Hallock Hill in 1836 to become the house occupied by Frank Felio in 1931 and now by Mrs. Harold Perlee.

Samuel Osborn afterwards sold his half of the land to Arden Barker of Peru, who sold it to Nehemiah Harkness in October 1839 for \$345. Nehemiah Harkness later sold the woodlots to John Osborn (32½ acres), David Osborn (25 acres), Elihu Hoag (10 acres), and Omas Owen (30 acres who lived by the Cold Spring. (2) David Osborn sold out to Elihu Hoag and went to Ohio about 1858.

Daniel Harkness had bought of his brother David 20 acres lying west of the south part of his original fifty (3) and in 1828 he sold the 70 acres to his son Nehemiah for \$1200.

Before Osborn and Harkness bought the west half of Lot No. 12 about 57½ acres of it had been sold for taxes so their purchase only amounted to 192½ acres, of which after selling the four wood lots amounting to 87½ acres Harkness had 105 left, so with the 70 bought of his father he had about 175 acres. With another neighbor Edward Southwick, he for a time owned and ran a saw-mill, in west Peru on the brook which crosses the road between Sidney Felio and Fred Thew. Northeast of the road on the south side of the brook. (4)

1. This house was on what is known in the Harkness family as the East Pasture, on a rise of ground to which a driveway led which in 1931 was still visible. (This road led from the Thew Farms (Demose Martin) to the Harkness-Clintonville Road, when the Rural Free Delivery route was established James Felio carried mail over this road.) The house has long since disappeared, and was not there in my childhood for I picked blue berries all over that area.
2. Almost all of the Harkness farm is on the west side of the road which

runs south from the Hallock Hill to the AuSable River Road. This explains the existence of the East Pasture and whatever woodlot still adjoins it.

3. I have in my possess the original copy of a note from Daniel Harkness to his father Adan Harkness in Mass. promising to pay him on demand with interest \$209. It is dated February 5, 1807 (ye 5 of 2 mo.) and may be related to the purchase of his twenty acres from his brother David. Or Stephen Starks pressing him to finish paying for the original fifty? Anyway, he needed money?
4. A brook always known in my childhood as the Southwick brook crosses the Hallock Hill road west of the old stone school house, now a dwelling. It was apparently the same Southwick but a different brook. (Caleb)

(Hallock Hill, according to writings by Mrs. Harkness and others, has two school houses. The first one, no doubt, early 1800 as indicated on the Map of the Union Village is the one meant. As near as can be ascertained it was located between the present farms of John McCormick (Isaac Hallock) and the late Peter Martin farm (Pliny Hoag) on the side of the road. The second school, now a dwelling, where Georgia Harkness says she obtained her early education, was probably built early in 1835 1840. On Arthur Road, on the late Bertha Anson property a brick school house is mentioned, Dist No. 7, 1835. We believe that the stone school house on the Quaker Cemetery lot and the stone one on Hallock Hill may have all been built at the same decade. An old notebook, Grace Arnold has in her possession, the first entry of the names of scholars (as they were then termed) is 1856. Among those early pupils were J. Warren Harkness, George Arnold, Osborns, and Hoags. Notes by Grace E. Arnold and Eleanor A. Spaulding)

Southwick and Harkness also made the dug-way road from the present Baxter farm to Calvin Cook's place and iron works known as Cooksocky, the road having passed over the hill where the electric light and power line now is.

Nehemiah Harkness was also a member of the N.Y. State militia and was commissioned Captain in 1831, as Major in March 1837 and Lieutenant Colonel in October of that same year. Later in the fall or winter of 1837 the Peru Militia under command of Lieu. Col. Harkness was ordered to guard the line at Champlain to prevent the Canadian patriots from marching into the U.S. At the end of eight days, the rebellion having been subdued Lt. Col. Harkness and his men came home and that ended his military service. There was no actual fighting because the Canadians did not cross the border.

Harkness was also a land surveyor and in 1846 he was employed by Peter Hasbrouck of N.J. to survey 7912 acres of land in the town of Brighton, or then Duane, in Franklin Co. and divide the same into lots of 100 acres each. After that survey was made Hasbrouck had not paid the State and relinquished his claim and Harkness bought the land of the State and received Letters Patent of said land. He built a barn for his nephew Daniel Harkness on the lots since owned by A.C. McCollum's, where Clarence McArthur afterward built and ran a hotel, called McCollum's. Harkness also sold lots to various people in that tract and after his death his heirs sold the lots that were left to McArthur.

When the Whitehall and Plattsburgh R R Co. was organized Col. N. Harkness, as he was called, used his influence to have the road located in the

valley of the Little AuSable. He was employed to oversee the grading of about three miles and worked so hard at clearing the right of way that he suffered a sunstroke in the summer of 1838 and died on Jan. 1870. The little community of Harkness still bears his name. (See stories of Harkness and the Harkness Terminal)

On January 9, 1834 Nehemiah Harkness married Deborah, oldest daughter of David Allen Everett who was the youngest son of Captain Edward Everett of the Revolution. That Capt. Edward was the son of an Edward, who was the son of Deacon John, who was the son of Captain John, the son of Richard Everett who emigrated from England to America about the year 1635. Capt. Edward moved from N.H. to Peru in 1786 and his son David Allen was born in Vermont when the family was on the way to Peru. (1)

Nehemiah and Deborah Harkness began housekeeping in the log house that was built near the southeast corner of Daniel Harkness original 50 acre farm and had been occupied by Daniel's daughter Ann Robinson. That house still stands but for 98 years, or since 1833, the logs have been covered with clapboards and very few people now know that it is a log house. (2) They lived there 14 years and five of their children were born there, two sons, Allen and Milton and a daughter Harriet, dying in childhood before the daughters Phoebe and Miranda, (3) were born.

1. Capt. Edward Everett and his family were the first settlers of what is now the town of AuSable, and his story is told in considerable detail in the article by Miss Bertha Bentley (later Mrs. T.A. Rogers) entitled "The First Settler of AuSable" in the multigraphed volume. Mrs. Rogers was the granddaughter of Nehemiah Harkness and Deborah Harkness and thus the great-great-granddaughter of Capt. Edward Everett.
2. I find this note in my writing attached to the manuscript, "The house still has a fireplace (boarded over) between kitchen and sitting room, next to the cellar stairs in the passageway, facing into the sitting-room. Between the fireplace and the passage way was a Dutch oven, for baking bread, etc., in a cavity heated by coals. This is probably still there, boarded over. A little cupboard in the passage way is over what was the Dutch oven. The bread was shoveled out with a long-handled shovel still owned by J.W.H. (This house is now owned by Philip Pulsifer.)

This house was formerly owned by my brother, Charles Harkness though used as a tenant house by Alfred Perkett, sold to my brother Everett Harkness as a summer home, and after his death it was sold to the Pulsifers, who now have remodeled it.

3. Phoebe married Henry Jacobs of Willsboro and was the mother of Mrs. Miriam Murray, now living at the Vilas Home in Plattsburgh. Miranda married George Bentley of Peru and was the mother of Mrs. Bertha Rogers and Miss Anna Bentley of Plattsburgh and Warren Harkness of Miami, Fla., all now deceased.

In the spring of 1848, after Abigail, wife of Daniel Harkness died that their son Nehemiah and his family moved to the house where the Harkness family have since lived. It was there that their son, Warren was born September 25, 1848. (1) Deborah Harkness died Dec. 24, 1898 at the age of 87 years and 5 months.

1. J. Warren Harkness died in this same house April 1, 1937, at the age of 88 and a half years. His son Charles lived there all his life, 71 years, dying in November 1955. His son Ernest and wife, Mable still live there, and Georgia Harkness, though living in California, still regard it as home. (2)
2. This is the end of my father's manuscript, but some other items in my writing are given which he must have told me. The part of the house from the middle of the present dining room east was built about 1820 and was occupied by Daniel Harkness until his death in 1859, living here with Nehemiah and Deborah after his wife's death in 1848. The rest of the present house was a woodshed and a well house, extending from what is now the northeast corner of the house past the well (which has continued to supply water to the present and has never been dry.) It was a separate structure with a path between it and the main house. About 1851 it was moved west and south, and was joined to the west-end of what was then Daniel Harkness's bedroom. (the east end of the present dining room) J.W.H. remembers being taken by his mother when he was about three years old to look at the bare sleepers. The well house became the west end of the present dining room, pantry and kitchen. The kitchen previously had been where the present sitting room is, with a small porch with columns on the east side being the main entrance. Two small bedrooms (made into one after my father's death in 1937) were built on later.

When the house was built in 1820, it was expected that the road would pass along the south side, this is why the stairs located in the middle of the house, with a small room (now a closet but formerly the parlor bedroom) intended to be the hallway opening to the south.

A land ran north from the house to the main Hallock Hill road until 1827 when it was made a public road. In 1828, it was extended to the south. Both the Thews to the east and the Harknesses wanted the road to go south by their places, but the Commissioners consented to have it go by the Harkness place if they would give the land. So they gave a strip two yards wide, which remained the roadway until it was widened in recent years.

When the owners on the east side threatened to cut down the big pine next to the road, Nehemiah Harkness said it did not belong to them because it stood on the line of what the Harknesses had given for the road. He drove spikes around the stump to prevent their cutting it, and this preserved its life for another 75 years. (There is a small clipping in a scrapbook owned by Grace Arnold which reads as follows: "1901—Hemlock 90 ft. high from which 6, 13 ft. long logs were cut. Tree felled on the Harkness land." However, this is not the tree to which Georgia refers. Another giant tree, a white pine that stood about the house, south on the east side of the road was cut in 1903. Its branches spread over the road. It was cut when the road was widened.) This pine, symbolizing my father's life is the dedication poem in my little volume of poems and prayers, entitled "The Glory of God."

It seems fitting and proper to insert that poem at this point.

THE GLORY OF GOD

TO THE MEMORY OF
MY FATHER

A giant pine, magnificent and old,
Stood staunch against the sky and all around
Shed beauty, grace, and power. Within its fold
Birds safely reared their young. The velvet ground
Beneath was gentle, and the cooling shade
Gave cheer to passersby, its towering arms
A landmark stood, erect and unafraid,
As if to say, "Fear naught from life's alarms."

It fell one day. Where it had dauntless stood
Was loneliness and void. But men who passed
Paid tribute—said, "To know this life was good.
It left its mark on me. Its work stands fast."
And so it lives. Such life no bonds can hold—
This giant pine, magnificent and old.

The above poem was written in 1936.

The Harkness Family of Hallock Hill—Annotations by Georgia Harkness Page 6

These are not the only Harkness houses. What used to be known as the Asenth Allen House, at Harkness on the road toward Clintonville, a little beyond the present store owned by the James Felio but on the other side of the road, was first built by the Harkness place, by the gap leading to the west pasture, south of the Big Rock, which was a landmark until the road work of recent years demolished it. It was owned by Nehemiah Harkness and used as a tenent house. Then it was moved down just north of the present Harkness garage and used by Lewis and Maryanne LaFountain, Mary being the daughter of Anna Robinson, Nehemiah's sister. After they moved to the Casper Banker place in Harkness, (that house though not the store, having been built by N. Harkness though at one time owned quite a large lot there extending past the river) the house was again used as a tenant house. In close proximity to the big house, the children were so troublesome that N. Harkness moved it south again and set it west of the big pine tree. Here it was occupied in J.W.H.'s childhood by Joe Strong and Harrison Carpenter (father Will and George), who worked for Nehemiah, and he used to play with their children there. Then N. Harkness sold it to Alfred Barber who moved it to the Aseneth Allen place. It was moved twice on the Harkness place without being taken down, but was taken down to be moved to Harkness. I am quite sure that this house is still standing, though I do not know by whom it is occupied. (It burned a few years ago.) The Casper Baker place (Post Master at Harkness for many years and kept a store) long occupied by the mail carrier James Felio, who also kept the store there after "Cap" Baker gave it up, is also standing.

The present Harkness horse barn was first built a little south of the present Pulsifer barn, covering the land occupied by that and some more, and was moved down to its present location after 1848 with being taken down. This was when J.W.H. was a baby, shortly after his parents moved from the small house to the big one.

The tract of land around the former Baker-Felio store and Harkness P.O. above referred to, extended east to the road that leads to Clintonville, west to past the river, south to past the Aseneth Allen Place, and north to the west side of the Will Calkins place. Nehemiah Harkness sold it to Lewis LaFountain, who sold it to Isaac Roberts, who sold it to Casper Baker. Apparently there were then no houses on it except the one the LaFountains occupied.

(The Cold Spring referred to on Page 2 is still in existence and is just above the Pulsifer house, on the edge of the woods and water is frequently gotten from that spring, still on Harkness property.)

The following are items about other houses and farms on Hallock Hill.

Ebenezer Starks originally owned the Arnold place and lived in a log house assessed at \$5. Ebenezer Starks sold it to David Harkness, who lived there while Daniel Harkness lived in what has since been the Harkness place. David Harkness was quite an eminent Quaker preacher. With his family of ten children he moved to Michigan, leaving no descendants around Hallock Hill or the Union area. David Harkness sold the house and farm to Eleazer Arnold, who was the father of George Arnold, who was the father of Bio, who was the father of Frank, Earl, Grace, David, Dora Ruth and Ray—all now living except David who died in 1963.

The Harkness Family of Hallock Hill Annotations by Georgia Harkness Page 7

Eleazer Arnold lived there in the big store house until his son, George was married. He then went over to the corner where his son, Harrison lived on the Edward Hallock place. (This place has now for some years been occupied by Roger and Irene Martin Bezio who removed part of the large house, because it was falling into disrepair. They bought the place from Eleazer, son of Harrison Arnold.)

Edward Hallock had bought the Harrison Arnold place from one of the Rogers, after buying a farm further west of the corner from Robert Whitcomb and finding it too small to satisfy his ambitions. He made so much money during the war of 1812 that he wanted to build a house on a grand scale, went in debt, lost it because he could not meet the mortgage payments and went insane. He had bought the Robert Whitcomb (Now John McCormick) place and the debt on both the farm and the house was too much for him. For a while, after he lost his farm to Richard Burling of Burlington, Vt., he lived in the small house a little north of the corner (in 1931 occupied by Henry Macomber) but he died in a mental hospital at Brattleboro, Vt. in 1845.

Edward Hallock's brother Isaac had been originally in partnership with Edward, and took as his share of the settlement the Whitcomb farm. He built a substantial frame house up the Lane from the Main Road, still in use and owned by John McCormick. He married Phebe Underhill of the Union, and they had a son David who inherited the farm. David Hallock was the father of Libbie Macomber the mother of Maude, Cora and Dorthy, and in my childhood the Macomber family occupied this house (See the article "The Hallocks of Hallock Hill" for more details.)

HARKNESS "TERMINAL"

Nearly Ready for Use
Station
Under Construction by Delaware and Hudson Co.
Set Out By Eye Witness

Published in Star Republican, Friday, Feb. 12, 1912

I am asked to give a description of the New Depot at Harkness. It is not very large or remarkably handsome, but is so much handsomer than any other building the D & H Co. has ever built on the Ausable Branch that we feel quite proud of it. Its length is one foot less than twice its width and height to the eaves is about one foot more than one-third of its length. The distance around it is one foot more than three times its length and the sum of those four dimensions is about 103 ft.

But the most important question is not how long or how wide it is but how many it will hold. But people are different in size don't-you-know, and much depends on the way they are packed don't cher no? So the true way to give its capacity is in bushels, but the size of a bushel is also in dispute in this locality.

If anyone who is interested fails to understand from the above figures just how large the station is, let him ask some school boy or girl to figure it out by differential calculus or any other old rules. It is safe to say it will hold thousands of people but not all at the same time.

Its style of architecture is distantly Japanese, but whether it most resembles a pagoda or kiosk, or a jinrikisha, we will not attempt to say.

Its roof has considerable pitch, perhaps not so much as a pine knot or a tuning fork but more than is needed in pitching a tent or fighting a pitched battle. The rafters have about as much curve as the tines of a pitch fork or a pitched baseball, but not so much as the handle of a pitcher.

Roof and sides are all covered with the best quality redwood shingles from the Pacific Coast. Some what far fetched to be sure, but well seasoned as they need to be for this season especially. It is said that they are to colored green a very appropriate color, so if you see anything green about Harkness you can recognize it, at a glance. The platform is truly Democratic, neither too large nor too short, but broad enough for all practical purposes so that anyone can stand upon it without distinction "of race, color or previous condition of servitude."

The interior of the building is divided by a partition into two rooms, one for passengers and the other for freight. If you want to visit the office or see the agent you have to go about fifty rods to the north-west, not a very convenient arrangement, but capable of great improvement. The heating apparatus is not yet installed but we expect it will be entirely up to date. If at some seasons it is a little too cool for comfort, at others it will be much too warm and general average will be about right. The building is completely surrounded by telegraph, telephone and electric light power lines so there should be no difficulty in obtaining all the light, heat, power and communication needed.

No one should accuse the writer of making light of a serious subject.

Harkness Terminal

We are deeply grateful to the General Manager of the D & H system for ordering the construction of this long needed building. The fear that it may be placed upon castors and moved to some other locality is entirely unwarranted. A station that has been established over 44 years and now furnishes \$18,000 worth of freight and passenger business for the railroad annually is of too much importance to be abolished even if other stations have to be established.

Anon.

From the Grace B. Arnold Scrapbook

HARKNESS STATION AND NAME

In making up a list of places of growing importance in Clinton County, Harkness should in no way be lost sight of. Harkness is a station on the Ausable Forks branch of the D & H system of railroads between Peru and AuSable Forks.

First as to the name. This was formerly the Whitehall and Plattsburgh Railroad and when that road was begun to be built in 1867, Nehemiah Harkness, the father of J.W. Harkness, who owned and occupied the old Harkness farm near here, on which he was born, and had always lived, took a job of grading four miles of that railroad near his home and he asked the railroad to establish a Plank Station here which was accordingly done, and named Harkness Station after Mr. Harkness. Daniel Harkness the father of Nehemiah came with his brother David to these parts in 1800 or 1801, from North Adams, Mass., where their father Adam Harkness, a Quaker lived.

Harkness is located in the town of AuSable, a mile south of the Peru line, five miles north westerly from Keeseville, five miles south westerly from Peru, five miles north from Clintonville and about nine miles north easterly from AuSable Forks. Harkness Station is only forty rods from the little Ausable River, and two miles above the old Quaker hamlet at the Union, the last vestige of which disappeared two years ago when the remaining church of the Quakers (for even these peaceable people seemed to have had their little differences and were unable to worship together) was sold for a dwelling house. Harkness post office is five miles from any other, and accommodates about one hundred families. A prosperous farming community, which until very recently (1903) was obliged to go to Peru, Keeseville or Clintonville for their mail and to do their business.

A year ago, a cream separator was built here by W. Reynolds of Whallonsburgh and operations were begun on the 8th of May, 1900. Thirty farmers sold their milk here during last season, the amount taken in per day in June being about 5200 lbs. This quantity will probably be considerably increased during the coming season. Last winter Sherman and Allen (Job Sherman of Peru, and S.S. Allen, Esq. of Plattsburgh, legal firm of Botsford, Merrihew and Allen) built a steam sawmill here to cut the timber blown down in the great hurricane of last fall. This mill, which was begun on the 24th of last December and started up in March has a 4-foot circular saw, with a smaller saw running above it, and a heading machine is also attached. This machinery is driven by steam from a 100-horse power boiler and a 70-horse power engine and has a capacity 10,000 feet per day of ten hours; but the mill now runs twenty hours per day. About twenty men are employed, which will be increased as soon as the heading factory gets to running. The head sawyers are James Annis and S.G. O'Neil and G.S. Carpenter of Harkness and Benjamin all of Plattsburgh are engineers, and "Capt" Job Sherman has general oversight. About 4,000 standards or 16,000 logs will be cut here this year, the timber being mostly pine, spruce, hemlock, oak and maple. These logs are some of them, hauled seven miles.

One of the pressing needs of Harkness is a railroad station building. When the Whitehall & Plattsburgh Railroad was built, the neighbors clubbed together and erected a small building for this purpose which in time fell into such a state of decay that the D & H authorities, a year or two ago ordered its removal and since then there has been no building there. Passengers are obliged the hospitable roof of the nearest neighbor, Mrs. Ricketson, for protection from cold and storm. During the month of January 80 passengers for the train took shelter there, and the month of February was fully as large. Farmers find it a great inconvenience also to have no shelter for their supplies which come by rail. Very recently \$70 worth of grass seed consigned to farmers of Harkness had to be sent to Peru by rail for the reason that there was no building here, and it had to be hauled five miles by team. The D & H Railroad authorities have, no doubt, simply overlooked this little matter, so small to them, but of so much importance to their patrons.

Formerly this region was in the midst of a stirring business. In the old times, three quarters of a century ago or more, the Ketsum (sic) iron blast furnace was in full blast a mile or so to the west (Elisha Allen, Robert Signor, now Mrs. Katherine Signor Thew) three miles away the great Etna furnace was in operation, and one of the richest as well as one of the oldest in the Champlain Valley. This business has gone by, probably for good, but the excellent soil remains and this should be sufficient for future growth and prosperity in the place.

J. W. Harkness

Published in the Star Republican
Plattsburgh, NY
Feb. 14, 1912

Notes: The first station built by members of the hamlet was located on the east side of the tracks near the plank platform which was built at the time the railroad was built.

The house where Mrs. Sarah Ricketson lived was directly across the highway on the east side of the tracks. The Harkness Terminal described by Mr. Harkness built by the Delaware and Hudson Co., was very near where the old station had been.

When passenger service was discontinued on this AuSable Forks Branch, the D&H Company carried the "Terminal" away.

Grace R. Arnold

Among the oldest deeds on record in the Clinton County Clerk's office is the one from Zephaniah Platt of Poughkeepsie, County of Dutchess to Gilbert and Garret Thew of Haverstraw, County of Orange; dated Sept. 5, 1786. For the sum of \$250, it gave them two lots in the town of Plattsburgh (located near the now Plattsburgh reservoir) then a part of the 3000 acres set apart to be sold cheaply to encourage settlers.

They were intelligent, respectable Dutchmen. Their brother, Daniel, was a member of Assembly from Orange County.

Three years later they sold their land in the town of Plattsburgh and on Oct. 19, 1790, Nathaniel Platt, brother of Zephaniah deeded to those brothers Gilbert and Garrett Thew for the sum of 10 shillings (\$1.25) 300 acres of land situated on both sides of the road extending from the now Peter Martin farm to the now Harkness Road. The fact that this land was given to them proves that they were the first settlers on the 12,000 location. This 12,000 location and many thousand of acres surrounding it, except to the north, constituted a vast unbroken wilderness which no white man except the surveyors had explored. Into this primeval forest moved the sturdy Dutchmen with their wives and children.

Through the middle of the lot ran a beautiful brook which was never dry, and on this brook the two brothers built their humble log dwellings. In later years, they erected two framed houses, one being made of stone and wood combined, which some of may remember as the home of Victor Martin and Wm. Carpenter, the former is still occupied by Demase Martin, the latter was destroyed by fire about 1947.

Three years before Capt. Edward Everett, ancestor of Earl, Margaret Stafford of the town of Peru, had located about two miles to the north east on land adjoining what is now the Keese homestead. The Everetts were the Thews nearest neighbors.

Garrett Thew was married twice. His first wife had twin daughters named Hannah and Rebecca. Hannah married John Osborn, Sr. and after his death, Edward Hallock, both pioneers. The second wife had four daughters and five sons, one of the sons being John S. Thew, grandfather of George and Stephen Thew, and great grandfather of Mrs. B. E. Holden and Ethel Clark and the late Fred Thew and others whom we may know. Betsy, one of the daughters married David Allen Everett, youngest son of Capt. Edward Everett. Anna married Bethuel Jones of Hillsborough.

Garrett besides being a farmer operated a sawmill and a tannery on the brook near his home. It is related that Mrs. Anne Keese (Richard I) great grandmother of R. Percy Keese sometimes came up through the woods from her home in the Union and brought on her back a quantity of sheep skins, from which she had pulled the wool and employed Mr. Thew to tan it.

The next to arrive were David and John Osborn, who came from near Boston, Mass. They bought from the Platts 200 acres on the north side of the road (which was later laid out), nearly the whole distance from the three corners to the east line of the present farm of Mrs. H. Perlee. David

built his house in what is the William McCormick east field, the site being marked by an old cellar into which stones have been thrown. Another house, presumed to be their second, was a frame one and has been moved to another part of the farm and used as a hay barn. It is believed that their first house was a log one and stood west and south of the frame one.

John Osborn married Hannah Thew and they built their frame house on the rise of ground farther west and it was converted to a horse barn by Elihu Hoag who purchased this property from John Osborn which is now owned and occupied by William McCormick.

It was in the clearing made in front of his house that David Osborn, in the summer of 1796 raised an unusual crop of wheat which yielded 40 bu. per acre, the fame of which spread at least as far as Ferrisburg, Vt. and caused Edward Hallock and his brother Isaac to sell their property in Vt. and come to this hill which since has born the name of Hallock Hill. They purchased the entire land from the top of the hill to the land owned by the Thews, 680 acres, to the west and by Capt. Edward Everett on the north. Later Edward Hallock built the largest frame house in this part of the country, the size of which astonished the natives. He and his brother had been successful in raising beef and pork and found an excellent market for the same during the War of 1812-14. However, there was a turn of the tide and in 1856, he sold his property to Eleazer Arnold I and spent the remainder of his days in a less potential home. The old home is now owned and occupied by Roger Bezio.

Isaac Hallock who had purchased the land adjoining the property of Edward, to the west built a substantial frame house, featuring narrow gables and commanding a view of the entire country side and beautiful Lake Champlain. This home was occupied by at least three generations and is the ancestral home of Mrs. Cora Stafford, Mrs. Maud O'Connor and Mrs. Dorothy Felio, his great grand-daughters.

Edward Hallock influenced his brother-in-law, David Hoag of Ferrisburgh, Vt. and others to sell their property and settle here, so the settlement of this community and the destiny of a great number of people depended upon the weather of that particular season and the richness of the soil which enabled that farmer to harvest an unusually large crop of wheat in 1796.

About 1824, Samuel Pansley purchased from the Osborns, land on the north side of the road where in 1840 he built the large brick house known as the Elihu Hoag (S.J. Gordon and now William McCormick) home.

John Osborn later purchased more adjoining land to the west, some of which he sold to his brother-in-law Caleb Southwick who operated a tannery on the brook which bears his name (runs into the little river near the Jackson Bridge) and who built a house just west of the stone school house. The house burned, the old cellar of which, many of us have searched for treasures, when we were pupils of Dist. No. 6, now the property of Clifton Felio.

John Osborn desiring to erect a dwelling on his newly acquired land purchased the Academy in the Union Village and built it into an attractive

one and one-half story house, For many years, it was occupied by his daughter and her husband, Joseph Allen. Later by Frank Felio, Francis Hogan and now owned by Mrs. Harold Perlee.

The Whitcombs purchased a few acres from the H allocks and built a log house on the west side of the lane leading to the main road (John McCormick) It is said he offered to sell out to H allock for a yoke of oxen but the deeds read "Fo r the sum of \$200. He later settle in West Peru, the exact location is unknown. He was a son-in-law of Capt. Everett as was David Cochran who once lived on a part of the David Hoag farm now the property of Peter Martin (deceased).

David Cochran was a Captain in the army and was very prominent in the activities in and around Plattsburgh in 1814 when it was invaded by the B ritish. He sold his farm to David Hoag and moved to Telegraph St. (Mary Ryder Mace farm),

At the time of the Wyoming Massacre by the Tories and Indians in 1778 there lived in that valley a family by the name of Baker who escaped death by the tomahawk by fleeing from their home and leaving all of their possessions except what could be carried on the backs of two horses and came on foot to Danby, Vt., a distance of about 200 miles. One of the sons, Reuben, then about 12 years of age grew up in Vermont. After his marriage he came to Peru about 1800 to Hallock Hill, boug ht a lot, built a log house just east of the north end of the H ar kness road. Four years later, he bought of Richard H allock, brother of Edward and Isaac, the home of Mrs. Wallace Baker, now Mr. & Mrs. George Goff.

N ext came David and Da iel Harkness from Massachusetts. Their father was Adam Harkness, a devote Quaker who became very much disturbed when his son married out of meeting.

David Harkness and his sister, Thankful came from Massachusetts on horse-back by way of Willsboro and crossed the AuSable River at a fordway about one mile south west of where the village of Keeseville is now located. (Some where in the vicinity of the Wm. Thompson farm. --Fordway Mt.)

David bought in 1797, 50 acres that Steph en Statks had deeded to Lodene Park er and other adjoining lots making about 500 acres. This David Harkness built the sand stone house in the early 1800's, exact date being 1804. He was a Quaker preacher and travelled extensively establishing Friend's Meetings. H owever, the climate of New York State did not agree with him so in 1834, he sold his farm to Eleazer Arnold (present Ray and Grace Arnold Farm) and moved to Michigan.

Thankful married William Kirby and settle in the district called West Peru, altho it is in the town of AuSable, at what is known as Kirby's Corners. They had as on named Adam for his grandfather. Thankful was the great grandmother of Ida Kirby Stafford (Leon) of whom Vera Calkins, Blanche Derby and Floyd Stafford are direct descendants.

About two years after the coming of David and Thankful, their brother, Daniel Harkness, grandfather of J.W. Harkness, followed them. He was a birthright Quaker but he married in 1802 Nabby Cochran, sister of Capt. David Cochran, and was read out of the Society of Friends. Daniel and

Nabby lived in the log house which Starks had built on the west side of the road in what was in later years the orchard. They lived there until 1820 when the present Harkness house began to be built. Daniel and Nabby had three sons named Nehemiah, born 1803, father of J.W. Harkness, William and Lovejoy. Lovejoy died in early childhood. Anna, their only daughter married David Robinson and moved Westward, Nehemiah married Deborah, the oldest daughter of David Allen Everett and lived in a log house near the south line of the farm which was later sold to Harvey Arnold who made many improvements and with his family occupied it until his death. The house has been remodeled and is now owned and occupied by Philip Pulsifer.

Deborah, another sister of David and Daniel came to Peru a few years later. She became the second wife of Stephen Keese. (Now Northern Orchard) His first wife was Ruth Hull and the mother of Stephen Keese Smith who lived on the farm now owned and occupied by Richard Stafford. This farm was once a station on the "Under Ground Railway." Mr. Smith maintained it at the risk of his life and the confiscation of his property. The old barns still stands under which is the "secret partition where Negroes were concealed."

When Adam Harkness came to visit his son, David, he offered to buy 100 acres, part of the now Clifton Felio farm and make his appraisement of it, but David answered that the 100 acres were covered with great overgrown forest and he did not care for it. Those virgin pines later proved to be of great value to the settlers who purchased that land. Many of the giant trees were felled together and driven via Lake Champlain and Hudson River to New York in the spring when the water was high, and used in ship building and the construction of the New York Water Front. Some of the bills of sale are still legible.

In 1867, when the AuSable branch of the D & H Railroad was built, Nehemiah Harkness, a surveyor and father of J.W. Harkness took the contract for grading four miles of the railroad bed near his home. He asked the R R company to establish a "plank Station" near where the Hallow Hill Road crossed the tracks. This was done and the station was called "Harkness Station," in consideration of Nehemiah Harkness. Mr. Harkness was an active promoter in selling and owning stocks in the branch road. Some years later in 1888, the Harkness Post Office was established which served about a hundred families. This Post Office could boast of having one of the first Rural Free Delivery mail routes in northern New York. This was largely due to the efforts of J. Warren Harkness. It continued until 1932.

The station and the post office have since been abandoned but the hallet sill bears the name of Harkness. It has become widely known in the last decade because of the daughter of J.W. Warren, Dr. Georgia Harkness. She is a prominent educator, lecturer, author of many text books on religion. She is an ordained minister of the Methodist Church.

It is from the records and writings of J.W. Harkness that we have been able to compile a large part of our local history.

About 1750, there lived in the County of Dutchess, New York, another Quaker farmer named Elijah Hoag. Like most farmers of that day, he knew how to do other work besides farming. 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 1789 or 1790 he moved to Ferrisburgh, Vt. with

his family, consisting of four sons, named, Joseph, David, Jonathan and Elihu and one daughter, Hannah. He is eldest son, Joseph became famous in 1803 for having a vision in which was revealed to him most of the great events which have taken place in our county, including the Civil War, the abolition of slavery and several events which have since come to pass. Joseph and his wife, Hulda were listed in the Ferrisburg Quarterly meeting as an eminent Quaker preacher. They travelled extensively in Canada and the United States, at least as far south as Virginia. Hulda Hoag held the first Friends meeting to be appointed on the west side of Lake Champlain at the Peru Union. It is recorded that after arriving at the Lake, about nine miles from her home in Monkton, Vt., with an infant in her arms, she, with a man and a 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 the Four Brothers Islands. (Many have had a similar experience since that day.) 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 by foot, arriving at the Union in Peru just in time to hold the meeting which had previously been appointed. Very soon after a Friends Meeting was set in that place, and subsequently a Monthly Meeting which was still being held in 1850 when this record was written. The date given on the State marker at the Quaker Burying Ground is 1789. The Baptists were holding religious meetings on the Lake shore in 1788, promoter Isaac Finch. However, the Quakers built the first meeting house in the Union about 1799. The Baptists did not build their first church until 1825 and that was in Keeseville.

Jonathan Hoag settled in Lincoln, Vt. and was the father of Elijah who came to old Peru about 1825. His son Richard lived in Keeseville and married Lucia Pope. Their home was the present home of Charles Smith.

David Hoag married Elizabeth Earle, sister of Persis Hallock and in company with his brother they went to Starksboro, Vt. There they operated a grist mill and saw mill which as later destroyed by fire. David was much discouraged when he received a letter from Edward Hallock, his brother-in-law. Edward advised him to sell out and come to Hallock Hill and buy a farm where the wheat went 40 bushels to the acre. This he did. He bought the Cochran farm and some adjoining lots which comprised the Hoag farm, now owned by Peter Martin (deceased 1966). They had seven daughters and four sons -- Pliny Earle who was born in 1802, the year his father bought the farm on Hallock Hill. Pliny spent his entire life on that farm. He married Eliza Ann Leggett of Chestertown, N.Y. The number of their children was eleven, the same as his father. The oldest daughter, Phebe married George Arnold.

Elihu Hoag, the youngest son of David Hoag was born five days after the battle of Plattsburgh. He married Ruth Leggett, sister of Pliny's wife. About 1851, he bought from the Osborns, two farms which he combined making one of the finest farms in the town of AuSable. Here he resided with his daughter, Ruth Anna (Mrs. H. E. Baker) until his passing at the age of 91. This property is now owned by Wm. McCormick.

About 1804, Thomas Miller and his wife Keziah came and settled on a farm of 62½ acres which lay on the northwest slope of Hallock Hill. Miller was a mill wright by trade and a good woman as some of the

buildings which he erected still testify. This land was first owned by David Harkness who in 1812 deeded it to Jeremiah Sherrill, who in 1817 deeded it to his daughter Kaziah Miller. The stone house on the brow of the hill was built by Thomas Miller with the help of his daughters. In 1822, he and his wife deeded the farm to Samuel and Cornelia Boorte, who cared for them during their declining years. Their other daughters were Phebe who married Emanuel Beardsley, Sally married Eleazer Arnold and Betsy married his brother Alvah Arnold, Maria married Edward Southwick. Samuel Boorne sold the Miller farm to Eleazer Arnold. Until recently it was the property of Clifton Felio estate. Last year it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Wild of New Jersey who have begun restoration of the old stone home. (1966)

Sometime between 1807 and 1810, a man by the name of Jacob Bowron bought 100 acres which the contented Daniel Harkness refused as a gift from his father because of those great "over grown pine trees" which covered it. Bowron's wife, known as "Aunt Molly" was English. When on the 11th of Sept. 1814, 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 rise over Cumberland Bay. Aunt Molly came up from her home, her hands raised as if imploring Divine aid and exclaiming in fervent tones, "Success to the British!" Mrs. Harkness, whose heart was as loyal as her brother Capt. Cochran who was fighting the red coats in the battle of Plattsburgh, never forgot how indignant she felt toward her Tory neighbor.

The Bowrons later moved to the Union and lived on the farm later owned by George Howard. (Now a part of the Robert Rulfs farm on the Frown Road) The farm of Jacob Bowron as bought by Eleazer and Baban Arnold and they harvested much of the overgrown pine forest and sold them for ship building.

When Edward Hallock decided to build the large house on the corner of Hallock Hill Road and Union Road, he needed a good carpenter so he promised Isaac Sanborn a house and 5 acres of land if he would do the woodwork. The agreement was made and the land measured off, the house built on the west side of the north slope of the hill, about where the Macomber house (later moved to the Walter Stafford farm. Once known as the LeRoy Signor home) stood. Everything was finished on Saturday, except for cleaning the shavings from the floor. On Sunday, Mrs. Sanborne and their children came to see their new home. The children gathered in their arms the shavings and put them into the great open fire place in the north room to burn. A spark flew from the fire and in an instant the house was on fire and their dream vanished before their eyes.

Early the next morning, Edward Hallock came with his men and teams and other neighbors turned out and the next Sunday morning another new house, all complete stood where the first one had burned. Thus was born in this neighborhood the outstanding Community Spirit which we trust will live on through the ages.

When Sanborn's son was married he built his home just south of his father's. It too burned when it was owned by Joseph Ricketson, whose neighbors helped him to rebuild. (Now owned by Donald Robare, Hallock Hill)

Lastly in my story come the Arnold brothers. The same boat that brought Peter Hallock, the ancestor of all the Hallocks in America in 1640, had

another passenger by the name of Isaac Arnold who is believed to be the ancestor of all the Arnolds in this country. Strange that these two men landing at Providence Rhode Island could find their descendants, one hundred and fifty years later, living as neighbors in the same community, many hundred miles distant. The Hallocks came via Vermont, while the Arnold came via New York.

Isaac Arnold was quite prominent in National Affairs. He was chosen a representative to the Jamaica Convention at Jamaica, Long Island in 1673 and either he or his son by the same name was elected the first judge of Suffolk County in 1693.

Early in the 18th century there lived in Berlin, Rensselaer County two brothers, Dyer and Daniel Arnold. Dyer came to Hallock Hill in 1810 and bought land between Millers and Bakers, near the foot of the hill. There on the Baker Brook he built and operated a tannery. This farm was the Nelson Quarters farm, now owned by Earl Witherwax. He later moved west of Peru to what has been known as the Dyer Arnold Corners.

In 1819, Eleazer, the oldest son of Daniel Arnold and Laban, who was younger left their father's farm in Rensselaer County and came on foot to Clinton County. As they came over from Taylor Hill to Hallock Hill, 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.

About five years later they purchased that much talked about farm with the overgrown pine forest and several adjoining lots, and later they built the stone house, now owned by Norman Felio, son of the late Clifton Felio. Here Laban lived many years, having married Katie Beardsley, daughter of one of the earliest settlers on the AuSable River near Clintonville. Two of his descendants were the late Edith Arnold Riggs and Albert Arnold. Their home as the present Philip Pulsifer house.

Eleazer married Sally, daughter of Thomas Miller and in 1835 purchased from David Barkness the farm on which he had built the first of the stone houses. 1800-1804. This house is known as the Arnold Homestead and his descendants still occupy the place. There are now there the fourth and fifth generations of the Arnold family. (Ray and Grace, 5th; Robert, 6th) April 1, 1856, Eleazer sold to his son, George, the farm and he purchased the Edward Hall Hallock farm where he lived (Harrison Arnold-Roger Bezio Farm) to the ripe old age of 91. He also bought the Miller farm afore mentioned. (Note: Linda the daughter of Ray Arnold is married and lives in Harkness) A number of his descendants still live in this vicinity.

A few years after Eleazer and Laban established their homes here, their two brothers Alvah and Ashley and sisters, Louise Polly and Sally Ann came and lastly their father Daniel Arnold sold his farm in Berlin and followed his children to Hallock Hill. He and his wife lived in the Southwick house when it burned, after which they lived with their son, Eleazer in the Edward Hallock House.

Alvah Arnold settled on Raylor Hill, near the brook, later known as the Samuel Evans Farm. He married Betsy Miller and raised a large family.

One of their daughters, Eliza married Peter Ricketson (Thomas Walsh farm, Joseph Allen). They were the immediate grand parents of Rolland Maders. His mother was Alice Ricketson. Mr. Maders is the present (1967-) president of the Quaker Union Society. Another daughter, Emily Arnold taught the school on the plains (See Arsenal story) for many years. The school house was near the rear of the Joseph Turner house on Hill St., in Keesville.

Ashley settled on the plains on the road which runs parallel to the Hallock Hill Road into Harkness. He built the large frame house near the brook. It is known as the James McCormick farm now owned by Henry Decker. The land for the cemetery across the brook was given by Ashley Arnold and is called the Arnold Cemetery. The first death in the community was a child of the Arnolds, hence the first need for a burying ground, other than the Quaker one, so they set apart a plot of land from their farm. The cemetery is now called the Harkness Cemetery. Many graves of pioneers of this area will be found there.

The first school district was probably No. 1 and located on the south side of the Hallock Hill Road mid-way between Edward Hallock and Elihu Hoag. It doubtless was used at least twenty or twenty-five years, but there is no record of pupils or teachers. In 1813, there is a record of a school district, "Beginning at Edward Hallocks thence west to where the road intersects that from Calkins." We believe this was district No. 2 and only preceded by the Union Academy.

The school districts were renumbered and Hallock Hill became No. 6, as early as 1853. This is taken from 1853 to 1864. A school term was ten weeks. It is surprising to note the large attendance in this school even though it was not compulsory. We have an old notebook that gives the dates and names of the pupils in that early school. The book shows as many as fifty pupils registered for some terms. We find the names of many of the children and grandchildren of the early settlers. The following are a few taken at random from the register:

Phebe C. Osborn	Wm. Baxter +	Hannah Arnold +
Dorcas Osborn	Sanford Hoag +	Maria Arnold
Loretta Osborn +	Silas Hoag +	Sally M. Arnold +
Wm. Jones	Anna E. Hoag +	Stutely Arnold
Henry Gains	Plinney Hoag	Henry Arnold
Nelson Dragoon	Phebe Harkness +	Charlotte Hudson
Chas. Dragoon	J. Warren Harkness *	Sarah Hudson
Chas. Miller	Martin Baker +	Henora Kenifick*
Frederick Ricketson*	Casper Baker +	John Kenifick*
Martha Ricketson*	Franklin Baker +	Hiram Day*
Betsy Reed	Elvira Baker +	John Taylor*
John Reed	An genett Baker +	Wm. Taylor*
Silvestor Reed	Roby Baker +	Susan Barker
Mary Hallock	Sophia Quarters	Mary Barker
Nettie Hallock	Francis Redmond	Jane Strong
Phebe Hallock	Elizabeth Redmond	Mariette Arnold +
Bion C. Arnold +		

+ Those we have known

*Families still living in this area.

We do not know the date of the stone school house but it is thought to be before 1853 and it is known that J.W. Harkness, H.Z. Baker, G.W. Annis, Leon Stafford, Grace Ricketson, Elizabeth Thew were among the teachers in the middle or late 1800's. 70.

So we have travelled from the top of Hallock Hill to the valley of the little AuSable River, gathering bits of local history which brings to mind something of the great heritage which is ours to enjoy in this wonderful part of the world in which we are privileged to live.

George Shaver whose name was sometimes spelled Shaffer was the first settler of Clintonville and the discoverer of, in the year 1800 of the first iron ore found in Clinton County at what has since been known as the Winter Ore Bed because, as I suppose it was on land on which it is located was owned by Judge Elisha Winter. (Elisha Winter lived on what is now the Perley Stoughton Farm.) (On road between Keeseville and Clintonville) J. W. Harkness

George Shaffer was looking for some stray cattle in those hills and accidentally found what he recognized as iron ore. Not having the finances to mine or explore such a project he took the specimen to John Southmayd and Dr. Eliphlet Stickney. John Southmayd lived in one of the grey stone houses on the Jay to Upper Jay Road. Stickney lived on the road from Clintonville to Jay, just across the river. The bridge has long been known as the "Stickney Bridge." (Rockwell Kent owns the property, a famous character and painter in recent years. He did most of his pictures on Monhegan Island, off the coast of Maine.)

The ore was discovered on lots 199 and 200. Southmayd and Stickney contacted Elisha Arnold. It was agreed that Arnold would go to New York to buy the land from Judge Winter. Arnold was asked if he wished to see the land before going and he said "no."

In interviewing Judge Winter in New York, the map of the property was looked over. Judge Winter discovered that the compass seemed to waver along one of the lines. Arnold said he only wanted the land for a sheep pasture but he also wanted to own everything above the ground and everything below the ground. In this manner Southmayd, Stickney and Arnold became the owners of what is now known as the Arnold Ore Bed.

Constructed from a story written by J.W. Harkness

George Shaffer lived on what was for many years known as the Tindale farm, but more recently Geo. H. Rankin. Judge Winter lived at one time on the farm now owned by Perley Stoughton. Other owners have been Benj. Hatch, Richard Mace, Giles Schermerhorn, The Perky's and now Mr. Stoughton.

SMITHDALE AND WEST PERU

As for the past few years a few interested persons have been making a study of local history in parts of the towns of Peru and AuSable, some very interesting facts have been learned which we feel should be recorded, "Lest we forget - Lest we forget."

ALLEN HILL

Allen Hill is located about one and one-half miles west of the four corners in the center of the hamlet of Harkness, and runs almost directly north and south for approximately three miles. A plateau forms many acres of farm and wood lands through which flow several brooks, which in turn become a part of the Little AuSable River which flows almost parallel to the base of the Hill, on the east side.

John Allen, son of Elisha Allen, lived in Cambridge, Washington County, N.Y., on a farm near his father's before the Revolutionary War. It was there that his fifteen children were born. About 1810 John Allen and his wife Phebe Duel with ten of their children came to Clinton County and purchased a large tract of land extending the whole length of the hill which bears his name. He gave or sold to his sons and daughters parcels of this tract of land on which they built their homes. The names of those who came to Clinton County were Bethuel, Joseph, Wilson, Benjamin, Lydia, Martin, John, Elizabeth, Ester and Elisha.

John Allen's children as stated numbered 15 and his grandchildren 127. Elisha II, the youngest son, was born Sept. 15, 1802, was married Feb. 2, 1825 to Rispy Phillips, daughter of Benjamin and Hattie Signor Phillips, and died March 10, 1888. They had three children:

- Abram P. born March 5, 1826, married Mary Hennesy January 20, 1881 and lived in Plattsburgh, N.Y.
- Sarah C. born April 1836, married Robert Signor August 3, 1856 and lived on the Elisha Allen Homestead.
- David E. born June 30, 1840, married Wealthy Allen October 13, 1861, lived in Jay, N.Y.

Elisha Allen was executor of his father's estate and had the homestead at the north end of Allen Hill, which he later sold to Jack Allen (it is now Wendell Crowley's summer home) and purchased the Ketchum farm just east of the north end of the Allen Hill Road. This is known as the Elisha Allen - Robert Signor - Edward Signor Farm and is now owned and occupied by Catherine Signor Thew (Mrs. Fred Thew) a great-granddaughter, her son Chester and his family.

When the iron mines at Arnold Hill were being extensively worked, Sidney Ketchum, who had a store at the Union in 1836, with two partners named Hart and French formed the Peru Smelting Company and built furnaces at the brook in the hollow mouth of the house (now Mrs. Fred Thew's.). They kept a store in what was later the carriage house and horse barn on that farm.

The Ketchum furnace was a blast furnace, driven by an immense over-shot water wheel said to be 42 feet high and 16 inches wide. The water was brought from a dam near Kirby's Corner in a ditch that was dug along the aide of the ravine to a point near the furnace and was thence carried to the top of the wheel in an 8 inch square pipe. The remains of this furnace are most interesting and may be explored. Mrs. Eleanor Spaulding has taken some exceptionally fine pictures of it recently.

The iron ore used came mostly from Arnold Hill mines and was hauled by teams of horses over the Allen Hill road. There were two other furnaces near by, one on the Signor Brook on the farm of the late William Signor Sr., and the Etna furnace on the Dillon farm at the site of the Peru water supply, and others on the Little AuSable River at Cooksockie and Ferona.

Ketchum's furnace two miles west of the Union and the Etna furnace three miles west of Peru Village were in their day quite successful in the manufacture of hollow-ware, stoves, plows, and especially potash kettles which were in great demand for the numerous asheries in all parts of the surrounding country. The ashes from the burning of trees from the vast forests was an important product of the times. They were used in making glass, ceramics and soap, and some was exported.

BUCK HILL is located just west of Allen Hill and runs parallel to it. It's settlers were largely Irish. We find some of the homes have fallen into great disrepair and others have disappeared entirely, while a few have been preserved. The farming land in many instances has reverted to wood land, much of which is still owned by descendants of

these first settlers. It has always been considered a "happy hunting ground" inhabited by bear, deer and small game. We call to mind the good Irish names of Ryan, O'Neil, Downs, Murphy, Mitchell, Boyce, Gorman, McCarty, Sullivan and others who established homes there. They were hard-working, industrious, happy, fun-loving people who have contributed their share to the community. Besides being farmers and woodsmen many worked in the iron mines at Arnold and Palmer Hill, and at the iron works at Clintonville, which in 1825 was an incorporated village with a population of about 6,000. The first special-delivery letter to come to Clinton County came to the Clintonville post office.

As we descend the hill from Buck Hill coming east toward Kirby's Corner, we pass the Andrew Gordon homestead, the birthplace of Joseph, Robert, Andrew Jr. and Eliza (married Linus Calvin) Gordon; the place is now owned and occupied by Thomas Gorman. Also we pass the Richard Thew home, a grandson of the first settler on Hallock Hill. This farm is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Ray Banker and son Kenneth, the 4th and 5th generations. On the corner is the Kirby home later owned by Leon and Ida Stafford and son Floyd, the 3rd and 4th generations, now owned by the Banker family.

Just north on the same side of the road (west) is the site of the "Little Red Schoolhouse" now removed from there, which was the second schoolhouse to be built in what is called West Peru, although it is in the Town of AuSable. The first was a stone schoolhouse on the brow of the hill to the east of the Kirby Corner. It was here that the first Methodist church services were held in 1825 under the leadership of Robert York Sr., a local preacher under the Peru Circuit. The Methodists from Hallock Hill also attended services here for several years.

Much credit is given to Robert York Sr. and his son Robert York Jr. both local preachers, and to Rev. Benjamin Poneroy of the Peru Circuit, for their part in building the White Church of West Peru in 1853, on land donated by Henry Signor north of the red schoolhouse and of the road leading to the Wilson Allen farm, nearly opposite the Cemetery. In 1907 the church was taken down and rebuilt at the four corners at Harkness, and the Methodists of West Peru and Harkness were united.

The Signor families came to the New World, America, where they expected to find freedom, both religious and political. For a time they lived at Nine Partners in Dutchess County during the Revolutionary war. In 1762 they moved to Danby, Vt. and about 1810 to Old Peru. Joel Signor located on the farm where his son Charles Sr. and his grandson William Sr. have since lived. The house Joel built has been demolished and the present house nearby was built by his son Charles. It is now the home of Jr. and Mrs. Ralph Boyd (Constance Signor 4th generation.) Henry Signor married Almira Hunt and settled on what is known as the James Stafford farm. They had four children, namely, Robert who married Sarah Allen and lived on the Elisha Allen farm (grandfather of Catherine Signor Thew); Cornelia who married Dudley Ayres and lived where Gordon Boyd now lives, on the next farm north (their great-granddaughter Muriel Kennell married Richard Stafford); Henry Jr. who married Louise Calkins and lived on the farm east of the Calkins School Corner, now owned by Victor Walker (they later moved to Burlington, Vt.); Wealey who married Ellen Hull, their son Charles a lawyer and daughter Emma Signor Banker lived in Plattsburgh.

If we take the road to the left as we reach the home of Gordon Boyd we will pass where once a very small log house stood which was the home of "Old Black Jerry" as he was always called. No doubt he was once a slave and had no other name. He was spoken of as a nice old colored gentleman, and in his old age was cared for by the neighbors. On this road also was the farm of Hyalmer Bennett, a large part of which is now owned by the Terry Mountain Rod & Gun Club and made into a recreation area.

We also pass the site of the Joseph Gordon homestead, the birthplace of Samuel J. Gordon, Jennie Gordon Boyd and Sarah Gordon Boyd, now owned by Gordon Boyd. As we come to the end of the road we arrive at the "York Place"; Robert York Sr. came from England about 1825 and soon was searching for a pleasant spot on which to build a home. He decided on this spot a little west of Mr. Etna, now commonly called Huckleberry Mt. as it reminded him of the place where he lived back in England. He was a fine workman and stone mason, and built an attractive stone house where he and his family dwelt the rest of his life. He built the stone church in Peru Village, now the Community Church. His son Robert Jr. in later years went to live with his son Henry York in Chesterfield, Essex County. The York Place was next owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Allen, grandson of the founder of Allen Hill, and was the birthplace of their

ALLEN HILL AND BUCK HILL

three sons, Clinton, Hiram and William Allen, The old stone house has been demolished but the property is still owned by the Allens.

SMITHDALE was named by the family of Smiths who settled in the "dale" near the brook northeast of the area just described. Benjamin Smith came from Dartmouth, New England, in 1802, bought a square mile of land, married Elizabeth Keese (the first wedding in the newly built Quaker Meeting House in the Union) had a family of eight children of which the oldest son was Stephen K. Besides farming, he was engaged in rafting lumber to Quebec. They first lived on the part south of the road called the Mennesy farm, now owned and occupied by Edward McCormick, and later built the stone house now owned and occupied by Joseph Schofield. In 1852, Stephen K. Smith bought from Abraham Haff the farm near Peru now owned by the Walter Stafford family. A cheese factory was built at the brook at Smithdale, operated for many years by A. D. Boonhower. "Smithdale cheese" was of excellent quality and gained a wide reputation locally and was often shipped abroad. The next farm east of the brook now owned by James Allen, a descendant of the original settler on Allen Hill, was a part of the square mile purchased by Benjamin Smith.

As we leave Smithdale and travel east we reach the homestead of Turner Calkins, later owned by James Black, now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Signor. Next is the Calkins School Corners, the School was purchased by Edward McCormick and moved to Smithdale. Below this corner is the Seth C. Calkins home now owned by Victor Walker. Turning toward Harkness at this corner we pass the home built by Sidney Reynolds whose wife was Julia Calkins. The large house on the brow of the hill with its commanding view of Lake Champlain and the Green Mountains of Vermont was the homestead of John S. Thew, son of Garrett Thew of Hallowell Hill, and is now occupied by George Thew, 3rd generation, and by Mr. and Mrs. John Allen a descendant of the Allens of Allen Hill, and is Mrs. Sylvester Foley who lives nearby on the Signor Road. The Richard Turner - Seth H. Calkins homestead next, is one of the oldest family homes, having been in the family since 1818. It is now the home of Kenneth and Mrs. Emmett Calkins. Gilbert Calkins owned and operated the farm adjoining on the south, later he sold and moved to Willsboro. The house has been demolished and replaced by a more modern one by William Walker, the present owner.

ALLEN HILL AND BUCK HILL

The house on the corner near the bridge over the Little AuSable River was owned for many years by Mrs. Sarah Ricketson and son Joseph. Later it was the home of Lemuel Baker and family, and now owned by Paul Soulier. The only surviving son of Lemuel Baker is Myron who resides nearby across the bridge.

We now come to the old Harkness Post Office established in 1808 with Casper W. Baker as first postmaster and continuing for 33 years. He also kept a store where you could find calico by the yard, crackers out of a barrel, lamps, wicks and chimneys, and PENNY CANDY, where of course we must stop.

This brings us to the four corners where the Harkness Church stands, mentioned earlier in this article.

Written by Miss Grace Arnold

NOTES ON THE ALLEN FAMILY

John Allen I who purchased all of Allen Hill when he came from Cambridge, Washington County N.Y., with ten of his children, is believed to have homesteaded near the top of the long hill. This farm was later known as the Jack Allen Place and was the home of Adeline Allen Baker (Mrs. Martin Baker). It is now the summer home of Wendell Crowley.

Beuthuel Allen is believed to have lived farther to the south. Later the house was occupied by his son Harvey and daughter Carolina, both unmarried. The house burned.

Joseph Allen married Roby Allen, lived on (later) Clinton Allen Farm, now Harold Smith's. Daughter Phoebe married Stephen Parish, built house at south end of Allen Hill. Son Jonas married Aseneth Baker, lived at Harkness. Daughter Jane married Mr. Wood, lived at Lake Placid. Son Joseph married Letitia Johnson, lived on Allen Hill. Son Hiram married Angeline Bragg, lived at (now) Smith Farm. They were the parents of Clinton, Joseph, Albert, Clarence and Roby Allen. Present survivors are Mrs. Herbert Stafford and Mrs. J. Fields of Rochester, N.Y. and Clinton and Hiram Allen of Peru; also Marian Gordon of Schenectady, Andrew Gordon of Rome, N.Y., Lawrence and Lewis Gordon of AuSable Forks and Howard Gordon of Pennsylvania.

ALLEN HILL AND DUCK HILL - NOTES ON ALLEN FAMILY (cont'd)

John II lived on Allen Hill, 12 children all settled elsewhere.

Wilson Allen married Elizabeth Allen Mosher, lived on the farm where their son Highland and daughter Phoebe spent their entire life, now the summer home of the Victor Crowley family. Their son Wilson II born in 1838 was a recruiting officer during the Civil War and traveled as far south as Virginia where he met and married in 1865 Mary Read, born in Glasgow, Scotland. He purchased the farm west of the White Church at the end of the road. They had seven children: Andrew, Charles and Robert all deceased, and Virginia, Celia, Sally, Bell and Pauline who all went to Montana.

Benjamin Allen married Elizabeth Signor, homesteaded on the farm where their son Henry and daughter Jannette lived (both unmarried) known as the Joseph Gordon Farm on Allen Hill.

Lydia Allen married Turner Calkins, lived on Calkins homestead, had five children: Harriet married John Osborne, Hallock Hill
Allen married Ann Eliza Hewitt, Norwood, N.Y.
 Catherine married Sandford Hewitt, Goshen (Burrell Orchard)
 Phoebe unmarried, lived at Seth Calkins homestead
 Martin married Mary Brockway, Peru, later went west
 Gilbert married Julia Otcott, 2nd wife, Calkins Rd. then Willsb.
 Seth H. married Eliza Jones, Calkins Homestead

Martin Allen settled in Plattsburgh, daughter Elsie was a frequent visitor to Allen Hill.

Esther Allen married Israel Jackson of Peru, ancestors of Mrs. Wm. LaDue of Plattsburgh.

Elisha Allen married Hattie Phillips, lived first at the Jack Allen place on Allen Hill, later purchased the Ketchum farm since known as the Elisha Allen - Robert Signor - Edward Signor - Mr. & Mrs. Fred Thew and Chester Thew farm.

Written by Miss Grace E. Arnold

From the Signor Genealogy loaned by Catherine S. Thew we learn that the Signor family originally came from Germany on the west banks of the Rhine. During the years 1708-1709 they with thousands of others went up the Rhine to Holland seeking passage to the New World in hopes of finding both religious and political freedom. They set sail from England in 1710 in a fleet of ten small vessels, encountering storms and hardships. In June the largest boats of the fleet landed on what is now Governor's Island, but 470 had died and another 200 died of fever on the Island. The widows and orphans were quartered in New York City and many of the orphans were "boarded out" to learn a trade. Jon Sickener, his wife Anna and seven year old son John Jacob were among the passengers, but Jon had died either at sea or on Governor's Island, leaving John Jacob who was to become the ancestor of the Sickener (Signor) family in America.

He moved to Rhinebeck, N.Y. in 1733, married Christina Schreiber in 1734. They had seven children. In 1773 John Jacob and two sons signed a pledge to support the Continental Congress. The names of four of the sons appear on the rolls of Nine Partners of the Dutchess County Militia during the Revolutionary War.

John Jacob's son Johannes was married in 1762 to Hannah Schafer and they had eight children. They moved to Danby, Vt. in 1785 with six children. Their sixth son John Jr. married Sally Williams, a direct descendant of Roger Williams of Rhode Island. They had three sons, Henry, Philip and Joel. Henry and Joel are mentioned on page 4 of this article. Philip married Irena Hunt, sister of Henry's wife Almira, and they are the ancestors of Emily McMasters of the Morrisonville Road and Mrs. Irena Watson of Plattsburgh, and her brother the late Ralph Signor.

En tries from Daybook Found Recently in Peru

In clearing out the barn of the late Mrs. H. H. Everest of Peru, an old scrapbook was found that was only partly filled with clippings from various papers in which they had been printed. Dates upon some of those clippings show that most of them were printed in the 40's of the last century and it is believed that nothing has been put into it in the last 60 years.

But to the student of local history, by far the most interesting part of the book is the half not filled with clippings. On the inside of the cover are the words "Day Book Letter I" which shows that eight such day books known by the letters from A to H respectively had been filled before this one was begun. Though the merchant's name does not appear upon the book it probably belonged to Lott and Asa Elmore. There are about 100 pages filled with charges of goods to the customers and judging by the number of names they have been a large share of the inhabitants of old Peru. The earliest date on which a charge was made was Sept. 17, 1810 and the latest that is not covered by the clippings is June 4, 1811, which shows that the book was in daily use one hundred years ago, and not only tells us who lived in the town at that time, but the prices that were charged for the goods that they bought.

The merchant or firm, whoever it was, dealt in dry goods and wet goods, hardware and soft goods, drugs, groceries and everything that is usually found in a country store and some things that are quite unusual. Besides the general retail business at least one other firm of dealers were supplied with goods at wholesale prices which were as the entries plainly show only 33 1/3 per cent, above first cost. How much profit on the retail trade we can only judge by inferring that it was probably considerably more than the wholesale profit. As an example of those wholesale transactions I will quote verbatim one entry which is dated 1810, 20 novm:

"Josiah & Son Wn. Willard Dr.

To your bill of good from	
our store at first cost	\$813,42
To our profit on the above	271,14
To 1 empt Barrel	1,25
To Peac Bumbesett 30 yd 4/4 first cost	16,25
To our profit on the Peac above	5,44
To 1 doz tapes with our profit 1/4	2,11
To 1 pea of velvett Rbn with profit	1,86
	<u>\$1,131.36</u>

The little mistake of \$20 in adding the above figures was in favor of the merchant and increased his profit to about 35 3/4 per cent, instead of 33 1/3. Of course no one would insinuate that the mistake was made on purpose, and to find it now after the lapse of one hundred years will neither hurt the merchant nor help the customers. At another time Josiah Willard was charged with a bill of goods amounting to \$1,357,86, of which \$332,28 was "our profit on the above."

A few words concerning the Elmore brothers may not be amiss, Lott, John and Asa Elmore were among the earliest settlers of Peru. In fact,

Lott Elmore is said to have been the first white man married in the town, his wife, having been Mary, daughter of William Hay, the first white settler who lived near the lake shore a little south of the present location of the Plattsburgh town line from 1772 till after the battle of Valcour of which he and his family were witnesses. The marriage of his daughter to Lott Elmore was December 17th, 1788, four years before the Town of Peru was taken from Plattsburgh.

John Elmore was a farmer, who lived on the farm now owned and occupied by Hobart T. Fuller, and Asa who became Lott's partner in the store, was the father of Mrs. Everest and her brothers Selucia, Washington and Franklin and possibly others. If there are any mistakes in the above statement they are like those of the merchant's accounts, entirely unintentional.

Where the Willard store is located is doubtful about being a person now living that can tell, but one item in this book indicated that it was on the lake at Peru Landing or at Port Jackson, now known as Valcour. This item is as follows:

"Wm. Willard Dr.
to 1 ink stand delivered at the lake 1 "

but the one who delivered the ink stand had something else to take for the item immediately preceding that one says

"Zephaniah Ketchum Dr.
to one large stone pot
Delivered at the lake 90"

It may be proper to say for the benefit of those whose memory does not reach back so far, that the store of Lott and Asa Elmore was at Hackstaff's Mills, the place now known as Peru Village, and was either the same building or at least upon the same ground now occupied as R. W. Raff's hardware store.

It is not my intention to mention the names of many of the customers or to tell what they bought. Of course, they are all dead and gone and their children have followed them but many of their descendants are still living.

My object in writing this is to show what prices were charged for various commodities one hundred years ago and let each reader decide whether or not he could have lived cheaper then than now.

If any doubt exists that these prices were charged they may examine the daybook and see for themselves.

Here are the prices charged for some of the dry goods: 1 yard calico 48 cents, 1/2 yard calico 29 cents, 1 yd cambric 66 cents, 1 yd cambric 62 cents, 1 yd fine cambric 82 cents, 2 handkerchiefs 1.50, 2 1/2 yds muslin at 38 cents, 1 1/2 yds broadcloth 4.20, 1 handkerchief 88 cents, 1 handkerchief 2.00, 1 yd lincn 56, 3 yds broadcloth 9.76, 1/4 yd tabby velvet 54, 1 paper pin 25, 1 ox pin 14.

A few kinds of hardware were charged as follows: Cut nails 20 cents per pound, wrought nails 23, shingle nails 25, glass 12 1/2 cents pr light, steel 38 cents per pound, Barlow knife 25, 1 set knitting pins 4, 1 grindstone 8.04, 1 pruning knife 34, 3 tablespoons 48, 1 saw mill saw 12.00, 1 pr

flat irons 1.13, 9 grs sugar at 15 cents, 64.

82.

The price charged for sugar was 23 cents per lb, salt 1.75 per bushel, Hyscon tea 1.30 per pound, Hyscon skin 1.25, Bchea 70, Molasses 1.25 per gal.

I have by no means exhausted the list for this enterprising firm dealt in drugs and medicines, leather of all kinds, pork, butter, oils, stoves and other things too numerous to mention, but the above will show how prices ranged 100 years ago.

J.W. Harkness
Peru, New York

Printed in the Press Republican
July 1, 1911

A copy is in the scrapbook owned by
Miss Grace Arnold and one is on Microfilm
at the Plattsburgh Public Library.

Note: From Grace Arnold Scrapbook: "Asa and Lott Elmore Opened "old Red Store" at Peru in 1810. Asa and Lott Elmore built the "old Red Store" at Peru about 1810 and engaged in trade either in partnership or alone a great many years. Lott Elmore built the store now occupied by J.B. White. Franklin Elmore, son of Asa succeeded his father and carried on the business on the old site for many years. (Store-Wine and Liquor)

From Reminiscences and Early History of Old Peru. 1913

"One of the pioneers was Asa Elmore, who came from Westminster, N.H. He had six children --Selucia, Washington, Franklin, Lewis, Maria and Jennette (Mrs. H.H. Everest). Washington Elmore built the house where the Elmores now reside (Percy J. Brown, 1966). Franklin inherited the business of his father. Franklin sold goods for many years in the old brick store. Mrs. Jennette Everest, whom most people remember, provided in her will an endowment for the care of "God's Acre" for all time." Jennette Everest died in Peru Feb. 10, 1908, in the 94th years of her age. (Grace Arnold Scrapbook)

"Elmore F. Elmore, a grandson of Franklin" who died in 1953 willed his estate to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals. The farm is now owned by Orville Bonville who looks after animals abandoned or to be destroyed. 1966

REMINISCENCES OF AN OLD CAMP MEETING

J. W. Harkness Tells Bit of Local History Which Old Timers Will Enjoy

The following account of a camp meeting in the Champlain District of New York is taken from a letter of Rev. Buel Goodsell to the Methodist and printed in the issue of December 1875. The most remarkable statement that it contains is that there were at the camp meeting between 300 and 400 tents although there were at that time only three Methodist churches in that District west of the lake.

The first campmeeting we held this season was in the Town of Peru, N.Y. on the western shore of Lake Champlain, a most beautiful situation.

The time appointed for the commencement of this meeting was Thursday, the first day of September.

That meeting was probably upon land now owned by E.L. Day about one mile north of Valcour Station. There certainly was a similar meeting, though perhaps not half as large as the one above described, on that Day encampment in the early fifties, not later than 1855.

Rev. Buel Goodsell, the writer of the above account was Presiding Elder of the Champlain District of New York Conference. It being eight years before the Troy Conference was organized. This Champlain District lay both sides of the lake, the only charges in New York in 1825 being those of Whitehall, Ticonderoga, Peru and Chazy. There were a few Methodists in Plattsburgh but they had no church til 1831 and no pastor in 1825.

Elder Goodsell married Adaline, daughter of Nathan Ferris of Peru, she lived on what is now the Edwin Lapham farm. He took her to New York and there on Nov. 5th, 1841, their son Daniel A. Goodsell was born. Daniel lived with his grand father in Peru some of his boyhood years, attended school in Keeseville Academy in 1854 and 1855 at the same time with Joseph Cook of Ticonderoga and Louis Beaudry. Both Goodsell and Cook became famous preachers. Louis N. Beaudry was the founder of the large French Methodist Church in the center of Montreal. He was born in Crown Point.

Copied from Arlina Taylor Thompson scrapbook.

THE STORY OF
THE FORT KENT TO HOPKINTON ROAD
AND
THE NORTHWEST BAY ROAD

84.

A letter written by James D. Esty to which Mr. Harkness replied.

Robinsdale, Suburb of Minneapolis 2, 28, 1924.

To the Editor of the Essex County Republican:

As I was stopping with my sister, Mrs. R.T. Banker and read your paper every week and read what Mr. Harkness is writing about your iron mines and iron works and the roads, and the bridges. I was greatly interested in it. It wakened remembrance of my boyhood home, for I was born and reared in the AuSable Valley and lived there until I was 20 years old, then came west, a few short years ago, as it seems to me. I worked in some of those iron works and drew iron from them to the Lake, from Clintonville to Port Douglas, from Black Brook and AuSable Forks to Fort Kent, and one winter to Plattsburgh in the Civil War times and drew ore from Palmer Hill to Clintonville and Arnold Hill to the same place, also from "Winter Ore Bed". The last time it was worked, in 1873, the company cleaned it out and got out a few tons of ore. It cost too much and they left it. The vein was too thin, and lay flat, and they had to mine too much rock to get it. They sent me to draw it away. Some job over those mountain roads, that had not been used for 8 or 10 years!

I would like to ask Mr. Harkness if he has any dates, so that he can tell when the old Military Road was built from Fort Kent to Hopkinton, and the plank road from AuSable Forks to Fort Kent. Well, this is getting too long, so will close.

James D. Esty

Mr. J.W. Harkness Replies to Mr. Estes' Letter.

Harkness, N.Y. March 10, 1924.

Editor of Republican:

The open letter of James D. Esty in your last week's issue was of great interest for it told us when the last mining was done in the Winter Ore bed, and that was a point on which we needed information. I suppose that the mountain road along which he drew that last ore was the dugway on the side toward the E.H. Keith farm now owned by Collins.

Will Mr. Esty please tell us whether ore from that mine was ever drawn directly down the steep road toward the Joseph Beardsley farm buildings?

The Fort Kent and Hopkinton turnpike was made about 1827. It was planned and may have been begun as early as 1825 or 1829. Its length was about 80 miles, and for three-fourths if not seven-eighths of that distance it was a new road through first growth forest. The road from Birmingham to the Shaffer farm or Tindale farm above Clintonville had been used for years but above that farm the old road ran over the "plains"

"to the forks of the river," where it crossed into Jay, or Mallory's Bush, as it was then called. Starting from Fort Kent there was about two miles of new road, then about a mile of old, and one or more of new to Birmingham.

I do not know when the road from Ausable Forks to Fort Kent was first planked. It was not before 1830 and may have been several years later than that. On June 25, 1830, a surveyor named Samuel Smith ran the lines for the lower road through the village of Clintonville. The F.K. & H. turnpike had been made over the hill where the Macadam Road is now, but the planks were afterward laid on the lower road near the "Rolling Works and nail factory." The distance as Smith measured it "from the tavern house in Clintonville occupied by L.N. Ranson" to the turnpike "on the westerly side of Doctor Beardsley's orchard" was 185 rods. With the exception of that distance through Clintonville, I believe that the course of the plank road was the same as that of the turnpike.

I do not think that turnpike was ever a Military Road. Beyond Ausable Forks it went through Black Brook to the toll gate where the road to Franklin Falls left it, then turned to the right and ran by Sampson Pond now known as Silver Lake to Union Falls and from there across Franklin County through the towns of Franklin, Duane, and Dickinson to Hopkinton in St. Lawrence County.

J.W. Harkness

Published in the Essex County Republican March 28, 1924.

Mr. Harkness Tells About The Northwest Bay Road

Published in the Essex County Republican April 4, 1924

When this series was begun, it was my intention to write about old roads near Keeseville and thus far that plan has not been altered until now, but while writing about the Fort Kent and Hopkinton turnpike, I have thought of another old road that connected Hopkinton and Lake Champlain and there are so many readers of the Republican who now lived on or near that road, it seems as if an account of it may be accepted by some.

On page 207 of Winslow C. Watson's History of the County of Essex, N.Y., we find this statement, "Numerous appropriations have been made by the state for the construction of public roads, which traverse the county in various directions. One of these opened many years since, extending from Westport to Hopkinton, traversing Elizabethtown, and the gorges of the Keene Mountains, and the plains of North Elba, penetrated what was then denominated, the fifty miles woods."

In the summer of 1870, the next year after the History was published, I visited that part of the "fifty miles woods," that lies between Paul Smith's hotel on St. Regis Lake and Mencham Lake near the road to Malone, Mr. A.C. McCollup, the man for whom McCollup's hotel was afterward named was showing his brother-in-law, H.J. Jacobs and me some land that had been owned by my father who had recently died. About a half-mile

southwest of Meacham Lake, we saw a narrow grass opening in the dense woods on our left as we went north and Mr. McCollum told us that was the old Northwest Bay Road. Not being very well informed, I asked him where Northwest Bay was and he told me at Westport on Lake Champlain. He also said that the road went to Hopkinton, St. Lawrence County.

The part that we saw there in the north part of the town of Brighton looked as if it had been abandoned for many years and might never be used again, but if you will now look at any auto map you see that that piece of road that branches of the left a little south of Meacham Lake and runs to Santa Clara is good roadway, and that is the same grass grown trail we saw in 1870.

The above quotation from Watson is almost the only reference to that road to be found in history but proof of the road's existence is not lacking. On the map of Essex County published in 1859, if you will look for the Town of North Elba you will find the road that runs to Saranac Lake the words "State Road" and on the map of Franklin County is the History of Clinton and Franklin counties published in 1880 across the square that represents the town of Duane are printed the words "Northwest Bay Road."

Besides the four Essex County town mentioned by Watson that road crossed a corner of St. Armand, the first Franklin towns of Harrietstown, Brighton, Duane, Brandon, and Dickinson and part of Hopkinton in St. Lawrence, or eleven towns in all.

Now if the Hopkinton which was the western terminus of those two state roads from Port Kent and Westport on Lake Champlain had been a city or even a large and important village, it might be easier to understand why it needed those outlets to the lake. That Hopkinton has never been anything but a hamlet. According to the Gazetteer of New York, it had only 20 houses in 1860 and 40 years later it had the reported by the census of 1900 almost exactly half the population of our little village of Schuyler Falls.

To find a reason for the state appropriation for the construction of that Northwest Bay Road we need to know facts about the founder of Hopkinton. First let me quote two short sentences, from page 578 of French's Gazetteer. "The first settlement in the town was made by Roswell Hopkins in 1802." "Judge Hopkins built the first grist mill in 1803."

So we see that he was an influential man or he would not have been called Judge Hopkins, but that is not all that is known about him. If we consult the New York State Civil List we find that the Manner of Assembly who represented St. Lawrence County in the Legislature of 1810, 1811, 1812, and 1813 was this same Roswell Hopkins. If he had enough influence with the voters of his county to be elected to the Legislature for four years in succession is it not reasonable to suppose that he could influence his fellow members to vote for an appropriation to construct a highway from his home to the lake? Of course, it was a good thing for all of the towns it passed through. No doubt, it was perfectly proper to get that appropriation to open that road, but if Judge Hopkins had lived in some other village, the road might not have gone to Hopkinton.

The Port Kent and Hopkinton turnpike was made 15 or 16 years later. Judge Hopkins was not then a Member of Assembly and perhaps it was not

through his influence that the turnpike was made but the fact that it stopped at that same little hamlet in what was then the backwoods of St. Lawrence Co., is one of the reasons which I will not attempt to explain.

Various changes have been made in the location of the Northwest Bay Road through what Watson aptly calls "the gorges of Keen Mountain, and the plains of North Elba," and "the fifty miles woods," but to describe the few of those changes that have been made within my lifetime or remembrance would make this story too long. I will however say that when John Brown's body was taken to his grave in December 1859, it was probably not through the gorge of the Cascade Lakes, then known as Long Pond, but through another gorge that lies north of Pitchoff Mountain.

J.W. Harkness

Notes: 1966

The Shaffer farm or Tindale is currently the William B. Rankin family. One of the last owners of the Henry Mould mansion on Main St. that was torn down to make way for the Route 9N through Keeseville, was William Tindale who owned that farm "up the River."

The E.H. Keith farm later owned by Melvin Edwards and after that Bernard Collins. The land is now owned by Robert Murcra y is located on the north side of the road to Clintonville. The house stood on the north side of the road near where the old milk house still stands perched on top of a bank. The highways engineers did not see fit to remove it when a Macaden Road was built in about 1908. R.T. Mace was the supervisor.

"Over the plains" probably means over the old dry bridge road, which was abandoned in 19 when a new road was made to the Base, No. and discontinued in 1965. It is on the road from Harkness to AuSable Forks. Arthur Twa, Supervisor. The Base is in Blackbrook.

"To the forks of the River" from which AuSable Forks derives its name. The following note is submitted by Grace N. Arnold: "Two branches of the Big AuSable, East and West branches. The East branch is the outlet of the lower AuSable Lake and flows through Keene Valley to Keene, Upper Jay, Jay to AuSable Forks where it joins the West branch, which rose near the foot of Mt. Marcy, flows through High Falls Gorge to Wilmington, then to AuSable Forks, where it joins the East branch and together they become the Big AuSable.

The Little AuSable rises in the vicinity of Mr. Etna and Terry Mountains and flows north east via Arnold Hill, Harkness and Peru thence to Lake Champlain.

The Big and Little AuSable Rivers are separate rivers."

The L.N. Ransom tavern has also been known as McCormicks. It was torn down several years ago. It was a large brick building at the forks of the road in Clintonville. It flourished in the high days of the Arnold Hill mines and Clintonville was an incorporated village in 1825. It has since been discontinued.

H. J. Jacobs was Henry Jacobs of Willsboro.

The dugway, meant at this time was the road from Harkness to Clintonville. A new road was built in 1960 which abandoned much of the old "dugway." As one studies roads of the Town of AuSable, there will be found several "dugways." Parts of the road from Clintonville to AuSable Forks must have been dug ways along the river. Antoine Lesperance, Supervisor.

Emanuel & Beverly Beardsley were very early settlers on the river. The farm was just north of the E.H. Keith Farm. The Beardsley farm is now owned by F. Saltmarsh. The assessment roll of 1796 lists the following names, Dist No. 5--Elisha Junker, Overseer of Highways, Emanuel and Beverly Beardsley, James Weston, James Dean (Robert Murcra y once lived on this farm.) Andrew Debar, David, George and Robert Day. (Probably forbears of David K. Day and Anos Day.) David Kilburn Day (He married two Arthur girls, Betsy and Chloe. The name "Kilburn" is carried into this generation of "Days" in Plattsburgh, Rufus K. Day.) David K. Day lived near the Fordway. Anos Day settled on the Lake Shore south of Plattsburgh. His descendants are still there.

A hotel called "Summit House" in 1912 at the forks of the road, one to Franklin Falls and the other to Silver Lake, where at one time was a Toll Gate of these Roads. At one time Silver Lake was called Sampson's Pond.

Joseph Beardsley lived on the Essex side of the river from Clintonville, later the Blanchard & Orin Weston place. John Beardsley built the house in Essex Co. in which Mrs. Dora Arnold now resides. These are "up the steep hill." The Weston farms are now owned by Wm. Roberts.

"Dr. Ralph P. Allen, the first physician located in Keeseville was an eccentric genius. He was from Vermont, and studied medicine with old Dr. Stone of Monkton. He was forced to leave Vermont in consequence of some resurrection operations. He first settled in the Union and moved to Keeseville about 1823. He died in 1835.

He was a good physician but in religious matters he was skeptical. As near as I could ascertain he had no settled faith of his own, but his creed consisted in opposition to orthodoxy."

The above sketch is taken from an article written by "A. H. Allen, Feb. 1848 and published in the OLD SETTLER, newspaper published in Keeseville by A. H. Allen, under the title, "Keeseville Twenty Years Ag."

Dr. Ralph P. Allen and his wife are buried in the "Old Burying Ground" which is back of the present St. John's Hall in Keeseville.

Another note concerning Dr. Allen states that in the Union he "lived on the same road as the Ricketson's" that makes the road Arthur Road. And perhaps that wing taken off from the Ricketson house and moved to a spot opposite the Robert Battey Cemetery was his house. (See "Fifty Years Ago In The Union.")

Taken from Scrapbook owned by Rolland Maders.

JOHN KEESE II AND ELIZABETH TITUS

Sarah	born Sept. 21, 1750	married	Joseph Thorne
Phebe	" " 1753	"	James Titus
Samuel	" " 1756	"	Sarah Franklin (granddaughter of B.J.Fr.)
Stephen	" Mar. 28, 1759	"	Ruth Hill, Dutchess Co - To Peru 1794
Richard	" July 7, 1761	"	Anna Hallock in 1784 - To Peru 1791
William	" " 1763	"	Pamela Allen

William's second wife married Jenima Bunker in 1810

John	" " 1765	died young	
Elizabeth	" " 1768	married	Henry Green died 1809
Mary	" " 1770	"	Peter Hallock
John III	" " 1773	"	Hannah Rogers
second wife	" " "	"	Sarah Benedict
Oliver	" " 1775	"	Paulina Lapham

Richard Keese I married in 1784 to Anna Hallock who was born 8-11-1762 & died in 1849

Children:

Ruth	born 3/1785	m. Timothy Earle	--2nd Hus, Henry Earle
William	" 9/25/1786	died 1875	m. 1812 Lydia Hoag
Mary	" 9/13/1788	" 6/12/1810	m. 180 Wm. Bowron
Anna	" 11/1/1790	" 10/24/1833	m. 1809 Joseph Lapham
Elizabeth	" 12/29/1792	" 10/4/1821	m. Geo. Irish
Richard Jr.	" 11/23/1794	" 1/7/1883	m. 1817 Lydia Hurlburt
Oliver	" 9/27/1796	" 1865	m. 1823 Mary Fisk, dau of Judge Fisk
Peter	" 5/22/1798	" 1826	Mary D. Thorne
Hannah	" 9/1/1800	" 1822	Elias Hurlburt
Guilialma	" 7/11/1802	"	Silas Arnold
Persis	" 9/1/1804	" 5/21/1825	

Recorded by Pauline Stoddard Keese 1901

For many people of old Peru and neighboring towns the most enjoyable social event of 1905 was the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Barker which was celebrated at the Barker homestead on the 6th of June.

Of about 200 friends who were invited a large majority accepted the invitation but though diligent efforts were made to obtain the autographs of all who came, the number present can only be estimated for no one succeeded in counting them.

The comfortable old farm house which has stood for a full hundred years, where it was built by Nicholas Barker, grandfather of the present Nicholas, was filled to overflowing, though the remark was made by one who appeared to know that there was more room in that house than there was outside.

After the happy bride and groom had received the congratulations of six or seven score of their friends a bountiful repast was served to all and heartily enjoyed. Then at the close of a brief but appropriate speech, Rev. H.F. Titus, pastor of Peru M.E. Church presented them with about \$60 in gold which had been contributed by the guests as token of their good will and sincere regard. Generous additions have since been made by the brothers of Mr. Barker and other friends. Mr. Barker responded as neatly as "our Chauncey" or any one else could have done and at the close of his remarks he and Mrs. Barker repeated the words of the Quaker marriage ceremony, the parents of both having been respected members of the Society of Friends.

Then Rev. F.T. Love, who with Mrs. Love and their little Loves had driven over from Saranac Valley to enjoy the occasion added his words of congratulations and kind wishes for their future welfare which closed this part of the entertainment.

Among the guests were Daniel Barker of Plattsburgh, a brother of the groom, and Miss Emma Irish a sister of the bride, both of whom were witnesses of the marriage on June 6th, 1855. Elkanah W. Arthur, Henry Arnold, Peter Ricketson, Jehiel B. White, Harvey Everett, Nathan Weaver and several ladies who were guests could remember the marriage and perhaps some of them may have been present on that occasion.

A few words concerning this Barker family may not be considered amiss. Nicholas Barker, who was born eighty years ago in the same house which is still his home, was the son of Daniel F. Barker, who was born on the same farm if not in that house about 1801. Daniel's father, Nicholas Barker came to Peru from Dutchess County about 110 or 115 years ago. The present Barker homestead was deeded to him by Wm. B. West, in 1794 and it is likely that he had lived upon it one or more years before he received a deed.

He was certainly a resident of Peru in 1796 for his name appears up on a road warrant in that year and the ear mark of his cattle "a swallow fork in the left ear with a slit in the right and a half penny in the upper side the same," was recorded in the old town book on the 12th of June 1796.

On the assessment roll of 1798 we find this entry "Nicholas Barker,

170 acres off from any road joining Isreal Buck. One long barn 30x20, one log house \$20, \$1250."

On the same roll, Osracel Buck was assessed upon "75 acres on public road adjoining Nicholas Barker" so he doubtless lived on what is now Mrs. Kidder's farm. Just how many years Nicholas Barker lived "off from any road" we cannot say but on Sept. 5, 1800, a new road was laid out by the commissioners of Peru. "Beginning at the road laid from Cochran's Mills to Arthur's at the turn of the road about twenty rods north of Nathan Averill's house, thence easterly through Averill's farm and Nicholas Barker's improvements and the south part of Bell's Patent to the road north of Cyrus Benedicts house.

If I am correct in my belief that the above described road was the one which still passes the Barker homestead, Cyrus Benedict's house must have stood about where Harley Fallon's is today, I mention this because by his marriage with Hannah Barker, whom we believe to have been a sister of the elder Nicholas Barker, in December 1788. Cyrus Benedict had become connected with the Barker family. The marriage ceremony was performed in the old log meeting house at the Corners near the present Beadleston house, it being about four years before the first frame meeting house was built. About 15 years later the Benedicts removed to Ohio where many of their descendants are living to this day. The name of Nicholas Barker does not appear upon any road warrant of the Town of Peru for 1806 or 1807, so it is believed that his death occurred in 1805 or 1806.

His son Daniel F. Barker died at the early age of 48, leaving five sons of whom the present Nicholas Barker is the oldest. He has four brothers Daniel, Nathan, George and William are all living, the first named being a resident of Plattsburgh.

Though the home of Nicholas Barker has always been upon the farm, he has had considerable experience as a man of business. Between 50 and 60 years ago he was in charge of the store of Lapham and Barker at what is now the Kekeflick Place a half mile southwest of Harkness Station.

A little incident that occurred at that time he has doubtless long ago 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 Cookssockic. He stopped at the store and there met some other boys who suggested that they take a swim in the little river near by. 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.

It is safe to say that Nick Barker sold more horse rakes than any other man who ever lived in the county of Clinton or Essex and yet while engaged in that profitable business he did not neglect his farm. I well remember being at Peru about 35 years ago when the telegraph instrument began to click and Geo. Garlick, the operator read off this message, "George, send word down to Frank to start the mower, N. Barker." It had

been a rainy morning but the weather had cleared and "Uncle Nick" who was away on a rake selling trip had taken that means to communicate his order to the hired man on the farm. In these days of telephones it seems natural to do such a thing, but it was the first time that I had known a farmer to direct the work of his farm when he was miles away so the incident was impressed on my memory.

Mrs. Hannah Barker, the bride on this occasion, was the daughter of George Irish and Elizabeth Keese Irish, his wife, the latter being 50 years ago one of the most figted and active preachers of the Society of Friends in old Peru. Mrs. Barker has been for many years the teacher of a Bible Class in the Sunday School of the Peru M.E. Church and is held in high esteem by all who knew her.

In ancient days a customary form of well wishing was to say, "May your shadow never decrease." but as there may be some doubt about 300 lbs. avoidupois and a correspondingly large shadow being of advantage to a man of Mr. Barker's years, we will say instead of that, to him and his companion, "May your friends never be fewer and your comforts never be less."

Note: There is no date or signature to this story, it may well be attributed to J.W. Harkness.

Copied from Halland Maders scrapbook.

P.S. The copier of this story, E A S remenbers Nicholas Barker. He had a long white beard and a heavy head of white hair. We called him "Santa Claus."

Lillie Merrill and J. Warren Harkness August 28, 1878 -- 1928

On the afternoon of August 28, 1878 a quiet home wedding occurred at the home of the bride's parents in Peru, Lillie Merrill became the wife of J. Warren Harkness. On the afternoon of August 28, 1928, the bride and groom celebrated their fiftieth anniversary at their home in Harkness. About thirty of the family and relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Harkness assembled to offer their congratulations and rejoice with them in the completion of fifty golden years. Owing to the failing health of the bride, the number was limited, but the bride and groom wish to acknowledge with thanks the good wishes of their many friends.

The reunion was held at the old homestead where the groom was born eighty years ago next month and where his entire fifty years of married life has been spent. The house was attractively decorated with sweet peas, gladioli and other flowers, and an appetizing luncheon was served by the hostess, Mrs. Chas. Harkness.

The fifty years from 1878 to 1928 have been full of many joys and sorrows. Their oldest daughter, Hattie was taken from the home at the age of seventeen. There are three surviving children, Charles, Everett, and Georgia and three grandchildren, Ernest, Peggy and Edward Harkness, all of whom were present.

In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harkness and family of Harkness the following out of town guests were present: Mr. and Mrs. Everett Harkness and two children of Palmerton, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Merrill and Miss Emma Merrill of Keeseville; Mrs. Eva Haff of Peru; Mr. and Mrs. James Murray of Willsboro; Dr. and Mrs. T.A. Rogers and son, Avery and Madam Robers of Plattsburgh; Mrs. and Mrs. Barton Merrill and son, Robert and Mrs. Mary Merrill of Cadyville; Mrs. and Mrs. Albert Arnold, daughter, Joyce and son Milton of Clintonville and Miss Lydia Everett of Peru.

"Fifty years of life you've shared
What joy those memories hold!
Happy anniversaries have passed by,
And now this one of gold.
Golden be life's weather,
For richer far than all earth's gold
Is the love you share together."

We wish to acknowledge and thank all who have so graciously aided in collecting these stories.

Many have lent their scrapbooks including Dr. Georgia Harkness of Harkness and Berkeley, California; Horace Ackley, Peru; Miss Edith Arnold, Plattsburgh; Mrs. Catherine Thew, Town of AuSable; Miss Grace Arnold, Harkness; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Everett, Peru; Roland Maders, Keeseville; and Mrs. Arlina Thompson, Keeseville.

A "thank you" to Miss Emily McMasters for lending books, to Maurice Turner, Keeseville who wrote copious notes on roads, to Dr. Allen Everest who guided us to the microfilmed stories in the Plattsburgh Press Republican, to Miss Laura Ingalls and Miss Emma Walters and their assistants who aided us in the use of the microfilm at the Plattsburgh Public Library, and to Merritt S. Keese for the use of the Keese Genealogy.

March 31, 1967.

GRACE E. ARNOLD
ELEANOR ARTHUR SPAULDING
CORR M. STAFFORD