

HISTORY
of
PERU, New York



Lincoln Sunderland
Major Contributing Author and Editor



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Lincoln and Ann Sunderland

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Many people have helped with the preparation of this book. It is not possible to describe all the work others have done to aid with this printing, but I must mention some of the contributions and persons involved. Jack Johnston did much of the photography work, making prints of old pictures loaned by generous neighbors and friends. Esther Pray wrote the essay about a Neighbor of Plattsburgh. Grace W. Wilson wrote two poems found near the end of the book. Mrs. Austin W. Gowan sent me the historical notes of A 1776 American, one of her ancestors. The Allen Homestead was described by Paul Allen, while Henry Hebert wrote about the delivery of groceries around Peru. He also owns the original photographs of Nathan Lapham's Lumbering Business. Virginia Burdick described the Mason Lumber Business, and prepared the biographical sketch of Stephen K. Smith. She also provided photos of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Mason and the six sons. Marjorie Angevine did months of research concerning Peasleeville, and wrote many essays. Eleanor Spaulding described the First Baptists of Peru. Port Jackson Church was researched by Stephen Riley, and Palmer Hill Iron mines by Clifford Mossey. A chronology of 100 years of music was written by Lynn Wilke, who also loaned several photographs. Margaret Stafford provided many pictures of Peru Village. The Battle of Valcour was put in perspective by Frank Anthony De-Sorbo. Photos were given by Doris Banker Keese, Cora Stafford and Jean Thew Ryan. A scrapbook of old newspaper clippings was loaned by Isabelle Young, while Mary Jane Feltman worked on the History of the Peru Community Church. Durganville was highlighted by Permley Durgan Ormsby. Lydia and Sidney Beyland narrated the history of the Fish Family and provided photographs. The Peru Library and St. Augustine's Church were included by Jane Metcalfe. The Peru Bicentennial Committee, with Joseph Alexander as chairman, have given much support, including financial backing. Others have also helped.

Many thanks to everyone concerned.

FORWARD

Community concern is often expressed in many ways and the degree of involvement in one's community is undoubtedly related to a number of factors. One overwhelming factor, however, must be the pride one has for his community. This pride is often expressed through some outward act or contribution that is representative of a form of sacrifice in time or money. Fortunately the Town of Peru has many people who are proud of their community. Many of these people were able to become deeply involved and make a lasting contribution to their community through our Bicentennial Celebration.

In the early discussion and planning stages of our local celebration the people who were initially invited and those who later volunteered to actively participate put forth a large number of suggestions to get the community involved, and to make the celebration as meaningful as possible. One area of concern was the need to update our local history. Largely through the efforts of Lincoln Sunderland Volumes I and II of A History of Peru were reprinted. These volumes dealt with the early history of Peru through the latter 1800's and early 1900's. Mr. Sunderland again undertook to improve the situation by promoting, compiling, arranging for printing, and doing much of the writing of this volume of the more recent history of Peru. For this contribution to the community he deserves considerable thanks. Hopefully many people will benefit and enjoy these publications for many years.

I would personally like to thank all the people in Peru for their interest and effort on behalf of the Bicentennial Committee. Particularly, I would also thank the Clinton County Bicentennial Committee, with special thanks to Mrs. Peg Byrne for her enthusiasm and suggestions. The Peru committee was graced with many hardy and loyal workers such as Paul Allen, Marge Angevine, Jack Johnston, Jane Metcalfe, Linc Sunderland, and many others who became considerably involved for various lengths of time and for various projects. Mr. Lynn Wilke requires special note, as he coordinated the Bicentennial Week, and oversaw the many activities carried on during that exciting and busy time. Mr. Phil Mason undertook the job as coordinator for the re-enactment of the Battle of Valcour, and did an outstanding job. Again, thanks to everyone who gave of themselves to make the Bicentennial celebration such a success and Peru a better Community.

Joseph Alexander
Chr. Bicentennial
Committee of Peru

Introductory Notes

Though I was neither born nor raised at, or near Peru, NY, I am a Northern New Yorker. My great-grand parents, Leonard Charles Drown and his wife, Jane Sophia Drown, moved from Northern Vermont to Ellenburg Depot, Mooers Township in 1864. There they raised four sons and two daughters: Eugene, Frank, Arthur, Ralph, Carrie and Minnie. Leonard died August 15, 1871, in an accident while building a barn. Jane later married a widower, William Barber Sunderland, a farmer living north of Churubusco, NY. His wife, Ann Eliza West, died December 16, 1869. He, with several children moved to the Drown Farm. My father (grandson of Leonard, Jane William and Ann) and mother purchased the farm in 1927, and all twelve of us children, excepting the oldest and youngest were born in the farm house.

After graduating from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, I taught High School Science classes at Horicon Central and then Mayfield Central Schools. Ann and I moved to Peru in 1965, where I taught a variety of science classes for 30 years, and Ann taught at the Intermediate School 32 years. We are both retired and living at the Keese Homestead, Peru, Ausable Township. Our three daughters, Carolyn, Beverly and Jill are married and living in Ohio, Vermont and Colorado, respectively. They, their husbands and children are our greatest joy. History has always been another of my greatest loves.

This 2003 edition is the second printing (500 copies) of History of Peru, New York; the first printing in 1976 contained 350 copies. Because of popular demand a reprinting was undertaken. As is true of all books, this one contains errors in typing, spelling, punctuation, grammatical usage, as well as in facts. I am always open to constructive criticism given without malice. Please inform me of any such mistakes, particularly in facts. Wherever possible, back up the information with documentation. Should there ever be a third edition the corrections will be included, thus refining "truth" for future readers.

If any reader possesses photographs, stories, anecdotes, genealogies, or other knowledge relating to Peru and would like to share it, please contact me. Perhaps another volume of Peru History could be written.

Illustrated on the cover of this volume is the great sandstone mansion built (1837) for Peter Keese, located at Keese Corners, or intersection of the Union Road and Harkness Road, Ausable Township, New York State. Present owners are Ann and Lincoln Sunderland. I believe the sandstone was taken from the bed of the Great Ausable River. Perhaps the builder was Edgar Downs, a prominent stone mason from Clintonville during the 1830's and 1840's, Carved distinctly on a large rock high on the front of the house are the letters "ED"

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SETTLING OF THE WILDERNESS LATER CALLED
PERU

by Lincoln Sunderland

Prior to 1609 Northern New York and the Champlain Valley were the realm of the Mohawk Indians and the Algonquins. The Mohawk center of culture at that time was near Schenectady and the Nation was one of five within the huge and powerful Iroquois Confederacy. The Algonquins concentrated their culture on the Eastern Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. Both tribes were warlike in nature and arch enemies. They had an agreed upon line separating their territories, the Algonquins to the north and the Mohawks to the south. This "line" went directly across Lake Champlain just south of Burlington, passing through a strange pointed rock still to be seen on the eastern side of the lake. Councils were often held on the rock.

In 1605 Samuel Champlain, sailing under the French flag, cruised the North Atlantic around Newfoundland and traveled up the St. Lawrence River. On later voyages he penetrated the St. Lawrence further, and in 1609, traveled with a large party of Algonquins in canoes up the Richelieu River from Sorel, Quibec, to the outlet of Lake Champlain. As the party entered the open expanse of water, Samuel de Champlain announced the lake to be governed by the King of France. This flotilla of birchbarks was encountered by Mohawks. The Algonquins lay in open water throughout the night while the Mohawks stayed on the shoreline. In the morning of the next day the flotilla landed and gradually approached the Mohawks. As three minor chiefs of the Mohawks approached, Champlain raised his blunderbuss and fired. All three fell dead. The Mohawks fled, but became eternal enemies of the French throughout the following 170 years. (This was a costly mistake.)

No white settlers took root in the valley which was a warpath. Anyone caught here was slain, or worse. Torture was part of the routine. A number of French Catholic priests acted as missionaries and came to the Indians to bring to them Christianity. Many suffered immeasurably. Father Joques probably was best known. He named the southern body of water Lac Saint Sacrament. (Later Anglicized to Lake George.)

Raiding parties traveled north to bring plunder and death to Algonquins and other parties went south to deal out atrocities to the Mohawks. French settlers entered America via the St. Lawrence to establish roots in Quebec. English and Dutch settlers came to New England and the Hudson River. French settlers were rather well accepted by Indians, as they did not take lands from the Indians or try to change their whole lifestyle. The English were not as well accepted for they attempted to destroy the way of life of Indians and push the Indians westward. To confuse the issue, England and France were enemies fighting innumerable wars in Europe, with the counterparts of these conflicts spilling into America. The last great struggle for control of America fought between France and England was the misnamed French

and Indian War, 1756-1763. This ended with a British victory with one of the terms of the treaty being that Britain established control of virtually all of North America, North of Florida and South of the pole.

It was a custom in the days gone by to pay military men for their services to the crown by giving them land in the New World. The number of acres given was proportioned to the rank held at the end of the war. A certain Count Charles de Fredenburgh had been a captain in the British Army, so was given a large tract. He, with 19 associates, petitioned for 20,000 acres along Cumberland Bay in 1767. On January 11, 1769, de Fredenburgh was granted title to 30,000 acres, on both sides of the Saranac River as far west as the falls. He built a number of buildings and a saw-mill.

Some time before, a young man from Armaugh, Ireland had joined the British Army to fight in America. He was in the infamous Battle of Lake George. The British had been mauled by French and Indians. That was during the French and Indian War. After the war ended, William Guilliland married the daughter of a wealthy businessman in New York City. A large dowery was given. With this money Builliland purchased from veterans of the war their land grants. Since most soldiers did not desire to use the lands they received, the selling price was low. Will purchased over 30,000 acres, with the bulk of that land being near the mouth of the Bouquet River. Many tenant farmers came with him to farm Willsborough. This was well before the Revolutionary War. One tract of land Will Guilliland owned was in Peru, along the lake shore opposite Valcour Island. A tenant farmer named Hay lived there. He can be considered our first Peru settler.

America, in the early 1770's, was becoming more and more dissatisfied with British rule. In the spring of 1775 there was Arnold and Ethan Allen at Ticonderoga, Lexington, Concord, Boston, etc. Arnold built a fleet at Skenesborough, now called Whitehall. During the summer of 1776, this strange armada sailed north to defend the lower lake from British invaders to come from Quebec. They surely did come, with General Carlton on one of the ships. Arnold's ships hid behind Valcour Island along its New York side. A fierce battle followed, which Hay watched from along the shoreline. Arnold was soundly defeated. In the cover of darkness his remaining ships sneaked along the shoreline to reach the open water. When daylight arrived, the Americans were gone. The British pursued and gradually caught up to most of the fleet. American ships were scuttled along the way. Few reached Ticonderoga and safety. So went the first truly historical battle within Peru.

From that time until the Battle of Saratoga the British controlled the Champlain Valley. It is assumed de Fredenburgh was murdered. John Hay left. Guilliland dabbled in the war a bit, then escaped to New York, abandoning his mills, homes, fields, etc. In the spring of 1777, General Burgoyne brought a huge army from Montreal up the Richelieu, and Lake Champlain. Fort Crown Point

and Ticondergoa were abandoned before the British onslaught. As we know, Burgoyne was stopped at Saratoga. The war didn't end until years later. (During this time Peru was without settlers.)

In 1786, Edward Everett, a captain in the American Army against Britain, with his son, George, a drummer boy, came to a site at the mouth of the Ausable River in a sloop. The family, including his wife and eight children, left the sloop. The older boys drove the team and wagon of household goods up stream along the river bank, as the others traveled by rowboat. At the lower end of the chasm they traveled cross country to the 150 acre plot at the base of the north side of Hallock Hill. The land was paid to Captain Everett for surveying work he did earlier for Zephaniah Platt. (Platt was a wealthy man who eventually owned 33,000 acres of land, most being in his greater and lesser locations, both being in Peru.)

In 1788, William Keese worked for Zephaniah Platt, surveying the 12,000 acre location. In 1789 William traveled on the ice from Whitehall to Peru Landing, bringing his axe and some provisions. He built a log house on what is called the Davern Farm on the Davern Road.

In 1791 Richard Keese moved onto his land, now known as the Keese Homestead. John Keese III, father of Richard and William, soon arrived from Long Island with the other sons: John, Stephen, and Oliver. They settled on the farms now known as Kermit Irwin Farm, Avery Stafford Farm, and Northern Orchards.

These families established the nucleus of a Quaker settlement called the Union, with a church, school, post office, stores, blacksmith shop, and surrounding farms. That society has long since faded, with most original families moving to Ohio with the new lands opening up.

Not long after 1790, many many families migrated to this fertile valley rich with timber. The white pines were choice, with trees 150' tall and 4' in diameter. Life was difficult. Products to sell were potash, pearl ash, lumber, starch, some beef, sheep, goats, eggs, and wheat. The wheat, ash and lumber were shipped by water to Montreal and on to Europe. It is immediately obvious that power was needed to operate the gristmills to grind grain, sawmills to make boards, and water for starch factories to process potatoes. There was such power on the Little Ausable River. Mills were built at Goshen (near Burrell Orchards), and at the bridge in the present village. Cochran owned some of these mills and homes rose around this area quickly. The town was named Cochran's Mills. Hackstaff owned mills so some called Peru Hackstaffs Mills. It amazes me that this town rose from wilderness to a booming village of factories, mills, shops, huge mansions and broad streets with a large triple arch stone bridge in about 20 years, 1795-1805.

From that time until now Peru has changed greatly. The iron deposits were discovered at Palmer Hill, Arnold Hill and near Saranac. Many immigrants arrived to work in these mines or work the extracted ore. West Peru (with St. Patrick's Church) now called the Patent was settled by Irish Immigrants who came here during the Irish famine. Each little hamlet such as Swastika, Clintonville, Birmingham Falls and Salmon River are now crossroads along an open road. They at one time were the outlying areas of Old Peru. Lapham's Mills, Valcour, Goshen, North Peru, Smithdale, and the Union within Peru can be missed as a motorist travels by. The iron catlin forges used to smelt ore are overgrown in brush and trees. One room school houses are either lost, abandoned, or now remodelled for private homes. Mason Brothers Lumber Mills are closed.

If these are lost, then what remains?

- 1.) Some of the best farmland and farms of the county; broad, flat, stoneless fields.
- 2.) Thousands of acres of fruit trees with hundreds of thousands of bushels of apples going to markets all over the U.S.A.
- 3.) The largest school in Northern New York State.
- 4.) Lovely homes filled with contented country people, good people.

THE BATTLE OF VALCOUR IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

by: Frank Anthony DeSorbo

Lake Champlain, the Richelieu and St. Lawrence rivers to its north, and the upper Hudson river to its south were the primary means of communication and transportation between New York, Albany and Canada. Whoever controlled Lake Champlain would control Fort Crown Point and Fort Ticonderoga at the head of the Lake. This natural gateway was, therefore, of great military importance, and a struggle for its possession has marked every war involving Canada, the American Colonies, and the United States, to the South.

The narrow strait between Valcour Island and the eastern shore of New York gained its historical significance when the War for American Independence came to the Champlain Valley. The controversy surrounding the events and the uniqueness of the Battle which resulted, stems from Brigadier General Benedict Arnold who planned and executed the strategy. As we look at Benedict Arnold's role in the Revolutionary War from 1775 to 1777, especially at Valcour it becomes quite clear why Arnold was known by the British as "the most enterprising man among the rebels". It was early in May of 1775, that Benedict Arnold and the intrepid Ethan Allen, leader of the "Green Mountain Boys", secured control of Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point. This action became the first initiated offensive taken by the American Colonist. To the British, this bold act meant the Americans were in open rebellion. On May 18, 1775, Arnold captured St. John's Quebec and a 70 ton sloop from the British, giving the Americans full control of Lake Champlain. The 70 ton sloop George III was re-christened the Enterprise. The British schooner Royal Savage which was sunk at St. Johns, was later raised and used in Arnold's fleet along with the gally, Lee which was disassembled and later put together again. In June of that year, Arnold advised the building of twenty to thirty vessels of various sizes to maintain control of the Lake. On June 13, 1776, Arnold received orders from General Horatio Gates, commander of the Northern Army at Ticonderoga, to take charge of the ship construction. On July 1, the Second Continental Congress resolved "that the Marine Committee be empowered to contract with shipwrights to go to Lake Champlain". Before receiving these orders, Arnold had already sent Captain Jacobus Wyncrop to the southern end of the Lake to begin construction of a small fleet at the somewhat inoperative shipyard at Skenesborough (now Whitehall, New York). Arnold had previously confiscated a five-sail schooner at Skenesborough owned by the rich loyalist and founder Major Philip Skene. The vessel was outfitted with cannon and christened the Liberty.

By July 18th carpenters began the first row galley. On the 29th of July more than one hundred shipwrights were working fervently to provide Arnold with a fleet. Lack of supplies, smallpox and other illnesses plagued Arnolds' efforts. However, by August 5th six vessels sailed out of Skenesborough and as the weeks of August and September slipped by other vessels continued to join the

fleet. Miraculously, enough materials were found by the officers and men who were sent out to scavenge around the countryside. Some paid exorbitant prices for these materials however a high price was to be paid if a fleet was to be built. The vessels were armed from cannon and other armaments taken at Fort Ticonderoga and also from other captured British posts. "Most of the vessels", maintains one historian, "had a peculiarly homemade look;weird craft which could not have faced even a fresh breeze on the ocean." It is true that the vessels were hurriedly built, but they were well built and by expert shipwrights. The Philadelphia, as James Murfin of the National Park Service maintains, is "perhaps the most singularly most-significant relic of the American Revolution". Viewing the Philadelphia, on display at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C., illustrates the soundness of construction and suitability to the role which these vessels played at Valcour. They were uniquely designed and constructed for just such situations. Arnold's fleet consisted of fifteen ill-assorted vessels, including schooners, gunboats and row galleys, mounting eighty six cannons which discharged 605 pounds, and some fifty two swivel guns.

Arnold, undoubtedly complained about the smallness of his fleet, he also complained of his crew (over eight hundred men) of whom he wrote: "we have a wretched, motley crew in the fleet, the Marines are the refuse of every regiment and the seamen, few of them were ever met with salt water". In spite of all his misgivings, Arnold, who was an excellent sailor and who knew Lake Champlain well, prepared his men as best he could. They cruised almost every bay and channel, training as they searched for a British fleet. They did occasionally get harassed by rifle fire from the British and their Indian allies when they ventured too close to the shore.

In the meantime, the British General, Guy Carleton, decided to reinforce the British fleet. Carleton wrote that his purpose was "to establish a naval force on Lake Champlain to command the navigation of that Lake, and to render the passage for the troops in batteaux secure". In other words, he would not hazard transporting his six-hundred barges - filled with soldiers up Lake Champlain until Arnolds' fleet was defeated. Some historians maintain that Carleton worried too much about logistics and lacked fortitude as a military commander, especially when he did not take advantage of neutralizing Arnolds' forces when they were the weakest, during the summer of 1776. Instead the British lost valuable time in ship construction and in transporting the larger vessels around the shallows and rapids at Chambly.

The British fleet when ready, had some twenty-nine vessels, six-hundred and ninety-seven officers and men from the regular Navy. Their fleet consisted of some larger vessels, notably the Inflexible, a three-masted ship with eighteen twelve pounders (cannon). In all, the British fleet mounted some eighty-nine cannon, discharging a total weight of over one thousand pounds. The superiority of heavier guns gave the British quite an advantage over the American fleet.

On October 1, 1776, Arnold received intelligence information that the British were nearly ready to advance from St. Johns, Quebec. The British actually began to move on October 4th, arriving near Cumberland Head about 8 a.m. the 11th of October, 1776. Arnold, and his fleet, finding a favorable position in the channel between Valcour Island and the shore, waited anxiously for them. This placement was hidden from vessels advancing from the north by a heavily wooded bluff projecting from the island on the west side. Arnold's plan of attack was to form a crescent-shaped battle line inside the southern end of the channel. Then, if the opportunity presented itself, the American fleet could sail out and attack the rear of the unsuspecting British fleet as they passed. The alternate strategy was to force the British to attack the American fleet against the wind and catch the British between the converging fire from American cannons. Such complex strategy must have seemed remote to the shivering American soldiers who waited by their guns as the sunrise on that October 11th, 1776 greeted them across the chilly waters of Lake Champlain.

If Arnold's fleet had been more powerful, he, being a man of action undoubtedly would have sought to attack the British in open water. This action, it seemed, would have been against the specific orders Arnold received from General Horatio Gates, Commander of the Northern Army. Gates warned Arnold to remain on the defensive and not to take any "wanton risk" or show any "unnecessary display of power". However, as Arnold had hoped, the unsuspecting British sailed boldly down the Lake, passing the eastern side of Valcour Island. They sailed some two miles past the southern end of the Island before the American squadron was sighted. Immediately, the British put about against the strong northerly wind which had been bearing them southward. The British gunboats, having oars as well as sails, turned at once to begin the attack. Arnold who had chosen to fight in the galley, Congress, because of her speed and maneuverability, weighed anchor, and with the schooner The Royal Savage and the galleys the Trumbull and Washington, the fastest vessels in the fleet, moved out to meet the enemy gunboats. There were few actions between American Colonial and British forces which could be classed as naval battles. Such engagements involved a few vessels and lacked any great strategic importance. However, as the fleets closed for battle, and the granite hills of Valcour Island reverberated the thunder of cannon, the first real naval battle in the War for Independence took place. This action, and the events that led up to it, may have decided the fate of the American Revolution.

Who won the Battle of Valcour? At first glance the answer seems obvious. From about 11 a.m. to about 5 that evening the fighting was fierce. Arnold, by this time, had lost The Royal Savage. The Congress and the Washington were both badly damaged, and taking water. Although the American firing had been heavy comparatively speaking, British damages were slight. As the British withdrew a short distance from the lines of battle, and anchored for the evening, Arnold realized with ammunition and supplies running low, they could not possibly continue the fighting the next day. As impossible as it seems, Arnold executed a daring plan of escape past the British line. Using the advantage of dense fog, the

battered American fleet limped single file, past the unsuspecting British fleet, guided only by a dim light on the stern of each vessel. Arnold's ship, protecting the rear, passed along the mainland shore past AuSable Point, Trembleau Mountain to Schuyler Island, some seven and a half miles southward.

Although historians dispute whether Arnold used a northern or southern escape route, his flight from the British fleet was spectacular. Unfortunately, the British pursued the Americans to Schuyler Island. Here, the Lee went aground, the Jersey foundered and both had to be abandoned. The New York and the Providence were so badly damaged from battle that Arnold ordered them scuttled in deep water.

On October 13th, British and Americans exchanged fire once again. The Congress sustained much damage, and with all the remaining gunboats, was set afire and sunk at Button Bay, near the Vermont shore. This desperate act was intended to keep the vessels from the fate of the Washington, which was forced to surrender to the British. Of the fifteen vessels that made up Arnold's fleet, only three made it safely to Crown Point, and on to Fort Ticonderoga with Arnold.

The Americans lost one hundred and seven men, dead and wounded. The British losses were light if any.

With winter rapidly approaching the Champlain Valley, General Carleton abandoned his efforts to sail on to the Hudson river and ordered his fleet back to Canada. The plan to divide the Colonies in 1776 was put aside until the following year when General John Burgoyne would attempt it once again.

Had the British continued onward to take Ticonderoga, then Albany to the south, it would have put an end to General George Washington's hard-pressed army; and ultimately the end of America's War for Independence.

Whether Carleton's cautious and perhaps poor strategy, or Arnold's courageous shrewd maneuvering and indomitable energy granted the Americans that invaluable year to prepare for the capitulation of the British at Saratoga, the turning point of the War, will be argued by historians for a long time.

The Battle of Valcour, however, although seldom mentioned in textbooks, will remain one of the most fascinating battles of the American Revolution. Perhaps Winston Churchill was correct when he said, "The Battle of Valcour may have been the most important naval battle in the history of the United States".

A NEIGHBOR OF PLATTSBURG

Not far from here is a small place where some of you live, where most of you have been, and of which the rest of you have heard. This place is called Peru. It is located ten miles from this city and six miles this side of Keeseville.

Perhaps none of you ever stopped to realize the historic interest attached to this place.

On December 28, 1792, a group of men met and held the first town meeting at the home of Samuel Jackson. His house stood near where the homes of Hobart Fuller and the Misses Everett now stand, about ten miles from this city, on the Lake Shore Road. It was near this place that the old block house stood. A block-house was a rude sort of log-made fort used in the Revolution and before. The meeting was called to order by two of the Justices of Peace, and then John Cochran, the real founder of Peru village, was chosen moderator.

Some of the officers elected were: for qualified supervisor, Edward Everett, great grandfather of J.W. Harkness, who lives in the community bearing his own name; for town clerk, Asa Adgate; and for assessors, Richard Keese, Isaac Finch, and John Howe. Other officials chosen were commissioners of highways, constables, collector, overseers of poor, pound master, overseers of highways, and fence viewers.

A fence viewer was an officer whose duty it was to see that all the fences were in good condition. In case of any damage done by stray animals, the owner was liable if his fence was poor.

At this point it might be mentioned that Edward Everett was born in Dedham, Mass. in 1739, was Captain of the North West Troops at the siege of Quebec in 1776, and removed to the North West to Clinton County about July 1786. He lived in the wilderness on the lot S.E. of the corner of Arthur Road and Union Rd. about three miles south of Peru.

Every year, usually during June or July, the enthusiastic townsmen met at somebody's house. At each meeting the officers for the ensuing year were elected, and then such other matters of interest were discussed as might be desired. Some of the more important were as follows.

In 1796, it was voted that \$10 was to be paid by the inhabitants for every wolf killed within the town. The "said wolf" was to be full grown and "fresh" killed.

In the same year we find the beginning of taxation, not in money as is now our custom, but by the apportionment of a certain number of days' work on the road. The number of days work on the road. The number of days was apportioned by the assessors, as is the tax now.

In March, 1797, a special town meeting was held for the purpose of stopping any infectious distemper endangering the inhabitants of the town. A committee was chosen for the purpose of overseeing inoculation for small-pox, consulting with doctors, in order to take every precaution for the good of the town. This was "Old Peru's" first Board of Health and such were its duties.

In 1814, the bounty for every full grown wolf killed was raised \$15, making it \$25 and a bounty of \$.25 was given for every crow killed between the middle of May and the middle of June.

In 1815, the wolf bounty was raised to \$30 and in addition \$15 was given for every young wolf. It was also voted that hogs, horses and sheep were not common. All animals that were allowed to go wild were called common. (Common animals could legally graze roadsides, etc.)

In 1818, it was voted that Jonathan Shephard be sexton the ensuing year for the burying yard near Hackstaff's Mills, now Peru, and that he should receive \$1 each, for digging graves.

In 1825, it was resolved that Commissioners and Inspectors of Common Schools receive \$.75 a day for their services.

At this time Peru covered a large territory. The following were the more important boundaries. The south line was at the south end of Augur Lake, from which this line went east to Lake Champlain, west to the Great Ausable River at or near Ausable Forks, and then continued west to the east line of Montgomery County, through what is now Brandon, Franklin County. In other words, the Peru of that time included what now comprises Ausable, Black Brook, Brighton, Franklin, and part of Brandon, as well as Peru itself.

One of the more important of all the problems of the time was that of building the roads. The first road was that which extends along the west side of Lake Champlain, and is now called the Lake Shore Road. This road extended from Plattsburg to the fordway about three miles from the present village of Keeseville. There was no bridge at this place, the river being forded by all who went that way.

After that a road was built on what was known as Arthur St. which extends westward from the Lake Shore Road and ends near the Richard Keese homestead, which is on the road going from Hallock Hill north towards Peru. This road from Hallock Hill was then carried through by way of Mooers to Canada.

William Hay, who was the first settler, witnessed the naval engagement between the British fleet and the Americans under Arnold. October 11, 1776. He is located on Stewart's Patent opposite Valcour Island in 1772 but soon went to Canada. In 1785, he returned and located a little south of Salmon River, on the Lake Shore. He died on February 1790, the first death in the town. In 1788, his daughter, Mary, married Lott Elmore. This

was the first marriage in the town.

In 1799, a part of Peru was taken off and added to Willsboro and in 1839 Ausable and Black Brook were taken off. In 1875 the population amounted to 2,832, the number of dwelling houses 518, number of acres of improved land 26,114, of unimproved land 16,115, and the cash value of farm buildings \$167,760.

The first school in the town of Peru was located at the Union, which is now only a country settlement about three miles south of Peru. The teacher was a Mr. Finch. A tuition fee of \$1.50 per quarter was charged. Benjamin Marie, and Benjamin Snow were also teachers of early schools. The next school was built at Peru village, followed by another at Bartonville, a distance of about three miles from Peru. June 2, 1813 the Commissioners, Benjamin Sherman, William Keese, and Robert Platt divided the town into 13 school districts.

The first religious services in the town were held by the Quakers. The first meeting house was built of logs and located in the Union, nearly three miles from my own home. Some of the local preachers were, David Harkness, great uncle of J.W. Harkness, and Samuel Keese and his wife Catherine. In 1803 another meeting house was erected near by. That was used by the Hicksite Quakers and another was built in 1828 by the Orthodox Quakers. About 20 years ago this building was moved across the road and it is now owned and occupied by Joseph Barber.

A man by the name of Robert Batty was one of the first to open a store. He opened it at the Union and carried on quite an extensive trade.

Peru was on the highway used by stage coaches and private conveyances, therefore, hotels received abundant patronage. Nathan Averill kept the first hotel in the Union. At that time the Union was the business and the commercial center of Peru. All elections were held and all the town business was carried on in that place. All the travel to and from the Indian Pass across the Adirondack Mts. from the Southwest went over Hallock Hill and through the Union. A little later Robert Batty built a larger hotel farther south. At the present time none of the descendants of the Batty family are living, but a small family burying ground may be seen on the farm of R.P. Keese, located a short distance from his homestead.

Two spots of historic interest are Valcour Island and Garden Island. Valcour Island was formerly known as Valeur Island, after the French frigate that carried the news of the battle of Ticonderoga to France. It is about two miles long and one mile wide and contains good land in the north end and along the shore. The second, Garden Island, lies south of Valcour, and was used by the English as a garden spot.

John Cochran, who has the honor of being the founder of Peru, was attracted to the town by the water power of the river, which

formed a strange contrast with the slow, murky stream of today. One peculiarity of the region was the large number of black bears and other wild animals then found there. The swampy dense forest which is east of Peru was given the name of Bear Swamp.

Edward Hallock, one of the first pioneers following the Indian trail from the Indian Pass, settled under the brow of the hill which bears his name. From his house could be seen the hunting grounds of the Indian, where, under the branches of the trees were the moose, bear, deer, and catamount. The Little Ausable flows through the best part of this section, which now bears the name of Harkness.

In the early period the farmers had a peculiar way of marking their animals, so that in case the animals got loose the neighbors would know to whom they belonged. This was by what were called earmarks. It might be well for us to note the peculiarity of the town records as I read them verbatim.

John Keese - a square crop off the left ear, recorded April 4, 1799. Henry Signor - a half crop off the upper side of the right with a slit in the left, recorded March 19, 1800. Peter Hallock - a square crop off the left ear with a half penny off the right, and Daniel Harkness two holes in the right ear with a square crop off the left, recorded Feb. 14, 1807.

West of Peru is Mt. Aetna, more commonly known as Huckleberry Mountain, because in a good berry year quantities of huckleberries are found there. A blast furnace near its base, called the Aetna Furnace, once stood there. It was abandoned many years ago. It is likely that it was from this furnace that the mountain took its name. The Salmon River drains the northwest part of the town, the Little Ausable drains the central part, and the Great Ausable drains the southeast part and forms its boundary.

Much improvement has been made in the town from time to time until now one of the largest industries, in this part of the state, has been built up--that of the lumber company of A. Mason and Sons. Beside this there is a grist mill just below the bridge.

In the present village there are three churches, a drug store, a post office, a jewelry store, a town hall, two meat markets, two grocery and dry goods stores, a hotel and three public garages, besides two barber shops, which are now almost as necessary as a grocery store.

A branch of the D & H goes through on its way to Ausable. Peru is on the main road from Keeseville to this city, and it is at the end of the new road from this city, through Morrisonville and Schuyler Falls.

At the time of the last town census, there were 14 school districts a population of 2,356, approximately 600 dwellings, and property valued at about \$978,000. (1927)

Esther Signor Pray

A 1776 AMERICAN

As the United States of America prepares to celebrate its Bicentennial, I, like many Americans, am proud to participate. I was even more pleased when I learned through genealogical research that one of my forefathers had participated in the American Revolution.

The American Revolution encompassed quite a huge area to include even parts of Canada. After the first blood shed at Lexington, Massachusetts, other battles ensued up and down the Colonies. In the early morning of 10 May, 1775, Ethan Allen with a group of "citizen soldiers" captured Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point in New York State from the British.

By July 4, 1775 the War of Independence seemed to be gaining momentum at a great cost of human life.

On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress convened and on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted, so the war against Great Britain was no longer the revolt of dissatisfied British subjects against their King and Parliament, BUT, a war of a sovereign nation against a foreign power.

This is where Garret Thew born in Clarkstown, Rockland County, New York, 10 October, 1758, enters the story. To a boy of nearly 18 the War of Independence appeared to be filled with action and new adventures. He had seen relatives, friends, family leaving home to join the cause, and wanted to be part of it.

So, on July 4, 1776, he entered the service of the New York Orange County Militia- Second Regiment - joining brothers Gilbert and John in the fight for Independence. He served as a "volunteer private". He marched with his uncle, Colonel Gilbert Cooper's regiment through Tappan, Willows Meadows, and English neighborhood, to the Hackensack Bridge in New Jersey, where he did guard duty. After this he was discharged on 4 January, 1777 at Hempstead, New York, with his company.

By the fall of 1777, Garret Thew entered the service again in Captain Orra Smith's Company, Colonel A. Henhawk Hays Regiment, New York Militia and went on guard duty at Slaughter's Landing and on the North River. It was while here he observed the "motions of the Tories and British" who had vessels lying at anchor in the Hudson River. Possibly one of these vessels was the one that carried Major Andre' from England to America to meet Benedict Arnold!

One night while on guard duty here as a sentinel with his company, a party of British and Tories "sneaked" through a corn field and with fixed bayonets ordered them to surrender. Garret Thew and 14 others who were on guard duty were taken prisoners-of-war. They were put aboard a British Sloop lying in the North River and

taken to New York City. They were imprisoned in a place called the "Sugar House", with 100 other American prisoners-of-war. The "Sugar House" was fenced in by a high board fence and was stated to be "a most filthy prison". He was a prisoner-of-war for two and a half months when he and others were exchanged and released.

Imagine the humiliation he felt with being captured and not even having an opportunity to fight! Despite this he continued to serve on guard duty two months of each year from 1778 to 1782.

In 1786 war over, Garret and brother Gilbert were deeded lots 24 and 25 in the township of Plattsburgh, New York by Zephaniah Platt. In 1789, the Thew brothers sold their properties in Plattsburgh and purchased 300 acres in Lot No. 5 from Nathaniel Platt, brother of Zephaniah. Here they settled in the wilderness with their families in "the Union" near the community named Peru. The brothers cleared the land, built their homes, planted crops.

Garret was a farmer and sometimes tanned hides. He was known in his neighborhood as a "Soldier of the Revolution".

Garret Thew was married twice. By his first wife he had twin daughters Hannah and Rebecca. By his second wife he raised five sons and four daughters, so numerous descendants still live in the areas of Peru and Plattsburgh. He died in Peru, New York on 9 May, 1836.

A story told many times was that of Garret and Gilbert Thew not accepting bonuses after leaving service after the Revolutionary War because "they felt it their duty to fight for their country".

A marble stone in the Union Cemetery outside Peru, below Hallock Hill on Union Road, carries a plain inscription.

GARRET THEW

2nd ORANGE CO. REGT.

1775

Small tribute to a modest man, a Soldier of the Revolution.

Submitted to the
Peru Bicentennial Commission
by Mrs. Austin W. Gowan
descendent of Garret Thew

CARLETON'S PRIZE

Carleton's Prize is the name of an island located about four and one half miles east of the southern end of Valcour Island, and southeast of Providence Island on the Vermont side of the Lake.

One definition of "prize" is - something taken by force as in was; especially a captured enemy warship or its cargo.

Carleton refers to Sir Guy Carleton who at the time of the Battle of Valcour was commander of the British forces as well as Governor of Quebec. He was aboard the schooner "Maria" during the Battle of Valcour. And thereby hangs this tale.

As daylight came on the second day of the Battle, Carleton was astonished to find Valcour Bay empty of the American fleet. Immediately he ordered pursuit south. Here one of the most amusing episodes of the Revolution takes place. For nearly 200 years the citizens of Clinton County, New York have passed the tale from generation to generation. It is not the kind of story that appears in official reports, least of all in that of the British, and there is no eye-witness American account, but it offers some respite in an otherwise bloody encounter.

Capt. L.F. Hagglund, in his A Page of the Past narrates:

Governor Carleton was so angry when he discovered the escape of the rebel fleet that he immediately issued orders for a pursuit by the British fleet, and without taking time to notify his land forces where he was going, his own vessel made sail and slipped away with the light breeze toward the Vermont shore, followed as closely as possible by the other vessels. All eyes scanned the gray bank ahead and tried to penetrate that morning mist. Suddenly, before the Maria, loomed the hull of a fleeing rebel sloop. The bow guns opened fire, and then a broadside was brought to bear. The rebel continued to flee. Once again the Maria fired, and now some of the other vessels added their fire. The forward motion of the rebel sloop had ceased. The prize was won. The mist was lifting. It disclosed the rebel sloop - a rock standing in the lake as it stands today. I doubt if anyone in the British fleet that morning dared to laugh, but that rock has been known ever since as CARLETON'S PRIZE and the children of the Champlain Valley have been laughing at it for over a century and a half. Some day, if I live long enough, I hope to search the crevasses around that lone rock. If I find some cannon balls with the British broad arrow stamped upon them, perhaps this will add a little weight to the truth of this story; but if I go there and find none, I shall go home quietly and leave the story as is.

End of quote from Capt. Hagglund.

It is not known if Captain Hagglund ever returned to check out the story. But the rock is still there and still carries the name

of Carleton's Prize on U.S. Geological Survey maps.

In 1962, Mike Freeman, a professional diver from Silver Spring, Md. found an iron ball fused together with grapeshot, just off the rock island. Although there are no British markings, Smithsonian Institution authorities agree that the balls are from the Revolution.

Such stories are prone to change as local citizens embellish them. Some claim the island in question is really Garden Island, while others say Rock Dunder is the Prize. The latter is based on the story of a Hessian gunner who, after firing a number of rounds, exclaimed, "That's not a ship. That's a rock, by dunder". Since no documentation exists, it seems logical to assume that since in recent years some shot has been recovered from the waters surrounding Carleton's Prize, this must be the sail the British cited.

Carleton's Prize was a derogatory term for a mistake on a foggy morning when an island was mistaken for a ship. Carleton, as commander of the British forces, was aboard the ship that made the mistake. Capt. Pringle was in command of the ship.

As the years pass Carleton's Prize can change its connotation to one of a lovely piece of real estate on beautiful Lake Champlain.

Already that has been done to the term Royal Savage, which originally referred to George III as an Indian. We now think of the Royal Savage as a highly rated eating establishment on Route 9.

All this is a fair exchange for the uncomplimentary term the British called the Revolutionary soldiers. Yank, yankee, or yankee doodle meant a "jerk" in those days. Yanks were held in high regard in World Wars I and II as protectors of freedom.

SOME FACTS ABOUT PERU

The Town of Peru was separated from the Towns of Plattsburgh and Willsborough on December 28, 1792. At that time the Town of Willsborough was in Clinton County, which has since been reduced in size. In 1839, Peru Township was made smaller when the Towns of Black Brook and Ausable were extracted. Inspection of a map of the land tracts of Clinton County reveals that Peru Township is composed of Stewart's Patent, Plattsburgh's 1665 Acre Location, Bell's Location, Bell's Patent in Peru, Plattsburgh's 600 Acre Location, some of Plattsburgh's Great Location, some of the Watson Tract, all of Livingston's Gore, almost all of Tharp's Tract, parts of those portions of Livingston's Patent known as Divisions 5, 6 and 7, and most of Plattsburgh's Valcour Island Patent. In all, there are 81 square miles.

The township generally slopes to the east, with the higher lands of Terry Mountain and Mount Etna, now called Huckleberry Hill, on the far west end of the area. Rivers carry the runoff waters generally to the east. The Salmon River sweeps across the uplands from the southwest to the northeast, passing over into Schuyler Falls. Silver Brook drains the northeast corner of the township, dumping into Lake Champlain in Stewart's Patent. Nearly all the watershed of the Little Ausable River is within Peru, with the ribbon of water lacing its way from the highlands of Terry Mountain's east side to Allen's Bay. Those portions of Peru lying in the southern third of the Township are drained by tributaries of the Great Ausable River.

Two railroad lines extend across Peru fields and forests. One line follows along a path somewhat parallel to the Lake Champlain shore, and inland to the west a fraction of a mile. This highway for iron horses stretches from Montreal and beyond, to the southern cities of Whitehall, Fort Ann, Fort Edward, on to Albany, etc. The other rail line passes diagonally from the northeast to the southwest, connecting Plattsburgh with Bartonville, Peru, Harkness, and Ausable Forks. Many of the families of Peru invested capital into this enterprize, and often used the railroad for shipment of agricultural goods going out of, and manufactured products coming into Peru. Passenger service existed for many years, whereby, folks often commuted to nearby villages to attend school, visit friends and relatives, perform business transactions, or go to and from employment. At present the two railroads are owned by the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Co. Inc. Passenger service exists on the north-south route, as well as freight shipment on both routes.

During the early years of American History people were likely not to travel widely due to the lack of convenient means of transportation. At first, the early settlers of Peru were obliged to travel on foot or by horse. Roads replaced blazed trails and the narrow paths were widened year-by-year. Boulders were removed, large trees cut down with the stumps dug, cut, or burned. The winding dirt roads slowly straightened. Forbidding streams,

swamps, sand plains, or rock cliffs dictated the course of the roads. As newer more advanced road-building equipment was used many of these obstacles were overcome. Ausable Chasm was spanned, Carpenter's Flats was built up with a bridge to cross the Ausable River there. The triple stone arch bridge of Peru Village was built in the 1840's. The bridge at Goshen, over the Little Ausable was less necessary as soon as a bridge was built along the Jarvis Road. The stone arch bridge at the gully just south of Elisha Arnold's home, now Don "G" Orchards, allowed freer crossing.

When the area was first settled, with William Hay living at the shoreline opposite Valcour Island, America had ended the last French and Indian War, but the American Revolutionary War had not yet begun. Forests covered most of the land, with some bare outcroppings atop knolls scoured by glaciation. Timber was everywhere. White pine was King, with the five long needles encased in a fascicle. The one-hundred fifty feet tall giants were often five-feet across the butt log. Symbol of the five nations of the Iroquois, who used this valley as a warpath, pine provided the soft wood for the large teeth of early lumber mills. Very wide knot-free boards were aplenty. Homes, barns, sheds and mills rose quickly.

Other tree species important to the early settlers were white oak, with the ray cells passing perpendicularly through the xylem, giving that particular appearance peculiar to oak. The long hand-hewn timbers of pine were held together by the oak pegs, driven into the holes drilled by hand augers. Hemlock provided a rather brittle wood that was long-wearing if kept dry. The bark provided tannic acid to remove hair from hides of animals. Small, but long straight poles commonly used in-the-round for rafters of barns came from balsam and spruce. White cedar grew well in wet areas and split evenly to yield to the pioneer the shakes for a roof. A constant problem with shakes was the fire hazard. Maple and ash were hard and strong, being used for whipple-trees and tongues or reaches of wagons, sleds, etc.

The branches of trees, or the logs of junk wood were commonly burned to provide potash. If the potash were mixed with water and then boiled until a whitish-gray pearl-ash were left, that could be sold for a price much dearer than that received for potash. Such products were cash crops, and could be sold in Montreal, to be shipped to Europe. Many farmers used tree stumps set on edge as fencing, placing a series of these in a line along the margin of a pasture, barnyard, or field. As one can see, a forest of virgin timber was a tremendous boon to an early landowner.

No person can hope to comprehend all the forces involved during the two hundred years of the recent history of Peru. Many of the happenings, people and establishments have been recorded to leave us bits along a complex road. Many settlers came here to escape other places or conditions. Others sought new opportunities of land, minerals, timber, mills, etc. As one facet of settlement

occurred, such as new lands becoming available for purchase, farms were cleared. Later the water power was harnessed and sawmills and gristmills arose. When the iron mines of Palmer Hill and Arnold Hill were active, the ore had to be taken out, providing jobs for many immigrants. The Forges were built along streams, to allow the current to motivate the bellows for forcing air into the center of the alternating ore and flux layers of the stone kilns. Bloomers were hired to manage such jobs. Teamsters with oxen spans and teams of draft horses hauled the ore to the forge sites. The wide iron rimmed wheels creaked over the dirt roads from the open pits and shafts to the forges. Beehive shaped kilns were filled with criss-crossed logs and set afire. Once aflame, the enclosure was sealed to reduce the oxygen supply, allowing the wood to slowly change to charcoal. After several days passed the charcoal was removed and taken to the forges as fuel for smelting. To maintain a mining and forging operation, resulting in the pig iron being loaded onto railroad cars, required a very substantial work force. The total process drew people from many directions and small communities.

In like manner small clusters of homes, businesses, and interactions developed where roads crossed, waterfalls occurred, mineral deposits existed, choice lands lay available, timber was close-at-hand, or landings for ships were found. Peru Township had the Union, with the first postoffice, blacksmith shop and church. Quakers settled these fertile fields along what is now called the Union Road, and the Hallock Hill Road. Many of the buildings of earlier days yet stand.

Goshen grew where the bridge spanned the Little Ausable River south of the present Burrell Orchards. In the year 1800 John Keese built a sawmill on the north side of the river. John was the son of Stephen. James Rogers joined the two Keeses to form the Keese, Rogers and Keese Sawmill Company. In 1801, a house was built for John Keese, probably being just north of the mill, or on top of the hill to the north. Also, in 1801 a store was built by the company and opened. It flourished for about forty years. Before or during 1805 a gristmill was built on the south side of the Little Ausable River. Stephen and John Keese went to Dutchess County, where they had previously lived, during the winter to return with mill stones. That must have been a long and difficult ordeal, with below zero temperatures, howling winds, and great distances by foot or astride horses. The return trip must have required bobsleds and either oxen or horses. The stone buttments of the original bridge are yet in place, and a millstone of that long journey is presently situated among the stones laid up there.

One of John Keese's brothers-in-law, Arden Barker, began clerking at Goshen in 1815, and worked the rest of his life there. The large brick home, which is mentioned above, was built in the early eighteen hundreds directly across the road and north of the store. Bricks used in the construction are said to have been made on the site, with the clay acquired along the banks of the river. Arden Barker, who had become owner of the Goshen businesses built

the home for his son, John Barker. Later the home and business was sold by John Barker to Nathan Lapham, his brother-in-law, in 1815 and became known as the Lapham Home. Many years have since passed, and due to floods, demolition, and changing times only the bridge buttments, some foundations, the store removed to Burrell Orchards, and the imposing and lovely brick home remain. The home had been owned by the Clough family who sold it to the Putnam family, who sold it to George Getz, who recently sold to Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Sunderland. Sunderland has restored the home in a four year project.

Soon after the first settlers including Captain Edward Everett and his family, John Keese, his several sons and their families, and others settled at the Union, the usefulness of the water falls in the present village of Peru was recognized. Mills sprang up at that location, and due to the better water supply, power, nearness to Plattsburgh, and convenience in general this area became the center of business, residence and culture. John Cochran was the first settler along the section of the Little Ausable River where the falls was located. He established there in 1793, and the hamlet was called Cochran's Mills. A village soon rose around the mills, with Hackstaff also owning mills. Some people referred to the community as Hackstaff's Mills. A large soundly built starch factory can still be seen among the buildings of the A. Mason and Sons Lumber Company. Potatoes grown by farmers were hauled to this factory for conversion to starch, and shipped out of Peru on the railroad line. Recall that as the years passed the community changed extensively. The tannery, a brick building just upstream from the stone bridge, and on the south side of the stream, was significant at one time, but during another, it was abandoned as such. Similar stories relate to various hardware stores, dry goods, groceries, or specialty stores. Gristmills, starch factories, and saw mills all were there, and now most are gone. Certain family names were well known in Peru History. Some are Bosworth, Elmore, Heyworth, Mason, Keese, Clough and Cochran. There were many more. Briefly, some major changes in the appearance of this village occurred in 1919 when the Davern House and nearby buildings burned. These were replaced by a brickfaced block built by the A. Mason and Sons, Inc. Another, more extensive fire, occurred during May of 1921, when most of the block west of North Main Street and north of Pleasant Street was destroyed. New homes replaced the destroyed buildings. The Peru Central School complex was built on a portion of the Elmore Farm. The two-story Greek Revival building housed the student body from first grade to twelfth. The doors opened at the closing years of the thirties. A long one-story wing was added on the north side in 1957. A completely separate modern two-story building was constructed northeast of the other buildings. The grades seven through twelve occupied this in 1964.

Yet another modification came about when the Grand Union mall was built on the bluff south of the A. Mason and Sons business. The Heyworth home was moved from the South Main Street site, to a location east of the mall. The three-arch stone bridge, which was over one-hundred thirty years old was replaced by a wide sweeping curved concrete and steel structure placed slightly upstream from the older bridge. To make room for the newer bridge the tannery

was destroyed, as well as a row of buildings along the west side of Main Street and between Pleasant Street and the river.

A small stream crosses the River Road about two miles west of where the Calkins and Everett Roads meet. Benjamin Smith owned a section, or square mile, of land in that area. Benjamin had married Elizabeth Keese, a daughter of Stephen. A child named Stephen Keese Smith grew to manhood, and built a stone house on a lane several hundred feet north of the River Road, in what was called Smithdale. The home still stands, but the cheese factory which processed so many tons of milk is gone. Many farmers of this general area well remember carrying milk in twenty gallon cylindrical cans to this site. A special device was swung over the wagon where the cans set; a clamp was closed so that a pivotal pin rested in holes in the handles on opposite sides of the can. This machine lifted the can so a man could easily dump the contents into a large tank for weighing. Some of these cans are owned by antique collectors of Peru.

Norrisville was quite a hamlet, with many settlers living on small plots of land in a rather sandy area dissected by the Salmon River. Many foundations can now be found where homes once stood. War games were acted out in what is now called Macomb Park. A narrow guage railroad carried targets for infantry soldiers to fire upon. Some of the railroad bed can now be seen.

Peasleeville sprang up along the Salmon River, with a series of mills associated with lumbering. An extensive discussion of this hamlet is found elsewhere in this book.

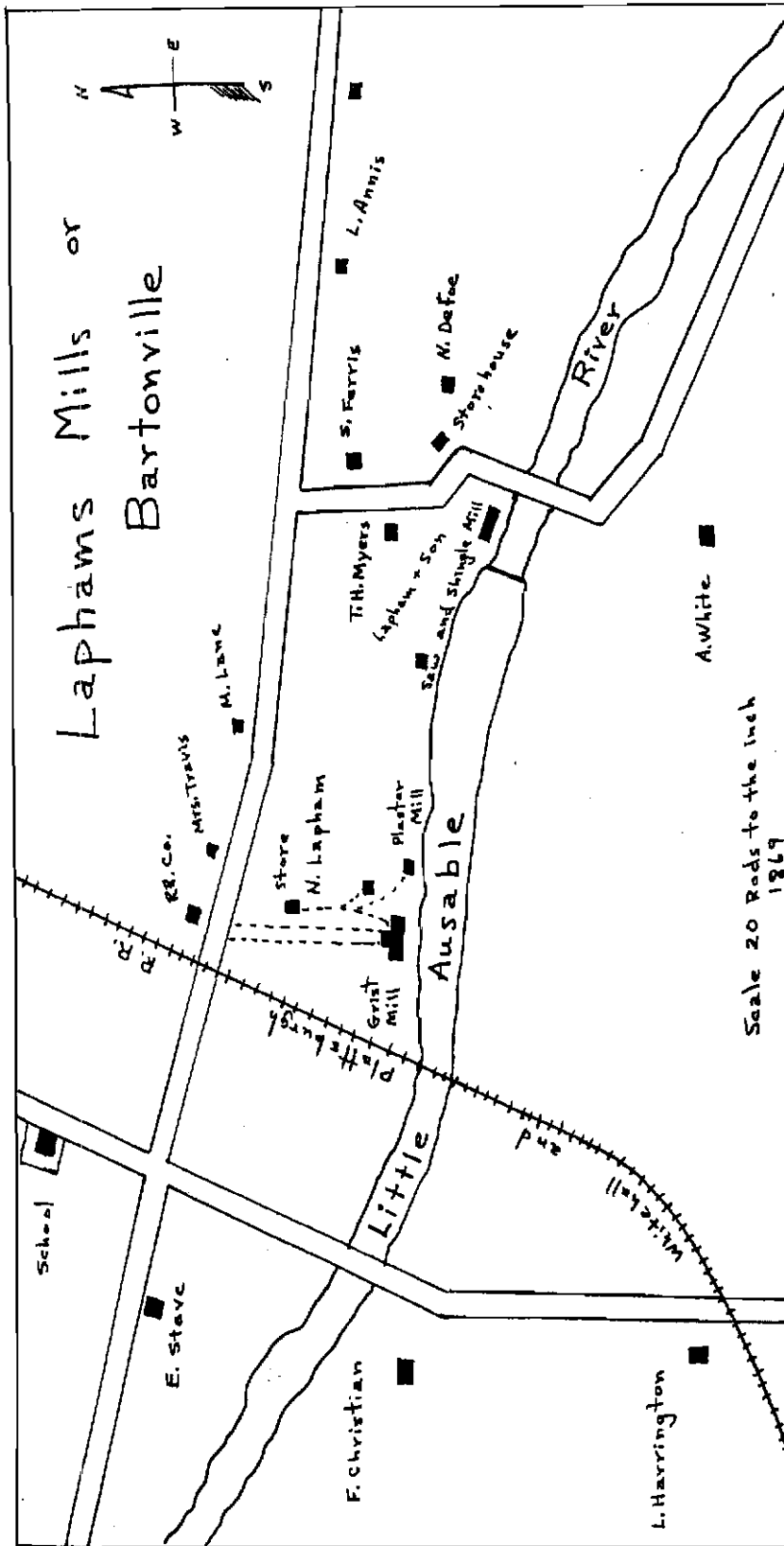
Bartonville, sometimes called Lapham's Mills, boasted of a narrow deep channel of the Little Ausable River. The socalled Ausable Branch of the railroad went through the area, providing shipping and passenger service. When unsettled this area was within Bell's Location and Bell's Patent in Peru. The first settler at what later became Bartonville was Simeon Eells. It has been said that Eells was cutting timber off the land owned by Bell. As Bell was unable to solidly establish this fact, he awarded Eells with one-hundred acres of land as reward for his industry. Nathan Lapham was a very prominent figure in Peru being the State Senator and Vice President of the New York and Canada Railroad. Besides these accomplishments he was active in many business ventures, including that at Goshen. With such experience, Mr. Lapham could easily recognize the business opportunities at the Bartonville site, and being well grounded financially he wisely procured the majority of the mills along that stretch of the Little Ausable River. Lapham's Mills flourished with shingle-making, sawing of logs, smelting of ore, etc. The operations dwindled as years passed, but the fire of 1898 destroyed the sawmill and many fine logs, bringing that portion of history to a close.

Peru Landing was a shallow docking site on Lake Champlain just north along the shore from the mouth of the Little Ausable River. Allen's Bay provided a calm area with winds from the south being reduced, and wave action stilled by Ausable Point. Boats with

passengers or freight docked there or left for far away places. Only boats with a shallow draft could approach the shore sufficiently, so that as larger vessels were built the landing was not acceptable. The site was abandoned, leaving only a long wall of rocks forming a jetting reaching outward to the east within the water.

Valcour, or Valcour Landing, situated on the shoreline about two miles north of Peru Landing boasted much deeper water quite close to the shoreline. An appropriate docking facility was constructed and soon a hamlet grew at this location. A limestone school still remains and the stone church was destroyed only a few years ago. Large lake vessels powered by stream, carried goods to Peru and received as cargo lumber, starch, fruit, potatoes, wheat, wool and lumber bound for other markets. Passengers came or went from this busy place. The State of New York now owns the property and maintains it as an Educational Resource Center associated with the State University at Plattsburgh.

With the coming of automobiles to replace buckboards and box wagons people began travelling greater distances for groceries, clothing, and other goods. Many hamlets lost their separate identities and schools were centralized. Life moves faster but perhaps with less depth and meaning.



PERU HISTORICAL NOTES

Plattsburg Republican
Oct. 23, 1873
P. 3, Col. 5

"Before the fields were shorn and filled,
Full to the brim our rivers flowed;
The melody of waters filled,
The fresh and boundless wood;
And torrents dashed and rivulets played,
And fountains sported in the shade."

About one half a mile from Peru Village towards the Union, you come to the antique house on your left, some poplar trees on your right, and as the road bends to the west; a substantial stone structure spanning a streak of mud, kept moist by a slight flow of water from some unknown source.

At this point John Haff, or Huff, as he was generally called, settled in 1793. He purchased nearly one mile square of densely wooded land lying between the "Rogers road and the State road running south from Peru Village". Nearly half of the original purchase is now in the possession of his grand-son, Schuyler Haff.

Uncle John seems to have chosen this spot for his log-cabin on account of the beautiful stream of water, which at that time flowed through the place. It was no inconsiderable brook then. Trout from one or two pounds weight, sported in its cool and sparkling water, moose and deer drank from the ever flowing stream, the proud oak and sweet maple intertwined their branches upon its banks; towards the north, lofty pines lifted their heads up against the sky, while all manner of small game abounded on every side.

The log-cabin was just south of the present dwelling. The place was reached by a lane from the highway near the present residence of S.K. Smith. The original road, from the Union to Hackstaff's Mills, came up the bank near the residence of Mr. Holland the old road bed being still visible.

John Haff moved to this place from Dutchess County with his wife and five children, the oldest under ten years of age, and settled in the midst of the dense forest that covered his whole purchase. He lived long enough to clear up and bring under cultivation one of the best farms in the town. He had before coming to Peru, kept a hotel in Dutchess county, and was noted for his good cheer, and his love for roast pigs and turkeys. Being of Dutch descent, his wife understood the mysteries of Dutch cheese and Buttermilk sop. Slapjacks and maple honey were a great favorite also in the log cabin. These were made in a long handled frying pan, out of a batter well seasoned with eggs. An adept at the game of frying, would by a peculiar motion of the frying pan up and down, slap the jack over when half done.

One of Uncle John's boys, quite a number of years ago, told this historian, that the acme of slapjack frying, was in tossing the half cooked slapjack up and over the top of the huge chimney, and catching it right side up at the outside door of the cabin. He meant perhaps to slap my Yankee inquisitiveness, and without discouragement, historian kept on in his researches into the antiquities of his father's estate. Slap jacks, however, were a great institution in the cabin of Uncle John and Aunt Rebecca. Butter and honey from the sweet maple made a savory dish that any Knickerbocker need not disdain. The cake received its name, probably, from the well known slap in turning a jack in the pastimes of the people in the slap jack age.

Across the brook on the opposite bank from his house Uncle John built a barn. This was the most noticeable structure on the estate, and was known far and near as the Dutch barn. It was four square on the ground, and towered up to a double story at one corner over the barn floor. The highest part was like a barrack top, from which the roof sloped off at right angles to the north and east. It was put up by Scribe and Pharisees rule, which means to "cut and try" the prevailing style of carpentering in primitive times.

Huge swallow holes were in the sides of the upper story to the south and west. A row of sheds in the shape of an obtuse angle, ran from the northwest corner to the highway on the south. The road wound around the barn to the north in crossing the brook, so that in passing it, all sides became visible. It attracted, by its unique shape, universal attention fifty years ago, and was supposed to be of a style of architecture imported from Holland.

About forty years ago the old barn was torn down, and no trace of it now remains, where, for many years, Uncle John stored the rich products of his farm, and stabbed the noble steeds that were as fleet as the wind. He took an honest Dutch pride in his model barn, the like of which may never be seen again.

As a style of architecture, however, posterity has honored it more, by the breach than the observance of it. But few of the poplar trees put out by him remain at the present time. Those that do remain have a dilapidated and weird appearance. They once were a prominent feature of John Haff's estate. Tall, symmetrical and graceful, they adorned the highway to the west, and were in their graceful height in strong contrast to the smaller apple trees on either side of the road.

But here as elsewhere great changes have ensued. The log cabin is no more. The proud oaks and sweet maples, the lofty pines and wide spreading elms, have all disappeared. Dried up in the murmuring brook, and the tramping moose and antlered deer have fled to Adirondack wilds. Uncle John and his noble spouse many years ago were gathered to their fathers, leaving to their posterity a valuable estate, and better still, and untarnished christian reputation.

STEPHEN KEESE SMITH

Stephen Keese Smith, Quaker farmer and abolitionist, was born at West Peru, April 16, 1806. His father was Benjamin Smith who had migrated from Dartmouth, Mass. in 1802. The following year he married Elizabeth Keese of the Quaker Union. Her parents were Stephen and Ruth Hull from Dutchess County, N.Y.

Stephen's memoirs describe his brief schooling, the long hours in his stoney fields and his saw mill, the drowning of his father in their mill pond, the burning of their log cabin, and the building of a stone house which is still standing in Smithdale at West Peru.

In 1839, Stephen married Jane Keese, daughter of Oliver and Paulina Lapham Keese of the Quaker Union. Jane Smith died of typhoid fever in 1853, leaving five young children.

In 1852, Stephen bought a farm in Peru which is presently owned by Richard Stafford. Not far from the house a barn still stands in which Stephen hid the fugitive slaves. Under cover of darkness he brought the negroes to his kitchen for warmth and food. Then with a fast team of horses he drove them to the next underground station in Champlain.

Brought up as he was in the Quaker faith, he was an advocate of equality of the sexes. When Susan B. Anthony came to Plattsburg to speak of women's rights, it was he who met Miss Anthony at the Port Kent dock and drove her to the Court House.

Stephen Keese Smith died at the age of 88 and is buried in the Friends burying ground at the Quaker Union.

Virginia Burdick

BUSINESS IN PERU - 1881

The village of Peru was a scene of business activity during the fall of 1881. Crowds of customers filled the stores, mills and factories were at full production.

Fifteen thousand bushels of potatoes were purchased by Nathan Lapham and Son, for their starch factory and for shipment.

Two car loads of buckwheat flour were being shipped each week by Heyworth and White. Each railroad car held about 30,000 pounds of flour. If we assume that one hundred pancakes could be made from each pound of buckwheat flour, then this business firm provided the world six million pancakes each week.

Heyworth, Smith and Co., which was made up of Messrs. Heyworth, Smith and Arnold, were very much involved in potatoes. Seventy-five railroad cars of potatoes were shipped from Peru, and forty two car loads shipped from other stations. Four hundred bushels or more were on each car. Twenty thousand bushels were in storage awaiting shipment. Another twenty thousand bushels of potatoes were purchased from the starch factory. Heyworth, Smith and Co. also purchased two-thousand five hundred bushels of beans.

The fruit evaporating establishment of Heyworth was at full operation.

N. Lapham and Son were building at the Peru railroad depot a storehouse. This addition to the Lapham properties was long needed.

Mr. C.T. Ackley was operating a marble factory in Peru. This was in the large brick building called the Ketchum store. Near the railroad, it was recently purchased from Ketchum heirs. Mr. B.R. Sherman was executor.

Mr. Ackley's nursery of three hundred pear trees began bearing their lovely "Dutchess" fruit. One barrel of pears brought to Mr. Ackley \$7.00.

From Ackley Scrap Book (No. 2) 1876

Quite an important business improvement is being made in Peru Village by E.S. Arnold, who has purchased the large brick building on the corner east of the hotel, known as the Woodworth Block. It has never been fully finished on the inside, except the second floor, the larger part of which is occupied as a Masonic Hall. The first floor Mr. Arnold is finishing for his exclusive use as a stove, tin and holloware and furnishing store. The building being nearly fifty feet square, there will be an abundance of room for a commodious sales room, tin shop and business office. The third floor and a portion of the second will afford ample storage room, as well also the basement, while the garret is a fine place for curing hides, pelts, durs, etc., which he deals in largely. Mr. Arnold's present quarters are altogether too circum-

scribed for the amount of business he is doing, or for comfort or convenience. He will now have a chance to display his tin ware and his choice assortment of coal and wood, parlor and cook stoves to better advantage. He has a strong force of carpenters at work, and expects to get into his new store in a few days.

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR CABIN

Two hundred years ago a very important naval battle occurred on Lake Champlain. We here today recognize its significance and are grateful that men like Benedict Arnold, and the other American colonists aboard those hastily built vessels were so willing to lay their lives on the line for freedom. That Battle of Valcour Island, as we know, took place but a few miles from this place we are now gathered.

People have often wondered what was happening on the land near the shores of Lake Champlain during that contest in October, 1776. About one mile north and west of the north end of Valcour Island there is a high bluff next to the shoreline. Appropriately named Bluff Point, this rise affords a wonderful view along a wide sweep of the western shore and open water. Roman Catholic Jesuit Priests operated Bellarmine College using the buildings presently known as Clinton Community College.

During the summer of 1953, the Jesuits excavated a small foundation assumed to be a cabin, situated about twenty yards inland from the beach, and south of the jetty. It was a small, one-roomed house, heated by a rude stone fireplace. This settlement was dated, using English pottery, arrowheads, etc., found in the excavation, to be before 1800, and possibly as early as the Revolutionary War. Because of the strategic location it can be speculated that the cabin was used as a lookout station for observing Lake Champlain traffic.

Unfortunately the excavation was done by people lacking specific training in archeology, and the State Archeologists were not notified until after the site had been disturbed. Exact dating was, therefore, impossible. Several coins and other artifacts are now in the possession of the Clinton County Historical Museum.

I suggest that quite possibly people were in that small cabin in October, 1776. From the slits in the walls they watched Arnold's fleet sail into the channel and later the British fleet meet them in battle.

Lincoln Sunderland
October 9, 1976

THE BAPTISTS IN OLD PERU

In 1787, Mr. Isaac Finch and his wife of Washington, N.Y. visited this region on an exploratory expedition. Sailing from Whitehall, N.Y. in a small sloop, they embarked at Peru Landing, (a) Allen Bay on Lake Champlain. At that time the country was an unbroken wilderness, with only six inhabitants in the town of Old Peru.

A year later Mr. Finch and his wife and young son, William, returned to settle in the country. Their log cabin, as near as can be ascertained was on the site of the present home of Dr. Robert L. Miles, on Allen Street opposite the Blockhouse Cemetery. They had no sooner settled when they began to hold regular prayer meetings in the homes of the settlers. One of the families whose name has come down through the 188 years is the Jabez Allen. Paul Allen (1976) who owns and lives on the old homestead is a direct descendant. The daughter of Jabez Allen married Uriah Palmer. It was in their log cabin home on Fuller St. in 1791 that the First Baptist Church of Keeseville was constituted. (b) There is a wooden marker on the site which is inscribed as follows:

On this site in 1791 the First Baptist Church of Keeseville was constituted in the home of Uriah and Betsy Allen Palmer.

It was then called the Church of Christ. Thus was constituted the oldest religious society on the west bank of Lake Champlain. The Quakers followed in 1789. This farm was owned by Lloyd Fuller of Peru. The foundation of the cabin may still be seen.

Within a few years under the leadership of Isaac Finch, Rev. Solomon Brown was called as pastor. He came from Granville, N.Y. to settle in their town. Rev. Brown "planted" six Baptist Churches in the area. The only one of the original six remaining is the Jay, N.Y. Baptist Church. The others are gone or for the most part have united with the present United Methodist Church. These churches were American Baptist.

In short time after Rev. Brown settled here, the Baptists gave him a 50-acre farm. (c) That farm was at the corner of Bear Swamp Road and Telegraph St. An old well on that corner was on the farm. The land is now owned by Dr. Driss Hassam.

Isaac Finch was active in local affairs. He helped build the Blockhouse in 1792 which stood on the site of the present Blockhouse Cemetery. Mr. Finch is buried there and his grave is marked by a "D.A.R." marker.

- (a) Peru Landing - See map dated 1856 on Allen Bay since 1788. It is opposite the home of Gerd Kienart.
- (b) See History of the Town of AuSable - Hurd's History of Clinton and Franklin Counties.
- (c) Brown Farm - See Map of 1856. It is designated as J. Rider. Information given by the late Mary Rider Mac.

Eleanor A. Spaulding March 10, 1976

A PIONEER HOME IN CLINTON COUNTY

There is a book entitled "Pioneer Homes of Clinton County 1790-1820". It was published in 1966 by the Clinton County Historical Association with the assistance of the county of Clinton.

On page 77 of this book is a picture captioned "The Allen Farm on Bedell Road". This same Allen farm was honored by Governor Dewey in 1949 by citation as a Century farm. To qualify in this category a farm must be owned and operated by a continuous succession of descendants of one family. The citation for Allen Homestead farm reads in part as follows:

"Early in 1787, Jabez Allen, a veteran of the Continental Army and kinsman of the famous Ethan Allen, left his home in the Green Mountains of Vermont and bought 62½ acres of land between the Little Ausable and Big Ausable Rivers in Clinton County, New York. Jabez built a log cabin to shelter his wife and children. In a few years he was able to put up a sizable frame house. So well did he thrive that before 1820 he had built his family a substantial, solid frame home which his descendants occupy today. This fact illustrates the energy and intelligence which Jabez Allen had farmed his acres.

As in the case of many other New York Century Farms, the Allen Acres passed from generation to generation, not by will but by deed."

For me it is interesting to relate some of the enduring handiwork of my forebears that is still in evidence. Besides the original portion of the house there are the original deeds which of course were processed before the house was erected. They are in two parts. They are referred to as "indentures", the first having been made in 1787. When Jabez Allen stayed on the land a full year, he received a second, and final indenture.

The present Allen Homestead is the third on the premises. The first was a log cabin. The second was a frame house that during the time I was a farmer had been moved to adjoin the cow barn, and it served as a bull pen and a calf pen.

In the cellar of our present home one can see the massive foundation on which a cooking fireplace played such an important part to the living conditions. The cooking fireplace disappeared when the house was extensively remodeled late in the nineteenth century.

Another example of old-time, thorough construction appears in the dug well in the yard. The well is about thirty feet deep and is stoned up without mortar with such thoroughness that not a stone has been displaced since it was built.

Another feature of Allen Homestead can probably be credited to some Allen womenfolk. There still exists, more luxuriant and prettier as the years go by, a huge lilac bush that cosily hides the cottage that my father-in-law built across the street from Allen Homestead. In fact, the cottage is on the site once occup-

ied by the frame house that was moved to the dairy barn area.

Stone walls would seem an enduring memory to the toil of forebears, but in the case of the Allen farm, the stone walls went into the construction of old Route 9 that goes past our house. In the years of my own farming, I removed the remains of these stone walls and know that the stone walls were rather extensive. It was very evident that the stones were left by a glacier.

There are also stories and names handed down by succeeding generations. The "Swamp Lot" still carries some of the characteristics of its name although there is an extensive ditch now completely surrounding the field. The "rye lot" is now a white pine woodlot. At one time it was mistakenly cleared for crops but proved too sandy for anything but rye. "Dry Mill Creek" flows through part of our land and the name itself tells the story of a mill once constructed on this brook. There is an area on our land once called the rolling bank, and that proved handy for the tree-length white pine logs rolled down it to the Big Ausable River and on to Lake Champlain, where the logs were then formed into rafts to be sailed to Canada for use by the King's Navy for spars and masts.

Ginger and Snuff are two other names that are part of the Allen Farm lore. They were two spirited carriage horses that also doubled for farm work. My father remembered them vividly. Ginger, it seems, had a "big leg". Which leg it was, I never did determine but in spite of the handicap Ginger lived up to her name. In my own farming days, there were George and Tim. They were draft horses that doubled for riding pleasures for Allen children and their friends. The dinner bell mounted on the back of Allen Homestead could be heard a long way when there was no wind. The horses could hear the bell very well, and when it rang for dinner, the horses would prance and be anxious to head for the barn and their noontime feed of hay.

This old house has other interesting features besides the foundation of the cooking fireplace. The two bathrooms were once closets. The windows all had shutters at one time but I, in a practical mood, made them into screens. Our house has a "bay window", a feature once popular. In my time, I have added the currently popular picture window. This is in our large country kitchen and I remember how impressed I was when we removed the old kitchen window and amidst the framing were numerous needles and pins to tell the story of hours and hours of sewing that had taken place at that kitchen window. The window faced the south, and we still enjoy the winter sun and the view of Trembleau Mountain near Port Kent.

Our house has an artistic newel post, railing, and stairs leading to the second floor. I admired it all the more after an elderly carpenter spontaneously praised the workmanship of the staircase.

In an upstairs bedroom is a small window that is slanted to conform with the roof of the addition to the house. The room is

small, and in my father's day the room was hot in summer and cold in winter. It was assigned to the hired man. The story has it that on hot nights it was more tolerable to crawl out the window and sleep on the flat tin roof. Now that same room is insulated and has done duty as a nursery. It is panelled with knotty pine grown on the farm and presently serves as our guest room. When my Mother recently slept at the farm, I inquired the next morning how she fared in the hired man's room.

We have in our house a "sleigh bed". It is large and the springs and mattress are much more modern than the frame itself. The bed is part of a bedroom suite made of virgin pine. For instance, the sides of the bureau are made from a single stock of pine seventeen inches wide. The suite is cream-colored with hand-painted flower decorations (the original paint job). It was a wedding gift to my Grandmother Henrietta Fuller and her husband Isaac Allen.

Another interesting bedroom is the one adjacent to the kitchen. It was known at one time as the "borning" and "dying" room. It was used for all bedridden folks because it was close to the warm kitchen and only supply of hot water. This bedroom was panelled in my time with western fir lumber, which originally was used for the silo that once served the dairy herd.

"Flat Rock" is a choice picnic area located on Allen Homestead. It is bare sandstone on Dry Mill Creek. In early Spring one gets spring fever but there may be a cool wind. Flat Rock is the place to be. In this brook valley one is out of the wind and a warm sun makes the place superb. This has been a picnic area for relatives and neighbors for generations. The rushing spring waters add to the atmosphere. Later in the season the mosquitoes take over and only a few hardy fishermen frequent the area until the warm Fall days when insects have disappeared for another year.

Forestry is an important feature of Allen Homestead premises. White pine grow extremely well in the Ausable River valley. The selective cutting of logs has been part of the revenue of Allen Homestead. There has been tree planting too. There are pine trees in all stages of growth. The largest pine is growing on a boundary line and measures four and a half feet in diameter. It has been safe from the axe and saw because there is not a log in the tree that would make good lumber.

Once there were three wood stoves to heat the house. Now there are two oil furnaces. The attic is well insulated and there are storm doors and windows. However, a cold west wind in the dead of winter lets us know we live in an old house. We can see the curtains move at the west windows and the east end of the house is much warmer than the west end.

Sometimes I like to wonder what future generations might see in evidence of activity of the time I have lived here. Well, there is a pretty pond constructed by my brother Jon and myself about five years ago. That pond should be in evidence for a generation

or two. Then there is a Fall-out shelter built by my brother Jon and myself, to every specification of a fall-out shelter. I hope it always remains a sign of our times and never has to be used. It is as damp, dark, and dingy as any dungeon.

There is a cemetery that we have started. This seems to be a reverse trend of the times, to go back to a family cemetery, on your own land, but it is a pleasant location over-looking a portion of the Ausable River valley.

Paul Allen, Peru

D.A.R.--Graves of Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in New York -
Compiled by New York State Committee Historic Research
and Preservation of Records - Mrs. Theodore deLaPorte -
Chm., Rhinebeck, New York - Mrs. Charles White Nash -
Regent - 1925
Volume 5 & 6. A973.3447 - New York State Library

Possible Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Clinton County., N.Y.

Town of Peru -

1.) Cemetery in the Village of Peru - (Vol. 6 - p.6)

Anson, Amos - Died March 26, 1818, age 56 yrs.
Bemia, John - Died August 9, 1838, age 71 yrs.
Griffith, Jonathon - Died November 26, 1881, age 89 yrs.
Haff, John - Died November 19, 1843, age 75 yrs.
Moighalls, Thomas - Died October 12, 1845, age 89 yrs.
Morehouse, John - Died June 7, 1814, age 77 yrs.
Morrison, Robert - Died March 19, 1857, age 89 yrs.
Moore, Solomon - Died February 4, 1852, age 87 yrs.
Stearns, Deacon Peter - Died January 7, 1849, age 80 yrs.
Yeaw, David - Died March 1, 1822, age 92 yrs.

2.) Thew Cemetery - (Vol. 6 - p.6)

Lobdell, Rev. Jared - Died August 28, 1846, age 79 yrs.

3.) Calkins Cemetery - (Vol. 6 - p.6)

Calkins, Richard - Died September 8, 1847, age 88 yrs.

4.) Peasleeville Cemetery - (Vol. 6 - p.7)

Alford, Ashley O. - Died March 14, 1847, age 77 yrs.

5.) West Peru Cemetery - (Vol. 6 - p.8)

Saunders, Avery - Died April 24, 1846, age 84 yrs.

Known Revolutionary Soldiers buried in Clinton County, N.Y.

Town of Ausable

1.) Chasm Cemetery near Keeseville - (Vol. 5 - p.24)

Adgate, Judge Matthew - Died March 1, 1818 age 81 yrs.
N.Y. Deputy to Third and Fourth Contin-
ental Congresses. Comm. of Land Bounty
Rights - Comm. of Sequestration

2.) Quaker Union Cemetery - (Vol. 5 - p.24)

Everett, Edward - Capt. of N.H. Volunteers - 1776
Everett, George - Drummer N.H. Regiment - 1776
Thew, Garrett - 2nd Orange County Regiment - 1775
Thew, Gilbert - 2nd Orange County Regiment - 1775

3.) West Peru Cemetery - (Vol. 5 - p.24)

Allen, John - Died October 11, 1825, age 72 yrs
Dutchess Militia 4th Regiment

Town of Peru

1.) Peru Village Cemetery - (Vol. 5 - p.33)

Brown, Samuel - Died November 27, 1836 age 76 yrs.
Private five years continuous service, June
1778-1783
Fifth Mass. Regulars, Col. Rufus Putnam
Third Continental Artillery, Col. John Crane
Everest, Joseph - Died September 13, 1825, age 72 yrs.
Corporal, Capt. John Stark's Vermont Militia
Col. Ira Allen
Fuller, Ignatius - (No stone) Private, Capt. David More's Co.,
Col. Hallet's Regiment.

2.) Peasleeville Cemetery - (Vol. 5 - p.33)

Westcott, Joseph - Died June 10, 1857, age 93 yrs
Albany Co. Militia, Col. Van Rennselaer
Banker, William - (No stone) Born February 9, 1756 - Died Feb-
ruary 11, 1832
4th Regiment N.Y. Line, Col. H.B.
Livingston

THE PERU BANDS AND MUSIC
1870-1976

by LYNN HEBERT WILKE

PART I - PRELUDE

As a boy being raised in and around New York City with all its excitement, concerts, and music I had no knowledge at all of music in rural America. I did, however, long for the "north woods" that I had read about in the stories of Jack London, with whom my grandmother had the fortune of going to school. Because of this and because my father, a part time ski instructor in the 30's had taught me the love of winter sports and camping, I applied for teaching jobs in Alaska, (they had no civil service tests for music teachers in the early 50's when Alaska was a territory, in northern Michigan, (they also wanted me to teach English with Music and I can't spell my own name at times), and Peru. Mr. James Hutchinson paid for a long distance call and, although I had never been North of Albany, N.Y., in my life, I took the job, married the grade school music teacher, did things with the school band and chorus, raised my children and occupied the past twenty-five years in Peru. Although I enjoyed my work with its usual ups-and-downs, I didn't really get into Peru until I became involved with the Bicentennial year movement. Being chairman of the "Battle of Valcour week" in October of 1975 made me look around at our town. What I found in the field of music was truly fascinating. So fascinating that I want to record the facts that I have uncovered for you, and for those who will follow us here on the edge of the "North Woods".

PART II - THE BANDS OF PERU

In almost every little town in Europe throughout history you could find a little town orchestra and an Opera house. In rural America these two fixtures were replaced with the Town Band and the Tavern. If you visit the infamous Dodge City, Kansas, you can see among their collections of guns on "boot hill" the Silver Cornets of the Dodge City Town Band. Peru also had its Taverns, vigilantes that burned them down, and a fine Town Band that today has been replaced, for the most part, by the school band although the real Town Band was resurrected for brief a moment for the Bicentennial celebration.

The first record I can find of a band in Peru was around 1870. The late Marjorie Lancing Porter, Clinton County Historian, in the hall of the school one day told me of a German band of fine caliber, from Valcour, led by a David or Martin Weatherwax, who gave a concert around the Town Pump in the Spring of 1870 or 71. The German music did not please the Peru Frenchmen who engaged the musicians in a flying-fist, free-for-all. With such hospitable beginnings, band music in Peru began. Unfortunately, I had a music class to teach before I could hear more from Miss Porter. She passed away shortly there after leaving this first concert

forever unreviewed. I did investigate the Weatherwax family later, and found that most of them died in 1903-04 in an epidemic of Diphtheria.

The next band in Peru is better documented. I have in the school trophy case an actual photograph of the "Clinton County Cornet Band", led by George McIntyre of Peru, around 1890. This band was made up of musicians from Peru, Keeseville, and Schuyler Falls. In a later picture around 1903 you can see the "Clinton County" painted out on the bass drum and "Peru" painted in just over the words "Cornet Band". Judging from those who were soloist with this Peru Town Band and those who went from it, it must have been a fine musical group. Herbert Clark, the famous cornetist and composer of the "Carnival of Venice", and his brothers, Earnest Clark and Edwin G. Clark from Lewis were frequent soloists.

The most famous member of this band was a young man who rode horses back from Schuyler Falls to practice and play with the band. His name was John Dolan, and from all reports he played cornet best without shoes on. It was at a concert with the Peru Band when John was playing Clark's "Carnival of Venice" and the famous John Philip Sousa, on his way from Lake Placid to Montreal, heard him. Sousa asked John if he would like to join his band that was getting ready for a tour of Europe. From here the story gets a little fuzzy but John Dolan must have bought a pair of shoes, because the next we hear of him is in Moscow, Russia. The barefoot boy from the Peru Town Band was playing before the Czar in the Sousa band.

John returned to his old band just before WW I and played on a new band stand built by A. Mason on the south side of the old town hall. From reports I have heard from some of the senior citizens the band followed the Peru baseball team on the afternoon trains to Ausable Forks and Lake Placid and played for the 15th of Redford picnic. I saw George McIntyre's cornet in the home of Grace, his widow, when I first came to Peru but I don't know where it now is. Hector Savage gave me an 1893 Albert system clarinet that he received from George in 1910. This Peru Band clarinet was repadded and I played it with the resurrected band under Hector's direction this year.

The 1900 Peru Cornet Town Band

George McIntyre - Cornet Director	Fred Provost - Baritone Horn
John Dolan - Cornet	Edgar Newell - Trombone
Estey Dolan - Cornet	William McIntyre - Trombone
Frank Lyons - Cornet	Napoleon Sharron - Trombone
Nelson Facticeau - Cornet	Wilfrid McGee - Tuba
Judson Everest - Cornet	Noah Latourelle - Clarinet
William Hallock - Cornet	Henry Dudley - Side Drum
Carl Anderson - Cornet	Charles Trombley - Bass Drum
Walter McGee - Alto Horn	Ed Bartlet - Drum Major
Fuller Austin - Alto Horn	
Bill Langsine - Alto Horn	(Also three others no one can identify)
George Trombley - Alto Horn	

The band rehearsed on the 3rd floor of the present Peru Hardware Store and in the old Town Hall. In 1912, George McIntyre gave up the band, and with World War I upon the men of Peru the band folded up for the duration of the war.

Two of the young boys who listened to the old town band were inspired to go to the Plattsburg Army barracks to take instrument lessons from Luigi Resta and Rocco Resta. Hector Savage, clarinetist, joined the 74 Coast Artillery Band and his twin brother Victor, tromboneist, joined the 104th Field Artillery Band. The two brothers from Peru played in France and in the States throughout World War I. (We have a picture of Victor playing trombone in the front rank of a mounted horseback band in the Band trophy case at the school.) When the war was over the musicians came back to Peru and Hector took over as director. From 1920 he filled both the town barber's position and that of director of the Peru Town Band. He taught many of the musicians himself, and with Victor he was able to pull in musicians from the Army Barracks and from around the north country. The Band played the 15th of Redford and local picnics, concerts and games.

Partial list of the 1920-1926 Peru Town Band

Hector Savage - Director and Clarinet
Victor Savage - Trombone
Henry Reiley - Baritone Horn
George McIntyre - Cornet (the old director of the 1900 band)
Noah Latral - Clarinet
Wilfrid McGee - Bass
Jay McGee - Bass Drum
Walter McGee - Tenor Horn
Fred Provost - Cornet
Carl Anderson - Cornet
Fred Bourassa - Tuba

and other members from Morrisonville, Keeseville, and the 26th Infantry band at Plattsburg. This band played its last concert in the Peru Tavern when their cornetist, George McIntyre, left for Brooklyn.

Nothing more happened in Peru from 1926 until the new Central School was built in 1939. The instruments that were bought by the band were sold around 1930 to Prof. Lyndon R. Street of Plattsburg and were used in the "Plattsburg Boys Band". This band was so good, beating the Iliion Band in the State Finals in 1932, that all the local musicians went to Plattsburg to make music. Prof. Charles Hudson used some of the Peru musicians in his "Plattsburg Symphony Orchestra". Times had changed with the automobile giving easy transportation, and the little towns lost their adult homemade culture. They were not to regain it again. The schools made music primarily with young people and the adults, except for church choir members, became the listeners. For me, this is one of the great tragedies of our modern American progress.

In 1939 the new Central School opened without a band. I have a motion picture film that was taken in the school that first year. Along with the new green school buses was a "little boys fife and drum corps". I am told that they marched in town on the night before the 4th of July, and in Plattsburg for Memorial Day. They were no competition for the "Plattsburg Boys Band" and the pride of Peru was upset. It was Mr. Frank A. Finney, a citizen influential in the building of the new school, who lead a drive to form a band in Peru Central School and to get them their first uniforms.

The music teacher in the newly centralized school was Elmer Meacham. It was he who selected and advised the Board of Education on the make and type of instruments to buy. His advice proved to be very good because many of the instruments he bought in 1939 are still playing in the school band today, 37 years later. Among them was the first sousaphone, I am told, to be used in a school band in New York State. That American Standard Eb Sousaphone is still being played by students in the band today.

When the band marched for the first time in Plattsburg it was without uniforms and with musicians that had only been on their instruments for about six months. The result was not all that Peru wanted. Upon visiting the Altona Central school, which had just centralized the year before Peru, Mr. Finney was shown by Mr. Frank Dulley a band room filled with instruments and uniforms. After seeing this he returned to Peru determined to have the newly organized Peru School Band in uniforms the next time they marched. Mr. Finney talked to some of the Board of Education members, plus people in town, and organized a Band Uniform Committee. They decided to present a show to raise the needed money, and on March 17, 1941, they put on "Abies Irish Rose". After playing two nights they had nearly all the money, but lacked about \$60. Alice Craig called Mr. Finney and told him the Peru Garden Club would donate the balance of the money. Rev. Arthur Trudell and Mr. Finney were delegated to be the Uniform Committee and they purchased capes and hats through Merkel's Department Store in Plattsburg from a salesman named Mr. Arnold Mooney.

I thank Mrs. Martha Santor, one of the 1939 musicians from the school band, for giving me the above information. I would add that some of the material from these first uniforms was used to make the blue twirlers uniforms that were worn in the opening day parade in the 1964 World's Fair in New York City. Mrs. Santor's daughter and son later became members of the school band, and Julie, the daughter, played clarinet under the direction of Savage brothers in the 1975 Bicentennial Town Band.

The 1939-40 Peru Central School Band

Director - Elmer Meacham
Drum Major - Bernard Mousseau
Flag bearer - Leward Santor
Clarinets: Edwin Berry Betty Fitzpatrick

Clarinet:	Martha Stoughton	Joyce Crilley
	Ruth Cheverette	Helen Boswell
	Marion Harper	Herman Frenyea
	Theresa Relation	Carolyn Carte
	Caroline North	Barbara Merrill
	Eugene Fallon	Jerome Brelia
	Betsy Stone	Jessica Loose
Alto Saxophones:		Trumpets and Cornets:
	Mary Jane Downs	Paul Calkins
	Marion Cheverette	Shirley Sanders
Tenor Saxophone:		Gordon Powell
	Robert LaBlanc	Marian North
		Mildred Irwin
		David Everett
Alto and French Horns:		Trombones:
	Barbara Merrill	William Finney
	Lita Riley	Robert Shene
	June Powell	
Percussion:	Victor Elmore	Baritones:
	James Provost	Pearl Bodanowie
	Robert Vaughn	Bernard Mousseau
Sousaphones:	Walter Green	
	Henry Dashayes	

World War II was upon Peru and again music was not in the best shape. From 1942 until I came in 1952 the following teachers took over the band that Mr. Meacham started:

Geraldine Edwards	1942
Leah Jayne	1943
John Paluto	1943-44
Edna Handfield	1945
Paul Stratton	1946
Frank Van Buren	1948
Lucile Burgess	1950

I have found the following band rosters:
1948 Peru Central School Band (players listed by name only)

Director - Frank Van Buren	Joseph Lashway
Musicians - Florence Allen	Pricella Monette
Ester Boyle	Jane Mousseau
Donald Coolidge	Caroline Ormsby
Carol Cooper	Gordon Powell
Arthur Davis	Marilyn Sharron
Edith Dew	Avery Stafford
Reggie Downs	Beverly Stein
Eric Gardell	Bonnie Stoughton
Katherine Hunlon	Joyce Tyell
Beverly Irwin	

1951 High School Band - *these members were in the band when I came to Peru in the fall of 1952.

Flute: Jane Allen*	Baritone: Marilyn McGee*
1st Clarinet: Doris Manor Shirley Wright* Janet Jessey*	Trombonium: Lorraine Maggy* Trombone: Joan Steady
2nd Clarinet: Eleanor Annis Warren Lasell* Nancy Barber*	Solo Cornet: George Dew James Derby
3rd Clarinet: Shirley Westcott* Gilbert Harris Dora Wescott Sandra Stewart	1st Cornet: James Rock* Anita Rule 2nd Cornet: Karl Schweikert* 3rd Cornet: Donald Rabideau Jack Liberty*
Oboe: Carol Harris*	Sousaphones: Ed Copeland* Robert Jessey*
Alto Saxophone: Marie Johnson	Alto Horns: Betty Lou Tyrell* Beatrice Depo
Tenor Saxophone: Robert Boyd*	Percussion: Billy Downs Bonnie Sharron* Bill MacFadden

All these bands played Christmas and Spring Concerts and went to the Plattsburg Teachers College for music festivals each spring.

This brings this story to my arrival in Peru in 1952. To give you some background as to who is writing this I give the following information about myself:

I was born in 1930 in Brooklyn, N.Y. into a family of opera-going music lovers. My grandmother was a concert Pianist of sorts, and my great uncle was house manager of the Metropolitan Opera House in N.Y.C. from about 1910 until 1935. I was trained as a singer in East Rockaway High School under Henry Fordham and at the private voice studios of the Met. I played Tenor Sax in the school concert and Dance bands and taught myself pipe organ enough to become a church organist.

I went to the State University College at Fredonia where I switched my performing major to piano after realizing that the only voice part I could sing well was "the devil" in Faust. I graduated from their combination voice and instrumental program. This was the old general-practitioner music teacher training geared to the small school systems where one teacher had to teach everything. I came to Peru in 1952 and married Joanne Coffey the first elementary school music teacher hired by the school. She was a North

Country girl schooled in St. John's School in Plattsburg and at the college of St. Rose in Albany. Her major was piano and she was most in demand as an accompanist for school musicals, especially mine.

At first, I concentrated on the High School chorus that I found in very fine shape. I had a lot to learn about band but did try to get them out to support the school soccer team. The school at that time had about 475 students in grades K-12.

I continued to study for my Masters Degree at Columbia University majoring in pipe organ under Thomas Richner. At this time the USAF was building the Air Base in Plattsburg and we started to see our enrollment grow. The town was also growing.

With this progress came more people, more students and football. Although I had no training in football half time shows I decided to join in the spirit of the game with "prop shows". These shows involved props like 8-ft bass drums with indians jumping out. We also bought our first set of full uniforms at this time. (1955)

It was just after receiving these uniforms, bought mostly with federal funds due to the number of USAF students in the school, that the Band entered in the marching contest at Saranac Lake. We came in 3rd place with the brass instruments frozen solid in the five degree weather. We also entered the NYSSMA festival contest in May and received our first A rating in grade 3.

On New Year's Day of 1963, I was watching the Rose Bowl Parade on TV and saw a band that sounded no better than the Peru Band. I had been a student actor in the 1939 World's Fair in New York City. (A nine year old indian boy in a play at the Fair) Somehow I got the idea that the Peru band might find a place in the 1964 World's Fair that was to come to the city the next year if they won the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival in February. We practiced outside and got a special "anti-freeze" for the valves from the director of the Canadian Army Band. I wrote the following letter to Robert Moses, president of the New York World's Fair Corporation:

February 1, 1963

Dear Mr. Moses,

Mr. Robert J. Feinberg, our State Assemblyman, has referred me to you in regard to the possibility of our 82 member Peru Central School "Indian Marching Band" participating in your 1964 opening parade in New York City.

Our band has participated in the Saranac Lake winter carnival for the past six years and was judged the best marching band in the 1961 carnival. We took second place last year and hope to take first again this year on February 9. We participated in the New York State Music Association Playing Competition for schools last year and received a superior ("A") rating.

We are the largest marching band in the north country and would like to represent the Adirondack Mountain area at the Fair. Our members feel sure they can raise the money for the trip if they are invited.

I am enclosing some pictures of the 1962-63 marching band in action.

Sincerely,

Lynn H. Wilke
Director of High School Music
Peru Central School
Peru, N.Y.

On February 9th we beat Immaculate Heart Academy of Watertown at the carnival and sent the front page of the February 11th of Plattsburg Press Republican to Mr. Moses. We heard nothing. The late Howard Marsha, Clinton County Republican Chairman, started to help and in late May, I contacted him at his drug store in the old Peru Tavern, and told him that it looked hopeless. He picked up the phone and asked me to speak to the person on the other end. It was Nelson Rockefeller, then Governor of the State. I was very shaken but said to myself "You're in so deep now that you might as well make the most of it"....I talked to the Governor telling him how we represented rural America. Mr. Marsha took over and on June 17, 1963 I received a letter from Louis B. Ames, Director, Cultural Program, New York World's Fair Corporation, inviting the Peru band to march in the opening day parade on Wednesday, April 22, 1964. On July 29th we received another letter from Mr. Ames as follows:

Dear Mr. Wilke:

Our present plans for opening day at the Fair call for march in review past President Kennedy and visiting dignitaries at approximately 11:00 A.M. The line of march will cover a prescribed area of the Fairgrounds and will end in the World's Fair Arena where an audience of approximately 15,000 will be seated.

It is planned that each band will perform for approximately seven minutes in the Arena; this will follow the march in review.

The above, of course, is just preliminary information for your present guidance.

Cordially yours,
Louis B. Ames

I now was in over my head and knew it; however, I had just joined the USAF Auxilliary, The Civil Air Patrol, as a commander of one of the Squadrons. I had some very close contacts at Plattsburg Air Force Base who saw my situation and realizing that their dependents were getting a chance to march before the President. Sgt. Fredi J. Walton, from the Non-Commissioned Officers' Academy at the base got the base drill experts to come down and work the

band over in their marching. A-1c Donald R. Hill of the Civil Engineering Squadron helped me build a 13 foot steel missile so we could put the "Indian into the U.S. Space Program" for the seven minute show. The band parents and friends raised \$5,000 in one month selling everything from used cars to new born calves. I wrote a "March of the Indian Warrior" and used the "Footlifter March" by Filmore as part of the music to be played.

The football games that fall saw us put the Peru Indian on the Moon eight times. I had to get a license to "purchase, own, possess, transport or use explosives" (#A 51930, Sept. 18, 1963) to work the smoke bombs on the space rocket. Of interest was the Plattsburg High School game at Bailey Ave. stadium on Saturday night, October 26, 1963. Peru was so excited at the halftime lead of 19-0 that I pulled all the reserve bombs on this foggy night. The result was that the half time had to be extended for 10 minutes while the "smoke and fog lifted". Both sides had the Notre Dame Victory March as their school song and as Peru reached 25-0 Mr. Bill Zanellie, who directed the very fine 6A Plattsburg High School Band, played the song without making a goal. The crowd of over 7,000 watched as the Plattsburg fans stood and cheered. After the cheering died down silence covered the stadium and the Peru band answered the PHS band with a soft chorus of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town". With that the PHS band left the stands and the game ended with Peru winning 31-0.

As it turned out this was to be the high point of my teaching career because on November 22nd, President Kennedy was killed in Texas. The band sent the following letter to Mrs. Kennedy:

November 26, 1963

Dear Mrs. Kennedy:

On behalf of the students of the Peru Central Indian Marching Band, I would like to add our expressions of deep sorrow at the death of your husband and our President.

According to officials of the New York World's Fair, our band was to have been reviewed by the late President at the Fair opening on April 22.

May we assure you of the prayers of each of us, our loss is great and personal.

Respectfully,

Lynn H. Wilke
Director, Peru Central School
Indian Marching Band

Mrs. Kennedy sent us a card of thanks and this letter and the card is presently on the wall of the band room.

The band was one of the three school bands from the world to march in the Parade on world wide TV. President Johnson flew over us in a helicopter and we put on a good performance without the space ship, as the first band to perform in the New York State Pavilion after the parade amid civil rights demonstrators. Somehow the thrill had been subdued by the death of our President. The kids from Peru were shown all over the world on Armed Forces TV due to their USAF training but as they entered the outside world they did so with mixed emotions. One of the high points of the trip was on April 23rd when a group of students and chaperones sat down with a group of foreign military men to eat hot dogs at one of the stands. They were taken back when one of the men turned out to be King Hussein of Jordan.

The 1964 Peru World's Fair Band

Director: Lynn H. Wilke

Angevine, Sally	Green, George	Patno, Sheila
Bailey, Denise	Greene, Nancy	Pierson, Greg
Banker, Kenny	Harbold, Kathy	Remillard, Angela
Barror, William	Harrow, Jackie	Rock, Vickie
Basha, Peter	Hastings, Nancy	Rudmin, Jerry
Baty, Donald	Hughes, Marian	Santor, Ronnie
Baty, Susan	Hughes, Marilyn	Siano, Thomas
Bedard, Phyllis	Jarvis, Barbara	Simpson, Robert
Bell, Jakey	Jarvis, Judy	Smith, David
Bockman, Sandra	Jarvis, Mark	Smith, Gloria
Bonville, Billy	Johnson, Nancy	Smith, Stormy
Bonville, Judy	Kardar, Scott	Stafford, Allen
Bonville, Jan	Keet, Pamela	Stafford, David
Bonville, Mike	Kisser, Cynthia	Stafford, James
Borgstead, Roy	Lacombe, Barbara	St. Dennis, Gloria
Bozos, Robert	Lacombe, Ignatious	Stewart, Karen
Bridges, Susan	Lacombe, Mary	Sullivan, Marie
Buddle, Linda	LaMoy, Gayle	Sullivan, Mary
Buddle, Patricia	LaPan, Peggy	Tolson, Bill
Carroll, James	Laphan, Billy	Thew, Gail
Cook, Gary	Laphan, Gail	Thew, Pat
Craig, Bill	LaPage, Jay	Warwick, David
Crapps, Karen	Mannix, Tom	Woodward, Cheril
Darrah, Mary	Maxon, Sylvia	Wright, Judy
Davic, Carol	McCormick, Linda	Wright, Paul
Davis, Paul	Mignery, Ronald	Wright, Weston
Etesse, Jean	Morse, Marian	Yeschke, William
Foster, Polly	Nellie, Paula	York, Robert
Gay, Leona	Olson, David	Zerrahn, Richard
Giboney, Fran	Olson, Johnnie	Zimmerman, Carol
Granger, Charlie	Owens, Willard	Zimmerman, Cathy

With the World's Fair behind us we looked to new places to go and things to do. The doors had opened to us. We were invited to EXPO 67, the next World's Fair, by the United States Information Agency in Washington, DC. The USAF that was so kind to us in the past now deactivated their B-47 Bombers and transferred 500 men away from the base. With them went 33 of my band members. We had to work like mad to "plug in musicians" in the weak spots, but on May 13, 1967 we gave two concerts at Bandshell A (1 and 5 P.M.)

The band must have sounded good as we were invited back two more times in 1968 and in 1970, to play MAN AND HIS WORLD, as EXPO was called after the World's Fair ended. I have listed the Spring 1968 band.

1968 EXPO-MAN AND HIS WORLD BAND

(List from uniform issue as to size)

<u>Clarinets</u>	<u>Flutes</u>	<u>Trumpets</u>	<u>Basses</u>
L. Knox	L. Buddle	M. Frenyea	P. Vernooy
B. Cote	J. Brand	K. Wilke	J. West
G. Brown	E. Place	C. Peer	R. Santor
M. Remillard	J. Toye	W. Slocum	W. Wright
A. Downs	L. Robbins	K. VanSplinter	
J. Sentor	M. Baisilone	C. McCormick	<u>String Bass</u>
J. Eccles		P. Davis	
D. Clary	<u>Saxophones</u>	K. Davidson	L. McNicolas
S. LaFountain		D. Soulier	
B. Mains	P. Dwyer	M. Doyel	<u>Percussion</u>
D. Keyes	L. Bouvia	D. Smith	
B. LaMar	R. Nixon	J. Bell	R. Rivers
M. Hughes	C. Wilke	K. Taylor	T. Lang
C. Hamilton	D. Lapan	M. Cody	J. Lange
G. Lamoy	A. Natow	M. Kelley	G. Whiteley
M. Wright	R. Coxey	T. Douglas	T. Duncan
C. White	S. Woodruff	J. Fitzgerald	R. Lawrence
R. Blake		D. Armitage	J. Metcalfe
B. Coxey	<u>Horns</u>	A. Smith	S. Irving
T. Conker			C. Moore
D. Lucas	S. Annis	<u>Baritones</u>	
J. Ston	J. Metcalfe	D. Dobbs	<u>Bells</u>
	P. Kelley	C. Shipman	G. Hosford
	J. Thompson	M. Cluette	

This same 1968 Band went to the Seventeenth Annual "Band Day" at Cornell University and played during the half time of the Cornell Colgate Football Game with the Cornell and Colgate Bands. Even with 60 other high school bands playing in the rain, it was a fun trip, with the band all swimming in the pool together at the Randolph House, Syracuse, N.Y. after the game.

The next mention of the Peru Band comes from THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, Mon., Feb. 28, 1972, Atlanta, Georgia, of all places. There is a picture of a man with a blowtorch on the valves of a sousaphone. The caption under the picture reads: "Blowtorch Keeps Music Hot" and the lines under are as follows:

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. - Fred Konis of Flattsburgh, N.Y. turns a hot blowtorch on the valves of a tuba to keep the instrument in playing condition as temperatures dropped to 15 below over the weekend here. The tuba was the property of a member of the Peru (N.Y.) High School Band which played at opening ceremonies of the 1972 World University Winter Games here. (Associated Press Wirephoto)

This picture was sent to me by Mary Clowney Maleshi, one of my baritone horn players from the 1963 band, who was living in Atlanta and found it in her local paper.

These were the "Federation Internationale Du Sport Universitaire" (F.I.S.U.) games. Our band, the Lake Placid Band, and the St. Lawrence Central Band opened the games. It was our trumpeters, however, who stood next to the FISU-Olympic torch as Jim Miller of the US team, with burning gas on his arm, ran around the stadium and lit it. Peru band members William Slocum and Kirk Wilke were seen on ABC's "Wide World of Sports" along with the Peru Band as they played the "Gradamus" on the Aide Trumpets with the FISU flags hanging from them. It was the Peru Band that lead the FISU flag as Dr. Primo Nebiolo (Italy), president of FISU, opened these world wide games and the artillery of the N.Y. State National Guard thundered over our heads. This was the second time Peru hit the world scene. The games were shown all over the world later on TV film. It was a glorious day for Peru.

This same band who only two months later went to the capitol of Canada, competed in the Ottawa Music Festival and was judged the best concert band at the festival playing grade 6 music before Dr. Donald Hunsberger, director of the Eastman Wind ensemble, and James White of Althouse College, London, Ont.

All entrants in the challenge class played the same selection, "The Giles Farnaby Suite" by Gordon Jacobs. With five days a week rehearsals we won the Henry Morgan Trophy. This trophy had not before in its 14 year history been awarded to a band outside Canada. It was another first for this great 1972 band.

1972 Ottawa - FISU Band Roster

(International Playing Champions marched on "Wide World of Sports TV)

Brian Alley - Cornet
Sherry Annis - French Horn
Bonnie Arnold - Clarinet
Mike Bola - Cornet
Joan Balkus - Clarinet
Bruce Banker - Baritone
Bill Bombardier - Drummer

Daniel Borden - Horn
Gail Brown - Clarinet
Kathy Burnette - Alto Sax
Wendy Brown - Clarinet
Debbie Buskey - Alto Sax
Stephanie Burdo - Clarinet
Debbie Buskey - Clarinet

Stacy Church - Cornet	Sarah Metcalfe - French Horn
Becky Curtis - Clarinet	Pam Mihal - Flute
Kathy Curle - Flute	Debra Mihal - Flute
Elaine Darey - Clarinet	Diana Prescott - Flute
Philip Dell - Baritone	Janie Pritz - Clarinet
Kevin Downs - Trombone	Mary Pritz - Clarinet
Henry Davidson - Cornet	Linda Pritz - Clarinet
Shelly Dell - Flute	Doug Ringler - Tenor Sax
*Louis Demar - Electric Bass	Bill Ralston - Tuba
David Devlin - Trombone	Cynda Ranta - Flute
Bonnie Dukette - Flute	Lynn Robbins - Flute
Terry Dukette - Trombone	Diane Robbins - Alto Sax
*Joanne Eccles - Alto Sax	Sue Robbins - Eb Clarinet, Bass Clarinet
Kirk Farquharson - Trombone	Kathy Ryan - Clarinet
Jeff Fenurick - Clarinet	Julie Santor - Clarinet
Elizabeth Fudge - Flute	Patricia Sanders - Flute
Mary Ann Frenyea - Trombone	Karen Scholl - Flute
Marcus Hauser - Trombone	Jay Scozzafeza - Trumpet
Roy Herdman - Clarinet	Bill Slocum - Trumpet
Linda Lawrence - Clarinet	*Carol Lynn Wilke - Oboe, Marching Bells
Joanne Jarvis - Clarinet	*Kirk Wilke - Trumpet
Randy Jenks - Trumpet	Glenn Sommer - Cornet
Kevin Kelly - Alto Clarinet	Susie Sommer - Bassoon
Catheleen Kelly - Clarinet	Den Sovlia - Baritone
Debbie Keys - Alto Clarinet	Dorothy Sussdorff - Flute
David Kirby - Tuba	Kathy Sullivan - Clarinet
Tom Konis - Trumpet	Mike Sunderland - Tuba
Laura Knox - Clarinet	Jim Tripp - Trombone
*Ed Krajewski - Clarinet	Debbie Tate - Drum
David Marriot - Trombone	Wendy Taylor - Cornet
Marla Martin - Flute	Laura Tessier - Baritone
Cindy McGar - Clarinet	Janet Thompson - French Horn
Denise McGee - Flute	Jeff Thompson - French Horn
Mickey McGee - Drums	Greg Timmons - Drums
*Jim Metcalfe - French Horn Band President	Kathleen Van Splinter - Trumpet
Charles Miles - Drums	John Wakely - Trombone
Melony Minor - Clarinet	Mark Wakely - Baritone Sax
Greg Munsell - Bass	

*Listed under Peru's professional musicians on page 55 and 56.

After the FISU Ottawa band year we made an unsuccessful bid for the Presidential Inaugural Parade of Richard Nixon in Washington, DC. The Peru band was rejected because it had members under the 9th grade that "might not be able to keep up with the Parade!!!! Steve Woodruff was student Band President at this time, and Carol Wilke was secretary.

With the money that was raised for the Washington trip by the Band Boosters Parents Club, and the band made a trip to Quebec City, Canada, Winter carnival on February 16th 1974. The Plattsburg Press-Republican of Tuesday, February 12, 1974 gave the band a full page of pictures showing its director on skis marching

them in the snow on the football field. Those who stayed up until 1 A.M. saw the musicians from Peru finish the parade of five miles on CBC TV leading the Quebec Winter Carnival Queen on her lighted float. It was 18 degrees at the time and each band had a small truck to pick up members who couldn't make it. At the State University of New York at Fredonia, where the director received his BA Music degree, the Press-Republican picture page was placed on exhibit for one year as a tribute to one of its graduates who did "the unusual". (I do think this was the first time in the East that a marching band was directed from skis....probably the last)

After this the band went into a building (thawing out) period caused by split sessions in the school. This year (1976) things are starting to pick up again as, for the first time in 25 years, a junior high or "Workshop Band" has given the junior high students time to build before they have to sit in with the advanced players. As I write this the band is working to enter the New York State School Music Association Band Competition Festival after completing a football season and the Christmas Concert. Numbers now under rehearsal are:

Selections from "Die Meistersinger".....Richard Wagner
 March from "First Suite in Eb for Military Band...Gustav Holst
 Prelude and Fugue in BB.....J.S. Bach (organ transcription)
 O Cool is the Valley.....Vincent Persichetti, Op 118

Part III - MUSICAL PERU IN 1976

The Bicentennial Town Band organized for the "Battle of Valcour Week" (Oct. 11, 1975) made up of adults and the best students in the high school. Band directed by the 1920 "Peru Town Band" musicians Hector and Victor Savage.

Co-Directors: Hector V. Savage
 Victor H. Savage

Flutes: Marla Martin
 Karen Nolan

Saxophones:
 Neil Wright
 Steve Woodruff
 Tom Moulton

Clarinets:
 Jerry LaBombard
 Dr. Ken Shaffer
 Ronald Shaffer
 Julie Lee Santor
 Roydell Herdman
 Pam Stancliff

Cornets:
 Dr. Ken Hoeltzer
 Jeff Woodruff
 Roger Crete
 Debbie Herdman
 Lynn H. Wilke

Bass Clarinet:
 Jean M. Sater

French Horns:
 Sarah Metcalfe
 Betsy Miner

1895 Peru Band Clarinet (Albert System)
 Lynn H. Wilke

Baritones:
Monica Balkus
Stephen Duell

Basses:
Bill Ralston
David Clark Kirby
Martin R. Natter

Trombones:
John E. Nolan
Carol Davis
Bill Eveleth
Anne Crete
Alan Shaffer

Percussion:
Nap Light
Dr. Euclid H. Jones
Keith H. Jones
Joanne Coffey Wilke
Linda B. Wellman

The Peru High School Band 1975-76

Director - Lynn H. Wilke

Tracy Allen
Brian Alley
Lisa Altizer
Joan Balkus
Monica Balkus
Bruce Banker
Gary Bendenhard
Laurie Bell
Wendy Brown
Michael Cleaver
Bill Conroy
Chris Cook
Anne Crete
Karen Curtis
Dennis Dean - President
Deedee Nixon
Bill Eveleth
Kirk Farquharson
Debbie Herdman
Roy Herdman
Scott Hauser
Keith Jones
David Kirby
Paul Kirkpatrick
Anne Lawlis
Ronald Lovick
Cathy Manley
Marla Martin - Secretary
Penny McGee
Kathy Meilink
Denise Merrill
Sarah Metcalfe

Betsy Minor
Eric Moor
Tom Moulton
David Murphy
Karen Natter
Karen Nolan
Robert Oberman
Paul Page
Anita Parker
Jim Purinton
Bill Ralston
Don Ranta
Melissa Ranta
Patti Fulfs
Jean Sater
Mike Sanders
Patty Sanders
Myron Shaffer
Pam Stancliff
John Stanley
Diana Stewart
Donna Stewart
Debbie Thompson
Peggy Underwood
Jodi Wells
Jeff Woodruff
Neil Wright
Dan Yando
Jim Burdi
Jeff Thompson
Keith Morgan
Kevin Morgan

The following music teachers are employed by the Peru Central School system as of this date: (listed in order of seniority)

Lynn H. Wilke - Bands, H.S. Chorus, Band lessons, Music History, Music Theory and Composition, Opera workshop, General Music 8, Jazz Ensemble

Joanne C. Wilke - Primary music, Primary workshop chorus, Orff and Kodaly music instrument programs and classes.
George F. Slosson - Orchestras, string instruction, Jr. High School chorus, General Music 7.
Carol Davis - Intermediate general music, Instrumental lessons grades 4-6.
Linda B. Wellman - Intermediate and Junior High Chorus, Intermediate and 7th grade general music, Guitar lessons

There are two music teachers at the Plattsburg Air Force Base schools that fall under the direction of the Peru Central School District:

Rosemary Spencer - Northside School
Charlotte Bolles - Southside School

The Christmas programs of the schools featured all the musical units in use in the school:

A Primary school workshop chorus (grades 2-3)
An Orff and Kodaly primary band (grades 1-3)
An Intermediate Chorus (grades 4-6)
An Intermediate instrumental organization (strings-woodwinds) (grades 4-6)
Two Junior High School Choruses (grades 7-8)
A Junior High School workshop band (grades 7-8)
A High School chorus
A High School Jazz Band
The Indian Marching Band
Two orchestras (string and symphony)

At the St. Augustine's Catholic elementary school they have two music teachers:

Sister Constance Marie - vocal music
Mr. Carl Kokes - Band part time instructor. Mr. Kokes is the orchestra instructor from Plattsburg High School. He teaches band instrument to the St. Augustine's on Saturdays.

St. Augustine's school has a band and two choirs on their Christmas concert.

The churches of Peru have 4-part mixed choirs and a guitar youth folk choir. These choirs and their organists participated in the Bicentennial concert. They are listed as follows:

The Peru Community Church Choir

Bertha Irwin - Organist - Director
Steve Woodruff - Organist

Karen Curtis	Kimberly Carpenter	Christina Irwin
Tammi Altizer	Muriel Rennell Stafford	Constance Carpenter
Joline White	Shirley Leahy	Madeline Chase

Evelyn Leage	Julia Allen	Stephen Woodruff
Dottie Pierce	Judith Stafford	James Stafford
Allan L. Stafford	Hilda Curtis	Jeffrey Woodruff
Brian Allen	Priscilla Altizer	A. Earle Harrington
Carol L. Davis	Richard Stafford	George Curtis

St. Augustine's Church Mixed Choir

Lynn H. Wilke - Organist - Director
Joanne C. Wilke - Organist

Sally Chase Kokes
Sr. JoAnn Croyle, SSJ
Eleanor Burl Bedard
Charlene Lombard
Sr. Sheila Jane Morgan, SSJ
Helen G. Kirby
Gerald Stewart
Chester Kulas
Roger Crete
Sr. Constance Marie Sylver, SSJ
Lorraine Maggy Johnston
Anne Crete
Audrey Crete
David Clark Kirby
Lynn H. Wilke
Joanne C. Wilke

St. Augustine CYO Folk Singers

Dennis Hubert - Leader

Cheryl Dupra - Guitar
Randy Rock - Guitar
Dave Bussiers - Guitar

Mary Durgan
Debbie Durgan
Ricky Bousquet
Tim Kelley
Mike Dupra
Peggy Coryea
Bonnie Gigers
Paula Keenan
Kathy Durgan
Danny Bussiers
Matt Kelley
Rickie Laduke
Robin Rock
Cindy Loope
Del Curtis
Julie Joswiak

Both churches use standard orchestra and band instruments in their services from time to time. The Community Church has a 1949 Schantz four rank unified pipe organ and St. Augustine's Church has a re-voiced 1938 Hammond Mod. B electronic. St. Patrick's Church on Terry Mt. has a spinnet Hammond.

There are three private music studios in Peru this year:

- Mrs. Cecile F. Coffey - Private Piano lessons on a Krakauer studio upright piano.
- Mrs. Linda B. Wellman - Private Piano lessons on an 1893 Steinway studio upright piano and Guitar lessons.
- Mr. & Mrs. Lynn H. Wilke - Private Piano lessons on a 1950 Chickering grand piano and recital and class instruction on a 1899 James Cole, 9 rank, pipe organ moved from St. Patrick's Church, Port Henry, N.Y. in the summer of 1974.

The high school Opera Work Shop Chorus will present the Broadway show "South Pacific" this June.

This then is some of the music that is going on in the end of 1975. I have left out things such as the Minstral Shows of Roy

McGee St., my productions of "Down in the Valley" and almost all of the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas, the silent movies with piano and violin and piano orchestras in the Town Hall in the WW I days and the Fiddle Contests around 1900 on the third floor of the Hardware Store. Time and paper will not permit any more. I leave them to another writer.

As I look back on these pages and think of the fights of the Weatherwax boys and my recent 29 min. once a week rehearsals I also see a lot of very fine music being produced in this town. I can think of no better way of leaving this than to list the "Professional Musicians of Peru". They will be or have been our musical ambassadors to the outside world. So on this 31st day of December before the Bicentennial year of 1976 starts I list and salute them.

Lynn H. Wilke
31 December 1975

PART IV - PERU PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS 1870-1976

In any list of people over a 106 year period it is certainty that many will be omitted. For this I am truly sorry. To designate these muscians from the thousands that sang and played as an avocation I set the following criteria for the list:

1. Were born or raised in Peru or received the majority of their musical education in Peru.
2. Are presently past high school age.
3. Fall into one or more of the following categories:
 - a. Have earned some part of their living through serious music.
 - b. Were church organists or music teachers.
 - c. Are college music students pursuing careers in music.
 - d. Were community music leaders or directors serving without pay in positions that today would receive monetary compensation.

David (or Martin) Weatherwax - Instrument unknown - Band Director
(c 1870)

Mr. Baker (first name unknown) - Church organist - St. Augustine's
around 1900

Edith Stafford - Church organist

Agnes Morgan Hallock - Piano Teacher

John Colan - Professional cornetist in Sousa Band (from Peru Town
Band)

Carrie Hallock - Church organist

George McIntyre - Cornetist - Director Peru Town Band 1890-1912

Mrs. Datus Clark - Church organist

Charlotte Church Clark - Church organist, Choir Director, Piano
Teacher

Ida Sharron - Church organist, choir director

Leroy McGee Sr. - Tenor - Minstral show director, church choir
 director
 Cora Macomber Stafford - Church organist and teacher
 Cecile Breyette Coffey - Piano Teacher, church organist
 Hector Savage - Clarinetist - US Army Bandsman, Director Peru Town
 Band 1920-1926-1975
 Victor Savage - Trombonist - US Army Bandsman, Co-director Peru
 Bicentennial Band 1975
 George Giroux - Professional pianist, Public School Music (PSM)
 Teacher
 Nancy Barber - Pianist - FSM Teacher
 Robert Boyd - Pianist - PSM Teacher
 Carol Bradley - Soprano - PSM Teacher
 Beverly Eccles - Pianist - PSM Teacher
 Judy Mason Barber - Soprano - PSM Teacher
 Carolyn Parks - French Horn - Professional Symphony musician
 Rockwell Blake - Operatic Tenor - Professional musician
 Debbie Menzel - Violinist - Soprano - US Army musician
 Linda Buddle - Pianist - PSM Teacher
 Kirby Taylor - Trumpet - College music student
 Barbara Jarvis - Soprano - PSM Teacher
 Christine Tessier - Pianist - College music student
 Carol Davis - Pianist - PSM Teacher
 Nancy Johnson - French Horn - PSM Teacher
 Linda McNicholas - String Bass - PSM Teacher
 Karla Barror - Piano - Violin - College music student
 Debbie Jones - String Bass - College music student
 Ed Krajewski - Clarinetist - College music student
 James Metcalfe - French Horn - College music student
 Joanne Eccles - Alto Saxophone - College music student
 Steve Woodruff - Organ - Church organist
 Carol Lynn Wilke - Piano - Oboe - College music student
 Lewis Demar - Tenor - US Army Musician
 Kirk Edward Wilke - Trumpet - Piano - College music student

I thank the following for helping me compile this list: Hector
 and Victor Savage, Everest T. Allen, Bertha Irwin, Cora Stafford
 and Marjorie Lansing Porter.

LIST OF SUPERVISORS OF PERU (1793-1879)

1793-1794	Edward Everett
1795	Asa Elmore
1796-1797	Edward Everett
1798	Reuben Arthur
1799-1801	Elisha Arnold
1802-1803	Henry Delord
1804-1805	Louis Ransom
1806-1809	Thomas Bull
1810	Elisha Arnold
1811	Thomas Bull
1812	Stephen Arnold
1813-1815	Waterman Ells
1816-1818	Joseph Everest, Jr.
1819	Asa Elmore
1820	Waterman Ells
1821-1825	Seth Calkins
1826-1830	Joseph Everest
1831	Richard Keese
1832	Chauncey Stoddard
1833	Joseph Everest
1834-1835	Richard Keese
1836-1837	Turner Calkins
1838	Richard Hayworth
1839	Franklin Elmore
1840-1841	Silas Arnold
1842	Chauncey Stoddard
1843	George Hallock
1844-1845	David A. Everett
1845-1848	George Hallock
1849	Josiah T. Everest
1850-1851	Thomas B. Watson
1852	George Hallock
1853	Franklin Elmore
1854-1855	Robert McP. Day
1856-1857	George W. Stafford
1858-1859	George Hallock
1860-1861	George P. Moore
1862	Henry Arnold
1863-1864	Robert McP. Day
1865	Nathan Lapham
1866	Buel D. Bacon
1867	Franklin H. Cole
1868	George P. Beadleston
1869-1870	Richard C. McIntyre
1871-1873	Jehiel B. White
1874-1876	S. Warren Day
1877-1878	Smyrna H. White
1879	S. Warren Day

A LIST OF LANDOWNERS IN PERU - 1850

Population schedules of the 7th census of the United States - 1850

(3,640 people listed) - Only landowners are included in the list below.

88 pages of Peru names - ages - sex - color (white, black, or mulatto) - profession, occupation or trade of each male person over 15 years of age - value of real estate owned - place of birth (state, territory, or country).

Census taker - Henry Ketchum

LANDOWNERS	AGE	PROF.	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE	PLACE OF BIRTH
Lewis Fish	51-M	Farmer	\$15,000	N.Y.
Joseph Benson	68-M	Farmer	\$3,000	N.Y.
Asaph Merreil	64-M	Farmer	\$2,000	N.H.
Jephthah Hewitt	70-M	Farmer	\$5,000	Vt.
John Eells	45-M	Farmer	\$3,000	N.Y.
Samuel Terry	61-M	Farmer	\$1,300	Vt.
Nathan Eells	59-M	Farmer	\$2,500	Vt.
John Arnold	35-M	Farmer	\$4,000	N.Y.
Thomas Weaver	47-M	Farmer	\$4,000	N.Y.
Solomon Clark	66-M	Farmer	\$6,000	Vt.
Edmond Clark	64-M	Farmer	\$3,500	Vt.
George Beadleston	36-M	Farmer	\$4,500	Canada
Joel Clark	62-M	Farmer	\$8,000	Vt.
F.S. Felton	34-M	Farmer	\$5,000	N.Y.
Albemarle Terry	65-M	None	\$2,000	Vt.
John Eells (2nd)	46-M	Farmer	\$2,000	N.Y.
Griffin Lewis	46-M	Farmer	\$1,700	N.Y.
Calasis Eells	44-M	Farmer	\$1,400	N.Y.
Harry Bullis	37-M	Farmer	\$800	N.Y.
Bradford Ormsbe	32-M	Farmer	\$500	N.Y.
Joseph Kricke	38-M	Collier	\$200	Ireland
James Downes Jr.	36-M	Farmer	\$550	Ireland
Jenry R. Signor	36-M	Farmer	\$1,200	N.Y.
Signor Philips	38-M	Farmer	\$1,800	N.Y.
Asa Palmer	32-M	Farmer	\$400	Vt.
Aaron Putnam	29-M	Farmer	\$600	N.Y.
Archelaus Putnam	62-M	Farmer	\$6,000	N.H.
Howland Ricketson	66-M	Farmer	\$2,000	N.Y.
Elias Newel	30-M	Farmer	\$500	Vt.
Wesley Alford	30-M	Farmer	\$100	N.Y.
Beeman Banker	32-M	Bloomer	\$350	N.Y.
Rufus Alford	48-M	Wheelwright	\$400	N.Y.
Alvah Emory	38-M	Farmer	\$600	Canada
Anson Wescott	49-M	Farmer	\$2,000	Vt.
William Bowles	47-M	Farmer	\$100	N.Y.
Elras Banker	47-M	Farmer	\$800	N.Y.
John Whitney	44-M	Blacksmith	\$800	Vt.
Reubin Martin	47-M	Teamster	\$40	Vt.
John C. Bailey	40-M	Bloomer	\$500	N.H.

LANDOWNERS	AGE	PROF.	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE	PLACE OF BIRTH
Philatus Bromley	35-M	Farmer	\$1,000	N.Y.
Thanson Bedle	42-M	Blacksmith	\$40	N.Y.
George Denton	44-M	Farmer	\$300	N.Y.
Hiram Durgin	40-M	Farmer	\$1,000	N.H.
William Eells	32-M	Farmer	\$1,200	N.Y.
Joseph Westcott	36-M	Clergyman, Meth.	\$1,500	N.Y.
Daniel Westcott	36-M	Farmer	\$800	N.Y.
George Moore	31-M	Farmer	\$600	N.H.
Merselda Thyes	56-M	Farmer	\$1,000	N.H.
Sarah Brown	36-F		\$100	N.H.
Cyrus Hanson	44-M	Farmer	\$5,000	N.H.
Elisha Arnold	82-M	None	\$70,650	Rhode Island
Allen Griffeth	35-M	Farmer	\$3,000	N.Y.
Oliver Adcock	52-M	Farmer	\$4,700	N.Y.
Shubett T. Thompson	51-M	Clergyman, Meth.	\$200	Maine
Nancy West	46-F		\$2,000	N.H.
Alonza Coolage	34-M	Farmer	\$400	N.Y.
Joseph Stavison	30-M	Farmer	\$800	N.Y.
Draper Garlick	36-M	Grocer	\$250	N.Y.
Connell Odonell	40-M	Butcher	\$350	Ireland
Peter Greeley	34-M	Blacksmith	\$2,000	Ireland
Lyman Woodworth	54-M	Merchant	\$20,200	Mass.
Thomas J. Ayers	41-M	Merchant	\$2,500	Vt.
Nelson G. Hewitt	32-M	None	\$2,000	N.Y.
Miranda Day	49-F		\$400	Vt.
Ira Sanborn	42-M	House Joiner	\$1,000	Maine
Isaac Sanburn	44-M	Wheelwright	\$4,000	Vt.
John Cleaves	46-M	Shoemaker	\$300	N.H.
(Alonson D. Barber)	31-M	Congregational Clergyman		N.Y.
William Clough	37-M	Cabinet Maker	\$2,000	Vt.
James Bently	59-M	Wheelwright	\$1,500	England
Richard Hargraves	32-M	Artist	\$500	England
John Storms	43-M	Merchant	\$2,000	N.H.
Asa Day	72-M	Blacksmith	\$1,000	Mass.
Selucia Elmore	49-M	Farmer	\$9,700	N.Y.
Nathan Rice	68-M	None	\$1,000	Vt.
David Clough	60-M	Sadler	\$1,000	N.H.
James R. Reynolds	46-M	Merchant	\$1,200	N.Y.
Daniel W. Irish	38-M	Carpenter Joiner	\$200	N.Y.
Truman Fields	43-M	Cabinet Maker	\$1,500	Vt.
Thomas Langdon	93-M	None	\$100	England
William Booth	47-M	Shoemaker	\$180	Ireland
(John Booth	24-M	Stone Mason		Canada)
Anson Ayers	54-M	Tanner	\$8,000	Mass.
Austin Woodworth	30-M	Merchant	\$800	N.Y.
John Cochran	40-M	Tanner	\$5,100	N.Y.
Leon L. Channell	30-M	Merchant	\$3,000	Canada
Franklin Elmore	45-M	Merchant	\$12,000	N.Y.
Mark Turney	36-M	Tailor	\$1,000	Ireland
(Nelson Stephenson)	40-M	Physician		N.Y.
(C.R. Morris	43-M	Clergyman, Meth.		N.Y.
Eliza K. Day	40-F		\$4,500	N.Y.
John Masterson	25-M	Spinner	\$500	Canada

LANDOWNERS	AGE	PROF.	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE	PLACE OF BIRTH
John H. Morgan	34-M	Manufacturing Wool	\$1,000	Ireland
Edgar Beckwith	30-M	Merchant	\$800	N.Y.
Silas Cochran	79-M	Farmer	\$4,000	Vt.
Uriah Howland	62-M	Wheelwright	\$1,000	Mass.
John Powers	44-M	Shoemaker	\$600	Ireland
Thankful Gove	55-F		\$500	Mass.
S.H. Martin	43-M	Farmer	\$1,500	Vt.
Washington Stafford	39-M	Blacksmith	\$300	N.Y.
Asa Reynolds	35-M	Peddler	\$600	N.Y.
Joseph Nichols	36-M	Farmer	\$1,400	Canada
Charles Ferris	44-M	Farmer	\$8,000	N.Y.
Richard Heyworth	52-M	None	\$15,000	N.Y.
William Fletcher	45-M	Painter		Vt.
Heman Garlick	66-M	Physician		N.Y.
John Dellon	40-M	Carpenter	\$1,000	Ireland
John H. Barker	35-M	Merchant	\$31,000	N.Y.
Alvin T. Story	39-M	Millwright	\$900	Vt.
Amos Jacobs	40-M	Blacksmith	\$900	Vt.
Nathan Lapham	29-M	Milling	\$11,000	N.Y.
Job Sherman	44-M	Farmer	\$15,000	N.Y.
Elezer Nicholas	84-M	Farmer	\$6,000	Conn.
George Hallock	44-M	Farmer	\$5,000	N.Y.
James Jackson	63-M	Farmer	\$9,000	N.Y.
Daniel Calkins	32-M	Farmer	\$3,000	N.Y.
Sidney Reynolds	26-M	Carpenter	\$500	N.Y.
Merebo Calkins	65-M		\$1,500	N.Y.
Benjamin Calkins	23-M	Farmer	\$1,000	N.Y.
Charles Calkins	21-M	Farmer	\$1,000	N.Y.
Abner Calkins	33-M	Farmer	\$4,000	N.Y.
Turner Calkins	37-M	Farmer	\$10,000	N.Y.
Stephen K. Smith	44-M	Farmer	\$7,000	N.Y.
Benjamin F. Smith	26-M	Farmer	\$5,720	N.Y.
Mary Smith	45-F		\$1,000	N.Y.
John K. Smith	33-M	Farmer	\$6,000	N.Y.
Milton L. Weston	30-M	Merchant	\$7,000	N.Y.
Charles Carpenter	53-M	Laborer	\$100	N.H.
John Costlow	61-M	Farmer	\$500	Ireland
Robert York	67-M	Clergyman, Meth.	\$2,000	England
Garret Bennet	49-M	Farmer	\$1,200	N.Y.
William Quinn	36-M	Farmer	\$200	Ireland
James McGinity	42-M	Farmer	\$1,600	Ireland
Nicholas Brown	53-M	Farmer	\$400	Ireland
Ira Smart	57-M	Farmer	\$1,400	N.H.
Patrick Dugan	45-M	Farmer	\$200	Ireland
Archabald Dugan	43-M	Farmer	\$300	Ireland
Robert Bule	50-M	Farmer	\$1,000	Scotland
David A. Everette	64-M	Farmer	\$4,000	Vt.
Henry Clark	33-M	Farmer	\$2,500	N.Y.
Joseph Arnold	70-M	Farmer	\$5,000	Rhode Island
Henry Arnold	31-M	Farmer	\$2,000	N.Y.
David A. Everette Jr.	31-M	Marble Cutter	\$1,000	N.Y.
Evan B. Harding	72-M	Farmer	\$2,400	Vt.

LANDOWNERS	AGE	PROF.	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE	PLACE OF BIRTH
Dyer Arnold	65-M	Farmer	\$4,000	N.Y.
John Bragg	44-M	Farmer	\$5,500	N.Y.
Benjamin Thomas	52-M	Blacksmith	\$500	N.Y.
Peace Rogers	77-F		\$2,500	Mass.
Thomas B. Watson	35-M	Lawyer		Mass.
John Green	55-M	Farmer	\$7,490	N.Y.
Nathaniel Hanson	64-M	Farmer	\$9,100	N.H.
John Stone	30-M	Farmer	\$400	Ireland
Gilbert Thew	32-M	Blacksmith	\$200	N.Y.
Sydney Griffin	43-M	Farmer	\$1,600	N.Y.
Francis Smart	53-M	Farmer	\$3,000	N.H.
William Ferris	59-M	Farmer	\$1,000	N.Y.
Samuel Ferris	29-M	Farmer	\$50	N.Y.
Daniel Thew	56-M	Farmer	\$3,000	N.Y.
Arthur H. Merrill	57-M	Farmer	\$2,000	N.H.
Nathan Hewit	60-M	Farmer	\$5,000	Vt.
Sanford Hewit	33-M	Farmer	\$4,000	N.Y.
John P. Hewit	28-M	Farmer	\$12,000	N.Y.
Oliver Everitt	34-M	Farmer	\$1,000	N.Y.
John S. Thew	62-M	Farmer	\$8,300	N.Y.
Oliver K. Lapham	27-M	Farmer	\$2,000	N.Y.
Joseph Lapham	64-M	Farmer	\$10,500	Mass.
John Keese	31-M	Farmer	\$8,400	N.Y.
Chancy Stoddard	61-M	Farmer	\$12,300	Conn.
Abram Haff	58-M	Clergyman, Meth.	\$7,600	N.Y.
Peter Haff	66-M	Farmer	\$6,000	N.Y.
William Keese	31-M	Farmer	\$10,000	N.Y.
Willetts Keese	36-M	Farmer	\$6,000	N.Y.
Jonathon Battey	38-M	Comm. Nurseryman	\$3,500	Vt.
Heman H. Forrence	33-M	Farmer	\$6,000	N.Y.
Russel S. Fish	42-M	Farmer	\$8,500	N.Y.
Brinton P. Anson	61-M	Farmer	\$2,500	N.Y.
Francis Gonett	38-M	Laborer	\$80	Canada
Galutia Bragg	37-M	Farmer	\$1,200	Vt.
Sidney K. Wells	30-M	Farmer	\$500	N.Y.
Chancellor Olcott	53-M	Farmer	\$750	N.Y.
John B. Willson	31-M	Farmer	\$2,000	N.Y.
Taber Allen	47-M	Farmer	\$1,000	Vt.
Isaac W. Allen	49-M	Farmer	\$1,000	N.Y.
William Baggs	68-M	Farmer	\$1,200	Ireland
Josephas Allen	52-M	Farmer	\$1,500	Vt.
Theodore Baker	44-M	Farmer	\$4,000	N.Y.
Bart Bromley	51-M	Farmer	\$2,500	Vt.
Joshua Beardsley	50-M	Farmer	\$2,000	N.Y.
Lodema Leroy	10-F		\$5,000	Conn.
Russel Ransom	77-M	Farmer	\$1,200	Conn.
Amasa Prindle	47-M	Laborer	\$200	N.Y.
Daniel Straight	76-M	Farmer	\$5,000	New Jersey
Mumford B. Bissell	41-M	Farmer	\$4,000	N.Y.
Daniel Straight	32-M	Farmer	\$1,000	N.Y.
Silas Hinkley	37-M	Dock Master	\$5,000	N.Y.
Martin Wetherwax	56-M	Farmer	\$2,000	N.Y.
David K. Day	36-M	Farmer	\$2,150	N.Y.
Richard McNall	28-M	Innkeeper		Vt.

LANDOWNERS	AGE	PROF.	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE	PLACE OF BIRTH
William Tracy	26-M	Blacksmith		Vt.
Joseph Laport	44-M	Stonecutter	\$800	Canada
Lewis Vanant	57-M	Stonecutter		Canada
Nelson Day	23-M	Farmer	\$2,000	N.Y.
Edmond Day	32-M	Farmer	\$3,200	N.Y.
Edward A. Phelps	30-M	Farmer	\$1,500	Vt.
William Brace	44-M	Farmer	\$1,500	Canada
Arana Lyon	74-M	Shoemaker		Mass.
Abram Chase	37-M	Farmer	\$2,500	N.Y.
Theron Day	65-M	Farmer	\$5,400	Mass.
Isaac Lyon	71-M	Farmer	\$2,500	Conn.
Andrew Wetherwax	66-M	Farmer	\$1,000	N.Y.
Andrew Wetherwax	18-M	Sailor		N.Y.
Joseph Mark	30-M	Sailor		Canada
Amy Wetherwax	45-F		\$1,200	Vt.
David Buck	65-M	Farmer	\$200	Conn.
Michael Gebo	70-M	Laborer	\$100	France
Renselaer Hewit	36-M	Farmer	\$2,500	N.Y.
John Otis	59-M	Farmer	\$3,000	Penn.
Hannah Baker	59-F		\$300	N.Y.
Jehial B. Hathaway	39-M	Farmer	\$1,200	N.Y.
Henry Baker	41-M	Farmer	\$2,400	N.Y.
Aaron B. Mason	45-M	Farmer	\$4,500	N.Y.
Stephen Brand	57-M	Farmer	\$5,000	N.Y.
Edgar Manning	32-M	Farmer	\$3,500	Vt.
Andrew Martin	40-M	Farmer	\$2,300	Vt.
Alexander Smith	54-M	Farmer	\$2,000	N.Y.
Samuel P. More	51-M	Farmer	\$1,000	Canada
Elisha Clark	65-M	Farmer	\$2,000	Vt.
Eliza Travis	46-F		\$1,000	N.Y.
Andrew White	64-M	Farmer	\$7,700	N.Y.
Jonathon Weed	77-M	Farmer	\$500	N.H.
Jonathon Weed, Jr.	38-M	Farmer	\$1,500	N.Y.
Leonard How	46-M	Farmer	\$3,500	N.H.
Archabald Lyon	47-M	Farmer	\$1,200	Vt.
Thomas Ferrill	59-M	Farmer	\$300	Ireland
George Stewart	48-M	Farmer	\$2,000	Ireland
Horace Lyon	45-M	Farmer	\$900	Vt.
Charles Rock	49-M	Farmer	\$1,500	Canada
Edward Lyon	39-M	Farmer	\$1,000	N.Y.
Warren Lyon	35-M	Farmer	\$200	N.Y.
George Weatherwax	27-M	Farmer	\$750	N.Y.
Edward Ferrill	34-M	Laborer	\$200	Ireland
Abram Way	32-M	Farmer	\$2,000	N.Y.
John Church	65-M	Farmer	\$1,000	N.Y.
Hara Fuller	46-M	Farmer	\$3,000	Vt.
Dorus Wells	45-M	Farmer	\$800	N.Y.
Eli Ayers	45-M	Farmer	\$4,000	Vt.
John Labell	39-M	Farmer	\$1,000	Canada
Sandford Sherry	42-M	Farmer	\$2,500	N.Y.
Uber Basha	54-M	Blacksmith	\$500	Canada
Henry Herrin	22-M	Farmer	\$800	Ireland
Lyman Annis	22-M	Laborer	\$150	N.Y.
Lyman Harrington	28-M	Farmer	\$50	N.Y.

LANDOWNERS	AGE	PROF.	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE	PLACE OF BIRTH
Timothy Harrington	73-M	Farmer	\$1,000	Conn.
John Hanson	31-M	Farmer	\$2,000	N.H.
George D. Moon	29-M	Farmer	\$1,200	N.Y.
Robert R. Moon	25-M	Farmer	\$1,200	N.Y.
Alman Thomas	29-M	Lumberman	\$1,500	N.Y.
Henry Brand	31-M	Farmer	\$2,500	N.Y.
Abram Staves	53-M	Farmer	\$900	Canada
William Prescott	46-M	Farmer	\$700	N.H.
James Smith	58-M	Farmer	\$250	England
William Oxford	35-M	Farmer	\$250	England
John Staves	58-M	Farmer	\$1,000	Canada
Patrick Lynch	30-M	Laborer	\$100	Ireland
Josephas Annis	29-M	Farmer	\$800	N.Y.
Andrew J. Ames	37-M	Farmer	\$1,600	N.Y.
James Willson	69-M	Farmer	\$2,000	England
John Rydr	46-M	Farmer	\$2,500	N.Y.
William Knowles	61-M	Farmer	\$1,000	N.Y.
Godfrey Cornwell	53-M	Farmer	\$1,200	N.Y.
Ira D. Knowles	39-M	Farmer	\$1,200	N.Y.
Patrick McFarland	45-M	Farmer	\$500	Ireland
Felix Starks	60-M	Farmer	\$1,350	Ireland
Horace Ackley	42-M	Stonecutter	\$2,000	Vt.
Lyman A. Brownel	19-M	Stonecutter		Vt.
Parson Hinds	53-M	Farmer	\$3,000	N.J.
John L. Hackstaff	59-M	Farmer	\$7,000	Vt.
Sally Barker	46-F		\$4,000	N.H.
Margaret Laibbee	44-F		\$1,400	N.Y.
Amzi Furner	48-M	Farmer	\$6,000	Vt.
Temperance White	53-F		\$2,000	Vt.
Arad Evins	51-M	Teamster	\$200	N.Y.
Daniel Jackson	31-M	Wheelwright	\$1,000	Penn.
Asaph B. Totman	50-M	Farmer	\$3,500	N.H.
John B. Carr	42-M	Farmer	\$2,000	Vt.
Josiah T. Everest	50-M	Farmer	\$2,700	Vt.
John Sibley	42-M	Farmer	\$500	N.H.
Robert Tanner	40-M	Farmer	\$1,000	Ireland
Philip Fitzpatrick	45-M	Farmer	\$900	Ireland
Owen Fitzpatrick	48-M	Farmer	\$1,000	Ireland
Michael Morgan	65-M	Farmer	\$600	Ireland
Peter Morgan	30-M	Farmer	\$500	Ireland
Edward Hews	32-M	Farmer	\$600	Ireland
Thomas Dolan	57-M	Farmer	\$300	Ireland
Andrew Gordon	22-M	Farmer	\$300	N.Y.
Ann Gordon	17-F		\$300	N.Y.
Joseph Gordon	15-M	Farmer	\$300	N.Y.
Edward Casada	29-M	Farmer	\$250	Ireland
Francis Casada	25-M	Farmer	\$250	Ireland
Daniel Nelson	34-M	Farmer	\$800	Ireland
Patrick Dand	33-M	Farmer	\$900	Ireland
Robert Erwin	50-M	Farmer	\$800	Ireland

M.E. RE-DEDICATION AT SOUTH PLATTSBURGH

The South Plattsburgh Methodist Episcopal Church has recently completed the redecorating of the interior of the worship auditorium and the parlor of the church. A new hardwood floor has been laid in the auditorium and the heavy, comfortable oak pews and an oak pulpit have been placed. The plaster walls of the parlor were replaced with celotex and the walls and woodwork repainted in ivory and cream. The valuation of the improvements including the cost of the materials and the labor donated by the men of the community is \$375. All expenses have been paid in cash.

There will be a re-dedication service at eight o'clock Wednesday evening at the church. Rev. F.J. Ball, the pastor of the Plattsburgh Methodist Church will give the dedicatory address and Mrs. W.C. Thompson of Plattsburgh will sing. The church choir and male quartet will also sing. Refreshments and a social hour in the church parlor will close the evening. A cordial welcome is extended to all the community and other church friends.

Clipping -- April 19, 1933

EARLY MORNING FIRE DESTROYS OLD FARMHOUSE

George Phillips Residence on Peru-Plattsburgh Road Burned

Fire, of undetermined origin, practically destroyed the old and finely furnished residence on the George Phillips Farm at an early hour this morning. The farmhouse, located about three-quarters of a mile south of Salmon River on the Peru-Plattsburgh highway, was built of brick with a large wooden addition at the rear. The addition was levelled to the ground.

The house was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Phillips and their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Phillips. At about 12 o'clock midnight Walter Phillips was awakened by the odor of smoke and discovered the rear part of the building in flames. He aroused his parents and then notified the Peru Volunteer Fire Department which responded with a pumper.

A short time later a request was sent to Plattsburgh for additional help and Chief Engineer Eli Seymour and three members of the local department rushed to the scene. When the Plattsburgh department arrived the wooden addition had been reduced to a mere skeleton framework. A line of hose was added to that already laid by the Peru volunteers and with the rain, which had stopped, again pouring down the fire was declared under control.

The large barn buildings containing cattle and farm implements were not burned. The house was about sixty years old and contained numerous antiques and other valuables, some of which were saved. The elder Mr. Phillips estimated his loss at about \$12,000 to \$15,000. It is partially covered by insurance.

Plattsburgh Daily Press - April

FIRE DESTROYS OLD HOMESTEAD
OLD MANNING HOME NEAR PERU IS BURNED TO GROUND

Flames entirely consumed the old Manning Homestead, two story building located on the Plattsburgh-Peru highway about two miles north of Peru, about 9:00 o'clock yesterday morning, causing damage estimated at \$5,000. Origin of the blaze had not been determined.

No one was around at the time the blaze broke out. The owner and occupant, Alman H. Watd, formerly of Jay, was temporarily away, and a hired man was at work in the fields.

A small amount of household furnishings were taken out by the neighbors but the blaze spread so quickly that the building itself could not be saved.

The Peru fire department was summoned to the scene but was handicapped in its efforts by lack of water, which had to be pumped from a nearby well. With the home beyond hope the firemen turned their attention to nearby buildings, all of which were unharmed. The entire amount of farm equipment and implements were saved.

Aug. 22, 1940 - Plattsburgh Daily Press

LARGE FARM HOME RAZED NEAR PERU
RESIDENCE OF ROSS CLARK TOTALLY DESTROYED

STARTS FROM INCUBATOR

Catching fire early yesterday morning, a large farm residence owned and occupied by Ross Clark of Peru was totally destroyed by the flames.

The building, one of the largest in that area, was a landmark in the Town of Peru and although built sometime ago, was of considerable value. The loss was estimated at nearly \$10,000.

The fire was discovered by Mr. Clark, at about 4:45 a.m. in the incubator room. The blaze was thought to have started from heating equipment in one of the incubators.

When discovered, the room was already a blazing inferno. The Peru fire department responded promptly to a call for aid but the flames had spread entirely through the house when the firemen arrived.

Chief Ernest Delorme ordered a line of hose laid from a nearby ditch but the most that could be done was to prevent the spread of flames. About half of the furniture was saved by neighbors and volunteers who were attracted to the scene.

In less than two hours, the entire structure was razed and what had formerly been a commodious mansion was only a smoldering heap of ashes. It was stated that the loss was only partly covered by insurance.

Plattsburgh Daily Press - April ?

HEAVY FIRE LOSS WHEN LIGHTNING HITS BARN
HORSES AND LIVESTOCK OF GEORGE DAY
AT VALCOUR BURNED TO DEATH YESTERDAY

During the heavy electric storm at about two o'clock yesterday afternoon lightning struck the barn of George Day of Valcour, burning it and the surrounding buildings to the ground with their contents.

So reapidly did the fire spread that three horses, two calves, a pig and a number of chickens were burned to death before they could be taken from the buildings. Mr. Day had just completed his harvesting and all the hay in his barns besides stacks on the outside were burned.

Mr. Day and his neighbors fought the flames as best they could with buckets and with difficulty saved the homestead from burning. Aid was asked from the Plattsburgh Fire Department but it was impossible to use the pumping equipment at the fire on account of the distance from the lake.

Newspaper Clipping - No Date

DEATH CHEATS BIRTHDAY

Death claimed the life of Ralph Smith Cate, 78, of Peru at 11:45 o'clock last night, only fifteen minutes before the man's 79th

birthday. Mr. Cate died at the Champlain Hospital following a brief illness. Funeral arrangements will be announced upon completion.

Clipping - Sept. 10, 1941

HIGHWAY TOLL FOR YEAR 1937

Twenty-eight persons lost their lives in automobile accidents in the area embracing Clinton and Essex counties during 1937. That figure is believed to be the highest in the history of the two counties. The previous year, 26 persons were killed in auto accidents in the same area.

Worst automobile accident ever to occur in either county took place Sept. 29 of last year, when Raymond Mary, a WPA laborer, and a young girl were instantly killed and nine other persons were injured when Mary's car, in which 12 were riding, collided head-on with a truck carrying seven tons of scrap metal. The accident occurred on the Plattsburgh-Chazy highway. Later, another girl and man died as a result of injuries received in the accident, bringing the total to four.

Drunken driving and criminal negligence took their toll of lives on the highway. State police "cracked down" on motorists throughout the area, while city police sought to limit the number of accidents in the city by arresting stop-sign passers and speeders.

United States avenue, skirting Plattsburgh Barracks, won a reputation as a death-dealing speedway. Six persons were killed in three accidents during the year 1937. In no instance was an accident justified. All of them occurred within a space of a quarter-mile.

Following will be found the names of those persons who died in automobile accidents during 1937. (From Peru only)

Samuel Dandrow, 59, of Peru, died five hours after accident.
Raymond Laundry, 13, killed when auto hit cycle on Peru road.

EARL MYERS OF PERU DIES THERE AFTER A TWO WEEKS' ILLNESS

Earl Myers of Peru died after a two weeks illness Sunday night, March 17, 1935 at 11:50 o'clock.

He was widely known through out Peru and vicinity.

Besides his widow, the former Myrtle Putnam, he is survived by

two daughters, the Misses Ruth and Gladys Myers; two brothers, John and Orin Myers of Peasleeveville and one sister, Mrs. Millicent Wright of Burlington, Vt.

Mr. Myers was 52 years of age. The funeral will be held at his home late Wednesday p.m. at 2:00 o'clock. Interment in the Peasleeveville cemetery.

HARMON L. MARTIN OF PERU DIES AT HIS HOME THERE

Harmon L. Martin, aged eighty-two, passed away Saturday afternoon at his late residence in Peru after several weeks of illness.

Surviving him are two daughters, Miss Alberta M. Martin, Mrs. Halsey W. Stafford and son Russell E., all of Peru.

Funeral services will be held at his late residence Tuesday, June 2, 3 p.m. Interment at the South Plattsburgh Cemetery. (1936)

MARRIAGES

Married - Brand - Day, in Plattsburgh, Dec. 6, 1883, by Rev. C.P. Anibal, Mr. Edgar L. Brand of Peru and Miss Emma Day of Valcour. At the same place and date also, Mr. Frank K. Day and Miss Marcia Fay, all of Valcour.

MARTIN -- ALLEN

The marriage of Mrs. Sadie Sherman Allen and Russell Edson Martin both of Peru, N.Y., took place at the home of the bride, May 28.

Rev. Alwin T. Fuller, pastor of the Presbyterian church performed the ceremony.

The bride was becomingly attired in a traveling suit of oyster gray with hat to match and carried a shower bouquet of pink tea roses.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin left on the 9:45 train for New York and other points south and will be at home in Peru to their friends after June 10.

PERU 1936

The sincere good wishes of a host of friends for a life time of marital happiness are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bromley who were married on Jan. 27 at the Peru M.E. Parsonage.

COUPLE HAS SURPRISE PARTY ON THEIR SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

About forty friends of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Brand gathered at their home in South Plattsburgh on Saturday evening, April 15th for a surprise party, the occasion being their 25th wedding anniversary.

During the evening, games were played, and a mock wedding performed, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

The guests brought an abundance of delicious refreshments, and after lunch the guests departed with many good wishes for their host and hostess, leaving a generous reminder in silver of their esteem for Mr. and Mrs. Brand.

OBITUARY - MRS. C.V. REED

Sincere sorrow was expressed by all when it was learned on March 19, 1940 that Mrs. Reed had passed away.

Having been confined to her bed for over six months, she was very lovingly cared for by her daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Wadsworth.

Mrs. Ruth Adalaid Case Reed was born Oct. 29, 1855, daughter of Thomas Case and Phoebe Martin of South Plattsburgh, and was married to the late Charles V. Reed, Dec. 10, 1873. She was a member of the South Plattsburgh Methodist Church for ten years and of the Peru M.E. Church from 1885 to 1940 making a total of sixty-five years.

The funeral was largely attended at her home, the Rev. Paul Hydon officiating. Jay McGee sang her favority hymn, "Saved By Grace".

THERE WAS BURIED TREASURE IN PERU

Mr. N.N. De Louzon purchased the old McGinity place on the summit of Smart Hill in Thorp's Patent. He built a large and spacious mansion for sportsmen. This was near the Irish Catholic church, with the magnificent view of the Champlain Valley and the Green Mountains of Vermont.

On the night of December 14, 1877, seven men approached Mr. De Louzon's home, carrying picks, shovels, and rifles. No one intended to harm the owner of the property, though on this Friday night guards were stationed about, with one at the front door of the mansion. While Mr. De Louzon was so held under house confinement the remaining members of this strange and motley group went to the orchard to claim the buried treasure there placed by the previous occupant, who was interred that very day. For about two hours the miners and sappers dug furiously at a site beneath the spreading branches of an apple tree, near a huge boulder deposited during the Wisconsin Age of the Pleistocene Glacial period. The old man's hidden treasure was found and carried away. This band of mysterious persons moved to their wagons and rode down the hill. One guard outside the house fired a single shot over the house rood, and the guards followed behind the treasure caravan. The only things left behind were the memories and an excavation about four-by-six feet in dimensions, and three-to-four feet deep.

From Plattsburgh Republican Jan. 1878

WAS IT MURDER IN PERU?

On June 22, 1836, an inquest was held in Peru by A.H. Merrill, coroner, concerning a certain body found in the waters of Sampson's Pond. The person was five feet - ten inches tall, and had a scar under each eye and on the left hand. The body was found near the west shore, with his vest, coat, boots and socks on a rock near the edge of the water. A severe wound on his left shoulder dislocated the collar bone. There were three marks on his head to suggest blows delivered there. No one could identify the person. After all evidence was presented the jury ruled the man had been killed by blows to the head and then placed in the water.

From Plattsburgh Republican July 2, 1836

SOME INTERESTING NOTES OF OCTOBER, 1885

The O.A. Reed of Whitehall was anchored at Port Jackson (Valcour) and loaded with potatoes. The George Heyworth and Co. were buying potatoes at thirty cents per bushel.

Within the Peru Village the school being operated by Mr. Moore was very successful. Students spoke highly of the master, and parents liked the program.

Herbert Turner of Peru went to Holyoke, Massachusetts, to work at

a factory.

Edmund Day travelled to Port Henry to reside with Reverend David Ayres, and attend a religious seminary.

M.H. Miners supervised the repairing of the Adirondack mill at Lapham, where a new flume has been installed.

A new telegraph apparatus was added at the Lapham's store, with connections to the Ausable Branch line. Mr. Frank Clough was the operator.

Reverend E.B. Haff of Amsterdam, New York, returned to the Haff homestead on the Union Road, for a stay of several weeks.

One potato grown on the Lynch farm east of Peru village weighed seven and one-half pounds. (Not bad!)

Four potatoes of H.E. Heyworth collectively weighed twenty-two pounds and three ounces. One weighed five and three-quarter pounds. These were of the variety called white elephants. Any-one doubting this could see them at J.B. White's store.

Charley Beron, teacher of the Peru coronet band, led the group in a dress parade in Plattsburgh, Friday evening, October 16.

Mrs. Franklin Elmore dispatched Dr. Morehouse to Nebraska to attend her son-in-law, Mr. Robert Eaton, who at that time suffered with severe pneumonia.

RESIDENT OF PERU DIES WHILE DRIVING HOME

Charles B. Bromley Succumbs While Driving Favorite Horse

Charles Barnard Bromley, highly respected resident of the town of Peru, died very suddenly while driving from Peru village to his

home about two miles away, shortly after five o'clock on Saturday evening, August 14.

Mr. Bromley had been ailing for some time but had not been confined to the house. On Saturday afternoon he felt like taking a drive with a favorite horse called "Maud" which he thought a great deal of. He remarked while preparing for his drive to a friend, Charles Jones, who accompanied him that he would "take another drive with Maud before he died".

The two men drove to Peru, and shortly before five o'clock were jogging quietly to their home when Mr. Jones saw the reins drop from the hands of his friend and Mr. Bromley sank back in the seat dead.

Mr. Bromley was a native of Peru, and the son of the late Lewis and Sarah A. Bromley. He was born on February 25, 1852. His widow and three children survive him as follows: one daughter, Mrs. Herwood B. Martin, and two sons, Harry L. Bromley and Herbert Bromley, and thirteen grandchildren. A sister, Mrs. Cate and a brother, M.L. Bromley, who also survive him.

WILFRED MCGEE TO BE BURIED TODAY

Funeral services for Wilfred McGee, Peru resident who succumbed to a heart attack in Peru Wednesday morning, will be held from St. Augustine's church, this morning at 10 o'clock. Interment will be in the family plot in the church cemetery.

Mr. McGee was enroute to his work when he was stricken. He had suffered no previous illness. His death occurred in front of the home of Dr. E.W. Sartwell.

He was a native of Peru, born the son of the late Narza and Louise Carte McGee in 1877, and had been a lifelong resident of that community. He was active in the town's politics and at the time of his death was a Republican committeeman. He had also held offices of collector and constable. During the past 18 years he had been employed as line super-intendent of the branch office of the telephone company.

Mr. McGee is survived by his widow, Nellie Trombley of Peru, two sons, Leroy and Jay McGee of Peru; one brother, Walter, of Keeseville; two sister, Mrs. Peter Soulia and Mrs. Frank Bombard of Peru.

Clipping Oct. 27, 1933

PERU MAN DIES AT HOME AT AGE OF 84

Aaron Burt, 84, of Peru, died Saturday at his home.

Surviving are one brother, Willard of Peru, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon from the Methodist Episcopal Church at Peasleeville. Services will be held from the home at Peru at 1:30 P.M. Burial will be in Patent cemetery.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

AT PORT JACKSON 1827-1874

Methodism in Port Jackson began with the 1800's. They had a pretty warm religion in those days with meetings held in homes, barns or schoolhouses. Camp meetings were held as early as 1808 and perhaps earlier.

The first camp meeting in the vicinity of Plattsburgh was the Peru camp meeting on the lake shore near Port Jackson, (State University Conference Center, Route 9) in September 1807. It took place in the elm grove owned by Amos Day and was presided over by Samuel Draper, and early circuit rider of the Methodist Church. He was known as "Sammy Draper", a unique personality of whom amusing stories have been told. He is said to have "knocked down two pulpits and banged out the lids of three Bibles" during exhortations. Rough shelters were put up for people attending the meeting, they ate outdoors on boards resting across saw horses, and John Day provided drinking water from hogsheads (60 gal. Barrel) drawn on an ox cart from Lake Champlain. Sessions lasted from Friday till Monday and preaching took place 8-11 A.M. and 7-8 P.M. At these times a prayer circle was formed, the men holding hands in a ring. The excitement was intense, the volume of song, shouting, and praying at night being heard for a distance of two miles or more. Later camp meetings were held at Valcour in 1822 and 1825.

The Plattsburgh Circuit of the New York Conference in 1799 included the west side of Lake Champlain, extending from Ticonderoga nearly to St. John's in Canada, and far into the wilderness westward. In 1824 the Peru Circuit was set apart from the Plattsburgh Circuit and included Peru, Port Jackson, Schuyler Falls, Saranac, Redford, Jay and the wilderness. One circuit riding preacher covered all of these churches until the late 1800's.

The Port Jackson church traditionally was built in 1827 with Robert Platt, Judge Jonas Platt, and Rufus Day as the founders. The site chosen was located on the west side of Route 9 in the Town of Peru, N.Y. just south of the Old Plank Road (Laphams Mills Road).

The building was constructed of limestone blocks taken from the high bluff on the southeast corner of Valcour Island. The outside walls were about two feet thick and plastered with mortar. The floor was pine and the roof had wood shingles. The building was 35 feet by 46 feet and 25 feet high at the peak. There were four windows on the north and south sides and two doors and a window in the front.

The interior had five rows of pews (wooden benches) seating three or four people. There were three aisles, one in the middle and one on each side. A balcony was in the back having four or five chairs and the stairs to the balcony were on the left side as one

entered. The pulpit was in the center front. This gave the church a seating capacity of about 35 to 40 people.

At a public meeting, March 26, 1832, at Port Jackson, N.Y., for the purpose of incorporating a religious society, Rufus Day was elected president and Isaac Lyon, secretary of the meeting. It was elected to have the "house" recently built be called the "Methodist Episcopal Church at Port Jackson". Robert Platt, Rufus Day, Isaac Lyon, Hiram Lyon and Samuel Brace were elected trustees of the church.

Deeds, Clinton County, N.Y., Vol. 23, p. 315 states that on Nov. 28, 1832, Robert Platt and his wife sold "sixty rods of ground" and the church building to the trustees of the Methodist Church at Port Jackson "in trust that they shall rebuild if necessary and cause to be upheld and continued forever, a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America". The deed was not recorded until April 25, 1946, which is odd since Robert Platt was a very good businessman.

Rufus Day was the first class leader (a church member whose duty was to oversee the spiritual welfare of a group of members) from 1832 to 1841. The class leader had to keep account of the class collection and attend the quarterly meetings of the Peru Circuit as a representative from Port Jackson. At these meetings, appropriations, additions and repairs to the various churches, probationers to become members and class elders were discussed. The place of these meetings was rotated among the different churches of the circuit. Other class leaders of Port Jackson were Leonard C. Howe from 1841-1854 and William Day from 1854-1874 (?).

The Peru Community Church possesses the Peru Circuit records, very comprehensive, and give an almost complete list of members of the Port Jackson class from 1835-1872.

There was one preacher for the entire Peru Circuit and he received about \$550 a year at this time. The Port Jackson Class was preached to on Sunday afternoons and a prayer meeting was held on probably Thursday nights. The preacher lived in the parsonage in Peru village, but occasionally stayed at the class leader's house. Rufus Day was noted for boarding the itinerant preachers. Rufus Day's father was Amos Day who was one of the Peru Circuit's early preachers.

Most of the members were farmers and adhered to Methodism closely. Almost every family had a family Bible, read extensively, and kept family records on the designated pages.

In 1874 the Methodist Episcopal Church at Port Jackson was combined with the Methodist Episcopal Church at South Plattsburgh to form a separate charge. On Sept. 25, 1876 a meeting was held and they voted to name the Port Jackson church, "The Valcour Methodist Episcopal Church". Volume 6 of the Peru Circuit Church records is

the church record of this charge. In 1880 this church was valued at \$2,000 and the parsonage, built upon the formation of this charge, was valued at \$800. It contained 40 members and probationers.

This charge existed until 1945. Then the Troy Annual Conference of the Methodist Church decided that the Methodist Society in Valcour be discontinued and abandoned. (Deeds, Vol. 223, p. 315). On July 6, 1946 the Community Church of Peru, N.Y. sold the church building and lot to Josephine S. Heathcote of Franklin, Pa. for \$2,200. (Deeds, Vol. 229, p. 103). On June 15, 1959 James A. Fitzpatrick, successor trustee of Josephine S. Heathcote, sold the abandoned church building and property to the Coastland Development Corporation for \$1,000 (Deeds, Vol. 420, p. 175). During 1970 the church building was destroyed and the ruins remain on the site.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH OF WEST PERU

From 1820 to 1840 the population of Clinton County doubled. The many Irish and French-Canadians in this influx so increased the Catholic congregations of the North Country that the need for priests and churches became more urgent.

J. and J. Rogers Company encouraged Irish immigrants in 1848 to settle, giving them work in felling trees and supplying charcoal for the iron furnaces.

James McGinity deeded the land for St. Patrick's church property on the Watson Tract on June 19, 1841. Although it was believed that St. Patrick's church was incorporated in 1842, there are no available records.

After the church was built donations were subscribed to buy a bell. Patrick Boswell brought the bell by team and wagon from the railroad in Peru to his own granary and stored it until the belfry was built. The names of the donors for the bell are inscribed on it. The round object at the base of the steeple is a unique ball of pure resin from a pine tree.

The church was a Mission of Keeseville from 1867 to 1875, then for one year became a Mission of Clintonville, and returned as a Mission of Keeseville again until 1883. Cadyville added this church as their Mission from 1884 to 1930. Then it became a Mission of Peru from 1931 to 1940. Once again it became a Mission of Clintonville from 1941 to 1961. Finally, since 1962 until the present the St. Patrick's Church of West Peru has been a Mission of Peru.

The church was incorporated December 1, 1941 when Rev. George Donnelly was there. The trustees were Herbert Darragh and Hugh Boswell.

The Mother Cabrini Shrine was built by Philip Duprey of Peasleeville, then dedicated in August 1947. The Stations of the Cross were completed by Mr. Duprey a few years later. Philip Duprey's grandparents had come from Canada to settle in the area known now as Swastika when Philip's father was about 3 years old. About 1945 Philip Duprey established a store in Peasleeville.

For many years a lighted cross on the steeple of St. Patrick's Church shone as a beacon from the mountains overlooking Peru.

DEDICATION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT PEASLEEVILLE

Fine Weather - Enthusiastic Congregation
Great Liberality - Intense Satisfaction

Wednesday, the 29th of September, was a great day for the people of Peasleeville, N.Y. The storm of the day before had laid the dust, cleared the atmosphere, and prepared the way for a very enjoyable occasion, namely, the dedication to the worship of Almighty God, of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Multitudes from all the regions round about came in due season. The following ministers were present and participated in the solemn services: Rev. J.M. Webster, Presiding Elder of Plattsburgh District, B.B. Loomis of Plattsburgh, J.H. Bond of Keeseville, M.M. Curry of Schuyler Falls, M.H. Smith of Dannemora, and Louis N. Beaudry of Montreal, Canada, brother of the pastor, C.A. Beaudry, through whose untiring labors the enterprise so well begun by his predecessor, Mr. Smith has been brought to a beautiful completion.

The building was formerly erected at Redford, where it was used for many years as a Union and afterward a Presbyterian Church. It was purchased by the Peasleeville Methodists last winter, taken down, removed to this beautiful valley, re-erected, beautified and remodeled into a comfortable and substantial edifice. A Mrs. Morrison was present at the first and second dedications after a lapse of about forty years, and she affirms that the glory of this latter house is greater than the former.

At 11 o'clock the Rev. J.M. Webster called the audience to order and conducted the introductory services. The Rev. B.B. Loomis preached the first sermon from John 1:16; "And of His fullness have all men received, and grace for grace". The preacher with his characteristic clearness and practicability set forth Jesus as the fountain of our comforts in our civil, social, and religious life. The sermon was highly appreciated and gave the keynote to all the exercises.

The Rev. J.H. Bond conducted the financial campaign, which, extending through all the services of the day, proved a complete success. We subjoin a list of subscriptions. The entire enterprise cost about \$1,700, and is wholly provided for, with a slight surplus. Considering the financial ability of the people, it is a remarkable achievement, and is worthy of a special chronicle.

The sermon of the afternoon was preached by the Rev. L.N. Beaudry from the words of the prophet Habakkuk 3:2; "O Lord, revive they work". And in the evening the Rev. J.H. Bond preached from Psalms 81:2. The church was filled at each service. At the close of the afternoon sermon, the dedicatory service was performed by the Rev. L.N. Beaudry.

A beautiful painting, nearly filling the arch in the rear of the pulpit representing the Apocalyptic angel with the everlasting gospel, executed by Mrs. DeLauson, the wife of the architect,

attracted much deserved attention and admiration. It is a present to the Society. A large Bible for the pulpit was presented by the Clinton County Bible Society, and a fine hymn book by the Methodist Society of Plattsburgh.

On Thursday, the 30th, the Rev. L.N. Beaudry preached at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and lectured in the evening to a crowded house on his personal experience. Revival or evangelistic services are to be held by the pastor, assisted by his confreres in the vicinity.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS

L.M. Howes	\$50	Hon. N. Lapham	\$50
James S. Wescott	50	Charles W. Johnson	3
Daniel Westcott	50	Eva Beaudry	1
David Durgan	35	Maggie Irwin	1
Melvin Baker	25.81	Maggie Westcott	1
W. Ormsbee	25	Anson Allen	1
Lanson Durgan	10	Mary Sausville	5
Alvah Emory	10	Friend	5
Lyman Johnson	10	A. Boyd	4
Wm. Johnson	5	James Black	1
Lincoln Westcott	15	Vinal Whitney	5
Rufus Westcott	5	Thomas Allen	5
Hugh C. Fitzpatrick	5	Lyman Putman	5
Laurence Redman	5	Mrs. Morrow	1
Joseph Ritchey	5	Thomas Moore	2
Mrs. B. Morrison	5	Daniel Denton	5
Datus Clark	5	Mary Durgan	5
Wm. Lamay	10	Mrs. Ritchey	1
Bradford Ormsby	5	W.W. Houston	5
James Redman	10	Charles Ormsby	1
Benj. Ricketson	10	Steven Durgan	10
Mrs. N. Westcott	1	Agnes Allen	2
Coney Norris	5	Eva Rose Beaudry	1
Bishop White	5	Mrs. Dean Denton	1
Rufus Alford	12	Mrs. H. Sausville	1
Susan Place	1	Mrs. Stewart	1
Wm. Whitney	5	Ettie Westcott	1
Frank Durgan	5	Grace Norris	1
John Durgan	5	Emma J. White	1
James Irwin	5	Ettie Denton	1
Hattie Norris	1	Hiram Denton	2
William Kirby	1	Mattie Durgan	1
Mrs. J.B. Westcott	4	Emily Sausville	1
Cordelia Banker	5	Mrs. Stephen Allen	1
Susie Place	1	Sarah Westcott	1
Esther Putman	1	Bennie Howes	1
Wm. Place	5	Stella Allen	1
Richard Morgan	10	Emma Durgan	1
L.M. Howes	5	Hattie Ormsby	1
Mrs. J.M. Banker	1	Stephen Allen	1
Frank Taylor	2	Ransom Bedell	2

Alice Beaudry	\$1	Mrs. L. Durgan	\$1
Rev. J.H. Bond	1	Charles Miles	2
Mrs. C.A. Beaudry	1	Rev. M.H. Smith	5
Zeb Allen	5	Lovell Newell	5
Mrs. Z. Allen	1	Elias Stewart	5
Rev. C.L. Hagar	5	Cyrus Eells	5
Benj. Westcott	5	Lorin Durgan	2
Belle Westcott	1	Joseph Dashnaw	2
Lillie Sausville	1	D.W. North	1
Nellie Whitney	1	Mary Durgan	1
Joseph Houston	2	Emoline Eells	1
Wm. Denton	2	Sarah Boyd	1
Wealthy Westcott	2	Webster Westcott	1
Jane Allen	2	Elias Denton	1
Wilkes Bedell	2	Nat. Boyd	2
Ida Durgan	1	Cyrus Westcott	1
Three Ladies	3	Flavia Beaudry	1
Elsie McKee	1	Susan Westcott	5
George Phillips	1	Allen Westcott	1
Mrs. O.D. Brown	1	John Whitney	1
Carrie Hathaway	1	Thomas Irving	1

Copied from the Plattsburgh Sentinel, Friday, Oct. 8, 1880, pg.3

A HISTORY OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH
PERU, NEW YORK

In 1847, Reverend John McCloskey was installed as the first Bishop of Albany and became shepard for about 60,000 Catholics, including those in the northern counties of New York State. Within the year, a congregation was organized in Peru and Mass was offered whenever possible. By the year 1849, the Peru congregation was a station of Keeseville. (A station was an area where Mass was held on a regular basis, but no church building had been erected.)

The French parish in Keeseville was organized in 1853 and the pastor of the Irish church, Father Reniz, donated time to the stations and missions at Peru, Clintonville, Ausable Forks, Black Brook and Union Falls. The same congregations, with the exception of Black Brook, were served in 1860 by Father James P. Kev-
eny.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg was established in May, 1872, with Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams as first Bishop. Seventy French-Canadian families in Peru, petitioned the Bishop, through Father Barnabe of Keeseville, in February of 1883, for permission to erect a church in Peru. Mrs. Franklin Elmore (Harriet) donated six acres of land for a church and Peter Crilley and Patrick Conners led a subscription campaign for funds. \$1,947.00 was collected for the construction of a church.

On August 22, 1883, the new church was incorporated as St. Fabian's church and on August 23, 1883 was renamed St. Augustine's. The pastor was Father Damrose Guilbault and the trustees, John Slaon and Peter Soulia. One year later, 1884, St. Augustine's church was officially dedicated, and continued as a mission parish until 1886. The first resident priest was Father George Burque. The church was blessed on July 22, 1891.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg published it's first official directory in 1922. St. Augustine's parish listed Father Benedict Granotier as pastor with 115 families registered.

The Dominican Sisters arrived in Peru, July 1944, and a convent for them was located at the present Sexton's residence. They did catechetical work for the parish from 1944 to 1960 and taught at St. Augustine's School from 1960 to 1968.

The Shrine to Mother Cabrini in West Peru was dedicated August, 1947.

St. Augustine's parish hall was built in 1949 and the Shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes, near the cemetery, in 1954. In 1963 the present convent was purchased.

Ground was broken for St. Augustine's School in 1951. Reverend A.J. Trudel, pastor. Bishop J.J. Navagh presided at the dedica-

tion ceremonies on Sept. 7, 1960, and on April 25, 1961, the building was blessed by Bishop Navagh. The school opened with grades one to three and had three Dominican Sisters teaching and an enrollment of 120 students.

The Sisters of St. Joseph replaced the Dominican Sisters in 1968, teaching grades one through six at St. Augustine's School. In 1970 a Kindergarten was added.

Nov. 1976, Carillon bells were installed and electrified at the church. There are approximately 168 students attending St. Augustine's School. 875 families are registered in the parish.

Pastors who have served the Parish

1883-1897	Rev. George Burque
1897-1904	Rev. Alphee Perron
1904-1910	Rev. Joseph Simard
1910-1931	Rev. Benedict Granottier
1931-1939	Rev. Louis Brisson
1939-1965	Rev. Arthur Trudel
1965-1971	Msgr. George Phillips
1971	Rev. Francis A. White

Assistants who have served the Parish

1897	Rev. J. Corbett
1939	Rev. Edward Burns
1939	Rev. John Hamill
1959	Rev. Norman Cote
1959-1963	Rev. William Lavallee
1963-1964	Rev. Joseph Sestito
1964-1966	Rev. Howard J. Kennedy
1966-1968	Rev. John Senecal
1968	Rev. Jude Belisle
1968-1969	Rev. Edmund Kulakowski
1969-1971	Rev. Tyrone Yandon
1971	Rev. Donald Roberts
1971	Rev. Donald Elliott
1974	Rev. Timothy Soucy
1975	Rev. Daniel Kremberg

MAP OF TOWN OF PERU 1869
ATLAS OF CLINTON COUNTY, NEW YORK

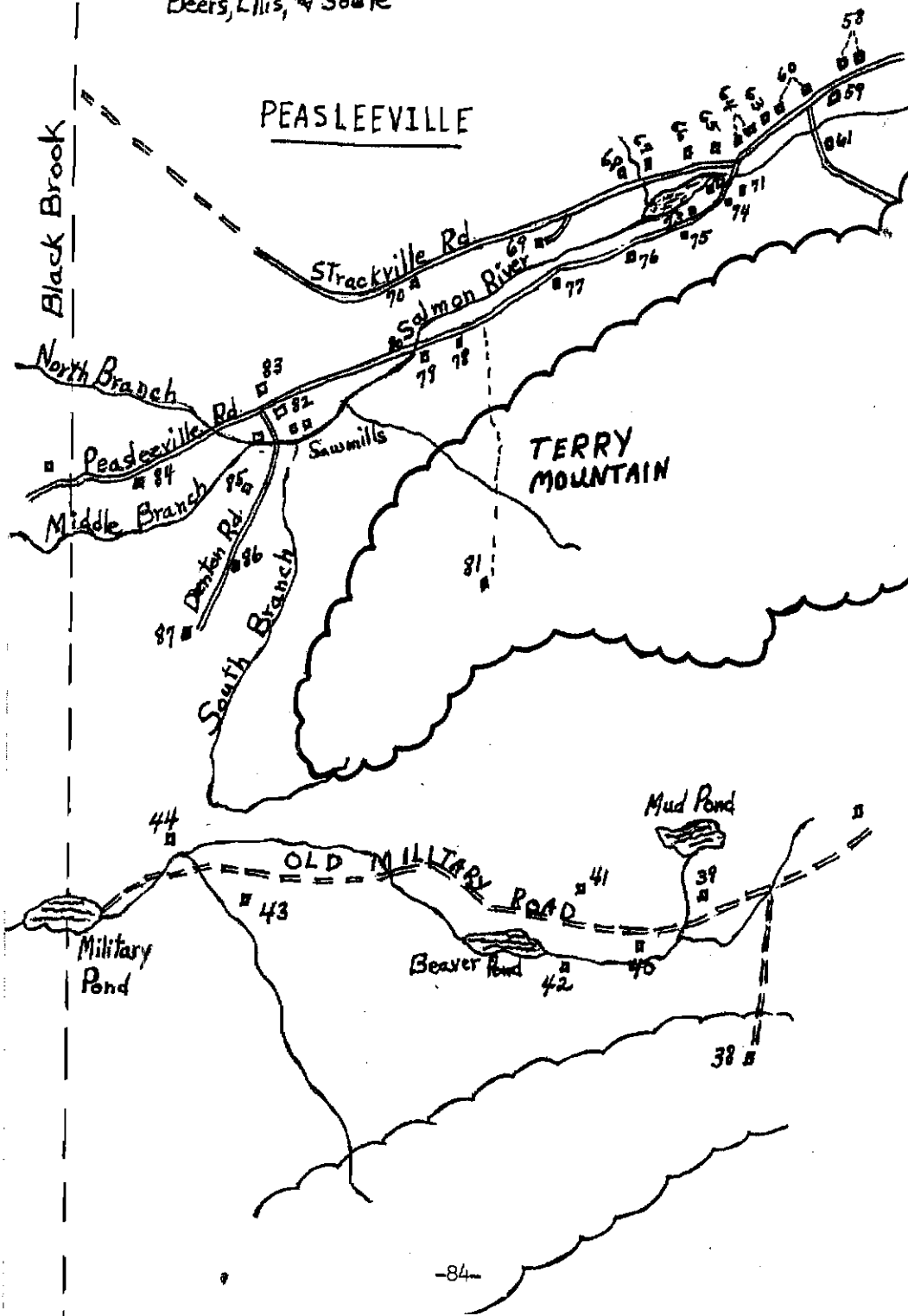
Notes on residents of Peasleeville Valley and the Patent Road from 1869 to the present beginning with the names on the map:

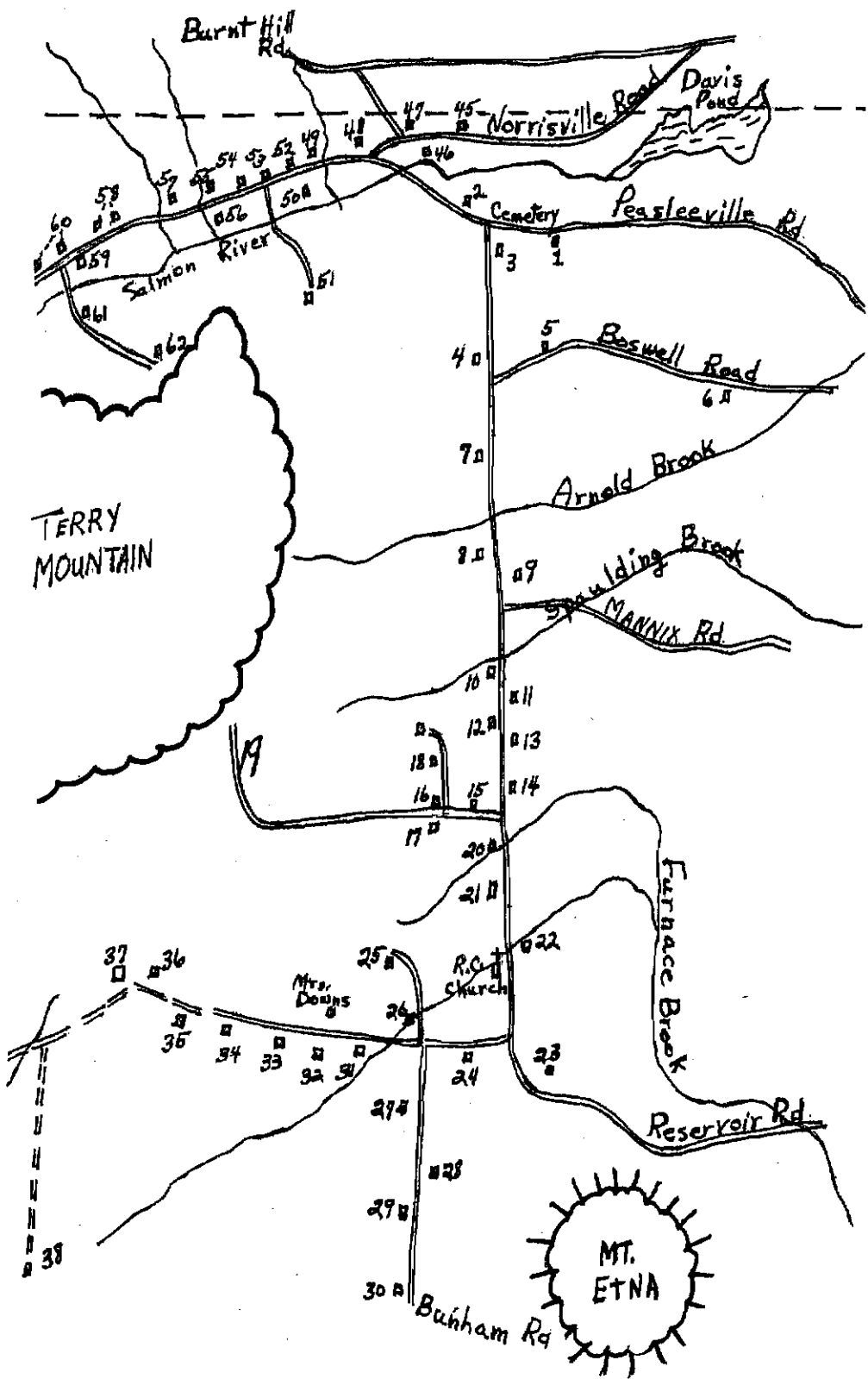
From the Peasleeville Cemetery south on the Patent Road

<u>1869 Map</u>	<u>Later Residents to 1976</u>
1. H. Miles 1830 Moses Miles Cemetery	1874 Charles Weaver; 1880 James Irwin; 1892 Robert Irwin, sons Thomas and William; Alec Besaw; Robert Millett Land donated by David Durgan, Charlie Morrow and Everest Allen
2. David Durgan	Frank Westcott; Charlie and Zilpha Morrow; Charlie and Ella Green; Gerald Passino
3. School No. 6	Charlie Morrow; Jerry Banker; Archie and Thelma Doner; Ed Gokey; Dan Sileo; Nathan Irwin; Dick Clark; Robert and Virginia Green
4. William Eells	Father of Willis Eells; Philip Fitzpatrick; Andrew and Jennie Boyd; Fred and Bertha Boyd; Franklin Tortorelli
5. Boyd and Allen	the "White Lot", old hotel; Will Irwin; Norman Maurie
6. James Downs	John J. and Anna Mary Downs; John J. and Rita Downs
7. Daniel Westcott	William and Anna Irwin; Raphael and Thelma Irwin
8. Hugh Fitzpatrick	Philip, Robert, Margaret and Betsy; Hugh MacDonald
9. Nat Turner	John and Sarah Tanner; Richard and Donna Farlow
10. Philip Fitzpatrick	Nat Boyd, grandfather of George N. Boyd; Tom Fitzpatrick; Phil Fitzpatrick; Hugh MacDonald, old stone house fell down
11. Thomas Allen	George Allen and Meribah lived in log house, it burned, so they built the house now occupied by Mert Way.

Town of Peru 1869
Atlas of Clinton County
Beers, Ellis, & Soule

Saranac





12. R. Tanner Patrick Boswell, daughters Katherine and Margaret; Herb and Margaret Darrah; Katherine Boswell and Margaret Darrah
13. Nathaniel Boyd Sons: Fred and George N. Boyd; George and Viola Boyd
14. Owen Fitzpatrick Steve Quinn; Dashnaw; John Maulding; about four years ago the old house burned, firemen discovered that sod had been used for insulation, it had always had the reputation of being the warmest house on the Patent. Site of two houses, Mrs. Lucille O'Connell, Bob Clausen
15. Mrs. Morgan Sarah (Irwin) McGarr
16. J. Murphy and Mrs. Boswell
17. Mrs. Fitzpatrick Barney Fitzpatrick; Aggie Ball, Sarah McGarr, and Abbie and Betty Irwin; Kenneth and Alice Wright
18. John Boswell Patrick Boswell
19. Lots 21-22 350 acres deeded to Samuel Terry, born in Vermont, parents from Connecticut, in 1833 (Could be origin of name Terry Mountain)
20. Tommy Dolan Sam Irwin; Abbie and Betty Irwin; Dave Goodrich
21. School No. 11 moved to Jerry Miner's place, used as a barn
22. H. Smart small house set back in the field, later house built closer to road; Frank Smart; Day; William Boyd; Jimmy Smith; Edward Besaw; Richard Lucia
23. J. Vance Below house William Davis built, end of Smart Hill; old Donahue place, John, Sadie, Helen, Margaret, and Jenny
24. James Walker a saddler; O'Conner, a mason, no house today
25. Robert Irwin with Andrew Gordon bought land in 1826; Sam Irwin; Abbie and Betty Irwin, Earl Irwin
26. Callihan Joe Humphrey; Jerry Callihan pastured cattle on M. Callihan place; Catholic Church Cemetery

27. H. Ray Prime; Hugo Kramer, retired professor from Syracuse U.
28. L. Downs Joe Gordon built first frame house on the Patent; Tom Downs; Sam Irwin Jr.; Jerry Miner's camp
29. William Quinn Pete Quinn; Eddie Boyd; Donald Provost; Dr. Tanner
30. T. Conway Martin Conway; Jerry Callihan; Jack Desso; Joe Test
31. R. Tanner
32. E. Cassiday
33. P. Lyons Henry Walker; Hugh Boswell; Hugo Kraemer
34. Mrs. Morgan
35. Samuel Hogg log house, father of Hughie Hogg
36. James Hogg Land bought for lumber rights; groups of people, clubs, interested in hunting and fishing
37. School No. 17
38. J. Black Claude McGee has a camp there
39. Hughie Hogg George and Viola Boyd bought wood lot, log cabin built by Hughie Hogg after returning from Montana in 1930's
40. P. McDonald Sam Irwin wood lot
41. P. Wayne
42. M. Callihan had charcoal kilns; J.J. Rogers
43. J. Sullivan woodlot
44. J. Rogers J.J. Rogers; camp now Bob Millett's

Norrisville Road west to Banker's Corner then west to Peasleeville

1869 Map

Later residents to 1976

45. Mrs. A. Putnam Martin and Maria Covel; Vinal Whitney; Roy and Ada Farber; William Stein
46. Aaron Putnam Fred and Bertha Boyd; Mary Doner; Sam Cabarra
47. A. Banker Frankie Gumlaw

48. Mrs. Ricketson
1830 Howland
Ricketson Benjamin Ricketson; Joseph and Ruth
Banker; Richard Meilink
49. Lyman Putnam Dyer Arnold; Wally Ricketson; Sam and
Mildred Watson; Alden and Mildred Wright
Mahlon and Ann Wright
50. Ike Moore Willard Burt; Mary Ritchey; now corn
fields
51. Waterman Ormsby Irwin Ormsby; Ralph and Farnley Ormsby;
Floyd Ormsby; This house across Salmon
River burned
52. Washington
F. Weaver James Irwin; 1900 Andrew and Joe Irwin
(brothers); 1943 Guy and Ralph Wright;
Guy and Gladys Wright, the only farm
left in the valley
53. B. Benway Washington Benway; John Benway; George
and Gertie Banker; Richard and Ann Di-
Stefano
54. R. Alford Louis M. Howes; 1906 Susie Howes married
55. A. Emery James Manning; 1927 Leonard and Anna Dur-
56. E. Howes gan; 1947 Fred Soulia; 1947 John and
Gladys Marcotte
57. Anson Westcott Nathaniel and Elizabeth Westcott deeded
land to the trustees of the ME Church
for the Zion M.E. Church building; Frank
and Anna Ormsby; Floyd Ormsby; house
burned; Ralph and Evelyn Wright; Milton
and Marge Wright
58. Ben Westcott Roy and Susie Hunter; Kester and Olive
Banker, the Peasleeville Post Office
until 1967
59. School No. 12 1859 deeded by Jonathan Banker to trus-
tees of school; 1939 deeded to trustees
of Zion ME Church; Peasleeville Church
Hall
60. Jonathan Banker Mel Banker; niece Cordelia and Floyd Clark;
Howard and Jenny Ormsby; James and Ethel
Westcott; Bryon and Susan (Sunderland)
Turner
61. R.M. Banker Archie Putnam; Alfred Martineau; Herb
Morrow; Curtis Banker
62. Bradford Ormsby Frank Ormsby, Ralph and Schuyler born
there; Levi and Mary Doner; Joe Morrow;
Martin Ormsby; house burned about 1930;
trailer, Nathan and Rosemary Irwin

63. John Whitney and Mary Blacksmith; 1880 daughter Jane and Ziba Newell; William and Ella (Benway) Whitney; Orville and Arlie Sears
64. Nathan Lapham Thomas Sears; Miller LaGraves; Ernest Martineau; Clifford and Liz Martineau; Fred and Ernest Martineau; Elmer and Mae Ormsby
- Two-family house, 1884 Methodist parsonage; 1928 Joe Denton built a store; Elmer and Mae Ormsby; Louis and Dorothy Cabrera; 1944 Philip and Albertine Duprey, they rebuilt Honsinger's barn across the road into a store.
65. R. Alford Ransom Bedell, hammerman at Peasleeville forge; no house now; across the road was Abram Honsinger's store; then Sam and Jay Cohen's store
66. R. Martin no buildings
67. John Bailey and Sally a bloomer; Anson and Susan Church, daughter Edith married Cyrus Westcott who lived across the mill pond and rowed a boat to come courting. Miles and Rose Harris; 1908 Emily Sausville; Leon Bedell; 1933 Mary Doner; Roy and Ada Farber; Charlie and Zilpha Morrow; 1953 Lorrin and Carolyn Riley
68. Mrs. Moore Ziba Newell; George Newell; Ed and Julie Barber; Fred and Ernest Barber; Louie Martineau; Clayton and Viola McLean; Red Germaine; Edward and Virginia Skinner; Bob and Betty Wallace; Walter and Becky Lawrence
69. Joseph Gonyea a carpenter; Earl and Elizabeth Whitney; Willis and Nellie Bells; Harley and Wylia Roberts; Kenneth and Marjorie Angevine
70. Ezra Banker Sarah (Kent) only daughter Elizabeth married Earl Whitney; James Banker (8th son) and Nettie (Bowdish), twins Beatrice Signor and Bertha Coates; old foundation at entrance of Rudy and Felice Blixt

From Peasleeville bridge west to Durganville, Denton Rd. and Town Line

71. C. Banker Lloyd and Elsie McKee
72. Forge

73. N. Lapham Aaron Burt and Emmaline (Westcott); Sam and Jay Cohen; both of these had a general store; John Tripp (lived as a hermit); Wesley and Sandy Wright
74. Elias Newell before 1869 David and Betsy Darrah, son Chauncey; George Newell; Clayton and Viola McLean
75. James Westcott married Ann Alford; Cyrus and Edith (Church) Westcott; Edith Durgan; Roy and Ada Farber
76. D. Sausville Ernest and Cassie (Sausville) Lamphere
77. Fred Soulia Charlie Soulia; house gone
78. Truman Denton Grandfather of Randall Denton; Bill Denton; house torn down to widen highway
79. George Denton and Esther bought land in 1843 from Samuel Morrison
80. Across the river in 1878, Bradford Ormsby bought land from James Banker, and his son James K. Ormsby helped build the house and barns; Claude Ormsby; Donald and Beverly Ormsby
81. T. Ginnett Steve Allen; Arch LaMay
82. School No. 15 1859 deeded to Trustees of school by Lewis Fish and his wife, Innocent; 1937 closed as Peru Central School developed; Rented as a home
83. W. Place from Sumner Whiting; James Durgin, grandfather of Harry Durgan; Mathill
84. Dean Denton Grandfather of Arlie Banker, sons Randall and Daniel; John and Emma Stewart; John and Shirley Stewart; house burned
85. Lyman Johnson Bill Johnson, father of Cora Johnson, first wife of Randall Denton; Steve and Bessie Boyd; no house now
86. Alanson Durgin (daughter) Julia and George McNeil; Randall and Mabel (Durgin)Denton; Robert and Arlie Banker. Alanson built the house about 1855 at age 17, always a relative has lived there since.
87. John Durgin wife Jane McKee; Daniel Denton; Oscar Bushey; Robert and Joan Banker

P. Trembly

in the Town of Black Brook on the Ore
Bed Road were the iron mines from which
the ore was hauled by Honsinger's teams
to the Peasleeville Forge. Isaac Frenia;
Ernest and Margaret Scott

A GLIMPSE OF EARLY PEASLEEVILLE VALLEY

The Peasleeville Valley today probably bears a resemblance to the early 1700's and its primitive forested mountains and the Salmon River teeming with wild life. Indian hunting parties probably passed through. The early French seem to have remained closer to Lake Champlain for ease in transportation whereas the English began to settle.

The title of individuals to lands is derived primarily from the State. These lands were granted usually in large bodies to individuals or to associations, and either upon sale for cash or as gifts for military bounties.

The Livingston Tract was granted in 1800 to John Livingston and includes the western part of the Township of Peru. In 1804 Livingston sold to Elkanah Watson the Peculiar shaped piece containing 5,500 acres shown on the map as the Watson Tract. It contains Mt. Etna sometimes called Huckleberry Hill.

Donald Campbell obtained a Patent for 5,000 acres, lying just north of the Watson Tract, which was several times sold, until 1805, when it became the property of George Tharp, and is now known by the name of Tharp's Tract.

When these tracts were surveyed it was found that there were still pieces left unsold and unsurveyed. These were subsequently surveyed and are called Gores. The Livingston Gore extends between Tharp's Tract and the Watson Tract.

The earliest pioneer probably used a yoke of oxen to clear their land of stumps, plow the soil and haul logs.

The first buildings were log cabins with a wide, open fireplace with a tin baker or Dutch oven, pot-hooks or trammels to suspend pots from the crane which swung over the fire. Coals were covered with ashes at night because matches were unknown. Instead a tinder box containing flint and steel with punk was necessary or you had to borrow live coals from a neighbor.

Potash was made in large kettles. Wheat was sown, cut, raked and threshed by hand. The hay was cut with a scythe and gathered by hand rakes. The milk from the cows was milked into unpainted wooden pails or piggins, strained into earthen milk pans, and the cream was churned into butter in dash churns. The wool from sheep was mixed with flax, spun, woven, dyed and made into homespun garments at home.

Of necessity a saw mill near a stream was built and a grist mill with a water wheel for power. Grinding stones were brought with difficulty from the south. Each farmer gave a number of day's labor on public highways according to the size of their property. Due to the iron ore found in the vicinity an iron forge was set up. Charcoal kilns were established to provide charcoal. Blacksmith shops were built also.

By the late 1800's the primitive forests, the lumber, and iron trade had all disappeared. The valley had been transformed by the changes of time. The furnaces, forges, kilns have all vanished with the causes that gave them birth.

Wasteful methods of lumbering prevailed in forests and headwaters of rivers so the flow became less every year and by the 1900's brought every year a long and terrible drought, drying up meadows and pastures.

SAMUEL PEASLEE

From N.Y. Civil List from 1777 to 1858 prepared from the Official Records by Franklin B. Hough, published in 1858 comes the following excerpt:

Ben Mooers - Sheriff of Clinton County (Mar. 1788 - Feb. 1792)
Samuel Peaslee - his deputy

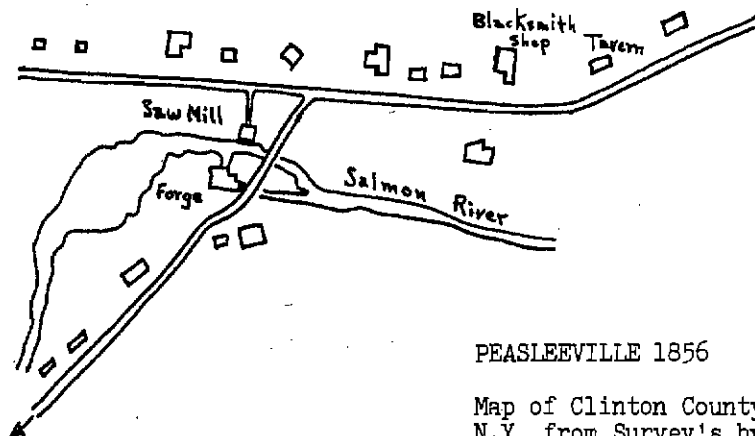
From History of Clinton and Franklin Counties by D.A. Hurd, published in 1880:

"A forge and store were established here (Peasleeville) at an early day by Samuel Peaslee and considerable manufacturing and mechanical activity has since existed there. Peaslee subsequently removed to Michigan and became a county judge.

"Samuel Peaslee, at Peasleeville, and Caleb Barton at Bartonville, operated early forges."

Peasleeville Post Office was established August 10, 1846. It was discontinued September 11, 1851 and reestablished March 18, 1864.

A.W. Honsinger's Manu. of Lumber and Iron



PEASLEEVILLE 1856

Map of Clinton County,
N.Y. from Survey's by
A. Ligowsky. Published
by: O.J. Lamb
17 - 19 Minor St.
Philadelphia 1856

To Dentons Mills

From Clinton County Book of Deeds, Vol. 26, page 66 is mentioned the names of the roads:

"Oct. 11, 1854 --- to Abram Honsinger beginning center of highway known as Port Jackson and Union Falls plank road --- then south along said line to center of highway running from Peasleeville to the Denton Mills."

ORIGINS OF SOME PEASLEEVILLE FAMILIES

Joseph Westcott (1764-1857) married Olive Knight (1782-1858). He served in the militia under Col. Van Rensselaer in the Revolutionary War. He came to the Patent in Clinton County, N.Y. in 1800 and cleared a farm later owned by William Irwin. His children were Anson (1800-1877), Joseph (1811-1879) who became a local preacher of the Methodist church, Daniel (1814-1889), Ira, Olive, and Abigail.

This family traces its ancestry back to the Westcotts who left the Massachusetts Bay Colony with Roger Williams.

John Whitney, born 1805, the son of Melen Whitney of Barre, Vermont, moved to Peasleeville at age 28, a farmer and blacksmith, married Mary E. Banker, daughter of John and Christian Kent Banker.

James Downs came from Ireland to New York City about 1843, married to Ellen Kenelity. They came to West Peru and lived in a log house near the present house of John J. Downs on Boswell Road. Both are buried in the cemetery of St. Patrick's church.

They had five children: John J. Downs married Anna Mary Fiske from Barnhardt's Island in the St. Lawrence near Massena and lived on the Down's homestead. Mary, unmarried, lived in Peru. Ellen, a school teacher, taught in School No. 17 on the Patent. Liza married Raymond Forraine and they lived in Peru where they ran a jewelry store near the present barber shop. Patrick K. Downs married Maria Dolan of Peru, and ran a hotel in Schuyler Falls and a livery in Plattsburgh.

Ransom Bedell, grandfather of Arden and Leon Bedell, came to Peasleeville and in 1830 married Mary Ricketson, daughter of Howland and Rachel Ricketson. He was a hammerman at the Peasleeville forge and foundry where many stoves were made. Many of their children married and went West. Ransom Bedell, the father of Arden and Leon, had charcoal pits on his farm.

The Putnam Sawmills were established in the early 1800's when Archelous and Deborah (Kimball) Putnam came from South Wilton, New Hampshire to Peasleeville near Banker Corners. They established other sawmills later.

Thomas Allen, a Scotsman, married Jane Boyd, (1834-1911) Scotch-Irish, daughter of Thomas Boyd (born 1793) and Margaret Thew, in Ireland about 1850. They came, with Jane's parents, by way of Montreal, by boat to Port Kent, on foot to Clintonville and lived in Ferona at the iron mines of Arnold Hill. Then they moved to the Patent Road, where Mert Way now lives and built a log house. They had ten children including George Allen (1870-1940), the father of Everest Allen of Peru.

The founder of the Banker family of Plattsburgh and Peru was John Banker who was born about 1730 in Dutchess County, N.Y., and bap-

tized as Johannis Bancker, the son of Frederick Bancker of Dutch descent. He married Eleanor Scott in 1755 and had eight children. About 1785 they moved with their children from Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, to Plattsburgh, and dropped the c from his name.

The oldest son William (1756-1839) baptized Willem, married Ruth Soule in 1780 and had 12 children including the following:

John Banker, born 1785, who married Christian Kent and were parents of Mary Banker who married John Whitney.

Jonathon Banker, born 1800, married in 1823 to Susannah Morrison, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Rice) Morrison.

Elias Banker (1803-1851) married Mary Morrison, sister of Susannah.

Huldah Banker, born 1805, married in 1823, to William Jenkins Peasleeville, a son of Abraham Peaslee (a descendant of Joseph Peaslee who emigrated from England in the 17th century and settled in Haverhill, Mass., and Maria Phoebe Jenkins).

The seventh son of John Banker (1730) was Henry J. Banker (1772-1848) married Mary Beman. He served in the War of 1812 and received from the U.S. Government Land Warrants for 160 acres of land. He had seven children including the following:

Ezra Turner Banker, born 1800, in Peru and married Sarah Kent. He was a farmer and a bloomer at the Peasleeville iron forge.

They had nine children including:

Alonson Banker, born 1831, married to Mary Johnson then Huldah Johnson.

George H. Banker, born 1834, died in the Civil War.

Benjamin F. Banker, born 1838, married Cealia Olidine Russell after returning from the Civil War, and worked in the iron works at Peasleeville and as a farmer.

Beman Banker, born 1812, in Peasleeville, married Naomi Cummings in 1840. He was a bloomer in the iron works.

Daniel McKee, born 1790, and Jane Salone, born 1796, were married in Ireland, came to Canada about 1820, then about 1830 came south to Clinton County, N.Y. They had seven children including: Mary McKee, born in 1822 in Canada and married David Durgin and lived in Peasleeville; Jane McKee, born 1825 in Canada, married John Durgin; David McKee, born 1828 in Canada, married Hannah Durgin; Robert McKee, born in 1833 in N.Y. married Rosilla Durgin.

The Durgins were in New Hampshire about 1660 and probably went to Canada near where the McKee family were living. John Durgin was born 1773 in New Hampshire and married Sarah _____. Both died in Peasleeville. Their children included: Hiram, born in N.H., married Sarah Whitehead; John, born in 1815 in N.H. married Jane McKee; David, born in 1825 in N.H. married Mary McKee.

Andrew Gordon and Nancy Ritchie were born and married in Ireland. Their children included: Anna Gordon, born 1834 in Ireland and married Nathaniel Boyd, born 1826, son of Thomas and Margaret (Thew) Boyd. All of them came to the Patent about 1850.

Charles Wright, born about 1830 in Mason, New Hampshire, served with Company K., Sixth Regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers during the Civil War. He married Jennie Boyd, daughter of William and Sarah (McDowell) Boyd, and lived on the Boswell Road on the Boyd and Allen property, then later lived in Black Brook Township. They had nine children including: Sarah, married to John Tanner and lived on the Patent; Will, married to Rachel Durgan then Bessie McKinney; Grace, married to Dave Watson; Benjamin, married to Nellie Durgan; Edward, married to Della Eells; and Mildred who married Samuel Watson and lived in Peasleeville. Many of their descendants live now in Peasleeville.

Bradford Ormsby (1818-1899) born in Vermont, the son of Samuel and Rachel (Lewis) Ormsby from Connecticut, married Caroline Eells (1814-1901) in 1836 in Peru. They purchased land from James W. Banker in 1878 and built a house and barns, with the help of his sons. They had eight children including: Waterman, born 1838; Elisha, born 1841; John; Elizabeth (1845-1920); Maria; Franklin; Sarah; and James K. Ormsby. James Ormsby lived on the homestead which now is occupied by Donald Ormsby.

Thomas Boyd, born 1793, and Margaret Thew were married in Ireland. After their children were born and married there, they all came to Clinton County N.Y. by way of Montreal about 1850.

William Boyd (1824-1917) married Sarah McDowell and were the parents of Agnes who married Sam Irwin, born 1845, then James Ball; Mary, who married Henry Patterson; Jennie, who married Charles Wright; Eddie Boyd, who married Sarah Gordon; William Boyd, who married _____ and were the parents of Gordon Boyd; Thomas Boyd married Katie Baxter; and Grace Boyd married _____ Krose.

Nathaniel Boyd (1826-1886) married Anne Gordon (1834-1893), daughter of Andrew Gordon and Nancy Ritchie. Both are buried in Peasleeville.

Thomas Boyd (1827-1889) married Elizabeth Armstrong and they brought with them from Ireland a rocking chair and a captain's chair which are treasured as family heirlooms today. Their daughter, Margaret Boyd (1854-1934) married Robert Irwin (1848-1895).

Jane Boyd (1834-1911) married Thomas Allen.

William Irwin was born in County Antrim, Ireland, in the early 1700's. He was 75 years of age at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. He had five sons: Joseph, William, James, Allen and Robert.

Robert Irwin, born 1740, married Mary Bell, and had four sons and three daughters including Robert Irwin, Jr.

Robert Irwin, Jr., born 1780, married Jane Ritchie. According to the Clinton County Deeds, Vol. K., page 253, Elkanah Watson sold 158 acres of land on May 27, 1826 to Robert Irwin and Andrew Gordon. Their children included: Sarah (Sally) Irwin, born 1830 married Waterman Ormsby; James Irwin, born 1835, married Eliza Robinson; Andrew Irwin, born 1842, married Isabelle _____; Samuel Irwin, born 1845, married Agnes Boyd; Robert Irwin, born 1848, married Margaret Boyd; and Richard Irwin, born 1856, married Rosa Content Banker.

EARLY INDUSTRIES

Early industries in Peasleeville were lumbering, saw mills, charcoal kilns, iron forge and foundry. Stoves were manufactured. Hemlock bark was shipped by way of Port Jackson to the New England States to tanneries.

Later general farming was practiced. Potatoes were raised and sold to starch factories in early times, later they were sold to buyers and shipped in boats to New York City. Sheep and some dairy cattle were raised. The milk was sent to the butter and cheese factories. During the winters pulpwood was cut and hauled by horses and bob-sleds to Plattsburgh.

Willis Eells specializes in grafting of apple trees and had a big orchard. Apples were shipped in barrels.

Recollections of Arden Bedell

According to the author Winslow C. Watson, a historian, commerce on Lake Champlain during the 1800's was conducted in cutters (a sloop-rigged, fast-sailing vessel of narrow beam and deep draft), piraguas (a flat-bottomed boat with two masts), and bateaux (a light, flat-bottomed boat). Few wharves were constructed. Animals were thrown overboard and swam to safety on shore. Vessels with salt freight anchored in a cove, announced its presence, and settlers would haul grain on sleds through the woods to barter for salt. A bushel of wheat equaled one bushel of salt.

In 1809 steamers were introduced on the lake.

Prior to 1812 log rafts and potash were the only cash crops in the Champlain Valley.

From 1832 to 1852 the Redford Glass Works was in operation.

In 1845 Clinton Prison was established at Dannemora.

From about 1830 began the growth of lumber and iron industries with the peak of the lumber industry during the 1840's and 1850's.

Pat Boswell recalls that timber and cheap property encouraged settling in Peasleeville and on the Patent. The timber was sold, loaded on a train in Peru, the delivery point for teams and sleds. Spruce and balsam were delivered into Plattsburgh for pulp. Hardwood was sold to Crete Brothers who had a wood yard and store. They sold wood for heating houses. Charcoal was sold in Saranac Lake, delivered with teams.

Potatoes became the main crop for farmers and they were as good as money for trading.

Dairying came into importance after potatoes. The cream was

separated at home then sold to Tate Bros., Morrisonville. Butter and cheese factories flourished. Apple orchards began about this time.

As time went on due to shortage of land, costly machinery and bulk tanks, dairy farming lost out. Regulations crowded out the small acreage farmer.

Flocks of sheep were familiar and when sheared, wool was a cash crop. Lambs were often sold to buyers who came to the farms to buy. Men were often hired to stay with flocks at night to kill bears which would destroy sheep.

There were paint beds in the area. Big holes were dug to remove a soft red, shale rock which could be used to make paint. Some holes that are left are big enough to lose a car in.

There are supposed to be iron mine shafts on Fred Boyd's farm and an old mine on land formerly owned by Sam Watson near the top of Terry Mountain.

The 1850 Census List of the Town of Peru lists the ages and occupations of people. Most of them are farmers; others as follows:

John Whitney - 44 - Blacksmith
John Sailes - 29 - Bloomer
Steven Allen - 46 - Bloomer
A.O. Eaton - 31 - Bloomer
Samuel Morrison - 44 - Merchant
Seth Allen - 40 - Bloomer
Reuben Martin - 47 - Teamster
John Bailey - 40 - Bloomer
Raffael Lavarney - 38 - Sawyer
Ransom Bedell - 42 - Blacksmith
Joseph Gonyaw - 44 - Carpenter
Charles Doty - 47 - Collier
Jeremiah Johnson - 53 - Sawyer
Lyman Johnson - 17 - Sawyer
James Ocabe - 21 - Sawyer
Joseph Westcott - 36 - Clergyman
Ezra Banker - 49 - Bloomer
James Walker - 26 - Saddler
Samuel Miles - 17 - Collier
Beeman Banker - 32 - Bloomer
Rufus Alford - 48 - Wheelwright

"WAR GAMES" OR MILITARY MANEUVERS

Macomb Reservation, nearly 7,000 acres of land, lying five miles west of Plattsburgh Barracks, in the town of Schuyler Falls, Peru and Saranac, had been purchased in small parcels from private owners by the Department of Agriculture. This property was "sub-marginal" land to be used as a recreational area under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenancy Act. It became known as the Schuyler Falls Target Range and for nearly three years, 300 men worked to clear the land and erect office, garage, caretaker's house, bathhouse, etc., the undertaking beginning Feb. 1, 1935. The area was also intended to provide additional maneuver lands for Plattsburgh Barracks and was thus utilized during the war maneuvers of 1939.

In 1939 "war games" or military maneuvers were held in Clinton County by the First Army, General Hugh A. Drum, commander of the 2nd Corps Area, in command. Approximately 40,000 men were encamped in the vicinity of Plattsburgh in August 1939. Some of the first armored units of the army participated in the games. Ten army field post offices were in use with a special military postmark.

On June 30, 1939, Macomb Reservation was turned over to the War Dept. by the Dept. of Agriculture and was formally accepted for the War Dept. by Col. Thomas Crystal, commanding officer at Plattsburgh Barracks. During the World War period a military highway was constructed from the barracks to Macomb Reservation, part of the new road lying on the route of an old road.

The 25 acres set up as a picnic ground was closed to the public when the United States entered World War II, remaining so for the duration, but opened once more in 1946 and now developed as a state campsite by the N.Y. State Conservation Department.

MRS. SUSIE HUNTER

Mrs. Susie (Westcott) Hunter is a native of Peasleeville who can trace her ancestry back to the Westcott's who left the Massachusetts Bay Colony with Roger Williams. The Puritans banished Roger Williams from their colony because he believed the Puritan leaders had no right to regulate worship the way they did and that the Indians should receive better treatment. Roger Williams and his followers organized the settlement of Providence, Rhode Island, in 1636. Later the Westcotts moved farther west and eventually into Vermont. Joseph Westcott (1764-1857) married Olive Knight. He served in the militia under Col. Van Rensselaer in the Revolutionary War. He came to the Patent in Clinton County, N.Y., in 1800 and cleared a farm later owned by William Irwin. Joseph and Olive Westcott had seven children; Daniel, Joseph, Anson, Ira, Olive, Cyrus and James. James Westcott (1830-1894) married Ann Alford and were the grandparents of Mrs. Susie Hunter. She was born in Peasleeville, July 10, 1897 to Cyrus Westcott and Edith Church Westcott.

Mrs. Hunter remembers as a girl going to the store now made into a home owned by Wesley Wright. She believes it probably was the store established by Samuel Peasley in the early days of Peasleeville. Her Aunt Emmaline Westcott married Aaron Burt and they operated the store for years until they sold it to Jake and Sam Cohen who had the store until about the 1920's. It was a typical country, complete with goods in barrels, calico to horse blankets, groceries, pitchforks, hoes and shovels, and domino games around the stove in the evenings.

Ricketson's also had a store, later owned by Joseph and Ruth Banker (a sister to Susie Hunter).

The first post office was in the store that Emmaline and Aaron Burt operated. Mail was brought in saddlebags on horseback a couple times a week from Schuyler Falls to Peasleeville. Later the post office was at Louis Howes (where John Marcotte lives) probably until about 1918, then Roy Hunter and Susie kept the post office for 23 years in their home (now Kester Banker home). Mail was delivered there by horse and rig. Fred Willette was one of the carriers from Schuyler Falls. The mail was then picked up at Peasleeville and taken to Swastika by Earl Myers, for one. One winter there had been a snowstorm for a week and travel was impossible. But Earl Myers sent his hired man from Swastika on foot to pick up the mail in Peasleeville, a distance of about 11 miles.

When Olive Hunter and Kester Banker were married in 1941 they operated the post office in the same place until it was closed in about 1967.

Mrs. Susie Hunter remembers as a girl the dam west of the old bridge on the Salmon River making a large pond covering the flat

land. The iron forge and sawmill were both there. There were many log houses built throughout the valley. The stone house opposite the cemetery where Bob Millett lives is probably the oldest house. It was owned by Will Irwin before he moved to the Patent.

Benjamin Ricketson used to own the stone house (where Joe Banker lived) and he owned the first car in Peasleeville, a Reo.

The charcoal kiln belonging to Frank Ormsby supplied bags of charcoal to the Cumberland and Witherill hotels in Plattsburgh and the Hotel Champlain in Bluff Point.

The Fourth of July picnics were held in a maple grove up the hill back of Joe Bankers. They made ice cream using ice from the butter and cheese factory located just south of Joe Banker's house where the parking lot is for fishermen. The factory had a storehouse for ice.

During the winter there would be 16 to 20 teams of horses a day hauling logs and pulp on sleds to Plattsburgh. Bigger loads could be hauled easier on sleds during the winter than on lumber wagons on bare ground. Teams would double up to help each other in trouble spots. Sometimes the ground would be bare close to Plattsburgh so the logs would be unloaded from the sleds, stacked along the road until you could return with a lumber wagon to take them on to the pulp mill. You were paid only when you delivered the logs to the mill. It was common practice to sell pulp to pay property taxes.

Susie Hunter was a school teacher in the Peasleeville school for eight years and also taught in Durginville, the Patent, Norrisville, Henry Devins, and Dean Charles schools. The Henry Devins School was on the Ore Bed Road just at the first sharp turn or curve to the left, where Nelson Savage lives now. The Dean Charles School was halfway to Swastika across the road from the Disco post office. Sometimes she rode horseback to school and sometimes boarded with someone near the school.

The first and only telephone for years in Peasleeville was at Louis Howes post office before 1912. Electricity came perhaps in 1925 or later and Roy Hunter did the wiring for homes in the valley.

Across the road from Cohen's store was an open field where baseball games were held.

The livery stable across from the Peasleeville schoolhouse has a glass window made of blown glass from the Redford Glass Works.

There have been so many changes through the years and probably will continue and we wonder what the future years will bring.

MRS. MABEL DENTON

"Grandma" Denton, as she is fondly called in the valley, has an active interest in her family and friends. She enjoys sharing her knowledge of the past with later generations. Here are some of her recollections.

"I went to school right down here in the Durginville Schoolhouse, walked about two miles and on stormy days I couldn't go. Benches were along the wall on three sides, and in the middle, a big stove. There was a bench just inside the door that held lunch pails and the water pail. There was a teacher's desk, too.

One time Sam Parsons was the teacher and he put his feet on the desk, tilted back his chair and went to sleep. Zilpha Morrow pushed the chair leg with her foot, upsetting the teacher.

One day the school commissioner came to visit, and when Russ Banker saw him scratch his head he piped up, "Chase them out in the clearing and you can catch them better".

When I was a little girl one of my jobs was to take the milk to the butter factory with a horse and wagon to carry the large 200 pound cans, although they were not always full. At the factory, they had something that hooked onto the sides of the cans, lifted them up, and dumped the milk into a big vat. Then it ran out into the separator which sent the cream into one vat and the skim milk into cans which was taken back home to the pigs and calves. We were paid for the milk by the hundred pound. The cream was churned in a huge churn in the factory into butter. There was a big butter worker like a big wheel with paddles that worked through the butter to take out the milk, then it was salted. The butter was packed in large butter tubs, probably 10-20 pounds and shipped to Plattsburgh by horse and wagon. Steve Arnold owned the factory and Ernest Mudge was the butter maker.

Church was in the Durginville schoolhouse at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon. We had prayer meeting down there on a Wednesday night. The minister led the prayer meetings, all of the ministers that were at Peasleeville came here too. There was no music but they did the singing. We didn't go down to the other church in Peasleeville, the horses were always working and when it come Sunday they needed to rest. We walked down to the meetings. We had the same sermons here in the schoolhouse that they had down to Peasleeville. I can't remember when we started going to the Peasleeville church. It never seemed the same to go there. Why, that schoolhouse would be full every Sunday. They were still having school in the schoolhouse, too. They must have stopped having school around 1930-31. We walked to school and if anyone went on to Peru to high school, we would take them down Monday morning and go and get them Saturday night. They had to board in Peru.

The men worked in the woods, cutting wood and pulp. They sent the pulp to Ausable Forks and Peru. They also drew loads of potatoes. We used to raise a lot of potatoes on this farm. That's how the farm was paid for, in potatoes. Our cellar down here used to be filled to the top, 900 bushels. There was just enough room left for a pork barrel and a pickle barrel.

We used to take the cucumbers and salt them down and then when we wanted them towards spring we'd bring them up and freshen them, put vinegar and spices on them, whatever way we wanted them. We freshened the pork when we brought it up from the barrel in the cellar. We cut it up in slices, put water on it, boiled it up on the stove and that took the salt out of it, then we would fry it.

Twice we almost ran out of water during a dry spell. Our well went pretty near dry, just enough for washing dishes, cooking and water for two horses, but the cattle had to go to the river.

Military Pond is right south of here two miles. The road is a woods road where they used to go in the woods. The farmers used to go over in the winter, February was the best month, and cut their ice by hand, draw it to their icehouses and filled their icehouses. They used sawdust from the mills to pack and cover the ice so it would keep.

I remember one time Robert was going over and saw ice alone. This is a joke. He borrowed his father-in-law's watch because he did not have one. So the father-in-law said, "Well, if you fall in, Robert, remember to throw that watch up on the ice so I can get it".

All around here are places where they burned charcoal. The men that worked, that's how they cleared the land, you see. They'd cut the logs, had them sawed in about 4 foot and 8 foot lengths, stood them up like this (like a teepee), made a pit and when they got enough for a big pit, as big around as these two rooms, and then cover them all over with leaves and dirt making holes in the bottom like vents. Then they's set fire to this down at the vents and that would burn. They had to watch them. When it got to going and burning hard, they had to keep it just so, keep it covered or it would burn right up and then they wouldn't get the coal. They would be right up nights to watch them, too. They had to know how to do that. They would draw the charcoal over to Saranac where they made iron. Of course, that was all gone before I can remember, all I remember is seeing the coal pit bottoms, all just flat, nice places, round and we used to play on them. There were no stones or anything. It was all cleared right off and the grass would grow up and it was a nice place to play."

Grandma Denton also explained that there was a sawmill at the Mill Bridge on Denton Road which was the reason for the settlement at Durginville. She mentioned some of the people who left the valley to go West in the early 1900's; Frank Westcott to

Montana and later Tom Ormsby who went to work there for Frank. Chauncey Durgin went to North Dakota and later, after his father, Hiram Durgin, died, his mother (Sarah Whitehead Durgin) with the other children moved West also and stayed.

She remembers the mail carriers between Swastika and Peasleeville. Mr. Savaga carried the mail from the Disco post office (opposite the Dean Charles schoolhouse on the Guideboard Road) and later the post office moved to Swastika. His sons, Eli, Louis, Fred, David and Frank took their turns in succession carrying the mail. Then Earl Myers, then the LaDukes, six boys and one girl, all took their turn. (Pete, George, Raymond, Francis, Richard, Priscilla.)

About 1939 when the Macomb Reservation was turned over to the War Department some of the military maneuvers were held in this part of Peasleeville. Mabel Denton recalls that General Hugh Drum came to her door one day to inquire which of their fields were off limits. It was a practice for the farmers of the area to post "Stay Out" signs on certain cultivated fields they didn't want the army to enter. Soldiers sometimes stopped for a drink of water from her well. The family could hear "wars" going on even into the night. Arlie Banker described how you could look out over a cleared field and suddenly the army would rise up as if from the ground. At night you could hear the army trucks rolling right along without lights. Some times you would see them over on the mountain signaling with lights across the valley to another unit.

One day the family was on its way to the Redford picnic when they were stopped and asked to pull off the road because a convoy was coming. So they waited while a convoy of trucks 15 miles long went past. You can guess that with all the dust they certainly didn't look like they were headed for a picnic.

The Denton's enjoyed the Fourth of July picnics with a baseball game usually in the morning, horse races from the church to Ricketson's and the good food. Also there were oyster suppers at the parsonage.

One time when they went to the Redford picnic on August 15 the weather turned cold and that night there was a frost. So the next day Mabel's mother sent them out to pick blackberries for canning and pickling. Her recipe for pickled blackberries was 7 pounds blackberries and 4 pounds sugar and 1 pint vinegar cooked together with cinnamon and cloves in a little cloth bag to be removed after the cooking. Put the cooked berries in a stone crock and store them in the cellar to be used as sauce or as pickles.

The house on Denton Road was built by Anson Durgin, brother to Mabel Denton's mother (Rosella Durgin), when he was about 20 years old probably in 1849-50.

MRS. GERTRUDE BANKER

A treasury of information about early Peasleeville is Mrs. Gertrude Banker. She was born just the year before the church was moved here from Redford and as a tiny child she put a dollar in the collection plate at the first service held there. She continued to relate these items.

"When the church was first put up, the pulpit and the choir was up there in front of that picture. There was a place for the choir on each side but they always used the left side. They had a stove on each side to keep the church warm, just as you go in, a little ways from the doors and pipes that went way back. Oh! it was an awful string of pipes, and two chimneys built on the back side of the church.

The church was just about full on Sundays. They came from the Patent, Durginville and Peasleeville. Some of the people used to come down from Burnt Hill. One of the Burt girls used to come down across Will White's wood road down into the Thompson lot, then down into the lane where Louis Howe's lane was (where J. Marcotte lives now). She lives in Lake Placid now.

There was plenty of room in the church and everyone sat with their backs to the ones that came in. Then they had it remodeled and turned it around so they faced the congregation when they entered.

The Sunday School was very good. There were some side seats (pews) on both sides of the church just as you went in that run north and south. There was a couple seats run that way and you go in there and take seats for our Sunday School.

They had an organ with fancy posts on each side and the top was low so you could look right over it. I played it after I got up old enough. Some of my favorite songs were "A Charge To Keep I Have", "Blessed Assurance", and "Nearer, My God To Thee". We had very good singers in church.

All the older houses in Peasleeville are older than I am. This (Kester Banker's) house for one, and I think where Guy Wright lives is another. The stone store where Ben Ricketson kept his store was an old building. The stone house across from the cemetery, I remember it well. I couldn't tell you when it was built but, it's a good deal older than I am and I' 95. The first one to live there was Robert Irwin and Tommy and Willie were his two boys. The Eell's place was a farm that had a big orchard.

Oh my, yes, the land was cleared back then. They used to farm it then and keep the brush down. They had woods and logs but the valley was pretty well cleared.

They used to saw logs up there where the old bridge is (near Duprey's store) just to the right (west) of the bridge back by the river, just a short piece from the road. I knew an iron forge was this side of where the mill stood. I can remember because it was hard to walk on, the ground was covered with cinders. The pond that was there went with the saw mill. I can remember it because I've walked across the logs from one side to the other. It was dangerous for when my mother found out, she told me never to do it again. My brother was the one that got me into it.

I remember the butter and cheese factory, it wasn't really a factory, just a shack of a building put up to make butter and cheese. It was across the road from Ricketson's.

I went to school up here (Church Hall). I walked because there weren't many who had rigs those days. I dressed in Mother Hubbard's until I got old enough to dress different. After I finished school here, I was about ready for high school, but my folks decided they wouldn't send me. Those who went to high school had to hire a room in Plattsburgh and do their own cooking, work and go to school.

My father was in the Civil War when my oldest sister was born. He shook hands with Abraham Lincoln.

I can remember way back to Harry Bulriss carrying the mail from the Falls up here. The first stagecoach I remember was an old buckboard wagon and one horse, through the mud, and, oh my! it used to be terrible.

Aunt Sarah Westcott and mother used to raise their own potatoes and things like that, garden stuff.

Bears used to come down here. Earl Whitney had his horse hitched to the woodshed and one came into the woodshed. My! that horse made an awful noise. Then another time one went right over the stone wall just west of the house down there the other side of Marcotte's. Yes, bears used to be plenty in those days.

Oh, yes, I've gone fishing in the Salmon River dozens of times. I never caught very much of anything, always got my hook caught on limbs and sticks in the river.

There were lots of mosquitoes then, too. We would have to build smudges in pails, a mess of wood chips covered with green grass that would begin to burn but have lots of smoke, bring them inside, set them on stones so as not to burn the floor and smoke up the house. It would fill with smoke to drive out the mosquitoes, then close the doors and windows so you could sleep at night.

I married George Banker, son of Ben and Celia Banker, and had five children. Iah married George Banker, son of Jerry Banker, and had Stanley and Wilma. Ray married Doris Thew and had

Kenneth and Ronald. Harley and Hollis were twins but Hollis died. Harley was the mail carrier from Peru to Swastika for years. Kester married Olive Hunter and had Gordon, Dennis, Debra, and Kester.

One time about 1938 lightening struck our house. The curtains caught on fire, burned the door into the living room, knocked the plaster off the wall and more. I was so scared I ran over nails, glass, and plaster to get to the door to call Anna Durgan who lived next door, but I couldn't make a sound."

Gertie Banker lives now with Kester and Olive Banker. Even though she is blind, she enjoys very good health, walks with a walker for protection, and manages to take care of herself through the living kindness of Olive. She is delightful to talk with, enjoys talking on the telephone, and giving information from her bountiful store of knowledge of the past. Her memory was invaluable in locating people and places on the map of the valley dated 1869. May God bless her.

CHAUNCEY DURGIN

Sheldon Progress, Sheldon, North Dakota, 1910

Chauncey Durgin celebrated his 72nd birthday Monday by giving one of the best and biggest dances of the season. Malchow's orchestra furnished the music and they sustained their reputation of being one of the best orchestras in the state. Many came from a distance to trip the light fantastic, and the whole affair was a huge success.

Chauncey is getting old and he wanted to have at least one more big dance before he retired from business, just to remind him of the old times. He first saw the light of day in Clinton County, New York, on November 21, 1838, and resided in that state until he came to Sheldon in 1883. (See note at the end.)

Those were the days when land was selling at \$100 a quarter section and oxen were being used for farm work. It was also the day before the prohibition law went into effect and Sheldon was wild and woolier than it is now. Chauncey is rather feeble now, but in those days he was a physical giant and there were few men who wished to pit their strength against his. He has many reminiscences to tell of the early days when men fought at the drop of a hat.

He and P.J. Hoff are about the only old timers now in business in Sheldon, and Chauncey ranks ahead of Peter in age and the number of years he has been in business here.

The year he came here he built what is now known as the Commercial Bank Building, and that fall he held a grand opening on his birthday by giving a free dance. People flocked in from miles around to take part in the festivities, as at that time a dance would attract a far larger crowd than it does now. Later Chauncey erected the opera house and restaurant where he is now in business. We believe that no town of its size in the state has a better opera house than the one he built, and he is not getting the revenue from it he should. Sheldon would not seem natural without Chauncey. He has done much for the town. More than the town has done for him. There is not a more honest man in Sheldon, nor a truer friend when friendship is needed.

Note: According to Eva Plunkett (Chauncey's granddaughter) Chauncey Durgin and Jerusha Wright, both of Winona, Minn., were married at Fountain City, Wisc. on March 16, 1867. He worked on construction when the Northern Pacific was being built out of St. Paul. Later he located at Mapleton near Fargo, N.D. Another source said he had a saloon there. Then when the Southern Pacific was being built and the town of Sheldon was plotted, he moved there.

ZION METHODIST CHURCH

The English and Scotch glass workers brought with them their Protestant faith, and this made up the large majority of the early settlers in Redford (so named because of an old Indian ford across the Saranac River, formed of red stones, and this crossing became known as "The Red Ford", and finally, Redford). Both Methodists and Presbyterians held early services in the first schoolhouse, but the Presbyterians are considered to have been the first. They organized around 1840, with 12 members, and built the first Protestant Church in Redford.

This was considered as Matthew Lane's Church, since it stood near his home and was no doubt financed by him. It has been described as being decorated with a large painting of angels guiding a little child, and with lights and sounding bells of Redford glass. All of these have disappeared except for the church itself which is still serving communicants in its new location at Peasleeville.

The Saranac Valley, Vol. 1, The Pioneers by Sarah Baker

Redford Glass Works - 1832-1852
Workers gradually moved
Congregation dwindled to nothing

LOUIS M. HOWES

Louis M. Howes, (1832 - 1927) who lived in now John Marcotte's house, married Olive Westcott. He spent his early days in Beekmantown. As a youth he came to Peasleeveville and stayed until about 1925, then went to live with his son Nathan at Waterbury, Vermont. Mr. Howes served the community in which he lived in many capacities - always willingly and gladly. He taught school before the opening of the Civil War. Later he entered that war and served honorably and well. Upon his return he went into the saw mill business which flourished in Peasleeveville at that time, with Earl Whitney. He then became a competent bookkeeper and clerk for Mr. Honsinger.

He was elected Justice of the Peace many times in succession and performed many marriage ceremonies while holding the office. Many people went to him as a source of legal information which he willingly imparted.

For many years the post office at Peasleeveville was located in his home and he served the people as postmaster both accommodatingly and well. He never refused to aid the church or place in which he lived in any manner.

He was afflicted with deafness for years and so became a great reader of books. Out of the fullness of his knowledge thus attained he was in a position to give information on many subjects. He was an interesting relater of past events.

Clipping from the Plattsburgh Press-Republican, 1927

A HISTORICAL SKETCH

On the road leading to the extreme west end of the Town of Peru lies a small area called Durganville, which was named for the family of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Durgan. Their family consisted of seven sons and three daughters. All were born and reared here.

A great grandson, Harry Durgan, who is now in his 83rd year, was the last Durgan to reside there. He moved to Peru in 1924.

The little schoolhouse next to the Durgan home served as a church where services were held for many years. Over 100 years ago, young men in their late teens and early twenties attended school there during the winter months along with the younger children.

In the late 1700's several saw mills were erected along the Salmon River branches, remnants of which remained for many years.

A blacksmith shop was a busy place as neighbors brought their horses to be shod. Also, new tires were replaced on farm wagons and welding was done.

An honored resident of Durganville was Mr. Dean Denton, who served during the Civil War. Often he recounted the glorious victory attained at the Battle of Gettysburg in which he participated. How thrilling it was to hear him recall the events of that encounter, which lasted several days. On the last day, orders were given to affix bayonets on guns and advance against the enemy. He reported that when the men saw the "cold steel", they quickly decided to surrender. It was a glorious victory for the North. Mr. Denton attended a reunion of Civil War veterans at Gettysburg in 1906. His uniform is now in the possession of a granddaughter, Arlie Denton Banker, who resides in Durganville.

Two great grandsons of Mr. Denton served in the Second World War. John Stewart, who was wounded in battle, and Harry Stewart, who lost his life on D Day. We are very proud of these brave young men.

Indians enjoyed this locality as many arrows were found and darkened soil depicted the places where their campfires were built.

A few miles to the east of Durganville lies a hamlet called Peasleeville named for a Mr. John Peasley, who became post master. He was succeeded by Aaron Burt and Lewis Howes as well as several others.

Several saw mills and a forge flourished there as a dam was built on the Salmon River, which meanders down through this so-called "Pleasant Valley".

The lovely old church, which still exists and where services are yet held, was moved from Redford, New York about the year 1880 and was dedicated the following year. Many local men with their teams of horses donated their time and strength to the labor involved in moving the large building.

Mrs. Gertrude Banker, the oldest citizen in Peasleeville, aged 95, remembers attending the dedication services.

Years ago every farm had a small dairy; therefore, a cheese factory was built. Whole milk was taken there and converted into cheese. The building has been long gone.

For many years Frank Ormsby operated a charcoal kiln, which supplied many hotels in the surrounding area.

Plentiful supplies of blueberries were picked on the nearby mountains, which parallel the valley.

On Terry Mountain a transmitter for Channel 5, WPTZ Television, was erected in 1954. How astonished the old time residents would be to see and hear this invention:

To show the patriotism of this valley it seems quite proper to name those who responded to the call of our nation during the Civil War. First of all, we would mention that the family of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Banker had six sons who answered the call for needed soldiers. Two of them made the supreme sacrifice as they died while in service. George was being sent home as an invalid and died enroute. Jefferson died in the Andersonville prison.

Other young men from Peasleeville, who entered the army at that time were: Lewis Howes, Abraham Snay, Zebulun Allen, Tom Moore, and John Ormsby, son of Bradford Ormsby. John died during the war and was buried near the place of his death.

Another veteran of that war, Washington Benway, proudly told of the time when President Abraham Lincoln shook hands with him and other soldiers while visiting the troops.

It has been said that more graves flaunt the Stars and Stripes on the graves of soldiers on Memorial Day in the Peasleeville Cemetery than any other cemetery of equal size. We are all proud of that heritage of bravery.

Although the contour of the Peasleeville Valley is unchanged, two hundred years have altered the way of life for the present inhabitants as there are fewer farms, homes, and people. However as Longfellow wrote in one of his poems:

This is the place. Stand still, stand still,
Let us review the scene
And summon from the shadowy past
The forms that once have been.

This I have tried to do in recalling old places, old days, and old friends. Let us join in cherishing the memories of bygone days.

Permley Durgan Ormsby

PAUL ALLEN

Paul Allen lives in the township of Peru as the sixth generation of Allens of land obtained from Zephaniah Platt. The original deeds sign by Zephaniah Platt are on display in Paul Allen's home. His ancestor, Jabez Allen, was a veteran of the Continental Army and crossed on the ice from Vermont to settle on his land in 1787. Allen "legend" says that Ethan Allen gave his "kinsman" a new axe, a yoke of oxen, and 20 pounds (money) to aid the venture.

Paul Allen's maternal ancestor was Major John Addoms, a Revolutionary War officer who settled on Cumberland Head. It was Maj. John Addoms who held Major Andre's hat at the execution of that British spy. Paul hopes to have as good an epitah as his ancestor Maj. John Addoms - "Here lies Major John Addoms - who died June 8, 1823 in the 85th year of his age - much beloved and respected - he was industrious, temperate, friendly, and moral during a long life, and truly pious the last years".

THE HISTORY OF THE PERU FREE LIBRARY

On June 28, 1915, a group of sixteen citizens of the Town of Peru, gathered at the home of Mrs. Charles Barber to discuss the possibility of establishing a public library. Mr. Charles Mason was appointed chairman and Mrs. George Heyworth, secretary. The following resolutions were adopted; Resolved, that a library association be established with a membership of \$1.00 per year. The temporary committee be continued, and committees of Housing, Finance and Correspondence be appointed to report at the next meeting. Committee members as follows: Finance; Chairman W.R. Cahalan, Bert Holden, W.H. Everett, M.D., Mrs. Harley Stafford, Mrs. Nathan Mason. Housing; Chairman W.R. Weaver, Mrs. Charles Weaver. Correspondence; Chairman Rev. R.H. Stearns, Rev. J.L. Cole, Mrs. G.R. Heyworth.

A second meeting was held on July 12, 1915, with committee reports as follows; Finance, \$59.00 subscribed. Correspondence, Rev. Stearns reported the visit of Asa Wynkoop, State Library Director, with a summary of state library association work and state aid to be furnished. Rev. Cole reported correspondence in behalf of Carnegie aid given when town first grants yearly support. Housing, G.R. Heyworth reported that several rooms were under consideration.

The third meeting of the temporary committee was held in the Town Hall, July 19, 1915. A model constitution was read by Rev. Stearn and the following regulations were adopted. First; the name designated, Peru Free Library. Second, library to be used by the residents of Peru and vicinity. Third; date of annual meeting shall be on the first Monday of May. Fourth; ten members of the library association shall constitute a quorum. Fifth; five trustees shall be elected. Sixth; the model constitution as read, shall be adopted as a whole. The first five duly elected trustees of the Peru Free Library were: President, W.R. Cahalan, Vice President, Mrs. Charles Barber, Sec., Mrs. H.L. Stafford, Treasurer, Mrs. W.R. Weaver, C.S. Mason. Finance reported \$104 in subscribed members.

Sept. 16, 1915, the library was granted a provisional charter and a grant of \$100 from the University of the State of New York. On Sept. 28, the Housing committee leased for \$6.00 a month, payable in advance, the first floor of the office building owned by Sanford R. Forrence, for a period of one year beginning Oct. 1, 1915. (This building is located at 8 Pleasant St.) The space had formerly been a drug store.

The library was opened to the public on Saturday Oct. 23, 1915, with Rev. R.H. Stearns as librarian. The bookstock numbered 225.

In the spring of 1916 the library building committee arranged for a loan of \$350, secured by a note payable to the library association, to purchase a "moving picture machine". The profits realized from "the entertainments" given by this machine were to be

applied toward the liquidation of the debt and to thereafter be applied to the building fund. The loan was made by Seymour Clark. The building committee members were: Chairman, C.S. Mason, R.M. Clark, W.H. Everett, M.D., E.W. Sartwell, M.D., H.E. Heyworth, W.R. Weaver, Frank Bombard, George Soulia, J.L. Clark, W.H. Mason, W.H. Bently and R.E. Clark. The Administration committee held "entertainments", for fund-raising purposes, some of these were "a miscellaneous entertainment" by home talent, a "Tom Thumb Wedding", in which 60 children participated, and a supper.

In June a special meeting was called to investigate possible sites for a suitable library building. A bill was presented at this meeting from N.R. Bigelow for the sum of \$1.50, in payment of 7½ hours of carpentry work and painting. The bill was duly paid. By Sept. of 1916, Trustee Mason reported that the "Peru Movies" had raised \$100 to be paid on their note. In March 1917 the "Peru Movies", had been held 44 times, with an average profit of \$2.83 per show.

The Building committee reported in May of 1917, that no suitable site had yet been found and because of the war and other conditions, plans for immediate building should be abandoned. Movies were still being shown by Worden Hunter. Miss Edith Stafford was hired as librarian at this meeting, and the librarian's salary raised to \$3.00 a week. The library owned 943 books. The library began to collect county newspapers in Dec. 1917 and mailed them to Peru boys in the Service.

The death of C.S. Mason was a great loss to the library association. At this same time the library was in debt, \$126.40. The trustees and members held a special meeting and those present pledged subscriptions to cover that amount, and in a few minutes the debt was wiped out. In April of 1919, the library received a bequest of \$1,200, from the estate of Mrs. Heyworth, to be placed in the building fund. It was unanimously decided at this time to proceed again with plans for the construction of a library building. The committee elected for this purpose were; Chairman George Mason, Seward Arnold and Bert Holden. The following persons pledged \$100; G.R. Heyworth, Dr. W.H. Everett, Peru Grange, Seward Arnold, Dr. E.W. Sartwell, Datus Clark, G.W. Mason, Cora Craig and Eva M. Haff.

Mr. Forrence, owner of the building where the library was housed, informed the trustees in Aug. 1919, that he had received an offer of rental for the said premises for a drug store, and the rental was beyond the means of the library association, so again they began the search for new quarters. H.E. Heyworth offered the library a wing of his home, on Main St. south east of the bridge. In Sept., the library was closed in order to facilitate the move. A fund-raising benefit was held for the library on Oct. 30, with a program of patriotic music, and speeches by Miss Webster, State Library Representative, Hon. Wallace Pierce of Plattsburgh, and Rev. G.W. Burke of Peru. The funds raised were to be used to erect a library as a memorial building to the over 100 youths who

had served in the Wars, from Peru.

During the 1920's the library continued to grow in both book-stock and membership. Mrs. William Mason conducted a children's story hour each Tuesday afternoon, and library hours were expanded. A club known as the T.W.B., having a membership of 12 girls earned the sum of \$15 by serving lunches, having a food sale and selling candy. The money was donated to the library and was used to purchase six chairs for the children's room.

Librarian Edith Stafford died in 1925, and trustees, Mrs. Sartwell and Mrs. Stafford, voluntarily staffed the library with the assistance of Beatrice Hebert to complete the repairing and accessioning of books that Miss Stafford had planned. On March 1925, Mrs. Patrick Fitzpatrick was appointed librarian and Miss Anne Bently, assistant librarian.

The New York State Library Institute annual district meeting was held at the library in May, 1925. This district included all libraries of Essex Co. and parts of Clinton and Franklin County. Those attending were; Miss Nell Unger, Conductor of the Institute, Lib. Babbitt of Lake Placid, Lib. Norton and Guest of Saranac Lake, Lib. Buck and Miss Mattie Prime of Upper Jay, Lib. Hall, Supt. Elmendorf, PHS Lib. Baker, Miss Brown and Mrs. Palmer, all of Plattsburgh, Lib. Fitzpatrick, all trustees, Mrs. Wm. Mason, Mrs. Brand and Mrs. Everett of Peru. Luncheon was served at the Tavern.

President Mason resigned in 1926 and P.F. Fitzpatrick was elected President of the Library Association. Mrs. Fitzpatrick resigned her position and Miss Ethel McIntyre replaced her. A proposition was put on the local ballot for the Town of Peru to grant the library \$600 annually for maintenance. The vote was defeated on Nov. 2, 1926, by 13 votes.

Librarian Ethel McIntyre died in 1927 and Mrs. Diantha Laurenitis was appointed librarian. The library was granted an absolute charter from the New York State Dept. of Education.

In January 1928, the library received a bequest from Mr. Horatio Baker, and again suitable lots for a permanent building were under consideration. Mr. Baker also asked that the name "Baker Library" appear over the entrance door. Mrs. Baker selected the property of Mr. and Mrs. D.S. Bramen and the property was purchased for \$600. In May, the trustees accepted the plans for a library building prepared by Alvin W. Inman, architect, Plattsburgh, after the approval of Mrs. Baker's attorneys. Other contributions to the building fund were made by the estate of G.R. Heyworth, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Thew, and the estate of Dr. Ladd. The Town of Peru residents voted at the Nov. 6 election to appropriate \$500 a year for maintenance of the library, by a majority vote of 4. Contracts for the construction of the building were let as follows; Edward Depo, for the building and grading the lawn; floor covering, interior and exterior painting, \$8,403; cement walk, \$41.; J.A. Freeman, heating and plumbing, \$498.77; A.W. Inman, architect, \$445; E.F. Joyce, electrical, \$115; cost of lot, \$600. Total \$10,102.77

The library lacked funds to pay the last item of \$115 for electrical work and money to buy furniture. The Peru Garden Club planted trees and did landscape gardening on the grounds. A duplicate key to the library was presented to Mrs. H. Baker. Mr. Elmore and his mother, Mrs. Morehouse, made a gift of a stained glass window to the library at the time of construction. Mrs. John L. Clark gave money collected at a pupil's recital to the library. Twenty-two new borrowers were registered for that year, the book collection numbered 2,875 and circulation for the year was 3,103.

During the 1930's as in the 20's many residents gave financial support to the library. Mrs. McIntyre held a card party on her lawn to benefit the library, (a chair was purchased with this money). The profits from a "benefit exhibit and tea", sponsored by the "Rag Pickers", were donated. A list of books made by teachers at the high school was sent to the library with the request that they be added to the library Reference collection as they were very much in need by the students. \$75 of the "Rag Pickers" gift of \$89, was spent for the purchase of these books. In 1935-36, fifteen books were rebound as an educational project under the National Youth Administration. Janet Downs, Bernice Schwab, and Veronica Boswell worked on this project, and also shellaced book covers. Mrs. E.T. Allen supervised their work and also compiled a subject catalog. Other girls working in the library in NYA were Mildred Hart and Madeline Ormsby.

An Honor Roll was erected on the west lawn of the library in 1943 by the Peru Post of the American Legion. All residents of Peru who served in World War II were listed. Library books were loaned to Miss Wedge at the central school, for use by the students. In 1949 the wood and coal burning furnace was converted to fuel oil.

The library trustees began discussion in 1955, of the possibility of becoming a part of the Clinton-Essex Library System. In 1957 President Burrell resigned and George R. Copeland elected in his place. A book depository was installed in the front door of the library for the convenience of patrons when the library is closed. The Honor Roll on the library lawn was in a dilapidated condition and the American Legion Post of Peru no longer in existence to continue repairs on it. It was decided to remove it and replace it with a memorial placque listing the names of those men from Peru who had died in the service in World War II and the Korean War. The Peru Lions Club agreed in 1962 to accept this project, and a placque was placed on a rock and is located on the library lawn. Also during that year President Copeland was authorized to execute a contract for service with the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System.

In 1966, Mrs. Fitzpatrick resigned as librarian and Mrs. Mildred Bromley was appointed to the position. A "farewell Open House" was given for Mrs. Fitzpatrick by the trustees of the library to honor her for "thirty-five years of faithful service". In 1967 Mrs. Bromley resigned and Mrs. Jane Metcalfe was appointed librarian. The library applied to Peru Central School for funds listed

under Title 11, Special Purpose Grant, which allows public libraries to receive funds for library books made available to students at the school. The water supply was turned on and library hours were increased to 18 hours a week. A "summer reading incentive" program was started at the library and includes all children in grades 3-6, with certificates awarded to each child participating as well as a list of books they have read during the six weeks of the program.

In 1970 new natural maple library tables and chairs were purchased for the main floor of the library and V. President Joseph Alexander undertook the task of painting a portion of the library basement. Periodical files were set up in the basement level of the library since floor space on the main floor was limited and the lower area was available and offered a quiet place where students could do their research. New book shelves were installed to supplement those already in use. During the summer months the Town Youth program has supplied the library with a library aide and also labor to clean, paint and varnish and otherwise rehabilitate the lower level and the exterior of the building. Children's film program was initiated in 1972 and was so successful that the trustees purchased a film projector and screen for the library. During the winter months Saturday film programs are held for the children, free of charge, and 300-500 children have attended. In 1972, George Copeland resigned as President of the board of trustees and Joseph Alexander was elected.

In 1975, the children's room was moved to the lower level of the building and the small room on the main floor is now the "Historical room", and historical records and books are kept there. The library now has a 6,500 bookstock and circulation of approximately 15,000 books yearly. The book collection is supplemented monthly by the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System, and they also provide the library with Art Prints that circulate and the films for our film program, and any professional library assistance that may be required. The library has received many books as memorial gifts and also memorials in furnishings for the new children's room and donations to assist the library in continuing to be an active memorial to all residents of the Town of Peru.

Jane C. Metcalfe

Presidents of Peru Free Library

W.R. Cahalan 1915-1921
William Mason 1921-1926
P.F. Fitzpatrick 1926-1936
A.B. Burrell 1936-1957
G.R. Copeland 1957-1972
J. Alexander 1972-

Librarians

Rev. R.H. Stearn
Miss Edith Stafford
Mrs. P.F. Fitzpatrick
Miss Ethel McIntyre
Mrs. Diantha Laurenitis
Mrs. P.F. Fitzpatrick
Mrs. Mildred Bromley
Mrs. L.R. Metcalfe

List of Trustees of Peru Free Library

1915

Mrs. Sarah Barber
Charles S. Mason
Mrs. Mary Stafford
William Cahalan
Mrs. William Weaver
Mrs. Elva Sartwell
William H. Mason
Everest T. Allen
Patrick Fitzpatrick
Seward Arnold
Dr. W.H. Everett
Elmore P. Elmore
Mrs. Leslie Clough
Mrs. Robert Meacham

Dr. A.B. Burrell
Mrs. Beatrice Sanders
Mrs. Everest T. Allen
Mr. Charles Burdick
Mr. George Copeland
Mrs. Alan Everest
Mr. Joseph Kelley
Miss Corrine Clough
Mrs. Marian Mulberry
Mrs. Joseph Rudmin
Mrs. Edmund Etesse
Mr. Joseph Alexander
Mrs. Thomas Sweeney
Mrs. Camille Morin
Mr. George Aubrey

1976

Mrs. William Ston

THE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY - PERU, N.Y. - 1911

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Ackley, Horace, Farm		19-L21
Adcock, O.B., Farm	Morrisonville	35-L21
Alger, C.W. Resident		11-L3
Allen, Albert	Harkness	37-L21
Allen, Clarence, Farm	Harkness	10-L13
Allen, C.D. & CO., Office		9-L22
Allen, C.D., Resident		6-L13
Allen, Edson, Farm	Lephram	12-F2
Allen, George, Farm		36-F2
Allen, Joseph, Farm	Harkness	7-L14
Anderson, Carl, Farm		4R
Annis, Charles, Farm	Valcour	30-L22
Annis, George W., Resident		10-F2
Arnold, Bion, Farm	Harkness	3-J
Annis, John, Farm		4-F41
Arnold, Dyer, Farm	Peasleeville	34-F3
Arnold, Harrison, Farm	Harkness	3-F31
Arnold, Mrs. Harvey, Res.	Harkness	3-L4
Arnold, Seward, Farm		22-L32
Arthur, A.S., Farm		26-F31
Arthur, Charles, Farm		4-L2
Arthur, E.W., Farm		4-L13
Arthur, Fred, Farm		2-F4
Arthur, L.B., Farm		2-L32
Austin, Mrs. Ira, Res.		2-L3
Ayers, Peter, Farm	Morrisonville	24-F21
Ayers, Walter, Farm	Valcour	30-L15
Baggs, John, Farm		30-L13
Baggs, William, Farm	Valcour	30-L3
Baker, Charles, Farm	Lephram	12-L22
Baker, C.W., Store	Harkness	3-L2
Baker, H.E., Farm	Harkness	12-W
Baker, Stephen, Farm	Harkness	37-J
Baker, W & W., Res.	Harkness	7-W
Ballou, Mrs., Res.		10-L4
Barker, Farm		19-L4
Baxter, Samuel, Farm	Harkness	37-L2
Beadelston, Roy, Farm		2-L13
Bentley, George, Res.		32-W
Bigelow, E.C., Res.		22-F3
Bigelow, N., Res.		9F-31
Billings, H., Res.	Valcour	13-F3
Bissell, R.M., Farm	Valcour	13-L2
Boswell, Patrick, Farm		36-L22
Bosworth, Fred		10-L2
Bourassa, Fred, Res.		9-L4
Boyd, Andrew, Farm		36-L3
Boyd, Ed., Farm		36-J
Boyd, W.F., Farm	Harkness	7F-21
Bragg, H.H., Farm		15-L4
Brand, George, Farm		14-L4

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Brand, Grant, Farm		14-L12
Brand, Philip, Res.		32-L12
Brand, Mrs. S., Farm	South Plattsburg	17-W
Brand & Finny, Produce, Office		9-L12
Brelia, Herbert, Farm		35-L12
Brelia, Sol, Farm	Schuyler Falls	27-L21
Broadwell Bros.	Morrisonville	27-J
Brown, R.M., Res.		11-F3
Burns, A.	Schuyler Falls	24-F5
Burns, Robert, Farm	Schuyler Falls	35-W
Butler, Patsy, Res.		2-F21
Butler, Patsy Jr., Farm		2-L22
Calkins, A.J. & W.H., Farm	Harkness	3-R
Carpenter, W., Farm	Harkness	7-F5
Cate, Ralph, Farm	Lapham	12-L2
Christian, Fred, Farm		4-L12
Church, Charles E.	Lapham	5-L3
Church, Riley, Farm		15-W
Clark, Miss Annie	Valcour	13-L21
Clark, Bentley, Farm		22-L33
Clark, Charles, Farm		22-F21
Clark, Datus, Office & Res.		18-L13
Clark, Datus, Smith Farm		18-L12
Clark, Frank, Farm		2-R
Clark, Floyd, Res.		32-F5
Clark, John, Res.		6-L4
Clark, Schuyler, Farm		22-F21
Clark, Seymour, Farm		2-L12
Clark, Silas, Farm		22-L23
Clark, Will, Farm		10-F12
Clark & Holden, Produce Office		18-F21
Clough Bros., Furniture & Undertaking		27-R
Clough, J.I., Furniture	Morrisonville	27-L13
Clough, L.M., Res.		27-L12
Coffee, P., Farm	South Plattsburg	17-L13
Coffey, James, Farm	Schuyler Falls	35-J
Cole, Rev. J.L., Res.		19-F5
Conn, Miss, Res.	Valcour	23-L4
Cox, O., Farm	Schuyler Falls	21-L32
Craig, Willis, Farm		15-R
Crilley, Peter, Farm		19-J
Crommie, J., Farm		28-F2
Dare, Dr., Res.	Morrisonville	24-L14
Dashnau, Albert, Res.	Schuyler Falls	24-W
Dashnau, Fred, Res.	Schuyler Falls	26-L23
Davarn, Timothy, Farm		2-L21
Davarn House, Hotel		6-F2
Davarn, Mike, Farm		10-L21
Davis, Ernest, Farm	Schuyler Falls	28-F5
Day, Arthur, Farm		5-L21
Day, Ezra, Farm	Valcour	23-W
Day, E.L., Farm	Valcour	23-L13
Day, Fred, Res.	Valcour	23-L12

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Day, George, Res.	Valcour	13-F4
Day, Stanton, Res.	Valcour	23-R
Deforest, Mrs. Charles	South Plattsburg	17-L21
Delaware & Hudson, Station		9-F2
Delaware & Hudson, Station	Morrisonville	24-L2
Delaware & Hudson, Station	Valcour	13-J
Delong, Allen, Res.	Schuyler Falls	27-W
Denamore, M., Farm	Schuyler Falls	21-F2
Derby Bros., Res.	Schuyler Falls	28-F3
Derby, C.C., Farm		4-F2
Derby, Commodore, Farm	Lapham	12-F31
Derby, Mrs. Fred, Farm		2-F12
Doty, Bert, Res.		26-F21
Downes, Barney, Farm		33-L14
Downes, Hugh, Farm		22-F2
Downes, M., Res.		33-L21
Downs, J.J., Farm		36-F21
Downs, John, Farm		21-W
Downs, Mary & Wilen, Res.		36-F3
Dunbar, Frank, Res.		10-L22
Dwyer, Deo, Farm		2-F2
Earl, Rev., Res.	Schuyler Falls	26-J
Edgley, E., Farm		22-J
Eells, Gardner, Farm		21-F5
Eells, H.H., Res.		10-R
Eells, Hiram, Farm		21-F21
Elmore, F.E., Res.		11-L4
Elmore, Glen, Res.		19-R
Everest, J.D.	Schuyler Falls	26-L32
Everest, Carl, Res.		26-L31
Everett, George, Res.	Valcour	30-F31
Everett, Dr. Warren H.		33-R
Everett, William Farm		33-F31
Fallen, Harley, Farm		14-F3
Farmsworth, M.M., Farm	Morrisonville	27-F21
Felio, Frank, Res.	Harkness	7-F2
Felio, J. & S., Farm	Harkness	3-F5
Felio & Gordon, Farm		3-L22
Felton, C., Farm	Schuyler Falls	21-F41
Finny, William, Res.		9-L13
Fisk, John, Res.	South Plattsburg	17-F21
Fitzpatrick, Barney, Farm		5-R
Fitzpatrick, Hugh, Farm		36-L21
Forance, Fred, Farm		12-F3
Fuller, Byron, Farm		15-J
Fuller, H.T., Farm	Valcour	30-F2
Georger, Mrs. F.E., Res.	Valcour	13-L31
Gordon, Joe, Farm	Harkness	7-L3
Gordon, Robert, Farm	Harkness	10-L12
Gordon, Samuel, Farm	Harkness	7-J
Gorman, John, Farm	Harkness	7-L32
Gove, George, Res.		19-L13
Grange No. 1021, Mill	Morrisonville	24-L31

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Granotier, Rev., Res.		11-L21
Gravlin, Peter, Farm		10-L31
Haff, R.W., Store		9-L2
Haff, R.W., Res.		9-R
Haff, R.W., Farm		9-L21
Haff, Schuyler, Farm		9-L3
Hammond, Wallace, Res.	Morrisonville	35-L2
Harlon, John, Farm	Schuyler Falls	35-L22
Harkness, J.W., Farm	Harkness	3-F2
Harrington, R.L., Res.		11-W
Harris, N.H., Res.		27-F31
Hertz, Lewis, Res.		26-L14
Hazeltine, George, Farm		28-L31
Hewitt, Miss S.B., Farm		10-L14
Heyworth, G.R., Office		19-F2
Heyworth, G.R., Farm		20-L4
Heyworth, H.E., Res.		20-L3
Heyworth, H.E., Farm		20-J
Hodgkins, E.K., Store		10-F5
Holden, Bert, Res.		11-L12
Howes, L.M., Farm	Peasleeville	34-F2
Hughes, Thomas, Farm		21-L4
Hunter, W., Farm	Schuyler Falls	26-F6
Irwin, Joseph, Farm	Peasleeville	34-F41
Irwin, Samuel, Farm		36-W
Jarvis, Arthur, Res.		10-J
Jarvis, Charles, Farm		2-F31
Jarvis, David		27-L22
Jarvis, Fred, Farm		10-F3
Jarvis, Joseph, Farm		20-L22
Jenkins, John		32-J
Jock, Alfred, Farm		29-L3
Jock, Clement, Farm	Schuyler Falls	24-F2
Jock, Levi, Farm	Schuyler Falls	28-R
Johnson, Robert, Farm	Schuyler Falls	28-F21
Johnson, Silas, Farm		21-L21
Joy, Gib	Lapham	5-F31
Joy, W., Farm	Lapham	12-F21
Keese, Percy, Farm		2-F5
Keet, E.B. & Son, Farm	Schuyler Falls	35-F2
Keet, Elmer, Harness Shop	Schuyler Falls	26-L21
Kennon, George, Res.		10-L3
Kidder, Mrs. Jane, Farm		19-F6
Knowless, A.B., Farm		4-L3
Laclair, A., Res.	Valcour	30-L2
Ladue, Charles, Res.		4-F21
Lafountain, E., Farm		2-L2
Lapham, Ed, Farm		19-F31
Lapham, Eliza, Res.		20-R
Laport, Clayton		15-L3
Leonard, John	South Plattsburg	17-L4
Light & Avery, Store	Morrisonville	24-R
Lobdell, George, Farm	Schuyler Falls	28-L32

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Lobdell, James Henry, Farm	Schuyler Falls	28-14
Lobdell, Jeff, Farm	Schuyler Falls	28-113
Lobdell, J.M., Res.	Schuyler Falls	21-13
Lyon, George E., Farm	Valcour	28-121
Lyons, C.V., Farm	Valcour	23-122
Lyons, James, Res.	Valcour	13-F21
Lyons, John, Farm		30-F3
Lyons, Peter, Farm	Valcour	5-F5
McCann, John, Res.		5-12
McCarty, James, Store	South Plattsburg	11-122
McCormic, James		3-113
McCusker, W.H.	Valcour	23-F2
McGee, Charles, Farm		2-14
McGee, Ed	Schuyler Falls	21-F31
McGee, Frank, Res.		2-J
McGee, N., Res.		20-F5
McGee, Peter, Farm		20-F31
McGee, Walter, Res.		11-F2
McIntyre, G.F., Office		6-F21
McIntyre, G.F., Res.		6-F31
McIntyre, Mrs. S.H., Farm		10-W
Mace, Clarence, Farm		15-132
Macomber, A., Res.		32-132
Macomber, Henry	Harkness	3-F21
Manix, John, Farm		36-12
Manley, Chas., Farm		12-13
Manning A.H. & Sons, Farm		17-F31
Manzo, Angelus, Res.	Valcour	23-F6
Martin, H.L., Res.	South Plattsburg	17-114
Martin, Peter, Farm	Harkness	3-W
Martin, Victor, Farm	Harkness	3-13
Mason, Albert, Res.		18-F3
Mason, Chas., Res.		6-F3
Mason Farm	Lapham	12-113
Mason, George A., Res.		18-F4
Mason, Nathan		18-121
Mason & Sons, Lumber Mills		25
Merrihew, G.C, Farm		5-122
Moon, Cora, Res.		14-122
Moore, Mrs. J., Res.		2-W
Morse, George, Farm		21-F12
Murry, James, Res.	Morrisonville	35-F21
Myers, Harvy	Peasleeville	34-12
Northern Orchard Co.		20-W
O'Donnell, Chas.		6-R
Olcott P.A., Fruit & Berry Farm		4-122
O'Neil, J., Res.	Ferrona	37-F31
O'Neil, Wm.	Harkness	7-112
Ormsby, Frank, Farm	Peasleeville	34-W
Parmilee, John, Farm	Morrisonville	24-113
Parsons, George, Farm		19-W
Peru Butter & Cheese Co., E.S. Arnold, Factory		32-R
Peru Butter & Cheese Co.	Harkness	3-112
Peru Butter & Cheese Co.	Lapham	5-113

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Phillips, George	South Plattsburgh	17-F3
Phillips, H., Res.	Valcour	23-J
Place, Fred, Champlain Valley Orchard Co.		33-F21
Pray, George, Farm	Valcour	30-L31
Pray, Jessie, Farm		14-J
Provost, Frank, Farm		12-L4
Provost, Oliver, Farm		22-W
Purdy, Frank	Morrisonville	24-L22
Quarters, Nelson, Farm	Harkness	3-L23
Reed, Charles V.		19-L12
Ricketson, Benj., Store	Peasleeville	26-R
Rider, W., Farm		4-W
Roberts, M., Res.		15-F5
Rock, Charles, Res.		12-J
Rosman, J.T., Farm	Peasleeville	34-F5
Ross, Jamrs, Res.	Arnold	37-W
Sanders, H., Res.		22-L3
Sanders & Defo Meat Market		11-F21
Sartwell, Dr., Res.		6-L2
Scribner, William, Farm	Morrisonville	24-L4
Severance, William, Farm		20-L13
Sibley, Henry, Farm		21-L22
Signor, Charles, Farm	Harkness	7-L2
Signor, Henry, Farm		33-F5
Signor, Will, Farm	Harkness	7-R
Smart, Frank, Farm		36-F31
Smith, John		21-F21
Smith, O.K., Farm		20-F12
Smith, Samuel, Res.		6-J
Snay, Fred	Peasleeville	34-L12
Sorrell, Fred, Res.	Morrisonville	27-F5
Soulia Bros., Farm		35-R
Soulia, Ed., Farm		26-L22
Soulia, Hiram, Farm	Morrisonville	35-L3
Soulia, Mrs. Peter, Farm		26-L3
Soulia, P. & Son, Farm		19-F21
Spaulding, J.B., Farm		22-L2
Spaulding, Judson, Farm		33-L13
Stacy, A.W., Res.		32-L2
Stafford, Erastus, Res.		32-L3
Stafford, Galen, Farm		4-L4
Stafford, James, Farm	Harkness	7-L4
Stafford, Leon, Farm	Harkness	7-L13
Straight Farm	Valcour	13-F5
Stearns, G.H., Farm		33-L2
Stickles, Charles M., Farm	Schuyler Falls	28-L12
Stoughton, B.W., Farm	South Plattsburgh	17-F2
Tanner, John, Farm		36-R
Taylor, J.B., Farm		15-L2
Taylor & Ayres, Mill	Morrisonville	24-L12
Thew, Steven, Farm		33-J
Thompson, Henry, Farm	South Plattsburgh	17-R
Thompson, Rob.		33-L3
Trombly, Charles, Res.		21-L14

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Turner, L.F., Res.	Schuyler Falls	28-W
Turner, Wallace, Res.	Schuyler Falls	28-J
Tyler, H.B.	South Plattsburg	17-J
Tyler, H.E., Res.	Schuyler Falls	26-I4
Tyrell, Andrew, Farm	Valcour	5-L12
Tyrell, Wm., Farm	Valcour	5-F4
Vaughn, E.J., Far	Morrisonville	35-I4
Vaughn, R., Farm		21-J
Warner, J.T., Res.		15-F21
Way, Henry, Res.		5-F21
Way, Seymour, Farm		15-F31
Weatherwax, Jason, Farm		23-L21
Weaver, John, Res.	Morrisonville	27-F2
Weaver, N.R., Res.		19-L3
Weaver, Victor, Res.	Schuyler Falls	28-L22
Weaver, W.R., Res.		19-L22
Weaver, W.R., Store		6-L12
Weed, Geo., Camp	Valcour	23-L2
Whyland, G.H. & D.H. Co.	South Junction,	
	Valcour	23-F21
Witherbee Sherman Co., Office	Arnold	37-F2
Witherbee Sherman Co.	Norton Mine	37-L21
Wright, Charles, Farm	Lapham	12-F3

Rates for phone calls

Ausable Forks to Plattsburg - 15¢
Ausable Forks to Keene - 15¢
Champlain to Plattsburg - 20¢
Essex to Elizabethtown - 15¢
Essex to Keene - 20¢
Essex to Plattsburg - 25¢
Plattsburg to Albany - 85¢
Plattsburg to Glens Falls - 60¢
Plattsburg to Rouses Point - 20¢
Plattsburg to Saranac Lake - 30¢

Places listed under heading of Peru, N.Y.

Arnold	Peasleeville
Ferrona	Schuyler Falls
Harkness	South Plattsburg
Morrisonville	Valcour

Some added advice from Bell Telephone Company:

Why travel - Use the Bell Telephone

Don't disturb others unnecessarily by guessing at numbers.

Answer your telephone promptly and avoid losing calls. They may be important.

If you do not find the number in the book, ask the "Information Operator" for it.

"Line is busy" - You are losing business.

Destroy all old directories and lists of numbers - use this directory.

The seconds pass slowly when you are at the calling end of a line. Please answer promptly.

Be reasonable - we cannot make the called party answer if he doesn't care to.

Please look again if you are connected with the wrong number it may have been your error.

"Busy" lines block business. With telephones enough busy lines are avoided. The cost is small, the value is great.

ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET - 1961
THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PERU, N.Y.

THE PERU M.E. CHURCH

The first religious services in the town of Peru were held by the early Quaker settlers.

Methodism in Peru began in the early 1800's. The first meetings were held largely in barns. These were: the Nathan Ferris barn (now the Roger Forrence farm), the John Morhouse barn three miles southeast of the village (on the farm of Charles Arthur), the John Cochran Place (where Hayworth Estates are now located). The Stephen Brand Farm (on the Gravel Pit Road where Hubert Brand now lives).

Circuit preachers served the area. In 1804, the renowned Dexter Bates, a man of great physical endurance reached Peru during a great snowstorm finding it impossible to travel on horseback, left his horse at Ferris's, took his saddlebags on his arm and went on foot all the way to Chateaugay; filled his appointment and returned none the worse for wear.

The first church in town was built of logs. It stood not far from the northwest corner of the present village cemetery near the grave of William Oxford. At that time it was at the entrance of the cemetery. It was 40 feet long and 30 feet wide. The heating system was a huge potash kettle turned upside down upon a foundation of brickwork in the center of the church. The stove-pipe was securely fastened with mortar to a hole on the top of the inverted kettle.

Pine slab benches were used for seating. The walls of the church formed a back for old or infirm members of the congregation. The pulpit was simply a chair. The altar, when needed, consisted of the benches placed between the pulpit and the stove.

This church, dedicated in 1807 by Rev. Samuel Draper, was probably the first Methodist Church built north of Cambridge, N.Y. This was the beginning of successful church enterprises in the Champlain Valley.

John Crawford, Phineas Rice, Belah Smith, and Peter Bussin ministered within the walls of this church.

It was in this church that the idiom peculiar to Methodism, "Amen. Period, or no period" had its origin.

John Howard, an exemplary man was very noisy in his exclamation of "Amen. Glory to God!" during sermon time. So much so, that the preacher was persuaded to gently suggest to Bro. Howard the propriety of only saying "Amen" when it would hit, or come in at a period or the close of a sentence.

Mr. Howard was very sensitive and refrained from saying "Amen" dur-

ing public service. Finally he astonished the whole audience, who were listening to an eloquent discourse, by shouting, "I say Amen, hit or miss, period or no period, I say Glory to God".

Mutual explanation followed. The previous silence of Bro. Howard was explained and the sympathy of the church was ever afterward extended to him.

The circuit was supplied with a large number of able and persevering local preachers. One of the earliest was Amos Day of the Lake Shore. Descendants of his family are members of this church (1961).

The one who obtained the widest reputation in early days was Dr. Herman Gorlich. At the close of his term, he left the regular ministry, settled in Peru and practiced his profession. He was ordained Elder, and accepted the relation of local preacher which he maintained until his death in 1858.

The second Methodist Church building was erected in 1813. It was painted yellow; had a high pulpit and a gallery on three sides. It was built where the Grand Union Store is now (1961).

Bishop Asbury dedicated this church on June 30, 1811. He preached in the new church to 1,000 people. At this time there were only two bishops in the church in America and they were both at the meeting, Bishop Asbury and Bishop William McKendree.

The following account of that visit comes from the "Christian Advocate" 3/16/1916:

So extensive was his see or jurisdiction, it was impossible for Bishop Asbury to visit many churches as often as once a year and it was natural and proper that the larger cities and older settlements should be visited oftener than those upon the borders of the wilderness. Consequently that part of the State of New York that lies west of Lake Champlain was visited by him only once and that was less than five years before his death.

In the township of Peru, in the southern part of Clinton County, there was a village or hamlet, then known as Hackstaff's Mills, and there after worshipping for some years in barns and afterwards in a log meeting house. The Methodist Society in the spring of 1811 built a church. Bishop Asbury was invited to preach the dedication sermon. He had long been intending to visit Canada and so planned his journey that he could reach Peru without going far out of his way.

With two traveling companions Bishop William McKendree and the Rev. Henry Boehm he crossed the Green Mountains of Vermont on June 26 and reached Vergennes on the 27th. On Friday the 28th they reached Charlotte and to quote from his journal, "crossed Lake Champlain to Sable River". That was the little Ausable on which Hackstaff's Mills, at the place now called Peru, was located. "We were welcomed by John Moorehouse" wrote the bishop.

John Moorehouse lived about three miles southeast of the village, on the farm now owned and occupied by Charles H. Arthur. His barn had been used for Methodist meetings before the erection of the log meeting house.

"Saturday-Busy writing and occasionally reading".

"Sabbath 30-I preached in the new chapel to one thousand souls, I presume; it was a gracious time--the Spirit gave and applied the word."

The church then dedicated is still in use though greatly changed in appearance, for brick walls now enclose its wooden frame. It is the church in which the Rev. John Leonard Cole, author of "Wheel-Chair Philosophy", has preached for the last four years. Its interior is also changed, for three wide galleries, that added greatly to the seating capacity, have since been removed. Perhaps it did not seat one thousand persons the day of its dedication but there was probably standing room for those who could not be seated. When we consider that the only two Methodist Bishops that were at that time in America took part in those services, it is no wonder that the church was full. Henry Boehm the Bishop's other companion, was also an able preacher and doubtless took part in the service.

On May 10, 1813, a conference was held for the purpose of deciding a name for the church. It was incorporated as the Peru Methodist Episcopal Church on May 28, 1813, and so recorded in the County Clerk's Office, Volume D. Page 240.

The following information has been taken from the original minutes of Church meetings for the years 1813-1930.

The minutes of the meetings available from 1813-1871, all begin: "The Male members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Peru met.."

In 1817, they voted with the consent of Br. Clough that he, the said Br. David Clough, take charge of the Meeting House for the ensuing year; see fires kept up when necessary and sweep the Meeting House once a month in the gallery and once in two weeks below and the said Br. David Clough is to receive for his yearly compensation eight dollars payable quarterly. Br. Clough is to see the house shut and fires safe after service.

In 1817--Rev. Randall Hobart Circuit Steward, received the collection from the service, \$1.45.

In 1823--Br. Royal Dewey was appointed as tithing man to preserve the peace at Public Meetings and keep order on all occasions of worship. Br. Randall Nobert was appointed to keep the Meeting House clear of dogs.

In 1825--Br. Clough was appointed to keep the church yard clear of cattle, hogs, etc. He was also requested to inform one of the brethren that he MUST keep his cow out of the church yard this year.

in 1826—Voted that a collection be taken once every month for the purpose of furnishing the house with fuel, candles, making fires, sweeping the Meeting House and all the necessary repairs and the Circuit Steward would take charge of the money.

In 1830--The Male members and trustees voted to raise two hundred dollars for the purchase of heavy furniture and iron ware and to purchase a cow for the use of the circuit Preacher who shall be appointed to preach to us from time to time and to build an addition to the Parsonage house and to underpin the old part of the Preacher's house.

1830--Sunday School organized.

1832--Chauncey Stoddard (founder of the Congregational Church - see History of Congregational Church) was elected a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

1837--Horse sheds were enlarged.

1841--Dr. Cole rented the parsonage for \$40 per year. The rent would be reduced to \$35 if he only stayed until Spring.

1846--First alterations to church. It was well bricked up on the outside. The galleries were torn out.

1847--36 slips (pews) on the audience floor of the house were to be rented for one year. The remainder were to be free. The sexton was to receive the rent of one slip for one year in full for past services.

1847--The church basement was to be finished off with the privilege to rent the same for the use of a school, until paid for. (This basement was the only place in the village there was to hold public meetings so Elections Days School, Singing School, and Lodge meetings were held here.)

1851--They resolved to sell Parsonage lot belonging to the M.E. Church in Peru and purchase the house and lot belonging to Thelma Field (the present residence of Gil Hulett Jr.) for a parsonage for said church.

1851--"Resolved that this society use a ten cent piece for a seal, the Eagle side."

1853--A penny collection be taken every sabbath to defray expenses of sexton for services, light and fuel.

1855--The sexton has the job of seating the congregation, added to his numerous duties. His salary, \$30 per year.

1857--Graveyard fenced in.

1859--Churchyard fenced.

1867--A Choirster appointed.

1868--S. Haff allowed to build a fence around his lot in the burying ground.

A collection to be taken every Sunday to defray expenses.

Resolved to charge Mrs. E. Elmore \$3 per month for basement for a school.

1869--10 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet of west side of the M.E. Church Society burial ground be reserved for the burial of transient persons.

The building committee was authorized to build a belfry and procure a bell for the same. The work was done by Rufus Prescott of Keeseville at a cost of \$6,000. The bell weighed 1,500 lbs. and cost \$3,000 of the previous amount. Samuel Bentley superintended the raising of the bell.

1870--Ushers appointed for the year.

1871--This year the minutes begin: "At the Annual meeting of Members and M.E. Congregation..."

1871--A committee of three to take measures to build a fence to protect the graveyard and a request that the Congregational Church Society appoint a committee to act with them.

1872--This church became a district charge. Previous to this year it furnished the preaching for several other points including Port Jackson (Valcour) West Peru and Hallock Hill.

1877--God's Acre cemetery given to the church by Jenette Everest.

1879--Sexton now gets \$1.50 for digging and filling graves and for tolling the church bell. Before the bell was bought he received \$1.00 for his services.

1892--The ladies were at liberty to raise one hundred dollars to turn the seats around and change the pulpit. A ceiling of metal panels was also put in at this time.

1899--Junior Epworth League formed.

1900--A Piazza was built on the parsonage.

1909--Caretaker elected for God's Acre Cemetery 25¢ per hour.

1919--A camp meeting was held in Peru. An account of this camp meeting was written by Rev. Buel Goodsell. His son Daniel Goodsell gives the Peru Methodist Church partial claim to a Bishop.

Buel Goodsell married Adaline Ferris daughter of Nathan Ferris. Their son Daniel was born in Newburgh, New York in 1841. He spent much of his boyhood with his grandparents on the Nathan Ferris farm (Roger Forrence Farm). He attended school at the Keeseville Academy. Later he became a very famous preacher. He was elected Bishop in 1888.

1922--Memorial Windows were placed in the church. The windows were gifts mostly of members of the congregation and each window contained the name of the donor.

1957--M.E. Church razed. The bell purchased in 1869, was sold back to the foundry in Troy.

THE PERU CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The church was organized by Rev. Stephen Kinsley, at the house of Chauncey Stoddard (the house presently occupied by the Earl Ladd family) in Peru Village on April 8, 1822, and consisted originally of 11 members. They were set off from the church in Chesterfield. It was associated with Essex Consociation.

The following information has been taken from original churches minutes and reports.

1828--In October 1828 complaints were brought against Brother and Sister Stoddard. Charges in the complaint were:

1. For publicly, in written statement, charging the church with having broken covenant with them.
2. For accusing in the same manner and at the same time some of the members of the church with crimes or faults.
3. For refusing to bring regularly to trial before the church or a council the charges made against the church and some of the members.

After hearing before three ministers, as referees, Chauncey and Matilda Stoddard were excommunicated. They later joined the Methodist Church.

Church meetings during this period were held in the homes or in the Peru Village schoolhouse.

1830--Resolved expedient and advisable for this church to put themselves under the care of Champlain Presbytery.

It was voted that the female members of the church be requested to express their views as to the expediency of becoming Presbyterian.

The church presented a request through its duly-appointed delegates to the Presbytery of Champlain while in session in Fort Covington in 1830, to be connected with it.

The same was granted, and it "was received into full communion with presbytery" under the care and advisment of presbytery, it was a congregational church defacto.

1832--Resolved that this church become Presbyterian, which was agreed unanimously.

1833--January 2, Resolved that the record of Jan. 27, 1832 be so corrected as to read: "Resolved that this church be called the first Congregational Church of Peru under the care of the Presbytery.

1833--The Congregational Church was built.

1835--The church was dedicated.

1839--Resolved that the church furnish for the use of our minister and church 25 cords of good sound wood to be delivered on or before the 1st day of February 1840. It was apportioned among 21 men. Some were asked for four cords and some for $\frac{1}{2}$ cord.

1839--A committee was appointed to purchase a parsonage.

1840--Motion made to apply to the Home Missionary Society for \$100 for the support of our minister.

Brother Cook was willing to settle over this church and labor in connection with the members of this church for four hundred dollars per year together with the use of Parsonage and firewood. For the first year Brother Cook would make a donation to the Church and Society of fifty dollars.

1841--Voted that the clerk pay Deacon Sterns one dollar from any monies in his hands belonging to the church for the purpose of defraying expenses as a delegate to Presbytery at Malone.

For many years during the early period of this church, Preparatory lectures were held on Friday afternoons at 2:00 P.M. Sometimes church business was conducted at these meetings, other times "conversations" were conducted on the general welfare of the church and its members. At other times, individual grievances were often brought before the group. They were charges of unchristian conduct, use of profanity or obscene language and bad debts. Many instances of these were cited in the church records. This group seemed to settle infractions which might be settled today in a court of law.

1855--After a discussion on slavery, it was resolved: "That the delegate of this church to the meeting of Presbytery be, and is hereby instructed to cooperate with these members of Presbytery and who propose that more efficient measures be adopted by the General Assembly at its next meeting, June, 1855, to free ourselves from being partakers in the sin of slavery, but not fellowshiping with those who persist in this sin."

1862--Rev. Moses Thatcher came and relieved the depressed condition of the church. There had apparently not been a regular minister for four years.

1863--"It was voted unanimously in view of the cold and indifferent state of religion in the church, particularly, and in the community, to observe Friday, subsequently changed to Saturday the 31st, as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer."

The following resolution was also adopted: Resolved that attendance upon dancing schools and public dances is contrary to the principles and spirit of the Gospel; and that members of the church who engage in such practices should be subjected to discipline as for any other immorality. It is also enjoined and expected that parents connected with the church will, to the extent

of their ability, instruct, advise and restrain their children from attending such immoral and injurious schools and assemblies."

1867--From August 1, 1866 they were without a pastor and only occasional services were held until January 1867 when Rev. George T. Everest came.

A proposal was made in December to change the name from Congregational to Presbyterian. A committee reported that 20 out of 39 were in favor of changing the name.

1869--In February a large majority were in favor of its being known as the First Presbyterian Church of Peru. This report was accepted but no action was taken.

From the Annual Report of that year, "A good degree of brotherly love prevails among us; for all of which we thank God and take courage. Intemperance appears to be on the decrease. There is no more or less of Sabbath desecration, profanity and other devices but in this respect our condition is not essentially different from other towns adjoining."

Through this period of the church records, we find many of the before mentioned trials being held. The results were excommunication or all confession before the congregation and reinstatement.

1878--A special meeting was held February 15th. "Circumstances have arisen which indicate that the name and denominational character of this church are misunderstood....That this church continue to be known and designated as it has been since its organization as the First Congregational Church of Peru."

1886--On motion and vote the trustees were authorized to sell the parsonage of the First Congregational Church if in their judgement, it would be in the best interest of said church.

On motion and vote the trustees are instructed to procure the services of Rev. John H. Sargent as pastor of said church provided sufficient means can be raised to defray expenses of said church for the coming year.

1890--Ladies Missionary Society formed August 31.

1896--\$50 raised for the church by a lake excursion.

1901--It was the unanimous decision of session that in consequence of the deep snow and bad roads during the winter and the impossibility to get society out that the matter of raising a twentieth century fund was neglected.

1903--Mr. Coombs became the new preacher. Presbytery met in October to ordain Mr. Coombs.

November 4, 1903, Mr. Coombs and wife took a vacation to December 12 on account of Scarlet Fever in the village. Churches were closed for public services for six weeks.

1905--Trustees were authorized to put a slate roof on the north side of the church. They also conferred on a steel ceiling for

the church.

1906--During balance of church year, no session was held, by sickness of clerk or absence. Holding church service in P.M. we have been badly broken up. We now have a resident pastor. We hope to do better.

1914--Furnace installed in Parsonage at a cost of \$135. Half of cost to be paid by minister and half raised by subscription.

1915--Ladies Aid purchased pew holders for communion cups.

1916--Every member canvas. The village was divided into four districts and the country into two districts. The village districts were covered by four teams of two men each and the country districts were held over until the roads improved (March).

1918--Pastor authorized to order a service flag size 3' x 5' with eleven stars upon same.

Church closed one month for repairs.

1919--At the bidding of the Board of Health the church had been closed seven weeks in this year.

1921--Stereoptican Bible Lectures given.

Christmas Sunday evening offering sent for Russian Famine Relief.

Hardwood floor in the church.

1922--April 8th and 9th Centennial held.

1925--Prayer Meeting was held every Wednesday evening during the winter, at different homes.

During this period of the church history, a motion was made at the Annual Meeting to try and keep the church open for another year.

1930--Rev. Frank Hickman wrote the following letter August 31, 1930: "at the request of the session of this church, I wish to present my resignation as the pastor of this church to take effect at the end of September, the time designated by the session that the church wanted my pastorate to cease, since the plan is to close the church indefinitely after that date."

1934--Music Committee voted to robe the choir.

It was the opinion of the session that the efforts of the Ladies Aid have been most commendable, but that they should limit their money making activities to four or five per year. We respectfully urge them, however, to continue free social activities.

1935--Discussion as to whether the church should go on daylight saving time or remain on standard time.

1937--August 30, 1937, at noon a meeting was held to discuss federation with M.E. Church. Miss Thelma Sartwell (now Mrs. Glen

Lea) moved that the Congregational Church elect a committee of five to meet with a like committee from the M.E. Church to draw up Articles of Federation to be submitted to each member of both congregations. Motion seconded by Fred Hunter.

The committee elected: Mrs. E. Sartwell, William Finney, Jr., W.H. Mason, Dr. Everett, and Mrs. Cousins.

THE PERU COMMUNITY CHURCH

"Our story begins in 1937, when two young laymen, one a member of the Methodist Church in Peru, and the other a member of the Presbyterian Church in Peru, were playing tennis on the community courts. They fell to talking about their churches and agreed that one strong Protestant church in the village could better serve the people than two smaller and necessarily weaker ones. Then and there they pledged themselves to talk the matter over among people of their respective churches. As a result, a committee was later appointed and articles of Federation were drawn up under the guidance of the Rev. Paul V. Hydon." PERU PLAN - Thomas.

Rev. Paul Hydon had come as a union pastor for \$2,200. He served the ME. Church, Congregational Church, and South Plattsburg. The M.E. Church paid \$1,200 on salary, furnished the parsonage and the expenses at the Church. The Congregational Church paid \$600 on the salary and \$200 on expenses. South Plattsburg paid \$400 on salary.

These articles of Federation were to be voted on by both churches. It was agreed that a 75% vote in each church would be necessary in order to put the agreement into effect. The first votes were 84% in the Methodist Church and 73½% in the Presbyterian. The committee felt that it was unfortunate not to proceed when an overwhelming majority were in favor. It was agreed to put the articles to a test for three years.

1939--The Ladies Aid combined their kitchens and their societies. Weekday school religion classes were begun in grades 1-6.

1940--After a slight revision of the Articles, another vote was taken. This time 98% of one church were in favor and 90% of the other church.

"The Federated Church continued to function as one church under the name of Community Church and was governed by these articles of federation." PERU PLAN - Thomas

The two church buildings were used alternately for periods of six months for worship. The other facilities were used jointly.

1943--After the Palm Sunday service it was discovered that the Methodist Church was unsafe. The worship services were immediately transferred to the Congregational Church. The Methodist Church was declared unsafe for public use.

1944--After many meetings and great thought and careful consideration the Community Church of Peru was incorporated on Dec. 19, 1944.

The following motion was taken from the minutes of a meeting held in the Congregational Church February 2, 1944.

The following resolution was offered by Mrs. Edwin Sartwell.

"Be it resolved that the First Congregational Society in the Town of Peru (now known as the Presbyterian Church) seek a complete legal affiliation with the Methodist Church of the Town of Peru to the end that the interests of the Kingdom of God in the Community might be more adequately served. And

Be it further resolved that we, the members and officials of the First Congregational Society in the Town of Peru (now known as the Presbyterian Church) do hereby instruct and authorize the Trustees of the First Congregational Society of the Town of Peru (now known as the Presbyterian Church) to enter into an agreement for the consolidation of the First Congregational Society of the Town of Peru (now known as the Presbyterian Church) with the Methodist Society in the Town of Peru according to the provisions for such procedure as contained in the Religious Corporations Law No. 13 of the State of New York. And

Be it further resolved that the trustees of said church, carry out the above resolutions in conformance with the provisions of the rules and practices of the Presbytery of Champlain."

This was seconded by Mrs. Charles Burdick. A vote was taken and it was unanimously carried.

This was the first incorporated Federation in the State.

1946--Mr. & Mrs. Club formed.

Valcour Church sold.

Clinton County Council of Churches formed.

1947--The 34 year old Methodist Church was sold at auction. It was to be made into an apartment house. The sale fell through. It was later bought by Dr. Edwin Sartwell.

1948--The Official Board asked the Mr. & Mrs. Club to take over a Nursery Class during Church services.

The Official Board authorized the pastor to receive or transfer members without Official Board consent.

The first Lord's Acre Auction held.

The new sound system presented to the church.

1949--A new addition was built on the church and the new hall was used for the first time for the Election Day Dinner.

1950--The new organ was dedicated.

Fellowship Center was dedicated in July. Names were submitted for the building by all the Church Societies. The name submitted by the Yokefellows class was the one chosen.

Three "Let's Go the Church Sunday" signs erected on the edges of the village.

1954--Amendment made to Article III of the by-laws changed to extend membership in the church to other protestant denominations. The Parsonage was remodeled.

1951--Double sessions of Sunday School were held on a trial basis.

1960--Creed adopted to be posted in the church vestibule.

1960--Mr. McGaughey elected Minister of the year by The Clinton County Council of Churches.

Double sessions in church.

First Exchange Student, Irene Schweimler from Germany.

PREACHERS ON PERU CIRCUIT

In 1824, the Plattsburg Circuit was divided and the larger portion of it, including Peru, Schuyler Falls, Saranac, and Redford, Jay and the Wilderness, was formed into the Peru Circuit with a membership of 665. It was larger than any other in the Champlain District and equaled by few in the New York Conference outside of New York City.

1811 Rev. Jacon Beman - Rev. Herman Gorlich
1824 Rev. Ibri Cannon - Rev. Orin Pier
1825 Rev. James Covell - Rev. Orin Pier
1826 Rev. James Covell - Rev. P. Doane
1827 Rev. C. Pomeroy - Rev. Jacob Leonard, Rev. Elija Crane
1828 Rev. C. Pomeroy - Rev. Jacob Lawrence
1829 Rev. H. Mecker - Rev. W. Richards

The Jay Circuit was formed from the Peru Circuit in 1830.

1830 Rev. D. Brayton - Rev. A. Lyon
1831 Rev. D. Brayton - Rev. A. Lyon
1832 Rev. S. Lyon - Rev. J. Belknap
1833 Rev. S. Lyon - Rev. J.B. Wood
1834 Rev. J. Marshall - Rev. J. Harlan
1835 Rev. C. Wade - Rev. C. Chamberlin
1836 Rev. A. Witherspoon - Rev. C. Leonard
1837 Rev. A. Witherspoon - Rev. W. Henry
1839-40 Rev. S. Stiles - Rev. C. Chamberlin

Redford and Saranac became an independent circuit and the same year Schuyler Falls was set off and the Peru Circuit included: Peru Village, Pt. Jackson, Salmon River and West Plattsburg with one minister.

1841	Rev. F.W. Smith	1852-53	Rev. B. Pomeroy
1842	Rev. H. Chase	1854-55	Rev. J. Thompson
1843	Rev. H. Chase	1856-57	Rev. A. Ford - Rev. J. Westcott, Ass't
1844	Rev. P.P. Harmer		Rev. W. Clark
1845	Rev. S. Coleman	1858	Rev. T.W. Harwood
1846	Rev. W. Ames	1859-60	Rev. W.J. Heath
1847	Rev. A.A. Fare	1861	Rev. S. Gordon
1848	Rev. S. Howes	1862-63	Rev. G.W. Fitch
1849-51	Rev. C.R. Morris	1864	

1865-66 Rev. G.S. Gold
 1867-68 Rev. W.B. Wood
 1869-71 Rev. E. Turner

In 1872 this church became a district charge.

PREACHERS - PERU CHARGE

1872-75	Rev. J.W. Thompson	1889-92	Rev. A.O. Spoor
1875-76	Rev. F.W. Harwood	1892-97	Rev. S.C. Elkins
1876-80	Rev. D.W. Lewis	1897-01	Rev. J.B. Horton
1880-82	Rev. H.T. Munger	1901-05	Rev. F.T. Love
1882-84	Rev. C.H. Richmond	1905-10	Rev. H.E. Titus
1884-86	Rev. C.A. Bradford	1910-12	Rev. A.L. Christie
1886-89	Rev. C.J. Mott	1912-16	Rev. John L. Cole
		1916-18	Rev. J.W. Swartzman

In 1918 South Plattsburg was added to the Peru Charge.

1918-20 Rev. G.W. Burk
 1920-24 Rev. J.E. Barker
 1924-27 Rev. J.J. Prudom
 1927-32 Rev. R.R. Mitchell
 1932-36 Rev. D.R. Lewis

In October, 1936, Rev. D.R. Lewis went to Raybrook Sanatorium. The pulpit was filled for the next nine months by guest preachers.

Rev. Lewis returned in July and preached until December 1, 1937. The church was without a pastor until Rev. Paul Hydon came in the spring of 1938.

PREACHERS FOR CONGREGATIONAL (PRES) CHURCH

The list is not complete but is accurate as possible at this time. Dates and names are not always included in the old records.

1822	Rev. Mr. Hinsley	1862-66	Rev. Moses Thatcher
	Rev. Mr. Armstrong	1867-69	Rev. Mr. Everest
1828	Rev. Mr. Crosley	1870-77	Rev. C. Ransome
1829	Rev. Cyrus Comstock	1878	Rev. Warren Landon
1830	Rev. J.L. Edgerton	1886-88	Rev. John Sargent
1833	Rev. Mr. Hickok	1888-90	Rev. Mr. McChatterton
1839	Rev. Mr. Cook	1896-01	Rev. Henry Dean
1843-47	Rev. Mr. Cook	1901-02	Rev. Mr. Henshaw
1848	Rev. Mr. Mattuck	1903-04	Rev. Mr. Coombs
	Rev. Mr. Smith	1906	Rev. Mr. Pile
1849-52	Rev. Mr. Barber		Rev. Mr. Taylor
1852	Rev. Mr. Everest	1914-16	Rev. Raymond Stearns
1853-58	Rev. Mr. Williams	1917-19	Rev. Mr. Fuller
1858	Rev. Mr. Stone	1920-24	Rev. A.B. Hyde
	Rev. Mr. Southworth	1925	Rev. Angus MacMillan
	Rev. Mr. Everest	1929	Rev. Frank Hickman
1860	Rev. Mr. Cambell	1933-35	Rev. J.P. Pierce
		1935-37	Rev. Charles W. Scheid

PREACHERS FOR PERU COMMUNITY CHURCH

1938-42	Rev. Paul Hydon
1942-47	Rev. Robert Thomas
1947-48	Major William Malpass
1948-52	Rev. George Morgan
1952-54	Rev. Dimiter Wassen
1954-56	Rev. George Morgan
1956	Rev. Melvin McGaughey

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
HARKNESS

Plattsburg Press Sept. 1, 1960

In Jan. 1880, the congregation decided to build a church. They bought a Presbyterian Church in Redford for \$125. Then began the task of taking down the building, board by board, to be transported by wagons and ox-teams eight miles.

A notebook kept at the time states that 20 donors contributed \$145.64 with additional contributions of \$96.15. A total of \$241.80 was spent for lumber, for paper and bricks.

The church was first called the Zion Methodist Church. The first pastor in this building was probably M. Smith.

This year, 1960, the church has made some changes that would make one wonder if they were in the same church of 25 years ago.

The church had been completely redecorated and an oil furnace installed. Perhaps the furnace made one of the biggest changes. Aside from providing the congregation with heat, it was the first step in the redecoration.

Previous to the furnace, a kerosene stove sat on one side of the sanctuary and a combination wood and coal stove on the other. Both had pipes stretching up the wall and across the ceiling to the back. The walls of the church have been painted pale blue. The ceiling is white with a mosaic pattern painted blue. Carpeting also has been laid.

Rev. Frederick W. Ohr, the present Pastor, presided at the Centennial Celebration. The District Superintendent, Rev. Hobart F. Goewey, Ph.D. gave the Centennial Address. Former pastors of the church who participated in the service were Rev. E.A. Hannay, Rev. William Malpass and Rev. Lola White.

A FACE-LIFTING FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PERU

Funds had been accumulated for some time by the ladies of the Presbyterian Church of Peru. Fairs, festivals and other fund raising activities slowly brought the monies to the necessary total for the work to begin repairing the church building. Church services were held in the Methodist Church on Main Street, while the old plaster was removed from the walls and ceiling of the sanctuary. The old box pulpit and gallery were removed. The wood lathe was plastered with the brown coat, and a few days later covered with the hard white finish. Prescott and Weston, of Keeseville, manufactured the new pulpit. The old chimneys at the rear of the large room were removed and the rear walls firmed out. An arched recess was constructed behind the pulpit. The organ and choir were to occupy the southwest corner. Before this time the congregation had to turn to see the singers at the rear of the church.

Mr. Samuel Bentley supervised the repairs. The carpenters were associated with Prescott and Weston, of Keeseville. Mr. John Booth supervised the plastering and finishing.

An anonymous donor provided a handsome new carpet for the pulpit.

One hundred dollars and the badly cracked old bell were exchanged for the new 1,186 pound bell. The manufacturers, Meneely and Kimberly, shipped the giant for \$30 freight charge from West Troy to Peru. The bell arrived on a Saturday and was in place the following Monday. Funds to pay for the bell were raised by subscription.

Reverend W.W. Cook was pastor at that time.

SELECTED ITEMS FROM BUILDING COMMITTEE
 ZION METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 and
 MINUTES OF QUARTERLY CONFERENCES

Jan. 2, 1880	to Jho. H. Myers for church	\$125.00
Jan.	Recording deed & trustees certificate	1.75
Jan. 16	for lime	5.00
Jan. 20	to boys at Redford for saving nails	1.00
Jan. 21	Mr. Hickey for laying wall	6.00
Feb. 16	Mr. de Lozon to pay board bill	8.00
Feb.	Paid boys for saving nails	2.00
Mar. 15	5 bush lime	1.25
Mar. 13	1,200 ft. A. 4½ Clapboards	9.00
Mar. 24	500 Brick	3.60

Sept. 22, 1879, 2nd Quarterly Conference - Bro. Lyman Putnam was appointed committee to engage teams to draw lumber to pay for the furniture bought at Mr. Clough.

Bro. Israel Putnam was appointed committee to raise money to pay for the cane seated chairs.

March 6, 1882, a committee to purchase parsonage; A. Durgan, T. Allen, L. Putnam, L.M. Howes.

October 21, 1882 - Resolved to place in the cellar for the pastor's use the Societies share of potatoes.

Resolved that the original building committee be authorized to collect unpaid subscriptions and pay indebtedness on church.

January 6, 1883 - Moved and carried that a committee be appointed consisting of J. Redmond, D. Denton, E. Bailey to make a bee in order to draw and cut wood for the church.

May 16, 1900 Committee for raising Pastor's salary:
 Durganville - Aggie Denton, Mrs. S. Durgan
 Peasleeville - Susie Howes, Mrs. Earl Whitney
 Patent - Joseph Westcott, George Allen
 Norrisville - Zebulon Morgan

JAMES W. BANKER OF PERU, 93 YEARS OLD

Native of West Peru Observing Anniversary Today; Data On Life
Is Given

Mr. Banker was born Jan. 28, 1843 and says he paved the way for Pres. McKinley who was born Jan. 29, 1843.

Though having been blind for the past ten years and at present very feeble, he rises at 6:30 every morning and retires at 8:00 p.m. These habits never vary. He was born in a small log cabin in West Peru across from and a little west of the present residence of John J. Downs. He is the eighth son of Ezra and Sarah Kent Banker. The seventh son being the late Benjamin F. Banker. Sarah Kent, his mother, and the distinction of being a near relative of Nathan Beman.

At the time James was born his father, Ezra, was making iron in Saranac Hollow and being informed of the arrival of a new son, thought perhaps Sally and the children might be in need of food so he purchased a half barrel of flour, loaded the sack on his back and walked home with it. Six or seven years later the family moved from there to the place now owned by Edmund Jemery and in this home a little sister was born, the first and only girl in the family. She is Mrs. Elizabeth Whitney of Peasleeville and is 88 years of age. She and James are the only two left of the family of 10 children, one having died in infancy.

It was the rule in those early days for the school children to boast of the large families from which they came, but the Banker family usually won out for one of the boys would speak up and say: "There are eight boys of us, and we each have a little sister", not explaining the fact that the one little girl was sister to them all.

While living in this house James attended his first school, at the Stone Schoolhouse (where Mary Connors lived at Irwin's Corners), and also earned his first money. Quoted by Mr. Banker: "Being a small boy, the teacher would dismiss me early so I could ride home with the ore teams and when we would get along by Griff Lewis, the sand was deep and they would stop their horses to rest and I would get out and dance in the sand for which they would each give me a penny. This was the first money I ever earned".

When about nine years old, the family moved again into the woods one and one-half miles west of Peasleeville Village. There they bought their home and he helped his father clear the land by burning the trees and cutting some to make into charcoal. Ox teams were used instead of horses. At 12 years of age he hired out to work. He drove one of Honsinger's teams from Trombley's ore bed at Redford to the Peasleeville forge.

This is what he tells of their lighting system. The first light I remember of having was a cup filled with grease from which hung a rag. The part hanging over the edge of the cup was lighted. Next came the tallow candles, made by his mother but these were used only on special occasions. Whale oil in lamps with two tubes were the next. His brother, Benjamin, was working at Saranac Forks and came home one day with a kerosene lamp. Every one was afraid of it, but when it came time to light it, it was placed in the center of the table and Ben, with a match, reached at arms length and lighted it while the others stood at the outside doors ready to get out expecting the house to blow up.

When a young man, he sold a horse to a nephew who was working in Ellenburgh, so one bright winter's day he hitched the horse to the cutter and drove to Ellenburgh to stay overnight at Uncle Elmer Kent's and see if he could get his pay for the horse. Not saying that he got his pay, he started for home the next day. The weather was fine when he started but such a blizzard as he got into going over Dannemora Mountain. He could hardly see his horse but he noticed that he passed a black object beside the road. He wondered if any one could be out in such a storm. He halted and called back to come on. A woman almost frozen to death finally reached the sleigh and helping her in, quote "I told the little pony to get out and we went skiting down the mountain. When we reached Dannemora the sun was shining and all was calm but we were as white as snow birds. The woman's name was King, and I often wonder if she is living".

He tells the story of how he and his brother captured and returned two escaped convicts from Dannemora prison. They were hiding behind a large pine stump in the pasture east of the house. The boys covered them, took them to the house, gave them a good supper and kept them over night. After breakfast, he with his brother Charles and Warden Place, each armed with a gun, took them in a two seated wagon back to Dannemora. For this they received one hundred fifty dollars.

He is very proud of the fact that he helped to place the Peasleeville church where it now stands. It was moved from Redford. He was chorister of the choir for over twenty years and also a member of the church until he and the other members of the family were united by letter to the M.E. Church of Peru.

He tells of the wonderful Sunday School picnics they used to have in the early days of the Peasleeville church. The one that impressed him most was held in a virgin hard timbered grove in a field now owned by Hubert Stearns and just south of James Crommie's house. The people came in four horse loads. One driven by Alvie Emery, on lumber wagons, seated on hayracks with holes made along the sides of the rack, in which were placed cedar trees which furnished shade. Many others came with their own rigs, while many more came horse back. This was the first time he ever saw a woman riding a horse. She was Helen McBride who soon after became the bride of Wash McColloch, who accompanied her on another horse.

In those days, the poor class of people had never heard of a safe deposit box and if they happened to possess a few dollars they did not know what to do with them. James was working away from home and every week or two when he came back he would hand his mother his earnings, this she deposited in the toe of a long sock and filled the rest of the foot and leg with old rags to disguise her treasure. Then that was safely hidden away. A few dollars were added every week until there were one hundred and fifty. Then she informed James that she and his father did not feel safe there with so much money in the house so he took it to Plattsburgh and deposited it in a bank. This was his first banking business.

He says he can always remember the first time he voted at a general election for his vote helped to elect Abraham Lincoln president for his second term. He is also proud to tell that he was the first man to carry the U.S. mail from Peru to Peasleeville. This was in Horace Greeley's time and the most important paper was the Weekly Tribune.

Six of his brothers were in the Civil War. He was drafted but was not accepted because of his left arm being crippled by infantile paralysis. Four of the boys returned home after the war. Jefferson was taken prisoner and died in Andersonville prison. George started home on a furlough but was taken sick on the train and died in a hospital in New York City. He is buried on David's Island with thousands of other Civil War soldiers. About two years ago one of Mr. Banker's daughters, Mrs. Bertha Coates, visited this cemetery and one of the attendants escorted her to the grave of Uncle George.

At the age of 35, Mr. Banker decided that the best thing for him to do was to get married and settle down. He sold Bradford Ormsby a little corner of his farm, the ground on which the house of James Ormsby now stands, for 7 dollars, and with this was the pastor's fee, he was united in marriage to Nettie A. Bowdish of West Schuyler Falls. He always was a lover of peace and harmony so he said, "Net, we won't live in a quarrel, like some married folks do. When you throw fire, I'll throw water". Their children never remember of ever witnessing the above performance.

He says he owes his longevity to the fact that he never got drunk, never bought himself an ounce of tobacco and never worried or hurried.

Beatrice B. Signor

Clipping from Plattsburgh Press-Republican, 1936

DESCRIPTION OF KEESE HOMESTEAD GIVEN TO EACH VISITOR - (1948-1974)

July 27, 1948

The R. Percy Keese Homestead
Merritt S. Keese

The house was built by Peter Keese, grandfather of the present owner, R. Percy Keese. Cornerstone laid in 1837 - four years in building, timber hewn and seasoned on farm. Sandstone from quarry near Plattsburgh. The original grant was 425 acres bought from John Taylor, realtor, later increased to 640 acres by purchase, now 300 acres. Fifth, sixth and seventh generations now living on the place.

Hall

Original floor covering, paint, hanging lamp, and stair carpet. Picture (artist's proof) of Lincoln and his cabinet. Indenture made to Richard Keese from John Taylor, Zephaniah Platt Great Location in 1792. Painting of "Jacob's Dream" on landing, 110 years old.

Front Parlor

Original paint - ceiling decorated about 65 years ago. Silver hardware, original mirrors put in when house built. Piece of original paper from one of the bedrooms. Sperm-oil lamp. Portrait of Peter Keese, builder of the house, painted by his son Richard II. Portrait of Uncle Silas Arnold painted by his nephew Richard P. Keese II. Landscape over fireplace also by Richard P. Keese II thought to be of Whiteface Mt. and Lake Placid. Double seat for wagon, 185 years old. Tracy shutters. In front of fireplace - old corn-popper, foot warmer, and pipe tobacco box. This Richard P. Keese was the father of R. Percy Keese.

Back Parlor

Portrait of Richard P. Keese painted by himself while seated before a mirror. Picture over mantel painted on wood. One Flemish Dutch, early 17th century handmade chairs, passed down in the family. Two rush bottom chairs about 185 years old. Clock and candleabras on mantel 120 years old. An exact replica of Raphael's "Madonna of the Chair". Miscellaneous collection - hair bracelet, napkin holder, cameos of Mabel Studwell Keese' parents, piece of George Washington original casket. Phebe Merritt, grandmother of Mabel S. Keese, a Quaker preacher, witnessed the reburial of George Washington. Each witness was given a piece of the original casket.

Front Bedroom

English Mahogany bed over 100 years old. Handmade bedspread over 30 years old. Sewing stand. On dresser, skeletonized leaves about 90 years old. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Studwell, father and mother of Mrs. R. Percy Keese (Mabel).

Middle Bedroom

Four post bedstead. Bonnett box and Quaker bonnet. Quaker doll exhibited in 1876 at Centennial in Philadelphia. Steel engraving of founders of "Woman Suffrage Movement". Salem rocker. Sewing stand 135 years old. Clock, grandmother's about 100 years old.

Sitting Room

Portrait of grandmother Merritt. Pembroke table. Oil painting of farm by Richard P. Keese. (As it looked originally showing the second house.)

Dining Room

Originally the kitchens. Fireplace and Dutch oven with peel for removing loaves of bread. Davenport about 135 years old. Early American desk. Clock and candlesticks about 145 years old. On sideboard, pickled oysters bought in 1868.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE KEESE MANSION

The Keese Homestead: the huge stone walls reach high in their straightness. Quarried sandstone in shades of buff change their tones with the passing clouds. Full sun seems to reduce the variety of color while a muted sky brings out the subtle hues of yellow, tan, buff and brown. Scattered reddish and maroon stones contrast the lighter, more common background.

The walls tilt inward slightly with the height. Corners are straight with interlaced corner blocks. Each building block was cut to an exactness demanded by the stone cutter masters of nearly two centuries ago. Ton-upon-ton of stone was carefully fitted, as the walls rose from the nearly three yard wide footings. The cellar alone reached eleven feet from the cool depths at the base to the huge hand-hewn timbers supporting the wide pine flooring.

Two feet above the ground level a seemingly perfectly sawed limestone ledge circumscribes the foundation. The many cellar windows are delineated by a limestone sill and lintel. Each window mentioned has a 3" thick pine frame and glass panes. Steel vertical bars protect the cellar from intruders. Storm windows and screens exist for every cellar window.

The "L" shaped stone mansion consists of a front section built to coax a wealthy man's daughter from the lower Hudson rolling hills, with the gracious living she was accustomed, to the wilderness of the Lake Champlain Shores. Eleven foot ceilings throughout the front section upstairs and down. Plastered walls, plaster moldings, eight-foot doors, sterling silver door knobs and locks, keys for every room, including outside and inside doors, and closet doors.

A 200 foot long colonnade of maples span the sandstone walk leading westerly from the Union Road to the front entrance. A four-foot wide door opens to the front foyer. To the south is the front parlor, to the north is a bedroom. West of this bedroom is another bedroom. West of the front parlor is the back parlor. Each of these four rooms boasts a fireplace, perfect symmetry. The parlors were designed with elegance in mind. Fireplaces are of black marble from Italy. Eight foot long mirrors with polished white marble bases and gold leaf moldings at the top, face each other, east and west from the ends of the front and back parlors. A nine foot wide archway joins the front and back parlors. Sliding doors close to separate these rooms. Directly west from the foyer is the sitting room, possibly the dining room of the wealthy early owners. On the north side of the sitting room is a walk-in china closet, with built in cabinets and draws for silver and linens. Shelves are above the cabinets, on two sides, extending to the ceiling. A doorway at the south end of the west wall of the sitting room leads into a quaint entry-way at the south side of the house.

Another door from this entry-way opens into the dining room.

This room is lovely with two six foot high windows on the south, a doorway leading to the garage on the west, another doorway to the back stairways for rooms over the dining room and kitchen, another doorway to the cellar stairs, a built-in dutch oven, and a brick fireplace, all on the west wall. An iron crane swings within the fireplace. A huge old-fashioned potbelly stove is near the fireplace.

Between the dining room and sitting room there is an alcove, for an office desk, telephone, or small study. The kitchen is directly north of the dining room. Along the north wall are cabinets above, and counter below. An iron sink is situated beneath the single window. A hand water pump is at each end of the sink, one for water from the cistern, the other from the well, both below the flooring of the back kitchen. Built-in cupboards are on the east wall. On the south, to the right as you enter from the dining room, is a dumbwaiter. First you open the door, about 2' square. Next, place milk, eggs, butter, cheese, etc., on the two shelves. Pull the pin holding the waiter at that level, and slowly lower the elevator by pulling down on the appropriate rope. The shelves may be loaded or unloaded from the cool basement, which acted as the refrigerator of olden days. The remainder of the south wall has a dry sink and a gas stove. There is a doorway on the west end of the room that leads into the summer kitchen. Two steps downward bring you into a 25' x 25' room. A doorway of this room leads outdoors.

A large wooden box with a metal lining and cover contains charcoal. Water from the eave troughs feeds into this box, and is filtered before flowing into the stone bottle-shaped cistern below the floor. By lifting the trap door in the flooring, the circular top of the cistern can be seen. Careful inspection reveals the walls flaring out from the 2' diameter at top to about 9' wide and circular. The depth is 13'. Total volume is about 80 hogsheads, each hogshead being about 100 gallons.

Along the east wall is a low brick rectangular stove. Two pans are built into the top. It is for boiling maple sap to make syrup or sugar. A hood above the pans transfers the water vapor to the outside.

At the south wall a doorway leads into the back entry-way. Below the flooring along the west wall a hand-dug well is beautifully stoned up. A sideboard about 8' long contains draws and doors below, with two iron sinks on the top. A handpump on the south end of the sideboard draws water from the well. The handpump at the north end draws from the cistern. What planning!

To return to the north side of the downstairs, between the kitchen and the central bedroom, we see a doorway from the dining room into this area. A narrow hallway extends beyond the bathroom easterly, to a walk-through closet, to the central bedroom.

Again at the front foyer, a stair way along the north wall rises to a platform and turns to double back in an easterly direction,

and summits at the second floor, 13' higher than the 1st floor. A 5' by 8' oil painting of Jacob's Dream hangs on the wall at the platform. A large hallway is at the top of the stairs, with a banister around the stairwell. A window looks out to the east above the entryway. A door to the north opens to a large bedroom. Another door opposite this one opens to the southeast bedroom. A third doorway, to the south, just at the top of the stairs leads to a bedroom. West of this bedroom is another bedroom, with a narrow stairway leading down to the central hallway, between the front and middle bedrooms downstairs. Two windows of this upstairs bedroom face westward, overlooking the south entrance of the home. North of this room is a hallway leading past a huge walkin closet on the east and to the stairway leading to the attic.

At the north end of the hallway a door opens to an upstairs kitchen on the north side of the home. A window overlooks the orchard northward. On the west side of this hallway a doorway leads to a windowless room with a low ceiling, the attic of the low part of the house. A door at the west end of this room, called the darkroom, leads to the two bedrooms over the kitchen, the darkroom being above the sitting room. A narrow turning stairway leads down to the dining room from the two upstairs west bedrooms. A small window is at the head of these stairs, and another in the north west room, both overlooking the roof of the back kitchen.

From within the garage, with the two 20' wide arches facing southward, a set of steps rises to the back entryway. A door at the south is for the men's room, or outside office. The small but private office had a wood burning potbelly stove. An exterior doorway opened on the east to the lawn, diagonally from the south entrance of the main house. To the east of the doorway, to the men's room in the entryway, is another doorway, opening to a stairway leading to a second story room above the office, and a long narrow attic above the garage. Along the north wall of the back entryway a door opens to the back kitchen. On the east wall a door opens to the dining room. Beneath the floor of this entryway, beginning in the north east corner of the garage a huge set of stone stairs leads down into the cellar. Potatoes, fruit, vegetables, milk, and smoked meat was taken into storage through this entrance.

The cellar has a dirt floor. Windows are on the south and north sides up high. The ceilings are 11' high in the west room. At the center of the west wall two high reaching archs support the base of the dutch oven, fireplace and sap boiling stove. The pillars are of sandstone and the archs at the top are of bricks. In the northeast corner of this room, about the center of the house on the north side is a large room completely enclosed in stone. The only access is through a trapdoor in the flooring of the hallway between the bathroom and middle bedroom on the first floor. A doorway from the west cellar room leads into the east cellar room near the south wall. A window is in the wall between the two rooms. Steps lead up into the higher east room. A stairway

leads from this room into the front foyer upstairs. There is no cellar beneath the front and back parlors, only a crawl space, which can be entered from this room in the cellar or from an opening in the foundation on the west wall below the back parlor.

Lincoln Sunderland

WEDDING CERTIFICATE OF ELIZA ANN KEESE AND WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD

(A manuscript as written in brown ink and longhand, on a paper 22½" from top-to-bottom, and 18" from side to side, and mounted behind glass in a cherry frame, was in the Keese Homestead stone mansion on this day - January 11, 1974.)

William R. Shepherd of the Town _____ County of Saratoga, and State of New York, son of _____ Shepherd and Hannah his wife and Eliza Ann Keese, daughter of William Keese and _____ nima his wife, the former deceased, of the Town of Peru, County of Clinton, and state aforesaid, having laid their intentions of marriage with each other before two monthly meetings of the religious Society of Friends, held at Peru, in the State aforesaid, they having consent of parents, and nothing appearing to obstruct; their proposal of marriage was allowed by the meeting: These are to certify, that for the accomplishment of their intention this twenty third day of the second month, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred & thirty eight they, the said William R. Shepherd and Eliza Ann Keese, appeared in a public meeting of said Society, held at Peru, and the said William R. Shepherd taking the said Eliza Ann Keese by the hand, did on this solemn occasion declare, that he took her to be his wife; promising through devine assistance, to be unto her a kind and affectionate husband, until separated by death, or words to that effect; and then the said Eliza Ann Keese, did, in like manner, declare, that she took the said William R. Shepherd to be her husband; promising through Devine assistance, to be unto him a kind and affectionate wife, until separated by death, or words to that import. And they, the said William R. Shepherd, and Eliza Ann Keese, she according to the custom of marriage, assuming the name of her husband, as a further confirmation thereof, did then and there to these presents set their hands.

And we being present, have subscribed our names as witnesses thereof.

William R. Shepherd
Eliza Ann Shepherd

Willets Keese
David Shepherd
William A. Keese
Ruth Barker
Phebe M. Lapham
Anna Keese
Oliver Keese
Peter Keese
Oliver Keese 2nd
Mary L.F. Keese
Eliza L. Barton
Julia A. Keese
Jane E. Glove
Phebe H. Keese
Mary Rogers
Eliza T. Smith
Hannah Smith
Rachel H. Smith

Jemima Keese
Ruby Shepherd
Liesiah Keese
Pamelia W. Keese
Jemima Keese, Jan
Caroline Keese
Paulina Keese
Maria Keese
Jana Keese
Caleb D. Barton
Samuel Smith
David Osgood
John Keese
Lorrence
Benj. Sherman
Stephen Keese 2nd
Schuyler Haff
W.H. Smith

Moris Lawrence
Joseph Bouron
Harley Hewit
George C. Macey
Henry H. ?
Mary Barton
Mary Smith
Lichnorn Thorne (?)
Joseph Lapham
Awen (?) Barker
Geo. Hallock
Heart unto heart
by sweet unison are
made,
Ne'er again to
part
Until in the dust
their laid; L _____

Oliver K. Lapham
John T. Keese
Willits Macumber
Eliza D. Barker
Mary Holmes
Meriah Shepherd
Eliza Smith
Deborah Maey Shepherd

Recorded on page 117

Peru 24th of 2nd month, 1838

S.K. Smith, recorder

INDENTURE FOR SALE OF PROPERTY TO RICHARD KEESE

This indenture, made the twenty fourth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety two, between John Taylor of the City of Albany and State of New York, Esquire..of the first part, and Richard Keese of Lake Champlain Farmer..of the second part, witnesseth, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and forty eight pounds fifteen shillings lawful money of the State of New York.....to him in hand paid, by the said party of the second part, the receipt where of is hereby confessed and acknowledged; hath granted, bargained, sold, remised, released, aliened and confirmed and by these presents, doth grant bargain, sell, remise, release, alien and confirm unto the said party of the second part, (in his actual possession now being, by virtue of a bargain, sale and lease, to him thereof made, by the said party of the first part, by indenture, bearing date the day next before the day of the date of these presents, and by force of the laws for transferring of uses into possession,) and to his heirs and assigns for ever, All that certain Lott or piece of land situate lying on or in the County of Washington and the State of New York on the west side of Lake Champlain being in a Patent Granted to Zephaniah Platt bearing date the twenty eight day of February in the year one thousand seven hundred eighty seven which said Patent contains seventeen thousand nine hundred and eighty three acres, and is distinguished in the General Division of said Patent by Lott Number Twenty Two. Beginning, at the south east corner on the south Line of the Patent at a Beech tree marked N^o 13-22 thence west fifty seven chains and forty five links, thence north seventy three chains, ninety eight links to a Beech tree, ten links east of the corner stake, thence east. Fifty seven chains forty five links, to a maple saplin, thence south seventy three chains and ninety eight links to the first mentioned bounds. Containing four hundred and twenty five acres.

Together with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in any wise pertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever, of the said party of the first part, either in law or equity, of in and to the above bargained premises, with the said hereditaments and appurtenances. To have and to hold the said Lott or piece of land with the appurtenances.....to the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, to the sole and only proper use, benefit and behoof of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns for ever. And the said party of the first part, for himself his heirs, executors, and administrators, Doth covenant, grant, bargain, promise and agree, to and with the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, that the above bargained premises, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns against all and every person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim, the whole or any part of the said above mentioned and described premises, will for ever warrant and defend.

In witness whereof, the parties to these presents, have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written.

Sealed and delivered
In Presence of
Christian Miller
Abel French

John Taylor

HONORABLE RICHARD KEESE

Hon. Richard Keese, Keeseville's oldest citizen and, as is believed, the last surviving member of the XXth Congress (1827-1829) died at his home in Keeseville, on the 7th of February. Mr. Keese was born in a log cabin in that part of Peru known as "The Union", Nov. 28th, 1794, whence his father, Richard Keese, and mother removed from Dutchess county in the year 1791. His mother before her marriage, was Anna Halleck, a cousin of Fitz Greene Halleck the celebrated American poet. The elder Keese was one of the first settlers in Peru, which then included the present town of Ausable, and in 1815 both the father and his sons were extensively engaged in iron business where the village of Keeseville now stands, then known as Anderson's Falls, but which, later, was named after these pioneers. Richard Keese, the younger, received such an education as that early time afforded, and in 1813 he and his brother, John Keese, with John W. Anderson owned the entire 500 acre tract, including the site of the present village of Keeseville, and in 1818 Richard Keese owned all that portion of the tract lying on the north of the Ausable river. In 1817 he was married to Lydia Hurlbut of Ferrisburgh, Vt., who died in 1864. They had a family of eight children, only two of whom survive, Hurlbut and James. Mr. Keese was for some time president of the Essex County Bank, and also secretary of the Clinton and Essex Mutual Insurance Company. He also served as Judge of the Clinton County Court of Common Pleas, and filled many offices of minor importance.

In 1826 he was elected Representative to Congress from the Nineteenth District, then including the counties of Clinton, Franklin, Warren and Essex, being the candidate of the Republican party, which soon afterwards assumed the name "Democratic", in the faithful adherence to whose principles he never wavered, to the last. His record in Congress was an honorable one, his associates comprising the giants of that period, and his personal reminiscences, which a remarkable memory enabled him to indulge in, were replete with historic interest.

In glancing at the character of this remarkable man as the last scene closes his mortal career we take pleasure in transcribing from our columns of fifty-seven years ago the peculiarly apt words, relating to him, of his honored compatriots of that period, John Miller, John Palmer, John Lynde, and St. J.B.L. Skinner, all of whom have long since passed from earthly scenes:

"As a friend, he is warm and sincere; in business, he is intelligent, enterprising and successful; as a neighbor, he is beloved ***ardent and honest, *** in whose integrity is justly reposed unlimited confidence, *** one in whom his country has an advocate and fast friend in adversity, as well as in prosperity."

From 1826 to 1883! What an eventful period is spanned by that portion of our honored and departed friend's life, passed subsequently to his membership of the XXth Congress. In 1826 Clinton

County's population was 18,000; New York's a million and a half, and the United States twelve million: now Clinton county has over 50,000 inhabitants; New York over 5,000,000, and the United States over 50,000,000. He has seen his country go through three great wars, and before the clear and unclouded mental vision of his mature and declining manhood has passed the political and other changes attendant upon such rapid growth; and the almost magic transformations wrought in nearly every department of life and business by a wonderful progress in science and art, almost annihilating time and space, and bringing all nations of the earth into closer communication than was possible, fifty-six years ago, with different sections of one State, or even county.

Mr. Keese had been in his usual comfortable state of health until about a week before he died, when he took a severe cold which ended in pneumonia. Thus passes to his everlasting rest one of our representative men of a former generation, and as the grave closes over him the lines naturally recur of America's great poet written on the death of his Congressional associate, "Randolph of Roanoke":

Oh, Mother Earth! upon they lap
Thy weary ones receiving,
And o'er them, silent as a dream,
Thy grassy mantle weaving,
Fold softly in thy long embrace
That heart so warm and broken,
And cool its pulse of fire beneath
Thy shadows old and oaken.

J.W. HARKNESS

In the passing of J. Warren Harkness of Harkness, Clinton County has lost one of its "Grand Old Men". Death came to him on Thursday last in his eighty-eighth year.

Mr. Harkness was a man of admirable qualities who, despite his years, kept his interest in life and the affairs around him as well as events in the nation and State. He was friendly of manner, possessed a fine sense of humor, and made you feel welcome when you called at his farmhouse on one of the hills in the Harkness area. He was loved and respected by all who knew him.

His acres, located off the beaten path, comprise one of the beauty spots in this county. Mr. Harkness had lived there all his life and we know he loved it. It was our good fortune to have visited him on two occasions and we found him a genial host, a conversationalist and a man of profound wisdom. He was indeed a philosopher in the truest sense of the term. He did not ask nor expect too much of life, made the best of things, lived sanely and thought things out for himself.

Mr. Harkness was a most accommodating man and in years past he would gladly supply newsmen with information on certain subjects in which he was keenly interested and often contributed interesting articles on historic anecdotes of this area. He was a student of life and its affairs and his knowledge embraced many phases of human activity. But of late years Mr. Harkness's eyes began to fail him and he was forced to limit the scope of his reading and study, nevertheless he maintained his interest in things and was mentally active to the end.

We have too few such "Grand Old Men" left in our section. He was one of the finest citizens that we ever met in our experience, tolerant and unbiased in his outlook on religion, economic problems, race and politics. We found him slow to criticize or to condemn anybody or anything; he did not try "to hold the floor" but listened attentively to what you might have to say upon one subject or another. It was a pleasure to converse with him. He was always interesting and his attitude and manners impressed you. He was, to our way of thinking, one of nature's noblemen, and we believe the residents in the Harkness area will agree with us when we say that about him.

He will be missed for long years to come by those who knew him best the people of his beloved Harkness which incidentally, was named after his father. If the spirit is capable of returning to earth or if it could we believe that of J. Warren Harkness would find happiness in returning to the scenes he knew and loved so well. The memory of his kindly, thoughtful face will not be soon forgotten by his host of friends who knew him as a gentleman under all circumstances and a man to be trusted and respected.

There are so many fine things you could say about this man and we

are inclined to regret that we did not say them while he still lived so that he would learn of the high esteem in which we held him. We frequently neglect to pay a man the tributes he deserves while he lives and then sing his praises when he is no longer able to appreciate our tributes.

REV. MCGAUGHEY WILL CONDUCT PERU SERVICE

Peru - The Rev. Melvin R. McGaughey, who has succeeded the Rev. George P. Morgan as pastor of the Peru Community Church, will conduct his first services here this Sunday.

Sunday School will be at 10; worship service and nursery at 11. The sermon subject will be "Jesus Leads To Victory".

The choir anthem will be Gounod's "Send Out Thy Light". The offertory hymn will be the Hydn-Luvaas "Praise We Sing To Thee".

The Christian League will be at 7 p.m.

A family night supper will be held Monday at 6:30, choir rehearsal Thursday at 7:30.

Rev. Mr. McGaughey was born and grew up in Nebraska. His undergraduate degree was obtained at Midland College, Fremont, Neb. He started his ministerial work in the Nebraska Conference in 1938. He has the degrees of bachelor and master of Sacred Theology from the Boston University School of Theology in 1940 and 1941. He was ordained a deacon in Boston in 1940 and Elder in Troy Conference in 1942.

He went to the Ellenburg Churches in 1941 and remained there until 1945. For the next three years he served a federated church in Hoosick Falls. Since 1948 he has been in Morrisville, Vt.

He is a member of the Troy Conference Board of Ministerial Training, the Commission of Camps and Conferences, and the Burlington District Missionary Secretary. He is a member of Mt. Hennon Lodge No. 572 F and A.M., Ellenburg.

Rev. Mr. McGaughey married Grace G. Taylor in 1940. She comes from Sherburne Center, Vt., and has her R.N. from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. They are parents of four boys and an infant daughter. They moved into the parsonage in Peru on Jan. 18.

Plattsburgh Press-Republican (1950)??

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FISH HOMESTEAD
PERU, NEW YORK

As told by Lydia and Sidney Beyland - March 27, 1975

There is a large and beautiful brick home situated along the west side of route 22B north of Peru, and south of Schuyler Falls. This building is on the Fish Homestead. A small brook crosses the highway a few paces south of the home and farm buildings.

Christopher Fish was born in 1754, just before America was engulfed in the fourth French and Indian War. A son, David Fish, was born in 1775. As a grown man David came to the wilderness of Peru, where families had settled, mostly south of his chosen property. This was in 1804, less than two decades after the first cabin was built by a Revolutionary War soldier near Hallock Hill. David set about to build a log cabin. Land was cleared and some crops planted. Soon a second home was begun. This small frame house, being eighteen feet by twenty feet in dimensions was later incorporated into the large brick mansion which followed years later. (1850) Christopher moved to Peru to live with his son, David, born Sept. 1775. Lewis, son of David, born Sept. 15, 1799.

At the age of fifty-two years David died in 1827, and was buried in the Quaker Cemetery at the Union, about five miles directly south of his home. Many years later, in 1839, Christopher Fish died at age of 85, and was also buried in the Quaker Cemetery at the Union.

Lewis Fish married Maria Arthur whose family lived on the Arthur Road in what is now the Township of Ausable. Maria, born May 26, 1801 lived only twenty-five years, and passed away in 1826. She was buried beside her father-in-law, David. Lewis married Innocence Sutherland, who was born June 27, 1804. Innocence was a relative of the Riley family of Old Route 9, Peru. There were four children of this marriage, two of which died in infancy. The two surviving children were Silas and Lydia.

Silas was a blacksmith and had his shop southeast of the home and near the brook. He built a large stone wall across the brook and had a gate in it. Creosote was put into the water to form a liquid effective for removal of ticks, lice, etc., from sheep. A small sum of money was charged for each head of sheep driven through the water. The metal rose arbor still spanning the south walkway and a fence around the flowers and made of wagon tires are the products of that craftsman's hands.

Putnam Place said that he could remember that when he was four years old Silas Fish came to the Putnam farm to see two large, flat sandstones. They were to his liking, so he went home and soon returned with several men and a double span of oxen. After much work one stone was loaded onto a stone boat and drawn home, several miles distance from Norrisville to Peru. The second stone was similarly moved. These flagstones and many others make up the

walkways around the brick home. One of the oxen yokes used is presently mounted on the end of the garage.

Silas was a perfectionist who kept the buildings and grounds groomed well. An apple orchard was behind the farm buildings. Lydia Brand was born October 21, 1833. She was married to Silas Fish. There were two daughters, Alice M. Fish and Minnie Fish. Alice was born November 26, 1855. She married Albin S. Arthur, a brother of Lee and Fred Arthur of the Arthur Road. Albin was born January 9, 1852. Alice and Albin had three children: May, Laura, and Bessie Alice. On October 13, 1888, Alice died at 32 years old. She had had a stroke.

Minnie I. Fish was ten years younger than her sister, Alice, being born April, 1865. She became Albin's second wife and step-mother to Alice and Albin's two daughters. There were three children of this second marriage. Lyda Arthur Brand, born December 3, 1893 married Hubert Thuron Brand. They presently live at the Brand Homestead at the intersection of the Brand Hollow Road and the Gravel Pit Road in Peru. Percy Arthur was the second child, being born February 8, 1896. He married Nettie Stafford. Percy died May 15, 1938 at the age of forty-two years. The third child, Edith Arthur was born December 16, 1903. She married George Schultz. There were no children. She is still living.

Turning back many years, Lydia Innocence Fish was the second child of Innocence and Lewis Fish. She was born November 5, 1832. Lydia never married, and lived at the Fish Homestead and also in Schuyler Falls. She died at age eighty-three years on February 28, 1916. Burial was in the Fish Lot in North Peru.

May Arthur, previously mentioned, was born May 2, 1883. She married Roy Davis, a brother of Harold Davis, who owned the farm called the George Morse farm on the east side of Route 22B between Peru and Schuyler Falls. The Dimock family now lives there. May died November 14, 1908 at twenty-five years of age. Laura L., her younger sister was born November 2, 1885 and died as an infant April 15, 1887, at one year and five months old. Bessie Alice Arthur, the third daughter was born July 10, 1888. She married Ellis Clark Arnold. Bessie died December 2, 1966 at seventy-eight years of age.

Persons belonging to the next generation are as follows. Alger Arthur Davis, son of May Arthur and Roy Davis was born June 14, 1903. Lydia, daughter of Bessie Alice Arthur and Ellis Clark Arnold was born December 26, 1910. She married Sidney Beyland. They now live on the Fish Homestead in Peru. Harry and Russell Arthur are sons of Percy and Nettie Arthur. Five children of Lyda and Hubert Brand are Arthur, Carlos, Edith Brand Crombie, Marion Brand Dean, and Ruth Brand Hughes.

At the Fish Homestead are heirlooms of every generation to live there. A lovely hanging lamp is suspended from the ceiling on the first floor. Homespun sheets of wool grown on the farm are stored in a closet. Spoons having belonged to Innocence Fish are

there. Forty turns to the click, and two yards to each turn was the way to measure and wind wool yarn. When the yarn winder clicked a skein had been wound. Innocence's yarn winder has been repaired and works perfectly. It is on display. Some people call a winder a weasel, and it was from this that the rhyme came: "Round, 'round the mulberry bush, the monkey chased the weasel. The monkey stopped to scratch his ear, pop goes the weasel". In the yard the dinner bell rests high upon a post.

THE EARLY DAYS OF PERU'S LUMBER INDUSTRY
by Virginia Mason Burdick

The lumbering and milling company of A. Mason and Sons was Peru's main industry for nearly a century.

About 1879 Albert Mason, the firm's founder, began making beehives on the Little Ausable River. These he sold to area farmers as he drove in his horse-drawn wagon about the country side. In time the carpenter-peddler turned to making doors and window frames. He purchased Heyworth's old stone starch factory and aided by his six sons, established the firm of A. Mason and Sons.

Albert Mason was born in Peru, New York on April 15, 1844, the son of Aaron B. and Deborah Stickles Mason. Their farm was on the Military Extension Road. To this home Albert brought his bride, Sarah Elizabeth Moore, aged eighteen, daughter of George and Hannah Moore of Peru. Here their first two sons were born, George in 1867 and Nathan in 1871.

About 1880 Albert Mason purchased a lot in Peru Village and with the help of Mrs. Mason built his house. In this home four more sons were born, Charles in 1884, Edward in 1886, William in 1889, and Herbert in 1891.

After World War I the business expanded and prospered with George Mason as president. Nate as vice-president had charge of the saw mill and lumbering in the wood lots the company owned or leased.

In January 1902 Nate took his bride, Eliza Signor, to Duane, New York to spend the rest of the winter in their Adirondack logging camp. Here she helped the camp cook and "kept the books". On one occasion she drove a horse and sleigh ten miles through the forest to the Delaware and Hudson railroad station at Inman to pick up the pay roll. Fortunately Mrs. Mason was not required to use the gun she carried for protection against animals and robbers.

According to family tradition Charles became the firm's bookkeeper when he was thirteen years old. Later he had charge of drawing plans for the mill work and buildings.

Edward Mason was the superintendent of all mill work. Will was in charge of sales, becoming president in 1944 when George died. Herbert was responsible for the sales and show room in Plattsburgh.

For the six Mason brothers and their approximately 100 employees the business meant long hours in the mill or in the wood lots. Peruvians set their clocks by Mason's mill whistle at seven in the morning and six at night six days a week.

For the Mason grandchildren the mills and yards meant fascinating hours watching the teamsters roll huge pine logs off their sleds on to the frozen river, listening to the whine of the big circular saw as it bit into the logs and spewed forth pungent saw dust,

or watching the men and their machines convert boards into altar railings, spindles, fire-place mantles, apple crates - the variety seemed endless.

Mason's mill is closed down now, but houses, schools and churches through out the North Country are a continuing reminder of the enterprise and skills of three generations of Peru families.

COUNTY ACQUIRES FINAL RIGHTS OF WAY
FOR NEW PLATTSBURGH-CHASM HIGHWAY

Rights of way for the entire one and three-quarters miles of new highway on the Plattsburgh-Ausable Chasm road have been obtained by Clinton County without resorting to condemnation proceedings as authorized at the recent Board of Supervisors meeting.

Construction is expected to commence shortly, now that all obstacles have been cleared. Final prices were fixed by the Supervisors to be paid to the two "hold-outs", who seemed to come to the realization that it was futile to refuse to sell. \$4,669.43 was paid to H.T. and Elizabeth Fuller for 4.69 acres; and \$3,007.48 was paid to Arden and Leon Dr. Bedell for 2.45 acres.

It has been announced that the State Department of Public Works, Division of Highways, will be notified of the completion of this detail tomorrow. Bids have already been opened by the State for the \$325,000 project but awarding of the contract had been delayed until all rights of way had been acquired. Longhi Construction Company, of Connecticut, currently engaged in highway construction in the vicinity of Redford, was the low bidder.

The highway, to be constructed of concrete, will extend from the present end of the concrete south of Plattsburgh on the Lake Shore road to the top of what is known as "Carpenter's Hill". Only two curves will be embodied in the new highway, in contrast to the now innumerable twists and bends. And perhaps the greatest improvement will be the new bridge over the Ausable River, replacing the present narrow, treacherous bridge with its winding approach.

Clipping from Plattsburgh Daily Press, August 13, 1940

EXPERIENCES WHILE WORKING AT A DRY GOODS STORE

As told by Henry Hebert
Friday, March 21, 1975

Elmore F. Elmore, at one time, owned the well proportioned brick store along the east side of main street, now between Tetrault's Paint and Decorating store on the north, and the Television Sales and Repair store on the south. Donald Swain had operated the Old Brick Spirit Shoppe here rather recently, before transferring his business to the Grand Union Mall, across the Little AuSable River. Before World War I occurred, E.K. Hodgkins was operating the General Merchandise store for E.F. Elmore. The business had functioned at this site for many years, having begun rather early in the history of Peru.

Somewhere around 1914 or 1915 Fred Bosworth, William Cohalan and Clarence Durgan collectively bought E.F. Elmore's General Merchandise Store. They began the B., C. and D. Company. The business was carried on much the same way it had been for so many years. Two or three years later B., C. and D. Co. purchased a second building, this being located across the street and north of the Clough Brothers Hardware Store, Hiram Everest had operated a business there years before, but his building had been empty at the time of the sale. Hiram Everest was at that time living in his classically styled brick home a few doors north of the E.F. Elmore building. Isabelle Everest, Hiram's daughter, lives there now.

After the second building was purchased, the drygoods were moved to the new site and the original E.F. Elmore building functioned as a grocery store. In 1917 Fred Bosworth sold his share of the company to the remaining partners and the firm became Cohalan and Durgan. Soon Mr. Durgan sold his share and a Mr. Downs bought in ----now it was Cohalan and Downs. To complicate matters further, E.K. Hodgkins purchased the company, probably having held the original mortgages. During the interim between the first and last sale mentioned above, E.K. Hodgkins had gone into business with H.C. Rickettson Co. in Plattsburgh. This was involved with baking of bread. Glenn Hodgkins, a nephew of E.K. Hodgkins, managed the store on the west side of main street, where all business had been transferred.

Realize that down-town Peru was a very busy place at this time. Some people had automobiles, but many traveled by horse-and-buggy, or buckboard. Plattsburgh was quite a distance away, and most people hesitated to make such a long journey for groceries, dry goods, cattle feed, and the likes of such. In fact, nearly everything shipped out of Peru traveled by railroad, with the station bustling. A store, sidewalk, or street corner usually had a few people visiting.

Henry Hebert worked for Bosworth, Cohalan and Durgan Co. A normal day began with taking care of the horses and rigg by 7:00 A.M. The team was either kept at the horse stables where Stephanics now live.

on the south east corner of the sharp bend in North Main Street, or in a red barn on Elm Street. Henry was to be at the store by 7:30 A.M. He worked six days a week, driving the box wagon on one route, stopping at homes to take orders for groceries or dry goods. The following day Henry returned to the same homes to deliver the orders. The next two days would be spent on a second route, and the last two days on the third route. On Mondays the wagon with the long narrow box and one foot-high sides moved along the dirt road, across the stone arch bridge, onto the Union Road, across the railroad tracks, south to the Union and along the Hallock Hill and into Harkness village. Henry crossed the Harkness Road and continued along the Calkins Road. At the intersection with the River Road, he continued north onto the Everett Road. At the site where the Burrell Road crosses the Everett Road the team was rained southward for a bit more than a mile. The Burrell Road stops at Burrell Orchards. Once here, Henry again traveled westward just one more farm, to the imposing brick home of Mr. & Mrs. Lapham. This was the end of the line. From here he returned along the River Road to Pleasant Street and on to the store.

At each home Henry would stop to rest the horses, as he went into the home to write out the grocery order. Something good to eat awaited his arrival. A piece of apple pie, a glass of milk, cookies, or cake were always ready to be eaten. Orders were kept in a small book that Henry carried. Empty kerosene cans were placed on the wagon, along with eggs or butter, used as trade for the purchased goods. Henry recalls walking around the west end of the Keese Home and entering the back kitchen. At the auction of August 8 and 9, 1974, Henry returned to that entry way to reminisce and recall days gone by.

During Tuesdays the same route was retraveled. Flour was packaged in either twenty-four and one-half pound bags, forty-nine pound bags, or one hundred ninety-six pound wooden barrels. It required considerable strength to load or unload a barrel of flour. A word of caution was to avoid spilling kerosene on sacks of flour or sugar. This meant that cans must be sealed tightly and kept as far from the sugar and flour as possible, as the wagon moved along the bumpy roads.

The Wednesday and Thursday route involved travelling east along a portion of the Bear Swamp Road, moving south on the Telegraph Street and east to the Fuller Road. Again going west to return to the Bear Swamp Road, the grocery laden wagon passed the country side then eastward to the lakeshore. The narrow bridge spanning the Little AuSable River is now gone, but the buttments are still in place. At Peru Landing, where the old jetty can still be seen, the post road bends to the north. Henry continued along this stretch of highway as far north as Valcour. At this site, he turned westward to travel through Bartonville, on to Rt. 22 and back to Peru, entering along North Main Street.

On Friday or Saturday Henry traveled northward on Rt. 22. At the crossroads where one may go right to Bartonville, or left toward the Military Turnpike, Henry swung the wagon northward along the

gravel-pit road. At Brunley's corner, or intersection with the Salmon River Road, Henry Hebert turned eastward for four or five houses. He then turned around to return to the corner and on through toward Schuyler Falls. Once he arrived at Mason Street, Henry went northward for five or six houses, which was about one mile, then returned past Jeff Lobdell's farm in the hollow next to the Salmon River Bridge. Art Baker now lives at this farm, and has operated a blacksmith shop in a cement block building on the site. At Coffey's Corners, the Bromley Tavern, now owned by the Coffey family, is situated just inside the Peru Township. The grocery route went on southward down Rt 22B to Peru.

Eleven dollars a week was the wage paid for the grocery order-taking and delivery. Other rewards were plentiful, and included the food, conversations and pleasantries, and also outdoor fresh air. How different it was from the rush of today's world. Telephones replace the need to go to each home for orders. Depending upon where one lived, the travel time to the center of Peru may now require less than five minutes for most citizens of this township. Broader choices of goods to be purchased while seeming somehow better, has brought dissatisfaction, and availability has brought greed. Our progress brings with it the loss of the gentle ways of the past.

FIRE RAGES THROUGH PERU MAY 18, 1921

At about one o'clock A.M. a young girl awoke to see her bedroom brightly lit up. She dashed to the window to observe a blazing inferno which was well out of control. The fire had begun in the barn owned by S.F. Forrence, situated near the center of Peru village.

The fire whistle was blown and everyone in the vicinity awoke and rushed outdoors.

Anyone with experience regarding fires immediately knew that this was a bad fire. High winds were already pushing the flames into the Clough Brothers barn, garage and storehouses. Very quick work was needed to save the town from nearly total destruction.

Tongues of flame reached out to kindle one structure after another so rapidly that the order or sequence of events was not fully comprehended. Shifting winds carried the holocaust hither and thither. Clough's buildings, excepting the big three-story brick store were lost. Numerous cars, hearses and other vehicles within these buildings were saved. Moving westward the flames consumed Weaver's garage, but the three vehicles inside were saved. Mr. Weaver's house was lost. Next, B.E. Holden's home, then Dr. Everett's office, Hodgkin's store, Hasfoord's store and the concrete building near Clough's store. The homes of Mr. Forrence and L.M. Clough were burned.

Someone telephoned to the Plattsburgh Fire Department -- there was no Peru Fire Department at that time - and they rushed to Peru. Chief Seymour was in charge. The Post Fire Department also responded, but, unfortunately, had a highway accident about three miles from Peru and were detained for some time. Once here, however, they were further ineffective for the hoses could not reach to the pond water when the truck was parked on the arched stone bridge. (Imagine the frustrations of those unfortunate Peruvians who watched with despair.)

Plattsburgh firemen stopped the fire from destroying the Clough brick store and those buildings to the south of it, sheltered as they were. Sparks rose high into the night, many landing on shingle roofs across main street to the east. The trees along the street were ablaze. Garden hoses and bucket brigades drenched those homes before described and the unending efforts of so many people stopped the easterly advance of the fire. Slowly the fire burned down and throughout the day smoke, steam and ashes sizzled among the charred skeletons of buildings and cellar holes.

The greatest fire of Peru history had been confined within the block surrounded by Main Street, Pleasant Street, Mason Street and Elmore Street. A blacksmith shop situated where the Post Office now is, did not burn. In all, fourteen buildings were laid to waste. The loss was estimated at \$60 to \$70 thousand. The block was soon to be replaced by new and different homes.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PALMER HILL IRON MINES

Typical of the terrain along the northern boundary of the Adirondack Mountains is a rocky outcrop a few miles north of the village of AuSable Forks. Palmer Hill, with a summit elevation of 1,024 feet, is more precisely located as being a portion of lots 7, 8, 15, 16, 29 and 30 in the eighth division of Livingston's Patent (Slocum Tract), town of Black Brook and County of Clinton. Black Brook was formed from the township of Peru on March 29, 1839. Many people know Palmer Hill by a fire tower on its summit or as the location of the so-called Palmer Hill "caves". These "caves" which literally honeycomb Palmer Hill are in reality abandoned iron ore mines. The fascination of exploring these mines is exceeded only by the exploration of their history which began in the 1820's and is mainly concerned with three large companies engaged in the early iron and steel industry in the United States. Several small concerns also held title to a portion of the renowned Palmer Ore Bed at various times, and eventually transferred their rights to either the Peru Iron Company, the J. and J. Rogers Company or the Peru Iron and Steel Company.

Palmer Hill was named for Zephaniah Palmer who, according to most old records, made the first discovery of magnetic ore in the area in 1824 or 1825, over ten years after the iron industry had begun in the AuSable Valley. Certain historic references claim that Mr. Palmer was a surveyor, an eccentric genius and the first settler of AuSable Forks. Prior to his discovery, Mr. Palmer had intended to use Palmer Hill for a sheep pasture, but when its value became known, many speculators and iron company representatives bought ore rights in the area or bought the land outright. Half Mile Square, as lot 15 became known, was soon partitioned into many individual claims.

A complete and accurate record of the Palmer Hill land transfers from the 1820's to 1840's would be very difficult to compile. This job was attempted in part by the Peru Iron and Steel Company in the 1870's to investigate the possibility of obtaining more holdings in the area and they admit in correspondence that the Livingston title, for example, was very complicated. In 1820 John Livingston deeded his holdings at Palmer Hill to Anthony R. Livingston who in turn deeded to Jeramiah Slocum in 1823. In 1828 Slocum divided $\frac{3}{4}$ of this property between a group which included Josiah Fish and Oliver Keese and a second unnamed group. The remaining quarter was later deeded to Fish and Keese and in 1845 Fish and Oliver Keese, 2nd, owned $\frac{3}{4}$ of the original holdings. Oliver Keese, 2nd, deeded his $\frac{3}{8}$ share to James and John Rogers in 1846. Holdings of Zephaniah Palmer were sold to Zephaniah Platt before 1825 and in 1825 were transferred to Burt and Vanderworker who joined with Keese, Lapham and Company and Caleb D. Barton in early iron manufacture. In 1834 they sold out to the Sable Iron Company whose trustees included James Rogers. Financial difficulties in 1835 forced John Woodman, agent for the company, to halt mining for one year in 1836. During the panic of 1837, The J. and J. Rogers Company

obtained the stock of the Sable Company and had thus added another portion of Palmer Hill to their holdings.

James Rogers, Born August 15, 1804, and his brother, John, born May 9, 1813, had separate interests in the AuSable Valley iron industry until 1835 when they formed the J. and J. Rogers Company with James as the first president. Over the years the Rogers Company was able to obtain 5/8's interest in Half Mile Square, the primary location of the Palmer Ore Bed.

In 1824 the Peru Iron Company was formed in Clintonville with a starting capital of \$200,000. This company, first headed by Joshua Aiken, also began purchasing land and ore rights on Palmer Hill. On June 17, 1827, Stephen Palmer and his wife Judith "as settlement of a pending controversy" received \$500 for a parcel of land containing Palmer Ore. A few years before, on November 18, 1825, Francis and Nicholas Saltus had bought into the company with \$20,000 and Francis was made company president in 1826. On May 19, 1835, Nathaniel Starbuck received \$300 from Francis Saltus for a 1/8 interest in a portion of the Palmer Ore Mines. In 1828 or 1829 he was able to obtain 3/8's interest in Palmer Ore Bed for the company. On June 11, 1826 ore rights in lot 16 known as a part of the Palmer Ore Bed were purchased for \$3.50 per ton (2,240 pounds) from Peter McGrady and James Hagan by Loring Ellis. The mines on this property were later to bear his name and became property of the Peru Company. Such speculations and transfers of properties which took place for many years make a difficult job of piecing together an accurate picture of Palmer Hill and its many owners.

Inspection of the Palmer Hill Mines and surrounding area gives good support to the descriptions of early prospecting and mining methods. There are large outcrops of highly magnetic iron ore on Palmer Hill and Zephaniah Palmer is said to have made his discovery through surface indications and the attraction of a magnet. When the early mines were begun, pockets of very rich ore were taken that needed little refining to be processed into iron. Leaner ore was transported by wagon over plank roads to separators and very little ore ever left the area to be made into iron at distant refineries. In 1836 the Peru Iron Company installed a magnetic separator on Palmer Hill and from that time sent concentrated ore to their forge at Clintonville. This separator was apparently inefficient and later separators on the site used the gravity method. The style of mining was semi-open pits set into a rather steep slope at between 30° and 70° to the horizontal and due to vertical faulting in the bed rock often had to trace the vein to various levels thus forming vertical steps in the pit. The sketch on page illustrates how a typical shaft was sunk and how the steps were subsequently cut away so that tracks could be laid and the early gravity cars, and later steam powered trams, could haul the ore from the mine. The surface ore was often sufficiently abundant to permit the simultaneous digging of several pits which might then join to form one large underground pit. Eventually a row of shafts extended along lots 15 and 16 with the Rogers works to the left or West and those of the Peru Iron Company to the right or East.

Names were given to the pits and their approximate locations recorded although the names of many are missing. The Elliot, the last pit to be opened, and the White Flint, Summit and Lundrigan pits were at the western end of the ore bed and belonged to the Rogers Company. To the east were the Little, South and Ellis Pits of the Peru Company. The Tindale or Big pit in the central portion of the ore bed contained the often disputed division line between the two companies and they both worked it simultaneously. The pit was named by the Peru Iron Company for J. Tindale and their records show that in 1850 he delivered 5,084 tons of iron ore from the pit to Clintonville which is perhaps a local mining record for that time. Accurate records for 1840-42 show that the monthly tonnage ran from one hundred tons in the winter months to as high as five hundred tons in good weather. The total for the year 1841 was 2,267 tons of primitive ore removed from the Peru Company mines. Of course, as methods improved, so did production. In 1848 monthly production reached 1,000 tons for the first time and in March of the following year, the mine payroll had reached \$1,000. Mining costs changed with the years also, from \$100 per month in 1840 to \$550 per month in 1847. In 1837 the Peru Company had built a new separator in Clintonville to handle the increased ore supply at a cost of \$2,783.21.

During the depression of 1857, the Rogers Company did business at a loss, which effected costs and wages. Due to various financial situations affecting the mining industry, wages fluctuated continuously and the passing years didn't necessarily mean an increase in salary. The early miners made one dollar per day or less. During depressions wages often dropped suddenly and the \$2.25 per day average wage of a miner in 1865 (for a 10 hour day) was lowered by 10 to 25 cents during hard times.

The Peru Company recorded descriptions of their holdings in 1864 and gave an approximate value for each. One of these, the Winter Mine valued at \$25,000 and named for Joseph L. Winter is not included here because it is not at Palmer Hill but is located one mile northeast of Clintonville. The Jackson Mines are one mile away along the Palmer Hill ridge and will be excluded also. Palmer Ore Bed -- "The mine has three openings now converged into one. Through two of these, railways have been laid and the ore is elevated to the surface by steam engine (replacing the old gravity method). The veins of ore have been followed about 400 feet. They dip at an angle of about 30°, varying in width and height, through the leads until they reach the converging point where the mine is about 300 feet wide and 30 feet thick. This bed seems to be inexhaustable and there is room to work men enough to get out 100 tons of ore per day." This bed is valued at \$100,000. Ellis Ore Bed -- "This bed adjoins on the east of the Palmer Bed and should the latter connect with the veins of the former it will be desirable and worth more than the sum paid, viz., \$10,000, but at present it is not worked or needed for use and from the present appearance of the Palmer Bed will never be wanted for mining." In April 19, 1875 the south pit in the Palmer Bed was abandoned as being too lean and work began in the Ellis pit.

On April 5, 1865 the Peru Iron Company was succeeded by the Peru Iron and Steel Company under a fifty year agreement. President Francis Saltus and the trustees, Charles Bliven, William H. Gunther, Hayward Harvey, Edward Buckley, William Keeney and Edward Dodge reported a capital stock of \$800,000. George Hodgson who had been with the former company remained as chief miner and later was superintendent. His correspondence to officials of the company often included statements which tell a more complete story of mining at the time. He indicates that it was continually necessary for representatives of both companies to visit the other's mine to check the inclination of the shafts and thus prevent one shaft from interfering with another. Veins of water would occasionally be encountered and it was found that one of his test drillings was draining an accumulation of water from Roger's pit and the Rogers Company was not pleased because they used the water for their boiler after pumping the water to the surface with a one horse whimsey. He also described a situation in which he and other officials would try to determine the location of the Rogers shaft by remaining in their mine and listening to the drilling and blasting taking place in the neighboring shaft.

The newspapers in the area often carried weekly stories about Palmer Hill and newsmen would visit the mines to give an accurate description of the mining operations. The men used stairs with railings to enter the mines and these were illuminated by lanterns as was all the work area. A signal boy was on duty to ring a bell in the engine room and make his intentions known by means of a code. The early bells, rung by pulling a long wire, were later replaced with electric bells. Track men kept the railroad tracks and pumping equipment in order. The miners used wheelbarrows to bring ore from all areas of the work face to the platform where the ore cars were loaded. Men could be seen drilling high on the walls and the operation called "driving the wall" made them resemble bats. The three inch Ingersoll and Eclipse drills were run by compressed air from a compressor outside the mine. Three inch iron pipe conducted the air to the work area, often a distance of 1,000 feet or more and branches of rubber hose then ran to each drill. The compressed air released into the mine as a by-product of the drilling reduced the cases of throat disease and sore eyes considerably so that only one day in 100 was lost due to illness. Both companies had good safety records, and few injuries and no deaths were reported during the many years of mining. *1 1/8 inch cartridges of "Rendrock" or atlas powder were used for blasting which took place at noon and at the end of the workday. Usually between 85 to 100 charges were exploded each day. Various batteries were used to detonate the explosives and one such battery used by the Rogers Company proved unreliable due to the highly magnetic condition of the mine. Fiber rope had long been replaced by wire rope to haul the ore cars from the mines. It was estimated that it took four tons of primitive ore or two to two and a quarter tons of separated ore to make one ton of iron. From the year 1865 to 1880 estimates for the amount of ore removed from Palmer Hill were as follows: Ellis Lot -- $\frac{1}{2}$ interest -- 29,691 tons,

Half Mile Square -- 3/8 interest -- 365,024 tons. The Rogers Company removed approximately 400,000 tons of ore from their 5/8 interest in Half Mile Square during the same period. 1,000,000 tons is the estimated total amount of ore removed from all the Palmer Mines with an average assay of 40% iron.

*Although records on this subject are scarce, it seems logical that deaths must have occurred in operations of this magnitude.

Financial problems hampering the mining industry in the late 60's and 70's were caused by increased material and labor costs, tariffs, the discovery of better sources of iron elsewhere and the development of more efficient processes using other types of ore. The Unions had been active for a time and strikes were frequent. Indications of the severity of the situation came when the Peru Company went into receivership and Francis J. Dominick became receiver on February 8, 1879. Copies of hundreds of his letters as receiver of the company tell a nearly day to day story of his attempt to keep the business going. He mentions the fact that prospecting was still in use at Palmer Hill and the best indications were from the deflection of the needle of a miner's compass. It was still possible to obtain ore rights in those years and an offer was made to Giles B. Slocum in 1882 for a license to mine ore for twenty-five cents per ton. This low figure is due partly to the leanness of the ore and "is a better deal than the Chateaugay Company has made". A \$3,000 offer for a quit claim deed to one quarter of the ore was made but Dominick prefers the royalty stating, "If your title is disputed and ore can no longer be obtained, no outlay would be made. Nothing can be more uncertain than an iron mine. One day it may be paying and the next worth nothing". Also, in 1882 a controversy arose between the two companies when the Peru Company began mining the Rogers side of the big pit which the Rogers Company had abandoned seventeen years earlier. It was understood that the boundary agreement in 1864 was only a verbal one between James Rogers and Francis Saltus. A succession of Rogers Company leaders then brought Henry D. Graves into the feud. He had been a trustee of the company in 1871 and became vice-president in 1877 when John replaced his brother James as president. When John died in 1879, Graves became president. On December 29, 1870 the Rogers Company had incorporated and this move plus excellent handling of financial matters enabled the company to later pay off all their debts in the iron business and make a transition to the pulp and paper business, thus keeping the J. and J. Rogers Company alive. In September or October of 1871, the J. and J. Rogers Company had held a tax sale of some properties. When the two sides met to settle the dispute over the dividing line a disagreement developed concerning the big "horse", (a large vein of soft rock) which included two possible points where the line could begin. The involved description of the proceedings to settle the boundary feud is included in the Peru Steel and Iron Company papers and the dispute was settled.

The two companies had used telegraph or messenger for many years to maintain communications between the mines and the rest of their works. In 1875 the Rogers brothers decided to install a telephone between their works at AuSable Forks and the mines at Palmer Hill. The new invention was brought from the 1876 Centennial Fair in Philadelphia by George Cahoon and was reported to be the second or third such installation in the world to be operated by a large company. Not to be outdone, Francis Dominick wrote on April 27, 1883, "I propose to build a telephone line between Clintonville and Palmer Hill and I desire to place the poles on the highway over the plains". The work was to be done by Warren Dow of Plattsburgh.

On Thursday, October 1, 1885, at 10:00 A.M. a public auction was held in connection with a bankruptcy case involving Rosalie G. Bloodgood and another against the Peru Steel and Iron Company which had closed down its ore mines in November 1884. Pumps were kept running to keep the water down but the mines remained closed. In four more years payment would have been due on \$100,000 worth of twenty year mortgage bonds at 7% interest. Despite the series of disasters the Peru Steel and Iron Company remained active with a new president, George H. Cleaves, in 1887 when the company became known as Peru Steel Ore Company, Limited.

In 1884 work stopped at the Rogers mines and the men went to Arnold Hill. The newspapers continued to publish the proceedings against the Peru company and on July 3, 1886 a story reported the sale of Peru Steel and Iron to a Mr. Callahan of Keeseville. The Rogers mines were active for a few more years. In 1885 the Summit Pit was closed and reopened in 1887. Repairs were made continually on the equipment in the active mines even though a mortgage sale of the abandoned mines was held in 1886. New mines opened as old ones closed, and in 1890 a new road and whimsey house were constructed. The mines were finally closed permanently before a foreclosure sale in 1893. Abandoned iron mines are still to be found throughout the area, but as rising water and falling rock erase man's great labors, a little less can be seen of this once great north country industry as each year passes.

MUSKETS TO MISSILES

They came down the valley with silent tread,

Muskets loaded and ready to kill.
Bold pioneers full of daring 'tis said,
And they carved out their homes with a will.
The wilderness lessened, the frontier pushed back,
The redmen, the deer and the bear.
Roads then replaced the wilderness track,
And towns soon were formed here and there.
A settler came by the name of Platt;
Near the river was built a mill.
The army later established a Post,
And the ruins are found here still.
The colonies flourished until the day
They rebelled against the king.
Then independence became the theme
Of the songs they learned to sing.
The railroad came and the first steamboat;
In 1812, there came to be
A battle fought near the Saranac
That brought freedom on the sea.
MacDonough, a hero we all revere
And the victory that he won then
Has brought lasting fame to our valley here
Along with his gallant men.
At last the guns were laid away;
The fields again were plowed.
Industry grew and the old fort
Became a barracks to make us proud.
The Old 26th that called this home
Was the pride of our state and race
Until the Air Force came along
And took the Infantry's place.
The mighty bombers that gathered here
Filled the air with a mighty roar.
They spread their wings in lofty flight
Above this peaceful valley's floor.
Then came the fingers of dreadful steel
That stood in their silos deep,
Potential weapons of dreadful fire
That could cause eternal sleep.
May the Divine Hand protecting man
In his power seeking race
Hold him back before the Earth
Is a burned out speck in Space.

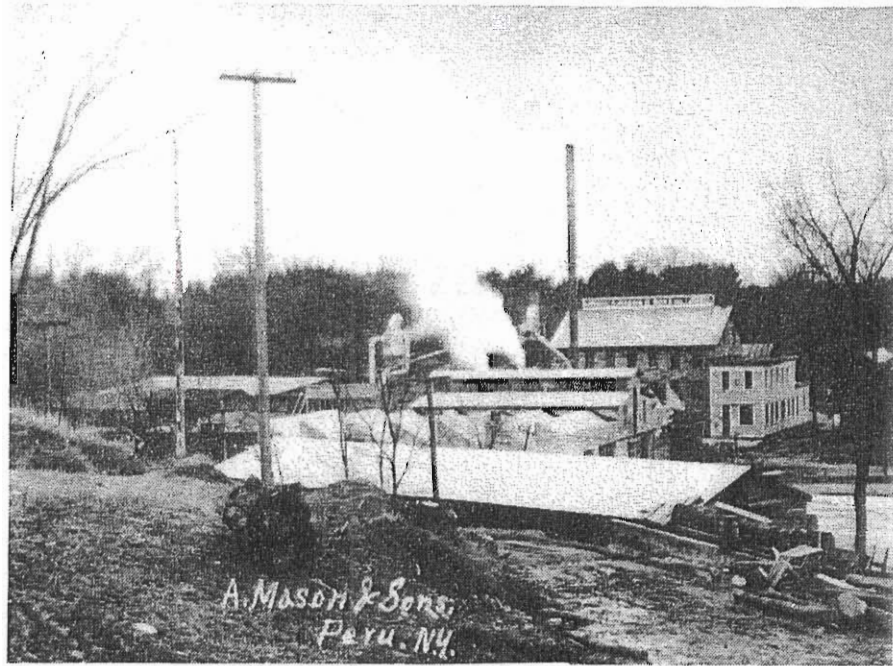
G.W. Wilson

PERU

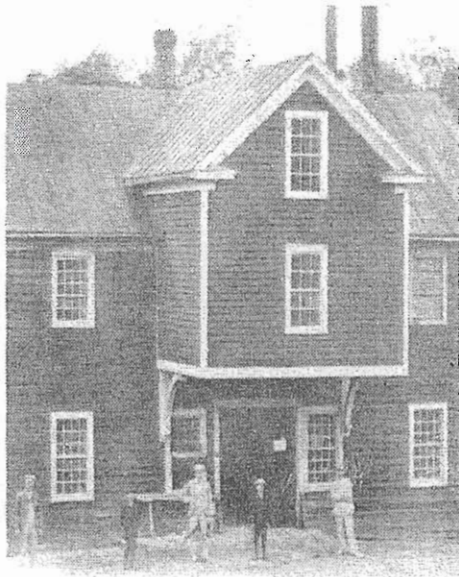
Peru, a name that so often means
A country large and far away,
But to me, my home that's vastly changed
So much more than I can say.
If some old timer should return
And gaze with eyes now dim,
He'd never know the old home town
That was a home for him.
Oh, where is that old town pump
With trough where horses used to drink?
Across the street stood the old town hall
Where people met to vote and think
Of all the news and gossip, too,
That they had kept 'till then
When old friends could together get
And tell where they all had been.
I see again the oxen, too,
That carried corn and wheat
Up to the old time grist mill
Where huge stones ground it fine and neat.
I've heard the old saw mill whine;
Watched logs float in the pond.
They're all gone now and only time
Can see what is beyond.
The old store on the corner stood,
The Tavern, too, stood there.
This was a favorite stopping place
At this busy ancient square.
There used to be a fine brick church
Where I went often as a child.
The horses stood beneath a shed
In weather bad or mild.
In Weaver's store and Bosworth's, too,
I went and later grown
Saw crackers in a great big barrel
And pickles in crocks of stone.
They measured out the lard from tubs
And cut your meat to suit
Your taste and it was fresh and good.
It also cost so much less,
And you bought it as you could.
Wages, of course, were lower, too,
The worker had to work.
He never had a coffee break
There wasn't time to shirk.
The first car in Peru, I think,
Was a Buick Weaver owned.
I had my first ride when very small
On dirt roads rough and stoned.
Oh! Yes, this town has grown a lot
And many things are changed.
Old houses now are all torn down,

And many stores are strange.
Where, oh, where are the little schools
Where one teacher taught,
And children used to learn three R's
And do things as they ought?
The old Bear Swamp Road was only dirt
Where Hayworth's orchards grew.
Now there's people living there
In houses fine and new.
Oh! Those were quiet peaceful days
When only horses roads would plod.
I wonder what is coming next.
The answer lies with God.

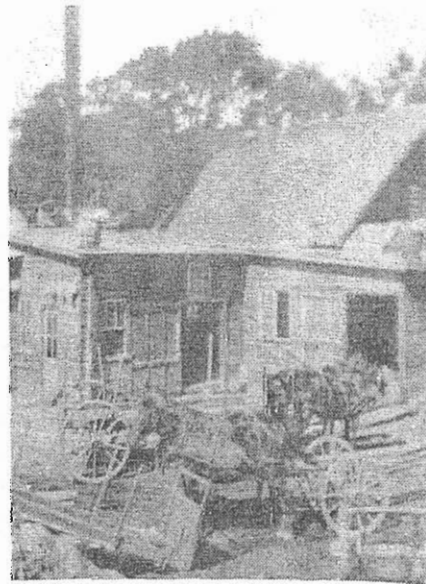
Grace W. Wilson



A. Mason and Sons Lumber Company buildings along the east side of the bridge over the Little Ausable River in Peru, New York.



Grist Mill situated along the south bank of the Little Ausable River, east of the bridge in Peru, New York.

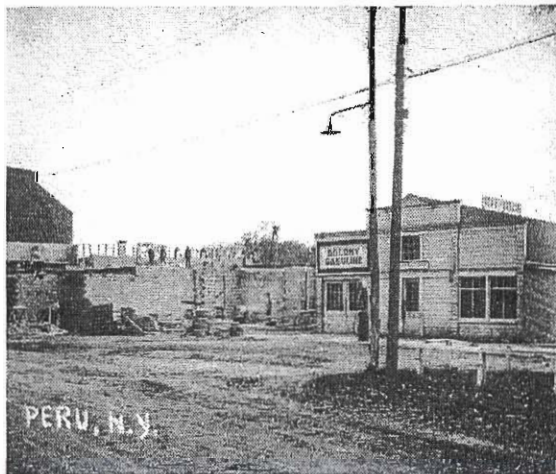


One of the earliest buildings of the A. Mason and Sons Lumber Company.



Looking eastward along Pleasant Street toward Main Street, the Davern Hotel is on the right. The wood frame structures shown in the picture burned in 1919.

View of the southwest corners of the business district in Peru, where Main and Pleasant Streets merge. Note the 'Old Town Pump' at the intersection. This photograph was taken before 1919.



The new masonry building is being constructed by A. Mason and Sons Co. to replace those buildings destroyed by the fire in 1919.



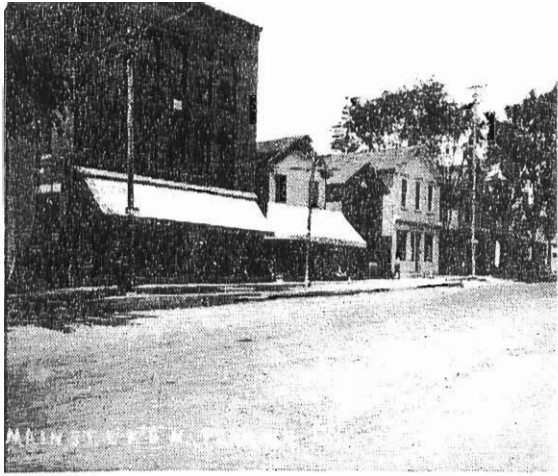
Much of the business of Peru, New York, took place within the buildings shown here. As the years passed various different enterprises were established and citizens gathered where Pleasant and Main Streets meet. A fire in 1965 destroyed the light-colored brick structure, and a few years later the corner block was destroyed to make room for the new bridge built to span the Little Ausable River.



A Dairymen's League Railroad Car rests on a siding in front of the milk station in Peru, New York.

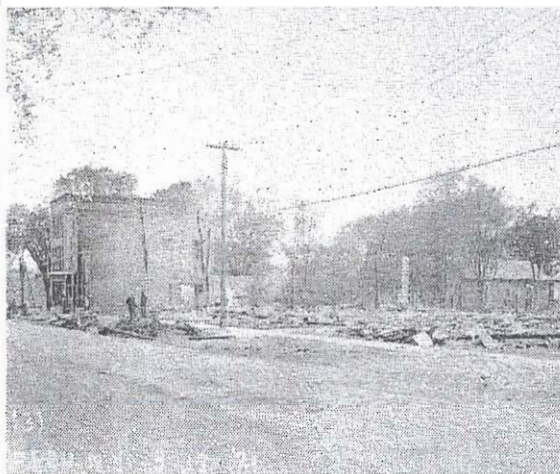


Through the windows of the Peru Tavern one could look across the mill pond and see the tannery.

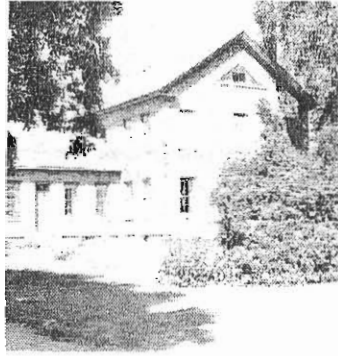


A view of the businesses and home along the west side of Main Street. Clough Brothers Hardware is shown at the far left. This photograph was taken before the fire of 1921.

Looking toward the back of the inside of Cahalan's Dry Goods Store situated on the west side of Main Street, and north of Clough Brothers Hardware Store.

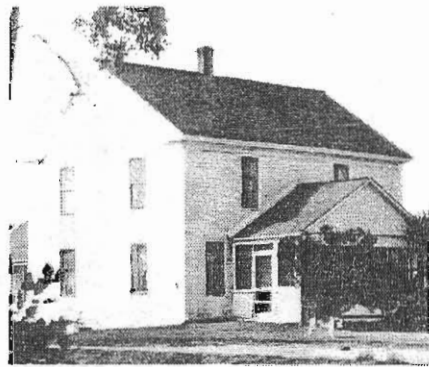


Desolation in the aftermath of the fire of May 18, 1921. View looking the southwest from Main Street to Pleasant Street, Peru, New York.

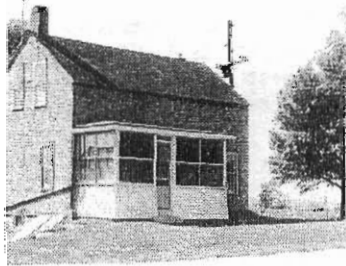


Keese Homestead situated at the corner of Union and Harkness Roads. Stone Mansion built by Peter Keese in 1837. The land upon which the home was built was acquired by Richard Keese in 1792, and had remained in the Keese Family ownership until 1974, when the home, other buildings, and about twenty-five acres of land were purchased by Ann and Lincoln Sunderland, who presently live there.

Mrs. Robert Rulfs own this home on the west side of the Union Road about three miles south of Old Peru. The home of Henry DeLord once stood at the site, but was destroyed by fire in the nineteenth century. The present structure had been built by the Quaker Church built diagonally across the road, on the lot just west of the Quaker Cemetery. About seventy years ago it was moved to the present location.



This is the oldest home in the Town of Ausable that is still being lived in. Old Peru included this site. Located across the road from the Quaker Burying Ground, this building housed the first blacksmith shop in Old Peru.





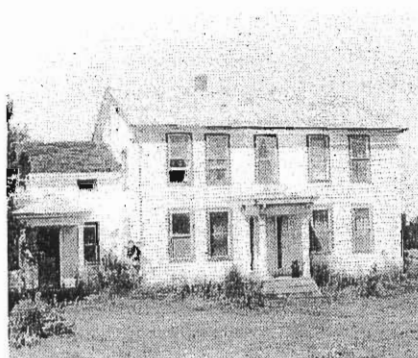
This spacious Georgian style home was built in 1815 by Asa Elmore, a prominent businessman in the early 1800's. It is now owned by Dr. Merritt Speare.



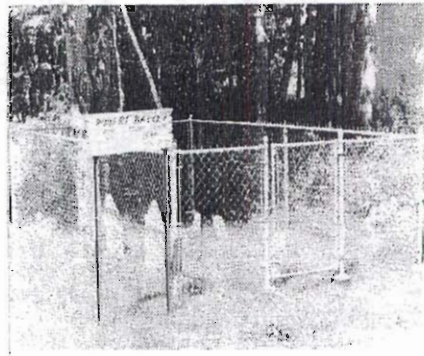
This home now owned by Paul Allen was built on land once owned by his ancestor, Jabez Allen, for whom the road is named. Jabez was a close relative of Ethan and Ira Allen of early fame.



The Davern home is located on the north side of the Davern Road. It was built in 1800 by William Keese, a brother of Richard Keese.



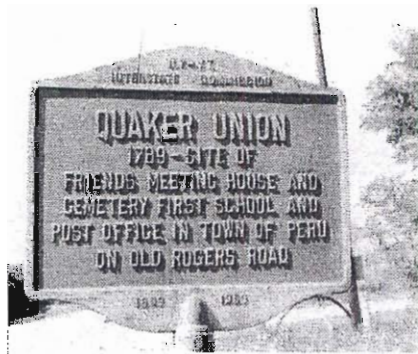
Abednego Ricketson built this home in 1805. Situated on the north side of the Arthur Road in what is now Ausable Township, it was at one time included in Peru. Lawrence Bosley now lives here.



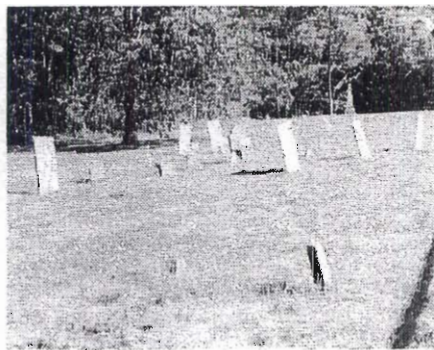
This is the Robert Battey Cemetery located on the north side of the Arthur Road. The Battey Family lying within these fences were residents of the Quaker Union.



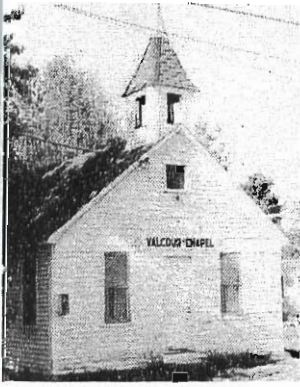
Here is shown a portion of the Quaker Union Burying Ground. Many of the Friends of the Quaker Union rest here.



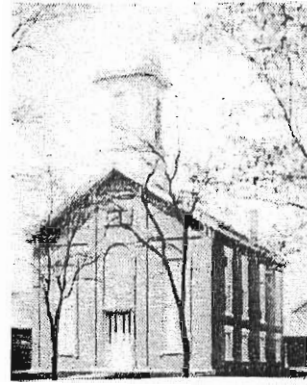
This is the metal plaque which indicated the site of the Quaker burial Ground, first school, and two meeting houses of the Friends.



Old and weathered markers are slowly tipping over as time passes in the Blockhouse cemetery. One can find this cemetery at the north side of the Bear Swamp Road, at the intersection with the Jabez Allen Road, Peru.



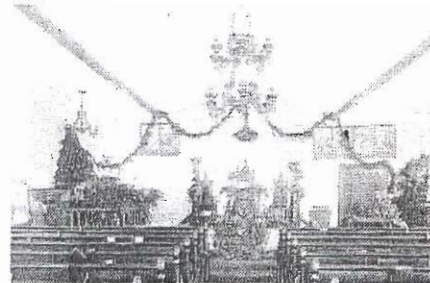
The Valcour Chapel is located on the north side of the east-west road extending from Bartonville to Valcour



The brick Methodist -Episcopal Church built in 1813 was located on the west side of Main Street, Peru, across the street from the present site of the Peru branch of the Keeseville National Bank. It has since been torn down.



This sign marks out the site of the log cabin of Uriah and Betsy Palmer. It was within this cabin that the Baptist Church was first established on the west side of Lake Champlain.



Here is shown the insides of the Congregational Church as it appeared about 1890. The stone building now houses the Peru Community Church.



St. Augustine's Church is located on the north side of North Main Street. This lovely building is across from the library.



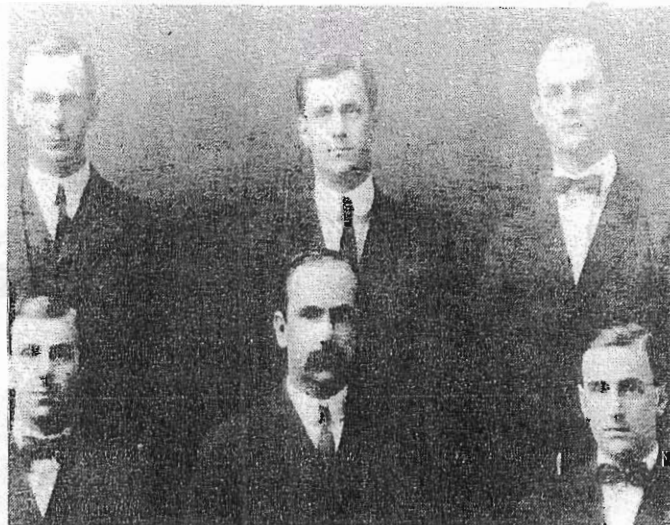
This large and spacious home is now the rectory for St. Augustine's Church. It is along the south side of North Main Street.



Albert Mason, founder of the
A. Mason and Sons , Inc.
1844-1912 (Photo loaned by
Virginia Burdick)



Sarah Elizabeth Moore Mason,
wife of Albert Mason. 1849-
1922. (Photo loaned by Virginia
Burdick)



These are the six sons of Sarah and Albert Mason. (Mason Brothers)

Nathan M.
Edward M.

Charles M.
George M.

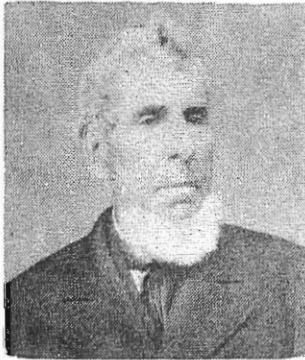
Herbert M.
William M.



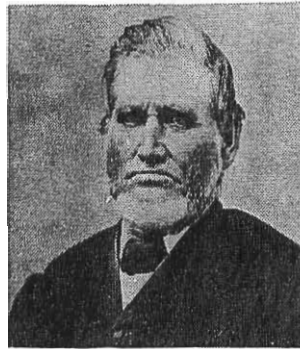
Peter Keese , son of Richard Keese I. He built the stone Keese Mansion. This portrait was painted by his son, Richard II.



This is a self portrait of Richard Keese II. He was an accomplished painter.



Stephen Keese Smith, owner of the farm and buildings known as Staffordshire, was active in the support of antislavery.



Lewis Fish , son of David, was born 1799. He lived on the Fish Homestead on Route 22B, north of Peru.



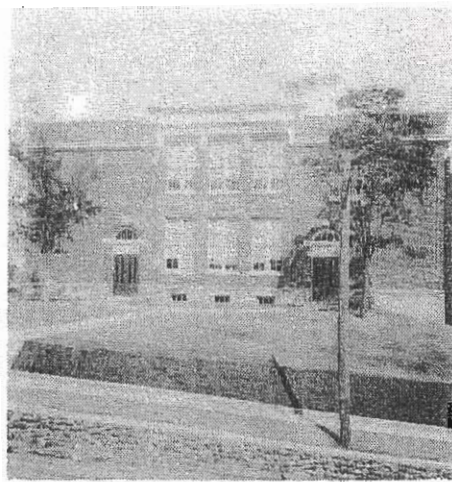
Innocence Sutherland Fish was the wife of Lewis Fish. She was the mother of Silas and Lydia.



Silas Fish was a blacksmith. His shop was located near the home, yet standing on the west side of Route 22B, Peru.



This is the Keeseville Academy, built in 1838. Many of the citizens of Peru attended this high school. It is now gone.



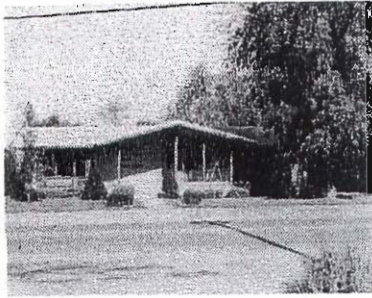
The 'new' Keeseville High School was built 1914-1916 on the site of the Keeseville Academy.



Students pose on the lawn in front of the Keeseville Academy. (about 1911)



Pupils are shown within the Keeseville Academy (1912-1913 class)



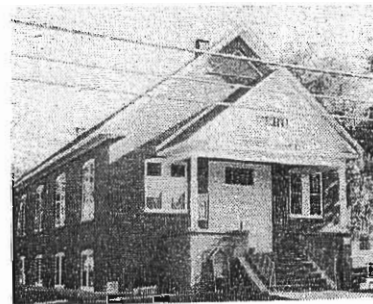
Peru Branch Office of the Keeseville National Bank, situated on the corner of North Main Street and North Bend Street.



The William Beaumont Medical Center at the corner of the Bear Swamp Road and the Dashnaw Road in Peru.



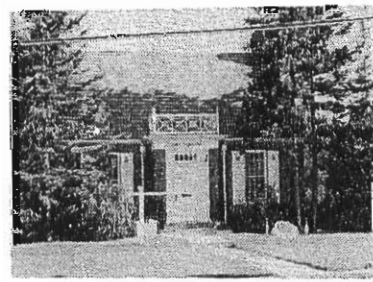
This lovely brick building has known many different businesses. Originally it was the Elmore Store, and represented much of the early trading of Peru.



Peru Town Hall was once the Grange. It is on the south side of North Main Street, and across from St. Augusti Church.



This building exists just North of the Elmore Store. Peter Tetrault operates a paint and decorating center where George Parker had previously had the ford garage.

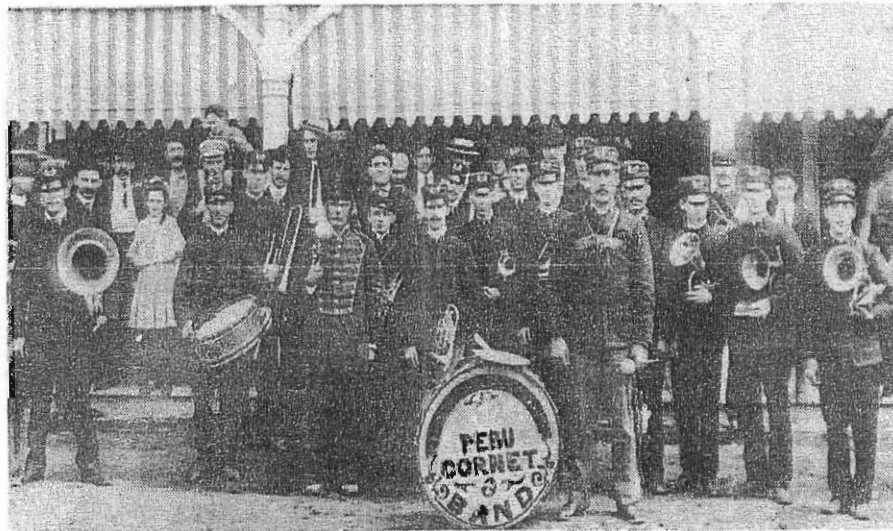


The Baker Library is located on the south side of North Main Street, Pe

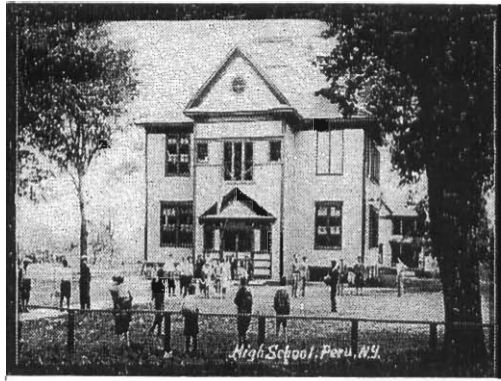


This is the Peru Grange (938) , first Grange in Clinton County, as it appeared in 1902

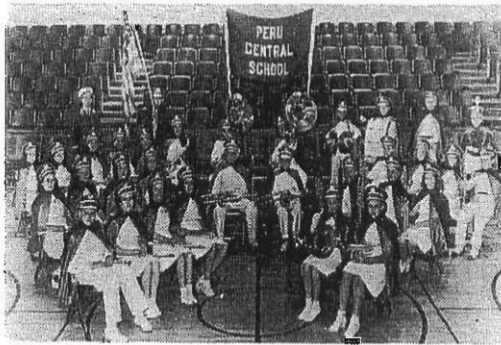
<u>First Row (from left-to-right)</u>	<u>Second Row (from left-to-right)</u>	<u>Third Row (from left-to-right)</u>
Herbert Arnold	Harrison Arnold	William Everett
Catherine Signor	Edward A. Signor	Schuyler Clark
Ella Bigelow	J.W. Harkness	Charles H. Arthur
Mrs. J.W. Harkness	Mrs. Edmund Day	
Mrs. Wm. Everett	Eddie Bigelcw	
Lewis Arthur		



The Peru Coronet Band, as they appeared in about 1890. This group was quite known at that time. Peru did have a band stand, and enjoyed outdoor music .



The Peru High School is now gone, being replaced by the Greek Revival structure built about 1937-38. The wooden structure was located on the south side of Pleasant Street, Peru.



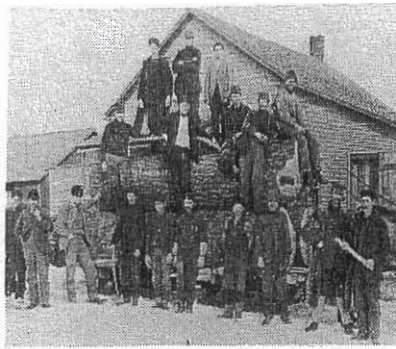
Here is shown the first Peru High School Band to function in the new building.



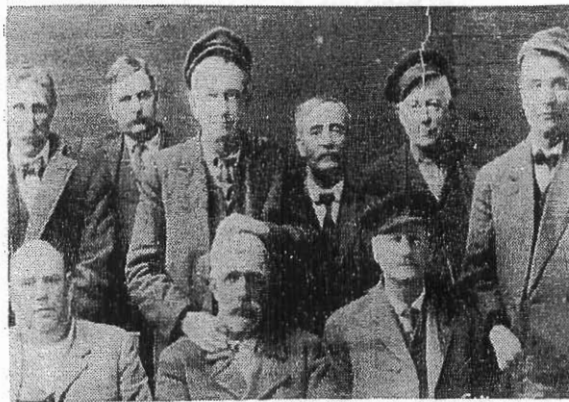
Many one-room school houses were in use in Peru throughout the 1800's and early 1900's. Here is shown the one on the Rock Road near Lyons Road.



These people are employees at Lapham's Mills. The photograph was taken in the late 1800's. The lumber mill burned soon after this picture was taken.



One load of virgin timber brought to the Lapham Mills sawmill in the late 1800's.



Here are some of the Gentlemen of a half century ago in Peru , New York.