



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC., Charlton, Ballston Lake, N.Y., 12019

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146 CRANE STREET
CHARLTON



FEBRUARY
1980

JUL . 65

Ca. 1780

On the east side of Crane Street, stands one of the oldest houses in the town of Charlton.

John Holmes settled here on March 25, 1775 at which time he built an earth dam and a grist-mill. He is credited with being the first miller in the territory.

From an old deed we learn that a house stood 1 chain & 99 links from the northeast corner of the mill. No doubt this was the temporary home for the Holmes family while he built the mill.

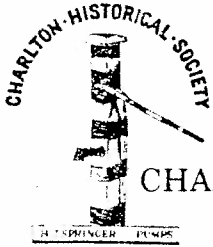
The present house, of clap-board and hand-hewn beams, has withstood the elements of the changing weather for over 200 years. It now stands as a part of our heritage.

Holmes first purchased Small Lot 4, 200 acres of the 5000 acre tract, and later purchased Small Lot 3, where the mill stood.

At the death of Holmes, in 1814, the property was sold to the Marvin family who ground buckwheat flour of the best quality throughout the State.

The remaining portion of the farm, with the present house, is now owned by Louise Clark and the 3 acre mill-site is owned by her brother, C. Edward Swanker.

The 9 acre dam-site is now owned by the town and has been set aside as a nature park. At low water, in the summer, the anchor beam for the earth dam can be seen embedded in the rock.



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794 MAIN ST
CHARLTON



JANUARY
1980

Ca. 1786

From research of land deeds we learn that this house, home of Emily Farrell, is one of the oldest homes in the hamlet of Charlton. It was first owned by William Clark who sold a lot, in 1786, to the congregation of the Freehold Presbyterian Church so that they could build a house of worship.

When Simeon Woodruff owned this farm, in 1836, it contained 79 acres but with subsequent transfers the acreage was reduced to a house-lot of only a few acres.

Roswell Hawley resided here in 1844. He was a brother of Gideon Hawley, Jr. the first State Superintendent of Common Schools.

Jesse Conde, grandson of the first settler in the hamlet, purchased this farm in 1865. The farm then had been reduced to 33 acres, and it stayed in the family until his son Henry Davenport Conde died in 1938. Henry D. Conde was elected the first Supt. of Highways in 1909, when a paid highway department was established to maintain the town roads. Prior to this period the maintenance of the roads fell to the share of the landowners whose roads bordered their farms. They were called Pathmasters, and it was their responsibility to keep their section of the road in repair.

This farm was surveyed in 1769, and is located in Lot 1 of Lot 11 of the XIII Allotment of the Kayderosseras Patent. This house is now No. 44 within the Charlton Historic District, as registered on the National Register of Historic Preservation.

The Farrell family moved here in the year 1971.



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC., Charlton, Ballston Lake, N.Y., 12019
#3 of 151

51 Vines Road
Charlton



February
1980

JUL • 65

Ca. 1853

This farm has been recently purchased by Francis and Damasita Miner. The house is set off of Vines Road and is reached by a lane at the west end of the farm. Several decades ago this road was called "Wildcat Alley".

As one would sit in a rocker on the front porch of this lovely colonial home, and gaze at the waters of the Alplaus Kill flowing leisurely by, a person could realize contentment not found in the busy cities.

Not with-standing the beauty of nature to be enjoyed here, one can also enjoy the riches of folk-lore too. Legend tells us that here once stood a silk-mill but through research we find that it was a fulling-mill and was built and operated by John Rogers, our first saw-mill operator in the territory.

John Rogers, in 1784, purchased the north 100 acres of Small Lot 10, 5000 acre tract of the patent. At the west end of his tract, on the west side of Swaggertown Rd., he built his first home, later occupied by the Jankowski family.

As his north line, at the first home, the Alplaus Kill flowed by a high slate cliff so Rogers had to purchase a 10 acre plot from Jeremiah Smith to locate his saw-mill complex, in 1977.

At the same time he built a fulling mill at the Alplaus Kill, in front of the house pictured above. As the mill-dam was built on the solid rock bed we can assume that a strong spring freshette washed away the dam and the mill. John Rogers did continue to operate his saw-mill at Swaggertown Rd.

In 1853, Martin Smith, grandson of Jeremiah Smith, purchased this 38 acre farm from the heirs of John Rogers. Since then the farm has changed hands through the families of Kernan, Brown, Winans, Heritage, Chase, Litts, Powers, and now is owned by the Miner family.



CHARLTON, SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

#4 of 151

1244 Eastern Ave
Charlton

March
1980



Ca.1820

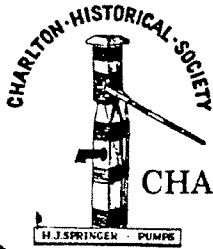
When we look at the picture of this house, we should first notice the giant locust tree at the east side of the house. The locust tree has been called "Man's first lightning protection. We find many of these giant trees throughout the town which grace many green lawns. This lovely colonial brick house stands on an 80 acre farm purchased by Alexander Donnan in 1821. The wood frame of the house is built of handhewn oak beams, as found in many of the early houses that were built after the Revolutionary War.

leazor Dows, an early building contractor, built some of the early brick houses that are still standing today. Possibly this is one of them.

The early settlers valiantly cleared the land into productive farms, yet did not realize that they were creating part of our heritage. Regrettably, they did not keep good records of their achievements, so after 200 years we have to second-guess for much of the early history of our town.

This farm changed hands over the years through the Donnan, Murtlow, and Heritage families. This farm was purchased by R. Kenneth Hickey, and his wife Alice in 1941. The property is now owned by Harold Gilmore, and his wife Alice (Hickey) Gilmore.

As in some rare cases of the patent, the land of this farm is situated on both sides of the road. It was not always feasible to have the road run on the lot line, so in this case the road runs by the house. To the east of the house there is a hedgerow still visible which marks the old lane that led to the Watkins farm.



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC., Charlton, Ballston Lake, N.Y., 12019

#5 of 151

838 Charlton Rd.
Charlton



March
1980

JUL 6

Ca. 1791

It is most fitting that this early colonial house, well preserved, should be the home of our Supervisor Fred Hequembourg and his wife Helen. They moved here in 1952.

In 1791 Timothy Crane purchased this, once 100 acre farm, excepting the 3 acre tavern lot, from Ithamer and Sarah Coe.

The farm has been owned by many notable families such as Belding, Rogers, Crane, Curtis and Gardiner.

The horse-shed, to the rear of the house, was built of lumber from the Holmes Mill which was dismantled by the Crane families, in 1866. At that time the Crane families owned this farm as well as the Holmes farm on Crane St.

At the corners of Charlton Rd. and the west side of Division St., there stood the Dickinson Tavern, as early as 1796. John Dickinson was issued a license to operate a tavern at that time. Also at these corners there was located the Dist. No. 6 Schoolhouse. The district consolidated with Dist. No. 8, and the Schoolhouse was dismantled.

Before the Sacandaga Turnpike was established, between Goldfoote Road and Charlton Rd. This Division St. was a main thoroughfare for the early foragers transporting their goods to Galway and the Sacandaga area. This street is also historic as it divides the voting districts of No. 1 and No. 2.

The Hequembourg farm was a productive farm until 1943, when purchased by Ernest Cohen. Mr. Cohen once held the position of town attorney. Mr. Cohen subdivided the farm into building lots so that now this two-story colonial house is surrounded by newer homes.



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC., Charlton, Ballston Lake, N.Y., 12019
#6 of 151

224 Stage Rd.
Charlton

February
1980



Ca. 1796

With time comes change so it is important that with the change there comes the time to record the past.

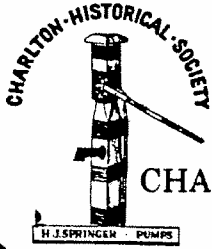
Here we find a lovely colonial, two story house that stands serenely amongst the housing developments of South Charlton, created these past few decades.

As many of our landmarks have disappeared this house has a story to tell. Elisha Jenne was issued a license to operate a tavern here and it continued so during the ownership of William Bettys. At the death of Bettys his son Joseph (not the Tory spy) took possession. To buy out the heirs Joseph had to secure a mortgage from Nathan Hollister in 1811. At the time the farm contained 130 acres of land but in 1831 the acreage had dropped to 77½ acres when purchased by Jeremiah & Tompkins DeGraff. In 1846 the DeGraff brothers purchased the 2 acre mill-site which was located at the south end of the present bridge on Stage Rd. This mill was one of the mills to make up the mill-complex of the early days of Little Troy.

Joseph Manas, a local building contractor, purchased 32½ acres of this farm, in 1952, and built a series of fine homes here. He called his development the "Orchard Grove".

We are indebted to Mr. Manas for maintaining part of our heritage as he named the streets after some of our Charlton Worthies, such as Callaghan, Hawley, and Marvin.

This house with 6 3/4 acres, is now owned by Theodore & Marg Glowa.



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC., Charlton, Ballston Lake, N.Y., 12019

#7 of 151

2004 Maple Ave.
Charlton



April
1980

1786

This house is located on Lot A of Lot 3 of Lot 11 of XIII Allotment of the Kayaderossers Patent, surveyed in 1769, and a part of the 103-1/6 acre farm that Thomas Brown purchased in 1786. The floor beams of this house are made up of whole trees, still retaining the original bark.

Charles Taylor Brown resided here, with his family, until his death in 1830. He died at the age of 36 years, left a widow, three infants, parents and two brothers. He was married to Wilmot Conde Boyd.

When Alida Brown resided here, in 1860, she also owned the house-lot of the Duscharme home. In 1891, the St. Paul's Church congregation purchased this house from Alida Brown and was used as the home of the Church caretakers until it was purchased by Frank Lafforthun, in 1937. Lafforthun spent many long hours digging a cellar under the house and installing modern heating and plumbing appliances. His daughter Joan was born in this house in 1937.

Rachel Smith purchased this property, in 1941, and willed it to her daughter Edna Smith Robinson. At the time, Rachel Smith was known to most of us as "Grandma Smith".

Ronald Duscharme purchased the property, in 1977, and has restored the facade of the house to its original look.

Legend tells us that Charles T. Brown operated a store on this lot and it faced on Main St. At his death the store was dismantled and no doubt the lumber was used to build the woodshed at the east end of the house. On the lot stands a thorny Locust tree of considerable age.



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC., Charlton, Ballston Lake, N.Y., 12019

#8 of 151

2022 Maple Ave.
Charlton

April
1980



JUL

Ca. 1800

This early colonial house is built of several additions over the years but you will note the main part of the house to the right in the picture. At this time the present owners, Robert and Ada Bailey, are endeavoring to restore the house. They recently had cedar-shake shingles applied to the roofs which is characteristic of the colonial period.

This house is located about midway the length of the original farm. It has been difficult to judge the age of this house as no deed can be found recorded by Joseph Brown. It is a known fact that Joseph Brown sold the St. Paul's congregation their church lot in 1804. When Nathan Brown purchased this property in 1856, there were only 45 acres included with the house. There were several Joseph Browns so it is not known whether this Joseph was the brother or son of Thomas Brown.

Mr. Thomas Brown must have been an influential citizen in the town in the early days as he owned this farm and 400 acres on the west side of Peaceable St. from 1777 to 1791.

Over the years many owners of this farm have distinguished themselves in the business world. Matilda Hall (sister of Nathan Brown) was a school teacher in 1878. Nathan Brown was a veteran of the Civil War; George Thornton was an engineer at NYC; Mabel Thomson operated a Studebaker car sales at Schemectady in the 20's; Robert Heinemann is presently president of Dorp Realty Inc., and Robert Bailey is affiliated with the Bailey Enterprises. Each in their turn have added to the heritage of this house.

At the turn of the century there was located a saw mill at the creek southeast of the house. This creek supplied water for the steam-boiler that operated the mill. Our water table has dropped over the past 75 years so that now the stream of water dries up in the summer.



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC., Charlton, Ballston Lake, N.Y., 12019

#9 of 151

1086 West Line Rd.
Charlton



May
1980

JUL 6
1789

The mighty blacksmith may have flexed his muscles under the mighty spreading chestnut tree but here is one of the finest two story colonial houses in the countryside, settled on a tree studded slope in the far west end of the town.

Here settled Elizabeth Kissam, wife of Jacob Mott, on this 150 acre farm in 1789. This farm is in Lot B of Lot 1 of Lot 5, XIII Allotment of the patent. It is bordered on the south by a tract of 407 acres that was purchased by Peter Kissam.

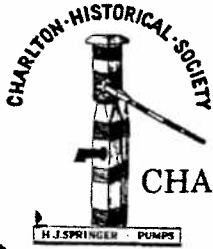
Elizabeth Mott died Nov. 5, 1810 age 73 and is buried by the side of her husband, in a small burial ground on the north side of Old Rt. #67. Their son, Whitehead, is buried in the Brotherson Cemetery on the south side of Old Rt. #67.

Little is known of the Kissam families except that Benjamin Kissam, attorney of NYC was the attorney for many land transactions made by the commissioners in the sale of the patent lands.

The house faces West Line Rd. which in the early days was travelled extensively by foragers transporting their goods to West Galway, and points north in the Sacandaga Valley Area.

Richard Kissam, in 1820, purchased this farm from Whitehead Mott, and in turn sold it to Isaac Putnam, in 1825. The Putnam family resided here until 1873. The farm was in full operation by Samuel Pikul in 1923 but at his death his son Frank reserved 41 acres and then sold the farm.

Andrew and Winifred Brice now own this house which adds to the heritage of our town. It is one of the few in the Blue Corners area that had not been desecrated with the asphalt sidings of the Great Depression period. The farm runs east and west and on the west end it borders the Montgomery County Line.



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC., Charlton, Ballston Lake, N.Y., 12019

#10 of 151

1253 Eastern Ave.
Charlton



May
1980

Ca 1842

From the mortgage books we learn that in 1794, Christopher Warmsley, a Revolutionary War veteran, purchased this 100 acre farm from the heirs of the McKindley and McClellan families.

William McLacklin owned this farm, in 1842, so possibly he built this loveley Greek Revival style house when he first settled here.

In 1859 the farm was purchased by William Bunyan and was handed down to George Bunyan, a long time town assessor. George willed the farm to his daughter Thelma Bunyan Arnold.

In 1965 David Wood and his wife Constance (Arnold) purchased this farm and since have made many efforts to renovate the house.

There were many instances where many of the early houses were renovated to conform to the Greek Revival Period design in the 1820's. It is not known whether this is the original house built in 1794 or whether it has been a replacement.

The location of the house makes an idyllic setting as it can be reached from Eastern Ave. by a driveway on the east and a driveway on the north. The west bounds of the farm follows the southerly route of the Alplaus Kill that is a vital part of our watershed.

North of the farm, on the south side of Eastern Ave. there lies a pie-shaped piece of land that George Bunyan purchased in 1924. On the plot is located the homes of George Wood, a local welldriller, and Thelma Bunyan Arnold.