

CHARLTON, SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

#121 of 151

Ca.1952



Ca.1928

3 Western Ave.-January 1986      33 Western

On the right is the home of the Delbert Galusha family, who moved here in 1965. Although this house is not of the early days, and does not show up too well in the picture, we do include in this series so as to record the families that resided here.

This house is located on a 4 acre plot of land that at one time was a part of the farm of John Bowsby, the Inkeeper.

Donald Conde purchased this property from William Hayes, in 1928, and subsequent owners were Speanburg; Brundige; and now Galusha.

On the left is the home of the David Ingraham family, who moved here in 1953. This house, with its Greek Revival facade, was once the schoolhouse that stood near the corner of Sacandaga Rd..

From the school-minutes we learn that this building was built in 1852, and moved to this location in 1914.

The first schoolhouse, in the 1815 period, stood at the corner of Sacandaga Rd. In this area there was a private school and this may have been it, or the building could have been one of the first to be used as a pilot program for the Common School System set up by Gideon Hawley when he was appointed the First Supt. of Public Schools in the State in 1813.

It was in 1815 that John Anderson sold the district a 30/50 lot for a schoolhouse, but it is not known what became of the first building. Possible it was converted into a store by John L. Pearse.

In 1828, Finlay McMartin was appointed the first postmaster for this area, and again we assume that the postoffice was located in the converted old schoolhouse.

Note: With our continued research we learned that the Freeman's Tavern, listed earlier, was later to become the Bowsby Tavern. located at the corner of Eastern Ave. and Sacandaga RD.

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Ca.1869



Ca.1858

Dawson Rd.-January 1986

Now that we have traversed roads of the northern section of the town, and described the early homes within the XIII Allotment of the patent, we will continue this series by describing the houses within the 5,000 acre tract of the patent which extends southward from Charlton Rd. to the Glenville Line.

On the left is the Dawson Mill, that was removed here from Rotterdam in 1869 by George Dawson. This mill replaced the previous one that was destroyed by fire.

The picture on the right is of the Small Pond that has nearly gone dry to become a mud-flat. This pond stored water to operate the mill by a raceway.

In 1858, and 1866, John Dawson obtained flood-rights on the Alplaus Kill from George Beach, who owned the farm to the north. With the flood-rights Dawson was able to divert the waters of the Alplaus Kill to converge with the waters of the Crabb Kill that flowed from Glenville. By building a series of dikes, a large stone-dam, Dawson created the Large Pond that fed into the small pond thru a small connecting canal.

W. Bronson Taylor sold the water-wheel when he ceased operation of the gristmill, and during W.W. II he dismantled the old sawmill carriage and sold it in the scrapdrive/

Taylor then subdivided the property and sold the mill to Owen Harblin, the house to the other Harblin brothers. The Large Pond area was sold to Ernest Cohen who later sold it to the Stag Hunt & Fish Club of Schenectady.

The Cromie brothers purchased the mill machinery, and it is now stored in the barn of the farm of Robert Cromie on Rt. #67.

The Dawson Mill, although in-operable, is the last standing mill on the banks of the Alplaus Kill that flows thru Charlton, and Glenville to empty into the Mohawk River at the Village of Alplaus. So ends the mill heritage of the early days.

# CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

CHARLTON, SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

#123 of 151

Ca. 1832



Ca. 1800



141 Dawson Rd.-February 1986

On the right is the home of the James Derrick family, who moved here in 1979.

W. Bronson Taylor, past historian, resided here for about 50 years, and operated the Dawson Mill, until W.W.II at which time he was employed as an inspector at the General Electric Company during the war.

This farm had 28 acres of land in the town of Charlton, and is a part of Small Lot 1, of the 5,000 acre tract that was sold off to defray the expense of the patent survey. William Dawson purchased Small Lot 1, of 150 acres, in 1785. It is not known whether William or John Dawson built the first mill at the west end of the Large Pond.

Legend tells us that John Dawson had purchased a flutter-wheel for this first mill, and shortly thereafter was visited by the inventor of such turbine who informed Dawson that his copy of the turbine was an infringement on his patent rights, therefore he was entitled to compensation. Dawson refused to pay, removed the turbine and buried it in the banks of the Crabb Kill. Finding this early turbine would be a rewarding exercise for future young archaeologists.

On the left is the home of the Fred Presseisen family. In 1832 John Dawson purchased this property, of 1-3/4 acres, from John Dows. This small tract of land lies in the southeast corner of Small Lot 1.

When the town lines were changed, about 1787, a large portion of William Dawson's 150 acre holdings became a part of the 4th. Ward of Schenectady. This new line is a disputed area, and marked "Indefinite" on State Maps.

When Isaac Dawson purchased this property, in 1875, the deed was recorded in Schenectady County/

After Dawson subsequent owners were; Krummenaues; Middleton; Olmstead;

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Ca.1806



123 Crane St.-February 1986

Ca.1840



137 Crane

On the right is the home of the George Hauenstein family, who moved here in 1963. This house is located on the south half of the original farm. It is believed that his house was built by Uriah Marvin, in 1840, to replace the old house across the road.

In 1944, Theodore Lafforthun purchased a 4 acre tract, on the north side of Dawson Rd, with the old house. He removed the old house and used the lumber to make an addition to his home on Stage Rd.

The Robert Smialek family reside in the house built on the old foundation by Gilman Annis in 1949.

As early as 1797, Elam Pease resided in the old house, as well as the families of Holmes and Taylor. When William Taylor had the farm surveyed in 1835 the farm contained 125 acres of land excluding the water-rights for the Marvin Mill.

Subsequent owners after Taylor were; Marvin; Smith. Lafforthun; Flynn; Bryant; Manley; Kopple; and Hauenstein.

The house on the left is the home of the William Grabo family, who purchased this farm from John VanPatten in 1970. VanPatten operated this farm, as well as his milk collection business, from 1919 to 1970.

This farm, of 103 acres of land, is partially in Small Lot 2 and 9 of the patent, and some acreage is in the Town of Glenville. Once more we encounter the disputed line of the 4th. Ward of Schenectady.

Down thru the years the total acreage of this farm has changed. In 1806 Joseph Bacon resided here and the farm contained 140 acres. The following year, when sold to Martin L. Curtis, the acreage was reduced to 95, and then again, in 1871, when Amzi Davenport resided here the farm contained 105 acres of land.

Subsequent owners were; Capen; Pink; Conde; Streever Lumber Co.; Van Patten; and now Grabo.



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1900?



Ca.1804

109 Crane St.-March 1986

19 Crane

On the right is the home of the Lawrence Gardiner family, who moved here in 1974. Lawrence is the 7th. generation of this family to reside on this farm. Adelia Gardiner passed title to the farm to Lawrence in 1974. It is believed that Graham Gardiner built the barn in 1920s.

When John Gardiner I settled here the farm was a series of small tracts of land of 16 and 20 acres in Small Lot 2, with a  $5\frac{1}{2}$  rod strip in front of the house, as well as a 30 acre tract of land, except  $7\text{-}\frac{1}{8}$  acres in Small Lot 3.

In 1832, Lawrence Gardiner I purchased a 78 acre tract from John Davenport, which lies south of the house. In 1871, he purchased an 18 acre tract on the north side of Newman Rd.

On the left, at the end of a farm-lane, is the home of the John Lang family, who moved here about 1971.

Knowledge of the history of this farm is scarce, but it is believed that the Caveny family built this house about 1900, to replace the old house. There are 2 acres of land in Charlton with the remaining acreage in the Town of Glenville. Most likely most of the deeds for this farm are recorded in Schenectady County.

We did find a historical note recorded in Saratoga County when John Streeter purchased this farm from the patent commissioners in 1799. He had 3 acres of the survey listed as in Charlton, and the balance of the acreage extended in Glenville to the Vrooman Line, the old patent line. From this deed we can establish both the old and the new lines separating these town lines.

In 1832, Isaac Holmes resided here and the farm then contained  $43\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land.



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Ca.1800



Ca.1835



Goldfoote Rd.-March 1986

137 Goldfoote

On the left is the home of the Rennie family, who moved here in 1952. This too is another farm in the area where the New Town Line runs thru the farm, and its west bounds is the Old line, or Vrooman Line. Of the 57 acres of land in this farm, only a few acres are in the Town of Charlton, and the remainder in the Town of Glenville.

In our research, we found a deed of 1799 where Timothy Phelps purchased this farm from Barnabas Schermerhorn, and Nicholas VanderBogart, but it was not until 1922 that another deed was recorded in Saratoga County.

Peter Caveny, in 1922, purchased this farm at a mortgage sale, and then in 1936 he lost it to the Federal Land Bank. The southeast corner of this farm continues 2 chains, 88 links, to the New County Line, and then extends southward on Goldfoote Rd. for 17 chains, 37 links, to the north bounds of Small Lot 15, or the point where Isaac Smith, an Attorney, had his first house.

On the right is the home of the Werner Grabo family, who moved here in 1940. This farm is also affected by the New County Line, as it crosses this farm which leaves a small portion of land in the Town of Glenville.

James Grabo, in 1965, purchased this farm from his parents. He built an addition, on the east side of the main house for his family to grow in. James, and his wife Carol, have renovated the barns, built new ones, and additional stables. They raise, and train horses for hire, and give lessons in riding horses for show. They call their stables the "Pine Tree Stables".

In 1799, Jonathan Ward purchased this 66 acre farm, and it is a part of Small Lot 9, of the 5,000 acre tract.

Subsequent owners after Ward were; Hedden; Cross; and now Brabo.

Job Hedden, ancestor of Hooper Hedden, was a bootmaker for the soldiers in the Revolution.





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Ca. 1824



Ca. 1835



777 Swaggertown Rd.-April 1986

804 Swaggertown

On the right is the home of the George Greenwood family, who moved here in 1944.

Over the years, this property has been known as the Litts #1 farm that they purchased in 1911. Subsequently they purchased the farm on the south side of Vines Rd, in 1921 and called it Farm #2. In 1931, they purchased Farm #3, on the west side of Stage Rd., thus at one time owned all the land on the south side of Vines Rd.

Farm #1, of 10 acres, was once a part of the 15 acre tract that John Rogers purchased from Jeremiah Smith, in 1777, for his mill. Rogers is credited with operating the first sawmill in the area. Later a gristmill was added but it was destroyed by a fire, and boiler explosion in 1860.

After Rogers subsequent owners were; Conners; Seeley; Barrett, Shoudy; Milliman; Canfield; Whalen; and Litts.

On the left is the home of the Robert Flynn family, who purchased this farm from Ruth, widow of Frank Porter, in 1969.

In his latter years Mr. Porter conducted his realty and insurance business from this location.

We believe that Robert Flynn's heritage dates back to 1792, when James Flinn settled on a 111 acre tract on upper Division St.

The Porter farm is a portion of the south tract of 100 acres that Alexander McAuley purchased in 1784. In 1794, McAuley sold a tract of 37 acres on the east side of the road to John Rogers. This latter tract makes up the south portion of the Sorino farm, which was Roger's south farm.

Subsequent owners after McAuley were; Chapman; VanHovenburgh; Barringer; Herrington; Coonrad; Stone; Cunningham; Richman; Lampe; Roscoe; Porter, and now Flynn.

Ca.1800



Ca.1809



753 Swaggertown Rd.-April 1986 758 Swaggertown

On the right is the house purchased by Frederick Kirk, in 1968. Mr. Kirk is a science teacher at the Niskayuna High School

Since this picture was taken, in 1965, Mr. Kirk has built a new house, in the pines north of the farmhouse, and rents out the old house.

In 1814, Hamlet Wright purchased this 15 acre tract of land from Peter Hayes who lived across the road in the Gilday House. In 1809 Silas Sherman held a mortgage on this property so we believe that this house was then a part of the property mortgage.

After Wright subsequent owners were; Cavert; McGraw; Vedder; Hedden; Canfield; Gibbo; Relyea; MacHastings; Bradley; Hall; Lasher; Hallenbeck; Hurwitz; Musznay, and now Kirk.

On the left is the home of the James Gilday family, who moved here in 1963, and the property contains 4 acres of the Miller farm acreage. Jefferson Miller purchased this farm, in 1910, and it then contained 107 acres of land.

In 1973, Peter Frischman purchased the bulk of the farm acreage, and built his home in the Pines. That same year Frischman sold a tract of 52 acres of land to William Barber who also built his home in the Pines. Both of these houses are reached by a winding lane thru the pine woods.

In 1794, Jonas Hawkins purchased Small Lot 15, of 315 acres of land, and a 50 acre strip on the east side of the road in Small Lot 16. This Lot 15 had been subdivided, over the years, into small tracts, but in 1865 when John Gardiner owned the farm it contained 75 acres.

Once again the farm was subdivided into smaller tracts until 1910 when Jefferson Miller purchased the farm. It then contained 107 acres of land.

Subsequent owners to reside in the house after Miller were, Moore; Eckel; Harvey; Nitzman; and now Gilday.





# CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Ca. 1800



1936



703 Swaggertown Rd.-May 1986      724 Swaggertown

On the right is the house that Alfred Mershon built in 1936. Some of the cut-stones used in this construction were transported here from the New England States. It is the only cut-stone house in the town. This property contains 8-3/4 acres of land, and is a part of Small Lot 22, of the 5,000 acre tract, that extends to the new town line at Glenville.

Mr. Mershon, an engineer with the General Electric Co., an active outdoors man, spent his spare time breaking up rocks with a hammer for the bed of the driveway to the house. There was no need for him to jog on the roads for his exercise.

In 1981, this property was sold to the Theodore Glover family. They still harvest the blueberry crops from the bushes set out by Mr. Mershon.

On the left is the home of the James Lannon family, who moved here in 1965. This farm, of 45 acres of land, is a part of the Frederick Heckeler farm. During the 1900s, the Heckeler families owned three farms which extended from Bolt Rd. northward to Crooked St.

Barnabas Hartley purchased Small Lot 22, of 267 acres, in 1789, and then sold a tract of 100 acres to David Chinsley, where this house is located. This Small Lot 22 was subdivided into small farms, and it was not until 1844 that we find that this farm contained 111-3/4 acres of land, when purchased by John DeGraff. The farm acreage was on both sides of the road.

In 1907, Frederick Heckeler owned this farm. Since then the land on the east side of the road was sold off and subdivided into house lots. The developers were the Ficotte Realty firm.

Since 1823 subsequent owners to reside here were; Coggshall; Capen; Garner; Doughty; DeGraff; Hullett; Bieber; Heckeler; Benington; Harden; and now Lannon.



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Ca. 1831



Ca. 1835



53 Crooked St.-May 1986

68 Crooked

On the right is the home of the William Reed family, who moved here in 1953. Henry Ritchie, past historian, resided here in 1936, and when he sold the house, and some acreage to Reed, he converted the barn into a home, and studio. The studio was sold to John Friedly, and while his family resided here the building was destroyed by fire while they were away.

In 1838, Garrett Cavert owned this farm, and it contained 73 acres of land, and a 11-3/4 acre woodlot. Then in 1873, when Nicholas Swart resided here, the acreage was reduced to 58 acres. Another change came about, in 1877, when Henry Buhrmaster purchased a 45 acre tract on the south side of the road, which later became a separate property.

After Cavert subsequent owners were; Taylor; Sanders; Swart; Buhrmaster; Nadler; Pahl; Ritchie; and now Reed.

On the left is the home of the John Reville family, who moved here in 1970.

When Amasa Spring resided here, in 1831, the farm contained 105-3/4 acres of land, and a 15 acre woodlot. In 1857, the total acreage became 111 acres. A tract of 45 acres was sold off to Henry Buhrmaster.

A small building lot was sold off to Napoleon Plue, in 1955, where Elinor Weeks now resides. Only a small portion of the farm acreage was included with the farmhouse. Rudolph Dussault has purchased the remaining acreage of the farm which he plans to subdivide into building lots.

The transmission line, for the N.Y. Power & Light Co. was run across this farm in 1922.

Where the power-lines cross the road there is a "S" bend, thus the road derived its name.

This farm is a part of Small Lot 16 of the 5,000 acre tract.

After Spring subsequent owners were; Failing; Fosmire; Cavert; Valentine; Jenne; Bedell; Swart; Schwenker, Fitzgerald, and now Reville.