



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

CHARLTON, SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

#51 of 151

Ca.1800



1823



1016 Shadick Rd.

June 1982

220 Sweetman RD.

With the camera we can preserve a part of our heritage that time, and weather destroys.

The picture on the right is a panorama of the Sweetman house and barns. Since this picture was taken the barns have disappeared, a part of our heritage destroyed by the weather.

Thomas Sweetman, one of the first Freeholder to settle in this area, purchased a 145 acre tract of land from the commissioners in 1774. On this farm he first built a logcabin to be replaced by the house on Shadick Road. In 1830 John Sweetman purchased this property, and built this house. Later the property was owned by Dr. James Sweetman, who is credited with building the barns with the many spires, and windows of colored glass. Also, he is credited with having the chapel vault built in the Sweetman Cemetery. We are told that the idea for the design of the chapel, and the spires on the barns, were copied after similar constructions found in Switzerland, where he, and his bride, spent their honeymoon.

The house on the left, with its handhewn oak beams predates the house on Sweetman Road. The family graduated from the logcabin to this house. The Joseph Drapala family reside here now.

Since the death of Thomas Sajdick farming activities have ceased so the farm was split up among his heirs.

The palatial home on Sweetman Road is now owned by the Torben Aabo family, who are presently renovating the house to maintain its dignity, as one of the finer homes in the town.



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Ca.1800



Ca.1837



389 Sweetman Rd. June 1982 382 Sweetman Rd.

The picture on the left is a side view of the home of the Douglass Mitchell family. This is a typical colonial farmhouse that date the countryside, and dates back to the 18th. century.

Legend tells us that John Cavert, in 1774, struck his willow staff into the wet soil south of this house, and when he returned, in 1786, the staff had grown into a tree. During this short absence, Cavert served in the New Jersey militia during the rebellion. In 1786 he purchased this 100 acre tract for his homestead farm. The Cavert families resided here until 1884 when the farm was sold to Harry Smith. The Smith families have resided here until the present time. Dorothy Mitchell is the daughter of W. Guy and Emily (Weed) Smith, who reside on the west side of Jockey St.

After nearly 200 years this sturdy house of handhewn oak beams have withstood the ravages of time, and weather. A truly historic landmark in our town.

On the right is a picture of another Cavert farmhouse, one of the five farms owned by the Cavert families throughout the years. The Hans Holbein family resides here now. Mr. Holbein is an industrial arts teacher, at one of the nearby schools. Ella Holbein, now retired, was a home economics teacher at the Niskayuna Highschool until she was blessed with motherhood.

James Robinso resided here in 1898, and served as town supervisor for several terms. The Robinso family resided here for 46 years.



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Ca.1837



485 Sweetman Rd. June 1982 657 Sweetman Rd.

The colonial house, with its Greek Revival facade, pictured on the left, is the home of the Daniel Smith family. Although the houselot contains only a few acres, this farm was one of the early holdings of the Cavert families.

In 1790, John Cavert purchased a tract of 120 acres here from Goveneaur family, who were descendants of one of the 13 original loyal subjects of Queen Anne, of England.

The Chambers family purchased this farm in 1837, and it is believed that they built this house at that period. In 1869, the Tibbets families purchased this farm and resided here until 1916.

Pictured on the right stands this 2 strey colonial farmhouse, near the Galway Line, and is now owned by the Robert Zullo family, of Ballston Spa. At the driveway is seen a picket-fence rarely seen now in the countryside.

In 1834 William Cavert purchased this farm, of 108-3/4 acres from Job Cornell. It was one of the five farms that John Cavert sold to William Cavert, in 1840, for \$20,000. Legend tells us that William Cavert sold his landholdings and moved west, never to return to Charlton. His descendants, in New York State, are still searching for his burial place.

The farm is part of Lot 6, of Lot 1, of Lot 13, in the XIII Allotment, and is made up of two tracts, one of 58-3/3 acres that Job Cornell purchased from John Hayes in 1820, and the south portion, of 50 acres, was purchased by Cornell from Amos Sherwood in 1828.

This farm, over the years, has had 21 owners, and on several occasions was purchased through a mortgage foreclosure sale.



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654 Sweetman Rd.

Ca.1809



Near the Galway Line, we find another colonial farmhouse now owned by the Vernon Pashley family, and over the years it was known as the "Crawford Farm", who ceased farming here in 1938. The farm has changed hands many times, and some of the road-frontage has been sold off into building lots, but nevertheless this does not diminish the charm, or history of the house.

From a mortgage book entry, we learn that Jacob Angle settled here in 1791, so we can assume that some portion of this house was built at that period. This was another one of the 5 farms that William Cavert sold back to John Cavert in 1840.

The Crawford family purchased this $110\frac{1}{2}$ acre farm, in 1845, and sold to George Mather in 1938. The Pashley family moved here in 1962, and built a farm-pond on the Mourning Kill, that controls the watershed in the northeast section of the town.

Legend tells us that one of the early families who lived here lost their two small daughters, who died of an epidemic. They were buried under a large tree on the banks of the Kill, and one of the sources of the creek's name was from the bereavement of the young parents.

Another legend tells us that the Kill got its name from the Indians who visited this stream, at Middle Line Rd., where a fierce Indian battle took place. The mourning Indians named the stream thus, so we leave it to our readers to decide which legend is acceptable to them.

The Angle family also leave a legend. It appears that a Hessian soldier defected to the colonial cause, and settled in Pennsylvania. With the help of family genealogy seekers we may learn if the Hessian was the progenitor of the Charlton Angle families.



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Ca.1835



Lasher Rd. October 1982 Lasher Rd.

Ca.1849



At the corner of Lasher and Sweetman Roads is the home of the Herbert Heffler family, pictured on the left.

Down thru the years this property was known as the "Lane Farm", and the houselot was known as the Milligan Lot, which is located on a $2\frac{1}{2}$ acre lot. A deed for the houselot was found as of in 1835, and one, in 1840, for the complete farm which contained 140 acres of land. As early as 1806, Mathew and Peter Lane obtained a mortgage thru William Cavert for the farm land.

When this farm was purchased by William Speer, in 1944, the south $33\frac{1}{2}$ acre tract was reserved by the Smith family, and fell to the share of W. Guy Smith. Over the years this farm has been owned by families of; Wheeler-Davis-Tibbetts-McKnight-Brann-Chalmers-Smith-Speer and now Heffler.

To the right is a picture of one of the few brick houses in Charlton. The Stephen Merchant Jr. family purchased this farm, in 1961, and it contained 160 acres of land.

Cary Lasher resided here, in 1899, and the road is named in his honor. John McKnight, one of the 1775 Freeholders, first settled here. At his death his son purchased the farm from the heirs in 1849, which indicates that the family home was well established by then.

Burroughs VanValkenberg purchased this farm, of 144 acres, for \$1,000 from the Federal Land Bank. The New Deal was supposed to help the farmers in distress, but it had its drawbacks too as many Depression farmers lost their farms by foreclosure.

It is the Aeons, and not the systems, that defeats the efforts of Man.



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Ca.1791



Ca.1791



Finley Rd.

October 1982, 1849 Route #67

As we stand on Finley Rd., the division line between Charlton and Ballston, we glimpse a view of one of the few saltbox houses in the town. Pictured on the left is the home of the Paul Simpson family, who moved here in 1965.

From a mortgage book entry we learn that Edmond Arrowsmith purchased this 92 acre farm, on or before 1791, from the commissioners. The south bounds is the Mourning Kill, and the north bounds is the Town of Milton. The Ballston north line is 45 chains 25 links north of the Kill.

The picture on the right shows the farm buildings of the Robert Cromie family, who moved here in 1965. Recently they renovated this saltbox house to preserve its colonial facade of the early days.

The north bounds of this farm is the Mourning Kill, on the west side of Finley Rd. The east bounds of this farm once bordered the Plummer Rd., which has been abandoned. The farm lane, from the house, leads to Route #67, which was originally surveyed as a "Farm to Market Road".

Over the years this farm has been owned by many prominent Charlton families such as; Angle-Sherman-Wilson-Havercamp-Beach-Manzer-Teeling and Gilchrist.

In the barn, Robert Cromie has stored many pieces of machinery from the Dawson Mill, on Dawson Rd., one of the last standing mills on the Alplaus Kill. In time the barn may become a museum for mill machinery, now disappearing from the countryside.



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Ca.1798



Ca.1802



1230 Peaceable St. November 1982 Peaceable St. #1202

On the left is another of the few saltbox houses in Charlton. This is the home of the John Clement family, who moved here in 1956. This 80 acre farm was purchased by John Cavert, in 1789, from the patent commissioners. This farm was in the possession of the Cavert, and LaRue, families for over 80 years, at which time it was sold to Peter VanGuysling by the heirs of Mary LaRue. They were Ann LaRue-Horatio LaRue-and Mary (LaRue) Brown.

Mary, wife of Martin Sagendorf, purchased this farm, in 1892, for the sum of \$5,000. The Sagendorf family must of had reverses for in 1906 Irving Wiswall purchased the farm at a mortgage sale for \$500.00

On the right, at the end of a short lane, is the house that William Cavert built in 1802. The farm contained 100 acres of land. Matthew LaRue purchased this farm, in 1810, but failed to record his deed, so the farm ownership remained in the hands of the Cavert family, until sold to John Birch in 1871. Matthew Hoyt resided here, in 1897, and his heir, Mary Hout, sold the farm to Daniel Sagendorf in 1919.

The Ysydor Austro family purchased this farm, in 1919. In 1972, Kazimier Austro moved here where he spent his boyhood years.

In 1953, the north 25 acre tract was sold off to Joseph Bartczak, who built a home of blocks for his family. Due to illness, Joseph became despondent, shot his wife Anna, and then turned the gun upon himself, while neighbors and police stood helplessly near.

Not all emigrant boys that come to America become millionaires, so regrettfully we record here this sad tragedy of a couple who came here with great hopes, for the fine family that they reared in Charlton.

We grieve for Joseph and Anna Bartczak for their tragic demise, while we give thanks to them for leaving their mark of good citizenship to our beloved country.



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Ca.1791



Ca.1832



197 Valentine Rd. November 1982 Charlton Rd. # 683

Once more we are handicapped by the shade of a large tree, but the picture on the left is the home of the Arthur Emerick family, who purchased this 100 acre farm in 1941. The Emerick family is engaged in hay-foraging, garden and commercial farming, as well as operating a greenhouse on their farm complex.

Son Arthur, operates a small machinery-sales shop just south of the house.

This farm holds a part of our heritage, as at the northeast corner, near Charlton Rd., there stood School No. 10, of that district. The school was discontinued, and children from that district attended school at Little Troy, or at Maple Ave.

This farm is a part of Small Lot 6,200 acres, that James Bradshaw purchased, and then sold to Patrick Callaghan, who married his daughter Ann. Of historical note, their grandson Melancton Callaghan held the position of Postmaster in the hamlet, and the granddaughter Mary Callaghan was one of the principals at the Charlton Academy.

When the Roger Mitchell family moved here, in 1915, they removed the schoolhouse, and used it as an out-building for the barn complex.

At the death of Patrick Callaghan, in 1822, the farm was subdivided, and the west 100 acres was willed to son John, and daughter Margaret.

The picture on the right is the home of the Warren Clark family, who moved here in 1955. Their houselot contains about 4 acres of the west half of the Callaghan farm. The Heaton family resided on this farm, from 1838 to 1918, when it was sold to Henry Swanker, who for many years held the position of Justice.

In 1946, Ransom Munsell purchased the bulk of the farm land, except the houselot. At his death this tract was sold off for taxes.

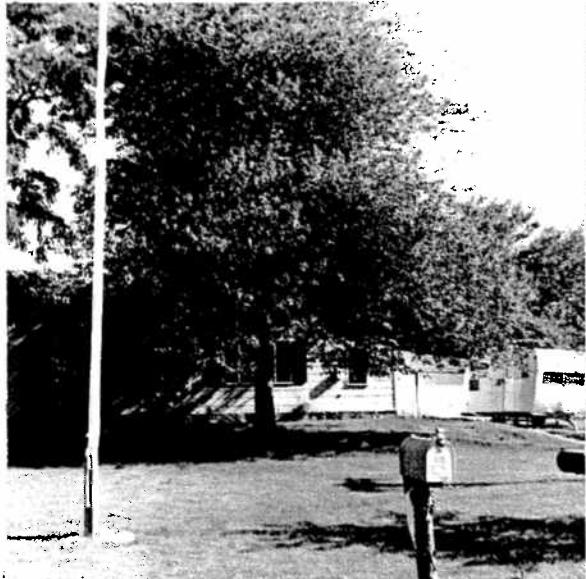


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Ca.1827



Ca.1824

370 Root Rd. December 1982 Peaceable St. # 1473

On the left is the home of the Joseph Franze family, who moved here in 1973. They have since renovated the house to give it the lovely colonial charm of the early days of Charlton. James Root resided here in 1876, and the road was named in his honor.

This farm, when owned by Abel Seeley in 1827, contained 100 acres of land, and is a part of Lot 3, of Lot 13, of XIII Allotment. It is believed that the age of the house predates the purchase by Abel Seeley. Since 1939, the farm has been subdivided so that only a small amount of the original acreage is part of the houselot now.

On the right is the home of the Jack Ivers family, and is known as the Deremer Farm. The Ivers family moved here in 1956. Jack raises, and trains, saddle horses. He is affectionately called "The Wrangler".

Jacob Deremer, one of the early Freeholders from New Jersey, settled on a 270 acre tract of land. At his death, in 1812, the south 70 acres fell to the share of his son William, who was the executor of the estate.

In 1824, James Deremer acquired quit-claim deeds from the heirs of Jacob. In 1849, the farm was purchased by John A. Sweetman, and stayed in this family hands until the death of James T. Sweetman in 1920.

The Deremer families married with the families of Sweetman, Truax, Harmon, and Parent. Many of these names can be found entered in grandfather Deremer's bible. The bible is on display at the St. Paul's Folk Museum, on Maple Avenue.



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Ca.1832



1468 Peaceable St. December 1982 Peaceable St.

On the left is one of the few $2\frac{1}{2}$ storey brick houses built in the early days of Charlton. It is believed that William Deremer built this house about 1840. The property is now owned by the Edgar Alderson family, who moved here in 1973.

Samuel & Aaron Cook purchased a tract of 133 acres from Dirick Lefferts, a patent commissioner. Portion of the original tract are in Galway, and made up the farm of Frank L. Smith, pioneer of the Galway Telephone Company. During ownership by Wm. Deremer a 70 acre tract, on the west side of the road, was added to this farm.

Emma, daughter of Wm. Deremer, sold this farm to David Fairweather in 1916. The property has changed hands five times since then, and each owner has kept the house in good repair.

On the right is a Greek Revival Period house, and was owned by George Dagenhart in 1923. Dagenhart built a store that faced the State highway. When Frank Cudo moved here, in 1946, he replaced this store with a new one. Presently the Richard Mills family reside here, and built the present store to replace the Cudo Store.

This property is located on the south 50 acre tract of land that was a part of the 103 acre farm owned by Josiah Gould in 1803. No doubt, at that time, Gould resided in the Harry Wood house, a short distance north of the Mills house.

Michael Cavert appears on the Beers Atlas, of 1866, as owning this property. More expert abstractors than me have failed to uncover early deeds of this property, no doubt changing hands by a series of family wills. This lower 50 acre tract has been subdivided so only a small portion of the original farm goes with the house, and store.