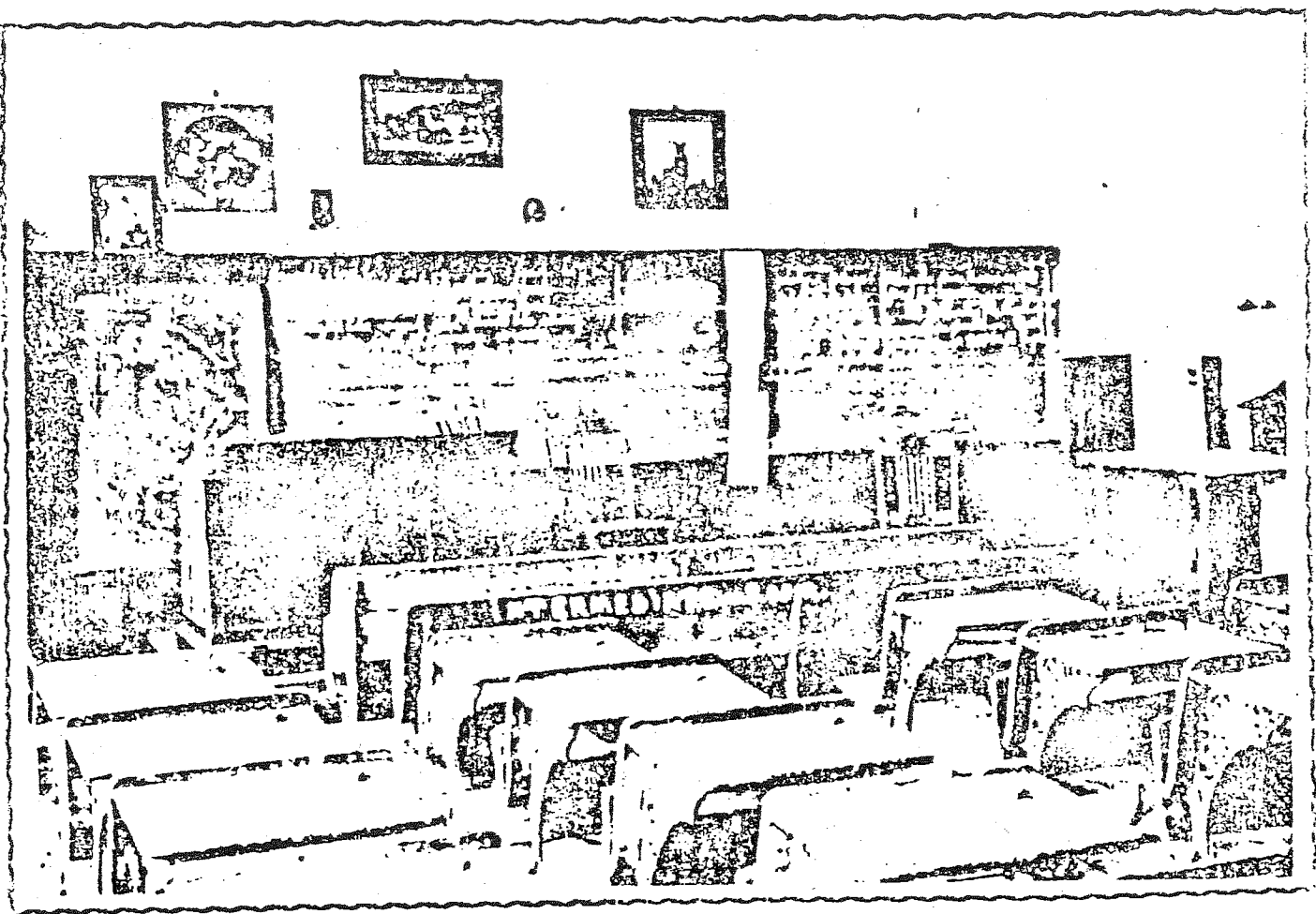


CAMPBELL TOWN

1974



The Intermediate Room at the Union School in Campbell, N.Y.

(Picture taken from Good Old Days Magazine, March 1975)

The following has been prepared as a remembrance of some of our community's past. Hopefully, the material will be interesting and supplement any previously written local history. The committee gratefully acknowledges Mrs. Marie Cornell and her many hours of assistance.

The committee would also like to acknowledge others who helped us in our bicentennial endeavor: Mr. Jerald Brown, Mrs. Shirley Cardinale, Mrs. Helen VanHassent, Mrs. Louise Miller, Mrs. Lois Pruden, Mrs. Peggy Simpson, and the machine transcription class for typing it.

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Historical Campbell

Campbelltown, as it was first called, was settled in the early 1800's, probably in the fall and winter of 1801-1802.¹ The leading settlers were Rev. Robert Campbell and his brother Capt. Solomon Campbell. Robert, who emigrated from Stillwater, Saratoga County N.Y., had thirteen children. Only part of the family came--Robert Jr., Minor, Bradford and Philo and daughters Rebecca, Rachel, Tamar and Lucy.

Other early settlers along the river and streams were Joseph Wolcott, who settled near Wolf Run; Elias Williams, a blacksmith who settled near Meads Creek; Samuel Calkins, below Curtis on the river bank, and David McNutt on McNutt Run. Joseph Stevens from Sangerfield, Oneida County, arrived in March 1805 and bought land.

Campbell became a separate town in 1831--previously it had been a part of Painted Post and then later Hornby. Campbell had three early settlements--the first at Curtis, second by the railroad (Stowells & Log Cabin Area), third the Post Office Area.

Campbelltown around 1879 contained three general stores, four churches, three boot and shoe shops, one tannery, one saw and grist-mill, one planing mill, one wagon and carriage shop, three blacksmith shops, one harness shop, one hardware store and tin shop, one post office, two millinery stores, one meat market, one jeweler shop, three physicians and two clergymen.²

Also of interest is the pronunciation of the community name. In early days it was pronounced 'Cameltown.'

Campbell Historic Sites

1. The corner store, now Sutton's store, is believed to have been built in 1846 as a lumber company store. The house beside it has the same design. This was known as the Bemis-McKay store.
2. Behind the Texaco Station--the stone house (4799) was a blacksmith shop owned by George Jaynes about 1882. It specialized in making spikes for the Lackawanna Railroad when it was being built.
3. The adjacent white house (behind 4799) is of the design used by builders in the days following log cabins (ie, low ceilings downstairs and sloping low ceilings upstairs).
4. The next building (4797 on Rt. 333) was a wagon shop. Field Pooley was the owner and wagon maker. He and his family occupied the white house which still stands on the northwest corner of Main and Center Streets (8489).

1W. W. Clayton, History of Steuben County, 1879.

2W. W. Clayton, History of Steuben County, 1879.

5. The present day Legion building was the first electric plant. It was built by Frank R. Aulls--across Rt. 333 the old mill race is still visible.

6. Down river from the Legion was the grain or grist mill and the adjoining house on the corner was known as the Mill House. The last grist mill located just east of the electric plant--Legion--was the Campbell Roller Mills owned and run by Frank R. Aulls.

Turning left onto Tannery Road:

7. Looking at the river from in front of the present day Prossick home the "island" can be seen--in earlier times a house was located here. The Prossick home (8620) was occupied by the Wm. Enwright family. A son, William Enwright, lived there and his brother, Richard Enwright, became Police Commissioner of New York City.

8. The Catholic cemetery (wooded area next to the house at 8649) contains many early markers, and the wooded ravine across from it was known as Pat's Gully. A generation ago wildflower lovers went there in the early springtime for trailing arbutus.

9. The Friedrich home was once owned by George Campbell, son of Archa Campbell--second generation Campbells.

10. At the corner of Curtis Hollow and Tannery Rd. is a white home (8878) that was a two room school and was used in 1873, and as late as 1923, called the Curtis School.

Turn left on Curtis Rd, over tracks first right.

11. The Balcom house, now Mrs. Charles Scudder house--notice how narrow the house part is. It is regarded as a fine example of ancient Grecian Architecture.

12. On the high rise of ground below the Balcom-Scudder house where a small white house stands, is where the meeting house of the First Methodist Church of Campbell was built about 125 years ago. There it stood until it was removed to the village of Coopers Plains where it stands today.

13. The adjacent cemetery has many old 1800's markers, among them is Samuel Cook's monument.

14. The Samuel Cook home (the old wood colored house): Samuel gave the land for the cemetery and helped to organize the first Methodist Church of Campbell.

15. The Haines family, on land originally purchased from a Balcom from Erwin, built the big house (where C. Drumm lives now) about 1872--originally the smaller house (where F. Drumm lives) was in this location and was moved to build the big house. The smaller home is a plank home.

16. Next to the main barn at Drumms is a tobacco shed--one of the few such buildings left in this immediate area.

Back on Curtis Rd. under Rt. 17 overpass to right

17. Balcom home--(ornate metal fence) built by a Balcom and later occupied by the Curtis family. The large field toward the river was used for drilling militia and this area was the location of the Miner Campbell double-log house, built soon after 1801-1802. At a later date, thought to be about 1835, Col. Balcom built a sawmill in this area.

18. On the corner lot by the river was the first schoolhouse in the town of Campbell. This was also a double log building, and Rev. B.B. Smith, an early teacher, received \$10 a month as schoolmaster. He was also the first settled pastor.

North or left on Rt. 415

19. Hillside Cemetery--near the corner of Stony Ridge Rd. and Rt. 415 we find the monuments of Solomon Campbell, a Revolutionary War veteran, and Daniel Horton, a War of 1812 veteran. Also buried there are Joseph Stevens Jr., Archa Campbell, and Obed Nate--all veterans of the War of 1812.

20. The Joseph Stevens Jr. home (large white house across from Hillside Cemetery--next to green and white trailer), the second frame house of Campbell. Built by the winter of 1831, it served as a way-side stopping place for travelers, and is the oldest frame house now standing in the township.

21. The field behind the above home was one of the favorite camping sites of the Seneca Indians on their hunting trips from the Genesee area. Many Indian artifacts have been found in this area.

22. Rt. 415 from the River Bend north was known as "The Narrows."

23. The Levi Stevens house and the second school of the western part of Campbell were located nearby, (8860, presently the Mullen home). This is the school John D. Hamilton attended from the fall of 1843 until he left school in the spring of 1846. Also of interest: In 1891 his last teacher, Mr. John Day, said "I first became acquainted with Mr. Hamilton during the winter of 1845-46, I then being the teacher of the Campbelltown school, and he a scholar, working on the shoe bench in his father's shop evenings, with his book before him, and from that wood-colored house of one room and slab seats, so far as school education was concerned, he graduated in the spring of 1846... .." Refer to number 27.

24. Beneath the present snowmobile business is the cellar of the first frame house in the township. It was built for the Rev. Robert Campbell. It burned late in the nineteenth century. The first post office was located here in 1808.

Left on Rt. 333

25. Hope Cemetery: The monument for Robert Campbell is located near the road. He died in 1817 at the age of 75. A field stone marker is used for Bradford Campbell, whose death was the first in Campbell. The soldier's tall monument is for Warren Stewart. He obtained the highest military rank (Colonel) of anyone buried here. He was killed at the age of 49 in a gunboat battle at Vicksburg on the Mississippi River during the Civil War. He was buried in Illinois and later returned here.

26. The Daniel Clark home, (house says Bilby's Antiques), where lived the first supervisor of the town of Campbell, elected in 1832. He was also supervisor when Campbell was part of Hornby and used to live on the island. His son Hiram Clark built the burned-out house (8571) by the Presbyterian Church.

27. The fields adjoining Clawson Dr. were once tobacco fields owned by John Runner who built what was known as the Stowell house. This home was removed for Rt. 17 construction.

28. The Union House Hotel built before 1873 was located just below the Erie railway station and the Rochester Division of the Erie. An early creamery in the village of Campbell stood near the old D. L. & W. R. R. station.

Continuing across the R. R. tracks,

29 The John D. Hamilton house, a large yellow house with metal fence, has shutters without windows in some areas. It had a sunken garden, back plastering (double plastering) and a marble mantle without a fireplace. This house is an Italian villa country house of the late Victorian Period (1868).¹ Mr. Hamilton operated a large tannery which manufactured hemlock sole leather which was exported to England, Scotland and Germany. Between 1857 and 1877 this tannery is said to have processed 670,000 hides at a value of three million dollars.²

30. Across from the "Hamilton House" on Main St. (8581) was the home of Dr. Thomas Shannon.

31. The Crouch house (8576) typifies the kind of home building which followed the log cabins. There used to be in the cellar engraved on a window the Roman numerals for 1814. We cannot be sure this date was placed there to record when the house was built.

32. The home at 8547 Main St. (LaVarnway home) was owned by Col. James S. McKay. He was an important local businessman and town official. James McKay and Charles H. Bemis engaged in both flour milling and lumbering around 1879.

33. The present day Tyler home (8540) was a wayside inn.

34. The present day post office was built by Ira M. Platt as a general merchandise store to replace the store building which was lost to fire, along with the burning of other nearby business places.

35. At the corner of Main and Church Sts. an auditorium known as Barrett's Hall, which was used for school and community events, stood. East from this was another hotel known as the Central or Grand Central Hotel.

36. Scudder's Automobile business was a bank originally established by George Sutherland about 1877.

¹Corning and Vicinity by Uri Mulford 1789-1920

²Pioneer History and Atlas of Steuben County New York W. B. Thrall as printed in The Steuben Courier-Advocate.

37. Next is the present Methodist Church (refer also to number 12). The Presbyterians built a meeting house near the present middle drive into Hope Cemetery before the cemetery developed right there. In 1860 the Presbyterians moved the church building up the road, over the Erie tracks, and to the present church property. In 1867, following the close of the Civil War two years before, the Presbyterians built a new church which still stands. It was dedicated in Feb. 1868. The old building was sold to the local Methodist worshippers and moved farther up Main Street to its present site. The Methodists later added more at the front and much more at the rear.

Some other places of interest:

38. 4185 Church St.--The house that stood here before the 1972 flood was a one-room schoolhouse of barn frame construction. It was moved from Main St. where the M. J. Ward & Son feed store is today (corner of Main and Bemis). This school had a high fence completely around it and the schoolyard was entered over a stile. This was to protect the children from run-away horses.

39. The village of Campbell's second creamery was where the fire station (4795 Church St.) is today. Looking at the back of the fire station the milk can doors, etc., are still visible.

Also we should like to note Polly-O --was located in Thurston until 1937 when it moved to its present day location.

40. On Clinton St. near the present day town buildings a two story school building was built. Our present day school (original 1931) building replaced this school.

41. Horton Lane--large white house now owned by the Donnelly family. Fannella Horton Manning, who lived to be over 100, used to deliver Pepsin to drugstores. She suggested to Dr. Beeman that it be added to chewing gum--thus Beeman Pepsin chewing gum.