

**Recollections  
Of An Early Mill Town  
TODDS VILLE**



Compiled by Lawrence W. Gardner  
1974

**RECOLLECTIONS  
OF AN EARLY MILL TOWN  
TODDSVILLE**

**NOTICE**

The public are hereby informed that the subscriber is now putting into operation a large quantity of first rate machinery for

**CARDING WOOL, &  
CLOTH DRESSING.**

He assures his friends and the public, that his Machines shall be in the first rate order by the first day of June next, when he will have one of the first rate workmen known in the county, of steady habits and in all other respects qualified to give the best satisfaction. Those who see fit to favor him with their custom, will receive the grateful acknowledgements of their humble servant.

N. B. Those having Merino Wool of the first quality, can be assured that it will be manufactured in the best manner if well cleansed.

**ZERA TODD.**

Todds Ville, May 7, 1827.

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1974

## FORWARD

About three miles west of Cooperstown, New York, lies the hamlet of Toddsville, whose history is closely connected to the history of Cooperstown.

Judge William Cooper, the founder of Cooperstown, once owned the land comprising the village of Toddsville, and I understand that it was for a short time called "Coopers Mills".

Elihu Phinney, who operated a print shop and book store in Cooperstown, also operated a print shop and bookbinding shop in company with the Todds in Toddsville for a time.

Toddsville wasn't always the quiet residential village that it is today, for it once was a thriving mill town containing a church, a cotton mill, a paper mill, a grist mill, a saw mill, carriage shop, blacksmith shop, jewelers shop, shoe shop, saloon, chair and paint shop and about 200 inhabitants.

The family responsible for Toddsville and its mills was the Todd family, headed by Jehiel Todd, a man of strong New England character.

The Todd mills thrived until the close of the century when modern transportation closed the doors forever for Todds mills.

This book of recollections tries to recall the days when Toddsville was more than a slumbering "ghost mill town". The book does more than look at history, it looks at a way of life now gone from the modern scene.

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At this point I wish to dedicate this book to Mrs. Martha Kinney, great, great, grand daughter of Jehiel Todd, whose interest in Toddsville surpasses my own as evidenced by her large collection of Carr-Todd history accumulated over a period of years.

**Early Recollections of Toddsville  
from The Freeman's Journal dated 11/17/26**

About 1788 Samuel Tubbs purchased of Judge William Cooper a tract of about 300 acres of land bounded by the Daniel Wheeler farm on the north, the farm now owned by Arthur C. Stevens (now owned by Dr. G. R. Harms) on the south and on the west by farms owned by the late Deforest Carr and James Carr and east by the ridge of east hill.

Tubbs erected a log house near the drive leading to the "Dr. Almy house" and a grist mill on the Hartwick side of the stream. The place was known as "Tubbs Mill". As far as the writer is able to learn this was the only mill in many miles where the settlers could get their grain ground. Settlers from the Unadilla valley brought their grist to Tubbs Mill down the Unadilla river to the Susquehanna a few miles south of Sidney, then up the river to the place where the Oaks Creek meets the Susquehanna and up to Tubbs Mill. Settlers from Burlington and the north came with bags of grain on horseback.

On or about 1794 and 95 Tubbs built the first frame building now the property of Mrs. Eva Clappsaddle Young (now owned by Mr. Arthur Jamieson). This is the oldest house in Toddsville. Samuel Tubbs died soon after and willed to his daughter Mrs. Sally Story, that part of the estate comprising the farm of Mrs. Albert Quackenbush (now owned by Mr. Roger Smith) and a piece of land owned by the late Granville Quackenbush (now owned by Mr. Roger Duda).

The other part of the Tubbs patent including flow rights must have been transferred to Judge Cooper for we learn that the Todd title came from him.

About 1796 Jehiel Todd and his family consisting of Lemuel (then married), Ira, Caleb, Asahel, Bethel and daughters Sally Todd Carr and Polly Todd (Crandall) came from Wallingford, Conn. and purchased from Judge Cooper the southern half of the Tubbs patent.

The Todds enlarged the grist mill and built a woolen factory on the Hartwick side of the stream, later a saw mill and lastly a paper mill on the Otsego side of the creek.

After the death of Tubbs the name seems to have been changed to "Todds Mills", later to "Todds Ville" and later to its present "Toddsville".

Along in the 80's the late Samuel M. Shaw succeeded in having the name changed to "Seymour" in memory of the late Horation Seymour, governor of New York. A petition was quickly drawn and the name speedily restored.

The Todds must have developed their manufacturing activities rapidly for we find their ad for wheat, corn and wool at an early date. The firm was known as "Jehiel Todd & Sons" "L. & B. Todd", "Zera Todd", "L. & I. Todd", etc. It would appear that the business was split up, each assuming certain parts in the undertaking. They seemed to be blessed with labor troubles for we read as follows:

#### Six Cents Reward

Ran away from the subscriber on the night of the 10th an indented apprentice named Jonathan Hawks in the 20th year of his age. All persons are hereby forbid harboring or trusting him on my account or giving him employment under the penalty of the law. The above reward will be paid to any one who will return him to my services but no charges paid.

Jehiel Todd

Toddsville Feb. 16, 1824

With their manufacturing we find them building houses for themselves and their employees. A house standing on the east side of the road near the "Story brook" and between the "Catch All" and the residence of Mrs. Albert Quackenbush was built by Jehiel Todd in 1812. This building was used as a pest house during the small pox epidemic in 1829 and demolished in 1840.

The house owned and occupied by Mrs. John Bird (recently owned by Sarah Eldred) was built by Lemuel Todd in 1825, also the dwelling owned and occupied by Charles Finch (present owner unknown) was built about 1820. Lemuel also built the house owned and occupied by the late Mrs. Rose Jackson in 1835. (Where Jim Jacksons new house now stands)

Caleb Todd built the hotel in 1827, Wheeler Carr being the carpenter in charge. The ballroom occupying a part of the upstairs has a "spring floor", I presume to promote ease in dancing. Alfred Carr conducted this hotel for years, later going to Cooperstown where he was the proprietor of "Carr's Hotel" until the time of his death.

Cuyler E. Carr



**Caleb Todd built the hotel in 1827; Wheeler Carr was the head carpenter. This picture was taken before the veranda was added. The "community well" is seen in the center of the "green" in front of the hotel.**

**Portions of (Recollections of Toddsville)  
The Freemans Journal 12/15/26**

When I was a boy Nathan Winsor, M.D. lived on the farm now owned and occupied by William Allison (now owned by Mr. Theodore Kantorowski). Dr. Winsor studied medicine and did practice some but finding it not to his liking, abandoned that line of endeavor and taught school in Portlandville, Toddsville and other places. "Old Dr. Winsor" as he was called was a famous pedestrian, walking to and from his school while teaching in Portlandville. He was a small, spare man slightly stooped. In the school room he wore carpet slippers and at times smoked his pipe, so I have been informed. Winsors land joined the property of the Union Cotton Factory owned by Rufus Steere.

Mrs. Johanna Perry lived in the house now occupied by Burt Jackson (one of two houses between Mrs. Rose Weir and Mr. William Potter burned in the 1940's). She used to do knittin for a consideration, the rate being so much a knot of yarn. Mrs. Perry knit for my mother and many the pair of socks and mittens, the results of her handiwork, which has helped to keep me warm. How well I remember her walking the streets knitting as she went, taking her knittin to prayer meeting and only stopping during service. Mrs. Perry's maiden name was Aplin and she married for her first husband, Patton F. Sholes. He was a peace officer and used to devote his time in the employ of Esquire Todd serving papers. After the death of Sholes, Johanna married one Gibson. He also died and she chose for her third husband the Rev. John Perry, a minister from Schohari Co. He spent his time smoking and fishing, permitting his wife to support him.

Thursday evening was prayer meeting night in Toddsville. On one occasion James Miller was offering prayer (they kneeled then) when Mrs. Abner Dean fell asleep and began to snore. Sister Dean's latitude was not in proportion to her longitude and loosing her balance toppled over. Several of the ladies went to her assistance and when she had been adjusted, the meeting continued.

Stephen Hoose lived at one time in the house occupied by Nathan Jackson under the hill (now owned by Mrs. Gladys Parshall). Mr. Hoose was a carpenter, working mostly about mills and factories. He always "spoke in meeting" and in his remarks said he was aboard "Old Ship Zion". By the continual use of this remark he was so called during his residence in Toddsville. Hoose died several years ago and we hope he sailed into that safe harbor aboard "Old Ship Zion".

Cuyler E. Carr

The well located on the green by the hotel (back two pages) was, as the writer has been told, dug by the citizens, and used as a community well. John Tracey Burke, who was conducting the hotel, forbade the public its use which resulted in a law suit between "Trace" and the users. The case was tried in Cooperstown before Judge Sturgis, who rendered a decision in favor of Burke. Soon after the rendering of the decision, a man by the name of Gaylord, dumped a wheel-barrow load of horse manure in the well, which made the water unfit for use. This condition prevailed until some years later when the well was cleaned and made fit for use again.

**Portions of (Recollections of Toddsville)  
The Freeman's Journal 11/10/26**

At one time John T. Burke was the proprietor of the hotel, better known as "Trace Burke". He was superceded by Ed. Reynolds.

Opposite the hotel Walt Winsor conducted a grocery and later Richard Freeman.

Mr. Freeman began his mercantile career as a clerk for the late Rufus Steere in the stone building (old stone store now at the Farmers Museum), now occupied (1926) by Earl Finch; later going into business for himself in the small building adjoining the home of Mrs. John Bird (now occupied by Sarah Eldred) later moving to the store opposite the hotel and thence to Cooperstown where he became a successful merchant.

Asa Howard lived in the north side of the building occupied by Freeman.

At the foot of the hill by the bridge on the north side of the street stood a house occupied by "Lute" Mallory as a "vicalizing saloon" as he called it, dispensing not only food but liquids in various degrees of hardness. To better advertise his goods he posted the following: "Nois Pise Five Cents A Cut". This building was removed to "Spook Hollow" and is now owned by Armstrong (1926).

The building standing south of the old school house (next to Mrs. Dorr Eldred) building now removed was occupied by Jabez R. Weeks and "Snakey" Monroe. "Snakey tinkered watches in the north half while "Jabe" lived in the other end.

John T. Wilson made chairs in a building opposite the residence of Fred Wheeler

"John T." as he was known kept bees much to the annoyance of his neighbor, Henry Van Slyke.

The house at the foot of the hill called "the red house" was supposed to be haunted. It was claimed a peddler was murdered in one of the upstairs rooms. Martin Stickles occupied the place and worked the farm for the Union Cotton Co. (House next to Harvey Eckler on the north.)

Cuyler Carr  
Carr Homestead





About 1794 Samuel Tubbs built the first frame house in Toddsville (the house in the rear looking down the main street). It is now owned by Arthur Jamieson (1974). This picture also shows the hotel called Wasontha, taken after the veranda was added.



Lemuel Todd built in 1825 the house recently occupied by Mrs. Sarah Eldred (house on right). The shop on the left was once a store operated by Richard Freeman; later occupied by John Houck and his wife (John Birds daughter) who ran the hotel.



**This dwelling and store (now apartments) was erected by Lemuel Todd in 1812 and was operated by him as a store about two years. At one time Walt Winsor conducted a grocery here; later Richard Freeman operated this store. Asa Howard lived in the north end (to the left) of this building. In the early 1900's, F. M. Houck and F. Pashley occupied this corner which is actually two houses, located opposite the hotel on upper Main Street.**



**A view of upper Main Street showing the hotel "Wasantha" on the right, the houses built by Lemuel Todd in 1812 (opposite corner), and another house built by Lemuel Todd in 1820 (south of the corner house), now owned and occupied by Reginald and Pearl Higgins.**

**Portions of  
(Interesting Recollections of Early Toddsville)  
The Otsego Farmer 3/4/27**

The first road leading from Toddsville to Cooperstown started from a point opposite the paper mill (east side of creek near upper bridge); taking a north easterly direction over the hill through the woods by Anderson's terminated at Maple street near the Thanksgiving Hospital (now Clara Welch Home). This route was a very steep one and the writer fails to see the reason for its selection unless it connected with an Indian trail on top of the hill.

On the farm of Mrs. Albert Quackenbush near the Oaks Creek was an Indian Camp site, so I have been informed.

The second road started from the same place and taking a southeasterly direction over the hill connecting with the river road below the farm of Albert Simonson.

It is still used as a short way to Cooperstown. For years this route was known as the "haunted road". Persons using this road at night would observe a figure clad in white darting from tree to tree and crossing the path making weird noises and striking terror to the people of Toddsville. After a time the ghost proved to be the crazy woman who lived in the "catch all".

One night when several men were passing over the "haunted road" they bumped into a object which proved to be a man hanging from a tree. Upon closer inspection they found it to be a resident of Toddsville, Thomas Lester, who committed suicide 3/18/1864.

A third road leading north from Toddsville, known at that time as "Tubbs Mill" was cut through the forest on the east side of the stream toward Fly Creek where the present road is located by Simeon Clinton who married Sarah Adams and Samuel Wilson who married Doly Adams, daughters of John Adams.

These two families were the first to settle above Tubbs Mill in the Oaks Creek Valley. They received their deed from Judge Cooper which consisted of a tract of land containing about 400 acres and bounded on the south by the lands of Mrs. Sally Story, a daughter of Tubbs now owned by Mrs. Albert Quackenbush on the west by Oaks Creek, north by the farm now owned by Mrs. Charles Williams (so. of Forks. corn.) and east by the Cooper lands including a large strip of the mountain called "Pine Hill". These were the days when the land was a wilderness and bear, deer and wolves and other wild animals were a terror to the inhabitants.

There was an Indian trail starting from Oaks Creek opposite the Carr Homestead (now owned by Thomas Contro) following the property lines of Carl Christensen, formerly the Daniel Wheeler farm, (south of Tony Cop's farm) and the lands of John Zagar, once called the "old Dr. Almy Lot", taking a easterly direction and terminating at Otsego Lake.

On the farms of Charles E. Jarvis, (no. of corner Fork.), H. Guy Roberts (now Frank Kukenberger farm), and John Zagar (Tony Cop farm) are large tracts of flat land. This so I have been told, was not covered with timber to a great extent and was used by the Indians as a grazing place for their ponies.

Oakes Creek was noted for its excellent fishing, the herring being so plentiful the settlers used to catch and cure them for future use.

Cuyler E. Carr

# TODD SVILLE.

Hartwick Township  
Scale 30 Rods to the Inch

## Business Directory

Colburn, J.E. - Prop. of  
Otsego Paper Works.

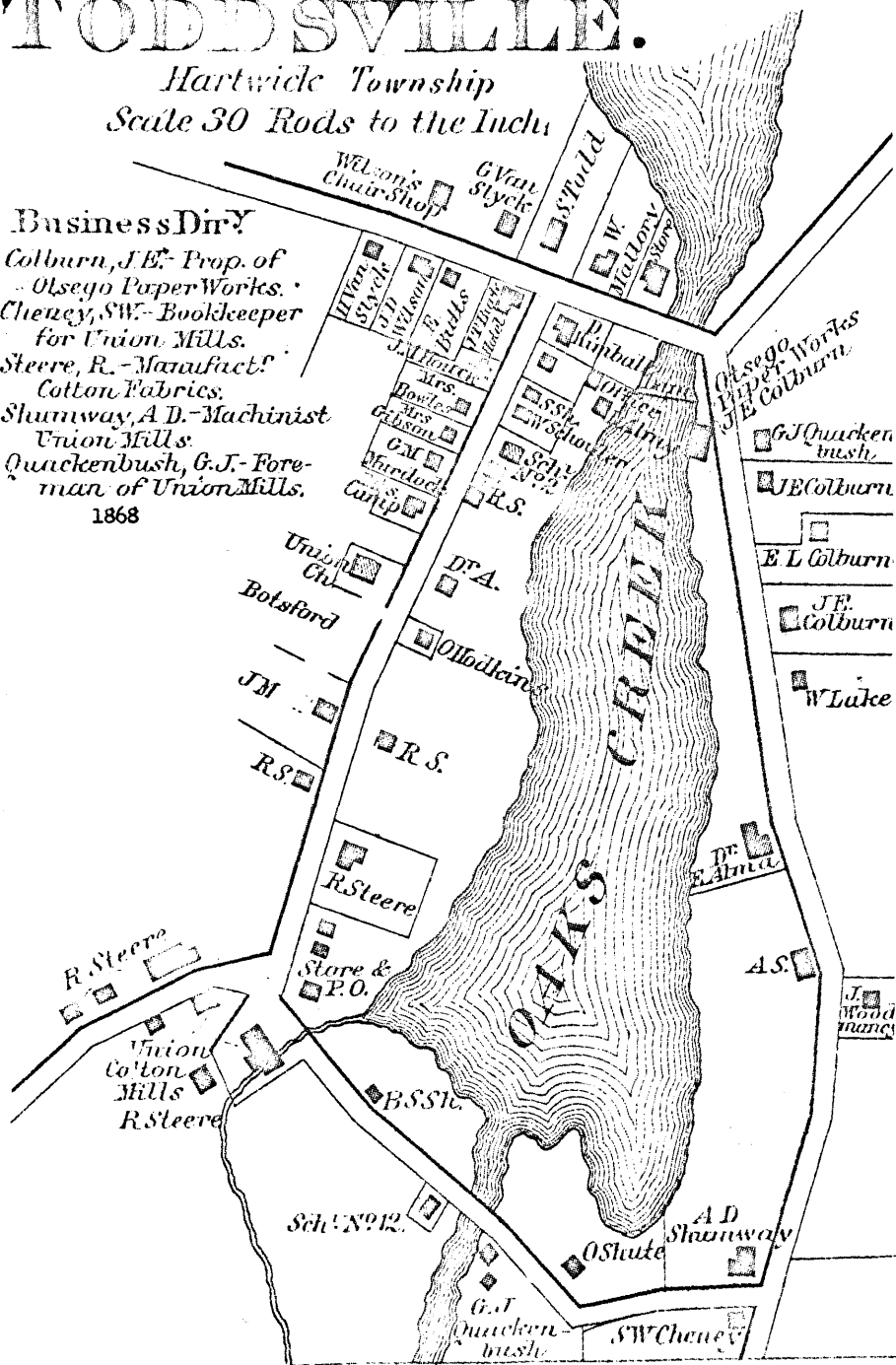
Cheney, S.W. - Bookkeeper  
for Union Mills.

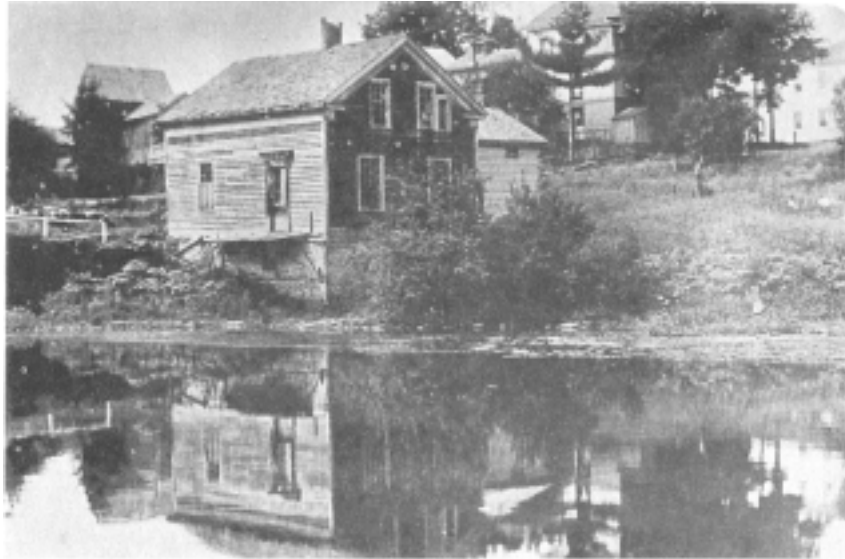
Steere, R. - Manufactur  
Cotton Fabrics.

Shumway, A.D. - Machinist  
Union Mills.

Quackenbush, G.J. - Fore-  
man of Union Mills.

1868





At the foot of the hill by the bridge on the north side of the street, stood a house occupied by "Lute" Mallory, who operated what he called a "vicalizing saloon" dispensing not only food but liquids in various degrees of hardness.



This house (same as above) was moved in the early 1900's to a hollow in the hill known as "spook hollow" just across Oaks Creek and on the east side of the road to Forkshop, according to the present owner, George Vroman. He had been told this by Joseph Cleary who lived next door to the old house.



School District No. 2 in Hartwick and Otsego, built prior to 1844. Mrs. "Bea" Higgins and her sister, Mrs. "Polly" Stiglic remember well this school for they attended it, having lived here much of their lives.

Early records indicate that wood was burned to heat the school until around 1910. Mrs. Higgins remembers the children having to go down cellar to get a bucket of coal and down to John Houcks for drinking water.

Miss Mary Brady taught in this school for many years.

Mrs. Martha Kinney has a minutes book for School District No. 2 kept between 1844 and 1914. Following are excerpts:

(from minutes dated Oct. 8, 1878)

"on motion it was voted that the teacher build his own fire or freeze".

(from minutes dated Oct. 12, 1880)

"G. T. Wilson was elected librarian on motion it was voted seventeen to nine that the library money should be expended to books for library. On motion and votes a committee of three was appointed by the chairman to overhaul the books in the Library and make arrangements for the preservation of the books. The committee were, Floyd Houck, T. Burk and Irving Van Slyke."

**School District No. 2**  
**in**  
**Hartwick & Otsego**

**Interesting Excerpts from the Minutes Book owned by Mrs. Martha Kinney**

At the annual meeting of the School District No. 2, formed partly in the town of Hartwick and partly in Otsego –

Lemuel Todd Esq. was chosen chairman and Rufus Steere, clerk for the evening.

Voted that a committee of three be chosen to investigate the proceeding of the last year.

Voted that Lemuel Todd Esq., Dr. Walter Almy, and J. H. Eldred serve as committee men. April 1, 1844

Resolved that \$45.00 be raised for the purchase of wood, repairs & honorate families.

Resolved that we invite the lower district to reconstruct the two districts at as early a day as convenient.

Resolved that this meeting adjourn to the 2nd Tuesday in October, 1866.  
October 12, 1865

Copy of Order Uniting or Consolidating School Districts No's 2 & 12 of the Towns of Hartwick and Otsego.

It is hereby ordered by the undersigned School Commissioners for the County of Otsego, that School Districts No's Two (2) and Twelve (12) of the town of Hartwick and situated partly in the Towns of Hartwick and Otsego in the County aforesaid, be, and the same hereby are Consolidated or united into one School District, said united or consolidated district shall be known and numbered as number Two (2) of the Town of Hartwick and shall consist of all the territory that was included in the boundaries of the said School Districts No's Two (2) and Twelve (12) at the time this order was made.

The Trustees of both the above named Districts having given their consent to said consolidation this order shall take effect immediately.

Dated this 18th day of March 1874.

Signed – N. J. Brown, Com. 1st Dist. Otsego Co.

Signed – Warren L. Baker, Com. 2nd Dist. Otsego Co.

E. N. Monroe, District Clerk

Moved to sell the lower School House for \$150. and to raise by tax \$100. and to use both sums to purchase 20 ft. back of the School House of John Worthington and to move and repair the house–

October 13, 1874





**Zira Todd built in 1811 the fine house on the west bank of Oaks Creek across from the mill site and lived in it (where Truman Gannon now lives; formerly owned and occupied by John Houck). Zira Todd ran a store, bookbinding and printing plant in connection with the woolen mill in this house, also known as the "Old Dr. Almy House".**



**This building stood south of the old school house across from the place now owned by Mrs. Rose Weir. "Snakey" Monroe tinkered watches in the north half while Jabex R. Weeks lived in the other end. I am told that there was another house south of this one, owner of which is not known.**

Toddsville  
Clipping from The Otsego Farmer – March 18, 1927

**TELLS INTERESTING  
EARLY RECOLLECTIONS  
OF TODDSVILLE**

At the termination of the Indian trail at Oaks creek mentioned in my last letter stood a cabin occupied by David Shipman, the famous hunter. As a boy I well remember the hole in the ground where the cellar was and hearing it stated that there was where Leatherstocking lived. It has been said that he was one of Cooper's characters but I leave that question to the decision of the reader.

Shipman was a famous hunter and with his dog and gun roamed over the hills in quest of game and he whipped the stream for the abundance of fish which swam within its borders.

Just north of Toddsville on the farm of Mrs. Albert Quackenbush near the trolley is a large mound that was thickly covered with timber. It was on this mound Shipman hid three days from the Indians although his home was but a short distance from his hiding place. My Grandmother Carr used to say, so I have been told. As a little girl she was afraid of Shipman because he looked so rough and wore leather breeches, his clothing being made of tanned deer hide.

Shipman's cabin stood on the "Old Doctor Almy lot" but known prior to this as the "Shipman lot," for we learn that he set apart a small parcel of land for burial purposes which came to be known as the Shipman burying ground. He also selected his last resting place under a large tree that stood within the enclosure. This leads the writer to believe that he owned the lot bearing his name, probably having purchased it from the Adams family. How many interments were made in the Shipman plot besides his wife the writer does not know, but this plot was abandoned on account of moisture and the present Adams cemetery north of Fork Shop came into being.

When Mrs. Shipman died the Rev. John Bostwick, pastor of the Baptist church at Hartwick, conducted the funeral service. Upon the arrival of the funeral party at the grave, they found it partly filled with water and the minister said to the hunter it was a poor place for a burial. The husband replied, "I know it, but I expect to be buried here myself if I live to die."

I have heard father state that his father told him at the burial of Mrs. Shipman, one of the men present steadied the box in the water with his cane while others shoveled in the earth.

David Shipman had one son, Samuel Shipman, who raised a large family of sons and daughters.

The old hunter passed away in his cabin and several of the neighbors came to prepare the house and make ready for the funeral. The deceased was lying on the bed, when to their horror and astonishment the old hunter sat up. As if taking a parting shot at a bounding buck or flying fowl and missing his mark, groaned, fell back on his pillow and gave up the chase. This unusual incident coming from a "dead" person so frightened the women that one of them fainted.

Among those present on this occasion was Adin Adams, a young man who later became the father of Edwin Adams who lives south of Cooperstown. The old hunter has shot his last deer. He has broken his last pigeons' wing. He has whipped Oaks creek for the last time, but the name of David Shipman, The famous hunter, "Deerslayer" or "Leatherstocking" will remain long after the writer of this article has been forgotten.

CUYLER E. CARR

"Old Dr. Almy Lot" and "Shipman Lot" above, probably the old John Zagar farm now owned and occupied by Tony Cop and his mother Mrs. John Cop.

**Toddsville Centennial**  
**Clipping from The Otsego Farmer – July 14, 1905**

**TODDSVILLE CENTENNIAL.**

Reunion of the Todd and Carr Families.  
Historical Sketch of the Village  
and its Founders.

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The Centennial Anniversary of the founding of the village of Toddsville, three miles from Cooperstown, was celebrated by a reunion of the descendants of the Todd and Carr families on Saturday, July 8, 1905. The reunion of the two families took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Carr, one-half mile west of Toddsville. Dinner was served upon the lawn and was lacking in neither quantity nor quality. Jehiel Todd came to this section 101 years ago and 101 descendants were present at this gathering. Four generations (from the third to the sixth from Robert Carr and Jehiel Todd) were represented.

Remarks were made by Professor George W. Patterson of the University of Michigan, Ann Harbor; Cuyler E. Carr, of Milford; Robert D. Eaton, Norwich; and Edward T. Nash, Norwich. Their remarks were sketches of the families, anecdotes, both grave and gay, etc., and were thoroughly enjoyed by all present. No effort was spared in trying to make the affair a success and the people in charge of the preparations did their work in a way which was very satisfactory to all present.

A brief history of the two families mentioned may be interesting. Robert Carr was born in Connecticut, his father was born in Scotland and came to America in Colonial times. Robert Carr was reared in Connecticut, married there, and after serving as captain in the Revolutionary War, came to Hartwick in 1798. He was accompanied by his family of ten children—seven sons and three daughters, as follows: Daniel, Robert, Asaph, Benjamin Wheeler, James Samuel, Ephriam, Mary, Lucy, and Prudence. His wife's maiden name was Prudence Wheeler, and she too was a native of Connecticut. The journey from that State of Otsego was

made in an ox cart and a part of the way followed a trail marked by blazed trees. Mr. Carr bought a tract of land of Judge William Cooper, the founder of Cooperstown, and built a log cabin in the wilderness, cleared up his farm, and later erected a frame house and other buildings and lived there until his death. This frame house still stands on the Edwin C. Carr farm, where it is used as a carriage house. Robert's son, Ephriam, bought a farm about one-half a mile west of the old homestead and erected a house, and remained a resident of this farm until his death in 1855. The front portion, built of stone, dates from 1825. Ephriam Carr married Sally Todd, daughter of Jehiel Todd.

Nine children were reared by Mr. and Mrs. Ephriam Carr, viz. Daniel D., Delevan D., Laura F., Asaph H., Ceylon W., Sarah F., Chester H., Edwin L., and Theodore P.

At the time of her death in 1874, Mrs. Sally Todd Carr had in her possession a bible printed in 1779, the gift of her father, Jehiel Todd.

Near the home of Edwin C. Carr is the old family burial plot, for the care of which has recently been incorporated a company with Mrs. Frances D. Paterson, Westfield, N.Y., as president, Samuel S. Todd of Toddsville, vice-president and R. Eugene Carr of Cooperstown, secretary and treasurer. A fund has been started which is to be used in caring for this spot.

In 1804, Jehiel Todd and his family consisting of his wife and sons, Lemuel, (then married) Ira, Caleb, Ashel, Zerah and Bethel, and daughters, Sally Todd (Carr) and Polly Todd (Crandall) came from Wallingford, Conn., the home of the Todd family for three generations before.

Jehiel Todd and his son Lemuel, purchased the "Tubbs Patent" from Judge Cooper of Cooperstown, consisting of a tract of 300 acres of land on both sides of Oaks Creek at the present site of Toddsville, including the water power. The first house was erected by Mr. Tubbs in 1795, and is now owned and occupied by Dr. Clapsaddle.

The Todd families occupied this house until 1805 when Jehiel Todd erected and occupied the house now owned and occupied by Frank Peck. Lemuel Todd and his son Samuel S. Todd, owning and occupying the "Tubbs house" until its purchase by Dr. Clapsaddle several years ago. The first mill was a grist mill built by Tubbs and improved by the Todds, who soon after they came here also built on the Hartwick side, a woolen mill, and on the Otsego side, a saw mill and paper mill near the south end of the present paper mill. This paper mill was three times burned and rebuilt and operated by the Todd family until 1855. The first store was kept by Lemuel Todd in a building between the houses now occupied by Dr. Clapsaddle and Mrs. Arthur Wrench, Zerah Todd ran a store, book-binding and printing plant in connection with the woolen mill in the house now known as the "Old Dr. Almy House." The first and only hotel was built in about 1827 by Caleb Todd on its present site, now owned and occupied by W.J. Houck.

The Union Cotton Mill Co. purchased of Jehiel and Lemuel Todd about 1810 the farm property known as the factory property and built a wooden building and operated a cotton spinning factory there until 1828 when the stone factory was built and operated by various companies and proprietors until 1897. The stone store was built the same year as the factory.

The country in revolutionary times, was served by Jehiel Todd who was a minute man. He was at the burning of Danbury by the British in 1777, and at the plundering of New Haven by Gen. Tryon.

This is but a brief sketch of two of the pioneer families of Otsego county. No one living at the present day can realize the life in the wilderness, with its trials and difficulties which were met and conquered by these two sons of New England.

One of the pleasant features of the day was the exhibition of the family carriage, made in 1830 for John A. Dix, which came into the possession of the Carr family in 1831. It was bought by Ephriam Carr, whose homestead was the noted stone house built in 1825, one mile west of Toddsville. Mrs. Laura Beardsley of Pultneyville, N.Y., 85 years old, the oldest surviving child of

Ephriam Carr, enjoyed a ride in the old family carriage.

The reunion was a success in every respect, and the company unanimously voted to meet each year.

## RECOLLECTIONS OF TODDSVILLE

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The first dead person I ever saw was Aunt Lemuel Todd, widow of Lemuel Todd, the paper manufacturer and mother of the late Samuel S. Todd. Mr. Todd lived in the house now owned by Mrs. Eva Clapsaddle Young of Camden, N.Y.

In company with my father, Samuel took us into the parlor and in the north west corner lay "Aunt Lemuel" as she was called. How plain that white covering and when Mr. Todd removed the sheet to explore the features, (I was only six years old) that first vision of death made such an impression upon my young mind that it seems only yesterday.

I do not recall a person in the home, the going to or coming from the place only that chamber of death.

Grandmother Carr died when I was very young; in fact, I do not remember her passing. One day at play I tore or destroyed some article she had made and mother said to me, "grandma will not make you another" and I said "grandma is coming back". As the years passed and she never returned, I understood she would not come to me, but I could go to her.

Walter Almy, Jr., M.D. better known as "Old Dr. Almy" came to Toddsville at an early date. After locating, he brought his father and mother. Walter Almy, Sr., and their slaves, two colored females, Anna and Peggie Mahrs. They served their master during his lifetime and are buried in the Adams burying ground near Fork Shop.

To the knowledge of the writer Mr. Almy was the only person to own slaves in Toddsville.

Old Doctor Almy is in the vault under the hill, but Mrs. Almy is buried in Sharon. The wife died first, but she made her son,

Dr. Ed. Almy, promise that he would remove her body after the death of the Old Doctor to her old home where she sleeps among her people the Millers.

I have been told that Old Doctor Almy used to sit evenings in the vault door smoking his pipe. Some years ago the writer visited the vault, and by the aid of a light could see the outside case very plainly. From my observation it seemed to be in as perfect a state of preservation as at the time of death, except for a slight discoloration due to age.

The Doctor, during his professional career had a large practice, traveling on horseback as physicians did during those times. On one occasion while coming from Oaksville on the back road by the Stone Mill he was attacked by a panther. Putting the spurs to his horse he out distanced the animal at the woods near the Adams burying ground, where the beast left the highway and went into the timber.

The small building by the ruins of the old paper mill used to stand on the other side of the stream near the roadway and was used as the Doctor's office. He was a gruff old fellow and polish was not his middle name. On one occasion he was called to a home in Toddsville to prescribe for one of the young ladies of the household. After taking certain medicines they were to be followed by a dose of castor oil, but the patient refused to take the oil. Calling later and being informed that it had not been taken, he said, "I'll give it to her". Taking the girl by the nose he turned it down her and Miss Florence Todd said she always hated Old Doctor Almy after that. Doctor Ed. Almy practiced his profession in Toddsville after the death of his father. He married Augusta Todd, daughter of Lemuel Todd. They have been dead many years.

Cuyler E. Carr.

**Early Recollections**  
**Clippings from The Freeman's Journal**  
**Dec. 22, 1926**

**EARLY RECOLLECTIONS**  
**OF TODDSVILLE**

There are few families who do not possess a "secret chamber" where rest those happenings which they have endeavored to keep from the public eye and the public ear.

I hope the reader will pardon me, if I drag out the old family "skeleton" that has remained undisturbed for a century.

According to the records of the First Presbyterian church of Cooperstown, Lucy Carr, a sister of my grandfather, Ephraim Carr, married Levi Kelley May 22, 1817.

Kelley was a mill-wright. Many of the mills, now demolished, along Oaks creek contributing to the business life of this section were the result of his labor. He was a wonderful mechanic and his sense of adjustment was so keen that he could "true" a corner or set a post without the aid of a plumb. But he possessed a temper uncontrollable and in his fits of anger would throw at a fellow workman any tool he might have in his hand or within his reach.

Kelley purchased a farm in Pierstown and Aunt Lucy furnished one half of the money to pay for the property with the understanding that the deed should be a joint one. When the transfer was made he had the papers drawn in his name ignoring the agreement with his wife. She requested him to transfer to her one half of the place, but he shook his fist in her face exclaiming, "That is your deed."

He used to sleep with a loaded shot gun at the head of his bed and his treatment of his wife became so abusive that she left him and returned to the home of her bachelor brother, Robert Carr, where she lived until her death in 1855.

In April 1827, Kelley leased the farm to Abram Spafard. From almost the beginning he began to find fault with his tenant and on several occasions stated to neighbors, "I'll put a ball through him before summer is over."

The dreadful day occurred September 3, 1827. Spafard was drawing in oats and the place where he was unloading them displeased the landlord. Spafard went to the house while Kelley repaired to his part of the dwelling. He went into his bed room, got the gun and, passing around to the Spafard side, entered the kitchen and shot his tenant. The unfortunate man received the charge beneath his right breast exclaiming, "Oh Lord! I am dead," and sank into the arms of his distracted wife, who was left a widow with seven small children to mourn his untimely death.

Kelley was arrested and removed to the jail at Cooperstown. While there one of his neighbors called to see him and upon leaving said, "I hope you will receive justice." The murderer replied, "That is what I am afraid of." While in prison he sent for his wife, but the Carr brothers said to their sister, "No, you cannot visit that murderer!" And she never went to see him.

On November 20th Kelley's case was moved for trial. The Hon. Samuel Nelson presided at the term. Starkweather, Campbell & Collier defended the murderer while E.B. Morehouse conducted the prosecution. The jury rendered a verdict of guilty and the prisoner was sentenced to die, the Honorable Justice speaking as follows: "The sentence of the laws is: that you, Levi Kelley, on Friday, the 28th of December next, between the hours of 12 at noon and 3 thereafter be taken from the prison to the place of execution, and there hung by the neck until you are dead; and may God have mercy on your immortal soul."

Kelley was executed at a public hanging in the village and people came from far and near to view the gruesome spectacle. Seats were constructed about the gallows and at one place the weight of the people became so great the timbers gave way and several persons were injured. The murderer hearing the noise inquired of the sheriff the cause and when told of the accident said, "I'm sorry." The black cap was adjusted, rope tightened, trap sprung and Kelley went to meet his Creator.

After his death several of Kelley's relatives requested permission to inter his body in the Carr burying ground near Toddsville, but the five Carr brothers said that: no

murderer would ever be buried in their cemetery and the resolution of one hundred years has never been broken.

Several years ago in conversation with Mr. Benjamin F. Fish, now deceased, he stated to the writer that his father told him Kelley was buried back of the Presbyterian church in Cooperstown, in an unmarked grave dug nine feet deep and filled in with alternate layers of brick and earth.

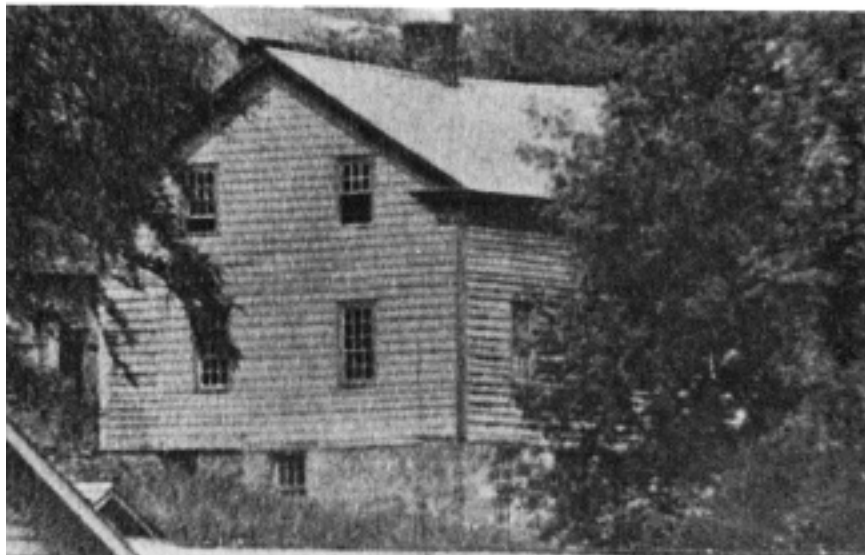
When I was a boy father used to quote verses about the murder of Spafard and Kelley's execution, but time has dulled my memory and I recall but one:

In eighteen hundred twenty seven  
Old Kelley broke the laws of Heaven.  
He murdered his poor tenant there  
Who took his farm to work for share.

CUYLER E. CARR



The Todd families occupied the Samuel Tubbs house until 1805 when Jehiel Todd erected and occupied this house east of the paper mill (now demolished). "Bill" Bliss remembers this house around 1910 as a two-family house with a pathway around the south end of the building to an entry-way to the second floor in back.



This house stood just south of the house built by Jehiel Todd (above). It is believed by the writer that this house is the house known as the "old brick basement", built in 1840 by Lemuel Todd, later destroyed by fire. J. E. Colburn owned it when he was proprietor of the Paper Works around 1868.

**OTSEGO PAPER MILLS**  
**By Ed Moore (Oneonta Star 1973)**

Fortunately for us, our forefathers knew but one way to manufacture paper. Until about 85 years ago the material used was cloth in the form of rags, the wood pulp method not having been perfected. The result was a paper so durable that newspapers printed a century and more ago are still in excellent condition while those of a decade ago are fast deteriorating.

For years the weekly newspapers of the county were printed on paper made at the Otsego Paper Mills at Toddsville, near Cooperstown, N.Y. The Oneonta Herald used stock from this mill from its first issue in 1853 until 1887 and the journals of that period in the Huntington Library are still in the remarkable state of preservation while subsequent papers must be handled with extreme care.

The Otsego Paper Mills were started in the first decade of the 19th century by Jehiel Todd, who came into Otsego County from Connecticut. In 1835 the annual output of the company was valued at less than \$10,000 but in 1853, after the mill had been rebuilt after a destructive fire, the output amounted to about a ton a day with a great increase in the concern's revenue.

Rags in the form of scraps of cloth and discarded clothing were the basic ingredient of all the paper made in those days. Linen went into writing paper while cotton and wool became the less expensive printing paper. Wrapping paper was made from coarser fabrics such as jute.

The plant got its rags from such concerns as Moody and Gould of Oneonta. Rags were often in short supply so the output of mills like the one at Toddsville was somewhat limited at the best.

In 1850 H.N. and A.H. Todd purchased the mill and enlarged it considerably only to see their efforts go up in smoke when fire destroyed the plant in 1852. The young men were able to rebuild the plant but within two years they were in financial difficulties and operations were taken over by the Cooperstown banking firm of R. & I. Worthington.

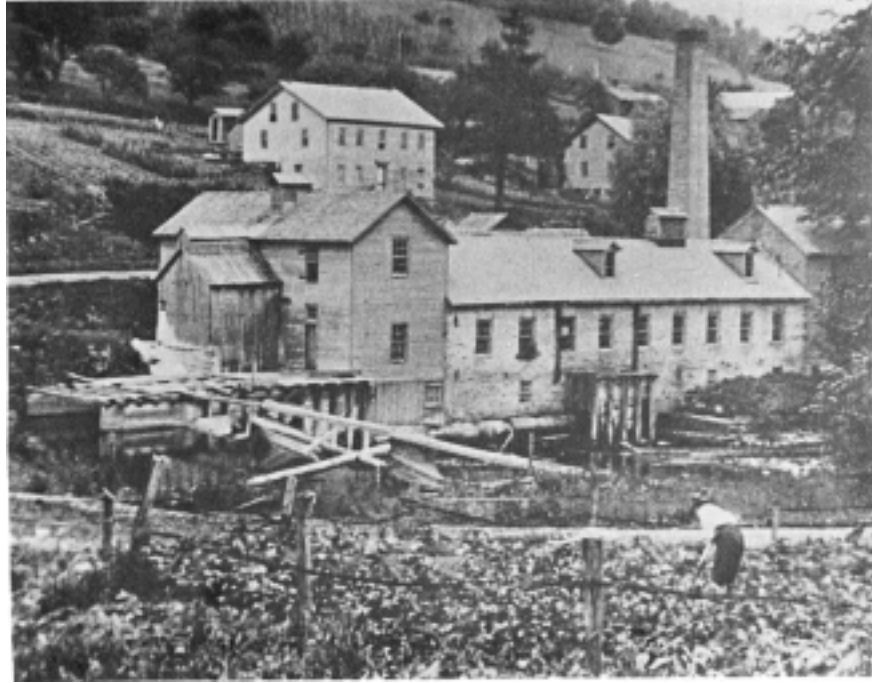
The Freeman's Journal gave this account of the rebuilt mill: "The new mill is 100 feet by 40 feet wide, built in the most substantial manner. The building used for sorting and bleaching is detached from the mill, and is 40 by 60 feet. There are five paper machines in the mill, one of which is the largest in the state. A steam engine of 35 horsepower has been added, which will be used for propelling certain portions of the machinery, warming room and for drying paper. . .".

When the Otsego Mills were operating at full capacity, about 940,000 pounds of rags were used annually, together with 30,000 pounds of chloride of lime, 600 bushels of lime and 1,000 cords of wood. Sixteen men, 12 girls, and six teams were employed.

The mill operated sporadically until about the close of the century. There was still some market for the writing paper which it made but its days of manufacturing newsprint were long over.

It is interesting to note that in 1853, rag stock printing paper sold for nine cents a pound. One hundred years later, 100 per cent rag paper cost printers about .87 cents a pound while today the price is astronomical.





The first mill was a grist mill built by Tubbs and improved by the Todds, who soon after they came here also built on the Hartwick side, a woolen mill and on the Otsego side, a saw mill and paper mill near the south end of the above pictured paper mill. This paper mill was three times burned and rebuilt and operated by the Todd family until 1855. The house in the left rear is the Johiah Todd house built in 1805.

#### **OTSEGO PAPER WORKS AT TODDSVILLE**

Paper was made from rags picked up by tin peddlers going from house to house exchanging china and tin ware, needles and pins for worn-out clothing and rags. The driver was perched on a high seat of a specially built tin peddlers' wagon equipped with shelves for treasure and luggage space for rag bags. He was a welcome visitor in country homes in by-gone days. Rags were the basis of all paper making and often were in short supply.

Copied from "Pioneer Industries"  
by Pearl A. Weeks



Pictured above is Dr. H. H. Clapsaddle and his family who purchased this house from Samuel Todd in 1889. Dr. Clapsaddle practiced medicine for several years at this location, traveling throughout the area by horse and buggy, caring for the sick. According to his diary, new babies were brought into the world for a fee of \$1.50.



This house now owned and occupied by Roger Duda was built by Horatio Todd, son of Ira Todd, in 1846 and occupied by him as a dwelling until 1855. It was subsequently owned by J. E. Colburn, proprietor of Otsego Paper Works in 1868, Granville Quackenbush, foreman in the Union Cotton Mill, his widow, Minnie Quackenbush, and Bill Shoemaker, a farmer.

## TELLS MORE EARLY RECOLLECTIONS OF TODDSVILLE

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The greatest character that ever lived in Toddsville was old "Bill Witherell," better known as "Bub" a small man with a large supply of talk, an inexhaustible amount of brass and a liar unsurpassed. Nature did a great deal for this person and had he chosen to use his talents in the proper direction he might have been one of the leading citizens of the village, but he chose otherwise, permitting his wife to support him while he spent his time at the hotel or drove about with an old horse trading when opportunity presented itself, and to the sorrow of the one with whom he dealt. He worked but little and only for people where the cider barrel played an important part in the day's activities.

Witherell chose for his friend and bosom companion "Bill" Wheeler, another bird of the same plumage. This pair used to start out on tramping expeditions going over into the Mohawk valley, Schoharie county, or where their fancy directed. These trips lasted several weeks. They stopped wherever night over took them with the people along the way representing themselves to be expert horsemen and well versed along agricultural lines; in fact, no subject could be presented but they were thoroughly familiar with it. On one of their expeditions while traveling in the Mohawk valley, the weather became threatening and arriving at a church they went in, (the door being open) to escape the shower. After they had been sitting a few minutes a funeral party drove up the members of which proved to be colored people and the deceased, a child. After waiting some time the funeral party seemed to be very much annoyed and upon inquiry "Bub" was informed that they expected to meet a minister at the church. Witherell told the party they were traveling evangelists and any favor they might bestow would be gladly given.

Pleased were they to accept the kind offer of the "evangelists" and preparations were immediately made for the service. The casket was brought into the church and placed before the pulpit; and friends being

seated, the "clergymen" took their place behind the desk.

Bill Wheeler began the service by the usual scripture reading and then offered prayer. On his petition he prayed for a liberal collection. After the prayer he passed the hat. The money being secure, Witherell arose and preached the "sermon" taking for his text "Suffer little children to come unto me." The evangelist's remarks must have been very comforting for he consoled his weeping audience by telling them at that moment the little one was playing on a harp of ten thousand strings. Witherell in commenting on his funeral address said tears rolled down the cheeks of the colored ladies as large as walnuts.

The funeral service completed, the party went its way, while the evangelists repaired to the first tavern where the money was soon spent.

Aunt Lemuel Todd, mother of the late Samuel S. Todd, and a very pious lady reproved Witherell for the act and said to him, "Mr. Witherell, didn't you know it was very wicked for you to do that," but he replied, "Mrs. Todd there was no doubt I preached that little cuss right into the Kingdom."

Charles B. Gallett, proprietor of the hotel at Toddsville, got into a dispute with "Bub" and thinking he might tantalize his adversary asked him when he was going to preach another nigger funeral sermon, to which Witherell replied, "As soon as you die."

A Civil War veteran living in Toddsville, wishing to obtain a pension employed Mr. B. to prosecute his case before the Pension Department in Washington. In all such matters sworn statements are required and Mr. C, a man empowered to take acknowledgements, performed that part of the proceedings. The matter drifted along for months. as such cases usually do until the veteran passed away.

It so happened the next day after the veteran's death the pension check arrived. Not to be outdone by death or the delay of the Pension Department Messrs B and C, repaired to the home of the veteran and going into the room raised up the corpse and putting a pen in the dead man's hand with their assistance obtained his signature to the draft.

We will now permit the 'evangelists'  
and the old veteran to continue their repose,  
while we wait and see what another week  
may bring forth.

CUYLER E. CARR.

#### Old Advertisements

The subscribers having entered into co-partnership in the blacksmithing business near Todds Mills take this method to inform the public that they will be ready at all times to accommodate them in their line of business with neatness, accuracy and dispatch. All kinds of edge tools made and warranted as cheap as can be had at any other shop in the county. Horses shod on short notice at the reduced price of 75 cts. per horse, cash in hand.

Levi Irons  
Nathan Fish Jr.

December 5"1826

The public are hereby informed that the subscriber is now putting into operation a large quantity of first rate machinery for carding wool and cloth dressing. He assures his friends and the public that his machines shall be in the first rate order by June first next, when he will have one of the first rate workman, known in the county for steady habits and in all other respects qualified to give the best satisfaction. Those who see fit to favor him with their custom will receive the grateful acknowledgement of their humble servant.

Zera Todd

Toddsville, May 7"1827

A good cavalry uniform can be had of the subscriber cheap for cash.

Anson Richardson

Toddsville, July 2"1827

Wanted: Five hundred bushels of wheat which the highest market price will be paid at the subscribed mills.

Jehiel Todd

Toddsville, December 7"1827

Physic and Surgery: The subscriber having formed connection in business will attend to all calls in their profession.

Walter Almy  
J. P. Bliss

Toddsville, August 12"1828

Otsego Truss Manufactory, Toddsville, N.Y., C.H. Carr, Prop. Carr's patent truss subdues the most obstinate cases of rupture; Is worn with ease by the most delicate persons.

Freeman's Journal, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> 1873

Carr's Truss—There can be no doubt that Mr. C.H. Carr of Hartwick has succeeded in inventing a truss which is calculated to alleviate a great deal of inconvenience and suffering. Physicians recommend it.

Freeman's Journal, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> 1874

### Interesting News Items

Hartwick, Otsego Co., New York – The Woolen factory and Grist Mill of Jehiel Todd of this place together with there contents were consumed by fire on Tuesday, 21 March. The fire originated in the factory from a stove pipe. The loss is said to be about \$12,000. No insurance on the property.

The Representative, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1826

The woolen factory in the Town of Hartwick, about two miles and a half from the village and owned by Mr. Jehiel Todd, together with one of the most valuable grist mills in the county belonging to Jehiel & Lemuel Todd was wholly destroyed by fire on the 21<sup>st</sup>. between the hours of ten & eleven o'clock in the forenoon. The fire, there is not the least reason to doubt was occasioned by spontaneous combustion of a large quantity of woolen waste stored in the upper story. It had made such progress before it was discovered, that nothing of the machinery worth mentioning and but a small portion of stock and some cloths unfinished were saved. In the grist mill was stored a large quantity of grain, a small part of which only was removed before the building was enveloped in flames. The loss sustained by Mr. Jehiel Todd is estimated at from twelve to fourteen thousand dollars, not a cent of which was insured. The frequent occurrence of fires thus occasioned by the packing away of what is termed waste, in our woolen factories, must, and is hoped will prove a salutary caution to all who have property thus invested.

The Watch Tower, March 21<sup>st</sup> 1826

The public is hereby respectfully informed that the works burned belonging to Messrs. Todd, are so far rebuilt as to enable them to do all kinds of cloth dressing for country customers. The machinery will be in the first rate of repair, and the work part will be conducted by Mr. Jesse Ayres, who is well known in this county as an experienced workman in his profession, and of honest and industrious habits. Indigo blue and all other colors will be made. The public patronage is particularly solicited, and they may rest assured that their work will be done on short notice and in a genteel and workmanlike manner.

Jehiel Todd

Toddsville, July 24<sup>th</sup> 1826

### Old Advertisements

Co-partnership Dissolved — The Co-partnership heretofore existing between the subscriber under the firm of L. & B. Todd, having been dissolved by mutual consent, those indebted to said firm either by Note or Book Acct. are requested to make immediate settlement.

Otsego, May 11, 1821  
Lemuel Todd  
Bethel Todd

Business will be continued at the old stand as heretofore by F. Todd & Son, who pay CASH FOR WOOL, delivered at their Factory — Where cloth will be exchanged for wool at the customary rate of one yard for two pounds. Large Lots of Wool will be taken and manufactured at the halves.

Otsego, May 11, 1821  
Jehial Todd  
Bethel Todd

FOR SALE — At Public Vendue, on Saturday the 10th of Aug. next, for much of the real estate whereof Edward Eddy, late, of the town of Hartwick, in the County of Otsego, died, feized, as will be foficient to pay his debts. Sale to commence at one o'clock PM at the Premises. By order of the Surrogate.

June 3, 1805  
Rufus Steere, Executor

Apprentices Wanted — Two or three lads, as apprentices to the Paper Manufactory, will meet with good encouragement by applying to Meff. Todds, at the Paper Mill, on the Oaks Creek, or to the Editor of this paper.

June 3, 1805  
Otsego Herald

### TODDSVILLE COBBLER

Jabox Weeks of Toddsville was listed as a boot and shoe maker 1872–73 in the Otsego County Gazetteer.

### LARGE SCHOOL AT TODDSVILLE

During the 1840's Toddsville School was the largest district school in the town of Hartwick. Attendance climbed from 85 in 1844 to 108 in 1847. School money appropriated for library purposes was more than any other school in the town. This report did not include Hartwick Seminary.

Copied from "Pioneer Industries"  
by Pearl A. Weeks

## WILSON'S CHAIR FACTORY

John T. Wilson ran a chair factory in Toddsville 1872–73. He is listed in the Gazetteer and Business Directory of Otsego County.

Copied from "Pioneer Industries"  
by Pearl S. Weeks



The Union Cotton Mill Co. purchased of Jehiel and Lemuel Todd about 1810 the farm property known as the factory property and built a wooden building and operated a cotton spinning factory there until 1828 when the stone factory (above) was built and operated by various companies and proprietors until 1897. I've been told that the stone from this mill was used in the construction of the original section of the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown in the early 1900's.

## COTTON TRANSPORTED BY HORSES FROM CATSKILL

At first, cotton (raw material) was drawn from Catskill by horses. The diary of Wm. Coventry, Hudson, N.Y. 1786 to 1800 or later describes the hard life of these teamsters. He speaks of deep mud, horse shoeing, oxen shoeing, etc. They usually drove six horses hitched to large wagons. The round trip required two weeks and large fleets of wagons were needed to keep raw cotton moving in and the finished products moving out. Raw cotton was transported from southern states to Catskill by boats.

The Union Factory also made candle wicking and twine.

Copied from "Pioneer Industries"  
by Pearl A. Weeks





One of the women in the above picture of The Union Cotton Mill is Mrs. Hannah Houck who lived in the house opposite the Baptist Church now owned and occupied by Mrs. Helen Houck, widow of Robert Houck.

## COTTON MILLS

### UNION COTTON FACTORY AT TODDSVILLE

The Union Factory at Toddsville was built by Charles W. Smith in 1808. This building was of wood and burned a few years later. It was re-built of stone.

In 1819 Joseph Phelon of Suffield, Connecticut became associated with the business. He was manager of another cotton and wool mill, and established a sales business for both concerns.

Union Factory manufactured calico prints, sheeting, ticking etc. Merchants in all the principle villages and cities from here to Philadelphia on the south, and to Lake Erie on the west were his customers.

Copied from "Pioneer Industries"  
by Pearl A. Weeks

Recollections  
Clippings from The Otsego Farmer — April 15, 1927

**INTERESTING  
RECOLLECTIONS OF  
EARLY TODDSVILLE**

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During my boyhood days there lived in Toddsville Samuel Spinner and Miss Carrie Cotton, two young people employed in the Union Cotton Factory. After admiring each other through rose colored glasses over the "mules," they decided that life for them was one long honeymoon and the only way to reach their hearts' desires was a voyage on the sea of matrimony. With Love as their pilot the couple went to the Rev. John Perry for sailing orders.

The marriage day was pleasant enough, the benediction solemn enough, and the congratulations of friends profuse enough, and the old factory bell pealed forth tones of joy, while Aunt Johanna Perry, over her knitting shed tears of sympathetic gladness, supposing the craft containing those new-found joys had started on a placid lake; but it proved to be a schooner stranded on a bar.

In consideration of the services rendered by the Reverend gentleman the groom was to deliver or cause to be delivered a sack of flour, to help replenish the larder of the divine, which was never bought, never paid for, and never delivered.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the groom went to Burke's hotel for a "stabilizer" and found the liquid "Trace" was dispensing contained more than one-half of one per cent of alcoholic content by volume. The bride sat patiently in the salon waiting for the return of her husband while the groom sat in the saloon taking on supplies. Love, the pilot of the undertaking, jumped through a porthole and was lost in the drink.

After several days the groom came to a realization that his tankage capacity was unusually large, and the success of the undertaking became a failure before the start.

Several days after the "happy event" the Reverend gentleman met the bride and be-

ing asked how she enjoyed married life replied, "I tell you Elder it is a little better than h—."

Soon after the Spinner-Cotton wedding another couple employed by the cotton company decided to take a whirl at the marriage business, but on account of parental objections on the part of the bride's people, postponed their venture from time to time. In fact, their courtship was conducted under difficulties and their spooning after the old people had hit the hay.

At last the day came, and the daughter, sneaking out of the back door, met her lover and made haste to the Rev. John Perry, who performed the ceremony.

The marriage had hardly been completed when the irate father appeared on the scene to find his daughter married to the man of her choice. The father after expressing his opinion in language I will not quote, and deciding they could all go to that unspeakable place, went home and left the bride and her husband to "paddle their own canoe."

During the operation and ownership of the Union Cotton mill by Granville Quackenbush Miss Dora Darling, a spinster of mature years, applied for a position as weaver and was assigned to a loom adjoining one operated by John Aaron.

The next day she called on the superintendent and requested to be transferred to an other loom, giving as her reason she did not care to work so close to a man. The superintendent, after giving the request due consideration, refused to grant the change. As time passed, she began to learn that possibly men were not such terrible creatures as she had depicted and there arose an admiration for the weaver she had previously scorned. As time went on Mr. Aaron found opportunity to pick up broken threads, replace shuttles and do other cast which fall to the lot of a weaver, and the couple soon discovered beside weaving "Union Mills A Sheeting" they were also weaving a friendship which would be hard to break.

The old dike came into being as a lovers' lane, while the tall steps on the west end of

the factory afforded a restful place for holding hands and "poverty row" extended its good offices to speed the lovers on their happy way.

The bride, clad in her new robin's egg blue ensemble, which was very chic, and the groom clad in the finest weaves of Picadilly, repaired to the residence of the officiating clergyman, the Rev. John Perry, who in well chosen and solemn words, pronounced them husband and wife.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the couple went to their apartment, the "Third floor back" in the "four family house" where they began housekeeping at once.

During the evening they were visited by the "Conquine Band" of Toddsville, a musical organization noted for the varied instruments played and harmony produced. After the passing of cider and cigars by the groom the organization disbanded and left the newly wedded couple to themselves.

CUYLER E. CARR.



**A view of South Main Street showing the Methodist Church on the right; the Rufus Steere store, mill houses and the Stone Store on the left.**



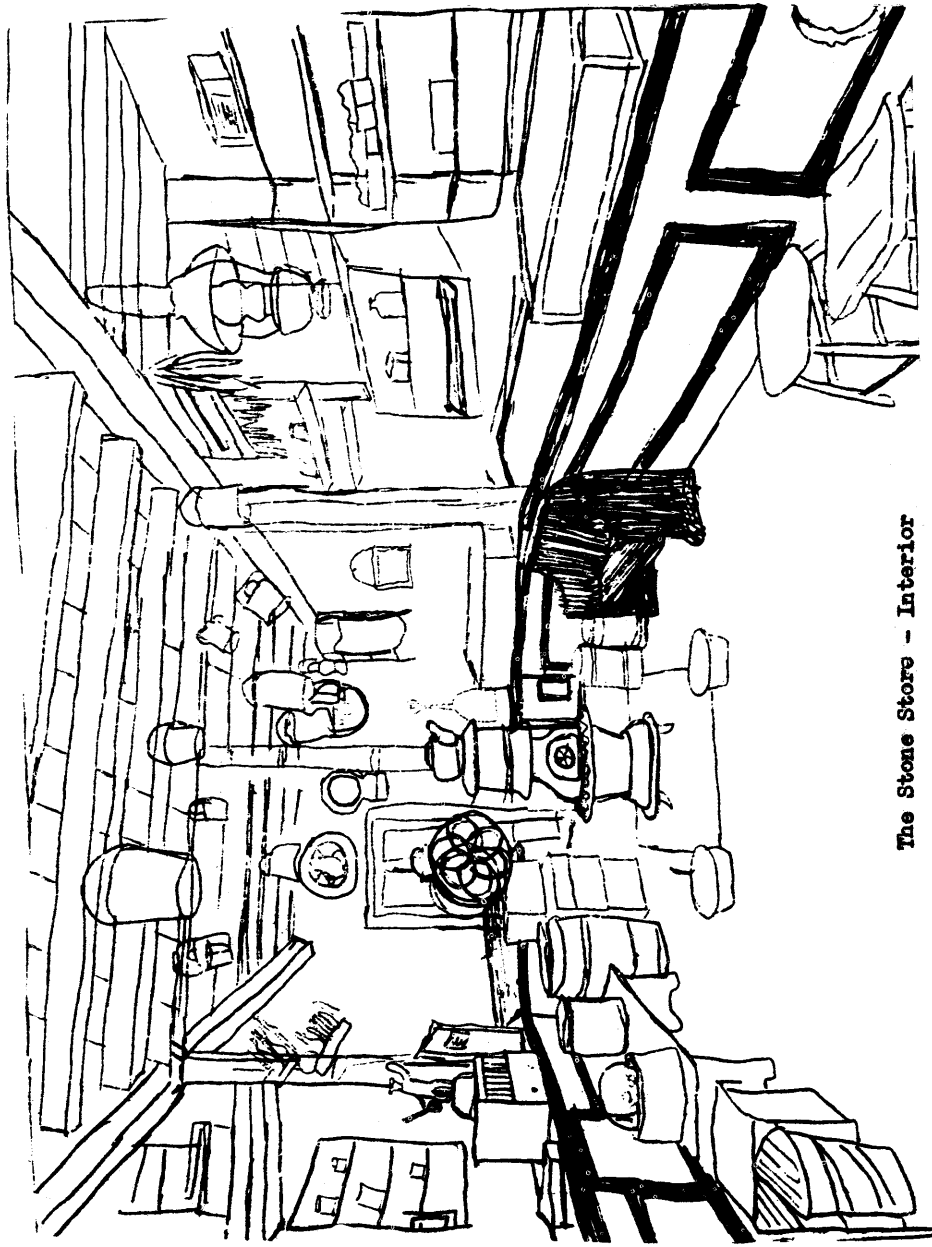
**A rear view of the school – note the out house propped up with poles.**



**The Stone Store was built the same year as the Union Cotton Mill, 1828, and was located opposite the mill on the property now owned by Roy Decker. It was a typical general store of that era, selling dry goods, tin ware, notions, hardware, produce, etc. The Stone Store was moved stone by stone in 1944 to the Farmers Museum in Cooperstown, New York.**



**Another view of the Stone Store. Rufus Steere ran this at the same time he was part-owner of the Union Cotton Mill. I'm told that he used to pay the workers in the mill with script that could only be used at his store. The home on the right is the old school house moved about 1875 from its location near Oaks Creek, recently owned by Gilbert and Gladys Armstrong.**



The Stone Store - Interior

The chapter entitled "Toddsville" from James Fenimore Cooper's book "The Legends & Traditions of a Northern County"

## TODDSVILLE

While it is not quite in line with the purpose of these sketches to wander into the history of the hamlet of Toddsville, I feel that anything bearing on the past of the County is worth preserving; certainly where it is as unique as the recollections of a man in his ninety-seventh year, born and brought up and now living in that community, and with an apparently unimpaired memory. Such a man is Samuel Street Todd living in the little gothic cottage on the east bank of the Oaks Creek and overlooking the picturesque ruins of the old mills of Toddsville, and within sight of the four old Todd houses built respectively about 1792, 1805, 1811, and one at a later date, now unknown.

Mr. Todd is bent with years, but clear of mind and memory and with a voice of wonderful power and tone; he is, according to his doctor, going to round out his full century. To such a man old age can have no terror.

I spent with him two half days and listened to almost first-hand tales of the early settlement of the country; for remembering himself events back of 1830, he of course had heard at an age when his memory was most receptive, the tales and experiences of his elders.

The settlement of Toddsville was the story of the settlement of many of the little hamlets of western New York; the millwrights came from New England.

### Legends of a Northern County

Samuel Todd's story was as follows: About the beginning of the nineteenth century six brothers, of the name of Todd, and one sister, came from Wallingford, Conn., to the site of Toddsville, where there was a water power and a sawmill. The property belonged to one Tubbs who had bought three hundred acres from Judge Cooper and built the sawmill. The Todds bought him out, built a log cabin, and lived in it and in the Tubbs house which still stands at the head of the Main Street of Toddsville, facing south. They were a family of millwrights and of very good New England stock; there were Johiah, Lemuel, Caleb, Zira, Bethel, and Achel, and the sister, Augusta. My old friend was Lemuel's son. They developed the water power and built in addition to the sawmill, a gristmill, paper mill, and a woolen (knitting) mill. They ran the mills as follows: Lemuel and Johiah the gristmill; Johiah the woolen mill, and Lemuel the paper and sawmill; Achel was a doctor and practiced at Middlefield Centre; Bethel went to Poultneyville. I don't know what Zira and Caleb did; but Zira built in 1811 the fine house on the west bank of Oaks Creek across from the mill site and lived in it; a Zira, or Ira, made mill stones at Utica and went to St. Louis; Lemuel lived in the old Tubbs house and Johiah built,

in 1805, and lived in the house across the road from, and east of the mills. Caleb's history he did not tell me. Augusta married one of the Carrs who were grantees of an adjoining four hundred acres; she and her husband lived in that beautiful old field-stone house on the road to Fly Creek, dated 1825.

Toddsville flourished and grew into a community of some hundreds, with upwards of sixty dwellings, churches, and shops, until modern competition and transportation killed its mills.

Samuel remembers my great-grandfather; Dr. Thomas Fuller, and told with glee how, in a particularly unhealthy year, Dr. Almy of Toddsville "beat" him; I didn't like to ask whether in deaths or cures. Dr. Almy bought and lived in Zira Todd's house and built the remarkable vault at the foot of the hill in his meadow, overlooking the field and the Oaks Creek. There, Samuel says, the doctor lies with his daughter. The outer doors are ajar but held by fallen masonry; the inner door of glass is securely closed. The vault interested me, so Samuel told its story as follows: Dr. Almy, he said, worshipped it and used to sit in the doorway and smoke evenings, and sometimes young Samuel sat with him; Mrs. Almy dreaded it, and made her son promise that if she died first he would after his father's death, move her body to her family burying ground at Sharon; this, in due time, he did, and she lies there with the Mullers.

We had tried to get into the vault and I said, "Some night I am coming over to open it." After a moment's hesitation, old Samuel said: "One night, when I was young, I took a screw driver, got into the vault, and opened Mrs. Almy's coffin. She had been lying there some time, and her cheeks (indicating with his hands) were covered with blue mold!"

He said every one in those days went to the Presbyterian Church at Coopers-town, so when he was old enough to go to church he was taken there; he described the old high pews, taller than he was, and the two-story pulpit. The modern pews he spoke of contemptuously as "slips". He knew where all the old families sat—the Bowers, the Fullers, the Prentisses, etc., including the pew of my grandmother in which I suffered as a youth. He recalled Richard Cooper and old George Clarke and his wife, Ann, and about all the prominent residents of the village in those days including my grandfather.

It was like looking through an open window into the past.

Years ago Charles W. Smith, who married one of my mother's sisters, and lived to be nearly as old a man as Samuel Todd, wrote out for me a little sketch of Hope Factory, and as it throws some light on Toddsville, I quote from it.

"He (Mr. Smith's father) came with others, in 1806, after acquiring his trade, to Otsego County, New York, and engaged in building a cotton mill on the Oaks Creek at Toddsville, called the Union Cotton Manufactory. On December 21, 1808, he was specially commissioned to go east and purchase such machinery as was required for operating. Contract signed by Rufus Steere and Jehial Todd.

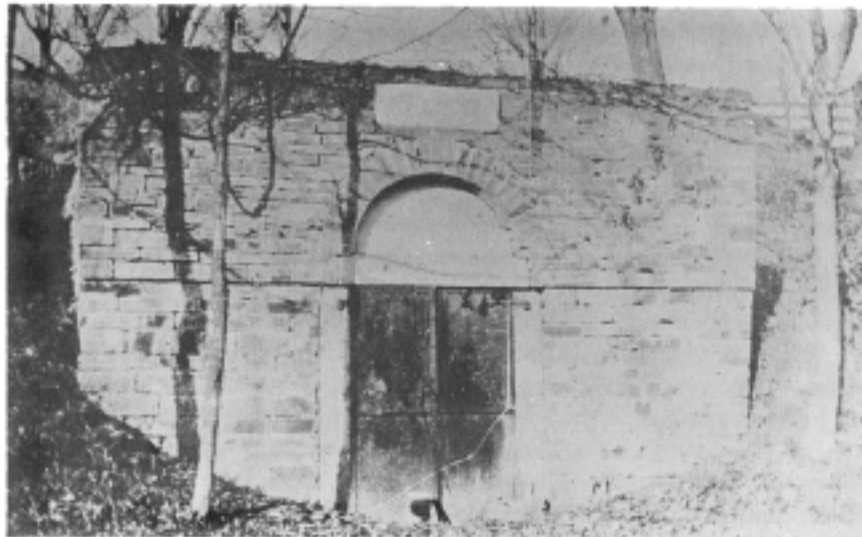
"The factory was built of wood and burned not many years after and was then replaced by one of stone.

"October, 1809, Mr. Smith was commissioned by the Union Cotton Mac'f'g. to build, manage, and carry on a cotton mill at Hopeville, having a long ditch to





**(Top left, Dr. Almy's house, bottom left, same house at a later date, and top right, Dr. Walter Almy (1783–1866).**



**Dr. Almy bought and lived in Zira Todd's house and built the remarkable vault at the foot of the hill in his meadow, overlooking the field and Oaks Creek. There the Dr. lies with his daughter.**



**This is the gothic cottage, home of Samuel Todd, son of Lemuel Todd. It was built in 1848 by Andrew Todd and is located on a knoll overlooking Oaks Creek and the sights of the three Todd mills; now owned and occupied by Carlton Thomas.**



**This store was built by Rufus Steere as well as the fine old home on the same property now occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Guy Higgins. Rufus Steere ran the store and I'm told that the residents from the other side of Oaks Creek would come by row boat across the mill pond to a dock in back of the Steere property to make their purchases at this store.**

convey water from Oaks Creek, nearly half a mile, thus obtaining a higher head of water, more permanent and admitting use of an overshot, instead of a breast wheel for driving the mill. This was to be called Hope Factory after one of that name in Rhode Island.

"The building was of wood and was used some fifteen years. Mr. Smith's salary was fixed at \$2.00 a day with firewood and pasturage for horse and cow.

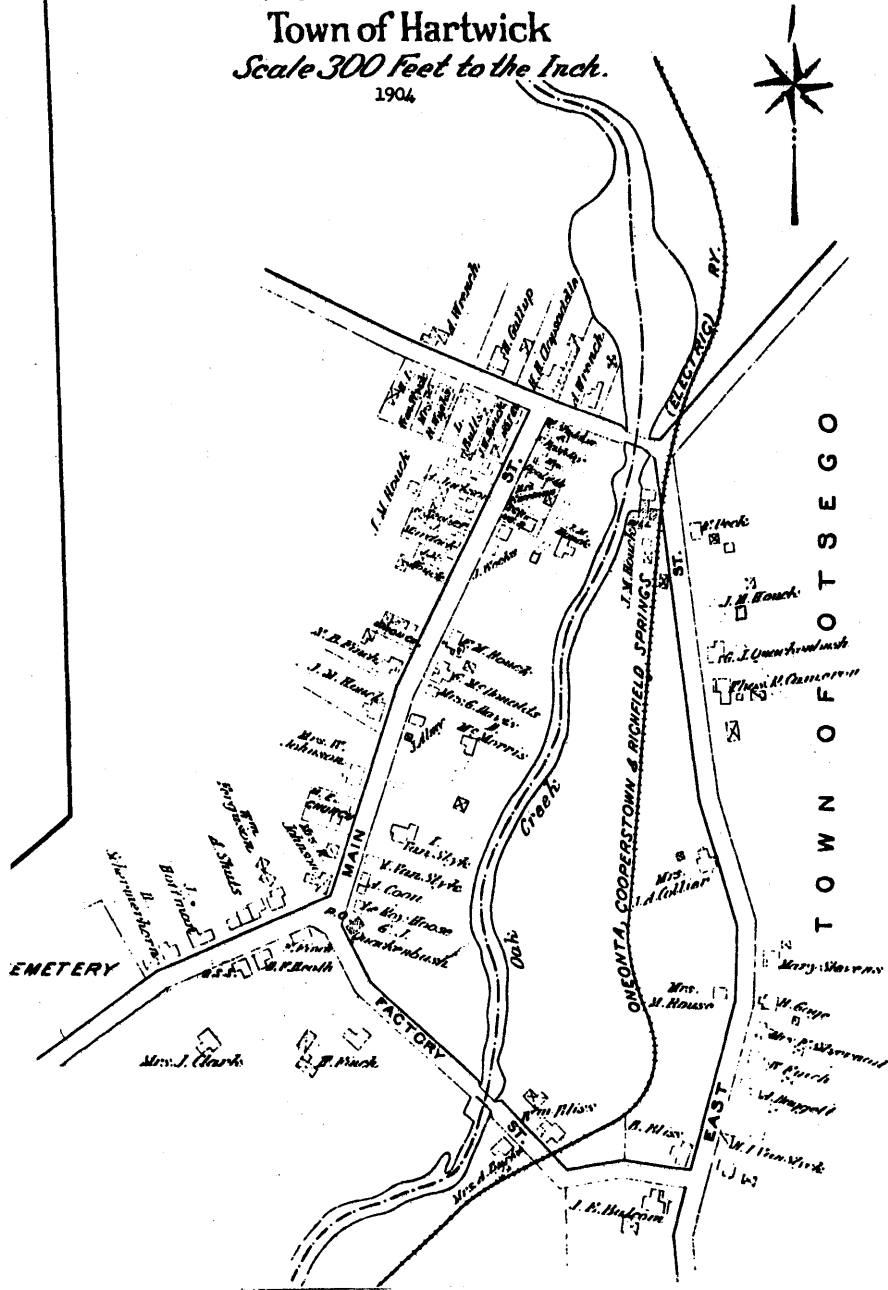
"September 7, 1824, a new mill of stone was contracted for, to be erected a few rods from the old mill by Lorenzo Bates, Contractor. Stone from the quarries of J.R.M. Mills, Evander and Jared Ingalls. Twelve hundred bushels of lime furnished by Abram Van Horne. Carpenter and joining work by Elisha Thorneton and George Morris. Cost of this building was \$12,165.79 (\$12,165.79)."

This new mill of stone is the Hope Factory still standing near what is now known as Index.

Sometime after my talk with old Samuel Todd I had curious confirmation of the soundness of his memory. He said that the Todd land had come from "Fenimore Cooper" and that one Tubbs had intervened between William Cooper and their purchase. I doubted this and attempted to convince him that the land came from William through Tubbs. In looking over some old papers I found a contract of sale between Richard Fenimore Cooper, the eldest son of William Cooper, and Jehiel Todd of Northampton, Mass., dated January 22nd, 1805, providing for the conveyance to Todd of "All that farm or tract of land known as Tubbs Mills" for the sum of "Six thousand three hundred and twenty silver dollars of the United States of America." Other papers show that the silver dollars were duly paid and the land conveyed by Richard Fenimore Cooper to Jehiel. The property must have been a very valuable one as the amount paid in 1805 would be the equivalent of a sum perhaps ten times as great now.

# TODDSVILLE

Town of Hartwick  
*Scale 300 Feet to the Inch.*  
 1904



**Incorporation Of The Union Society  
of Toddsville Jan. 29, 1867**

On January 29, 1867 a group met at the school house in Toddsville where it was voted to build a church for the use of "any and all Christian denominations" with five trustees to be elected each year to represent each of five different societies, Presbyterian, Methodist, Christian, Baptist and Universalist. The first trustees were, Chister Carr, Francis Allison, Johnson E. Colburn, Rufus Steere and Naaman Perkins.



**The Union Church Of Toddsville**

Although incorporated, the group met for a number of years in the school-house or at the Union Store. Actually, although each group worshipped and elections of trustees were held each year, the first meeting and worship at the Union Church was not held until Jan. 29, 1876, old records disclosed.

Also according to old records, the church underwent repairs in 1889 for the sum of \$150.79 leaving the church free from debt. In 1903, the five trustees unanimously voted to mortgage the church for \$600. with proceeds of the mortgage to be used for general repairs of the structure.

In 1903, the Union Church in Toddsville became the First Baptist Church in Toddsville. The large stained glass window on the front reads, "First Baptist Church of Toddsville Organized Feb. 20, 1903". Some of the windows in the sanctuary read "In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Quackenbush", "Mrs. Anna Peck", "Mrs. C.M. Weeks".



**Opposite the Rufus Steere house stood the Methodist Church built in 1901. The Methodist Society was Incorporated March 10, 1902 and existed until 1951 when the property was sold and converted into a dwelling by Gilbert Armstrong. It is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Eckler.**



**Toddsville Baptist Church, formerly Union Church  
Organized March 29, 1961**

The recent organization of the Toddsville Baptist Church is the culmination of nearly six years effort on the part of its Pastors and congregation.

The one who first saw the need of re-opening this church that had been closed for several years, was Mrs. Leslie Day (Agnes Day). She spoke of this burden to her nephew, Rev. Herbert Miller, who began to hold prayer meeting with several families in the area. Calls were made to the homes in Toddsville in an effort to arouse interest in the proposed church and Sunday School.

Later, through the efforts of Rev. Franklin Harman and the congregation and the American Mission for Opening Closed Churches, the Toddsville Baptist Church was incorporated and established to its present state.

### **Other Old Houses of Toddsville – Now Gone**

A three family house known as the "Catch All" was erected by Lemuel Todd for a tenement in 1830. It was located near where Leo Lincourt now lives on the easy side of the road leading to Forkshop.

A second house stood on the sight of the present home of Eugene Armstrong and was erected by Lemuel Todd in 1825 for a tenement house. It was demolished about 1861.

The "Mill House" was erected by Jehiel and Lemuel Todd in 1810 and stood at the foot of the hill near the "Old Dr. Almy House". On the same spot, formerly stood a log house which was occupied by Jehiel Todd for about one year after his locating in Toddsville.

A house formerly known as the "Old Brick Basement", was erected by Lemuel Todd in 1840 and was destroyed by fire. This is probably the house that stood south of the house built by Jehiel Todd, east of the Paper Mill.

A house that formerly stood midway between the homes of Sidney Smith (near Eugene Armstrong) and Albert Quackenbush (Roger Smith's), was erected by Jehiel Todd for a tenement in 1812. It was afterward used as a "pest house" during the small pox epidemic in 1829, and demolished about 1840.

A building on the farm of Mrs. Minnie E. Quackenbush (Roger Duda's) used as a hop house, was formerly a dwelling and was erected by Ira Todd in 1845 for a tenement.

The wood colored building standing south of the school house (pictured elsewhere) was constructed by Zera Todd in 1830.

Two houses stood opposite the school between the places now owned by Mrs. Rose Weir and Mr. William Potter, that burned about 1941-42; occupied by Bert Jackson and Andrew Jackson. Bethel Todd probably built the one next to Rose Weir for he occupied that house about 1816-20.

### **Black Smith Shops**

Levi Irons and Nathan Fish Jr. operated a Black Smith Shop in 1826 "near Todds Mills", perhaps the one that was opposite Eugene Armstrong on the road to Fork Shop.

In 1868 there was a Black Smith Shop on the north side of Factory Street (opposite the present home of Donald Roseboom).

I've been told that Rufus Steere had a Black Smith Shop back of his store near his residence, about 1830.

Also I've been told there was a shop in back of the house now owned and occupied by Fred Stiglic. R. Schermerhorn lived there in 1904 and may have operated the Black Smith Shop.

### **Post Offices**

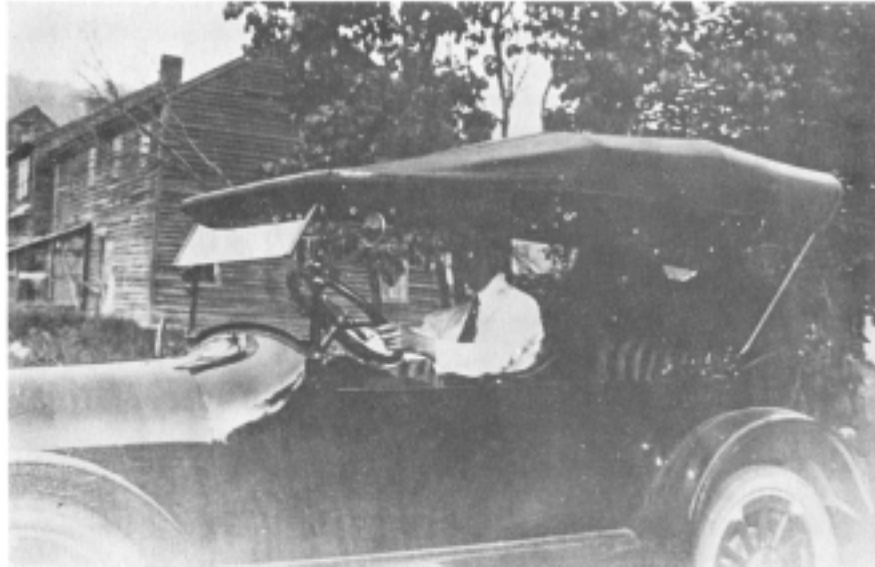
In 1856 the Post Office was located in the store west of "the oldest house in Toddsville" opposite the hotel.

In 1868 it was located in the Stone Store opposite the Union Cotton Factory.

In 1904 it was located in the same Stone Store.

Later it was located in a house opposite the school. This house was one of two that burned in the 1940's.





The young man in the touring car is Grover McRorie, taken about 1920.

The tenement house in the rear is one of several large dwellings built in the 1800's to house mill workers. This one, as you can see, was three houses attached together into one large tenement. Rufus Steere owned this at one time; it was called "Poverty Row" with apartments \$2.50 per mo.

Over the years sections of this building have been torn down until the present one-story building remains owned and occupied by Mrs. Helen Brigham and her family.

Down the lane past the spot where the Union Cotton mill once stood, stands another tenement house similar to the one pictured. This house is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Carl Banner and her family. The remaining section is a two-family house that boasts a large central fire place with openings on each side of the house, including brick ovens. I am told that this was a boarding house that belonged to the Cotton Mill and not only housed its occupants, but fed them as well. I'm told that others came here to eat also.

Apparently the tenement houses built by the Todd's, including the one called the "Catchall" and the one called the "Pest House", were this type of dwelling, built to house the mill workers, and all built between 1800 and 1850.



**This house was built and occupied by Rufus Steere, part owner of The Union Cotton Mill. It is now owned and occupied by Guy and Beatrice Balcom Higgins.**

Photos taken April 1974



**This is the house at the foot of the hill known as the "haunted house". It may have been operated as a hotel or rooming house at one time.**



**House built by Zira Todd about 1830 now owned and occupied by Mrs. Helen Houck.**



**Hoffman House now owned and occupied by Mrs. Grover Mc Rorie.**



**Samuel Street Todd**

**OLDEST OF THE TODDS**  
**GRANDSON OF PIONEER WHO**  
**SETTLED IN TODDSVILLE**

**Samuel Street Todd the Last Leaf**  
**on the Old Todd Family**  
**Tree**

The ninth annual reunion of the Carr and Todd families, held last Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. Edwin J. Carr at the old home at Toddsville, settled by Captain Robert Carr in 1790, was marked by a very interesting address by Samuel Street Todd, the oldest of the survivors of the Todd family.

Mr. Todd, if he lives until the 15th of October, 1924, will be one hundred years old—and the Carrs and the Todds all hope that he will live at least that long. He bears his 89 years with a buoyancy that would well become a man of 60. He learned to read out of *The Freeman's Journal* and has read it ever since.

The purpose of Mr. Todd's address at the reunion Wednesday was to explain the connection between the Carr and the Todd families. When the original Todd, the grandfather of Samuel S., trekked from the east with two ox-carts in the month of May, 1804, to take up his abode in the wilderness of Otsego county upon the large tract of land he had bought, he found here Captain Robert Carr and family, who had preceded him from Connecticut by about six years. Todd was a miller and in establishing the milling industries for which Toddsville in later years became famous he needed the services of a master carpenter. Such a man was Benjamin W. Carr, one of the two sons of Captain Robert Carr. He erected the buildings that Mr. Todd planned, and the business relationship between these two pioneers grew into the greatest friendship, which was continued between the families and the descendants to this day, and which has been made more steadfast by the marriage of Carrs and Todds in at least two generations.

The Carr and Todd reunion now held for the ninth year and each time more successful, was the outcome of an effort upon the part of some of the descendants of the two

families to preserve an old graveyard at Toddsville in which many Carrs and Todds are buried and which seemed to be suffering from neglect. In planning for the future care of this burial place the two families were brought into closer contact and the annual reunion was the result. The graveyard is now incorporated and well cared for with a fund, the interest from which goes toward the expense of maintenance.

Samuel Street Todd is the son of Lemuel Todd who came from Connecticut, with his father, the pioneer Todd. In his early life he was interested in the business of his father and grandfather and for many years traveled over the hills and across the valleys of Otsego and adjoining counties selling paper and other products manufactured at Toddsville. Toddsville then was the business center of this locality, with its various mills operated by power from the Oaks Creek. These mills have now gone to decay although some of the walls are yet standing and the dams that were once the source of the industries that flourished there have been long ago swept away.

Samuel S. Todd is the last Todd in Toddsville with the exception of his faithful daughter, Miss Florence Todd, who resides with and cares for him in his old age. Besides Miss Florence there are two sons and two daughters who reside far away from the parental home, and who are seen only at the annual reunions. Mr. Todd's youngest child is 55 years of age.

There were 109 registered at the Carr-Todd reunion this year, as follows:

Prof. George W. Patterson, Ann Arbor, Mich; Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Welch, Marie E. Gayman, Union Hill, N.J.; Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Lewis, Welch Ross Lewis, Webb Russ Lewis, Gilboa; Dr. and Mrs. T. B. Van Alstyne, Mrs. O. O. Main, Mrs. C. A. Richie, Binghamton; Mrs. J. Reeves, Mrs. C. Reeves, Albany; Mrs. M. E. Johnson, Allan Johnson, Brooklyn; Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Eaton, Norwich; Minnie Carr Freeman, Leonard Freeman, Mary A. Freeman, Rochester; James B. Wilson, William T. Wilson, Gloversville; Mr. and Mrs. Legrand Castle, Unadilla; Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Carr, Mrs. James Hare, Sidney; Mrs. Martha Gaylord, Miss Maude Todd Gaylord, Oneonta; E. K. Cushman, Schuyler Lake; Mr. and Mrs. S. P.

Gurney, Earlville; Mrs Louise Fowlston, Miss Charlotte Hall, Mount Vision; Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Fisk, Milford; Mrs. H. O. Bush, Gerald Bush, Miss Lena Parker, Linda Ingalls, Hartwick; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. D. Carr, Bernard Carr, Clarence Carr, Miss Mildred Carr, Mrs. Nancy Niles, Fly Creek; Mrs. Harriet Clark, Mrs. Ervington Clark, Mrs. DeEtte Field, Index; Miss Maude Merchant, A. Metcalf Turner, Mrs. Jacob Bridger, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Pier, Morgan Bailey, Mrs. Fred Bailey, Robert M. Bailey, Margaret Bailey, Marie Shumway, A. J. Telfer, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Van Slyke, Mrs. Carrie Dickenson, Miss Myrtle Wheeler, Cooperstown; Mrs. Geo. Gilcrist, Mrs. W. C. Green, Lynn E. Green, E. Marie Green, Miss Alice Holbrook, Mrs. E.J. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Menzo Ingalls, Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Holbrook, Darius Salisbury, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Teachout, Miss Lillian Shumway, Emily Shumway, Allen Shumway, Mrs. F.J. Steere, Miss Marion Steere, Miss Olive C. Ingalls, Mr. and Mrs. Cuyler E. Carr, Mrs. Mary Winsor, Miss Martha Winsor, Miss Maggie Allison, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin J. Carr, E. Robert Carr, Miss Beatrice Carr, Mrs. Frank Wells, Mr. and Mrs. John Hackley; Miss Laura Hackley, Harry Ingalls, Mrs. Olive B. Carr, Cooperstown, R.D. 3; Mr. and Mrs. N.G. Roberts, H.J. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. D.L. Jones, Oakville; Samuel Street Todd, Miss Florence Todd, Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Pope, Toddsville.

Letters of regret were received from the following:

Benjamin W. Carr, Hilton, Oklahoma; Mr. and Mrs. Leland Todd Powers, Boston; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Shumway, New York City; Mrs. E. B. Seymour, Mrs. E. P. Cuyler, Rochester; Mrs. Nellie McCormick, Edgewood Park, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs L. A. Todd, Syracuse; Mrs. Louise Main, Williamson, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Faust, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Crandall, Westfield, N. Y.; H. D. Mallory, Norwich; Edgar Wilson, Scott Wilson and sisters, Mrs. Fidelity Brown, Gloversville; Mrs. A. D. Sprague, New Berlin; C. H. Todd, Edmeston; Z. L. Lansing, Worcester; A. W. Carr, F. B. Carr, Oneonta.

At the business session Prof. Geo. W. Patterson was elected president for the ensuing year; Samuel Street Todd,

vice-president, Cuyler E. Carr, secretary; George D. Carr, treasurer, and Robert E. Carr, Robert D. Eaton and Edgar Wilson, trustees.

# Carr-Todd Reunion July 8 1914

**“UNCLE SAM” IS 90**

**ANNUAL REUNION OF  
CARRS AND TODDS**

**Descendants of Pioneer Families Meet  
for the Tenth Time, with  
Oldest Member**

The tenth annual reunion of the Carr and Todd families held at the home of Samuel Street Todd at Toddsville on Wednesday last suffered very little in numbers because of the bad condition of the roads, there being about eighty-five present. The day was very pleasantly passed in reviewing old acquaintances, singing old songs, listening to stories old and new and in partaking of the bounteous dinner served under the trees in the dooryard.

The reunion this year was held partly in commemoration of the approaching 90th birthday of Samuel Street Todd, who was born in Toddsville October 15, 1824. That Mr. Todd retains much of his old-time vigor was demonstrated at the business meeting, when he made a speech roundly scolding a special committee appointed last year for failing to provide a gate at the old cemetery.

The longest journey to attend the reunion was made by Charles Taines and family, who came by automobile from Flint, Michigan. They were closely seconded by George I. Todd and family from Williamstown, Mass. Edgar C. Wilson of Gloversville was there, as usual, bubbling over with reminiscence, and good cheer, making the welkin ring with halos of laughter from Cuyler E. Carr and others who enjoy a good story.

The following were on the reception committee: Samuel S. Todd, Miss Florence Todd, Mrs. Ella Almy, Mrs. Martha Gaylord and Miss Maud Gaylord. The music committee, Mr. and Mrs. George Holbrook, Mr. and Mrs. George Carr, Miss Maud Merchant and Mrs. N.D. Niles.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Prof. George W.

Patterson of Ann Arbor, Mich.; vice-president, Samuel Street Todd of Toddsville, secretary, Cuyler E. Carr of Cooperstown; treasurer, George D. Carr of Fly Creek; trustees, Alfred W. Carr, Cuyler E. Carr, Robert D. Eaton, Edgar C. Wilson, George Holbrook, Geo. D. Carr, George W. Patterson, Robert E. Carr, Samuel S. Todd.

A. J. Telfer was there to take the photograph for the tenth time.

### **SAMUEL STREET TODD DIES AT NINETY—SEVEN**

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In the death of the venerable Samuel Street Todd, Tuesday noon, the 10th, Toddsville loses its oldest resident and Otsego county one of its oldest citizens, if not its oldest in point of years of residence.

Mr. Todd had only been ill about two weeks and confined to his bed less than a week, when death occurred as above stated, from general debility and age.

The funeral will be held at the late home Friday at 2 p.m. the Rev. E. C. Petrie of Cooperstown officiating. Interment in the family plot in Lakewood.

Mr. Todd was born at Toddsville October 15, 1824, one of the twin sons (Lemuel Frink and Samuel Street Todd), of the late Lemuel and Sarah Frink Todd, whose father, Jehiel Todd, purchased of Judge Cooper the Tubb's Patent in 1804, consisting of 300 acres of the Oaks Creek valley covering the present site of Toddsville, and has always been a resident of Toddsville, a period of nearly ninety-seven years.

United in marriage with Miss Sabrina Temple of Middlefield January 1st, 1845, they resided in the house now owned by Mrs. Kate Pashley and later in the original Tubbs house for many years, now the property of Mrs. Mary Clapsaddle, they moving from the latter place to the late home thirty-one years ago. Mrs. Todd's death occurred about twenty years ago, since when his daughter, Miss Florence, has kept the home and cared for her father in his declining years.

Mr. Todd was christened in the Presbyterian church in infancy and has always been a member of that church. A staunch Democrat he was for many years a Justice of the Peace in the town of Hartwick. Engaged for many years with the late Rufus Steere as salesman of cotton goods he was for a long time in the height of the industry, a familiar figure in the surrounding counties in that line, making long trips with team and wagon, exchanging cotton cloth for the produce and merchandise of established customers. Since the close of the industry locally he has retired from active business caring for his garden up until last fall, a very remarkable record for anyone to achieve.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons, Mrs. Martha Gaylord and Fred, of Oneonta, Glenn of Little Falls, and Mrs. James Almy and Miss Florence, residing at Toddsville, to whom is extended the sympathy of a large circle of friends in this hour of bereavement.

Mr. Todd was a remarkable personage in many ways, his memory was clear until the last days and the local history was at his command over a long period in fact by hearsay from his father and grandfather and by personal knowledge, since the founding of the village.



## Recollections of Persons Now Living

To conclude this book of recollections, I would like to relate to the readers some personal recollections of a few of the older residents of Toddsville.

Mrs. Margaret McRorie related to me that her parents, Charles and Rosa Beadle Chapin, together with her husband, Grover, and herself, moved by horse and sleigh from Pierstown down over Otsego Lake to Cooperstown and over the hill to Toddsville in the winter of 1915.

Charles Chapin was a hop farmer, and a hailstorm the previous season that killed all the hops in the area, was the determining factor in his decision to move to Toddsville. Of course, the fact that Charles was born in Toddsville in the Curran house on the upper road, had something to do with his choice of location.

The Chapin's moved into the house now owned by Walter Race, while Grover and his wife moved into the house now owned by Emil Groesser.

In 1917, Charles Chapin bought from Claude Niles, the "Hoffman House". It was a two-family house and the Chapin's lived in the south end while Grover and his wife lived in the north end. Margaret still lives in this house.

Both Charles and Grover worked as gardeners after this, Grover having taken a job with Walter Flanders of Cooperstown in 1915, where he remained for 41 years.

Grover also worked for 9 years as a substitute carrier on R. D. No. 1 out of Cooperstown, using a horse and buggy to deliver mail.

Charles Chapin passed away in 1918; his wife in 1919. Grover McRorie passed away on Nov. 26, 1971 in the 83rd year of his life.

Mrs. Helen Houck, widow of the late Robert Houck, told me that Floyd Houck gave to his son, Robert, the house opposite the Baptist Church, built about 1830 by Zira Todd, and to his other son, John, the place known as the "Dr. Almy" place on the west bank of Oaks Creek. John's house was once a two-family house; John tore down part and remodeled it into the present house.

Morrell Houck, Robert's grandfather, was a cabinet maker and builder, and built several houses in the area; also drew up the plans and built the cabin part of the steamer, "Mohican" that once traveled on Otsego Lake.

Anna Houck, wife of Floyd Houck, was a very energetic woman and I've been told that she was instrumental in getting electricity into Toddsville and that her house was one of the first houses wired.

She also, being a good Christian, opened a store in the basement of the corner house where the late store was (she owned this house); sold candy, ice cream and baked goods to earn the \$3.50 it took to pay the preacher at the Union Church. I'm told that this same store was once run as a harness shop.

Gordon Clapsaddle Young related to me that he has fond memories, as a child visiting his grandmother Clapsaddle across the street, of a woman by the name of Mary Cameron, who lived in this basement around 1910.

It seems that she was not very attractive, being toothless, unkempt, and poorly dressed; she used to sit outside her door in her rocking chair, rocking back and forth smoking her corn-cob pipe and spitting tobacco juice. To better hold her pipe, she used a spool on the pipe stem, all this to the interest of Gordon but much to the disgust of Grandma Clapsaddle.

Mrs. Guy Higgins told me about the house standing on the west side of main street at the foot of the hill opposite the Rufus Steere house, known to the residents of Toddsville as the "red house". It belonged to the Union Cotton Factory at one time, and Martin Stickles, who worked the farm for the Cotton Factory, lived there.

It was also called the "haunted house", for it was claimed that one time a peddler was murdered in one of the upstairs rooms and his body buried in the cellar; that one could hear strange noises emanating from the room at night. The story was so well known that the New York Police Gazette favored the house with a write-up and a picture.

"Bea", who lives in the old "Rufus Steere" house, told me she believed this story as a child. One night as she was going to bed upstairs in her house, she saw a shadow going back and forth in an upstairs window in the "haunted house". Running down stairs in fear to tell her mother she was relieved to learn that it was just the old man, who lived there, sitting in his rocking chair, rocking back and forth before the window.

So goes the story of the "haunted house", and with this I conclude these recollections of Toddsville, an early Mill Town.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In appreciation of the help and information given by the following:

Mrs. Martha Kinney, Historian and great, great granddaughter of  
Jehiel Todd

Mrs Grover McRorie

Mrs. Helen Houck

Mrs. Beatrice Higgins

Mr. Arthur Jamieson

Mr. Robert Sieber (Photography)

Mr. Lance Gardner (tracings)

New York State Historical Association (old records & pictures)

Toddsville Babtist Church (old records)

William N. Bliss

Mrs. Mabel Gardner

Mrs. Gladys Armstrong

Mrs. Leda Newell

Gordon Clapsaddle Young

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Pioneer Industries by Pearl A. Weeks

The Legends & Traditions of a Northern County  
by James Fenimore Cooper

Cuyler E. Carr Scrapbook owned by Martha Kinney

The Oneonta Star (Ed Moore's Column)



**This house, now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Ross, was formerly owned by Ira Wheeler, Daniel Wheeler, George Van Slyke (1868) and H. Gallup (1904).**



**This Hudson Bay Bracket House, as its style is known as, is owned by Roger Smith (1974). This farm, once owned by Mrs. Albert Quackenbush, was the property Samuel Tubbs willed to his daughter, Mrs. Sally Story, when he died around 1800.**



**Oldest house in Toddsville, built about 1794 by Samuel Tubbs; now owned and occupied by Arthur & Phyllis Jamieson.**



**House just east of Samuel Tubbs house, built in early 1800's by William Mallory, known in recent years as the "Cleary" place.**