
The History of Cameron



Addison Advertiser
Thursday Aug. 10 1922

Over one hundred years ago the legislature upon petition of the majority of the residents of the Northern portion of Addison township, sanctioned the formation of a new township in that territory. The new town was named Cameron in honor of Dugal Cameron a prominent resident of Bath and subagent of the Pulteney land agent. Such a large portion of Addison township was detached to form Cameron that the latter was later subdivided to form the township of Thurston and a liberal portion was given to Rathbone when that township was formed.

At this period Cameron was truly a "Howling Wilderness." Through the almost unbroken forest roamed wolves, bears, deer, wildcats and an occasional panther. Two passageways had been blazed through the forest across the town from which underbrush and fallen trees had been removed that distinguished them from the Indian trail which they succeeded. The principal trail followed the river. Another from Bath joined the river trail at West Cameron and Cameron village branched off to the south and went to the Pennsylvania state line. The latter portion was cut through in 1821 by employees of the land office.

Along these trails were located the log cabins of the first settlers around many of which there was no clearing other than that made by the trees that formed the cabin, which denoted a recent arrival.



The First House

Cameron village at this period had not a single house, the nearest being those of Captain Samuel Baker at Wheeler's Crossing and John Hallett at Hallett's crossing. Cameron village was settled in 1822. The Jones tavern, now the store of F.H. Smith was erected between 1825 and 1829 and is the oldest building in the town that is in service. The first town meeting was held February, 1823, at the home of Samuel Pierson one and one half miles north of the village. From the state census of 1825 it is learned that the population then was 553; being 291 males and 262 females. There were 116 voters, although but 49 of them exercised that privilege. There were 1553 acres of improved land; 613 cattle, 37 horses, 516 hogs, 861 sheep. During the year there were woven 707 yards of fulled cloth, 1230 yards of flannel and 2783 yards of linen cloth. A sawmill was erected in 1811 near Wheeler's crossing and a grist mill in 1816.

obituary

Addison Advertiser

Thursday, February 24, 1898

Nathan Hallett died at his home in Cameron last night. His father was one of the pioneers of the town, and Nathan was born there on December 12, 1807, and has spent his entire life in the town. Mr. Hallett started out for himself when quite a young man, and cleared up the farm on which he has since resided, and rafted the lumber to Baltimore. By industry and thrift he made quite a competency. He was a genial and joyial nature, and was held in the most high esteem by every one. He leaves a large family of children to mourn the loss of a kind and indulgent father. Two sons, John, who lives at home, and Nathan, who resides at Candor, and five daughters, Mrs. Williamson, of Elmira, Mrs. Wildrick, of Woodhull, Mrs. Joel Clark, of Cameron, and Mrs. C.C. Annable and Miss Josephine Hallett, who live at home.



Blacksnake found Rambling on Creek Bank in Mid-Winter

Thought Spring Had Arrived or Was Aroused by
Balmy Stories of the Florida Land Boom.

Addison Advertiser

Thursday, January 21, 1926

Cameron, Jan. 20,-About the surest sign of spring is when the snakes begin to crawl out of their winter nests blindly feel their way around with then forked tongues, startle the birds and make girls scream. And if this sign holds true spring cannot be very distant and we might as well kiss Old Boreas good-bye, for a real live blacksnake was found last week crawling along the bank of a small creek on South Hill. The snake was killed and exhibited by Mrs. Fannie Williams. as proof that the story of the snake being found in midwinter was true. The snake was bout two feet long and a regular blacksnake, a species seldom found in this section, although they were plentiful years ago. How the snake came to emerge from its winter hibernation early in January is a mystery to those who have observed the habits of snakes. So far as known the snake had not been disturbed, but just crawled out to see what the world was doing in January. There are some, however, who hazard the opinion that the Florida land boom had something to do with it, the snake having been warmed up by the stories of the balmy southland until it either thought it was in Florida or spring had surely arrived.



What Three Hornell Men Found at Cameron

Addison Advertiser

Thursday, April 20, 1922

The story is told of the excitement of Cameron Mills a few days ago when three Hornell fisherman going through the feed mill across the river at that place found an old hand made key to which was attached a card upon which was a Latin inscription describing the location of a hidden treasure. The three fisherman occupied themselves late into the night digging at the point inscribed in the message. Three layers of rock some of which weighed 50 pounds were uncovered at the dept of seven feet. Finally the men unearthed the rock with the cross shisled thereon underneath which was the steel lined box. The key fit the lock to perfection and the cover was raised and behold there was not the 20,000 in gold but a neatly lettered card with the word "fooled" written in plain English. The humiliating trio had missed their train to Hornell and were compelled to remain in town over night.

Grape Success!



The first premium on Grapes, we learn, was awarded to Dr. Samuel Mitchell, of Cameron, at the County Fair held at Bath last week. Dr. M has a Vineyard on several acres, on his farm near Cameron Mills, upon which he has expended a large amount of labor and skill and he is now receiving his reward. The /doctor's success will undoubtedly induce many others along the beautiful and fertile valley of the Canisteo to enter into the Grape culture.

Serious Accident

Addison Advertiser, September 30, 1863

A serious accident occurred to Capt. H. Sanford, this (Tuesday) afternoon. While attempting to mount his horse near the Sash Factory, the horse reared and came down, striking him on the shoulders, breaking the collarbone, and otherwise seriously injuring him. Dr. Brown was immediately called to his relief under whose skillful treatment he undoubtedly rapidly recover.



W.

A Gas Well Struck at Cameron!



Addison Advertiser
Thursday, September 17, 1885

Cameron N. Y. Sept. 10- Great excitement was occasioned here this morning by the discovery of gas in a well being drilled on the premises of S.D Beach, on Depot street. About 10:30 the people living in the vicinity were greatly alarmed by hearing a low rumbling noise in the vicinity of the well, and immediately after mud, water and stones the size of hen's egg were thrown out by the great pressure of gas. What seems remarkable is the fact that the drill had only reached the dept of fifty feet when gas was found. Mr. Beach has already utilized the gas for the feeding of three large stoves in his extensive hardware establishment, and the gas continues to blow with no signs of an abatement. Mr. William Hallett has signified his intention of putting down a well on his lot on West Main street, in the hopes of finding oil. Real estate has taken a decided boom and everybody is happy.

Fire at Cameron



Addison Advertiser
Thursday, February 18, 1904

The large warehouse belonging to W.O Hallet at Cameron, caught fire about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon from a spark from a passing train.

Prompt work on the part of the bucket brigade was all that saved the building from destruction. As it was many bushels of grain were damaged by water and about twelve tons of hay.

The building is one of the largest of its kind in the county being 150 by 40 feet in dimensions and it was filled with thousands of dollars worth of produce.