

## DROVERS' TAVERN RECOLLECTIONS

### Roads:

1. East Pompey Hollow Road runs almost due north and south.
  - a. It was a dirt and gravel road for many years after 1929.
    1. We covered the road near the house with  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , which is deliquescent, to reduce the dust.  $\text{CaCl}_2$  is, however, very corrosive.
    2. In the winter, a neighbor attached a snow plow to the side of his large, milk bobsled, drawn by a team of horses, to plow the road free of snow. (We had a large bobsled drawn by our team, and once took a large party of friends bobsledding in it down East Pompey Hollow Road.)
  - b. The road was widened significantly by hand labor during the Great Depression as part of the WPA. But it was still dirt and gravel.
  - c. On several occasions the Pb pipe that brought water from the spring in the woods to the house was broken.
    1. The pipe runs just under the bottom of the drainage ditch where it crosses under the road between the small house on the east side of the road, just south of the main house.
    2. I had to try to patch it up.
    3. This water was both very good, plentiful, and vital.
  - d. The road was later paved with asphalt, but not widened any further.
2. Milk and hay were very important crops to the farmers of Pompey Hollow in those days.
  - a. Nevertheless, the milk wars never did take place near our farm.
3. Farms existed all along the roads from Manlius to Cazenovia and to Delphi Falls.
  - a. There was no housing development.
4. What is now route 92N was then a part of the East-West route 20.
  - a. Big trucks, esp., trailers carrying automobiles or gasoline, ran along the road all day long.
  - b. The road was much narrower than it now is and was paved with asphalt.
  - c. The hill just east of the main house was much steeper.
  - d. During the winter, cars would often get stuck at the bottom of the hill, then called "Palmer Hill".
    1. (On recent visits to my mother's home, there seemed to be official confusion over the names of the two hills.)
    2. The occupants of the cars would have to come into our house to warm up.
    3. Sometimes, we would get out the horses or tractor and tow them up the hill. The whole matter was a real bother to us.
  - e. There were many automobile accidents between Mr. Lake's house and our house and a short distance up the hill.
    1. Often the cars would end up in our front pasture, now filled in with shale, or they would jump the creek (literally) on the other side of the road and go end over end.
  - f. Route 20 was built in the later 1930's, crossing from the end of Cazenovia Lake through to Pompey and LaFayette in great, sweeping hills; route 92N then became so numbered.
    1. Several trucks were lost in constructing the new route 20.
    2. By the way, route 20 starts in Boston (where else?) and ends at the Pacific Ocean in Oregon. (Of course, this is quite proper, since

Massachusetts extends from the Atlantic Ocean through the U. S. to the Pacific Ocean, as is quite well known.)

g. Route 92N was widened greatly, the hill was lengthened to reduce its gradient, the radius of curvature of the curve at Mr. Lake's house was made much greater to increase safety, the road was paved with concrete in the late 1930's.

h. Much of the shale dug out to widen the road and increase the radius of curvature of the curve at the bottom was dumped just north of the main house, burying and killing the apple orchard (Northern Spies) in the west half of this fill, filling the swamp just in "front" of the house (i.e., just north of the house), bringing the fill up more or less level with the land just at the north end of the main house, and burying a driveway we had at the "front" of the house for grand entrances - that were never used.

1. Mother had thoughts of another house between Mr. Lake's house and her house, but this never came to pass.

i. The bakery was built in the mid 1930's by the Shetron's.

j. A gasoline station near Shetron's on the east side of the road was closed during the Great Depression.

5. A trolley car used to run from Syracuse along E. Genesee Street through Fayetteville and through Manlius to the amusement park.

a. The amusement park was very active until the later 1930's.

b. At that time there were several factories in Manlius.

c. One, Houser, made elevators I think.

#### Related Real Estate:

1. The steep hill that Tees into route 92N just north of Mr. Lake's house we used to call the "Palmer Peck Hill".

a. (I'm not sure the present name of this road is what we used to call it.)

2. The house on the right-hand side of this road going up the hill and near the top of the hill was completed in 1793.

a. We then owned it too and the farm on which it stood.

b. This Upper Drovers' Tavern Farm was bought at the same time as and together with Drovers' Tavern Farm.

c. The house is a true antique, being of construction similar to that of the main house at Drovers' Tavern.

d. It, too, had no modern amenities, such as running water, inside toilets, electricity, telephone, when my father bought it.

3. We used heavy steel skids under the wagon wheels to hold back heavy loads of potatoes and other crops when coming down the hill from this Upper Drovers' Tavern Farm, as we called it.

a. Despite the steepness of the hill, we never had any mishaps on it.

4. The spring along the southern edge of this road not quite up to the Upper Drovers' Tavern Farm was fantastic.

a. Excellent water indeed, and it ALWAYS ran no matter how intense the drought.

5. The main barn on this farm was struck by lightning in the 1940's and burned down.

a. It had a lot of hay in it.

b. Fortunately the tractor was left out in the pouring rain and was not consumed in the fire.



c. There was no animal in the barn, other than possible squatters. So I presume and fervently hope that no animal was burned.

d. This barn was of similar construction to the horse barn or old cow barn at Drovers' Tavern.

6. The other barn was always in poor repair.

a. It was filled with old player pianos from Clark Music Co. (My great uncle Melville Clark invented and manufactured the player piano, among other things. It is his name that is the "Clark" of Story and Clark.)

b. This barn is of similar construction to the old cow barn at Drovers' Tavern.

#### Land:

1. The Drovers' Tavern Farm originally went east of route 92N up to the railroad tracks, land sold to a Mr. Minasian, clear through to the Oran-Delphi Road, near to the Kirchoff place, north to Mr. Lake's land, and south to the southern end of the Hummel place and the Traugott place.

a. During the Great Depression, a train used to run a few times a week along these tracks. I'm not sure what it carried.

b. The train used to carry people between Syracuse and Cazenovia, which was then a wealthy person's enclave and resort area.

c. The train stopped in Oran and Manlius.

d. It also went through a tunnel between its crossing of route 92N and Cazenovia.

#### Buildings:

1. The little white house on the east side of Pompey Hollow Road, just south of the main house we called the tenant house and was there when we moved in about 9/1929. This was part of the Farm.

2. There was NO other house on the property until decades after WW II.

3. The main house and the horse barn were there.

4. There was also a cow barn present with a silo. The foundations of this barn were quite visible in the late 1970's when I last visited the place.

a. This original cow barn was made of large, hand-hewn maple beams that were VERY heavy. They burned for days and days. These beams served as the frame for the barn.

1. Some farmers told us that the barn had been built to dry tobacco, and it certainly looked like the barns used for tobacco that I used to see in the 1970's in Connecticut.

b. We had no track in the barn, so it was hard to get hay into it, but we did just that for many years.

1. Instead of a track, we rigged the huge block and tackle, used to hoist pianos through windows of houses and buildings, to a big beam to hoist the hay into the mow.

2. Once one of these big beams came crashing down. We had quite a time getting it back up and into place again.

c. We also filled the silo with chopped corn stalks for many years to make ensilage for the cows.

d. This barn burned down one hot, mid summer day, late in the 1930's probably because of cigarette discarded by a farm hand the previous day in the hay in the field, picked up by the hay loader, and unloaded into the hay mow in the barn.

1. Horses under these conditions become very dangerous animals, despite the fact that they and dogs are by far the smartest farm animals.

a. They panic, want to go back to their stalls, which they regard as their refuge from any hazard, and fight you to take them away.

b. Cover their eyes with a burlap bag, run them out of the barn, and give them a swift, hard slap on the rear to get them to gallop down the road to be caught later.

2. I personally got all the chickens out of the ice house next to the old cow barn, just as the flames were coming through the roof. (The confusion was enormous.)

a. You would be surprised how hard it is to get chickens out of a house when you want to. They flew everywhere to escape from me, not the fire.

3. I think we did not loose any animals; the cows and goats were out in the pasture at the time; a few brooding ducks did get singed pretty badly. And I must have disposed of my numerous rabbits by that time.

4. We did loose some farm machinery, in addition to all the hay in the barn, and the barn.

5. The ice house and the horse barn nearby were saved thankfully by the water present in the duck pond.

a. The duck pond, the grass just east of it, and the driveway surrounding it were originally a very wet barnyard.

b. The water running in a Pb pipe from the spring in the woods filled a watering trough for cows at the northern edge of this barnyard. It also made the barnyard very wet.

c. My parents stopped this flow of water to the barnyard. Thus, all water ran to the well at the west side of the kitchen door.

d. But the barnyard still remained wet, so the duck pond was made to hold all the water. Originally, it was about 3 feet deep and filled with the ducks and geese we had.

e. Although we never so did, ice was stored under straw or wood chips during the summer in the ice house, the ice being sawed out in the winter. Ice so stored lasts a long time. It was used for cooling milk, to prevent the milk from going sour.

6. After that terrible fire, the present cow barn was built a good distance from any other building as a fire precaution.

a. The barn holds about 200 tons of hay.

b. The three chicken houses in the south end of this barn were built, one by one, over the course of at least a decade, the lowest one being built in the late 1930's, soon after the barn itself was completed.

7. Just to the south and east of this barn, near the property line with the Browns, there was some evidence of the foundation for another barn; one of the old timers once told me that a barn did indeed, stand there, but I never saw it.

8. There was definitely an old barn just south of the most important building of all: the out house, better known to us as the "Chick Sales House".

a. The "keel" of the barn went westward from this wall.

b. The basement wall of this 2 1/2 story barn still stands at the edge of Mother's little garden just to the west of the driveway near the Chick Sales House.

c. This barn was again of massive, hand-hewn, maple beam construc-



tion. A large fraction of its sides was gone, and there were tar and tar barrels all over the place.

d. It is almost certain that this barn was used in connection with the tarring of the feet of the turkeys, ducks, chickens, and who knows what else to enable them to withstand the drive to Syracuse, some 14 miles away or more.

e. (When I was very young, Syracuse stopped west of the Spanish houses.)

9. The horse barn is original.

a. It was filled with many harnesses for many years, although we never did store horses in it.

b. When we bought the farm, there were many, many so-called antique primitives in this barn: huge, man-size axes, augers, a still (during prohibition no less), a wind mill for fanning grain that we used a great deal, a cheese press, ox yokes, old lanterns, and so on.

c. (We did store tractors, cars, trucks, and potato sprayers, lumber, things from the Clark Music Company, hand tools, grinders, antiques, models of early harps, grain, and so on, however. We also stored underneath 5000 bushels of potatoes grown on the two farms. We graded them in the winter and sold them in Syracuse.)

d. Originally, the basement of this barn was mostly the old side hill over which the barn was built, with a narrow passage way through it, next to the west wall.

1. The water to the main hay barn now runs under this walkway. John McCall, I, and others dug it out by hand and built the cement wall on the east face to hold the barn up.

2. We also pointed up the stone walls on the other three walls of the building.

e. My parents had windows put in the south and west walls of this building.

1. However, the windows in the south wall came to a very poor condition, so I had a Mr. Arthur Godfrey replace them with a new wall. Mr. Godfrey was a superb antique craftsman.

f. The original heavy plank floor had to be replaced with the present tongue and groove plank flooring.

10. John McCall and I built the chicken house directly west of the main house in the 1930's.

a. This was our first chicken house per se.

b. The water for it runs from the west wall of the basement just to the north of the well to the right of the door of the chicken house; the location of the pipe was evident from the small depression in the "back" lawn to the west of the house.

11. The level, flat part of the lawn to the west of the horse barn was constructed in 1929 to provide a tennis court; it is not original for this reason. It was never so used.

12. The rock wall fence along the west side of the back lawn was constructed after WW II.

a. Before the evergreen trees were planted to the west of this rock wall, we grew vegetables in this field.

b. We also used it for pasture.

13. The septic tank for the main house is in this field 15 or so feet south of the south wall of the chicken house.

a. It drains down to the east edge of the lower, big field, and has always been characterized by a moist area of the field.

14. There used to be a small cherry orchard in the north west corner of the back lawn west of the main house and just east of the chicken house with grape vines around the eastern and western edges of the orchard.

15. Just south and west of the well, there is a tank for pressurized gas. This was installed in the late 1930's or early 1940's. We did not have gas lines running by the house for many years.

16. A gas line runs by the house now. It was installed in the late 1950's and runs parallel to and on the west side of East Pompey Hollow Road.

17. The water pipe to the main barn runs from just west of the well, directly south to the old driveway just north of the horse barn, then due west, then due south underneath the walkway in the basement of the horse barn, to the west of the duck pond to the old driveway leading down the hill to the back fields, then substantially, but not due, west to the cow barn.

a. John McCall and I did the digging (entirely by hand, which is the way things were done in those days) for this water pipe; it is well over 3' deep in some places because of the lay of the land.

18. The back slate patio was built in the late 1950's or early 1960's. The maple tree nearest the well was planted in the 1950's, I think. The other maple tree just to the north is an original.

19. The pond in the back lawn was constructed in 1929 by my parents to serve as a swimming pool for us children. It was almost never used for this purpose and was converted into a lily pond by my mother sometime after 1940.

20. In 1929, there was wood all over the place. We had a woodpile that ran the whole length of the west wall of the horse barn, about 5' high, and as wide as the flat terrace just to the west of the west wall of the horse barn.

a. It took many, many years of burning wood in the fireplaces to burn up all this wood, but that did eventually happen.

21. In 1929 there was a large, old apple tree, right out of a Norman Rockwell painting, that stood at the corner of the garage driveway and the circular area of the driveway before the horse barn.

a. We called the circular driveway "St. Mary's Circle" after a similar circle in Syracuse.

b. The apple tree was eventually struck with lightning and died.

22. My parents put a soft-blue, wood, horse fence around the front lawn bordering on East Pompey Hollow Road and the west part of St. Mary's Circle in the very early 1930's.

23. In 1929 and for decades thereafter, there was a gorgeous, large trumpet vine at the south-east corner of the porch at the door to the dining room.

a. It gradually faded away in the late 1960's or early 1970's.

24. The majestic, big blue balsam tree near the door to the garage was won by me for guessing the number of redwood seeds in a quart jar at the State Fair.

a. (My estimate: 27,000; count: 27,027).

b. It was almost 3' high when we got it.

c. There was a second, spruce tree planted adjacent to the blue balsam.

d. We used to jump over them while waiting for the school bus as young children.



e. The blue balsam grew VERY rapidly, as you can see, and has become a truly glorious tree.

f. A workman cut off the lower branches; my mother felt extremely badly about such a handsome tree being shorn of some of its glory and fired the guy on the spot.

25. In 1929 a very large drum to store oil for the oil burners was planted in the front lawn east of the garage, which then had a gravel driveway, and about as far north and south as the north corner of the garage.

a. I think this tank may gradually have started leaking, so that in the late 1940's or early 1950's its function was replaced with a much smaller tank in the fruit cellar.

b. The old tank had a fill pipe that stood about 1.5' above the grass.

c. The grass in this front lawn always grew very profusely and quickly.

26. In 1929 we had powerful spot lights installed in some of the big maple trees along East Pompey Hollow Road to light up the whole lawn along that road splendidly.

a. The switch for these lights is in the cupboard in the north-east, large bedroom upstairs.

b. Some of these lights were destroyed when some of these maples were blown down in the twister discussed elsewhere.

27. Because of the damage to the spring in the southeast forest done by the latest widening of route 92N, mother had to have another well drilled (or driven).

a. It is in the front lawn just to the north of a line from the dining room door, which is the one we always used, and the mail box on the east side of the road and straight through the portal in the wood fence. The well is further about half way between the east wall of the living room and the nearest edge of the road.

b. The sand filter and pump in the old, original cistern was replaced by a pump in the middle basement.

28. Because of the large amount of limestone in the area, the water is very hard ( $\text{CaHCO}_3$ ).

a. ( $\text{CaHCO}_3$  is one of the very, very few substances that is amazingly less soluble in hot water than in cold water.)

b. Thus, we have always used a softener (in the fruit cellar) on the hot water so that we could wash clothes, ourselves, dishes, and so on; nevertheless, the remaining calcium bicarbonate in the water used to plug up the heating coils of the water heater used in the boiler for many decades and have to be replaced periodically.

c. We also used lots of NaCl with the ion exchange compound in the water softeners (permutite process); these softeners would corrode out in just a few years and have to be replaced.

29. The maple trees that ran along the west side of the East Pompey Hollow Road are originals.

a. In the late 1960's they were to be cut down because some politician decided that they constituted a hazard to automobile traffic on East Pompey Hollow Road.

b. Somehow, thankfully, all this was forgotten about over the years and the grand trees remained up.

c. However, in the 1940's (I think) we returned from a meeting of the National Association of Music Merchants in Chicago, to find the roof off the horse barn in the driveway, the corn in the plot to the west of the house all twisted up, and the road strewn with cut up remains of some of the maple trees.

d. It seems that we had had a private twister while we were away, and this twister destroyed some of the old maple trees.

30. Evergreen trees:

a. On the highest plot of land east of route 92N and sold to Mr. Minasian, the evergreen trees were planted in the early 1930's. They grew very well.

b. Evergreen trees planted around the north, east, and south parts of St. Mary's circle never did so well, perhaps partly because someone was always hitting them with some vehicle.

c. The evergreen trees south of the main house, near and both south and west of the Brown's place to the original lot line of the farm were planted after WW II.

d. The evergreen trees in the lot west of the main house were planted at about the same time.

e. Originally, both lots had previously been used to grow vegetables (on the side hill the first year we were on the farm when we were extremely naive about farming [never again]), hay, grain, corn, potatoes.

f. It was very difficult to farm the side hill south of the main house, because straw, which can be quite slippery compared with hay, would just not stay on the hay wagon no matter how skillfully it was loaded. We also had trouble with loads of hay tipping over on the side hill; this event was always very depressing and dismaying to those involved with getting the hay or straw into the barn.

31. There is a lane that extends north of the main barn, then west, then north again down to a pasture west of Mr. Lake's land.

a. John McCall and I built the barnyard and the lane fence.

1. The posts for this fence came from the cedar trees in the swamp in the lower pasture.

2. Only cedar and cypress make good fence posts. All others, such as elm or pine, will rot away in just a few years - a point often not understood by those from the city, such as my present neighbors. Further, they are put in big end down.

b. This lane is a small part of the original lane, that ran from the cow barn that burned down down to the low pasture lot with the split rail fence (which worked very well by the way).

c. This lane was surrounded by scrub brush and trees. There was also a line of trees and scrub brush that went from north to south.

d. Thus, the line of trees and the lane divided the farm land that could be cultivated into four lots originally.

32. Then came the decade of adversity, which was ended by WW II: Drought, dust storms, milk wars, the Great Depression when no one could buy anything (least of all musical instruments).

a. The WPA widened and rebuilt East Pompey Hollow Road solely by hand labor.

b. The CCC tore out the original lane and line of trees, for reasons never clear to me, and at the same time put in contoured drainage ditches, for reasons that are clear to me.



1. Since dust storms in the midwest and drought were then painfully evident to all, the CCC had us plant corn along the contours.

a. What a mess - a mess induced by those stupid politicians who confuse themselves with the thought that they know everything and that they have direct links to God. Rows of corn started and ended in the middle of a field!

b. How do you cultivate that without trampling down huge amounts of corn to turn the horses around?

c. Or harvest it on any rational basis? Or plant it?

d. The drainage ditches we could live with; we had only to be careful not to drive over it with out wagons and machinery for fear of breaking something or getting stuck.

e. Tearing out the old lane and the row of trees and brush did give us a little more land to cultivate (and difficult to plow through for years, because of all the old roots that were still buried in the ground).

f. It made nonsense of soil conservation because there was then nothing to slow or stop the wind. And at a time when horrendous dust storms were rampant in the Midwest.

g. Again, more political ineptitude. Too bad that politicians don't know something other than how to buy votes.

33. We raised the following:

a. Many acres of vegetables the first year ONLY we were on the farm; thereafter, just enough vegetables, strawberries, raspberries, cherries, grapes, and apples for ourselves with perhaps a small amount left over.

b. Up to 5000 White Leghorn chickens from chicks for primarily eggs only on the farm you are on.

c. Up to 5000 bushels of potatoes on two farms.

d. Perhaps 700 to 900 tons of hay on the three farms. (We had Memory Lane west of Syracuse.)

e. Many acres of corn, mostly field corn, and a few acres of sweet corn that we sold to hotels and restaurants in Syracuse.

f. A herd of several dozen goats for about a decade, until we put them into the basement of the little house to get them out of a storm; they got into Paris green ( $Cu_4(C_2H_3O_2)_2$ ), which was used in bug sprays and which we had forgotten about, and all died.

1. (This was very tragic; a goat is almost as smart as a dog and far, far smarter than a cow [which are filthy animals], pig [which is a very clean animal, albeit lacking in manners], chicken [which is a cannibal, stupid, and filthy], sheep [again, neither particularly clean nor bright].)

2. Goats [which are very clean] have deep feelings that can be hurt, are very loving, and are very responsive; the kids are the cutest of all baby animals.

3. Compared with a cow, goats are a true pleasure to milk.

a. We sold the milk to hospitals in Syracuse, since it was thought to be much better for you than cow's milk.

4. The problem is that goats will eat paper, cloth, nearly everything, except tin cans.

5. They are next to impossible to fence in. They will get up on a rock near a fence to jump over it if they can't already jump over it from the ground; or they will go under it; or through it.

a. No matter what you do, they will get to the other side.

b. (Barbed wire fences do not even slow them down, unless the wire is stretched very tight and the spacing is very close.)

g. A few milk Guernsey or Jersey cows mostly for our own use. The cream, which we separated in a separator, was so thick that we dug it out with spoons.

h. A herd of sheep for 1 or 2 years.

i. A herd of Hereford beef cows for 1 or 2 years.

1. They looked ferocious with their gigantic horns, especially when they threateningly, oscillatingly rotated their huge heads at me early in the morning when I went down to take care of my rabbits in the barn, but actually were quite gentle, albeit it very tough.

2. They could withstand any snow storm with ease.

j. A herd (school?, drove?, pride?, family?, flock?, gaggle?, pod?) of rabbits during the early depression years.

k. A flock of pigeons for eating, until a heavy snow storm crushed the aviary we had built south of the ice house, where we kept the pigeons. Early 1930's.

1. A herd of Aberdeen Angus beef cows late during and after WW II.

m. We also pastured dozens of cows of other farmers each year in the lower lot.

n. We had three horses, two, Chief and Colonel, forming a heavy team of about 3000 or 4000 lbs. (Tom and Jill were a lighter team that we had before Chief and Colonel.)

1. Horses are quite intelligent and have feelings. For example, Teddy, easily the smartest, but also quite light (maybe 800 lbs), was supremely jealous of Chief and Colonel, and would do anything to get even with them.

2. Horses are, also, easily spooked, and sometimes it is hard to keep them calm, especially in dangerous situations where they need to use their wits.

3. John McCall and I did most of the driving of the horses.

o. Cabbage for a few years in the late depression years.

1. (A little of this was used to hang up in the chicken coups to stop cannibalism, which was fiercely cruel and vicious.)

p. Peas for a few years late during WW II and shortly thereafter.

r. Mr. Traugott's land produced hay, corn, potatoes.

34. Because of all the limestone, we never had to lime to land, unlike many farmers in many parts of the U. S..

a. However, good transportation, the hard clay soil, and the hills make it much harder to farm than the flat lands one sees in many parts of the U. S. that are still farming.

b. I think that the nature of the land is one of the reasons farming has almost vanished during the 1960's and 1970's in Pleasant Valley, as the valley comprising Pompey Hollow used to be called.

c. We did have to use superphosphate, which hydrolyses acidic, on the land to lower its pH.

35. Presumably the sunsets are just as magnificent as ever.

a. I have lived in many different places in the U. S.; I know of none that can even remotely compete with the sunsets.

b. Further, you can tell a day ahead of time when it is going to rain, unlike the Boston area where I now live. (Here, the rule is that if you don't like the weather, just wait a minute, it will change.)



1. (This predictability was very important for haying, as well as other farming operations, for cured hay once rained on is worthless for anything other than straw-like bedding.)

36. And presumably there is just as much snow as ever.

a. It is supposed to be on the ground before Thanksgiving. It would be immoral if it weren't. I have seen it as high as the roof of the small porch by the garage and the roof of the chicken house west of the main house.

b. Unlike Boston, which is paralyzed by just 1" of snow, the Syracuse area has always known what to do with anything less than 4', although there was one winter (1966 I think) when a giant snow elevator was lost and buried on 92N by the snow!

1. (I almost lost my life in that storm trying to get back to Wayland.)

c. In the early days, we had Walter snow fighters; they were quite formidable with the plows twice as high as a man on the front and with their rear hopper all loaded with sand to make them heavier, but they were only snow plows.

37. We had a large farm bell mounted in the center of the little garden next to the Chick Sale's house in the small garden just to the west of the driveway near the house.

a. Once the horses heard this bell, there was NO use whatever in trying to get them to work anymore; they were as bad as a bunch of U. S. union workers. No overtime. They had only one thought: getting back to the barn to eat ground oats.

b. (Indeed, one can tell time fairly well even without bells from the way horses act, and, thus, know when it was quitting time.)

38. There is a spring in the woods between routes 92N and the East Pompey Hollow Road south of Traugott's land.

a. Until route 92N was "improved" this spring was truly remarkable:

1. It supplied ALL of the hundreds and hundreds of gallons of water used EACH day for spraying of many, many acres potatoes with Bordeaux mixture of  $\text{CuSO}_4$  and nicotiana,  $\text{Pb}_3(\text{AsO}_4)_2$  (potent stuff), water used for the animals, including homo sapiens, fowl, duck pond, swimming pool (so-called), even in severe droughts.

2. And it was very good water.

3. It was rare that we would have to draw water from Limestone Creek (an enormous, time-consuming job), unless the 1/2" Pb pipe to the well was broken for some reason.

4. It's amazing what a steady trickle would do.

b. I understand that the real estate has been taxed for about 2 decades to pay for city water being brought out along route 92N to and beyond Drovers' Tavern. Who knows when this might happen? After all politicians are involved.

#### Main house:

1. It is a speculation of mine that the house was built in three sections at different times, because of the two internal brick walls that divide the house into three parts.

a. In any event, the bricks for the house were made on the farm from clay in the lower flats.

b. Mr. Lake once told me he had found the place whence the clay came, but I have never seen it.

2. Although an architectural firm was originally engaged to restore the house, this firm was never used, because they wanted to do too much modernization that would have destroyed the authenticity of the house. My parents wanted to maintain the house just as it was in so far as possible and in so far as consistent with modern amenities of living.

3. Thus, water, central heating, electricity, telephones, and bathrooms were installed.

a. The telephone was sometimes a private line, sometime a party line (on which you could be sure that someone was listening in, because you could hear them breathing or because sometimes they would join in the conversation).

b. Some of the telephones were of the hand crank type.

c. The telephone was one of the earliest in the area.

4. The walls in the two south bedrooms illustrate the plaster finish found on other walls now covered with wall paper.

5. Basement:

a. Mud floor originally. The cement floor and drainage were put in by my parents. It was originally a very dark, inhospitable, damp place.

b. The windows in the south part of the basement were put in by my parents.

c. The door in the back wall was put in by my parents, together with the walkway walled with stone to the outside, west lawn.

d. There was no central heating in the house.

1. The oil heat was put in by my parents. It was among the very first oil burners. The early oil burners would explode, as it were, and blow their doors open. It was frightening.

2. The north part of the house from the dining room was heated by hot air; the south part of the house was heated by steam radiators, because of the difficulty of running hot air ducts to those places.

3. There was one oil burner to heat the water and provide steam and a second to heat the air and provide hot air.

4. These were replaced in the later 1940's or early 1950's with a newer burner that took care of all functions and a second unit to provide humidification and filtering of the hot air.

e. The cistern is directly below the kitchen.

1. The water was pumped by a hand pump directly above the cistern.

2. The pump and sand filter in the old, original cistern were put in by my parents to purify and pump water from the well, which water came from the spring in the distant forest via a Pb pipe.

3. The water is pumped to various places of the house and barns.

f. The water softener was installed in the hot water line only from the first because of the  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  hardness of the water.

1. A water softener never lasted very long because of the NaCl used in the permutite (zeolite) ion exchange process. The glass-epoxy construction of some of the later water softeners led to better life, but still not perfect. Somewhere metal is used and electromotive couples build up via the ionic solutions used that will corrode anything in time.

g. The potato and vegetable bins and cabinets, and "grocery store" (as we called it) in the fruit (northmost part of the) cellar were installed by my parents.



1. Mother was always afraid of starving to death, and always saved huge amounts of food.

a. The cupboards in the fruit cellar were full with jams, canned vegetables, and canned fruit until the auction in the late 1970's, all canning having been done in the early 1930's!

2. This fear was well based, unfortunately, because that is what happened to people during the Great Depression.

h. The electrical service in the extreme northeast corner of the basement was installed by my parents.

1. Oil lamps and candles had been used previously. The electrical service was distributed throughout the house.

2. I do not remember the current rating, but it must be at least 30 amps.

3. The electrical service is, 220 volts, 3 wire, single phase, however.

4. We were among the first to have electricity. We had to fight with the power company to get it to the Upper Drovers' Tavern Farm.

5. We had an electric stove at first, hence the 220 volt line to the kitchen.

i. Bottled gas was used in the late 1930's for cooking.

1. The monitoring equipment was installed in the basement near the trap door.

j. While the trap door is original, the construction materials are new.

1. The original wood floor of the tiny porch above has been replaced by cement in the 1950's (I think).

2. The stairs are original (I think).

k. The posts to shore up the floors were put in by my parents.

1. The cabinet under the stairs and the cabinets on the east wall of the middle basement (for our toys) were put in by my parents.

m. The stairs originally leading from the dining room to the basement were very rickety; the whole staircase was renewed in 1929.

n. The clothes chute from the third floor northwest bedroom was installed by my parents. It is not original.

o. The chimney cleanouts are original in all cases, although embellished with cabinet work in some cases in 1929.

#### 6. First floor:

a. Toilet facilities were originally provided by the outhouse at the south end of the house.

1. It was a reliable structure that worked better than anything else, needed less servicing, and was used continuously throughout the farming years.

2. Nevertheless, being from the city originally, in 1929 bathrooms were installed, together with running water (a great convenience), in strategic closets on all floors of the house. The importance of these facilities can only be appreciated by not having them.

b. The garage was originally completely open and was used to store firewood.

1. The garage door, the stairs to the two upper rooms, the cross walk to the southmost room, the doors on the rooms were all provided by my parents.

2. A ladder had been used to get to these formerly open ports.

c. The sign over the garage is original.

1. During the Great Depression we had to hang a "Private" sign underneath because of the number of people who used to stop to see if they could stay overnight.

2. An ox yoke sign along route 20 (then) to label the place was stolen. (This was long before the evergreen trees were planted on the "point", as we called it.)

d. The breakfast room was originally a pantry.

1. It did not have a window in the west wall, as now.

2. Its floor was originally wood plank; the slate floor was put in in 1929.

3. Nor was there a hole in the wall to pass items to and from the kitchen.

e. The kitchen was originally equipped with a wood stove.

1. We originally put in an electric stove, but it was costly to operate because the Niagara Mohawk did not give us the electrical rates promised.

2. So we put in a wood stove. That was a disaster, because it was so inconvenient and difficult to use.

a. The wood stove was soon replaced by a gas stove, using bottled gas. This occurred in the late 1930's.

4. The kitchen originally had a hand-operated pump to raise water from the cistern underneath.

a. The original sink was quite primitive to put it mildly.

5. There was no refrigerator, which we put in, these having come out just about 1929.

a. (We had an ice box in Syracuse whence we came.)

6. There was no door out to the well, nor steps down to the lawn.

7. All the cabinets in the kitchen were put in by my parents.

8. All doors, except for the west, side door, were present originally.

f. The fireplace in the dining room was boarded up completely.

1. A stove in the middle of the room served for heat in this room, as well as neighboring rooms.

2. There were no storm windows to help keep things warm.

3. There was wall paper over the walls I think.

4. The bathroom was originally a closet.

5. Bread used to be made in the Dutch oven, but not by any woman (or man) during my lifetime. They merely admire it.

6. We had an crane to support pots and kettles over the fireplace. While many women admired the whole apparatus, never did I see any attempt to cook anything in those pots and kettles.

7. The fireplaces are VERY shallow; the back even then tips out towards the front, the sides are angled out.

a. And they are fantastic compared with modern fireplaces. The draft is superb, and the heat convected and radiated out into the room is very substantially greater than that of a modern fireplace.

8. All chimneys were in a sad condition when we arrived on the scene, so they were repaired or rebuilt where necessary.

9. The chair rail, the wood for the floor, the wood for the walls, the doors, the windows, much of the window glass are all original.



10. The floors were sanded and varnished; the cracks between neighboring boards were filled with a wood filler (that eventually dried out and fell through the floor).

g. The guest room was pretty much as it is now, except the fireplace was all boarded up.

1. The fireplace is similar to the one in the dining room, but smaller.

2. I do not recall whether there was a stove in this room or not.

3. The clothes chute passes down an original cupboard to the basement from the second floor.

4. Of course, we put new wall paper on the walls.

h. The hallway was substantially as it is now, except for the wall paper, which was installed by us in 1929.

i. Book shelves and cabinets were installed in 1929 by us in the library.

1. The fireplace was boarded up and a stove sat in the middle of the floor on the library.

2. The wall paper was applied in 1929.

3. Again, the fireplace is of the same general construction as that in the dining room.

a. We were very concerned that a fire in the fireplaces would burn the house down, because the fireplaces were so shallow and because they sloped toward the top.

b. The first fire we built in any fireplace was built in this one.

c. We built a truly microscopic fire back as far as we could in the hearth and had water in many pails in a complete (half) circumference about the hearth.

d. Needless to say, we were enormously surprised to see how superbly the fireplace worked; no water was needed. I have had paper out at least half the width of the hearth out into the room proper, piled up a foot and supported by a screen with all smoke and a roaring fire going beautifully up the chimney and not coming out into the room and burning the place down.

e. It's quite amazing how well these fireplaces work and how poorly modern ones work.

j. The living room is substantially as it was.

1. There was a stove in this room at the "fireplace".

2. We thought for years that this fireplace was also boarded up. It wasn't; there was none at all, and we looked hard.

3. There is a working chimney and a clean out below, but NO fireplace.

4. There was a hearth-like construction in the floor, but NO fireplace. How come?

5. My parents never did get the answer to this conundrum, but an appraiser I had for mother's antiques, who was the curator of a museum and who certainly knew a lot about antiques gave me the right answer I think.

a. He said that this house was finished in 1820 about the time that stoves were coming into vogue.

b. He thinks that the house was started before the stoves

were available, but by the time the house was well along, they became available.

c. So, the hearth was never constructed, even though all else was there and a new high tech Franklin stove was installed.

d. After all, it was far better for heating a room and more efficient than a fireplace, no matter how good the fireplace.

e. And that's what we found in 1929 sitting on the wooden hearth toward the middle of the room.

k. There was a wooden porch around the north and east sides of the house.

1. It had eventually to be torn down in the early 1960's because the wood had rotted so badly.

2. It had colonnades and a waist high railing between the colonnades.

3. There were wood steps from it down to the grass at the north door, leading to steps down to the now buried front driveway, and a opening in the railing at the east door to the lawn.

4. Across the north wing, there was a lattice to prevent entry between the ground and the floor of the porch.

5. The present cement steps were constructed after the porch was torn down.

6. The material taken down was stored in the basement of the cow barn for many years and may still be there.

7. The second floor:

a. Both stairs up to the second floor are original.

1. A rail was built around the "back" stairs (the south stairs).

2. The hallways are original.

3. Storage drawers were installed in the back hallway.

4. The access panels to the plumbing of both bathrooms were installed in 1929 when the bathrooms were built.

5. Everyone I know has hit their head on the big maple beam supporting roof of the back hallway, even those very used to antique houses. One soon develops reflexes to bend over when going down the stairs, because the beam does not move very much when you hit it with your head.

b. The hall way at the top of the "front" stairs (north stairs) is original, except for the wall paper.

c. The small, southeast bedroom at the top of the "front" stairs is original, except for the wall paper.

d. The big, northeast bedroom is original, except for the closet and wall paper.

1. The switches in the chimney cupboard used to turn ON and OFF the big spot lights on the maple trees that illuminated the front lawn.

e. The large, northwest bedroom is original, except for the wall paper and clothes chute.

1. Note the spring floor in the two large bedrooms and the folding doors that separate the two.

f. The closet in the small hallway near this bedroom was built by my parents.

1. The wall paper is not original.

g. The bathroom in the center of the house near the two large bedrooms was a closet originally.



1. There was no skylight originally either.
- h. The small, west central bedroom is original, except for the wall paper.
  - i. The southwest bathroom was a closet originally.
    1. The roof of this old closet was raised, just as that for the sleeping porch was raised.
    2. The window was installed in 1929.
  - j. The small bedroom with the tilted roof is original, except for the closet that was built in 1929.
  - k. The large, southwest bedroom we called a sleeping porch.
    1. Its roof was originally just like that of the smaller, adjacent, southeast bedroom.
    2. The roof was raised and the windows were installed in 1929.
    3. The ladder to the attic is original, except for the iron hooks at the ends.
      - a. (I have never understood how the old timers got up to the attic with the original ladder; it's too short!)

#### 8. Attic:

- a. Original, except for the cedar closet installed in 1929.
  1. (Cedar closets were used in the old days to protect garments from moths.)
  2. The trap door, guard rails, and skylights are, also, new.
  3. There may still be a fire escape device in the window of the attic.
    - a. The escapee slides the rope sling, which is secured to a strong rope, around ones chest and steps out of the window to be slowly lowered to the ground by the mechanism.
    - b. It consists of a drum brake inside, the force against the brake drum being determined by a governor attached to the wheel around which the rope passes in lowering the passenger.
    - c. (There used to be several such fire escape devices in the windows of other rooms of the house, such as the small, west, central bedroom between the two bathrooms.)
    - d. These devices have never been used nor tested since 1929. I would NOT now trust them, until tested again.
    - e. My father had something to do with promoting this device, but I do not remember his exact role.

#### 9. Roof:

- a. Wood shingles originally and for many years following 1929. I think the present roof was installed in the 1950's.
- b. The Sn sheet along the edges was installed in the late 1960's by me to reduce water backups into the house from melting snow.
  1. It works, because the heat from the sun is absorbed by the Sn sheeting and melts the snow at the edge of the roof preferentially, thereby preventing an ice dam from forming to stop the water from snow melting yet higher up on the roof, with consequent backups under the shingles and leakage into the house proper.
  2. (I have had a similar problem, but more severe, with my house here.)
  3. Sn is used because it does not look too badly and because it does not corrode, although it is a lot more costly than steel.
  - c. The lightning rods were installed in 1929.

1. Nevertheless, we did have a strike on the living room chimney once, and this required some repair of some bricks near the top of the chimney. (Life is a constant battle against nature.)

#### Schools, political subdivisions:

1. Originally, we attended grammar school in Manlius, because of the farm Memory Lane we owned in Manlius.

a. Eventually the authorities decided that this basis of attendance was inadequate, (of course, we still paid real estate taxes), so we attended a one room school house, called Bethel, on the west side of East Pompey Hollow Road, about 1 mile south for a year.

b. The one room school house had the enormous advantage in that there were a lot of old, junked cars nearby.

1. These I would take apart at "lunch" time, rescuing generators, motors, and other valuable parts, all of which I could use in my experiments, from certain extinction, while getting very greasy in the process.

2. I could never quite understand why such a nice, affable teacher, a very pleasant lady, was so angry when I would return from "lunch" at 3 PM with my latest prize and wrenches in hand, of course, covered with grease.

3. I later came to understand that she just had very strangely different values from mine.

2. After a year, our school district was incorporated into the Cazenovia School District, so we attended grammar and high school in Cazenovia.

a. A school bus picked us up at about 8 AM every Monday through Friday morning and returned us home about 4:30 PM every afternoon.

3. In any event, as you know, you pay real estate taxes to two political authorities. Fortunately, you are an accountant and, therefore, know all about such horrible things and have experience in dealing with politicians.

#### References:

1. Julia McCall, who lives down East Pompey Hollow Road about 1.5 miles from you on the west side.

a. She and her sister Josephine are the daughters of John McCall with whom I used to work so much.

b. He was a very quality conscious, ethical, old timer, who worked very hard, and who knew only hard work.

c. He worked with us for several decades.

d. The daughters would know things that I would not. We used to ride back from school together from Manlius in John McCall's model T. It had a superbly warm exhaust heater.

2. Mr. Cecil Wayne Lake who lived in the house just north of you.

a. He moved in in the early 1930's if I remember right.

d. He can also tell you better than I what happened and probably when after about 1939, since after that time I was away so much of the time and returned so seldom.

3. Jack Cottrell in Manlius, a land surveyor.

a. He knows all boundaries of all land everywhere in the area. And he is a nice guy.

4. Myself.

a. I'm sure that I have not recalled everything above.