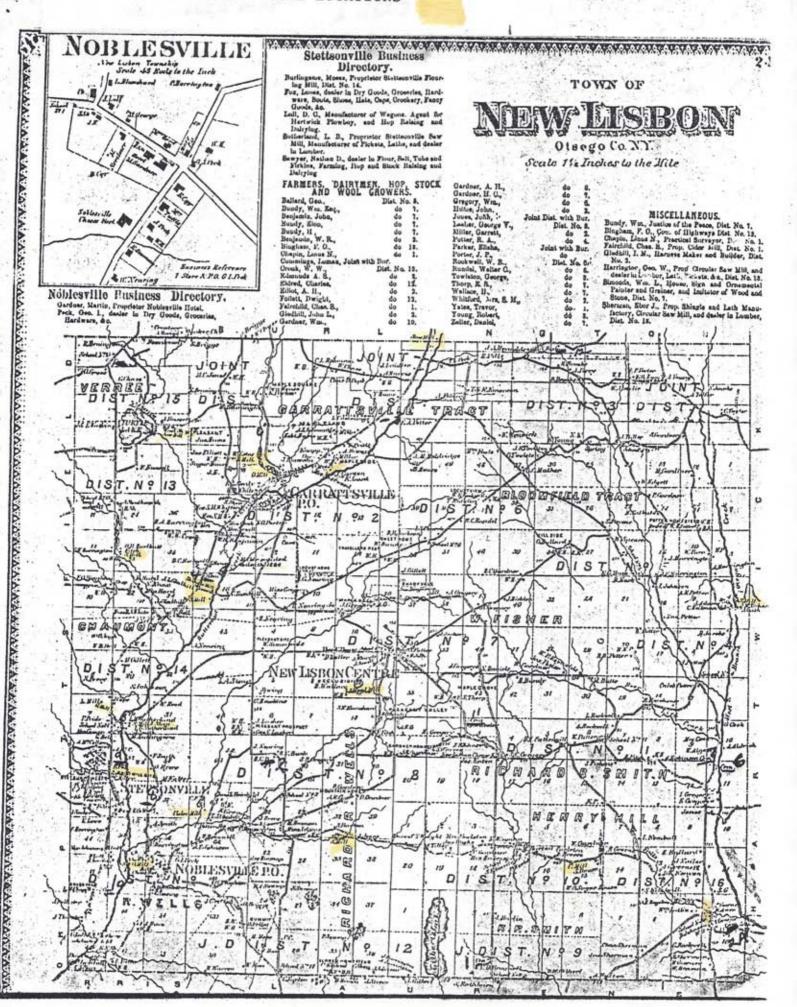
# THE MILLS

OF

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#### MYERS MILLS

The beginnings of what is now known as Myers Mills go back to the later part of the 1700's. Louis deVillers, an emigrant from France, was an agent for land sales of acreage belonging to another Frenchman by the name of Chaumont. He, deVillers, acquired about 600 acres of land along the Butternut Creek and proceeded to build a dam for a saw and grist mill. He erected two dwellings considered to be 'first class' (sawed lumber, clapboards, and cornices all painted white, and having lath and plaster interiors). He also constructed a dwelling for slaves and a building for the processing of woolen cloth. Around 1800 the property was sold to an Englishman, John Cope, and the acreage was split into about six farms.

There have been numerous owners of the mill property down through the years. A partial listing would include deVillers, Cope, Gregory, Braddock, Smith, Myers, Chase, Durant, Stowell, and Glegg. It is currently owned by Nancy Goehner. It is the Myers brothers, Andrew and George, however, who have given this landmark its lasting name. While they owned the mills, it became a sort of community center: there was excellent fishing and great swimming at the pond, and the pond itself encircled a race track. Andrew had what might now be called a convenience store, selling such things as kerosene, oik, molasses, matches, school supplies, etc. But Myers Mills was especially known for the buckwheat flour it produced for the Pillsbury Company.

The two mills ceased to operate years ago --- the saw mill burned down (1930's) and the dam went out (1948) draining the pond and with this, the power supply was gone. However, other potentials were in store for the grist mill. An author, John Durant, bought the property and turned the mill into a studio where he did his writing including many of the stories he wrote for The Saturday Evening Post. Still later, the property was further divided and the mill itself was converted into a unique residence. While the old mill has changed and adapted over the years, it is still a work place. Former owners would be amazed at the difference between what was and what is. Gone are the water wheels, the grindstones, the sifters, and the flour-covered surfaces. They have been replaced by the scanner/printer/ fax machine and a computer. But one thing remains constant: the peaceful, quiet, idyllic setting with the Butternut Creek flowing by.

The saw and grist mills have been of interest to residents here from the first. I cannot follow the list of owners from DeVillers to the present time, but I will mention some of them. Sixty years ago they were owned by Daniel Gregory (relatives of his are the Gregorys now living in New Lisbon). From 1850 to 1864 it was owned by Michael Braddock, and was long known as Braddocks Mills. In 1864 Bradlock sold them to A. Y. Smith, and the following season that old wolf in sheeps clothing Wm. H. Green alias G. W. Long, came here pretending to be a Methodist preacher, and married Smiths sister. They moved to West Cornwall, where Green poisoned her and she died. Green was captured hiding in a barn and very near ending his life then by cutting his throat. He lived however, was tried and sentenced to be hung, but the sentence was changed to imprisonment for life. A full account of his trial can be found in the Morris Chronicle of Dec. 1867. The mills were bought about twenty years ago by Andrew and George Myers. George has since sold his share of the grist mill to Andrew. Since the Myers have owned it they have put in all new and improved machinery, and the grist mill is one of the best equipped and best managed in the county, making specialty of buckwheat flour. The sawmill is now owned by Truman Chase.

New Liston, N. Y. Mar 25 1912

# Bought of A. S. Myers, Proprietor of Myer's Mills,

Wholesale and Retail Manufacturer of

# BUCKWHEAT FLOUR AND CORN MEAL FOR FAMILY USE.

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# Written by Robert George:

# LOUIS CARD, mill owner at seventeen (Myers Mill)

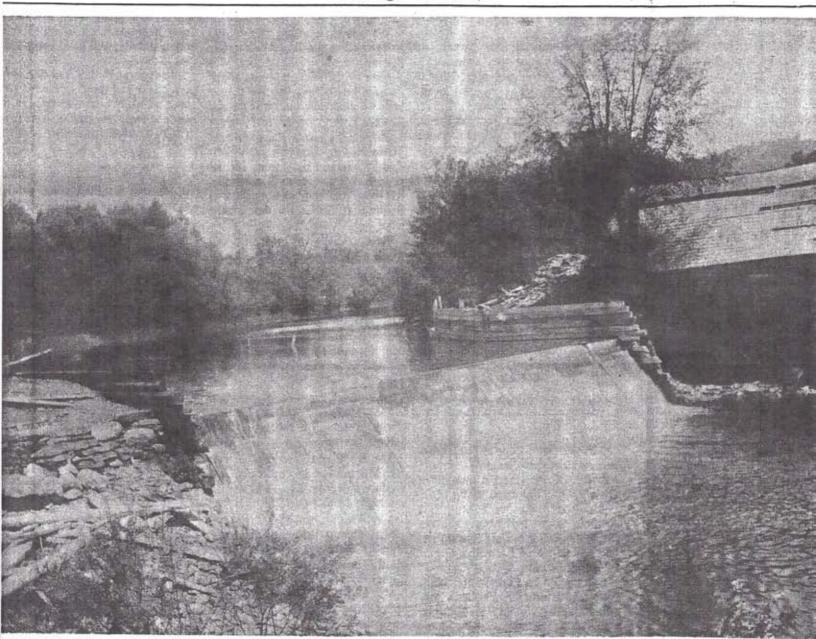
It is a little known fact that Louis Card, brother of Charles Card, owned Myers Mills. He bought the mill when he was only seventeen years old.

He fell in the basement of the mill and his leg was crushed in the gears which were always open to the view of the operator. I do remember being downstairs in the mill when there was ice on and about the gears and water wheel. The leg was amputated at the knee. My father told about this happening and warned everyone to be careful about going down near the wheel while it was in motion. Doris Card Whitman told me the same story, so that I know it is authentic. Lew Card was also the father of Christine Card Preston as well as Doris. Perhaps, Lew, never had title to the mill as he was not of age when he purchased it.

I do recall that it was frightening to a small child when they pulled the big wooden lever in the mill, which opened the gate so the full force of the water started to turn the wheel – slowly at first, then more swiftly as it gained momentum. The water boiled through the wheel and down the raceway. These were turbine wheels, two in the gristmill and one in the sawmill. The gears made some noise and the huge pulley, when belted to a smaller pulley, really increased the speed.

As the years advanced, no one kept the dam in good repair, so my father turned to a gasoline tractor for power. My father, LEVI GEORGE, only owned 12 or 16 feet of the dam. The last he did any sawing he used a LINN tractor engine for power.

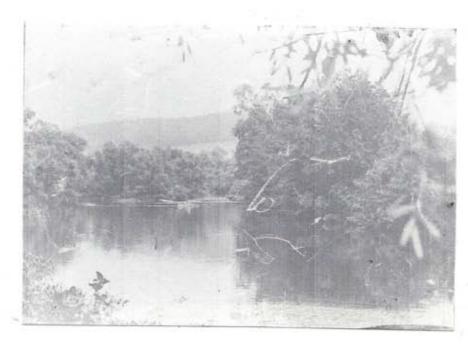
# **Early Files**



The Levi George sawmill at Myer's Mills, New Lisbon, was destroyed with all equipment on Sunday night. January 10. 1932. h
fire of unknown origin. A modern cider press was also lost, along with the logs and some lumber\_











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## GARRATTSVILLE PAST Summer-Fall 1878

Porter Barton has repaired and has in operation the sawmill known as the Stately Barton mill (New Lisbon). He can saw timber 40 feet in length.



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1908

Bartons Mill
1880 N P Barton
1852 Amasa Barton
Wm. Lull
James Rood
Abner Earl

burned 1897 rebuilt

Wm. Lull & son Roderick, bought the farm that surrounds
Bartons Mills in New Lisbon. Wm. Lull traded farm in Laurens
with James Rood for the mills and lived there until he died
in 1837 aged 76 years. Roderick Lull married Amy Potter

Across the highway and a little further east stood the mills owned for the past 56 years by the Barton family. A mill has stood on this site for a long time. The present owner understands that a mill was first built there by the family of Nobles who were among the first settlers of this part of New Lisbon. When the mill was first built the highway ran from the Union Church in Noblesville in a soughwest direction coming out on the main road on the west side of the valley a little below the residence of Linus Chapin, deceased. We find this mill was owned about 90 years ago by Abner Earl. His wife was a Card, a sister of Mrs. Faithful Smith, an aunt of Albert Smith and also of Wm. P. Card, for so many years a wagon maker in Morris Village.

It passed from him to James Rood the father of Charles and Elias Rood, both of whom were well known in later years in Morris where they resided. James Rood exchanged the mill property with the heirs of William Lull, son of Ben. Lull Sr. for the farm in Laurens now owned by Irving Crandall, somewhere about 60 years ago, and it came into the hands of Amasa Barton in 1852, who sold it to his son N.P.Barton, in 1883 who is still the owner. The mill burned in Dec. 1897, but was rebuilt the following year. It is well patronized, being well equipped for grinding feed and buckwheat, and for sawing and planing lumber.

from Mull's Britternut Valley Sketches 1908

1833, June 3: "Wilson's Spiral Vent Water Wheel for saw and grist mills and other machinery propelled by water power. James Rood. Exclusive rights to make, construct and vend to others. Ready to sell rights for single wheels, dams or as will best suit purchasers . . . those interested in economy of water, of mill and machinery building to call and witness operations of two wheels in his Grist Mill at New Lisbon, also in Augustus Gardener' mill at Cooperstown and one at Moses Rich's mill in Middlefield and others".

1835, April 6: "For Sale. Valuable farm on Butternut Creek at Noble's Ville, in Town of New Lisbon, containing 36 acres of choice land with good Gristmill thereon and 2 run of stone and in good repair. Upon the premises are two dwelling houses and other out buildings. Situation is plesant and will be sold

low. For terms apply to subscriber. James Rood".

# Fragments of History

New Lisbon, gleaned from the "Freemans Journal" and other sources by Hilda Watrous.

#### BARTON'S MILL

The New York Census of 1835 counted 3 grist mills and 5 saw mills in the township. During the 1800s one mill, later called Barton's Mill, stood east of NYS Rt. #51, south of its junction with county route 12, alongside of a stream which flowed southwest from the point where Mill Creek joins the Butternut.

According to the 1880 census, Peter Barton, 24 years old, son of Amasa Barton, owner of the mill, worked as miller, and Miretta Barton, his 11 year old sister, also worked there. Amasa Barton had been listed as miller in the census of 1860 and an 1872 "Gazetteer" states he owned grist and saw mills and farmed 50 acres.

In 1889 an item in the "Journal" related that a June freshet had washed out the old dam above the gristmill, and Peter Barton had replaced it with a very strong and substantial dam 68 feet long and costing about szoo, in 1895 ne put steam power into his mill to take the place of water power, "the latter not al-ways reliable". (Peter Card who operated a mill near the four corners of Garrattsville had also added an engine that month to run a planer and a matcher Per-haps the steam engines were products of Martin and R.L. George who were expanding their machine shop in Noblesville to meet the increased demand for steam engines.)

On December 22 the Barton grist and saw mill was totally destroyed by fire with all its contents. The fire was discovered about 7:30 p.m. upstairs in the saw mill part and, according to the 'Journal', neighbors quickly gathered and formed a bucket brigade, confining all their efforts to saving the property outside-lumber and nearby buildings, including Mr. Barton's house and barn. A large pile of slab wood lying on the saw mill side was, nevertheless, completely burned.

How the fire caught was a mystery, as it started in the end of the building where no one had been working that day. The loss was a large one since there was no insurance, but Barton's friends kindly donated standing timber necessary to rebuild the mill.

By late March the following year Barton had his saw mill and one run of stone in running order, grinding feed, and once again "doing a good business".

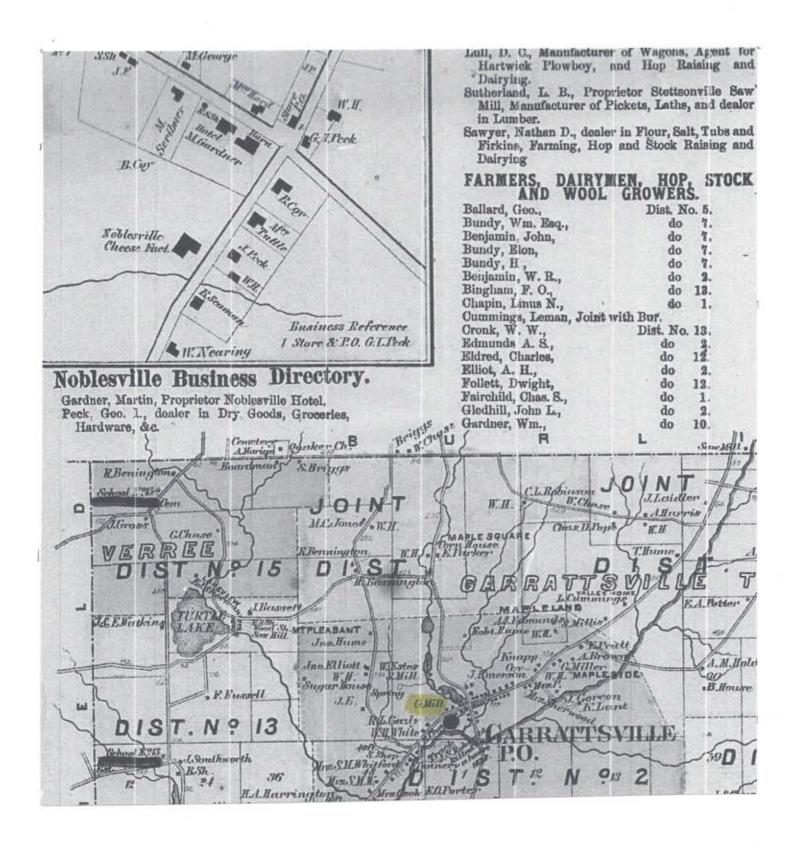
A "Journal" obituary of Amasa Barton, who died in Noblesville May 4, 1898, tells that he was born in New Lisben on March in 1826, the lest of a large family of children. He had married Adeline Warren in 1850 and his death left her, "faithful companion", and two children, Mrs. Ira Smith and Peter Barton, to mourn their loss-husband, father and proprietor of Barton's Mill.

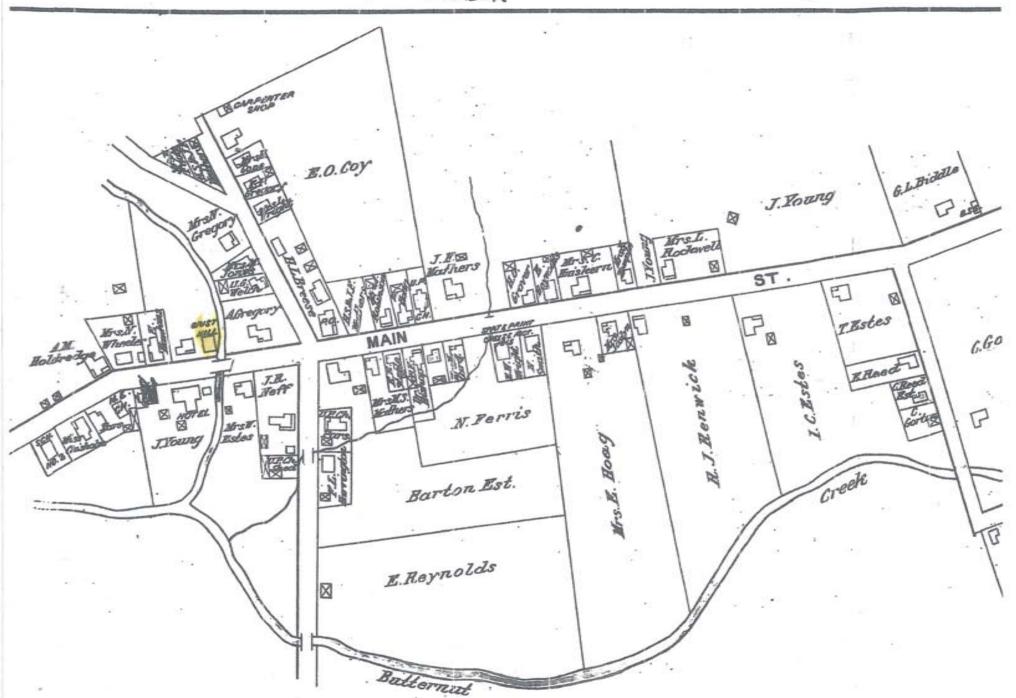






Note: Am not absolutely certain if this dam belongs to Barton's Mill---but I think it does. Please refer back a page to the picture of the man that's fishing. This is Barton's Mill pond (picture found in a family album and the family owned the property). Notice the area in back of the pond: is sloping upwards, contains trees, and has a fence in the background. Now check the dam picture---the same features occur in the background (that's probably Co. Hwy. 12 beyond the fence). So I believe it's a reasonable assumption to speculate that this dam was the Barton's Mill dam---but it is not proof positive.





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#### GARRATTSVILLE MILL

The mill was once a blacksmith shop with a Mr. Timothy Jewett Pelton as workman/owner. Other uses were varied: Abe Welch supposedly had a wagon manufacturing business here and later there was a paint shop located on the second floor. Peter Card bought from Alonzo Avery the wheel and water rights of the nearby creek and set up his own mill and carriage factory --- and also a grist, cider, and planning mill as well as a saw mill.

The Business Directory of Otsego County, 1872-3 lists: Card, Peter (Garrattsville) cooper & (with Wm. H. Card) saw mill and farmer.

A news item tells about the Great Storm of June 7, 1874 and states: "In Garrattsville, both dams belonging to the grist mill are gone."

Remarkably, this building still stands in the village of Garrattsville. It is weather-beaten and somewhat forlorn but is a reminder of times past.

#### Peter Card's Mill

There is evidence that a second cheese factory operated by Alonzo G. Avery stood between the chair factory and the Peter Card Mill and the river road in Garrattsville Village (Butternut Creek). Peter Card purchased the wheel and water rights on the creek from Alonzo Avery and set up his own mill and carriage factory.

Peter Card sold feed at this grist, cider and planning mill on South Street in Garrattsville.

In 1910, a saw mill was added to the facility.

Before Peter Card took over the above combination; Abe Welch had a wagon manufacturing here in this building. The second floor was a paint shop, paint used in this factory.

This landmark of our village is still standing, but vacant many

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grain mills, seven saw mills, a fulling mill and a carding machine. Also one Raptist meeting-house and seven schoolhouses. The inhabitants were principally farmers; most of their wearing appared being made at home.

"Harrington's inn," a well-known public house, was situated on the West Branch of the Otego, at a point/about one mile northerly from "Fall bridge." This tavern was erected in 1813 by James, father of Stafford Harrington, and is still standing and utilized as a farmhouse on lands once belonging to the writer. In 1813, according to J. H. Kenyon and Matthew Gregory, of Mount Vision, "Harrington's inm" was one of the (3637) busiest places, from a lawyer's professional standsoint, in the county; many suits at law being tried there, and occasionally drawing attorneys even from the county seat itself.

Besides the tavern, there was a gristuill and a sawmill-built, not far from this time, just under the high bank cast of and below the house, the two structures standing close together; but no bridge had been erected there, as yet, spanning the creek. About the same veried, Ira Kenyon, a schoolteacher and father of one of my informants, was one day called to "Haprington's inn," to write the ballots for an election soon to be held at that point.

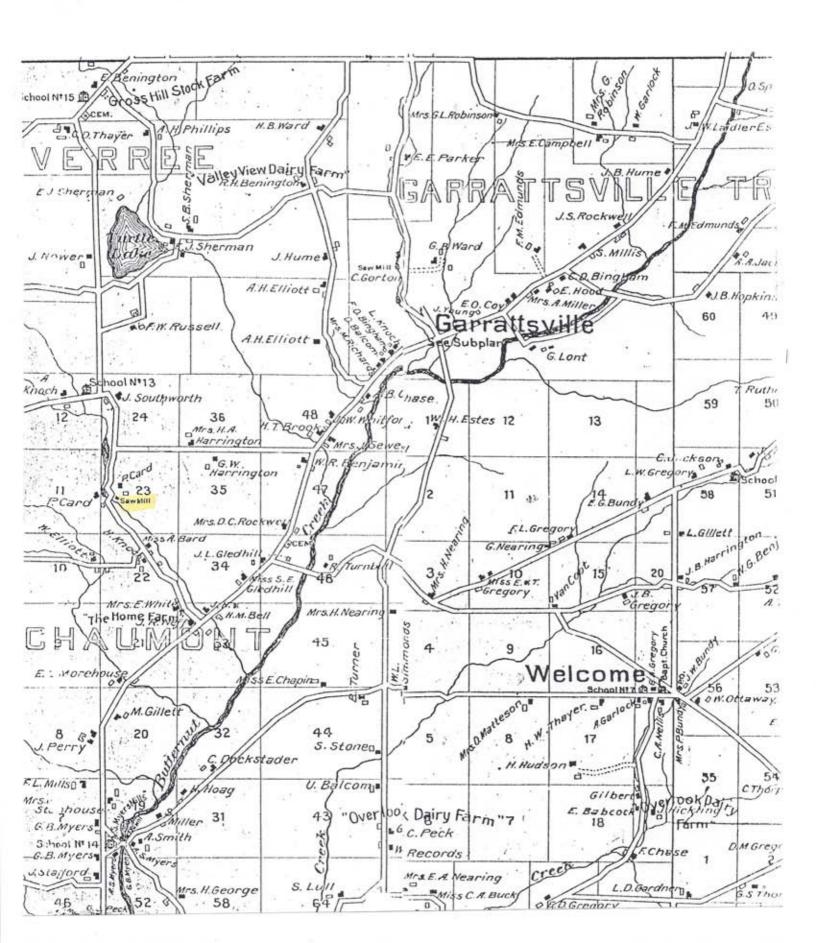
taking the places of older ones on the same site, were erected on the West Branch of the Otego creek, close of Harrington's inn, and at a point about one mile above "Fall bridge"; the inn referred to having been built in the preceding year. The embankment of the ancient millpond, on the flat opposite the old tavern stand, is still plainly visible. In 1814, the crossroad running by the Harrington tavern and mills, and connecting the East and west Branch highways, was called "the post-road" -- a man carrying the mail over the same in saddle bags; this being a section of a mail route between Cooperstown and "Louisville," vis Hartwick.

(3684)

Abraham Lippitt was probably now conducting a milling business at South Hartwick. At a point a little below that place, and on the west side of the creek, was the commencement of a highway, built long before, which conducted the traveller over the hill, and through the woods nearly all the way, to the grist and saw mills of James Harrington, on the West Branch of the Otego. Ar. Harrington was a brother of Sheffield, Stephen and Job Harrington, and had a son, Stafford, who, as an old man, came from the West, in about 1892, to revisit these scenes of his onildhood.

(3416)

The Harrington sills (in New Lisbon) were built, by James Harrington, on what was afterwards the Yaughn-Ballard-Huntington-Crandall farm, and I presume the date of their construction was prior to 1810. At that time, James Harrington was probably conducting an inn business, also, in his small, clapboarded, frame dwelling near the sills; this being succeeded by a larger tavern; in 1813, on or near the same site. Remington Renyon, before removing from Rhode Island to New Lisbon, was a miller by trade; and, in about 1810, alternately acted, more or less, for both Lippitt and Harrington, in that capacity, running their mills both night and day.



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# Fragments of Mistory - Hilda Watrous

### The Stetsons

In 1791 when Moors and Whitford sold a parcel of their Perree purchase the land was described as "that part where Eli Stetson has chopped and is to chop 50 acres"... Eli was a witness to their sale of land to Isaac Nash in 1791. In 1795 Whitford sold land to Timothy Stetson, father to Eli, adjacent to 100 acres previously sold to Eli. When some of Isaac Nash's land was sold by his estate, some property included the "mill seat of Eli Stetson".

At the Recorders Office in Cooperatown there is a deed dated March 6, 1807 that states that for the sum of three hundred dollars, lawful money of the State of New York. Samuel Bosworth and his wife Abigail conveyed to Samuel States Southworth and Gurley Southworth forty acres of land in the Town of New Lisbon. This was land that had previously been owned by Timothy Stateson. It is of interest that the price was paid in the currency of the State of New York and not of the United States and also that Abigail made her mark rather than her signature.

The boundaries specified in the deed indicate that the land was located just east of a hundred acre tract owned by Eli Stetson and just north of Eli Stetson's saw mill. In fact, one stake rested in the mill pond. One of the older residents of the neighborhood suggested sometime ago that this may have been what is now known as Card's Pond. This has since been verified. A map showing this lard appears on page 9.

As to where the money came from for the purhcase of the land, we can only speculate. It is noted however that in the settlement of Desire Southworth's estate eleven years later, there is mention made of money oved by various children including both. Gurley and Samuel Stetson. It is possible that then as now it was good practice to borrow money from widowed mothers and to forget about both the principal and the interest. It is noted too that the land changed hands in the succeeding years in a rather mysteria ous way and ultimately came into the hands of Mother Southworth (Desire).

Whether or not the partnership of Gurley and his brother came to a sad end we cannot say. However a deed dated January 18, 1811 shows that the two brothers acting as partners sold off twelve acres from the southern end of their tract to Eli Stetson. This may have been part of the mill property. It may have served also to give Eli Stetson access from his 100 A tract to the highway. On the same day Curley gave Saxuel Stetson Southworth a quit-claim deed for his interest in the remainder. This not only terminated the partnership but it appears to have been the only land of record owned by Hiram's father Gurley in either Otsego or Chenango Counties.

This juggling of property did not, however, stop at this time for there is recorded later, in 1811, a deed for land sold by Samuel Stetson Southworth to Richard Emerson. This was the remaining twenty-eight acres, left after selling twelve acres to Eli Stetson. On the same day Richard Emerson sold eight of these same acres to Desire Southworth. At about this same time too Samuel Stetson bought another tract of thirty-six acres south of the mill pond which he held for several rears.

## Fragments of History

New Lisbon Township as compiled from various sources by Rilds-R. Watrous.

Desire Stetson Southworth

Desire was born June 29, 1746. one of two children of Ensign Samuel Stetson (4th generation descendant of Cornet Robert Stetson of Scituate (Norwell) Mass.) and Ann Dimmock Stet-Desire's brother was Timothy Stetson who came with his family to the New Lisbon area about 1790. Desire married Nathaniel Southworth Jr., a descendant of Captain Constant Southworth, (Constant's widow resided in Plymouth Colony in 1628 - having wed Governor William Bradford - with her two sons, Thomas and Constant Southworth).

According to "A Genealogy of the Southworths. " by Samuel G. Webber (1905) Nathaniel, 5th generation of Constant's descendants, was born in Mansfield Conn. Nov. 26, 1742. He married Desire in 1764 and they had 8 children: Lois (1765), Eleazer (1768-1850), Ann (1773), Eunice (1776), Ozian (1778), Gurley - his paternal grandmother was Lois Gurley - (1781-1825), Samuel Stetson (1783) and Ruth (1786).

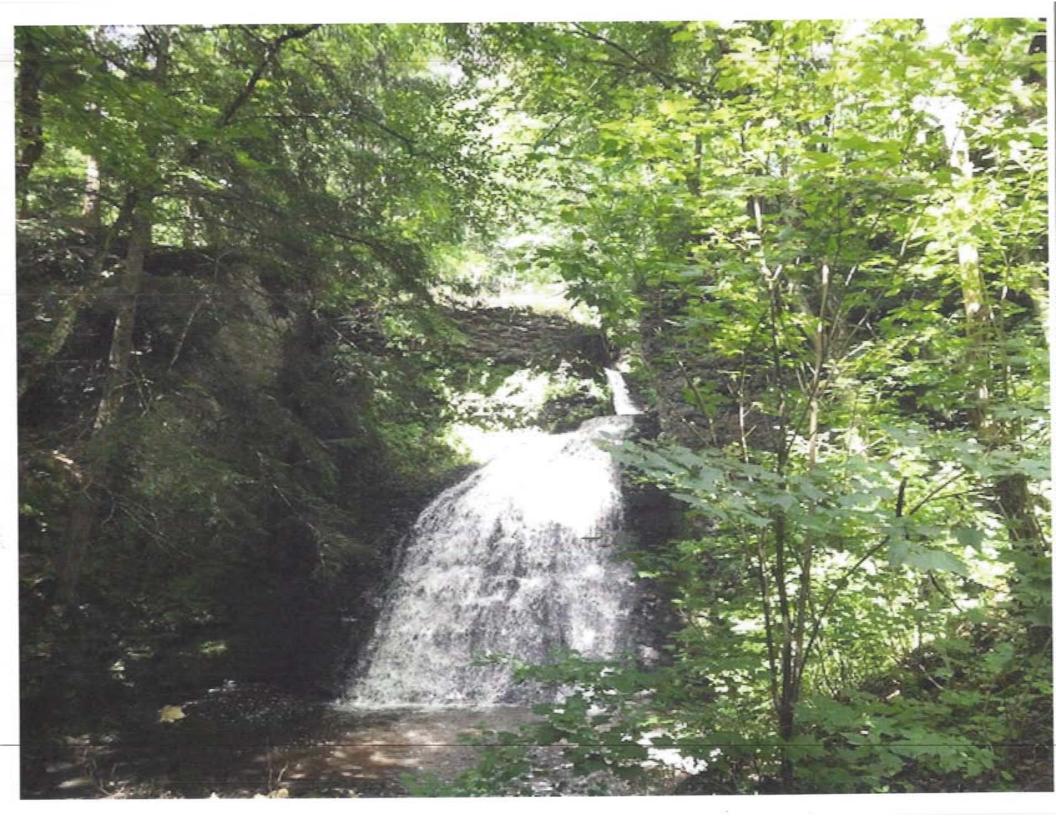
In 1807 Gurley and Samuel S, Southworth purchased 40 acres in New Lisbon; this land previously had been owned by their uncle, Timothy Stetson. The parcel adjoined property owned by Timothy's son, Eli, who operated a saw mill there. In 1811; the Southworth brothers sold 12 | acres of their parcel to Eli who had earlier chopped 50 acres in the vicinity of Turtle Lake (Crystal Lake): aerial maps show vestiges of an old logging road from the lake to the still existing foundations of what is presumed to be the location of Eli's saw mill. (In later years a grist mill and a saw mill occupied the site, even into the 20th century, when the dam to the mill pond was broken by the owner Luman Chase). In 1811 Samuel sold the remaining property to Richard Emerson: Emerson and his wife Sarah, also of New Lisbon, sold a por-tion of this property to Desire Southworth, who had been widowed in 1809.



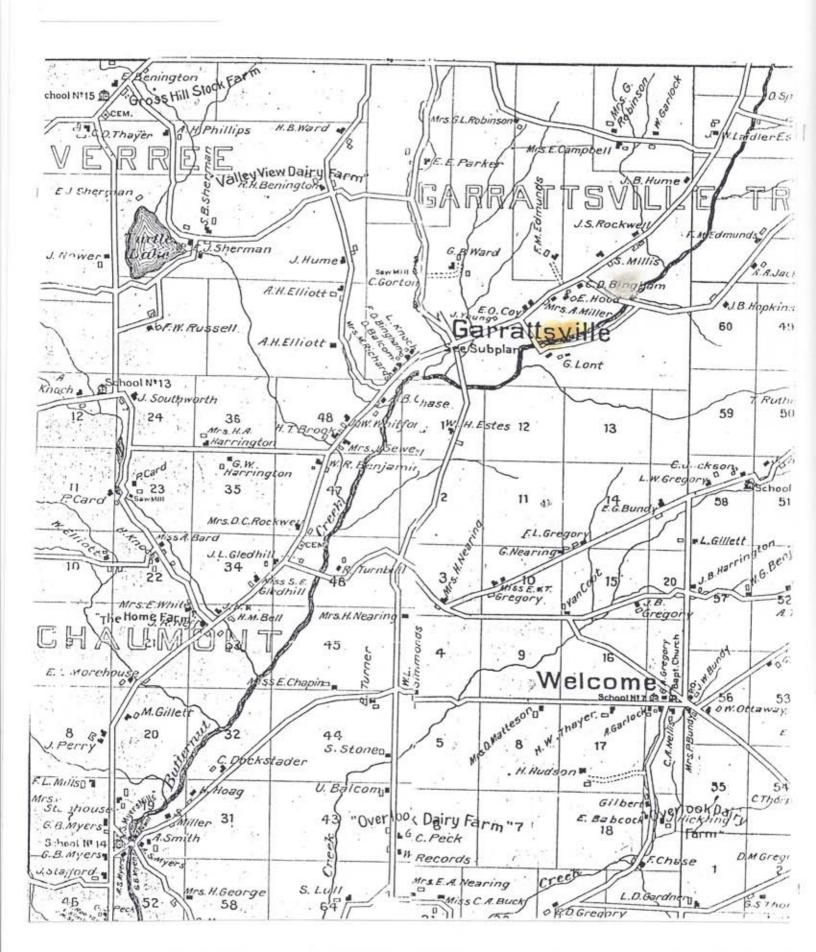












Damuel mullis bounts from a Smith Charles Ringham Jane & Barne & To seyn ( another Traded ho ho I fa the Just aline grate Com and Hand M Progett racy faint reter much d. were here Butterne creek Ator Dan

A saw mill below the lane mentioned was owned, it is believed, by David M. Hard, and sold by him to the Cone prothers. For a while they ran it to gether; then the eldest one bought the other half, and hired a man by the name of Joshua Wood to run the mill. He was a stranger, but a good workman, He moved into a double log house above the mill. His family consisted of bimself, hie wife, a little giri, and a madam with three children. His wife had the poorest part of the house and earned her own food and clothing working for her neighbors. In summer she picked berries and sold them to the Garrattsvitle people. She was a slack, easy going sort of a woman, which may have accounted for the family arrangement.

After several years some young mentook exception to Wood's manuer of living and one night when his wife was away gave him and the madam a noisy serenade. Soon after the old log house was found to be tenantiese. When or where they went was not known, though the wife must have learned, for soon she disappeared. The saw mill was then sold to Oliver Gorton, and his sons Jacob and Jacob's family. It is now a hen house.

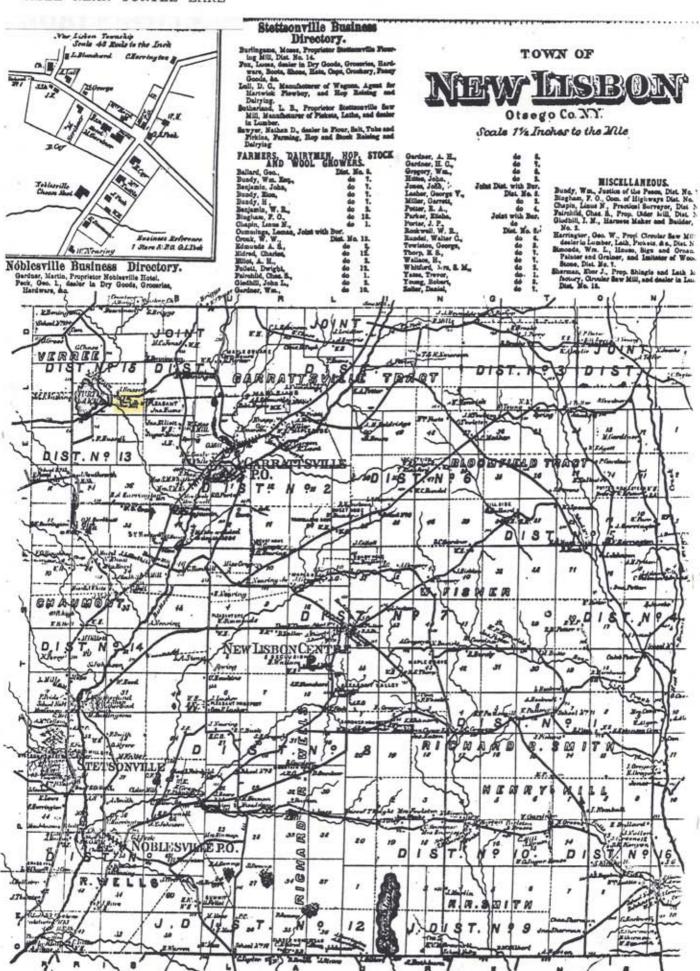
Town of new Lusbone Census 1880 Edwin Harriell Manager Henry Narrow Bucket Maker nyBlind Patrick Ruller 19 Resigning the De 179 While Wedster 3/m B. Clergyman Conn. Leeb Jugny 60. Stephen Whigh 50. Latiner 711 Prosper Belenik 24. Joseph Lordin 32. he Loureth diven wexter so in in men meter, 3. Charles Chared. Charles Hett Abon. norman Hick as in Cetter Jackert ann Dalando Cotto 35 m. Fink finisher " Bezeksnieth Drville Pairie 35 ... William Murray 20 Project .... Eymon Herry 22, 20. i's . C. - polisher Invilla Sholp 34 in a soluction William Cong. "3 a de Esmith Mass. Manuaker \_ Elsah Butts Elizeanith Clarka, Gett 50 Conu. Mounter Eng. Francis Duric 40

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11.12. DELOSS ANTHONY son 19 Ots. 3 Farmer
        ROSALTHA dau 9 " 3
ABEL CARD boarder 27 " M -- " Native V.
ANGELINE CARD wf 25 " M 2/12
         MARY F. * dau 5 Greene 2/12
         WM. PARR boarder 30 Ots. M 2 "
         THRESSA PARR wf 29 " M 3
WM. J. MURRY 26 Ire. 6 Drover Alien
MARY STEPHENS 6 Ots. - boarder
12.13. C. H. BROWN 40 Scho. M 3 Blacksmith Native V.
$ 450 M. M. wf 18 Ots. " 18
       WM. H.
                    son 2 "
13.14. J. B. GORTON 36 Ots. M 36 Millwright "
 $ 500 MARY ANN wf
       MARY ANN wf 33 " " 9
THEODORE REED neph 10 " 6
                                 " 6
3
       CHARLES GORTON son 3 " 3
MATILDA REED sis-i-1 25 " - 6/12
                                                                     L.O.
  .15 CHARLES BALCOMB 22 Ots. M 2/12 Farmer "
        ANN wf
                            20
                                 # # B
        DOROTHY HALL moth 48 Scot. W *
      JANETT " sister 11 Ots.
      CHRISTIEN " 18 "
       JOHN " broth 25 Scot.
GEORGE " " 14 "
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14.16. EDWIN G. BUCKLAND 55 Vt. M 4 Machinist
14.16. EDWIN G. BUCKLAND 33 Vt. ... $ 250 CASSANDRA wf 45 Ots. " 4
ROXANN dau 17 Ots.
HENRY son 15 "
        HENRY SON 15
ELI " 6
AL RERT A. " 3
        ALBERT A. " 3 "
B. O. " 2/12 "
        LIDY mother 66 Mass. W --
17.19. ZARE WATSON 58 Dut. M
$ 4DD SALLY wf 58 Mass. "
                            58 Dut. M -- Farmer
                                                                      L. O.
        FIDELIA TALBERT dau 25 Ots. M --
        LORENZE WATSON son 19 "
      MERTIMER " " 16
CHAD TALBERT s-i-1 31 Ots. M 4 " " " " HARRISON BARNES 35 -- 6/12 " (Boarder) " JAMES SELF -- Eng. 4 " " Naturalized V. 18.20. DAVID DART 33 Ots. M 6 Blacksmith Native V.
** DAVID DART 33 Ots. M 6 Blacksmith Native V.

$ 50 ANNA wf 30 " " "

EMM Z. dau 9 Oneida "

RUTH A. " 6 Ots. "
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This tiny photo is found among New Lisbon's photographic collection along with a 'snapshot' of the area's history which is presented below.

corner of New histom township. A sawmill had been brutt at the orther sometime previous to (800, one of the first in this area. Ever J. Sherman purchased the surrounding farm in 1858, his family owning it until the early part of this century, By 1917 overnight campers frequented the lake but it wasn't until about ten years later that can official companional operation began. The called by a more appealing title, Criptal Fall: Buildings Shown in the photograph yielide the Sherman residence, barns a blacksmith shop, calrner shop and sowmill,

## Sources

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- Bicentennial Writings Virginia A. Schoradt
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  - o The New Berlin Gazette
  - o The Oneonta Daily Star
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