

People of Importance – The First Hundred Years

Samuel Adams

Hague's Earliest Settler at Sabbath Day Point

A decade before the American Revolution when New York was still a colony of Great Britain, Samuel Adams applied and received a land grant from the British Crown. This is the best evidence that Samuel Adams lived here as early as 1767. The Sabbath Day Point Patent, a 500-acre land grant, documents that Adams settled and lived here. In the words of Hague Historian Clifton West, "Perhaps Sam Adams's "House of Entertainment" existed as far back as 1764.

...The most authentic evidence is the undeniable fact that, in 1767, a patent of five hundred acres called the Sabbath Day Point Patent, was granted to Samuel Adams. It is said that the road from Bolton to Sabbath Day Point was built by him, in consideration of which he received the patent of five hundred acres of land.

– from *History of Warren County*, H. P. Smith. Chapter XXXI: History of the Town of Hague 1885

Town of Hague List of Jurymen; May 13, 1807

On May 13th 1807, the year that Hague became independent of Bolton, the Town Minutes list the Jurymen for the Town of Rochester (Washington County, NY):

- Amasa Burt
- Isaac Balcom, farmer
- Nathan Taylor, farmer
- Asa Pratt, carpenter
- Joseph Denton, farmer
- Paul Burdock, farmer
- Caleb Balcom, farmer
- James Ackerman, farmer
- Samuel Patchin, farmer
- Elijah Bailey, Esqs
- John Barnard, farmer
- Simeon Phillips, farmer
- Ebenezer Blair, farmer
- Jonathan Dodd, farmer
- Uriah Balcom, farmer

- William Cook, Esqs

In 1808, Rochester was renamed "Hague." Other family names among the first settlers were Abel Rising, Abner Briggs, Samuel Cook, Elijah Denton, John Holman, Isaac Waste and Uri Waiste Sources: Historical and Statistical Gazetteer of New York State, [By J. H. French, LL.D.,] H. P. Smith, Publisher, 8 Sth. Salina Street, Syracuse. 1860. Compiled by Bruce DeLarm's Rootsweb, Dec. 2006 at [Hague, Warren County, New York](#)

Samuel Patchin; 1758-1844

Though born in England on June 18, 1758, Samuel Patchin was an American patriot. He enlisted twice to fight in the American Revolution. He married Mary Hollister and settled at Sabbath Day Point in Hague when it was still named "Rochester." Captain Sam Patchin became the first Supervisor in 1807. Historian Francis Parkman met 84-year-old Captain Sam at Sabbath Day Point in 1842. He wrote the following about his impressions of him in the pages of his diary:

We ran our boat on the beach and asked lodging at the house. The house was an old rickety, shingled palace with a potato garden in front and a group of old men and women engaged in earnest conversation in the tumbled down portico.... The old man was a Revolution pensioner, Capt Patchin by name, stouthearted, hale and clever by nature. He is the owner of the place, but the house is occupied by another family...

Excerpt from *Howard Doughty's biography*, Francis Parkman, (pub. 1963. p. 53-4)

Jabez Patchin – 1785- 1848

Jabez Patchin and his family are listed in the 1810 Census of Hague in Washington County. (Hague became part of Warren County in 1813.) Capt. Samuel Patchin and his son Jabez Patchin and family members are buried in Hague Heritage Cemetery on Pine Orchard Road.

Jabez Patchin is thought to have been the first builder of a cabin at Silver Bay near today's Silver Bay Inn. According to local folklore, Jabez also lived in his cabin at Jabe's Pond. The trailhead to the pond starts across the highway from Silver Bay and is where the climb to Sunrise Mountain begins.

Mrs. Hoyt Johnson (nee Rebecca Bevins) 1812-1893

Born on January 2, 1812 in Vermont, Rebecca Bevins died in Ticonderoga on April 24, 1893.

Mrs. Hoyt Johnson wrote a memoir called "Early Incidents of Hague" which was published in the Ticonderoga Sentinel in August 1892 in several installments. In the excerpt below, she tells about her family's journey crossing Lake Champlain at Ticonderoga to settle in Hague.

My first recollections of Hague extend back to October, 1816. Sometime previous my father had left his home in Windsor, VT., and penetrated the wilderness beyond Lake Champlain to the Shores of Lake George, and amid its mountain valleys had secured a home, nearly two miles west of its shores. In October he returned for his family and we started from our pleasant home at the head of State St. for a journey of over a hundred miles, over roads of which the present generation have no conceptions. We piled upon wagons our most necessary household articles; leaving our best rooms furnished intending to return, but the return trip never came. We necessarily traveled slow and it was late in the day when we reached the crossing at Lake Champlain, which was then known as Deal's ferry and retained its name and occupation of transporting people, merchandise, horses, cattle, and vehicles of all description across the lake in boats, always designated as scow boats, until superseded by the railroad bridge and steam ferry. There was a house on the York side at the crossing. From there, it was an unbroken wilderness, with only a few charred patches with a rude log house for shelter and a home, until we reached Hague.

The next cleared spot and house was the old original Squire Hay's house. The next was just after you turn the corner to the left going towards Hague, as you face the old brick yard after you pass the brick house on the right erected more than fifty years ago by Potter DeLano, then a merchant at Ticonderoga. This house stood on the left-hand side and a shop opposite on the right-hand side of the road, both small. The proprietor's name was Pierce. It was night when we reached this place, and as was customary in those days we sought shelter and lodging. They gave us hearty welcome but there was no room in the inn for so many of us, for we were accompanied by a family by the name of Doolittle. Their family consisted of six children, and my fathers numbered the same. We had provision cooked for food, but rest was needed. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce with true pioneer hospitality were equal to the emergency. This shop had stood open and geese had been sheltered there, but they soon had it cleared and swept and an abundance of straw with blankets provided. We the children, at least, slept the sleep of the just. Morning found us early on our way. but the recollections of that night's lodging was a subject of much merriment among us, and for years we often gave our friends a description of our first night's lodgings in New York state in a goose house, we termed it. From this place it was an unbroken forest, until we reached the present site of the hotel in Hague. Nathaniel Garfield, Sr., owned and kept a house of entertainment there. The road kept directly along as today by the lake shore and the first house was occupied by Chas. Dodd, Sr., where Henry

Starks now lives, just beyond what is known as the Lake Cemetery, the first burial place ever located in Hague. Beyond the Dodd home, on the lake shore, lived a man by the name of Waiste. In what was long called the Pratt neighborhood lived a family named Holman; another named Murphy; another, Pratt; a man by the name of Baird and Mr. Kenny, the miller, constituted the whole number of inhabitants in that part of the town.

Mr. Cook, grandfather of Wm. and Jackson Cook, lived on what is called Cook's Point, and it was the grandmother, not the grandfather, who laid the foundation of the Cook property. She was a woman of uncommon energy. There are many anecdotes connected with her history which would illustrate the truth of my assertion, which ought to be remembered. Her life would be a good foundation for a novel. After we crossed the bridge near Mr. Burgess' present home, we followed what is now the traveled road. It was just passable. As we turned westward to our future home, now occupied by Wm. Baldwin. the first building was a log school house just across the next bridge where a house now stands, just below the site of the old grist mill, which was then standing, and owned by a Mr. Kenny. From there not another building or cleared spot until we reached our home, which then included both the one occupied by Mr. Baldwin and the next one east. Westward of us not a human habitation. On our farm was a log house, and the one which we were to call our home, a framed house, which my father built that year, and the first of its kind erected in town. It was boarded and ceiled up with a large fireplace on one side. The best had been done that my father could do, but it was a strong contrast to the home we had left. This year has come down in history as the cold year. Snow fell every month in the year except one. The next year was a trying year as the produce was consumed and as quite a number of new families came to town there was real suffering in many cases. I will say just here that my father was a cooper by trade and ran a shop in connection with his farm. He returned to Vermont with a load and sold it for grain and groceries to carry us through until harvest. It was noticed abroad that he had returned, and the next evening my mother cooked for 23 visitors, and then the day following. This year, 1817, Leonard Densmore took a farm opposite my father's, on the parallel road running west, called the upper road. They came from Winchester, N. H.

– from part of a serial article written by Mrs. Hoyt Johnson and published by The Ticonderoga Sentinel, August 1892. Transcribed in 1961 by Hague Town Historian Vila Ackerman Fitzgerald (1904-1995)

Abel Rising, Jr; 1767 - 1822

Abel Rising Jr., the second son of Abel Rising, Sr. brought his family to Hague, NY in 1811 from Connecticut. He married Lucinda Kent, also from Suffield, Connecticut. The couple had seven children. One of them, Rufus Rising, born about 1796, (d. 1871) is listed in the census records as a farmer in Hague for over a quarter of a century.

Another son of the senior Abel Rising, Zeno Rising, b. 1802, would grow up in Hague and marry into another prominent pioneer family, the Balcom family. His first wife

was Roxie Balcom (d. 1846). Later he married Cynthia Balcom (d. 1862). They had nine children. One of them, Joel Rising, became the proprietor of the Rising Hotel in Chestertown. The Ticonderoga Sentinel reported on July 30, 1896 that Hague's Rising House Hotel had thirty-five summer guests, listing the proprietor as B.A. Rising. Byron A. Rising opened his hotel in 1887. After his death in 1919, his sons Stuart P. Rising and Reginald Byron Rising continued to run the Rising House as a summer hotel.

Nathaniel Garfield d. Feb. 1839

The Garfield Hotel stood opposite Hague Bay then known as McDonald's Bay. By 1810 the senior Nathaniel Garfield had built his public house and tavern which was already well-known in 1816 for its good food and lodging. In her Early Incidents of Hague, Mrs. Hoyt Johnson remembered it in 1816 when her family came to live in Hague writing, ... "From this place it was an unbroken forest, until we reached the present site of the hotel in Hague. Nathaniel Garfield, Sr. owned and kept a house of entertainment there."

A hotel has always stood on the same site where today only an empty lot remains. Garfield's became the Phoenix and later on the Beachside. Within view of the town beach, the Town Fathers met to hold their annual meeting of April 7, 1885 when Rufus Rising was elected Town Supervisor.

Clifton West, late Town of Hague Historian, recorded the names of future owners of Garfield's Inn: "In 1861 William Arthur owned it. In 1863 it was burned, and was rebuilt the following year and named the Phoenix Hotel. The new hotel could accommodate 50 guests and was operated by several men in succession. They were: **Edwin Norton, Alonzo Russell, Joel Rising, Alva Grimes, Gilligan, William Miller, James Leach, Forrest Wood, Charles Burgey and his son Charles.** The Burgeys renamed the hotel The Beachside. Fire again destroyed the building on February 15, 1958, and it was again rebuilt, this time in the form of a motel.

Nathaniel Garfield Sr. served two terms as Hague's Town Supervisor in 1825 and 1830. His son, Nathaniel Garfield Jr., was innkeeper of Garfield's from 1821 through 1829. (See Warren County Records: Innkeeper's Recognizance Index) In the 1850's and 1860's Federal and State Census records, Nathaniel Garfield and Charlotte Garfield are listed by occupation as Inn Keepers or Hotel Keepers.

Bazaliel Wast 1742 - 1818 (aka: Bezaleel Waist/West/Waste)

Bezaleel worked as a farmer and Highway Land Surveyor for Somerset, Wilmington and Whitingham, Vermont. His family moved from Wilmington to the town of Hague, near Ticonderoga, on the shore of Lake George in 1788 or 1790. His son Uri (Uriah) was born there.

Sam Ackerman 1821 - 1896

Sam Ackerman was well-liked and called "Uncle Sam" by almost everyone in Hague according to Wilford C. Ross, the author of History of Graphite, New York. ©1976 (p. 2).

In 1887 Sam Ackerman discovered the mineral graphite in the Town of Hague. The mine, an open pit, was active only in the summer, with the graphite hauled to a processing plant in the winter because it was easier for a horse-drawn sleigh to move it over ice and snow. The area of the mines came to be known as Graphite and it had its own church, school, store, three saloons, and Post Office, which was in service from 1890 to 1921, the year the mines closed. -from Hague Town Historian Clifton West's, History of Hague

John Wheeler and Charles H. Wheeler

John Wheeler bought the Trout House property in 1855. He founded and operated it until his death in 1885. His son Charles H. Wheeler succeeded him as proprietor and ran the Trout House with his wife, Ella Waters. In 1901 R.J. Bolton took over the hotel and eventually bought and improved the property. In the archives of the Ticonderoga Sentinel, the improvements are described under the Caption:

Hague Hotel Man Increases His Holdings

Lake George hotel man, has increased holdings in the beautiful lake resort by the purchase of the Iroquois hotel, which adjoins the Trout House. The Iroquois, located on a two-acre lot, was purchased by Mr. Bolton from Mrs. Caroline M. Edwards and contains fifty rooms. It will be used by the new owner as an annex to the Trout House and will give him one of the finest hotel properties on Lake George.

-from <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=hagueny&id=116557>

In her essay "From Elegance to Extinction", written in 1986 for the Hague Historical Society, Frances Clifton describes the evolution of the Trout House Village Resort, as R.J. Bolton's is known today.

Next along the Lakeshore Drive is situated the Trout House Village Resort. Over the years between the 1880's and the 1980's many changes both in ownership and style have occurred. The earliest picture I have seen was one of John Wheeler's Trout House, which he passed down to his son Charles. In 1903 his nephew Richard J. Bolton and his wife Mame took over as owners and operators. In 1919 a fire completely destroyed the original building, and since the adjoining property, the Hotel Iroquois, owned by L.D. Wilcox was available, they bought this, which they completely remodeled and christened the New Trout House, and had another renovation to add to its charm in the 1930's. The Bolton's celebrated 50 years of marriage at that spot, and when R.J., as he was fondly called, went to his reward he also had been chairman of the Warren Country Board of Supervisors for many years."

Frances Clifton, "From Elegance to Extinction"

Early Hague Schools by Late Hague Historian Clifton F. West

Apparently, a school district was created whenever there was a number of children, about 30, to fill a one-room schoolhouse. West Hague District No. 3 came into being at 1812 and covered the geographic area between the West Hague Road and Route 8 and from the road on which the Sanitary Landfill is now located down to a line drawn from the Mays' home on Route 8 to the Leon Wells home on the West Hague Road. The first trustees were John Holman, John Hayford and William Cook, many of whose descendants continue to live in the area. The first record of state aid for education was in 1870 when \$70 was allocated to the district. The records indicate that the assessed valuation of the property in the district in 1889 was \$15,775, an indication that property taxes were now being levied to pay for education,

Generally, there were two terms, one in winter and one in summer. In between terms, children were needed for work on the farm. In 1900 the teacher for one term was paid \$32 a month and in 1909, \$320 was paid in teachers' salary for the entire year.

The eight school districts in the Town of Hague were consolidated into the present central school district in 1926-28 when the present school building was constructed.

Excerpted from a talk by Clifton F. West, March 1974, to Hague Historical Society as transcribed by Judy Stock, editor of The Hague Chronicle

Mrs. Hoyt Johnson (nee Rebecca Bevins) may have referred to the schoolhouse built around 1812 that Mr. West described, when she wrote in her memoir about her childhood recollections back to 1816 when her family settled in Hague:

For six years there was a steady immigration of sturdy pioneer women, who cleared off and burned up wood, dug out stumps and brought the then virgin soil under cultivation. I think it was the third winter after we came to Hague, the schoolhouse took fire in the night and burned down. School had kept only three weeks and most of the books were in the seats. Nothing was

saved as the house was so isolated. The next day the men rallied and decided to build. Meanwhile the school was opened in one room of my father's house. The schoolhouse was rebuilt ...and in less than four weeks was ready to be occupied.

From part of a serial article written by Mrs. Hoyt Johnson and published by The Ticonderoga Sentinel, August 1892. Transcribed in 1961 by Hague Town Historian Vila Ackerman Fitzgerald (1904-1995)

Another story about a schoolhouse burning down is written by Dolly Kennedy for Hague Historical Society about the Battle Hill Road schoolhouse. Its foundation stones are still visible if you can find the hole in the overgrown woods near the fork of Battle Hill Road with Split Rock Road.

There was a schoolhouse near the Sextons across the road which I was told had burned down three times. Flora [Sexton] accused her brother Smith of burning the school and blamed him for her lack of education. Tressie taught Florie to read and write. Tressie died first in 1941 and when a neighbor took Florie to Ti to visit the funeral parlor, Florie insisted she wanted to go to the hardware store first. She came out carrying a shiny milk pail with a lip— "Now," she said, "Tressie would never let me buy one."

"Battle Hill Road" by Dolly Kennedy. p. 2 circa 1975

Ms. Kennedy also gives a good description of the families who lived on Battle Hill Road and the feuding between the Waters and the Sextons.

Orlando and Hanna Burt

Orlando and his wife Hanna Burt and their eight children lived on the Split Rock access on the property just before the road to Jabes Pond.

The Sexton Family Farm

The [Hiram] **Sexton** farm came next [after the Burt farm] continuing straight ahead on Split Rock which changes its name to Battle Hill Road at the fork to the left that leads to Jabes Pond. To the right, the road crosses a brook...the south side of the brook is the Sexton property, which took in a "corner" of the loop that ends at Dodd Hill Road and adjoined the Lewis property. Hiram and Harriet Sexton had four children—Theresa (who was called Tressie, (1860-1941), George (1862-1890), Smith who owned the Mohican House Hotel on the hill behind the Open-Hearth restaurant today, and Flora, (1873-1969).

Flora the youngest of Hiram's four children, as "...rather mannish. She dressed like a man and could do a man's work. She could tote a gun, load and fire as well as the best huntsman. She

would fish by the bridge in a nearby stream with only a sapling for a pole, then hurry home with a string of at least twenty fish. When in her seventies, she built a staging and shingled her own roof.

Flora Sexton (1878 – 1943) and her older sister **Theresa Sexton** (1860-1941). They were expert photographers and set up their photography tent in Hague where the Firehouse Restaurant now stands. Both helped with the hard work of making a living at their father Hiram's 103 acre farm on Battle Hill Road in Hague. Flora and Theresa both worked in the hay field. Although a team and a machine did the rough mowing, they could both yield a scythe and trim up the edge of the meadow and the hay left standing by the mowing machine.

- Dorothy Backus Offensend. The Sexton Boatbuilders of Hague, p. 65 pub. 1982

Francis Waters

Across from the Sexton farm Francis Waters had his land. It was a large tract of land that had an Inn, store and tavern near the road. Francis Waters was the owner (1862-1934). After his death, his son Walter Waters (born in 1900) took over the property. The Waters and Sextons were always feuding over the Waters not fencing in their animals and their horses eating the Sextons grain. At times the Sexton girls would shut the horses in their barn and try to make Walter pay for what they had eaten. Finally, one day the girls had had enough and as Walter riding his horse came into view by the Lewis Fish mailbox, Flora took aim and shot the horse in the hip. She was taken to jail for a few days, but as the horse recovered and Walter wasn't shot, they let her out. When questioned about the incident, she said, "If I'd been shootin' at Mr. Waters, I'd have hit him.

- "Battle Hill Road" by Dolly Kennedy. p. 2 circa 1975

William Wilder DeLarm 1861-1942

From an interview with Jim DeLarm-2007

William (Willie) Wilder DeLarm, graduated in 1885 with a degree in business from Troy Business College. He came home and put in an application to teach. He was hired to teach in the part of town known back then as Tuffertown. The pay was generally a dollar a day. Jim's grandfather got the job at that rate, but during his last year he received a 20¢ a-day raise—proof that he must have been an excellent teacher, one whom the students loved and respected.

On a video-tape made in July 1988, Jim DeLarm recorded his father Rollin's words. At age ninety, Rollin DeLarm spoke of his own father, William Wilder DeLarm: "When I was a kid I asked him why they called it Tuffertown. 'Well,' he said, 'there used to be some tough characters out there.' That's why it's called Tuffertown."

William Wilder DeLarm taught in Tuffertown, at the schoolhouse on New Hague Road in what is today the home of Ralph Denno and his wife Heather Knott, our present Town Justice. Until 2006, when a second story was added on, the original schoolhouse structure could still be seen as it looked when Jim's grandfather taught there.

Teaching in the Tuffertown School District could have been a "tough" job, as an article in the February 20, 1908 Ticonderoga Sentinel supports:

"The school in the district, now known as South Ticonderoga, but then [in 1858] called 'Tuffertown' was composed of the farmers' sons and daughters, many of them men and women grown, but their only means of getting any education was in their district school; as a whole, they were an intelligent class of boys and girls, and young men and women, and shrewd enough to know when they were imposed upon by an incompetent teacher, and independent enough to resent it."

"...The winter before, a young man of the town [of Ticonderoga] had been engaged to teach the school. The term had hardly begun before he had demonstrated his total incapacity to either teach, or control the scholars, many of whom were further advanced in their studies than he. It was a fine part of the town for growing the small, white field bean, the soil being especially adapted to their abundant growth. The boys used to fill their pockets with beans, take them to school, and among other ways of annoying the teacher, such as stealing the Key to the Arithmetic, etc., would pelt him first on one side and then on the other with beans, he being never able to discover the real culprit; finally it ended about the middle of the term in the scholars expelling the teacher from the building, and to the music of horns, cow-bells and tin pans, escorting him on the run, half way to the village."

Ticonderoga Sentinel, February 20, 1908 - <http://news.nynl.net>

A little more light is shed on the location of Tuffertown in a 1941 obituary eulogizing a Ticonderoga patriarch Frank M. Moses. The reporter writes that from 1830-1856, Tuffertown was a thriving farming community with a large tannery, several homesteads, and its old town meeting house "...on 1,300 acres of choice land on what is now the Moses farm in beautiful Lord Howe Valley." (Ticonderoga Sentinel 10-30-1941.)

Young Willie DeLarm was assigned to a school in Tuffertown, in South Ticonderoga, on today's New Hague Road, a four mile walk from home. His first duty was to start the fire in the schoolhouse. He had to provide his own kindling though the school district provided the firewood. Every morning before daybreak, he would tie a leather belt around a bundle of kindling to carry along with his lunch and his papers.

William Wilder made his living by teaching, farming, and later on, building houses. His brother Ernest had a spread out West, and Willie went to see it. By 1912 he wanted his family to move out West. He loved the wide-open spaces. But his wife Hannah refused to go. Willie wrote letters to Hannah, telling her how beautiful the land was, asking her to come. (Jim DeLarm still

has the letters.) Hannah did not answer Willie's letters. Finally, Willie came back home. When in 1921 the Graphite mill shut down in Hague, the company tore down the houses that the workers lived in. People needed new places to live. "Grandpa built a lot of houses in Hague," Jim said.

Excerpted from Recipes and Reminiscences – What's Cooking in Hague – 2007. Chris Ianson and Pat McDonough.