

10. Vrooman's Nose

This rocky "island of the sky" called by the Indians Onistigrawa is a unique Land Mark. Its summit consists of a relatively thick layer of Hamilton Sandstone. Many years ago its western edge was cleared of its thin layer of sandy loam by the local farmers who discovered its flat surface had been polished by the great Continental Glacier which scored its surface with grooves and chatter marks as it moved in a southwesterly direction.

This flat surface was used as a dance floor for many years. Over a long period of time its flat surface has been covered with hundreds of names carved into its sandstone surface by the local farmers.

The south facing cliff forming the Nose rises 600 feet above the flat, highly fertile, flood plain bordering the Schoharie. In the vicinity of the Nose these flats are a mile wide and were purchased from the Indians by Adam Vrooman in 1712. During World War II the summit was used by Scientists of General Electric in 1942 to evaluate the hiding capacity of a highly effective smoke screen invented at its Schenectady Research Laboratory. They used the valley as a giant "wind tunnel" a mile wide, ten miles long and 600 feet deep. The turkey buzzards of the region soar in the strong thermals generated on hot summer days as the sun heats the south facing rocky cliff of the Nose.

