

# Victor Genealogical Society

- ◆ **The Victor Genealogical Society is looking for new members.**
- ◆ **Your suggestions/comments are always welcome**

## Happy Holidays .

2009 was a fairly busy year for the Victor Genealogical Society.

We started the year by writing and adopting our by-laws.

By the end of the year we had new members from California, Virginia, South Carolina and Florida as well as locally.

We now have 17 members and the Newsletter staff and officers welcome all of you and hope you will renew your membership for the coming year.

We are almost 50% there for enough money to obtain our non-profit status. Thanks to all of you that donated additional monies toward this goal.

We also were glad to assist Donna Garvey from South



Victor, NY 1907

Carolina who was researching her Hart family. We were able to provide Donna with information she was missing and she donated several family pictures to our collection.

We also worked diligently to locate a home for the organization and collection and are currently pursuing several promising leads.

We now have approximately 150 files ranging from family genealogies to information on local cemeteries and churches, diaries of some early inhabitants, early maps and some artifacts.

Thanks to all of you for making 2009 a great year!

### Inside this issue :

A year in review	1
Membership	1
A Small Pioneer Cemetery	2
Mrs. Woodin's Strange Death	2
Sarah's Journals	3
Preserving Memories	3
Phoenix Mills	4

## We Need Your Membership

Anyone interested in joining the Victor Genealogical Society is urged to contact Dianne Parks at [Victorgenealogy.com](http://Victorgenealogy.com).

Membership is \$10.00 a year per person.

We will publish a quarterly

newsletter which will be mailed to all members in good standing.

Our goal is to gain non-profit status and to establish a web site for the Society.

Anyone interested in help-

ing us achieve these two goals is asked to contact us.

We will continue to provide research on families from the Victor area for a nominal fee.

## A Small Pioneer Cemetery

Bushnell's Basin, named after William Bushnell, has a small pioneer cemetery on Route 96 just east of Garnsey Road. The cemetery as well as the white frame church that stands in the Basin helped form the nucleus of the community.

This cemetery is the final resting spot for 200 Perinton residents, many of them war veterans as well as prominent citizens of their time.

The first burial is that of Clarissa Richardson who died in 1827 at the age of 25. Revolutionary War veteran, Amos Woodin died in 1842 and War of 1812 veteran, Jared Frisbee are also buried in this cemetery.

There are four graves of Civil War veterans, that include Otis Rosebrook, George Hill, Robert Hill and Captain David Hill. George, Robert and David were brothers.

In the cemetery record, there are 21 members of the Collins family. The family owned property to the east on Route 96. When Harskeline Collins owned the house, there is some evidence that it operated as a stop on the underground railroad.

Although the cemetery is actually in Monroe County, it ties into Victor's history as William Bushnell, for whom Bushnell's Basin is named is buried in the Victor Village Cemetery and many Victor people are buried in this small cemetery including Bonesteel, Brizze, Bortle, Cline and Conkhite.

Peter S. Bonstelle, born Sept 9, 1810 and died Aug. 17, 1881. Mary F. wife of Peter, died June 25, 1868. Other members buried here are Philip P., Catherine, wife of Peter P, Eliza Ann and Philip H.

Hiram Cronkhite, died March 13, 1867 at the age of 65. Ann, wife of Hiram, died Ju. 27, 1839 at the age of 43. Sarah Ketchum, wife of H. died Apr 2, 1885 at the age of 70.

Hannah Mary Cline, wife of Delivan died June 30, 1850 at 22 years of age.

Peter Bortle, died Sept. 24, 1860 at the age of 41. Seloma Scudder, wife of Philip died in 1890. Georga Ann, daughter of Philip and Seloma, died Nov 2, 1842 and was 11 years of age.

Many of the stones in the cemetery are missing, but those remaining are mostly of marble and many have high quality carvings.

A visit to this pioneer cemetery which once was shaded by many trees is a treat to those who enjoy going back in time. Make this a must do on your 2010 list.

## Mrs. Woodin's Strange Death

Information taken from "The Groaning Tree" by J. Sheldon Fisher

There was a lot of attention focused on Fisher's in 1851, during a murder trial held in Canandaigua. Henry Woodin of Fisher Road was accused of murdering his second wife and throwing her body into the well.

In the fall of 1843, Henry married Elizabeth A., after the death of his first wife, Lydia.

Elizabeth had been married before and owned quite a bit of property. On August 17, 1844, Henry and Elizabeth were seen quarreling and the next day her body was found floating in the well.

Henry packed his trunk and left for Plymouth, Michigan, a few miles west of De-

troit.

On a business trip back to Fishers, from Michigan, Henry Woodin was arrested for the murder of his wife.

The trial started on January 19, 1851 and lasted until January 24th. There was little evidence other than Mrs. Woodin was found in the well and only one person had slept in bed.

After all the witnesses testified, the jury could not agree and Mr. Woodin was never tried again.

Mr. Woodin then deeded his farm to Henry Van Voorhis. Henry Woodin headed a group of Fishers people who settled in Isabella County,

Michigan. His son owned a grist mill and it is said his father fell across a saw and was cut in two.

Strange things have happened over the years in the Woodin house.

The apparitions are always of a woman or of a man and woman wrestling. Passerby have noticed peculiar lights around the outside of the well.

Children have had trouble sleeping because of seeing the woman and would have their parents up with them until finally falling asleep

## “ Sarah ’ s J o u r n a l s ”

**Thanks to Lois Boughton-Smith Bumpus for this information. Journals of Sarah Aldrich Smith.**

Gleanings from 1855

Jan 28: “Left Farmington (*MI*) for Detroit. Father brought us to Perrins’. He lives on the banks of the Detroit River. I counted 14 schooners at once, and in the evening I saw a beautiful steamer start out for Cleveland”.

Jan 30: “Arose at 3 and started for home at four. Took the Ferryboat Transit for Canada. Took the cars at six and arrived in Farmington (*NY*) at 9 PM. We walked to Uncle’s and got there at ten minutes to ten”

Gleanings from 1856

Jan 2: “Uncle Clarkson and Father went to Freedom.” (*this is now called East Victor*).

Jan 3: “Mr. Scramblain, the music teacher, here for dinner. He will give me music lesson this winter. Father hired a piano for three months. Our family consists of Father, Mother, Grandparents, Georgie Redfield and myself.”

Gleanings from 1857

Mar 19: “Snowed and blowed very hard all day. Father went to Victor after Dr. C. Ball but he could not or would not come on account of the weather. He sent Mother an emetic. She took it in the evening and was very sick. She fainted away twice and was all gone”.

Mar 20: “Mother felt a little better. Grandma coughs considerable. Dr. Ball came and left Mother some medicine’.

Gleanings from 1864

Jan 1: “The new year begins, and a cold one it is. Cousin Elkanah Andrews came here, and Father and Mother went up to Uncle Clarkson’s. Moses, myself, and little Milton stayed home all day. Our people came home just at dusk. E. went to his boarding place. He teaches in District 1. I commenced to read the Bible through. Milton was 17 months old yesterday”.

Nov 23: “Cold and very bad going. So rough the ground is frozen hard. Moses and I went to Stephen Osborn’s funeral. He was a soldier, shot on picket. Sunderland Gardner preached.”

Expenses for 1857 :

Pr. overshoes.....	\$1.00
1 diary.....	.50
1 bottle of Balm of a Thousand Flowers....	.50
2 oz. cologne.....	.10
2 croshet hooks.....	.13
9 yards calico.....	1.13
1 Bosom pin--cameo.....	4.00
3 sticks of candy.....	.03
1 bonnet.....	5.50
1 pr. mitts.....	1.00
2 hose.....	.13
Bakery.....	.10
1 leather belt.....	.25
1 pr. cloth gaiters with heels.....	2.25
lace.....	.06
1 pr. gloves.....	.75
1 velvet head dress.....	1.13
1 penknife.....	.05
6 buttons.....	.13
1 pr. sidecombs.....	.05
1 collar.....	.06

## P r e s e r v i n g M e m o r i e s

### S a f e K e e p i n g t h e F a m i l y B i b l e

The family bible often holds records of important family events, such as marriages, births and deaths.

#### Preserve the data

Photograph the pages, if the book is fragile, don't try to scan or copy it as it could damage the spine. Open the bible and lay it flat and photograph the pages. Try to put in natural light as a flash will wash out the details.

#### Preserve the Bible

Clean it up by removing dust and dirt with a soft brush. Do not use paper clips as they will rust and damage pages.

#### Store lying flat

Don't store this book on a shelf upright. Using an acid-free box, wrap the book in acid free paper before putting it into the box. Keep the box in a dry, climate controlled area free from insects.

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## PHOENIX MILLS

In 1800, Ezekiel Scudder settled north of East Victor. In 1810, he erected the first permanent mill on Mud Creek. In 1826, Scudder sold the mill to Thomas Wright and Elihu Ingersoll. At some point, the mill and land was owned by Nathan Jenks who in 1830, sold the mill to Jabez Felt. Sometime later the mill and 6 acres of land was sold to Solomon Carman.

In 1860, East Victor Mills as it was known, burned and the building and its contents were a total wreck. The property had originally been used as a flour and feed and a saw mill, and was a prosperous business. At one point it was also used to manufacture cider and vinegar.

In 1867, the mill property was owned by Brownell Wilbur and was first referred to in the assessment books as Phoenix Mills. The name was appropriate as the new mill rose from the ashes like a phoenix.