

During her tenure as the first Horicon Town Historian, Edith Barton Clifford collected an amazing amount of information. She was a granddaughter of the original settlers in the town and her family knew the value of letter writing, journal keeping and passing this information on. Edith spent innumerable hours pouring over old newspapers and microfilm, collecting “snippets” from the Glens Falls Post Star and the Warrensburg News, gathering information from family letters and journals, as well as obtaining information from H.P. Smith’s 1885 *History of Warren County*. She first hand wrote these notes and later typed them. The dates on these notes are from the newspaper date they were published, but within a week of their reporting. Information, as I know it, has been added to better explain people and places. C. Murtagh

1817

The road from Bolton to Horicon was surveyed (through Padanaram). Settlers began moving into the Brant Lake country. Mail was carried on horseback from Sandy Hill (Hudson Falls) once a week.

The Adirondacks were part of the Kayaderoseras Mountains. Native Americans here were called “Barkeaters”. It was formerly claimed and occupied by a powerful tribe of the Odjibway Family, known to the French as Algonquins and to the Iroquois as the Adirondack tribe.

Industries were not organized before the formation of the town in 1838, but Moses Stickney had bought extensive properties and started lumbering much earlier than that. Just when the saw mill was built is unknown, but in 1813, logs were floated down the Schroon River to the mills in Glens Falls, this was the first in New York State to be sent down the river. (Book by Philip Vosburgh)

Among the early settlers was Bishop Carpenter at the foot of Schroon Lake. His son, Sylvester, settled in Horicon, Timothy Bennett settled in Hayesburg. Howard Waters was the first Postmaster in Horicon at the junction of Hayesburg and Bolton Roads, Nathan Hayes and his brother

Ben Hayes, John Robbins, James Frazier, Ben Wright, Beswicks and Charles Hayes were also early settlers.

1831

Even in 1831, there were few settlers and the country was wild and untenable. (Smith History) Only two or three frame houses had been built. Most people built log houses. There was no tavern, store, asherly or distillery. There were no churches, but services were held in homes in the community and in the three district schools.

In 1831, there was no post office, but mail was carried on horseback once a week by Claude Rawson of Schroon Lake. This was from Sandy Hill (now Hudson Falls).

Lumbering was a big industry. Settlers began coming from New England to get located in town. Settlers lived near Pharaoh Lake, in the woods near Adirondack and all the back roads throughout the town. About 1958 the *Conservationist* stated that Brant Lake had the finest stand of pine in New York State. Moses Stickney built the first saw mill in 1831, at little streams they built so called Mud Mills. They stacked up longs in the winter and sawed in the summer. A boarding house stood for many years at the outlet of Pharaoh Lake. Men also drew logs to Ticonderoga, in fact there was a wood road through the mountains from Pharaoh to Ti, via West Hague. One sawmill at the head of the lake was run by John J. Harris, one by John Griffin.

1833

The first Horicon Post Office was established in Horicon in 1833 (ed). It stood at the intersection of the Hayesburg and Bolton roads. The first Post Master was Howard Waters. (The original wooden post boxes are at the Horicon Historical Society Museum, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Durkish).

1838

On March 29, 1838, Horicon was formed from a large part of Bolton and a small section of Hague.

1840

A tavern was built at South Horicon by F.B.Cooledge. Later it was owned by Walter Prichard. The first tavern burned before the Civil War. Another inn was across the road and was run by Marcus Granger, who also had a blacksmith shop at South Horicon.

The Tannery was built about 1840. It burned in 1864 and was rebuilt.

1845

About 1845 Isaac Starbuck started a large tannery in the little hamlet of Starbuckville, below the dam on the Chester side of the Schroon River. It burned in 1870 and later they started a boat and shoe industry and store.

1849

Millbrook, later called Adirondack, was called a dismal wilderness.

Ed Owens was born in 1949 and died in 1933. When he was about three or four years old, the tannery chimney was being built. The workmen took him nearly to the top, when Mrs. Owens discovered him and properly had him down.

1850

Millbrook (Adirondack) started to be populated. There were no roads or houses. Benjamin Wells had the first tannery and then the town was built up in about 5 years.

The Methodist Episcopal Church in South Horicon was organized and erected. The Rev. H.L. Taylor was the first pastor.

1851

The road from Millbrook (Adirondack) to Chester was built.

1855

In February of 1855, Lowell Waters purchased the Horicon Mills of Smith Barton. His wife was Sarah Vandenburg of Bolton.,

1858

Brant Lake was still surrounded by unbroken wilderness.



1860

Ben Hayes (Ed Hayes' grandfather) located a hotel (log cabin) on the site of what is now Sunset Mt. Lodge.

1861

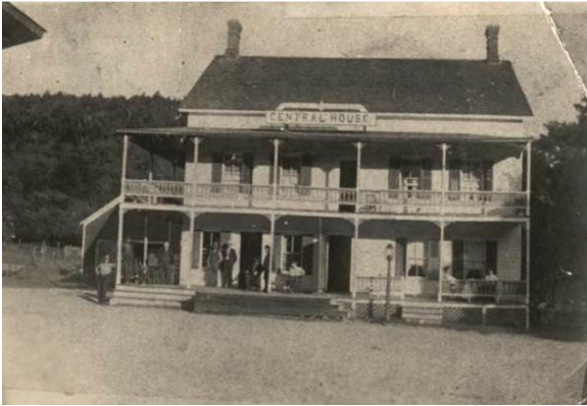
Horicon furnished more men in proportion than any other town in New York State. About 200 men volunteered, only one was drafted.

1864

The tannery at South Horicon was struck by lightning and burned on September 30th.

1881

The population of Horicon was 1633. George White, a hermit from Saratoga, came to Brant Lake and purchased of June Barton an island nearby which through the years has made its place in history. He was a bachelor and built a small cottage and lived there for several years until 1895. He had a causeway built from the mainland to the island. It was named Sand Point. (Now Point O' Pines)



1882

Judson Smith built a tavern (Central House) on the site of the present-day Horicon Fire Company. (It burned on February 19, 1927 after several smaller fires.)

1883

Ben Hayes has rebuilt a log house and added on. It was called the Trout Pavilion.