



*Schoolhouse 1895
Hall of Valiant 13*



*Union Academy
1791*



*Melodeon Factory
1854*

THE POULTNEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

proudly presents
this lithographed copy of

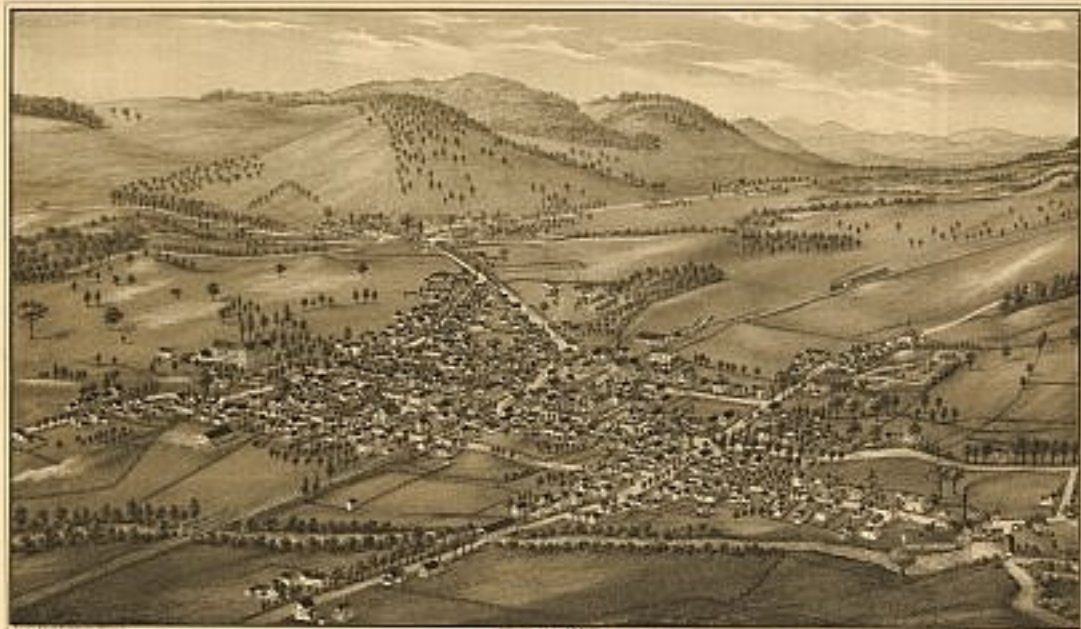
HISTORY OF POULTNEY

by
JOSLIN &
FRISBIE

to commemorate
the BICENTENNIAL OF VERMONT'S STATEHOOD
[1791-1991]

originally printed 1875
by The Journal Printing Office
Poultney, Vermont.

Reprinted 1990
by Journal Press, Inc.
Poultney, Vermont.



THE CITY OF
POUGHKEEPSIE
NEW YORK
INCORPORATED 1814
POPULATION 1880 12,000
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY CLERK JOHN W. BROWN
CITY ENGINEER J. W. BROWN
CITY ATTORNEY J. W. BROWN
CITY COMMISSIONER J. W. BROWN

1. Poughkeepsie is the seat of
the Dutchess County Court
and the County Jail.
2. Poughkeepsie is the seat of
the Dutchess County Court
and the County Jail.
3. Poughkeepsie is the seat of
the Dutchess County Court
and the County Jail.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y.

4. Poughkeepsie is the seat of
the Dutchess County Court
and the County Jail.
5. Poughkeepsie is the seat of
the Dutchess County Court
and the County Jail.

6. Poughkeepsie is the seat of
the Dutchess County Court
and the County Jail.
7. Poughkeepsie is the seat of
the Dutchess County Court
and the County Jail.

1880
1881
1882
1883

which was erected at the falls, where the east village now is, some little time before 1777."

It will now seem incredible when we say that many of the settlers went to the Manchester and Pawlet mills on foot, and carried their grain, meal and flour to and from on their shoulders; but such were facts, and we have one instance in which a man took a hundred pounds of iron upon his shoulders, carried the same to Manchester, and exchanged for its equivalent in meal, and brought that to his home in Poultney on his shoulders. The man's name is forgotten, but there is no doubt of the fact. It was not regarded as a remarkable feat then; now it would be.

The first town meeting on record was held March 8, 1775. Over this meeting Zebulon Richards presided as Moderator; Heber Allen was elected Town Clerk; Nehemiah Howe, Zebulon Richards and Cotton Fletcher, Selectmen; Isaac Ashley, Constable, and John Ashley, Tithing Man. "Voted, Six days work for each man on the highways." Josiah Lewis, Thomas Ashley, John Owen and Nehemiah Howe were appointed Surveyors of Highways, and the Selectmen, Thomas Ashley and Ebenezer Hyde were appointed a committee for laying out highways. The proceedings of this first meeting were closed by, "Voted, that hogs shall not run in the road." The proprietors' meetings, which were commenced in Massachusetts and Connecticut, were kept up until 1792.

An old man, a life-long resident of Poultney, once said to the writer, "the first settlers of the town were the Ethan Allen stamp of men." This can be appreciated, as we come to know their characters and history. One brother of Ethan Allen (Heber) settled in Poultney, and, as we have seen, was made the first town clerk; Ebenezer Allen was a relative—it has been said a cousin—of Ethan; Thomas Ashley (as tradition has it) was connected by marriage; and, indeed, most of those who settled here prior to 1777, were so many Allens in resolution, bravery and physical endurance. It was during this time (between 1771 and 1777) that the Green Mountain Boys acquired such an enviable fame by their successful resistance to the New

York claimants, and in the taking of Ticonderoga, May 10, 1775. Ethan Allen, as all the world knows, was the leader in those marvelous exploits, of which the history of this country furnishes no parallel; and it is only when we come to know the character of the settlers generally, that we can regard the history of those eventful years as anything but fiction. Every man was a hero—strong, bold, resolute and determined. Every man had a purpose—and that was to defend his home—and all his energies were directed to that end.

Several of the settlers were present at the taking of Ticonderoga, but we cannot now give the names of all. Elisha Ashley, in his Rutland Herald article, says that Thomas Ashley "was the next man to Allen that entered in taking the fort at old "Ti," and stood at the head of the stairs as sentinel while Allen entered the room of the commander," and demanded the surrender of the fort "in the name of the Great Jehovah, and the Continental Congress." Of the other settlers, it is probable that most of them were there who could be. Such men as the Ashley brothers, Richards, Marshall, Ebenezer Allen, Heber Allen, Zeb. Dewey, John Grant and Josiah Lewis, were ever ready for an emergency, and it is not likely they avoided any responsibility at this time. We have reliable information which shows that several of those named were there, and never heard or read any complaint that either neglected his duty, or was a coward. In our biographical sketches, we shall give something more of the parts taken by individuals in the memorable struggles of these early days in the history of our town.

At this day we should irresistibly come to the conclusion that a settlement, under the circumstances in which the settlement of Poultney was commenced, would be a fool-hardy project, and not to be attempted. But the settlers were successful, and the philosopher will look for the reasons. "They were all," says Mr. Ashley, "extremely poor." With their poverty, they came into a wilderness hitherto uninhabited by the white man, and undertook the clearing up of the forest, making for themselves homes, and establishing civilized society. In addition to this Herculean task, they soon found themselves at war with the

1638; took the freeman's oath 1640. He was surnamed The Just by the Indians, near whom he lived and by whom he was usually chosen umpire for the decision of their numerous quarrels. He was the first white settler in Marlborough, Mass., the father of twelve children, one of whom, named John, born Aug. 24, 1640, married 1662, killed by Indians 1675, leaving a son John b. 1671—leaving son Peter b. 1695, who was the father of Nehemiah Howe, who moved to New Marlborough, in western Massachusetts, where he married and where his children were all born. He came to Poultney about the year 1772, and died April 1777. His children were:

Abner, b. Nov. 17, 1747.

Olive, b. Jan. 5, 1750.

Phebe, b. Jan. 31, 1752, d. Nov. 20, 1758.

Beulah, b. May 31, 1754.

Peter, b. Aug. 1, 1756.

Candis, b. May 7, 1758.

Phebe, b. Feb. 19, 1761.

John, b. May 2, 1763.

Joel, b. April 7, 1765.

Abner settled in Wells and d. there leaving a son, Benajah, who was brought up by John Howe, went to Canada where he m. and afterwards went to Indiana. Olive first m. Isaac Ashley, and after his decease in 1777, m. Joseph Rann. Beulah m. Mr. Holmes. Peter moved to Ohio, was the father of two boys and nine girls, four of whom are now living in that state; Sophronia, aged 84; Sylvanus, aged 79; Cyrenus, aged 82; Orinda, aged 76. Candis m. John Tilden. Phebe m. Wm. Ashley. John Howe lived and died in Poultney, leaving two sons, Zimri Howe who settled in Castleton, Vt., and d. there, leaving one son John, now residing at Pensacola, Florida, and one daughter Caroline, the wife of Rev. James A. Paige now residing at Rushville, Ill.

Alonzo, b. July 11, 1798, d. April 15, 1866, leaving four children: Eusebia Ann, b. Sept. 20, 1731; John Alonzo, b. Oct. 1, 1834; Eunice Courance, b. May 8, 1837; Harrison, b. Feb. 3, 1850. Eusebia Ann now resides in East Foultney. Eunice C.