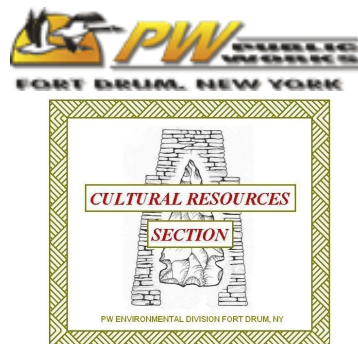


Historic Villages *of* Fort Drum Tour



*Gas Station and Home in North Wilna, New York
now on the Fort Drum Military Installation.*

*Disclaimer: This booklet was published on 11/7/2017, updated 10/15/2018 as a compilation of
recorded histories from the Fort Drum Cultural Resources Program for educational purposes.
Compiled by Heather Wagner, CSU-CEMML Fort Drum, NY.*





Front Cover: The people on the cover are just some of the residents of the villages and farms displaced in 1941 when the War Department purchased over 75,000 acres of what now is encompassed by the Fort Drum Military Installation.

Perhaps one of the more interesting characters in the villages and farms was a wanderer who called no one village home but photographs of him are with many of our descendent families from all villages. Known as "The Sage of Pine Plains" Charles R. Sherman was born in Watertown, Jefferson County, New York in 1842. He was the son of Eli P. Sherman who was a prosperous Wall Street commission merchant. They were one of the oldest and wealthiest families in Jefferson County. His uncle, John A. Sherman, gave the Washington Hall site to the Watertown Y.M.C.A. When he was a very young boy his parents died, and he went to live with his grandparents in Great Bend.

He spent his life in the area selling newspapers and picking huckleberries to sell. He became known as "Huckleberry Charlie." He claimed that the huckleberries that grew on Pine Plains, which is now Fort Drum, were the biggest and the best there were. He had a wagon which he rode through the north country peddling his wares. He has

been quoted as saying. *"They're free from sticks, stones and bruises. Some are black and some are blue. Come up, kind people, and purchase a few, for this is my last time through. Get yer huckleberries."*

Huckleberry Charlie was known for telling stories and yarns, and for his colorful sayings. Some people called him eccentric, a crackpot and even crazy. His wife Dell at one time thought him crazy and wanted him put in an institution. He received donations from different local merchants of food and clothing that wouldn't sell. He would wear bright and odd combinations of clothing which only increased the folk tales of his character.

Even after the military bought land on Pine Plains and was using it for training, Huckleberry Charlie seemed to get along fine and still went about picking his berries. The only conflict was in the summer of 1908 when the army was divided into two groups. One group was wearing red and one blue and were on maneuvers practicing a sneak attack, when Charlie went yelling to the one team where the other was. He didn't want the men to be attacked who always saw that he had plenty to eat. The officers were not happy and accused him of treason, but nothing came of it.

Charles R. Sherman better known as the eccentric "Huckleberry Charlie" and "The Sage of Pine Plains" died January 14, 1921 at the age of 79. His funeral was at the Baptist Church in Great Bend, Jefferson County, New York. They say the church that day was full with people from near and far.



**St. Patrick's Catholic Church,
Lewisburg**



Hurburt's Store, Lewisburg



Hoover's Store, Sterlingville



**James Sterling's House,
Sterlingville**



**(Right) Sampson
family from
Sterlingville ca.
1940**



**(Left) Gravestone of William
Anderson and his wife Elisabeth.
Mr. Anderson is a veteran from
the US Colored Troops during the
US Civil War.**

Heroes Walk

Memorial Park also features the Heroes Walk. The granite pedestals that make up the Heroes Walk surround the Military Mountaineers Statue. The pedestals stand as sentinels, watchful guards for the Soldiers both past and present. The pedestals commemorate operations in which the 10th Mountain Division has played a part starting with Operation Uphold Democracy in 1994 and continuing through Operation Enduring Freedom. The National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, in conjunction with Fort Drum's Directorate of Public Works, is responsible for creating and installing these tributes. Former Fort Drum Chief of Staff, 2nd Brigade Commander and Assistant Division Commander for Support, and former National Association of the 10th Mountain Division president, Colonel (ret) Mike Plummer has been the driving force behind the Heroes Walk.



The pedestals are for the families of the fallen as well as for those who fought through the campaigns. As COL Plummer said in an interview, “*...so that each Soldier can see these plaques and see his part of the Mountain.*”

The Heroes Walk is designed to encourage Soldiers and veterans to feel pride in the part they played in their campaigns as well as remember their fellow fallen Soldiers. Annual ceremonies are held at the Heroes Walk when plaques are placed in memory of the recently fallen.

Unit and Brigade Memorials

Currently there are three other memorials also located in Memorial Park. These memorials can be visited while exploring the walking trails in the wooded areas of the Park. 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry (Triple Deuce) regimen have placed a battle cross as well as three pedestals which contain the names of the fallen in Afghanistan and Iraq. 2nd Brigade 78th Division has placed a memorial pavilion in remembrance of Soldiers lost in Iraq in 2005. 3rd Brigade Combat Team also known as “Spartans” have placed their own memorial to honor 109 Soldiers killed in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The US Army and Fort Drum is committed to good stewardship of Fort Drum lands, including preservation of its cultural resources; the ancestral places, homesteads, and historic districts. The lost homes of our past inhabitants now serve, in part, to educate our Soldiers about the sacred and ancient places they will be encountering abroad. However, it is the descendants who make a preservation program complete. The Fort Drum Cultural Resources team first wishes to thank all of the Native Americans and inhabitants of the Lost Villages and their families who have shared their time, thoughts, memories, and images over the past twenty years. Your generosity and interest have made our responsibilities a joy.

A “Lost Village” tour would not be possible without Jim Moore and his team at the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security, and Sean Johnson and his team at Public Works, Roads and Grounds. From clearing the areas of ordnance to rebuilding the washed out roads, we owe these amazing professionals our greatest respect. Rylan Walker and his experienced and gracious bus drivers will be especially appreciative of their efforts. We thank them as well.

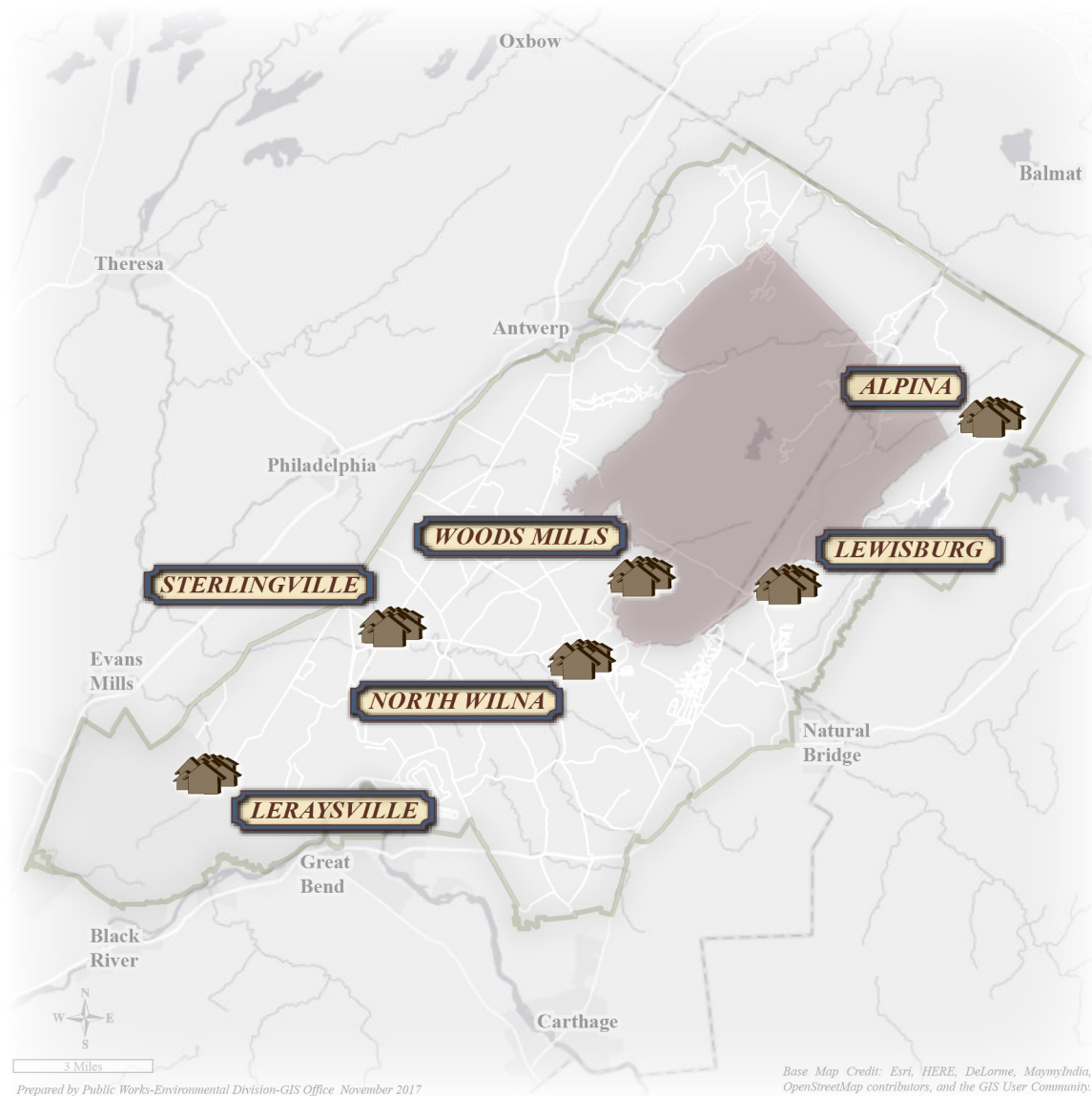
The Fort Drum Public Affairs Office has provided the coordination making this trip possible by reaching out to all of you and thinking of the details to make the trip as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

Our special thanks go to MG Walter Piatt and his wife Cynthia who have welcomed the community to share in the treasure of our history and heritage at Fort Drum.

Dr. Laurie W. Rush
& the Cultural Resources team

For a searchable cemetery database for cemeteries associated with the historic villages and farmsteads on Fort Drum please go online to:

<https://fortdrum.isportsman.net/Cemeteries.aspx>



Location of the Five National Register of Historic Place listed village properties, plus the crossroads community of North Wilna, Fort Drum, NY.

Military Mountaineers Statue

The creator of the Fallen Warrior Monument, Susan Grant Raymond, first created the Military Mountaineers statue. This statue, originally commissioned by the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, was dedicated on Fort Drum in 1991. The Association hosted a design competition won by Mrs. Grant Raymond with her theme of the World War II Military Mountaineer assisting the 10th Mountain Soldier of today in his “Climb to Glory.”

The Military Mountaineers statue was unveiled in 1991 at the corner of Mt. Belvedere and Enduring Freedom where Visitor’s Park is currently located. Later, the 10th Mountain Division Commander selected the statue to serve as the centerpiece for the new Memorial Park, a place of honor in full view of Hayes Hall and the headquarters campus. To approach the Statue one follows a walkway composed of bricks imprinted with personalized memorial messages. These bricks are offered through the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division with all proceeds supporting the 10th Mountain Division (Light) Scholarship fund.



Memorial Park

Fallen Warrior Monument

The 10th Mountain Division has served at the forefront of 21st century conflicts around the world, and 10th Mountain Soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice. The Fallen Warrior Monument is designed to honor the Fallen while illustrating the bond between comrades in battle and the pain of loss. As a Soldier kneels at the battle cross others look on in an eternal gaze of remembrance. The battle cross itself holds meaning in each part: The helmet and dog tags signify the Soldier, whose name is never to be forgotten. The inverted rifle signals a break in the action to pay tribute to the fallen, and the boots represent the final march of the Soldier's last battle. The Soldiers and child walking into the future are an inspiring message of hope and freedom.



The Fallen Warrior Monument connects all members of the Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division community to the honor and sacrifice of our fallen heroes and the Families they have left behind. Representatives of the 10th Mountain Division Association, led by Mr. Nathan Morell approached Susan Grant Raymond with a proposal for a new statue. Raising the necessary funds proved to be a challenge until 2010 when the Department of Army awarded the Fort Drum Civilian Workforce with the silver medal for an Army Community of Excellence. This award provided the funds that allowed for commission of the new monument. At the groundbreaking ceremony for the Fallen Warrior Monument on October 5th, 2011, Colonel Gary Rosenberg, Garrison Commander, commended civilian employees for their decision to use their award funds to honor the fallen.

Fort Drum History & the 1941 Expansion

Camp Hughes

Col. Philip Reade, as regimental commander of the 23rd U.S. Infantry at Madison Barracks, was a driving force behind Camp Hughes' selection and success. Reade realized that developments in modern military weapons such as bolt action rifles, machine guns, and rapid firing artillery pieces had exceeded the capability of the U.S. Army to train at Sackets Harbor. He then coordinated with local North Country leaders and the Watertown Chamber of Commerce to look for a new training area. The area in Felts Mills, immediately north of the Black River, was chosen. Between Aug. 31 and Sept. 7, 1907, the New York National Guard established a temporary tent encampment, which they called Camp Hughes. Camp Hughes was named for Charles E. Hughes, who was then the governor of New York. Since that summer, U.S. Army Soldiers have trained annually at that site.

Pine Camp

The following year in 1908, Brigadier General Frederick Dent Grant, the oldest son of President Ulysses S. Grant, led thousands of Soldiers back to the area north of Black River, known locally as Pine Plains. Grant commanded 2,000 Regular Army Soldiers and 8,000 militia men from throughout the Northeast. He found Pine Plains to be an ideal place to train troops and money was allocated to purchase the land and summer training continued there through the years. The camp at Pine Plains formally opened on June 11, 1908, and training continued throughout the summer.

The camp's first introduction to the national spotlight came in 1935 when the largest peacetime maneuvers were held on Pine Plains and surrounding farmlands. Thirty-six thousand five hundred Soldiers came from throughout the Northeast to take part in the exercise. Some Soldiers travelled by trains, which arrived in town every 15 minutes, coming from as far away as Buffalo and New York City. For 36 hours, young men from offices, factories, and farms marched, attacked and defended in tactical exercises on the 100-mile stretch of land the Army had leased for its war games. The maneuvers were judged to be most successful, and the War Department purchased another 9,000 acres of land.

With the outbreak of World War II, the area then known as Pine Camp was selected for a major expansion when an additional 75,000 acres of land were purchased. With that purchase, 525 local families were displaced. Five entire villages were eliminated, while others were reduced from one-third to one-half their size. By Labor Day 1941, 100 tracts of land were taken over. Three thousand buildings, including 24 schools, six churches and post offices, were abandoned.

10th Mountain Division & Fort Drum Museum

The 10th Mountain Division & Fort Drum Museum, located in the Heritage Center, tells the story of the base as well as the 10th Mountain Division through artifacts, informational boards, and interactive multimedia. Artifacts on exhibit range from the early military history of the North Country to the founding of Camp Hughes in 1907, which would eventually become Fort Drum, to the "Coveted Rock of Somalia" and Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The Museum is free and open to Soldiers and civilians.

The Museum holds an archive of photography and documents, as well as outdoor exhibits and additional artifacts not currently on display. Upon request, the Museum is able to provide group tours, host special functions (such as promotion ceremonies) and allow access to the print archive to military members researching unit history.

Address: Heritage Center, Building 10502
South Riva Ridge Loop
Fort Drum, NY 13602
Phone: 315-774-0355

Find them on Facebook at:
[www.facebook.com/
FortDrumMuseum/](https://www.facebook.com/FortDrumMuseum/)



LeRay Mansion

James LeRay de over 600,000 acres in the late eighteenth Jacques Donatien LeRay friend of Benjamin financial and political



Chaumont purchased northern New York in century. His father, de Chaumont, was a Franklin and key supporter of the

American Revolution. It was LeRay's plan to subdivide and sell the land to new immigrants with the hope of rebuilding his family's fortune. The original house was destroyed by fire, and the current mansion was built from 1826-1827.

The LeRay property was designed as a combination of a formal estate and a model farm. The estate portion featured the Mansion, formal French gardens and park, household servants quarters, a chapel, and a land office. The model farm included quarters for the farm manager and a series of farm buildings including a substantial barn. Five of the original structures remain standing in the Mansion district: the Mansion, servant's quarters, farm manager's house, land office, and possible ice house.

Archeological features include foundation remains of at least five additional structures, remains of formal landscape features including laid stone walls for the brook and pond, an original wooden water pipe system, and the LeRay's wine bottle dump. James LeRay's grand-daughter, Clotilde is buried near the formal pond. Daughter of Thérèse de Gouvello, the baby died at the age of fifteen months on the estate.

Today the LeRay Mansion hosts important events for our Fort Drum and community. The Cultural Resources team is housed in the Mansion and in the surrounding outbuildings, which will not only house day-to-day operations but will also serve as the Center for Cultural Heritage Training. Currently the Natural Resources team is beginning operations to make the Caretaker's Cottage into the Natural Resources Outreach Center.

Sterlingville

Sterlingville is located on Black Creek in the Town of Philadelphia in Jefferson County, New York. Although sawmills were built in this location prior to 1835, the village derives its significance from its association with the iron industrialist James Sterling.

Historian J.H. French claimed that this village was known as Delauncey's Mill as early as 1807. However, other local histories date the earliest structures to 1824, when a sawmill was built for Edward Tucker and a large distillery was erected. This mill was soon abandoned and a second sawmill was built in 1834. This sawmill was also abandoned, and in 1836 James Sterling built yet another sawmill. The village at that time contained three dwellings but was so small that it was not even mentioned in Thomas Gordon's Gazetteer of the State of New York, published in that year.

Natural resources in the vicinity of Fort Drum were ideal for promoting a local iron industry in the early nineteenth century. Relevant resources included water power, iron ore, limestone and wood for charcoal. The earliest effort to exploit these resources



within the boundaries of the present military reservation date to 1816 when George Parish dammed the river and erected a forge on the southern bank of Indian River, about one mile above Antwerp bridge, establishing a wrought iron works. Known as the Antwerp Iron Company, Parish established a plant in Carthage between 1818 and 1828 under the local management of James LeRay's land agent Patrick Somerville Stewart.

Sterlingville was the first and oldest of the iron villages controlled by James Sterling. His investments in the blast furnace that became the nucleus of Sterlingville in 1837 were based on his control of the local iron mine supply. In that year Sterling erected his first furnace in Sterlingville and started the Sterling Iron Company.



Horton Hotel, Sterlingville, built in 1841

to James Sterling who erected a new furnace upon the property under his Sterling Iron Company. In 1850 Sterling reported in the federal census that the furnace in operation at Sterlingville required 1,000,000 bushels of charcoal and 1,000 tons of ore per year. The Sterlingville works were at this point the largest in the area producing 225,000 railroad “chairs” and 450 tons of pig iron.



He kept this foundry in operation, principally upon ores from the Sterling mine, until 1858. In 1857 Sterling found himself overextended. He

Corbin Store, Sterlingville, ca. 1930s

two times during a twenty-four hour period. It would be emptied by a gutterman who would knock out an easily broken clay plug in a hole in the side of the dam. When the outside air hit the molten metal, a loud explosion of sound would boom through the vicinity of the furnace. When the discharge thundered, the furnace was said to be "in blast". The loud blast could be hear for miles around. The molten metal would flow into a trench system dug in the sand floor surrounding the casting hearth. The trenches were dug with a triangular-shaped hoe and were known as pig trenches. (The iron which filled the pig trenches would then be referred to as *pigiron*.) The main trench that extended from the hearth in a long, straight line was known as the *sow* and smaller trenches that branched off the sides of the main sow trench were called the *pig* trenches. It was left there to bubble as it cooled. In the meantime, the gutterman would dig another system of trenches on the opposite side of the hearth for the next flow of metal. When it was sufficiently cool to handle, the *pigs* or *pig iron* was broken off of the *sow* and the *sow* likewise was broken up into more manageable lengths to be transported to foundries.

The product was known as “pig” or “cast” iron and contained relatively high amounts of carbon into which molten iron was absorbed as it worked its way down through the charcoal in the furnace. Then it was either cast into vessels called “halloware” or it required a second processing known as “fining” were it was re-melted and stirred in an air blast to force out the carbon. The refined iron melted into a lump that was hammered into shape by a drop hammer producing a “bar” that blacksmiths could utilize.

SAFETY

A blast furnace generates two products: one is pig iron which is the marketable/usable product and the other is slag which is typically discarded at the site. Slag is usually a mixture of metal oxides and silicon dioxide but may also contain metal sulfides and elemental metals, which may be harmful to handle. Blast furnace slag is a distinctive, dense glass-like substance. Use caution, it may still maintain sharp or irregular edges. The colors come both from minerals and elements within the iron ore and the fluxing agent (limestone on Fort Drum). There is much discussion in the academic field as to whether the process or the ingredients, or both, and, if so, to what extent, influenced the color, but no satisfactory conclusion has been found. Slag was an unmarketable by-product but may have been used as fill, roadbeds, or for decorative landscaping purposes.

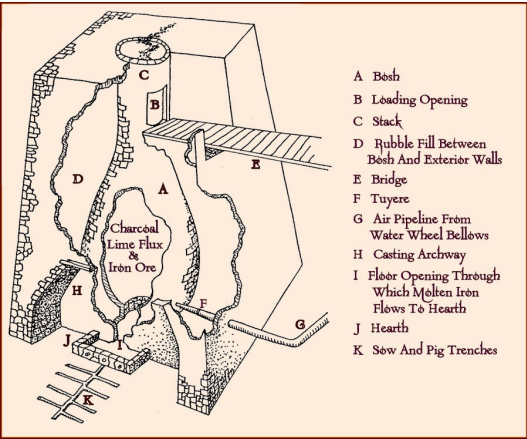


brushwood which needed to be dried sufficiently to catch fire. A layer of charcoal (or later, coal) would be placed on top of this, and on top of that would be placed pieces of broken limestone. The limeburner would set fire to the brushwood through the bottom hole. As soon as it ignited, it would be left alone to burn. When it had burned itself out and cooled, the contents would be raked out through the bottom hole.

The lime that was produced by burning the limestone needed to be slaked before it could be used in the iron furnace. This involved leaving the lime in small piles out in the open air where it would be rained upon. The reaction of the water on the lime would produce calcium hydroxide or slaked lime, which would then be ready for the iron furnace to act as flux.

To run a furnace, water was directed over the wheel in the same manner as in a grist mill. This explains why so many older grist mills were purchased by the ironmasters and then converted to the furnace's needs ~ it was cheaper to purchase a pre-existing mill than to go to the expense of constructing the necessary dam, raceways and wheel to perform that function. Large bellows, like those employed in a blacksmith's forge, were operated by cams attached to the water wheel's shaft. After 1820, cylindrical bellows were introduced which increased the capacity of air. These were constructed in the form of barrels which had air pipes leading out from both ends and a diaphragm in the center. As the cams moved the diaphragm, the air was pushed out first one end of the barrel and then out the other end so that a double amount of air was sent to the furnace. The air was piped to the bosh, which was the actual furnace itself, and which consisted of an egg-shaped structure into which the four ingredients (iron ore, lime, charcoal and water ~ in the form of air) were fed. As the water turned the wheel, causing the cams to compress the bellows alternately, the constant force sent a steady supply of air surging into the bosh. As long as this supply of air held, that is until the mill pond froze over causing the wheel to halt, and as long as the supply of the other ingredients lasted, the furnace would remain firing. It was not uncommon for firing to last thirty to forty weeks on end, or in other words nearly year-round.

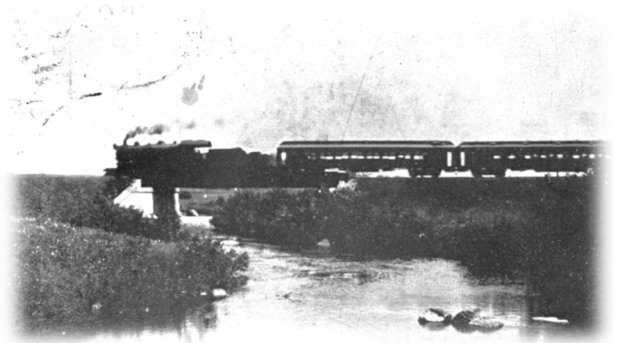
Successive layers of charcoal, iron ore and lime flux would be dumped into the stack so that the bosh would be kept full, day and night. As the iron ore separated into the pure molten metal and the lime/slag aggregate, the molten iron would flow into the casting hearth. The hearth consisted basically of a contained area of the floor at the main archway which was dammed up by stone to hold the molten metal. In the normal course of firing the furnace, this hearth would fill up with molten iron at least



Schoolhouse (left) and Undated school class picture (right), Sterlingville, New York

suffered heavy financial losses and closed two of his furnaces, although the Sterlingville furnace continued to operate. No Sterling properties are listed in the 1860 census and by 1869 all of the properties were sold to Jefferson County Iron Company. However some histories indicate that the furnace was re-opened in 1863 by his sons Alexander Pinny James (A.P.) Sterling and Rochester Hungerford Sterling. In 1865, under their management, they produced 1,000 tons of iron for Union use in the US Civil War. The furnaces were kept lit by this company until the 1870s. With the iron industry declining so did the populations of the villages of Sterlingville and Lewisburg.

The Rome, Watertown, and Ogdensburg Railroad was extended through Sterlingville. Despite the decline in operation of the furnaces the entries in the gazetteers and directories of this period suggest a fairly busy village. In 1864, the village contained L.H. Mill's general store, Sterling's furnace, Essington's forge, two carriage manufacturers, a physician, and a hotel, which may have doubled as a tavern and lodging house for employees of the various industrial plants. Two years later, Hamilton Child reported a basket maker, blacksmith, boot and shoe shop, butcher, butter producer, milliner, music teacher, painter, postmaster, two physicians, three carpenters, two carriage makers, one chair maker, one manufacturer of cheese boxes, one cooper, a watch and clock repair shop, a liquor dealer, one dressmaker, the forge, a gristmill, a grocery, a hotel, a pump maker, four sawmills, a shingle mill, a wood turner, two dealers in lumber, and one dealer in livestock.



Rome, Utica & Ogdensburg Railroad crossing Black Creek in Sterlingville, New York

In 1870 A.P. Sterling and Edgar

Peckham built a new forge on the former sawmill site. Forge construction cost more than \$20,000 and employed 100 men until 1873 when financial panic forced the furnace to close.

After the iron industry phased out, the village continued to function as a stop on the railroad and a service center for the surrounding farmers. In 1890 village businesses had decreased in size compared to the 1850s. Businesses included a American Express office, two stores, a grocery, two blacksmith shops, a sawmill, a hotel, two churches, 40 homes and a rail station.

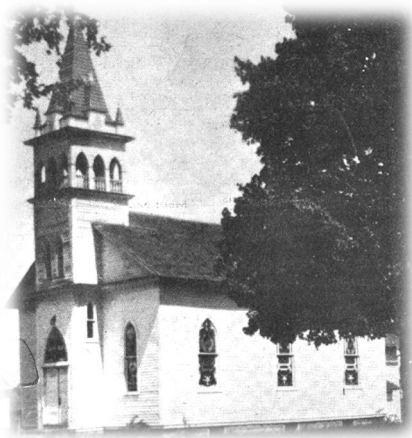
Sterlingville was named for James Sterling, a man remembered in history for his Paul Bunyan-esque qualities. Familiarly known as the “Iron King of the North Country,” James was said to have weighed 40 pounds at 10 months of age, 200 lbs. by 14 and topped out at 396 lbs. (folk tales say he carried a 4-lb. weight in his pocket to make it an even 400 lbs.). Popular stories about him abound, one that Watertown's Hotel Woodruff had a chair made especially for him. Other stories talk of his compassion and gentle nature, *“James had one old horse which he had ridden for many years. Sometimes he would return home from a journey, carrying the saddle on his arm and leading the animal by its halter strap. Now, I call that compassion!”*



James Sterling

York, supporting it heavily with his personal finances.

Sterling was a Quaker but followed James LeRay’s tradition of donating land to churches, like the land where Sterlingville’s St. Mary’s Catholic church once stood. (Many of his workers in the iron works were of Irish and Polish descent, the majority of whom were Catholic in faith. This may have prompted his decision to give the land and



Catholic Church ca.1935
Sterlingville, New York

vicinity of Fort Drum.

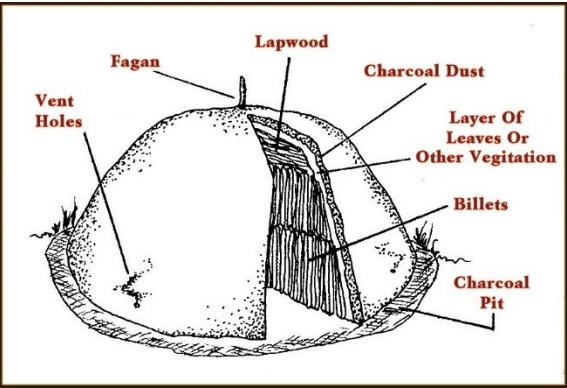
All of the ironworks located on Fort Drum were charcoal-fueled and generally were cold-blast furnaces. All were established prior to the Civil War and all represented a form of iron processing that became largely obsolete in the second half of the nineteenth century.

The US market share of “pig” or “cast” iron produced from charcoal-fueled ironworks peaked at 47 percent in 1854, then began a consistent and rapid decline. The decline of the Fort Drum area’s iron forge industry was due in large part to the area’s inability to adapt to changing technologies. Prior to 1865 the margin of profit per ton of iron produced with mineral fuel (coke, bituminous coal, anthracite coal or a mixture of those) was double that of charcoal pig iron. This shift in production style coupled with the innovations of hot-blast and powerful blowing machines may have been why Sterling was reluctant to make his forges shift. In fact wood was plentiful in the area for the production of charcoal and mineral fuels would have had to be shipped in. The high costs of switching to machine blowers and hot-blast furnace and the change in fuel usage may have been too much of a capital investment to make.

The science and technology behind iron furnaces is fascinating. Iron ores are compounds of iron and oxygen (i.e. iron oxides). The purpose of heating the iron and charcoal was to force the oxygen to combine with the carbon allowing the metallic iron to precipitate out.

Blast furnaces, like those in use in the Fort Drum area, were introduced in the 14th century. Iron ore and charcoal were loaded into the top of a furnace while a blast of air was pumped in at the bottom by a water powered bellows. Wood was converted to charcoal, which provided a better form of fuel to heat and melt the iron-ore, and that conversion was accomplished by the *collier*. It was a tiring job. Charcoal would burn longer and more evenly than wood in its natural form, and so it was the perfect fuel for the industry of iron making.

Later, crushed limestone was added as a flux. The preparation of the limestone for use in the iron furnace involved the process known as *lime burning*. In this process, the *limeburner* would construct a large brick or stone pot-shaped kiln which had a small hole in the bottom and an open top. The bottom of the kiln was filled with

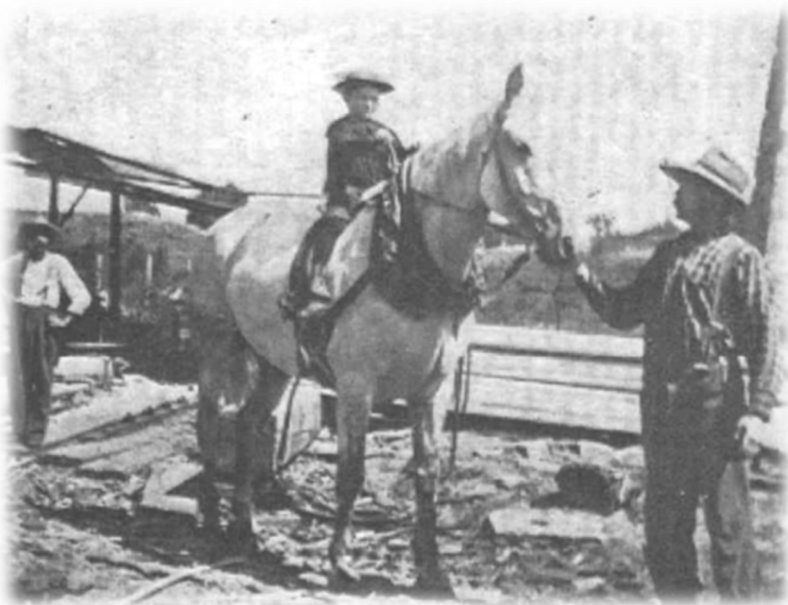


Example of how a Collier constructed a mound to make charcoal.

Iron Works Industry

The communities of Sterlingville, Sterlingburgh, Lewisburg (earlier named Sterlingbush) and Alpina were centered on an ironworks industry. The ironworks furnaces and scattered slag are slowly being reclaimed by the stronger-than-iron force of nature. Molten iron poured from these furnaces to make canons to protect the Union, railroad lines that increased the size of the US and to provide blacksmiths with the material to make everyday items that were indispensable in creating the US we know today. The workers of Sterling’s ironworks were mostly immigrants of Irish and Polish nationalities.

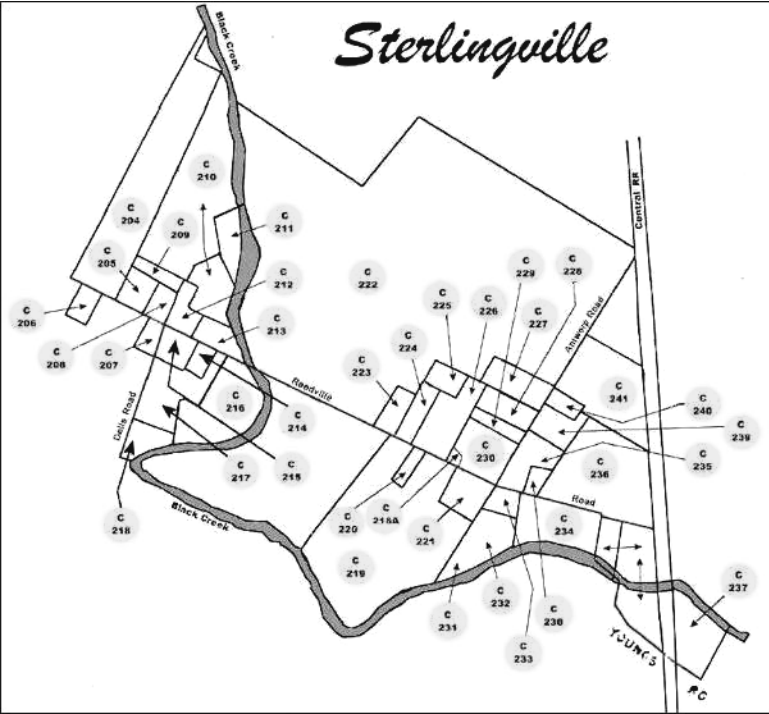
At the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, Americans produced about 15 percent of the world’s output of iron which was made largely for domestic consumption. Iron processing in New York State dates to 1740 and was done by four different types of plants: charcoal-blast furnaces, anthracite-fueled furnaces, rolling mills, and Catalon forges or bloomeries. The relatively few charcoal-blast furnaces in the state were mainly found in the



Undated photograph of the Sterling Iron Works in Sterlingville, New York.

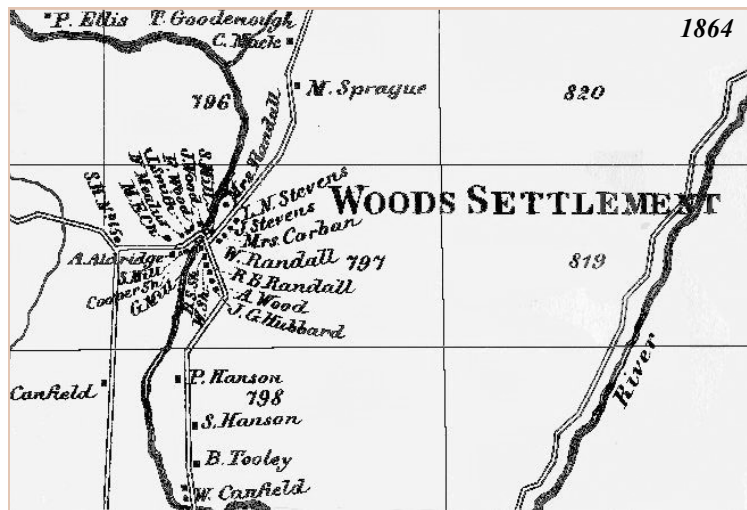
financial aid with the building of the Catholic churches in Sterlingville and Lewisburg.) The church was built in 1838, destroyed by fire in 1848 and later rebuilt. In the winter of 1885, it was moved across the frozen ice of the creek and into the village. A mile south of St. Mary's cemetery on Plank Road, is the Protestant cemetery. In Evert’s and Holcomb's 1878 "History of Jefferson County" it is referred to as the Town Burying Ground, but by Fort Drum it is listed as Gates Cemetery because it is believed to have come from farmland owned by the Gates family. This cemetery provided burial places for several denominations, and ii is where James is buried.

1941 Tax Map



Tract	Owner
C204	Lottie E Brannon
C205	Anna Rice
C206	J. N. Mack
C207	J and J Dwyer
C208	M and A Hoover
C209	M and A Baxter
C210	Frances Mantle
C211	S. J. Astafan
C212	John Boyle
C213	C and A Leonard
C214	Ettie Main
C215	E and E Goff
C216	Charles R. Wilcox
C216A	St. Mary's Catholic Church
C217	Minerva Haley (Estate)
C218	Everied C. Locke
C219	Mary A. Bullard
C220	Ada M. Corbin
C221	R and M Cain
C222	Charles R. Wilcox
C223	Union Church (Trustees)
C224	C and L Mack
C225	School District No. 1
C226	E and L Percy
C227	C and C Marcott
C228	Leonard H. Lindsley
C229	T. Riley (Estate)
C230	M and A Hoover
C231	G and G Mack
C232	Commission of Welfare
C233	L and M Kellogg
C234	C and M Wilcox
C235	L and C Mack
C236	Rozelle Rich
C237	Earl Mosher
C238	L and C Mack
C239	Eliza Flick
C240	C and H Flansburg
C241	John Whaling (Estate)

Woods Mill

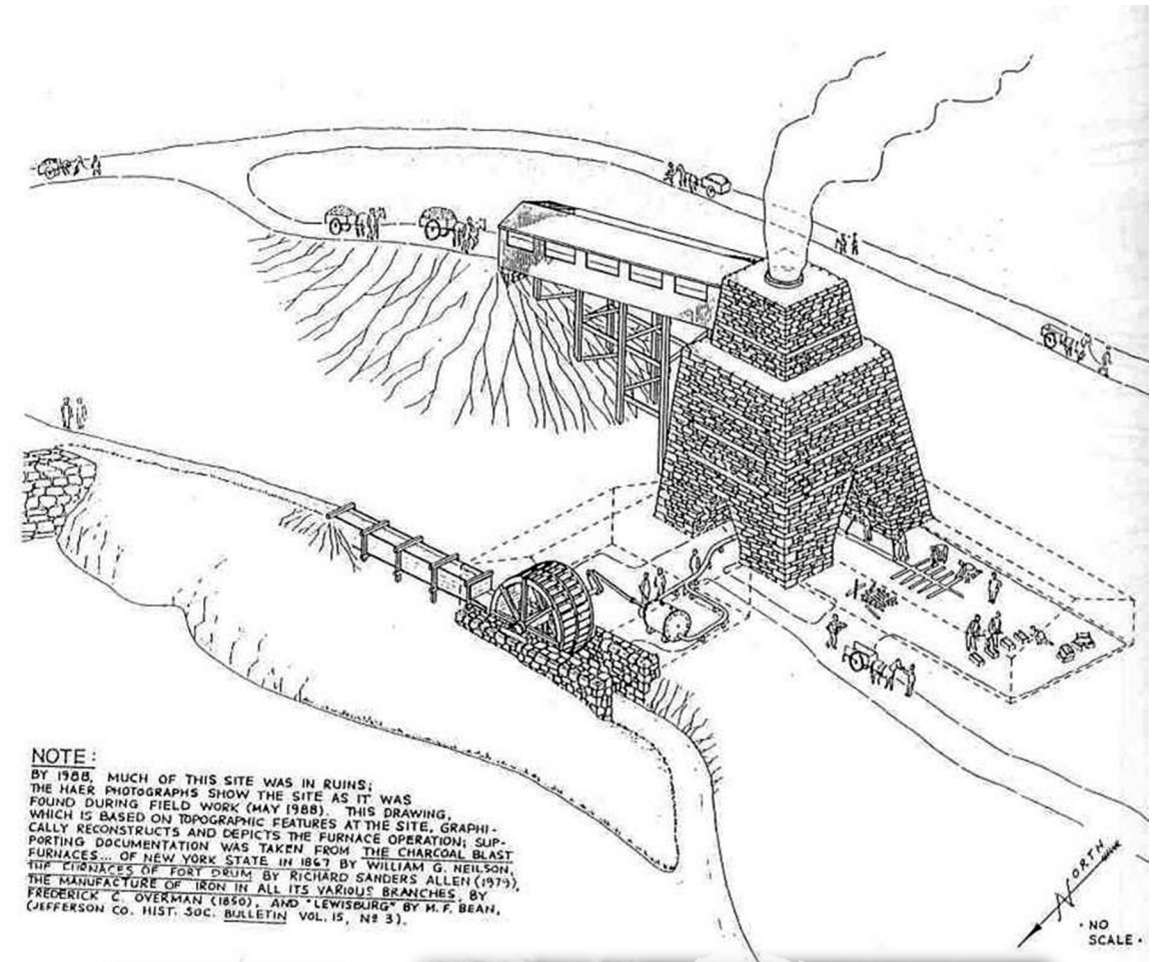


Woods Mill, also known as Woods Settlement and/or Lewisburg corners, is located on the Indian River in the Town of Wilna, Jefferson County, New York. Settlement dates to 1833, when Jonathan Wood built a sawmill and gristmill at this site. The village prospered as a processing center for timber and grain, attracting skilled artisans who manufactured wooden implements required by the local farmers.

In 1836, Wood purchased 85 acres on the Indian River from John LaFarge, and in 1839 an additional 246 acres. This secured land on both sides of the river, protecting the option of future potential water power.

In 1855, the village of Woods Settlement contained a gristmill, a schoolhouse, and the Methodist Episcopal Church. Jonathan Clark maintained a joiner's shop. In the 1860 federal census, the firm of Cooper and Wood reported a butter tub manufacturing business which fashioned 600 sap tubs (for maple syrup collection and processing) and 500 butter tubs from ash and pine.

By 1864, the village included two sawmills, a gristmill, a carpenter's shop, a cooper shop, a blacksmith shop, and a wheelwright shop. In 1890 the village was described as having a church, a gristmill, a sawmill, two butter tub factories, a blacksmith shop, and

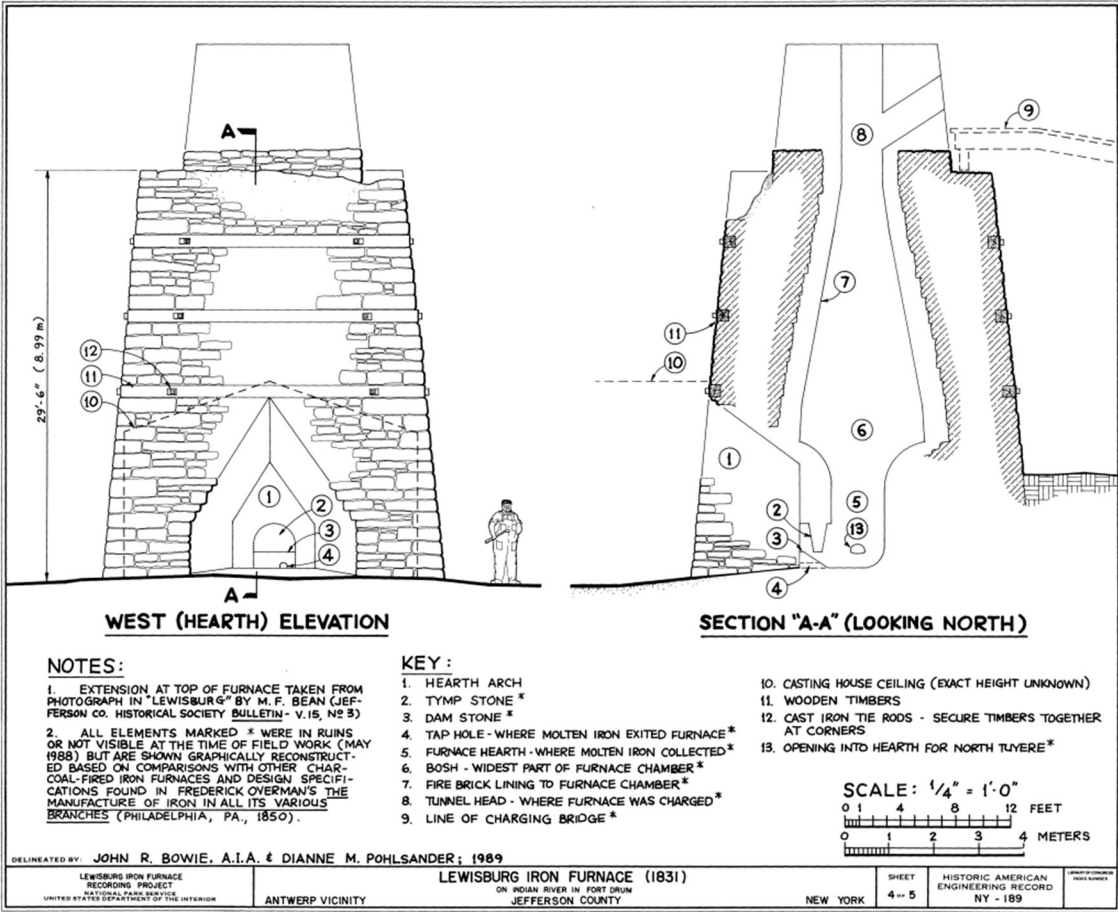


addition to the furnace and sawmill. Employed in the village were a carpenter, three sawyers, a blacksmith, and a teamster.

The Catholic Church closed in the late 1880s and Methodists took over the building. St. Patrick's Catholic Church was built in 1889 and continued to serve the community until August 1941. In 1925 the hotel at the crossroads in town burned.



Lewisburg Iron Furnace



Viewing Main Street (Woods Mill Road) across the Indian River from the hill behind the Woods' farm.

about 16 dwellings. Eight years later the village had a store and post office, both operated by Jason Merrick.

The presence of the mills at Woods Mill played a significant role in the settling of this village. From at least 1850 to 1852, Wood appears to have run saw and grist mill operations in partnership with Lucius Clark, to whom Wood sold a one-third interest in the enterprise. However in 1852 Clark was killed in a milling accident and the following year his wife sold one-third shares in the operation back to Wood. This was not formally recorded until 1861 when Wood sold shares to Amasa Aldrich including half the water power privilege and the joinery shop. In 1874-75 Jonathan Wood sold his grist mill and the remaining water privileges to Alonzo and Simon Wood. The Wood brothers then sold to John Cline in 1882. In 1894 the property returned to Jonathan Wood's grandson Harley who purchased and operated the property until 1898. The large amounts of concrete remaining in the dam, gate structure and mill runs point to the continued utility of the mill into the 20th century. This is also supported by numerous local histories that indicate that the mill was at least seasonally operational in 1941. Oral histories further mention that the mill buildings were used as shops by the local blacksmith and farriers through the 1930s and 40s.



Mill workers pause for a photo opportunity, standing on the logs that will eventually be put through the mill. Mill yard at Woods Mill. Date 1917.



Undated image coming into Woods Mill. First mill seat is to the right after the bridge.



Cheese Factory located in Woods Mill. Cheese and butter production was a large industry not only in Woods Mill but all over the North Country throughout the 19th century. Many cheese factories became fluid milk dairies in the early 1900s.

Various local histories record that the name “Louisburgh” (now spelled Lewisburg) dates to an effort by four Frenchmen in 1831 to begin production of iron at this location, however there was a sawmill built there in 1825 when they arrived. These brothers Nicolas, Constant and Charles Jomaine, together with Lewis Fennel, came to the area from Puerto Rico and built a cold-blast furnace which began operation in 1832. In 1836, the partnership sold the 5,000 acre property, which contained the furnace, to a New Jersey partnership made up of Isaac Lippencott, Joseph Morgan, and David Reamer. They introduced hot-blast machinery and continued to operate the furnace, manufacturing pig iron and various castings, including stove parts. This partnership gradually dissolved and the furnace was sold to James Sterling in 1852 for \$10,000 who spent about \$13,000 in rebuilding. Sterling formed a partnership with his brother, Samuel, and Hiram Polley and rebuilt the stack. They drained swamps, cleared land and built roads. Irish laborers



Methodist Church in Lewisburg, New York ca. 1930s

were brought in and land was donated to build a Catholic church. At this time the name of the village and post office were changed to Sterlingbush.



Pierce Hotel in Lewisburg, ca. 1930s

The furnace was quite productive. In 1855, 1,322 tons of iron were manufactured. In 1858, St. John’s chapel was built in Lewisburg. It was the first church built in the Town of Diana, Lewis County, New York. After James Sterling died, his son A.P. Sterling operated the furnace as lessee of the estate. In a 40-week blast in 1864, output reached its maximum of 2,820 tons of pig iron for the war effort. In 1869 Sterling sold the operation to Edwin B. Bulkey and the Jefferson County Iron Company.

During the mid nineteenth century, the village was dominated by the furnace, although a sawmill was also operational. The Jefferson County Iron Company concentrated on mining iron ore and gradually abandoned the furnace. The area briefly became a base for collecting bark used in tanning and eventually the former name, Lewisburg, was regained.

In 1872, Hamilton Child reported the church, post office, one hotel and two stores in

Lewisburg

Lewisburg is located on the Indian River in the Town of Diana in Lewis County, New York. The earliest use of this site dates to 1825 when a sawmill was built at the direction of the absentee owner Joseph Bonaparte.



Undated photograph of bridge over the Indian River in Lewisburg, New York



Methodist Church at Woods Mill (left). In use until 1941, former residents remember the church as being the focal point of the community. Many school programs were held here on account of the small school size. Methodist Ministers who served in Woods Mills (came from Antwerp, NY): 1924 until ?—Albert E. Budd, 1926-1934—William D. Aubrey, 1933-1935—Roger Williams, 1935-1937—Norman J. Darling, 1937-1940—Lester W. Wakeman, 1940-1941—Howard Woodman.



*Class picture ca. 1935
Woods Mill Schoolhouse*



*Woods Mills District
School, District No. 15 Fall
of 1909.*



(Left) Woods Mill School Picnic at Lake Bonaparte, June 1935



(Above) This is the one-room schoolhouse District #12 at the outskirts of Woods Mills, beyond the church. Classes included grades one through eight. Before 1938, students continuing their education beyond the eighth grade had to board in either Carthage or Antwerp and attended school there. After 1938, students were given bus transportation to Antwerp High School (photo circa 1910).



Woods Mills about 1945: Shown on the far right of the photo is the Frank Allen Pitts house, then proceeding left is the Howard Pitts residence, the Myers house and to the far left of the elm tree in the center is Pete and John Tooily's home.

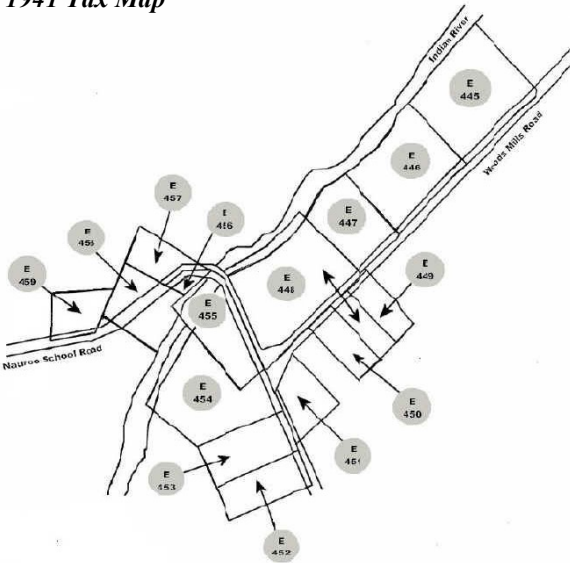


Interior view of mill structure from the east end looking toward the west wall. Mill stones at lower center.



West elevation of mill structure.

1941 Tax Map



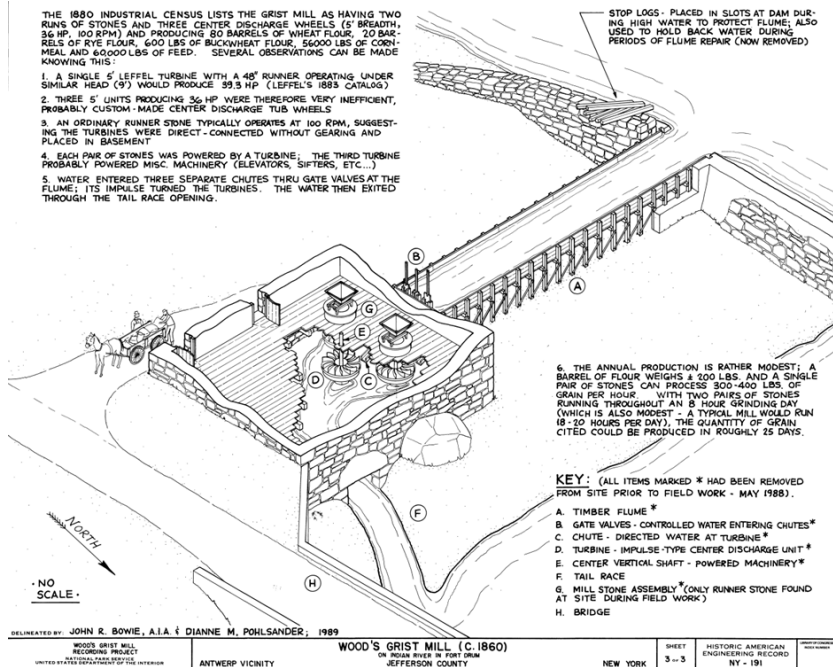
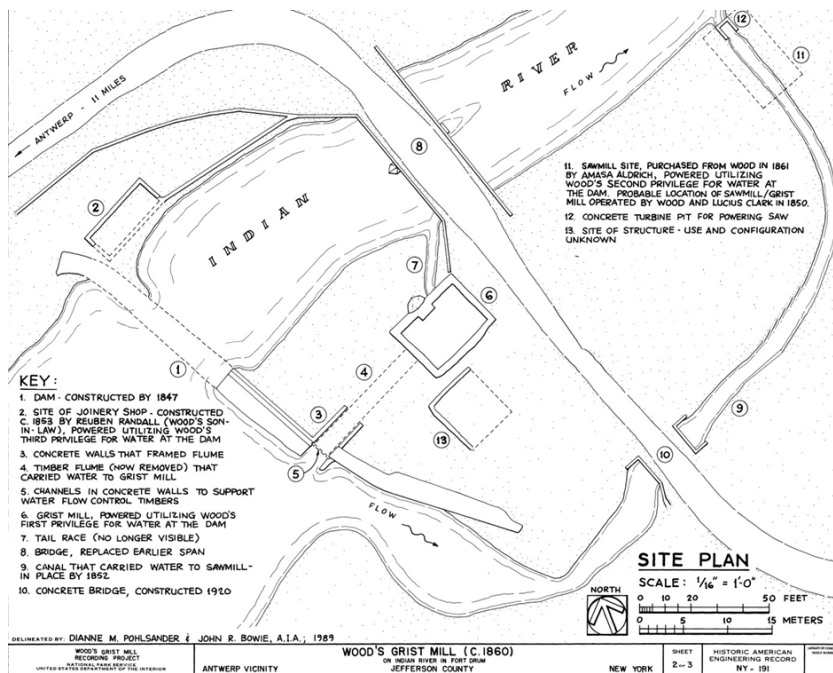
Tract	Owner	Acreage
E445	Cemetery	not listed
E446	Addie E Reynolds	1.08
E447	P. and S. Tooley	0.75
E448	Charles H. Pitts	2.20
E449	J. and G. Bresett	0.40
E450	Celia C. Randall	0.40
E451	H. and G. Bariteau	0.50
E452	J. and H. Hall	0.50
E453	Addie E Reynolds	0.80
E454	A. and M. Pitts	1.10
E455	J. and M. Powell	0.75
E456	Earl Brewster	0.25
E457	Helen B. Markwick	0.27
E458	Lewis B. Sprague	0.70
E459	Trustees M. E. Church	0.25



View looking east-southeast through gate structure toward hill structure (left rear).



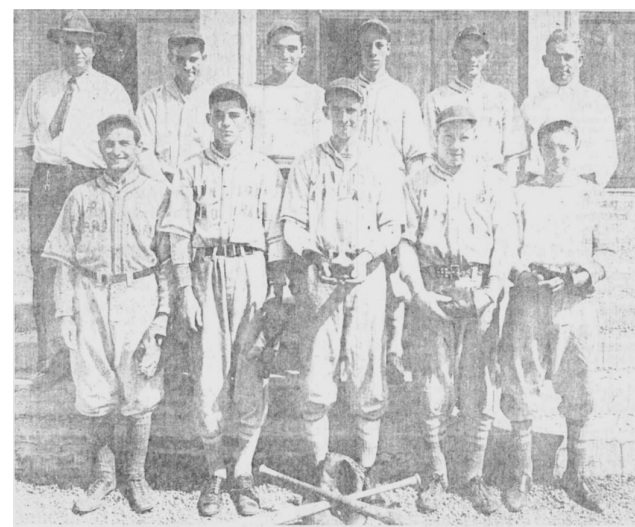
View looking northwest showing gate structure at south end of the spillway.



Previous archaeological work at Woods Mill assumed that the economy of the small, rural Village depended upon the operation of the saw and grist mill located at the center of the Village. While the mills played an important role, oral histories, historic photographs and census records indicate that the mill was only seasonally active after 1889. Further, oral histories and census records prove that the Woods Mill residents were employed in a variety of jobs, not just at these mills.



Lyons Residence in Woods Mill, NY (photo circa 1860-1880s).



WOODS MILLS 4-H CLUB championship baseball team, about 1935. The Junior Cardinals won first place in a game at Liverpool, defeating teams from three other counties in New York State, to become NYS 4-H Clubs Champions with a final score of 3-2. Members of the team are from left front row: Abe Astafian, Everett Gerber, John Tooley, Edgar

Pitts and Lowell Lawton; back row, Virgil Lyons; Pete Tooley, Carlton Allen, Ted Menlus, Clarence Gerber and Eli Bacon. Woods Mills was a settlement between Antwerp and Canby, off Rt. 26. Photo submitted by Lowell Lawton, R.D., Evans Mills, N.Y.



Marion Pitts, Woods Mill resident, planting trees as part of her 4H project. Her project involved planting over 1,000 tree seedlings to return logged areas back to forests.



(Above) Hunting and Fishing were important activities for Woods Mill residents.

(Below) Former Woods Mill Residents.



Logging and wood processing were always a way of life for Woods Mill residents.

