

Thank you "Madam Supervisor".

I've been asked to provide this group with a few words about the early history of our beautiful and top-quality Town.

I had served as a General under General Washington during the Revolutionary War and I became one of the first inhabitants of the Town of Canandaigua, having moved here from Hatfield, Massachusetts, in 1789. Canandaigua officially became a town in 1791.

Initially, there was no distinction made between the village and the town of Canandaigua. Then, I am told, that in 1815 the village was officially established and as a Village it remained as a governmental entity that was a part of the Town. In 1913 the Village became a City, thus creating two separate entities, the City and the Town of Canandaigua.

The original Town of Canandaigua also included the hamlets of Cheshire, Centerfield, Academy, and Padelford Station. Cheshire, Academy, and the long gone hamlet of Padelford Station all had post offices, and as such were called "Postal Villages" even though they were not incorporated villages.

Padelford Station was on County Road 8 near the Farmington Town Line where the Auburn Line (NYCRR) and the Electric Trolley (R&ERR) crossed County Rd. 8 (Padelford Rd.) It was an important stop for supplying wood for the steam engines and had a passenger station.

The first town meeting was held on the first Tuesday of April of 1791, that year at which I was chosen as the its first supervisor. I subsequently served as such from then through to 1795. I was also the First Assembly Representative for Ontario County in 1792.

First items of legislation voted in 1791 was first "That swine, two months old and upward, shall have good and sufficient yokes." (A yoke being a frame worn on the neck of an animal, as a cow, a pig, or a goose, to prevent passage through a fence.) and second "That for every full grown wolf killed in town, a bounty of thirty shillings (estimated less than \$2) shall be paid." (Gazetteer & Business Directory 1867-8: 40).

James D. Fish was elected the First Town Clerk at the second town meeting in April 1792. It is worth noting that the Town Board at that time felt it only necessary to meet once a year. My how times have changed.

At the town Board Meeting in 1793, it was voted that fence viewers examine the size and dimensions of hog yokes; (a fence viewer was a town official who administered fence laws by inspecting new fence and the settlement of disputes arising from trespass by livestock that had escaped enclosure), and the wolf bounty was raised to \$5.

While still serving as Supervisor in 1795, I reportedly passed away at the age of 54, just a few months after I was instrumental in the signing of the Pickering treaty. History states that the Seneca chief Red Jacket gave a moving condolence speech at my graveside.