

A History of Farms on Randolph Road

Alfred, NY

1814 - 2018



By Linda Huey with David Dronsick

2018

Fourth edition

Introduction

My interest in the history of Randolph Road began on lovely walks near our house. David and I would look at the Jerry and Dotty Snyder family home on their Sunny Cove Farm and I would wonder if an older house might have been there originally, and who might have lived in it and when. This kind of curiosity led to mysteries that asked to be solved, from one assumption to the next, verified or not by doing a little research. It inevitably led to learning the history of the neighboring Edgewood Farm as well, as the two farms turned out historically to have had close family ties most of the years since they were first settled. Later I became interested in who some of the other early settlers were on the rest of what is now known as Randolph Road. This account is by no means finished, and some of the information may not always be totally correct. But it has been fun, and it makes me feel more fondly attached to living here.

An 1869 map from Beer's Atlas of Allegany County and an 1856 map found on the wall of the Angelica Free Library have been most helpful since it shows dots for every house, with the names of who lived there. Much of my research has revolved around these maps as the basis. Its information can relate to many years before as well as many years after the maps were actually made. I have included a detail of these maps and put reference numbers by the dots.

The Beer's map also shows the original rectangular lots that were created when large portions of western New York were divided up and sold to settlers in the early 1800s. Those early lot numbers are still used today to help identify location in real estate transactions. In fact, many of the lot lines are still visible on the ground and in satellite images as edges of fields. Walking on Randolph Road, you can see the very pronounced line between lot #21 and lot #22. It is a tree line that runs north and south between fields, crossing Randolph Road next to Jerry and Kelby Snyder's new hay barn. Sunny Cove Farm has lot #21 and Edgewood Farm has lot #22..

I found learning the stories of the earliest settlers on Randolph Road very interesting because I believe that our history and the people who came before us are always with us and influencing our lives, whether we realize it or not.

Many thanks to Harold Snyder and his terrific memory of times past on Edgewood Farm and Randolph Road, and to my husband, David, always aiding at every turn.

Linda Huey
1530 Randolph Road
Alfred Station, NY
2018

Edgewood Farm

on lot #22

Harold Snyder family
1270 Randolph Road
Alfred Station, New York

Place family for 90 years-

(It is hard to tell which parcels were bought when, so hopefully this is almost accurate)

- 1.) 1814 –Elisha Coon bought from Hornby (probably Pulteney, Hornby & Colquhoun land office)
- 1.) 1815 - Rodman Place (from Elisha Coon)
- 2.) 1860 - Jeremiah Place
- 3.) 1876 - Isaac and Ruth (Place) Langworthy
- 4.) 1905 - Jay Wilcox
- 5.) 1909 - Seventh Day Baptist Education Society

Snyder family for 100 years and counting-

- 6.) 1918 - William Jacox
- 7.) 1928 - Earnest and Fern Snyder
- 8.) 1958 to present - Harold and Beverly Snyder



Edgewood Farm in 2017

Sunny Cove Farm

on lot #21

Jerry Snyder family
1444 Randolph Road
Alfred Station, New York

Coon family for 17 years-

- 1) 1814 - Elisha Coon (most likely from Pulteney, Hornby & Colquhoun land office)
- 2) 1831? - Luke Greene (the merchant, not "Sugar Hill Luke")

Sherman family for 44 years-

- 3) 1836 - George Sherman bought 150 acres from Luke Greene
In 1869 the map shows "F. Sherman" (George Sherman's son was Frederick).
In 1880 Frederick still lived there with his daughter Altana and her husband Robert Niles.
- 4) 1880 (shortly after) - 1900 unknown owner

Randolph family for 50 years-

- 4) 1900, 1902 and 1903 - Alva Randolph bought Sunny Cove Farm (in three parcels).

Snyder family for 68 years and counting-

- 5) 1950 - Earnest and Fern Snyder (Frank and Jean Snyder had started renting the farm in 1948)
- 6) 1960 - Frank and Jean Snyder
- 7) 1986 - Jerry and Dotty Snyder
- 8) 2008 to present- transitioning to Kelby and Kristina Snyder



Sunny Cove Farm in 2017

The Place Family

on Edgewood Farm

Rodman Taylor Place (1784-1860) -----m----- Sarah (Sally) Stillman (1786-1859)



Jeremiah Place (1807-1882)-----m 1834-----Eliza Ann Burdick (-1835)
-----m 1838-----Mary Posser (1811-1882)



Ruth Sherman Place (1845-1930)-----m 1868-----Isaac Maxson Langworthy (1842-1927)



Susan M. Langworthy (1878-1974)

Elisha Coon Family

(The first to settle on Sunny Cove farm)

Elisha Coon (1780-1831) -m- Sylvia Stillman (1784-1859), sister of Sarah (Sally) Stillman Place

(Born in Berlin, New York)

Roxanna Coon (1803-1877)

Asa Coon (1806-1835)

Sarah Coon (1808-1836)

George S. Coon (1811-1837)

Angenitte Coon (1813-1883)

(Born in Alfred, New York)

Elisha Coon (1816-1899)

Lorenzo Coon (1818-1899)

Stephen Coon (1820-1889)

Daniel F. Coon (1822-1891)

Orson C. Coon (1829-1862)

The Place Family

(The first to settle on Edgewood Farm)

Rodman Taylor Place (1784-1860) -m- Sarah (Sally) Stillman (1786-1859)



Anna Amy Place (1805-1880)

Jeremiah Place (1807-1882)-----m 1834----Eliza Ann Burdick (-1835)

-----m 1838-----Mary Posser (1811-1882)

Truman Clark Place (1811-1885)

Sarah Place (1813-1885)

Philip Place (1816-1888)

Mary Place (1818-1881)

Alvin Ayers Place (1821-1898)-----m 1846-----Ruth A. Sherman (1827-1895)



R. Artamisia Place (1872-1960)

Morilla Place (1823-1877)-----m 1845-----Frederick Sherman (1823-1891)



Rodman Place (1828-1830) Abby Altana Sherman -m- Robert Niles

Thomas Place (1830-1885)

Phebe Place (1825-1908)-----m 1848-----Clark Sherman (1825-1896)

The Sherman Family

(On Sunny Cove Farm)

George Sherman (1793-1869) -m- Artamisia Wright (1793-1831)

m- Anna Potter (1799-1887)



Chloe Sherman (1817-1882)

Three "Ruth Places"

Rodman Taylor Place (1784-1860)



George Sherman (1793-1869)



Alvin Ayers Place(1821-1898) _____ married _____ **Ruth A. Sherman Place (1827-1895)**



Ruth Artamisia Place (1872-1960)

(Alvin's brother-)

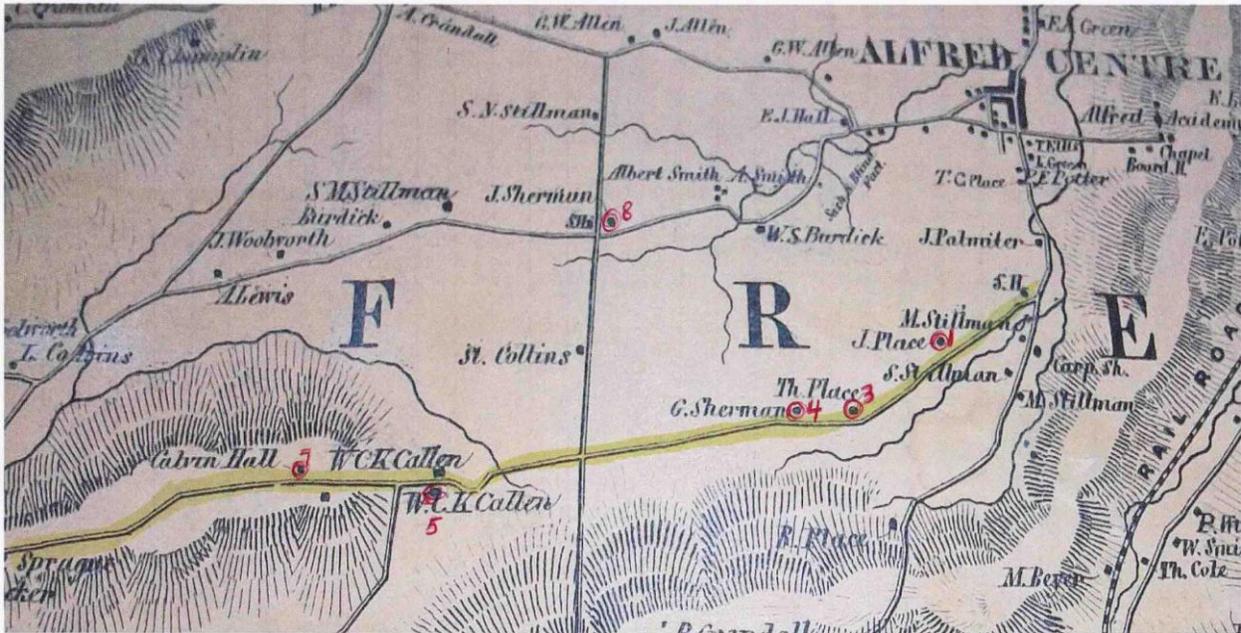
Jeremiah Place (1807-1882) _____ married _____ Mary Posser (1811-1882)



Ruth Sherman Place (1845-1930) _____ married _____ Isaac Langworthy (1842-1927)



Susan Langworthy (1878-1974)

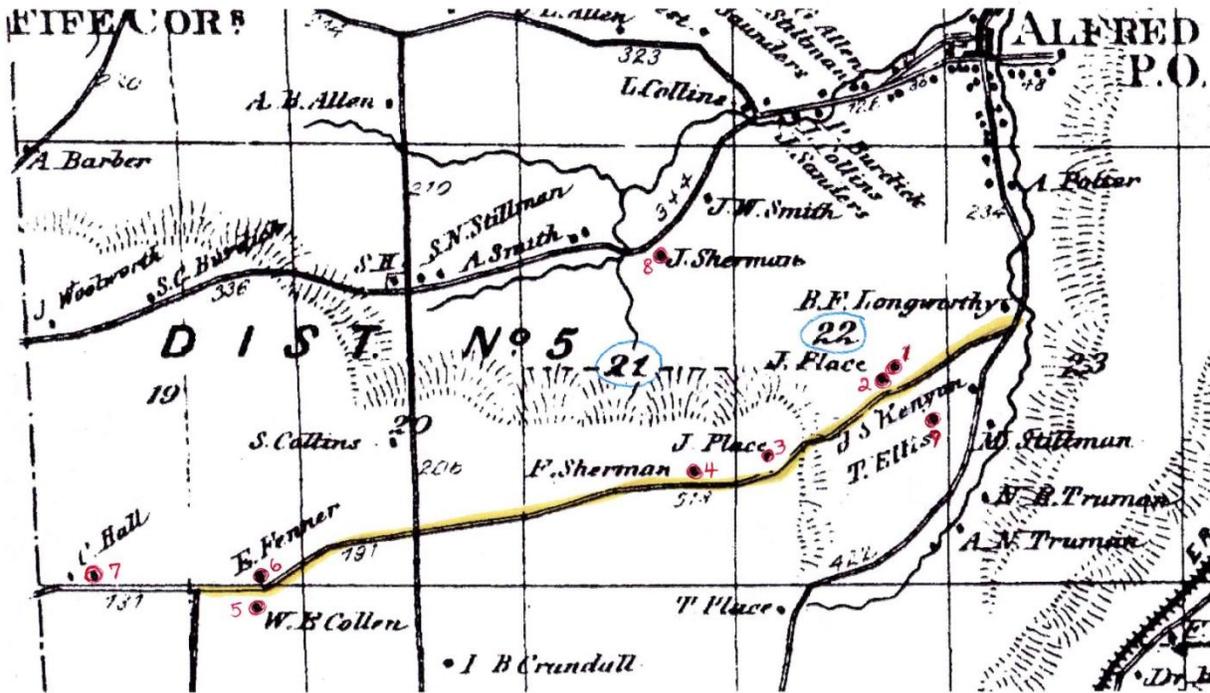


Map of Randolph Road in 1856

Detail of 1856 map on the wall at the Angelica Free Library, Angelica, New York

Yellow: Randolph Road

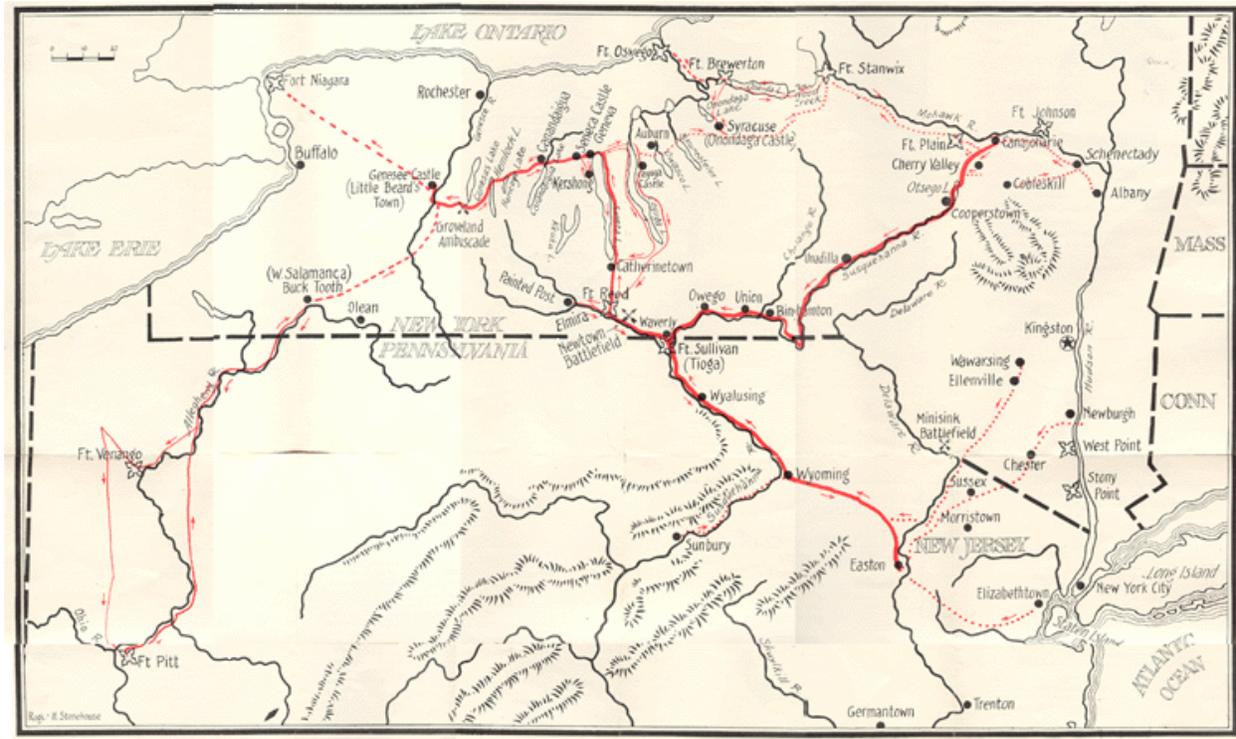
Red: Houses on Farms mentioned in this story



Map of Randolph Road in 1869

Detail from 1869 Beer's Atlas of Allegany County

- Yellow: Randolph Road
- Blue: Lot numbers
- Red: Houses on farms mentioned in this story



Sullivan's Expedition in 1799

Background History

Originally, the Seneca Indians were the people who occupied land in western New York, but after the American Revolution their claims were diminished. The Sullivan Expedition organized by George Washington in 1779 used a “scorched earth” campaign to remove loyalists and the Iroquois Confederacy of five Indian nations from areas including western New York. Later, in 1791, the new white land owners who acquired large tracts of land made strenuous efforts to attract settlers, but distrust of titles, the density of the forest, the presence of bears, wolves and panthers, and the remaining roving bands of Indians, greatly retarded settlement until after the War of 1812.¹ Land had been divided into large rectangular lots (see 1869 map) and portions were sold to settlers at \$2 to \$4 per acre by Pulteney, Hornby & Colquhoun, a British company whose land office was in Bath. The very first settlers in Alfred came on foot in 1807, from Berlin, Rensselaer County. Others soon followed, largely Seventh Day Baptists from various New York counties and from Rhode Island. “Mostly poor, frugal from necessity, strong, industrious, claiming absolute freedom of religious faith and practice...the Bible as the only competent authority in religious matters, they grappled cheerfully and courageously with the problems of their situation.”²

¹ History of Allegany County, by John S. Minard, 1896, Chapter LV

² History of Allegany County, by John S. Minard, 1896, p. 625

For some background on the Seventh Day Baptists...originally they were religious dissenters from the Rhode Island Baptist church when they decided to observe the Sabbath on Saturday. They brought with them a strong commitment to education and moral integrity in the home, community, school, and church. The church was the only social organization that existed early on in Alfred. It encouraged caring for one's neighbor, and that extended to newcomers, runaway slaves in the mid 1800s, and students. The church also monitored bad behavior and helped settle disputes. Many in the church were strongly opposed to alcohol, and the sale of alcohol in Alfred was banned until much later when a state law bypassed the local law.

The earliest settlers followed Indian trails, often along rivers and streams. One can imagine it must have been easier to keep your bearings in the deep woods if you followed a waterway of some kind. Main Street in Alfred follows along Canacadea Creek, which then runs up the hill to Sunny Cove Farm. Later a real road, presently known as Randolph Road, followed that creek up from Main Street.

The first neighbors on Edgewood and Sunny Cove Farms: the Place and Coon Families

In 1814 during the very early years of Alfred settlement, two families related by marriage, the Place Family and the Coon Family, followed their way up the Canacadea Creek and settled on the two farms that are still here today. They were Seventh Day Baptists and walked from Berlin, a town in Rensselaer County on the eastern edge of New York State. The Edgewood Farm location on lot #22 was claimed by Rodman Taylor Place (1784-1860), who was born in Rhode Island. He had been a soldier for three months in the War of 1812. Rodman and his wife, Sarah (Sally) Stillman (1786-1859) arrived with four small children and an ox cart full of household goods and built one of Alfred's first log cabins.

Elisha Coon (1780-1831) and family, who arrived with their first five children, had a close relationship with the Place family. They came here at the same time from Berlin and settled close by to the west on the neighboring lot #21 where Sunny Cove Farm is today. Both wives were sisters. Elisha Coon was married to Sylvia Stillman (1784-1859), whose sister was Sarah (Sally) Stillman (1786-1859), the wife of Rodman Place.

There were already several Coon and Stillman relatives involved in extending a branch of the Berlin Seventh Day Baptist church to Alfred in 1812 before the two families arrived in 1814. An aunt of the Stillman sisters, Sarah Stillman, was married to yet another Coon, Stephen Coon Sr., and lived on the farm across the creek from the Place and Coon farms. Stephen Coon Sr., who died in 1815, was one of the earliest church organizers and was voted first leader of the Seventh Day Baptist Church as a branch of the Berlin church in Alfred in 1812. The aunt, Sarah Stillman,³ was the sister of Deacon George Stillman (the father of the two sisters, Sarah Place and Sylvia Coon). Deacon George Stillman came to Alfred a short time later and from 1816 to 1842 was one of the Deacons in the early Alfred Seventh Day Baptist church.

³ History of First Alfred SDB Church of Alfred NY 1816-1916, by Frank L. Green

It must not have been easy for these pioneers to walk at least 12 days to reach Alfred, then build shelter, clear the land, and start farming. Also, 1816 was known as the year without a summer, or the "starving year." "Snow fell and ice formed during every month, and vegetation was mainly destroyed. Great privation and suffering everywhere prevailed."⁴ An old farmer, narrating the events of that year of 1816 said: "June was the coldest June ever known; frost, ice or snow almost every night, destroying everything that frost could kill. Snow fell three inches deep in Central and Western New York. July was cold and frosty; ice formed as thick as window glass. August was still worse; ice formed hail an inch thick and killed almost every green thing in the country."⁵

R. Artamisia Place (1872-1960) gave the following story passed down to her about the Rodman Place and Elisha Coon families. "Uncle Elisha" is used here because her father's aunt was Sarah (Sally) Stillman, Elisha Coon's wife. She had both Place and Sherman grandparents, did a lot of research and at one time was the curator of the Steinheim on the Alfred University campus...

"The early settlers did have a fight to obtain enough provision to satisfy the needs of their bodies. There is a story told of a certain family, a large one, which became so destitute of food that they dug up the potatoes which had been planted. Uncle Elisha borrowed some corn of Rodman Place, and was to pay in rye when it ripened. When the rye was needed, the crop was not ripe enough to cut, so Uncle Elisha went through the field with his sickle and cut off the ripest heads. These were put in a big potash kettle and dried out so they could be shelled by hand. In this way they got a peck of grain. This they put in a bag and sent by a boy on horseback to Almond to have it ground."⁶

"The Almond Story" by John F. Reynolds records this story of 1816: Clark Crandall "possessed ample means, coupled with a kind and generous heart, came to the rescue.... He went to Genesee County, where some surplus existed, bought a quantity of wheat, brought it back to Almond and distributed it among those needy folks. In payment for this, the people of the community signed a joint promissory note in the amount of \$500 even though many of them were still in debt for their property. To the great credit of these people, it is said that Judge Crandall suffered no loss as each settler paid every cent of his commitments without exception."

So, they struggled dearly to survive, but they helped each other often. One wonders what so strongly motivated them to go through so much and risk their lives to move to Alfred. There must have been many strong reasons, not all understood here. One reason perhaps, was economic. As families got bigger, they were running out of land for farming where they came from, and the price of land in western New York was very attractive at \$2.00 to \$4.00 an acre.⁷ We also know they came with people who shared their religion. Seventh Day Baptists had often experienced a general stigma associated with Christians celebrating on Saturday and may or may not have been punished for not refraining from work and other activities on Sunday.

⁴ From History of Allegany County, by Minard, 1896

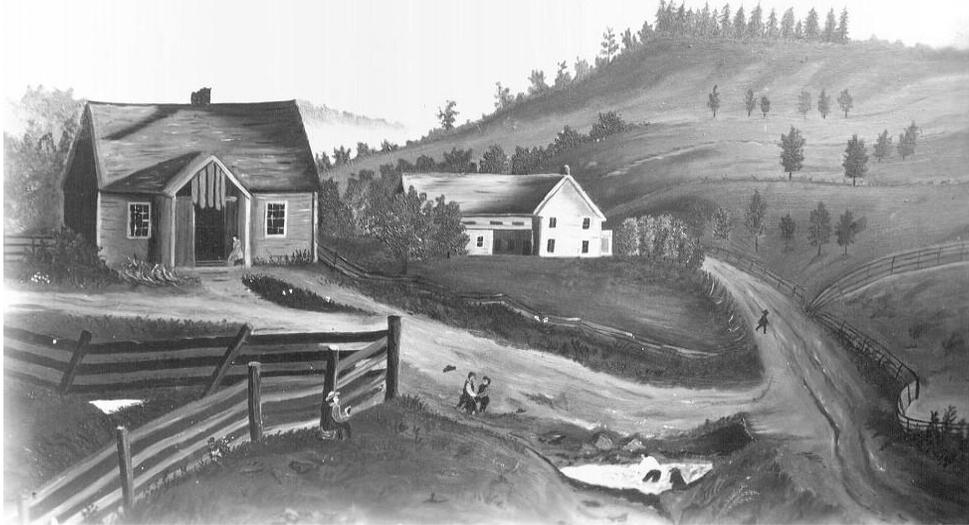
⁵ From History of Allegany County, by Minard, 1896

⁶ From History of the Town of Alfred, by Cortez R. Clawson, 1926

⁷ From History of Alfred, John S. Minard, 1896

The Coontown School

In the early 1800s there had been a "Coontown" school that was near the corner of Randolph Road and Main Street. (See "SH" on 1856 map)



Above is a primitive painting of the Coontown School by Lamira Maxson Prentice (1833-1886), who had taught at the school. The picture shows what I believe is B.F. Langworthy's (Isaac Langworthy's uncle) house seen behind on South Main Street. The early Coontown School was built prior to 1821. The Alfred Sun article (see below) says they needed a new building in the late 1850s, and a replacement school was built in 1860 up the hill to the west at Edgewood Farm.

A little before Elisha Coon had arrived from Berlin, Stephen Coon Sr. (1761-1815), related somehow to Elisha and whose wife was also a Stillman, came and settled across the creek in lot #22 that runs along Randolph Road. (See #9 on the 1869 map) This could be where later Thomas Ellis and then the Jacox family (Harold's grandparents) lived. Both Coon families had a lot of children, Stephen had 11 and Elisha had 10. That is why the school district became known as "Coontown", with the early schoolhouse shown in the painting above. It was long used for religious and business meetings of the town. Men, women and children often went to church barefooted in those days, and the preachers had no salary.

From the Alfred Sun, May 31st, 1911:

Frank Prentice of Hornell has recently presented to our public school an oil painting of the old school house which once stood at the forks of the road south of the village above the house now occupied by William Saddler. The picture is the work of Mr. Prentice's mother, Lamira Maxson Prentice, a sister of Mrs. President Allen. The Board of Education, at its last meeting instructed the clerk to convey to Mr. Prentice the thanks of the district for his thoughtful generosity expressed in this most appropriate gift. The painting will be hung in our new school building to remind the present and future generations of school children of the earliest beginning of education in Alfred. From information gathered from conversation with some of the older residents of the village, the following statements may be made with tolerable certainty: This was probably the first school house within the territory now covered by the village of Alfred, and was built some 90 years ago, long before there was any village here, or even a post office. The building served the double purpose of school house and meeting house. Many of the settlers came

thither from miles around to religious services, traveling on foot, guided through the virgin forest by blazed trees. Settlers passing this way to other sections of the new country often made the school house a stopping place for the night. Thus it also served as our pioneer hotel.

As the country opened up and the population increased another school house was built at what is now the lower end of the village. This house has been moved a short distance from the original site and is now the residence of Charles Tefft. Late in the fifties the old school house south of the village had reached a stage of dilapidation which made a new building a necessity. About 1860 the new school house was built on a new site, and is today the residence of Isaac M. Langworthy. The old building must have been torn down not far from 1865. Thus passed one of the ancient landmarks, one of the links binding generation to generation. It seems very fortunate that we should now be able to hang this fitting reminder of the past before the eyes of our children.

Edgewood Farm - from Places to Snyders

The first settler on Edgewood farm, Rodman Place, paid \$2.50/acre for either 75 or 100 acres in lot #22 on the hill above High Street and Randolph Road. He eventually expanded to 400 acres⁸ and had 12 children, 11 of whom lived to maturity: Marilla, Alvin, Phebe, Jeremiah, Anna, Truman, Sarah, Philip, Mary, Rodman, Jr. and Thomas. Rodman Place, the father, died in 1860. From "The Sabbath Recorder", Vol. 16, No. 39, p. 155, March 1, 1860.... "In Alfred, N. Y., Feb. 17th, Rodman Place, died in the 77th year of his age. The subject of this notice was one of the early settlers of this town; and although a man of quiet and unassuming habits, was nevertheless highly esteemed by his fellow-citizens."

Harold Snyder, present owner of Edgewood Farm, has a thick binder full of land records from the Belmont courthouse for the farm, researched for him by Alfred State students. On the first page it shows that the very first person to buy a parcel of his farm (which is presently made up of 7 parcels) was actually Elisha Coon in 1814, and then Rodman Place bought it from him. Since Elisha settled on the neighboring lot #21, perhaps there is a story here that we can invent about Elisha getting here first and buying it for Rodman, or perhaps Rodman could not afford it at first. The name "Hornby" appears often as more land was bought, most likely from to the Pulteney, Hornby & Colquhoun land office.

The oldest son of Rodman Place, Jeremiah Place (1802-1882), stayed on at Edgewood Farm most of his life. Jeremiah Place married Eliza Ann Burdick in 1834. They had one child, Philip Sheridan Place, born in 1835, the same year Eliza died, possibly related to childbirth. Jeremiah married a second wife, Mary Prosser, in 1838. They had 4 children: Harriet, Thomas, Ruth, and Martha. Jeremiah was a farmer, cabinet maker and sometimes a tailor. Harold Snyder found a note written by Jeremiah, placed in some sort of autograph book that Harold has since given to the Baker's Bridge Historical Society. It indicated Jeremiah had given (or wanted to give) a parcel of land to each of his children for farms. Jeremiah Place died in Alfred Center in August 1882, and Mary, his second wife, died in December of that same year.

⁸ From the History of Allegany County, by Beers, 1879, p.140

Here is an 1833 excerpt from a diary by Jeremiah Place:⁹ I wish I knew where the rest of his diary is.



Some of the Places moved into town, but Jeremiah Place's daughter, "Ruth Sherman Place" (1845-1930), married Isaac Maxson Langworthy (1843-1927) and they stayed on and eventually became owners of the Edgewood Farm in 1876. Nineteen year old Isaac Langworthy, before marrying Ruth, enlisted and fought in the civil war from 1862 – 1865. From The Sabbath Recorder..."He was the last survivor of the G. A. R. in Alfred. He served three years in the Civil War and was in many fierce engagements, having received a bullet wound in the hip and having served a six months' imprisonment in Libby, Belle Island, and Salisbury prisons. He was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Westerly, R. I., and his life can be summed up in the language of one of his lifelong neighbors, 'He was such a good man.'"

Isaac and Ruth Langworthy's daughter, Susan M. Langworthy (1878-1974), continued the line and grew up on the farm, being the great granddaughter of the original Rodman Place. It appears Ruth's sister, Martha (another daughter of Jeremiah Place), lived on the farm with them also. This is from the Sabbath Recorder when she died in 1914 in the 67th year of her life: Martha A. Place lived "in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Langworthy. Owing to a cloud over her mind, the last 14 years have been spent at Willard." This would have been the Willard Asylum for the Chronic Insane near Seneca Lake.

⁹ From the November 13th, 1930 Alfred Sun, p.5.

So, Edgewood Farm was occupied by members of the Place family from when they first came in 1814, until 1905 when Ruth Place and her husband Isaac Langworthy sold the farm and moved into town to 38 South Main Street.



Susan M. Langworthy (1878-1974)
The last Place ancestor to live on Edgewood Farm.

To bring basically everything up to the present, according to Harold Snyder, Jay Wilcox bought the farm in 1905, then the Seventh Day Baptist Education Society had it in 1909. During WW I in 1918, Harold's great grandfather, William Jacox (1854-1948) purchased the farm. In 1928 Harold's parents, Ernie and Fern (Jacox) Snyder bought it, and their children Harold, Nelson, Frank, Ken, Kay, and Dorothy grew up there. Harold, who was born in 1932, still lives in the same family house he was born in, which was unfinished at the time of his birth. He took over the farm, and with his wife Beverly had four daughters: Sandy, Penny, Kelly, and Jill. Harold has lived on and run Edgewood Farm all his life except for a short stint as a teacher at Alfred Almond School.

The three cellar hole sites on Edgewood Farm

The three dots marked with the last name "Place" on the 1856 and 1869 maps have to be for houses that are no longer standing, since the houses presently existing on the Edgewood Farm were all built well after 1869, and not on older pre-existing foundations.

At one time very early on there were supposedly thirteen log cabins around the hills of Alfred.¹⁰ But where were they built? The maps are very helpful because they show dots where houses (or log cabins) were. The dots were only for residences, not barns or businesses, and schools were labeled "SH".

¹⁰ Harold Snyder read in the book Allens of Alfred

Harold Snyder has pointed out where three cellar hole/foundation sites are on his farm, and some of them could match the dots shown as houses on the old maps. I have labeled those sites on the maps as #1, #2, and #3.



Cellar hole, which could be #1 on the 1856 and 1869 maps, is up on the hill behind Edgewood Farm seen below. Here, it is to the right of the leaning maple tree and before a row of stones.

Dot #1 labeled “J. Place” could possibly be the site of the first cabin that Rodman Place built. On both the 1856 and 1869 maps, the dot is set back from the road, just as a cellar hole site is back and up on the hillside to the north, behind Harold Snyder’s present house and barns. You can see a row of stones there (like a retaining wall) with an old leaning maple tree close by. The cellar hole was about 30 feet behind and up the hill from the row of stones. A wet weather spring is located above the site. Harold remembers pottery shards and rose bushes there. That means it was definitely an early residence at one time. He recounts that his grandfather, Clarence Jacox, did not remember anything still standing there when he was a boy in the 1880s. Harold has filled in the deep cellar hole over the years to make it easier (and safer) to maintain the field. But archaeological evidence must still remain under the manure, etc. dumped into that spot! Perhaps choosing that spot on the side of a hill which commands a grand view of the valleys below reminded the Rodman Place family of similar hills in Berlin, NY where they came from. If it was the Place’s first log cabin on both maps, which we romantically hope it is, then there is the question of how long would an original log cabin last and still be used as a house? If it was built in 1814, would people still be able to live there 55 years later in 1869 when the second map was made? Possibly if it was an original cabin site, it could have been added to or replaced by something else, yet still be on the same spot.



1880s photograph of Edgewood Farm

Dot #2 on the 1869 map has two possibilities. It is very difficult to know since several houses have come and gone that were located around the present house on Edgewood farm. Possibly #2 was the two story house seen tucked behind the barn in the 1880's photograph of Edgewood farm? Harold Snyder said his uncle, John Jacox, remembered one of his grandfathers used that house as a cobbler shop. Also, Harold remembers speaking with Isaac Langworthy and Ruth Sherman Place's daughter, Susan M. Langworthy, in the 1960s. She told him she grew up in that "old house near Harold's watering trough while her father was building the 19 room mansion." (She was born in 1878.) She was perhaps referring to that same house shown in the middle of the photograph. The 19 room "mansion" built in the 1870s can be seen behind trees on the left end of the photograph.

Yet there is another possibility for dot # 2. The 1856 map has only one dot instead of two, as on the 1869 map. This could mean a second house was built after the 1856 map was made and before the 1869 map was made showing two houses. There had been a school house on the property built in 1860. "One school house was located in the south end of the settlement on the site of Isaac Langworthy's residence"¹¹ which is the Edgewood Farm. This building could have become a residence when the map was made in 1869, having been just discontinued as a school because of school district consolidation in 1868. Therefore it was not labeled "SH" as other schools were. (Notice "SH" on the 1856 map near the mouth of Randolph Road where the old Coontown School was still in use, before the new school was built up the hill in 1860.) So, perhaps Susan Langworthy meant she grew up in the school house that was built on that property in 1860 and decommissioned in 1868, becoming a residence in 1869. That could be the perfect fit.

There is still a question about a foundation at Aaron McGraw's to explain, located between dot #2 and dot #3. A visible stone foundation can still be seen, a bit up the road to the west next to the present

¹¹ History of the Town of Alfred, by Cortez R. Clawson, Chapter XIX

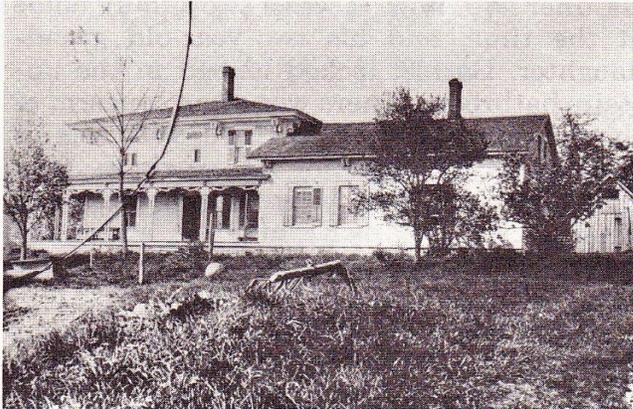
Aaron McGraw family house at 1296 Randolph Road. (Aaron is Harold Snyder's grandson.) Harold Snyder remembers pottery shards and metal parts like bed springs at that site, and that his grandfather remembered a house there in the 1880s. Possibly that house was built after the 1869 map was made. We know a house was there in the 1880s (according to Harold Snyder's grandfather), but was gone by the late 1930s when Harold was a child.



Cellar hole #3 shown on the 1856 and 1869 maps located in Harold Snyder's field.
You can see where the tractor could not cut the hay because of the hole.

Dot #3 on the maps is where there is another small cellar hole in a field that Harold Snyder owns, near the pronounced lot line between lot # 21 and lot #22. The site is across the road from Jerry and Kelby Snyder's hay barn. It is hard to see from the road, but easy to see if you walk into the field. The 1856 map has it labeled with "Th. Place" as living there at the time. That must have been for Thomas Place, son of Rodman Place and a brother of Jeremiah Place. A dot in the same location on the later 1869 map has "J. Place" next to it, for Jeremiah Place. Once again Harold Snyder remembers pottery shards and rose bushes there before it was filled in. Possibly it had been an early log cabin.

The nineteen room “Mansion”



Home of Earnest and Ferne Snyder at Edgewood Farm on Randolph Rd. They were in the process of redecorating the house when it was destroyed by fire in 1931.

At some point there were two or three other houses on Edgewood Farm that are now gone. They were located right near Harold Snyder’s present house on Edgewood Farm. One was a 19 room “mansion” that Isaac Langworthy built starting in 1876. It must have been in this large house that the 1880 census shows three Place related families living in one house. They were the families of Jeremiah Place, Thomas Place, and Ruth Place, so the large “mansion” would have served them well. Later, shortly after Harold Snyder’s parents bought the farm in 1928, the mansion, barn, and outbuildings burned down in 1931. The rebuilt barn burned down again in 1939, and the new barn built in 1940-41 remains today. What fun it was when Harold and I studied the original picture together of the mansion above, and by surprise we both suddenly discovered the shape of the schoolhouse incorporated into the right end of the building! There it was, the schoolhouse we had wondered about that had been built on the property in 1860. It had been incorporated into the mansion they began building in 1876.

Sunny Cove Farm and the Coon family

Dot #4 on the 1859 map is marked as “G. Sherman” for George Sherman, and on the 1869 map is marked “F. Sherman” for his son, Frederick Sherman, who took over the farm. It is where the Sunny Cove farm house has perhaps always been located, and where the Coons first settled.

As we know, in 1814 Elisha Coon (1780-1831) arrived from Berlin in Rensselaer County, NY, around the same time as Rodman Place, with the wives of the two families being Stillman sisters. Elisha Coon was married to Sylvia Stillman (1784-1859) and they had ten children. Their sons were Asa, George, Lorenzo,

Elisha, Stephen, Daniel and Orson. Their daughters were Ann Janette (Main), Roxy, and Sarah. Five of their children were born at the Sunny Cove Farm location.



Above is a picture of Lorenzo Coon¹² (1818, Alfred, NY – 1899, Albion, WI.) from Ancestry.com. Lorenzo was one of the children born to Elisha and Sylvia (Stillman) Coon on the Sunny Cove Farm location where the Coon family had settled. (Is he actually smiling?)

As noted earlier, the Coon extended family was quite involved with establishing the Seventh Day Baptist church in Alfred in 1812. Later, Elisha Coon's brother, Elder Stillman Coon (1796-1870), played a role in the church as well. The 1830s had been a rough time for the church, with a large migration of families leaving Alfred for Wisconsin. "In the winter of 1838-9 Elder Stillman Coon held a series of meetings which resulted in the powerful revival of religion and the conversion of many. Forty persons were baptized by him in one day in the little mill pond near Baker's Bridge. An opening was made in the ice, which was very thick, and the audience stood around in a circle upon the ice." The ice had been broken for the occasion, and the weather was extremely cold for baptisms.¹³

After Elisha Coon died in 1831 in Alfred, the Coon family left Alfred, some to Hebron, PA and the rest to Wisconsin. It looks like the next owner of Sunny Cove Farm location for a few years was Luke Greene. Luke Greene (not the one known as "Sugar Hill Luke") came from Rensselaer County and located at Alfred Centre first as a blacksmith, afterwards as a tanner and currier.¹⁴ In 1836, "he went into trade" (meaning became a merchant) in which he continued until his death in 1875. Luke Greene (1802 -1876) married Irena Fisk (1811-1890).

Sunny Cove Farm and the Shermans

George B. Sherman (1793-1869) bought the farm in 1836. The Shermans were from Herkimer County, NY, and were also Seventh Day Baptists. They bought 150 acres of land from a Luke Green on lot #21. That was the same year Luke Greene became a merchant, so it perhaps makes sense that Luke might

¹³ History of Allegany County, by Beers, 1879

¹⁴ Beer's 1879 Allegany County history and Minard's history as well

not need a farm anymore. George B. Sherman had fought in the War of 1812 and was 43 years old when he arrived. In 1836 George and his second wife, Anna Potter, and his brother, Josiah (born 1802) came to Alfred by way of the Erie Canal, arriving in Arkport with all their possessions including a team of oxen and a wagon and four children from his first wife, Artamisia. The children were Frederick, Clark, Ruth, and Chloe. They most likely lived in a house where #4 is on the map (marked "F. Sherman"), a location where the present newer farm house is. The brothers George B. and Josiah were from a family of weavers and farmers.

The upper half of lot #21 which includes Waterwells Road has houses marked "J. Sherman" most likely for Josiah Sherman (#8 on the 1856 and 1869 maps). When Josiah arrived in Alfred with George in 1836, Josiah bought land near his brother.¹⁵ On the earlier 1856 map, "J. Sherman" is shown on lot 20 at the corner of Lake and Waterwells Road. This is where the MacCreas now live, at 1664 Waterwells Road. Between 1856 and 1869 Josiah bought and moved to what looks like where Elsie Cushing now lives at 1497 Waterwells Road. That would be the next farm north of George Sherman.

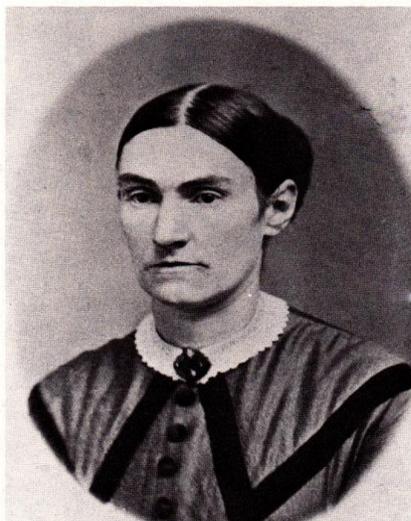
The horizontal dotted line straight across lot #21 on the map is related to where the school district was.

The new Sherman family must have gotten along well with the Places, since they became connected by three marriages. Two sons and a daughter of George Sherman married two daughters and a son of Rodman Place:

1845 Frederick Sherman married Marilla Place

1846 Ruth A. Sherman (pictured below) married Alvin Ayers Place

1848 Clark Sherman married Phebe Place.



Ruth Sherman Place (1827-1895). Date of photo unknown

Ruth A. Sherman was the youngest child of George and Artamisia Sherman. She was one of the four Sherman children who lived on Sunny Cove farm. She married Alvin Ayers Place in 1846, and her

¹⁵ Josiah bought land from Samuel Stillman in 1837. From History of Allegany County by Beers, 1879

daughter, R. Artamisia Place, was the one who wrote the story passed down through the family about the Place and Coon families during the difficult year of no summer in 1816.

George Sherman helped his second oldest son, Clark, and his wife Phebe, purchase approximately 125 acres in 1851 from William Crandall on lot #6 where the present Acton farm is at 6373 Sherman Road. Clark Sherman and Phoebe (Place) Sherman built the present house there on lot #6 in 1851.

Sunny Cove Farm was eventually passed on to George's oldest son, Frederick Sherman (1823 – 1891), who had arrived with the family in 1836 at 13 years old. The 1869 map shows an "F. Sherman" house in lot #21 (labeled #4 on the map) where Sunny Cove Farm is located.

Often the only information that can be found about people is when and where they were born, and about their death. But I was able to find a little bit of other information on Frederick Sherman. Once in 1846 he was paid to work on the roads by removing "noxious" weeds, and stones. In those days, a lot of time and work was spent on trying to maintain the difficult rough roads and bridges. Other findings...an 1875 directory listed a Frederick Sherman on road 19 who was a farmer with 75 acres. His wife, Marilla, died in 1876 at 54 years of age from "derangement of the liver", "from which she could get no permanent relief although resort was had to every remedy in which there was any hope."

On Sunny Cove Farm, Frederick and Marilla (Place) Sherman had one child, Abby Altana (1847-1894) who married Robert Niles (1836-1918). Abby Altana and Robert Niles had three children, George, Flora, and Mable (Niles) Claire. They were all living at the farm in 1880, according to the census, with Robert listed as "head of household." But they soon left Sunny Cove farm. Abby Altana and her husband Robert Niles moved to a house at the foot of Sherman Road (on the west side at the intersection with Route 244) in 1883 and Frederick went with them and died there.

A few other details from Frederick's life can be gleaned from a diary his brother Clark wrote from 1890-1893. It is in the Baker's Bridge historical collection. According to Clark's diary, Frederick helped Clark dig and sort potatoes, tapped trees for maple syrup, gathered sap, "drew stone" for a bridge, hoed out a ditch and plowed some. On July 20th, 1891, an entry said "Fred came & staid all day & I am afraid it will be his last visit." As Frederick's health failed, Clark, Phebe, and their son Harley took turns going to Robert Niles' house to stay with Frederick overnight. On Tuesday, September 29, 1891, Clark wrote "It is with great sadness that I write that my dear and only brother Frederick died tonight while I was gone to Almond." He died at age 68, according to the Sabbath Recorder, " Bro. Sherman has always maintained an upright Christian character and in his declining days manifested a very strong faith in his Redeemer and was doubtless fully prepared for the change."

Sunny Cove Farm and Alva Fitz Randolph

There is a gap here concerning who lived at the Sunny Cove Farm between 1880 or whenever Frederick left, and 1900 when Alva Fitz Randolph bought it. Alva (1867-1949) was from a family in Ritchie County,

¹⁶ West Virginia that strongly valued education. His father, Asa, had married Mary H. Saunders from Alfred.¹⁷ The Randolph family had a lot of connections to Alfred. Two sisters, Experience and Callie Randolph, went to Alfred University and received bachelor degrees in 1879, with Experience continuing on as the first woman to attend the theological school to become a minister. Siblings Delvenus and Vigil also attended AU. Alva enrolled around 1890, graduating in 1893 as valedictorian. He remained in Alfred the rest of his life as a farmer. He married Mary Caroline Hoff and they had four daughters and a son. They were Fucia, (born in West Virginia 1889), Elizabeth (born in Alfred 1890) Florence, Vida, and Lowell.



“Alva and family”¹⁸

The clothing style in the picture appears to be from around 1900, and possibly shows the rest of the Randolph family from West Virginia. On the far left, the older gentleman must be Alva’s father, Asa Fitz Randolph (1833-1903), with Alva sitting next to him. Alva had 4 sisters and 6 brothers. Possibly some of them are included here in the picture? Alva’s mother, Marvel Maxson, died in 1887. In 1891 his father married a woman from Alfred, Mary Hannah Saunders (1837-1907) and he moved to Alfred also.

Alva had bought 3 parcels. This rather confusing information was found at the Belmont Courthouse...

- 1) In 1900, 69 ½ acres, from an executor, that was part of the “George Sherman and Erastus B. Stillman farm” “from the northwest corner of the George Sherman farm to the corner of lands formerly owned by Albert Smith. Deeded formerly by Justina Woodworth to James Simmons”.
- 2) In 1902, 28.71 acres that was part of lot #20 toward Lake Road from Adelia H. Thompson.
- 3) In 1903, 80.5 acres “from the southwest corner of lot #21 to the east line of the George Sherman Farm to the southwest corner of the Thomas Ellis lands” from Charles Grace Lusk.

¹⁶ It is quite amazing that a direct branch of Linda Huey’s ancestors also lived in Ritchie County, West Virginia as close neighbors to the Randolphs, according to an 1880 census and 1900 farm map.

¹⁷ From The History Of Ritchie County by Minnie Lowther

¹⁸ From <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/34316219/person/18624308056?src=>

From the 1900 census we can assume the first parcel Alva bought had the house on it, because they were living there. Records found at the Belmont Courthouse show that he did not seem to buy it from Sherman related people. One name listed there, a neighbor called Justina Woodward, is familiar because she and her husband, Charles, and three sons were listed on the 1880 census, on Harold Snyder's Edgewood Farm, possibly at the location where the foundation is in the pines near Aaron McGraw's house (#2 on the map).

In 1905 Alva was a breeder of registered Holsteins and Hampshiredown sheep, and had a dairy with 9 cows. In the early 1920s he moved to 35 South Main Street (later owned by the Association of Retarded Citizens) but remained active in farming. Alva helped organize the Allegany Farm Bureau in 1913 and later was its director, and was also the head of the village board and an assessor. Personal letters reveal the oil and gas wells on his property were difficult to maintain. Alva's cousin, Winfield Fitz Randolph lived on the farm sometime before WW I.



The barn at Sunny Cove Farm built by Alva Fitz Randolph in 1907.

A short news item in the June 26th 1907 Alfred Sun says "Alva F. Randolph raised a new barn Monday". It is remaining and being used today. Also, Alva Fitz Randolph must have been involved with the renaming of the road that Sunny Cove Farm is on to "Randolph Road." Before that, sometime in the early 1940s it was called "Milkman Road" due to a milk stand at the lower end, according to Harold Snyder. Alva also named "Sunny Cove Farm".

Harold Snyder and his brother Frank, growing up together down the road from Sunny Cove Farm, still can clearly remember names of the tenant farmers who lived in the old house at Sunny Cove Farm in the late 1930s through the 1940s when Alva Fitz Randolph rented it to them. The names include William

Hall, Edwards family, White family, Spencer family, and Glen Hutchinson, who lived there in the early to mid 1940s. Then 2 families, Mulkin (or Mulligan) and Lyle Norton families lived there (one on each floor), but the farm wasn't enough to support two families. There was Jim Franklin and his common law wife, Honey, and Marx Evingham, a hired hand. Russ Rogers, Alva Randolph's hired hand, was the last to live there in the late 1940s. A lot of people who came and went tried to make a go of it by farming in difficult times during and after the depression.

But when Frank (Harold Snyder's brother) and wife, Jean, came to rent Sunny Cove Farm, they stayed and started another long period of the farm being in the same family, as well as being related again to Edgewood Farm down the hill. Frank started renting the farm from Alva Randolph in November 1948. They never lived in the old house, which did not have indoor plumbing and only came with an outhouse. Alva left 18 cows and bred heifers, 1 bull, and 7 head of young stock. Frank agreed to take good care of the cows and Alva helped supply feed. Many more details are in the original lease found in Alva Randolph's papers which we found in the Historical Collection formerly at Hinkle Library, Alfred State College (since moved to Alfred University). In 1950 after Alva Randolph had died, his executors sold the farm of 3 parcels totaling about 180 acres to Earnest and Fern Snyder, Frank's parents. In 1960, after Earnest died in 1959, Fern Snyder sold the farm to Frank and Jean. Frank Snyder originally had a dairy of Holsteins and raised peas as a cash crop. In 1958 he sold his dairy herd, pastured beef cattle and harvested hay. He also ran a gumball machine business for 17 years, making deliveries all over western New York. In 1950 - 1952 he trucked concrete blocks in his 1948 Chevy truck for Southern Tier Concrete. His entrepreneurial abilities, figuring out how to make a living in a variety of ways, were a family trait. At one point, a solitary cow provided milk, butter, and cream for the family.

One of Frank's sons, Jerry Snyder, remembers when his father tore down the old two story house whose walls "you could see through" and altered the foundation so that a big flat bed truck could bring in a "National Homes" ranch house in November 1953. The original old house that was torn down had two stories, with a smaller back section where the kitchen was perpendicular to the main body of the house. Did the first settler, Elisha Coon, build the house on that spot after he moved here in 1814? Sections may have been built at different dates, and it seems that some kind of house has been in that location for a very long time. Also, evidence of an old barn foundation exists back behind the present garage/shop which is to the right of the present house.

Another small building existed in the woods of maple trees behind the neighbor Galle's house at 1516 Randolph Road. It was obviously a maple sugar shed, with a lot of rusting metal fragments that could have been an evaporator, and remnants of pails scattered around the maple trees there. Frank used it briefly and then tore it down. Who originally built it? I found a broken piece of pottery from the mid 1800s there.

Into the present... Frank Snyder's children all grew up on the farm: Jerry, David, Susan, and Barbara. Jerry (Gerald) Snyder (born in 1954) revived the dairy operation with his father in 1978, and 5 years later Jerry purchased the farm when his father retired. Jerry and his wife, Dotty, have 7 sons and 1 daughter: Matthew, Kelby, Kevin, Isaac, Joseph, John, Brian and Meghan. In 2002, Sunny Cove farm became

certified organic, and in 2008 Jerry's second son, Kelby, signed on in partnership with Jerry to transition the farm to a third generation. Grandchildren are starting to multiply now, enhancing the chances of the farm staying in the family for many years to come. The farm has expanded with a farm store and a mission of sustainably producing quality food and building relationships with the local community. A raw milk permit was obtained in 2006, and their farm store also sells all organic grass fed beef, goat milk and meat, maple syrup made on the farm, English walnuts, apples, hay, straw, as well as lard candles, handmade soaps and lotions made by daughter Meghan.

Other old farms on Randolph Road

There were several other early farms further down Randolph Road that have since disappeared. Those farms were near a huge field that is still called "Wireworm Prairie".



Wireworm Prairie at the west end of Randolph Road, where Crandall, Hall, Callen and Fenner farms are long gone.
Wireworm Prairie is now owned by Sunny Cove Farm.

Charles Crandall -

The field at the west end of Randolph Road was given the name "Wireworm Prairie" by Charles Crandall who had owned a 201 acre farm near the line between the townships of Alfred and Ward. (I'm not sure exactly where on the map.) Charles was a Civil War veteran bearing a saber scar on his face. He named the farm "Wireworm Prairie" because every potato crop was attacked by wireworms. Charles painted a sign on his barn that read "Wireworm Prairie, Scar Face Charlie, prop." ¹⁹

¹⁹ History of Alfred, New York, by the Alfred Historical Society and Baker's Bridge Association, 1990

C. Hall (#7 on map)

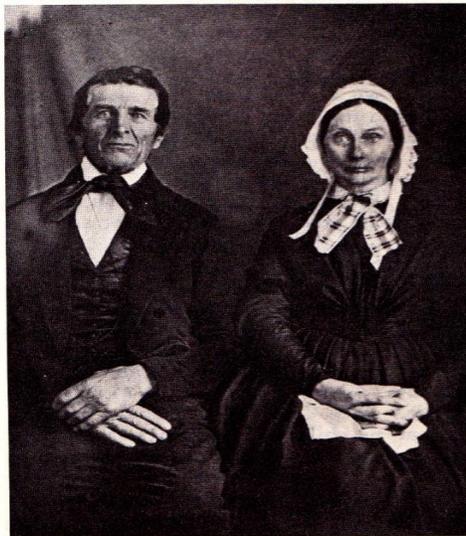
Harold Snyder's father (Earnest Snyder) bought the 206 acre farm in the area where it says "C. Hall" on the map, #7. The Norwoods lived there at the time. Earnest bought it in 1941 and sometime between 1946 and 1948 moved the 1 ½ story house down to 1250 Randolph Road, next to the Edgewood Farm. Presently Leroy Herrick and family live there. Being an excellent carpenter, Leroy has renovated it into a two story house and added new siding. It looks like a completely new house, hiding a much older house underneath.

William Callen (#5 on map)

William Callen (1827-1905), who also had a farm near Wireworm Prairie, had enlisted in 1862 at 35 years old in the First New York Dragoons. In 1863 he was discharged for a disability. An agricultural census records William Callen having a farm in 1870 and 1880, with 114 acres improved land and 6 acres woodland. He had 24 sheep and two milk cows. His wife was named Lovina, and they had three children, Hezekiah, Owen, and Victoria.

Elisha Fenner (#6 on map)

The 1869 map shows a house site with the name "E. Fenner", who must have been "Elisha" Fenner (1834-1919). His parents, Isaac Fenner and Amelia Potter came to Alfred from Fairfield in Herkimer County, NY sometime between 1818 and 1825 with one horse and wagon. They settled on Waterwells Road where Elisha was born in 1834²⁰.



The First Alfred Fenner's — Isaac and Amelia Potter Fenner (Isaac, 1795-1877) (Amelia, 1799-1872)

Elisha Fenner's father, Isaac, successfully ran the largest dairy farm in the town, producing cheese he sold in Rochester. The Fenner's had 11 children, with six living to advanced age.

²⁰ From History of Allegany County, by Minard, 1896

By 1869 one of their sons, Elisha Fenner, had his own farm on Randolph Road, on lot #19. Elisha married Elizabeth Hall in 1857, who died at age 24, 7 days after giving birth to their son, Ellery (1858-1897). Four years later, Elisha went off to fight an amazing number of battles in the Civil War from 1861-1865. To mention only a few... Bull Run, Manassas Gap, the Peninsular campaign, siege of Yorktown, combat at Westport, Fair Oaks, Seven Days Battles, Mechanicsville, Gaines Mill, Savage Station, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg (the Peach Orchard), ending with being present at the Appomattox Courthouse.



Civil War portrait of Elisha Potter Fenner

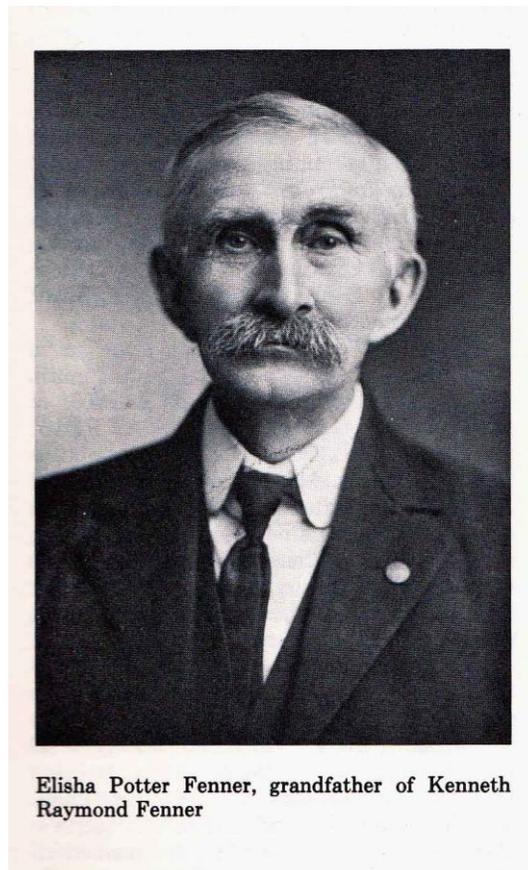
Elisha lost his hearing during the war. This is not surprising since he was in so many battles surrounded by loud gunfire and canon. He came back and married Harriet J. Smith in 1867. In 1874 he took on manufacturing cheese as his father had, and by 1896 had four factories. ..at the Fenner home, Five Corners, Pleasant Valley, and McHenry Valley.

Elisha and Harriet had six children: Albert (1868- ?), Eliam (1870-1936), Asenath (1871-1909), Henry (1872-1967), Olin (1875-1945), and Amelia (1877-1966). According to the Sabbath Recorder, son Albert “was an insane genius. He served as a financial officer for the asylum to which he was committed”. (!?)

Son, Eliam, ran a hardware store in Alfred from 1909 to 1927 that included a tin shop that ran 24 hours a day making pails, basins, bake ware, evaporator pans, sap buckets, strainers, and syrup cans.

Elisha Fenner died at age 85 in 1919. From the Sabbath Recorder...

"Mr. Fenner was a useful and highly respected citizen of Alfred all his life, although his intercourse with his fellow-men was considerably hampered by the loss of his hearing - an affliction which came to him in the service of his country. Although he was thus shut away from the world and even from his family around him for so many long years, seldom if ever has a life manifested such a happy, cheerful and uncomplaining spirit as his. He was of an even disposition, and was more than punctual in meeting his obligations. In the last few years he has taken particular pride in his military career. "President Lincoln" and "the Battle of Gettysburg" were tender memories to him. He requested that he be buried wrapped only in a flag. Only a few minutes before he passed away, as the doctor came into his room, he gave him the military salute, and softly repeated. "Gettysburg." "



Randolph Road was very well represented by Civil War heroes. It is not surprising since one hundred and twenty men from the small town of Alfred went to fight in the Civil War. Seventeen were killed in action or died in hospitals or prison camps, but Isaac Langworthy, Charles Crandall, William Callen, and Elisha Fenner all made it back safely to farm and live productive lives on Randolph Road.

Conclusion

It has been interesting to find out that there have been close relationships of friends and family between the two farms, Sunny Cove and Edgewood, on Randolph Road for a good part of the past 200 years. First, there were the families of Rodman Place and Elisha Coon from Berlin, NY, whose wives were sisters. Then, after the Shermans replaced the Coons at Sunny Cove Farm, several marriages occurred between the two families, the Shermans and the Places. Later, the Snyder family took over on both farms, and other houses as well on Randolph Road. It is also remarkable that both farms never gave up farming over the last 200 plus years, unlike many other farms in the area, such as around Wireworm Prairie where the old farm houses have disappeared and some of the fields have turned into trees again, or into smaller house lots.

I'm sure all who have been here in the past have appreciated these farms that form a community of neighbors on Randolph Road, just as we do in the present. Our existence on this land is linked with people of the past, and the beauty, shapes and contours of the land have influenced the lives of all who have lived here.

By Linda Huey with David Dronsick
2018
1530 Randolph Road
Alfred Station, NY
607-587-9877

Sources:

Originally from the Western New York Historical Collection at Hinkle Library, Alfred State College, but now part of the Special Collections/Archives at Herrick Library, Alfred University:

History of Allegany County, by Beers, 1879

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<https://archive.org/details/gazetteerbusines00chil>

Alva Randolph folder of personal papers

Hist. F 127, A4, A4, P.629

Hist., F, 127, A4, H3, 1905

From (or inter-library loan) from the Box of Books library in Alfred, NY:

History of Alfred, New York, by the Alfred Historical Society and Baker's Bridge Association, 1990

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From AURA (Alfred University Research and Archives)

History of the Town of Alfred, by Cortez R. Clawson, 1926, p. 81

History of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred, NY, 1816-1916 by Frank L. Greene (1916?)

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...and other genealogy websites

www.fultonhistory.com

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Belmont Courthouse:

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People:

Thelma Palmiter

Harold Snyder

Frank Snyder



Harold and Bev Snyder on Edgewood Farm



Three generations: Frank, Jerry, and Kelby Snyder on Sunny Cove Farm

From History of Allegany County, by Minard, 1896

DEVELOPMENTS, PRODUCTS, ETC.-The first business of the settlers in Alfred was to make "clearings." The ashes, carefully saved from the burned fallows and converted into potash, was the first source of revenue. The making of maple sugar supplied home requirement and the surplus, bartered with the merchant, helped to secure needed family supplies. Lumber had little value beyond the cost of making, on account of lack of roads and a market. Those who could hunt could in that way help supply themselves with food, especially if they were fortunate enough to secure the bounty offered for the killing of wolves. Flax was raised, prepared by hand, carded, spun, woven and converted into clothing. When it became possible sheep were raised and their wool formed, entirely by hand processes, into clothing. Few indeed were the early homes into which the cards, the spinning-wheel, the flag-wheel, the quill-wheel, the swifts, the warping-bars, and loom did not find an early entrance. Oxen were in general use because considered more economical and useful than horses. The virgin soil, enriched by the ashes of the burned timber, was highly productive; and when the seasons were favorable, good crops of grain rewarded the farmer's toil among the roots and stumps. Year by year the clearings widened, orchards were planted, flocks and herds increased and roads became more passable. Here and there a mill was built, and a few small stores were opened. One of the earliest ones was kept by Thos. Langworthy (as was one of the earliest taverns) in the house where Charles Stillman lives. The merchant conducted the exchanges of the people, receiving produce for his goods and turning the produce into cash as best he could. In summer the wool not needed at home was sold. In the fall fat sheep and cattle went to market "in droves." In the haying and harvesting season it was customary for such of the men as could be spared to "go north," to the lower, warmer and longer-settled farms of Livingston and Genesee counties to convert their time and strength into cash, which usually went to make payments on the land or improvements. The log schoolhouse early sprang up in each neighborhood, and the district school, the singing-school, the spelling-school and the Sabbath-meeting became a part of the life of the community. As prosperity permitted, the large frame-barn took the place of the pole-sided, straw-shingled stable, and a little later the frame house, with its shaved shingle roof, much smaller generally than the barn, replaced the log hut as the family dwelling. The hide of the beef creature found its way to the local tannery, and in time, duly curried, was converted into boots and shoes by the shoemaker who perhaps went from house to house for that purpose. Clothing was generally made at home; but if "style" was desired the services of the village tailor or tailoress were secured. The styles of those days were different from those pictured in the fashion plates of city tailors, but the clothing was warm and serviceable, and that was all that was desired. In summer it was not uncommon for people to go barefoot even to "meeting" on the Sabbath. A pair of calf-skin boots or shoes was a luxury to which few could attain. In later years when the first flush of fertility of the soil was exhausted, it was found that grass, oats and potatoes was surer and more profitable crops than corn and wheat, so stock-raising and dairying became the chief business. This was doubtless brought about the earlier in this town by the settlement of several thrifty families of dairymen from Herkimer County, notably those of Isaac Fenner, George and Josiah Sherman and Samuel N. Stillman. Their skill and success was imparted from neighbor to neighbor until, by 1850, butter and cheese were made on nearly every farm. The opening of the Erie railroad in 1853 gave access to new and greater markets. The cheese factory and creamery came later to improve the quality, increase the quantity, and thereby stimulate the business, which, small in its beginnings, has grown to immense proportions. There are five cheese factories in the town at present, 1895. Butter, cheese, maple syrup, apples, potatoes, hay, sheep and calves are shipped in large quantities.