

A History of Arkwright
by
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Township of Arkwright

Arkwright township with its 36 square miles of hilly land is located in the north eastern part of Chautauqua County. It heads the list of townships. It appeared the first time in the annual report of the meeting of the supervisors of the County November 9, 1830.

Arkwright is also noted for its deep gorges and beautiful scenery. The Canadaway Creek running across the township from east to west and into Lake Erie. Its deep gorge and 22 ft. water fall have attracted many a sight seer in past years. Walnut Creek in the eastern part of the township also runs into Lake Erie but does not have as many scenic pictures.

The Erie Railroad did some grading in Arkwright about 1834-1835, built a stone Culvert near the upper end of Walnut Creek road. Some grading done has been used as a highway for some time. The Culvert which is beginning to crumble can be seen from the highway.

At one point with an elevation of 2100 ft. lights of Buffalo could be seen until the smoky Lackawana City hid it from view. At another point on the Arkwright Center Road, Newton Memorial Hospital can be seen perched on the Stockton Hills. In the evening its lights look like a small town. The light from the lighthouse near Dunkirk was also visible.

Another scenic view is from the east and west town line road between Arkwright and Sheridan. There you can see a long line of Lake Erie shore. Look over the city of Dunkirk and Fredonia and a stretch of the country west of these places and a large part of the fruit country in the township of Sheridan. Many of our sunsets over the lake are very beautiful.

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At a point in the eastern part of the township, near Town's Corners one can look up the Farrington Hollow road almost to one of the sources of the Conowango Creek. Most of the hilly country is drained by streams flowing into Lake Erie. On a farm now owned by Thomas Ahrens is a pond where the water flows from the east end into the Canadaway Creek and from the west end into the Mississippi water shed. Some of the south western and south eastern hills are drained by the Conewango and Cassadaga Creeks.

Mud Lake between Arkwright and Villenova is a deep body of water of about 10 acres. This is another source of Conewango Creek. It is appropriately named Mud Lake. At present a family of beavers are there doing some of their building.

Forming of Township

The Township of Arkwright was formed from part of Pomfret and Villinova April 29, 1829. In 1830 a part of Pomfret was annexed. On May 2, 1830 the first town meeting was held in Simeon Clinton's home. The following officers were chosen.

Supervisor, William Wilcox; Town Clerk, Aaron Foster; Commissioners of Highways, Isace Thomas, Joel White and Aaron VanVliet. Assessors, Andrus M. Huyke, Daniel Harrington, and Lewis Tucker; Collector, Daniel Weaver; Overseers of the poor, Silas May, Charles Crawford; Commissioners of Schools, Isace Bumpus, Ira White and Lewis E. Danforte; Inspectors of schools, Andrus M. Huyke, Timothy Cole and James Sprague; Constables, Edward B. Kingsley and David Weaver. Justices of Peace, Isaac Bumpus, John G. Curtis and Lewis E. Danforth.

Ezra Potter gave the name Arkwright to the newly formed township. It is generally believed named after Richard Arkwright an English industrialist.

Ezra Potter came to Arkwright from Vermont by Ox-team. He looked over the site at Buffalo and moved on to Dunkirk, then swampy land, coming back to higher ground. He located in the north-western part of Arkwright and established a home and sawmill.

Simeon Clinton was a man of great ability. He was very active in the forming of the township of Arkwright. He was a surveyer, an Inn keeper and first Postmaster which he held for 20 years. He was born in 1779 in Saratoga County. He located on lot 37 in 1813. He made the first survey of Dunkirk Village and other surveys included Sinclairville and he had the first frame barn. He also

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mastered the art of weaving plain and fancy checked blankets. His wish was to pass on "in the twinkling of an eye". He was struck by lightning standing in the doorway of his barn, April 29, 1858. On June 4th, 1902 Budd A. Palmer, a great-grandson of Simeon Clinton was killed by lightning while at work on his farm, located near the site of Simeon Clinton's Home.

William Wilcox, the first supervisor of Arkwright was born in Connecticut May 4, 1790. He came with his father in 1809. Wilcox purchased a part of lot 48 adjoining Sheridan. He was married in 1817 to Esther Cole from Vermont. Their sons were Marcus B., Edson II., Walter R., and William H. Mr. Wilcox cut the first tree in the clearing of his farm and developed a fine home where he resided until 1865. Mr. Wilcox's name first appeared in the annual meeting of the county's Supervisors in November 9, 1830. At this meeting it was resolved "that the Supervisors be allowed \$1.50 per day for services for the respective towns, where no contracts were made to the contrary by the Commissioners of highways." He was Major of the Militia and member of assembly in 1867. Mr. Wilcox died in Fredonia October 14, 1867.

Andrus M. Huyck settled in the Abbey in 1827 in a primitive forest. Settlers came so rapidly a log schoolhouse was built. It had one room, one door and one window. It was heated by a fire place. No records of pupils or teachers are found. This school became of high repute and as the Abbey school enjoyed prosperity it furnished many well equipped teachers for public schools. Mr. Huyck was a successful teacher, school commissioner and school inspector many years. He was a deeply religious man and did much good to the community.

EARLY SETTLERS

The price of cheap land in western New York traveled far. The population increased rapidly. \$1.50 per acre was found in one record.

Jesse Reed from Windsor County Vermont walked here and took up land in Lot 43, blazing his way through the forest from Dunkirk. (How did he know when to stop?) He established a home. The only money available was from cutting and burning the timber, making black salt to barter for taxes and other debts, and exchanging farm products for other necessities. The first settlers all had to build a log house for shelter.

Lartius Butler

About 1828 Mr. Lartius Butler and wife Eva came from York Livingston County New York, by ox team. Their most treasured possession was a barrel of salt. They followed a blazed trail up Walnut Creek and settled in a log cabin. When they left their cabin to clear their land they always carried their gun. After Mr. Butler died, Mrs. Eva Butler married Nicholas Hyke.

Eliakam Thatcher

About 1830 Eliakam Thatcher and wife Debora, came to this township with an ox team and sled. They settled near what was later Burnham Hollow, in a log house. Moses Luce came with his goods and family with a span of horses. He settled just east of the Thatchers about the same time.

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Bela Kingsley

Bela Kingsley from Onondaga County settled on lot 13 in the Spring of 1822. He opened a road for his team of two yoke of oxen and built a log cabin. Covered it with hollowed Baswood logs with an opening left for the smoke to escape. Though far from other people they were not alone long at a time. Almost every night their cabin floor of split logs was covered with weary travelers looking for land. Three years later he built a small frame home and commenced Inn keeping. On the 4th of July the young people with ox teams, on foot and otherwise collected there for an "Independence Ball." the house having but one room. He kept tavern, cleared and cultivated his farm and enjoyed his home until the first proposed route for the New York and Erie Railroad ran through it. He then sold out and moved into Pomfret. His farm was the late Nicholas Black farm, now the home of the present Supervisor H.L. Johnson. Edwin B. Kingsley his son (oldest) remained in Arkwright and purchased a place in the Abbey district. He was a professional chopper and marksman. His common average of chopping timber in order for logging was an acre in four days.

James Black

James Black and William Scott early settlers purchased a part of lot 10. They built neighboring log cabins of which the doors were made from a board, which Mr. Scott brought two miles on his back. They were life long residents and good citizens.

Isaiah Martin

Isaiah Martin from Broom County bought in lot 3 in south eastern part of the town where he developed from the wilderness a

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fruitful farm. Mr. Martin built a Tavern, a store and Asheries all of which he conducted for many years.

Leonard Scessions

Leonard Scessions from Broom County came to Arkwright in 1828 and settled on lot 4. Two years after the Aaron Town family. He was born June 26, 1788 and died April 15, 1891 at the age of 102 years 10 months 19 days. He was twice married. He and his wives are buried in the little abandoned cemetery near Chicken Tavern. His family consisted of 4 daughters and 2 sons. The Abbeys, Towns, and Scessions intermarried and were the leading families in Arkwright Summit and Millville districts.

Ellsworth Griswold

Ellsworth Griswold came to Arkwright in 1831. He took up 200 acres of land in the south central part of the township. His first home was a log house. The frame house he built is still standing and is occupied by Myron D. Griswold. Ellsworth Griswold brought his family; mother, brothers and sisters from Sangersfield with an ox team. His brother John Cowles Griswold and one sister Sylvia G. Peebles remained in the township. The others scattered to other parts of the County and the West. John C. Griswold married Susan Briggs Jan. 11, 1844. Their children were Cassius M. and Dewitt C. who died at the age of 10 years. John C. was Captain of the home Militia at the age of 16 years. He helped raise what became Co. F of the 154th New York Volunteers. Promoted to Captain, was wounded in the battle of Chancellorsville, taken prisoner and transported to Libbey Prison. Was exchanged and

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later came home. Soon returned to service with impaired health. Was honorably discharged at Chattanooga in 1864. Took up farming and Cheese making. John C. Griswold was justice of the peace 40 years in Arkwright. Several terms was justice of Sessions, six terms as Supervisor of the town. Was justice of the peace at the time of his death July 24, 1892. Succeeded by his son Cassius and later by his grandson John D. Griswold, making over one hundred years there was a Griswold on the town board in Arkwright.

Samuel Davis, born in one of the New England states, 1779. At the age of 26 years he, in company with Judge Zatta Cushing and family came to Fredonia from Vermont, the winter of 1805 driving an Ox-team. Coming up Lake Erie from Buffalo the party encountered a terrific storm. They were rescued by men from 18 mile creek. Samuel lived near Laona and Cassadage, later he purchased a farm in Arkwright near the Christian Meeting House. There he learned to manufacture oils by distilling wild herbs; spearmint, peppermint, wormwood, smartweed and yarrow. The latter selling for \$16.00 an ounce. These oils were sold in New York City through Charles Burt of Fredonia. He continued this industry for two (2) years.

In 1849 he died, survived by a wife Sally Fisher Davis, five children-two daughters and three sons. One of the sons, Ruben Walker Davis was born July 24, 1817. At the age of 23 years he had a clear deed of a (40) forty acre farm earned by day wages. He had built a log house. He married in October 1840 to Abigail Ball who was born in Vermont. He was a hunter of bees and each fall took as high as (15) fifteen swarms.

He sold his forty acre farm and bought (90) acres. He sat a large apple orchard planting trees of every variety he found in his locality, also many nut trees.

During the winter Mr. Davis hunted. One year his furs brought him \$230. The winter of 1840 a wolf was pursued in the town of Villinova. It was wounded by two men, Mr. Davis killed it in Arkwright, received the bounty but divided it between the two men from Villinova. It was the last wolf known to be shot in Chautauqua Co. He was an expert shot with a rifle, killing a crow or hawk at 30 rods or a fox at 40 rods.

He was a lover of music, making several Violins which sold for \$5.00 to \$7.00.

In 1867 he went to the Rockies to prospect in minerals. On his farm there is a surface indicating of Gold. He spent much time and energy in excavating. A small amount of gold was found. The pleasure and satisfaction of the find, far overshadowed the disappointment that gold did not exist in paying quantities. In his declining years he made butter ladels and other utensils. In this way continuing his busy life.

INDUSTRIES

Joseph Day made spinning wheels and a good quality of hemp rope from his flax. He sold his extra seed to the oil mill in the Abbey.

Samuel Davis in about the 1840's operating a still near Christian Church making oils from wild Herbs as spearmint, Smart Weed, wormwood, Peppermint and Yarrow. The Yarrow brought \$16.00 an ounce cash in New York City, through Charles Burt of Fredonia. A similar still was operated at the foot of the big hill on the Arkwright Center Road.

Harvey Clark had a carpenters shop at the Center where he made butterworkers and bobsleds. He framed a large cheese factory in Arkwright for Asahel Burnham to be put up in Sinclairville. When the building was erected it went up like clock work.

Oliver Markham made chairs at his home about a half mile west of the Center. They were ladder back with splint bottoms. Many are still found in the town in the homes of the descendants of the early settlers.

A factory was started in Laona where more chairs of fancy turned frames were made. The Markham Chairs were not long popular.

The early pioneers came to a forest covered home. Trapping was the most general of cash producing work.

The cutting and burning the trees and carefully saving the ashes made another revenue producing by-product. These field ashes were often sold to "Asheries". Six hundred bushel of field ashes could be manufactured into a ton of pearl ash. A ton of pearl ash sold for about \$200 in some places. A careful pioneer could usually pay for his land in this way.

By leaching the wood ashes with water and boiling the extract in iron kettles, it was evaporated to a dryness called black ash. By careful reheating this could be refined to pearl ash. It took some time to do all these things at home and to transport their products by ox or foot to be sold.

There were coopers to make barrels and other home made utensils, and some carpenters to construct household furniture. Many small home industries were developed which do not exist today.

The Canadaway Factory

Butter and cheese making soon followed after lumbering and clearing the land. Some of the farms built long, one story buildings separate from the dwelling and other farm buildings. The season's production was kept in these cheese houses until weather became cold. Cheese buyers would come and buy the entire lot. These men were usually from New York City to which place the cheese was shipped. The price varied from 5¢ to 10¢ per pound.

H. M. Tarbox and his sister Mrs. Sabrina Dalrymple went to Herkimer County, N. Y. to visit relatives where they saw large cooperative factories in operation. In 1861 Mr. Tarbox and Asahel Burnham ran a cheese factory in a shingle mill, storing the cheese in the cheese houses on their farms.

In 1862 a three story frame building 100 x 32 feet was built in Burnham Hollow with press rooms and work rooms attached to the west side of the main building. This was the first factory to operate under the cooperative plan in Chautauqua County and was known as the Canadaway Cheese Factory.

Cheese making continued for some time in the new building. Capt. John C. Griswold made cheese there for sometime after returning from the war. Milk was delivered twice a day so there were two shifts in making up the milk. Some milk was brought as far away as eight miles. In the flush of the season 60 cheese were made per day weighing 60 pounds each. From the "Fredonia Censon" is this item - "A cheese buyer bought the season's production of 60 tons of cheese netting the patrons 20¢ a pound.

The cheese had to be rubbed and turned each day to cure it properly. Mrs. Susan Skinner was the champion cheese turner. She

The Canadaway Factory - 2

received \$1.00 per day and "found" for her work.

The factory was the social center for miles around. There was time for gossip among the drivers waiting to unload. Sometimes a little speed was used to get ahead, then gossip turned to arguments. There were always many around the factory so time didn't drag. Many various events were held for entertainment but they were seldom of a rough type.

Other factories were built and patronage fell. The night shift was abandoned. The Burnham family became interested in running horses purchased in Kentucky. In 1884 the Burnhams left Arkwright selling the factory and 10 acres of land to John C. Griswold who lived there until his death in 1902. He and Bert Hill made cheese here for sometime. Random Mathewson and Mr. McAdams made cheese at various times. At this time cheese was sold about every week.

William E. Smith, a commission merchant from New York City came to this county to manufacture sugar of milk under the firm name of "American LactoesCo." He invested a large amount of capital in equipment, Burnham Hollow being one of the factories he purchased in 1903. In 1905 the company went into bankruptcy. Mr. Smith said, "I lost \$100,000 but I made sugar of milk."

The factory went into the hands of Horace Kimball and Charlie Ames. It was not operated every season. Frank Wheeler made cheese at this time. Garfield Hawkins was the last cheese maker in the Canadaway Cheese Factory. For lack of patronage the building was abandoned and the lumber used in another construction.

In 1915 the Borden Condensery agents canvassed the territory offering good prices for fluid milk. Milk was transported to the plants by wagons and teams until they were replaced by trucks.

Union Cheese Factory

December 11, 1869

Meeting to organize the Arkwright Union Cheese Factory.

Meeting was called to order by Albert Tarbox. E. Crawford, President - William Allen, Secretary - George W. Briggs, Treasurer. Albert Tarbox, Edwin Crawford and Stephen W. Reed were chosen trustees.

Motioned that George W. Briggs procure writings to organize a Company to erect a building to manufacture butter and cheese.

Meeting adjourned until December 18, 1869. At the meeting Dec. 18, 1869 it is stated the papers were signed.

Meeting adjourned until December 22, 1869. At the meeting held December 22, 1869 it was voted George Cardot furnish the lumber for the dry house at \$12.00 per thousand. Voted the plan furnished by John Simmons for the building be adopted. Meeting adjourned for one week.

December 29, 1869. Meeting called to order by the President, the bylaws read and voted in by rotation.

The Factory was built in 1870 by John Simmons and Charles Depledge.

John C. Griswold made the first cheese. He coming from the Burnham Hollow Factory where he had made cheese for a few years.

List of Stockholders and amounts paid.

George W. Briggs	-----	10 Shares	-----	\$1000.00
Edwin Crawford	-----	5 "	-----	500.00
Albert Tarbox	-----	3½ "	-----	350.00
Stephen W. Reed	-----	3 "	-----	300.00
William Allen	-----	2 "	-----	200.00
Russell Mattoon	-----	2 "	-----	200.00
George Cardot	-----	2 "	-----	200.00

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James House -----	1 Share -----	\$100.00
John C. Griswold -----	2 " -----	200.00
Albert Tarbox -----	2½ " -----	250.00
Heman Mathews -----	2½ " -----	250.00

March 7, 1871

Stockholders meeting called to elect officers. Edwin Crawford, Stephen Reed, Russell Mattoon were elected as board of directors. E. Crawford, President - William Allen, Secretary - George Briggs, Treasurer.

From the year 1871 to 1884 the above names appeared as board of directors and as holding the offices of company President, Treasurer and Secretary.

At a special meeting held December 27, 1884 all the stockholders except Russell Mattoon were present at which time the shares were signed over to Isaac Phillips and Frank Phillips.

Signed by - George W. Briggs, President

William Allen Secretary

January 20, 1885

At the annual meeting of the Stockholders of Arkwright Union Cheese Factory the following were elected.

Board of Directors - Isaac Phillips, Frank Phillips,

Hampton Phillips

On the early evening of January 11, 1889 the Factory burned. A new building of much smaller dimensions was built on the same site early in the Spring of 1889.

Isaac Phillips, President; Frank Phillips, Treasurer; Isaac Phillips, Secretary

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September 24, 1889

A new Stock Company was formed with 22 shares of \$100 each as follows:

Stephen W. Reed	----- 2	Shares	----- \$200.00
Frank O. Briggs	----- 2	"	----- 200.00
Mrs. S.A. Briggs	----- 2	"	----- 200.00
George Page	----- 1	"	----- 100.00
Francis Scott	----- 1	"	----- 100.00
John Bouquin	----- 1	"	----- 100.00
Eder Tarbox	----- 2	"	----- 200.00
Ezra Scott	----- 3	"	----- 300.00
John Christy	----- 2	"	----- 200.00
William Allen	----- 2	"	----- 200.00
LaGrande House	----- 2	"	----- 200.00
Cyrus B. Wilson	----- 2	"	----- 200.00

From 1889 to 1903 the Stockholders held meetings and elected officers and some shares were bought and sold. On Feb. 16, 1903 Kate P. Wilson sold and transferred her 15 shares to Simon Seybold and Mary Seybold. On the same date officers were elected as follows:

Simon Seybold, Mary Seybold & Frank O. Briggs as directors.

Simon Seybold, President; Mary Seybold, Treasurer; and

Frank O. Briggs, Secretary.

On October 24, 1907 the Stockholders all signed over their shares to a new Company composed of: Simon Seybold, President; Mary Seybold, Treasurer; Albert Seybold, Secretary.

On March 25, 1909 Simon and Mary Seybold signed over their 15 shares in the Arkwright Union Cheese Factory to Abram Gamp. On March 23, 1910 said Abram Gamp signed his 15 shares in the factory to Oscar Tarbox and Myrl Christy.

SAWMILLS

Sawmills came soon after the settlement of the town. The first ones were waterpower. All farms that had streams of any size would build a pond and a water wheel to run saws of all descriptions; uprights, drag saws and circular saws. Wood mills of all kinds were propelled with a team of horses.

In 1818 Abriam Orton and Benjamin Perry built a sawmill on a branch of the Canadaway Creek in the northwest part of the town.

The next one built by Andrus Huyck was on the Walnut Creek in the north east part of the town. Two others were built on the same creek about two miles apart. Asahel Burnham built a mill on the Canadaway Creek in the south part of the town. S.A. Stodard and Joel White built one above the Burnham mill to the east. These were run by water for a few years, but were soon abandoned to be replaced by steam power. Thousands of board feet of lumber were sawed for local buildings and taken by horse power to near by towns.

A shingle mill, run by steam, was built by Mr. Burnham. The boiler exploded, but no one was injured. A larger mill was built near by which was operated by the Burnham family for many years. Shingles were made and sold locally and in near by towns. Often 400^c per day were made which sold for 7¢ to 12¢ according to size. Cheese boxes were also made until the demand ceased.

At Arkwright Center a sawmill was operated by the Orcutt Brothers and later by the Snow Brothers. Much of the lumber in the Normal School was delivered from this mill. The mill was moved farther west on the Snow farm where cheese boxes were made and later grape baskets as the grape industry increased.

As the land was cleared and fields established the farmers would assemble to cut the hay by hand, spread it from the swath left by the scythe to cure, rake it to be stacked or put in barns. Hand made rakes and forks were used often of crude construction.

Grain was cut by grain cradles, raked and bound by hand. It was later threshed by flails and winnowed by the wind.

The first mowing machine was owned by Ellsworth Griswold. Hay rakes came next. They were of such construction a man or boy was required to walk behind to operate it.

Drop reapers and grain drills were rare and much sought for long distances. One machine would accomodate many farmers who would pay a small fee for its use.

Hand labor was cheaper in the later 1800s. One summer a Mrs. Lynn milked for a neighbor for a cent per cow.

The gasoline engines, other inventions and the electric power lines have opened a new era for Arkwright residents.

ACTIVITIES OF THE EARLY DAYS

The first Monday in September was General Training Day. All men and boys were called for rifle practice and parade of Companies to Martial Music. Ginger Bread was sold for refreshments. A six-pence was a liberal allowance for the days feasting.

The women held quilting bees, wool picking bees as well as apple paring and husking bees. These made the social life more pleasant.

Long visits were made to relatives and friends. These visits were unannounced but not disturbing to the hostess. There was a salt pork barrel and a corn beef barrel in the cellar as well as a barrel of soft soap for laundry purposes.

Dried apples and dried fruit found a ready market in stores. These could be exchanged for cloth, flour, sugar and other articles.

Spinning, weaving and knitting socks and striped mittens were other occupations. Cobblers for making foot wear would take their benches and go to a home and make foot wear for the whole family. Many women became expert tailoresses and dress makers. All clothing apparel were made at home. Homes were busy places.

Gas and Oil Wells

In the spring of 1910 the Hanover Gas and Oil Corporation leased many farms in Arkwright.

The first well was drilled on Clark Beebe's farm in the Abbey with a flow of 200,000 cu. ft. per day. Another well was drilled on the Herbert Johnson farm with a 2,000,000 cu. ft. flow. One well reached a flow of 13,000,000 cu. ft. per day.

The gas was marketed with the Iroquois Gas Co. in Buffalo. A compressor station on the Clark Beebe farm forced the gas to the line that connected with the Iroquois Company's high pressure line at Gowanda. Six different gas companies drilled 44 wells in this town.

The Republic Light, Heat and Power Company have control of the remaining producing gas wells. Many residents in the northern part of the town as well as the Grange Hall are using gas from this line today.

There are no Villages in Arkwright. Names associated with some of the school districts and cross roads serve to locate people. "The Abbey" on Walnut Creek, "The Summit" or now Blacks Corners, Millville, Burnham Hollow, Briggs, Cowdens, Arkwright Center, Thies, Town's Corners and Chicken Tavern are familiar to most of the residents.

The first settlements were made in the northwestern part of the township as early as 1807 by Abram Orton, Benjamin Perry and Augustus Burnham.

The first marriage is said to have been that of Asahel Burnham, a brother of Augustus, to Louana Eaton Mayll, 1815. Burnham was a corporal in Captain Tubbs company in the war of 1812. He has many descendants in the County. The first death was that of Augustus Burnham, February 6, 1813. He is the oldest tombstone in the Laona Cemetery.

CHURCHES

The first religious service was held in the home of Aaron Wilcox by Rev. John Spencer in 1810, in the northern part of what later became part of Arkwright. A Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in the Abbey by Elder David Preston, in June 1830. The first eight members were Ira and Elizabeth Richardson, John Franklin, Ruben and Fanny Howe, Cable Weaver, John Lafferty and Isaac Bumpus. Others who joined soon were Andrus M. Huyck, William McClanathan, Wright Lewis, Hiram Lewis, R. McClanathan and probably their wives. The class increased to the number of sixty the first year. The Mr. Andrus M. Huyck was class leader for a number of years.

The Church continued to prosper yet no Church edifice was built. Meetings were held in the district school house. The present school house gave for church purposes. Church services by Appointment is still held, also Sunday School is held every summer there. A span of 125 years.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

From "Church Book of the Christian Church of Arkwright."
"At a conference meeting held at the school house in Distric No.25 in the town of Pomfret, the county of Chautauqua, State of New York April the 22nd 1831, the following brethern and sisters were approbated as a church of Christ by the order of the New Testament by Elders Joseph Bailey and Oliver Barr and a number of visiting bretheren."

Eleven names appear on the roll.
Ottis Goulding, Abigail Goulding, Abel Rice, Lois Rice, Charles Crawford, Lucy Crawford, Abigail Ellis, Polly Pease, Lydia Ellis, Betsy Dalrymple, Susan Pierce. Other names were added later.

2 - Churches

Charles Crawford was first Church Clerk.

Elder George C. Bailey, Elder Fancher, Elder Totman, Elder Ely Holiday, Elder Erbin Bulloc, Samuel H. Mores, Rev. A.S. Langdon and Rev. Alden Allen served the church as Ministers at different times. The following names are some who were members later and residents of Arkwright.

Joseph Briggs	Rhoda Briggs
Lenana Dalrymple	Sabrina Dalrymple
Jasper Goulding	Clarrissa Goulding
George W. Briggs	Sally Briggs
Albert Tarbox	Hersey Tarbox
Stephen Reed	Betsy Reed
Franklin Mattoon	Annett Mattoon
Cyrus Wood	

This Church Book containing the names of its members and the minutes of their "Fellowship Meetings" is now in the possession of Mrs. Hazel Scott Skinner.

The United Brethren Church

The United Brethren Church in Arkwright was built in 1882, on Edwin Ruttenbur's farm in the Millville School District. Mr. Ruttenbur gave the Church a lease on the land as long as it was used for church purposes. The pastor then was Sylvester Williams.

Charles Skiff had the contract to build the Church. Augustus Burnham of Charlotte contributed many days work on the building. Other contributors were Edwin Ruttenbur, Nelson Mansfield, George Martin and others.

The Church was dedicated by Rev. John White with fitting ceremonies.

A frame house was moved onto the property an addition built and the Church had a parsonage. The pastor held morning services and Sunday School in the Church. Sunday evening he would hold services in alternate school houses. Arkwright Center, Burnham Hollow and Beechwoods.

Mr. Sharp, Rev. Waldo, Rev. Holmes, Rev. Maynard, Rev. Ingalsby, Rev. Magee, Rev. Olephant, Rev. William Wilcox, Rev. Hammond, Rev. McEntire and Rev. Albert Atkinson were some of the ministers.

The membership and attendance grew so small that the United Brethren Church in Cherry Creek took over the parish.

The Church was torn down and the lumber used for building purposes in Cherry Creek. The parsonage was moved to the Morris Abbey farm and is still used as a dwelling.

Many years before this Church was built the United Brethren Conference sent ministers to hold services in the school houses. The ministers and their families lived in various places and sometimes with members of the church.

Inns and Taverns

Inns or taverns were built as towns became more populated and stage routes were established. As travel was slow and laborious there were often many in a township. Usually they were operated as a part of a household.

Bela Kingsley one of the first settlers in the eastern part of the township kept travelers in his log cabin. The first so called inn was kept by Simeon Clinton a little south of Arkwright Center. J. Bartholomew later kept it along with the post office.

There was also an inn located at the Center in the southeast corner facing west. Sleeping rooms for women were in the upper story and the men slept on the floor in the bar room. The kitchen stove had an elevated oven. Meetings for Civil War recruits were held here. It burned about 1864.

Mount Pleasant Tavern was on the townline road south of Shumla. This was on the route from Fredonia to Jamestown. In the southern part of the town there still stands a dwelling built for an inn, but was little used. There was a large ball room on the second floor. The plaster on the ceilings of the first floor wouldn't withstand much dancing so this was not used very much.

The most renowned was Chicken Tavern. This was known as "Summit House" or Town's Tavern in earlier years. This served as a stop over place for stage routes from Silver Creek and other northern points to Jamestown, Randolph and other places. This was mostly a mail stage. Mail was received at times from Fredonia and other towns. Horses were exchanged here from fresh ones. A twenty

2 - Inns and Taverns

capacity horse barn stood across the road. A blacksmith was also located on the property. Passengers paid $6\frac{1}{2}\%$ per mile, and were allowed 14 pounds of luggage.

Account books and diaries date back to 1869. These are excerpts from that year; overnight and breakfast 50¢, beer 5¢ a glass, setting 4 new shoes and resetting 2 shoes \$1.80. In 1847 meals and overnight guests from a nearby United Brethren in Christ Camp meeting amounted to \$102.27.

Town's Tavern was mentioned in the "Underground Railroad" in 1858. John Little, a father of a colored family living near the tavern, was instrumental in helping many negroes in escaping into Canada.

Chicken Tavern was noted for its splendid cooks. There was a Dutch Oven in the yard to do the vast amount of baking for the family and tourist trade. Lucina Town used to test the oven with a small amount of flour. When it was browned right, it was ready for the particular food to be baked. Perhaps it was the good chicken dinners that gave the tavern its name.

Town Meetings were held in February. The owners received from \$20 to \$40 for the use of the hall and meals. The tavern was also the scene of many heated lawsuits often tried by young law students. Martin H. Town, son of the early tavern keeper, was Peace Justice for 25 years. He united 75 couples in Holy Matrimony. Chicken Tavern, with its good meals, lodging, and a Justice of the Peace near by, was an ideal place for a marriage ceremony in the latter 1800's. Dances were important occasions. The dance hall with its worn knots protruding the floor proves they were well

POST OFFICES

Histories state Simeon Clinton who settled here in 1813 was the first Post Master and held the office for 20 years. The postage about this time was 25¢, which was paid at the office when the letter was delivered. The mail carriers were paid by the post master. The location of the Post Office was uncertain, at times it was in the Tavern at Arkwright Center. Other times it must have been in someone's home. When the Tavern was vacant and after it burned the mail was left at Harvey Clark's home at the Center previous to 1870.

In 1870 George Markham built a store on the corner of Milton Cole's farm. Later it was sold to Harlow Barnham, then to Lorenzo Sartwell. Charlie C. Cole was postmaster for some time and Lorenzo Sartwell was deputy postmaster. Later Mr. Sartwell was postmaster until Frank Horton was appointed in 1890, which position he held 13 years. The Rural Free Delivery took it over in 1903. When Charles C. Cole was postmaster the mail was brought from Pine Valley (now South Dayton) twice a week.

At the Summit there was a Post Office in the bar-room of the Tavern. This was on a stage route from Forestville to Kennedy. Martin Town was postmaster there for more than 18 years.

In 1898 Hirma Hubbard was appointed Post Master in the Abbey. The first and only Post Office in the place.

In Burnham Hollow a hollow Sycamore stump served as a post box to receive and leave mail. The mail was brought on horseback on a route from Sinclairville to Forestville, over the Center road, coming once or twice a week. Mr. Quackenbush and Mr. Ostrander were two of the carriers. The Griswold Post Office was established in 1891 in the Canadaway Cheese Factory in Burnham Hollow. John C. Griswold was postmaster and held the office until his death in August of 1892.

POST OFFICES - 2

James W. Turner was appointed postmaster. The early part of the next year Elijah Mathewson was appointed. Later the Office was moved from the Cheese Factory to George Maring home and Mrs. Rose Maring was post mistress until the Rural free delivery. At first the mail was brought from Arkwright Center Office arriving about noon. Later the mail was carried from the Griswold Office to Arkwright Center office, then on to Laona. Taking all the forenoon and longer according to the roads and speed of the horse. Previous to the Griswold Post Office the people in the southern part of the town got their mail at Fredonia. George Maring carried the mail one year (313 days) for \$200. Charlie Black carried the mail for a time also.

The Rural Routes come now from Fredonia, Cassadaga, Forestville and Cherry Creek.

ROADS

The first settlers made and followed trails when they left the then swampy section where Dunkirk now stands to seek higher ground to cultivate and on which to build homes. Many of the early trails are still traceable.

After the township was formed in 1830-31 roads were surveyed along lot lines where the contour of the land would permit. Sixty-seven miles were recorded.

The road commissioner and the town clerk divided the highways into "beats" and appointed a "Pathmaster" to oversee the road repair. The land owners on their respective "beats" were assessed \$1.00 according to valuation and \$1.00 poll tax. All men twenty one years of age had to pay the poll tax. The women paid only on the valuation of the land they owned in their name.

The tools consisting of hoes, rakes, and shovels, and sometimes plows and drags were furnished by the workers. A few had dump scrapers.

Winter roads were opened by anyone who would venture out. They drove in fields or anywhere they could. Sometimes the roads were plowed by fastening a plow to the back side of bobs and smoothed by an iron kettle fastened on the other side.

The present system of road work was begun about 1885, gradually increasing in efficiency and cost.

The first mile of improved road was completed in the fall of 1919. This was built under the town and county plan and was of a slag type construction. It began at the Christian Cemetery in the west side of the town and extended eastward. The total cost was \$8928.97. The county paid \$6,852.60, with \$1,000 motor fee it left

ROADS - 2

\$1,076.87 for the township to pay.

The Arkwright Center to Laona was built in 1922 and was 3.24 miles in length. This was a County and Town road taken over by the state for maintenance in 1930. The Arkwright to Hamlet road was built under the same plan was built in 1925 and later taken over by the state. All County roads built in the town were constructed by joint expense, the town paying 15% and the county 85%. The township financed its share of the cost by issuing and selling bonds.

The following roads were later constructed:

Cassadaga-Hamlet

6.60 miles in Arkwright completed in 1932.

Arkwright Center-Roberts Road

1.95 miles in Arkwright completed in 1935.

Charlotte-Griswold

0.98 in the township finished in 1938.

Arkwright Center-Griswold

2.85 miles built in 1943.

The total miles of road in the township is about $69\frac{1}{2}$. The county maintains $18\frac{3}{4}$ miles, the state $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles and the township 45 miles.

Arkwright is now planning to build 18 or 20 miles of 16 foot wide gravel roads under the Ten Year Town Highway Program known as the Erwin Plan. In this township the state furnishes 75% of the cost and the town 25%. About 6 miles have been completed under this plan.

(1956)

TELEPHONE

The first telephone line built in Arkwright was put from the Canadaway Cheese Factory in Burnham Hollow to Asahel Burnham's horse stables in Cassadaga, by Asahel Burnham and others in 1882. There were three other phones on the line. John C. Griswold in Arkwright, Dr. Chauncey A. Rood and the Depot in Cassadaga.

The first public telephone was built in 1904 by the Bell Telephone Company from Fredonia to Frank W. Horton's Store in Arkwright Center, which was a pay station. He paid the Company \$160 for running the line up from Laona. A paper was circulated and Mr. Horton was reimbursed about half the amount. It was later made into a party line.

In 1905 the Bell Telephone Company run a line from Forestville to the Abbey and beyond with five subscribers. Others connected later. A Telephone line from South Dayton to the eastern part of Arkwright was built about 1905 or 1906.

In 1907 "The Dunkirk and Fredonia Telephone Company" extended their lines into Arkwright. The subscribers on line 6, about 15 in number, drew the poles, dug the holes, set the poles and strung the wire. There were three or four other lines built in the north and western part of the township by the same Company.

On March 27, 1948 all phones of The Dunkirk and Fredonia Telephone Company were changed to the Dial System.

Arkwright Grange No. 1249

The Arkwright Grange was formed September 18, 1911 in Frank Horton's Hall, by deputy Charles H. Pearson of Cassadaga. There were (45) forty-five charter members, four of whom are still members of the Grange.

Delos Cole was chosen first master. Later the Grange rented a house north of the center and held their meetings there. Soon a grange hall was talked of. Charles C. Cole gave the grange a building site where it now stands. A committee bought the Canadaway Cheese factory and salvaged some of the timbers and lumber and used them in building this hall.

The Hall was dedicated by State Master Sherman J. Lowell with appropriate exercises June 21, 1916. On May 8, 1926 the mortgage was burned with another celebration. During the years since the Hall was first occupied the members worked faithfully and willingly to raise the money to be free from debt.

It now (1955) has 154 members.

Charter Members of Arkwright Grange No. 1249
Organized Sept. 16, 1911 by Charles H. Piersons

Avery B. Cardot	Rudolph Steger, Sr.
Edgar M. Town	Hattie Steger
Edna T. White	Jasper Cardot
Marvin Cardot	Martha A. Cardot
Alice M. Town	Thomas Horton
Frank J. Healy	Caroline Horton
Josephine Cardot	Rudolph Steger, Jr.
Rufus Horton	Hiram Clark
Elgin B. White	Lettie Clark
J.D. Ball	Marvin Cardot, Jr.
Delos M. Cole	Mary Burnham
Earl C. Thies	Nora B. Wilson
Grace Ball	Elizabeth Cobb
Callutia M. Cole	Desder A. Cardot
Marvin Horton	Alice A. Cardot
Clifton A. Ball	Louise Clark
Lucy L. Healy	
Frank Cardot	George Healy
A.E. Meadows	Lorenzo Hart
Mrs. T.C. Meadows	Juliette Hart
Anna Cardot	Naomi Cole
Frank Hoisington	Florence Horton
Glennie Hoisington	Mrs. Carrie A. Ball

WORLD WAR I

There were (7) seven enlisted men and (9) nine selected service men, many of them served overseas and returned home.

Maud Rhode, Red Cross Army nurse served in Madison Barracks from October 1917 until March 1918. She continued her work at other places.

WORLD WAR II

The list of soldiers is longer, some (51) fifty-one names. Not all served over seas and not all returned.

RED CROSS

June 1st, 1917 a branch of the Red Cross was organized at Grange Hall. Avery Cardot was elected chairman. School districts were solicited for funds and members. Work meetings were held at private homes and at the Grange Hall. A fair amount of articles were made and a number of knitted articles were handed in.

The Red Cross was again active in World War II. Many articles were knitted. Many contributed to the blood bank and Christmas boxes were sent to all our soldiers over seas.

LIBERTY LOANS

With a few public meetings and the help of volunteer workers on various committees the (5) Five liberty loans all went over the top in their quotas.

AKRWRIGHT CELEBRATES 100th BIRTHDAY

The town of Arkwright fittingly observed the fact that it has passed its first one hundred years as a separate township in Chautauqua County. The celebration appropriately began with the dedication of a monument marking the site of the Simeon Clinton homestead where the first town meeting was held. The spot is near the geographical center of the township. The story is that Mr. Clinton buried a large stone at the geographical center of the township. A poplar tree also stood by the side of the road near by for some time. Joseph N. Palmer a great grandson of Simeon Clinton gave an address commorative of the event. The monument was unveiled by Naomi Hacket and Winifred Cold, granddaughters of Charles C. Cold who was a great grandson of Simeon Clinton. Clarence N. Black spoke briefly of the sacrifices of the earlier pioneers and the debt owed them by the present generations.

In the afternoon the ceremonies were conducted from a decorated platform erected in Walter Ryder's grove. On the platform were some of Arkwrights oldest citizens. Mr. Jackson Hoisington 95 years only survivor of the Civil War. Mrs. Hoisington 86 years, Mortimer Snow 86 years, Naomi Cole 76 years, Mrs. Loretta Black 81 years, Mrs. Josephine Cardot 84 years, Mrs. Harriet Christy 78 years, Mrs. Cynthia Newton 88 years Charles Watrous and Mrs. Charles Simmons. The program was directed by Mrs. Arthur J. Black and announced by the supervisor Clifton A. Ball. It opened with a selection by the Ellington Band followed by a vocal chorus number and invocation by Mrs. Cynthia Newton and the address of welcome by Frank W. Horton. The program continued with piano selections and readings followed by a pantomime depicting the history of the town. Charles Watrous and Mrs. Charles Simmons pleased the audience with

2 - Arkwright Celebrates 100th birthday

their old time songs and were recalled for an encore.

There were two ball games, selections by the Band and a pleasant day was had by all visiting with old friends. The address of the day was given by Rev. Herbert Hitchen.

The following is an original poem, by Nellie White Cobb.

In Ryder's pleasant woods, we're gathered here today.
To honor dear old Arkwright, in the good old Arkwright way.
Beneath the spreading branches of Beech and Maple Tree,
We meet and visit with old friends we do not often see.
Our fathers, to this township came, one hundred years ago.
Their carts were not upholstered and their oxen they were slow;
They feled the trees and built their homes
Of logs they were made then;
And reared their families in the woods,
Old Arkwright's noblest men.
Our mothers, they were Christians
And earnestly did pray,
To God to keep their children
In the straight and narrow way.
They left the latch string out,
A welcome sign to others,
And treated all who came their way
As sisters and as brothers,
And we who follow in their tracks
Should we now be less kind,
Than our pioneer parents who settled here,
In eighteen twenty-nine.
Our Arkwright Falls are beautiful
We've a good breeze from the lake
And we hope that you'll agree with us
That Arkwright takes the cake.

Former Arkwright Citizens Who Became Successful in Business and
Professional Fields.

Miss Lovina Crawford was a missionary first stationed in Balasore, India in a school for native girls. She served over fifty years as a missionary, teacher and pastor. She died in 1881 in Balasore and was buried in a casket made of wooden chests brought from America, under a tree of her own planting. Miss Crawford was loved by all who knew her.

Chauncey Tucker was a prominent lawyer in Fredonia and Buffalo. He was the son of Moses Tucker who settled in Arkwright in 1814.

Chauncey Abbey was president of the First National Bank of Fredonia. He was the son of David Abbey who settled in the eastern part of the town in 1823. Chauncey had the largest farm in the town and was one of the most extensive cattle dealers in the County. He was Supervisor eight years during the Civil War period.

Miner Baldwin and Andrew Maring were ordained ministers in the United Brethren Conference.

Joseph N. Palmer was a teacher and Superintendent of Schools in Chautauqua County.

Clayton Durfee was a teacher and school principal in New York City.

U. Grant Durfee, a teacher and school administrator in southern California.

2 - Former Arkwright Citizens who became successful in business and professional fields.

Reverdy Baldwin was a teacher and the principal of the Gowanda school before his retirement.

Floyd J. Melvin MS. 1910; Ph.D. 1912 was a teacher and lecturer. He is now retired.

Frank E. Mathewson was a teacher and school Superintendent.

Ernest B. Luce was a teacher and retired recently from the U.S. Office of Education and V.A. Rehabilitation.

W.C.T.U. formed at Grange Hall May 17, 1917. Grace Martin, President. Short lived.

Benjamin Jones, soldier of war 1812. Town clerk for 20 years.

Mrs. Bertha A. Snow elected Town Clerk 1918. Health officer for 28 years and 6 months. (Mrs. Bertha S. Diefzen resigned.)

Avery B. Cardot was Town Clerk from 1912-1913. He was over sea in World War I. In August 1936 he went to Washington, D.C. and is employed in the Internal Revenue Department.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS

B

Bull Milton - Shot down over Germany Jan. 7, 1945. He was reported missing for nearly a year. Papers captured from the Germans revealed his burial place. The identification tags could not be identified between him and a pal. Both bodies are buried in a National Cemetery at Rock Island, Ill.

Brisley Alton -

Brisley Leslie -

C

Chase Warren -

Crowell Walter -

Crowell Ernest -

Covert Albert -

D

Davis Paul -

G

Gullen John -

Gizowski Emil -

Gizowski Alexander -

H

Hall LeRoy -

Hall Warren -

Houck Lee -

J

Johnson Herbert Lyal -

Johnson Arthur W. - Captured in the Battan march, later served as an orderly to Japanese officers. He was released and returned home.

K

Kniese Cornelius -

Kniese John -

L

Lucas (Luczkowiak) Frank -

Locke Douglas -

Locke Stanley -

M

Merrill John - Killed a few days before was ended in Germany. Buried in Holland.

Maggio Nelson -

Mae Walter - Shot down over Berlin Mar. 22, 1944.

Muscarella Charles -

McKoon Leon -

McAvoy Shannon -

P

Palmer Richard -

Palmer Irwin -

Palmer Nelson -

Palmer John -

Przybylski Chester -

Przybylski Bernard -

R

Ryder Charles Williem -

Rose Emory -

S

Szydlo Rafel -

Szydlo Robert -

Sprague Maurice J. -

Sprague Perry L. -

Schroeder Arden -

Steffan Richard -

Steger Donald - Killed in a plane crash in the U.S. July 4, 1943. His
ashes are buried in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Fredonia

Snow (Sneig) Edward -

T

Thies Gerald W. -

Town Howard -

V

VanArsdale Perry -

VanArsdale Kenneth -

Vecchio Joseph -

W

Wysocki Edward J. -

Wilson Fred -

Witherell Francis -

With 2028 Acres of farm land the Federal Government bought, and some over 100 acres the State and County acquired for reforesting some areas are going back to pioneer days, with the wild life increasing. Deer~~s~~ destroying crops and bears frightening people.

Before leaving our sightly hills and pleasant homes and traveling the modern way in beautifully upholstered cars of high speed will relate one more pioneer story.

Alla and Zebina Wilson both under 18 years of age walked here from Madison County. Their father advised them to select land where Beech and Maple grew the best. They took up land in lots 53 and 54 in 1811, what later became the western part of Arkwright Township.

They built themselves log cabins and returned home. Placing their possessions on a wagon drawn by an Ox team and with their brides started on their "Honeymoon" journey back to their new homes. The roads being narrow oxen were hitched up tandem so the swaying of their horns didn't cause them to tangle in the brush.

Their sister came with them.

Chautauqua County has been called or spoken of as the gateway to the West. Many families whose names are now forgotten came to Arkwright, staying for a brief period and going farther West never to be heard from again as letters were seldom written.

Some of the people mentioned in this history have descendents in many parts of the United States, some descendants still remain. In some instances the name has by marriage disappeared.

With telephones available in every home, electric power, and improved roads, the people of these hills may have every convenience of our neighbors in the near-by villages who speak of us as "Arkwright Rangers".