

Monroe Chapter D.A.R.

Brockport, New York

SOME OLD HOUSES OF MONROE COUNTY - TOWN OF CLARKSON

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings



Old Frosser House - Present owner, James Kerwin

A little hamlet on the Ridge Road a mile east of Clarkson Corners, is now called Garland but in the early days it was "Ladds Corners", being named after an early settler there; and the trail or road leading north from this point to the lake was known, until the days of automobiles as Ladds Road. It is still called Ladds Road by a good many people.

The first house on your left when you turn to go north by this route is a large cobblestone house such a distance back from the highway that you cannot get more than a general idea of what it looks like unless you turn in at the driveway. It was built by Jonathan Prosser, a native of Albany County, who came to this town in 1818 and settled on this location. The Prosser family were of studious tastes and used to quote Latin frequently in their conversation.

A school teacher at Ladds Corners in 1831 wrote her nephew in Vermont urging him to leave "Sugar Hill" immediately and come on and get a job in Clarkson. She told him that Jonathan Prosser, a farmer living nearby, wanted a "steady young man" and would be like a father to him.

It is not known in what year Jonathan assembled the cobblestones and built this house, but it was probably in the latter eighteen-thirties. Cicero, his eldest son, born in 1821, was educated in Clarkson Academy, and in 1855 he married Ellen M. Nixon, daughter of Samuel and Susan Nixon who came to this locality in about 1810 as pioneers, when the country north of the Ridge Road was an unbroken wilderness.

The Prossers owned considerable land on both sides of the Ladd Road and it was either Jonathan or Cicero who donated the large plot for Garland Cemetery.

Old Prosser House cont.

Cicero served as supervisor of the town of Clarkson several times. He died in 1888 and his eldest son Jonathan inherited the property.

This farm is well watered, having three creeks running across it and a fine spring. The raising of geese is the principle industry here. They can be seen in the picture.