

The David Allchin Property (1992)

by Delia Robinson, Historian, Town of Gaines  
May 8, 1992

The property on the northeast corner of Sawyer and Ridge Roads, which consisted of 100 acres, was first purchased by John Hutchinson from the Holland Land Company. Mr. Hutchinson came to Gaines from Norwich, Vermont, chose this parcel and took an article (an agreement with the Company showing intent to purchase) to the property on March 13, 1828. Five years later in 1833 he made the final payment on the land, a total of \$706.00, and received his deed.

It is believed that the simple Federal style brick portion of the house, which originally had Dutch step gables, was probably built in the late 1820's or early 1830's. William J. Babbitt had settled in Gaines in 1813 and by 1820 established the first brickyard in the Town on his property on the southwest side of the Ridge, near Sawyer Road. It has been reported in early histories that this house could well have been one of the first constructed with brick made at Mr. Babbitt's brickyard. The field cobbles used to construct the north wing were gathered from the surrounding land. The depressed hexagonal pattern of stone and mortar on the cobblestone wing is a style developed locally and referred to as the Gaines Pattern. It appears that the cobblestone addition was constructed in the late 1830's.

In August of 1839, Henry W. Potter bought the property from Mr. Hutchinson and paid \$3,500.00; indicating vast improvements in the property in the previous eleven years since Mr. Hutchinson's arrival. Mr. Potter moved to the Town of Gaines from the Town of Union in the State of Michigan. Mr. Potter died a short four years later, age 33, at this residence on December 20, 1843. At that time in history it was common to make a complete detailed inventory of the deceased's property and one such accounting exists for this property. From this inventory knowledge of Mr. Potter's agricultural assets and interior furnishings of the house can be gleaned. (see attached)

By the summer of 1844 Mr. Potter's widow had married Wainwright Babbitt, a son of William J., and it is Mr. Babbitt who is shown on an 1852 map of the Town as the owner of the property. In the 1870's J. A. Rowley owned the property, and the name of Rowley's Corners was well established as the name of the intersection of today's Sawyer Road and Ridge Road.

In 1913 the property, by then one of The Coloney Farms owned by George Coloney (who purchased it in 1905), is described as 169 acres devoted to the cultivation of fruit, and general farm products; has an excellent water supply from two wells and a spring in the pasture; a good brick residence 18 x 24, with stone wing 21 x 23; barn 26 x 76; pig sty 20 x 22; and hennery 18 x 20.

Orleans County A. M. John Murdock & Davis, Rose

do swear that we will truly & honestly and  
impartially appraise the personal property of  
Henry W. Potter late of Gaines Orleans County  
deceased which shall be exhibited to us as  
the personal property of the said deceased according  
to the best of our knowledge and ability  
This the 20 day of January John Murdock  
1844 Before me.

Arba Chubb Justice of the peace Davis Rose

A true and perfect Inventory of all and singular  
the goods Chattels & Credits which ever of Henry  
W. Potter late of Gaines Orleans County deceased  
Made by Kosipul Potters widow is Testator of said  
deceased with the Will Annexed with the aid  
of John Murdock and Davis Rose  
Appraisers duly appointed by the Surrogate of the  
County of Orleans & qualified & after Notice and  
swearing to do so on the 22 day of January 1844

Schedule of Assets

Appraisal

	\$	cts
33 Sheep at 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts per head	28	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 Calves	8	00
1 Brookle faced cow	9	00
1 Brindle heifer	10	00
1 Lined back cow	10	00
1 Spotted cow	8	00
1 Red steer	8	00
2 Horses	100	00
4 Yearlings at \$5.00 per head	20	00
3 Hogs	6	00
23 Gees at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per head	2	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 Two horse wagon	55	00
2 Horses harness whippletree, neck yoke	8	00
1 Dray	7	00

		10	cts
1	Corn plow	2	50
1	Plow	2	50
1	Cradle wood	30	50
1	Buggy	100	00
1	Planing mill	10	00
1	Single harness	20	00
	Straw in Bay	10	00
1812	Cats at 18cts per bushel	32	67
	A lot of hors shoes and other iron	3	00
3	Forks and 1 shovel	2	00
5	Tons of hay at 90cts per tonne	25	00
	Stalks	0	62 1/2
1	Two hooked chain	0	75
1	Fire pail kettle	1	50
14	Acres wheat at \$4 per acre	56	00
1	Stove and furniture	25	00
1	Pounding barrel 1 bushel 1 half bushel 1 brass kettle	1	50
1	Wheal and 1 reel	2	50
2	Brooms	0	25
1	Sheep iron	0	25
1	Tub and sugar	1	50
1	Shovel and tongs	0	50
	Sl W <sup>3</sup> Potters Clothes	12	00
1	Iron bar	1	00
800	Weight of pork	32	00
	Balt	0	50
3	Casks cider	2	50
16	Bushels apples	2	00
40	Bushels potatoes	10	00
	Beets	0	12
	1/8 lot stuff in cellar	1	00
1	Panel breadstead	4	00
1	Feather bed and bedding	13	00
2	quilts	3	00
1	Table	2	50
1	Stand	2	50

		\$	cts
6	Fancy chairs	4	50
7	Yards fallled cloth	5	25
5	Yards flannel cloth	2	50
2	Brass andirons	1	00
1	Picture of presidents	0	50
1	Looking glass	1	00
2	Lamps	0	75
1	Table	3	00
1	Pair cloths bars	1	00
1	Rocking chair	3	00
1	Field bedstead	4	00
	Bed and bedding in east room	6	00
1	French bedstead	2	00
1	French bedstead in bedroom	2	50
	Bed and bedding in bedroom	10	00
	Carpet rags and 2 baskets	1	50
	Carpet yarn	1	50
1	Trunk	0	50
1	Leather Trunk	2	00
1	Kitchen table	2	00
1	Kitchen stand	1	00
1	Milk cupboard	4	00
1	Clock	3	00
1	Set porcelain dishes	7	00
1	Set common dishes	2	50
	Tea and canister	0	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
	A lot of tin ware	4	37
	Pail of sugar van dried plums	1	00
4	Brads candle sticks 1 lard lamp	0	50
2	Flats	0	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
1	Bellows	0	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
6	Kitchen chairs	2	50
	For keeping 32 sheep at 18 $\frac{2}{3}$ cts per head	6	00