

Jeptha R. Simms was born in Canterbury, Conn., December 31, 1807. His father was Capt. Joseph Simms.

Jeptha R. Simms removed to Plainfield, N.Y. in 1824. In 1826 he worked as a Clerk in Canajoharie, N.Y. In the fall of 1832 he went into business with Herman I. Ehle of Canajoharie, N.Y. Mr. Simms was interested in the history of the Revolution and began to collect the stories and material for the "History of Schoharie County and the Border Wars of New York", which he published in 1845. In 1846 he published a Revolutionary Story entitled the "American Spy" and in 1850, the "Trappers of New York". In 1882 he published the "Frontiersmen of New York" in two volumes. This set dealt with the Mohawk Valley history during the Revolution.

In 1850 he erected a very unique house in Fultonville, N.Y. built of cobblestones, every one of which he gathered in the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys. Each stone was sized by using a hole in a Board to have the stones a uniform size. After Mr. Simms' death the house was purchased by John H. Starin. In 1883 Starin added a large frame addition to the stone house and Mrs. John H. Starin established the Fultonville Library, Reading room and Starin Industrial School in this house, for the purpose of instructing children according to their needs and capacity and fitting them for future usefulness. The building was known as the Cobblestone Hall. This house is located on Broad Street, Fultonville, N.Y. and is about one-half mile west of the Fultonville Thruway Interchange Number 28.



John Henry Starin was a descendent of one of the early settlers of the Mohawk Valley, Nicholas Starin, who was born in 1750.

The parents of John Henry Starin were Myndert Starin and Rachel Sammons who were married March 22, 1816. John Henry was one of eight children and was born August 27, 1825.

In 1856 Mr. Starin entered the transportation business in New York City. Later his interest turned to Harbor navigation and he purchased the steamer Blackbird and later operated at one time 176 boats. He also established a ship yard. He owned two lines of the Staten Island Ferry and a steamboat line from New York to New Haven. Following this he was known as Commodore Starin. He was one of the leading agriculturists in the State. His home estate at Fultonville in the Town of Glen, Montgomery County, embraced 600 acres of land and all under improvements. Mr. Starin gave much of his attention to breeding blooded horses and cattle.

Commodore John H. Starin was elected to the United States Congress by the 20th District in 1876 and again in 1878.

John H. Starin married Miss Laura Mears Poole, daughter of John Hudson Poole of New York City.