

SAMUEL C. CULBERTSON HOUSE (Site)  
HISTORY SHEET  
General Information

<u>Name of Structure:</u>	Samuel C. Culbertson House
<u>Approximate Address:</u>	4503 East Groveland Rd
<u>Parcel ID:</u>	(242800) 99.-1-15.1
<u>Atlas:</u>	1852: "Samuel Culbertson", 1858, 1872: "Mrs Culbertson"; 1902: "J.E.Culbertson" "Sweet Briar Farm"
<u>When Built / Mason:</u>	Unknown
<u>When Razed:</u>	Sometime after 1976 fire
<u>Why:</u>	Fell into disrepair
<u>Original Owner:</u>	Samuel C. Culbertson <sup>1</sup>
<u>Subsequent Owners:</u>	widow, then son J. E. Culbertson; then assorted nephews
<u>Original Use:</u>	Family farm and homestead
<u>Subsequent Use:</u>	Same
<u>Photographs:</u>	One showing cobblestone c.1976
<u>Description:</u>	
Design details:	Small 2-story with center entrance flanked by one window each side and a window centered above each of the lower windows.
Masonry details:	Multicolored fieldstones; limestone rough quoins. Undoubtedly early period.

## BACKGROUND

Photograph was found when the County Historian was organizing files. Before now, the existence of this cobblestone was unknown. The photograph indicates that the cobblestone had been covered with siding and a number of additions had been built onto the north end of this original house. All looked to be in disrepair in this 1976 photograph. Luckily the siding was partially removed on the cobblestone so we have a peek into what it originally looked like. There is no known information about the structure itself. I have researched through old newspapers and cemetery records to piece together information about the family and to find out what may have happened to it after the last family member to work the farm died in 1929, albeit without much luck.

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<sup>1</sup> [Samuel C. Culbertson](#) (1796-1858) and Nancy Johnson Culbertson (1805-1896)

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EMAIL 6/5/2018: Holly C. Watson, Deputy Livingston County Historian

"I was just digitizing images of Groveland homes and think I've discovered another structure that was cobblestone. Nowhere else yet have I found any reference to this house being stone, but I have attached a photo c. 1976 wherein contemporary siding has peeled from the old homestead, evidently revealing cobblestone construction on at least one part of the home. The house burned shortly after the photo was taken. The house, from what I've gathered, was the homestead of the Culbertsons (Samuel in the 1850s, then J. E. Culbertson in 1902, etc.). In addition to the c. 1976 image, I'm attaching one from c. 1950 where the siding is still intact and a front door can be seen, where later a more modern window had been inserted."

OBITS / CEMETERY / GENEALOGY

This obit is for [Samuel \(Jerome\) Culbertson](#) (1837-1900) who was the son of the original owner, [Samuel Craig Culbertson](#) (1796-1858). No details have been found about the latter.

Obit: [Mt Morris NY Union 1899-1900 - 0374.pdf](#) (8/23/1900)

**"Death of Capt. Samuel Culbertson, of Groveland.** Capt. Samuel Culbertson, of Groveland, a veteran of the Civil War, and one of the best known farmers of this section, died at his home in Groveland last Saturday after a lingering illness of several months, aged 63 years.

Deceased was a son of Samuel C Culbertson, one of the pioneers of Groveland. He was born in that town and resided there during his entire life with the exception of the two years spent in the Civil War.

In September, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, 113th N.Y.V.I., taking rank as second lieutenant. Later he was transferred to the First New York Dragoons and promoted to the rank of captain. He participated in the battles of Franklin, Manassas Plains, Culpepper, Charlottesville, Todd's Tavern, Squirrel Bridge, Beaver Dam, Yellow Tavern, Meadow Bridge, Mechanicsville, Hawes Shop, Old Church, and Cold Harbor, besides other smaller engagements.

After the war Capt. Culbertson returned to Groveland and resumed the occupation of farming which he followed until his death. He is survived by his wife and three children.

The funeral was held with military honors from the Presbyterian church in Groveland on Tuesday afternoon."

Obit: [Dansville NY Express 1899-1902 - 0351.pdf](#) (8/23,1900)

**"Death of Captain Culbertson.** Capt. Samuel Culbertson of Groveland died on Saturday at the age of 62 years. He was born in Groveland and always lived there. His great-grandfather and his grandfather were natives of Pennsylvania, the former being killed by the Indians in 1777 and the latter coming into Groveland at an early day where his son, Samuel Craig Culbertson, father


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of the Captain was born, and where he died in 1857. In 1862 Capt. Culbertson enlisted as second lieutenant in the 130th N.Y. Vols., which afterwards made the First New York Dragoons, and he served in the regiment until the latter part of 1864 when he was discharged on account of disability. He was made a captain on account of gallant and meritorious services, having been engaged in several of the prominent battles in Virginia. He was an elder in the Groveland Presbyterian church, and leaves a widow and three children, his only daughter being Mrs. H. R. McNair of West Sparta. The funeral was held on Tuesday from the Presbyterian church of Groveland."

Capt. Culbertson widow: Pg 117-118 "Biographical review; this volume contains biographical sketches of leading citizens of Livingston and Wyoming counties, New York" Boston 1895 <https://archive.org/stream/cu31924074296280#page/118/mode/2up/search/culbertson> "Mrs Culbertson resides on the old homestead with two of her children, Edward and Matilda, and is undoubtedly one of the oldest of the native-born citizens of Livingston County."

[Rochester NY Democrat Chronicle 1896 - 3964.pdf](#) (10/6/1896)

"Yesterday occurred the funeral services of Nancy Culbertson, of Groveland. Deceased was the widow of the late Samuel Culbertson, and leaves surviving nine children."

 Nancy Culbertson died in 1942 at age 94. A little genealogy information is recorded based on her first-hand recollections as told at an annual family reunion.

[Dansville NY Express 1906-1908 - 0360.pdf](#) (8/15/1907)

"DEATH FOLLOWS ON THE HEELS OF JOY —The Culbertson Family Reunion. Rochester Herald, Aug 10 ... The fourth annual reunion of the Culbertson Clan was held August 8th ... Miss M.E. Culbertson of Groveland, was elected president, Miss Mary K. Culbertson was re-elected, but declined to again serve as she had held the office for three years. ... The present families are descended from three brothers, who settled in the 17th century in Southern Pennsylvania and formed "The Culbertson Row," each taking a large tract of land adjoining the other, thus forming the "row." One brother afterward came north and from him are descended those gathered yesterday.

Samuel Culbertson, Sr. was the pioneer of the Western New York branch and his sole representative yesterday was the retiring president. **Samuel C. Culbertson of Groveland was the father of the Groveland families.** Five of his children are living, B. Frank Culbertson of Geneseo, Michael, J. E., and Miss Matilda E. of Groveland and Mrs. Erwin Miller of Harmony, NJ. The late Captain Samuel Culbertson of Groveland, Miss Margaret Culbertson, who for many years was matron of the Presbyterian Chinese Mission Home in San Francisco, and Mrs. Elizabeth Cunell were also children of Samuel C. Culbertson. Nancy Johnson was the wife of

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Samuel C. Culbertson and her death at the ripe age of 95 years, about ten years ago, was mourned by all, for to her they owe much of the present family history. Coming to the town of Groveland when it was a wilderness, she noted each change and greatly loved to tell of the early struggle to make a home. ...

**Miss Mary K. Culbertson of Geneseo Accidentally Killed.** Miss Mary K. Culbertson of Geneseo met with an accident in Groveland Tuesday afternoon which resulted in her death a few hours afterwards. She and a young lady, Miss Alice Miller, were riding down the hill west of the Groveland Presbyterian church when something happened which caused the buggy to run against the horse and it ran away, striking a telephone pole and throwing both ladies out. Miss Miller was only slightly injured but Miss Culbertson had a leg broken, a gash cut on the head and she was injured internally. She died the next morning. Miss Culbertson was eighty years old, born in Groveland, and prominent in school and church work. She was greatly interested in the family reunions held each year and was the central figure at these gathering, being as she was the last member of one branch of the Culbertson family.


New Gazetteer and Business Directory for Livingston County, N.Y. for 1868, p 73

EAST GROVELAND

CULBERTSON, Nancy, farmer 335     /\* widow of Samuel Craig Culbertson \*/

<https://archive.org/details/genealogyofculbe00culb/page/26/mode/2up?q=groveland>

(58) Samuel Culbertson mar. Nana Johnson about 1828. Wife living 1893. She was born Mar, 7, 1805. Issue ... Samuel, b. Aug. 30 1837. ... Edward J., b. Oct. 19, 1850. E. Groveland, N.Y.

 About [J. Edward Culbertson](#), son of Samuel C and Nancy Johnson Culbertson. He was owner of the cobblestone house at the time of his death.

[Mt. Morris NY Picket Line Post 1929 Grayscale - 0185.pdf](#)    10/11/1929

Groveland, Oct 10—The funeral of J. Edward Culbertson, 78, a life-long resident of Groveland, who died at his home here, Saturday, was held from the home Monday. Mr. Culbertson operated his large farm until failing health forced him to retire. He is survived by two sisters, Miss Matilda E of Groveland and Mrs Nancy C Miller of Plainfield NJ, and several nieces and nephews.

[Rochester NY Democrat Chronicle 1931 - 2098.pdf](#)    2/6/1931


In the estate of J Edward Culbertson, late of the town of Groveland, who died Oct 5, 1929, the transfer tax appraisal report shows that there were 21 beneficiaries. The net amount of the estate is given as \$22,551.16 on which there is an inheritance tax of \$725.96. Matilda E

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Culbertson, a sister of the decedent, receives \$3114; Nancy Miller, another sister, \$3767.63; Edward S Carroll, a nephew \$1405. The rest went to nephews and nieces ....


Dansville NY Express 1928-1929 - 0862.pdf (12/6/1929)

"Will of Groveland Man Gives Sister Life Use of Property. The will of J. Edward Culbertson, who died at his home in the town of Groveland on October 5 ... The petition for probate gives the value of the estate at not less than \$3,000 impersonal property and not less than \$13,000 in realty. The will leaves life use in the property to Matilda E. Culbertson of Groveland, sister of the testator; and at her death it is to be distributed to a large number of relatives."

 Here's a handful of sketchy details for a few years following J. Edward Culbertson's death in 1929 up until 1945.

J. Edward Culbertson, 78, died October 5, 1929. He was survived by sisters—Matilda, Groveland and Mrs Nancy Miller, Plainsville NJ. His will left life use of the property to Matilda. It is, therefore, presumed both J. Edward and Matilda lived in the house—he, until his death and Matilda until 1940 at age 92 when she gave up the homestead and moved in with a niece, Mrs H.A.Kelly, as reported in an [4/5/1940 newspaper](#). She died in 1942 at age 94.

In 1943, [Clayton Johnson and Percy Culbertson purchased the Matilda Culbertson estate farm of 400 acres](#): 4/9/1943: Real Estate transfers: [J.Edward Culbertson Est. by Exr. to Clayton Johnson](#) & wf, Groveland \$8750. Percy Culbertson was nephew of Matilda Culbertson; unknown relationship, if any, with Clayton Johnson. [Clayton Johnson was struck and killed by a car](#) 6/3/1945 at age 34, leaving a widow and 3 very young children. "[Surviving Mr. Johnson](#), besides his widow, are two daughters, Patricia, aged one year and Christine, aged four; one son, Gary, aged two and one-half years..."

 No subsequent details about ownership and use of this property is forthcoming until an incident in May 1973 after which, at some point, this property was converted into cropland. The 1973 incident involves Victor Culbertson, although the precise relationship to the Groveland Culbertson pioneer family is unclear.

Geneseo NY Livingston County Leader 1973 - 0370.pdf (5/9/1973)

Groveland Man In Jail For Shooting At Chicken Farmer — A 29 year old Groveland man was arrested by Livingston County Sheriff's Authorities on May 5 on charges of Reckless Endangerment 1st Degree. Sheriff Douglas J. Welch identified him as Victor J. Culbertson, 29, of East Groveland Rd, Mt Morris who upon arraignment before Justice Jack Mongillo of Mr. Morris was committed to Livingston County Jail for Felony Hearing. Investigating officers,

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Chief Deputy Sheriff Keith V. Clayson and Deputies Robert Forrester and Clark Young Jr said that the arrested stemmed from an incident in a farm field in the Town of Groveland on Logan Rd, when Culbertson allegedly fired a shotgun at Allen Hainsworth of Logan Rd, as he was plowing a field and shot out the tire of the tractor.

Victor Culbertson, a member of the Culbertson family, of Mt. Morris, whose farm in Groveled was sold on March 19 by Federal Marshalls, went looking on Saturday with a shotgun for the man who bought it.

He found him, Charles Hainsworth, owner of the Hainsworth Poultry Farm in Groveland, among others astride a couple of tractors working the field in Groveland.

Culbertson, approaching the tractors, fired four shots knocking out the lights on one of the machines.

No one was injured; everyone was startled. ... Culbertson surrendered to the Livingston County Sheriff's Dept. He is now in the Livingston County Jail awaiting arraignment.

Of special note in this situation is the fact that the Culbertson family, who were to be evicted from their home in Groveland 30 days after March 19, have not left.

The land and property are now jointly owned by Charles Hainsworth and the owner of Park Edge Grocery ...

Culbertson and Hainsworth also didn't see eye to eye on the Rock Fest on the Culbertson farm a few years ago. It attracted thousands of people to the hills of Groveland.

Geneseo NY Livingston County Leader 1973 - 0394.pdf (5/16/1973)

Victor Culbertson, charged with a felony, endangerment in the first degree, in the shotgun shoot-out at the Hainesworth Poultry farm in Groveland, Saturday, May 6, was arraigned, May 10, before Judge Barber in Groveland. Bail was set at \$5,000. Culbertson has been released from the Liv. County Jail through his attorney, William Bruce of Avon.

Geneseo NY Livingston County Leader 1973 - 0417.pdf (5/23/1973)

Victor Culbertson said a federal marshal has served eviction papers on he and his family. He is out on \$5,000 bail after allegedly firing a shotgun at a tractor operated by Alan Hainsworth, one of the purchasers of the 200 acre Culbertson farm at a forced sale.

Geneseo NY Livingston Republican 1973 Grayscale - 0801.pdf (7/26/1973)

D.A. CICORIA GEIVES GRAND JURY REPORT ... Victor Culbertson, 29, 4503 East Groveland Road, Geneseo, Chart: Reckless Endangerment First Degree and Criminal Mischief Third Degree; ...

It is believed that the house was destroyed in a fire shortly after the last known photograph was taken in 1976, as provided by Holly C. Watson, Deputy Livingston County Historian.