

So Soon Forgotten

Editor Democrat and Chronicle:

On the west side of the road, top of Methodist Hill, north of West Henrietta, stands a large substantial cobblestone house, once the home of Mr. George W. Perry and his wife Penelope McCurdy. They were the parents of Mr. Morris A. Perry, who died June 10, 1941 in East Avon, N. Y., in his 81st year. Among the latter's sisters were Sarah H. Perry, M.D., late of Fitzhugh St., Rochester, N. Y., and Annette Perry who married Dr. Cornelius G. Coakley of New York City. James G. Perry lives in East Henrietta and is Morris' brother. This line of Perrys is descended from Ezra Perry, born 1625, who came with his brother Edward (forebear of the two commodores, Oliver H. and Matthew C.) to Sandwich, Mass. in 1637, among the other 40 "undertakers," who undertook the settling of that place, incorporated in 1639.

Elnathan Perry, the grandfather of Morris A., who was a soldier in the American Revolutionary War of the Sixth Massachusetts Regulars, lies buried in the North Rush Cemetery. It is related that Elnathan Perry was in Cherry Valley, N. Y., when the massacre occurred there at the time of the Indian uprising. He went to a blacksmith's shop to have his gun-screwdriver repaired, when suddenly the Indian whoops were heard, and he rushed out and away, pursued by the wild red men, whose tomahawks were thrown, some barely missing his head. He lost both shoes in the running but escaped. When Rochester was a wilderness, Elnathan looked the ground over, with the idea of settling there, but decided the rattlesnakes were too numerous, so he settled in what is now North Rush. There he raised a family of eight children, who intermarried with the Sibleys, Aldriches, Sturges, Greens and Clapps, many descendants living in Rochester.

Our American life is so rapid in the living that local historical items soon fade away and both incidents and men are forgotten and the places that knew them know them no more. In fact numerous people forget who their grandparents are, while few can name their great grandparents. There are so many descendants of the Sandwich, Mass. Perrys living in Rochester, Monroe County, Livingston County and surrounding towns, it might not be amiss to give the above genealogical line, which runs: Ezra Perry 1, Benjamin 2, Abner 3, Benjamin 4, Elnathan 5, George W. 6, Morris A. Perry 7.

Morris A. Perry was a kindly gentleman of the old school, well known and respected by all his community. He will be greatly missed. He leaves his widow Anna J., who for years was a skillful trained nurse, especially in surgical cases. She has the sympathy of many friends.

The good book says "Honor thy father and thy mother." How can this be better done than by preserving one's family genealogy, giving, so to speak, the departed "a place in the sun," where memory shines, casting a mellow light on those who have gone before.

E. C. P.

Avon, N. Y.