

Spence homestead sold to Ohioan

STARKEY — One of Starkey's oldest homesteads, the Spence residence, has passed by sale from the family. Mr. and Mrs. Kim Kuhnle, Fairport, Ohio, purchased from Robert B. Spence, Jr. his family home and moved here with their two young daughters, April 6.

This cobblestone house was built by Dr. Henry Spence, great grandfather of the former owner. It was completed in 1848 after 4 years of construction.

The cobblestone construction is unique in the central western New York area. The stones are of two types, a red cobble used on the front and the lower courses on the sides came by canal boat from Lake Superior, the remainder of the cobbles came from Sodus Point, Lake Ontario.

These stones were hauled by oxen from Starkey Point landing to the building site. Water-line cement was used in the construction.

The mascns were of Irish descent and had built the locks on the Erie barge canal. After the canal was completed they began building the cobblestone houses. The art of their trade was lost upon their demise.

The original 40 acres upon which the building site for the dwelling was selected was purchased in 1818 and the deed registered in the town of Reading, Steuben County. That which now con-



The Spence Residence

stitutes the town of Starkey, Yates County, was a portion of the town of Reading. Some of the early Spence land purchases were from Sarah Briggs whose direct descendants are the Ellis, Jeffrey, Gaylord families of Log City.

Dr. Henry Spence was an eye surgeon and patients from a distance such as Trumansburg, Hornell, Owego and

Clyde were known to stay in the spacious dwelling for a few days following surgery.

From 1818 to April 6, 1972, the land was in the Spence family and the dwelling occupied by some of the families since it was built in 1848.

This transaction was handled through the Stocking Realty Company, Dundee.