

## THE UNION COMPANY

On December 8, 1810, eight men of Stockbridge, Massachusetts formed a company for the purposes of their better accommodation and mutual benefit in which they resolved into a company to be named The Union Company, for the express purpose of emigrating to the western part of New York State, on the Holland purchase, and there to purchase, each one by and for himself, unconnected with said company, as much land as he shall think would be in accordance with his individual interests.

These eight men, who ranged in age from their mid-20's to mid-30's, packed supplies, loaded their ox carts with enough provisions to last many months, and walked to what is the north portion of the Town of Carlton, on lands now bordering the Kendrick Road and Roosevelt Highway. They arrived March 17, 1811.

The written agreement of The Union Company was comprised of 18 articles including officers of which the secretary was directed to keep a journal of their expedition, progress, and expenses. They agreed to stay together for two years, living a bachelors existence. They would prevail of their joint labor to clear one man's lands as much as another to have them fit for harvesting grain, or whatever might be suitable. They agreed to share any bounty taken by hunting or fishing, and would plant a nursery of fruit trees on whomsoevers ground that might be best suited with the result to be equally shared by all.

They were to erect a house and barn on land belonging to some one of the company, to be jointly owned until all had the same manner of housing, or the company dissolved, then it would be owned by whomsoevers land it stood. They then agreed to assist each other in equal proportion in building a house and barn for each other, each not to exceed the expense of the first.

Their agreement allowed that the best human calculations are often thwarted and that when it

should distinctly appear any one of their number could not keep his vows his propotional share would be repaid and he would be excused from said company.

Their arrangement also agreed that should any one refuse to travel at the time agreed upon than he would forfeit any monies deposited for such venture. They agreed that no individual belonging to The Union Company would be allowed the privilege of substituting anyone else and that each would be obliged to do his own work, unless otherwise stated by the consent of said company.

This communal document was signed by: Minoris Day, Fitch Chamberlain, Charles Webster, Anthony Miles, Selah Bardslee (later spelled Beardsley), Moses Barnum, Jr., Russell Smith, and Giles Slater, Jr.

Of the above names, Smith did not take up land and returned to Stockbridge. It is said Webster lost his money and was released from his agreement. Those who were married sent for their wives when their two years of agricultural and construction efforts were reasonably completed. Of the remaining six, the following information has been gathered.

No positive facts have been located concerning the life of Moses Barnum, Jr.

Giles Slater, Jr., 1787-1831, of Stockbridge, prospered and was marginally active in Town of Carlton business. He is recorded as co-signing a couple of early town archives when financial dealings were involved.

Fitch Chamberlain was educated as a physician and continued to practice medicine in his later years. He served as the first Town Clerk in Carlton, from 1822 until 1829, and later was a Town Justice. He had incredibly precise penmanship and would be referred to as calligraphy.

Minoris Day, 1779-1847, was also of Stock-



White-haired Anthony Miles, feted at a celebratory 90th birthday picnic in the summer of 1874, surrounded by unidentified family members.

bridge. He served as Supervisor for the Town of Carlton in 1827, 1828, and 1831. He has been referred to as Captain in some findings; therefore it is assumed some of his business dealt with shipping as would be natural due to his proximity with the local waterways and the rapidly growing industry.

Selah Beardsley, 1787 - 1866, was one of the road commissioners and surveyors responsible for officially districting and laying out Town of Carlton highways in 1824. Incidentally, one of his descendants currently superintends Carlton highways.

Anthony Miles had been born in England in 1784. In August of 1807 he came to America,

aboard the ship "Siance Cap Howard," arriving in October. He prospered as a farmer, as did his local descendants, and he survived all the others of his Union Company. He lived to be nearly 99 years of age, is buried in Carlton Cemetery, with a memorial to his fellow pioneers inscribed on his tombstone. A massive tree trunk now embraces his stone holding fast the sole immigrant who chose to put down his roots by pioneering Carlton.

NOTE: Photo obtained from stereoscopic slide owned by Jane Blood Sencer of Belmont, Mass., Anthony Miles' great great granddaughter. Additional information gained from great granddaughter, Winifred Miles Miller, of Kuckville.

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