

THE GREELEY CONNECTION

BY C.W. LATTIN

Our illustration is a portrait of Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, who supposedly said: "Go west young man, go west."

This statement refers to when the United States was giving away land in the Midwest to get it settled during the mid-19th century.

Greeley became a very influential thinker of his time, because he had a newspaper to espouse his forward-thinking ideas.

He was an abolitionist, proponent of the temperance movement, sympathizer of women's suffrage, advocate of free secondary education and he also was a Universalist.

When Greeley ran against Ulysses S. Grant, the incumbent, for president in 1872, he was badly defeated.

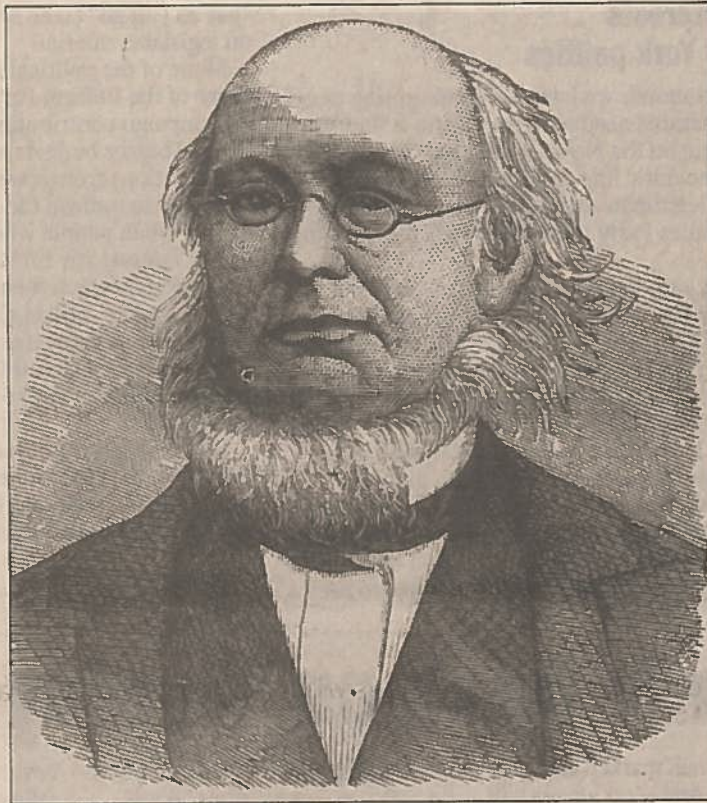
Although Mr. Greeley had been born in New Hampshire he had Western New York connections.

As early as 1831, he walked from Lockport to Orleans County to visit a friend.

We know he maintained friendship with the Hon. Edwin Reynolds of Albion throughout their lives.

It also seems that Greeley's aunt and uncle, Mary Ann and Benjamin Dwinnell, moved from New Hampshire in 1851 to New York state. Here they settled at Fair Haven, now known as Childs.

In 1861, they bought the former parsonage next to the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Horace Greeley
Editor of the New York Tribune

Universalist Church. Considered bad risks to obtain a mortgage, they needed a co-signer. Horace Greeley agreed to sign. However, when Mr. Dwinnell, a blacksmith, became sick, he could not make the mortgage payments and defaulted. Therefore, Greeley had to buy the house, which he in turn sold in 1863. His signature is, however, recorded on the deed in the Orleans County Clerk's office.

This Cobblestone dwelling is known today as the Ward House and serves as a house museum at the Cobblestone Society Museum in Childs.

It was last used as a private residence in 1975, when Mrs. Inez Ward sold it and some of its contents to the museum.

In 1993, it was designated a National Historic Landmark by the United States Department of the Interior.