

SOUTH AVON

FARMING & INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY
DATING FROM 1800
WITH A SCHOOL, BLACKSMITH,
GRANGE HALL, FACTORIES & MILLS.
CHADWICK TAVERN BUILT 1830.

TOWN OF AVON
HISTORIAN

Dedication of the Historical Marker in the Hamlet of South Avon, New York,
June 27, 2010

Special thanks are extended to Joyce Settle Hussong, Gail Settle and Jan Settle Davin whose ancestors were early South Avon residents and on whose farm the sign is placed. Fortunately they are good keepers of history and graciously allowed the use of various family collections.

Welcome: David LeFeber, Supervisor, Town of Avon

Introductions and recognition of special guests: Maureen Kingston,
Town of Avon Historian

Greetings: Amie Alden, Livingston County Historian

Dedication to our people from history and present inhabitants

South Avon

South Avon is located along the Avon-Geneseo Road between Ashantee and the southern boundary of the Town of Avon, New York. Early settlers in the area were attracted by the rich farmland and the availability of water power for development of those industries needed in an active community.

A few of the early families associated with the area include Abbey, Boyd, Chadwick, Deming, Dunn, Fridd, Fuller, Garvey, Hanna, Henty, Hogmire, Hubbard, Kellogg, Leighton, Loomis, Low, Sage, Smith, Wingate.

In one recollection, it is stated that Maria Hubbard Fridd was born in a little log house on November 15, 1809 and died at the Fridd homestead May 3, 1880, having spent her entire lifetime in South Avon.

One-hundred fifteen people attended the Old Timers' Picnic on July 4, 1933.

The 1902 *Atlas of Livingston County* lists farm names. Those for South Avon are: The Silo Farm, Chilmark, White Lodge, West View, Mill Farm, Wide View, Pierpoint, and Prairie Home.

Elija Bacon's home and wagon shop were south of the McGraw/Boyd farm until the 1870s when he sold the property to Horace Henty. Mr. Henty continued the business, built and repaired wagons and carriages and fixed farm tools for a number of years. Patrick Coonan was a blacksmith who operated out of the Henty shop.

The Wadsworth Flour Mill was destroyed by fire October 1, 1864; then in 1866 Josiah Curtis built a mill for making strawboard on the site. It measured 40' by 70' with two floors in front, three in the rear. The paper mill was leased to S. L. Harned who operated it from 1879. Output was listed as 400 tons of paper per year, keeping eight men employed. Triphammer forge was farther up Conesus Outlet and at one time a road connected the two industrial areas.

The school house for District #2 was built near the corner of Hogmire Road and Avon-Geneseo Road in 1850. It burned in February, 1895 and was rebuilt that summer. One of the teachers was Dewitt Wallace who lived on a farm on South Avon Road. After the district was centralized with Avon in 1943, the building was used as a tenant house. It was destroyed by fire December 3, 1966.

The cemetery is located on the corner of South Avon Road and Avon-Geneseo Road and has about 135 known graves. It was inventoried several times over the years, the last in 2002 by Avon Preservation and Historical Society members.

The Grange #428 was organized April 7, 1879 at a meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Gregg of South Avon. Twenty-four people became charter members and the first Master was William P. Low. Meetings were held in homes until about 1885 when the first Grange Hall was made available. It stood on the east side of the Avon-Geneseo Road, not quite opposite Chadwick Tavern. Records except for those of the treasurer

Works Cited

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