

History Markers — Town of Sweden — Site of First Sweden Town Meeting



Fig. 1. This view is from the east shoulder of Lake Road (Route 19) at the northeast corner of the intersection with Swamp Road, looking to the northeast. Photo: April 9, 2015.



Fig. 2. This view is toward the north. Photo: © 2015 R.W. Black

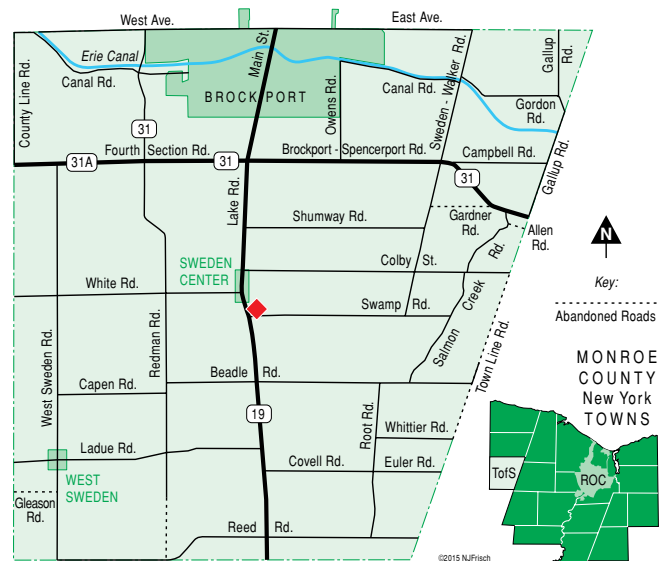


Fig. 3. The location of the first Sweden town meeting marker is shown in red.

On the fifth day of April, 1814, the first town meeting of the town of Sweden was held at the house of Reuben Stickney, and its organization effected by the election of the following officers :

Supervisor, John Reed ; Town Clerk, Elisha Stewart ; Assessors, Joshua B. Adams, Henry Hill, John Marshal ; Road Commissioners, Alanson Dudley, Zenas Case, Calvin Gibbs ; Poor-masters, Benajah Warden, Record W. Vining ; School Commissioners, John Reed, William James, Calvin Gibbs ; School Inspectors, David Glidden, William Sheldon, Lyman Humphreys, Elisha Stewart, Amos Frink, Peleg Sanders ; Collector and Constable, William James ; Constable, William Luther ; Pound-master, Reuben Stickney ; and twenty-seven overseers of highways.

Fig. 4 (left). Mention of the first town meeting and the election of officers.

Citation:

Everts, Ensign & Everts, "History of Monroe County NY: Town of Sweden & Village of Brockport" (1877). Local History Books. Book 10. p.154

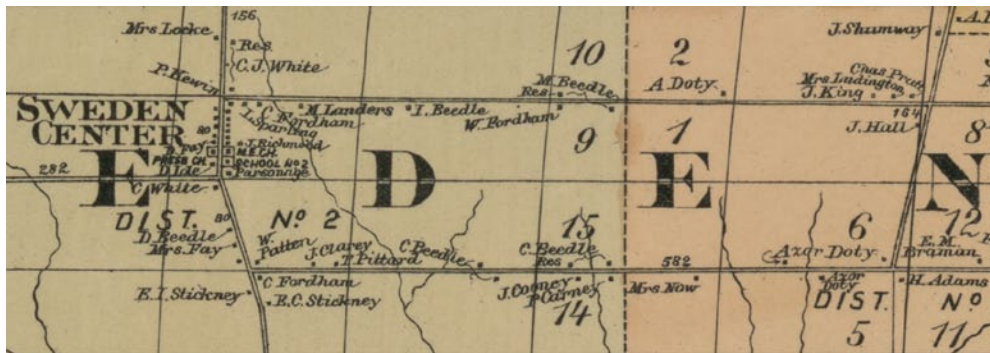
Source:

http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/local_books/10

Courtesy:

Charlie Cowling, The College at Brockport Archivist

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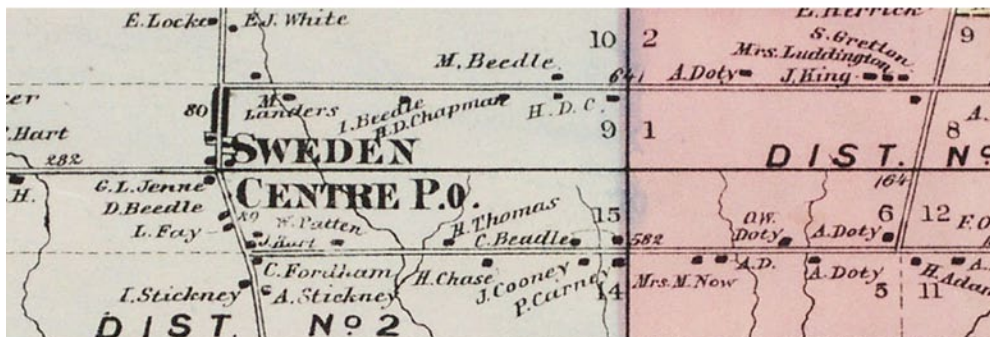


1887 Beers map

Title:
Map of Monroe County, New York.

Contributor Name:
J.B. Beers & Co.

Source:
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3803m.la000520>

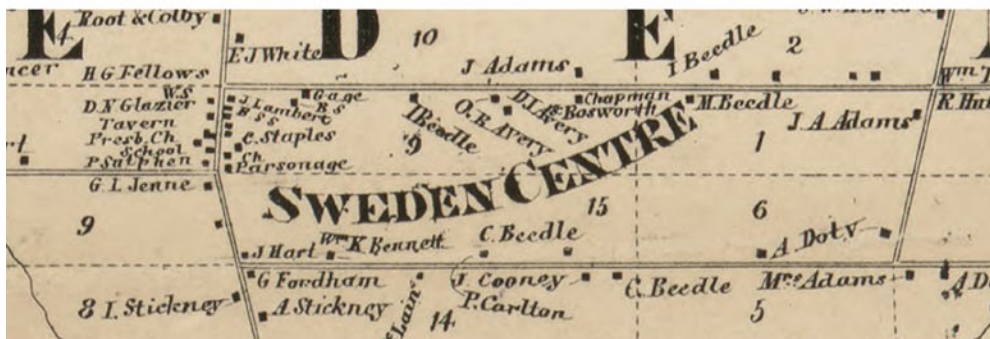


1872 Beers map

Title:
Monroe County Plat map, p.44

Contributor Name:
F.W. Beers.

Source:
[http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/
local_maps/4/](http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/local_maps/4/)

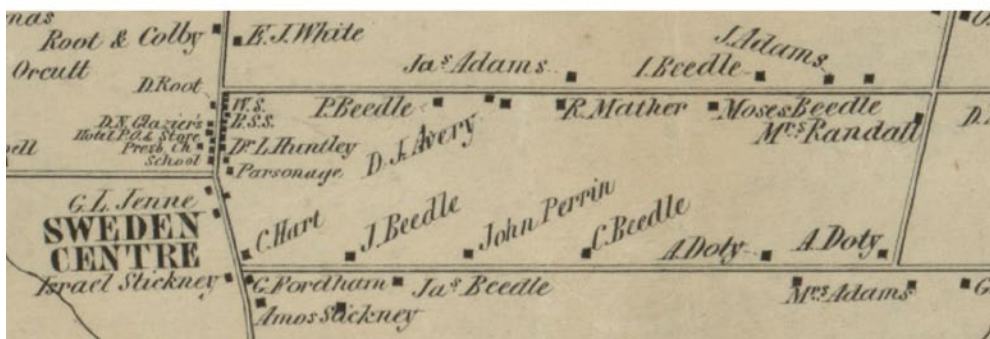


1858 Gillette map

Title:
Gillette's map of Monroe Co., New
York : from actual surveys /

Contributor Names:
Browne, P. J.; Gillette, John E.; Stone,
C. K.; Smith, Robert Pearsall, 1827-1898.

Source:
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3803m.la000519>



1854 Browne map

Title:
Map of Monroe County, New York /

Contributor Names:
Browne, P. J.; Gillet, A. G.; Smith,
Robert Pearsall, 1827-1898.

Source:
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3803m.la000518>

Fig. 5. This figure shows the block bounded by Lake Road (Route 19), Colby Street, Sweden-Walker Road and Swamp Road at four different times in early Sweden history and broadly implies the succession of ownership. Of particular interest here is the northeast corner of the intersection of Lake and Swamp Roads. A key to current road names can be found on the next page. Maps shown are small sections of entire Monroe County or Town of Sweden maps downloaded from the United States Library of Congress and The College at Brockport web sites.

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Fig. 6. This building, where the first town meeting was held, was razed ~1937. This view toward the northeast is from just south of the intersection of Lake Road (bottom left), and Swamp Road (running left to right). Note the road sign between the utility pole and the house.

Date: Unknown, but before 1938

Scan: Original black and white glossy photoprint, deckle edge

Print size: 4 3/4" w x ~3" h

Image size: 4 3/16" w x 2 3/8" h

Source:

Three-ring notebook of Helen Hastings notes, sleeve 25

Courtesy:

The Emily L. Knapp Museum

Quick look:

First Sweden Town Meeting

Northeast corner of Lake Road south and Swamp Road, east shoulder, viewer facing north

Originally placed: July 10, 1977

By: ?? This marker is not on the list of historic markers placed by the New York State Education Department Historic Marker program.

Refurbished: Winter, 2014 by the Town Highway Department for the Bicentennial celebration.

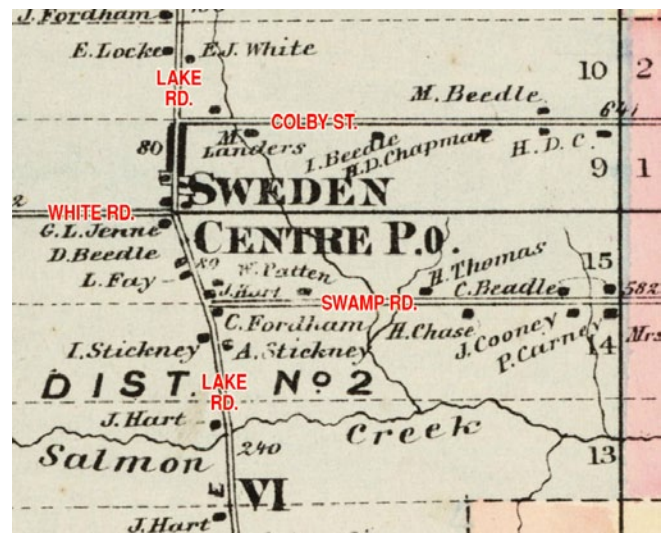


Fig. 7. Helen Hastings' narrative, elsewhere in this document, describes the succession of ownership of the dwelling where the first meeting was held. At the time of the meeting it was owned by Reuben Stickney. She goes on to say it was subsequently owned by James Hart, then William Patten. Both names can be seen in this small section of an 1872 map of the Town of Sweden (immediately below the words "SWEDEN CENTRE"). Road names, here in red, were not indicated on the original map. Names shown are those used as of 2015. When this map was drawn, White Road was known as Sweden Center Road; it is believed that Colby Street was also known as Sweden Center Road, at least up to the Ogden Town line.

Map source: http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/local_maps/4/

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Fig. 8. This view of the same building is from Lake Road (Route 19) looking mostly eastward. The road running left to right at the bottom is Lake Road.

Date: Unknown, but before 1938
Scan: Original black and white glossy photoprint, deckle edge
Print size: 4 3/4" w x 3" h
Image size: 4 3/16" w x 2 3/8" h

Source:
Three-ring notebook of Helen Hastings notes, sleeve 25

Courtesy:
The Emily L. Knapp Museum



Fig. 9 This view is from the east shoulder of Lake Road (Route 19), looking to the southeast.

Date: Unknown, but before 1938
Scan: Original black and white glossy photoprint, deckle edge
Print size: 4 3/4" w x 3" h
Image size: 4 3/16" w x 2 3/8" h

Source:
Three-ring notebook of Helen Hastings notes, sleeve 25

Courtesy:
The Emily L. Knapp Museum

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Fig. 10. This view is of the same building and almost exactly the same view as in figure 7, except that it is taken from further back, from across Lake Road (which is better seen in this view). Note the cylindrical water trough to the far left middle. To the left of it is a lane that is barely visible in figure 7. To the right of it is the well pump that is better seen in figure 7. Judging by the shadows, this photo was taken in late afternoon. Also note how narrow Lake Road is.

Date: Unknown, but before 1938
Scan: Original black and white glossy photoprint
Print size: 4 1/8" w x 3 5/16" h
Image size: 3 3/8" w x 3" h

Source:
Three-ring notebook of Helen Hastings
notes, sleeve 24

Courtesy:
The Emily L. Knapp Museum

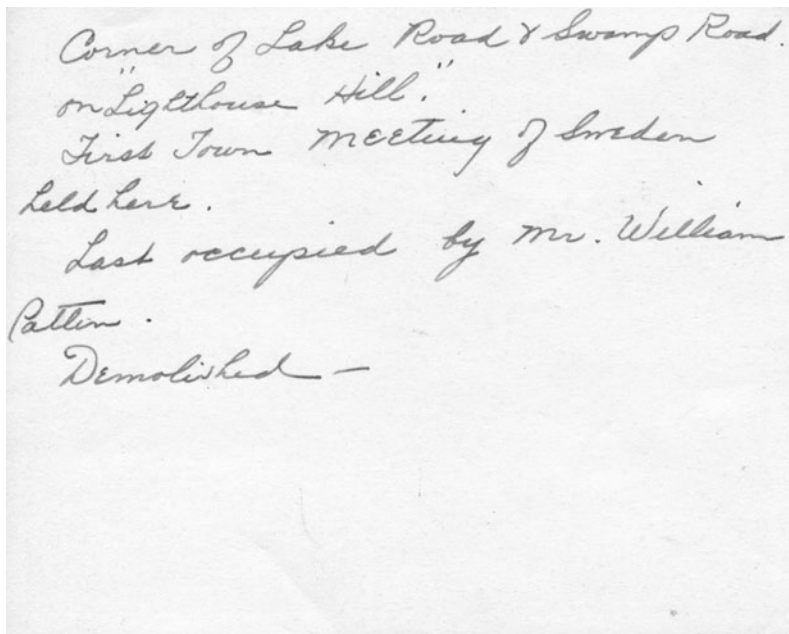


Fig. 11. This view is the obverse side of the above photograph, and is reproduced here at actual size.

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SWEDEN (Old Patten House) *Helen Hastings*

This house stood on a knoll at the junction of the important Lake Road which comes down from LeRoy and a narrow little used road going east which was called the Swamp Road though no one had seen a bog or quagmoire there since the old Swamp Road tavern, now in ruins, has gone out of business.

The plan was to widen and improve this Swamp Road. It leads nowhere in particular although it connects with an old road going northeast to Garland, but that was not all. The authorities said that to guard against accidents if reckless accident motorists rushed into the Lake Road from the improved Swamp Road without tooting their horns, they were going to tear the quaint little historic house on the knoll down.

Now there was a committee of women who had begun to study the historic spots in this vicinity for the special purpose of obtaining markers for them which were issued, I believe by Mr. Flick of the State Department. They expected to get one for this oldest house in town and they naturally could not see why it had to be sacrificed to improving a little used road that had only one farmhouse on it that was occupied.

Two of the women who were more determined than the others to save the landmark set out to do what they could about it. One of them called on the Supervisor who appeared friendly and encouraging and said he would look into the matter. She called on a few prominent citizens to learn their views and they all felt as she did about the situation. An article written for the weekly newspaper by the other woman giving as much of the history of the history of the old house as possible was read with interest by many people, and all were confident the ancient and picturesque landmark would be spared.

The historic spots committee made a visit to it one day, and its owner took them inside and showed them how, in addition to raising chickens there, every nook and corner of it was put to use in storing chickens there produce. And the visitors

Fig. 12. This note describes the circumstances leading to the effort to preserve this historic building. This appears to be a draft. The last sentence appears to be unfinished, but no continuation page has been found.

Date: Unknown, but likely before 1938
Scan: Original typed note
Document size: 5 7/8" w x 7 7/8" h

Source:
Three-ring notebook of Helen Hastings
notes, sleeve 29

Courtesy:
The Emily L. Knapp Museum

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Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Brockport, New York

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings - 1938

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County — Town of Sweden

The house where the first town meeting was held and the
oldest house in town not a log cabin — Recently Razed

The home of Reuben Stickney, Jr., where the first town meeting was held is believed to have been this “old Patten house” at the corner of the Lake and Swamp Roads. It stood on a little ridge of land extending east and west, known in early times as the “Hog’s Back” or “Lighthouse Hill”. Half hidden by a big clump of lilac bushes, it had stood there considerably more than a century, yet it “had” to be torn down about a year ago to widen the little-used swamp road.

Since it was clapboarded on the outside it had always been supposed to be a frame house but when the wreckers went to work the discovery was made that the frame house frame was filled, in the ancient New England way, with a solid mass of stones and clay mortar.

Reuben Stickney Jr., was a major in the War of 1812 and this might have been a garrison house. The barn, still standing, is said to be older than the house, and “it took two barrels of whisky to raise it.”

Reuben Stickney Jr., did not stay many years in the town of Sweden for he joined the stream of emigration moving farther west.

The next owner seems to have been James Hart from New Hampshire, who in 1815 married Sally Pattee or Patty, also a native of the state. Hart seems to have been originally in the potash business but somewhat later had a cider mill at Sweden Center. And Mrs. Hart used to tell the boys who hung around the mill how her brother had come from the East and built the tavern on the Swamp Road so he could be in her neighborhood. She had another brother who, it is thought, ran the ashery on the Swamp Road which was there in the early days. From the lye obtained, soap was manufactured on the premises and sold to firms in Rochester and other places. Before the Civil War, or about that time, both Patty brothers were keeping hotels in Avon, New York.

When they were old, the Harts went to live with their daughter, Mary Kirby, and William — always called “Billy”. Patten acquired this old house we have described which was razed a year ago. Very recently “Lighthouse Hill” was also leveled.

Everything the least but picturesque or expressive of another era seems always in danger. An effort was made to save the quaint, historic little house to use for a museum, but it was necessary to move it to another location and because of its solid walls, that could not be done.

Fig. 13. The text in this document was copied and pasted with some reformatting by the museum from a pdf on-line document which itself was a transcription[?] from the original document by Helen Hastings.

Date of original document: 1938

Transcription: SUNY College at
Brockport Archives

Citation:

Hastings, Helen and Daughters of
the American Revolution, Brockport
Chapter, “Old Houses of Monroe
County” (1946). Local History Books.
Book 2, p.71

Source:

[http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/
local_books/2](http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/local_books/2)

Courtesy:

Charlie Cowling, SUNY College at
Brockport Archivist

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A TOWN OF SWEDEN BICENTENNIAL EVENT



REUBEN STICKNEY HOME, LAKE & SWAMP ROADS, SITE OF FIRST TOWN MEETING

WOLVES! INDIANS! AGUE!

FIRST TOWN OF SWEDEN BOARD MEETING
— RE-ENACTMENT PRESENTED BY —
FRED HILL SCHOOL 4TH & 5TH GRADERS

2 PM & 6 PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2014
HILL SCHOOL CAFETERIA — BROCKPORT CENTRAL

FREE OF CHARGE — INFORMATION: (585) 637-1844

LIMITED PARKING IN SOUTHERN-MOST PARKING LOTS (CLOSEST TO WEGMANS).
USE MAIN ENTRANCE (SOUTH SIDE, FACING BACK OF WEGMANS). SIGN IN WITH A
GREETER AND RECEIVE A GUEST STICKER. FOLLOW SIGNS TO THE CAFETERIA.
BCSD SCHOOL BUILDINGS MAP: [HTTP://BCS1.ORG/FILES/92/BCSCAMPUSMAP.PDF](http://bcs1.org/files/92/bcscampusmap.pdf)
WWW.TOWNOFSWEDEN.ORG/BICENTENNIAL



A re-enactment of the first meeting

Fig. 14 (above). A re-enactment of the first Town of Sweden board meeting produced and directed by Enrichment Specialist Archer "Buck" Noble and presented by elementary students in the Fred Hill School (Brockport) as part of the 2014 Town of Sweden Bicentennial. It was based on known issues of the times, and notes from the original meeting which were not in a rough and simple form we would not today consider as true "minutes". PHOTO: Richard W. Black

Fig. 15 (left). The poster used to publicize the event. POSTER: Norm Frisch

Fig. 16 (below). A scene from the re-enactment. PHOTO: Richard W. Black



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**Marker refurbishing**

During winter, 2014, the Town of Sweden Highway Department refurbished the marker in time for the Town's Bicentennial which was celebrated throughout that year.

Fig. 17 (above). Photo taken sometime before July 29, 2013 showing the marker before refurbishing. PHOTO: Unknown source

Fig. 18 (above right). The marker with old paint and corrosion removed by sandblasting. PHOTO: Brian Ingraham

Fig. 19 (right). The marker after repainting and return to the same site location. This view is facing south, with Swamp Road situated left to right in the frame, and Lake Road barely visible to the right in the frame. PHOTO: Brian Ingraham



History Markers — Town of Sweden — Site of First Sweden Town Meeting**HISTORY MARKERS COMMITTEE****Garrett W. Roe**, Chair**Richard W. Black****James C. Fallon****Norman J. Frisch****Brian S. Wilson****IMAGE SOURCES & CREDITS**

See each caption.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Fig. 1 & 2. Camera: Canon 5D Mark II

Fig. 3. Drawn in Adobe Illustrator™

Fig. 4. Screen shot of on-line document

Fig. 5. Each map was enlarged by Frisch until the approximate area could be selected. Each map selection was then copied and placed in one Adobe CS4 Photoshop™ document—each map on a different layer. Using transparency, each layer was rotated and scaled to match each other, as best as could be done. Individual maps were then arranged sequentially, the entire figure cropped, the map date and name added, the layers flattened and the image saved as a 10.993" w x 15.667" h, 72ppi jpg file with "maximum" quality. The file placed in this document is 47.1% of that size.

Fig. 7. Scaled, cropped and type added in Adobe CS4 Photoshop™ by Frisch.

Figs. 6, 8-12. Scanned by Frisch in grey scale mode at 600ppi at 100% of size on a Canon CanoScan 9000F Mark II. Some tonal adjustment.

Fig. 13. Text was copied by Frisch directly from the source indicated, then pasted into this document. The on-line document is believed to be a transcription of the original document, not a scan. The font, and line spacing does not conform to the on-line document, spellings do.

Fig. 15. Created in Adobe CS4 Photoshop™ by Frisch.

Figs. 17 & 18. Squared up in Adobe CS4 Photoshop™ by Frisch.

DOCUMENT NOTES

All images were placed in an Adobe CS4 InDesign™ document by Frisch. That document was then exported as a pdf file with 150ppi resolution and compression at "high" quality.

GENERAL INFORMATION LINKS**New York State Historic Markers**

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/services/marker/srvmarkers.html>

Gen web

<http://www.mcnygenealogy.com/pics/index.php?category/83>