Humphrey Palmer—Town of Sweden, NY

(1802-1882) **Humphrey Palmer** was born in Madison County and came with his father, **Simeon**, to the Town of Sweden when he was only six years of age. His father's tract included one hundred forty acres on the southwest corner of the Fourth Section and Lake Roads. He helped his father clear the land of the dense woods. The trees were burned and the ashes converted into potash, which was marketed at the mouth of the Genesee River and shipped to Quebec.

In 1825 **Humphrey** was married to **Sarah Parks**, whose father owned a big farm which now includes the southeast portion of Brockport. The young couple purchased a tract on the West Lake Road (opposite the end of Holley Street) and he labored for two years clearing this land in the summer and teaching school during the winter. He later purchased part of the homestead on the Fourth Section and also acquired the lands of his father-in-law.

Humphry Palmer was active in community affairs. He served long terms as school commisioner and highway commissioner and was overseer of the poor. He was Town Supervisor in 1848 but refused to be renominated. In politics, he was first a Whig, then a member of the Know-Nothing Party, and later a Republican.

His family consisted of six sons and one daughter named **Sarah**, who married **Alonzo Hinman**. Two daughters of this union were **Carrie** (**Mrs. Edward Fitzgerald**) and **Adelle** (**Mrs. A. W. Fowler**). The **Fitzgeralds** had no children, but the **Fowlers** had a son and daughter, whose descendents are prominent in the community.

The son was the late **A. V. Fowler**, father of **Keith** and **Vincent**, both of whom reside here. The daughter, **Grace**, was the late **Mrs. Charles Ross**, who bore three daughters: **Adelle**, **Alice** and **Eleanor**. **Ross E. Walker**, past Fire Chief, is the son of **Adelle**. Eleanor (**Mrs. Theodore Mott**) resides on Adams Street, next door to the old Hinman homestead. **Alice** (**Mrs. George O'Brien**) lives in Albion. There are many children and grandchildren in these families, who trace their ancestry to **Humphrey Palmer**.

[Town of Sweden Sesqui-centennial booklet; 1964; p.82]

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