Reed-Rowe-Davis—Town of Sweden, NY

We wish that we had more information about **John Reed**, first Supervisor of the Town of Sweden, who served in that capacity for eight years, when this area was part of Genesee County. Perhaps future historians will uncover the data we have sought. A poetic letter, written by **John Reed**, extending condolences upon the death of his mother gives some insight into the family story. He mentions his brothers, **Eben**, **Daniel** and **William** and his sisters, **Sally** and **Ruby**, who also appears to be his wife's given name. At that time he had two children: **John Brown Reed** and **Ruby Reed**. It had been nineteen years since he had seen his father, who apparently set him up on the original fifty acres. He boasts that his acres now amount to 1400 with buildings, forty head of cattle, fifty hogs and sixty-odd sheep. Much of his land was leased-out because he felt worn out and he spent much time visiting "saltworks , farms and frames".

His son, **John B. Reed**, married **Mary**, daughter of **Joseph** and **Lucy Hill Emerson**, who settled here in 1809. Their four daughters were: **Mrs. Seymour Root**, **Mrs. George Rowe**, **Mrs. Fred Root**, and **Cora Reed Mershon**. The old homestead on the corner of the Lake Road and the Reed Road, named for his family, was inherited by his daughter. It is often referred to as the "old Mershon house". It remained in the family for more than a century and once again is occupied by a descendent, **George Rowe**.

John Reed's daughter, **Ruby Mann Reed**, was born in 1812 and died in 1890. She married **Asa Rowe** (1806-1894) from the Town of Greece on May 28, 1828 and they had six children. **Asa** was the son of **Abel Rowe**, who came with two brothers to western New York from Holland, Connecticut. He was one of the first nurserymen in this area, served two terms as Supervisor from Greece and was on the building committee of the Monroe County Court House. He moved to the Town of Sweden and became identified in public affairs here, serving as Supervisor in 1850.

The children of **Asa** and **Ruby Rowe** were: **Albert Oscar Rowe**, **Arthur Herbert Rowe**, **Asa William Rowe**, **George Henry Rowe**, **Ruby Elizabeth Rowe** (who married **George Davis**) and **Edwin Andrew Rowe**. **Albert** died in childhood, **Arthur** never married, **Asa W.** was twice married and had four children but no living descendants today, **Ruby** had four children, one of whom was **Arthur A. Davis** who settled in Rochester. **George Henry Rowe** attended Alfred Academy, went to Michigan and Indiana. He served in Co. G. 15th U. S. Volunteers from Michigan during the Civil War and returned to marry another **Ruby Reed**. There were four children of this wedlock; **Cora M.**, **Henry A.**, **George E.**, and **William**. The youngest son, **William**, was a well-known coal dealer in Brockport. His widow, **Nettie Rowe**, and their son, **George** and his family still reside in the village.

Edwin Andrew Rowe (1839-1920) married **Ellen Sophia Rhodes** on June 15, 1870 and their only child was the late **May Rowe** who married **Albert H. Davis** on March 19, 1902. They spent their lifetime on the old family estate, leaving five children: **Edwin** of Kenmore, **Harold** of Chatham, **Ruth** (**Mrs. Lee Estes**) of Elmira, **Ellen** (**Mrs. Harold Cooper**) of Rochester and **Burton**, whose new home is on the old estate. **Edwin**, **Harold** and **Ellen**, each have one child, who are heirs to a distinguished family lineage.

[Town of Sweden Sesqui-centennial booklet; 1964; p.83, 84]

ASA ROWE (1806-1894)
ASA ROWE RESIDENCE

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