Root—Town of Sweden, NY

In 1818, three brothers: **William**, **Aaron** and **Dudley Root** travelled by covered wagon and oxen to the Town of Sweden from Charlton, Saratoga County. Their ancestors had left England in 1636 to settle at Hebron, Connecticut.

Aaron brought his wife and four children, the oldest of whom was **Frederick P. Root**. He bought the land formerly owned by **Moses Pike** and extended it to 700 acres. **Aaron** died when **Frederick P.** was only 18 years of age. He purchased the interests of others and became one of the most extensive property owners in the county. The area became known as the Root Settlement. His widowed mother, **Mrs. Salinda Phelps Root**, remarried in 1838, to **Mr. Ross** of Colby Corners, who manufactured furniture and coffins.

Frederick's formal schooling ended when he was 16, but he continued to study and was acknowledged one of the most learned men of the area. In 1839 he married **Marion Phelps** of Hebron, Conn. After 53 years of marriage she died, and he then married **Mrs. Harriet White**.

Frederick was deeply interested in welfare and improvement of the county, especially in the advancement of agricultural interests. He was an organizer and first president of the Farmers' Alliance. For many years he was president of the Insurance Company of Monroe County. He was one of the organizers of the State Grange. During the Civil War he was a revenue Collector. In 1879 he became a state assemblyman, and for five years he was town supervisor. He was a trustee of Brockport Collegiate Institute. He wrote agricultural articles for magazines and gave lectures. When the grain reaper was invented it was tested on the Root farm. He died November 9 , 1904, at the age of 92.

Frederick had 3 children, **Aaron**, **Minnie** and **Marion**. **Aaron** married **Elizabeth Brockway**, descendent of **Hiel Brockway**, and they had six children: **Edward**, **Frederick**, **Anna**, **Eva**, **Eliza** and **Dudley**. (**Eva** and **Eliza** died in their teens). **Minnie** married **William Ward** and after his death married **Henry Dewey**. She had no children and her home was the present Fowler Funeral Home.

Marion married a **Mr. Hart** and had two children, **Marion** and **Chester**. **Edward** married **Stella Bangs** and had two children, **Harlowe** and **Leland**. **Leland** drowned in Black Creek and **Harlowe** married **Bernice Kates** of Churchville, who had three boys **Robert**, **Fredrick** and **Leland**.

Fredrick married **Lillian Sheldon** of North Chili and had six children: **Mabel**, **Clayton**, **Eva**, **Ted**, **Florence** and **Herbert**. **Mabel** married **George Rudman** and their five children were **Fredrick**, **Lillian**, **Betty**, **Shirley** and **George**. **Fredrick** married and moved away. **Lillian** married **Raymond Hewlett**, **Betty** married **Frank Slater**, **Shirley** married **N. Graupman** and **George** married **Margaret Costigan**. **Lillian**, **Betty** and their families still reside in Sweden. **Clayton** married **Corrine Cooley** and their only son is **Sheldon**, who married **Lois Barclay**. They had one son, **Ronald**, who married **Patricia Manning**. **Sheldon** and his wife live in Sweden Center. **Eva** married **Charles White** and left no children. **Florence** married **Foster Udell** and later **Dayton Morgan** and is living in Florida. **Theodore Root** married **Leona Fuller** and moved away. **Herbert Root** is married and resides with his family in Brockport.

Anna, daughter of **Aaron**, married **Stephen Chalmers**, a short story writer. They had no children. **Dudley** married **Sarah Hovey** of West Sweden and resided in Bergen. They had seven children, **Helen**, **Lucille** (deceased), **Howard**, **Theodore**, **Gordon**, **Homer** and **Ruth** (**Buchan**). **Theodore** and **Homer** are still residents of the Town of Sweden. **Theodore** married and lives on the Euler Road. **Homer** married **Junia Wolston** and lives with his daughters, **Elizabeth**, **Lucille** and **Sally** on the Beadle Road.

Andrew H. Root, (1816-1860) was a brother of **F. P. Root** and married **Almira Howard**, daughter of **Sampson Howard**. They had one son **Seymour Root**, born 1842, who married **Lucy**, daughter of **John B. Reed** in 1867. Their children were **Mary A. Root** and **Ada B. Root**.

[Town of Sweden Sesqui-centennial booklet; 1964; p.84, 85]

FREDERICK P. ROOT

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