

VOL. 4TH
HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL COLLECTIONS
BY
C. C. BRONSON
OF
TALLMADGE

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ABRAHAM HINE

The town of Milford in New Haven County, Conn. was one of the oldest towns in the State. The original settlers were mostly from the counties of Essex and York, England. And they settled in Milford Conn in 1639. Many decendants of these old Puritan Planters have and are residing in Tallmadge. Among the settlers of Milford we find the name of Thomas Hine; about 1648 there was a famous battle fought between the Milford Indians and the Mohawks. The Mohawks were defeated and a stout captive, was stripped and tied by the Milford Indians in the Great Meadow (salt marshes) for the muquitoes to eat and torment to death. But he was discovered and relieved by a man named Thomas Hine. This man may be the first of the name in this country. The Rev. Sylvester Hine, a Cong. minister of Conn. has a genealogy of the Hines, commencing with Thomas Hine of Milford. It would be desirable to trace the genealogy of the Hines to the families of Abraham, and Aaron Hine who both settled in Tallmadge, Aaron in 1817 and Abraham in 1820. We can, I think, very reasonably infer that these brothers were lineal decendants of Thomas Hine.

Their fathers name was Abraham Hine, was born in the town of Milford, where he lived all his life. He was by trade a shoemaker, he married Sarah Bristol, and lived north of Milford town, a mile where they raised a family of ten children, all lived to middle life. Abraham Hine Sen. died in June of 1811. Abraham Hine Jr. was born in Milford Jan. 4th, 1775. His education like others of that period was all obtained in the common schools, and limited at that. The education of the people in Connecticut was looked upon with deep interest, but their means were so limited that if they could read and spell, and write and understand enough of arithmetic to keep accounts, they had to be satisfied. Mr. Hine on arriving at his majority, 1796, there being no other prospect before him but to earn his own livelihood and lay up for future use and to obtain a home. This inspired him with hope and as he had examples before him of those who had begun life as he was compelled to had risen to comfortable circumstances and even affluence. He in accordance with the idea of helping himself went and hired out to Capt. Jonah Treat, a wealthy farmer living in that portion of the old town of Milford, now called Orange. He worked for sixty dollars a year. In the early spring of 1796, Capt. Jonah Treat, being in want of a girl to assist in the house work, he employed a Miss Abigail Ann Elton, and in the fall of 1796, Mr. Hine and Miss Elton were married. The Elton family settled in New Haven at an early day. Her father William Elton, the son of Ebenezer Elton was by trade a tailor and he settled in that part of the town of Bristol, which by act of the Legislature in 1806 was set off for a township and called Burlington. Mrs. Hine was born in Burlington, Nov. 16th, 1775.

They continued to work for Capt. Treat, and Mr. Hine, bought an acre of land, and then three acres, on which he built a house and by their industry, close economy and strict honesty,

they were able to raise a family of seven children and lived to see them all settled in life. Mr. Hine being a healthy man he was subject to Millitary durt, when the law demanded that every able bodied man from the age of 18 to 45 should perform millitary duty unless legally discharged, Mr. Hine enlisted into a company of Grenadiers in Milford, and his health permitted him to be with this company at all their trainings untill near the time his age would exempt him. In 1817, his brother Aaron Hine, having disposed of his farm in what is now the town of Orange, and designed to move his family to Tallmadge, then the County of Portage, Ohio.

Mr. Abraham Hine, came with them to see the country, with a view of removing his family, if the appearance of country was favorable. Having arrived safely at their destination, on the 14th of July, 1817. He was pleased with the country and he was not long in making up his mind that for the benefit of his three sons, who would soon arrive at manhood, and as he and Mrs. Hine had confereed on the subject of changing their place of residence for the good of their children. Mr. Norman Sackett had bought of Col. Benj. Tallmadge of Litchfield Conn. Lot 1 in Tract 12 on which he had cleared some acres, built a log house, he liking the land and Mr. Sackett being willing to sell, Mr. Hine bought the farm and returned to Conn, to his family. Mr. Hine remained in Conn. untill he disposed of his place and he made his preparations for the journey before them. Their team consisted of two yoke of oxen and one horse, and a waggon of sufficient strength and capacity, which made a good Yankee team, and good for the 2,500 pounds of chattel, besides the live weight with which their waggon was laden. All being in readiness they on the 23rd of May, 1820 bid adieu to their native place and the scenes of childhood, and all their early associations and left for their new home, and new associations in Ohio. The family enjoyed their usual health and nothing occurred while on the road, but such incidents as are common to all emigrants, and arrived in Tallmadge on the 27th day of June after a journey of 35 days.

Mr. and Mrs. Hine from their earliest childhood had been taught that labor was necessary in order to obtain a living and as they had not been born in affluence, and as neither of them had any expectations of the first dollar by inheritance, their prospects by some would not be looked upon as very flattering. But thanks to our free government, the door is open for all to pursue their chosen path to wealth, honor and happiness in a lawful way.

This course Mr. and Mrs. Hine pursued to carve out their own fortune by honest industry and strict economy and that indomitable perseverance that insures success. His family were instructed by presept and example to pursue the same course of life and all have succeeded. His sons inform me that when they left Connecticut, their Fathers real and personal property was valued at 1,400 dollars. On their arrival at the somewhat delapidated log cabin in the woods, and not a dwelling in sight

in any direction , they were not appalled at the prospect before them, but went to work with the full determination to make the wilderness a fruitful field. Health, industry, perserverance, and prosperity crowned their efforts with abundant success.

Mr. Hine was under the necessity of drawing logs over two miles to a saw mill to obtain lumber for his buildings. His barn was the first frame building erected on Tract 12, which was built in 182? which is still standing (1877). His house, he built of brick in 1830 in which he lived untill his death. They were able by their uniforms good health to perform labor to some extent through life. He continued the oversight of his farm and other business untill his death. Mrs. Hine also had the control of household affairs untill she broke up housekeeping after his death. They were quiet and peaceful in their intercourse with their fellow men; they had great reverance for religion and the Sabbath, always attending meetings regularly and help support the preaching of the Gospel and other objects of benevolence. And they were always ready to help the needy and distressed, As his children became disposed to go forth and form other family relations, they were ready to assist them in setting their own houses. Mr. Hine late in life, made a public profession of religion by uniting with the Cong. Church in Tallmadge April 6th, 1834. Mrs. Hine never made a profession but the well ordered life may have been as acceptable in the eye of him who is omneicient as some who are professors.

On the 27th day of June 1870, it being the fiftieth anniversary of their arrival in Tallmadge, the sons and daughters had a reunion at the house of D. A. Hine in Middlebury. An account was given in the Summit Beacon of July 20th, 1870 from which I will make a few extracts. "The younger members of the family, were all taken down with the measles the day after their arrival, but soon recovered. The family went to work in earnest, having settled on a wilderness farm of 147 acres. In common with the early settlers of Tallmadge who vied with each other in seeing who could clear up the woods the fastest, they did not wish to be outdone by their neighbors. In 1849, after an absense of 29 years, Mr. Abraham Hine and his wife Abigail went to Conn. and visited in their native towns of Milford and Burlington, their respective native places. The changes were great but they enjoyed their visit among the scenes of their early life and they remarked on their return that it seemed to them that the stones had grown to be much larger than they were when they left in 1820.

They are so situated with the exception of one of the sisters (Mrs. Margaret Wolcott of LaGrange Ia.) that they can meet together and make a visit and return to their homes the same day. They talked over the past and brought to mind many of the scenes which in those early days and years they have enjoyed as a family. The hopes, the joys and some of the sorrows, which have since experienced. After the repast they were all weighed, the average weight of the family being 156 pounds. The average age is 63 years and 8 months. The average height of the brothers is five feet nine inches. The average hight of the sisters is five feet three inches". Mr. Abraham Hine after

spending a long life, a useful and respectable member of the societies in which he lived, died on the 14th of April, 1856, aged 81 years. Mrs. Hine in consequence of the infirmities of age, did not think it best to keep house any longer; she went to live with her daughter Julia, the wife of Jonathan E. Minard of Revenna; where she spent the remainder of her life. She died in Revenna on the 22nd day of Nov, 1863, aged 88 years.

THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM AND ABAGAIL A. (ELTON) HINE

- I - Alvan, born July 16th, 1797 Died Oct. 8th, 1813, aged 16
- II - An infant son Died
- III - William, born July 22nd, 1801, Died June 27, 1888 aged 87
- IV - Margaret, born Nov. 12th, 1803
- V - Daniel, born May 23rd, 1806
- VI - Dennis A., born April 11th, 1808
- VII - Abigail Ann, born Oct. 28th, 1809
- VIII - Julia, born May 2nd, 1811
- IX - An infant son, born Oct. 16th, 1813, Died Nov. 12th, 1813 Aged 26 days
- X - Louisa, born June 10th, 1816

MARRIAGES

Wm married Phila Mela Root, Dec. 24th, 1823. Lives in Tallmadge
Margaret married George Wolcott
Daniel married 1st Sally Carruthers, Sept. 16th, 1830. He
 married 2nd Mrs. Sarah (Titcomb) Cleaves of N. Yarmouth,
 Me. May 1871. Lives in Tall.
Dennis A. married Lucy Ann Smith Dec. 29th, 1831. Lives in
 Middlebury
Abagail A. married N. S. Sherman, April 22nd, 1835, is a widow
 lives in Coventry.
Julia married Jonathan E. Minard April 19th, 1836. Lives in
 Revenna.
Louisa married Charles A. Collins Jan 16th, 1839. Resides in
 Akron

AARON HINE

He was a settler on Tract 10, but unintentionally he was left out in giving the history of the residents on that Tract. C.C.B.

Aaron Hine was a younger brother of Mr. Abraham Hine, and was born in Milford, March 25th, 1777. His education was obtained in the common schools of his native town. He by his occupation was a farmer. He had an uncle by the name of Aaron Hine, who lived in that portion of the town of Milford, now called Orange, he was a bachelor and owned a farm. As the infirmities of age was creeping upon him he had his nephew come onto his place to assist him in taking care of it. At his uncles de- cease the farm came into his possession, this was in 1813. He sold the place to Mr. Samuel Treat and removed with his family to Tallmadge, Ohio in 1817. He had made the journey the year previous in 1816, and had bought of Mr. George Kilbourn, the farm on which he resided. This being Lots 8 and 9 in Tract 10,

and Lots 1 and 6 in Tract 11. On Tract 10, Mr. Kilbourn erected a frame barn in 1811, thought by some to be the second frame erected in the township and he built a large two storied house in 1815.

Mr. Hine having purchased Mr. Kilbourns farm, he returned to Connecticut and made all necessary preparations for removing his family to their new home in the then far west.

In the spring of 1817 (as before stated) all things being ready Mr. Hine and family left North Milford (now Orange) in company with Mr. Benjamin Fenn, with his family with teams for Ohio. Their destination being Tallmadge, then in the county of Portage. And after a long and toilsome journey which all had to experience who crossed the country from New England to Ohio at that day. They arrived safely at Tallmadge July 14th, 1817. Mr. Hine and his family resided in Tallmadge untill about 1837, when he removed to Randolph in Portage Co., O. where they died. Mrs. Hine died June 21st, 1841, aged 56 years and Mr. Hine died of Cancer, June 7th, 1852, aged 75 years. Mr. and Mrs. Hine it is thought made a public profession of religion in April 1813, in Orange. On their removal from there they transferred their church relations to the Cong. Church in Tallmadge Nov. 30th, 1817.

Mr. Hine was quite a prominent man in his day, he was for many years the Treasurer of the township; and in building the Cong. Meeting House, he officiated as the Society Treasurer. He proved himself honest and they were satisfied with his management. He was an upright man in his dealing and intercourse with his fellow men; a very quiet peacable man. Mrs. Hine was a devoted Christian woman and was very active with others of her day to advance the course of the Redeemer, and the prosperity of the Church and by her life and daily walk and conversation, she convinced all that she was truly a mother in Israel.

CHILDREN OF AARON AND BETHIAH H. HINE

- I - Harriet, born July 2nd, 1805. Died April 7th, 1827 aged 22
- II - Julia, born Dec. 1809. Died 1813, aged 4
- III - Aaron Seymour, born May 8th, 1811, died 1813, aged 2
- IV - Mary, born May 25th, 1813
- V - Julia, born May 9th, 1815, died July 21st, 1854, aged 39
- VI - Martha Dwight, born Aug. 14th, 1817, died Sept. 13th, 1838, Aged 21
- VII - Lucinda Eliza, born Dec. 15th, 1819
- VIII - Saloma Bethia, born May 31st, 1822
- IX - Mabel Anna, born Nov. 13th, 1824
- X - Nancy Bristol, born March 20th, 1827. Died Feb. 15th, 1872 aged 45

The five oldest children of Aaron and Bethia Hine were born in North Milford, now (Orange) and the five youngest in Tallmadge. Harriet their eldest was a person of fine natural abilities, was well educated, a fine singer, was a subject of the revival of 1821; she united with the Cong. Church June 10th, 1822. She was

married to Rev. David Lyman Coe. She died in Tallmadge, April 7th, 1827, aged 22 years, a very devoted Christian woman beloved by all.

Mary experienced religion and united with the Cong. Church in Tallmadge, Jan. 6th, 1828 and was married to Elbert Victor Carter of Tallmadge March 5th, 1834 by Rev. J. C. Parmelee. She is a widow and is a very useful woman, resides in Elkador, Iowa. Julia united with the Cong. Church Sept. 7th, 1828; was dis to the Cong. Church in Randolph Jan. 18th, 1838; she was married to Caleb G. Carleton of Mantua, by Rev. Joseph Merriam of Randolph. She died in Clermont, Fayette Co., Iowa July 21st, 1854, aged 39.

Martha D. Hine made a profession of religion by uniting with the Cong. Church in Tallmadge Nov. 6th, 1831, was dis to Randolph Jan. 18th, 1838, married Amos D. Seward of Tallmadge March 5th, 1838, removed to the state of Indiana, where she died Sept. 13th 1838, aged 21.

Lucinda Eliza united with the Cong. Church July 6th, 1834, and was dis to the Church in Randolph at the same time with her parents and sisters Jan. 18th, 1838. She married Wm. Harrington.

Saloma Bethia married Booth.
Mabel Anna married Milo W. Stough, Oct. 22nd, 1845.

Nancy Bristol married

The next settler in Tract 12 was Treat Fenn, he was the son of Richard and Mabel P. Fenn and was born in Milford Dec. 10th, 1804. When he became of age and wished to settle in life his father gave the farm on which he resides, being acres in Lot 2, Tract 12 on this he commenced to chop and clear the land on the north west corner of the lot and put up good buildings. He united with the Cong. Church in Tallmadge March 10th, 1822. He has had three wives, his first wife was Miss Harriet A. Bierce, of Nelson Portage County, Ohio. They were married in Nelson June 4th, 1833. She died of consumption June 30th, 1850; aged 41 years. She united with the Cong. Church in Tallmadge by letter in 1834. His 2nd wife whose maiden name was Rachel Fuller, was also a native of Nelson. They were married in Nelson Aug. 30th 1852. She died Sept. 27th, 1857, aged 44 years. She united by letter with the Cong. Church July 10th, 1853. Mr. Fenns 3rd wife was Miss Augusta Florilla, a daughter of Deacon David and Laura (Knowlton) Wright of Morgan, Ashtabula County. They were married Nov. 21st, 1861. She united with The Cong. Church in Tallmadge Jan. 6th, 1862 by letter. Mr. Fenn is a quiet peacable man, industrious, leading an exemplary life on the farm where he first settled.

CHILDREN OF TREAT AND HARRIETT A. FENN

- I - Curtiss Treat, born May 23rd, 1838. Married Mary Hall Nov. 5th, 1867
- II - Philo Bierce, born Jan. 25th, 1838. Died Aug. 12th, 1838, aged 7 mos.

- III - Fredrick Bierce, born May 25th, 1839
- IV - Emily Augusta, born Oct. 19th, 1841
- V - Hellen Alevia, born July 17th, 1843. Married L. F. Reed, Sept. 12th, 1871. Residing at Omaha.
- VI - Harriett Frances, born Oct. 12th, 1845. Married Wm. Jenks April 15th, 1875. Resides in Nebraska.
- VII - Nelson Wallbridge, born Oct. 23rd, 1847
- VIII - Sarah Estella, born Oct. 26th, 1853

Mrs. Harriett Almeda (Bierce) Fenn was born in Cornwall, Conn. Dec. 21st, 1808. Her parents emigrated to Nelson in Portage Co. She was a worthy woman.

The second wife of Mr. Fenn was born in Kent, Conn. on the 22nd of Dec. 1812. Her parents settled in Nelson; her mother was a Bierce. She married Baldwin of Nelson and had two children and Sarah E. by Mr. Fenn. She was a woman that was quiet and retiring in her habits, of few words but exhibited the life of a humble Christian.

The three brothers Benjamin, Peck and Richard Fenn of Milford Conn, all having large families and having concluded to remove to Tallmadge, they bought Lot 2 of 144 acres and Lot 3 of 145 acres in Tract 12, according to the survey of Seth I. Ensign in 1806, of Col. Benj. Tallmadge of Litchfield, Conn. in 1817. Mr. Wyllys Fenn says: these two lots were bought in common by the Fenn brothers and a division was afterwards made. Richard Fenn taking fifty acres off the west side of Lot No. 2. This 50 acres he gave to his son Treat Fenn and he resides with his family on it at this time (1877). After the death of Mr. Benj. Fenn in 1817 in the division of his estate, his son Alfred Fenn had 50 acres off the east side of Lot 3, which he sold to John Morehouse who cleared some of the land and built a log house, and sold to Syllys Fenn, 80 acres of the same Lot 3, Fowler F. Fenn owned making 130 acres of Lot 3 which is owned at this time (1877) by Mr. Wyllys Fenn.

The remainder of Lot 2 in the division of the Fenn brothers was taken by Dea Peck Fenn, and to obtain his share of the purchase fifteen acres were surveyed to him off the west side of Lot No. 3. This land in the distribution of Deacon Peck Fenns estate after his death in 1824, was given to his youngest child Andrew Fenn on arriving at his majority he married, built a log house, and cleared a number of acres on the east side of the lot. In 1838 he sold this farm to Marcus Hinman and Treat Fenn. Mr. Hinman taking 53 acres off the east of Lot 2 and the 15 acres off the west side of Lot No. 3; Mr. Fenn taking the ballance of Lot No. 2, making in the whole of Treat Fenns farm 108 acres in Tract 12. Lot No. 6 in Tract 12. Mr. Andrew Treat purchased of Col. Benj. Tallmadge in 18?? it being I think, the last lot Col. Tallmadge sole in town. The land Mr. Treat still retains as an out farm at this time (1877).

OBITUARY

Died in Tallmadge June 30th, 1850, Mrs. Harriet Almeda, wife of Treat Fenn, aged 41 years.

Viewing her prospects for continuing long in this world as very uncertain, she did what she could to set her house in order, calmly awaiting with resignation the will of Divine Providence. She has left a family of six children and an extensive circle of friends and relatives mourn her loss, but they have the comforting hope that she was taken from a sphere of usefulness here to serve God in a higher sphere above.
(Copied from the Ohio Observer)

TRACT 13

This tract as surveyed by Seth I. Ensign in 1806. Beginning at the north west corner of the Tract, running east to the six corners; thence south to the township line, thence west to the corners of town in Ranges 10 and 11 and towns 2 in Range 10 and 11, thence north on the township line to the place of beginning. Containing 909 acres and 68/100.

The tract was subdivided into six lots, commencing on the N.W. corner, numbering east lots 1 & 2, then back to the west line of the town, then numbering east 3 and 4. In the original proprietors division in 18 , this tract belonged to the Brace Co. And in 1813 when the Brace Company made their division Lots 1 of the tract fell to Roger Newberry of Windsor Conn; and lots three, four and five & six were granted to Jonathan Brace of Hartford, Conn. The land in the tract had been previously sold or most of it, but there were payments due on some of the small subdivisions. Lot 2 of Tract 13 the Brace Company sold to Elizur Wright Esq. of Canaan Conn; who settled in Tallmadge in 1810. The first settler of Tract 13, it is generally admitted to have been Capt. Joseph Hart, and family in 1808.

It is a subject of regret that we cannot obtain more definite information of Capt. Hart and particularly of his settlement in Tallmadge. But the date of his removal into what was known in after years as Middlebury; and at this time (1877) as Akron, sixth ward. Is unknown and probably will never be known.

CAPT. JOSEPH HART

Among the early settlers of Farmington, Conn. appears the same of Stephen Hart. He was the first Deacon of the first Cong. Church in Farmington, in 1640. In tracing the genealogy of the Hart family which is under investigation, it may be found that Capt. Hart is a lineal decendant of Dea Stephen Hart. Joseph Hart was born in Wallingford, New Haven County, Ct., He followed a seafareing life, probably was a first cabin boy and arose to the command of a vessel on the high seas from whence he obtained the title of Captain which he carried to his grave. In 1799 he was taken by a French Cruiser and taken to a French Port where his ship and cargo was condemned. He was finally able to obtain his liberation, and he returned to the United States. He having a family, and the war in Europe and the French privateers were taking all the shipping of British they could on the high seas. And they did not stop there for the Stars and Stripes

were no protection to the commerce of the United States. This situation of the maritime relations induced him to think if he had better continue to risk his all in his chosen profession, or seek some other occupation. The result of his deliberations was to leave the ocean and enter on some other employment, that would benefit his family. In his native town of Wallingford resided Caleb Atwater, one of the members of the Connecticut Land Company; and in the Draft of 1798, Mr. Atwater drew Town 1, Range 7, now known as the town of Atwater in Portage County. Mr. Atwater held out inducements at an early day for people to move into and settle in the township he owned. Capt. Hart, concluded it was the best course for him to remove his family to Ohio. Accordingly he left his native state, with his family in 1807, bound for the town of Atwater in New Connecticut. It would be very desirable if it could be known what inducements were given Capt. Hart, if any, to come to Tallmadge and settle and what date he came into the township, but this probably can never be known. The spring and summer of 1808, brought in a goodly number of settlers from the various settled townships then on the Reserve. In Portage county land records, there is a deed recorded given by the Brace Company to Joseph Hart, calling for 54 54/100 acres, dated Aug. 20th, 1811. On this fifty acres was the water power, which in those days was a great consideration to those who had the foresight to see where business would be likely to concentrate. What a contrast is presented to our view at this time (1877) by the application of steam to propel machinery.

It is generally admitted and I think without a single doubt that Capt. Joseph Hart and family were the first settlers on the present site of Middlebury, or as it is now known the sixth ward of Akron. In the summer of 1808, Capt. Hart in company with Aaron Norton, commenced to build a dam across the creek, where Messrs. Adams and Hills, brick sewer pipe manufactory now stands. They erected a saw and grist mill of logs, a poor affair in comparison to the mills of the present day; and were of great benefit to the pioneers of Tallmadge, Springfield and the surrounding country.

The saw and grist mill were located on the east side of the creek; not far from where the stone building now stands, which has been used as a pottery. The mills were kept in operation untill 1819, when Wm. J. Hart, the oldest son of Capt. Hart and Judge Aaron Norton built a dam on the creek above the falls, and built the mill known as the Black Mill; now made into a manufactory of sewer pipe, and this is owned by Adams and Hill. In early days the pioneers had to come to the Middlebury Mills to get their grain ground from Medina County, and as far west as Harrisville. We living at the present day when all the mills were propelled by water, can little realize what those hardy pioneers had to endure in a dry season to go thirty miles or more to the mills in what was known at that day as Hart and Nortons Mills in Tallmadge.

HON. AARON NORTON

In writing biographical sketches of the pioneers, we would be recreant to our duty to pass by the Hon. Aaron Norton. It is desirable in writing a biographical sketch of an individual to begin with the parents, the date of birth and early life. But thus far, all efforts to obtain the desired information respecting Judge Norton has been nearly unsuccessful. From a letter before me from Mr. Clark Norton, of Hiram in the county of Portage, says, "Your letter tells more of my uncle Aaron Norton than I knew before. He died before my remembrance and my father died when I was a boy in my teens. Uncle Aaron was one of the eldest of the family and my father was the youngest of twelve (12) full brothers and sisters. My father Col. Miles T. Norton was born in 1799. And as Aaron was in Ohio at an early day, I do not think my Father knew him until he came to Ohio in 1818. My grand father never saw all of his children at one time, the oldest had left home before the youngest was born yet when the youngest my father was married, they were all living and all married.

Grand father said he had 24 children all living. My grand father Norton lived in East Bloomfield, N. Y.

Yours truly, Clark Norton

In an interview with Mr. Norton, at his residence in Hiram, since the above letter was written, I was unable to obtain any thing further respecting Judge Norton. The presumptive evidence is that Judge Nortons father emigrated from Conn. probably as early 1790. Steele and Norton had mills in East Bloomfield and they furnished flour and meal for David Hudson when he made his first journey to commence the settlement of Hudson in 1799 and also in 1800, and he also furnished flour and meal to Judge E. Austin of Austinburg. Now the presumption is that the father of Hon. Aaron Norton was in company with Steele in the ownership of the mills in East Bloomfield and an investigation might show that Mr. Norton and Esq. Hudson were both citizens of Goshen, Conn, and old acquaintance. But it does appear that Aaron Norton, followed in the wake of David Hudson and came to the Reserve. Rev. John Seward, in his manuscript says: "in 1801 Dr. Wm. N. Husdon says "In 1801, Ezra Wyatt, and Aaron Norton commenced building mills on Tinkers Creek in the north east part of Hudson; they had the sawmill in operation late in the fall of 1801. And the grist mill so it would grind, but not bolt about the first of April 1802. The mills were unfortunately burnt, a severe misfortune not only to the owners Messrs. Wyatt and Norton but the settlers also felt it severely. They had the sympathy of the few pioneers at that early day.

Mr. Norton was a man of enterprize and great energy and this great misfortune did not abate his earnest determination to still pursue a course to benefit himself and his fellow men. He not feeling disposed rebuild again on Tinkers Creek; he bought of John Stoddard and Mary his wife of Conway, Hampshire County, Mass; conveyed the mill lot of 10 acres consideration \$120; to Aaron Norton, it being in Lot 27 in Town 3 in Range

