

The Freemason's Patent of Herkimer County

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Herkimer county, like many other counties of our State, is rich with Masonic history. In an interesting separate paper I have compiled over 40 pages (8 pt. type) of the Early Masonic History of the Sauquoit Valley. While compiling this other paper I was again reminded of something I have previously come across, "The Freemason's Patent." The following compilation from internet sources is presented for your review to give an overview of this interesting slice of early Masonic history in the Mohawk Valley.

The western portion of the town of Paris, Herkimer County, is included in Coxe's Patent, and the eastern portion (rather more than one half) in the Free-Mason's or Bayard's Patent, the line dividing the Patents running through the town from north to south, somewhat west of the center.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=AuRKAAAMAAJ&pg=RA2-PA43&dq=%22Freemasons+patent%22>

A Patent for 50,000 acres of land, (was) known originally by the name of Bayard's patent, afterwards as the Oneida purchase, and more recently as the **Freemasons' patent**, to Wm. Bayard, Allan McDougall, Wm. Kane, and fifty-two others, 12th June, 1771, book No. 15 of patents, in the office of the Secretary of State, page 518.

A deed was issued in fee, from Allan McDougall and Wm. Kane to John Weatherhead, for their interest, being two fifty-fifth parts of the whole quantity of land included in the patent. The existence of this deed is shown by the 10th Johnson's Reports, page 414, the Assembly Journal of 1826, page 512, and by an original paper prepared by Stephen Lush, Esq., on file in volume 36 of Assembly papers in the office of the Secretary of State.

The attainder of John Weatherhead, by virtue of the act of 22d Oct. 1779, chap. 25 of the laws of that year, and the forfeiture of all his estate, real and personal, to the people of this State.

Letters patent under the colonial government, dated the 12th June, 1771, were granted to *William Bayard* and fifty-four others, of whom *William Kane* and *A. McDougal* were two for 50,000 acres of land, known by the name of *Freemasons' Patent*, and formerly called the *Oneida* purchase. *Kane* and *McDougal* released in fee to *John Weatherhead* all their undivided shares in the tract, on the 19th of *October*, 1771. The tract was divided by commissioners of partition, appointed by an act of the legislature passed the 10th of April, 1787.

No part of the *Freemasons' Patent* was settled or inhabited, until about the year 1786, and the premises in question remained a forest, and uncultivated, until about the time *Kane* made the lease to one *D. Rindge* (on 20 Apr 1795, demising lot No. 5 for 21 years at the annual rent of one shilling per acre).

The original patentees:

http://books.google.com/books?id=G1IOAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA198&lpg=PA198&dq=%22bayard's+patent%22&source=web&ots=BfMgCvPSE&sig=Y0MBXK6yDxad5EoM7E-vsUykgBq&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=7&ct=result#PPA475.M1

Bayard's (aka Freemason's) Patent.—Date, 1771; 50,000 acres; patentees (this present compiler will leave such research as may be deemed appropriate to determine if any of the original patentees were Freemasons. As a note, land patents were traditionally named for the first named patentee; those listed did not necessarily ever settle on the land. — g.l.h.)

Wm. Bayard,
Robert Bayard,
Joshua Mulloch,
Thomas Shipboy,
Peter Sylvester,
Henry Van Schaack,
Robert Adams,
Richard Cartwright,
James Phyn,
Wm. Kane,

Allen McDougall,
George Lindesay,
Jacob Brower,
John Van Dalsem,
Rudolph Sickles,
William Benson,
James A. Stewart,
Alexander Stewart, Jun.,
Robert Henry,
Robert McLellan,

John Vernor,
William Proctor,
Adrian Renaudet,
Carden Proctor,
Richard Nassau Stevens,
Thomas Edwards,
John Constable,
Alexander Ellis,
John Duncan,
Dunlap Adams,

Wm. Adams,
James Adams,
David Edgar,
Wm. Edgar,
James Rankin,
Jane Lyle,
John Van Alen,
Barent Van Alen,
Abm. Schenck,
Henry Remsen,

Henry Remsen, Jun.,
John Taylor,
Joseph Griswold,
Robert Harding,

John H. Brelun,
Wm. Butler,
Frederick W. Hecht,
George Ball,

John Gregg,
Wm. Jones,
Thomas Pettit,
Robert Ross,

Richard Hazard,
William Dudley,
Thomas Griswold,

<http://oneida.nygenweb.net/misc/wager/ch10.html>

The Indian deed was obtained in 1766, but the patent was not issued until the date above given. At the time of the Revolution several of the patentees adhered to the crown and by the act of attainder of 1779 those disloyal persons were attainted of treason and their property confiscated. John Weatherhead was one of that number; he was an extensive importer in New York city. William Bayard, another owner, at first sympathized with the colonies, but later went over the British and departed for England; the property of both of those was confiscated. Bayard died in England in 1804, a very old man. April 11, 1787, an act of the Legislature was passed reciting that said patent before the Revolution had been surveyed into lots by Thomas Palmer and Beriah Palmer for the patentees, but as the land was not actually divided, and that by reason of the death of some of the owners, the attainder and removal of others, it was impracticable to make a division without a new survey, which would be attended with great expense; therefore the Legislature appointed commissioners to make partition of the lands agreeable to the survey of said Palmers, and to ballot for the lots to be drawn and owned by the respective owners.

From the "Transactions of the Oneida Historical Society," pages 57 & 58, we may read the following account, which may give some explanation of how the "Bayard Patent" is also called the "Freemason's Patent." Joseph Higbee was also a Freemason.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=N-HTEorQoD0C&pg=RA3-PA58&dq=%22bayard%27s+patent%22>

In the month of March, 1788, Colonel, afterwards **Judge Jedediah Sanger**, a native of Massachusetts, came to this lower valley of the "Sauquoit," as it is now called, but which is a corruption of the original Indian name *Ke-dait-quate*, or, as some say, "Sadaquada," and purchased one thousand acres of land, through the centre of which runs the Sauquoit creek, and which includes the whole of the present village of New Hartford. Col. Sanger was doubtless attracted to this spot by the beauty of its situation, the fertility of its soil, and the excellence of its water power, as well as by its proximity to the landing-place on the Mohawk at Old Fort Schuyler, now Utica. For this land, as stated in Jones' Annals, he paid five hundred dollars, or fifty cents per acre. The year following his purchase he sold the half lying east of the creek to Joseph Higbee for one dollar per acre, thus securing to himself the west side, on which the business portion of the village stands, free of cost.*

He began at once the clearing of the forest and the erection of a saw mill and a grist mill—those indispensable requisites of a new settlement. The year after this, in 1789, he brought his family to reside here. In 1790, Joseph Higbee, Nathan Seward and John French brought their families from Connecticut and settled on the east side of the creek, on lands that had been purchased the year before by Mr. Higbee. Soon after this, the fame of the Whitestown country spread over many parts of New England, and many people of culture and refinement were induced to leave their pleasant homes in New England, and make new homes for themselves and their children in this then far off wilderness of Central New York.

* The verifier of this interesting story in Jones' Annals, of the purchase of one thousand acres at fifty cents per acre, and the sale of half of it, in the first year, at one hundred per cent profit, searches the records in vain for deeds to confirm it. New Hartford lies mainly in the two Patents, Bayard's (or Free-Masons'), on the east side of the Sauquoit, and Coxe's, on the west side of that stream. Book 1 of Deeds recorded in the Oneida County Clerk's office, at page 196, shows a deed from John G. Leake to Jedediah Sanger, dated November 18, 1780, of lots Nos. 71, 72, 94 and 108, in Bayard's Patent, each lot 492 acres, consideration of deed £910 4s., making about \$1.16 per acre in United States currency, and page 153 of the same Book records the deed of Jedediah Sanger to Joseph Higbee, dated December 30, 1791, of lot No. 108, one of the four above named, for £209, making \$1.06 per acre, ten cents less than its cost. The water power in the Sauquoit is reserved, however, in the last deed. At page 208 is the record of a deed from John Redman (apparently one of the aborigines) to Thomas Williams, Ezekiel Williams, Asaph Atwater and Nathan Kelsey, dated July 18, 1790, of lot No. 1 in the 7th division of Coxe's Patent, 183 acres, for £73 4s., or \$183 in United States currency, just \$1 per acre. At page 200 is recorded the deed of **George Washington and George Clinton to Jedediah Sanger**, dated July 22, 1790, of lot No. 2, 7th division, Coxe's Patent, 234 acres, for £118 10s., equal to \$296.25, or about \$1.27 per acre. These last two lots (Nos. 1 and 2, Coxe's Patent) are on the west side of the Sauquoit, directly opposite to the lot No. 108 in Bayard's Patent conveyed to Joseph Higbee as above. The three deeds conveying 909 acres in all, cover most of the site of New Hartford village.

Additional note pertaining to George Washington and George Clinton:

http://books.google.com/books?id=tMYqAAAAyAAJ&pg=PA276&lpg=PA276&dq=%22Gardner+Avery%22&source=web&ots=Gf4g6qSLVh&sig=YiYjxRA_rOpfDHNSVtfm71GdXo&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=8&ct=result# page 35.

Some of the land in the vicinity of Paris Hill was owned by General George Washington. The deed of the old place of Darius Scovil, in 1804, where he settled, coming from Watertown, Litchfield county, Conn., was from the executors of George Washington's estate. Some years later, Bushrod Washington, (a nephew) visited Paris Hill to look after the lands in that vicinity that had fallen to him as legatee of George Washington. Governor DeWitt Clinton also owned lands in the vicinity, as legatee of his father.

(Both George Washington and DeWitt Clinton were well known Freemasons. Bushrod Washington, an associate Justice of the US Supreme Court and third Washington to own and to live in Mount Vernon Mansion [27 years], was the second child of John Augustine Washington, who was a second younger brother of General Washington. He was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, June 5, 1762. He married Anne Blackburn, granddaughter of Richard Blackburn, the architect who designed Mount Vernon for Lawrence Washington. Her father, Thomas, was an intimate friend of George Washington – g.l.h)

<http://www.oneidacountyhistory.org/PublicFigures/SangerWhite/SangerWhite.asp>

Soon after, he (Judge Sanger) heard of the "Whitestown Country," purchased by land speculators George Washington and George Clinton. In 1788 he (went to Philadelphia, by one account . . . and) purchased 1,000 acres of land at fifty cents an acre from Washington and Clinton. This tract was divided almost equally by the Sauquoit Creek and included what is now the Village of New Hartford. He built a log cabin and in March 1789, he brought his wife and family to his wilderness home. In this same year he built a sawmill and in 1790 a gristmill and the famous "Sanger Barn" used as a meeting place for the early settlers.

Among the items in the (George) Washington (display) case (at the Oneida County Historical Society) is a land indenture given by Washington to Jedediah Sanger.

<http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu:8080/pgwde/dfilt.xqy?keys=chron-Pre06d49>

Indenture with Jedediah Sanger

[New York?] 22 July 1790. GW and George Clinton lease for one year 234 acres on the south side of the Mohawk River in White's Town, Montgomery County, N.Y., to Jedediah Sanger of that place, for £118.10, as witnessed by Tobias Lear and DeWitt Clinton. It was notarized by DeWitt Clinton before James McHughes, master of chancery, on 30 Jan. 1792, and recorded by Herkimer County clerk (Brother) Jonas Platt on 8 Sept. 1792.

After their tour of central New York in July 1783, George Washington and George Clinton purchased from Marinus Willett and his wife 6,071 acres along the Mohawk River. Washington did not completely repay the £2,500 he owed Clinton for the speculation until 1787. Clinton began selling the lands with Washington's permission in 1787 or 1788. Ten deeds surviving in Oneida County records conveyed lots ranging from 87½ to 358 acres at prices from \$2 to \$6.79 an acre, and all but 2,019 acres were disposed of by 1793. At least one surviving receipt testifies that GW received money from Clinton for the land sales. When Washington wrote his will in July 1799, he still owned about one thousand acres, valued at six thousand dollars. George Step toe Washington purchased them from George Washington's executors on 5 June 1803 for five dollars an acre.

Sanger, one of the area's earliest settlers and later newspaper owner, judge, state representative, and state senator, signed a preliminary document the previous day renewing his lease on the same 234 acre parcel that he had been occupying, for five shillings and "one Pepper-Corn, if demanded" at the expiration of the term.

On 3 Nov. 1791 Sanger, Timothy Little, and Henry McNiell wrote to George Washington in behalf of the settlers of Whitestown requesting from him a grant of twenty-five acres to support a religious minister. "The Petitioners with their Associates in the year 1787 first purchased and fixed themselves on the said tract of Land known by the name of Coxes Patent which was at that time entirely an unsettled Country. the District was then divided into four Divisions one owned by William Coxe, Esqr. another by Rebekah Coxe & a third by Dr John Redman & a fourth as your Petitioners understand is now owned by your Excellency in Company with Governor Clinton. . . . the settlement is now supposed to contain about three thousand souls independent of the adjoining settlements, all of which have arrived & fixed themselves there under regular purchasers since the year 1787 and though so numerous yet they have all the difficulties of reducing a Wilderness to a state of regular society to encounter their means are therefore not so considerable now as they promise to be & as the establishment of Ministers of Religion among them with a decent support will tend to encourage sobriety, industry, Morality & Religion among the People, & to render

them good Citizens.” At the foot of their petition, George Washington wrote, “I am willing to concur with Governor Clinton in granting such aid as the Petitioners pray for,” and affixed his signature.

On 26 Aug. 1790 Washington and Clinton signed another indenture, witnessed by Lear and David Humphreys, with David Risley of White’s Town granting him a 204 acre lot already in his possession in that town for £163.4.

Judge Jedediah Sanger

Judge Sanger was the founder of most of Freemasonry in this area of the Mohawk Valley. From the early beginnings of the Craft in Whitestown, Utica and the Sauquoit Valley Freemasonry grew from there to Cazenovia, Manlius and Onondaga Hollow (Marcellus and Syracuse).

Following the various petitions and endorsements for Lodges, a very partial listing of the trail of this growth from Judge Sanger reveals some of the following:

- 7 Apr 1792 Amicable Lodge No. 25, Whitestown, NY [22 or 23 ???]
- 5 Jan 1799 United Brethren Lodge No. 78, Cazenovia, NY
- 2 Sep 1802 Military Lodge No. 93, Manlius, NY
- 1805 Homer Lodge No. 352, Homer, NY
- 2 Mar 1808 Farmers Lodge No. 166, Delphi, NY
- 8 Dec 1821 Jamesville Lodge No. 341, Manlius, NY
(also endorsed by Onondaga Lodge No. 98 . . . see below)
- 4 Jul 1798 Village Lodge No. 80, Marcellus, NY
- 4 Jul 1799 Onondaga Lodge No. 98, Onondaga Hollow, NY, from which arose:
 - 4 Mar 1807 Philanthropic Lodge No. 156, Pompey, NY
 - 23 Jun 1815 Mount Moriah Lodge No. 245, Otisco, NY
 - Hesper Lodge, Preble, NY
 - 8 Dec 1822 Corinthian Lodge No. 355, Onondaga, NY
 - 8 Jun 1825 Farmers Lodge No. 444, Spafford, NY
 - Jun 1819 Salina Lodge No. 327, Salina, NY
 - 24 Jun 1820 Cicero Benevolent Lodge No. 330, Cicero, NY
 - 40 Jun 1824 Leonides Lodge No. 391, Liverpool, NY
 - 8 Dec 1821 Jamesville Lodge No. 341, Manlius, NY
 - 9 Jun 1826 Syracuse Lodge No. 484, Syracuse, NY
 - Sep 1822 Union Lodge, in the ‘Fourth Part of Onondaga’

And following the ‘Morgan excitement’ the following arose from the ashes of the above:

- 23 Jun 1844 Syracuse Lodge No. 102
- 7 Jun 1852 Central City Lodge No. 305, Syracuse, NY
- 24 Feb 1860 Syracuse Lodge No. 501
- 3 Jun 1863 Liverpool Lodge No. 525, Liverpool, NY

and many others . . .

culminating in my present ‘home Lodge,’ by consolidation:

- 2 May 1994 Liverpool Syracuse Lodge No. 501, Liverpool, NY



Hon. Jedediah Sanger will ever occupy a conspicuous place in the history of Oneida county, not only on account of his prominence as a citizen, but because of his sterling qualities of manhood, his eminence as a leading pioneer, and his foresight in planting in the community a standard of culture and enterprise which exists at the present day. He was a descendant of Richard Sanger, who came to Hingham, Mass., about 1636. His father, Capt. Richard Sanger, was a member of the Provincial Congress which convened at Cambridge on the 1st day of February, 1775, and also one of the gentlemen comprising the "committee from every town and district in the county of Middlesex and Province of Massachusetts Bay, held at Concord in the same county on the 30th and 31st days of August, 1774, to consult upon measures

proper to be taken at the present very important day." (Note at bottom of page: See History of Sherborn and Holliston, by Abner Morse, and Journals of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts) The Rev. Dr. Sanger, great-grandfather of Col. William Cary Sanger, of Sangerfield, was a brother of Judge Jedediah Sanger.

Judge Jedediah Sanger was the ninth of ten children of Richard and Deborah Sanger, and was born in Sherburne, Middlesex county, Mass., February 29, 1751, (Note at bottom of page: Jones's "Annals of Oneida County." Must have been 1752 to be a leap-year.) "consequently he had a birthday but once in four years." He received a common school education, interspersing his studies with work upon the farm.

In March, 1788, he arrived, the first white settler, in what is now the town of New Hartford, Oneida county, where he had purchased a thousand acres of land lying on both sides of Sauquoit creek, which divided the tract about equally. Upon this he at once began making improvements. His purchase included the whole of the site of the present village of New Hartford. Under the judge's able management the immediate country was rapidly settled with a class of enterprising and intelligent men and women. He was the foremost man in all this section. In March, 1789, a year from the time he made his first improvements, he brought his family to his wilderness home, and the same year he erected a saw mill. In 1790 he built a grist mill, which was used for the purpose for nearly a century.

Judge Sanger possessed a master spirit of energy and decision, and was a man of strict integrity. Endowed with wonderful perseverance, imbued with the sterling principles of honesty and uprightness, he won universal respect and esteem and left a name which will forever grace the annals of local history. He was a man of indomitable enterprise. In 1796 he erected, through an agent, the first grist and saw mill on the outlet of Skaneateles Lake, now in the beautiful village of Skaneateles, Onondaga county. He was also one of the active and leading partners in the Paris furnace, which was erected in 1800 and went into operation in 1801. In 1805 he engaged in the manufacture of cotton. The town and village of New Hartford owed much to his efforts, and his death was greatly deplored.

In politics Judge Sanger belonged to the school then known as Federalist. He spent eleven winters in Albany as a member of the Senate and Assembly, having been elected to both of these bodies by the people. He was the first supervisor of Whitestown and held the office for three consecutive years. He was appointed first judge of Oneida county upon its organization and served in that capacity until 1810, when he resigned on account of the age limit. He died June 6, 1829, and upon his monument in the village cemetery was placed the following inscription:

"Sacred to the Memory of HON. JEDEDIAH SANGER, who died June 6, A.D., 1829. The founder of New Hartford. His charities are widely extended, and his munificence has reared and supported several edifices devoted to the service of his Maker. His virtues are indelibly impressed upon the hearts of his countrymen."

The members of his family raised a cenotaph in St. Joseph's Episcopal church, New Hartford, with this inscription:

"Sacred to the memory of JEDEDIAH SANGER; born Feb. 29, 1751, died June 6, 1829. 'He, being dead, yet speaketh.'"

Judge Sanger was married, first in May, 1771, to Sarah Rider, by whom he had four children. She died September 26, 1814, and on August 31, 1815, he married Sarah B. Kissam, who died April 23, 1825. October 3, 1827, he married, third, Fanny Dench, who survived him and died in May, 1842.

<http://www.sangermansion.com/history.htm>



The Sangers of Sanger Hill, Town of Sangerfield, are an old and distinguished family. Jedediah Sanger was a wealthy investor who, with a syndicate of two others, purchased great tracts of government land from New York State after the Revolution. Most of this land was not sold initially to settlers but leased to tenant farmers. This quasi-feudal system, once prevalent in eastern New York State, was broken by the Anti-Rent Rebellion of tenant farmers prior to the Civil War. If Sanger Hill recalls grand country houses of landed English families, deriving income from tenant farmers, the allusion may not be coincidental, for the Sangers indeed were an aristocratic, landed family.

<http://oneida.nygenweb.net/misc/wager/ch10.html>

The Coxe Patent, was dated May 30, 1770, to William Coxe, Daniel Coxe, Rebecca Coxe, John Tabor Kempe, then attorney general of New York, and Grace (Coxe) his wife. The Coxe family at that time were the descendants and heirs of the Dr. Coxe, of London, who became in 1696 owner of the patent granted to Robert Heath of lands south. This patent of 1770 was in consideration of release by the patentees of the Heath Patent. The Coxe Patent in Oneida county embraces 47,000 acres and is bounded by the whole length of the Line of Property, and includes parts of the towns of Westmoreland, Whitestown, Kirkland, and New Hartford, and some of Rome. For the first ten years the patent was to be free of quit rents. John Tabor Kempe adhered to the crown and his property was confiscated. In 1783 he went to England and there died. After the Revolution the patent was divided into seven grand divisions. **General Washington, Governor Clinton, and Colonel Willett owned large tracts of land in this patent.** The first division in Rome is known as the "Fan Lots" by reason of its shape.

Note: Col. Daniel Coxe (31 Aug 1673-25 Apr 1739), son of Dr. Coxe, was the first Provincial GM of Masons of the Provinces of NY, NJ and PA, 1730-32. – g.l.h.

There are many other such interesting tales relating to the founding of our Lodges and of the Brothers who founded or were members of them. The "Freemasons Patent" of Herkimer county is a little, but important part of Heritage of the Craft.

For those who would like to read other tales of Freemasons in the State of New York (and other places), you are cordially invited to visit our extensive OMDHS website and links at www.omdhs.syracusemasons.com.