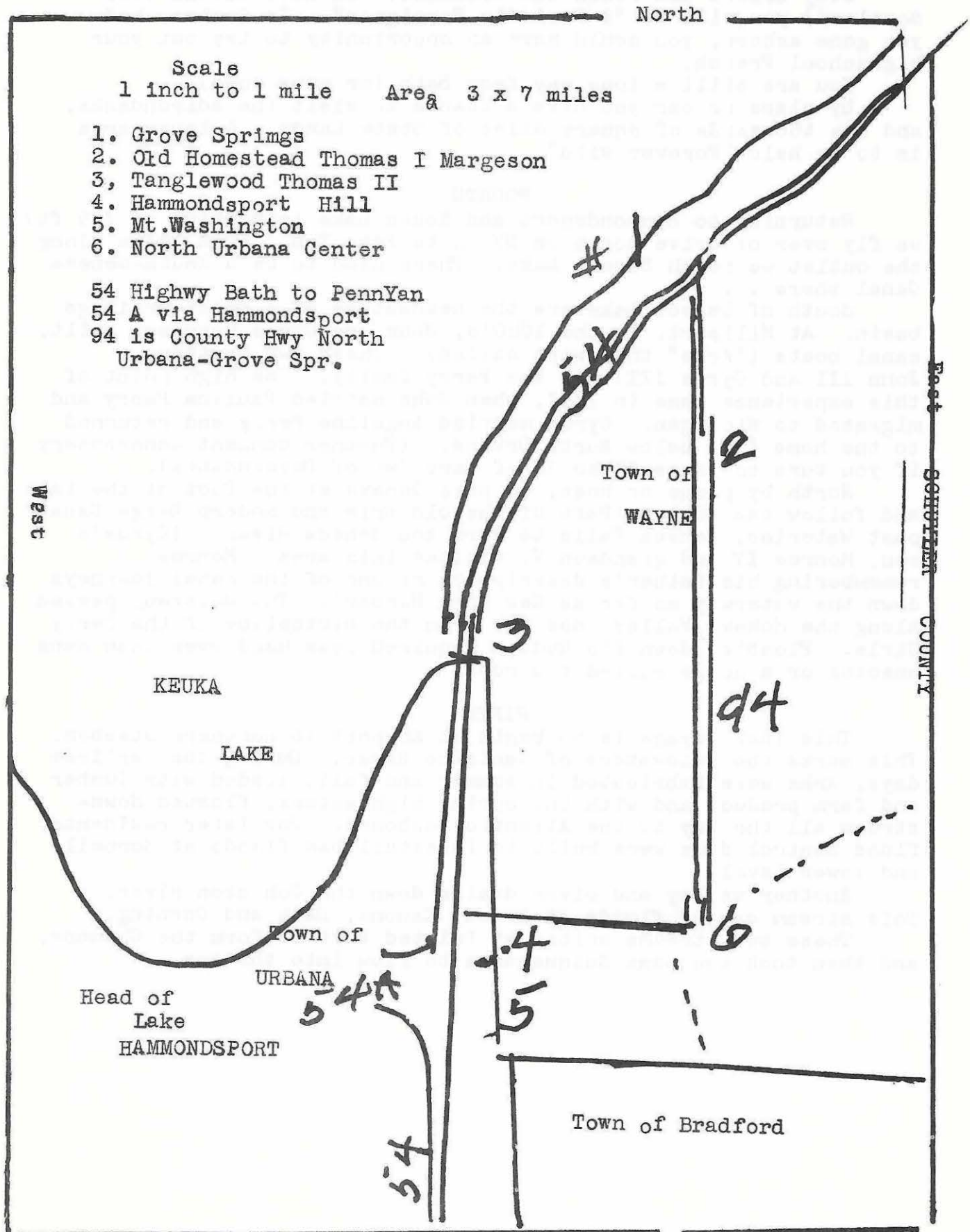


TOWNS OF WAYNE AND URBANA



THE TOWN OF WAYNE

This little map is fitting for a little town. Strangely this small unit of land could mean so much to our big family. A rectangle of three by seven miles encloses this area. To break down our descriptions, we have cut a north and south centerline down the map and now start with the eastern portion.

Here are memorialized three Revolutionary War Heroes; Baron Steuben, General Philip Schuyler and "Mad Anthony" Wayne. The Town of Wayne faces the Town of Tyrone in Schuyler County and the Village of Wayne rides astride the county line.

Wayne Village had a population of some 750 in its hey day. It was a stagecoach stop, with its tavern, Town Hall, Post Office, stores social centers, four blacksmith shops, two horse racing tracks and plenty of activities of all sorts.

The "Old Bath Road" from Penn Yan, thru Wayne, Wayne Four Corners lead south thru Bradford to Bath at the Fairgrounds. Bath being the Hub of County government, civic, social, public and private business.

Margeson youngmen discovered happy hunting ground in this area, their prime catches being brides to help establish new homes. (Proof of this in your family charts of Part Two of your family history.

Margeson men, first off, found employment in this general area, work to supplement the scant produce of their small farms, Ira had his blacksmith shop in Dundee, Cyrus and John boat building south of Watkins, Monroe on the new railroad building south toward Corning and his brother Alva A., his final retirement at Reading Center.

Time now to turn back west. One stop, worth visiting, about in the center of the town, was the "Aisle of Pines" built in 1865, and occupied originally by the Hallett family. The multiple-storied "big house" had an observation platform on its roof. From that vantage point, the visitors could see the two lakes (Wanita and Lamaka, and all of Wayne Village. Turning westward were the two white churches and the "Center" of North Urbana. Beyond that were the blue waters of Keuka. Using a telescope one may even bring into view the White buildings on top of Bluff Point.

The parallel rows of tall pine trees, the caretakers house and the formal "Gates" at the entrance served to frame a picture of elegance and gracious living.

Samuel Hallett, as a young business man had become involved promoting and financing many railroads then building in the West. He was Chief Engineer of the first section of the Kansas Pacific Railroad. While so engaged, Hallett was shot and killed on the street of Wyandotte, Kansas, July 27, 1864.

Credit Rich Thompson, a news reporter for his story in the Elmira Telegram on Aug. 1, 1965, here we turn to the Wayne-Urbana Line and add to our Historian on our Staff, THREE other authors of our Margeson Story.

For the purposes of Our Family Story, we appear to have found "the action" mainly along the Lake and western part of Wayne. There were however several other second, third even fourth generation Margeson homes to the East.

Let us "stand aside" for a while, and let FOUR trained experienced local historians present their contributions.

The first "interview" was with Mrs. Kate Wood, in her home at the crossroads. Katy was Town Clerk for 24 years, had the care of many historical documents besides having the Wood family connection that traced down from the earliest days. It may have been a casual remark but probably correct, that "Kate's mother was a Margeson."

Mrs. Wood was custodian of historical records, since the separate functions had not been separated by State Law in the new office of Town Historian. We may not label every historical detail to the persons of historians, but the sources are still underlying. A few personal details by Margesons, past or present, may "come closer to home." So thank you Katy Wood.

Following Mrs. Wood came Mrs. Bertha M. Rose, a graduate of Geneseo College, an experienced teacher, 14 years Tax Collector, had been a newspaper correspondent 25 years and then the first elected Town Historian. Using such professional qualifications and with the aid of a fellow reporter, prepared an excellent summary of the history and points of interest of Wayne.

This brief history was given full page space in the Sunday, August 1, 1965 Elmira Telegram. We shall make good use of this article as source material for a number of the small details in our Descendants. Mrs. Rose's successor was Mr. Alderman Gleason.

Alderman Gleason, while a native in Wayne, is at heart a New England Yankee. It would fill a whole page to list this man's achievements. He has been Town Supervisor, Member of the Steuben County Board of Supervisors, Justice of the Peace, and now Town Historian. Thus he has a separate "hat" for every day of the week.

Gleason has been a near neighbor of the Margesons at the Old Homestead and a friendly critic of their behavior. Without his help, we may not have picked up many details of our story. He has located sites for old landmarks and is, himself almost a living landmark. Woven into this history as they are, we shall fail many times to "give credit, where credit is due."

The next, and also present time, assistant Family Historian, Mr. Earle McGowan, joined our staff of reporters. Three generations had been involved thru marriage, with the Margesons. Even though not always so labelled, many intimate details bear the McGowan label.

Born, brought up and a lifelong resident of the Wayne-Steuben area, Earle served as guide and map-maker and also an authority on the Tanglewood Margeson farm of Thomas & Deborah, and Bradley property. He became the next to last or present owner.

Together we decided to provide a few homemade maps to clarify our own thinking and have our maps serve as Visual Aids to accompany The Landmarks of the North Urbana Area.

We (this time Earle and A.E.M.) make good use of local histories, such as Landmarks of Steuben County, New York by Hon. Harlo Hakes, pub. 1896. Pages 172, Wayne Township, includes Margesons, Woods etc. Two old maps dated 1844 and 1857 show Margeson property holdings. Details of 1806 to 1857 largely not shown due to the moving out of most III and IV generations members of our family.

Many visits to this site have freshened our early memories of people and places. Our memories are written together in a series of homemade maps. These maps are not merely "Conversation Pieces," but firm products from frequent conferences. We hope the reader may find bits of information as well as old fashioned humor in our map making project.

The first maps cover North Urbana and the trading post at the "Center".

The next shown will be maps of the two remaining farms; Tanglewood owned by Thomas II and Deborah and the Old Homestead farm of Thomas I and Mary Margeson.

These maps are DATED 1850 or 60.

A single exception shown is the modern Highway 54, included as a visible guide for visitors.

There are no visible landmarks, road or street guides. Only the "lay of the land", lake, gorges, or gullies and a few old roads are visible. The log houses and most of their replacements are in sight (in 1970) as they were in 1850.

The vineyards, you'll see, are the successors of those planted originally by Margesons and others in the early 1849 & 50's. Some of the vines, you see, have been producing grapes for sixty years. Consult Alderman Gleason and visit the Finger Lakes Wine Museum at Hammondsport. It will be time well invested.