

## THE TILTON FAMILY

by

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The Village Office was the home of Henry and Susan Tilton. In 1813 Henry Tilton and his parents moved from Shrewsbury, N.J. to Ontario County and settled near Middlesex, N.Y.. Henry married Susan Gibbs in Canadagua in 1835 and moved to Moscow. Henry was a well respected merchant and businessman who operated a successful merchantile on Main Street. He was very community minded and held many public offices including the Leicester Town Clerk from 1848-1850.

There were nine children in the family and four sons served in the Civil War. Albert enlisted in October 1861 in the 51<sup>st</sup> Regiment Illinois Volunteers as a First Lieutenant. He was quickly promoted to Captain and finally in 1864 to Brigadier. After the war He worked for the Union Pacific Railroad in Ogden, Utah. Robert was visiting Albert and was determined to join the Army, “ He was going whether or no”. Robert lied about his age and in September of 1861 at age 17 enlisted in the 51<sup>st</sup> Regiment Illinois Volunteers as a Snare Drummer. Robert died of Typhoid Fever in Illinois on July 23, 1862. Henry enlisted in the 24<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Battery of Volunteers, was captured at Plymouth, N.C. and died April 20, 1864 in Andersonville Prison. The word of Henry's death did not reach the family until December. William enlisted October 1864 in the 24<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Batttery of Volunteers and was discharged on September 8, 1865 at Syracuse and remained in Syracuse. The Leicester American Legion Post was named the Tilton Post in honor of the Tilton brothers.

Mr. Tilton had built a large brick building that was located on the North side of Main Street east of the current Railroad tracks. A large wooden building located where the current Railroad tracks are was also owned by Mr. Tilton and used to store agricultural implements. In November of 1864 an arsonist burned Mr. Tilton buildings. The fire was started in the wooden building and spread to the brick store. The cellar and second floor were destroyed but most of the goods on the first floor were saved. The wooden building was a total loss. “ For the past year or more frequent threats have been made that Mr Tilton should be burned out”. The brick building was torn down in 1935.

In March of 1882 Henry Tilton purchased the current home of James Shaughnessy. Henry Tilton died in September of 1883 and Susan died in 1885. According to family documentation the Tilton Family home was sold in 1883.