

# TIDBITS OF PROVIDENCE PAST

by: Mary Packer, Town Historian

Some of the tings that happened in Providence:

- ✍ In 1799 while laying out a road, Barkers Mills was changed to Barkersville for the Barker family.
- ✍ Arba Yale had a match factory on Cadman Creek.
- ✍ Gideon McOmber made cherry caskets on Taber Road and was the local undertaker.
- ✍ The first Baptist Church was built in 1790. It was a log building near the center of town. Here, several of the first town meetings were held. It was replaced by a frame building in 1805 and used until 1847. Jonathan Finch was its first pastor.
- ✍ Nathan Packer moved his house from Packer Road in 1857, adding on in 1859.
- ✍ Jerry briggs was the earliest known store keeper at Barkers Mills. One in Hagadorn was built by Paine Mason in 1814. Many others followed. George Green, Job Davis, Seabury Allan, Nicholas Shaul, James Hunter and Jeremy Packer. Blaine Packer was the last known store keeper.
- ✍ George Williams was listed as a foot power loom weaver. In 1840 Samuel Packer kept a hotel on Glen Wild Road. In 1850 Nancy Packer is mentioned as the hotel keeper. Two unsolved murders occurred there while Hirman Parker owned it.
- ✍ Shaw kitchen was a famous eating house for hunters, fishermen, and drummers at one time. It stood on the northwest corner of Barkersville Road and the Southline Road.
- ✍ The Samuel S. Barker house east of Barkersville Church became the J.C. Bogart Hotel in 1864. This was probably the last hotel in town. It was later sold to Jeremy Packer. He took it down and it is now a barn on Southline Road.
- ✍ When the Amsterdam reservoir was being built, most nearby homes became boarding places while the work lasted.
- ✍ In 1820 mail arrived once a week, usually on Fridays. Thaddeus Scribner carried the mail north from Ballston to Hadley. Then up the river valley to Fish House, then south to Providence and Galway and back to Ballston. A long hard trip by horse and wagon.
- ✍ It was said that the mills at Barkersville furnished work for 40 teams of horses going to Ballston and Rock City with logs and wood.

Providence is still a good place to live and have a home.

This little poem comes from an old book given to me by a friend. Learn to greet your friends with a smile. They carry too many frowns in their own hearts to be bothered with any of yours.