

TOWN OF PROVIDENCE FACTS

by
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The Town of Providence was created in 1796 from land in the northern part of Galway. One of the first settlements in the Town was formed at Hagadorn Mills. Thomas Shakland built a saw mill in 1796 and a grist mill soon after.

David and Samuel Barker came from Massachusetts in 1787 and started a settlement bringing their black slaves with them as help. They built an Inn, a grist mill, a saw mill, a tannery and a shoe shop. The Mill Pond which is there today was used for all their water power.

Some of the other things that occurred in Providence are:

In 1799 a road was laid out when Barkersville was called Barkers Mills or Barker Hollow, as some of the old timers called it saying "We are on the way to the Hollow store and get our salt pork and chewing tobacco and visit.

Cadman Creek had a match factory run by Erba Yale for several years and was sold locally.

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 the first pastor.

Gideon McOmber was the undertaker and he also made caskets out of cherry wood.

Jerry Briggs was the earliest known store keeper at Barkersville.

In 1820 US Mail arrived once a week. Usually on Friday.

The first Post Office was at Calvin Wheeler's home but moved to Green Corners in 1865.

Jonathan Hagadorn was born in Albany County in 1770. He was married in Galway in 1792. He and his wife located in Providence at Hagadorn Mills and engaged in farming, lumbering and milling. Here he remained until his death in 1860. He had a family of seven children. The community of Hagadorn Mills was named for him.

The first woolen factory in Town was built by Isaac Fuller a half mile west of Hagadorn Mills on the same stream. Prior to 1807 they manufactured flannel and full cloth and had a cloth dressing machine.

Providence was a busy Town and it is continuing to grow as new homes continue to be built. Yellow school busses, good roads and cars keep us on the go.