

## South Avon

South Avon is located along the Avon-Geneseo Road between Ashantee and the southern boundary of the Town of Avon, New York. Early settlers in the area were attracted by the rich farmland and the availability of water power for development of those industries needed in an active community.

A few of the early families associated with the area include Abbey, Boyd, Chadwick, Deming, Dunn, Fridd, Fuller, Garvey, Hanna, Henty, Hogmire, Hubbard, Kellogg, Leighton, Loomis, Low, Sage, Smith, Wingate.

In one recollection, it is stated that Maria Hubbard Fridd was born in a little log house on November 15, 1809 and died at the Fridd homestead May 3, 1880, having spent her entire lifetime in South Avon.

One-hundred fifteen people attended the Old Timers' Picnic on July 4, 1933.

The 1902 *Atlas of Livingston County* lists farm names. Those for South Avon are: The Silo Farm, Chilmark, White Lodge, West View, Mill Farm, Wide View, Pierpoint, and Prairie Home.

Elija Bacon's home and wagon shop were south of the McGraw/Boyd farm until the 1870s when he sold the property to Horace Henty. Mr. Henty continued the business, built and repaired wagons and carriages and fixed farm tools for a number of years. Patrick Coonan was a blacksmith who operated out of the Henty shop.

The Wadsworth Flour Mill was destroyed by fire October 1, 1864; then in 1866 Josiah Curtis built a mill for making strawboard on the site. It measured 40' by 70' with two floors in front, three in the rear. The paper mill was leased to S. L. Harned who operated it from 1879. Output was listed as 400 tons of paper per year, keeping eight men employed. Triphammer forge was farther up Conesus Outlet and at one time a road connected the two industrial areas.

The school house for District #2 was built near the corner of Hogmire Road and Avon-Geneseo Road in 1850. It burned in February, 1895 and was rebuilt that summer. One of the teachers was Dewitt Wallace who lived on a farm on South Avon Road. After the district was centralized with Avon in 1943, the building was used as a tenant house. It was destroyed by fire December 3, 1966.

The cemetery is located on the corner of South Avon Road and Avon-Geneseo Road and has about 135 known graves. It was inventoried several times over the years, the last in 2002 by Avon Preservation and Historical Society members.

The Grange #428 was organized April 7, 1879 at a meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Gregg of South Avon. Twenty-four people became charter members and the first Master was William P. Low. Meetings were held in homes until about 1885 when the first Grange Hall was made available. It stood on the east side of the Avon-Geneseo Road, not quite opposite Chadwick Tavern. Records except for those of the treasurer

were destroyed by fire a few years later. In 1909 the Grange began to hold its meetings in the Avon village and on May 21, 1923, South Avon Grange became Avon Grange #428.

South Avon Station, a stop on the Avon, Geneseo, Mt. Morris Railroad, was located on South Avon Road at the William and Prudence Low farm.

Josiah Chadwick's tavern was a prominent landmark on the old post road between Avon and Geneseo. Built about 1830, it held the post office, a general store and was a stagecoach stop on the line between Rochester and Dansville. It was often the starting point for the Genesee Valley Hunt. The Chadwick boasted several large fireplaces, a spring floor for dancing and the finest accommodations to rival any in the Valley. The double-sided sign on the front of the building pictured a gentleman astride his horse on the north side and read "Going to Court". On the south side, coming from Geneseo, the County seat, the same gentleman was pictured looking disheveled and ragged with the words "Coming from Court." Alas, fire claimed the Chadwick on February 2, 1923.

Quoted from "The South Avon of the Old Times": "South Avon was a lively community in the years from 1878 to 1885, when the writer was a lad and lived there in the Abbey family....A most contented and harmonious community in one of the most favored sections of our country, this Genesee Valley, which has been very appropriately called the garden spot of the state, if not of the nation."

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From the *Atlas of Livingston County, New York*. New York: F.W. Beers, 1872

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