HORATIO AVERILL, 1820, a resident of Cooperstown, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society. 

(Died:

Philomathean Catalogue 1830
HORATIO AVERELL.

Born March 15, 1801, at Cooperstown, N. Y.
Married March 11, 1823, at Cooperstown, Jane
Hogeboom Webb, born --- --, 1804, at Claverack,
Columbia Co., N. Y. She died Sept. 5, 1875, at
the residence of her son-in-law, Col. T.T.S.
Laidley, at the United States Arsenal, Watertown,
Mass. She was the daughter of Gen. Samuel Blatch-
ley Webb of Washington's staff in the Continental
Army, who was from Wethersfield, Conn., and of
Catherine Hogeboom of Claverack, N. Y. The late
Gen. James Watson Webb was her brother.

Horatio Averell died at St. Johnsville, N. Y., Sun-
day 12 M 27th Aug. 1854 of cholera having been ill
but 22 Hours (entry in the family Bible by his
brother William Holt Averell, Class of 1816).

Children: -1. Jane Webb, b. Apr. 28, 1824; m. Col. The-
dore T. S. Laidley.
Johnsville; d. Aug. 20, 1876, at the U. S.
Arsenal, Watertown, Mass.

The Averell, Averill, Avery Family
Vol. 1 p. 580
Clara A. Avery.
Centennial of Town of St. Johnsville

By Howard Shaffer

(Continued from last week)

Horatio Averell

In 1825 the firm of James Averell and Sons came to St. Johnsville and engaged in the distilling business. They also operated a grist mill and tannery. This pioneer industrial plant was located on the site now occupied by the Palantine Dyeing Company, and the firm continued in business in our village until 1854 when both of the sons died. The sons had been operating the business under the firm name of H. & L. Averell. It is probable that the Averells were residents of Cooperstown, N. Y. before coming to St. Johnsville, as both brothers are there interred in the churchyard of Christ Episcopal Church.

The Erie Canal was completed in 1825, and it seems plain that the Averells came to our village to take advantage of a favorable location for their business, one of the compelling factors being the shipping facilities offered by the new canal. Their Day Book Journal for 1854 shows that much of their grain for distilling was received by canal, and it is probable that much of their products was shipped by the same facility, and particularly so, before freight could be carried by all.

Although the Utica and Schenectady Railroad was put in operation for passenger traffic on August 1, 1836, the Legislature did not permit it to carry freight until 1844, and then only in winter, when the canal was inoperative. These restrictions were to prevent competition with the state-financed waterway. It was not until 1847 that freight could be shipped in summer, and then only on condition that the railroad company pay to the state the same toll as though it had been transported by canal. This restriction applied to all railroads within 30 miles of the Erie Canal and was not lifted until 1851. From this it will be seen that it was to the advantage of the Averells to patronize the water route, even after rail service was first available.

Jabez Lewis, our second postmaster, had been in office but one year and twenty-five days when Horatio Averell (1801-1854) was commissioned, January 14, 1826.

It would be interesting to know why Mr. Lewis relinquished the office, but there is no data to offer. The retirement of Mr. Lewis and the accession of Horatio Averell occurred in the administration (1825-1829) of President John Quincy Adams. During President Adams' administration there were no removals from office for political reasons. In fact, only two officials were removed from office during the President's term of four years.

When John Quincy Adams was a candidate for election (1824), there was no well defined party alignment in opposition to the tenets of the Democratic party that had been formed under Thomas Jefferson. There were no real political issues. Preferences of the electorate had to be based largely on the personality of candidates. There were four candidates in the field, but none received a majority of the electoral votes, and Mr. Adams was elected President by the House of Representatives—the only such instance in our history. However, Mr. Adams was an exponent of high protective tariffs, then known as "The American System," and as this political doctrine was later espoused by the Whigs, as the party in opposition to the Democratic party came to be known in Jackson's time, it is evident that Mr. Adams was, in fact, an embryo Whig, and it is safe to conclude that Horatio Averell was of the same persuasion.

The Averell records for 1854 disclose that John A. Mitchell was an Attorney at Law and rendered legal service for that concern, and an entry for January 5, 1854 shows that Mr. Mitchell was charged for the occupancy of a building for fifteen months at $50 a year. The space occupied included "upper and lower rooms," that is, the entire structure. A continuing entry shows occupancy of "lower room" at $30 a year. Buildings didn't cost much in those days. Rough lumber was $7.00 a thousand feet and the pay of carpenters and masons was correspondingly low.

From the language of the entries it is apparent that this particular building was known to the Averells as the "office," and it is logical to conclude that this building was the first business office of the Averell in St. Johnsville, and was so used until "The Stone Store" was built by the firm in 1831. The building in question is still standing, and is just east of the residence of the late James Fox. For many years it was used as a barber shop by the late Mentis Brothers, and is now a restaurant. Mrs. Josephine Sneeck recalls that this building housed the law of-