

Interview with Henry L. Myers.

Notes from the Troy Record (Evening) of February 8, 1930.

Henry L. Myers, was one of the last stagecoach drivers on the run between Troy and Stephentown Depot.

Henry L. Myers was born in 1861 and married at the age of 20.

Around 1880 or 1881 he bought the stagecoach line from James K. Averill and a man named Smith, who were the co-owners of the stagecoach line at that time. His purchase included:

- 10 horses
- 3 large coaches
- 2 small coaches
- Several sleighs
- 1 Tally-Ho, which seated 36 people

Mr. Myers set up his headquarters in Glass Lake in the house next to the Methodist Church on the north side of the church. (Presently Perry Funeral Home) The house is still standing and is owned by the Ryan Family. The barns to house the horses and equipment were located in the rear of the house.

The stagecoach line ran from Troy to Stephentown Depot. Sometimes the roads were so bad it was necessary to substitute a buck board wagon instead of the coach.

Mail was carried and dropped off at Post Offices along the route. This included; Wynantskill, West Sand Lake, Averill Park, Sand Lake, Alps, Dunham Hollow, West Stephentown, Garfield and Stephentown Depot.

Along with passengers, bags of work for the Collar Shops in Troy, were also carried at 10¢ per bag. Around 200 to 400 bags were carried annually. The work in these bags were mostly button hole work performed by the housewives along the route.

In 1882 towns over the mountain were taken off. Stephentown Center and Stephentown Depot were then supplied by the Lebanon Railroad.

At this time the roads were toll roads and Toll Gates were located at Wynantskill, West Sand Lake and Averill Park.

The run started from Stephentown Depot at 7:30 A.M. and ended at the Gifford House on Congress Street in Troy, N.Y. at 9:30 A.M. (Bumstead's now stand where the Gifford House was located.)

The return trip was made in the afternoon, leaving Troy at 3 P.M.

Mr. Myers hired as his assistant a Mr. Atkins who was 12 years old at the time.

The following hotels were along the stagecoach route:

- Crooked Lake House, run by the Brown family.
- Glass Lake Hotel, run by James Clark.
- Sand Lake Hotel, run by Chris Grape.
- Averill Park Hotel, run by Harry Tillson.
- Another Averill Park Hotel, (Lakeview), run by Joseph Gabler.
- Burden Lake House, run by "Doc" Howell.
- West Sand Lake House, run by Samuel Seymour and W. Snyder.
- Wynantskill Hotel, run by W. W. Witbeck.
- Albia Hotel, run by Abraham Miller.