

## Chippenhook Blacksmiths

The stone blacksmith shop on Gravel Pit Road was an integral part of the local economy for many years. The structure itself has not been dated but the adjoining house which at one point was a cabinet making shop was built ca. 1810.

Flora B. Weeks (1905 – 2002) transcribed account books then held by Alice M. Keyes (1883 – 1975) for the A. F. Campbell blacksmith shop in Chippenhook for the period 1833 – 1837. Those transcriptions give us a window into what was made there, for whom, and even at what price. It is organized alphabetically by customer and documents a piece of day to day life in that timeframe.

A.F. Campbell was Amos Farewell Campbell b. 1797 in Rockingham, VT. Whether he was the first blacksmith in that location we don't know given the structure hasn't been dated but he is the earliest blacksmith there that we have documented at this time.

Amos was in Chippenhook by 1830, unmarried at the time of the census, and living by himself. In 1840 he is married to Sarah Hills (1811 – 1866) and living in Massena, NY. One of his brothers, Hiram, and family were also in Massena in 1840 and thus it could have been family that caused Amos to relocate. Amos died in 1844 in Massena and was brought back to the Chippenhook for burial. His wife and then infant son Edward R. Campbell (1843 – 1871) moved back to Chippenhook where Sarah's family was. Her parents were John Hills (1761 – 1847) and Mehitabel Walker (1771 – 1847).

The next blacksmith here that we know of was Levi Giddings noted as such in the 1850 census and again in the 1860 census. Levi (1800 – 1876) was living in Chippenhook by 1822 when he married Hepsabeth King (1806 – 1861) of Clarendon. Given his presence in Chippenhook concurrent with Amos it is possible he worked with Amos or took over directly from him.

Lemuel Stafford (1823 – 1905) was also in Chippenhook working as a blacksmith in 1850, presumably with Levi Giddings. He was born in Danby and was in Chippenhook by time of his 1846 marriage to Ruth Hayes (1823 – 1908). Lemuel and Ruth were in Warren County, NY by 1860 where they lived for the remainder of their lives.

Another Levi, this one being Levi Miner born Aug. 1830 in Canada per his naturalization declaration and in 1827 or 1828 per his tombstone. His wife was Helen S. Gorman (1839 – 1925). Levi was noted as working as a blacksmith in Chippenhook in the 1860 and 1870 censuses, thus overlapping the latter part of Levi Giddings tenure. Levi Miner and family relocated to Rutland about 1872 where he had a carriage making and blacksmith shop. He son Levi joined the business by time of the 1880 census and took over when his father retired about 1889, continuing to at least 1900.

The last known blacksmith at the Chippenhook blacksmith shop was Jeremiah Shangraw, born ca. 1846 in Canada. He had been a blacksmith living in Tinmouth in 1871 when his son Jeremiah was born. His 1<sup>st</sup>

wife Louisa Brown (1845 – 1871) died 10 days later of “child bed fever”. Later that year when he married Emily Allard (1860 -1938) he was again recorded as a blacksmith and was then living in Clarendon. In the 1880 census he was recorded as a blacksmith in Chippenhook, thus possibly having taken over from Levi Miner. Jeremiah was recorded as living in Granville, NY in the NY State census in 1892. He died there in 1907.

It does not appear that this blacksmith shop was in operation in 1900 and it is possible operations ceased when Jeremiah Shangraw moved to Granville, NY.

Note to anyone researching Jeremiah: The name Shangraw may be an awkward Anglicization of a French name. Its roots were not researched but in addition to the usual automated transcriber confusion that finds the name as Shangran, it was also recorded as Gangro and perhaps other iterations. That speaks to a person recording the name phonetically the way they were hearing it which is indicative of a French – English conversion, but from what wasn't part of this research effort.