

A Family Re-Union

On Tuesday the 7th inst., Rev. D. K. [Day Kellogg] Lee of Auburn, and his brothers and sisters, with their children and grandchildren, had a re-union on the farm where the brothers and sisters were born. Their farm lies on a beautiful hill in the old township of Sempronius, (now Moravia) about sixteen miles southeast of Auburn. It was settled by their father, Major Joseph Lee, who cut the first tree on it in 1804. Major Lee was married in 1809 to Nancy Perry, and with his young wife set up house-keeping in a log house, in which six of their children were born. On the appearance of the first born, a cradle was hewn from a log of linden wood, which served to rock four of the children, in turn. His first carriage was on wheels that he himself cut from the end of an oak; and he had the first threshing machine that was brought into that town. Six of his children remember when he drew his grain to Albany on a sleigh, and returned with merchant's goods; and all remember their mother's flax wheel, wool wheel, and loom. When Day was 13 years old he saw the first stage coach, and did not see a railway or steamer until he was 20. When he was 18, every thread of his spare-day clothes was spun and woven at home. The first clock was set up in the homestead in 1829, and the first piano came into the neighborhood in 1831.

Major Lee was twice married, and the second mother of his children (a highly respected woman) now lives in Pennsylvania. There are eleven children living - five sons and six daughters, ten by the first mother and one by the second. The eldest is 48 and the youngest 21. The only deaths in the family were those of the father and mother, and four grandchildren. The brothers and sisters were never all together. Most of them reside on farms in the neighborhood, the second brother, Joseph Lee, jr., owning the homestead at this time. At this family re-union, there were present three sons and five daughters, with their wives and husbands, twenty-five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; with uncles and aunts, and neighbors and friends. There are Universalists, Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists among them, with a strong inclination toward restorationism in them all. The grandfather of these children, William Lee, was a restorationist, and a communicant in the first Baptist church in that town. When he was received into the church, he was asked if "he was willing to be damned for the glory of God," and notwithstanding a most decided answer in the negative, and though he added that he wasn't willing that anybody else should suffer such a doom, he was admitted to the church. This must have been fifty years ago.

This day was the most splendid of the season, the round world shining and blooming as in June. After dinner they held service in a maple grove, a few rods from the house, where they were addressed by D. K. Lee.

During the service in the maple grove [a] hymn, composed in half an hour by D. K. Lee, was sung by three young ladies.

At the close of the service, after they had sung "When shall we all meet again?" the owner of the homestead, Mr. Joseph Lee, jr., invited the family to make an anniversary of this festival, and all come again there again Sept. 7, 1859.

Christian Ambassador, Saturday September 25, 1858