

[Warren, Peter Horton]

Warren, Peter Horton, was born November 16th, 1793, near Fishkill, Dutchess county, N.Y. In 1805 he removed with his father's family to Herkimer county, settling in Columbia, in the western part of the town. Soon after coming of age he located in the northern part of the town, building a small tannery and shoe shop, and manufacturing into boots and shoes the leather made in the tannery. On the 4th of June, 1820, he married Emeline, daughter of James and Hannah Morgan. Their children were, Ellen, who married Colonel Alonzo Wood, of West Winfield, and Joseph, now living Boston, Mass. The tanning branch of the business promising to yield the best returns, he gave up the manufacture of boots and shoes, and increased the capacity of the tannery. By careful management, frugality and industry he was successful and acquired a competency. He was a member of the Warren Lodge of free masons, and also a received a commission from Governor Clinton, of captain in the 12th rifle regiment's 4th brigade. He was one of the earliest stockholders in the Mohawk Valley Bank, always taking great interest in its welfare, as a director and for several years as its president. He early took an active interest in town and county affairs, and during many years acted as magistrate and supervisor. And from frequent service as referee in settling disputes, was familiarly known as "Squire." In 1844 he, with the late Michael Hoffman, represented Herkimer county in the State Assembly. Few persons have enjoyed the confidence and good will of their fellow townsmen and associates to a greater degree, and in the various trusts reposed in him his sterling integrity and strict honesty and sound judgment were unquestioned. His wife died April 7th, 1857. Her ability and shrewdness in reading character was often of valuable assistance to him, and he always attributed a due portion of his success in life to her judicious suggestions. He married for his second wife (June 1st, 1858) Nancy, daughter of Thomas and Nancy Hawks, who still survives him. They had one son Thomas D., now living with his mother in Columbia. In 1863 he was again elected supervisor, which office he held until the time of his death, June 9th, 1865. The duties of the office during the last years of the war were arduous, requiring frequent absences from home and the attendant labor and anxiety bore heavily on him at his age. He did not hesitate to use his individual credit and means where prompt action was desirable to further the interests of the town, and it was a source of gratification to him afterwards to feel that his townsmen and associates recognized and appreciated his public spirit and valuable services during those years. He took great pleasure in fruit culture, and found his principal recreation from business in gratifying that taste. His orchard and garden contained one of the best collections of choice varieties of pears and apples in the county. In religious belief he was a Universalist, and gave liberally for the support and advancement of that faith, and often aided other Christian denominations in the vicinity. His social nature, his genial disposition and strong affection for friends were notable in one so occupied with business cares requiring constant attention, and his old friends always met a hospitable welcome at his home.

F. W. Beers, *History of Herkimer County* (1879) p. 238