

# The Barn of Hiram Olmstead

From the Walton Chronicle

1 Sept 1892 (PG #4)

*Transcribed by Bradley C. Lilley. 11 Apr 2002  
GGreat Grandson of Hiram Olmstead*

The barn itself is most thoroughly and substantially built and is in some respect superior to, any I have seen. It stands 48 x 75 feet, with posts 24 feet running to bottom of basement. Driveway in the end. The driveway or bridge wall is 20 feet high by 32 feet wide next the barn, and this entire width of wall rests on four foundation rocks. The entire wall itself is built almost entirely of cut stone, I might say rocks, for they are nearly all large binding stone. The grade is such that loads will enter the barn on a level, or if I mistake not, when completed, the grade will be slightly descending. Driving in the end makes nine separate bays 15 x 16 feet, five of them 23 feet deep below the breast girt. One of these, however, is intended for a silo, and is conveniently located for filling and feeding. Mr. Olmstead believes these bays capable of holding at least 100 tons of hay.

One of the especial good features of this barn is the fact of the width being such, it makes it possible for the bays on one side to go to the ground, and at the same time leave plenty of room for two rows of cows with mangers, and a good driveway for drawing out manure. The bays on the lower side only go down to the floor over basement. Barn floor 16 feet wide. The middle or second floor contains a granary 16 x 32 feet, lined with sheet iron painted on both sides. This is another feature worthy of mention, as we were told the cost of iron was but 3 2/3 cents a pound or 2



The Barn of Hiram Olmstead  
(Photo courtesy of Karen Lilley Garbo)

cents a square foot, and the rat or mouse that eats in will need a set of false teeth before commencing another job. The stables are arranged with heads toward outside, with good mangers, into which he expects to bring running water. Upright stanchions, which are self-latching. These were at one time a patent, but the patent has run out now. I was told that almost without fail-every cow would fasten herself immediately on coming into the stall. The gutters are 10 inches deep and I think 16 inches wide arranged with Brewer's patent wood slats.

It was slated by R. A. Murray, of Hamden, using 17 tons of slate. It took 10,000 feet of Michigan pine for covering, 40,000 feet of hemlock, 600 pounds of sheet iron for granary, 1,000 pounds of wire nails, and 45 gallons of mixed paint; painted by Mr. Fred Wilson.

*Josiah D. Smith, in the Franklin Dairyman.*

1. The Barn of Hiram Carter Olmstead is located on Dunk Hill road near Walton, Delaware Co, NY.
2. Hiram Carter Olmstead was born 20 Feb 1821 in Meridith Square, Delaware County, NY, and died 11 Jan 1896 in the Home on the Mountain, Delaware County, Walton, NY. He married Sarah Elizabeth Hanford 25 Jun 1848 in Walton, Delaware Co., NY, daughter of Levi Hanford and Cynthia Hanford. She was born 15 Apr 1827 in Delaware County, Walton, NY, and died 19 Jan 1917 in Delaware County, Walton, NY.