

Oliver Loud: Innkeeper, Astronomer, and Humorist

Loud Road extends south from Pittsford-Palmyra Road in the hamlet of Egypt. It is named after Oliver Loud, born in Weymouth, Massachusetts in 1780, a descendent of William Brewster, a passenger on the Mayflower. As a young man, Oliver left Massachusetts, and settled in Palmyra in 1803, where he married Charlotte Bateman. By 1806, Mr. and Mrs. Loud left Palmyra for land they had purchased in Egypt. He built a log cabin home, which also functioned as one of the earliest stagecoach inns and taverns in the area. With no sawmill to provide lumber, Oliver used the flat boards from his horse drawn wagon to construct the bar for his tavern.



Loud's Tavern, circa 1985, prior to relocation to Bushnell's Basin

As popularity of the east-west thoroughfare increased, Loud's business grew. In approximately 1816, he added a general store to the log cabin. By 1825, with a need for sawn lumber, he designed and constructed a sawmill, utilizing the water of three creeks near Aldrich Road. The cost of the mill was \$2,000, a lot of money at the time. The sawmill enabled Oliver to build a much larger inn, which served as a store and business center in the growing community. Oliver's father-in-law, Eleazer Bateman was a Justice of the Peace. He held court in the tavern on most nights, resolving disputes related to the building of the canal.

Astronomy was one of Oliver Loud's many interests. During the 1820's, he provided astronomical calculations for local versions of the famed Farmer's Almanac he likely read as a youngster in Massachusetts. His calculations were found in the Western Almanac of Rochester, and in the Farmer's Diary, also known as the Ontario Almanac. These publications were a valuable resource for the pioneers of the area. They provided information on local roads and mail service, courts, and brief anecdotes, often written by Oliver, which featured his horticultural advice and homespun humor. One example was highlighted in an essay by Rochester historian Blake McKelvey in 1941, who wrote: "*He (Loud) gave his readers full return for their ten cents, and we can imagine even the buxom pioneer matrons chuckling over such items as his "Advice to all Ladies whom it may concern:"*"

“A good wife should be like three things; which three things she should not be like. First. She should be like a snail, to keep within her own house; but she should not be like a snail, to carry all she has upon her back. Secondly. She should be like an echo, to speak when spoken to; but she should not be like an echo, always to have the last word. Thirdly. She should be like a town clock, always to keep time and regularity; but she should not be like a town clock, to speak so loud that all the town may hear her.”

Oliver and Charlotte had seven children, six of which survived to adulthood, several of whom made their homes on Loud Road. Oliver died at the age of 49 in 1829. The graves of he and his wife can be found in the Egypt cemetery on Mason Road. Threatened with demolition in 1985, Loud’s tavern received new life when it was relocated to Bushnell’s Basin, adjacent to Richardson’s Canal House restaurant. It functioned as a canal-side inn and tavern for several years, and is now a private residence.

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