

BAIRD ROAD & THE BAIRD FAMILY

Last of three columns

Although Baird Road was first settled by the Northrup family, It was eventually named after the family that farmed significant amounts of land in the area. Beginning in the 1820's and extending through most of the 19th century, Bedent Baird and his sons Byron, Burrett, and David farmed land that extended between Baird and Nine Mile Point Roads north of Whitney Road.

Bedent, born in Monmouth, New Jersey, to a Scottish immigrant family in 1819, moved to Perinton with his wife, Catherine Quackenbush, of Montgomery County. According to Landmarks of Monroe County, published in 1895, Bedent had been a man of "unusual mental attainments, (who) became in mature years an important social and political factor in Perinton." The notation also describes Baird as having superior mathematical skills, a conclusion based on papers from 1802. Bedent and Catherine had eight children: David, Burrett, Harriet, Samuel, Catherine, Ursula, Helen, and Byron. The 1820 census records show Bedent and Catherine as already having four children, three daughters and one son, under ten years of age. By 1831-2 they had five children in school.

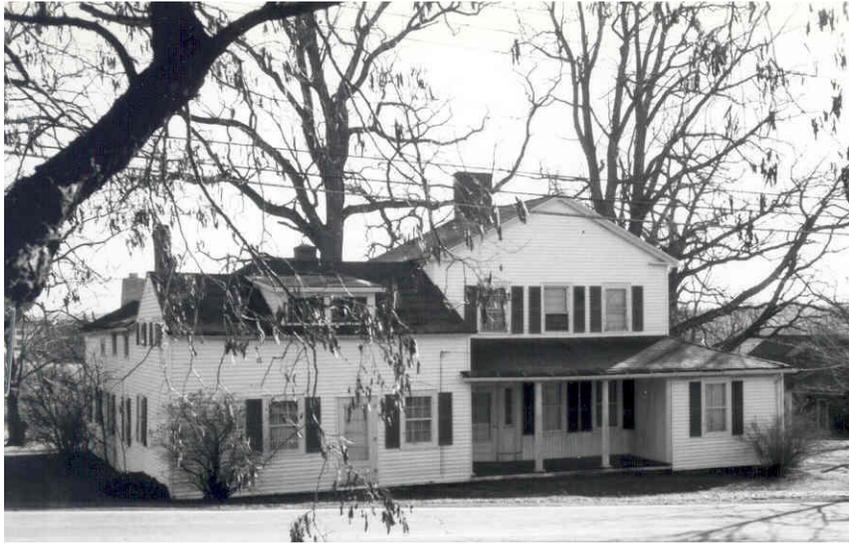
Bedent Baird did not purchase his own land until the 1830's. The 1836 and 1843 tax records show ownership of 125 acres between Baird and Nine Mile Point Roads. The 1852 map shows two houses, one on Nine Mile Point and one on Baird Road. The 1852 and 1872 maps show three houses, two on Baird and one on Nine Mile Point Road. Since the 1872 map notes the Nine Mile Point Road house as owned by "Mrs. Baird," the two houses on Baird Road, identified as being those of "B. Baird and B. Baird," most likely were those of sons Byron and Burrett. Notes on one of the Baird Road properties further indicate that the first building was a log cabin, probably built by Bedent around 1830 when he purchased the property. The log cabin was soon replaced by the first section of what would become a 14 room three-section farmhouse which still stands at 2414 Baird Road. Bedent's son Byron and his wife Imogene also lived in the house. The 1855 New York State census notes that one of the Baird Road farms had a cash value of \$12,200 and produced 390 bushels of winter wheat and 900 bushels of oats. Two cows produced 200 pounds of butter, and 13 sheep produced 40 pounds of wool. The farm also produced barley, corn, and potatoes and had five horses and one pig under six months

Bedent Baird served several terms as overseer of highways and fence viewer for the Town of Perinton He was also listed as a juror several times. Bedent died at the age of 78 on December 22, 1868. His wife, Catherine, continued to live in the family homestead until her death in 1871.

Of the eight Baird children, David, Byron, Burrett, Helen, and probably Catherine remained in Perinton. Samuel studied law and lived in Watertown and later in Lowell, Washington. Byron and Burrett continued to farm the family property. David married Almeda, Helen married John Hayes of Perinton, Catherine married William Mead, and Ursula married Jacob Brown of Penfield. There were four grandchildren mentioned in Bedent's will, all of whom were Catherine's children. David's will mentions a daughter Hetty.

By 1895, only two of Bedent Baird's children were still living: Samuel of Washington and Byron of Perinton. Byron had combined his and his brother Burrett's and his mother's property to create "Grandview Farm," 177 acres which stretched between Baird and Nine Mile Point Roads. It is on the 1902 Perinton map.

Like many successful farmers, in his later years Byron retired "in town," moving to Fairport. He died in 1910 and is buried with his mother and father and several other members of his family in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.



Baird family house at 2414 Baird Road

