

THE HULBURTS OF HULBURT ROAD

Thomas Hulburt was born near the Erie Canal just over the Perinton line in Pittsford on July 21, 1836. His parents were Lewis Hulburt of Monroe County and Roxanna Roberts, a native of Allegheny County.

Thomas attended local district schools and then trained as a teacher at Macedon Academy, where he met and then married Phoebe Hoag. After he left his teaching post in Bloomfield, Ontario County, the couple moved to LaGrange, Indiana, where Thomas became principal of LaGrange Academy and Phoebe, preceptress. Apparently he also taught mathematics and began to study law, since he was eventually admitted to the Indiana bar, following his brother Charles who was a lawyer in Wolcottville, LaGrange County, Indiana.



106 Hulburt Road

While in Indiana, the Hulburts befriended Richard Reed, a Fairport banker and his wife Lucy Ann. Phoebe and Thomas returned to Fairport in 1865 and purchased a house and 25 acres of land from the Reeds on what would eventually be called Hulburt Road. Phoebe and their two children moved into the house while Thomas went to Albany Law College. After passing the New York bar, he returned to Fairport to practice law.

In order to reach Fairport village from the Hulburt house, one followed the road west to the canal, then followed the canal north to West Church Street and then turned east into the village. It was not a very efficient route. Consequently, in 1872, Thomas Hulburt and his uncle Raphael Roberts laid out a new road which went due north from the house to West Church Street, making the trip into the village a great deal easier. The two then planted trees along the road and laid out building lots, thereby opening up that section of Fairport for development. The new road was then appropriately named Hulburt Avenue, while the older east-west section was called Hulburt Road.

The Hulburt property of approximately 95 acres extended from the Brooks farm, which was located between South Main Street and Brooks Avenue (today's lower Potter Place), west to the canal and then along the canal north to West Church Street. Most of it was farmed. Their house was built sometime between 1852 and 1858 by the aforementioned Richard Reed from whom Thomas and Phoebe purchased it. Originally there were five rooms downstairs and four bedrooms upstairs. There was also a wood shed, summer kitchen, and utility/laundry room. The older photos of the house show a front porch, which no longer exists. Orchards in back of the house overlooked the canal and were a favorite place for Fairport families to picnic. There were, in addition, three barns on the property which at one time housed pigs, cows, and horses.

Phoebe and Thomas Hulburt had five children; however, Phoebe died shortly after the birth of their fifth child. Thomas soon remarried, but only for a short time. The 1880 census lists him as a 41 year old widower with five children. By 1905 he had married his third wife, Adele. They lived in the house until Thomas' death in 1919 at age 83. Before his death he sold 57 acres of his farmland to the Fairport Development Corporation. Thirty of those acres would become the Fair Acres subdivision at the south ends of Dewey and Miles Avenues, including James Street. After Adele's death the remainder of the property was sold off. The house, currently owned by Douglas and Susan Angevine, still stands at 106 Hulburt Road and has been designated as a Fairport landmark.