

Perinton Center and its Pioneers

First of two columns

Perinton Center was one of the earliest areas of settlement in what would become the Town of Perinton. It surrounds the intersection of Turk Hill and Ayrault Roads and extends westward to the site of Martha Brown School and southward toward Pittsford-Palmyra Road. Glover and Jesse Perrin both settled in that area and Perinton's first road was the path that connected their two cabins.

The Perrins, like many of the early settlers in the area, came from Massachusetts towns near Boston like Rehoboth, and from towns in the Berkshires like Lenox and Adams. Glover purchased 160 acres in Lot 46, which includes the area from today's Ayrault Road to south of Route 31, and from Moseley Road westward about half way to Kreg Road. He built a log cabin on Ayrault Road just west of Moseley in 1790 for him and his wife Johanna. Other family members followed. Glover's brother Jesse, his wife Abigail, and their family settled in a cabin on Moseley Road. They were followed in 1800 by Abner Wight and his wife Huldah Perrin Wight, Edward and Lydia Perrin, Ezra Perrin, Jacob and Elizabeth Perrin, Asa and Rebecca Perrin, and Daniel and Nancy Perrin. Abner and Huldah's son Asa was the first white child born in Perinton who lived to grow up. These families, having settled in the vicinity of Glover's cabin on Moseley and Ayrault Roads, formed Perinton Center.

In 1806, Glover and Johanna built a new frame house on Moseley Road in the vicinity of today's Georgetown Commons. Unfortunately, the move was not enough to ease Johanna's depression and loneliness, which was probably a result of her isolation and the death of her only child, as well as of the difficulty of living on the frontier. Eventually, the Perrins moved to the Village of Pittsford where Glover ran a popular tavern. His license states that he was "of a good moral character and of sufficient abilities to keep an inn or tavern" and that "an inn or tavern is absolutely necessary at the place where he proposes to keep a tavern for the actual accommodations of travelers...." Glover died in 1830 and soon thereafter Johanna married the Rev. Andrew Huntington. She died in 1842 and is buried along with both husbands in Pittsford's Pioneer Cemetery.

The Perrins were, needless to say, active in developing town institutions. Early in the first decade of the nineteenth century, Glover and Jesse cleared land for Perinton Center Cemetery, located on Ayrault Road. The graves of Jesse and his family are located there. The two men purportedly planted Perinton's first apple orchard at the corner of Ayrault and Turk Hill Roads. The first meeting of the Congregational Church took place in Jesse's house on Moseley Road in the early 1820's. Glover, Jesse and their brothers, Asa, Edward, and Ezra, all served as highway commissioners. One or another of them at times also served as juror, school commissioner, assessor, overseer of the poor, and fence viewer.

While some members of the first generation of Perrins are buried in Perinton, many of their children, seeking more land, moved further west in the 1820's and 1830's, settling in Michigan and Ohio. There is a Perintown, Ohio, named for Glover and Jesse, and numerous Perrin streets and roads throughout the Midwest. The last Perrin in Perinton was James, a cooper and a canal boatman who lived in Perinton until 1872.

*Historic Marker on Ayrault Road at
the site of Glover & Johanna
Perrin's first house.*

