



Aaron Barber III. From Biographical Review, 1895.

Brief Biographies of Aaron Barber Jr. and Aaron Barber III of Avon, New York

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The eldest son of Aaron Barber of Connecticut, Aaron Barber, Jr. was born in CT in 1806. His father, a blacksmith and mechanic, was a hard worker and died early, leaving the young family to the care of Aaron Jr. at an extremely precocious age. They left Connecticut and moved to Salina, Onondaga County, NY, by 1810 (Census records), where he supported his mother and siblings as best he could by "industry and enterprise", and later a three-year butchering business. Aaron Jr. was wed to Lois Stevens, daughter of Phineas and Mary (Williams) Stevens; they lived in Lima, Livingston Co. for a short time, moved to Ogden, Monroe Co., and finally settled in Rush, Monroe Co. in 1835 when they purchased a tavern homestead from John Hartwell (Deeds). This house is sited on the southwest corner of the intersection of Rt. 15 and Honeoye Falls # 6, and it was here that Aaron Barber III was born on July 6, 1836.

Aaron Jr. still had not found the perfect land, however; five years later, in 1840, having sold the Hartwell homestead, he purchased a parcel of 167 acres in Avon, Livingston County from Sanford Lacy upon which a small homestead with a frame house stood, as well as a log cabin. Aaron Jr. and his young family called the cabin home while they built a grand Greek Revival residence, which was finished in 1852 and still stands today as the main house on the Mulligan Farm. The Barber Farm flourished under Barber's care, growing to comprise over 300 improved acres as he neared the end of his life. Those parcels included the main Barber Farm and the Wadsworth Farm down Barber Road to the west (1852 Map), among other tracts. Aaron Jr.'s land was valued at \$20,000 and his personal estate at \$10,000 in 1860, no small sum in those days. Aaron Jr. was aging, however, and died on June 4, 1869 at the age of 63, leaving the prosperous farm to his son, Aaron Barber III. His wife, Lois, survived him, passing away at the age of 96 on September 13, 1903.

Aaron III was married to Caroline B. Hall, daughter of William E. and Esther M. Hall of Broomfield, Ontario Co., on December 22, 1862. Though they had no children, Aaron III enjoyed a rich life. Following in his father's footsteps from an early age, he too was farmer by trade and continued the development of the family farm on Barber Road in Avon. He was the primary owner even before Aaron Jr.'s death; in the 1865 Agricultural Census, he is listed as the head of his household, and the combined land in his possession is valued at \$49,000. The farm was obviously operating quite successfully, for there were three laborers and a servant among the household, showing the necessity for extra help. It is no surprise, for Aaron III grew many crops at this time, including hay, barley, wheat, oats, Indian corn, potatoes, and apples. He also dealt with dairy cows, sheep, pigs, and poultry. Tax records show major improvements to the land in 1874, and this likely reflects the installation of permanent architecture in the form of barns. Following this expansion, it was necessary to build a tenant house to join the frame house to the west, known as the Lacy House. The little Victorian house between the Lacy and Barber residences was erected in 1882 for the purpose of housing farm hands. Despite this array of crops, Aaron III specialized quite successfully in short-horn cattle and Merino sheep. His cows were nationally ranked, claiming blue ribbons in many State fairs all over the US, and in 1905 it was recorded that he had a flock of over 600 sheep (*The Democratic Party*). From *Shorthorn Cattle*:

She fed kindly from the start, and, as a buxom heifer of rare promise, was bought by Aaron Barber, York State's enthusiastic admirer of good Short-horns, at the round price, for those times, of \$1,000—after winning the yearling heifer championship over all breeds at the Illinois State Fair of 1894. She matured into one of the noblest cows of any breed known to the American cattle trade. She had a back like a billiard table and her

wide, deep ribs and long, level quarters were wrapped in a wealth of flesh that constantly recalled the carcass of her illustrious sire. From 1894 to 1898, inclusive, Mary Abbottsburn 7th, in the hands of Mr. Barber, was the unrivaled queen of American Short-horn cows.

Not only a prominent agriculturalist, Aaron III was also an esteemed citizen in his community. From *The Democratic Party*:

Such a man could not fail to be interested in public affairs. He acquired a sound, practical education in the district schools and the Lima Seminary. He has served four terms as Supervisor of his town, has been Town Assessor for several terms and as a candidate for Member of Assembly he cut an adverse party majority of about two thousand down to fifty votes. He has often served his party as a delegate to its State conventions, and in all respects he is one of the most forceful and valuable citizens of Western New York.

A fervent Democrat, Aaron III cast his first Presidential vote in 1860 for Stephen A. Douglas, and thereafter continued to support his party in a town that was largely Republican. He also was eminent in the local financial circles, serving as President of the State Bank of Avon. He notably also funded the construction of the Barber Memorial Library in Avon, and was a parishioner at the Avon Central Presbyterian Church.

In 1920, Aaron III was already quite elderly; with no one in direct line to inherit the farm, he sold it to Edward Durand Mulligan. On August 8, 1925, he died at the age of 89, and was buried in the Avon Cemetery in his family's plot.

Barber Genealogy

Aaron BARBER, d. abt. 1809

m. ??

1) **Aaron BARBER Jr.** (b. 1806, d. 4 Jun. 1869)

m. Lois STEVENS (b. 1806, d. 13 Sept. 1903)

1) Mary L. BARBER

m. Dr. James E. JENKS

1) William Jenks

2) Louisa M. Jenks

- 2) **Aaron BARBER III** (b. 6 Jul. 1836, d. 8 Aug. 1925)
m. Caroline "Carrie" B. HALL (b. 1838, m. 22 Dec. 1862)
- 3) Frances Amanda BARBER (b. 1844)
m. Holliday WILLIAMS
- 1) Franks Williams
 - 2) Aaron Williams
 - 3) Lois Williams

Appendix I

Census records.

1865 Census, Book 1, Livingston County

5 Jun 1865, First Election District in Avon, Livingston Co.

Aaron Barber (head)
Dwelling: frame, \$3000
Age: 59
Origin: Onondaga
Now married (only marriage)

Lois Barber (wife)
Age: 59
Origin: Livingston Co.
Children: 3
Now married

Frances A. Barber (daughter)
Age: 22
Single

Adam Elliot (farm laborer)
Age: 29
Origin: Livingston Co.
Single

John Ireland (farm laborer)
Age: 25
Origin: Ireland
Single

Morgan Shannon (farm laborer)
Age: 26; M
Origin: Canada
Single

David Buckley (servant)
Age: 14
Origin: Canada

A selection of statistics from the 1865 agricultural census follows:

500 total acres (300 improved, 200 unimproved)
Value of farms: \$49,000
Value of stock: \$7,625
Value of tools: \$1,000
Plowed acres in 1864: 170. In 1865: 130.

Crops:

Tons of hay: 100

Acres of winter wheat sown in 1863: 80. In 1864: 140
Acres of oats sown in 1864: 30. In 1865: 24. 600 bushels harvested
Bushels of wheat, 1864: 1,700
Barley, 1864: 30 acres sown; 800 bushels harvested. 1865: 15 acres sown
Indian corn, 1864: 36 acres sown; 1800 bushels harvested. 1865: 50 acres sown
Potatoes, 1864: 2 acres sown; 300 bushels harvested. 1865: 2 acres sown
Apple orchards, 1864: 300 trees; 230 bushels harvested: Barrels of cider: 15

Stock:

Calves, 1864 and 1865: 20 head
Milch cows, 1864 and 1865: 20 head
Lambs, 1864: 150. 1865: 175

In 1865:

40 cows over one year of age
2 beef cows
12 horses
40 pigs, slaughtered 20 previous year, yielding 5,000 lbs of pork
600 sheep
3,000 lbs of wool in each 1864 and 1865
\$30 worth of chickens
\$40 worth of eggs sold in 1864
1,100 lbs butter made in 1864
\$24 worth of fertilizer bought.ⁱ

Sources

1852 Map of Avon. Livingston County Historian's Office, Mt. Morris, NY,

1865 Census, Book 1, Livingston County. Agriculture Statistics. First Election District. Retrieved from
Mt. Morris Records Management Office.

Ancestry.com. Census Records.

Biographical Review: Biographical Sketches of the Leading Citizens of Livingston and Wyoming Counties, NY. Boston: Biographical Review Publishing Company, 1895. 334.

Deed Records. Livingston County Clerk's Office, Geneseo, New York.
(Records of property transactions and mortgages.)

McGuire, J. K. and Littleton, M. W. *The Democratic Party of the State of New York: A History of the Origin, Growth, and Achievements of the Democratic Party of the State of New York, Including a History of Tammany Hall in Its Relation to State Politics.* United States History Co., 1905.

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ⁱ 1865 Census, Book 1, Livingston County. Agriculture Statistics. First Election District. Retrieved from Mt. Morris Records Management Office.