

The Scott Farm

Narrative history by Waldo Scott's niece Beth (12/2014)

Waldo was one of the three sons of Beth and Irving Scott.

Arthur Alphonso Hartshorn bought the "Scott Farm" property just north of Hamilton on Route 12B around 1876. At the time of this purchase, the farm house and a large, red barn were the only two structures on the property. Subsequently, Arthur added a large dairy barn around 1925, which housed approximately 50 head of Holstein cattle that he imported from Europe. This dairy barn burned to the ground in 1947 due to spontaneous combustion. No cattle were lost, and the dairy barn was rebuilt.

When Arthur's daughter, Beth, married Irving Underwood Scott in 1910, "I.U." renamed the farm "Hamilton Stock Farm". More land was purchased over time, bringing the total to around 400 acres. Sadly, the second dairy barn burned to the ground once again in the summer of 1973, this time from electrical problems (faulty wiring?). No cattle were lost, but they were all moved to the Tackabury farm a few miles north on Route 12B until the new barn was rebuilt. This third dairy barn is the one currently standing.

Although the "Scott Farm" also sold eggs and raised poultry, dairy farming was its main focus throughout the years. I.U. Scott raised award-winning cattle, and also was instrumental in establishing an artificial insemination program in order to propagate the best lines from his and others' herds.

The house across the street from the farm was purchased for Beth and Irving Scott in 1910. In 1937, Beth and Irving and their 3 boys, moved across the street, to the big farm house.

Note added by H. L. Kliman, 1/7/2015

Today, 2015, Neal Scott, now of Toronto Canada, owns the land on the east side of Route 12B just north of the "house across the street" mentioned above. Neal said he grew up in that house. The 26.5 acres of land covered by the conservation easement held by the Southern Madison Heritage Trust was once part of the Scott Farm. That land and other some acreage of the former Scott Farm is now owned by Tom and Liz Brackett. On the conserved land is a water fall named "Scott's Falls" by the Bracketts, with the permission of the Scott family descendants.