

## ❧ Town of Gilboa ❧

Duncan M. Leonard was born in Roxbury, N. Y., on August 27, 1837, one of 12 children. He completed his early education at the Roxbury Academy, & began his medical studies under the direction of his brother George, then attended the University Medical College, in Castleton, Vt., graduating in 1857. Moving to Broome Centre on January 1st of the following year, he has resided there ever since.

On January 1, 1860, Dr. Leonard married his first wife Vashtie McHench, who died June 4, 1877; and on January 1, 1879, he married her sister, Emma. Dr. Leonard is the father of 4 children, all by his first marriage: Emma, Frances, Ursula and Rutson. Ursula went on to marry C. S. Best, M. D., who is practicing in Middleburg, N. Y.

"July 24, 1879 Dr. Leonard's barn and outbuildings are nearly completed, the largest barn ever built in this county. It is 3 stories tall and 45 x 80 feet. It contains 5,625 feet of flooring and took nearly 150 bunches of shingles to cover it." – from the Stone Bridge Collection.

Aug. 25, 1879 about 4000 people attended the Mackey Farmers' Picnic. Aug. 27, 1881 an unusually large crowd of 5000 people. – the Gilboa Monitor.

I am not sure when the Mackey Farmers' Picnic began but people came from miles around and it lasted for days! The Ashland Band played in the beginning. Each year a local man would promote the community. Even a Politician spoke. A parade started at 5 Points and went to Mackey. Farmers & friends parked their buggies & cars in the 2 fields. Men would play their guitars, coronets and other instruments for an afternoon of singing and dancing. There would be baseball games, horseshoes, hot dog eating contest and watermelon eating contest. As time went on, these Picnics were at Doc Leonard's farm, then the Goodfellow Grove and finally at the Mace Grove.

Janette Reynolds  
Gilboa Town Historian

Maple Fest 2018