

The Schoharie Alps

Summit was created from parts of Cobleskill and Jefferson on April 13, 1819. It was originally called Summit Four Corners when it was first settled in the 1790's. Summit also encompasses the hamlet of Charlotteville which had a larger population than Summit during the mid 1850's.

From the 1872 Schoharie County Gazetteer/Directory: It is the south-west corner town of the County, lying principally on the west border. The surface is a broken and hilly upland. The central ridge forms a portion of the watershed between the Susquehanna and Mohawk Rivers, the highest summits being from 2,000 to 2,300 feet above tide. Charlotte River, the principal stream, flows south-west through the west part. The soil is gravelly and clayey loam. Most of the land is arable and the people are engaged in dairying and hop raising. Other products are raised for home consumption. Near the village of Summit it's beautiful lake, about half a mile in length. It is supplied entirely by springs and covers about 75 acres. The first settlement was made by Frederick Prosper, from Dutchess County, in 1794. Among the early settlers were, Clement Davis, Samuel Allen, Martin Van Buren, Morris Kiff, Robert and Abraham Van Duser, A.M. Frydenburgh, Joseph L. Barnet, Amos Baldwin, Jonathan Hughes, Baltus Prosper, and James Brown, many of whom were from New England. The first birth was that of ? Frydenburgh, and the first marriage that of Clement Davis and Lovina Allen, in 1797. Daniel Harris taught the first school, in 1798, Benjamin Rider kept the first Inn, James Burns the first store and ? Van Buren erected the first saw mill. The town comprised a part of the Strasburgh, Charlotte River, Stephen Skinner and Walter Franklin Patents. The 1st town meeting was held on the 1st Tuesday in March 1820 at the home of Martin Huffman.

Natural Attributes -Summit has boasting rights for some of the highest elevations in the county, as high as about 2400 feet above sea level. Due to the height of the town it has a reputation for an abundance of snow and year round air conditioning. The town is also well known for two lakes, Summit and Bear Gulch/Gulf that are utilized for a variety of recreational activities: swimming, boating, fishing and ice races. Pretty much any high point in Summit will offer a great view.

Schools- In 1839, Summit peaked at 21 one-room schoolhouse districts that were spaced out about two or three miles from each other. The most commonly heard of schools that were operating into the early 1900's were Summit village, Eminence, Dugway, Sawyer Hollow, Enid, Wharton Hollow, Beards Hollow, Lutheranville, Baptist Church, Oliver and Charlotteville. Of these schools the first three are gone, the next six were transformed into residences, and the last two are restored to their original beauty. Oliver is at the Old Stone Fort Museum Complex and Charlotteville, the last operating one-room (actually it is a two-roomer) in Summit 1894-1951, is in its original setting and used as a community building. There was also a NY Methodist Conference Seminary (college) established in Charlotteville in 1850 with as many as 1000+ students. The Seminary burned in 1854 and 1867, then continued operating in a hotel on a smaller scale until closing in 1875.

Children living in Summit now attend Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School and some Charlotteville area children attend Charlotte Valley Central School.

Hotels- During the mid 1800's through the early 1900's Summit was a mecca for summer travelers and boarders. Robinson's Hotel also known as Summit House was built in 1853 and was intended for travelers on the Charlotteville-Albany Plank Rd.(Rte 10). It was last used as a boarding house in the 1940's then torn down in 1984. Ryders or Summit Rest Hotel was built in 1853 and burned down in 1965.

The barn on the Summit Rest Hotel property became a bar and grill (The Red Barn) following the fire. Both Robinson and Ryder were on the corners of Charlotte Valley/Charlotteville Rd. and Rte. 10. The Crowes Nest opened 1880 and took in summer boarders (as many as 150) until about the late 1940's then it burned in 1959. The first Lakeview House started taking summer boarders in 1881 until it burned in 1904. They re-built in 1905 and continued operating as a boarding house or restaurant/bar until about 2009. I was once told that the Lakeview House was hopping in the 1950's with college students from SUNY Cobleskill. The Lakeview House was sold at a County Tax Sale Auction May 2011 for \$26,000. The Crowes Nest was right across the street from Lakeview on Sawyer Hollow Rd. A late comer to the Summit resort scene, Johnsons Motel & Restaurant, thrived from 1962 until it burned down in 1992.

Churches- 1st Baptist of Summit situated in Charlotteville was built 1830-32, Methodist of Summit first church built 1837 and the second and current church built 1870, Reformed and Methodist/ Presbyterian church of Eminence 1831, Methodist Episcopal of Charlotteville built 1830-32, 2nd Baptist of Summit built 1839 and closed 1878 was situated in Summit, Summit Christian Church at the Dugway 1819-about 1899, it was falling apart by 1915, Evangelical Lutheran in Lutheranville 1st meeting October 1822 church built 1836, Lutheran (shared with Baptists at first) of Beards Hollow built 1865 (weekly services ended 1928 but services in August started up shortly afterwards) , Free Methodist Church of Charlotteville 1878. St. Anna's Catholic 1948-2009. Only the Summit Methodist and 1st Baptist Churches currently hold services year round.

Cemeteries - There are 24 cemeteries, some big and some tiny. The bigger ones are Old Summit, Charlotteville (active) opened in 1864, Snook, Eminence, Lutheranville, Ploss and New Summit (active) opened in 1905 on Rte. 10.

Organizations- The Cobleskill Masonic Lodge #394 was born in Summit in 1856. Both Charlotteville and Summit had bands, Summits was organized in 1887. The Summit and Charlotteville Nine teams were playing baseball from as early as 1866 until about the 1950's. A home field for the Summit nine was in the stone quarry also known as Mt. Wharton (approximately across from Beards Hollow Rd.) and the Charlotteville team played at "Buck's Hole". Summit Grange #1536 organized August 17, 1934 with 29 charter members and closed June 2005. Charlotteville Fire Department began in 1947, Summit Fire Department in 1948, and Summit Rescue Squad in 1972.

Telephone-Summit Telephone Company incorporated in 1909. It was the smallest and the last magneto switchboard telephone company in NYS when it concluded operations in 1972. They serviced 155 telephones at the time of their merger with the Middleburgh Telephone Co. As a Summit customer, in 1972, the monthly bill was \$1.45, under Middleburgh Tel. the bill was \$2.05. Charlotte Valley Telephone Company (main office in Richmondville) incorporated August 22, 1902 and sold to Otsego and Delaware Telephone Company in 1923.

Post Offices- Summit and Charlotteville post offices have moved around to different houses all through the years but they are now in operation in their own buildings. The Lutheranville PO, thought to be the smallest in NYS (and some say the U.S.), was in operation 1853-1949, Eminence 1849-1938, Beards Hollow 1888-1905, and Proper 1900-09 & 1921-23.

The "Schoharie Alps" has a rich history, unique in comparison to the rest of the county.