

Aaron Kellogg

By Douglas H. Shepard, 2013

Aaron **Kellogg** and his work in this region's anti-slavery society were cited in Bates, Samuel P., *History of Erie County*, Warner Beers and Co., Chicago, Illinois, 1884. **Kellogg** was born in Clinton NY on 8 October 1799 to Amos and Rachel (**Porter**) **Kellogg**, the third of eight children. His father died in 1806, but the family seems to have remained in Clinton. Aaron was still there when he married Eliza **Dodge Shaw** of Trenton NY on 12 February 1824. There is an Aaron **Kellogg** in Ellery NY in 1830, but that seems to be another man with a family of six, including four daughters. Aaron and Eliza had three children of record: Warren (b. 1825), Sarah (1828), and Aaron William (1844). The 1840 Census finds the family in North East PA, a family of five including one boy and two girls, perhaps one a domestic. Aaron's obituary reads in part that he was born in Clinton, Oneida Co. and "came to Erie, Pa.," suggesting he moved directly to Erie from Clinton. There were a number of **Kelloggs** in North East at the time, which may explain the move.

Nelson's *Biographical Dictionary* lists Aaron **Kellogg** as having a "general store," although no specific date is given. Beginning in 1849 he was running the Franklin Paper Mill in North East, and he did so until his tenure expired. Aaron **Kellogg** was involved in Erie County politics fairly early. He was a founding member of the local Antislavery Society and his name is listed in the Abolitionist party slate in 1844, 1848, and 1852. There are other **Kelloggs** there involved in the anti-slavery movement, such as George **Kellogg**, who ran on the Abolitionist ticket in 1842, and Quaker Josiah **Kellogg**, whose home was a noted stop on the Underground Railroad.

In 1854 Aaron and his son Warren bought the Red Castle works, a woolen mill in Laona NY owned by **Gorham** and **Fletcher**. A large wing was added to the three-story building and a larger 17 foot overshot wheel was installed. The new enterprise was called the Willow Dale Mills. Aaron **Kellogg** died on 28 January 1859 and the mill was continued with Warren **Kellogg** in charge. In 1861 Willard **McKinstry** and his brother-in-law, A. P. **Durlin**, leased it, probably to insure a supply of newsprint for their *Fredonia Censor*. They had it until 1865 when it was "sold to W. D. [Warren D.] **Kellogg** and P. B. **Alexander**." Eliza lived with her son Warren and his wife Mary until her death in 1891.