

LYONSDALE TOWNSHIP

Lyonsdale Township was officially formed November 26, 1873 from land annexed from the southern part of Greig. It is named after the hamlet of Lyonsdale which had been in existence for many years, being the residence of Caleb Lyon, first principle settler.

The first location by actual settlers was made in 1794 by the French, but the colony, unlike Castorland, did not last very long. In 1816, Caleb Lyon bought 1000 acres in what is now Lyonsdale and took up residence in 1823. By 1830, he had built a bridge and a gristmill.

An important contributor to the development of Lyonsdale was the Gould family. The Patriarch of the family, Christopher Gould, settled in the town of Greig in about 1826. His son, Gordias H. Gould, learned the trade of millwright. He is also credited with building the first steamboat on Black River.

Early routes to the Adirondack wilderness led either from Boonville or Port Leyden through Lyonsdale Township. Later, a railroad was built from Moose River to Minehaha near Thendara in Herkimer County, and acquired the name of "Pegleg Railroad" because of its appearance.



Lyonsdale Canal Basin