

TRUXTON FARM LEDGER INDEX

TOPIC OF THE SEPTEMBER 2013 LEAD ARTICLE IN *TREE TALKS*

By Diana Griffin Law

In preparing the lead article for the September issue of *Tree Talks*, I had the opportunity to review a nearly two-hundred-year-old farm ledger. The ledger was owned by the Risley family in Truxton, having been kept first by Reuben Risley and later by his son, Alvah. The Risley's were early New Englanders and migrated from Connecticut to Cortland County, NY in the early 1800's. The dates of the ledger span from 1816 to 1875. It is especially difficult to find records of families in these early years as New York State was not required to keep vital records until 1880.

Most of the names that were legible have been abstracted. Some may be misspelled as occasionally a person "left his mark" and the merchant would have documented it as closely as he could. A few names may have been missed or unreadable. There are 920 lines that have been abstracted from the 330 page document with many surnames repeating regularly. Example: There are 30 listings for the Hoyer family, 47 for the Patrick family and 28 for the Root family. Space did not allow that we document all of the names and the 920 entries in the *Tree Talks* lead article so we have made the index available for any that may find this of interest. We are indebted to CNYGS member, Suzanne Conley, for giving us the opportunity to review the ledger. We express our gratitude to Holly Sammons at Onondaga County Public Library for providing us with a copy of the ledger to work from. Copies of the actual ledger in both hard copy and digital form are available for your research at OCPL on the fifth floor, at The Galleries of Syracuse, 447 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY.

Link to [Risley Index for Website.pdf](#)