

## Harmon W. Seymour

Born Cannonsville, Delaware County, NY

11 Sept 1863 – 20 July 1987

From "A History of the Seymour Family" by Oakley A. Seymour, 1933: and Donald H. Seymour who continued Harmon's history contained in the "Note" information.

"Harmon W. Seymour, Ziba A. and Margaret A. Seymour's first child and oldest son, was born on the old homestead at Cannonsville, Sept. 11th, 1902. He lived with his parents until of age, receiving his education in the grade school at Cannonsville,, also the High School at Deposit. On attaining his majority, he went to Endicott, N.Y. where he worked several years. While working there he married Miss Lucille Tournour of that place, on June 27th, 1925. After work slackened up there, he came back to Deposit where he worked two years on a farm, quitting at that time and moving in with his father and working at whatever he could get to do. He finally began to get work at his old job in Endicott, going from Deposit Monday morning and staying over there with relatives until Friday or Saturday, then coming over the weekend. He worked that way until some time in the fall of 1932 when he moved to Apalachin, N.Y. where he can drive back and forth to his work and be at home nights. He works for the Endicott-johnson Shoe Co. and is very proficient at his work. They have two boys, Richard W. and Donald H. ,who are just beginning to go to school and are smart,husky lads. And there we will leave them."

Note: Actually, Harmon lived with both his parents only until his mother died in 1910, after which he was the only child to remain living with his father, while his younger siblings were placed with relatives for about the next two years when they were returned to live with their father and brother.

In about 1935, Harmon W. Seymour bought a 56 acre dairy farm in Apalachin, NY, a town of about 500 people at that time. He continued to work at Endicott-Johnson for several years, doing the farm work early mornings, evenings and week-ends,while building up his herd of milk cows and flock of chickens. He sold garden produce and eggs on the streets of Endicott to help make ends meet. As the sons grew older and were able to help with the farm work, he added more stock and chickens, as well as a team of horses and some hogs. After several years, he was able to quit his job at Endicott-Johnson and devote full time to the farm. On Aug. 19, 1941, a third son, Howard Michael, was born. Shortly after the two older sons joined the U.S. Navy in 1944 and 1945, he sold the farm and bought a hardware store in downtown Apalachin. Upon their return from the service, both Richard and Donald joined their father in the hardware store and commenced doing plumbing, heating, roofing and eave-troughing in Apalachin and the surrounding area. In 1946, Donald married, and a little later went to work at the Agfa-Ansco film plant in Binghamton, and in 1949 left there to move to the Washington, D.C. area to pursue a career in the insurance business. Richard,however, stayed with his father in the hardware store and they soon bought a fuel oil and gasoline delivery business to add to the hardware business. Richard

married in 1947, and he and his wife, along with Harmon and Lucille worked long and hard in the business and made a success of it for many years. In 1969, Harmon and Lucille retired to Seminole, Florida, having wintered there for several years before. They bought a house there and enjoyed almost 20 years of retirement. Harmon died on July 20, 1987 while on a visit to his son Donald's home in Arlington Heights, Illinois. His body was flown back to New York for the funeral in Apalachin, which was attended by a host of friends and relatives. Harmon had been Commissioner of the Apalachin Volunteer Fire Department for many years and was a respected leader in the community. He was a member of both the Elks and Masonic lodges in Owego, NY. His successful hardware and fuel business was continued on by his son Richard for several years after his parents' retirement, but was then sold to others, having been in the family for over 35 years, and an institution in the town. Harmon's cremated remains were buried in Riverview Cemetery at Hancock, NY in the plot with his father, mother and paternal grandparents. His wife, Lucille, continued to live in their house in Seminole, Florida until 1998 when she went to live with her son, Howard, in Newark Valley, NY. As this is written (11/99), she is 92 years old and in very good health. The author, Donald H. Seymour