



"I think I ... could have been worth much more if I had not given away so much every year, my happiness consists in doing good ... " Jarvis Bardwell, 1866. Here pictured on his 100th birthday. Photo: Pentoney collection.

1866: "I think I am worth about [\$14,062.28] & could have been worth much more if I had not given away so much every year, my happiness consists in doing good & when I see so many of my Brethren so penurious & satisfy their consciences with a poor small piece of [?] I begin to feel that my property is in him who Blesses the one with open hand & heart & makes poor such as withhold."

The first postmaster of Shelburne Falls was Joseph Merrill, who was Jarvis' father-in-law and also the father-in-law of Jarvis' sister Martha. The second

postmaster was Jarvis, who held the post until 1853, the year that Democrat James Buchanan became President of the United States.. At the end of 1853 Jarvis records, "I am 52 years old & leave the P Office for other hands because I cant be what I wont be, so I shall do something else God has believe me temporelly & Spiriturelly." And on the same page, "Leave the Post Office after 25 years in it Because I won't be a democrat for it."

Jarvis belonged to the Shelburne Falls Military Band. In 1843 he recorded the assets and debts of the Shelburne Falls Musical Association. In 1887 he listed the names and ages of the "Old first S.F. (Solomon Fellows) Merrill Brass Band 1837," and those of the members in 1887. The oldest member is Jarvis himself at 86; the others range from 32 to 70.

Jarvis' 2nd-great-granddaughter, Helen Hawks Pentoney of Macedon, NY, and Helen's son Kurt Pentoney of Fairport, NY, visited Shelburne Falls in August 2003. (Kurt and Helen are also direct descendants of Orsamus Omri Bardwell 1812-1894, whose granddaughter Leila Stone Bardwell 1888-1988 was Shelburne's principal historian.) Helen and Kurt Pentoney have given the Shelburne Historical Society copies of photographs of Jarvis and other Bardwell/Hawks/Fairbanks/Hadley ancestors.

The donor of Jarvis' account book, Ann Sibole, has given a copy of it to the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Michigan. The original book, a copy of it and the photographs mentioned may be seen at the Shelburne Historical Society Museum. If you have questions or information regarding Jarvis' living descendants or his mysterious loss of fortune in 1879, please contact Deane Merrill at Merrill@crocker.com.
Deane Merrill