

Stephen P. Mead

By Douglas H. Shepard, 2012

Stephen **Purdy Mead** was born to Amos T. and Anna (**Purdy**) **Mead** on 26 September 1819. It is not clear when the Amos **Mead** family came to Chautauqua County. A younger brother, A. Thompson **Mead**, was a printer for *The Fredonia Censor* in the 1850s and resided in Portland for many years. There is an Amos **Mead** in Tioga County in 1835 who had been a private in a New Hampshire regiment during the Revolutionary War. He died in Owego, Tioga County in July 1845 and is buried in their Evergreen Cemetery. His son was probably Amos Thompson **Mead** born in 1792 who, in 1850, was living in Perrysburg and when he died in 1865, was buried in Versailles.

Amos T. **Mead's** eldest son, Stephen **Purdy Mead**, ("Esq." as the newspaper referred to him) married Susan, daughter of Leverett and Desire **Barker**. She was born on 3 March 1824, so she was born and raised in the home that became the D. R. **Barker** Library and then the **Barker** Historical Museum. Stephen P. **Mead** was listed as a local supporter of Henry **Clay** for President in the *Censor* of 13 March 1844. However, by 1850 he and his young family were living in Perrysburg. In 1860 they were in La Porte, Indiana, where he was a deputy sheriff. By the 1870s they had moved again, and he was a nurseryman in San Francisco, and then a farmer in Mendocino CA by 1880. He died there in April 1885.