

MILES ADAMS' GROVE

The Central Courier, Syracuse, NY, Monday, September 5, 1859

First Ward – Thursday the first day of September, was set apart by the Superintendent and Teachers of the Sabbath School of the First Ward Presbyterian Church for the celebration of their anniversary Pic-Nic. The place designated for holding the convivial meeting was a beautiful grove owned by Miles Adams, Esq., and distant from Salina about two miles northeast, and one-fourth of a mile to the right of the Brewerton plank road. Sometime previous to the day of the meeting, several friends of the school went forward and cleared off the under brush, arranged seats, tables and places of amusement for the children. This grove is mostly composed of the original pine and hemlock trees, and they stand there as the spared monuments of the grandeur and majesty of the forest, so to those unaccustomed to view an original forest, there is something striking sublime and beautiful, and the true lover of the works of nature cannot fail to find here objects of admiration and contemplation. Those tall pines, while their tops at the impetus of every breeze seem to press upon the very clouds of heaven, at the same time carry the mind back to some of the most thrilling incidents of the past. As we stood gazing at one of the tallest with almost enthusiastic admiration, we imagined it to say, I remember Xerxes crossed the Hellespont, when Hannibal arrived at Carthage, when Caesar crossed the Rubican, when Columbus first left the Mediterranean [*sic*], and I heard the first gun of the Revolution at

Lexington, and the last one at Yorktown. – But let us correct our digression. It is now 11 o'clock. Several carriages have just arrived all loaded with Sabbath School children. They are now strolling about seeking to enjoy the pastime in store for them. Some are gathering flowers, others enjoying the exquisite luxury of the swing, others still are amusing themselves at seesaw, while the mothers are arranging the tables. They are overspread with rich, snow white damask and loaded with viands rare and delicate, and with fruit both foreign and domestic, and beautifully ornamented with flowers. Dinner being over, the school was called to order by Dr. Didama, and addressed by the Rev. Dr. Newell, their pastor, and by T. R. Porter, Dr. Didama and Dr. Loomis. At four o'clock it was announced that the teams were in readiness to convey the children to their homes, and so the company dispersed.