

1,500 PERSONS ATTENDED FAIR HELD AT NEW HAVEN IN 1850, SAYS OLD PARKER BOOK

From transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society 1850—a loan to the museum from Mr. Earl Parker.

“At no former annual exhibition, notwithstanding the forbidding state of the weather has there been so general an attendance, so extensive a show on the ground, or so large pecuniary receipts.

The days appropriated to the Fair, which was held at New Haven were Wednesday and Thursday the 25th and 26th of September and on both the rain fell almost without cessation. Nevertheless, it is computed that there were present not less than fifteen hundred persons, with general presence of the committees, nor was the interest in what was transpiring at all dampened by constant showers.”

“The preparations made, in the erection of a hall for the reception of mechanical, vegetable, and other productions, which was done at the expense of some of the village, afforded great comfort and convenience to the visitors.

“There were on the ground and entered for competition, 57 horses, 75 head of cattle, 25 sheep, and 38 swine, with a respectable show of handiwork and a very creditable as well as large, exhibit of fruit, vegetables, and produce of the dairy. Among the horses was a remarkably fine stallion of the pure Norman breed, introduced during the past year from Canada; also some thoroughbred Leicester sheep, of great size and beauty; with a thorough bred and improved shorthorn Durham calf, also secured for the benefit of the stock in this county.”

“The amount of premiums paid was \$243, being larger than on any former occasion, and general satisfaction prevailed among the exhibitors, as the committees discharged their duties with fidelity.”

“As this country has, confessedly, heretofore occupied an agricultural position inferior to either of those adjoining it, owing to two operating causes; one, the large tracts of timbered land, owned by non-residents; and second, the inducements held out to the farmers to appropriate a large portion of their time to the manufacture of flour barrels. It is gratifying, however, to record a decided change for the better, in both respects.

Hamilton Murray,

President.