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General Erastus Root.

Delaware County,

New York

# History of the Century

1797—1897

## Centennial Celebration

June 9 and 10, 1897

Edited by DAVID MURRAY, LL.D.

By

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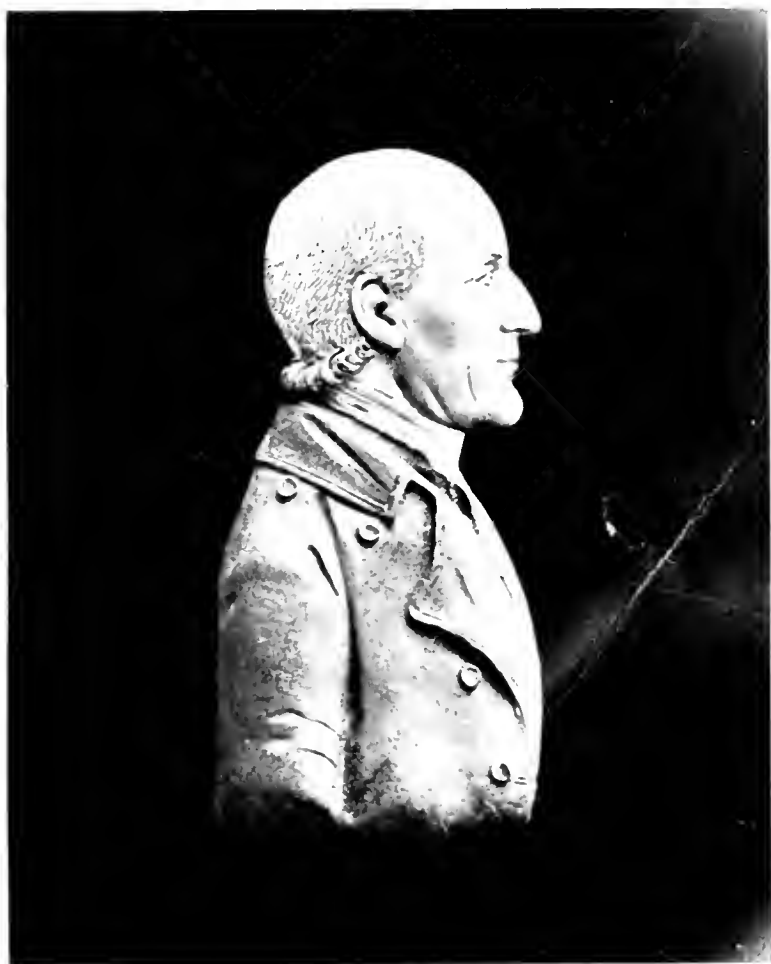
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# PART I.



## Preface.

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IN issuing this centennial volume to the public the object has been to commemorate in some permanent and suitable way the events of the century which has passed. For this purpose the public celebration of the centennial anniversary was held, and the records of this memorial volume have been collected and printed. To those who have contributed to these pages we desire to express our most cordial thanks, and to hope that thereby a work has been produced which may be found in some degree worthy of the occasion. We trust that the impulse which has been given by this celebration to the spirit of historical inquiry among our people may be augmented by the effort which has been made in this book to gather together what is still remembered of our history.

It is impossible to name the almost numberless sources of help which have contributed to these pages. Without the encouragement and aid which have been so liberally afforded, it would have been impracticable to bring this enterprise to a successful issue. It is proper here to make grateful acknowledgment to the newspaper press of the county for the uniform kindness and enthusiasm with which the centennial celebration was commended and this forthcoming volume has been heralded.

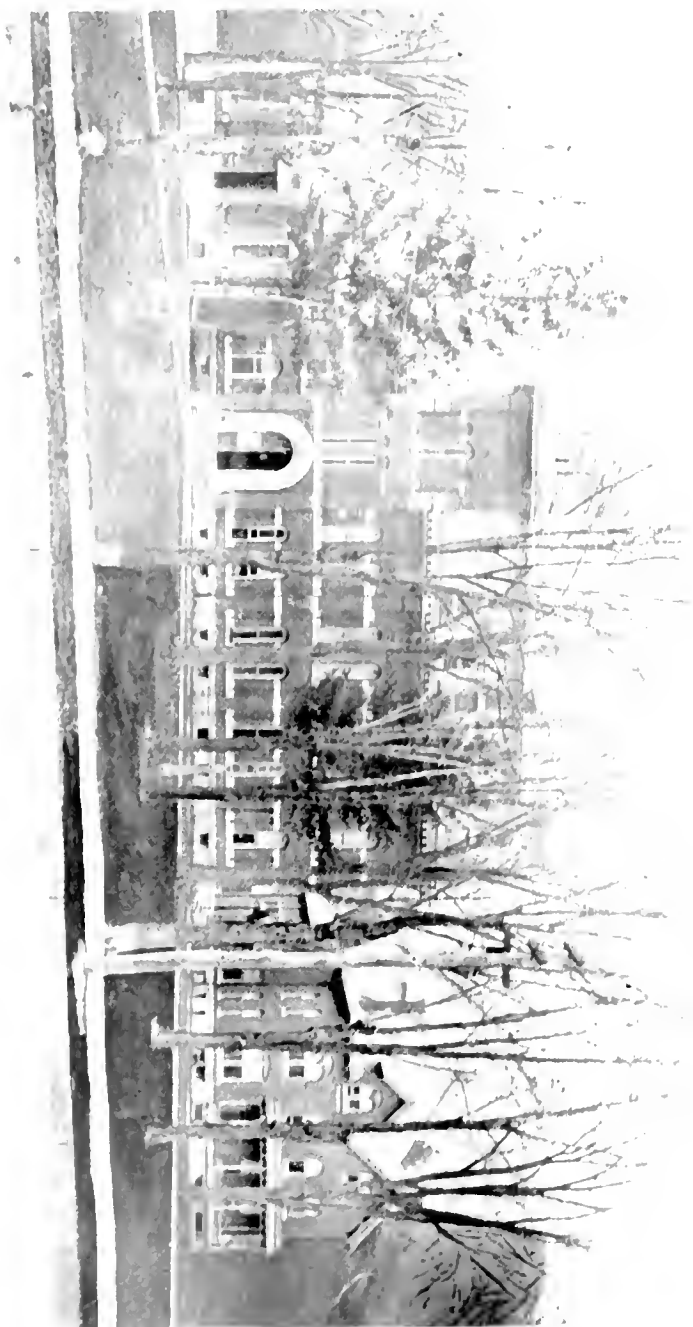
It may not be amiss to apologize here for the delay which has occurred in the issue of this centennial volume. It has been found impossible to present a book worthy of the occasion at an earlier day. As it is, we fear our friends have often been impatient over the persistency with which we have urged the completion of the parts undertaken by them. We confidently commend the completed work to all those who are proud of their county,

and who are anxious that her career during the first century of her existence may be worthily recorded.

It has been the publisher's aim to make this volume not only valuable with historic facts but with illustrations to present an accurate and quite comprehensive view of the county as it appears at the beginning of its second century. This feature will doubtless be highly appreciated, and the durable and attractive binding gives added value to an important work.

Grateful mention should also be made of the interest and encouragement manifested by the good people of the county, and the hope is indulged that expectations will in a measure be realized.

FIG. 3. STATE UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS, ILL.







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## Introductory.

DELAWARE county has played an important part in the past history of the commonwealth of New York. It is fitting, therefore, at the end of the first century of her organized life, to commemorate the circumstances of her establishment, and to gather up the facts of her experience which may serve as lessons for the future. The committee having charge of the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the county has deemed it suitable to prepare a volume, which besides containing the proceedings of the days devoted to the public exercises at Delhi, should also include historical notices of the towns and the county, and biographical sketches of some of her most eminent citizens.

It is impossible to enumerate all the sources from which information has been derived for the compilation of this story of a century. To the authors of the town histories whose names are given in the contents, the committee desires to express its special thanks for their valuable contributions. Acknowledgements are particularly due to Mr. John A. Parshall, the veteran antiquarian of Delhi, for his constant and willing assistance at all times; and to Mr. S. B. Champion of Stamford who for forty-seven years has edited and published a continuous newspaper and whose recollections cover more than half of the county's history.

For the illustrations which add so much to the interest and value of the volume we desire to express our obligations to those who have aided us in securing them—to Miss Foote who has permitted the photographing of a miniature bust of her ancestor, Judge Foote; to Mr. E. B. Sheldon for permission to copy the portrait of General Root in his possession; to Mr. Samuel Sherwood of New York for a portrait of his grandfather and a

view of the venerable house which he occupied when he was a resident of Delhi; to Mrs. John V. L. Pruyn for a portrait of her father, Judge Amasa J. Parker; and to Miss Helen Miller Gould for that of her father, Jay Gould. Besides these notable illustrations, it is most fitting to make mention of the picturesque views of places and things gathered by Mr. Chas. T. Telford, the photographer, who has traveled over the county in search of what would add interest to the past life of the century.

It will be of interest here to enumerate the maps and books which have heretofore been published in reference to Delaware county. In this statement we do not include the most important publications of all, viz: the newspaper press of which an account is given in the appendix. Mr. S. B. Champion has kindly furnished a detailed statement of these publications from which this is chiefly derived.

1. In 1829 David H. Burr, a land surveyor, published a map of Delaware county. It was mainly designed for the benefit of the owners of land patents and their agents, and for lawyers conducting litigations concerning land. The boundaries of land patents and the location of the lots are there given.

2. In 1856 Jay Gould, then in his 20th year, published a map founded on surveys made by himself. It is a wall map containing plans of all the villages in the county. Mr. Champion admiring his pluck and self-reliance, furnished a small amount of financial backing, with which he accomplished the job.

3. While Mr. Gould was making surveys for his map he also collected material for a history of the county. The manuscript having been destroyed by fire had to be re-written. It was published finally in 1856.

4. In 1860 a Gazetteer of the State of New York, giving a brief history of every county in the State, was compiled by J. H. French and published by R. P. Smith of Syracuse. The sketch of Delaware county was mainly composed of facts taken from Simms' history of Schoharie county, Campbell's history of Tryon county,

and Gould's history of Delaware county. In 1873 a new edition of this gazetter was published under the supervision of Dr. Franklin B. Hough who had been engaged in the preparation of the original work.

5. In 1869 an atlas of Delaware county was prepared under the direction of F. W. Beers and published by Beers, Ellis and Soule of New York. It resembled Gould's map in style and arrangement, and claims to have been made from actual surveys. But this is uncertain. It contains forty-one pages, a colored map of each town on a page and outlines of the larger villages on others.

6. In 1880 a quarto volume of the history of Delaware county was published by W. W. Munsell & Co. of New York. It contained 362 pages, and was illustrated with county buildings, farms and houses, and with portraits of resident citizens.

7. In 1895 the Boston Biographical Review Publishing Company issued a volume of 716 pages, containing biographical sketches of 591 persons then resident in the county, accompanied with portraits of a portion of them.

8. In 1872 the citizens of Sidney celebrated the centennial anniversary of the first white settlement. The proceedings of this celebration were published in the newspapers of the day but no centennial volume was issued. In 1897 a historical souvenir of Delhi and vicinity, of 62 pages, was published containing historical matter and illustrated with views and portraits.

9. Besides these publications, which refer exclusively to Delaware county, mention may here be made of the following works which deal more or less with the early settlements of the county, viz: Simms' History of Schoharie County, Campbell's History of Tryon County, and Stone's Life of Brant.









# Delaware County.

2.

I.

## Indian Occupants; Wild Animals.

...



IF we could take a bird's-eye view of the State of New York at the time Hendrick Hudson in 1609 sailed up the river which now bears his name, we would behold a territory almost completely covered with forest. Here and there shining lakes would be seen where the blue water is striving bravely to keep at bay the encroaching forces of the land. Numberless streams trickle, and glide, and flow along wooded banks out to the measureless sea. The Hudson river and its tributaries draining the region of the Adirondacks and the beautiful valleys to the south of them,—the Delaware and Susquehanna reaching their thin tendrils up into the mountains of central New York,—the branches of the Ohio leaving their gentle banks in western New York, and the mighty St. Lawrence and the streams which feed and drain the lakes,—what a fascinating picture they present and what a story they have to tell to him who can read the future or the past.

The only inhabitants of this vast wilderness at the time of Hendrick Hudson's invasion of its solitude were the American Indians. Although positive and fixed homes cannot be assigned to these red men in the same sense as to the white men who followed them; yet in a general way it may be stated that the centre of the State was occupied by the powerful confederacy of the Five Nations of Indians. These were the Mohawks, the Oneidas, the Onondagas,

the Cayugas, and the Senecas. Subsequently in 1717 the Tuscaroras, a cognate tribe who dwelt in the Carolinas, removed to New York and were admitted into the Indian League, which now became the confederacy of the Six Nations. These tribes occupied the middle and western parts of the State.

The Mohicans, sometimes called the Delaware Indians, occupied the regions along the Hudson river and as far east as the Connecticut, and westward to the head-waters of the Susquehanna. This tribe was less warlike and more disposed to be friendly towards the white settlers than their enemies the Six Nations. The novelist Cooper in his "Last of the Mohicans"\* has drawn a fascinating picture of the fragments of this tribe at the time of the French war in the region of Otsego lake. They had been conquered and reduced to a pitiable condition of dependence by their fierce neighbors; and at the time of the revolutionary war when the Mohawks, under the lead of Brant and at the instigation of the British, raided the loyal settlements, the Delawares were able to make no headway against them.

No part of the present county was ever the permanent home of the Indians. They visited various parts of it on hunting excursions, and established camps which remained fixed for months; but they always withdrew before the rigors of winter began. The present site of Sidney village was thus an Indian hunting camp; and several places on the East Branch of the Delaware, and at the head of the West Branch where the valleys slope off in several directions, were visited by Indians in their annual hunting excursions. This right to rove the forests in the opinion of these savages gave them an ownership in territory, which the early settlers were considerate enough to respect. It was the policy of the Dutch, who came first into the territory of the New Netherlands, to treat the Indians as the real land-owners. They bought the island of Manhattan, although the price which they paid—

\* We have followed the novelist's example in using the word Mohican as the name of this tribe.

twenty-four dollars seems now so ridiculously inadequate. The Van Rensselaer colonists who settled the territory about Albany bought the lands of the Indians, of which they afterward received a grant from the Dutch West India Company. So too, after the Dutch possessions in America had been transferred to the English in 1664, the new owners maintained the same peaceable relations with the aborigines. And when the great Hardenbergh patent was given by Queen Anne in 1708 to Johannes Hardenbergh and his associates, it was required of them that they must extinguish the Indian titles before the grant would be complete. In doing this there arose a controversy between the patentees and the Indians as to whether the great tract lying between the East and West branches of the Delaware river was included in the sale made by the Indians. In order to settle this dispute the patentees agreed to purchase from the claimants the disputed territory, for which they paid the sum of one hundred and forty-nine pounds, nineteen shillings.

In order to maintain amicable relations with the Six Nations the English Colonial Government appointed in 1716 William Johnson (afterward Sir William) as Commissary of Indian Affairs. He had been trained by the Schrylers of Albany who had maintained the traditional Dutch policy of peace and fairness. He established his office at Johnstown in Fulton county, so called after himself. By his great influence he kept the Six Nations on the side of the British during the French war; and when the hostilities of the revolutionary war were about to break out, his ascendancy was shown by the New York Indians almost unanimously taking the side of the tories. He died in 1771 just before active hostilities began, but his policy was continued by the members of his family who were maintained by the government in the same responsible position.

One of the most important agreements which Sir William Johnson made with the Indians was a treaty entered into at Fort Stanwix in 1768. This treaty was designed to settle the disputes which had arisen in reference to the western boundary line to

which the location of white settlements might extend. The line fixed by this treaty was an irregular one beginning on the Ohio river and running eastward to the Susquehanna, and along branches of the same, thence to the Delaware river, and so northward near the present city of Rome and by the Canada Creek to Lake Ontario. It was signed on the part of the British by Sir William Johnson, and on the part of the Indians by representatives of each of the six confederated nations, viz the Mohawks, the Oneidas, the Tuscaroras, the Onondagas, the Cayugas, and the Senecas. Sir William on behalf of his government paid to the Indian chiefs the sum of ten thousand four hundred and sixty pounds, seven shillings and three pence, and in return received a deed of the land so conveyed. Delaware county lay to the east of this line, which was known as the "line of properties." It was therefore open to settlement, both under the terms of this treaty, and under the Hardenbergh patent which had originally been bought from the Indians.

The only Indian who is known to have lived in Delaware county after the Revolutionary war was old Tennis, who dwelt alone in a little tent by the lake which still retains his name, situated in Bovina near the borders of the town of Andes. The story concerning him is that during the Revolutionary war, when the Indians were about to make a raid upon the white settlements in Middletown, the family of Mr. Yapple received a friendly warning from this Indian who had received kindnesses from them. Taking advantage of this timely caution Mr. Yapple and his neighbors escaped and drove off their cattle and saved much of their belongings. Probably the action of Tennis in giving notice to the whites enraged his companions, and made it necessary for him to escape into solitude. Here he lived for many years, supporting himself by hunting and fishing, and occasionally receiving a little help from the white neighbors who always felt for him a deep sense of gratitude for saving their lives.

There is a tradition that when Tennis ran short of lead to make balls for his rifle, he used to make a journey of a few days from

home, and bring back with him blocks of a mineral which he used for the manufacture of balls. This gave rise to the belief that there was somewhere within reach a lead mine to which Tenus went for his supply of this mineral. Search for it has often been made; but no such mineral deposit has ever been found. It is impossible that he derived it from any natural mine. And he never revealed the source of his supply. It is probable that he had access to some secret store of lead which his tribe had established when they used to roam over this region in search of game.

It is as appropriate a place as we shall find to give some account of the wild animals which inhabited the wilderness, when the white settlers came into Delaware county. The largest and most powerful of these animals was the black bear (*Ursus americanus*) which roamed freely through all the mountainous regions of the county. Their food was a mixed carnivorous and vegetarian diet. When pressed with hunger they watched for and destroyed domestic animals. They were specially fond of honey, and when a tree contained a store of this delicious food the bear was always on hand to climb it and if possible extract some of its sweetness. The earliest settlers suffered much from their depredations among their hogs. As was often the case the hogs were turned into the forests to collect nuts as food; and the bears took advantage of the opportunity to seize them and carry them off. At other times when the hogs were confined in a pen to be fed with the milk of the dairy, the bears often came prowling by night around the buildings and carried off the well fed occupants of the pen.

For these reasons the farmers were always prepared to hunt these natural enemies. Every one had his rifle, and many were skilled in the use of it. The flint-lock rifle was at these early times the chief kind of gun in use. The percussion cap was not introduced until about 1840. The old fashioned long barreled flint-lock American rifle was a most effective weapon, not only in the hands of the white pioneer settler, but also in the skilled and steady hands of the Indians.

The wolf (*Canis lupus*) was also a common pest about the new farms. It was a cowardly but a mischievous animal. Their specialty was the waylaying and killing of sheep. They remained hidden during the day and came out at night. A single wolf in this way often became the terror of a whole neighborhood. From its lair, often almost inaccessible, it would sally out in search of unprotected sheep. If the season were winter and snow on the ground it was possible to track its depredations. But even when the hunter was able to follow the wolf to its lair, it was sure to have taken timely warning and made its escape. Dogs were often used to follow the tracks of the wolves, and sometimes combined efforts were made to hunt and destroy what had become a serious and destructive nuisance.

The red fox (*Vulpes fulves*) was another of the farmer's enemies. The destruction of poultry was its special purpose. It also was a night prowler. It was hunted especially in the winter time by men with dogs. The English fox-hound was early introduced and was a common sentinel on the farms. The fox-skin had besides a commercial value which led to a keener interest in hunting this animal.

The most dangerous wild animal which frequented the woods of Delaware county was the panther, commonly called "painter" (Fel's concolor). It was not a large animal, but belonging to the cat family, was possessed of great agility. It sought its prey by noiselessly gliding within reach, and then making a sudden spring. In this way it attacked deer, and sheep, and even cows. It was capable even of attacking a human being\* when tempted by hunger or by the helplessness and exposure of its victim. It scarcely ever appeared in the open fields, and whenever it was killed by the hunter it was nearly always when found lurking furtively in the woods.

From time to time the board of supervisors offered bounties for

\*See Cooper's description of Leatherstocking shooting a panther and saving the life of Elizabeth and Louisa. *The Pioneers* p. 337.



the killing of some of the destructive wild animals. The bounty in later times was \$5 for killing a wolf, and \$15 for killing a panther.

The animals hunted for food were not many, the red deer (*Cervus canadensis*) being the principal one, or indeed almost the only one. This graceful animal roamed the hills of Delaware in great numbers and even down to a recent period. The flesh was an important article of food to the pioneer settler. The male is provided with antlers which fall off every spring and grow out again during the summer. Each year additional prongs grow upon the antlers, so that the age of a buck may be approximately known by the number of prongs upon his antlers. The female gives birth to one doe at each time of breeding, so that the increase of the herd is not rapid. They feed entirely on vegetables. Their common food is the buds, leaves and twigs of forest trees, and the wild grass and plants which grow near streams of water. They are hunted in two ways: *one* the still hunt where the hunter creeps silently and slowly upon his prey, and shoots one of a herd. As the deer is exceedingly timid and very swift of flight, it is not easy to get within shooting distance. The *second* method of hunting is with dogs who are capable of tracing the animal by scent. The deer runs usually in a well known track, and therefore the hunter stations himself near where it is expected to pass. The baying of the hounds gives warning of the approach, and when the fleet footed animal darts by the hunter must be ready to give it the fatal shot.

Besides the flesh of the deer which furnished delicious food to the settler, the skin was tanned into a soft leather called buck skin, which had many uses. The Indians used it for moccasins and other primitive purposes. White settlers made from it leggings, mittens, gloves, whip-lashes, etc.

There were besides the large game already enumerated, several smaller and unimportant animals. Thus there was the woodchuck (*Arctomys monax*), which was hunted for the skin, and which fed

specially on the red-clover and was troublesome to the farmer by making trails through the growing meadows. There were at least three kinds of squirrels, which however playful and pretty were destructive to the ripened grain: the chip-monk, the red squirrel, and the gray squirrel. To these may be added the beautiful black squirrel which however was more rare than any of the others. The squirrels, especially the chip-monk, were sometimes a great nuisance to the farmer, in stealing corn and wheat and rye. Sometimes squirrel-hunts were held in a neighborhood, when every body, who could get a gun, started out to kill all the squirrels he could find. There was usually a prize offered for the person who killed the greatest number, and a second prize to him who killed the next greatest. The necessity for this kind of destruction of squirrels has long since disappeared, and farmers are now quite willing that the nimble little marauders should steal all they need to supply their summer food and their winter stores.

Some of the older inhabitants of the county will remember the flocks of wild pigeons that sometimes in the spring flew over the valleys. These birds were properly called Passenger Pigeons (*Ectopistes migratorius*). The breeding places of these birds were in the north, sometimes as far as the Hudson Bay country. The immense flocks in which they crossed Delaware county were on their way to the breeding grounds. These flocks were sometimes half a mile wide and long enough to require two or three hours to pass over a given place. In Cooper's *Novel of the Pioneers*, will be found a description of a flight of pigeons near Otsego Lake, when the group of characters is represented as killing the birds with clubs, and guns; and how in their extravagance even a cannon loaded with scraps, was fired into the almost interminable flock.\*

Such migrations of pigeons however have completely ceased. With the more destructive agencies now made use of, the pigeon like the buffalo has been almost hunted out of existence. Delaware

\* See Cooper's *Pioneers*, p. 267.



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county sees them no more, although fifty years ago they were a common sight which many of the old inhabitants will remember.

Besides the swallows, the robins, the woodpeckers, and other birds which were harmless, there were a number which were regarded as the enemies of the farmers and which were always held as legitimate objects of their skill in gunning. These were: the crows which fed voraciously on the newly sown grain and against whom scarecrows were almost valueless; the hawks, which were marauders of domestic chickens; owls which prowled about the houses by night to hunt for mice and other destructive rodents, but which when flesh is scarce do not hesitate to help themselves to grain and fruit; and more rarely the eagle which from its flight in the air pounced mercilessly upon the young lambs, and even sometimes upon young children.

It only remains to say a word about the wild inhabitants of the waters of Delaware county. The most notable of the fish in its streams has always been the brook trout (*Salmo fario*). This delicious fish frequents the streams of temperate climates. It ascends all these, even the very small ones, for the purpose of selecting suitable ground for spawning. During every rise of the streams there is an irresistible instinct in these trout to push on to higher and higher ground. They are fished legitimately with a bait of angle-worms, or grass-hoppers, or with an artificial fly. But the streams of the county have been so thoroughly fished, and the methods of illegitimate fishing with weirs and nets so much used in them, that the brook trout has very largely disappeared. It is only where portions of the streams are "preserved" and protected from common fishing that a few of this delicious game are still to be found.

In the rivers there have been preserved from the earliest times some of the black bass, which is caught with a bait or with a fly. It is an excellent table fish, but has never been very abundant.

Among the early settlers along the West branch of the Delaware as well as the East branch, there was for a time runs of shad

(*Alosa sapidissima*) in the spring. This of course was before the shad fishing on the lower Delaware was as destructive as it has since become. Now shad rarely go higher than the dam above Trenton in the Delaware river, and such a thing as the expectation of a profitable run at Deposit or Colchester is out of the question.

Thus we have traced the aboriginal inhabitants of the county from their earliest time of the white settlers. The forests that sheltered the Indians and the game on which they lived have almost gone. The streams of water, once sheltered from evaporation by the abundant and over-hanging trees have dwindled into insignificance. The lumber which used to give work to the chopper, and a rush of business every spring to the raftsmen, is gone. Instead we have thousands of civilized inhabitants, industrious and thrifty; cows instead of deer; sheep instead of wolves; roads and railroads instead of Indian trails; and churches and school-houses with worshippers and smiling school children on every road and in every village.

## II.

### Physical Features.

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**I**F we mark out on the map of the Colony of New York, before its settlement by the whites, the little space included in the present county of Delaware, it would be found to be a very rough, though a very picturesque spot. It is covered completely by woods, mostly of maple and beech interspersed with birch, cherry and bass-wood. But at frequent intervals there were fine groves of pine and spruce, and mountains clothed to the very tops with the rich green of the hemlock. The soil in general was stony and incorrigible, and responded unwillingly to the tillage of the husbandman. But along the rivers and brooks there were here and there sweet bits of intervale which softened the roughness of the surface. Every where from the hillsides burst out little springs which each in turn contributed to streams that flowed into the picturesque rivers.

The Susquehanna river roughly speaking flows along the north-western border of the county; the East branch of the Delaware intersects the southern townships, and the West branch the central townships. The county is thus divided into three sections each with a high, irregular water-shed drained by numberless tributary streams.

I have before me the new geological map of the State of New York, which Professor James Hall the State geologist has issued. At my request he has furnished me with a special colored map of

\* Professor Hall is by many years the senior of any officer or employe of the State. He received his first appointment in the geological survey from Governor Marcy in 1847, and he has been continuously since then in the service of the State.

Delaware county. More than three-fourths of the county, including all the southern portion belongs to the Catskill formation. A little corner on the north side including portions of the townships of Davenport and Harpersfield belongs to the Ithaca formation. South of this, extending along the Susquehanna and including parts of Sidney, Franklin, Meredith, all of Kortright, and parts of Harpersfield, Stamford and Roxbury, and following the West branch down below Hamden, and the East branch below Halcottville, lies a very irregular space belonging to the Oneonta formation. Finally there is another very irregular tract forming the division between the Catskill and Oneonta formations, and belonging to the Chenung formation. No coal deposits occur in any of these formations, and no minerals of any kind have ever been discovered within the limits of the county.

Occasionally bowlders have been encountered, especially in the northern part of the county, which indicate that in the glacial period much of this region was covered with ice. Moving with resistless impulse it carried with it from distant points the rocks which it had picked up on its way. In the township of Franklin is an immense bowlder which from its composition and character could not possibly have been derived from any neighboring rocks. This bowlder was brought to my attention by Professor J. C. Smock now superintendent of the Geological Survey of New Jersey. He visited it when he was studying the evidences of the glacial period in New York and New Jersey, and expresses his belief that it was brought thither by the ice from some point in Canada.

The rocks in Delaware county are not in general suitable for building purposes. The only valuable quarries are the flagging stones which have been found in several localities. In the neighborhood of the village of Delhi these quarries have been worked to great advantage, so that few places have better flagged sidewalks than this charming country village. When building stones are required in the structures which are to be erected, they must be brought from a distance; or they may be picked up in small



quantities from the boulders which have been dropped here and there as described above.

The mountains of Delaware county form a connecting link between the Blue Ridge on the south and the Catskill and Helderberg mountains on the north. The highest peak in the county is Mt. Pisgah situated in the township of Andes, said to be about 3,400 feet above tide. In the southern part of the county the mountains are high and the valleys narrow and declivitous. With the exception of the bottom lands along the rivers, there was little land capable of growing successful crops of grain. The best crop—and this has given to the county its distinguishing specialty—was the grass which furnished pasture to the cows in summer, and hay for them in winter. The springs and brooks which provided abundance of water, and the trees which provided refreshing shade, were helps in the same direction.

For a long time the abundance of pine in parts of the county gave employment to many lumbermen, who cut and hauled and rafted\* to market the product of the forests. In like manner the hills covered with hemlock furnished bark for tanning leather. But a century of such destructive industries has virtually exhausted these sources of primitive wealth. Few rafts are now run either on the West or East branches. And scarcely a tannery can be encountered in any part of the county.

\*See below Section.

### III.

#### Early Settlements.

THE only part of the present county which is claimed to have been occupied by white settlers at a date prior to the Fort Stanwix treaty is a small settlement on the East branch of the Delaware river in the present town of Middletown. In the year 1762 or 1763 a small band of adventurers of Dutch extraction set out from Hurley in Ulster county to explore the lands on the East branch of the Delaware. They ascended Shandaken creek, crossed over the mountains forming the divide between the tributaries of the Hudson river and the Delaware, and found themselves in the beautiful valley of the East branch. To their great surprise they found here evidences of a deserted Indian village, which they afterwards learned was called Pakatakan; and even traces of European settlements at several places. These latter were doubtless left by the hardy trappers and traders who had forced their way hither in search of beaver skins, and had found at least two homes of the beaver near this place.

The hardy adventurers from Hurley took up farms along this valley, and having made some hasty preparations went back for their families. They obtained warranty deeds for the land from Chancellor Livingston one of the heirs of Johannes Hardenbergh the owner of this tract. The price paid was twenty shillings an acre; and the deeds bear the date of 1763. The names of these first settlers, so far as they have come down to us, were the brothers Harmannus and Peter Dumond, Johannes Van Waggoner, Peter Hendricks, Peter Brughier, and Messrs. Kittle, Yaple,

I am indebted to a communication from Dr. O. M. Allaben, in *Gould's History of Delaware County*, for this account of the Middletown pioneers.

Sloughter (now named Sliter), Hinebaugh, Green and Bierch. Their farms were chosen along the banks of the East branch, and the vicinity. The settlers were driven off<sup>8</sup> by the Indians in the Revolutionary war (1778), and the buildings and improvements were destroyed. But soon after the war they returned and resumed their abandoned farms.

The first settlements in both Sidney and Harpersfield took place about the year 1770; and both in like manner were interrupted by the disturbances of the Revolutionary war, which shortly followed. The pioneer of the former of these settlements was Rev. William Johnston a Presbyterian clergyman born in Ireland, and who had resided several years previous to his removal to the Susquehanna valley in the neighborhood of Albany. Mr. Johnston and his son Witte Johnston journeyed by Otsego lake and thence down the Susquehanna, stopping finally at the beautiful flats which are now called Sidney. Here they found a few scattered but friendly Indians, belonging to the Housatonick tribe, which at this time were subject and tributary to the Six Nations. They selected a farm of 520 acres bordering on the river, which was a part of a land-patent belonging to Banyar and Wallace, of which they bought the fee-simple. In the Revolutionary troubles which soon came on Wallace took the tory side, and his property which the Johnstons had bought, but had not paid for, was confiscated and became the property of the State. On the recommendation of the governor, however, the Johnstons on payment of the balance still due were confirmed in the title to the land they had bought.

The Johnston family occupied their new home in the year 1773, and were followed by other families who soon made a thriving and attractive neighborhood. They were named Sliter, Carr, Woodcock and Dingman. The Sliters inter-married with the Johnstons and in the troubles of the Revolutionary war took with them the patriotic side. But the others became tories and are lost sight of, except that Carr afterward is said to have erected

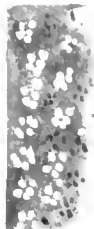
<sup>8</sup> See below Section.

the first grist-mill in this vicinity, upon Carr's brook which empties into the Susquehanna a few miles above the Johnston settlement.

In 1777 during the Revolutionary war the Johnston settlement received a visit from Brant and a band of Iroquois Indians. The Susquehanna valley was a frequent resort of these fierce warriors; and all the scattered Indians of other tribes which wandered through the region between the Susquehanna and the Hudson were tributary to the Iroquois. Brant and all the Six Nations had made a treaty with the British through Sir William Johnson and had embraced the tory side in the pending controversy. He came with a band of about eighty men. The white settlers held a conference with the redoubtable chief, who announced to them his *ultimatum*. He gave them eight days in which to leave their homes, after which everything would be at the mercy of his followers. If any of the families chose to declare themselves British partisans, he promised them protection and permission to remain in their homes. Under this urgent alternative Mr. Johnston and the other whig families took leave of their little possessions and hurried to Cherry Valley. They were there when the little village was burnt by the Indians in 1778; but the family escaped in time from the massacre, and one of the sons was in the fort which withstood the efforts of the savages to burn or take it.

After the war was over the fugitive families returned in 1784 to their homes at Sidney, and resumed the peaceful and prosperous life which has made Sidney one of the most attractive of all the towns in the county.

It remains to say something about Harperfield, which is the only other part of the county which was settled by white people before the Revolutionary war. The founders of Harperfield were a family of Harpers, whose ancestor James Harper migrated from Ireland to Maine in 1720. After successive migrations of the family John, a grandson of the Irish emigrant, settled in 1754 at Cherry Valley in New York. A son of this John named John, jr.,



Near Marysville

Steele Brook, Dade,  
Near Darrington



was the founder of Harperfield, and his son, also named John, was the noted Colonel Harper who was so conspicuous in the border wars of the revolution.

In 1767 the Harpers obtained from the Colonial government permission to obtain from the Indians a tract of land containing 100,000 acres not before purchased, situated near the head waters of the Delaware river. After this transaction was complete the Harpers received from the government a deed of the land in 1769. Two years after this, in 1771, Colonel Harper established his family upon this tract and proceeded to divide it into suitable farms for settlement. A considerable number of families from Cherry Valley and old friends from New England soon after joined them, and the place took on an appearance of prosperity. The first settlers however were subject to some severe trials from the want of food for themselves and their cattle. Their nearest neighbors were thirty miles off at Schoharie, and for grist mills they were compelled to go down the Schoharie creek to the Mohawk. In 1775, however, Colonel Harper erected a grist mill for the convenience of his neighbors. The whole tract was heavily timbered, mostly with maple and beech, and the making of maple sugar was one of the chief early industries. The lands covered by hardwood are always more easily cleared than those covered by pine or other evergreens. The rich and varied farms of Harperfield came rapidly into conditions of fertility and were soon able to support a widespread and prosperous population.

But before the settlement could attain this condition of prosperity, it was compelled to go through a period of trial during the Revolutionary war, which left its impress for a long time upon its inhabitants and its growth and progress. It was in the summer of 1777 that the approach of Brant and Butler with a band of Indians and Tories made the Harperfield settlers realize the danger of their position. Some fled to Schoharie and some went back to New England. So that from that time to the close of the war Harperfield was almost deserted. Occasionally some of the fugitives came

back from Schoharie to look after their possessions. Thus in the spring of 1780 Captain Alexander Harper and a number of others went to Harpersfield at the usual sugar making season. Brant and his party of Indians surprised and captured them. Some were killed and scalped, while Harper and several others were carried by a long and tedious march to the British fort at Niagara. There they remained as prisoners in circumstances of fearful misery until the close of the war. Others were taken as prisoners to Quebec where they were kept until under the treaty of peace they were set at liberty.

After the establishment of peace most of the families returned to their homes, which however had been in many cases desolated by the Indians and Tories. Other settlers rapidly joined these pioneers, attracted by the sturdy character of the founders, and by the liberal terms on which they could secure farms on which they might settle. From that time down to the present Harpersfield has continued to be one of the most thriving and prosperous of the towns in the county.

The period following the war was everywhere active in emigration. The soldiers who had spent many years in fighting for their country had lost that attachment to their homes which made abandonment difficult. They had learned of hundreds of places where they could find farms to be taken up and homes to be established. Many of the officers of the army received in lieu of pay which was due to them grants of land from which they expected to realize abundant profits. They did not foresee the times when the fertile Genessee country, and the rich valleys of Ohio would be speedily in demand. But they eagerly accepted the proffered lands still unoccupied in the eastern portions of New York. Poor old General Steuben who had performed such noble service for his American friends, was rewarded with a township named after him in the rough regions of Oneida county. Baron DeKalb was in like manner rewarded with an equally fertile (!) tract of land in St. Lawrence county.



Much of the land in Delaware county had been granted in various tracts before the breaking out of the war. The year 1770 seems to have been amazingly prolific in Delaware county patents. In the notes appended will be found the patents granted in Delaware county by the English Colonial government. Subsequent to the formation of the State government many tracts were purchased from the State, by land speculators who generally sold but sometimes rented to settlers the farms which they undertook to clear and cultivate. The largest of these tracts was in the western angle of the State, and occupying a region owned by the State of Massachusetts. The two states settled the question of jurisdiction by an agreement that the price of the lands when sold should go to Massachusetts, but that the whole tract should belong politically to the State of New York. The land was in 1791 sold by the State of Massachusetts to Phelps and Gorham; but on account of their failure to fulfill the contract, it was resold subsequently to them together with a number of other purchases. Almost all the contents of the counties of the State west of Cayuga lake were included in this territory. Another large tract is usually called the Macomb

List of patents granted by the English Colonial Government, in Delaware county. *Hough's Gazetteer*, p. 48.

Babington's Patent, 1770, 2,000 acres, Charles Babington.

Beddington Patent, 1770, 27,000 acres, John Leake and others.

Clarke's Patent, 1770, 2,000 acres, James Clarke.

DeBernier's Patent, 1770, 2,000 acres, John DeBernier.

Franklin Township, 1770, 30,000 acres, Thomas Wharton and others.

Goldsbrough Patent, 1770, 6,000 acres, Edward Tudor and others.

Hardenbergh Patent, 1708, ———, Johannes Hardenbergh and others.

Harper's Patent, 1769, 22,000 acres, John Harper, Jr.

Kortright Patent, 1770, 22,000 acres, Lawrence Kortright.

Leake's Patent, 1770, 5,000 acres, Robert Leake. Forfeited by attainder.

McKee's Patent, 1770, 10,000 acres, Alexander McKee and others.

McKee's Patent, 1770, 18,000 acres, additional, Alexander McKee and others.

Prevost Patent, 1770, ———, James Prevost.

Strasburgh Township, 1770, 37,000 acres, John Butler and others. Forfeited by attainder.

Walton's Patent, 1770, 20,000 acres, William Walton and others.

Whiteboro Township, 38,000 acres, Henry White and others. Forfeited by attainder.

purchase, situated in Franklin, St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego and Herkimer counties. The lands included in these later purchases were usually sold in fee simple to the settlers; while much of that in Delaware county, such as the Hardenbergh patent, the Kortright patent, the Livingston patent, the Verplanck tract, etc., were granted on lease.

The settlements formed in the various towns will be detailed in the town histories given below. The pioneers were of varied nationality, and in this respect were a fair sample of the mixed population throughout the State. From Kingston came the Dutch and Palatine Germans and a few of the Walloons, who settled in Middletown along the East branch of the Delaware. The same classes of emigrants had settled the Schoharie valley and thus formed a continuous belt of low Dutch pioneers from Albany up the Mohawk river, thence up the Schoharie creek to its head waters and then down the East branch of the Delaware, meeting the little body of Dutch pioneers who had broken through the mountain barriers from Kingston. It is needless to say that these emigrants were industrious, intelligent, and conservative. Like their European ancestry they sought as places of settlement low-lying lands, bordering the picturesque streams which abounded in the new continent. There were no considerable number of these Holland emigrants who came into Delaware county. The lands were opened up to settlement too late to take advantage of the Holland period of New York history. This period ended in 1664 when the Dutch possessions in America were by treaty transferred to England. After that time few emigrants came from Holland to New York, and the only Dutch pioneers into Delaware county came from the older settlements of the same nationality in other parts of the colony.

The great mass of the early settlers in Delaware county were from New England. They had already learned that the bleak hills where they had at first made their homes were by no means the fertile and productive regions they had anticipated. From the earliest times there was a continuous stream of emigration from the

colonies and states of New England, first into eastern New York, then into western New York, and still later into Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and farther west. There was a time, just subsequent to the Revolutionary war, when many of these restless and adventurous New Englanders sought homes near the head waters of the Susquehanna and the Delaware rivers. The immense town of Franklin which at its organization contained thirty thousand acres of land was largely settled by New Englanders. Shuman Wattles the first settler came thither from Connecticut in 1785 accompanied by his brothers and sisters, and followed by numerous friends who rapidly built up a thriving and intelligent community. The town of Watton was a part of Franklin until 1797, and it too was largely settled by families of New England origin. Dr. Platt Townsend came hither from Dutchess county and brought with him a number of friends from Long Island who like himself had first migrated from Connecticut. This auspicious beginning led many other New England families who were seeking new homes to come into the valleys of the Delaware and the Susquehanna.

Another notable company of colonists came in 1789 consisting of twenty heads of families and two single men from Fairfield county, Connecticut. They were exploring the wilderness in search of a suitable place in which to settle. They came from Catskill and after a long journey reached the head waters of the West branch of the Delaware. Here they found a friend in an old settler named Innan, who aided them to find lands on which they could settle. Part of them located in the present town of Roxbury, which then was the town of Stamford; the others found homes in what still bears the name of Stamford in Rose's brook. This has continued to be a most thrifty and prosperous settlement,<sup>1</sup> and to this day bears the marks of the pioneers who founded it.

The names of this company are given in *Gould's History of Delaware County* as follows: Josiah Patchin, Captain Abraham Gould, Colonel John Hubble, Aaron Rollins, Isaac Hubble, Talcott Gould, Isaac Gould, George Squires, Walter and Seth Lyon, John Polly, Stephen Adams, Peter and Elen Jennings, Joseph Hill, and one by the name of Gibson. The two unmarried men were David Gould and David Squires. See p. 497.

The Scotch immigration into Delaware county was principally of a later date. A few came to the region about the time of the Revolution. John More was a Scoteliman who came into the country and founded Moresville in 1786. Kortright, so named from Lawrence Kortright who purchased a patent of twenty-two thousand acres from Colonel Harper, was settled principally by immigrants from the north of Ireland and from Scotland. The patent was purchased in 1770 and the settlement began from that date. But the great mass of the settlers came in during the first twenty years of the present century.

Andes received a large contingent of Scotch immigrants. These were not however the first settlers, who were of Dutch ancestry and came from the Hudson river counties. But a large number of Scotch families came in at various times and settled the Cabin Hill region and some of the valleys towards Bovina. It was this same movement which led many of the same nationality to invade the rough regions of Bovina. They had been preceded in this movement by Elisha B. Maynard a New Englander, who was the first settler, in 1792. But the hardy Scotch crowded into the lands on the head-waters of the Little Delaware, and made the little town, when it was organized in 1820, almost their own. The town of Delhi in like manner contains many families who by ancestry are Scotch. This is especially true of the mountainous region rising from the Little Delaware on the south-west. The section is still called the Scotch mountains from the fact that the greater part of it was settled by Scotch families. It will be observed that in all these settlements of the Scotch, they have chosen the hills and uplands in preference to the fertile valleys. This was partly owing to the fact that they came into the county at a later date when the richer lands along the rivers had been already taken up. But besides this, and besides their general poverty which led them to select cheap lands, we must attribute their choice of hilly lands to their predilections founded upon the dear mountains from which they came, and for which they retained such fond memories.

It may be said in conclusion that wherever they settled the Scotch proved most thrifty and successful farmers. They were without exception intelligent and religious; and lost no time in providing for themselves and their children churches and school-houses, such as they had been accustomed to in their old home. As a consequence no parts of the county are more prosperous and progressive than those that have been settled by the Scotch and which are still occupied by their frugal and industrious descendants.



## IV.

### Pioneer Experiences.

WHATEVER the nationality of the pioneers, the experiences through which they were required to pass in clearing and reducing farms to cultivation were essentially the same. The Dutchmen who came into Middletown through the Shandaken mountains, the Yankees who came to Roxbury or Harpersfield or Franklin, the Scotchmen who penetrated to the hill country of Andes or Delhi or Bovina, all had to go through the same trials and suffer the same inconveniences. It may be of interest at this point to follow a pioneer into the forests of Delaware county and watch him while he clears a place for himself in the wilderness.

Take as an illustration a family which had come from Scotland, consisting of a father and mother with two little boys. They came first to the house of Scotch friends in Andes; and after prospecting around took on lease a farm in the adjoining town of Bovina, which had just then been organized as a separate town. This farm is entirely covered with forest of maple, beech, birch, bass-wood, etc. The father, after selecting the place, leaves his family for a little with his friends and himself goes thither to cut down a few acres of the forest, and to put up log buildings for the protection of his family. When these were ready, we may imagine the little caravan on its way to the new home in the wilderness. A yoke of oxen drags a rude lumber wagon, on which are mounted the mother and the two little boys. The father drives them and carries on his shoulder an axe which he has already learned to handle. A few pieces of primitive furniture are also carried on the wagon, together with the pots and kettles and dishes which are needful in the kitchen. A dog of the Scotch collie breed circles in excited joy



A Primitive Home.



St. Peter's Church (P. E.) Church, 1887.





around the party, startling squirrels and birds, and putting to flight the wolves, the foxes and the bears which creep curiously out to see the passing cavalcade. A friend who is going to help to install the family in its new home, is driving behind them a milk-cow and her calf, a half dozen sheep and a sow with a half grown litter of pigs. The good collicie in the midst of all his miscellaneous duties considers himself specially charged with the driving of this diversified herd.

Everything goes well. At every farm house they pass they receive a kindly word of welcome and offers of any help they might need. Their journey is not long, and before night they have arrived at their new home. A wood fire is started in the chimney; a hearty meal is cooked from the supplies they had brought with them. The oxen and the cow, the sheep and the pigs are all suitably housed and fed. The season was the early autumn and the first night was exquisitely beautiful. The same stars which they knew in Scotland, and the same full moon, the harvest moon, looked down upon them with friendly eyes. They soon put the furniture in order, and having committed themselves to the care of him who equally is their God in the wilds of America and in their dear native land, they were soon asleep.

Every moment that was not needed for the care of his family and his cattle is employed by the father in chopping down the trees around his buildings. Little by little the clearing became larger and the prospects gradually brighten. The American axe, which he soon learned to wield with force and precision, is the most effective tool which has ever been devised. With it the interminable forests of the continent have been levelled and turned into fruitful fields. A few years later when the two boys had grown so as to handle the axe, the three would together attack a tree; the father cutting alone on one side, and the two boys putting in alternate strokes on the other side. The tree cutting usually continued during the entire winter and thus by spring-time a considerable addition is made to the clearing.

The task of the pioneer however is not only to cut down the trees. Each tree after it had been felled, was cut into logs of about fourteen feet; the branches were trimmed off and piled into brush-heaps. Then when the summer sun had dried the branches, and the more pressing spring's work was passed, advantage was taken of a windy day when there was a strong breeze away from the buildings. The brush heaps were all kindled, being watched lest fire should do some damage, and in order that the heaps should be completely burned. After this preliminary work was done, then came the great work of "logging." This was sometimes done by the pioneer and his boys. But it was a very heavy task, and if a large clearing was to be made the usual custom was to hold a "logging bee." A few of the neighbors, who sometimes had similar favors to ask, were invited to help on this supreme occasion. Perhaps two additional yoke of oxen were brought, and each man carried his axe on his shoulder. They came after breakfast, and went away after a five o'clock supper. A dinner was served at twelve o'clock and for an hour men and oxen were alike refreshed by rest. It is fair to say that on these occasions the farmer was expected to provide some kind of drink. It was either rum which came from New England or the West Indies; or it was the whisky which already began to be distilled in all these country towns. The men did not drink to excess, and nobody was much the worse for what they considered their suitable indulgence on these occasions.

The work they had to do consisted in dragging the logs together and making them into heaps for burning. A yoke of oxen was assigned to each gang, which consisted of two or three men besides the driver. Each log was drawn by the oxen to its heap and rolled by the men with hand-spikes to its place. Fragments of the unburned branches were piled in along with logs, and thus log-heaps were made throughout the clearing. As the whole space had already been burned over when the brush-heaps were fired, the task which the loggers now had was by no means a clean one or an easy one. Their faces and their clothes were soon begrimed with the

coal from the logs and the branches. But this did not interfere with the good humor of the company or with activity and the willingness with which they worked.

After the logging, on some dry, breezy day the farmer sets fire to these log-heaps, and watching and tending them carefully sees them all burned up. Then among the stumps on the soil, well fertilized by the ashes left by the burned log-heaps, he sows his crop of rye, or oats, or buckwheat. And notwithstanding the rough and unplowed surface these first crops were sure to be rich and abundant. Along with the first crop of grain—rye or oats but not of buckwheat—the farmer also sows a crop of mixed timothy and red clover. The grain comes to maturity during the first summer, but the grass making a start during this summer under the friendly shade of the grain, comes to a head and furnishes a crop of hay for the second summer. Potatoes are planted also in the new soil and yield a good crop. Some minor crops, such as turnips, cabbages, and onions are also raised even from the very first. On the farms along the rivers and in protected places Indian corn is also planted, although not in general until the second year.

The stumps and roots of the hardwood timber very soon begin to decay, and in a few years can be torn up and burned. Thus land which at first was covered with forest, in the course of five or six years became cultivatable fields, yielding abundant crops of grain and hay and vegetables. Where the forests were of pine, as was the case in many places, the stumps were much longer in decaying. Indeed you may still see fields filled with pine stumps which must have been cut fifty years ago. A stump-machine is generally necessary to eradicate the pine stumps, and then a fire soon reduces them to practicable ashes.

The tools and implements in the case of a primitive farm such as we have been describing were neither many nor elaborate. The axe was the most useful and important, hammer and cut nails, the saw and the crowbar. Then there were the yoke, the ox-chain, the sled

to be drawn by oxen, the harrow used on new land even before the plough, the hoe and the shovel. About the barn and stable were the flail, the fanning mill, the half-bushel grain measure, birch-broom, etc. In the house the cooking of food and the necessary warmth were furnished by the open fire-place. The wood was cut usually in the winter time and was thoroughly seasoned before it was used on the fire. In the winter when the weather was cold there was built an immense fire consisting of a back-log, a fore-stick, and the necessary top-dressing. When such a fire got under way it was a sight to behold. It must be remembered that at this early day friction-matches<sup>+</sup> were unknown; and at night before going to bed it was always the custom to cover up a bed of coals with ashes, so that the fire might be kept alive till morning. If by any accident the fire became extinguished, the common resource was to send to a neighbor's for a shovelful of live coals.

There is nothing in which greater progress has been made during the century than in the matter of artificial light. At the time of the settlement of our Scotch Pioneer—say 1820—almost the only kind of artificial light in use by such a family was the candle. It was made from the tallow of the beef or sheep; preferably from the former, because it was harder and stronger. A row of wicks was hung on a stick, and the whole dipped at once into a pot of melted tallow and taken out again. The stick with its row of dipped wicks was then hung in a cool place until the layer of tallow became hard. In the mean time a second and then a third, etc., of the rows of wicks were dipped and hung up for cooling. The process was continued until the candles became as large as was desired. An improved method of making tallow-candles was to have a row of five or six tin candle moulds soldered together parallel. Wicks were inserted in each and drawn tightly through the centre of the mould. Then the melted tallow was poured into the moulds around the wicks, and the row kept in a cool place until

It was about 1834 that friction-matches came into use. In remote localities they were introduced later. The price was about 2 ¢ 6 for a box of fifty.

the candles had become hard. After this they were drawn out of the moulds and were ready for use. Artificial light was not so much used in those early days as now. Lamps for whale oil were sometimes employed when a better light was necessary. But it was not till the discovery of kerosene oil in 1858, in Pennsylvania, that the great improvement in the character of light for country houses began. Since that time almost every house has its kerosene lamps, which furnish a light nearly equal to the gas-light of cities.



## V.

### Revolutionary Troubles.

...

DELAWARE county was involved in the trials of the Revolution only as a frontier community. In the meagre settlements at Harpersfield, Middletown and Sidney there were differences of opinion which gradually grew into bitter controversies. Even in the perilous times which resulted from the invasions of the Indians there were tories who were ready to lead them against their patriot neighbors, and help them to raid their homes and carry off their slender possessions.

The Middletown settlers were very sharply divided. Even the boys at school became bitter partisans. It is handed down by tradition that a quarrel occurred between two of the school-boys, *one* Isaac Dumond a son of Peter, and the *other* a boy by the name of Markle. The latter called Dumond a rebel; and in return Dumond struck him. An encounter ensued; and probably other boys took sides. The matter ended in the breaking up of the school. In the spring of 1778, soon after the burning of Kingston by the British troops, the Indians advanced up the East branch for the purpose of making depredations upon the patriotic settlements. Their designs against Middletown were revealed by the friendly Indian Temis\* as has been mentioned above. He notified Mr. Yapple his friend, and by him the alarm was spread among his patriot neighbors. They drove off their cattle and concealed such of their goods as they could. The Indians burnt their buildings and pursued the fugitives through the hills towards Kingston as far as Shandaken. It is said that Yapple afterwards returned to secure some of his goods, and was taken prisoner by the tories and carried off to Pepacton. He was however soon after released.

\* See p. 28.

A company of patriot militia was sent from Schoharie to protect the settlers. A sad event occurred in connection with the visit of these troops. In August 1778 they took prisoner Messrs. Dumond and Barrow, supposing them to have been Tories, who had returned to the settlement to secure a piece of grain which was ripe. They were mounted, both on a single horse, and at what they thought a favorable moment tried to make their escape. They were detected in their effort and Dumond was shot, but Barrow eluded pursuit and escaped. In the autumn of the same year Peter Brugher and his young son had returned to the Middletown settlement to harvest some of their crops. The Indians had been provoked by his piloting the Schoharie militia against them, and they took this occasion to kill him. The boy they took prisoner and carried him with others to Niagara.\*

The most trying scenes, however, of the Revolution which occurred in Delaware county, were those in Harpersfield. Here the settlers were mostly patriots, and early—August 1775—in the struggle they formed a committee of vigilance. The chief of this committee was John Harper, who received the commission of Colonel. Others of the active settlers were enrolled and took a solemn oath of fidelity to the patriot cause. They had not then given up the hope that at least a part of the Indians might join the American side in this controversy. As there was a gathering of the Indians at Oquago on the Susquehanna river, it was deemed best to despatch Colonel Harper to hold a conference with them. This he undertook in the winter of 1776, and carried with him a letter from the Provincial Congress. He was received by them with kindness, and as he spoke their language fluently, he was given an opportunity to read the letter and state the wishes of the Congress. They treated him with the most august ceremony and gave him the assurance of their wish to remain neutral in the controversy then pending.

But the hopes raised by this conference of Colonel Harper with

*See Gould's History of Delaware County, p. 39*

the Indians were of short duration. Joseph Brant, a Mohawk Indian, and whose sister was the Indian wife of Sir William Johnson, had become the war chief of the Six Nations. As a youth, by the influence of Johnson, he had been sent to the Moor Charity School at Lebanon, Connecticut. Here he acquired a fairly good education, and made the acquaintance of many boys who afterward became prominent. One of these was Captain Alexander Harper, a brother of Colonel John Harper. By the aid of Sir William, and through his own active and ambitious genius, he had been advanced to the leadership of the powerful league of Indians. He does not seem to have been present at the conference between Colonel Harper and the Indians at Oquago. And when he afterward joined the Indians he had little difficulty in reversing all the good impressions which had been made, and in persuading his fierce and lawless warriors to enter upon the bloody succession of raids which followed.

The result of a second effort to dissuade the Indians from making common cause with the British was no more favorable than that just referred to. This effort was made by General Herkimer in June, 1777. He had known Brant as an old neighbor in the Mohawk country, and hoped to exert some wholesome influence upon him. Herkimer asked Brant to meet him at Unadilla on the Susquehanna, and this he did. Each of the leaders had come to the place of meeting with a considerable force. A conference was held, but without any good result. Indeed an angry altercation occurred between Brant and a Colonel Cox who was one of General Herkimer's attendant officers. And although no open breach of the peace occurred, both parties retired from the meeting more bitterly hostile towards each other than before.

Under pressure of such dangers the people of the Harpersfield settlement concluded that it was safest to escape to some more populous place. A few of the hardy men remained to care for the property and crops as far as possible; but the women and children

We follow *Stone's Life of Brant* in these particulars.







and most of the men July 1777 took quick and quiet departure for Cherry Valley. The sturdy old Scotchman John More who lived remote from the Harperfield settlement had not heard of their departure and was quietly remaining in his home. A friendly Indian who belonged to one of the threatening bands, escaped from his companions by night and came to John More's house to warn him to follow his friends and make his escape. He was wise enough to follow the advice and with his family and possessions joined in the procession to Cherry Valley.

The Johnston settlement on the Susquehanna at Sidney Plains had a visit from Brant and his Indians in June 1777. They stole some cattle from the settlers in order to feed, as Brant said, his hungry warriors. Mr. Johnston held a conference with them, at which Brant gave his *ultimatum* in the following speech. "I am a man of war. I have taken an oath with the king, and I will not make a treaty with you. I will give these families forty-eight hours\* to get away. So long they shall be safe. If any among you wish to join us, I will protect them and they shall not be hurt." The Johnston and Sliter families who were patriots took advantage of the short respite and made their escape to Cherry Valley. Three families espoused the tory cause and remained under Brant's promise of protection. At Cherry Valley these families were present at the siege and burning of the place by the Indians and British; but after the war was over they returned to their old homes, and resumed their pioneer life.

The Indians of the Six Nations were mainly allies of the British in the Revolutionary war. Part of the Oneida tribe and part of the Tuscaroras were either friendly to the Colonists or neutral in the war. But the Mohawks, the Cayugas and the Senecas, were hostile; and under the active leadership of Brant gave the frontier settlements in Tryon county an infinite amount of trouble. They had held early in the war a council with British commissioners, who urgently pressed them to combine against the patriots. They

\* Another authority gives the time as eight days.

thereupon made a treaty under which each chief of the savage allies was to receive a suit of clothes, a brass kettle, a gun and ammunition, a tomahawk, a scalping knife, a piece of gold, and a promise of a specified bounty for every prisoner or scalp delivered at head-quarters.

Under these incentives many savage cruelties were enacted, sometimes by the Indians alone and sometimes by British troops accompanied by Indians. The little village of Springfield at the head of Otsego Lake was destroyed in the spring of 1778, by Brant and his warriors. In July, 1778, the terrible massacres at Wyoming\* on the Susquehanna were perpetrated. The whole country was aroused, and the result was the sending of the Sullivan expedition, in order to exact due vengeance for the numberless barbarities which had been committed on the frontiers.

This expedition was planned by General Washington who insisted on the adequate punishment of the hostile Indians, who for so many years had acted as the willing agents of the British in harrying and raiding the New York settlements. The forces of the expedition were to consist of two parts;—one under the command of General Sullivan, which was to ascend the Susquehanna; the other under the command of General James Clinton (the father of DeWitt Clinton) which was to be gathered in the Mohawk valley, to ascend the river in boats to Camajoharie, drag the 210 boats across the portage of twenty miles to the head of Otsego Lake, launch them there and traverse the lake to the outlet of the Susquehanna, thence to descend the river and join the first division at the junction of the Chemung and Susquehanna. The task of this second division was most difficult, but was performed with promptness and entire success.

One difficulty General Clinton surmounted in a most original and effective manner. It was in August, 1779, that he and his

\* Thomas Campbell's famous poem of Gertrude of Wyoming made a great impression. He calls Brant the "monster Brant." Brant's son, however, visited London in order to vindicate his father's memory. It is said that he convinced the poet that Brant was not present on this occasion.

expedition arrived at the outlet of the lake. The drought had so lessened the flow into the river that it was too low to float the boats which had been brought thither with such labor. Clinton had a dam erected across the outlet by which the flow was interrupted. In a few days the water of the lake was raised to the necessary height. The boats had been in the mean time moored in the stream below the lake. Then when everything was ready the dam was removed, and the boats were carried down on the crest of the swollen stream, until they arrived August 22 at the designated place of rendezvous.

The westward campaign at once began, under the command of General Sullivan. A considerable battle was fought at Newtown the site of the present city of Elmira. It is called the battle of the Chemung. A combined force of Indians under Brant and of British troops under Colonel John Butler, opposed Sullivan's army. But the British and Indians were swept away and the march westward continued. The Indian towns which were found were everywhere deserted, and as a revenge for the long series of depredations upon white settlements, these towns and the crops about them were destroyed. The beautiful country\* of the Cayugas and Senecas was the blossom of the highest Indian civilization. The Indians everywhere fled as Sullivan's expedition advanced. A slight and ineffective stand was made before Sullivan entered the beautiful valley of the Genesee. Everything was devastated and destroyed. The ripening crops on which the Indians depended for their winter's supply were burnt. "The town of Genesee contained one hundred and twenty-eight houses, mostly large and very elegant. It was beautifully situated, almost encircled with a clear flat extending a number of miles; over which extensive fields of corn were waving, together with every kind of vegetable that could be conceived."†

\* Stone in his life of Brant says: "They had several towns and many large villages, laid out with a considerable degree of regularity. They had framed houses, some of them well finished, having chimneys and painted. They had broad and productive fields; and in addition to an abundance of apples, were in the enjoyment of the pear and the still more delicious peach. *Life of Joseph Brant*. Vol. II, p. 25.

† Sullivan's report as cited by Stone. Vol. II, p. 33.

This town with all its accumulated supplies was utterly destroyed, besides forty other Indian towns and villages. One hundred and sixty thousand bushels of corn were burned or cast into the river. Fruit trees were cut down and fields of growing vegetables were utterly devastated.

On the 16th of September Sullivan re-crossed the Genesee river and commenced his return. It had been intended that he should advance on Fort Niagara and reduce this principal stronghold. But perhaps fearing that his force had been too much reduced to undertake such a task, he did not venture upon the advance. He had accomplished the immediate object of his campaign. He had administered a stern and unsparing punishment upon the Indians for their barbarities committed upon the white settlements. Perhaps such cruelties are justifiable under such circumstances; but modern rules of warfare would not justify the destruction of peaceful towns and villages, without absolute evidence that they belonged to the guilty authors of the depredations.

The Indians were roused by this expedition of vengeance to make retaliations. During the winter of 1779-80 Brant led a band of Indians against the Oneidas who had befriended the Americans in their struggle with the British. He completely destroyed their dwellings and broke up their settlement. In the spring of 1780 he appeared again at Harpersfield. By a timely warning the inhabitants had made their escape and had taken refuge in Schoharie. A few of the men, among whom was Captain Alexander Harper, had returned to secure the maple sugar crop. They were surprised and taken prisoners. Part of them were marched off to Niagara, and part sent to Canada; where both parties remained till the end of the war, when they were set at liberty and returned to their desolated homes.

The only reminiscences of the scenes of the war were the bitternesses left by the disloyalty of tory neighbors. Some of these Tories ventured after the war to return and re-establish themselves among their old neighbors. But they found their neighborhoods too hot for them, and were compelled to make hasty exits.

## VI.

### Organization of the County.

DOWN to 1797 the territory now forming Delaware county was included in the counties of Ulster and Otsego. The former reached to the West branch of the Delaware river which formed its north-west boundary; the latter reached the same stream which formed its south-east boundary. The inhabitants south of the river were compelled to go to Kingston for their necessary law business, while those on the north side went the long journey to Coopers town. In 1791 a plan was mooted to carve from the two counties another, to be called Delaware county from the name of the Delaware river which took its rise within the proposed boundaries. There was a strong opposition of course, as there always is, to the formation of the new county, and a petition numerously signed was sent to the Legislature protesting against the proposed action.

For several years therefore the measure was held back, and it was not till 1797 that the bill was finally passed. During this session of the Legislature, Dr. J. H. Brett, a physician of Harpersfield, was a member of the Assembly from Otsego county, John Burr of Middletown a member for Ulster county, and Ebenezer Foote a member from Newburgh in Orange county. These three active and efficient members espoused the cause of the new county, and mainly by their agency the bill was carried through the Legislature and became a law March 10, 1797.

Some slight changes have been made in the boundaries of the county since the original act of incorporation was passed. In 1817 a section north of the Charlotte river was detached from Otsego county and added to Delaware county. And in 1822 a strip of Delaware county lying on the south side of the Susquehanna river,

but separated from the body of the county by almost inaccessible mountains, was detached from Delaware county and made a part of Otsego. With these exceptions the boundaries of the county have remained as described in the original act.

When the county was chartered there were only seven townships already established. They are given below:

1. Harpersfield, organized 1788, in Otsego county.
2. Middletown, organized 1789, in Ulster county.
3. Colchester, organized 1792, in Ulster county.
1. Franklin, organized 1792, in Otsego county.
5. Stamford, organized 1792, in Ulster county; in 1834 a part was detached from Harpersfield and Kortright and attached to Stamford.
6. Kortright, organized 1793, in Otsego county.
7. Walton, organized 1797 (just before the organization of the county), in Otsego county.

The other twelve towns of the county have been formed from time to time by slicing away parts of the older towns, in the following order:

1. Delhi 1797, taken from Walton and Kortright.
2. Roxbury 1799, taken from Stamford.
3. Meredith 1800, taken from Franklin and Kortright.
1. Sidney 1801, taken from Franklin.
5. Hancock 1806, taken from Colchester.
6. Tompkins 1806, taken from Walton (for two years called Pinefield).
7. Masonville 1811, taken from Sidney.
8. Davenport 1817, taken from Harpersfield.
9. Andes 1819, taken from Middletown.
10. Bovina 1820, taken from Delhi, Middletown and Stamford.
11. Hamden 1825, taken from Delhi and Walton.
12. Deposit 1880, taken from Tompkins.



In furtherance of the organization of the new county the supervisors held their first meeting May 31, 1797. They met in the new town of Delhi. The place of meeting was at the house of Gideon Frisbee, which stood at the junction of Elk creek with the West branch of the Delaware river and which for many years served as a tavern. The supervisors were as follows:

1. William Horton, Colchester.
2. Enos Parker, Franklin.
3. Roswell Hotchkiss, Harpersfield.
4. Benajah Beardsley, Kortright.
5. Benjamin Milk, Middletown.
6. John Lamb, Stamford.
7. Robert North, Walton.

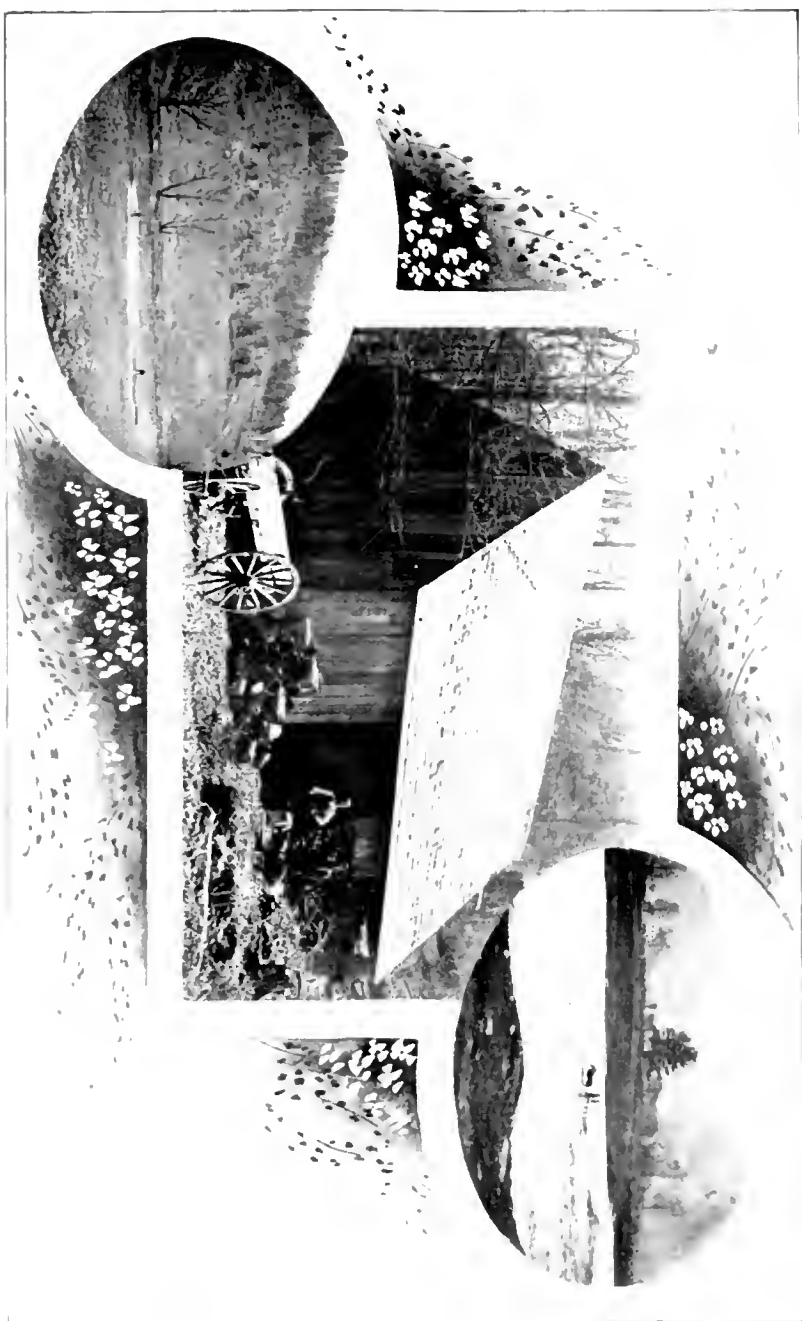
The records of this first meeting have been preserved and are of great interest. In the appendix will be found some facts concerning these early records. The court of common pleas held its first session at Mr. Frisbee's house on October 3, 1797. The first jury impaneled in the county was in attendance, and it is the tradition that its sessions were held under a large butternut tree which was standing until a few years ago. The judges of this court were: Patrick Lamb, William Horton, and Gabriel North; assisted by Isaac Hardenbergh, and Alexander Leal. The following attorneys were admitted to practice at this court: Conrad E. Elmendorf, Philip Gebhard, Anthony Marvin, David Phelps, Erastus Root and Cornelius E. Yates. Until a court-house was built, in which the county business could be conducted, the courts continued to be held at Mr. Frisbee's tavern.

The first Court House was begun in 1798. The board of supervisors voted the sum of \$1,200 for its erection and appointed a commission of substantial citizens to direct the building. An additional sum of \$500 was afterward voted; and the whole expenditure was audited and paid at \$2,051 12. This building stood on the

ground which now composes the Court-House square near the main street and which was donated for the purpose by George Fisher and Levi Baxter. A part of the building was used as a jail; and the office of the County Clerk was also situated in it.

In 1820 this Court House was destroyed by fire; and a young man from Andes named Abram Coon who had been committed for a short confinement in the jail for petit larceny, perished in the flames. The citizens of Delhi took immediate measures to rebuild the Court House. Colonel Amasa Parker was sent to Albany, where the Legislature was in session, and where General Erastus Root was present as a member. Together they drew an act authorizing the State to loan to the county the sum of \$8,000, with which to rebuild the Court House; the sum to be repaid with six per cent interest in four years. By General Root's activity and energy this act was immediately passed, and the rebuilding was begun. It was provided that until the new jail was ready for use, prisoners, for whom no bail could be taken, might be confined in the jail of Greene county.

The building then erected continued to be used till 1871. But in 1868 the board of supervisors took measures to replace it by a building more adequate and suitable. At this time an offer was received from the town of Walton to supply the county with all necessary buildings on condition that the county-seat should be removed to that place. This offer however was not accepted. It was felt by the eastern towns of the county that it would be a great inconvenience to have the county-seat so far removed from the centre of the territory. The people of Delhi were thoroughly roused by the danger of losing the county buildings and offices, and by a vote of the town authorized the payment of \$10,000 towards the erection of the new Court House. The supervisors voted to expend the sum of \$30,000 for a building of brick trimmed with stone. The design for it was drawn by Mr. I. E. Perry the supervising architect of the State Capitol, and Mr. Robert Murray was the superintendent of the construction.



Left: 1901-1902

South Western

1901-1902



The old building was sold to the village of Delhi for a town-hall and removed to a site in the rear. The cost of the new building was found to be greater than the architect's estimate, and the supervisors voted an additional sum. The building was completed and opened January 30, 1871.

The most exciting experiences in the court at Delhi were three below mentioned.

1. The trial of John Graham, an Irishman, in 1814, for the murder of Hugh Cameron and Alexander McGillfrey. A quarrel had taken place between the parties at a logging bee; and on their way home through a piece of wood, Graham struck them with a handspike. He was tried for the crime and convicted. He was hung July 29, 1814.

2. The second exciting trial was that of Nathan Foster for poisoning his wife in 1819. He had been a tory during the Revolution and was believed to have inhumanly murdered Colonel Alden at Cherry Valley in 1777. He was found guilty of the murder of his wife and duly hung. Martin VanBuren the Attorney General was present and assisted the District Attorney. Erastus Root and Samuel Sherwood were the counsel for the prisoner.

3. The third period of intense excitement was when the anti-rent trials\* were held for the killing of Under-Sheriff Steele. These trials were held in the autumn of 1816, Justice Amasa J. Parker presiding. The Attorney-General John VanBuren assisted the District Attorney and Samuel Sherwood was special counsel. The counsel for the prisoners under trial were Amasa Parker the uncle of the presiding justice, Samuel Gordon, and Mitchell Sanford of Greene County.

\* See the paper on the Anti-Rent Episode.

From the successive United States censuses we have compiled the facts given below concerning the several towns in the county of DELAWARE.

	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890
Andes			1,378	1,860	2,176	2,672	2,987	2,810	2,639	2,264
Boxina			1,267	1,348	1,403	1,316	1,242	1,022	1,022	1,007
Colchester	1,207	885	1,064	1,121	1,567	2,184	2,471	2,652	2,941	2,973
Davenport			1,384	1,778	2,052	2,305	2,360	2,187	1,939	1,789
Delhi	820	2,396	2,285	2,114	2,554	2,909	2,839	2,920	2,941	2,908
Deposit				..					1,714	1,664
Franklin	1,390	1,708	2,481	2,786	3,025	3,087	3,307	3,283	2,907	2,897
Hamden		..		1,230	1,469	1,919	1,836	1,762	1,496	1,507
Hancock		578	525	766	1,026	1,798	2,862	3,069	3,238	1,745
Harperfield	1,007	1,691	1,884	1,976	1,708	1,613	1,466	1,485	1,420	1,386
Kortright	1,513	2,993	2,548	2,870	2,441	2,181	2,022	1,812	1,730	1,588
Masonville			719	1,145	1,420	1,550	1,683	1,738	1,673	1,397
Meredith	213	726	1,375	1,666	1,640	1,634	1,626	1,462	1,563	1,555
Middletown	1,064	2,318	1,949	2,383	2,608	3,005	3,200	3,035	2,977	3,313
Roxbury	936	1,892	2,488	3,234	3,013	2,853	2,544	2,188	2,344	2,272
Sidney		1,388	1,107	1,410	1,732	1,807	1,914	2,597	2,461	3,122
Stanford	924	1,658	1,495	1,597	1,681	1,708	1,658	1,658	1,638	1,940
Tompkins		869	1,206	1,774	2,035	3,022	3,564	4,046	2,534	2,626
Walton	1,154	1,211	1,432	1,663	1,846	2,271	2,698	3,216	3,544	4,543
Delaware Co.	10,228	20,303	25,587	33,024	35,396	39,831	42,465	42,972	42,721	45,496

In 1820 the following was the number of the taxable inhabitants in each of the towns:

Colchester	177	Meredith	36
Delhi	124	Roxbury	169
Franklin	205	Stanford	195
Harperfield	165	Walton	183
Kortright	260		--
Middletown	167	Total	1,681

We give in closing this chapter concerning the organization of Delaware county a list\* of the several officers from the formation of

For this enumeration we are indebted to the *New York Civil List*, supplemented by Mr. J. A. Parshall.

the county to the present, with the time of their election to office,

#### I. COUNTY JUDGES.

Joshua H. Brett	1797	Jesse Palmer	1855
Ebenezer Foote	1810	William Gleason	1859
Isaac Ogden	1816	William Murray	1863
Ebenezer Foote	1828	Edwin D. Wagner	1867
Jabez Bostwick	1830	Isaac H. Maynard	1877
Charles Hathaway	1840	Daniel T. Arbuckle	1883
Nelson K. Wheeler	1845	James R. Baines	1889
Edwin More	1847	Albert H. Sewell	1889
William Gleason	1851	Albert H. Sewell	1895

#### II. SURROGATES.

Anthony Marvin	1797	Amasa J. Parker	1832
John R. Gregory	1811	Charles Hathaway	1841
Amos Douglass	1813	Nelson K. Wheeler	1841
Robert North	1815		

Since 1847 the duties of the Surrogate have been performed by the County Judge.

#### III. DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

William H. Elting	1818	John Grant	1856
John B. Spencer	1821	George W. Clark	1859
Selah R. Hobbie	1823	Reuben H. Root	1862
Noadiah Johnson	1827	Ferris Jacobs, jr	1865
Amasa J. Parker	1833	Harvey T. Davidson	1868
Samuel Gordon	1836	Ferris Jacobs, jr	1871
Nelson K. Wheeler	1839	Daniel T. Arbuckle	1874
Jonas A. Hughston	1842	Abram C. Crosby	1877
Truman H. Wheeler	1845	Jonas M. Preston	1880
Amasa J. TenBroeck	1847	Samuel H. Fancher	1883
William Murray	1850	John P. Grant	1889
Robert Parker	1853	William F. White	1892

## IV. COUNTY CLERKS.

Ebenezer Foote	1797	Crawford B. Sheldon	1828
Philip Gebhard	1801	William McLaughry	1845
John Doll	1803	Benjamin Cannon	1852
Homer R. Phelps	1809	Robert S. Hughston	1858
Asahel E. Paine	1810	William Ward Grant	1864
Homer R. Phelps	1811	Smith H. White	1870
Ambrose Bryan	1813	Ransom A. Grant	1876
Asahel E. Paine	1815	George T. Warner	1882
Homer R. Phelps	1821	George W. Crawford	1888
Homer R. Phelps	1822	Joshua K. Hood	1894
John Burhans	1825		

## V. SHERIFFS.

Elias Butler	1797	DeWitt C. Thomas	1846
James L. White	1799	David Rowland	1848
Clark Lawrence	1801	Duncan McDonald	1852
Roswell Hotchkiss	1805	Alexander H. Burhans	1855
Nathan Edgerton, jr	1809	Baldwin Griffin	1858
Jabez Bostwick	1811	Gabriel S. Mead	1861
Robert Leal	1813	John Calloun	1864
Jabez Bostwick	1815	Hamilton S. Preston	1867
Martin Keeler	1819	Edward A. Griffith	1870
Isaac Burr	1820	Darius S. Jackson	1873
Martin Keeler	1821	William J. Clark	1876
Roger Case	1822	John Crawford	1879
Martin Keeler	1825	William H. Douglass	1882
Gurdon H. Edgerton	1828	Daniel Franklin	1885
John H. Gregory	1831	John J. McArthur	1888
Duncan J. Grant	1834	Thomas E. Elliott	1891
John M. Betts	1837	William C. Porter	1894
John Edgerton	1840	James D. Lawrence	1897
Green Moore	1843		



## VI. COUNTY TREASURERS.

Previous to 1846 the treasurers of the counties were appointed by the boards of supervisors and held office during their pleasure.

James Elwood	1848	J. Savaa Page	1875
Horatio N. Buckley	1851	Minor Stilson	1881
Charles A. Foote	1860	J. R. Honeywell	1887
Theophilus F. McIntosh	1869	C. S. Woodruff	1893

## VII. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

Erastus Root	1803-05	Samuel Gordon	1841-43
Erastus Root	1809-11	Samuel Gordon	1845-47
Samuel Sherwood	1813-15	Herman D. Gould	1849-51
Erastus Root	1815-17	Jonas A. Hughson	1855-57
Robert Clark	1819-21	James H. Graham	1859-61
Charles A. Foote	1823-25	Samuel F. Miller	1863-65
Selah R. Hobbie	1827-29	Charles Knapp	1869-71
Erastus Root	1831-33	Samuel F. Miller	1875-77
Noadiah Johnson	1833-35	Ferris Jacobs, jr	1881-83
Amasa J. Parker	1837-39	Charles J. Knapp	1889-91

## VIII. STATE SENATORS.

Ebenezer Foote	1799, 1800-02	Henry E. Bartlett	1852-53
Joshua H. Brett	1804-12	Edward L. Burhans	1858-59
Erastus Root	1812-16	Orson M. Allaben	1864-65
Isaac Ogden	1816-20	James H. Graham	1872-73
John T. More	1820-23	Curtis Marvin	1878-79
Isaac Ogden	1823-27	Matthew W. Marvin	1886-87
Noadiah Johnson	1827-39	William Lewis	1888-89
Erastus Root	1840-44	James Ballantine	1895-96
Stephen C. Johnson	1844-48	John Grant	1896
John M. Betts	1848-49		

## IX. MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY.

1797	William Horton, Nathaniel Wattles.
1798	Elias Butler, Erastus Root.
1799	Patrick Lamb, Sluman Wattles.
1800	Gabriel North, Erastus Root.
1801	Gabriel North, Erastus Root.
1802	John Lamb, Elias Osborne.
1803	Gabriel North, Elias Osborne.
1804	Adam L. Doll, Anthony Marvine.
1805	Anthony Marvine, Gabriel North.
1806	John T. More, Joshua Pine.
1807	John T. More, Gabriel North.
1808	Daniel Fuller, David St. John.
1809	John T. More, Elias Osborne.
1810	Daniel Fuller, David St. John.
1811	Daniel H. Burr, Isaac Ogden.
1812	Robert Clark, Andrew Craig, jr.
1813	John T. More, Isaac Ogden.
1814	Robert Clark, Asahel E. Paine.
1815	William Dewey, Henry Leavenworth.
1816	Martin Keeler, Asahel E. Paine.
1817	William Beach, Erastus Root.
1818	James Eells, Erastus Root.
1819	Peter Pine, Erastus Root.
1820	John H. Gregory, Erastus Root.
1821	Benjamin Benedict, Asa Grant.
1822	Asa Grant, Samuel Rexford.
1823	James Eells, Peter Pine.
1824	Jabez Bostwick, Harman I. Quackenboss.
1825	Erastus Root, William Townsend.
1826	Erastus Root, John Thompson.
1827	Edward Doyle, Erastus Root.
1828	William S. McRea, James G. Redfield.

- 1829 Matthew Halcott, Erastus Root.  
1830 David P. Mapes, Peter Pine.  
1831 James Coulter, James Hughston.  
1832 John Edgerton, Stoddard Stevens.  
1833 Samuel Gordon, Amasa J. Parker.  
1834 Dubois Burhans, William B. Ogden.  
1835 John Griffin, James W. Knapp.  
1836 Jesse Booth, Thomas J. Hubbell.  
1837 Cornelius Bassett, Darins Maples.  
1838 Ichabod Bartlett, Jonas More.  
1839 Orson M. Allaben, Nathan Bristol.  
1840 Stephen H. Keeler, Charles Knapp.  
1841 Samuel Eells, Orrin Griffin.  
1842 Milton Bostwick, Nelson K. Wheeler.  
1843 Edward L. Burhans, Jesse Palmer.  
1844 John McDonald, Linus Porter.  
1845 Orrin Foote, Reuben Lewis.  
1846 John C. Allaben, Donald Shaw.  
1847 Platt Townsend, John Calhoun.  
1848 James E. Thompson, Luther Butts.  
1849 George H. Winsor, Richard Morse.  
1850 Samuel Doyle, William Gleason, jr.  
1851 Hezekiah Elwood, Lewis Mills.  
1852 Charles S. Rogers, Daniel Stewart.  
1853 Samuel F. Miller, David Rowland.  
1854 William B. Smith, Ezekiel Miller.  
1855 John Mead, John Haxtun.  
1856 Barna R. Johnson, Warren Dimmick.  
1857 Fletcher Palmer, Samuel A. Law.  
1858 Barna R. Johnson, Samuel A. Law.  
1859 Donald D. Shaw, died.  
Barna R. Johnson, Samuel A. Law.  
1860 Seymour E. Smith, Daniel Waterbury.  
1861 Nelson K. Wheeler, Daniel Waterbury.

1862	Robert W. Courtney, Francis R. Gilbert.
1863	Jerome S. Landfield, Francis R. Gilbert.
1864	Ira E. Sherman, James Oliver.
1865	Ira E. Sherman, John Ferris.
1866	Joshua Smith, George C. Gibbs.
1867	Albert E. Sullard, Edward L. Burhans.
1868	Benjamin J. Bassett, John Ferris.
1869	Alpheus Bolt, Orson M. Allaben.
1870	Alpheus Bolt, James H. Graham.
1871	William Lewis, jr., Matthew Griffin.
1872	William Lewis, jr., Matthew Griffin.
1873	Benjamin J. Bassett, Matthew Griffin.
1874	Warren G. Willis, George G. Decker.
1875	George D. Wheeler, Isaac H. Maynard.
1876	William J. Welsh, Isaac H. Maynard.
1877	Albert H. Sewell, Robert P. Cornack.
1878	Albert E. Sullard, John S. McNaight.
1879	Robert Beates.
1880	William Lewis.
1881	Chester H. Treadwell.
1882	Timothy Sanderson.
1883	Silas S. Cartwright.
1884	Silas S. Cartwright.
1885	Charles J. Knapp.
1886	David L. Thomson.
1887	Charles J. Knapp.
1888	George O. Mead.
1889	James Ballantine.
1890	Henry Davie.
1891	James R. Cowan.
1892	DeWitt Griffin.
1893	Wesley Gould.
1894	Robert Cartwright.
1895	Delos H. Mackey.
1896	Delos H. Mackey.
1897	Delos Axtell.



Hon. Amasa S. Parker.



## SUPERIOR COURT JUSTICES.

- 1844 Amasa J. Parker.  
1867-87 William Murray, appointed in place of Justice  
Mason.  
1887 Francis R. Gilbert, appointed in place of Justice  
Murray.

## CONSTITUTIONAL DELEGATES.

- 1801 Roswell Hotchkiss, Elias Osborn.  
1821 Erastus Root, Robert Clark.  
1846 Isaac Burr, David S. Waterbury.  
1867 John Grant, Samuel F. Miller.  
1873 Jonas M. Preston (commissioner).  
1894 Abram C. Crosby.

## STATE OFFICERS.

- 1823-24 Erastus Root was Lieutenant-Governor.  
1824 Erastus Root was appointed a member of a commis-  
sion to revise the laws.  
1835 Amasa J. Parker was chosen by the Legislature a  
Regent of the University.  
1851 Norwood Bowne was elected State Prison Inspector.  
1855 Joel T. Hendley, who was born in Walton, but at the  
time of his election was not a resident of the  
county, was elected Secretary of State.

## VII.

### Military Concerns.

. . .

WE have already referred to the military movements which pertained to the Revolutionary period. These were not many nor important, because the county was then only sparsely inhabited. The troubles that came upon Harpersfield, and Sidney and the settlements upon the East Branch all arose from the Indians under Brant. Tories sometimes accompanied these expeditions, and the sufferings entailed were painful and exasperating. But the retributory expedition, which was undertaken under General Sullivan in 1779, put an end to these annoyances and the whole eastern and southern sections of the State were permanently relieved from further raids.

By the time the war of 1812 broke out the county was comparatively filled up. All the more important settlements were well advanced, and had begun to take on the appearance which they now display. In common with other counties in the State, Delaware furnished troops for guarding the Canadian frontier. But these contributions of troops were only little employed, and the real services of Delaware county troops in this war were not important. The chief effect produced by the excitement and achievements of the war was the revival of the military spirit. For many years thereafter the organization of the militia throughout the different counties of the State was kept up with an enthusiasm and an effectiveness which have never been equalled.

The law of the State made all able bodied citizens (with a few exceptions) between eighteen and forty-five years of age liable to military duty, and required them to attend once each year at a general muster at some central point in the county. Besides this



general muster, there were in many towns volunteer militia companies, which received much more frequent training and whose officers and men were dressed in uniform. These volunteer companies were assembled for the general training at the same time as the un-uniformed troops; and on these occasions counted themselves, as well as were counted by the enthusiastic spectators, as infinitely more important and more to be depended on in any case of real war.

The general training above referred to was held in the month of September, generally at or near the village of Delhi. There was a clear, open intervalle below the village, called Cavin's flats, where the troops were usually assembled and put through their evolutions. Three days were occupied in the function; the first being partly used in assembling, and the last partly in going home. The middle day was the great day. Thousands of men and women, boys and girls, came from every part of the county to see the great sight. Every where about the entrance to the field booths were established for the sale of lemonade and ginger-bread, and other drinks and cakes. I think there was a special drink often in evidence on these occasions, called *mead*, made from honey which had been allowed to ferment. This was a great favorite. But most of the children confined themselves to ginger-bread and lemonade.

The evolutions, especially when the general officers came upon the field on horseback, were watched with thrilling interest. Besides the Colonel (as I recall him, Colonel Robert Parker) and other officers of the regiment, there was also present the still more gorgeous Brigadier General (I think General Farrington) and his staff, who had come from a distance to be present on this occasion and to inspect the troops. As they galloped from place to place on the field, and sat solemnly and majestically on their horses watching the movements of the regiment, they seemed like heroes and demi-gods. To witness these military displays of swords and muskets, of white trousers and brass buttons and shoulder straps, of manual drill and marching and evolution, of the music with drum and fife,

was to boys of that day a most effective stimulus and education. It was thus that the military spirit was aroused among our people, and when at last war came there was in every township scores of young men ready to volunteer for its perilous service.

Mr. J. A. Parshall, the veteran antiquarian of Delhi has given me his recollection of one of these general trainings, which came near having a serious termination. On this occasion the gathering was upon the flats of the Webster farm about four miles above Delhi. Hundreds of country wagons were arranged both along the road and inside the entrance gate. The usual booths were also placed near this entrance. Honey was one of the delicacies which was sold from them. The horses had been taken from the poles, tied to the wagons and stood eating the hay which had been provided for them.

In the midst of the evolutions the bees from a neighboring farm had scented out the honey and had come to carry away the precious store. They concluded that the horses had no business so near to these hoards, which they assumed were designed for themselves. So they grew very angry over the matter and attacked the horses and even the spectators who stood about. It does not take much of a bee to frighten a horse. In a few minutes the poor animals were kicking and plunging at every wagon. Then they broke loose from their fastenings and went galloping up and down the road and over the parade ground. Nothing more confusing can be imagined. The frightened horses respected neither men nor women, neither brigadier-generals nor colonels. They went galloping recklessly, with harness trailing and farmers chasing and boys hallooing, down among the marching troops, where they enforced unforeseen movements and quick transformations not put down in the regular programme. It took several hours to capture the runaway horses and to restore peace and order. And although nobody was hurt, and no harm had been done, beyond the breaking of some halters and the explosion of some bad words, the training of that day was much demoralized and had to be prematurely closed.

## VIII.

### Anti-Rent Troubles.

AT a preceding page\* will be found a list of tracts of land which had been obtained in Delaware county either by grant or purchase. The owners of these tracts endeavored to induce settlers to take up farms upon them. Perhaps both the patentees and the settlers were often deceived or mistaken concerning the character of the land which was thus transferred. Much of it was rough, rocky and difficult of cultivation. The farms which were cleared often proved unproductive, and the settlers found they had a very serious task to provide for their families and make the payments on their land.

Some of the patentees had from the beginning adopted the plan of selling their lands to the farmers, and making the terms of payment such that they could be met. Others deemed it better policy to give the farmers leases of their farms, granting for the first five years the use of the land without rent, for the second five years requiring half the permanent rent, and then after this requiring a full rent of a certain number of bushels of wheat for each one hundred acres; or sometimes a certain sum of money for one hundred acres. The greater part of the county was originally in the Hardenbergh patent. Some of this great patent, which is said to have contained more than two millions of acres, was sold in tracts to intermediate purchasers, but most of the remainder had continued to be owned by the heirs of the Hardenbergh associates.

In the report made in the Assembly in 1846 by the committee of which Mr. Samuel J. Tilden was chairman, there is contained an

\* See p. 47

account of the leasehold tracts. These may be summarized as follows: 1st, the Kortright tract of which about 20,000 acres were under lease at six pence an acre; 2d, the Desbrosses tract of 60,000 acres which originally belonged to the Hardenbergh patent, the land had been leased for seven years rent-free and subsequently at an annual rent of one shilling an acre; 3d, the Morgan Lewis tract of 20,000 acres of which 15,000 acres were under perpetual lease, the first five years being rent-free, the second five years on a rent of ten bushels of wheat for each one hundred acres, the third five years for fifteen bushels of wheat, and afterwards for twenty bushels of wheat; 4th, the G. and S. Verplanck tract of 20,000 acres under lease; 5th, the R. R. Livingston and Mrs. Montgomery tract of 20,000 acres under lease for twenty bushels of wheat for each one hundred acres; 6th, the General Armstrong tract of 8,000 acres, under three-life leases for twenty bushels of wheat for one hundred acres; 7th, the Hunter and Overing tracts under leases for twelve and a half, fifteen and eighteen cents an acre.

In the *History of Delaware County, New York, 1880*, (p. 65), will be found a lease for a farm on the Coulter brook given by Janet Montgomery to James Thompson, jr., in 1827. This farm was a part of the Hardenbergh patent, and had been inherited by Mrs. Montgomery who was a sister of Robert R. and Edward Livingston. We give a few lines from this lease, which may serve as a sample of the ordinary leases under which the lands of Delaware county were held: "Together with all and singular the trees, woods and under-woods to be made use of on the premises and nowhere else; saving and reserving to the party of the first part, her heirs and assigns, all water courses suitable for the erection of mills, with a right to erect mills or other works thereon with three acres of land adjacent thereto; and also saving and reserving a right to erect dams and cut ditches for the use of such water-works; and also saving all mines or minerals found on the devised premises with the sole right to dig for and work the same, the said party of the first part compensating for any damage sustained thereby." \* \* \* \* "Yielding

and paying therefor during the continuance of this present lease, yearly and every year the yearly rent of two fat hens and one day's labor, with a wagon, sled or plough with a yoke of oxen or pair of horses and a driver, at such time and place within ten miles as the party of the first part, her heirs and assigns shall require. \* \* \* And also it is further covenanted and agreed that upon every sale or assignment of the said premises \* \* the party of the second part shall pay to the party of the first part one tenth part of the consideration money."

It will be inferred from the statement above that at the time of the breaking out of the Anti-rent troubles in 1844 a very large part of the county was held under lease. No doubt the evils of the leasehold system bore heavily upon the farmers in these rough and unproductive regions. To spare from their little wheat crops enough to pay the landlord his rent was a pinching process, which compelled the families to live upon rye and buckwheat. Or if the rent was payable in money, much of the returns from their little dairies was swallowed up for this insatiable purpose. It followed therefore that when the farmers heard of movements in Albany and Rensselaer counties, in Columbia county, and even nearer at hand in Ulster and Schoharie counties, which promised to abate the evils under which they labored, they eagerly lent an ear to the suggestions of relief. Ambitious agents came amongst the simple-minded farmers, suggesting a combination not for the purpose of electing to the legislature members who would secure for them changes in the laws, which would have been legitimate, but encouraging and planning to resist forcibly the processes of law.

The least excusable movement was the organization, in imitation of their friends in Albany, in Rensselaer, in Columbia and other counties of disguised and armed bands of so-called Indians. The avowed object of these bands was to prevent the service of legal papers pertaining to the collection of rent, and to interfere in case sales of property for payment of rent were undertaken by the officers of the law. Most of the persons engaged in these Indian

bands were young and inexperienced, and were led into unlawful proceedings without due consideration. It was in this spirit that the outrages upon the Sheriff's officers in Roxbury were committed in 1844.

The legislature in 1845 passed a law making it unlawful for any person to appear in disguise, and if armed as well as disguised the person could be punished with imprisonment and fine. Several of those persons thus disguised and armed were captured and punished.

The fatal termination of these proceedings came in the summer of 1845. A farmer by the name of Moses Earl lived upon a farm in Andes about three miles from the village. It was a lease-farm belonging to the Verplanck tract, and carried a rent of \$32 a year. The rent had not been paid for two years, and the agent determined to collect it by Sheriff's sale. After one postponement the sale was fixed for August 7th, 1845. The Sheriff with a counsel, and with Under-sheriff O. N. Steele and Constable E. S. Edgerton, appeared to conduct the sale. A large body of disguised Indians—at least 200—were present and ranged themselves around the cattle which were to be sold. An order was heard given by one of the disguised chiefs: "Shoot the horses, shoot the horses." A volley followed which wounded the horses on which Steele and Edgerton rode. Instantly another order was given: "Shoot him, shoot him." Another volley followed and three balls struck Steele. One of these wounds was fatal, and he died after five or six hours.

Following this tragedy was an intense excitement. Meetings were held everywhere throughout the county to deplore and denounce the crime. Rewards were offered for the capture of persons supposed to have been concerned in it. The Governor declared the county in a state of insurrection, and troops were ordered to Delhi to maintain peace and guard the captured prisoners. A court was convened August 22, 1845, for the trial of those who were brought before it. Amasa J. Parker, who only a few years before had left the county to become a Judge, presided.



Oranger Lake, Ivesgreen

Spring Lake, Meredith

Wawaki Lake, Hilo, Hawaii





In all eighty-four persons were either convicted or confessed their guilt, and were sentenced. Two of the number, Van Steenburg and O'Connor, were found guilty of murder and sentenced to be hung. In neither case was it proved, however, that the prisoner had fired any of the shots. Under the circumstances Governor Wright commuted their sentences to imprisonment for life. All the prisoners were transported to the State prison, where they remained in confinement until the winter of 1847, when they were pardoned by Governor Young. There was much criticism of this act of clemency; but the lesson of obedience to law had been thoroughly learned, and not a breath of unlawful excitement has ever been uttered since then.

The Anti-rent question was still agitated, however; but the ammunition used was not bullets, and tar-and-feathers, but free discussion and votes. The Constitutional Convention of 1846 placed in the new instrument several provisions which served to cure some of the evils under which the leasehold system had labored. New laws were enacted by the Legislature which distributed the burdens of taxation more evenly. The clause in many leases which required a part of the price, in case of a sale by one tenant to another, to be paid to the landlord, was declared illegal and void. The question as to the validity of the titles by which the landlords held their lands were by direction of the Legislature taken into the courts by the Attorney-General. In two cases the matter was carried to the Court of Appeals and by it decided in favor of the validity of the landlords' titles. Thus the legal questions which had furnished legitimate grounds for the excitement were disposed of, and the county gradually subsided to its usual condition of quiet and good order.

The circumstance, however, which led to this peaceful solution of an angry question, was the almost universal sale of the fee-simple of the leased lands to the farmers. The experience of the landlords had been so unfortunate for a long time, that they were ready to put a very moderate price on the land, and to make very

easy terms of payment. On the other hand the tenants had had so severe and memorable a lesson upon the subject of rent-paying, that they were ready to meet the landlord at a point more than half way, and become the possessors of their farms. Vast tracts in the county in this way, which before were almost universally under leases, have since then become fee-simple farms. Such an agitation as prevailed in 1845 and 1846 would be impossible now.



## IX.

### The Civil War.

1861-1865.

A PERIOD of trial through which Delaware county had to pass was the war of 1861-5, which was fought for the preservation of the Union.\* The sentiment of the county was thoroughly stirred in reference to this war, and troops were contributed far in excess of the average for the whole State. It is unnecessary to explain here the causes of this bloody war. It is enough to state that the spirit of the North was unanimously enlisted in behalf of the government at Washington. We shall only enumerate the several bodies of troops which from time to time left the county to join the armies of the Nation in their effort to put down the rebellion.

1. The first body to leave the county was Company I of the 71st regiment. This company left Delhi June 4, 1861, under the command of Robert T. Johnson as captain. Their movement to the front was a continuous ovation. At first they moved to Camp Scott on Staten Island, where they were attached to the Excelsior Brigade (Sickles Brigade) as Company I of the Third Regiment. From this point they were transferred to a point near Washington where they were on picket duty during the winter. In the spring of 1862 they were attached to the Army of the Potomac, and from that time were engaged in many battles, viz: Seven Pines, Peach Orchard, Glen Dale, Malvern Hills, Bristow Station, Second Bull

\* For the facts collected in this chapter concerning the Delaware county troops in the Civil war I gratefully acknowledge my obligations to the *History of Delaware County*, 1880. The fullness and particularity with which the circumstances are stated are worthy of all praise.

Run, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg. No wonder that they were much cut up, and when after their volunteered service of three years they were discharged in August, 1864, but few of the original company returned to the county. The commander of this company, Captain Johnson was promoted to the rank of Major in the 144th regiment of N. Y. Volunteers, and though he was wounded, yet he still lives in honor of Delaware county's first contribution to the war. This company had at various times during its term of service a roster of twenty-one officers and eighty-three men.

2. The second organized body of Delaware county troops was a company which was raised in Colchester in May, 1861, by Captain William H. Elwood and Elbridge G. Radeker, who personally sustained the preliminary expense of the organization. As the body was not large enough to constitute a full company, it was consolidated with a similar company from Cattaraugus county, and assigned to the 71st N. Y. Volunteers. They too experienced much bloody fighting under General Hooker. They were engaged in the following battles: Stafford Court House, Siege of Yorktown, Fair Oaks, Savage Station, Charles City Cross Roads, Malvern Hills, Bristow Station, Second Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wapping Hills, Wilderness, Spottsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg. They served the full time of their enlistment, viz., three years, and were discharged in the spring of 1864. The portion of the company from Delaware county numbered thirteen officers and fifty-four privates.

3. As a third contribution Delaware county sent a company of cavalry, denominated in the war records as Company E of the 3rd N. Y. Cavalry. Fifty-five men were enlisted at Delhi and detachments were added at Walton and Hancock, so that the company numbered about one hundred men when it rendezvoused at Elmira in August, 1861. They were taken to the neighborhood of Washington and there subjected to the rigors of a winter's training. They formed a part of Major Mix's batallion, and were with

Burnside in his campaign in North Carolina in 1862 and 1863. From this they were recalled to the neighborhood of Richmond but again were sent back to North Carolina. They saw an immense amount of service, having been in thirty-five engagements. Their captain was Ferris Jacobs, jr., of Delhi, who in 1863 was promoted to Major, in 1864 to Lieutenant-Colonel, in 1865 to Brigadier General, with which rank he was mustered out at the close of the war. The company carried on its rolls living and dead thirty-one officers and one hundred and fifty-three privates.

4. The Ellsworth regiment was recruited from various localities throughout the State. Delaware county furnished a very considerable number, who were among the very best of this superb regiment. It was organized at Albany in the summer of 1861, under the military designation of the 14th N. Y. Volunteers. When it started to the front in October, 1861, it numbered 1,061 men. For a time the regiment was employed upon picket duty; but in time it had its full share of fighting. In 1862 it was engaged in the Second Bull Run, being almost annihilated in this bloody battle. It bore its part in other engagements as follows: Hanover Court House, Gaines' Mills, Turkey Bend, Malvern Hill, Antietam, Shepherdston Ford, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Middleburg, Gettysburg, Spottsylvania Court House, North Anna, Bethesda Church, Petersburg and Weldon Railroad. It was mustered out after the three years' term of service for which it had volunteered. Only fourteen officers and 160 privates returned to Albany, where they were welcomed home by Governor Seymour. All the rest including their gallant Colonel Rice were left on Southern battle fields.

5. The next contribution to be mentioned is the 8th N. Y. Independent Battery. It was organized at Newburg, October, 1861, the enlistment being for three years. Most of the men, but not all, were from Delaware county. The captain was Butler Fitch a Delaware county man. On its roster, including of course promotions and re-enlistments, were sixty-four officers and 402 privates, and thirty-two recruits and re-enlistments.

6. The 51st N. Y. Volunteers was formed by the consolidation of the Shepard Rifles (so called from Colonel Elliot F. Shepard), the Scott Rifles and the Union Rifles. They were organized as one regiment at New York in October, 1861, and set out for the front under the command of Colonel Ferrero numbering 850 men. They were placed in the brigade of General Reno, and went through the trying campaign of General Burnside in North Carolina. The following battles among others they shared in: Slaughter Mountain, Rappahannock Station, Warren Station, Manassas, Chautilly, Frederick City, South Mountain, Sharpsburg, Antietam, Banks' Ford, Vicksburg, Jackson, Blue Spring, Campbell Station, Knoxville, and Grant's Campaign against Richmond and Petersburg. The career of the regiment may in brief be stated as extending from Roanoake Island in 1862 to the surrender of Lee at Appomattox.

7. Company I of the 89th Infantry N. Y. Volunteers was originally mostly from Delaware county. It was raised in Delhi by Captain Theophilus L. England and First Lieutenant Robert P. Cormack. The company numbered eighty-two enlisted men. The remaining companies were mostly enlisted in the counties of central New York, and the regiment was organized at Elmira under Harrison F. Fairchild as colonel. Like many others of the Delaware county troops the 89th were called to participate in Burnside's North Carolina campaign. They shared in the following battles: Roanoake Island, Camden, South Mills, Newbern, South Mountain, Antietam (where out of 500 men engaged 200 were lost), Fredericksburg, Charleston, Fort Wagner, Fort Gregg. Under General "Baldy" Smith they were a part of the Army of the Potomac. They were present at Appomattox when General Lee surrendered in April, 1865. In all they were engaged in twenty-three battles. When they were mustered in in 1861 they numbered 980 men; and when they finished and returned home there were only 225 left.

8. The 101st N. Y. Volunteers was made up by combining two skeleton regiments, one raised in Delaware county and the other raised in Onondaga county. The consolidated regiment was sent to

the Army of the Potomac where it was so reduced by the casualties of war that it was consolidated with the 37th N. Y. Volunteers, taking the latter designation. After the terrible battle of Chancellorsville it was necessary again to consolidate the 37th with the 40th N. Y. Volunteers under the latter name. It was at last mustered out at the end of the war in July, 1865. It had participated in the following battles: Fair Oaks, Seven Pines, Seven Days' Retreat, Malvern Hill, Gainesville, Second Bull Run, Frederick, Md., Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Manassas Gap, Brandy Station, Rapidan, Culpepper, Kelly's Ford, Mine Run, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor, Ream's Station, Petersburg and Appomattox. Of the troops furnished by Delaware county in this consolidated and re-consolidated regiment there were of officers forty-one, and of privates 232.

9. The most complete organization which Delaware county furnished to the war was the 141th regiment N. Y. Volunteers. It was raised in the summer of 1862 when President Lincoln called for 300,000 more men to put down the rebellion. The utmost enthusiasm prevailed. Meetings were held everywhere throughout the county. Within twenty days from the time of the first movements the regiment was ready to be mustered in. It was moved at once to Washington in order to aid in the defence of the Capitol, and at the same time to be trained and disciplined into a hardy body of soldiers. In April, 1863, they were moved to Suffolk in Virginia which General Longstreet was then besieging. From there they were moved to West Point in Virginia. In July, 1863, they were ordered to the Army of the Potomac; but in August they were sent to South Carolina where they were present at the bombardment of Charleston and Sumter. In February, 1864, they were sent to Florida. Then later in the year they were employed in co-operating with General Sherman in his great march through the centre of the Confederacy. They were not engaged in as much or as severe fighting as some of the other bodies of troops from Delaware county. But they were present at a most important

period of the war, and when it came to an end in the spring of 1865, they were still an active and intrepid body of troops. They were mustered out of the service in July, 1865. The flags which had been given to them at Delhi when they left, they brought back with them when they returned. They were torn and shot through, and stained with blood, and worn with wind and rain. But they were precious relics of their campaigns and now are treasured with other mementos of the war in the capitol at Albany.

We close the account of the services of this regiment by some statistics of the organization:

The following were the *Colonels* from the beginning to the end of its service: Robert S. Hughston, David E. Gregory, William J. Slidell, James Lewis.

*Lieutenant Colonels*: David E. Gregory, James Lewis, Calvin A. Rice.

*Majors*: Robert T. Johnson, Calvin A. Rice, William Plaskett.

*Adjutants*: Marshall Shaw, Charles C. Siver, George R. Cannon.

*Quarter-Masters*: James H. Wright, Samuel Gordon, jr., Spencer S. Gregory.

*Surgeon*: John R. Leal.

*Chaplains*: Alexander H. Fullerton, David Torrey.

There were also the following numbers of other commissioned officers, and of privates in the several companies:

	Captains		22
	First Lieutenants.		33
	Second Lieutenants.		38
Company A	135	Company F	139
Company B	150	Company G	133
Company C	134	Company H	145
Company D	115	Company I	144
Company E	151	Company K	128

Total Field officers, Commissioned officers and Privates, 1,516



The Ghost of the Adams Family in 1904





Besides the above martial organizations which were contributed by Delaware county to the Civil war, there were many volunteers who joined regiments or companies which were raised in neighboring localities. Thus there were enlistments carried on along the Susquehanna river, and not a few of the boys from Delaware county were gathered into these centres. It is impossible to give the credit which is due for these patriotic contributions. But it may be affirmed without hesitation that no part of the State responded with more readiness and enthusiasm to the calls of the nation than Delaware county. For the sacrifices both in men and money which were made for the preservation of the unity of the country, the citizens of this generation may be justly proud of the patriotism of the past generation.



## X.

### Early Industries.

...

AS the county was developed by the labor of these industrious and intelligent pioneers the whole face of a neighborhood became transformed. The forest was crowded back and in its place appeared smiling fields of wheat and rye, corn and buckwheat, hay and potatoes. Apple orchards, plum trees, and currant bushes appeared on every farm. The log-house and barn gave place to frame buildings; horses displaced oxen in many of the services of the farm and the family. Roads were laid out and maintained throughout the county. Mills\* for grinding grain, which at first were few and distant, were erected at convenient places on streams which furnished water power. When these mills were well nigh inaccessible the pioneers had recourse to home made wooden mortars, which were dug out of a green stump large enough to hold a peck of grain. Over this was bent a tough sapling to which was tied a heavy wooden pestle. With this rough apparatus the farmer could break the husks from the grain, and even crush the kernels into a kind of rude meal.

Saw-mills were early introduced at many suitable mill-sites. These were generally erected near pine or hemlock forests, and lumber was cut by them for the new frame houses and barns which everywhere began to be erected.

For many years lumbering was one of the great industries of Delaware county. At many places both on the East and West

\*The first settlers in Harpersfield were compelled to go to Schoharie with their grain; those who settled in Middletown went to Kingston; and the Johnstons at Sidney ascended the Susquehanna and found mills at Cherry Valley.

branches of the Delaware river great rafting stations were maintained. The lumber was cut in the winter, and either prepared for rafting unsawed, or it was sawed into boards and joists and scantling. In the spring this lumber was built into rafts in a protected eddy of the river. Then the lumbermen taking advantage of the usual freshets of the spring started their rafts on the river. It was no easy task, and not wholly without danger, to steer the raft through the rough and sinuous current and past the sharp headlands and rocks. When the narrow part of the stream had been passed, usually below the junction of the two branches of the Delaware, the smaller rafts were joined together, four of the former making one large raft. In this fashion the raft was run down the whole length of the river to the great lumber market of Philadelphia. It is only necessary to add here that the lumber of Delaware county has long since been exhausted and instead of the supply being sent out in rafts by the rivers, it has now become necessary to bring it in by the car load on the railroads.

There were a number of minor industries which for a time were prevalent in the county, but which have gradually passed away and are no longer of consequence. 1. As long as hemlock timber lasted the tanning of leather continued. In many localities this was an important business, and in some has continued until very recent times. But the hemlock forests have now been completely demolished, and tanning has ceased to be of consequence in reckoning the available resources of the county. 2. When the forests were being cleared up, and when wood was the only kind of fuel immense quantities of wood ashes were produced on the farms. These were used in many and various ways. Soft soap for use in all farm purposes, was made by leeching wood ashes and producing a lye. This when combined with animal fat produced the well known soft soap, which farmers in early times almost universally employed. The wood ashes also were sold by the bushel to establishments where they were reduced to merchantable potash and pearlash, which were largely used in the arts.

The making of maple-sugar was from the earliest settlement of the county a prominent occupation. Even before the Harpers came to live in Harpersfield they had come thither in the spring of 1772 to obtain this crop. The town was so well supplied with maple trees that for a long time it bore the name of "the Bush" or the "Sugar Bush." Sugar was made in the spring of the year at the time when sap of the maple begins to ascend from the roots to the buds. The tree that is used for sugar-making is called the sugar maple (*Acer saccharinum*) which abounds in the northern part of the United States and Canada. An incision was made in the trunk of the tree two or three feet from the ground. To catch the sap which flowed from this incision a spile was inserted in the tree just below it; and from this spile the sap fell drop by drop into buckets or sap-troughs. It was gathered from these receptacles into a hogshcad, from which it was fed to evaporating pans. Then when reduced to the consistency of thin molasses it was transferred to a pot where it was still further reduced to a consistency which would when it was poured into moulds cause it to harden into cakes.

This maple-sugar was almost the only kind of sugar used among the pioneers, and is still manufactured in every part of the county where maple trees are to be found.

It soon became apparent that butter making was the industry best adapted to Delaware county. In general the soil was too stony and intractable for the raising of grain. Wheat was almost abandoned as soon as facilities for importing wheat flour became available. Rye continued to be raised, but usually not in quantities much more than sufficient to supply the wants of the farmer's family. Oats were needed both for man and beast, and even the rough soil and the short season were no impediment to the raising of good crops. Buckwheat and Indian corn and potatoes were also crops which were raised readily and freely, but farmers generally contented themselves with crops sufficient for home consumption. The main business of the farmer and his family was to make butter.

which always could be sold either in bulk or in small quantities for cash.

The great question in reference to every farm was, how many cows will it keep. This depended on two things, *first* the amount of pasture land which furnished food for the cows in summer, and *second* the amount of meadow land which furnished hay for the cows in winter. Grass and hay, these were the staple articles of food for the cows. There were, however, other foods which were sometimes used to supplement these. In the autumn when the grass was beginning to fail sliced potatoes and sliced turnips were fed to the milch cows. And in the spring when the cows had grown tired of hay, and the pasture was not yet ready for them, they were often fed with a mash of bran or crushed grain in addition to the hay which was their main diet.

Butter making was essentially the same in the early periods of the county as it is now. The cows,\* however, were much inferior as milk-givers to the present breeds, and the milk was much less rich in butter. The cows were usually the native cattle which had spread from New England, and were the miscellaneous crosses between cattle imported from Holland, Denmark, England and Scotland. They were small and generally active in climbing the hillsides of Delaware county farms. The average daily milking was from six to ten quarts. From this it was customary to make during the season at the very best about 100 pounds of butter. When these figures are compared with the dairy records of the present day they seem trivial. Now a good Jersey cow yields fifteen to twenty quarts of much richer milk, which if used for butter making will produce something like 250 to 300 pounds during the season.

The milk was poured into tin pans and these set in a cool dairy house until the cream had risen. Then the cream was skimmed

\* Professor E. B. Voorhees, director of the New Jersey Experiment Station who has given facts here mentioned, says the dairy cow of the Middle States was undoubtedly a descendant of the early importations from Holland 1625, from Denmark 1627, and from the West Indies into Virginia as early as 1609.

from the pans and put into the churn, where it was agitated with a dasher until the butter "came." Churning was a tiresome task when done by hand; but this was almost the unvarying custom in the earliest times. Later, wheels were constructed to do the churning, which were sometimes turned by a dog or a sheep and sometimes by the water of some convenient stream. The butter when taken from the churn had to be worked in a large wooden bowl with a wooden ladle in order to squeeze from it the milk which might cling to it. Then it was salted with fine salt and packed into the firkins or tubs in which it was carried to market. Nearly all this heavy work,—and it was heavy—was done by the women of the pioneer families; and by this means they bore their full share in the labor of maintaining the families and producing the means by which progress and prosperity were gradually spread throughout the new settlements.

The butter, as we have said, was packed in firkins holding from eighty to one hundred pounds; or sometimes in tubs made by sawing a firkin into two parts. A farmer kept these packages in his cellar until the cool weather of the autumn arrived. Then he loaded all his firkins into a lumber wagon, covering them carefully from the sun and the dust, and carried them to some place on the Hudson river, whence it could be taken to New York. At these places—Catskill or Kingston generally—there were butter buyers or commission merchants who were ready either to purchase the dairies for cash, or to take them to New York on commission. At a period a little later there sprang up a class of men in various central localities throughout the county who undertook to purchase their butter from the farmers at home, and thus spare them the long journey which they had been obliged to take. Still later and within a comparatively recent time, there have appeared creameries at many points, to which the farmers now carry their milk. These establishments treat the milk, the cream and the butter in the most approved methods, and have done much to raise the dairying industry of Delaware county to its present high character.



## XI.

### Roads and Railroads.

...

DELAWARE county is a completely inland county; no ocean or navigable river touches it on any side. More than this, it has a rough and mountainous surface, over which it is impossible to build far-reaching roads, or railroads of commercial value. Access to the county was in three principal directions: 1st, through the Shandaken mountains from Kingston into Middletown and the valley of the East branch; 2d, by the head-waters of the West branch through Schoharie and Greene county from Catskill; 3d, up the valley of the Delaware as it winds through the mountains, and then up either branch into the various valleys of the county. As fast as the county became settled of course roads were opened and settlements connected. At first these roads were little more than trails such as the Indians followed in going from place to place on their hunting excursions. But the new settlers brought wagons and horses with them, and these required wider roads, the trees to be cut down and the roots and rocks to be grubbed out, and bridges to be built over intervening streams. It is just to say that the roads in this county were never good. Along the principal streams the roads were cut through the soft alluvial soil, and were dusty in summer, muddy in spring and autumn, and only good in winter when they were covered with snow. The roads up the smaller valleys and over the hills were invariably rough and stony, every shower washing away the earth and leaving the stones more and more exposed.

The care of the roads was in the hands of a so-called path-master, who was elected to this office by the inhabitants of the road district. Each citizen was assessed for a certain sum proportionate

to the size of his farm. He was permitted, however, to work out his assessment upon the roads, either in hand labor or with a team and driver. As this was almost invariably his choice, the work was not always the best adapted to the wants of the highway. The pathmaster was generally ignorant of the best method in which to treat his district, and in consequence the repairs were very often mere waste labor which left the roads in a worse condition than they were in before. If the assessment had always been collected in money and that spent judiciously, the condition of the roads would have been much better, and the worry and annoyance would have been much less.

In later years turnpike companies have sometimes been formed to keep special roads in repair, for which they were authorized to charge toll. As a temporary expedient this no doubt was an advantage, and the roads thus cared for have proved a great benefit to communities. But it is a great burden to the farmers, and they are in general bitterly opposed to having the roads which they almost daily travel interrupted by toll-gates. It is the duty of the county, and of the State to provide good roads for its citizens. There is no duty more important or pressing at the present day than this, and it is specially incumbent in a county like Delaware which is not easily accessible to the great markets.

When the Erie Canal was constructed and opened in 1825 a new era was begun for the prosperity of western and central New York. Even the counties along the Hudson and the sea-port of New York city were vastly enriched. To connect such a sea-port with the interior of a great State, and by means of inland lakes with the very heart of the continent, was one of the greatest feats of economic statemanship which the world had seen.

But it seemed a grievance to the counties distant from the line of the canal,—and it still seems a grievance, that they who enjoyed no benefit from it, have been and are still obliged to contribute to the millions which it has cost to construct, to enlarge and to repair. Delaware county, removed as she necessarily was from the line of



Alpine Valley.

Meredith View.

At Shavert's.



the canal never received any direct benefit. She only profited from it in a general way by the building up of the great metropolis and the increase thereby of the demand for those products which she had for sale.

In common with the southern tier of counties across the State, Delaware county insisted with great urgency upon the construction of a railroad which should connect New York city with Lake Erie. Plans for building the N. Y. and Erie railroad were seriously discussed as early as 1825. Petitions for aid in the enterprise by the State were presented to the Legislature, and in compliance with these the Comptroller was authorized to loan to the company the sum of one million of dollars; one quarter of the sum when one hundred miles of the road had been completed, a second quarter when two hundred miles were completed, a third when three hundred, and the last when four hundred miles were finished. With this encouragement the stock of the road was rapidly subscribed for. Ground was broken for the beginning of the construction at Deposit in this county November 7, 1835. But the financial stringency throughout the country in 1836 and 1837 put an end for a time to the prosecution of the enterprise. But in 1838 the State again came to its aid by the grant of an additional loan of three million of dollars.

The physical difficulties of building a railroad through such rough and mountainous regions as the Delaware and Susquehanna valleys, were not at first fully realized. Twice the location of the track was changed, in order to avoid obstacles which had not been fully appreciated.

Unwisely the road was planned to have a broad gauge of seven feet instead of the ordinary gauge of four feet eight inches. This was in imitation of the great engineer Brunel who constructed the Great Western railway of England with a broad track, under the impression that all the competing and connecting lines would finally conform to the broad gauge. But when the importance of running cars from all roads over the Erie, and in turn of being able

to send the loaded cars of the Erie over the roads with which it connected, it became an urgent necessity to change to the narrower and standard gauge. The change was not made, however, until much later, and then only at a very considerable expense.

The Erie railroad only runs through a small part of Delaware county, following the Delaware river, entering from Sullivan county and leaving at Deposit. But even this inconsiderable contact was of infinite benefit to the county. Besides the aid it rendered to the towns immediately adjoining, many parts far to the east were much helped in having a better and easier communication opened up for them with the New York markets. Much of the travel which had before this sought an outlet eastward by long and mountainous routes to the Hudson river, now adopted this natural and easy route down the Delaware valley to Hancock. Many farm products which under former circumstances were not worth sending to market now became valuable and merchantable. This was the first step towards bringing Delaware county out into the world.

The next step was the opening of the Albany and Susquehanna railroad. This line was organized in 1851, receiving State and local aid towards its construction. It was finished to Oneonta in 1865, to Unadilla and Sidney Plains in 1866, and to Binghamton in 1869. In 1870 it was leased to the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company for one hundred and fifty years, and has since been operated as a part of its system. Although the Albany and Susquehanna railroad at no point enters Delaware county, yet as it runs for a long distance down the valley of the Susquehanna there are many places where it affords valuable facilities to portions of the county. From the station Emmons there was run for many years a daily stage by way of Elk Creek to Delhi. From Oneonta there was easy communication into the towns of Franklin and Meredith, and from Unadilla and Sidney Plains into the western towns of the county.

The third attempt to invade the solitude of Delaware county

was made by the New York and Oswego Midland railroad, now called the New York, Ontario & Western. This road was projected in 1865 and articles of incorporation filed in 1866. It was designed to reach from New York city to Oswego, by running through a section of the State not before traversed by railroad and thus to open up some hopeful regions which heretofore had been shut in by mountains. Much special legislation was needed to carry out this design. It plainly could not rely for success upon the subscription of stockholders who would risk their money in the enterprise. Henry R. Low, Senator from Sullivan county, and Speaker Dewitt C. Littlejohn from Oswego, were in the State legislature when the plans for building this road were under discussion; and by the powerful influence of these two men the needed legislation was procured. The most important of the laws passed was one enabling any town of a county through which the road was to pass to issue bonds for its construction,—the sum to be raised not to exceed thirty per cent. of the taxable property.

Much discussion occurred in regard to the location of the line. Some of the most earnest friends of the road insisted upon the main line being located through the village of Delhi. It was not an easy thing, however, to lay a line through the mountains of Delaware. Engineering questions are involved in it, and patriotic impulses must remain in the background. It was finally settled to make the main line cross the Delaware valley at Walton, and build a branch line to Delhi.

Mr. Littlejohn, who had been made president of the company, traversed the route from end to end, appealing to the several communities for their aid. As he was a man of endless resources and of most earnest and plausible address, he met with uniform success in inducing the towns to bond themselves. In the foreclosure proceedings instituted in 1879 the cost of the road is stated at \$26,333,000; of which sum the amount received from bonding the towns was nearly \$7,000,000, the towns in Delaware county furnishing \$660,800. For the town bonds thus issued stock was

returned by the company. This stock was wiped out by the foreclosure proceedings above referred to; and thus the towns were put in the position of making an absolute gift to this road. Who will say, however, that the benefits derived from it have not more than balanced the large outlay? Besides the amounts received from the towns, the company relied for building the road upon the stock subscribed for and on the amounts realized from mortgages. It is only necessary to add, however, that the road has never proved a financial success. In 1873 it defaulted on its interest and went into the hands of receivers. In 1880 it was sold to a new company who have re-organized it on a basis which enables it to pay its way. It is now called the New York, Ontario and Western railroad.

The fourth railroad which has penetrated the inhospitable regions of Delaware county is the Ulster and Delaware. This grew out of the disputes over the location of the Midland railroad. A strong party with Mr. Thomas Cornell at its head was very desirous of making the eastern terminus of this road at Kingston on the Hudson river, and of extending it westward through Ulster, Delaware and other counties. And when it was determined to build the Midland through Sullivan county and so northwest through Delaware, Mr. Cornell and his party set about building a road of their own. It was projected in 1865 and begun soon after. It was laid through a most intractable region, among the Shandaken mountains, over Pine Hill and then up to the head of the West branch of the Delaware. In 1870 the road was opened to Shandaken and at once developed a substantial business in carrying summer visitors into the Catskill mountains. In 1871 the road was over Pine Hill, the severest engineering obstacle it had to encounter. In 1872 Roxbury village was reached, and in the same year the village of Stamford. This was the highest point attained (1,888 feet). Here the Ulster and Delaware railroad halted for several years, although the original plans contemplated its extension through Kortright and Davenport. In 1884, it was carried down the valley of the Delaware to the village of Hobart, and finally in 1891 it was still



further extended to Bloomville where it now rests. This terminus is only eight miles from the village of Delhi.

Like the Midland railroad this also was aided by the towns through which it passed. Thus Middletown was bonded for \$100,000, Roxbury for \$120,000, Stamford for \$100,000 and Harperfield for \$100,000. To all these towns and to many not included in the list the road has been of immense advantage. The whole dairy industry of the eastern part of the county has been put upon a new and improved basis. The supplies of lumber, feed and flour which are required by the farmers and others are brought to them at a much less cost and at a more convenient distance.



## XII.

### Education and Schools.

THE PIONEER settlers in Delaware county were almost uniformly intelligent and possessed of the elements of education. The descendants of the Hollanders and Huguenots who came into Middletown although not at first hand from Holland, yet they brought with them the traditionary regard for schools, and early established them in their midst. It will be remembered that the first outbreak of the Revolution in Middletown was among the school-boys at the school, where the one called the other a "rebel." The New Englanders who came to Harpersfield, Roxbury, Franklin and Delhi, always after becoming settled in their homes made it their first duty to provide schools for their children. Nor were the Scotch immigrants, who came into Andes, Delhi and Bovina, behind the other nationalities in organizing schools, and maintaining them for the benefit of the rising generation.

The State of New York almost as soon as it was constituted, began to legislate concerning education. In 1795 the sum of \$50,000 annually was granted for five years for the encouragement of public schools. In 1811 five commissioners were appointed to organize a school system. In 1812 a public school system was organized with Gideon Hawley as superintendent. District schools were instituted to be mainly supported by rate bills. In 1821 the office of State superintendent was abolished and the administration of the school system entrusted to the Secretary of State. In 1849 a free school law was passed and submitted to the people who sustained it by a large majority. In 1851 the free school law was repealed and rate bills again introduced. Finally in 1867 a

free school law was again enacted which with occasional amendments has remained to the present. No dues are required from the attending children. The schools are supported, first, by public moneys received from the State, and second, by moneys raised by local taxation.

It may not be uninteresting to recall the district school of the early decades of the present century. It may safely be asserted that nearly all the school-houses of that time in the county were of logs. Indeed in the annual report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for 1892, there were still forty-five log school-houses in the State. And at a time when the greater part of the dwelling-houses were of logs it is not probable that the school-houses would be better. The log school house was a building almost square. It was made by notching the logs into each other and laying them so that the successive logs would be as close to each other as possible. The spaces between the logs were then plastered both on the inside and outside with a mortar made of common clay.

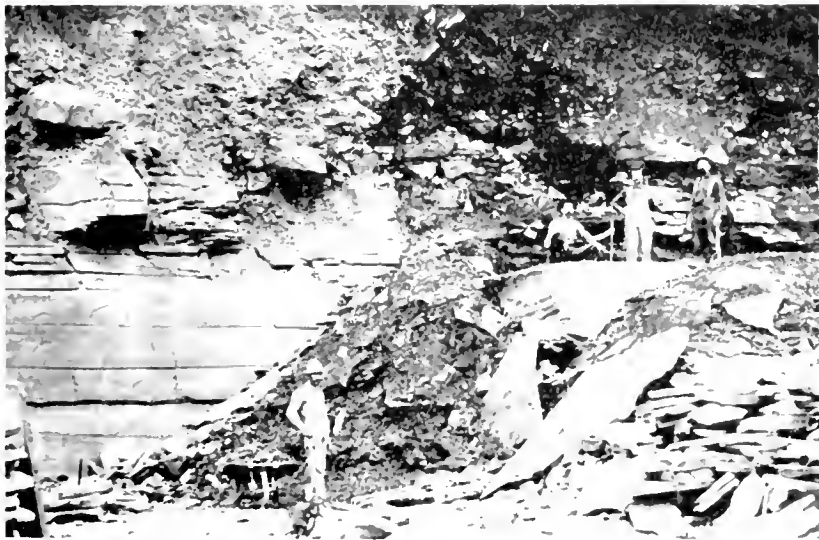
A chimney was built at one end of the oblong building, and an open fire-place furnished the only means of heating the room. A door was cut in the logs at one side of the chimney, and the corner on the other side was used for the storage of wood. A window was cut in the logs opposite to the chimney, which furnished the only light for the little room. Along this end was placed a high slanting shelf at which to write, with a slab seat for the accommodation of the writers. The seats for the other scholars were placed on the three sides of the room, but not across the chimney end. They also were roughly hewn slabs, each supported by four wooden legs. The teacher had the dignity of having a little separate table and chair, which stood at the end of the scholars' bench on one side. There was an open space in the middle of the floor, where the scholars stood up to recite their spelling and reading. The girls sat on one bench and the boys on another; and it was one of the terrible punishments for a mischievous boy to be sent to a seat among the girls.

In the winter time this school was attended by the larger boys and girls, as well as by a part of the smaller ones; but in the summer the work on the farms kept the older children busy, and then only the little ones were able to attend school. In consequence of this the teacher in winter was always a man and in the summer a woman. They were called respectively *Master* and *Mistress*. The wages\* of the winter teacher were probably about \$10 to \$15 a month for three months. And the wages of the young woman in summer were about a dollar a week. In both cases the teachers besides their wages in money usually "boarded round;" spending about a week at each of the families in the district.

School life at this little country school-house was most delightful and fascinating. There was a little brook near by where the boys used to wade and float their make-believe boats. There was a forest where they wandered, climbing the trees, picking wild flowers, and drinking from a cool spring. There was a wild honeysuckle shrub which grew in these woods, and in the season the boys would bring back from their excursions a little bunch of honeysuckle blossoms for the school mistress, which to their great delight she would put in an old ink stand and keep on her little table.

The school assembled at nine o'clock and was dismissed at four. There was a short recess at eleven o'clock; and then at twelve there was an intermission of an hour. Some of the scholars who lived near went home and got their dinner; but most of them brought lunch baskets with them, and at this intermission proceeded to enjoy what their mothers had provided for them. By far the most interesting part of school was this intermission. Nothing ever tasted so good as these simple lunches of bread and butter, a slice of cold meat and perhaps a raw apple. No enjoyment was ever so

In a history of the Settlement at Fall Clove in Andes there is a record that Robert Craig in 1842 was hired to teach the district school for three months at \$12 a month; also that Miss More was paid \$17 for teaching seventeen weeks. This same record also gives the information that \$34.34 was received from the State as public money for the support of the school; and \$8.63 as library money. *History of Delaware County, 1884*, p. 109.





intense as the plays and races and frolics which were indulged in during this noon hour. Although ball playing was not reduced to the system which has since made it the national game, I venture to assert that these school-boys got as much pleasure out of playing "two old cat" as the great professionals now derive from the most scientific game.

There is a queer subject of regretful remembrance which has remained with me to this day. Once the supply of lunch was more than I could dispose of. On my way home I hid a surplus piece of bread and butter in the chinks of a stone wall beside the road. No doubt the squirrels found it and made short work of my surplus lunch. But for a long time it worried me to think that I had thrown away this good bread and butter.

The plays and frolics outside of school were, as I have said, far more enjoyable than the exercises inside. There was a blackberry patch by the side of the road where we stopped to gorge ourselves. The patch was on the land of a farmer who being old and fat was accustomed to sit on the porch of his house. He would call to us to "clear out;" but knowing that he was too fat to chase us and too good natured to catch us, we did not remit our berry picking until we had enough.

What shall I say of what we learned in this little country school? Reading, spelling, writing and arithmetic, were the subjects on which we were employed. Webster's spelling book was the text-book for beginners in reading as well as in spelling. The scholars stood in a row and read or spelled before the teacher. Their ambition was stirred by "going up" and reached its supreme fruition by "standing head." Shame and disappointment followed them as they went down and reached the climax when at last they "stood foot."

Besides the reading matter which was in the spelling book, the older scholars read the English reader. Those who used it will remember the excellent, although somewhat difficult selections of which it was composed. The New Testament was, however, the

highest and chief reading book. They skipped the genealogies and some other hard chapters; but the sermon on the mount, and some of the chapters in the gospel of St. John were read and re-read until the reading was half of it reciting from memory.

Writing was only second to reading in respect to the amount of attention which it received. Copy-books with engraved copies had not yet been introduced in this country school. It was the duty of the teacher to set a copy at the top of each page. The pens were made from goose-quills, which preceded in universal use the more modern steel pen. It was quite an important and not always an available accomplishment of a country school-teacher to make good quill pens. We still have a reminiscence of this ancient and necessary skill in pen-making in the word "pen-knife," which persists in being used, although the thing itself has passed away for ever.

Ink too was not so easily obtained as now. In the stationery stores ink-powder was sold, which could be mixed with vinegar and water and thus made into a writing fluid. But more often the ink of the country children was made from the sap of the soft maple. This sap was drawn from the tree in the spring, at the same time as the sugar maple is tapped for its sugar-making sap. This sap when exposed to the air becomes black, and when boiled down and treated with copperas makes a dye for coloring black. When it is still further concentrated it forms a very respectable ink. This was what the scholars principally used; but occasionally some high-toned boy put the rest to shame by bringing ink to the school made from the ink-powder which his father had bought.

Arithmetic was never taught in classes. Each scholar proceeded on his own account to cypher through the arithmetic. The book in use during the early part of the present century was Daboll's Arithmetic. It was arranged under successive rules; for example, the rule of addition, the rule of subtraction, the rule of compound numbers, the rule of three, the rule of square root, etc. A scholar was expected to learn each rule by heart, and then work out all the examples under it. The teacher's business was to help him when



appealed to. He usually had a manuscript book containing all the examples correctly worked out, to which he turned in case of need.

Here is an advertisement of G. & R. White, 38 Maiden Lane, New York, 1804, enumerating some of the books and articles which were in use during the early part of the century.

Webster's Grammar.	Copy-books.
Murray's Grammar.	Writing Paper.
School Master's Assistant.	Pen Knives.
Cyphering-books.	Lottery Tickets and Shares.
Copper-plate Copies.	Bibles.
Ink-powder.	Testaments.
Dutch Quills.	Catechisms.
Sealing Wax.	Wafers.
Morse's Geography.	Slate-pencils.

I will close this sketch of the country district school with an incident which I am sure none who experienced ever forgot. The summer school-mistresses were usually young girls and often very bright and winsome; and of course the boys were devoted to them. One of these attractive school-mistresses was presiding among her uneasy little subjects on a summer afternoon in July. The air grew close and sultry, and the sky became covered with thunderous clouds. A fierce shower broke over the little valley. Lightning fitfully illuminated the dusky interior of the school-house. A deluge of rain poured itself upon the roof and walls, and easily found its way through a hundred gaping cracks. Both mistress and children were thoroughly frightened. They stood about crying piteously and pale with fear. Every blinding flash of lightning, followed almost instantly by the splitting and terrifying thunder, aroused a new paroxysm of weeping.

But the young girl was equal to the occasion. She got the school Bible from her desk and in the darkened room read with trembling emphasis the 18th psalm:

Then the earth shook and trembled,  
The foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken,  
Because he was wroth,  
There went up a smoke out of his nostrils,  
And fire out of his mouth devoured;  
Coals were kindled by it.

At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed,  
Hail stones and coals of fire,  
The Lord also thundered in the heavens,  
And the Highest gave his voice;  
Hail stones and coals of fire.

And as the comforting verses of the psalm were read the fierceness of the lightning and the rain abated:

With the merciful thou wilt show thyself merciful;  
With an upright man thou wilt show thyself upright,  
With the pure thou wilt show thyself pure.

The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness,  
For who is God save the Lord?  
Or who is a rock save our God?

The fright which had disfigured every countenance gradually faded away; and with the sunshine which followed the storm came back the bright cheerfulness which naturally belonged there.

In addition to the district schools which were established everywhere throughout the county, a number of schools of secondary grade have attained much prominence. The oldest of these is the Delaware Academy at Delhi. It was chartered in 1820, General Root being then a Member of Assembly from Delaware county. An appropriation of \$6,000 for its benefit was made by the legislature from the proceeds of the sale of the lands of Robert Leake, which had escheated to the State on account of his disloyalty in the Revolutionary war. The site for the first building was given by General Root, adjoining the site of the court house. Here it stood until the street was to be cut through, when the building was

moved back to the place where it now stands, occupied for private uses. In 1856 the present superb site was secured, and the three buildings erected, where the Academy has since been conducted. About \$40,000 was raised for these purposes, mostly on scholarships. Below is given the successive principals from the establishment of the Academy until the present time.

1. John A. Savage	1821-21
2. Frederick A. Fenn	1821-26
3. Thomas Farrington	1826-27
4. Stephen C. Johnson	1827-29
5. Robert Tolofree	1829-30
6. William J. Monteith	1830-32
7. Rev. Orange Clark	1832-34
8. Rev. Ebenezer H. Cressy	1834-37
9. Rev. Daniel Shepard	1837-46
10. William R. Harper	1846-47
11. Merritt G. McKeon	1847-54
12. John L. Sawyer	1854-63
13. Rev. Silas Fitch	1863-67
14. Levi D. Miller	1867-69
15. William Wight	1869-75
16. Sherrill E. Smith	1875-85
17. James O. Griffin	1885-90
18. Willis D. Graves	1890-98

The Delaware Literary Institute at the village of Franklin, was chartered by the legislature in 1835. The sum of \$7,000 was raised to purchase a site and erect a building. It was of stone, eighty by forty feet, and four stories high. The following were the rates of tuition at the beginning: For arithmetic, English grammar, geography and other common English branches, \$3 a term; for surveying, mensuration and other higher English branches, \$4 a term; for Greek, Latin, Algebra and Geometry \$5 a term, and for French \$2 extra.

Up to 1837 the male and female departments were conducted separately. Since that time they have been classed together. In 1838 the institution was received under the visitation of the Regents of the University and shared in the division of the Literature Fund. In 1851 a ladies' boarding hall was erected, of wood fifty-five by forty feet and three stories high. In 1854 the chapel was begun, eighty by forty feet and three stories high. In 1856 the original stone building was destroyed by fire, the insurance being \$3,000. And in the same year the chapel building which was in course of erection was blown down, so that it was necessary to rebuild it from the foundation.

The Delaware Literary Institute has from its beginning enjoyed a wide popularity, and has been the pride of the people of Franklin. Below are given the names of the successive principals:

1. Rev. William Frazer.	1836 38
2. Silas Fitch, jr . . . . .	1838 46
3. Rev. George Kerr, D. D	1846 60
4. Stephen Holden and Rev. Milan L. Ward . . . . .	1860 61
5. Oliver W. Treadwell	1862 65
6. George W. Jones	1865 68
7. Rev. Frederick Jewel . . . . .	1868 69
8. George W. Briggs	1869 74
9. E. M. Rollo	1871 77
10. Charles H. Verrill	1877 97
11. Elmer E. French	1897

The Fergusonville Academy is situated in the town of Davenport, on the Charlotte creek. It was founded by Rev. Samuel D. and Rev. Sanford J. Ferguson. Their residence in New York city led them to see the importance of providing sweet country school life for the growing boys and girls. The school was begun in 1848 and from the beginning was a great success. It was a purely boarding school, and the instruction was designed to train the

boys and girls to habits of virtuous living. Both the founders were clergymen of the Methodist Episcopal church, and their wide acquaintance in their denomination brought to them in this beautiful spot an abundance of patronage.

In 1856 the Ferguson brothers retired from the school which they had founded and James Oliver became the proprietor and manager. The school is now closed.

An Academy was begun in Deposit in 1830, but the building was destroyed by fire in 1835. Again in 1851 a seminary was built and incorporated under State laws. But it was not financially successful, and it was sold under foreclosure. The buildings were utilized by the village for a Union School connected with the public school system. With this Union School there is connected an Academical department, where secondary education is imparted.

The Andes Academy was begun in 1817 by William Stoddard. Mr. Henry Dowie bought the building and enlarged it in 1857. In 1862 a stock company was formed to which Mr. Dowie transferred the buildings and improvements. The principals have been in succession as follows:

- |                                                 |         |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. William Wight, who served only a short time. |         |
| 2. Rev. Peter Smeallie                          | 1862-67 |
| 3. Rev. James Smeallie                          | 1867-76 |
| 4. Rev. E. H. Stevenson                         | 1876-80 |

The Stamford Seminary was begun in 1849. A stock company was formed and a building fifty by thirty-two feet was erected. The school was opened in 1849 and John L. Murphy was appointed the first principal. He was a good teacher, but his financial management was not successful. In 1852 E. W. Boies was made principal but he only continued six months. Then Charles G. Churchill bought the property from the corporation, and for a time conducted it as a private enterprise. He in turn sold the buildings to Rev. O. F. Gilbert who for several years conducted the school with success. But he determined to re-enter the ministry, and sold

the school in 1861 to Rev. John Wilde who had before been connected with the Seminary at Deposit.

In 1866 Mr. Wilde sold the Seminary to S. E. Churchill, who made many improvements in the buildings. The school now was in a tide of success. In 1872 the Ulster and Delaware railroad was finished to Stamford, and everything connected with the little village had a boom. Mr. Churchill saw modes of making money more easily than by maintaining a boarding school. So he procured the incorporation of the institution in 1872 in order to enable it to receive the bequest of Samuel Judson for the establishment of a Free Library. The people of Stamford in order to continue their Seminary then raised a sum of money and erected a new and admirable building costing nearly \$12,500. Here the Stamford Seminary has rested from its wanderings, and remains as the pride and delight of the little village. It is now a Union Free School.

The village of Walton has been active in providing itself with secondary education. In 1853 an association was formed for the establishment of an Academy. The sum of \$3,500 was subscribed for the erection of a building. A site was donated and the building erected. The school was opened in the fall of 1853. In the year 1854 it was incorporated by the Regents of the University. It continued as an incorporated Academy till 1868, when it was transformed into a Union School under the public school system, with an Academical department arranged to give secondary instruction. The principals have been as follows:

1. Eli M. Maynard	1854 57
2. Marcus N. Horton	1857 61
3. Sidney Crawford	1861 64
4. Charles E. Sumner	1864 67
5. Strong Comstock	1867 70
6. T. D. Barclay	1870 72
7. Strong Comstock, (second time)	1872 92
8. James R. Fairgrieve	1892

### XIII.

#### Churches and Church Movements.

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A COMPLETE history of the founding and building up of the several church organizations in Delaware county would be most interesting. It could only, however, be undertaken after a prolonged investigation of the records of each of the bodies, and would be best done by persons writing each for his own denomination. What can here be attempted is to sketch the general movements by which the several denominations established themselves in the new county. It is left to the town histories to give the accounts of the several churches which have grown up in them.

It may in general be safely asserted that all the early pioneers were persons of religious convictions, and so far as possible brought with them their own church organizations and arrangements. With the New England settlers came the Congregational churches, which in many cases were transformed into churches connected with the Presbyterian body. From England and Scotland came many families who at home had been Presbyterians, and who in their new homes took measures to establish churches of their own kind. The "Great Awakening" which arose out of the preaching of George Whitefield, the Tennants and the Wesleys, had roused into activity the religious life of New England and the Middle States. And all who came from these quarters were imbued with a deep sense of dependence on an over-ruling providence. We leave it of course to the town histories to describe the special movements which led to the founding and development of particular churches. It will be sufficient here to give some general account of the principal religious bodies and the movements by which they became established in this county.

The Congregational churches with their peculiarities and political affiliations came with the emigrants from New England. Harperfield, Franklin, Meredith, Walton and other towns, were settled in part by New Englanders and the establishment of Congregational churches followed soon after. Thus in 1787 a church which afterward became Presbyterian was founded in Harperfield. It is now called a Congregational church. Others followed thus: in Franklin, 1763; Walton, 1793; Sidney, 1808; Deposit, 1812; Masonville, 1818; Davenport, 1825; Colchester, 1825; and Hancock, 1831. There was for a long time a mutual agreement between the Congregational body and the so-called New School Presbyterian church to co-operate in their pioneer work. It followed therefore that churches founded under New England influence often became connected with the adjacent bodies of the Presbyterian church. Presbyterian churches were founded as follows: In Delhi, the First Presbyterian church, 1805; in Masonville, 1820; in Delhi, the Second Presbyterian church, 1831; in Franklin, the Arabia church, 1832; in Stamford, 1834.

A class of churches, which may be termed Scotch Presbyterian, has arisen in many parts of the county. These were connected with the Associate, the Associate Reformed, and the Reformed Presbyterian bodies. In 1858 the two former bodies combined to form the United Presbyterian church, by which name the body is now designated. The families who associated themselves to form churches connected with these bodies were mainly from Scotland and the North of Ireland, who came into the county in the early part of the century. As has been explained this immigration began soon after the Revolutionary war and continued down as late as 1810. The Rutherfords, the Scotts, the Gladstones, the Fletchers, the Forests, the Murrays, the Elliotts, the Telfords, the Thompsons, the Archibalds and others all came from the South of Scotland; and the Lammonts, the McGregors, the McGibbons, the McLaurys also spelled McLaughry, McLaughbrys, McFarlands, McDoualds, McCrackens, emigrated either from the North of



Scotland or the North of Ireland. They were all protestant and chiefly Presbyterian in their religious affiliations. Hence in Andes, Boyna, Delhi and Kortright, where these settlers chiefly congregated, Scotch Presbyterian churches fast followed; At the Flats below Delhi in 1805, in Boyna in 1809, in Kortright in 1810, in Andes in 1833, and at Cabin Hill in Andes in 1835.

The Baptist church came without much external pressure. Whenever a few families of this faith found themselves within reach of each other they usually combined themselves into a church. The form of church government among the Baptists is congregational, so that it was possible for these little churches to spring up and flourish without dependence on any outside organization. The early Baptist churches may be mentioned as follows: In Colechester, soon after the Revolutionary war; in Harperfield, 1792; in Franklin, 1793; in Masonville, 1810; in Deposit, 1812; in Roxbury, 1816; in Sidney, 1817; in Meredith, 1818; in Tompkins, 1830; in Walton, 1833; in Delhi, 1812; in Hancock, 1858; and in Stamford, 1863.

The most numerous body among the churches in Delaware county is now no doubt the Methodist. They began the work of evangelizing in this region almost as soon as the Revolutionary war was ended. The machinery of the church is well adapted to the circumstances of thinly settled, poor and religious communities. The country to be covered is divided into circuits in each of which there are a number of preaching stations, situated so that one or two preachers (or circuit-riders) can visit them and preach to them as often as the number of stations will permit. Thus if a circuit contains ten preaching stations two circuit-riders are assigned to it; and if each of the preachers were to give the full Sabbath to each station, they would be able to visit every station once in five Sundays. With even these infrequent visits it would be possible to keep up the church organization, and stimulate it to a healthy activity and growth.

The work laid on these pioneer circuit-riders was most onerous

The long journeys required of them were chiefly made on horseback. They received so little pay that it was absolutely necessary for them to live and lodge at such homes as they could find among their own people. The circumstances connected with their long rides and their pressing services, made it impossible for them to read or consult books, or make any study of the original languages in which the scriptures were written. In the early days of Methodism it was rare to find scholarly men among the clergy. The character of their work made it impossible. They knew the English Bible, and this was almost the only book with which they were familiar. This must not be interpreted as the times of an ignorant clergy. The men who became eminent as preachers in the Delaware county circuits in the early days, were only to be called unlearned in the bookish sense. In all other respects they far outranked the clergy of cities and pavements, of books and libraries. From the fresh woods through which they traveled, from the silence and solemnity of nature they learned lessons more profound than books can teach. From the unspoiled children of the pioneer settlements they imbibed experiences far more instructive than can be found amid the centres of culture.

The movements which led to the establishment of Methodist churches throughout the towns of Delaware county began, as we have said, soon after the close of the Revolutionary war. It would be impossible to trace these movements from that early time through the century which followed. Before the third decade of the eighteenth century was finished, Methodism had obtained a lodgment in almost every township. And during the two decades which next followed, the churches had acquired a standing which has ensured their permanent growth and prosperity.

It will be sufficient in ending what we have to say about this powerful body, to enumerate the times when the churches were founded in the several townships. The first movement of which we have any record was in Colchester in 1795; it was in this township that Brainerd the great Indian missionary once preached

at a date even earlier than this. Then in 1800 Methodist churches were founded in Middletown, in Roxbury both at the village and at Moresville. Soon after this in 1802, and later in 1808 in consequence of the preaching of Nathan Bangs a church was begun in Walton. In Harpersfield movements were begun in 1808, but a church was not founded until some years later. Subsequent steps were taken and churches founded: in Franklin in 1818, and Croton in 1819; in Andes in 1820, but it was some years later before a church building was begun, which was occupied in an unfinished state in 1830, and completed in 1838; in Masenville in 1822; in Tompkins and Deposit in 1830; in Hancock in 1831; in Davenport and in Hobart in 1831; at Fergusonville in 1836; in Delhi in 1839; and in Boxina in 1849.

The Episcopal church began in Hobart in 1794, the village itself having been called after the celebrated Bishop Hobart of New Jersey. The second township to found an Episcopal church was Delhi in 1819, and others in the following order: Walton, 1830; Deposit, 1860; Franklin, 1865. The only meeting-house of the Friends, which, however, has not continued to the present, was begun in Harpersfield in 1810. A considerable number of Roman Catholic churches have come into existence within the last half-century. These have arisen chiefly in connection with the Roman Catholic population, which has followed the construction and administration of the railroads which have penetrated the county.

It has already been said that the Scotch immigrants who came into Delaware county brought with them the bias in behalf of the schools and churches which they had enjoyed in their old home. Their first effort was always to establish a school where their children could receive the elementary and useful education of which they knew so well the value.

Next to schools they invariably sought to establish churches for themselves and their families. They brought with them, however,

It is said that the work-bench was used as a pulpit and a potash-kettle as a stove.

all the church divisions that had arisen in Scotland. Within the little circle of Scotch friends, there were, for instance, the Associate church, the Associate Reformed church, and the Reformed Presbyterian church, which latter body was commonly called the Cameronian church. Each of these bodies had its separate organization and maintained a rigidly distinct system of worship. They did not exchange pulpits with each other, and never gave an invitation to the members of the other bodies to partake with them of the Lord's Supper. They all agreed in using the psalms of David for singing and the Westminster catechism for the instruction of their children. And yet in spite of these marks of conformity, they were strenuously and sometimes even bitterly opposed to each other on account of disputes which had arisen in Scotland and which did not in the least relate to their doctrines or their discipline in this country. Thus the Cameronians held that Christians ought not to take any part in sustaining or administering a government which was not conducted on religious principles. Hence the members of the Cameronian church never voted or took any part in the elections which were held in America.

The church concerning which the following recollections are given was connected with the Associate body. It was the first church established in the town of Bovina; but was followed soon after by another Scotch church of the Cameronian persuasion. The building was as ugly as could be imagined. It was almost square, without ornaments or projections, or steeple. It was a frame building, clap-boarded, and had been painted of a snuff-brown color. The paint, however, had long since been washed away, and the boards left of a natural wood color.

The inside, that is the galleries, the pews and the pulpit, was finished in unpainted pine. At the front of the church there were two doors from the vestibule into the open air. From the vestibule two uncarpeted stairs ascended to the galleries. Two doors led into the main body of the church, near which stood two stoves burning wood when the weather required them. The gallery

extended around three sides, and on the fourth side opposite the entrance stood a high pulpit. Directly in front of this was a second and lower pulpit for the precentor. The pews were partly narrow sittings and partly square boxes with seats around three sides. The services never being held in the evenings, there were no arrangements for artificial lighting either by candles or lamps.

The preacher in this church was a Scotchman who had immigrated to America when he was still a young man, having just finished his theological studies. He was a man of fair abilities, and devoted to his work and his flock. It is impossible to say how much salary he received, but certainly it must have been quite small. As he grew older and his children increased in number and size he found it necessary to purchase a farm on which he lived during the last years of his pastorate.

The church services began at ten o'clock and were of the ordinary Scotch Presbyterian character, consisting of singing, reading the Scripture, extemporaneous prayers and a sermon. The whole service lasted about two hours, of which the sermon constituted quite one-half. The preaching was always without notes: as indeed the preaching of all the Scotch ministers of that day was. At the close of the morning service there was an intermission of an hour: during which the people scattered under the trees and among the wagons in which they had come to church. They employed the hour faithfully in eating the luncheon which they had brought with them, in discussing the sermon, and in exchanging the harmless gossip of the week. There was a delightful, cool spring near the church, and nearly everyone took occasion to visit it during the intermission and to drink from it with a tin cup which was always kept there.

The afternoon service began at one o'clock, and lasted about an hour and a half. It was exactly like that of the morning with the exception that several of the parts including the sermon were a little shorter. The people scattered on foot and in wagons as they had come. The wagons were nearly always the lumber wagons

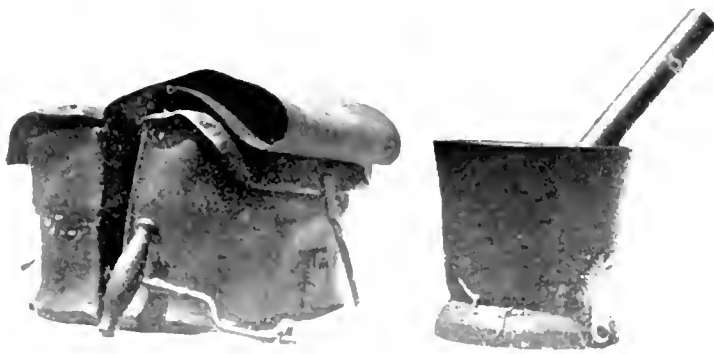
which the farmers used on their farms. They were provided with a spring seat in front on which the driver and another sat, and then with board seats placed across the box of the wagon. I suppose that in very early times these wagons were sometimes drawn to church by oxen, but in my time only horses were used, and often very good horses at that.

The music in the church was of a very limited and old-fashioned description. There was no instrumental music allowed in any of the Scotch Presbyterian churches of that day; and to a great extent the same is true to this day. The human voice, in the opinion of these good people, was good enough for the praise of God in his sanctuary. The precentor who led the singing was a Scotchman who had learned what he knew about music before he left his native land. The number of his tunes was not large, perhaps a dozen in all. They were all Common Metre tunes except Old Hundred. They used Rouse's metrical version, in which all the psalms are rendered in common metre, except the one hundredth which is long metre. As far as I can remember the following tunes,\* with others, were used: French, Coleshill, Bangor, Martyrs, Dundee, Newton, Elgin, York, Mears, Irish, Old Hundred.

The tune Ortonville was introduced during my day at the Scotch church. But it had the unpardonable fault of repeating the last line. This was contrary to the spirit of the New Testament and was a "vain repetition." So the precentor reduced Ortonville to orthodoxy by omitting the repetition of the last line.

A Sunday school was started in this Scotch church probably about 1840. It was the result of a general movement which was then taking place throughout the country in favor of the establishment of Sunday schools. It was held at the intermission, and the exercises were strictly in accordance with the doctrines and usages of the church. The children who composed the classes were

\* My readers will remember the sketch of "Jeems the Door-keeper" in *John Brown's Spare Hours*. The tunes he used in his solitary family worship were French, Scarborough, Coleshill, Irish, Old Hundred, Bangor, and Blackburn.



Horse Saddle and Pot.



Spinning Wheel and Chair.





required to commit to memory chapters of the Bible, the psalms in verse, and the Shorter Catechism. The parts of the scripture which were commonly learned were: the 12th chapter of Ecclesiastes, the 53rd and the 63rd chapters of Isaiah, chapters from the Proverbs, chapters from the Gospels, and from the epistle to the Hebrews. As a matter of course the children also were required to repeat the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed and the Ten Commandments. These they had probably learned at home in accordance with the invariable Scotch custom. But many children who belonged to families who were indifferent to religious instruction, obtained in this Sunday school the training which implanted in them the seeds of religious faith.

It remains to describe one of the peculiar institutions of the Scotch church as it had been derived from the practices in Scotland. This was the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The usual custom in American churches of Scotch origin was to celebrate this ordinance twice in the year, in the spring and in the autumn. It was so extended and laborious a series of services that the minister of a church always sought assistance. And as this assistance could only properly come from ministers of the same body, it was sometimes no easy matter to obtain the help that was needed.

The first day of the celebration was Thursday which was kept as a fast-day. Meat and foods of a similar kind were generally abstained from, but the day was not kept as an absolute fast. A service was held in the church in the morning, when a sermon was preached either by the pastor or by the minister assisting him. Then there was a service on Saturday morning, when another sermon was preached. After the service was over the members of the church passed in line in front of the precentor's desk, where one of the elders stood and gave to each a "token," the possession of which entitled the holder to sit down at the Lord's Table. No general invitation was given to the members of other churches, and only members of this particular church were entitled to tokens.

The tokens were little bits of chipped flint, on one side of which had been cut the letters J. C. (Jesus Christ.)

The principal service was held on the Sabbath, when usually the visiting clergyman preached a discourse which was called "fencing the tables." The object was to point out and declare the sins which would debar the members from sitting down at the Lord's Table. Often this was a most solemn and almost a terrifying discourse. The extemporaneous Scotch eloquence penetrated to the hearts of the people, and faces grew pale and hands trembled, and sometimes suppressed sobs told of the searching impression which this discourse was making.

After this discourse the communicants sat down at the table which had been spread through the middle aisle and across the space in front of the pulpit. When all of the communicants could not be accommodated at one table, a second was served immediately after the first. An elder passed along the table and took up the tokens which had been distributed the preceding Saturday. The bread was then passed along the table by another of the elders, after which one of the ministers spoke a few words of pathetic comfort. Then in like manner the wine was passed along the tables, and the other minister made a short address. The usual intermission followed, and the afternoon service was held as on other Sundays.

The communion season was closed by a service on Monday morning, when one of the ministers preached, applying with great power the lessons of the occasion.

## XIV.

### Early Physicians.

...

IT is a puzzle to any one to understand how the early settlers in this and other counties got on so well without doctors or with such very poor doctors. In the early history of the colonies there was no cessation in the birth of children or in the sickness and death of both old and young. Even more than the usual amount of accidents must have occurred, calling for the aid which only a doctor can afford. It helps to explain this difficulty, when we remember that the pioneers who migrated into the new settlements of America were mostly young and well and strong. The old and feeble would not undertake so perilous an enterprise. And though nothing could prevent the well from becoming sick, and the sick from dying, the danger from such sickness and death would be much less than in the old communities from which they came.

It must, however, be taken for granted that nature performed most of the cures in those early days as indeed she probably does still. Doctors stood by then as now and administered what they deemed very important remedies, but which after all had but little to do with the cures which nature wrought out by her own medicaments. In the 17th and 18th centuries, when most of the colonizing in America took place, medical science was in a most defective condition even in progressive nations like England and Holland. The medical theories which then prevailed have long since been abandoned, and most of the remedies which were then relied on have given place to others.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes in an address delivered in 1860 makes some trenchant remarks concerning the remedies which even then were in use. He says: "Throw out opium which the Creator

himself seems to prescribe: throw out a few of the specifics\* which our art did not discover and is hardly needed to apply; throw out wine which is a food, and the vapors which produce the miracle of anaesthesia, and I firmly believe that if the whole *materia medica*, as now used, could be sunk to the bottom of the sea, it would be all the better for mankind,—and all the worse for the fishes."†

The chief resource of the pioneer families in all that pertained to sickness and wounds, was the skill of the mother. She had inherited from her ancestors a knowledge of all the common diseases which were liable to attack her children, and she kept on hand a supply of the medicines which were thought to be the specific remedies for them. If there were cuts or bruises or burns within her domain, she knew how to stop the bleeding, soothe the pain and care for the wounds until they were healed. There were occasions, which were beyond, or apparently beyond, the resources of such homely skill. And there is no doubt that in some such cases death or deformity were the results, which a more trained skill and a more penetrating diagnosis might have warded off.

Besides the mother's skill there was in almost every settlement some man or woman of more than common reputation for curing diseases or healing obstinate wounds and sores. It was commonly believed that there was for every malady, whether it was a bite or sting or bruise or pain or fever, some enervative plant which nature had provided. Animals in their natural state knew these cures by instinct. A sick dog ate grass. A cat found its cure for almost every ailment in catnip; and all animals of the cat family, such as the tiger, the panther and the lion have the same almost insane liking for this plant. Many animals, it was believed, had an instinctive knowledge of the plants which would be an antidote to the bites of poisonous snakes. And it was inferred that men who came nearest in their modes of life to wild animals, would in like

\* He names among these specifics: Cinchona, Mercury, Arsenic, Colchicum, Sulphur and Iron.

† *Currents and Counter-currents*, pp. 38, 39.

manner approach them in their knowledge of curative herbs. Thus some old solitary Indian who had become disconnected from his tribe, or some half-crazed old man or woman, was sure to be believed to have miraculous medical powers, and often spent his time in searching for herbs out of which to extract specifics for human ailments.

But physicians were not far behind the pioneers in our American settlements. Dr. Le Baron came with the Mayflower, and Dr. La Montague came over in 1629 with a colony of Walloons to New Amsterdam.\* The French and Indian war (1754-63) brought into the country a considerable number of doctors of a more skilful sort. They came as surgeons of the British troops which were sent over. Many American practitioners and nurses were associated with these military surgeons as so called "Surgeons' Mates," from whom they learned much of their skill in surgery, and a better knowledge of diseases and of the remedies applicable to them. Some of these English surgeons remained in the country after the war was over, and composed an appreciable element in the causes which served to advance the medical profession in the American Colonies.

It is worth mentioning also that very many of the clergy in the early times were more or less skilled in medicine. The wants of the sick came naturally under their notice, and for this reason not a few of them were educated in both professions, as missionaries of the present day are trained, in order that they might be prepared for the circumstances of the pioneer settlements. Rev. Jonathan Dickinson of Elizabethtown, whose chief fame was as a theologian and as the first president of the College of New Jersey, had a high reputation as a physician. A notable description by him of the terrible disease called throat distemper in his day, but

\* It was the custom in the early times as well as more recent, to deride the physicians of the day. Dr. Douglass, a noted and sarcastic doctor of Boston in the 18th century, mercilessly abuses the practitioners of his day. He quotes against them the declaration of the Apocrypha: "He that sinneth against his Maker, let him fall into the hands of the physicians."

which is now known as diphtheria, shows him to have been a physician as well as a theologian.

The chief difficulty lay in the want of some legal requirement for licensing medical practitioners. In the first years of the present century there was nothing to prevent any ignorant pretender from assuming the standing of a doctor, and practising among an unsuspecting community. The establishment of the State Medical Society in 1806 was the first step taken by reputable practitioners to protect the communities from such mischiefs. The same law which provided for the formation of the State society, provided also for the organization of county medical societies, and gave them authority, through censors to be chosen by them, to determine who were fitted to enter the profession. Within a few years medical societies were formed in almost all the counties of the State, and the medical profession was organized into a compact and homogeneous body. The physicians of Delaware county met to form such an organization July 1, 1806. Dr. J. H. Brett of Harpersfield was chosen president; and a board of four censors was named which was authorized to examine and license those who should make application to them. This venerable county society still exists and prospers, and to it the satisfactory condition of the medical profession must in a large measure be attributed.

The Dr. J. H. Brett mentioned above is closely connected with the organization of the county. He was a resident of Harpersfield when that township was a part of Otsego county. And he was a member of the State Legislature when the act organizing the new county of Delaware was passed. He gave up in great part the practice of his profession and was appointed County Judge. He held this position from 1797 to 1810. It was during this period when he was both doctor and judge that he became the first president of the newly organized county medical society. Another of the first physicians of the county was Dr. Platt Townsend who was one of the pioneers of Walton. In 1784 he purchased from Mr. Walton who had come into possession of a large patent of lands

along the west branch of the Delaware river, a tract of 5,000 acres. He was a resident of Dutchess county, but a native of Connecticut. In 1785 he removed to Delaware county with a colony of twenty persons, and there established the settlement now known as Walton. He was known as a large landed proprietor, but still better as a skilful and sympathizing physician.

The names of a few other physicians have come down to us in connection with the history of the county. Thus we have, Dr. Asahel E. Paine of Kortright, who was the father of General Anthony M. Paine the founder of the Delaware Gazette; he was president of the County Medical Society in 1816; Dr. Thomas Fitch of Delhi, who immigrated from Connecticut in 1803, and lived about four miles up the river where the familiar name of Fitch's bridge still recalls him; he was present at the formation of the County Medical Society in 1806; Dr. Ebenezer Steele, who was born in Walton in 1793, and joined the County Society in 1821; Steele's brook is a perpetual reminder of him. To these familiar names we may add Dr. Almiron Fitch born 1801, and Dr. Ferris Jacobs born in 1802, both of whom were eminent practitioners within the memory of men still living.

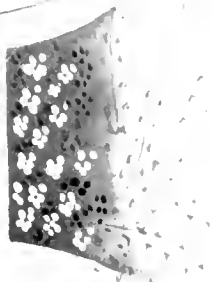
It may be of interest to add some reminiscences of the doctors whom the writer knew in his boyhood. This will show better than anything that I can write the relations of the profession to the community. The first of these country doctors was a Scotchman, named Walter Scott. He had migrated from Scotland some years before I had much occasion for his medical skill. It was usually said that he never had been educated as a regular physician or had taken a medical degree. But he had been a student at the University of Edinburgh and he showed in all his character and life the culture of a scholar. He had for a time served as a gardener to a practising physician; and in this position he employed his leisure in reading his master's professional books, and in picking up the odds and ends of his practice. He was a natural physician; and when he settled in the little Scotch neigh-

borhood he quickly came into notice as a most useful and skilful man. In this neighborhood the ailments were chiefly a few bruises and cuts, now and then a case of colic from eating green apples, and as a more serious event a broken bone which had to be set and bandaged. In all these contingencies the Doctor, as he was universally called, soon attained a very notable reputation and won the confidence of all the families whom he served. He was a most kind and amiable man, and an entertaining friend and companion. His figure was spare and tall and slightly stooping. His face was thin and tanned with the sun. He took snuff in the old fashioned abundant way; and our first warning of his approach to the house was generally the trumpet like call with which he prepared himself for a new charge of his favorite ammunition. His eyes had a pleasant twinkle, and his conversation was varied and musical and thoroughly Scotch.

Such was the man who was called to attend me in a serious accident, the results of which kept me in bed for almost two years. He had infinite pity for the poor little invalid, and I can still see the kind old face as he bent over me. When I began to mend he brought me one day a little book, entitled the *Life of George Washington*. It was a tiny little book, bound in boards and was a fair sample of what was written for children in those days. I had not yet learned to read, and he told me that when I could read the first page,\* the book should be mine. So I struggled bravely for many weeks and perhaps months, until at last I earned its possession. In some unexplainable way I have preserved this quaint little volume, and as I write these lines it is lying before me with my name written in it many times in every possible fashion of boyish hand-writing.

\* This is the first page: "In the history of man, we contemplate with particular satisfaction those legislators, heroes and philosophers, whose wisdom, valor and virtue have contributed to the happiness of the human species. We trace the luminous progress of those excellent beings with sweet complacency. Our emulation is roused, while we behold them steadily pursue the path of rectitude in defiance of every obstruction. We rejoice that we are of the same species, and thus self-love becomes the handmaid of virtue."





In the Trempealeau  
On the river at

Strider Lake,  
Near Wauqueville



The good old doctor at last became infirm and unable to visit the families who needed his assistance. It was a common saying among the circle of his practice that: "There's nae guid a bein sick noo, sin Doctor Scott canna come tae see us." At last he died amidst the universal sorrow of the little Scotch neighborhood which he had so faithfully served, a sorrow which could only be compared to that which pervaded the parish of Drumtochty when Dr. McClure died and was buried, as Ian Maclaren has described it in the *Bonny Briar Bush*.

Fortunately a young man had been in course of training to take Dr. Scott's place. He was a son of one of the original Scotch settlers of the neighborhood. He had studied medicine with Dr. Almiron Fitch in Delhi and had been graduated by the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. He established himself in the practice of medicine about the time that Dr. Scott's disability made it necessary for him to retire. And although the proverb about a prophet being without honor in his own country was often quoted against him, he gradually won the confidence of the families who had trusted in his predecessor, and of many families far beyond the precincts of his neighborhood.

The equipment of the office of a country doctor of that day was not specially elaborate. There was in this one a human skeleton, which was hung in a closet and was the terror of the small boys who had the run of the office. The medicines consisted of such common remedies as: ipecac, opium, rhubarb, castor-oil, calomel, jalap, Spanish-flies, valerian, belladonna, Peruvian bark, gentian, etc.\* Many of the medicines were made into pills in the doctor's own office. A mortar and pestle were a very necessary implement, and the energy of the office boy and often of the doctor himself were employed in compounding the pills that might be needed.

\* Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes pictures the physician of his early days as "he would look at the tongue, feel the pulse, and shake from his vials a horrible mound of ipecac, or a revolting mass of rhubarb—good stirring remedies that meant business, but left a flavor behind them that embitters the recollections of childhood."

Besides the standard medicines there was always in the office of a country doctor a supply of the surgical instruments which might be wanted. A country doctor is a poor stick unless he can perform the ordinary operations which the exigencies of his practice call for. He must be ready to undertake them without delay and with a firm confidence in his own ability. Broken bones must be set. Bleeding wounds must be stanchcd and stitched together and put in the way of healing. Crushed limbs must be amputated, and the doctor must do it or the man will die.

There was an old-fashioned implement called a turn-key which some will remember as being in use for the extraction of teeth. If the patient was young the doctor put him on a low stool and took his head between his knees. Then he cut the gums away with a scalpel, and applied the fangs of the turn-key to the outside of the tooth. May the Good Lord direct him to the right tooth! When all was ready he gave the instrument an infernal twist, which seemed to the miserable and helpless patient to be unsettling the foundations of the universe. But the paroxysm was of short duration. He was soon released from his confinement, his mouth washed out, and a wad of cotton sopped in creosote inserted in the toothless cavity. Then he was dismissed from the office feeling himself a very much humiliated and demoralized individual, if indeed he was an individual at all.

Bleeding in the early part of the century was regarded as the universal resort in every kind of fever and inflammation. It was a common belief that horses ought to be bled in the spring to prevent a so-called spring fever which otherwise was sure to affect them. It was the theory then held, that a fever was a congestion of blood, and therefore the appropriate remedy was to draw from the sufferer some of the troublesome surplus. A case of inflammation, as of the lungs, the bowels or the throat, was to be treated in the same way. I have seen a man suffering from severe colic bled profusely until he grew faint and the pain abated. The lancet was the universal companion of the doctor. He carried it with him on

every occasion, and was ready at a moment's warning to whip it out and draw off a bowlful of surplus blood. It is remarkable how completely this remedy has been superseded. The practitioner of the present day never thinks of drawing off the blood of his fevered patient. His effort is to supply foods and drinks which will make for him more blood, instead of taking away his already impoverished supply.

When I was preparing for college at a preparatory school I lived for a time with a country doctor, who enjoyed a large country practice. I remember well when he came home from a meeting of the County Medical Society, bringing with him a bottle of chloroform, with the wonderful story that it would render patients insensible to pain during the severest operations. That was the first time I had ever heard of anaesthetics. And we tried it. One of the boys breathed the vapor until he became apparently insensible; and the rest of us pinched him, stuck pins in him, pulled his hair and tweaked his nose, until we had assured ourselves that anaesthesia was no delusion. Thus one of the miracles of modern surgery had been wrought before our eyes.

The most serious medical experience that I remember was encountered when I was living with this same doctor. A child had been born with a hare-lip in one of the families within his practice. After the child had grown sufficiently, the doctor wished to perform the usual operation to close up the opening. He asked me to go with him to aid him. I did not in the least understand what the operation was like; or I certainly would have refused. And although chloroform was known to him, he did not venture to use it in the case of this child. It turned out to be my duty to hold the screaming baby firmly in my arms, while the doctor clipped off the edges of the opening and stitched them together. I think *that* experience has served me for a life-time; and I cannot to this day witness severe surgical operations, even when performed under the influence of anaesthetics, without feeling an uncontrollable repugnance.

The usual method of traveling over the rough country roads by the doctor was on horseback. Sometimes, however, he used a buggy when the roads were such as to permit that kind of locomotion. When he went on horseback he carried a pair of saddle-bags swung across his saddle. This consisted of two leather-covered boxes containing in separate compartments little bottles of pills, powders and liquid medicines; and also a few surgical instruments which were most frequently called for.

I close this chapter with a tragical occurrence such as sometimes takes place in the experience of a country doctor, whose practice, however, is mainly simple and uneventful. About four o'clock in the afternoon a boy was seen galloping up the street of the little village, his horse covered with lather, and his face almost as white as the foam which flecked the flanks of his horse. He drew up in front of the doctor's office, sprang to the ground and holding the bridle in one hand opened the door, and called in with a trembling voice: "Doctor, a tree has fallen across my father when he was chopping; one of his legs is broken and the other is terribly crushed." In five minutes the doctor gathered together the instruments he might need, including those for amputating a limb, and not forgetting a bottle of brandy. In five minutes more he was mounted on his fleet-footed little mare and was galloping back with the frightened boy. The farm was five miles off, up a steep road and then along a difficult piece of cross-road. But the horses took it without pause or falter.

Early next morning you might have seen the weary doctor riding slowly back. He had done for the poor man all that his skill enabled him to do. But he knew too well the terrible chances which menaced him, and his head hung sadly on his breast and his heart sank with apprehension.

Next Sabbath morning a notice was read in Scotch church, announcing the funeral of Donald Knox who had been crushed by a falling tree and had died from his injuries.

## XV.

### Biographical Sketches.

...

#### COLONEL JOHN HARPER.

JAMES HARPER, the grandfather of Colonel Harper, emigrated from the county of Derry, in Ireland, and arrived with his family at Casco Bay in Maine, in October, 1720. There he settled; but a war having broken out with the Indians he removed to Boston, Massachusetts, with his family except his youngest son John, who remained for the defense of the Province, continuing in the service against the Indians about three years and eight months. After his discharge he went first to Boston, and afterward to Hopkinton, Connecticut, where he married Abigail Montgomery, November 8, 1728. From Hopkinton he removed to Nodell's Island near Boston, where was born William, his eldest son, September 11, 1726. James, the second son, was born March 26, 1731. Mary, the eldest daughter, was born January 23, 1733. John, the third son, was born May 31, 1731. Margaret, the second daughter, was born February 7, 1740.

In 1744 the family removed to Middletown, Connecticut, where Joseph, Alexander and Abigail were born between that time and 1747, when they removed to Windsor, Connecticut, where another daughter, Mirriam, was born February 14, 1749.

John Harper and his family removed from Windsor to Cherry Valley, then in Albany county in the Province of New York, in 1754, where they purchased a piece of land which they immediately commenced to clear and cultivate.

The father and mother and their eight children were all intelli-

\* This sketch is prepared by Mr. Allen S. Gibbs of Harperfield, and is taken from the history of the town of Harperfield.

gent persons, and the names of most of them are intimately connected with the great struggle for independence. All then living were patriots, and after our independence was acknowledged, were prominent in their several localities.

William, the oldest son, was a Member of the Provincial Congress, one of the judges of Montgomery county, and after Otsego county was formed was one of the Associate judges of that county. He was also Member of Assembly from Tryon county for the years 1781, 1782 and 1784, and from Montgomery for 1785-1789. He married Margaret Williams of Albany, April 13, 1760. His long and useful life ended at the age of eighty-seven in Milford, Otsego county, New York.

James, the second son, died of small pox, March 22, 1760.

John Harper, Jr., the founder of Harperfield, was distinguished for his bravery and sagacity during the war of the Revolution, when he held a commission as Colonel. He was married to Mirriam Thompson, by whom he had four children—Archibald, Margaret, John and Ruth. John, born July 10, 1774, was the first white male child born in Delaware county.

During his youth Colonel Harper attended a school at Lebanon, Connecticut, and while there became intimate with a young Indian who afterward became the celebrated chief and warrior, Joseph Brant; and who, although his name has always been held up as the synonym of savage cruelty and outrage, there is much reason to believe has been greatly misrepresented by writers whose partisan spirit was too much excited to do him justice, and who were disposed to hold him responsible for the cruelties committed by Indians under his command. Were this true, it seems certain that so strong a partisan as Colonel Harper would not have continued friendly with him during the war, and for many years afterwards. It is nearly certain that on the occasion of the destruction of Harperfield by the Indians and Tories in 1777, Colonel Harper and his family were saved by a secret warning from Brant, the particulars of which will be hereafter related.



Joseph Harper, the fourth son, does not seem to have been so prominent in the events of the time as either of his brothers, but he fought bravely in the frontier warfare, and was a member of the Committee of Safety of Harpersfield. After the war he married Catharine, daughter of Joseph Douglass of Harpersfield.

Alexander Harper was nearly as prominent as his more celebrated brother, and held a commission as Captain. After the war he settled in Harpersfield, and is believed to have kept the first tavern in town; as for several years all town meetings were held at his house. He also for several years held the only commission as Justice of the Peace within the present bounds of the town. He married Elizabeth Bartholomew, daughter of an early settler on the Charlotte, near what is now South Worcester.

At the breaking out of the Revolution, men were compelled to side with the King or the Colonies, and in Harpersfield nearly all sided with the Colonies. They formed a Committee of Safety as follows: Isaac Patchin, chairman; John, Joseph and Alexander Harper, John Harper Jr., Freegift Patchin, Andries Rebar, William McFarland, St. Leger Cowley, Isaac Sawyer, John Moore, and James Stevens.

The first capture of Indians, as related by "Simms," was made by Colonel Harper in June or July, 1777. The Colonel had started on horseback for Cherry Valley, about thirty miles distant. As he neared the Schenectus creek, in the present town of Decatur, he saw a party of ten Indians approaching, and as he could not well avoid it he confidently met them. He at once recognized the leader as Peter, an Oquago chief. He met them in a friendly manner, calling them *brothers*, and they supposing him to be a King's man were thrown off their guard, and informed him that they were on their way to destroy the Sidney settlement of Rev. William Johnston and others, and that their resting place for the night was to be a mile or two above the mouth of the Schenectus. Shaking hands with the party he bade them good-bye.

As soon as he had passed out of their sight, he hastily returned

and secured three Bartholomew brothers on the Charlotte, and at Harpersfield his brothers Joseph and Alexander, and other settlers until his party numbered eighteen. Well armed and with ropes they set forward and reached the Indian camp just before daylight; found them all asleep, secured their arms, and then with eight of their number ready with guns to enforce obedience a man with a rope approached each of the sleepers; the Colonel taking his stand beside the leader shouted in his ear: "Peter! it is time for business men to be up."

The party all started to their feet, but finding their own arms secured and so many guns ready to shoot any who attempted to escape, they submitted to be bound and were soon on their way as prisoners, to Albany. Soon after daylight Peter recognized his captor and exclaimed: "*Ah, Colonel Harper, why me not know you yesterday?*" "There's policy in war, Peter." "O yes, me find 'em so now."

Soon after the above capture, the enemy under McDonald (according to Simms, but Rev. H. Boies says Brant and Butler) on its way to Schoharie, visited Harpersfield intending to capture or destroy Colonel Harper and his Whig neighbors. On account of a heavy rain storm the enemy halted a few miles away and a friendly Indian stole from the camp, made his way to Colonel Harper's house and informed him of the intended attack.

The Colonel hastily concealed what household stuff he could not carry, placed his wife and younger children on a horse, or horses; with the rest of the settlers hurried off in the rain and darkness over the Jefferson hills, to find safety in Middleburgh.

Harpersfield the next day was sacked and destroyed. Colonel Harper's mill built two or three years before was burned. Simms says the house was fired at two opposite corners, but the posts being cherry did not burn.

During this raid, or not long after, a family named McKee is said to have been murdered below Odell's lake in the south part of Harpersfield. The father was absent, but the mother and children



State Armory at Watertown



View Showing Location of the Armory



were butchered and thrown into the flames of the burning house; except one daughter, Anne, who threw herself at the feet of a savage who had his axe raised to strike her. He admired her boldness and spared her life. She was taken to Niagara, where she was compelled by the squaws to run the gamutlet, and was nearly killed during the terrible ordeal. She however recovered, and after a long captivity was allowed to return to her home.

When McDonald and his party appeared near Schoharie, the garrison feeling unable to contend with him successfully, Colonel Harper volunteered to go alone to Albany for assistance. Stopping at a tavern for the night, the Tories attempted his capture, but he drove them from the door with his pistols. The next day finding he was followed by two Indians who intended to waylay him, he stopped in a hollow out of their sight, stuck his sword in a stump, placed his back against his horse, waited till they approached, then with a pistol in each hand, he exclaimed: "*Stop, you villains: face about and be off, or these bullets shall whistle through your hearts.*" The Indians finding him thus armed and ready, faced about as directed. Colonel Harper then proceeded safely to Albany and obtained a troop of twenty-eight horses. One of the party had a trumpet, from which an occasional blast says Simms produced an effect equal to that of an army with banners. This troop, with the party at Schoharie, met and defeated McDonald, and Colonel Harper wrote the Provincial Council of Safety at Kingston:

"SCHOHARIE, August 28, 1777.

"GENTLEMEN: Since we put Captain McDonald and his army to flight, I proceeded with some volunteers to Harpersfield, where we met many that had been forced by McDonald, and some of them much abused. Many others were in the woods, who were volunteers; and as we could not get hands on those that were active in the matter, I gave orders to all to make their appearance at Schoharie in order to give satisfaction to the authority for what they have done; and if they do not, that they are to be proclaimed traitors to the United States of America; which they readily agreed

to, and further declare that they will use their best endeavors to bring in those who have been the cause of the present disturbance.

"I would therefore beg the Honorable Council of Safety, that they would appoint proper persons to try these people, as there will be many that can witness to the proceedings of our enemy, and are not in ability to go abroad.

"From your most obedient humble servant,

"JOHN HARPER, Colonel."

### JUDGE EBENEZER FOOTE.\*

Judge Foote was born April 12, 1756, in Colchester, Connecticut. He was the son of Daniel Foote and the brother of Eli Foote whose daughter Roxana married Rev. Lyman Beecher and was the mother of Henry Ward Beecher, Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, and others of that talented family. Some of the Foote family espoused the loyalist cause in the Revolutionary war; but Ebenezer was an ardent patriot, and when the first guns were fired he, with several other young men, fled from home without his father's permission and joined the patriotic troops near Boston. He was present at the battle of Bunker Hill and served continuously until the close of the war. For his bravery and efficiency he was promoted from the ranks in which he enlisted to the position of Major. He attracted the attention of Washington and was by him assigned to staff duty.

He had the misfortune to be taken captive during the war, and was confined with many others in the Bridewell prison in New York city. Along with a number of others he formed a plan to escape. They managed to elude their guards and found themselves in the

\* We are indebted for the facts embodied in this sketch to a memorial volume concerning Samuel E. Foote in which there is an appendix giving the principal events in the life of Ebenezer Foote; also to an obituary notice by General Henry Leavenworth printed in the Delaware Gazette December 28, 1829, and to memoranda furnished by Miss Foote of Delhi, the great-great-granddaughter of Judge Foote.

country near where Chambers street now is. They made their way to the Hudson river with the intention of crossing it to New Jersey. They found an old leaky boat, but they were unable to make it sufficiently safe. All the other fugitives then took to the land and tried to make their way through the hostile sentinels to the country north of them. But Foote found a plank and with it undertook to swim the Hudson. It was in the month of December and the water was piteously cold. He succeeded, however, in escaping the patrolling vessels, and in making his way to the other side. He landed at Hoboken where he found shelter and dry clothes. He escaped, but he never recovered wholly from the effects of this terrible exposure.

Major Foote from his rank in the Revolutionary army became a member of the Order of Cincinnati, and up to the time of his death took great pleasure in joining his comrades on the fourth of July to celebrate the achievement of American independence.

At the close of the war he only possessed the back pay which was due to him for his services. Part of this was paid to him in money; and a part was liquidated by a grant of unsettled land on the West branch of the Delaware river. He entrusted the certificate of his army pay to an agent for collection and this precious rascal defrauded him out of the whole. He had married in 1779 Jerusha Purdy, a member of the Westchester family of that name. Her property also had been mostly destroyed by the British troops in their incursions into the regions north of New York.

Major Foote had, therefore, to commence life anew. He started in a mercantile career at Newburgh which was then in Ulster county. In this he must have been more or less successful; for we find that several times he was chosen to represent the county in the State Legislature. He is recorded as having been in the Assembly in 1792, 1794, 1796 and 1797. It was during this latter year that the bill for the erection of Delaware county was under discussion, and Major Foote took an active part in perfecting and securing the passage of the measure. He served as Senator from the Middle

District during the years 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801 and 1802. In 1799 he was chosen to serve as a member of the Council of Appointment under Governor John Jay.

On the establishment of the new county he was appointed by the Governor the county clerk, and immediately removed thither to assume his duties. At this time it must be remembered that there was no village of Delhi. There were two sites which were looked upon as likely to become the location of the proposed county buildings. One of these was at the mouth of Elk Creek on the grounds of Gideon Frisbee. Here already the first meeting of the board of supervisors had been held and the county court had held its first session. The other was the extensive flat at the mouth of the Little Delaware. There is a tradition that some of the early county meetings and courts were held in the latter locality at the house of Mr. Leal. It was near this beautiful intervalle that the land lay which had been granted to Major Foote for his military services; and it was near this on the south that he selected a site and built a residence for himself. The building is still standing but has passed out of the possession of his descendants.

Mr. Foote served as county clerk until 1801 when he was succeeded by Philip Gebhard. He was not only the clerk of the board of supervisors, but also the clerk of the courts held in the county and the custodian of their records.

In 1810 he was appointed by Governor Daniel D. Tompkins as county judge for a term of six years. Subsequently in 1828 he was again appointed to the same office which he held until his death in 1829 at the age of seventy-four.

No citizen of Delaware has ever enjoyed a more distinguished circle of acquaintance. He knew and corresponded with the most active political managers of the day, and many of them were his guests at Arbor Hill. We may mention a few from whom letters are still preserved by his descendants: The Patroon Stephen Van Rensselaer, Hon. Elisha Williams, Governor Morgan Lewis, General Schuyler, the Livingstons, Cadwalader Colden, Josiah Ogden



Hoffman, Philip Van Courtlandt, Martin Van Buren, John Jay, DeWitt Clinton, Aaron Burr, etc. Catherine Livingston writes to him regretting not having seen him, and would like to sell him a young slave girl, as she has more than she can afford to keep.

We have already stated that he married in 1779 Jerusha Purdy. He had four children, viz: Frederick Parsons, Charles Augustus, Harriet, and Margaret. Frederick served as general in the war of 1812 and died in Leghorn, Italy, in 1827. His second son Charles Augustus, was a lawyer and filled many local offices. He was a member of congress in 1824, but died soon after, aged forty. His eldest son was a graduate of West Point, served with distinction in the Seminole War and finally was killed in the battle at Gaines' Mills in 1862. The second son of Charles Augustus Foote was Charles A. Foote of Delhi, who died in 1896, and who will be remembered by many friends still living. He was born in 1818 and being left an orphan he was obliged to care for himself. When twenty-one years of age he commenced business and continued in it till his death. During these many years he maintained a character of spotless integrity. He held many positions of public trust. He was treasurer of Delaware county for nine years—from 1861 to 1870. He served as treasurer of the village of Delhi; he was town clerk; he was a trustee of the Delaware Academy, and a director of the National Bank. In all these positions he discharged his trusts with unswerving fidelity.

#### GENERAL ERASTUS ROOT.

A full account of General Root would include a great part of the history of the county in which so much of his life was spent. We give below the principal incidents in his varied and eventful career.

1. He was born in Hebron, Connecticut, March 16, 1773.
2. He was graduated from Dartmouth College, 1793.
3. He removed to Franklin, then in Otsego county, and when

Delaware county was organized in 1797 he transferred his residence to Delhi where he continued to dwell until the time of his death.

4. He was married in 1806 to Miss Eliza Stockton of Walton. He had five children: 1. Julianne born 1807, married Hon. S. E. Hobbie, died 1898 in Washington, D. C.; 2. Charles born May 6, 1809, died December 8, 1828; 3. Elizabeth born 1812, died 1865; 4. William born 1813, died 1874; 5. Augusta born 1816, died 1838.

5. He was a member of the Assembly from Delaware county in 1799, 1801, 1802, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1830.

6. He was Speaker of the Assembly, 1827, 1828, 1830.

7. He was a State Senator, 1812 16, and 1840 44; at this last election in 1840 he was chosen by two majority.

8. He was Lieutenant Governor 1823 4. In 1824 he was again a candidate for the same office, but was defeated by James Tallmage.

9. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1821.

10. In 1824 the Legislature appointed James Kent, Benjamin F. Butler and Erasmus Root, as a commission to revise the State laws.

11. He was a member of Congress 1803 5, 1809 11, 1815 17, 1831 33.

12. When the village of Delhi was incorporated in 1821 he was a member of the Assembly, and it was by his activity that the act was passed.

13. In 1831 he was appointed by President Jackson along with James McCall of New York and John T. Mason of Michigan as a commission to lay out the Green Bay Indian Reservation.

14. At the Democratic Convention in 1830 he was a candidate for the nomination for Governor, but he was defeated by Enos Throop.

15. He was the postmaster at the village of Delhi during twenty years.

16. In 1833 he abandoned the Democratic party and became a Whig.

17. In his youth he published an arithmetic, and in 1821 he published a volume of Addresses to the People. He had the honor of being immortalized in Fitz Greene Hallock's *Cronkers*, in the poem addressed to Mr. Potter the ventriloquist.

18. He died in New York on his way to Washington to spend the winter with his daughter Mrs. Selah R. Hobbie.\*

A collection of papers relating to General Root was on exhibition during the celebration of the centennial anniversary. Since that time these papers have been presented to the New York State Library at Albany by Mrs. Selah R. Hobbie, then the only surviving child of General Root, who has since died, and by Rev. Reeves Hobbie of Newark, her son. They are as follows:

1. Diploma from Dartmouth College, 1793.
2. Recommendations of Erastus Root for admission to the bar of Tolland county, Connecticut, February 16, 1796.
3. Certificate of admission to the bar of Tolland county, Connecticut, February 25, 1796.
4. License to practise as counsellor in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, January 1, 1799.
5. Appointment of Erastus Root as Master in Chancery, by Governor George Clinton, January 23, 1802.
6. Appointment of Erastus Root as Brigade Inspector of the Militia of Delaware county, New York, with the rank of Major, by Governor George Clinton, March 29, 1802.
7. Appointment of Erastus Root as Lieutenant Colonel, Commandant of the Regiment of Militia in Delaware county, by Governor George Clinton, March 24, 1803.
8. License of Erastus Root to practise as attorney-at-law in the

\* General Root's wit was irrepressible and found vent on all occasions. When Hamilton Fish was nominated for Governor he is said to have expressed himself thus: "No doubt Hamilton Fish is a good man, but he can't swim in the waters of the Delaware."

Supreme Court of the State of New York, by James Kent, Chief Justice, August 18, 1806.

9. Appointment of Erastus Root as Brigadier General of Brigade of Militia in Delaware and other counties, by Governor Daniel D. Tompkins, February 17, 1808.

10. Certificate of the election of Erastus Root as member of Congress, June 3, 1808.

11. Discharge of Erastus Root from the office of Master of Chancery, by Governor Daniel D. Tompkins, March 30, 1810.

12. Certificate of the election of Erastus Root as a Senator of the State of New York, May 31, 1811.

13. Appointment of Erastus Root as a Master of Chancery, by Governor Daniel D. Tompkins, February 12, 1811.

14. Appointment of Erastus Root as Brigadier General of the Brigade of Militia in Delaware county, by Governor Daniel D. Tompkins, April 10, 1811.

15. Appointment of Erastus Root as Commissioner for Insolvent Debtors, etc., by Governor Daniel D. Tompkins, June 7, 1811.

16. Order of Brigadier General P. Farrington to Lieutenant Colonel Erastus Root, September 4, 1814.

17. Certificate of the admission of Erastus Root as Solicitor and Counsellor in the Court of Chancery, by James Kent, Chancellor, August 23, 1816.

18. Appointment of Erastus Root as Major General of the 8th Division of Infantry, by Governor Daniel D. Tompkins, March 22, 1816.

19. Certificate of the election of Erastus Root as Lieutenant Governor, December 4, 1822.

20. Discharge of Erastus Root as Major General with the thanks of the Commander-in-chief, November 17, 1824.

## HON. SAMUEL SHERWOOD.\*

Samuel Sherwood was born in Charlotte county (now Washington county) in this State, April 24, 1779. His father had come from Connecticut to settle in that thinly populated region near Lake George, and on the breaking out of the Revolution became an officer of the volunteer troops. In 1780 occurred the invasion of that region by the British and Indians under Colonel Carleton, who ravaged the whole district and burned many of the houses of the Whigs. Mr. Sherwood's father's house was burned at that time; the mother taking her two children, his brother and himself on horseback barely escaped the Indians. A few years after the war his father moved to Cayuga county; there Mr. Sherwood received a good education at the local schools and was without doubt a precocious scholar, for at the age of sixteen he began the study of the law in the office of Judge Walter Wood of Aurora. Before he was twenty he had accumulated some landed property in Cayuga county. He entered the law office of Conrad E. Elmendorf of Kingston, where he remained until November, 1799, when he went to Delaware county. Before he was eighteen he had tried suits before justices, and before he was twenty had tried causes against many of the eminent lawyers in Ulster and Delaware, such as Smith Thompson and Garret Van Ness.

When Mr. Sherwood went to Delaware county he had formed a partnership with Mr. Elmendorf and did business in the latter's name until his admission in Delaware Common Pleas, February Court, 1800.

He was married in 1800 to Miss Deborah Hawkins and commenced housekeeping at Delhi next winter. There were several children of this marriage, the late Mrs. Herman D. Gould being the eldest.

In 1804 he established his house and law office at Sherwood's

\* This sketch is prepared by Samuel Sherwood of New York City.

bridge (then called Leaf's bridge) about a mile south of Delhi, where he had acquired considerable land. This house together with the adjacent farm and wooded hill were retained by him during his life and bequeathed to his grandson and namesake, in whose possession they now are. Woodland House, so called by its builder, is one of the oldest houses in the township. It is situated on somewhat rising ground overlooking the Delaware river. The architecture is Ionic in style, the woodwork of the porch being somewhat elaborate considering the period of its construction. Mr. Sherwood in selecting a building site had been somewhat of the opinion that a village or settlement was likely to spring up in the neighborhood on account of the junction of the Little Delaware with the larger stream, and in the early part of the century this seemed likely; for just above the bridge were established a tannery, a grist mill and other industries. Mr. Sherwood was interested in many of these business enterprises.

In politics he was originally a Federalist. On going to Delaware county he was appointed paymaster in Colonel Butler's regiment of local militia and later was appointed to take the census in Delaware county in 1800.

In a memorandum made in 1850 he says:

"My determination to make Delaware county my residence had its origin in the local politics of the day. The Federalists of Delaware and Ulster counties were anxious to persuade me to break a lance with Erastus Root, some six or seven years my senior and then established as the leader of the Democracy of the county. We entered the lists in opposition to each other and rose and fell with the ebb tide of our respective parties. With the accession of George Clinton to the gubernatorial chair of state in 1801 the Federalists lost power in the state, and it was only during the war of 1812 that they again obtained a temporary ascendancy after the dissolution of the party, 1819 to 1822. The portion of the party uniting with DeWitt Clinton came into power with him in 1825 and held this power till his death in 1828. Delaware county, 1798, was.

largely anti-Federal or Democratic, never giving less than four or five hundred Democratic majority of votes under regular organization, and it became part of the tactics of the day for the minority to divide and conquer, and as every year presented some 'ism' it generally happened that the Federalists were able to throw away their vote on some unobjectionable Democrat rather than going to the polls with a certainty of defeat. In this warfare, which was always unpleasant, we often succeeded in controlling the supervision of the county and in subduing the tyrannies and injustices of our opponents."

In 1812 Mr. Sherwood was elected to Congress as a Federalist. The Federalists, as is well known, were opposed to the war of 1812 and presumably he was in sympathy with his party on that issue, but later he gave his support to the war measures proposed by the administration of President Madison.

In 1814 Mr. Sherwood, whose first wife had died in 1810, was married to Miss Laura Bostwick and they spent the following winter in Washington. This was the year following the burning of the public buildings in Washington by the British troops; the war was still in progress, the outlook gloomy; nevertheless there were the usual ceremonial receptions at the White House. Mrs. Sherwood's letters written at the time give an interesting picture of the manners and customs of the period, and an entertaining description of the appearance of Mrs. Dolly Madison, the President's wife.

Mr. Sherwood, after serving his term in Congress, was not again a candidate for public office and later in life became a Democrat.

His law practice in Delaware county continued until 1830. Among those associated with him as law partners or students may be mentioned Amasa Parker, (father of the late Robert Parker of Delhi,) Judge Amasa J. Parker of Albany, Nelson Wheeler and Franklin Sherwood Kinney.

In the early days of the century he was generally pitted against

General Root in legal as well as political matters. Some old papers in a libel suit entitled "Root vs. Sherwood" are still in existence and illustrate the conditions of politics about 1808. Root claimed that Sherwood had libelled him by publishing a political poster stating that he (Root) was an adherent of Aaron Burr, and charging Root with complicity in Burr's schemes in the west and urging the electors to "beware of Burr-ites." Root succeeded in getting one hundred dollars damages.

In the trial of James Graham for the murder of Cameron and McGillivray the accused asked to have Erastus Root and Samuel Sherwood appointed his counsel. But Street, the District Attorney, had already secured Sherwood for the prosecution. The latter in a private letter describes the trial as a most impressive one. Great crowds of people were present. Even many ladies, among others the wife of the presiding judge, Ambrose Spencer.

About 1830 Mr. Sherwood moved to New York and established a successful legal practice, which he continued until about 1855, prominent in general practice his specialty perhaps was the management of real estate cases, ejectment suits and the like. He was also distinguished as a Chancery lawyer. In early life he had been in active practice against Aaron Burr. In the Anti-rent trials in Delhi he appeared for the prosecution at the request of Mr. Van Buren, the Attorney General.

Although engaged in business in New York he retained a deep interest in Delhi. He had been associated with most of the enterprises of the early period of the history of the village; he was interested in the establishment of the Academy and was one of the founders of St. John's Episcopal Church.

His home, Woodland House, has sheltered four generations of his family as well as many visitors.

In appearance Mr. Sherwood was above the middle height, strongly built, with dark complexion, marked features. He was a man of few words but energetic and forcible. He died in 1862. Four of Mr. Sherwood's children survived him: Mrs. H. D. Gould,



John Sherwood, Robert H. Sherwood and Mrs. D. Golden Murray. All these are now dead.

John Sherwood was born in Delhi in 1820, was educated at the Delaware Academy and New York private schools and was graduated at Yale College in 1839. He studied law and practiced with his father. At one time he made a specialty of the law concerning trade marks and had been engaged in important cases concerning steamships and marine insurance. He was interested in historical literature and was especially conversant with the military history of the country.

He married in 1851 Miss Mary Elizabeth Wilson, daughter of General James Wilson of Keene, New Hampshire. One of their sons, Samuel Sherwood, is the owner of the old Sherwood place and spends a good deal of his time in Delhi. Another son, Arthur Murray Sherwood, is of the banking firm of Tower & Sherwood, Wall Street, New York. Mrs. Arthur M. Sherwood was Miss Rosina Emmet.

Robert H. Sherwood, son of the late Samuel Sherwood, had been a lawyer. He died the year after his father's death, in 1863. He married in 1852 Miss Mary Neal, daughter of John Neal of Maine. She survives him as do two daughters, Mrs. Picking, wife of Captain Picking, United States Navy, and Mrs. J. Wilson Patterson of Baltimore.

Mrs. Herman D. Gould was the eldest daughter of the late Samuel Sherwood and was born in this county in 1800. She married Herman D. Gould, a prominent business man of Delhi village. He was a merchant and for some time president of the bank and Representative in Congress. They lived in the large and attractive house at the lower end of the village now owned and occupied by the Messrs. Bell.

Mr. and Mrs. Gould had four sons: Sherwood D., S. Augustus, Herman and Charles. S. Augustus Gould is the only survivor of the four. He married Miss Weston and is now a resident of Chicago. Herman Gould had been prominent in railroad work and

was a resident of Illinois at the time of his death. He left a widow and three children— the Misses Ruth and Katharine Gould and Edward L. Gould.

#### GENERAL HENRY LEAVENWORTH.

A monument to General Leavenworth stands on the brow of the hill above the village of Delhi. The situation is beautiful, but the grounds about it have been sadly neglected, and now the graceful shaft is almost concealed by the great trees and the encroaching underbrush. With my best endeavors I have been able to gather only a few facts concerning him of whom many were proud in his day, and to whose memory they erected this worthy monument.

Henry Leavenworth was born in New Haven, Connecticut,\* in 1783. He belonged to the same stock as the noted General Elias W. Leavenworth of Syracuse who for so long a time was a prominent figure in New York public life. Like many other young men of New England he had been smitten with the fever of emigration and followed friends into the county of Delaware. He had already begun the study of law before he left New England, and when he came to Delhi in 1805 at twenty-one years of age, he entered the office of General Erastus Root to continue his studies. In due time he was admitted to the bar and then became a partner of his preceptor.

He imbibed from his partner not only a good knowledge of law and a ready and cordial manner with all who approached him, but particularly a keen liking for military matters with which the experiences of the Revolution made almost all the pioneer settlers familiar. From this military ardor came the movement of Mr. Leavenworth at the opening of the war of 1812. He raised a company, (the 25th Infantry,) for service and was commissioned as a

\* In a sketch of him in the *Washington Globe* (1834) his birthplace is given as Vermont, but it is believed that this is an error. The monument above referred to gives the place of his nativity as Connecticut.

Captain in the United States Army. He was in the battle of Chippewa where he was brevetted for bravery, and again in the battle of Niagara, where he was a second time brevetted. But in this last battle he had been severely wounded. Colonel Leavenworth had married Harriet Lovejoy just before setting out for the war, and his wife accompanied him to the field of service. Fortunately she was present to nurse him and care for him in his wounded condition. But he recovered and was able again to give his services to the government.

After the close of the war Colonel Leavenworth was allowed a leave of absence from the army, and on his return to Delaware county he was elected a member of the State legislature. He rendered such service to his State and his party that pointed him out as a conspicuously rising man.

On re-entering the army he was appointed an Indian agent by the government in the Northwest territory. He repaired to his field of labor without his wife; but after a few years, she joined him in these then remote regions. There are still many reminiscences of Colonel Leavenworth's residence in that country. His duties were partly civil and partly military. As a reward for his faithfulness and bravery the War Department had conferred on him the rank of Brigadier General. For the purpose of protecting the frontier settlements against the Indians he erected many forts which would enable the slender forces of the United States to hold their own. One of them, Fort Leavenworth, has given its name to a city in the state of Missouri.

During the winter of 1834 he came to Washington, on duty connected with his mission in the West. During his visit he was admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States. He was put in command of the military department of the Southwest and returned to his duties in the spring. During his operations against the hostile Indians he was seized with an attack of malarial fever. He died from this at Cross Timbers in the Territory of Arkansas. Captain James Dean, who was with him at his death,

wrote concerning the painful circumstances. General Leavenworth, foreseeing that his death was near, said to Captain Deane: "To the people of Delaware county I owe all that I ever have been; and at the beautiful little village of Delhi, that delightful spot, I wish my bones to rest. Place my body in a coffin of hordock wood, and let it be buried here until the cold weather comes. Then carry me by way of New Orleans back to my home."

This was tenderly done, and accompanied by a detachment of his command his body was brought to Delhi. Here it was received by every demonstration of sorrow and respect by his townsmen and the military authorities of the State. The funeral was held May 22, 1835, and he was buried in the spot where his monument now stands. This was erected shortly afterwards by his admiring friends. It bears the following inscription:

*On the West Front:*

IN MEMORY OF HENRY LEAVENWORTH,  
COLONEL OF THE U. S. 2D INFANTRY  
AND  
BRIGADIER GENERAL IN THE ARMY.

*On the North Front:*

AS A TESTIMONIAL  
TO HIS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WORTH  
HIS REGIMENT HAVE ERECTED  
THIS MONUMENT.

*On the South Front:*

BORN AT NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT,  
DECEMBER 10, 1783.  
DIED  
IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY  
NEAR THE FALSE WASCHITA  
JULY 21, 1834.

*On the East Front:*

FOR HIS CIVIC VIRTUES  
HIS FELLOW-CITIZENS OF DELAWARE  
HONORED HIM WITH A SEAT  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW YORK:  
THE FIELDS OF  
CHIPPEWA, NIAGARA AND AURICHAREE  
ESTABLISH HIS FAME AS A SOLDIER.



Mr. Jay Gould.



## WILLIAM B. OGDEN.\*

The family to which William B. Ogden belonged came to Delaware county from Morristown, New Jersey. It seems to have enjoyed the special friendship of Governor Dickerson of that State, because we find that a younger brother of William B. was named after the governor Mahlon Dickerson Ogden. It is stated that Abraham the father of William started out to find a suitable place in which to settle. He had about determined upon Washington, the new capital of the nation; but he met a friend in Philadelphia, who had purchased a large tract of land in the wild regions on the upper Delaware. He set forth so attractively the opportunities for land and lumber in this picturesque region, that it ended in the agreement of the Ogdens to go to Delaware county instead of Washington.

Accordingly in 1797 a colony of this family, all bearing substantial bible names, found their way into the valley of the Delaware and settled at Walton. Here Isaac and Abraham established a saw mill for cutting up the vast amounts of timber which was found around them. Subsequently they added to their establishment a mill for fulling the cloth which the settlers brought to them.

Here William, the son of Abraham, was born in 1805. Long afterward when he had become a prosperous and well-known public man, he spoke of his early life: "I was born close by a saw mill, was early left an orphan, was cradled in a sugar trough, christened in a mill pond, graduated at a log school house, and at fourteen fancied I could do anything I turned my hand to, and that nothing was impossible."

In his boyhood he was remarkably athletic, and was fond of hunting and fishing. His father was obliged to make it a rule for him, that he must not fish more than two days in the week. He

\* I am indebted to Hon. Andrew H. Green of New York for the most of the information contained in this sketch. The pamphlet referred to is No. 17 of the Fergus Historical Series, relating to early Chicago events.

was a notably good shot \* in the days when good shooting was not uncommon.

It had been determined in the family councils that William should study law, and he had begun to make preparation for his professional studies. At this time, 1820, his father suffered a stroke of paralysis from which he died in 1825. The duty of the son was to take up the responsibilities of the father and abandon his chosen career. This he did bravely and without hesitation. For the next ten years he was the intrepid business man of Walton. In 1834 when he was still a young man of twenty-nine he was elected to represent the county in the State Assembly. The scheme for building the Erie railway with State aid was in that year before the legislature. Mr. Ogden, although inexperienced in legislation, was put forward as a leader in the advocacy of the desired measures. He made a speech on the subject lasting through three days, which is still spoken of as showing the far-sighted discernment of the future financier.

It was during this winter that he became interested in the subject of real-estate in the little village of Chicago. His friend Arthur Bronson of New York, and his future brother-in-law the late Charles Butler, had visited the west and had become impressed with the prospects of this place. A land company was formed and Mr. Ogden was asked to take up his residence there as its agent.

Mr. Ogden therefore removed to Chicago in 1835, and entered on that splendid career which ended only with his life. Chicago had then only 1,500 inhabitants. But he was one of those who saw its future possibilities at the head of lake navigation and as a railroad center. Two years later it received a charter as a city, and had then reached a population of 3,500. Mr. Ogden was elected the

\* Turkey shooting was a favorite amusement in those days. Usually a colored man owned the turkey and was paid twenty-five cents by each one who shot. If the marksman hit the head of the turkey it was his; but if he hit any other part it still was the negro's. When young Ogden shot he was made to pay twice the regular rate. The poor darkey would shout, "Dodge, dodge old gobbler, Ogden is going to shoot. Shake yer head, darn ye, don't you see that rifle pinting at ye?" See Arnold's memorial of W. B. Ogden.



first mayor of the new city. To him more than to any other man it owes its position as the great mid-country metropolis.

It is impossible that he should have gone on with all his great enterprises without reverses. During the crisis of 1857 he was largely interested in the extension of the railroad which is now the Chicago and Northwestern. This corporation defaulted in the payment of the interest on its floating debt. Mr. Ogden was the endorser of its paper to the extent of a million and a half of dollars. The response of his friends in this embarrassment is one of the most creditable things in financial history. Samuel Russell, the founder of the house of Russell & Co. in China, placed nearly half a million of dollars at his disposal; Robert Eaton, of Swansea, Wales, sent him eighty thousand dollars to use at his discretion; Matthew Laffin of Chicago tendered him from himself and his friends one hundred thousand dollars; and Col. E. D. Taylor repeatedly offered like substantial assistance. But Mr. Ogden contrived to weather this storm without accepting this magnanimous aid. He was often heard to declare that it was worth while to become embarrassed in order to experience the generosity of such friends.

The active spirit of Mr. Ogden kept him busy during all these years in developing new lines of industry. He founded an immense lumbering establishment at Peshtigo in Northern Wisconsin; he organized great iron and coal works at Brady's Bend in Pennsylvania; he was the leading spirit in the movements connected with the Union Pacific railroad, the Fort Wayne railroad, the Chicago and Northwestern railroad and many others.

So much of his time was now required in New York on account of his great interests, that in 1866 he purchased for himself a home on Fordham Heights near New York, which he called Boscobel. The Chicago people never quite forgave him for this desertion of the city he had done so much to build up. But he did not give up Chicago. He always retained a house and a legal residence there. He considered himself as a Chicagoan living for convenience in New York.

He was at Boscobel when word came to him in 1871 that Chicago was on fire. He started thither by the earliest train. On his way he received notice that his lumbering village at Peshtigo, two hundred miles from Chicago, was also entirely destroyed by fire. We may well suppose that Mr. Ogden was not the least brave of those who confronted the disasters of that terrible time. By their courage and intrepidity they turned the ruin of Chicago into lasting benefit, and gave it an impulse toward greatness which it has never lost.

Up to 1875 Mr. Ogden had lived a bachelor, both at Chicago and Boscobel. But in that year he married Mary Arnot, daughter of Judge John Arnot of Elmira, and took her to reside at Boscobel. Here he died in 1877 aged seventy-two years. He left behind him a great name for financial skill and enterprise, for open-hearted generosity, and for a most attractive and charming personality. He never forgot his native town or county. In his will there was a clause bequeathing a sum of money to be expended in the discretion of his executors for charitable objects. This clause was attacked in the courts but was settled by compromise, and from it the sum of \$20,000 was received for the establishment of a library in the village of Walton. A beautiful building for this purpose has been erected at a cost of \$14,500.

### REV. DANIEL SHEPARD.

PRINCIPAL OF THE DELAWARE ACADEMY 1837-46.

No sketch of Delaware county would be complete without an account of the Rev. Daniel Shepard, the principal of the Delaware Academy from 1837 to 1846. All those who knew him and knew the work he had done for the Academy, and especially all those who were students under him, will be ready to testify to his high and exemplary character and his inspiring scholarship. When he came to Delhi in 1837 to take charge of the Academy he was only twenty-two years of age, and when he died in 1846 he was only thirty-one. We append a brief sketch of his short but brilliant life.

He was born at Portland, Connecticut, in 1815. His parents were members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and he was confirmed and became a communicant at the age of sixteen. He was sent to Trinity College at Hartford, and was graduated in 1836. It was his purpose to enter the university of the Episcopal Church, but as he was still very young, he accepted an invitation to become the principal of the Delaware Academy. While he held this position he pursued his theological studies and was ordained a deacon by the Bishop of Connecticut in 1839, and a few years later was ordained a priest by the Bishop of New York. During his principalship he occasionally officiated in the church at Delhi, and he never gave up the design to devote his life to the sacred ministry, but death came before he was able to change the plans of his life.

When he came to Delhi the academy was in a depressed condition, and the prospects might have deterred a less alert and enthusiastic man. But Mr. Shepard had youth and health and unbounded vigor, and entered on his duties with an assurance that speedily brought success. Nine years he remained principal, and each succeeding year of this period witnessed a marked advance in the standing and prosperity of the school. It had a patronage not only from the county of Delaware, but from the large cities of the country. Many boys were sent from New York, with the assured expectation that they would receive not only a sound educational training, but would profit by the bracing physical and moral atmosphere in which they would be placed.

The academy had the confidence and the patronage of the best and most distinguished citizens of the county and especially of the village of Delhi. The old students will remember well the faithfulness and vigilance of the trustees in watching over the institution; how General Root in his old age renewed his youth and his scholarship by visiting the school on every suitable occasion; how Colonel Amasa Parker, Judge Amasa J. Parker, and others, were constantly present on occasions of examination or at the exhibitions which were held at the close of the terms.

Mr. Shepard was the principal character connected with the school. In the female department, however, which was separated from the male, Mrs. Ten Broeck (afterward Mrs. Howard) was for a long time the preceptress, and endeared herself, not only to the girls under her immediate care but to the boys in the male department. In classical learning particularly Mr. Shepard was an enthusiastic scholar and teacher. Any of the lads who showed any special aptitude received from him every encouragement and assistance. He was a most successful disciplinarian, and maintained an easy and natural authority over his boys which made impossible the taking of any liberties with him. He had a good-natured wit of which they had a wholesome fear, and with which he occasionally lashed them.\* But it was his natural dignity and the kind-hearted spirit in which he administered his little domain that made him an easy and successful ruler.

Mr. Shepard's career at the Delaware Academy was not long, although it was memorable. At the close of the academic year in 1846, he planned for himself a trip to the west. He went as far as St. Louis and was there seized with a congestive fever. He started on his return home, in spite of his illness. The facilities for travel were then by no means so great as they have since become; and the fatigue of his exertions materially aggravated his disorder. He reached home suffering still from the attack of fever, and after a few weeks closed his young and promising life.

He had married, after coming to Delhi, Miss Hogan of Albany, who with a family of young children survived him. She still, after a period of more than fifty years, remains in a placid old age awaiting the summons to join her dear husband in the land of eternal rest.

Dr. McGregor of New York, who was Mr. Shepard's pupil for several years, remembers once when he was engaged with a class, some of the other boys in the room took advantage of the opportunity to neglect their work. Mr. Shepard without a moment's hesitation said:

“Thomas Scott, you study not,  
Edward Bill, you're idle still,  
Walter Crear, come sit here.”

## AMASA J. PARKER.

Of few of her citizens is Delaware county more proud than of the eminent and accomplished Judge Parker. Although he removed from his home in Delhi at an early age—only thirty-nine, yet he had remained long enough to be chosen to most of the honorable offices of the county, and to show by his professional ability and by his energetic private career, his true worth as a man and a citizen.

He was the son of Rev. Daniel Parker, a Congregational clergyman who for many years was the pastor of a church in Sharon, Connecticut. He was born in Sharon in 1807; but in 1816 the father removed to Greenville, in Greene county, N. Y., where he took charge of the Academy of that place. The son, then only nine years old, here commenced the study of Latin, and in the usual studies of a classical education made notable advancement. In May, 1823, when only sixteen years old he became principal of the Hudson Academy. In 1825 he entered the senior class of Union College and was graduated, still retaining his position in the Hudson Academy. After graduating he commenced the study of law in the office of Judge John W. Edmonds.

In 1827, at the age of twenty, he removed to Delhi and resumed the study of law with his uncle, Col. Amasa Parker. He was admitted to the bar in 1828, and immediately was taken into partnership by his uncle. Here for fifteen years he was engaged in an extensive and laborious practice; his uncle almost entirely confining himself to the duties of the office, leaving to the learned and brilliant nephew the duty of appearance in court.

In 1834 he was a member of the Assembly.

In 1835 he was chosen a Regent of the University, which position he held till he was appointed Judge.

In 1837-39 he was a member of Congress from the counties of Broome and Delaware.

In 1839 he was a candidate for State Senator against General Root, but was defeated by a few votes.

In 1844 he was appointed by Governor Silas Wright to the office of Circuit Judge of the Third Circuit. It was at this time he removed to Albany where he resided until his death.

At no time in the history of the State have the judicial labors devolving upon the judges been more difficult and responsible than those which he was called upon to discharge during the twelve years of his service. The anti-rent excitement was then at its height. It crowded the civil calendars with litigation, and the criminal courts with indictments for acts of violence in resisting the collection of rents.

The trial of Dr. Boughton ("Big Thunder") in the spring of 1845 before Judge Parker at Hudson lasted two weeks and resulted in a disagreement of the jury. The second trial was held by Judge Edmonds and the prisoner was convicted and sentenced to State's prison.

In the summer of 1845 Osman N. Steele, Under-Sheriff of Delaware county, while attending a sale for rent, at which more than two hundred disguised "Indians" were present, was shot and killed. Over two hundred persons were indicted for crimes connected with this killing. The trials were conducted during the autumn of 1845 by Judge Parker. The cases were all disposed of either by trial or by the prisoners pleading guilty. The sad business was ended and Judge Parker had done a pathetic and trying piece of work.

In 1846 a new constitution was framed for the State and duly adopted. Under this constitution Judge Parker was elected a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State for the full term.

After the expiration of his term of office he devoted himself to the duties of his profession in the city of Albany. A large part of his time was taken up with the argument of cases before the Court of Appeals. He was the author of several law books which were highly esteemed by the profession. Geneva College in 1846 bestowed upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws. He was called upon often in his home in Albany to aid in the management of educational and charitable enterprises. For many years he was a professor in

the Albany Law School and devoted much time to preparing and giving lectures.

He was a politician in its widest and best sense. Twice he was the candidate of his party for Governor of his State, in 1856 and again in 1858.

### JAY GOULD.

Jay Gould was born in Roxbury, Delaware county, in 1836. He was a descendant of the Goulds who immigrated from New England into Delaware county in 1789.\* The ancestor of the family came from England in 1646 and settled in Fairfield, Conn. Abram Gould the great-grandfather of Jay Gould, was a colonel in the Revolutionary war and was killed in battle. It was the son of this revolutionary colonel who came with other pioneer settlers into Roxbury. Here his son John B. Gould was born, who grew up to be one of the substantial citizens of the town. He married a daughter of John More who was the pioneer Scotch settler in Roxbury and the founder of Moresville.

When their son Jay Gould† was fourteen years old, he was sent to the Academy at Hobart, where he made such good use of his opportunities that he became well founded in the branches of which he was afterward to make such good use. In 1851 his father established a hardware store in the village of Roxbury, and the energetic boy, now grown to be sixteen years of age, was the chief manager of the business. In the midst of all his engagements, however, he contrived to save time to continue his studies in surveying and engineering. And in the next year, 1852, we find him employed to make a survey of Ulster county for a proposed map. His employer, however, failed in his plans, and they were taken up and finished by his young assistants one of whom was Mr. Gould. Other surveys followed, — the village of Cohoes, and the counties of Albany, Sullivan and Delaware. About 1853 he was for a time a

\* See page 49.

† Originally the name was Jason Gould.

student in the Albany Academy, no doubt with the purpose of perfecting himself in the branches which he had occasion to use.

His history of Delaware county—a notably thorough and painstaking piece of work—was issued in 1856. After the manuscript had been sent to the printer in Philadelphia it was destroyed by a fire in the printing house. It was however re-written, and ready for the printer a second time within four months from the time of its destruction. The map of Delaware county was also published in 1856 when Mr. Gould was still but twenty years of age.

In the meantime he had formed the acquaintance of Col. Zadoc Pratt of Prattsville, who had a gift for discovering energetic and capable young men. Col. Pratt had come to the conclusion that owing to the failure of the supply of hemlock bark, the time for the business of tanning at Prattsville was nearly ended. He despatched Mr. Gould, therefore, to search for and select some suitable place where the business could be profitably conducted. In pursuance of this purpose he selected a site in Pennsylvania, where there was an abundance of hemlock timber which would furnish bark for a long time. Here he built an extensive tannery and entered upon the business on a large scale. In a few years he was able to buy out his partners, and finally in 1857 he sold out the entire establishment in order to enter upon the occupation which had always had a fascination for him.

In his testimony before a Commission appointed by the United States Senate in 1883, to investigate the affairs of the Union Pacific Railroad, Mr. Gould, in describing this transition in his career, says: “I still retained my early love for engineering and I was watching the railroads. After the panic everything went down very low, and I found a road whose first mortgage bonds were selling at ten cents—the Rutland and Washington Railroad, running from Troy, N. Y. to Rutland, Vt. I bought a majority of the bonds at ten cents, and left everything else and went into railroading. That was in 1860. I took entire charge of that road. I learned the business,



and I was president, treasurer and general superintendent, and owned a controlling interest."

The result of his foresight and energy was soon apparent. The road which he had rescued was soon after consolidated with others into the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad with a very substantial profit to the young financier. After this profitable transaction he established himself in the city of New York, becoming an extensive broker, especially in railroad properties. The New York and Erie Railroad was at this time in dire financial straits, and Mr. Gould purchased large blocks of its depreciated securities. In 1872 he became the president of the road, and for some years thereafter was deeply engaged in its management. Finally however a decisive turn occurred in its affairs through the intervention of the English bondholders and Mr. Gould and his friends were retired.

When the Union Pacific Railroad became financially embarrassed, feeling assured of the substantial value of the transcontinental lines, he bought up large quantities of its securities. These, when the affairs of the road had been improved, appreciated greatly on his hands and returned him a liberal profit. His dealings in the Missouri Pacific securities were of the same kind and led to the same profitable results. As he himself testified before the Commission above referred to: "The re-organization of broken-down roads and rendering them profitable had become a hobby with me. I cared less for the money I made out of the transactions than for the satisfaction of re-establishing them upon a profitable basis."

Another of his far-reaching and remunerative schemes was the organization of the Western Union Telegraph Company. After several preliminary consolidations, the last which brought all the interests into one vast company was effected in 1881. By this great transaction he became by far the largest holder of Telegraphic stock in the United States. Soon after this he took up the Elevated Railroad interests in the city of New York, and it was mainly through his influence that the separate companies holding these valuable franchises were combined into one working organization. The

results of this operation were to add largely to his already vast wealth. Thus by his own foresight and by his clear and dexterous combinations this able and capable man who "knew how to bring things to pass," had step by step grown to be one of the recognized financial powers in the country.

In 1863 he had married Helen Day Miller, the daughter of Hon. Daniel S. Miller of Greenville, N. Y. Their children who are all still living are: George Jay Gould, Edwin Gould, Helen Miller Gould, Howard Gould, Anna Gould, (now the Countess Castelnau) and Frank Jay Gould. His wife died January 13, 1889, and Mr. Gould himself December 2, 1892.

In memory of their father and mother, and in recognition of their father's birth and early residence in Delaware county, the family has improved and beautified the ancestral residence in Roxbury and frequently it is occupied as a summer home. They have also built a beautiful and picturesque little memorial church, which they have donated to the Reformed Congregation of the town. And lastly Miss Helen Gould, who most often takes up her summer residence there, has bought back the old home of her father and converted part of it into a library and reading room for the people of the village. She has contributed many books to this library, and the library association of the place has purchased others, so that the little village library has become a most valuable source of culture and intelligence.

All these benefactions have been inspired by the desire to commemorate in some appropriate manner the lives of those who were so dear to them, and at the same time to benefit the community to which early associations had attached them. It is a matter of no small pride to Delaware county that two of the most eminent financiers of our country have thus been born within her territory, viz: William B. Ogden and Jay Gould.

**Anthony M. Paine.** General Paine was born at Harpersfield, March 25, 1801, a son of Dr. Asabel E. Paine, who came to Delhi in 1807, and Mr. A. M. Paine was a resident from that time till his death, March 10th, 1881. In March, 1833, in company with Jacob D. Clark, purchased the Delaware Gazette. In early life Mr. Paine was engaged in mercantile business in Delhi village. For many years he was a Justice of the Peace, also Supervisor and Town Clerk. For one year he was Treasurer of the county, and in 1830 census taker of the county. He was a director in the Delaware Bank for nearly forty years, for over forty years a trustee of Delaware Academy, and for fifteen years president of the board. He passed through the various promotions of the old State militia until he reached the rank of Brigadier-General, which position he held until the militia was disbanded. Mr. Paine was always very regular and punctual in attendance at his office; and rarely in the last forty-four years of his life did a day pass by when in the village that he was not to be found there at his accustomed seat; and as he passed into and through middle life to a ripe old age, no man ever had occasion to say that a single scar marred that life's record. His ear was never deaf to the story of suffering and distress, nor his hand empty to want and hunger.

**Hon. Samuel A. Law.** Samuel A. Law was born in Cheshire, Conn., in 1774. He was graduated from Yale College in 1792. He pursued the study of law at Litchfield, Conn. and was admitted to the bar in 1795. He was sent into Delaware county in 1798 as the agent of the owners of the Franklin Patent. The tract was then almost a wilderness; but the liberal terms offered to settlers led to the rapid filling up of the vacant lands. Mr. Law himself became a settler, and established himself at what has since been called Meredith Square. He was appointed a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, from which fact he was commonly called Judge Law. He died at his home in Meredith in 1845 in the 74th year of his age.

**Colonel Amasa Parker.** Colonel Parker was born in Litchfield county, Conn., in 1781. He was graduated from Yale College, studied law in Litchfield and afterward with Peter Van Schaik at Kinderhook, N. Y. In 1812 he removed to Delhi and formed a law partnership with Samuel Sherwood, then in the acme of his professional career. This lasted until Mr. Sherwood removed to New York. His residence was near that of Mr. Sherwood at the influx of the Little Delaware. Afterward he formed a partnership with his nephew, Amasa J. Parker, which continued until the latter was appointed a judge and removed to Albany. Then he still continued the practice of law with his son, Robert Parker. His distinguished services in his profession ended with his death in 1855.

**Hon. Charles Hathaway.** Charles Hathaway was born at Hudson N. Y. in 1796. He died at his home in Delhi January 21, 1876. He came with his parents into Delaware county in 1808, where he spent the whole of his long life. He commenced the practice of law in Delhi, being for a time in partnership with Hon. C. A. Foote. He held the office of County Judge and Surrogate beginning 1840, to which he was appointed by Governor Seward. During his term of office there was a bitter controversy throughout the State as to the maladministration of the office of Surrogate. The reports of Surrogate Hath-

away were especially commended as models for honesty and fairness in every particular. After the termination of his term of office as county judge he retired from the practice of law, and devoted himself to the extensive land interests for which he had been appointed agent. These interests were the same as those for which Judge Foote had acted. During his life he had availed himself of the assistance of Mr. Hathaway in the management of these important concerns; and before his death had him substituted for himself as the agent.

Judge Hathaway was during his whole life an active and public-spirited citizen. The introduction of water for the village, the organization of a fire department, the building of churches and county buildings, the organization of the Delaware Bank, all found in him an active and zealous friend.

Judge Hathaway married in 1828 Maria Augusta Bowne, a niece of Judge Foote and a sister of Norwood Bowne.

**Hon. Samuel Gordon.** Samuel Gordon was born at Wattle's Ferry on the Susquehanna in 1802. Like most of the young men of that day his education was chiefly obtained in the common schools of his home. His busy, active and intellectual boyhood naturally led to a career beyond the community in which he was born. He acquired by persistent self-effort a good general education including classics and general literature. In 1827 he commenced the study of law with General Erastus Root in Delhi. After admission to the bar in 1829 he became a partner of General Root and began that remarkable career of professional activity which ended only with his life. Scarcely a term of the court passed during that long period without his being engaged in some of the most important cases. He was elected in succession to nearly all the offices which lay in the line of his profession. He was postmaster in 1831; he was member of Assembly in 1833; he was District Attorney of Delaware county from 1836 to 1839; he was elected a member of Congress from Delaware and Broome counties in 1840; he was re-elected in 1844; during the civil war he served as provost-marshal of the 19th congressional district until its close in 1865.

His wife was Frances Leete and his children were Harriet, Frances, Anna, Samuel, William and George L.

He died at his home in Delhi, October 24, 1878.

**Dr. O. M. Allaben.** Dr. Allaben was born in 1808 at a place then in the town of Delhi, but which now is in the town of Hamden. His father removed to Roxbury when his son was still a small boy. He attended the Delaware Academy and prepared himself for his subsequent professional studies. He commenced the study of medicine in 1827 with Dr. J. B. Cowles of Roxbury. He was graduated in 1831 from the Waterville (Me.) Medical College, and in the same year settled for practice in the town of Middletown. Besides his constant devotion to his profession he was always a most public-spirited citizen, and ready to exert his influence for the benefit of his friends and the community. He was elected supervisor of his town for seven successive terms beginning from 1839. He was a member of Assembly in 1840 and again in 1870; and a State Senator in 1864 and 1865. In the latter position he obtained the legislation necessary for building the Ulster and Delaware R. R. In 1863 he started the Utilitarian newspaper which he personally conducted for five years. In 1832 he married a daughter of Noah Dimmock. He died at Margaretville November 27, 1891.

**Hon. Norwood Bowne.** Norwood Bowne was born in New York City May 2, 1813. He early became familiar with the printer's trade with which his life was to be associated. He came to Delhi in 1830 in order to enter upon the study of law with his brother-in-law Charles Hathaway. But the taste for editorship and printing was too strong in him. He was for a time connected with a newspaper called the *Delaware Republican* established by George E. Marvin. But this enterprise not being successful, he returned to New York where he was connected with the publication of the *Protestant Vindicator*. The printing and publishing house was destroyed by fire in 1834, leaving the proprietors penniless.

In 1839 he returned to Delhi for the purpose of establishing a newspaper in the interests of the Whig party. The *Delaware Gazette*, a Democratic paper, had been established in 1819, and in 1839 was the only newspaper printed in the county. At this time Mr. Bowne founded the *Delaware Express* and during the remainder of his life continued to be its editor and publisher.

Mr. Bowne has held various local offices. He was postmaster from 1849 to 1852; he was active both personally and by his paper in every important public enterprise. In 1854 he was elected on the State ticket with Governor Myron H. Clark to the office of State Prison Inspector, in which he served for three years. He died at Delhi, January 7, 1890.

**Hon. William Gleason.** Judge Gleason was born in Roxbury January 4, 1819. He was educated in the common schools of his vicinity, and added to his acquirements a vast amount of liberal culture attained by private reading and study. To the very end of his life he took delight in works on literature, history and poetry, which he had learned to love in his boyhood. He studied law in the office of Judge Levinus Monson of Hobart, and was admitted to the county bar in 1843 and to that of the Supreme Court in 1845. He was elected a member of Assembly in 1850 and took an active part in the business of that body. In 1851 he was elected County Judge and Surrogate and removed his residence to Delhi. He was elected to a second term in 1859, and served also as supervisor of the town. He was in every way a public-spirited citizen and ready on every occasion to help forward measures for the public good. In the civil war when Delaware county was so conspicuous for its patriotic efforts, no one was more active in devising and working for the public good than Judge Gleason.

In 1853 Judge Gleason was married to Caroline, daughter of John Blanchard of Delhi. He has had three sons all still living: John B. Gleason of New York, Wallace B. Gleason of Delhi, and Lafayette B. Gleason of New York. He died at his home in Delhi, May 9, 1894.

**Hon. William Murray.** William Murray was born in Boyna in 1820. He was the son of William Murray who had migrated from Scotland two years before. In his early life he was engaged in the work of the pioneer settler. His education was such as could be acquired at the common schools and at the Delaware Academy. He commenced the study of law in the office of Samuel Gordon and was admitted to the bar in 1848. He has held in succession nearly all the offices in the line of his profession. Justice of the Peace, District-Attorney, County Judge. After the expiration of his term of office he

was appointed by Governor Fenton in January, 1868, Justice of the Supreme Court in the Sixth District in the place of Judge Mason, resigned. In the autumn of 1869 he was elected to the same office for eight years. And at the end of this term he was re-elected without opposition for the term of fourteen years. These evidences of popular favor were the results of his judicial fairness, his personal amiability and profound legal knowledge.

In 1850 Judge Murray married Rachel Merwin of Bloomville. He has three children living: David Murray, lawyer, of New York, Mrs. Alexander Conklin of Delhi, and Asher Murray, lawyer, of Wadena, Minnesota. He died at Delhi, 1887, aged sixty-seven years.

**General Ferris Jacobs jr.** General Jacobs, the son of Dr. Ferris Jacobs of Delhi, was born March 20, 1836. He received his education at the Delaware Academy, the Franklin Institute and at Williams College. From this last institution he was graduated in 1856 in the same class with President Garfield. He commenced the study of law in Philadelphia but afterward changed to Delhi where he was connected with the office of Parker and Gleason. He was admitted to the bar in 1859.

Early in the civil war he enlisted a company of cavalry and was mustered in as captain at Elmira in August, 1861. His company belonged to the Third Regiment of New York Volunteer Cavalry. From this time he was in continual active service. He was with General Banks in the Shenandoah; he was with Burnside in North Carolina, where he was in innumerable engagements and was promoted to the rank of Major; he took part in the memorable campaigns of 1864 and was again promoted to be Lieutenant-Colonel and commanded his regiment. His regiment was so cut up and reduced in numbers that it was necessary to consolidate it with other regiments and Colonel Jacobs resigned. He re-entered the service however and was assigned to duty on the northern frontier. In July, 1865, he was mustered out of service with the brevet rank of Brigadier-General.

After his return from the war in 1865 he was elected District-Attorney and in 1871 he was elected for a second term of the same office. He ran for the office of County Judge but was defeated. He was a member of Congress during the term 1881-83.

In 1869 he married Miss Mary Hyde of Yellow Springs, Ohio. He died at Delhi, August 30, 1886.

**Judge Isaac H. Maynard.** Judge Maynard was born in Boyina in 1838, being the grandson of the first settler in that town. He was graduated from Amherst College in 1862. He studied law in the office of Judge Murray and established himself at the village of Stamford. Here he was supervisor in 1869 and 1870. He was elected County Judge as a democrat, carrying the county by 1,355 majority, although usually its majority was 800 republican.

In 1875 he was elected Member of Assembly; in 1884 he was appointed first Deputy Attorney-General of the State, which position he resigned to become Second Comptroller under President Cleveland. In 1887 he was appointed Assistant Secretary of the United States Treasury. In 1892 Governor Flower appointed him one of the Judges of the Court of Appeals.

Judge Maynard was a man of scholarly attainments, a brilliant and successful lawyer, and was highly esteemed by many friends. He died in Albany June 12, 1896, at the age of 58 years, and his remains rest in Woodland Cemetery at Delhi.



1800  
Isaac  
Meyers





## PART II.



# Centennial Celebration.

2.

MARCH 10, 1897 . . . the birthday of Delaware county. A county which has rounded a full century is no infant; there is no poetical license in the phrase "Old Delaware." Naturally, as the hundredth anniversary drew near, there were thoughts of some fitting celebration of the century milestone, but the various suggestions of individuals or the county newspapers did not crystallize into definite action. The Delaware Express, at Delhi, had frequently called up a remembrance of March 10, 1797. Its editor discussed the advisability of a celebration with many of the prominent men of the county but found little interest among the people generally. The project, however, was not to be smothered by any moist blanket of indifference; if the people who should care did not care, latent interest must be aroused. Delaware county had finished a hundred years of honorable history; she had sent out from her borders a host of children who had made history in other counties and other states and had honored their birthplace; her sons and her daughters had ever been and were sturdy, honest and full of the free spirit of the native hills. The century mark of such a county must not pass unnoticed. In the issue of The Delaware Express for March 6, 1897, the following call for a citizens' meeting was printed:

A CENTENNIAL MEETING. On consultation with some of our people regarding the County Centennial it is thought proper to hold a meeting of our citizens and others who may be in town next Tuesday evening, March 9, at Village Hall at eight o'clock, to consider the advisability of celebrating the event. Come and express your opinion.

When the appointed Tuesday evening came just thirteen patriotic citizens gathered together in the Village Hall. Whatever

misfortune is commonly associated with the fateful number thirteen or whatever ill luck comes from a thirteen club, it must hence and hereafter hold its peace in Delaware county. The meeting started on a business basis; from this evening a Centennial Celebration was assured. Mr. William Clark was elected chairman of the meeting, and Mr. R. P. McIntosh, secretary. The practical outcome of the evening was the appointment of a committee to consult with the people at the county seat and to report at a later meeting some final determination. The committee appointed was J. K. Hood, C. S. Woodruff, W. L. Mason, M. T. Menzie and J. J. Burke. The publication of the appointment of this committee stirred up an immediate interest in other towns and the county press gave every encouragement and called upon the citizens to support the movement. As one paper said: "That the anniversary of so important an event should be fittingly celebrated finds an almost unanimous affirmative response from the citizens of old Delaware. Delhi has taken the initiative toward this end by temporarily organizing and now let the action of the county seat be ratified by every town in the county and at no distant date." This seemed to be the sentiment of the entire county.

The committee began an active campaign at once. It advised with the leaders of different organizations which it thought could aid, notably the various fire departments of the county. In two weeks time nearly all of the fire organizations had agreed to come to the celebration, which the Committee had set for the 9th and 10th of June. So general was the interest and widespread the enthusiasm that no doubt of the Centennial's success was possible at the second public meeting held March 23, just two weeks after the real inception of the movement.

Sub-committees were at once appointed, correspondence was begun with available men in every town in the county, the fire departments were enthused, athletic clubs were stirred up, men versed in the antiquities of their towns were selected as historians and relics of the past were engaged for exhibition. The make-up of

the various committees represented the business and professional men of Delhi. In addition to the General Committee the following were selected:

*On Finance*—M. T. Menzie, S. F. Adeo, Jas. E. Harper.

*On History*—William Clark, Robert P. McIntosh, S. E. Smith.

*On Speeches*—Hon. A. C. Crosby.

*On Relics*—Dr. Wm. Ormiston, Charles W. Graham.

*Firemen's Committee*—The Firemen's Board, J. J. Burke, Chief; W. A. McIntosh, Secretary.

*Bicycle Committee*—R. P. McIntosh, F. M. Farrington, C. R. Stilson, Jas. E. Harper.

Arrangements for the Centennial Parade were made early. Mr. Frank L. Norton of Delhi was made Grand Marshal and the Assistant Marshals chosen from different parts of the county were: George M. Burgin, Walton; George O. Leonard, Stamford; Wm. Brinkman, Franklin; A. B. Evans, Deposit; Arthur S. Mecker, Delhi, Grand Marshal's Aid.

Every arrangement was well planned and executed with thoroughness. When the calendar marked the opening of the festival day, June 9, nothing seemed lacking either in general plan or proper consideration of details. Delhi decked herself in holiday finery as never before. Flags and bunting floated from house and business block, fine arches spanned the streets welcoming the citizens of the county to the capital town, special electric lights illumined the public buildings. Men, women and children were decorators and decorated. Never before had such a gorgeous display been shown in the county. Favorable comment was universal. Although the committees had thus carefully arranged and earnestly labored, one point was forgotten in the mass of detail that had fallen upon them: the clerk of the weather had been overlooked. Old Jupiter Pluvius drew up the flood gates of the heavens and from Tuesday morning the "drops that water the earth" were continually falling.

But so great was the patriotism and enthusiasm of the people of Delaware county that it could not be dampened by the heavy rains. The stuff that won the Delaware hills from wilderness to cultivated

and fertile fields could celebrate her birthday under a canopy of uncheekered blue. It seemed that the people had all planned to attend the celebration, promising by far the largest convocation in the annals of the noble history of the county. Interest in the event had entered almost every home, and it was the assemblage was very large.

The Delaware Express in reporting the celebration said: "We are confident that those who could not come were present in spirit. The thoughts crowding about the occasion have brought our people closer together and inspired new feelings of patriotism. Doubtless there is also a newborn purpose in many hearts to labor more earnestly that the new century shall be brighter and better than the one that has passed. If this be one result it is glory enough for two rainy days celebration of the Centennial of the best county of the best state in the grandest country on the face of the earth."

The story of this inspiring and very successful event can only be briefly told in these pages. The program for the first day, June 9, included the town histories, addresses and papers prepared for the occasion. These exercises were held in the court room of the court house, which was beautifully ornamented for the occasion. It was a fitting place in which to recount the events of a century, with the portraits of such prime actors hanging upon the wall as Erastus Root, Samuel Sherwood, Amasa J. Parker, Jonas A. Hughston, Colonel Amasa Parker, and Samuel Gordon.

Hon. Abram C. Crosby, the president of the day, called the assembly to order and an earnest, appropriate prayer was offered by Rev. L. Willard Minch, the chaplain. Vocal and instrumental music was interspersed with the historical productions giving zest to the exercises. At five o'clock of this day a service of thanksgiving to Almighty God was held in the Second Presbyterian Church, conducted by Rev. F. H. Seeley and Rev. Dr. Robinson of Delhi.

The addresses, papers and letters follow while the town histories constitute Part III.

## Address of Welcome, by Hon. Abram C. Crosby,

OF DELHI, N. Y.

FELLOW CITIZENS: We meet to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the county of Delaware. To the young a century seems a long period of time; to the middle-aged, who realize they have lived nearly half the century the period appears extremely short. Delaware county was organized on the tenth day of March, 1797, only six days after George Washington retired from the duties and responsibilities of the office of President of the United States. Our history commences in the early days of the government when the Revolutionary heroes were actively participating in and directing the affairs of the young republic.

During the one hundred years since the organization of this county the political map of Europe has been greatly altered. A century ago Napoleon was planning his first military movements. He had not won an important battle. His great European wars, greater than the battles of the Roman or Grecian conquests, were subsequently fought. Then all the ports of China were closed to the whole civilized world; then Japan had not learned the advantages of our civilization, or secured the services of one of the honored sons of Delaware county (David Murray, LL. D.) to establish and take charge of her educational institutions and stimulate an intellectual activity which has made her one of the strongest eastern nations in intellect, political economy and military and naval prowess. Then our own country embraced only a narrow belt along the Atlantic coast, scarcely extending beyond the Alleghenies, with a population of less than four millions of people; Michigan and the whole northwestern territory were inhabited by warlike savages; Florida, all the vast territory between the Mississippi river and the Pacific Ocean, Mexico, Central America and nearly the whole of South America were under the control of the Government of Spain.

Now since the acquisition of all that valuable territory and also rich and undeveloped Alaska, like old England, we can boast that the sun never sets upon our possessions.

Fifty years, after the formation of our county, had elapsed before the discovery of the gold producing mines of California—so rich in their resources that they have reduced the value of the precious metal and materially aided in revolutionizing the financial system of the world; ten years after the county was formed the first steamboat was built and plowed its way through the waters of the Hudson river, making our state the pioneer in steam navigation; during the last half century petroleum has been discovered, the use of which has revolutionized illuminating, heating and propelling; twenty-five years after the formation of our county the first steam railroad was built and a New York capitalist is entitled to the credit of applying and adapting steam power to railroad transportation; sixty years ago railroad construction was in its infancy; there was no banking institution except the United States bank; no stock exchange; no telegraph or telephone lines; no mining stocks; no organized money corporations; and the mail facilities were so limited at the time

of the organization of our county that Benjamin Franklin, the Postmaster General, rode over the country in his old sulkey and personally inspected every mail route in the United States.

At the time of the organization of this county the representatives of the people were engaged in bitter dissensions in the national legislature, charges of plots to overthrow the new government were freely made, the treasury was bankrupt, no satisfactory financial system had been developed or put in operation, national debt had been contracted with no means of payment; and citizens of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts were in open rebellion to prevent the collection of the revenues necessary for the ordinary expenses of government.

Surrounded by such embarrassing circumstances and confronted by reasonable doubt regarding the ultimate success of popular government, the patriots who by their wisdom and patriotism had solved the complicated questions that had arisen during the struggle for independence and by the formation and ratification of the constitution of the United States had firmly laid the foundation of American institutions, were successfully enacting laws and adopting policies of government that have developed and made us the greatest nation of the earth.

Then the county of Delaware was almost a primeval forest. The axe had hardly disturbed the solitude. A few inhabitants were living in scattered log huts in the small clearings along the valleys of the streams and upon the slopes of the hills and mountains; but nearly the whole county, in territorial extent almost as large as the state of Rhode Island, was in the simplicity and grandeur of nature. General Root, Samuel Sherwood and a few other grand and able men had established their homes at or near the county seat and were developing the local interests of the new county, while others at the Capital of the nation were maturing plans for the government of the whole people.

Many of the sons and daughters of old Delaware have settled in other localities and, by their industry, energy and ability, have made their names and transactions a part of the history of nearly every state of the union. We recall with pride the records of our ancestors who were prominent in the early history of our county and point with satisfaction to the work of their descendants who have developed its resources and contributed to its present prosperity.

The mixture of races, the intermarriage of inhabitants of different countries and nationalities, especially of the European states, have developed stronger individualities and made better citizens physically and intellectually. Such has been the result among the inhabitants of the county of Delaware. Prior to the Revolution a few of the sons and daughters of Scotland had settled in and become inhabitants of a portion of our county. The descendants of the Puritans of New England had crossed to the eastern portion of the county, in Roxbury, Stamford and Harpersfield, and had also gone into Franklin and down the Susquehanna into Sidney and formed centers of population, whose citizens loved their homes, liberally supported the church and promoted education under the many disadvantages surrounding them. They have left their good influences behind and a large portion of the county of Delaware has been



Americanized and educated by the teachings and examples of the pioneers from New England and their descendants. The Dutch, slow and conservative in their ways, came up from Esopus, traveled across Pine Hill, drifted down the East branch of the Delaware and up the stream into the town of Roxbury and there met and located with the pioneers from New England; the New Englander had his little home and farm to till and in many places had built his factories where the manufactured products needed for the comfort of the people were successfully made. Many of the Dutch were weavers and skilled in other trades and they were all peacefully inclined and lived and worked happily with the Yankees. Many Scotchmen with their families and Bibles came over soon after and located in the interior towns of the county. Their firmly established religious beliefs, home influences, deep interest in educational affairs and love of and obedience to the government of their adopted country has left an impress upon the people of the county of Delaware that will not be effaced for generations hence. The establishment of the church and the school, the hardy industry, pluck, determination and obstinacy of the Scotchmen and their families have contributed largely to the development of the intellectual and material interests of our county.

There is not a nation in Europe from Scandinavia on the north to sunny France and Italy on the south that has not contributed to the population of old Delaware. The habits of the inhabitants, the church, the school, the pure air and water, the mountain scenery and all the surroundings of nature and civilization have tended to develop the manhood of every European who has made this his adopted home; and instead of helping to fill the prisons and reformatories or drifting down among the criminal classes of the cities he has become a good citizen of our county, adopted our customs and aided in the development of our resources.

During the last century our country has passed through trying ordeals, in which many of the citizens of Delaware county have participated. By the war of 1812 our government asserted its power and authority on the high seas; protected American citizens in their person and property against the arrogant demands of the mother country and, by the bravery of her soldiers and sailors on land and on sea, demonstrated to the nations of the earth that we were one nation and people, under a common flag, and that wherever the starry banner floated the rights and interests of American citizens must be recognized and protected.

One hundred years ago our nation was disgraced and humiliated by the accursed institution of human slavery; upon the platform, in the public press and the halls of legislation long and bitter discussions were had between the representatives of free labor and slave labor, regarding the rights of the owners of human chattels in free territory; the pernicious doctrine that the rights of the individual state were paramount to the authority of the national government and that there was no power under the constitution to coerce a state and preserve the unity of the nation was strenuously advocated until the slave holders attempted by armed force to disrupt the union, by open rebellion against the general government, and establish an independent confederacy based upon slavery as the foundation and corner stone.

At the call of the chief executive many brave sons of Delaware county promptly enlisted, and went forth to battle for their country, uphold its flag, preserve the government and maintain the principles of liberty so dear to the heart of every friend of humanity. They fought the battles of the union and established beyond question that henceforth there will be but one country, nation and people united and happy under a common flag and marching on to a higher destiny.

In every part of our county are evidences of the great struggle in which they were engaged; the empty sleeve, the wooden limb, the broken constitution of many of the old veterans show unmistakably that they gave the best years of their early manhood on the southern battle fields, and in the swamps and morasses, and prisons of the south; the thousands of soldiers' graves in the national cemeteries and scattered throughout the land silently testify to their deeds of heroism and great sacrifices made upon the altar of human liberty. When the old soldiers march through our streets to-morrow they should be greeted with uncovered heads showing that we fully recognize the services they have rendered and the sacrifices they have made, and but for the great expenditure of life and treasure and their loyalty and heroism instead of enjoying the great advantages of a united government under the glorious flag of liberty, with a population of over seventy millions of happy and prosperous people, our country would now be broken into forty-five separate and independent states, disputing with and warring against each other like the republics of Central and South America.

Human slavery, existing in our country, protected by law, contradicted the assertion that our government was a haven for the down trodden and oppressed from every country of the earth and its abolition was among the most glorious and important results of the great civil war. Over four millions of enslaved human beings were released from bondage, liberty ceased to be a theory and became an accomplished fact, and now wherever the banner of liberty and freedom floats over American soil every citizen, whatever his race, color or former condition, if obedient to the law, can proudly say I am a free American citizen.

A century ago education was a luxury, enjoyed only by a limited number. About that time Governor George Clinton by his messages to the legislature recommended the establishment of common schools and a board of Regents of the University and, following his suggestions, laws were enacted resulting in the organization of our public school system which, by subsequent legislation, has been developed into the grandest and most liberal educational system in the union. Our school houses, dotting every hill side and nestling in every valley throughout the entire state, are nurseries of liberty and afford to the children of every citizen the facilities for a good common school training, while in the cities and enterprising villages of the state every opportunity is offered for the procurement of a higher and more liberal education. Inventive genius has facilitated and lessened the expense of publication of books, periodicals and newspapers so that the poorest and humblest citizen has within his reach excellent reading matter for himself and his family and the neglect or refusal to furnish intellectual food for their use is absolutely inexcusable.

For the price of a cigar or a drink of whiskey a monthly magazine can be purchased replete with information and the best literary productions of modern writers. The money that many of our people daily expend for useless luxuries would soon cover the family tables and fill the shelves of home libraries with the best books of ancient and modern history and literature.

There is no community of people, remote from the cities, on the face of the earth, better housed, clothed and fed and possessing greater educational advantages of instruction by the school, pulpit, platform, books and newspapers than the inhabitants of the county of Delaware.

Throughout the civilized world the higher countries have furnished to the lowlands a constant and un failing supply of recruits possessed of great physical and mental strength and vigor. The inhabitants of the colder regions are compelled, by the rigorous demands of nature, by industry and frugality, to provide for their physical wants, while the children of the warmer climates rely upon the lavish productions of nature to furnish to them their physical necessities. Located among the spurs of the noble Catskills near the metropolis of the western hemisphere, with rugged soil, bracing atmosphere, long winters and clear streams of sparkling water running along the beautiful valleys toward the sea, Delaware county naturally produces men and women who are well fitted mentally and physically to enter a broader sphere of activity and successfully battle in the struggle of life. From her borders noble, ambitious and promising young men have continually gone forth to engage in the peaceful battles of education, legislation and business and aid in the development of other states throughout the union. There is hardly a constitutional or statutory law of a western state which has been framed without the participation of some son of Delaware county. There is scarcely a great business enterprise in any of the leading cities of the union without a son of Delaware county connected with it in some capacity. They go out to win, and inquire wherever you will you find that where one native born citizen of our county fails in whatever business he undertakes ninety-nine others succeed. We are justly proud of the success they have attained within and without their native state and like the Roman mother, we point exultingly to them and exclaim, "These are our jewels."

I heartily extend to you the sincere welcome of the entire county of Delaware and particularly of the village of Delhi. This celebration is not local in its character; it is a gathering of the people from the entire county, in which all classes have shown a great interest and for which they have furnished numerous and valuable contributions. The public property here belongs to the whole people of the county. The citizens of Delhi are only stockholders in it.

I sincerely hope that these anniversary exercises will develop a general feeling of harmony and unity among the people of the whole county. We have a common interest and pride in our local government and institutions, and we should labor together without prejudices to promote the best interests of the whole community.

Letter from Rev. John L. Scott, D. D.,  
OF PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Allow me to assure you of my keenest regrets at not being able to attend the coming Centennial of Delaware county. I had hoped the pleasure, but fate seems to have ordered otherwise, so I bow to the inevitable. This Centennial, from its very nature, ought to be not only the source of personal pleasure, but also productive of lasting good. Delaware county was a generous mother, and there are many things her sons cannot afford to forget. If I were to be born over again, I would ask the good Angel to let me off in Boyina, on the banks of the Little Delaware, and near the old mill which my grandfather built just ninety-six years ago. It was a good place to be born in, and an equally good place to leave so soon as one was able to toddle away. As two streams unite to form the Delaware river, so two civilizations entered into the early formation of the county. The Puritan and the Scotch. The Puritan was English, and halted long enough in New England to take breath before attempting the ascent of the Catskills. He scattered his marks all along the way. Roxbury, Stamford, Hamden, Meredith and Colchester, were the god-sons of New England sponsors. The Scotch on the contrary, were a direct importation. They came straight from old Scotia with their heathery brogue still fresh upon their lips. Andes, Kortright, and Boyina especially were but patches, cut from the map of Scotland and pasted on the face of Delaware county. I saw the last of those centennial pioneers as they were passing into the West now forty years ago. They were a race of honest men. With axe in hand they fought their way to the mountain summit, and but for them many a rich, fertile farm had remained the forest of a century ago. These were the Highlanders of Delaware county, and formed a distinctive force in its developement. In my boyhood the anti-rent war was still fireside history. The line of battle stretched like a stone-wall through the towns of Andes and Boyina. The philosophy of this fact few have thought to inquire. It was simply a Scotch sense of injustice, manifesting itself in a strange county. My grandfather spent some money and more time in the log jail at Delhi, because somebody had been shot in an adjoining town. Not long since I learned the reason why he became a part of that hopeless struggle. His father had been a laird or factor, and quarreled with the Earl whom he represented. So he came to America, and took sweet vengeance on the Overings, the Livingstons, and the Kortrights, for what the Earl of Traquair had done at home. They were good haters and true friends. There is a tradition that when the old gentleman was rusticiating at Delhi, an officer came and said: "Mr. Scott, we know you did not kill Steele, but think you can name the man who did, tell us and go home!" The old man, sweeping his hand across his throat, and with an expletive which I hope the Recording Angel did not hear, replied: "take my head, sir, take my head." Liberty at the price of dishonor had no quotation in their markets. Those men at the other end of the century were religious after a fashion peculiar to themselves. They generally attended church and those who did not, were always ready with a reason,

especially if they did not like the minister. Two neighbors, whose names I withhold out of respect to their descendants, had disagreements, of the most deadly kind. One was a *pillar* in the church and the other a *shopper* outside. The minister, the Rev. Jas. Douglas, meeting the non-church-goer, remarked that his parishoner's conduct was devilish. "Devilish, it is damnable sir, it is damnable." But the minister had done an unconscious missionary work, and the next Sunday his congregation was increased in attendance by one. Not as Mr. A. B. Douglas once said to me, "that he loved Rome less, but he hated his neighbor more." This was but the outside of a kind, poetic nature that few could understand. Somewhere over the hills and out of sight, there was a garden of wild native flowers that best declared their worth. Delaware county owes them a debt which she can never pay. Their life and spirit have survived the century and live in the noblest manhood of the present. There were two forces in the Delaware of my day for which I am profoundly grateful, the church and village academy. The ministers were men of more than ordinary ability. Forest, Laing, Douglas, Graham and Wilson had bound their sheaves and were going through the gates. Gibson and Lee were the first preachers I ever heard, and in the maturer judgement of all these years, I regard them still as men of exceptional power. The common schools were inferior, but the village academies gave some of us an opportunity which otherwise had never come. Andes, Delhi, Stanford and Roxbury, were educational centres. I as a boy of fifteen, walked twice a week to Andes, a distance of ten miles. For five days instruction it was no easy task, but under the tuition of Wm. Wight and Peter Smealie it paid a thousand times. There was once a family intercourse among the good people of Delaware, which I suspect has largely become a thing of the past. The old barriers have been swept away, and Delaware county has met and absorbed a newer civilization. Our fathers are fast becoming mere names to be talked about,

" Each in his narrow cell forever laid  
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

But what they were cannot die. Their accents live in other voices and their footsteps are the paths by which we walk. The walled mountains are their monuments, and the integrity of their sons their highest eulogy. The absent salute you, and as we stand by this well of common recollection, let us drink deep and long to the honor of old Delaware, and the men of one hundred years ago.

A river dear as life to me,  
From out the mountains finds the sea  
And oft in thought I wander there,  
Along the banks of Delaware.

The mountains gaze in sombre face,  
Upon the waters in their race,  
As if they watched in constant prayer  
The dear old banks of Delaware

Along those banks on dusty bed,  
There sleeps in peace my cherished dead.  
Unvexed by toil or troublous care  
They rest upon the Delaware.

And when the race of life is run,  
One boon I ask and ask but one—  
That I with them a grave may share  
Upon the banks of Delaware.

### Letter from Rev. A. S. Kedzie.

OF GRAND HAVEN, MICH.

While thankful for an invitation to attend the celebration of Delaware county's Centennial, it is too long a journey for one of my age, four score and ten.

I would like to revisit the scenes of my boyhood in Stamford and Delhi. The earliest of these is readily recalled, being the building by my father of a stone milkhouse in Stamford, eighty years ago this month, to facilitate his dairying.

It must have been about the year of your county organization when my grandmother Kedzie, whose family in 1795 found a home in what soon became Delaware county, found herself in Catskill, before Landlord Steele established his line of stages to that town, trying on an autumnal Saturday afternoon to persuade a Delhi neighbor to delay his return home till Monday, offering to pay his hotel bill so that she, refusing to travel on the Sabbath day, might ride home with him. He pleaded his business and went home. She went to church, and having bought a supply of tracts, spent Monday and Tuesday in tract distribution while on her way home on foot.

I recall what I suppose was the dedication of the Masonic Temple in Delhi (now the Kingston hotel building) the year forgotten. My brother James and I were permitted to go from our home on the "New Patent" in Delhi township to see the Masonic procession. In doing so we passed the field our father was "summer fallowing" and with amazement admired his industry, when instead of such work he could have a day's fun at the village. In that Masonic procession the thing I most vividly remember was the reverent way Mr. Knapp, familiarly known as Father Knapp, carried the open Bible through the street.

When my father removed his family from Stamford to Delhi, we attended worship in Rev. Mr. Maxwell's church below Delhi.

Gen. Root, Judges Parker and Sherwood, the merchant, Herman D. Gould, the surveyor, Mr. Hathaway, the hatter, Mr. Thurber, Mr. Penfield and his blacksmith shop, Robert Hyde with his trowels, Gordon Edgerton and Mr. Steele with their hotels, Judge Foote in his home law office are prominent figures in the gallery of my early recollections.

Delaware's anti-rent war and anti-masonic politics came later, awakening discussion and stirring society to its profoundest depths.

Among the traditions of my boyhood is a theological discussion held in "Edgerton's tavern" by Lorenzo Dow with Gen. Root and Mr. Bush. When asked for his idea of Heaven, Mr. Dow promptly replied: "It is a vast ethereal plane in which there is neither a Root nor a Bush, and I fear never will be."

One of my early attractions was the annual meeting of the Delaware County Bible Society, held each winter in the old court house, whose two pillars were trimmed with evergreens. In one such meeting Rev. Robert Forrest arose in his stately manner and said: "I have been a member of this society for ten years and am so pleased with its work in distributing the Word of God, that as a thank-offering I give ten dollars to its treasury."

There was a day's fun every autumn for us boys in attending Regimental Training, with its gay sights and appetizing gingerbread; also, with the regiment formed in a "hollow square" in its season of prayer led by Rev. Mr. Maxwell, whose hat was reverently placed upon the bass drum covered with a black cloth; all concluded with inspiring strains of martial music, a grand march up the town's main street and a scurrying home of us boys, tired but well paid by a day's fun.

My early recollections are of the Delaware Gazette, whose columns on or about September, 1828, made record of my father's death, written by Rev. Dr. Maxwell. Seventy years ago the Gazette was wont to come to our home in the wilderness of Michigan with the refreshment of "good news from a far country," though its "news by the last ship from Europe" was a month old; yet the Gazette, even to the advertisements was eagerly read by the whole family.

This hasty recital of a few things of the long-ago times brings to mind the fact that Delaware county in the first century of its history has only and I trust fully shared in the progress, which by invention and discovery through steam and electricity has made this a new world.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

P. S.—The descendants of my grandfather Kedzie have held residence in Delaware county during all the years of its organized history. And those of us who have strayed far away still hold some claim to such connection with old Delaware, even though we declined the environment of its closeabutting hills.

My careless, and as I now recall it, joyous boyhood in Stamford and Delhi, seem almost like a former existence, as all this world will soon seem to be to me. And of the world I hope then to have as pleasant recollections as I now have of your justly proud county, aged one hundred years.

I hope the historian of your celebration will be able to show the steps and recount the toils and troubles by which Delaware, in fields and homes, in schools and churches, in reforms and politics, came, within a century, to reach its honorable standing among the counties of the Empire state despite all hindrance of hills, which with all their ruggedness are still dear to my recollection.

Remarks of General Amasa J. Parker,  
OF ALBANY, N. Y.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: It is a matter of great pleasure to me to be with you here in my native village, upon this occasion, and to join with the sons and daughters of old Delaware in celebrating the Centennial of her life. Such a celebration could not be inaugurated and carried through by an inert or slothful people. That would be impossible! On the contrary, such a celebration can only have its conception and being among an active and aggressive population, proud of its past history and achievements as well as ambitious for future growth and renown. Not only is a Centennial of this character to be appreciated for reviving the past and for the expression of hopes for the future, but for the social and neighborly intercourse among the people brought together from all parts of the county.

The history of this county which will be laid before you at this time, the facts which will be brought to light, the duties which will be taught, will in a great measure tell upon the character of every one who takes part in this interesting celebration. Those who are here will, returning to their homes, impart newly gained knowledge to others and thus much that was almost forgotten in the land will be revived and stamped upon the memories of a new generation.

While considering the past of this county we cannot overlook the fact that it has contributed its full share toward the building up of our great State and Nation and that her sons have ever loyally fought for the integrity and honor of the country.

Well may we here to-day renew the memories of our forefathers' days, for our own good and the lessons taught. They were days of trial and want, of courage, devotion and sacrifice. The steadiness, thrift, economy and industry of those days was in strong contrast with these days of luxury, extravagance and speculation. For one, I should hail most heartily much more simplicity and earnestness in every day life, without, in any degree, detracting from the spirit and life of true progress.

I am here from busy surroundings for but a few hours to record myself as present and join in these festivities. Personally I prefer to listen and ponder, rather than talk much upon this occasion. Besides many are here and each one should have an opportunity to speak. Richly cherished memories crowd upon me in these surroundings. Though taken by my parents to Albany when about a year old I was here in this village many times in my boyhood and enjoyed many a ramble or drive among the hills and in the valleys of Delaware county. My few latest trips, say during the last twenty-five years, have been sad ones when dear friends or elders of my kin have been laid at rest.

This county has ever held a warm place in my affections and my parents early inspired me with their love for its generous, intelligent, cultured, God-fearing and prosperous people. Many of those I prized here in my youth and those who became my friends in later years, beginning with school and college



THE B. & O. RAILROAD DEPOT





days, from Delaware county, are very dear to my memory and nearly all of them have already passed over the dark river into the life eternal.

May the Great Ruler of all who doeth all things well and who has showered his blessings upon us in the past, continue His protection and direction for all time.

### Remarks of Mayor J. H. Mitchell,

OF CONOIS, N. Y.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: It is not without considerable trepidation that I, a physician, respond to your call for a speech on this occasion, especially in the presence of so many lawyers as abound at this county seat and who are presumably better fitted by trade and training for this than I. And it is fair to assume that they are more fitted by natural predilection and training for this task, for I once heard of a father and mother (up here in the hills of Delaware or somewhere) who wished to educate and prepare one of their sons for the greatest influence in life of which he was capable. They thought it necessary to ascertain his natural bent or inclination, believing that they would attain larger and surer success by educating him along this line. So they left him alone in a room in which had been placed an orange, a dollar and a Bible, and they said: "Now if on our return we find that he has taken the orange we will make a farmer, an agriculturist of him. If he has preferred the dollar we will educate him for a business man, a financier. If he has taken to the Bible we will make him a preacher." Returning after a few minutes they opened the door and found Johnnie sitting on the Bible, eating the orange and with the dollar in his pocket. The old farmer exclaimed: "Mary Jane that boy is a hog, we'll make a lawyer of him." I give that to the lawyers just to allay my nervousness. Seriously, ladies and gentlemen, I congratulate you on this occasion which you celebrate, and as I address you my heart fills with pride and pleasure for Mr. Chairman, I deem it not only a pleasure but a privilege to be with you all to-day. I am proud that I am a son of old Delaware county, and when I look into the faces of my old associates many are the recollections of by-gone happy days that flash vividly before my memory, and as these recollections appear before me I feel like repeating poetry and song:

Backward, turn backward, oh time in your flight,  
And make me a child again just for to-night.

\* \* \*

If it be at all times discreditable to man's character to fail in patriotic love and loyalty to the land of his nativity, how much more inexcusable such recreancy is in a son of old Delaware county. Where in all the broad land can we find a locality offering so much to appeal to patriotic love and pride as this county presents to her sons and daughters. Her climate, so salubrious, so varied, always stopping short of uncomfortable extremes in winter or in summer. Her physical geography and landscape, scenery, hills and valleys, a happy medium always between the rugged, rocky and often barren mountains on the one hand, and monotonous levels on the other.

Her pure perennial springs, purling rills and stately rivers, the fertility of her soil: nowhere else do we find the carpeting of the valleys and the drapery of the hillsides more delightfully verdant with grass, or more beautifully bespangled with flowers, and nowhere else do we find more various, more beautiful or more stately woods than those which are indigenous to her soil, and which frieze and embroider the landscape on every hand. Agriculturally, a country especially adapted to grazing and dairying, her pastures clothed with flocks, her cattle on a thousand hills, add interest to the scenes to memory dear. The agricultural products such as milk, butter, eggs and maple sugar are those which will always find a market in the great cities of the east not far away, while the character of the climate, the nature of the soil and the purity of the water are such as make these products the best on the market, untainted by garlic, ragweed or a thousand other noxious and deleterious weeds which grow in other sections. These advantages afford greater stability in the prices of his products and value of property and a more sure reward for his toil to the farmer of Delaware county than to those of other sections of our great country. Delaware county has not suffered as have other sections of our land from the stringency and depression of the last few years. Then, the people of this generation, as we remember them (and we trust they may always continue to be) were a self-respecting, God-fearing, church-going race who reared their children and sent them forth into all departments of human life in the world, inspired, athletic, girded and panoplied; and we think we may safely affirm that the children of old Delaware county wherever they may have gone and in the midst of whatever opportunities and responsibilities they may have been tested, they have proven themselves exceptionally true and strong in all that goes to make up a noble and useful manhood or a beautiful and lovely womanhood. And this, after all, is the highest purpose which a community like old Delaware subserves, to furnish men—fresh, pure, strong manhood. Look down the roll of great men who in all departments of human thought and enterprise have attained distinction and have achieved success, especially as heroes and benefactors of the race. Begin with that old history, the Bible, follow down the ages to the present time, trace the biographies of the great men, the successful men, in all walks of life to-day, and note how large a proportion of them came from the influence and environments of rural and agricultural communities. This can all be explained, but that is not my purpose here nor have I time to do so. Enough it is to note the fact, and remember that there is no more advantageous sphere in which to rear a family of boys and girls and attain the highest results to which any wise parent would aspire than that this county furnishes, viz., character, not wealth, nor fame necessarily, but manhood and womanhood. And never was there greater need and demand for this product so peculiarly indigenous to old Delaware than to-day.

Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,  
Where wealth accumulates and men decay,  
Princes and lords may flourish or may fade,  
A breath can make them, as a breath has made.  
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,  
When once destroyed, can never be supplied.

## Letter from Hon. David Murray, LL.D.,

OF NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

It is with great regret that I am compelled to abandon my wish to be present at the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the political organization of Delaware county. A century seems like a long period in the history of any civil body; but when at its completion we look back upon its rounded years, it counts for comparatively little. In a certain sense the whole period can be spanned within my own experience. Thus, the political life of General Erastus Root reaches back to the very origin of Delaware county. He was a Member of Assembly, representing the county in 1798—the second year of its organization. And yet when I was a school boy at Delaware Academy, I remember perfectly his venerable figure as he used to sit on the veranda of his house opposite the old Academy building. To us he seemed a most interesting and picturesque old man. He was fond of gathering us about him, and as was his wont, teasing us and telling us stories. He was the President of the Board of Trustees of the Academy, and as such he was a person of great importance, and considerable terror to our little community. He was nearly always present at the examination of our classes, and used to frighten us very much by the learned questions he used to put to us in our Latin and other studies. It was with a kind of awe that it was whispered among us that in his youth he had published an arithmetic, which for a time held its place beside those of Pike and Daboll.

My friend, the late Judge Parker, of Albany, told me a story of General Root which I have never seen in print, and which you will perhaps pardon me if I here insert: In the early days of Delaware county, when General Root was a member of the Legislature, the route from Albany to Delhi was by stage down the west side of the Hudson to Coxsackie, and thence out over the Catskill mountains to the Delaware river. On one of these trips the stage was upset and General Root had his leg broken. He was detained at the poor little village many weeks, while his leg was mending. Judge Parker, who had then taken up his residence at Albany, went down to visit him during his convalescence and found him in a most irritable and impatient frame of mind. It must be understood that at that time very many of the inhabitants of Coxsackie, being descendants of the Dutch settlers, spoke little except Dutch. General Root complained bitterly of his forlorn and wearisome condition. "Think of it," said he, "here I am in this miserable, God-forsaken hole; with nobody to talk to and nobody to drink with; and if I were to die here and be buried among these Dutchmen, when I rise at the resurrection I will not be able to understand a damned word which these Hollanders have to say."

I have referred to the Delaware Academy in connection with General Root; but one cannot recall this venerable institution at that day without bringing to mind its accomplished Principal, Rev. Daniel Shepard. You cannot appropriately celebrate the past century of Delaware county without making mention of him who rendered so great and so valuable a service to this community. His fine scholarship, his apt and attractive methods of

teaching, his graceful and attractive personality, and his pure and manly character made him the idol of the students and the pride and honor of the town.

I confess to a kind of gratification in belonging to that interesting section of the people of Delaware county which we may denominate the Scotch contingent. You will agree with me, I am sure, that no part of the settlers of this county has contributed more to its solid growth and prosperity. In reading the annals of Drumtochty, which Ian Maclaren has so imitatively sketched in the Bonnie Brier Bush, I have often thought that here in your very midst was a Scotch element which only needed such a hand of genius to make equally immortal.

Delaware county received its first installment of Scotch immigrants before the richer regions of Western New York, or the still more fertile and attractive territories of Ohio, and the farther West was open to settlement. They came here because the hills, the streams and the valleys reminded them of their dear old homes in Scotland. They brought with them their churches, their schools and their love of political and religious liberty; and they have here helped to build up intelligent, honest and God-fearing communities, which have made this county a synonym for all that is best and most substantial.

There have been three periods of trial through which this county has been called to pass in attaining her present standpoint. The first of these was the Revolutionary period. This was indeed over before the separate history of the county was begun; but the patriotic qualities of the heroes of that day were submitted to a sharp test. The second period was the Anti-Rent episode, which in 1845-6 stirred the county to its angry depths. And yet out of the excitement and tragedies of that time the character of its population has survived unharmed. A third period of trial came when in common with all the North, you were called upon to put down the great Rebellion of 1861-5. Even yet there are hearts in this community which are wrung with pain at the recollection of the sacrifices which they were called upon to make at that time. Of the hundreds of husbands and sons who were given up to join in that terrible conflict, how many are sleeping in unknown graves? and of the thinning ranks who still survive, how many are carrying with them perpetual mementoes of their battles, their marches and their encampments? And yet out of all these heavy trials *who* does not recognize that this noble and stalwart county has by means of them been chastened to a higher destiny, and to-day at the end of her first century, stands more conspicuously strong and vigorous than ever before.

As one of her loyal sons, who has enjoyed the high privilege of having been born and fostered within her territory, I desire to-day to join with others equally loyal, in celebrating her centennial anniversary, and in extending to her our congratulations upon the past century of success, and in wishing to her in the future the same allotment of good fortune and prosperity.

## Remarks of J. I. Goodrich, Esq.,

OF DELHI, N. Y.

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW CITIZENS: Ninety-seven years ago my grandfather, Isaac Goodrich, who had been a soldier of the Revolution, with his family and his brother Jared with his family came to Delaware county. He settled in the town of Delhi at a place now called DeLancey, then being a part of Delhi—the town of Hamden not having been formed till twenty-five years afterward. At this time my father, Hiram B. Goodrich, was eight years of age, and when he arrived at the age of twenty-one years he enlisted as a soldier in the war of 1812 and continued in the service until the close of the war.

I was born in Delaware county, have always lived here, and no man has greater reason to cherish feelings of love and gratitude toward this county than myself.

The early settlers of this part of the county were many of them from New England. They cut loose from civilization; they brought their all with them; they burned their bridges behind them. These brave hardy men with their faithful devoted wives, their strong stalwart sons, their firm-hearted daughters and the little children "homeless except for the mother's arms and couchless except for the mother's breast," plunged into this wilderness and enlisted in a life struggle for its conquest.

Instead of being surrounded by the comforts, conveniences and enjoyments of civilized life, "Bleak nature's desolation wrapped them round, eternal forests and unyielding earth." Instead of the sound of the steam whistle and the church bell they heard the howl of the wolf, the scream of the panther and the war whoop of the Indian.

In those days when a man got up in the morning he had to feel of his scalp to see if, like his country's flag, it was "still there."

This was no "camping out" party, this was no holiday excursion; it meant business. The savage beast and the still more savage man had to be driven out, the forest had to be cut down and subdued, and all the hardships, privations and dangers necessarily incident to the conversion of a wilderness had to be encountered and endured. And yet in spite of all these hindrances and obstacles such was the energy and industry of these pioneers that we find by the census of 1825 that they had changed this wilderness into a thriving community with a population of nearly thirty thousand.

Delaware county has always discharged her duties, public and private, faithfully and well—has borne her full share of the burdens in war and in peace. In the war of 1812 she furnished her full quota of soldiers, and in the war of the Rebellion no county of its size in this state or any other sent to the front more or better or braver men than Delaware county. Scarcely a battle field of the war which was not moistened by the blood of Delaware county's boys.

Delaware county being an inland county with no cities, no great commercial or railroad centers, no extensive manufacturing towns or establishments—thousands of our most active, energetic and ambitious young men have gone

out from us to build up other localities or to engage in business where quicker and greater returns were promised. The West is full of them, and when you find a Delaware county boy you find a leader.

But in spite of this drain upon our population Delaware county has always had and still has as successful teachers, as eloquent preachers, as skilful physicians, as able lawyers, as up-to-date farmers and mechanics as any similar locality in the State.

Delaware county has reason to be proud of her history, her record, her able men, her noble women, and never more so than to-day.

### Remarks of Mr. Thomas G. Smith,

OF SIDNEY, N. Y.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I have been delighted in what I have seen and heard this afternoon at this Centennial celebration of old Delaware county. I have heard a great many things this afternoon that take me back to the days of my boyhood. I can recollect in old Delaware county when there was no such thing as a mile of railroad known, no telegraph, nothing but the old stage coach for a means of conveyance; when it was quite a circumstance to make a journey of a hundred miles; when it took four or five days to get a letter a hundred and fifty miles at a cost of eighteen cents postage. In looking over some of the old relics down in the jury room I was reminded of things in my boyhood days. I well remember when my father used to raise flax, when my mother used to spin it on a little wheel, weave cloth, make the summer garments for the family out of the tow cloth, and the winter garments out of woolen cloth; she would spin the wool and dye it and make the cloth. \* \*

Many of these things remind us that we are getting along in years in the history of Delaware county. We call it "old" Delaware. I think ninety-seven times this afternoon I have heard the expression "old Delaware." But, in another sense of the word, what is "old?" "Old" is not always represented by years. We get a better idea by comparison sometimes. If a man is a hundred years old we call him old. If a country or a government was a hundred years old we might not call it old. I think I heard one speaker this afternoon say that there was a building in Roxbury a hundred and four years old. A few years ago, in that marvelous city in the Adriatic sea, I stood inside of a church building that was built in the sixth century, over thirteen hundred years old. It looked as though it was made for another thousand years. We would call that old in Delaware county. \* \*

For all that I am willing to admit that old Delaware, I am ready to allow that term, I am proud of it, I am glad to hear the term applied to it, "old Delaware." I am proud of being a citizen of old Delaware. Delaware does not possess some things that other countries do, I will admit that. She does not have any wonderful Niagara Falls; she does not have such a grand fissure in the earth as the canon of the Yosemite; she don't have any range of snow capped mountains piercing into the clouds; don't have any sunny climes where the frost king never is known. On the other hand she don't have any



minasma, don't have any earthquakes, don't have any tornadoes, don't have any blasting sirocco. But she does have these grand green hills, these beautiful valleys, these pretty villages dotted all over, this pretty Delhi backed by its beautiful green hills. All over the hills of Delaware gushes the sparkling water that is drink for man and beast and rivals the fabled nectar of the gods. All hail, old Delaware! And when the second century of its establishment is celebrated may it have grown better and better with the years in the century.

### Remarks of Hon. T. E. Hancock,

OF SYRACUSE, N. Y.

MR. CHAIRMAN, FELLOW CITIZENS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I am proud and pleased to be the salutorian this evening. Under that arrangement you will soon be out of trouble and so will I.

I congratulate you upon being one hundred years old to-day, as a county; certainly not as individuals, especially the ladies. Judging from what I heard here this afternoon, if one person should attempt to tell all the good things that could be said concerning this county and its sons and daughters he would speak from now until the dawn of the next centennial day.

I have not armed myself with those deadly weapons, the cyclopaedia and the gazetteer, if you have one, but I remember reading in a New York paper the other day that Delaware county was celebrated for many things; among others that it was distinguished for its hops. I understand you claim not to raise hops here, but it must be so, if it says so in the paper. You are also noted for your maple sugar, for your tanneries and your temperance Democrats. That is certainly glory enough for one county. I have been in a great many counties that were not distinguished in that way, especially in the latter respect.

One of your fellow citizens who is dead and gone and who has been referred to by your speakers, called Delaware county the Switzerland of America; and with its hills and valleys, its healthful climate and fertile soil, it seems to me that it combines the beauties of Switzerland and of the country about the Rhine.

This same voracious newspaper that I was speaking about devoted some remarks to myself in an adjoining column, of course complimentary, in which it called me, if I remember correctly, a statesman from the Onondago Reservation. If that be true, I must be related in some way to the tribe of Delawares. I certainly ought to be interested here because, if I remember reading correctly, in 1768 one of my progenitors, a chief by the name of Segareesera joined in a deed of conveyance whereby he sold all his right, title and interest in and to Delaware county and the surrounding country to King George the Third for fifty thousand dollars. Land was high in Delaware county at that time, comparatively speaking, because I remember before that Manhattan Island was sold for twenty four dollars. A few years after that King George the Third transferred to a free and independent people all his title to the whole country for a much smaller consideration.

I also am interested in this county because I believe I formerly lived in Delaware county, by proxy, at least. I think that Onondaga county, in fact, all the counties between Oswego and Delaware once belonged to Tryon county, and you could travel all the way from Delhi to the Onondaga valley without going out of the county, and if a man wanted to visit his neighbor, all he had to do was to get upon his horse, put his wife on behind him, travel three or four weeks and he would find himself in his neighbor's back yard. Those were the days of stage coaches. These are the days of chain lightning. If you desire to visit with a man in London to-day, in half an hour you can shake hands across the sea. If you want to talk with a man in Chicago, in five minutes you hear him at the other end of the wire.

We do well to celebrate the deeds of our ancestors. I have been pleased to hear these venerable men speak about the sires of '76, how the good old men of Delaware county fought for their liberty, fought to achieve independence for this nation, to build up this garden of the gods where you are living to-day. And I was pleased to hear them tell of the patriots of 1812, who fought to maintain the dignity and self-respect of the youngest of the family of nations; and then still later, how the sons of Delaware left their homes and their firesides, kissed their wives and children good-bye, said farewell to father and mother and went down into the valley of the shadow of death to fight in behalf of home and native land. We do well to praise such deeds and to remember gratefully those who have preceded us.

I have been told since I have been here that Delaware county is surrounded by seven other counties and one State. I would not undertake to tell what those counties are, I never was good in geography. I believe that Sullivan is one, and Greene and Ulster, Schoharie, Broome, Otsego and Chenango; and Pennsylvania. Is that right? That is the best recitation I have made in geography in a long time. But, judging from the patriotism I have seen manifested here, you are not willing to be bounded by any such narrow confines as that. Sometimes the further a man gets away from home the more patriotic he is, and some of you seem to be feeling about like a man from the wild and woolly West who was celebrating the Fourth of July in Paris. In fact there were three of them; one was from Boston, the other from the South and the other from the West. They were having a Fourth of July celebration all by themselves. And the gentleman from Boston proposed a toast to the United States. With true Bostonian precision, he says: "Here's to the United States; bounded on the North by British America, bounded on the South by the Gulf of Mexico, bounded on the East by the Atlantic Ocean and bounded on the West by the Pacific Ocean." The reconstructed gentleman from the South was not satisfied. He says, "I think that hardly expresses the idea. I will propose a toast to our native land. Here's to the United States; bounded on the North by the North Pole, bounded on the South by the South Pole, bounded on the East by the rising sun, bounded on the West by the setting sun." The gentleman from the West was not satisfied with that. He says, "I think I can express the idea more clearly; I will propose a toast. Here's to the United States; bounded on the North by the North Star, bounded on the South by the Southern Cross, bounded on the East by chaos, bounded on the

West by eternity. And I suppose that is about the size of Delaware county to-day. We outsiders, Gentiles, so to speak, are willing to concede that Delaware county is about all there is of it. It was not our fault that we were not born here; we were not consulted, we didn't have our choice.

I am expecting to hear that gavel strike and I do not intend to talk much longer. I have heard some very fine things about Delaware county. I have been told that for sixteen years after you built your first jail the county judge and district attorney and the committing magistrates were discouraged because no one ventured to break the law, and finally they turned the jail into a hotel. And then for about twenty or thirty years after that when a man committed a misdemeanor he walked into the jail and locked himself in; this was way back in '29. I suppose that explains the temperance Democrats. I am reminded that some of my fellow members of the bar (I am supposed to be the titular head of the members of the bar) felt aggrieved at some remarks that were made here this afternoon by a physician concerning the boy who sat on the Bible with the orange in his mouth and the dollar in his pocket. He claimed that the boy became a lawyer. Now, we can all say that, as far as the dollar in his pocket is concerned it is a mistake; but I would call the gentleman's attention to that passage of scripture which reads as follows: "And Asa was sick, and they sent for a physician, and Asa died."

Now, fellow citizens, I am somewhat embarrassed. I have had to arrange my speech as I went along. I don't know but what I am trespassing upon the time of some one else who is to follow. But I find it difficult to stop. The theme is fruitful, the occasion suggestive, and your faces an inspiration. You have my good wishes. I congratulate you again. I congratulate you over the fact that you are citizens of the United States, where every man is a king and every woman a queen. I congratulate you over the fact that you are citizens of the great imperial State of New York, first in wealth, first in strength and first in material resources. I congratulate you that you belong to the good old county of Delaware, and hope that you live long and prosper.

### Extracts from a Letter.

In 1774 my great-grandfather, Alexander Leal, with his wife and six sons, came from Paisley, Scotland, and settled near the centre of Kortright. Last summer, 1896, I had a white rose from a bush on the place which has blossomed for over one hundred years. In writing advice to his children Mr. Leal said: "I reproved myself for bringing a family into the wilderness where there was no preaching of the gospel." They soon found ways to have a minister. A Mr. Aman, from New Jersey, came over one hundred miles, and he preached for them and baptized a child. Very soon the way opened for a graduate of Edinburg University, William McCauley, to come among them. There was a desire among the Stamford people (now South Kortright) to have him. Kortright Center prevailed. A church was organized, and for a time Mr. McCauley and the elders walked Sabbath afternoons over to Stamford, a distance of six miles and had service. After a while Mr. Forrest was settled in Stamford.

He was much respected by his people. Both ministers were considered men of ability. I think Mr. McCauley was thought to be the stronger of the two as to intellect, but Mr. Forrest wore the broadcloth and had the more polished manner. One time the Associate Reformed body met at Newburg. Those interested in that assembly felt disheartened when the man who was to preach for them appeared, dressed in a homespun suit, but when Mr. McCauley offered his prayer, all fears vanished; they felt sure they had the right man, and ever afterwards it was a favor to have Mr. McCauley come among them. \* \* \*

In those days the people came from all directions, eight or ten miles, to church. At communion seasons there would be services beginning with Friday and lasting until Monday afternoon. The different churches came together, the houses nearby opened their doors and welcomed all who came. Many a friend stayed over and made a visit of weeks. In reading the story of Chancellor Livingston, I was reminded of those days. It was stated of him that he would have friends visiting him, and when they were too much at home, he would send money to another friend and ask him to send for them to visit; after awhile they would return improved. The money was not so plenty, but the interchange of friends was quite common. \* \* \*

The Sabbath was sacred; no work that was not absolutely necessary to life was done; the dishes would be left until Monday morning, the wood was brought in Saturday night. If the choice were given to me to have an Academic course without a religious education or a common school education with the old time religious training I would say every time give me the latter, for they who have that, do the clearest thinking and have the strongest will power to overcome difficulties. I am reminded of a time when Dr. Agnew asked me if I knew two ladies who had called on him from Betty's Brook, they appeared very refined and cultured he said; so they were; a family of daughters and two sons, but with a stirring father and a capable quiet mother the Scotch-Irish element was well developed, there was no backwoods people with such training. The mothers of those days were not clamorous for place, but they held the rudder all the same, behind the scenes.

Early in this century the father of the Leals went down below Delhi and bought land for his four sons on the east side of the Delaware, his own farm, (being now called the Mecker farm,) the poor-house lot and the one below; there being no church in the town then, he used to walk to Kortright Center, fourteen miles, every Sabbath. Mrs. Gould told me that she had often seen Grandfather Leal on horseback with Grandmother behind him going to Stamford to church. Judge Bostwick told me that no one dared to fish or hunt until the old gentleman was off; they were sure to be fined if he saw them. It was not long before he had a church near by; it stood on the flat a little below the Little Delaware bridge. Mrs. Thurber told me that he stood on the bridge and saw the last rafter go up; he leaning on his long staff said, "Now bestest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation;" thus he had seen three churches organized, and his exhortation to his children was, "be always ready to support the Gospel; be mindful of Mr. McCauley for he has been a faithful minister to ye all."

Mr. Maxwell was settled over the Delhi church, he preaching occasionally in the Court-house and also at Cabin Hill over the Scotch mountain. A few of

the village people went down to the church, but they were not a church-going community; they were men of affairs, able lawyers; the first bar in the State outside of the city of New York it was said; there was a true aristocracy; the daughters were sent away to school; in those days Catskill had a superior school, ease of manners and quiet deportment were taught. Mrs. Maxwell (Judge Foote's daughter) was an example of a refined, delicate lady, and a kind, gentle woman, always attentive to everyone, but never condescending; the young ladies of that time were not street girls, they were protected by their homes.

The Judges of that time seemed to be distributed around the country at a distance of three or four miles apart. Judge Law at Meredith Square; he had hopes of having the county town up there. Why not? The only State road passed over the hills, three stage coaches a day passed that way, it being the most direct road from Western New York to Catskill en route to New York. But down hill the judges came; Judge Frisbee at the foot of Elk Creek, (the first court was held there,) Judge Keefer farther up the river; Judge Leal below the village; Judge Foote two miles further on; later on Judge Bostwick across the river.

Probably the law business would not support them, or perhaps it was proper to be a land holder. Mr. Sherwood, a well known lawyer lived below the village. \* \* \*

In the thirties there came a great change in the religious feeling all over the country, there were what were called protracted meetings held in many places. The old churches were holding their places and keeping their children mostly, but the multitude were living careless lives, they cared for none of these things. Then came an evangelist, Mr. Orton, a refined Christian gentleman and with all very zealous, who had a great influence among the people; meetings were held in the Court-house and in the District school-house at Sherwood's bridge. The leading village people began to be interested, many of them came out decided Christians, among them Mr. and Mrs. Gould. Mr. Gould gave largely of his means and was active in working. He used to have a school Sabbath afternoons in our school-house, and meetings during the week. The young people of the Scotch families were interested; I remember hearing my Grandfather say to my Grandmother, "I think I will go over and hear what our young people are getting;" he came back finding no fault. I was too young to go generally, but one evening was there; I was much interested in hearing Deacon Knapp sing alone.

"The year of jubilee has come,  
Return ye wandering sinners home."

He was a devout old man; he used to have a prayer meeting in the village, his family thought him foolish to go. When asked who was there he would say, "I was there and the Saviour was there." Who knows but like Cornelius, his prayers were heard and answered? Certainly he lived to see the school house crowded. In a short time a church was organized and a building put up where the Second Presbyterian church now stands.

Mr. Kedzie, Uncle Robert Leal and James Leal (my grandfathers), with their families left the Scotch Church and united with the village church. The

Episcopal church must have been organized very soon. There was a great change in the village; those who were not church-goers were the exceptions. The old Presbyterian churches looked upon the "new lights," as they were called, as not quite orthodox; they sang hymns, they had many isms, there was danger of depending upon good works. Time has straightened out these differences so that they are now of one mind, holding the same views essentially, only keeping the different names to help those who are anxious to keep their own individuality. By this time there were churches in all the towns: at Meredith Square a large Congregationalist church; I remember going there when it looked doubtful about getting a seat. The southern towns were all well sustained religiously—among the best known names were Wheeler, Ogden, Mead, Eells and St. John. Delaware county has had many men that she may well be proud of.

Delaware Academy must have been started in the early part of this century: the first teacher was a Mr. Savage, probably from Washington county, New York. I remember my grandmother speaking very respectfully of Uncle and Aunt Savage from that section. General Root was a loyal citizen. Mr. Samuel Sherwood lent his influence for the good of the place. I think we all feel as my brother wrote fifty years ago,

Land of my own green home forever!  
 Of rugged glen, and cloud-capped hill;  
 Land of the lake and rolling river—  
 My childhood's home, I love thee still!  
 Land where the Catskills rear their heads  
 Aloft, to mock the storms of Heaven,  
 Of fairy dell and weird cove,  
 And mighty oaks by lightning riven;  
 Home of my youth, though Time and Fate  
 That alter things, may change thee;  
 Yet Time nor Fate shall ever drive  
 Thine image, Delaware, from me.  
 Stern land of mountain, rock and flood,  
 Of barren heath and stormy sky,  
 Thy sons are freemen and thy cliffs  
 The fortresses of Liberty!  
 Forever rest that Goddess bright  
 Thy firm embedded rocks among;  
 While Freedom hath a home on earth,  
 Or Freedom's chorus shall be sung!  
 A rugged band are they—those men  
 Who cleave thy iron rocks for food;  
 Stern zealots of the olden time,  
 "Who live not but in the fear o' God."  
 Men of the old Douglass line,  
 Who ne'er was beard in his den  
 Who like their fathers for their rights  
 Would firmly draw the sword again.  
 Forever be among them there,  
 The blood they from old Scotia draw;  
 The firm resolve, the Christian walk,  
 And meek obedience to the law.

Poem, "1997," by Arthur More, Esq.,

OF DEPOSIT, N. Y.

One day, sitting in my sanctum,  
(The word is quite a good one,)  
I somehow got to thinking,  
Or, it may be, half-way dreaming,  
Over days that long were passed,  
Over which the shadows passed,  
A very queer illusion,  
Or, possibly, delusion,  
I chanced upon an old-time book,  
It had a mildewed, ancient look,  
It's date was 1897,  
If I'm not very much mistaken,  
It is a rare and novel relic,  
In truth a genuine old antique,  
I read it o'er with greatest care,  
But whence it came I'm not aware,  
I trust you'll get the book and read it,  
Even though it's stale to our time critic,  
But of the nineteenth century  
It's a curious epitome,  
That it is old, you'll give it credit,  
Because it's not in the "phonetic."  
(I simply stop right here to state  
You will not find it up to date,  
From it I gather the impression,  
And so will you on careful reading  
(That is, of course, providing  
You comprehend the spelling),  
That in eighteen hundred ninety-seven  
Delhi had some sort of celebration—  
That many people met up there,  
From every part of Delaware;  
They read some scraps of history,  
And dilated on their glory,  
And how they'd reached the summit  
By excellence of wit,  
What was its purpose, I don't know,  
Because it was so long ago,  
Yet 'tis true they held this celebration,  
Per se, for mutual admiration,  
And I give it to you gratis  
They boasted of their "status,"  
But what they had to brag about.

Or why they did so jump and shout,  
Is what we can't exactly know,  
Because it was so long ago,  
In nineteen hundred ninety-seven,  
Existing by the grace of Heaven,  
We can't conceive as you well know,  
Why these old things were ever so,  
It seems, in those old-fashioned days,  
The people had peculiar ways  
Of doing things from hand to hand  
That we, you know, can't understand.  
They had something called a "phone"  
By which they talked from home to home;  
They had a wire, or some such matter,  
They used for lack of something better,  
And these were stretched on sticks, they say,  
In a peculiar sort of way.  
Now these old things we can't conceive,  
Nor scarcely in our mind believe,  
Why such crude things were e'er in use,  
We can't our minds quite disabuse,  
Why, now we talk with men in Mars,  
They called it then one of the stars;  
When we converse right through the air  
We can't see why they used a wire.  
As I read backward to that time  
I'm quite bewildered in my mind.  
They talked of gold and silver,  
'Twould any mind bewilder,  
They talked about the ratio,  
And the consequential value,  
Now we're making gold and silver,  
As you'll well remember,  
By a well-known composition  
Of this century's invention.  
They talked of the precious metal,  
And of the monetary evil.  
Gold seemed to them great virtue bear  
Because it was so very rare,  
But since we've got to making it  
At a reasonably fair profit,  
We keep the ratio as we want  
By the working of the plant.  
Our mills are running on full time  
And our output of gold is fine;  
And our trade's expanding fast—  
This year greater than the last.



Our commerce with all people far and wide  
Exalts our nation's pride,  
Our ambassador at North Pole  
Reports a good condition as a whole;  
We've nothing from that part to fear,  
Except an early frost this year,  
No doubt that our reciprocity  
Has much advanced us in that country,  
The delicacies that they produce,  
Exchanged with us for things of use,  
As we look back a hundred years  
It fills our eyes with scalding tears,  
Our fathers in their vain, boasted role,  
Did never, never take the "pole,"  
And yet, with great solemnity,  
On the record placed their own stupidity,  
Then they had a long contention  
O'er the question of combustion,  
By burning wood or coals, 'twould seem,  
(Or did I learn it in a dream,)  
Why, ever since I can remember,  
We made our fuel out of water,  
The date of this discovery  
Is not now in my memory,  
But we have no contention  
O'er a coal trust combination,  
Why I should reckon not,  
When we make the water boil the pot,  
To extract the fire from water  
Is a very simple matter,  
And 'tis queer this thing they didn't know,  
Only a hundred years ago,  
It didn't even have a mention  
At that wondrous celebration,  
Yet the fullness of their wisdom  
They related with great unction,  
And prated of their knowledge  
Got in common school and college —  
That the summit of their wisdom  
Covered all things 'neath the sun,  
We extend to them our pity  
In the line of Christian duty,  
Beyond our wildest imagination  
Is the picture of their ignorance,  
Things that to them seemed credulous  
Are plain as noonday sun to us;  
They were not of the twentieth century,

Therefore not as wise as we,  
I will not be an unfair critic,  
They thought they knew things that they didn't,  
A common thing, e'en now, we must admit,  
So we will not in judgment on them sit.  
Our fathers were a fairish class,  
Considering they were in the past,  
They sermonized on the "world"  
As though in that all things were told,  
They wisely talked about some planet  
And through a spy-glass thought they saw it,  
But whether it was land or ocean,  
They didn't have the slightest notion;  
By the way, I'm just reminded,  
And I pause right here to state it,  
Our annual coming great event  
(See special small bills freely sent)  
The vestibuled excursion out to Mars,  
On the modern airship "Golden Stars,"  
I am not the company's agent,  
But I freely recommend it;  
The rates are low and very fair,  
(No extra charge for best of air);  
I was out there in the month of May  
Upon the vessel "Windy Way,"  
The people there are much like us,  
This I observed in a town caucous,  
It gave me quite a homelike feeling  
To mark the quantum of their stealing,  
They are very active after spoil  
And quite averse to hardy toil,  
So we can call the Marsden "brother"  
In any sort or kind of weather,  
The men of Mars are peaceably inclined,  
And by the name are very much maligned,  
They were then holding a convention  
To effect an arbitration  
With their neighbors in the "Milky Way"  
At some early future day,  
We came back by way of Jupiter,  
But owing to distress of weather—  
The wind was blowing south by west  
Our captain thought it was not best  
We did not make a landing,  
Which was quite disappointing;  
But we made the port of Venus  
And 'twas there the boys all left us,  
They said they'd take the next ship back,  
But they didn't, that's a fact,  
I think they found an Oklahoma  
In the goddess' fair country,  
And I'm strong of the opinion  
That they settled in that nation,  
How little did our fathers know,  
Only a hundred years ago.





## Address by Hon. Chas. Z. Lincoln,

OF ALBANY, N. Y.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. At the outset I want to express my gratitude to your distinguished citizen and my good friend Mr. Crosby, for inviting me to attend this celebration. It was not until yesterday that I felt sure that I could be here, but now I am ready to say that I count this one of the fortunate occasions of my life. As I have sat here to-day and listened to the histories of your various towns, and the development and growth of this county, my patriotism has been stirred, my love of country has grown, and my respect for American citizenship has increased. I am very glad to-night that I am able to make this visit to Delaware county.

I am not a son of Delaware county. I am not even a brother-in-law. More than that, I am not even a son of New York. I first saw the light of day in old Vermont, and for more than forty years my father and mother have slept beneath her soil. But I came to this State when a child, and I have lived here ever since. This has been my State. I have taken an interest in all her affairs, I have become proud of her history, I have become proud of her station as the Empire State of this great union; and as I have studied her history and watched her development, I have become more and more proud to be a citizen of the State of New York.

There are some things about the State of New York to which it might be well for us to call attention. I recall the fact that back in 1683 a Colonial Assembly was held, and passed what it called a "charter of liberties." In that charter of liberties it declared that the government rested finally with the "people met in general assembly." You who have read that history remember that King James objected to those words, "the people," because, he said, they were not in any other constitution in America. So the State of New York, or colony of New York, was first in the declaration of a government by the people. Not from old Massachusetts, not from Delaware, not from Virginia, but from the old Dutch and English settlement of New York, first came into our constitutional history those great words, "the people," the keystone of popular government. It is worth while for us to remember this as we think of the development of our liberty, and of all the free institutions which we so much enjoy.

It seems incongruous that I should be called on to say anything here. This is a family reunion, and I am a stranger to you, this is my first visit to Delaware county, but I had had the pleasure and the honor of being acquainted with a few of your citizens, so that when Mr. Crosby invited me to come I consented, not only to visit with him and other citizens with whom I am acquainted, but that I might take in the full meaning of a great occasion like this in Delaware county. But, after all, it may be proper that I, a stranger to you, should come here and say a few words of greeting. My home is in the county of Cattaraugus. We cannot have a centennial in Cattaraugus in twenty years, but I want to take this occasion to invite you to come and help us celebrate when we do hold it. It makes me feel young, looking at this celebration

to-night from the standpoint of Cattaraugus. It was not until the next year after this county was organized, that the first white settlement was made in Cattaraugus county, and then a few Quakers went up the Allegany river and settled just over the line in what is now the southern part of our county. You trace your history back farther than the organization of the county, because you go back with the history of the State itself, and to the colony of New York. I bring to you to-night the greeting of Cattaraugus, greeting you and congratulating you upon this auspicious event, that you have come up through these years, and that Delaware county has developed so grandly that to-night you are able to celebrate with proper pride this great history of yours which we have heard recounted to-day.

You do not expect me to give any of the history of Delaware county. Your own people will do that. But I count you a part of the State of New York; you belong to the same family of smaller commonwealths to which I belong. Cattaraugus and Delaware are only parts of this great State of New York; smaller divisions, originating from the English habit of dividing the commonwealth into smaller municipalities. We have our county government as you have yours, and our general development has been substantially the same.

The other day I found in the State Library the history of Delaware county, written by Jay Gould, and I found it a very interesting book. One little item in that book attracted my attention; no one has referred to it to-day, and it seems to me to be of some significance. On the third of October, 1797, the seal of the old Court of Common Pleas was established by an order of that court. The emblem put on that seal was a stream of water issuing from a high mountain. That seal was changed only two or three years afterwards. Mr. Gould remarked of that original seal that it was emblematic of the surface and general features of the county. I find in it a much deeper meaning than that. A stream of water issuing from a high mountain. A mountain indicates strength and stability, and those have been characteristics of Delaware county in all this century. A stream of water represents life, power, progress and influence, and all those characteristics have also marked Delaware county in all these years. It is like that stream which Ezekiel saw in that wonderful vision. When he first measured it, it was only ankle deep; the next time, it was up to the knees; the next, it was up to the loins; until now it is so broad and deep that it is immeasurable. You cannot measure the influence which has gone out from Delaware county. We have had some account of it to-day as we have heard of your great men, of your noble women, of the men who have gone out spreading this influence far and wide, even around the globe, and into remote hemispheres, and upon the islands of the sea. Everywhere this force has gone, illustrating the emblem of water issuing out of a high mountain, carrying with it everywhere influences which shall never stop, and cannot stop, because measured only by eternity. That was a significant suggestion to me, and if I were now a citizen of Delaware county I should regret that that first seal was ever changed. It was of deeper significance than the historian suggested.

Emerson wrote an essay on "The Uses of Great Men," in which he said that the search after a great man was the dream of youth, and the most

serious occupation of manhood. We have been going over to-day, some of us listening, others in fact, the history of Delaware county, and while we have not been purposely searching for great men, we have been finding great men all along this strong line from the earliest days until now. We find men who are great, great in their patriotism, great in their devotion to principle, great in their love of education, great in every department of human effort; great men who established the county of Delaware and made it strong, and firm, and stable, as indicated by that first emblem upon that old county seal, represented by a high mountain and a living, growing stream.

Shortly after I came to the bar an incident occurred in England that made a very profound impression on my mind. It was the expiration of a lease which had been given a thousand years before. Think of it! A lease a thousand years old. And yet, when the lease expired, the people who were entitled to the reversion of the land upon the expiration of the lease were on hand ready to take their property. That incident, more than any human language can convey, illustrated the strength and the stability of English institutions. That incident showed that the England of Alfred, of William the Conqueror, of Elizabeth, and of Cromwell, is also the England of Victoria. It showed also that the England of Hastings, and of Runnymede, and of Marston Moor, is the England of Waterloo. It showed also that the England of Spencer, and of Shakespeare, and of Milton is the England of Tennyson. It showed that the England of those old days had continued practically unchanged, here and there modifying its form of government slightly, but all the while the same grand old England. The Plantagenets, and the Tudors, and the Stuarts, and the Brunswicks, and finally the Hanovers, have occupied the throne of England, but it is old England still. As I have thought of that thousand years lease the question has occurred to me, Will this nation last a thousand years? Why not? We are told that history repeats itself. That is true to a limited degree, but I do not believe it is true of nations. Nations do not repeat themselves. There was only one Babylon; there was only one Greece, the mother of arts and literature. The Greece of to-day is not the Greece of Solon and Pericles. There was only one Rome; although it existed for fifteen centuries, the Rome of to-day is not the Rome of Caesar, and of Cicero, and of Justinian. But the England of to-day stands as the development of peculiar principles and institutions. What reason is there to suppose that this nation may not last a thousand years, and more than a thousand years? It would depend, of course, upon the people who come after us. First upon what we do, then upon what those do who may follow us.

While that lease was lying in somebody's possession, working out its purpose during those ten centuries, it saw many important events. So, this county, while only a hundred years old, has seen many important events, and many great changes in the history of the world.

When your county was organized, there were only three cities in the State;—New York, Hudson and Albany. Now we have forty-one cities, and we have one city next to the largest on the globe, and one which, long before the expiration of the next century will, I believe, be the first city in the world. Your county to-day possesses a larger population than there was in the entire

State of New York when your county was organized. There are more people in the State of New York to-day, and Governor Black is Chief Magistrate of a larger population, than there was in the entire union when Thomas Jefferson was elected President. We count our wealth by billions; we count our population by millions. We have become in fact, and we are destined to remain, the Empire State of this great nation. All this development has come about while you have been progressing, and developing, and making this particular part of the State a strong, stalwart, stable county.

This county in its development has seen three complete and revised constitutions adopted; it has had occasion to observe that New York has been the pioneer in great legislation, in great legal reform, and other States have been copying from us all these years. New York stands to-day, not only in these material respects that I have mentioned, but in other respects, in law, and legal and constitutional reform, the greatest State, and the great example of all the States of the Union. You in Delaware county share all this. You have helped to produce it. We are all together a part of this great commonwealth. You had your share in it, and we have all had our share in it, and we have a right to feel to-night proud of our constitution, proud of the results of constitutional government, proud of this material prosperity, proud of the character of our citizens, proud of the condition of our citizenship, and proud of all these things which go to make up this beneficent institution which we call American civilization.

Now, these institutions which we boast so much of have come down to us from our fathers. Webster made the remark that these institutions which we have are ours "to enjoy, to preserve, and to transmit." Ours to enjoy; we enjoy them day by day. Ours to preserve, and see that our posterity takes them from us unimpaired. Ours to transmit to remotest generations, these institutions which have built up this nation and made us what we are. And Webster made this further remark, that if, under such favorable conditions as had existed and did then exist in his day in this country, for the establishment of a government by the people, and for the people, if a free republican government could not be maintained under those conditions, it could not be maintained at all. We believe it is here to be maintained through the cycles of the ages, with all these institutions of civil and religious liberty which we are so proud of to-night, and which we glory in as we stand here at the close of this first century of your county.

We stand here to-night on the pinnacle of this century. We look down into the past and we see those men struggling through hardships and privations to build this nation, and to establish these institutions; and this generation is responsible not only to the past, to see that we properly preserve and take care of the institutions which we have received from it, but responsible for the future, that we may be able to transmit to our posterity and to generations yet unborn these institutions which we believe are destined to make and to continue to make this American nation the flower of the world in all ages.

But there are people coming after us. We have heard a little to-night of the next century. What shall our greeting be to-night to the men and women of 1997? They will look back upon this occasion; they will read the book



which your president has suggested will be printed, containing the speeches and the histories which we have heard here, and they will look into it to see what sort of men and women lived in Delaware county at this time, and what kind of institutions you had. They will look to see what kind of a constitution you had, whether it expressed the very highest form of government, and whether it was calculated to produce the very best citizenship, and whether it was intended to bring about the greatest happiness of the people. They will consider all these institutions, and they will consider us personally to see how much of our personality, and how much personal character we put into these institutions which we are to hand down to them. The responsibility means much as we stand here at the close of one century, and look into another, and look down the aisles of time until we see the end of that century, and in imagination behold that centennial a hundred years from now. What will it be? Imagination is unequal to the task of portraying what that centennial will be, what institutions it will find, what conditions of people will be there found, and what sort of government they will enjoy; and whether they will so modify the government as to lose sight of the cardinal principles upon which our institutions are based. Those things will demand their attention, but it is our duty to see that we hand down to them these institutions in the very best condition possible.

You remember that remarkable oration by Daniel Webster upon the two hundredth anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims, in which, after going over the ground of the development of the causes which led to the colonization of America, and the formation of this government, he turned his face toward the future, and he wondered what we should be able to say to those people coming after us a century later. And as he dwelt upon that future, and upon those conditions which he could barely describe, he exclaimed: "Advance, then, ye future generations. We welcome you as you rise to take the places which we now fill, and where we are now passing and shall soon have passed our brief human duration. We welcome you to the pleasant land of our fathers; we welcome you to these healthful skies and these verdant fields; we greet your accession to this blessed inheritance which we have enjoyed; we welcome you to the blessings of good government and religious liberty; we welcome you to the treasures of science and the delights of learning; we welcome you to the transcendent bliss of domestic life, the happiness of kindred, of parents, and children; we welcome you to the immeasurable blessings of rational existence, the immortal hope of Christianity, and the light of everlasting truth."

To-night, fellow citizens, let that be the greeting which we send to the men and women of 1997, and let us hand down to them these institutions untarnished, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, and then they will look back upon us and call us blessed, and as they recount in their histories the deeds of 1897 they will thank us that we have preserved for them, as Webster said, and transmitted to them, these institutions without fault and without blemish, so that they could enjoy them, improve them, build upon them, make human life better, and better still; make human life more happy in all its developments, and make themselves the greatest nation which the world has ever seen.

Having now presented the principal addresses, papers and letters prepared for this occasion—excepting Dr. Murray's sketch of the Anti-Rent war, which follows,—it is in order to give an outline of the other exercises of the celebration.

The efforts of the committee on relics were rewarded by a large and exceedingly interesting collection of articles, implements, utensils, souvenirs and curios gathered during the years of the century. This exhibit was nicely displayed in the grand jury room of the court house, and throngs of people enjoyed a visit to that museum of ancient handiwork and genius. There were many contributions from nearly all parts of the county, but the towns of Bovina, Delhi, Kortright and Roxbury were most numerously represented. The largest individual exhibits were from W. B. Peters of Bloomville, Edmund L. Fish of Fish Eddy, A. M. Warner of Stamford and Admiral Gillis of Delhi.

In the collection of W. B. Peters was an exceptionally good showing of Indian relics, all found in the town of Kortright. Among these were stone arrow heads, knives and tools used by the primitive sons of the forest at the beginning of the century, a scalp hook which his grandfather captured with twelve bloody scalps hanging thereon. He also had an admirable collection of rare books, of valuable coins, and musical instruments.

Edmund Fish had a display of flint implements which had been gathered from various parts of this country. Illustrative of the early struggles of the pioneers, the best collection came from Bovina, which included household articles, carpenters' tools and implements. The collection loaned by Admiral Gillis contained many revolutionary relics and a great variety of interesting things from Peru. A. M. Warner exhibited geological specimens, Indian relics, old firearms and quaint musical instruments.

Some of the other articles of especial interest were a chair used by the Colonial Congress, by W. B. Hanford of Franklin; an old high post bedstead and coverlet 115 years old, by H. W. White of Delhi; tin lanterns, the oldest one shown by Dr. William Ormiston

of Delhi; old furniture, horn spoons, guns, pistols, powder horns, crockery, glassware, maps, books, fancy work and crude tools of all sorts.

To the older people a study of these antiquities "turned back time in its flight" and revived memories of their youthful privations and struggles. To the younger people it was an interesting revelation—a source of wonder and even amusement to many. They could not help wondering how their forefathers got along with those imperfect aids to their work. This was really as successful as any part of the celebration, and it is a regret that the exhibits cannot be reproduced in pictures.

When Thursday morning came the rain was still falling and many who had planned to witness the grandest parade ever held in the county were compelled to forego the pleasure. However, a great company journeyed to the county seat that morning. The firemen were not deterred from their duty in meeting the promises made and all the companies came, accompanied by their friends. Representatives of the several posts of the Grand Army of the Republic and other veterans of the war of the rebellion also came to join the parade. Visiting organizations were escorted to their headquarters by the Delhi Cornet Band, and accorded a hearty welcome.

At eleven o'clock began the serving of a sumptuous dinner, at the opera house, to the 1,000 invited guests, provided by the citizens of Delhi. The firemen, the veterans, the Thirty-third Separate Company from Walton and the bands were the guests. William D. Smith of Delhi was chief of the commissary department, and the following committee were in charge of the opera house, the hostelry of the occasion: Mrs. L. W. Firth, Mrs. Mary Dunn, Mrs. John A. Woodburn, Mrs. E. W. Paul, Mrs. C. G. Maxwell, Mrs. A. J. Franklin and Mrs. J. J. Burke. The young ladies of Delhi volunteered to serve the meals, which they did with thoughtful attention. The visitors were profuse in their praises and thanks for this part of the program.

A patriotic and enthusiastic people were cheered when at noon the rainstorm abated for a little, so that the grand procession could be formed. The grand marshal, Frank L. Norton, and his assistants arranged the companies on the public square, and when in readiness Prof. Willis D. Graves, president of the day, secured attention and in a few words introduced Colonel R. P. Cormack of Delhi, who extended a welcome as follows:

"I am directed by the residents of this village, to extend to you, one and all, the most kindly, cordial, and hearty welcome, to a participation in their hospitalities that can be framed in words. To the Veteran Soldiers, I am further instructed to say that they, in common with their fellow citizens all over the country, understand and appreciate the sacrifices you made in severing home ties and accepting camp life, the trials of bivouac, the long and weary march, the discomforts of the trenches, fronting the enemy for months in succession, and in the fierce heat of battle, that the Nation might live and the Union of the States remain intact, and to assure you that the patriotism which prompted you to spring to the defense of our country, will never be undervalued. To the Firemen of Delaware county, it is made my duty to say that the people of Delhi, although having been exempt from devastating fires for many years, by reason of the activity of their own firemen, feel very thankful for the singleness of purpose, which prompts you to devote your time to the protection of your neighbors' property and sometimes their lives. The frequency with which firemen are maimed in the discharge of their duty, and the number who have laid down their lives in efforts to save others, sufficiently attests the danger of your calling, and I here venture, in the name of the people from whom you severally come, to sincerely thank you for your noble work. The people of Delaware county also extend a hearty welcome to the Thirty-third Company of the State National Guard, and desire to congratulate them upon their soldierly appearance, while they recognize in their personnel the same element and characteristics which have made the American soldier famous all over the world, and it is my province to say that your fellow citizens repose the most perfect confidence in your patriotism and love of country, if you should be called into the field for earnest work. This celebration is peculiar in its characteristics. It interests all the people of the county alike. It is at once patriotic, sentimental and historical, and like the century plant, it blossoms only once in an hundred years. We are glad to see so many familiar faces from all parts of the county, and sincerely thank you for your presence and I will close my remarks by quoting the old adage, that brevity is the soul of wit. The town is yours for this auspicious occasion."

When the speaker had concluded, the lines were quickly arranged and the procession moved in the following order:

GRAND MARSHAL - FRANK L. NORTON.

Platoon of Chief Engineers.

Carriages containing speakers and distinguished guests.

*First Division.*—MARSHAL, GEORGE M. BURGESS. Sidney Drum Corps; Thirty-third Separate Company, Walton; Sidney Centre Band; Phelps Hose Company, Sidney; Cartwright Hook and Ladder Company, Sidney; Boyina Band; Ben Marvin Post, Walton; John A. Logan Post, Stamford; Eggleston Post, Deposit; Plaskett Post, Hancock; Fleming Post, Downsville; Bryce Post, Hamden; P. T. Hine Post, Franklin; England Post, Delhi.

*Second Division.*—MARSHAL, WILLIAM BRINKMAN. Brown's Band, Oneonta; Stamford Hose Company; Maynard Hose Company, Stamford; Churchill Hook and Ladder Company, Stamford; Fleischmann's Band; Roxbury Hose Company; Pakatakan Hose Company, Margaretville; Arena Hose Company, Arena; Hine Hose Company, Treadwell.

*Third Division.*—MARSHAL, GEORGE O. LEONARD. Downsville Band; Shehawken Hose Company, No. 1, Hancock; Hancock Hose Company, No. 2, Hancock; Hancock Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1, Hancock; Andes Band; Dowie Hose Company, Andes; Andes Hook and Ladder Company; Hamden Hose Company; Franklin Band; Edgerton Hose Company, Franklin; Edgerton Hook and Ladder Company, Franklin.

*Fourth Division.*—MARSHAL, JOHN P. MATTHEWS. Walton Band; Morrow Hose Company, No. 1, Alert Hose Company, No. 2, Fancher Hook and Ladder Company, No. 3, Townsend Hose Company, No. 1, Walton; Deposit Band; Deposit Hose Company; Bloomville Band; Cascade Hose Company, Hobart; Delhi Band; Coquago Engine Company, No. 1, Youmans Hose Company, No. 2, Graham Hook and Ladder Company, No. 3, Sheldon Hose Company, No. 1, Active Hose Company, No. 5, Athletic Hose Company, No. 6, Delhi.

The line of march included the following streets of the village: Court, Second, Franklin, Woolerton, Clinton and Main. An interesting feature of the parade was the company of "Anti-Renters" from Andes, dressed in the Indian garb of disguise. A picture of this company appears elsewhere.

This parade was one of great interest, representing every part of the county. The many bands discoursed inspiring music. The firemen were resplendent in bright new uniforms, in various colors and shades, representing safety from the ravages of fire. The veterans of '61-'65, now grown gray with years, representing the noble army which saved our country in time of peril—an indestructible

union. The separate company, in full uniform, representative of the state's defense against invasion by enemies. The past century had not seen the equal of this inspiring spectacle, and it was a proud day for the gathered thousands.

After the parade many watched the game of base ball, while Main street held a crowd of people interested in the hose races and the hook and ladder races by the firemen. Cascade Hose Company of Hobart won first prize, \$50, in the hose race and Phelps Hose Company of Sidney second prize, \$25. Cartwright Hook and Ladder Company of Sidney was the only one entered for the hook and ladder race, and second prize of \$25 was awarded.

In the early evening there were band concerts and later a display of fireworks and the celebration of a hundred years existence as a county, by loyal citizens, came to a close. This brief story and pictures therewith give but a faint conception of the important occasion.

# The Anti-Rent Episode in the State of New York.

By David Murray, LL.D.,

OF NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

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THE Anti-Rent agitation which occurred in the state of New York between 1839 and 1846 was in many respects a remarkable movement. It had its ultimate origin in the leasehold tenure of lands which was introduced into this country from Europe, and which was supposed to carry with it a trail of the feudal system that for centuries had held its sway in almost all the countries of Europe. The communities which became involved in these Anti-Rent troubles, and were led into exhibitions of lawlessness and even bloodshed, were in almost all cases high-toned, industrious and moral. They belonged to the staid and conservative parts of the people, as indeed the agricultural elements of a state are sure to do.

The objects of this paper are to give some account of the Anti-Rent disturbances in Delaware county. To do this intelligently it will be necessary to explain the introduction of European land tenure into America and how out of this unreasonable system arose troubles which involved the best parts of the State for many years.

The first settlements within the present boundaries of New York were made by the Hollanders. The object of the Dutch West India Company in its American policy was a profitable trade. And almost the only article of trade to be derived from the Holland territory in America was the peltry of fur-bearing animals. Hence it was important that permanent and trustworthy settlements should be established at convenient points within this territory. The present state of New York contains within its boundaries at Little Falls the

most available route across the Alleghanies to the west, and at the time of the Dutch settlements was the home of the most thrifty, enterprising and war-like tribes of Indians. To bring themselves into contact with these sources of the fur-trade, the Dutch West India Company undertook to develop a settlement at Albany. To this end they offered important concessions to such men of wealth as would engage to found colonies on the frontiers of the Indian territories.

Killain Van Rensselaer, a rich pearl merchant of Amsterdam, was the first to undertake this task. He received a grant of land extending twenty-four miles along the Hudson river at Albany, and running back twenty-four miles on each side. This extensive tract covered the chief parts of the two counties of Albany and Rensselaer. The recipient of this grant was denominated a patroon, and he engaged to plant within seven years a colony on his lands, of at least fifty families.

In 1630 a ship-load of emigrants was forwarded from Holland, and in succeeding years others followed. They were chiefly planted on farms in what is now Albany and Rensselaer counties. The lands were leased to them on what are called perpetual leases. The annual rent was at first fixed at ten bushels of wheat for one hundred acres, together with four fat hens and a day's work with a team. In the later leases the rent was fixed at fourteen bushels of wheat for one hundred acres.

In 1664 the Holland possessions in America were all transferred by treaty to England, and among them the patroonship of the Van Rensselaers. The personal rights of the inhabitants were not disturbed, and the patroonship became the manor of Rensselaerwyck, with the rights and usages of an English manor.

The English during their ascendancy created several other great manors. The most important of these was the Livingston manor in what is now Columbia county. It covered 165,240 acres. The object of the English colonial government in thus founding manors was of course to secure the prevalence in America of a landed aristocracy after the pattern of England. The land of the Livingston



manor was like that of Rensselaerwyck assigned to settlers on lease, some in perpetuity, some for ninety-nine years, and some for one or more lives. The greater part, however, was leased for two lives. The annual rent varied between fourteen and eighteen bushels of wheat for one hundred acres.

There were other large patents in different eastern counties, whose tenants became involved in the Anti-Rent agitation. The principal of these were in Schoharie county, in Schenectady county, the George Clark tracts in Montgomery, Schoharie, Otsego, Oneida and Delaware counties, in Greene county, in Ulster county and in Sullivan and Delaware counties.

The tract of greatest interest to Delaware county was the Hardenbergh patent. It was granted by Queen Anne in 1708 to Johannes Hardenbergh of Kingston and his associates. It included ten miles square, and was claimed by the grantees to extend to the West branch of the Delaware; but this claim was disputed by the settlers who held that grant only extended to the East branch. The original grant specified that the land extended to the "Main Branch of the Fish-kill or Delaware river." *Which* is the main branch is even yet almost impossible to decide. As the two flow together at Hancock they are so nearly of the same size that we may pardon the disputes of the patentees and the settlers.

The lands of the Hardenbergh patent were nearly always granted to settlers on leases at one shilling an acre. Besides this large patent, there were in Delaware county several other considerable tracts; thus there were the Morgan Lewis tract of 15,000 acres; three tracts of Gulian and Samuel Verplanck originally of 50,000 acres, of which there were 20,000 acres under lease at the time of the Anti-Rent outbreak. To these tracts must be added those of Robert R. Livingston and Mrs. Montgomery, and the extensive tracts of Hunter, Kortright and Overing.<sup>1</sup>

The first Anti-Rent outbreak took place in the lands of the

<sup>1</sup> These items are taken from the report of Hon. Samuel J. Tilden in the winter of 1816 to the New York Assembly.

Helderbergs in Albany county in 1839. It arose from the attempt made to enforce the collection of rents which the too great leniency of the patroon Stephen Van Rensselaer had suffered to accumulate in arrears. At the time of his death this accumulation amounted to not less than \$400,000. The effort to enforce payment led to violent resistance, and the officers of the law were compelled to call upon the governor, William H. Seward, for military assistance. After the forcible settlement of the questions at issue, at the suggestion of the governor commissioners were appointed to endeavor to make a compromise between the landlord and his tenants. But no satisfactory result came from this conference and the commissioners reported their failure to the next legislature.

Soon after this, the agitation as to the payment of rents spread to the Van Rensselaer leasehold properties on the east side of the Hudson river. Anti-Rent associations began to be formed in all the considerable localities. These associations became affiliated and exerted a wide influence in all the subsequent movements, both in the Van Rensselaer and other leasehold domains. In connection with these associations there appeared a set of professional agitators, who went about descanting upon the evils of the system of rents and encouraging the tenants in the methods of violence which they adopted. Dr. Boughton who was afterward tried and convicted in Columbia county, and Mr. Brisbane who was present at the killing of Steele in Delaware county, were both professional anti-rent lecturers.

It must not be assumed that the aims and purposes of these associations were wholly or even principally wrong. There was a perfectly legitimate object which they did much to promote. In them began that persistent agitation which finally brought about those reforms which the leasehold system fairly needed.

In the meantime the employment of disguises had been introduced to aid in the resistance to the payment of rent. *When* these disreputable disguises were first used we have not been able to ascertain. It the second trial of Dr. Boughton in 1845

Judge Edmonds in pronouncing sentence upon him, charges that he was the first to introduce them; but there is reason to believe that the same disguise was used at a much earlier date. The disguise consisted of a sheepskin cap pulled down over the head and face, out of which had been cut holes for the eyes, ears, mouth and nose. Sometimes the cap was trimmed with ornamental feathers or plumes of horsehair, and with an artificial beard. The disguised persons called themselves Indians, and the commanders assumed such names as Big-Thunder, Little-Thunder, Blue-Beard, White-Chief, &c. Besides the cap, the body of the Indian was disguised by a calico blouse extending a little below the knee, which was confined at the waist by a colored sash. These "Calico-Indians" were armed with pistols and knives, and usually also carried a rifle.

Serious disturbances, accompanied by the appearance of disguised Indians, broke out both in Rensselaer county and upon the Livingston manor in Columbia. These disturbances generally consisted in the resistance to the sheriff in serving papers upon delinquent tenants, or in interfering with sales which the sheriff was called upon to hold for the liquidation of rents. The difficulties reached such a pass that at last the governor was called upon to aid the officials of Columbia, and to send troops to assist them in the performance of their duties. Similar disturbances manifested themselves in Schoharie county, in Ulster county, and a second time in Albany county.

While these events were transpiring in other counties, the affairs in Delaware county were rapidly converging towards a tragical crisis. The parts of the county in which the excitement first began were the towns of Roxbury and Middletown. The lands here were a part of the Hardenburgh patent. They lay in the disputed section of the patent between the east and west branches of the Delaware river. The tenants had been getting stirred up by the disturbances which occurred in Albany and Columbia counties. Professional agitators had visited them and

had advised them to resist the payment of rent. Anti-rent associations had been founded and thousands of tenants had enrolled themselves as members. They paid a certain number of cents for each acre of their farms, and out of the funds thus collected, the expenses of the agitation were paid, such as expenses of meetings, pay of lecturers, equipment of Indians, and their outlay and maintenance when upon any excursion connected with the organization.

In the summer of 1844 John B. Gould, the father of Jay Gould, who resided in Roxbury, was visited by a band of Indians who requested him to cease having his dinner horn blown for his workmen at dinner-time, as was the custom of all the farmers of that region. The object of this request of course was, that the blowing of Mr. Gould's dinner-horn might not be mistaken for the signal by which the Indians were summoned to a gathering. Mr. Gould however refused to give up the use of his dinner-horn, notwithstanding the insistence of the Indians. They threatened him with violence if he continued the practice, and he finally drove them off with a gun. A few weeks later a larger body of Indians surrounded his house and tried to intimidate him; but he absolutely refused to yield to their demands, and finally as the neighbors began to collect they retired, without having secured their end. On their way home they took revenge by capturing Hiram More and tarring and feathering him. In September of the same year, another outrage was committed in the tarring and feathering of Timothy Corbin, who was engaged as a deputy-sheriff in serving papers on Daniel W. Squires. The official papers which he carried were taken from him and destroyed.

In February, 1845, Under-Sheriff O. N. Steele with three assistants arrested Squires, who had been indicted by the Grand Jury for riot, assault and battery, in being engaged in tarring and feathering Mr. Corbin, in compelling the surrender of the sheriff's papers. He was arraigned and admitted to bail. A week later than this,





Deputy-Sheriff J. A. Berson of Middletown undertook to serve a declaration in a case not connected with Anti-Rent. He was met by nine disguised Indians, who threatened him with tar and feathers, if he came again on a like errand.

For appearing disguised and armed in Roxbury and Middletown the Grand Jury in 1845 indicted Silas Tompkins, Lewis Knapp, Anson K. Burrill and Ezekiel C. Kelly. This indictment was under a law which had been enacted by the legislature during the session of 1845, making it unlawful to appear in disguise and specifying the punishment in two degrees, *first* when disguised and *second* when disguised and armed. Of the persons thus indicted Kelly pleaded guilty and was fined \$250; the other three were tried, found guilty and sentenced to State Prison for two years.

Under-Sheriff Steele with an escort, who had been serving papers on delinquent tenants in the town of Andes, was stopped on his way home by a body of Indians near the little lake now called Lake Delaware. They were taken back to the village of Andes and there confined in a tavern. Steele found means to despatch a messenger to Delhi, which is distant about thirteen miles. The Sheriff, Green Moore, being warned of the predicament of his assistant, summoned help and started for his rescue. The Indians having learned of his coming immediately scattered and left their prisoners free.

Shortly after this Under-Sheriff Steele and Deputy Sheriff Edgerton made an incursion into Roxbury for the purpose of arresting persons who had been engaged in tarring and feathering the sheriff's deputy and in abstracting his papers. They marched in two parties, each composed of thirty to forty men. They made several arrests of persons who were alleged to have been in disguise contrary to law. Two of them, viz. James O. Burrill and Warren W. Scudder (Blue Beard) were committed, and four others were discharged for want of proof. Scudder was admitted to bail.

While these disturbances were thus accumulating, the sheriff became concerned for the safety of the jail and the other public

buildings. He summoned a guard from the surrounding towns, which he placed under the command of Colonel Marvin of Walton. Under the authority of a law which had been passed by the legislature at its preceding session, he borrowed from the State a hundred sabres, a hundred pairs of pistols and six hundred ball cartridges. With these preparations he deemed the prisoners under arrest safe from the attempts at rescue which from time to time were threatened.

There is evidence that these attempts at violence and resistance to law were contrary to the moderate and sensible opinions of even the strongest anti-rent communities. Many meetings were held, some of which were meetings of anti-rent associations, in which a disapproval of acts of violence and lawlessness were most strongly and peremptorily expressed. But for the time being the guidance of matters was in the hands of the reckless and irresponsible. The absurd freak of disguises was mainly played by the young and inexperienced, who usually had no property or character of their own at stake. It required the serious and heavy hand of the law to be laid upon them, before they could be awakened to a realizing sense of what they were really doing. The event which was to startle them all back into a full consciousness of the dangerous position in which they stood was now upon them.

On the 7th of August, 1845, Sheriff Green Moore, Under-Sheriff Osman N. Steele, Constable Edgerton and their counsel P. P. Wright, Esq., went to the town of Andes to sell property belonging to Moses Earle which had been levied on for the non-payment of rent. His farm was upon the Verplanck tract and subject to an annual rent of \$32. It was in arrears for two years, and therefore the Sheriff was to sell property to the value of \$64 and enough more to cover the cost of collection. Mr. Wright had been employed by the agent of the Verplanck landlord, and went to the sale prepared to bid on the property offered, if necessary.

Sheriff Moore and Mr. Wright arrived at the premises about ten o'clock. There were present already a considerable number of



spectators. Mr. Wright sought an interview with Mr. Earle and proposed a settlement of the matter without a sale. But he declined and replied, "You must go ahead, I shall fight to the hardest." About eleven o'clock, Mr. Wright says in his evidence afterward given, a small body of disguised Indians crossed the road and went through the pasture where the cattle which were to be sold were gathered, and thence entered the woods. Afterwards other bodies of Indians made their appearance, until it was believed that more than two hundred were present disguised and armed.

About 1 o'clock one hundred or more of the Indians marched single file out of their ambuscade and took their place in the pasture. Mr. Wright was near enough to hold some conversation with them. He called out to them that, "they were all there to break the law." They answered, "Damn the law, we are here to break it." He was told by the Indians that if he dared to bid on the property, he would go home to Delhi in a wagon feet foremost. A pail of whiskey was brought out from Mr. Earle's house and carried along the line, from which the Indians drank.

Officers Steele and Edgerton came to the farm about 2 o'clock on horseback. The Sheriff then announced that the sale would be begun, and started with two or three citizens to drive up the cattle which were to be sold. They were driven to a pair of bars opening into the road; but the Indians stopped them from going through. They formed themselves into a hollow square, enclosing the sheriff, the cattle, Mr. Steele and Mr. Edgerton on horseback, and Mr. Wright.

It was at this supreme moment, when all the parties were in a state of the greatest excitement, that an order was heard from the chief of the Indians, "Shoot the horses"; and a moment later another shout from an uncertain quarter, "Shoot him, shoot him." A volley was at once fired and blood was seen to flow from Edgerton's horse. A few seconds later another volley was fired, and Steele fell bleeding from his horse. Three balls had pierced him, besides others which had entered his clothing.

Both the horses died from their wounds. Sheriff Moore appealed to the Indians, "For God's sake desist, you have done enough." Steele was carried into Mr. Earle's house, and Drs. Peake and Calhoun were summoned to his aid from the village of Andes which is about three miles distant. Three serious wounds were found upon him: One in his arm, another in his breast, and a third which entered at his back and came out through his bowels. He lingered five or six hours in great agony and then died. While lying in his suffering he is said to have told Mr. Earle that if he had agreed to a settlement this morning, he would not have been shot. Earle replied that he would not settle if it cost forty lives.\*

There was also a question raised at the trials which followed, whether Steele had fired upon the Indians before he was fired upon. It was understood that upon his deathbed he acknowledged having fired his revolver after he had received the wound in his arm. The pistol was subsequently picked up and was presented at the trials. The condition of the barrels showed that it had not been fired except as stated by Steele. Neither the sheriff, Mr. Edgerton nor Mr. Wright fired their pistols.†

The fatal termination of this affair aroused the greatest excitement, not only throughout Delaware county, but throughout the State. Newspapers denounced the mad violence which had resulted in the death of an officer in the performance of his duty. Every where meetings were held by the friends of the anti-rent movement protesting against the injustice of charging this criminal folly against anti-renters. Nothing could have happened which would

\* It is fair to state that Dr. Calhoun who was present at Steele's death, denies the accuracy of this statement. He says that Earle's answer was, "If they will show me their title I will pay every cent of rent; but if they mean to bully me out of it, I will not pay if it costs forty lives."

† There can be no doubt that there was a special hatred against Steele among the disguised Indians present at Earle's sale. He had been the most active of the Sheriff's officers in searching for and arresting the disguised men. The fatal shots which were poured into him, and into no others, were unquestionably fired by some of his victims or their friends.

tend to deprive a cause, which many deemed a good cause, so completely of the sympathy to which it might be entitled.

Governor Silas Wright at once offered a reward of \$500 for the arrest of Warren W. Scudder, who was believed to have been in command of the Indians at Earl's sale. Sheriff Moore also offered a reward of \$300 for the apprehension of Scudder, and \$200 for the apprehension of William Bartlett. The Sheriff with an armed *posse* scoured the county, searching for those who could be shown to have been engaged in any way in this fatal affair. On August 27th Governor Wright issued a proclamation, declaring Delaware county in a state of insurrection, and ordering thither a sufficient military force for the preservation of order and the guarding of arrested prisoners. Two companies of volunteers were summoned from the towns in the south and west of the county, where no lease land nor anti-rent sentiment was to be found. Colonel Marvin of Walton commanded these troops, one hundred of whom were mounted and were used to escort the Sheriff and his officers in making the needful arrests. The jail was so filled with prisoners awaiting trial, that the Sheriff was obliged to build a temporary structure in order to provide room for them.

The trial of the persons charged with complicity in the death of Steele was conducted in the Circuit Court held by Judge Amasa J. Parker, beginning August 22, 1845. It was a most trying ordeal through which he was obliged to pass. He had resided for many years in Delhi, and *there* had begun his brilliant legal career. Many of the persons who now appeared before him for trial were known to him, and their present critical positions must have deeply touched the sensibilities of his nature. It may safely be said that no person in any way connected with these trying events exerted a more benign influence than Judge Parker in putting an end forever to the methods of violence which had sprung up in this sober and conservative community. The arraignment and conviction of so many prisoners seem like a barbarous and unnecessary cruelty. But such an experience was necessary to convince them

of the danger and futility of trifling with the execution of the laws.

The District Attorney who conducted these trials was Jonas M. Hughston, and he was assisted by John Van Buren then the Attorney General, and by Samuel Sherwood as special counsel. The counsel for the prisoners were Samuel Gordon and Amasa Parker an uncle of the presiding Judge, both residents of Delhi. The results of these trials, which continued into October, may be summarized as follows:

No evidence was presented which made it certain that any of the prisoners had fired the fatal shots. The nearest approach to this was in the trial of John Van Steenburg, in regard to whom it was testified that he asked to borrow a ramrod in order to re-load his gun. On this evidence he was convicted of murder. In the case of Edward O'Connor it was proved that he was present at Earl's sale, disguised and armed, and that he *probably* discharged his gun. On the technical ground that he was present disguised, armed and aided as a subordinate Chief of the Indians, he also was convicted of murder. It was proved that the Commander of the disguised Indians at Earl's was Warren W. Scudder of Roxbury. And although a reward was offered for his capture he was not arrested and probably had left the State.

The list of convictions and punishments is as here given:

1. John Van Steenburg and Edward O'Connor, found guilty of murder and sentenced to be hung, November 29, 1845.

2. Daniel W. Squires, Moses Earle, Zera Preston and Daniel Northrup, indicted for murder, pleaded guilty of manslaughter in the first degree, and sentenced to State prison for life.

3. John Phoenix, John Burch, John Latham, William Reside, and Isaac L. Burhaus, indicted for murder; pleaded guilty of manslaughter in the first degree and sentenced to State prison for seven years.

4. Caleb Madison, same as above except sentenced to State prison for ten years.

5. William Brisbane, found guilty of manslaughter in the second degree and sentenced to State prison for seven years. (He was a professional lecturer and was present at the sale undisguised.)

6. Charles T. McMaher, found guilty of robbery in the second degree; sentenced to State prison for seven years.

7. William Jocelyn, found guilty of manslaughter in the second degree; sentenced to State prison for two years.

8. Thirty persons pleaded guilty and were fined sums between \$500 and \$25.

9. Thirty-nine persons pleaded guilty and their sentences were suspended.

The following is a summary of the punishments meted out to the persons convicted or who pleaded guilty:

- 2 to be hung.
- 4 manslaughter, first degree, life imprisonment.
- 1 manslaughter, first degree, 10 years' imprisonment.
- 5 manslaughter, first degree, 7 years' imprisonment.
- 2 manslaughter, second degree, 7 years' imprisonment.
- 1 manslaughter, fourth degree, 2 years' imprisonment.
- 30 fined sums varying between \$500 and \$25.
- 39 sentences suspended.
- 84 total sentenced.

This number did not include either the leading chiefs of the Indians, or those who could be proved to have fired upon Steele. These had early escaped from the country or had managed to elude detection.

The sentence of death which had been passed upon Van Steenburg and O'Connor was felt under the circumstances to be unnecessarily severe. Governor Wright therefore promptly commuted their sentences to imprisonment for life.

They as well as the large number of other prisoners were conveyed to the State prison at Sing Sing, where they remained till pardoned.

The excitement in Delaware county after these trials and convictions rapidly subsided; so that on the 18th of the following December the Governor deemed it safe to withdraw the proclamation declaring the county in a state of insurrection. The troops which had been employed to guard the public buildings at Delhi were ordered home; and soon everything resumed its ordinary peaceful routine. For a long time however a very bitter feeling\* prevailed as to the harshness and severity with which the Anti-renters had been treated in these trials.

The expenses of this insurrection, which were paid by the State and afterwards charged to Delaware county, were \$63,683.20. It is said that this sum has never been repaid by the county, and will not probably now be called for.

It is unnecessary to go into the details of the measures which were taken to remedy the evils of which the anti-renters complained. It was plain that the remedies to be hereafter applied must no longer partake of violence and lawlessness. The governor in his message to the legislature made several important recommendations, and the legislature gave a good degree of attention to measures of amelioration. The chairman of the special committee in the Assembly was Hon. Samuel J. Tilden, and it is to his earnest and liberal efforts that material amendments were made to the laws. Mr. Tilden in an elaborate report gives these weighty conclusions reached by his committee concerning the anti-rent questions: 1. Leasehold tenures have exerted an unfavorable influence wherever they have prevailed. 2. The easy terms at first required seem a great benefit to the tenant, but afterward are often misleading and dangerous. 3. The proprietorship of land is natural and exhilarating to the

\* Years after the period of these trials, a relative of one of the officers who attended Earle's sale, was running for member of Assembly. He belonged to the dominant party in his district and had no doubt about his election. To his amazement he found himself overwhelmed in an ignominious defeat. The cause was subsequently found to be that he had served on the Sheriff's *posse* in the old anti-rent times and assisted in making some of the arrests.

human mind and has a vast influence in securing the prosperity of growing communities. 4. The restraints inserted in the old leases to the alienation of land are a serious impediment to the development of leasehold properties. The more enterprising settlers are kept out and the steady making of improvements on farms is discouraged. 5. It is reasonable and fair that the interest of the landlord in the farms, of which the annual rent is the measure should pay its equitable part of the taxes assessed for State and local purposes.

Besides the laws enacted, the constitutional convention of 1846 inserted several important clauses bearing upon the questions of land tenure. Thus Section 11 provides that no lease or grant of agricultural land for a longer period than twelve years, hereafter made, in which shall be reserved any rent or service of any kind shall be valid. Section 15 provides that all fines, quarter sales, or other like restraints upon alienation, reserved in any grant of land hereafter to be made, shall be valid.

In the election which was held in the autumn of 1846 the anti-rent vote was cast in favor of John Young for governor and in consequence he was elected. In January 1847 a few weeks after he took office, Governor Young issued a proclamation pardoning all the anti-rent prisoners remaining in the State prison. There was some complaint against this wholesale pardon, but the governor in his proclamation made a calm and judicial statement of his reasons; and the consequences which followed his action have seemed to justify his views. Enough had been done to show that the questions at issue were not such as could be settled by violent resistance to law. The period of legislation and of appeal to courts of law had now come and this phase of the question was destined to continue many years. Passing over this legal struggle we have a few words to say about their effects on the natural relation of landlord and tenant.

The agitation which had so long continued over payments of

rent, and the laws which had been enacted, usually in the interest of the tenants, rendered the landlords wary of the situation. The Van Rensselaer landlords especially became heartily tired and discouraged over the continual resistance which they met with in the collection of their rents. First they made propositions to sell the fee-simple to the tenants on more liberal terms than had before been offered. Many of the tenants being equally weary of the long contest took advantage of the depression in the value of the landlord's holdings and bought their farms outright. Finally the Van Rensselaer family, which had been landholders for more than two hundred years, sold out all the leases which remained and ceased to be the greatest landlords in our country.

In Delaware county where the tenants had received such a severe lesson concerning the payment of rent, they were ready to meet their landlords more than half way in settling this burning question. In some cases the landlords sold their rights to new parties, who were ready to arrange with the tenants for the purchase of the fee-simple. Usually the new purchasers, having acquired their properties at a trifling valuation, were ready to bargain with the tenants at easy rates.

In the report which Mr. Tilden made to the Assembly in 1846 he made an approximate estimate of the amount of land under lease. Thus:

In Albany county there were 1,397 leasehold farms comprising 233,900 acres.

In Rensselaer county there were 1,666 leasehold farms comprising 202,100 acres. In another account referring to the same date the following statement is made: Nearly one-half of Rensselaer county was covered with leases; the greater part of Columbia county; a large part of Delaware county; and about two-thirds of Albany county.

To show what changes had been made in rented farms up to the year 1880, we refer to the U. S. Census as cited in Professor Cheney's pamphlet on Anti-Rent Agitation (Philadelphia 1887).



Albany County	3,325 farms,	690 on lease
Columbia County	3,825 farms,	735 on lease
Delaware County	5,264 farms,	688 on lease

It appears from these statistics that leases in 1880 covered about 12½ per cent. of the farms. This is a proportion not greater than in other counties of New York or in New England. They show that the anti-rent question, which for a time stirred this peaceful county to its very depths, has passed away and become a matter of history, like the Mexican war with which it was contemporaneous.

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24. The Author is also indebted to Mr. David Murray, Jr. for searches made at the Library of the New York Bar Association in the Session Laws and the Legislative Documents of the State of New York, and in the New York Reports.

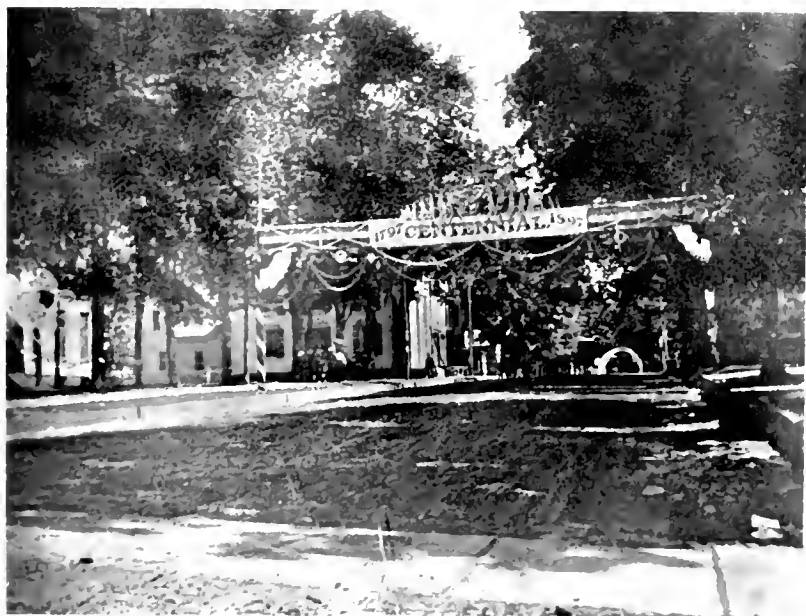
## The Anti-Rent "Andes Tragedy."

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THE following is a sketch of the sale at which Deputy-Sheriff Osman N. Steele was shot, as prepared by the late Hon. Richard Morse of Andes, and endorsed by others who were present. This account is printed here because it is accepted by many as correct, and was written after the bitter feeling of the anti-renters had passed away and by one not directly interested. Mr. Morse says:

"The history of any important event should be a correct narration of the facts and circumstances surrounding the event, so that the student of history may not be misled in his conclusions. History is generally made up of traditions and these are usually colored by the feelings and sympathies of the narrator, and no better proof of the truth of this can be found than in consulting the two published versions of the 'Andes tragedy,' the first appearing in Jay Gould's history of Delaware county many years ago, and the last published in Munsell's history in 1880, neither of which gave a correct and truthful statement of the facts. It was my fortune to be present at the 'Earle's sale,' and therefore an eye witness of the 'tragedy' which may now be very properly called the 'Appomattox' of English feudal tenures in this country, because from that time on the war ceased and peaceful negotiation has since resulted in substantially wiping out that odious system of tenures.

The Earle's sale took place on the 7th day of August, 1845. Both of the histories alluded to assert that Steele and Edgerton were there in their official capacity, which is manifestly incorrect, as was proven by the testimony of Green More, who was then Sheriff of the county, and present at the sale. At the O'Connor



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trial, he testified that his orders to Steele and Edgerton were not to appear at the sale unless they brought a 'posse' of at least forty men with them. John Allen swore that he agreed to give Steele and Edgerton the sixty-four dollars rent for which the 'distress' was made, if they would attend the sale and bid off the property. The arrangement with Allen, who was the agent of the landlord, shows conclusively that neither of them attended the sale officially, on the contrary their presence there was clearly for the purpose of speculation.

Colin Campbell and myself, who at that time occupied adjoining farms to Mr. Earle, were requested by him to attend the sale and bid in the property for him, saying that he wanted to pay his rent and stop the trouble, and desired to take that course to do it; we consented and it was for that purpose that we attended the sale. When we arrived at Mr. Earle's, he called us to one side and informed us that Northrup, the 'Indian Chief,' had sent word to him from the woods, where they were assembled, that if he procured us to bid off the cattle, the 'Indians' would shoot them, but if he would let P. P. Wright or any other agent of the landlords bid them off, the 'Indians' would shoot them and the anti-renters would pay him all the damages he sustained. We stated to him that under such circumstances we would have nothing to do with the matter, and we remained there after that simply as spectators. When the Sheriff wanted to commence the sale, the 'Indians' and a number of citizens, not in disguise, repaired to the field where the cattle were grazing and drove them into a corner near the road and surrounding them, told the Sheriff to proceed with the sale and they would protect him. About that time Steele and Edgerton rode up, and someone wanted the cows driven into the highway. Mr. William Brisbane objected to that, claiming that the advertisement stated that the sale was to take place on the premises of Moses Earle, and that the highway belonged to the public. At this juncture Steele and Edgerton rode down to the barn where

one of the notices of sale was posted, and then rode back to the bars leading into the field where the cattle were surrounded by the 'Indians' and Sheriff. When they came to the bars, P. P. Wright stepped in between their horses and pulled down the top bar, and seizing the inside stirrup of each horse he vaulted over the bars with them. As the bars were cleared, the horsemen rushed in among the 'Indians' and at this moment Edgerton drew a pistol and flourishing it over and around his head, commanded all persons present to assist in keeping the peace. As he was swinging his pistol it went off, and that was the first reports of fire-arms on the ground that day. I was standing on an elevation where I could see and hear all that transpired. As soon as the report of Edgerton's pistol was heard, the order was given by the Chief to shoot the horses, and I saw an 'Indian' run up to Edgerton's horse and shoot him in the breast. At this time there were many shots fired. The horse when shot reared up and Edgerton jumped off and raised his hand and cried out, 'For God's sake, don't shoot me.' About this time Steele's horse was shot—he having a pistol in his right hand—and the horse turned toward the bars. Then I saw an 'Indian' run up by the side of the rail fence and take aim and fire at Steele, who crouched down. The horse fell near the bars. Two persons raised Steele up and carried him down toward the house. I then left and the 'Indians' and spectators all dispersed."

## Against the Erection of the County.

THE following remonstrance is given to show the opposition to establishing Delaware county:

*To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New York, convened at New York, January, 1796:* The prayer of your petitioners humbly sheweth that whereas your Honors have on the 21st and 24th of March last resolved in both Houses that Daniel Wattles, Joshua L. Beitt and others have liberty to present to either House of the Legislature at the next session a bill to erect into a new County all those parts of the counties of Ulster and Otsego according to the lines mentioned in a late publication in the public newspapers printed in Kingston and other places.

We, your humble petitioners, inhabitants of New Stamford, viewing with great concern the unhappy situation and circumstances of the country for such an event as the passing said bill and influenced by equal solicitude for the present and future prosperity of our New World, beg leave to exercise our just and constitutional rights of remonstrating against the passing said bill, as it strongly agitates our minds and we presume will deeply affect our interest and the interest of our fellow citizens. The matter has undergone a full discussion and is the fruits of mature deliberation. Our reasons against said bills taking place is as followeth:

First, We humbly conceived that the petition of Wattles, Beitt and others in favor of passing said bill is no more than the selfish views of designing men to place themselves in posts of honor and profit and thus building themselves up on the ruins of their neighbors, profusely and by deceit and flattery have duped many people to join them without due consideration.

Secondly, The country is rough and uneven, consisting of large uninhabited mountains and narrow valleys, and those mountains extend almost through the country; likewise it abounds with large streams of water and those belching forth in fierce inundations in such a manner as to destroy all communications from one part of the country to another. Those obstructions render it very troublesome and expensive to make and maintain convenient roads and bridges for the use of the inhabitants and the traveler, and in fine it creates a demand far beyond what we at present are able to supply.

Thirdly, In most parts of our country it is so thinly inhabited that it is out of our power to maintain common schools of learning for the education of our children, although we have a large sum of money to pay for the benefit of schools, and are not situated so as to enjoy the privilege of the same and we despair of having our country ever settled to advantage for any social enjoy-

ment, for the new lands are held up to such a large and extravagant price that the people utterly despair of buying or taking a lease on the hard terms that is offered.

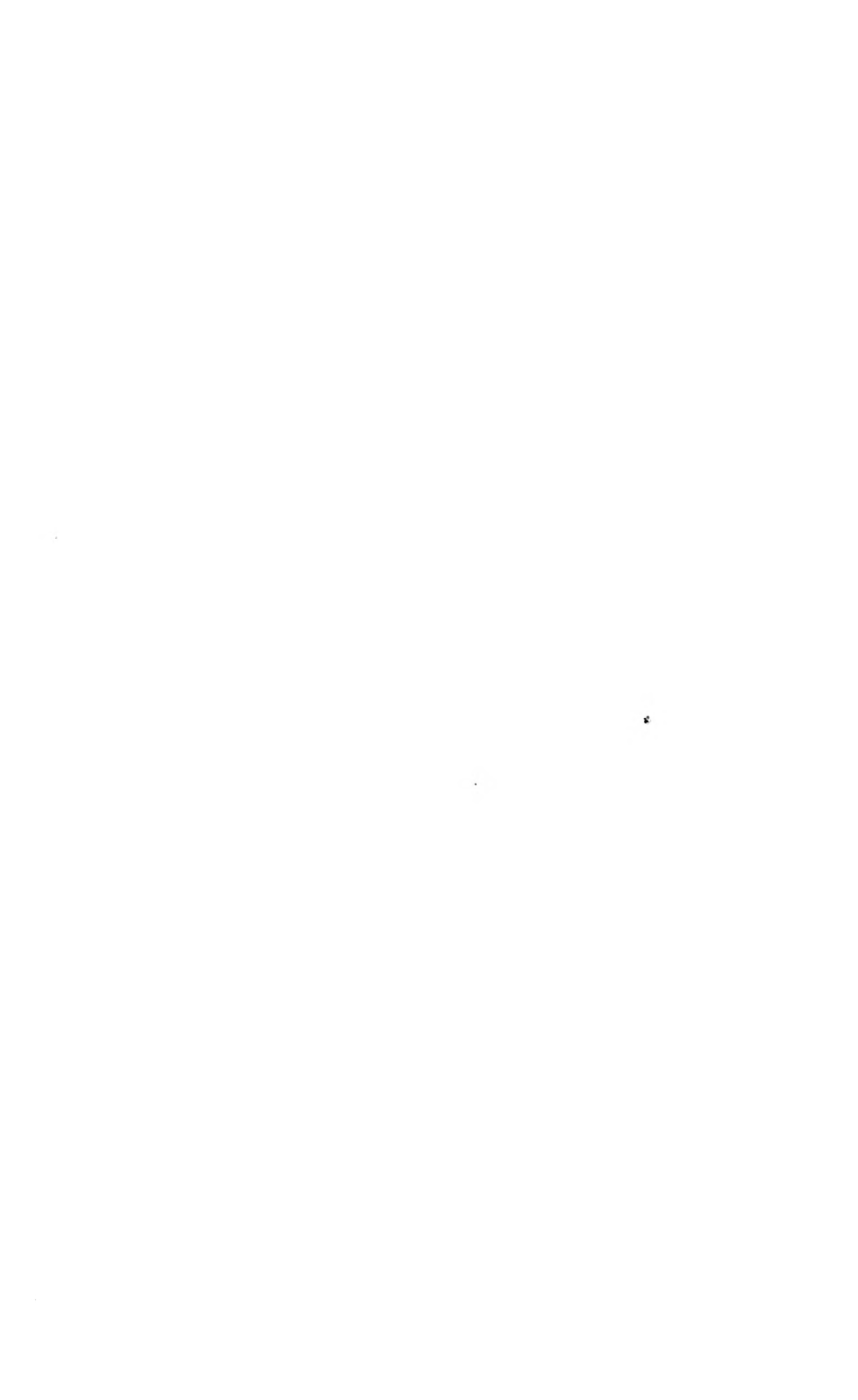
Fourthly, We beg your Honors to take into your serious consideration the propriety of erecting a new county in a place where they are not able to make necessary roads and bridges, nor even to build decent houses for public worship. Moreover the country will not admit of any central place suitable to accommodate a Court of Common Pleas and its attendance. Furthermore, the lines of said new county run in such a form that it cuts several towns in such a sort that it discommodes them very much in doing ordinary town business.

And we your humble petitioners find no kind of inconvenience in doing our county business, as we are obliged to go to the Hudson river once or twice a year and it ever will be our place of trade at Kingston and other places along said river, so that we can dispatch all necessary county business with little trouble and expense.

And we, your petitioners, sensible of the undistinguished favors you have hitherto shown us in guarding against the views of designing men, we still repose our confidence in your deliberation and your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray. Signed William Keator, Francis Sumrick, John C. Keator, Joseph Keator and 108 others.



## PART III.



# Town Histories.

2.

THE most valuable part of the centennial celebration was the Town Histories which had been prepared for the occasion. To the authors of these histories the readers of this volume are under the deepest obligation. They have been prepared with infinite trouble by busy men, and nothing but a sense of the public interest and of the gratitude of their fellow citizens can adequately reward them.

Below these histories are given in the alphabetical order of the towns.

ANDES. By Oscar S. Nichols.

BOVINA. By Hon. D. L. Thomson.

COLCHESTER. By Edward E. Conlon.

DAVENPORT. By Walter Scott.

DELIH. By John A. Parshall.

DEPOSIT AND TOMPKINS. By Col. George D. Wheeler.

FRANKLIN. By William B. Hanford.

HAMDEX. By Henry W. Holmes.

HANCOCK. By Hon. Wesley Gould.

HARPERSFIELD. By Allen S. Gibbs.

KORTRIGHT. By William B. Peters.

MASONVILLE. By A. F. Getter.

MEREDITH. By Josiah D. Smith.

MIDDLETOWN. By Hon. John Grant, and Mrs. J. K. P. Jackson.

ROXBURY. By Dr. J. N. Wright.

SIDNEY. By Edwin R. Wattles.

STAMFORD. Written for this work.

WALTON. By Hon. Timothy Sanderson.

## Andes.

By Oscar S. Nichols.

OF the earliest settlements made in that portion of Delaware county now comprised in the town of Andes, there exists to-day a record of little more than tradition. The circumstances attending the advance of the pioneers before the revolutionary war were not such as favored the accumulation of elaborate material for future history. Coming generations shall never know the true story of that early march of civilization into the heart of the American forests; and it is difficult to realize what must have been the hardships and deprivations and uncertainties which the leaders in that forward movement encountered. There remains for us the story of success and progress; the failures and reverses belong to those details that are left to the imagination. The experiences of the early days were doubtless common to all the settlers of the Middle States; and in the following narrative an attempt will be made to refer to some of the more familiar traditions clustering about the beginning of this town.

Prior to the Revolution there appear to have been scarcely any permanent settlements in this portion of the county. The peculiar topographical relations—the rocky hills, often thickly wooded and cut by deep valleys, with wild mountain streams,—offered few immediate advantages to the Indians and hence it is principally lower down the streams, after they join the Delaware, that records of Indian tribes (the Delaware Indians) appear. The earliest white inhabitants, coming from the New England districts, and from the lower portions of New York, followed along the streams and sought such places amid their banks as gave promise of reward for labor expended. But these settlers left no

Fig. 1. At 100.





permanent traces; they may have failed to overcome the difficulties which the peculiar character of the country presented, and doubtless some left to join the throng of revolutionary warriors. There are no records which justify any certain conclusions as to the fate of these individuals; but the traditions of their existence lend completeness to the history of the later community, and contributes to the enthusiasm which the tales of colonial struggles arouse in American hearts.

It was during the revolutionary period and in the following years that the first permanent settlements began. According to various authorities, the years 1781 to 1784 mark the date of these pioneer movements. At about this time several families, making their way up the East branch of the Delaware river, located at the place now known as Shavertown. These families included John, Jacob and Philip Shaver (hence the name). They had migrated from Dutchess county, while Philip Barndardt had come to this district from Schuylkill county. These names, like those which follow, serve to indicate the nationality of the early settlers. A few years later other individuals began to direct their way along the smaller branches of the river. These branches afforded the natural paths along which the invasion into the unknown territory should be conducted. Thus we learn of Robert Nicholson who made his home about 1790 up the Tremperskill, the small stream joining the East Branch at Shavertown. To the same neighborhood came Thomas More, James Phenix, Elijah Olmsted, Joseph Erskine, Silas Parish, E. Washburn and Eli Sears, names, many of which are familiar in the county annals.

Somewhat later than the period just referred to began a movement towards the district under discussion, along the direction of the West Branch of the Delaware. Communication with the outer world was less easy along this path, and consequently the immigration in this direction was less extensive until at a much later period. Toward the close of the eighteenth century, however, settlers had followed the West Branch as far as Delhi,

and then pursuing their course up the Little Delaware—the stream joining the West Branch just below the present village of Delhi—had made their way into the present town of Bovina and then gradually into the northern portion of what is now known as Andes. How entirely independent the two lines of pioneer movement were, is well illustrated by the following incident which we take from the historical account of the town by H. W. Blake: Aaron Hull, a pioneer, who came by the Teunis Lake route, had taken up his abode about one mile north of the present village of Andes. His nearest neighbor to the south was Jonathan Earl, who in 1795 had located on the farm now occupied by Robert McNair on the road from Andes to Shavertown. "These two families lived for a year or more unknown to each other, until one evening Mr. Earl while looking for his cow that had strayed up to what was then the swamp, now the site of the village, found her in company with Mr. Hull's cattle that he was driving home from their browse pasture."

As in the adjacent parts of the county, so here the early settlers devoted much of their time to the lumber industry. Rafting soon became a profitable business on the Delaware where it was extensively undertaken. The numerous streams in the locality under consideration afforded means of transportation for the logs, and in the course of time saw mills were erected. With the changes incidental to the country's growth, however, all this has changed, and today dairying forms the chief industry of the community.

It was not until after the war of 1812-14 that the present town of Andes was formed. At that time the county comprised fifteen towns. By a special act of the State Legislature, passed April 13, 1819, a portion of Middletown was set aside to comprise the present town of Andes. The name, rather unique in character, is said to have arisen through a suggestion regarding the extremely hilly character of this part of the county, and the word Andes was chosen to be applied to the town including this



mountain-like district. That the designation was not altogether inappropriate will be evident when it is remembered that the highest point in the county—Mt. Pisgah, with an altitude of 3,400 feet—lies in the northeastern part of the town.

The new town was the fourth in size in the county, but was indeed little more than an unbroken forest with a few settler inhabitants. On the first Tuesday in March, 1820, the first town meeting was held in what was then designated as the village of Trempersville, the name being changed to Andes in the following year. At this meeting the town officers were elected, viz: Supervisor, town clerk, assessors, overseers of the poor, commissioners of highways, etc. In the absence of general legislation, by-laws were adopted, one to the effect that "No cattle shall be allowed to run at large within forty rods of any Publick House, Tavern, Grist mill, Fulling mill and all places of Publick Business from the first day of November until the first day of April, under the penalty of one dollar."

The first election for State officers was held on the last Tuesday in April, 1820, and continued for three days. The relative importance of the new town is indicated by the results of this contest. Seventy-six votes were cast for governor, DeWitt Clinton receiving twenty and Daniel D. Tompkins fifty-six. At a later date, instead of continuing the election three days at one place, the inspectors went each day to a different part of the town for the convenience of the scattered voters. At this period there was but one hamlet in the town. The church and school were never forgotten in those days, and formed the center about which civilization clustered in its rural abodes. Accordingly the town contained a church, Presbyterian in denomination,—eight school districts, a tavern, a grist mill, a saw mill and a tannery. If we add to these the log-cabin homes of tillers of the soil, there is presented to the imagination a picture which seems strange indeed to the child of the closing years of the nineteenth century. Where the forest trail formed the only line of communication with the neighboring districts, to-day the

telephone extends from hamlet to hamlet and the earth's forces are subdued to assist the wants of man in a manner and degree that our forefathers could not venture to dream of. In place of the bi-monthly mail of 1820, the great New York dailies to-day bring their treasure of intelligence to the home of the farmer on the very day of their issue. Such have been the changes that time has wrought.

In the period succeeding 1820, the town of Andes experienced a slow and steady growth. Other hamlets beside old Trempersville, began to form. Thus Slavertown which, as we have seen, was early a growing settlement at the junction of the Tremperskill and East branch, was established as a post-office in 1828; Union Grove, further up on the East branch, was likewise organized in 1857; while the village of Andes was incorporated in 1861. At this period its population was about 350. The more fertile valleys of the town had become settled by a thrifty class, and it is during these years that various well known localities in the town began their growth. These places have in many instances received characteristic and peculiar designations, among which we may refer to Fall Clove, Wolf Hollow, Bussey Hollow, Shaver Hollow, Canada Hollow, Gladstone Hollow, Dingle Hill, Lake Hill, Palmer Hill, etc. More mills were built in the region, but of the many that existed in the first half of the century few remain at the present day. Among these land marks are still to be seen one at Pleasant Valley (O. E. Miner's), and another at Union Grove (Jenkins' mill). These relics of early Andes industry serve to demonstrate how thoroughly the character of the occupation of the townsmen has changed in late years. Of the causes contributing to this change we shall speak later on.

As regards the religious life of the community, there has been evidence from the earliest days of an enthusiasm and interest that speak praises for the fathers of the early generation. Meetings for devotional purposes were held in various portions of the town long before church edifices had been erected, and the unusual devotion of the Andes people is shown in the considerable number of



Fig. 1. St. Peter.



Fig. 2. St. Peter.



churches that were erected even before the sixties. Presbyterianism predominated, but by no means excluded other sects, among whom the Methodists and Baptists were most active. In the earnest effort to spread the Christian faith a religious society (Presbyterian) was organized as early as 1801, and in 1818 a church was erected, part of which now forms the Town Hall building in Andes village. In 1833 a United Presbyterian Church was erected at Cabin Hill; in 1838 the Methodist Episcopal edifice at Andes was opened. These were followed by Presbyterian houses of worship erected in 1848 at Andes, in 1851 at Shavertown, and in the following year at Pleasant Valley.

All the churches have labored incessantly and spent money freely in proclaiming the words of truth, and to-day the spires of eight churches point heavenward and afford opportunity for the people to meet together in their respective houses and worship according to the dictates of their own conscience. It may not be without interest to note that Rev. Dr. James Bruce of the United Presbyterian congregation of Andes village has spent thirty-three consecutive years in its service.

Up to the year 1890 Andes had at least two public cemeteries, one being located at Shavertown, the second and larger one a short distance southwest of Andes village on the Tremperskill road. The attempt to incorporate this with a larger area of land failed, owing to the difficulty of making satisfactory arrangements with holders of adjoining property. Accordingly in 1890 an association was formed and the present Rural Cemetery opened. The farm, known as the Smith property, located on an elevation to the north of the village, was purchased and a portion of it, duly incorporated, was set aside for the purpose mentioned.

It was in the year 1815 that the well known Anti-Rent difficulties reached their culmination in this county. In the previous years the settlers who had up to that time paid their annual rents under what was known as the Hardenberg Patent claim refused longer to submit to what they considered unjust and exorbitant demands, while

the lessors prosecuted for rent. Associations of the aggrieved were formed with the purpose of seeking redress and preventing the collection of the rents. Men disguised as Indians banded together to carry out the purposes of these individuals. The processes of the law were interfered with; and meanwhile judicial and legislative proceedings were on foot to remedy the difficulties.

The climax was finally reached in a series of events taking place in Andes, and leading to the death of Deputy Sheriff Steele. An Act had already been passed forbidding the proceedings of the armed and disguised bands, and severe penalties were directed. The immediate occasion of the so-called Anti-Rent "Andes tragedy" was the attempt of Sheriff Green Moore to sell the property of Moses Earl upon an execution for rent. Mr. Earl at that time resided about one and a half miles from Andes village, on the mountain road leading to what is now called Dingle Hill. The property is at present in the possession of William Scott.

Of the events that transpired incident to this Andes tragedy there are a number of accounts, varying in the statement of the details, and doubtless colored largely by the sympathies of the narrator in the questions involved. It is difficult, indeed, to find a description of the transactions of that fatal day that is free from evidences of prejudice at the same time that it bears the stamp of authenticity. The writer has carefully reviewed the various published accounts and has likewise received useful information from inhabitants of the town of Andes who were present at the Anti-Rent affair. The following narrative is, in his judgment, warranted by the results of this study:

On the 7th of August, 1845, the Sheriff of the county, Mr. Green Moore, went to Andes to be present at the sale referred to. When the Sheriff wanted to commence the sale the "Indians," and certain other citizens not in disguise, repaired to the field where the cattle to be sold were grazing, and drove them into a corner near the highway. After surrounding the cattle, the "Indians" advised the Sheriff to proceed with the sale, and promised at the same time to

protect him. At this juncture two Deputy Sheriffs, Steele and Edgerton, appeared upon the scene, although the best authorities indicate that they had been requested not to be present. When it was suggested that the cattle be driven upon the highway prior to the sale, an objection was immediately raised on the ground that the notice of sale distinctly stated otherwise, and, furthermore, that the highway was public property. The two Deputy Sheriffs hereupon rode along the highway to the barn where a notice of the sale had been posted, and then returned to a point where there was an opening into the field closed by bars. Steele and Edgerton, who were joined by P. P. Wright, entered the field with their horses; Edgerton, flourishing a pistol, commanded those present to assist in preserving the peace. The fire-arm was discharged, accidentally it is stated, - and immediately the leader of the Indians commanded them to shoot the horses. At once there was a report of pistols; amid the confusion two horses were killed and Steele was fatally shot. He died in a short time. The events of the day were reported to the Governor and the county put under martial law. Various legal prosecutions followed, two individuals being convicted and imprisoned. They were fully pardoned at a later period. The abandonment of the secret Anti-Rent organizations quickly followed.

The opening of the Civil war found Andes ready to send forth her quota of men to defend the Nation's rights and to battle for the cause of the North. A good number of her sons started from their homes and joined the other volunteers from the county. These men were for the most part members of the 144th Regiment Volunteers, and many of them saw considerable of the struggles of the Rebellion. The enthusiastic meetings held in the village of Andes during the war are recalled by many of the older residents; patriotism reached a high pitch and Henry Dowie, a prominent citizen, entertained Horace Greeley on one occasion. The survivors of the war have organized a prosperous Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and named

it Fletcher Post, to honor the memory of one of the first of Andes' residents to fall in the great struggle.

In the years following the war Andes experienced such transformations as were common to many of her sister towns in the county. The chief occupation of the townsmen gradually was changed more and more into that of a dairying community and agriculture took a leading part in the lives of the people. It gave rise to a quiet, unimpetuous, religious community whose daily life was merely a record of hard work with satisfactory returns. The village of Andes grew steadily from a hamlet of 350 people to one of 500 inhabitants, and it became a commercial center for the surrounding district. The farm produce from the neighboring towns was brought to the village to be exchanged for the necessities which the farm did not produce and "trading day," Saturday, afforded many scenes of earnest activity. For years no town in the county enjoyed the prosperity which came to Andes. The progress which it experienced was largely due to the efforts of one man, Henry Dowie. In addition to his extensive business interests, he was deeply concerned with all enterprises which were undertaken in the direction of improving the village. His prosperous butter business brought people from distant parts of the county and gave to the village an impetus that was long felt. It was to the reverses of fortune in the case of this one man that the decline of the once prosperous village is largely due. The tide of trade has drifted to other channels; the facilities of travel and communication have improved so greatly in later years that the farmer no longer is compelled to go far to find his market. Thus the progress of the age has wrought changes in the fortunes of the town.

Among the incidents which have left their impress upon the village of Andes was the disastrous fire of June 26, 1878. The origin of the conflagration was probably accidental. The flames started in the wagon house belonging to the Union Hotel owned by Peter Crispell and standing on the premises opposite to the



hotel. The fire extended in both directions from this property, completely destroying all the buildings on the north side of the street as far as Delaware Avenue to the west, and the street leading to High street on the east. No less than fifteen buildings were consumed, some of them stores, others private residences. Although a volunteer fire department had already been organized in 1877, and the Andes water works were in operation, the flames made rapid headway, and the dry weather and wind prevailing caused so rapid a spread of the work of destruction that the efforts of the citizens were of little avail. The loss was estimated at \$40,000. This portion of the village was subsequently rebuilt in large part and the new structures have added materially to the appearance of the place. In August, 1896, the Union Hotel, which was built in 1833 and had for many years been a landmark in the town, was burned to the ground. This place has not been rebuilt up to the present date.

In connection with various enterprises which originated in the town of Andes it is necessary to record a series of transactions which have been of serious consequence to the development and progress of the town. The incidents referred to are known as the Andes Town Bonds affair. After the construction of the Ulster and Delaware Railroad from Kingston to Stamford a project was entertained of connecting the valley traversed by the New York and Oswego Midland Railroad, now known as the New York, Ontario and Western Railroad, with the railway crossing among the Catskills from the Hudson river. This new road, which was to pass through Andes, promised to afford a valuable outlet from this region as well as to give easier means of access to the town. The new railway was surveyed to run from Arkville, where it joined the Ulster and Delaware Railroad, through Arena, Union Grove, Shavertown, up the Trenperskill to within two and one-half miles of Andes village to the present farm of David Muir, thence along the valley leading to Lake Delaware. From this spot the road was planned to follow the valley of the

Little Delaware to the village of Delhi. A company was incorporated under the name of the Delhi and Middletown Railroad; a survey of the road was made, right of way obtained and a portion of the road from Arkville to Andes was graded. The interest of the town of Andes in the enterprise was evidenced by the action of the town—the only one along the line of the proposed railroad doing so—in bonding itself to the extent of \$98,000 for the benefit of the organized company. The sequel is well known. After various vicissitudes and unfortunate incidents the completion of the road was never undertaken, while the obligations assumed by the town could not be released. The burden was a severe one, especially under the circumstances related. For several years interest (at seven per cent.) was faithfully paid. At the end of this period, a sentiment opposed to the continuance of this debt having gradually arisen, the bond affair became a matter of litigation and remained in the courts for several years, when a temporary relief was obtained. The old debt was released and the town bonded anew for \$120,000, with interest payable at the rate of three per cent. There is a debt balance not yet provided for at this time. The history of the Bond affair is the story of a heavy burden upon the town, without compensation in the form of a railroad, or redress of any kind.

Since the failure of the Delhi and Middletown Railroad there have been several attempts at various times to organize railroad companies and build a railroad to Andes, but none of these have been successful. The people of the town have, however, by no means lost confidence in the ultimate success of their long continued efforts in this direction.

The last two decades have witnessed no startling changes in the make up of the town. Business interests have been transferred from time to time, a new generation of inhabitants has sprung up and there has been a transition from the bustling days of the seventies to the more quiet times of the present. Of the older inhabitants identified with the progress of the town many are dead, among

these Henry Dowie, of whom mention has already been made Duncan Ballantine, for many years President of the First National Bank of Andes, died in 1889. The direction of the affairs of the bank passed into the hands of his son David, but the institution closed its doors a few years later. Another son, James Ballantine, was successively Supervisor of the town, Member of Assembly and finally State Senator at Albany. He died before completing his term of service, May 1, 1896. Prominent among the merchants of Andes were Daniel B. Shaver who began his business career in 1833 and for many years occupied the building erected by him in 1835. Mr. Shaver died in May, 1897. A. S. Dowie, Sr., for many years the head of the firm of A. S. Dowie & Son, died in 1878; the junior member is now in business in Philadelphia, the firm having been later succeeded by Hotchkiss & Marx, who subsequently dissolved partnership, Mr. Hotchkiss retaining the old store while Mr. Marx has opened a new place of business near the site of the old destroyed Union hotel wagon house. Mr. E. M. Norton has for many years been engaged in the drug business in the village, his present location being in the building erected by Daniel H. Hawks. The hardware business was conducted in Andes by a number of parties who succeed each other in the course of a few years. Thus the establishment of Nichols & Dickson was conducted by O. S. Nichols, Nichols & Murray, and E. J. Turnbull. Eli Felton jr., afterward Felton & Cant, were succeeded by James Bruce jr. The Andes Recorder, originally issued by Rev. Peter Smeallie and successfully conducted for many years by William Clark, has continued publication under various ownerships, being conducted at the present date by Miller & Crawford. A banking business is now conducted by James F. Scott, who has represented the town on the Board of Supervisors for many years and twice has been its chairman.

Andes has always maintained a satisfactory educational establishment. For years the Andes Collegiate Institute, founded in 1847, drew students from distant points and it was perhaps the

most prosperous school of the county. With the improvement of the public school system and the growth of other similar institutions in many of the nearby towns, the prosperity of the Institute declined and its doors were finally closed in 1880. Several attempts were made to revive the school but the efforts have all failed and the spacious buildings now stand idle, reminding the citizens of their usefulness in the earlier days. The Andes Union Free school, later the Andes High School, was organized in 1893 in the old district school building which was enlarged for the purpose. This institution has been improving steadily and now stands high as a preparatory school for girls and boys. A number of the young graduates have completed a collegiate course, giving evidence of the thoroughness of the preparation afforded by the Andes school.

The first telegraph line connecting Andes with the exterior was erected by the Andes and Delhi Telegraph Company in 1876. The first message was sent over the thirteen miles of this line June 1, 1876. Afterwards this line was extended to Arkville on the Ulster and Delaware Railroad and likewise connected with Bovina Center. This line has recently been converted into a telephone line and has greatly facilitated the ease of communication between Andes and distant places. In 1896 another company was organized and a telephone line built between Andes and Downsville, passing through Slavertown and Pepacton. This line is connected with many of the farm residences along the route and considerable local business is thus transacted by the use of the telephone.

The old Delhi and Kingston Turnpike—the road early connecting Delhi with the Catskill region and the Hudson river—was abandoned beyond Arkville in 1872. Later, that portion of the road between Andes and Margaretville was given up by the company, which at the present time still controls the well kept road from Delhi to Andes village.



Village of Brainerd Center.



## Bovina.

By Hon. D. L. Thompson.

ONE hundred and seven years ago three or four hardy young men from Westchester county, with rudely constructed knapsacks fastened to their belts and with trusty rifles upon their shoulders made a surveying and prospecting tour over an Indian trail from Stamford, through the eastern part of the county.

In that little party was Elisha B. Maynard, a young man of English descent, in search of a future home for himself and his family. With keen perception and astute judgment in regard to richness of soil, he selected that spot of ground which is now, and ever since has been in the possession of the Maynard family in Bovina. In the summer of 1791 young Maynard cleared up two or three acres of land, built a little cabin, mostly under ground, sowed a bushel and a half of rye and then returned to his home in Westchester county. He spent the winter of 1791 and 1792 in making preparations for his new home, and in the spring of 1792 moved his family and all his belongings upon a wood-shed sled drawn by two yokes of oxen, all the way from the Hudson river. For two years young Maynard had no neighbors this side of the Stamford range of mountains. The somewhat dangerous conditions and the actual privations incurred by him must be largely left to the imagination.

Game of every kind was abundant, the tameness of which on account of unfamiliarity with man was even annoying. It was difficult to raise stock on account of the depredations of bears, panthers, and wolves. Benefits, however, resulted from these circumstances, for the mountain brooks were filled with the finest trout and the woods with deer, that furnished a material part of the family food.

In 1794 Alexander Brush came from Long Island and settled upon that tract of land which now includes the village of Bovina Centre, six miles west of Mr. Maynard, his nearest neighbor. These two earliest settlers were blest with unusually large families, Mr. Maynard having twelve children and Mr. Brush nine. The old Puritan custom of giving children Bible names was in vogue with the Yankee element of the early settlers. Every one of the Maynard and Brush families were given Scripture names—the boys having such names as Abram, Isaac, Jacob and Elisha, and the girls Miriam, Ruth, Rachel, Esther, etc.

Mr. Brush a year or two after his settlement here, with a spirit of enterprise and the best of motives, bought the seed of the white daisy and sowed it upon his land, also giving it to neighbors around him. He lived to hear maledictions heaped upon his head for his well meant but mistaken idea of improving the pasturage of the farms.

About the beginning of the present century a number of settlers, mostly from Scotland, began to establish homes and clear up the land. Among them were the Landons, Leets, Davises, Dummonds, Moscrips, Hiltons, Russells, Hamiltons and Ormiston. Those people endured privations and hardships which the present third or fourth generation of their sons and daughters could scarcely imagine. The comforts, the conveniences, and the luxuries of life were to them unknown. Their necessities were easily supplied, and the source of them came from their immediate surroundings. The crops raised from the newly cleared land were principally rye, potatoes, and flax. Sometimes the family enjoyed the luxury of pork for dinner, provided the bears had not captured the pigs before butchering time. In such a case they resorted to bear meat, if they could catch the bear.

As a sample of physical strength and endurance growing out of the necessities of their environments, it is related that a Mr. Davis and a Mr. Hilton upon different occasions carried each of them upon their backs two bushels of rye to a grist mill in Scholarie



county, a distance of eighteen miles from their homes, and returned with the flour the same day. However, a grist mill was soon after erected on the other side of the Stamford mountain at the foot of Rose's brook, and to this mill was carried on the backs of men or on horseback the grain to be made into flour for family use.

Amid such surroundings the sons and daughters of these pioneers loved and married as in more modern days. The first marriage was that of James Russell and Nancy Richie, the first birth Elisha Horton Maynard (grandfather of the late Isaac H. Maynard) in 1793. The first death was that of Hezekiah Davis in 1798. The first sermon was preached by Rev. James Richie in 1795. The first school teacher was William Edwards, who taught a school in 1808. The first general store was kept by James Wetmore. The first grist mill by Stephen Palmer. The first resident physician was Dr. Kelly. The first church was built in 1809.

From this time onward, early in the morning and late at night could be heard the sound of the axe as it felled the trees of the forest, which after seasoning for a few weeks were rolled into heaps and reduced into ashes. The burning of so much timber produced large quantities of ashes which suggested a new industry—that of converting the ashes into what was called potash and pearl ash. The works where these substances were manufactured were called asheries. David Ballantine, grandfather of the late Senator Ballantine, built an ashery and ran it for many years in connection with a small general store. Eight or ten cents a bushel was paid in trade for ashes delivered at the store or at the works, the good housewives almost invariably taking pay in dishes.

The town or township of Bovina, a name given it by General Erastus Root, was formed from parts of Delhi, Middletown and Stamford in 1820. The name is said to have been derived from the word Bovine, alluding to the fact of its being prominent in the dairying business. With the exception of Harpersfield it is in area and population the smallest town in the county, containing only 27,000 acres, or forty-two square miles of land. Fifteen years after

its organization into a township, or more definitely in 1835, its population was 1,412. Since that date until the present time there has been a steady and almost regular yearly decrease, until now the population numbers less than 1,000. Its general features are hills and valleys supplied with abundant springs of pure cold water, making it admirably adapted for dairying purposes, which is and has been from its earliest settlement its chief and most important industry.

Its enterprising citizens are justly proud of the flattering appreciation of the excellency of Bovina butter, and the reputation it has gained. Upon two occasions Bovina dairies have supplied the tables of the presidential mansion at Washington, being recommended as the finest flavored butter made in the United States.

In March 1820 the first town election was held at the house of John Hastings, who then kept an inn on the farm now owned and occupied by his grandson, James E. Hastings. At this election Thomas Landon was chosen Supervisor, with a full corps of other town officials. Some resolutions adopted at these early town elections are suggestive and amusing. For instance at a meeting held April 5, 1821, is this record: "Voted that a pauper be sold to the person who will keep him the cheapest."

was then put up at auction and sold to John Bennett for one year at 9 shillings and sixpence a week. So vigorously opposed were the people at this time to paying taxes for the support of paupers, that at a town meeting in March 1838, they passed this resolution: "Voted that the county poor house at Delm be abolished."

Among those distinguished by long terms of office as Supervisor, may be mentioned Judge James Cowan, who held the office from 1825 to 1839 fourteen consecutive years. Alexander Storie was supervisor for eight years and David Black for eleven years. The present Supervisor is William L. White, a grandson of Rev. John Graham, who for over twenty years

was the pastor of the (now) United Presbyterian Church of Bovina.

In the time that has long gone by, the habits and customs and to us the peculiarities of the early settlers seem strange and somewhat amusing. The older inhabitants now living emphasize the claim that there was more sociability and friendship among the people in those days than now. There was no division or distinction among them on account of wealth, for all were poor. Neighbors would drop in of an evening to have a social chat and a drink of whiskey with a fellow neighbor. Whiskey seems to have been regarded as a necessity. There was at one time three distilleries in the town for its manufacture. And I have been told that the home consumption did not allow of any exportation. A settler would take a bushel of rye to the distillery and receive for it two gallons of whiskey. They claimed that they could have a milder drunk on the whiskey of those days than in more modern times.

An old gentleman who was enthusiastic over the good old times and friendships of those early days, told a story that so evidently contradicted the facts claimed, that we are led to believe that there were sinners as well as saints even in the long ago time. He said that two neighbors, whom I will call A and B, had become somewhat careless about their line fences, which naturally made bad blood between them. On one occasion A's sheep got into B's lot, where B caught three or four of them and cutting the thin skin separating the muscle of the hind leg from the gambrel joint he stuck the other hind leg through the aperture, and in this shape sent them home on three legs. A just chalked this bit of neighborly courtesy down and waited for his chance, which soon came by B's hogs getting over into his lot. A caught the hogs and cut their mouths almost back to their eyes. When B saw his hogs he started for A's with all the vim of a modern Fitzsimmons and throwing his coat on a stump he wanted to know what A meant by slashing up his hogs in that shape. A

said, "Well, now, just hold on, B; I'll tell you how this came about. Your hogs were over in my lot when my sheep came home on three legs, and when the hogs saw those sheep they began to laugh, and laughed so heartily that they split their mouths open clear back to their ears."

There is a tradition of a lead mine in the southern part of the town. An Indian named Tennis built a hut or cabin on the farm now owned by Walter A. Doig. This Indian was often observed to leave his cabin and after a short absence return with pieces of rock richly filled with lead ore, from which he obtained his bullets. He admitted the existence of a valuable lead mine, but would never make known its location. It is said that upon one occasion when this Indian was over on the East branch of the Delaware, he was assaulted and beaten by two drunken white men, when a Mr. Bassett of Andes came to his rescue. He afterward invited Mr. Bassett to come to his cabin, saying he would show him something that would make him the richest man in all the region around him. Mr. Bassett visited the friendly Indian, who blindfolded him and led him through the woods for a short distance. After removing the obstruction from his eyes, he was shown a lead mine of unusual richness. The Indian told him that he would not yet reveal the location, but promised that before his death he would do so. The old Indian, however, died soon after and all knowledge of this mine died with him. Mr. Bassett and others spent months in fruitless search for this buried treasure. The Mr. Bassett referred to was the father of the late Peter Norton Bassett of Andes, a man whose integrity and veracity was never doubted.

The adaptation of the early settlers to their necessities and surroundings ought at this time to teach us lessons of economy in many of the affairs of life. Flax was grown in large quantities from which the good housewife made her husband's shirts and summer clothing. The woolen garments were likewise made in the home. The wife and mother carded, spun and wove the wool for the cloth, and often completed the preparation of the garments for

the backs of her husband and children by cutting and making them. They may not have been artistically fitted, but mother made them; while less critical eyes than those of modern times surveyed them. An old gentleman said that the men of those days, as they looked down on their thick cow-hide boots, were not always certain whether they were going home, or away from home. An old lady referring to the amount of material put into the men's shirt collars in those times, laughingly remarked that the shirts might have been worn wrong end up without attracting unusual attention.

But it was the men and women reared in such surroundings that the people of Bovina to-day are proud to call their ancestors. Their labor soon developed the limited resources about them into material prosperity, and all now feel the truth of a sentiment once so beautifully expressed by Thomas Jefferson when he said, "Let the farmer be forever honored in his calling, for they who till the soil are the favored and chosen people of God."

From 1815 to 1820 those who settled in Bovina came largely from Scotland. They brought with them that Scottish thrift and piety that has so honored the land of Burns and of Bruce, and demonstrated in their love of country and their loyalty to Christ, the true elements of that Christian character which the world respects to-day. It has been reported by agents of the American Bible Society that no family in Bovina has ever been found without a bible. The influence of the clergy is universally felt. For forty years no license for the sale of liquor has been granted, and with one exception of a few months not a pauper from the town has been an inmate of an almshouse.

From 1820 to 1830 hired men's wages were from eight to ten dollars a month. Hired girls received seventy-five cents a week, and if they could weave they got one dollar a week. An interesting fact in the history of this town is, that the Mormon Prophet, Joseph Smith, once worked here as a common day laborer. There is a stone wall still standing on the farm of Frederick Johnston built

by him between the years 1835 and 1840. In 1835 when slavery was abolished in the state of New York there were two slaves in the town; one was owned by John Erkson and the other by Alexander Johnston.

One custom of Scottish origin was that of offering cake and wine at funerals. This was kept up for some time. Whenever the people entered a house of mourning they were offered cake and wine. This simple service at the burial of their dead was suggestive of appreciated sympathy in times of bereavement.

Briefly noticing what is called the Anti-Rent, or Equal Rights party, it may be said that the first meeting of this party was held at the hotel of John Seacord, in Bovina, Oct. 1, 1844. John McDonald of Kortright and George Thompson of Andes were nominated for the Assembly at this meeting. Mr. McDonald being endorsed by the Whig party was elected. For the killing of Under-Sheriff Steele at the Earle sale in Andes, Aug. 7, 1845, John VanSteenburg and Edward O'Connor were sentenced to be hanged Nov. 27. O'Connor was a citizen of Bovina, then living on the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. Stephen Russell. Naturally the most intense excitement and deepest concern were felt for the fate of O'Connor. The sentence was however changed to imprisonment for life, and early in 1847 at the request of nearly 12,000 petitioners, Governor Young pardoned VanSteenburg and O'Connor with all who had been imprisoned for this tragedy. The result of this Anti-Rent agitation was that the tenants bought the soil of the land they had tilled and occupied, at easy prices. But it had created bitter feelings and animosities among the people that took years to remove. Business men who were in sympathy with the landlords were boycotted to an extent that drove them from the town. Horace Greeley's paper was in sympathy with the Anti-Renters and was universally patronized. Almost everybody in Bovina took the Tribune. It was jestingly said that "up in Bovina the people didn't read anything but the Bible and the New York Tribune." But the



Lake Delaware in Baylis





Anti-Rent conflict has gone into history, a history of which the town to-day scarcely remembers with either pride or pleasure.

The first post-office in this town was established at Lake Delaware in 1821. Previous to that time the mail was brought from Stamford, a distance of sixteen miles, once every month, people taking turns in bringing it over the mountain. The post-office in Bovina Centre was established in 1841 with John Erksen as postmaster. The present postmaster is Wm. McCune. The early mail carriers in bringing the mail, when within a mile of the post-office commenced to blow a horn, and continued to blow every two or three minutes until their arrival at the post-office.

The first physician, as has been said was Dr. Kelly—present physicians, Drs. Plumney and Dickson.

When this town was established there were upwards of 400 children of school age; now there are less than 275.

The most important trade center is the little village of Bovina Centre, in which there are four general stores, one for flour and feed, one hardware, one drug and one grocery store, one saw and grist mill, two blacksmith shops, two cooper shops, two boot and shoe shops, one millinery parlor, one barber shop and one hotel. Sixty years ago all the goods sold in this town consisted of three or four wagon loads drawn semi-annually from Catskill, some 60 miles distant.

The present trade, exclusive of the handling of butter, from figures and estimates, amounts to over one hundred and twelve thousand dollars annually.

The schools of this town are small. No educational advantages except the common school have ever been enjoyed by the people in their home town, while thousands of dollars have been paid for education in the academies, seminaries and colleges at other places. Bovina has furnished for the educational and professional vocations of life within the past forty-five years, forty-one persons who have been graduated with distinction from

colleges around us. In all statistics of this town it is fair to consider the smallness of population.

In October, 1809, the Associate Presbyterian Congregation of Little Delaware, now the United Presbyterian Church of Bovina, was organized with a membership of eleven souls. The barns and private dwellings of the people were used as places of worship until 1815. The first sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Alexander Bullions in the bar-room of Thomas Landon's hotel at Lake Delaware. The minister stood behind the bar, with his Bible resting upon it, and expounded to his little audience the truths and teachings of the Gospel. About this time Dr. Bullions preached in a barn yet standing upon the farm of Mrs. Lucy Coulter, at which an incident occurred that greatly disturbed for a time the devotional spirit which ought to exist during religious worship. Old grandfather Coulter had prepared the barn floor and provided seats for the female part of the audience—the men were to stand, or sit on the hay mow. Dr. Bullions had just begun his sermon when a hen flew off her nest with an unusually loud demonstration of cackling, taking a circuit around among the worshipers, to the great diversion and merriment of the children and less sedate hearers. The preacher stopped and asked if someone would not remove the fowl from the building. Just then old Mr. G., a large 240 pound Scotchman, caught it by the feet and poking it under the hay sat down on it. The hen gave one squeal, and never after disturbed a religious meeting. But the spiritual solemnity of that service was badly impaired.

The first pastor of this congregation, Rev. James Laing, was installed in June, 1814, receiving a salary of \$250 per annum. In 1815 a house of worship was built, which was not however completed until 1824. For nine years it was used for religious services without pews or pulpit or stoves. The carpenters' work-bench was used for a pulpit, with blocks and benches for seats. During the winter season women brought foot stoves filled with coals which for a short time at least kept their feet from freez-

ing. The men were hardy and endured the discomfort as best they could. In 1824 this church building was furnished with pews and pulpit but was without any means of heating for a number of years. The congregation gradually grew in numbers and in influence in this congenial soil for Presbyterianism. Rev. John Graham succeeded Rev. Mr. Laing and was its pastor for twenty years. He in turn was succeeded by Dr. James B. Lee, who remained with this people for thirty-two years. The salaries of its clergymen have been gradually increased until the present gifted and popular young preacher, Rev. W. L. C. Samson, receives \$1,500 per annum. The present membership of this congregation is 372. The contributions the past year for all purposes were over \$3,300. A history of this congregation would scarcely be complete without further notice of the long and acceptable pastorate of Dr. Lee, who spent the better part of a life time in devoted service to the spiritual and material prosperity of Bovina. In every enterprising project and moral reform he was a leader. Difficulties did not discourage him, nor opposition intimidate him. He faithfully and fearlessly espoused that which he believed to be right, whether it was popular or not, and his agency in the town's progress was marked in its prosperity and enlightenment.

The Reformed Presbyterian or Covenanting Congregation was organized in 1814. It is a church that is and always has been one of practical dissent from the Constitution of the United States, holding that the National Constitution is radically wrong and defective in failing to acknowledge the existence of God, the supremacy of Christ as King of Nations, and the Word of God as the supreme law. They do not vote, hold office, or take any part in the administration of the government, yet always recognize its authority in things lawful and right. They are somewhat exclusive, emphasizing the purity rather than the popularity of their denomination. The society numbers about 75 of our most enterprising and respected citizens. The present

pastor of this people is Rev. T. M. Slater, very recently installed over them. The one immediately preceding, Rev. A. I. Robb, left this charge to become a missionary in China. Their first church building at upper Bovina was of stone, 24 by 34 feet, and was built in 1825. The present church building is a comfortable and commodious one in Bovina Centre. This congregation since its establishment has had eight different pastors.

The Methodist Episcopal Society was so far as preaching was concerned, the pioneer of all others. Alexander Brush, the second settler in town, was a local preacher, and often preached in his own house and that of others for years. He was followed by Rev. William Jewett about 1812, who was the first regular preacher. Services were held in houses, barns, school houses and groves until 1849, when they built a house of worship in Bovina Centre, which was dedicated August 22d, 1849. There was at one time some opposition manifested to Methodism which the historian scarcely cares to record. The incidents attendant upon that opposition are not of pleasant memory. But times have changed, and now the different churches of Bovina are in closest christian friendship and fellowship. The present pastor of this people is Rev. S. E. Myers.

It is frequently regreted that the old church buildings,—the landmarks of our civilization and religion, had not been preserved in all their original features; for the peculiar construction of them both inside and out would to-day be matters of interest.

Some occurrences of the long ago time are amusing. One rather peculiar character in Bovina whom I will call Billie Smith—more often called General Smith. He was well known throughout the county. He was somewhat short in stature and remarkable for his wit and presence of mind. He could take a joke as well as give one; but upon the occasion to be related he thought the trick was too much of a joke to be funny. One warm day in summer he was at church sitting in a pew with a door opening out into the aisle, which was fastened with a button on the outside. Smith became drowsy during the long sermon and finally got sound asleep, leau-

ing heavily against the door of the pew. A wag sitting immediately behind him, and watching the progress of his slumber, cautiously reached around and turned the button. Smith landed out into the aisle almost on the top of his head. His quick wit and rare presence of mind came to his rescue and he lay as he fell all in a heap to suggest a faint. When he was carried outside he gave his opinion of that joke and joker in language hardly fit for a week day, much less a Sabbath day. It was many years after this before Smith could be induced to attend church.

The principal industry of this town is butter making. To produce quantity and improve quality, and to give it a standing in the first markets of the State and out of it, neither effort or expense have been spared. The first Jersey stock brought into Bovina was by John Hastings and Andrew Archibald in 1863. The Hastings brothers were enthusiastic in their appreciation of that strain of cattle; while a majority of dairymen at that time were slow to acknowledge its superiority. But facts and figures became so convincing that the skeptical became believers, and Jersey stock was soon found to be profitable and popular. About 1870 William L. Rutherford, a farmer of considerable means, purchased a herd of twenty head from a Connecticut stock dealer, paying \$250 a head, or \$5,000 for the herd. They were all registered thoroughbreds. For ten years the result of the transaction was highly profitable to Mr. Rutherford in sales of stock from that herd.

In 1880 William L. Ruff, purchasing the farm of Mr. Rutherford, also purchased the stock paying \$6,300 for it alone. For eighteen years Mr. Ruff has given personal attention to this stock, of which he is justly proud. His transactions as a stock dealer during this time, independent of the butter produced by the herd, has exceeded \$33,000. He has paid \$1,000 for a single animal as a breeder, whose sire was sold for \$12,000. Mr. Ruff has sold three months old calves for over \$200, cows for \$350 each, and upon one occasion he refused an offer of \$2,000 for ten calves. His largest sales have been principally to dealers in pure blooded stock. To Mr. Pearson

of Wayne county he sold a heifer which at five years of age produced twenty-eight and three-quarter pounds of butter a week.

James E. Hastings, who may be said to be a pioneer in introducing this stock into Bovina, also has one of the finest and most valuable herds of thoroughbred cattle in the county.

There are five or six pure Jersey dairies in town. Purchasers have come from Pennsylvania, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and some of the Southern States, and made selections from these and other herds of Jersey cattle in Bovina. The entire dairies of the town are of high grade. As high as 360 pounds of butter per annum have been made from each cow. Much of Bovina's prosperity in former years was due to this superior breed of cattle, and the excellency of the butter produced.

A conspicuous dairy of Guernseys is owned by T. H. Ludington of Lake Delaware. They are said to be a hardy and extraordinary milk and butter producing cattle. Mr. Ludington, a man of more than usual intelligence, speaks enthusiastically in favor of this breed, claiming a production of over 300 pounds per cow.

During the civil war Bovina furnished seventy-one volunteers for the army.

Bovina is the possessor of a banner given by the Delaware county Sabbath School Association, entitling it to the honored distinction of being the banner Sabbath School town of the county. One of the Sabbath schools of this little town is the second largest in Delaware county. Its reports show a contribution of \$100 each quarter for benevolent and missionary purposes.

Connected with and under the management of the United Presbyterian congregation is a large and well selected library of 500 or 600 volumes which is open to the general public. To this library Commodore Gerry of New York City has contributed \$300.

The cemetery at Bovina Centre is one of the finest and best kept in this section of the State. Mr. Gerry has also aided in beautifying this resting place of the dead by presenting to its trustees massive iron gates of considerable value.

Mrs. E. T. Gerry's summer residence is at Lake Delaware in Bovina. The estate surrounds a beautiful lake covering over 150 acres, which is stocked with finest trout. This wealthy and generous family by deeds of charity and labors of love, have won grateful appreciation throughout the community in which for a few weeks during the summer they reside.

We ought not to close this brief history of Bovina, without referring to some of its citizens who have become distinguished in professional life.

Judge William Murray of the Supreme Court of the Sixth Judicial District was born in Bovina, November 21st, 1820. His career was one of steady advancement from a boy working on his father's farm, to that of a Supreme Court Judge. His success was in no way a surprise to his fellow townsmen. He came of a family of brains, inheriting that persevering and determined ambition which always wins success.

Judge Murray began the study of law in the office of Samuel Gordon in 1848, and was admitted to the bar at a general term held in Albany. His progress was one of steady advancement. He was a Republican in politics and a firm believer in the principles of his party. His personal appearance was one of affable dignity, and his decisions as a jurist showed a deep knowledge of law. He died in 1887. Dr. David Murray now living, a brother of the late Judge Murray, attained eminence as Professor in Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N. J., and later as superintendent of educational affairs in Japan. He is a man of high scholarly attainments and his reputation and standing in highest educational departments is world wide.

Hon. Isaac B. Maynard, a grandson of the first settler of the town, was born in 1838. He was graduated from Amherst College in 1862, studied law in the office of Judge Murray and was admitted to the bar at Binghamton in 1863. In politics he was a Democrat. In 1875 he was chosen to represent Delaware county in the legislature at Albany. In 1877 was elected to the

office of County Judge and Surrogate in this Republican county by 1,355 majority. In 1883 he was a candidate on the State Democratic ticket for Secretary of State, but was defeated on account of his firm and uncompromising convictions upon the temperance question. In 1884 he was appointed First Deputy Attorney-General. He resigned this position and accepted the office of Second Comptroller of the United States Treasury to which he had been appointed by President Cleveland. In 1887 Mr. Maynard was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and in 1892 Governor Flower appointed him Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals. He afterwards became a candidate for that position but was defeated. He died in 1895 at the age of 57 years.

Bovina cherishes with pardonable pride the memory of other citizens both living and dead which must be left for later records. To the ministerial profession it has given eleven young men; to the educational profession in colleges and seminaries, thirteen; to the medical profession six, and to the legal, six. The people are intelligent, industrious, frugal and God fearing. It is said there is not a family in town who does not attend religious church services. A quarter of a mile from the village of Bovina Centre, beautifully situated on a knoll in the Forrest Valley, is one of the finest cemeteries in the county. Many of the dead who slumber here have left behind them precious memories. It was at one time a custom among the early settlers to bury their dead upon their own lands. There has been at least twenty of such burial places in the town. Now the dust of the fathers has been largely gathered into this beautiful cemetery, where it will remain until "this mortal shall have put on immortality."

**Note by D. M.**—The attention of the writer of this note has been called by Mr. Gilbert Tucker, the editor of the *Country Gentleman*, to a "Cow Census of the Town of Bovina, Delaware Co., N. Y.," which was taken by the Dairy-men's Association for the year 1891. It was published as a bulletin, dated 1892. He tells me that he knows of no other similar census that has ever



been taken. The pamphlet is now before me from which I have compiled a few facts. The town was selected because it was conspicuous for the quantity and quality of its dairy products, and because its inhabitants are more uniformly engaged in butter making than any other town in the State.

From this important pamphlet the following statistics are derived:

1. Bovina contains 27,279 acres of land; the assessed valuation of which in 1891 was \$396,259. The average value of the land including woodland, swamp, etc., is \$14.53 an acre. The value of the improved land may therefore be estimated at from five to seven times this sum.

2. The population of the town as given in the Census for 1890 was 1,007. As enumerated in this pamphlet there are 117 farmers engaged in dairying owning 2,668 cows thus averaging 23 cows to each. The cows are in large proportion Grade Jerseys; although a number of farmers report part of their stock as "thoroughbred Jerseys," "registered Jerseys" or "full-blood Jerseys."

3. The total amount of butter made is reported as 66,988 pounds. Besides butter the farmers sold calves, pork, and other dairy products. The average earnings per cow varied between \$101.13 and \$30.18; and for the whole town was \$63.99.

4. Mr. B. G. Gilbert, the secretary of the Dairymen's Association, in summing up this census says: "The majority of these farms pay their owners from six to eight dollars per acre for the whole acreage, over and above the entire expense of the dairy, with the exception of what labor may be required. This includes uncleared as well as cleared land; and the labor is often done by the farmer and his family. The probability is that from the land under cultivation and available for cattle support the dairymen of Bovina obtain fully ten per cent net."

## Colchester.

By Edward E. Conton.

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THE town of Colchester was formed April 10, 1792, from the town of Middletown, and included the present town of Hancock and a portion of the town of Walton. It was then in the county of Ulster. In 1799 a part was annexed to the town of Walton. Hancock was taken off in 1806, and a part of Walton was annexed to Colchester in 1827. Since which last the boundaries of the town have remained unaltered. At the formation of the county of Delaware in 1797, Colchester was one of the seven constituent towns. The name of the town was suggested by Joseph Gee, an early settler, who came from Colchester, Conn. It is a matter of regret that the euphonious Indian name, Pawpacton, was discarded for this harsh sounding English name.

The East Branch of the Delaware river runs south-westerly through the north-central portion of the town. The Indians called this river Pawpacton. The Beaverkill river flows west through the southerly corner of the town. The Indians called this river Whelenaughwemack.

In the year 1766, Timothy Gregory, then a young man twenty-three years of age, came from Westchester county, and erected a log house on the flat on the east side of the river about one-fourth of a mile above the present river bridge at Colchester, where he lived until the Revolutionary war. This was the first house ever erected within the bounds of Colchester, and stood midway between the highway and the binnekill, opposite a little spring that flows across the highway at a point a few rods above a small hill in the highway. In the succeeding years a few other settlers located farther up the river, and at the





commencement of the Revolution there were nine houses in this settlement. Frederick Miller's was farthest up the river and stood near where the Shufelt Shaver house was afterwards erected; Mr. Parrish lived at the mouth of Cole's Clove, Russell Gregory just below Brock's bridge on the east side of the river, William Rose on the west side of the river below Downsville, near Rock Eddy. The other persons who are known to have resided here prior to the Revolution are, Thomas, and John Gregory, James, and S. Shaver, Silas Bowker, Peter, Harry and Nehemiah Avery, Jacob Barnhart and Daniel Parrish.

In 1778 these settlers, on account of the hostility of the Indians, were compelled to abandon their homes and seek safety within the settlements along the Hudson, but at the close of the war many of them returned and began life anew.

The first school was established in the town in 1781, by Daniel Parrish. The school house stood at the northerly base of the gravel knoll at the entrance to Cole's Clove.

The first marriage occurred Dec. 14, 1788, the contracting parties being Abraham Sprague and Mary Parrish, who was a sister of Daniel Parrish. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Bezaleel Howe, a Baptist minister. Sprague was twenty-two years of age and his bride twenty-one. Sprague was a member of the Washington Guards during the Revolutionary War, and was present at the execution of Major Andre. He resided for many years after his marriage on the farm across the river from Downsville, and cleared the first land there. His house stood between the present highway and the binckill and above the road leading to Downsville.

The first birth, which is recorded, was that of Catherine Rose, daughter of William Rose, born Dec. 24, 1784.

The first death was that of Thomas Gregory, who died Dec. 31, 1788, aged twenty years, and is buried in the Phelps burying ground at Colchester.

Abraham Sprague and Daniel Bowker ran the first raft down

the river that went from above Shehawken, (Hancock), it consisted of spar timbers for the Philadelphia ship yards. Upon this trip they gave to many of the turns and islands along the river the names which they still bear.

The first saw mill stood on the binneckill below the residence of S. O. Shaver.

The first grist mill erected in Delaware county was erected by William Horton, and stood on the west side of the river, about one-half mile below Colchester, on the farm of E. D. Horton. The people brought their grain to this mill in canoes from a distance as far down the river as Equimunk, and for many miles in all directions it was brought on horseback. In the early part of the present century as many as 7,000 bushels of wheat were ground at this mill in a single year.

The Phelps burying ground at Colchester is the oldest in town, named from David Phelps, whose residence stood near by. In this burying ground only three graves are marked by lettered headstones, which are common field stones. Besides that of Thomas Gregory mentioned above, are the following:

Josiah Gregory, died Dec. 14, 1796, aged 25 years.

Timothy Gregory, died Dec. —, 1821, aged 78 years.

In the year 1798 the first tax was levied in Delaware county, and the total assessed valuation of real and personal property in the town of Colchester, which then included the town of Hancock, was \$14,803.75. The present valuation of such property is \$578,815.

The official records of the town begin in 1793 and the record of every town meeting, and all official acts, are carefully recorded in the town clerk's office down to the present time. From these records it appears that the first town meeting in the town of Colchester, county of Ulster, was held at the house of Lazarus Sprague, in April, 1793, "Where the following officers were duly elected *viva voce* by a majority, namely, for the ensuing year: William Horton, Supervisor; Peter Ten Broeck, Jr., Clerk."

A complete list of town officers follows, and among the resolutions adopted at the meeting is the following: "Resolved that hogs may run commoners with a two foot yoke and ring through the nose."

Upon the formation of the county of Delaware in 1797, William Horton, who had been supervisor since 1793, was again re-elected to that office. The following is his oath of office duly recorded in the town clerk's office:

I, William Horton, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, that I will in all things to the best of my knowledge and abilities, faithfully and impartially execute and perform the trust reposed in me as supervisor of the town of Colchester, in the county of Delaware, that I will not pass any amount or any article thereof wherewith I shall think the said county is not justly chargeable, nor will I disallow any amount or any article thereof wherewith I think the said county is justly chargeable.

WILLIAM HORTON.

The following is from the official records of the town clerk's office:

At a special town meeting held in the town of Colchester, for the purpose of dividing said town, convened at the house of Abraham Sprague, on ye 28th of December, 1805, Unanimously agree

1st. *Resolved*, that the said town be divided.

2nd. *Resolved*, that the line between the two towns cross the Papakunk river at the upper end of the long flat that Abram Sprague now lives on.

3rd. *Resolved*, that the bounds be such beginning at the upper end of the farm that Abraham Sprague now lives on where the road crosses the river running easterly in a direct line to strike the county line at right angles; thence starting from the place of beginning and continue the same line westerly to the line of Walton.

4th. *Resolved*, that William Wheeler, Jonas Lakin and Solomon Miller be a committee to bring the above resolutions into effect.

At the annual town meeting, March 13, 1813, it was "Resolved, that the sum of seventy dollars be raised for the support of schools."

The following are correct transcripts from the records of the town clerk's office:

Born on the 28th of September, 1810, a male child of a black slave to John Hitt. Recorded November 10th, 1810.

A negro boy named Tom belonging to Alexander Cole was three years old the fourth of March, 1813.

Born of a black slave belonging to Alexander Cole, a male child named Benjamin, born the second day of January, 1813. Recorded the 2d day of July, 1813.

Born to a black slave belonging to Alexander Cole, a female child named Gin, the twentieth day of January, 1815. Recorded 13th January, 1816.

Born of a black slave belonging to Alexander Cole, a female child named Harriet, the twentieth day of December, 1816. Recorded the 28th February, 1818.

The oldest building in the town is the barn now standing on the Jason Gregory farm at Gregorytown. It was erected by Timothy Gregory in 1789; the original frame is still sound, and the building gives promise of standing yet many years.

William Holliday was the oldest person who ever died in the town; his age was 104, and he is buried in the old cemetery at Downsville.

The town has furnished the following members of the Assembly: William Horton, elected 1798; John H. Gregory, elected 1821; Hezekiah Elwood, elected 1852; Barna R. Johnson, elected 1859, served three terms; Robert Beates, elected 1879; James W. Knapp, elected 1836.

John H. Gregory was elected Sheriff of the county in 1831.

William Horton was also one of the Associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, when that court was first organized in the county in 1798.

David Phelps was one of the six attorneys admitted and sworn, at the first session of the Court of Common Pleas in 1798. Phelps resided many years in the town, was a man of scholarly attainments, and always a true friend of Colchester. He made an earnest effort to have the county seat located on the East branch,—a movement which was successfully opposed by General Root and others. David Phelps died at Deposit, at a ripe age, and in obedience to his wish expressed in life his remains were taken back to his beloved town of Colchester, where the best of his life had been spent, and he rests in the old cemetery at Downsville. Horton and Phelps were the leaders of their respective parties for many years in the town of Colchester, but Horton's party was far in the ascendancy in the



town and county, and he was honored many times with office, while Phelps remained in private life.

At present there are six post-offices in the town, Pepacton, Downsville, Colchester, Shinhopple, Horton and Butternut Grove. The two last named are on the Beaverkill. Downsville was so named in honor of Abel Downs. Pepacton is a corruption of the Indian name, Pawpacton, and is five miles up the river from Downsville. Colchester is the oldest post-office in town, that having been the principal settlement in the town for many years; it is two miles down the river from Downsville. Shinhopple is at the mouth of Trout brook, five miles below Downsville, and received its name from the large number of hobble bushes which grow on the flats in that vicinity.

Early settlers were accustomed to grind their corn in small mills, which by reason of their peculiar construction were called tub-mills. Prior to the Revolution William Rose had such a mill at the falls on the little brook above Downsville, and it was from this that "Tub-mill Brook" received its name.

Those who have known about shad fishing in the East branch may be interested in the following extracts from affidavits used in 1785 in the investigation into the title to the land between the branches of the Delaware river:

Joshua Pine, junior, aged twenty-four years, being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that his father having purchased lands in John Walton's Patent, on the west side of Cookequago branch of the Delaware river, he, the deponent, went with his father to settle there in the month of May in the year 1785; that sometime in the month of June in the same year the deponent went down the Pawpacton, or East branch of the Delaware river, with a canoe, from the settlements at Pawpacton to Scheshawken (Hancock), and thence up the West branch to Walton's Patent, to the knowledge of any of the settlers, but that the shad came up to about Cookhouse (Deposit); and also that the people of Pawpacton told deponent that they had caught thirteen hundred shad the year before, at one haul, in Pawpacton river; that deponent never heard of any such quantity being caught in the West branch.

Peter Dumond also testified:

That during the time he lived on the East branch of Delaware, near Paughkatacan (Margaretville), beginning in 1763, he frequently fished for

shad below Papacunk during their season, as also above the mouth of the Beaverkill, or Whelenaughwennuck, when he caught large quantities of shad. This deponent remembers the time when the white people settled at Papacunk caught as many shad at one fishing, about three miles below their settlement, as served the whole of their families for that season, as this deponent was informed.

The following is a complete list of the supervisors of the town, showing the years in which they were elected. Joseph S. Bliven was elected at a special town meeting held in September, 1822, in place of Abel Downs, incapacitated by sickness. Beginning with 1894, supervisors were elected for two years: William Horton, 1793-97; Adam Doll, 1798; Abel Downs, 1799, 1801-04, 1814-22; Roswell Bradley, 1800; Jonas Lakin, 1805; Adam I. Doll, 1806; Lewis Hait, 1807-10; John Moore, 1811; Anthony Lloyd, 1812-13; Joseph S. Bliven, 1822. (To fill vacancy). Benjamin Pine, 1823-24; George W. Paige, 1825-27; Hezekiah Elwood, 1828-29, 1833-34; Charles Knapp, 1830, 1835-36; Alexander Cole, 1831-32; John H. Gregory, 1837-38; James W. Knapp, 1839-40, 1845; Rensselaer W. Elwood, 1841, 1844, 1852, 1855-57; Barna Radeker, 1842-43; Robert M. Hammer, 1846-47; William Holiday, Jr., 1848; Alfred Hunter, 1849, 1853-54; Enoch Horton, 1850-51; George W. Downs, 1858-59; Alexander Elwood, 1860; Elbridge G. Radeker, 1861; William B. Champlin, 1862-63, 1865-68; Edwin D. Wagner, 1864; E. L. Holmes, 1869; Edwin H. Downs, 1870-71; Alston W. Hulbert, 1872-73; William H. Hitt, 1874; George P. Bassett, 1875-77; David Anderson, 1878; Charles L. Elwood, 1879-80; Charles K. Hubbell, 1881-82; James M. Radeker, 1883-85; Milo C. Radeker, 1886; J. Arthur Montgomery, 1887; Charles S. Elwood, 1888; Charles E. Hulbert, 1889-90; Frank W. Hartman, 1891-92; Henry J. Williams, 1893-94; Edward T. Smith, 1896-97.

#### TRADITIONAL HISTORY.

Prior to 1766, the date of the first settlement, the Pawpae-ton valley was the home of the Wappinger Indians, and within the territory that is now the town of Colchester were two



Fig. 8. View of village.



Fig. 9. View of village.



Indian villages, Pawpaeton and Papagonek, the former located on the flat near the mouth of Cole's Clove, the latter is believed to have been located on the westerly side of the river about two or three miles below Downsville, but it seems the Indians had ceased to make their home in this vicinity before the white settlers came.

Soon after the commencement of the war the Indians, whose headquarters at that time were on the Outcut, began to harass and worry these settlers, and encouraged by the Tories, they erected a kind of fort on middle hill, on the westerly side of the river, about two miles below Downsville, which they made their headquarters while committing their depredations. About the year 1778 an incident occurred that compelled these settlers to abandon their homes along the East Branch and seek safety within the American lines on the Hudson River. The Indians had captured two patriot scouts, who, in charge of three Indians, were being taken to the Canadian line, their hands being seemingly tied with strong thongs. One night while the Indians slept, a prisoner, whose name was Anderson, discovered that one of the Indians had partially turned over in his sleep and uncovered his tomahawk. (On such occasions the Indian always slept on his tomahawk). Anderson carefully rolled himself over until he reached the uncovered tomahawk, and with it rolled away again. With the aid of the tomahawk he managed to cut the thongs that bound him and was soon free. He crept to where his companion lay and awoke him, and quickly cut the thongs with which he was bound, and giving his companion the tomahawk instructed him to kill the Indian to whom it belonged at a signal from Anderson. Anderson then went stealthily to the other two Indians and succeeded in obtaining his tomahawk from one of the Indians without waking him. Anderson's companion weakened and did not want to kill the Indians, claiming it would be safer to make their escape and leave the Indians sleeping, but Anderson, who was a firm believer in the adage that "There is no

good Indian but a dead Indian," was determined to carry out his purpose and insisted that his companion should kill one while he killed the other two. At the signal from Anderson each buried his tomahawk in the head of an Indian, and like a flash and before the third Indian could spring to his feet, although he was awakened by the noise, Anderson's tomahawk again descended and this Indian followed his companions to the happy hunting ground. The men then took the corn which the Indians had with them and started east. The main body of Indians in that vicinity almost immediately discovered their dead companions, and set out upon the trail of the scouts. They knew the two men could never reach the Hudson without aid from the white settlers; that without such aid they must subsist upon the little corn they took from the Indians and the roots they might dig. The Indians therefore sent swift runners ahead and informed the settlers that whoever harbored, aided or fed these men would be killed by slow torture. Among the settlers thus warned were those residing in Pawpacton. Anderson and his companion succeeded in reaching the East Branch, and from the top of the high mountain below Downs ville they looked down upon the log cabin of Timothy Gregory. They waited till night and under cover of the darkness they descended and crossed the river and went near the house of Gregory. Fearing that the inhabitant of this house might be a tory they dare not knock at the door, but lay down by the side of the path that led from the house to the spring, and soon Mrs. Gregory came towards the spring for water, and Anderson cautiously accosted her and told their story. She informed her husband. The two men were nearly dead from hunger and exhaustion. Gregory acquainted the men with the terrible threat of the Indians against anyone who should aid them, and told them it would be unsafe to conceal them in the house. He brought them food, and then directed them down the river about three miles and hid them in the rocks on the mountain between the river and Fuller Hill.

Here they remained concealed about one week, Gregory bringing food to them in the night time, and when they had gained sufficient strength, early one morning before it was light, he directed them to the line between Lots five and six of the Hardenbergh Patent, which line strikes the river near Gregorytown, and runs east to the Hudson, and along the line of blazed trees they set out for the east and reached the Hudson in safety. The mountain on which these men were concealed is known to this day as "Anderson's mountain." Soon after leaving these men at the line mentioned, Gregory met three Indians, and they inquired of him why he was so far from home at that early hour. He told them he had come down with his dog and gun to see if he could start a deer— that they frequented the river at that place in the early morning. But the Indians were suspicious that all was not right and they questioned him closely as to whether he had seen the two white men, whom they described. Fortunately, while they were talking, Gregory's dog began barking, and a large deer dashed down the hill into the river, which Gregory shot and killed, and which he divided liberally with the Indians. This completely allayed the suspicions of the Indians, and they believed that Gregory had told the truth as to his business there at that early hour. The Indians soon learned that Anderson and his companion had reached the Hudson. They had succeeded in following their trail to the vicinity of the Colchester settlement, and knew the scouts had received aid from someone there, though everyone denied having any knowledge of the matter. A council was held and the Indians decided to wreak a terrible vengeance upon these settlers unless they could learn who the guilty parties were. Their plan was to begin at Frederick Miller's, the farthest up the river, and take every member of the family to the next house below, and so on, taking every member of the family to the next house below, and at each house they were to give the settlers an opportunity to divulge the names of the persons who had given

aid to Anderson and his friend, and when they reached the last house, that of Timothy Gregory, if they could not obtain the required information, they would then massacre every man, woman and child. A friendly Indian informed the settlers of this plan and they lost no time in seeking safety in the eastern settlements. It was in the fall of the year, and a part of the corn had been cut and stacked. This the settlers burned, and destroyed what of their other crops they could. Their cooking utensils and tools and iron ware they buried, or sunk in the river and bimekills, and along the line of blazed trees between Lots five and six they started for the Hudson. They had left none too soon, for on the second day of their journey they were overtaken by an Indian's dog. (They knew it was an Indian's dog by its being closely cropped, as was the Indian custom), and that night they sent the women and children some distance from the line, and the men lay in ambush and waited for the approach of the Indians, who they felt certain were on their trail. But morning dawned and no Indians had been seen. They then resumed their journey and reached the Hudson in safety. The next spring a few of the men ventured back to see their homes. They found that some of the houses had been burned, that the Indians had gathered what corn had not been destroyed, and had wintered in the little ravine or gulf about two miles below Downs ville on the west side of the river, and directly back of the residence of C. A. Warren.

In 1779, shortly after the battle of the Minisink, two scouts were employed, Bowker and Osterhout, to watch the East branch of the Delaware and report if any Indians came up the river. It was thought that if Brant sent a detachment against the Susquehanna settlement they would probably take that route. These men were to receive a bushel of wheat each for their services. They took up a position on the point of land between the East branch and Beaverkill, and on the second day after their arrival, they saw a band of Indians coming up the river in canoes. They remained



long enough to make an estimate of the number of Indians, and then started up the Beaverkill, which they frequently crossed, in order to render it difficult for the Indians to pursue them in case their camp at the point should be discovered. The Indians landed at the place where the scouts had been encamped, and lost no time in sending a small detachment in pursuit. Notwithstanding the precautions of the men they were overtaken and captured while crossing the Willowemoc river. But they succeeded in making their escape and carried the news to the eastern settlements. About thirty soldiers were immediately sent to aid in protecting the settlement upon the Susquehanna. They struck the head waters of the East branch and descended that river. When near Pepacton their scouts informed them that Indians were encamped a short distance down the river, and not wishing to encounter them, they turned up Cole's Clove, crossed the notch in the mountains and descended Downs' brook which empties in the river at Downs-ville. When the soldiers were about where the village now stands, they suddenly came upon the Indians and were received with a volley. The soldiers deployed and scattered among the heavy timbers on the mountain side, and then the battle began in true Indian fashion, every one for himself, shielding himself behind trees, or rocks as best he could. The Indians were about the same in numbers as the whites. The battle lasted from five o'clock in the afternoon until night. When darkness came all was silent. In the morning the soldiers found that the Indians had abandoned the field, but had left four of their dead behind. The soldiers buried their own dead in that vicinity, but the exact spot is not known. They then proceeded on their way to the Susquehanna.

## Davenport.

By Walter Scott.

THE westward march of civilization probably had not reached the territory embraced in the present town of Davenport prior to the Revolutionary war. The frontier of New York being exposed to the depredations of a race of savages more fierce and warlike than those inhabiting any other state, of course no settlements were made during the time of that struggle. But as soon as peace was established, the "Star of Empire" resumed its westward course, and as early as 1786, the enterprising pioneer had made his way into the Charlotte valley.

An old publication states that the first settlers were Daniel Farnsworth and — Pross, who settled at Davenport Centre. But they could not have much preceded Daniel Olmstead, who settled on the farm now occupied by the widow of Chauncey Olmstead, for Mr. Alexander Shellman informs me that his grandfather settled near the old Emmons hotel, three miles east of Oneonta, about 1790, and that in making the journey to Schoharie, the Olmstead settlement was the first one passed. The orchard on that farm is said to be the oldest in town. Mr. Shellman says that for several years it was the custom in his grandfather's family to make periodic trips on horseback, along the Indian foot path to the nearest grist mill, which was at Schoharie, to have grinding done for the family. As the family consisted of twelve persons and the grist was only about one and one-half bushels the interval between trips could not have been very long.

Among the other early settlers were Humphrey Denend, Harmon Moore, George Webster, Elisha Orr and a Mr. VanValkenburg, whose given name I have been unable to learn. The first physician





was Daniel Fuller, who settled in the town about 1796. The first mill dam built in the town was across the Middlebrook at the site now occupied by J. T. Yerdon, a saw mill and grist mill was erected there about 1793, Daniel Prentice being the builder.

The first marriage taking place in the town was that of Harmon Moore and Mary Orr, in 1791. Miss Orr was a distant relative of Robert J. Orr, now a resident of West Davenport. The young couple went to housekeeping in a log house on the site of a frame house now owned by Chauncey Houghtaling. The latter house replaced the log one about sixty years ago. Mrs. Moore was also the first adult to die in town, as one of her children had been the first person. Richard Moore and a Miss Banker were also married on the same day as Harmon Moore. Hannah Dodge was the first school teacher. Daniel Prentice was the first inn keeper and Ezra Denend the first store keeper.

The old Indian trail from the earlier settlements at Schoharie and Harpersfield to those upon the Susquehanna, leading along the Charlotte, must have been the scene of many an encounter between the pale faced scout of the Revolution and his dusky foes. It often served as a war-path for the noted Timothy Murphy, whose descendants still live in town. But at this late day, it is impossible in the limited time at my disposal to separate facts from fiction concerning some of the incidents which occurred in the Charlotte valley during the Colonial period, and the early days of the Republic.

The march of Colonel Harper on the occasion of his capture of a band of fifteen Indians, was through the town of Davenport, and the capture itself occurred within gunshot of its border. The facts as to the event were given by Colonel Harper, himself, to Rev. Mr. Fenn, late of Harpersfield, who narrates them as follows: In the year 1777 Colonel Harper had command of the fort in Schoharie, and came out through the woods to Harpersfield in the time of making sugar, and from thence laid his course for Cherry Valley to investigate the state of things there, and as he was pursuing a blind

kind of Indian trail and was ascending what are now called the Decatur Hills, he cast his eye forward and saw a company of men coming directly toward him, who had the appearance of being Indians. He knew that if he attempted to flee from them they would shoot him down; he resolved to advance right up to them, and make the best shift for himself he could. As soon as he came near enough to discern the white of their eyes, he knew the head man and several others; the head man was Peter, an Indian with whom Colonel Harper had often traded at Oquago, before the Revolution began. The Colonel had his great coat on, so his regimentals were concealed, and he was not recognized. The first word of address on Colonel Harper's part was, "How do you do, brother?" The reply was, "Well. How do you do, brother? Which way are you bound, brother?" "On a secret expedition. And which way are you bound, brother?" "Down the Susquehanna to cut off the Johnstone settlement." (Parson Johnstone and a number of Scotch families had settled down the Susquehanna at what is now called Sidney Plains, and those were the people whom they were about to destroy.) Says the Colonel, "Where do you lodge to-night?" "At the mouth of the Scheneva's creek," was the reply. Then shaking hands with them, he bade them good speed and proceeded on his journey.

He had gone but a little way from them before he took a circuit through the woods, a distance of eight or ten miles, to the head of the Charlotte river, where were a number of men making sugar; ordered them to take their arms, two days' provision, a canteen of rum and a rope, and meet him down the Charlotte, at a small clearing called Evans' place at a certain hour that afternoon. Then he rode with all speed through the woods to Harpersfield, collected all the men who were making maple sugar, and being armed and victualed, with each man his rope, laid his course for the Charlotte. When he arrived at Evans' place, he found the Charlotte men there in good spirits, and when he mustered his men, there were fifteen, including himself, exactly the same number as there were of the



VIEW OF VILLAGE



VILLAGE AND HILLS





enemy; then the Colonel made his men acquainted with his enterprise.

They marched down the river a little distance, and then bent their course across the hill to the mouth of the Schenectady creek, and when they arrived at the brow of the hill, where they could overlook the valley, where the Schenectady flows, they cast their eyes down upon the flat and discovered the fire around which the enemy lay encamped. "There they are," said Colonel Harper. They descended with great stillness, forded the creek, which was breast deep. After advancing a few hundred yards, they took some refreshments, and then prepared for the contest—daylight was just beginning to appear in the east. When they came to the enemy, they lay in a circle with their feet toward the fire, in a deep sleep. Their arms, and all their implements of death, were stacked up according to the Indian custom, when they lay themselves down for the night. These the Colonel secured by carrying them off a distance, and laying them down; then each man taking his rope in hand, placed himself by his fellow. The Colonel rapped his man softly and said: "Come, it is time for men of business to be on their way," and then each one sprung upon his man, and after a severe struggle, they secured the whole number of the enemy. After they were all safely bound, and as the morning had so far advanced that they could discover objects distinctly, the Indian, Peter, exclaimed, "Ha! Colonel Harper, I know thee now—Why did I not know thee yesterday?" The Colonel marched the men to Albany, delivered them up to the commanding officer there, and by this bold and well executed feat of valor he saved the whole Scotch settlement from wanton destruction.

Among the incidents of pioneer life which occurred within the town of Davenport, and which have probably never appeared in print, I will mention: On one occasion a deer being chased by a small dog, near where E. F. Sherman now resides, ran on to a field of ice and slid down against the house of Peter Shellman, who then resided there. Mrs. Shellman went out, and before the deer could

regain its footing she killed it with an ax. A little Dutch girl who resided on the top of the mountain just south of West Davenport, while playing near the house, made the acquaintance of two little animals who were as full of play as she was, and all three enjoyed themselves immensely. When the girl's mother found the girl she recognized in the new-found playmates two bear cubs! That happened about the beginning of the present century. The girl lived until the present decade. If the cubs' parents had discovered the newly made acquaintanceship before the girl's parents did, it is *bearly* possible that some other historian might have been selected to write this sketch, as the girl lived to be the grandmother of the present writer.

The greater part of the town of Davenport was embraced in a tract of 26,000 acres granted to Sir William Johnson, the Indian Superintendent of the British Government. Sir William was a man of superior talents and of great executive ability, and was much respected by all who knew him. It is thought by some that at heart he was friendly to the American cause; but believed that his allegiance belonged to the British crown, and it was asserted that he ended his own life to avoid the struggle in his mind between his inclination and what he conceived to be his duty. His estate descended to his children, all of whom were Tories, and it is said that their patent was the only portion of Delaware county which was confiscated for disloyalty of its owners, during the Revolutionary war. I have not had the time since I was assigned the duty of writing this history to trace the chain of title from the Johnsons to the settlers; but in the earlier deeds of land in the patent, the name of "John Jacob Astor, Merchant, of New York City," frequently appears among the grantors. Later, the patent came into the control of Peter Smith, and after him, his son Gerrit Smith, the celebrated Abolitionist.

The present town was formed from parts of Kortright and Maryland, on the 31st day of March, 1817. The law was passed during the four months that John Taylor acted as governor, Isaac

Ogden at that time representing the county of Delaware in the Senate and Martin Keeler and Asahel E. Paine in the Assembly. The town was named in honor of John Davenport, who became the first Supervisor. A portion of the town was annexed to Meredith in 1878. Among the noted institutions of by-gone days was the Fergusonville Academy, founded in 1818, by Revs. Samuel D. and Sanford I. Ferguson. It afterwards came under the management of Hon. James Oliver, who had previously been a preceptor of Jay Gould's. This was one of the last schools to succumb to the competition of schools supported by the public.

The population of Davenport is perhaps more cosmopolitan than that of any other town in the county. Representatives of many nations have settled here and amalgamated, and the result is a good specimen of the true American race. Many of her sons have risen to eminence; but I refrain from mentioning their names lest I be accused of partiality, through the accidental omission of some names that should be mentioned.

Geographically Davenport is a long and narrow town, lying in and along the two sides of the Charlotte valley. The soil is of a chocolate colored clay loam, resembling that of Otsego county more than it does that of a great portion of Delaware county. The scenery is unsurpassed for beauty and grandeur. Sexsmith lake, a body of water shaded on one side by a virgin forest, is one of the most beautiful sheets of water in the world. Strader or Goodrich lake at Davenport Centre is another beautiful sheet, smaller but more accessible and perhaps better known than Sexsmith's. The Charlotte river affords excellent water power.

When the Albany and Susquehanna railroad was first projected it was designed to run through the Charlotte valley; but it was diverted to one side, mainly through the influence of Judge Westover, a large landowner of Richmondville. Then other roads began to be built on other sides, and until recently Davenport was left without any of the modern facilities for trans-

portation. Still it was far from becoming the least prosperous town in the county. As it lay in the natural line of travel between the Hudson and the west in the age of the Indian trail and of the turnpike, it is no less in the *natural* line in the age of railroads. Let us hope that the natural advantages will soon be utilized by the continuation of a railroad to tide-water. Then, with adequate facilities for exercise the natural intelligence and enterprise of the inhabitants will show themselves in the renewed prosperity of the town, and I have no doubt that

Cast in some diviner mould  
The new cycle will shame the old.

At the first town meeting, in April, 1817, John Davenport was elected supervisor, and Seth Goodrich town clerk. The subsequent supervisors have been, Jesse Booth, Gains Northway, John M. Ten Eyck, Carlton Emmons, Abijah Paine, Thompson Paine, Benjamin Parker, David Morrill, Zebulon E. Goodrich, Morton B. Emmons, William Simson, jr., Henry Ten Eyck, Geo. C. Paine, George W. Goodrich, Cornelius Miller, Sanford I. Ferguson, Aaron Ford, D. M. Dibble, William F. Ford, John Hitchcock, William McDonald, Jacob E. Norwood, J. George Lockwood, James M. Donnelly, George W. Crawford, John L. Beardsley, Elbert A. Tabor, Henry S. Wickham and Gilbert T. Scott.

The population of the town in 1840 was 2,052, and has varied but little since that time. Davenport, formerly East Davenport, is the largest village. The others are Davenport Centre, West Davenport and Fergusonville. There is a Methodist Episcopal organization in each village and a United Presbyterian congregation at Davenport.

The first newspaper was established in 1877 by Marcus M. Multer, and afterwards owned by Edward O'Connor. Later it was called the Transcript and edited by Amasa J. Champion. It was discontinued and the Standard was established by Charles S. Hitchcock.



Village of Dethu.



## Delhi.

By John A. Parsbatt.

DELHI, the eighth town formed in this county, was organized March 23, 1798, and was taken from Middletown, Kortright and Walton. A part was taken therefrom in 1820, to form Bovina, and a portion therefrom to form Hamden, 1825. How it came to be called Delhi has been often told, and it is not necessary to repeat it here. The officers designated to locate the Court House and gaol provided that they shall not be erected at a greater distance than two miles from the mouth of the Little Delaware.

Previous to the location of the county buildings there were but few settlements, the largest one being just below the village, the next one on the corporate bounds of the now village, and the third in size a little above the village, where Gideon Frisbee first settled, and where the first courts were held, before the county buildings were erected.

June 18, 1812, it was enacted "that it shall be lawful for the comrs. of excise in and for the town of Delhi, in their discretion, to authorize an inn or tavern to be kept in the building occupied as the jail of the county of Delaware."

I have heard Gen. Paine allude to it, and think he stated that the jailer generally had the bar therein.

At Sherwood's bridge at one time there was a tannery, saddle and harness shop, a trip hammer and one or two other industries, and I have been told there was a store there. Sherwood and Parker had a law office there, and at one time were the leading lawyers in the town.

Among the first settlers in the town were Gideon Frisbee,

Thomas Farrington, B. Yendes, J. Denio, George Fisher, John, Francis and Levi Baxter. The first birth was that of Huddah, daughter of Gideon Frisbee, June 14, 1787; the first marriage that of Philip Frisbee and Jerusha Harmon, 1791; the first death of an adult that of Dr. Philip Frisbee, 1797.

The Sherwood place has been in the uninterrupted possession of the family since 1801. The main part of the building was erected in 1804, and there Mr. Sherwood had his law office until his removal to New York in 1831, and until his death, October, 1862, spent every summer at the old family mansion. Many and many are the gay parties that have been held in that venerable old mansion. The same may truly be said of the old mansion erected by Judge Foote, a short distance below and on the opposite side of the river, and in the early days of the present century many distinguished guests have been entertained by each in their hospitable homes. Probably there are but few premises of land in this town that have been held in the uninterrupted possession of the same family for over ninety-six years, as in the Sherwood family.

Robert J. Blair states that his farm on Scotch Mountain was occupied first by his grandfather in 1803 or 1804, and so on down to its present owner.

Col. Amasa Parker had a dwelling house near Mr. Sherwood, and it is still known as the Parker House.

Early in the present century the village began to be settled by business men, lawyers, merchants and mechanics of all kinds, attracted here, as being the county seat. Among them were Gen. Root, Gen. Leavenworth, Dr. A. E. Paine and many others who became prominent men in its affairs. Of her residents eleven were elected to Congress, aggregating thirty years; one Lieut. Gov. two years; Speaker of the Assembly three years; State Senators twenty years; Members of Assembly aggregating nearly thirty years, and a Justice of the Supreme Court about twenty years, and many other offices which it is unnecessary here to recapitulate.



Delhi has sent out into the different counties of the State, and into various states, men who have held important places in the various positions of life— eminent clergymen, lawyers and medical men, bankers, etc.

The first church erected in the town of Delhi stood just below Sherwood's bridge on the opposite side of the river, and was built in 1811. Rev. E. K. Maxwell was pastor thereof twenty-eight years. The first child baptized by him is still living in this town. This is now the First Presbyterian church, a new building being erected in the village in 1881. The first church built in the village was St. John's church. In the Gazette of July 14, 1830 the following notice appears:

NOTICE. The inhabitants of Delhi and adjoining towns are respectfully invited to assist in raising the Church in this village on Tuesday, the 20th inst., at 9 in the morning. The frame is heavy, and will require 100 good hands to put up the main body. The frame will be put together on Monday, which will require forty hands.

E. STEELE.

C. B. SHELTON,

N. HATHAWAY,

Delhi, July 14th, 1830.

Trustees.

In the Gazette of the next week it is stated that the building was raised without furnishing any ardent spirits, which is the first instance, it is believed, of a public building being raised upon *cold water* principles. The Second Presbyterian edifice was erected in 1831, the Methodist in 1841, and the Baptist in 1844.

The Christian church at Fitch's bridge was built about 1816, the West Delhi United Presbyterian church was organized in 1841.

The Catholics have never had a church here. After the Village Hall was placed in its present location, they occasionally held services therein; now they have a very neat little room over Brady's meat market.

The first fire company organized in the village of Delhi, or in the county of Delaware, was on the 1st of August, 1821, composed of Ebenezer Steele, Captain; Herman D. Gould, Nondiah Johnson, Charles Hathaway, Nathaniel Hathaway, O. S. Decker, Selah R.

Hobbie, John J. Lappin, Caleb Thurber, Homer R. Phelps, David Newcomb, Abner G. Thurber and Elijah H. Roberts; appointed by Erastus Root, president, and G. H. Edgerton, clerk.

Of the above members, three in after years were elected Members of Congress from this county.

The first hand engine was the old Phoenix, which was bought in New York in the spring of 1832. The Cataract engine was bought in 1840, I think, by private subscription, and was known as the "up street" engine.

I cannot omit to mention "Corporal Trim," a somewhat prominent character in Delhi fifty or sixty years ago. C. E. Wright, who learned his trade in the Gazette office, thus alludes to him: "Of course many of your people will remember 'Corporal Trim,' as he was styled, a colored servant, or body guard of General Leavenworth. Long after Trim had left the service of his master, he loved to tell to a company of listeners, when his tongue was well lubricated by a few potions of old rye, of his fright when the General ordered him during the battle of Chippewa or Niagara Falls, I don't remember which, to wipe with a tuft of grass the brains of a man that had been sprinkled upon the saddle of his horse, a cannon ball having taken off the owner's head, all in view of the 'Corporal.' Of course Trim obeyed, but the 'hair of his head stood on end like quills upon the fretful porcupine,' and he was pale even to whiteness. According to his own story, the close of the battle found the redoubtable 'Corporal' snugly ensconced under the lowest layer of a rail fence, whither he had crawled for safety. It was a rare treat to hear this quaint character relate these with many others of his adventures."

A kind Providence has not blessed our little town with any celebrated mineral spring to make us a great summer resort; but up Elk Creek, from our earliest settlement, there has been a salt spring from which a fine quality of salt has been obtained, and in the Gazette of April, 1832, reference is made thereto, and also by W. W. Mather, State Geologist, in 1840.



County House and Farm at the left



Kingston Street Bridge



In March, 1865, a stock company was formed, known as the Elk Creek Salt and Petroleum Company. The capital stock thereof was \$300,000. Soon thereafter work was begun, and after spending a few thousand dollars work was abandoned.

But a munificent Providence has favored us with diversified hills and valleys upon which graze many choice herds of cattle, cool and refreshing springs, and thereby we are enabled to manufacture as fine a quality of butter as any other county in the State. Some years ago a lady of this town made a small package of butter that took the first premium in London. Probably this same lady, and others in the town, could have sent a package of butter to Queen Victoria on her sixtieth anniversary, for her dinner on that celebrated occasion, and that she and all the members of the royal family would have awarded the *first* premium to the fine sample from Delhi. All honor and praise to the fair maids and matrons who make our far-famed Delaware county butter.

Of the various industries carried on in this town from time to time, I think there was never a distillery for the manufacture of whiskey. A few years ago there was a still at the Fall Mills for the manufacture of cider brandy.

In the generation or so past the games in vogue were playing of ball, pitching of quoits, etc., and many a game has taken place between town and town, and often at "The Hook," and Delhi had some crack players. Neither should the game of checkers be omitted. At one time we had a place here called "Checkerville," situated somewhere up the Little Delaware, and in those days no barroom was considered complete without a checker board therein.

A "squirrel hunt" was one of the sports in the days past. Generally in June the boys and older men chose sides and hunted a day for wild game, and at a given time and place met and counted the game, and the defeated party paid for the supper—and sometimes great dexterity was displayed in stealing game from side to side.

In those days Thanksgiving was not considered properly observed unless a shooting match was gotten up in which the crack shots of the town were present. Rare sport indeed it was. General Training, too, was one of the events eagerly waited for. The Fourth of July and General Training were the only holidays in the land fifty or sixty years ago.

It would be impossible here to give the names of the Revolutionary soldiers now reposing in the different cemeteries of the town, and the soldiers of the war of 1812, the Seminole war, or the Mexican war.

When the post-office was first established in Delhi, I am unable to state. A few years ago I wrote to the Post-office Department at Washington and learned that the original records were destroyed by fire. The first records on file were October 1, 1801, when Erastus Root was postmaster. Until within a year or so past there has been but one post-office in the town of Delhi.

The first Temperance Society formed in the town was in January, 1829, Dr. Ebenezer Steele, President. At the annual meeting of the Delaware County Society in 1831, Levinus Munson, Amasa J. Parker and Charles Hathaway were appointed delegates to the State Society.

The first common school record I can find is in December, 1812. Ambrose Bryan, Erastus Root and Asahel E. Paine were chosen trustees, and R. Denio, collector.

As early as 1788 there was said to be a saw mill in this town, and fifty or sixty years ago there was scarcely a brook in the town but what one or more saw mills were located thereon, and rafting was one of the events every spring. Today there are but two or three mills in town run by the old water wheel, and if the first man who sawed logs in Delhi in 1788, could be transferred for a moment to the Crawfords & Adees mills, what would be his amazement; and then pass along our streets, see the railroad, telegraph and telephone poles, our electric lights, hundreds of bicycles, upon which are ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, propelling themselves at

the rate of a mile in six to ten minutes, then truly would he say: "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." And then, too, what would uncle John Hunt say to see buildings moved without ox teams?

At the time this county was formed slavery was legalized in this state, and a few slaves were held in this town. A distinguished Representative in the Legislature in this State from this village, raised his voice in advocacy of its repeal and voted therefor.

At the beginning of the present century there were but sixteen states in the Union, with a population of scarcely 5,000,000, and our borders of civilization scarcely reached out to the Ohio, and where now stands the city of Chicago, probably the foot of white man had never trod. Now Chicago is the second city in size in the United States, and its first Mayor was a Delaware county boy.

The first burial ground in the town was probably that on Judge Frisbee's place, just above the village, where the Frisbees, Farringtons, Fitches and other early settlers were buried, and

"Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap,  
Each in his narrow cell forever laid,  
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

The first assessment roll of the town was in May, 1798, and contains 125 names - the largest assessment was that of Gideon Frisbee, \$226.25; total value, \$7,853.19. Alex. Leal, Gideon Frisbee, Wm. Cornell and Elijah Beardsley were the assessors.

The first town meeting was required to be held at the house of Levi Baxter. Ebenezer Foote was the first Supervisor, but the other officers elected I am unable to give, as the town records for many years after its organization are missing.

Those who have entered the U. S. naval service from this town, (natives) are Charles S. Root, (son of Gen. E. Root,) who died on board the U. S. ship Hudson, as midshipman, in the harbor of Rio Janeiro, December 8, 1828, aged 19 years. Buried in the Protestant cemetery in that city. Wm. K. Wheeler, Lieut. Com-

mander of the U. S. navy, died at sea March 14, 1876, buried at Gaboo, West Africa. His remains were afterwards brought to this village and placed in Woodland cemetery.

In the U. S. Army, Capt. Rensselaer W. Foote, 6th Infantry, participated in the Seminole war; killed at the battle of Gaines Mills, before Richmond, June 27, 1862.

Wm. Root was in the regular service as a commissioned officer, and at the breaking out of the Mexican war resigned, and died September 21, 1874, aged 61 years.

Frederick Steele was a graduate of West Point, and was in the Mexican war and participated in many engagements; was meritoriously mentioned for distinguished bravery, and was promoted. In the war of the Rebellion he had important commands, and was made a General in command of all the cavalry in the Department of Missouri. He died in California, January, 1865, aged 49 years.

Intimately interwoven with the history of Delhi, are its newspapers, and a brief recital of each, which from time to time has been published in the village, is necessarily proper in this sketch.

The first paper published in Delhi, or in the county of Delaware, was the Delaware Gazette, issued November 18, 1819, John J. Lapon editor and proprietor. On the 23d of April, 1822, David Johnson became its proprietor and continued as such until March, 1833, when Anthony M. Paine and Jacob D. Clark became its proprietors. In May, 1839, Mr. Paine became sole proprietor and continued so until February, 1872, when his interest was transferred to his son, George H., and Ira B. Kerr. In October, 1881, Mr. Kerr sold his interest to Mr. S. E. Smith, and the firm was Paine & Smith until Mr. Paine's death in January, 1895. February, 1895, Mr. S. E. Smith became sole proprietor. It may here be stated that Gen. Paine and his descendants had an uninterrupted interest in the paper for sixty-two years. The venerable old Gazette has lived to see the rise and fall of several papers in this village. The Gazette building was erected in 1837.



and occupied in October of that year, and the Gazette has been issued weekly therefrom ever since.

The Delaware Republican (No. 1), was issued in June, 1821, Elijah J. Roberts publisher. H. H. Nash afterwards became its publisher, and it was discontinued in 1825, or thereabouts.

The Delaware Republican (No. 2,) was issued in September 1830, by George Marvine. Messrs. McDonald & Bowne subsequently became its proprietors, and the last number issued was dated Dec. 12, 1832.

The Delaware Journal was issued April 16, 1834, by Whipple & Wright, and was published but a few years.

The Delaware Express was issued in January, 1839, by Norwood Bowne, who remained its editor and publisher until his death, January, 1890, a period of fifty-one years. After his death the paper was published by his son, Charles N., for a short period, when it was published by Bowne & Gillies, then by P. M. Gillies, and he afterwards sold to Mr. S. F. Ades; Mr. Ades sold to William Clark, its present proprietor.

The Voice of the People, (the organ of the anti-renters), was issued by William S. Hawley, in June, 1846, and a few years thereafter was discontinued.

The Star of Delaware was issued in December, 1859, by Rev. C. B. Smyth. How long it was published I do not now recollect.

The Young Patriot was issued in 1860 by Ira G. Sprague, and in 1862 its name was changed to the American Banner, and as such was published for a short time.

The Delaware Republican (No. 3,) was issued May 12, 1860, by A. Sturtevant and T. F. McIntosh. In February, 1868, Mr. Sturtevant sold his interest to Joseph Eyeland; and the same was published by them until January, 1870, when T. F. McIntosh became sole proprietor, and remained as such until April 15, 1895, when his son, Robert P., became associated with his father, by whom it is now published.

The Monthly Croaker, an amateur publication, was issued in

July, 1887, by John F. Van Der Cook, Jr., a boy only twelve years old, and continued without intermission until November, 1891. In October, 1892, he went to Cleveland as a reporter on the Press, and after a stay there of six months went to New York city as a reporter on the Harlem Local Reporter, and now is the Eastern manager of the "Scripps-McRae News Company.

In our exhibit of relics of the past, what a pity an old Ramage press, which was about the only printing press in use when this county was organized, and upon one of which the first issue of the Gazette was printed, and a pressman could print only about 200 an hour, was not on exhibition, and then compare it with the power presses now in use on our large daily journals which strike off many thousands an hour. What a change, indeed, has taken place in less than a century. "The improvements in printing and printing machinery have been great and rapid. Printing has come, in these days, to be a fine art, and the product of the printing press, in its highest and most artistic phases, fully justifies its popular reputation as one of the first, greatest, and most progressive of the modern achievements of men."

Since the introduction of telegrams and cablegram dispatches, great changes have taken place in our receipt of news. To-day a person can send an account of our Centennial celebration to our namesake in India, (Delhi) thousands of miles away, and have the same published there to-morrow.

The older inhabitants of the village will probably remember the old clock in the belfry of St. John's church. It was the gift of Gen. Erastus Root, and the gift document is dated November, 1831. Some years ago it was taken out.

As we review our little history of the County Seat for the past century, who will doubt that our forefathers were men of marked ability, solid worth, action, enterprise, thorough patriotism and true courage?

May the next recurring anniversary of our Centennial witness

as great and important changes in the onward stride of civilization as in the past; and may our beneficent Father vouchsafe to us His ever-watchful care in the future as in the past.

“What dearer privilege, indeed, than to do as our sires have done,  
To follow in the paths they proved, to finish as they began;  
To give to our children undefiled, in all that our fathers won.”

Delhi was the second village incorporated in the county, March 21, 1821, and its first officers were: Trustees, Erastus Root, Charles A. Foote, Gurden H. Edgerton, Jabez Hitchcock and Nathaniel Steele, jr.; Clerk, Gurden H. Edgerton; Treasurer, Herman D. Gould; Overseer of Highways, Jabez Hitchcock.

The Delhi Fire Department was organized March 30, 1860, and its first officers were: Chief Engineer, Apollos C. Edgerton; Assistant Engineer, Dexter Pettengill; Clerk, John A. Parshall; Treasurer, Caleb A. Frost.

The first taverns, built of logs, were opened in 1790, by Gideon Frisbee just above the village, and by George Yendes in the lower part of the town. In 1798 Mr. Denio opened a log tavern on the present fair grounds.

In 1824 the Delaware Woolen Factory was started by a company, Samuel Sherwood and H. D. Gould, principal owners. In 1839 Richard Titus purchased the business, and later O. S. Penfield & Company, also Smith & Penfield. In 1826 George Sherwood built the grist mill, and in 1870 Smith & Penfield constructed the present building.

Cassia Lodge, No. 180, F. & A. M., was instituted in Delhi in March, 1809. Erastus Root was Master, Ambrose Bryan, Senior Warden, Elnathan Heath, Junior Warden. Delhi Lodge, No. 439, F. & A. M., was instituted at Delhi in 1858, P. B. Merwin Master Delhi Chapter, 124, R. A. M., was instituted at Delhi, April 12, 1827. Its first officers were: Amasa Parker, H. P., Amasa Millard, K., Lorenzo Henry, S. Delhi Chapter, No. 240, R. A. M., was instituted at Delhi, April, 1869. Its first officers were: J. S. Page, H. P., John Woodburn, K., J. M. Preston, S.

Delhi Lodge, No. 265, I. O. O. F., was instituted at Delhi, March 2, 1847. Its first N. G. was Truman H. Wheeler. After an existence of many years it surrendered its charter. Delhi Lodge, No. 625, I. O. O. F., was instituted at Delhi, March, 1893, M. E. Arbuckle, N. G.

One of the important industries of Delhi is the Crawfords Wagon Works, which was established in 1891, and was enlarged in 1895. They give employment to from forty to eighty men, and their plant now covers about four acres of ground, and comprises four large buildings, and about an acre of floor space. The principal manufacture is the Stiver gear, pneumatic wagons.

The New York Condensed Milk Company established a milk bottling works here in 1895. "Borden's Condensary," as it is called here, is an important acquisition to our village, and gives employment to fifty or more men, and receives the milk from nearly two hundred farms.

Sanford's Creamery, in the lower part of the village, is an important industry in our village, and has been here a number of years.

Some seventy years ago Mr. Elting had a potash manufactory on the east side of the river, just above the upper iron bridge. Many years afterward James Elwood had a potash manufactory not far from where the residence of George H. Maxwell now stands.



Villa : e. f. Deposit



## Deposit and Tompkins.

By Hon. G. D. Wheeler.

...

THE town of Deposit is the youngest town in Delaware county, and is among the smaller ones in its area, having 27,622 acres of land; there are two towns having a less number of acres. In valuation of real estate, it bears a very favorable comparison with other towns; there is one town of equal valuation per acre, twelve that are lower, and but five of higher valuation. The personal property of the town, when organized, was greater than eleven towns and nearly equal with that of the other seven. It has been materially reduced within the last two years by the removal of the Deposit national bank to that portion of the village of Deposit situated in Broome county.

The town was organized by the Legislature of the State in 1880, the territory being taken wholly from the town of Tompkins, which was the largest town in Delaware county excepting one, Hancock, and is still the largest town in the county, excepting two, Andes and Hancock.

It is the most western, or south-western town in the county, and is bounded on the west partly by the state of Pennsylvania and partly by Broome county. The village of Deposit is divided by the boundary line which separates Delaware and Broome counties. The greater number of inhabitants of the village, and by far the greater business interests are in Broome county. Yet a majority of the churches, and nearly an equal number of inhabitants, including many of the old residents of the village, are in Delaware county.

Application for a division of the town of Tompkins and the erection of the new town of Deposit was twice made to the Board

of Supervisors of Delaware county. In 1876 at a meeting of the board, a vote was taken which resulted in nine for division and eight against. There was a majority in favor of the new town, but as the law required a two-thirds vote the question was lost. It was fully shown to the board by the applicants for this project, that their only object in asking for a division of Tompkins was to save the voters and business men of the proposed new town the unnecessary distance which they were obliged to travel in attending every town meeting, and in transacting business at the town clerk's office. There were 350 voters then in the territory, and more than that number now in the town of Deposit. The extra travel which was always expensive, unpleasant and annoying, was over sixteen miles on an average to each voter, making an aggregate amount, counting all the voters, of about 6,000 miles. The extra travel is now saved to the voters of the town of Deposit, and all the people of the town are accommodated in their business interests like other people of the towns of the county. The only objection urged against the passage of the bill by members of the board of supervisors, was that if the new town was organized it would be lost to Delaware county, and the people of the town would "step down and out" and be gathered into the adjoining county of Broome. It was publicly announced before the board, by those who were opposed to the division, that the generous inhabitants at the county seat had such a devoted love for the people of the proposed new town, that they could not allow the petition to be granted. It would be placing a wicked temptation for covetousness within convenient and easy reach of Broome county, and would be an efficient move for the dismemberment of good old Delaware.

No protestation of the people of the proposed new town, of their loyalty to Delaware county, was a sufficient guaranty of their honesty, and no declarations of the inconvenience and unnecessary annoyances which they were obliged to suffer could arouse the sympathy of their loving friends in the eastern por-



tion of the county. They were obliged to go to the Legislature of the State, and ask of strangers what could not be granted to them by their friends at home.

The town of Deposit is too young to furnish anything like an ancient history of its early settlement. All the early records apply to the old town of Tompkins, which was organized Feb. 28, 1806, from the town of Walton and was called Pinetield. It retained this name about two years, until the 10th of March, 1808, when the name was changed to Tompkins in honor of Governor Daniel D. Tompkins. The first supervisor of the town was Peter Pine.

Very little is known of the territory included in the present towns of Tompkins and Deposit before the war of the Revolution. It was inhabited by various tribes of Indians; the Leni Lenapes (or Delawares) and the Mohawks were the principal occupants. Their council ground was located near Deposit village, on the east side of the Delaware river, at a place opposite the point where the Tewbeac (Butler Brook) and Oquaga Creek empty into the river. This is at the most western bend of the Delaware, on land formerly known as the Peter Pine farm, and later as the N. K. Wheeler farm. On this place the Indians had several acres of cleared land, where they planted their corn. About two miles below Deposit they had another clearing. The place at Deposit they called Big Coke-ose, and the place below was Little Coke-ose. These names were afterwards perverted by the white inhabitants and the village of Deposit was called Cookhouse; Little Coke-ose lost its name entirely.

Deposit was incorporated by the Legislature of the State in 1811, and was the first village incorporated in Delaware county. It included only 156 acres of land, being Lot No. forty three, Evans Patent, lying between the river and the county line. It was wholly within the County of Delaware and had very few inhabitants. In 1851, the charter was amended so as to include the territory within its present limits.

The first white man known to have resided in the vicinity of Deposit, or in the territory of the present town, was Peter Hynback, (usually pronounced Hinepaw). He was a Dutchman, and came up the river in a canoe with his wife and several children to Big Coke-ose, and settled on the bank of the river about forty rods from the Indian council ground. He was a trader with the Indians, was very familiar with them, and after they left the country in 1785 he remained four or five years and then followed them to Canada. He purchased quite a large tract of land of the Indians with their improvements; these consisted of their clearing on which a few apple trees had been planted or grown, and nothing more. Several of the apple trees are still standing and bearing fruit. About the year 1790 he sold his possessions to a Mr. Vandervoort, and Mr. Vandervoort sold to Andrew Craig. This last sale was of 400 acres and included all of the old Peter Pine farm. The consideration of this sale and purchase was a dark colored boy about fifteen years of age who was to be owned and treated as a slave. He was to be delivered to Mr. Vandervoort at Carpenter's Point, now Port Jervis, and two men were hired to "deliver the goods."

These men were Conrad Edick and Henry Sampson. The boy's name was John Magee, generally called Jack. He was placed in a canoe and all started down the river. They were obliged to stay over night on the way, and stopped at Skinner's Eddy. All were tired and all slept, but in the morning there was no "Jack in the box." He had made his escape and not long after he returned to Mr. Craig, his former owner, and lived to grow up a free man. He was regarded as a man of considerable ability. He held the office of Justice of the Peace in the town of Tompkins for a number of years. His residence was at Trout Creek, above Cannonsville.

This farm which was sold in 1790 for the price of a slave, may be considered historic ground, not only as the council ground of the several tribes of Indians who roamed over the hills and





valleys of this region before the Revolutionary war, but as their permanent settlement and home for many years, as shown by their rude farming plot, their orchard and burying ground. Many arrows and spear heads and stone pestles for grinding corn have been found on the premises. Here too, as stated, lived the first white settler, and here was the first ground broken for the construction of the New York and Erie railroad.

On the 7th of November, 1835, James G. King, president of the railroad company, with a few representatives of the organization, met with citizens of Deposit and the surrounding country to break the first ground for the road. President King commenced the work with the shovel, and Hon. Samuel B. Ruggles with wheelbarrow moved the first earth into line for the road. Mr. Stuyvesant, treasurer, and Wm. Beach Lawrence, another official of the company, took part in the work; Gen. Root, of Delhi, and Judge Drake, of Owego, were among the number. All present participated in a very moderate way in removing some of the earth by shovel or wheelbarrow, in the very first work upon this enormously expensive road of 483 miles. Forty miles of the road from Deposit to Callicoon were then put under contract, and the grading was immediately commenced.

The first permanent settlement in the territory included in the towns of Tompkins and Deposit seems to have been made by a Mr. Fitch, of Bainbridge, father of Jabez Fitch, who afterward became a merchant in the village of Deposit. He came to what is now called Stilesville in 1785, and located on a small clearing made by the Indians near the mouth of the Astraguntira (now called Cold Spring Brook) two miles from Deposit village. He built a log house for his family and erected a very rude saw mill with a wooden crank, and with a log carriage which had to be "giggged back" with the foot and hand. The running of the mill was found to be rather unprofitable, and Mr. Fitch sold out to Hubbard Burrows and Aaron Stiles and returned to Bainbridge.

The next settlement was made by Jesse Dickerson in 1786

at Cannonsville, at the mouth of the Gannuissy, now called Trout Creek. He was a native of New Jersey, a man of great energy and of considerable property. He went from his home in New Jersey to New York city, thence by a chartered sloop to Catskill, then with his family and a stock of cows, horses, oxen, sheep, etc., he worked his way through an almost unbroken wilderness to Stamford, at the head of the Mohawk, or west branch of the Delaware river, and thence down the river, by slow and difficult travel to his new home in the wilderness. He was two weeks on his way from Catskill. There were no roads of any kind, in any direction to or from his place. He purchased a large tract of land and made extensive arrangements for the improvement of his possessions. He laid out grounds and streets for a city, and named it Dickerson city. The place was called "the city" for fifty years or more. He was instrumental in bringing other inhabitants into the territory. Soon after reaching the place he built a saw mill, which was only just finished when it was completely wrecked and torn away by a flood. He built another mill the next year on the same site and soon after built a grist mill. The grinding stones of this mill were quarried out of the mountain about two miles below the city and were worked out and fitted in a rude way by hand. They answered better than the pestle which had been used for mashing grain, yet there was no bolting cloth used. To this mill men would bring their grain from the surrounding country, thirty or forty miles away. A man who was hungry considered himself fortunately situated if he lived near the Delaware, so that he could load his grain in a canoe and drag it up or down the river to the city mill. People living in Windsor on the Susquehanna river, brought their grain on horseback by an Indian trail to Cookhouse, fifteen miles, and then by canoe or Indian trail eight miles to Dickerson city. Mr. Dickerson ran the first raft of sawed lumber down the west branch of the Delaware to market. He built several houses and made numerous improvements to his large property, which he called

the "Milton Estate," but like many a new enterprise the expenditures were greater than the income, and finding that his speculative ideas were never to be realized, he mortgaged his property and finally turned it over to the mortgagee, and abandoning his cherished project, he left all and went to Philadelphia.

This property was bought by Benjamin Cannon, and was deeded to him in 1809 by the executors of Abraham Dubois, of Philadelphia. He built a public house and made additional improvements. Other permanent inhabitants came in and the name of the place was changed to Cannonsville, which it still retains.

Among the first settlers of the territory now included in the town of Deposit, who bought lands and remained as permanent inhabitants, were Squire Whitaker and John Hulce. Mr. Whitaker came from the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania with his family, escaping the terrible Indian massacre, to Carpenter's Point, (now Port Jervis.)

In 1786 he went up the river in a canoe with all his household effects and stopped for a year at Shehocken. In 1787 he moved his canoe containing his family and household goods to Little Coke-ose, two miles below Deposit, where he bought a large farm of a Mr. Chapman on which was a small Indian clearing. He paid down for the farm by giving a saddle. His first habitation was a very rude cabin covered with bark, and in this cabin was the first wedding of the town. The ceremony was performed by a missionary from Connecticut, Timothy Howe.

The happy groom and bride were Capt. Conrad Edick, a Revolutionary soldier, and Margaret Whitaker.

Capt. Edick came to Big Coke-ose from the Mohawk Valley and became identified with all the early incidents of Deposit history. He was highly respected by all the people of the surrounding country. He reared a large family in the Cookhouse, where for many years he kept the only tavern, or public house, and died in 1845. Squire Whitaker lived to rear a large family on the

farm for which he gave his saddle. One of his descendants now occupies the same premises.

John Hulse who is named as one of the first settlers who bought land and became a permanent inhabitant, located just north of the present village of Deposit. He came from Orange county, N. Y., in 1789. Many of his descendants remained on the premises purchased by him, and were honored and respected inhabitants of the town. His grandson, M. R. Hulce, lately deceased, was a native of Deposit. His acquaintance with people of Delaware county and in the surrounding country has been as extensive, perhaps, as that of any man in the Delaware valley. He has for years been the historian of Deposit. To him the author of this sketch is indebted for most of the items of the early history of Tompkins.

The town of Deposit, as is well known, was formerly a rough lumbering territory. Its hills and valleys were covered with pine and hemlock, and the quality of the lumber was of the very best. That lumber has all been rafted down the Delaware river to market, and yet no man in all the town, or in the valley of the Delaware, ever became wealthy by the business of lumbering. A few sharp men who bought lumber and took it to the Philadelphia market were fortunate in making a little money, but the men who took off their coats and did the hard work and suffered the risks of the business, were never the better for all their harassing labor.

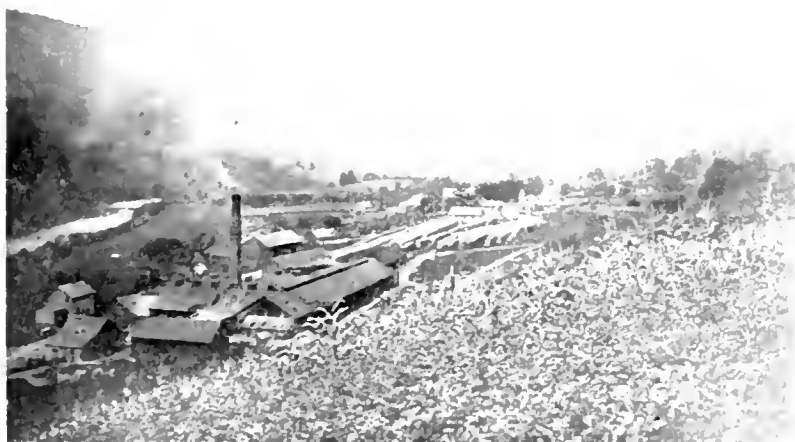
The village of Deposit received its name from being the place of deposit of lumber from the Susquehanna valley and the surrounding country. For at least fifty years this place was the lumberman's favorite rafting ground, and the Delaware was the great water way to the Philadelphia market. All is now changed. There are no rafts of lumber run from this section of country.

The town of Deposit, like many of the towns of Delaware county, has a large portion of its area in unproductive and almost worthless land. Along its few creeks and river flats and





Village - Front View.



Village - Side View.



on some of its hills the farmers are spending their quiet lives in dairying.

There is very little other business in the town. Nearly all the mercantile and manufacturing business of the village of Deposit is done in Sanford, Broome county. There is occasionally found in the hills of the town a stone quarry which furnishes a few working men with hard labor, but produces little money. This is something like the lumbering business, and both remind one of the old adage of the value of a horse hide, "The skin of a horse is worth a dollar, and it is worth a dollar to skin him."

In all the improvements which have been made in Delaware county within the one hundred years of its existence, perhaps Deposit has had its full share. The building and opening of the Erie railroad furnished the first permanent advancement of the business interests in all the southern portion of the county. Lands have been cleared and cultivated, manufactories have been established, mercantile business has been opened for the accommodation of the increasing population, schools and churches have been built and the whole people are now enjoying the advantages of a great commercial thoroughfare.

In the village of Deposit many comfortable modern residences and business houses have been erected, and although the limits of the corporation include a portion of Broome county, yet the division line of the two counties does not separate the people in their social and business relations. They are at peace with each other and with all mankind. They have what they deem a becoming pride in their own prosperity, and in the prosperity of Delaware county. Those who are inhabitants of the county wish to be regarded as loyal subjects of "The powers that be" in the good old county of Delaware. Yet they do not feel indebted to many of the towns of the county for their improved condition. Their resources for business are almost entirely derived from the adjoining county of Broome and the state of Pennsylvania.

There are still living some of the old inhabitants of the village who can remember seventy years ago when the "Cookhouse" had not more than twenty dwelling houses in the settlement. There was but one church which was built in 1818, to which some of the members occasionally came to worship from ten miles away. A number of years passed before any other church was built. One of the worshippers at this first church was sometimes brought by her only son in a canoe from Hancock. She was the widow of Major Ebenezer Wheeler, a soldier in the war of 1812. The only physician, Dr. Thaddens Mather, who then guarded the health of the people, rode his old gray horse by night or day twenty miles up and down the river to visit his patients. There were few bridges across any of the streams. The hills and many of the narrow valleys were then covered with a dense forest growth which afforded comparatively safe protection to the deer and other wild animals which abounded in this locality. Everything is now changed.

There are none of the pioneers who first came to this almost inaccessible country, and broke the stillness of the dense forest along the Delaware valley by their rude lumbering operations, who have lived to see the product of the last noble forest tree float away down the river to market. They have not seen the bright and thrifty villages that have sprung up in every town in Delaware county. Nor did they hear the rumbling of the railroad engine, or its warning whistle as it rushed along the Delaware valley contributing its great power to transportation and commerce. Their descendants however are enjoying the comforts and blessings which result from the privations and toils of their fathers.

One of the later inhabitants of the Delaware valley, who was present and took part in the first breaking of ground for the Erie railroad, made the remark, which then seemed a rash prophecy, "that the time would come when a traveler could take his breakfast in Deposit and his supper in New York city." That

time has come. He need not wait for his supper. He can take his twelve o'clock dinner in the city. The railroads that traverse the county of Delaware have indeed afforded the most effective means for transportation, and they are now carrying to the great metropolis of our country the products of every town in the county, and are bringing back the necessities and luxuries of life from every land and every clime. Yet it seems a strange condition of affairs that the five railroads running through or into the county cannot better accommodate the people of the towns in their inland travel and their connection with each other.

The distance from the head of the Delaware to the lower line of the county is about sixty miles, (a good days travel for a good pedestrian) and yet the mail passing regularly over this distance by railroad and stage is never less than two days on the way and often three. Time may be saved by those "who know how to travel" by sending letters via New York city, a distance of 250 miles. But why need we complain of our present accommodations in traveling. Let us look back a hundred years to the time of the formation of our county, when our fathers had no railroads and no regular mails.

The improvements for Delaware county are not fully accomplished. We have yet to see trolley roads running along each branch of the Delaware river and threading the valleys of the smaller streams through every town in Delaware county.

The moral, intellectual and social condition of the people of the county, within the century since the time of its organization, may be attributed to their churches, their schools and public institutions.

Delaware county has more thriving villages with graded schools and first class institutions for the education of the young than almost any inland county of the state. We need these schools to prepare the coming generations for the active duties of life.

The early settlers of the county found a rough and rugged territory, which could only be subdued by the strong arms and courageous hearts of these pioneers. A less daring and persevering race would have been discouraged and have sought a more congenial climate and an easier soil for cultivation. By their active, honest, intelligent labor, they opened and prepared the way for the present prosperity of the people of the whole county. The reputation of the people of the county has never suffered by a comparison with others of the state. And now with all the modern improvements of the present age and the facilities for advanced education, the present and coming population will be held responsible for the moral, intellectual and political character of the county.



Village of Franklin.





## Franklin.

By Wm. B. Hanford.

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FRANKLIN was taken from Harpersfield March 10, 1793, while a part of Otsego county, and four years before Delaware county was organized. But its area has been much reduced by the setting off of Walton, Meredith and Sidney. Its surface is uneven, rising into ridges and low mountains. The soil is mostly red clay loam underlaid by hard pan, from one to two feet below the surface. Along the creeks the subsoil is gravel or clay. There is very little waste land, and nearly all is suitable for agricultural purposes.

The Onleout creek and its branches flow southwesterly across the northern part of the town, to join the Susquehanna, and forms good drainage and some water powers. The hills on either side of the Onleout and some of its branches were covered with dense forests of the largest and best quality of pine. The general forest is beech and maple. In localities there is oak, hickory and chestnut, with scattering varieties. The first town meeting held in Franklin was held at Bartlett Hollow, near Edwin Taylor's, at the house of Sluman Wattles. Sluman Wattles was elected supervisor and Robert North town clerk; Gabriel Smith, David St. John and Samuel Hanford, assessors. The other town officers were also elected, after which resolutions were passed. The eighth was as follows: "Resolved, that the next town meeting be held at the house of Daniel Root, at ten o'clock, forenoon. That place was some five miles from the present village. That meeting was held as appointed. It was the first town meeting called by the town. The meeting held at Sluman Wattles' on the first Tuesday of April, 1793, was not called by the town, but

was appointed by the Legislature and was a part of the act of incorporation, because none in the town had the power to call a legal town meeting till they had been elected.

The early settlers were men and women accustomed to labor. Their first and main business after building a log house for their families and making them comfortable was to cut the timber, till the land and to bring it into cultivation. They looked at their former homes and the many privileges and comforts they there enjoyed and had sacrificed for their forest homes. That brought no discouragement. They came to this new and wild region to build for themselves homes. They saw clearly that what was needed to restore to them what they had sacrificed was steady, persistent labor and economy. Those thoughts inspired new efforts and energy. So that every tree that was felled, every rod of ground that was cleared brought those comforts and blessings nearer to their homes. They learned that steady and efficient labor was no barrier to mental or social happiness. Most of those early settlers were from Christian homes and church privileges. They soon felt the need, and regretted the absence. This feeling grew and became stronger, till a public meeting was called to consider the necessity and propriety of forming a Baptist church. The meeting was held on the 15th day of January, 1793, and a Baptist church was organized. This was the first church organization in the town. On the 12th day of October, 1793, the Congregational element, influenced by the same anxious desire, came together by appointment and formed a Congregational church. Those two churches were the only ones in town until 1833. The Methodists had some preaching. The earliest records inform us that Rev. Stephen Whitehead is known to have preached here in 1802. Some time after that there was Methodist itinerant preaching, but no church house till 1833. There are now eight churches in the town, viz: Two Congregational, two Baptist, three Methodist and one Episcopal, each having a good church edifice and stated pastors laboring for the advancement of the moral and Christian good of all.

In the early days of the town there was much anxiety in regard to the education of the children. The settlers were few and scattered. That made it difficult to establish any system of education. There was then no public school money to be divided among the schools and each parent or guardian was liable for teachers' wages in proportion to the number of children they sent to school. This furnished but very limited means of education. And those wishing higher attainments than the common schools (or grammar and select schools as they were called) could give, had to seek it outside the county. As the population and finances increased common schools grew into more importance. Our state gave large endowment funds and our schools were benefited by its interest. Laws were enacted, school districts formed, school officers elected and teachers required to pass an examination. This brought the district schools up to a much better position; though our schools had been advanced to a better position no effort was made for a higher education than a good common school could give till 1820. In the year 1770 a grant by the King of England was made to a company, of 27,000 acres of land, since known as the Bedlington patent. That patent had fallen to the state by escheat. Gen. Erastus Root, in 1820, being a member of the Legislature, introduced a bill to incorporate the Delaware Academy and also appropriating the sale of those escheated lands for the erection and endowment of said academy. It was strongly opposed, but Gen Root's popularity carried, and the bill was passed and the academy built at Delhi. This awakened a new interest and other academies were talked of. Franklin eventually began seriously to take measures to obtain that object. In 1835 a petition was sent to the Legislature asking for a grant of incorporation for an institution of learning to be called Delaware Literary Institute. On the 23d day of April, 1835, the petition was granted and the Delaware Literary Institute was located at Franklin. Measures were then taken to raise \$7,000 for the purchase of fifteen acres of land for a site and to build

the Institute. This seemed almost an impossibility. But the public took hold of it with a will and the amount was raised and the first building was built; this was of stone, eighty feet long and forty feet wide and four stories high. The institute was now a permanent institution of learning, fully equipped for business, and gave large promises for the future. And well have those promises been fulfilled. This stone structure stood for twenty-two years, when it was discovered to be on fire. Every effort proved unavailing, and it burned to the ground. The citizens put forth renewed effort, and by voluntary contributions raised sufficient funds and rebuilt the building. While the chapel building was in process of construction it was blown down, necessitating additional expense that was soon raised and paid. The ladies' boarding hall was built, a structure 40x80 feet and three stories high, costing a large sum. And all, amounting to \$40,000, has been paid by the citizens of Franklin, without asking the state to contribute a dollar, with the exception of the first \$7,000 that was for building the first Institute. At that time there were those out of this town with large liberality whose names are remembered with grateful respect and gratitude. But most of that class are gone to a happier world, as we humbly trust and believe. When the Institute was ready for use the public gave their support and patronage in full, until an increased population and new organizations has given to many of the towns union schools with academic departments.

Up to 1819, there was no paper published in Delaware county. All necessary printing had to be done out of this county. There was comparatively little needed. It was not till 1819 that the first newspaper, the Delaware Gazette, was published in Delhi by John J. Lappan. The Ulster County Plebian, published by Judge Buell, had furnished reading matter for a large proportion of Franklin readers, and the same of the county. There are now twenty-two newspapers published in the county.

The general business of the farmers in the early days was



Village of Treadwell.



clearing land, raising grain, pork and cattle. The grain and pork found market among the lumbermen along the Delaware. The cattle were mostly bought by drovers and driven to the eastern markets. Manufacturing and rafting lumber down the Delaware to market began very early to attract attention till it became a very general business. Silas Johnson, a young man from Walton, who in after years kept hotel and lived and died in Franklin, steered the first raft of lumber ever run from Walton. Franklin had plenty of pine timber and gradually worked into the lumber business till for many years it was actively engaged in manufacturing lumber and drawing it to the Delaware at Walton and rafting it to Philadelphia. This business continued for some years till a very large proportion of pine had been carried away. But it never proved a lucrative business. The business of the farm changed from grain and stock growing to sheep and wool. The town of Franklin became one of the largest wool growing towns in the county, and for some years Delaware county was the largest wool producing county of the state. A few years later another change came over the business of the farm, changing from wool to dairying. And to-day this county is one of the largest butter-producing counties of the state, and its character for quality stands at the head of the butter market. Franklin has done its share in raising the dairy character of the county to where it now stands, both in quantity and quality.

The town has two villages, Franklin and Treadwell. Treadwell is an enterprising and prosperous village of some four hundred inhabitants and situated midway between Franklin and Delhi, is pleasantly located and a place of considerable business for its size. The village has two churches, a Baptist church and a Methodist church, four stores, and one hotel, but no license. Treadwell does not appear to be of the right soil to grow license plants. They have one of the best, abundant and unfailing water supplies of soft spring water for use and fire purposes. It is brought from a distant hill, many feet above the level of the village.

Franklin village is seventeen miles from Delhi, four from the D. & H. railroad at Otego, and five from the N. Y., O. & W. station. There are four churches in the village, viz: Congregational, Baptist, Methodist, and Episcopal; eight stores, a bank of fifty thousand dollars capital, organized in 1864, which never has

passed a dividend, and never has paid less than three per cent. dividend every six months, and no depositor has lost a dollar by depositing in that bank, and no stockholder has failed to receive an equivalent more than equaling the interest on his stock. It has a large surplus and always ready to meet legal demands when presented. There is one hotel but no license. There has been no license granted to any one for more than twenty-five consecutive years. And at our last town election, after an experience of twenty-five years of no license, the town gave a majority of 110 against licensing again. There is one newspaper, the Delaware Dairyman, printed in Franklin, a large, eight-page paper, alive and actively dispensing all the dairy and agricultural news and the early general information once each week to a subscription list of 2,500 subscribers, and doing a large amount of job printing. The village has a large and splendid water supply of the softest and purest of water so arranged that no external impurities can reach it. It is from a height that gives a hundred pounds pressure to the square inch on the main pipes in the village. That gives full force to the hydrants so that no other power is needed in case of fire. There is a full and efficient company of firemen for each of the departments that are well equipped, and take pride in their doings.

The new Onleout Valley Cemetery is the pride of the town. A good many thousand dollars in money have been expended on it. Improvements are continually being made. The public feeling and interest, and it is continually growing, and is of interest to all. But it needs to be seen to be appreciated.

There is Frank T. Hine Post, G. A. R., men who took the risk of standing in the breach of a divided nation at war, and risking their lives in bringing back the seceding to a happy reunion and to a powerful and undivided nation. They are worthy of the gratitude and respect of the nation; but it is sad to see that number decreasing as they are discharged, and we lay them away in peaceful rest.

There is a band of gentlemen that dispenses good music to the village, that awakens our drowsy spirits and quickens our sensibilities and gives a cheer after the wearisome business of the day. They are a worthy, happy band, ever ready to render their sweet melody where necessity requires it, or where love of music asks it.





Village of Hamlet



## Hamden.

By Henry W. Holmes.

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THE history of the town of Hamden dates only from the time of its erection by Legislative enactment April 4, 1825. The prior history of the territory comprised within the present boundaries of the town belongs properly to those towns from which the town of Hamden was formed. It may, however, prove interesting to the present and future generations to know that from Nov. 1, 1683, when the first organized government was formed in the colony of New York, until March 10, 1797, when Delaware county was erected, all that part of Hamden lying east of the Delaware river was included in the county of Ulster. That part of the town lying west of the Delaware was in Albany county until March 12, 1772, when it was included in the new county of Tryon, the name of which was changed to Montgomery April 2, 1784. From Montgomery was formed Otsego, February 16, 1791, and in this new county was included the western part of the present town of Hamden. Thus when Delaware county was erected from Otsego and Ulster, that part of Hamden lying east of the river was a part of the town of Middletown, Ulster county, and that part of the town west of the river was a part of the town of Harpersfield, Otsego county.

Between the erection of the county in 1797 and the erection of the town in 1825, the number of the towns in the county had been increased from seven to sixteen. Hamden, the seventeenth town, was taken largely from Delhi, and a portion from Walton. The original line between Delhi and Walton was the upper line of the Lupton farm, now owned by James A. Chambers, but in 1812 this line was moved up to the lower line of the farm now owned by Arthur Shaw, therefore prior to April 4, 1825, all that

part of Hamden north of this line was a part of the town of Delhi and that portion south of the line was included in Walton.

The boundaries of the town have never been changed. Its area is about 31,000 acres or fifty-three square miles, one twenty-sixth of the area of Delaware county.

The assessed valuation of its real estate was in 1897 \$501,000, one-twenty-sixth of the valuation of the county. The personal assessment in the same year was \$63,000, or one-thirty-fifth of the county; the population in 1890 was 1,507, or one-thirtieth of the county. More than one-half of the total area, probably 20,000 acres, lies east of the river, but census returns show fully as many inhabitants on the west side as on the east.

The greatest width of the town is along the east bank of the river, seven miles, the width along the west bank being but five and one-half miles, the Delhi line on the east bank being further up the river than on the west. The greatest length of the town is from the point where Hamden, Andes and Colchester corner, near Solomon Signor's, to the Hamden-Franklin line near Edward Howland's, which is thirteen and one-half miles in air-line. We are unable to ascertain what was the population of the town in 1830 when the first census was taken after its erection, but subsequent censuses show that at that period the population was rapidly increasing. Thus, the census of 1835 shows 1,349 inhabitants; 1840, 1,469; 1845, 1,767; 1850, 1,919; since when there was a steady decrease until 1880, when there were 1,497. Under the census of 1890 there were 1,507, and there is reason for the belief that there has since been a small increase. Prior to 1880 the United States censuses were taken by the United States Marshal and his deputies, but since the work has been done by enumerators appointed within the town. The United States census in both 1880 and 1890 were taken by Henry W. Holmes, and the State census of 1875 by Harvey M. Seaman.

In March, 1826, the town was divided into fourteen highway districts, which have since been increased to the number of forty-seven.

In July, 1826, the town was divided into eight school districts, Nos. one, two and three being the river districts and covering a wide expanse of territory on both sides of the river. The first change after the original division was the erection of No. nine, being that part of No. three lying on the west side of the river from DeLancey. The number of districts was gradually increased until in 1815 No. sixteen was erected in Gregory Hollow, being set off from Basin Clove, which remained No. eight.

The number of districts remains at sixteen, all common school districts, there being no graded school within the town. The consolidation of some of the smaller districts, or the adoption of the "township system" has already been agitated and it is evident that a positive change will ere long take place in the local school system.

The first known settler within the town of Handen was David Harrower who came from "down East" with his wife and two sons and a cow, in the summer of 1779 according to the most authentic records, but well established tradition places his advent into the unbroken wilderness at an earlier date. They came down the river from Stamford in a canoe, the cow being driven along the Indian trail, and camped upon the river flat on the farm now owned by Arthur Shaw, where a cabin was built and the pioneer settlement of the town of Handen was permanently established. For a period of six years this family had no known neighbors nearer than Cannonsville or Stamford. Tradition hath it that in 1785, while Mr. Harrower was catching fish he observed a large fresh chip floating down with the current, which to his alert observation was indisputable evidence of the proximity of other white settlers. Starting at once on a trip of investigation, after going up the river about five miles he came to where Bartholomew Yendes had just settled and begun his clearing. It can well be imagined that the advent of such *near* neighbors was hailed with great gladness by both families, and that a frequent and mutually beneficial intercourse was thereafter maintained. In 1800 the

old "Harrower mansion" was erected upon the knoll near the river, upon what had then become a comparatively well developed and valuable farm. In 1818 this fine estate of 800 acres, comprising the present farms of Arthur Shaw and William Bryce, became the property of Hon. Donald Shaw, and the Harrower house was occupied by him for many years, and was the birth place of his children. It is only within the past ten years that the old "mansion," the oldest in town, was razed.

William Cornell settled in 1787 the farm now owned by Donald Crawford and occupied it until 1814. In 1820 it was purchased by Donald Crawford senior, and has always remained in the Crawford family. The first saw-mill in town was built on this farm by Roswell Peake prior to 1800.

The Howards, several brothers, were among the earliest settlers and occupied a tract of land comprising the present Youmans, Henderson and Stewart farms and much of the village of Hamden. James Howard is accredited as the first inn-keeper of the town, having opened such business as early as 1796, probably earlier, on the lot now occupied by Dr. W. D. Heimer.

Walter Chace first came to town in 1791 and secured employment from Benajah McCall, making shingles. He received \$4.00 per month and board, which may be accepted as the regular compensation for skilled labor at that time. About 1800 he purchased of Gershom Howland the farm now owned by his grandson Charles W. Chace, where he resided many years and became one of the leading men of the town, holding the office of justice of the peace seventeen consecutive years from 1828. His son Harry P. Chace succeeded him on the farm and was also a prominent man, holding the office of supervisor in 1835 and 1836, and being the last Democrat ever elected to that office in town.

Gershom Howland came from Rhode Island in 1796 with four sons—Joseph, Job, Phineas and Gershom. Phineas settled on the J. B. Hawley place, Job on the farm now owned by James Kent, and Gershom on the Charles W. Chace farm, which, however, he

soon sold to Walter Chace and removed to the Carman farm in Howland Hollow.

James Mason and his son George came from Schoharie county in 1795 and settled upon the farm now owned by his great-grandchildren, John A. and William G. More and their sisters, the children of James M. More, who died about 1864. This farm has therefore remained in the possession of the original settler and his lineal descendants for a period of 103 years. The son, George Mason, soon after settled upon the farm now owned by Henry Loos. The only daughter of James Mason, Jane, married Roswell Peake, who settled in 1798 upon the J. S. Murray lot now owned by R. J. Grantees.

Henry Wagoner came in 1796 and settled on the lower part of the Bagley farm, now owned by Wm. J. Oliver, which soon after passed into the possession of Archibald Church, and is designated to this day as the Church lot.

About 1792 Reuben Ward settled on the farms now owned by E. J. Combs and Andrew Buckham. Soon after Ward sold the Combs lot to Isaac Roberts. John Combs came from New Durham in 1805 and settled on the Brisack farm, now owned by J. H. Turnbull. One son, John, settled on the Raitt farm, now owned by James A. Nichol. Another son, Anson, purchased of Isaac Roberts the farm where his son Edmund J. Combs now lives, and where he was born in 1816; the house in which he was born still standing and forming an annex to his present residence. Here is a man who for eighty-two years has lived on the same farm and practically in the same house.

The Ebenezer Fraser farm now owned by Isaac Seobie was settled in 1797 by Abraham Barber and his sons Simcon, Orbin and Minus, who soon settled the adjoining farms and occupied them many years.

Abraham Bush first came to Hamden in 1810 and settled on the F. M. Keene place opposite DeLancey. In 1818 his son Caspar Bush settled on the farm now owned by Mrs. Rachel Shaw adjoining William Vail's.

Nathaniel Stevens in 1801 settled on the farm in Terry Clove now owned by his grandson Henry M. Stevens. Matthew Tiff was a very early settler on the farm now owned by John A. Salton, which he sold in 1834 to William Lewis, who in turn sold it to Alexander Salton in 1850. Alexander Neish came from Scotland in 1826 and first settled in Andes, but in 1828 removed to Terry Clove to the farm on which his son William Neish now lives and where he has continuously resided since 1828.

Urbana Terry came from Connecticut in 1792 and settled on the farm now occupied by Isaac Belcher. His sons Nathan and Darius soon after settled upon the Louis Robisch farm where they remained many years, after which they emigrated to the West with their families. Another son, Samuel, was the first occupant of the Robert W. Stevens farm. Three sons still reside in town.

Bartholemew Signor on the John D. Salton farm and Thomas Signor on the Alexander McDougall farm were also very early settlers in Terry Clove, and have numerous descendants within the town. The Salton family came from Scotland in 1830. The four brothers, Alexander, David, William, and John, all married and occupied farms in Terry Clove, and three of them died there within the past few years, William having removed to the west in 1875.

Roswell Belcher has resided upon the farm now occupied by him in Terry Clove since 1819, when his father came there from Connecticut. Roswell had three brothers, Elijah, Isaac, and Alva. They were the first colored family in the town and have always been respected as an intelligent and upright family. Roswell Belcher was the first colored man in Delaware county to serve upon a jury.

James Morrison, Andrew Christie, Jacob Gray, Archie Lawrence and Peter Merritt were the first permanent settlers in Basin Clove. David Nichol entered Gregory Hollow in 1849 when it was an almost unbroken wilderness. He cleared the land and developed the farm now owned by his son-in-law Hugh C. White.





View of Delmar



Street View in Haverhill



The Coverts were settlers in Covert Hollow at an early date Underhill Covert on the Philip McFarlane farm and Abraham Covert on the Allen Anderson place. They were among the best men in town and Abraham was one of the three commissioners of highways elected in 1826, at the first town meeting.

No history of Hamden would be complete without mention being made of "lame Peter" Launt and his brothers, Lewis and John. Peter carried the Delaware valley mails on horseback three times a week to Catskill over the old Catskill turnpike. His home is with his brother, Lewis, who married Janette McFarlane. These three brothers, John aged 91, Peter 88, and Lewis 85, are remarkable for their rugged health and activity and the keenness of their mental faculties.

Malcolm McFarlane came from Scotland about 1820 and settled on the farm at the head of Chambers Hollow where his son Gilbert still resides.

Eli Bagley came from Hilsdale, Columbia county, in 1809, and having married Eunice Goodrich bought the Henry Wagoner farm. Here Edward Bagley was born in 1815 and succeeded his father in the ownership of the farm, adding to it the "Goodrich lot," making it one of the most productive and valuable properties in town. He also kept public house and conducted a wagon shop on the site of R. Nichol's shop. The latter business he sold to his son Charles about 1866, continuing his hotel and farm until 1889 when he sold it to William J. Oliver who came from Boyina. Mr. Bagley still lives within a few rods of his birth-place. He married Orril A. Pettis daughter of Joshua Pettis, whose son, Philander B. Pettis, is another native of the town who has for eighty-three years resided within sight of his birth-place. He married Barbara Chace, daughter of Harry P. Chace, and for a time resided with his father in DeLancey, but soon purchased the property now owned by his son, H. R. Pettis, where for many years he combined the business of farming, lumbering and keeping public house.

Allen Stoodley was one of the first settlers in that portion of

the town for many years known as Stoodley Hollow, but now known by the name of its post-office, North Hamden. The Stoodley family came in 1821, and was speedily followed by the Millers, Russells, Fishes, Howlands, Dennys, Woods, Pomeroy's, Ripleys, Bentons and Goldsmiths. The postoffice was established shortly after 1850 with a weekly mail from Walton. About 1887 another postoffice was established two miles down the brook from North Hamden under the name Mundale with Hugh C. Munn as postmaster, who was succeeded by J. P. Davidson, Alfred Lescur, and last by Rev. Daniel Harris. The first families in this locality were the Munns, Eassons, Doigs and Darts. A blacksmith shop, cooperage and store comprise the business of the vicinity. A co-operative creamery was conducted for a time about 1890.

Wakeman Andrews was one of the early settlers in school district No. 15 on the farm now owned by Donald Crawford and known as the Mayham place. His son, Andrew Andrews, settled on the farm now owned by George S. Andrews, where he continued to reside until his death in 1896 at the age of 91 years. He accumulated a fine property, and in his prime was one of the prominent men of the town. George S. Andrews held the office of assessor nine years and is one of the most prominent and substantial men in the town.

In 1787 Joseph Fisk came from Bloomville and settled upon the farm now owned by Joseph A. Kelley. Benajah McCall is supposed to have been one of the very early settlers, the date of his occupying the James A. Chambers farm being placed at 1787. In 1808 this property was purchased by William Lupton a wealthy emigrant, who erected the Lupton mansion, the most elegant residence in the Delaware valley, the degree of elegance in those days being in part measured by the smallness of the window panes and the acuteness of the gables. This farm was afterward occupied by Robert Murray, a prominent builder and once Supervisor of the town; and about 1880 it became the property of James A. Chambers, one of the energetic and successful young farmers of the town, who removed

the old mansion, erected new buildings and transformed a very much run down estate into a model and productive farm.

The first settlement in DeLancey was made in 1790 by Henry and James Edwards, who settled upon the farm now owned by Captain William Hymers and S. P. Howland, and conducted a saw mill at the mouth of the brook near the river bridge. The first hotel in DeLancey was kept by Isaac Goodrich, who came in 1803 and settled on the "Goodrich" lot, now included in the farm of William J. Oliver.

Jabez Bostwick opened the first store in DeLancey in 1809, but soon after removed to the farm now owned by M. C. McNaught, which, however, remained in the Bostwick family until 1880. Jabez Bostwick was county judge, sheriff, member of assembly and one of the most prominent men of the county in his day. Joshua Pettis was also a very early settler and soon after 1800 opened a grocery business on the lot between the residences of D. M. Murray and Robert Davidson. A depression in the ground still shows the site of his building.

Sheldon Patterson settled on the Solomon Signor farm in 1812, and kept public house.

At the first town meeting held March 7, 1826, Jabez Bostwick was elected supervisor and Daniel Coleman, Jr., town clerk. Since then twenty different men have been elected to the office of supervisor. Besides the present incumbent but four of them survive, viz.: Smith M. Titus, who served in 1853, and who for many years has resided in Kansas; Robert Murray, now residing in Walton; H. A. Combs, and Donald Crawford who served eight years and was chairman of the board of supervisors two years. Two ex-supervisors, Alexander Shaw and Henry Holmes, have died within the past year.

The principal town officers at the present time are as follows: Supervisor, William Bryce; Town Clerk, Joseph Davidson; Justices of the Peace, Henry W. Holmes, Royal J. Elderkin, Donald Crawford, C. S. Hymers; Assessors, James A. Chambers, John A. Ballantine,

Robert L. Mein; Commissioner of Highways, Frank M. Keene; Overseer of the Poor, John B. Mable; Collector, John A. Butler.

The removal of the "forest primeval" and its manufacture into lumber was the first great industry of the early settlers, and within a few years of the first settlement nearly every little rivulet had its saw mill, and on each of the larger streams were several. The manufacture of the lumber gave employment the whole year around to all who desired to labor, and the Delaware river was a cheap and rapid thoroughfare for transportation to Philadelphia, the greatest lumber market of the Atlantic coast.

Going "down the river" several trips each spring was looked forward to with joyful anticipation by the lumbermen. Although much hard labor and more or less risk were involved, the pleasures of the voyage and the excitement of seeing the sights in one of the largest cities of the United States, outweighed everything else with the average raftsman. This industry was at its highest point in 1850, and some who can remember claim that to have been the most prosperous era of the town's history. Certainly there was no scarcity of work and money was plenty, but the fact remains that with few exceptions the lumbermen lived a hard life and died poor. The lumber business after 1850 began to decline and by 1870 had substantially ended. But one saw mill remains in the entire town, that of H. M. Seaman at Delancey, on the site of one of the first mills erected in the town. A small amount of custom sawing is done at this mill, barely sufficient to pay for keeping it in repair, and this mill is the sole relief of an industry which at one time, it is estimated, annually brought \$75,000 of foreign money into the town.

As the lumber business declined the farmer turned naturally to dairying, and from 1860 till 1890 butter making was the one great industry. The great prices received for butter during the Civil war and for many years thereafter enabled many farmers to pay off their mortgages, erect new buildings, purchase new and improved implements and machinery and live in greater comfort

and with greater ease. But in its turn the butter industry has so declined and the profits are so small that is no longer possible to pay for a farm from its products, and with the hope of more profitable returns most farmers, whose location permits, have engaged in the shipment of milk, and it is probable that at least one-half of all the milk now produced in the town is shipped to New York, or manufactured in co-operative creameries. Large creameries are conducted at Hamden and De Lancey; others at Terry Clove and Mundale at present inoperative will doubtless be re-opened another season. In addition to these the Borden condensary at Delhi daily receives the product from thirty to forty Hamden dairies.

Within the past few years it has been developed that many of the hills, practically worthless for farming purposes, are filled with blue stone of the finest quality and suitable for flagging, curbing, or building purposes. This business is in its embryonic state, not yet fully developed, but steadily increasing in volume and already affording employment to many who would otherwise be unable to secure employment within the town.

The breeding of sheep and the manufacture of woolen cloth and yarn which was at one period quite extensively conducted, there being one large woolen mill employing several operatives in town, has almost entirely ceased, and the mill has been transformed into a grain and feed store.

At the first general election, held in 1826, there were cast in the town of Hamden 142 votes, of which W. B. Rochester received ninety-six and DeWitt Clinton forty-six. The total vote in 1880 was 426, of which Garfield received a majority of 256. The vote of 1884 was 410, of which Blaine received 272 majority. The vote of 1888 was 438, of which Harrison received 238 majority, and the vote of 1896 was 412, of which McKinley received a majority of 245. The vote of 1888 was the largest of which we have any record and was doubtless the largest ever cast in the town. Prior to 1836 the town was usually Democratic, then the Whigs gained the ascend-

aucy and in general maintained it until 1856, when the Republican ticket received a majority of over 200 votes. It is a remarkable fact, probably without a parallel in the state, that for more than forty years no candidate of the Republican party for a state or national office has failed to receive in the town of Hamden a majority exceeding 200, often nearly 300, out of a total vote which has never reached 440. And further, no Democrat has been elected to the office of supervisor, town clerk, or justice of the peace since 1836. While in other towns there have been political revolutions brought about by general or local causes, the Republican party in Hamden has never had a reverse or lost any degree of its prestige. This is doubtless due to the fact that "Free-soilism" early took root in the minds of our voters. The same love of liberty of speech and action that caused a large percentage of our voters, or their fathers, to emigrate from a land of oppression to a land of freedom, caused these voters to early espouse and enthusiastically support the cause of abolition of slavery and to join and adhere to the political party which made the United States in fact a country of free speech and free men.

Less than one-third of the town's population live in villages. Hamden, the principal village, has nearly three hundred inhabitants, but is much more important as a business center than its size would indicate. Four large establishments dealing in general merchandise, one hardware store, one furniture and undertaking establishment, two feed and grain dealers, two hotels, two blacksmith shops, a cooperage and two firms dealing in butter comprise the business directory of the village. Two physicians divide the medical practice, viz: W. D. Heimer who came from Andes in 1876 and has ever since practiced in the town, and enjoys a reputation for success and skill second to none in the county, and H. C. Neff, who came from Michigan in 1893, and has worked into a good practice and is well liked by his townsmen. There are two churches, the First Presbyterian, erected in 1864 and since improved and remodeled, is a substantial and attractive building. Rev. George Brown was its first pastor. He came to Hamden in 1854 and preached in the old union church building until his own church was erected. He continued its pastor until 1892 when because of failing health he resigned and removed to Walton, where he died in 1895. The present pastor is Rev. J. H. Turnbull. The Methodist Episcopal society occupied the old union church for many years prior to 1892 when they built a new edifice of modern architecture.

Two miles above Hamden on the east side of the river lies the village of DeLancey with a population of 175. The location, with its wide stretching river flats which never overflow, perfect drainage and shaded streets, is one of



the finest in the county for a large village, but with no manufactory or business enterprise to support a larger population, there is no growth and no prospect of any. One general merchandise establishment, one grocery, a public house, a blacksmith shop, a cooperage and a grist mill are the principal business establishments. H. M. Seaman for many years conducted here the only tannery in town, but the supply of bark becoming exhausted he erected a large grist mill on the site of his tannery and utilized his water power for grinding grain. This is the only mill in town and is largely patronized. He is also an extensive dealer in flour, feed and grain. The United Presbyterian church society of DeLancey erected a building in 1818 which was remodeled in 1882 and was used until December 24, 1896, when it was totally destroyed by fire, which was first discovered about eight o'clock A. M. A new building was immediately planned and was built during the summer of 1897 at a cost of nearly \$7,000 for building and furnishing. It was dedicated October 14, 1897, and has since been used. Rev. Dr. Thomas Park, of Walton, was pastor of this church from 1878 till 1892 and under his ministry the membership was greatly increased. The present pastor is Rev. N. L. Heidger, who came from Philadelphia in November, 1895. The Christian church of DeLancey was erected in 1844 and was regularly supplied by preachers of that denomination until 1877, since when it has been occupied only at long intervals. Its last pastor was Rev. James Topping, who regularly supplied its pulpit during the year 1890. The only other church in town is one of the United Presbyterian denomination at Mundale, erected in 1881 when the society was first formed. Its pastor is Rev. Daniel Harris who came thereto from Rock Rift in 1896.

There are four post-offices in the town, viz: Handen, DeLancey, Mundale, and North Handen. The first two are money order offices, the others are not. Donald Crawford, Henry W. Holmes, Daniel Harris and Amos P. Wood are the respective postmasters at the offices in the order named.

The building of the New York & Oswego Midland Railroad was a matter of much interest to the people of Handen, and when it was decided that the road would follow the Sidney-Walton and Hancock route, the town was bonded to aid in the construction of the Delhi branch. It was represented that the town would receive stock in the new road to an amount equal to the amount of bonds issued, which could in a very few years be sold at par, thus realizing the sum necessary to retire the town's bonds at very little actual cost to the town. On these representations the necessary consent of the taxpayers was secured and \$100,000 of coupon bonds were issued by William Lewis, Marshall Shaw and James Chambers as Railroad Commissioners, bearing date of issue January 1, 1869, due twenty-five years after issue with no option of redemption, rate of interest seven per cent., payable semi-annually. As early as 1880 the town was desirous of refunding this issue of bonds, but the holders would not accept payment and only \$9,000 had been surrendered and retired when the entire issue fell due. The original railroad company having speedily become bankrupt and the road having passed into other hands, it was supposed that the stock acquired by the town was of no value, but in 1881 William Lewis as Railroad Commissioner sold it for five and one-fourth per cent., thus realizing \$5,250, which, together with the railroad tax relieves, were invested as a sinking fund for the liquidation of the town's bonded debt. When the

bonds fell due January 1, 1894, this sinking fund amounted to about \$6,000, leaving \$85,000 of the bonded debt still unprovided for. New bonds to that amount were issued to the Comptroller of New York State and the proceeds used to redeem and retire the old bond issue which has been done with the exception of one \$100 bond which has never been presented. The new bond issue bears interest at three and one-half per cent., and \$2,000 of the principal sum is payable each year until May 1, 1914, when the entire sum falls due. It will readily be seen that our town has paid dearly for their railroad, but we believe the consensus of opinion is that it has been a good investment, and if to-day the people of the town could get back their money by relinquishing the road they would undoubtedly refuse to do so.

It is estimated that not less than one hundred men were enlisted from Hamden in the civil war, most of them serving in the 72d, 89th, 101st and 144th Regiments New York Volunteers, and more in the last named than in any other organization. As a matter of fact Company C of the 144th Regiment was very largely made up of Hamden men and was commanded first by Captain Thomas Lewis and later by Captain M. C. Lewis. The regiment was, during a portion of the war, commanded by Colonel James Lewis, now a distinguished Presbyterian clergyman residing at Joliet, Illinois. These three Lewises were all natives of and enlisted from the town of Hamden. Most of the veterans residing in town belong to Bryce Post, No 612, G. A. R.

Donald Shaw, hereinbefore referred to, was for many years the most prominent and for a long time wielded a greater influence than any other man in town. He came from Scotland in 1806, and to Hamden in 1820, purchasing the Harrower estate and engaged extensively in lumbering and tanning. Business and politics being then as now almost inseparable, he became a political leader and was elected supervisor in the years 1837, 1838, 1839 and 1842, and in 1847 represented the First district of Delaware county in the New York Assembly. He died about 1866 leaving an estate valued at \$100,000. His son Donald D. Shaw, a young man of exceptional ability and just graduated from Yale college was elected to the Assembly of 1860, but died before the opening of the session.

William Lewis was another Scotchman who became prominent and influential in the town and county. Born in 1827 and emigrating in 1834, he lived on the farm in Terry Clove now owned by John A. Salton until 1850 when he engaged in the mercantile business in the village of Hamden. He soon became a recognized leader of the Republican party, and in 1856 was elected to the office of justice of the peace in which he continued eight years. From 1863 till 1866 he was United States assessor of internal revenue. In 1871, 1872 and 1880 he was elected to the Assembly of New York. From 1875 till 1881 inclusive he was supervisor of the town and was chairman of the board in 1877 and 1878. In 1887 he was elected to the State Senate and for two years represented the Delaware-Chenango-Broome district. He had sold his mercantile business in 1874 but for several years thereafter had dealt largely in Delaware county butter, being for a time the most extensive dealer in the town, if not in the county. During his senatorial term his health failed and steadily declined until he died, December 11, 1891. He despised deceit and hypocrisy, was a steadfast and loyal friend, never making a promise which he did not fulfill, and died universally respected for his ability and integrity.





## Hancock.

By Hon. Wesley Gould.

THE town of Hancock was formed in March, 1806. It was named after the celebrated John Hancock, and bears the same relation to towns in general that the signature of Hancock to the Declaration of Independence bears to ordinary signatures.

The town contains nearly 170 square miles of territory, and the Delaware river, including the West and East branches thereof, flows upwards of forty miles through the town and along its southerly border.

With its lofty and extensive mountain ranges, its numerous valleys, beautiful lakes, hundreds of springs and streams of the coldest, purest and sweetest water, teeming with fine trout and various other fish, its immense forests of oak, pine, hemlock, maple, beech, birch, basswood, cherry, ash, and other valuable timber, abounding with deer, wolves, bears, wild turkeys, partridges and other game, it presented a fine and desirable field for the hardy pioneer and the bold huntsman; but had few attractions for the weak and effeminate of the human race.

But little is known, at the present time, of the savage tribes who for long centuries fished in its waters and hunted in its forests. "The steel of the white man hath swept them away." A few small clearings, remnants of Indian villages, and a small number of scattered, roving red men, under the chieftain Canope, were still found along the river by the early settlers of the town.

Until the latter part of the eighteenth century this vast domain was comparatively unknown to the white man. In the early days of the American Revolution a few hardy spirits settled in the town. The first permanent settler was Josiah Parks, who

having been an officer in the British navy, was commonly known as "Bo'sen" Parks. The only two other white men that are known to have settled in the town prior to the Declaration of Independence, were John Johnston, who was killed by the Indians, and one Cadoce, whose cabin was located at the mouth of the creek now bearing his name. Nothing further is known of him, and it is thought that he too was killed by the Indians.

Josiah Parks was a man of heroic mold, a man that would leave his impress upon any people that he came in contact with. Many of his descendants are still living in the town of Hancock, and a history of the town would be very incomplete without at least a short sketch of this hardy pioneer. He was born in New London, Conn., in the month of February, 1745. At an early age he and his brother Silas entered the British naval service in an expedition against the Spaniards. After an unsuccessful assault upon the Spanish fort at Havana, young Parks studied out a plan by which he thought he could capture the fortress. The British officer, learning of his plan, gave him sufficient men, and Parks landing his men on the mainland made an assault upon the Spanish works and captured them. For this act of bravery he was promoted. Shortly thereafter his brother Silas died and was buried at sea. On reaching home he left the British service, married and moved to Shawangunk, in Ulster county, where he remained until the breaking out of the Revolution. He procured from the government, service as a scout among the Indians and Tories, and did much valiant work in that capacity. Up to the day of his death the word "tory" would arouse in him the fiercest passions of his fiery nature. After the battle of Minisink he moved his family to Equinunk, coming up the river in a canoe with his family and all their belongings, and finding shelter in a cave in the rocks. Shortly thereafter he built a log cabin on the line of what is now the town of Hancock. While at this point a friendly Indian informed him of the intended Indian raid upon the Wyoming Valley. He at once started to inform

the unhappy people of their impending danger, but alas, they would not believe the tale, and history records the terrible disaster that befell them shortly thereafter. Only two families believed and profited by the warning, viz: Fullerton and Whitaker, who came away with him, the Fullerton family going to Orange county and Whitaker to Shehocking. Numerous descendants of these families still live.

In 1781 a Baptist minister, by the name of Ezekiel Sampson, settled on the flats a short distance below where Hancock village now is, but he remained there only a few years, and then removed to Chemung county in 1789. In 1787 Judge Samuel Preston came to Stockport to survey the lands in that vicinity, one Edward Doyle from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, coming with him. In 1789 Judge Preston determined to establish a colony, locating himself across the river at Stockport. Young Doyle determined to remain with him, and thereafter only went back to Doylestown for an occasional visit. He settled at a point two and one-half miles below Shehoeton, now Hancock village, on the farm now occupied by Frank Doyle, one of his descendants. Soon after he married Elizabeth Shaffer, and many of their descendants still reside in the town. Edward Doyle was the first member of the Legislature from this town. He had three sons, Edward, John and Samuel, the last named being the third member of the Legislature from the town, and three daughters, Abigail, Elizabeth and Mary. His wife was the first member of the Methodist Episcopal church in the town, she having been a member of that church at Canaan, Pennsylvania, where she regularly attended the Quarterly Conferences, going and returning on horseback. The Methodist church was first organized in 1831, at Hancock village, then a small hamlet. When they proceeded to organize they discovered that there was no copy of the Church Discipline in the place, so they posted a man on horseback to the Doyle residence to procure one, in the meantime having a very enthusiastic meeting, singing hymns and giving testimony. That small beginning has grown into a church at the same place with a present membership of about 300.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century one Ezra May located in the town, teaching school in 1800 and 1801 at Shehocton, now Hancock village. He afterward became the first deacon of the Presbyterian church there. He also gave the old cemetery to the people for a burying ground for their dead. John Dusenbury started the first store in the town. It wasn't much of a store, but no doubt was considered quite an acquisition by the settlers.

Captain John Knight, from near Philadelphia, settled below Stockport about 1785. Numerous descendants of his still reside in the town and have always been considered people of fine tastes and habits. About 1790 Aaron Thomas and Moses his brother settled above Doyle along the river. Many of the Thomas family still reside in the town and are considered good substantial citizens. Along the East branch of the Delaware, settlement began about the same time.

Henry B. Bascom, D. D., one of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, was born in Hancock May 27, 1796. He was licensed to preach in 1813, and in 1823 was elected Chaplain to Congress. In 1827 he was called to the presidency of Madison College, Pennsylvania, and in 1842 became president of Transylvania University. He was editor of Quarterly Review of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1846-1850, and was elected a Bishop May, 1859. He died September 8th, 1850.

The first settlement made in the upper end of the town, was by Abraham Sprague at Long Flats, in 1788. His grand-son, A. Sprague, is still living in the town, in his eighty-sixth year. Abraham Sprague came direct to this place from Newburgh, upon his discharge from the Continental army. The tract of land upon which he settled, consisting of 261½ acres, was granted to one John Burch, Esq., of London, by Queen Anne, and was excepted out of the Hardenberg Patent. Burch conveyed the same to William Cockburn in 1772, and Christopher Tappan as agent for Cockburn sold the same to Mr. Sprague in 1777, while he, Sprague, was in the army. Mr. Sprague soon after his settlement there sold





View of the River



View of the River



portions of the Long Flat to Titus Williams (grandfather of Colonel Williams now residing at East Branch) and Charles and James Sutton who settled thereon about 1795. In 1800 Titus Williams and one Stephenson built the first grist mill near there, and Stephenson ran the same until his death, which occurred some years later by drowning at Early's ford. He attempted to cross upon the ice, but it gave way and he fell in. His hat being found later upon the remaining ice at this point told the tale of his unfortunate death. His body was found the next spring at the head of Cochection Falls. It was upon discovery buried at a point between high and low water mark, that being supposed to be the requirements of the law at that time. Silas Bouker, Major Landfield and Jesse Baxter settled at Harvard in 1790. About two years thereafter Ichabod Benton, Solomon Miller and Elijah Thomas settled what is known as the Martin Flat near Harvard. In the same year James Miller, great-grandfather of S. Gordon Miller, and his two brothers settled at the juncture of the East branch and Beaverkill on the site of an ancient Indian village called "Pacatacan," and on the exact spot where now stands the thriving village of East Branch.

About the same year, 1792, Jonathan Bolton settled on Bolton Flat, and one Gilbert Early on the Early Flat, about midway between East Branch and Fish Eddy. This flat contained several hundred acres of productive land, and was considered one of the finest along the East Branch for many miles. But a little over one-half of it now remains. Little by little, slowly but surely, each year during the past century, the Delaware river has been collecting the interest on the mortgage which she holds upon what was once the best farm in the whole town, and whose fertile acres once "filled heaping full the old cherry chest of Uncle Gill" with bright and shiny silver dollars.

The first settler at Fish Eddy was Jonas Lakin, better known as Squire Lakin, who cleared a small place near the mouth of the brook, and erected a store, thought by some to have been

the first store in town. About the year 1792 Ebenezer Wheeler, emigrating from Massachusetts, settled in the town and built a saw mill at Partridge Island. The Wheeler house now standing upon the banks of the river there being the oldest house in town.

At Pease Eddy, a little farther down the river, Aaron Pierce was the first settler, after whom came Mr. Pease, Asa Appley and Ezra Maine.

About this time there came to Cadonia and Hancock the Leonards, Hawks and Sands, all of whom have numerous descendants in the town.

Prior to the beginning of the present century the settlements have all been along the river and its principal branches, but little being known of the immense tract lying along the section known at the present time as the French Woods and Goulds. That vast territory being well watered, and mostly covered with hardwood timber, is much the best part of the town for agricultural purposes. Numerous streams starting along this elevation flow northwesterly into the East Branch, and southerly into the Delaware. At the heads of many of these streams are fine lakes and good farming lands, but in following the same as they near the river the valleys become narrow, and the mountains upon each side steep and high so that the land is practically untillable, and this is so with each of the score or more of streams rising in the highlands and flowing into the river, as already stated. This vast section of several thousand acres was deemed of little value by the early settlers. There being no roads, nor means of getting the timber to the river, it remained comparatively an unbroken wilderness for many years after the settlements along the river. In the early part of the present century David, Asher and Loring Leonard settled the westerly part of this section, known as the French Woods. Shortly thereafter colonies of French and Germans, principally from New York city, settled there, many clearing their lands and making permanent homes. In this place the first Catholic church in the town was erected,

and recently a Methodist Episcopal church has been erected there.

In the fall of 1842 John Gould, having exchanged two brick houses in the city of Newburgh for a large tract of wild land, in the central part of the highlands between the rivers, now known as Goulds, removed his family there. In the early part of October, having arrived at Westfield Flats, and the end of the roads and civilization, he together with his family consisting of a wife, one daughter and seven sons, started with a caravan of six ox teams and sleds. Cutting their way through the forests, they arrived at their destination October 13th, having been three days and two nights on the journey through the wilderness from Westfield Flats. The smoke curling from the nearest cabin was at least three miles distant, and there were but two or three neighbors within four or five miles. With the pioneer spirit and lofty puritanism he left the culture and civilization of the beautiful Hudson valley, thinking that he might better rear his large family of boys

“Far from the mad’ning crowd’s ignoble strife,”

About ten years thereafter he was suddenly killed by logs rolling on him at a saw mill near Peakville. Seven of his sons served in the Union army, in the civil war. One afterward became a doctor and one a lawyer.

Within a few years after Mr. Gould moved into this section quite a number of families, mostly from Schoharie county, settled there, generally engaging in farming, and at the present time this is the best agricultural and most beautiful part of the town. Up to this time and for some years after this part of the town abounded in game, especially deer. The writer when a boy well remembers seeing six fine deer all in one drove in his father’s fields, grazing as contentedly as if the land had been cleared and seeded for their special benefit. This settlement closed the period of pioneering, as the town had no more large isolated tracts lying wild and unoccupied. Those coming later knew little of the privations and hardships endured by the early settlers.

Agriculture has not attained to very great importance in the town, having generally been made secondary to lumbering and other employments. Much of the land along the river is not adapted to farming, the flats being not very extensive and the mountains being steep and rough. The lands adapted to farming were settled very much later, and while promising to be very valuable in future, are in many instances still uncleared, or if cleared not fully subduced and cultivated. One of the great drawbacks is the poor roads. The country being sparsely settled and the roads new and rough, will require much labor to make traveling very desirable or pleasant for years to come.

The chief industries in the town during the first three-quarters of the present century, were tanning and rafting lumber down the Delaware. For many years millions of feet of hemlock, pine and hardwood were annually run to the down river markets, the hemlock bark being used principally at home in the tanneries. As the tanning business and the rafting of lumber declined, the manufacture of hardwood, by chemical processes, into acetate of lime, wood alcohol and charcoal developed into an extensive business. There is at this time nine large factories in the town, costing, with equipments, several hundred thousand dollars, and giving employment to hundreds of men. If the destructive forest fires could be entirely suppressed, this industry might continue for countless ages, as the natural reproduction of wood, from lands cut over, would be sufficient to furnish the wood for an equal number of factories indefinitely.

Another industry of much importance, and of great benefit, has lately been developed into substantial magnitude, viz.: quarrying of blue stone. While this business already has attained to importance, and gives employment to many men, it may no doubt be considered still in its infancy. The hills and mountains of the town are seemingly full of fine stone quarries, hundreds and probably thousands of them yet unopened, and many of those opened are but partially developed or exhausted.

There are still a number of saw mills in town; also a few wood working establishments. Of the latter the town has far too few. With unlimited water power, good facilities for shipping and plenty of timber, this industry should be encouraged, as it could give steady employment to numerous persons, without such a great waste of timber as was occasioned by the rafting of the lumber down the river, or by shipping it, only partially manufactured, from the mills.

The growth of Hancock has been steady and sure. The two principal villages, Hancock and East Branch, are putting up a few new buildings each year and making material growth and development. Each Federal census has shown an increase in population and wealth in the town. The census of 1890 shows the population to have been 4,715, two hundred more than the next largest town in the county.

Since the Declaration of Independence the growth of the United States has been about twenty fold, while that of Hancock has been one thousand fold. Judging from the past and the present outlook, it is safe to predict that in the near future the town of Hancock will be the banner town of the county, both in population and wealth.

The history of Hancock presents, it is true, but little that is startling or grand. Her early settlers were men of robust strength and rugged honesty. They possessed few of the comforts of life and none of its luxuries; still we are not sure but they got as much real enjoyment out of life as those apparently more favored who are surfeited with the luxury of civilization and refinement.

The town of Hancock is not resting satisfied with her past. Like a young giant she is firmly planting her feet, squaring her shoulders and preparing for the onward march of civilization and prosperity. She has no old castles, no lofty monuments, speaking of mighty events already achieved, no traditions or old wives' fables. Forward! is the word of command along the lines of business, education, religion and home life.

Half a century ago there was no railroad within her borders. To-day the Erie railway, traversing the town from east to west, has upwards of twenty miles of double track therein. The Ontario and Western and the Scranton branch have about twenty miles of single track in town, making with the Erie forty miles of railroad in town with nine stations. At that time the only means of crossing the river were by canoe, by boat or by fording. Now there is one suspension bridge across the West branch and one across the main river. These were erected by private capital. There are also three iron bridges across the East branch and one across the mouth of the Beaverkill, erected by the town. The total expense of these bridges was about \$100,000.

A century ago there were only two schools in town. Now there is a fine Union Free School at Hancock village and twenty-one common schools in the town. At that time there was not a church in the entire town, now there are thirteen churches, and religious services are also held at a number of places in the public school houses. Then there were but a score of voters, now some 1,500. Then the entire property in town was valued at a few thousand dollars, now the assessed valuation exceeds one million dollars.

The future of Hancock ought to be, and is bright. With her large territory, her great natural resources, her diversified industries, her numerous streams, furnishing unlimited power, her fine railroad facilities, her exhaustless stores of the finest blue stone, and her boundless forests, she ought not for ages to come close her pages of history, and sit down content with achievements gained or laurels won.

Nations, states, cities, towns and villages, yea, man himself, must either advance or recede. All things animate or inanimate are at this moment either growing, developing, perfecting, or receding, decaying, disintegrating. Happy indeed the condition of that people, or individual, who looks to the achievements and successes of the future instead of dwelling among the dead things of the past.





VIEW OF TOWN FROM WEST



VIEW OF TOWN FROM EAST



## Harpersfield.

By Allen S. Gibbs.

...

THE history of Harpersfield begins at a meeting between the Harpers and the Onoughquage Indians, presumably in 1766, at which an agreement was made for the purchase of the lands named in their petition to the Governor and Council of the province, which was granted. The following consent and deed has been copied from the originals owned by Mr. D. N. Gaylord, a great grandson of Col. Harper, such consent being necessary to enable them to obtain a valid title from the government:

By his excellency, Sir Henry Moore, Baronet, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Province of New York and the Territories depending thereon in America, Chancellor and Vice-Admiral of the same: To all to whom these presents may come or may concern, Greeting.

( L. S. )  
( arms. )

Whereas, John Harper, Sen., William Harper, John Harper, Jr., Joseph Harper, and Alexander Harper, by their humble petition, presented unto me and read in Council on this day, have set forth that there are yet certain lands unpurchased of the native Indians of Onoughquage, of which they are the proprietors, situate, lying and being in the county of Albany, upon the head of the Delaware river; and the said Indians being disposed to sell the same, the petitioners, with their partners, are desirous to purchase one hundred thousand acres, or a smaller quantity, as it may be found, in order to enable them to obtain his Majesty's letters patent for the said lands, that they may settle, cultivate and improve the same; or any other unpurchased lands belonging to the said Indians where they may be disposed to give them, not exceeding the said quantity; and therefore humbly prayed my license for the purpose aforesaid.

I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of his Majesty's Council, to grant, and I do by these presents give and grant unto the said John Harper, Sen., William Harper, John Harper, Jr., Joseph Harper, and Alexander Harper, full power, leave and license to purchase in his Majesty's name from the native Indian proprietors these of the lands aforesaid; provided the said purchase to be made within one year from the date hereof, and conformably to the regulations contained in his Majesty's proclamation of

the 7th of October, 1763; or that the parties do produce a certificate signed by Sir William Johnson, Baronet, his Majesty's sole Agent or Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern Department, that the Indians to be brought before me for the sale of the said lands are chiefs of or belong to the tribe or nation who are the owners and proprietors of the said lands, and that they have authority from such tribe or nation to dispose thereof, and for so doing this shall be to them a sufficient license.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at Fort George in the city of New York, the ninth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven.

(Signed) H. MOORE.

By his Excellency's command

G. BANYAR, D. Sec'y.

The time given in the foregoing was probably extended, as the purchase was completed in presence of the Governor, at the house of Sir William Johnson on the 14th day of June, 1768, for the purchase of 250,000 acres extending from the east line of Harpersfield, down the Charlotte and Susquehanna, one mile from each,—Sir William Johnson had the mile,—to the mouth of the Ouleont; thence direct to and down a creek called Canaskully,—Trout Creek (?)—to the Delaware river; thence up to Lake Utsayantha. The Harpers' land was run out the same year and Governor Moore having died, a deed reciting the before named facts and setting out their land was granted by Cadwalader Colden, Lieutenant Governor, Andrew Elliott, Receiver General, and Alexander Colden, Surveyor General, as commissioners, which concludes as follows:

"In pursuance whereof, and in obedience to his Majesty's said instructions we, the said Commissioners, do hereby certify that we have set out for them, the said John Harper, Sen., William Harper, John Harper, Jr., Joseph Harper, Alexander Harper, Andreas Rebar, William Golt, Thomas Hendry, John Wells, Robert Campbell, James Scott, John Wells, Jr., Joseph Harper, Jr., John Thompson, Robert Thompson, John Thompson, Jr., James Moore, Robert Wells, James Harper, Timothy McIlvain, John Rebar and Johannes Wabrad, all that certain tract or parcel of land within the Province of New York situate, lying and being in the county of Albany, between the Cookquago branch of Delaware river and the branch of the Susquehanna river called Adiquitange, beginning at a rock maple tree marked on four sides with a blaze and three notches and with the letters and figures A. C. 1768, standing on a high point of land at the south side of a small pond of water called by the Indians Utsayantha, from whence the said branch of the Delaware called by the Indians Cookquago issues, and runs thence North thirty degrees West, five hundred and forty-nine chains; thence South eighty-six degrees West, two hundred

and fifty chains; thence South sixty-three degrees West, one hundred and eleven chains; thence South thirty degrees East, seven hundred chains, to a tract of six thousand acres of land granted in the year one thousand seven hundred and forty to Arent Bradt, Volkert Van Vechten and others; thence along the Northern and Eastern bounds of the last mentioned tract, North-easterly and Westerly as they run, to the said branch of Delaware river called Cookquago; thence up the Northern bank of the said branch as it winds and turns to the rock maple tree where this tract first began, containing twenty-two thousand acres of land and the usual allowance for highways. And in setting out the said tract or parcel of land, we, the said Commissioners, have had regard to the profitable and unprofitable acres, and have taken care that the length thereof doth not extend along the banks of any river otherwise than is conformable to his Majesty's instructions.

Given under our hands at the City of New York the twenty-ninth day of November, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine, in the tenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the faith, and so forth.

(Signed)

CADWALLADER GOLDEN,

ANDREW ELLIOT,

ALEXANDER GOLDEN,

A patent was soon after granted giving each of the patentees 1,000 acres, though most of them afterward deeded their rights to the Harpers. The patent reserved to the King all mines of gold and silver and all pine trees fit for masts, of twenty-four inches diameter and upwards twelve inches from the earth, for masts for the royal navy. The grant is also subject to a quit rent of two shillings and sixpence sterling, yearly for each 100 acres, and is erected into a township forever.

This township is to elect annually two assessors, two overseers of highways, two overseers of the poor, one collector, one treasurer, and four constables, to be chosen at the most public place in the township. Vacancies are to be filled by election within forty days after they occur.

Digging the gold or silver, cutting the pine fit for masts, or default in quit rent renders the patent void.

In 1771 Colonel Harper removed his family from Cherry Valley for the purpose of making a permanent settlement, and having the patent divided into lots and highways; Adonijah Stanburrrough acting as surveyor assisted by several men, one of whom was David Hendry.

Rev. Harper Boies, who married a grand-daughter of Colonel Harper and who took a deep interest in the early history of the town and church, says: "The Colonel first erected a shelter for his family in the form of a wigwam, and there lived till a house could be built; but not long after their arrival the Colonel was called away on business. His wife then superintended the erection of a dwelling, directing the men whom the Colonel had brought with him to assist the surveyor, and before her husband's return the walls were fully raised. The house was soon roofed and fitted for the residence of the first white family that ever made a home in Harpersfield. This house stood at the southeast corner of Lot No. 133, near a small stream which crosses the turnpike below the Center, west of and near the cemetery. Part of the foundation is still visible crossed by a wall about ten rods north of the turnpike. The place is now owned by Gideon E. Wickham, who says that lately he plowed up some bricks near the wall. A part of the house now occupied by him was built by Colonel Harper."

From this time forward settlers came in rapidly and lands were cleared till the Revolution. Nearly the whole tract was heavily timbered, and till crops could be raised, all the flour had to be brought from Schoharie on the backs of horses or men.

The following was related to Jay Gould by Mr. Boies:

"The first winter succeeding the removal of the Harpers was very severe. The arrangements they had been able to make proved hardly sufficient for the privations they were compelled to endure. \* \* \* \* Winter set in earlier than expected, and the snow fell to such depth as to render it almost impossible to reach any settlement, of which there was none nearer than Schoharie, nearly thirty miles away.

In the midst of this dilemma their stock of provisions became reduced to a little corn, which was powdered in a mortar and made into johnny cake. \* \* \* At last, but one small loaf of johnny cake was left, and the wife who had borne up well to now, began to yield. She had concealed the state of their provisions from her husband till it was useless to conceal longer, and she told him this small loaf was all; and the children were crying for that, but she dared not give them that for fear they might need it more hereafter. The father now resolved to travel to Schoharie on snow shoes on the morrow, and divided the loaf among the family but keeping none himself. \* \* \* \* In the meantime the Schoharie settlers being aware that their neighbors in

the 'Bush,' as Harpersfield was usually called, must be short of provisions, had determined to go to their relief the same day that the last of the johnny cake was eaten. Accordingly, early on the day in question, a company set out from Schoharie on snow shoes, arriving at Harpersfield at midnight, to the joyful surprise of the starving inhabitants.\*

The story as told by "Simms" is that the relief party traveled with sleighs; and is much less reasonable.

It is related that on another occasion the Colonel's stock of hay became exhausted, and he was forced to go over to the Delaware river, to a natural meadow on lands since owned by the late Elijah Churchill, and carry hay on his shoulders to keep his cow from starving. The distance is at least four miles, and the journey was made on snow shoes; and these are only two out of many examples of hardships endured, and assistance extended. Notwithstanding all this, more and more settlers were attracted by the liberal terms offered by the patentees, and as in all new settlements new comers were warmly welcomed, and when necessary the ready assistance of the settled erected houses for the new comers at the shortest notice.

A history of Harpersfield would necessarily be incomplete without a history of the Harpers. That which follows is taken from records in possession of his descendants.†

#### CAPTURE OF COWLEY AND SAWYER.

Early in the spring of 1779, St. Ledger Cowley and Isaac Sawyer were captured by four Indians. They were among the refugees from Harpersfield who sought safety in Schoharie at the beginning of difficulties; where their families remained in their absence.

The prisoners could speak Dutch, which the Indians understood nearly as well as their own language; and the latter could understand little, if any, of the conversation of these Anglo-Americans. Cowley being Irish and Sawyer Scotch. When taken, they intimated by signs as well as they could, that they were

\* The sketch of Col. Harper appears in Part I. and was taken from this history.

friends of the King; and not only evinced a willingness to proceed with their captors, but a desire to do so. An axe belonging to one of them was taken along as a prize. The prisoners set off with such apparent willingness on their long journey to Canada that the Indians did not think it necessary to bind them; but they were compelled to act as "hewers of wood and drawers of water" for their red masters.

After being eleven days captive they arrived at a deserted hut near Tioga Point, and the captives were sent to cut wood a few rods distant. On such occasions one cut and the other carried it to the hut. While Cowley was chopping and Sawyer waiting for an armful, the latter took a newspaper from his pocket and pretended to read it to his fellow; instead of which he was proposing a plan of escape. After the Indians were sound asleep the friends arose and secured their weapons, shaking the priming from their guns. Sawyer, with a tomahawk, stood over the most desperate of the Indians, while Cowley, with his axe, placed himself beside another. At a given signal the blow fell, fatal to the two Indians. Sawyer drew the handle from his weapon in trying to pull it from the skull of his victim, and Cowley had the rest of the tragedy to finish. As another rose to his feet he partly warded Cowley's next blow, which exposed his shoulder, and he fell back stunned. The fourth, as he was about to escape, received a heavy blow from the axe, fled into a swamp near, where he died. The Indian who was stunned recovered, and while the victors were planning their next course, sprang to his feet, dashed through the fire, caught up his rifle, snapped it at one of his foes, ran out of the hut and disappeared.

Expecting to be followed, the friends took a zig zag course and succeeded in eluding pursuit, though at one time they counted ten Indians in pursuit of them. After suffering much from exposure, and still more from hunger they finally reached their friends.\*

Abridged from Simms' *Frontiersman*.





Where Alexander Harper was captured.

At Harper's Mill, Tenn.

Sept. 1, 1862.



Sawyer is said to have died many years after in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

St. Ledger Cowley emigrated to America from Dublin, Ireland, about 1769, with his wife, Mary, and two children, Jonathan and Samuel, and settled in Greenbush, near Albany, where he engaged in trade; we would now style him a commercial traveler, not exactly a peddler, and not exactly a merchant, in which he continued several years. Exactly when he removed to this section is not known, but he located near Bloomville, perhaps continuing the same business. After the war he built the first grist mill near Stamford village, the site of which still shows on the west side of the river a few rods above the railroad bridge, below the village. His saw mill stood on the opposite side of the stream, both being supplied by the same dam. His house stood about sixteen rods northwest from the mill.

After his death, his son William moved the mill to a site near the present Stanley mill where it was burned. His children, born in this country, were William, Polly, Martha, Elizabeth, Ann, and Ledger. His will, the first recorded in Delaware county, is dated Sept. 30th, 1796, and bequeaths, among other things, one thousand feet of pine lumber and ten pounds lawful money to aid in the completion of the Presbyterian church at Harpersfield; it disposes of about 200 acres of land in Delaware county, and fifty acres and buildings in Greenbush, besides personal, and names his friends, Hon. Joshua H. Brett, Col. John Harper, and his son William as executors, giving to each the sum of seven pounds for services. The will was proved Aug. 7, 1797, before Anthony Marvin, at Kortright now Delhi. His only descendants of the name now living in town are Wm. A. Cowley and his son John R. Cowley, the former, a great-grandson of St. Ledger, furnished the documents and information for this sketch.

#### CAPTURE OF THE SUGAR MAKERS.

On the second day of April, 1780, a scouting party commanded by Capt. Alexander Harper, fourteen in all, was sent from Scho

harie to Harpersfield for the purpose of making maple sugar, and watching certain disaffected persons in that vicinity. The names of the party besides Harper were, Freegift and Isaac Patchin, brothers, Ezra and Henry Thorp, Thomas, James, and John Hendry, brothers, Cornelius Teabout, James Stevens, William Lamb and son William, Dr. Brown, and one other.

Shortly after they arrived at the block-house at Harpersfield where they deposited their provisions, a heavy snow storm came on during which about three feet of snow fell, in addition to that already on the ground.

After seeing the men fairly engaged in sugar making at the different camps five in number—Harper went back to Schoharie on some business, and did not return till the 8th.

Among the early settlers was one Samuel Claxton, or Clockstone, who resided on Lot No. 13, (situated on the road since called Smith street.) He was a Tory and had harbored the Indians and Tories since the commencement of the war. The house had become so noted in this respect that it was known long after the war as the "Tory house." It was situated about thirty rods from the west line of the lot, and about fifty rods from the present highway. The house stood on the trail from Schoharie to Harpersfield, and when on his return to the camps, Harper arrived near the house, instead of following the trail in a curve past the house he determined to go straight across, both to shorten the distance and avoid observation. Near the large tree in front of the house, while on this route, he stooped to fasten his snowshoes, when Brant and two other Indians came upon him unawares and took him prisoner, Brant exclaiming as he recognized him, "Ah! Captain Harper, is it you? I am sorry to see you here." "Why," said Harper, "are you sorry to see me here?" "Because," he replied, "I must kill you, though we were school-mates in youth." Harper replied that it was no use to kill those who submitted peaceably. He was accordingly bound and taken to Claxton's house, where he found the rest of Brant's forces.

amounting in all to forty-three Indians and seven Tories. This was about eight o'clock in the morning.

In order to make the surprise more complete, and allow none to escape, the enemy were distributed so as to fall upon all the sugar makers at once, and so well was it carried out that no signal of alarm was given. A company approached the house where Stevens was engaged, which was on Lot, No. 57. He had been up most of the night boiling sap, and towards morning, having boiled all the stock on hand, he laid down in the store trough and fell asleep. The voices of the enemy awakened him, and he sprang up to get his gun, when an Indian came to the door and seeing the movement threw his tomahawk, which Stevens dodged, and catching the Indian threw him head foremost into the coals under the kettle. This he had scarcely done when a second tomahawk was thrown, killing him instantly, when he was scalped and left. Four years later, when Samuel and Mrs. Sally Hunt Wilcox moved into the house, blood stains were plainly seen on the floor.

A second party proceeded to the camp of Thomas Hendry on Lot No. 37, when he, offering some resistance, was killed and scalped, while his brother John, submitting peaceably, was taken prisoner. Another detachment captured William Lamb and his son William, a boy eleven years of age, on Lot No. 81. Lamb was in the hut when taken. The son was gathering sap, and just coming to the hut, when seeing the Indians he dropped his pails and ran towards the Schoharie trail, but reaching a place where the sun had softened the crust he began to break through and surrendered. James Hendry is supposed to have been killed, and some of the party captured near the highway leading from the school house of district No. 2 toward the Gaylord and Maynard farms. The Patchins and Thorps were taken near the north west corner of Lot No. 214, now owned by Dr. S. E. Churchill.

After plundering the camps of sugar and other articles, the parties reassembled with their plunder and prisoners, when Brant

demanding of Harper whether there were any troops at Schoharie. Harper saw at once that their lives depended on his answer; if he said "No," which was the truth, they would all be killed, and the enemy would proceed to Schoharie and perhaps cut off the entire settlement. He therefore replied that three hundred continentals arrived there three days before—a righteous lie.

The party then started for Niagara and after proceeding a few miles met Claxton, the tory, who was surprised to see them, as he knew them all. Brant related his adventures, and how he had been defeated by the story of troops at Schoharie.

"Troops!" said Claxton, "There are no troops at that place, you may rely upon it, Captain Brant; I have heard of none." Brant sprang towards Harper and exclaimed: "How came you to lie to me so?" when Harper turned to the tory and said, "You know, Mr. Claxton, I have been to the forts alone, and if Captain Brant disbelieves me he does it at his peril." His going the tory did know, and he answered, "Yes, I know it."

Several miles from the place of capture the party halted at a grist mill owned by a tory, who told Brant he might better have taken more scalps and less prisoners. After a frightful journey during which captors and captives nearly starved, they reached Niagara, where Harper found friends who saved him from much of the suffering endured by his comrades.

After the war Harper and the Patchins and Ezra Thorp returned to Harpersfield where they had before resided; after a time Harper and his brother Joseph, with a number of others, removed to Ohio, founding Harpersfield in that state.

Freegift Patchin after a time removed to North Blenheim, where he became a General of Militia, and Member of Assembly for several sessions. Isaac moved to Jefferson, upon land owned by his wife, and died at about seventy years of age. Ezra Thorp never married, but lived for many years, and died on what is still known as "Thorp Hill," where also lived another brother, Daniel,

who at the time of this raid was engaged in defense of the coast, probably Connecticut. The latter was father of the late Nelson L. Thorp of this town.

William Lamb, previous to the war, owned the farm where he was captured, and when released, returned there and built a house east of the toll gate, near the Centre, where he died about 1819, aged eighty years. The house has been repaired and enlarged, and is now owned by Joseph Tate. The boy, William, was absent eleven years before he reached the house of an aunt in Scholastic, where his father went to bring him home. William afterwards settled in the western part of the state with a brother Peter. Two other brothers were John and David, the former passing his life in Harpersfield, and leaving a son, William J. who is well remembered. David was an easy, improvident man, who after living awhile in Harpersfield removed to Kortright. Wm. R. Stanley, a grandson of Wm. Lamb, is now ninety years old. Of the Hendrys, only John was married, and his wife and a son, four years old, were at Scholastic when he was captured. He was a carpenter, and the British wished him to go to Bermuda to work, which he refused to do, and to subdue his "indifferent spirit" as they called it, he was confined in a dungeon at Quebec, in which he died. He wrote to his family that they might know why he was so cruelly treated.

The foregoing was related to Simms by Thomas Hendry, the young son of John, whose widow married a McPherson with whom the boy lived till old enough to learn the trade of ship carpenter. About 1800 he moved to Lot No. 178, which had been owned by his father, and built a small framed house, which was unusual for the first house on a new farm. About the same time he married Enpha Graham, by whom he had several children, of whom William O. and David B. settled in town, the latter on the homestead, each leaving one son - James A., son of William, and Charles M., son of David. Charles now owns the homestead.

Of the celebrated tombstones to the memory of the murdered and captured Hendrys in Harpersfield Rural Cemetery, one was erected by Thomas Hendry, inscribed as follows:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
 THOMAS AND JOHN HENDRY,  
 WHO WAS SACRIFICED BY THE TORY PARTY  
 APRIL 8TH, 1780,  
 FOR THE CRIME CALLED DEMOCRACY.  
 WHEN THE BRITISH AND TORIES, O'ER THIS LAND BORE THE SWAY,  
 A LESS CRUEL INDIAN, MY BODY DID SLAY.  
 THOMAS HENDRY.  
 WHEN MY BROTHER WAS MURDERED, I WAS STANDING BY,  
 BUT IN QUEBEC PRISON I WAS DOOMED TO DIE.  
 JOHN HENDRY.

The other stone, much older, is inscribed:

IN MEMORY OF MR. JAMES HENDRY,  
 WHO WAS KILLED BY INDIANS AND TORIES,  
 APRIL 8TH, 1780,  
 IN THE 39TH YEAR OF HIS AGE.  
 WHILE BRITISH TYRANNY OVERSPREAD THIS LAND  
 I WAS SLAIN BY CRUEL HANDS.

William Hendry, a brother of John, James, and Thomas, settled on Lots No. 15 and 16, after the war. He married Catharine Hall, from Mohawk. Of his children, William lived in Jefferson, Schoharie county, leaving a numerous family. Catharine married Clark Bryan, who died young, leaving three sons, of whom William published a newspaper for many years in Hudson, and Clark W. is now publisher of "Good Housekeeping" at Springfield, Mass. Their mother lived to be nearly or quite ninety. Polly married William Buckingham, who was a soldier of 1812, supervisor and justice of the peace of the town, and Lieut. of Cavalry in the Anti-Rent war. They passed their lives on the old farm. He died in 1846, she living many years longer, leaving a large family of children.



As early as 1782 an opinion prevailed among the Tories in this section that a change of residence was desirable, and a hasty removal was the consequence. The following incidents would indicate that their opinions were well grounded:

Among the most cruel and malicious of the Tories was one Beacraft, who was one of the seven with Brant at the capture of the sugar makers. The night of the capture the prisoners were confined in a log pen, and Beacraft, one of the guards, would frequently call to them, "You'll all be in hell before morning," while all through the journey to Niagara he was continually taunting them, and boasting of the numerous cruelties he had committed and particularly of having cut the throat of a little Vroman boy, then scalping him and hanging his body across a fence. This continual boasting and nagging was kept up till the prisoners all hated him with a deadly hate. After the war he had the impudence to return to Scholharie. His presence becoming known a party of Whigs surrounded the house he was in, near where the Blenheim bridge now stands, and leading him from it into a grove nearby, whipped him with hickory gads, giving him between every ten lashes the reasons for that particular number; this was continued till he was nearly dead, and some of them out of pity put an end to his sufferings.

Simms recites the story that he thanked them for sparing his life, and was never afterward heard from by the citizens of Scholharie, and the foregoing explains that although it was a terrible punishment there was a terrible provocation.

Simms relates also that a party from Harpersfield went down the Delaware and gave the miller who preferred their scalps to their persons nearly a hundred lashes; and from thence proceeded to the house of a Tory neighbor and gave him about the same, giving as a reason that they had harbored and fed the enemy on their way to murder their neighbors. The culprits were both admonished to leave the country and never return. One of them, it is supposed, went to Canada and staid there, the other went

to Albany county for a time, but was afterwards allowed to return. The Tory Claxton sold his land to a Capt. James Smith, who had been a soldier in the French war and in the Revolution, and though Claxton was never accused of cruelty to the patriots, his having harbored the enemy made him so diffident of meeting his old neighbors that he came back in the night to get his pay.

Capt. Smith came from Haddam, Conn., and buying Lot No. 12 in addition cut the two lots across into five farms, placing his four sons, Frederick, Nehemiah, Hubbard, and James Jr., on four of them, and disposing of the fifth to a friend, or relative, William Dart. Each farm contained fifty acres, being forty rods wide and two hundred rods long. Frederick and James Jr. had also been soldiers in the Revolution. The reason for Captain Smith's removal to this country was to prevent his sons from becoming sailors, which was likely to be the case if they remained in Haddam.

David Garmsey was another soldier who settled in the same school district, being on Lot No. 56.

Abijah Baird, also a soldier, settled on Lot No. 32, at the top of the Middlebrook hill, in 1789, his lot cornering on the southeast with Capt. Smith and on the southwest with Mr. Garmsey. He was the first blacksmith in town. It is said he intended to go further, but looking over the great forest ahead, he was discouraged, and concluded to stop where he was.

The Harpers came back in 1783-84. The Colonel rebuilt his grist mill, and his wife having died during the war, he married the widow of his cousin, Joseph Harper, by whom he had two daughters, Abigail and Sally. Of his nine children, only Margaret, who married Hon. Roswell Hotchkiss, passed her life in this town.

Tradition says the Colonel had a saw mill near his grist mill, three-fourths of a mile below the Centre; if so no signs of it remain; but he built a saw mill on the Middle brook, not far from the school house of Dist. No. 12, one of them being the first saw mill in town. With the Harpers, and following them, came most



Village of Hui . . . .



Village of Kelly's Corner



of the earlier settlers though some had sickened of hardships and gone back to the older settlements, followed by many new settlers. Among the first of the new ones was Samuel Wilcox, who, as before mentioned, moved into the house where James Stevens was killed in 1780. He became a prominent man, was Supervisor, Justice, and one of the first Deacons of the Baptist church, when he came near being placed on trial for shooting a wolf on Sunday; the wolf being found prowling around the log pen where the Deacon housed his sheep.

Another settler of 1783 or 1784 was Levi Gaylord, first Deacon of the Presbyterian church, who came with his sons, Levi, Jedediah, and Joel, all of whom became prominent and useful men in town.

The following is a list of the earliest known settlers on the various lots in town, revised from a list made several years ago: Lot 2, Aaron Scott; 3, Samuel Southmayd; 4, Daniel Lindsley; 5, Daniel Nichols; 6, John Brown; 7, Amos Barnum; 8, Raymond Starr; 9, Ezra Nichols; 10, William Baird; 12, Capt. James Smith; 13, Samuel Claxton; 14, Hazard and Salmon W. Beardsley; 15, 16, William Hendry; 17, Phineas Bennett; 18, James Morrison; 19, 20, Levi Gaylord; 21, Ezra Thorp; 22, Joseph and John Barnum; 23, Edward Evans; 24, 25, Joseph Benson, Nathan Holmes; 26, Joseph Kitter; 27, Najah Beardsley; 28, Lewis Penfield; 29, John Lindsley; 30, Eden Hamilton; 31, 32, Abijah Baird; 33, 34, Caleb Gibbs; 35, Stephen Judd; 36, 37, Thomas Hendry; 38, Joel Gaylord; 39, James Montgomery; 40, Daniel Edwards; 41, Freegift Patchin; 42, Ezra Thorp; 43, Daniel Thorp; 48, Gabriel Gray; 50, 51, Samuel and John Knapp; 52, Matthew Lindsley; 53, James Spencer; 54, Plyment Dayton; 55, Volantine; 56, David Garmsey; 57, James Stevens; 58, Samuel Wilcox; 59, Richard Bristol; 60, David Lamb; 61, William McFarland; 62, Thomas Maxon; 63, Sylvanus Graves; 64, Samuel Stevens; 65, John Montgomery; 66, Joshua Drake; 69, Heman Copley; 70, Abel Seley; 72, Benjamin Pierce; 73, 74, Isaac Pierce; 75, Benjamin Owens; 76, James Bryan; 78, — Dayton; 79, Ezekiel Baird; 80, Zach. Bryan; 81, Presby-

terian church; 82, Alexander Harper; 83, John Montgomery; 84, William Lamb; 85, Thelus Hotchkis; 87, Uriah Adams; 88, Asa Warner; 89, Noah Buck; 90, Gershom Davis; 91, Robert English; 95, John Birdsall; 97, Joseph Copley; 98, Perez Pierce; 100, 101, James Campbell; 103, Isaac Dayton; 104, Abel Dayton; 105, Epine-tus Buckingham; 106, Andrus Jerome; 107, Zadoc Osborn; 108, Colonel Harper; 110, Joshua H. Brett; 111, 112, Abram Williams; 113, Richard Stanley; 114, Daniel Peters; 117, Alden Bennett; 119, Jacob Titus; 120, Lemuel Birdsall; 121, John Harper; 123, Samuel Campbell; 124, William L. Harper; 125, Burgoyne Melvaine; 127, Hugh and John McCullough; 128, 129, Benjamin Morse; 130, Joel Davis; 131, Daniel Prentice; 132, Roswell Hotchkis; 133, Colonel Harper; 136, William McClure; 137, Martin Kellogg; 138, Elisha Sheldon; 139, Eliab Wilcox; 142, William Butts; 143, 144, Gideon and John Wickham; 145, Ezekiel Woodbeck; 152, Samuel Doane; 153, Joel Hubbard, sen.; 154, Robert Watkins; 155, 156, Samuel and Thomas Loyd; 159, Ransom Packard; 160, James Douglass; 161, Uriah Odell; 164, Eliab Wilcox; 168, Charles McMullen; 169, Heman Copley; 170, Robert Henderson; 171, Simeon Fuller; 173, James Bell; 174, Abel Seley; 175, Colonel William Harper; 176, James Scott; 178, John Hendry; 179, James Brown; 180, 181, Roswell Hotchkis; 182, Joel Mack; 184, Robert Hamilton; 185, David Hendry; 188, William Wardwell; 189, John McClelland; 190, Thomas Porter; 195, Robert and John Wool; 196, John Wilson; 197, Daniel Butler; 203, Benjamin Odell; 204, Ruliff Voorhis; 205, 206, David and John Wilcox; 207, Andrew Rickey; 210, Stephen Churchill; 217, St. Leger Cowley; 219, Peter Monfort.

On the northeast corner of the town Benjamin Bartholomew and his brothers, Thomas, Joseph, James, and John, both before and after the war owned five lots called the Bartholomew tract, or thousand acres; five other lots being north of the Charlotte. They built mills on westerly lots, but which side of the creek is unknown.

On the northwest corner of the town Benjamin and Ebenezer Foster, Daniel Sawyer, and Isaac Cleveland were early settlers.

A large part of what is called Middle brook was settled by people from Danbury, Conn., and for some time was called New Danbury.

Some years ago Mr. John Nichols, then in his ninety-third year, stated that he was four years old when his father, Ezra Nichols, settled on Lot 9, now owned by Isaac P. Nichols. The first work after their arrival was to erect a log house, which was built of peeled fir poles notched together at the corners, the spaces between the poles being filled with mud. The roof was covered with large pieces of elm bark fastened on with wooden pins. The door was a woolen blanket, and the floor was of sticks, split in halves and hewed as smooth as possible, and called punch-cous. Mr. Nichols believed that he killed the first skunk ever seen in town; he had set a trap near a dead horse hoping to catch a fox. On going to see what he had caught he found a small spotted animal fast, but busily gnawing at the horse. Upon his trying to loosen the trap he was astonished to find himself in the midst of a terribly disagreeable odor which nearly took away his breath. He killed the animal, however, and was told at home what it was. He sold the skin to a Mr. Montgomery who kept a store at the Centre, and it was there nailed up as a curiosity. Mr. Nichols said also that crows did not appear for some years after their arrival.

As related by Mr. David B. Baird, a grandson of Abijah, one of these New Danbury settlers, John Knapp, was rather eccentric, and being greatly troubled by the sheep of a neighbor named Day, which persisted in foraging on his crops, Knapp finally caught one of the sheep, and cutting a slit in one hind leg stuck the other leg through it. The sheep hobbled home and the rest stayed away; not long after, Knapp's old sow got down to Day's and came home with her mouth cut open as far back as a knife would go. Knapp "went for" Day for misusing his hog so, and was coolly told that "when that sow got down here, and see how funny that 'er sheep looked with one leg tucked through t'other, she just split her mouth laughin'."

In the northwestern part of the town, on what is still known as Quaker Hill, there settled from Dutchess county a colony of Quakers, or Friends, as they styled themselves, of about twenty families who built a log church with a log partition through the middle to separate the men from the women. If a couple wished to marry, the young man stated their intention to the meeting and took his seat with his intended on the women's side. Preaching was only as the spirit moved; often nothing was said; just shook hands and separated.

Harpersfield, the only original town in Delaware county, was first organized April 27, 1787, and covered about the same territory as the 250,000 acre tract purchased from the Indians June 14, 1768. For some reason this act was inoperative; and March 7th, 1788, the town was again organized as follows: Harpersfield, and all that part of the said county of Montgomery between the Cookquago branch of the Delaware river and the branch of the Susquehanna river called Adiquitange, beginning at a rock maple tree marked on four sides with a blaze and three notches, and with the letters and figures A. C., 1768, standing on a high point of land at the south side of a small lake called by the Indians Utsayantha, from whence the said branch of the Delaware called by the Indians Cookquago issues, and running from thence North thirty degrees West to the said Adiquitange, and thence down the same and the Susquehanna to the bounds of Pennsylvania, and East along the same to the river Delaware, and then up the same river to the place of beginning, shall be and is hereby erected into a town by the name of Harpersfield.

The territory embraced averaged about fourteen miles wide by about sixty miles long; and from it nineteen towns and parts of towns have been formed in the counties of Broome, Chenango, Delaware and Otsego. The names of the towns are: Afton, Bainbridge, Colesville, Davenport, Delhi, Deposit, Franklin, Hamden, Harpersfield, Kortright, Masonville, Meredith, Oneonta, Sanford, Sidney, Stamford, Tompkins, Walton, and Windsor.



Although parting with so much territory has made the old town the smallest in the county, reducing her from more than eight hundred to but little more than forty square miles, she is the best looking town of the lot, as the map will show.

The first town meeting of which any record exists was held April 1, 1787, as follows:

Chosen unanimously, Wm. Cure, moderator; John Harper, treasurer; Samuel Wilcox, John Deniston, assessors; Isaac Patchin, Sen., collector; Ezra Thorp, Thelus Hotchkiss, constables.

June 12, 1787, This day appointed Wm. McFarland Town Clerk in place of Walter Sabin, former Clerk, absent, and Isaac Patchin, Sen., Assessor, in place of Benjamin Bartholomew, absent.

At a town meeting of the Inhabitants of the District of Harpersfield, voted at the house of Alexander Harper, Esq., on Tuesday the first day of April, A. D. 1788:

1st, voted: Wm. McFarland, Town Clerk.

2d, voted: Edward Paine, Esq., Supervisor.

3d, voted: Ezra Thorp, Constable.

4th, voted: Levi Gaylord, Samuel Wilcox, Gabriel North, Shuman Wattles, and David Parsons, Assessors.

5th, voted: Stephen Judd, Moses Clark, and Simeon Hyde, collectors.

6th, voted: Alexander Harper, Esq., Treasurer.

7th, voted: William Hendry, John Brown, Nathaniel Skinner, Richard Bristol, Ezra Paine, John Gardner, Path Masters; Eli Reynolds, Jr., Gideon Frisbee, Benajah McCall, Samuel Johnson, and Hugh Thompson, Path Masters for P. D. (supposed Painesdale.)

8th, voted: Capt. David Parsons, Benj. Morse, Poor Masters.

9th, voted: Levi Gaylord, Samuel Wilcox, Ezra Paine, Samuel Johnson, Fence Viewers.

10th, voted: Daniel Mack, James Douglass, Francis Clark, Benajah McCall, Prisers damages.

The second town meeting held April 7th 1789, at the same

place, elected besides persons within the present limits of the town, Moses Clark of Hampden, and Robert Freeman, Walton, Constables; Alex. Smith, Johorakim Burgett, and Gabriel North, Assessors; Robert Freeman, Sibbles Bennett, Collectors; Jacob Houghtail, Henry Burgett, Dan'l Parker, Nathaniel Wattles, John Ogden, Witter Johnson, Michael Goodrich, Joshua Pine, David Harrow, Path Masters. May 26th of the same year was the first election of commissioners of highways; previously they had either been appointed by courts of Special Sessions or commissioned by the Governor. Such a commission issued to Hon. Roswell Hotchkiss is still in existence. The commissioners elected were Samuel Wilcox, Jared Goodrich and Nathaniel Wattles. Also at the same time, Abel Kidder of Franklin, Kenoth Chisholm of Painesdale, Andrew Kiff of Goalsborough, and George Wisemore of Whitesborough, were elected Pathmasters.

The following resolutions would indicate that these town meetings had considerable authority over the other districts, or that they were rather free with criticism:

April 6th, 1790, voted: That the proceedings of Kortright, Hampden, Walton, and Clinton are approved of and ratified by this meeting.

April 5th, 1791, voted: That the proceedings of Kortright, Hampden, Walton, Franklin, and Charlotte river, be ratified and approved of by this meeting.

April 31, 1792, voted: That the proceedings of the town of Kortright shall not be ratified by this meeting.

April 2, 1793. The proceedings of Kortright, viz: (Approved, of course.)

Grover Smith, commissioner of roads; Thomas McClaughry, James Stewart, assessors; Thomas McClaughry, Caleb D. Ferris, overseers poor; Ephraim Barnt, Grover Smith, Warner Lake, David Melvaine, Daniel Harris, Aaron Stewart, Caleb D. Ferris, Hugh Sloan, John French, James Stewart, Richard McClaughry, Thomas McClaughry, pathmasters.

A later resolution reads: Any hog found on the commons without being well ringed and yoked, *shall pay* a fine of fifty cents.

Another time it was voted: That hogs on the common shall be *arranged* in the nose on penalty of twenty-five cents.

The following seems to show that the town came quite near uniting church and state:

April 26, 1796, Resolved; that all the money that has arose from the excise in this town shall be collected and loaned to the proprietors of the Presbyterian meeting house, at the usual interest on demand, for the purpose of carrying on the building.

April 2, 1799, Resolved; that the excise money now in the hands of the overseers of the poor, shall be appropriated to the special use of the several religious societies and dissenters, to be for their use forever, within the town of Harpersfield, for the purpose of erecting or repairing houses of public worship or other purposes, and that the assessors of said town for the last year shall be empowered to ascertain what proportion of said money belongs to each religious society and dissenters, in proportion to last year's tax list, each society producing a list of the members of their own society under the hands of their particular members, within six months after this second day of April, 1799, and the moneys to be paid over to the societies or persons entitled thereto, within one year from this date.

March 2, 1802, Resolved that the money now due the town, in the hands of the Committee of the Presbyterian meeting house, shall be laid out towards repairing and finishing the said house for the benefit of said town to hold Public Town Meetings, and when necessary, and when the whole of said sum, which is \$162 and cents, with the interest till paid, shall be laid out in manner aforesaid, which shall be done by the first of November next, then the notes given by said Committee of said house shall be given up and discharged. But if not laid out in manner as above, then the privilege hereby meant to be granted by said town to be forfeited.

By resolution passed March 6, 1801, one hundred dollars of

excise money was given to the Baptist society to aid in building the church near Stevens', the town to have the use of the church for public meetings if the society do not need it at the same time; but in 1812 when application was made to the town meeting for help to build a school house out of the excise money, it was

Resolved, thereon: that the town cannot appropriate any of said money for erecting common school houses.

The following is a list of officers from the first recorded:

Supervisors: 1788, Edward Paine; 1789-93, William McFarland; 1794, Samuel Wilcox; 1795-97, 1812-13, Roswell Hotchkiss; 1798, Aaron Wheeler; 1799, Salmon W. Beardsley; 1800-04, Levi Gaylord; 1805-06, 1814-16, 1818-20, 1824-25, Cyrenus Gibbs; 1807, Giles Hunniston; 1808-10, Elisha Sheldon; 1817, 1821-23, 1826, 1829, James Ells; 1827, Samuel Stevens, Jr.; 1828, 1830, Baruch Taylor; 1831, Frederic A. Fenn; 1832, 1836-37, Stoddard Stevens; 1833-34, Nathan Bristol; 1835, 1843-44, William Buckingham; 1838-40, Lyman Hakes; 1841-42, Phineas L. Bennett; 1845-46, John Harper; 1847, Asahel Cowley; 1848-49, Johnson B. Bragg; 1850-51, Ira S. Birdsall; 1852-53, Elias B. Penfield; 1854, 1860, Michael Dayton; 1855, Jeffrey H. Champdin; 1856, Sheldon A. Givens; 1857, James S. Peters; 1858-59, 1866-69, Norman P. Dayton; 1861-63, Richard E. Davis; 1864, Henry TenEyck, Jr.; 1865, Truman B. Seley; 1870, John L. Beardsley; 1871-72, 1878-83, Allen S. Gibbs; 1873-75, Richtmyer Hubbell; 1876-77, Hamilton S. Preston; 1884, Calvin Hull; 1885-87, Amos Barnum; 1888-91, Levi B. VanDusen; 1892-95, John J. McArthur; 1896-97, William M. Beckley; 1898, John W. Dayton.

Town Clerks: 1787, Walter Sabin; 1788-89, William McFarland; 1790-94, 1800-01, Roswell Hotchkiss; 1795, Aaron Wheeler; 1796-99, Levi Gaylord; 1802-03, Salmon W. Beardsley; 1804, Enos Bell; 1805, James Smith, Jr.; 1806, Eliab Wilcox; 1807-10, Peter Penfield; 1811, John Davenport; 1812-14, Joshua H. Brett; 1815, James Ells; 1816-17, Ebenezer Penfield; 1818, Cornell Smith, Jr.; 1819-21, John Lake; 1822-23, Joseph Hotchkiss; 1824, 1826, Aaron



View of Army Dep. L. 1. 1916.



View of New K. 1. 1916.



Wileox; 1825, Anson Penfield; 1827-30, Frederick A. Fenn; 1831-32, Nathan Bristol; 1833-34, Joseph W. Babcock; 1835-37, 1843, John-son B. Bragg; 1838, Smith Penfield; 1839-40, Myron Tremain; 1841-42, James McMin; 1844-45, Henry R. Hamilton; 1846, 1858, Alexander Dales; 1847-48, James France; 1849-50, Horace Lockwood; 1851, 1860-63, Elias B. Penfield; 1852, William C. Lamont; 1853, E. L. H. Moeller; 1854, Benj. F. Gibbs, Jr.; 1855, Allen S. Gibbs; 1856, Russel D. Baird; 1857, 1859, William Elsbree; 1861, Calvin H. Peters; 1865, Lewis C. Silvernail; 1866, John Bell; 1867-68, Richtmyer Hubbell; 1869, Seth W. Hubbard; 1870-73, 1887-89, Samuel D. Hubbard; 1874-75, Peter I. Merriam; 1876, 1879, Charles L. Foote; 1877, Thomas M. Douglass; 1878, Alvin F. Lain; 1880, Samuel H. Van Dusen; 1881-83, Hiram P. Hubbell; 1884, Charles W. Plimlee; 1885-86, Jay M. Dyer; 1890, 1893-98, George B. Day-enport; 1891, Gideon E. Wickham; 1892, William S. Dart.

Justices of the Peace: 1786, Alexander Harper; 1791, Joshua H. Brett; 1803, Elisha Sheldon, Samuel Wileox; 1804, Roswell Hotchkiss; 1806, Salmon W. Beardsley; 1809, Cyrenus Gibbs; 1812, Eden Hamilton; 1814, Peter Penfield, Cornell Smith; 1821, Calvin Howard; 1823, Stephen Lockwood, Baruch Taylor, Samuel Stevens, Raymond Starr; 1827, Joseph Copley; 1828, Frederick A. Fenn; 1830, James Spencer (elected); 1831-35, John Wool; 1832-34, James Bristol; 1832, Ira S. Birdsall; 1836, William Buckingham, Nathan Bristol; 1837-40, Alonzo B. Wileox; 1837, Michael Dayton; 1841, Joseph Ellis; 1841-45, Nelson L. Thorp; 1844-48-51, Levi Seley; 1843-46-50, Benjamin F. Gibbs; 1843, Hiram Graves; 1844-48, James Strain, Jr.; 1844-47, Apollos B. Wileox; 1849-53, Jeffrey H. Champlin; 1850-52, John Flausburgh; 1854-59, Johnson B. Bragg; 1855-69, Wiley Beard; 1857-60, Ezra J. Nichols; 1858, Ahnus M. Babcock; 1859, Fredus Baldwin; 1862-66, Allen S. Gibbs; 1862-69, 74-77, Michael Odell; 1864-67-71, Thomas H. Smith; 1865, James Loughran; 1867, John S. Baldwin; 1871-74-83-86-90-94-98, Stephen Van Dusen; 1872, Colonel D. Wiltsie; 1875, James D. Seley, Morell Wager; 1876-80-84-88, John J. McArthur; 1878, James Beilby.

1879-83-87-91, Richard Magee; 1881-82, Samuel D. Hubbard; 1885, Cheeney A. Crowell; 1889, Daniel W. Peters; 1889-92-96, Edgar B. Dayton; 1893, Charles A. McMurdy; 1894-97, George C. Gibbs; 1895, Rolla G. Nichols.

The first religious society in Harpersfield was organized June 7, 1787, at a meeting held for that purpose at the house of Col. John Harper, when Col. John Harper, David Hendry, Benjamin Bartholomew, Joseph Hotchkis, and Daniel Mack were chosen trustees, and it was unanimously agreed that the trustees and congregation should be called "Presbyterian Congregation of Harpersfield." The election was held pursuant to an act passed by the Legislature, April 6, 1784; Deacons, Levi Gaylord and William McFarland. The proceedings were certified by John Deniston and Levi Gaylord, the officers of the election; witnessed by Alexander Harper and Roswell Hotchkis, and acknowledged before William Harper, one of the Judges of Montgomery county. Five days after their election the trustees agreed to make proposals to Rev. John Lindsley, which included the offer of £90 as an annual salary and £100 as a settlement. Mr. Lindsley accepted the offer with the understanding that he was to be paid in labor, cattle or notes. He commenced his labors in the fall of 1787, and continued them till 1791. He is also supposed to have taught the first school in town. Between 1791 and 1793 Rev. David Huntington and Rev. William Stone preached for the society occasionally.

In 1793, Rev. Stephen Fenn became the minister, and was to receive seventy acres from Lot No. 108, the whole of Lot No. 65, (one hundred acres,) and £10 in building material; the whole valued at £200, to be considered as his settlement. He was also to receive £70 annually for four years, after which his salary was to be increased £5.15s per year till it amounted to £93, which was to be the annual salary thereafter, but if he left before the end of twenty years he was to forfeit £10 per year for each year he fell short of twenty, unless he left through the fault of the



society. Mr. Fenn reorganized the society in 1798, and Caleb Gibbs and Joshua H. Brett were elected Deacons. Mr. Fenn continued his labors with the church over thirty-five years, and was finally dismissed in consequence of the anti-Masonic excitement caused by the abduction of Morgan, he being a Mason, and refusing to sever his connection with that order. (Rev. H. Boies hist.) It is believed that a church was built—probably of logs—soon after the formation of the society. It is first referred to in the records Nov. 3, 1789, as follows: “Resolved, that it shall be the duty of the Clerk for the time being to notify each annual meeting, sixteen days previous to the first Tuesday of November annually, at the place of public worship and likewise at Col. Harper’s grist mill.” Also Nov. 15, 1791, a resolution specifying the circumstances under which the Trustees shall open the church. The first church, however, of which anything is otherwise known was erected about 1794, and was erected by subscriptions payable in labor, material, &c. This church was used till 1837, when a new one was built under contract for \$2,525 and the old meeting house. At one time the society numbered over two hundred members; but the establishment of other churches, and internal dissensions have reduced it to a very small membership.

The following shows the methods of the society one hundred and six years ago:

At a meeting of the session of the Presbyterian chh. in Harpersfield, regularly warned and held at the house of Mr. Stephen Judd, on Thursday, July the 19th, Ann. Dom. 1792.

Present, Rev’d William Stone, M. A., New Paltz, Mod. pro tem

Messrs. CALLEB GIBBS,     )     Elders

LEVI GAYLORD,   ) of said Chh.

The following persons presented themselves to take the Covenant of God upon themselves, and to be admitted to solemn ordinance of baptism, viz Messrs. Joseph Harper, David Hendry, William Hendry, Thomas Montgomery, Nathaniel Skinner, Robert

Montgomery, Joel Gaylord (by application of his wife, he being absent), Mrs. Mercy Gaylord, wife Mr. Jedediah Gaylord.

All these were examined and approved and recommended by the Elders (excepting Mr. Joel Gaylord, who being in family connection with the Elders—son of one and son-in-law of the other) was recommended by Messrs. Joseph Hotchkiss and Nathaniel Bristol. And likewise Messrs. James Cooley and Jacob Brightman presented themselves to receive the ordinance of baptism for their children, and after a full and candid examination were approved and recommended, provided that Mr. Cooley shall, previous to his taking the Covenant the next Lords-day, subscribe to, and publicly acknowledge a written confession of the ruinous sin of drunkenness; and Mr. Brightman subscribe to, and make a public confession of the detestable sin of fornication at the same time and place. \* \* \* \* \*

True copy of record.

Attest WM. STONE, Mod. P. T.

It is said that a "bee" was made to get out timber for the old church, and Elder Warner Lake, a Baptist preacher, was present to help, and it was suggested that he be asked to pray; Deacon McFarland was also present, and said this was a "Presbyterian bee," and he made the prayer himself. Another time he rather discouraged the choir leader, who started to use a pipe to pitch his tunes, by commanding him to "Git oot o' the hoose i' the Laird wi' that whussle."

The second religious society in Harpersfield was Baptist, and organized about 1792. They held meetings for some time in a building near the present school house in district number three. Elder Lake, before mentioned, who lived in Kortright on what is still known as Lake hill, where John Porter now resides, was the first and for many years the minister. Elder Mack was the second, and was succeeded by Dingee Adams, who served as pastor many years till very serious charges against him divided and greatly

weakened the society. They built a church in 1805 about half way between the Centre and Stamford, aided by the town with a site and one hundred dollars. This was removed and rebuilt at Stamford in 1865.

The Quaker society was formed about 1810, and for some time meetings were held at the house of John Wickham, an early settler, who was the first and only preacher. This society is extinct.

A Methodist class was formed in the north part of the town with Silas Washburn as leader and about thirty members, among whom were the Seleys, Darts, Butts and others.

As related by a neighbor who was with him, Washburn once proved himself quite an evangelist. As was customary with farmers of that time they went to New York with their butter in the fall, and as they were going off the boat the horse of a carman backed off the dock and was drowned. The carman was greatly distressed at losing the only means of support for himself and family, and the people present, though very sorry for him, began to separate. Uncle Sile, as he was called, got upon a box and began to shout and a crowd gathered again. "You all say you are sorry for this man," said Washburn: "now how much are you sorry? I am sorry five dollars," and placing a bill in his hat passed it around and soon secured money enough to buy the poor fellow a good horse, for which of course he was very thankful. The next year as Washburn was leaving the boat a man accosted him with, "Ain't you the man that was so G——d—— sorry for me last year when my horse was drowned?" Uncle Sile knew him at once, and replied: "Yes, I was sorry for you; but I'm a great deal sorrier now!" "Why?" asked the carman. "Because," said Uncle Sile, "if you don't stop swearing and be a better man you'll go straight to hell!" He soon had the man crying, made him kneel down, and prayed with him, and made him promise to stop swearing and lead a better life.

The Methodists organized a society Jan. 2, 1823, to be known as the Methodist Union Society of the town of Harpersfield. They

soon after purchased an old store which they changed into a church and used till about 1850, when it was abandoned, and it was used as part of a dwelling, and is still so used. This church stood near Rural cemetery, where the wagon house of Lewis Hager now stands. For the next eight years meetings were held at the houses of members and in school houses, till in 1858 the society purchased a building at the Centre, formerly an academy, using it as a church till 1871 when a new church was built at a cost of \$3,500. This has been recently repaired and improved into quite a fine church. The society is now in a flourishing condition.

1857 a Methodist church was built at North Harpersfield by the successors of the Class before named, and services are well attended.

In the same year what was called a "Free Church" was built near the last named Methodist church, but has not been well kept up.

Some years ago the Catholics built a fine church in the Stamford end of the town which is said to be well attended.

The first burying ground in Harpersfield was located on the west end of the church lot (81) given by Col. Harper to the Presbyterian church, and most of the first burials were made there.

Colonel Harper died Nov. 20, 1811, and was buried there, and also his second wife, but about 1853 his descendants removed the remains of both to the cemetery below the Centre, where a monument was placed over them. The latter cemetery was opened about 1812, on account of the old ground being wet and unsuitable. The ground below the Centre is quite well kept and has some good monuments.

Harpersfield Rural cemetery, on the east side of Lot No. 63, is really the best ground in in town for the purpose, and was opened previous to 1795.

The burial in this ground of the murdered and captured sugar

makers and other Revolutionary heroes, of Hon. Joshua H. Brett, and other notable men of the early times, renders it quite worthy of notice in this history.

Five other grounds have been used in town, three in the north and two in the south part, of which the one on the Middlebrook is the best kept. A stone set to the grave of a child of Eden Hamilton, buried in 1795, mentions that as the first burial in that ground.

A lodge of Masons, known as Charity Lodge No. 221, F. & A. M., was organized Sept. 27th, 1813, but there seems to be no list of members. A certificate of membership issued to Michael Dayton in 1815 shows the following officers: Elijah Andrews, W. M., Thomas Maxon, S. W.; Thomas Hendry, J. W.; and Samuel Stevens, Sec'y. The lodge continued its communications until the Morgan excitement was at its height when the members met in an upper room in the house of David S. Patchin and formally surrendered their charter to the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. Such property as belonged to the lodge was divided among the members. Michael Dayton was the last Master.

The grist and saw mills of Col. Harper and St. Leger Cowley have been mentioned; but as stated by his daughter, Mrs. Betsey Hamilton, now 95 years old, Mr. Campbell built a grist mill in 1818 in the lower part of Middlebrook, and two years later he built a saw mill nearer his residence. These were to replace mills built by him on the united Harpersfield and Middlebrook streams, built about 1792 below North Kortright, and which had been carried away by a heavy flood. Mr. Campbell fearing the mill would go went in on Sunday and removed the grain belonging to his customers, but would not break the Sabbath enough to save his own of which he had a large quantity.

About 1820 or 1825 Abijah Baird and his son William built grist and saw mills at No. Harpersfield, which were run till about 1849, when they were burned by an incendiary; but were soon rebuilt and are still running.

In 1804 Judge Hotchkiss built a grist mill and a mill for making linseed oil. Both are now out of use. There are now six grist mills and four saw mills running in town.

There was formerly four clothieries in Harpersfield, all doing a good business; but the spinning jenny and the power loom have driven them out of business, and they have been torn down or adapted to other uses, notable among the latter being the works of Newell & Co., which are now run by W. A. Cowley & Son as a machine shop and grist mill, a foundry being used in connection. In place of another cloth works a foundry was started at North Harpersfield, which has always done a good business.

Of blacksmiths, Peter Penfield is said to have been the first to do job work, Mr. Baird keeping shop more for his own use.

Eben Dodge worked on the old road in the west end of the town near the present residence of W. G. Henderson, and Thos. Maxon worked near L. C. Grant's.

About 1800 Ebenezer and David Penfield were running a scythe and axe factory near the Centre, using a trip-hammer to assist in forging. They finally dropped the scythe business, dissolved partnership, and started separate shops under the titles of E. Penfield & Son, and D. Penfield & Son; both firms doing a jobbing business, and making axes and edged tools, the sons succeeding. The reputation of the Penfield axes extended over Delaware and the adjoining counties. At their first location they were succeeded by Beardsley Sanford, a celebrated manufacturer of spinning wheels and reels; and in those days no young wife's outfit was complete without a set of Sanford's wheels and reel; but the business died out from the same cause as the cloth works.

The first store, so far as known, was kept by John Montgomery in a house afterward occupied by Ebenezer Penfield, which stood across the turnpike from the present residence of H. Ralph Dart. About 1796 Giles Humiston was keeping a store near the residence of Geo. C. Gibbs in the Stamford end of the town; and

later Noah and John Davenport had one at the Centre, and Raymond Starr at North Harpersfield.

The first distillery was run by a man named Chapman, who also had a small store near Col. Harper's grist mill. Judge Hotchkiss was running one about 1800, as was also the Davenports and Starr, making four distilleries in Harpersfield all running at the same time. No wonder the town was thriving, and had money to give out of the excise fund, for building churches! But everybody drank; the preacher and his flock, and the doctor and his patients, and the man was inhospitable who did not offer it to his guests.

Within the memory of the writer, there was almost a riot at a barn raising because the helpers were served with food instead of whiskey.

Many different houses have been used as taverns in Harpersfield. Alexander Harper is believed to have kept the first, as early as 1786 or 1787, at the Centre. After his removal to Ohio, a tavern was kept some years by Nathaniel Skinner, then by John Bristol, then by Asahel Merriam, who kept it as early as 1808, and till about 1820. The house had a reputation extending into the far west, under the management of Johnson B. Bragg, up to 1817, when Mr. Bragg sold it. From that time, as railroads were built, and under bad management, the custom decreased till it was closed.

Prior to 1796 Stephen Judd kept a tavern on the northwest corner of Lot No. 35, which was torn down in 1835. About 1800, and till 1840, Major Isaac Pierce kept a tavern in the north part of the town; and about the same time Samuel Stevens opened a tavern about half way between the Centre and Stamford. A house was nearly completed, and while the workmen were at dinner one day the building took fire and burned down. Another was immediately begun and when finished was used as a tavern for some years. But it was during the ownership of his son, Stoddard, that the Stevens tavern became almost as well known as Bragg's.

Several other houses were kept as taverns, viz: On Lot 9, H. W. Hamilton; Lot 30, Bradt's Patent, Samuel Wilcox; Lot 41, Harper's Patent, W. P. Pudney; Lot 61, Joseph Hotchkis; Lots 132, 133, Ransom Packard; Lot 156, Samuel Lloyd, James Ellis; Lot 181, Joel Mack.

Maj. Isaac Pierce, John Bristol, and James Cooley were early carpenters.

With the building of the Susquehanna turnpike Harpersfield became a very active business place; probably doing more than any other place within many miles. It had three stores, two harness shops, two cabinet shops, two shoe shops, two tailor shops, a hat factory, three blacksmith shops, and a wheelwright, and all busy, which looked quite lively for a place of only twenty-four houses. Coaches ran tri-weekly, usually with an extra or more, and the writer has seen eight four-horse coaches, besides the family coach of the proprietors, stop at Bragg's for breakfast. Spring and fall the road was fairly lined with teams drawing produce east or goods west. During the summer and early fall immense droves of cattle were continually passing through from the western states.

The Delaware turnpike, nine miles long, built in 1843, or 1844, paid for itself in four years. The advent of the Erie Railroad checked those little profits, and the Albany and Susquehanna cut them fine. The Ulster & Delaware helped it somewhat, and it is now a little more than paying its way.

From 1800 to 1812 the history of the town is uneventful. The town furnished its quota by draft and enlistment, but most of the soldiers had an easy time, hardly any of them being in battle. A notable exception was General John Ellis Wool, who gained undying laurels in that and the Mexican war. A private from Harpersfield named Zenas Berse was so perfectly fearless that the General said if he had a thousand men like Zene he would drive all the British off the continent.

It is unfortunate that no record can now be found to show



the names of enlisted men during the war of the Rebellion, nor the amount paid for bounties.

The town was injured much more by the booming of values, leading to extravagance in many ways, than by the taxes for bounties, though they were very large.

Before the boom had subsided, the railroad fever struck us, and the town was bonded for \$100,000; and after twenty-four years of paying principal and interest we were out over \$206,000 for a railroad we didn't get.

During that time there was occasionally more excitement than during the war. Candidates for town and county offices were elected, or defeated, according to the ingenuity of the stories for or against them about the railroad. Complaints before the railroad commissioners were prosecuted, and actions were carried to the court of appeals, only to be defeated, and fill the pockets of the lawyers. Litigation must have cost the town twelve or fifteen thousand dollars. Since this great debt has been paid taxes have been lower, and the town is slowly recovering from its depression, and if no further tariff agitation arises, we shall again feel as though Harpersfield was a good town to live in.

Harpersfield state tax for 1788, £19, or about \$30. Harpersfield state tax for 1888, \$760.80, with less than one-twentieth the territory.

The price of cut nails in 1797, as appraised in the St. Leger Cowley inventory, were as follows. Ten pounds 4*d* cut nails, \$1.11; thirty-five pounds 8*d* and 20*d*, \$6.37. In 1897 the writer bought fifty pounds 4*d* for \$1.25.

#### HON. ROSWELL HOTCHKIS

was born in Cheshire, Conn., July 24, 1762, and came to Harpersfield with his father, Joseph, and his brothers, Thelus and Joseph, in 1784. In 1785 he married Margaret, eldest daughter of Colonel John Harper, and settled on Lot No. 132, now owned by Stephen Van Dusen, but afterward removed to Lot No. 181.

where he continued to reside during the remainder of his life. During the war he served in the army, part of the time acting as orderly for one of the officers. Being a bright, active young man he became secretary, thus acquiring the plain, peculiar hand which makes his writing admired wherever seen. At one time, while serving as one of the outpost guards to one of the forts on the Hudson, they were raided in the night by a troop of British and nearly the whole guard slain. Hotchkis had stooped to tie his shoe, but seeing the trooper close upon him he dove into a clump of bushes close by and escaped.

In civil life Judge Hotchkis served as Supervisor, Town Clerk, Justice of the Peace, and various minor offices, being supervisor when the county was formed. In the county he was Judge of the Common Pleas, Sheriff, 1805-09, and member of the Constitutional convention in 1801. Soon after the Federal Government was formed a post office was established at West Harpersfield, of which he was postmaster till his death, when the office was discontinued. Judge Hotchkis and his wife united with the Presbyterian church in 1792, and at his death, December 28, 1843, he was the oldest member. His wife died in the spring of the same year. His only descendants now living in town are Daniel N. Gaylord, and his sons, Harper and Edward. The most of this sketch and the Harper family history was obtained from Mr. Gaylord.

#### REV. HARPER BOIES

was born in Massachusetts in 1797. He came to Harpersfield in 1830, and became the successor of Mr. Fenn, in July of that year, which position he held for five years, when he returned to Massachusetts. During the first year of his ministry in Harpersfield an extraordinary revival took place, and more than one hundred members were added to the church. In 1850 he returned by invitation of the church and supplied them for the succeeding five years; during which time,—he being a widower,—he married

Margaret, youngest daughter of Judge Hotchkiss. After 1855 he continued to reside in Harpersfield, preaching for that and the neighboring congregations, as his failing health permitted.

Of a very loving disposition, the mild deportment and affable manners which characterized Mr. Fenn, belonged equally to him. His death, which took place March 7th, 1867, the writer felt as a personal loss. Mr. Boies took great interest in the early history of the town and church, giving material aid to Jay Gould for his history, and the memoranda left by him have materially assisted the writer.

REV. STEPHEN FENN.

The materials for this sketch were derived from Mr. E. A. Dayton, an aged neighbor who knew and remembers Mr. Fenn, from notes by Rev. Harper Boies, his successor, and from his farewell sermon.

Mr. Fenn was born at Watertown, Connecticut, in 1769, and graduated from Yale College in 1792. He was of medium height, thick set, with rather sandy hair and florid complexion; and is described as being "mild in his deportment, affable in his manners, witty, as well as grave in his conversation, with a mind stored with a fund of amusing anecdotes connected with the experiences of himself and others." He came to Harpersfield in 1793, where he officiated as pastor of the Presbyterian church for more than thirty-five years, and is said to have been the first college graduate who ever preached in the county.

During that time he performed seven hundred and thirteen baptisms in that and in societies around, and he also performed three hundred and sixty-seven marriages. He was a universal favorite with old and young, being always sympathetic, whether the occasion was a wedding or a funeral. Probably no man during this time had a greater influence for good over the moral and social development of the town than Mr. Fenn.

He might probably have spent his life in this pastorate, but

for the abduction of William Morgan in 1828, as supposed, by Masons which rendered the order especially obnoxious in Harpersfield. Mr. Fenn belonged to the order and refusing to withdraw the occasion was used (by some in abhorrence to the Masons, and by others who thought their pastor instead of being cheerful, like Mr. Fenn, ought always to be singing "Hark from the Tombs,") to procure his dismissal. About four years after leaving the pulpit in Harpersfield he was siezed with a fit of apoplexy while in his wagon, on his way to fill an appointment, and lived but about thirty minutes after the attack. He died September 26, 1833, and his funeral was attended in the church where he had so long proclaimed the gospel.

One of Mr. Fenn's anecdotes shows him as a boy. His family lived near the church and an old lady used to come to their house every Sunday between sermons, when Stephen was called upon to fill and light her pipe, which was a large one, from the family crib; and after smoking awhile she would stick the pipe in her garter and return to church. Stephen got tired, and one day loaded the pipe as full as he dared with powder, and not have it go off in the house. The old lady had her smoke, put her pipe in the usual place and started for church, but before she got there an explosion took place which raised her about a foot from the ground, and Stephen was freed from his servitude.

This one was rather at his expense in two ways: A colored couple came to the tavern one night and sent word up the hill to Mr. Fenn that they wished him to marry them. Mr. Fenn went of course found a crowd there, and the party had lots of fun. After awhile Mr. Fenn began to dun the groom for his fee. "No," said the groom, "You've only half married us." "Yes, I have," said Mr. Fenn, "I've married you just as usual." "No," said the darkey, "You haïnt kissed the bride yet, and I won't pay till you do." Mr. Fenn went without the fee and called on the thip.

## HON. JOSHUA H. BRETT.

the first practicing physician in Harpersfield, was born about 1750, and came to Harpersfield about 1788. The record shows that he was elected assessor in 1789, '90, and '91; and in 1791 he is first noticed as one of the justices of the peace. In 1795 he first presided at the annual town meeting, previous to which a moderator had always been chosen. In 1796-7 he was Member of Assembly for Otsego county, and it was largely owing to his exertions that the county of Delaware was formed at that time, against a strong opposition. In 1797 he was appointed first Judge of Delaware county, which office he held till 1810, when being sixty years of age he was disqualified by the constitution from holding it longer. He was State Senator eight years, 1801-11, member of the Council of Appointment in 1805, and continued to hold office of some kind nearly to the time of his death, which took place December 24, 1822. None of his descendants reside in town.

Members of Assembly from Harpersfield: William Harper four years, Joshua H. Brett, James Ells twice, Stoddard Stevens, Nathan Bristol, George C. Gibbs.

Judge: Joshua H. Brett.

Sheriffs: Roswell Hotelikis, John J. McArthur.

District Attorney: John P. Grant.

## HON. CYRENUS GIBBS.

was born in Litchfield, Conn., April 17, 1768, being nineteen years old when he removed to Harpersfield with his father, Deacon Caleb Gibbs, in 1787, and settled upon Lots No. 33 and 34.

During the Revolution the Deacon was a member of the Committee of Safety of Litchfield, and at a special town meeting held Oct. 7, 1777, it was voted: "That Messrs. Caleb Gibbs and others be a committee to purchase and provide shirts, frocks, overalls, stockings, and shoes, for the non-commissioned officers and 'privates' in the Continental army belonging to this town." Several of his daughters had previously moved to Harpersfield.

which is supposed to have been his reason for moving, as he was nearly sixty years old. The Deacon and his son cleared and improved their land, and upon the death of the former in 1801, the farm came into the possession of the son, and continued to be his through life.

Judge Gibbs was well educated for those times, an excellent business man, and he became one of the leading men in town. In the county he held the office of Justice of the Peace, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors 1809-12, and Judge of the Common Pleas. Between 1805 and 1825 he held the office of Supervisor ten years, and at different times he was elected to nearly every office in town. He became a member of the Methodist church early in life, and aided in forming the first Methodist society in Harperfield, serving as one of the officers and first class leader. He died August 10, 1845.

The name is represented in town by Major George C. Gibbs and son Ransom, Howard a nephew of the Major, and the writer and his son Francis, who occupy the old homestead.



Village of Bloomsbury.





## Kortright.

By W. B. Peters.

...

I confess that I feel somewhat proud to-day to represent and to be represented with the good people of old Kortright.

Albany and Ulster counties are a hundred and fourteen years older than Delaware, having been formed in 1683 with the Delaware river for their boundary, and the territory now known as Kortright was situated in turn in the counties of Albany and Tryon, in the Province of New York, and the counties of Montgomery, Otsego and Delaware in the State of New York. A very old map in my possession christens us "The Manor of Courtwright, lying in the county of Albany and the province New York."

Kortright was born of Harpersfield and although not as large as in her childhood, she is still larger than her mother and quite as good looking. Originally she occupied all the land of the Kortright, Goldsborough, Bradish and Meredith Patents; having the Delaware river for her southern boundary and extending in a westerly direction to a point situated within the corporation limits of the present village of Delhi and within the flight of an arrow from where we are at this moment standing, the line crossing Main street in a northerly direction between Meredith and Orchard streets. Kortright is four years older than our county, having been formed in 1793.

The act of 1797 which formed our county directed that the county business be transacted at the house of Gideon Frisbee in the town of Kortright until further legislative action. This house, as many of you are doubtless aware, is still standing at the mouth of Elk Creek and is occupied by Mr. James Frisbee.

When Delhi was born in 1798 we rather liked the kid and gave it 15,000 acres as a birthday present. We gave Meredith 15,000 at its birth in 1800. Davenport as much in 1817, and when good old Stamford claimed she was cramped in 1831 we turned in with Harpersfield and gave her enough room to make her comfortable. That our locality was a favorite hunting and camping ground with the aborigines is not only attested by the records of our historians but also by the great number of Indian relics in the shape of flint arrow heads, bits of pottery, tools, such as knives, scrapers, files, spear heads, etc., a fine collection of which may be seen among the towns' exhibits here to-day. It is not within our province if we had the time to go into details of the early experiences of settlers with these somewhat troublesome neighbors, they having long before the formation of the town passed out from among us and on to the happy hunting ground which their wild fancy had so often pictured them.

About the year 1844 having been long out of the *original* article, with some of our neighbors we conceived the idea of stocking up anew with a home-made variety, of a possibly less dangerous if not less useful sort, the outcome of which was the anti-rent movement of that year. Delhi, as I remember, having none of her own, swooped down on us one day and gobbled up several of our choicest specimens and we were mad about it, and didn't like Delhi just a little bit, and in fact didn't play in her yard much for the next ten years. On July 4th, 1845, we had a celebration at Bloomville. Hon. Ira Harris, then an aspirant for Governor, and later Supreme Court Judge and United States Senator, with others, addressed the people in what is now known as Peters' Grove. Such a multitude as gathered in that little village on that day was never there before or since; beside the civic throng, Indians in most fantastic dress and form and feature poured in from every hill-top. They quietly hung around and listened to the addresses, immediately after which, collecting in the meadows below, they entertained the crowd for an hour with

what was designated an Indian training, and which consisted of a very well executed drill of semi-military tactics and evolutions, which in its wierd entirety created, I dare say, on the average beholder an impression and a picture which time would not be likely to obliterate. A lad then of eight years, I observed a respectful distance and at the close reached the village just a little ahead of those fellows, where in my excitement I was immediately knocked down and run over by a four horse team, and carried home, what there was left of me, to my Ma on a pillow. The history of the sudden and somewhat tragic end of this shall I say nonsense? is too familiar to most of you to need mention.

The first birth in our town, we are told, was that of Daniel McGillivrae, the first school was taught by Jane Blakely, the first mill was built at Bloomville by Jacob Every. The first church that on the hill at Kortright Centre, the Presbyterian, the first pastor, Wilham McAuley, who was installed in the year 1794 and who continued in that position until his death in 1851. The membership of this church at times reached 500 and the weekly attendance was much more. A rather witty friend once told me in describing his early recollections of attendance at this church, that with the rest of the small boys he was each Sabbath hung up on a narrow seat or shelf at the back of the gallery, where a man by the name of Leal was delegated to pick them up and replace them as one after the other tumbled off on account of sleep or exhaustion. The service commenced at 9:30 in the morning and continued with an hour's intermission until three in the afternoon. He assured me it was a happy event each Lord's Day when the preacher reached that part of his closing prayer where he pleaded for a safe return to their several places of abode. It was then hurrah boys! we'll be out of this now in just three-quarters of an hour. Mr. McAuley was a man of the people and yet his reign of over half a century was well nigh regal. One only of his large family survives, Mrs. James G. Blakely, who at the age of eighty-three years is as bright and witty as at forty. During

a recent visit to her pleasant home in Kortright she related to me this anecdote: Being called upon at one time to marry a rather cranky parishioner, her father made the ceremony unusually short, hoping thereby to win his approval. The experiment was a failure, however, and the worthy minister was seriously reproached for his shortcomings by the injured benedict. A few years later, wife No. 1 having died, he invited the pastor the second time to officiate in the same capacity; the good work was begun and the parties pledged in the usual manner, then came a prayer of regulation length, then a somewhat extended address to the bride at the end of which she was told to be seated, and the exhortation to the bridegroom, who remained standing, commenced and continued for something like an hour, completing at length a ceremony which the much married man was never known to criticise on account of brevity. The first Methodist church is believed to have been the one at Bloomville, although the one built on Betta's brook dated back to near the first of the century. John Bangs, one of the pioneers of Methodism, was an early resident of the town and among the first as he was one of the most eminent of the many preachers who have represented that body. Many anecdotes both humorous and pathetic might be told of these faithful and devoted men which are worthy of record if time would admit. In the year 1837 Bloomville circuit paid its preacher \$137 in cash and \$70 in provisions, and his preaching places were limited to Bloomville, West Kortright, Elk Creek, Meredith Pond, Federal Hill, Delhi, Peake's Brook, Hamden, Hamden Hill, New Road, Walton, Walton Mountain and the Griswold school house. Another of the early churches of the town was that of the Reformed Presbyterian, organized in 1814, with a church near the residence of Mr. Harvey Bolles at Kortright Centre, at which time a man by the name of Williams became pastor and remained ten years, when Rev. Samuel M. Wilson became pastor and remained incumbent until his death in 1864. A new church was built near the white house a mile west in 1851. Mr. Wilson was a faithful pastor and

the father of a wide awake family, as I remember of two daughters and as many sons; the latter were full of mischief and their pranks were the bane of the life of at least one of the neighbors, an old lady, who had appealed to the fond father in vain for his friendly interference, and who on one occasion, hearing that the old gentleman was dangerously ill, was provoked to say that "preacher or no preacher, if the father of those boys dies and gets to heaven, he will make a good summer's work of it."

Rev. J. O. Bayles succeeded to the pastorate of this church in the year 1866, and for about thirty years was a faithful and capable minister of the Word.

The original survey of the Kortright and Goldsborough Tracts were made by William Cockburn about the year 1770, and Alexander Mills, a pioneer resident, was made agent for the proprietors.

Alexander Leal, John McKenzie, and Daniel McGillivray, who with their families came from Scotland to New York in 1773, left their families in that city early in the following spring and in their search for a future home pressed their way through forest and stream and over mountain until they reached the wooded hills near where the village of Kortright Centre now stands. There these sturdy Scots found already gathered together in different localities within the present town limits a few and were soon followed by others as sturdy and determined spirits as themselves, and having each selected one or more of the recently surveyed farms or lots at once began the work of clearing the timber and fitting up as best they could homes for their absent ones who were anxiously awaiting their return.

These pioneers were nearly all Scotch and Irish Protestants, and as no land was a home in its true sense to them without a place of worship, they soon organized themselves into a religious society, and as early as the following year petitioned the Associate Reformed Church of New York and Pennsylvania for a preacher. This request was shortly after granted by the Presbytery, and as one of its "vacancies" was supplied and cared for until the settlers

were driven out and scattered by the storm of the Revolutionary war. Many, and indeed most of these settlers never returned. Among the few, however, were the families of Mills, Leal and McGillivray, and with them and following soon after came the names of Harper, Riggs, McClaughry, Sloan, Stewart, Goodrich, McKenzie and others, all staunch Presbyters, who soon succeeded in reorganizing their society. A preaching place was provided and after a season of supplies, with Rev. William McAuley as their pastor became the Associate Reformed Church of Kortright, for years one of the largest and most prosperous in the Synod of New York, and of which I have before made mention. After half a century of active work the venerable McAuley, having entirely lost his sight, laid aside his life work and Rev. Clark Irving was installed as junior or "collegiate" pastor, Mr. McAuley remaining as senior until his death in 1851. Rev. Irving was of superior scholarship and an able and successful preacher. In the year 1849 the church edifice was burned and out of its ashes grew three churches, one at North Kortright, one at West Kortright, and one on the old site at Kortright Centre. These churches have since for forty-five years each been doing earnest and successful work, the parent organization under the pastorate of Rev. Irving for twenty years, Rev. A. M. Smealie for seventeen years, and Rev. N. E. Wade, the present incumbent, for eight years; all men of ripe attainments and earnest purpose.

The one at West Kortright under Rev. J. B. McNulty, Rev. John Rippey, and last though not least, Rev. R. T. Doig, has also been highly favored on account of the high rank of the men who have been called to minister to them in sacred things. And the one at North Kortright under that of Revs. John Erskine, James Smealie, R. B. Taggart, R. C. Monteith and A. M. Smealie, all men eminently fitted to fill the high office to which they were chosen.

The present church edifice at Bloomville was begun and enclosed in the year 1800. A man by the name of Every fell from the highest peak to the ground on the day of its raising without

sustaining further permanent injury than the entire loss of one of his senses, that of smelling. For nearly thirty years it remained unfinished, the seats being composed of boards supported by logs or timbers. It was completed about the year 1830, was rebuilt in 1857, and again rebuilt and modernized in the year 1889. Among those who have done most active work as preachers may be mentioned J. B. Wakely, Ira Ferris, A. C. Morehouse, Chas. Palmer, Geo. W. Martin, E. White, O. P. Dales, S. J. McCutcheon and J. P. Race. Among these the pastorate of Rev. A. C. Morehouse stands perhaps most prominent in the recollection of the older citizens. His labors began in the spring of the year 1856; he was at the time a comparatively young man, possessed of a reasonably sound head and an agreeable presence; he was an acceptable preacher and was particularly well adapted to pastoral work. During his three years stay at Bloomville and Rose's Brook he conducted successful revival meetings and built or rebuilt fine churches at both stations. There were at Bloomville about 100 accessions to the membership as the result of his first effort, among these were many of the first and most influential citizens of the town and village. On one occasion soon after his first arrival at Bloomville he set out on a day to make pastoral calls in the village; his attention had been called to the fact that one family, consisting of some four or five members, were all communicants of the church except the man of the house, who was somewhat skeptical and sometimes was disposed to resent any allusion made to him by the minister about his future. The new minister determined to make this one of his first visiting places, which he accordingly did, selecting an hour when the head of the house would be likely to be present. He failed to find him in and after a brief call proposed a season of prayer. He had only knelt with the family and begun his petition when he was accosted in a deep bass voice with the command, "Here, d—n you, quit that! Quit that!! Get out! Get out!!" whereupon he hastily arose to his feet, and in a half dazed condition undertook to offer a pro-

test or an apology. In his confusion it was some minutes before the good woman of the house could sufficiently compose the young minister to get him to understand that his traducer was no other than an erring pet parrot which had been a favorite in the family and neighborhood for years.

A prominent figure in Bloomville sixty years ago was that of Asher Merwin, father-in-law of Judge William Murray of Delhi and of Hon. Stephen H. Keeler of Bloomville. In company with Silas Knapp he built the old hotel in Bloomville about the year 1800. One end of the same was used by him as a store, and the rest by Knapp as a hotel. Colonel Merwin was a genial old gentleman and a pleasant companion of old or young. In his younger manhood he served for a time as clerk in the Bloomville hotel, kept at that time by Silas Knapp, who later became his father-in-law. One evening while a young friend who had rode in on horseback from a neighboring town was calling on one of the young ladies of the house his visit, which had been somewhat prolonged, was rather rudely interrupted by young Merwin who informed him that his horse had got loose and had started for home, at the same time giving his friend the grateful intelligence that he had caused the boys to bring a horse, with which he could readily overtake his own if he made good use of whip and spur. The visitor mounted with a bound and was soon out of sight, but soon returned, saying: "Boys, I have a little business with you in doors; I thought before I reached the bridge that this horse rode strangely like *my own*."

Other early prominent citizens of Bloomville and its vicinity were Jacob Every, who at different periods built two grist mills; Silas Knapp, Thomas Fitch and Rufus Bunnell, who under the firm name of Fitch & Bunnell conducted a mercantile business and erected several important buildings, among which were the large house now owned by Mr. J. A. Hill, long known as the Bathrick house, the red store on the opposite side of the street recently removed from the corner of the S. Forman lot, and the Dr. Forman house now standing; Jehiel Gregory, father of Horace Gregory,





Village of A. en.



B. en. e Street.



who was a lifelong resident, a merchant, cattle dealer and an active business man; Aaron, John and William Gregory, Moses Lyon, Sr., John Bathrick and his two sons, Daniel and Noah, Hiram Every, as merchant and farmer; Colonel Adam Jaques, as hotel keeper, merchant and farmer; John Peters, who as farmer and dealer in general merchandise, wool, butter, hops, cattle and real estate spent fifty years of a busy life in the village and upward of ninety within the present post-office limits; Virgil Bunnell and son, George, the latter being a man of particularly fine presence and a successful merchant, doing business in the store now occupied by M. F. Allison; Henry and Isaac Drake, furniture dealers; James R. White and Andrew More, merchants; Samuel Barlow, also a merchant, the last three being in their day not only wide-awake business men but each possessed of a love of innocent fun which kept a whole village from a condition of *ennui*; George Dales, hotel keeper, justice of the peace and manufacturer of proprietary medicines; Charles W. Duren, furniture dealer; Harvey Davis, merchant, farmer and liveryman, was for many years supervisor of the town; Joseph W. Brownell, cooper, justice of the peace and merchant; Abijah Fields Cooper and Aaron Champion Miller, were among our most exemplary citizens. Doctors Wadby, H. K. Willard, Stephen Forman, O. L. Butts, and J. R. Mathews each in their turn served their day in ministering to the sick and suffering and are remembered by many for their kindly offices.

These represent a portion of the business men of Bloonville village and only such as have passed into history. Many more who are still among the living, and whose life work seems not yet to have been completed, have done and are doing much among us, but their names can hardly be mentioned within the space of this article.

A somewhat noted character who lived in another town across the Delaware, but who was almost a daily visitor and was counted one of our citizens, was William Youmans, or "Uncle Bill," as he was familiarly called. A chief peculiarity about the man, and one

that attracted people for miles to see him, was a most unnatural condition of his features, known as a liver face. It consisted of an almost blood red growth extending down from the chin the length of a medium sized potato, and which also hung pendant from each ear and a corresponding discoloring and slight growth of the same fiery red color that covered the entire lower part of the face. With this peculiarity of feature he was also the victim of a shaking palsy, which kept these elongations in a constant tremor as though they had been formed of a jelly. His speech was also affected, and he talked in a kind of jerky manner that made him altogether a most remarkable personage. He was a man of much more than ordinary wit and intelligence, and very few met him if but for a few moments without going away with some sally of wit which would be as indelible as the sight of his features. On one occasion after having an animated scriptural discussion with the minister on the story of the creation, on starting for home with a new pair of boots on his arm he was met by the good man who asked him where he got his boots: "I created them." "What do you mean by that?" "Why, I said let them be made, and they were made!"

Prominent among the older residents of the town was the name of Alexander Leal, the father of Alexander Leal who now lives east of Kortright Centre. Mr. Leal was at one time the most extensive dealer in butter in the state, and as incredulous as it may seem, is said to have practically controlled or "cornered" the entire butter market of the country on different occasions. His residence at the time was on the farm lying east of that of his son Alexander. Lewis Mills was also an active business man living at North Kortright. He owned and traveled with a circus for several years, which was not, perhaps, the greatest even then on earth, but was the best owned in Kortright, and furnished a very creditable entertainment. Several members of the Mills family became eminent on account of their business ability, and accumulated elsewhere immense wealth.

Elisha Osborn, Thomas Shiland and Peter Fisher, Sr., living on the mountain south of Bloomville, were citizens of sterling integrity. Samuel Osborn and Peter Fisher, sons, continued in possession of the Osborn and Fisher farms up to the time of their death.

Among the prosperous farmers of former years living along the Delaware were Joseph Clark, for several years supervisor of the town, a most active and reliable citizen, who succeeded his father, William Clark, on the M. N. Frisbie farm, Wheeler, Barlow, Peter, James, and Andrew Kiff, brothers, all of whom raised large and respectable families at Kiffville. Andrew kept a hotel in the house where DeWitt Kiff spent his last days, on the east side of the highway, Henry Sackrider, who was succeeded by James, his son, on the E. J. Wheeler farm, Duncan and John McDonald, both of whom held different offices of trust and honor. A son of the latter, Grant McDonald, became a successful business man in New York and possessed great wealth. John Andrews, who occupied for many years the farm owned by William Nesbitt, belonged to a large and somewhat distinguished family who were sons of Samuel Wakeman Andrews, who spent his life on the Daniel Andrews, or Sharp farm, on the east side of the river. John Andrews was father of S. W. Andrews, Sr., who for many years was proprietor of an important line of stages in New York, from which he realized a handsome competence. He was the father of S. W. Andrews, the present owner of the palatial residence on the spot where Judge Martin Keeler formerly lived at South Kortright. Judge Keeler was a prominent business man of the town seventy-five years ago; held the office of County Judge and Sheriff, and was extensively engaged in mercantile pursuits. He was the father of Hon. Stephen H. Keeler of Bloomville, Hon. Martin Keeler, Kortright Centre, Edmund Keeler, North Kortright, and Charles Keeler of South Kortright, all of whom were in their day active and influential merchants and business men, doing business at the above named places, the two first named having held various offices of trust and honor.

Thomas Clark owned the farm which is now the delightful home of J. J. Andrews. He was a dignified gentleman of English birth, and in connection with the farm kept a hotel. A daughter of his was the accomplished wife of the late James A. Thomas, who spent their lives near Bloomville in the town of Stamford. The names of Sanford, Griffin, Simmons, McMardy, Hillis, Hanford, White, are synonyms of business prosperity and integrity.

Back of fifty to seventy years ago a large proportion of the woolen garments worn by both sexes were home made. Sheep were kept on every farm, the wool was combed or carded into rolls; these rolls of wool were two or three feet long and a little larger around than an ordinary lead pencil, they were then spun or twisted into threads, each roll being stretched out as the twisting process was going on until it was as fine in the thread or yarn as the spinner was pleased to make it. This thread or yarn was then colored or dyed and some "doubled and twisted" and knit into socks or mittens, or left single and woven into cloth; this cloth when taken from the loom would be possibly five feet wide and was rough, thin and slazy. It could be held up to the light and objects seen through it. It was then sent to the "fulling mill" where it was placed in a shallow trough and with soap and cold water abundantly supplied it was pounded or squeezed by simple machinery constantly for about three or four days, and when taken from this bath was found to be "full cloth," thick, heavy and firm, and about two and one-half feet in width or half as wide as when it left the loom; if four yards long when put in there would be possibly three when taken from the vat. These fulling mills were a necessity and were common; one was in operation in Bloomville at the head of N. Moak's mill pond, nearly opposite the residence of L. H. Every, another at the river crossing just above the small bridge on lands of W. H. Forman, another at Kiffville, and many others were scattered throughout the town. Oat mills and oat kilns were also quite common. These were used in the preparation of oat meal. The oats were first spread in the kiln on an iron screen with a fire underneath and heated until the hard, dry hull or covering was charred and brittle, then they were run or rolled loosely between two light mill stones which broke and loosened the hull, leaving the berry white and clean, then after the separating process the oat berry was ground into oat meal. One of these mills was also situated at Kiffville.

A gristmill was also situated a short distance above the Hogsback on lands of E. J. Wheeler, and was run by a man by the name of John Tolditch, but who was somewhat appropriately called for short, by old and young, and in fact only known by many as "Johnny Toldish."

Saw mills and grist mills were scattered at different points throughout all parts of the town. Whiskey stills and potasheries were also abundant throughout the town.

Among the early teachers of schools we have often heard mention of one named Patterson, an eccentric character but a man of more than common educational ability. He enjoyed the reputation of being able to solve nearly any or all mathematical problems, and also to distort his features so as to frighten the most incorrigible scholar into a meek obedience. A story is told of an occasion when a most exasperating violation of the rules had been committed within the temple of learning, and the boys were promptly called into the entry way and solemnly warned that the guilty boy must come forward, confess his crime, remove the obstruction and throw himself on the mercy of the court. The faithful pedagogue waited and worked his face for all he was worth, but it failed for the first time to start the unknown criminal. The situation was becoming awkward, when the teacher fell back and supplied himself with a very large slate and pencil and quietly told the class that if that boy held off and put him to the further labor and trouble of figuring out which one was the guilty one, the trouble with that boy in that school would only have just commenced. This was counted a most serious turn in affairs by the youngsters and the unfortunate victim at once walked up, confessed his guilt, and took his medicine like a little man.

Andrew Gilchrist, for many years a prominent citizen and officeholder in the town, was a son of Thomas Gilchrist, who came from Ireland about the year 1810. Andrew Gilchrist was the father of Dr. William Gilchrist late of New York, now deceased, a gentleman of great wealth and whose benevolences throughout our town and county, both public and private, have been princely. He was a brother of Mrs. B. M. Banks and Mrs. Smith of Bloomville.

Alanson Banks came from Westchester county about the year 1800. He was the father of John Banks, who for many years was an esteemed citizen and who left a large family, of whom the following were long or are still residents of our town: Alanson Banks,

who recently died in Cortland county, Henry M. Banks, Benjamin M. Banks, both residents of the town, Mrs. John O. Thompson, Mrs. Thomas Robertson, Mrs. Leland Kenyon, and Mrs. William G. Stoutenburgh.

Moses Sackrider came from Westchester county about the year 1796. He was the father of Timothy, Henry, Daniel and Solomon, Polly, and Hannah Wetmore, wife of James Wetmore, Esq., late of Stamford, and mother of S. S. D. Wetmore and Thomas H. Wetmore, both substantial citizens and life long residents of the town. Henry Sackrider married a sister of James Wetmore, senior, and was the father of James and Solomon Sackrider, who were long prominent residents of the town.

Thomas McClaughry was a native of Ireland, and came to Kortright from Westchester county in 1784. Two brothers also settled in the town, Richard and Andrew. Thomas reared a large family, among whom known to the writer was Matthew and Edward. Matthew was the father of the late Mrs. James McGillivray, of Walter T. McLaury of North Kortright and of Doctors James and William McLaury, who were long and successfully engaged as medical practitioners in and about the city of New York. Edward was the father of the late E. T. McLaury and grandfather of Judson McLaury, now engaged in the mercantile business at Kortright Centre. A McClaughry (McLaury) lineage of the town of Kortright would fill a book.

John Blakely came to Kortright from Schenectady in 1798. He had five sons, William, James, John, George, and David, and several daughters. William Blakely married Nancy McDonald, a sister of Duncan and John McDonald, and was one of the prosperous and influential citizens of the town. He was father of John D. Blakeley who married a sister of John Peters of Bloomville and spent his early life in Kortright, of James G. Blakely who married a daughter of Rev. McAuley, and whose wife and family still reside in Kortright, and of Goldsborough Banyer Blakely who married a daughter of the late Pierce Mitchell of Meredith, and whose wife, one son and daughter reside at Oneonta, N. Y. Many members of this and other branches of the Blakely family have become scattered and are no longer residents of the town.

William Rowland, accompanied by his son Ebenezer, moved to Kortright and settled on a farm at the foot of Kenyon Hill about 1800. Ebenezer Rowland became one of the wealthiest men of his



day residing in the town. He was father of William Rowland Esq., James Rowland, Ebenezer Rowland and George Rowland, all of whom became substantial and wealthy citizens of the town and are well known. The home of Ebenezer Rowland who married a daughter of Robert Melwain, Esq., and resides in the extreme western part of the town, is one fit for a prince. In fact the visitor to our town of Kortright who fails to take in that region occupied by the residences of William McClintock, James Rowland, John Moredock, Merritt S. and Joseph Roberts, William H. Brownell, William Blakely and James Kelso, will miss a locality which on account of fine farm houses, barns and outbuildings and neat, productive, well fenced and well kept farms is difficult to exceed.

The veteran editor of the Stamford Mirror, S. B. Champion, established his printing business in Bloomville in the year 1851, and continued the publication of the Bloomville Mirror in that village for about twenty years when he moved his plant to Stamford, giving his publication its present name.

Benjamin Gerowe, manufacturer of grain cradles, resided for many years at Kiffville. He was the father of William Gerowe of Walton, and Harvey B. Gerowe, who with his son Lucius W. resides also near Kiffville, where they are extensively engaged in the dairyming business. Benjamin Gerowe is still living, in the state of Delaware, having reached very nearly the century mark.

Orson J. Butts, R. W. and John W. McArthur, Cornelius W. Every, William Shaw, John O. Thompson, Augustus Dunn, Geo. E. Scott and James Gibson are all prosperous and intelligent farmers living in the central portion of the town. Other substantial citizens who were prominent in their various vocations were John and Hugh Kinnmouth, farmers, who came from Scotland about the year 1830. The former was the father of J. A. Kinnmouth, who still resides on the old homestead, and W. Rollo Kinnmouth, a physician in New Jersey. Hugh Kinnmouth was the father of two sons, both of whom are physicians of note living in New Jersey. The elder, Sutherland, having by means of well conducted transactions in real estate become possessed of great wealth.

Simon McIntosh was an early resident, came from Dutchess county in the year 1800; his wife's name was Bates, also from Dutchess. They were blessed with seven sons, Jonathan, Henry, William, Matthias, Alexander, George and Simon. Of these Henry had two children, William and Emeline; William McIntosh

is now living in Washington, D. C., the father of James H., a former school commissioner of our county, and A. W. McIntosh of Delhi, N. Y. Emeline McIntosh, daughter of Henry, was the wife of the late Frances Fuller and mother of Mrs. J. E. Powell. George McIntosh, a younger son of Simon and brother of Henry, lived for many years on Federal Hill, town of Delhi, and was the father of Theophilus, the senior editor of the Delaware Republican. Other members of the family drifted to other parts of the county.

John McArthur was a native of Ireland, came to Kortright and settled on the farm now owned by John W. McArthur about the year 1813; there was born to them one son, Robert, the father of John W. and Robert W. McArthur. The fact that the fond parents journeyed the entire distance to New York in those slow and troublous times for the sole purpose of having their boy properly christened, is an incident which John W. should pin in his hat.

Still others certainly no less deserving of mention, who by devoted lives and generous impulses have imprinted their names on the hearts of our people are the families of Roberts, Kerr, Orr, McMurdy, Galloup, Donnelly, Donaldson, Kilpatrick, Loughren, Husted, Forman, Smith, Burdick, Mitchell, Kenyon, Harkness, Harper, Parker, Jones, Douglass, Humphrey, McIlwain, Cummings, Stoutenburg, Beken, Davis, Ceas, Hill, Every, Brown, Rowlands, McNeeley, Sexsmith, Tait, Bolles, McAuslin.

I am warned that I must not trespass further on your time with this record to-day, but I cannot close without making mention of the honored dead—if I cannot of those still living—who were our defenders in the late civil war. A soldiers' monument erected at Kortright Centre records the names of Joseph R. McCracken, Levi Decker, John S. Burdick, Joseph Rowland, James T. McLaury, Walter T. Mead, John M. McCully, James Murphy, George Ceas, Richard Young, Horace S. Hanford, Channcey D. Hanford, John B. McWilliams, Charles H. Barker, Frederick Ames, Samuel Tate, Andrew Tate, J. Newton McLaury, Hugh Black, and William Davis. In the midst of our rejoicing on this occasion, and the things of beauty and the national emblems which gladden our eyes and surround us on every side, let us stop to-day and in our minds wreath a garland and plant a flag over the resting place of those and all those who nobly served and nobly died for us and the country which we laud and love so well.





## Masonville.

By A. F. Getter.

THIS town was formed from Sidney, April 1, 1844, and was named after Rev. John M. Mason, who in the right of his wife, a descendant of Gen. John Bradstreet, was owner of the greater part of the Evans patent, which laid in this town. This patent was surveyed in 1786 by Wm. Cockburn.

A few words will explain the physical features of the town. The Bennett brook rises in the eastern part of the town, runs an easterly course and empties into the Susquehanna in the town of Bainbridge. Cold Spring brook rises two and a half miles south of Bennett brook, runs south and discharges into the Delaware near the Stiles settlement. Two ridges extend on either side of these brooks their whole length. They are broken, however by numerous lateral ravines through which flow small streams. The highest summits are from five to six hundred feet above the valleys, and about eighteen hundred feet above tide water. The surface is stony; the shaly loam only fairly productive.

The village of Masonville is situated on Bennett brook, a little west of the center of the town. The first permanent settlement was made here in 1795, on what is known as the Cockburn gore, a strip of land running across the west end of the town.

The first settlers were mostly from Massachusetts, among whom we note William and Adin Wait, Samuel Whitman, Daniel Scranton, Enos Goodman, Justin North, Perez Moody and his son Moses, Asa Terry and Caleb Monson. The first birth was that of Sally Wait, August 10, 1787. The first death was that of William Wait during the same summer.

In 1797 the State road was built, ending at Jericho, now Bain-

bridge. Other settlers came soon after, Darius Smith, Timothy Eastman, Bernice Hazor, Sylvester and Ebenezer Smith. Dr. Eli Emmons taught the first school; Simeon Wells kept the first inn, where the old Baptist parsonage now stands. The site of the first school house is now occupied by the barn of the late John M. Parker. The first store was kept by Fitch and Phelps, in 1808. Joseph Bicknell built the first grist and saw mill in 1802, about half a mile west of the present village. Hazor, Ebenezer Smith, Dr. Pliny and Darius Smith settled near the center of the town. Collins Brown settled a little east of the center; Silas Kneeland on Beech Hill; Wearam Willis settled about two miles south of the center on the Delaware road. He was well educated and a man of good judgment. He was the first supervisor of the town and land agent for John M. Mason for many years. Malcolm Allen and John McKinnon came about 1800 and settled on the Sidney road one and a half miles northwest of the center. L. McQuain, the two Eloner brothers and Thomas B. Palmer came in 1800; Joseph Bicknell, Ira Balcom, Levi Wells, Elijah Whitman and George Clayhom came about 1801; Elijah Whitman and Wm. Bolt came from Saratoga county. William McCrea, a relative of the Jane McCrea who was murdered by the Indians in 1777, also came from Saratoga county. There was a tragedy enacted at the residence of this McCrea, in which one Pangbourne, a laborer for McCrea, murdered his wife. There was also a case of murder in 1819 by Nathan Foster, who poisoned his wife. The trial was conducted at Delhi and created an intense excitement. Martin Van Buren was present and assisted the District Attorneys. Foster was convicted and hung. Mrs. Martha Bradstreet came to Masonville in 1819 and commenced suits to recover lands of the Evans patent in Masonville and Tompkins. She was successful in some instances; but at the present date all these suits have been discontinued, as upon further investigation it was held that the claim was not established. This claim and the litigation arising out of it had much to do in retarding the set-

tlement of the town. The village of Masonville is a part of Lot 13, in the Evans patent, the whole lot containing 1,067 acres. It was all claimed by the heirs of Mrs. Martha Bradstreet. Most of the occupants have settled with the claimants by paying \$5,000 to the late William Voorhans, counsel for the claimants.

In 1798 Timothy Eastman took a lease embracing the site of Masonville. This lease was assigned to Reuben Bump, and by him to a man by the name of Nash, and by Nash to Darius Smith, father of the late Stillman Smith, in 1801. These parties and their heirs have held possession ever since. The people purchased land from them in good faith and made improvements without any knowledge of a trust deed until in 1859. The settlers therefore felt that they had been greatly wronged and that this deed should be cancelled.

The eastern part of the town, known as East Masonville, was settled a little later than the western part. The soil is better adapted for agriculture than the rest of the town. The farmers have the advantage of the Ontario & Western railroad which gives them an outlet for their produce.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWN.

Agreeable to a vote of the inhabitants and an act of the Legislature, March 1, 1812, the first annual town meeting was held at the house lately occupied by Samuel Whitman, and was adjourned to the school house near Collins Brown. The following persons were elected to office: Supervisor, Wearam Willis; town clerk, Pliny Smith; justices of the peace, L. Liverly, Uzziel Taylor; assessors, Lucius Scofield, Abner Graves; commissioners of high ways, Thomas B. Palmer, William McCrea, Erastus Goodman; collector, Robert W. Foster; constables, R. W. Foster, Job Elmer; fence viewers, William S. McCrea, Moses Shaw, Farrington Parker; pound keeper, Joseph Dicknell.

At this meeting the following resolutions were passed: Resolved, That the overseers of the poor of the aforesaid town give their notes on interest to the supervisor and justice of the peace

for all moneys received. Voted, that fences four and one-half feet high shall be deemed a lawful fence. Voted, that horses and hogs shall not run on the common land. Voted, that the damages done by horses and hogs shall be the penalty without any regard to the fence; said damages to be appraised by the fence viewers, the owners to pay all the costs.

We had prepared a list of the persons who had been sent to the Legislature, and who had served as supervisors of the town, but fearing that this sketch may be too much extended, we omit these names.

The census of 1880 showed about 21,000 acres of improved land and of unimproved about 9,000 acres. The number of acres under the plow was 2,418, the pasture land something over 10,000 acres, mowing land nearly 8,000 acres. The last report of farm lands does not vary much from report of sales of 1874, falling a little below. At the last census the inhabitants numbered about 1,600, the slight decrease from year to year being caused by emigration to the west.

There are now about 2,500 cows on the farms of the town. Dairying is the principal industry. One hundred and five years ago the town was all forest through which wild beasts roamed at will. Seventy years ago there was on an average about one cow to a clearing; the tinkle of the cow bell could be heard from every hill and valley. As I have stated, we are now largely engaged in dairying. About 475,500 pounds of butter are produced annually. In the western part of the town there is a cheese factory managed by Ernest Bilby. F. W. Smith owns two creameries, one in the village and one at Jericho. W. A. Gifford owns one at East Masonville and one at Tacoma. J. C. and P. W. Willis own one at Beaver Lake. The patrons of the creamery all use separators, and the butter ranks with the best sent to market, but at the present time the price is so low it leaves but a small per cent. to the farmer.

The lumbering interest in Masonville was of vast proportions.



from 1820 to 1850. Little else was thought of except to cut logs, haul logs, saw logs and build rafts. Had the people followed farming with the same tenacity and zeal as they did the lumbering business the town would be much better off to-day. In the winter time it was no trifling matter to get up at four o'clock of a frosty morning, the mercury away below zero, feeding teams, loading sleighs with lumber and then starting off for the river, twenty, thirty, and often times a greater number in procession. It was exciting, truly, but it was dry work. So they would stop at the corners, as they called it, to take a drink to warm themselves; two and a half miles further on, at the height of the grade, they would rest their teams, and being weary themselves would stop for refreshments at what is now known as the Bryant place. Again about two miles further south at the forks of the Cold Spring brook they would stop in to see how "mine host" was getting along this cold morning. Arriving at the river they would feed their teams, take a drink of whiskey, eat the lunch they had with them, unload the lumber and then start for home. This is not an overdrawn picture. The writer, then but a little boy, has often driven a team in such a train and has often been urged to drink with the rest.

On the return of Spring these lumbermen would figure up their loss and gain. Many of them would find a balance against them for the corn and oats they had bought. To saw this vast amount of lumber no less than seventeen saw mills were kept running. It is unnecessary to enumerate them. They were important enterprises when lumbering was in vogue; but now their usefulness is mostly gone. Besides these sawmills there was one place where the pioneers carried their apples to have them manufactured into cider and vinegar. There were cooper shops, planing mills and shingle machines, and wagon and carriage manufactories. It is needless to extend our enumeration of the places of business, the factories and the residences which have been erected in the town.

## REMINISCENCES OF NELSON GRAVES.\*

In 1812 we had a very cold summer; it froze every month of that year. The corn all rotted in the ground; in June we planted a second time. I went out with my father to see him plant and came near freezing my hands and feet. It froze so hard that night that in the morning I went out and slid on the ice with my bare feet. Again in 1816 it was very cold, it snowed every month in the year; no corn was raised, potatoes were no larger than birds eggs; grain of all kinds was a failure, there was neither hay nor fruit. In June it froze ice one inch thick; in July we had a hail storm or rather an ice storm which covered the ground with ice. Many sheep and yearlings were killed. I shall always remember it as the starving time. The inhabitants suffered much for food; almost all the cattle died. What kept the people from starving was that they had grain left over from the preceding year, which was a year of plenty. Fish and game were also abundant. The years 1820 and 1821 were almost as bad as that of 1816. Had we not secured a small crop of rye we must have starved. In 1826 we had continuous sleighing from November first to May fifteenth of the next spring. Other remarkable seasons were 1813, 1815 and 1850. We think the times hard now and the profits small, but they are flush times compared to those early years of trial.

In 1814 the ground where the Presbyterian church now stands was all covered with logs. They made a logging bee and cleared it up in one afternoon.

Wild animals were very plentiful. It was a common thing to have encounters with or see bears, wild cats, panthers and wolves. Once when I was a lad, driving a pair of oxen, I was attacked by what I supposed was a big grey dog, which I beat off with my ox gad. The animal proved to be a grey wolf. Mr. McCrea went out one morning to his sheep pen and found three sheep killed by wolves. He found the tracks of five wolves which he

Mr. Graves died in 1898 nearly ninety years of age.

followed over to his next neighbor's. Here they had killed two sheep. The neighbors were notified to turn out and hunt them; They followed them for some distance without killing them.

An amusing story is told of Peter Couse, who was threshing buckwheat, when suddenly a big bear was seen approaching from the woods. He gave a loud shout, turned and ran for the house. His dog was as scared as himself and kept close at his heels. Uncle Peter, thinking it was the bear at his heels, was too frightened to look back, and ran, out of breath, to the house. The bear being frightened also by Peter's shout ran as fast as he could the other way.

It would be possible to gather up many interesting tales of adventures with wild animals in these early days; but it is not possible to take the space here.

#### CHURCHES OF MASONVILLE.

The first Baptist church in Masonville was organized January 27, 1810, by the adoption of articles of faith and a church covenant, with eight members, namely: Caleb Bennett, Collins Brown, Joseph Sanders, John Balcom, Darius S. Smith, Louis Balcom, Zephnia Smith, and Sally Welsh.

The first church was built in 1819 about one mile east of the present church. They had no facilities then for warming the house and each one carried a foot stone to keep them warm during the service. The church was recognized and received into fellowship in 1812. The same year the church united with the Franklin Baptist association, in which it remained until 1851, when it joined the Deposit association to which it now belongs. The successive pastors have been: Orange Spencer, John N. Ballard, Simeon P. Griswold, Henry Robertson Eight, E. L. Benedict, James Amer, Henry Sherwood, E. Baldwin, E. T. Jacobs, E. H. Corey, B. L. Welman, N. Ripley, L. W. Jackson, W. E. Howell, R. Cary, M. Berry, W. S. Perry.

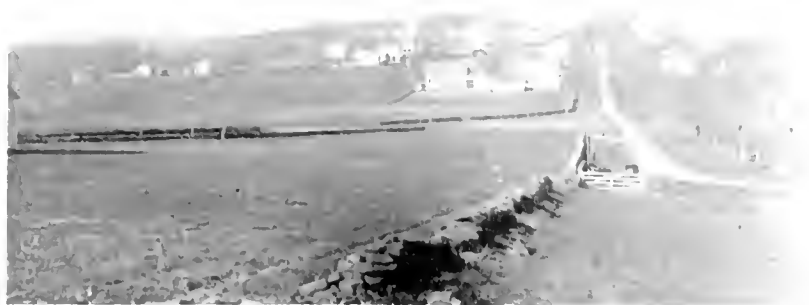
The church that was built in 1819 was simply enclosed. In this they held their meetings for seven years before they were able to

finish the interior; and it was three years after this before stoves were set up. Here they worshipped for twenty years. Then a building was erected in a more convenient location near the center of the village where they continued until 1884. A large and beautiful church was then built on the main street seating about three hundred and fifty people. Several churches have been formed in whole or in part from this oldest church. Its present membership is 128.

The second church in Masonville was the Congregational, formed June 18, 1818. The Rev. Caleb Wright was moderator of the council. A meeting was held March 14, 1821, for the purpose of taking into consideration the erection of a meeting house. It was voted to build a house forty-five feet long by thirty feet wide, fifteen feet posts. September 13 the society met and resolved that this society raise a sum not to exceed \$150, to be laid by tax on such members as should agree to be taxed, taking the town appraisement as a guide; to be taxed not more than thirty per cent. on all taxable property that is not encumbered; such money to be used to pay a preacher one-half of his time. The first sale of slips netted \$98.50.

In 1820 the Rev. John M. Mason and his wife of the Bradstreet family granted a lot of 112 acres of land for the support of the ministry of the church. A Presbyterian society was formed to receive the grant under the law providing for the incorporation of religious societies, under the name of First Presbyterian Society of Masonville. The farm and the parsonage are about one mile south of the village, the proceeds are used for the benefit of the society. It is a good piece of land and suitable for farming and dairying.

The following have been the successive pastors: Egbert Roosa, John Fish, Charles Chapman, Daniel Manning, Moses Fatcher, Harvey Smith. In 1847 the church was changed into the Congregational form, succeeding which were the following pastors: George Evart, Mr. Ketcham, A. H. Fullerton, Sumner Mandeville, P. B. Wilson, Mr. Perry, C. E. Cary, John Hutchingson, Josiah Still, J. D. Cameron.



Village - Middle



Village - East Mountain



The church edifice was built in 1822 and 1843. It was remodelled in 1852. The church has been connected with Susquehanna Association and the Chenango Presbytery, and is now connected with the Binghamton Presbytery. It has always been feeble as to numbers and money, and has had to depend in a great measure upon home mission funds for support. The Bradstreet claim for a long time hampered it and caused anxiety.

A Methodist Episcopal church was organized in Masonville in 1822. Until 1851 the meetings were held principally in the school house, at which time a commodious church was erected, which was enlarged and modernized in 1873. In 1864 a parsonage was purchased with a lot containing two acres of land. This property being inconveniently situated was sold and a parsonage on the main street near the church was bought. Preaching has been maintained in this church since its organization. The names of the preachers can be given, but they will occupy too much space for this history. The church has had a steady growth from the first. Out of it has been formed churches at Bennettsville and at Tacoma, which have drawn from the strength of the parent society.

#### MASONVILLE LODGE NO. 606, I. O. O. F.

This lodge was organized July 11, 1866, by electing J. C. Bourne, W. M.; Hiram Seofield, F. W.; A. C. Bailey, Jr., W. There were twelve charter members. The lodge has prospered from the beginning and is now in a satisfactory condition. It has forty-two members in good standing. The Sidney Lodge took a number of the brethren from Masonville Lodge as charter members.

#### MILITARY.

It would be interesting to give in detail the military movements which took place in this patriotic town. The following persons are believed to have been engaged in the Revolutionary war, and who ought particularly therefore to be held in grateful

At the request of Mr. Getter Rev. J. D. Cameron, pastor of the Presbyterian church, has prepared a few pages relating to the recent history of the church. It is of great interest, but for want of space must be here omitted.

remembrance: Ezekial Upsen, Jonathan Hale, Asa Gillett, Case Van Tice, Abram Houghtaling, Elijah Whitman and Collins Brown.

Another list of those engaged in the war of 1812 consists of Ambrose Bennett, Miner Wheaton, John Houghtaling, Nathan Shaw, Abraham Scott and Joseph Clark.

In the Civil war, 1861 to 1865, the part of the county in and about Masonville was notably patriotic. It is impossible to distribute the names of those who entered the army with certainty among the localities from which they went. The town of Masonville, the town of Sidney and the towns of Tompkins and Deposit, together with localities on the Susquehanna river, not in the county, were all enthusiastic in the work of supplying soldiers for this war. Not less than 150 persons could be enumerated as volunteering from these towns.



## Meredith.

By Josiah D. Smith.

IN attempting to write this history two serious difficulties confronted the writer. Some years ago the building in which the town records were kept was destroyed by fire, and much that would no doubt have been of material aid in making up this record was forever lost. Again, within a few years many of the older inhabitants from whom valuable data could have been obtained have passed away. Our main dependence has been such historical facts as are already on record, together with items of interest furnished by present or former residents of the town now living.

Meredith was formed from Franklin and Kortright, March 11, 1800, and named from Samuel Meredith of Philadelphia. Its boundaries have remained the same as at its organization, except that in 1878, at their own request, a number of land owners in the town of Davenport, whose farms are situated along the Outcut valley, were set off and are now included in the town of Meredith.

The first settlement was made by Joseph Brandhall in 1787. Captain Amos Bristol settled in 1790, Clark Lawrence in 1791, followed by Moses and Nathan Stilson and Nathaniel Stewart, the last three settling on a tract of 1,000 acres in the western part of the town that was purchased at one dollar per acre. In 1793 Caleb Strong, Oliver Dutton, Daniel North, David Bostwick and Truman Stilson joined the settlement. Caleb Strong settled on the farm now owned by his grandson, Lewis B. Strong, and so far as the writer has been able to learn this is the only farm in town that has been owned and occupied by a direct descendant of the family since its first settlement. The original deeds given

to Caleb Strong, bearing date of May, 1805, are still in the possession of the present owner. Oliver Dutton was a Sergeant in the war of the Revolution, and took part in the battle of Bunker Hill. David Bostwick was the grandfather of Hon. Milton Bostwick who meets with us to-day at the advanced age of eighty-nine years. Hon. Samuel A. Law, popularly known as Judge Law, came from Cheshire, Conn., in 1796, and settled at the Square as agent and part owner of the Franklin Patent, making the first surveys of farms in this section. Largely through the influence of Judge Law Meredith Square became and for a long time was the most important point along the Catskill turnpike, or in Delaware county. Judge Law was influential in causing quite a large immigration from New England, and the town assumed much of the characteristics of a Connecticut town. Judge Law built the first saw mill at Meredith Hollow. He died December 28, 1845.

Daniel Dibble settled on the farm now owned by Philo F. Benedict in the year 1799, which he bought of Daniel Smith who then owned the farms now occupied by Edmund Rose, John T. McDonald and Alex. McDonald. Daniel Dibble was a Revolutionary soldier, and was present at the surrender of Burgoyne. The entire list of Revolutionary soldiers who settled in town were, Silas Brooks, Eleazer Wright, Daniel Dibble, Oliver Dutton and Captain Riley. The last two were pensioners.

The following named gentlemen served in the war of 1812: Truman Smith, William Cramer, George Howland, Simon Knowles, Dennis Rice, J. Carrington, Simeon Crane, C. Couse and Jacob Hunt, who settled in different sections of the town. The three Mitchell brothers, Aaron, Pierce, and David, settled on upper Elk Creek in 1802. Families of the names of Thornton and Peaster were early settlers in the eastern portion of the town. David Bostwick settled on what has since been known as the Wiard place in 1794. The first frame house built in town by Clark Lawrence, the first school taught in same by Lucy Austin, near where the dwelling of Hon. Milton Bostwick now stands. Joseph





Bramhall kept the first hotel, and the first birth and death occurred in his family. Rufus Bunnill kept the first store at the Square in 1799. David Spoor built the first grist mill at Meredith Hollow, now Meridale, at the raising of which a man came near losing his life from falling.

If space permitted the writer would gladly make mention of those who came on to take the places of the older settlers already mentioned. The Dibbles, Mitchells, Elder Sears, Deacons Lake and Carr, Jonathan Benedict, Deacon Josiah D. Wells, the Porters, Deans, Duttons, Shavers, and many others who took an active part in town affairs, and in the organization and building up of the churches.

The Baptist church at Meredith was constituted August 22, 1811. February 1, 1818, it was decided to divide the Church and two Churches were formed, viz: the East and West Meredith Baptist churches. A report made to the Association June 1, 1816, gives the number of members as eighty-four and the name as East Meredith Baptist church. Benjamin Sears was invited to become pastor April 1, 1818; Oliver Dutton and Isaac Lake were chosen Deacons.

Nathan Stilson preached in West Meredith before the church was built. Ammon Bostwick went to Kent, Conn., and brought Elder Crane, who became the first pastor of West Meredith church. After a time there arose a division and a large number withdrew and formed the Croton (now Treadwell) church. The church which was built in 1828 was finally destroyed by fire in 1812. Forty-eight members of the East Meredith Baptist church were dismissed to unite with the Delhi Baptist church. (By East Meredith is meant Meredith, and not the East Meredith of to-day.)

The present Baptist church at Meredith was erected in 1818 and remodeled in 1893. The Congregational or Presbyterian church at Meredith Square was organized in 1815, the first trustees being Samuel Moody and Simeon Griswold, and the clerk Bildad Curtis. The present church was built in 1828, and William Fisher

was the first settled pastor. The church interior was remodeled in 1857. Later the Free Will Baptists built a church at East Meredith, now owned and rebuilt by Presbyterians; also the Methodists have a church at Meridale. Special mention should be made of that Father in Israel, Rev. George F. Post, who was called as pastor of the Meredith Baptist church three different times, and served as pastor for a period of about twenty-one years, the total number of baptisms being 135. He is still living at eighty-two years of age, but in feeble health.

The building of "The Great Catskill Turnpike," as it was called, was a notable event in the early history of the town. It was the great thoroughfare from western New York to Catskill, and thence by boat to New York city, and was in its time to the portion of the state through which it passed, what the Central railroad is to-day. It is said that there was at times almost a continuous line of teams passing and repassing, and there was an average of one hotel to every mile, and every one filled each night. A former historian says there were at one time seven hotels within the limits of the town. There were in those early days three distilleries and one brewery, two of the distilleries being owned and operated by prominent members of the Baptist church. Although rum drinking was not in those days attended with as swift and certain destruction as it is to-day, yet we find the good people of the town becoming alarmed at the effects of the drink curse caused by the presence of so many distilleries and hotels. Lawlessness, idleness, and the thousand ills that invariably follow the liquor traffic led to the organization of "The Social League," which was established by eighty-four of the best citizens of the town. This was the first temperance society in Delaware county. So far as the writer can learn, the town of Meredith can boast of never having had a licensed saloon within its borders, and who shall say that the efforts of those pioneers to save their young men from drunkenness has not been the leaven that has permeated the lives and acts of generations following.

Lying as much of the town does along the watershed between the Susquehanna and Delaware rivers, the soil which is mainly red shale and disintegrated sand stone formation, is better adapted to the growth of grass, oats and potatoes, than corn culture, dairy-ing therefore has been the principal industry. And although there are a few practically abandoned farms, I believe I am justified in saying that no town in Delaware county can present a larger proportion of farms free from debt, or a smaller percentage of business failures.

The early representatives in the legislature were Hon. Benjamin Benedict in 1822, Hon. Samuel A. Law, Jr., in 1858-60, Hon. Milton Bostwick in 1813. Mr. Bostwick is the oldest living ex-assemblyman in the county, and there is only one older in the state. He is still living, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. Hon. D. H. Mackey served in 1896 and was re-elected in 1897.

As the years have sped by the pioneers and their successors one after another have passed over to the great beyond, and in many cases their places have been filled by a sturdy class of Scottish sons and daughters, and their descendants are to-day among our most thrifty and upright citizens.

Fifty years of unremitting toil and frugality were rewarded by homes of plenty, when over these hills and along these valleys resounded the clarion notes of war, and an experience came to these homes which, God grant, may never be repeated. Long years ago there appeared a cloud, apparently no larger than a man's hand, and a few, at times but one, of our citizens marched each year to the ballot box and deposited their protest against the curse of American slavery. I need not repeat the history of gathering clouds, and the final outburst of the most cruel war this nation has ever seen. Its record is indelibly inscribed on marble slabs in hundreds of cemeteries, in vacant chairs whose occupants come not again, and on the tablets of hearts who freely gave their all to maintain the honor of the dear old flag.

No historian will ever tell the story of anguish that wrung

the hearts of fathers and mothers, or wives and sisters, who bravely said adieu to sons, husbands and brothers. Some of them went out from the homes never more to return. In this Heaven-born sacrifice Meredith stands second to none of her sister towns.

The conditions following the great civil war have been much the same in this as in other towns, and years of plenty have been succeeded by shortened crops and leaner harvests, but our people can with abundant reason lift their hearts in thanksgiving and praise to the great Giver of good that so few of the ills and misfortunes of life have come to us, and such an abundance of His blessings.

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## Middletown.

By Hon. John Grant.

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IT is with sincere satisfaction that I witness these exhibitions of respect for the worthy deeds of our forefathers and the evident disposition of our people everywhere to cherish the memory of their ancestors; especially in times like the present when public and private virtue so needs the reinvigoration of noble examples. In field and council the sons of Delaware have done good and honorable service, and the history of Delaware is one of which we can well be proud. In the glory of her past history the original town of Middletown took no small part and it is a pleasure for us, her children, to assist in whatever way we can in celebrating her one hundredth birthday. In this history I shall briefly recount some of the early history, leaving the later events and growth and prosperity of the town to the longer paper to be submitted later for publication.

The town of Middletown was incorporated in 1789, as a part of Ulster county, being formed from the towns of Woodstock and Rochester. It took its name from its central location—most of the population of the state being in the territory drained by the Hudson, Delaware and Susquehanna rivers, of which the Delaware was the middle valley and the town of Middletown contained nearly all that part of Ulster county lying within the valley. Middletown is one of the original and one of the oldest towns in Delaware county, and formerly covered all the territory of the present towns of Roxbury, Bovina, Middletown, Andes, Colchester, Hancock, nearly all of Stamford, a large part of Delhi, Hauden, Walton and Tompkins, and a small portion of Shandaken in Ulster county, comprising more than half of the whole county of

Delaware. By division it has been reduced to a territory of 58,000 acres, with a population of about 1,000 inhabitants. The East branch of the Delaware river flows through the central part of the town, with the Bataviakill, Bushkill, Dry Brook, Mill Brook and Plattekill streams as tributaries, draining fertile valleys, and along which are located the thirteen settlements of the town. This extraordinary number of post offices can better be appreciated directly after a presidential election or before a town caucus. The history of the permanent settlement of this mother of towns properly begins with the advent of the Dutch in 1763, though the Canadian French were here about the time of the French and Indian war, and still earlier there was a Tuscarora Indian village called Pakatakan just above the present village of Margaretville, and the above Indian name Pakatakan is still used to designate a company of Margaretville firemen. Of this original occupancy of the town by the Indians the Indian mounds and burying grounds on the old Dumond farm attest, and the large number of arrow heads and flint axes that have been found in this vicinity is an additional proof. Still further, there are in all probability many who have heard the authentic but hair raising stories told to this day in Middletown of the wonderful exploits of Tom Quick and Tim Murphy, the Indian slayers whose favorite haunts were the valleys of the Delaware, stories more wonderful than the "good times coming" prophecies of the Republican politicians. I made mention above of the first permanent settlers being Dutch—they were with one exception, to my knowledge, and this was my maternal great-great-grandfather O'Connor, who, while he could speak nothing but the Dutch language, yet he was a full-blooded Irishman, born in Ireland. These Dutch settlers at first consisted of only four families from Ulster county, who bought four farms on Great Lot No. 7, on the Middletown flats, receiving deeds therefor dated April 9, 1763, paying \$2.50 per acre. Five more families joined them during the next eight years, and all maintained friendly relations with the Indians until

the time of the Revolution, when the friendly and timely warning of an Indian named Tennis, who afterwards lived in Bovina, alone saved them from being massacred by the Indians. As it was they were forced to return to Ulster county, being followed by the Indians as far as Shandaken. However, the settlers afterward returned and were never afterward disturbed, the Indians being driven westward. A single incident may suffice to show the present generation what kind of a life was lived by those early adventurers: One night when the cows were driven to the enclosure to be milked a stray yearling steer was noticed in the drove. The cows did not seem to be contented in his company, and after several vain attempts to milk the uneasy herd, the stray yearling was discovered to be nothing less than a black bear.

Chancellor Livingston, as one of the heirs of Johannes Hardenbergh, was once the owner of all this section, which was a part of the land granted Johannes Hardenbergh by Queen Anne in 1708, and he, Hardenbergh, was thus the original proprietor of the soil, and the village of Margaretville is named after his great-granddaughter Margaret. Of the many privations and hardships endured by our forefathers in the early pioneer life of the town, in the limited time allowed, I can make but brief mention personally. I have always sympathized with our foremothers the most, for the reason that they had to endure the same hardships that our forefathers did and our forefathers beside.

In 1789, by act of the legislature, the town of Middletown was erected, and Benjamin Milk was afterward elected a supervisor of the town to sit at the first meeting of the Board of Supervisors held at Delhi, May 30, 1797—seven supervisors sitting at this meeting. At this town election the ballot box was taken from place to place in the town for the convenience of voters, and it may be interesting to know that the discovery was afterwards made that the successful candidate, Benjamin Milk, was neither a resident of the town of Middletown or the county of Delaware.

The oldest house now standing in the town of Middletown is on the Daniel Waterbury farm. It was built in 1791 by Colonel John Grant, who was the first postmaster of the town and held office forty years. The town meetings were held here for many years, the draft for the war of 1812 took place in the same building, and the broad meadow near was used for the general training of the militia. At these general trainings the tubs and pails of whiskey punch were used so freely that the sham fights usually turned out to be real fights before the day was over. Very soon after the return of the refugees at the close of the Revolution, a Dutch Reformed Presbyterian church was erected in the old churchyard above the present village of Arena, and the first supply preaching was by a one legged man by the name of Anderson, who afterwards became a fortune teller and doctor. Probably the oldest burying place in the county is the old cemetery on the Dumond farm, just across the river from Margaretville. It was used by the early Dutch settlers and many years before by half breeds who preceded them. In the war of 1812 three companies were drafted from Middletown (as it was then) for the defense of New York harbor. In the Anti-Rent war Middletown took a considerable part, one of the saddest episodes of which was the shooting of Steele at Andes, for which Edward O'Connor of Middletown was convicted and sentenced to be hung, but was afterward pardoned by Governor Young.

The history of the various settlements and villages in the town, the growth in population, schools, societies, business, newspapers, professions, military affairs, fire department, railroads, agriculture and public improvements will have to be left for the published history.

Politically, Middletown has always taken a leading part, and many of her citizens have sacrificed their time and submitted, from purely patriotic motives, to the discomforts of holding office.

Thus reviving briefly the early history of this county we may safely say that none has a history more romantic in its incidents,

more marked for the sturdy independence and honesty of its people, for their energy, persistence, will indomitable to defend their rights, and readiness to accord like rights to others. It is a question which presses upon us whether the county in its subsequent history has proved itself worthy its origin, and whether we of to-day deserve such ancestry. This spirit, mingled largely with the spirit of nationality inspired our people to the heroic devotion displayed in the late civil war. Being largely an agricultural people, with no very large towns or cities, and with few millionaires and little chance to grow rich by speculation, we have not been tempted to stray very far from our fathers' ways of industry, economy, simplicity of living and providence for the future. From this little garden and nursery of men how many have gone forth to the broader or more inviting fields of the expanding west and to the great marts of commerce and this seed of Delaware sowing, wherever cast, has burst into harvests to the enrichment of many counties and states. One hundred years hence, when Delaware shall celebrate the second centennial year of her life as a county, when we, who to-day commemorate the virtues of our historic fathers shall have passed into silence; when they compare the present with this, may they find a county and people softened by culture, but true to the indomitable spirit of the past. a people free, independent, intelligent, industrious, sober, honest, virtuous and religious, and above all, happy.

By Mrs. J. K. P. Jackson.

Middletown contains eight hamlets of varying size, namely, New Kingston, in the northern part of the town, on the Plattekill, a tributary of the Delaware River. New Kingston was first settled by the Dutch. The land was given by William Livingston to one hundred families who were left homeless after the burning of Kingston by the British in 1777. This fact gave the

place its name. Later the Scotch element came in predominating numbers. The land is fertile and well adapted to farming—excellent butter is made in large quantities from dairies of blooded cattle, chiefly Jerseys. The village contains one general store, a post office, a fire insurance association, a blacksmith and a cooper shop, U. P. Church, and a district school. The U. P. pastor is Rev. J. B. Pollock.

Arkville, in the central part of the town, derived its name from an incident in the history of one of its oldest houses: In the time of a heavy freshet this house was the only one that was not disturbed by the water that came through the valley. Its location on a high knoll, coupled with being the home of one Noah Dimmick, gave it the name of the ark, from which the name of the hamlet is borrowed. Arkville contains four stores, the Commercial House and Cole's hotel, a graded school with two departments, a Methodist church, a saw and a planing mill. Situated on the Ulster & Delaware R. R. it is the principal depot for farm produce for the western portion of the town of Middletown, and the eastern terminus of one of the few remaining old time stage routes, connecting the Ulster & Delaware with the Ontario & Western at Delhi, twenty-five miles distant. Several large boarding houses for the accommodation of summer guests are here, and their best advertisement is that they are well filled through the summer and fall months. The Hoffman house, surrounded on three sides by forest trees, is the summer home of many artists and lovers of nature. The Locust Grove house is another delightful resort of historical record. This was the property of Edward Livingston who was once Minister to France. While in Paris his style of living plunged him into debt and he mortgaged his estate to a French importer named Laussat, and Joseph Bouchand. They foreclosed the mortgage and built this house about 1812. It was purchased from Laussat by the late Hiram B. Kelly, whose widow, Katie, and son, Eldridge, are now the proprietors.



Dunraven is a post station on the Plattekill. In the days when the country was new, and lumbering and tanning were prominent industries, it contained a grist mill and tannery. Early in the century the first of many tanneries in the town was built here. A primitive feature of this tannery was that the vats for tanning the skins were made by digging holes in the earth and pounding in a lining of blue clay. The destruction of the hemlock forests was followed by the decay of the tanning and milling industries, and to-day the mill and lumber yard of Oliver Smith is all that recalls the past.

On the Delaware river in the western part of the town lies the village of Arena, formerly known as Lumberville, a name significant of the early industry of the place. Arena has an M. E. church, a large district school, a Grand Army Post, three general and one hardware store, a Lodge of I. O. O. F., a fire company, and two hotels. At Grants Mills, four miles southwest of Arena, on the Millbrook stream, is the large boarding house of A. W. and J. M. DeSilva. This region is much sought after by anglers both from city and country.

In the eastern part of the town is Halcottville, named in honor of its first merchant, Matthew Halcott, who was one of the prominent business men of Middletown early in the century. The Ulster & Delaware R. R. passes through the place. It contains one hotel, two general stores, a grange store, a large mill, with flour and feed store. A Methodist church was recently built and Rev. R. S. Beckett is in charge. At the Baptist church Elders Abner Morse and John Clark preside. A new school building has been erected in a sightly part of the village. Lake Wawaka, a fine sheet of water over a mile long, is formed by a dam across the river. On the lake are row boats and a steam launch for pleasure parties.

Kelly's Corners, another station on the Ulster & Delaware R. R. half way between Halcottville and Arkville, contains a store, a post-office, a large creamery and cheese factory. Limburger cheese is manufactured here.

In the eastern end of the town is Griffin Corners, a village that has made rapid growth in the last ten years. It is situated on the Bushkill stream and the Ulster & Delaware R. R. The especial cause of its growth is the summer boarding business. The beauty of the mountain scenery, the pure air and fine water have won the city guest. The village has a fine public library, the gift of a woman who spent several seasons here. It is called the Skene library in honor of Dr. Skene, her husband. Other features of the village are four churches, viz., Methodist, Old School Baptist, Baptist, and Episcopal. There are numerous fine summer boarding houses. The societies are Knights of Pythias, with seventy members, and Good Templars. A bridge over a small stream on Main street divides Griffin Corners from Fleischmanns, named after the senator who built a cottage and laid out beautiful grounds on the hill above the depot. About ten years ago city people began building cottages here, and now thirty-five ornament the hillside. The cost of these with their grounds is from three thousand to forty thousand dollars each. Among the prominent people who make their summer homes here are Mrs. Charles Fleischmann, Mrs. L. Blair a sister of the Senator, Louie Fleischmann and the young widow of Max Fleischmann, and Mrs. Seidl, the widow of the late musician and leader. There are three stores, mill and other enterprises in this place. The people of Fleischmanns have fitted up fine grounds for bicycling and other athletic games, called the Mountain Athletic grounds; here also is a riding school building that cost \$10,000.

Margaretville, the metropolis of Middletown, is located on the East branch of the Delaware, at the foot of Mount Pakatakan, a lofty verdure crowned peak of the Catskills, and near the central part of the town. It was named in honor of the daughter of Governor Morgan Lewis, who at one time owned this tract of land by inheritance from her mother. Her mother was a daughter of Chancellor Livingston. At the time of the Revolution Livingston was the owner of all this section of country. The first settler on





the site of the village was Ignos Dimond, in 1781. He sold the land for £100 to a Mr. Tompkins, who built the first saw mill. Tompkins sold to Jephtha Seager and Solomon Scott.

In 1813 the late Dr. Orson M. Allaben succeeded Mr. Scott as owner of the west half of the farm, and David Sliter the Seager part. At this time Margaretville contained three buildings, a saw mill, mill house, and the house of Solomon Scott, the father of the venerable Methodist minister Russell S. Scott and grandfather of S. F. Scott. The mill house was a frame building, enclosed with plank. It is still in good repair, and occupied as a dwelling. The first hotel was built in 1841 by David Ackerly. It was enlarged by his son J. B. Ackerly in 1871, and again in 1883 and fitted for the accommodation of city boarders.

The first store was kept in the office of Dr. O. M. Allaben. The Doctor and Rev. Ananias Ackerley, his partner, conducted business near the present home of Mr. E. Chute. In 1847 a larger store was built on the corner opposite the Ackerley hotel and occupied in 1849 by Burhaus & Decker. Mr. Decker continued business here until 1855, when he built a more commodious store near his house. In 1876 he sold his business to his son-in-law Orson A. Swart.

Dr. Allaben, believing the old adage "the pen is mightier than the sword," on July 7th, 1863, issued the first number of a weekly paper, called the *Utilitarian*. At this time the county had but five papers. He continued to fill the editorial chair for five years when he sold the paper to A. R. Henderson and H. T. Becker. In 1879 it was purchased by J. K. P. Jackson, a staunch Democrat. In 1881 a second paper was started by Frank Barclay. It was published about five months, then closed its career. In 1891 the *Messenger* was established, owned by a stock company, with John Grant as editor and Dr. J. W. Telford as assistant.

The village of Margaretville was incorporated in 1875. At the first charter election Dr. Smith W. Reed was elected president, E. A. Olmstead, G. G. Decker and A. P. Carpenter trustees. The present corporation officers are: Andrew J. Kaufman president,

Charles Gorsch and Rufus Gayett trustees, Noah D. Olmstead treasurer, Hermon Rotermond street commissioner.

Margaretville has three churches. In 1850 the first Methodist Episcopal church was built, and Rev. R. S. Scott was the preacher and Rev. Richard Decker his assistant. In 1880 the society erected a larger building on Church street. The present pastor is Rev. Orville Van Keuren. This church has a large membership and a flourishing Sunday school. Hon. G. G. Decker has been its superintendent for nearly fifty years. This school was the first in Middletown to establish a class in normal Sabbath school and home department work. So interested was Mr. Decker in having the teachers in his school thoroughly familiar with Bible history, that in 1893 he built a pleasant room connected with the church for the use of those in the normal class.

Through the instrumentality of Rev. W. N. Allaben a Baptist society was organized in 1874. Services were held in the old academy building until the society in 1881 bought and refitted the old Methodist church on Main street.

In 1891 a Presbyterian society was formed with Rev. R. M. Blackburn as preacher, who only remained a few months; he was followed by Rev. Charles Ellis, Mr. Osborn, and Frank B. Seeley. A church was built, and dedicated in August, 1896. The society has made rapid growth. Rev. D. G. Lawson is the present pastor.

A Catholic society holds services once a month, conducted by priests from Stamford or Kingston. At present they have no church, but have been discussing the question of building one.

In 1889 the Catskill Mountain Agricultural Society was formed, with O. M. Allaben, president, J. K. P. Jackson, secretary, O. A. Swart, treasurer, and William R. Swart, general manager. They purchased twenty-six acres of river flat, below the village, from Wm. R. Swart, paying \$2,500; improvements costing \$2,500 were added and the first fair was held in the last week of August, 1889.

Margaretville has four lawyers: A. P. Carpenter, Calvin Hull, J. K. P. Jackson, and S. P. Ives; five physicians: Smith W. Reed,

Charles Allaben, G. T. Brown, J. W. Telford, and William E. Hendry. Dr. Reed, the veteran physician, has practiced here since 1853; he has been superintendent of common schools of the town and has filled the office of Supervisor for ten terms.

Earlier than 1871 the educational advantages of the town were such as could be procured at the ordinary district school of the day, where one teacher was expected to be able to teach sixty or seventy pupils. But in 1871 a new school building was erected and fitted for two departments. This was the first school in the town to employ two teachers. As time advanced and Margaretville became a larger business center the need of a still better school became evident. From 1882 to 1892 Miss Lucy A. Waterbury, a lady of rare ability as a teacher, a daughter of Robert L. Waterbury, taught a select school here. In 1892 at a meeting called for the purpose, it was voted to change the public school into a Union free school, with a school board of nine members, namely William R. Swart, E. L. O'Connor, Mrs. S. P. Ives, J. H. Hitt, C. Hull, Mrs. J. K. P. Jackson, Amos Allison, C. J. Dickson, and C. C. Kaufman. Mr. Swart was deeply interested in the success of the school and gave liberally of his time and money. He was president of the board until his death, when Edward L. O'Connor filled the office.

The first principal was Alvin A. Lewis. A fine library has been added to the school; the building is furnished with running water and heated by steam.

The supervisors who have watched over the interests of Middletown for the last twenty years have been selected from this village. The following list gives the name and time of service of each. From 1880 to 1883, Dr. S. W. Reed; 1884, Dr. O. M. Allaben; 1885, W. F. Doolittle; 1886, S. W. Reed; 1887, James W. Kittle; 1888 to 1892, S. W. Reed; 1892 and 1893, J. W. Kittle, 1894 to 1898, Thomas Winter.

In 1885 a water company was established with \$10,000 capital. The present officers are, Alexander Thompson, president, William

T. Winter, vice-president; A. Albers, secretary and treasurer; E. L. O'Connor, superintendent.

In 1887 the Excelsior Hook and Ladder Company was organized with thirty members, and soon after the Pakatakan Hose Company with twenty-five members. The fire department was accepted by the corporation trustees in 1890. In 1896 a three-story building was erected on Church street for the department.

In 1891 a state bank was organized with a capital of \$25,000, which has been increased to \$40,000. A fine building was built on the corner of Main and Bridge streets. Hon. George G. Decker has been president of the bank since its organization, John Grant its first and Noah Olmstead its present cashier, Howard Swart assistant, E. L. O'Connor vice-president, and J. K. P. Jackson attorney.

The hotels of Margaretville are: The Ackerly House, the Riverside House, the Bouton House. The general mercantile business is represented by many active firms.

There are several societies, the oldest is the Masonic, organized in 1855, Knights of Pythias and Good Templars. Another old organization of the place is the cornet band, formed in 1859, and now, nearly thirty years after, it still contains several of the first members.

In the time of the Civil war Middletown showed her patriotism by sending more men to the front than any other town in the county.

The popularity of Margaretville as a summer resort is each year increasing. Its clear mountain springs from which it receives its water supply, its improved roads and shaded drives, its miles of stone walk, its clean streets and fine mountain scenery attract all who visit the place. During the summer months the population is largely increased by city people. Among those who have built cottages here is the artist, Mr. Henry Mosler, whose paintings are noted both in Europe and America. The normal population of Margaretville is about 800.



Among those people prominent for their usefulness in the town of Middletown may be mentioned Dr. Orson M. Allaben, who came here and settled the year he graduated from Waterville Medical College, Maine, in 1831; here he practiced medicine until his death in 1892. The respect and confidence placed in him by the people is shown by the numerous public offices that he filled, being once a Senator, twice in the Assembly, and seven terms town supervisor. He procured the first legislation relating to the Ulster & Delaware Railroad, and was instrumental in various early town and village improvements.

George G. Decker came to Middletown in 1819. He was instrumental in establishing the Methodist Episcopal church, and especially helpful therein. He has been Supervisor of the town, Member of Assembly, and is now president of the Peoples Bank.

Matthew Griffin, an attorney at Griffin Corners, represented the second district of the county in the Assembly for three years. His son DeWitt Griffin is also an attorney and was Member of Assembly in 1892.

John Grant, a native of this town, was elected State Senator in 1896, the youngest member of that body.

## ROXBURY,

By Dr. J. N. Wright.

IN the year 1788 on the beautiful flats upon which now stands the village of Roxbury, a wandering hunter by the name of Israel Inman built himself a house of logs and made a little clearing. But agriculture was not Israel's forte. The glossy fur of the beaver whose dam across the East branch of the Delaware at that point made those flats a miniature Venice--was vastly more to his taste. But Inman soon had company, for in the next year, 1789, a party of pioneers of about twenty families from Fairfield, Conn. followed a pathway, with blazed trees for a guide, from Catskill, and camped at the mouth of what is now known as Roses Brook in the town of Stamford. Their horses being stabled in the woods to browse, the third day were missing, when a search party, of which Abram Gould was one, started on their trail. They followed them over the mountain and on the other side met Inman who told them he had their horses and invited them to his cabin. So pleased were they with the location that they returned for their families, and persuading two others to come with them they came back over their trail to what is now Grand Gorge, passing through the mountain notch and down the valley to a place now known as West Settlement. Thus the grand old town of Roxbury had its birth.

But another settlement had added materially to the beginning of the town. In the year 1786 that sturdy old Scotchman John More -whose numerous descendants are so closely and honorably associated with the growth and prosperity of this town- established his home near the head waters of the East branch of the Delaware, at a point seven miles east of Inman's cabin, his land



Valley of Roxbury.



clam being now partially covered by the village of Grand Gorge. This beginning was known as More's Settlement, then Moresville, until in 1875 the post office department by reason of the confusion arising from their being a number of similarly named offices in this state changed the name to Grand Gorge, *apropos* of the grand mountain gorge just west of the village.

And now commenced the gigantic undertaking of transforming a howling wilderness into the beautiful town of to-day.

"His echoing axe the settler swung,  
Amid the sea-like solitude,  
And crashing, thundering, down were flung  
The Titans of the wood."

It was soon learned that the bark of the hemlocks which covered the mountain sides could be utilized, and large tanneries sprung into existence along every stream, from which immense quantities of first-class sole leather found its way to the markets of the world. Saw mills on every mountain rivulet furnished lumber for the homes; green pastures and waving meadows appeared, and Roxbury took the place which she long maintained as the first butter town in the United States.

In 1845 Roxbury became involved in what was known as the Anti-Rent war. Masked and armed men disguised as Indians terrorized the peaceable farmers who thought differently from themselves in regard to leased land. Many serious and ludicrous incidents occurred, a fair specimen being the battle of Shacksville. As the signal for the gathering of the Indians was the blowing of a horn the farmers were forbidden to use theirs to call their men to meals. John B. Gould, the father of the late Jay Gould, refused to submit to their dictation and proceeded to blow his horn when and where he pleased, until one noon after a particularly long and aggravating blast, a tribe of warriors swooped down upon him to execute vengeance. The old man, instead of begging for mercy, quietly took down his old flint lock rifle from the antlers where it hung and confronted them. That and the ominous

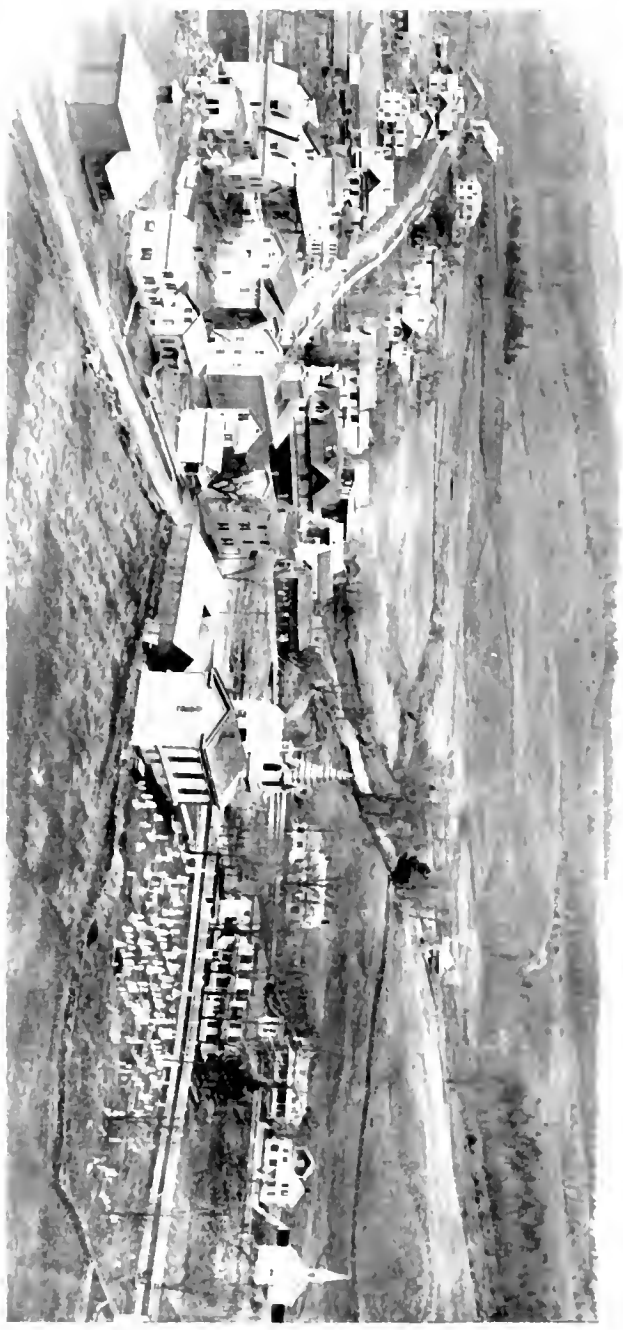
clicking of the lock was enough; in less time than it takes to tell it nothing could be seen but the cloud of dust raised by those bold warriors as they scooted for tall timber, and the battle of Shacksville was over. These differences however were soon adjusted, but more or less of the anti-rent feeling prevailed until other issues absorbed the attention of its followers.

When the war cloud of 1861 spread its gloom over the country Roxbury sent nearly one hundred of her sons to defend the integrity of the nation. Enlisting in fighting regiments over sixty of them sleep where they fell on the field of battle, or in the trenches near the prison pens of Richmond, Saulsbury and Andersonville. Only about thirty of their more fortunate comrades are peacefully waiting for their final muster out as residents of this town.

The building of the Ulster & Delaware Railroad in 1872 marked a new era in the history of this town, making many changes in long established customs and putting in touch with the outside world in a manner never dreamed of by its early settlers. And though the town was bonded for the large sum of \$150,000 for the construction of this road, it has all been paid, and now this town has within its borders over fourteen miles of one of the finest and best managed railroads in the state. Its people can now leave their homes in the morning, go to New York, transact a fair amount of business and return by nine o'clock in the evening, a wonderful change from the old five days journey by stage coach and steamboat.

Roxbury has had the honor of contributing two county judges to the bench of this county. Edwin More, who was the first county judge elected under the constitution of 1846, and William Gleason, who was elected in 1851 and again in 1859, serving eight years. Its citizens have also many times represented this county in the legislature at Albany.

In this brief sketch it is utterly impossible even to mention the names of those who have been prominent in the history of this







town. Yet memory loves to dwell upon the names of John More who more perhaps than any other can be called the founder of Roxbury; of Jay Gould, the most brilliant financier of the age, who was born and grew to manhood in a typical Roxbury home; of Hon. Edward L. Burhans, the able and conscientious magistrate and sagacious man of business; of Charles Harley, who for his whole long life was the honored merchant, genial companion and trusted adviser of the entire eastern portion of the town, and of John C. and Joseph Keator, whose enterprise did so much to make the beautiful valley of Batavia the splendid section that it is to-day.

The town of Roxbury has a population of 2,344 who receive their mail from four well conducted post offices. Eight churches of the following denominations are well supported—Three Methodist Episcopal, two Reformed, two (old school) Baptist, and one Baptist; all of them having excellent edifices, and their pulpits supplied with eloquent and earnest pastors.

Two beautiful villages are within its borders, Roxbury and Grand Gorge. The incorporated village of Roxbury is second to no village in the county. It has wide, level, well shaded and well lighted streets, the best possible system of water works, a well equipped fire department, a union free school supplied with all the modern methods of education, a live newspaper, two ample and well arranged public halls, three fine churches, one of them the Gould Memorial church, erected in loving memory of their father by the children of the late Jay Gould, having a deservedly national reputation.

A large number of first-class villas and cottages are every season filled with summer guests, while the private homes of Roxbury are beautiful and modern. Kirk-side, the elegant and spacious summer residence of Helen Miller Gould, is an ornament of which any village might be proud, while the presence of Miss Gould in the town is a benison indeed. Her interest in every public improvement, the establishment and maintenance of a public

library, her unostentatious and elegant hospitality, combine to place her among the most beloved of women.

“Our homes are cheerier for her sake,  
Our dooryards brighter blooming,  
And all about the social air  
Is sweeter for her coming.

Her presence lends its warmth and health,  
To all who come before it;  
If woman lost us Eden, such  
As she alone restore it.”

The village of Grand Gorge is what may be justly called a modern and up-to-date village. A mere hamlet in 1872, the building of the Ulster & Delaware railroad gave it an impetus, and a steady and substantial growth has been the result. Its situation commands the trade of a large portion of Greene and Schoharie counties, which with its extensive milk business makes it an extremely lively village. It has two admirable churches, two large creameries, two mammoth mercantile establishments, a splendid school, a fine system of water works, and its residences are without exception in first-class condition and of modern construction. It entertains a large number of summer guests, and is in all respects a good place in which to exist.

Batavia, about four miles south of Roxbury village, is one of the most beautiful valleys in the county, and is a thriving farming community. It has two churches, a post office, and many of the finest farms and farm buildings in the town, and its inhabitants are altogether a happy and prosperous people.

Such is a brief history of the town of Roxbury in 1897, Delaware county's centennial year. Its future is bright with many pleasant anticipations which are sure to be realized, and it will always hold its position among the first towns in our county.

The following is a complete list of the persons who have held the office of Supervisor:

1799, 1806, Isaac Hardenbergh; 1807, 1808, Joshua Ferris; 1809-25, 1832, 1838, John T. More; 1826, 1827, 1830, David P.

Mapes; 1828, 1829, Lewis Hardenbergh; 1831, 1833, 1834, 1842, Jonas More; 1835, Alexander Daniels; 1836, Daniel Rowland; 1837, 1843, 1844, 1846, 1847, Thomas Keator; 1839, 1853, 1854, 1857, 1864-66, E. I. Burhans; 1840, 1841, Harvey Keator; 1845, John S. More; 1848, Sherman S. Street; 1849, 1860, Ira Hicks; 1850, Martin Kelly; 1851, 1852, 1855, 1863, Alexander H. Burhans; 1856, Jonas M. Smith; 1858, 1872, 1873, Edward Burhans; 1859, Benjamin Scudder; 1860, Charles Harley; 1862, Alexander More; 1867, Jacob Newkirk; 1868, Hiram Meeker; 1869, Abram Van Dyke; 1870, 1871, George W. Lauren; 1874, Andrew J. Corbin; 1875, 1876, Henry C. Soop; 1877, John E. Newkirk; 1878, 1879, O. A. Meeker; 1880, 1881, Daniel D. Andrus; 1882, Charles G. Keator; 1883, George W. Lauren; 1884, Daniel T. Keator; 1885, Charles G. Keator; 1886, 1887, Almerin Cartwright; 1888, 1894-97, David S. Booth; 1889-91, B. B. Bouton; 1892, Charles Schermerhorn; 1893, Ezra H. Bartram.

Prior to 1870, the following held the office of Town Clerk:

John T. More, John E. Burhans, Otis Preston, Thomas Montgomery, Jonathan B. Cowles, John Frisbee, Novatus Blish, Dubois Burhans, Ezekiel Preston, E. Follett, Thomas Keator, Truman C. Bidwell, John P. Burhans, A. C. Cowles, A. H. Tyler, Alexander H. Burhans, Samuel B. Follett, Hiram Meeker, Daniel W. McGarry, Silas S. Cartwright, Orrin A. Meeker, Richard W. Van Dyke, John C. Van Dyke, John E. Newkirk, Fred J. Youngman, William W. Noble, Henry C. Soop.

The early Justices of the Peace were the following:

Alexander Daniels, Harvey Keator, Daniel Rowland, Henry T. Becker, Timothy Cartwright, Edward I. Burhans, Harvey Keator, Samuel More, Samuel Scudder, Eli Wright, Cyrus Graves, David M. Smith, Benjamin H. Akin, A. C. Cowles, Lewis Stratton, Erastus Mead, Solomon P. Moffatt, Nelson K. Dart, Hiram Meeker, Albert R. Terwilager, George A. Dart, George A. Dent, Robert B. Smith, Almerin Cartwright, John T. Grant, Jacob K. Benjamin, Erastus Mead, Ezra Mead, William D. Powell, Samuel B. Shout.

## Sidney.

By Edwin R. Wattle.

...

**S**IDNEY was originally part of the town of Harpersfield. Harpersfield was created a town in Otsego county in 1778, and embraced lands between the Susquehanna, Charlotte and Delaware rivers. It included besides the present town of Harpersfield, Franklin, Sidney, part of Bainbridge, and part of Afton.

Harpersfield was then in Montgomery county—the name Montgomery having been substituted in place of Tryon, because Governor Tryon was a tory. In 1791 the county of Otsego was created from Montgomery, and the town of Harpersfield, including Franklin and Sidney, became part of Otsego. In 1792, Harpersfield was divided, the western part being called Franklin,—and Franklin was made to include what is now Sidney,—and Sidney was taken off from Franklin in 1801. The name of Sidney was given in honor of Sir Sidney Smith, a British Admiral, who about that time had achieved great success in Syria (Asia Minor) by checking the progress of Napoleon Bonaparte. Sidney prior to this time was called Susquehanna Flats, but at the suggestion of an English school master named Mandeville, the name was changed to Sidney.

Rev. William Johnston, one of the earliest pioneers of our town, was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1713. This remarkable man received a thorough education at Edinburgh University, Scotland. He came to this country when a young man, and married Miss Cummins, an English lady. It is not fully known where he resided during all the time prior to his removal to this town, but it is believed that it was in the vicinity of Albany. His occupation had been that of a minister of the gospel, of the Presbyterian Calvinistic faith. His wife was a lady of education, and was in receipt of an

Village of Siney.





annuity of £150, which, however, ceased after the breaking out of the war. Interesting incidents are related in the career of the elder Johnston, and the tradition is that the notorious Brant met General Herkimer by appointment in the summer of 1777, encamped on what is now known as the Milton Johnston farm one mile below the village of Sidney. Here they held a conference and the Rev. William Johnston was present at the interview, and Brant asked him which side he was on, and Mr. Johnston told him he was on the side of the people.

Soon after these occurrences the Johnston family removed for safety to Cherry Valley. Before leaving they secreted some rude farm utensils that they could not carry with them, burying them in the ground and under the hearth in the cabin.

After the massacre at Cherry Valley, Hugh and Witter went to Schenectady and Florida in the Mohawk valley, where their father died in 1783, after preaching a sermon celebrating the result of the war. Witter and Hugh returned to Sidney in 1784, bringing their mother with them.

The following obituary notice of the son Hugh is worth preserving: "Died at Sidney Plains, October 23, 1833, Hugh Johnston, aged 70 years. Captain Hugh Johnston was born April 10th, 1763, in Duanesborough, New York. He, with his father, Rev. William Johnston, with other connections, came to the Susquehanna Flats, now Sidney, in 1775. They were the first settlers in that part of the county, and for two years suffered all the hardships and privations of a new country. In June, 1777, they were obliged to leave their homes and flee before an invading foe. Brant, a chief, with one hundred and ten warriors, came and burnt their buildings and slaughtered their cattle."

At Sidney was the site of an old Indian fort where three acres of ground were enclosed by mounds of earth, surrounded by a ditch; and for a long time this enclosure was called the Fort Grounds.

In company with Mr. T. G. Smith we visited recently the old

Indian burial place, located near the Ontario & Western bridge across the Susquehanna river at Sidney. We found a circular, hay-stack looking mound about one hundred feet in diameter at the base, and ten feet in height, well authenticated as their burial place. Since that time one of the early tribes assembled on Moses hill just across the river, and decided to make an encampment where Sidney village is now located. Some of the tribes remained there for many years. Excavations and examinations of this mound have proved it beyond doubt to be an Indian burial ground. The unearthing of arrow heads and other relics was sufficient evidence to induce the people to have the mound remain intact. Mr. Arthur Bird suggested to the village fathers to have a monument of an Indian chief placed on the mound, holding in his hand the calumet, or pipe of peace, a deserved and appropriate memorial of the "Indian lover" and "his dusky mate."

The first grist mill west of Harpersfield was built in 1778 by Abram Fuller, on the Ouleout, near Wattles Ferry. An inn was opened by Nathaniel Wattles at the Ferry in 1785. The first raft was sent down the river to Harrisburg, in 1795, by Captain David McMasters.

In 1787 a great scarcity of provisions occasioned much distress in this valley, and the settlers were saved from starvation by a boat load of flour from Northumberland, Pennsylvania, brought to them through the exertions of General Daniel Bates.

The second settlement of white people was made upon the Ouleout in the summer of 1785, by Sluman Wattles, who was afterwards Justice of the Peace and a Judge of the County Court. Mr. Wattles was born in 1752, of Scotch descent, in Lebanon, Connecticut, and died in Sidney in 1837, aged 85 years. Arriving in this state he first settled for a short time at New Canaan, and moved from there to a place upon the West branch of the Delaware, at or near what is now called Bloomville. Leaving this place Mr. Wattles located in Franklin, upon what is now known as the Taylor farm, where he commenced clearing a piece of land, and the following



year went back after his family, bringing them with him on his return. In the course of this journey a daughter was born to them, the first white female child born in Delaware county. Previous to moving his family the Judge had made some improvements, having erected a log cabin, the covering or roof as well as the upper and under floors of which were composed of elm bark. As near as we can learn this was in 1785. About this time John and Alexander Harper bought of the Indians the right and title to a large tract of land, and soon after sold their contract to a company, who petitioned the State for a grant of a patent of land. The patent was granted to Peter V. B. Livingstone, and was known for a long time as the Wattles patent, the Judge being one of the four proprietors. The Harpers having failed to pay the proprietors, Judge Wattles went to Governor Clinton and related the circumstances. The Governor asked him if he had the money due the State, and learning that he had, they both went before the Legislature and the Governor stated the business of Judge Wattles, and thereupon an act was passed reinstating them in the contract. Soon after Judge Wattles, standing upon the banks of the Outcut, called by the Indians "Leafy Water," surrounded by the swarthy denizens of the forest, made with them a memorable treaty. And many times thereafter during the frequent troubles that arose he was able, by this treaty, to save himself and family from being massacred.

In this brief sketch many incidents and reminiscences must be omitted; but we would pay a grateful tribute to the memory of those grand men who when quenching their thirst from the flowing springs of the forest displayed a character as pure as the fountain itself.

We have in our possession Judge Wattles' old account book, more than a century old, written by his own hand with ink made from the bark of a tree, with a pen made from the wing of a bird captured in the same dense wilderness. In this book, now yellow with age, we find historical records of great value, legal

documents and papers, which when we consider the dates when they were written, indicate remarkable ability. And what Mr. Francis W. Halsey said of him after a careful study of Judge Wattles' life and character was true: "When Sluman Wattles left this world he took a man's life with him."

Also we find in this book running accounts with Peter V. B. Livingstone, Jonathan Bush, Solomon Martin and many others in 1791, and later with Daniel Root and all of the early settlers. Two entries of early dates read: "Nov. 29, 1790. Benj. Hovey Dr. to cash 0 £ 15s and 10d, to be delivered at Ball's in Catskill. April 6, 1791, to cash received of Peter V. B. Livingstone, £11 4s and 7d."

While cordially acknowledging our willingness to do honor to the pioneers of every town in our county we take honorable pride in the mention of the Johnstons, Smiths, Bidwells, Hodges and Burdicks, who figured so prominently in the Susquehanna and Onleout valleys.

The next settlement was made upon Carr's Creek, at what is now Sidney Centre, in 1793. The first pioneer was Jacob Bidwell, who located upon the farm where Harper W. Dewey now resides. The coming of "Uncle Jacob," as he was familiarly known, was some years after the close of the Revolutionary war. Peace had been restored, Indian hostilities had practically ceased, and though living in a dense wilderness very far removed from neighbors and friends, they enjoyed a sense of security and safety. Still, they had their battles to fight and we can imagine something of the sufferings and hardships of these early pioneers.

Earliest among the wants of the earliest settlers was that of a grist mill. It was more a necessity than a saw mill, because a good axe could cut and hew logs for a cabin and could thus delay the advent of sawn timber for years. But with flour and meal the case was more urgent. The hollow top of a tough stump, or a hollow boulder, soon became inadequate to meet the wants of the new comers. One of the first grist mills on the



View of the village.



upper Susquehanna was built on Carr's Creek. It was built a few years before the one which Abram Fuller set up on the Onleont, and thirty years earlier than the one built in Unadilla village. At the Baxter mill a small amount of grinding meal was done before 1778, and sixteen years later it was destroyed by fire. John Carr, its builder, and the builder of a saw mill on the same site, is familiarly known in local annals as a tory. When Joseph Brant first came to Unadilla in June, 1777, Carr was one of those whom he allowed to remain because he had declared himself for the King.

Another early settlement in our town was made in 1795 by Captain Samuel Smith, at what is now known as Franklin Depot, but for many years as Smith Settlement. Mr. Smith came from Bennington, Vermont, and first settled on the farm lately owned by Richard Ostrander. The father of Captain Smith was killed at the battle of Bennington, and Mr. Lyman B. Smith, a well-known business man of Binghamton, is one of his grandsons.

Jonathan Burdick was another of the early settlers of Sidney. His father, Elisha Burdick, came to Kortright in 1810. Mr. Burdick's father was a soldier in the war for independence, serving five years. He was at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, and he had been one of the guards when Major Andre was taken from the old Dutch church to the place of execution.

Joseph Niles moved to this town in 1812. He was drafted to go to the war and hired a man to go in his stead, who went to Sackett's Harbor under General Root. David Baker came in 1816 and settled near the village of Sidney Centre, at which time the land upon which this flourishing village now stands, with the exception of one little spot, was an unbroken forest.

Mr. James Hughston settled soon after Mr. Wattles did, and settled on the Onleont. It was then a very dense wilderness, and so thick were the trees and bushes that it was said to be impossible to drive a pair of yoked oxen from Mr. Hughston's house to Wattles' ferry. Mr. Hughston moved his wife into this town on horseback, with her bed and other articles strapped on the

horse; and she used to relate, among other incidents, how she made a cradle for her first child from a piece of a hollow tree. Mr. Hughston lived and died at Sidney, was a magistrate in the town for about forty years, was several times supervisor and once a member of the State Legislature.

Soon after the Revolutionary war, Adam Rifenbark settled on the bank of the Susquehanna, near what is now called Crookerville. It is said he was a deserter from the British army.

Timothy Beach, about the same time, moved his family into a cabin he had built at the junction of the Ouleout and Susquehanna, where he lived a number of years and was drowned in the river by an Indian. He has numerous descendants residing in this county.

In the year 1789 Isaac Hodges came from the town of Florida, on the Mohawk river, to the Ouleout to look for lands for his sons to settle on. He purchased 500 acres, being a part of the patent surveyed by Judge Wattles a few years previous. He paid ten shillings an acre, and divided this land among his four sons, Hezekiah, Benjamin, Isaac, and Josiah. Early in the spring of 1790, Hezekiah with his wife and three brothers took possession of the land. They moved with a yoke of oxen and one horse, and carried their few household goods and provender for the oxen on a sort of sled with crooked runners, which was called a dray, and was so constructed as to easily pass over logs and other obstructions. They arrived at their destination the 29th day of April, 1790, with 200 pounds of hay for their team and a little corn. On the day after their arrival the snow fell two feet deep, and the intensely cold weather and scarcity of provisions and fodder caused them much suffering.

In 1797 Stephen Dewey with his sons, William, Roger and David, settled on the Ouleout about one mile above. Soon after William, afterwards well known as Colonel Dewey, purchased the farm and resided on it until his death. He filled many public positions, having served as Supervisor of the town of Sidney, and a member of the Legislature. He married the daughter of Judge

Wattles referred to as the first white female child born in Delaware county.

Among other early settlers were Jonathan Bush, at whose house the first town meeting was held; and one Stevens, who ran a grist mill on the Onleont, and also the first and only distillery for making whiskey in the town. Some other early pioneers were Oliver Gager, a captain in the militia; Nathaniel Wolcott, Josiah Thatcher, for many years Town Clerk; William Evans, and others. Most of these old settlers raised large families and left numerous descendents, some of whom still remain in Sidney, but most of them are widely scattered.

Jonathan Carley came from Dutchess county and settled on the banks of the Susquehanna in the year 1795, two miles below Otego village. He found a family by the name of Collyer there, who came a few years earlier. Josiah Chase also came about that time; Laban Crandall, John French, Jerry Reed and Godfrey Calder came immediately after. The first school in that part of the town of Sidney was taught by Miss Abigail Reed, in Mr. Calder's barn.

John Avery settled at Sidney Plains (now Sidney) in the year 1798, and died in 1836, aged 80 years. He was born at Ashford Corner, and served in the Revolution.

Levi Baxter came to Sidney in 1805. He was a man of marvelous industry and energy, and died at the age of 87. Squire Baxter was the son of Mr. Francis Baxter, a Revolutionary soldier who during the war was taken prisoner by the tories and after suffering much abuse was incarcerated in that infamous den, the New York Sugar House.

Deacon Peter Bradley came to Sidney at the close of the Revolutionary war and resided there until his death in about 1811. He settled on the farm where General Herkimer and Brant, the Indian chieftain, held their conference in 1777.

Space forbids especial notice of many of the early pioneers, and the records are lost of others deserving of mention. Milton C. Johnston of Sidney, Witter Johnston of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and

Laurens Johnston of Challis, Iowa, now living, are great grandchildren of the Rev. William Johnston.

The section of the town of Sidney lying upon the Ouleout creek, at the point where Wattles ferry was built, for a long term of years was the principal business part of the town. It was here that Judge Wattles many times held court, and here elections, general trainings and town meetings were held. At this place also the Hon. Samuel Gordon was born.

Closely connected with the interests of early Sidney, and of very great local and commercial advantage, was the construction of the Catskill turnpike. The opening of this great thoroughfare from Catskill to what was then Wattles Ferry, along the Ouleout, a distance of eight miles through our town, was an important enterprise all along the line, and also gave a wonderful impetus to the business of the village of Unadilla, immediately across the river. The Catskill Turnpike, as a turnpike, dates from the year 1802; but the road itself was of much older date than that. The road followed lines nearly straight, and ran through lands owned by the stockholders. Little regard was had for grade, the main purpose being to make the land accessible and marketable. It soon became a famous highway between the two rivers, the Hudson and Susquehanna. Toll gates were built every ten miles, and the immense amount of travel provided funds to pay the stockholders and kept the road in fine condition. The rates of toll were as follows: For twenty sheep or hogs, eight cents; for twenty horses or cattle, twenty cents; for a horse and rider, five cents; for a horse and chaise, twelve and one-half cents; for a coach, twenty-five cents; for a stage or wagon, twelve and one-half cents. Two stages were kept regularly on the road, the fare five cents a mile. A stage that left Catskill Wednesday, reached Wattles' Ferry Friday night.

The town of Sidney is located in the northwest corner of the county, and is bounded on the north by the Susquehanna river, on the east by Franklin, on the south by Masonville, and on the west by the town of Bainbridge, (Chenango Co.) The town



comprises a large area of productive and fertile land. It has two enterprising villages: Sidney, located on the Susquehanna, and Sidney Centre, on Carr's Creek. The village of Sidney Centre contains a population of about 500, and Sidney about 3,000; while the entire town according to the census of 1850 contained 1,807 inhabitants, and by that of 1890, 3,112. At the organization of the town in 1801 the inhabitants must have consisted of a few families at Sidney, Jacob Bidwell at Sidney Centre, Capt. Samuel Smith at what is now Franklin Depot, and a few squatters along Carr's Creek.

The thriving village of Sidney Centre, located on the New York, Ontario & Western railway, contains seven stores, two fine churches, and two large creameries; while the energy and enterprise of its business men insures a healthy and steady growth. The first school built in the Sidney Centre district was located where George Simpson's barn now stands, and one of the first teachers was Miss Lydia Knapp, afterwards the wife of Daniel S. Dickinson. Garrett Dedrick kept the first store, and William Smith was the first postmaster. Mr. William Johnston of Penn., speaking of himself in a friendly letter says: "I might say, and truthfully too, that I helped to swing the axe right and left to cut down the timber where the beautiful village of Sidney Centre now is." He says further, "Samuel Niles was a good mower, and Launt Thompson was the only man who could go barefoot the year through." If space allowed mention could be made of many worthy men and women, and many interesting events described, but it is enough to call attention to the wonderful changes made during the century. In the place of hardship and suffering we see well cultivated farms and handsome villages; instead of being compelled to go to Schoharie to mill with a peck or half-bushel of Indian corn to be ground into meal to keep our families from starvation, we have everything in abundance growing on our own farms, or brought to our doors from all the markets of the world. Truly this fact presents an object lesson worthy our consideration.

The log cabin was an evolution of the wigwam and was the first dwelling of the wilderness, where the pioneer attempted to construct a home. Rude as it was it secured warmth and safety to the family, and sheltered men and women of noble character and daring enterprise. The great stone chimney at one end of the cabin became the roaring tunnel for the household fire. At that time fire, in the form of living coals, was as carefully guarded and preserved as was the sacred fire of old. It was the last and most binding duty of the pioneer before retiring at night to bury the fire, and the first necessity in the early morning was to search the ashes for living coals, and failing in that the next and only recourse was an early journey to the nearest neighbor, (which was often a long distance,) to borrow a shovelful of coals. It is a long step from that condition of affairs to the turning on of the electric light by a simple motion of the hand; and think of all that has come between, since the pioneer and his family sat in the blaze of the open fireplace, heaping on boughs of wood to make a light by which the pages of an old book could be read!

This town was represented in the Senate by John M. Betts in 1848-49. Jonas A. Hughston was Member of Congress in 1855. Members of Assembly were Sluman Wattles in 1800, Nathaniel Wattles in 1798, (then Franklin), William Dewey in 1816, Charles Rogers in 1853, Samuel Rexford in 1823, James Hughston in 1832, Reuben Lewis in 1846, Ira E. Sherman in 1865, and 1886, Albert H. Sewell in 1878, Robert Courtney in 1863, Robert Cartwright in 1895, Timothy Sanderson in 1883.

Our town is highly favored as a railroad center. The Albany and Susquehanna, now owned by the Delaware and Hudson company, was built in 1866, and runs three miles within our boundaries. The New York, Ontario & Western railway was built in 1870, giving the town fourteen miles more of railway. The New Berlin Branch, running from Sidney to Edmeston, was completed in 1873. The junction of the great thoroughfares at Sidney give the village remarkable shipping facilities, and induce passenger travel, trade and commerce from many points.

One of the most important industries of Sidney is the Silk Mill Company employing 150 hands. The raw silk is imported from Japan and manufactured into ladies' gloves and mitts. The dyeing and weaving are all done here, fifteen looms being in operation for weaving the cloth, and each loom weaving a web ten feet wide.

The Novelty Works used twenty-nine car loads of lumber in the month of May, employing 100 hands.

The Sidney Glass Works employ 100 hands in making bottles of every description, and the Cart and Carriage Company and the Lumber Machinists, each employs a large force in their extensive businesses.

The Sidney National Bank was organized, with a capital of \$50,000, in December, 1887, with John A. Clark as president, Shuman L. Wattles as vice-president, and James L. Clark is the present cashier. The bank declared no dividend for eight years, at the end of which time its surplus equalled its original capital.

Space will allow us to mention only a few of the conspicuous men of Sidney. The Hon. Ira E. Sherman (lately deceased) was held in the highest esteem, and his fine sense of honor, ability and kindness, made his presence seem like a benediction. His fame as a poet is widespread, and from a brooklet, river, or old ruin he would weave a song story in language surpassingly beautiful.

Mr. H. C. Weller is the oldest business man in our town, and by honorable business methods has been very successful and enjoys the confidence of his many friends in a remarkable degree.

Mr. T. G. Smith enjoys a reputation not confined to our town or county. Retiring a few years since from active pursuits, he made a trip to the old country, visiting London, Paris, Naples, Florence, Rome and Vienna, and also traversed Holland and Belgium. His correspondence, while abroad, was published in the metropolitan journals, and read with the greatest interest by many people. His description of the "City of the Sea," and other historic places, was appreciated and recognized by all who had the pleasure of reading his letters.

The village of Sidney contains five churches: Congregational, Methodist Episcopal, Baptist, Episcopal and Roman Catholic.

The first newspaper printed in Sidney was the *Star*, in 1876. We now have the *Sidney Record*, *Sidney Advocate* and the *Transcript*—the last named published at Sidney Centre. The first number of the *Sidney Record*,—Arthur Bird editor,—was issued December 8, 1882. The population of the village at that time was 550. The organization of the Sidney National Bank, and the energetic work of the distinguished editor of the *Record*, gave a powerful impetus to the business prosperity of Sidney. Citizens of our town are proud of the honorable career of Mr. Bird, in public and private life, and appreciate his manly work in their behalf. This gentleman received the appointment of United States Vice-Consul General at Port-au-Prince, Hayti, in the year 1879.

Sidney was the first village in the county to have an organized police force. Mr. Leroy Smith is the Chief, and under his supervision the town feels comparatively secure.

In conclusion we would pay a grateful tribute to the noble pioneers of every town who laid the foundation for all we have, and make their lives and character an object lesson for our young men to appreciate and value the rugged integrity and faithful industry of those grand men. The past is history and the future is the unwritten page. Of our unparalleled advancement in science, and the possibilities already accomplished they could not have had the faintest conception. And when we review the wonderful growth of our towns, state, and nation, a panorama of astonishing events is constantly before us, and indeed, it is true that the future is known only to a kind Providence and His knowledge is

"The Divinity that shapes our ends,  
Rough hew them as we will."

Village of Stamford





## Stamford.

Written for this History.

...

THE present town of Stamford was formerly a part of Ulster county, or as it was termed "Original County;" that is it was a county organized before New York State was under its first constitution as a state. An Act to divide the Province of New York into provinces, shires and counties was passed November 4, 1683. The act provided: "That the said province be divided into twelve counties," to wit, City and County of New York, Westchester, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Richmond, Kings, Queens, Suffolk, Dukes and Cornwall. The two latter counties were afterward surrendered to Massachusetts.

The first known settlers in the town were Dr. Stewart and John and Alex. More, who emigrated from Scotland in 1773. Two years afterwards they were followed by James Stewart, William Fraser, Simon Fraser, Daniel and Abijah Bennett. Others who came were Elijah Baldwin, son of Caleb Baldwin, a captain in the Revolutionary army, who came to Stamford early in 1792, Philander Smith, a practicing physician, Stephen Beers, a native of Stamford, Conn., Beth Griffin, Burton Judson, Isaac Gould, Benj. Gilbert. These pioneers located in what was called the Township Valley, on Town Brook, and about five miles from its mouth. It was the intention of the early settlers to make this place the center of business. Accordingly an act was passed by the Legislature, surveys made and a town plot, one mile square, was laid out into plots forty rods square, with eight streets running at right angles. For a new country this locality was quite thickly settled previous to the Revolution, most of the settlers coming from Stamford, Conn. The Indians and Tories drove them out and many of them were

compelled to return to their native State. But with the close of the war they returned and again sought the beautiful valley.

Many of the settlers being from Stamford, Fairfield county, Connecticut, the name of their former place of residence was given to this locality, and it was called New Stamford. Two years later (April 6, 1790) an Act of the Legislature authorized the laying out of a road through to the Delaware and Susquehanna valleys. The road extended from near the mouth of the Ouleout to the Hudson river. For that purpose the land commissioners were authorized to draw from the state treasury a sum "not exceeding eight hundred pounds." The contract for building this road was awarded to Nathaniel Wattles and Medad Hunt, but proving ruinous the contractors were relieved in 1793 by a further grant of one hundred and twenty pounds. The advantages of a road built by the state elated the people and in a comparatively short time the number of settlers increased; mills were built and an air of activity prevailed throughout the country.

The number of settlers increased so rapidly that the formation of a new town was desired. This section was then embraced in the town of Woodstock, as the territory of that town then extended to the Delaware river. An application for that purpose was made to the Legislature, which on April 10, 1792, enacted as follows:

"All that part of the town of Woodstock in the county of Ulster bounded West by the west bounds of the county of Ulster, South by the north bounds of Middletown, East by a line to begin on the side bounds of Middletown, two miles east of Papacton river, and running northerly to a monument number seventeen at the head of said Papacton river, and thence continuing the same course northerly until it meets the line of Albany county, shall be erected into a separate town by the name of Stamford, and the first town meeting in Stamford shall be held at the house of Peter Knapp."

This meeting was held on Tuesday, April 2, 1793. Patrick Lane was superintendent of the meeting and Peter Osborn moderator. These officers were elected for one year: George Squires, town



clerk; Samuel Ingersoll, constable; Andrew Beers, supervisor; Joshua Wright, Silas Knapp, Abijah Bennett, assessors; Daniel Bennett, Samuel Merriam, Israel Inman, commissioners of high ways; Hugh Rose and James Grant, overseers of poor; George McKenna, Ezra Hart, Peter Osborn, Allen Grant, Salmon Mallett, Jacob Smither, John Wright, district roadmasters; Abraham Gould, Ezra Hait, Simon Frasier, fence viewers and damage prisers; Peter Shearman, Salmon Tousey, Israel Inman, pound masters. The next annual town meeting was held at the house of Philo Norton.

The question of a new county became a subject for consideration as the settlement increased between the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers. On the 10th of March, 1797, by an Act of the Legislature the county of Delaware became a fact. The entire territory of the county at first comprised the towns of Stamford, Harpersfield, Kortright, Franklin, Middletown and Colchester, but a short time afterward the town of Walton was added.

When first formed the town of Stamford had an area of 81,000 acres. It possessed all that part of the county of Delaware lying north of the northern bounds of Great Lot No. 10 in the Hardenburgh Patent. The direct length of its south line was about sixteen and three-fourth miles, and of its eastern line about eleven and one-half miles. Its northern line was eleven miles and its western side, direct from corner to corner, about thirteen and one-fourth miles. About two years afterward its area was reduced more than half by the formation of the town of Roxbury. In 1820 it sustained another loss of territory by the erection of the town of Bovina. Ten years later (1830) six lots were taken from Harpersfield at the village of Hobart and annexed to Stamford.

Prior to 1820 the town meetings were held down the Delaware and on Rose's Brook, with one exception, (1791) when it was held at the house of Abel Watkins in the Town Plat. Town meetings were subsequently held at the Masonic hall in Waterville, now Hobart, and the town house has ever since been located there.

The first justice of the peace elected was Duncan McDonald, who was elected at the annual town meeting held April 6, 1830. The methods of voting for town officers prior to 1822 was by  *viva voce*, raising the hand, or by the voters arranging themselves on either side of the room and being counted. The first justices being made by appointment no record is obtainable. But by official signatures it is found that Patrick Lamb held the office in 1793, being succeeded by Benjamin Ackerly, 1794, Andrew Beers, 1795; Isaac Hardenburg, 1796, Hugh Rose, 1797, Asahel E. Paine, 1802, Elijah Canfield, 1803, etc.

In 1860 a town insurance company was formed with these officers: Jacob B. Van Housen, Charles Griffin, Henry Pratt, Nelson L. Thorp, Cyrenus Gibbs, Lyman Wilcox, Frances R. Gilbert, Wm. R. Beckley and Robt. T. Hume. Mr. Wilcox was chosen president, and Mr. Gilbert secretary.

The following from Stamford have been Members of Assembly: Patrick Lamb, 1800; John Lamb, 1803; Anthony Marvin, 1805-06; Robert Clark, 1813; James G. Redfield, 1829; John Griffin, 1836; Orrin Griffin, 1842; Orrin Foote, 1846; Daniel Stewart, 1853; John Haxten, 1856; Frances R. Gilbert, 1863-64; Isaac H. Maynard, 1876-77; John S. McNaught, 1879.

In 1850 Levinus Monson of Hobart was elected a Justice of the Supreme Court (Sixth Judicial district). Only one man from Stamford was ever elected to the office of County Judge—Isaac H. Maynard in 1878.

Those residents of the town who have been elected and served as Sheriffs of the county are Duncan J. Grant, 1835-37; DeWitt C. Thomas, 1847-49; Baldwin Griffin, 1859-61; William R. Clark, 1877-79.

Many volunteers from Stamford helped to form the 144th Regiment, which left Delhi for the front on Sept. 27, 1862. Among those who enlisted were Wesley W. Sanford, Omer Champlin, Beers Grant, James Grant, and many others whose names we have not space to mention.

Among those who resided in the town a century ago were: Stephen Adams, Samuel Adee, David Austin, Samuel Babbitt, Sylvanus Brigham, Andrew Beers, John Bennett, Amos Baldwin, Thomas Brooks, James Bouton, Asa Beach, Archibald Burgess, Thomas Crosby, Alexander Cummings, Heman Dewey, Samuel Davis, Daniel Foote, Joshua Ferris, James Grant, Isaac Gould, Heth Griffin, John Hayes, Ezra Hoyt, Eseek Inman, Benjamin Jones, Jabez Jennings, Silas and Peter Knapp, Joseph Keator, John and William Lamb, Daniel Lynch, Nathan Lee, John Mallett, George McKenney, Alexander McDonald, Elisha Maynard, Asa Norton, John Polly, Solomon Parsons, Hugh Rose, Daniel Robinson, Aaron Rollins, Joshua Simmons, David Smith, John Sherman, Ebenezer Sturgess, Thomas Taylor, Nathaniel Tiffany, Charles Tucker, Henry Voorhis, Demar Wheeler, Joshua Wright, Anthony Wilber, Daniel Woolsey, William Yeomans.

## BANKS.

With increased business came the needs of a bank, and on October 24, 1863, the First National Bank of Hobart was established in that village. Previous to the above date the banks at Kingston and Catskill had been used by depositors. The first board of directors was made up of Frederic W. Foote, John M. Olmstead, Russell D. Baird, John Griffin, Robt. I. Hume, Robt. McNaught, John Cowan. Mr. Foote was chosen president, and John M. Olmstead cashier. The capital at first was \$50,000, which was afterwards increased to \$100,000. In 1872 Mr. Foote resigned his position and Mr. Olmstead was chosen to succeed him as president. In 1881 the bank went into voluntary liquidation. To the credit of the institution it may be said that during the eighteen years of its existence it never missed declaring a dividend, and during that time it paid to its stockholders about \$130,000. In 1872 Mr. F. W. Foote started a private banking house, which was known as the Exchange Bank. Its business career was short lived.

It was on November 12, 1881, that the Stamford National Bank was organized with a capital of \$50,000, which was increased in

1886 to \$75,000. The bank began business early in 1882 with these officers: M. Fredenburgh, S. W. Hubbard, J. H. Merchant, I. H. Maynard, Stephen Van Dusen, E. W. Churchill, Edgar Johnson, N. K. Wilson, R. G. Dayton. Mr. Fredenburgh was the first president, and Mr. Hubbell the first cashier. The present officers are J. H. Merchant, president; C. L. Andrus, vice-president; G. W. Kendall, cashier. Directors, E. W. Churchill, Stephen Van Dusen, Heth Griffin, H. S. Wool, E. W. Gallup, E. L. Seeley.

The National Bank of Hobart was established Dec. 6, 1890, with a capital of \$50,000. The first officers were J. R. Cowan, president; J. M. Olmstead, vice-president; J. A. Scott, cashier. The same gentlemen are still retained in office, with the exception of Mr. Olmstead, who has been succeeded by O. I. Bennett as vice-president. The directors are J. R. Cowan, J. M. Olmstead, Jacob Lawrence, J. E. Bush, O. I. Bennett, John Bell.

#### FRATERNAL.

The first fraternal organization in the town of Stamford was that of St. Andrew's Lodge, F. & A. M., No. 48, chartered April 12, 1796. Andrew Beers was the first master; John French senior warden and James Laughran junior warden. The first by-laws adopted, or at least recorded, were on December 26, 1796. The first number, 48, was renumbered 45, and the charter was forfeited (presumably for not making returns to the Grand Lodge) in 1832. The old warrant of St. Andrew's Lodge was returned to the Grand Lodge August 11, 1852. On September 4, 1852, a dispensation was issued to Harry Andrews, Elisha Wetmore, William McCaughan, Agnus McDonald, Alexander Stewart, B. Lyon and Joseph B. Hunt to erect a lodge at Hobart. Harry Andrews was named as master; Elisha Wetmore senior warden, and William McCaughan junior warden. A warrant was issued to these brethren as St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 289, June 8, 1853. This last warrant or charter is the one under which St. Andrew's Lodge is now working. St. Andrew's Mark Master's Lodge was an off-shoot of St. Andrew's Lodge, and is not the first masonic lodge organized in Delaware county as has

erroneously been recorded. The first records obtainable of any minutes bear date March 6, 1798. The officers were Andrew Beers, master; David G. Wainwright, senior warden; Robert G. Wetmore, junior warden; John S. Bradford, tiler. The lodge of Mark Master Masons was formed about the time the Grand Chapter of the State was organized. On February 1, 1802, a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was organized, Andrew Beers being chosen high priest; John Lamb, king; and Erastus Root, scribe. The number of this chapter was 14. The original charter of St. Andrew's Chapter is now in the possession of Delta Chapter No. 185, R. A. M. of the village of Stamford, being the legitimate and lineal descendant of old St. Andrew's No. 14. St. Andrew's Lodge and St. Andrew's Chapter were the first of the order in Delaware county. The first meetings of St. Andrew's Lodge were held at the house of Andrew Beers, and at other members' homes. Some time later a masonic hall was built near St. Peter's Episcopal church in Hobart. The building, a frame structure, was moved to its present site more than sixty years ago, after having been abandoned for lodge purposes. It is now used as a tenement. The present masonic hall at Hobart was built in 1889. St. Andrew's Lodge is more than one hundred years old, its centennial having been celebrated at Hobart on October 8, 1896, at which time Major George C. Gibbs of Stamford was the historian, and to him the writer is indebted for much data concerning the Masonic organizations. St. Andrew's Lodge has a membership of about one hundred. The present officers are: G. A. Young, master; Walter Kniskern, senior warden; William Barrett, junior warden; Norman K. Silliman, secretary; John Telford, treasurer; Robert C. Blackburn, senior deacon; W. Frank Clark, junior deacon; John Coon, tyler.

Delta Chapter, No. 185, was organized Feb. 8, 1865. The first officers were, Michael Karen, High Priest; Robt. S. Brownell, King; Oliver D. Young, Scribe; S. B. Champion, Secretary. Regular convocations are held in the village of Stamford. The present officers are, A. L. Van Dusen, High Priest; E. W. Landon, King; J. W.

Baldwin, Scribe; Johnson Hamilton, treasurer; Geo. O. Leonard, secretary. There are sixty-five members.

Hobart Lodge, No. 339, I. O. O. F., was organized March 7, 1848, with these officers: Dr. Calvin C. Covel, noble grand; Baldwin Griffin, vice-grand; John McDonald, treasurer. Capt. John R. Baldwin was the first member to die, March 7, 1850. The present officers are, noble grand, D. J. Young; vice-grand, Freeman Keyser; secretary, Geo. A. Young; treasurer, Justus Cobbe; warden, J. E. Butler. This lodge is the parent Odd Fellows' organization of Delaware county. The lodge celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last spring.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT, STAMFORD.

The organization of a fire department for the village of Stamford was perfected June 16, 1870. The first apparatus purchased was a hand engine of the Button make. It was a second hand machine, bought for \$250, in Rome, N. Y., by Maj. Geo. C. Gibbs and Harvey S. Wood, a committee appointed for that purpose by the board of trustees. Major Gibbs was appointed chief of the department and A. M. Martin assistant chief. A company consisting of thirty-five men was immediately organized to run with the machine, the company retaining the title, "Fort Stanwix Engine Co.," that being the original name of the engine while it was owned in Rome. John M. Bennett was elected foreman. The machine is still in commission but is not much used owing to the splendid system of water works with which the village is supplied. The present officers of the fire department are Geo. O. Leonard, chief; A. L. Van Dusen, 1st assistant; J. G. Dean, 2d assistant; E. L. McArthur, clerk.

Stamford Hose Co. No. 1, was organized Nov. 21, 1883. The present officers are, Wm. Myers, foreman; A. L. Mattice, assistant; W. P. More, secretary; Eugene Stoutenburgh, treasurer.

L. H. Maynard Hose Co. No. 2, was organized April 17, 1889. John Dooley is foreman; F. A. Maynard, assistant; E. L. McArthur, secretary; A. E. Fink, treasurer.



Village of Hobart.





S. E. Churchill Hook and Ladder Co. was organized Oct. 2, 1895. The officers are, E. C. Hanford, foreman; C. E. Smith, assistant; J. A. Tooley, secretary; D. C. Hongland, treasurer.

#### WATER WORKS.

The business of the village having increased to such an extent that the need of a better supply of water for fire and domestic use became imperative. On February 2, 1881, the present excellent system of water works was established. An organization was formed and a company, capitalized at \$20,000, immediately began business. The directors were S. E. Churchill, J. P. Grant, S. W. Hubbell, I. H. Maynard, J. C. Van Dyke, Johnson Hamilton, F. G. Rulifson, Edgar Johnson and E. W. Churchill. S. E. Churchill was elected president; J. P. Grant, secretary; S. W. Hubbell, treasurer; F. G. Rulifson, superintendent.

A reservoir was constructed about one and one-half miles north of the village and mains laid throughout the various streets. October 29, 1892, the capital of the company was increased to \$30,000, and again on March 3, 1897, to \$45,000. This last increase of capital was for the purpose of building another reservoir about a mile further north of the original one and to put down an increased number of mains. The new reservoir was constructed early in the summer of 1895, at a cost of \$16,000. The water works is one of the best in the state of its size and an abundance of pure spring water is supplied the citizens. There are twenty-six fire hydrants located about the village at important points. The pressure of water is 124 pounds to the square inch. The present officers are: J. C. Van Dyke, president; J. R. Cowan, vice-president; William Whitney, secretary; R. H. Barner, treasurer; Johnson Hamilton, superintendent; C. A. Crowell, A. M. Warner, W. V. Gillespie, E. W. Churchill, directors; George O. Leonard, collector.

#### SCHOOLS.

The first school commissioners of the town were Joseph Hurd, Silas Knapp and Francis Burritt, who were elected at the annual meeting in 1796. On Feb. 3, 1813, the town was divided into nine

school districts, the commissioners, Charles B. Perry, Aaron Blish, and Daniel McGilhyrae, being elected at a special meeting held in January of that year. The first inspectors of schools were Robert Forest, William Kedzie, Joseph D. Beers, Matthew DeWitt, Robt. Greasson and Abel Watkins. The first school building stood on the east side of Delaware street near the railroad crossing, in a corner of the lot of the present residence of Mrs. I. H. Maynard. Small select school had been kept at various times and in different parts of the town, but it was not until 1851 that the citizens were induced to contribute toward the erection of the Stamford Seminary building. The building finally passed into the hands of Charles G. Churchill, who built a boarding hall in connection with the school. The building later passed into other hands and is devoted to private enterprises. It was not, however, until 1874 that the "Stamford Seminary" was incorporated under board of regents, and on the 30th of May the corner stone of the present splendid structure was laid. The building with its appurtenances, exclusive of site, cost \$12,000. A bell weighing 300 pounds was subsequently bought by private subscription. In the seminary building was kept the books of the Judson Library Association, named after Samuel Judson, jr., who bequeathed to the association \$1,500 upon condition that the citizens of the village would contribute an equal amount of money. This being done the Library Association was formed with a board of trustees composed of S. E. Churchill, J. C. Van Dyke, J. H. McKee and I. H. Maynard. The library contains about 3,000 volumes. The establishment of a Union Free School was not perfected until August, 1881, when school districts No. 1 of Stamford, No. 15 of Jefferson and No. 5 of Harpersfield were consolidated and the Union Free School system was perfected. The first trustees were Norman K. Wilcox, Van Zandt Wyckoff, S. B. Champion, S. I. Brown, Harvey S. Wood, H. S. Preston, I. H. Maynard, S. E. Churchill, John Hagar. I. H. Maynard was elected president, and Van Zandt Wyckoff secretary. The seminary building was secured and has since been used. The first principal was

Robt. M. Hughes. He was succeeded by Adelbert Gardener, 1884; F. M. Smith, 1887; James Blakesley, 1890; J. B. Hastings, 1892; James A. Tooley, 1893. The present principal is Prof. S. L. Howe, who was engaged in 1896. The present board of trustees consists of H. P. Hubbell, president; S. E. Churchill, J. H. Merchant, C. L. Andrus, B. C. Lawrence, S. L. Brown, J. A. Tooley, A. W. Terry, E. E. Van Dyke. W. H. McAlpine is clerk. The school has an attendance of about 300 pupils.

#### HOBART.

Hobart is a small village in the town of Stamford and about four miles west of the latter village. It has a population of about 650 and is the oldest portion of the town of Stamford. The place was originally known as Waterville, presumably taking its name from the excellent water power which the Delaware river affords at this point. The settlement was at one time called "Tinkertown" from the fact that a man living here appropriated to his use a full set of tinker's tools belonging to another man. The Rev. Philander Chase, the first rector of St. Peter's Episcopal church, suggested that the village be named after Bishop Hobart of New Jersey, which was done.

The village was incorporated early in the spring of 1888. The first meeting of the board of trustees was held on May 31 of that year. The first President of the village was Dr. J. S. McNaught; Trustees, J. K. Odell, S. D. Kerr, John Robinson; Treasurer, Case Ostrander; Collector, O. B. Barlow; Clerk, A. H. Grant. The present officers of the village are: President, James R. Cowan; Trustees, Jacob Lawrence, Oscar I. Bennett; Treasurer, William S. Thomson; Clerk, A. S. Carroll.

George Foote kept the first tavern, where the old Mansion House building now stands.

Cyrus Beers opened the first store, on the same ground where the store of J. W. Griffin is located.

The first physician in Hobart was Dr. Joshua H. Brett, who was also the first judge of Delaware county. Other physicians were Drs. Gregory, Hanford, Howard, and J. S. McNaught, the last of whom has been supervisor of the town and represented the district in the Assembly. Dr. McNaught is still in active practice and one of the prominent citizens of the village.

The first lawyers were J. B. Spencer and Andrew Beers, the

latter being known as the almanac maker. Some of his almanacs are still in existence.

William Trotter was the first postmaster at the village, and James B. Rich is the present incumbent.

George Foote built the first carding mill. He also built a woolen factory, and the water to run both mills was taken from the same dam, which although frequently rebuilt still remains and does good service. The foundry now operated by John Robinson was built by Charles Whiting in the winter of 1849. Mr. Robinson has owned and conducted the foundry for nearly forty years.

The Hobart Agricultural Society was organized June 17, 1876, with these officers: President, D. C. Sharpe; Vice-Presidents, Samuel H. Stevens, E. A. Gallup, Charles S. Stevens, H. Meeker; Secretary, R. S. McNaught; Treasurer, James S. Kerr. The first exhibition of the society was held October 10-12, 1876. The grounds and buildings are south of the village. The society has not held annual exhibitions in several years, not a sufficient interest being manifested to ensure its success.

The Union School of Hobart was organized in 1891, when the present building was constructed at a cost of about \$7,000, which includes the furnishings. The building was enlarged in 1895 by the erection of an addition. The board of education consists of James R. Cowan, president; A. S. Carroll, secretary; James B. Rich, treasurer; James A. Scott, R. Hume Grant, William H. McClelland. There is a well stocked library containing about 2,000 volumes attached to the school. Prof. George J. Dann is the principal, and Martha Belle Scott preceptress. The school is now known as the Hobart High School.

The fire department was organized August 5, 1886, the first company being called Star Hose Co. No. 1. In 1894 this company was incorporated under the name of the Cascade Hose Co. About the time of the organization of the Star Hose Co. a small hand fire engine was bought in New York. It at one time belonged to Engine Co. No. 41, of the volunteer department of that city. The company organized to run with this machine was called Clinton Engine Co. No data of the formation of this company is obtainable. The "old tub," as it is sometimes called, is still in service but not much used owing to the village being supplied with water works. The officers of this company are, J. E. Butler, foreman; J. C. McMurdy, secretary; C. E. Hanford, treasurer. The officers of

Cascade Hose Co. are W. J. H. Robinson, foreman; Charles L. Shakelton, assistant; A. S. Carroll, secretary; C. E. Hanford, treasurer. Justus Cobbe is chief of the department, and A. S. Carroll, assistant.

The Mansion House, which is now closed, is the oldest hotel in the place. It was built more than seventy years ago. For many years the hotel was conducted by Clayton Weeks. The last landlord was Jesse Minor. The Barrett House, William Barrett, proprietor, is the only public house at present in the village.

The Hobart Water Company began business in 1887, the capital stock of the company being \$12,000. The officers are: President, W. R. Brock; Secretary, Charles T. Leonard; Treasurer, J. S. McNaught; Superintendent, Robert McNaught.

There is but one newspaper published in the village, the Hobart Independent. This paper was established in 1885 by J. B. Rich, who in 1890 sold it to Mr. A. J. Champion of Stamford. The latter conducted the paper but a few months when it passed into the hands of L. L. Brayman of Walton. In 1891 Mr. Frank B. Mayham, the present publisher, secured control of the paper and changed its tone to that of the Democracy.

The first creamery in the village was established in 1888 by L. B. Halsey of New York and J. V. Jordan of Newburgh, under the firm name of Jordan & Halsey. The name of the creamery was afterward changed to that of the Sheffield's Farm Creamery. Last spring some of the farmers became dissatisfied with the price offered them for milk and withdrew their patronage. As a result of this movement a co-operative association was formed by a large number of the farmers and the Hobart Dairy Condensing Company (limited) was organized. A substantial two-story building has been erected near the railroad station, which cost fully equipped \$15,000. James A. Cowan is president; O. B. Foote, vice-president; S. O. Bennett, secretary; J. R. Stevenson, treasurer.

#### STAMFORD.

Stamford is one of the most picturesque and healthy villages in the State. It is about 162 miles from New York and seventy-four from Kingston. It is familiarly spoken of as the "Saratoga of the Catskills," being quite noted as a summer resort. Its altitude is about 1800 feet above tide water. The village is reached by rail over the Ulster & Delaware railroad, which was built as far as Stamford in December, 1872. Later the road was completed to Bloomville, thirteen miles distant.

The village was incorporated May 19, 1870. The first president was Isaac

H. Maynard, and the first board of trustees Charles Griffin, J. B. Van Housen, J. W. Maynard, E. W. Churchill, H. S. Wood. On February 19, 1873, by an Act of the Legislature the area of the corporation was reduced to its present limits. The village lies at the base of Mount Utsayantha, whose towering summit is reached by a two mile drive. From this point the entire range of the Catskills, the Hudson river valley and the Berkshire hills are plainly visible in clear weather.

The village is handsomely laid out and has several well shaded streets. There is a normal population of about 1,000, but in the summer months this number is increased nearly four-fold. The village contains a number of large hotels and commodious boarding houses and numerous pretty cottages, some of which are owned by citizens of New York, Philadelphia and other cities, by whom they are occupied in the summer months. There are four churches (referred to below), a public school and several substantial business blocks. The citizens are progressive, enterprising and take a natural pride in the village. Among the important hotels are Churchill Hall and Rexmere, under the management of S. E. Churchill; the Grant House, J. P. Grant, proprietor; the Hamilton House, A. E. Tallmadge, proprietor; and the Delaware House, Fred M. Tingley, proprietor. The latter house is one of the old landmarks of the place. It was built in the early part of the present century by Lemuel Lamb, who was its landlord for several years. The "tavern" was a small red frame building and originally but a story and a half in height. Daniel Clark, however, is said to have kept the first public house in the town.

The Mirror office was built by S. B. Champion in the summer of 1870, the frame being raised on the 6th of July of that year.

In 1893 Granthurst Park was annexed to the corporation. It is located on the heights overlooking the village and is surrounded by the handsome residences of some of the more wealthy citizens.

The Stamford Electric Light Company was organized April, 1892, with a capital of \$20,000. The present officers are, J. P. Grant, president; J. K. Grant, secretary; S. E. Churchill, treasurer; J. Corbin, manager.

Of the three newspapers in the town the Stamford Mirror is the oldest. This paper was established in 1851, by Simon B. Champion, who had previously printed a newspaper in the village of Bloomville. Mr. Champion is the oldest publisher in the county and one of the few veteran editors in the state actively engaged in country journalism. He became a resident of Stamford in 1870, having moved from Bloomville. The Mirror is Democratic in tone and principle and its venerable editor is highly esteemed by all classes. Mr. Champion has held many positions of trust in his town. Mr. A. J. Champion is assistant editor of the Mirror and Mr. Clifford Champion its business manager.

The Stamford Recorder was established in the village in April, 1892, by a company composed of representative Republicans who desired an exponent of their political faith. The name of the corporation is The Stamford Printing and Publishing Company, and the printing plant of the Andes Recorder was purchased of William Clark, who became editor and manager of the Stamford Recorder. In August, 1894, Mr. Clark resigned and Edward A. Ackley has been the editor and manager since that time.

## ALMUDA.

This young village is situated in the beautiful valley of the West Branch in the western part of the town. Since the coming of the railroad new buildings, stores, hotel, and a large and important creamery have been erected. The creamery is owned and operated successfully by a company of farmers. James McLean and S. W. Andrews have each fine summer residences here and the latter is making very extensive improvements on his grounds. In the picture given on page 469 this place is shown.

## CHURCHES.

The first building to be used in town for religious purposes was built about 1798. It was a union meeting house, not denominational. The money, \$550, to build this meeting house was raised by popular subscription. Among the original subscribers were Thomas Rickie, Douglas McIntyre, James Pudney, Nehemiah Whitney, Ralph Newell and Thomas Montgomery.

The second church built in the town was St. Peter's Episcopal in Hobart. The frame was raised on July 4, 1891. It was a noted edifice for that early period, a picture of which appears on page 53. The organization of this church society dates from December 8, 1791, when members of the Episcopalian church at Stamford, Kortright and Harpersfield met and elected Truman Beers, Augustus Bates, Ebenezer Sturges, Gershom Hanford, Andrew Beers, Herman Bradford, Stephen Bartow, Elijah Baldwin and Moses Sackrider trustees. A parsonage, costing \$529.66, was built in the fall of 1890. The money to build it was loaned by the corporation of Trinity Church of New York, and the building is still in use. The Rev. Philander Chase was the first rector of the parish and the Rev. Benjamin T. Trego is now in charge.

The third church was built in the Township valley in 1823 by the Methodist society, the framing and construction of the building being superintended by Peter Grant. The building was not heated and for seats loose boards were thrown across supports.

The fourth church in town was built as a Union Church in the village of Stamford in 1833. On June 24, 1834, the Presbyterians withdrew from the Harpersfield church and organized a church society. The Rev. Fordice Harrington was the first pastor. While Rev. Warren Mayo was pastor, in 1855, money was raised by subscription and a new edifice was built in the village of Stamford. The present structure is a very attractive one, and the pastor is the Rev. Leonard E. Richards.

The Methodist society, which is believed to have been the fifth church organization in the town, was organized about 1832. The Rev. John Bangs was the first pastor. The Methodists were the last to use the old Union meeting house, the Baptist society having withdrawn and in 1864 they built a more modern structure. The Rev. F. D. Abrams is the present pastor.

The Baptist church society was originally organized in the town of Jefferson, Schoharie county, but the church building stood in Harpersfield, about two miles northwest of Stamford village. In 1863 the society was reorganized and the present building erected on Main street between the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Some years ago the church was rebuilt. The church

was dedicated November 8, 1866. The Rev. J. B. Van Hoesen was pastor of this church for many years. The present pastor is the Rev. R. G. Sibley.

The seventh church in town was built in Hobart by the Presbyterian society in 1854, which has not had a pastor regularly.

The Methodists also built a church at the head of Roses Brook which was the eighth church built in the town.

William Trotter, esq., had much to do with the organization of the Reformed Presbyterian church of Hobart, which was effected in that village in 1853. The following year the present edifice was built at a cost of \$3,200. Mr. Trotter died before the church was completed. The church was dedicated in 1855 by the Rev. Andrew Johnston, the newly installed pastor. Later the society changed its name to that of First Presbyterian Church of Hobart, which it still retains. The present pastor is the Rev. Charles M. Herriek.

As a result of revival services in Hobart held in January, 1831, by the Rev. Bezael Howe, the Methodist Church Society was organized. The present church edifice was built in 1835 and in 1854 it was extensively repaired, and several years afterwards the society built a parsonage adjoining the church, costing \$1,500. The present pastor is the Rev. A. A. Walker.

Grace Episcopal Chapel was organized in Stamford Village as a mission of St. Peter's church in the fall of 1883. The establishment of a mission was the outgrowth of the efforts of Mr. James McLean of South Kortright and New York, Miss M. R. Treadwell, Mrs. I. H. Maynard, Mrs. Ingraham, Mrs. H. S. Wood, Mrs. B. H. Foote, Mrs. R. C. Simpson and other ladies of the Episcopal faith living in Stamford. The chapel cost about \$3,000 and was built on a lot donated by Dr. H. S. Wood for that purpose. When the chapel was consecrated some years later the society was set apart as an independent mission and it has since been self supporting. The present rector is the Rev. Olin Hallock.

The Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart, of which the Rev. Patrick Livingstone is pastor, was built in 1870 on Harper street. The structure is a frame building and cost about \$4,000. The dedication of the church took place on Oct. 25, 1870, the Rt. Rev. J. J. Conroy, Bishop of Albany, officiating. It is a mission church and under the pastorate of the Father Livingstone has grown so as to occupy an important position among the mission churches of the Catholic diocese.

Besides the churches mentioned above, the one at Almeida, or South Kortright, is probably the oldest church organization in town.

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian church was organized by Rev. William McAuley in the year 1790, at South Kortright. In 1833 the society built a second church, which has been remodeled in recent years. During the first ninety years of the existence of this congregation there were but three pastors: Rev. Wm. McAuley, Rev. Robert Forrest and Rev. John D. Gibson. The membership of this church extended over a very large territory in the early days. In 1858 the name was changed to United Presbyterian, the Associate and Associate Reformed organizations in the United States having been merged into one body. This church is still prosperous after an existence of more than a century, and Rev. W. L. Martin is the pastor.







## Walton.

By Hon. T. Sanderson.

...

**I** HAVE undertaken the task to collect and arrange in as orderly a manner as the brief period of time assigned to me will permit, some of the principal events which have transpired within the limits of the town of Walton within the past one hundred years.

The year 1784 marks the period of the first permanent settlement within the bounds of the present town of Walton. A glance at that date recalls the fact that the war of independence had been brought to a successful issue, and the mother country had been compelled to relinquish her claim upon the thirteen colonies, and that henceforth they were to carve out for themselves the form of a government and lay the foundations of a permanent republic. The great state of New York, even at that early period, began to give evidence of that supremacy among the sisterhood of states which she has easily maintained for more than half a century. From the landing of the Dutch on Manhattan Island in 1609, until the transfer of the colonial government of the colony to the English in 1764, the principles of Dutch freedom became implanted in the governmental policy of the inhabitants.

In 1683 the state of New York was divided into ten counties, Albany, Dutchess, Kings, New York, Orange, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk, Ulster and Westchester.

At that date the territory that is now embraced within the limits of the county of Delaware was included in the counties of Albany and Ulster. That portion of the county north of the West branch of the Delaware, or what was then called the Fishkill, was within the boundaries of Albany county, and that portion lying on the south of the aforesaid branch was included in the county of Ulster.

On March 12th, 1772, the county of Tryon was organized from the county of Albany, so named from Tryon, the colonial governor who during the Revolution became so zealous in the cause of the king that he wantonly sent out parties to burn and destroy all the property of the inoffensive colonists, declaring that he would give twenty dollars for every acting committeeman who should be delivered to the King's troops.

The year succeeding the close of the Revolution, the name of Tryon county was changed to Montgomery. This county included that portion of the county north of the West branch of the river.

February 16th, Otsego was erected into a county, including within its boundaries the northern portion of the county of Delaware. Upon the erection of the present county of Delaware, on March 10, 1797, the southern portion of Otsego county included between the Susquehanna and the West branch of the Delaware, and that portion of Ulster south of the West branch and extending to the northern boundaries of the present county of Sullivan, was erected into the county of Delaware.

Upon the formation of the county, six towns were included within its limits, to wit: Colchester, Middletown, Franklin, Harpersfield, Kortright and Stamford.

The town of Colchester was originally organized April 10th, 1792, and was carved out of the town of Middletown, which had been organized March 31st, 1789, as a town of Ulster county. The territory of this town was taken from the towns of Rochester and Woodstock in Ulster county.

The town of Franklin was organized April 10th, 1792, from the town of Harpersfield, which was organized March 7th, 1788, as a town of Montgomery county.

Kortright was organized March 12th, 1793, from the town of Harpersfield. Stamford was organized April 10th, 1792.

Seven days after the organization of Delaware county the town of Walton was organized. As originally organized the upper or northern boundary line was the line of White's patent, just above

Delhi village, running westerly through the town of Franklin and what is now the town of Masonville to the line of Broome county, thence southerly to the Delaware river at Deposit. The West branch of the Delaware was the southerly boundary of the town. Upon the formation of the town of Delhi in 1798, the upper line of Livingston's patent was the northerly boundary. That line was the upper line of the Robert Murray farm. In 1812 the town line was moved up to Arthur Shaw's line, being the upper line of Beddington's patent. In 1825, upon the erection of the town of Handen, the town line was moved to its present location.

The town derives its name from William Walton, who obtained a grant of twenty thousand acres of land from the King of England in 1770. This grant extended from the Delaware to the Susquehanna river and was about two miles in width. The upper line of the patent was located about one mile above Walton village, near the farm formerly owned by Stephen Berray and the lower line about a mile below the village.

The topography of the town may be described as a mixture of mountain, hill and valley. Through the southeastern portion runs the West branch of the Delaware river. Along that portion of the river in the northern part of the town are wide, fertile flats. Below the village the flats become narrower, and the mountains approach almost to the river banks. That portion of the town north of the river is traversed by the East, West and Third brooks, which empty into the river through the plain upon which the village of Walton is now situated. The valleys of these various streams form some of the best farming lands in the county.

The first permanent settlement was made in the town in the year 1781. Prior to that time hunters and prospectors had undoubtedly passed through the unknown forests which then stood as sentinels. Although but little more than one hundred years have passed, many of the events of those early days have faded into tradition, tradition into myth, and myth into fable. It is said that some of the early settlers from the region of the Susquehanna

valley made incursions into these regions, allured by the plentifulness of the game.

At this period Dr. Platt Townsend, a resident of Long Island, purchased of William Walton a tract of five thousand acres from the south end of the Walton patent. A portion of the purchase price was to be paid in surveying the tract, the doctor being a practical surveyor. Seventeen hundred of the five thousand acres was paid for in this work.

Of the original settlers who came from Long Island with Dr. Townsend, twenty in number, were the following persons: The doctor's two sons, William and Isaac; Robert North, wife and infant son, Benjamin; Gabriel North, wife and two daughters, Hannah and Deborah; William Furman, wife and two children; Joshua Pin and sons, John, Joshua and Daniel, and daughters, Nellie and Mollie.

They left Long Island in the month of March of that year and ascended the Hudson in a sloop to what was then called Esopus. Leaving their families at Marbletown the men of the party made the journey from that point to Walton on foot, traversing the almost unknown wilderness. No one of the number has left a detailed account of that interesting journey. Their route, no doubt, touched at the early settlement made at Pakataken, near the present village of Margaretville, and Pepacton on the East branch of the Delaware just above Downsville. When they arrived at the end of their journey they found that some timber pirates had preceded them up the river the year previous, and had cut from Pine Hill a quantity of the pine which covered it in great abundance from base to summit, and from which the hill had its name, and had attempted to raft it down the river for the Philadelphia market; but being unacquainted with the river the fruits of their piracy was strewn along the banks, the rafts not being sufficiently strong to stand the racking resulting from unskillful pilotage. These people had built a log hut or cabin for their temporary use, which Mr. Townsend and his party were not slow to appropriate and occupy. Though

rude, no doubt, it was a palace of rest for the weary pioneers at the end of their long and perilous journey. The exact location of this cabin in the wilderness is somewhat in doubt, but the weight of authority seems to place it somewhere near the mouth of the East Brook, near what was formerly the residence of Damon Hull.

Robert North, one of the pioneers, built a log house on the spot where, a few years later, in 1799, he built a frame residence, probably the first erected in the town, and which stood until replaced a few years since by the modern mansion of the North sisters.

The early summer was spent in clearing the land and making a shelter for their families, and in the latter part of June they retraced their steps over the mountains and up the valleys to Kingston, and made preparations to move their families to their new homes. It is said that a large portion of their belongings were taken down the East branch in boats or canoes to the junction below Hancock, and from there up the West branch to Walton. The teams and wagons were, however, brought through the forests, a road being cut as they advanced.

The star of empire moved slower in those days than in later years; the only sounds which broke the stillness of the forests were the woodman's axe, the crack of the rifle, the howl of the wolf and the cry of the panther. It is said that Mrs. Robert North made the journey from Kingston on horseback, carrying in her arms her infant son, Benjamin, while strapped behind her upon the back of the horse was her bedding and some household furniture.

Once settled in their new homes, and the fame of the new locality reaching friends upon Long Island and in Connecticut, they soon found congenial spirits, anxious to brave the hardships of frontier life, and make for themselves and posterity a home in the wilderness. In the year immediately following, new settlers swarmed in from Long Island and Connecticut.

At this early day there were no mills for grinding grain nearer than Scholastic, and to that place, on horseback or on foot, the early settler carried his grist when he desired something more

palatable than the product which he obtained from pounding the grain in a hollow mortar made of stone or wood.

It must also be remembered that there were no mail facilities in those early days; no electric telegraph spanning the continent, or cable resting upon the ocean bed. The grist carrier became a news carrier, and upon his coming from the mill, was besieged by the whole neighborhood to learn what had transpired at the Schoharie settlement, and what he had learned of the outside world. The first regular mail facilities were not established until about fifteen years after the first settlement. At that time, about the year 1800, a mail line was established between Kingston and Jericho, not the city whose walls were demolished by the blast from a ram's horn, but the place now known as Bainbridge, Chenango county. One mail weekly; from the east Fridays, and from the west on Saturdays, abundantly satisfied the then wants of the community.

In the year immediately following the advent of the first settlers, the fame of the new country and its fertility having spread abroad, many were anxious to avail themselves of the privileges which the well watered and well wooded hills and the fertile valleys offered for permanent homes. The love of adventure and the excitement incident to clearing up the land and hunting and destroying the wild beasts of prey of which the forest abounded brought many from the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts and from the more recent settlements along the Hudson. There was something in the pioneer's life that seemed to charm them and it required only a few years for the settlement to become too densely populated and too civilized for their restless spirit and they were anxious to advance to new fields and forests.

As stated before, the fifteen years following the first advent brought many new settlers so that upon the organization of the town in 1797, March 17th, the population of the new town was not far from 1,200 inhabitants. The town then included the town of Tompkins and a large part of the town of Hamden.

From the old tax roll of 1799, now in the possession of the Pine



family, the taxable inhabitants within the present limits of the town numbered ninety-two. Allowing five inhabitants to each taxpayer, the estimated population at that time would be 460. The following is the number of taxpayers in the town and the estimated population for the following years:

In 1803, taxpayers 114; estimated inhabitants 570; assessed property, real and personal, \$880.55.

In 1810, taxpayers 172; estimated population 860; assessed valuation \$103,801.

In 1815, taxpayers 190; estimated population 950; valuation \$186,256.

Walton village in the year 1815 contained 33 taxpayers, estimated population 165.

In 1820, taxpayers 198; estimated population 990; assessed valuation \$173,396.

In 1825, taxpayers 222; estimated population 1,110, assessed valuation \$145,533.

In 1830, taxpayers 256; estimated population 1,280; assessed valuation \$134,876.

In 1835, taxpayers 361; census population 1,754; assessed valuation \$157,350.

In 1840, taxpayers 337; census population 1,816; assessed valuation \$182,870.

In 1845, taxpayers 379; census population 2,701; assessed valuation \$192,250.

In 1850, taxpayers 419; census population 2,277; assessed valuation \$212,190.

In 1855, taxpayers 497; census population 2,404.

In 1860, taxpayers 550; census population 2,740; assessed valuation \$541,310.

In 1865, taxpayers 611; census population 2,926; assessed valuation \$581,200.

In 1870, census population 3,578; assessed valuation \$812,222.

The first grist mill was built by Michael Goodrich on East Brook, about a mile from the village, upon the site now occupied by the Howland mill. From the best information obtainable the date of its erection is 1792. The site has been used for that purpose continuously since that time. The second grist mill was built about two and one-half miles up the river from the village by Thomas W. Griswold about the year 1798. This mill has long since fallen into decay, and not a vestige is left to mark even the site. The third grist mill was erected in 1802 by Daniel Robinson in what is known as the Den, upon the farm now occupied by John Northcott.

In 1806 William and Isaac Townsend built the fourth mill, which is still in existence and is owned by A. A. Haverly. This mill is located just above the village on the river. These early mills were very crude in construction, with only one run of stone, and these were brought a great distance, probably from Schoharie or Albany. They were brought by wagon or cart to the head of the river, two canoes were lashed together and the stones placed upon them and thus floated to their destination.

Several of the early settlers had a crude contrivance or vat for tanning their own leather. The first tannery was built by Nathaniel Steele on East Brook on the premises occupied by Pollock Howland. This was built in 1803. Alan Mead a few years later established a tannery on Mt. Pleasant near the Franklin road. In 1810 John and Nathaniel Steele erected a tannery at what is now the corner of Delaware and North streets, upon the site now occupied by the Lyon building and the wagon shop of J. B. Eells & Son. This tannery was soon after purchased by Alan Mead, who abandoned the one on the hill. At this time the bark for tannery uses was ground by a very rude process. A few years later, about 1815, a more perfected machine was used for grinding bark. In 1842 John and Gabriel Mead built an extensive tannery on West Brook. This was burned in 1857 and rebuilt in the following year, and passed to the firm of Mead, North & Co. in 1863.





In 1872 it was purchased by Tobey & Warner. Mr. Warner died in 1895 and the business is now carried on by Mr. Tobey.

In 1876 the Novelty works were started by W. C. Gould; for a time they were run by Wood & Gould, and then by Peake & Barlow. Mr. Peake bought out Mr. Barlow's interest in 1891, and in 1895 a corporation was formed with a capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars. About one hundred and fifty men are employed in its various departments. It is now the principal manufacturing industry of the town.

Two foundries are in operation; one owned by N. O. Flint, and one by L. E. Hoyt & Co. These are located at West End near the O. & W. depot. L. E. Hoyt & Co. employs about twenty men and the Flint foundry a less number.

The manufacture of potash was one of the early industries of the town, commencing about the year 1800. One potash manufactory was located on East Brook and was discontinued about 1823. In 1836 one was established near the present depot by Niles Berray, and still later an extensive one was established by William Ogden and Henry Smith, where the Novelty works are now located on Delaware street. These establishments have long since disappeared.

Brick kilns were established as early as 1815. One was located on the farm now owned by James Patterson on East Brook. In 1828 Ezra Benedict operated a kiln on East Brook.

The clothing of the early settlers was largely made by hand, to use a common phrase. The wool from the backs of the sheep was washed and carded by hand into rolls. These were spun into yarn upon a spinning wheel, from which it was taken upon a reel. The hand loom was put into operation and the shuttle was sent back and forth with each downward motion of the treadles. Some of the housewives were very expert as weavers, and several yards per day of good solid woollen cloth was the result. Flax was quite extensively cultivated, and the hand process, from the breaking to the weaving was wont to produce a good portion of the

wearing apparel of both male and female for the summer months. A carding machine was first put into operation in the saw-mill of the Ogden's above Walton village, early in the history of the town. Afterwards, Isaac and William Ogden put in a fulling mill about the year 1800, near the present residence of William Hall, formerly the Stephen Berray place. In 1807 Mr Townsend erected the second mill near where the Haverly grist mill now stands. Quartus Merriek built a third mill up East Brook, near the Cyrus St. John place, now occupied by Henry A. St. John. During the Monroe administration these mills received medals for the excellence of the cloth produced. The mills have all passed out of existence long since.

Among the early industries that of distilling must not be left out, for at that early date the necessity of "a little wine for the stomach's sake" was fully recognized; nor was the appetite always satisfied with wine. The product of the rye and wheat seemed to be in great demand. As early as 1795, John Eells established a distillery on the hill. Later Fletcher Gardiner erected one further up East Brook. About 1798 Selick St. John established the third and last one up East Brook. In the year 1810 the county of Delaware produced nineteen thousand gallons of spirituous liquors. It was used on all occasions; the logging bee and the church raising alike felt its stimulus. But it would be a mistake to suppose that there were not ardent advocates of temperance among those who made daily use of it. Prominent among the organizers of the first temperance society in Delaware county in the town of Meredith were the owners of two distilleries. The legislation of that period too, had its peculiarities. For instance, one of the provisions of the law of 1829, was that no person who did not have a license to sell intoxicants should put up a tavern sign under a penalty of \$1.25 per day. What harm could have come from a tavern sign where no intoxicants were sold is a question which would bear investigation by a student of sociology.

The year immediately following the organization of the town

license was granted by the town board to seven places for the sale of liquor, viz: James Howard, George Yendes, John Fells, Thos. W. Griswold, Nathan Kellogg, Clark Cannon, Elias Butler. In 1846 a special town meeting was held at which 192 votes were cast against license to 82 for license. At a special town meeting in 1896 to vote upon the question of license, 416 votes were cast for license and 180 against. The law known as the Rames law went into effect March 1896.

Walton has been, and is one of the leading towns in the county in all that pertains to agricultural interests. Her location peculiarly fits her for dairying and kindred agricultural pursuits. The river flats of the East, West, and Third brooks produce an abundance of grain and hay; while the hills which rise on either side from which bubbles cold, pure water in great abundance, produce rich, sweet pasturage, so necessary for the production of the butter, the fame of which has become world wide. The number of cows in the town at present is estimated at 6,000. The amount of butter produced is not as large as formerly owing to the growth of the milk traffic, which began to be developed upon the opening of the Ontario & Western railroad in 1872. Large quantities of milk are produced in that portion of the town adjacent to the line of the railroad, which is shipped direct to New York city, thus diminishing in some degree the product of butter. The farms which produce the milk are so managed that the production extends through the winter months, at which time the price is advanced, making the production more profitable. Owing to increased railroad facilities from the west and the consequent cheapness of grain, large quantities of feed are purchased by the farmers and the number of cows upon their farms has been largely increased. Formerly the farmer depended entirely upon his own farm for the feed for his stock. Now the great grain belts of the west assist in making the dairy of the eastern farmer.

The first town meeting was held in the log church of the Union society in April, 1797. Prior to that time the town meetings were

held at the house of Major Root, near the present division line of the towns of Franklin and Walton.

From the town records a few extracts may not be uninteresting:

"April 3rd, 1798, at a town meeting held at the meeting house at Walton, the following persons were elected into office, to wit: Isaac Darrow, collector; David St. John, town clerk; Robert North, supervisor; Isaac Darrow, John Eells, and Clark Cannon, assessors; Benajah McCall, Thaddeus Hoyt, overseers of the poor; Aziel Hyde, Michael Goodrich, Reuben Crosby, commissioners of highways; Lewis Seymour, constable and collector; Thomas Dennis, Joseph Adams, constables; Hilliard Burrhus, Andrew Craig, Dr. Wm. Maxfield, Samuel Teed, Asa Gears, John St. John, Thomas W. Griswold, Moses Hanford, Josiah Cleveland, Dr. Isaac Goodrich, Aziel Hyde, David Smith, Nathaniel Emerson, Samuel Frisbee, overseers of highways; Benajah McCall, Isaac Darrow, Samuel Johnston, King Mead, James Bradt, Joseph Webb, Jonas Parks, fence viewers; John Eells, pound master; Benajah McCall, Aziel Hyde, James Durfee, commissioners of schools."

At a town meeting in 1803 the following resolution was passed: "That any hog or hogs, running at large without a sufficient yoke and ring, the fence viewers to be judges of the yokes, shall be liable to be taken and shut up in any man's enclosure. The owner of said hogs, after being notified to take his hogs home, which notification shall be made within twelve hours, shall be liable to a fine of fifty cents for each hog so found running at large without yoke and rings, after the first notification, from the first day of April to the first day of December."

The following is a list of the supervisors of Walton since its erection and the date of their first election: Robert North, 1797; David St. John, 1805; John Eells, 1809; Gabriel North, 1811; Isaac Ogden, 1813; Bennett Beardsley, 1815; William Townsend, 1823; William Merwin, 1827; Alan Mead, 1829; Samuel Eells, 1832; Peter Gardiner, 1836; John Townsend, 1839; Ambrose Ogden, 1842; John Mead, 1844; David More, 1845; G. S. Mead, 1848; Gabriel



S. North, 1855; Benjamin J. Bassett, 1859; J. B. Ellis, 1863; C. B. Wade, 1869; M. W. Marvin, 1870; A. D. Peake, 1876; G. O. Mead, 1877; Charles B. Bassett, 1890; Joseph Harby, 1892; H. S. Sewell, 1893.

As early as 1802 we find the early settlers of Walton combining their efforts toward securing the advantages of a public library. Nearly fifty shares at \$2 per share were taken and with this fund the foundation of a valuable collection was commenced. In 1809 the Walton library was incorporated under the general act of the legislature. This organization was kept up and additions made to the collections until the number of volumes reached 658. On January 27th, 1852, the library was divided by lot among its members. By a provision in the settlement of the estate of the late Wm. B. Ogden, a fund of twenty thousand dollars was set aside for the purpose of erecting a library building and furnishing the same with books. This building is now in course of erection upon the public square at the junction of North street and Gardiner Place. Fifteen thousand dollars of the fund is being used in the construction of a building. The balance, with some liberal contributions of friends interested in the project, will supply the books and provide for the care of the building.

As early as 1813 the town was organized into school districts. Originally there were twelve districts; William Townsend, Alexander Ogden, commissioners of schools.

As at present organized, the town contains twenty-three districts, the last organized being the Marvin Hollow district, which was organized in 1850. The necessity for more and better educational facilities soon became apparent to the people of the town, and in 1852 the Rev. J. S. Pattengill, then pastor of the Congregational church, a large hearted and liberal minded man, began the agitation of more extensive educational facilities. He made the theme the subject of several sermons and lectures. Awakened by these appeals, a subscription paper was circulated and \$3,300 was subscribed in sums varying from \$5 to \$300. The subscribers

organized themselves under the name of The Academy Association. At a meeting of the association, February 3, 1853, the following persons were elected trustees, to wit: Col. John Townsend, D. H. Gay, Hon. John Mead, Dr. J. S. McLaury, William E. White, Rev. J. S. Pattengill, Dr. T. J. Ogden, Gen. B. J. Bassett, S. H. White, J. H. St. John, Thomas Marvin, White Griswold, Nathaniel Fitch. The board was organized by the election of John Mead as president; Dr. McLaury, secretary; Nathaniel Fitch, treasurer. J. S. Pattengill, John Mead, and T. J. Ogden were appointed a building committee. The land was donated by John Townsend and J. Eells was appointed master builder. The frame of the building was erected June 23, 1853. The lower floor was divided into two apartments, one used as a chapel and the other for a primary department. The upper floor was divided into two school rooms, one for ladies and one for gentlemen. The entire cost of the building was about four thousand dollars. The academy was completed December 14th, 1853, and incorporated by the regents February 10, 1854. The first principal employed was Mr. Eli M. Maynard, assisted by his sister Miss Lucy A. Maynard. Miss Adelaide Gardiner was the first teacher in the primary department. Mr. Maynard resigned in March, 1857. Henry E. Ogden acted as principal during the spring term of 1857. M. N. Horton took charge as principal August 26, 1857. During the spring of 1859, an addition was built to the main building at a cost of fifteen hundred dollars, and the lower rooms of the main building were used entirely for a chapel. Mr. Horton resigned March 1861. In July, 1861, Sidney Crawford took charge as principal, assisted by the following corps of teachers: Miss Jennie S. Bostwick, Miss Charlotte Marsh, who filled the position of preceptress, Miss E. Maria Ogden, teacher of drawing and painting. Hon. John Mead resigned the presidency of the board March 30, 1863, and David H. Gay was elected to succeed him. Charles E. Sumner was engaged as principal and began his duties August 24, 1864. He remained in charge three years and was assisted by Miss Lena F.

Wheat as preceptress in 1864 and 1865, Miss Jennie Sumner, 1865 and 1866, and Miss Jennie F. Barnes, 1866 to 1867. Miss Hattie A. Taylor had charge of the primary department. Mr. Sumner was succeeded by Strong Comstock, August 19th, 1867, and Miss Martha Atwood was preceptress. In the spring of 1868 a union school was organized, and the academy property transferred to the board of education. In 1870 the Rev. D. T. Barclay was chosen principal for the two following years. The diplomas were first awarded in 1871. The first class consisted of Ella Love, Hannah N. Benedict, Charlotte E. North, Cornelia F. White. Miss Laura Gay was engaged as preceptress in 1870 and held the position until 1886. Mr. Comstock was again called to fill the position of principal in 1872 and continued in charge until 1891, when Prof. Fairgrieve, of Fulton, N. Y., was chosen as principal. Owing to the rapid growth of the town, incident to the building of the Ontario & Western railroad, the old building soon became inadequate for the purpose for which it was intended, and a new building was erected in 1892 at a cost of about forty-five thousand dollars. The new building is one of the finest of the kind in the state, and was completed and occupied in the fall of 1892.

The brave and hardy pioneers who left their homes upon Long Island and Connecticut to establish their future homes in the wilderness in the interior of New York, brought with them the principles and the faith which enabled them to bear up under and sustain the burdens incident to such a great undertaking. They were descendants of the men who centuries before had left their own country and braved the dangers of a stormy voyage of three thousand miles of ocean, in order that they might worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience.

As early as 1791 a log house was built upon Mt. Pleasant for the double purpose of a place of worship on the Sabbath and a school during the week. The church was formally organized October 12, 1793, by Rev. David Huntington, a missionary from the General Association of Connecticut. Mr. Huntington's stay was

brief. David Harrower, a member of the church, now entered a course of study, and in two years was employed by the association as pastor. Three days after the organization of the church, October 15, 1793, the ecclesiastical society connected with the church was organized in legal form. The first trustees were Daniel Root, Samuel Johnson, Chas. Marsh, Michael Goodrich, Gabriel North, James Weed. The first clerk was Robert North. A log meeting house was used for church purposes ten years. Mr. Harrower remained with the church as stated supply ten years, spending some portion of his time in visiting and ministering to the outlying settlements. A new church building was commenced in 1800 and finished in 1803 upon the same site. The church was without a stove until 1816, and at the town meeting that year a resolution was voted to purchase a stove for the meeting house and assess the cost upon the town for the privilege of using the building for town meeting purposes.

The following are the pastors who have ministered to the society: In 1807 the Rev. Archibald Bassett was called and remained until 1811. The Rev. Orange Seymour was stated supply for six months. In 1813 the Rev. Isaac Headley was called and remained until 1829. The Rev. Alva Lillian supplied for six months and Rev. E. D. Wells was called in 1830 and Rev. A. L. Chapman in 1831. The Rev. Jonathan Huntington supplied for six months, and the Rev. Fayette Shepherd was called in 1834 and remained until 1838, and the Rev. Wilton Clark from then until 1842. In 1840 the church was built upon its present site. The Rev. E. D. Willis supplied in 1843 and remained until 1847. The Rev. J. S. Pattengill was installed in 1848 and remained until April, 1868. The Rev. S. J. White was installed in 1869 and remained until 1875, and the Rev. H. M. Ladd was pastor from 1875 until 1881, when Rev. G. W. Nims came and has remained until the present time.

The first Methodist class was organized in 1802, and Seth Berray was chosen leader. The members were Anna Berray,





Esther Berray, John Heath, David Heath, Eleanor Heath, Mrs. Filkins, Elizabeth Orr, Quartus Merrick, Lucia Merrick. The celebrated Nathan Bangs held preaching services in Warren Tavern as early as 1808, and afterwards a preacher named Richards came into town on business and preached a few sermons. The Rev. Asa Hall, while visiting his father, preached in the house of Cyrus, St. John. That was about the year 1810. The first regular appointment was January 1, 1819, when A. S. Scofield was appointed to take charge of the church, since which time there has been regular preaching.

The following have been the appointments. In 1834, David Terry and James Benson; 1835, M. VanDusen and D. B. Turner; 1836, S. M. Knapp and T. Bangs; 1837, S. M. Knapp and Arad Lakin; 1838, H. Frost and Arad Lakin; 1839-40, B. Wakely; 1841-42, Aaron Rogers; 1843, Sanford Washburn; 1844, J. Tippet, W. C. Smith, and A. H. Mead; 1845, B. M. Gerrung; 1846, M. S. Pendell; 1847, George Kerr; 1848 George Kerr and Elias Rogers; 1849, David Gibson; 1850, D. C. Drake; 1851, Meto Couchman; 1852, George Palmer; 1853-54, John Davie; 1855, William Hall; 1856-57, Richard Decker; 1858, Charles Sitzer; 1859-60, Edwin Clement; 1861-62, John F. Richmond; 1863-64, Richard Decker; 1865-66, John W. Gorse; 1867-69, A. R. Burrongs; 1870-72, J. J. Dean; 1873-74, J. M. Burgar; 1875, Joseph Eliot; 1876, J. G. Slater; 1877-79, Edward White; 1880-81, Rev. W. A. Chadwick; 1882-84, Rev. George Hearn; 1885-87, Rev. L. S. Brown; 1888-90, Rev. O. D. Ramsay; 1891-92, Rev. J. W. Bohlman; 1893-95, Rev. E. H. Roys; 1896, Rev. Robert Knapp.

The first Methodist church was built in 1811, and it cost \$1,600. The first board of trustees was composed of the following persons: Sanford Ferguson, John McCall, Gersham H. Bradley, Hiram Fitch, Cyrus St. John. A new church was built in 1869 at a cost of \$40,000. This church was used until 1892, when the present structure was commenced and built at a cost of \$20,000. It is said to be the most beautiful church structure in the county.

The first services of the Protestant Episcopal church were held in Walton about the year 1830 by Rev. Mr. Johnson.

The first vestry was composed of the following named persons: James Noble and Everett Guild, wardens; Isaac Ogden, Robert North, Jr., James Smith, W. B. Ogden, Peter Gardiner, Joshua Pine, Bennett Beardslee, Benajah Hawley, John F. St. John, Adam Mallory, Rufus Smith, vestrymen. In 1831 the church edifice was commenced, and completed in 1834. The clergymen connected with the early history of the parish were the Rev. Mr. Adams of Unadilla, Rev. Orange Clark of Delhi, Rev. Russell Wheeler of Butternuts, Otsego county, and Rev. E. K. Fowler of Monticello, N. Y. The first installed rector was the Rev. John F. Messinger, who supplied here in 1834; in 1837, Rev. Amos Billings Beach; 1839, Rev. Robert Campbell; in 1840, Rev. Asa Griswold; in 1842, Rev. David Huntington; in 1846, Rev. William G. Heimer; in 1847, Rev. John Creighton Brown; in 1860, Rev. Charles Canfield; in 1861, Rev. F. S. Compton; in 1863, Rev. Frederic Sisson; in 1865, Rev. Gurdon Huntington, who died November 29, 1875; in 1876, Rev. Theodore A. Snyder; in 1877, Rev. Mr. Searing; afterward Rev. Mr. Rathbun, Rev. Reeves Hobbie, Rev. J. R. L. Nisbitt, Rev. Richard Searing, and Rev. Charles Temple at the present time, have been the rectors.

The first Baptist church was organized in the year 1866 from the various outlying branches. Rev. Jenkins Jones was stated supply during the first year. In November, 1869, Rev. L. M. Purrington was called as pastor, and remained until 1877. The church edifice was erected in 1869 at a cost of \$5,000. In 1878, Rev. A. J. Adams was called; in 1881, Rev. E. B. Glover; in 1882, Rev. W. N. Thomas; in 1882, Rev. J. A. Hungate; in 1886, Rev. W. P. Chipman; in 1887, Rev. C. A. Stone; in 1895, Rev. A. J. Whalen; in 1895, Rev. W. A. King; in 1896, Rev. J. F. Barber.

The Reformed Presbyterian church was organized September 5, 1861. The first church edifice was built on East brook, about five miles from Walton village. The first pastor was Rev. David McAllister, who remained until 1884. In 1874 a new church was



erected in Walton village. In 1885 Rev. S. G. Shaw was called to the pastorate and remained until 1896. The present pastor is Rev. R. C. Reed.

The United Presbyterian church was organized October 19, 1865. The elders elected were John W. Smith, William Kilpatrick, Thomas McLaury, P. M. Doig. The church edifice was built in 1868 and the Rev. W. R. Crow settled as pastor. In 1873 Rev. S. W. Meeks was chosen, and in 1878 Rev. W. M. Howie was called and remained until 1892, when Rev. Thomas Park, the present pastor, was called. A new church edifice was erected on the corner of North and East streets in 1891 at a cost of about six thousand dollars. The number of members is 280.

The following persons have served as town clerks of Walton: David St. John, date of election April 1, 1797; William Townsend, 1801; Robert North, 1806; David St. John, 1828; Platt Townsend, 1829; David H. Gay, 1848; Henry E. St. John, 1857; Charles B. Wade, 1861; Orson J. Ells, 1863; George W. Fitch, 1864; David H. Gay, 1865; George O. Mead, 1867; John S. Eells, 1877; John Olmstead, 1883; John S. Eells, the present clerk, 1884. Within a period of one hundred years, twelve men have served as town clerks.

The War of Independence was brought to a successful termination and a treaty of peace with the mother country was signed the year prior to the first settlement of the town. Among the early settlers of the town were many who braved the dangers and bore the sufferings in the patriot army under Washington during the eventful struggle. From the best information the following persons, early settlers of the town, served in the Revolutionary war either as soldiers of the line, levies or militia. Matthew Marvin, Jared Hoyt, Daniel Nichols, Captain James A. Marvin, James Adams, Roger Case, Jonathan Weed, Reuben Bartow. These men were enlisted largely from the state of Connecticut, and after the revolution moved into the state of New York.

The following is a list of the residents of the town who performed military service for the state during the war of 1812:

Benjamin E. Eells, Mead Eells, John Marvin, Stephen Berray, Mr. Smith, Jonathan Beers, Samuel Morehouse, Nathan Nichols, Gabriel North, John Patrick.

The following is a list of those who were drafted in the service in, 1814: Jonas Walker, William K. Seeley, Eliphalet Seeley, Sylvanus Seeley, Seeley Benedict, Silas Benedict, Nathan Benedict, Tenas Ogden, John Raymond, Samuel Eells, Levi Hanford, Amasa Hoyt, Chauncey Hoyt, Billy Benedict, Alfred Bradley, Gersham H. Bradley, Captain Harmon Sawyer, Ebenezer Steele, Smith St. John, John Hess, Thomas Marvin, Platt Richards, Thomas Keeler, John Olmstead, Bueld Case, Hanford Wakeman, Hezekiah Vanderburg, Alfred Nichols, William Cable, Simon Cable, Nathaniel G. Eells, Lieutenant Gabriel North, Benjamin North, Quartermaster Gabriel Honeywell, William Seymour, Cook St. John, sutler; Richard W. Stockton, sergeant; Tunis Brazee, Harry Bedell, John Barlow, Ebenezer Hanford.

The next military event following the war of 1812, was the so-called "Anti-Rent war" of 1845. From the fact that there was little or no leased land in the town, Walton had consequently less sympathy for the "Anti-renters" than there was in those parts of the county where the land was largely lease lots. The soldiers called out to aid the sheriff in the discharge of his duties were taken largely from the town of Walton and those towns where there was little or no anti-rent sympathy. Major James Marvin, of Walton, was in command of the troops or the sheriff's posse, as it was termed in those days, during the period that the county was under martial law, by a proclamation of the governor of the state, Silas Wright.

The great civil war of 1861 to 1865 made large demands upon the patriotism and the purse of the loyal North, and the part which the town of Walton bore in that eventful struggle will always be a source of pride to her patriotic citizens. The limits of the present historical sketch will not permit the recording of all the names of those who enlisted and served in that memorable struggle. Our

records will therefore be confined to a list of the organizations in which there were enlisted men from the town. The following list and the battles in which they were engaged is taken from the adjutant-general's report of the state of New York published in the year 1868:

The 72d Infantry, Company I, Captain Johnson; engagements Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Charles City Cross Roads, Malvern Hill, Bristow Station, Bull Run.

The 71st Regiment; this regiment was mustered into the service of the United States from June 20 to November 19, 1861. On the expiration of its term of service the original members (except the veterans) were mustered out and the veterans and recruits transferred to the 120th New York Volunteers.

The 71st Regiment, Company I, Captain Elwood, mustered into the service of the United States, August 1th, 1861, and mustered out of service July 30th, 1861, and the recruits transferred to the 120th New York Volunteers. Engagements, Stafford Court House, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Fair Oaks, White Oak Swamp, Charles City Cross Roads, Malvern Hill, Bristow Station, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, Fredericksburgh.

Third New York Cavalry, Company E, Captain Jacobs. Mustered into the service of the United States, from July 17th to August 27th, 1861. On the expiration of its term of service, the original members (except the veterans) were mustered out and a regiment composed of veterans and recruits retained in service. It was united with the First Mounted Rifles, July 22d, 1865, and was called the Fourth Provisional Cavalry. Engagements, Youngs Cross Roads, Williamsburgh, Kingston, White Hall, Goldsborough, Balls Bluff, Weldon Railroad, Edwards Ferry, Stony Creek, Petersburg, Malvern Hill, New Market, Johnson's House.

The 8th New York Independent Battery, Captain Fitch, was raised principally in the county of Delaware and mustered into the service of the United States, October 30th, 1861. On the expiration of its term of service, the original members (except veterans) were

mustered out and a battery composed of veterans and recruits retained in service until June 30th, 1865, when it was mustered out in accordance with the orders of the war department. Engagements, Malvern Hill, Fair Oaks, Seven Pines.

The 51st New York Infantry was mustered into the service of the United States from July 27th to October 23d, 1861. The original members (except veterans) were mustered out on the expiration of the term of service and a regiment consisting of veterans and recruits retained in service until July 25, 1865, when it was mustered out in accordance with orders from the war department. Engagements, Roanoke Island, Newburg, Manassas, Chantilly, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Siege of Vicksburg, Jackson, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Weldon Railroad, Poplar Spring Church.

The 89th Infantry, Company I, Captain T. L. England, mustered into the United States service December 6th, 1861, mustered out August 3, 1865. Engagements, Suffolk, Camden, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg.

The 101st New York Infantry, Colonel George F. Chester. Mustered into the service of the United States September 7th, 1861. It was united with the 37th regiment of New York Volunteers, December 24th, 1862, and the officers mustered out of service. Engagements, Seven Pines, Peach Orchard, Savage Station, Chickahominy, White Oak Swamp, Charles City Cross Roads, Malvern Hill, Groveton, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, Fredericksburg.

The 144th New York Infantry, Colonel Lewis. This regiment was organized at Delhi, New York, to serve for three years. The companies of which it was composed were raised in the county of Delaware. It was mustered into the service of the United States, September 27th, 1862, and mustered out of service June 25th, 1865, in accordance with orders from the war department. Company B of this regiment was raised in the town of Walton, M. W. Marvin Captain. Engagements, Honey Hill, John's Island, James Island, Siege of Wagner, Deveau's Neck, Honey Hill.

The 69th New York Infantry, mustered into the service of the United States, September 7th, 1861, mustered out June 30th, 1865. Engagements, Yorktown, Fair Oaks, Peach Orchard, Malvern Hill, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellor's Bluff, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Reams Station.



A cow in a field.



A barrel in a field.



## APPENDIX.





## The First Board of Supervisors.

. . .

The following is a literal transcript of the record of the proceedings of the Board :

At the first Annual Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Delaware, held at the House of Gideon Frisbie in the Town of Kortright, in said County, on the 30th day of May (being the last Tuesday), in the year of our Lord 1797.

Present :

Enos Parker from.....	Franklin
Robert North.....	Walton
William Horton.....	Colechester
Benjamin Milk .....	Middletown, Chairman
John Lamb.....	Stamford
Roswell Hotchkiss .....	Harpersfield
Benajah Beardsley.....	Kortright

And the Board proceeded to vote for a Clerk, whereupon it was *Resolved*, that Anthony Marvine should be their Clerk for the ensuing year.

Likewise *Resolved*, that Anthony Marvine be Treasurer of the said County of Delaware upon his entering into Bond with Security as the Law directs.

Whereupon the said Anthony Marvine produced a Bond with Jared Goodrich and Benajah Beardsley of the Town of Kortright as Securities, which was accepted by the Board.

The Board then proceeded to canvass and estimate the Ballots given for two Members of Assembly for said County, and it appeared on the close of said Canvass and Estimate that William Horton and Nathaniel Wattles Esquires were duly elected Members of Assembly for said County for the ensuing year. Whereupon they were declared duly elected and the proper certificates were made out and sent to their several addresses, according to Law.

The Board then adjourned to the third Tuesday in August next, at 9 o'clock A. M., at the same place.

Test                  ANTH. MARVINE, CLK.

of Board.

At an Adjourned Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Delaware, held at the House of Gideon Frisbee on Tuesday, the 15 Day of August, 1797.

Present :

Enos Parker from.....	Franklin
William Horton.....	Colechester
Benjamin Milk .....	Middletown
Robert North .....	Walton

And adjourned till to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock.

Wednesday, August 16, 1797. Board met pursuant to adjournment, and the other members attended, to wit :

Benajah Beardsley .....	Kortright
Roswell Hotchkiss .....	Harpersfield
John Lamb .....	Stamford

And Proceeded to Business.

*Resolved* by the Board that each Town be charged with accounts exhibited to us for Services done in such Town previous to the passing the Law for erecting this County, altho the same might have been chargeable against the County, had this County not been erected.

*Resolved*, that for Services done in this County and auditable by this Board (except where otherwise ascertained by Law, or a *Resolve* of a Town Meeting) the sum of Ten Shillings pr. Day including Expenses be allowed.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk of the Board be allowed (for the ordinary Services, and for apportioning the Tax on the several Towns' duplicates &c.) the sum of twelve pounds per year.

Accounts audited against the Town of Franklin, £43:6:8.

Accounts audited against the Town of Colechester, £41:15:0.

Accounts audited against the Town of Walton, £40:16:6.

Accounts audited against the Town of Stamford, £96:3:4.

The Board then adjourned till to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock A. M.

Thursday, August 17th, '97. Board met pursuant to adjournment.

Accounts audited against the Town of Harpersfield, £23:7:6.

Accounts audited against the Town of Kortright, £36:18:3.

After the accounts were audited and finally adjusted the Board Resolved in manner following, to wit :

*Resolved* that the Clerk apportion the Tax of each Town upon the Inhabitants thereof and transmit the Tax Lists and Warrants to the respective Supervisors with due speed. And that he need not make Duplicates thereof, but if tho't necessary each Supervisor may make his own.

By the Supervisors of the Towns formerly in Otsego: *Resolved*, That We will each request the Collector to collect the amount of Otsego Deficiency as soon as may be after obtaining Warrants, and transmit it to the Treasurer, and that he settle up with the Treasurer of Otsego County as soon as convenient.

N. B.—Mr. Milk agreed to take the Warrant and List of his Town and make out the Tax thereof.

The Board then adjourned *sine die*.

Test      ANTH. MARVINE, Clk.

At a Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Delaware held (in Consequence of a Request of the Court of Common Pleas of said County lately held for Purposes mentioned in their Resolve No. 1 on file) at the House of Gideon Frisbie in the Town of Kortright, in said County, on Tuesday the 24th Day of October, 1797.

## Present

Enos Parker, Chairman	Franklin
William Horton	Colechester
Benajah Beardsley	Kortright
Roswell Hotchkiss	Harpersfield
John Lamb	Stamford.

The Board, after maturely consulting the Request in the said Resolve and the Interests of their Constituents, came to the following Resolutions, to wit:

*Resolved*, that we will present a Petition to the Legislature requesting a Law authorizing the Supervisors to raise a Sum of Money for the purpose of Building a Court House and Gaol in said County.

*Resolved*, that the Petition be for a Law authorizing the Supervisors of the County of Delaware for the time being to raise a Sum not exceeding twelve hundred Dollars for the purpose of building a Court House, &c., at such times as they shall think proper. And that the Clerk draw up a petition for the purpose and have it ready for signing by tomorrow morning.

Adjourned till 7 o'clock tomorrow A. M.

October 25th, 1797. The Board met pursuant to adjournment, and

*Resolved*, that a Clause be added to the Petition ordered drawn up yesterday for our proportion of School Money, which was neglected in the Bill for erecting the County.

The Clause was then added accordingly and the Petition read, approved of, and signed by the Supervisors and forwarded to the Legislature.

*Resolved* further, that the Clerk make a Demand of a Deed from Levi Baxter for the Land he proposed giving for the Court House, &c., and also of Daniel W. Sackrider, if he comes openly into the County within 20 Days. If he does not come, to negotiate the Business as to the Deed and £50 he was to give for the Court House, &c., with George Fisher in such manner as is equitable both for him and the County. And that if the Business is not done by Baxter & Sackrider or Fisher to his satisfaction he notify the Board, &c., to remove the stake.

*Resolved*, that if Sackrider comes into the County and does not fulfill his Engagement as to the Land, &c., that the Clerk institute a Suit against him for Damages.

*Resolved*, that if the Deeds are given, the Clerk survey the Land proposed and make out the Deeds to the Supervisors and their Successors in office, and insert a clause therein of Seizen Warranty, &c. And that he be allowed for his trouble in transacting the above Business what is reasonable and just, and that the same shall be chargeable against the County.

*Resolved*, that the Clerk make Report to the next Board what he has done in the above Business.

The Board then adjourned *sine die*.

ARTH. MARVIN, CLK.

## Record of First Election Canvass.

A. D. 1797.

I.....Supervisor of the town of.....in the County of Delaware do solemnly and sincerely declare and swear in the presence of Almighty God that I will faithfully, honestly and impartially canvass and estimate the votes for members of Assembly for the County of Delaware contained in the inclosures delivered into the office of the Clerk of the same County, and that I will publish and declare the persons who have the Greatest Number of Votes for Members of Assembly to be severally elected to the said office respectively, and that I shall discover any of the other persons who shall attend with me for the purpose aforesaid Conducting or demeaning himself or themselves partially, unduly or corruptly in the premises, that I will divulge or discover the same to the end that the person or persons so offending may be brought to Justice.

BENJAMIN MILK,  
WILLIAM HORTON,  
ENOS PARKER,  
JOHN LAMB,  
ROSWELL HOTCHKISS,  
BENAJAH BEARDSLEY.

We the Subscribers being the Supervisors of the County of Delaware, Assembled on the last Tuesday of May in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and ninety-seven at the house of Gideon Frisbee, Esq., for the purpose of Canvassing and Estimating the Votes taken at the last Election for Members of Assembly for the said County of Delaware, Do hereby Certify that upon such Canvass the following Persons were duly Elected by Plurality of Votes, *to wit*, Nathaniel Wattles and William [Horton omitted in record] Esquires. Witness our hand, May 31st, 1797.

ROSWELL HOTCHKISS,  
BENAJAH BEARDSLEY,  
BENJAMIN MILK,  
WILLIAM HORTON,  
ENOS PARKER,  
ROBERT NORTH,  
JOHN LAMB.

I do Certify the foregoing to be true Copies of the Original form of an Oath and Certificate Subscribed as above and entered of Record by me.

EBENEZER FOOTE, Clerk of Delaware County.

## Newspapers of the County.

1855

The following summary record of the newspapers which have been established in Delaware county during the century has been prepared from information furnished by editors, and the writer is indebted for this compilation largely to Mr. John A. Parshall, who for sixty years has been connected with the Delaware Gazette.

No papers have been printed in Boyina, Hamden, Harpersfield, Masonville, Meredith and Tompkins.

When the county was erected there was not a religious paper published in the state, as far as can be learned. In 1838 there were but ten power presses running in the state, now there are fifteen in Delaware county.

The Delaware Gazette was the first newspaper published in the county, begun in 1819, and was the only one published prior to 1821. Sherrill E. Smith is the present editor and publisher, Delhi.

The Delaware Republican (No. 1) was started by Elijah J. Roberts in June, 1821, at Delhi. Discontinued.

The Delaware Republican (No. 2) started September 1830, by George Marvin, at Delhi. Discontinued in 1832.

Delaware Journal established in April, 1834, by Whipple A. Wright, at Delhi. Discontinued.

The Delaware Express was begun in January, 1839, by Norwood Bowne, at Delhi, who continued its editor and publisher until his death January 7, 1890. William Clark is now editor and publisher.

The Voice of the People (Anti-Rent) begun in 1846, by W. S. Hawley, at Delhi. Discontinued.

The Deposit Courier the first paper in Deposit was established in 1848 by M. R. Hulee. In 1869 it was purchased by Chas. N. Stow, who is still editor and publisher.

The Stamford Mirror was started as the Bloomville Mirror at Bloomville in May, 1851, by Simon B. Champion, who has continued to be its editor and publisher. In 1870 the plant was removed to Stamford.

The Franklin Visitor was started by G. W. Reynolds March 28, 1855. In 1863 it was removed to Delhi and consolidated with the Republican.

The Walton Blade established at Walton, May 1856, by E. P. Berray. Discontinued.

The Deposit Union Democrat was started in 1856 by C. E. Wright, but was soon merged into the Courier.

The Star of Delaware was established by Rev. C. B. Smith, at Delhi, in December, 1859, and published for a short time.

The *Young Patriot*—was published at Delhi for a short time in 1860.

The *Delaware Republican* (No. 3) was started May 12, 1860, by Sturtevant and McIntosh. T. F. & R. F. McIntosh are its present editors and publishers.

The *Utilitarian*—published at Margaretville, was established July 7, 1863, by Dr. O. M. Allaben. In 1874 it was purchased by J. K. P. Jackson, present editor and publisher.

The *Andes Recorder*. The first paper in Andes was the *Student*, established September 5, 1866, by Peter Smeallie. A. D. Hitchcock succeeded it with the *Recorder*. The plant was removed to Stamford April 1, 1892, by William Clark. The paper was re-issued by S. F. Adeo and T. W. Miller is now editor and publisher.

Hobart Free Press. This paper was started in 1866 by Charles H. Cleveland. The *Delaware Chief* and *Village Record* were also published at Hobart for a time.

The *Franklin Register*—was started in Franklin by A. D. Hitchcock, June 30, 1868. In 1883 the name was changed to *Delaware County Dairyman*, and Joseph Eveland & Son are editors and publishers.

The *Walton Chronicle*—was established February 3, 1869, by A. D. Hitchcock. It is now published by the *Chronicle Association* and Henry S. White is editor.

The *Walton True Press*—was started by Harvey Ireland in 1872, and was subsequently merged into the *Chronicle*.

The *Hancock Herald*—was started in 1873 and Henry W. Wagner is the present editor and publisher.

The *Deposit Times*—was started by S. C. Clizbe in 1874 and discontinued in less than two years.

The *Star*—was the first paper published in Sidney, beginning in 1870, by Owen & Wright. The following have also been published in that village but all have suspended: The *Midland Times*, 1874, M. W. D. Fenton. The *Democrat*, 1874, J. K. P. Jackson. The *Sidney Herald*, 1875, M. W. D. Fenton. The *News and Wave*, 1879, C. C. & C. O. Brown. The *Valley News*, 1879, Clayton Brown. The *Rural Times*, 1881, Mr. Jones. The *Unahanna*, 1890, Wier Bros. *Daily Despatch*, 1894, Wier Bros.

The *Downsville News*—was started by A. E. Peck in 1875 and is still published by him.

The *Charlotte Valley News*—was started in 1877, at East Davenport. It was followed by the *Transcript* and later the *Standard* which has ceased publication.

The *Roxbury Times*—was begun in 1880 and John H. Dudley is now editor and publisher.

The *Walton Reporter*—was first published in 1881 and is now published by the *Reporter Company*, with Paul Nichols and John P. White as editors.

The *Sidney Record*—was started in the year 1882 by Arthur Bird, who is still editor and publisher.

The *Walton Cyclone*—was started in 1885 by Eells & Son. In 1886 it was changed to the *Peoples Press* and soon discontinued.

The *Delaware Standard*—a prohibition paper, was started in November, 1887, by Rev. W. M. Howie. After several changes, Wm. S. Cole, the owner, changed the name to the *Delaware County News*, which suspended in 1893.

The *Arena Enterprise*—was started in 1889 by H. D. Ellsworth, and was published for about three years.

The *Herald*—was established at Griffin Corners in 1890 by Wilson Bertrand. John P. Gregory is the present editor and publisher.

The *Stamford Recorder*—was started in that village April 10, 1892, by the Stamford Printing and Publishing Company, William Clark editor. The present editor and manager is Edward A. Ackley.

The *Walton Times*—was started November 19, 1892, by Wm. H. Eells, the present editor and publisher.

The *Margaretville Messenger*—was established in 1894 by the *Messenger Company*, with John Grant editor, and is still published as above.

The *Sidney Centre Transcript*—was started in 1895 by W. J. Weyrauch, and Chas. H. Schmitts is the present editor and publisher.

The *Church Review*—was published at Delhi for nine months in 1893 by Abbe & Lawson.

The *Sidney Advocate*—was established in 1895 by Bolton & Stanton, and J. P. Andrews is now the editor and publisher.

There have been two papers published for a time at Bloomville, and possibly the above is not a complete list of all the ventures in the field of Delaware county journalism.

C. Edick Wright, who learned the printer's trade in the *Delaware Gazette* office, in writing some reminiscences about ten years ago said: "The influence of the Press is felt in every nook and corner of our land. It penetrates the cabin of the poor as well as the marble halls of the rich. It reaches the prisoner in his cell and points him the way to reformation. Next to the Bible, and as an auxiliary, the newspaper is a guide to the statesman, a help to the clergy, and an indispensable article in every household."

Gush forth civil liberty's springs,  
Let the Press of the Nation and land,  
That dread foe of tyrants and kings,  
It's country's true sentinal stand.  
The Press of the Nation—on progressions age,  
'Tis the day-spring of youth, and the guide of the sage  
'Tis the audible footfall of thought on the page,  
The articulate beat of the heart of the age  
'Tis the "Harp" of a thousand strings.'

## Dates of Organization of the Towns.

1. Harpersfield, original town; Roswell Hotchkiss, first supervisor.
2. Middletown, original town; Benjamin Milk, first supervisor.
3. Colchester, original town; William Horton, first supervisor.
4. Franklin, original town; Enos Parker, first supervisor.
5. Stamford, original town; John Lamb, first supervisor.
6. Kortright, original town; Benajah Beardsley, first supervisor.
7. Walton, original town; Robert North, first supervisor.
8. Delhi, organized 1798; Ebenezer Foote, first supervisor.
9. Roxbury, organized 1799; Isaac Hardenbergh, first supervisor.
10. Meredith, organized 1800.
11. Sidney, organized 1801; Witter Johnson, first supervisor.
12. Hancock, organized 1806; John Knight, (1825).
13. Tompkins, organized 1806; Peter Pine, first supervisor.
14. Masonville, organized 1811; Warren Willis, first supervisor.
15. Davenport, organized 1817; John Davenport, first supervisor.
16. Andes, organized 1819; Daniel H. Burr, first supervisor.
17. Bovina, organized 1820; Thomas Landon, Jr., first supervisor.
18. Hamden, organized 1825; Jabez Bostwick, first supervisor.
19. Deposit, organized 1880; Geo. D. Wheeler, first supervisor.

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## Corrections and Additions.

On page 70, the date given for the organization of the town of Delhi should be March 17, 1798 instead of 1797. See Session Laws 1798, Chap. 43.

On page 72, in reference to the present court house it should be added that in 1894 an annex was built at a cost of about \$10,000.

On page 75, sixth line from the bottom, 1846 should be 1845.

On page 77, the term of Judge Ebenezer Foote should be stated to begin 1823 instead of 1828.

On page 77, the term of Judge Baumes should be 1888 instead of 1889.

On page 77, the surrogate named as Amasa J. Parker should be Amasa Parker.

On page 78, the date given for William McLaughry as county clerk should be 1846.

On page 78, the name given as sheriff should be Daniel Rowland instead of David Rowland. The same change should be made in the name (p. 81) of the member of Assembly for 1853.

On page 79, the name of Samuel Rexford should have appeared at State Senator for 1829-30-31-32.

On page 80, at the head of the list of members of Assembly, it should be stated that the dates given are the years in which they were elected.

On page 85, among Supreme Court Justices it should be stated that in 1850 Levinus Monson was appointed in the place of E. B. Morehouse, deceased.

SHAD IN DELAWARE COUNTY: Since the paragraph on page 35 was written I have received from several directions information that shad have been caught in the East Branch of the Delaware river in recent years. One of these instances will be found in the history of Colchester in this volume.















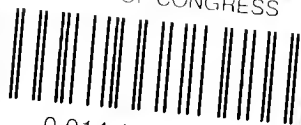








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