

NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES



3 3433 06252723 3

33  
71  
For the Lenox Library, 77572  
Compliments of  
L. W. Kingman

Editor of the Gazette  
Chicago, Ill.

Presented by

the author, S. Jan., 1910.  
to the

New York Public Library

IRM  
(OWEGO)

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2008 with funding from  
Microsoft Corporation





# OWEGO.

Some account of the early settlement of the Village in Tioga County, N. Y., called Ah-wa-ga by the Indians, which name was corrupted by gradual evolution into Owago, Owega, Owegy, and finally Owego.

By LeRoy Wilson Kingman.

Only fifty copies of this book are  
printed, of which this is number 45

RMC

15075

## PREFACE.

The publication of the matter in this book was begun in the Owego Gazette of May 30, 1907, and ran through several successive issues. It is reprinted here with the same type that was used in the newspaper. It corrects a few errors made by previous writers and adds some new information relative to the early settlers that has not before appeared in print. It contains information obtained thirty years ago from early residents, and may be useful to some future historian who may desire to write a complete and satisfactory history of the village of Owego.



## EARLY OWEGO.

---

The Documentary History Relative to the Burning of the Indian Village in the Evening of August 19, 1779, by Soldiers of the United Expeditions of Generals Sullivan and Clinton, Previous to their Combined Attack upon the Indian Settlements in Western New York, in One of Which Regiments Was James McMaster, Who Afterward Was the First White Man to Settle Permanently at Owego—Excerpts from the Journals of the Officers in the Various Regiments Relating to Their Sojourn at This Point.

The earliest event known in history relating to the village of Owego is its destruction by fire in 1779. The village consisted of about twenty substantial log houses, built by the Indians. The coming into the Susquehanna valley of the detachment from Gen. Sullivan's army in August of that year caused the Indians to desert their homes and when the soldiers came there was not a red man in sight.

In order to break the power of the Indians under Brant in this state, the continental congress decided to make the campaign a national one, and it was placed under the direction of Gen. Washington, who sent one division under Gen. John Sullivan from Easton, Pa., across the country to the Susque-

hauna river, and thence to ascend the river to Tioga Point (now Athens, Pa.) The other division was commanded by Gen. James Clinton, a brother of the then governor Geo. Clinton. Gen. Clinton was at this time in command at Albany. He was directed to march up the Mohawk river to Canajoharie, crossing from there to Otsego lake, and going thence down the Susquehanna river to Tioga Point, where the expeditions were to unite in a combined attack on the Indian settlements in western New York.

Gen. Clinton had between 1,500 and 1,800 men, 220 boats, and provisions for three months. When Gen. Sullivan reached Tioga Point August 13, 1779, Clinton had not reached there and being apprehensive that Clinton might be in danger, he detached Gen. Enoch Poor, with 900 men and eight day's provisions, to proceed up the river, as a reinforcement to Gen. Clinton in case of attack.

Gen. Poor's detachment reached Owego (then called Owegy) August 17 at 2 p. m. The next day at 6:30 a. m. it proceeded up the river to Choconut (now Union), where it encamped and waited until Clinton's army arrived there at 9 a. m. August 19. At 11 o'clock that day the march of the entire body of troops began, and it arrived here at sunset. The same night the soldiers set fire to and burned the Indian village. The next day the troops remained here all day, as it rained violently, and they suffered considerably, as they had no tents.

August 21 the soldiers proceeded to Tioga Point. Thence the entire army marched to Newtown (Elmira), where the battle of Newtown was fought August 29 and the power of Brant and his Indians was destroyed.

It has always been believed, and has been so printed, the authority being some of the early residents of this village, that the old Indian village was situated on the north bank of the Susquehanna river, below William street. This is perhaps incorrect, as there is documentary evidence that the old Indian village was on the west side of the Owego creek in the present town of Tioga.

Among the officers of Gen. Clinton's army was Lieutenant (afterward Major) Erskuries Beatty. In his journal of the expedition, which is in archives of the New York historical society, he notes its arrival Aug. 19 at Owego "about sundown after a very fatiguing march of 22 miles." The journal continues as follows:

"Friday 20 Rained a little last night and Successively all this Day therefore did not move: Went a party down to Owego town which lies one mile lower down and burnt it consisted of about 20 houses.

"Saturday 21st—Clear weather this morning but a very heavy fog. marchd of a little after 7 o'clock forded Owego creek which is reckoned one third of the Susquehanna at this place, it was about three feet Deep & about 50 Yards Wide went thro' the ruins of Owego town crossed a pretty large brook went 12 Miles halted at a small Brook one hour for refreshment."

From this it would seem probable

that the Owego creek was wider at its mouth than it is now and that the Indian village was on the west side of the creek.

In Clinton's army Lieut. William McKendry was quartermaster in Col. Alden's Sixth Massachusetts regiment. In his journal, which is in possession of the Massachusetts historical society, he writes under date of August 19:

\* \* the army proceeded on and arrived at Owago about sunset this is a large Indian Settlement and fine land—Encampt at this place, this is the Indian town that Serjt. hunter was carried to that was taken 10th Novr. last below Cherry Valley on this same River as he was returning with his Scout—heavy rain this night, the Genl. detached a party and sent them and burnt the town at this place About two miles up a little Creek."

Major Beatty says that the troops "marched through the ruins of Owago town" after having crossed the Owego creek on their way down the river, while lieutenant McKendry says the town was burned "about two miles up a little creek." This is a little confusing.

Many other officers in the armies of Sullivan and Clinton kept journals in which were noted proceedings of each day. Many of these journals have been preserved and deposited by the descendants of the officers in the collections of various historical societies. The following are excerpts from some of these journals relating to the events of August 17-20, 1779, covering the brief period of the sojourn of the troops in Owego:

The following is from the journal

of Dr. Jabez Campfield, surgeon in Spencer's Fifth New Jersey regiment, owned by the New Jersey historical society.

"17 Aug., 1779—The detachment marched [12 miles] to an Indian settlement about 1 mile below Owego and encamped on a beautiful plain covered with grass; just below we came on the plain, the detach't crossed a stream of water, on which Owego is situated a mile above these places were all deserted last spring, their inhabitants only a few.

\* \* \*

"Aug. 19—This morning 9 o'clock Genl. Clinton joined us with upwards of 200 Boats and about 700 Infantry, who marched by land—2 pieces of cannon in ye boats; his whole number it is said consists of 1,500 men. 11 o'clock we marched for Owego & arrived there at sunset. A party was sent out, who burned the town of Owego. The few inhabitants, who remained there had gone of the day before we arrived"

"Genl. Clinton has burned all the towns on or near the river in his way down

"Aug. 20—A heavy rain came on last night, which prevented our march this day."

From the journal of Major Jeremiah Fogg, of Col. Poor's New Hampshire regiment:

"17 Marched, at 6 o'clock, passed through exceedingly good land, and at 2 o'clock arrived at Owego, lately inhabited by the savages, but on the destruction of Onondaga it was abandoned, as were all the settlements on the river above Tioga. This is a pretty piece of land through which runs a creek about three rods wide. A small party were sent up to explore, and about a mile up the creek found 9 horses, but no Indians."

\* \* \*

"19th. Marched at eight o'clock,

but soon met a sergeant from Gen. Clinton, with a letter informing us that his army would be at Chocunut brook by five o'clock. Consequently we countermarched, and before night arrived at Owegy, and burnt 19 houses. Gen. Clinton had about 1,800 men, 208 boats and one month's salt provision, with two Oneida Indians'

"20th. Rained violently, which rendered it exceedingly bad for men without tents. Remained on the ground all day"

From the journal of Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Dearborn, commanding the Third New Hampshire regiment:

"17th We march'd early this morning proceeded 12 miles to Owagea an Indian Town—which was deserted last Spring after planting. About town is a number of fruit trees & many plants & herbs that are common in our part of the country here is a large body of clear Intervale cover'd with grass Our march to day has been very severe & Fategueng especially for the left Column (to which I belong) as we had to pass several difficult steep hills & bad Morasses.

\* \* \*

"19th Our troops were put in motion very early this morning after marching about one mile Genl. Poor receiv'd an express from Genl Clinton informing him that the latter expect'd to be here by 10 o'clock a. m. in consequence of which we retur'd to our old incampment where Genl Clinton Joined us at 10 o'clock with 2,000 men including Officers boatmen, &c He has 208 batteaux with provisions Ammunition etc after mutuil congratulations & Compliments the whole proceeded down the river to Owagea & incamp'd. This evening the town of Owagea was made a bone fire to grace our meeting Our general course from Tiogea to Chocunut is about N. East.

"20th We have a very heavy rain to-do & no tents but we are obliged to ride it out"

From the journal of Captain James Norris, of the Third New Hampshire regiment, in possession of the Buffalo historical society.

"17 We marched Early this Morning Proceed 12 Miles to Owagea an Indian Town which was Deserted last Spring after Planting. About the town is many Fruit Trees and many Plants, and Herbs, that are Common in our part of the Country; Hear is a large body of clear Intivale Covered with Grass. Our March to day Vcry Survear and Fatigueing Esspecially for the Left Colm (to which I belong) as we had to pass Several Steap Hills and Morasses—

"19 Our Troops were put in Motion very early this Morning after Marching about one Mile Gen'l Poor Received an Exspress from General Clinton Informing him that the latter expected to be hear by 10 o'clock a. m. this day in Consequence of which we Rteurn'd to our Old Incampment where General Clinton Joined us at 10 o'clock with two Thousand Men—including Officers, Boatsmen &c. he has two hundred and Eight Beautoes with Provisions Ammunition &c after Mutural Congratulations and Complements the whole Proceeded down the River to Owagea and Incampt this evening, the town of Owego was made a burnfire of to Grace our Meeting."

It will be noticed that with the exception of the spelling the journals of Lieut-Col. Dearborn and Captain Norris are almost exactly alike, word for word.

From the journal of Capt. Daniel Livermore, captain in Third New Hampshire regiment, owned by the

New Hampshire historical society.  
the following is taken:

"Tuesday, August 17. This day the troops march early. I march on the flank guard. The country is very mountainous, with some fertile valleys. At 4 pm we arrive at a considerable Indian town, called Owago, 14 miles. Here is a very good tract of land both sides of the river. The town consisted of about twenty houses, which we destroyed, together with considerable Indian corn, which is in the milk just fit to roast. The town appears to have been evacuated but a little time. 14 miles.

\* \* \*

"Thursda, August 19. This morning we hear another gun up the river, but, no intelligence arriving, the troops are ordered to march, and proceed about one mile, when our spies, sent off last evening, meet us with intelligence of Gen. Clinton's being near.

We then return to the place of our last encampment. At 10 a. m. Gen. Clinton arrives with about—boats and 1,500 men. We immediately proceed on the march for Tiego. At sunset arrive at the old encampment at Owago, and encamp."

James McMaster, who was the first white settler in the village of Owego, first came here as a soldier in the Second New York regiment in the Sullivan expedition. The colonel of the regiment was Philip VanCortlandt.

**A Chronology of the Settlement of Owego Village Previous to the Year 1830, with Some Account of Amos Draper, the Indian Trader, Who Was the First Settler Here in the Spring of 1787, and of His Descendants and His Brother, Jos. Draper.**

The years in which some of the earliest settlers came to Owego and its vicinity are given below. This includes the business and professional men who came here as late as 1830 and previous to that year. The date of the arrival of many others is not accurately known, so they are not included in the list, which is as follows:

- 1787. Amos Draper.
- 1788. James McMaster, John McQuigg, Jesse McQuigg.
- 1789. Ephraim Wood, Joseph Gas-kill.
- 1790. Capt. Lemuel Brown, Emanuel Duel.
- 1791. Col. David Pixley, Capt. Luke Bates, Abner Turner, Mason Webster, Moses Ingersoll.
- 1792. Capt. Mason Wattles, Dr. Samuel Tinkham, John Hill.
- 1794. Joel Farnham.
- 1795. Dr. Elisha Ely.
- 1799. Stephen Mack, Ephraim Wood, Nathaniel Sackett.
- 1800. Thomas Duane, Eleazer Dana.
- 1801. John Hollenback, Gen. John Laning, John H. Avery, Nathaniel Catlin.
- 1802. John Pumpelly and his sons, James, Charles, Harmon, and William Pumpelly; Noah Goodrich, Eliakim Goodrich, Gen. Ansel Goodrich.
- 1803. Elizur, Geo. L., and Charles

- Talcott, Daniel Cruger, Jr., Capt.  
 Sylvenus Fox.  
 1804. Gen. Oliver Huntington.  
 Joseph Berry.  
 1805. William, Nathan, Anson, and  
 Hermon Camp, Major Horatio Ross.  
 Jonathan Platt.  
 1806. Caleb Leach. Ephraim  
 Leach, Stephen B. Leonard.  
 1808. Capt. David Fleming. Gen.  
 Robert Fleming.  
 1809. John R. Drake.  
 1810. Dr. Godfrey Waldo.  
 1811. Dr. Jedediah Fay.  
 1812. Richard E. Cushman.  
 1814. Isaac Lillie, John Ripley.  
 Col. Henry McCormick.  
 1815. Stephen Strong.  
 1816. George W. Hollenback. Dr.  
 Joel S. Paige.  
 1817. Col. Amos Martin.  
 1818. Lorenzo Reeves. Elisha  
 Bundy, Abner Beers, David Beers.  
 David Turner.  
 1819. John Carmichael.  
 1820. Ziba A. Leland. Erastus  
 Meacham.  
 1821. Robert S. Bartlett and his  
 sons, Joseph, Isaac L., and Robert  
 S. Bartlett, Jr.  
 1822. James, Almon S., and Sam-  
 uel Archibald.  
 1823. Gurdon Hewitt.  
 1824. Dr. Ezekiel B. Phelps, Col.  
 Benoni B. Curry.  
 1825. Asa H. Truman, Ezra S.  
 Sweet.  
 1826. John M. Greenleaf.  
 1827. Edward R. Warner.  
 1828. James Cameron, Thomas  
 Farrington, Francis Armstrong, Al-  
 anson Munger, Edward Raynsford,  
 James N. Eldridge.  
 1829. Dr Ezekiel Lovejoy, Aaron  
 P. Storrs, John Dodd, Albert R.  
 Thomas, Charles C. Thomas, Jacob  
 Hand.  
 1830. Charles and Printice Rau-  
 som, Lyman Truman, Chester Dana.

#### AMOS DRAPER.

The first white settler at what is  
 now the village of Owego was Amos  
 Draper, who came here as a trader

among the Indians and who by his integrity obtained their friendship and confidence and had great influence over them. He was a son of Major Simeon Draper, who was one of the "forty" settlers at Kingston, Pa., in the Wyoming valley under the Connecticut claim, and who settled there in 1768.

Amos Draper had been living a few years in a temporarily constructed house on the south bank of the Susquehanna river on the flat called the old Mersereau flat at Choconut, nearly opposite Union. His family came there from Kingston in the fall of 1786.

During that year Mr. Draper built a log house at Owego. It stood on the eastern part of the lot on which Gurdon H. Pumpelly's house now stands in west Front street and was about one hundred feet from the bank of the river. It faced south on the old Indian trail, which then ran along the bank pretty closely. This Indian trail struck the river about a mile above the bridge where the river road runs nearest to the river bank. Continuing down the river it followed the bank to the mouth of the Owego creek. In building this house Mr. Draper brought the boards for the floor up the river by canoes from Kingston, Pa.

In May, 1787, the Drapers removed to Owego and began living in their new house. While living here Mr. Draper continued his business of trafficking with the Indians at Choconut. The first winter of their residence here a christianized Oneida

Indian chief and his wife, who bore the title of Queen, lived in the house with Mrs. Draper, and acted as her protectors.

Mrs. Draper's maiden name was Lydia Williams, and at the time of her marriage she lived at Kingston.

Several years afterward the Drapers lived in another log house which stood a little back of where Mrs. John Brown's residence now stands at the northwest corner of Main and McMaster streets.

Amos Draper's brother, Joseph Draper, was a later comer here. He was a surveyor. The brothers were entirely unlike. The late William Pumpelly, who knew them well, informed the writer that Joseph Draper was a loud talker and very self-assertive, while Amos Draper was the reverse in every respect—a quiet man and esteemed by everybody.

Amos Draper's daughter, Selecta Draper, was the first white child born at Owego. She was born June 19, 1788. She became the wife of Stephen Williams, of Newark Valley, in 1809. He was born at West Stockbridge, Mass., in 1783, and came with his father, also named Stephen Williams, to Newark Valley in 1801.

Amos Draper had two sons, Amos and Benjamin Draper, and two daughters, Selecta and Catherine Draper. Amos Draper, Jr., died near Victor, N. Y., and Benjamin at Fairfax Court House, Va. Catherine became the wife of Ewart Williams. Selecta died April 2, 1865, at the home of her son, Lucius Ewart Williams, at Newark valley.

. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Williams lived at Newark Valley, then known as Brown's settlement, where they purchased a farm and built a house. At the time of Mrs. Williams's death, in 1865, the house was occupied by the widow of Chester Patterson. Mr. Williams died at Newark Valley July 6, 1859. At the time of Mrs. Williams's death six of her ten children survived her as follows:

Catharine Minerva, married Ambrose Collins, of Berkshire.

Dr. Charles Draper, of St. Paul, Minn.

Horatio Spencer, of Woodhull, N. Y.

Myron Milton, of St. Paul, Minn.

Joseph Edwin, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Lucius Ewart, of Newark Valley.

Mary married Elisha Hurd, of Aurora, Ohio.

Amos Draper died in this village May 24, 1808. At that time the village burying ground was at the present corner of Main and Court streets, and extended south to about the east line of the lot on which the new Tioga county clerk's office now stands. Mr. Draper's body was buried where the old clerk's office stood, between the present jail and the old academy buildings. When men were digging for the foundation wall of the first clerk's office, in 1825, they cut through Mr. Draper's grave.

Lucius E. Williams, of Newark Valley, is a son of Stephen Williams and the last survivor of ten children.

Joseph Draper was unmarried. He died of consumption at the home of Lucius E. Williams in 1832 or 1833, and his body was buried in

the Newark Valley cemetery. Mr. Williams has an oil portrait of Joseph Draper. A historical society should be organized in Owego and this portrait and other portraits of early settlers should be gathered together for preservation.

#### JAMES MC MASTER.

James McMaster was the second white man to settle permanently at Owego. He first came here as a soldier in Gen. Sullivan's army in 1779, and made his permanent settlement here in 1788, the year following the coming of the Drapers.

It is erroneously stated by judge Charles P. Avery in his "Susquehanna Valley" papers in the "St. Nicholas" magazine (page 303) that James McMaster's knowledge of the general character of the valley was acquired while a soldier in the army of Gen. Clinton on its way down the Susquehanna river to meet Gen. Sullivan's forces. This error has been copied in all the local histories since written.

At the time judge Avery wrote his papers the military records of this state had not been printed. McMaster had been dead thirty-five years and judge Avery's information seems to have been obtained from some of his descendants whose knowledge was traditional and uncertain.

In "New York in the Revolution," a large quarto volume compiled from state records and published at Albany in 1879 by James A. Roberts, then Comptroller of this state, a full list of the officers and men of the various New York regiments, taken

from the records, was published. In 1898 a second and more complete edition of the book was published by Mr. Roberts.

On page 29 of the second edition is the roster of the Second New York regiment commanded by Col. Philip Van Cortlandt, and on page 35 James McMaster's name appears as a private in this regiment.

On page 342 of the book on the "Military Expedition of Major-General John Sullivan against the Six Nations of Indians in 1779," compiled by Frederick Cook, Secretary of State and published in 1887, are given lists of the regiments in both Clinton's and Sullivan's armies in this expedition, and the Second regiment is among those in the army of Sullivan. On page 327 of the same book a list of the officers of the Second regiment is also given.

It appears plain that McMaster was in Gen. Sullivan's army instead of Clinton's.

James McMaster was a farmer. When he came to Owego with Sullivan's army in the summer of 1779 the flat land east of the Owego creek seemed so desirable for farming purposes that he determined to settle here.

In 1784 he was living on a farm owned jointly by himself and his brother, David McMaster, in Florida, Montgomery county, about fourteen miles above Schenectady and a mile and a half from the Mohawk river. In April of that year he and another brother, Robert McMaster, in company with William Woods and John Nealy, and with William Taylor, a

boy eight years old, who had been indentured to James McMaster as a "bound boy," started for Owego.

The previous winter a large boat had been obtained at Schenectady and taken thence to Canajoharie on the ice and from there to the bank of Otsego lake. There the boat was launched and a part of the party embarked with a wagon, provisions, plows, farming implements and cooking utensils, while another party went with four horses by land, following the Indian trail to the foot of the lake. Thence they all proceeded together, following the Indian trail to Owego. They met many parties of Indians on their way, who seemed peaceably inclined, but met no white man.

They were fourteen days on their journey, arriving here on the first day of May, one party by boat down the river and the other by land. At night while on their way the boat was moored uniformly at some place on the river, previously appointed, and thus the whole party, as well for safety as for comfort, took their evening meals and passed their nights together.

On the flat west of what is now McMaster street there was but little forest, and the land had been cultivated some by the Indians. McMaster's party at once set fire to the dried grass, and burned over the entire surface of the ground, the flames extending over the site of Owego and for a considerable distance beyond. They built a temporary cabin of pitch pine logs on the flat, about fifty rods above where

the electric light plant now stands, which sheltered them until their corn planting was done on about ten acres in the vicinity of the present Ta'cott street.

After the planting was completed they erected a more substantial log house near the bank of the river on the lot where the residence of George W. Thompson now stands, and this was the first building erected for permanent use by the hands of white men in this portion of the Susquehanna valley.

After the corn hoeing season was over the whole party returned with three of their horses and a quantity of beaver skins which they had received from the Indians in exchange for their fourth horse to the valley of the Mohawk, for the purpose of attending to their harvesting there. That having been accomplished they returned later and harvested their crop here, which had not been molested by the Indians, with whom they had established friendly relations. The crop was taken in boat loads to Tioga Point (Athens, Pa.) and securely cribbed, after which the party returned to the Mohawk valley for the winter.

In 1785, the year after the corn planting expedition, James McMaster returned to Owego. It was in June of that year that four agents of the Massachusetts purchase, a body of 230,400 acres of land lying between the Owego creek and the Chenango river awarded to Massachusetts and since known as the Boston Purchase or Ten Townships, came here and found McMaster in possession. Mc-

Master claimed ownership of what was subsequently known as the McMaster half township, on which the village of Owego is now situated, by contract with the Indians, in which claim he was sustained by Amos Draper; and their influence was such with the Indians that in order to conciliate them and obtain possession the agents were compelled to satisfy McMaster's claim by giving him eighteen square miles of land extending from the Susquehanna river on the east side of the Owego creek eighteen miles north, and from the Owego creek on the north side of the river eastward, a distance of six miles. The particulars of this transaction are fully told in the "Susquehanna Valley" papers in the St. Nicholas magazine, page 301.

James McMaster did not settle permanently here until 1788. Then he and his family settled in a house which stood near where the main highway on the old Indian trail ran along the river bank at its intersection with the old Cayuga Lake trail which trail was identical with the present McMaster street and extended down to the river. This house faced the river and stood near where Michael A. Lynch's house now stands. The house was afterward occupied by Dr. Samuel Tinkham and later by James Pumpelly.

The family of John McQuigg came the same year from Massachusetts.

The late Lyman C. Draper, of Madison, Wis., secretary of the Wisconsin state historical society,

purchased in 1876 of the heirs of the late judge Avery the manuscripts containing interviews with early residents of southern New York relative to the Indian history, much of which was used in writing the Susquehanna Valley papers. In a letter to the editor of this paper written in October of the following year Mr. Draper wrote that he had been for some time collecting material for a new life of Brant, the Indian chief, and that the Avery papers had been purchased with others to aid him in that purpose, but that these papers did not contain much concerning Brant, but more of the local history of this region. After Mr. Draper's death the papers became a part of the manuscript collection of the Wisconsin historical society. The following is a list of the more important of them:

Mrs. Whitaker's account of her captivity among the Indians (1778.)

Dances and other Ceremonies of the Iroquois: character of the Indians.

Mrs. Whitaker's reminiscences of Brant and other chiefs.

Memoirs of Sebastian Strobe and his family.

Narrative of Abel Hart.

Narrative of Way-way alias Betsy Douglas.

Statements of the following pioneers (accounts of their own or their parents' adventures): Jesse McQuigg, John Gee, Mrs. Caty Harris, Lawrence Merriman, Jonathan Terry, Elisha Forsyth.

Mrs. Caty Harris, mentioned in the last paragraph, was a daughter of James McMaster. The Avery interview with her was a very brief

one, and the following is a verbatim copy of it, as copied from the original in the Wisconsin historical society's collection:

Statement of Mrs. Caty Harris.

June 8th., 1853.

Maiden name Caty McMaster.  
daughter of Jas. (patentee.)

Came to Owego when four or five years old with my father's family:

Oldest brother Jas.

Next Jeremiah.

" David.

Oldest sister Jane Sackett, wife of Caleb H. Sackett.

Sister Elida McMaster. dead.

Sister, Caty McMaster.

Sister, Ann Fish. dead.

Robert McMaster was a brother of old James and moved on at same time with Jas. He married a Bates, a sister of Elisha Bates. Thos. McM., another brother, came on afterwards.

Electa Draper (now Williams) first white child born at Owego. Amos Draper's family first white family at Owego.

Recollects the Indians used to be there in bands; had wigwams near her father's house. They were peaceable and friendly as could be.

My mother, Rachel, died 30 years ago in Candor, my father died in Candor. They are buried on the farm now owned by Hiram Smith, not enclosed.

My father was a tall man, not fleshy, large boned, about six feet high. He paid the Indians for their land. He held the council with them near where his house was. (The particulars of this treaty have never transpired. C. P. A.)

I was born on the Mohawk. I have had 7 children.

These are my grandchildren. (Pointing to two boys.)

My father built the house once occupied by Jas. Pumpelly.

The first house he built was near

the river and pretty nearly back of the Pumpelly house.

I believe my father was in the army under Genl. Clinton and came down the river. In that way I think he must have been acquainted with the valley of the river.

At the time of this interview Mrs. Harris lived in the town of Cayuta, Schuyler county. It was from this interview that Judge Avery, probably, obtained the misinformation that McMaster was in Clinton's army. James McMaster's wife's name was Rachel. Their children were as follows:

James McMaster, Jr.

Jeremiah McMaster. He married Hannah Hill, a daughter of John Hill, one of the first settlers of the town of Tioga. He died at Spencer. His death followed the amputation of his leg on account of a fever sore. His daughter, Eliza McMaster, married Leonard Jones, who came from Peekskill, N. Y., with his father, John Jones, and settled at Spencer between 1800 and 1805. John B. Jones, who lives in East Temple street, Owego, is a son of Leonard Jones.

David McMaster.

Jane McMaster. Married Col Caleb H. Sackett and lived at Candor. She died near Almond, Allegany county.

Elida McMaster was unmarried. She died in 1843, aged 63 years. Her body was buried at West Candor.

Catherine McMaster. Married James Harris, a blacksmith, who was born in the north of Ireland. They lived near VanEtten, Che-

ning county. Both were buried at Spencer. She was 80 years old at the time of her death.

Ann McMaster. Married a man named Fish. It is said that she died at the county poor house.

James McMaster was a man of improvident habits, and although the owner of property that with judicious management would have made him immensely wealthy, it gradually passed from his hands and he died thirty years after his settlement here in reduced circumstances.

One day in 1818, while living at Candor, where his daughter, Mrs. Sackett, lived, he borrowed a horse of a neighbor to ride to Spencer to visit one of his sons. He had gone but a short distance when the horse shied and he was thrown to the ground, breaking his ribs. He was taken into Selah Gridley's house, where he died a few days afterward. His body was buried on the Caleb Sackett farm. The grave was plowed over many years ago. The farm was subsequently cut up into village lots and this grave was on the back part of the lot on which Mrs. Alvah Fuller's house now stands.

#### COL. DAVID PIXLEY.

The first settler of any importance in the eastern part of the town of Tioga was Col. David Pixley, who came from Stockbridge, Mass., in 1791. The same year Abner Turner came from Massachusetts and settled at the confluence of the Owego and Catatonk creeks. Both Col. Pixley and Mr. Turner had

been here previously on exploring tours.

Col. Pixley was born at Stockbridge, Mass., March 24, 1741. His father, whose name was also David Pixley, was born at Westfield, Mass., in 1714, and was a soldier in the expedition against Cape Breton in 1745. He settled at Stockbridge before 1749. Col. David Pixley fought in the Revolutionary war and had a fine military record. His record as obtained from Massachusetts archives by one of his greatgrandsons, Josiah Collins Pumpelly, now living in New York city, is as follows:

He was a first lieutenant, as by Lexington Alarm Call Rolls, April 19, 1775, in Capt. William Goodrich's company, Col. Patterson's regiment, from Stockbridge to Cambridge. Thirteen days service. Enlisted again May 5, 1775, for eight months' service from Stockbridge. Time of service three months, four days. Commissioned May 27, 1775, captain in Col. John Brown's regiment. Enlisted June 30, 1777; discharged July 26, 1777. Twenty days' service in Northern Department.

In the lists of the officers and men of the regiments in the line in the United States service under Gen. Washington, as given in "New York in the Revolution," Lieutenant David Pixley's name appears (page 61) as in the corps of "Green Mountain Boys." The colonels were Ethan Allen and Seth Warner, and John Brown was major. The editorial explanation heading this list says:

"These muster-rolls are recorded as "Major Brown's Detachment," and

that detachment is mentioned as in "Gen. Arnold's Regiment." (The only mention of Gen. Arnold found in our records.) The fact that the "Green Mountain Boys" were at Quebec in 1776; that this detachment was also at Quebec in 1776; that two of the officers on these rolls—Captain and Commissary Elijah Babcock and Captain Robert Cochran—are identical in name and rank with those on a list handed to the Provincial Congress of New York by Ethan Allen and Seth Warner, on July 4, 1775, as officers for the Green Mountain Boys; and the further fact that none of the men are recorded in any other place, or with any other organization, all confirm the belief that the soldiers on its rolls herewith were a part of that historic band."

The muster roll of the men of Lieutenant Pixley's company in the Massachusetts archives at the State House in Boston contains the names of twenty Indians.

David Pixley was commissioned a colonel in the colonial army July 1, 1775. His commission bears the signature of John Hancock, President. His regiment was in Gen. John Patterson's command at Bunker Hill, and he was under Gen. Montgomery at the siege of Quebec.

There has been privately printed a circular giving the genealogy of Dr. Tinkham, Col. Pixley's son-in-law, and showing Dr. Tinkham's descent from Miles Standish, who came to America in the Mayflower in 1620. In this it is said that Lydia Patterson, Col. Pixley's second wife was a "daughter of Col. John Patterson, colonel of the infantry regiment in which David Pixley was first lieutenant in the

revolutionary army." This is an error. She was a daughter of Joseph Patterson, who was born at Waterbury, Mass., in 1810 and died at Richmond in 1780.

Col. John Patterson (afterward Gen. Patterson) was a man of ability and prominence. He was born in 1844 at New Britain, Conn., and was educated at Yale college. He taught school, studied law, and became a justice of the peace. In 1774 he removed to Lenox, Mass., where he became a member of the provincial congress. Just before the Revolution he raised a regiment among the neighbors of Berkshire county, and on the day before the battle of Lexington and Concord he ordered his men to be ready to march at sunrise the next morning. He participated in the battle of Bunker Hill, holding the fortifications at Somerville, which protected the rear of the American forces, and shared the hardships and adventures of the siege of Boston. In the ill-starred expedition to Canada under Montgomery and Arnold he lost the greater part of his men, and later with the remnant of his command he participated in the victories of Trenton and Princeton, and as a brigadier-general in 1877 he had charge of Massachusetts troops in the campaign under Gen. Gates, which ended with the capture of the British army under Burgoyne. He was a member of the court-martial that tried and condemned Major Andre. He was afterward in command of West Point, and even after peace was de-

clared he was retained there with his brigade and was not mustered out until December 8, 1783. In 1786 he assisted in the suppression of Shay's rebellion. In 1791 Gen. Patterson removed to Lisle, Broome county, N. Y., which was then a part of Tioga county. He was a member of assembly in 1792-3, member of congress in 1803-5, member of the constitutional convention in 1801, and the first judge elected in Broome county in 1806, the year that county was set off from Tioga county, and he filled the office until his death in 1808 at Lisle. A monument was afterward erected in his memory on the town square at Lenox, Mass.

Josiah Collins Pumpelly says his researches have convinced him that the company recruited by Patterson and Pixley did not reach Boston until a day or two after the battle of Bunker Hill was fought. If his conclusions are correct another idol would appear to have been irreparably shattered.

Col. Pixley was one of the sixty original proprietors of the "Boston Purchase or Ten Townships." He first came into this part of New York state as one of the commissioners appointed by the Boston company to treat with the Indians and obtain title to 230,400 acres of land, between the Owego creek and the Chenango river for which the company had paid £1,500 to the state. The commissioners met the Indians two or three miles above Binghamton in the winter of 1787-88. The particulars of this treaty with

the Indians may be found in Wilkinson's "Annals of Binghamton" (page 39-40) and in Judge Avery's "Susquehanna Valley" papers in the St. Nicholas Magazine, page 299.

By deed from Archibald Campbell, of the city of Albany, dated December 22, 1790, Col. Pixley obtained title to 3,000 acres of land in what was then known as "Campbell's Location" in the town of Tioga, bounded east by the Owego creek and south by the Susquehanna river, "consideration five shillings and other good causes and considerations." The amount originally paid for this property is said to have been fifty cents an acre.

Col. Pixley removed with his family from Stockbridge to Owego Feb. 6, 1791, and settled on his property. In May, 1791, he sold to Abner Turner, who came here that year, 49 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres on the west bank of the Owego creek where it meets the Catatonk creek. March 17, 1802, he sold 451 acres on the Owego creek, including his own homestead, to Capt. Eliakim, Noah, and Asa Goodrich for \$5,000. He then removed to Owego and lived in the old farm house which is still standing on the south side of Main street, west of and adjoining the Owego academy grounds, and there he died in 1807. On the headstone of his grave in the Presbyterian church yard in Temple street is the following inscription:

"In memory of Col. David Pixley, who departed this life Aug. 25, 1807, in the 67th year of his age. He was an officer of the Revolution at the siege of Quebec under Gen. Montgomery. He was the first settler

of Owego in 1790 and continued its father and friend until his death."

When Col. Pixley settled on the west side of the Owego creek that town was known as Owego, and the east side of the creek was known as Tioga. The confusion arising from having the village of Owego in the town of Tioga on the east side of the creek was so annoying that in 1813 the names of the towns of Owego and Tioga were exchanged, the one for the other, as they now exist.

Col. Pixley was county treasurer of Tioga county from 1798 to 1803, the only civil office he ever held here.

Col. Pixley's first wife was Lois Whittlesey, who was married to him December 8, 1763. His second wife was Lydia Patterson, daughter of James Patterson. She was born at Watertown, Mass., in 1745, and died in Owego February 2, 1808. Mrs. Lydia Pixley was a woman of unostentatious piety and unbounded hospitality. While living at Stockbridge, Mass., her house was a home for strangers, especially for the missionaries and ministers of that early day. After her death an extended sketch of her life and tribute to her character was published in the Connecticut Evangelical Magazine for October, 1808, at page 336.

When Col. Pixley came to Owego from Massachusetts he brought his wife and three children, David, Amos, and Mary.

David Pixley, Jr., was born at Stockbridge in 1764 and was the only son of Col. David Pixley by his

first wife. He married Drusilla Bond. He was only 35 years old when he died in the town of Tioga June 6, 1799. His body was the first one buried where the Tioga cemetery now is, which was then in the woods. His wife died June 1, 1822, aged 57 years, and her body is also buried there.

David Pixley, Jr., was a surveyor. He was one of the most influential of the proprietors of the "Boston Ten Townships." His children were Charles B., Jeremiah, Mary Ann, David, and Jonathan. He lived on the west side of the Owego creek, a little less than half a mile below Leach's mill.

Amos Pixley died previous to the death of his father in 1807, leaving a wife and one son, Walter. Walter died unmarried.

Mary Pixley was married to Dr. Samuel Tinkham about the year 1793. Her second husband was James Pumpelly.

One of the sons of David Pixley, Jr., Col. Charles B. Pixley, was born in 1792, the year after the removal of his father to this county. He was at one time a hatter and kept a store in Lake street where he sold musical instruments, stationery, etc. He lived in Binghamton several years, where he married a sister of John A. Collier. He died Aug. 18, 1865, at the home of his sister, Mrs. Alanson Goodrich, in the town of Tioga.

Mary Ann Pixley, born in 1796, married Alanson Goodrich, son of Capt. Eliakim Goodrich, and died April 22, 1875.

Jeremiah, Jonathan, and David Pixley all removed to Oakland county, Mich. David Pixley's wife was Fidelia Jones, daughter of deacon Solomon Jones.

At the time of Col. David Pixley's death he was the owner of nearly 9,400 acres of land all of which except 130 acres were situated outside the village of Owego.

#### CAPT. JOHN MCQUIGG.

The families of both James McMaster and Captain John McQuigg settled at Owego the same year (1788), the year after Amos Draper, the first comer, settled here.

Captain John McQuigg was of Scotch-Irish descent. The family settled at Derry, N. H., coming with the first Scotch people to New England. He was one of eight brothers, all of whom fought in the Revolutionary war. The father was a patriot, while the mother sympathized with the tories. The consequence was that while John and three of his brothers enlisted in the service with the revolutionists the other four brothers fought on the side of Great Britain. John McQuigg was captain of a company in a New Hampshire regiment. One brother died in the old sugar house in New York, a prisoner of war.

Capt. John McQuigg came from Derry, N. H., with his family, then consisting of his wife and eight children, entering the Susquehanna valley by the way of Otsego lake and following the Indian trail to Owego. What impelled him to come with his large family such a dis-

tance through an unsettled country into a wilderness no historian has explained.

He built a log house on the site of the Camp furnace, below Park street. It fronted on the river, as did also Draper's and McMaster's houses, and the road ran along the old Indian trail between it and the stream. Its description, as given to Judge Avery by one of his sons, Capt. Jesse McQuigg, who was five years old when the family came here, will be given further on in these papers.

The genealogical record of the McQuigg family was written by Miss Mary Hall, of Spencer, N. Y., and printed in the *Spencer Needle* of August 3, 1905.

John McQuigg's first wife was Mollie Gilmore. Their son was John M. McQuigg. His second wife was Sarah Coburn, of New Hampshire. Her children were as follows:

1. Mary McQuigg born 8 Feb., 1774. Married Abner Turner, of the town of Tioga.

2. Daniel McQuigg born 23 Feb., 1776.

3. Elizabeth McQuigg born 23 March, 1778. Married Capt. Lemuel Brown, of Owego.

4. Robert McQuigg born 9 November, 1780. Unmarried. Died in Owego.

5. Jesse McQuigg born 24 May 1783.

6. Sarah McQuigg born 13 Aug., 1785. Married George Lord Talcott, of Owego.

7. Patience McQuigg born March 27, 1787. Married first Richard Denton, of Danby, and second Peter Yapple.

8. David McQuigg born 27 Nov., 1791.

9. Rachael McQuigg born 5 Jan.,

1793. Married Lieut.-Col. Wm. Henry and lived at Mineral Point, Wis.

10. Jane McQuigg born 15 Aug., 1795. Married Comfort Weeks, of Owego. Removed to Buffalo and thence to Pittsfield, Ill. Comfort Weeks and his brother, Constant N. Weeks, kept a shoe store in Owego.

11. Didama McQuigg born 7 Oct., 1798. Married William Watson and lived at Pittsfield, Ill.

John McQuigg died in Owego in 1813, twenty-five years after his settlement here, and his body was one of the first ones interred in the old burying ground in Court street. His wife, Sarah McQuigg, died Nov. 16, 1832, aged 85 years. Her body was buried in the Presbyterian burying ground in Temple street.

When James Master, for a consideration of £10, gave a deed of land for a public park on which the Tioga county court house now stands to the village of Owego (then known as Owego settlement) dated February 28, 1797, John McQuigg was named in the deed as one of the three trustees for the people. The other trustees were Capt. Luke Bates and Mason Wattles. Sept. 4, 1813, after the death of Bates and McQuigg, a special election was held and Eleazer Dana and John H. Avery were chosen their successors.

John McQuigg's eldest son, John M. McQuigg, was born Oct. 13, 1771, and he was seventeen years old when the family came here. He removed to Spencer about 1898, where he became a prominent man of the town. He died there Aug. 13, 1812. His wife was Lucy Lee, who after his death was married to Rev. Michael Burge, an itinerant Metho-

dist minister. John McQuigg, one of the sons of John M. McQuigg, represented Tioga county in the assembly in 1842, and died at Spencer 29 Nov., 1872.

Daniel and David McQuigg also removed to Spencer about 1788. Daniel married Charlotte Hobart, daughter of Edmund Hobart, of Connecticut, one of the first settlers of Spencer in 1795. He died there in 1833.

David McQuigg removed in June, 1804, from Spencer to Ithaca and opened a store there. He dropped a portion of his name and was known the rest of his life as David Quigg. His was the first store opened at Ithaca. He was successful in the mercantile business and continued in it the rest of his life. David Quigg's wife was Harriet Pumpelly, a daughter of John Pumpelly.

Capt. Jesse McQuigg fought in the war of 1812. He was never married. He and his mother, with Lemuel Brown's widow, lived in a house which was built in 1800 on the Abram Brown farm, north of Talcott street, which house was moved away about sixty years ago and converted into a barn when Abram Brown's residence was built there. When Abram Brown's father, Capt. Lemuel Brown, the tanner, who married Capt. McQuigg's sister, died Richard Brown and Capt. Jesse McQuigg conducted the tannery business. Capt. McQuigg died at the home of his nephew, Abram Brown.

One of the most interesting of the papers in the Wisconsin state historical society's collection obtained by Lyman C. Draper from the heirs of Judge Avery is the statement made by Jesse McQuigg to Judge Avery. Some of it was published in the Susquehanna Valley articles, but most of it has never been printed. The statement is as follows:

STATEMENT OF JESSE MC QUIGG  
MADE APRIL 1, 1851.

I shall be 68 years old the 24th of May ensuing. I came to live at Owego in March, I think 1788.

My father, John McQuigg, had been on the year before in March and raised some corn and had put up a house on the site of the building now occupied by Henry W. Camp as a furnace. It was a log house with two square rooms, hewed logs, chinks filled in with bits of wood between the logs and mudded, a hole in each room in the place of a window, no glass in them; we didn't indulge in that luxury. Split pine logs, hewed off for a floor, a chimney back built of stone with a hole in the roof for the smoke to pass out and with a stick chimney mudded from the roof up. A wood fastening to the door with the latch string hanging out as was always the fashion. It fronted upon the river. The highway ran between it and the river; not much of a road, only what nature made. My father came from the Merrimac, in the state of Massachusetts; came by the way of Otsego lake, down to where Unadilla and Bainbridge are now. Came with ox teams and sleds. There was still snow enough for slipping in that month (March.) I presume we followed the Indian trail.

James McMaster came on to live here permanently the next month

after my father come on. Wm Taylor came on to live permanently here in three or four years after He had been here before.

Amos Draper's was the first white family that came to Owego to reside permanently. They lived in the house which had been put up on the lot about where George Bacon resides. He came from Wyoming.

I heard of an incident connected with his moving into the house. Two Indians came as had been in a quarrel about the time of the Revolutionary war. One had killed the other, and an old squaw, the wife of the dead Indian, had dug a hole under the floor and put him under. This was the same house Draper afterward moved into. It had been previously occupied by the Indian family. Mrs. Draper would not go into the house until the remains of the Indian so buried had been removed.

James McMaster's house was on the bank of the river, near where Chapel street [now Academy street], if continued through to the river, would strike the river. That was called in olden times "the Lake road," from the fact of its leading toward Cayuga lake on the Indian trail. The road on the river bank between my father's house and the river ran until it intersected the Lake road. McMaster's house was nearly in the angle made by the two roads.

Robert McMaster was then a young unmarried man and boarded with his brother, James. Thomas McMaster, another brother, lived in a house standing near where Joel Farnham's house now is. He did not come on as early as the other brothers.

Robert McMaster, after he married a Miss Bates, a daughter of Benjamin Bates, built his first log house on what is now Draper's Reservation. It stood a few feet from the Mansion house [on the west side of North avenue, between West avenue and Talcott street], a little

south of it. I lived with him about a year afterward.

There were three families by the name of Bates lived in Owego. Among the early settlers Elisha Bates, a son of old Benjamin Bates, was about six feet in height, uncommonly active, could outrun any man. We had games and ran to test agility in those days. Hunting was his business. He was a great marksman.

The deer ran as plenty as sheep. One might start from the river and go as far up the creek as Turner's and see on the way twenty or twenty-five, and perhaps as many as that in a drove. We killed them as we wanted them. We could hear the wolves howl in the night. In the winter season when they had driven the deer into the river they would stand upon the banks and howl. The bears were plenty back upon the mountains.

We used sometimes to see a dozen Indians, sometimes fifty, and sometimes one hundred together, passing from here to Tioga Point, Chenango Point or Cayuga lake. Sometimes an interval of two weeks when we would not see any but a few families who still continued to reside in this vicinity in their wigwams. Some of them were Onondagas, some Cayugas, some Senecas. They often used to speak of Brant. He was their great man. There was a treaty at Tioga Point (the year I don't recollect) between the agents of the government and the Indian tribes.\*

---

\*Note by Judge Avery.—The year was 1790. It was held by Col. Timothy Pickering and Thomas Morris, son of Robt. Morris, the financier of the Revolution, upon whose ability Botta has passed a beautiful eulogy and to whose memory we owe great honor. At that treaty at Tioga Point, Red Jacket, Sa-goye-wat-ha, and Farmers' brother, Hon-ne-ya-mus, and other distinguished chiefs were present. The council fire was kept burning one week. There were more than 1,600 Indians present, representing all the tribes of the confederacy except the Mohawk, those of that nation having after the war removed to Canada. The object of the treaty on the part of our government was to conciliate, there being at that time

The most of the Indians who assembled there came from the head waters of this [the Susquehanna] river. I saw them coming down in their canoes, saw them first at the bend in the river above the village. There were several hundred canoes, some four to six Indians in a canoe; a good many squaws and young Indians among them. The canoes were of bark.

It was a handsome sight as they approached the village; they came in such fine order. They came in a solid body and with great regularity and uniform movement, some of them ornamented with feathers, some with jewels, covered with broaches generally of silver, generally with white woollen blankets with heavy stripes. Some had broad cloth blankets.

The Indian men were generally of pretty good stature. They had their rifles, tomahawks, and scalping knives with them, pipes and their kind of tobacco. They all landed here and cooked and ate their breakfast. They commenced landing at or near my father's house (that is near H. W. Camp's furnace), and so along down as far as Jas. McMaster's house. Between the two houses was an open plain, beautiful and green. They were very good natured. They were there all for peace. Their devices were cut in upon their ornaments, worked into their garments with porcupine quills and painted on. There appeared to be leaders or chiefs among them.

Leggins, loin, cloths, blankets,

---

great danger of a war with the natives upon our northwestern frontier. We were taking this method of inducing the Iroquois not to throw their weight into the scale against us. We were in the main successful, although Col. Pickering found great difficulty in allaying the hot blood which Red Jacket had aroused by one of his powerful appeals to their bitter memories of wrong. This speech it is said was his maiden effort in eloquence and alike astounding his red as well as white listeners. It almost baffled Col. Pickering's best efforts at conciliation, but he did at length, after great exertion, succeed in touching their sympathies for the young republic.

head dress, moccasins, and ornaments were their costume. The women carried all the bundles and did all the work. Saw their wampum belts made of beads.

The Indian Nicholas and his squaw lived on the other side of the river on the flat by F. H. Pumpelly and Jacobs Hand's mills. He claimed to be the owner of the whole flat. He raised cattle and corn, had quite a stock of cattle, etc. He was a Delaware Indian. As soon as the Delaware settlers commenced moving into the valley he moved off. He was afraid they would take revenge upon him for some past occurrence. He had been a great warrior against the whites on the Delaware. He was a heavy man, nearly six feet high. His squaw was fine looking for an Indian woman. She made very sweet butter. She would not allow herself to speak English. She did so, however, once. There was a man drowning and she informed a white man on the bank where he had sunk. Squaw island was named from her.

The first shad we caught in the river was at Squaw island and taken with a brush net. I never knew any other name for Nicholas than that. He would authorize his name to be signed "Nicholas."

David Jones was the first lawyer who settled at Owego. He came from New Haven. He was a very fine man and well esteemed (I was pleased to discover, as you doubtless are, that our pioneer lawyer bore that good reputation).

One season I fitted a couple of acres of corn for an Indian family to plant. It lay between my present residence and the creek. The name of the Indian was Peter. It was well put in by him and turned out a crop of forty bushels to the acre. I had one-half. They preserved their half in tracings, which was done by stripping the husk to the large end of the ear, braiding the husks together. The In-

dians usually put about a bushel of ears in one tracing. I found them seed, but when it ripened I found the Indian had planted seed of his own, without my knowing it, of large kernels, which we called "flour corn," better adapted for Indian bread. It was probably the species called "Tuscarora." The great trouble with the Indians was their appetite for strong drink, as they called it "fire water."

The Indians all looked up to Amos Draper as a God. He had more influence with them than any other man in the country. The Boston purchasers had a conference at Nanticoke with the Indians to procure from them a cession of the land embraced in the ten Townships. They could bring the Indians to no terms until Draper came. He was sent for to bring about an arrangement. The Indians called him "Qua-see" (Big man.)

The treaty had to break up until Draper had mingled with the Indians for three days. There was then another treaty and the purchase from the Indians was effected. There was a great number of Indians there. The chiefs of the confederacy were all there, all the principal men of that confederacy. This account I had from Draper. We see by the Resolve of Massachusetts that it was June, 1786.†

There was near that house an Indian wigwam. There was formerly a mound near where the homestead property of the late Eleazer

†Note by Judge Avery.—Mr. McQuigg had the account from Mr. Draper some few years of course after the treaty, which was in June, 1786, and he may not have remembered accurately the place where the treaty was held. I have heard from other sources and have read, but where now I cannot recollect, that the council was first opened near Binghamton. No terms at first agreed upon, then resumed at Chenango Forks, where a treaty of cession was fully concluded. I am however disposed to give credence to Mr. McQuigg's version. Binghamton was not within the Boston purchase. Nanticoke was, and it is not probable that the purchasers would liked to have foregone the advantage which a treaty made upon the soil, of which they were purchas-

Dana [the lot on the north side of Front street where the residence of Lewis H. Leonard now is] in area some forty by fifty feet, rising gradually to the centre, at which point it must have been elevated above the surrounding surface about some six or eight feet. It was a beautiful spot before it was disturbed. It was smooth and beautiful. I have rolled down it when I was a boy many a time. There were some young pines scattered about, not far off.

There might have been fifty or sixty acres in the lower part of the village that had been cleared and tilled; some other portions partially. The scattering trees which were left growing along the bank were very large oaks, elms, and maples.

The battle between Gen. Poor's brigade and the Indians at the Round Hill at Nanticoke I heard of from the Indians who passed and repassed here. It was a bloody battle, but the Indians were driven off the eastern side of the hill, which is steep, into the river.

It was through the influence of Amos Draper that Jas. McMaster was enabled to buy the title of the Indians to this Half Township. Joseph Knox also helped him. Knox was an early settler here.

Jas. McMaster, Draper, and Knox held their treaty for the cession of the Half Township, but before the treaty made and spoken of above by the Boston purchasers.

There was one Indian chief of the Oneida tribe I remember well. His

ing the possessory interest, would have given to them. It was the right of original occupancy, a possessory interest they were seeking to purchase. The government of New York and Massachusetts having, respectively, the one exclusive right of pre-emption and the other the jurisdiction incident to sovereignty, a constructive title ceded to us by England by the treaty of 1783, it having originally vested in her, by discovery, a kind of title considered by the nations of Europe in their practice as no way inferior to the right by conquest.

The purchasers were then extinguishing a possessory right, and it would have been more natural and perhaps safer to have done so on the soil they were then purchasing of the occupants.

name was Longstring. He remained at this place some time a month. He had a white boy with him at this place, then upwards of twenty years old, who had been taken a captive when young and his friends from the North river came on here to induce him to leave the Indian chief and return to his relatives, and were at length successful. He always walked by the side of the chief, dressed in the same mode and with the same kind of medal or brooch upon the breast, and the same ornaments. The Indian chief's son had not the same privilege; he walked behind. The Indian chief appeared once a week in full dress and with considerable parade.

I saw the interview when the father of the young man came from the North river to reclaim his son. I saw the parting of the young man with his Indian father and mother. They were all bathed in tears, and it was very affecting. The young man said that they had been as kind as white parents could have been to him, that he had never even had the burden of carrying a deer skin from the hunting ground. His arm was around his Indian mother's neck and he wept bitterly.

The parting occurred near the bank of the river where Paige street intersects River street in the upper part of the village.\*

---

\*Note by Judge Avery.—The practice of the Indians was to adopt young captives into some family of the tribes. It was generally done when there had been a death in the family of some favorite child, the foster child being received into the place of the deceased and treated with the utmost kindness and attention. The romantic case of Mary Jamieson and that exceedingly romantic and interesting case of Frances Slocum, taken captive from the Susquehanna valley, near Wyoming, are in point. Undoubtedly Queen Esther's was also a similar case. After thus having adopted a child they considered it displeasing to the Great Spirit to suffer a separation, which will account for the foster parents clinging in this instance with such pertinacity to the adopted child.

## DR. SAMUEL TINKHAM.

Dr. Samuel Tinkham was the first man educated and graduated from a college to settle in Owego. He was a graduate of Dartmouth. He was born at Middleboro, Mass., July 17, 1769, and came to Owego in 1792. He was the first physician to settle in this vicinity. He settled in the town of Tioga in what was later known as Goodrich settlement. He lived in a house which stood on the hillside north of the highway which runs parallel with the Erie and Lehigh Valley railroads. It was a little above the railroad crossing. He lived there until 1804, a short time previous to his death. All of his three children were born there. When he removed to Owego he lived in the house on the south side of Front street, which was built by James McMaster, which has already been mentioned in these papers. Dr. Tinkham built an office on the opposite side of the street, which was after his death occupied as a land office by James Pumpelly.

In addition to practising medicine Dr. Tinkham kept a general country store in a building on the bank of the river, on the second lot west of where the bridge now crosses at the foot of Court street. This store stood on land owned by Col. David Pixley, his father-in-law. In 1803 Dr. Tinkham purchased the property of Col. Pixley. It occupied the ground on which the approach to the bridge now is and extended down the river below Academy street.

Dr. Tinkham purchased other real estate much of which is within the

present limits of this village. One of the largest pieces was lot No. 2 in the old Owego town plot. Its north boundary started from about where the brick school building stands in Temple street and extended west in a direct line to the Owego creek striking it at the head of the canal which supplies the electric light works with water. The south line began on the north bank of the Susquehanna river, a little below Academy street, and ran parallel with the north line of the lot to the creek. The creek was the west line, and the east line extended diagonally from the Temple street school house directly south to the northwest corner of the park and thence on to the river below Academy street. This land Dr. Tinkham purchased in September, 1792, for about \$250 of the loan officers of Tioga county. It contained 100 acres, less 13 acres in the southeast corner which had been sold by Amos Draper to Mason Wattles.

Dr. Tinkham's store and a dwelling house were side by side under the same roof in a long building fronting on the public square. While conducting the store Dr. Tinkham lived all the time in the town of Tioga until 1804.

Dr. Tinkham died twelve years after his coming to this county. In September, 1804, he went to New York to purchase goods for his store, and when he returned he found that a malignant and contagious fever had broken out, which other physicians did not understand. He was called to the house of Peter Wilson, two miles above Newark Valley village, on a professional visit. On his re-

turn he was taken ill with the fever and was unable to sit in his saddle, so he stopped at the log house of Benjamin Sparrow (the first house below the present north line of the town of Owego, on the west side of the highway), where he grew rapidly worse and soon died. The date of his death was Sunday, Sept. 30, 1804. He was only 35 years of age.

While living in the town of Tioga he married Mary Pixley, the only daughter of Col. David Pixley, about the year 1793. At that time in this sparsely settled country there were few clergymen and no magistrates. It is said that Dr. Tinkham and Miss Pixley rode on horseback down the river to Tioga Point (now Athens, Pa.), where sitting on horseback the marriage ceremony was performed by a justice of the peace, who stood at the door of his house. On April 7, 1805, six months after Dr. Tinkham's death, his widow was married to James Pumpelly, at Owego.

Dr. Tinkham was a descendant in the fifth generation of Miles Standish, who came to America in the "Mayflower" in 1620.

Miles Standish's son, Alexander Standish, married Sarah Alden, daughter of John Alden, who also came in the "Mayflower."

Their son, Ebenezer Standish, married Hannah Sturtevant.

Their son, Moses Standish, of Plympton, Mass., married Rachel Cobb.

Their daughter, Sarah Standish, of Halifax, Mass., married Ephraim Tinkham, and their son was Dr. Samuel Tinkham. The children of Ephraim Tinkham were as follows:

1. Abigail Tinkham, born 20 July, 1758. Married Caleb Leach, of Plymouth, Mass., who came to Owego in 1806. She died July 2, 1818.

2. Samuel, died when two years old.

3. Joshua Tinkham.

4. Sarah Tinkham, b 11 Sept., 1763. Married Peter Wood and came to Owego. Their daughter, Patience, married Sylvester Farnham.

5. Ephraim Tinkham.

6. Susanna Tinkham.

7. Dr. Samuel Tinkham.

Mrs. Sarah E. Gibson, of this village, a granddaughter of Dr. Samuel Tinkham, owns her grandmother, Mrs. Mary (Pixley) Tinkham's, family bible. It was printed in Edinburg, Scotland, in 1793, and contains the record of her children as follows:

1. Sarah Emily Tinkham, born Jan. 19, 1795.

2. Standish George Tinkham, born May 29, 1799.

3. David Tinkham, born Nov. 22 1803.

Sarah Emily Tinkham was the first wife of William Pumpelly to whom she was married in June, 1814. She died in Owego March 31, 1822, leaving one child, Emily S. Pumpelly, who became the first wife of William H. Platt.

Standish George Tinkham was later known as Samuel Standish Tinkham. March 20, 1836, he married Lois Wiloughby, and died Nov. 18, 1873. He was a merchant and a miller. He left one son, Dr. James H. Tinkham, a surgeon in the United States navy, who died June 2, 1879, unmarried.

David Pixley Tinkham married June 8, 1826, Harriet G. Drake, daughter of Judge John R. Drake and died in Owego August 10, 1836, leaving three children, Sarah E., who was

married to Edward G. Gibson; Arianna A., who became the wife of Gen. Wm. P. Innes, and John F. Tinkham. Although a college graduate he followed mercantile pursuits. He kept a general country store in a wooden building which stood at the northwest corner of Front and Lake streets. This store was moved to the west side of North avenue, nearly opposite South Depot street, where it was occupied for several years as a dwelling house by Edward W. Raynsford, and a few years ago was converted into a hotel and called the European house. In its place on the Lake-Front street corner Rollin block was built, which was burned in the great fire of 1849.

Dr. Samuel Tinkham has been described as a man of upright character, cordial and unassuming in his manners. In 1803 he was elected treasurer of Tioga county and held that office at the time of his death.

#### CALEB LEACH.

Nearly all the earliest settlers of Owego had been soldiers in the revolutionary war, and some of them were commissioned officers. Caleb Leach who came here in 1806, saw service in that war. He was born in 1755 at Plymouth, Mass., and was the eldest son of Peter Leach, who is supposed to have come from England and who died at Halifax, Mass., in 1744.

In early life Caleb Leach, who was possessed of considerable inventive genius, was apprenticed to a watchmaker. July 8, 1775, when twenty years of age, he enlisted from Bridgewater for eight months in Capt. James Keith's company in the 28th

regiment, commanded by Col. Paul D. Sargent. At the expiration of his term of service he re-enlisted for one year, and marched into Boston in 1776. He was taken ill with small pox and sent to Brooklyn hospital. Upon his recovery he marched to Hell Gate, where his company had a skirmish with the British troops. At White Plains he was taken ill with bilious fever and was sent to Stamford hospital, and thence home on a furlough. Sept. 10, 1777, he again enlisted at Halifax in Lieut. Jesse Sturdevant's company, marching to Albany, N. Y., to guard military stores, and while there was transferred to Capt. Amos Cogswell's company in Col. James Wesson's Eight Massachusetts Continental line. They marched to near Trenton, N. J., then to White Marsh, Pa., and thence to Valley Forge, where they joined Gen. Washington's army and wintered. He served three years in Col. Wesson's regiment, the last ten months being sergeant in charge of field armory, and was discharged Sept. 10, 1780.

Upon leaving the army Mr. Leach returned to Halifax and resumed business as a watch and clock maker. While thus engaged he made the first orrery that was ever made in America. This orrery was presented to Brown university by Dr. Fobes, who was pastor of a church at Rayham, Mass., and at the same time a lecturer before the university.

In 1796, with Joshua Thomas and others, he organized the Plymouth aqueduct company and constructed the works, which are said to have been the first water-works construct-

ed in America, and which continued to furnish water to Plymouth until 1855. These works he built under contract, using conduits, bored out to from two to four inches in diameter. For boring these logs he invented the screw auger and the machine for which he received a patent from the United States, dated April 13, 1797, to run fourteen years. The patent was signed by John Adams, president. The first screw auger he invented is preserved in Plymouth Hall, with the name of the blacksmith who made it for him attached.

In 1799, at the solicitation of Aaron Burr, DeWitt Clinton and others, he went to New York city and built the Manhattan water-works, upon whose charter the Manhattan bank was founded. He was superintendent of these water-works until his removal to Owego in 1806.

One day in the fall of 1906 some laborers were excavating a trench at the intersection of Wall and Water streets when they unearthed a blackened log of wood, with a hole bored through it. There was some speculation as to what it had been used for, but finally Guy Duval, of Brooklyn, whose office was near there, identified it as one of the oak pipes of the Manhattan water company. It was as sound as when laid a century previous. He had it sawed into sections and each section bound with brass, one of which he gave to editor of the Brooklyn Eagle, labelled as follows: "Section of one of the first water pipes laid in New York by the Manhattan company in 1779, dug up at Wall and Water streets in 1806. Pre-

sented to Dr. St. Clair McKelway by Guy Duval." In James Parton's "Life of Aaron Burr" may be found an interesting account of the bitter partisan fight between the Federalists and Republicans over the establishment of the Manhattan bank, to accomplish which the water-works were built.

In 1800 and 1801 Mr. Leach built the first Fairmount water-works in Philadelphia. In 1803 he was interested in the Jamaica Pond Aqueduct company of Boston. In constructing water-works Mr. Leach became possessed of what was considered in those days a handsome competence.

Mr. Leach and his brother-in-law, Dr. Samuel Tinkham, who had settled at Owego in 1792, had purchased land here jointly, and Dr. Tinkham was, probably, influential in inducing Mr. Leach to come here. In a letter written by him to Mr. Leach, dated Sept. 5, 1801, Dr. Tinkham writes: The deed of your lot is made out and will be completed in a few days. The crops on the farm are tolerably good. Wheat is likely to be plenty in this country this season, and we hear that it bears a good price down the river. If you should think proper to make sale of your farm I believe there will be an opportunity within a twelve month.

This farm of 253 acres in the town of Tioga was sold by Col. David Pixley June 30, 1800, to Polly Tinkham (Dr. Samuel Tinkham's wife and Col. Pixley's daughter) for a consideration of \$100. The same property was deeded Aug. 7, 1800 by Dr. Tinkham to Caleb Leach, consideration \$1,550.

April 25, 1806, Mr. Leach bought of Henry Stewart 140 acres of land on the Owego creek, partly in the town of Tioga, to which he added other land in 1812. There he built in 1809 a grist mill, saw mill, woollen mill and a distillery. The distillery he soon dismantled and abandoned. The saw mill was burned later, and the woollen mill was burned in 1855.

When Mr. Leach came to Owego he lived in the building on the south side of Front street, opposite the park, in a part of which was Dr. Tinkham's store, and remained there until 1809 when he built the mills and his residence in the town of Tioga. The house stood on the west side of the highway west of the mills. It was rebuilt about 1822 and remained there until this year (1907) when it was torn down.

A few years after the death of his wife Mr. Leach divided his property among his children, reserving a small income, and retired from business. For his service in the army he received a pension dated March 4, 1831, of \$96.66 a year. At about this time he went to Utica to live with his youngest son, Dr. Ebenezer Leach, where he died March 18, 1837, aged 82 years. His body was buried in the Friends' burying ground at New Hartford, about four miles from Utica.

Caleb Leach and Abigail Tinkham, daughter of Ephraim Tinkham, of Middleboro, Mass., were married Jan. 17, 1782, at Plympton, Mass. She died July 2, 1818. Their children were as follows:

1. Ebenezer Leach born 3 Sept., 1782; died 31 January, 1796.

2. Abigail Leach born 19 March, 1785; died 24 Dec., 1795.

3. Dr. Caleb Leach, Jr., born 17 Nov., 1786; married Harriet Duane, of Owego.

4. Ephraim Leach born 10 Oct., 1788 at Plymouth, Mass.; married Sophia Jones, of Owego, 1 Jan., 1812. Died February 19, 1855. On the day of his funeral the annual festival of the Pioneer Historical Association of the Susquehanna Valley was being held at Ahwaga hall. Judge Avery announced his death and said that the funeral procession would arrive from Tioga at the Presbyterian church yard at 3:30 o'clock when his acquaintances and friends would have an opportunity of paying the last tribute of respect to his memory. Ephraim Leach was a man of scientific attainments. He planned and constructed the first bridge across the river at the foot of Court street in 1828 and he designed and constructed the first fire engine used in Owego, in 1830. He conducted Leach's mills until his death, after which one of his sons, Stephen W. Leach, conducted them until Stephen's death in April, 1899.

6. Samuel Tinkham Leach, born 19 Sept., 1792; married Clarissa Hart, of Candor; died 22 May, 1838.

7. Dr. Ebenezer Leach (2) born 18 March, 1797; married Olive Foster, of New Hartford, N. Y.; died at Utica 21 July, 1861.

8. Abigail Leach (2) born 6 Oct., 1802; died 5 August, 1893.

#### CAPT. MASON WATTLES.

The first man to engage in the mercantile business in Owego after the coming of the white people from the east was Capt. Mason Wattles. He came with his wife and two small daughters from the town of Franklin Otsego county, N. Y., in 1792, the same year that Dr. Samuel Tinkham came from Massachusetts. He was then forty years of age, and he had

accumulated considerable wealth. The Wattles were refined and cultivated people.

Captain Wattles was born March 3, 1752, in New Hampshire, but the place of his birth is not known. At the time of his enlistment in the Continental army in 1775 he was enrolled as a resident of Newcastle, Maine. His military record, as obtained from Massachusetts archives, as follows:

June 24, 1775, he was a member of Capt. Samuel Cobb's company in Col. Thomas Nixon's Fourth Massachusetts regiment of infantry. In August he was a sergeant in the same company. In November he had been promoted to ensign. From Jan. 7, 1777, to Dec. 31, 1779, he ranked as a lieutenant in the Sixth Massachusetts infantry. He was taken a prisoner of war May 17, 1779. While thus a prisoner in the hands of the British he was deprived of any opportunity for further promotion, but in June, 1781, having been exchanged and having rejoined his regiment, in which there was a vacancy, he was promoted to captain, his appointment to date from April 13, 1780. His name last appears in a return of officers entitled to the commutation of five years' full pay in lieu of half pay, agreeable to act of congress of March 22, 1783; rank, captain Sixth Massachusetts regiment, commanded by Col. Benjamin Tupper.

After the revolutionary war he was appointed major in a regiment of Massachusetts state militia. After his removal to Otsego county, N. Y., he was commissioned captain of a company of light infantry in 1792. He resigned this captaincy soon afterward upon removing to Owego.

When Capt. Wattles came to Owego he invested largely in real estate, and at one time owned what is now some of the most valuable land in the village, occupied by brick blocks and handsome residences. He was the owner of the entire square now bounded by Front, Main, Lake, and Court streets, with the exception of the ground occupied by the county buildings and the old academy. He also owned an acre lot at the northeast corner of Main street and North avenue, on which Otis S. Beach's drug store and other buildings now stand, and an acre at the northeast corner of Front and Lake streets, now occupied by W. B. Partridge's drug store and other buildings. The tier of lots on both sides of Front street extending from Church street to Paige street was also his property, and he owned many other lots in other parts of the village, which are now occupied by valuable residences.

The Wattles family lived in a house which Capt. Wattles built on the north side of Main street at what is now the northeast corner of that street and Central avenue. This house was afterward the residence of Judge Latham A. Burrows, and later of David P. Tinkham. It was occupied by Mr. Tinkham's widow, Mrs. Harriet G. Tinkham, until it was removed in 1866, when the Park hotel was built in its place.

It is not known where Capt. Wattles's store was situated, but it was, probably, on the bank of the river either opposite or below Court street. His business investments proved unfortunate for him, and in February,

1799, his real estate was seized by the sheriff for a debt of £578 for goods purchased from Jacob Conkline, a New York merchant. In November, 1802, the property was all deeded by Conkline and Captain Wattles to Robert Bowne, another New York merchant, who sold goods to other Owego merchants of that time and who was also, probably, a creditor.

Capt. Wattles remained in Owego several years, during a portion of which time he held the office of justice of the peace and also practised law. He was an associate judge of Broome county from 1807 to 1812. Owego was at that time a part of Broome county. From March 28, 1806, to March 22, 1822, the present towns of Newark Valley, Owego, Richford, and Berkshire were a part of Broome county. Capt. Wattles was generally known here as Judge Wattles. He also held the office of clerk of Broome county from Feb. 18, 1811 to Nov. 9, 1812.

In April, 1811, Capt. Wattles purchased a farm of 128 acres in the town of Nanticoke, Broome county, and later removed there. He was living there as late as Feb. 1, 1814, when he made his will. Later he removed to New York city, where he died July 16, 1819.

The Wattles descent is as follows:

John Wattles married Judith Fitch in 1722.

Their second son, Mason Wattles (1), was born June 25, 1727; married Irene Chandler June 29, 1747.

Their second son, Mason Wattles (2), was born March 3, 1752.

Capt. Mason Wattles was married about 1783-5 with Catherine Houghton. They had two daughters. Eliza

A. Wattles, the elder, was the first wife of Samuel M. Avery, of Nanticoke, who died at Jenksville in 1888. Cornelia Wattles, the younger daughter, was married to John W. Oddie about the year 1805.

There was another Mason Wattles in Broome county, Col. Mason Wattles, said to have been a nephew of Capt. Wattles, and who derived his title of colonel from his having been colonel in the 20th regiment of artillery, to which he was promoted from captain in 1822. His only daughter, Sarah Wattles, was married to Dr. John W. Knapp, of Harford, N. Y., in 1841. Col. Wattles lived at Lisle. He had a son, Harry J. Wattles, whose widow is still living at Killawog.

#### THOMAS DUANE.

Thomas Duane, who was one of the first merchants in Owego, is supposed to have been of French extraction. He came here from Kingston, Pa., in 1800. His wife was the widow of an officer in the continental army who was killed in the massacre at Wyoming by the Indians and "torics" on July 3, 1778.

Obadiah Gore, one of the most prominent men of Wyoming, was one of the aged men left in Forty Fort, for its defence, while the settlers marched out to meet the enemy. Five of Gore's sons went out to the conflict. Three were slain, as were also his sons-in-law, John Murfee and Timothy Pierce.

Timothy Pierce, who held a commission as lieutenant in the regular army, had ridden forty miles through the Great swamp the night previous and come to join his friends on the

battle field. His wife was Hannah Gore, Obadiah Gore's daughter. At the time of the massacre she, with her two daughters, Clarissa Pierce, who was three years and nine months old, and Polly Pierce, who was only nineteen months of age, had taken refuge with the rest of the women in the fort, while the men went forth to meet the enemy.

Ten years subsequent to the massacre, March 12, 1788, Lieutenant Timothy Pierce's widow, Hannah Pierce, became the wife of Thomas Duane.

When Mr. Duane came in 1800 with his family to Owego, he built his store on a lot he had purchased on the south side of Front street, extending from the east line of Lake street one-half the distance to Church street. The lumber for the construction of this store was brought up the river from Wilkes-Barre in keel-bottomed boats, which were polled up with long setting-poles, placed against the shoulders of the men who polled the boats. This was tedious and laborious work, and the boats were propelled very slowly, but it was the only way of transportation then. The family also came in one of these boats.

The store was built on the bank of the river. It was painted yellow and had a lean-to in the rear. One side of the building was occupied as a store and the other side as a residence by the family, as was customary in those days. In the centre of the building was a huge chimney. Here the Duanes lived for several years.

Later in life Thomas Duane was generally known as Judge Duane. In

August, 1811, his step-daughter, Polly Pierce, purchased of John Hollenback two acres of land, a small portion of lot No. 25, on the bank of the Susquehanna river in the eastern part of this village and built thereon a house. The house stood about where Victor P. Decker's house now stands, a little east of the small creek, known for many years as Hollenback's creek, which empties into the river. This house is worthy of some notice, for it was then the most pretentious one in Owego.

Nearly all the best of the early houses were large rectangular buildings, with a wide hall through the middle from front to rear, with no porches, sometimes with a small stoop, but usually without any. This house had the usual hall through the centre, and it had also wings at each side. There was a high double porch at the front extending up nearly to the roof. On the south side was a high piazza, commanding a view of the most beautiful part of the river. Here Judge Duane lived with his family in good style for several years.

When Polly Pierce died in 1815 she left a will in which she devised this property to her half-brother, Timothy Pierce Duane, who the next year sold it to John H. Avery. It passed through the ownership of several persons afterward, and in 1832 it again became the property of John Hollenback.

This house was for several years used as a tavern, where river raftmen sometime stayed while their rafts and arks were tied up in the Hollenback eddy for the night. At one time it was occupied by a canal boat captain

named Butler. One night previous to the day on which he was about to leave Owego on one of his periodical trips he dreamed that he fell overboard from a canal boat and was drowned. The dream made such an impression upon him that in the morning he narrated it to his wife. She was considerably affected, and endeavored to dissuade him from going away. He laughed at her fears and went on his way. A few days afterward she received information of his death, which had happened in every respect exactly as it had been presented to him in his dream.

The house was for several years uninhabited, and was commonly known as "the haunted house." Superstitious people believed that it was haunted by the ghost of Butler. Mysterious noises were said to have been heard there at night and lights were seen to flash from its windows. Less credulous people avered that the lights and noises which had been seen by belated passers-by passing along the highway, were caused by people of not particularly reputable character, who consorted there at night.

The building had been deserted about thirty years when it was burned. The fire is said to have been set by an incendiary, who wanted to give the firemen a run. Mr. Hollenback offered a reward of \$50 for the arrest and conviction of the incendiary, but no one was arrested, although a certain person was suspected of having caused the fire.

Judge Duane later removed to a farm of twenty acres, west of the lit-

the Nanticoke creek, a part of the farm now occupied by Mrs. Herman M. Tilbury and her family, where he died October 11, 1821. His wife had died a few days previous, on the 5th of the same month. Their bodies were buried on this farm between the highway and the river. The land has been cultivated many years and there is now nothing left to indicate where the graves were made.

The genealogy of the Duane family is as follows:

Thomas Duane, born 1759. Married Hannah Pierce 12 March, 1788. Died in Owego 14 October, 1821. His wife was born in 1751 and died in Owego 5 October, 1821. Their children were:

1. Henry W. Duane, commonly known as Harry Duane, born 17 Aug., 1789. Died in Owego 21 May, 1816, unmarried.

2. Harriet Duane, born 19 May, 1792. Married Caleb Leach, Jr. She died 7 Oct., 1818. Their children were Harry Leach, unmarried. Died and was buried at sea. Mary Leach married Lucius Truman, of Owego. Harriet married George S. Leonard, of Owego, and died 1 Jan. 1871.

3. Timothy Pierce Duane born 11 Sept. 1794. He was a farmer. Married Laura Steele, daughter of Aaron Steele, 20 Oct., 1822. He died at South Owego 11 August, 1872. She died 13, Oct., 1775. Their children were: Mary P. and Emily Duane, unmarried. Hannah Duane, married William June. Burr Duane, unmarried. John Duane. Rebecca Duane, married Jerome B. Richardson.

Henry Wm. Duane, Thomas Duane's eldest son, was a clerk in his father's store. He was in company with Capt. Jesse McQuigg in the mercantile business in 1812 and for a few years afterward. McQuigg & Duane's store was in a wooden building on the west

side of Lake street, two doors north of Front street. They failed in business.

Polly Pierce was born at Wyoming, Pa., 14 Dec., 1776, and died in Owego 19 June, 1815. Her sister, Clarissa, was born at Wyoming 11 Oct., 1774, and died 26 Jan., 1805. Her husband's name was White. They were married about 1796. Their children were Edwin, Polly, Timothy Pierce, and John P. White.

#### GEN. DANIEL CRUGER.

These sketches would be incomplete without the name of Gen. Daniel Cruger being included. His sojourn here was brief, but he was the first editor and newspaper publisher in this part of the state when much of it was a forest, and he later became one of the most prominent lawyers in this state. He was of sufficient importance to be included with William L. Marcy, Daniel S. Dickinson and thirty other prominent members of the New York bar in L. B. Proctor's "The Bench and the Bar of New York," a volume of 779 pages, twenty of which are given to Gen. Cruger.

Gen. Cruger's ancestors were Huguenots, who after the massacre of St. Bartholomew escaped from France. The branch of the family from which he descended settled in Holstein. His father, whose name was also Daniel Cruger, came to America in 1768 and settled at Sunbury, Pa., where Gen. Cruger was born Dec. 22, 1780. Soon after his birth the family removed to Newtown (now Elmira) where the father engaged in the mercantile business.

When young Cruger was thirteen



GEN. DANIEL CRUGER.

From a photograph from a painting owned by  
Gen. Cruger's granddaughter, Mrs. Benjamin  
Dorrance, of Dorranceton, Pa.



years of age, Mr. Webster, one of the earliest printers in Albany, came to Newtown to visit relatives. He saw young Cruger, and was attracted to him by the boy's lively intelligence, vivacity, and activity. He induced the elder Cruger to apprentice his son to him for the purpose of learning the printing business.

Having learned his trade and obtained all that could be learned in the printing business, young Cruger came to southern New York with a rather limited printing outfit, but one adequate to the needs of his business, and established a newspaper at old Chenango village, a small settlement which was at that time on the west side of the Chenango river, about one mile above the present city of Binghamton. This settlement was commenced in 1793 or 1794, and no settlement was thought of where Binghamton now is before the year 1799.

The first number of the paper, which was called "The American Constellation," was published Nov. 22, 1800, and at that time Gen. Cruger was only nineteen years of age. Although the paper was printed at old Chenango, it was dated "Union," for the reason that the post office at Union was for a long time the only one in that part of the country.

As in 1801 Owego had become the only settlement in this part of the state that had grown to any importance young Cruger removed his newspaper establishment here that year. He established his office in a lean-to in the rear of a house which stood on the north side of Front street, where Lewis H. Leonard's residence now stands. The house was a double one.

occupied by Eleazer Dana, one of the early lawyers in Owego, on one side, and by Luke B. Winship on the other, and he boarded with the Winships. Here he printed the paper until August, 1803, when he sold it to Stephen Mack and Henry Steward, who changed the name to "The American Farmer."

Young Cruger's father had in the mean time removed to Bath, Steuben county, and after the sale of his paper the son went to Bath, where he worked for a time at the printer's trade. It was fortunate for his future prospects that the work proved injurious to his health, as he was compelled to renounce it, and he entered the office of Gen. S. S. Haight as a law student. After he was admitted to the bar, about the year 1806, he became Gen. Haight's law partner. He soon became one of the leading lawyers of the Steuben county bar.

In 1806 Gen. Cruger was appointed an adjutant in the Steuben county regiment of militia which was commanded by Col. Geo. McCulloch. In 1808 he was commissioned second major in the regiment commanded by Lieut.-Col. Samuel S. Haight, his law partner.

In 1812 he went with Gen. McClure's brigade to the northern frontier. Soon after he reached the seat of war, Gen. McClure, understanding that certain orders directed him to burn the town of Newark, in Canada, he took the necessary steps to obey. Major Cruger and Mr. Spencer, another officer, however, dissented from the view of the order taken by Gen. McClure, and objected to burning the town. About this time Mr. Spencer

was called home by illness in his family, and major Cruger stood alone in his opposition. The general therefore prepared to carry out his construction of the order, and major Cruger was ordered to enter the town with a flag of truce and inform the "inhabitants of the coming conflagration." He obeyed the order, entered the town with an orderly, and after giving the usual notice, he and his orderly assisted the inhabitants in removing their effects, and the town was soon in flames.

In 1816 Col. Haight was promoted to brigadier-general, and major Cruger was made lieutenant-general of the regiment. In 1819 he was again promoted to major general of the 25th division of infantry. In 1822 he resigned.

In 1813 he was elected by the Democrats of Allegany and Steuben counties to the assembly, and he was re-elected four times thereafter. In 1816 he was elected speaker of the assembly, after a bitter contest, by a majority of one vote. His popularity as speaker was such that in the fall of 1816 he was nominated to congress in the Twentieth congressional district and elected. He was a prominent member of the house.

April 17, 1815, he was appointed district attorney of the Seventh district, consisting of the counties of Steuben, Allegany, and Tioga. This office was then one of the most important in the state, second only to that of attorney-general. There were at this time twelve district attorneys, the state being divided into twelve districts, each district embracing with-

in its jurisdiction several counties. He was district attorney of the Seventh district until June 11, 1818, and from that date he continued as district attorney of Steuben county until February 19, 1821.

Gen. Cruger's first wife was Hannah Clement, of Bath. They were married about 1806. She died in 1828. While in congress, Gen. Cruger became acquainted with Mrs. Lydia Shepard, of Wheeling, Va., who was in Washington trying to collect a claim of her deceased husband against the government. He subsequently went to Wheeling, where they were married in 1833. After his marriage, he gave himself up entirely to agricultural pursuits and the management of his wife's property. June 12, 1843, while attending a meeting of the directors of the Wheeling bank, he was stricken with apoplexy and died within a few moments. His body was buried in Stone Church cemetery at Elm Grove, Ohio county, Va.

#### STEPHEN MACK.

Judge Stephen Mack, who during his residence of fifteen years in Owego was one of its most active and prominent citizens, was born at New Marlborough, Mass., March 20, 1765. He was a son of Orlando Mack, of Hebron, Conn., and great grandson of John Mack, who came from Scotland to America about 1680 and settled at Lyme, Conn. Two older brothers of Stephen Mack served in the Continental army and became distinguished officers. One died a prisoner of war in a fortress in Canada.

In early life Judge Mack was a merchant. In 1799 he kept a general



JUDGE STEPHEN MACK.



country store at Cooperstown, N. Y. The particulars of his coming to Owego, as given to the writer several years ago by his son-in-law, John Carmichael, were as follows:

While conducting his mercantile business at Cooperstown, he made a contract with the United States government to furnish about 100,000 spars, to be delivered at Baltimore, Md. He purchased the timber in the winter, paying for it in goods from his store. In March, 1799, while about to start it down the river there came a great freshet, carrying away and scattering along the stream all of his timber. He came down the river to Owego in quest of his property, but ascertaining that it would cost him as much to secure it as it would be worth when gathered together again, he abandoned his search. The loss of his timber made him a bankrupt.

During his sojourn in Owego he had become impressed with the beauty of the Susquehanna valley and its apparent advantages to settlers, and he decided to come here to live. He was a man of great vigor, enterprise, and ability, and he at once became an active and prominent citizen. He engaged in the mercantile business, in which he was successful.

In 1803 Judge Mack and Henry Steward purchased of Daniel Cruger, Jr., "The American Constellation," a newspaper that Mr. Cruger had printed here two years. He changed the name to "The American Farmer," issuing the first number under that name August 19, 1803. He published the paper eleven years until his death.

Henry Steward was a printer and

conducted the mechanical department of the paper. Judge Mack was the editor. His editorial duties were not particularly arduous, and did not interfere with his duties as a public officer. The printing office was for a short time in a small building which stood near the northeast corner of Front and Court streets. In 1804 Steward sold his interest in the paper to his partner and bought land in the fork of the east and west branches of the Owego creek at their confluence at Flemingville and built a saw mill there.

Judge Mack at about this time removed his plant to a little red house, a story and a half high, which stood on the north side of Front street, now the third lot east of Church street, owned by Dr. E. E. Bauer. The building was on the west side of the lot and the printing office was in an unfinished room in the southeast corner of the house, up stairs. This house was torn down in 1826, several years after Judge Mack's death by John Carmichael, who built a larger house on the lot, which was later occupied by Geo. W. Hollenback, and still later by Edward W. Warner. The house was rebuilt in 1906 by its present owner, Dr. Bauer.

Judge Mack during his residence in this village held various town offices, constable, assessor, commissioner of highways, and excise commissioner. He was for several years a justice of the peace and was supervisor in 1807, 1808, 1811, and 1812. He was appointed First Judge of Broome (now Tioga) county Nov. 9, 1812, by commission of Gov. Tompkins, and served until his death.

He died in Owego April 14, 1814, aged 49 years. His body was buried

in the old burying ground in Court street. The remains were afterward removed to the Presbyterian yard in Temple street, and in 1875 to Evergreen cemetery, where his second wife, Mary (Serjants) Mack, is also buried.

In Judge Avery's "Susquehanna Valley" papers he thus mentions Judge Mack: "In all his official positions Judge Mack brought to the discharge of his duties unimpeached integrity of character, and strong native powers of discrimination, improved by a good education. Nor should his good traits of character, socially, be lost among the forgotten things of the past. Some yet live, now aged gentlemen, who bear uniform witness to the generosity of his disposition, his liberality to every one in adversity, whom it was in his power to help, and his marked amiability of character."

Judge Mack was twice married. His first wife was Mary Chambers, who died while they lived at Cooperstown. Their children were as follows:

1. Elizabeth Mack, born in 1781. Married Benjamin Benedict, of Delhi, N. Y. Died 17 Dec., 1863, at the home of her son-in-law, Putnam Mersereau.

2. Stephen Mack, born 19 Dec., 1784. Graduated from Yale college in 1813 and studied law at Delhi, N. Y. Removed in 1816 to Ithaca, where he practised law until his death, 17 Jan., 1857. He was never married.

3. Phoebe Mack, born 29 April, 1788. She married a man named Crawford.

4. Ebenezer Mack, born 9 May, 1791.

All four of these children were born at Kinderhook, N. Y.

Judge Mack and his second wife, Mary Serjants, daughter of Lemuel Serjants, of Bellows Falls, Vt., were married in 1797 at Cooperstown. She

lived with her son-in-law, John Carmichael, until 1837, and then went to Ithaca and lived with her son, Horace. She died 20 Feb., 1862, in Owego while visiting at Mr. Carmichael's, and her body was buried in Evergreen cemetery. Their children were:

1. Horace Mack, born 20 Jan., 1799, at Cooperstown. Married Eliza Ann Ferris, daughter of Judge Joshua Ferris, of Spencer, 19 Jan., 1826.

2. Maria J. Mack, born in Owego 1 July, 1800. Married to John Carmichael 25 Dec., 1824. Died in Owego 22 Sept., 1829.

Ebenezer and Horace Mack both became prominent men in Tompkins county. Ebenezer Mack learned the printers' trade, and previous to coming to Owego he was foreman in "The Columbian" office in New York city. At the time of Judge Mack's death Stephen B. Leonard was his partner, owning one-half of the "American Farmer" office. Mr. Leonard changed the name of the paper to "Owego Gazette" and he and Ebenezer Mack became partners in publishing it in June, 1815. Mr. Mack remained here until 1816, when he went to Ithaca and purchased the "Seneca Republican," now known as the "Ithaca Journal." He published the paper with different partners until December, 1833. He built a paper mill, conducted a book store, and was for several years and until his death a member of the firm of Mack & Andrus. He represented Tompkins county in the assembly in 1830, and was senator from the Sixth senate district from 1834 to 1837, inclusive. He was at one time state printer. He was offered a cabinet position by President Martin VanBuren, but declined it. He wrote a life of Lafayette, which was published

in 1811. He collected a large library, which as a gift from him formed a nucleus for the present public library of Ithaca. He died at Ithaca in August, 1849.

Horace Mack was born at Coopers-town 20 Jan., 1799, the same year the family removed to Owego. He was an apprentice in the "American Farmer" office until after the death of his father. Jan. 20, 1815, he was apprenticed to Mayor Horatio Ross in the mercantile business for five years. He did not serve the full term of his apprenticeship, but in 1818 he went to Ithaca, where he was a clerk in various stores until 1825, when he began business on his own account. He represented Tompkins county in the assembly in 1832 and was county clerk from 1850 to 1853. He was president of the village of Ithaca in 1851. He was a director in the Tompkins county bank from its organization in 1836 until his death, 10 Sept., 1855.

#### CAPT. LEMUEL BROWN.

The first tanner in Owego was Captain Lemuel Brown. He was born at Stockbridge, Mass., Feb. 1, 1775, and was the youngest of five sons of Abraham and Beulah Brown. Abraham Brown was a captain of militia and served in the early part of the revolutionary war. He died Jan. 8, 1777, of small pox, which was communicated to him by a letter. His wife was a daughter of Joseph Patterson, of Watertown, Mass., and she was his cousin.

Mrs. Beulah Brown was one of the sixty associates in the purchase of the tract of land known as the "Boston ten townships." She

came in 1796 to Brown's Settlement in the town of Berkshire with her five children, when Lemuel Brown was 21 years of age. Mrs. Brown was a woman of strong mind and great vigor. It is related of her by D. W. Patterson that when she was nearly eighty years of age she made eighty cheeses and took care of them with her own hands.

The local "histories" give the date of the building of the first tannery in Owego by Mr. Brown as 1795, but as the Brown family did not come to this county until the next year, this is obviously incorrect. He probably came here in 1797, and he was married the next year.

By deed dated Dec. 21, 1801, and for a consideration of \$75, Capt. Luke Bates conveyed to Capt. Lemuel Brown two pieces of land in Owego. One of these pieces was on the south side of the highway now known as Front street and was east of and adjoining Thomas Duane's house and store lot and nearly opposite where the Tioga national bank now is. It extended about forty-five feet on the street. The other piece contained one acre of land and was on the west side of the old Cayuga road, now known as North avenue. It was a little north of what is now the southeast corner of George street and North avenue.

After coming to Owego Capt. Brown married Elizabeth McQuigg, daughter of the pioneer, Capt. John McQuigg. He lived in part of a double house on the Front street lot and John Murphy, a barber, at one time occupied the other part as a barber shop and residence. The building

was several years afterward removed to the lot which is now the north-west corner of Main street and Spencer avenue. It was for several years occupied by undesirable tenants. The last one, in spite of the protests of the neighbors and the occasional interference of the village health authorities, persisted in raising his pigs in that part of the house which is usually occupied as a kitchen. One night, between 1852 and 1856, while the house was temporarily unoccupied, several young men with saws and axes partly dismantled it, to prevent a new tenant from moving in, but the house was so strongly built that their labor made little impression, and a few nights afterward some one set fire to the house and it was burned to the ground, the firemen, who were in evident sympathy with the purpose of the incendiary, refusing to make any effort to extinguish the flames.

Capt. Brown's first tannery was built of logs and is said to have been on the bank of the river about where Goodrich's & Co.'s store now stands. The vats were in the open air. Whether the tannery was built before he purchased the property or afterward is not known. The vats were in the open air on the bank of the river. The high water undermined the bank and the side of the vats broke and slid into the river.

At about this time Capt. Brown built another tannery, a frame building, on his one-acre lot. It stood on the west side of where the railroad tracks now are and on the south side of the private driveway leading into

the Brown farm, and was a story and a half high. The vats of this tannery were also in the open air and they were near where the railroad tracks are now, and covered with boards, to keep out the rain.

After Capt. Brown's death, in 1815, the tannery was conducted until 1819 by his son, Richard Brown, and Capt. Brown's brother-in-law, Capt. Jesse McQuigg. The building was afterward used as a place in which to manufacture oar stems for river rafts during rainy weather, when men could not work out of doors. Capt. Brown's sons were all river raftsmen. The building was subsequently moved to another part of the premises and converted into a tool house.

Lemuel Brown derived his military title from his service in the state militia. In 1800 he was adjutant in Col. David Pixley's regiment. In 1802 he was promoted to Captain, and in 1807 he was again promoted to second major in Col. Asa Camp's Broome and Tioga regiment.

Capt. Brown's oldest brother, John Brown, was the first man elected supervisor of Owego upon the organization of the town April 3, 1800, and he was re-elected five times, serving six successive years. Lemuel Brown was also elected town clerk at this first election and served seven years in succession. He also filled the offices of pound master, fence-viewer, and commissioner of highways. In 1805 he was appointed the first sealer of weights and measures in Tioga county, and he was one of the incorporators of the old Owego and Ithaca turnpike in 1807. John Brown was one of

the first justices of the peace in this town. In October, 1809, he was appointed a judge of the Broome county court of common pleas, and held the office until his death, October 14, 1813.

Lemuel Brown died Nov. 28, 1815, aged 40 years, 8 months, and 28 days. The date inscribed on his grave stone in the Presbyterian church yard is Dec. 5, 1815, which is incorrect. Inscriptions on tombstones are notoriously untruthful. A written obituary of Capt. Brown, in the possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Chatfield, signed by two of Capt. Brown's sons, Richard and Abram Brown, and dated "Owego Village, Dec. 2, 1815, gives the date of death as Nov. 28, and this also agrees with the family record.

Lemuel Brown was the first treasurer of Friendship lodge, F. and A. M., of which Capt. Mason Wattles was the first master, in 1804, and of which John Murphy was junior warden. He was also one of the Royal Arch masons named in the original warrant of New Jerusalem chapter, granted Feb. 8, 1816.

The children of Capt. Lemuel and Elizabeth (McQuigg) Brown were as follows:

1. Richard Brown, born 10 Oct., 1799. Died in Owego 2 Feb., 1879. He was unmarried.

2. Abram Brown, born 20 Nov., 1800. Married Catherine Geotschuis, who was born 29 Dec., 1810. He died 24 Oct., 1878; she died 9 March, 1881. Abram Brown was elected overseer of the poor of the town of Owego in 1845 and served eighteen years.

3. Robert Brown, born 14 Aug., 1802. Died in Owego 2 Feb., 1869. He was unmarried.

4. Sarah Brown, born 29 March, 1804. Died 23 Dec., 1851. Unmarried.

5. Lemuel Brown, born 14 March, 1806. Died July 5, 1835. Unmarried. In 1815 he and Dr. Jedediah Fay formed a partnership in the mercantile business and conducted a general store in Owego and also established a branch store at Spencer, which was then the county seat of Tioga county. Richard Brown was a clerk in the Spencer store. They were unsuccessful and failed in business.

6. Ransom Brown, born 22 Nov., 1808. Was accidentally killed while hunting 13 Dec., 1837. Unmarried.

7. Horatio Brown, born 30 Nov., 1810. Married Eunice Goodrich, daughter of Alanson Goodrich. She was born Nov., 1822. He died at Big Rapids, Mich., 21 July, 1874, and she 6 June, 1852. His second wife was Jane Mosher, daughter of Seth Mosher, of Owego.

8. Eliza Brown, born 4 Feb., 1813. Married William Barnes. She died 4 Nov., 1894.

9. Frederick Brown, born 1 May, 1816. Married Charlotte McQuigg, daughter of Daniel McQuigg, 18 Oct., 1842. He died in Owego 8 April, 1873, and she 6 Jan., 1893.

The house built by Capt. Lemuel Brown in 1801 still stands in a dismantled condition and unoccupied on the old homestead. It is the only one of the old farm houses of the kind now remaining in this village. After Capt. Brown's death his widow and her mother, Mrs. John McQuigg, with Capt. Jesse McQuigg and Capt. Brown's children lived there, and there most of them died.

#### ELISHA FORSYTH.

One of the first comers to Owego in the days of its first settlement by white people was Elisha Forsyth. He was of Scottish descent, born at Wyalusing, Pa., Sept. 10, 1773, a son of Jonathan Forsyth, of Connecticut, who purchased land in the Wyoming

valley of Pennsylvania under the Connecticut title, and who in the Wyoming massacre lost everything he owned, escaping with his own life and the lives of his family. The family subsequently returned to Wyoming, where they remained until peace was declared. Then they removed to Towanda, Pa., and thence up the Susquehanna river to Choconut, N. Y., which was a little distance above the present village of Union on the easterly side of the river. The Forsythes afterward removed to Geneva, where Jonathan Forsyth died in 1788.

The next year Elisha Forsyth, who was now sixteen years of age, returned to Choconut, where he attended school. He was living there in 1794 when he married Freeloze Park, daughter of Capt. Thomas Park, who was the earliest settler at Park settlement on the west side of the Owego creek, near Flemingville. Previous to his marriage he worked eight months at Catskill learning the carpenter's trade, and afterward came to Owego. He assisted in framing the first frame building erected here, and he built the first ark made on the Susquehanna river.

Capt. Thomas Park's father was also named Thomas Park, and there were four of that name in succession. He was born in Connecticut March 19, 1744. He came with his family in the summer of 1787 to Catskill, N. Y., where he lived two years. In the fall of 1789 he removed to Vestal, Broome county, and in the spring of 1797 he came to Park settlement, where he settled permanently, building a saw mill and clearing a farm. Capt.

Park's wife was Hannah Fiddis, widow of Hugh Fiddis. They were married in 1768. They had one son, Capt. Daniel R. Park, and eight daughters. When the family came to Park settlement in 1797, Capt. D. R. Park was twelve years old. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. He died in the town of Candor, April 7, 1874.

Capt. Thomas Park was a sea captain and privateersman in the revolutionary war. He died 19 Nov., 1838. His wife, Hannah Park, was born 25 Jan., 1743, and died 25 June, 1828.

Elisha Forsyth spent the greater part of his life lumbering and farming. He died at Park settlement March 1, 1857. His wife, Freeloze Forsyth, who was born 19 Sept., 1775, died Oct. 21, 1862. The children of Elisha and Freeloze (Park) Forsyth were as follows:

1. Catherine Forsyth, born 18 Sept., 1795, at Union. Married Nathaniel Webster. Died 21 Nov., 1884.

2. George Forsyth, born 2 July, 1798. His first wife was Mary Chapman and his second Rachel Puffer. He died in Owego 5 Oct., 1876.

3. Elisha Forsyth, Jr., born 14 Feb., 1801. Married Wealthy Lawrence, of Newark Valley, 1 Feb., 1827. He died in Owego 14 Feb., 1873; she 19 Dec., 1875. Elisha Forsyth, Jr., in the civil war was fife major of the 50th regiment, New York engineers.

4. Azor Forsyth, born 17 Oct. 1803. Died 20 April, 1863, in Elmira.

5. Experience Forsyth, born 17 Sept., 1806. Married Martin Smith. Died at Sparta, Wis., 6 Dec., 1882.

6. Gilbert Forsyth, born 4 Oct., 1808. Died 29 Nov., 1840.

7. Eldridge Forsyth, born 5 Aug., 1812. Died 26 April, 1889. His first wife was Mary A. Fisher, and his second Eunice A. Tyler.

Gilbert and Azor Forsyth were portrait painters; the other brothers

were house painters. Gilbert Forsyth was possessed of much talent as an artist. In his youthful days he and Thomas LeClere, who later become one of the most celebrated portrait painters in America, were boys together at Park settlement.

Thomas LeClere was a son of Louis LeClere and was born in 1818 in a small house, just above the Owego creek bridge in the town of Candor, about a mile below the Flemingville church. When a child he exhibited a taste for portrait painting. His first productions were painted from paint made by squeezing the juice of pokeberries and green grass together, and with this kind of pigment he painted his first pictures. His first attempt at portrait painting was made when he was only nine years of age with a mixture of lampblack, Venetian red, and white on a piece of pine board. Eldridge Forsyth assisted young LeClere in mixing his first colors. These two painters afterward went in different directions. One came to Owego and painted houses at from twenty to fifty dollars a house; the other went to New York city and painted portraits at from five to ten thousand dollars a head.

In 1832 Louis LeClere removed with his family to London, Ontario. In February, 1844, Thomas LeClere returned to Owego and opened a studio over the Gazette office in a two-story wooden building, which stood on the south side of Front street, just west of Park street, where he painted portraits and gave instruction in oil painting and pencil drawing. He remained here only a short

time and went to New York. He never returned to Owego but once. In 1882 he came to visit his birthplace and to call on some of the people he had known in his boyhood days.

While he was living in Owego he painted the portraits of various people. The execution was rough, but the likenesses were excellent. He gained distinction after going to New York. He painted the portraits of Edwin Booth, Daniel S. Dickinson, President Millard Fillmore, Bayard Taylor, Chief Justice Taney, Wm. Cullen Bryant, and many other men of eminence, and at the time of his death an almost finished portrait of Gen. Grant, for which he was to have received \$10,000, was in his studio. He was twice married. He died at Rutherford Park, N. J., Nov. 26, 1882. He left six children, one of whom, a daughter, was the wife of Wm. H. Beard, the famous painter of animals in grotesque and humorous situations.

Gilbert Forsyth went to New York city, where he was employed as a scene painter at Niblo's garden theatre. While thus employed he was engaged to go, in 1832, to the Canary islands for the purpose of making sketches of scenery and painting them. He afterward went among the Indians of Upper Canada for the same purpose. Later he returned to Owego, and subsequently went to Elmira, where he was taken ill. He returned to Park settlement, where he died at his father's home November 29, 1840.

An interesting paper in the Wisconsin state historical society's collection, obtained by Lyman C. Draper,

the historian, from the heirs of Judge Chas. P. Avery, of Owego, is the statement made in Owego in 1854 by Elisha Forsyth. The statement is as follows:

STATEMENT OF ELISHA FORSYTH, MADE FEB. 20, 1854.

"I live in the town of Owego. I was born in 1776-1777 in Connecticut. My father's name was Jonathan. My grandfather was a full-blooded Scotchman from Edinburg. Three brothers, John, Jonathan, and James, came. My father lived below Shawnee, just above Nanticoke falls, and kept a public house. My first recollections are of that place.

"My father was in the battle and his house was burnt in the affair of 1778. His writings were then lost. His and other families went aboard of a Durham boat at the time of the battle and pushed on down and afterward lived at Carlisle. My father escaped and joined his family.

"I was quite a boy when we got back to Wyoming; came back in a boat. We emigrated from Wyoming to Towanda and then to Chocomaug in big boats. On the trip I must have been six or seven years old. We saw nobody but Indians. One white man, Patterson, lived at Tioga Point and my father let him have a quantity of provisions, while he (my father) was living at Towanda. My father left Wyoming on account of the Pennamite war.

"We were on the premises, near Gen'l. Stoddard's, before Amos Draper came into the country. My father gave the Indians seven barrels of corn per year for the use of the land. The Indians were settled all around us. We were living there when McMaster came in.

"Major Coe (from Wyoming) was then living on the south side of the river, opposite Mersereau's flats. We then removed above Binghamton, up the Chenango.

"Amos Draper lived upon the flat called the old Mersereau flat.

"Amos Draper was a nice man—one of the finest men in the world. My father moved next to Geneva, in three or four years, and he died there in 1788, in the fall. We went from Union in a boat to Tioga Point (some families were there then), thence up the Chemung to Horseheads, to Seneca Lake, and thence to Geneva, where some people (Tuttle for one) lived. He lives now on a corner of the farm my father bought. I signed away a quit claim for it after my father's death. My father's children were Alexander, Elisha, William, Azor, living in Michigan, in Prairie du Chien, and Hannah, wife of Alexander Hewitt.

"My mother married a man by the name of John Gansen. He went beyond the Genesee and bought 600 acres of land with the money for the land which had been deeded after my father's death to my mother. I lived there about one year after my father's death and then came to Jabez Winship's (then on the lower end of the Mersereau flats.) I recollect being caught at his house when the water rose and stayed all night with him, and the next morning he took me on his back to the woods and built a fire and warmed us. His family was not with him then. The next morning my father took a canoe to look for me, and Draper saw him and halloood, and he took me home. This was called the 'pumpkin fresh.' He lived at that place with his family but one summer; he then came down here.

"The man Patterson who lived at Tioga Point and whom my father helped came down from the Chenango, where he had removed to, and came down to a meeting at his father's house; all the inhabitants of the country gathered to it. The man then ignored the charity of Mr. Forsyth and it ended in an encounter brought on by the insults of Patterson. There must have been a dozen or more people there to go to school.

The log school house was on the road back of the flat, up toward the creek.

"From there I came to work at Owego village at carpenter and joiner's work. I helped frame the first building for a jail on the west side of the public square, not far from where the church stands. Mr. Laning moved it afterward and made it a part of the old tavern house, and it stood there when it was burnt down. It was the bar-room part.

"There was a saw mill with the grist mill just below Indian spring put up by Pixley. I built the first ark that was ever made on this river, 60 feet long, white oak timber, calked and taned, for Judge Ashbel Wells. He ran wheat in it.

"Old Captain Thomas Park helped me build it and I was foreman. Judge Wells had seen an ark on the west branch and came up to my house and chalked it out and explained it. I went to work and built it.

"I was living at Winship's when I got married. I went to Catskill for eight months and learnt my trade, then came back and married a daughter of Captain Parks; was married at 21 years of age. Sabin taught the first school at Choconut (Union) and was a surveyor.

"When we first started from Wyoming we expected to stop at Towanda and make a settlement. A family by the name of Fox came up with us from Wyoming. They had lived there before the troubles several years, but the Indians drove them away. But we did not remain at Towanda long; we went on further to Tioga Point, and so to Choconut. When I came back from Geneva I went down the river as far as Towanda to see the same people we came up with, but I did not remain a great while. They were not relations of mine and so I came on up to Jabez Winship's.

"We ground our meal by a hand mill. Some stones were used by Winchell on the other side of the river on Choconut creek. That was the first grist mill in this part of the

country. This was after I came back from Geneva (not the first, the last.) My father went first clear to Wilkes-Barre to mill.

"When his father came back the Shawnee Indians attacked him, burnt his hay stack. He fled to his canoe, sunk himself in the water from time to time as they fired nine rounds at him. Next day he could not swim. Franklin's family were captured by the Indians. Sixty men went in pursuit and overtook them just below Tioga Point. Mrs. Franklin was shot through the head, and the Indians dashed the brains of the child out. The survivors were brought to my father's house."

#### DR. ELISHA ELY.

Dr. Elisha Ely, one of the earliest settlers in Owego, was born at Lyme, Conn., in 1748. His greatgrandfather Richard Ely, a widower, who was born in 1610, came from Plymouth, England, to America between 1660 and 1663 with his sons, William and Richard, and settled at Lyme, where he died in 1684. His eldest son, William, had ten children, the fourth of whom was Daniel Ely, the father of Dr. Elisha Ely. Daniel Ely was married four times and had in all twelve children, five by his fourth wife, Ruhama Turner. The twelfth child was Dr. Elisha Ely.

Dr. Ely was a surgeon in the revolutionary army, with the rank of captain. His record, as it appears in the Historical Record of Officers of the Continental Army, 1775 to 1783, is as follows:

Elisha Ely (Conn.) Surgeon's mate, 16th Continental Infantry, 1 January, 1776. Surgeon 19th Continental infantry, 19 July to 31 December, 1776. Captain 6th Conn., 1 January, 1777. Resigned 28 August, 1780.

Dr. Ely married Susannah Bloomer, of Rye, N. Y., in 1781, the year following his resignation from the army. He practised medicine at Saybrook, Conn., until his removal to Owego. He left Saybrook in the fall of 1798 with \$16,000 in his possession, with which he purchased two townships of land in northern Pennsylvania under the Connecticut title. The title was in dispute between Connecticut and Pennsylvania and was finally decided in favor of Pennsylvania, consequently the purchasers under the Connecticut title lost all they had invested.

When Dr. Ely came to Owego he was a cripple from wounds received while in the army. He came with his wife and their eight children. They came from New York city to Catskill by water, and their trip through the woods from Catskill occupied six days. They came with a wagon, a yoke of oxen, a span of horses, and the first chaise ever seen in this section, bringing all the household goods they could carry.

Dr. Ely had intended to stay in Owego and practise medicine during the winter and go on the next spring to Wellsboro, Pa., where the land he had purchased was situated. The loss of this Pennsylvania land impoverished him. His health had been impaired while in the army, and in 1801, three years after his coming here, he died of consumption.

After Dr. Ely's death his widow lived in the north side of west Front street in a house which stood where the residence of John Jones now stands, and she remained there until her death on July 21, 1823.

The children of Dr. Elisha and Susannah (Bloomer) Ely, all of whom except James Ely were born in Connecticut, were as follows:

1. Nancy Ely, born in 1782. She was married to Archibald White, of Owego. He died in New York of yellow fever in August, 1802. Her second husband was Abner Murray, of Athens, Pa., to whom she was married in 1821. She died in 1862.

2. Susanah Ely, born 1783; died 1847.

3. Gilbert Bloomer Ely, born 1785. Married Elizabeth McClain in 1809. He died in 1831 and she in 1825.

4. Elisha Ely, born 1788. Left Owego and settled in California.

5. William Alfred Ely, born 16 Oct., 1789. Married Ann S. Gregory in 1810. He died in Owego 27 Nov., 1863, and she 20 Jan., 1884.

6. Edward Ely, born 1791. Married Fanny Avery, of Trumansburg. He died in Owego in 1844.

7. Harriet Ely, born 1794. Married John Carmichael in 1835. She died 1 Sept., 1881.

8. Daniel Ely, born 1797. Married Lois Gridley Kelsey, of Hartford, Conn., 1832. He died in Owego 25 Nov., 1844.

9. James Ely, born 1798. Married Cynthia Bundy. He died in Grand Rapids, Mich., 20 Dec., 1862.

Archibald White, who married Nancy Ely, came to Owego about the year 1800 and in the winter of 1800-01 was a clerk in Thomas Duane's store. He was from the north of Ireland, born in Belfast. When he came to America he landed in Baltimore, Md. Thence he went to Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where he became acquainted with Mr. Duane. When Mr. Duane came with his family to Owego in 1800 White accompanied him.

White's mother and William Patterson, of Baltimore, the father of Elizabeth Patterson, Prince Jerome Bona-

parte's wife, were brother and sister. The only child of Archibald and Nancy (Ely) White was Maria Patterson White, who was married to Elihu Parmenter, of Owego. Mr. Parmenter built and conducted the tannery in the northern part of this village, later known as the Dean tannery, and conducted it until his death. He was killed by the cars, near his home, Sept. 30, 1872. He was about 71 years of age at the time of his death. Mrs. Parmenter died 17 June, 1860, aged 55 years.

The Ely brothers were all merchants. William A. Ely was early in life a clerk in Gen. Oliver Huntington's store. In December, 1811, he purchased for \$300 the land on the south side of Main street opposite and east of North avenue. It extended from Lake street west to the public burying ground. The old burying ground occupied all the land on which the telephone office and the sheriff's residence now stand in Main street and extended south in Court street to John L. Taylor's lot, south of and adjoining the county clerk's office.

On the lot he purchased Mr. Ely built a two-story wooden building, which stood opposite north avenue on the ground where J. S. Houk's hardware store is now. In this building Wm. A. and James Ely conducted a general mercantile business several years. The store was afterward occupied by John Hollenback, then by E. B. Hurlbert, and later by John Cameron as a grocery. It was burned Oct. 16, 1870.

In 1827, Wm. A., James, and Daniel Ely formed a new partnership and

did a general mercantile business in a new brick building on the south side of Front street, two doors east of the bridge. This partnership was dissolved in May, 1830, and Daniel Ely continued the business. William A. and James Ely at the same time formed a partnership with Charles and Printice Ransom, under the firm name of Ely & Ransoms, which firm continued in existence until the end of the following June, when Charles Ransom withdrew from the partnership. Their store was east of and adjoining that of James Ely, who sold his stock to Heggie & Mack, in June, 1831. James Ely was afterward a partner of Jonathan Platt. Their store was on the south side of Front street, opposite where Ahwaga hall now is.

William A. Ely was at one time in business alone in Caldwell Row, a row of wooden shops, stores, and dwellings, which was burned in the great fire of 1849. It was on the north side of Front street and extended from Lake street to the line between Ahwaga hall and the Ahwaga house block.

Elisha and James Ely at one time kept a hat store in Main street, where they bought furs and manufactured fur and wool hats and caps from the raw material. In the spring of 1819 they sold the business to Col. Chas. B. Pixley. In manufacturing wool hats Col. Pixley was accustomed to dye them and then wash them in the sluiceway of the old mill of his father. Col. David Pixley, on the west side of the Owego creek, near the Indian spring, by putting them in the water with tongs. Elisha Ely later had a



WILLIAM A. ELY.



hat store above the bridge in Front street.

William A. Ely built the brick house on the north side of Front street on the second lot east of Church street now owned and occupied by Mrs. Henry Young. Here he lived until his death in 1863. Mr. Ely was extensively engaged for several years in the manufacture of lumber, which was the most important industry here in his day. He was not only a prominent business man but was also active in public affairs. He was supervisor of the town of Owego thirteen years between 1824 and 1840.

James Ely lived on the north side of Front street, near William street. He removed to Grand Rapids, Mich., where he died in 1862. He was supervisor of the town of Owego in 1844, 1845, and 1852, and he represented Tioga county in the assembly in 1851.

Col. Daniel Ely lived in the house now occupied by Dr. J.T. Greenleaf in Main street. He was postmaster of Owego from Feb. 4, 1842, until his death in November, 1844.

Gilbert and Daniel Ely were both officers in the state militia. Gilbert Ely was appointed ensign in Col. Samuel Seymour's regiment of infantry in 1807. In 1809 Jesse McQuigg was appointed ensign "vice G. Ely, moved." Daniel Ely in 1822 was captain of riflemen in the 145th regiment.

## GEN. OLIVER HUNTINGTON.

One of the earliest settlers in Owego and the first druggist here was Gen. Oliver Huntington, who came at the age of 23 years with his wife and two children to this village from Ellington, Conn., in 1804, and lived here during the rest of his life.

At the northeast corner of Front and Lake streets stood a small wooden building, in which Gen. Huntington established the first drug store ever opened in Owego. An advertisement of his store, published in the old "American Farmer," may be of interest here, as it is the first advertisement of a drug store published in this place.

## DRUGS &amp; MEDICINES, ETC.

Just received from New York and for sale by the subscriber, a new and general assortment of DRUGS & MEDICINES, consisting of Opium, camphor, jallap, calomel, blue vitriol, fennel, rhubarb, &c., with various others, too numerous to be inserted in an advertisement, and all the Patent Medicines that are in most esteem.

For Practitioners of Physic, and others, may be supplied on as reasonable terms as can be obtained at Catskill, or other places on the North river.

OLIVER HUNTINGTON.

*Owego Village, July 31st, 1810.*

Gen. Huntington lived in a little red house which stood on the west side of North avenue, a little north of Main street. James A. Dean bought the lot in the spring of 1866, tore down the house and built a brick store on the site. This is the third store north of Main street and is separated from the store south of it by a narrow lane. In the old red house Deacon Francis Armstrong lived for many years.

In addition to his drug business Gen. Huntington engaged extensively in shipping produce of various kinds down the Susquehanna river, which stream was then the only outlet for

the products of this part of the country.

In September, 1804, Gen. Huntington had purchased property north of this village, lying on the north side of the small brook known as the Huntington creek, and which was so named in honor of him. A little west of the highway now known as North avenue he built a few years before his death a small house, which is still standing, although somewhat altered from its original proportions. There he lived during the rest of his life. This house was later owned and occupied by John James Beers, and afterward the property was purchased by Ephraim H. House.

Gen. Huntington was appointed sheriff of Broome county Feb. 24, 1816, and held the office until June 10, 1818. He was prominent in military affairs. In 1809 he was appointed Second Major in Lieut.-Col. Asa Camp's regiment of New York infantry. The next year he was promoted to Lieut.-Col. Commandant of the 53d regiment, and in 1812 to Brigadier-General of the 41st brigade.

Gen. Huntington was a descendant of Simon and Margaret Huntington, non-conformists, who left England on account of religious persecution and came to America in 1663 and settled at Windsor, Conn.

Gen. Huntington was born Dec. 22, 1771. His first wife was Abigail Talcott, daughter of Capt. Gad and Abigail Talcott, of Hebron, Conn. She died in Owego June 18, 1815, aged 43 years. Her body is buried in the Presbyterian church yard. His second

wife was Mrs. Richards, a sister of Samuel Avery.

Gen. Huntington died Nov. 13, 1823. Although he was only 52 years of age at the time of his death he had been commonly known on account of his venerable appearance as "old Gen. Huntington." The children of Gen. Oliver and Abigail (Talcott) Huntington were as follows:

1. Abigail Huntington, born 25 Sept., 1796. Married Henry Gregory 10 Feb., 1818. They lived at Ithaca.

2. Wait Talcott Huntington, born at Ellington, Conn., 9 May, 1798. Married Saphronia Carter, of Aurora, N. Y., 11 March, 1840.

3. Orestes Lynde Huntington, born at Ellington, Conn., 22 March, 1803. Married Harriet Terrill at Ithaca, N. Y. He was a cabinet maker.

4. Horatio Lord Huntington, born at Owego, 14 Dec., 1805. Married Ann Turner at Adams, Ill., 31 May, 1839.

5. Harriet Huntington, born at Owego, 3 March, 1808. Married 5 May, 1833, to Wm. Townley. They lived at Albany, Ill.

6. George Oliver Huntington, born at Owego 7 Oct., 1810. Married Cornelia DeKrafft, of Washington, D. C., at Quincy, Ill., 21 May, 1840.

Wait T. Huntington, the eldest son of Gen. Huntington, removed from Owego to Ithaca, where he taught school for a short time. Then he engaged in the mercantile business and conducted a brewery, and became a man of considerable prominence. He was elected clerk of Tompkins county in 1837 and served three years. He was clerk of the town of Ithaca in 1826 and 1832, and president of the village in 1834 and 1835. He was also elected a justice of the peace in 1859. In 1860 he removed to New York city, where he engaged in the manufacture

of the now popular calendar attachment for clocks, of which he was the inventor. He for several years held a position in the New York post office, which he resigned in March, 1878, in order to spend the rest of his life in peaceful retirement. He died at the home of his daughter at Moravia, N. Y., Jan. 8, 1881, aged 82 years.

#### JOHN HOLLENBACK.

John Hollenback was one of the early merchants of Owego. He was a large owner of timbered property, a manufacturer of lumber, and a man of extensive business transactions. He was a son of Geo. Hollenback, of Mill Creek, a place situated about a mile above Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and was born November 2, 1780. He came to Owego in 1801 or 1802 and began a general mercantile business. His first store was on the south side of Front street, above Lake street. At night he slept on a side sole leather on the counter of his store.

Mr. Hollenback was successful in all his undertakings. He invested largely in real estate. In 1805 he owned two hundred acres east of Paige street, and in 1815 he was the possessor of 856½ acres, comprising nearly all the land bounded west by a line east of Paige street and extending a little east of the Little Nanticoke creek. At the time of his death in 1847 he owned about 2,000 acres of land in a body in and near Owego village, together with his father's homestead at Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

In 1813 or 1814 Mr. Hollenback had the lease of the Onondaga and Mon-

tezuma salt works. In 1814, at the close of the war of 1812 he owned all the salt that was in the market and had it stored in arks on the Susquehanna river at Port Deposit, Md. This salt was held from \$16 to \$20 a barrel. Had the war continued a few months longer he would have made a clear profit of \$40,000, but peace was declared Dec. 24, and the price fell so low that Mr. Hollenback lost about \$20,000 on his investment.

Soon after this Mr. Hollenback opened a hardware and tin store in James Pumpelly's two story wooden building, which stood on the north side of Front street, a few rods west of Paige street. The upper part of the building was occupied by Stephen B. Leonard as the publication office of the Owego Gazette and as a post office, Mr. Leonard being the postmaster. This store, which was then considered "out of the village," was afterward converted into a dwelling house and is now occupied by A. C. Burt.

About the year 1832 Mr. Hollenback moved down into Judge Drake's store, which stood on the south side of Front street, opposite Lake street and was on the site of the present Central drug store. There he remained three or four years, and then removed to the store that William A. Ely had built and occupied on the south side of Main street, opposite North avenue.

In 1840 he removed once more, this time into the Camp store, which stood on the south side of Front street, a little west of Park street. A little later he removed up the street to Charles Pumpelly's old store, which stood opposite where the Ahwaga



JOHN HOLLENBACK.



house now stands, and there he continued the mercantile business until his death, June 13, 1847.

Soon after coming to Owego Mr. Hollenback established a branch store at Ithaca, in 1804, which was managed by a man named Isaacs.

Mr. Hollenback was a man of strong determination and extraordinary energy of character. In his centennial history of Tioga county, published in 1876, William F. Warner wrote of Mr. Hollenback as follows:

"Had this gentleman lived at a time when military leadership was demanded, he would unquestionably have made one of the ablest commanders who ever led an army. He dealt largely in the purchase and manufacture of lumber. His impaired hearing forced him to withdraw from social life, and he devoted himself assiduously to his extensive business. Those, however, who had access to him in his home circle, found him a genial man and an accomplished conversationalist. He was well informed, and kept abreast with the foremost in all matters of general interest, although seemingly absorbed in business matters."

While conducting the Ithaca store Mr. Hollenback had some trouble with Eleazer Dana, one of the early lawyers in Owego. In order to annoy Mr. Hollenback Mr. Dana waited until he had left town and got nearly to Ithaca, when he served a summons upon him and caused his immediate return to Owego. Mr. Hollenback was so infuriated at this summary action that he attacked Mr. Dana with a cowhide. Mr. Dana sued him for assault and recovered \$300 damages.

When Mr. Hollenback began business in Owego he could not agree with one of his rivals in the mercan-

tile business. He employed many men in making arks and rafts of lumber, but for some unknown reason the men would leave his employ abruptly when he most needed their services, and would make no explanation for their course. Finally one man was candid enough to inform him that his rival in business was the cause, he telling the men that Mr. Hollenback was irresponsible and they would not receive their wages. Mr. Hollenback, with his rawhide, went to his business rival and threatened to use the whip over his shoulders should there be any repetition of the trouble. It is needless to say that he was subjected to no further annoyance.

Mr. Hollenback was a hard worker himself, and would employ none who was idle or lazy. It is related of him that when an applicant for work came to him he would examine the seat of his trousers. If it was patched or worn, he would give him no employment.

Mr. Hollenback lived in a house which stood on the north side of Front street, on the third lot west of Paige street, later owned by his brother-in-law, William Pumpelly. The house stood so near the street that when Front street was regularly laid out and straightened by a surveyor, the house was left close upon the sidewalk. This house, which was a large one, was several years afterward cut in two, moved away, and converted into tenant houses.

Mr. Hollenback's wife was Susan Welles, daughter of George and Prudence (Talcott) Welles. They were married Sept. 24, 1805. She was

born Jan. 10, 1783, and died in Owego Feb. 7, 1865. Geo. Welles was a native of Connecticut, who settled at Athens, Pa., about the year 1800.

The portrait of Mr. Hollenback, which illustrates this article, is from a photograph taken by Mr. LaSoy from an oil painting. The painting is the work of Mrs. Hollenback's sister, Miss M. A. Welles, who afterward became Mrs. Wm. Pumpelly. The painting was owned by the family of Geo. W. Hollenback for many years, and it is now the property of Frank M. Baker, of Owego.

Some time previous to his death Mr. Hollenback had expressed his intention of founding some kind of a public institution in Owego, by which his name would be handed down to posterity, and he had made a partial will to that effect; but he was taken ill while his nephew, Geo. W. Hollenback, who for many years had had almost entire charge of his extensive lumber business, was down the river, and, at the last moment, being unable to carry his intention into effect, he devised the greater portion of his large estate to his nephew, at the same time leaving a portion of the property in trust for the support of his widow during her life.

At the time of his death Mr. Hollenback had one brother, Matthias Hollenback, living at Wilkes-Barre.

## GEORGE W. HOLLENBACK.

The first Hollenback in this country of whom there is any record was George Hollenback, a sturdy Dutchman, who settled in Wyoming county, Pa. He had a son, John Hollenback (1), who was born about 1720, whose wife was Eleanor Jones. Their children were George, Matthias H., and John Hollenback (2).

George Hollenback was the father of John Hollenback, the Owego merchant.

Matthias H. Hollenback, a prominent business man of his day in Pennsylvania, had three children as follows:

Eleanor Jones Hollenback, who married Charles F. Welles, of Athens, Pa.

John Welles Hollenback.

Mary Ann Hollenback, who married Gen. John Laning, one of the early merchants of Owego.

The third brother, John Hollenback (2) had a son also named John Hollenback (3), who was the father of Geo. W. Hollenback, of Owego. This John Hollenback (3) was born Oct. 14, 1775, at Martinsburg, Va., under the rule of King George III., but the family were not enthusiastically loyal subjects. In 1783, after the declaration of peace, his parents removed to Morgantown, West Virginia, and in 1793 to Wilkes-Barre, Pa. He was engaged for his uncle, Matthias Hollenback, in trade along the Susquehanna river in 1796. The next year he came up the river in a Durham boat and established a shad fishery at Wyalusing, the first in that part of the country. He soon afterward returned down the river with his boat heavily laden with salted shad. In

1801 he opened a store at Wyalusing, which was considered a marvel at the time, as he brought 2,400 pounds of goods from Philadelphia in wagons to Middletown, where they were loaded on boats and pushed up the river. Mr. Hollenback died at Wyalusing March 13, 1867, aged 91 years.

Geo. W. Hollenback who was the oldest one of John Hollenback's fifteen children, was born Aug. 25, 1806, at Wyalusing and came to Owego to attend school in 1816, at ten years of age, and remained here during the summer. December 5, 1828, he came again to Owego to live, and was a clerk in his uncle, John Hollenback's, store until August, 1831. In December, 1838, he again returned to Owego to resume his duties as his uncle's clerk, and he lived here all the rest of his life.

From six to nine months each year his time was occupied up and down the Susquehanna river attending to his employer's lumber business. In the fall of 1847, after John Hollenback's death, he entered into partnership with William H. Bell in the mercantile and lumber business and the partnership continued twenty years.

Wm. H. Bell was a son of William Bell, a farmer, who lived on the West Owego creek, about six miles north of Owego, where he was born, Nov. 18, 1811. At an early age he entered the store of Martin & Andrews at Wysox, Pa., as a clerk. He afterward came to Owego and was for three years a clerk in David P. Tinkham's store. He was next employed in the same capacity in the stores of John Hollenback and Platt & Ely.

In 1837, Mr. Bell in company with Daniel G. Taylor and W. C. Taylor, purchased the store of Platt & Ely and conducted the business under the firm name of Taylors & Bell until Jan. 25, 1839, when Mr. Bell sold his interest to his partner, who continued under the name of D. G. & W. C. Taylor. Their store was on the south side of Front street, the third store east of Lake street. Mr. Bell afterward became teller of the old Bank of Owego. Sept. 20, 1841, he left the bank to return to the mercantile business, having purchased W. C. Taylor's interest in the store. The new firm of Taylor & Bell continued until Nov. 15, 1847, when Mr. Bell purchased his partner's interest.

January 5, 1848, Mr. Bell, Mr. Hollenback, and Jacob Hand formed a partnership and began a general lumber business in connection with their store under the firm name of William H. Bell & Co. They owned a large saw mill on the south side of the river, a little below the mouth of the Owego creek, and a large timber tract in the southern part of the town of Owego. After the burning of their store in the great fire of 1849 they erected a three-story brick store—the sixth one above the bridge—into which they removed in December, 1850. The firm was dissolved Oct. 16, 1855, Mr. Hand retiring, and Albert Newell was received into the partnership. Sept. 1, 1866, Mr. Newell retired from the firm. Jan. 10, 1867, the firm of Wm. H. Bell & Co. was dissolved and their property was divided. Mr. Hollenback took the store and Mr. Bell the mill and lumber tract. In August, 1870, Mr. Bell was stricken

with paralysis and rendered entirely helpless and incapacitated for business. He died at the home of his brother, Charles T. Bell, in east Main street, April 20, 1876.

Mr. Hand came to Owego in 1829 from Otsego county and entered the lumber business with John R. Drake, later purchasing judge Drake's interest. He died in Owego April 27, 1874, aged 73 years.

Upon the dissolution of the partnership of William H. Bell & Co. Mr. Hollenback continued the mercantile business with two of his sons, Geo. F. and John G. Hollenback, until the fall of 1871, when they sold their stock and directed their attention to the sale of crockery exclusively. In October, 1873, they sold their stock to D. C. Tuthill and retired from business.

For many years and until 1856 all the ground on the south side of Front street east of Paige street was one vast lumber yard, where lumber was piled for shipment down the Susquehanna, while on the river it was being continuously made into rafts for shipment down to a market upon the first rise of the water.

Mr. Hollenback married Miss Jane Gordon, of Bradford county, Pa., in 1837. She died in Owego April 14, 1881. The family lived several years in the house which John Carmichael built on the Stephen Mack lot in Front street. In the summer of 1853 Mr. Hollenback built the large brick house on the south side of Front street, east of John street, where he lived until his death on December 30, 1878.

Mr. Hollenback was three years a member of the board of village trustees and president of the village of Owego in 1854. He was supervisor of the town of Owego in 1850, 1851, and 1855. He was a man of public spirit and did much to improve the eastern part of the village, laying out new streets and contributing to the general improvement.

Mr. Hollenback's children were William H., George F., Charles E., and John G. Hollenback, and Misses Alice and Mary H. Hollenback.

The Taylors came to Owego from Florida, Orange county, N. Y. Col. Wm. C. Taylor entered Dr. Jedediah Fay's drug store as a clerk in 1833. Daniel G. Taylor came in 1836 and the brothers the next year entered into the mercantile partnership with Wm. H. Bell. Col. Taylor was for many years station agent for the New York and Erie railroad company at Jersey City. He died April 9, 1892, in Brooklyn, aged 78 years. In 1861 when Gen. D. C. McCallum was appointed military superintendent of the railroad of the United States, Wm. C. Taylor was appointed manager of all the military railroads, to attend to their construction, repair, etc., with the rank of colonel.

Daniel G. Taylor lived during the latter part of his life in Chicago, Ill., where he died April 28, 1898, aged 89 years.

## THOMAS COLLIER.

Thomas Collier came to Owego with his family about the year 1808. He was born in Boston, Mass., Feb. 20, 1761. His father, Richard Collier, was a brazier. He began an apprenticeship at the printer's trade in the office of his uncle, Thomas Draper, who printed one of the earliest newspapers in Boston. His aunt, Margaret Draper, an English woman, after the death of her husband, Thomas Draper, conducted the newspaper establishment in her own name until the beginning of the revolutionary war, when, being a royalist in her sentiments, her paper was made the medium of royal denunciations against the "rebels." She suffered some pecuniary loss on account of her loyalty to the king and was compelled when Boston was evacuated by the British to leave some of her effects behind, and among them her printing establishment, which fell into the hands of the "Yankee rebels." On her return to England she was rewarded with a liberal pension from the crown.

John Trumbull, the poet of the revolution, in his famous "modern epic poem," *McFingal*, written in Hudibrastic verse and published in 1775, immortalized Mrs. Draper, speaking of her as "Mother Draper" in the first canto of the poem. The lines read as follows:

" Did not our grave judge Sewall hit  
The summit of newspaper wit,  
Filled every leaf of every paper  
Of Mills and Hicks, and Mother Draper,  
Drew proclamations, works of toil,  
In true sublime, of scare-crow style,  
Wrote farces, too, 'gainst sons of freedom,  
All for your good, and none would read 'em  
Denounced damnation on their frenzy,  
Who died in Whig impenitency?"

Thomas Collier did not favor the cause of the rebels, so he left Boston with his father, under the permission given by Gen. Gage after the battle of Lexington. He soon entered the printing office of the "Norwich Packet," a newspaper published at Norwich, Conn., by Alexander and James Robinson and he later completed his apprenticeship in the office of the "Gazette" at New Haven, which was published by Thomas Greene and was then the oldest newspaper, with one exception, in Connecticut.

While living in Boston, before the outbreak of hostilities, he witnessed some of the most exciting events. He was present when the tea was thrown overboard into the harbor, and he became personally acquainted with many distinguished officers.

Mr. Collier went from New Haven to Litchfield, where he conducted the "Litchfield Monitor," a good old-fashioned, orthodox, federal paper, until 1807. Several writers of a high order of talent were among its correspondents, and the paper ranked among the leading journals of the union.

At this time Rev. Azel Backus, of Bethlehem, afterward president of Hamilton college, who was a contributor to the paper, was indicted with Mr. Collier at the same term of the district court for libelling Thomas Jefferson, then president of the United States. They were arrested soon after Jefferson's election by a marshal and taken to Hartford, one for preaching and the other for publishing "false, scandalous, and defamatory matter." Mr. Collier took his presses and type to the jail at Har-

ford, where with Dr. Backus as collaborator, he issued a paper which made the air of the nutmeg state blue with his denunciations of Jefferson. Dr. Backus was the grandfather of Charlie Backus, the famous negro minstrel and comedian.

While still conducting the "Litchfield Monitor" Mr. Collier established the "Gazette" at Troy, N. Y., which passed into the hands of Wright Goveneur & Stockwell. One of the members of this firm, John C. Wright, married a daughter of Thomas Collier.

When the Colliers came to Owego they at first lived in a red house, which stood where F. C. Hewitt's residence now is, near the southeast corner of Front and Church streets. The Collier children were John A., James, Daniel, Hamilton A., Margaret, and Nancy Collier. They afterward removed to a house which stood on the north side of Main street, where Dr. D. S. Anderson's house is now, and there Mrs. Collier conducted a private school for children. James and Daniel Collier removed to Ohio.

Thomas Collier removed with his family to Binghamton about 1827. That year John A. Collier built a house in Franklin street in that city in which his parents lived the rest of their lives. In 1828 he became associated with Abial C. Cannoll in the publication of the "Broome County Republican," which had been established in 1823 by major Augustus Morgan. Cannoll & Collier published this paper until 1830, when Mr. Collier was succeeded by Edwin T.

Evans, Mr. Collier died in Binghamton in 1842.

John A. Collier, who became the most prominent of Thomas Collier's sons was born Nov. 13, 1787, at Litchfield, Conn. He was graduated from Yale college, studied law at Troy, and came to Owego for the purpose of practising his chosen profession, but there were at that time fewer lawyers in Binghamton than in Owego, so he went to Binghamton in 1809, where he became one of the foremost lawyers in this part of the state. He was district attorney of Broome county in 1818, and in 1830 he was elected to Congress. In 1844 he was elected comptroller of the state. During the presidency of Millard Fillmore he was offered the collectorship of the port of San Francisco, but declined it. He died in Binghamton March 24, 1873.

When Mrs Margaret Draper went to England she took with her her niece, a sister of Thos. Collier, then a little girl. The niece lived with her aunt in London until she was grown, and then married a man named Hamilton, who was for some time clerk of the house of lords. It was in honor of him that Hamilton A Collier received his name.

Hamilton A. Collier opened a general county store in the fall of 1823 in the white store at the northwest corner of Lake and Front streets. The next spring he removed to the south side of Front street opposite where the Ahwaga house now stands. He later removed into judge Drake's building, opposite Lake street. In 1827 he removed to Binghamton and began the study of law in the office





MAJOR HORATIO ROSS.

of his brother, John A Collier. In 1829 he was admitted to the bar. He was district attorney of Broome county from April 10, 1833, to the 20th of the following May, and again from Dec. 1, 1837, to Feb. 12, 1842. He was appointed surrogate in February, 1840, and held the office four years. He subsequently removed to Oberlin, Ohio, where he died in 1865.

#### MAJOR HORATIO ROSS.

Major Horatio Ross, a bachelor, was fifty years old when he came to Owego in 1805. He was accompanied by his two maiden sisters, Misses Margaretta A. and Nancy Ross. They came from Frederick, Maryland, with ninety thousand dollars in their possession, of which sum each owned \$30,000. The father of the Rosses owned one of the largest iron works in Virginia and was a man of great wealth.

Major Ross and his sisters brought two slaves with them. He began a general mercantile business here and made large investments. He purchased land on the south side of Front street, west of the west line of Lake street. On the lot now occupied by the fifth store west of the Lake street line he built a large wooden store and painted it red. The building was two stories high in front and three stories in the rear, and back of it on the river was a wharf, where produce, etc., were loaded into arks and shipped down the Susquehanna to a market.

Major Ross was unsuccessful in business and in 1818 he failed, losing all his own money and that of his two sisters also. His real estate was

all sold on a mortgage foreclosure in February, 1819. His store was subsequently occupied by W. T. Coit, dealer in dry goods, groceries, and crockery. In the winter of 1826-27 the building was burned.

Among Major Ross's clerks were Charles Talcott, who afterward became one of the most successful merchants in Owego; Chas. Trowbridge, who went from Owego, to Detroit Mich., and John J. McDowell, who in 1830 and 1831 represented Tioga county in the assembly. After his failure in business Major Ross continued his residence here. He had charge of the Tioga county clerk's office as deputy clerk from 1823 until his death in 1828.

Major Ross was a polished southern gentlemen of the old school, and he lived in a manner commensurate with his wealth. With his sisters he occupied a large white house which stood on the north side of Main street, nearly opposite Park street. This house was later owned and occupied by the widow of Gen. John Lansing.

In June, 1805, Dr. Samuel Barclay purchased the lot on the northwest corner of Front and Ross streets of John Hollenback. There was no Ross street there then. Dr. Barclay gave a mortgage for a part of the purchase. The mortgage was foreclosed Oct. 10, 1807, and Major Ross purchased the property for the third one of his sisters, Mrs. Arianna Steuart. The house that Dr. Barclay had built thereon was occupied by Major Ross and his sisters, and when Ross street was opened it was named Ross street in his honor. This house was

for many years after Major Ross's death the residence of judge Thomas Farrington and is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Benj. W. Loring.

While living in this house Miss Nancy Ross died in July, 1817, aged 45 years, and her body is said to have been the first one buried in the Presbyterian burying ground in Temple street. After her death Mrs. Steuart came from Maryland and lived with Major Ross and his sister, Miss Margaretta Ross. Mrs. Steuart was a woman of wealth and practically supported the whole family until Major Ross's death in November, 1828, at the age of 73 years. His body is buried in the Presbyterian churchyard.

In February, 1829, after major Ross's death, Mrs. Steuart sold the Ross house to Charles Talcott, and then removed with her sister, Margaretta, to Washington.

Mrs. Steuart's only child, Arianna Steuart, became the wife of Gov. Smith, of New Hampshire. It is said that there was a fourth sister, who became the wife of an English earl.

The portrait of Major Ross accompanying this article is from a photograph made by Mr. LaSon from a water color owned by Wm. H. Ellis. The painting was given by Major Ross to Charles Talcott and by him to Geo. B. Goodrich. It is not known who the painter was, but he was an artist of good ability, as the portrait is a finely executed one.

## ELEAZER DANA.

The first practising lawyer in Owego was Eleazer Dana, who came here in 1800 and who was the youngest son of Rev. Anderson Dana, who lost his life in the massacre of Wyoming.

Rev. Anderson Dana was a grandson of Richard Dana, who was born in France April 15, 1612, and who died at Cambridge, Mass., in 1690. Jacob Dana, his son, who was born in 1664, had a son also named Jacob Dana, who was born in 1698. Rev. Anderson Dana was a son of Jacob Dana (2) and was born in 1733. His wife was Susanna Huntington.

Rev. Anderson Dana was a lawyer of handsome attainments. He removed in 1773 from Ashford, Conn., to Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where he became a clergyman and was active in establishing free schools. In April, 1778, he was elected a member to the general assembly, which met at Hartford, Conn., in May. The Wyoming massacre was on July 3, 1778.

Mr. Dana had just returned from his duty as a member of the Hartford assembly. He mounted his horse and rode from town to town, arousing the people for the coming conflict. Although exempt by law from military duty, he entered the ranks with his neighbors and rushed into the fray. He fell dead early in battle, brained by an Indian's hatchet. His son-in-law, Stephen Whiton, a young schoolmaster from Connecticut, who had but a few weeks previous married Mr. Dana's daughter, also fell.

Soon after the massacre Mrs. Dana, with Mrs. Whiton, and Mrs. Dana's seven young children, on foot and suf-

fering many hardships, returned to her former home at Pomfret, Conn., after an absence of five years.

Rev. Anderson Dana had five sons. One of them, Daniel Dana, was in school at Lebanon, preparing to enter Yale college, at the time of his father's death. He afterward lived in this state and was a judge of the courts.

Anderson Dana, Jr., was nine years old at the time of the massacre. He afterward returned to Wyoming to take charge of his father's estate and lived on the homestead until his death.

Another son, Sylvester Dana, lived at Concord, N. H.

Eleazer Dana, the youngest son, studied law in the office of Vincent Matthews at New Town (now Elmira) and after his admission to the bar, in 1800, came to Owego, where he became distinguished in his profession.

In September, 1806, he purchased the lot on the north side of Front street, on which the residence of Lewis H. Leonard now stands. This property extended north to Main street, which was then known as "the back street," and contained two acres of land. There was a barn on the west end of the lot and a small yellow house, in which Mr. Dana lived several years. His law office was in a small building on the bank of the river on the opposite side of the street. Mr. Dana later built in the place of the yellow house a large white house, in which he lived until his death in 1845.

Thomas I. Chatfield several years afterward became owner of the Front

street part of the property. He built the present large brick residence on the lot, after the Dana house had been removed to the west side of Central avenue, where it was for several years the large double house in the row of old wooden buildings, a monument to the architectural taste and thrift of Dr. James Wilson.

Mr. Dana was a leading spirit in all public affairs. He was one of the incorporators of the old Ithaca and Owego turnpike company in 1807, and one of the first commissioners of public schools in 1813. He was chosen to succeed Capt. Luke Bates as one of the trustees of Owego settlement in 1813. He was the second postmaster of the village, appointed April 28, 1802, and he held the office until May 11, 1816. During his incumbency the office was kept at his law office. He was one of the original trustees of the Presbyterian church in 1810, and held the office during his life. He was the first secretary of Friendship lodge, F. & A. M., in 1806. He was one of the first trustees of Owego when it was organized as a village in 1827 and was also one of the trustees of the old academy from 1828 until his death. He was supervisor of the town of Owego in 1814, surrogate of Broome county in 1806, member of assembly in 1808-9 and district attorney of Tioga county from 1823 to 1826.

In the centennial history of Tioga county (1876) William F. Warner says of Mr. Dana: "His tall and commanding figure and benignant features would have rendered him a noticeable person in any community. He was, above all, a just man, and his

life was marked by constant acts of beneficence."

Eleazer Dana was born Aug. 12, 1772. In October, 1801, he married Mary Stevens. The children of Eleazer and Mary (Stevens) Dana were as follows:

1. Cyrus Dana, born 30 Sept., 1805. Married 20 Sept., 1827, Elizabeth Collins Stockwell, who was born 1 Sept., 1806, and died at Owego 27 July, 1847. He died 7 Dec., 1847, at Niles, Mich. Cyrus Dana was a lawyer and was admitted to the bar of Tioga county in 1827.

2. Alexander Hamilton Dana, born 4 July, 1807. Married Augusta Radcliff 27 May, 1832. He removed to New York city, where he died 27 April, 1887.

3. Susan Huntington Dana, born 4 July, 1807. Married Henry S. Walbridge 25 Dec., 1829, and died 15 Aug., 1834.

4. Laura Smith Dana, born 18 July, 1810; died 14 July, 1828.

5. Eleazer Stevens Dana, born 20 July, 1812; died 1 Jan., 1818.

6. Mary Stevens Dana, born May 10, 1814. Married Edward Radcliff 14 May, 1834. Died 9 Jan., 1841.

7. Charlotte Julia Dana, born 19 March, 1816. Married George H. Jerome 9 July, 1847. Died 25 Aug., 1893.

8. Helen Jane Dana, born 27 Sept., 1817. Married William Fiske Warner 7 May, 1846. Died 31 Dec., 1885, at Waverly, N. Y.

William F. Warner was for several years one of the most prominent residents of Owego. He was born Jan. 18, 1819, at Hardwick, Vt., and came to Owego in 1834 and entered William Pumpelly's store as a clerk. He lived with Mr. Pumpelly's family and soon became manager of Mr. Pumpelly's business. Later he studied law in Col. N. W. Davis's office and was admitted to the bar in 1843. He was for nine

years Col. Davis's law partner and later a member of the law firms of Warner, Tracy & Walker and Warner Tracy and Catlin. Mr. Warner was a lover of good literature, a student, and a man of fine culture and taste. He travelled through Europe and wrote entertainingly of his travels. He was one of the most public spirited men in Owego. He organized the Owego gas company, of which he was president, superintendent, and treasurer many years. He was clerk of the village from 1848 to 1854, and was the first president of the village elected direct by the people in 1854 under the new charter. He was re-elected in 1856 and 1857.

Mr. Warner was an interested student of the history of this country, particularly of the Indian history of this vicinity. In 1876 he wrote by request the centennial history of Tioga county. This was a remarkable undertaking. The time in which to accomplish the work was necessarily limited, yet the work was successfully accomplished within the time prescribed. Mr. Warner was also the leading spirit in organizing the celebration of the battle of New Town and erecting a monument in commemoration thereof in 1879. He died at Waverly Nov. 7, 1890.

One of the law students in Eleazer Dana's office was his nephew, Amasa Dana, who afterward removed to Ithaca and became one of the most prominent men in Tompkins county. He was a son of Aziel Dana, who was a son of Rev. Anderson Dana.

When Gen. Sullivan had driven the Indians from the Wyoming valley, Mrs. Anderson Dana and her children

returned from Connecticut to her lonely home, near Wilkes-Barre. There Aziel Dana married Rebecca Cory, who had escaped the massacre, and there Amasa Dana was born in 1792.

In 1805, after his father's death and when only twelve years of age, Amasa Dana walked from Wilkes-Barre to Owego with his shoes hanging over his shoulder and his bundle of shirts, stockings, etc., over the other shoulder, to the home of his uncle, Eleazer Dana. He afterward studied law in his uncle's office. He held the office of district attorney, first judge, and member of assembly of Tompkins county, and president of the village of Ithaca. He was a member of the 26th and 28th congresses. He died at Ithaca Dec. 24, 1867.

Eleazer Dana died in Owego May 1, 1845. His wife died Nov. 16, 1860, aged 82 years.

#### CAPT. ISAAC BARTLETT.

Among the mechanics who settled in Owego in the early part of the eighteenth century were Capt. Isaac Bartlett and his sons Joseph and Robert S. Bartlett, blacksmiths and gunsmiths. They came from Salisbury, Conn. They are said to have come in 1813.

The family in America is descended from Robert Bartlett, who came from England to Plymouth, Mass., in the ship "Ann" in 1623. One of his descendants, Sylvanus Bartlett, was a soldier in the revolution, and the latter's son, also named Sylvanus, was the father of Capt. Isaac Bartlett.

Capt. Bartlett was born at Plymouth, Mass., and later lived at Salis-

bury, Conn., where his children were born. He was a blacksmith and wagon maker, and two of his sons, Joseph and Robert S. Bartlett, were gunsmiths. The children were Joseph, Alvin, Robert S., Isaac L., William B., Charles, Eliza, Abigail, and Jerusha Bartlett. All of the family did not come to Owego. One of the daughters became the wife of James Weed, who removed to Winona, Minn., and another married Chester J. Manning, who was landlord of the old Owego hotel from 1838 to 1849, and who removed to Waterloo, N. Y.

Capt. Bartlett's blacksmith and wagon shop was on the west side of Park street, near Main street. In June, 1829, Joseph Bartlett had possession of the shop and took as a working partner Benjamin N. Johnson, whom Capt. Bartlett recommended in an advertisement as "a gentleman recently from New England of irreproachable character, a first-class workman, of industrious habits."

In October, 1830, Joseph and Robert Bartlett purchased the lot on the east side of Lake street between the present post office building and the new Owego hotel, which they had occupied a few years. This lot had a front of fifty feet on Lake street and was 115 feet deep. On the south end of this lot was a blacksmith shop, said to have been the oldest one in the village, of which they had possession. The same month they purchased of Charles Pumpelly the lot on the south side of Main street, on which they built a house. This house stood where the Central house barn was afterward built and

where the new theatre is now being constructed. James Conklin's wagon shop was between this house and the old tavern at the Lake street corner.

There was in those days plenty of wild game in the woods, which covered much of the country, and there was a good demand for guns, particularly rifles. The barrels for the guns were mostly imported from Germany. The process of drilling the barrels of a rifle by hand was a slow and tedious one, usually taking two days. The stocks were cut into shape with a drawing knife, filed, polished, ornamented with brass or iron work, and varnished.

Joseph and Isaac Bartlett engaged in the manufacture of guns. They removed to Binghamton in 1829, where they continued the manufacture of fire arms. The engraving on the gun barrels was done by Isaac L. Bartlett, who was born in 1813, the year his father and brothers came to Owego, and to perfect him in this work he was sent abroad by his older brothers to receive instruction.

There was not a sufficient home demand for all the guns manufactured by the Bartletts, and many were sold elsewhere. Joseph Bartlett sometimes loaded them in a stage and drove with them to Cincinnati, Ohio, the trip occupying several weeks' time. There they were shipped in boats and sent down the Ohio and Mississippi river to New Orleans. This was in the days when cash was scarce and exchange of goods and commodities the rule, and the rifles were sometimes exchanged for western horses, which were brought to Binghamton and converted into cash.

When the Barlett brothers removed to Binghamton their father remained in Owego and conducted the blacksmithing business until the fall of 1833, when the Owego property was sold, and then Capt. Isaac Bartlett removed also to Binghamton.

The business of manufacturing guns by hand was discontinued between 1850 and 1855, as the manufacture of guns by machinery had so greatly reduced the cost as to make hand work unprofitable. Joseph and Robert S. Bartlett purchased a farm at Port Dickinson where Joseph and Capt. Isaac Bartlett lived the rest of their lives.

Joseph Bartlett was sheriff of Broome county from 1844 to 1847 and was at one time superintendent of the southern division of the old Chenango canal. One of his sons was Rev. Wm. Alvin Bartlett, who was one of the first pastors of the Owego Congregational church. As a boy in school he was gifted as an elocutionist. His career as a clergyman was remarkable. During his pastorate here the old church in Park street which was much larger than the present one, was filled with large congregations, particularly on Sunday evenings, to listen to his sermons, which were preached with rare eloquence. He preached here from Sept., 1857, to Aug., 1858, and then went to Brooklyn as pastor of the Elm Place Congregational church. He was afterward pastor of churches in Chicago, Indianapolis, and Washington. He has since retired from the ministry, and spends much of his time abroad.

Another son, Gen. Joseph J. Bartlett, was promoted from captain to

major-general in the civil war, and was afterward United States minister to Norway and Sweden.

Robert S. Bartlett died July 21, 1881, in Binghamton, aged 72 years. After the closing of the gunshop he was for more than twenty-five years a government mail agent on the Erie railroad. Isaac L. Bartlett, who was born at Salisbury, Conn., June 20, 1813, and who was associated with his brothers in the gun factory, died in Binghamton Dec. 20, 1888.

#### SAMUEL AVERY.

Samuel Avery from whom all the Owego Averys were descended came here with his family in 1803. He was born at Groton, Conn., Oct. 17, 1731. He purchased land in Pennsylvania under the Connecticut title, and, like many others, lost it.

His brother, Christopher Avery, settled at Wyoming, Pa., as early as 1770. In 1774 Christopher Avery was appointed one of the four agents in behalf of the company of settlers to attend the Hartford (Conn.) convention. At the time of the massacre, in 1778, although exempt by law, he took post beside his neighbors, went into the battle, and was killed.

Samuel Avery was educated for a lawyer and soon afterward removed to Westminster, Vermont. In February, 1801, he removed with his family to Tioga Point (Athens), Pa. While living there, in 1802, he was one of the committee to settle the differences between Connecticut and Pennsylvania land companies. Here he purchased a large quantity of land and began improvements, but was

soon brought into litigation with those who had purchased of the heirs of William Penn. This was a long and costly suit, in which Mr. Avery was defeated, losing not only his land but his money also. It was from this experience that he wrote the same year a pamphlet relating to the conflicting titles of Connecticut and Pennsylvania under the title of "The Susquehanna Controversy Examined. Done with Truth and Candor."

The next year he removed to Owego. Three years later, August 4, 1806, he died here and his body is buried in the Presbyterian burying ground in Temple street. Samuel Avery's wife was Mary Ann Rose, who was born at Westminster, Vt. Their children were as follows:

1. Samuel W. Avery, born 22 June, 1779. Married Eliza A. Wattles, daughter of Capt. Mason Wattles, at Owego Dec., 1806. She died 10 Sept., 1814. He died at Nanticoke, N. Y., 7 Dec., 1828.
2. Mary Ann Avery, born 4 May, 1781. Died in Vermont, unmarried.
3. John Humphrey Avery, born 4 Nov., 1782. Died at Owego 1 Sept., 1837.
4. Frances Avery, born 9 Sept., 1785. Married Charles Pumpelly, of Owego. Died 21 Oct., 1848.
5. Susan Avery, born 31 March, 1787. Married Nathan Camp, of Owego. Died 4 Aug., 1813.
6. Isabella Avery, born 24 June, 1789. Married Levi Leonard, of Ithaca. Died 20 Aug., 1842. Mr. Leonard was a man of some prominence in Ithaca. He was president of the village in 1831 and 1832 and was afterward a justice of the peace.

Samuel W. Avery lived at Owego several years but removed to Nanticoke, Broome county, where he kept a tavern. After the death of his first

wife (Eliza A. Wattles) he married Emily C. Avery, daughter of Daniel Avery, of Aurora, N. Y. She died Sept. 18, 1822, at Nanticoke, aged 29 years.

Samuel W. and Eliza (Wattles) Avery had a son, Samuel Mason Avery, who was born Aug. 25, 1807, and who about 1840 married his cousin, Mary C. Richards, at Owego. She was born in 1809 and died in 1851. He lived for many years at Jenksville where he was postmaster twenty-one years and a justice of the peace from 1870 to 1882. He died January 1, 1888.

The children of Samuel W. and Emily (Avery) Avery were Eliza, who was married to Richard Morgan, of Aurora; Walter Oddie Avery, who went to Louisville, Ky., to live, and Daniel Avery.

Rev. E.M. Dwight, registrar of pedigrees of the New York Genealogical and Biographical society, in January, 1904, compiled a record of the Avery line of descent, showing that Samuel Avery was a descendant of Richard Neville (1428-1471), Earl of Salisbury and Warwick, who is known in history as "The King Maker."

The Earl of Warwick's daughter was Isabel Neville, of Warwick castle, who married George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence, who was executed in 1478 in the Tower of London.

Her daughter was Margaret Plantagenet, who married Sir Richard Pole. She was beheaded by Henry VIII.

Their son was Henry Pole, Lord Montague.

His daughter was Catherine Pole, who married Francis Lord Hastings, third earl of Huntingdon.

Their daughter was Catherine Hastings, who married Henry Clinton, second earl of Lincoln.

Their son was Thomas Clinton, eighth earl of Lincoln and Lord Clinton.

His daughter was lady Susan Clinton, who married Gen. John Humphrey, who in 1641 was appointed major general of the Massachusetts Bay colony. He lost his property and returned to England.

John Humphrey's daughter was Ann Humphrey (or Humfrey) who was born in England and who married William Palmes at Salem, Mass., in 1642.

Their daughter was Susanna Palmes, who married Capt. Samuel Avery at Swanzy, Mass., in 1686.

Their son, Humphrey Avery, who was the father of Samuel Avery, of Owego, was born July 4, 1697 at Groton, Conn., and died there March 28, 1786.

#### JOHN H. AVERY.

The second resident lawyer to settle in Owego was John H. Avery, son of Samuel Avery. He was nineteen years of age when he came here from Westminster, Vt., in 1801. He studied law in the office of Gen. Vincent Matthews at New Town (now Elmira.)

Gen. Matthews was the first lawyer of any importance in this part of the state. He was born in Orange county, N. Y., in 1766. He began the study of law in 1786 in New York city in the office of Col. Robert Troup, the friend of Aaron Burr. He was admitted to the bar in 1790 and came to Elmira in 1793. He was the first lawyer to settle there. He was a mem-

ber of assembly in 1904-5 from Tioga county (then composed of the present counties of Chemung and Tioga) a state senator, and in 1809 was elected to congress from the Fourteenth district, then composed of Cayuga, Seneca, Steuben, and Tioga counties. He removed to Bath in 1816, and thence to Rochester in 1821. He represented Monroe county in the assembly in 1826, and was appointed district attorney in 1831.

In 1806 Mr. Avery purchased the lot on the north side of Front street (lot No. 12 in the old village plot), on which in 1809 he built the large house now owned and occupied by Dr. E. D. Downs. This lot also included the lot on which J. C. Kenyon's residence now stands and extended back its full width to Main street. On the Main street end, occupying about one-half of the entire lot, was the Avery orchard, the object of occasional predatory raids of the apple-hungry small boys of the neighborhood in those days.

This property was a portion of the lands of Elihu Chauncey Goodrich, which were seized upon July 21, 1800, by Wm. Woodruff, sheriff, at a suit of Jabez Beers for a debt of \$47,000 and sold to Mr. Avery.

Mr. Avery's law office was on the river bank on the south side of Front street and was on land included in the purchase. This office was several years ago converted into a dwelling house and still stands there.

Mr. Avery practised law most of the time alone, but he had various partners. In 1813 the firm was Avery & Collier, and in 1818 it was Avery &

Platt, Wm. Platt being then his partner. He was later in partnership with Ziba A. Leland.

Mr. Leland was a college graduate, who came to Owego from Vermont, where he was born, and formed the law partnership with Mr. Avery May 1, 1820. He was appointed a justice of the peace in April, 1822. He removed to Bath in November, 1822, where he served two terms in the legislature, and he also served several years as first judge. Later in life he removed to Auburn and thence to Saratoga county, where he died.

Mr. Avery represented Tioga county in the assembly in 1814. He continued the practice of law in Owego until his death, in 1837. His wife was Stella Hinchman, daughter of Dr. Joseph Hinchman, of Elmira, whose father and grandfather were both physicians and were both named Joseph Hinchman. At sixteen years of age Dr. Hinchman was a soldier in the revolutionary army. He afterward studied medicine and removed to Elmira in 1793-4. In February, 1795, he was appointed sheriff of Tioga county, which then comprised within its limits Chemung, the present county of Tioga, Broome, and a portion of Chenango. He died in July, 1802.

The children of John and Stella (Hinchman) Avery were as follows:

1. John Humphrey Avery, born 13 July, 1808. Died 27 July, 1831, at Petersburg, Va.
2. Stella Hinchman Avery, born 12 Feb., 1810. Married Wm. H. C. Hosmer.
3. George Waitsall Avery, born 12 Feb., 1812. Died 23 Dec., 1849.
4. Susan Palmes Avery, born 29 Nov., 1813. Married Robert D. Pieronet, of Friendsville, Pa.

5. Emily Eliza Avery, born 10 Oct., 1815. Married Thomas Farrington in 1835. Died at Owego 5 Aug., 1899.

6. Charles Pumpelly Avery, born 7 July, 1817. Died at Owego 31 Aug., 1872.

7. Joseph Hinchman Avery, born 29 Nov., 1819. Died 9 March, 1821.

8. Mary Anna Avery, born May 1, 1822. Died at Joliet, Ill., 4 June, 1901.

9. Fannie Catherine Avery, born 25 Nov., 1823. Died 16 Oct., 1825.

10. Lesbia Platt Avery, born 2 Oct., 1825. Married Isaac Newton Jerome.

11. Guy Hinchman Avery, born 30 Aug., 1829. Died in New York city 14 May, 1903.

None of John H. Avery's sons was married.

William H. C. Hosmer in early life enjoyed considerable celebrity as a poet and was known in literature as "The Bard of Avon." He was born May 25, 1814, at Avon, N. Y. His father, George Hosmer, was one of the most prominent lawyers in the state, and Proctor's "The Bench and the Bar of New York" devotes sixteen pages to his history. Geo. Hosmer practised law at Canajoharie and afterward at Avon. His wife was a woman of rare accomplishments, spoke several Indian dialects, and was deeply interested in the history and traditions of the red men.

Wm. H. C. Hosmer was also a student of Indian lore and travelled extensively among the tribes of Florida and Minnesota. He was a lawyer. His first poem was "Yonnondio, or the Warriors of the Genesee," an Indian tale in seven cantos, published in 1844. His poems were published in 1854 in two volumes. He held a position in the New York custom house several years. He died at Avon May 23, 1877.

Isaac Newton Jerome was principal of the Owego academy from 1844 to

1847. He came here from Pompey Hill, Onondaga county, N. Y.

Thomas Farrington was born Feb. 12, 1799, at Delhi, N. Y. At the age of thirteen years he acted as orderly on the staff of his father, Gen. Putnam Farrington, who was a colonel in the United States service in the war of 1812. At the age of 22 he was principal of the Delhi academy. He was graduated from Yale college in 1826, studied law, and began practice in Owego in 1828. He was a trustee of the Owego academy from 1829 until it was incorporated in the union free schools of the village. He represented Tioga county in the assembly in 1833 and 1840, and was surrogate from 1835 to 1840. He was appointed State Treasurer in February, 1842, and served until 1845. In January, 1845, he was appointed Adjutant-General by Gov. Wright and served until 1846. In February, 1846, he was again appointed State Treasurer and held the office until November, 1847. He was judge of Tioga county from 1859 to 1871. He died in Owego Dec. 2, 1872.

Charles P. Avery, born at Owego, studied law in judge Farrington's office. At thirty years of age he was elected judge of Tioga county, and he was the first county judge elected under the constitution of 1846, making the office elective. He held the office two terms from 1847 to 1855. He was greatly interested in Indian history and wrote the Susquehanna Valley papers, which were published in the St. Nicholas magazine in 1853 and 1854. He gleaned his information from early settlers and was the means of preserving much valuable matter relating to the early history of Tioga

county that would have been otherwise lost. He organized an association of the pioneers of the Susquehanna valley, which in 1852 and a few subsequent years held annual meetings at Elmira, Owego, Binghamton, Ithaca, Montrose, Pa., and other places. He later removed to Flint, Mich. While living there his interest in Indian history continued, and in June, 1863, under the title of "Treaty of Saginaw" he wrote a history of various Indian tribes for the Detroit Free Press. His health became impaired by the climate of Michigan, and in the spring of 1872 he returned to Owego, where he died Aug. 31, 1872, aged 54 years. In the centennial history of Tioga county Wm. F. Warner pays this handsome tribute to Judge Avery:

"Few men of the county have been gifted by nature with qualities so genial and brilliant as those of judge Avery. Having a fine, manly person and an exceedingly pleasing and winning address, he was a general favorite. Nor have many started in life with such brilliant prospects of success and long and useful life. His sudden failure of health and premature death were felt as a calamity to a large circle of warm friends. He will long be remembered for his excellent qualities and useful labors."

John H. Avery died in Owego Sept. 1, 1837, aged 54 years. His wife died Dec. 15, 1871, aged 83 years.

## ELIZUR TALCOTT.

Elizur Talcott, a son of Col. Elizur Talcott, was born at Glastenbury, Conn., Dec. 17, 1750, and came to Owego with his family in 1803. He was a direct descendant of John Talcott (the first of the name of whom there is any record), who lived at Colchester, England, and died there in November, 1606. His grandson, also named John Talcott, came to America from Braintree, England, in June, 1632, and settled at Hartford, Conn. All the Talcotts in America are his descendants.

Col. Elizur Talcott was a man of wealth and note in Connecticut. He was one of the purchasers of lands in Pennsylvania under the Connecticut title and lost his investment. He held a commission as colonel of a troop of horse previous to and during the war of the revolution, and served with the Connecticut forces on Long Island in command of his troop. He was in New York city while the British army was marching in, and thence was taken home ill on a litter, and did not again join the continental army.

His son, Elizur Talcott, came with his sons, George Lord Talcott, then aged 18 years, and Elizur Talcott, Jr., aged 22 years, in 1802 to Elmira, where they were employed in building a dwelling house. The next year they came to Owego. In 1803, he purchased of Jared Goodrich of Glastenbury, Conn., two pieces of land in Owego, one containing fifty acres and the other 67 acres. The western boundary of this land was the Owego creek. The eastern boundary was a line which passed diagonally across North avenue and ran about parallel with

McMaster street. The south boundary was a little below Fox street and the north boundary was near where George street now runs. This land had been sold for \$2,500 June 28, 1902, by Capt. Luke Bates to Jared Goodrich, who sold it for the same amount to Mr. Talcott Jan. 31, 1903. In Sept., 1805, Mr. Talcott sold the northern part of this farm to his son, George Lord Talcott.

Elizur Talcott lived in a large frame house, which stood on the east side of McMaster street, midway between Fox street and the Erie railroad. It was similar to all the large farm houses of that time, with a wide hall extending from front to rear in the middle. Geo. Lord Talcott's house was at the southeast corner of Talcott street and the Lehigh Valley railroad. It was occupied after his death by his son, George Talcott, and after George Talcott's death it became the property of Wm.H. Thomas, who reconstructed it and lives in it now.

The Talcotts were farmers all their lives. The land they purchased had been partly cleared by the Indians, but most of the land from the Owego creek east was at that time a forest wilderness of lofty pines, gigantic oaks, and a dense undergrowth of bushes.

Elizur Talcott took little part in public affairs, but in April, 1825, when the legislature passed an act constituting a commission to build a county clerk's office in Owego, he was appointed one of the commissioners.

Mr. Talcott died Nov. 28, 1831. His wife, Dorothy (Lord) Talcott, died April 14, 1839, aged 86 years. The

children of Elizur and Dorothy (Lord) Talcott were as follows:

1. Lucy Talcott, born 26 Dec., 1777. Married George Burton. Died 29 Oct., 1858.

2. Elizur Talcott, Jr., born Feb. 1, 1780. Married Betsy Bliss March 1, 1803. Died 27 Jan., 1867, at the home of his son, Wm. H. Talcott, near Flemingville.

3. Prudence Talcott, born 4 Nov., 1781. Married David Lord. died 15 Jan., 1836.

4. George Lord Talcott, born 3 Jan., 1784. Married Sarah McQuigg, daughter of John McQuigg, one of the first settlers at Owego. Died Nov. 30, 1873.

5. Hope Talcott, born 10 May, 1785. Married Erastus Goodrich 27 Feb., 1812. Died 13 Feb., 1865.

6. Dolly Talcott, born 23 April, 1789. Married Jesse Truesdell 15 March, 1812. Died 17 April, 1856.

7. Solomon Talcott born 10 Aug., 1790. Died 18 Nov., 1795.

8. Charles Talcott, born 11 March, 1795. Died 28 Oct., 1861.

Charles Talcott, the youngest son of Elizur Talcott, was for many years a prominent Owego merchant. He was born at Glastenbury, and came to Owego in 1803, the year following the removal of his father and brothers from Connecticut. He was then 18 years of age. He entered Major Horatio Ross's store as a clerk, where he remained until 1816, when he began a general mercantile business on his own account in Cauldwell Row, near the northeast corner of Front and Lake streets. About the year 1818 he sold his store to David Turner and built a two-story wooden store, which was for many years known as "the yellow store," it being painted yellow. This store stood on the south side of Front street where Dr. J. B. Stanbrough's stove store now stands, op-

posite the Ahwaga house. This store was burned in the great fire of September, 1849.

In May, 1831, George B. Goodrich, a nephew of Mr. Talcott, entered the old yellow store as a clerk, and in 1837 he became Mr. Talcott's partner. The firm was known as G. B. Goodrich & Co. After the fire they built the building now occupied by Dr. Stanbrough on the site of the old yellow store, but did not occupy it. They sold it to Walter Ogden in 1851 and bought a store which the Odd Follows had just built. This store is the first one east of Lake street, and is still occupied by the firm of Goodrich & Co. as a dry goods store. Mr. Talcott died Oct. 30, 1861.

Mr. Goodrich was born Dec. 1, 1816, in the town of Tioga, and was a son of Erastus Goodrich, who represented Tioga county in the assembly in 1848. In 1864 his son-in-law, William H. Ellis, and his son, James W. Goodrich, were admitted to the partnership, which is still in existence and is the oldest business house in Owego. Mr. Goodrich was for several years a director of the First and Tioga national banks and was president of the Owego national bank from its establishment until his death. He died January 8, 1886.

The children of George Lord and Sarah (McQuigg) Talcott were as follows:

1. Mary Talcott, born 24, Feb., 1807. Died in Owego 19, Sept., 1882.
2. George Talcott, born April 21, 1809. Died in Owego 5 June, 1896.
3. Hope M. Talcott, born Sept. 12, 1811. Married Charles Ransom, 2 Oct., 1832. Died 1 May, 1863.

4. Fanny B. Talcott, born 14 Feb., 1814. Married John J. Sackett, 6 Sept., 1836. Died 7 Dec., 1863.

5. Sarah C. Talcott, born March 6, 1816. Married Geo. B. Goodrich. She is still living in Owego.

6. Lucius L. Talcott, born 19 June, 1819. Married Ellen Noyes in May, 1847. He married second Harriet Noyes, 5 Oct., 1854, sister of his first wife. In early life he was a clerk in the store of his uncle, Chas. Talcott. In 1849 he went with a party of Owego men to California and thence to Olympia, Wash., where he died 20 July, 1898.

7. Charles Talcott, born 6 Jan., 1822. Married Eliza A. Raymond, 17 Aug., 1863. Died 13 Dec., 1865.

8. Charlotte Talcott, born 20 July, 1824. Married Thomas H. Cook 10 June, 1851. Died at Spencer, N. Y., 2 March, 1879.

George Lord Talcott died in Owego Nov. 30, 1873. His wife died June 15, 1842.

#### GEN. JOHN LANING.

Gen. John Laning, one of the early merchants of Owego, was born at Lambertsville, N. J., in October, 1779. His father at one time kept a ferry at Washington's Crossing, New Jersey. He is supposed to have come to Owego in 1801, as in August of that year he entered Thomas Duane's store as a clerk. In 1803 he began a general mercantile business on his own account.

He was a young man of unusual force and business ability. He was the first Owego merchant who made a contract for plaster in the Cayuga lake country, and he increased to such an extent that he is said to have had as many as five hundred teams on the road at one time drawing plaster from Ithaca to Owego. In 1806 he was also a partner of David Mc-

Quigg, the first Ithaca merchant, in business at Ithaca under the firm name of Laning & Quigg.

Mr. Laning had a large storehouse on the bank of the Susquehanna river, which stood on the ground where Truman & Jones's feed store now is, the fourth store above the bridge. From this storehouse plaster was loaded into arks in the water below in the rear for shipment down the river. There was no railroad in these parts and an immense trade was done in shipping plaster, salt, and lumber by the Susquehanna river to the Philadelphia and Baltimore market.

About the year 1803 Gen. Laning formed a partnership in the lumber manufacturing business with Guy Maxwell, of New Town (now Elmira), under the firm name of Maxwell & Laning. They purchased considerable land on the east side of the Owego creek, northwest of this village, and engaged in the manufacture of lumber. This partnership continued until the spring of 1811 when Mr. Maxwell sold his interest in the real estate to Gen. Laning, together with the sawmill thereon.

Mr. Maxwell was a son of Alexander Maxwell, of Claverack, England. In June, 1770, Alexander Maxwell and his wife embarked from a Scottish port for America, but were shipwrecked in the Irish channel and landed on the coast of Ireland, where Guy Maxwell was born July 15, 1770. He was two years of age when he came to Virginia with his parents, who settled at Martinsburg. He was apprenticed to the mercantile trade (as was the custom in those days) at

Pittsburgh, Pa., his term of apprenticeship expiring in July, 1788. In company with Samuel Hopkins he opened a store at Tioga Point (Athens) in the following September and sold goods in a store building owned by Matthias Hollenback. In August, 1796 he removed to New Town (Elmira), where he had bought one hundred acres of land in what is now the most valuable business part of that city.

In 1790 he acted as secretary to Col. Timothy Pickering, the principal negotiator on the part of the government when Red Jacket, Cornplanter, Big Tree, and about 1,200 other Indians were gathered at New Town in November, 1790, for the purpose of holding a treaty with the United States. He was appointed sheriff of Tioga county by Gov. Clinton and served from February, 1800 to January, 1801. He built the first flouring mill at New Town. He died February 14, 1814.

Guy Maxwell was the father of William Maxwell, of Elmira, who was district attorney and surrogate of Tioga county, and of Thomas Maxwell, who was clerk of Tioga county and afterward postmaster of Elmira. Thomas Maxwell was the father of Mrs. Abram H. Miller, of Spencer, later of Owego.

Mr. Laning's store was in a room that was afterward the barroom of the old Franklin house, which stood on the north side of Front street, east of Court street. This store stood where the third brick store east of Court street now stands. Gen. Laning bought the property in February, 1864. The lot was just one-fourth of

the present square bounded by Front, Lake, Main, and Court streets.

Gen. Laning was only forty-one years old when he met with his death by accident. February 12, 1820, he fell through a trap door in his storehouse to the cellar below and was killed.

Among Gen. Laning's clerks were Jonathan Platt, Benjamin Durham, and Asa H. Truman, all of whom afterward became successful merchants.

The old storehouse was torn down about 1835 by Gen. Laning's widow, who erected a store on its site for her son, Matthias H. Laning. This store was afterward occupied by Raynsford, Drake & Co., and later by John Bassett, who in February, 1839, set it on fire for the purpose of defrauding an insurance company, and who, when he was about to be arrested for the crime committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor.

Gen. Laning derived his military title from his service in the state militia. In 1811 he was adjutant in the regiment of which Gen. Oliver Huntington was the colonel commandant. In 1817 he was colonel of the 53d regiment of infantry. In 1819 he was promoted to brigadier-general of the 41st brigade of infantry and held this commission at the time of his death.

Mrs. Laning was Mary Ann Hollenback, daughter of Matthias Hollenback, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. After her husband's death she continued to live in a large white house which stood on the north side of Main street, nearly opposite Park street, and there she died March 1, 1854, aged 71 years.

The children of Gen. John and Mary Ann (Hollenback) Laning were as follows:

1. Augustus C. Laning, who removed to Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
2. Mathias H. Laning, who removed in 1835 to Wysox, Pa., where he kept a store and built a large section of the North Branch canal. He died there 3 May, 1890.
3. Mary Ann Laning, who married John S. Rosette, of Philadelphia.
4. Sarah Laning, who was the first wife of Dr. Ezekiel B. Phelps and who died at Owego 3 Nov., 1842.
5. Ellen H. Laning, who married Mr. Bicking.
6. Emily G. Laning, who married John J. Taylor in 1837 and died in Owego 25 Nov., 1879.
7. John C. Laning, who lived at Owego and died here 18 May, 1897.

Mr. Bicking and Mr. Rosette were business partners and conducted a wholesale dry goods store in Philadelphia.

John J. Taylor was one of the ablest lawyers of his time in Owego. He was born April 27, 1808, at Leominster, Mass., and was graduated from Harvard university in 1829. He studied law in Troy, N. Y., and came to Owego in 1834, where he soon ranked as one of the ablest lawyers in southern New York. He was district attorney of Tioga county from 1841 to 1843. In 1846 he represented Tioga county in the constitutional convention, and was also a supreme court commissioner. He was a member of the 27th congress in 1852-4, where he gained some distinction as a speaker, particularly on account of his speech on the Kansas-Nebraska bill. In 1858 he was the Democratic candidate for lieutenant-governor of this state on the ticket with judge

Amasa J. Parker for governor. He was prominent in securing the construction of the Southern Central railroad from Owego to Auburn, and was one of the original directors of the road and vice-president. In September, 1869, he was chosen president, and was re-elected several times thereafter. He was also president of the the old National Union Bank of Owego. He died at Owego July 1, 1892.

#### JOHN PUMPELTY.

John Pumpelly, the father of James, Charles, William, and Harmon Pumpelly, all of whom became distinguished citizens of Owego, was born in 1727.

The name Pumpelly, is of Italian origin, and at different periods it has been spelled Pompili, Pompilli, Pumpilly, Pompilie, Pumpely, and in various other ways. The name is said to be a corrupted form of the name Pompilie, or Pompilly, which are French forms of the very ancient surname of Pompili, and the last way of spelling the name is found in the archives of the city of Spoleto, near Rome, one Signor Pompili having distinguished himself in the defence of one of the gates of Spoleto when Frederick Barbarossa laid seige to that city. The traditions of the American branch state that the family came from Avignon, France, and becoming Protestants emigrated to the French kingdom and afterward fled to Canada.

Jean Pompilie, the French Huguenot, who emigrated to Canada, had a son, John Pompily, who came from Canada to Massachusetts in the early part of 1700. He is said to have run

away with and married a Miss Munroe, a young girl with some fortune and much beauty, who after his death married a clergyman named Glover.

His only son, John Pumpely (so he himself wrote the name), the subject of this sketch, was born in 1727, one month after the death of his father. He was brought up in the household of Mr. Glover, and at the age of eleven or twelve years ran away and enlisted as a drummer in Capt. John Loring's company of the king's service. He served through the whole French and Indian war as a member of Capt. Rogers's rangers and was promoted as sergeant for distinguished bravery while bearer of dispatches for the relief of Fort William Henry, carrying the dispatches safely through a country infested with hostile Indians. The last few miles of this dangerous expedition were made in a dead run, chased by three Indian warriors. It is said that he stood near Gen. Wolfe when Wolfe was mortally wounded at Quebec and that he himself was wounded at the same time. He also served as a revolutionary soldier and was commissary to Gen. Israel Putnam at the time of Burgoyne's surrender, and tradition says that he was the means of saving the life of that distinguished officer when Putnam fell into a lake during a skirmish.

John Pumpelly was twice married. His first wife was Eppen Hillebrantz Meijer (called in this country Appy Meyers,) a young woman of Dutch descent, whom he married in 1759 at Halifax, Nova Scotia, while he was in the army. She died in 1809, aged 63 years.

The five sons and two daughters of John and Eppen (Meijer) Pumpelly were as follows:

1. Bennet Pumpelly, born 16 June, 1761. Married Mary Irish in the town of Turner, Maine, 23 March, 1815.

2. Betsy Pumpelly, born 13 Sept., 1763.

3. Appy Pumpelly, born 20 Dec., 1764. Married Daniel Merrill, Jr., in 1821.

4. John Pumpelly, born 8 Jan., 1767.

5. Ruel Pumpelly, born 16 Feb., 1769.

6. Barnard Pumpelly, born 4 May, 1770. He was killed in St. Clair's defeat.

7. Capt. Samuel Pumpelly, born 10 Sept., 1773. He was married twice. His first wife died 19 Dec., 1820. He married second, Hannah Doten, widow of Holmes Doten, and daughter of John Bess, of Paris, Maine. He died 10 Nov., 1819.

Bennet Pumpelly served in the continental army during the revolution and was a personal friend of Lafayette, who when in Boston, in 1824, sent a special invitation to Mr. Pumpelly to visit him. He was a sergeant major in Col. Weissenfield's regiment, and served through the whole war.

John Pumpelly lived first at Pembroke, Mass., and afterward at Salisbury, Conn. His second wife was Hannah Bushnell, daughter of Capt. Samuel Bushnell, of Salisbury, Conn. The children of John and Hannah (Bushnell) Pumpelly were as follows:

1. James Pumpelly, born 20 Dec., 1775, at Salisbury, Conn. Married Mrs. Mary (Pixley) Tinkham, widow of Dr. Samuel Tinkham, of Owego, 7 April, 1805. He died at Owego 4 Oct., 1845, and she 4 June, 1848.

2. Jerusha Pumpelly, born in the state of New York in 1778. Died 22 Nov., 1793, at Salisbury, Conn.

3. Charles Pumpelly, born 18 Dec., 1779, at Salisbury, Conn. Married Frances Avery, daughter of Samuel Avery, of Owego, 2 Sept., 1803. He died at Owego 6 Jan., 1855, and she 21 Oct., 1848.

4. Maria Pumpelly, born 14 —, 1785, at Salisbury, Conn. Married Abner Beers. She died at Owego 3 Dec., 1858.

5. Mary Pumpelly, born 23 Nov., 1786, at Salisbury, Conn.

6. William Pumpelly, born 17 June, 1788, at Salisbury, Conn. Married Sarah Emily Tinkham, daughter of Dr. Samuel Tinkham, in June, 1814. She died 31 March, 1822. His second wife was Mary H. Welles, daughter of George Welles, of Athens, Pa., whom he married 20 Oct., 1824. He died at Owego 16 Nov., 1876, and she in Paris, France 14 Dec., 1879.

7. Harriet Pumpelly, born 10 Nov., 1791, at Salisbury, Conn. Married David McQuigg, who was a son of Capt. John McQuigg, one of the earliest settlers at Owego. He was one of the earliest merchants at Ithaca.

8. Harmon Pumpelly, born 1 Aug., 1795, at Salisbury, Conn. His first wife was Delphine Drake, daughter of judge John R. Drake, of Owego. His second wife was Maria Brinkerhoff, daughter of Peter Brinkerhoff, of Albany, N. Y., whom he married in 1841. He died 29 Sept., 1882, at Albany, and she 22 April, 1887.

John Pumpelly, with his second wife and five of their children came from Salisbury in May, 1802 to the state of New York. They crossed the Hudson river at Catskill and came thence through a wild country, with now and then a clearing, to Owego. The settlement here then was small, composed of a few unpainted frame houses, with occasionally a log one, and mostly scattered along on each side of the then crooked highway, which is at present known as Front

street. What is now the village was then covered with woods.

William Pumpelly, who was but thirteen years old at that time, informed the writer a few years before his death that when the party turned from Front street into the road which extended north and ran about where Lake street is now they passed through pine woods, the trees in which were of such great size that in his youthful imagination they seemed to touch the sky. The family proceeded on their way north to their destination, then known as Beers's settlement, in the town of Danby, Tompkins county. At that time the only house where Ithaca now stands was a log hut, hardly suitable for a pig pen.

John Pumpelly lived at Beers's settlement in the old house, which is still standing, until his death on July 11, 1819, aged 92 years. His wife, Hannah Pumpelly, after his death came to Owego to live and at her death on Dec. 31, 1832, his body was brought to Owego. Their remains are interred in the Presbyterian burying ground in Temple street. A portrait of John Pumpelly is in the possession of the Albany branch of the family.

## ABNER BEERS.

Abner Beers, who married John Pumpelly's daughter, Maria, was born at Stratford, Conn., Dec. 7, 1777. He was a descendant of James Beers, who lived in Gravesend, Kent, England, where James's brother, Richard, also resided. James was a mariner and died in 1635. He had two sons, James and Anthony, who in that year came with their uncle, Richard Beers, to Watertown, Mass., where Richard was a representative to the general court thirteen years and a captain in the military service. He was mortally wounded in King Philip's war at Westfield, Mass., and died Sept. 4, 1675.

Anthony Beers, son of James, of Kent, removed from Watertown to Fairfield, Conn., in 1659. He was lost at sea in 1676. He had nine children, of whom Barnabas, the youngest, was born Sept. 6, 1658. Barnabas also had nine children, of whom the youngest Abner Beers (1) was born Dec. 6, 1736. He married Hannah Beardslee Oct. 6, 1761. They had eight children, of whom Abner Beers (2), the youngest, was born Dec. 7, 1779.

Three brothers of Abner Beers (2), Nathan, Jabez, and Rev. Lewis Beers, M. D., came from Stratford, Conn., and settled at Beers's settlement (now Danby), in Tompkins county, in 1797. Abner Beers (2) came there later, in 1804, and in 1806 he opened a store in a log house. When the brothers had become fairly settled they brought their father, Abner Beers (1) and their mother from Stratford to Beers's settlement, they later removing to a farm in the town of Spencer, in Tioga county, where he

was living in July, 1808, when he made his will. He died Jan. 3, 1816, and she April 10, 1817.

When Dr. Lewis Beers, who had been a practising physician at Stratford, came to Tompkins county he bought two hundred acres of land and his brothers bought one hundred acres each adjoining. Dr. Beers added by other purchases until he was one of the largest land owners in the county. He was the first postmaster and the first justice of the peace in the town of Danby, receiving his appointment in 1807 from Gov. Tompkins. He was later appointed judge of the court of common pleas. He was the first and only president of the Owego and Ithaca turnpike company from 1812 to 1841. He was a physician, farmer, minister of the gospel, and merchant. He was 81 years of age at the time of his death in 1849.

Jabez Beers was a justice of the peace and succeeded his brother as judge. He was a member of assembly in 1812-1813. He was a carpenter and erected the first frame building at Ithaca.

About the year 1812 Abner Beers (2) kept a tavern five or six miles this side of Ithaca. Later he removed to the town of Candor, where he engaged in farming and lumbering. He came to 'Owego to live in 1818. He lived on the south side of Front street, west of McMaster street. His house was on the lot now owned by Mrs. Eliza J. Pride and stood about twenty feet back of the well which supplied the family with water and which well is still in use and is near the sidewalk.

Mr. Beers was a carpenter and builder. He built the first Tioga county clerk's office in 1825 and the old Owego academy in Court street in 1827. The next year he also built the first bridge across the Susquehanna river at the foot of Court street from the plans of Ephraim Leach, and he died the same year.

His children were Harmon, Eli, David, Mary, Abner, Charles, Frances, and John James Beers.

Dr. Eli Beers was a physician at Danby.

Col. Abner Beers was born June 24, 1812, at Beers's settlement. In 1846 he went to Yazoo, Mississippi, where for many years he was a planter. He came to Owego in 1873 and died here May 30, 1881.

David, Charles, and John James Beers lived at Owego. Charles Beers was born June 4, 1819, in this village and lived here all his life. He was engaged in the livery business and farming several years. His livery barn was on the east side of Lake street where the post office now stands and was burned in 1872. He died Dec. 29, 1891.

John James Beers was a farmer and lived on the farm which after his death became the property of E. H. House on the north side of the Huntington creek and west of the old Owego and Ithaca turnpike. He died May 2, 1880.

David Beers was for many years a merchant at Owego. He was born April 20, 1809, at Beers's settlement. In 1820, two years after his coming to Owego, when he was only twelve years of age, he began business on his

own account by permission of his father.

His first speculation was the purchase of shad of the river fishermen. At that period there were no dams in the Susquehanna to prevent shad from coming up the stream in the spring, and the fish were taken here in large quantities during the shad season. He purchased shad of the net-owners and went every other day to Ithaca with a load of these fish, finding a ready sale for them at the many taverns on the road and in Ithaca.

With the proceeds of these sales Mr. Beers was enabled to begin business in a small way as a grocer in one of the stores in Cauldwell row, on the north side of Front street, a little east of Lake street.

His first stock of goods was bought for him in New York by William Pumpelly, who forwarded them with his own goods to Catskill, whence they were brought by teams to Owego. After a time he removed to the south side of Front street, adjoining Judge Drake's store. Later he went to Apalachin, which was at that time an important lumbering point, where he built a store and conducted a general mercantile business two years. His goods, which he then received by the way of Ithaca, he sold in exchange for long shingles, which he shipped down the river in arks to market. He sold his store and stock of goods to Aaron Steele and returned to Owego.

John Kinney, a tailor, owned a house and lot on the west side of Lake street, the same lot on which M. A. Lynch's saloon now stands. Mr. Beers bought the property and opened

a meat market. He subsequently converted the lower part of his house into a store, where in company with his brother-in-law, Albert R. Thomas, he conducted a general country store until the building was burned in the great fire of 1849. He immediately rebuilt. Two years later he purchased Mr. Thomas's interest in the store and continued the business alone until September, 1866, when he sold the property to Martin Ashley.

A short time previous to the fire of 1849 the general country stores gradually discontinued the sale of many articles of merchandise such as are now found only in crockery, hardware, and grocery stores, but Mr. Beers continued to keep the stock of a general country store the same as during the early mercantile days of Owego, until he retired from business. He removed to Brooklyn, where he died Dec. 27, 1890, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles O. Anderson.

Abner Beers (2) died at Owego Sept. 7, 1828.





JAMES PUMPELLY.

## JAMES PUMPELLE.

James Pumpelly, the eldest son of John Pumpelly, was one of the most progressive men that ever lived in Owego. He was a self-made man. His enterprise and public spirit were manifested when the village was at its formative period, and it is largely due to him that its advancement was so rapid. He was foremost by reason of his wealth in every public enterprise. He was a leading spirit in establishing turnpikes, in building the old Ithaca and Owego railroad, in building the first steamboat on the Susquehanna river built for commercial purposes, and in preparing the way for the construction of the New York & Erie railroad to Owego. At the convention at Owego Dec. 20 and 21, 1831, of the people from all along the line, representing fifteen or sixteen counties, to advocate the application to the legislature for a charter for a railroad from New York to Lake Erie, he was one of the vice-presidents.

When the Pumpelly family came to Beers's settlement from Connecticut in 1802 James Pumpelly was 28 years old. He rode the entire distance on horseback. He was a surveyor, as was also his father. The family was not in prosperous circumstances. There was an old story that when James Pumpelly came to Owego to engage in surveying he had only fifty cents in his possession, with which he purchased a hatchet to cut away the brush while surveying in the woods. This story was not exactly correct, but it had some foundation in truth.

One of Mr. Pumpelly's early acquaintances was Zelotes Robinson, who lived within twenty miles of Salisbury, and they knew each other before coming to Owego. Mr. Robinson for five years from 1818 conducted Mr. Pumpelly's saw and grist mills at Jenksville, and for five years afterward he conducted one of Mr. Pumpelly's farms. It was while thus engaged that Mr. Pumpelly told Mr. Robinson how he came to Owego with a party of surveyors, having obtained a job of surveying, and all the money he had was five New England shillings. While sitting with an impecunious friend on the bank of the river, near where the Court street bridge now is, Mr. Pumpelly divided the five shillings equally with this friend.

Mr. Pumpelly began his work here with a surveying party an axeman. One of the party was the father of Gov. Hawley, of Connecticut. Mr. Pumpelly later became agent for the owners of large tracts of land in the "Twelve Townships," and with the aid of his brothers, William and Harmon Pumpelly, he surveyed that immense territory. He was agent for lands on both sides of the Owego creek its entire length, and established a land office in Owego. He purchased lands in large tracts on his own account and sold portions of them from time to time at a handsome profit. As is usually the case, many purchasers failed to make their payments in full and forfeited what they had already paid, allowing the land to go back into Mr. Pumpelly's possession, to be sold again.

Mr. Pumpelly and Joshua Ferris, of Spencer, surveyed the several sections known as Watkins & Flint's purchase. This land comprised about 363,000 acres, including the present towns of Candor and Spencer. A description of this tract may be found on page 26 of Gay's "Historical Gazetteer of Tioga County," published in 1888.

Mr. Pumpelly's real estate transactions were extensive, and he soon became the largest land owner in this part of the state.

On the north side of Front street, opposite Dr. Samuel Tinkham's house, was Dr. Tinkham's office. This office was after Dr. Tinkham's death occupied by James Pumpelly as a land office and it remained there until November, 1880, when it was removed to the east side of Academy street and converted into a small dwelling.

Mr. Pumpelly married the widow of Dr. Samuel Tinkham April 7, 1808, six months after Dr. Tinkham's death. She was the daughter of Col. David Pixley, who died in August, 1807, leaving much real estate. The property of both Dr. Tinkham and Col. Pixley naturally came under control of Mr. Pumpelly.

Dr. Tinkham was living at the time of his death in the house built by James McMaster on the south side of Front street, east of Academy street, on the lot where M. A. Lynch's house is now. There is a well on this lot. The house stood on the west side of the well and a carriage house on the east side. After his marriage Mr. Pumpelly moved into the house and lived there until 1829, when he built

the large brick house which stands at the northeast corner of Front and Chapel (now Academy) streets.

The lot on which this house stands then comprised all the land west of the lot on which Mrs. A. Chase Thompson's residence stands and was bounded by Front, Chapel, and Main streets. When this house was built it was the largest and most expensive one anywhere in this part of the country and created widespread comment. It was predicted by the knowing ones that the investment of so much money in a house would ultimately cause the financial ruin of the owner.

Mr. Pumpelly moved into the house when it was completed and lived there until his death on Oct. 4, 1845. At the time of his death he was the largest land owner and wealthiest man in Owego. His wife survived him nearly three years, dying June 4, 1848.

While living in the McMaster house Mr. Pumpelly is said to have reared his own children and those of Dr. Tinkham with strict impartiality. Two of his sons, George J. and Frederick H. Pumpelly, and one of Dr. Tinkham's sons, David P. Tinkham, were sent to college and were graduated. George J. Pumpelly from Yale and the others from Union. The other children did not aspire to a higher education and received their instruction at the village schools and the Owego academy.

Mr. Pumpelly by reason of his wealth and prominence, was at the head of nearly every public enterprise. He was president of the old bank of Owego, treasurer of the Owego and Ithaca turnpike company, president of the Owego turnpike company.

president of the Owego academy from its construction in 1827 until his death, president of the old Ithaca and Owego railroad company, president of the Susquehanna steam navigation company, which built the first steam-boat on the Susquehanna river for commercial purposes in 1835, and the first president of the village of Owego from its incorporation in 1827, holding the office five consecutive years by re-election. In 1810 he represented Brome (now Tioga) county in the assembly of this state.

The children of James and Mary (Pixley) Pumpelly were as follows:

1. George James Pumpelly, born 11 Dec., 1815, at Owego. Married Susan Isabella Pumpelly, daughter of Charles Pumpelly, 24 April, 1822. He died at Owego 9 May, 1873, and she 30 July, 1864.

2. Lydia Abby Pumpelly, born 13 Feb., 1808, at Owego. Married Dr. Ezekiel Lovejoy. Died 28 Nov., 1881.

3. Frederick Henry Pumpelly, born 13 Jan., 1810, at Owego. Married Sarah Hewitt, daughter of Gurdon Hewitt, of Owego. He died 15 May, 1867, at Owego, and she 28 June, 1881, in Paris, France.

4. Mary Eliza Pumpelly, born 9 April, 1814, at Owego. Married, first, Robert Charles Johnson, from whom she obtained a divorce. She married second, William H. Platt. She died 24 Jan., 1884, at Metuchen, N. J.

In his centennial history of Tioga county William F. Warner says of Mr. Pumpelly:

"Prominent among the citizens of the county, not only by reason of his wealth and the magnitude of his dealings in real estate, but by his uprightness of character, his genial manners, and many other excellent qualities, this gentleman had no superior. . . . He was a splendid specimen of the gentleman. He had an erect and com-

manding figure, open and genial features, and a cheerful and winning voice. In addition to his agency for others, Mr. Pumpelly became the owner of large tracts of land in this and adjoining counties, and accumulated a large estate. He used his large means in a most generous manner, and his unexpected death produced a deep gloom throughout the county and saddened the hearts of a large circle of friends outside."

George J. Pumpelly, the eldest son of James Pumpelly, after his graduation from Yale college, was educated as a lawyer. He did not practise law but devoted his time to the management of his father's property. His sons were James K., Charles F., Josiah Collins, and George B. Pumpelly. His only daughter, Mary Pumpelly, was married to Wordsworth Thompson, who attained considerable celebrity as a painter, his subjects being generally revolutionary and colonial scenes.

Josiah C. Pumpelly has lived for many years in New York city. He is a graduate of Rutgers college and the Columbia college law school. He was admitted to the bar of Tioga county in December, 1863. He has travelled extensively abroad and has devoted much of his time to discussing and writing upon historic, social, economic, and philanthropic subjects. He is a member of various societies, before the members of which he has delivered addresses, some of which have been published.

Dr. Ezekiel Lovejoy was born July 6, 1803, at Stratford, Conn. He was graduated from Union college, in the state of New York in 1823. He studied medicine in New York city under Drs. Mott and Hosack. After

taking his degree of doctor of medicine he was for a time a surgeon in the navy of the republic of Buenos Ayres. He came to Owego in September, 1829, and opened an office over Charles Pumpelly's store on the south side of Front street, opposite where the Ahwaga house is now. He was the first physician in Owego to practise Homocopathy. He lived many years in the large white house, which was built about 1836 or 1837 and which still stands on the south side of Front street east of Academy street, and the building he occupied as his office still remains at the west end of the lot. Dr. Lovejoy held but one public office, that of supervisor of the town of Owego in 1854. He died in Owego August 15, 1871.

The portrait of James Pumpelly, illustrating this article, is from a painting made at the studio of Waldo & Jewett in New York city and is owned by Mrs. Lydia A. Fordham, of Owego, whose first husband, James P. Lovejoy, was a grandson of Mr. Pumpelly.

## CHARLES PUMPELLY.

Charles Pumpelly came to Owego in 1803, a short time subsequent to the coming of the rest of the family. He was then 24 years of age. Feb. 7, 1803, he and George Stevens, of Canaan Mills, Mass., purchased the old Bates tavern property which included the land now occupied by the Ahwaga house and the south end of Church street, together with the land opposite on the bank of the river. The tavern stood where the Ahwaga house now stands, and in a wing at the east end of it was a store.

Soon after making this purchase Mr. Pumpelly returned to Salisbury, but came back to Owego about a year afterward. He brought back from the east a stock of goods, principally hats, and occupied the store in the tavern building. He was a shrewd trader, a man of great geniality, and was very successful in his business. The year after opening his store he purchased Mr. Stevens's interest in the hotel property. Later he built a store on the south side of Front street, where he dealt in all kinds of merchandise, and purchased lumber, salt, and plaster, which he shipped down the river in arks and rafts. At this time he owned a saw mill three and one-half miles north of Owego. On the first of December, 1829, his son-in-law, George Bacon, became his partner in the business, and the firm of Pumpelly & Bacon continued several years.

In the summer of 1815 Mr. Pumpelly built a new house on the lots now occupied by the residences of Judge H. A. Mead and Miss Anna M. Deau on the north side of Front

street. This was a large and elegant mansion, painted white. It stood at the west end of the lot, about twenty feet back from the sidewalk, and the large yard east of it was covered with a small grove of pines and other trees. It was the largest and finest house that had been built in Owego up to that time. The lot extended back its full length to Main street.

In 1829 Mr. Pumpelly's brother, Harmon Pumpelly, built the handsome brick residence now owned by James Forsyth in west Front street. When Harmon Pumpelly removed to Albany in 1841 Charles Pumpelly purchased the property of him and removed thereto. The old residence was afterward converted into a seminary for young ladies and was conducted by various teachers until 1865, when it was torn down.

Mr. Pumpelly was born at Salisbury, Conn., Dec. 18, 1779. He was supervisor of the town of Owego several years and held other town offices. In 1811 he was appointed paymaster in lieutenant-colonel Oliver Huntington's regiment. He was paymaster of Col. Elijah Shoemaker's 53d regiment at the time of his resignation in 1819. In 1821 he was a delegate from Broome county (this county being then within the limits of Broome county) to the convention which framed the state constitution that year. In 1825 he was member of assembly. After the death of his brother, James Pumpelly, he succeeded him as president of the Owego academy. He died at Owego Jan. 6, 1855. Mr. Pumpelly has been described as a man of great energy of character, possessed of a pleasant

temperament, and highly respected for his many excellent qualities.

The children of Charles and Frances (Avery) Pumpelly were as follows:

1. John Charles Pumpelly, born 28 Oct., 1804. Died at Owego 9 March, 1830.

2. Mary Ann Pumpelly, born 31 Dec., 1806. Married George Bacon 16 Nov., 1826. Died at Owego 11 Feb., 1845.

3. Susan Isabella Pumpelly, born 24 April, 1807. Married George J. Pumpelly 24 April, 1832. Died at Owego 30 July, 1864.

4. Frances Eliza Pumpelly, born 19 March, 1811. Married Joseph S. Bosworth 17 Sept., 1833. Died in New York city 30 March, 1879.

5. Catherine Ann Pumpelly, born 28 Feb., 1813. Married John M. Parker 18 Sept., 1835. Died at Owego 30 Dec., 1845.

6. Harriet Amelia Pumpelly, born 27 June, 1815. Married Theodore Freelinghuysen, of New Jersey, 14 Oct., 1857. Died 8 Feb., 1876, in Troy, N. Y.

7. Stella Avery Pumpelly, born 19 Sept., 1817. Married John M. Parker 1 March, 1854. Died at Owego 28 Sept., 1894.

8. Caroline Augusta Pumpelly, born 6 Feb., 1820. Died at Owego 24 Oct., 1901.

9. James Pumpelly, born 23 Sept., 1822. Died at Owego 3 Dec., 1823.

10. Lydia Abby Pumpelly, born 26 June, 1827. Married James Forsyth, of Troy, N. Y., 25 July, 1860. Died in Troy 12 Aug., 1874.

Joseph S. Bosworth, who married Frances Eliza Pumpelly, was born at Lisle, Broome county, and practised law at Binghamton. He went to New York, where he became eminent as a lawyer and advocate, and was elected a justice of the supreme court.

Theodore Freelinghuysen, who married Harriet Pumpelly, was a distin-

guished man of his time. He was born in 1787 at Franklin, N. J., and was graduated from Princeton college in 1804. In the war of 1812 he raised and commanded a company of volunteers. In 1817 he became attorney general of New Jersey, and in 1829 a United States senator. In 1858 he was made chancellor of the university of New York. In 1844 he was the Whig candidate for vice-president of the United States. In 1850 he resigned from the university and removed to New Brunswick, N. J., where he was president of Rutgers college from 1850 until his death, April 12, 1861.

George Bacon, who married Mary Ann Pumpelly, was born at Woodburn, Mass., March 21, 1804. Three years subsequent to his marriage, Dec. 1, 1829, he became a partner of his father-in-law, Charles Pumpelly, in the general mercantile business in the Front street store under the firm name of Pumpelly & Bacon. Several years afterward he became sole proprietor of the business, which he conducted until the store burned in the great fire of 1849, when he retired from active business.

In March, 1829, Mr. Bacon bought of Elisha Coit the lot containing three acres of land on which Gurdon H. Pumpelly's residence now stands on the south side of Front street, west of Academy street and built thereon a large and handsome house in which he lived several years. He sold the property to Lewis C. England in April, 1858. John R. Chatfield purchased it in September, 1862, and lived there until 1902, when he sold it to Mr. Pumpelly, who tore down the

house and built his present residence on the site.

During the latter part of his life Mr. Bacon lived at the Ahwaga house, where he died April 3, 1862, aged 58 years. His children were Col. Geo. Albert Bacon, who was colonel of a cavalry regiment during the civil war and afterward for many years assistant doorkeeper of the house of representatives at Washington. He died March 6, 1905, at Carlyle, Ill., aged 73 years. His other son, Charles P. Bacon, died at Iowa City, Iowa, April 20, 1884, and his daughter, Fanny S. Bacon, who became the wife of Charles T. Ransom, died Jan. 7, 1897, in Washington, D. C.

John M. Parker was born at Granville, Washington county, N. Y., where his father, John C. Parker, was a distinguished lawyer, June 14, 1805. He was graduated from Middlebury college in Vermont in 1828. He and John J. Taylor were fellow students and friends in the law office of John P. Cushman at Troy, N. Y. Mr. Taylor came to Owego in 1834. He induced Mr. Parker to also come here and he came in 1835, and became the law partner of William Platt. He was a sound lawyer and attained the front rank in his profession. In 1854 he was elected to congress and re-elected in 1856. He was elected a justice of the supreme court in 1859 and held the office at the time of his death on Dec. 16, 1873. During a part of his service as a judge he sat as a member of the court of appeals. He and his son, Charles E. Parker, enjoy the distinction of having been the only two men ever elected to the supreme court bench from Tioga county. In

his centennial history of Tioga county William F. Warner, himself a prominent member of the bar, writes as follows in praise of John Parker:

"He possessed ripe scholarship and a high order of intellect. His learning as a jurist was exact and profound, and his habits, manners, and culture eminently fitted him for the honorable and responsible positions he so long filled. His life was marked by invariable uprightness. By quiet habits he escaped unpleasant collisions which most professional men encounter. His even temper seemed never to be disturbed. Whatever his emotions, there was no outward sign of them. He always enjoyed the highest respect of the bench and the bar. Few equalled him in marshaling the facts of a case, and the clear analysis and application of the law. He was a severe student, and indefatigable in the preparation of his decisions, and it is not improbable that by the severity of his labors of this kind he hastened his death, which was sudden and untimely."

Charles E. Parker was elected judge of Tioga county in 1883 and served until Jan. 1, 1888, when he resigned, having been elected a justice of the supreme court. In 1895 he was appointed presiding justice of the appellate division, and served until August, 1906, when he resigned his office, having reached the age of seventy years, beyond which the law does not permit a judge to serve.

Another son of John M. Parker was Col. Francis H. Parker, who was educated at the West Point military academy and graduated therefrom in 1861. He served through the civil war in the ordnance department. He was chief ordnance officer of the army and department of the Tennessee under Gens. Grant and Meade until the sur-

render at Appomattox. In 1865 he was appointed commanding officer of Charleston, S. C. He was afterward successively in charge, either as commanding officer or assistant commanding officer of the arsenals at Rock Island, Ill., Detroit, Mich., Fortress Monroe, Va., Watertown, Mass., San Antonio, Texas, Watervliet, N. Y., and Pittsburgh, Pa. He died at the Allegheny arsenal at Pittsburgh Feb. 12, 1897.

#### WILLIAM PUMPELLY.

William Pumpelly was born June 17, 1788, at Salisbury, Conn., and was nearly fourteen years old when he came with his parents in the spring of 1802 to Beers's settlement.

He came to Owego in 1805 and entered the land office of his brother, James. He spent the summer in the woods, surveying Watkins & Flint's purchase. He was employed in surveying until 1812, when he went to Ithaca, which had then grown into a small settlement, where he purchased a general country store that had already been established there, and went into the mercantile business. In 1814 he sold his stock of goods and returned to Owego.

Two men from Montreal—Sparrow and Crocker—had previous to this time come to Owego and built a large square building, painted white, on the west side of Park street where Robert Bandler's house now stands. This land was a part of the Dr. Samuel Tinkham estate. They had come to Owego direct from Montreal, bringing their stock of goods with them. At that time there was a pond of water in front of the store in the

present village park. This store building was afterward the property of James Pumpelly and was burned.

Mr. Pumpelly purchased Sparrow & Crocker's stock of goods and continued the business until 1816 or 1817. Then he removed into a store on the bank of the river, below where the bridge now is, where he remained until he purchased a store on the south side of Front street, opposite Church street.

This store was a red wooden building and stood on the ground on which is now the brick building occupied by the Tioga club. Charles Pumpelly's store adjoined it on the east. Where Defiance hook and ladder company's building now stands on the west side was then a vacant lot, and George Bacon's store stood west of and adjoining this space. There was a basement under Charles Pumpelly's store, to which access was had by doors on the east side of the building, which was occupied by Wm. Gregory, a marble cutter, and by John Arnold as a saloon. These buildings were all burned in the great fire of Sept. 27, 1849.

Mr. Pumpelly conducted the mercantile business in this store until 1844, when he retired from business with a handsome competence. He was for several years president of the old bank of Owego, now the First National bank of Owego.

Mr. Pumpelly lived for many years in a house which stood on ground now occupied by the Exchange hotel barn on the north side of Front street and west of Park street. The house was afterward occupied by Robert Cameron and was burned Oct. 5, 1867.

in a fire which burned many other valuable buildings in that part of the village. He afterward built and lived until his death in the house which is still standing on the north side of Front street, the third house west of Ross street, now occupied by T. B. Oakley.

Mr. Pumpelly's first wife was Sarah Emily Tinkham, daughter of Dr. Samuel Tinkham. They were married in June, 1814. She died at Owego March 31, 1822, aged 27 years. They had one daughter, Emily Pumpelly, who was the second wife of William H. Platt.

Mr. Pumpelly's second wife was Mary H. Welles, daughter of George and Prudence (Talcott) Welles, of Athens, Pa., where she was born May 6, 1803. They were married Oct. 20, 1824. Her brothers, George Henry Welles, of Athens, and Dr. Charles F. Welles, of Wyalusing, were two of the most distinguished men in Bradford county in their day. They were sons of George Welles, a graduate of Yale college, who came from Glastenbury, Conn., in 1799 to Tioga Point, where he became land agent for Charles Carrol, of Carrollton, and where he died in 1813.

Mrs. Pumpelly was a lady of culture and refinement, an artist and a poet of considerable ability, and was educated in Philadelphia. She accompanied her youngest son, Raphael, to Germany, where he pursued his studies in the universities, and she became an excellent German, French, and Italian linguist and scholar. In 1852 a volume containing three of her poems, "Belshazzar's Feast," "Herod's Feast," and "Pilate's

Wife's Dream," was published in New York. She also contributed poems to the "Atlantic Monthly" and the "Galaxy." After the death of Mr. Pumpelly, Nov. 17, 1876, she went abroad and died in Paris, France, Dec. 14, 1879. Her body was brought to Owego in February, 1880, and buried in Evergreen cemetery.

The children of William and Mary H. (Welles) Pumpelly were as follows:

1. John Hollenback Pumpelly, born 16 Aug., 1826. Married Mary Ann Foote, daughter of Dr. Lyman Foote, a surgeon in the U. S. army, 28 Feb., 1868. She died in 1877. He died at Waltham, Mass., Dec. 6, 1907.

2. Susan Welles Pumpelly, born 25 May, 1828. Died 9 Nov., 1830.

3. Marie Antoinette Pumpelly, born 3 March, 1832. Married Jeremiah Loder, of New York city, 28 Jan., 1852. Mr. Loder's father, Benjamin Loder, was president of the New York and Erie railroad from 1845 to 1853.

4. Josephine Pumpelly, born 3 Aug., 1835. Died 20 March, 1838.

5. Raphael Pumpelly, born 8 Sept., 1837. Married Eliza F. Shepard, of Dorchester, Mass., 20 Oct., 1869.

Raphael Pumpelly has attained eminence as a geologist. He was educated at the Owego academy and in Paris, Hanover, and Frieberg-in-Saxony. He returned to America in 1860 and became interested in silver mining in Arizona and other parts of the far west. In 1861 he was employed by the Japanese government to determine the mineral resources of the island of Yesso, and in 1863 was employed to survey the coal regions of Northern China. In 1866 he became professor of mining engineering at Harvard university. In 1870 he made

a survey of the copper regions of Michigan and the next year became State geologist of Missouri. In August, 1879, he was appointed director of the United States geological survey of all territory east of the Mississippi river. In September, 1881, he resigned this position, having been engaged by the Oregon transcontinental company to make a full survey of the region traversed by the Northern Pacific railway and navigation company, embracing a territory 1,500 miles in extent from east to west and 500 miles from north to south and containing more than 500,000 square miles. In 1900 he was engaged by the Andrew Carnegie company of Pittsburgh, Pa., to locate iron mines in the northwest and Canada. In 1904 he headed an expedition, backed by Andrew Carnegie, to make archaeological researches in the buried cities of western Afghanistan and the Crimea.

Mr. Pumpelly is the author of "Geological Researches in China, Mongolia and Japan During the Years 1862 to 1865," published at Washington in 1866, and "Across America and Asia," an account of an overland journey from Japan through Mongolia, Siberia, and Russia, published in New York in 1869.

## HARMON PUMPELLE.

Harmon Pumpelly, the youngest son of John Pumpelly, was born at Salisbury, Conn., and was a little less than seven years of age when the family came to Beers's settlement. He came to Owego when he was twenty years of age and with his brother, William Pumpelly, and was employed by their oldest brother, James Pumpelly, in surveying lands. Later he engaged in the mercantile business and lumbering. Like his brothers he was very successful and became a large land owner.

He married Delphine Drake, daughter of judge John R. Drake. After his marriage he lived with the family of judge Drake until 1829, when he purchased the lot on which James Forsyth's house stands, on the north side of Front street, west of and adjoining the lane extending from Front to Main streets and known for many years as Camp alley and later as Parker's lane. This lot extended back to Main street. The property had been owned by Nathan Camp, who had intended to build a residence for himself on it but he died in 1819 before he could begin the work. After his death his son, Frederick M. Camp, of Ulysses, Tompkins county, as guardian for Nathan H. Camp, sold the lot in September, 1829, to Mr. Pumpelly, who built thereon the large brick house which still stands there. In 1841 he sold the property to his brother, Charles Pumpelly, who lived there until his death in 1855. The house was afterward owned and occupied by Charles Pumpelly's daughter, Mrs. John M. Parker, until her death

in 1894, and it then became the property, by devise, of her nephew, James Forsyth.

Harmon Pumpelly was active in public affairs. He was a member of the first board of village trustees and was re-elected four times. He also served as an officer in the state militia. In 1821 he was appointed lieutenant of a company of riflemen and in 1822 was promoted to captain in the 201st regiment of infantry, which was organized May 16 in that year.

In 1841 Mr. Pumpelly removed from Owego to Albany. He was already possessed of considerable wealth. He embarked in large financial operations, which invariably proved successful. He became prominently connected with the Albany savings bank, the Albany gaslight company, and the Albany insurance company, all of which he was president. He lived in elegant style in that city for forty years. He lived in a large house, which he loved to fill with genial and cultured people. His entertainments were always in the best of taste, and his dinners were noted for the good wines, costly plate, and fine glass at a time when such things were not as common as they are to-day.

The children of Harmon and Delphine (Drake) Pumpelly were Adeline Jerusha Pumpelly, who was born in Owego and who was married to Col. James Kidd, of Albany, a prominent man, who was county treasurer, postmaster, etc., and Mary Delphine Pumpelly, who was also born in Owego and who became the wife of Gen.

John Meredith Read, of Philadelphia, Pa., April 7, 1859.

Mrs. Harmon Pumpelly died at Owego Feb. 27, 1839. After her death Mr. Pumpelly travelled in Europe until his removal to Albany in the following year. His second wife was Maria Brinckerhoff, daughter of Peter Brinckerhoff, a representative of one of the old Dutch families of Albany. They were married in 1841. She was a granddaughter of Rutgers Bleeker, mayor of Albany from 1726 to 1728. She died in Albany April 23, 1887, aged 82 years. Harmon Pumpelly died in Albany Sept. 29, 1882. He left an estate valued at \$1,000,000.

Gen. John Meredith Read was a grandson of George Read, of Delaware, one of the signers of the declaration of independence, and his father was chief justice John Meredith Read of Pennsylvania. He was born in Philadelphia and was admitted to the bar in Albany. He was adjutant-general of the state of New York in 1860-66. Gen. Grant when president offered him a commission as major in the regular army and also the post of minister to Spain, both of which he declined. In 1869 the new post of consul-general to France and Algeria was created for him.

Mrs. Read, by reason of her great beauty, tact, and intelligence, soon became one of the most noted beauties of the court of emperor Napoleon III. at that time the most brilliant court in Europe.

During the Franco-German war Gen. Read was consul-general for Germany as well as consul-general for the United States. In November,

1873, he was appointed United States minister to Greece and served until September, 1879, when he resigned. He died at his home in Paris, France, December 27, 1896. Mrs. Read also died in Paris, May 29, 1902.

Their daughters were Mrs. Edwards Spencer, of England, and Marie Delphine Read, who in November, 1895, was married in Paris, France, to the Count Max de Foras, son of Count Amedie de Foras, of Savoy, France. Gen. Read's sons were major Harmon Pumpelly Read and Col. John Meredith Read, who commanded the Albany rangers during the Spanish-American war and who married the Countess Alix deForas, a sister of his sister's husband, in March, 1901.

#### LORENZO REEVES.

Lorenzo Reeves was born March 25, 1792, near the southern boundary of Vermont, where his father, Ezra Reeves, owned a ferry on the Connecticut river. His grandfather, Rev. Ezra Reeves, was for more than fifty years pastor of a church at Holland, Mass. Rev. Ezra Reeves was a cousin of judge Tapping Reeve, who was chief justice of Connecticut and who married Sarah, only sister of Aaron Burr, vice-principal of Princeton college, and a granddaughter of Jonathan Edwards.

When he was about twenty-six years of age Lorenzo Reeves came on horseback from Vermont into the wilds of New York. Attracted by the beauty of the Susquehanna valley and the pleasant manner in which he was received by the early residents, he decided to settle in Owego. He opened a general country store on the

west side of Lake street, a little north of Front street, opposite where the Owego national bank now stands. He also built an ark yard below his residence at the west end of Front street and carried on a lumber business. He continued the mercantile business until his death January 31, 1839.

Mr. Reeves's character as a business man was that of sterling integrity. He was universally known as "deacon" Reeves long before the church had conferred upon him that title. He was the first merchant in Owego to banish intoxicating liquor from his store and take his stand as a consistent temperance man. He would not under any circumstances transact business on Sunday nor allow it to be done for him.

It is related that on one occasion when on his way down the river with a shipment of lumber, he gave orders Saturday night to pull into shore and tie up the rafts. His men remonstrated—the water was falling rapidly and it would be impossible to go any further if they should lose a day. Mr. Reeves was deaf to every remonstrance, and every man left him and returned to Owego.

The next day he attended church, spending Sunday as if at his home. He arose early Monday morning with some anxiety, feeling that, although he had done right, he could ill afford to wait until the next freshet to realize on his lumber. Fortunately, while at breakfast, a man came on board and purchased the entire raft, paying a good price for it.

For a short period after his first coming to Owego Mr. Reeves was as-

sociated with Elisha Bundy in the mercantile business. Their store was still on the west side of Lake street, one door north of Rollin block.

Mr. Bundy, who was commonly known as "judge" Bundy through his having presided at the mock trials in that travesty of the courts known as the "moral society," came to Owego from Vermont in 1815. He removed to the town of Catherine, Schuyler county, in 1826, and thence four years later to Elmira, where he became landlord of the old Mansion house and where he died in 1838. He also kept another hotel known as the Bundy house during his residence in Elmira.

While living in Owego Mr. Bundy was also in partnership with Joseph Berry and kept a meat market on the west side of Lake street, about where the Chamberlain brick block now stands. Bundy & Berry also conducted one of the several distilleries then existing in this vicinity.

Mr. Berry was an early settler in Owego. He came from the east about the year 1804. In 1822 he was in company with one of the Ely brothers in a general mercantile business in "Cauldwell row." The same year he filled the office of coroner. He was the commissioner who had charge of building the first county clerk's office in Court street.

One of Mr. Berry's sons was Joseph Berry, who was successively a railroad brakeman, a moulder, a photographer, and at the time of his death in April, 1897, a member of the firm of Sporer, Carlson & Berry, piano manufacturers. His wife was the daughter of Capt. Eliakim Goodrich, one of the

early settlers of the town of Tioga. Another son was Frank Berry, who was engaged in the liquor business in Owego. Joseph Berry in the spring of 1826 bought a farm in the town of Newark Valley, upon which he moved and where he was living at the time of his death in 1830.

Mr. Berry built and lived in the house on the north side of Front street, east of William street, which was later occupied by Dr. J. H. Arnold and is now owned by W. N. Richards. Mr. Bundy lived in the next house west of it, now occupied by Mrs. Caroline Rounseville. These lots were owned by Mr. Bundy, who sold them for \$500 to Mr. Reeves in August, 1826.

At the time of his death Mr. Reeves owned the ground on the west side of Lake street on which Hill & Parker's brick block now stands. His widow, Maria L. Reeves, who had conducted a millinery business several years, afterward became the second wife of Col. Benoni B. Curry. Col. Curry was a tailor. He came to Owego from Orange county in 1810. He died at Pleasant Valley, N. J., Jan. 19, 1875.

On this lot, a little back from the sidewalk, was Mr. Reeves's house, which Col. Curry in 1818 enlarged and converted into a temperance tavern and called it the Croton house. Col. Curry was landlord of the hotel when it was burned in the great fire of September, 1849.

When the debris left from the fire had been removed Col. Curry caused to be built on the back part of the lot, near the Owego academy yard, a small one-story house, about 40 by

30 feet in size in which he lived. This house was mounted on wheels taken from a railroad freight car and placed on an iron track which extended out into Lake street. Col. Curry's idea was that in case his unique structure should be endangered by fire it could be run out of danger by pushing or drawing it along the track to the street. The building stood there, the subject of some curiosity and much comment, until the property was sold in 1862 to Martin Ashley, who built Ashley hall thereon. Dr. James Wilson purchased the property in 1867 and in April, 1868, the hall was burned. It was rebuilt the same year as a theatre and again burned in February, 1904. The brick block erected by Chas. E. Parker and F. C. Hill in 1904 now occupies the site.

The children of deacon Lorenzo and Maria L. (Clark) Reeves were Ezra Warren Reeves, Edward Payson Reeves, Tapping Reeves, Jane Lucinda Reeves, and David Wallis Reeves.

Tapping Reeves was born March 7, 1832, at Owego. He went to California in 1856. He died at Reeves's Mills, Cal., July 9, 1885. His mother and sister went also to California in 1867. Mrs. Maria L. Reeves died at Little River, Cal., April 28, 1870, aged 70 years.

Ezra Warren Reeves was born April 3, 1826, at Owego, where he was for many years engaged in the book and news business. He married Caroline A. Slosson, daughter of Franklin Slosson, Dec. 16, 1851. Mr. Slosson kept a book store in Owego several years. Mr. Reeves removed to California in 1873. He purchased a ranch in Men-

dicino county, Cal., and died there Sept. 30, 1882.

David Wallis Reeves became famous as a musician and bandmaster. He was born Feb. 14, 1838, at Owego, less than a year previous to his father's death. He received his musical education under Thomas Canham, of Binghamton, a celebrated band leader of his day. At the age of 19 he was the leader of a circus band, and later was a member of the famous Dodworth's band in New York city. In February, 1866, he became the leader of the American band at Providence, R. I., which under his leadership ranked as one of the greatest bands in America, and he was its leader at the time of his death on March 8, 1900. D. W. Reeves may have inherited his musical talent from his father, for deacon Lorenzo Reeves is said to have been proficient as a player of the bass viol, an instrument much in use in church choirs before the introduction of the organ.

#### CAPT. SYLVANUS FOX.

Capt. Sylvanus Fox was born May 6, 1797, at North Glastenbury, Conn., and came to Owego in 1803 with the Talcotts, when six years of age. He learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed all his life. He lived at the southeast corner of North avenue and Fox street. The house still stands there but its appearance has been entirely changed by the building of a store thereto on the North avenue side. Capt. Fox died in this house Aug. 24, 1871. Fox street was so named in his honor in February, 1821. It had been previously known as Fourth street.

Capt. Fox was a prominent and useful citizen. He was an active member of the fire department and was chief engineer in 1847, 1856, and 1857. He made the first hook and ladder equipment in 1847. Between the years 1832 and 1862 he was eleven times elected a member of the village board of trustees and he was president of the village in 1840.

Capt. Fox married Nancy Ann Taylor, of the town of Tioga, Dec. 23, 1821. She died Aug. 13, 1875, at the home of her son, George Fox, at Towanda, Pa. Their children were as follows:

1. George Edward Fox, born 5 Nov., 1822, at Owego. Married Sarah Ann Leonard 14 Jan., 1843.

2. Eleazer Taylor Fox, born 8 Aug., 1825, at Owego. Married Lydia Sophie Homet, daughter of Charles Homet, of Asylum, Pa., 7 Feb., 1847. He died at Towanda, Pa., 13 Dec., 1887.

3. Charles Sylvanus Fox, born 19 March, 1831, at Owego. Married his cousin, Harriet M. Porter, at Glastenbury, Conn., 19 Sept., 1853. He died 9 March, 1876, in Jersey City, N. J.

4. Frederick Fox, born 13 Dec., 1837, at Owego. Married Mary Schunburger, of Warren, Ohio, 24 Nov., 1864. He died in 1865 and his widow married S. Allen Richards, of Struthers, Ohio.

George E. and Eleazer T. Fox removed from Owego to Towanda, Pa., about the year 1841, where Eleazer Fox engaged in the business of buying and shipping lumber down the Susquehanna river in rafts. His brother, George assisted him. Later Eleazer Fox engaged in the grocery business, and became one of the leading spirits in Towanda's enterprises.

Charles S. Fox was the station baggage master for the Erie railroad company at Jersey City many years.

Frederick Fox was a telegraph operator. He was a soldier in the civil war, serving as first sergeant in Co. H, Third New York volunteers, mustered in May, 1861. After the war he lived at Leavettsburg, Ohio, where he was train dispatcher on the Mahoning division of the Atlantic & Great Western railroad. He died in 1865.

#### RICHARD E. CUSHMAN.

Richard English Cushman came to Owego in 1812 from Pomfret, Conn. He was born June 2, 1782, at Stratford, Conn., and was a carpenter and cabinet maker by trade. He was of the seventh generation in descent from Robert Cushman, who was born between 1580 and 1585 in the north of England and removed to Holland in 1608 to enjoy religious freedom. Robert Cushman came to America in 1621 in the ship "Fortune," which was the next vessel that arrived after the "Mayflower," and landed at Plymouth, Mass., in November of that year. He crossed the Atlantic for the purpose of joining those already here in a mutual effort to establish and lay deep the foundations of civil and religious liberty in the new world.

Robert Cushman's son, Thomas, born in England in February, 1608, also came to America in the "Fortune." His son, Isaac Cushman, was born Nov. 15, 1676, at Plympton, Mass.. Isaac's son, Nathaniel, was born at Plympton, May 28, 1712. His son, whose name was also Nathaniel, was also born at Plympton Sept. 2, 1738. He was the father of Richard English Cushman.

Richard E. Cushman's father, Nathaniel Cushman, had explored this valley at an early day, having de-

scended the Susquehanna river from Otsego lake to Wyoming in a batteau on a tour of exploration in 1784, the next year after the proclamation of peace and immediately upon the close of our border warfare, carrying back to his neighbors and friends an account of the fertility of the valley as compared with the thinner soil of Connecticut. His representations caused many in the vicinity where he lived to leave home and friends in New England to become pioneers here. His son, partaking of the spirit of adventure and emigration, came here in 1812.

Mr. Cushman's carpenter shop was at one time on the north side of Main street opposite where St. Paul's rectory now stands. He lived below the bridge in Front street. He afterward bought the lot at the southeast corner of Main and Paige streets where he built and lived in the house still standing there. He sold the property in 1850 to his son-in-law, John Cameron, and removed to Speedsville on a farm. Later he returned to Owego and in March, 1859, purchased the land on the south side of Main street, east of St. Patrick's church and built thereon the house now owned by H. Austin Clark, the second house east of the church, in which house he lived. He sold this property later and built the house which is now the second house east of Paige street on the south side of Main street and died there Aug. 19, 1863.

Mr. Cushman was twice married. He first married Hannah Reed, of Plainfield, Conn., March 19, 1806. She was born Jan. 30, 1783. She died at Owego Jan. 21, 1846. His second wife,

Mrs. Martha Hill, was born at Athol, Mass., Aug. 5, 1787. She was married to Mr. Cushman at Speedsville, N. Y., Aug. 26, 1847. She died in Owego July 30, 1877.

The following were the children of Richard E. and Hannah (Reed) Cushman:

1. Rev. Marcus Knight Cushman, born at Sangerfield (now Waterville), N. Y., 25 Oct., 1806. He entered the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal church in 1836. He joined the Presbyterian denomination and was received into the Presbytery of Tioga county 24 Sept., 1846. Married Minerva Kenada 8 Sept., 1835. Died at Waverly, N. Y., 8 March, 1881.

2. Sarah Maria Cushman, born 19 May, 1808. Married Houghton Butler 25 January, 1831. Died 5 Nov., 1838.

3. Eliza Cushman, born 8 December, 1810. Died 14 March, 1812.

4. Eliza Ann Cushman, born 15 Jan., 1816. Died 11 Aug., 1905, at Owego.

5. Mary Jane Cushman, born 9 Feb., 1818. Married John Cameron 17 May, 1841. Died 25 Nov., 1897, at Owego.

6. William R. Cushman, born 20 Aug., 1821. Died in Cincinnati, Ohio 21 June, 1887.

#### WILLIAM CAMP.

William, Nathan, Anson, and Hermon Camp came to Owego from New Milford, Conn., in 1805.

Their grandfather was William Camp, who lived at New Milford. His four sons were Dr. Elisha Camp, and Daniel, Enos, and Nathan Camp. They were all farmers. Nathan Camp was born at New Milford in January, 1746, and married Esther Bostwick, daughter of Arthur and Eunice (Warriner) Bostwick Dec. 10, 1772. Their children were as follows:

1. Anna Camp, born 28 May, 1775, at New Milford. Married Leman Stone in 1798. Died at Trumansburg, N. Y., 1 Aug., 1866.

2. William Camp, born 1 Sept., 1777, at New Milford. Married Abigail Whittlesey 27 June, 1801. They came to Owego in 1805. She was born at Kingston, Pa., 30 April, 1777. He died March 5, 1826. She married, second, judge Stephen Strong 10 July, 1838, and died at Owego 29 Oct., 1858.

3. Martha Camp, born 22 Sept., 1779, at New Milford. Married Isaac Stone in 1799.

4. Nathan Camp, born 11 Feb., 1782, at New Milford. Married Susanna P. Avery, daughter of Samuel Avery, of Owego. She died at Owego 1 Aug., 1813. His second wife was Fanny Collier, a niece of Thomas Collier. She died 21 Oct., 1819, and he 19 May, 1819.

5. Gen. Anson Camp, born 17 Oct., 1784, at New Milford. Died at Owego 22 March, 1838. He was unmarried.

6. Hermon Camp, born 6 Oct., 1787, at New Milford. Married (1) Mary C. Cook 4 April, 1827. She was born 7 Oct., 1799, at Geneva, N. Y., and died at Trumansburg, in 1840.

Married (2) Catherine Cook 1 Oct., 1840. She died at Trumansburg in 1848. Married (3) Sarah (Platt) Camp, daughter of Jonathan Platt, 20 Sept., 1848. She was born 10 May, 1811, at Nichols, N. Y., and died at Trumansburg 23 Jan., 1894.

Nathan Camp died at New Milford Oct. 26, 1792. His widow married Jared Sperry in 1796. They had one child, Esther Henrietta Sperry, who was born Sept. 6, 1798, at New Milford, and married Stephen B. Leonard, of Owego, Feb. 22, 1818. Mrs. Sperry died at Owego Sept. 2, 1840, aged 85 years and Mrs. Leonard April 5, 1879.

When the four Camp brothers came to Owego their mother and half-sister accompanied them. When they came

here they lived at first in a log house which stood on the lot at the southeast corner of Main and William streets, this being the only vacant house in Owego at the time. This property they afterward purchased.

In 1814 William, Anson, and Nathan Camp purchased the property on the north side of Front street between the lot on which the Dugan house barn now stands, which was owned by William Pumpelly, and Camp's lane, now known as Parker's lane. William Camp owned the west one-third of the lot, Nathan the lot at the east end, and Anson Camp the lot between the lots of his brothers. These lots extended back to Main street. William and Anson Camp also owned the property on the south side of Front street opposite their lots, extending to the river.

William and Nathan Camp upon coming to Owego began a general mercantile business. Their store was on the south side of Front street where Camp's furnace now stands and was in the northwest corner of the lot then owned by Caleb Leach. The building was for many years known as the "white store." Mr. Leach sold the property in July, 1813, to William and Nathan Camp. Nathan Camp died May 19, 1819, and William Camp continued the business the rest of his life.

William Camp was fatally injured by the explosion of the boiler of the steamboat "Susquehanna" in the afternoon of May 5, 1826. The boat was coming up the river on her trial trip and while ascending the rapids at Nescopeck Falls, opposite Berwick, Pa., she struck a rock and the

explosion happened. Mr. Camp died a few hours after the accident. William Camp was known as judge Camp, having been in 1812 appointed an associate judge of Broome (now Tioga) county, and he was reappointed in 1817.

William Camp's wife was Abigail Whittlesey, one of twin daughters of Capt. Asaph Whittlesey, who was killed in the massacre of Wyoming.

Capt. Whittlesey was a son of Eliphalet Whittlesey, of Newington, Conn., and was born there May 12, 1753. He was one of the Connecticut settlers in the seventeenth township of the state of Pennsylvania, of which Wilkes-Barre was the centre and principal town. In May, 1777, he was commissioned a captain in the third company of the 24th Connecticut regiment of infantry. This company was raised at Plymouth for the state service in the Wyoming valley. He was killed in the battle at the head of his men July 3, 1778.

Capt. Whittlesey was scalped by an Indian and afterward crawled to his home and was found dead on the doorstep. He had three daughters, Anna, Abigail, and Laura, who became the wives respectively, of Joel, William, and Enos Camp.

About a week before the massacre Mrs. Whittlesey started for Connecticut with a party of women, with her infant child, Laura, in her arms, riding on horseback. They were in charge of Rev. Mr. Wattles, the clergyman of the Wyoming valley, who carried Mrs. Whittlesey's daughter, Anna, then nearly three years of age, on horseback.

Abigail Whittlesey, who was then fifteen months old, was left with her father, Capt. Whittlesey. The night before the massacre he put her on a raft in charge of an old man and his wife, with instructions to take her to Baltimore, if possible. They floated down the river at night and tied up the boat during the day until they reached Havre de Grace, Md. The man and his wife both died afterward of small pox. A year later her grandfather came from Connecticut, found her, and took her to her mother in that state.

William Camp and Abigail Whittlesey were married five years previous to their coming to Owego.

The children of William and Abigail (Whittlesey) Camp were as follows:

1. Eliza Minerva Camp, born 15 Oct., 1802, at New Milford. Married Joseph Clizbe. They had no children. She died Jan. 29, 1871.

2. Henry William Camp, born 11 Feb., 1805, at New Milford. Married Lucy Ann Warren, of Woodstock, Vt., 27 Aug., 1837. He died at Owego 11 Jan., 1874, and she 29 Aug., 1900.

3. Juliette Maria Camp, born 8 April, 1807, at Owego. Married Joseph Merrick Ely at Owego 7 Aug., 1834. He died at Athens, Pa., 1 Jan., 1872, and she 28 Dec., 1888.

4. Abigail Whittlesey Camp, born 15 Oct., 1808, at Owego. Married Charles C. Noble. He died at Owego 13 June, 1851, and she 13 July, 1890.

5. Susan Laura Camp, born 8 Sept., 1810, at Owego. Married Dr. Ezekiel B. Phelps. She died at Owego 15 Jan., 1863.

6. Charlotte Caroline Camp, born 27 June, 1811, at Owego. Died 24 April, 1819.

7. George Sidney Camp, born 5 Feb., 1816, at Owego. Married Kate Cecil. They had no children.

S. Frances Augusta Camp, born 9 Dec., 1817, at Owego. Married Aaron P. Storrs 15 Nov., 1842. She died at Owego 11 Feb., 1891.

9. Charlotte Caroline Camp, born 5 Dec., 1820, at Owego. Married Jared C. Gregory at Unadilla, N. Y., 5 March, 1848.

#### DR. HENRY CAMP.

Dr. Henry Camp for many years conducted an iron foundry and furnace in Owego. His first foundry was on the southeast corner of Main street and Parker's lane on the spot where Mrs. J. A. Goodrich's house stands. The first steam engine ever put up in Tioga county was in the foundry. It had a six-inch cylinder, and was used to drive the machinery. Previous to the introduction of this engine the work had been done with a horse and tread-wheel. This furnace was burned in June, 1836. Dr. Camp afterward built a much larger furnace on the south side of Front street where the "white store" of his father had stood. This furnace he conducted until it was burned in the night of Oct. 5, 1867, when all the buildings on both sides of Front street from the bridge west to Parker's lane were swept away by the flames. Dr. Camp afterward built a much smaller furnace on the site of the old one, which is still conducted by his son, Herman H. Camp. Mr. Camp studied medicine and practised Homoeopathy several years previous to his death. He died January 11, 1874.

#### DR. EZEKIEL B. PHELPS.

Dr. Ezekiel B. Phelps was born April 12, 1800, at Hebron, Conn., where he studied medicine and was graduated from the New Haven medi-

cal college in March, 1823. He practised medicine at Manchester, Conn., with Dr. Samuel C. Cooley until September, 1824, when he came to Owego and lived here until his death on June 2, 1892. Dr. Phelps's first wife was Sarah Hollenback Laning, daughter of Gen. John Laning. They were married May 12, 1833. She died Nov. 3, 1842. His second wife was Susan Laura Ann Camp. They were married Sept. 12, 1852.

Dr. Phelps lived and had his office on the north side of Front street on the lot west of and adjoining the First national bank on the ground where G. O. Steele's grocery store now stands. He lived there until he built the house now occupied by Wm. A. Smyth at the northwest corner of Front and Paige streets, where he lived all the rest of his life.

#### AARON P. STORRS.

Aaron P. Storrs was born Sept. 18, 1812, at Mansfield, Conn. He was a son of Rev. Samuel Porter Storrs, who was born at Mansfield and preached many years at Sherburne, N. Y., where he died. He came to Owego in December, 1827, with his mother's brother, Rev. Aaron Putnam, who had adopted him. Mr. Putnam came here to assume the pastorate of the Presbyterian church, and he was pastor of the church until his death, Dec. 28, 1831. Mr. Putnam's father was also a clergyman and preached fifty years in the church at Pomfret, Conn.

In September, 1835, Mr. Storrs, in company with Dr. Lucius H. Allen, began a general mercantile business in the David P. Tinkham store, a wooden building known as Rollin block, which stood at the northwest corner of Lake

and Front streets. In May of the next year Allen & Storrs removed to the south side of Front street, the first store east of Wm. A. Ely's brick store. This store had been occupied several years previous by Gen. Ansel Goodrich. At this time P. Halsey Ball, of Berkshire, who had been a clerk in Gurdon Hewitt's store, was in the mercantile business with Daniel Ely in the brick store west of the store occupied by Allen & Storrs. In March, 1838, Allen & Storrs purchased Mr. Ely's interest in the store and took Mr. Ball into their partnership. A year later Mr. Ball retired from the firm. He removed to Erie, where he died. Dr. Allen afterward sold his interest in the business to Frank L. Jones, who had conducted a branch store for them at Sheshequin, Pa. Their Owego store was burned in the great fire of September, 1849, and they did not resume business.

In the spring of 1852 John R. Chatfield came to Owego from Great Barrington, Mass., with some capital to invest in business. He applied to Dr. Allen to recommend to him some good business man as a partner, and Dr. Allen recommended Mr. Storrs. In April, 1852, the firm of Storrs & Chatfield opened a hardware store in the brick store at the northeast corner of Front and Lake streets under the firm name of Storrs & Chatfield. Frank L. Jones was a partner in the business until February, 1860. In May, 1855, they bought the hardware store of R. Woodford & Co. at the northwest corner of Lake and Front streets and removed across the street thereto. In the spring of 1886 A. P.

Storrs, Jr., and Geo. S. Chatfield became members of the firm.

Mr. Storrs died Sept. 9, 1888. He was one of the organizers of the Owego gas light company in March, 1856, and was for many years president of the company.

Joseph M. Ely was born Jan. 15, 1802, at West Springfield, Mass. The Elys came originally from Wales and were among the earliest emigrants into New England. He was a son of Richard Ely, who was a sergeant in the revolutionary war. He came to Owego in 1830 and was the second principal of the Owego academy from 1830 to 1835. From Owego he went to New York city, where he engaged in the wholesale grocery business. About the year 1857 he came to Waverly, where he was station agent for the New York & Erie railroad. In 1859 he went to Athens, Pa., where he established a select school. He died there 15 Nov., 1873.

Judge Charles Curtis Noble was born at Unadilla, N. Y., and was a graduate of Union college. He came to Owego soon after having completed his professional education and formed a partnership with judge Stephen Strong, which continued several years. On the death of his father he returned to Unadilla, and practised law there. He was first judge of Otsego county several years and up to 1847, when a new constitution was adopted. That year he was elected to represent Otsego county in the assembly. Judge Noble was one of the three persons who organized St. Paul's Episcopal church in Owego. He died at the home of judge

Strong in Owego June 13, 1851, aged 41 years.

George Sidney Camp was born in Owego February 5, 1816. He was one of the first pupils at the old Owego academy, from which he was graduated in 1832. He entered Yale college, but at the end of his sophomore year he left there and entered the University of the city of New York. At the close of his junior year he left college and became a law student in the office of Stephen Strong. Later he went to New York city and completed his law studies in the office of Gerardus Clark. He was admitted to the bar May 18, 1838. He practised law three years in New York. He returned to Owego in December, 1841, where he practised law all the rest of his life. He was appointed district attorney of Tioga county in 1845. He died at Owego Feb. 14, 1888. Mr. Camp was one of the ablest lawyers of his time in Owego.

Joseph Clizbe was a New York lawyer and a man of property. He came here late in life in feeble health and died here. He lived in the house which is still standing on the south side of Main street, the second house east of Parker's lane.

Jared C. Gregory was born at Butternuts, N. Y., Jan. 13, 1813, and studied and practised law there until in the sixties when he removed to Madison, Wis., where he died Feb. 7, 1892.

#### NATHAN AND ANSON CAMP.

Nathan Camp was a religious man, fond of literature, and he founded the village library in 1813. He was one of the incorporators of the Owego and Ithaca turnpike company in April,

1807, and was one of the board of inspectors of schools in 1815-16. In 1807 he was appointed cornet in the second squadron, fifth division, troop of cavalry, and in 1816 he was appointed second lieutenant of the 8th regiment of cavalry.

The following were the children of Nathan and Susanna (Avery) Camp:

1. Frederick Mortimer Camp, born 3 July, 1813, at Owego. Married Sarah Platt, daughter of Jonathan Platt, of Owego. He died at Ithaca 16 March, 1848, and she at Trumansburg 23 Jan., 1894.

2. George Avery Camp, born at Owego. Died 10 July, 1827.

The only child of Nathan and Fanny (Collier) Camp was Nathan H. Camp. He was unmarried.

When Gen. Anson Camp came to Owego he began the pottery business, but later went into business as a hatter. His store was on the south side of Front street, a short distance east of the "white store" on Dr. Tinkham's land. He made and sold hats there.

Gen. Anson Camp was active in military affairs. In 1809 he was appointed a lieutenant in Capt. Ansel Goodrich's company in Col. Asa Camp's regiment. The next year he was promoted to captain, in 1811 to second major, in 1812 to brigade major and inspector of the 18th brigade of infantry, with rank from May 23, 1812. In 1816 he was appointed lieutenant colonel of the 53d regiment of infantry, and in 1820 he was promoted to brigadier-general of the 41st brigade.

Gen. Camp was also active in public life. He was one of the incorporators of the Owego academy. He was

supervisor of the town of Owego in 1815, 1816, 1819, 1820, and 1831. He was president of the village in 1832 and 1833, and he represented Tioga county in the assembly in 1825. In 1814 he was appointed one of the three trustees of "Owego settlement" in place of Capt. Mason Wattles, who had removed from the village. He was also one of the three commissioners who built the old court house at the corner of Main and Court streets in 1823.

Anson Camp was never married but lived all his life at the home of his brother, William Camp. He died March 22, 1838.

#### HERMON CAMP.

Hermion Camp was not long a resident of Owego. Two of his brothers, William and Nathan Camp, has established a branch store at Trumansburg, Tompkins county, in 1805. In December of that year when Hermion Camp was eighteen years old he was sent there by his brothers to manage the store, and he lived there all the rest of his life. He was for many years a prominent man of Tompkins county. In military life he became lieutenant-colonel of a regiment of cavalry. In 1809 he was appointed adjutant in lieutenant-colonel Hugh Graham's regiment, and in 1810 captain of a company of cavalry in the first squadron, 9th regiment. In 1812 he was captain of the only volunteer company of cavalry in western New York, which he had uniformed, armed, equipped, and mounted on fine horses at his own expense. Within five weeks after the war was declared this company marched to the headquarters of Gen. Stephen Van-

Rensselaer at Lewiston, on the Niagara frontier. In 1820 he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the 10th New York cavalry, with rank from July 8, 1819.

He was sheriff of Seneca county from Jan. 28, 1817, to the 17th of the following April. In April, 1817, upon the formation by the legislature of Tompkins county out of a portion of the territory belonging previous to that time to the counties of Cayuga and Seneca, he was appointed sheriff of the new county. In November, 1819, he was elected member of assembly for Tompkins county. He was president of Tompkins county bank at Ithaca several years. He was a firm temperance man and was the first merchant in Tompkins county who discontinued the sale of liquor. He was president of the state temperance society in 1851-2.

Mr. Camp was thrice married. His first wife was Mary Caroline Cook. His second wife was her sister, Catherine Cook. His third wife was Sarah Platt, daughter of Jonathan Platt, of Owego. She was first married in 1832 to Frederick M. Camp, a nephew and employe of Hermon Camp. In 1848, after Frederick M. Camp's death, she was married to Hermon Camp, who was then 61 years old. She died at Trumansburg Jan. 28, 1894, aged 82 years.

The children of Hermon and Mary Caroline (Cook) Camp were as follows:

1. Caroline Camp.
2. Clinton Camp.
3. Henrietta Camp.
4. Anna Sarah Camp.
5. Charles Camp.

6. Mary Catherine Camp, born 18 Jan., 1840, at Trumansburg. Married Henry W. Swanton 29 Sept., 1864. Died at Bath, Maine, 17 Nov., 1873.

The children of Hermon and Catherine (Cook) Camp were as follows:

1. Edward Camp, born 13 June, 1842. Married Susan J. Winfield 28 Jan., 1862.

2. Hermon Camp.

Hermon and Sarah (Platt) Camp had one daughter, Alice Hermoine Camp, who was born 23 March, 1851, at Trumansburg. She married Frank Hackley Griswold, of Auburn, 13 Oct., 1870. Hermon Camp died at Trumansburg June 8, 1878.

#### STEPHEN STRONG.

Stephen Strong was born Oct. 11, 1791, at Lebanon, Conn. He was a descendant of John Strong, who came from England and settled in Massachusetts.

John Strong, Jr., lived at Northampton, Mass. His son, Jedediah Strong, was born in 1637 and died in 1733. Jedediah Strong, Jr., was born in 1667 and was killed by Indians.

His son, Stephen Strong, was born in 1690 and died in 1785.

Stephen Strong's son, Daniel Strong, of New Lebanon, Conn., was born in 1719 and died in 1806.

His son Adonijah Strong was born in 1760 and died in 1815. He was a soldier in the revolution from 1780 to 1783 and was at the taking of Yorktown. He married Hepzibah Bliss.

Judge Stephen Strong was a son of Adonijah Strong. His parents removed to Jefferson county, N. Y., when he was a child. He received his principal education at Oneida academy, Clinton, N. Y., now Hamilton college. He came about 1814 to Owego, where

he at first taught school. He was admitted to the bar in 1822. He was district attorney of Tioga county from July, 1836, to July, 1838, and from 1844 to 1847. He was appointed first judge of Tioga county April 18, 1838, and held that office until Feb. 2, 1843. He was elected county judge in November, 1855, and served four years. He was the representative of the 22d district in the congress of 1845-7. Judge Strong was one of the incorporators of the old bank of Owego in 1836. His law office in 1828 was on the bank of the river, a little below Paige street. In May, 1838, his stepson, George Sidney Camp, was admitted to the bar and in the following October they became law partners. Soon afterward Mr. Camp removed to New York city, and in January, 1840, judge Alanson Munger became judge Strong's law partner. Mr. Camp returned to Owego in December, 1841, and resumed his partnership with judge Strong, which partnership continued until judge Strong's election to the office of county judge in 1856.

The law office of judge Strong and Mr. Camp was on the south side of Front street on the lot now occupied by the Standard butter company's creamery. It was afterward removed to the north side of the street. Mr. Camp later built a large addition to it as a residence and lived there until it was burned in October, 1867. He immediately rebuilt an office and residence on the same site and lived there until his death. It then became the property of A. P. Storrs, Jr., who made changes and improvements and now lives there.

In July, 1861, judge Strong removed

back to Jefferson county and settled at Watertown. There on June 19, 1861, he married Roxanna Terry Woodruff, widow of N. M. Woodruff, a hardware merchant, and daughter of Eli Bush, of Perry, N. Y. Mrs. Woodruff was the mother of the wife of governor Roswell P. Flower.

Judge Strong died at Watertown April 15, 1866. In the centennial history of Tioga county Wm. F. Warner writes at considerable length of judge Strong whom he considered "one of the most remarkable men of the period." Mr. Warner says:

"For upwards of fifty years judge Strong was among the foremost men of his profession, and for many years was the leading jury advocate of this county, and of the counties of Susquehanna, Bradford, and Luzerne in Pennsylvania: his business extended largely into the latter three counties. In the prime of life he found few equals, especially in the trial of criminal cases, on which account his services were sought in almost every important case for many years. To a tall and commanding person he added elegance and grace of manner, and a pleasing address. His features were strongly marked and bore a firm and decisive expression, while his eyes were full and dark, with dark brows. Amid a crowd of a thousand persons he would have been selected as a prominent figure. .... His social qualities were of the highest order. .... As a judge he possessed a rare firmness that enabled him to remain unbiased by public clamor. .... The general judgment of his character was that in ability he had few equals, and that, with an over-generous nature, he possessed untarnished integrity."

In the "Strong Genealogy," the author, Benj. W. Dwight, writes as follows of judge Strong:

"He was an eminent advocate, famous not only for his technical knowledge but for his great tact and ingenuity and wonderful resources of his own in handling of cases, and for his inspiring and magnetic powers of eloquent speech, which was always more powerful than polished. He was instinctively polite, and free with both hand and heart everywhere, and remarkably frank and reserved on all occasions and made alike warm friends and bitter enemies. He had an inexhaustible fund of good spirits at all times. He was a great reader, rather than a close student. He was very tall, about six feet in stature, of dark complexion, high and prominent cheek bones, a large mouth, and marked but interesting features."

Aaron P. Storrs, Jr., of Owego, owns a fine portrait of judge Strong. It was painted by James Bogle, a member of the National Academy and a noted portrait painter of his day. Mr. Bogle painted portraits of Calhoun, Clay, Webster, Gen. John A. Dix, and other prominent Americans.

#### JOHN R. DRAKE.

John R. Drake, who came to Owego in 1809 and who was for many years one of the most enterprising business men and public spirited citizens of the village, was a descendant of Robert Drake, who was born in Devonshire, England, about 1599, and who was a nephew of Sir Francis Drake.

Robert Drake's son, Abraham Drake, came to America in the "Mayflower" and settled at Hampton, Conn. Abraham's son, Robert Drake, was born in 1664 and died in 1743 at Hampton. Robert's son, also named Robert, was the father of Rev. Reuben Drake, who was born April 23, 1745, and who was a Baptist clergyman at Pleasant Valley (now called Plattekill), near New-

burgh, N. Y. Rev. Reuben Drake was very wealthy and owned a mile square of land, on which he built a stone church, in which he preached free of charge to his congregation. The church was afterward torn down and the material was used in building a school house. Rev. Reuben Drake had several sons, the third of whom was John Roland Drake.

John R. Drake was born Nov. 28, 1782, at Pleasant Valley. In early life he was a clerk in the store of judge Stanley at Catskill. While thus employed he was sent to Painted Post, N. Y., to do some collecting. When he reached Owego he stopped at the old tavern, which stood at the north-west corner of Front and Church streets. When he started on his way from Owego some one purposely mis-directed him, so that instead of crossing the Owego creek and going westward, he went north toward Ithaca. He soon met some one who informed him of his mistake. It was at this time he first saw the land on the flats, which he afterward induced his brother, Reuben Drake, to buy. After Reuben had made the purchase his wife would not come out here into the wilderness to live, and John R. Drake took the property off his hands. This property judge Drake purchased about the year 1814. It extended from the west line of Evergreen cemetery to the Owego creek. The north boundary was Drake's lane, now Talcott street, and the south boundary was the north line of Elizur Talcott's farm.

When judge Drake came here with his family in October, 1809, he lived below and adjoining where the river

bridge now is in Front street in a building, which he rented of Dr. Samuel Tinkham as a store and residence. Here he lived until he bought the farm in the north part of the village. On this farm, on the west side of North avenue, midway between where Talcott and Adaline streets now are, was a farm house. This house he enlarged, and he lived therein. Later he again enlarged the house and converted it into a tavern for Seth Mosher. After the construction of the New York and Erie railroad to Owego he still further enlarged it. It was then kept a few years by judge Drake's son-in-law, A. B. Gere, as a hotel and was known as the Mansion house.

Judge Drake in February, 1829 purchased the house on the south side of Front street, west of Park street, now owned by Mrs. Emily Gere. This house had been built for Albert Bacon. Judge Drake died in this house March 21, 1857.

When judge Drake came to Owego the only merchants in business here were the Camp brothers, Gen. John Laning, major Horatio Ross, Gen. Oliver Huntington, and Charles Pumphelly. Judge Drake was in the general mercantile business in the Dr. Tinkham store until 1814. In August of that year he purchased for \$1,200 of James Caldwell the lot on the south side of Front street directly opposite Lake street, on which he built a wooden store, two stories high. It occupied the ground on which the Central drug store now stands.

In the rear of this store was a large storehouse with a long dock. Here he stored and loaded into arks for

shipment down the river salt, plaster, and wheat. This merchandise was shipped on the spring and fall freshets to WilkesBarre, Columbia, and other points on the way to Baltimore. A great amount of lumber, shingles, and staves was also shipped in arks and rafts. Judge Drake is said to have had a larger number of arks and rafts on the river every year than any other Owego shipper.

He employed men to manufacture shingles and staves of pine and oak in the forest on lands five miles from Owego on the Montrose turnpike. The men camped in cabins in the woods at all seasons while doing this work. At that time the country was a wilderness along the Montrose turnpike from the river bridge to the Pennsylvania line, a distance of nine miles. During the war of 1812 judge Drake had a contract for making tent pins for the United States government.

In front of his store judge Drake laid the first stone sidewalk ever put down in this village. The stones were quarried in this vicinity. They were square, of irregular sizes, and were laid flat on the ground. Other such sidewalks were afterward laid by other property owners. The stones were heaved out of place by the frosts and the walks were consequently irregular and had to be occasionally re-laid.

Judge Drake was also the first Owego merchant to introduce lamps in place of candles to light his store at night. He sold everything usually sold in the general country stores of those days except intoxicating liquor. In 1830 he sold that portion of his

stock, which was of a kind now kept in drug stores, to Dr. Jedediah Fay and not long afterward closed out the rest of his stock of goods and retired from the mercantile business. The Front street store he sold in July, 1845, to Joshua L. Pinney and his son, Hammon D. Pinney, who under the firm name of J. L. Pinney & Son conducted a drug store there many years.

Judge Drake became the owner of much property in the business part of the village. He built Rollin block, which occupied the northwest corner of Front and Lake streets. In the third story of this block was Concert hall, where all public entertainments and shows were given. In the fire of September, 1849, judge Drake owned nine stores, all of which were burned and on which he had only \$2,000 insurance. He built and owned the mills on the south side of the river, opposite the Owego creek, which were afterward known as the Hand mills, and which he subsequently sold to James Pumpelly, who was his partner in the lumber manufacturing business.

When the New York and Erie railroad was built to Owego judge Drake, who was one of the projectors and who had used all his influence to have it built through this village, gave the railroad company nine acres of land, comprising the grounds where the station and railroad yards now are. This land was bounded north by what is now the north line of E. H. Miller's hay press, the line extending eastward along south of Erie street. The west line was a little west of McMaster street, and included the ground on which the old bridge shop stood. The south line was South Depot street.

the Lenox hotel and the north line of the vacant lot at the southeast corner of McMaster street and the railroad.

In 1847, two years previous to the completion of the New York and Erie railroad to Owego, judge Drake opened a land office. At about this time he caused a survey and map of this village to be made. This map was lithographed in New York and was entitled "A Map of Drake's Reservation in the Village of Owego, N. Y." The map shows the line of the old Ithaca and Owego railroad as it extended down through the village into Front street, the proposed line of the New York and Erie railroad through the then northern part of the village, and the situation of all the residences and stores.

Judge Drake's farm on both sides of the railroad was laid out into village lots on this map, with streets, several of which streets were opened afterward and are now in use. They were generally named in honor of members of his family. Delphine, Charlotte, and Adaline streets were opened and still bear those names. Theodore, Harriet, Jerusha, and Arianna streets do not appear on the latest maps. Jerusha street on the Drake reservation map is now known as West avenue.

When judge Drake gave the nine acres of land to the N. Y. & E. railroad company there was some kind of an agreement whereby he was to have had the rent of the dining room at the station and that all trains were to stop here, but at about this time he was stricken with paralysis and the person who attended to this business for him allowed the arrangement to

be changed and he did not receive the benefit of it.

It is related of judge Drake that some time before the old Owego and Ithaca horse railroad was built he was present at a public meeting in this village to consider the question of public improvements. Among other things discussed was a proposed survey for a canal from Ithaca to Owego. At this meeting judge Drake said that if it was found that the building of a canal would not be a profitable investment, perhaps the line might be used for a railroad. Thereupon an incredulous citizen contemptuously remarked, "What wont the d—d old fool be at next?" Yet the railroad was built. And several years later when the New York & Erie railroad was completed to Owego and the first train came to the station judge Drake, who was then helpless with paralysis and was sitting in his carriage on the hill above, looking at the arrival of the train, the man who made the disparaging remark at the public meeting stood by his side.

Judge Drake was prominent in public as well as in business affairs. He was supervisor of the town of Owego in 1812. He was appointed first judge of Broome county April 8, 1815, and served until 1823. He was reappointed first judge of Tioga county March 27, 1833, and served until April 18, 1838. He was a member of congress from 1817 to 1819; member of assembly, in 1834, and president of Owego village, from 1841 to 1845, inclusive. In 1823 he was one of the three commissioners appointed to supervise the construction of the first Tioga county court house built in Owego at the

southeast corner of Main and Court streets.

Judge Drake married Jerusha Roberts, daughter of Joseph Roberts, of Catskill, N. Y. She was born 6 July, 1780, and died at Owego 27 April, 1867. They were married 4 Sept., 1803, at Catskill. The children of John R. and Jerusha (Roberts) Drake were as follows:

1. Harriet Gould Drake, born 22 Aug., 1805, at Newburg. Married David P. Tinkham 7 July, 1825. He died at Owego 10 Aug., 1836, and she 12 Sept., 1901.

2. Adeline Beebe Drake, born 5 May, 1808, at Newburgh. Married Isaac Bradford Gere 12 August, 1834. He died 16 Feb., 1860, at Owego and she 21 March, 1888.

3. Delphine Drake, born 11 April, 1811, at Owego. Married Harmon Pumpelly 16 November, 1830. She died 27 Feb., 1839.

4. Theodore Drake, born 16 Jan., 1814, at Owego and died here 25 Aug., 1888. He was unmarried.

5. Charlotte Marsh Drake, born 5 Nov., 1816, at Owego. Married Edward Raynsford 17 July, 1837. He died 27 Nov., 1881, and she 26 Sept., 1898.

William F. Warner in his centennial history of Tioga county writes as follows concerning judge Drake.

"Judge Drake for many years before his death was paralytic, but in earlier years few men surpassed him in vigor of mind and body. He was a keen observer of men and things and a right royal talker. Like Mr. Jonathan Platt he found in the ordinary affairs of life abundant amusement, and was disposed to make the most and best of everything. Although he may have sometimes held his neighbors up in a somewhat ludicrous view, yet Mr. Drake, though gifted with great powers of sarcasm, generally aimed to be just . . . Judge Drake held a prominent place among the leading

men of the county, and had much influence in shaping the public affairs of the village in which he resided, and of this county as well."

David P. Tinkham, a son of Dr. Samuel Tinkham, was born Nov. 22, 1803, at Owego. His father dying when he was less than a year old, he was reared by his step-father, James Pumpelly. He was graduated from Union college. He afterward conducted a general mercantile business in 1827 and later in a wooden store, which stood at the northwest corner of Front and Lake streets. When Rollin block was built on this corner the old store was moved to the west side of North avenue, nearly opposite South Depot street and converted into a dwelling house, where it was occupied many years by Mrs. Edward Raynsford. A few years ago it was, with additions, converted into a hotel and called the European house, and it is now a tenement. David P. Tinkham lived in a house which stood at the northeast corner of Main street and Central avenue. He was only 33 years of age at the time of his death, in 1836 and his widow continued to live there until the property was sold to Dr. P. S. Stearns and Mrs. James Wilson in November, 1865, and the Park hotel built thereon.

Isaac B. Gere was a son of Luther Gere, who came from Connecticut and settled in the town of Genoa, Cayuga county. Luther Gere was a carpenter and assisted in building the first bridge at the north end of Cayuga lake. This bridge was more than a mile in length. He removed to Ithaca about 1807, where he kept a tavern. He built the old Ithaca hotel, the old

Columbian inn, and other buildings at Ithaca. He owned 1,400 acres of land near Ithaca, and in one year he had 800 acres of wheat in harvest. He was president of the old bank of Ithaca, and was twice a judge of the court of common pleas. A. B. Gere was his only son. After his marriage A. B. Gere came to Owego and lived here all the rest of his life.

Edward Raynsford was born in 1812 at Montrose, Pa. At the age of seventeen years he came to Owego and entered judge Latham A. Burrows's store as a clerk. He was afterward employed in David P. Tinkham's store. In company with Edward R. Warner he later conducted a general mercantile business in a store on the south side of Front street, nearly opposite Lake street. This partnership was dissolved July 27, 1836, when Mr. Raynsford and his father-in-law, judge Drake, formed a partnership and conducted a store just above the bridge on the same side of the street, removing a few years afterward to the store opposite Lake street. When the New York and Erie railroad was completed to Owego in 1849 he built a large store at the southwest corner of North avenue and the railroad property, with a large storehouse in the rear, and conducted business there several years. The store was later converted into a public house and known as the Cortright house, later as the Birdsall house, and is now called the Lenox hotel. Mr. Raynsford died at Sayre, Pa., Nov. 28, 1881.

## DR. JEDEDIAH FAY.

Dr. Jedediah Fay came to Owego in 1811. He was born at Hardwick, Mass., Jan. 30, 1786. He was a descendant in the fifth generation of John Fay, who was born in England in 1648 and embarked from Gravesend in the "Speedwell." He died at Marlboro, Mass., Dec. 15, 1690. He was one of the proprietors of the Ockocangensett plantation, which was purchased of the Indians in 1684. Dr. Jedediah Fay was a son of Daniel Fay who was born at Hardwick, Mass., in 1752 and died at Randolph, Vt., in 1810.

December 7, 1811, soon after his coming to Owego, Dr. Fay formed a partnership with Dr. Samuel Barclay and practised medicine. Dr. Barclay was an early resident here. In June, 1805, he bought of John Hollenback the lot at the northwest corner of Front and Ross streets and built thereon the house which still stands there. It was afterward successively owned by Major Horatio Ross, judge Thomas Farrington, and Lieut. B. W. Loring. When Dr. Barclay bought the property he gave a mortgage on it, and as he did not pay the claim the property was sold at mortgage foreclosure in October, 1807. Dr. Fay's partnership with Dr. Barclay was dissolved Aug. 12, 1812.

Dr. Barclay was clerk of the town of Owego from 1811 to 1814, inclusive. Little is known of his history. Dr. Lucius H. Allen once informed the writer that when he (Allen) came to Owego in 1822, Dr. Barclay was still living here, old and broken down through intemperance, and he died here not long afterward.

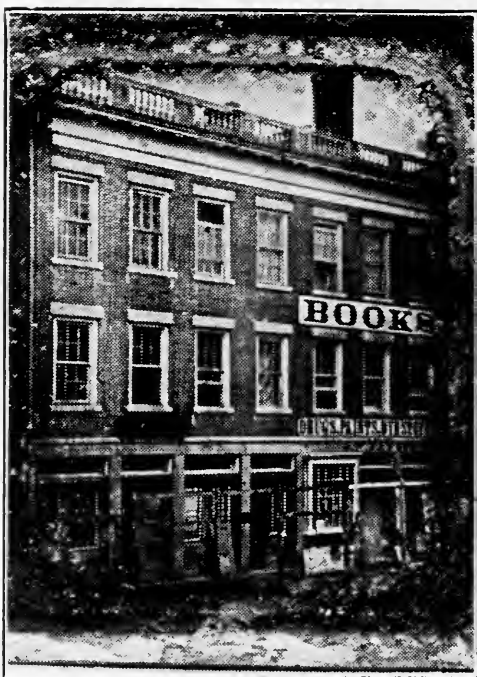
In December, 1812. Dr. Fay, in company with Joseph L. Lynde began a general mercantile business under the firm name of J. Fay & Co. in a frame building which stood on the northwest corner of Front and Lake streets. This store was afterward burned and on its site Dr. Fay built another store, which was later occupied by David P. Tinkham.

Dr. Fay continued in business with Mr. Lynde until 1815, when Lemuel Brown became his partner. They conducted an extensive business and opened a branch store at Spencer, which was then the county seat of Tioga county. Mr. Brown's son, Richard Brown, had charge of the Spencer store. They failed in business. While in the mercantile business Dr. Fay was elected clerk of the town of Owego in 1814 and served three years thereafter by re-election.

Dr. Fay afterward took charge of judge John R. Drake's business and conducted it for several years in a store which stood on the south side of Front street, opposite Lake street. In 1830 he purchased judge Drake's stock of drugs, medicines, paints, etc., and removed to the store adjoining judge Drake's on the east, on ground now occupied by Goodrich & Co.'s store. It was at that time the only drug store in Tioga county.

In 1835, Dr. Fay built a handsome three-story brick building on the north side of Front street, the fourth brick building built in Owego, which occupied the ground now covered by the Ahwaga hall block. The upper portion was occupied by him as a residence. One of the stores below was

THE  
PUG  
ASTORIA  
1909



DR. FAY'S DRUG STORE.

used by the old bank of Owego and into the other Dr. Fay moved his drug store in January, 1836. There he continued in the drug business until his death. He died April 23, 1848.

The cut of Dr. Fay's drug store illustrating this article is from a daguerrotype taken soon after the building was erected in 1835. The daguerreotype was photographed by Mr. Cortwright and the cut made from the photograph. It is, probably, the only picture of any of the buildings taken before the great fire of 1849 now in existence.

While with judge Drake, in May, 1820, Dr. Fay was appointed postmaster of Owego, and he held the office by reappointment twenty-two consecutive years. Judge Stephen Mack was for some time his deputy. At the time of Dr. Fay's appointment he lived with his family in a little red house, one and one-half stories high, which stood near the sidewalk on the north side of Front street, east of Church street. Judge Mack owned the lot which then comprised the two lots now owned by Mrs. Henry Young and Dr. E. E. Bauer. The house stood near the west part of the lot, and in a part of it judge Mack had his printing office. The post office was afterward removed to judge Drake's store, and when Dr. Fay built his brick block where Ahwaga hall now is, the office was removed thereto and was kept there until he was succeeded by Daniel Ely as postmaster in 1841.

Dr. Fay was for several years in the state military service. July 15, 1815, he was appointed captain of a troop in the 8th regiment of cavalry by Gov. Tompkins. He subsequently

resigned his commission and Gov. Clinton appointed him surgeon of the 53d regiment of infantry, 41st brigade, 19th division, Feb. 14, 1820. He held this position until June 15, 1822, when he resigned from the service.

In his centennial history of Tioga county William F. Warner thus speaks of Dr. Fay:

"Methodical in his habits, he kept for many years a record of atmospheric changes, which is, probably, still preserved by his family. He was a man of wide intelligence and of refined and agreeable manners, and was held in high esteem by the people of Owego."

Dr. Fay's wife was Caroline Roberts, a sister of Mrs. John R. Drake. They were married July 2, 1812, the year after Dr. Fay came to Owego. She was born May 30, 1794, in Connecticut and died at Owego March 1, 1879.

The children of Dr. Jedediah and Caroline (Roberts) Fay were as follows:

1. Mary Ann Augustina Fay, born December, 1813. Died June, 1814.
2. George W. Fay, born 10 Aug., 1815. He was unmarried.
3. Charles Pumpelly Fay, born 13 June, 1818. Married Sarah H. Johnson, of Albany, Sept. 20, 1845. She was born 25 Dec., 1823, and died in 1863. He married second the widow Caroline Lawrence, daughter of Louis C. Constantine. He had ten children by the first marriage.
4. Frances Delphine Fay, born 12 April, 1821. Died at Owego 23 Sept., 1895. She was unmarried.
5. Frederick J. Fay, born 12 May, 1824.
6. Theodore M. Fay, born January, 1828, and died March, 1828.
7. Caroline E. Fay, born 28 May, 1829. Married Augustus B. Brown, of Geneva, N. Y., 21 July, 1858.
8. Mary J. Fay, born 16 Feb., 1833. She is still living.

After Dr. Fay's death two of his sons, George W. Fay, who had been a clerk in the store, and Frederick J. Fay, continued the drug business in the brick block. When this block was burned in the fire of September, 1849, they temporarily occupied part of a wooden building on the north side of Main street, opposite Lake street. They immediately built the brick building which still stands on the north side of Front street the second door east of Lake street, in the third story of which they had a public hall known as Fay's hall. This was the first brick building erected after the fire and in the hall all the shows and public entertainments were given until T. P. Patch built his brick block and hall in Lake street.

The Fays moved their drug store into their new building in May, 1850. They afterward built the Ahwaga hall block on the site of their father's drug store, and when it was completed in May, 1853, they moved their drug store into the east part of it.

The firm of G. W. Fay & Co. was dissolved March 31, 1855, and Geo. W. Fay continued the business alone until the following December when he sold the business to Angell & Mackey, of Cooperstown, who subsequently failed in business. Geo. W. Fay was engaged until 1899 in the management of Ahwaga hall and the insurance business. He died May 14, 1902.

Frederick J. Fay studied law in Farrington & Avery's office. After the death of his father he engaged in the drug business. In 1853 he sold his interest in the business to his brother, Geo. W. Fay, and removed to Columbus, Ohio, where he engaged in

the real estate business and where he died Nov. 19, 1890.

Charles P. Fay was in early life a clerk in his father's store. In 1842 he removed to Albany to take the position of deputy clerk in the office of Thomas Farrington, of Owego, who was then state treasurer. He went in 1844 to New York city, where he was employed as cashier in Peter Lorillard's tobacco works. In 1872 he was stricken with paralysis and was unable to do any work thereafter. He was retired on a pension of \$1,000 a year. He died in Brooklyn October 29, 1882.

#### ELIAKIM AND NOAH GOODRICH.

Eliakim Goodrich and judge Noah Goodrich, cousins, came in 1802 from Glastenbury, Conn., and settled in what has ever since been known as Goodrich settlement, in the town of Tioga. Some of their sons and grandsons were business men at Owego and many of their descendants still live here.

Eliakim and Noah Goodrich were descendants of William Goodrich, who with his brother, John Goodrich, came to this country from near Bury St. Edmunds, county Suffolk, England, where they were born, and settled at Wethersfield, Conn., about the year 1643. One of William Goodrich's sons, Ephraim Goodrich, was born in 1663. Ephraim's son, William Goodrich, born in 1697 at Rocky Hill, Conn., was the grandfather of Eliakim and Noah Goodrich. Eliakim Goodrich's father was Elisha Goodrich, of Glastenbury, and Noah's father was Elisha's brother, Ephraim, also of Glastenbury. Ephraim married Pene-

lope Tryon, of Glastenbury. She died at Goodrich settlement Nov. 15, 1826, aged 87 years.

Eliakim Goodrich was born Nov. 28, 1762, at Glastenbury. He married Sarah Leland Jan. 13, 1781. She died in Goodrich settlement Sept. 11, 1821.

Noah Goodrich was born Aug. 30, 1764, also at Glastenbury. He was twice married. His first wife was Prudence Goodrich, daughter of David Goodrich. She was born April 14, 1754, and died Jan. 30, 1813. They were married Nov. 23, 1786. His second wife was Ruth Goodrich daughter of Jeremiah Goodrich. She was born Sept. 5, 1771, and married William Stratton June 11, 1788. Her husband died and she married Asa Goodrich. He died and she was married to Noah Goodrich Oct. 31, 1813. She died Aug. 22, 1846.

Eliakim and Noah Goodrich came with ox teams and sleds through the wilderness, arriving here July 2, 1802, and settled on the property they had bought of Col. David Pixley. This property they purchased March 17, 1802. It consisted of 451 acres of land, and the purchase price was \$5,000. The land was covered with woods, which they cleared, owning all their farming tools in partnership. As fast as the trees were made into lumber, the lumber was taken in rafts down the river to market, the raftsmen walking back.

Noah Goodrich lived in the Pixley homestead, a small house which was for many years known as the Pixley tavern and which is the only one of the early houses in the settlement still standing. It is at the right hand

side of the road as one goes from Owego toward "Glenmary" and a few rods north of the highway as it turns westward toward the Erie railroad.

Eliakim Goodrich built a large frame house with a wide hall in the middle, similar to most of the other farm houses built in this vicinity at that time. It stood on the north side of the highway, a short distance east of where the railroad now runs. It was torn down a few years ago. Dr. Samuel Tinkham lived in a house which stood between this house and the Pixley house. This house was also torn down about the year 1863.

Noah Goodrich was a member of the board of supervisors in 1810-12. He was also one of the members of the first masonic lodge organized in Owego, of which he was the master in 1811 and 1812. In 1816 he was appointed a justice of the peace. He died in the Pixley house July 19, 1834.

Eliakim Goodrich was also appointed a justice of the peace in 1819. He died Oct. 11, 1824. The children of Eliakim and Sarah (Leland) Goodrich were as follows:

1. Gen. Ansel Goodrich, born 27 Oct., 1782, at Glastenbury, Conn. Married Mary Strickland 14 Oct., 1804. He died 15 July, 1819, at Owego, and she 18 Aug., 1860, at Athens, Pa.
2. Ira Goodrich, born 18 April, 1784, at Glastenbury. Married Fear Potter. They lived at Rochester, N. Y. He died in 1825.
3. Cyprian Goodrich, born 21 May, 1786, at Glastenbury. Married Abigail Giles.
4. Lucy Goodrich, born 10 June, 1778, at Glastenbury. Married Joseph Berry, of Owego. She died 7 May, 1829.
5. Alanson Goodrich, born 4 Sept., 1790, at Glastenbury. Married Mary

Pixley, daughter of David Pixley, Jr. He died 6 Nov., 1854, and she 23 April, 1875.

6. Silas Goodrich, born 15 Jan., 1793, at Glastenbury. Married Mary Ann Goodrich, daughter of Jeremiah Goodrich, 11 March, 1828. He died 11 July, 1863, and she 1 May, 1871.

7. Sarah Goodrich, born 9 Oct., 1795, at Glastenbury.

8. Betsy Goodrich, born 13 Aug., 1797, at Glastenbury. Married Jonathan Platt, of Owego. He died 16 Jan., 1857, at Owego, and she 27 Nov., 1878.

9. Anna Goodrich, born 27 May, 1799. Died young.

10. Jasper Goodrich, born 5 Sept., 1801, at Glastenbury. Married Betsy Thorn.

11. William Warren Goodrich, born 26 Jan., 1804, at Goodrich settlement. Married Mary Fox, of Towanda, Pa., 25 Oct., 1830. He died at Wysox, Pa., 27 May, 1872.

12. Fanny Goodrich, born 9 June, 1806, at Goodrich settlement. She was unmarried.

Gen. Ansel Goodrich derived his military title from his service in the state militia. In 1807 he was commissioned first lieutenant of a company in lieutenant-colonel Asa Camp's regiment of infantry, and in 1809 he was promoted to captain. The next year he was second major in Col. Oliver Huntington's regiment, and in 1811 first major. In 1812 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel commandant of the 53d regiment, succeeding Col. Huntington, who was promoted to brigadier-general of the 41st brigade of infantry. Gen. Huntington was appointed sheriff of Broome county in 1816, and Col. Goodrich succeeded him as brigadier-general. In June, 1818, he was promoted to major general of the 19th division of infantry, 36th and 41st brigades, and held that rank at

the time of his death in the following year.

When a young man Gen. Goodrich became a partner of his brother-in-law, Jonathan Platt, in the general mercantile business at Owego. Their store was on the south side of Front street, below Lake street, and he was engaged in business there at the time of his death in 1819. He built and lived in a house now standing in Goodrich settlement, where Ephraim Goodrich afterward lived. Later he lived in a house on the north side of Front street west of Park street, where his mother, Mrs. Eliakim Goodrich, also lived. After his death the property was owned by Jonathan Platt, who tore down the house and erected in its place the house now owned and occupied by Mrs. A. Chase Thompson.

The children of Noah and Prudence Goodrich were as follows:

1. Erastus Goodrich, born 15 June, 1788, at Glastenbury, Conn. Married Hope Talcott, daughter of Elizur Talcott, of Owego, 27 Feb., 1812. He died 27 June, 1854, at Buffalo, N. Y., and she 13 Feb., 1865, at Owego.

2. Aner Goodrich, born 30 Sept., 1789, at Glastenbury. Married Ruth Stratton 1 Oct., 1813. He died 15 July, 1871.

3. Norman Goodrich, born 30 Dec., 1792, at Glastenbury. Married Eliza True 20 Jan., 1820. He died 9 Feb., 1861, and she 10 March, 1872. Norman Goodrich was a commissioned officer in the state militia. In 1816 he was ensign of a company in the 53d regiment of infantry, and was promoted to lieutenant the next year. He resigned from the service in 1822.

4. Roxa Goodrich, born 16 Sept., 1798, at Glastenbury. Married David Nealy 3 Sept., 1824. He died 8 March, 1871, and she 21 Dec., 1824.

5. Prudence Goodrich, born 25 Jan.,

1805, at Goodrich settlement. Died March 31, 1805.

6. Anna Goodrich, born 20 Apr., 1807, at Goodrich settlement. Died 13 Jan., 1808.

7. Penelope Goodrich, born 3 Jan., 1812. Died 6 Jan., 1812.

Erastus Goodrich was a prominent member of the family. He was supervisor of the town of Tioga in 1828, 1841, and 1843, and represented Tioga county in the assembly in 1848. He was the father of George B. and David Goodrich, both of whom were Owego merchants. Three of his sons-in-law, Daniel G. Taylor, George Truman, and Thomas I. Chatfield, were also merchants here. He died June 29, 1854, at Buffalo, while on his return from a visit to his son, Erastus, at DeKalb, Illinois.

David Goodrich the eldest son of Erastus Goodrich, was born Jan. 3, 1813, in the town of Tioga. At about 15 years of age he entered the employ of John Hollenback, the Owego merchant. In 1837 he entered L. Truman & Brothers' store as a clerk. Four years later he and George Truman engaged in the dry goods business, and in July, 1841, he married Mrs. Truman's sister, Frances A. Truman. From 1863 to 1872 he was in the mercantile business with various partners. Later he engaged in farming. He died at Owego July 3, 1896.

George B. Goodrich, another son of Erastus Goodrich, was during all his business life a dry goods merchant at Owego. Mention has already been made of him in an account of the Talcott family.

## STEPHEN B. LEONARD.

Through the accurate care and industry of Mr. Lansing, of Rochester, the genealogy of the Leonard family from the year 580 A. D., has been carefully prepared. It was an old and interesting race, and its sons and daughters held high office and rank in England. Sufficient for this article to indicate that Lady Margaret Fienes married Sampson Leonard, eleventh baron Dacre, in 1605. Their son was Sir Henry Leonard, whose younger brother, Henry, was the father of Thomas Leonard, of Pontipool, Wales, and brother of Francis, fourteenth baron Dacre.

About 1623 James and Henry Leonard, younger sons of Thomas Leonard, of Pontipool, settled in Massachusetts, first at Lynn, and later at Taunton. To them belongs the great honor of having established the first iron works in America, at Saugus, near Lynn. They were the founders, therefore, of the great steel and iron industry of this country.

The following is the exact genealogy of the Owego Leonards:

James Leonard, of Taunton, died in 1691.

His second son was captain James Leonard, born about 1643, died November 1, 1726.

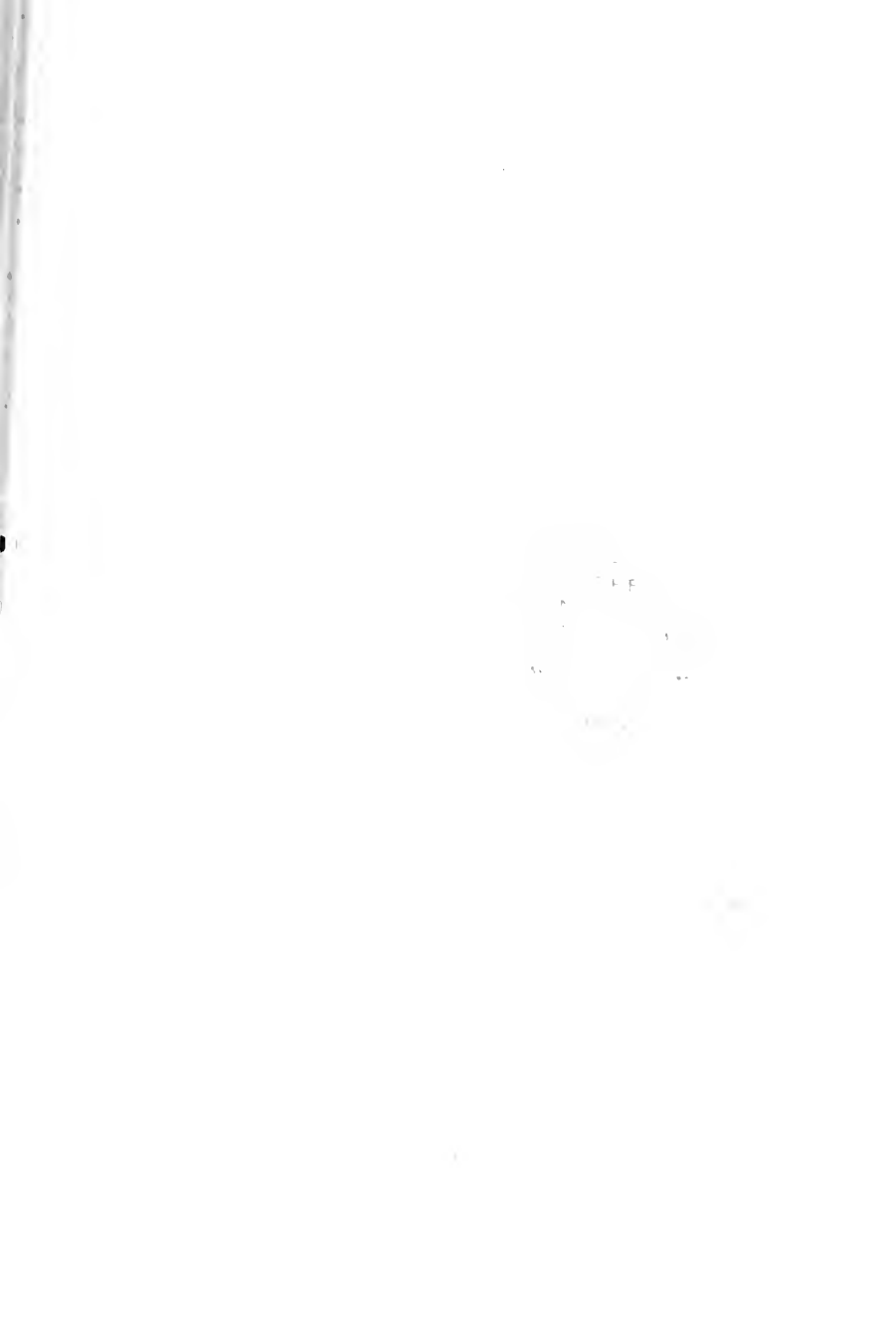
His son was Stephen Leonard, judge of court of common pleas at Taunton.

His son was Joshua Leonard, who emigrated to New Jersey, living at Parsippiney. He died in 1760.

His son was Silas Leonard, born in 1756 at Parsippiney, and died at Owego in 1832. He married Johanna Gregory, of Bridgeport, Ct. He removed from



STEPHEN B. LEONARD.



New Jersey to the city of New York early in his young manhood, and was engaged in the leather business in what is now designated "the swamp"; and which, probably, was known by the same name in that day. His residence was in Wall street, and occupied the place where the United States custom house has stood for so many years. Immediately opposite his house was the city hall. The sons of Silas and Johanna (Gregory) Leonard were as follows:

1. Seth G. Leonard, Havana, New York.
2. Milton Leonard, of Marlborough, died unmarried.
3. General Harry C. Leonard, of Reading, New York. He died at Friendsville, Pa., 20 Feb., 1841, aged 44 years.
4. Stephen Banks Leonard, born in Wall street, New York city, 15 April, 1793.

Silas Leonard removed to Owego with his family in 1803. He was blind during the last part of his life. He died at Owego Sept. 29, 1832, aged 76 years. His wife died also at Owego Sept. 27, 1816, aged 55 years.

Stephen B. Leonard was ten years old when the family removed from New York city to Owego. Three years later, in 1806, he entered judge Stephen Mack's printing office as an apprentice to learn the printer's trade. Judge Mack was publishing "The American Farmer." His office was in the second story of his house in Front street. When the term of his apprenticeship expired Mr. Leonard purchased an interest in the office and soon afterward went, in 1811, to Albany, to perfect himself as a job printer in the office of Solomon Southwick.

Mr. Southwick was a man of considerable prominence in political life in this state for several years. He visited Owego in 1834 and wrote a history of the village, which he published in pamphlet form, but no copy of this pamphlet is known to be in existence now. While Mr. Leonard was employed in Southwick's printing office Thurlow Weed was also a journeyman printer there.

From Albany Mr. Leonard went in 1813 to New York city, where he worked in the book printing establishment of the Messrs. Wood. While there, in April, 1814, he picked up a piece torn from a newspaper, in which mention was made of judge Mack's death. He returned at once to Owego and assumed possession of the newspaper establishment. Two months afterward he changed the name of the paper to "The Owego Gazette." Mr. Leonard was editor and publisher of the paper, some of the time with various business partners and the rest of the time alone, until 1835, when he was elected to congress, and then the office was sold to Shurtleff & Bull.

As editor of the Gazette Mr. Leonard was naturally brought into political affairs, and he became active and prominent, not only in local politics but in state politics also. In 1832 and 1833 he was a member of the village board of trustees and was supervisor of the town of Owego in 1854 and 1856. He was elected to congress in 1835 from the district then composed of Chemung, Cortland, Tompkins, and Tioga counties. He was appointed postmaster of Owego in 1816 and held that office four years. He was again appointed postmaster in 1844 and

served four years more. During president Buchanan's administration he was a United States marshal. Mr. Leonard was one of the original trustees of the old Owego academy and remained a member of the board forty-one years and until the institution was merged in the free school system in 1864.

While publishing the Gazette Mr. Leonard was a member of the state militia. In 1815 he was appointed second lieutenant of a company of the Eighth regiment of cavalry. In 1821 he was appointed quartermaster of the Forty-first brigade of infantry.

When Mr. Leonard began the publication of the Gazette he at first delivered his papers by carrying them on horseback to various points. Later, while postmaster, he established post-routes about the country and afterward secured contracts for carrying the mails, which mails were delivered by post-riders, who rode on horseback and carried them. It was by these post-riders that Mr. Leonard delivered his newspaper to his subscribers. His routes extended to Binghamton, Norwich, Penn Yan, Bath, and other points. In 1816 Mr. Leonard also established the first stage route from Owego to Bath, and a few years later he established another stage route from Owego to Montrose, Pa., which he conducted until 1823, when he sold it to a stage company.

Mr. Leonard married Esther Henrietta Sperry, daughter of Jared and Esther (Bostwick) Sperry, who was born Sept. 6, 1798, at New Milford, Conn. She was a half-sister of Wil-

liam, Anson, and Nathan Camp. She was a woman of fine education, a graduate of Mrs. Pearce's celebrated school at Litchfield, Conn., and taught a select school at Owego. She was married to Mr. Leonard Feb. 22, 1816.

After his marriage Mr. Leonard lived several years in a large house which had been occupied as a tavern by Ira Deforest and which stood at the northeast corner of Front and Paige streets. When Arba Campbell purchased the property he built a brick house which stands there now. He moved a part of the old tavern building back and used it for the kitchen part of his new house. There was a large double house on the lot between the tavern building and Mrs. Betsy Truman's house. This house Mr. Campbell moved back on the east side of Paige street where it remained until 1900, when it was torn down and Lyman T. Stanbrough built a double house in its place.

When Paige street was first opened as a public street from Front to Main street it was called Leonard street in honor of Mr. Leonard, and it was so called as late as 1837.

Mr. Leonard purchased the farm of seven acres east of this village, known as "The Locusts," now owned by James Archibald. There he lived until 1869. In April, 1866, Lyman D. Durphy bought sixty feet of the east end of the lot on which Ezra S. Sweet's house stood, on the north side of Main street, east of Paige street, and built a brick house thereon. This house he sold to Mr. Leonard in exchange for the farm. Mr. Leonard removed to the Main street house and lived there the rest of his life. He

died May 8, 1876. Mrs. Leonard died April 5, 1879.

In an obituary notice of Mr. Leonard, published at the time of his death in the Gazette, Hiram A. Beebe, the editor of the paper, wrote the following just tribute to Mr. Leonard's character and worth:

"We think we may safely say that Mr. Leonard was the oldest printer and newspaper editor in the state, and no person who knew him will dispute the assertion that a more perfect gentleman never lived. Intelligent and well informed upon all subjects of public interest, polite, and agreeable in his manners, with strong predilections for the right, yet never offensive in the utterance of his views, he was a model of courtesy and gentlemanly bearing, and was very justly held in the highest estimation by his fellow citizens down to the very time of his death. . . . Often honored with high official positions, he never betrayed a public trust, nor, in all his life, forfeited his claim to a most unqualified confidence in his integrity of character."

In the centennial history of Tioga county Mr. Warner says of Mr. Leonard:

"Mr. Leonard was held in high estimation by his associates in congress, and even his political opponents, after the strife and turmoil of the campaign were over, bore testimony to his worth and integrity. The lives and labors of such men as Mr. Leonard are those elements which make the choicest treasure of our county. Their influence remains and is felt long after the lives themselves are ended. A century hence the name of Mr. Leonard will be recalled as that of a man who helped to educate and elevate the people of his day and give wise direction to the public affairs of county, state, and nation."

The children of Stephen B. and

Esther Henrietta (Sperry) Leonard were as follows:

1. William Boardman Leonard, born 17 June, 1820, at Owego. Married Louisa D. Bulkley, of Southport, Conn., 6 July, 1847. He died 2 July, 1893, at Owego, and she 11 March, 1900, in Brooklyn.

2. Hermon Camp Leonard, born 31 Jan., 1823, at Owego.

3. George Stephen Leonard, born 9 April, 1827, at Owego. Married Harriet A. Leach, daughter of Caleb Leach, Jr., 15 April, 1856. She died at Owego 1 Jan., 1874, and he 20 March, 1907.

4. Henrietta Leonard, born 20 May, 1830, at Owego. Married Oliver Bulkley 28 June, 1854.

5. Emily Caroline Leonard, born 28 Sept., 1832, at Owego.

6. Washington Irving Leonard, born 12 March, 1835, at Owego. Died at Owego 17 May, 1874.

7. Laura Ann Leonard, born 23 April, 1839, at Owego.

William B. Leonard was from the age of 16 to 21 years a clerk in Hermon Camp's store at Trumansburg and afterward a clerk in the state comptroller's office at Albany. Thence he went to New York city, where after some experience as a salesman he engaged in the dry goods business, which he conducted with various partners for many years and until 1869, when he established a banking house, which he conducted until 1881, when he retired from active business. He was afterward president of the Kings county bank in Brooklyn, of which he was one of the founders. He was one of the founders of the American surety company, president and one of the founders of the Homoeopathic hospital in Brooklyn, and one of the Brooklyn bridge trustees.

One of Mr. Leonard's sons, Rt. Rev. William A. Leonard, Bishop of Ohio, was rector of the Church of the Redeemer in Brooklyn nine years until 1881, when he accepted the rectorate of St. John's Episcopal church at Washington. He has been Bishop of Ohio since 1891.

George S. Leonard lived all his life in Owego. He was engaged several years in the clothing business and later in the insurance business. He held various local offices, among which were town auditor and excise commissioner.

Hermon C. Leonard went early in life to Portland, Oregon, where he became eminently successful in business and where he still lives, one of the city's most prominent citizens.

## JONATHAN PLATT.

The first man named Platt who came to America was Richard Platt, who came from Bovingden, a village near Hertford, England, and settled in 1638 at New Haven, Conn., where he became the owner of 85 acres of land in and around the city. His second son, Isaac Platt, settled at Huntington, L. I. Benoni Platt, a grandson of Isaac Platt, settled at North Castle, Westchester county, N. Y., as early as 1730. He was the father of Capt. Jonathan Platt, who came to the town of Nichols in 1793.

There were three Jonathan Platts. The first was Captain Jonathan Platt, who lived near Bedford, Westchester county, on a farm on the east side of Byrum's lake, which farm is now owned by Richard Harding Davis, the author. He was a member from Westchester county of the Third provincial congress, in 1776, and of the Fourth provincial congress the same year, and was one of the distinguished patriots who constituted the committee of safety at White Plains in 1776.

In 1779 he was a captain in the Fourth New York regiment of infantry in Gen. James Clinton's brigade, which met Sullivan's army at Choconut. This regiment was commanded by lieutenant-colonel Frederick Weissenfels. It was, probably, the knowledge of the country obtained in this march down the Susquehanna valley through Owego that induced him to settle fourteen years later with his family at Nichols, then known as Wappa-senah.

The second Jonathan Platt, who was known as major Platt, was born

at Bedford, N. Y., April 20, 1761. He married Anna Brush. He came with his father to Nichols in 1793. He died there in December, 1824, and his body was buried in the lot on the old Lombsberry farm, near Nichols.

The third Jonathan Platt was only ten years of age when his father and grandfather came to Nichols. He afterward became one of the most prominent business men in Owego.

The children of Jonathan and Anna (Brush) Platt (2) were as follows:

1. Jonathan Platt (3), born 13 Oct., 1783, at Bedford, N. Y. Married Betsy Goodrich, daughter of Eliakim Goodrich. He died 16 Jan., 1857, at Owego and she 22 Nov., 1878.

2. Mary Platt, born 20 May, 1785.

3. Benjamin Platt, born 5 June, 1787.

4. Edward Platt, born 19 Aug., 1789.

5. William Platt, born 29 Oct., 1791, at Bedford. Died at Owego 12 Jan., 1855.

6. Brush Platt, born 6 Aug., 1795.

7. Nehemiah Platt, born 25 July, 1797. Died in 1851.

8. Charlotte Platt, born 25 Jan., 1800. Married Gurdon Hewitt 17 May, 1821. He died 24 Dec., 1871, and she 16 Jan., 1876.

9. Benjamin Platt, born 2 April, 1803.

10. Deborah Platt, born 6 Aug., 1805. Married David Turner. He died 30 April, 1842. She married second Dr. John H. Arnold in 1845. He died at Owego 29 July, 1876. She died 3 Aug., 1885, at the home of her son, Edward C. Turner, at Flint, Mich.

11. Charles Platt, born 11 May, 1808.

12. Sarah Platt, born 9 May, 1811, at Nichols. Married Frederick M. Camp in 1832. Her second husband was Hermon Camp, of Trumansburg, N. Y., to whom she was married 20 Sept., 1848. She died at Trumansburg 23 Jan., 1894.

Major Jonathan Platt (2), with his family and his parents, captain and

Mrs. Jonathan Platt, settled on a farm a mile above the present village of Nichols, where he built a house which he kept as a tavern and in which he lived until his death in 1824. He was sheriff of Tioga county from February, 1810 to February, 1811. He was reappointed in March, 1813, and served until 1815.

His title of major was derived from his service in the New York state militia. In 1797 he was commissioned lieutenant. In 1802 he was promoted to captain in lieutenant-colonel David Pixley's regiment. In 1805 he was commissioned second major in lieutenant colonel Samuel Seymour's regiment, and in 1807 was promoted to first major.

Major Platt's son, Jonathan Platt (3), was ten years of age when the family settled at Nichols. William Platt was two years old. A third son, Nehemiah Platt, was a merchant at Nichols and lived there all his life. He was a prominent and prosperous man of his town. He began the mercantile business there in 1825. He was supervisor of Nichols from 1825 to 1827 and was a state senator from 1841 to 1844. He died March 29, 1851.

Jonathan Platt (3) came to Owego in 1805 and entered Gen. John Laning's store as a clerk. He was afterward for a short time a clerk in judge Gere's store at Ithaca. In 1810 he began a general mercantile business on his own account in a store in the old Laning tavern, known for many years as the "Goodman coffee house," on the north side of Front street, a little east of Court street, where he continued business until 1819. He was for a time thereafter

in company with his brother-in-law, Gen. Ansel Goodrich, and afterward, in 1823, in company with another brother-in-law, Gurdon Hewitt. This partnership lasted only a year. In 1825 he formed another partnership with still another brother-in-law, David Turner, which existed several years.

Mr. Turner began business in Owego about the year 1818, when he purchased Charles Talcott's stock of goods. Mr. Talcott was at that time in business in one of the stores in "Caldwell row."

Platt & Turner became extensive dealers in lumber and grain. They built a double brick store, which stood on the south side of Front street, about half way between Church and Lake streets and opposite where Ahwaga hall now is. When completed one-half of the building was occupied by Gurdon Hewitt and the other half by Platt & Turner. This was the first brick building erected in Owego.

At the time of its construction no other brick building had been built in this part of the state, and doubts were expressed by some people concerning its safety when it should be finished. It was looked upon as a doubtful experiment, for it was believed that the severity of the climate was such that the frosts would heave it from its foundation and that there would be danger of its tumbling down upon its owners' heads. As time passed along and the building continued to stand solid, all became convinced of its stability, and other brick stores were afterward built, but the greater part of the stores were of wood and they were all swept away in the great fire of 1849.

In December, 1825, Platt & Turner bought of Abner Turner for \$250 four or five acres of land two miles north of this village, on which stood a mill and a distillery. There they built the flouring mills known ever since as the "red mills," together with a plaster mill.

The firm of Platt & Turner was dissolved about the year 1835 and James Ely became Mr. Platt's partner. In that year Platt & Ely conducted an iron foundry in company with Ephraim Leach at Leach's mills in the town of Tioga.

Mr. Turner was a son of Abner Turner, who came from New Hampshire in 1791 and was one of the earliest settlers on the Owego creek, north of this village, in the town of Tioga. David Turner lived on the north side of Front street, a little east of William street, in a white house now owned by W. N. Richards. He died there April 30, 1842, aged 48 years. His widow married Dr. John H. Arnold, who died in 1876, and after his death she lived in the same house the rest of her life and until a short time before her death.

William F. Warner says of Mr. Turner.

"Mr. Turner was a man of great energy, but became badly crippled by a wound, on account of which he was for many years before his death unable to transact business. In the years of his retirement from business he became very conspicuous by reason of his white complexion and gray hair, and their contrast with the famous black horse of immense size on which he rode daily. This horse and his master seemed to be inseparable companions, and the writer cannot remember David Turner and his horse as disconnected in any circum-

stance—they almost realized the mythological Thessalian centaur."

After the fire of 1849 Mr. Platt retired permanently from the mercantile business. He was one of the most public spirited men in Owego. He was president of the village in 1834 and one of the village trustees from the organization of the village in 1827 for several years. He was also for several years president of the old bank of Owego.

Mr. Platt lived a few years at "Vesper Cliff," on the west side of the Owego creek in the town of Tioga, near the Main street bridge, which property he purchased in November, 1842, of Horace Frizelle, and which he sold in March, 1854, to Rev. Samuel Hanson Cox, who was pastor of the Owego Presbyterian church in 1855 and 1856. He afterward lived at the northeast corner of Main and Church streets in the house which still stands there. This house was sold in December, 1862, after his death, to Mrs. Emily M. Daniels. Some time before his death he purchased the house and lot in west Front street where Gen. Ansel Goodrich had lived. He tore down the house in 1855 and built in its place the house now owned and occupied by Mrs. A. Chase Thompson. Mr. Platt lived there at the time of his death in 1857 and his widow died there also.

Mr. Platt served in the state militia. In 1815 he was appointed first lieutenant of a company of the Fourth regiment of artillery, in which Dr. Jedediah Fay was captain and Stephen B. Leonard second lieutenant. In 1817 he was appointed quartermaster of the

53d regiment of infantry. He resigned from the service in 1822.

Jonathan Platt married Betsy Goodrich, daughter of Eliakim Goodrich, of the town of Tioga, Aug. 13, 1797. He died at Owego Jan 16, 1857, and she Nov. 22, 1878. The children of Jonathan and Betsy (Goodrich) Platt were as follows:

1. Charlotte Platt, born 7 Aug., 1817, at Owego. Married George Underwood, a lawyer at Auburn, N. Y. He was a graduate of Hamilton college, was a member of assembly in 1850-52, and mayor of Auburn in 1854. He died 25 May, 1859, and she 15 July, 1900.

2. Mary A. Platt, born 17 September, 1819, at Owego. Married Henry Morgan, of Aurora, 3 Sept., 1845. He died 30 Jan., 1887, and she 22 Nov., 1893.

3. Charles Platt, born 19 March, 1822. Married Nancy H. Ely, daughter of Col. Oliver Ely, of Binghamton, 10 May, 1848. He died 18 June, 1869. She married second Frederick E. Platt, Charles Platt's cousin. She died July 16, 1902.

4. George Platt, born 18 April, 1824, at Owego. Died 8 Nov., 1855, at Owego.

5. Frances Sarah Platt, born 24 April, 1831, at Owego. She was unmarried and lived with her mother until her mother's death. She afterward lived with her sister, Mrs. Underwood, in Auburn, where she died 10 June, 1883.

6. Caroline Elizabeth Platt, born 6 June, 1833, at Owego. Married Silas Condit Hay, Sept., 1858. Mr. Hay was a son of Rev. Philip C. Hay, pastor of the Presbyterian church from 1847 to 1855. He was for a few years agent and manager of the United States express company in New York city until January, 1867, when he engaged in the banking business and became an active member of the Stock Exchange. He is now connected with the New York insurance department.

7. Edward Jonathan Platt, born 3 Sept., 1838. Married Emma Antoinette Ketchum. He died at Owego 14 May, 1891.

In his centennial history of Tioga county Wm. F. Warner writes as follows concerning Jonathan Platt.

"He was for many years one of the most thorough and successful business men of the county. A man of great energy, he possessed a boundless humor, which not the vexations, troubles, and ills of life, even when supplemented by the weight of years, could suppress. He was one of the foremost men in adopting and carrying forward the public improvements of his day, and possessed a sterling integrity of character."

Charles Platt, the eldest son of Jonathan Platt, began his business career as teller of the old Bank of Owego, of which his father was the president. In May, 1846, he and his brother, George Platt, formed a partnership in the general mercantile business. Their store was on the south side of Front street, directly opposite Dr. Jedediah Fay's drug store, which stood where the village library now is in the Ahwaga hall block. The partnership was dissolved in May, 1849, and the business was closed. Charles Platt was afterward cashier of the old bank of Tioga, which was organized in 1856. This bank was converted into the National Union bank, of which he was president at the time of his death in 1869. Mr. Platt was president of the village of Owego in 1863 and 1864, and treasurer of Tioga county in 1848-1851.

Henry Morgan was a descendant of James Morgan, who was born in 1607 in Wales.

James Morgan's son was Capt. John

Morgan, born in 1645, whose son was William Morgan<sup>a</sup>, born in 1693.

William Morgan's son was Capt. William Morgan, who was born in 1723 and married Temperance Avery, daughter of Christopher Avery, of Groton, Conn., who was a brother of Samuel Avery, who came to Owego with his family in 1803.

Capt. William Morgan's son, Col. Christopher Morgan, was born in 1747. Col. Morgan's son, also named Christopher Morgan, was born in 1777 at Groton, Conn., and removed in 1800 to Aurora, N. Y., where he died in 1834. He was a merchant and at the time of his death had acquired one of the largest estates in western New York. Henry Morgan, who married Mary A. Platt, of Owego, was his son.

#### WILLIAM PLATT.

William Platt, the fourth son of Jonathan Platt, was born at Bedford, N. Y., and when his father came to Nichols he was only two years old. When a young man he removed to Owego and studied law in John H. Avery's office. He was admitted to the bar in 1814 and began practice in Owego that year.

Mr. Platt married Lesbia Hinchman, daughter of Dr. Joseph Hinchman, of Elmira, in 1814, the same year he began his law practice here. For a few years he was Mr. Avery's law partner. He was for many years agent for the tract of land known as Coxe's Patent. A description of this "patent" or "manor" may be found in "Gay's Gazetteer of Tioga County," published in 1888 at page 24. He was clerk of the town of Owego in 1818 and in 1820 and 1824, inclusive. He

was also a village trustee in 1841. These were the only public offices he ever consented to fill.

Mr. Platt lived in a house on the north side of Front street, west of Lake street, which house stood on ground now occupied by W. L. Hoskins's jewelry store. In 1819 he bought the land on the north side of Main street, where the new graded school building was built in 1907 and built thereon a house which was removed when the property was sold to the village for school purposes. He lived there at the time of his death.

Mr. Platt's law office was at an early day in a small building which stood at the northeast corner of Front and Church streets. When he built his house in Main street he also built an office at the southeast corner of the lot, which office remained there until after his death.

Mr. Platt was an elder of the Presbyterian church many years and until his death. He was a lawyer of marked ability and a man of great worth of character. Wm. F. Warner, in his centennial history, says of him:

"Few men have lived of whom it could be so justly said that 'his was a blameless life—a man without guile.' Mr. Platt was occupied through his business career as agent for the land known as 'Coxe's Manor' or 'Coxe's Patent,' and, as in the case of purchasers from James Pumpelly, the purchasers of lands in that patent had the good fortune of dealing with a man of kind and gentle spirit and unflinching uprightness."

Mr. Platt died Jan. 12, 1855, at Owego. His wife died May 2, 1859, also at Owego.

The children of William and Les-

bia (Hinchman) Platt were as follows:

1. William Hinchman Platt, born 23 Sept., 1815, at Owego. Married Sarah Emily Pumpelly, daughter of William Pumpelly, of Owego, 17 Sept., 1839. She died in New York city 20 Jan., 1856. He married second Mary Elizabeth Pumpelly, daughter of James Pumpelly, of Owego, 24 Feb., 1859. He died 23 Jan., 1883, at Metuchen, N. J., and she also at Metuchen 24 Jan., 1884.

2. Stella Avery Platt, born 3 June, 1818. Married Joseph Kirkland Rugg 28 Feb., 1839. He died 24 Jan., 1857, at Flint, Mich. She married second Frederick Leach, of Owego. She died 16 Aug., 1879, at Owego, and he 14 Feb., 1884, at Morrison, Ill.

3. Frederick Edward Platt, born 2 Sept., 1819, at Owego. Married Adeline E. Huntington daughter of Jared Huntington, of Owego, 4 Sept., 1821. She died 14 Jan., 1873. He married second Nancy (Ely) Platt, widow of his cousin, Charles Platt. He died 22 April, 1906.

4. Edward Platt, born 26 Oct., 1821. Died 18 March, 1823.

5. Susan Catherine Platt, born 3 Jan., 1824. She was married to Isaac Benedict Headley 9 Sept., 1847. He died on St. Thomas Island in the West Indies, 20 Jan., 1854, and she at Owego 27 Feb., 1851.

6. Anna Platt, born 26 Oct., 1826. Died June 24, 1829.

7. Emily Elizabeth Platt, born 28 April, 1829. Married Charles Phillips Skinner, of Massilon, Ohio, 14 Oct., 1852. He died 10 June, 1882, at Owego. Mrs. Skinner is still living in this village.

8. Humphrey Platt, born 8 July, 1831. Died 24 Jan., 1834.

9. Thomas Collier Platt, born 15 July, 1832.

William H. Platt was a graduate of the Owego academy and from Yale college in 1835. From 1836 to 1840 he was engaged in the general mercantile business in Owego. He removed

to New York city in 1810, where he was a commission merchant. From 1875 until his death he held a clerkship in the New York post office.

Joseph K. Rugg studied law in Joseph S. Bosworth's office at Binghamton. He was a mechanic, skilled in the art of carving wood. After his admission to the bar, in 1834, he married the eldest daughter of John A. Collier, of Binghamton. She died a few years after their marriage. He was appointed surrogate of Broome county Feb. 12, 1836, and held that office four years. He married Stella A. Platt in 1839. He was later cashier in a bank at Massilon, Ohio, whence he removed to Flint, Mich., where he practised law and lived until his death.

Frederick E. Platt was for many years in the mercantile business. He opened a general country store at Owego in 1836 when only 17 years of age in company with his brother, William H. Platt. From 1847 to 1851 he was in the commission business in New York city, and from 1851 to 1854 he was bookkeeper in the bank at Massilon, Ohio, of which his brother-in-law, Joseph K. Rugg, was cashier. From 1854 to 1865 he was in the clothing business in Owego. The rest of his life he was engaged in banking, and at the time of his death, in 1906, he was cashier of the Tioga national bank, which position he had held forty-one years.

Isaac B. Headley was a college graduate and was most of his life engaged in the banking business. He came to Owego when 27 years of age, and was from 1837 to 1841 principal of the Owego academy. He died Jan.

20, 1854, in the island of St. Thomas, where he was living for the benefit of his health, aged 44 years. He was a brother of Joel T. Headley, the historian, who was also a teacher at the Owego academy, as well as their sister, Mrs. Irene Headley.

Charles P. Skinner was born Aug. 5, 1827, at Massillon, Ohio. At an early age he became interested with James P. Gay, of Milan, Ohio, in a line of transportation vessels plying the great lakes. He came to Owego in 1859 and engaged with Frederick E. Platt in the clothing business. From 1862 to 1866 he was in partnership with Thomas I. Chatfield in the grocery business. When the extension of the Chenango canal was built to Owego from Binghamton he built a portion of it by contract. Later he engaged in railroad construction at Portland, Oregon, in Canada, and elsewhere. He was cashier of the National Union bank of Owego and had charge of closing its affairs in 1870.

Thomas Collier Platt has attained wider prominence than any other native of Owego. The history of his life has been so fully published in the local histories that a repetition in detail here would be superfluous. When 23 years of age, in 1857, he was elected supervisor of the village of Owego. Less than two years later he was elected clerk of Tioga county. In 1872 he was elected to congress and re-elected in 1874. He was a quarantine commissioner in New York city from 1880 to 1889. He was chosen United States senator in January, 1881, but resigned the office in the following May. In 1897 he was again chosen United States senator, and

was re-elected in 1903 for six years. In 1879 he was appointed agent for the United States express company in New York city, and was later made president and general manager, which position he still holds. As leader of the Republican party of the state of New York for a quarter of a century his reputation has become national and has extended throughout the land.

#### CHARLES AND PRINTICE RANSOM

Charles and Printice Ransom came to Owego in 1830 from Tioga Centre and began a general mercantile business. They were grandsons of Capt. Samuel Ransom, who was killed at the massacre of Wyoming.

Samuel Ransom was born at Ipswich, England, about 1787. He came to South Canaan, Conn., about the year 1756, when he was nineteen years old and married Esther Lawrence on May 6 of that year. After his marriage he is said to have seen service in the French war and was in the campaign at Ticonderoga and Crown Point in 1758 with Capt. Zebulon Butler, of Lyme, Conn. In the summer of 1773 he sold his real estate in Litchfield county and removed to the Wyoming valley.

In August, 1776, he was elected captain of one of two companies ordered to be raised in the town of Westmoreland. He and his son, George Palmer Ransom, with their independent company from Wyoming, joined the continental army at Morristown, N. J. The first time he was under fire after joining the army was Jan. 20, 1777, at Millstone, N. J., and he afterward fought in the battles of Brandywine,

Germantown, and in other engagements.

In June, 1777, he resigned, in order to return to his home and defend it against the British and Indians who were advancing down the valley under Col. John Butler. In the battle at Forty Fort when every captain of the six companies was killed, Capt. Ransom's dead body was found at the front of the line, with a musket shot through the thigh, his head severed from his shoulders, and his whole body scarred with gashes. His name heads the list of killed, engraved on the tablet of the granite monument erected a few years afterward in memory of those who fell in the battle.

Capt. Ransom's widow afterward married Capt. James Bidlack, Sr., and is supposed to have moved back to Norfolk, Conn., and to have died there.

The oldest son of Capt. Samuel Ransom was also named Samuel Ransom and was later known as major Ransom. He was only 14 years old in 1733, when his father moved into the Wyoming valley. Peck's history says that he "was in the battle of Wyoming, had his arm broken by a ball, and escaped by swimming the river and diving when the savages shot at him from the shore." In Wright's "Plymouth Sketches" it is related that in the night of March 10, 1781, when he was twenty-two years old, the house was surrounded by Indians. He took his gun and walked out in the moonlight. An Indian fired, breaking one of his arms. He coolly and deliberately rested his gun against the house, and with his remaining arm fired and

brought down his man. The Indians fled, leaving their dead comrade.

About 1787 Samuel Ransom and his brother, William, bought land on Pipe creek at Tioga Centre. William built a house on the west bank of the creek, about one hundred rods from its mouth, while Samuel settled two miles below Pipe creek, on the bend of the Susquehanna. He built on his land the first tavern and the first school house in the town of Tioga.

Major Samuel Ransom derived his military title from his service in the New York state militia. In 1789 he was appointed ensign in a company of light infantry. In 1792 he was promoted to captain. In 1797 the militia of Tioga county was formed into a brigade and he was promoted to first major. He served until 1802, when he was succeeded by Prince Alden. Major Ransom was drowned in the Susquehanna river by the upsetting of a skiff in the summer of 1807 or 1808.

William Ransom was also known as Major Ransom from his service in the state militia. He was appointed an ensign in a company of light infantry in 1792, and promoted to captain in 1802. In 1808 he was promoted to first major in Lieut.-Col. Asa Camp's regiment. He became a large land owner and shipper of lumber.

William Ransom was born at Canaan, Conn., March 26, 1770. In 1792 he married Rachel Brooks, daughter of James Brooks, at Tioga Centre. He died Jan. 8, 1822, and she May 29, 1857. The children of William and Rachel (Brooks) Ransom were as follows:

1. Ira Ransom, born 1 Dec., 1792, at Tioga Centre. Married Sarah For-

man at Nichols 22 Jan., 1814. He died at Wysox, Pa., 1 June, 1848.

2. Sybil Ransom, born 14 Aug., 1794, at Tioga Centre. Married Henry Light at Smithboro 1 Feb., 1816. Died 15 April, 1877, at Smithboro.

3. David Ransom, born 14 Oct., 1796. Died 9 May, 1827, at Philadelphia, Pa. He was unmarried.

4. Benjamin Ransom, born 26 Sept., 1799, at Tioga Centre. Married Lucy Frost at Tioga Centre 7 July, 1821. Died 18 Jan., 1830, at Tioga Centre.

5. William Ransom, born 9 April, 1801, at Tioga Centre. Married Angeline Martin at Owego 14 Sept., 1831. He died at Tioga Centre 7 Feb., 1883. She died four days afterward, 11 Feb., 1883.

6. Rachel Ransom, born 23 Aug., 1803, at Tioga Centre. Married David Wallis at Tioga Centre 23 Jan., 1823. Died 13 Nov., 1889.

7. Charles Ransom, born 19 Sept., 1805, at Tioga Centre. Married Hope Maria Talcott, daughter of George Lord Talcott, at Owego 2 Oct., 1832. He died 12 Aug., 1860, at Tioga Centre, and she 1 May 1863.

8. Printice Ransom, born 17 Sept., 1807, at Tioga Centre. Married Fanny Thurston, daughter of David Thurston, at Owego 19 Oct., 1830. He died 15 Oct., 1889, at Iowa City, Iowa, and she 18 July, 1902, at Iowa City.

9. Harriet Ransom, born 15 Aug., 1809, at Tioga Centre. Married Asa Guildersleeve, Jackson at Tioga Centre 19 May, 1840. Died 4 June, 1847, at Tioga Centre.

10. Charlotte Ransom, born 13 April, 1811, at Tioga Centre. Died 26 June, 1811.

11. Mary Johnson Ransom, born 24 Nov., 1812, at Tioga Centre. Married Gilbert Strang at Tioga Centre 29 Jan., 1833. Died 9 June, 1872, at Tioga Centre.

When Charles and Printice Ransom began business in Owego in May, 1830 they were aged respectively 24 and 22 years. Having formed a partnership with William A. Ely under

the firm name of Ely & Ransoms they continued the general mercantile business that had been established by James, Daniel, and Wm. A. Ely in a store on the south side of Front street below Lake street. Charles Ransom did not remain long in the firm but withdrew in June, 1830, and the name of the firm was changed to Ely & Ransom. This firm was dissolved April 1, 1833, Charles Ransom having purchased Mr. Ely's interest. C. & P. Ransom continued the business in the same store. Later they removed to the west side of Lake street into a wooden store which stood opposite where the Owego national bank now is. After the fire of 1849, in which their store was burned, they built the brick store on the south side of Front street now occupied by Buckbee, Peterson, Wood & Co., and into which they moved in January, 1851. On the 30th of the following September Charles Ransom who had lived both at Tioga Centre and Owego while in business here, retired from the mercantile business altogether and spent the remainder of his life at Tioga Centre, where he died nine years later.

Upon the dissolution of the firm of C. & P. Ransom, Printice Ransom and his brother-in-law, Col. James S. Thurston, formed a partnership and continued the business under the firm name of P. Ransom & Co., until Dec. 9, 1856.

In November, 1857, Mr. Ransom removed to Iowa City, Iowa, where his son Charles T. Ransom, was practising law. About ten years later he returned east and engaged in the dry goods business in Binghamton, but in

March, 1871, he disposed of his stock of goods and returned to Iowa City, where he lived the rest of his life.

Mr. Ransom held but one public office. He was elected sheriff of Tioga county in 1837 and served three years. He was one of the organizers of the Owego gas company in 1856.

The children of Charles and Hope M. (Talcott) Ransom were as follows:

1. George E. Ransom, born 19 Sept., 1833, at Owego. Died 12 Jan., 1835.

2. Charles Edmund Ransom, born 7 Dec., 1835, at Tioga Centre. Married Georgiana Anderson at Port Deposit, Md., 21 Oct., 1862. He died 30 April, 1877, at Tioga Centre.

3. William Ransom, born 3 July, 1839 died 18 Nov., 1841.

The children of Printice and Fanny (Thurston) Ransom were as follows:

1. Charles Talcott Ransom, born 27 Sept., 1831, at Owego. Married Fanny Sarah Bacon, daughter of George Bacon, at Owego 23 June, 1859. He died 5 April, 1888, at Iowa City, Iowa, and she 8 Jan., 1897, at Washington, D. C.

2. Chester Printice Ransom, born 31 Aug., 1833, at Owego. Died 2 Feb., 1842.

3. Fanny Clarissa Ransom, born 8 April 1837, at Owego. Married James B. Edmonds 6 Dec., 1859, at Iowa City, Iowa. She died 9 Jan., 1864, at Iowa City, and he Dec. 29, 1900, at Washington, D. C.

4. Elizabeth Rachel Ransom, born 26 Sept., 1841, at Owego. Married Thomas Fanning Goodrich at Iowa City, Iowa, 16 Dec., 1861. He died 8 Nov., 1904, at Owego.

5. Mary Neal Ransom, born 30 Nov., 1845, at Owego. Married Helmut George Wullweber 30 May, 1877, at Iowa City, Iowa. He died 4 May, 1879, at Dubuque, Iowa.

ASA H., LYMAN, AND AARON  
TRUMAN.

The first member of the Truman family who came to America was Joseph Truman, who was born in Nottinghamshire, England. The first record of him is at New London, Conn., where in 1666 he was a tanner, conducting two tanneries. He died there in 1697. His eldest son, also named Joseph Truman, was also a tanner. He had two sons, Shem (born in 1760) and David. Capt. Shem Truman was the father of Asa H., Lyman, and Aaron Truman, who settled in the town of Owego.

Capt. Shem Truman was born about 1760 at Sheffield, Mass. He saw some military service both in Massachusetts and New York. He enlisted in the continental army Aug. 20, 1777, for nine months, while living in Massachusetts. He married Abigail Spellman of Sheffield. They removed to Canaan, Conn., where she died in 1785. They had three children as follows:

1. Levi Truman. He died young.
2. Lyman Truman, born in 1783, in Berkshire county, Mass. Married Lucy Barlow, of Candor, in 1809. He died 2 Nov., 1822, in Candor.
3. Aaron Truman, born 27 July, 1785, at Granville, Mass. Married Experience Park, daughter of Capt. Thomas Park, in 1805. He died 13 Jan., 1823, and she 16 May, 1844, at Owego.

The same year in which his wife died Capt. Shem Truman came with his sons to Jefferson county in New York state, where he married Sarah (Barto) Rose and where he lived several years. He removed afterward to Genesee, N. Y., and thence to the

town of Sparta, Livingston county, where his second wife died. His third wife was Lucy Remington. She died in October, 1831.

While living in northern New York he enlisted in the light infantry, and in 1797 was promoted to lieutenant. In 1802 he was promoted to captain. He resigned his commission in 1804.

The children of Shem and Lucy (Remington) Truman were as follows:

1. Asa H. Truman, born 26 Feb., 1793, at Sparta. Married Betsy S. Dean 1 Jan., 1815. He died 6 Feb., 1848, at Owego and she 21 June, 1882.

2. Lucy Truman, born at Sparta. Married Henry Williams, of Newark Valley. She died 25 Feb., 1829.

3. Ann Truman, born at Sparta. Married Charles Kellogg. He removed to Yazoo, Ill.

4. Lovisa Truman, born in 1802. Married Ebenezer Porter.

5. David Truman, born 17 May, 1799. Married Phebe M. Pryne 18 Oct., 1832. He died 18 Dec., 1844.

6. Lydia Truman. Married ——— Scott, of Sparta.

Lyman and Aaron Truman and their half-brother, Asa H. Truman, all settled at Park settlement, in the town of Candor—Aaron in 1804, Lyman in 1806, and Asa H. in 1810.

Asa H. Truman, the youngest of the three, who was 17 years old when he came to Park settlement, taught school there for a time. From 1816 to 1825 he kept a store and tavern at Flemingville. The building stood there until March, 1885, when it was burned. There were two taverns at Flemingville for several years and this one was known as the "lower tavern." In 1825 he came to Owego and began a general mercantile business in a wooden store which stood on the

south side of Front street, nearly opposite Lake street on the ground where Henry Ripley's boot and shoe store now stands. About the year 1840 he took into partnership one of his sons, Edward D. Truman, and his nephew, Stephen S. Truman. The firm was known as A. H. Truman & Co. The partnership existed until Mr. Truman's death, in 1848.

Asa H. Truman lived at the time of his death in a house which stood on the north side of Front street, the third house east of Paige street. After his death his widow lived there until she died, in 1882. After her death the property was purchased by Mrs. J. B. Stanbrough. The house was torn down and the lot on which it stood was added to Mrs. Stanbrough's grounds.

The children of Asa H. and Betsy (Dean) Truman were as follows:

1. Juliett Truman, born 29 Oct., 1815. Married John C. Laning 15 July, 1839. He died 18 May, 1897, at Owego, and she 7 April, 1900.

2. Lucius Truman, born 2 April, 1818, at Flemingville. Married Mary P. Leach, daughter of Caleb Leach, Jr., 11 Aug., 1840. She died at Owego in July, 1862. He married second Mary D. Doumaux, of Charleston, in 1873. He died 26 May, 1890, at Wellsboro, Pa.

3. Edward D. Truman, born 19 May, 1820, at Owego. Married Eleanor M. Soule 10 Nov., 1843. He died 6 June, 1862, at Dixon, Ill.

4. Aaron Truman, born 29 Jan., 1823. Died 14 Oct., 1825.

5. Charles L. Truman, born 24 March, 1825, at Owego. Married Anna Thurston Dexter, daughter of Stephen Dexter, of Exeter, R. I., at Owego 12 July, 1849. He died Sept. 20, 1863.

6. Laura H. Truman, born 4 Sept., 1829. Died 5 Jan., 1832.

7. Aaron Truman, born in 1827  
Died 14 Oct., 1830.

8. William H. Truman, born 2  
March, 1842, at Owego. Married Mary  
Palmer. She died 13 Jan., 1873. He  
married second Sarah Wild, of New  
York city, 21 March, 1877. He died 5  
Sept., 1895, in New York.

Lucius Truman was seven years old  
when his father removed from Flem-  
ingville to Owego. After leaving the  
Owego academy he entered into the  
grocery business with his father in  
Rollin block. In 1840, the year of  
his first marriage, he formed a part-  
nership in the general mercantile busi-  
ness with William P. Stone, who had  
been a clerk in Asa H. Truman's  
store, under the firm name of Truman  
& Stone. Their store occupied the  
ground on the south side of Front  
street where Frank M. Baker & Son's  
hardware store is now and was known  
as the "Empire Store." Charles L.  
Truman was afterward received into  
the partnership and the firm of Tru-  
man, Stone & Co. continued the busi-  
ness until 1851, when it was dissolved.  
Lucius Truman removed to Wellsboro,  
Pa., where he engaged in lumbering  
in company with John R. Bowen.  
When the civil war broke out he en-  
listed and was mustered into the ser-  
vice as first lieutenant of Co. E of the  
First rifles (old Bucktails) on May 15,  
1861. Four years afterward, July 28,  
1865, he was mustered out as quarter-  
master of the 109th regiment of Penn-  
sylvania infantry. Then he resumed  
the lumber business. In 1883 he was  
appointed a United States deputy col-  
lector of internal revenue, and in 1887  
he was elected county auditor. He  
died at Wellsboro May 26, 1890. Lu-  
cius Truman built the house on the

south side of Main street, midway between Paige and Ross streets. The house was afterward for many years owned and occupied by S. S. Truman and later by Chas. C. Thomas, and is now owned by James J. Walker.

Edward D. Truman, who was five years old when the family removed to this village, was a clerk afterward in his father's store. About the year 1840 Asa H. Truman took Edward D. Truman and his nephew, Stephen S. Truman into partnership in the general mercantile business, which partnership continued until the senior Truman's death in February, 1848. Then E. D. & S. S. Truman continued the business until their store was burned in the fire of 1849. They resumed business after the fire in a wooden building which stood on the west side of North avenue. The front of this store was painted in diamonds of different bright colors and the store was called the "Diamond Store." When a brick store was built on the ruins of the Front street store the new store also had a diamond front, similar to that of the North avenue store. E. D. & S. S. Truman occupied the new store until February, 1855, when a new firm composed of E. D. Truman, Gurdon G. Manning, and C. E. Schoonmaker was formed under the firm name of E. D. Truman & Co. The name was changed later to Truman, Manning & Co. In 1857 E. D. Truman sold his interest in the business to his partners and removed to Dixon, Ill., where he died June 6, 1862.

Charles L. Truman entered the volunteer service of the United States as a first lieutenant in the 18th regiment of infantry March 6, 1862. He was

brevetted captain Sept. 19, 1863, for gallant and meritorious service in the battle of Chickamauga. He was killed in battle Sept. 20, 1863.

William H. Truman, who was only six years old when his father died, was employed for several years by the United States express company. For several years previous to his death, in 1895, he had been collector of statistics of domestic receipts at the Produce Exchange in New York city.

#### AARON TRUMAN.

When Aaron Truman came in 1804 from the town of Sparta to Owego he came to teach school. The next year he married Capt. Thos. Park's daughter. Their children were as follows:

1. Lyman Park Truman, born 2 March, 1806, at Park settlement. Married Emily M. Goodrich, daughter of Aner Goodrich, of Goodrich settlement, 10 Jan., 1838. He died 24 March, 1881, at Owego, and she 9 April, 1896.

2. Charles E. Truman, born 11 Nov., 1807. Married Harriet Webster 26 May, 1836. He died 21 July, 1897, at Flemingville, and she 21 Oct., 1887.

3. Dorinda M. Truman, born 24 Feb., 1809. Married John Gorman 7 Sept., 1841. He was captain of Co. C, 109th regiment, N. Y. Vols., in the civil war and was killed in the battle of Cold Harbor, Va., 31 May, 1864. She died 12 Sept., 1895, at Owego.

4. Orin Truman, born 17 Feb., 1811. Died 30 Sept., 1885, at Owego. Unmarried.

5. Francis W. Truman, born 13 Dec., 1812. Died 20 Jan., 1893. Unmarried.

6. Charlotte Truman, born 12 Sept., 1814.. Died 20 Sept., 1815.

7. George Truman, born 16 June, 1816, at Owego. Married Eunice A. Goodrich, daughter of Erastus Goodrich 19 Nov., 1842. He died 14 Feb., 1907, at Owego, and she 6 Oct., 1897.

8. Fanny Truman, born 1 April, 1818. Married to David L. Goodrich 13 July, 1841. He died 3 July, 1896, at Owego, and she 10 Jan., 1892.

9. Mary E. Truman, born 18 June, 1820. Married to Alfred Dodge 9 Jan., 1859. He died 13 March, 1900, and she 3 Oct., 1907.

10. Adeline Truman, born 17 June, 1822. Died 13 Feb., 1823.

#### LYMAN PARK TRUMAN.

When Aaron Truman died, in 1823, his eldest son, Lyman P. Truman, was 17 years of age, Aaron Truman's farm of sixty acres was so encumbered as to almost preclude any possibility of retaining it. With the remarkable energy which characterised him through life Lyman P. Truman set himself resolutely at work and through hard labor and the greatest economy he finally liquidated every claim against the farm. He confined his attention almost exclusively to raising potatoes which he shipped down the river in arks, and it was from this product that he realized, during his management of the farm, a sum sufficient to pay all debts and leave a handsome balance with which to begin a mercantile business.

In 1830 he came to Owego and entered the general country store of his uncle, Asa H. Truman, as a clerk, to learn the mercantile business. Three years later he formed a partnership with John M. Greenleaf and began a general mercantile business in a store which stood on the east side of lake street on ground now occupied by the Owego national bank building. This partnership continued three years.

Having established himself securely in business here he brought three of his brothers, Orin, Francis, and George

Truman, to Owego and in May, 1837, established the firm of L. Truman & Brothers, which existed nearly thirty years. The brothers conducted an extensive mercantile and lumber business. In 1839 Lyman P. Truman purchased the ground on the south side of Front street where Wicks & Leahy's shoe store now stands, the third store west of Lake street, where he built a wooden store, into which the firm removed its stock of goods from Lake street. When the store was burned in the fire of 1849 it was immediately replaced with the present brick store, where the brothers continued the mercantile business until 1865. In 1852 Lyman Truman and Gurdon Hewitt, Jr., made large investments in lands in the state of Illinois, from the sale of which they made a large amount of money.

Mr. Truman was active in public life. He held various town offices—constable, commissioner of highways, etc., and was supervisor in 1849 and 1857. He was a village trustee in 1835. In 1857 he was elected state senator and was re-elected in 1859 and 1861.

After the great fire of 1849, which swept away all the stores in Front and Lake streets, there was a great depression in the business community. Many of the insurance companies failed and the loss to many property owners was a total one. Mr. Truman was one of the most active men in rebuilding the business portion of the village. It was largely through his efforts that the Abwaga house was built. In recognition of his public spirit and enterprise a dinner was given in his honor at that hotel in the

evening of July 6, 1852, at which many of the prominent citizens and their wives were present, on which occasion a silver pitcher was presented to him. Mr. Truman was president of the old bank of Owego and of its successor, the First national bank of Owego from 1856 until his death.

While his brothers went into mercantile life in Owego, Charles E. Truman remained on the farm all his life. He served twenty-eight years as a justice of the peace and was also for many years and until his death postmaster at Flemingville.

Before coming to Owego Orin Truman taught school. From May, 1880, until his death he was cashier of the First national bank.

George Truman after the dissolution of the firm of L. Truman & Brothers continued the mercantile business in company with his son-in-law, A. Chase Thompson, until January 1873, when he retired from the dry goods trade. He succeeded his brother, Lyman P. Truman, as president of the First national bank in 1881 and held the position until his death. He was a trustee of the state hospital at Binghamton from June, 1880, to March, 1892.

#### LYMAN TRUMAN.

Lyman Truman was 21 years of age when his father, Shem Truman, settled at Park settlement. He married Lucy Barlow, of Candor, in 1809. He was a farmer all his life. He saw some military service, as did also nearly all the able-bodied men of his day, having been commissioned first lieutenant in the Sixteenth New York

regiment of artillery. He died Nov. 2, 1822.

The following were the children of Lyman and Lucy (Barlow) Truman:

1. John L. Truman.
2. Levi B. Truman, born 11 Sept., 1809, in Candor, N. Y. Married Louisa Lawrence 23 Oct., 1834. He died 21 May, 1879, and she 20 Oct., 1881.
3. James Truman.
4. Stephen S. Truman, born 28 April, 1816, in Candor. Married Cordelia Belknap 2 Nov., 1843. He died 25 April, 1895, at Auburn, Cal., and she 29 June, 1902, at Salt Lake City, Utah.
5. Sybil Truman, born 23 Nov., 1812, in Candor, N. Y. Married William P. Stone 5 Nov., 1836. He died June 28, 1890, at Owego, and she 4 Aug., 1900.
6. Eliza Truman, born 30 April, 1818. Married Frank R. Weed, of Flemingville, 15 Aug., 1844. She died 6 Sept., 1864. He married second Lucy Truman, daughter of Levi B. Truman, 6 June, 1867. He died 1 April, 1882.
7. Benjamin L. Truman, born 23 June, 1822, in Candor. Married Maria Dean 15 Nov., 1852. She died 30 May, 1882. He married second Susan Sophronia Long 28 Feb., 1884. He is the only survivor of the family and is still living at Owego.

Stephen S. Truman, William P. Stone, and Benjamin L. Truman were all Owego merchants. Stephen S. Truman left his father's farm in 1837, the year following the setting off of Chemung county from Tioga, and worked in the Tioga county clerk's office copying the records of lands lying in Chemung county for use in that county, in company with Wm. P. Stone, Dr. John Frank, and others. He was afterward a clerk in Henry Camp's store, and later in Gen. John Laning's store. In 1840 he went into partnership with his uncle, Asa H. Truman and Asa's son, Edward D.

Truman, in the mercantile business. Particulars of this partnership have already been given in these articles. In February, 1855, he retired from the firm and opened a dry goods and grocery store in T. P. Patch's block, which stood on the west side of Lake street on the ground now occupied by the L. N. Chamberlain block.

William P. Stone was born at Stillwater, Saratoga county, N. Y., June 26, 1810. In 1817 his father, Luther Stone, came to Tioga county with his wife and seven children and lived in a log house on Colonel David Fleming's farm at Flemingville. In 1823 they settled on a farm at Park settlement. In 1830 he left the farm to travel about the country selling clocks, which were manufactured at a factory which stood on the east bank of the Owego creek, about two miles north of this village. In 1834 he began a general mercantile business in Owego with Sheldon Osborne in a wooden store which stood east of the bridge in Front street on the ground where Truman & Jones's produce store now stands. They were unsuccessful in the business. In 1837, after having finished his work for about a year copying the records of Chemung county lands in the Tioga county clerk's office, he entered his uncle, Asa H. Truman's, store as a clerk. In 1839 he went into the general mercantile business in company with Lucius Truman. The firm of Truman & Stone occupied a store which stood on the south side of Front street on the ground where Frank M. Baker & Son's hardware store now stands. Their store was known as "The Empire Store." Charles L. Truman was

afterward received into the partnership. Later Mr. Stone purchased his partner's interest in the business which he transferred to his nephew, Ezra S. Buckbee. The firm of Stone & Co. was subsequently composed of Messrs. Stone, Buckbee, Stephen S. Truman, and Benjamin L. Truman and occupied the block of two stores opposite Ahwaga hall, then known as the Empire block. When the block was burned in March, 1860, the firm occupied the store now occupied by Buckbee, Peterson, Wood & Co. The Trumans had withdrawn from the firm Feb. 1, 1860, and Stone & Buckbee continued in business until 1874 when Mr. Stone sold his interest in the store and retired from active business.

Upon their withdrawal from the firm of Stone & Co., S. S. and B. L. Truman formed a new partnership and began the mercantile business in the store now occupied by Henry C. Ripley as a shoe store. In 1868 B. L. Truman retired from the firm and S. S. Truman and his son, John B. Truman, continued in the business three years. In 1876 S. S. Truman removed to Nevada and thence in 1880 to Auburn, Cal., where he died April 25, 1895.

Benjamin L. Truman in March, 1855, formed a partnership in the dry goods business with Gurdon G. Manning, who had been a clerk in Stone & Co.'s store, and C. E. Schoonmaker, who had been a clerk in E. D. & S. S. Truman's store, and E. D. Truman under the firm name of E. D. Truman & Co. Three years later this partnership was dissolved. From 1878 to

1900 he conducted a grocery business in Front street.

#### DR. GODFREY WALDO.

One of the early physicians at Owego was Dr. Godfrey Waldo, who came here from Plymouth, N. H., in the summer of 1810, and who lived here 29 years. He was a descendant of Cornelius Waldo, who came from the Netherlands to America in 1634 and settled at Chelmsford, Mass. His father was Daniel Waldo, who was born in 1737 and died in 1792, and who was a man of no particular account, an itinerant, living in various places.

Dr. Godfrey Waldo was born June 10, 1773, at Pomfret, Conn. He married Elizabeth Carpenter Jan. 3, 1805. She was born May 6, 1783, at Portsmouth, N. H. They removed to Owego five years after their marriage. They lived in the little red house which stood at the northeast corner of Front and Church streets. The house was occupied several years afterward by Luther Johnson, an eccentric negro barber and fiddler, as a barber shop.

Dr. Waldo did not practise medicine much, but was engaged in other business the nature of which is not known now. He was unsuccessful and was advertised as an insolvent debtor in October, 1811, and again in March, 1826. In 1839 he removed to Birmingham, Mich., where one of his sons, Charles C. Waldo, had settled. Thence he removed in 1845 to Pontiac, Mich., where he died Sept. 16, 1848. Mrs. Waldo was 93 years of age at the time of her death at Holly, Mich., March 18, 1877. Dr. and Mrs. Waldo were the parents of thirteen children, the only survivors of whom at the time of

her death was a son, C. C. Waldo, and a daughter living in Nebraska.

#### JOHN CARMICHAEL.

One of the first men to engage in the jewelry business in Owego was John Carmichael, who was of Scotch descent, and was born Aug. 12, 1795, at Johnstown, N. Y. He began an apprenticeship at the trade of a watch-maker at Albany when he was sixteen years of age. He came to Owego in October, 1819 and opened a jewelry store and repair shop in one of the wooden stores in Caldwell row in Front street. In 1835 he built a store on the ground where the Tioga national bank now stands, where he conducted a successful jewelry business until his store was burned in the September, 1849, fire. As he was in poor health at this time he did not resume business.

Mr. Carmichael was lame many years previous to his death and was compelled to walk with a crutch. He was the first collector of taxes of Owego from the time of its incorporation as a village in 1827 until 1834, inclusive. He was also for several years a village assessor, and was treasurer of Tioga county in 1837.

Mr. Carmichael's first wife was Maria Mack, daughter of judge Stephen Mack, whom he married Dec. 25, 1824. She died Sept. 22, 1829. He married second Harriet Ely, daughter of Dr. Elisha Ely, June 10, 1835. She was born Sept. 11, 1794, at Saybrook, Conn., and died Sept. 1, 1881, at Owego. Mr. Carmichael died April 24, 1878, at Owego.

The children of John and Maria J. (Mack) Carmichael were as follows:

1. Charles Stephen Carmichael, born 22 Jan., 1826, at Owego. Married Margaret Camp, daughter of Adolphus Camp, 23 Sept., 1863. He died 12 June, 1893, at Owego, and she 15 Nov., 1907, at Binghamton.

2. Horace Mack Carmichael, born 8 Feb., 1829, at Owego. Died 24 Sept. 1866. He was unmarried.

Both Charles and Horace Carmichael learned the watchmaker's trade in their father's shop and after the fire of 1849 continued the business in a wooden store which their father built on the west side of Lake street, the fourth store north of Front street. They sold the business in the fall of 1852 to Horatio N. Greene. In Nov., 1854, Mr. Greene sold the business to the Carmichael brothers and removed to Mansfield, Ohio. C. S. & H. M. Carmichael continued the business several years. In April, 1864, C. S. Carmichael purchased a spoke, sash, and blind manufactory in Adaline street which he conducted six years. In 1876 he built on the site of his jewelry store the three-story brick block now occupied by A. W. Bumzey and Cuneo & Bonugli.

#### JOHN RIPLEY.

John Ripley was born March 17, 1792, at Coventry, Tolland county, Conn. He was, probably, the descendant of William Ripley, who came to Hingham, Mass., in 1683 from England with his wife, two sons, and two daughters. Many of the descendants of William Ripley settled in Tolland county.

After coming to Owego John Ripley was a clerk in Charles Pumpelly's store. From 1823 to 1832 he was under-sheriff of Tioga county and lived in the old court house, which

stood at the southeast corner of Main and Park streets. He was the first occupant of the building. The second story of this building was the court room, in which gospel services were held on Sunday and performances sometimes given in the evening of other days in the week, when court was not in session. On the lower floor was the jail, the jailor's living rooms, the sheriff's office, and two jury rooms. Mr. Ripley's son and one of his daughters were born in this building.

Mr. Ripley was a man of great force of character, determined, and one who carried out any undertaking fearlessly and regardless of any consequences to himself. It is related that at one time while deputy sheriff he pursued a criminal into Canada in the winter and without going through the formality of obtaining extradition papers, seized the fellow by main force, loaded him into his cutter, and drove back into this state and eventually lodged his prisoner in Owego jail.

Mr. Ripley held the offices of constable, town collector, and assessor. He was elected a justice of the peace in 1853 and held the office by re-election until his death, with the exception of one year (1858.)

After leaving the court house he lived in a small red house owned by Charles Pumpelly, which stood on the south side of Main street close to the sidewalk at the northeast corner of the lot on which Charles P. Storrs's residence stands, near the foot of Spencer avenue. There he lived at the time of his death, Jan. 2, 1860.

Mr. Ripley married Diana Westfall, of Warren Pa., Feb. 4, 1817. She was

born in Orange county, N. Y., May 23, 1796, and died at Owego Dec. 29, 1868.

The children of John and Diana (Westfall) Ripley were as follows:

1. Eliza Smith Ripley, born 24 April, 1818, at Owego. Married Ebenezer Woodbridge, of Candor, 20 Sept., 1840. He died in 1896 at Lee Centre, Ill. Mrs. Woodbridge is still living at Dixon, Ill.

2. Sarah Pierce Ripley, born 11 Sept., 1820, at Owego. Died 15 June, 1894, at Owego.

3. Charles Pomeroy Ripley, born 28 Dec., 1823, at Owego. Married Sarah Merrick in Kentucky in 1849. He died 31 Dec., 1863, at Sterling, Ill., and she 27 Nov., 1907.

4. Frances Clarissa Ripley, born 23 Aug., 1827, at Owego. Married Ezra S. Buckbee 16 Oct., 1849, at Owego. He died 10 Aug., 1883. Mrs. Buckbee is still living in Owego.

#### EZRA S. SWEET.

Ezra Smith Sweet, for many years a prominent member of the bar of Tioga county, came to Owego in 1825. He was a grandson of Silas Sweet, who was born in 1745 and who lived at New Bedford, Mass., where he worked as a blacksmith, forging anchors for whaling and other vessels, from 1770 to 1800, when he removed to Bradford, Vt., where he purchased a farm and where he lived the rest of his life. He was a soldier in Captain Thomas Sawyer's company of Vermont militia, raised for the defence of the northern frontier of the United States. He entered the service June 20, 1779, and was discharged Aug. 20, 1779. He died at Bradford, Vt., Nov. 25, 1822.

Silas Sweet had four children, one of whom, Paul Sweet, was the father of Ezra S. Sweet. Paul Sweet was born at New Bedford April 1, 1775.

He was a merchant and held the office of justice of the peace. His first wife was Rebecca Chadwick, whom he married Sept. 11, 1794, and his second wife was Sarah Ford. Paul and Rebecca (Chadwick) Sweet were the parents of seven children, of whom Ezra S. Sweet was the oldest.

Ezra S. Sweet was born, June 3, 1796, at New Bedford. His parents removed to Bradford, Vt., where his father died April 27, 1815, when Ezra S. Sweet was nearly 19 years old. Ezra S. Sweet was a school teacher a few years. In 1819 he married Janet McLaren Clow, daughter of Peter Clow, at Schaghticoke, N. Y., and soon afterward removed to Salem, N. Y., where he studied law.

In December, 1825, after his admission to the bar, he came to Owego. He began law practice here in partnership with William Platt. In 1832, his business connection with Mr. Platt having been dissolved, he formed a law partnership with Col. Nathaniel W. Davis, which existed about nine years. He afterward practised law alone until his eldest son, Charles H. Sweet, was admitted to the bar in July, 1850. The partnership of the father and son continued until the breaking out of the civil war, when Chas. H. Sweet enlisted in the federal service. Ezra S. Sweet continued the practice of law until his death, Oct. 16, 1869.

Mr. Sweet was a leading member of the old Whig party and was active in political affairs. He was the first clerk of the board of village trustees from its organization in 1827 until 1832. He was district attorney of Tioga county from July, 1838, to June, 1841, and from 1847 to 1851. He was

a member of assembly in 1849. He was later nominated to congress by the Whigs and defeated. He was twice nominated for county judge and in each instance defeated, first by the Whigs, in 1851, and second by the Democrats in 1863. He held the office of justice of the peace several years.

Esquire Sweet (as he was generally known) was noted among the lawyers for many years as the best after-dinner speaker and stump orator in Owego. For a long and sustained effort he was not remarkable, but for a short speech, pithy, eloquent sententious, and sometimes sarcastic, such as he was often called upon to make at a public reception, a political gathering, or a banquet, his sparkling wit and brilliant phrases charmed his hearers. William F. Warner, who knew him well as a fellow member of the bar, mentions him in his centennial history, as follows:

"He possessed many fine qualities as a jury lawyer. He was brilliant, witty, sarcastic, and full of anecdote. Jurymen were not apt to doze, nor even become inattentive, while Ezra Sweet claimed attention. Like judge Strong, he had as a lawyer more success with a jury than at the bar. As a political speaker he was very popular for many years."

The children of Ezra S. and Janet (Clow) Sweet were as follows:

1. Maria Sweet, born Nov., 1820. Died Aug., 1821.

2. Maria Louise Sweet, born 5 March, 1822, at Salem, N. Y. Married Ben. Johnson 31 Oct., 1843. He died 19 Aug., 1863, at Vicksburg, Miss. She married second Gen. Henry Martyn Whittelsey 12 July, 1866. He died 8 Aug., 1873, at Washington and she also at Washington 14 April, 1878.

3. Charles Henry Sweet, born 16<sup>th</sup> Feb., 1826, in Saratoga county, N. Y. He married first Rosalia Laura Barnes, daughter of Charles R. Barnes, of Owego. She died 9 May, 1857, at Owego. He married second Francelia E. Hubbard, daughter of Henry N. Hubbard, of Owego, 29 Sept., 1859. She is now living at Albany. He died 29 Feb., 1892, at Owego.

4. Harriet Elizabeth Sweet, born 12 Jan., 1829, at Owego. Married Edward Hamilton Truex 9 Nov., 1853, at Owego. She died in New York city 17 Nov., 1893.

5. Paul Sweet, born 1 May, 1831, at Owego. He was a civil engineer. He died in Texas 17 May, 1881.

6. Mary Delphine Sweet, born 30 Jan., 1841, at Owego. Married Linus Edwin Post, of Owego, 8 Feb., 1871.

Ben. Johnson was a son of Haynes Johnson and was born at Enfield, New Hampshire, March 25, 1809, and was reared from the age of nine years in the family of his uncle, also named Ben Johnson, a prominent lawyer at Ithaca, N. Y. He was graduated from Union college in 1830. He studied law with his uncle at Ithaca and after his admission to the bar lived at Vicksburg, Miss., where he practised law twenty years. In 1820 he sold his residence and slaves, retired from practice, and travelled in Europe in 1850, coming later to Owego. During the civil war in 1862 he was employed by the United States government in aid of the revenue department on the Mississippi river, and was a short time before his death appointed postmaster at Vicksburg by president Lincoln. He died at Vicksburg Aug. 19, 1863.

Gen. Henry M. Whittlesey was born Aug. 12, 1821. He was a son of Rev. Samuel Whittelsey, of New Preston,

Conn., who in 1817 took charge of the deaf and dumb asylum at Hartford, Conn. Later he and his wife conducted large seminaries at Utica and Canandaigua, N. Y. Gen. Whittelsy was educated at Yale college and was admitted to the bar in 1845. He removed to Detroit, Mich., in 1851. He entered the volunteer military service of the United States as a captain in the civil war and rose to be chief quartermaster of the army of Georgia with the rank of colonel in August, 1865. He was chief quartermaster of the department of Mississippi in September, 1866, and was mustered out with the rank of brigadier general by brevet July 17, 1869. He was appointed comptroller of the city of Washington in 1870. He died at St. Elizabeth hospital, near Washington, April 11, 1878.

Charles H. Sweet was admitted to the bar of Tioga county Feb. 10, 1850. He practised law in company with his father until the breaking out of the civil war when he enlisted and was quartermaster's clerk under Capt. Ransom of the regular army. After his discharge from the army he conducted the business of a planing mill in Owego a few years, going later to Elmira where he was in the service of the Erie railway company in the company's offices for more than seventeen years.

Edward H. Truex was a son of David Campbell Truex, of Albany, and a great grandson of Isaac Jacob Truex, a Huguenot, who was born at Drueux, France, and who came to America with his parents in the ship "Anna" in 1623. He came to Owego in 1851 and opened a drug store in the store at the west end of the Ahwaga house

block. He sold the business in October, 1854, to Thomas C. Platt and removed to New York, where he for many years conducted a wholesale drug business and where he died.

NATHANIEL AND CALEB H.  
SACKETT.

Two of the early settlers at Owego and who afterward removed to the town of Candor were Nathaniel and Caleb H. Sackett, twin brothers, who came here from Westchester county, N. Y., in 1793.

They were descendants of Simon Sackett, who sailed in the ship, "Lyon" Dec. 1, 1630, from Bristol, England, and settled at Boston, Mass. The descendants of Simon Sackett in consecutive order were Simon Sackett, Jr., Capt. Joseph Sackett, Rev. Richard Sackett, Nathaniel Sackett, and Col. Richard Sackett.

Col. Richard Sackett, who was the father of Nathaniel and Caleb H. Sackett, lived in the town of Bedford, Westchester County, N. Y., and afterward in New York city. He was a commissioned officer in the war of the revolution, serving almost continuously from the beginning to the end of the seven years struggle for independence. In May, 1776, he was commissioned first lieutenant of grenadiers in the Second Midland regiment, and two years later was promoted to captain. He was captured by the British in a road which is now within the limits of New York city and imprisoned several months. Immediately after the disbandment of the continental army he was commissioned lieutenant-colonel commandant of the Westchester county regiment of mili-

tia and served until 1792, when he removed to New York city and resigned his commission. The next year he purchased a tract of land at Owego and settled his son, Nathaniel Sackett, on it.

Col. Richard Sackett was taken ill and died in 1799, while on a visit to his real estate here and his body was buried in the old burying ground at the southeast corner of Main and Court streets.

There were two Richard Sacketts who purchased land in Tioga county. The second Richard Sackett was born in Westchester county June 7, 1751. He was a son of Joseph Sackett and grandson of Rev. Richard Sackett, who was the grandfather of Col. Richard Sackett. The second Richard Sackett was a man of wealth, who removed in the summer of 1793 from the town of Bedford to the western part of the town of Nichols, where he had purchased of Robert Lettis Hooper, the original patentee, a square mile of land for £808. Some account of this Richard Sackett may be found in Gay's "Gazetteer of Tioga County," published in 1888, on page 274. He died in 1827.

Col. Richard Sackett married Rachel Holmes. Their children were as follows:

1. Nathaniel Sackett, born 9 April, 1770. Married Sarah Warren 21 Jan., 1796. He died 7 Nov., 1817, at Catoonk, N. Y.

2. Col. Caleb H. Sackett, born 9 April, 1770. Married Jane McMaster, daughter of James McMaster, the first settler here and the original owner by purchase from the Indians of all the land on which the village of Owego is situated.

3. Betsy Sackett. Married William Holmes.

4. Polly Sackett.

Richard Sackett left a will in which he bequeathed to his wife, in trust, one-third of his estate and to his two sons the other two-thirds. At her death her third was to become the property of the two sons. Small amounts were left in trust to the two daughters.

In August, 1798, Nathaniel Sackett purchased of James McMaster, Jr., lot No. 21 on the east bank of the Owego creek in the north western part of the town of Owego, near the Newark Valley town line, containing 100 acres, together with the village lot on what is now the southwest corner of Main and Church streets, extending one-half the distance south to Front street and one-half the distance west to Lake street. The south half of this lot was owned by Luke Bates, who had a tavern on the Front street end, which Bates sold in 1803 to Chas. Pumpelly and George Stevens.

In 1799 Nathaniel Sackett purchased of James McMaster 100 acres of land for \$2,450 in the western part of this village, bounded south by the Susquehanna river and west by the Owego creek. The north line of this land was at a point a short distance south of where the Erie railroad now crosses the creek and extended easterly and diagonally across Main street to a point about one-half way between Park and Academy streets on the Susquehanna river. This was known on the original town map as Lot No. 1. The eastern portion of this property was afterward laid out into village lots. As early as September, 1804,

that portion of it which is now bounded south by the Susquehanna river, west by William street, north by Main street, and east by Academy street was laid out into village lots, with the exception of a strip on the Main street end on which Col. David Pixley afterward lived.

Nathaniel Sackett lived at Owego until 1803, when he removed to Cattonk, where he built a saw mill and conducted a tannery. He became one of the influential men of the town of Candor. At the first town meeting in March, 1811, he was elected a commissioner of highways. He was the second supervisor elected in the town after its organization, serving from 1812 to 1817. He was one of the first commissioners of schools in 1813.

Col. Caleb H. Sackett purchased land at what is now Candor village. It is noted in one of the local histories that "after the disastrous fire which swept the settlement [Candor] in 1813, Caleb Sackett erected a grist mill." He also built a saw mill at about this time and kept a tavern. It was on this farm that the body of his father-in-law, James McMaster, was buried. About the year 1832 he removed to the town of Ward, Allegany county, N. Y., where he was a farmer and where he died. His wife died at Almond, N. Y.

The twin brothers, Nathaniel and Col. Caleb H. Sackett were both soldiers in Lieut.-Col. Jacob Swartwood's regiment of infantry in brigadier-general Coe's Tioga and Broome brigade. Nathaniel Sackett was appointed quartermaster April 27, 1810. Caleb H. Sackett's name also appears in the military records as paymaster.

of the same regiment the same year. In 1817 he was adjutant in the 95th regiment. In 1820 he was promoted to major of the same regiment and in 1821 to lieutenant-colonel of a new regiment of infantry, which was that year formed from a part of the 95th regiment and denominated the 199th regiment.

The children of Nathaniel and Sarah (Warren) Sackett were as follows:

1. Capt. Richard H. Sackett, born 5 Dec., 1796, at Owego. Married Eunice Hollister. He died 15 Aug., 1876, at Owego.

2. Polly Sackett, born 8 Jan., 1799. Died 19 Feb., 1799.

3. Betsy Bush Sackett, born 1 April, 1800, at Owego. Married William Walter Hunt, of Camden, N. J., 10 Sept., 1818. She died 7 Oct., 1885.

4. William H. Sackett, born 29 Sept., 1802, at Owego. Married first Pluma Woodford, daughter of Ozias Woodford, 1 Nov., 1827. He married second Mary Jane Payne Clark, of Newark, N. J., 18 April, 1867. He died 30 May, 1878.

5. Nathaniel Lord Sackett, born 15 Oct., 1804, at Catatonk. Married Lucy Smith in 1828. He died 22 July, 1855.

6. Polly Teresa Sackett, born 24 Aug., 1807. Married James Clark, of Ithaca, N. Y. She died 2 Aug., 1848.

7. John James Sackett, born 10 Nov. 1809, at Catatonk. Married first Adelaide Stanley. He married second Fanny B. Talcott, daughter of George Lord Talcott, of Owego, 6 Sept., 1836. He died 9 Dec., 1879, at Candor, and she 7 Dec., 1863.

8. Sarah Warren Sackett, born 14 April, 1812. Married Ira Keeler, of Candor, 11 Feb., 1836. She died 9 March, 1886.

9. Susan Mead Sackett, born 5 Feb., 1815. Married Elias Richardson, of West Newark. He died 10 Sept., 1892, at McGrawville, N. Y., and she 4 May, 1874, at Ottawa, Ill.

10. Rachel H. Sackett, born 23 Oct., 1817. Married Robert E. Joslin, of Candor, November, 1841. She died 17 Oct., 1882.

Elias Richardson was born at Attleboro, Mass., March 3, 1802, and came to West Newark in 1819. He removed in 1855 to Ottawa, Ill., where he bought and sold grain and cattle. In 1880 he returned to this state and lived with his daughter, Miss Adell Richardson, at McGrawville, N. Y., until his death. He was a justice of the peace of the town of Newark Valley continuously for twenty-four years and until his removal from West Newark in 1855.

In 1818, when Richard H. Sackett was about 21 years of age, he was appointed quartermaster of the 95th regiment of New York state infantry, of which his uncle, Caleb H. Sackett, was adjutant, and in 1821, when the 199th regiment was formed from a part of the 95th regiment, and which his uncle commanded as lieutenant-colonel, he was made adjutant. Mr. Sackett and his sons, Charles R. and Samuel H. Sackett, conducted the Catatonk tannery under the firm name of Richard H. Sackett & Sons for many years and until it was purchased by G. Truman & Co. in 1864.

Richard H. Sackett and his brother, John J. Sackett, built and conducted for many years a woollen mill at Candor, where John J. Sackett also kept a general store for a long time. John J. Sackett was sheriff of Tioga county in 1846. He died at Candor.

Richard H. Sackett removed to Owego in 1864 and purchased the house built by Henry L. Bean on the south side of Front street, opposite Ross street, now owned by Fayette S. Curtis, and he died there in 1876.

## LATHAM A. BURROWS.

Latham A. Burrows, who was for several years a leading citizen of the village of Owego, was a son of Rev. Roswell Burrows and was born Aug. 30, 1782, at Groton, Conn.

The first member of the Burrows family in America of whom there is any record was Robert Burrows, who was at Wethersfield, Conn., in 1641, and afterward at New London. His son, John Burrows, had a son also named John Burrows. A son of the last named John Burrows was Rev. Silas Burrows, who was pastor of the Second Baptist church at Groton, Conn., where he labored sixty-three years and where he died in 1818.

Rev. Roswell Burrows, son of Rev. Silas Burrows, was born at Groton Sept. 2, 1768. At the age of 17 he joined the Second Baptist church of Groton. At 38 years of age he was ordained to the ministry. He soon afterward made a missionary tour through western New York, travelling on horse-back about 1,300 miles and finding what is now Buffalo, where there was not then a soul professing religion of any name. He preached afterward at Preston, Conn., and Rocky Point, R. I., and later succeeded his father at Groton, Conn., in 1818, as pastor of the Second Baptist church. His wife was Jerusha Avery, daughter of Latham Avery. She died Nov. 3, 1838. In her reminiscences, published not long since in the *Gazette*, Mrs. Harriet G. Tinkham mentions Mr. Burrows as the first Baptist minister she remembered ever hearing preach in Owego.

Latham A. Burrows served for a time as an officer in the war of 1812-13.

He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1816. He married Sarah Lester, daughter of Christopher Lester, of Groton, in November, 1816. She died Nov. 11, 1869, in Buffalo.

In 1819, judge Burrows came to Owego. From Feb. 14, 1821, to Jan. 1, 1822, he was county clerk of Broome county, which county included Owego and other towns now in Tioga county from 1806 until 1822. From 1824 to 1827, inclusive, he was an associate judge of Tioga county. In 1827 he was elected first judge of the court of common pleas, and he was the first professional lawyer who sat on the common pleas bench in this county. He was the representative of the sixth district in the state senate from 1824 to 1828.

In December, 1828, judge Burrows engaged in the general mercantile business. His store was in the old Laning tavern, which had been occupied by Col. Amos Martin. His store was afterward on the south side of Front street, where Buckbee, Peterson, Wood & Co.'s store is now. In 1839 he removed into one of the stores in the Rollin block.

Judge Burrows at one time lived on the west side of Park street. In 1831 he purchased the lot at the northeast corner of Front and Church streets, on which he built the brick residence now owned and occupied by Frederick C. Hewitt.

During his mercantile career judge Burrows was president of Owego village from 1836 to 1839, inclusive. He saw some military service, having in 1817 been commissioned captain of one of the companies in the 53d New York regiment of infantry. He was one of the first trustees of the Owego academy

in 1828. He removed in 1839 to Rochester, where he engaged in the banking business. In 1844 he removed to Buffalo, where he was in the real estate business all the rest of his life. He died Sept. 25, 1855.

The children of Latham A. and Sarah (Lester) Burrows were as follows:

1. Latham A. Burrows, Jr., born June 5, 1819, at Owego. He was graduated from Brown university and studied law in New York city. He died 7 Sept., 1847, at Buffalo. He was unmarried.
2. Roswell L. Burrows, born March 12, 1821, at Owego. Married Maria W. French 6 Jan., 1848. He died 15 Feb., 1897, at Buffalo. She is still living in that city.
3. Sarah Ann Burrows, born 2 Feb., 1823, at Owego. She lived in Buffalo and died Aug. 6, 1848, at Parma, N. Y., where she was visiting. She was unmarried.
4. Jerusha A. Burrows, born 9 Sept., 1825. Married W. H. H. Newman, of Buffalo, in 1849. They are both still living in Buffalo.
5. Mary J. Burrows, born 14 May, 1827, at Owego. Married D. K. Robinson, of Buffalo, in 1849. He died in Nov., 1887, at Ashville, N. C., and she 26 Jan., 1907, at Buffalo.
6. George W. Burrows, born 22 Feb., 1830, at Owego. Died 14 May, 1830.
7. Lucy Burrows, born 13 Feb., 1833, at Owego. Married W. R. Coppock, of Buffalo, in April, 1858. He died 9 Sept., 1897, at Marshalltown, Iowa, and she is still living at Buffalo.
8. Margaret W. Burrows, born 15 June, 1837, at Owego. Died Feb. 11, 1838.

#### DAVID THURSTON.

One of the early residents at Owego was David Thurston, who came here in 1812 from New Hampshire. He was a grandson of Benjamin Thurston, who was a descendant of Daniel Thurston, of Newberry, Mass., and son of David

Thurston, who was one of the first settlers of Marlboro, N. H., as early as 1777 and who lived several years at Leominster, Mass.

David Thurston, the son, was born Oct. 17, 1768, at Leominster. He married Fanny Darling, daughter of Rev. David Darling, of Keene, N. H. He was a farmer and when he came to Owego he lived on the south side of the river on the farm which lies west of the highway which goes over the hill to the Montrose turnpike and south of the road from Owego to Nichols. Later he lived in the house known as the "haunted house," near the mouth of the Hollenback creek and later on the north side of North avenue, where he conducted a boarding house for twenty-five years or more. He was one of seven persons who united to form the first Methodist church at Owego. He died Jan. 16, 1858, aged 90 years. His wife died Jan. 3, 1860. His father, David Thurston, came to live with him at Owego, and he also died here Aug. 6, 1826, and he was also 90 years old at the time of his death.

The children of David and Fanny (Darling) Thurston were as follows:

1. Fanny Thurston, born 27 June, 1809, at Marlboro, N. H. Married Printice Ransom, of Owego, 19 Oct., 1830. She died 18 July, 1902, and he 15 Oct., 1889, at Iowa City, Ia.

2. Nancy Thurston, born 4 Dec., 1812, at Marlboro, N. H. Died 9 May, 1814, at Owego.

3. Nancy Darling Thurston, born 24 March, 1814, at Owego. She was graduated from Cazenovia seminary and taught school many years in New York, Mississippi, and Mobile, Alabama, where she was married 6 Feb., 1864, to Drury Thompson, a grandson of Gen. Elijah Clark of Revolutionary

history. She died 31 Aug., 1886, at Mobile, Alabama.

4. Geo. Waldo Thurston, born 19 April, 1816, at Owego. Married Mary Ann Collins of New York city. He died 6 Aug., 1895, at Owego, and she 31 Dec., 1897.

5. Rev. David Whitney Thurston, born 8 April, 1818, at Owego. Married Elizabeth S. Brown. He died 21 Dec., 1900, in Syracuse, N. Y.

6. John Metcalf Thurston, born 16 Oct., 1820, at Owego. Married first, in 1850, Sarah Wood, and second, 30 April, 1860, Persis Wright. He is still living at Utica, N. Y.

7. Mary Almeda Thurston, born 10 Feb., 1823. Married first Anson Garrison, of Cold Spring, N. Y. He died 7 Feb., 1851, at Owego. She married second, 28 Jan., 1878, Rev. Benjamin Pomeroy, of the Troy, N. Y., M. E. conference.

8. Col. James Sidney Thurston, born 14 Oct., 1825, at Owego. Married Phebe Ann VanBunschoten. She died 5 Jan., 1899, at Albany, N. Y.

Rev. David Whitney Thurston in early life received a license to exhort and was afterward ordained a minister. He preached twenty years. He was an evangelist thirty years, stationed at Asbury Park, N. J., and was for several years presiding elder.

George W. Thurston was a cabinet maker. He learned his trade in Isaac B. Ogden's shop in Main street. He for many years conducted a furniture and undertaking store in a wooden building on the east side of north avenue which stood where the brick building occupied for several years by D. Beach & Co. now stands. During the civil war he was engaged about a year with a construction corps, building bridges on the military railroads. Later he conducted a planing mill and lumber yard at Owego.

Col. James S. Thurston was actively engaged in business at Owego and later was prominent in public affairs. He was in the grocery business from 1856 to 1862. When the civil war broke out he went to the front as quartermaster of the 109th regiment. In August, 1863, he was appointed an army paymaster with the rank of major and assigned to the department of the west. In November, 1865, he was promoted to lieutenant-colonel, and afterward received the rank of colonel. In 1868 and 1870 he was business manager of the Elmira Advertiser. He was afterward publisher of the Southern Tier Leader in Elmira. During his sojourn there he was twice elected an alderman. He was treasurer of the Southern Tier savings bank and superintendent of the Nobles manufacturing company. In 1880 Col. Thurston was appointed superintendent of the banking department of this state. In August, 1883, he resigned and became secretary of the American loan and trust company of New York city. In January, 1886, he was again appointed deputy superintendent of the banking department of this state. In October, 1901, he resigned this position and retired from public life. He has lived ever since on his farm on Lake Keuka, near Penn Yan.

## JUDGE ZIBA A. LELAND.

One of the early lawyers at Owego was Ziba A. Leland, who was born in Vermont. Soon after his graduation from college he came here and formed a law partnership with John H. Avery May 1, 1820. In 1822 he was appointed a justice of the peace. Soon afterward he removed to Bath, where in 1825 he obtained some professional prominence for his untiring zeal and ability shown in the defence of a man named Douglas, who was tried for the murder of one Ives, who had attempted to arrest Douglas for a felony that he was suspected of having committed, and who, while struggling to escape, stabbed Ives with an ordinary pocket knife, fatally wounding him. Ives had no warrant for Douglas's arrest, neither was he an officer nor acting in aid of an officer. Douglas was a member of a gang of burglars and thieves living near the Canisteo river, not far from Addison. The gang had become a terror to the whole region between Big Flats and Hornellsville, and the excited inhabitants thirsted for vengeance. Notwithstanding the ability with which Douglas was defended he was convicted and hanged. In 1838 Mr. Leland was elected first judge of Steuben county and served until 1843. He represented Steuben county in the assembly in 1842 and 1843. Later in life he removed to Auburn, where he practised law several years, and thence to Saratoga county, where he died.

JAMES, JOHN, AND ROBERT  
CAMERON.

James, John, and Robert Cameron, brothers, were sons of John Cameron, a farmer, and were born in Chance-

ford township, York county, Pa.—James in 1807, John June 25, 1814, and Robert Feb. 3, 1817.

James Cameron came to Owego about the year 1829 and was clerk in Alanson Dean's tavern. This tavern stood at the southeast corner of Main and Lake streets. It was burned in 1845 and the Central house was built on its site. Mr Dean kept the house from 1829 to 1831. He also had a store at the southwest corner of the same streets, and Mr. Cameron soon went there as a clerk. About seven years afterward he began a grocery business on his own account in a wooden store which stood at the northeast corner of Main street and North avenue. In 1838 he purchased the corner property and erected a store and dwelling house adjoining thereon. His property was burned in February, 1854. Mr. Cameron was elected a justice of the peace in 1846 and served several years. His office was in the front part of his house in Main street. He also held the office of supervisor of the town of Owego in 1843.

In January, 1851, James Cameron and Charles T. Bell opened a grocery store in Dean & Perkins's wooden building at the southwest corner of Lake and Main streets. The partnership was dissolved in December, 1852, Mr. Cameron withdrawing from the firm. He died May 31, 1865, at Owego. He was twice married. His first wife, Adelia Dwight, died May 27, 1847, aged 38 years, and his second wife, Diana Merchant Nov. 11, 1865, aged 53 years. Mr. Cameron had one son, Rev. James Gibson Cameron, who was born Oct. 4, 1852, at Owego and

who is now living at Baltimore, Md., where he is in charge of Cavalry mission.

John and Robert Cameron both came to Owego in 1831. John Cameron worked at the carpenter's trade in Owego until 1834 and afterward in New York city until 1838, when he returned and entered into partnership with his brother, James, in the grocery business. In 1840 he opened a grocery store which he called "The Farmers' Exchange" on the west side of North avenue, a few doors north of Main street. The next year, May 27, 1841, he married Mary Jane Cushman, daughter of Richard E. Cushman, and lived for several years in a double house, painted red, which stood on the east side of North avenue, and which occupied the ground on which Sporer, Carlson & Berry's piano store and the store south of it now stand. This house had been previously occupied by Daniel Armstrong. The family afterward lived over the grocery store on the other side of the street.

Mr. Cameron continued the grocery business here until the great fire of September, 1849. While the fire was raging T. I. Chatfield, whose store in Front street had been burned, came to Mr. Cameron and purchased Mr. Cameron's store and all his stock of goods except the liquors and took immediate possession. Later Mr. Cameron resumed business in Briggs's cooper shop, which stood where Raymond & Emery's carriage shop is now at the northwest corner of North avenue and Temple street. Later he bought and removed to the store which Wm. A. Ely had built in 1814 on the south side of Main street at the

foot of North avenue, where he continued in business until 1869, when he sold the store to Anson Decker and his goods to John Welch. The store which Mr. Chatfield had purchased from Mr. Cameron was burned in April, 1873, and on its site N. T. Burton built a block of two stores, which stands there now. Mr. Cameron spent nearly all the rest of his life in Owego and died here Sept. 28, 1905, at the advanced age of 91 years. His wife died Nov. 25, 1897, at Owego.

The children of John and Mary J. (Cushman) Cameron were all born at Owego as follows:

1. George F. Cameron, born 12 March, 1842. Married Mary E. Keeler at Waverly, N. Y., 28 Nov., 1865. He died 6 Sept., 1902 at Paterson, N. J.

2. Charles A. Cameron, born 12 Dec., 1843. Married Mary P. Hurlburt at Ithaca, N. Y., 8 Oct., 1865. She died in Brooklyn, N. Y., 17 Nov., 1876.

3. Calphurnia T. Cameron, born 1 Aug., 1845. Died 11 Feb., 1859, at Owego.

4. John D. Cameron, born 18 April, 1847. Married Mercy D. Dutcher at Catskill, N. Y., 3 Sept., 1872.

5. Sarah Adelia Eva Cameron, born 16 May, 1851. Died 3 June, 1857, at Owego.

6. Frederick H. Cameron, born 5 Aug., 1861. Married Lizzie M. Wheaton, of Binghamton, N. Y., 29 Oct., 1893. He died 2 June, 1899, at Owego.

Robert Cameron when he came to Owego became a clerk in James Cameron's store, and was afterward his brother's partner. The partnership continued until 1838. In 1840 he opened a grocery store in a wooden store owned by S. S. Tinkham, the first door below the bridge in Front street. He afterward purchased property above the bridge and con-

tinued business there until the fire of 1849. He rebuilt with brick on the same site and resumed business there. He afterward built a brick store at the northwest corner of Front and Park streets where he conducted the grocery business from Nov., 1859, until it was burned in October, 1867. The present brick building was subsequently built on its site. Mr. Cameron continued the grocery business with success until compelled to retire in the summer of 1891 on account of ill health. He died March 17, 1896. Mr. Cameron married Julia E. Merchant, a sister of his brother, Robert's wife. She was born 27 Feb., 1819, and died 6 Oct., 1889, at Owego. Their children were as follows:

1. Larue J. Cameron, born 2 Nov., 1843. Died 1 Nov., 1894, at Owego.
2. DelRey A. Cameron, born 7 May, 1848, at Owego. Married Bessie Ryan 24 Aug., 1871.
3. Lella Inez Cameron, born 29 Nov., 1858, at Owego. Married first Charles J. G. Lapersonne and second James E. Webster. She died 28 Aug., 1906, at Owego.

#### COL. HENRY McCORMICK.

Col. Henry McCormick, who came to Owego to live in 1814 was a grandson of Joseph McCormick, who lived and died near the Giant's Causeway in Ireland. Joseph McCormick's widow, a Scotch woman named McDowell, came to America in 1760. Col. Henry McCormick's father, Henry McCormick, came to America as a lieutenant in the British army at the beginning of the revolution. He was captured by the Americans and held as a prisoner of war. Learning that his brother was serving in Washington's army, he found him, enlisted with him, and hav-

ing received an officer's commission he fought valiantly with the continental army against King George and his former comrades in arms until the colonies were made free. He was taken a prisoner at the storming of Quebec, but made a most desperate and daring escape. Soon after the close of the war he settled at Painted Post, N. Y., where he became an extensive land owner and was elected to various important offices.

Col. Henry McCormick was one of four brothers, all of whom served as officers in the war of 1812. He was born in the town of Painted Post, Steuben (then Ontario) county, N. Y., March 5, 1791. In 1808 he came to Newtown (now Elmira) where in 1812 he volunteered as a soldier in the war with Great Britain and did gallant service on the Niagara frontier. He crossed the Niagara river in command of a transport scow several times just before the disastrous battle of Queenstown, the grape shot from the British cannon on the heights striking almost as thick as hailstones in and around his scow so long as it was compelled to be within the range.

It is related of Col. McCormick that he killed an Indian chief, who was shooting the colonel's men from his hiding place behind a fallen tree. The chief was very brave and refused to surrender. Col. McCormick took the chief's leather pouch, in which he carried his bullets and flints, as a trophy, and many years afterward presented it to a nephew at Ithaca.

In 1814, at the close of the war, Col. McCormick came to Owego to live. His brother, Jacob Miller McCormick, came with him, and they began busi-

ness here as gunsmiths. Their shop was on the south side of Main street where the rectory of St. Paul's Episcopal church now is. There they made guns, the barrels of which they bored and finished at Matson's mills in Canawana.

Col. McCormick lived in a house which stood on the north side of Main street, about where Mrs. Asa N. Potter's house now is. The house was several years afterward removed to the northwest corner of Liberty and Temple streets. About the year 1837 Col. McCormick sold the business to Jehiel Ogden, who had learned the gunsmith's trade in his shop.

The guns manufactured here before 1834 were flint lock guns. After he began making rifles with "half-stocks" Col. McCormick employed laborers, who dug out the stumps of black walnut trees, which had been felled years ago on the flat north of the present Tioga county fair grounds. From these stumps were made the half-stock, a new style of gun of that time. The roots that branched out from the base of the trees in the ground formed a natural bend, suited to the form of the breech part of the gun, without cutting across the grains of wood to form a crook, which would have rendered the breech very liable to break.

Jacob M. McCormick removed to Ithaca. Col. Henry McCormick purchased a farm on the south side of the river on the hill overlooking Owego village. He lived the rest of his life in a small house which still stands there and which was occupied for several years after his death by his daughter, Mrs. Delinda Shaw. Col.

McCormick died May 22, 1874, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Edward Livermore, at St. Peter, Minn., where he had spent the winter.

Col. McCormick was sheriff of Tioga county from 1828 to 1831. He was also a member of the board of trustees of Owego village in 1832 and 1833. He served in the state militia, having been commissioned captain of a company in the Sixteenth regiment of artillery.

Jacob Miller McCormick was born at Big Flats, Chemung county, in 1793. He enlisted and served in the war of 1812, leaving the army at the close of the war with a major's commission. At Ithaca he became a man of prominence. He owned oil, grist, and plaster mills, large farms, a foundry, a hardware store, and much merchandise. He owned the Ithaca hotel. He owned and conducted a stage route between Owego and Ithaca. He was postmaster many years. He was a village trustee from 1836 to 1840, and president of Ithaca village in 1840. He was the first chief engineer of the Ithaca fire department, in 1838. He died Sept. 6, 1855, at Ithaca, aged 62 years.

While living in Owego, in 1821, he was appointed captain of a company of riflemen in the 53d regiment of state infantry. His wife was Catherine Conrad, of Lansing, N. Y., who was called the "Lady of the Lake" on account of her personal beauty and social graces.

One of Col. Henry and Jacob M. McCormick's brothers was Major Joseph McCormick, who was born April 18, 1787, in the town of Wyoming, Pa. Two years later the family removed to

Painted Post. In March, 1806, he married Mary Hatfield, of Newtown. In 1812 he enlisted in the government service as a captain of infantry. He fought in the battles at Tippecanoe, Queenstown Heights, Lundy's Lane, and at the blowing up of Fort Erie, and was promoted to major. He resigned his commission in the army in 1816 and engaged in the lumber and mercantile business at Lawrenceville, Pa. In 1829 he removed to Louisville, Ky., and thence in 1832 to Covington, Ind., where he engaged in farming. Later he became commander and owner of the steamer "Detroit," plying between Louisville and St. Louis and the southern Mississippi ports. He was afterward elected a member of the Indiana legislature, and in 1840, 1841, and 1842 he was re-elected. He subsequently lived at Rob Roy, Ill., Manitowoc, Wis., and Forestville, and Ahnapee, Wis. In 1870, when 84 years of age, he was elected to the Wisconsin legislature and enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest person occupying a seat in that body. He died at Ahnapee Aug., 26, 1875, aged 88 years.

Col. Henry and Elizabeth McCormick were the parents of two daughters. The eldest, Delinda McCormick, was born at Owego May 2, 1822. She was married to William James Shaw, of Ithaca, Oct. 29, 1844. He went to California in 1849 and never returned to Owego. He died at San Francisco a few years ago. Mrs. Shaw's father and John Arnot, of Elmira, were both of Scotch descent and strong friends. After Mr. Arnot's death Mrs. Shaw went to Elmira and lived with Mrs. Arnot until her death and after that she remained in the Arnot home with

the family of Mr. Arnot's son, Matthew H. Arnot, and where she died Jan. 4, 1899.

Col. McCormick's younger daughter, Mary Steward McCormick, was born Feb. 13, 1828, at Owego. She was the second wife of Rev. Edward Livermore, to whom she was married Oct. 26, 1853. He was twenty-three years rector of the Church of the Holy Communion at St. Peter's, Minn., and later chaplain of Kemper Hall at Kenosha, Wis., where he died May 28, 1866. She died Feb. 16, 1906, at Phoenixville, Pa.

#### GURDON HEWITT.

One of the most successful business men that ever lived at Owego was Gurdon Hewitt, who was a resident of the village 48 years. He was born near New London, Conn., May 5, 1790. When he was six years old his parents removed to a farm, near the village of Oxford, Chenango county, N. Y. His early life was spent on the farm, and he received his early education at the Oxford academy. His father having been ruined financially through endorsing some notes for a friend, Gurdon Hewitt when less than 21 years of age went to New York city in search of a clerkship, without funds and with no acquaintances in the city.

It is related that in making the trip he arranged with a man who was going to Newburgh on horseback to go on the "ride and tie" plan. By this arrangement the owner of the horse would ride a few miles ahead and then hitch his horse at the roadside and proceed thence on foot. Mr. Hewitt would walk until he reached the place where the horse was tied, unhitch the animal, and ride for sev-

eral miles past where he overtook his companion. Then dismounting he would proceed on foot while the owner of the horse would ride ahead in his turn. Thus they proceeded to Newburgh, whence Mr. Hewitt made the rest of his journey by boat to New York.

Mr. Hewitt obtained a clerkship in a store, where he remained about a year and then entered the employ of a celebrated bridge builder named Burr as a bookkeeper. Mr. Burr was then constructing a bridge over the Susquehanna river, near Northumberland, Pa., and Mr. Hewitt went there as his assistant. When this bridge was completed, in 1819, he left Mr. Burr's employ and went to Towanda, Pa., where he began a general mercantile business, in which he was very successful. He also engaged in lumbering at Monroe. He built a store and a residence at Towanda. While living at Towanda he was treasurer of Bradford county from 1821 to 1822. He married a daughter of Williams Means, of Towanda. She died, leaving no children. May 17, 1821, he married Charlotte Platt, daughter of Major Jonathan Platt, of Nichols, N. Y.

In the spring of 1823 he removed to Owego and lived here all the rest of his life. He formed a partnership with his wife's brother, Jonathan Platt in the general mercantile business. Their store was in a wooden building, which stood on the bank of the river a little above where the bridge is now. Their partnership lasted about a year, when Mr. Platt formed a partnership with David Turner and Mr. Hewitt continued the

business alone until 1837. That year he and John M. Greenleaf formed a partnership in the same business. Their store was on the east side of Lake street. The firm of Greenleaf & Hewitt existed until their store was burned in the great fire of September, 1849.

Mr. Hewitt did not resume the mercantile business, but devoted his entire attention to banking, in which he was remarkably successful, laying the foundation for the largest fortune ever accumulated in Owego. He was the first president of the old bank of Owego, now the First national bank, and was for several years its cashier. He was one of the trustees of the old Owego academy from its foundation, and most of the time president of the board. The only elective office he held was that of village trustee in 1830 and 1831.

Wm. F. Warner says of Mr. Hewitt: "He had an intellect of remarkable power, which had it been directed to scientific or professional pursuits, would have placed him among the first in the land."

In February, 1833, Mr. Hewitt purchased of Jonathan Platt a lot on the north side of Main street nearly opposite the Baptist church and built a house thereon. The house still remains there and is the second house from the Church street corner. Mr. Hewitt lived there until 1856 when he purchased the property at the north-east corner of Front and Church streets, where he lived until his death. He died Dec. 24, 1871, and his wife Jan. 16, 1876.

The children of Gurdon and Charlotte (Platt) Hewitt were Gurdon

Hewitt, Jr.; Sarah Hewitt, who married Frederick H. Pumpelly, of Owego; Charlotte Hewitt, who married Stephen T. Arnot, of Elmira, and still lives in that city, and Frederick C. Hewitt, who still lives in this village.

Gurdon Hewitt, Jr., was born March 29, 1826, at Owego. He was educated as a lawyer and admitted to the bar of Tioga county in 1847, but never practised law. He entered the store of his father and was associated in his business affairs during the rest of his father's life. In 1852 he and Lyman Truman, as equal partners, made large investments in lands situated near Dixon, Ill. They purchased many acres of land at a low price, realizing a great profit on their investment. The partnership continued until 1857. During the civil war Mr. Hewitt lived in New York city. Through his management of his father's estate it was greatly increased and at the time of his death it was the largest estate ever accumulated in Owego.

Mr. Hewitt married Mrs. Frances Augusta Gillett, widow of Col. Daniel W. Gillett, of Elmira, in 1881. He died Sept. 10, 1900, at Atlantic City, N. J., and she Feb. 7, 1906, at Lakeland, Fla.

#### JOHN M. GREENLEAF.

John M. Greenleaf came to Owego in 1826 and lived here until his death fifty-five years later.

The Greenleaves in America are descended from Edmund Greenleaf, who was born in 1573 and who died in Boston, Mass. One of his sons, Stephen Greenleaf (born about 1628) had a son, also named Stephen Greenleaf, born at Newbury, Mass., in 1652.

Stephen's son, Rev. Daniel Greenleaf, was born at Newbury in 1679 and died in 1763 in Boston. His son, Dr. Daniel Greenleaf, was born at Cambridge, Mass., in 1702 and died in 1795. Dr. Greenleaf's son, Gen. William Greenleaf, was the grandfather of John M. Greenleaf and was born in 1738. He died at Lancaster, Mass., 1793. He was several years sheriff of Worcester county and a brigadier-general in the state militia.

One of Gen. Greenleaf's sons was John Hancock Greenleaf, who was born April 30, 1775, at Lancaster, Mass. He was a cabinet maker and house joiner in Boston. He removed to Granville, N. Y., where he married Mary Norton Feb. 1, 1801. In March, 1817, he came with his family to this county and settled first at Smithboro. Four years afterward he removed to Padlock in the town of Richford. In the fall of 1826 he removed to Owego and died here Jan. 28, 1852. His wife also died here Sept. 28, 1860.

The children of John Hancock and Mary (Norton) Greenleaf were as follows:

1. Betsy Gardiner Greenleaf, born about 1803 and died in infancy.

2. John Matthew Greenleaf born 19 May, 1806, at Granville, N. Y. Married Lucy Talcott, daughter of Elizur Talcott, Jr., of Owego, 20 June, 1837. She was born 24 March, 1809, and died at Owego 4 July, 1842. He married second Emeline Wilbur, daughter of Ismond Wilbur, 27 Sept., 1843. She died 3 Dec., 1907, at Owego.

3. Martha Norton Greenleaf, born 17 April, 1809, at Granville. Married William Gordon, who died about 1843. She died 15 Oct., 1890.

4. Betsy Gardiner Greenleaf, born 25 Sept., 1811, at Granville. Married George W. Allen, who died about 1853.

5. William Josephus Greenleaf,

born 25 Sept., 1815, at Granville. Married Mary L. Ford 2 Dec., 1817. He died 22 March, 1869.

6. Amos Canfield Greenleaf, born 8 March, 1818, at Smithboro. Married Mary Dougherty 22 Oct., 1840. He was associated with dry goods firms in New York city several years and died 1 Aug., 1894, at South Orange, N. J.

John M. Greenleaf was 20 years of age when his father, John Hopkins Greenleaf, removed to Owego. In the fall of 1826 he entered Col. Amos Martin's store as a clerk. He remained with Col. Martin three years and then became a clerk in Gurdon Hewitt's store. After six years of service with Mr. Hewitt he became a partner, in 1833, of Lyman Truman in the general mercantile business. Their store was in a brick building which occupied the ground on the east side of Lake street where the Owego national bank building now stands. This partnership was dissolved in July, 1836. In 1837 he formed a partnership with his former employer, Gurdon Hewitt, and the firm of Greenleaf & Hewitt existed twelve years. Their store was on the south side of Front street, the third store east of Lake street. This store was burned Sept. 25, 1849, in the big fire. The firm did not resume business. Mr. Greenleaf having been very successful as a merchant, retired from all active business. He died Aug. 23, 1881, at Owego.

The only son of John M. and Mary (Norton) Greenleaf is Dr. John T. Greenleaf, who has been since 1867 a Homoeopathic physician and still lives in this village.

## COL. AMOS MARTIN.

Col. Amos Martin, one of the early merchants of Owego, was born Feb. 8, 1785, at Salisbury, Mass. He was a son of Noah and Hannah Martin. In 1814 he removed from New Marlboro Mass., with his wife (nee Amanda Hart) and two daughters, Malinda and Angeline, and a large load of household goods to Tioga county and settled at Candor, where he began a general mercantile business.

In 1816 the family removed to Owego. He moved into a house which stood on the west side of Park street, where Robert Bandler's residence now stands. The front of this house he occupied as a store. This was the same building that had been previously occupied as a store by William Pumpelly.

In 1819 Col. Martin leased the old "Goodman Coffee House," a tavern owned by Gen. John Laning and later known as the Franklin house, which stood on the north side of Front street, a little east of Court street. In addition to conducting the affairs of the hotel Col. Martin continued the mercantile business in the west end of the building, which had been occupied as a store by Jonathan Platt. Lewis Manning succeeded Col. Martin as landlord of the coffee house in 1823, but Col. Martin continued to occupy the west end of the building as a store.

In the spring of 1827 Col. Martin removed his store into a two-story wooden building, which stood at the northwest corner of Front and Lake streets. This building had been occupied by J. Fay & Co. In 1833 he removed to the south side of Front

street, opposite Lake street, where he continued in the mercantile business until his death, which was caused by hasty consumption. He died May 14, 1835. His wife survived him many years, dying April 11, 1878, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. C. Taylor, at Tioga Centre at the advanced age of 89 years. She was born at New Marlboro, Mass., Dec. 28, 1788, and was married in 1807.

Col. Martin in 1827 built the old Academy building in Court street by contract. He was a member of the first board of trustees of the academy. He built and lived many years in a house which stood on the west side of Park street south of the Congregational church, on the ground on which L. B. Terbush's brick house now stands, and which house was burned Dec. 3, 1877, when the first Congregational church was burned.

The children of Col. Amos and Amanda (Hart) Martin were as follows:

1. Malinda Martin, born 27 Jan., 1811, at New Marlboro, Mass. Married Harvey Coryell, of Nichols, in 1830. He died 3 Oct., 1864, at Nichols, and she in July, 1888.

2. Angeline Martin, born 13 Sept., 1812, at New Marlboro. Married Col. William Ransom, of Tioga Centre, 14 Sept., 1831. He died 7 Feb., 1883, at Tioga Centre, and she 11 Feb., 1883.

3. Maria A. Martin, born 7 Feb., 1815, at Candor. Married Col. William C. Taylor, of Owego, 9 Sept., 1836. He died 9 April, 1892, in Brooklyn, N. Y., and she 16 Jan., 1905.

4. Jay H. Martin, born 14 Dec., 1816, at Owego. Married Frances Johnson in 1835. Removed to Tioga Centre, where he still lives.

5. John S. Martin born 18 Sept., 1818, at Owego. Married first Harriet Manning and second Ada Chambers.

He died 16 Oct., 1904, at Kansas City, Mo.

6. Elizabeth L. Martin, born 7 Sept., 1827, at Owego. Married Romeo Woodford, of Owego, 6 Aug., 1846. She died in 1850 at Owego. He married second Augusta E. Sackett, daughter of Capt. Richard H. Sackett, of Candor. He died 8 July, 1856, at Owego.

Col. William C. Taylor was born June 12, 1813, at Florida, Orange county, N. Y. He came to Owego in 1833 and entered Dr. Jedediah Fay's drug store as a clerk. In October, 1836, his brother, Daniel G. Taylor, came to Owego and the brothers, in company with William H. Bell, began a general mercantile business under the firm name of Taylors & Bell in a store which stood on the south side of Front street, east of Lake street. The Taylors purchased Mr. Bell's interest in the store two years afterward. A year later Col. Taylor sold his interest in the business to Mr. Bell.

In 1843 Col. Taylor went to Piermont, N. Y., which was then the eastern terminus of the New York & Erie railroad, where he was the station agent until the completion of the road to Dunkirk. Then he went to Dunkirk as superintendent of the western division of the road. A few years later he removed to Jersey City, where he was the company's agent until 1861.

When the civil war broke out, D. C. McCallum, who had been general superintendent of the road, was appointed military superintendent of the railroads of the United States, with the rank of general. He appointed Mr. Taylor to take charge under him of all the military railroads, to attend to their construction, repair, etc., with the rank of colonel. He served all

through the war and then went to Elmira, where he remained until 1869, when he removed to Brooklyn, where he lived with his daughter, Mrs. Alexander Robb, until his death.

John S. Martin was for many years a salesman in Storrs, Chatfield & Co.'s hardware store. In 1869 he removed to Kansas City, Mo., where he lived all the rest of his life. He was for many years and until about twelve years before his death a travelling salesman, selling agricultural machinery and implements. There were few railroads in the west when he went there, and he did most of his travelling with a horse and buggy.

#### EDWARD S. MADAN.

Edward Shearson Madan was a carpenter and builder, who was born Sept. 20, 1785, at Sing Sing, N. Y., and who came to Owego in 1824.

His father, Thomas D. Madan (or de Madan, as the name was originally written), was of French descent, lived in Virginia, and fought in the revolutionary war. He was born in 1762 and died Dec. 30, 1804. His wife was Charity Odell, daughter of Abraham Odell. She was drowned Nov. 30, 1805, together with her daughter, Eliza, while on their passage from Newburgh to New York city. She was born Feb. 13, 1756.

Edward S. Madan and his four brothers and a brother-in-law all served in the war of 1812. When E. S. Madan was a child his parents removed to New York city, where he later learned the trade of a cabinet maker. At the age of 22 he went to Florida, Orange county, N. Y., where Sept. 20, 1810, he married Lydia

Curry, daughter of Benjamin Curry. In 1822 they removed to Newark Valley, where they lived until 1824, when they came to Owego, where they lived the rest of their lives. Mr. Madan died Oct. 11, 1868. His wife was born Feb. 15, 1790, in New York city, and died at Owego May 17, 1842.

Mr. Madan was thrice married. His second wife was Lucy Allen, who was born in May, 1788, at New Haven, Conn. They were married May 5, 1844. She died March 20, 1856, at Owego.

His third wife was Mrs. Elizabeth Terry, of the town of Candor. She died in that town three or four years after Mr. Madan's death.

The children of Edward S. and Lydia (Curry) Madan were as follows:

1. Anna Eliza Madan, born 6 Jan., 1812, at Florida, N. Y. Married Gilbert Williams 26 Feb., 1834. She died 13 Nov., 1877, at Warner, Onondaga county, N. Y.

2. Sarah Jane Madan, born 9 May, 1814, at Florida, N. Y. Married Hiram G. Williams 13 Aug., 1843. She died at Susquehanna, Pa., in December, 1883.

3. Mary Louisa Madan, born 27 Feb., 1816, at Florida, N. Y. She died 13 Nov., 1838, at Owego.

4. Harriet Emily Madan, born 2 Sept., 1819, at Florida, N. Y. Married first James Hill 4 April, 1839. He died 5 Jan., 1887, at Owego. She married second Nehemiah E. Neal, of Nichols. She died 9 June, 1906, at Owego.

5. Caroline Amelia Madan, born 29 Oct., 1821, at Westtown, Orange county, N. Y. Married Henry J. Hodge in 1848. She died in June, 1899, at Susquehanna, Pa.

6. Andrew Jackson Madan, born 15 April, 1821, at Newark Valley. Married first Phoebe Sears 24 April, 1857. He married second Mrs. George A. Dodd (nee Sarah Searles) 16 Jan.,

1887. He died 3 Dec., 1895, at Owego, and she 23 June, 1908.

7. Frances Melinda Madan, born 30 April, 1827, at Owego. She lives at Warner, N. Y.

8. Benjamin Curry Madan, born 24 April, 1829, at Owego. Married Jennie Nixon, of Owego. He died 21 Dec., 1871, at Owego.

Mr. Madan was a member of a long lived family. His grandmother, Persilla (Priscilla?) Odell, was in her 120th year at the time of her death in 1788. Mr. Madan was active in the temperance cause and an enthusiast in masonic affairs. He was the first master of Friendship lodge, F. & A. M., in 1849 and 1850 when the lodge reorganized and resumed work after its discontinuance by reason of the Morgan excitement. He was tiler of the lodge from 1856 to 1864, inclusive. He was also the first high priest of New Jerusalem chapter, Royal Arch Masons upon its institution in 1852 and 1853. He is said to have filled all the offices in both the "blue lodge" and the chapter.

Mr. Madan lived many years in a small house, which is still standing on the east side of Central avenue, the first house south of the brick building at the Temple street corner. This street was at that time a narrow lane through which the tracks of the old Ithaca and Owego horse railroad extended down through the village park into and up Front street to Church street.

## DR. JOEL S. PAIGE.

One of the most highly esteemed of Owego's early residents was Dr. Joel Simonds Paige, who lived here thirty-four years. He was fifth in descent from Nathaniel Paige, who came to Roxbury, Mass., from England in 1685 with his wife and three children. Dr. Paige's father was Moses Paige, a farmer, at Hardwick, Mass., where Dr. Paige was born Jan. 25, 1793.

Dr. Paige was educated as a physician at Troy, N. Y., receiving his diploma in June, 1816. July 1 of the same year he married Jane S. Fairchild, of that city, and very soon afterward they came to Owego. They lived in a small house, which was on the north side of Front street, the second house west of Paige street where A. C. Burt's house now stands. Later he built and lived in the house now owned by Frederick O. Cable at the northeast corner of Main and Paige streets.

All of Paige street from Main street north to Fox street, its northern limit then, was called Paige street in honor of Dr. Paige. All of the same street from Main street south to the river was called Leonard street, in honor of Stephen B. Leonard, who lived at the northeast corner of that street and Front street. Some time after 1837 the name of Leonard street was no longer used and the entire street has since been known as Paige street. That part of the village in which Dr. Paige lived was at the time of his residence there commonly known as "Paigeville."

In 1819 Dr. Paige was appointed assistant hospital surgeon of the 41st

brigade of state infantry, which was commanded by brigadier-general John Laning, of Owego. In 1825 he held the office of clerk of the town of Owego. He was a member of the village board of trustees in 1828 and in 1839, and in 1839 he was also president of the village. He was a prominent member of the masonic fraternity. He was master of Friendship lodge, F. and A. M., from 1824 to 1827, inclusive and was master when it temporarily suspended its meetings at the time of what is known as the Morgan excitement.

Dr. Paige's first wife died Dec. 24, 1830, at Owego. His second wife was Ann Eliza Limbrick. She was born in 1811 at Catskill and while visiting her brother at Owego she met Dr. Paige, to whom she was married June 18, 1833. At this time Dr. Paige owned and lived in the house at the Main and Paige street corner.

In 1850 Dr. Paige removed to Alexander, Genesee county, N. Y., where he died July 10, 1855. His wife also died there Oct. 17, 1889.

The children of Dr. Joel S. and Jane S. (Fairchild) Paige were as follows:

1. Margaretta Augustina Paige, born 15 Sept., 1818. Married Hammon D. Pinney at Owego 26 May, 1840. She died 12 Jan., 1860 at Owego.

2. Anson Fairchild Paige, born 31 May, 1822, at Owego.

Hammon D. Pinney was born June 2, 1814, at Clarksville, Albany county, N. Y., and at 14 years of age went to Albany to work as clerk in a dry goods store. He came to Owego in June, 1835, with his father, Joshua L. Pinney, and opened a drug store in judge Drake's wooden building, which

stood on the south side of Front street, opposite Lake street. In that building and the one which was built on its site after its destruction by fire in 1849, J. L. Pinney & Sons conducted the drug and book store known as the "Owego Arcade" forty-one years. Patrick Henry Pinney, J. L. Pinney's youngest son, was a partner in the business until his death in August, 1865. H. D. Pinney was a leader in the movement for the abolition of slavery and a strong advocate of temperance. He was one of the thirty original organizers of the Baptist church in 1831, was thirty years leader of the church choir, and was also thirty years superintendent of the Sunday school. He was a member of the first board of school commissioners in 1864, the only public office he ever held. His second wife was Mrs. Eunice J. Harris, of New York city. He died Feb. 24, 1898, at Owego.

Anson F. Paige was deaf and dumb. He was a bookbinder. His bindery was for several years in the third story of the brick buildings on the northeast corner of Main street and North avenue, which were built by Franklin Slosson in 1854 and known as Franklin block.

The children of Dr. Joel S. and Ana Eliza (Limbrick) Paige were as follows:

1. Thomas Limbrick Paige, born 31 March, 1834, at Owego. Married Alzona N. Wilbur, daughter of Ismond Wilbur, 4 June, 1862, at Owego. He died 10 Dec., 1867, at Owego.
2. Lucy Bonner Paige, born 4 Oct. 1840, at Owego.
3. Lucy Aiken Paige, born 30 Aug., 1842, at Owego. She was married to Elijah Ransom Page 10 Aug., 1864, at Alexander, N. Y.

4. Mary Paige, born 4 Feb., 1846, at Owego. She was married in 1863 to Norton Smith at Alexander.

Thomas L. Paige learned the printer's trade in Owego, but abandoned type-setting for a clerkship in Goodrich & Co.'s dry goods store. In May, 1864, he formed a partnership in the dry goods business with Abram H. Miller, buying the stock of Henry N. Hubbard and continuing the business in the store now occupied by E. E. Strait on the south side of Front street until his death in 1867.

#### JARED HUNTINGTON.

Jared Huntington came to Owego from Hebron, Conn., in 1813, and lived here until his death, forty-eight years later. His father, Solomon Huntington, was a saddler and a son of John Huntington, who was born Nov. 14, 1700, at Norwich, Conn. Solomon Huntington was also born at Norwich August 6, 1738. He married Dinis Fuller. He lived at Hebron, where he died June 4, 1798.

Jared Huntington was born at Hebron Dec. 22, 1784, and followed his father's occupation of a saddler and harness maker. His first wife was Elvira Bliss, of Columbia, Conn. She was born in 1782 and died at East Haddam, Conn., in 1809. Four years after her death he removed to Owego, where he worked at his trade. In 1818 he married Martha Draper, whose father was a blacksmith and whose dwelling house and blacksmith shop were at the northwest corner of North avenue and Main streets.

Mr. Huntington lived for many years in a house which stood near the sidewalk on the west side of Lake

street on the ground now occupied by the two brick stores known as the Hooker block. His house was at the north part of the lot and his harness shop adjoining at the south end of it. At the time of the great fire in September, 1849, all the buildings on the west side of Lake street were burned from Front street to the Huntington property, where the progress of the fire was stopped. Another fire in October, 1870, burned all the wooden buildings from the Main street corner south, including the Huntington house and shop. The old well between the two buildings, which for many years furnished the water for several households in the neighborhood, was in use, until the Hooker block was built.

Mr. Huntington was clerk of the town of Owego from 1826 to 1834, inclusive, and assessor from 1841 to 1846, inclusive. He was for many years a justice of the peace. He was also superintendent of the poor of Tioga county from 1832 to 1837. He died at Owego July 2, 1861. Mrs. Huntington, who was born in 1795, died April 11, 1877, at Cazenovia, N. Y., at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Phelps.

The children of Jared and Martha (Draper) Huntington were all born at Owego, with one exception, as follows:

1. Jared Bliss Huntington, born May 2, 1809.
2. Elvira M. Huntington, born 13 July, 1819. Married James M. Swift, son of Thomas Swift, of Falmouth, Mass. She died 27 Feb., 1854, in Brooklyn, N. Y.
3. Adeline E. Huntington, born 4 Sept., 1821. Married Frederick E. Platt, of Owego, 4 Sept., 1821. She died 14 Jan., 1873.

4. Emily Catherine Huntington, born 9 Aug., 1823, at Owego. Married Dr. Jared F. Phelps in 1842.

5. Martha A. Huntington, born 12 Oct., 1825. Married Milton W. Hanchett, of Syracuse, N. Y., in 1848.

6. William Silliman Huntington, born 14 Dec., 1827.

7. Harriet Laura Huntington, born 30 Jan., 1830. Married James M. Swift, who was the husband of her siser, Elvira M. Huntington. She died 10 Sept., 1901, at Cazenovia, N. Y.

8. George Milnor Huntington, born 8 August, 1832. Married Louise Denton, of Binghamton, 1 Oct., 1857.

9. Charles T. Huntington, born 16 Nov., 1834. He was a telegraph operator. He died 11 May, 1899.

Geo. M. Huntington learned telegraphy in 1847. In 1853 he was division operator and train dispatcher on the Susquehanna and Western divisions of the New York & Erie railroad until 1862, when he was called to Washington and appointed superintendent of military railroads under Gen. D. C. McCallum. At the close of the war he was in charge of all the captured roads leading into Richmond. These were turned over to their owners in 1865. In 1868 he was agent in New York city for the Great Southern mail route. In 1873 he went to St. Paul, Minn., as general passenger and ticket agent of the West Wisconsin railroad. The next year he was appointed general eastern agent of the Virginia Midland railroad.

#### ERASTUS MEACHAM.

Erastus Meacham was a blacksmith, a son of Silas Meacham, and was born Feb. 9, 1798, at Cornwall, Conn. He was only seven years old when his parents removed to Bain-

bridge, N. Y. When fourteen years of age he was apprenticed to learn the blacksmith's trade and eight years later, in 1820, he came to Owego, making the entire journey on foot. He worked as a journeyman blacksmith for a short time, but in July, 1821, he formed a partnership in the blacksmithing and wagon making business with Daniel Chamberlain, a wagon maker, who lived in the first house north of the Congregational church in Park street, which was afterward owned by John L. Matson and which still stands there. Mr. Chamberlain at one time conducted a bakery in the cellar of this house. His wagon shop was at the side of the house. It was in this wagon shop that the Baptist church of Owego was organized in 1831. Mr. Chamberlain sold the property to Mrs. Henry H. Wells, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., about the year 1836 and removed to Choconut, Susquehanna county, Pa., and died there.

In October, 1823, Mr. Meacham purchased of James Caldwell two village lots on the west side of Lake street, north of and adjoining the ground on which the Owego national bank now stands and fronting 100 feet on the street. There he conducted a blacksmith shop several years. In August, 1838, he opened a general country store in John Carmichael's building, which stood on the north side of Front street and east of Lake street. He continued in business there several years, a part of the time in company with his son, Myron E. Meacham. Then he removed on the Ott farm on Germany hill in the town of Tioga, where he engaged in farming thirteen years. He afterward returned to

Owego, where he resumed work at his trade of a blacksmith, which he followed all the rest of his life. He died at Owego Jan. 25, 1890, at the advanced age of nearly 92 years.

Nov. 9, 1820, Mr. Meacham married Betsy Lake, daughter of Truman Lake, of Spencer. She died at Owego Aug. 29, 1892, aged 89 years. They were two of the forty original members of the Congregational church of Owego. Their children were Myron E. Meacham, who removed to Hornell; Mary A. Meacham, who married Henry Shipman; Maria and Milton H. Meacham, both of whom died in infancy, and Melinda Meacham, who married John M. Head.

#### JAMES ARCHIBALD.

James Archibald, a tanner, came to Owego with his wife and six children from Caldwell, Warren county, N. Y., on Lake George. His father, Robert Archibald, came to America from Scotland and fought in the revolutionary war.

James Archibald was born on the day of our national independence, July 4, 1776, in the town of Bolton, Warren county, N. Y., and he arrived at Owego on Washington's birthday, Feb. 22, 1822.

According to the state military records James Archibald was in 1804 promoted to ensign in Simon DeRidder's regiment of the brigade in the county of Washington, which county adjoins Warren county. The next year he was promoted to lieutenant, and in 1808 he was reported as "moved."

The family settled on a farm owned by James Pumpelly on the south side

of the river. In 1824 Mr. Pumpelly built a small tannery there. It stood on the south side of the road leading to Nichols, between that road and the river, and was a little west of where the Nichols road leaves the highway running from Owego to the Montrose turnpike. Mr. Pumpelly leased this tannery to Mr. Archibald. The water to run the tannery was supplied from a little run (dry now for many years), which came down from the hill to the river, a little east of the tannery. The power to grind the tanbark was supplied by a horse. Nearly all the vats were out in the field in the open air.

In June, 1830, Elihu Parmenter, who conducted a tannery on the Hunting-ton creek, in the northern part of the village of Owego, and James Archibald purchased the exclusive right for a term of fourteen years for the use of a patent for handling hides and skins, which patent Samuel Rogers, Jr., of Philadelphia, had obtained in January, 1829. The purchase was made of James Brown, who owned the right to sell in Tioga and Tompkins counties. It provided for vats  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, and from 7 to 8 feet long. This introduced new methods of tanning here.

This tannery was abandoned about the year 1844. The building was moved five or six rods down the river and converted into a barn. Many years later it was used by Gurdon H. Pumpelly as a part of a large tobacco shed, now standing there.

In May, 1832, three of Mr. Archibald's sons, Alvah B., Almon W., and Samuel A. Archibald, purchased lots 15 and 16 in Coxe's patent of John Redman Coxe, of Philadelphia. These

lots contained one hundred acres each and were on the side of the hill south of this village, and the road which passes over the hill to the Montrose turnpike passes diagonally through them. The same month they also purchased lot No. 176, which is south of and adjoining the other two lots and contained 270 acres. This included the present farm of James Forsyth and the small farm sold to Col. Henry McCormick in September, 1832.

While engaged in tanning Mr. Archibald and these three sons cleared much of the woods from the farms. Their sawmill stood on the north side of the creek known as the Pumpelly creek and on the east side of the road. The ruins of the old mill stood there until a few years ago. They engaged extensively in lumbering and purchased and shipped a great amount of lumber down the river in addition to that produced from their own farm.

The three sons were not only engaged in lumbering, but they also engaged in the tanning business, in the sale of boots and shoes, and in the manufacture of deer skin gloves and mittens. Alvah B. Archibald conducted a leather and shoe store on the south side of Front street, a little below Park street. He was elected a justice of the peace in January, 1862, but was prevented by ill health from assuming the duties of the office. He died in the following June.

The second tannery built by the Archibalds was in 1838. It stood on the bank of the river just below the bridge. It was about 90 by 50 feet in size. It was burned in the fire of Jan. 31, 1860. It was replaced the

same year by a larger tannery, 114 by 50 feet, with a brick engine house 50 by 22 feet, and a bark house 22 by 36 feet. It was composed of four buildings, all attached. This tannery was twice burned, in January, 1860, and September, 1878. It was rebuilt on a smaller scale. In 1881, when the Lackawanna railroad was built to Owego, the company bought and occupied the ground on which the buildings stood for its tracks. The tannery building was cut in two. Part of it was used as an ice house for a few years and finally the whole was torn down.

Almon W. Archibald retired from the lumbering business in 1852 and engaged in farming. He removed to this village six years previous to his death and lived in west Front street. Samuel Archibald conducted the tannery for several years alone until he discontinued the tannery business altogether.

Allen C. Archibald, the youngest son of James Archibald, was a civil engineer. He went south and lived at Louisville, Ky. At one time he was employed in the survey of the Panama canal.

James Archibald followed farming all his life. He died Feb. 8, 1857, at Owego. His first wife was Mary Wilson, of Bolton, who died in 1814. His second wife, Elizabeth Chase, was a Quakeress and was born in the colony of Rhode Island in 1774. She died May 31, 1860, at the home of her son, Allen C. Archibald, in Louisville, Ky.

The children of James and Mary (Wilson) Archibald were as follows:

1. Martha Archibald, born in the town of Bolton, Warren county, N. Y.,

in 1803. Married Samuel Babcock, of Owego. He died in 1839, and she in 1851.

2. Alvah Bosworth Archibald, born in the town of Bolton in 1805. Married Jane McQuigg, daughter of Daniel McQuigg, Jr., of Spencer. She died in 1856 and he June 8, 1862. Their only son, Frederick Archibald, was killed in the battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

3. Almon Wilson Archibald, born 5 Nov., 1807, in the town of Bolton. Married Abigail Bates, of Owego. 3 Aug., 1828. She died 8 Jan., 1862. He married second Valeria A. Babcock, of Windham, Pa., daughter of Benjamin Babcock, 30 April, 1864. She died 19 July, 1896, and he 17 Feb., 1892, at Owego.

4. Anson Samuel Archibald, born at Caldwell, N. Y., 11 June, 1810. Married Adaline Mason, daughter of James Mason, of Kelloggsville, N. Y., 22 Feb., 1828. She died 28 Jan., 1887, and he 25 Nov., 1891. Both died at the old homestead.

5. Maria Baldwin Archibald, born at Caldwell, N. Y., 27 June, 1812. Married Ralph Manning, of Berkshire, N. Y., 31 Jan., 1849. He died 22 Sept., 1872, in Berkshire. She died in 1897, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Mary Labrec, at Big Foot, Ill. Mr. Manning was the father of Gurdon G. Manning, who was a dry goods merchant in Owego.

The only son of James and Elizabeth (Chase) Archibald was Allan Chase Archibald, born 15 Jan., 1818, at Caldwell, N. Y. He married Mary A. Pinney, daughter of Joshua L. Pinney, of Owego, in 1840. He died in 1862 in Cincinnati, Ohio, and she 29 Nov., 1892, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Cline, in Wilmington, Del.

When James Archibald came to Owego Richard Brown was conducting a small tannery, mention of which has been made in these articles. At that

time a man named Wicks was conducting the tannery on the Huntington creek, which tannery he subsequently sold to Elihu Parmenter.

Samuel Archibald was a member of the board of village trustees in 1858, 1859, 1868, and 1869. He was also a commissioner of highways of the town of Owego. He was a commissioned officer in the state militia, serving as lieutenant, captain, and major.

Samuel Babcock, who married Martha Archibald, was a blacksmith. He came to Owego from Bolton, N. Y., in 1823. He lived on the west side of North avenue, south of Temple street. He owned three village lots. On one of them was a blacksmith shop, on another a carriage shop, and between them was his dwelling house. Samuel and Martha (Archibald) Babcock had four sons, Edward, George W., David, and Alvah Babcock, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Emily Babcock.

Elizabeth Babcock was the first wife of Albert A. Baker, a son of Lemuel Baker. He was a stone cutter and went south to work on a contract on the state capitol of Tennessee at Nashville, and died at Huntsville, Ala., July 25, 1901. He returned north just before the breaking out of the civil war and lived on a farm he had purchased two miles south of Newark Valley. From March, 1874, to December, 1877, he was engaged in the dry goods business at Owego. He afterward returned to Alabama, where he engaged in the marble business. He was a brother of James R. Baker, who is still living at Owego.

Emily Babcock married Mr. Elliott, of Alabama. Both the sisters died at Huntsville.

George W. Babcock now lives at Ithaca. He was for many years in the charge of the repair shops of the Erie railroad at Owego and later in charge of the repair department of the Geneva, Ithaca, & Sayre branch of the Lehigh Valley railroad.

Alvah Babcock was a tinsmith. He went to Huntsville, Ala., a short time before the breaking out of the civil war and served in the Confederate army. He died at Huntsville in October, 1865. Edward Babcock also died at Huntsville about three weeks after Alvah's death.

#### CALDWELL ROW.

Mention has been made in these papers of Caldwell Row. This was a block of wooden buildings one and one-half stories high and painted yellow. It extended on the north side of Front street from Lake street to the present Ahwaga house block. The row was occupied as stores, shops, and dwellings. The owner, James Caldwell, who lived at Albany, was a wealthy tobacconist. He invested largely in lands in this part of the state. He acquired this property in January, 1797, by purchase from Wm. Rhodes and John McGregor, New York merchants. The purchase included seven Owego town lots containing about 1,108 acres and eight other lots in the village of Owego, for all of which he paid £800.

Three of the village lots comprised all the land on the north side of Main street including the M. E. church property and the lot on which the new graded school building now stands with all the land between them, in-

cluding the part through which Spencer avenue now extends.

Another of these lots was the west one-half of the present square bounded by Lake, Main, Church, and Front streets, and included the land opposite on the south side of Front street to the bank of the Susquehanna river.

Still another of these lots was at the northeast corner of Front and Church streets, now owned by F. C. Hewitt and extended back to Main street. All this property had been originally owned by James McMaster, who sold it to his brother, David McMaster, from whom it was purchased by Rhodes and McGregor.

Among Caldwell's other investments in lands in southern New York was the purchase in July, 1804, for \$4,000 of nineteen village lots containing 1,936 acres in what is now the business part of the city of Elmira. Mr. Caldwell never lived at Owego, but came here occasionally to look after his property. He died in 1831, aged about 70 years.

The ground on which Caldwell Row stood became the property of Caldwell's daughter, Mrs. Stephen Sewell, of Montreal, who sold it in May, 1832, to James Ely, Jonathan Platt, and George Bacon. This piece had a front of 128 feet on Lake street and 115 on Front street. It was divided by agreement, Ely taking the lot on which Ahwaga hall now stands, Platt the lot now occupied by the Tioga national bank and the store adjoining west of it, and Bacon the corner lot on which the Partridge drug store stands. Mr. Bacon also received in the division the part on the east side of Lake street where the brick

front building now occupied by the Owego national bank stands.

The lot between the Tioga national bank and the corner drug store in Front street was sold in September, 1832, to James W. Taylor and Nelson B. Skeel, who erected thereon a three-story wooden building, which was so narrow and towered so high above all the others that it was commonly known as "the lighthouse" and "the shot tower." John Carmichael bought the bank lot, on which he built a three-story brick store in 1835. The "lighthouse" leaned on Mr. Carmichael's property so that he had to cut away the rafters to build his walls. Dr. Jedediah Fay bought the lot on which Ahwaga hall stands in 1835 and built a three-story building thereon, with two stores, one of which he occupied as a drug store.

Taylor & Skeel were tailors and occupied their building as a tailor's shop. Taylor removed to Ohio about the year 1840. Skeel came here from one of the eastern states and after remaining here a few years went west, where he became captain of a Mississippi river steamboat and died while running a steamboat on that river.

#### VINE KINGSLEY.

Vine Kingsley, one of the earliest settlers at Owego, came in 1790. He married Esther Wright. At the first election for officers of the town of Owego on April 3, 1800, he was elected to three offices—overseer of the poor, poundmaster, and fence-viewer. The offices of overseer of the poor and fence-viewer he held by re-election four years. He was also appointed a justice of the peace. In 1805 he re-

moved to Scipio, N. Y., where he died in 1811, aged 44 years. He had three sons, Josiah Wright Kingsley, born in 1796 at Owego, and Elias and Eliada Kingsley (twins), born about 1805. The three brothers removed to Perry, Wyoming county, where Josiah W. died in 1885 and Eliada in 1856.

#### ELIAS AND EBENEZER ALLEN.

Elias Allen was an early settler here. He was a shoemaker, but did not work at his trade, but dug wells and built cellars. He lived on the east side of North avenue adjoining the Presbyterian church property.

His son, Ebenezer Allen, was also a shoemaker. His shoe shop and residence, a small building one and one-half stories high, was on the north side of Mainstreet at the Northavenue corner, then known as the Tinkham corner. In 1823 his shop was on the south side of Front street, a little west of Church street. Later he purchased a lot near Leach's mills and built a house there, and there he died Jan. 20, 1867, aged 73 years.

Mr. Allen was an expert river pilot and made trips down the river with rafts and arks during the rafting seasons. He was many years bellringer and sexton of the Presbyterian church. He was also for many years and until his death crier of the courts of Tioga county. He was an expert fisherman and owned the eel rack which was in the Susquehanna river opposite the mouth of the Owego creek, which remained in use several years after his death. One of his daughters, Mary Ann Allen, was a nurse and matron at St. Lake's hospital in New York 32 years. She died in that city Dec. 20, 1904, aged 80

years. Another daughter, Frances Allen, became the wife of Watson L. Hoskins, of Owego. She died July 5, 1905, at Owego, aged 74 years. A third, Miss Adeline Allen, lived at Lafayette, Ill.

#### GEN. ISAAC B. OGDEN.

Gen. Isaac B. Ogden was a cabinet maker. He was born in New Jersey in 1805. His mother died when he was very young and he was reared by his grandmother, Mrs. Canfield, of Smithboro. He learned his trade of a cabinet maker at Owego. He afterward went to New York city, where he spent several years, and upon his return here he formed a partnership in the cabinet making business with Dana & Kingsley.

At that time all the furniture in use was made by hand, and the demand hereabouts was largely supplied by his firm. In 1834 Mr. Ogden purchased the interest of his partners in the business, and the next year he married Priscilla G. Goodman, daughter of Philip Goodman, who was for several years landlord of various public houses at Owego and an early comer here.

Mr. Ogden's cabinet shop stood on the north side of Main street opposite where the new Owego hotel now stands. This cabinet shop was burned Aug. 5, 1841. The fire burned all the wooden buildings to the North avenue corner, and up North avenue to the old Tioga house, a hotel which stood about where Sporer, Carlson & Berry's piano factory is now. This fire burned Gen. Ogden's dwelling house, which stood east of the cabinet shop, together with James Conk-

lin's wagon shop, and Gad Worthington's residence.

The cabinet shop was immediately rebuilt on a larger scale. The new manufactory was a large two-story wooden building, painted red, which stood on the north side of Main street opposite where the new Owego hotel now stands. The factory was in the rear part. The front part, which was used as a salesroom, was so large that it was also used sometimes as a place for holding public meetings and for the performances of travelling theatrical companies, etc.

There has of late been a craze in these parts for collecting old furniture, which after having been repaired and revarnished by a more modern cabinet maker is made to do new service in the parlors and sitting rooms of our citizens. Much of this stuff, which its happy possessors rank with the masterpieces of Sheraton, Chippendale, and Heppelwhite, was turned out at Gen. Ogden's factories and was the workmanship of Gideon O. Chase, Abram B. Elston, Ossian E. Dodge (afterward the principal singer in his travelling concert company, known as "Ossian's Bards," which gave concerts throughout the country), and many other good workmen of the time, whose names some of our "oldest inhabitants" still remember.

This cabinet factory was also burned in the night of February 16, 1854. This fire swept away all the wooden stores and houses to the North avenue corner. At the time of this fire the factory was occupied by J. L. Matson as a furniture store.

After Gen. Ogden's house in Main street was burned he lived in a house

which still stands on the south side of the Susquehanna river and is the seventh house east of the Court street bridge.

Gen. Ogden was a public spirited man, and was greatly interested in the welfare and improvement of Owego. He was a member of the village board of trustees eleven years between the years 1831 and 1849 and was president of the village from 1846 to 1849, inclusive. He was active in organizing the first hook and ladder company in 1835. He died at Owego April 14, 1868, aged 63 years.

Gen. Ogden's eldest son, Rev. Charles Ezra Ogden, was an Episcopal clergyman and preached at Belows Falls, Vermont. His daughter, Mrs. Jennie Locey removed to LaSalle, Ill.

#### ROMEO WOODFORD.

Romeo Woodford was one of the earliest merchants in the hardware and tinware trade at Owego. He came here from Candor in 1814. He was the father of Bissell and Romeo Woodford, who were engaged in the same business several years.

They were descendants of Bissell Woodford, of Farmington, Conn., a soldier of the revolution, four of whose sons removed to Tioga county in 1804. Chauncey, the eldest son, and Ira Woodford settled at West Candor. Cyrus settled in east Spencer, where he died Nov. 6, 1878, aged 80 years. Romeo lived at Candor until his removal to Owego. Chauncey Woodford was a farmer. Bissell Woodford, the father, came about the year 1825 from Farmington to Candor, where he died Sept. 3, 1835, aged 81 years.

Ira and Romeo Woodford were tin-smiths. Romeo Woodford carried on the business at Owego and Ira at West Candor. In those days business was conducted on an extensive scale at many small country villages. At West Candor Ira Woodford's manufactory was a large one, and he sent peddlers out with wagons all over the country. The peddlers sold tinware and whiplashes, taking in exchange furs.

After the death of Romeo Woodford at Owego, in 1819, his widow, Rhoda (Hulburt) Woodford, removed to West Candor with her two sons, Bissell and Romeo Woodford, Jr., where Bissell Woodford learned the tin-smith's trade in his uncle's shop.

In the spring of 1838 Mrs. Woodford and her sons returned to this village, where Ira Woodford opened a branch of his West Candor manufactory in company with Bissell Woodford. Their shop was the first building below the bridge in Front street. Soon afterward the Owego business passed into the hands of the brothers, Bissell and Romeo Woodford. In July, 1839, they removed into the brick store which had been occupied by L. Truman & Bros., in Lake street where the First national bank now stands. They increased the business rapidly, and carried the largest stock of any tinware establishment in this part of the country. At the time of the great fire of September, 1849, their store was burned.

After the fire the brothers contracted with John R. Drake for the purchase of the Rollin block property at the northwest corner of Lake and Front streets. This lot extended 54

feet west on Front street to Dr. E. B. Phelps's property and 94 feet north on Lake street to Lorenzo Reeves's store. The brothers built thereon the four-story building that now stands there, and which they occupied as a hardware and tin store. The firm of R. Woodford & Co. conducted the store until May, 1855, when the brothers sold it to Storrs & Chatfield and retired from business.

Ira Woodford, who was known as Captain Woodford, was in 1821 appointed lieutenant of a company in the 199th regiment of infantry, which was organized that year from a part of the 95th regiment, and was later promoted to captain.

The elder Romeo Woodford's first wife was Mary Gridley, of Candor. His second wife was Rhoda Hulburt.

Bissell Woodford, the eldest of the two sons of Romeo and Rhoda (Hulburt) Woodford, was born 23 Oct., 1816, at Owego. He married Mandana Fortner, daughter of Lewis Fortner, of Danby, 15 Oct., 1845. He died 19 May, 1897, at Owego and she 29 March, 1891.

Romeo Woodford was born 3 Jan., 1820, at Owego. He married Elizabeth Martin, daughter of Col. Amos Martin, of Owego, 6 Aug., 1846. She died 30 Jan., 1850, at Owego. He married second Augusta E. Sackett, daughter of Richard H. Sackett, of Catatonk. He died 8 July, 1856, at Owego, and she Dec., 1855.

Bissell Woodford was a member of the board of trustees of the village of Owego in 1848, 1852, and 1857.

## JOHN DODD.

John Dodd was a carriage maker, born July 29, 1782. He lived at New Haven, Connecticut, and removed thence to Goshen, N. Y., in 1810. He came to Owego in 1829 and lived here all the rest of his life. His carriage shop was on the west side of North avenue, and the house in which he lived was further up the same street, opposite Chestnut street. The house still stands there, but it was reconstructed after his death by elevating it and building a basement beneath it.

Mr. Dodd lived an uneventful life here and died Sept. 3, 1854. He married Susan Potter, who was born March 1, 1785. She survived him twenty years, and died here Dec. 17, 1874. The children of John and Susan (Potter) Dodd were as follows:

1. Hannah Dodd, born 24 Dec., 1804, at New Haven, Conn. Died 8 Jan., 1805.

2. Maria Dodd, born 3 Feb., 1806, at New Haven. Died 16 March, 1861, at Owego. Unmarried.

3. John S. Dodd, born 11 Sept., 1808, at New Haven. Married Lucy Hatch in 1831. He died 21 Feb., 1870, at Ithaca, N. Y.

4. Caroline Dodd, born 20 Oct., 1810, at New Haven. Died 30 Aug., 1884, at Owego. Unmarried.

5. Edward D. Dodd, born 11 Jan., 1813, at Goshen, N. Y. Married Sarah A. Lacey, of Laceyville, Pa., 2 Feb., 1840. He died 1 Sept., 1894, at Elmira, N. Y., and she 18 Jan., 1908, also at Elmira.

6. Jane Dodd, born 20 Aug., 1815, at Goshen. Married Otis W. Livermore, of Owego, 7 Nov., 1853. She died 17 Oct., 1900, in Athens township, Pa., and he 21 March, 1895, at Owego.

7. William Dodd, born 24 Sept., 1818,

at Goshen. Died 26 July, 1839, at Owego.

8. Thomas A. Dodd, born 2 March, 1822, at Goshen. Married Harriet E. Freeman, of Goshen, 2 Oct., 1851. He died 18 Jan., 1900, at Owego, and she died at Elmira.

9. Louise L. Dodd, born 16 April, 1825, at Goshen. Married Dr. Elias W. Seymour, of Owego, in Oct., 1850. He died 26 June, 1893, at Owego, and she 26 Feb., 1900.

10. George A. Dodd, born 12 May, 1827, at Goshen. Married Sarah Searles, of Owego, 23 Nov., 1848. He died 14 Jan., 1864, at Owego, and she 23 June, 1908.

Edward D. Dodd was an iron moulder. He removed to Laceyville, Pa., in 1840, and thence to Elmira.

Thomas A. Dodd was from 1849 to 1867 a conductor on the New York & Erie railroad.

Elias W. Seymour was born at Windsor, N. Y., Feb. 7, 1823. His father, judge William Seymour, was a prominent man in Broome county and was a brother of governor Horatio Seymour. William Seymour was a lawyer. He was appointed first judge of Broome county in 1833 and was elected to congress in 1834. Elias W. Seymour came to Owego when 18 years of age. He studied medicine in 1866 and began practice in 1870. He died June 26, 1881, at Owego.

#### ABRAHAM GREEK.

Another of the early residents of North avenue was Abraham Greek. He and captain Sylvenus Fox were "bound boys" and were brought here by Elizur Talcott and his sons from Glastonbury, Conn., in 1803. Both learned and worked at the carpenter's trade. Capt. Fox bought the lot at the southeast corner of Fox street and North avenue and built a

house thereon, in which he lived the rest of his life. Mr. Greek bought land on the west side of North avenue, a little south of Fox street and built thereon two houses and lived in one of them until he died March 14, 1862.

Mr. Greek's wife, Mrs. Harriet Greek, was an eccentric woman whose vocabulary was more extensive and comprehensive than accurate. She was a combination of Smollett's Tabitha Bramble, Sheridan's Mrs. Malaprop, and Shillaber's Mrs. Partington, and her sayings created much amusement for her neighbors. She once described an iron safe as a "bugle proof safe with a revolt in it," and she expressed her opinion pretty emphatically of some of the good people of the village who were outside of her social circle as "putting on altogether too much codfish aristocracy." To a neighbor this cheerful old lady once said that she had always had a "resentment" that she would "die in a prance," but her presentiment proved to be unfounded in anything but vague surmise, for instead of lingering in a trance she passed away suddenly on the 23d of December, 1863, at the not very advanced age of 60 years.

#### ISAAC LILLIE.

Isaac Lillie, a school teacher and civil engineer, came to Owego in 1814. His father, Abraham Lillie, came at an early day from England to Boston, Mass., and engaged in ship building. Isaac Lillie was born at Scotland, Windham county, Conn., Oct. 19, 1788. He lived at one time at Butternuts, Otsego county, N. Y., and later at Montrose, Pa.

After coming to Owego Mr. Lillie surveyed much of the land in Coxe's patent. He taught school several years in the old school house which stood on the south side of Main street, near where the rectory of St. Paul's church now stands. When the Owego academy was built in 1828, he was asked to take charge of the school as principal, but declined to do so. He was much interested in the cause of temperance and the abolition of slavery, and he co-operated in forming the first anti-slavery society in Tioga county in 1839. As a surveyor he was naturally conversant with land values and was elected an assessor of the town of Owego in 1851 and 1854.

Mr. Lillie was twice married. Of his first wife we have no record. His second wife was Rachel Nealy. She was a daughter of John Nealy, who came to Owego in April, 1785, with James and Robert McMaster and William Woods from Florida, N. Y. Her brother, David Nealy, is said to have been the second white child born in Owego. He died March 8, 1871, aged 78 years.

Mr. Lillie lived during the last twenty years of his life in a house which stood on the north side of Front street, east of William street. He purchased the property in April, 1833, from John Mack, of the town of Ulysses, Tompkins county. After his death this property, together with the drug store building at the northeast corner of Front and Lake streets, passed into possession of his daughter, Mrs. Deming. The dwelling house in west Front street was subsequently torn down and in its place she built

the house now owned and occupied by John Jones.

Mrs. Lillie died at Owego Feb. 2, 1849, aged 54 years. Mr. Lillie died Sept. 23, 1854.

The children of Mr. Lillie and his first wife were Susan Lillie, who married Mr. Muar and lived at Scottsville, N. Y., and John Hoyt Lillie, who was born 13 April, 1813, at Montrose, Pa., and married Charlotte B. Curtis, of Montrose. She died at Rochester, N. Y., and he 30 March, 1903, at Los-Angeles, Cal.

The children of Isaac and Rachel (Nealy) Lillie were as follows:

1. Sarah Lillie, born 4 Jan., 1827, at Owego. Died 4 July, 1838.

2. Catherine B. Lillie, born 4 Oct., 1828, at Owego. Married Horace R. Deming 18 Sept., 1858, at Owego. He died 7 April, 1882, at Waterbury, Conn.

3. James Edward Lillie, born 11 Sept., 1833, at Owego. Married Lucy Ketchum, of Corning. He died 27 May, 1901, at Washington, D. C.

James Edward Lillie was a machinist. He lived at Corning, N. Y., and at Susquehanna, Pa., and was later and for many years employed in the government machine shops in the ordnance department at Washington, D. C., in which city he died May 28, 1901.

Catherine B. Lillie married Horace R. Deming, of Owego, and still lives in this village. Mr. Deming was born May 1, 1829, at Bennington, Vt. He came to Owego in 1843 and learned the tinner's trade. He was for many years engaged in the hardware and tin business with various partners, and was afterward in the grocery business with Michael Bergin. Later he conducted a wholesale butter and cheese

business in New Haven, Conn., and still later he engaged in the same business in Newark, N. J. He died April 7, 1882, at Waterbury, Conn., where he was conducting a wholesale flour, grain, hay, and butter business.

Dr. John Hoyt Lillie had a somewhat remarkable career. In May, 1832, he accompanied an uncle on a trip to Illinois, which was then in the "far west." He volunteered to take the census of Chicago, and did so, the enumeration showing the population to be 1,650 people. Later he returned to Owego, where he remained until 1839.

Mr. Lillie was a man of great ingenuity, and had learned the trade of a watchmaker. In 1839 he built a steamboat, the second one ever constructed at this village. In the fall of that year he and Gilbert Forsyth, with their families, started down the river in the boat, intending to go to Cincinnati, Ohio. The boat was wrecked near Wysox, Pa., and the rest of the journey was made overland. In Cincinnati Mr. Lillie studied medicine and obtained a physician's license to practise.

In 1841 he settled at Joliet, Ill. He had become interested in the study of electricity, and he built a circular railroad, twelve feet in diameter, on which a miniature locomotive, designed by him, was driven by electricity. In order to obtain money with which to patent his invention, he exhibited his model and delivered public lectures. At Peoria he attracted the attention of senator Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri, who gave him letters to Prof. Henry, of the Smithsonian institute, and other prominent men in

Washington, who assisted him financially.

In 1850 Dr. Lillie obtained his first patent for the first electric motor, but not without some difficulty. An officer in the patent office tried to steal Dr. Lillie's claim to the invention, and he might have succeeded had not Prof. Henry made dire threats of exposure and disgrace.

In order to raise money with which to develop his invention toward the point of commercial value, Dr. Lillie engaged in further lecturing tours, in one of which he met P. T. Barnum, the showman, who paid him \$250 for a model of the new motor for exhibition in Barnum's New York museum. This proved unfortunate for the inventor, as the public looked upon the model in the museum more as a freak toy than as the beginning of immeasurable commercial achievements.

Dr. Lillie's circular electric railroad was exhibited by the inventor at his old home in Owego in 1851. His lecture was delivered in Patch's hall, which occupied the third story of a brick block on the west side of Lake street, where the Chamberlain block now stands.

On a wooden framework, supported by posts about four feet high and standing on the floor Dr. Lillie had constructed a circular track of two continuous rails in the form of a large hoop, twelve feet in diameter over which a miniature four-wheeled truck was run. On this truck was a galvanic battery and a combination of wheels. Electric power was applied by the battery to the wheels causing them to revolve, sending the cars round and round on the circular track.

In 1850 Dr. Lillie removed to Hornellsville, N. Y., where he continued his experiments. In 1860 he travelled through the country exhibiting Miss Dollie Dutton, a dwarf, and in 1863, he travelled giving exhibitions of nitrous oxide, or laughing gas. In 1868 he removed from Rochester to San Francisco, Cal., and thence in 1873 to Santa Rosa. In 1876 he conducted a car of tourists to the centennial exposition at Philadelphia and in 1878 and again in 1886 he visited Europe. Upon his return in the latter year he became a resident of Los Angeles, where he lived until his death.

When he settled in Los Angeles he possessed only a modest competence, but this he judiciously invested in the business of buying and selling real estate, until at the time of his death he had amassed a fortune of \$250,000.

Dr. Lillie's death was the result of an accident. In the night of March 26, 1903, he inadvertently stepped off the back porch of his house and plunged six feet to the flagging. His skull was fractured and he died four days afterward on March 30.

#### JOSEPH OGDEN.

Joseph Ogden, whose sons, Jehial Walter, and Charles Ogden, were gunsmiths, came to Owego from Orange county, N. Y., about the year 1810, driving the entire distance with a team, and settled on a farm three miles east of this village, known as the John Camp farm. Several years later he removed to Owego and worked as a stone mason and also as a watch repairer.

It may seem a little singular in these days but two trades so entirely

different—one requiring patience and skill and the other strength and endurance—should have been learned by the same man. The explanation is simple. There was not sufficient work in small communities in those days to keep a man employed at one trade all the year round, and while mason work was readily obtained in the summer season, masons were idle in winter, so two trades were learned by one man, in order that he could be employed at one while there was no employment to be had at the other.

His eldest son, Jehial Ogden, learned the trade of a gunsmith in Col. Henry McCormick's gun shop, and became foreman of the shop. Walter Ogden was born on the farm Dec. 2, 1819, and was fifteen years of age when he became an apprentice to learn the trade in Col. McCormick's shop. In 1837 Jehial Ogden built a gun shop at the northwest corner of Main and Liberty streets where St. Paul's Episcopal church now stands, and he and Walter Ogden conducted the business there until April, 1839, when Walter Ogden bought the lot on the west side of North avenue on which the brick store owned by Geo. Snyder and the two stores adjoining it at the north now stand, and built thereon a gun shop. In 1848 Charles Ogden became a partner in the business. Several years afterward they purchased of Charles Talcott the brick store now occupied by L. T. Stanbrough's plumbing store opposite the Ahwaga house in Front street, where they conducted a gun shop and variety store.

Charles Ogden died Dec. 6, 1868, aged 46 years. Walter Ogden died

Feb. 23, 1879, aged 59 years. Jehial Ogden died Feb. 21, 1880, aged 68 years.

Joseph Ogden had three daughters. Rebecca Ogden died July 20, 1880, aged 58 years, and unmarried. Sarah Ogden married John Gardiner. Selina Ogden married Ambrose Townsend. Mr. Townsend was a carpenter. He was born Sept. 27, 1810, in the town of Burn, Dutchess county, N. Y., and died in Owego April 17, 1859. His wife died June 21, 1876, aged 62 years. Mr. Townsend built the house on the north side of Main street, the fifth house east of Paige street, which was owned by Thomas A. Dodd after his death and is now owned by Mrs. Mary Chesbro.

Joseph Ogden died Sept. 19, 1855, at Owego, aged 63 years. His wife, Sarah Ogden, died Jan. 10, 1864, aged 75 years.

#### FRANCIS ARMSTRONG.

Francis Armstrong was born at Florida, Orange county, N. Y., Dec. 4, 1788. In February, 1821, he came to the town of Newark Valley, where he purchased a farm, near the Owego town line and where he followed farming seven years. In 1829 he came to Owego to take the office of deputy sheriff under Col. Henry McCormick. At that time Tioga and Chemung were half-shire counties, and one sheriff was elected for both counties. Mr. Armstrong lived in the old court house at the southeast corner of Main and Court streets, which building was occupied as a sheriff's residence and jail on the first floor, and as a court room on the second floor. Here Mr. Armstrong lived nine years as deputy

under Col. McCormick and Col. McCormick's successors in office. In 1830 he was elected a justice of the peace and served eight years. His first wife was Elysian Poppino, who died in Newark Valley, in 1821. His second wife was her sister, Huldah Poppino. They were married Jan. 15, 1823. Mr. Armstrong's children were Rev. Amzi Armstrong, who was pastor of the Presbyterian church of Dutch Neck, N. J.; Francis Armstrong, who was a bookkeeper and who lives in Pittsburg, Pa.; Mrs. Hannah Inslee and Mrs. Harriet Eaton, who removed to Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Elysian Fassett, who removed to Rockwood, Minn., and Mrs. James H. Board, who removed to Canaseraga, N. Y. Mr. Armstrong died Nov. 26, 1881.

Daniel Armstrong also came to Owego from Orange county, where he was born. In early life he was a school teacher and later a bookkeeper and accountant. He died at Owego Jan. 25, 1886, aged 79 years.

James Conklin and his sons, wagon makers, were early residents here. They came from Orange county, N. Y., in 1820. He died at Owego Jan. 6, 1855, aged 92 years.

One of his sons was Jacob Conklin, whose wagon shop was for several years on the southwest corner of Main and Park streets. In 1837 Francis Armstrong purchased the property, turned the building partly around and converted it into a dwelling house. It was afterward owned and occupied several years by Charles C. Thomas and is now the property of Mrs. C. R. Heaton.

The wagon shop of another son, James Conklin, Jr., was on the north side of Main street, a little east of North avenue, and it was burned with several other buildings Aug. 5, 1841. He died here Sept. 24, 1865, aged 65 years.

James Conklin lived on the west side of Church street, between Main and Temple streets. This street was for many years a small lane.

Asa Dearborn was a shoemaker. He removed from Candor to Owego in 1826 and worked at his trade here until his death. He died May 23, 1873, aged 73 years. His wife, Pluma Dearborn, died Jan. 3, 1873, aged 78 years.

This concludes the sketches of the early residents of Owego and they include those only who came here previous to 1830. Had it been considered expedient to extend them over a later period they would have included Dr. Lucius H. Allen, judge Alanson Munger, Dr. Hiram N. Eastman, Col. Nathaniel W. Davis, Henry N. Hubbard, Joshua L. Pinney, Franklin Slosson, Timothy P. Patch, James and John W. L'Amoureux, Arba Campbell, Thomas I. and John R. Chatfield, Dr. John Frank, and many others who came here subsequent to that year.

Some Account of John Gee, Who  
Fought nearly Seven Years in the  
Revolutionary War and Came to  
Owego with Gen. Clinton's Army in  
1779 and afterward Fought in the  
Battle of Newtown, Dying Several  
Years Later on a Farm in the Town  
of Barton When Past Ninety-two  
Years of Age.

Among the papers of Judge Charles  
P. Avery, now owned by the Wisconsin  
state historical society, is an interview  
with John Gee, a revolutionary soldier  
who came to Owego in 1779 with Gen.  
Clinton's army, and who died many  
years later in the town of Barton.  
Mr. Gee's statement as follows:

#### JOHN GEE'S STATEMENT.

June 8, 1853.

John Gee in his 91st year. Served  
in revolutionary war. Entered the  
army at Ft. Montgomery (near Anthony's  
Nose) the year Burgoyne was taken,  
then in his 15th year.

I was with Gen'l. Clinton's right  
wing of the army. I was at Otsego  
lake when the dam was made. Part  
of us went by land down the river,  
and part in bateaux. We laid still  
awhile at Oquaga, some hours, till  
the boats came along. From there  
some of us went across the country,  
and not around the "bend." An  
Oneida Indian was our guide. There  
were the hills where the corn had  
grown at Owego, and Oquaga and  
Choconut.

We made the junction with Sullivan  
at Tioga Point. Gen'l. Clinton came  
with the boats. We met Gen'l. Poor  
at Choconut.

I was in the battle at Newtown under  
Gen'l. Clinton, belonged to the right  
wing, ascended the hill, and drove  
the enemy from that quarter. The  
next morning took a vote in the army  
to go on with half allowance. We  
decided to go on. At Catharine's Town

Indians had fires there all burning, &c., destroyed their huts. Squaw Catharine with a young squaw 14 or 15 years old was there.

I lived in Orange county after war.

There was a clearing at Owego, large trees scattered around, but used as corn ground. Some huts, &c., there.

I was at Yorktown at Cornwallis's surrender.

I was born at Peekskill, N. Y., in the year 1763, 13th Jan'y. Saw Washington frequently.

Large trees along the bank at Owego. Extensive corn plains at Tioga Point, Oquaga, Owego, and Choconut.

John Gee was a soldier in the Fourth regiment of infantry commanded by Lieut.-Col. Frederick Weisensfels in Gen. James Clinton's New York brigade of 1,500 men, which came to Owego August 17, 1779. Joining Sullivan's army of 3,500 men the combined forces marched from Tioga Point to Newtown (Elmira), where on Aug. 29 they fought and defeated the British and Indian forces numbering 1,500 men under Butler and Brant.

Mr. Gee was with Clinton's right wing, which ascended the hill upon the right of their centre, dislodging the Indians, who were there contesting every inch of ground under Brant's leadership. The severest of the engagement was along these heights, where Brant had taken his position, and here Mr. Gee was in the thickest of the fight. He was afterward a participant in the engagements which ended with the surrender of Gen. Cornwallis at Yorktown. He served in the army seven years lacking only one month.

In 1795 Mr. Gee drew lot No. 21 in the military tract, just north of Owego hill in the town of Harford, Cort-

land county, and settled thereon. He came there with two other men from Chenango Point (now Binghamton), guided by marked trees. They cut down the trees on a small spot and built a little log house about 12 by 16 feet in size, with only an axe, without a board, a nail, or a pane of glass, and returned whence they came. The next year Mr. Gee removed his family, consisting of his parents, his wife, and six children, from Wyoming, arriving June 17, to live in this small building.

One of his sons, John Gee, Jr., afterward settled in the town of Richford, where some of his descendants are still living. He later in life removed to the town of Barton, where he died. Judge Avery mentions him in his Susquehanna Valley papers (St. Nicholas, page 381) as "living in a remote part of this town, westerly from Halsey Valley, in the 92d year of his age."

The state military records show that John Gee was at different times a member of Col. Philip Van Cortlandt's Second regiment, of Col. James Holmes's Fourth regiment, of Col. Lewis DuBoys's Fifth regiment, of the Dutchess county militia (regiment of minute men), commanded by Col. Jacobus Swartwout, and of the Fourth Ulster county militia, commanded by Col. Johannes Hardenburgh in 1775-1782.

The name of Jno. Gee again appears in the list of members of the Second regiment of Dutchess county militia, Col. Abraham Brinkerhoff.

The name of John Gee also appears in the list of persons suspected of be-

ing stories, and also in the list of those whose estates were confiscated by the government. (See New York in the Revolution Supplement, pages 231 and 255.) There may have been more than one man in the continental army named John Gee.

---

**Some Account of the First Grist Mills  
Built at Owego by Col. David Pix-  
ley, Thomas Matson, Jr., and  
Charles Frederick and Robert  
Charles Johnson.**

It is related in judge Avery's "Susquehanna Valley" papers that in April, 1785, James and Robert McMaster, John Nealy, and William Woods, with William Taylor, a bound boy, who were the first of the white men to settle here, came to Owego. They planted ten acres of corn on the flats, north of where the Erie railroad now runs. After it was harvested in the fall "it was gathered and taken, by boat loads to Tioga Point and securely cribbed." As soon as it was thus secured the party set out on their return to their "winter quarters" in the valley of the Mohawk.

To transport this corn down the Susquehanna river dead pine trees were cut on the bank of the Owego creek and felled into the water, where they were bound together with withes, forming a raft.

On this the corn was floated down the river and finally taken to the nearest mill, at Wilkes-Barre, to be ground.

The first grist mill built in this part of the state, according to Wilkinson's "Annals of Binghamton," was built on

Fitch's creek, four miles above Binghamton, in the present town of Kirkwood. This creek took its name from Jonathan Fitch, an early settler there, who was the first representative of Tioga county in the state legislature, in 1792. He came from Wyoming, Pa., when the troubles which resulted in the massacre commenced, where he had been a merchant and high sheriff of Westmoreland county.

The pioneers at Owego found no mill nearer than Wilkes-Barre, which they reached by canoes, until Fitch's mill was built in 1792. The same year a mill was built at Milltown. In 1793 Col. David Pixley built a mill near this village, the first one erected here.

Among the Avery papers in the Wisconsin state historical society's collection is a "statement and narrative" of Laurence Merriam, taken by Guy Hinchman Avery, judge Avery's brother. Merriam settled three miles above Union. Merriam says, among other things:

"We were very much straightened for food when we first came into the country; have ground corn all night in order to have something for breakfast; used wooden trenchers and wooden forks; had to go in canoes down to Shepard's mill for grist. The first grist mill that was built in the country was built up the Squires creek, four miles above Binghamton. It ran only in high water."

This was doubtless the Fitch mill.

The Pixley mill stood on the west bank of the Owego creek, near the Indian spring, and about forty rods above the present Main street bridge. It was built of logs. To get to it from the village it was necessary to ford the creek. The old mill stood

close under the bank, and the tail race ran close at the base of Vesper cliff. The entire course of the creek has been changed by the floods of many years, and in some places where the old stream ran are now stones, grass, and weeds. Until a few years ago remains of the flume could be seen, some of the timbers sticking out of the bank, showing where they had been cut and joined together. The old flume was just east of the Indian spring.

This spring was a peculiar one, and was one which was resorted to by the Indians. The water never freezes and preserves the same temperature all the year round. It still contains water, but is in a neglected condition, used only for the watering of cattle. Before the springs were made dry by the clearing away of the woods, the water from this spring used to flow down to the south side of the old dam into the creek, or what was known as the old race. The water in the spring is very cold.

On the high ground south of the spring have been found many arrow heads, hatchets, etc., from which it is inferred that the Indians were accustomed to camp there. From the mill the road extended west up a slight rise of ground to Col. Pixley's house, known for many years as the Pixley tavern, which house still stands there—the only one of the old houses now remaining in the town of Tioga.

This house was built by Col. Pixley in 1791. The course of the old road from the mill to the house may still be seen. It has been for many years only a cow path. The bed of an old creek runs along the road on the north

side. This creek has been dry for many years. It rises from springs in the woods north of Glenmary on the old Ephraim Leach property. The Pixley mill was washed away by high water in 1824 or 1825.

There was another grist mill at an early day further down the Owego creek. In September, 1801, when Thomas Matson, Jr., purchased of various owners a large amount of land on both sides of the creek north and south of where Main street now extends, a saw mill and grist mill are mentioned in two of the deeds from Col. Pixley and Ashbel Wells to Matson as being on the east side of the creek and "standing in the meadow, near the mouth of the Owego creek, formerly held in joint ownership with James McMaster."

Thomas Matson, Jr., came to Owego from Simsbury, Conn. He had three sons, William, George, and Reuben Matson. A daughter, Rachel Matson, married Daniel Goodale and lived in East Hartford, Conn. Another daughter, Ruth Matson, married James Buck, of the town of Chatham, Middlesex county, Conn. Still another daughter, Fanny Matson, died at Owego May 4, 1811.

Thomas Matson, Jr., built a grist mill in Canawana. It stood about half way between the Owego creek and the present hydraulic canal, or race, which supplies the electric light works with water power. It stood on the south side of the street now known as Main street, but then known as "the lake road."

Col. Wm. Ransom, of Tioga Centre, once informed the writer that the Matson mill was built when he was five or

six years of age. As Col. Ransom was born in 1801, the date must have been 1806 or 1807. The mill was built of hewed logs and had but one run of stone. It was one story high and open to the roof, with no loft. An iron screen was suspended above the hopper and the miller went up on a ladder and poured wheat in, to screen it.

Traces of the old race which supplied the mill with water can still be seen, although almost obliterated by the floods of many years, and where it crossed the street the highway was filled in and raised several years ago. After the property was sold to Charles Frederick and Robert Charles Johnson, in the spring of 1833, the mill was converted into a plaster mill and it was burned in March, 1838. The plaster mill was afterward rebuilt.

When the Matsons came here they bought about 400 acres of land on the west side of the Owego creek and lived thereon in log houses. As they accumulated money they tore down these houses and built better ones, framed from sawed lumber. George Matson lived west of the Owego creek where the Meadowbank farm house stands, which house was for many years the residence of Charles Frederick Johnson. Reuben Matson lived on the north side of the road. His house stood near the highway and was just west of the present gate to the entrance of the "Vesper Cliff" grounds. The house was afterward moved back and was made a part of the large house built on the place by Robert Charles Johnson. Wm. Matson lived west of his brother, Reuben's, house, in the farm house which still stands there.

West of the Matson grist mill was a pond known as Matson's pond, which extended nearly to the creek. It was crossed by a wooden bridge, sixty or seventy feet long. This pond was subsequently filled with earth by the Johnsons.

When the hill west of the creek was cut through to extend Main street west up the hill into the town of Tioga, to make the ascent easier, a large quantity of human bones was dug up. This part of an Indian burying ground. This was part of an Indian burying ground. Of this ground Judge Avery says:

"An Indian burying ground extended along the brow of the cliff, on the westerly bank of the Owego creek upon the homestead premises of Messrs. J. Platt and C. F. Johnson. It was a favorite burial place. Mr. Whitaker narrates that upon the death of Ka-nau-kwis . . . he was brought to this place. Where he died she does not state, but Mrs. Williams recollects to have heard her father [Amos Draper] say that he received his death wound at Tioga Point. His remains must therefore have been transported from that place to this favorite spot of interment, a distance of twenty-one miles. Although many Indian graves have been found upon the site of Owego, no indications have been there exhibited of an appropriation so exclusive for Indian burial in its ordinary mode, as the extended brow of this cliff."

Thomas Matson, Jr., died March 12, 1818, aged 73 years. His wife, Abiah Matson, died Dec. 26, 1820, aged 72 years. Their bodies were buried in the Tioga cemetery.

After Thomas Matson's death the property all passed into the hands of the three sons, George, Reuben, and William Matson. In May, 1833, they

sold all their property on both sides of the Owego creek to Charles Frederick Johnson and his cousin, Robert Charles Johnson, and removed to Conneaut, Ohio.

Robert Charles Johnson was born at Stratford, Conn., and came to Owego Feb. 27, 1830. He was a lawyer and became the law partner of Thomas Farrington. Charles Frederick Johnson also came from Stratford. In May, 1833, they purchased of the Matson brothers the land between the Owego creek and the present mill race of the electric light company's work on both sides of Main street, and much land on both sides of the same street on the west side of the creek. The Matson mill was afterward converted into a plaster mill and conducted by Charles Frederick Johnson. The cousins built a larger grist mill on the ground where the electric light company's power house now stands and in the summer of 1833 built the hydraulic canal, seven-eighths of a mile long, to supply it with water power.

The year previous to the building of this canal had been a cold season and the corn crop was killed. Everybody was in a semi-starving condition, and the building of the canal was a God-send to many of the farmers. Two or three hundred of them were employed in digging the ditch and building the dam and mill. Money was paid for the work on the spot. Shauties were erected along the work, in which the men slept, and in some of them their wives cooked their meals. Stables were also erected to house the teams employed on the work.

Corn was selling at \$1.25 a bushel, and the price advanced to about \$2. Wheat sold at \$2 a bushel. Rice could be bought for 8 and 9 cents a pound and was used largely by the people, on account of the scarcity and high price of grain. Silver change was also scarce, and Robert Charles Johnson and the Trumans issued "shinplaster" currency, which was circulated in making change.

The Johnson cousins built in addition to the grist mill a large sawmill at the foot of the race, near the Susquehanna river. This sawmill had four upright saws and three circular saws and was considered then one of the best ones in the state, but it would be looked upon at the present day as a rather old foggy affair. The machinery for the mill was made in New York city and transported to Binghamton by canal, and thence by teams to Owego. This mill was burned.

In the days of the Matsons the country was covered with woods. Every available place along the creeks was selected as a site for a saw mill. No lath was made at that time and the slabs were thrown into the creek, where they floated ashore further down the stream and were gathered by people living there and used for firewood.

The Johnsons contemplated the building up of a manufacturing centre in Canawana, and to that end established various manufacturing interests there. On the west bank of the canal was a sheepskin tannery conducted by Arba Campbell and Thomas I. Chatfield. This tannery was burned in December, 1860. Another tannery

was built on the same site, and it was also burned in December, 1879.

On the west bank of the canal, several rods north of Main street, was an axe factory. There were also a pail and tub factory, which was afterward converted into a wooden match box factory; a shoemaker's last factory, conducted by John Camp and Ezekiel Noble; a clock factory, Tinkham & Blanchard's soap factory, Daniel Ruggs's match factory, John G. Crane's wool and carding mill; Warren Kimball's carpet weaving looms, and other industries.

At the corner of Main and Division streets Robert Charles Johnson built a store in the fall of 1838. This store was kept at various times by Frederick E. Platt, E. W. Warner, and others. It was afterward converted into a tavern and was burned in 1868. East of this was another store known as the "Indian Spring grocery," which was also burned. Between this store and the canal were two houses occupied by the millers and their families, which houses are still standing.

The failure of the manufacturing project was largely owing to the gradual decrease in the water supply, owing to the country being cleared of its woods.

Charles Frederick Johnson lived in the house on his farm in the town of Tioga, known as Meadowbank farm, which house still stands there and is owned by Lewis H. Leonard, who purchased the farm of the Johnson heirs in June, 1900.

Charles Frederick Johnson was the seventh in descent from Robert Johnson, who was born in Rutlandshire, England, in 1599. He was one of the

founders of New Haven, Conn., and died there in 1661.

His son, William Johnson, died at Guilford, Conn., in 1792. William's son, Samuel, also died there in 1727.

Samuel's son, also named Samuel, was born at Guilford in 1696 and died at Stratford, Conn., in 1772. He was graduated from Yale college and was afterward president of Kings college in New York city. He was the first Episcopal clergyman ordained in Connecticut.

Samuel's son, William Samuel Johnson, was born at Stratford in 1727 and died there in 1819. He was graduated from Yale college and became a lawyer. He was a member of the Stamp-Act congress of 1765, a member of the Federal convention in 1787 which framed the constitution of the United States. He was United States senator from Connecticut and president of Columbia college in New York city.

His son, Samuel William Johnson, who was the father of Charles Frederick Johnson, was born at Stratford Oct. 23, 1761, and died there Oct. 25, 1806. He also was graduated from Yale college and became a lawyer. He was judge of probate, member of the Connecticut legislature, and member of the governor's council. He married Nov. 27, 1791, Susan, daughter of Pierrepont Edwards.

Charles Frederick Johnson was born at Stratford in 1804. His parents both died when he was an infant and he was brought up by his grandfather, William Samuel Johnson. After his graduation from Union college he spent three years studying in France. In 1835 he married Sarah Dwight Woolsey, youngest daughter of William

Walton Woolsey, an old-time merchant of New York city, some account of whom is given in the second volume of "The Old Merchants of New York," by Walter Barrett. Mr. Woolsey was a descendant of Thomas Woolsey, a near relative of the Thomas Woolsey who was better known in history as cardinal Woolsey. She was born in New York city in 1805 and died in Paris, France, Feb. 24, 1870. Her brother was president Thomas Woolsey of Yale college. Mrs. Johnson was on a tour through Europe at the time of her death and died of pneumonia.

Mr. Johnson lived at his Tioga home until 1876 when he removed to the home of his daughter, Mrs. William Bellamy, at Dorchester, Mass., where he died July 6, 1882. The fathers of both Mr. and Mrs. Johnson owned much land in Tioga county, which was the reason for their coming here.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were people of refinement and fine culture, and were highly educated. Mr. Johnson remained a student during his entire life, giving most of his attention to the Latin language and literature. In 1874 he published a metrical translation of the great poem of Lucretius, "De Rerum Natura," which was received with favor in both America and England. He also possessed marked inventive powers, although he lacked the practical sagacity necessary to render new ideas pecuniarily remunerative. He was the inventor of what is known as the atmospheric dock for raising vessels, now in use in every seaport in the world, and of the circular tumbler combination lock, which may be seen on most American

safes, and of several other inventions, which came into general use after he had abandoned them.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Frederick Johnson were Charles Frederick Johnson, Jr., who has been for several years professor of English literature in Trinity college; William Woolsey Johnson, who is professor of draughting in the United States naval academy at Annapolis, Md.; Anna M. Johnson, who married William Belamy and lives at Dorchester, Mass., and Katharine Bayard Johnson, who died in Paris, France, in February, 1906

Robert Charles Johnson's father was also named Robert Charles Johnson, and was a brother of Samuel William Johnson, whose father was William Samuel Johnson, president of Columbia college. The brothers, Samuel C. and Robert C. Johnson became great speculators in the wild lands of southern central New York and in other states, even as far south as North Carolina. One or both of the brothers were in the Watkins and Flint syndicate which bought of the state the great track of land, then wholly in Tioga county, called the Watkins and Flint Purchase. This tract was thirty-five miles in length east and west and about eight miles in width.

In the division of the property of the younger Robert Charles Johnson and his cousin, Charles Frederick Johnson, the property of about sixteen acres known as "Vesper Cliff" in the town of Tioga became the home of Robert Charles Johnson, and the next year he became owner of the mill property. He moved the Reuben Matson house back on the grounds and

built the large mansion, which still stands there. The place was known as "Tioga Terrace."

Mr. Johnson sold the property in 1841 to Horace Frizelle, of Horaceton, Pa., for \$11,500. Frizelle also bought of R. C. Johnson property on the east side of the creek at the corner of Main and Division streets, 22 feet front by 100 feet deep, on which stood the store.

In November, 1842, Frizelle sold the Tioga property for \$5,000 to Jonathan Platt, who, following the example of the poet, N. P. Willis, who had named his home "Glenmary" in honor of his wife, changed the name of his new purchase to "Glenbetsy," in honor of his wife, her name being Betsy.

In March, 1854, Mr. Platt sold the property for \$6,500 to Rev. Samuel Hansen Cox, a noted Presbyterian clergyman, who in his old age had come to Owego as pastor of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Cox changed the name of his new home to "Vesper Cliff," which it has ever since retained.

In April, 1859, after Dr. Cox had removed to LeRoy, Genesee county, he sold the property for \$7,000 to Capt. John B. Sardy, of Brooklyn, who had become wealthy in the business of importing guano from South America. Capt. Sardy and his family occupied the property as their summer home eight years. In Nov., 1867, he sold the property for \$12,000 to Thomas C. Platt, who in April, 1869, sold it for the same amount to Samuel S. Watson, of Newark Valley. Mr. Watson subsequently failed in business and in February, 1883, the property passed into the possession of John Hardman.

he purchasing it at referee's sale for \$4,000.

While Mr. Watson owned the property the cliff was practically ruined and the value of the property permanently impaired by the cutting of a road along the side of the cliff, for the purpose of obtaining easy access to a sand bank.

Robert Charles Johnson was born at Stratford, Conn., June 6, 1806. He married Mary Eliza Pumpelly, daughter of James Pumpelly. He removed in 1851 to Westfield, Chautauqua county, N. Y., where he purchased a farm at Long Point on Chautauqua lake, on which he built a magnificent residence, commanding a beautiful view of the lake, which residence was the pride of the town for years. The house was elegantly furnished and the Johnsons were lavish in entertaining their friends. Johnson's friends, however, were convivial spirits and he gradually became dissipated, and to such an extent that his wife left him and obtained a divorce from him, afterward becoming the wife of William H. Platt.

In the division of the family property, following the divorce, Johnson came into possession of the Long Point residence. Here, freed from the restraints of marriage, he gave himself up to a life of revelling. His fortune rapidly dwindled, and after a time he was thrown on his own resources. He went to Washington, where he obtained an appointment as inspector of timber for the Norfolk navy yard. He was afterward transferred to the treasury department, where he remained until 1881, when

he returned to Jamestown, N. Y., where he lived quietly on an annuity furnished by a nephew, who was in Paris. In December, 1885, when he was 80 years of age, he was injured by a fall down stairs, from the effects of which he died June 10, 1886.

Thomas M. Nichols purchased the sawmill at the foot of the race in 1839 and the grist mill two or three years afterward. In company with Francis A. Bliss he conducted the mills from 1848 to his death in May, 1878. In January, 1885, William E. Dorwin purchased the property and afterward, in company with George L. Rich and James T. Stone, supplied the mill with new machinery at a cost of about \$25,000. The mill was burned March 19, 1889, and was not rebuilt.

On the north side of Main street, extending from William street to the mill race is a row of sycamore and elm trees. These trees were set out by direction of James Pumpelly in 1827 and were placed sixteen feet apart, on which to build a fence. The sycamores have nearly all died, but the elms are still standing, which shows that the elm is the best tree to plant for permanence as a shade tree in a village.

The young elm trees were taken from the island in the Owego creek. There was an insufficient number of elms, and when the supply of elms was exhausted sycamores were used. The trees were planted by Deacon Perry, a blacksmith, who lived in a house in Main street where the convent of St. Patrick's church now stands. His shop was also in Main street and occupied the spot on which the second house east of the Baptist church now

stands. Eldridge Forsyth, who was then a boy of fifteen years of age and worked for Mr. Pumpelly, assisted Deacon Perry in the work of obtaining and planting the trees.

**The Indian Trails at Owego, Which Were Used as Public Roads by the First White Settlers and until Highways Were Regularly Laid Out—The Streets as Established by the Village Trustees.**

When the soldiers of Clinton's and Sullivan's armies passed down the Susquehanna through where the village of Owego is now the land was all covered with pine, hemlock, and other trees. It was all woods except a natural clearing on the flat east of the Owego creek. There were no roads whatever; nothing but Indian trails. When the first white settlers came here in 1785 from Montgomery county the Indian trail was the only feasible path for the whole distance. Judge Avery says:

"It generally ran along the bank, near the river, but from the Round Hill at Nanticoke, it left the river and did not strike it again until near the farm of the late Col. Camp at Campville. Below the 'narrows' it also diverged and came upon the bank again near the homestead of Mr. Leonard [Stephen B. Leonard, now the property of James A. Archibald], a little more than a mile above Owego. From that point it followed the river bank to Owego.

"Upon the other side of the river, the trail was uniformly directly upon the bank, except where, to avoid curves, the distance was shortened by following a more direct line. Both trails are described as having been wide enough for the passage of horses,

with packs, cattle, etc., and in many places interposing no obstacles to wheeled vehicles."

The Indian trail on the north side of the river extended along the river bank down to the Owego creek at its mouth, crossing the creek and following the river bank down through the town of Tioga to the "narrows" at Tioga Centre." The mouth of the Owego creek is now about three times as wide as it was then, and it was easily forded.

This Indian trail was the first road used by the earliest settlers at Owego; who built their houses on the north side of the trail, with woods in the rear of their dwellings. The houses fronted on the river and the Indian trail was between them and the stream. After Front street had been laid out as a road west of where the river bridge is now the Indian trail remained and was for several years a beautiful walk.

Along this trail on the river flat in the town of Tioga farm houses were built and the places where they stood are indicated by the shallow wells which supplied the families with water and which still remain.

Another Indian trail was the "Cayuga lake trail." It entered the north part of the present village of Owego and extended direct to the river. It was nearly identical in its course with the street now known as McMaster street. The two trails met each other on the bank of the river, near where Mrs. Eliza J. Pride's residence is now. It is in this vicinity that the skeletons of many of the aborigines have been disinterred at various times.

As the country became settled this trail was gradually used as a public highway and it was known as the lake road, and the name was also applied later to that part of Main street as it extended from McMaster street west across the Owego creek on its way to Athens, Pa. As late as 1833 in deeds of property along this road in the town of Tioga it is mentioned as "the lake road."

The highway up McMaster street was later called the Cayuga road, and it was also known as Cayuga street as late as 1837. It was originally opened to accommodate lumbermen, who reached the river at its foot. Gen. Anson Camp owned at an early day an ark yard at the foot of this street, where vast quantities of lumber were shipped down the river.

The Cayuga road was regularly laid out as a highway by Lemuel Brown and Abijah Foster, commissioners of highways, in 1806. That portion between Main and Front streets was subsequently known as Chapel street, (so called because the old Methodist church, then known as "the chapel," stood on the southeast corner of it and Main street. After the academy was built in this street, in 1883, the name was changed to Academy street.

McMaster street received its name in honor of James McMaster, the original owner of all the land on which the village is situated, who lived on the south side of Front street, near the lower end of Academy street.

The old village plot comprised the greater portion of lot number twenty-three in James McMaster's "half township." It was surveyed by Amaziah Hutchinson, in 1788 and

1789, and the survey was completed by David Pixley, Jr., in 1789 and 1790. The western limits of the village extended but a short distance west of the present village park; its eastern limits were a little east of Paige street. The northern tier of lots was south of where Temple street now is.

When Amaziah Hutchinson surveyed the village plot the present Lake street was a narrow road through the woods. In 1802 Henry Steward and Solomon Williams, commissioners of highways, laid out a highway extending from the north end of Lake street north. It extended in a direct line a little east of and nearly parallel with the present North avenue (where there was then no street) to a point a little north of Talcott street at the south line of Joseph and Lemuel Brown's lot. Thence it extended north where the present highway runs. Lake street was then narrower than it is now, and on each side of it was a rail fence.

When Hutchinson's survey was made, Front street was known sometimes as "the main street," sometimes as "Water street," and also as "the river road." In 1795, it was made into a highway, and not a particularly straight one.

The street now known as Main street first extended from Lake street west to McMaster street. It was sometimes known as "Second" street and also as "Back" street, it being back of Front street, the main highway. Main street and its extension as a highway into and through the town of Tioga was not then in existence, and its present course was then covered with woods and brush. When

William Pumpelly surveyed the extension of this street east the ground was so covered with thick underbrush that he had considerable difficulty in cutting his way through it.

The only streets at Owego at that time were the road along the river bank, the Cayuga lake trail (McMaster street), Back street, and the highway from Lake street north.

When Amaziah Hutchinson made his survey of the village in 1788-9 a street, or lane, was laid out between the lots in Front street now occupied by the residences of Howard J. Mead and J. C. Kenyon. This lane crossed Back street and extended as far north as where Temple street is now. The street now known as Paige street, extending from Front street north as far as the present Temple street, was also laid down on this map as a lane. These lanes and the streets already mentioned were the only ones in the settlement previous to the year 1800.

In 1802 the road extending from the north end of what is now Lake street to near Talcott street was discontinued as a public highway and a new road was opened, which afterward became successively known as the Owego and Ithaca turnpike, Ithaca street, and North avenue. The next year a bridge was built across the Owego creek, and all the travel from Owego west went by Back street, the old river road having been abandoned.

The old "Owego and Ithaca Turnpike Road Company" was incorporated by an act of the legislature, passed April 6, 1807. Its directors were Mason Wattles, John Hollenback, Lemuel Brown, Eleazer Dana, Charles Pumpelly, John H. Avery, Nathan

Camp, Jabez Brown, John Smith, Archer Green, Eleazer Smith, and others. The turnpike was surveyed by Richard W. Pelton and laid out by Gen. John Tillotson and Col. Henry Bloom, two of the commissioners appointed by the governor of the state for that purpose. The date of the survey was April 18, 1808. The stock of the company consisted of 2,000 shares of \$20 each. Mr. Dana, Mr. Avery, and John Smith were appointed by the act a committee to receive subscriptions.

The rates of toll established were as follows: For every wagon with two horses, or oxen, twelve and one-half cents, and three cents for each additional animal; for every one horse cart, six cents; for every coach, coachee, phaeton or curricule, with two horses, twenty-five cents; for every sulky, chair, chaise, or other one horse pleasure carriage, twelve and one-half cents; for every cart drawn by two oxen, eight cents, and four cents for each additional ox; for every horse and rider or led horse, four cents; for every sleigh or sled, six cents; for every score of horses, cattle or mules twenty cents, or of hogs or sheep, six cents; and for every two horse stage or wagon, twelve and one-half cents.

The Owego terminus of the turnpike was Main street, now the foot of North avenue. The original intention of the turnpike company had been to enter Owego by the Cayuga lake road (McMaster street.) At that time there were two taverns in Owego. One—the Bates tavern—occupied the site of the present Ahwaga house; the other, the Laning tavern, afterward

known as the Franklin house, stood on the north side of Front street, near the Court street corner. Capt. Luke Bates and Gen. John Laning were the respective proprietors of the two taverns. There was great rivalry at that time between the two houses, and each landlord wanted the road to terminate in the vicinity of his house. The contest became so bitter that the turnpike directors finally compromised by fixing upon the present foot of North avenue, which was about equally distant from each of the two taverns, as the terminus.

The first turnpike gate was three and one-half miles north of this village, in the town of Tioga. The next was Smith's gate, at the "half way house," in the town of Candor. About the year 1832, Geo. Bacon, of Owego; Horace Giles, of Spencer, and Lucius Humphrey, of Candor, were the highway commissioners, appointed by the governor of the state.

At that period the turnpikes had become in bad condition. A resident of the Montrose turnpike, living six miles south of Owego, complained to the commissioners of the bad state of that turnpike and called upon them to examine it. The result was that the commissioners tore down the gate of the Montrose turnpike, which gate was four miles south of Owego, and soon afterward threw the gates of the Owego and Ithaca turnpike open free to the public, and they were never afterward closed.

After the great fire of September, 1849, an effort was made to have North avenue extended down to Front street, but there was such a bitter opposition on the part of those owning

property in Lake street, who knew that such extension would greatly depreciate the value of their lots, that the project was abandoned.

The next street opened was the one now known as Ross street, which was laid out by Asa Camp and John R. Drake, commissioners of highways, November 18, 1812, and was for several years known as the "upper cross street," it being then in the extreme eastern limits of the village.

On the 26th of February, 1821, a street known as Fourth (now Fox) street was laid out by William Pumpelly and Elisha Bundy, commissioners of highways. As surveyed it crossed where Paige street is now and continued on east for some distance, and finally turned off diagonally across the lots until it intersected Main street.

In 1810, Lemuel Brown and Abijah Foster, commissioners of highways, had laid out a road running from the river road to Back street, near where Paige street now runs. The road was abandoned in 1820, and that portion of the street now known as Paige street extending from Front to Main street was surveyed and laid out.

The village of Owego was incorporated by an act of the state legislature April 4, 1827. On the 4th day of the following June, a meeting of freeholders was held at the old court house for the purpose of organization. William Platt and Eleazer Dana, justices of the peace, held the election, and Ezra S. Sweet was appointed clerk. James Pumpelly, Eleazer Dana, William A. Ely, Harmon Pumpelly, and Jonathan Platt were chosen trustees.

The trustees at once took measures to put the streets in good order. On July 3 a meeting of the taxable inhabitants was again held at the court house, when the trustees presented an exhibit of the improvements which they deemed it expedient to make, and the sum of \$300 was voted for the purpose of improving the streets and making sidewalks.

The few streets that had been laid out were crooked and but little better than lanes. Houses, which had been built before the street lines were surveyed, were in some instances standing where the sidewalks were to run. These houses had to be removed, usually against the wishes of the owner, and frequently not until after the aid of the law had been invoked—and in more than one instance while their work was in progress, builders were stopped, they having set their buildings beyond the street line. The village streets were designated as follows:

The river road from William street to Ross street was named Front street. The street which had been variously known as Back street, Second street and Main street was called Main street. It extended from McMaster street to Ross street.

The street at the east end of the village, which had been known as "the upper cross street," was named Ross street. It was so named in honor of Major Horatio Ross, a merchant, who lived in the house, which is still standing on the southwest corner of Front and Ross streets. At the time the street was first opened, in 1812, the house was occupied by Dr. Samuel Barclay. This house was built

by Dr. Barclay, and was successively owned by Major Ross, Charles Talcott, Thomas Farrington, and Lieutenant B. W. Loring.

That portion of Paige street extending from Front to Main streets was named Leonard street, in honor of Stephen B. Leonard, who lived in a house which stood on the southeast corner of that street and Front street, and it was so called as late as 1837. From Main to Fox streets, the same street was called Paige street, in honor of Dr. Joel S. Paige, who lived on the northeast corner of Main and Paige streets.

Dutch alley now known as Church street, was a narrow lane. It extended only from Front to Main street, and was named Church alley by the trustees.

The old Ithaca and Owego turnpike road, now called North avenue, was not then a street.

The street now called Lake street was named Ithaca street. The latter name was afterward given to the street now called North avenue.

There was for many years an ark yard on the bank of the river near the foot of the street now known as William street, on which account, probably, the trustees called that street Ark street.

These were the only thoroughfares recognized as streets by the board of trustees. There were no sidewalks, with the exception of narrow wooden ones in front of some of the stores, and the pathways, which were frequently on but one side of the street, were uneven, ungraded, and followed the natural course of the ground.

The first sidewalks laid by order of the trustees were as follows: The entire length of the north side of Front street; on the west side of Church alley; on the west side of Ithaca (now Lake) street; on the west side of the public square; on the north side of Main street from where the lot on which the new grade school building now stands to Mrs. John Laning's house, which stood near the present corner of Main street and Central avenue, and on the west side of the turnpike to the Presbyterian meeting house, which stood where the present church now stands. But little attention was paid to the order of the trustees, and but few sidewalks were laid. The only ones built were in front of the business places, and they were narrow and constructed of planks, laid lengthwise.

Front street, from Church to Court street was first paved with cobble stones in the summer of 1839, by James Erwin, of Smithville, Chenango Co., who also paved Lake street in the fall of the next year.

In the fall of 1836, the board of trustees decided to have a new survey and map of the village made. Stephen Dexter came from Ithaca for that purpose and made the survey and map. In running his lines, Mr. Dexter cut off in many instances land from the door yards of some of the property owners, which caused some dissatisfaction. But his survey was correct and the street lines as now existing are in accordance with his map. The map was filed in the county clerk's office, whence it was borrowed or stolen, many years ago. Mr. Dexter always believed that it was de-

stroyed by some property owner who had suffered by his survey.

Church alley was private property until 1836, the land being owned by Charles Pumpelly and Latham A. Burrows. They deeded the property to the village as a public street in September of that year, and in consideration were exempted from all obligations to make sidewalks or flag the street. The name of the alley was at the same time changed to Church street. The extension of Church street from Main street to the Presbyterian church yard was afterward agitated, but it was not made until 1846. The street was surveyed and laid out by Charles R. Coburn, who was afterward a teacher in the Owego academy, and subsequently state superintendent of schools in Pennsylvania.

Main street did not for many years extend farther east than its present junction with Spencer avenue. East of that point the land was covered with scrub oak trees. It was afterward extended past Paige street to about where the Catholic church now is, and when the village was incorporated its eastern termination was at its junction with Ross street. It was proposed, in 1837, to widen it to 66 feet from Church street east, but as that would necessitate the removal of some of the houses owned by Charles Pumpelly and others, between Church and Paige streets, it was made only 64 feet wide.

Main street was extended through G. W. Hollenback's lots to John street, June 17, 1850, and from John street to the east bounds of the corporation, in April, 1854, and a street

was at the same time ordered to be laid out from the east termination of the extension to the Lisle road. Main street from McMaster street to the Owego creek bridge was not regularly laid out as a highway until June, 1838, by the commissioners of highway of the town of Owego.

In May, 1837, the trustees decided to open a street three rods wide from North avenue to Paige street. The land was owned by Charles Pumpelly, who objected to having a street opened through his property and refused to move his fences. Owing to his opposition, the street was not opened until June, 1838, when the pathmaster, in pursuance of orders, tore down the fences and Temple street was opened to the public.

This street was for several years known as Third street. Its name was changed to Temple street in honor of Jotham Temple, a blacksmith, who lived a little west of where the brick school house in Temple street now stands. Temple's shop was on the west side of North avenue, a little south of Temple street.

Temple was evidently something of a humorist. In an advertisement in the Gazette, dated April 25, 1839, announcing that he had purchased Samuel Babcock's blacksmith shop, he signs his advertisement, "Jotham Temple, Anvil Organist for the People."

Temple street was extended from North avenue west to McMaster street Jan. 24, 1853. At that time the land from North avenue to Central avenue was like a deep ditch and it required much filling to bring the sur-

face up to a level with the rest of the street.

The old Ithaca and Owego turnpike, which was for a time commonly known as Turnpike street, was, as has already been mentioned, called Ithaca street. In reciprocation, one of the principal streets in Ithaca was called Owego street. March 3, 1842, Ithaca street was surveyed by Stephen Dexter, and on the 8th of the same month its name was changed to North avenue. In retaliation for the change, the authorities of Ithaca a few years afterward changed the name of Owego street in Ithaca to State street.

In 1878, the board of trustees, to gratify a whim of Dr. James Wilson, who was the owner of several brick stores in North avenue, changed the name of the street to Broadway. This absurdity was displeasing to nearly everybody, and the street continued to be called North avenue. The village newspapers invariably mentioned the street by its old name. March 28, 1881, a petition, requesting the restoration of the name of North avenue to the street, was presented to the board of trustees, and granted.

Fox street was so named in honor of Capt. Sylvanus Fox, who lived at the southeast corner of that street and North avenue. In May, 1841, Stephen Dexter surveyed the street and reduced its width from four to three rods. The street, as then surveyed, extended from Paige street to the old Cayuga and Susquehanna railroad track, which extended down through the village a little east of where Central avenue now is. In 1851 an unsuccessful effort was made to have the trustees extend Fox street east to

Green street. The street was not extended west to McMaster street until 1857.

Dog alley, sometimes known as Hickory street, was a "cul de sac" extending from Main street a few rods north. It was also sometimes called Duncan street from the house of William Duncan being in the street. The name of Dog alley was naturally displeasing to the residents of the street, and in February, 1848, they applied to the village trustees to have the alley regularly laid out as a street. In connection therewith they wanted another street opened, to extend from the north end, which was then where the Temple street corner now is, east to the old railroad( now Central avenue). Nothing was done in the matter until November, 1850, when the alley was widened to 43 feet and its name changed to Liberty street. The street was extended north to Fox street in August, 1857.

John street from Main to Front street was opened June 17, 1850, through lands of George W. Hollenback, who named the street in honor of his uncle, John Hollenback, who at the time of his death was the owner of much of the land in that part of the village. When Main street was extended from John street east, April 17, 1854, Fulton street was opened.

Farm street was laid out in May, 1858. Walnut street, now known as Division street, was opened in September of the same year. The land for these streets was given to the village by George W. Hollenback. There is, or was, another Division street in the western part of the village, extending from Main street near the

electric light plant north and nearly parallel with the canal that supplies the plant with water power.

Tinkham street was opened from North avenue to Spencer avenue in May, 1855, and so named in honor of Samuel Standish Tinkham, who lived at the corner of that street and North avenue. April 28, 1856, the name was changed to Chestnut street.

Forsyth street was a lane twenty-four feet wide. When it was laid out as a street May 4, 1857, it was widened to forty feet. At the time the street was laid out Elisha Forsyth had a crop of corn growing on a part of the land which was required for the street, which land he had rented for two years. He released his claim to the land on condition that the street should be named Forsyth street, and it was so named.

Spencer avenue at its south end covers what was for many years a large pond of water, supplied by a living spring. There had been a lane from Main to Temple street, a little east of the present avenue, which lane was closed several years before the avenue was opened. The land was owned by Charles Pumpelly. The portion of the present avenue extending from Temple to Fox streets was for many years a lane two rods wide, known as Furnace lane. This lane was so called as it led to an iron foundry, or furnace, which stood in Main street in the southwest corner of what is now the M. E. church property. This furnace was known as the Owego furnace and was conducted by Joel Smedley & Co. Furnace lane was surveyed by Stephen Dexter in

July, 1853, and accepted as a street Aug. 16, 1858.

At the north end of the lane lived several Irish Catholic families, and the street was named St. Patrick street, in honor of their patron saint. St. Patrick street was extended south from Temple street to Main street in May, 1863, and was made forty feet wide. At a meeting of the village trustees in 1870 there was some talk of changing the name of the street. Wakely Spencer, the street commissioner, happened to be present, and, as a joke, Ira A. Post, one of the trustees, moved that its name should be changed to Spencer avenue. His motion was seriously considered and adopted, and the street has ever since been known by that name.

Previous to the completion of the New York and Erie railroad to Owego, in 1849, John R. Drake owned a large amount of land on both sides of the railroad extending from east of North avenue to the Owego creek. He had previously had a map made and lithographed, which was called, "A Map of Drake's Reservation in the Village of Owego." On this map his entire property was laid out into squares and streets. It was his intention to build up the village on what is known as "the flats," but his design was frustrated by a stroke of paralysis, which rendered him incapable of carrying his intentions into execution. To all these streets except one he gave the names respectively of his son, his daughters, and a granddaughter. The streets on this map extending north and south were Arianna, Theodore, and Charlotte streets. Those running east and west wer-

Adaline and Delphine streets and West avenue. All of these streets except Harriet, Arianna, and Theodore streets were subsequently accepted and laid out by the village trustees. Adaline and Charlotte streets were released to the village by judge Drake's heirs May, 12, 1864. West avenue was accepted July 11 of the same year, and Harriet street July 31, 1876.

A quit claim deed of Delphine street (named in honor of Mrs. Harmon Pumpelly) was made by Theodore Drake to the village in August, 1863. The street was regularly laid out in May, 1872.

This street, as surveyed began at North avenue a little south of the United States hotel and crossed the D., L. & W. railroad track. In June of the same year a petition, signed by 22 taxpayers, was presented to the board of trustees, praying that that part of the street between McMaster street and North avenue might be opened to travel. The trustees, accordingly, passed a resolution authorizing the opening of the street across the railroad track. To prevent the carrying into effect of this resolution and in order to retain possession of the land, the railroad company obtained an injunction prohibiting such extension until the matter might be legally settled. Soon afterward the company caused an engine house, large enough to contain a locomotive, to be built in the centre of the proposed extension of the street. The street from North avenue to McMaster street was, consequently, not regularly opened as a public street, but several years later the engine house

was removed, and the street is now open for public use.

East Temple street was originally known as Patch street, so called on account of Timothy P. Patch, an Owego merchant owning land in that street. Later its name was changed to Bell street, in honor of Joseph C. Bell, who lived on the northeast corner of that street and Paige street and who was a member of the board of village trustees in 1840. It was regularly laid out as a street as far as Green street in August, 1843. Green street was laid out at the same time. In February, 1853, Bell street was extended from Green street east forty feet, and thence across the Erie railroad tracks to Erie street in April, 1880. The name of the street was changed to East Temple street in 1884, a majority of the residents of that street having presented a petition to the trustees asking for such change.

Erie street was laid out in January, 1859, and South Depot and North Depot streets in May, 1851. Little John street named in honor of judge Drake and so called to distinguish it from John street—was also laid out in May, 1851. It has been for many years generally known as John R. street.

Central avenue occupies the ground where the old Ithaca and Owego railroad ran previous to 1850. It was widened, surveyed, and laid out as a street in May, 1862.

Talcott street, so named in honor of George Talcott, who lived on its north side, near North avenue, and who owned the land through which it was opened, was laid out in August, 1862.

Hill street takes its name from James Hill, the owner of the land through which it was opened in May, 1870.

East avenue was known as "the mountain road." In 1840 it was laid out as a highway by the commissioners of highways of the town of Owego. The road was cut in the side of the hill by Patrick Geary. All that portion of this road lying within the village limits was recorded as a street in February, 1872, and named East avenue.

The land through which Franklin street extends was owned by Gurdon Hewitt the elder, who sold to Hiram A. Beebe the first building lot on the east side of the street when it was opened. Mr. Hewitt asked Mr. Beebe to give the street a name, and as Mr. Beebe was editor of the Owego Gazette and a printer, he named the street Franklin street, in honor of that illustrious member of the craft, Benjamin Franklin.

**The Military History of the Village  
for Sixty Years from the Organiza-  
tion of Tioga County in 1791 to  
1850, with Some Account of the  
Commanding Officers from Col.  
Samuel Tubbs to Col. Nathaniel W.  
Davis, together with Notes of the  
Days of the Old General Trainings.**

The first act creating a state militia in the state of New York was entitled an act "for the better regulating the militia of the colony of New York" and was passed by the legislature and became a law April 1, 1775. This act required all able-bodied male citizens between the ages of 16 and 50 years to be enrolled from and after the first day of the following May under penalty of five shillings for any person who should not be so enrolled and three shillings additional for every month such person should remain unlisted.

A New England shilling was equivalent in value to twelve and one-half cents. In Owego business men generally kept their accounts in shillings and sixpences and marked the selling prices of their goods in this currency. This continued until the breaking out of the civil war in 1861, when the great amount of paper currency in denominations of from five to seventy-five cents issued by the government placed a premium on silver causing it to be withdrawn entirely from trade and most of it went into the melting pot. In those days half dimes, dimes, and quarters were few in comparison with the sixpences, shillings, and two shilling pieces, which by continuous use had become worn so thin that the lettering, etc., on them had been ob-

literated and they resembled small discs of white metal more than money.

The act of 1775 provided that militia companies should be ordered out for exercise once in each year, and that the number of troops to each company should be fifty. At that time much of this state had not been settled by white people and there were only sixteen counties in the state.

From 1777 until 1822 nearly every civil, military, and judicial officer of the commonwealth in this state was appointed by a body of four men, known as the Council of Appointment. This council was composed of one senator from each of four districts, known, respectively, as the southern, middle, eastern, and western district. The senator from each district was openly nominated and appointed each year by the assembly, no senator being eligible two years successively. The governor was a member of this council and authorized to act as general and commander-in-chief of all the militia and also as admiral of the navy. Immense power was wielded by this body and it became an irresponsible, powerful, and offensive political machine. It finally became so unpopular with the people that it was abolished in 1821 by the constitutional convention without a dissenting voice.

The rank of colonel was abolished in 1782 by act of the legislature and provision made that each regiment should be commanded by three field officers, a lieutenant-colonel commandant and two majors. The lieutenant-colonel commandant continued as the ranking officer all through the war of 1812 and until 1816, when a new law was passed specifying that

each regiment should be commanded by a colonel, a lieutenant-colonel, and one major. Under the new law the lieutenant-colonels became colonels, and the first majors became lieutenant-colonels.

The next act, passed in 1786, "to regulate the militia" provided that every able-bodied white male citizen between 16 and 45 years, with certain exceptions, should be enrolled for military duty within three months and must provide himself at his own expense with "a good musket and firelock, a sufficient bayonet and belt, a pouch with a box therein to contain not less than twenty-four cartridges, two spare flints, a blanket, and knapsack and shall appear so armed, accoutred when called out to exercise or duty, except when called out to exercise only, he may appear without blanket and knapsack." Commissioned officers were required to be armed with "a sword or hanger and an esponton."

The militia was required to rendezvous four times a year for training and discipline, twice by companies, once by regiments and once by brigades. For non-appearance at a general training a non-commissioned officer or private was fined twenty shillings for each day of neglect to appear at the brigade rendezvous, and eight shillings at a regimental or company parade, and if not armed and equipped according to law, one shilling for every deficiency, and for appearing without a musket four shillings. Quakers were exempt from military duty on payment of forty shillings a year.

The uniforms of general officers were dark blue coats with buff fac-

ings, linings, collars, and cuffs; yellow buttons, and buff underclothes.

Regimental officers wore dark blue coats with white linings and white buttons.

Non-commissioned officers and privates wore dark blue coats with white linings, and staff officers dark blue coats with buff collars and linings and yellow buttons.

Tioga county was erected in 1791 from Montgomery county. May 8, 1792, congress passed an act establishing a uniform militia throughout the United States for the national defence. The law provided that within one year after its passage every free able-bodied white male citizen of the several states and resident therein of the age of eighteen years and under the age of forty-five years, must be enrolled by the commandant of the company in whose company district he might reside. The law also made it the duty of the commanding officer that every muster, whether by battalion, regiment, or single company, to cause the militia to be exercised and trained agreeable to the rules and discipline approved and established by congress. All subsequent state militia legislation was for many years based on this act of 1792.

Soon after the passage of this act Gov. George Clinton formed the militia of Tioga county into one regiment and two battalions and appointed Samuel Tubbs lieutenant-colonel commandant. Col. Tubbs had in 1789 been major of three companies of militia in the town of Chemung, then in Montgomery county and in 1791 in Tioga county.

Oringh Stoddard, of the town of Union, Broome county, was appointed major commandant of one of the battalions and Benjamin Hovey of the other. In major Stoddard's battalion one of the companies was composed of Owego men under captain Luke Bates and another of residents of the town of Tioga under captain Samuel Ransom.

In 1793 major Hovey's battalion was formed into a regiment, comprising the militia residing easterly of the Chenango river and the Tioughnioga branch thereof north of the town of Chenango. Major Hovey was promoted to lieutenant-colonel commandant of the new regiment.

In 1797 the militia of Tioga county was formed into a brigade, of which Col. Oringh Stoddard was appointed brigadier-general. David Pixley, of the town of Tioga, succeeded Col. Stoddard as lieutenant-colonel commandant of Stoddard's regiment.

In 1802 Col. Pixley resigned his commission and Samuel Seymour was appointed lieutenant-colonel commandant in his place.

In 1807 Col. Seymour resigned and was succeeded by Asa Camp, of Campville. In 1809 Col. Camp resigned and Jacob Swartwood was appointed his successor.

This regiment was in 1812 known as the 95th regiment. Col. Swartwood was promoted to brigadier-general of the 18th brigade of infantry in 1819 to succeed Matthew Carpenter, who had been promoted to major general of the 20th division, composed of the 50th and 18th brigades. George Fisher, of Spencer, succeeded Col.

Swartwood as colonel of the 95th regiment.

Col. Asa Camp, in whose honor Campville was named, was born in Rhode Island and came from Columbia county, N. Y., in 1789 to the town of Vestal, Broome county, and in 1792 removed to Apalachin. Thence he went to Campville, where he built the first tavern in 1800. He was a sergeant in the revolutionary war, and is said to have been a witness to Andre's execution and to have assisted in digging his grave. Wilkinson's "Annals of Binghamton," published in 1840 mentions Col. Camp as one of the first settlers between Union and Owego. It says:

"Asa Camp is still living, where, it is believed, he first settled; now very aged. He served in the revolutionary war, in the capacity of sergeant, four years; commanded at Fort Frederick, on the Mohawk; and with fifteen men in the fort effectually repelled two hundred Indians and tories. When a flag was sent in for them to surrender, sergeant Camp sent word back, 'that Yankees lived there, and if they got the fort they must get it by the hardest.' He was in the battle at White Plains; was in one battle on the sea, near the banks of Newfoundland, and was also at Valley Forge."

In "New York in the Revolution," Asa Camp's name appears in the list of men in Col. Philip VanCortland's 2d regiment and also in Col. James Holmes's 4th regiment.

Col. Camp was supervisor of the town of Owego in 1817 and 1818 and held the office of justice of the peace and other town offices. He died at Campville July 17, 1848.

In 1821 a new regiment was organized from the 95th regiment. In March, 1810, Oliver Huntington, of

Owego, who had been quartermaster and afterward second major in Col. Asa Camp's regiment, was appointed lieutenant-colonel commandant of a new regiment. This regiment was known as the 53d regiment and was commanded by Tioga county men during its existence. It was a part of the 41st brigade in the 19th division, state infantry.

In 1812 Col. Huntington was promoted to brigadier-general of this brigade, and lieutenant-colonel Ansel Goodrich, of Owego, was promoted to succeed him as colonel. In 1816 Gen. Huntington was appointed sheriff of Tioga county and resigned his commission, and Col. Goodrich was appointed to succeed him as brigadier-general of the 41st brigade. Gen. Goodrich was in 1818 promoted to major general of the 19th division, which was composed of the 36th and 41st brigades, and served until his death in 1820.

John Laning, of Owego, succeeded Gen. Goodrich as colonel of the 53d regiment, and Anson Camp, also of Owego, was appointed lieutenant-colonel. In 1819 Col. Laning was promoted to brigadier-general of the 41st brigade, to succeed Gen. Goodrich, and Elijah Shoemaker, of Nichols, became colonel of the 53d regiment. When Gen. Laning died, in 1820, Col. Camp was appointed to succeed him as brigadier-general.

Extended mention has already been made of Gens. Huntington, Goodrich, Laning, and Camp in the biographical part of these papers.

Elijah Shoemaker was a son of Daniel Shoemaker, an early settler of the town of Nichols in 1797, and was born

July 28, 1789. He was a farmer. He became a man of some importance in his town, and when he was appointed colonel he held the offices of justice of the peace and commissioner of deeds. He was sheriff of Tioga county in 1825-8, and in January, 1832, he became a judge of the Tioga county court. In 1844 he sold his farm and removed to Illinois, where he died the next year.

In January, 1828, a new militia law was passed by the legislature. The age for military duty was fixed at from 18 to 45 years, as before. The uniforms prescribed by the law were the same as United States uniforms, but round hats with feathers and the American cockade were deemed a part of the full uniform for a captain or a subaltern, and blue pantaloons at all seasons of the year were considered a part of the full uniform.

The time for "training, discipline and improving in martial exercise" was fixed for companies on the first Monday in September at 9 a. m. and for regiments or separate battalions between Sept. 1 and Oct. 15. The fine for non-appearance on a company parade was \$2 for non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, and for a regimental or battalion parade not less than \$2 nor more than \$5. For failure to appear when called into actual service the penalty was not more than twelve months' pay nor less than one month's pay.

Joseph Belcher, of Berkshire, was appointed to succeed judge Shoemaker as colonel of the 53d regiment in January, 1832. In August, 1833, Samuel Rockwood, of Owego, who had been lieutenant-colonel of the regi-

ment, was promoted to colonel. Col. Rockwood commanded the regiment until July, 1837, when he was succeeded by Elijah Belcher.

Joseph and Elijah Belcher were brothers, sons of Joseph Belcher, and were born at New Preston, Conn., Joseph in 1794 and Elijah in 1800. The family removed from Connecticut to Berkshire in 1805. In early life Elijah Belcher was a wool-carder and cloth-dresser and when 21 years of age owned one-half of a mill in Berkshire. He afterward engaged in lumbering and built and operated a tannery and sawmill. In 1834 he began a general mercantile business at Newark Valley. Later he manufactured friction matches, and still later he made barrels, butter tubs, etc. He served three terms as a justice of the peace. His first military appointment was received from Gen. DeWitt Clinton, who appointed him cornet of cavalry in 1827. He rose by promotion to captain in 1829, to lieutenant-colonel in 1833, and to colonel in 1837. In September, 1840, he became brigadier-general of the 41st brigade of infantry. He died at Newark Valley Dec. 11, 1879. His brother, Joseph Belcher, was supervisor of Berkshire in 1831.

Col. Samuel Rockwood came from Glastonbury, Conn. He owned and conducted the red mills, north of this village. He sold the property to Jonathan Platt some time previous to 1850 and removed to Belvidere, Ill., where he engaged in farming. His first wife was Augusta Goodrich, a daughter of Jeremiah Goodrich. She was one of the organizers of St. Paul's

Episcopal church. She died Sept. 17, 1839.

May 24, 1840, while Elijah Belcher was still colonel of the 53d regiment, a new militia law went into effect. By this act the fine upon conviction for non-appearance on general training day was fixed at not to exceed \$1 and at a regimental or battalion parade at not more than \$2.

Benoni B. Curry, lieutenant-colonel of the 53d regiment, succeeded Gen. Belcher as colonel in March, 1841. Nathaniel W. Davis was lieutenant-colonel under Col. Curry. Samuel A. Archibald was major, Hammon D. Pinney adjutant, Dr. Cornelius H. Cole quartermaster, and Dr. Horatio N. Eastman surgeon.

Dr. Cole was an army surgeon in the civil war in Gen. Howard's 11th corps. He afterward lived at Sheshequin, Pa.

Col. Curry was a tailor. He was born in Orange county in 1799 and came to Owego in 1824. In 1854 he removed to Manitowoc, Wis., and thence in 1866, to Pleasant Valley, N. J., where he died Jan. 19, 1875.

Dr. Hiram N. Eastman was born in Herkimer county, N. Y., Aug. 17, 1810. He graduated in 1838 from Fairfield medical college and began the practice of medicine at Candor. In January, 1840, he removed to Owego. He lived here until December, 1861, when he went to Geneva, N. Y., to become professor of Materia Medica at Geneva college. In August, 1870, he was appointed lecturer on Materia Medica and Hygiene at the University of Buffalo. In Oct., 1874, he returned to Owego where he lived until his death on Oct. 7, 1879.

Nathaniel W. Davis succeeded Col. Curry as colonel of the 53d regiment in July, 1842, and commanded the regiment during the rest of its existence as a military body.

Another militia law was passed by the state legislature May 13, 1846, dividing the state into eight military divisions districts, according to population, and providing that the major general highest in rank residing within the bounds of any such division should divide the division into two brigade districts, according to population, and each brigade district into four regimental districts, each regimental district to be divided by the colonel highest in rank into eight company districts. Officers then in commission were to be commanding officers and when there was any equality in rank lots were to be drawn to decide who should remain in command. Every officer and private was required to provide himself with a complete uniform.

One parade was established in every year for six consecutive days, by battalion, regiment, or brigade, and all other company and regimental parades required by the previous law were by this act abolished. The parades were to be held between Aug. 15 and Nov. 1 in each year, on any Monday therein. The penalty for neglect to appear was the forfeiture of annual pay and also the payment of \$2 for every day for such neglect.

The number of men for each company was fixed at not more than 65, including all officers, musicians, and privates. Commanding officers were authorized to prohibit the sale of liquor within one mile of the parade

and also hucksters, auction sales, and gambling.

The act provided that every person who should pay 75 cents to the collector of taxes on or before the day of the annual parade should be exempt from military duty during the year for which the amount was paid. The pay, when engaged in full uniform, was fixed as follows: Non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates \$1 each day; commissioned officers below the rank of captain \$1.25; commanding officers of companies \$1.50; field officers below colonels \$1.75, and commanders of regiments \$2.

In 1847 the 20th brigade in the 3th division was commanded by brigadier-general Ephraim Robbins, Jr. The 43d regiment in that brigade was commanded by Col. J. C. Robie, of Union, and the 44th regiment by Col. Nathaniel W. Davis, of Owego.

In August of that year Gen. Robbins established the following bounds of the 44th regimental district: "The county of Tioga and all that portion of the county of Broome south of the Susquehanna river and west of the Chenango, and all that portion of the town of Greene in the county of Chenango west of the Chenango river."

In September, 1848, Col. Davis divided his regimental district into eight company districts, according to population, as follows:

Co. A. The town of Owego, except that portion of the town situated east of the Apalachin creek and south of the Susquehanna river. George Mayhew, of Apalachin, captain.

Co. B. The towns of Tioga and

Nichols. Stephen Hollister, of Tioga, captain.

Co. C. The towns of Barton and Spencer. John L. Sawyer, of Barton, Captain.

Co. D. The towns of Candor and Newark Valley. Lewis Strong, of Candor, captain.

Co. E. The town of Union and that part of the town of Chenango situated west of the Chenango river and north of the Susquehanna river. Marshall Delano, of Maine, captain.

Co. F. The town of Vestal and that part of the town of Conklin west of and south of the Susquehanna river, and all that part of the town of Chenango situated south of the Susquehanna river and all that part of the town of Owego situated east of the Apalachin creek and on the south side of the Susquehanna river. John Rounds, of Vestal, captain.

Co. G. The towns of Richford, Berkshire, Lisle, and Nanticoke. Ezekiel D. Smith, of Berkshire, captain.

Co. H. The towns of Triangle, Barker, and all that part of the town of Greene situated west of the Chenango river. Myron A. Hollister, of Chenango Forks, captain.

This regiment continued in existence until 1854. The disbandment of the militia at this time was largely due to the provision of the act of May 13, 1847, which exempted from military duty every man who should pay on or before August first in each year to the town collector seventy-five cents. The escape from military duty was so cheaply purchased that nearly every one availed himself of the opportunity to shirk what had become a

disagreeable task and the days of the general trainings were soon at an end.

An ineffectual attempt to organize a company of militia at Owego was made in 1858. A meeting was held at the Ahwaga house for the purpose of organization. Gilbert C. Walker, who after the civil war became governor of Virginia, was president, James C. Wright secretary, and Gurdon G. Manning treasurer. Col. Chas. W. Warren was appointed drillmaster and Dr. John B. Stanbrough assistant drillmaster. The Owego Gazette of July 22, 1858, mentions this revival of the military spirit as follows: "A military company has already been formed and will soon appear in their beautiful equipage, properly officered and ready for martial glory. A roll list for an artillery company is about full and will soon organize and become a permanent institution among the military forces of the state." These companies progressed no further than the formative period.

Col. Davis was born May 10, 1807, at Weston, Conn. His father, who was a miller and farmer, removed to the town of Catherine, Schuyler county, N. Y., in 1820. Col. Davis studied law in David Woodcock's office at Ithaca and began practice at Owego in 1832 in partnership with his brother-in-law, Ezra S. Sweet. He was a village trustee in 1839, 1842, and 1847; president of the village in 1859 and 1860; chief engineer of the Owego fire department in 1846, 1858, 1859, and 1860; surrogate of Tioga county from 1840 to 1844, and member of assembly in 1844 and 1863. He died at Owego July 31, 1874.

During the civil war Col. Davis was

active in raising volunteers, although he took no part in field operations. He recruited more than 1,500 volunteers. May 3, 1865, after the close of the war, he was appointed colonel to raise a regiment of infantry of the national guard in the county of Tioga, to be known as the 46th regiment, 28th brigade, 6th division. The county was divided into ten districts. Of these districts the town of Owego was divided into districts 1, 2, and 3. The town of Barton comprised district No. 4, Candor No. 5, Berkshire and Richford No. 6, Spencer No. 7, Nichols No. 8, Newark Valley No. 9, and Tioga No. 10.

As this was at the close of a great war it was supposed that much interest would be manifested in organizing a military company, but the companies were not filled and the regiment was not raised.

In his centennial history of Tioga county, William F. Warner says of Col. Davis:

"His assiduity in behalf of his clients was remarkable. Once having entered upon a case he was untiring in its prosecution. To him there was but one side to a case, nor did defeat by a court or jury convince him that there might possibly be another. He took his case to a higher court, all bristling with points of exception, and his brief contained full citations of all the cases directly or remotely bearing upon the points. As a lawyer he stood equally well before the court and the jury, commanding the respect and attention of both."

In an obituary written by George Sidney Camp and published in the Owego Gazette after Col. Davis's death, Mr. Camp says:

"No lawyer was ever truer to his clients. He only espoused their cases

with too much zeal—a zeal so excessive that it sometimes served to blind his own perception and judgment. . . . There was nothing small-featured nor diminutive about him. He came up wholly self-educated and self-trained, with an energy and force of will and character that subdued the opposing force of early disadvantages. . . . He was an exceedingly violent hater; a bitter and rather remorseless enemy—but a very slight advance toward conciliation often converted him, at once, from the position of antagonism and hostility, into as ardent a friend.”

In April, 1798, a new troop of horse was formed in Tioga county in brigadier-general Oringh Stoddard's brigade, composed in equal proportions from the regiments commanded by Cols. Thomas Baldwin and David Pixley and from the battalion commanded by major Wm. Whitney. Vincent Mathews, of Elmira, was appointed captain.

Some account of Col. David Pixley has been given in the biographical part of these papers. Gen. Oringh Stoddard settled one mile east of Hooper, Broome county. He was one of the five commissioners appointed in 1779 by the Boston company to treat with the Indians in regard to the tract of 230,400 acres of land known as the Boston ten townships, of which purchase he was one of the proprietors. He was a brother of judge James Stoddard, who came to this part of the state at about the same time and settled in the town of Lisle, and who was appointed first judge of Broome county in 1811. Gen. Stoddard's son, Briant Stoddard, was an associate judge of Broome county and a member of the assembly in 1825.

Col. Thomas Baldwin was born Feb. 23, 1755, at Norwich, Conn. At the

breaking out of the revolutionary war he joined the American army as a private in Gen. Morgan's command and served seven years, participating in many battles and skirmishes. He was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. After the war he emigrated with his father's family to the Wyoming valley in Pennsylvania, whence they were driven at the time of the massacre. After the massacre he joined Gen. Sullivan as a scout, was breveted ensign for meritorious service, and fought in the battle of New Town, where he was wounded. He died at Elmira, Jan. 14, 1810. Col. Baldwin in 1789 was appointed a captain for the town of Chemung in lieutenant-colonel Samuel Tubbs's regiment, and in 1792 was promoted to first major. In 1797 he was appointed to succeed Col. Tubbs as lieutenant-colonel commandant and served until 1803.

Gen. Vincent Mathews came from Orange county, N. Y., to New Town (Elmira) about the year 1789, and was the first lawyer there. He represented Tioga county in the assembly of 1794-5. He was the first state senator chosen to represent the western district of New York and served from 1796 to 1803. He was also district attorney of the seventh district from 1813 to 1815. In 1809 he was elected to congress. In 1820 he removed to Rochester, where he died. In 1792 he was adjutant in lieutenant-colonel Samuel Tubbs's regiment. In 1798 he was appointed captain of the new troop of horse, and in 1800 was promoted to major of the second squadron of cavalry in the counties of Ontario, Steuben, Tioga, Onondaga, and Cayuga.

In 1809 he became lieutenant-colonel commandant of the 10th regiment, and in 1814 brigadier-general of the first brigade of cavalry, and remained in command until his death in 1820.

In April, 1800, an act of the legislature arranged the military of the state into five divisions. Tioga was one of the nine counties in the fifth division. The cavalry in the Fifth division was divided into two squadrons, the second of which was composed of Ontario, Steuben, Tioga, Onondaga and Cayuga counties, commanded by major Vincent Mathews.

The following is the roster of a cavalry company organized in Tioga county in 1807, copied from the original, which is still in existence:

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed do enlist ourselves and hereby become members of the troop in the Second squadron of the Fifth division in the cavalry of the state of New York, commanded by Capt. Joshua Whitney, and in all things conform ourselves to the rules, regulations, and restrictions pointed out by the act of the Legislature of the state of New York organizing the militia of the said state.

Oct'r 3d A. D., 1807.

Anson Camp	Edmund Palemere
James Pumpelly	Joel Gaylord
Caleb Leach, Jr.	Joseph Berry
Elias Shipman	William Bell
Elijah Shoemaker	Daniel Huntington
Andrew Purdy	Joel Rich
Charles Taylor	W. M. Horton
John Shoemaker	Jno M. Roe
James Herrick	Stephen Ferris
Benjamin Shoemaker	Alfred Scofield
Jos. B. Nutter, Trumpeter	

Capt. Joshua Whitney came in 1786 from Hillside, Columbia county, N. Y., to Binghamton with his father, whose name was also Joshua Whitney. Capt. Whitney was a merchant at Binghamton. In 1798 he was appointed first lieutenant of the cavalry company of which Vincent Mathews was captain.

In 1807 he became captain of the troop in the Second squadron of the Eighth regiment of cavalry. He was promoted in 1810 to colonel of a new regiment of cavalry known as the 13th regiment.

In 1810 when Joshua Whitney was promoted, John H. Avery, of Owego, succeeded him as captain of the cavalry company and served until 1817, when he was appointed major of a new regiment of cavalry, to be organized from part of the Eighth regiment and consisting of the troops in the counties of Broome, Chenango, Cayuga, and Cortland and to be denominated the Thirteenth regiment of cavalry.

The cavalymen wore dark gray coats, and caps with leather sides and bearskin tops and they carried swords in steel scabbards.

The first company of artillery in Tioga county was organized at Owego in 1810. It was the first battalion of the Sixth regiment. David Fleming, of Flemingville was captain, Samuel W. Avery, of Owego, first lieutenant, and Noah Lyman second lieutenant. In 1812 Capt. Fleming went to fight in the army and Mr. Avery succeeded him as captain and served until 1815, when he resigned and was succeeded by Daniel Brown.

Capt. Fleming came from Newton, N. J., and settled in the town of Nichols in 1806, removing thence two years later to Flemingville. In the war of 1812 he was captain of the third company of the Third regiment of heavy artillery, and established a recruiting rendezvous at Owego.

The company was encamped in the village park under tents, awaiting or-

ders. There was some complaint among farmers because the soldiers stole their chickens at night. Some chickens were stolen from the hen house of Jacob Swingle, a blacksmith, who lived on the east side of the Owego and Ithaca turnpike, a few rods south of the Huntington creek. The second time that some soldiers visited his premises he shot at them as they were climbing a fence. One soldier was shot through the abdomen with buckshot, and when the company went to join the army the injured man died at Binghamton while on his way.

In an advertisement signed by Capt. Fleming, dated Oct. 5, 1812, in the "American Farmer," the name of which paper was a few years later changed to the Owego Gazette, he offered a bounty of \$16 for every able-bodied man from 18 to 45 years of age who would enlist in the United States service, in addition to monthly wages and clothing, and when discharged after having served five years the soldier was to receive three months' pay additional and 160 acres of land; and the comforting assurance was also given that in case of death the heirs of the soldier would be entitled to receive the extra pay and land.

Capt. Fleming fought in several battles, the last of which were those of Fort George and Erie. His son, Robert L. Fleming, was 12 years old and accompanied him as his waiter, and he was a witness of these battles and those at Sackett's Harbor. He also drove a team in his father's company, and was sometimes sent in pursuit of deserters.

Robert L. Fleming was in 1835 elected by a vote of the field officers briga-

dier-general of the 9th brigade of New York state artillery, composed of regiments in Broome, Cortland, Chemung, Madison, Tompkins, and Tioga counties, and he held command nine years. In the civil war he assisted Col. Kane in raising the Bucktail regiment in Elk county, Pa., and accompanied the regiment to Washington. Gen. Fleming was sheriff of Tioga county in 1840. He died Feb. 26, 1877, at Flemingville.

Capt. David Fleming's wife was a sister of Gen. John Laning. He died Feb. 4, 1862, at Flemingville.

The uniforms of the gunners of the artillery company were black coats and high hats, with brass plate and feather.

Several years after the war of 1812 Ira Johnson, a miller at the Canawana flouring mill, was captain of an independent artillery company. The uniforms were blue, trimmed with yellow and red. Frank Truman was a lieutenant in this company.

The first cannon made at Owego was cast at the old furnace in Main street, near where Spencer avenue now is. There had been a cannon here owned by the state, but it was taken back to Albany. As the time was near the fourth of July and there was no big gun with which to celebrate, some men and boys raised funds to have a new cannon cast. This gun was a three-pounder, about four and one-half feet long, with a three or four inch muzzle and about eight inches in diameter at the butt end. It was not mounted on wheels, but was fixed on a block.

At about this time the powder used at Owego was kept in a small powder

house about eight feet square, which stood in a field forty or fifty rods north of Main street and opposite the north end of Ross street.

Another and larger cannon, which was used for firing salutes on public occasions for many years was drawn by breast straps that went around the shoulders of the men who drew it. Samuel Winship and Elisha Forsyth were gunners for an artillery company and had charge of the gun.

The cannon was used for firing salutes on the fourth of July and other public days and also at political gatherings. In 1836 the cannon was claimed by both Democrats and Whigs. The Whigs were preparing to fire it on the village park and the Democrats tried to prevent them. Dr. Ezekiel Lovejoy placed himself at the muzzle of the gun and dared the Whigs to fire. The Whigs finally succeeded in driving the Democrats away and fired the cannon, while Ezra S. Sweet, one of the Whig leaders, stood on it.

There are not many people now living who remember the old days of general trainings at Owego, for the last general training was held more than sixty years ago. A general training was the great holiday of the year, exceeding in interest the celebration of the fourth of July.

The officers of each regiment were required to have a three days' drill in the month of August and the companies had a day's "company training" after the officers' drill. Then came the "general training" in September. The company trainings were held at different places about the county, near where the members lived.

The regiments were formed of eight or ten companies—each company numbering from sixty to a hundred men. About one-half of the companies were uniformed rifle companies—the other half ununiformed militia, with rifles or muskets. These militia companies generally appeared dressed with the best they had, without regard to fit or color.

The first general trainings were held in the western part of this village where the electric light power house is now. This was long before the hydraulic canal, or race, was built. Later the trainings were held where the Tioga county fair grounds and the land east of it are now. In those days there were no houses between William street and the Owego creek. Still later general trainings were held on judge Drake's flats, north of where the Erie railroad now runs and on Gen. Fleming's flat at Flemingville and in the town of Tioga where St. Joseph's cemetery is now.

The last trainings were held on the ground in east Main street where St. Patrick's church and the buildings west of it now stand and the lots east of the church nearly to Ross street, on all of which lots there were then no houses. At that time Col. N. W. Davis was commander of the 14th regiment. The last general training of Col. Davis's regiment was at Union in October, 1851.

General training day was the exciting military event of the year. Nearly every one abandoned his occupation to be present. All men between the ages of 18 and 45 years were compelled to go through

military drill or else pay a poll tax. Clergymen, men holding civil offices, drivers of mail coaches, ferrymen, college and theological students, and professors were exempt from military duty. The trainings were in September and October, when the cider season was open. Farmers brought barrels of new cider, tapped them, and did a rushing business, while hucksters gathered to sell cider, gingerbread, apples, honey, etc., to visitors, many of whom brought their lunches. Hawkers also sold razors, tinware, etc.

At these trainings there were a few companies of uniformed riflemen, but the great mass of soldiers appeared in whatever garb they pleased, but were required to carry a musket or a rifle. Sometimes young fellows would carry broomsticks and pitchforks instead of guns, in order to make themselves ridiculous, which resulted in their paying fines, but they did not mind that so long as they had their fun. Sometimes fellows from the rural districts calling themselves "Ragamuffins" and the "Slab Raft company" would burlesque the whole thing, dressed in all sorts of tattered clothing and dilapidated hats, carrying old pitchforks, rakes, scythes, brooms, and dilapidated umbrellas, with sometimes a flintless musket. They marched in awkward order, some bare-footed, in a go-as-you-please way, and went through military evolutions in a manner suitable to their appearance. A day of hilarious skylarking was generally ended in an evening of still greater hilarity, in which the "flowing bowl" was "tossed" ad libitum.

At a general training in 1834 or 1835 a sham battle was fought on the field east of where the Tioga county fair grounds now are between a company of gray coats and an artillery company. The two companies were drawn from the regiment and the rest of the regiment were spectators.

The review at general training was made by the reviewing officers riding down the front of the regiment from the right to the left, the troops standing in single file, the regimental officers in front, the cavalcade passing to the left of the line and turning to the rear of the line returned to the right and to the centre of the line and formed in single file facing the soldiers, the generals advancing a short distance in front of their staffs.

The soldiers were then formed into platoons and marching from the right, passed the reviewing officers, the music leading. Each officer saluted with his sword as he passed the generals—and each platoon presented arms. The review being completed, the colonel performed several evolutions with the regiment to show that it had been properly trained. The regiment acted as escort to the reviewing officers on their return to headquarters in the village.

When the review was finished ranks were broken and soldiers and spectators swarmed into the village, the business streets of which were filled with a solid mass of people and peddlers' carts.

There were no brass bands for regiments in the country in those days. The music was furnished by a martial band, composed usually of about eight

bass-drums, fifteen snare-drums, and fifteen fifes.

One of the independent rifle companies in Owego was organized in the spring of 1825 from young men in the 53d regiment by Stephen T. Smith, who came here from Orange county and who was landlord of the old Franklin house in Front street that year. He had a fencing school, and fencing exercises were held in the village park. He also excelled as a snare-drummer. The uniforms of his rifle company were green. The advantage in joining an independent company was that members were excused from serving on juries, and after fifteen years' services were exempt from all military duty.

Capt. David Nutt was for ten years captain of the company whose green coats were trimmed with yellow. Charles Deuel, of Catatonk, also raised an independent rifle company. The uniforms were blue coats and white trousers trimmed with yellow.

About the year 1840 the general trainings practically ceased, the military having been converted into a national or state guard. Under the new arrangement difficulty was experienced in filling the companies, and when later exemptions from military duty could be obtained upon payment of seventy-five cents, company trainings also ceased.

In 1856 the soldiers of the war of 1812 in Tioga county became active in an effort to obtain pensions. On Feb. 2 in that year a meeting was held at the old court house at the corner of Main and Court streets when an organization was formed called the "United Brethren of the War of 1812."

Capt. David Fleming was chairman and Col. Henry McCormick secretary of the meeting. The war veterans present were twenty-three in number, as follows:

David Fleming.	Adrian Ryerson.
Ezra S. Madan.	Stephen Butler.
John Giltner.	James Segar.
William Hyde.	Reuben Coe.
Marshall Anderson.	Peter Jones.
Anthony M. Tyler.	Jared Foote.
Henry McCormick.	Thomas Humphrey.
Robert L. Fleming.	Henry Primrose.
Joseph Walcer.	Solomon Stewart.
James Ireland.	Moses Shoemaker.
John Shelman.	Daniel Armstrong.
James Baker.	

Col. McCormick was chosen president of the association. At the next meeting in the following July resolutions were adopted, asking the member of congress to use his influence in favor of the enactment of a law granting pensions to soldiers and officers of the war of 1812.

Four years later, Jan. 5, 1860, at another meeting, of which Col. McCormick was chairman and Thomas Farrington secretary, resolutions were adopted "expressive of the sense of the meeting in regard to the claims of the soldiers of the war of 1812-15 in this state and in the United States." The old soldiers present at this meeting were as follows:

Daniel R. Park.	Lyman Perry.
John Shelman.	Silas Dodge.
Thos. Humphrey.	Ezra S. Madan.
Daniel Armstrong.	Abel B. Fuller.
Jared Foote.	Joseph Watrous.
Anthony M. Tyler.	Stephen Butler.
Lyman Bradley.	W. Hutchings.

Resolutions were adopted asking congress to pass a pension law "applicable to the soldiers of the war of 1812-15, similar in its effects to the pension law existing in regard to the soldiers of the revolution."

In March, 1867, the Owego Gazette published a list of the survivors of

the war of 1812 then living in Tioga county, with their ages, as follows:

Henry McCormick . . . . .	76	Capt. Whitney . . . . .	80
Ezra S. Madan . . . . .	82	Henry Primrose . . . . .	80
Lyman Bradley . . . . .	76	Nathaniel Ketchum . . . . .	77
Ezra Hall . . . . .	75	Salmon Stewart . . . . .	78
Jared Foote . . . . .	78	John Giltner . . . . .	77
J. Thornton . . . . .	81	Billings Hodge . . . . .	93
Edgar Eldridge . . . . .	79	Joel Gould . . . . .	89
James Baker . . . . .	71	Wilbur Gould . . . . .	67
Daniel R. Park . . . . .	83	Daniel Wait . . . . .	82
Peter Ross . . . . .	73	Henry Jacobs . . . . .	83

The Gazette said: "These men served their country at their own expense even to the extent of furnishing their own uniforms and muskets and have never received a cent of remuneration from the government. They are now old, many of them are poor, and all are entitled to pay for their services and liberal pensions."

Survivors of the war of 1812 were not pensioned until 1871, fifty-six years after the close of the war.

Early Steamboating on the Susquehanna River—The Cadorus, the Pioneer, and the Two Susquehannas Are Built for Commercial Purposes and to Run between Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and Owego—Later, the Picnic, the Lillie, the Owego, the Lyman Truman, the Marshland, and the Glenmary Are Built for Pleasure Boats, Running from Owego to Hiawatha Island.

In the early days the Susquehanna river was the outlet for products of southern central New York to a southern market, and Owego the point to which vast quantities of lumber, plaster, salt, and other merchandise were brought from all over the territory north for shipment in arks and on rafts to Philadelphia and Baltimore. An immense amount of merchandise was brought down Cayuga lake in boats to Ithaca and conveyed thence to Owego by teams.

James Pumpelly, who was in those days not only one of the wealthiest men in this part of the state but also one of the most enterprising in public matters, was a leader in the project of building a railroad from Ithaca to Owego, to relieve the expense of traffic by teams, and also in the project of building steamboats to run from Owego to southern points, to carry merchandise.

Owego was then the highest navigable point for any steamboat that might be built to transport merchandise up the river, but in unusually high water the trip could be made as far as Binghamton. The first steamboat was built in 1825, but the railroad was not opened until 1833.

The first steamboat in America was built only a little more than one hundred years ago. It was constructed in 1804 by John Cox Stevens, of New Jersey, on the Hudson river. It had a bladed screw propeller, which was driven by a Watt engine, with a tubular boiler of Stevens's own invention.

The same year Oliver Evans had a stern-wheel paddle boat on the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. It was driven by a double-acting high pressure steam engine, which was the first of its kind, and was geared to rotate the wheels, by which the boat was moved on land and driven in the water when the power was transferred to the paddle wheel at the stern.

The paddle wheel boat was invented by Robert Fulton in 1803, as an experiment. The experiment proving satisfactory he set in operation the first successful paddle-wheel boat propelled by steam in 1807. In August of that year he made a trip in his boat, which was named "Clermont," from New York to Albany, making the distance of 150 miles in 32 hours. The return trip was made in 20 hours, a rate of just five miles an hour. The boat was of 160 tons burden and was the first one that was used for commercial purposes.

In 1825 there was much rivalry between the cities of Philadelphia and Baltimore, each seeking to divert the trade of the Susquehanna river valley from the other city. In that year three steamboats were built for the express purpose of experimenting on the Susquehanna river, to establish, if possible, the practicability of its navigation by steam. The "Cadorus," built at York Haven, Pa., by John Elgar, a

Quaker, was constructed mostly of sheet iron. It was sixty feet long, with nine feet beam with a stern wheel, which was driven with a ten-horse power engine, capable of sending it against the current at a speed of four miles an hour. With fifty passengers on board she drew but eight inches of water.

In the spring of 1826 Captain Elgar made his first trip from York Haven to Owego. He reached Wilkes-Barre April 12. His arrival was greeted with the ringing of bells and the firing of cannon. The next day an excursion of Wilkes-Barre citizens was made, by invitation of Capt. Elgar, to Forty Fort. The boat arrived at Towanda May 8, and her coming was received with firing of cannon and the ringing of bells. A public dinner was given for Capt. Elgar the next day, at which the judges of Bradford and Dauphin counties presided. Speeches were made, in which Capt. Elgar was complimented for his enterprise. A few days afterward he came to Owego and continued his trip to Binghamton. Upon his return he remained at Owego several weeks.

Capt. Elgar experienced much difficulty in running his boat, for want of wood. His fuel was dry yellow pine or pitch knots which he bought of farmers along the route, and some of it was drawn to the river for several miles. While at Owego the "Cadorus" was tied up in Hollenback's eddy, above Ross street.

Capt. Elgar returned to York Haven, after an absence of four months. In his report to the company he declared his opposition to any further attempts to navigate the Susquehanna river by

steam, as he believed it to be entirely impracticable, as the river was too shallow except during a few months in each year.

The second steamboat, the "Susquehanna," was built at Baltimore, Md., in 1825-6 by a stock company, which was anxious to secure the trade of the Susquehanna river to that city. She was commanded by Capt. Collins, of Baltimore. Her entire length from stem to stern was eighty-two feet and her stern wheels were each four and one-half feet in diameter. With an engine of thirty-horse power and with a hundred passengers on board, she drew twenty-two inches of water—fourteen more than the "Cadorus."

The state appointed three commissioners to accompany the boat on her trial trip. She started on her trial trip up the river, arriving at Nescopeck Falls, opposite Berwick, Columbia county, Pa., in the afternoon of May 5, 1826. The ascent of the rapids at that point was looked upon as a difficult and hazardous undertaking. The three commissioners and all except about twenty of the passengers left the boat there and walked along the shore.

A quantity of rich pine wood had been procured as fuel. With a full head of steam the boat slowly began the ascent of the rapids. When she had reached about the middle of the falls she struck a rock, and the boiler immediately burst with a tremendous explosion. It was said that the engineer was dissatisfied with the slow progress of the boat, so to increase the force of the steam he sat down on the safety valve, whereupon the boiler exploded.

Two of the passengers were instantly killed and others were seriously injured. William Camp, of Owego, was one of the injured passengers and he died a few hours after the accident. The engineer was also fatally injured. There was a tradition among river raftsmen that Mr. Maynard, the engineer, had said that he would "run the boat up the falls or run her to hell," but this appears improbable, for Stewart Pierce's "Annals of Luzerne County," says of Mr. Maynard's death: "He died in the triumph of a Christian faith. He was a resident of Baltimore and a class-leader in the Methodist Episcopal church."

The "Pioneer," the third steamboat, made its experimental trip on the west branch of the Susquehanna river. Her officers made an adverse report, and for nine years no further attempt was made to navigate the river by steam.

The next steamboat intended for commercial purposes, and the first one built at Owego, was constructed here in 1835 and she was also called the "Susquehanna." The object of her construction was to transport goods and passengers to Wilkes-Barre and intermediate villages, and to tow back coal from the mouth of the Lackawanna river.

July 16, 1834, a committee, composed of John R. Drake, Stephen Strong, William A. Ely, Henry W. Camp, Stephen B. Leonard, and Thomas Farrington, met at the old Owego hotel and appointed Mr. Camp and Mr. Ely a sub-committee to obtain subscriptions for stock. Three days later a similar meeting of citizens of Wilkes-Barre was held in that city for the same purpose, and a committee

composed of Col. John L. Butler and six other men was appointed to meet the Owego committee at Towanda "for the purpose of consulting in regard to such measures mutually as might be considered beneficial to the citizens of the two places respectively." The meeting of the two committees was held Aug. 11, and the "Susquehanna Steam Navigation Company" was organized.

A meeting of the stockholders was held at the Owego hotel in this village August 21 and a board of managers was elected, which was composed as follows: James Pumpelly, William A. Ely, Henry W. Camp, Latham A. Burrows, Thomas Farrington, Jonathan Platt, Amos Martin, George J. Pumpelly, and George W. Hollenback, of Owego, and Samuel D. Ingham, Edward Lynch, Henry Colt, and Henry Pettibone, of Wilkes-Barre. James Pumpelly was chosen president of the board, William Platt treasurer, and Judge Burrows secretary.

The same month John Hopkins, a civil engineer, made an examination of the river between Owego and Wilkes-Barre, for the purpose of ascertaining its susceptibility of improvement for the purposes of steamboat navigation and to estimate the expense of making a channel fifty feet in width (except in rocky places, where 80 or 100 feet was considered the proper width), with at least two feet depth of water at low water. Mr. Hopkins began his examination at Owego on Aug. 8. The distance from Owego to Wilkes-Barre is 120 miles, and the cost of removing obstructions and making the channel, as estimated by him was \$10,254. It was the in-

tention of the company, after having built its boat, to ascertain if a good business could be done at the time of high water, and if so, to improve the river so that boats could run in time of low water as well.

Correspondence was opened with Thomas Blanchard relative to the construction of a steamboat, to be built upon his patented plan. Mr. Blanchard was a Connecticut man, who had gained some celebrity as the inventor of the lathe for turning gun-stocks, shoe-last, and other irregular forms by a self-directing operation. He had built boats on the Connecticut river. He had also built the "Genesee," a stemboat on the Genesee river, running between Rochester and Avon, 86 feet in length, 16 feet in breadth, and drawing 18 inches of water. She was used as a towboat and cost \$7,500.

In the winter of 1829-30 he built at Pittsburgh a steamboat for the navigation of the Alleghany river on the same plan of his Connecticut river boats. She was named "Alleghany" and was the first boat to ascend the river to Olean. She was 90 feet long and 17 feet wide. The boat was launched in March, 1830.

On her third trip, while between Warren, Pa., and Olean, N. Y., she arrived opposite the Indian village of Cornplanter. Here a deputation of gentlemen waited on this ancient and well-known chief and invited him on board this new, and to him wonderful visitor, a steamboat. He was, in all his native simplicity of dress and manner of living, lying on his couch, made of rough pine boards, and covered with deer-skins and blankets. His habitation, a two-story log house, was

in a state of decay, without furniture, except a few benches, and wooden bowls and spoons to eat out of. He was a smart, active man, seemingly possessed of all his strength, mind, and perfect health. He with his son, Charles, 60 years of age, with his son-in-law, came on board the boat and remained on board until she passed six miles up, and then returned in his own canoe, after having expressed great pleasure.

When James Pumpelly made inquiry relative to Mr. Blanchard, William B. Calhoun, of Springfield, Mass., then speaker of the Massachusetts house of representatives, in a letter, commended him as a successful builder of steamboats on the Connecticut, Alleghany, and Kenebeck rivers. "I have been for many years personally and even intimately acquainted with Mr. Blanchard," writes Mr. Calhoun. "He is a thorough, practical mechanic, possessing great ingenuity and sagacity, and no visionary. His early education was deficient, but the powers of his mind are, in my estimation, of high character and vigor. He is also a man of excellent heart, tho' sometimes eccentric and queer in his ways. . . . I can furnish you, if necessary, as many certificates as you could wish from our very best citizens of Mr. B's undisputed merits in reference to steam navigation on our river."

Mr. Blanchard came to Owego and on Sept. 17, 1834, contracted to build a boat 100 feet long and fourteen feet wide, with his patent arches on each side, for \$12,500. These arches were wooden ones, running fore and aft and sustained the principal weight

of the boat's machinery. The boat was to be provided with four steam engines. Two of them were to be ten-inch cylinder and four feet stroke, to propel a thirteen-foot wheel, with buckets ten feet long, at the stern of the boat. The other two engines, of ten-inch diameter and two and one-half foot stroke, were to propel two paddle-wheels, one at each side of the boat, eleven feet in diameter, with buckets four feet long. The boat had two boilers, and was to draw not to exceed eighteen inches of water. The boilers were of the construction known as the "log boiler," flue boilers being then unknown. The whole power of the engines was to be not less than fifty-horse power. The propelling power was to exceed twice that required on a lake boat of the same size—that is the paddle-wheel propelling power was to be two or more times equal to that required on lake waters and the steam power in like proportion. It was believed that such a boat run in shallow water by extraordinary propelling power could navigate the Susquehanna river from Owego anywhere below.

The side wheels were exactly equal in power to the stern wheel. When in still water the side wheels were turned in an opposite direction from the stern wheel the boat stood still, moving in neither direction. The passenger cabin, which was near the bow of the boat, was fourteen feet wide and sixteen feet long. The boat was nearly a flat-bottom one.

The contract required the boat to be finished and put into operation on May 1, 1835. Mr. Blanchard bound

himself not to build any other boat with his patent improvements to run on the Susquehanna. George J. Pumpelly, judge Burrows, and William A. Ely were appointed a building committee, and the construction of the boat was begun in the latter part of September, 1834. It was built on the bank of the river, back of where Gurdon H. Pumpelly's house now stands under the superintendence of Capt. John J. Tobey, of New York. The iron work and machinery were made in New York and shipped by canal in October.

Capt. Tobey began work Oct. 1, 1834. The boat was built under the superintendence of Mr. Bampton, a ship carpenter from New York, with a force of from five to ten hands. The winter was a cold one, with much snow, and the boat was not fully completed when she was launched in April, 1835.

There was some ceremony incident to the launching, which was witnessed by many spectators, and George J. Pumpelly christened her the "Susquehanna" by breaking a bottle of wine over the bow, in accordance with a time-honored custom. The bottle was attached to the end of a piece of rope and swung over his head. Then the boat was towed up to an old plaster dock, near the foot of Court street, where the arch and boilers were placed in. The cabin and the painting and glazing were not completed until two months later.

May 5, 1835, the "Susquehanna" was run about five miles up the river and performed well. The next day she was run two or three miles down the

river through swifter water and came up in good style.

At 6:40 o'clock in the morning of May 7 the boat started on her first trip to Wilkes-Barre with James Punnelly, Jonathan Platt, judge Burrows, and other prominent men on board, stopping at Athens, Towanda, and Meshoppen, and arriving at Wilkes-Barre at 4:40 p. m. She was welcomed by large crowds of people, who lined the bank at the various places where she stopped.

She started the next day on her return trip with about twenty passengers on board. She arrived at Tunkhannock at 5:30 o'clock. The next day while passing through a rapid known as "horse race," it was found that the shaft attached to the stern wheel had become nearly twisted off, and the boat was compelled to lie at Meshoppen two or three weeks for repairs. The forward wheels were rendered almost entirely useless, the packing of a cylinder having blown out by force of the steam, owing to the cylinder covers being too thin. Capt. Tobey was compelled to come to Owego (a distance of seventy miles) for a blacksmith. They made a forge and repaired the shaft. The side wheels being useless, the remainder of the trip to Owego was made by using the stern wheel alone.

Capt. Tobey was captain of the boat on her first trip. James Springsteen was engineer and Ebenezer Allen pilot. The passenger fare from Owego to Wilkes-Barre was \$2.50 and the return fare \$3.50. The boat carried but fifty passengers.

In June Capt. Tobey made his second trip to Wilkes-Barre and returned

two days afterward without any difficulty. He brought up a cargo of twenty barrels of flour and between twenty and thirty passengers. That year there was a great scarcity of provisions, particularly of flour, which was selling here for ten dollars a barrel, which was a very high price for those times. This was the most important service rendered to Owego by the boat during her existence. These were the only two trips made by Capt. Tobey to Wilkes-Barre, although when the boat was building he expected to be the captain permanently.

The fourth of July in 1835 was celebrated at Owego with a military parade, the usual exercises, and a dinner at the "bowery" of the old Owego hotel. That day the "Susquehanna" took an excursion party up the river six miles to Whitney's dam. The excursion was liberally advertised and 25 cents were charged for the round trip. There were about 200 passengers on board, crowding her to her fullest capacity.

The bottom of the boat was so flat that when the passengers congregated at one side she rocked over, thus tipping the boilers in a position that rendered the steam dangerous and the boiler liable to explode. The requests of Capt. Tobey's to so divide the crowd that about an equal number should be on each side of the boat to preserve its equilibrium were not heeded until he rushed on deck saying, "If you don't stop flocking on to one side I'll blow you to the devil." After returning to Owego a second excursion was made with a load of children.

The side wheels of the boat had been made smaller than the contract speci-

fied. It was found on the first trip to Wilkes-Barre that they did not dip deep enough into the water. They were accordingly enlarged after the second trip down the river, and the wheel-houses were also enlarged to correspond. It was believed that the steamboat could be used as a tugboat to draw arks, but it could not be done, for the strain was so great that the rudder would not guide the boat.

In January, 1835, the company decided to build two tow boats and the work was placed in the hands of Capt. Tobey. These barges were thirty feet long and twelve feet wide and were built at Owego. They were intended for the transportation of coal up the river, and were constructed of planks secured together by half inch rods on a patent plan of Mr. Blanchard. The boats had no timber in them. When the planks shrunk, the nuts at the end of the rods were turned and the planks drawn tightly together. The barges were used but once, when they were loaded with coal at Lee's creek, a few rods below Nanticoke dam and nine miles below Wilkes-Barre. They were taken to Wilkes-Barre and left there.

While the steamboat was in operation on the river a bill was introduced in the state legislature incorporating the company under the name of the Susquehanna Steam Navigation Company. The bill became a law May 1, 1835. James Pumpelly and others were constituted a body corporate for the purpose of constructing one or more steamboats and navigating them on the Susquehanna river, for the purpose of transporting passengers and property and trading and dealing in mineral coal. The capital stock was

fixed at \$50,000, divided into shares of \$10 each.

The company was managed by nine directors, one of whom was president of the board. The first board of directors was composed of James Pumpelly, Jonathan Platt, Amos Martin, Henry W. Camp, William A. Ely, Latham A. Burrows, George J. Pumpelly, Thomas Farrington, and Harmon Pumpelly. All persons interested in the boat already constructed were deemed stockholders to the amount of their subscriptions. The company was authorized to improve the navigation of the Susquehanna river from Owego south to the Pennsylvania state line by the removal of all obstructions, natural and artificial, and the erection of wing and side dams. James Pumpelly was elected president of the board.

In the fall of 1835 the water was not sufficiently high to run the boat and no trip was made down the river. In March, 1836, a third trip was made to Wilkes-Barre. Henry W. Camp was captain, having succeeded Capt. Tobey. Mr. Camp was captain of the boat during the remainder of her existence. An empty barge was taken for the purpose of bringing up a boat load of coal. In returning, when about half way up the river, the forward connecting or main shaft broke. It was brought to Owego and repaired. Three or four days later the boat reached Owego with a boat load of coal in tow. This is believed to have been the first coal ever brought to this village.

The "Susquehanna" started April 18 on her fourth trip. The proprietors had determined to run her down the

river for the purpose of selling her. At this time N. P. Willis, the poet, was living at "Glenmary" and writing his "Letters from Under a Bridge," which added much to his literary fame. He was invited to accompany others in the trip and did so. The incidents of his journey were entertainingly and graphically described in the fifteenth letter of the series.

About thirty-one miles below Owego the same shaft broke again in another place. The boat returned at once to Owego using her stern wheel. The boat was tied up at her landing at the docks, which were under the old wooden stores in Front street, and an entire new set of shafts was procured in New York at a cost of about \$700.

In the fall of 1836 there was no high water for boating. A fifth trip was made, however, the boat leaving Owego Oct. 19 at 8:30 a. m. in charge of Capt. Camp. Returning a boat load of coal was brought up as far as Athens, where all was sold except two wagon loads, which were brought to Owego from that point by wagon. The river was too low to make another trip that season.

In the spring of 1837 the boat did nothing. She was forced ashore by the ice near the mouth of the Owego creek and was not got off and repaired until low water. In the fall of the same year a trip was made down the river. A crank got out of order and was repaired at Wilkes-Barre. She soon afterward got adrift in a freshet and floated four or five miles down the river and went ashore on one of the small islands opposite Plymouth. The man who had made the repairs at Wilkes-Barre attached the boat and

sold her for his pay. She was struck off at auction for \$60 to Augustus C. Laning, who subsequently used the engine for his foundry.

In July, 1835, Mr. Blanchard, by his attorney, John M. Parker, of Owego, began an action at law against the steamboat company in the supreme court to recover the sum of \$5,000, the balance unpaid on his contract for building the boat with interest. Thomas Farrington defended the case. The defence was that the boat was not completed; that she was defective in materials and construction, and consequently worthless and unfit for the purposes for which she was built; that she drew twenty, instead of eighteen inches of water; that the wheels and wheel-houses had to be made over; that the machinery was of inferior quality, and that the woodwork of the boat was of poor material.

The suit was tried at the City Hall in New York city before Ogden Edwards, circuit judge, on the first Monday in October, 1837. The jury gave a verdict of \$5,240.31 for the plaintiff. This case was of such importance to the legal fraternity that it was reported in Wendell's Reports, Vol. 21, page 342.

The case was appealed and a new trial granted. It was again tried in New York in May, 1839, and the judgment of the previous court was affirmed. Each of the stockholders subsequently paid \$428.48, his proportion of the judgment obtained by Blanchard.

In May, 1835, Blanchard had assigned his contract for building the steamboat to James Pumpelly as security for the payment of \$500, bor-

rowed money. This also resulted in a suit at law, the particulars of which may be found by any one interested in Lalor's Supplement to Hill & Denio, page 198.

A representation of the "Susquehanna" was engraved on the first official seal used by the village of Owego, which seal was made of brass by Sewall J. Leach in July, 1835.

The "Susquehanna" was the first and last boat built in Owego for commercial purposes. All the large boats built since have been for pleasure only. The steamboats built here since that time are as follows:

- 1839. The Lillie.
- 1857. The Picnic.
- 1873. The Owego.
- 1876. The Lyman Trumar.
- 1884. The Marshland.
- 1884. The Glenmary.

The construction of the second steamboat built in Owego was begun in 1838 and it was completed at a cost of \$2,500 and launched in June, 1839 by John H. Lillie, an ingenious mechanic, concerning whom some account has been already given in these papers. It was built on the bank of the river a little below where the Susquehanna was launched. It was built as a pleasure boat, but more especially to test the qualities of a boiler of Mr. Lillie's invention. The hull was thirty-five feet long. The cabin accommodated about fifty passengers. Gilbert Forsyth, a painter, took a small share in the investment and did the painting of the boat. The form of the boat was a compromise between that of a yawl and a flat-bottomed boat.

The boiler was an upright one of five or six-horse power and presented

a great extent of fire surface. From cold water sufficient steam could be generated to start the boat in about five minutes. Its form was a series of alternate circles of fire and water flues, and the fire flues were separated near the top so that the firebox was built under only one-half of the boiler. The fire passed up on one side and down the other and then around the whole boiler up to the steam chamber. The water flues were only one inch thick and the fire flues two and one-half inches thick. This arrangement gave a strong fire on each side of the one-inch water flues, and it was a powerful heater. The boiler was made in Auburn state prison under Mr. Lillie's direction. The objection to it was its large diameter, which rendered it a weak boiler. Similar boilers are used in many houses for generating steam for warming purposes.

The engine and machinery were manufactured at the foundry of Henry W. Camp at Owego in the fall of 1838. The boat was a side-wheeler and the engine was near the stern. There was an awning over the deck in front, and another deck in the rear, with seats. The "Lillie" was used as a pleasure boat during the summer of 1839, making trips six or eight miles up the river, and particularly around Big island, which was then sometimes known as Crater's island from Philip Crater living thereon, and now known as Hiawatha island. The boat proved to be a paying investment.

In the fall of 1839 Mr. Lillie and Mr. Forsyth, with their families started down the river with the boat for Cin-

cinnati, Ohio, to which city they were about to remove. They had their household goods on board. The boat ran in safety until it reached what was known to raftsmen as Pompey's rift, about three miles above Wysox, Pa., where it was wrecked on a sunken log in the rift. The wreck was sold at auction by the owners, who proceeded by the way of Hollidaysburg and Pittsburgh to their destination.

The next steamboat that made its appearance in Owego was called the "Enterprise." She was built at Bainbridge, Chenango county, and came to Owego Nov. 17, 1851, on her way to Tunkhannock, Pa. She had been sold to a company there and her owners were on their way down the river to deliver her to the purchasers.

The third boat built in Owego was called the "Picnic." She was built in the spring of 1857 by Stephen Decatur Gibson, a sign and ornamental painter, who died here in 1860. She was constructed in Sidney Calkins's ark yard, which was in the rear of the property now owned by Frank D. Philes, about a mile east of the court house.

In the fall of 1856 Mr. Gibson laid the bottom of his boat, which was flat and shaped very much like a common row boat. The bottom was built in the manner of an ark and turned over after one side was finished. Mr. Gibson did the carpenter work himself, with a little assistance. When completed the interior was exactly like that of an ordinary skiff, without any deck, and the cabin floor was laid on the bottom of the boat.

The "Picnic" was sixty feet long and twenty feet wide at its widest part.

and drew fourteen or fifteen inches of water. An ice cream and lemonade counter was placed just forward of the shaft. There was a row of seats around the inside of the boat, which were furnished with cushions, taken from the Odd Fellows' hall. The wheel-house was a wooden frame, covered with canvas. The boat was painted red.

In April, Mr. Gibson, with the assistance of some friends and neighbors, slid the boat off into the river. She was floated down and tied up near the foot of Church street, where an engine of about fifteen-horse power and a boiler, which had been used in Thomas Kyle's chair factory in Chestnut street, were placed in the bottom of the boat, back of the shaft.

The trial trip was made July 3. With a party of men on board she started from the foot of Paige street and with ninety pounds of steam made the trip to Big island and back, a distance of about seven miles in an hour and a half. The trial trip having been successful, announcement was made that daily trips would be made at 4 and 7 o'clock p. m. during the rest of the season.

An event of some note in the history of the "Picnic" was her trip to Towanda, Pa. She started from opposite the Ahwaga house in the morning of Aug. 13 with a party of about thirty prominent men on board and made the trip in six hours. Its coming to Towanda was unexpected, but a crowd soon gathered and the reception was an enthusiastic one. Speeches were made, and the party was escorted to the Ward house. The next day at noon

a banquet was given by the Towanda people for the visitors at the Means house.

In the afternoon the "Picnic" made an excursion as far as Gibson's island, for the purpose of starting the visiting Owegoans on their return home. They were accompanied by several prominent Towanda men and a brass band. On the trip speeches were made acknowledging the attentions and hospitalities paid to the excursionists by the people of Towanda. At Gibson island teams, which had been sent from Towanda, took the Owego men to Athens, whence they came to Waverly by stage. The steamboat remained at Towanda nearly two weeks. She was then towed back to Owego, reaching here Aug. 22.

The boat was run occasionally the next year. The fourth of July was celebrated in Owego in 1858 and at night she was anchored opposite Paige street and a display of fireworks was made from the boat. Later in the season the boat was run up into the mouth of the Little Nanticoke creek and left there for the winter, and her engine and boiler were returned to the chair manufactory.

Spring came and the freshet of 1859 carried the ice down the river. When the water had fallen somewhat Capt. Gibson's son, Don Gibson, went up to tow the boat down the river to the village. She was logged with water which had accumulated during the winter, and was heavy. He succeeded in towing her safely down as far as his father's house, in the eastern part of the village, but when he attempted to snub the rope around a tree it broke and the "Picnic" floated, at first

lazily and then rapidly down the stream. She struck on one of the piers of the Court street bridge, swung around, and quickly drifted out of sight. In due course of time she reached Nichols and running sideways on Wappasening bar, opposite the mouth of Wappasening creek, grounded. Her owner, who had gone down the river in pursuit, removed the shaft and everything else that was worth carrying off and then abandoned her to the natives, who speedily converted her into firewood.

No other attempt to construct a steamboat of any size was made until 1873, when the "Owego" was built.

The "Owego Steamboat Company" was organized in August 1873. The moving spirits in the project of building a new pleasure steamboat were George A. King, Frederick K. Hull, George Truman, Jr., and a few others. The directors were Charles M. Haywood, George A. King, Joseph S. DeWitt, Oscar R. Stone, George Stratton, Eli W. Stone, and George Truman, Jr. Mr. Haywood was chosen president, E. W. Stone treasurer, and Mr. King secretary. The capital stock of the company was \$2,500.

The boat was built under a shed 70 by 26 feet in size constructed for the purpose on the bank of the river below the bridge on Robert Cameron's land. The boat was planned by an Ithaca boat builder by the name of Van Order. It was 75 feet long and 26 feet wide and capable of carrying 200 passengers. When empty it drew eight inches of water and when loaded twelve inches. The work of building the boat was begun Oct. 13 under the superintendence of Alonzo W. Spring-

stead, of Geneva, and it was launched sideways with about forty persons on board in March, 1874. The cost of the boat, when furnished, was about \$3,000.

The boat was named in a novel way. In April, 1874, \$2,500 of stock had been taken, \$170 additional had been donated for purchasing furniture, and it was necessary to raise \$500 more to complete the furnishing of the boat. A public meeting was held at Ahwaga hall, when a vote was taken to decide who should name the boat. The price of votes was ten cents each and there were seven contestants for the honor. The canvass was a hotly contested one. The total amount realized was \$377.50 and Joseph S. DeWitt was the successful contestant, he having received 1,453 votes. Mr. DeWitt named the boat "Owego."

Another election was held April 11 at Ahwaga hall to choose a captain. A vote was taken at ten cents a vote, \$116 were realized, and George Truman, Jr., was elected. George A. King was afterward chosen superintendent and he was superintendent of all the boats built by the company from 1874 to 1884.

A trial trip of the boat was made April 22. She ran up to within about three miles of Binghamton, making the round trip in ten hours. The next day the boat, with an excursion party and Prof. Raff's cornet band on board, went through to Binghamton.

The plan of the steamboat company had been to lease a portion of Big island, which was owned by Cyrenus M. LaMonte, for a pleasure resort for picnic and excursion parties, and to run the steamboat in conjunction

therewith. To that end the company had in October, 1873, leased the small grove at the upper end of the island, and the next spring cleared the ground of brush, graded it, made gravel walks, and built a large dancing pavilion, arbors, and a building for a billiard room and a bowling alley. The total cost of the steamboat and the fitting up of the grounds was \$7,818. With excursions, picnics, clambakes, etc., the season was a remarkably successful one, the net earnings of the boat being \$2,692.96.

At about 10:30 o'clock in the evening of Nov. 2 an attempt was made by an incendiary to burn the boat while she was tied up at her wharf above Paige street. A passer-by gave an alarm and the fire was extinguished, after it had caused damage to the amount of \$200.

During the winter changes were made in the boat, to increase her speed. The engine was replaced with two new ones of forty-horse power, made at the Bristol iron works in Temple street, and the paddle-wheels were made two feet larger in diameter, with buckets eighteen inches wider than the old ones. The upper deck, which was too low, was raised eighteen inches. The work was done by a boatbuilder named Canby from Geneva. A barge was built at a cost of about \$600. It was 75 feet long and 18 feet wide, and drew about 14 inches of water. February 28, 1875, the reconstructed "Owego" started for Binghamton on her trial trip with about fifty passengers on board. Near Campville the 700-pound mortice wheel broke, disabling the boat, and

the passengers were compelled to return by railroad.

In the spring of 1876 Capt. Eugene B. Gere, who represented Tioga county in the state assembly that year, obtained the passage of a bill through the legislature authorizing the Owego steamboat company to remove all dams, rocks, etc., in the channel of the Susquehanna river between Owego and Binghamton, for the purpose of deepening the channel. The bill became a law April 18. The object of the law was to provide a channel of water deep enough so that the steamboat might make trips between Binghamton and Owego regularly. It was the intention of the company to build landings and docks at different points along the river, but nothing was done in the matter and the various boats were used for transporting excursion and picnic parties to and from Big island. Some of the largest excursion parties that ever visited Owego came here while the island was conducted as a summer resort.

In the spring of 1876 the steamboat company built a hotel at the northeast part of the island among the trees, which had been named Hiawatha grove, and the hotel was known as the Hiawatha house. The building was 80 feet long, 40 feet wide, and two stories high. It was later made into a four-story building.

The first manager of the hotel was R. W. Decker. He was soon succeeded by B. J. Davis, the proprietor of the Central house at Owego, and he by Warren Hooker. In April, 1881, Capt. E. J. Richardson, proprietor of the Clinton house in Brooklyn, purchased a one-third interest in the hotel

and the little steamboat "Clara" and assumed personal charge of the hotel. This year the dock, near Paige street, was abandoned, and a new one constructed at the foot of Church street. In the following July E. G. Brown and E. J. Cunningham, of Brooklyn, purchased controlling shares of the Owego navigation company and assumed the management of the hotel and island, Capt. Richardson remaining as manager. About forty rods west of the hotel a new building two stories high and 60x26 feet in dimensions, was built, which was used as a barroom, billiard and bowling alley. The hotel was of sufficient capacity to accommodate 150 guests.

In 1884 W. W. Dilts became manager of the hotel for E. G. Brown, and the next year Mr. Dilts and George A. Smith, of Owego, conducted it. In 1886 Stephen Paris conducted the house. In August, 1887, Mr. LaMonte purchased of the E. G. Brown estate the lease of the Hiawatha house, which had ten years yet to run, together with all the personal property and six shares of steamboat stock for \$1,750, and then sold the island, which contains 112 acres of land, together with everything on it for \$13,750 to Dr. A. S. Kilmer and Jonas M. Kilmer, of Binghamton. The proposition of the Kilmers was to establish a sanitarium there on a large scale, but after holding the property five years A. S. Kilmer sold his one-half interest to his brother for \$9,000. In August, 1900, J. M. Kilmer sold the island for \$11,000 to Mrs. Elizabeth Ransom Goodrich, of Brooklyn, who expended a considerable amount in improving the build-

ing and the premises and established her summer home there.

The steamboat business was so prosperous that the "Owego" was found too small for the purposes intended and it was decided to sell her and build a larger boat. She was accordingly sold in the summer of 1875 to J. B. Shiffer and George Smith, of Pittston, Pa., who purchased her to do a passenger and freight business. The boat was to be delivered in the fall. She left Owego Oct. 18 on her trip down the river, making the trip of 130 miles to Pittston in ten and three-fourths hours. At Pittston the boat was cut in two and enlarged by the addition of 25 feet in her midships. The paddle-wheels were also enlarged. The name of the boat was changed to "Pittston."

The same month the model of a new boat was made at Owego. The boat was 120 feet long in the keel, with 20 feet beam, 6 feet in the hold, with 16-foot wheels and five-foot buckets. She drew 13 inches of water without her machinery. The ladies' cabin, 33 by 24 feet, was at the stern, and the men's cabin, 24 feet square, was between the ladies cabin and the engine room. In front of the engine house was a smoking room, 10 feet long. In front of this was an open deck at the bow of the boat. The deck above was 124 feet long and 33 feet wide. The boat when completed, with her machinery, cost between \$8,000 and \$9,000.

The boat was built in the fall and winter of 1875-6 by B. W. Springstead, a ship carpenter and father of the builder of the "Owego." It was built on the same spot where the "Owego"

was constructed, in the open air, with the stern toward the river, and when launched went into the water stern foremost. The engine of 150-horse power was made at the Bristol iron works at Owego and the boiler at the manufactory of Shapley & Wells at Binghamton. The boiler was 15 feet long, with 147 flues.

In testing the boiler at the works in Binghamton a serious accident happened. It had been placed in the street. When the guage indicated a pressure of 120 pounds of steam, a boy was sent into the building to procure some additional weights to place on the safety valve. Suddenly the boiler exploded, killing the foreman and a boy, who was standing near by, and fatally injuring another man. Ten other persons were injured. A suit was subsequently brought in the supreme court by the family of the boy against Shapley & Wells for \$5,000 damages, and the jury gave a verdict for \$575.

The new steamboat, which had been named "Lyman Truman," was launched by John Combes, of Geneva, March 9. At 10:30 a. m. the fire alarm at the court house was struck, so that the people who might wish to see the launching could do so. The bank of the river and the bridge were soon filled with people, and Adams's cornet band on the bridge played as the boat slid from the stocks into the water. She was towed up to her dock, a little above Paige street. This dock had been lengthened to seventy feet.

A new boiler was made by Shapley & Wells and was placed in the boat May 15. Her trial trip took place May 22, when she ran up to and around Big island in 55 minutes, making all the

landings. Geo. Truman, Jr., was captain of the boat and George A. King superintendent and general manager.

The centennial celebration of the fourth of July was held that year in the grove on Big island. Col. Archie E. Baxter, of Bath, delivered the oration, Capt. Eugene B. Gere read the declaration of independence, and Dr. John B. Benton read an original poem. The boat made daily trips to the island during the summer and fall.

In November a large truss 60 feet in length was constructed for the purpose of holding the boat at the centre in its proper position, as she drew nine inches more of water than she should have drawn. In the winter she was tied up in the Little Nanticoke creek.

While the "Lyman Truman" was a great success as a pleasure boat through the seasons of 1876 to 1880, she was not financially profitable, owing to her large size, and was an elephant on the hands of her owners. In October, 1880, she was sold, together with the steamboat company's interest in a small steamboat called the "Clara," which had been purchased some time before of Charles Kellogg, of Athens, Pa. The sale was made on a judgment for \$1,500 in favor of the superintendent, Mr. King. The property was sold for \$1,150 to Dr. James Wilson, who also held a judgment of about \$1,500 against the company. The Hiawatha house, which with its furniture and fixtures was inventoried at \$3,000, was also sold to Dr. Wilson.

The new owners of the "Lyman Truman" reorganized in January, 1881, under the name of "The Owego Nava-

gation Company," with a board of directors composed of Geo. A. King, Dr. James Wilson, Geo. W. Sweet, John J. Van Kleeck, and Frank M. Baker.

In the following April the steamboat, which had cost \$8,500, was sold to the Plymouth steam navigation company of Pittston, Pa., for \$6,000. The name of the boat was changed to "Susquehanna" and she was run as a passenger boat between Wilkes-Barre and Nanticoke dam. In the morning of July 2, 1883, her boilers exploded while she was at her dock at Wilkes-Barre and she was torn to pieces. The fireman was fatally injured and other persons were badly hurt.

The capital stock of the steamboat company was \$10,000. C. M. Haywood was president in 1893-4. Dr. James Wilson was president from 1875 to 1884, and W. E. Dorwin from 1884 to 1887, inclusive. Geo. A. King was superintendent and Frank M. Baker general passenger agent during the existence of all the boats.

The "Owego" had been found to be too small for the purposes intended and the "Lyman Truman" was larger than was needed, so in the fall of 1881 it was decided by the steamboat managers to build another boat, to be in size between the two boats and to carry two or three hundred passengers. A new company was formed under the name of the Owego Steam Navigation Company. The new company was not incorporated until March, 1884. The directors were George A. King, Jefferson C. Dwelle, Dr. W. L. Ayer, Geo. E. Rich, Frank M. Baker, Wm. E. Dorwin, Dr. C. R. Heaton, and John G. Sears. Mr. Dorwin was chosen president and

Clarence A. Thompson secretary and treasurer.

The hull of the new steamboat was built at Ithaca and was put together on the bank of the river under the pine trees east of this village, where River avenue runs nearest to the river. The builder was B. F. Tabor, of Ithaca, a boat builder. She was a side-wheeler, 105 feet long and 16 feet wide. She drew about fifteen inches of water. The motive power were two sixty-horse power engines, which with her boilers were made at Binghamton. Her cost was about \$5,250. The steamboat company built a waiting room and ticket office 30 feet square on the south side of Front street on Mrs. C. S. Carmichael's land, where the second house above Church street now stands, with a dock in the rear at the river, which was reached by a long platform and steps.

The new boat was named "Marsh-land," a name which had been some time previously given by Gen. B. F. Tracy to his stock farm, near Apalachin. The boat was launched June 16, 1884, sliding into the water sidewise. In order that the boat might come down the river as far as her dock in low water, a dam was built by the steamboat company at a cost of \$600 above Church street and across the river. It was built by Jasper L. Purple, who drove piles and fastened planks thereto. This raised the water about one foot. It was not a permanent dam, and was knocked out and broken up by the ice the next spring.

The steamboat proved to be too small for the purpose intended, and in November a contract was made with John Combs, of Auburn, to cut her in

two and lengthen her thirty feet, so that she would be large enough to carry 800 passengers. The work was done at the foot of Ross street and was completed in February, 1885.

In August, 1890, the "Marshland" was sold for \$800 to W. E. Renshaw, of Plymouth, Pa., the man who purchased the "Lyman Truman." The purchasers expended about \$300 in calking and refitting the boat, but did not pay the amount due on the purchase, leaving her in the hands of the old owners.

The "Glenmary," a larger steamboat than the "Marshland," was built in 1884 by Alonzo W. Springstead, of Geneva, N. Y., on the ground at the foot of Ross street where the houses of Grant M. West and Frank S. Truman now stand. She was 90 feet long and 16 feet wide. The paddle buckets were two small and were enlarged in the spring of 1885. The boat could carry 800 passengers. The engine and boiler were made in Binghamton. She proved to be the fastest of all the steamboats that had been built here.

In April, 1887, the "Glenmary" was sold at sheriff's sale to George W. Barton for \$4,525 on an execution in favor of the Owego national bank for \$4,350. In June, 1889, she was again sold for \$6,000 to W. E. Renshaw, of Plymouth, Pa., who intended to run her as a passenger boat between that place and Wilkes-Barre every thirty minutes. The boat was taken to Wilkes-Barre with about sixty passengers on board, the greater portion of whom left the boat at Towanda. When the boat reached Plymouth the deal fell through. As the water fell in the river

at this time the boat was not brought back to Owego until the next year. In June, 1893, she was again sold to a New York company, and was to have been run from Key West, Fla., to the fibre fields, a distance of 140 miles along the coast. This deal also fell through. The boat remained here until October, 1894. She was anchored below the bridge, and one night she broke loose from her fastenings and went down the river, going ashore below the dam, near the mouth of the Owego creek. She was afterward broken up and the lumber of which she was composed was carted away.

In the summer of 1886 another dam was built across the river, a few yards above the mouth of the Owego creek, at a cost of \$4,000. The amount was raised by subscription. The promoters were members of the steamboat company. The D., L. & W. railroad company subscribed \$500 and the village trustees appropriated \$300. The dam was built by contract by A. F. Chapman, of Watkins, under the supervision of Stephen W. Leach. It was constructed by driving three rows of piles across the river, which were covered by an apron of planks above and below, bridge shape, and caulked with brush and stone. The dam raised the water four feet at the dam and two and one-half feet at Church street. One night, about a year after the dam was built a hard cider party of men, with axes and crowbars, tore a hole in the dam one night, allowing the water to escape, and the dam was never repaired. All of it has disappeared, having been torn out and washed away by successive floods.

The reason for selling the "Glen-

mary" was that after the destruction of the dam the water was so low that she could not be run to any advantage or profit. This was the last steamboat of any size built here for business purposes. There were other boats of some pretensions—the "Dora," owned by C.A. Thompson; the "Welles," built by E. A. Saxton; the "Success," owned by Seth L. King; a catamaran built by W. H. Shaw and Richard S. Stout; the "Augusta," owned by W. C. Renwick, and the "Dewey," another catamaran, owned by Chas. F. Hill.

**Post-Riders Who Ride Horseback through the Country to Deliver Mails, Are Succeeded by the Early Stages—Stephen B. Leonard Establishes the First Stage Route from Owego to Bath—Lines Are Extended throughout the State and Increase in Number Until Stage Coaching Is Killed by the Completion of the New York and Erie Railroad.**

In the early days of this county's settlement, the mails were delivered by post riders, who rode on horseback through the woods, leaving the mails at the small settlements and log cabins, as they passed through the country.

The Owego Gazette in those days was the only paper published in Southern New York, and as its subscribers were scattered about the unsettled country, long distances apart, the only method of delivering their papers to them was by men on horseback.

When Stephen B. Leonard purchased the Gazette office, in 1813, he at first delivered his papers himself, after they were published, riding over his route on horseback. He afterward secured several mail routes, for which a certain price a year was paid by the government, and hired post-riders. By this means he secured a free delivery of his papers with the mails. His routes were to Binghamton, Norwich, Penn Yan, and other points. Other routes were afterward awarded to other persons. As a curiosity a copy of a post-rider's advertisement of a later period, which was printed in the

Gazette of December 6, 1824, is here given:

POST-RIDER'S NOTICE.

**O**RRIN VERY, Post-Rider, informs his patrons in Newark, Berkshire, Caroline, and Candor, that his term for carrying the mail expires on the 1st of January next—All persons indebted to him for papers are therefore hereby notified, that their respective accounts must be settled by that time—Grain will be received if delivered according to contract, otherwise the money will be expected.—*Nor.* 30.

As soon as possible wagon roads were broken through the forests, generally along the Indian trails, and soon the primitive stage made its appearance.

The first regular stage to visit Owego came from Newburgh. The owner's name was Stanton, and he lived at Mount Pleasant. His stage was a three-horse lumber wagon, with hickory poles bent over to form a top, and covered with canvas. By this stage the mails from the east were carried once in each week, reaching Owego every Saturday afternoon.

In 1811 Conrad Teter, of Wyoming, Pa., began carrying the mail from Wyoming to Tioga Point (Athens), Pa., with a one-horse wagon, succeeding a mail carrier who had been delivering the mails with a small mail bag on horseback. Mr. Teter soon purchased a covered wagon and used two horses. He for a few years carried the mails between Wilkes-Barre and Painted Post, N. Y., making the round trip once a week. After a time he ran a covered Jersey carriage, drawn by four horses, between Wilkes-Barre and Athens.

In 1814 he came to Owego and succeeded Mr. Stanton as proprietor of the Newburgh route. He drove the stage himself, making weekly trips from Owego to Newburgh. From

Newburgh passengers went by water to New York. This stage went over the route afterward taken by the Newburgh and Geneva stage line. Mr. Teter had a partner named Huntington.

Teter's brother-in-law, Miller Horton, of Wilkes-Barre, was at this time carrying the mail for Teter between Wilkes-Barre and Athens. He came to Owego and became Teter's partner, the partnership with Huntington having been dissolved.

February 14, 1816, an act was passed by the legislature of this state, which gave Teter and Oliver Phelps, of Ludlowville, the sole right for six years to run stage coaches for passengers between Newburgh and Monticello, on the road leading through Montgomery and Chenango Point (Binghamton) on the mail route, and between Chenango Point and Geneva on the road running through Owego, Ithaca, Trumansburg, and Ovid, and between Ithaca, and Auburn on the main mail route, through Ludlowville. The act provided that no other persons could run stages over this route under a penalty of \$500, and prescribed that trips should be made in three days, twice each week, and oftener if the public good should require, the fare not to exceed seven cents a mile.

In 1818, a new company was formed, with Oliver Phelps at its head, and Ithaca was made the western termination of the route instead of Owego. A better line of stages was put on the route, making tri-weekly trips.

In 1819 Dr. Tracy Robinson and Major Augustus Morgan, of Binghamton, became proprietors of the route. In 1822 the same company, but with

additional proprietors, established a daily line on the route, making Geneva the western terminus.

Stephen B. Leonard established the first stage route from Owego to Bath, in 1816. It required two days to make the trip, the passengers staying over night at Elmira. This was considered a great undertaking in those days, and Mr. Leonard was highly complimented by the newspapers for his enterprise. The following is a copy of Mr. Leonard's advertisement, which was published in the Gazette, and which may be read with some interest at the present day:

## Owego & Bath Mail } CUT OF STAGE } Stage. AND HORSES. }

TWICE A WEEK.

**T**HIS line runs regularly twice a week, between the villages of Owego and Bath,—Days of starting and arrival as follows:—Leave Owego on Mondays and Fridays, at 6 a. m., and breakfasting at Athens, arrive at Elmira at 6 p. m. Leave Elmira on Tuesdays and Saturdays, at 4 a. m., and breakfasting at Painted Post, arrive at Bath at 6 p. m.

*Returning.*—Leave Bath on Mondays and Fridays, at 4 a. m., and breakfasting at Painted Post, arrive at Elmira at 6 p. m.—Leave Elmira on Tuesdays and Saturdays, at 4 a. m., and breakfasting at Athens, arrive at Owego at 6 p. m.

This line of stages intersects the Newburgh and Buffalo line at Owego—as also the Philadelphia—the Wilkes-Barre line, at Tioga Point—and the Geneva line at Bath,—at which latter place it also intersects a line leading directly to Angelica situate about 30 miles from Olean, one of the places of embarkation on the Allegany river, and about 18 miles from Oil Creek, the nearest place of embarkation, and which empties into the Allegany at Olean; at which place boats of any size are always kept ready for travellers, for the purpose of descending the Ohio river.

Persons travelling from New York, or from any of the Eastern States, to the S. W. States, will find this the shortest, cheapest, and most expeditious route. The distance from New York, via Owego, Painted Post and Bath, to Angelica, is 316 miles, which is performed in about 5 days.

Good teams and careful drivers will be kept on the route, and no pains spared to accommodate passengers. The Stage houses are good.

S. B. LEONARD.

March 30, 1819.

For seats in the above line, apply at *E. S. Marsh's* or *Amos Martin's* in Owego—at *Salt-marsh's*, Athens—at *Davis's*, Elmira—and at *Barnard's*, Bath.

At a later period, Mr. Leonard had two four-horse coaches running between Owego and Montrose. In December, 1823, he sold his lines to a stage company, which was then organized, and of which he became one of the proprietors. The route was extended to New York city, and became a strong opposition to the Newburgh and Geneva line. This company was composed of Joseph I. Roy, John Burnett, Zephania Luce, Abraham Bray, Gould Phinney, Silas Heminway, Stephen B. Leonard, Jacob Willsey, Augustus Morgan, Isaac Post, Ithimer Mott, Miller Horton, A. P. Childs, and others.

Mr. Roy was at this time a hotel keeper at Jersey City, and Mr. Luce was afterward his business partner. Mr. Bray lived at Newton, N. J. Mr. Phinney was the owner of a glass factory at Dundaff, Pa. Mr. Heminway afterward became an extensive stage proprietor at Buffalo, and had five or six lines through the state, where the New York Central railroad now runs. Jacob Willsey lived at Willseyville, in this county, of which place he was one of the earliest settlers. Major Morgan, who was also a proprietor in the Newburgh and Geneva line, was first a printer, afterward a hotel keeper, and lived in Binghamton. Mr. Post kept a tavern at Montrose, Pa. Mr. Mott also kept a tavern one and one-half miles east of New Milford, Pa. Miller Horton lived at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and was also one of the proprietors of the Newburgh and Geneva line of stages.

The company put a new line of stage coaches on the road. The route was from New York to Owego. Here it intersected the Newburgh and Geneva line for Buffalo. Stages from New York occupied two days and a half in their journey to Owego, and one day more from Owego on to Geneva. Trips were made three times a week. The route was through the villages of Newark, Morristown, and Newton, N. J., to Milford, Pa.; thence it followed the new turnpike, via Dundaff and Montrose, to Owego. The stages on this route left Patton's, 71 Cortlandt street, New York, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, reaching Owego the third day at 10 a. m. This was then the most expeditious route, the distance to Owego being but 170 miles, whereas by the way of Newburgh it was 210 miles. The line was intersected at Montrose by the Philadelphia and Baltimore lines, and at Owego by the Bath and Olean line.

In the spring of 1825, the line was extended west to Geneva, by the way of Ithaca and Ovid, and coaches left New York every day, Sundays excepted. At Geneva the line intersected the daily lines to Rochester, Buffalo, Lewiston, etc. It had now become an important route, as it opened another, and the most direct, communication between New York and the western part of the state. At Newton, N. J., it intersected a tri-weekly line to Philadelphia; at Montrose, the line to Wilkes-Barre, Harrisburg, etc.; at Chenango Point, a line which ran north through Greene, Oxford, etc., to Utica; and at Owego, a line which ran through Tioga Point

and Elmira to Bath. The latter line was afterward extended to Olean.

The stage offices were at Patton's, in New York; Joseph I. Roy's, Jersey City; Bolle's tavern, Newark; the public houses at Newton and Dundaff; Buckingham's, at Montrose; Dr. Tracy Robinson's hotel at Chenango Point; Goodman's and Manning's taverns, in Owego; the Ithaca hotel and Grant's coffee house, at Ithaca, and Faulkner's hotel, at Geneva.

The coaches were drawn by four horses, the horses being usually changed at the end of each twelve or eighteen miles. Nine passengers were carried inside each coach, and as many outside as could ride comfortably—generally from three to six.

It was at about this time that there were two rival stage lines from Owego to Ithaca. One was conducted by Stephen B. Leonard, and the other by Lewis Manning. Mr. Leonard's stages carried the mails, and the rivalry was so sharp that he charged but fifty cents each way for passengers. In some instances passengers were carried free of charge and a free breakfast was given to them, to prevent their going by the rival line. Mr. Leonard had a contract for carrying the mails, which gave him a great advantage over his competitor, who was finally compelled to withdraw his stages from the line.

The Newburgh and Geneva line was owned by R. Manning, C. Pratt, D. Dunning, Lewis Manning, Augustus Morgan, E. Hathaway, and others. This route was originally from Owego to Binghamton, from Binghamton to Great Bend, Great Bend to Sweet's tavern, Sweet's to Mount Pleasant,

Mount Pleasant to Lukens's farm, Lukens's to Bloomingburg, Bloomingburg to Newburgh, and thence by boat to New York. The stages left Owego three times each week, at three o'clock in the afternoon, and were two days and two nights in making the journey.

The proprietors, in September, 1828, established another line from the head of Seneca lake to Owego, in connection with the steamboat "Seneca Chief." Trips over this line were made three times a week, and intersected the Newburgh line at Owego. The trip from New York to Geneva was made in three days. The first 40 and the last 65 miles were by water.

Previous to about the year 1830, the stages on the various lines running from and through Owego were usually two horse affairs. After making a distance of about fifteen miles, the drivers and horses were changed and sometimes the stages. The stages were run usually about thirty miles each day. After 1830, heavy Troy coaches were put upon the road, which were drawn by four horses each, with about the same changes. These coaches weighed from 1,800 to 2,000 pounds and carried nine passengers inside and two outside, although more were crowded on the top when it was necessary. The body of one of these stages was hung on two strong leather straps, composed of many thicknesses of leather. With five or more passengers the riding was comfortable; with only one or two passengers the stage rolled and jumped on a rough road. These stages were like the modern omnibus—they would always hold one more passenger. The

fare from Owego to Newburgh was \$7.25, and to Jersey City over the Montrose route \$8.00.

All the villagers knew the time of the arrival and departure of the different stages, and when the sound of the stage driver's horn was heard announcing his coming, there was usually a considerable number of sight-seers to witness their going and coming.

At the stage houses the passengers stopped for their meals, and this traffic was a large source of profit. Usually these hotel keepers were the essence of politeness, and in assisting their guests to and from the stages and entertaining them in the house they had no equals.

In the old stage days in every village in the Susquehanna valley was a tavern designated as "the stage house," or house where the stages stopped. The old Owego hotel, which stood where the present Ahwaga house is now, was the stage house in this village for the old lines until the New York and Erie railroad was built to Owego in 1849. The hotel was burned in the fall of that year.

The old stage companies had the contracts for carrying the mails and were consequently able to drive off any opposition lines that might be started. In October, 1840, N. Randall & Co. started an opposition line between Owego and Morristown, N. J., running by the way of Montrose, Dundaff, Carbondale, Clark's Corners, Canaan, Honesdale, and Milford. At Morristown, passengers for New York and Philadelphia were transferred to the cars.

Nathan Randall, previous to estab-

lishing this stage line—from 1828 to 1837— was the publisher of the Ithaca Journal and Advertiser at Ithaca. His Owego office was at L. Manning & Son's Owego hotel and his agent was J. C. Bogardus. Bogardus was from Rhinebeck. He died a few years afterward, a victim of intemperance.

The New York agency was at 73 Cortlandt street. The agent, Jonathan Hill, was a bachelor and had been a stage driver. At the time of his death he had not a relative living, and he left all his property to John Patton, Jr., a nephew of James Patton, who was agent for the old stage line at 71 Cortlandt street, and himself a stage agent. John Patton, Jr., was afterward engaged in the ocean steamship business, and became very wealthy. At the time of his death a few years ago, he was the owner of the Pacific hotel in Greenwich street.

William G. Thompson, who was a son of Henry Thompson, the first tavern keeper and postmaster at Campville, lived nearly all of his life at Owego and died here. He was agent for the old lines at 73 Cortlandt street about the year 1846, and two years afterward went on the line to look after the passengers.

Mr. Randall was finally driven off the road by the old companies, to whom he sold his coaches and stock. In every instance where opposition lines were afterward started they were also compelled to leave the road and sell out to the old proprietors. The office of the old lines was at Manning & Son's Owego hotel, while the opposition established their agencies at the Franklin house and Tioga house. The duty of these agents was

simply to receipt fare for the company.

Another of the opposition lines was the "Eagle Line" of Field, Cox & Co., which was established in October, 1843, after the N. Y. & E. railroad was completed to Middletown. The headquarters of the proprietors were at Binghamton. Coaches were run daily from Middletown by the way of Narrowsburg, Honesdale, Mount Pleasant, New Milford, Great Bend, and Binghamton to Owego. At this time the offices of both the regular and opposition lines were at the old Owego hotel.

Charles Cox was from Carbondale, Pa., He afterward kept a hotel four miles west of Honesdale. He died at Scranton. Mr. Field was a brother of Maj. Almerin Field, who was proprietor at various times of hotels at Corn- ing, Elmira, Owego, and Waverly. The brothers kept a hotel at Narrowsburg and were both engaged in stage coaching.

As the New York and Erie railroad was constructed the stages running east from Owego changed their routes and ran in connection with its last western terminus. The road was extended to Goshen, in September, 1841; to Middletown, in June, 1843; to Port Jervis, in January, 1848; to Binghamton, in December of the same year; and to Owego October 1, 1849. When the road reached Elmira the days of the old stage lines were at an end so far as this part of the state was concerned.

The stage proprietors in the later days of stage coaching were as follows: C. L. Grant & Co., Ithaca; I. Ringe, Geneva; L. Manning & Son,

Owego; T. J. Magee, Bath; Lorenzo Seymour, Corning; Cooley & Maxwell, Elmira; Stephen B. Leonard, Owego; Augustus Morgan, Binghamton; Ithimer Mott, New Milford; Wm. Riley, Rileyville, Pa.; Hamilton & Son, Monticello; O. Sweet, Bloomingburg; S. Hathaway, Newburgh; Leonard Searle & Bro., Montrose; Wm. Bronson, Carbondale; Major McClary, Honesdale; Sam Dimmock, Milford; the Cassidy brothers, Port Jervis; Charles Beach, Catskill; H. Curtis, Greene; and Miller Horton, Wilkes-barre.

The Searleses came to Montrose, Pa., at an early day from the Wyoming valley, and were the first to establish stage routes and post offices in Susquehanna county. For many years they ran two lines from Milford to New York—one by the way of Sussex, N. J., and the other via Deckertown.

The stage proprietors here named were all combined in one large stock company and owned all the large routes running through southern New York. Each one put into the company as many coaches and as much live stock as was necessary for the number of miles he ran over, and each drew mileage in proportion to the number of miles run by his stages. Settlements were made once every three months at meetings of the proprietors, which were held at various points previously designated. Owego was a central point, and the meetings were frequently held here.

As the N. Y. and E. railroad extended its tracks westward and the stage routes were consequently gradually shortened, many of the stage drivers became brakemen on the road.

were rapidly pushed forward, and became conductors. The old coaches disappeared, most of them being removed to parts of the country not yet occupied by the railroads.

The last of the old coaches in Owego was lying for several years in the old lane, which ran about where Central avenue now extends, and through which the old Owego and Ithaca horse railroad had run down into the village. The coach was minus its wheels and everything else that could be carried away. One night, on a third of July, the boys made a great bonfire in the street at the north end of the park. The old coach was dragged out into the street and surrounded by wooden boxes and other inflammable stuff. A light was applied, and the whole was soon a heap of ashes and scrap iron.

Stage coaching was not unattended by accidents. The roads were sometimes rough, the hills precipitous, the nights dark, and there was danger in times of ice and flood. The only accident worthy of any mention that ever happened in Owego was on the 26th of March, 1846. There was a great flood in the Owego creek, and all the low land between the two bridges in Canawana was overflowed. At four o'clock in the morning, the mail coach from Elmira containing five passengers was coming into Owego. It passed over the creek bridge and entered the swift current, which was flowing over the highway. The water at once swept away both coaches and horses. One of the horses was drowned. The driver and three of the passengers were drowned. All passengers were young

men under twenty-five years of age and one of them was a negro.

---

**The Second Railroad Chartered in the State of New York Is Built between Ithaca and Owego, to Lessen the Expense of Transporting Merchandise to Owego and thence by the Susquehanna River to a Market, with Capital Stock of \$150,000, Which Is Subsequently Increased to \$450,000.**

The old Ithaca and Owego railroad was built in 1833 to make easier and cheaper transportation for merchandise brought down Cayuga lake to Ithaca by boat and drawn thence to Owego by teams for shipment down the Susquehanna river to the Philadelphia and Baltimore markets.

At that time the chief products consisted of salt from Syracuse, plaster from Auburn, and flour, grain, and lumber from every direction in central New York. At first all the merchandise was drawn the entire distance from the point of production to Owego by teams. Finally a ditch was dug from the head of Cayuga lake to connect with the Erie canal. When this water connection was completed boats were run down to Ithaca, and merchandise brought thence to Owego by teams.

The proposition to build a railroad from Syracuse to Owego was first considered. Public meetings were held at Newark Valley, Berkshire, Richford, Dryden and other places to create a sentiment in favor of such road. But when the water connection was made between the Erie canal and Cayuga lake the plan was changed.

The first railroad constructed in the United States was built only six years previous, in 1827, and that was a horse railroad from the granite quarries of Quincy, Mass., to the Neponset river, a distance of three miles. And the Ithaca and Owego railroad was incorporated only a year later.

The second railroad was laid out in January, 1827, from the coal mines of Mauch Chunk, Pa., to the Lehigh river a distance of nine miles. In 1828 the Delaware & Hudson canal company constructed a railroad from its coal mines to Honesdale, Pa., the terminus of its canal, and sent a commission to England for the purchase of rail iron and locomotives. The locomotives arrived in the spring of 1829. The third railroad constructed was the Baltimore and Ohio line, commenced in 1828.

The first railroad chartered in the state of New York was the Hudson & Mohawk railroad from Albany to Schenectady, April 17, 1826, but its construction was not begun until 1830. The second railroad chartered in this state was the Ithaca & Owego railroad.

In those days, as has already been related, Owego was the outlet from the north, by the Susquehanna river, for flour, grain, salt, lumber, plaster, etc., and for many years this part of the state was the source of supply for such merchandise. Much of it came by the way of Ithaca to Owego and was transported down the river in arks. The steamboat having proved a failure as a means of transporting freight, the next project was a railroad.

The Ithaca & Owego railroad was organized by capitalists living at Owego and Ithaca, prominent among whom was James Pumpelly. The matter was first agitated in 1827.

It had at first been proposed to build a canal between Owego and Ithaca, as a connecting link between the waters of the Erie canal and the Susquehanna river, but when it was found that there would be an elevation and corresponding depression of 600 feet to overcome by lockage, as well as the disadvantage of a doubtful supply of water, and also that a railroad could be built for at least one-third less than a canal and could be used at all seasons of the year while a canal would be frozen in the winter months, the railroad project was substituted.

No active measures, however, were taken to build the road until the building of the Chemung canal from the head of Seneca lake to Elmira threatened to divert trade from Ithaca and Owego. Then Gen. Simeon DeWitt, who owned a large tract of land at the head of Cayuga lake, and others interested in the prosperity of Ithaca and Owego, set themselves at work to build this road.

Sept. 20, 1827, a meeting was held at Owego, for the purpose of taking measures to procure from the state legislature a grant for a company to construct a railroad from Ithaca to Owego. At this meeting Mr. Pumpelly was chairman and Stephen B. Leonard secretary. A committee composed of James Pumpelly, Eleazer Dana, John H. Avery, John R. Drake, and Stephen B. Leonard was appointed to confer with a similar committee of Ithaca men. On the 31st of

October a similar meeting was held at Ithaca, when a committee composed of A. D. W. Bruyn, F. A. Bloodgood, Charles Humphrey, Henry Ackley, and Levi Leonard was appointed to confer with the Owego committee.

These committees met at Philip Goodman's tavern in Owego, where the Ahwaga house now stands, on November 20 and decided to petition the legislature to incorporate a company to construct the proposed road.

The company was duly incorporated June 28, 1828, the corporation to continue until January 1, 1878. The right was granted to construct a single or double track railroad from Cayuga lake, at or near Ithaca, to the Susquehanna river, in the village of Owego, and to erect and maintain toll houses and other buildings along its line. The company was empowered "to transport, take, and carry property and persons, by the power and force of steam, of animals, or of any combination of them, which the said corporation may choose to employ."

The rate for transporting freight was fixed at three cents a ton a mile, and for every pleasure carriage, or carriage used for the transportation of passengers three cents a mile, in addition to the toll by weight for loading. The act also provided that "all persons paying the toll aforesaid may, with suitable and proper carriages, use and travel upon the said railroad, subject to such rules and regulations as the said corporation are authorized to make." The act was to be null and void if the railroad should not be built and put into operation within three years from the passage of this act.

The capital stock was fixed at \$150,000 in shares of \$50 each. Luther Gere and Andrew D. W. Bruyn, of Ithaca, and Charles Pumpelly, of Owego, were appointed commissioners to open books and receive subscriptions to stock. December 20 it was announced that all the stock had been taken.

A meeting of stockholders was held Feb. 10, 1829, at the store of Jesse Grant & Son at Ithaca, when nine directors were chosen. These directors were Francis A. Bloodgood, S. DeWitt Bloodgood, Richard V. DeWitt, A. D. W. Bruyn, Mynderse VanSchaick, Cornelius P. Heermans, James Pumpelly, Alvah Beebe, and Ebenezer Mack. Francis A. Bloodgood was chosen president, Mr. DeWitt treasurer, and Mr. Mack secretary.

Two routes were surveyed. One was by the valley of the inlet of Cayuga lake and the west branch of Catatonk creek, through the town of Spencer. The distance by this route from the Inlet bridge to Owego was 36.6 miles. The other route, which was subsequently adopted, was by the valley of the Six Mile creek, Beaver Meadow creek, one of its branches, and the east branch of the Catatonk creek. The distance from the inlet to Owego by this route was 29.6 miles.

John Randal, Jr., was appointed engineer of the road. He had constructed the New Castle and Frenchtown railroad in Pennsylvania, which was at that time one of the finest pieces of engineering in the United States. Ephraim Leach, the builder of Leach's mills on the Owego creek, in the town of Tioga, was appointed

superintendent of structure and engineering at the south end of the road.

When the survey of the road had been completed it was found that the original capital of \$150,000, which had all been taken, was insufficient to construct it, although at first, for want of correct information of the nature and expense of railroads, it was supposed to be adequate to the purpose.

March 3, 1831, a meeting of delegates from the several parts of the country adjacent to and interested in the projected railroad, with delegates from the coal regions of Pennsylvania, was held at Philip Goodman's tavern in this village. James Pumpelly was chairman and David Woodcock, of Ithaca, secretary. The meeting appointed a committee, consisting of Luther Gere, Jeremiah S. Beebe, and Horace Mack, of Ithaca, and James Pumpelly, Jonathan Platt, and John R. Drake, of Owego, to confer with those who held the stock of the road, with a view to a more general distribution of such stock. A committee was appointed to examine as to the practicability and probable expense of building the road.

Several subsequent meetings were held. At one of them, on Feb. 17, 1831, at Ithaca, a committee reported that the average tonnage in 1830, conveyed by team from Ithaca to Owego was 4,000 tons of plaster, 10,000 pounds of salt, 450 tons of merchandise, 4,000,000 feet (or 4,000 tons) of lumber, and 250 tons of miscellaneous articles.

In 1832 the charter of the company was amended by act of the legislature.

increasing the capital stock to \$300,000.

The builders of the railroad were Jeremiah S. and Alvah Beebe, brothers, who were sons of Col. Jedidiah Beebe, of Lynn, Conn., who distinguished himself in the battle of New London, in 1812. They built the Clinton house at Ithaca, and the Fall creek tunnel, and also put the first steamboat on Cayuga lake.

The road was constructed in 1833, and opened for traffic in April, 1834. The track was altogether different from the tracks of the railroads of the present day. The proposed mode of construction, as detailed by W. A. Swift, United States engineer, in the "Report and Survey of the Route of the Ithaca and Owego Railroad," printed in pamphlet form at Ithaca, in 1828, was in brief as follows:

Pits two and one-half feet in depth and three feet square were to be dug at intervals and filled with broken stone. Within three inches of the surface of the ground flat stones were placed. Across the head of the track and resting on these stones were placed oak sills, ten inches square and seven and one-half feet in length. These sills were placed eight feet apart. Oak sleepers for the rails, six by twelve inches and from 16 to 24 feet in length, were laid lengthwise with the track and fastened to the sills with wooden pins.

The rails were straps of rolled wrought iron, two and one-fourth inches wide and one-half of an inch thick. Holes of oblong shape were punched in the rails eighteen inches apart, through which four-inch screws

were driven, to hold them to the sleepers beneath. No "fish-plates" were used, as at the present day to connect the ends of the rails, but they were cut at the ends diagonally and the ends laid close together.

These rails had one serious defect. After having been in use some time, the screw heads were apt to break off and the pointed ends of the rails, or snake heads, as they were called would spring up from the track and remain up. The result was that serious accidents to passengers were caused by the "snake heads" tearing through the floor of passenger coaches and injuring passengers.

The road had but one track, and had frequent turn-out or passing places, at the present day called switches.

The board of trustees of Owego village, at a special meeting on Sept. 27, 1833, authorized the railroad company to lay its tracks through the public park and such parts of the streets to and from the public square as might be necessary for the purposes of the company. Three days later, at a meeting of the railroad directors at Ithaca, a committee was appointed to come to Owego to arrange for a final location for the southern terminus of the road. Oct. 5, two members of the committee, William N. Collins and Julius Ackles, met the engineer-in-chief at this place, who submitted the various surveys.

It was decided to enter the village through lands of Elizur Talcott, David P. Tinkham, and Mrs. Mary A. Lansing and the village park. Mr. Talcott gave the company a right of way sixty

feet wide through his farm. The road was accordingly extended into this village between his dwelling house and the public highway (now North avenue.) It ran from Ithaca to Owego over the line of what is now the Cayuga division of the Delaware, Lackawana & Western railroad, and followed its present course down through where the centre of Central avenue now is and through the lands of Mr. Tinkham and Mrs. Laning to the park.

At this time Temple street had not been extended from North avenue west. Fox street west of North avenue was opened only to the railroad track. Between the present Temple street and extending nearly up to Fox street was a pond known for many years as the Dodd pond and as "Lake Dodd." To cross the low ground on the west side of this pond a high embankment was built to a level with the ground at each end, over which the railroad trains were run. The tracks extended down along what is now about the centre of Central avenue.

Previous to the coming of the committee from Ithaca to Owego, eleven business men of his village, Latham A. Burrows, Charles Pumpelly, Stephen B. Leonard, William Pumpelly, Jonathan Platt, Gurdon Hewitt, Amos Martin, George Bacon, William A. Ely, Francis Armstrong, and James Ely, had signed an agreement (dated Sept. 28, 1833) to procure conveyances to the railroad company, or to pay the damages that might be assessed by commissioners, for such land as the company should need for depot

purposes. But no depot was ever built.

It was arranged that the road should enter the north end of the park, a little east of the centre thereof. At the southeast corner of the park the road turned into Front street on a curve and ran up that street a little south of its centre to the old Owego hotel, which stood where the Ahwaga house now stands.

A switch was placed in the track a little east of Church street, so that freight cars could be run on another track. This track extended down under the long row of wooden stores which then occupied the site of the present brick ones, and was about twelve feet below the level of Front street. Cars were thus enabled to discharge their contents of salt, plaster, grain, etc., into arks and upon rafts, to be floated thence down the river.

Previous to the building of this railroad teams could be driven with their loads down to the river through two lanes, or alleys, one of which was between the stores of Dr. Jedediah Fay and Gurdon Hewitt, and the other between the Laning storehouse and Ely's hat store. Upon the road along the river under the stores the railroad tracks were laid.

Another switch at the south end of the park allowed cars to be turned on to another track which crossed Front street just below the bridge into William H. Platt's storehouse.

The first passenger conveyances used on this railroad were similar to the old stage coaches, the driver sitting on the box and driving one horse. Freight was carried on small flat cars

about twenty feet in length, with sides about four feet high, drawn by two horses. The horses were driven tandem, for the reason that they had to walk between the two rails and there was not room for them to go side by side. A "train" consisted of two cars. Coming south from Ithaca these flat cars were loaded with merchandise; returning north they were usually empty. Each freight car had four wheels, which were made open, with spokes. Later, when a locomotive was used to draw freight cars the passenger coach was usually attached to the rear of the freight cars.

A reproduction of the time table of the Ithaca and Owego railroad, issued in circular form in 1838, is here reproduced. It was originally used to illustrate an article in the Railway Gazette a few years ago, written by Herbert T. Walker. The "burden cars" mentioned in the circular and which were required to pay toll at the rate of three cents a ton a mile, were owned by individuals, who under the provisions of the charter of the road, could have them added to the company's trains at certain points along the route.

Such an appliance as a brake for car wheels was at this time unknown, and it was somewhat difficult to regulate the speed of trains on a down grade. Sometimes an iron bar, similar to a handspike, would be placed in the spokes of a wheel and pressing up against the front of the car. This would block the motion of the wheel, causing it to slide on the track and acting as a brake.

# ITHACA AND OWEGO



## RAIL ROAD.

NEW ARRANGEMENT WHILE FINISHING THE ROAD.

### TRANSPORTATION TRAIN.

**The train of Transportation Cars will leave Ithaca** every afternoon (Sundays excepted) at 3, and arrive at Gridley's at 6 o'clock, P. M., will leave Gridley's at 4, and arrive at Ithaca at 8 o'clock, A. M., stopping, both in going and returning, at Howe's Turnout, Whitecomb's and Wilsey's Mills, to take in and discharge loading, and receive Cars that may be in readiness to join the train.

**The train of Transportation Cars on the Owego end** of the Road, will leave Owego every afternoon (Sundays excepted) at 5, and arrive at Gridley's at 8 o'clock, P. M., will leave Gridley's at 4, and arrive in Owego at 7 o'clock, A. M., stopping both going and returning at Jones' Cross Roads, Sacket's and Chidsey's Mills, at Candor Corners, and at Booth's Cross Roads to take in and discharge loading, and to receive such cars as may be in readiness to join the train.

**No burden Cars are permitted to run upon the Road** except such as are registered to the Secretary's Office in Ithaca, and have a Certificate of Fitness from the Engineer, and a way-bill of loading must accompany each car not belonging to the Company's Train, and toll paid at the Gates, at the rate of 3 cents per ton per mile.

DANIEL L. BISHOP, Secretary.

ITHACA, July 20, 1838.

*Mack, Andrus & Woodruff, Printers.*

The first locomotive was used on this railroad in 1844. It is said to have been built at Auburn and was so constructed as to consume its own smoke. It was called the "Pioneer" and was manufactured in the state prison by convict labor. Its smoke stack was similar in shape to a piece of stove pipe. Its frame was of wood. Its boiler was covered with a coating of wood, painted drab. The boiler was supplied with water by a hand pump through a hose. The water was kept in a large hogshead on a flat car.

The engine was a failure. The steam chamber was too large for the boiler, and steam could not be made fast enough. The chamber was subsequently altered. The locomotive was afterward reconstructed and the wooden frame was replaced with an iron one.

The locomotive was a slow affair. It ran only about as fast as a horse could trot. On its first trip from Ithaca it ran all right until it reached a point a little north of Candor, when it could be run no further, as the engineer could not obtain sufficient steam. It had to be finally hauled back to Ithaca by horses. Frequently the steam would run down, causing the train to stop running entirely. Then, while the fireman was getting up more steam the passengers would sit on the bank at the side of the track and pass away the time playing cards or pick berries along the way. This is said to have been the origin of the term, "huckleberry train." Later a more competent engineer was found and no further difficulty was experienced.

The locomotive made one trip with freight each day to Ithaca and return and the horse car one trip at night. The time between Ithaca and Owego was six hours, or about seven miles an hour, but on one occasion the trip was made in four and one-half hours.

It is related that in 1844 a Whig mass meeting was held in Ithaca. That day a load of Owego Whigs rode over to Ithaca on the train to attend the meeting. At Candor the track was so slippery with oil that the locomotive could not proceed until the rails had been covered with sand. The story went abroad that the Democrats had greased the track, but it afterward appeared that the trouble had been caused by a leaky barrel of oil.

The same day Philip Mosher, son of Seth Mosher, who for many years kept the Central house in Owego, drove over to Ithaca on the railroad track with his horse and the old passenger coach. In returning he became tired of waiting for the train to leave, and swore that if it did not start within ten minutes he would go on ahead of it with the coach, and he did. He had hardly got out of sight when the train started. Some idea of the speed of the train can be gathered from the fact that after Mr. Mosher had reached the Half Way house and had stopped to water his horse, the locomotive came in sight just as he drove on. While the iron horse took water Mr. Mosher obtained another good start. When he drove into the park in this village, the train was behind him, about where Temple street is now. He made the trip in a few minutes more than three hours.

About a year after the chamber of the locomotive had been altered a disastrous accident happened, which put an end to its usefulness. At six o'clock in the evening of May 21, 1847, while it was hauling a train from Ithaca to Owego it broke through a bridge at Woodbridge's, about six miles north of Owego. The bridge had been for some time in an unsafe condition. The engineer, D. H. Hatch, of Flemingville, and the fireman, A. Dickinson, of Danby, were both instantly killed. This was the last trip that Mr. Hatch had intended to make over the road. He fell under the locomotive, which crushed in his breast.

The "Pioneer" was never afterward used to draw trains. It stood on a switch west of North avenue in this village for a time. When the D., L. & W. railroad was completed to Scranton, Pa., about the year 1852, it was taken to that city, where it was used for sawing wood, by blocking it up so that the wheels did not touch the ground.

When the locomotive was put on the road larger passenger cars were used. The new ones were about one-third the size of an ordinary passenger coach on railroads of the present day. About twenty-five passengers could be seated facing each other in a car on seats that ran lengthwise with the car, similar to the seats in the street cars of the present day. There were no stoves in the cars to keep passengers warm in the winter. After the accident at Woodbridge's all the cars were drawn by horses, and so continued until the road was rebuilt in 1850.

One of the passenger cars that was put on the old horse railroad during its latter days, continued to be used after the railroad was reconstructed and larger and improved locomotives were used. It was built in Connecticut in 1848 and was put on the road the next year. It was not taken off the road until 1882.

While the locomotive was used it was allowed to run no further than the south end of the park. The stores on both sides of Front street were wooden ones—some of them old rookeries—and it was feared that they might take fire from sparks.

The old locomotive house stood as late as 1850 on what is now the southwest corner of Central avenue and Temple street. It was of rectangular shape, weather-beaten and unpainted, and was large enough to house the locomotive and a car or two. A small turntable, which was worked by hand, stood just south of the engine house.

The first agent at Owego of the Ithaca and Owego railroad was Jonathan Platt, whose office was at his store on the south side of Front street, opposite the Owego hotel. When Mr. Platt sold his store to Taylors & Bell, W. C. Taylor became the agent. At the same time Allen Storrs & Ball were agents for the People's line of insured boats, running between Ithaca and New York city, and another line running from Ithaca to Buffalo, and received freight here for all points beyond Ithaca.

The passenger cars started from in front of the Owego hotel at 4 o'clock in the morning of each day, and were met half way between Ithaca and

Owego by another train, which left Ithaca at about the same hour.

The capital stock of the railroad was increased to \$450,000 by act of the legislature, passed May 3, 1834, just after the completion of the road.

April 18, 1838, another act was passed by the legislature, authorizing the comptroller to deliver to the railroad company special certificates of stock of \$1,000 each to the amount of \$250,000, bearing annual interest of five and one-half per cent. For this loan the state took a lien upon the road and its equipment.

May 14 1840, another act of the legislature authorized the comptroller of the state to issue and deliver to the railroad company certificates of stock of this state to the amount of \$28,000, to bear interest at six per cent.

The state loan amounted to about \$8,655 a mile, and the interest was to have been paid semi-annually. But the panic of 1837 proved fatal to the prospects of the road. When the first semi-annual interest became due its payment was not forthcoming, and when default was again made in the payment of the second semi-annual interest the comptroller, Azariah C. Flagg, advertised the road for sale at auction. After at least one postponement, the sale was made May 20, 1842, and the property was struck off to Archibald McIntyre and others for \$4,500. The rolling stock was subsequently sold to the Cayuga & Susquehanna railroad company for about \$50,000.

April 18, 1843, the state legislature passed an act constituting McIntyre and the several persons to whom he might assign any portion of the old

Ithaca & Owego railroad a body corporate by the name of the Cayuga & Susquehanna railroad, such corporation to continue until January 1, 1900. The capital stock was fixed at \$18,000 and divided into shares of \$15 each.

Three years later the road was rebuilt with heavy T shaped rails, as it is to-day. The contractors were Jones & Stearns, of New Hampshire. Wallace W. Barden, who had built railroads for these contractors in the eastern states, came here in September, 1849, and had charge of the reconstruction of the road as foreman. He brought about eighty men with him from New Hampshire. The road from the top of the hill at Ithaca to Owego was completed Dec. 17, 1850. The road down the hill into Ithaca was finished a year later.

After the completion of the New York and Erie railroad to Owego in 1849, the track of the Cayuga & Susquehanna railroad was built on a curve from the main track near McMaster street to the New York & Erie station, east of North avenue, and the trains, which were drawn by heavy locomotives of the modern type were run to that station. An effort had been made in July, 1848, to induce the village trustees to use their influence to have the track through the park torn up and the railroad discontinued. This was not accomplished, however, until the summer of 1850, a year after the cars had been running to the New York & Erie station.

On the first of January, 1855, the Cayuga & Susquehanna road was leased to the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad company, and is still operated by that company.

Mr. Barden was appointed roadmaster of the reconstructed Cayuga & Susquehanna road and continued as roadmaster thirty-six years until the main line of the Delaware Lackawanna & Western railroad was built from Binghamton to Owego and the two roads were connected by building the iron bridge across the Susquehanna river at the foot of William street. Then the tracks connecting the road with the New York & Erie railroad station were removed and trains were run to the D., L. & W. station, south of the river.

---

**Some Account of the Early Inns in the Days when Travellers Were Entertained at Log Houses and Later at the Pixley, Bates, Deforest, and Laning Taverns, and Later at the Old Owego Hotel and the Central and Tioga Houses.**

In the days of the early settlement of Owego the first settlers entertained the few travellers who came through the woods here at their houses. James McMaster, the first settler here, used his house on the south side of Front street, east of Academy street, as a tavern for the accomodation of travellers until public houses were built elsewhere. As the number of settlers gradually increased along the roads which had been cut through the wilderness, the taverns, many of them small ones and roughly constructed of logs, increased in number, and within a few miles of each other could be found some sort of a house where teamsters and the occasional traveller on foot or by stage could obtain lodging and refreshment. Some of these

were simply dwelling houses, with limited accommodations for guests, while later ones were more pretentious in size, with a barroom attachment, but little less primitive in their appointments.

One of the first of these inns was the house long known as the Pixley tavern in Goodrich settlement in the town of Tioga. Others were the Bates and Deforest taverns at Owego. Abner Turner built a tavern north of Owego in the town of Tioga, near the red mills. Two miles distant on the old Ithaca and Owego turnpike was Woolverton's tavern, a little log house. Woolverton later built a two-story tavern on the opposite side of the road, under the bank. The next tavern was Daniel Bacon's, about a mile this side of Candor. The next ones on the turnpike were at Candor and Candor corners. The turnpike gate nearest to Owego was just north of Woolverton's tavern.

The house built by Col. David Pixley and occupied by him as a dwelling house and tavern still stands in the town of Tioga. It was built in 1791. It is at the right hand side of the highway as one goes from Owego toward "Glenmary" and a few rods north of the road.

One unacquainted with its history would naturally wonder why it should stand at right angles with the highway and with its rear toward the road. At the time it was built the old road ran along on the northeast or front side of the building, and extended down the hill to the Indian spring, near which, on the Owego creek, Col. Pixley built a grist mill.

Here the road crossed the creek and came through Owego.

Like all buildings constructed at that time, it was built of heavy timber and the nails and all the iron work were forged by a blacksmith. In 1802 Col. Pixley sold the house to judge Noah and Eliakim Goodrich, who bought also all of Col. Pixley's large tract of land there. Judge Goodrich lived and died in the tavern and his son, Ephraim, lived there afterward.

There was another small tavern in those days kept by Sam Stafford. It was a small one and stood on the west side of the Owego creek in the town of Tioga, on the north side of the highway leading from Main street out of this village. It stood about where the gateway to the "Vesper Cliff" property now is.

The first tavern built in this village was for many years known as the Bates tavern and stood on the north-west corner of Front and Church streets, where the Ahwaga house is now. Church street had not been opened as a street at that time, and the only highway through Owego was the river road, now known as Front street. Capt. Luke Bates purchased the land of James McMaster Nov. 12, 1795, and erected thereon a tavern, in one part of which was a small country store. It was built of timber and planks, was two stories high, and was painted red. In front was a long portico, with benches thereon. The horse sheds were on the bank of the river on the opposite side of the road. A red barn stood west of the tavern, with a small space of ground between the two buildings. June 17, 1800, Capt. Bates purchased of David



THE OLD PIXLEY HOUSE IN GOODRICH SETTLEMENT.



Humphrey the land in the rear, on what is now the southwest corner of Main and Church streets, on which was a dwelling house and barn. The entire property was sold by Capt. Bates February 17, 1803, to George Stevens, of Canaan, Conn., and Charles Pumpelly for \$3,500.

Capt. Luke Bates was the first settler west of Union, Broome county (then Tioga county.) While living there, in 1791, he represented the town of Union in the board of supervisors. He had been a sea captain. The exact date of his settlement at Owego is not known. He was one of those to whom James McMaster, the original owner of all the land now occupied by the village of Owego, sold much of his land. He came here, probably, about the year 1791, as deeds of the village lots given by him in that year are on record in the Tioga clerk's office. After he sold his tavern he removed about two miles east of Owego, and settled on the Little Nanticoke creek, where he lived on the north side of the road and conducted a whiskey distillery. At the time of his coming to Owego he was a prosperous man of business, but addicted to drink. He became very intemperate and died ten years after the sale of his tavern and store.

Capt. Bates was one of the three original trustees of "Owego settlement" appointed by James McMaster in the deed executed in February, 1797, giving to the settlement the land now occupied by the village park, the county jail, and the old Owego academy. Sept. 4, 1813, soon after his death, a meeting of the inhabitants was held and Eleazer Dana was elect-

ed trustee in his place. Pumpelly and Stevens kept the tavern and in connection therewith the store until January 30, 1804, when Stevens sold his interest in the tavern property to Mr. Pumpelly, together with a village lot in Back (now Main) street for \$1,200.

The square now bounded by Front, Lake, Main, and Church streets, comprised four village lots of equal size. The two lots comprising the western half were owned by James Caldwell, and the eastern half was the tavern property.

At the west end of the tavern was a ball room, where social functions were occasionally held. This ball room had been the place for holding all public meetings, and it answered the purpose of a town hall for many years.

The first town meeting of the town of Tioga (now Owego) was held at the Bates tavern April 3, 1800. After the court house at Spencer was burned in 1821 and until a new one was built at Owego in 1823 all sales of real estate at mortgage foreclosure were made at this tavern. While the court house was building the courts were held in the ball room of the tavern.

For many years all business centred around the spot and property in that vicinity until as late as 1830 was worth fully twenty per cent. more than property in any other part of the vilage. But everything was changed in 1850. In 1849, the year when the hotel was burned, the New York and Erie railroad was completed to Owego. Previous to that time the great stage thoroughfare was Front street and the Owego hotel was the stage

depot. The cars of the old Ithaca and Owego horse railroad also ran to the hotel. After the burning of the hotel the business went temporarily to the Central and Tioga houses, which for a time were in the centre of business. The New York and Erie railroad diverted business from the old thoroughfare. Lake street, Main street, and North avenue were gradually built up with substantial stores as old buildings were burned or torn down and the business of the village was gradually and entirely changed.

Charles Pumpelly conducted the store and kept the Bates tavern until 1815, when he removed to a large and handsome residence he had built and which occupied the lots on the north side of Front street where the homes of judge Mead and Miss Anna M. Dean now stand. Daniel Churchill then leased the tavern of Mr. Pumpelly and kept it two years. In 1818, Edward Edwards, of Berkshire, who in 1815 had been landlord of the old Laning tavern, moved in and he also remained two years. The next landlord was Erastus S. Marsh, who had been a clerk in John Hollenback's store and who took possession in 1820. Marsh was fond of liquor and did not do a profitable business. He failed and Jonathan Platt took possession of the tavern, rather than have it closed.

In May, 1824, Philip Goodman came from Dansville, Pa., and became landlord. He kept the house until it was burned at sundown in March, 1829. This fire and the one that burned major Horatio Ross's store in the winter of 1826-7, were the first fires of any account at Owego. People at this tav-

ern fire became very much excited, and some in their zeal to save property seized the dishes from the supper table and threw them into the street. One man picked up a handspike and in his excited condition ran about and broke the tavern windows. A clerk in William Pumpelly's store on the south side of the street, fearing that the store would catch fire, dashed up stairs and began to save the stock of crockery by throwing it out of the window, concluding his work by carrying a pair of andirons carefully down stairs and depositing them in safety on the sidewalk.

On the site of the old tavern Charles Pumpelly soon built a three-story wooden building, painted white, which he called the Owego hotel. It was a large house and was regarded as a great public improvement. Mr. Goodman became landlord upon its completion, taking possession Oct. 13, and he kept the house until 1832 when he left it and became landlord of the Laning tavern. Lewis Manning, who had been keeping the Laning tavern, became landlord of the Owego hotel. The house was in possession of Mr. Mannning until 1838, when his son, Chester J. Manning, became the landlord. Later the two kept it under the firm name of L. Manning & Son, until June, 1843, when Metzgar Edwards, who had been keeping the Eagle tavern at Elmira, became landlord and kept the house about two years. In May, 1845, L. Manning & Son again became proprietors and kept it until the spring of 1848. When it was burned in the great fire of September, 1849, Charles Stebbins had been the proprietor about eighteen months.

While the fire was raging in the street below, wiping out the wooden stores on both sides of Front street and gradually approaching the hotel, Mr. Stebbins served breakfast to a large number of guests of the house. The fire son afterward reached the hotel and it, too, was soon wiped out of existence.

#### The Deforest Tavern.

One of the earliest taverns at Owego was the Deforest tavern, which stood at the northeast corner of Front and Paige streets. It was a large building with high steps in front, and all the stages stopped there. It is not known when this house was built, but it was about the year 1800. It was kept by Ira Deforest, of whom little is known here now. He had a daughter, Huldah Deforest, who lived later on a lot on the east side of North avenue, which lot she purchased of Elizur Talcott, Jr., and which extended on that street from Fox to John R. street. Several yards back from the avenue she built a small house where she lived several years. She was a seamstress. She removed somewhere in the west, where she married a man named Douglass. They had two daughters, Ellen and Julia Ann Douglass. Julia Ann was married to John W. Merritt, of New York city. Their son, Gen. Wesley Merritt, became one of the most prominent officers in the United States army. The North avenue and Fox street house and lot were sold in August, 1830, by the Merritts to judge John R. Drake for \$200.

The Deforest tavern was kept at one time by Ebenezer B. Gregory and was for many years known as the

Gregory house. One of the early landlords was Ebenezer Backus, who came from Athens, Pa. Mr. Deforest became landlord of the old Laning tavern and died while keeping that house.

Mr. Backus was a slaveholder and owned two slaves. He held the office of clerk of the town of Owego in 1814. He lived here but a few years and returned to Athens in 1816. Mrs. Louise Welles Murray's "History of Old Tioga Point and Early Athens" gives considerable information concerning Mr. Backus. He came to Athens from Windham, Conn., about the year 1812. He was a son-in-law of Col. Eleazer Lindley, who was an active officer of the "Jersey Blues" in the revolutionary war and was in the Sullivan expedition. Mr. Backus was travelling agent for the post office department several years. He died at Athens in 1831.

Lewis Manning succeeded Mr. Backus as landlord of the Deforest tavern in 1816. DeWitt Clinton once visited Owego and was a guest at this house. It was afterward for many years occupied as a dwelling house. When Arba Campbell built the brick house now owned by Mrs. Gorham on the corner, he removed the old tavern building around the corner on the east side of Paige street, where it stood until 1901, when it was torn down and a large double tenement built in its place, by Lyman T. Stanbrough.

#### The Old Laning Tavern.

The old Laning tavern, later known as the Franklin house, stood on the north side of Front street, near Court street. At an early day the land at the northeast corner of these two

streets was owned by Amos Draper, who purchased it of James McMaster, the original owner. June 4, 1792, Mr. Draper sold twelve village lots to Capt. Mason Wattles. Eight of these lots comprised all the land on the north side of Front street between Paige and Church streets. Capt. Wattles failed in business and on Feb. 7, 1799, all of his property, including the square bounded by Front, Lake, Main, and Court streets, was seized for a debt of £578. 2s. 4d. and costs by Jacob Conkline, a New York merchant and sold at sheriff's sale for \$552. The lots on which the sheriff's residence, the old academy building, and the county clerk's office now stand were not included in this sale, as they had been previously deeded to the trustees of Owego settlement by James McMaster in February, 1799. Nov. 20, 1802, Mr. Conkline sold the property to Robert Bowne, another New York merchant, for \$1,000. Feb. 14, 1804, Mr. Bowne sold to Gen. John Laning the lot at the corner of Front and Court streets for \$600.

This lot was just one-fourth of the Front, Lake, Main, and Court street square. It was on a part of this ground that the old Laning tavern was built. The house stood close to the walk on Front street and was several feet east from the Court street corner.

At what time the tavern was constructed cannot be accurately ascertained. The framework of large hewn logs was first erected for a jail and stood partially enclosed and roofed for a long time. The interior was a resort for stray domestic animals, no ordinance providing for the impounding of stray quadrupeds being en-

forced in those days, if any was in existence. This framework Gen. Laning covered with clapboards and converted it into a tavern and store. It was two stories high and had two long stoops in front, the one above the other, extending along its entire front. Whether the building was ever painted or not is uncertain, but in its later days (it was burned in 1849) it had a dingy, yellow, wood-colored appearance.

Gen. Laning kept the house from the time of its construction until 1815, when Edward Edwards, of Berkshire, became the landlord. In 1817 Mr. Edwards was succeeded by Abraham Post, of Albany, and he in December of the same year by Ebenezer B. Gregory, who changed the name of the tavern to the "Union Coffee House." Mr. Gregory kept the tavern a portion of a year and moved out while Gen. Laning was down the river. When Gen. Laning returned he was surprised to find that his wife had taken possession of the house and was conducting the business until his return.

Mr. Gregory was an uncle of Stephen B. Leonard. He afterward kept a general country store in Caldwell row. He died at Owego, Feb. 8, 1837, aged about 81 years.

Amos Martin was the landlord in 1819 and remained until 1823 when Lewis Manning took the house and kept it until 1825 when he removed to Greene, Chenango county. Capt. Stephen T. Smith then took possession. His occupancy of the house was brief, Mr. Manning again taking possession in 1826 and keeping it until 1830 when Stephen B. Leonard kept

the house for a year. Mr. Manning again became the landlord in 1831. The next year he removed to the Owego hotel and Philip Goodman left the Owego hotel and took the "Coffee House." Mr. Goodman kept the house until his death. He died Aug. 25, 1838, aged 53 years. His widow, Jane Goodman, continued the business until March, 1841, when she removed to the south side of the river, where she kept a tavern opposite the toll house of the old Owego bridge several years. One of Mr. Goodman's advertisements published in the Owego Gazette a year previous to his death reads as follows:

"His house is large and commodious, his fare of the best quality, and his faculty, whether Bank or Anti-Bank, Whigs, Conservatives, or Loco Focos, is good as ever. His prices are as reasonable as can be afforded, and that there may be 'no mistake!' he has fixed them as follows: Meals, 25 cents, Lodging 12½ cents, Horse-keeping 3s. each, per night, including oats, &c. Everything else in proportion. . . . Persons wishing to take the stage will be called up at any hour in the night they may desire."

#### The Franklin House.

William H. Muzzy, who died at Owego Aug. 27, 1879, succeeded Mr. Goodman and changed the name of the tavern to the Franklin house. In 1844 he went to Binghamton and took the Binghamton hotel and Justus Pickering and Jacob Dietz came from Unadilla and became proprietors of the Franklin house. They remained in charge of the tavern but a short time. Mr. Dietz died at Oneonta many years ago. Mr. Pickering removed to Binghamton, where he died Sept. 1, 1880, aged 68 years. He was at one time

the owner of a glue factory, about a mile north of this village.

James D. and John E. Park succeeded Pickering & Dietz and kept the house until Dec. 1, 1844. James Park afterward went to New York and was travelling agent for the New York and Washington telegraph line, a portion of which line the Park brothers constructed.

Ephraim B. Garland, who was killed by the cars at Owego June 10, 1879, succeeded the Park brothers and was landlord of the house until it was burned in the great fire of September, 1849.

#### The Lake Street House

Amos Draper, the Indian agent and trader, was owner, by purchase of James McMaster, of an acre of ground on what is now the southeast corner of Main and Lake streets and which was one-fourth of the square now bounded by Lake, Main, and Church streets and the Susquehanna river. On the corner of this lot now stands the new Owego hotel.

Draper sold the lot to Capt. Mason Wattles for four pounds sterling (\$20) on Aug. 12, 1793. Capt. Wattles sold the lot to Robert Bowne, a New York merchant for \$150 on Nov. 20, 1802. Subsequently the corner passed successively through the hands of James Caldwell, Asa Tryer, and Stephen B. Leonard. Tryer was a blacksmith and his shop was near the corner. During Mr. Leonard's ownership his stage office was in a small building on the corner.

June 20, 1825, Mr. Leonard sold the lot to James and William A. Ely, who in 1829 erected a tavern thereon, which

stood where the Owego hotel is now. The tavern cost about \$1,200 and was painted white. It was known as the "Lake Street House." The first landlord was Alanson Dean. In 1831 the tavern was leased to William F. Johnson and his brother-in-law, Thomas Jackson, who kept it until 1834, when they bought land in North avenue and built thereon the Tioga County house.

The Ely brothers sold the tavern stand to Sheldon Osborn Jan. 8, 1833, while it was occupied by Johnson and Jackson. May 27, 1834, Osborn sold the house to Robert Manning and Robert Brown. He then went into the general mercantile business with Hamilton Ketchum, of Massachusetts. Their place of business was in a store which had been built about the year 1833 by Osborn and which stood just above the bridge in Front street. It was the same store which was afterward occupied by James Bassett and which was set on fire by Bassett and burned in the night of Feb. 13, 1839, for the purpose of defrauding an insurance company. Osborn also built the house in east Main street which is now owned and occupied by W. L. Hoskins. This house Osborn afterward traded for some Pennsylvania land with J. B. Shurtleff, who was the editor of the Owego Gazette. Shurtleff's title to the land proved not to be good and Osborn lost the land. The firm of Osborn & Ketchum lasted less than a year, owing to business disagreement which culminated in blows and a dissolution of partnership. Osborn then went into partnership with William P. Stone, which partnership continued two years. He afterward

went west, where he lived until his death.

Brown and Manning kept the tavern three years. They then rented it to Seth Mosher two years, selling the property May 7, 1839, to Mosher. Mr. Manning was a carpenter and bridge builder. He died at Owego July 6, 1863, from injuries received in falling from a building, on which he was at work. Mr. Brown also died in Owego April 24, 1869.

Mosher, assisted by his three sons, kept the tavern until 1845, when one of the sons, Sherman Mosher, and his son-in-law, James M. Reed, became landlords of the house. Mr. Reed was a cabinet maker and had worked in Gen. Isaac B. Ogden's cabinet shop on the opposite side of Main street.

#### The Mosher Tavern.

While under the management of Mosher & Reed, the tavern, which had been known as the Mosher tavern, was burned. The fire broke out soon after-midnight in the night of April 27, 1846, in a shed attached to the tavern barn. The hotel and barn were burned, together with William Duncan's house and shop, which stood east of the hotel, together with a house and barn owned by Charles Pumpelly and occupied by George Riley at the southeast corner of Main and Church streets.

Soon after the fire anonymous letters were received by various Owego citizens from Cayuga county. Some were written with a pen, others were clumsily printed from metal type. Charles R. Barstow, who was then sheriff of Tioga county, deputized John C. Laning and Caleb J. Chaffee to apprehend the supposed writer. They

went to Genoa, Cayuga county, where they found and arrested a frightened half-witted fellow named Benjamin Moe and brought him to Owego.

Willard Foster, who then lived about six miles out of this village, was also arrested, charged with having set the fire. The ground for his arrest was that he had made threats against Mosher previous to the fire. His trial began in the court of oyer and terminer Aug. 26, 1846.

It appeared on the trial that Moe, who was a fortune teller, was a relative of Foster. Two weeks before the fire Foster went to Moe's house and induced him to copy a letter and send the copies by mail to Owego. These letters were written for the purpose of throwing suspicion of having set a previous fire upon a certain resident of Owego and prevent him from becoming a witness in a suit against Foster for the alleged burning of a pile of boards, which suit was set down for trial in the following June. Foster was tried for burning the tavern and was defended by Daniel S. Dickinson. The jury rendered a verdict of not guilty and he was discharged.

#### The Central House.

The tavern was immediately rebuilt by Seth Mosher. The new house was larger than the old one and was completed in 1847. It was opened Sept. 3 under the name of the Central house) and it was known as the Central house until it was demolished in 1906.

It is a little remarkable that the Central house should have so long withstood destruction by fires, which burned the buildings all about it at various times, and it was finally torn

down. The fire of 1849 burned up the entire east side of Lake street to the hotel, where its progress was checked. In 1854 the buildings on the north side of Main street opposite the hotel were burned, and the same ground was again burned over in 1868. The corner on the west side of Lake street was burned in 1870. In all these fires the Central house stood unscathed.

Seth Mosher removed from Owego to Barton, where he purchased a farm, on which he lived until his death, July 13, 1852. His sons removed to Michigan.

Some amusing stories were told concerning Mosher. Once he attempted to "bull" the market on silver half dimes. The standing price for a drink of whiskey was a sixpence. As that coin and the half dimes were of nearly the same size his patrons insisted upon his receiving the half dime in payment for a drink. Here was a clear loss of a cent on every glass of liquor. In order to get the obnoxious coin out of circulation, he conceived the idea of locking up every one he received, thinking thereby to remove them all from the channel of trade. Whether he eventually succeeded in getting a "corner" on half dimes and securing the circulation of nothing but sixpences or not, is not known, but as it is impossible to bail out the sea with a bowl, it is doubtful if his plan was an eminent success.

June 20, 1860, Mr. Reed, who had been very successful as a landlord, sold the Central house to Frederick O. Cable. When Mr. Cable purchased the hotel it contained but nine sleeping rooms. He at once doubled the

capacity of the house and the stables. Later he built additions to the building on both the Lake and Main street ends, increasing the number of sleeping apartments to forty-three.

Mr. Reed removed to Elkland, Pa., in January, 1864, where he became interested in an extensive lumber establishment. He accumulated a handsome property there, and in May, 1870, he removed to Big Rapids, Mich., and thence in 1872 to Reed City, Mich., of which he and three Newark Valley men were the first settlers. Mr. Reed and his wife (Albertine Mosher) both died the same day on December 17, 1898, at Reed City, Mich.

April 20, 1869, Capt. Henry Ayers, who had been for many years a passenger conductor on the New York and Erie railroad, became landlord of the Central house, but the business proved uncongenial to his tastes and he gave up the house in March, 1870, to Mr. Cable's brother-in-law, Burr J. Davis. Mr. Davis kept the hotel until March, 1879, when he purchased and took possession of the Ahwaga house.

The house was subsequently managed by various landlords, among whom were C. L. Crandall, Edgar R. Buffum, Wm. G. & Alfred L. Gardner, D. E. Becker, Daniel J. Brown, Dr. G. W. Simmons, M. W. Brown, S. F. Smith, H. J. Hicks, Cornelius Gleason, Chas. E. Haight, John H. Rease, Isaac L. LaRue, Lewis H. Comstock, and D. C. Valentine.

In November, 1905, when Benj. F. Birdsall purchased the house of Mr. Cable it was tenantless and in a state of dilapidation. In July, 1906, it was torn down and the same year the Owego hotel was built on its site.

## The Tioga County House.

Among the lots owned by Amos Draper at the time of the early settlement of Owego was a piece containing one acre, which is now the southeast corner of Main street and North avenue, on which stands O. S. Beach's drug store and the brick buildings north and east of it. This piece and an acre of ground at the southwest corner of Lake and Main streets, where the Buckbee block and other brick buildings west and south of it now stand, were subsequently the property of Ebenezer Kimble, a tanner. Sept. 14, 1794, Kimble sold the two pieces of land to Capt. Mason Wattles for £40. The lot at the corner of Main street and North avenue was sold, after Capt. Wattles's failure in business, together with the old Lanning tavern site and other real estate on Sept. 26, 1801, by the sheriff of Tioga county to Vincent Matthews, who subsequently (March 1, 1802) reconveyed it to Jacob Conkline, a New York merchant. On the 20th of the following November Conkline sold the lots to Robert Bowne, another New York merchant. The acre of land on the Main street and North avenue corner afterward became the property of Eleazer Dana, who December 31, 1832, sold it to Henry Caldwell and Joseph Kelsey. Mr. Kelsey on April 1, 1834, sold that portion of the lot on which the Tioga County house was subsequently built to William T. Johnson and Thomas Jackson.

On this lot Mr. Jackson the same year built a two-story wooden building, close to the sidewalk, which occupied the ground on which Sporer,

Carlson & Berry's piano factory and the store north of it now stand. When finished the building was occupied as a residence by Gideon O. Chase. Nearly two years afterward Jackson built an addition to the north end of the house, making the building seventy feet long and covering the ground now occupied by L. W. Smith's grocery store. A double piazza, over which the roof extended, ran along the entire front of the house. At the back of the hotel was a large yard, paved with cobble stones, and back of that were the tavern barns and sheds. The tavern was painted white. It was at this time the largest public house in the village.

When the building was completed, in January, 1836, it was opened as a hotel and called the "Tioga County House." The house was at first kept by Jackson & Johnson. In 1835, Johnson left the hotel and kept what he called a "refectory" opposite the Old Owego hotel in Front street, where he sold oysters, etc., and Jackson continued the business of the tavern. July 11, 1839, they sold the property to William P. Raymond, of Binghamton, and Abram Blackman, Jr., of Candor.

Jackson and Johnson were brothers-in law. Just before selling the tavern Johnson went into partnership with Eleazer Valentine and opened a tin, copper, stove, and grocery store just above the bridge in Front street. Johnson for a time held the office of justice of the peace. In 1853 he kept the old Hudson house in North avenue. He afterward moved to Towanda, Pa., and was landlord there of the Claremont house when it was burned on March 7, 1856. He died at

the home of his son, Wirt Johnson, at Tioga Centre December 27, 1871, aged nearly 78 years. Jackson came to Owego from Orange county. He went from Owego to Potter county, Pa., where he lived on a farm. Later he removed to Hornell, where he died about the year 1865.

Mr. Raymond and William H. Muzzy became landlords of the house and kept it from the time of its purchase by Mr. Raymond during the years 1839, 1840, and 1841. In May, 1841, Mr. Muzzy became landlord of the Franklin house in Front street, and Mr. Raymond continued to conduct the business of the Tioga County house until 1843, when he leased it for a term of years to William Beach. Mr. Raymond did not engage in the hotel keeping business again.

Mr. Raymond was born at Salem, Mass. He came to Owego from Binghanton in 1839, when he purchased the hotel property. He was later engaged in the livery and grocery business and farming. He held the offices of justice of the peace and town supervisor, and was member of assembly in 1858. He died March 4, 1877.

Mr. Beach was proprietor of the house until August, 1846, when it passed into the hands of A. M. Coe, who had been keeping the Claremont house at Towanda, Pa.

The next proprietor was Seneca B. Dennis, who remained in possession until October, 1850. When Mr. Dennis took the house he changed its name to Tioga house, the old name being considered by him too suggestive. He removed to Corning where he kept the Dickinson house. Thence he went to Susquehanna, Pa., where he was

landlord of the Conductors' hotel until his death on January 9, 1855.

Gideon O. Chase succeeded Mr. Dennis and kept the house until April, 1852. Mr. Chase was born at Cambridge, N. Y., in 1808. He came to Owego in 1832 and worked as a cabinet maker in Gen. I. B. Ogden's shop. He was a good public speaker and a man of ability. He was member of assembly for Tioga county in 1844 and 1845, and in 1846 he was defeated for congress. He was at one time editor of the Owego Gazette and of the Tioga Freeman, and later of the Union at Atchison, Kansas. He was freight agent of the Erie railroad at Owego and afterward station agent many years and until his death at Smithboro. He died March 26, 1887, at Smithboro.

John C. Searles succeeded Mr. Chase as landlord, but remained only until November, when A. W. Knapp, of Danby, took the house and kept it a little more than a year.

In June, 1853, Mr. Raymond sold the property to Harvey Teers, of Ithaca, who took possession and opened with a grand ball on Jan. 27, 1854. He kept the house less than a year, selling out to Joshua Mersereau, of Campville, in November, who was the landlord until March, 1858, when he took possession of Joseph S. DeWitt's saloon and restaurant in Lake street, known as "The Shades," and Mr. Muzzy again became the proprietor of the Tioga house.

In 1860 Mr. Muzzy had a partner named Hulse. Hulse was a rough character, who had several years previous worked at Owego as a barber. He went to New York, where he be-

came a member of the police force. While keeping the Tioga house he adopted a rule that no boarder should be admitted to the house after the regular hour for closing it at night. One night a boarder came to the house intoxicated and began to kick at the door for admittance. Hulse opened a window above and shot at his boarder with his revolver. The ball passed just above the boarder's ear and cut off a lock of his hair. After that boarders came in at the proper hour. Hulse afterward returned to New York.

Mr. Muzzy was born at Newark Valley in 1814 and came to Owego in 1839. He was engaged in the livery business many years. He died at Owego Aug. 27, 1879.

In June, 1861, John J. Horton, of Barton, became landlord of the house, and in March, 1863, he purchased the property. In August, 1866, he sold it to Samuel S. Watson, of Newark Valley, who leased it to James Davison, who had been keeping the Delevan house at Elmria. The name of the hotel was changed to Watson house. Later it was kept by P. T. Bell, who in April, 1868, removed to Port Jervis and purchased the Quaisaick house.

The Watson house property was sold March 25, 1868, to Joseph Berry for \$14,000, Mr. Watson reserving the buildings, which were subsequently torn down, and brick stores were erected in their place.

#### Alanson Dean's Tavern.

Where the Buckbee block now stands at the southwest corner of Main and Lake streets William A. Ely had built a wooden building, which

Alanson Dean converted into a tavern. This was previous to the building of the Lake street house on the opposite corner. A few years later he converted it into a tin and sheet iron store and lived in a part of the building at the south end. His partner was Eleazer Valentine. They were in the business there in 1838 and 1839. From 1839 to 1842 the firm was Valentine & Johnson. Nothing is now known of Valentine other than what is given in a death notice published in the Gazette of June 2, 1845, which reads as follows:

"Death by Intemperance.—Died on Tuesday, the 17th inst., of delirium tremens, Eleazer Volentine, aged 39 years."

The corner was afterward occupied as a grocery store by James Cameron, Charles T. Bell, and others. It was burned Oct. 16, 1870, in a fire which burned all the solid row of wooden stores and shops extending from the old jail building in Main street, now the telephone central office, to the L. D. Durphy building in Lake street. At the time of the fire the corner was occupied as a hardware store by Houk, Truesdell & Co.

#### The Croton House.

On the west side of Lake street, on the ground now occupied by the Hill and Parker brick block, stood the dwelling house of deacon Lorenzo Reeves, one of Owego's early merchants. Col. Benoni B. Curry, who married deacon Reeves's widow, converted the building into a temperance hotel in 1848 and called it the Croton house. It was painted white, stood a little back of the street, and had a long porch in front, as was common to all

the taverns of that time. It was burned in the great fire of September, 1849, the year after it was built.

When Col. Curry reconstructed the building in 1848 he gave a mortgage on the property to Abner J. Ely, of New York city. As Col. Curry lost all his property in the fire, he was unable to pay the mortgage, which was foreclosed and Mr. Ely purchased the lot. In 1862 Mr. Ely sold it to Martin Ashley, who built a block of three brick stores on it, with a large hall on the second floor, which he called Ashley hall. In 1867 Mr. Ashley sold the property to Dr. James Wilson, who converted the hall into a theatre. The building was burned April 24, 1868, and immediately rebuilt. The theatre part was partially burned Nov. 9, 1899, and the whole block was entirely burned in the morning of Feb. 28, 1904. Soon afterward judge Charles E. Parker and F. C. Hill purchased the site and erected the brick block which now stands thereon.

#### The Mansion House.

In 1813 Judge John R. Drake built a large farm house on the west side of the old Ithaca and Owego turnpike, now North avenue. The house was at that time far out of the settlement, now called Owego, which was not incorporated as a village until fourteen years later. It was a large two-story building, painted white, and stood among the trees about fifty feet back from the highway and a few rods north of West avenue. It was occupied by judge Drake as a residence until 1832, when he removed down into the village, and the building was converted into a tavern. Its first landlord was Seth Mosher.

A few years previous to this time Mr. Mosher and Jacob Hand, who were sawyers, had come to Owego from Otsego county, having been hired by judge Drake to work in his sawmill on the south side of the Susquehanna river. Mosher had worked there four or five years when he opened the tavern. He did a successful business, and was able, in 1839, to purchase the old tavern which occupied the ground at the Lake and Main street corner on which now stands the Owego hotel.

In June, 1849, the Mansion house, which had been entirely refitted, was reopened as a public house by Isaac B. Gere, judge Drake's son-in-law, who kept it until March, 1856. He then discontinued hotel keeping, but continued to occupy it as a private residence. Mr. Gere died at Owego in February, 1860. The house was owned by Wheeler H. Bristol and unoccupied at the time it was burned in the night of April 13, 1869.

#### Legg's Temperance Hotel

The construction of the New York and Erie railroad to Owego, in 1849, gave an impetus to hotel building and several public houses were opened. Some of them were built for hotel purposes, while others were dwelling houses enlarged and converted into hotels. Among them were Legg's temperance hotel, the Railroad house, the Western hotel, the Hudson house, and the Union house.

In 1850 a public house was built on the west side of Lake street where the block now occupied by Cuneo & Bonugli and A. W. Bunzey stands. It was a wooden building and was opened by Frank Legg, of Speedsville, as a temperance hotel. It did not

prove to be a profitable investment and was soon converted into stores, one of which was for several years occupied by Charles S. Carmichael as a jewelry store. The building was burned in the night of April 14, 1872, and Mr. Carmichael erected the present brick block in its place.

#### The Railroad House.

The railroad house, afterward known as the United States hotel, is still standing, a deserted building, at the northwest corner of North avenue and Delphine street. It was built by Ezra S. Clark, a carpenter, who came to Owego in December, 1844, from Brooklyn and opened a grocery store on the west side of North avenue, opposite the Tioga house. In 1848 he built the hotel, of which he was the landlord sixteen years. In 1865 to 1869 he was proprietor of the Ahwaga house. In 1869 he removed to Brooklyn, where he died Aug. 28, 1892, aged 81 years.

After Mr. Clark sold the hotel it became the property of various persons in succession. It was kept at various times by Sidney Calkins, who changed its name to United States hotel; by Eli English, Joseph B. Day, Marvin Day, Mrs. W. A. Melick, P. W. Trimmer, R. B. Sigler, Capt. G. W. Lason, Henry Wavel, C. D. Watkins, D. C. Graham, Brazilla Grover, Henry Tappan, James B. Davison, and others. John Hale kept the hotel for a short time, when it was known as Hale's hotel.

#### The Western Hotel.

The two-story and basement building, which still stands at the southwest corner of North avenue and Fox street, was built by Mrs. Harriet G. Tinkham in 1851 and called the West-

ern hotel. It was kept by her son-in-law, E. G. Gibson. So many other hotels had been opened in that part of the village that it proved unprofitable and after a few years it was closed as a public house and occupied by Mrs. Tinkham as her residence during the rest of her life. .

#### The Hudson House.

The Hudson house stood opposite the Presbyterian church on the west side of North avenue, at what is now the Temple street corner. The land was a part of the estate of Harmon Pumpelly, of Albany.

Col. Jacob Edwards, who had come from somewhere on the Hudson river to these parts, worked with some teams for one of the contractors in building the New York and Erie railroad to Owego. In June, 1851, Col. Edwards took the land on a contract and built a hotel thereon. It was a three-story wooden building with a long porch in front. The back part was above the old Dodd pond and was supported by long timber posts extending down into the water. It was kept by Ephraim B. Garland the first year or two and afterward by Col. Edwards, Wm. T. Johnson, Samuel Garland, and John Gardiner. It was always considered a disreputable place, and one of its landlords was arrested for counterfeiting, while keeping the hotel.

Soon after the hotel was built it was purchased by Hiram N. Moore, of Waverly, who in July, 1861, gave Col. Edwards a ten years' lease of it. When Wheeler H. Bristol built the iron works in Temple street the old hotel had been abandoned as a public house two or three years. The first floor was

used for a time as a blacksmith shop and storeroom in connection with the iron works. It was feared that in its dismantled and deserted condition some incendiary might be tempted to set it on fire, so it was torn down in May, 1875.

#### The Union House.

The Union house stood on the west side of North avenue, midway between Fox street and the Erie railroad and a little north of John R. street. It was built in 1851 and was kept several years by William Barnes. Later it was kept by Vorhees Cafferty and William G. Thompson, and afterward by Charles Harris, who changed the name to Harris house. It was burned Dec. 29, 1875, while vacant and undergoing repairs preparatory to reopening.

---

**Some Account of the First Brass Band Organized at Owego by James Conklin and of Its Successor, Led by William H. Platt, together with the Bands Led by Lewis W. Truesdell, Lemuel W. Ferris, David Wallis Reeves, Prof. Joseph Raff, Frederick E. Wildman, and Others.**

The first musical organization in Owego that was dignified by the name of a band, came into existence about the year 1834. It was organized by James Conklin, a wagon maker, who lived in a little yellow house, which stood on the southwest corner of Main and Church streets.

The band numbered about eight persons. Nicholas Kittle was the leader and played the clarionet. He lived west of the Owego creek opposite the "deep well" in the town of Tioga. The stream called Kittle creek

takes its name from him. His son, Nicholas B. Kittle, removed from this vicinity and acquired some distinction as a portrait painter. He considered the name Kittle rather commonplace, and consequently gave it an aristocratic twist by spelling it "Kittell." He removed to Hamilton, N. Y., and thence to New York city, where he died in 1894.

David A. Allen, generally known as Atwood Allen, played a bassoon—a black instrument resembling somewhat a length of stove pipe, with an open brass mouth. He lived two miles north of the village. He died Dec. 29, 1861. James Conklin played a piccolo flute. Gen. Isaac B. Ogden and Jared Huntington were also members.

The members of the band were accustomed to meet at the houses of the different members each week for practice. They played for dances, celebrations, etc.

This band lasted about ten years, when a new set of about a dozen younger men, among whom was William H. Platt joined the organization and the old ones gradually dropped out. The newly organized band did not retain any of the old instruments except a flute and a clarinet. A man named Sykes instructed and led the band, and later Mr. Platt was the leader. Five or six years afterward the instruments were sold to Charles and William Conklin. To these they added other instruments, which they bought at Union.

There were three Conklin brothers in the band, sons of James Conklin. William Conklin played a trombone, Charles Conklin an E flat bugle, and

A. Putnam Conklin a cornopean. The three brothers constituted the band. The last playing done by them was about the year 1848, when they left Owego on a tour, giving concerts in vocal and instrumental music. Charles Conklin was taken ill at Geneva and was brought home, dying soon afterward. The party gave concerts about two months. The receipts paid their expenses, but they made no money. Wm. S. Huntington took Charles Conklin's place in the band, but as A. P. Conklin could not stand the strain of blowing the E flat bugle, the organization was soon broken up.

Owego succeeded in getting along without a band until 1851, when another one was organized. The members were accustomed to meet for practice at the house of Julius Pearl, a milkman, which house still stands on the bank of the river in the eastern part of this village and was known for many years as the Hollenback farm house. Thomas J. Canham, a noted circus band leader of his day, who lived at Binghamton, was instructor.

Lewis W. Truesdell, who was one of the two first men to enlist in the federal army at Owego in the civil war and in whose honor L. W. Truesdell post, G. A. R., is named, was a member of the band and soon became sufficiently proficient to lead it. He played a cornet and Mr. Pearl a tuba. The band was in a weak condition for want of members until 1853, when Lemuel W. Ferris came here from Fort Edward, N. Y., and joined it. Other accessions were the Tennys (a father and two sons), Ralph Hibbard, and William H. Camp.

Another band was organized in 1855 by some younger men of from fourteen years old upwards, among whom were Theo. S. Mersereau, William H. Ellis, Cicero B. Curtis, M. E. Hollister, Wm. H. S. Bean, Gilbert T. Forsyth, and James H. Johnson. A musician named Skinner was hired as teacher and the band met for practice at the old wooden school building in Temple street. This band was soon afterward consolidated with the Ferris band and Mr. Ferris was the leader.

Later leaders of the band, which had been known as the "Owego Brass Band," the "Owego Cornet Band," and "Ferris's Brass Band," were J. W. Lyons, Nathaniel D. Jenks, Isaiah Irwin, and David Wallis Reeves. When Mr. Reeves left Owego in 1862, Joseph C. Raff became leader of the band and its name was changed to "Ahwaga Silver Cornet Band." In 1869 Frederick E. Wildman was leader, and later Horace B. Adams.

In April, 1870, members of Wave hose company, No. 2, organized another band with Prof. Raff as leader.

There were two bands until the spring of 1873 when they were consolidated under the name of "Ahwaga Silver Cornet Band," with Prof. Raff as leader and Mr. Adams as business manager. Dissensions soon followed. The band was disbanded and two separate bands were soon reorganized, the "Ahwaga Silver Cornet Band" retaining its old name and the new one assuming the name of "Prof. Raff's Band." The two were finally consolidated in 1878 under the name of "Owego Cornet Band," with Prof. Raff as musical director and Mr. Adams as assistant musical director. Afterward

Mr. Adams became leader of the band and it was subsequently known as "Adams's Cornet Band" during the rest of its existence.

Prof. Raff was a native of Switzerland, a good violinist, but a better pianist. He was a brother of the eminent musical composer, Joachim Raff. He came to Owego in 1858. He removed to Binghamton in 1888 and died there July 13, 1893, aged 63 years.

David Wallis Reeves, the youngest son of deacon Lorenzo Reeves, an early merchant of Owego, was born in 1838. He received his musical education in Binghamton, when at the age of 15 years he was apprenticed to Thomas J. Canham, a celebrated band leader of his day. At the age of 19 he was the leader of a circus band in the summer and in the winter played with Dodworth's orchestra in New York city. He was a few years a member of Dodworth's band. In February, 1866, he became leader of the celebrated American band of Providence, R. I., and was leader of that band at the time of his death in March, 1900.

---

**A Record of the Principal Fires That Have Burned Valuable Property at Owego from the Burning of the Indian Village by Gen. Sullivan's Army in 1779, to the Present Day.**

Within the last sixty years the stores and houses in the entire business portions of Front, Lake, and Main streets have been burned and replaced by larger and much better buildings. As has always been the case in the history of villages, its improvement has followed disastrous fires.

The first fire at Owego of which there is any record was the burning of the Indian village by a detachment of Gen. Sullivan's army in 1779.

The next fire of any account burned Maj. Horatio Ross's store, which stood on the bank of the river on the south side of Front street, a little west of Lake street. It was a large red building, two stories high in front and three stories high in the rear. The fire broke out at about daylight in the winter of 1826-7, and as at that time there were no means of extinguishing fires except with pails of water in the hands of neighbors, the building was entirely burned. At the time of the fire the upper floor was occupied by an old man named Perry and his family, but the store below was unoccupied. So rapid was the progress of the flames that the occupants had barely time to escape from the burning building in their night clothes. Truman & Parmenter's store stood a little east of the Ross store and was saved by holes being chopped through the side and water thrown from the interior of the building upon the flames. At the present day a fire of this kind is considered of little account, and this one is notable only as being the first one that had happened in the business portion of the village.

The old Bates tavern, which stood at the northwest corner of Front and Church streets, was the first fire of any note. It was the first tavern built at Owego and was burned in March, 1829, just before supper time.

One of the early fires in Owego burned the old wood-colored school-house, which stood a little west of

where the rectory of St. Paul's Episcopal church now stands on the south side of Main street. In the early history of the village all public meetings were held here. The second story was occupied by the masonic fraternity as a lodge room. The fire broke out at noon on Feb. 7, 1835, while school was in session, and burned it to the ground. Erastus Evans was teacher of the school at the time. The east end of the M. E. church, which stood at the southeast corner of Main and Academy streets, was considerably scorched and the church would have been burned if it had not been for the old fire engine, which was manufactured by Ephraim Leach and was the only protection from fire Owego then had. This was the first fire at which the engine was worked and the water was obtained from private cisterns, there being at that time not a single public cistern. No attempt was made to save the school-house.

The Owego steam furnace and machine shop of H. W. Camp & Co. was burned May 30, 1836. It stood at the southeast corner of the lane known as Parker's lane and Main street, opposite where St. Paul's church now stands.

A fire, which was followed by the sensational suicide of the incendiary, burned the store of John Bassett, which stood on the south side of Front street, a little above the bridge. This fire was in the night of February 13, 1839. Bassett owed \$6,000 for his goods, which were insured for \$5,000. He had sold about \$3,000 worth, and, in order to defraud an insurance company, concealed a quantity of goods in his room and set the store on fire. He

was suspected of having set the fire and a watch was set on his movements. One evening, not long afterward, a party of citizens went to his house, which was on the opposite side of the street, to investigate, and as they entered Bassett went out into the wood house, where he cut his throat with a razor, while the house was being searched for stolen goods.

The first really destructive fire at Owego broke out early in the morning of August 5, 1841, and burned Gen. Isaac B. Ogden's cabinet shop, which was on the north side of Main street, opposite where the new Owego hotel now stands. The fire burned all the property to the corner of Ithaca street (now North avenue). Gen. Ogden's dwelling house, James Conklin's wagon and carriage shop, and Gad Worthington's residence were burned. The Tioga County house on the east side of North avenue and the barn connected therewith were on fire, but were saved by the exertions of the firemen. The cabinet shop was rebuilt and again burned in 1854.

The next large fire broke out at midnight on April 27, 1846, burning the Mosher tavern, which stood on the corner of Main and Lake streets, where the new Owego hotel now stands. The tavern barn, Wm. Duncan's house and shop, and a house and barn occupied by George Riley were also burned.

On this occasion the fire department did excellent service. In acknowledgment of their appreciation of the vigilance and exertions of the firemen at this fire, the citizens of Owego gave a dinner to Neptune.

Rescue, Croton, and Deluge fire companies at the old Owego hotel on the 6th of the following May. At eleven o'clock in the morning a procession of firemen was formed in front of the hotel, under the direction of Ezra S. Sweet, Esq., marshal of the day, and headed by Pease's martial band. They marched to the Congregational (now Presbyterian) church in North avenue, where they were addressed on the part of the citizens by I. N. Jerome, principal of the Owego academy. John J. Taylor, chief engineer of the fire department during the two years previous, responded in behalf of the firemen. After the exercises, the firemen marched back to the hotel, where a dinner was served by Lewis Manning & Son, the proprietors, followed by cold water toasts without limit. In the evening the firemen had a torchlight procession through the principal streets.

The most destructive conflagration in the history of Owego, long known as "the great fire," broke out at about three o'clock in the morning of September 27, 1849, in the hall of the Sons of Temperance, over the store of James & William A. Ely, on the south side of Front street, and burned the entire business portion of the village. Only three stores were left standing, and one hundred and four buildings, exclusive of barns, were burned, entailing a loss of about \$300,000. All of the buildings on both sides of Front street, from Church street to the park, were burned, and all on Lake street, to the Central House on one side and Jared Huntington's residence on the other. The bridge across the river was also partly burned.

When first discovered the fire might have been easily extinguished. One of the engines was throwing water upon the flames. The chief engineer insisted upon changing engines, in spite of the remonstrances of others. The position of the engines was changed and during this operation the flames made such progress that they could not be checked.

The next fire worthy of any mention was the one that burned the fire engine house in Main street. This was a two-story wooden building, which was built in 1844 on the east side of Court street on the ground now occupied by the county jail, and which was then between the old court house and the county clerk's office. This building was moved in the spring of 1851 to the north side of Main street, where the brick engine house now stands, and was burned in the night of January 6, 1853, together with Susquehanna engine and Wave hose carriage.

Gen. Ogden's cabinet shop, which had been rebuilt and which was at the time occupied by J. L. Matson, was again burned in the night of February 16, 1854. The fire broke out in John Cafferty's livery stable in the rear. Everything from the present residence of Dr. D. S. Anderson to North avenue was burned, including John Cafferty's dwelling house, H. J. Hodge's oyster saloon, and D. Corsaw's dwelling house, all of which were in Gen. Ogden's block, and Parmenter's meat market, H. W. Cornell's eating saloon, H. W. Billings's dwelling house and oyster saloon, and Lincoln & Stebins's grocery.

In the night of October 20, 1856, a fire burned Clark, Coyle & Perry's

wagon factory on the west side of North avenue, and the residences of Chas. T. Bell and Mrs. Wood.

In the night of the following May, the Ahwaga house barn in Church street was set on fire, and the blacksmith shop of George Riley adjoining was also burned. The flames extended to Lake street, burning the livery stable and residence of Charles Beers, which stood where the post office is now, and Adam C. Gould's blacksmith shop north of them.

Bliss's sash factory and steam mill, situated in Front street, just east of the Erie railway, was burned at about noon on October 24, 1857, and J. F. Howes's planing mill in Main street, above the Erie railway, was also burned in the morning of Dec. 30 of the following year. The tannery of Samuel Archibald, on the south side of the river, was burned in the morning of January 31, 1860.

An exciting fire was that of the morning of March 21, 1860, which burned out the Empire block of Stone & Co., Eldridge & Smith's hat and boot store, and Link & Michael's clothing store on the south side of Front street, east of Lake street.

Simon Springsteen's foundry and machine shop, which stood on what is now the northwest corner of McMaster and Delphine streets, was burned in the evening of June 13, 1860, and on the 16th of the following December Arba Campbell's tannery in Canawana was burned.

The next large fire was June 22, 1866, and burned Crane & Sweet's planing mill in Temple street.

A very destructive fire in the night of October 5, 1867, burned all the buildings on the south side of Front street from Dr. S. W. Thompson's present residence up to the brick store of Geo. W. Hollenback, the sixth store above the bridge, now occupied by Millrea Brothers, including Camp's foundry, one span of the wooden bridge, and several dwelling houses. The fire also burned all the buildings from Park street to Parker's lane, including Robert Cameron's brick block at the northwest corner of Front and Park streets, the Exchange hotel, and George Sidney Camp's house. John J. Taylor's brick block at the corner of Front and Court streets was also burned.

Wilson hall on the west side of Lake street, with the stores beneath it, and L. N. Chamberlain's brick block adjoining at the south, and George W. Patrick's wooden block and L. M. Wicks's wooden building at the north, were burned in the night of April 24, 1868.

The old Baptist church, which had been moved a few years previous from the southeast corner of Main and Church streets to the north side of Main street, a little east of Lake street, was burned in the night of December 23, 1868, and the Erie railway bridge shop in the night of June 5, 1869.

A very destructive fire in the night of October 16, 1870, burned the solid row of wooden stores and shops extending from the county jail (now the telephone exchange) on the north side of Main street to and around the Lake street corner south to L. D. Durphy's

brick building, now occupied by G. A. Durussel as a jewelry store.

In the evening of Feb. 6, 1872, a wooden row of buildings on the east side of North avenue, occupying all the ground between the building now occupied by B. F. Lyke as a laundry and L. W. Smith's grocery store was burned.

In the morning of April 14, 1872, another wooden row on the west side of Lake street, extending from the Chamberlain block to Aaron Ogden's cigar store, was burned. In the morning of October 10 of the same year all of the wooden row of stores on the east side of the same street between the Gazette block and the Central house was burned, together with Muzzy & Warren's livery stable.

Wheeler C. Bristol's five-story brick flouring mill in Central avenue was burned in the night of February 21, 1873. In the morning of the 17th of the following April a fire broke out in the Park hotel barn in Central avenue, which was burned, together with N. T. Burton's bakery and other wooden buildings on the west side of North avenue.

The Erie railroad depot was burned in the night of January 24, 1874, and the fire engine house in Main street in the afternoon of the 1st of the following February.

In the night of April 28, 1875, a row of wooden buildings on the west side of North avenue, extending from N. T. Burton's new brick block to and including John Barry's carriage manufactory, was burned, and early in the morning of December 29 the Union

house on the west side of North avenue was also burned.

The Congregational church on the west side of Park street was burned in the morning of December 3, 1877, and the residences south owned by Miss E. H. Bates, M. D., and J. L. Matson were partially burned.

Samuel Archibald's tannery on the south side of the river, just below the bridge, was burned in the morning of September 1, 1878.

George Thurston's planing mill on the east side of North avenue, opposite George street, was burned in the night of April 2, 1881. Miles F. Howes's planing mill on the south side of Adeline street was burned in the morning of January 30, 1884.

The extensive grain drill and wagon works of Gere, Platt & Johnson at the northeast corner of Central avenue and Temple street were burned in the morning of June 19, 1888.

The Canawana flouring mill, owned by Dorwin, Rich & Stone, which stood on the ground where the electric light plant is now, was burned in the morning of March 19, 1889.

C. A. Hill's saw mill and planing mill on the west side of Central avenue was burned in the morning of June 21, 1890.

Joel A. Hamilton's novelty works on the west side of William street, east of Main street, were burned in the night of July 13, 1891, together with Alfred Hill's house.

In the night of March 15, 1892, the Ahwaga blanket and knitting mill on the south side of Adeline street, near the Lehigh Valley railroad station, was burned.

The hay press of E. H. House on the east side of North avenue, near the Erie railway, was burned in the evening of March 25, 1893. In the morning of May 11 in the same year the whole interior of Storrs, Chatfield & Co's hardware store at the northwest corner of Front and Lake streets was burned out.

The Pennsylvania house, Joel A. Hamilton's novelty works, and other buildings on the south side of Front street, below Park street, were burned in the night of December 4, 1895.

Dean & Burt's flouring mill on the east side of Central avenue, between Temple and Fox streets, was burned in the evening of February 27, 1896.

In the afternoon of November 9, 1899, the interior of Wilson opera house on the west side of Lake street was burned out. The fire was caused by the explosion of some celluloid films in a moving picture machine. The theatre was entirely burned five years later, in the morning of February 28, 1904.

Sauerbry & Birdsall's carriage factory on the east side of North avenue, between South Depot and John R. streets, was burned in the morning of January 24, 1903.

This is a record of the principal fires in Owego for more than one hundred years. The building of a water-works system in 1880 has ensured a practically inexhaustible supply of water for fire purposes and since it was built there has been no large fire. It is worthy of note that within the last sixty years the entire business portion of Owego has been swept over by fires—on both sides of Front street

from Parker's lane to Church street, both sides of Lake street, both sides of Main street from Church street to Central avenue, and both sides of North avenue from Temple street to Main street.

---

**Some Account of "Old Bet," the "Living Elephant," Which Was the First "Menagerie" to Visit Owego and Was Exhibited in the Bates Tavern Carriage Barn, and of the First Circus, Which Came in 1826 and Exhibited in the Tavern Barn Yard, and of Other Tent Shows That Came Here Later.**

The first "menagerie" that came to Owego was an elephant, and it was the first elephant ever exhibited in the state of New York. It came here in the summer of 1813 and was exhibited in the carriage barn of the old Bates tavern.

This carriage barn was a large red building which stood adjoining the lot on the north side of Front street where Ahwaga hall now stands at the east. In the rear was the barn where the stage horses were kept. The entrance to this barn yard was between the tavern and the red barn.

The coming of the elephant to Owego was announced in the newspapers under a big heading as "A Living Elephant," and was described as follows:

"The elephant is not only the largest and most sagacious animal in the world; but, from the peculiar manner in which it takes its food and drink of every kind, with its trunk, is acknowledged to be the greatest natural curiosity ever offered to the public. The one now offered to the view of the curious is a Female. She will lie down and get up at the word of command.

She will draw the cork from a bottle, and with her trunk will manage it in such a manner as to drink its contents. She is thirteen years old, and measures upwards of twenty feet from the end of her trunk to that of her tail; twelve feet around her body; upwards of eight feet high, and weighs more than five thousand pounds. Perhaps the present generation may never have an opportunity of seeing an Elephant again, as this is the only one in America, and this is perhaps its last visit to this place. —Admittance 25 cents.— Children half price. Hours of exhibition from 8 o'clock in the morning until 6 in the evening."

This elephant was known among showmen as "Old Bet." She was exhibited by a showman named Bailey, who travelled at night, and in the daytime kept the animal in a barn and covered her with hay, so that people could not see her by peeping through the cracks at the side of the barn. A camel and a monkey completed the outfit. There was no other wild animal show in Owego until 1833.

The first equestrian performance ever given in Owego was that of Blanchard & Newell's circus, in 1826. The show did not have to exceed ten performers and about a dozen horses. The company came unannounced, and the advertising was done by one of the troupe, who went through the street and announced the arrival of the show in a loud voice, something in the manner of the side-show "barker" of the present day. The performance was given in the barn yard, in the rear of the old Bates tavern, which was at that time kept by Philip Goodman. The show had neither tents nor seats, and the spectators had their choice of standing or sitting upon the ground. The ring was made by

throwing up a circle of earth in the middle of the yard. The performance consisted of the feats of a strong man, horseback riding without saddle, comic singing, etc. The band was composed of drums and a fife. While the performance was in progress the upper windows of the hotel were all occupied by "dead head" spectators. No performance was given at night, as in those days of tallow candles there was no known way of lighting the ring.

The next show to visit Owego was the circus of Angevine, Titus & Burgess. This show started from Putnam county. Its tent consisted of a centre pole and canvas sides, but no top. The tent was pitched on the lot on which the Robert Cameron brick block now stands at the northwest corner of Front and Park streets in the summer of 1827. The circus ring was a solid wooden curb, made in curved sections, about eighteen inches high and six feet long, and painted. The pieces were held in place by iron spikes, driven into the ground, and the earth was heaped up against the curb from the interior. The rings constructed in this manner were in use about twenty-five years, but as so many riders were injured by falling or being thrown upon them, the curb was finally abandoned altogether. In its place were substituted red curtains, suspended by rings from iron stakes, with an earth ring, as now. The tent was supplied with seats, similar to those in use at the present day.

The first animal show came in 1833, and exhibited on the lot on the east side of Court street, south of the present county clerk's office. This was the

first tent show with a canvas top to visit Owego.

The first circuses were advertised by a bill poster, who rode horseback through the country, carrying his handbills in his saddle-bags. These bills he fastened on trees and barns along the wayside with tacks. Isaac J. Greenwood, in one of the Dunlap society publications, has thus described the circuses from 1817 to 1820:

"At first they were but small affairs consisting of a couple of wagons, four horses, and some half dozen performers, mostly tumblers and vaulters, with perhaps a trick man and that indispensable—a clown. There was no band save a fiddle or two; no lady in gauze and spangles, no ring-master, and no tent; but they carried some six-foot poles, around which, planted in a circle, was stretched at each performance, a canvas to keep them from the gaze of outsiders, while a few boards served to build an outside platform, raised just above the ground, for acrobatic performances, jig-dancing, and the like; the rest of their loads was baggage, cooking utensils, and provisions. The place of exhibition was open to the sun and rain, though in time a covering suspended from a centre pole was introduced. There were no seats, except such as could be borrowed from the ladies, but sometimes the wagons were drawn in, so that the back crowd could mount upon them, and two hundred and fifty spectators, at an entrance price of twenty-five cents was a big house. Usually a man went ahead who placarded all conspicuous places, procured the five-dollar license, and hired the ground; then presently a bugler on horseback announced the approach of the show, and on the village green the clown would be proclaiming the time of performance."

About the year 1840 circuses began to advertise by means of posters, with pictures thereon of prancing horses,

flying acrobats, etc., printed in colors. There was a blank space on the bills, in which the names of towns and dates of performance were filled in with crayon. These bills were put up in the barrooms of country taverns. They were fastened to the wall with tacks and when the circus was gone one of the showmen carefully took down such of the bills as had not been mutilated by the jack-knives of bar room vandals, and they were used again in other villages.

The visits of the circus in those days were "few and far between." Among those that exhibited here were Buckley, Weeks & Co.'s, Sept. 3, 1835; a show known as "The Ampitheatre," Aug. 19, 1836; Purdy, Welch, Macomber & Co.'s menagerie, Aug. 19, 1837; and Buckley & Co.'s circus, July, 1838, and May, 1839.

In those days there was a rough element among the people not only in the village, but in every direction outside of it. When a show came to town there was much drunkenness, with consequent fighting and disorder. It was for this reason that many quiet citizens objected to the coming of the circus; besides it was complained that the circus carried all the loose change out of town. Some of the village trustees, too, objected to circuses, thinking they tended to demoralize the people. So, when the agent of Welch, Bartlett & Co.'s Broadway circus applied to the Board of Trustees for a license in August, 1840, his application was refused. The next year, however, the "Victoria Arena and Great Western Circus" had no difficulty in obtaining a license and showed on the 3d of June. In 1842, when Rockwell, Stone

& Co.'s circus made application for a license, there was a tie vote. S. S. Tinkham and T. P. Patch voted in favor of license, and Jonathan Platt and Charles R. Coburn against. Judge Drake, the president of the village, decided the matter by voting in favor of license, and the show exhibited on the 3d of June. No circus license was granted until 1844. Welch, Delevan & Co.'s agent applied to the board, in July of that year, when David Wallis and Isaac B. Ogden favored granting a license and Sylvanus Fox and A. P. Storrs opposed it. The matter was again decided in favor of the circus by the vote of Judge Drake. After this licenses were not refused to circuses.

Circuses for many years pitched their tents on the lot at the northwest corner of North avenue and Main streets. This ground was a vacant lot owned for many years, by Samuel Standish Tinkham and extended from the corner to David P. Tinkham's house, which stood where the Park hotel is now. The wooden fire engine house was moved from Court street to the west end of the lot in 1851, and the block on the corner was built by Thomas I. Chatfield in 1853.

In 1850 circuses were larger and required more room. From that time and for several years later all the circuses exhibited on the east side of North avenue between John R. and South Depot streets. This was then a vacant lot, extending back the entire length of John R. street.

The Yankee Robinson Circus. and  
Theatre.

In August, 1859, Yankee Robinson's combined circus and theatre exhibited

under a large tent on this lot. After the equestrian performance in the ring a theatrical performance concluded the entertainment. This was given on a stage about four feet high at one end of the tent, with good scenery. The characters were for the most part sustained by the acrobats and gymnasts, and the production was a meritorious one. The play was called the "Days of '76" and the scene was laid in the United States during the revolutionary war. R. J. Miller, professional known as Yankee Miller and an uncommonly good comedian, played the leading comedy part, that of a Yankee. He died at Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1877, while travelling with his nephew's theatrical troupe. Yankee Robinson's wife, equally good as a comic actress, played the character of a Yankee girl. In the company was also Harry Evarts, a circus rider, who was afterward one of the owners and tambourinist of Booker & Evarts's minstrels. He came to his death in May, 1889, while travelling as press agent of Adam Forepaugh's circus, in a railroad accident near Hamilton, Canada. The cars caught fire and Evarts's body was burned in the wreckage. Billy Pastor, famed as a circus performer, and a brother of the well-known Tony Pastor, was also a member of the company, and also a boy named Gibbons, a most remarkable contortionist, who came several times afterward to Owego with circuses and who was billed as Don Santiago Gibbonaise.

Robinson owed a printing establishment a bill for posters to advertise his show. While at Owego the show was attached by the sheriff of

Tioga county to satisfy the claim, and Robinson was compelled to cancel his dates ahead and remain here a week, being unable to obtain bondsmen during that time. A man named Field, who claimed to be the owner of the show, came and replevied the property, and one fine Sunday morning Robinson folded his tents and went on his way rejoicing. The company performed every evening to large crowds during its enforced sojourn here, and the manager declared that his week here had been more profitable to him than it would have been had he gone on his advertised route.

Robinson was a unique character. He was a shoemaker, then successively a travelling showman, an exhibitor of scriptural paintings, a tragedian, a Yankee comedian, a dancing master, and finally a circusman.

#### Washburn's Indian Show.

Some account may be of interest here of a big tent show, which was organized in this vicinity. In May, 1854, E. S. Washburn visited Owego with an Indian show and gave an exhibition at Patch's hall, in Lake street. He afterward, during the winter of 1854-5, lived at Owego, boarding with John Loveland in the second story of the old Walter Ogden house, which was afterward the "Diamond store," and which stood on the west side of North avenue on the ground now occupied by George Snyder's brick building. With him was a full blood Mohawk Indian, six feet tall, known as "Joe Washburn," and his sister, a handsome Indian girl, who afterward became Washburn's wife. She was known as Princess Ne-os-ko-le-ta, and later as the Princess Wynima. Both

names were the same in the Mohawk tongue, and the meaning of them is "Prairie Flower."

During his residence here, Washburn, in company with Col. Theron Seymour, who had been landlord of the Ahwaga house, and Frank Phelps, of Elmira, who had been travelling through the small towns with a hall show, organized an Indian tent show on a large scale, to travel the next season. Loveland, who had been travelling the previous season with teams, giving a show in country taverns, was the business manager. They secured twelve Onondaga Indians and a few gymnasts, and went upon the road, in the spring of 1855.

In addition to the genuine Indians, several white men living in Owego and vicinity, among whom were Almon W. Gould and Joseph D. Hollister, joined the show and made themselves up as Indians by coloring their faces and hands and dying their hair. The show had a brass band, the musicians being also "fake" Indians. A side show was attached to the circus, in which a minstrel performance was given, Hollister playing the bones. Gould, who was something of a musician, played a guitar with the orchestra during the Indian performance.

The show consisted of a scalping scene, rescue from burning at the stake, war dances, and the delineation of other pleasant little Indian festivities and customs. A representation of the historical scene of Pocahontas saving the life of Capt. John Smith was also given, the show closing with the cheerful revolutionary tragedy of the murder of Miss Jane McCrea. "Joe Washburn" was advertised as

"the celebrated Chief, Red Jacket, the most eloquent Indian orator living."

The show made its first stand at Union, Broome county, where the canvas was blown down in a storm and a canvasman's arm was broken by a falling guy pole. Thence they went to Great Bend and Montrose, Pa. When they reached Pittston, Washburn was informed that in the Wyoming valley a bitter feeling still existed against all Indians on the part of the descendants of those who perished in the massacre, and that they had arranged to pick off the Indians, one at a time, with rifles, knowing that if arrested no jury could be found to convict for the murder of an Indian, the state of feeling being so high. The show exhibited at Pittston on a Saturday, and Washburn went ahead to Wilkes-Barre, where he learned that the report was true. He accordingly changed his route, losing a week's time and the expense of billing half a dozen towns. He afterward came to Owego, exhibiting on the north end of the park, May 10, 1855.

With Washburn's show were Isadore and Victoria Barnes, singers and dancers. They were from Union, where their father was a blacksmith. At the close of the show season they came to Owego and lived about a year in Bell street. They first came to Owego with Meeker's theatre, dancing on the stage between the pieces. Afterward they travelled with Frank Phelps's hall show.

The Indian show was not a successful one and soon disappeared from the road. E. S. Washburn was afterward for several years owner of a travelling

vaudeville and burlesque show known as "Washburn's Last Sensation," in which his wife, who had an excellent voice, was a singer. He died Nov. 12, 1886, at the Chaffee house at Susquehanna, Pa.

Washburn's daughter, Lillian Washburn, became an actress with her father's company as soon as she was able to talk. She has been continuously on the stage ever since. Washburn had two adopted sons, Leon W. Washburn and William Washburn. In 1903 Leon Washburn was proprietor of L. W. Washburn's circus and menagerie, the Washburn minstrels, and four Uncle Tom's Cabin companies. Frank Phelps died at Lincoln, Neb., in 1888.

---

**"The Babes in the Woods," the First Travelling Show to Visit Owego, Exhibits in the Goodman Coffee House Dining Room—Theatrical Companies Produce Standard Plays under Disadvantageous Conditions—The First Theatrical Company Performs at the Court House and Later Arrivals Play in the Coffee House Dining Room and in a Loft over Jonathan Platt's Store.**

The first hall show in Owego of which any account can be obtained was Sickles's "Babes in the Woods." It consisted of paintings of battles of the revolutionary war and the war of 1812, and a combination of panorama and moving figures, delineating the old nursery story of the "Babes in the Woods." It showed the sleeping children and the birds covering them with leaves. At the conclusion an angel descended and carried away the chil-

dren, and the wicked uncle was seized by a huge snake.

The performance was given in the dining room of the old Goodman coffee house (afterward the Franklin house), on the northeast corner of Front and Court streets, about the year 1826. The admission was twelve and a half cents. After the show the paintings, etc., were removed and a dance was given, in which all who chose to pay participated.

Sickles was a violin player and a singer of comic songs. His wife accompanied him, and assisted him in moving the figures. Among her other duties in connection with the show was to imitate the chirping of birds, which she is said to have done to perfection. Simon Springsteen, afterward proprietor of the Owego foundry and machine shop, which stood on the ground now the northeast corner of McMaster and Delphine streets, travelled with the show as violinist three or four years. They went south to New Orleans, and visited a large portion of the United States. Richard Manning, of Owego, who died here in 1832, also travelled about two years as a violinist with Sickles's show.

Sickles's home was at Sherburne, N. Y. He accumulated considerable property and retired from the show business. After his death his son-in-law, George Cox, visited this county with the same show, and exhibited at Flemingville and Newark Valley. Yankee Robinson, the circus proprietor, began his career as a showman with Sickles's "Babes in the Woods."

The first theatrical exhibition ever given in the village of Owego by professionals was in the winter of 1833.

There was at that time in the minds of many people a narrow prejudice against actors and theatricals, which was common, not only to very small villages like Owego of that period, but prevailed to some extent also in the cities. There were, however, many in the community of more liberal ideas, but they were in advance of their age.

In 1826, a debating society existed in Owego, known as "The Forum." Its discussions were held at the old court house and were listened to by such ladies and gentlemen of the village as chose to be present, the invitation being a general one to the public. On the 16th of March of that year, as we learn from an old copy of the Gazette, the subject discussed was, "Are theatrical representations more injurious than beneficial to society?" The result of the discussion is not known, but it is very probable that the decision was one not at all favorable to the advancement of the drama.

At a meeting of the village board of trustees at the store of Gurdon Hewitt on August 1, 1831, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved by the Trustees of said village that no circus or other public show or exhibition shall be permitted within the bounds of said village under the penalty of ten dollars for each and every offence, and that each and every person acting or assisting in any such show or exhibition shall be deemed an offender within the meaning of this ordinance.

James Pumpelly was president and trustee of the village, and the other trustees present at the time of adopting the resolution were judge Latham A. Burrows, Gurdon Hewitt and Ezra S. Sweet.

As has been already mentioned, the first performance here by a company of professional actors was in 1833. The performance was given at the old court house at the southeast corner of Main and Court streets.

On this occasion Lyman Covell, of Elmira, then sheriff, of Tioga county as it was previous to its division into the present counties of Chemung and Tioga, granted the use of the court room to a theatrical company under the management of Gilbert & Trowbridge, which was well and favorably known in the large towns in various parts of the state. Their performances, which occupied a week, were artistically and pecuniarily a success. The company was composed of Gilbert, Trowbridge, Powell, and Archibald and their wives, with one or two others. They played "Pizarro," "Lady of the Lake," "School for Scandal," "Lock and Key," "Othello" and "George Barnwell." The performance each evening concluded with a farce, a great favorite in those days being Moncrieff's "Spectre Bridegroom," which was announced on the bills as "The Ghost in Spite of Himself." The orchestra consisted of one violin.

At this period there were no railroads in this part of the state. The scenery and baggage were transported by teams, which were hired at a town where the company had been playing to transport it to the next village.

The stage was built of rough boards laid on saw-horses over the bar of the court room. The footlights were tallow candles in tin holders. A strip of board about a foot wide extended the length of the stage between the footlights and the actors. It was fastened

by hinges to the stage and worked with cords. It lay flat on the stage until it became necessary to darken the stage for night and storm effects, when it was raised by means of the cords to hide the light of the candles.

The scenery was hung on long strips of wood and rolled up from the bottom on rollers by means of heavy cords. The entrances to the stage at the side were between the "wings," which were painted on canvas and stretched on frames made of strips of wood. Dressing rooms were made by hanging up a few calico curtains. There were no reserved seats and the admission fee was a shilling—twelve and one-half cents—children half price.

Those of the villagers who were opposed to the visits of theatrical companies to Owego made a vigorous protest to the board of supervisors against the court house being used for show purposes, which had the desired effect. The board, at its annual session in the fall of 1823, adopted a resolution prohibiting the use of the court house for theatrical exhibitions.

The next year, however, Gilbert & Trowbridge's theatrical company again visited Owego, and performed two weeks in a loft in the second story of Jonathan Platt's store on the south side of Front street. The company consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Trowbridge, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. Powell, Henry Vaughn, Sam. Lathrop, Charles Benson, Kore and, perhaps, one or two others.

Joseph S. DeWitt, popularly known as "Old Joe" DeWitt, who was for many years proprietor of a restaurant here, travelled with the company

about a year as business manager. He attended to hiring halls and getting bills printed, and played occasionally in minor parts. Mr. Platt's hall was about fifty feet deep and twenty feet wide.

Showmen in the early days of Owego encountered some rough audiences. One evening during the performance of a travelling show, some young fellows provided themselves with small paper bags of flour, and amused themselves by throwing them on the stage during the performance to see them break. Occasionally an actor was hit and powdered from head to foot. This kind of humor prevailed in Owego for several years.

At one time, several years later than this, a gentleman delivered a public lecture in the court house. After the lecture he was met by a party of men at the door, one of whom threw a bottle of ink upon him, destroying his clothing. The perpetrator of this act was one of Owego's most prominent citizens and business men, and it was looked upon at that time as rare fun.

Garry A. Hough, an early theatrical manager, who visited Owego several times previous to 1854, in a letter to the writer of these papers in January, 1879, wrote:

"Thirty years ago Owego was not considered a first-class theatrical town; it was not even first-class in morals, and that was the cause of endless difficulties when amusements were offered. The rough and tough element which had their headquarters in your village, were men who for a portion of the year found employment as river men on the Susquehanna. When not employed they were troublesome, at times uncontrollable. This, I distinctly recollect, was an alleged

cause for shutting out all kinds of amusements, the morality of the town endorsing the proposition that ignorance and rowdyism were the legitimate allies of dramatic art. But these were comparatively, primitive days. I hope time has liberalized the ideas and notions which then prevailed."

Archibald, who was with the Trowbridge & Gilbert troupe on its first visit to Owego, was an Englishman. It was his boast that he had won renown in the "legitimate drama of old England."

Trowbridge was the leading actor. He was a tall, brawny man, and was born in New Haven, Conn.. He was not only a good tragedian, but an excellent personator of comic old men. He died in Cincinnati in 1838. His wife was an excellent actress, and a great favorite later in Buffalo. After the death of her husband, she became the wife of Josh. Silsbee, the celebrated Yankee comedian. Upon his death, in 1858, she married Wm. A. Chapman, the equally celebrated low comedian. She died in San Francisco, Cal., in 1880.

R. T. Gilbert was equally good as a tragic actor and as a low comedian. He was the pioneer manager of western New York. He died about the year 1849 in one of the eastern states.

Kore was a large, fleshy man, and played third parts, such as Alonzo in "Pizarro." Later he lived on a farm at Hadley, Mich., where he became prominent in public life, serving sixteen years as supervisor of his town and representing Lapeer county in the state legislature.

Old Sam Lathrop, the celebrated circus clown, acted in some of the pieces, but his specialty was singing

comic songs, in which he was inimitable. One winter, at the Chatham theatre, in New York, he did nothing but sing "The Teetotal Society," in which he was immensely popular, between the farces. He died in a hospital in New York several years ago, considerably advanced in years.

Henry Vaughn played old men. He died in the south of cholera.

John H. Powell was a light comedian. His wife, who was a daughter of Vaughn, played soubrettes. Powell died in Erie, Pa., and his wife subsequently re-married.

Charles Benson was not an actor. He played the violin, and was the "orchestra."

One reason for the prejudice against strolling actors at this period may have been that they were as a rule dissipated. Trowbridge was no exception to the rule. He was never so intoxicated on the stage that his condition could be noticed, but after the performance he was in the habit of drinking hard. He was what is commonly known as a "night owl"—passing the evening after the performance in conviviality, and sleeping during the day. Sam Lathrop, Vaughn, and all of the company, except Gilbert, were said to be hard drinkers.

Trowbridge & Gilbert were the first managers to take a dramatic company through the New England states. Trowbridge was at one time associated in management with the celebrated comedian, Sol. Smith.

March 16th, 1840, Powell & Hoffman's theatre made application to the board of trustees for a license to play five nights in Owego. To consider

this matter a special meeting of the board was held.

It had been rumored about the village that a theatrical company proposed to come to the village and give a series of performances. Prompt upon learning the intention of the mountebanks, as they were characterized, measures were instituted by those opposed to theatrical exhibitions to prevent the proposed performance. The following petition was accordingly submitted to the board of trustees:

*To the Trustees of the Corporation of the Village of Oswego:*—The undersigned learn with regret that a strolling theatrical company purpose to open a theatre in this village the present week. Believing that such exhibitions are demoralizing in their tendency and pernicious to good order in any community, and also that it will tend to increase the scarcity of money, which now weighs so heavily upon the industrious labourer and honest poor, do request that you will not grant the necessary permit.

J. Platt,	W. A. Ely,
O. Gregory,	Chas. F. Johnson,
James Wright,	A. P. Storrs,
Francis Truman,	Elihu Parmenter,
David Goodrich,	A. C. Greenleaf,
L. H. Allen,	Jas. Ely,
John C. Laning,	P. Ransom,
George Truman,	Chas. Ransom,
John B. Wood,	J. L. Pinney,
W. P. Stone,	H. D. Pinney,
Asa H. Truman,	B. B. Curry,
Silas Totten,	C. Talcott,
E. Raynsford,	W. Pumpelly,
D. G. Taylor,	Wm. H. Platt,
W. C. Taylor,	D. O. Maconiber,

The trustees present were John J. Taylor, Isaac B. Ogden, Col. N. W. Davis, and Jared Huntington, the latter being president of the village. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Ogden voted in favor of granting the license, and the others voted against it. This action, however, was not final. Another meeting was held in the evening, when the same trustees were present. The matter was reconsidered, and a license to exhibit five evenings was granted to Powell & Hoffman upon payment of \$12.

The theatre was managed by J. H. Powell, who had been here with the Trowbridge & Gilbert company, and Garry A. Hough, an excellent comedian, whose stage name then was Hoffman. The performances were given in the dining room of the old Goodman coffee house in Front street. As a curiosity a copy of one of the advertisements is here given:

THEATRE  
AT MRS. GOODMAN'S HOTEL

March 20, 1840.

**T**HIS EVENING will be presented the  
splendid Melo-Drama, entitled

HUNTER OF THE ALPS:

or, the

Forest of Savoy.

Felix .....	Mr. Powell
Ferdinand .....	Mr. Clifford
Marco .....	Mr. Freeland
Jeronymo .....	Mr. Hastings
Helena .....	Mrs. Powell
Genevieve .....	Mrs. Hastings
	To conclude with

MY AUNT

Fred Vincent .....	Mr. Clifford
Rattle .....	Mr. Hoffman
Dick Dashall .....	Mr. Powell
Soberlove .....	Mr. Hastings
Mrs. Corbetts .....	Mrs. Powell
Emma .....	Mrs. Hoffman

42- Tickets to be had at the Bar—at L. Manning & Son, and at the Tioga County House. Curtain will rise at 7 o'clock P. M.

The next theatrical company to visit Owego was one under the management of W. P. Hastings. It was known as the New York Vaudeville company, and the performances were given at the Goodman coffee house. Mr. Hastings paid a village license of \$2 a night, and commenced his performances on the 14th of June, 1841. The following is a copy of one of the company's advertisements:

THEATRE.

This evening (Friday, June 18th) will be presented for the first time in this place, the celebrated Drama in 3 acts, entitled the

LADY OF THE LAKE.

Roderick Dhu .....	Mr. Hastings
Lord Douglas .....	Mr. Reynolds
Malcolm .....	Mr. Arthur
Fitz James .....	Mr. Bowman
Red Murdoch .....	Mr. Heydon

Malise .....	Mr. Maddison
Blanche of Devon .....	Mrs. Hastings
Ellen Douglas .....	Mrs. Heydon

Comic Song .....	Hastings
Negro Extravaganza by .....	Master Pierce
Highland Fling by .....	Mr. Arthur

The evening's entertainment to conclude with the last act of

#### WENLOCK OF WENLOCK.

Wenlock .....	Bowman
Wolf .....	Hastings
Osric .....	Heydon
Herbert Lyle .....	Arthur
Nicholas .....	Purle
Wittol Watfol .....	Master Pierce
Hugh .....	Reynolds
Ossa .....	Hathaway
Eva .....	Mrs. Hastings
Rose .....	Mrs. Heydon

Doors open at 7 o'clock—Curtain rises at 7½.  
Tickets, 25 cents, to be had at the Bar.

The versatility of the manager, who played the leading characters, was somewhat remarkable. It is not every one who can successfully sustain the leading character in a romantic drama and five minutes afterward appear and sing a comic song with any marked degree of success.

Tickets, it may be noticed were "to be had at the bar"—a convenient resort, doubtless, between the acts for the thirsty ones of the audience—and it should be remembered that the average theatre-goer at this period was not accustomed to refuse any invitation to drink.

An application was next made for a theatrical license by J. H. Powell, on the 31st day of December of the same year, which was refused by the trustees. In May, 1842, however, he succeeded in obtaining the necessary license, and showed in the Franklin house dining room four nights. Mr. Muzzy, the landlord, became security for the village license of \$8. The party had bad houses and could not pay the license. The trustees subse-

quently released Mr. Muzzzy from all responsibility in the matter.

This ended theatrical performances in Owego until October, 1845, when the Washingtonian temperance excitement was at its height. On the 17th of that month Garry A. Hough, with a party known as the Western Temperance company, played in Washington hall, a building owned by Jehiel Ogden, and situated at the northwest corner of Main and Liberty streets, where St. Paul's Episcopal church now stands.

This was a long building, one story and a half high at the front, with an extension back one story high. The highest part had originally been a gunshop, to which the extension was added and the whole converted into a hall. The "Washingtonian Total Abstinence Association, which was organized in Owego in 1841 and of which David C. Burdick was president, held its meetings in this hall, and political meetings were also held there. A large portion of the building was torn down three or four years afterward and the remainder converted into a dwelling house, which stood there until St. Paul's church was built in 1891.

Although Mr. Hough came to Owego during a hot political campaign his company drew good houses. At Washington hall tickets could not "be purchased at the bar."

The next company to visit Owego was the Western Temperance company, under the management of Allen & Bridges. They played one week in Concert hall, commencing January 10, 1817.

It is not known who the members of the Western Temperance company

were. They played, among other pieces, "The Drunkard's Warning" and a piece with the cheering melo-dramatic title of "The Goblet of Death; or, the Road to Ruin."

Concert hall was in the second story of Rollin block, which stood at the northwest corner of Front and Lake streets and was owned by judge Drake. North of and adjoining this block Joseph S. DeWitt kept "The Shades" restaurant in a building which occupied the ground on which the stores of J. C. Kenyon and the Misses Rowe now stand. About the year 1846 Mr. DeWitt removed the partitions between Rollin block and his restaurant and converted the whole into a public hall, which he called Concert hall. The main entrance was a stairway on the Front street side, and there was a private entrance from Lake street through the "Shades" building. This hall was burned in the great fire of 1849.

P. T. Barnum's first exhibition in Owego was in Concert hall. He came with Tom Thumb, the dwarf, in the summer of 1849, and stayed several days. The show was poorly patronized, and Barnum swore roundly that he would never visit Owego again—but he did.

Potter & Co's theatre was the next dramatic company to come to Owego. It played three nights at Concert hall, beginning Aug. 26, 1847. Potter's partner was Gilbert, of the old firm of Gilbert & Trowbridge. The leading man was William M. Fleming, an excellent tragedian, who was then thirty years of age and in the prime of his reputation. In 1860 he entered the

army as paymaster and was with Sherman in the march to the sea, and was brevetted a colonel in the regular army. He died of heart disease in New York city May 6, 1866. The company was composed of Mr. and Mrs. Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Mehan, Mr. and Mrs. Donovan, Fleming, Gilbert, and Pemberton. Between the pieces Potter and Mrs. Donovan danced the polka.

Potter was a somewhat remarkable character. Between 1850 and 1860 he was one of the pioneers to establish theatres throughout California, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, and in the Cherokee nation. He built and fitted up more theatres and travelled a greater number of miles with large companies than any other manager of those days ever thought of travelling. He built the first theatre in Chicago about the year 1841. At one time he took a company of twenty-two actors from Cleveland, Ohio, to Richmond, Va., with but seventy-five cents in his pocket to start with. His persuasive powers and his ability to weep on the slightest provocation were such that could always borrow money, for which he gave his notes, such notes never being paid. He died at Morris, Ill., in 1869, while playing there with a theatrical company.

During the company's sojourn here the play one evening was Shakespeare's "King Richard III." At this time Junius Brutus Booth was at the height of his reputation as one of the great tragic actors of the world. Robert Chambers, a carpenter, who lived on the west side of what is now Central avenue, a little south of Fox street, was one of the audience. Flem-

ing was playing the character of "the crook-backed tyrant" and his acting so impressed and delighted Chambers that in his enthusiasm he yelled, "Go in Booth."

At that time a slang phrase, "Go in boots," was in vogue, and the tragedian misunderstanding the significance of the words of Chambers, was highly indignant. To be addressed as "boots" was just a trifle too much, and Fleming angrily retorted "Shut up your d—d noise." He refused to proceed further. Col. N. W. Davis arose and explained the matter, saying that what Fleming had considered an insult was in fact a high compliment to his power as an actor. The tragedian was mollified by Col. Davis's words, and the play went on.

Powell's next visit to Owego was in November, 1847. His last visit was in 1848, when he opened in Concert hall on the 17th of January, and remained one week.

At about this time the opposition to theatrical exhibitions again began to be manifested. In January, 1851, Garry A. Hough made application to the trustees for a license to give a series of theatrical performances. A special meeting of the trustees was held on the 28th of that month, to consider the matter, when license was refused. A paper, signed by forty-seven of the prominent business men of the village, was handed to the trustees at their next meeting, approving of their course, and promising their influence in sustaining them in the same.

On the 13th of the following May, George Western, then celebrated as a low comedian, known as "The Great Western," came to Owego as agent of

Mr. Hough, and applied for license, which was refused. He was fortified with letters from L. M. Rexford, Judge E. C. Kattel, and other prominent citizens of Binghamton, commending the company in point of respectability and talent. Judge Avery interested himself in the matter, and through his influence Hough was granted a license, but at the exorbitant rate of \$5 a night.

Timothy P. Patch had the year previous (1850) built a brick block on the ground now occupied by the L. N. Chamberlain brick block on the west side of Lake street. The third story was used as a hall and was known as Patch's hall.

Mr. Patch was for many years one of the most prominent merchants at Owego. He was born at Ashburnham, Mass., Dec. 3, 1809. He came to Owego in February, 1834, and opened a meat market in a wooden building in Lake street where the Chamberlain block now stands. There he conducted the meat business and subsequently the grocery business twenty-one years. His store was burned in the fire of 1849 and he erected a brick block on its site.

When Ahwaga hall was built in 1852 Patch's hall ceased to be in demand for public purposes. It was accessible only by a long flight of stairs up narrow staircases, and was a veritable death trap in case of panic or fire. From May, 1853, to September, 1855, the hall was occupied by the Gazette printing office. The block was afterward purchased by L. N. Chamberlain and the second and third floors occupied by him as a boot and shoe manufactory until it was burned, together

with Wilson hall, adjoining it on the north, in the night of April 24, 1868.

Mr. Patch removed in 1860 to Towanda, Pa., where he died June 30, 1882. He had three sons, Calvin B., Robert Harlin, and Charles Patch, and one daughter, Albertine Patch, who was married to Oscar F. Saunders, and removed to Corning, N. Y.

The ceiling of Patch's hall was so low that a panorama was prevented from visiting Owego at the time the hall was opened, there not being room to erect it. Other panoramas were afterward exhibited there. These panoramas were common in those days. They were painted on long strips of canvas ten or twelve feet high and suspended by upright rollers at each end. As the panorama was shown it was moved by unrolling it from one roller at one side of the stage and rolling it on the other roller at the other side of the stage, the continuous picture being exhibited in a framework extending across the stage. A lecturer, with a long stick, pointed out the prominent features and described them as the panorama was moved. These panoramas were so heavy that they were carried in sections. As fast as one had been exhibited another was shown. The most prominent of these panoramas was a panorama of New York, showing all the buildings in the principal streets of that city at that time and which was twice shown here, and Banvard's panorama of the Mississippi river, painted by John Banvard, an artist, traveller poet, and author. This panorama was the largest ever made and covered three miles of canvas. It was

one of the wonders of the day and was exhibited in this country and in Europe. Another panorama that drew large houses was known as "The Burning of Moscow," in which moving figures and battle effects were added to carry out the illusion.

Patch's hall was fifty-three feet long and forty-four feet wide. In this hall Mr. Hough opened his theatrical performances May 19, 1851, and played one week to fair houses. But this visit of Mr. Hough to Owego was so unsuccessful from a pecuniary point of view that a compromise was made on the license by the trustees.

The company was a small one, and played only light comedies and farces. The leading man was Alonzo R. Phelps, a tragic actor, who had made his first appearance in New York six years previous to this time as Othello at the Greenwich street theatre and who in 1854 sailed with Kate and Susan Denin for California. He died in Philadelphia in 1888.

The low comedian was George Western, one of the famous comic actors of his time. For a long time he drew crowded houses to Barnum's museum in New York and was immensely popular. He excelled in Yankee characters, and was particularly famous for his personation of Diggory in the old farce of "The Spectre Bridegroom." He was the father of Lucille and Helen Western, both famous actresses, but in an entirely different line of characters. When in Owego Western was in bad health. He was afflicted with consumption and was compelled to withdraw from the stage. He lived at Binghamton and became travelling agent for a cigar and to-

bacco house, spending the winter in the south and the summer at Binghamton. He died at Bodle's Exchange hotel in that city in July, 1857.

Garry A. Hough was an excellent comedian. He was particularly good in the parts made famous by William E. Burton, the celebrated comedian of that time, whom he in some respects resembled. In March, 1853, he brought to Owego the largest and best theatrical company that had ever been seen here and one which has never been surpassed even to this day. It was composed of ten men and five women. Mr. Hough carried his own scenery. There was no stage in Ahwaga hall at that time. He built a stage at the south end of the hall, about four feet above the floor. At the north end he caused to be constructed of rough boards some seats similar to those in the modern circus. For these spectators were charged 25 cents each. On the rest of the floor between these seats and the stage, were long wooden settees, seats on which were charged 50 cents each. The men's dressing room was at one side of the stage and the women's at the other. The company produced "Ingomar," "The Wife," "Pizarro," "Richard III," "The Stranger," "The Serious Family," and other standard plays, the piece being followed each evening by a dance by Mlle. Eveline and a farce. The company played here two weeks to good houses.

The leading actor was T. B. Mulholland, a tragedian of great power, whose equal has never since been seen in Owego. He is said to have been a native of Tompkins county.

Nothing is known of his origin nor of his end. In 1854, the year after his appearance here, he appeared at the old Broadway theatre in New York city, then managed by E. A. Marshall. From the moment of his appearance there he became a great favorite with both the management and the public, but in one of his eccentric periods he was obliged to leave. Later he was taken ill and died, but when and where no one who was associated with him was ever able to ascertain.

Mulholland was a refined and intelligent actor, and quick at repartee. While playing in Rochester, N. Y., some one in the gallery threw a piece of stove pipe at him on the stage. Instead of resenting it he looked up quickly and asked why the stove had not been sent along with the pipe. This reply to what was intended as an insult put the entire audience in jovial accord with him at once and captured it for the rest of the performance.

The cast of Kotzebue's play of "The Stranger," one of the plays produced at Owego by Hough's company was as follows:

The Stranger.....	T. B. Mulholland
Count Wintersen.....	Mr. Morris
Baron Steinfort.....	Mr. Goodenow
Solomon.....	Mr. Hough
Peter .....	Mr. Tozer
Tobias .....	Mr. Ross
Francis .....	Mr. Collins
Mrs. Haller.....	Miss Kate Ludlow
Countess Wintersen.....	Mrs. Wray
Charlotte.....	Mrs. Hough
Annette .....	Mlle Eveline

Kate Ludlow, the leading lady of the company, was a fine actress. Her husband, Joseph Littell, was a popular actor but was not with Hough's com-

pany. His first wife was Malvina Pray, from whom he was divorced and who was afterward married to Wm. J. Florence, the celebrated comedian. He died in 1856.

Kate Ludlow was in her day one of the most prominent actresses in America. She was born in 1820 on the coast of Maine, and at an early age was adopted by the officers attached to the first United States artillery, then stationed at Fulton, Me. She was educated at Gorham seminary at Gorham, Mass. She made her first appearance on the stage in 1843 at the museum in Baltimore, Md. After her appearance with Hough's company at Owego she went to New York, where she was leading woman at the old Broadway theatre several seasons. Thence she went to Boston, where she supported Junius Brutus Booth at the Hollis street theatre, afterward travelling with Booth through the country. After Booth's death she supported James E. Murdock, George Vandenhoff, and other stars. In June, 1899, she was admitted to the Edwin Forrest home at Holmesburg, Pa., near Philadelphia, where she is now living at the advanced age of 89 years. She is, probably, the oldest living actress in America.

Mr. Morris was Thomas E. Morris, who was born at Troy, N. Y., and who was 24 years old when he appeared at Owego. He was afterward manager for John Brougham, the celebrated Irish actor and author and married Brougham's step-daughter. He was manager of the Waverley theatre in New York, of the Park theatre in

Brooklyn, and of the Grand opera house in New York when James Fiske owned it, and was later a member of the famous Union Square theatre company. He died in New York in October, 1885.

Mr. Collins was Oliver B. Collins, who began his long career on the stage at Barnum's museum in New York in 1852, the year previous to his appearance at Owego. He spent most of his life on the stage, playing in the companies of Booth, Barrett, Forrest, and other eminent actors. He died in January, 1907, at the Victoria hotel at the Highlands of Neversink, N. J., of which hotel he was the owner, aged 78 years.

Mrs. Mary A. Wray, born at Ridgefield, Conn., in 1804, went on the stage at the old Chatham theatre in New York city in 1820 as a dancer. She supported the great actors of the time, Forrest, Junius Brutus Booth, and others. In 1848 she was with the Seguin opera company. In 1864, when she was sixty years of age, she retired from the stage. She died in October, 1892, at Newton, L. I., in the home that had been purchased for her by her son, Billy Wray, the negro minstrel, who was lost in the burning of the steamer "Evening Star," while on the way from New York to New Orleans in 1866. The Mlle Eveline of Hough's company was Mrs. Wray's daughter, Eveline Wray. Another son of Mrs. Wray, Edward A. Wray, was with her when she was in Owego. He was only 14 years old. He also became a negro minstrel and died at Edwardsville, Ill., in 1866, the same year of his brother's death.

Mr. Goodenow was John Goodenow, popularly known as Jack Goodenow, a handsome man and good actor, of whom little is now known. J. B. Tozer, the low comedian of the company, was a very popular actor and was with Hough when he played in Patch's hall in 1851. In 1854 he was the low comedian at Barnum's museum in New York. He retired from the stage in 1859. Mr. Ross, who was known as Tony Ross, played old men. He was an excellent actor.

Garry A. Hough had an eventful career. He was born at Potsdam, N. Y., in 1814 and at 14 years old became a printer's apprentice. He worked at one time as a printer for A. H. Calhoun in the old Owego Advertiser office in this village. He bought the Honeyoye Falls Standard, which he published until 1836, when he quit the printing business on account of ill health and became an actor. In 1845 he played in the company of Isaac Singer Merritt, who invented the sewing machine and died a millionaire. In 1865 and 1866 he played "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and other plays through the state under canvas. He afterward became manager successively of the Atheneum theatre and the opera house at Detroit, Mich. He died in that city in January, 1896.

After the great fire of September, 1849, George W. Fay built the three-story brick building which stands on the north side of Front street, the second store east of Lake street. It was the first brick building erected after the fire, and was completed and occupied in May, 1850. The lower floor was occupied by Mr. Fay as a drug store and the third floor was used as

a public hall and known as Fay's hall. Here all shows and public entertainments were given until Patch's hall was built in Lake street. No theatrical company came to Owego during the short time this hall was in existence. It was a small one and only answered a temporary purpose.

As the business portion of the village was gradually rebuilt it was found that Patch's hall was too small to hold the average Owego audience. When Patch's hall was built there was no further need of the smaller hall, and Fay's hall was closed. Mr. Fay, however, in turn thought that a larger hall than Patch's hall was needed. So he built the present block of two stores, over which is Ahwaga hall, on the site of the old Fay drug store on the north side of Front street, and completed it in May, 1853. Ahwaga hall had no stage, and whenever one was needed a temporary one was built of rough boards. A few years later a stage was built with steps at each side, which stage could be moved from one part of the hall to another when desirable. There was a wide doorway on the east side opening into the Ahwaga house, which was used for the convenience of dancers when balls were given in the hall and suppers served to the dancers in the dining room of the hotel. The western part of the Ahwaga house block was subsequently sold to George S. Leonard and several years afterward the doorway was closed with a brick wall.

Ahwaga hall was for many years owned by Mr. Fay and Lyman Truman. In the summer of 1899, eigh-

teen years after Mr. Truman's death, Lyman T. Stanbrough, executor of the Lyman Truman estate, entirely reconstructed the hall. A new floor of Georgia pine was laid and the walls were wainscoted to the height of five feet. The ceiling and walls were covered with steel and artistically painted. Other improvements were made, making it the handsomest public hall anywhere in this part of the state. The block was sold to Joel C. Kenyon in December, 1899.

The building of Ahwaga hall caused a renewed interest in theatricals, and the coming of dramatic companies became more frequent. In June, 1853, a company under the management of William H. Meeker played there. The opening piece was Coleman's "Iron Chest," in which Meeker, who was an excellent tragedian, played Sir Edward Mortimer. The company remained here a week and drew fair houses. Meeker afterward played in the New York theatres, supporting Edwin and John Wilkes Booth, Edwin Forrest, E. L. Davenport, and other noted actors. He was on the stage 45 years from 1843 to 1888, and died at New Rochelle, N. Y., March 31, 1905, aged 83 years.

In the following October Tozer & Germon's theatre played a week at the hall. The managers were J. B. Tozer, the low comedian of G. A. Hough's company, and Greenbury C. Germon, who was the father of Effie Germon, who was at that time only eight years old and who afterward attained a brilliant reputation as a star. In the company was Frank S. Chanfran, who a few years previous had made a remarkable hit at Mitchell's

Olympic theatre as Mose, the fireman, in "A Glance at New York," and in his excellent imitations of other actors in the part of Jerry Clip in the farce of "The Widow's Victim," sometimes known as "The Stage-Struck Barber."

When the company left New York it was under an agreement whereby Chanfrau was to receive one-half of the net receipts each evening. Chanfrau did not prove so great an attraction as had been expected, and the company broke up very soon after leaving Owego. Germon died in Chicago in the spring following his visit to Owego. He was the original Uncle Tom when the play was produced for the first time in America at the Troy museum in 1853. His wife was the granddaughter of old Joseph Jefferson and cousin of the Joseph Jefferson, who was famous as Rip Van Winkle.

Chanfrau was supported here by Mlle. Albertine, a danseuse in early life and afterward an actress. She supported the elder Booth and later travelled with Chanfrau from 1850 to 1857. In 1857 she went with Gustavus V. Brooke, the tragedian, to Australia and while there was stricken with a fever, which was followed by total blindness. Chanfrau's last appearance in Owego was in "Kit, the Arkansas Traveller," at Wilson opera house. He died at Long Branch Oct. 2, 1884, leaving an estate valued at \$300,000.

In April, 1854, a company under the management of P. Page ran the play of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" one week. Mrs. Stowe's novel had been dramatized two years previous, but it had

not reached Owego, and as it had made a sensation throughout the country the company drew good houses here. The leading actor was G. A. Nichols.

The New York Dramatic Company, under the management of James Ponisi, was at first refused a license by the board of trustees, but license was afterward granted by each member of the board individually. The company opened in "La Tour de Nesle" March 23, 1857. Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Turner played the leading parts and Daniel Myron acted Irish characters in the farces. Lizzie Ross, a daughter of Tony Ross, of the G. A. Hough company and the wife of Myron, was an excellent soubrette. The "old man" was H. O. Pardey, an Englishman, an excellent actor and dramatic author, who wrote the comedy of "Nature's Nobleman" for Wm. E. Burton. He was somewhat dissipated, and was found dead in the street in Philadelphia March 3, 1865.

James Ponisi, the manager of the company, was an Englishman, a poor actor, and the husband of Madame Ponisi, who was for many years a leading actress in the New York theatres. J. B. Turner was stricken blind while playing with W. J. Scanlan's company at Waterbury, Conn., in November, 1866. He had been on the stage thirty-six years at that time.

A unique dramatic combination was the company managed by John F. Breyer, which opened at Ahwaga hall Aug. 5, 1858. It was composed of members of one family—Mrs. J. E. Breyer, her three sons and two daughters. They had thirty pieces of

scenery. The stage was built at the north end of the hall. The scenery, flies, and wings were held in place by an ingenious arrangement of poles and heavy cords, not a nail being driven. They had the most complete outfit of properties and costumes ever carried by a travelling theatre, all of which they had brought with them from Scotland a short time previous to their visit to Owego, and which had been used by the father of the family, John E. Breyer, who toured England and Scotland in Shakespearian plays for thirty years and who died in Scotland in 1857, while travelling with his company.

The expenses of the Breyers here were small, and their stay of three weeks in Owego was a profitable one, although the houses were light. They did not stay at a hotel, but hired the small house which is still standing on the south side of Temple street west of and adjoining the old grammar school building, where they "kept house," the same as their temporary neighbors. The music was supplied by a very large hand organ, which was kept behind the scenes. The company played "Don Caesar de Bazan," "Pizarro," "The Castle Spectre," "Macbeth," "The Lady of Lyons," "Othello," "Rob Roy," "King Richard III," "The Honeymoon," "Douglas," and other standard plays, concluding each evening with a farce. The versatility and ingenuity shown by some of the members of the family in personating three or four different characters in the same play was remarkable.

After leaving Owego the family went west. Mrs. John F. Breyer, the

mother, who was a most excellent actress, died at Fort Wayne, Ind., July 15, 1864. Then the family became scattered. John F. Breyer, the eldest son, was for several years the leading man in the stock companies in various cities of the west. He afterward managed his own company, known as the Maggie Breyer Comedy Company, and was very successful. He died at Creston, Ill., Feb. 12, 1889.

William V. Breyer, the younger brother, was afterward a member of western stock companies and was manager later of the Enoch Arden Combination, in which he sustained the principal roles. Several years ago he purchased a ranch near North Platte, Nebraska, and retired from the stage. He was too good an actor to have wasted his talent travelling in the west. Had he remained in New York he would have acquired reputation and fortune.

The eldest sister, Miss Mary Breyer, was for many years known throughout the United States as a leading actress in city theatres and was manager of the Mary Breyer Comedy Company. While playing with Otis Skinner's company at Nashville, Tenn., in February, 1899, she was taken ill and died at a sanitarium. At one time there were three Breyer companies on the road, John F. Breyer heading the Breyer Dramatic Company in Illinois, Ohio, and West Virginia; Wm. V. Breyer heading the Enoch Arden Combination, playing Enoch Arden, Rip Van Winkle, and other pieces in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa, and the Mary Breyer Comedy Company, touring Indiana, Kentucky, and Virginia.

A theatre under the management of Morris & Brink opened at Ahwaga hall January 29, 1859. Edw. H. Brink was a good actor, but his partner, Morris, was a very bad one. Jenny Stanley was the leading lady. The low comedian was Thomas G. Riggs, an actor of Irish characters. He was a comedian of the highest order and afterward played in all the large theatres in the United States. He went to Australia and died in Tasmania in 1899.

In January, 1860, Charles Plunkett, an English actor, who came to America in 1858 and was the leading actor at Placide's Varieties, the chief theatre in New Orleans, La., came to Owego with a travelling company.

The low comedian, James S. Mathews, was also an Englishman, and was the father of the famous equestrienne known as Ella Madigan, who was then a child. He afterward managed a theatrical company of his own. He was manager of a theatre in Rochester five years and there he lost the savings of many years. He studied law and established himself at Oswego, where he died in 1891.

Another member of the company was Edw. T. Clinton, a son of the famous tragic actress, Mrs. Shaw, whose second husband was Thomas S. Hamblin, the tragedian, who was for twenty-three years manager of the Bowery theatre in New York. Clinton was a fine tenor singer and had been a member of the Rosalia Durand opera troupe. In addition to appearing in all the plays he sang "Larboard Watch," "Sally in Our Alley," and other old-time ballads between the

pieces. The leading lady was Josephine Woodward.

In the company was L. Chester Bartlett, of Binghamton. He was a brother of Rev. William Alvin Bartlett, who was pastor of the Owego Congregational church in 1857-8. He was then but a mere youth, but had considerable talent. He abandoned theatricals, however, and became sheriff of Broome county and served as member of assembly.

Plunkett was a gifted actor, somewhat resembling in appearance Charles Fletcher, the celebrated French tragedian. He was a genial man socially, and in telling Irish or Scotch stories he was inimitable in his dialect imitations. The year previous to his appearance here he was the tragedian at the New Bowery theatre in New York. He died in Detroit, Mich., in April, 1882. His wife was a fine actress and one of the handsomest women ever seen on the stage at Owego. She died at Fort Wayne, Ind., in September, 1867.

Ashley's hall was built in 1862 by Martin Ashley, who came to Owego a few years previous and opened a saloon and restaurant on the west side of Lake street, in which business he was very successful. The ground on which Ashley hall stood is on the west side of Lake street and is now occupied by Hill & Parker's brick block. The land was owned by Lorenzo Reeves, whose widow married Col. Benoni B. Curry. The buildings on the property were all burned in the fire of 1849 and the land was subsequently owned by Abner L. Ely, of New York city, of whom Mr. Ashley

bought it January 28, 1862. Mr. Ashley built a brick block thereon, in the second story of which was a hall, which he called Ashley's hall. The hall had a level floor, with a stage at the west end with a gallery along the north side over the stairway.

One of the favorites at this time was William A. Rouse, a popular comic actor, whose right name was William Augustus Fitznarding Berkeley and who came of an aristocratic English family at Cheltenham, England. He was a good actor even when badly intoxicated, which was frequently his condition. He died in New York city in 1885. His wife, Fanny Denham Rouse, had been a great favorite at the Bowery theatre in New York and was a finished actress. She was a member of various companies in New York city after her husband's death.

Another popular company was managed by John F. Sherry, who had been the leading man at one of the Philadelphia theatres and who first visited Owego in January, 1866, and played in Ashley hall. He usually played two nights in each city or village he visited. He was the first manager in these parts to bring out entirely new plays. When any new piece was particularly successful in New York he purchased the right to produce it on the road, and as his company was a strong one the production was good in every instance. He played several seasons and was financially very successful, but after a few years he met with reverses through which he lost all he had saved. He left the stage and became a commercial traveller. Sherry was the first manager who had

a brass band with his company. Some of the members of the band also constituted the orchestra.

Sherry's leading actress was Jennie Carroll, whose husband, John W. Carroll, was also a member of the company. She was a great favorite in those days. Her face was round and expressionless, but as an emotional actress she was one of the best ones that ever appeared here. She was at one time leading lady at the Park theatre in Brooklyn and later the leading support of Edwin Booth at the Fourteenth Street theatre in New York. She died in January, 1897, in New York. The best comedian ever with Sherry's company was Harry Hawk, a clever actor and good fellow, who was playing Asa Trenchard in "The American Cousin" on the stage of Ford's theatre at Washington when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.

From 1866 to 1871 Sherry's New York theatre was the most popular company on the road. It travelled through New York and Pennsylvania, seldom going outside of those states.

Mr. Ashley sold his block August 16, 1867, to Dr. James Wilson, who expended about \$2,000 in enlarging and improving the hall and changed its name to Wilson hall. In the night of August 16, 1867, a fire broke out in W. D. Ireland's boot and shoe store under the hall and the building was burned. Dr. Wilson immediately rebuilt the block, but constructed it as cheaply as possible. Later he furnished it with scenery, the first scenery that had been owned by a theatre at Owego. Then it became known as Wilson opera house.

The interior of the theatre was burned out early in the evening of November 9, 1899, through the explosion of some films of a moving picture machine. It was rebuilt, but was entirely destroyed by another fire, which broke out in a bakery on the ground floor at 4 o'clock in the morning of February 28, 1904.

After Sherry's company disappeared from the stage conditions in the theatrical world underwent a change and Owego, like other towns, became a "one night stand." Many noted players appeared at Wilson opera house at various times, among whom were Laura Keane, Kate Claxton, Caroline Richings and Zelda Seguin with the Castle-Campbell opera troupe; E. Z. C. Judson, the novelist, known as "Ned Buntline;" Buffalo Bill, Edward Harrigan, John S. Clark and John E. Owens, two of the best comedians ever seen in America; John T. Raymond, McKean Buchanan, Marie Zoe, George L. Fox, and many other theatrical celebrities. In the fall of 1876 Ada Rehan appeared here with John T. Raymond's company, playing in a dramatization of Mark Twain's "A Gilded Age," and a few months afterward she became the leading lady at Daly's theatre in New York and the foremost actress on the American stage.

**Some Account of the Owego Post Office and Postmasters from the Year 1800, When There Were but 903 Offices in the Entire United States, to the Present Day—In One Instance the Strife for the Position of Postmaster Is Settled by a Special Election of Patrons of the Office by Direction of the Democratic District Committee.**

The census of 1790 reported only five post offices in the United States. In 1800 the number had been increased to 903. The first post office at Owego was, probably, established in 1800. The records of the post office department at Washington show that the first report rendered from the Owego post office was from January 1, 1801, by David Jones, and it is probable that he was appointed at about that time under the administration of president John Adams.

But little is known of Mr. Jones. He was one of a family of early settlers here and was a brother of deacon Solomon Jones, who lived near the old Tinkham plaster mill on the west side of the Owego creek, north of this village. It is probable that Mr. Jones kept the post office in his dwelling house. The country was at this time generally unsettled, the population was widely scattered, and this was the only post office anywhere in these parts.

In 1801 Thomas Jefferson was elected president, and the Federalists, after having controlled the government twelve years, passed from power, never to be restored. The accession of a Democratic administration was followed by a decapitation of Federal

postmasters. Mr. Jones was succeeded as postmaster of Owego by Eleazer Dana, who was appointed April 28, 1802, and he held the office fourteen years. His residence was on the north side of Front street on the ground now occupied by Lewis H. Leonard's house and the post office was kept in a small building on the opposite side of the street on the bank of the river, which Mr. Dana also occupied as his law office. At this time about all of the few houses at Owego were on the road now known as Front street.

Mr. Dana was succeeded as postmaster by Stephen B. Leonard, who was appointed May 11, 1816. Mr. Leonard was the editor and publisher of the Owego Gazette. He removed the post office into his printing office, which then occupied the second story of John Hollenback's store on the north side of Front street. It was the second building west of Paige street and is now owned and occupied by A. C. Burt, having been reconstructed into a dwelling house many years ago. The entrance to the post office was by a flight of stairs on the north side of the building. Mr. Leonard held the office only one term of four years, but many years later he was reappointed.

Dr. Jedediah Fay was first appointed postmaster May 15, 1820, by postmaster-general R. Meigs, and he held the office continuously for twenty-two years. Judge Stephen Mack was for some time his deputy. Dr. Fay's second commission was issued by president Martin Van Buren Feb. 8, 1838. At the time of his appointment Dr. Fay lived in a little red house, which stood close to the sidewalk at the southeast corner of Front and

Church streets. There was no street then where Church street is now. After a time Dr. Fay took charge of judge John R. Drake's mercantile business and removed the post office from his little red house into judge Drake's store, which stood into judge Drake's store, which stood on the south side of Front street, opposite Lake street. Later he removed the office into a wooden building one and one-half stories high, which stood two doors east of the Drake store and in which he had opened a drug store. When Dr. Fay built his brick store in 1835 on the north side of the street where Ahwaga hall now stands the post office was removed thereto, and there it remained until 1841.

The election in 1840 of Gen. Harrison to the presidency and the accession of the Whig party to power was followed by a change in postmasters and Col. Daniel Ely was appointed to succeed Dr. Fay. His appointment was dated Feb. 4, 1842. Col. Ely removed the post office into his store, which was on the south side of Front street opposite where the First national bank now stands. This store was on the ground on which H. N. Hubbard afterward built the brick store, which still stands there and which was until recently occupied by E. E. Strait & Co. as a book store.

In November, 1844, James K. Polk was elected president by the Democrats, and his election was followed by another general decapitation of postmasters. On the 20th of that month Stephen B. Leonard was again appointed postmaster. Mr. Leonard removed the office into Isaac Lillie's vacant store, which stood at the north-

east corner of Front and Lake streets, where W. B. Partridge's drug store now stands.

Another change in the national administration took place in 1848, when Gen. Zachariah Taylor was elected to the presidency by the Whigs and Mr. Leonard lost his official head. His successor was Charles R. Barstow, who was appointed postmaster April 18, 1849. The office was still kept in Mr. Lillie's building until it was burned in the great fire of September in that year. Then Mr. Barstow removed the office temporarily to his residence, which is still standing on the east side of Paige street, the second house north of East Temple street. He soon built a small two-story wooden building on the southeast corner of the lot now owned by Dr. A. D. Gould on the north side of Main street, opposite the Owego hotel. The lot was owned by Dr. H. N. Eastman. The second story of the building was occupied by Wm. Fields as a harness shop. The office was kept in that building until December 15, 1851, when it was removed to one of the stores in the Ahwaga house block in Front street. The old post office building was removed in December, 1853, from Dr. Eastman's lot to Liberty street and converted into a dwelling house.

Charles R. Barstow was a prominent resident of Owego. He was a son of Dr. Samuel Barstow, of Great Barrington, Mass., and was born in March, 1804. When about twelve years of age he came to the town of Nichols to live with his uncle, Dr. Gamaliel H. Barstow, who had settled there four years previous. When a

young man he engaged in the general mercantile business at Nichols. He was commissioner of the United States deposit fund from 1840 to 1842. In 1843 he was elected sheriff of Tioga county and removed to Owego. In 1846, at the expiration of his term of office, he was elected to the assembly. His term as postmaster expired in 1853. He was then appointed general wood agent of the New York and Erie railroad, and held that position until March, 1854, when he was appointed paymaster of the western division of the road. In April, 1865, he was appointed port warden of New York city and held the position until August, 1868, when he resigned. He died at Big Rapids, Mich., Dec. 10, 1880. Mr. Barstow's eldest daughter was the wife of senator Thomas C. Platt.

Hiram A. Beebe succeeded Mr. Barstow as postmaster upon the election of Franklin Pierce to the presidency in 1852, which restored the Democrats to power. There was considerable strife in Owego over the appointment and the several candidates consented to the holding of a special election to decide the matter. The election was held accordingly at the old Tioga house in North avenue, by direction of the Democratic district committee. All persons who received and sent letters through the post office and who had voted the Democratic ticket at the last election previous were allowed to vote. John J. Taylor, member of congress-elect, was chairman and the polls were kept open from 3 to 4:30 and 7 to 8 p. m. Mr. Beebe received 217 of the 267 votes cast, and his two competitors 27 and 23, respec-

tively. Mr. Beebe was accordingly appointed postmaster May 4, 1853. On the 16th of the same month he removed the post office into one of the stores in T. P. Patch's brick block on the west side of Lake street, which ground is now covered by the L. N. Chamberlain brick block. The office was at the back part of the room and the rest was occupied as a news office by A. R. & C. C. Thomas. Mr. Beebe held the office by reappointment through the administrations of presidents Pierce and Buchanan and during a portion of the Lincoln administration—a period of nine years.

Mr. Beebe was born in the town of Bridgewater, near Montrose, Pa., March 11, 1817. He learned the printers' trade at which he worked as a journeyman until 1838, when he became editor of the Bradford Democrat at Towanda, Pa. In January, 1843, he came to Owego and was editor of the Gazette thirty-seven years. He was president of the village of Owego in 1852, 1861, and 1871, and in 1874 and 1875 he had charge of the state department of public records at Albany. He died at Owego March 31, 1897.

Charles Stebbins succeeded Mr. Beebe as postmaster June 30, 1864, and in March 1864, he was reappointed. He removed the office to the east side of Lake street into the wooden building now occupied by the Owego national bank. Mr. Stebbins resigned the office in 1871. Mr. Stebbins was born in October, 1820, at Watertown, N. Y., and came to Owego in 1839. He died here Dec. 11, 1882.

Frank L. Jones was appointed to succeed Mr. Stebbins as postmaster Feb. 17, 1871, and held the office two

terms of four years each. He was born at Lisle, N. Y., Oct. 20, 1822. He came to Owego in 1837 and was a clerk in Allen & Storrs's store. He was engaged in the mercantile and insurance business many years. He was elected sheriff of Potter county, Pa., in 1852, and was appointed sheriff of Tioga county to fill a vacancy in 1868. In 1869 he was president of Owego village. In July, 1880, he was appointed agent and warden of Auburn state prison. He died at Coudersport, Pa., Nov. 8, 1882.

Daniel M. Pitcher succeeded Mr. Jones as postmaster in March, 1879, and he also held the office two terms of four years each. During his first term of office, in October, 1870, the post office was removed into Jones & Stebbins's brick building on the east side of Lake street, where it still remains.

Mr. Pitcher was born at Norwich, Conn., in 1822, and lived at Owego much of his life, dying here Feb. 4, 1904. He was engaged many years in buying and shipping wool. He held the office of village supervisor three years and was one of the commissioners who built the Tioga county court house in the village park. He was president of the Owego national bank from January, 1888, until the year of his death.

Grover Cleveland was elected president in 1884 by the Democratic party and he allowed Mr. Pitcher to serve the rest of his term as postmaster, which did not expire until 1887. When Benjamin Harrison (Republican) was elected president in 1888 he was not quite as considerate, and he removed Mr. Cable in the middle of his term

and appointed William Smyth in his place on Sept. 16, 1889.

When Grover Cleveland was re-elected president in 1892, he appointed Jonas Shays post master June 28, 1893. The nomination was not confirmed by the senate and Cleveland appointed William J. Atchison, Mr. Shay's brother-in-law, to the office on August 30, 1894. In 1896 William McKinley was elected president and Wm. A. Smyth, editor of the Owego Times was appointed May 12, 1897, to succeed Mr. Atchison and he still holds the office by repappointment in 1901, 1905, and 1909.

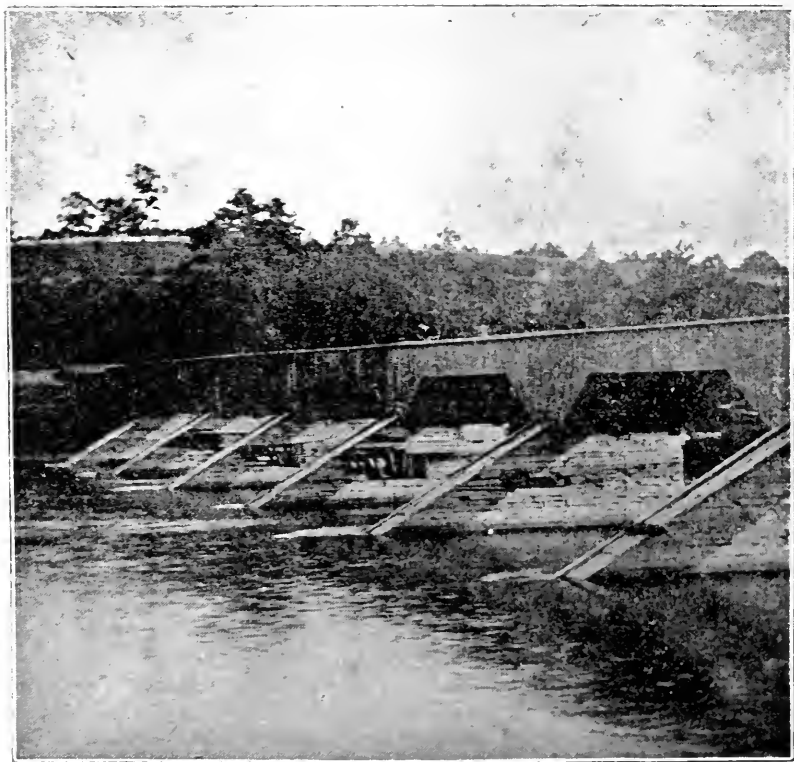
William Smyth was born June 19, 1819, in county Derry, Ireland. He was principal of the Owego academy from 1848 to 1854, and editor of the Owego Times from 1854 until his death on Sept. 27, 1898. He was a village trustee in 1863 and 1864 and was president of the village in 1865, 1866, 1867, and 1881. He was chief engineer of the Owego fire department in 1862, 1863, and 1864. In 1872 he represented Tioga county in the assembly. The next year he was appointed deputy superintendent of the insurance department of this state and on the death of Orlow W. Chapman in 1876, he became acting superintendent and held the office until 1877.

**Some Account of the Old Susquehanna River Bridge, Which Was Built in 1828 and Swept away by a Big Flood Forty Years Afterward, Its Place Being Supplied with a Trestle Bridge, Which in Turn Gave Place to the Present Iron Bridge.**

The first bridge across the Susquehanna river was built in 1807, at Sidney, Delaware county, N. Y., by Phineas Bennett, John Avery, and Capt. Hugh Johnston.

The first bridge built across the Susquehanna river in Owego was finished and opened to public travel in 1828. It was built by a stock company twelve years after the company's incorporation.

The act incorporating the company passed the legislature and became a law April 17, 1816. By this act Eleazer Dana, James Pumpelly, Gen. John Laning, Horatio Ross, John R. Drake, Charles Pumpelly, John H. Avery, Nathan Camp, and William Camp were created a body corporate under the name of "The President and Directors of the Owego Bridge Company" for a term of thirty years. Gen. Ansel Goodrich, James Pumpelly, and John R. Drake were appointed commissioners, to fix upon the spot where the bridge should be built at a compensation of \$4 a day each while at work. The act prescribed that the bridge should be at least twenty-five feet wide, covered with plank two and one-half inches thick, and that the opening between the piers should be in width not less than ninety feet, for the passage of rafts and boats. It was also prescribed that during the existence of such bridge no other bridge



The First Bridge Built Across the Susquehanna River at Owego in 1828.

should be built nor any ferry established across the river within three miles. The act also fixed the rates of toll. The act provided that if the bridge should not be built and completed on or before Nov. 1, 1821, then the corporation created by the act should be dissolved.

No bridge was built, on account of difficulty in obtaining subscriptions to the stock. Six years afterward, on April 12, 1822, another act was passed by the legislature reviewing and continuing in force the act of 1816 for three years, to allow the company time to complete the bridge. April 20, 1825, another act was passed, extending the time three years more and appointing James Pumpelly, John R. Drake, and Charles Talcott commissioners, in place of the three appointed by the act of 1816.

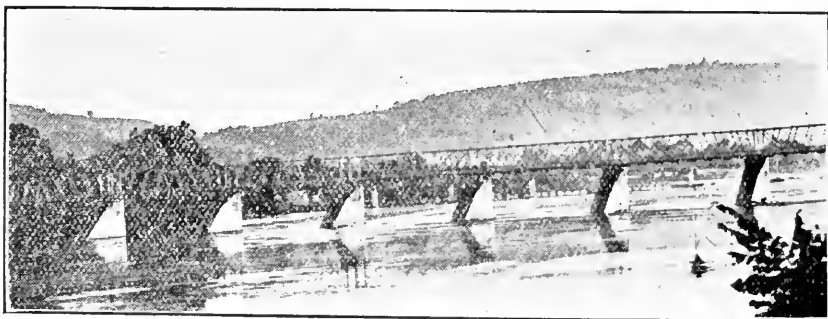
December 19, 1828, Samuel S. and David P. Tinkham, for a consideration of \$100 sold the land occupied by the north abutment and approach to the bridge to the bridge company. The same day James Pumpelly sold for a consideration of \$1 the land on the south side of the river for the abutment and approach to the bridge.

The first stock for the construction of the bridge was issued May 7, 1828. The engineer who planned the bridge and had charge of its construction was Ephraim Leach. The builder was Abner Beers, who built the Owego academy in 1827.

Some account has already been given in these articles of Mr. Leach and Mr. Beers. Mr. Beers was a carpenter and lived on the lot now owned by Mrs. E. J. Pride on the south side



The South Abutment of the Bridge as it was left after the rest of the bridge had been swept away in the great flood of March, 1867, with Samuel Archibald's Tannery on the bank below.



The Trestle Bridge Built by Wheeler H. Bristol in 1868.

of Front street, west of Academy street. The model of the bridge was constructed in Mr. Beers's house. It was made of pieces of wood one inch square. A portion of the timbers for the bridge was framed in the village park and the rest on the south side of the river. All the pins for holding the timbers together were made in Gen. John Laning's storehouse, which stood a little east of the bridge and which was used by the carpenters as a tool house.

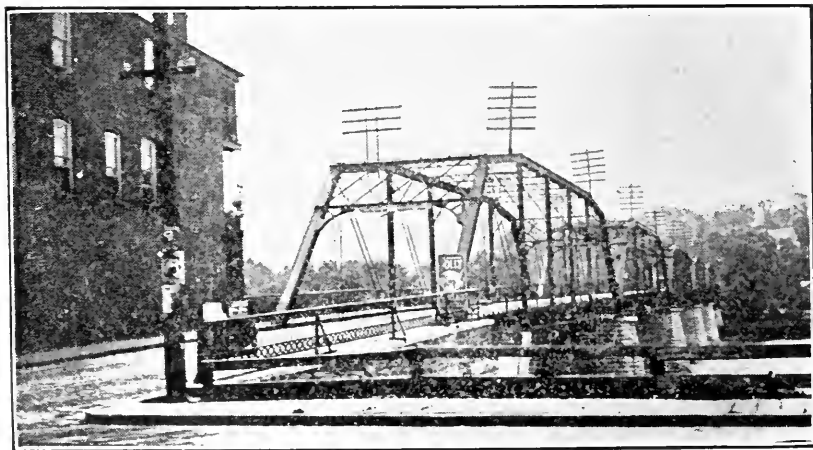
When the bridge was being built it was generally believed that the wooden piers would not be strong enough to resist the ice, but they lasted, with occasional repairs, for 64 years, and until the present iron bridge was built in 1893.

In the night of Feb. 8, 1842, there was a great flood in the river, caused by rain and melting snow. The water was several feet higher than it had been before in thirty years. Buildings, mill dams, lumber, hay, hogs, and cattle were swept away. Nearly all the railroad bridges in the country were carried off. In Canawana people were removed from their homes on rafts and boats, and one family was taken out of their house through the roof. A saw mill struck the bridge in the night. The mill was broken in pieces and the pieces were deposited on the bridge, but the bridge was so solid and strong that it was not carried away.

In the night of Oct. 5, 1867, a fire broke out in Bullock's brewery, below the bridge and burned much property on both sides of Front street, above and below the park. One span of the bridge was burned. It was imme-



The North End of the Trestle Bridge built by Wheeler H. Bristol.



The Iron Bridge built in 1892 by the Owego Bridge Company.

diately afterward rebuilt, and the bridge was open to travel again in the following January.

On Sunday night, the 15th of the following March, there was another great flood in the river. The ice carried away three or four of the inner spans of the bridge. The following Tuesday morning at 6 o'clock the heavy ice above Hiawatha island came down in a solid sheet the entire width of the river and swept away the rest of the bridge. The loss was a total one.

The bridge company at once contracted with Wheeler H. Bristol, of Owego, who had built many railroad bridges, to build a trestle bridge in place of the old one at a cost of \$54,550. It was 920 feet long, with nine spans, and the roadbed was 32 feet above low water mark. It was completed and opened to the public Nov. 1, 1868.

The bridge had always been a toll bridge. In 1861, the question of the purchase of the bridge by the village and opening it free to the public was agitated. Toll bridges had been made free throught the country and the payment of bridge toll by the people living south of Owego who came here to trade was a tax that was detrimental to the village.

The original charter provided that after a term of thirty years from the date of the completion of the bridge, the bridge and its approaches should become the property of the people of the state. When the charter was renewed, in 1825, this clause was repealed, and it was provided that after the expiration of forty years from the time of the completion of the bridge

it should become the property of the state.

An action was brought in the supreme court in 1860 to take the bridge from its owners and make it a free bridge, on the ground that the charter had expired. The case was argued in February, 1861, at the Chemung county special term by Benj. F. Tracy for the people and George Sidney Camp for the bridge company. The case was decided in favor of the company.

In May, 1881, a bill was passed by the legislature, authorizing a public meeting of the taxpayers of the village of Owego, to decide whether the bridge should be purchased by the village and maintained as a free bridge or not, the bridge company having agreed to sell the bridge for \$25,000. The election was held July 18 at Wilson hall, where 318 votes were cast for the proposition and 68 against it. The bill authorized the bonding of the village for \$10,000, after \$15,000 should be raised by voluntary subscription. The money was raised and the bridge was purchased in the following December.

In the summer of 1891, the board of supervisors of Tioga county authorized the bonding of the town of Owego for \$60,000 for the construction of an iron bridge, in place of the wooden one, which had been condemned as unsafe for travel. The bridge, with its spans elevated above the railroad tracks at the south end, was built the next year at a total cost of about \$100,000. Of this amount the D., L. W. R. R. Co. paid \$13,000. The stone work of the bridge was built by Ford & Bauer on a contract for \$22,897. The iron work

was built by the Owego bridge company. The bridge was completed and opened to the public in the fall of 1893.

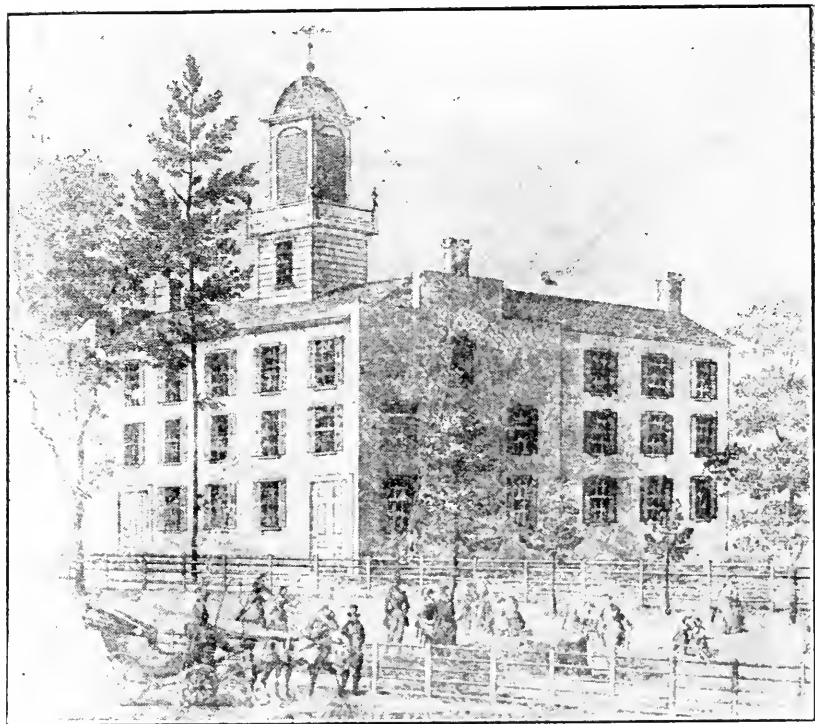
**A History of the Old Owego Academy, Which Was Built in 1827 from the Proceeds of the Sale of the Gospel and Literature Tracts of Land by Amos Martin—It Has Had Twenty-one Different Principals, One of Whom Was an Accomplished Native of Russian Poland, Who Could Write and Speak Twenty-five Different Languages.**

The old Owego academy, which is still standing in Court street, was built in 1827 with money obtained from the sale of lands given by the state for the support of schools. It was incorporated April 16, 1828, by James Pumpelly, Eleazer Dana, Gen. Anson Camp, and others, who had subscribed largely for the building, and when the subscription lacked \$800 to complete it, Mr. Pumpelly advanced the money.

By an act of the legislature of the state of New York, passed in 1782, a lot of 400 acres was reserved in each township of the Military tract for the support of the gospel, and two lots of 200 acres for the support of schools. In each of four townships a lot of 640 acres was reserved for schools. One of these townships, then known as Hambden, comprised parts of the present towns of Owego, Vestal, and Nichols.\*

---

\*Hambden was, probably, the name given to the tract in a land patent by the patentee and used in the description of deeds. It is not known that it was ever regularly organized as a town. The east line of Hambden was a north and south line running from the south line of the Boston



The old Owego Academy in Court street in 1853, when Hon. William Smyth was Principal, Reproduced from a Wood Engraving.

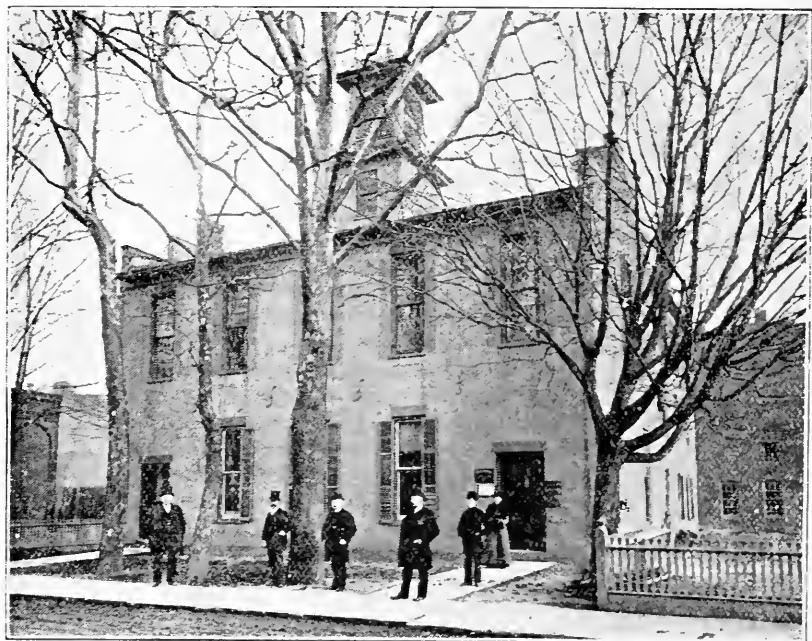
The literature and gospel lots in Hambden township, of which James Pumpelly was appointed the agent, were situated adjoining each other, about three miles southwest of Apalachin.

In 1817 the question of building an academy in Owego was first agitated. The lot on which the academy building was subsequently erected on the east side of Court street was a portion of the land which was given Feb. 28, 1797, to "the trustees of Owego settlement" by James McMaster for a public ground. This piece contained three acres, one rood, and twenty three rods of land, and comprised all the territory now occupied by Park street, the park, Court street, the jail and old county clerk's office premises, and the old academy property. The trustees were Capt. Mason Wattles, John McQuigg, and Capt. Luke Bates. Their successors in office were Eleazer Dana, John H. Avery, and Gen. Anson Camp. The last named trustees, October 29, 1822, deeded that portion of the land now occupied by the jail, sheriff's residence, and old clerk's office to Tioga county, pursuant to the provisions of an act of the legislature passed April 17, 1822.

At the annual town meeting of the town of Owego, held at the old school house, which stood on the south side of Main street, near Academy street, March 4, 1817, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

---

Purchase to the Pennsylvania line, a little east of the Nanticoke creek, and probably ran directly through what is now the village of Union. The north line was the south line of the Boston Purchase, from there to the mouth of the Owego creek, and thence to the Pennsylvania line. The Susquehanna river was its north boundary and the state line its south boundary.



The Owego Academy in Court Street, after It Was Changed from a Three Story to a Two Story Building, and as It Stands To-day.

"Whereas, The tract of land within this town known to us by the name of the gospel reservation, originally granted with other tracts by the state for gospel purposes, now lies waste and useless to the community; and

"Whereas, Said land might be so appropriated within this town as effectually to promote the great object for which it was originally granted; therefore, unanimously

"Resolved, That the supervisors and clerk of this town be hereby authorized and directed to petition the legislature of this state at their present session in behalf of said town for a special act to have the title of said land vested in the trustees of the Owego Congregational society and their successors in office, that the said land may be appropriated as originally designed."

April 12, 1826, an act was passed by the legislature, appointing James Pumpelly, William Camp, and John H. Avery commissioners, to take charge of the gospel and school lot, together with the supervisor of the town of Owego (William A. Ely), to sell and dispose of it and apply the proceeds to such school and literary purposes as should be directed by a vote of the inhabitants of the town.

December 19, in the same year, Gen. Anson Camp and eleven other freeholders signed a petition requesting the town clerk (Jared Huntington) to call a special town meeting, in pursuance of the act. The election was held on the 30th day of the same month at Philip Goodman's coffee house in Front street and it was decided by a unanimous vote to appropriate the yearly income of the annual interest arising from a sale of the gospel and school lots to the endowment of an academy, to be built in this village.

April 8, 1828, Messrs. Dana, Camp, and Avery, the commissioners of the "settlement," (Owego had been incorporated as a village April 4, 1827), deeded the old academy lot in Court street, for a consideration of one dollar, to the trustees of the Owego academy.

The academy was built by Col. Amos Martin, on a contract in 1827, and Abner Beers had charge of its construction.

It was three stories high, with a steeple, in which was a bell. The lower floor was for many years occupied as a school room for girls, the upper floor by the principal, who taught Latin and Greek, and the middle floor by the principal's assistant, who taught mathematics.

In the summer of 1851 a three-story addition to the rear of the academy was built, greatly increasing its capacity. Several years later the inside of the main building was torn out and it was changed from a three story building to a two story one.

James Pumpelly was president of the first board of trustees of the academy. The board was composed of Rev. Aaron Putnam, Col. Amos Martin, Dr. Joel S. Paige, Latham A. Burrows, Eleazer Dana, Gurdon Hewitt, Rev. Joseph Castle, Charles Pumpelly, Jonathan Platt, Anson Camp, and Stephen B. Leonard.

Rev. Edward Fairchild was the first principal of the academy, and his assistants were Hamilton VanDyke and Joseph Pattee. The school was opened in April, 1828, and the first examination was held at the close of the term, on September 30. The academic year was divided into two terms. The

summer term began on the third Wednesday in April, and continued two quarters, or twenty-four weeks. The winter term began on the third Wednesday in October and continued twenty-four weeks. Each term embraced two quarters of twelve weeks each, leaving two vacations in the year of two weeks each. The tuition was \$2, \$3, and \$4 per quarter, according to the studies pursued. There were 60 male and 61 female pupils the first term. In 1850, the year previous to the building of the three story addition to the building, the number had increased to 153 male pupils and 107 female.

The only pupils of the academy at its opening term now living are Hermon C. Leonard, of Portland, Oregon, and J. H. Martin, of Tioga Centre, who is a son of Amos Martin, the builder of the academy and one of its first board of trustees.

The second principal was Joseph M. Ely, a graduate of Yale college, who before coming to Owego was a teacher in the New York high school. He began his duties at the spring term in 1830. In the following spring (1831) it was announced that the condition and prospects of the academy were so flattering that the trustees would add a juvenile department to the two departments already existing. The other teachers were Russell E. Dewey, Miss Katherine H. Whitney, and Miss Mary A. Whitney.

In the spring of 1835, A. Clarke was principal, but he remained only a year and was succeeded at the fall term in 1836 by R. M. Stansbury, who had just graduated at Princeton college.

The teachers at the commencement

of the fall term in 1837, were Joel T. Headley, Isaac B. Headley, and Miss Irene Headley. In the following year Isaac B. Headley was principal and Miss Jennett M. Hall head teacher in the female department.

In the spring of 1839 the number of pupils had increased to 187. Mr. Headley was still principal. Charles R. Coburn\* entered the school as master of the common school teachers' department.

The principals of the academy from its foundation to the present time are as follows:

1. Rev. Edward Fairchild, 1828-1830.
2. Joseph M. Ely, 1830-1835.
3. A. Clarke, 1835-1837.
4. R. M. Stansbury, 1836-1837.
5. Isaac B. Headley, 1837-1844.
6. Joseph M. Ely, 1844.
7. J. N. Jerome, 1844-1847.
8. Theo. F. Hay, 1847-1849.
9. Wm. Smyth, 1849-1854.
10. James M. Burt, 1854-1856.
11. A. B. Wiggins, 1856-1860.
12. Leopold J. Boeck, 1860-1863.
13. Joseph A. Prindle, 1863-1869.
14. Jonathan Tenney, 1869-1871.
15. T. L. Griswold, 1871-1873.
16. A. J. Robb, 1873-1879.
17. A. M. Drummond, 1879-1881.
18. Henry A. Baleani, 1881-1884.
19. Philo P. Edick, 1884-1886.
20. Ezra J. Peck, 1886-1900.
21. Herbert L. Russell, 1900-.

Mr. Fairchild, the first principal was advanced in years, and, as de-

---

\*Charles R. Coburn was illiterate and could not spell many of the commonest words correctly, but he was a thorough mathematician. He was very round shouldered, with stern features, and usually had his hair so closely cropped that it stood erect all over his head, giving him such a forbidding appearance that he held his younger pupils in awe. He had been raised on a farm, and became so hump-backed that he could not hold his head erect, caused by carrying heavy pails of water with a neckyoke when young. He left Owego in 1853 and was professor of mathematics in the Collegiate institute at Towanda, Pa., and afterward superintendent of schools of Bradford county until the spring of 1863, when Gov. Curtin appointed him superintendent of the common schools of the state of Pennsylvania for three years. He died March 6, 1868, in Nichols, where, owing to failing health he had purchased a homestead, within a few miles of his birth-place, and settled there to spend the rest of his days.

scribed by one of his pupils, was a "blue Presbyterian."

Joseph M. Ely, the second principal, went from Owego to New York city, where he was for several years engaged in the wholesale grocery business. About the year 1857 he came to Waverly, where he was station agent of the New York and Erie railroad. Thence he went to Athens, Pa., where he was principal of the academy and where he died Jan. 1, 1872. He married Miss Juliette M. Camp, daughter of William Camp, of Owego, while living in this village.

Isaac B. Headley, the fifth principal, married Miss Susan C. Platt, daughter of William Platt, of Owego. He died Jan. 20, 1854, in the Island of St. Thomas, where he was living for the benefit of his health, aged 44 years, and his body lies in Evergreen cemetery. His brother, Rev. Joel T. Headley, became famous as a historian. He was born at Walton, N. Y., and was 24 years old when he came to Owego. After leaving this village he entered Union college, from which he was graduated in 1839. He studied theology in Auburn theological seminary, and afterward was pastor of the Presbyterian church at Stockbridge, Mass. He was elected secretary of state on the "Know-Nothing" state ticket in 1855. He wrote "Napoleon and His Marshals," "Washington and His Generals," "History of the War of 1812," and many other works. He died at Newburgh, N. Y., Jan. 16, 1897.

J. Newton Jerome came from Pompey Hill, Onondaga county. His wife was Miss Lesbia Platt Avery, a daughter of John H. Avery, of Owego.

Theodore F. Hay was a son of Rev. Philip C. Hay, who was pastor of the Presbyterian church of Owego. After his graduation from Hobart college he became principal of the academy in the spring of 1847.

William Smyth resigned as principal in 1854 and became editor of the Owego Times, of which he was editor until his death. He was a graduate of the Royal academic institute of Belfast, Ireland, and for many years one of the prominent citizens of Owego. He died Sept. 27, 1898.

James M. Burt came from Cortland in the fall of 1854 and was principal two years. He died in Owego in 1870.

Before coming to Owego A. B. Wiggin had been a teacher in New England schools.

Leopold J. Boeck was a Russian Pole, educated in the universities of Breslau and Berlin, in Prussia. His sympathies were early enlisted in the Hungarian cause and he became Louis Kossuth's confidential secretary. While a member of Gen. Bem's staff he was sent by Kossuth as diplomatic agent of Hungary to ask the intervention of Turkey. The Hungarians were forced to surrender to Roumania, and Boeck and the other leaders were made prisoners of war. After his discharge from prison he came to America. He came to Owego in the fall of 1860 and became principal of the academy. He left Owego in the summer of 1863. Afterward he was professor of applied mathematics and civil engineering in the University of Virginia at Charlottesville. He is said to have been able to write and speak twenty-five different languages.

He died in Philadelphia, Pa., May 18, 1896, aged 77 years.

Joseph Addison Prindle was a graduate of Union college. From the spring of 1854 until the fall of 1863 he was principal of the "Owego Home School," a boarding school for boys, established by Revs. Corbin Kidder and S. C. Wilcox, two miles east of Owego. He went from Owego in September, 1869, to Oswego, where he was for two years principal of the state normal school. He died at Apalachin Feb. 24, 1905, aged 76 years.

Jonathan Tenney was a native of Vermont, and a graduate of Dartmouth college in 1843. He came to Owego in October, 1869. He resigned in July, 1871. He removed in August, 1874, to Albany, having been appointed deputy state superintendent of public instruction. He died in that city Feb. 24, 1888, aged 70 years.

Theophilus L. Griswold was a graduate of Amherst college. He resigned his position of principal in July, 1873, to become the head of the state normal school at Bloomsburg, Pa. In 1877, owing to nervous prostration, he resigned and went to Sherburne Falls, Mass., where he committed suicide March 5, 1884. He was 54 years of age.

Prof. A. J. Robb came to Owego in the fall of 1873 from Waterford, Saratoga county, where he had been principal of the academy. He was principal of the union school at Spencer, after leaving Owego, and in 1879 was appointed superintendent and principal of the city schools at Cohoes, N. Y.

A. M. Drummond left Owego in the summer of 1881, having been ap-

pointed superintendent of the public schools of Port Chester, N. Y.

Henry A. Balcam, who had been for eight years superintendent of the schools at Corning, came to Owego in August, 1881. It was owing chiefly to his energy that the project of building the new academy was pushed to completion in 1883. In Sept., 1884, he became principal of the academy at New Paltz, N. Y. He died at Salamanca, N. Y., Oct. 11, 1891, aged 55 years.

Philo P. Edick was born at Oswegatchie, N. Y., and graduated from Rochester university in 1873. He came to Owego in July, 1884, from Chittenango, N. Y., where he had been principal of the Yates school. He went from Owego to Rochester, N. Y., where he was principal of ward school No. 5 until March, 1900. He died Sept. 5, 1907, at Mystic, Conn., where he was principal of the Mystic academy. He was 56 years of age.

Dr. Ezra J. Peck was a graduate of Williams college. Previous to coming to Owego he was for five years principal of the academy at Phelps, N. Y., and subsequently for 11 years principal of Homer academy. He resigned his position as principal of the Owego academy in December, 1900, having been appointed by the state board of regents as an inspector of high schools and academies, and Herbert L. Russell, who had been assistant principal, was appointed principal in his place.

In 1864 the Owego academy was merged into the union free schools of Owego by an act of the legislature, passed April 23, 1864.

In 1883 the new academy building was built at the corner of Main and

Academy streets at a cost of \$25,000. The old academy building, which is still standing, and the lot on which it stands were sold to judge Chas. A. Clark for \$2,600.

---

**A History of the Presbyterian Church,  
the First Church Organized at Owego,  
with Some Account of the Early  
Preachers and Places of Worship  
from the Year 1798 to the Present  
Day.**

The early history of the First Presbyterian church of Owego is somewhat obscure. It is known that the general assembly of the Presbyterian church at its annual meeting in 1790 devoted much of its attention to the subject of church extension, with the result that Revs. Nathan Kerr and Joshua Hart were sent as missionaries into southwestern New York, and Mr. Kerr came to Owego that year.

The country here at that time was a dense wilderness, the first white settler having settled here only six years previous. The early missionaries rode from place to place on horseback over the Indian trails and through the woods. They were the subjects of the hospitality of the church people as they went from place to place.

Rev. Seth Williston was the first minister who came to these wilds. He came as early as 1798, preaching and organizing churches. Once a year he held service in a barn built by Col. David Pixley, which stood on the north side of Main street, a little west of McMaster street. The floor of this

barn was made clean and a table and chair were provided for the preacher, while the congregation found seats as they could. The boys climbed upon the hay loft and sat upon the great beam which was around the barn, and they made an ornamental fringe with their bare legs, which swung and dangled overhead through the time of the service.

Mr. Williston was born at Suffield, Conn., in 1770. He was graduated from Dartmouth college in 1791, was licensed to preach Oct. 7, 1794, and was sent out as a missionary by the missionary society of the state of Connecticut in 1798. Several books containing his sermons were published at various times from 1799 to 1848. He died in 1851.

It is probable that meetings were held at the houses of the early settlers at first and until a log school house was built about the year 1792 on the east side of Court street, opposite where the court house now stands. Religious meetings were held at this school house several years and until a two-story frame building was erected about the year 1800 on the south side of Main street, a little west of White's blacksmith shop, which stood where the rectory of St. Paul's church now stands. This building was about thirty by twenty feet in size. The second story was used by the masonic fraternity as a lodge room and the first floor as a school room. The lower floor was divided into two parts by a partition. This partition was so arranged that it could be drawn up by a rope to the ceiling, thus making one large gathering place for Sunday

meetings. Here church services were held until the first session house was built several years later in Court street, near where the log school house stood. It stood on the north end of the Laning lot and south of and adjoining the lot on which the Tioga county clerk's office now stands.

This session house was built by Richard E. Cushman, and it was used for prayer meetings even after the Presbyterian church was built in 1819 at the corner of North avenue and Temple street, because the church was at that time considered to be "too far out of town" and people did not care to walk that distance.

There were three different session houses. The first one in Court street was on ground given for that purpose by Mrs. John Laning. This building was about 20 by 30 feet in size. It was removed to near where the Erie railway freight house now stands and was occupied as a church by the Bethel African M. E. society, for several years and until it was moved to the north side of Fox street opposite the present A. M. E. church, where it was converted into a dwelling house and where it still stands.

The second session house was built by Capt. Sylvanus Fox where the present session house now stands between the Presbyterian church and Temple street. This was also given to the A. M. E. society when the present session house was built. It was removed to the south side of Fox street, where it is still occupied by the colored people as their church.

The present session house was built in 1857. It was enlarged in August, 1878, by the addition of a wing to the south side, near the rear of the building, to be used as a parlor. The main building was also extended back several feet, to enlarge the library and class rooms. In the summer of 1901 the building was again enlarged by building a wing on the north side 30 by 14 feet for a kitchen. At the same time a new roof was placed on the church and a new steel ceiling inside. A cellar was also excavated under the entire church. There had previously been two small cellars, in which were the furnaces. The improvements to the church and the session house cost about \$3,000.

Rev. William Clark, of whom little is known, came here in 1803 and preached to the people. It is not known how long he remained here, but it is known that after his departure Mr. Williston remained here as the settled pastor of the church.

In the year 1803, according to a writer in the Gazette forty years ago, there were but few frame houses in town. One of these was the James McMaster house on the south side of Front street, east of and near Academy street. Another was a large building which was intended for a jail and stood near the northeast corner of Front and Court streets, and which was later converted into a tavern. A third was the Bates tavern at the northwest corner of Front and Church streets, and far and far up the river, as it seemed, for the thick woods that darkened the way, was the dwelling house of John Hollenback. There

were several log cabins in different directions. One of the better class of these stood where the drug store of Otis S. Beach now stands at the north-east corner of Main street and North avenue. Between that point and the Huntington creek there was a dense wilderness, with the tall pines scarcely a yard apart. There were no Indians here then, but the wolves, their companions, barked and howled on the hills at night and the deer, when pursued by huntsmen, came bounding through the valley to the river, across which they would often swim. One deer with tall, branching horns, which was closely pursued, ran through Mrs. Collier's school room, taking with it the window (sash, glass and all), much to the terror and astonishment of the children.

At a meeting of the Presbytery of New Jersey, held in April, 1810, at Trenton, a letter was received from some residents of Owego, requesting the Presbytery to send a missionary to this village to labor among them a part of the coming summer. The committee to whom the application was referred reported that Owego "is a growing village, containing about 200 houses. The neighboring country on the banks of the river is well settled and contains many respectable inhabitants, emigrants from different parts of the union." The committee forwarded to the general assembly's committee on missions the opinion that the Presbytery ought to comply with the wishes of the people of Owego. Rev. Daniel Loring was sent here accordingly.

As Mr. Loring had never been ordained it was decided to make his ordination an important public event.

The services were to have taken place August 7, 1810, on a large platform which had been erected for the purpose at the south end of the village park, surrounded by temporary benches made of rough boards, with capacity to seat two hundred people. The members of the choir of singers were dressed in uniform, the ladies in white, with wreaths of green. Invitations had been sent to the towns in the vicinity, and a large crowd had gathered. As the services were about to begin a terrific thunder shower swept over the village, driving everybody from the park to places of shelter. The church people went to the Main street school house.

The storm was regarded as an omen by the superstitious. The pastor and people would not be happy in each other, they said, and this singularly proved true. Mr. Loring preached here five years and was then silenced from preaching and, as a local writer said, "became a wicked man." Several clergymen succeeded him, among them an Episcopalian, who was willing to preach for Presbyterians, but he, too, proved unworthy of his charge.

The ordination of Mr. Loring took place at the school house directly after the storm. At the same time the "Owego Congregational Society" was organized and trustees were elected as follows: Solomon Jones, Caleb Leach, Abraham Hoagland, William Camp, James Pumpelly, and Eleazer Dana. Three days afterward the trustees made a written contract with Mr. Loring "to preach for themselves and their successors in office for one-half the time for the term of one year."

In 1817 Rev. Hezekiah May became pastor of the church. July 24 of that year the church was regularly organized as the "Owego Congregational Church" with eleven members, as follows: Solomon Jones, Nathan Camp, William Jones, Lorenzo Reeves, Dolly Talcott, Marjery Jones, Ruth Goodrich, Sarah Goodrich, Clarissa Jones, Sally Penfield, and Mary Perry. The organization was effected by Mr. May, assisted by Revs. William Wisner, of Ithaca, and Jeremiah Osborn, of Berkshire. Two years after this the first church at the North avenue and Temple street corner was built. Mr. May was pastor of the church less than a year. He was succeeded in the spring of 1818 by Rev. Horatio Lombard. Mr. May died in 1843, aged 69 years.

Although Mr. Lombard came here in the spring of 1818, he was not regularly ordained and installed as pastor of the church until Oct. 28. He preached here nine years. Mr. Lombard was a nephew of deacon Solomon Jones and came here from one of the eastern states. Mr. Jones was a farmer and lived near the old Tinkham plaster mill in the town of Tioga. He was looked upon as the congregational leader and in the absence of the pastor he was accustomed to read two sermons on Sunday. Mr. Lombard lived near the Tinkham mill at the time of his death, when he was nearly eighty years old.

The movement to build a church began during Mr. May's ministry. Oct. 10, 1817, the society purchased of Charles Pumpelly for \$100 an acre and twelve perches of land at the north-east corner of Temple street and

North avenue, on which the first church was built in 1819. The builder's name was McGeorge. It was 44 feet wide and 53 feet deep with large pillars in front. The building was painted white. The pulpit was a lofty one, between the entrance doors at the west end.

In 1831 the church was enlarged by building an addition of twenty feet in length at the east end. Mr. Lombard organized the first Sunday school in 1819. The teachers were Mrs. Jared Huntington, Jacob Miller McCormick, and Chas. B. Pixley. The first bell in Owego was placed in the steeple of this church in 1826.

The Presbyterian church came near being burned in February, 1842, while it was being cleaned. John Freeman, the sexton, went to Ebenezer Allen's house, which adjoined the church property on the north, to obtain a shovel full of live coals, with which to build a fire in the church. There was a high wind blowing at the time, and as he came upon the steps some coals were blown from the shovel and fell on the stoop setting it on fire. The flames had extended up into the steeple when the firemen came with their hand engine. H. W. Williams, who for many years lived as bridge tender at the south end of the old toll bridge across the river, climbed on the church with ladders lashed together and cut a hole through the roof into the steeple. A stream of water was thrown through the hole and the flames were finally extinguished, after a considerable portion of the roof had been burned. The steeple was so badly burned that it had to be rebuilt.

In 1850, during the pastorate of Rev. Philip C. Hay, the long talked of division of the Presbyterian society was consummated, the Congregational portion of the membership having taken letters preparatory to organizing a new society, with Rev. Samuel C. Wilcox, who had been pastor of the Presbyterian church from 1842 to 1846, as their pastor. The seceders organized the "Independent Congregational Society" at the Presbyterian session house Jan. 2, 1851, and built their first church in Park street in the same year. In October, 1852, the trustees of the Presbyterian society were directed to procure the passage of an act of the legislature changing the name of the "Owego Congregational Society" to the "First Presbyterian Society of the Village of Owego," and the change was so made by legislative enactment in June of the following year.

The growth of the First Presbyterian church was so rapid that in 1852 the question of building a new church edifice was agitated. The society had voted that year to expend \$2,000 in improving the church, but it was afterward decided to build an entirely new building of brick. No further action was taken until May, 1854, when a building committee composed of William F. Warner, Frederick E. Platt, and Thomas I. Chatfield was appointed to superintend its construction. The organ was removed from the church to the village hall, which hall was then above the four fire companies' room in Main street and occupied all of what is now the second and third floors of the fire department building. The entrance to this hall



The First Presbyterian Church, Built in 1854, and Chapel, Built in 1857.

was through double doors at the top of the first flight of stairs between that building and the store at the northwest corner of Main street and North avenue. In the village hall services were held until the old church was torn down and the new one erected in its place. The congregation worshipped in the old church May 7, 1854, for the last time and the next day the work of demolition was begun.

The architect of the new church was Gervase Wheeler, of New York city, and the builder was Chauncey Hungerford, a member of the congregation. The church was built on a contract, and as the cost of construction was greater than had been expected, Mr. Hungerford was a loser.

The corner stone of the new church was laid June 20, 1854, by Rev. Samuel H. Cox, of New York city, who the next year became pastor of the church. The building was duly completed and was dedicated May 2, 1855, Mr. Cox preaching the dedication sermon. The new church was built under the superintendence of William F. Warner and the grounds and terrace as they at present appear were planned and laid out by him. In February, 1857, a new bell was purchased and placed in the church tower. It weighed 2,098 pounds and was the largest bell in Owego.

The pastors of the Presbyterian church from its organization, in 1817, to the present time have been as follows:

Rev. Hezekiah May, July, 1817—spring of 1818.

Rev. Horatio Lombard, Oct. 28, 1818—Aug. 2, 1827.

Rev. Aaron Putnam, Dec. 6, 1827—  
Dec. 28, 1831.

Rev. Charles White, April 19, 1832—  
May 25, 1841.

Rev. Samuel C. Wilcox, May 24,  
1842—April 30, 1846.

Rev. Seth Williston, July, 1846—  
April 4, 1847.

Rev. Philip C. Hay, April 15, 1847—  
Oct. 7, 1855.

Rev. Samuel H. Cox, Oct. 10, 1855—  
Sept. 6, 1856.

Rev. Samuel H. Hall, Jan. 27, 1857  
—May 3, 1864.

Rev. Solon Cobb, Aug. 29, 1864—  
Sept. 7, 1869.

Rev. Samuel T. Clark, July 1, 1870—  
June 27, 1875.

Rev. L. A. Ostrander, Sept. 28, 1876  
—Nov., 1882.

Rev. William H. Gill, June 7, 1883—  
July 30, 1885.

Rev. Alexander Cameron MacKen-  
zie, January 30, 1886—April 29, 1897.

Rev. Geo. D. Young, Oct. 8, 1897—

Rev. Daniel Loring lived in a house  
on the north side of Main street where  
the Park hotel stands. This house  
was a part of the estate of Dr. Samuel  
Tinkham and was later occupied by  
his son, David P. Tinkham.

Rev. Hezekiah May during his brief  
pastorate lived at the DeForest tavern  
in east Front street, east of Paige  
street. Mr. Lombard lived in west  
Front street, west of Academy street,  
in the house which was afterward for  
many years owned and occupied by  
Thomas M. Nichols. Mr. Putnam  
lived and died in the same house. Mr.  
White also lived there.

The first manse was the house now  
owned and occupied by D. H. Blood-  
good on the west side of Park street.  
This property was a part of the es-  
tate of Dr. Tinkham, and after his  
death James Pumpelly built the house  
there. It was occupied by Dr. William  
Jones until the Presbyterian society

purchased it for \$2,500 on a contract. Rev. Philip C. Hay lived there all through his pastorate. It was sold Nov. 25, 1856, by Mr. Pumpelly's executors to Dr. L. H. Allen for \$1,850.

The society owned no manse after this sale until 1888, when the present one was built in Temple street.

During the pastorate of Dr. Hay, Rev. Samuel Hanson Cox came to Owego and in November, 1853, purchased the property in the town of Tioga which he named "Vesper Cliff," and lived there during his sojourn of three years here. The pastors who succeeded him lived in rented houses in various parts of the village.

The new manse on the north side of Temple street, nearly opposite Church street, was built in 1888 at a cost of about \$4,000.

The brick session house, or chapel, now standing on the church grounds in Temple street was built in the summer of 1859 by Chauncey Hungerford and A. H. Keeler. It is 58 by 32 feet in size. Mr. Hungerford, who received \$1,775 for building the chapel, together with the old session house, sold the session house for \$150 to the A. M. E. society and it was removed to Fox street, where it is still used by that society as its church.

Rev. Aaron Putnam's pastorate here closed with his death on Dec. 28, 1831. He was born in 1789 at Pomfret, Conn. His father whose name was also Aaron Putnam, preached fifty years in the New England Congregational church at Pomfret. In early life he was in business in Philadelphia with his father-in-law, Mr. Green, but gave up business to study for the ministry. His grandmother was the widow of

Mr. Avery, whose daughter was the wife of Gen. Israel Putnam of revolutionary fame and was an own cousin of his father, Rev. Aaron Putnam, of Pomfret. Mr. Putnam came to Owego from Philadelphia. William F. Warner, in his centennial history of Tioga county (1876) says of Mr. Putnam:

"The four years of this most excellent man's ministry at Owego were a time of delightful memories. It was at a period when there was a deep interest in religious matters throughout the country. The remarkable preaching of Rev. Asahel Nettleton, D. D., of Connecticut, and the publication by him of the collection of devotional hymns known as "The Village Hymns," in 1842 had awakened profound interest far and wide. But perhaps nowhere was the influence of the excellent Dr. Nettleton more felt, nor his manners and mode of conducting religious services more closely followed with similar results, than here under the ministry of Mr. Putnam. His style of preaching, like Dr. Nettleton's, was highly emotional, yet sobered by a moderation that prevented its reaching the point of excess. In the full tide of his ministry, his life was terminated, amid the grievous lamentation of the people, by whom he was universally loved."

Rev. Charles White was one of the ablest men that ever filled a pulpit at Owego. He was born at Randolph, Mass., Dec. 28, 1795, and was graduated from Dartmouth college in 1821 with the first honors of his class. He concluded his studies at Andover theological seminary in 1824. From Jan. 1, 1825, he was settled over a Congregational church at Thetford, Vt., as collegiate pastor with his step-father, Rev. Dr. Burton. Four years later he became pastor of the Presbyterian church at Cazenovia, N. Y., where he remained until called to Owego in the

spring of 1832. In 1841 he resigned his pastorate here and went to Crawfordsville, Ind., where on July 19, 1842, he became president of Wabash college, succeeding E. W. Baldwin, D. D., who had died on the 15th of the previous October, falling dead while writing a sermon in the evening.

Upon the removal of Mr. White from Owego, N. P. Willis wrote a poem entitled, "On the Departure of Rev. Mr. White from His Parish," the opening lines of which read as follows:

Leave us not, man of prayer! Like Paul, hast  
 thou  
 "Served God with all humility of mind,"  
 Dwelling among us, and "with many tears,"  
 "From house to house," by night and day not  
 ceasing,  
 Hast pleaded thy best errand. Leave us not!  
 Leave us not now!

Rev. Samuel Corlyus Wilcox was born Dec. 21, 1809, at Sandisfield, Mass., and was graduated in 1835 from Williams college. He afterward taught three years in the Lenox, Mass., academy and then entered Auburn theological seminary, from which he was graduated in 1840. He then supplied the Congregational church at Berkshire one year. In the spring of 1842 he became pastor of the Owego Presbyterian church, and preached here until April, 1846, when he resigned on account of lack of sympathy between himself and his elders on the subject of slavery and constitutional polity. In February, 1847, he went to Williamsburg, Mass., where he was for two years pastor of the Congregational church. In 1849 he returned to Owego at the solicitation of many members of his former congregation, who desired to form a new church and society. He became pastor of the Congregational church, which had

seceded from the Presbyterian society. He was a man of greater mental than physical strength, and was compelled on account of ill health to resign the pastorate on Sept. 11, 1853. In company with Rev. Corbin Kidder he established a school for boys, one and one-half miles east of this village, and lived there until his death six months later, on March 26, 1854.

Rev. Seth Williston returned to Owego and became pastor of the church in July, 1846. He was a man of remarkable energy and ability. At this time he was nearly eighty years of age, but retained his physical and mental vigor. He was held in high estimation as a scholar and profound theologian.

Rev. Philip Cortland Hay was a son of General Philip Hay, who was a member of Gen. Washington's staff during the revolutionary war and one of the founders of the society of the Cincinnati, a military association formed by officers of the revolutionary army. Before coming to Owego he had been for ten years pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Geneva, N. Y., where he began his ministry Feb. 3, 1836. He was dismissed April 9, 1846, and six days afterward became pastor of the church at Owego. Mr. Hay resigned his pastorate here in September, 1855, owing to ill health and removed to Orange, N. J., where he died Jan. 27, 1866. William F. Warner in his centennial history of Tioga county says of Dr. Hay:

"Eminently genial in social life, Dr. Hay was a man of great excellence of character, solid rather than brilliant, and sound and conservative in his views upon every subject. He was

held in high estimation by the clergy of the Presbyterian denomination, and was a safe and wise counsellor."

Samuel Hanson Cox was one of the most famous preachers of his time. He was born at Leesville, New Jersey, in 1793 of a Quaker family. He abandoned the study of law for the ministry and was ordained July 1, 1817. He became pastor of the Spring street Presbyterian church in New York city in 1820. On account of his activity in the anti-slavery movement his house and church were sacked by a mob July 10, 1834. The same year he was appointed professor of sacred rhetoric in Auburn theological seminary. From 1837 to 1854 he was pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Brooklyn, and most of this time was also professor of ecclesiastical history in Union theological seminary, New York. In June, 1853, his voice having failed, he came to Owego to visit his early college friend, Rev. Philip C. Hay. In November of the same year he purchased the "Vesper Cliff" property. In the following May he resigned the pastorate of the Brooklyn church and removed here for the benefit of his health. When Dr. Hay resigned the pastorate of the Owego church, in 1855, Mr. Cox succeeded him and was pastor of the church until April, 1866, when he resigned to take the presidency of the Female Collegiate Institute at LeRoy, Genesee county, N. Y. During the last twenty years of his life he lived in retirement. He died at Bronxville, N. Y., Oct. 4, 1880, aged 86 years. One of Mr. Cox's sons was Right Reverend Arthur Cleveland Coxe, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal church of the diocese of western New York, and an-

other was Rev. Dr. Samuel Hanson Coxe, who was rector of St. Peter's Episcopal church at Auburn and afterward for twenty years rector of Trinity church at Utica.

Rev. Samuel H. Hall was born at Geneva, N. Y., in 1819, and was graduated from Union college in 1837 and from Union theological seminary in 1843. His first pastoral charge was at Marshall, Mich. Thence he went to Syracuse as pastor of the Park Presbyterian church, where he remained six years. He began his ministry at Owego Feb. 24, 1857. He resigned his pastorate here in May, 1864, and went with the union army to Virginia under the auspices of the Christian Commission. From 1866 to 1888 he was secretary of the American Seamen's Friend society. He died Oct. 10, 1890, at Newark, N. J.

Rev. Solon Cobb came to Owego in the summer of 1864 from New Bedford, Mass. He resigned the pastorate five years afterward and in September, 1869, became pastor of a church at Medford, Mass. Thence he went to Erie, Pa., and thence in February, 1875, to become pastor of the Point Breeze Presbyterian church in a suburb of that city. He died May 26, 1900, in Pittsburg, aged 62 years. Previous to his leaving Owego the members of his church and congregation at a meeting in the session house presented him with a handsome silver pitcher as a testimonial of their love and affection.

Rev. S. T. Clarke, a son of Rev. Dr. Walter Clarke, of Buffalo, preached here six years and resigned to accept a call to the Lake Street Presbyterian church at Elmira. He was several

years afterward pastor of the Presbyterian church at Aurora, N. Y., and later pastor of the churches at Portville and Mt. Morris, N. Y.

Rev. Luther A. Ostrander came to Owego in 1876 from Dubuque, Iowa. Earlier in life he had been first tutor in Robert college, Constantinople, Turkey, whence he came to Dubuque, where he was pastor of the First Presbyterian church four or five years. In November, 1882, he resigned his pastorate at Owego in order to accept a call to the First Presbyterian church of Lyons, N. Y.

Rev. William H. Gill went from Owego to Philadelphia where he lived during the rest of his life. His health became impaired and he retired from the ministry, and he was employed as a writer for a religious newspaper. He died in Philadelphia in 1906.

Rev. Alexander Cameron MacKenzie was graduated in December, 1885, from Auburn theological seminary and was ordained pastor of this church May 25, 1886. Ten years later, in the summer of 1896, he engaged in raising \$100,000 by subscription to increase the endowment fund of Elmira female college. In April, 1897, he resigned his pastorate to accept the presidency of that college.

Rev. George D. Young was born in 1864 in New York city. He was graduated from New York university in 1887 and from Princeton seminary in 1897. He was ordained pastor of this church Oct. 8, 1897.

Sunday morning, December 28, 1890, the centennial of the advent of Presbyterianism in Owego was celebrated with appropriate exercises. Mr. MacKenzie preached a historical sermon,

reviewing church events of the preceding one hundred years. In the afternoon a union service of the Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist, and Methodist churches was held.

**The "Owego Independent Congregational Society," Its Meeting Houses and Its Pastors from the Time of Its Separation from the Presbyterian Society in 1849 to the Present Time.**

There was a long a diversity of opinion in relation to the ecclesiastical character of the church known as the "Owego Congregational Society," which led to an estrangement of feeling among its members. The First Presbyterian church had been incorporated by act of the legislature as the First Congregational church, and as such it had been legally known from its foundation. In the course of years, without any official or church action, the form of government was changed into a semi-Presbyterian form.

In February, 1843, during the pastorate of Rev. Samuel C. Wilcox, a meeting was held at the session house in Temple street for the purpose of changing the form of church government from Presbyterian to Congregational. The proposition was freely discussed, but the preponderance of opinion appeared to be against the proposition and no action was taken.

In 1846 a portion of the church deemed it proper that the matter should be fully investigated and all the facts made known to the society. To bring about this end a public invitation was given at a meeting at the session house on Jan. 6, 1846, to the

members of the church to meet at the same place Jan. 14. At this second meeting both interests were represented, and a committee, composed of Dr. Lucius H. Allen, Henry W. Camp, and Andrew H. Calhoun, was appointed to make the requisite examination. The committee's report, dated Feb. 19, 1847, was printed in a pamphlet of sixteen pages in July, 1847.

In December, 1849, the long talked of division of the church on the government question was consummated, the Congregational portion of the society having taken letters preparatory to organizing a new society. At a special meeting on Dec. 31 forty-six persons were upon their own request dismissed, for the purpose of forming the new "Owego Independent Congregational Society," which was regularly organized at a meeting of the ecclesiastical council at the session house Feb. 19, 1850. Rev. Richard S. Storrs, of Brooklyn, preached at the public services in the afternoon and Rev. Joseph P. Thompson, of New York, in the evening. At the time of this organization Rev. Samuel C. Wilcox had returned from New York to assume the pastorate of the new church.

The meetings of the new society were held at the court house until a new church was built in 1851. In January of that year the society purchased of Thomas I. Chatfield for \$900 the lot on the west side of Park street, still owned and occupied by the society. A contract was made with Chauncey Hungerford, the builder of the Presbyterian church, and James Hill to erect a new church edifice for \$5,100. The church, as shown in the



The First Congregational Church, Built in 1851 and Burned in 1877.

engraving accompanying this article, was completed that year. This was the largest church at that time in the village. In the steeple was placed a bell weighing 1,874 pounds, the largest bell then in Owego. The church was dedicated in the afternoon of Tuesday, Feb. 3, 1852. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. R. E. Eggleston, of Brooklyn. Mr. Wilcox and the pastors of three other Owego churches assisted in the exercises. In August, 1863, a new session house was erected in the rear of the church.

The church and session house were burned in the morning of Dec. 3, 1877, by a fire which broke out near a chimney behind the organ in the wall between the church and the Sunday school room. Nothing was saved from the church except a large bible and the pulpit chairs.

Plans were at once made to build a new church on the site of the old one. At a meeting at L. N. Chamberlain's house, a committee was appointed to raise funds, prepare plans, etc., for a new church to cost from \$10,000 to \$12,000, the insurance money on the old church, \$7,500, to be applied in part payment. In the mean time religious services were held at the court house. A building committee composed of L. N. Chamberlain, John J. Hooker, Frank L. Jones, Roger B. Howell, and the pastor, Rev. W. C. Scofield, was appointed. The architect of the church was L. B. Valk, of New York city. It was built of brick, with stone trimmings, by Harrison Bros., of Fredonia, N. Y., and cost when completed \$10,285. The building was 52 feet wide and 92½ feet deep. An excellent view of the church is



The Second Congregational Church, Built in 1878.

shown in the engraving. The new church was dedicated Dec. 11, 1878, Rev. Thomas K. Beecher, of Elmira, preaching the dedication sermon.

There have been seventeen pastors of this church since its organization, as follows:

Rev. Samuel C. Wilcox, 1849-Sept. 11, 1853.

Rev. Corbin Kidder, Sept. 11, 1853-Jan. 1, 1854.

Rev. Wm. H. Corning, March 8, 1854-May 1, 1857.

Rev. Wm. Alvin Bartlett, Sept. 12, 1857-28 March, 1858.

Rev. Samuel McLellan Gould, Sept. 11, 1858-April 1, 1859.

Rev. Moses Coit Tyler, May 1, 1859-June 24, 1860.

Rev. Wm. W. Page, Dec. 9, 1860-Dec. 1, 1861.

Rev. Charles Hall Everest, Jan. 1, 1862-Dec. 31, 1864.

Rev. Chas. H. A. Bulkley, May 13, 1865-Jan. 1, 1867.

Rev. James C. Beecher, May 4, 1867-May 1, 1871.

Rev. Dwight W. Marsh, Aug. 1, 1871-April 1, 1876.

Rev. Wm. C. Scofield, June 19, 1877-Oct. 19, 1880.

Rev. Rufus Underwood, April, 1880-Oct., 1880.

Rev. Miles G. Bullock, April 4, 1881-Oct. 19, 1886.

Rev. Olin R. Howe, Feb. 3, 1887-Nov. 11, 1888.

Rev. D. W. Teller, Dec. 20, 1888-Sept. 3, 1893.

Rev. Chas. M. Bartholomew, Jan. 7, 1894-

Rev. Samuel C. Wilcox was born at Sandisfield, Mass., Dec. 21, 1809. He was graduated from Williams college in 1835 and taught for three years thereafter in Lenox academy. He studied theology at Auburn seminary, graduating therefrom in 1840. He supplied the Congregational church at Berkshire one year and then came to

Owego, where he became pastor of the Presbyterian church. He was afterward pastor of the Congregational church at Williamsburg, Mass., in 1847 and 1848. The next year he returned to Owego, to assist in forming the new Congregational church. He resigned the pastorate of this church in September, 1853.

Rev. Corbin Kidder was born at Wardsboro, Vt., June 1, 1801. He was graduated from Amherst college in 1828 and from Andover theological seminary in 1832. From 1834 to 1837 he was pastor of the Congregational church at Saxonville, Mass., and during two years thereafter was agent for the American tract society. From 1839 to 1845 he was pastor of the Congregational church at West Brattleboro, Vt. From 1845 to 1853 he preached at Warsaw, Dryden, and Groton in this state. He came to Owego in the fall of 1853 and preached here four months. Then in company with his predecessor in the pastorate of this church, Mr. Wilcox, he opened a school for boys about a mile and a half east of this village in a farm house, which was burned several years ago and which stood where the home of Harry B. Tilbury is now. Mr. Wilcox, who had resigned the pastorate of the church on account of ill health, died there March 26, 1854. Mr. Kidder continued the school after Mr. Wilcox's death a few years. Then he went to Spencer, and was pastor of the church there from 1858 to 1862. He subsequently preached at Churchville, N. Y.; Orland, Ind., and at Poplar Grove, Ill., where he died Dec. 29, 1874.

William H. Corning, who was the first settled pastor of this church, was

born at Hartford, Conn., Dec. 15, 1820. He was graduated in 1842 from Trinity college and later from Yale theological seminary. From 1848 to 1851 he was pastor of the Congregational church at Clinton, Mass. He came to Owego in January, 1854, and preached here three years until May, 1857, when he resigned on account of ill health. He died at Saratoga Springs Oct. 9, 1862.

William Alvin Bartlett was one of the brightest and ablest of the young sensational preachers of his day. He was born Dec. 4, 1832, at Binghamton and was a son of Joseph Bartlett, of that city, who had been a resident of Owego several years previous. He was graduated from Hamilton college in 1852. He studied theology at Union seminary and then went to Germany and studied in Berlin. He was matriculated from the university at Halle in 1857. He came to Owego the same year and was ordained pastor of the Owego church Sept. 12. He was immensely popular and the church was crowded to listen to his eloquent services, particularly Sunday evenings. His reputation extended beyond Owego, and a year later he received a call to the pastorate of the Elm Place Congregational church in Brooklyn, N. Y. He preached there ten years, from Sept. 5, 1858, until Nov. 30, 1868, when he accepted a call to the pastorate of Plymouth Congregational church of Chicago with a salary of \$5,000 a year, succeeding Rev. Lewis Matson, who had died. Mr. Matson was born at Owego and was a son of Newell Matson, one of the organizers of the Owego Congregational church. In September, 1876, Mr. Bartlett resigned the

pastorate of Plymouth church to accept a call to the Second Presbyterian church of Indianapolis, Ind., of which Rev. Henry Ward Beecher had some time previously been pastor, refusing to accept any increase in salary from the Indianapolis church. To accept this pastorate he was subjected to a rigorous examination of the Presbytery and was installed according to Presbyterian forms and usages. In April, 1882, Mr. Bartlett received and accepted a unanimous call to the New York Avenue Presbyterian church at Washington, D. C. He was installed as pastor of the church October of that year. In October, 1894, after having been thirty-seven years in the ministry and for twelve years pastor of the New York Avenue church, Mr. Bartlett resigned on account of ill health and travelled in Europe. Since leaving Washington he has had no settled pastorate, having permanently retired from active church work.

Samuel McLellan Gould was born at Gorham, Mass., Jan. 24, 1809. He entered Bowdoin college, but did not graduate, and studied theology afterward with clergymen at East Hartford, Conn., and Troy, N. Y. From 1837 to 1851 he preached at Norristown, Pa., and from 1853 to 1857 at Biddeford, Maine. The next year he came to Owego, but remained only four months. He afterward preached at Allentown and Emporium, Pa.

Moses Coit Tyler was one of the most noted of all the pastors of this church. He was born Aug. 2, 1835, at Griswold, Conn. He was graduated from Yale college in 1857 and from Andover theological seminary in 1859. He came immediately after his gradu-

ation to Owego, assuming the pastorate of this church May 1, 1859. He remained here until June 24, 1860, when he resigned his pastorate on account of ill health. Soon afterward he became pastor of the Congregational church at Poughkeepsie, where he preached until 1862, when his health again failing he went abroad in 1863, where he remained four years, pursuing his studies in literature and history, writing for American journals, and lecturing in Great Britain on America. From 1867 to 1873 he was professor of English language and literature in the university of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In January, 1873, he became literary editor of the Christian Union in New York city. He was ordained a deacon in the Protestant Episcopal church in 1881, and priest in 1883. In 1881 he was appointed professor of American history at Cornell university, which position he held at the time of his death on Dec. 28, 1901. He was the author of many works on history and literature.

But little is known of Rev. William W. Page. He is supposed to have come from Fairfax Court House, Va., to Deposit, N. Y., and thence to Owego in 1860. He remained here only a year.

Rev. Charles Hall Everest, who attained considerable prominence, was born at New Lebanon, N. Y., Feb. 14, 1837. He was graduated from Williams college in 1859 and from Union theological seminary in 1861. He was ordained Dec. 30, 1861, in Plymouth church, Brooklyn, by his cousin, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, whom he resembled in face and figure. He came

at once to Owego to assume the pastorate of the Congregational church, which he held three years. In January, 1865, he became pastor of the church of the Puritans in Brooklyn, then recently formed, and preached there twelve years. In February, 1877, he accepted a call to Plymouth church in Chicago. Thus Owego furnished three pastors to Plymouth church in succession—Mr. Matson, Mr. Bartlett, and Mr. Everest. He became pastor on trial of the First Congregational church of Meriden, Conn., in September, 1884, at a salary of \$8,000. Nine months afterward he had some trouble with the church organist, who resigned. As seven-tenths of the church supported the organist, Mr. Everest terminated his connection with that church. He was afterward pastor of churches at Norwalk, Conn., and East Orange, N. J., and of the First Congregational church at Washington, D. C. He died June 10, 1908, at his home in Brooklyn.

Charles H. A. Bulkley was born at Charleston, S. C., Dec. 22, 1819. He was graduated from New York university in 1839 and from Union theological seminary in 1842. From 1842 to 1861 he was pastor successively of churches at New Brunswick, N. J.; Janesville, Wis.; Mt. Morris, and Ithaca, N. Y.; West Winsted, Conn., and Paterson, N. J. In 1861 he went as a chaplain in the union army and remained in the service seventeen months. He came to Owego in May, 1867, and preached at the Congregational church until January, 1867.

James C. Beecher, a half-brother of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, was the youngest child of Dr. Lyman Beecher

and was born in Boston, Mass., January 8, 1828. He was graduated from Dartmouth college in 1848. He was for five years thereafter an officer on a clipper ship plying between New York and China in the tea trade. He afterward studied theology at Andover seminary and was graduated therefrom in 1857. Then he went to China as chaplain of the Seaman's Bethel at Canton. Returning home at the breaking out of the civil war he became chaplain of the famous Brooklyn regiment, principally raised by Plymouth church. At the close of the war he was mustered out with the brevet rank of brigadier-general. He had charge of Park church at Elmire while his brother, Thomas K. Beecher, was absent on a trip to South America. In May, 1867, he became pastor of the Owego church, remaining here four years. He went from here in the spring of 1871 to Poughkeepsie, where he preached five years. In 1876 he purchased a farm containing a mile square of land in the town of Hardenberg, Ulster county, N. Y. High up in the hills and in the woods on the margin of a large lake, he built a house. He bought lumber and with a chest of tools built the house with his own hands, completing it alone. There he lived with his wife and adopted daughter. Sundays he preached to the backwoodsmen. His eccentricities became so marked that his brother, Rev. Thomas K. Beecher, believing that his mind was affected, prevailed upon him to voluntarily enter the state Homoeopathic asylum for the insane at Middletown, N. Y. He remained there a year and was afterward from October, 1881, to August.

1882, in charge of the Bethel mission in Brooklyn, an adjunct of Plymouth church. He committed suicide at the Elmira water cure August 25, 1886, by shooting himself through the head with a rifle.

Rev. Dwight W. Marsh was born at Dalton, Mass., Nov. 5, 1823. He was graduated from Williams college in 1842, and studied theology at Andover seminary in 1842-3. He taught school in St. Louis, Mo., in 1843-1847. Then he resumed his studies at Union theological seminary, graduating therefrom in 1849. In December, 1849, after his ordination, he sailed from Boston to Mosul, Turkey, as a missionary. After his return to this country, in 1860, he preached successively at Hinsdale, Mass., and Godfrey, Ill. From 1862 to 1867 he was in charge of the young ladies' seminary at Rochester. In 1867 and 1868 he preached at Monticello, Ill., and in 1869-71 at Whitney's Point. He came to Owego in Aug., 1871, and preached here nearly five years. In April, 1876, he went to Amherst, Mass., where he was pastor of the Congregational church until his death on June 19, 1896.

Rev. William C. Schofield came to Owego from Salisbury, N. H., in the spring of 1877. He was pastor of the Congregational church from June of that year until October, 1880, when he resigned, with the understanding that he would consent to supply the pulpit for an indefinite period.

Rev. Miles Gaylord Bullock came from Syracuse to Owego in April, 1881. He was originally a Methodist minister, and an independent thinker. In 1878-9 he preached a series of eight sermons while pastor of the M. E.

church at Oswego, to which sermons the Northern New York conference took some exceptions. He came to Syracuse and was admitted to Congregationalism at Plymouth church. He preached at that church during the temporary absence of the pastor and while thus engaged received and accepted the call to Owego in April, 1881. He remained here five and one-half years, resigning his pastorate in October, 1886, for the purpose of entering Yale college and in order to continue his studies in theology. Subsequently he lived at Ansonia, Conn. In the summer of 1891, while living at Little Falls, N. Y., he went to Chicago to fill the pulpit of Rev. A. L. Smalley, who was away on his summer vacation. While thus engaged he was stricken with heart disease and died suddenly on July 27. He was about 45 years old at the time of his death.

Rev. D. W. Teller came to Owego from Sherburne, N. Y., December, 1888, and preached here five years. In August, 1893, he received a call to the First Presbyterian church at Fredonia, N. Y. He preached his farewell sermon at Owego on Sunday evening, Sept. 3, 1893, and the following Tuesday afternoon he was received into the Binghamton Presbytery as a member. He died at Fredonia March 23, 1894, aged 58 years.

Rev. C. M. Bartholomew came from Niagara Falls in January, 1894, and has ever since been the pastor of this church—a longer period thus far than any of his predecessors in the pastorate. He was born at Augusta, Oneida Co., N. Y., June 10, 1849; was graduated from Hamilton college in

1874, and from Auburn theological seminary in 1877. His first pastorate was at Rushville, N. Y., where he preached six years, from 1877 to 1883. From 1883 to 1885 he was pastor of the Congregational church at Reed Corners, N. Y., and from 1885 to 1894, at Niagara Falls. He came to Owego Jan. 1, 1894.

The Congregational society did not own a parsonage until November, 1893, when it purchased of Joel A. Hamilton for \$2,700 the house on the south side of Main street, the second house east of Academy street, which house it still owns.

---

**The Methodist Episcopal Church in the Days of the Circuit Preachers and Its History from Its Organization in 1816, together with Some Account of Its Ministers and Its Meeting Houses.**

Dr. George Peck's "Early Methodism," published in 1860, contains the diary of William Colbert, a circuit preacher, who on Nov. 6, 1792, was ordained an elder at the general conference of the bishops, elders, and deacons of the M. E. church at Baltimore, Md., and appointed to fill the station of Wyoming and Tioga, Pa. His work was mostly in Bradford, Luzerne, Northumberland, Columbia, Tioga, and other counties in Pennsylvania, and he came into Chemung, Tompkins, and Tioga counties in New York. Tioga county, Pa., was then a dense wilderness. The only reference to Owego in this diary is under date of January 14, when he says he "received a letter from a man living at 'Awaga,' in which he was requested to come here and preach. He did not

preach here, but did come to Nichols the same month. A paragraph in his diary reads as follows:

"Friday, 25. It was with difficulty that I got through the Narrows on account of ice. I preached at one Bennett's, near Mahontowango, with freedom, on I. Cor. vi, 19-20. If any good is done, to God be the glory. These people are very willing to hear. This locality is now known as Nichols, where live the Shoemakers and Coryells, and has many years been famous for Methodism."

Another reference to Owego is made in Mr. Colbert's diary in November, 1793. He says:

"Saturday, 23. I had a very cold night's lodging last night. I got very little sleep, so that I was obliged to rise early, especially as I had a long ride before me of more than thirty miles without an inhabitant [from the head of Cayuga lake, now Ithaca] to Andrew Alden's at Owaga [Owego] on the northeast branch of the Susquehanna. I was fortunate in finding two fires on the road this cold morning."

"Sunday, 24. Felt unwell last night, but through mercy was enabled to preach with a degree of life and power at Andrew Alden's."

Andrew Alden lived at Tioga Centre. He and his brother, Prince Alden, and Samuel and William Ransom were the first settlers there. They came from the Wyoming valley about the year 1785. Andrew Alden lived a short distance south of the mouth of Pipe creek in a log house, which is supposed to have been the first structure of the kind built in the town of Tioga.

An interesting contribution to Mr. Peck's book, relating to the first services held at Owego by the Methodists, is made by Mrs. Fanny Thurston, wife of David Thurston, who came here from Massachusetts about the

year 1812 when she was 24 years of age. Mrs. Thurston was a daughter of David Darling, a Congregational minister of Keene, N. H. Mrs. Thurston was a member of the first class formed here. She says:

"The first Methodist preacher that preached in Owego was a Brother Fiddler, in 1813; he preached once, and an objection being made by an old man, who said, 'We hain't go any Methodists about here, and for my part I don't want any,' he did not return. There was no praying person in Owego at that time. Soon a local preacher, Hiram G. Warner, came in and kept the ferry; he soon joined the conference and travelled away from home. Brother E. Bibbins preached occasionally. About 1815 Brother J. Griffing came. In 1816 there was a revival on the south side of the river, six were converted, and the first class formed, consisting of seven members: David and Fanny Thurston, Polly Warner, Abigail Thurston, Maria Thurston, her daughter, (now Mrs. Daniel Shoemaker,) David and Patty Darling. Brother J. Griffin formed the class and established regular preaching at the house of D. Thurston, who was appointed leader and steward. Soon Brother Griffing sent a young man by the name of Scovell. Then a man by the name of Cole came a few times; next a Brother Doolittle in the same year. Brothers Griffing, Judd Bibbins, and Agard preached till the church was built. In those days our class was small and persecuted. Our meetings were held in a little school house near the spot now occupied by the Methodist Episcopal church in Owego. The appointment was for Brother Doolittle to preach; when our people came to meeting the house was well lighted up with candles in large silver-plated candlesticks, and shortly a smart dashy Episcopal minister, who had lately come into the place, came in preceded by a martial band, and putting his hat on the bass drum took his place in the desk. After a while

Brother Doolittle arose and said that it was publicly known that this was the evening for a Methodist meeting, and we had feelings as well as other people, and he did not understand the present appearances. Mr. Camp came forward in defence of the Methodists. The Episcopal minister read his credentials, and proposed to preach first and have Brother Doolittle preach afterward; he preached and dismissed the congregation, and left with the band and his friends, after which Brother Doolittle preached and our people had a good meeting and got home about twelve o'clock.

"On another occasion the school-master and others got up an exhibition with the representation of grotesque characters. The Methodists were compelled to remain and witness the performance or quit the ground; they remained and held meeting after the clowns had left.

"The last interruption of our meeting was the appointment of a writing school upon the evening of preaching. Brother Warner was to preach; the house was divided into two apartments by a swing partition. In the centre of the room usually occupied for preaching sat the writing master surrounded by twelve or fourteen little lads. Brother Warner asked him to retire, for it was public meeting night; he said he would not, for it was a public school. He said to Brother Warner: 'Go on with your preaching and we will with our writing.' Brother Warner would not, but he and the congregation went into the little room. As soon as he began meeting the urchins would snap a rope that ran through both rooms, making a noise like the discharge of a pistol; then they would run and kick against the partition, but Brother Warner kept on praying. Then a troop would scamper out doors and set up a shout, when the master would rap on the window and they would come thundering in again; but some of the mothers of the boys were at meeting and carried home the news; the fathers were incensed, and some of the boys were

punished. In the morning Brother Warner went to Judge Burrows to get a warrant for the schoolmaster. The judge went with Brother Warner to see the young man, who confessed that he was urged on by others and promised to do so no more, so he was released. Since that time the Methodists have worshipped in peace."

In the "Thurston Genealogies," page 72, Mrs. Thurston's daughter, Mary Almeda (Mrs. Anson Garrison) says of her parents:

"He and my mother were among the seven united to form the first Methodist church in Owego. My mother was a superior woman, endowed with a superior mind, and through her early advantages were limited yet amid all her cares she never ceased her efforts for improvement by reading, writing, etc., and her poetry frequently graced the village newspapers."

Hiram G. Warner, mentioned by Mrs. Thurston, conducted a licensed ferry across the river. His ferry house was on the south side of Front street, a little east of Paige street. This was before the first bridge was built across the river in this village. The boat was poled across the river, and it also had oars. A rope was afterward strung over the river, which rope sagged nearly to the water, and the boat was fastened thereto by smaller ropes and pulleys, which pulleys ran on the large rope, and the boat was carried across by the current. David Darling, brother-in-law of David Thurston, tended the ferry in 1823. In 1826 Mr. Warner was a licensed preacher on the Spencer circuit.

Rev. John Griffing came to Berkshire from Guilford, Conn. His father, Joseph Griffing, was a master mariner. Rev. John Griffing was a preacher on the Candor circuit. He purchased a

farm on the west bank of the Susquehanna river, below Owego, where he lived.

Rev. Horace Agard was a man of more than ordinary ability. He was received on trial in the Genesee conference in 1819 and preached nineteen years. He was eleven years presiding elder. He was sent on this circuit in 1824. The next year he purchased a few acres of land below Hooper's Valley, in the town of Nichols, and settled there with his family. He was compelled to abandon active work in 1838, on account of ill health. He died there in 1840. William F. Warner says of Mr. Agard:

"Rev. Horace Agard in his day was almost as widely known as the late Rev. Peter Cartwright. He was not, however, notable for any eccentricities, but rather for his dignified character and solid worth as a man and minister of the church in which he was a leader for many years."

The Methodist congregation held its meetings in the old Main street school house until 1821. March 21 of that year James Pumpelly deeded to the M. E. society thirteen square rods of land at the southeast corner of Main and Academy streets for \$100, to be the property of the society so long as it should be occupied for church purposes, and to revert to Mr. Pumpelly or his heirs when it should cease to be so occupied.

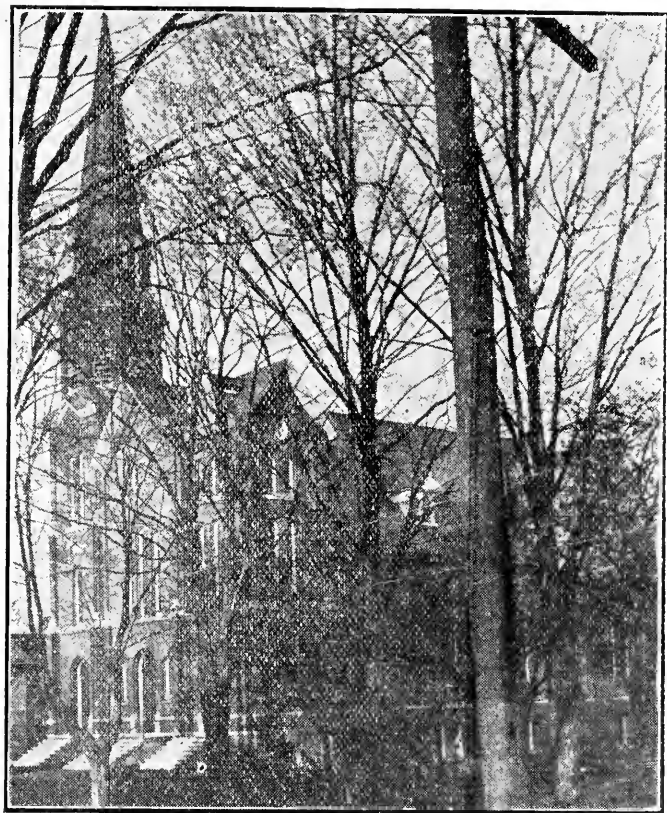
The framework of the church was erected in the fall of 1821, but it was not enclosed and completed until the next year. It was a large church painted white, and similar to all the country churches built at that time. The front was on Academy street, which street had been known as Mc-

Master street until this time, when the name of the street was changed to Chapel street, the edifice being commonly known as the Methodist chapel. In those days all the other churches were known as meeting houses.

The high pulpit was between the two doors at the entrance of the building, and people coming in faced the congregation. In September, 1855, repairs were made to the church and changes made. The pulpit was removed from between the entrance doors at the west end of the church to the east end, and the choir placed where the pulpit had been. The floor was lowered, so that the high steps outside were removed, and a new portico was added. The pews, which had faced to the west, were turned to face to the east, where the pulpit had been placed. A new spire was raised on the church. It was 116 feet high from the level of the street and was the highest one in Owego. These improvements cost \$3,000.

The church as reconstructed was dedicated Jan. 9, 1856, by Rev. Jesse T. Peck, of New York city. The church was occupied forty-eight years. The congregation had so greatly increased in 1866, that it was decided by the trustees to build a new and larger church on some more central location.

April 16, 1868, the M. E. society purchased of Dr. Theodore S. Armstrong the lot on the north side of Main street, east of Spencer avenue, for \$3,750, but did not build thereon until two years afterward. The present brick church, as shown in the engraving, was built on a contract for \$35,000 by Jonathan S. Houk and Albert Harrison Keeler, of Owego. The



THE FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

work on the foundation was begun in April, 1870, and the basement story walls were completed in June. The corner stone was laid by Rev. H. Wheeler in the afternoon of June 22, and the address was delivered by Rev. Dr. Love, of Auburn, editor of the Northern Christian Advocate.

The arches over the doorways were the first stone ones ever built in Owego. In December the building had been enclosed for the winter and the slate roof finished. The next spring the steeple was erected. It is 155 feet high and 30 feet higher than the steeple of any other church in the village.

The new church was dedicated Wednesday morning, Dec. 20, 1871. Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Peck, of Syracuse, preached the sermon. In the evening Rev. B. I. Ives, of Auburn, preached. At the two services \$25,000, the balance required for building the new church, was pledged by the congregation.

The old church building was sold to Charles A. Ward for \$500. It afterward passed through the ownership of various persons and finally became the property of James Hill, who tore it down and used the material in the construction of other buildings.

In the fall of 1875 A. H. Keeler made a contract with the trustees to build an extension to the back part of the new church, to be four feet deep, seventeen feet long, and forty feet high, to give more room for the pulpit and organ. In the winter of 1885-6 the ceiling was lowered several feet and a new steel ceiling was put in.

The first parsonage of the M. E. church was in McMaster street. It

still stands on the west side of that street, and is the first house south of the Champion wagon works. Aug. 15, 1840, James Pumpelly sold the lot to the society for \$200 and built the parsonage thereon. June 5, 1871, the property was sold for \$3,000 to Mrs. Hannah A. Kingsley. On April 1, 1893, the society purchased of Mrs. Catherine B. Deming for \$3,000 its present parsonage on the south side of Main street. It is the second house west of Paige street and was built in 1849 by Timothy P. Patch. It was afterward owned and occupied several years by James Bishop.

The pastors of the church since its organization have been as follows:

- Rev. William Brown, 1816.
- Rev. Ebenezer Doolittle, 1817.
- Rev. Hiram G. Warner, 1818.
- Rev. Horace Agard, 1822.
- Rev. John D. Gilbert, 1823.
- Rev. Chester V. Adgate, 1824.
- Rev. Josiah Keyes, 1825-6.
- Rev. Joseph Castle, 1827.
- Rev. David A. Shepard, 1828-9.
- Rev. John Griffing, 1830.
- Rev. Sylvester Minier, 1831.
- Rev. Morgan Sherman, 1832.
- Rev. Marmaduke Pearce, 1833.
- Rev. L. Mumford, 1834-5.
- Rev. D. Holmes, Jr., 1836-7.
- Revs. L. Hitchcock and John Griffing, 1838.
- Revs. Robert Fox and John Griffing, 1839.
- Rev. Robert Fox, 1840.
- Rev. A. J. Crandall, 1841-2.
- Rev. Freeman H. Stanton, 1843-44.
- Rev. William Reddy, 1845.
- Rev. William H. Pearne, 1846-7.
- Rev. A. J. Dana, 1848-9.
- Rev. Thomas H. Pearne, 1850.
- Rev. J. M. Snyder, 1851.
- Rev. George P. Porter, 1852-3.
- Rev. George H. Blakeslee, 1854-5.
- Rev. B. W. Gorham, 1856-7.
- Rev. John J. Pearce, 1858.
- Rev. George M. Peck, 1859.

Rev. S. W. Weiss, 1860.  
 Rev. George P. Porter, 1861-2.  
 Rev. David A. Shepard, 1863.  
 Rev. E. R. Keyes, 1864.  
 Rev. William B. Westlake, 1865-7.  
 Rev. Henry E. Wheeler, 1868-70.  
 Rev. William Bixby, 1871-2.  
 Rev. James O. Woodruff, 1873-5.  
 Rev. Almus D. Alexander, 1876-8.  
 Rev. E. W. Caswell, 1879-81.  
 Rev. G. W. Miller, 1882-3.  
 Rev. George Forsyth, 1884-6.  
 Rev. William M. Hiller, 1887-8.  
 Rev. Phineas R. Hawxhurst, 1889-91.  
 Rev. Justus F. Warner, 1892-4.  
 Rev. Moses D. Fuller, 1895-9.  
 Rev. William Edgar, 1900-1.  
 Rev. Haskell B. Benedict, 1901-3.  
 Rev. Amasa F. Chaffee, 1904-5.  
 Rev. John B. Cook, 1905-7.  
 Rev. Benjamin Copeland, 1907.  
 Rev. Louis D. Palmer, 1907-

Of these pastors thirteen have been presiding elders, as follows: Horace Agard, D. A. Shepard, Wm. Reddy, W. H. Pearne, A. J. Dana, J. M. Snyder, Geo. P. Porter, H. E. Wheeler, William Bixby, J. O. Woodruff, Geo. Forsyth, J. F. Warner, and M. D. Fuller.

Two of the ablest of these clergymen, and the most erratic, were William H. Pearne and George P. Porter. Mr. Pearne was in the ministry about fifty years. He was presiding elder of Owego district from 1852 to 1855. At one time he was pastor of the leading church in New Orleans, La. After the civil war he was provost marshal at Nashville, Tenn., and later pastor of the State street church and afterward of the Clinton avenue church in Trenton, N. J., the most important church in the New Jersey conference. He died at Homer, N. Y., Nov. 17, 1890, aged 74 years.

Geo. P. Porter was born at Berwick, Pa., in 1720. In early life he was a civil

engineer, and later a portrait painter. He was a pupil of John Sartain, of Philadelphia, who was famous as a mezzotint engraver. In 1843 he opened a studio at Towanda, Pa. He soon abandoned his work as a painter and entered the ministry. In 1848, he was assigned to the charge at Montrose and Great Bend, Pa. In 1851 he was pastor of the Court street church at Binghamton and the next two years he preached at Owego. He was sent to Waverly in 1854. He became intemperate and the next year he lapsed into infidelity and withdrew from the membership of the church. For a short time he was editor of the Waverly Advocate. In 1861 he again entered the ministry, and that year and in 1862 he was again pastor of the Owego church. From 1863 to 1866 he was presiding elder of the Owego district and in 1867 of the Wyoming district. In 1868 and 1869 he was pastor of Grace church at Buffalo and in 1870 he became presiding elder of the Genesee district. In 1872 he preached at the Elm Park church at Scranton, Pa., and the next year he was placed on the superannuated list. He died at Cowlesville, Wyoming Co., N. Y., June 11, 1877.

---

**A History of the First Baptist Church,  
Its Meeting Houses and Its Pastors,  
with Some Account of the Old Town  
Clock, the Only Town Clock ever  
Seen in This Village.**

The "First Baptist Church of Owego," the second church organized in this village, was organized September 20, 1831, by thirteen men and seventeen women, among whom were James Clark, Abner Brooks, Asa

Woolverton, Latham A. Burrows, Nathaniel Spencer, Asa Dearborn, Asa H. Truman, Ebenezer Daniels, and Asa Root. The church was organized in Daniel Chamberlain's dwelling house, which stood on the west side of Park street.

Mr. Chamberlain was a wagon maker. His shop stood where the Congregational church now stands. His house was south of it. The house was later owned by Miss E. H. Bates, M. D., and was burned Dec. 3, 1877, in the fire which broke out in and burned the first Congregational church edifice.

The organization was effected by delegates from the Baptist churches at Berkshire, Spencer, and Caroline. At this meeting a committee was appointed to obtain a place for worship and to find a site for a meeting house. The committee subsequently reported that it had hired Mr. Chamberlain's wagon shop for six months for \$15 and that it had looked for a site for a meeting house, but had been unable to find one.

William P. Stone, a member of the society, in a newspaper article written in 1882, said that none of the constituent members of the new church lived nearer than two miles, and most of them not less than five miles distant. They were poor and without influence, with a total valuation of less than \$5,000; some working lands on shares, others laboring to hew a home out of the wilderness.

The preacher's desk in the wagon shop was a box placed on a work bench, and the congregation was seated on benches made of pine slabs, the flat side up, supported by wooden

legs inserted into two-inch auger holes.

Services were held in this shop a few weeks when the weather became cold and there was no way to heat the shop. In November, 1831, application was made to the board of supervisors of Tioga county for permission to occupy the court room at the court house as a place of worship, which was granted, with the provision that the church should furnish its own fuel for heating the room and also give a bond in the sum of \$5,000 that the building should be properly cared for during their occupancy of it. When the members of the congregation gathered at the court house on the next Sunday, however, they found the door locked and the under-sheriff, who had charge of the building, was not to be found. He was a member of another church, and it was charged that he had gone away purposely, so that the court house could not be occupied for religious services.

Not disheartened by this rebuff, the society made an arrangement with Friendship lodge of Free Masons to occupy its lodge room, which was on the third floor of James and Wm. A. Ely's brick building on the south side of Front street, which stood where F. M. Baker & Son's hardware store now stands. It was in this lodge room that the fire which destroyed the entire business section of the village broke out in September, 1849.

The first pastor of the church was Rev. Samuel W. Ford, who was engaged on April 14, 1832, to preach for a term of one year, his compensation to be \$300.

The first settled pastor of the

church was James R. Burdick, a graduate of Brown university, who assumed charge June 12, 1833. His salary was only \$300 a year, one-half of which was paid by the society and the other half by the Baptist state convention. In addition to this his house rent and firewood were furnished by the society.

The society increased in numbers and steps were soon taken to build a meeting house. At a church meeting on Feb. 8, 1834, the deacons were authorized to raise money by subscription and build a church as soon as possible. The money was raised and the church was built that year at the southeast corner of Main and Church streets on land which Charles Pumpelly sold to the society for \$275. The lot had a frontage of 53 feet on Main street and 60 feet on Church street. The lot was afterward enlarged by the purchased of additional ground.

The new meeting house stood close to Main street. It was 40 by 60 feet in size and occupied nearly all the lot. The pulpit was at the south end. A gallery, supported by large wooden posts, extended around the west, north and east sides, and the choir was stationed in the north end of the gallery.

The meeting house was dedicated Jan. 8, 1835, and was occupied as a place of worship twenty years. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Corwin.

#### **The Old Town Clock.**

In the steeple of this meeting house was placed the first and only town clock ever seen at Owego. It was the invention of Charles Frederick John-

son, of the town of Tioga, and was constructed by him and John J. Speed, of Ithaca. May 22, 1846, a contract was made between Mr. Johnson and Joel L. Pinney, clerk of the board of trustees of the church, in which consent was given to Mr. Johnson to put the town clock in their meeting house at his own expense and keep it there three months on trial. If the clock should not keep accurate time, Mr. Johnson was to remove it and put the building in as good order as before; if the clock should keep accurate time Mr. Johnson was to remove it or let it remain, at his option.

The clock was put into the steeple accordingly and was in running order in the following September. It had four dials and was run by huge weights. It was arranged with a striking apparatus and the hours were struck upon the church bell.

No provision had been made by the village to purchase it, nor did it, in some respects, give satisfaction. Johnson & Speed, in May, 1847, made some alterations in it, to ensure it keeping better time and offered to sell it to the village for \$200, which amount was also to cover the cost of the dials and the expense of winding it, up to that time, at the same time engaging to keep it in good order for two years. The price was about one-half that of an ordinary town clock.

At the time of the annual election for village officers, June 7, 1847, Johnson & Speed's communication was read and it was voted to pay them \$200, provided a larger dial was put on and painted black with the hands and hours in gilt letters. Mr. Johnson agreed to comply with the terms stipu-

lated and also agreed to have the new dial and hands in place within six weeks, which was done accordingly.

Wakeley Spencer was employed to wind, oil, and keep the clock in order when it was first put up, and he was paid at the rate of \$10 a year. The second year the village trustees decided to let it to the lowest bidder and it was given to William Manning at the same price. Mr. Spencer was the sexton of the church and his bid was \$25. The result was that the church trustees would allow no one but Mr. Spencer to go into the building for the purpose of winding the clock, giving as a reason that the clock interfered with the ringing of the bell and made it much harder to ring.

At the same time a petition, signed by about seventy of the leading citizens was presented to the village trustees, praying that the clock might be removed to some place where access might be had to it for the purpose of winding it. No action was taken, but Mr. Spencer continued to wind the clock and was paid at the rate of \$15 a year. The clock was wound subsequently by Hiram Ferguson and afterward by Thomas Williams.

In February, 1849, the clock got out of order and Johnson & Speed were notified to repair it. The church bell was also cracked by the striking apparatus. At the annual election for village officers on the 4th of the following June, resolutions were adopted directing the trustees to remove the clock unless they could have access to the building, to wind and repair it, and authorizing them to appropriate \$100 toward purchasing a new bell, provided that on examination it should

be found that the clock was the cause of the breaking of the bell.

October 6, 1856, a communication was received from the Baptist society calling attention to the necessity of removing the town clock, as the meeting house was to be removed and a new church built in its place. The street commissioner was accordingly directed by the trustees to take down the clock and take charge of it. The clock was taken to Mr. Johnson's house and was never again used.

The church was altered and repaired in February, 1842. A one-story building for a conference room was built in Church street, south of the church, in the spring of 1844, at a cost of \$300, with money raised by subscription. It was built by Ambrose Townsend, a member of the society.

The society continued to prosper and the congregation increased in number so that in 1856 it was decided to tear down or sell the meeting house and build a larger one of brick in its place. The old building was sold to Ezra Canfield, who removed it to the lot where Gen. I. B. Ogden's cabinet shop had been burned on the north side of Main street, opposite the present Owego hotel. The gallery was extended over the whole building and the second floor thus made was used as a public hall.

The attempt to move the meeting house was a failure at first. The contractor succeeded in moving it on rollers into Main street, but could get it no further than a little west of Church street, where it stood several days, blocking the street. Then R. H. Hall, a member of the congregation, who had a patent stump puller, under-

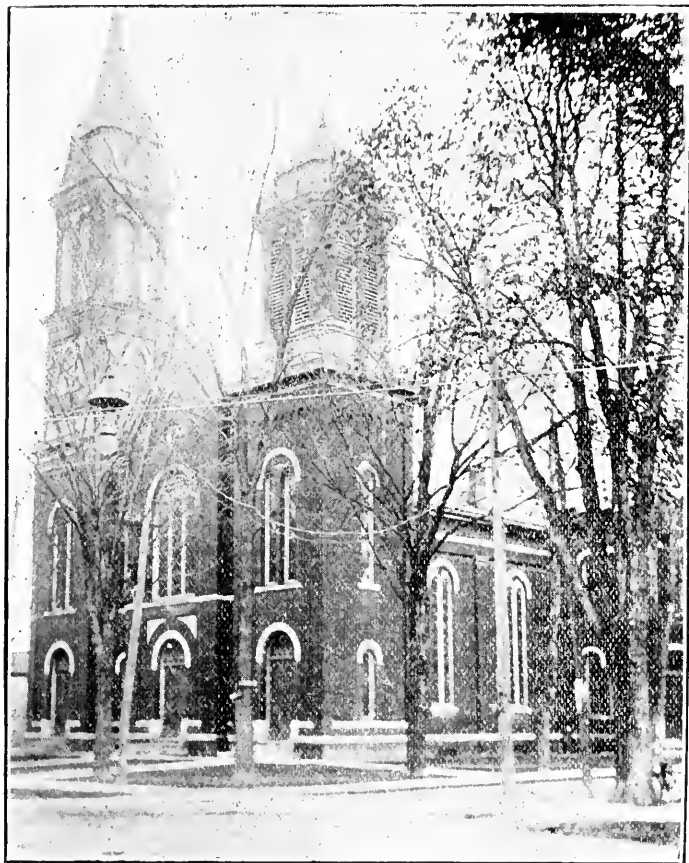
took to finish the work and did so with his machine.

William P. Raymond in March 1866, purchased the building and converted a portion of it into a meat market. John Phelps had a tin shop in part of it, and another part was occupied as a carpenter shop by Wm. H. Perry and Albert Robertson. The part back of their places of business was rented as living rooms. In the night of Saturday, Dec. 13, 1868, a fire broke out in the building, burning it to the ground, together with another wooden building adjoining it.

The new Baptist church was built by James A. Dean. Its construction was begun in December, 1856, and the foundation was laid the next April. It was finished in December and dedicated January 14, 1858. Rev. William H. King, the pastor of the church, preached the dedication sermon in the forenoon on the rise and progress of the church since its organization, and in the evening Rev. A. H. Burlingham, a former pastor, preached.

The new church cost \$16,000. Before its construction, the vacant ground east of the church lot was purchased for \$515, in the summer of 1851.

The two towers at the corners of the church at the north end were considered ungainly, and in 1869 it was decided to replace them with others that would be more in harmony with modern architecture. The work was done in the spring of 1870, the mason work by J. S. Houk and A. H. Keeler, and the carpenter work by Jas. A. Dean and Miles F. Howes. The north wall and the greater part of the west wall were taken down and a portion



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

of the building was extended out toward Church street to make an alcove for the organ and choir. One of the towers was converted into a handsome steeple and the other into a tower of modern shape. The building was covered with a slate roof. A baptismal pool was constructed back of the pulpit, separated therefrom by sliding doors. The interior of the church was handsomely frescoed.

Attached to the church at the south end was built a large brick addition for a conference room two stories high. In the back part are a ladies' parlor and other rooms. In the second story are the Sunday school rooms. The cost of the entire work was between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

The reconstructed edifice was dedicated March 16, 1871, Rev. Dr. E. Dodge, president of Madison university, preaching the dedication sermon.

In the summer of 1896 the church was again remodeled. The level floor was removed and a new sloping floor built in its place, which is three feet higher at the entrance to the building than at the altar. The pews were made of semi-circular form. The work was done by contract by Lucius Ford and the improvements cost about \$4,500.

May 1, 1863, the Baptist society purchased of David Mersereau for \$500 the house and lot east of and adjoining the church grounds, and the house has ever since been occupied by the pastor of the church as a parsonage.

The pastors of the Baptist church have been as follows:

Rev. Samuel W. Ford, April, 1832-June, 1833.

Rev. James R. Burdick, June 12, 1833-June 10, 1836.

Rev. Alonzo Wheelock, March 1837-1838.

Rev. Philetus B. Peck, March, 1838-August, 1847.

Rev. ——— Beaven, 1847-March 1848.

Rev. Albert L. Post, June, 1848-June, 1849.

Rev. James H. Pratt, Sept. 1, 1849-Jan., 1850.

Rev. Charles Morton, March 11, 1850-Dec. 29, 1850.

Rev. Aaron H. Burlingham, March, 1851-September, 1852.

Rev. J. M. Cooley, 1853-1854.

Rev. William H. King, June, 1854-27 March, 1881.

Rev. Latham A. Crandall, May 22, 1881-Sept. 1, 1884.

Rev. Reuben E. Burton, Dec. 27, 1884-Feb. 20, 1889.

Rev. W. A. Granger, July, 1889-June 29, 1894.

Rev. Milton F. Negus, October, 1894-Aug. 31, 1897.

Rev. Peter B. Guernsey, September, 1897-October 1, 1899.

Rev. Riley A. Vose, October, 1899-

James R. Burdick, the first pastor of this church, was a graduate of Brown university. He came to Owego from Ithaca. In June, 1836, he resigned his pastorate and removed to Lisle, Broome county.

After the departure of Mr. Burdick, Rev. H. G. Chase preached a few weeks, but in August, 1836, declined the pastorate, which was tendered to him. Mr. Wheelock began his pastorate in March, 1837, and preached his farewell sermon Feb. 25, 1838.

Rev. Philetus B. Peck was born at New Woodstock, Madison county, N. Y., in 1809. He was educated for the ministry at Hamilton college. He died October 6, 1847, while on a visit to his birthplace in Madison county.

Mr. Peck was one of the pioneers in the anti-slavery movement, and in

those days the abolitionists were very unpopular with the people. Having the courage of his convictions, Mr. Peck at the outset of his pastorate preached a sermon in which he made an attack upon slavery, which so incensed some of his hearers that at its close he was asked by the deacons to meet them and some of the older members of the church in the vestry. He was there informed that his sentiments on this question were distasteful to them and that the matter of slavery should not be referred to again by him in the pulpit. Mr. Peck replied that he should be discreet, but should never compromise his convictions, and would denounce the sin of slavery whenever he should deem it wise to do so. His defence of his course was so strongly made that it was finally decided that he should be allowed to act upon his own convictions.

In December, 1839, Mr. Peck purchased of J. L. Pinney a lot on the north side of main street, nearly opposite Ross street, where he built a house, in which he lived during the rest of his life and which was occupied by his family after his death.

In March, 1897, a sermon in memory of Mr. Peck was preached by Rev. M. F. Negus, when two circular granite tablets, each 18 inches in diameter, on the south wall of the church were unveiled. On one tablet in carved letters, gilded, are the words: "In loving memory of Rev. Philetus B. Peck, our Pastor. 1838-1847." On the other tablet is the following inscription: "In loving memory of Rev. William Harvey King, D. D., our pastor. 1854-1881."

For many years a white marble monument stood in the northeastern part of the church yard, which monument was placed there in Mr. Peck's memory. It bears the following inscription: "In memory of Rev. Philetus B. Peck, late pastor of the First Baptist church in Owego, who died Oct. 6, 1847, aged 38 years. His last words were, 'The will of the Lord be done; the will of the Lord be done,' and then fell asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep, from which none ever wake to weep. This monument was erected by the young ladies and gentlemen and Sabbath school scholars of the Baptist church and society in Owego in memory of their beloved pastor and Sabbath school superintendent." Soon after the unveiling of the tablet in Mr. Peck's memory inside the church the monument was removed to Evergreen cemetery.

William F. Warner says of Mr. Peck:

"He was one of the leading clergymen of his denomination and a natural leader of the people, one who exerted an influence, not only throughout his own particular congregation but throughout the town and county. He was also a prominent man in the councils of the Baptist denomination. He was a man of judgment and discretion, and possessed the love and respect of all. His death was felt as a public loss, and his memory is cherished by all who knew him."

After Mr. Peck's death there was for a few months no settled pastor. Revs. Jabez Swan and John Peck, father of P. B. Peck, preached until Mr. Bevan came in the winter of 1847-8. Mr. Bevan resigned his pastorate in March, 1848.

Mr. Post preached a year in 1848-9. Mr. Pratt was pastor only four

months. In January, 1850, he resigned on account of ill health. Mr. Morton preached only seven months. He came here from Newark, N. J.

Rev. Aaron H. Burlingham was a man of great ability. He came here from Pittsburgh, Pa. He resigned his pastorate to accept a call from Boston, Mass. He died March 1, 1905, at Mount Vernon, N. Y., aged 83 years.

Rev. William H. King, a self-educated man, a scholar, and one of the



REV. WILLIAM H. KING.

ablest of all the pastors of this church, was born Oct. 8, 1820, in the town of Otsego, Otsego county, N. Y. His father died when he was nine years old and six years later he came to live with his brother, a lumberman and farmer on Shepard's creek, two miles north of Factoryville, now east Waverly. Here, when not engaged at work for his brother, he studied Latin,

Greek, Hebrew, and French. From 1843 to 1848 he taught school at Waverly, and while thus engaged began preaching. In 1849 he was ordained to the ministry at Athens, Pa., and assumed the pastorate of the Baptist church there. He came to Owego in March, 1854, and was pastor of the Baptist church here 27 years, when he resigned his pastorate on account of ill health. He was a profound student, a deep thinker, and a sound reasoner. As a recreation he studied medicine, but did not practise. He preached against slavery and for temperance, and was a vigorous supporter of the government during the civil war. He was interested in local public affairs and was one of the trustees of the old Owego academy and when the schools were consolidated under the union school law in 1864 he was elected a member of the board of school commissioners and was twice re-elected. He was broad in his views, firm in his beliefs, and always fearless in expressing them.

Rev. L. A. Crandall was a graduate of Hillsdale college, Michigan. He was graduated from the Rochester theological seminary May 18, 1881, and came at once to Owego. In July, 1884, he resigned his pastorate and became pastor of the Twenty-third Street Baptist church in New York city. In February, 1889, he went to Cleveland, Ohio, having accepted a call to the Euclid Avenue Baptist church.

Rev. R. E. Burton came to Owego from Buffalo. He was opposed to dancing and card playing, and "having the courage of his convictions" he condemned them in his sermons. Some of the members of his congrega-

tion took offence at his course, and as a disposition was manifested to reduce his salary, in order to compel him to resign, he did resign. This was in February, 1887. The opposition to his leaving, however, was so great that he afterward acceded to the request of a committee and withdrew his resignation. In 1889 he resigned his pastorate and became pastor of the Delaware Street Baptist church in Syracuse.

Rev. W. A. Granger resigned his pastorate here in June, 1894, to accept a call to the Baptist church at Mount Vernon, N. Y., with a larger salary. He was pastor of that church until April 16, 1908, when he preached his farewell sermon, having resigned to take the presidency of the Baptist missionary convention of the state of New York.

Rev. Milton F. Negus came from Minneapolis, Minn., in August, 1894, to accept the pastorate of this church, and began his duties on the first Sunday in October. In May, 1897, he received a call to the First Baptist church of Brooklyn and assumed the pastorate there on Sept. 1. Mr. Negus is a son of Rev. C. R. Negus, who was for forty years a successful pastor in central New York. He was educated at Colgate university and Rochester theological seminary, graduating from the latter institution in 1887. He was at once called to the pastorate of the Fourth Baptist church of Minneapolis, Minn., where he remained seven years and until he came to Owego.

After having filled the pastorate of the Owego church two years, Rev. P. B. Guernsey resigned in September, 1899, to take the presidency of Roger

Williams university at Nashville, Tenn., a college which prepares young colored men for the ministry under control of the Boston home mission society. Before coming to Owego Mr. Guernsey was a teacher in Cook academy at Montour Falls and was later in the railroad business at Elmira. He prepared himself for the ministry and he and his wife went as missionaries to India. A few years ago the university building at Nashville was burned and was not rebuilt. Since that time Mr. Guernsey has been engaged in mission work in New York city.

Rev. Riley A. Vose, the present pastor was born at Spencer in this county June 21, 1859. He was graduated from Colgate academy in 1881, from Madison university in 1885, and from Hamilton theological seminary in 1887. His first pastorate was that of the Baptist church at Madison, N. Y., where he remained from Jan. 1, 1888, to June 1, when he was called to the pastorate of the Albany Avenue Baptist church at Kingston, N. Y., and preached there two and one-half years. January 1, 1892, he assumed the pastorate of the Tabernacle Baptist church at Utica. He remained there nearly four years. In October, 1895, he became pastor of the North Avenue Baptist church at Cambridge, Mass., and preached there until May, 1889, when he resigned on account of ill health and went to Europe to recuperate. At a farewell reception given to Mr. and Mrs. Vose the congregation presented to them a purse of \$1,500. Upon his return, his health having improved, he accepted a call to the Owego church and began his duties here in October, 1899.

A History of St. Paul's Episcopal Church from Its Organization in 1834 to the Present Time, with Some Account of the Church Edifices and the Rectors of the Church.

The third church organized at Owego was St. Paul's Episcopal church, which was organized Feb. 10, 1834, by Rev. James D. Carder, who came from Ithaca for that purpose. The name of the organization was "The Rector, Churchwardens, and Vestrymen of St. Paul's Church in the village of Owego." John Watson and Thomas Farrington were chosen wardens and Dr. Jedediah Fay, Col. Samuel Rockwood, Charles C. Noble, George Bacon, Harmon Pumpelly, John Howland, Robert Charles Johnson, and Sheldon Osborne vestrymen. At this time there were only three communicants, Mrs. Gad Worthington, Mrs. Samuel Rockwood, and Mrs. Hyde. Church services were held at the old Presbyterian session house, or lecture room as it was then called, on the east side of Court street.

In November, 1832, Mr. Carder, who was rector of St. John's church at Ithaca, wrote to Mr. Farrington saying that he expected to have a leisure Sunday after Thanksgiving day and that if it should be the general wish of those concerned, he would render some service in organizing a parish here during the fall or winter. Mr. Carder came here later and organized the church. He preached here every other week a few months, driving over from Ithaca for that purpose. In May, 1834, owing to ill health, he left Ithaca to spend the summer on the Atlantic coast.

Rev. Dr. Carder came to Ithaca in

1831. When he left there, in 1834, he went to Connecticut. He was afterward appointed secretary of the Episcopal Board of Foreign Missions, and held that position at the time of his death, about the year 1867.

Rev. Ezekiel G. Gear, who succeeded Mr. Carder as rector of St. John's church at Ithaca, held church services at Owego, beginning in March, 1835. Mr. Gear was the second rector of St. John's church, preaching there from 1823 to 1828, and again from 1834 to 1836. He went from Ithaca to the west as a pioneer missionary.

Rev. John Baily, who was then a deacon, was the first settled clergyman of St. Paul's church. He first came here in the fall of 1837 and held services every other week at the Presbyterian session house during the winter. He also held services at Candor and Richford. He was regularly called to the pastorate of St. Paul's in March, 1838. Church services were now held at the court house. Mr. Baily was ordained to the priesthood in April. He remained as rector of the church three years. In February, 1841, Mr. Baily, who for a year had been prevented by ill health from conducting services, resigned the pastorate, saying that on account of his health he could not continue his duties in the ministry. He afterward lived at Fayetteville, N. Y., where he died a few years ago.

In 1839 the society built its first church. The ground on which it was erected was owned by James Pumpelly, and was the same land on the south side of Main street where the rectory now stands. This was a part of the Pumpelly orchard, and was

deeded to the society April 14, 1840. Mr. Pumpelly gave the society the use of the ground so long as it should be occupied for church purposes. The church was consecrated May 17, 1840, by Rt. Rev. Wm. H. Delancey, bishop of the diocese of western New York.

The church was in size 58 by 38 feet, including the vestibule. The roof in front projected from the building and was sustained by four large square pillars. A square bell tower was on the peak of the roof at the front. A bell was not placed in the tower until 1855. It was purchased by ladies of the church and their friends and weighed about 1,200 pounds. The church lot was enlarged on the south and west sides by gift from George J. Pumpelly April 6, 1850, making the lot 58 feet wide in front and 100 feet deep. The church was enlarged in the summer of 1850. The rear of the edifice was cut off and a section of several feet in length inserted. The number of pews was increased. A Sunday school room was fitted up in the basement, but this basement was damp and was not much used. The changes cost about \$1,000. While the improvements were in progress church services were held at Fay's hall in Front street.

Further enlargement and improvements were made in November and December, 1856, by builders Ferguson and Ebenezer Tucker after plans by architect Charles Babcock, of New York city. The altar was at the south end of the church. There was a long reading desk, from which the services were conducted, and back of that a high pulpit, from which the rector preached his sermons. These were

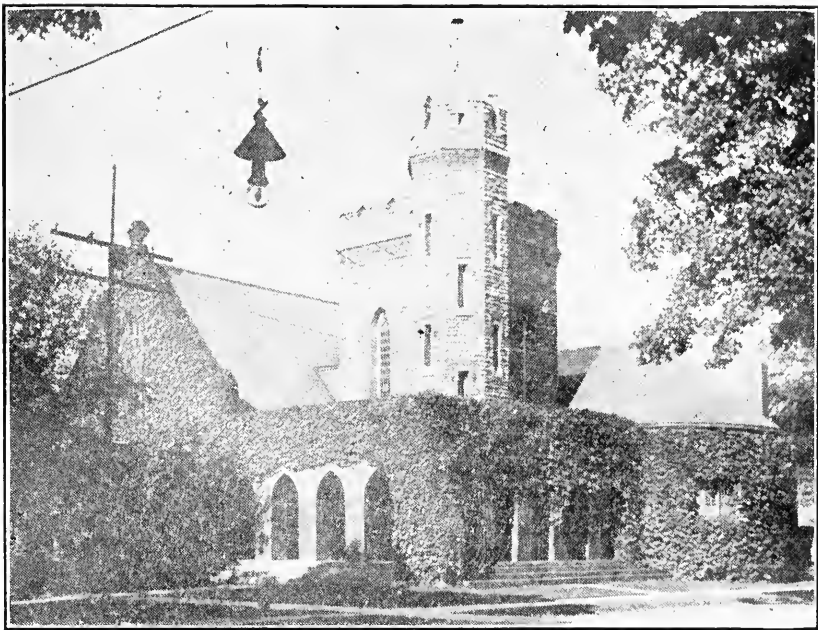
removed when the church was enlarged in 1856, and more modern ones placed in an extension made for the purpose at the rear of the church. Transepts were built on each side of the church in front of the altar rail, making the edifice of a cruciform shape, in which transepts additional pews were placed. The partition which separated the auditorium from the vestibule under the gallery at the north end of the church was removed and the gallery was torn down. In the space where the vestibule had been twelve new pews were placed. The organ and choir were placed on a platform about four feet high between the doors at the entrance of the church. Stained glass windows were put in place of the old ones. The whole interior of the edifice was improved and beautified and it was reopened for public worship Jan. 11, 1857. While the church was undergoing these improvements services were held at the village hall in Main street. Other improvements were made to the church in the fall of 1863 and the fall of 1865.

In the spring of 1873 Richard H. Sackett, who had purchased the John H. Avery property in east Front street, which consisted of the ground on which the houses of Dr. E. D. Downs and Joel C. Kenyon now stand, together with all the property of equal width on the south side of that street offered the property as a gift to St. Paul's church, with the condition that the society should erect a church on the north side of the street within four years, to cost not less than \$15,000, the lot on the south side of the street

to be used as a site for a parsonage. Between \$10,000 and \$11,000 were raised by subscription, but the balance could not be obtained.

In the spring of 1891 the question of building a new church edifice was agitated. The heirs of Geo. J. Pumpelly, through gift and purchase, had given their interest in the church lot to the society. A member of the society offered to pay for additional land at the west of and adjoining the church lot and give it to the society, but nothing was done in the matter. A year later, in April, 1892, the lot at the northwest corner of Main and Liberty streets was purchased of Mrs. S. J. Ogden for \$2,500. The church was built in 1893 with money raised by the ladies' guild of the church. The architect was William Halsey Wood, of Newark, N. J.

The church was built by contract by John T. Corchran, of this village. The corner stone was laid Oct. 31 by the rector, Rev. James H. Kidder, acting as bishop's deputy, assisted by nine clergymen from other churches. The consecration services were held Jan. 25, 1894, Rt. Rev. F. D. Huntington, bishop of the diocese of Central New York, officiating, assisted by bishop Wm. A. Leonard, of Ohio, the rector, Rev. J. H. Kidder, and seventeen other clergymen. The church is built of blue stone and is 90 by 75 feet in size. The inner walls are of cream-colored brick, the floors of Georgia pine wood, and the pews of oak. The total cost was \$12,800, exclusive of the seats, the heating apparatus, and the furnishing. The furniture, etc., were the gifts of various persons as memorials to departed relatives.



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The old church was sold to Jeremiah Towsand, who sold the pews and tore down the building, which he used in building a house in McMaster street.

The first rectory of St. Paul's church was built on land sold to the church by Mrs. Eliza M. Clizbe for \$500 March 9, 1846. The lot was on the west side of Academy street. The house was of Gothic architecture with a very high sloping roof above the first story and with a basement. It was sold in October, 1861, to James P. Lovejoy, and after his death it was again sold in February, 1866, to Dr. E. A. Mayor. Mr. Mayor removed the roof and in its place built a second story to the house and surmounted it with a Mansard roof.

In February, 1897, the society purchased of Thomas C. Platt for \$1,600 a house which stood east of and adjoining the old church, which was occupied as a rectory. This house had been rented as a rectory after the sale of the property in Academy street. It was occupied as a rectory until a new one was built in 1902, when it was sold to Charles G. Carter, who removed it to his lot on the west side of Central avenue.

The present rectory was built in the summer of 1902 on the ground where the old church and rectory had stood. The architects were Bragdon & Hillman, of Rochester, and it was built at a cost of \$2,785 by John T. Corchran.

February 2, 1842, John Redman Coxe, M. D., of Philadelphia, proprietor of the tract of land south of the Susquehanna river in the towns of Owego and Nichols, known as Coxe's patent, deeded to the rector, wardens,

and vestry of St. Paul's church a part of lot No. 190 in this tract, containing a little more than 52 acres, in trust, the income to be applied to the maintenance of St. Paul's church so long as it should be a church.

The rectors of St. Paul's church since its organization have been as follows:

Rev. John Baily, May, 1838-May, 1840.

Rev. Isaac Swart, July 26, 1840-March 21, 1841.

Rev. Alfred Louderback, Aug. 29, 1841-April 15, 1844.

Rev. George Watson, Oct. 5, 1844-Oct. 1, 1854.

Rev. James Rankine, Oct. 1, 1854-April 7, 1861.

Rev. Morelle Fowler, April 14, 1861-April, 1863.

Rev. George D. Johnson, April 6, 1863-April 3, 1866.

Rev. Thomas W. Street, Dec. 27, 1866-July 1, 1868.

Rev. James H. Kidder, Aug. 1, 1868-

Rev. George Watson was an Englishman. He resigned the rectorate of St. Paul's church in July, 1854, to take effect on the first of the following October, having accepted a call to St. Paul's church at Norwalk, Ohio. He died at Norwalk, Nov. 15, 1870, aged 68 years.

Rev. James Rankine, who succeeded Mr. Watson, was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, Nov. 5, 1827. He came with his parents to the United States in 1835, the family settling at Canandaigua, N. Y. He was graduated from Union college in 1846. He pursued the preparatory studies for holy orders under Dr. Williams, the rector of St. George's church at Schenectady, and when Dr. Williams was called to the presidency of Trinity college in 1849 Mr. Rankine accompanied him

there, where he was at first a tutor and afterward assistant professor of mathematics. June 11, 1850, he was ordained deacon. He resigned his position in Trinity college to become rector of St. Paul's church in September, 1854. He remained at Owego six years. In April, 1861, he was appointed head of the senior department of the diocesan training school (now known as the Delancey divinity school) and rector of St. Peter's chapel at Geneva, N. Y. In 1868 he assumed the presidency of Hobart college. He served two years when his health failed and he resigned the presidency and returned to his old position in the divinity school and St. Peter's parish, where he remained until his death on Dec. 16, 1896.

Rev. Morelle Fowler, who succeeded Mr. Rankine as rector of St. Paul's, assumed his duties April 14, 1861. He was a graduate of Berkely divinity school at Middletown, Conn. He came after his graduation to Owego. He remained here two years. He resigned in April, 1863, having accepted a call to the Episcopal church at Batavia, N. Y. He remained there until the summer of 1870 when he resigned on account of ill health and went to Salt Lake City to assume the pastorate of a church there. In February, 1871, he returned east, to accompany his family from New London, Conn., to Salt Lake City. While on their way to Utah he and his wife with their three children were all killed in a terrible railroad accident, which happened Feb. 6 on the Hudson River railroad, eight miles below Poughkeepsie, N. Y., in which twenty-one persons were killed. The axle of an oil train broke, throwing

the wreckage against a drawbridge in face of the express train, which crashed into it, the whole catching fire.

Rev. George D. Johnson was born at Stratford, Conn., in June, 1834. He was a great grandson of Jonathan Edwards, the first president of Princeton college, and of Samuel Johnson, the first president of Kings college. He was graduated from Trinity college in 1854. He came to Owego from Darien, Conn., in April, 1863, and was rector of St. Paul's two years. In April, 1865, he went to New Rochelle, N. Y., where he lived until March, 1867, when he accepted a call to a church in Boston, Mass. He became rector of Christ church at New Brighton, N. Y., in 1875. At the time of his death on August 28, 1906, he was pastor emeritus of that church and archdeacon.

Rev. Thomas W. Street came to Owego from New Brunswick, N. J., where he was curate of St. Andrews's church, and became pastor of St. Paul's in June, 1866. He resigned in the summer of 1868.

Rev. James Holwell Kidder came to Owego from Unadilla, N. Y., having been called to the rectorate of St. Paul's parish Aug. 1, 1868. Mr. Kidder was born at Portland, Maine. He was graduated from the general theological seminary in New York city in 1860; ordained deacon at St. Luke's church, Portland, the same year, and priest at Eastport, Maine, in June 1861. He was in charge of St. Thomas's church at Camden, Me., until November, 1860, and afterward of Christ church at Eastport about three years. Then he entered on the rectorship of St. Mat-

thew's church at Unadilla, N. Y., July 1, 1863. Five years later, on Aug. 1, 1868, he became rector of St. Paul's church at Owego. Mr. Kidder has been now (1909) forty-one years rector of St. Paul's and has not been an hour out of the active ministry since he was ordained.



REV. JAMES H. KIDDER.

**Some Account of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Its Property, and Its Pastors from about the Year 1842 to the Present Time.**

There were no Roman Catholics at Owego for several years after the first settlement of the village. About the year 1842, when the New York & Erie railroad was projected, laborers on the road, mostly Catholics from Ireland, came here to assist in the work of driving the piles, on which it was intended to lay the tracks. These piles were not used, but gradually decayed and within a few years after the road had been constructed to Owego on a solid gravel bed in 1849 they had all gradually decayed and disappeared.

The first missionary through here was James F. Hourigan, who came on horseback. Rev. James V. O'Reilly, who was pastor of the church at Friendsville, Pa., and had spiritual charge of several missions in Pennsylvania and New York, afterward came here about four times a year and celebrated high mass.

August 17, 1842, Charles Pumpelly deeded as a gift to Right Rev. John Hughes and his successors in the ministry, in trust for the Catholic congregation of Owego, a part of village lot No. 29, containing half an acre of land. This lot, which is mentioned in the deed as "the Catholic church lot," is east of the road which extends north from Erie street and turns west up on the hill to Prospect street. This lot, for several years and until St. Joseph's cemetery in the town of Tioga was laid out, was the Catholic cemetery.

In the deed given by Mr. Pumpelly the land conveyed is described as that

"upon which is now being erected the Catholic church, for a site for which said land is granted, to be used for that purpose and a burying ground and for no other purpose whatever." This reference to a church is the only knowledge any one of the present day has of any church having ever been built on the lot, and its existence is beyond the recollection of the oldest inhabitants. It was, probably, a small building and must have been removed or torn down soon afterward. There is a story that the first Catholic services were held in a small frame building, which stood on the site of the present church in east Main street. This is an error.

The first regular church services of which anything is now positively known were held at the home of David Connelly in Paige street. Mr. Connelly was a tailor, a man who was held in respect by the people of the village, and a leading man in church affairs. His house was on the east side of Paige street, the second house south of East Temple street, and is still standing there. Mr. Connelly lived there with his wife, his son, and three daughters. He bought the property in March, 1838, of Michael Conklin. He built a second story to the back part of this house, to be used as a place to hold religious services, access to which was obtained by a stairway, which he built outside the house. Here Father O'Reilly held services, and afterward Rev. Andrew Doyle, who was appointed pastor of St. Patrick's church at Binghamton in 1843 by Bishop John Hughes, came here occasionally until May 1, 1844, when he was called to assist the pastor of

St. James's church in New York city.

Rev. John Sheridan came in 1844, and he was the first resident pastor here. He was also in charge of the missions at Ithaca and Watkins. Father Sheridan remained here six years, and during his sojourn here, and mainly through his efforts, a new church was built.

The New York and Erie railroad was completed to Owego in 1849. While the road was building many Catholics came here as laborers, and after the road was in operation many others came as employes of the road and became permanent residents of Owego. The congregation of the church was thereby increased to such an extent that it was decided to build a church. The ground on which St. Patrick's church now stands on the south side of east Main street was owned by Thomas Farrington, who sold it on a contract to Father Sheridan in 1848, and a wooden church was immediately erected thereon. Oct. 9, 1849, the lot, which contained 64 square rods of land was deeded by judge Farrington for \$545.50 to Father Sheridan.

Father Sheridan was succeeded in August, 1850, by Rev. Michael Creedon, who in 1851 was succeeded by Rev. P. Mallon, who officiated until January, 1852, when Rev. James T. McManus came. Rev. Nicholas Byrne came in December, 1858, and remained here two years. In 1859, during his pastorate the parochial school house was built in the rear of the church.

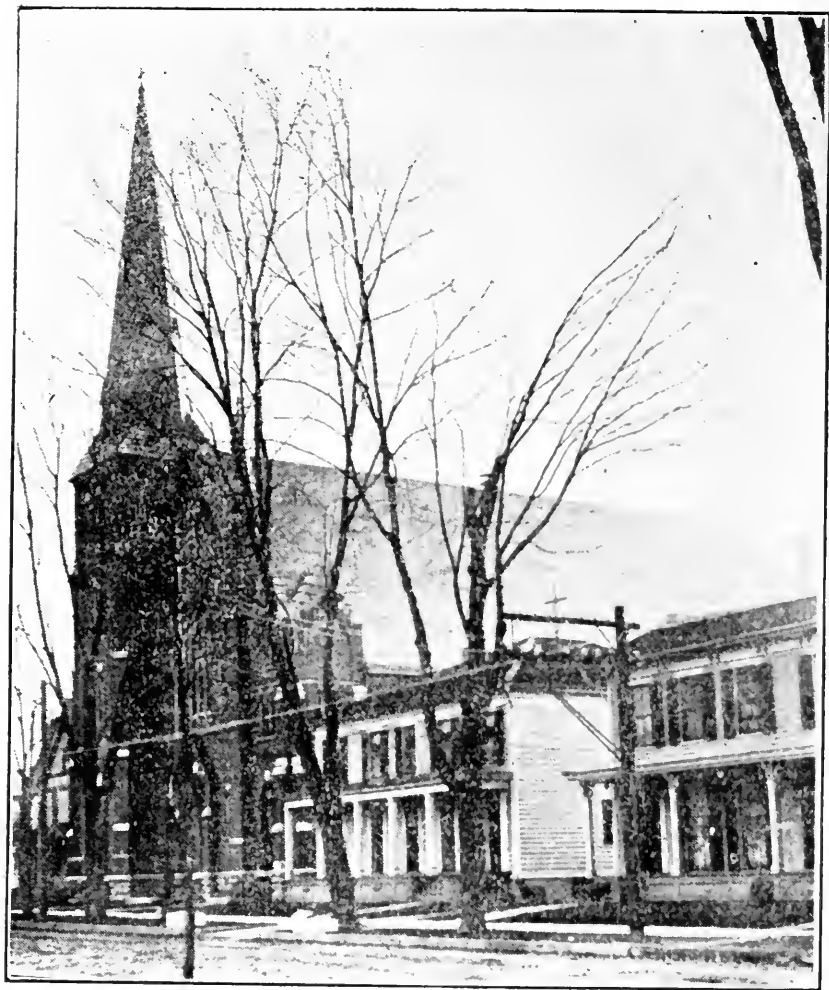
Rev. Joseph Butler was pastor from 1860 to August, 1862. He established the society known as the "Sodality of the Living Rosary," the object being to

supply the altar with candles and flowers. In 1868, during the pastorate of Rev. Francis Clark, the society of "The Sacred Heart of Jesus" was organized, and in 1870 the "Children of Mercy." During Father Clark's sojourn here, from 1863 to 1871, many improvements were made. He caused the church to be enlarged in the summer of 1863. A new steeple was added to the edifice and a bell placed therein. The convent of the Sisters of Mercy was instituted in 1865, the name of which was changed to St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum in April, 1870, during Father Clark's pastorate.

In the summer of 1875 about \$3,000 were spent in repairing, repainting, and otherwise improving the church edifice. In November, 1855, the house and lot west of and adjoining the church were purchased of Thomas Evans by the Catholic society. This was occupied as the parochial residence until 1869. Aug. 30 in this year Richard H. Sackett sold to John Hardman the house and lot west of the parochial residence, which Mr. Hardman on Oct. 1 transferred to the society. This property is now occupied as the pastor's residence and the building between it and the church by the Sisters of Mercy.

The cemetery lot in Goodrich settlement in the town of Tioga, containing four and eight-tenths acres of land and known as St. Joseph's cemetery, was purchased of Henry W. Camp Feb. 1, 1868, for \$1,000, and the old cemetery in this village was abandoned as a burial place.

The old wooden church proving inadequate to the needs of an increasing congregation, a new brick church



ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.

was built in 1890. Subscriptions to a fund for building the new church were begun by Rev. James Rogers about the year 1876. He collected about \$4,000, to which in 1887, Rev. F. D. Johnson had added about \$6,000 more. The church was dedicated Sunday, Dec. 7, 1890, by Rt. Rev. Stephen Vincent Ryan, of Buffalo, assisted by twelve priests from other churches. The bishop preached the dedication sermon. The new church cost about \$30,000. It was built by James Sullivan. It is 129 by 58 feet in size, constructed of brick and cut stone, and surmounted by a steeple 131 feet high. When Rev. John J. Sheridan assumed the pastorate of this church in June, 1899, there was an indebtedness of about \$11,000 on the property. In the summer of 1908, through his efforts, the entire debt was paid.

The following is a list of the resident pastors of St. Patrick's church since its organization:

Rev. John Sheridan, May 1, 1844-August, 1850.

Rev. Michael Creedon, August, 1850-1851.

Rev. P. Mallon, 1851-January, 1852.

Rev. James T. McManus, January, 1852-December, 1858.

Rev. Nicholas Byrne, December, 1858-1860.

Rev. Joseph Butler, 1860-August, 1862.

Rev. S. Bonaventure Corney, August, 1862-April, 1863.

Rev. Francis Clark, June, 1863-January, 1871.

Rev. James Rogers, January, 1871-April, 1877.

Rev. John O'Mara, April, 1877-October, 1883.

Rev. Thomas D. Johnson, November, 1883-September, 1893.

Rev. Martin Ryan, October, 1893-May, 1895.

Rev. John J. Sheridan, June, 1899-  
July, 1909.

Rev. George V. Burns, July, 1909-

Rev. James T. McManus was born in county Cavan, Ireland, in 1821 and studied for the priesthood at Cavan college. He came to America in 1848 and graduated from the Catholic seminary at Fordham, N. Y., in 1851. His first pastorate was a church in Buffalo. He came to Owego as pastor of St. Patrick's church in 1851, and also had charge of the parishes at Waverly and Ithaca. He was here eight years until December, 1858, when he was transferred to the church of St. Francis de Sales at Geneva, N. Y. Thence in April, 1862, he was transferred to the church of St. Mary's at Rochester, N. Y. Seven months later he was again transferred to Geneva, where he remained until his death on June 29, 1890, a period of thirty-one years. In 1886 he succeeded Rev. James M. Early as Vicar-General of the diocese. Dec. 18, 1889, he received the honorary title of Monseigneur from Bishop McQuade by order of the Pope, making him a member of the papal household.

Rev. Joseph Butler came here in 1860. From Owego he was transferred to Troy in August, 1862.

Rev. Francis Clark came to Owego in January, 1863. Under his ministry the church was enlarged, a school and convent were established, a new cemetery was laid out, and a parochial residence purchased. He left Owego in January, 1871, to become parish priest of the church of SS. Peter and Paul at Elmira and rural dean. He was later, at his own request, transferred to St. Ann's church at Hornell. While in charge of that parish he fell from a

buggy and sustained a serious injury to his hip, incapacitating him from pastoral work. He died in Buffalo August 8, 1890, aged 64 years.

Rev. James Rogers came to Owego from Buffalo in 1871. In April, 1877, he was transferred to the church of the Immaculate Conception in Buffalo. During his sojourn in Owego there was a church debt of \$7,000, which he caused to be paid. He died in Buffalo Aug. 26, 1893, aged 51 years.

Rev. John O'Mara was born in county Clare, Ireland, Dec. 25, 1836. He was made an orphan in his youth and was reared and educated by relatives. He came to America when twenty years of age and completed his studies for the ministry. He was ordained a priest in 1859, and afterward had charge of churches at Rochester, Buffalo, Medina, and Lockport. He came to Owego from Buffalo, where he was pastor of the church of the Immaculate Conception, in April, 1887. During his residence here he had charge of the parish at Newark Valley and caused the church to be built there in the fall of 1880. He died while pastor of St. Patrick's church on Oct. 27, 1883, and his body was buried in St. Joseph's cemetery in the town of Tioga.

During Father O'Mara's residence here, Rev. James Hilary Leddy was his assistant, three or four years. Father Leddy was born in New York city. He went from Owego in August, 1880, to Gowanda, N. Y., where he remained six years. He was afterward at Holley, N. Y., eleven years, and went thence to Warsaw, N. Y., in August, 1878. He died at the age of 64 years at Warsaw May 13, 1901.

from the result of injuries received by falling into an excavation in the Erie railroad depot at Lockport one night, while returning home from Buffalo.

Rev. Thomas D. Johnson was pastor of St. Patrick's church ten years. He came here in November, 1883. He was born in county Cavan, Ireland, in 1850, and was educated at Manyooth college, near Dublin. He came to America in 1873 and entered Niagara University in 1874, and was graduated therefrom the next year. After his ordination he remained for some time at Corning, N. Y., as a curate in Dean Colgan's parish. He was afterward pastor of the church at Lewiston, N. Y., and in 1884 became an assistant to Father Cunningham, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul's church at Elmira. Upon the death of Father O'Mara, he was sent to Owego. The present church was built during his ministry here. In 1890 he made a trip to his old home in Ireland for the benefit of his health, which did not improve. He died at Elmira Sept. 17, 1893. His body was brought to Owego and buried in St. Joseph's cemetery.

Rev. Martin Ryan was born in Ireland. He came to America in 1863. He was ordained in 1871 at Niagara Falls and was afterward pastor successively of SS. Peter and Paul's church at Elmira, St. Catherine's church at Addison, and of St. Mary of the Lake's church at Watkins for fourteen years. He came from Watkins to Owego upon the death of Father Johnson. In May, 1895, he sailed for Ireland, having received an indefinite leave of absence on account of ill health. He never returned, dying there Jan. 9, 1909.

After Father Ryan's departure for Ireland in 1895, Rev. James Moriarty came to Owego to take charge of St. Patrick's church.

When Rev. John J. Sheridan came here in the summer of 1899, he had just been graduated from St. Bernard's seminary at Rochester. He had been previously graduated from Canisius college at Buffalo and St. Bonaventure's college at Allegany, Pa. He was sent here from the Syracuse diocese as administrator of the parish pending the appointment of a regular pastor, and he served with such eminent satisfaction that he remained here ten years. In June, 1909, he was transferred to Syracuse, where he was soon afterward appointed pastor of St. Lucy's church. Father Sheridan was born at Binghamton. When he assumed charge of St. Patrick's church it was burdened with a debt of about \$11,000, which was paid through his exertions.

Rev. George V. Burns, the present pastor of St. Patrick's church was born in Buffalo, April 4, 1873. He was educated in Rochester at St. Andrews's preparatory seminary and St. Bernard's seminary. He was ordained June 11, 1898, and was thereupon appointed second assistant at the cathedral. Two years later he was appointed first assistant and officiated eight and one-half years and was then appointed pastor of the Catholic church at Phelps, N. Y. While at Phelps he was appointed by Bishop Hickey as superintendent of the parochial schools of this diocese. He assumed charge of St. Patrick's church in this village July 9, 1909.

Some Account of the Schools for Young Ladies at Owego from the Days when Miss Juliette Camp Opened the Owego Female Seminary in 1828 to the Establishment of the Seminary in East Front Street, where, Among Others, Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood Was Principal.

In the summer of 1815 Charles Pumpelly built a large house for his residence on the north side of Front street where the houses of Howard J. Mead and Miss Anna M. Dean are now. The lot was eighty feet wide on that street and extended back the full width to Main street. The house was of wood, painted white, and was the largest and most pretentious of any that had been built at that time in the village. It stood about fifteen feet back from the sidewalk, near the west end of the lot, and on the east side was a large yard covered with a grove of tall trees. Mr. Pumpelly lived in this house until 1841, when he purchased the brick house in west Front street now owned by James Forsyth of his brother, Harmon Pumpelly, and removed thereto. The old residence was occupied as a seminary and boarding school from 1843 to 1865.

Several years previous to this time Miss Juliette M. Camp, who later became the wife of Joseph M. Ely, in 1828 opened a school for young ladies, which she styled the "Owego Female Seminary." She did not board her pupils, but in her advertisement she announced that "board may be obtained in respectable families in this village."

Miss Camp had previously spent considerable time in an infant school

at Utica, to acquaint herself with the methods of teaching employed there, and in 1830 she converted her young ladies' seminary into a children's school, and she had between forty and fifty pupils. Miss Eliza S. Ripley, a daughter of John Ripley, was Miss Camp's assistant. Miss Ripley was several years later married to Ebenezer Woodbridge and has been for many years living at Dixon, Ill.

In the spring of 1843 Mrs. Mary Palmer, of Factoryville (now east Waverly), and Miss Eunice S. Williams rented the Pumpelly residence and established a boarding and day school for young ladies there, which they called the "Owego Female Seminary." Miss Palmer was principal of the school and Miss Williams had charge of the boarding department. There were two terms of 22 weeks each year, or four quarters of 11 weeks each. The price of board and tuition was \$125 a year, and in an advertisement in the Gazette it was announced that "from country patrons a portion of pay for board will be received in produce at market prices." Day scholars in the elementary departments were charged \$2 a year, in the middle department \$3.50, and in the high department \$5. Miss Williams died soon after this school was opened at the home of her father at Norwich, Conn., in October, 1843.

Fearing, probably, that the opening of the seminary would be detrimental to the success of the Owego academy by taking therefrom some of the young ladies in the girls' department, the academy trustees started another school in opposition to that of Mrs.

Palmer in the summer of 1843, which they styled the "Owego Female Institute," and they placed at its head Prof. and Mrs. Joseph M. Ely. Mr. Ely was at this time principal of the academy. He had been teaching ten years in New York city and returned to Owego to assume direction of the academy, with the institute for young ladies connected therewith.

The new female institute was not kept at the academy but at Mr. Ely's house. At the opening of this institute it was announced that if liberal patronage should be given a new building would be erected the next year for the school. The building was not erected. The school was opened in the house that was owned and had been occupied by Jonathan Platt, Mr. Platt having removed to the "Vesper Cliff" property in the town of Tioga. The charge for boarders for a term of eleven weeks was \$25 and for day scholars \$5.

Mr. Ely taught languages, mathematics, etc., and Mrs. Ely music and singing. Miss P. E. Southworth taught French and drawing. Thomas LeClere, who was born north of this village and who became one of the most celebrated portrait painters in America, gave lessons in oil painting. At the opening of the spring term in 1844 it was announced that "persons willing to advance \$25 and upwards in labor and materials toward the erection of a new building for the institute next summer—payment thereof to be made in tuition in the institute—will please apply to the principals."

Mrs. Palmer conducted the seminary in Front street six years. In the spring of 1849 it passed into the hands

of Mrs. M. A. Chase and Miss H. P. Fellows, and Mrs. Palmer went to Binghamton. Mrs. Chase came here from Philadelphia. Her daughter, Miss Edith Chase, was later a teacher in St. Agnes's school in Albany. Miss Fellows had charge of the boarders and Mrs. Palmer was principal. They conducted the seminary four years.

At the close of the spring term in 1852 Mrs. Chase and Miss Fellows left the school, and on Jan. 4, 1852, Rev. and Mrs. George P. Porter began the winter term there. Mr. Porter was that year and the year following pastor of the Owego M. E. church. Mrs. Porter had been preceptress at the Wyoming Wesleyan seminary for several years. The Porters conducted the seminary until 1854, when Mr. Porter was assigned to the M. E. church at Waverly.

In the spring of 1854 Miss Eliza B. Thomas, a cousin of Charles C. and Albert R. Thomas, of Owego, opened a school which she called the Owego Female Institute in the house which was afterward for many years owned and occupied by Eli W. Stone. It is on the north side of Front street, the second house west of John street. Her assistant was Miss Laura C. Bartlett, who had been superintendent of the female department at the Owego academy. In August, 1855, she offered the property for sale, saying that she desired to have her school in a more central part of the village. The school was discontinued at about this time.

In the spring of 1856 Mrs. Samuel C. Wilcox, who had lived in Philadelphia since the death of her husband in 1854, returned to Owego and made an arrangement with Mrs. Guy Worthing-

ton, who was occupying the seminary building, to reopen the seminary, and the term began April 1, 1856, with Mrs. Wilcox as principal. Miss Darling, Mrs. Wilcox's sister, came with her from Philadelphia and was an assistant teacher. Mrs. Worthington, who was the mother of the late bishop George Worthington, of Nebraska, had charge of the boarders and Mrs. Wilcox was principal of the school. In the spring of 1857 Mrs. Worthington retired from the seminary and Mrs. Wilcox took entire control of both the school and the boarding establishment. Not long afterward Miss Darling had charge of the housekeeping, and Miss Hall was engaged as vice-principal.

In the fall of 1858 Miss Josephine Hosmer came from Detroit, Mich., and assumed the management of the seminary. Her assistants were Misses S. Loring, of Concord, Mass., and M. E. Walker, of Portsmouth, N. H. Miss Hosmer remained here only a year and in Nov., 1859, Prof. and Mrs. George H. Burroughs, succeeded her.

Mr. Burroughs came here highly recommended by Theo. Frelinghuysen, president of Rutgers college, and president McLean, of Princeton college. He was a graduate of Princeton college and had been for some time subsequent to his graduation a tutor. Mr. and Mrs. Burroughs conducted the seminary four years.

In the fall of 1863, Mrs. Belva McNall, now Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood, succeeded Mr. and Mrs. Burroughs and opened the fall term Sept. 24. Her assistants were Misses Anna Hurd, Julia A. Osborne, and Louisa Warner. At the close of the spring term in



MRS. BELVA A. LOCKWOOD.

1865, she left Owego and the seminary was permanently closed as a young ladies' school.

Since leaving Owego Mrs. Lockwood has attained national prominence. She was born at Royalton, Niagara county, N. Y., October 24, 1830, as Belva A. Bennett. She began teaching when she was 14 years old. Two years later, on Nov. 8, 1848, she was married to Uriah H. McNall, a young farmer, of Royalton, who died there May 11, 1853. After his death she left her young daughter in the care of her parents, in order to prepare herself for teaching. She was graduated from Genesee college at Lima, N. Y., in June, 1857, and soon afterward was appointed principal of the Lockport union school. Four years afterward she took charge of the Gainsville female seminary, where she taught until she came to Owego in 1863. When she left Owego she went to Washington, D. C., where she opened a school. March 11, 1868, she was married to Rev. Ezekiel Lockwood, a Baptist minister, who was at one time chaplain of the Second District regiment at Washington. Soon after her second marriage she closed her school and began the study of law. In the winter of 1870 she applied for admission to the law school of Columbia college at Washington, but was refused on the ground that her presence in the class "would distract the attention of the young men." The next spring she was admitted to the National University law school, from which she was graduated in May, 1873. In November of that year she was admitted to the bar of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, and im-

mediately thereafter began the practice of law. In 1874 she visited Texas professionally and was admitted to the United States court in the western district. Her husband, Dr. Lockwood, died at Washington April 23, 1877. In October, 1878, she applied for admission to the bar of the circuit court of Prince George county, Maryland, and was refused, although she had been allowed previously to file a civil suit in the federal court of Baltimore county, involving \$50,000. In February, 1879, congress passed an act, which permitted women to practise in the supreme court of the United States, and on the 3d of the following March her application to practise was granted by the justices of the United States court. Mrs. Lockwood was the first woman permitted to practise before the highest tribunal in the country. Her first application had been made three years previous and refused on the ground that a fair interpretation of the rules of the court admitted only men, and unless the custom should become more extended in the states or special legislation should be had on the subject it could not be done. In the national campaign of 1884 Mrs. Lockwood was the Woman's Rights candidate for president of the United States. In the summer of 1896 Mrs. Lockwood and Mrs. Frances Graham French were appointed to represent the United States at the second international congress of charities and the second international congress for the protection of children at Geneva, Switzerland.

The old seminary lot was sold by Charles Pumpelly's heirs in October, 1874, to Thomas I. Chatfield. The

back part of the lot at the main street end had been sold several years previous to Daniel L. Jenks and Frederick E. Platt and the houses built by them still stand there. Mr. Chatfield sold the seminary lot in November, 1875, to Mrs. Catherine B. Deming, who in April, 1878, sold part of it to Jefferson C. Dwelle, who built on it the house now owned by Howard J. Mead.

---

**The First Burying Ground in Owego, with a History of Evergreen Cemetery, Which Was Established in 1851, and some Account of Sasana Loft, the Indian Girl, Who Was Killed in a Railroad Accident at Deposit, and Whose Body Lies Buried under a Marble Monument in the Highest Part of the Cemetery, Overlooking the Susquehanna Valley.**

The first burying ground in this village was at the southeast corner of Main and Court streets and occupied the land on which now stand the sheriff's residence and jail, the old Academy building, and the new county clerk's office. Bodies had been previously buried at the southwest corner of Main and Lake streets and near the southeast corner of Main and Academy streets, but they were afterward disinterred and buried in this burying ground.

When the Presbyterian church property was purchased a burying ground was laid out at its east end in Temple street. People who had friends buried in the old burying ground caused the bodies to be taken up and removed to the new ground, and the Court street property was abandoned as a burial place.

The project for a village cemetery was advocated and carried through in 1851 by William F. Warner, with some opposition. Mr. Warner was at that time clerk of the village board of trustees.

The first action taken for the establishment of the cemetery was on Saturday evening, March 8, 1851, at a public meeting of citizens at the court house, when resolutions were adopted directing the village trustees to purchase suitable land for a village burying ground and authorizing a tax of \$1,500 to be levied within three years, for the purpose of paying for the land, fencing it, and putting it in proper condition.

There was a difference of opinion as to where the cemetery should be located, some of the people desiring that it should be on level ground, others favoring the present site on the hill north of the village as the most desirable, for the reason that the land would never be needed for any other purpose in case the village should grow to any extent and would remain undisturbed as a burying ground for many years. The hill site was finally selected.

In the spring of 1851 the village trustees purchased of George Talcott a piece of eleven and one-fifth acres of land for \$952, together with the right of way for a road thereto. East avenue, then known as "the mountain road," was adopted as the road to the cemetery for a distance of 70 rods, at which point a triangular course was taken to the entrance to the cemetery, a further distance of 56 rods, making the entire distance from North avenue

130 rods. The road was at once laid out sixteen feet wide.

The ground was surveyed in the winter of 1851-2 by Stephen Dexter, who laid it out into squares of four lots each, with a walk on two sides of each lot, and in March, 1852, it was named Evergreen cemetery.

The first body buried in the cemetery was that of Mrs. Frank Swift, wife of Dan C. Swift, and daughter of Gideon O. Chase. Mr. Chase went to the cemetery and with his cane marked in the snow the spot where the grave was to be dug.

The first keeper of the cemetery was Thomas P. Hall, who was appointed in March, 1852. In January, 1853, he was succeeded by Prince Van-Ness, who was keeper until his death in 1867.

The cemetery was enlarged by subsequent purchases of land adjoining the original plot. In August, 1864, Mr. Talcott sold for \$1,500 eleven acres additional land. It was further enlarged in December, 1888, by the purchase for \$135 an acre of a strip of land 240 feet wide and containing ten and one-half acres, north of and adjoining the cemetery. The next enlargement was in January, 1897, when a lot in the form of a trapezoid was purchased for \$200 of the heirs of George Talcott. It was 50 feet wide on North avenue, about 300 feet on the cemetery line, and about 400 feet deep. The land was purchased in order to give people living in that part of the village easy access to the cemetery. Another addition to the cemetery was made in January, 1902, when the property of George Brown was sold at partition sale. At this sale a piece con-

taining about sixteen acres adjoining the cemetery was purchased by the village for \$910 and added to the cemetery.

#### **The Sasana Loft Monument.**

On the summit of the hill in the southeastern part of the cemetery stands the Sasana Loft monument, erected to the memory of an Indian girl, who was killed in a railroad accident in 1852 and whose body is buried there.

The Lofts were Mohawk Indians of unmixed blood, direct descendants of the great Thayendanegea (Brant), and they left Canajonarie, in the valley of the Mohawk river, soon after the breaking out of the revolutionary war, and went to Canada West, where they settled in what was known as the Mohawk Woods, township of Thayendanegea, on the Salmon river.

The family consisted of a widowed mother, a son, and three daughters. The son, Rok-wa-ho Loft, and two of his sisters, Ya-go-weia Loft and Sa-sa-na Loft, leaving their mother and eldest sister at their Canada home, came to the United States, for the purpose of giving concerts, the proceeds of which were to be used in educating and christianizing the Mohawk people.

The Lofts gave two concerts in Owego in February, 1852, at which time Sa-sa-na, the eldest of the two sisters, was 21 years of age. While they were here judge Charles P. Avery, who was greatly interested in Indians and Indian history, became particularly interested in this family and entertained them at his home.

After leaving Owego they went to Deposit, where they gave a concert

February 17. The following day the sisters were seated in the rear car of a train at the railroad station, while the brother was buying tickets at the office. An alarm was given that the engineer of a freight train at the summit, eight miles back, had lost control of his locomotive and had abandoned his train, which was dashing down a grade of sixty feet to the mile at terrific speed toward the station. Most of the passengers were in the station dining room at dinner. The two sisters made an effort to escape from the car. Both reached the platform. Ya-go-weia escaped, but Sa-sa-na fell back upon the car, which was almost entirely torn to pieces by the collision, and she was crushed and scalded to death.

Judge Avery caused the body to be brought back to his home in Owego, and her funeral was held February 20 at St. Paul's church, Rev. James Watson, the rector, officiating. Her body was taken to the old Presbyterian church yard in Temple street, where it was deposited in the Avery family vault. It was intended by the brother to remove it in the following spring to his home in Canada, but the family was afterward prevailed upon to allow it to be buried here in Evergreen cemetery. There are persons still living in Owego, who remember, when children, walking in the procession from the church to the church yard, and have not forgotten the erect figure of the bereaved brother, tall and thin, dressed in black, and with his long black jet hair falling down over his shoulders.

Two days before the funeral in Owego the coroner's jury at Deposit

found a verdict censuring the New York and Erie railroad company for the accident. In the following April judge Avery took out letters of administration from the Broome county court in the estate of the deceased, his object in this proceeding being to obtain in behalf of the next of kin the amount of damage which the statute authorized and the circumstances of the case rendered equitable. Judge Avery gave his services free, as he had previously given his hospitality. The railroad compromised suit September 20, 1852, by paying to the Indian family \$2,000, all of which amount was afterward religiously expended in the publication of useful books in the Mohawk language for the education and christianization of the Mohawk people on the Canada reservation.

In May, 1852, some of the ladies of Owego originated a movement to obtain funds by subscription, with which to erect a monument to the Indian girl. They did not accomplish anything. In the fall of the same year the ladies of Auburn, Albany, Binghamton, and Oxford raised \$109.75. Two years later, March 24, 1854, judge Avery, at the request of a committee of gentlemen delivered a lecture at the court house on "Tioga County and Its Early History," to raise funds to finish paying for the monument. The amount realized from the lecture was \$34.21.

These amounts, with interest, in May, 1855, amounted to \$165.61. The monument was erected that month at a cost of \$201.58, the difference being afterward paid by the ladies of Owego. The monument, which was worth at ordinary prices from \$350 to \$400 was

furnished at cost. It is a pure white marble obelisk, standing seventeen feet above the surface of the ground, with bases of veined marble, on a sub-base of blue granite fourteen inches thick and three feet square, resting on a pier of solid masonry, carried up five feet from a rock foundation and laid in cement. It overlooks the Susquehanna valley, standing in full view of the village on the highest point in Evergreen cemetery. On the front or obverse side are the words: In memory of Sa-sa-na Loft, an Indian Maiden of the Mohawk Woods, Canada West, who lost her life in the Railroad Disaster at Deposit, N. Y., Feb. 18, 1852, aged 21 years." On the reverse is a handsomely executed device—a single wild rose, with stem broken and a leaf gone. On the west side is this inscription: "By birth a daughter of the Forest; by adoption a child of God." The body of the Indian girl is buried at the foot of the monument on the east side.

In 1852, a pamphlet was published at Hamilton, Canada, which contained among other things a poem by the poet, W. H. C. Hosmer, entitled, "Lament of Sa-sa-na."

#### Owego and Oswego.

The similarity of the names, Owego and Oswego, has always been a disadvantage to this village. The name of Oswego, on account of Oswego's greater size and prominence, being better known, business men at Owego have been as a consequence subjected to frequent annoyance, expense, and loss, on account of letters and goods having been misdirected or missent to Oswego. For this reason there has been

at various times some talk of having the name of Owego changed by legislative enactment, but sufficient interest has never been taken in the matter to bring about the desired change.

For some inscrutable reason some of those who have been seriously inconvenienced by the similarity in the names have manifested opposition to any change, when such change has been suggested, thinking perhaps that a temporary derangement of affairs for a short time until the new name should be generally known in the business world would cause them some annoyance. But this would have been only temporary.

In addition to this unimportant objection there was some disagreement as to what should be the new name for the village. The original Indian name was Ahwaga, of which Owego is a corrupt spelling. Some of the people have objected to the name, Ahwaga, but without apparent good reason, as it is a smooth name to pronounce and means something, while Owego is commonplace and meaningless.

If an Indian name is desirable none more musical in its sound could be found than Canawana, the Indian name by which the western part of the village has always been known. Judge Avery in his Susquehanna Valley papers says that Ca-ne-wa-nah, or Canewana, as it is now known, was in the Seneca dialect "Ne-wa-na Canoesh," meaning literally "little living water." It was so named from the spring known as the Indian spring, situated a little west of the Owego creek, at the northern base of the cliff, north of the Main street

bridge. The present name is obtained by the arbitrary transposition of syllables.

In case a change of name should ever be decided upon no name more musical in its pronunciation, nor none more appropriate, could be selected. There is no village of that name in the United States, and its adoption would obviate all the annoyance and unpleasant conditions from which business men have been so long subjected. There has never been any serious objection to a change, and that there has never been any change in the name of the village is owing to the apathy of those most directly interested.

---

#### Errors Corrected.

In the hurry of publishing these papers in a weekly newspaper there were some typographical errors in printing which were overlooked at the time and are here corrected:

Page 9. The name of Ephraim Wood appears twice, first as having come here in 1789, and again in 1799. The correct date is 1799.

Page 20. The name of Selecta Draper was written Electa Draper in the Avery manuscript of Mrs. Caty Harris's statement, and so printed. The name is correctly given on page 12.

Page 25. The name of the father of Col. David Pixley's second wife is given as Joseph Patterson and on page 28 it is printed James Patterson. Joseph Patterson is correct.

Page 32. The date of John M. McQuigg's removal from Owego to Spencer should be 1808 instead of 1898. The date of Capt. John McQuigg's

death should have been printed 1804 instead of 1813. Capt. McQuigg is said to have fought in the battle of White Plains Oct. 28, 1776. The date of the removal of John M. McQuigg from Owego is misprinted 1898. It should be 1798.

Page 33. Daniel McQuigg, the Ithaca merchant is said by his widow to have been a nephew instead of a son of Capt. John McQuigg.

Page 55. Samuel M. Avery in the second line should read Samuel W. Avery. See page 118, where it is printed correctly.

Page 84. The words, "Married Ann S. Gregory in 1810" should read, married Ann S. Gregory, born in 1810.

Page 96. The name of Matthias H. Hollenback should have been printed Matthias Hollenback.

Page 121. The date in the first line should be 1804-5.

Page 152. H. A. Mead should read H. J. Mead.

Page 193. A. B. Gere should have been printed I. B. Gere.

Page 200. Edward R. Warner should be Edward W. Warner.

Page 653. Rev. John O'Mara came to Owego in April, 1877, instead of 1887, as printed.

# INDEX

Academy .....	561	Burying grounds .....	664
Agard, Rev. Horace .....	611	Butler, Rev. Joseph .....	648, 652
Alanson Dean's tavern .....	480	Caldwell, James .....	306
Allen, Elias .....	309	Caldwell Row .....	306
Allen, Ebenezer .....	309	Camp, Gen. Anson .....	184
Archibald, Alvaht B. ....	301	Camp, Col. Asa .....	370
Archibald, Almon W. ....	301	Camp, Geo. Sidney .....	184
Archibald, James .....	300	Camp, Dr. Henry .....	180, 406
Archibald, Samuel A. ....	301, 305	Camp, Herman .....	186
Armstrong, Francis .....	324	Camp, Juliette M. ....	656
Armstrong, Daniel .....	325	Camp, Nathan .....	184
Avery, Charles P. ....	124	Camp, William .....	175, 397
Avery, John H. ....	120	Candler, Rev. Jas. D. ....	634
Avery, Samuel .....	117	Cameron, James .....	272
Avery, Samuel W. ....	118	Cameron, John .....	272
Babcock, Samuel .....	305	Cameron, Robert .....	272
Backus, Ebenezer .....	466	Carmichael, John .....	252
Bacon, George .....	155	Cemeteries .....	664
Bands .....	486	Central House .....	473
Bailey, Rev. John .....	635	Chase, Gideon O. ....	479
Balcan, Henry A. ....	572	Chatfield, John R. ....	182
Baldwin, Col. Thos. ....	380	Churches Presbyterian .....	573
Barclay, Dr. Samuel ....	201, 106	Congregational ....	592
Barstow, Chas. R. ....	548	Baptist .....	617
Bartholomew, Rev. C. M. ....	605	St. Paul's Episcopal ..	634
Bartlett, Capt. Isaac .....	113	Methodist .....	606
Bartlett, Joseph .....	114, 116	St. Patrick Catholic ..	646
Bartlett, Robert .....	114	Circuses .....	503
Bartlett, Rev. Wm. Alvin. ....	599	Clark, Rev. Francis .....	652
Bates, Capt. Luke .....	461	Clark, Ezra S. ....	484
Bates Tavern .....	460	Clark, Rev. S. A. ....	590
Beche, Hiram A. ....	549	Cobb, Rev. Sedon .....	590
Beecher, Rev. Jas. C. ....	602	Coburn, Charles A. ....	568
Beers, Abner .....	140	Collier, Hamilton A. ....	104
Beers, David .....	142	Collier, John A. ....	104
Beers, Dr. Lewis .....	141	Collier, Thomas .....	101
Belcher, Col. Elijah .....	373	Conklin, James .....	325
Belcher, Col. Joseph .....	372	Conklin, Jacob .....	325
Bell, Wm. H. ....	97	Corning, Rev. Wm. H. ....	598
Berry, Joseph .....	168	Cox, Rev. Samuel Hanson. ....	589
Blanchard, Thos. ....	399	Crandall, Rev. L. A. ....	631
Boeck, Leopold, J. ....	570	Croton House .....	481
Bosworth, Joseph S. ....	154	Cruzer, Gen. Daniel .....	60
Bridge .....	553	Curry, Col. B. B. ....	169, 374, 481
Brown, Capt. Lemuel .....	69	Cushman, Richard E. ....	173
Bulkley, Rev. Chas. H. A. ....	602	Dana, Eleazer .....	108, 546
Bullock, Rev. M. G. ....	604	Davis, Col. N. W. ....	375
Bundy, Elisha .....	168	Dean, Alanson .....	480
Burlingham, Rev. A. H. ....	630	Dearborn, Asa .....	326
Burns, Rev. Geo. V. ....	655	Deforest, Fra .....	465
Burton, Rev. R. E. ....	631	Deforest Tavern .....	464
Burrows, Latham A. ....	266	Dodd, John .....	315

Drake, John R.....	191	Hosmer, Josephine .....	660
Draper, Amos .....	10	Hosmer, W. H. C.....	123
Draper, Joseph .....	13	Hotels .....	458
Drummond, A. M.....	571	Hudson House .....	485
Duane, Thomas .....	55	Huntington, George M.....	298
Eastman, Dr. Hiram N.....	374	Huntington, Jared .....	296
Edick, Philo P.....	572	Huntington, Gen. Oliver.....	371
Ely, Elisha .....	86	Huntington, Wait T.....	90
Ely, Col. Daniel.....	87, 547	Indian Trails .....	345
Ely, Dr. Elisha.....	82	Ithaca & Owego Railroad....	410
Ely, James .....	86	Jerome, J. Newton .....	569
Ely, Joseph M.....	183, 569, 658	Johnson, Ben .....	258
Ely, William A.....	85	Johnson, Chas. Fred'k.....	336, 338
Everest, Charles H.....	601	Johnson, Rev. Geo. D.....	643
Fay, Chas. P.....	206	Johnson, Robert Charles.....	336, 343
Fay, Fred'k J.....	205	Johnson, Rev. Thos. D.....	654
Fay, George W.....	205	Jones, David .....	545
Fay, Dr. Jedediah.....	201, 546	Jones, Frank L.....	550
Farrington, Thomas .....	124	Kidder, Rev. Corbin .....	598
Female seminary .....	656	Kidder, Rev. James H.....	643
Fires .....	492	King, Rev. W. H.....	630
Fleming, Capt. David.....	383	Kingsley, Vine .....	308
Fleming, Gen. Robt. L.....	384	Laning, Gen. John.....	130, 371
Forsyth, Elisha .....	74, 79	Laning Tavern .....	166
Forsyth, Gilbert .....	78	Lake Street House .....	479
Fox, Capt. Sylvanus.....	171, 316	Leach, Caleb .....	46
Fowler, Rev. Morelle .....	642	LeClere, Thomas .....	77
Franklin House .....	469	Legg's Temperance Hotel....	483
Frelinghuysen, Theo. ....	154	Leland, Ziba A.....	272
Gear, Rev. Ezekiel.....	635	Lillie, Isaac .....	317
Gee, John .....	327	Lillie, John H.....	320, 409
General Trainings .....	386	Lockwood, Belva A.....	660, 662
Gere, Isaac B.....	199	Leonard, George S.....	219
Gill, Rev. Wm. H.....	591	Leonard, Herman C.....	219
Goodman Coffee House .....	468	Leonard, Stephen B.....	212, 430
Goodrich, Gen. Ansel.....	209		546, 547
Goodrich, David .....	211	Leonard, Wm. B.....	218
Goodrich, Erastus .....	211	Lombard, Rev. Horatio .....	579
Goodrich, Eliakim .....	206	Loring, Rev. Daniel .....	577
Goodrich, Geo. B.....	129, 211	Lovejoy, Dr. Ezekiel .....	150
Goodrich, Noah .....	206	Mack, Ebenezer .....	68
Gould, Rev. Samuel M.....	600	Mack, Horace .....	68
Granger, Rev. W. A.....	632	Mack, Stephen .....	64
Greek, Abraham .....	316	McCormick, Col. Henry.....	276
Greenleaf, John M.....	284	McCormick, Jacob M.....	278
Griffing, Rev. John .....	610	McCormick, Major Joseph....	279
Grist Mills .....	330	MacKenzie, Rev. A. C.....	591
Griswold, Theophilus L.....	571	McManus, Rev. Jas. T.....	652
Hall Shows .....	511	McNall, Mrs. Belva .....	660
Hall, Rev. Samuel H.....	590	McMaster, James .....	14
Hand, Jacob .....	98	McQuigg, Jesse .....	34
Hay, Rev. Philip C.....	588	McQuigg, Capt. John .....	30
Hay, Theodore F.....	570	Madan, Ezra S.....	290
Headley, Isaac B.....	231, 569	Mansion House .....	482
Hewitt, Gurdon .....	281	Martin, Col. Amos .....	287
Hollenback, George W.....	96	Martin, John S.....	290
Hollenback, John .....	91	Marsh, Rev. Dwight W.....	691

Mathews, Gen. Vincent .....	381	Pumpelly, John .....	135
Matson, Thomas, Jr. ....	333	Pumpelly, Josiah C. ....	150
Matson's Mill .....	333	Pumpelly, Prof. Raphael .....	161
Maxwell, Guy .....	131	Pumpelly, William .....	158
May, Rev. Hezekiah .....	579	Putnam, Rev. Aaron .....	585
Meacham, Erastus .....	298	Railroad House .....	484
Menagerie .....	501	Rankine, Rev. James .....	641
Military History .....	365	Ransom, Charles .....	233
Misher Tavern .....	472	Ransom, Printice .....	233
Muzzy, W. H. ....	480	Ransom, Samuel .....	234
Negus, Rev. M. F. ....	632	Ransom, William .....	235
Nichols, Thos. M. ....	344	Raymond, W. P. ....	478
Noble, Chas. C. ....	183	Raynsford, Edw. ....	200
Ogden, Charles .....	323	Reed, Gen. John Meredith .....	165
Ogden, Isaac B. ....	310	Reed, James M. ....	475
Ogden, Jehial .....	323	Reeves, David Wallis .....	171, 490
Ogden, Joseph .....	322	Reeves, Lorenzo .....	166
Ogden, Walter .....	323	Reeves, Ezra Warren .....	170
O'Mara, Rev. John .....	653	Reeves, Tapping .....	170
Ostrander, Rev. L. A. ....	591	Richardson, Elias .....	265
Owego Hotel .....	464	Ripley, John .....	253
Owego and Ithaca Turnpike ..	349	Robb, A. J. ....	571
Owego and Oswego .....	670	Rockwood, Col. Samuel .....	373
Paige, Dr. Joel S. ....	233	Rogers, Rev. James .....	653
Paige, Anson F. ....	295	Ross, Major Horatio .....	105
Paige, Thos. L. ....	296	Rugg, Joseph K. ....	231
Park, Capt. Thos. ....	75	Ryan, Rev. Martin .....	654
Palmer, Mrs. Mary .....	657	Sackett, Col. Caleb H. ....	260
Parker, John M. ....	156	Sackett, John J. ....	265
Parker, Col. F. H. ....	157	Sackett, Nathaniel .....	260
Parker, Charles E. ....	157	Sackett, Col. Richard .....	260
Parmenter, Elibu .....	85	Sackett, Richard H. ....	265
Patterson, Col. John .....	25	Sasana Loft Monument .....	667
Pearne, Rev. Wm. H. ....	616	Seofield, Rev. W. C. ....	604
Peck, Ezra J. ....	572	Seminary .....	656
Peck, Rev. P. B. ....	627	Seymour, Elias W. ....	316
Phelps, Dr. E. B. ....	180	Sheridan, Rev. John .....	648
Pinney, H. D. ....	294	Sheridan, Rev. John J. ....	655
Pitcher, D. M. ....	551	Shoemaker, Col. Elijah .....	371
Pixley, Col. David .....	22	Skinner, Chas. P. ....	232
Pixley Tavern .....	459	Smyth, Wm. ....	552, 570
Pixley Mill .....	331	Soldiers of 1812 .....	390
Porter, Rev. Geo. P. ....	616	Stage Coaching .....	428
Post Office .....	545	Steamboats .....	393
Post-Riders .....	427	Stebbins, Charles .....	550
Platt, Charles .....	227	Stone, Wm. P. ....	249
Platt, Fred'k E. ....	231	Storrs, A. P. ....	181
Platt, Jonathan .....	220	Stoddard, Gen. Oringh .....	380
Platt, Thos. C. ....	232	Streets .....	348
Platt, William .....	228	Strong, Stephen .....	188
Platt, William H. ....	230	Sweet, Ezra S. ....	255
Presbyterian Church .....	573	Sweet, Chas. H. ....	259
Prindle, Jos. A. ....	571	Talcott, Charles .....	128
Pumpelly, Charles .....	152, 463	Talcott, Elizur .....	126
Pumpelly, George J. ....	150	Talcott, George Lord .....	126
Pumpelly, Harmon .....	163	Taverns .....	458
Pumpelly, James .....	145	Taylor, Daniel G. ....	100

Taylor, John J. ....	134	Truman, Capt. Shem. ....	239
Taylor, Col. Wm. C. ....	100, 289	Truman, Stephen S. ....	248
Teller, Rev. D. W. ....	605	Turner, David ....	223, 224
Tenney, Jonathan ....	571	Tyler, Rev. Moses Coil ....	600
Theatres ....	514	United States Hotel ....	484
Thurston, George W. ....	270	Vose, Rev. Riley A. ....	633
Thurston, David ....	268	Waldo, Dr. Godfrey ....	251
Thurston, Col. Jas. S. ....	270	Warner, Hiram G. ....	610
Tinkham, David P. ....	45, 199	Warner, Wm. F. J. ....	111
Tinkham, Geo. Standish ....	45	Washburn's Indian Show ....	508
Tinkham, Dr. Samuel ....	42	Watson, Rev. Geo. ....	641
Tioga County House ....	476	Wattles, Capt. Mason ....	51
Tobey, Capt. John J. ....	402	Western Hotel ....	484
Town Clock ....	620	White, Archibald ....	84
Truex, E. H. ....	259	White, Rev. Charles ....	586
Truman, Asa H. ....	210	Whitney, Capt. Joshua ....	382
Truman, Aaron ....	244	Whittelsey, Gen. H. M. ....	258
Truman, Benjamin L. ....	250	Wilcox, Rev. S. C. ....	589, 597
Truman, Charles L. ....	243	Wilcox, Mrs. S. C. ....	659
Truman, Edward D. ....	243	Williston, Rev. Seth ....	573, 588
Truman, George ....	247	Woodford, Bissell ....	314
Truman, Lucius ....	242	Woodford, Ira ....	314
Truman, Lyman ....	247	Woodford, Romeo ....	312, 314
Truman, Lyman Park ....	245		









