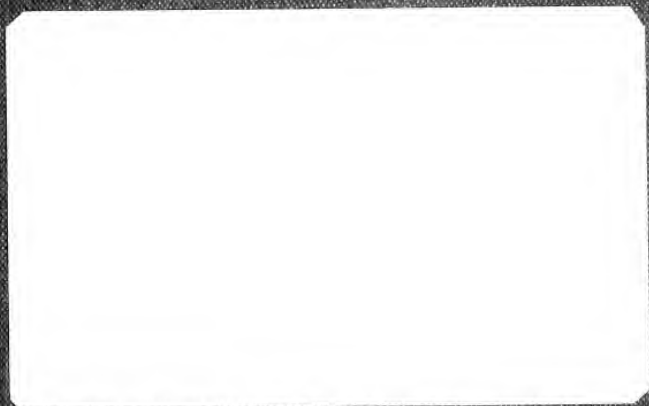


F

129

Q45B8





Class \_\_\_\_\_

Book \_\_\_\_\_









99

**A Sketch**  
of the  
**Early Settlement**  
of **Olean**  
and its  
Founder  
**Major Adam Hoops**







A SKETCH  
OF THE  
EARLY SETTLEMENT  
OLEAN

AND ITS FOUNDER

Major Adam Hoops

BY MAUD D. BROOKS

PRIVATELY PRINTED  
OLEAN, N. Y.  
1898

F129  
Doc B8

3-11-11



## NOTE.

---

This little sketch was read Dec. 14, 1897, at the organization of the Olean Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and is published at the request of many members of the Chapter and others interested in local history.

It seemed necessary to begin the sketch with a brief synopsis of the colonial history of New York, naming the divisions and sub-divisions that have been made from time to time, and the several jurisdictions that the territory, now embraced within the limits of Cattaraugus county, has been under since the Revolutionary period. Heretofore little or nothing has been known concerning Major Adam Hoops, and many have doubted whether he ever visited his purchase in Western New York. The letters quoted are proof that he not only visited frequently the settlement at Olean Point, but was familiar with all the territory in the western part of the state.

M. D. B.



# SKETCH OF OLEAN

AND ITS FOUNDER

MAJOR ADAM HOOPS.

---

The Dutch made the first settlement in the state of New York, which they called New Netherlands, and they continued in possession until 1664, when Charles II., regardless of the Dutch claims, granted to his brother, Duke of York, afterwards James II., the whole country between the Connecticut and the Delaware rivers.

This possession passed into the hands of the English, September 3d, 1664, and the name was changed to New York.

During the same year, Richard Nicolls was appointed Governor and, on his arrival in the Colony, articles of capitulation were agreed upon giving the Dutch certain rights, and in February, 1665, a convention was held at Hempstead to confirm a body of laws, which afterwards came to be known as the "Duke's Laws."

They originally applied only to the shire of York-

shire, and did not go into effect in the Colony of New York until after the second occupation by the Dutch in 1674.

Additions and amendments were made from time to time.

The first General Assembly was held at Ft. James, in the city of New York, October 17th., 1683. The second Assembly convened November 1st., and passed "An act to divide this province and dependences into shires and Countyes."

It was divided into twelve counties as follows: New York, Westchester, Dutchess, Albany, Ulster, Orange, Richmond, Kings, Queens, Suffolk, Duke and Cornwall, and all their boundaries were minutely defined.

Albany County subsequently was made to comprise all of New York to its northern and western limits.

These divisions remained unchanged, practically, until March 12th, 1772, when an Act was passed, "To divide the County of Albany into three Counties," namely, Tryon, Charlotte and Albany.

The section of the act relating to Tryon County reads thus: "And be it further enacted by the same Authority. That all the Lands lying within the Colony to the Westward of the County of Albany as by this Act restricted, and to the Westward of the North Line from the Mohawk River above mentioned continued to the North Bounds of this Province shall be one Separate and distinct County, and be called and known by the name of the County of Tryon."

Twelve days later, March 24th, 1772, another act was

passed "to divide the Counties of Albany and Tryon into Districts."

Tryon was divided into five districts, the Mohawk, Stone Arabia, Canajoharie, German Flatts and Kingsland. The following year, 1773, the names of Stone Arabia, German Flatts and Kingsland were changed respectively to Palatine, Kingsland and German Flatts, and in April, 1775, the name of "Old New England District" was given to a part of the county.

The whole of New York State west of Albany was also designated as the "Mohawk Valley."

The population of the whole of Tryon County was only a few thousand, when the Revolution commenced, and the condition of the settlement was such that this section of "Western New York had but a remote connection with the long and eventful struggle that ended in a separation of the Colonies, and the blessings of a free and independent government."

It will not be necessary to cite any of the causes and events of the Revolution for they are incorporated in many volumes and are more or less familiar to all.

The Province of New York was one of the foremost in asserting its rights, when the British Government became oppressive.

Its resistance of the Stamp Act, in 1765, resulted in the convening of a congress in New York, the same year.

In 1774, there assembled in Tryon county, a representative number of its citizens, who "declared unaltered and determined allegiance to the British crown, but strenuously remonstrated against an act which it regard-

ed as oppressive and arbitrary." They also sent five delegates to the congress in Philadelphia.

In the spring of 1775, after the results of the congress in Philadelphia had been learned, during a session of the court at Johnstown (the county-seat of Tryon county) the loyalists of that county, of whom Col. Johnson was the leader, drew up and circulated a declaration opposing the proceedings of that congress.

This occasioned much controversy, but was finally signed by most of the jurors and magistrates.

This declaration met with much opposition in most of the districts of the county. Many public meetings were held and other articles were adopted which approved of the proceedings at Philadelphia.

On the 8th day of May, 1775, a letter, written by the Palatine committee, was sent to the Albany committee, in which was stated that they were "busy circulating petitions and enlisting the citizens of Tryon county on the sides of the colonies," but they say: "This county has for a series of years been ruled by one family, the different branches of which are still strenuous in persuading people not to come into congressional measures. \* \* \* We are informed that Johnson Hall is fortified \* \* and that Col. Johnson has stopped two New Englanders and searched them, being as we suppose, suspicious that they came to solicit aid from us or the Indians. \* \* \* We recommend it strongly and seriously to you to take it in your consideration, whether any powder and ammunition ought to be permitted to be sent up this way, unless it be done under the inspection



of a committee. \* \* \* As we are a young county, remote from the metropolis, we beg you will give us all the intelligence in your power. We shall not be able to send down any deputies to the Provincial Congress, as we can not possibly obtain the sense of the county soon enough to make it worth while to send any, but be assured we are not the less attached to American liberty. For we are determined, although few in number, to let the world see who are, and who are not such; and to wipe off the indelible disgrace brought upon us by the declaration signed by our grand jury, and some of our magistrates; who in general, are considered by a majority of our county, as enemies to their country. In a word, gentlemen, it is our fixed resolution to support, and carry into execution, everything recommended by the Continental Congress, and to *be free or die.*"

Many more meetings of the Palatine committee were held, and other letters addressed to the friends in Albany telling of the unsettled state of affairs in Tryon county. Finally the condition of this part of the state became more peaceful by the withdrawal of Guy Johnson and his retinue to Montreal, where "he continued to act, during the war, as an agent of the British Government."

The first delegates to the Provincial Congress from Tryon county, were John Marlatt and John Moore, and they were instructed "to vote for the entire independence of the colonies; and the Declaration of Independence, of the 4th of July following, was hailed by the people of Tryon county with joy."

The settlement of Western New York followed soon after the peace of 1783

“Our national independence achieved, the glorious prospect of future peace and prosperity, opening upon our country,” the armies disbanded, what more natural than that the men, who had passed through the new regions of the west, quelling the disturbers of the border settlers, and who at the same time observed the richness of the valleys, should retrace their steps upon a more peaceful errand and become pioneers of the wilderness.

During the next few years numerous treaties were made with the Indians, who relinquished all claims within the State, for certain sums of money, except small reservations for themselves, with the right of hunting and fishing.

In 1784, Hugh White, with his family, advanced beyond the bounds of civilization, and settled at what is now known as Whitestown, near Utica.

In the same year the the county of Tryon had its name changed to Montgomery, in honor of Gen. Montgomery of Revolutionary fame, the citizens preferring the name of a patriot to that of an English Colonial Governor.

By an act passed in 1788 the western part of Montgomery county was called “Whitestown,” in honor of Judge Hugh White, the early pioneer.

Its boundaries were described thus: “Easterly by a line running north and south to the north and south boundaries of the state, and crossing the Mohawk River at the ford near and on the east side of the house of

William Cunningham, and which line is the western boundary of the towns of Herkimer, German Flatts and Otsego; southerly by the State of Pennsylvania; and west and north by the bounds of the State."

The house of William Cunningham, mentioned in the description, stood on the west side of Genesee Street in the city of Utica.

Whitestown, as defined in the act, embraced all of the western part of the state, including, of course, Cattaraugus County.

The County of Ontario was formed from the western part of Whitestown in Montgomery county, in 1789, and the old town of Northampton, Ontario county, included all of the Holland Purchase, the Mill-seat Tract and the Morris Reserve.

There were but few settlers and those were mostly in the vicinity of the lower falls of the Genesee.

You will recall that the grant of Charles II. to the Duke of York in 1664 covered a portion of the same territory already granted by James I. to the Plymouth colony, under the general designation of "New England."

Naturally there were many disputes between the colonies, regarding the right of jurisdiction and pre-emption. This conflict continued until 1781, when the State of New York ceded to the United States all its claims to the territory lying west of a meridian line, running due south from the western bounds of Lake Ontario to the north line of Pennsylvania, this being identical with the present western boundary of Chautauqua county. All

similar claims were ceded by Massachusetts to the United States in 1785. Thus the territory under controversy was greatly diminished, and it was finally settled by a convention of commissioners, appointed by both states, held at Hartford, Conn., December 16, 1786.

According to the decision made by the convention, "Massachusetts relinquished all jurisdiction over the territory lying west of the present eastern boundaries of the State of New York; and New York ceded to Massachusetts the pre-emption right of all that part of the State of New York lying west of a line beginning at a point in the north line of Pennsylvania, 82 miles west of the northeast corner of said State, and running thence due north through Seneca Lake, to Lake Ontario; excepting and reserving to the State of New York a strip of land, one mile wide, east of and adjoining the eastern banks of Niagara river, and extending its whole length."

In April, 1788, the pre-emption right of this tract of nearly 6,000,000 acres was sold by Massachusetts to Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham, for the sum of \$1,000,000, and all the domain was known under the general appellation of "The Genesee Country." It included the present counties of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Allegany, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Yates, Steuben, and the greater part of Wayne.

As has been stated the Phelps and Gorham contract was made with Massachusetts.

In consequence of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, it was anticipated that the general

government would assume the indebtedness of the several states, The effect of this was to make the holders of state securities less willing to sell at low rates ; so that Phelps and Gorham made few sales and consequently failed to meet their payments.

Being thus driven to extremities, they negotiated with Robert Morris of Philadelphia, the financier of the Revolution and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and, on the 18th of November 1790, sold to him a large tract amounting to one million, two hundred and sixty-four thousand, five hundred and sixty-nine acres, one rod and ten perches.

Mr. Morris soon after sold this tract to Sir William Pultney, an Englishman, who appointed Capt. Charles Williamson his agent, to superintend his interests and to dispose of the lands by sale. This property is always referred to as "The Pultney Estate."

Capt. Williamson located at Canandaigua and there are many reminiscences that associate his name with early times in Western New York.

The price paid by Mr. Morris for this great tract of land is stated to be at "the rate of eight pence half penny, Massachusetts currency, per acre; this would be equivalent to nearly 12 cents U. S. money per acre."

This seems, at this day, an insignificant price, yet, from the large sums of money afterwards advanced by Sir William Pultney and his associates to bring the land into market, it is doubtful if the proprietors ever received any profit from their investment. Phelps and Gorham were finally compelled to agree to a compro-

mise, by the terms of which they re-conveyed to Massachusetts all that portion of their purchase to which the Indian title had not been extinguished. Two months later, May 11th, 1791, all the lands, thus relinquished, were sold to Robert Morris and conveyed to him by five different deeds. The tract of the first deed became known as the "Morris Reserve."

The other four tracts we sold subsequently to several representatives of Holland capitalists, and the lands were collectively known as "The Holland Purchase."

Reports soon became circulated that the pre-emption line had been incorrectly run. Robert Morris, on hearing this report, made preparations for a new survey.

"Being intimately acquainted with Major Adam Hoops, a Revolutionary soldier and a resident of Philadelphia, and from whom Mr. Morris had previously obtained valuable information as to the character of the country, he engaged the Major to explore the country and afterwards to survey such portions, as had not been surveyed, to re-survey others, and particularly to re-survey the pre-emption line." Among some papers of Robert Morris (relating to his purchase of western lands) now in the possession of the New York Historical Society, there is a letter addressed to Oliver Phelps, dated, Philadelphia, June 13th, 1791, in which Mr. Morris says, "Mr. Hoops is the gentleman I have fixed on to survey those lands, which I purchased of Mr. Gorham and you. He is possessed of my instructions and authority to effect this business." The survey of this tract was made in 1791-92.

David Rittenhouse of Philadelphia, the celebrated

American philosopher and one of the firm of "Rittenhouse and Potts," mathematical and astronomical instrument makers, was employed to furnish Major Hoops with a suitable surveyor's outfit.

The following is an extract from a letter written by Robert Morris to Capt. Charles Williamson, Ontario Co., N. Y., dated September 20, 1792: "Get from Mr. Hoops one large map of all the lands the associated company bought of me, as soon as the survey is completed, and then have all the tracts or farms, as you sell them, surveyed and regularly marked on the map," etc.

On the 16th day of February, 1793, at Philadelphia, Major Hoops made a "Return of Survey" of sundry townships and tracts of land in the county of Ontario and State of New York, belonging to the purchase of Robert Morris, and transferred by him to Sir William Pultney and others.

A copy of this valuable historic paper is in the possession of the attorney for the Pultney estate, at Geneva.

Major Hoops was connected with the early surveys for some years, and his name appears on the account books of Capt. Williamson in 1793 and 1795.

The Holland proprietors placed their interests in the lands of Theophilus Cazenova, the headquarters being at Philadelphia.

In 1797 he employed Joseph Ellicott as the company's chief surveyor and, as soon as the company's title was perfected, he proceeded to Western New York to survey their tract.

About the same time, July 20th, 1797, Robert Morris

wrote to his son, Thomas Morris, who was representing his fathers' interests at Canandaigua, as follows:

"I have engaged Mr. Adam Hoops to go and attend or superintend the surveys on my behalf. I can rely on his integrity."

And again, on July 29th, 1797, he addressed his son thus: "I had agreed with Major Hoops, before the receipt of your letter, to go and superintend the survey of the Genesee country.

"He is a man on whom I can perfectly depend, his *care, regularity, sobriety, and attention to business* is equal to any man's, but whether his practical or scientific knowledge of surveying is equal to that of Mr. Augustus Porter, whom you recommend, I do not know, but I do suppose there will be employment for both and I shall recommend Mr. Porter to be employed in the business."

About the 15th of May, 1798, Joseph Ellicott went to Western New York to begin the survey of the Holland Purchase. At the time of his departure, Robert Morris, at the request of Mr. Cazenove, wrote to Major Hoops, then at Canandaigua, announcing officially that Joseph Ellicott, with whom he (A. H.) was intimately acquainted, had been employed to make the survey for the Holland Land Company, and telling him to give to Mr. Ellicott whatever assistance or advice was necessary.

Mr. Ellicott arrived at Canandaigua on the 12th of June, 1798, but found that Mr. Hoops was then at the camp on the "Chetawque." He soon returned but left almost immediately for Philadelphia leaving Thomas



Morris in charge of affairs. Mr. Ellicott and his assistants began their work at once, and the division of the Holland Purchase into ranges and townships was completed in 1799.

Some years ago, while the boundaries of this township were being established, one of the surveyors (Stephen Welch, of Allegany) discovered on a tree standing upon the property of Judge Brooks, the date, October 22, 1798, no doubt cut thereon by the surveying party under Joseph Ellicott.

In 1799, Paul Busti succeeded Mr. Cazenove as the general agent of the Holland Company and, next to Mr. Ellicott, he is more closely identified with the settlement of the Holland Purchase, than any other individual.

Mr. Ellicott was made resident agent upon the tract in 1800, and two years later established the general land office at Batavia.

In the meantime, June 1st, 1798, Adam Hoops had been appointed Major of the Penn. National Troops, Artillerists and Engineers, which commission he held until his resignation, July 31, 1800. The "Regiment of Artillerists and Engineers" was organized under an Act of Congress of April 27, 1798. The name of this organization was changed, April 1st, 1802, to "Regiment of Artillerist" and again in 1814 to "Corps of Artillery."

In 1801 we find that Major Hoops again had dealings with Capt. Chas. Williamson at Canandaigua.

There is no question but that Major Hoops was personally familiar with this locality, and had observed that the headwaters of the Allegany would be an advan-

tageous point from which emigrants could embark on their journey from the east to the undeveloped west.

In fact there is a letter of many closely written pages on file in the Buffalo Historical Society, bearing the date 1802, in which he sets forth the advantages of a settlement at the junction of Oil Creek and the Allegany River.

He evidently gave the subject great consideration, for on the 23d of May, 1802, he communicated with Paul Busti regarding the purchase and soon went to Batavia to confer with Joseph Ellicott in regard to terms.

He returned to Philadelphia and after further investigation, and the exchange of many letters, the sale was consummated in the fall of 1803.

This was the first contract made by the Holland Company for the sale of lands within the county of Cattaraugus.

The purchase consisted of 20,054 acres of land. Enos Kellogg was appointed to make the survey and the maps were completed July 16th, 1805.

Major Hoops was again at Canandaigua in the spring of 1804 and some time in April, he set out to visit his purchase.

However, before leaving, he wrote to Joseph Ellicott, first giving him a few instructions regarding the survey and then continuing as follows:

“It was proposed to me at New York to drop the Indian name of Ischue or Ischua. (It is spelt in other ways). Confusion might perhaps arise from the various

spellings, of which to obviate all risks, I have concluded to do as proposed. The neighborhood of the *Oil Spring* suggests a name, different in sound, tho' perhaps not of different meaning, which I wish to adopt. It is *Olean*.

You will do me a favor by assisting me to establish this name, it may easily be done now by your concurrence. The purpose would most effectually be announced by employing the term when occasion requires, without saying anything of an intended change of name. To begin, you will greatly oblige me by addressing the first letter you may have occasion to write me, after I receive the surveys, to the Mouth of Olean. The bearer being properly instructed. There will be thereafter no difficulty. Your co-operation in this matter, the effect of which tho' not important in itself, may be so on account of precision.

Your ob. servant.

A Hoops.

To Joseph Ellicott, Esq.,  
Batavia."

This letter bears the date April 15th, 1804, and seems to me accurate proof of the naming of our town, although there are other traditions concerning its origin.

This interesting letter is now in the possession of the Buffalo Historical Society.

The route from Canandaigua to the Mouth of Olean took an almost southwesterly course, by way of Hartford and Angelica.

Evidently Major Hoops' visit in this vicinity was of brief duration, as another letter to Joseph Ellicott, dated May 10th, 1804, states that he has just returned from the Mouth of Olean, and reports the very bad condition of the roads and suggests improvements.

In a letter, dated Hartford, July 6th, 1804, he tells Mr. Ellicott that "The following are the selections which I have made on and near the Allegany river, the Ischue (now called Olean) and the Tosquahossa creeks, being my first and second selections, and also in the Township No. 4 in the 2d and 3d Ranges." He then enumerates the ranges, townships and sections.

He returned to Canandaigua, but again visited the Mouth of Olean in August, to which place Mr. Ellicott addressed letters dated August 24th and September 19th, 1804. This indicates that Major Hoops' suggestion, relating to the change of name, was acted upon at once.

About this time Major Hoops was joined by his brother, Robert Hoops.

A letter dated Olean, October 7th, 1804, was written by Robert Hoops to Joseph Ellicott, in which he says that he had just returned from the Friends' Settlement, where his brother had been confined for some time by illness, and that "his health would not permit of his removal."

Robert Hoops made the first settlement at Olean Point in that year, and erected a log house near the river, on what is now known as the "Martin Farm" or "East Olean."

He remained here, as his brother's agent, until his death in 1816. He, too, had served in the Revolutionary war. He was a widower and left no posterity in this vicinity.

Adam Hoops was again in Olean October 11th, 1805, and undoubtedly made frequent visits here from time to

time. There are several letters extant, written from Canandaigua during the years of 1806 and 1807.

Moses Brooks, (son of the John Brooks who located here in 1806) in an old diary (1810), mentions Major Adam Hoops, and also his indebtedness to Robert Hoops for the use of his large library.

The Quaker, or rather Friends' Settlement, mentioned by Robert Hoops, was the first white settlement in the limits of Cattaraugus county. It was made in 1798, by three young Quakers from Philadelphia, who came as missionaries to the Indians.

For several years Olean's nearest neighbors were those of the "Van Campen Settlement," located in what is now Almond, Allegany county; commenced in 1796, by Maj. Moses Van Campen; the "King Settlement" of the Oswayo in Pennsylvania, now called Ceres; and Judge Church's place, twenty-eight miles east, near Angelica, Allegany county.

Previous to Major Hoops' purchase here, Genesee county was erected. The Act was passed March 30th, 1802. The county of Ontario embraced all that was formerly known as Whitestown. By the same Act, three new towns were formed, namely, Southampton, Leister and Batavia. The last named included the western part of Allegany, Wyoming, Genesee and Orleans, and all of Niagara, Erie, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties.

The next division affecting territory now within Cattaraugus county was made in 1804, when Batavia was sub-divided into the towns of Willink, Erie, Chautauqua and Batavia.

Olean, and all the towns north and next west to the northern bounds of the present limits of Cattaraugus county, were included in Willink.

Finally on March 11th, 1808, Niagara, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties were erected, but it was provided that Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties should act in conjunction with Niagara county, until the respective counties should contain five hundred taxable inhabitants qualified to vote.

✓ The Act made many other provisions regarding the establishment of Courts, appointing of certain officials, etc., and further stated that the county of Cattaraugus be erected into a town by the name of "Olean."

By a law passed June 16, 1812, the town of Olean was divided into two towns, the southern half to retain the name of Olean and the northern half to be called Ischua.

For certain judicial reasons these towns were now annexed to the county of Allegany, but two years later, 1814, a new town was formed of the western parts of Olean and Ischua, called Perry, and this western part was annexed to Niagara county, the eastern half still remaining under the jurisdiction of Allegany county.

These three towns of Olean, Ischua and Perry remained unchanged until after the final organization of the county in 1817.

Olean lost half its remaining territory in 1818, when Great Valley was erected; this town included what are now the towns of Great Valley, Carrolton, and <sup>Allegany</sup> Humphrey.

Hinsdale was taken off in 1820 and Portville was formed in 1837, reducing Olean to its present size and form.

The foregoing indicates that Olean is the oldest town in Cattaraugus county, and is co-equal with it in age and extent.

The village of Olean was not incorporated until 1854, just half a century after its first settlement. The charter election took place May 19th, 1855. The poll list contained sixty-five names, and the assessment for taxes of the same year amounted to only \$855.00.

As has been stated, the first settlement at Olean was made in 1804 by Robert Hoops and a David Hueston. The latter was accidentally killed in 1807, while cutting spars to be used as oars for a raft.

Following them in the spring of 1806, came Cornelius and John Brooks, Wyllis Thrall and William Shepard.

Within the present limits of Hinsdale a settlement was made by Zachariah Noble and his two brothers, Charles Foote and Thomas Lusk.

A settlement was also made by Joseph McClure on the Ischua Creek.

These were the pioneers of this section of Western New York. None of these settlements progressed very rapidly, for it is found from official sources that at the end of six years from Adam Hoops' first settlement at Olean Point, in 1804, the entire territory of Cattaraugus county, otherwise Olean, contained only 458 souls.

In the spring of 1808, James G. Johnson came to

Olean, but he died early in 1811, and was the first person buried in Oak Lawn cemetery, which land had been donated for burial purposes by Mr. Hoops in 1807.

After Mr. Johnson's death, his widow returned to her father's home, and it was not until 1819 that she again removed to Olean, accompanied by her sons, Marcus and James G. In the meantime Mrs. Johnson had married Anson King.

Just outside the present corporate limits of the city, Jehiel Boardman settled in March 1814, and for several years he kept a tavern very near the present site of the Boardman residence.

Simeon Hicks entered into a contract for land within the town of Hinsdale in 1807, which land was a part of the "Hoop's Tract" and included in Olean.

In 1812, he married Loranda, the daughter of Capt. Elihu Murray (the marriage ceremony was performed by John Brooks, Esq., of Olean).

Capt. Murray was a Revolutionary soldier and located in Hinsdale about 1809, but removed to Chenango Co. three years later. His son, Elihu Murray, Jr., opened a tavern about a mile below the village of Hinsdale, in 1810.

Lewis Wood and Emery Yates also became settlers on the "Hoop's Tract," within the present bounds of Hinsdale, in 1813.

Emery Wood, later known as Col. Wood, joined his brothers prior to 1820, in which year the town of Hinsdale was formed from Olean.



The first birth within the present bounds of the town of Olean, was a daughter of William Shepard, born May 22, 1807. She was christened Olean Shepard. The first male child born in Olean was Marcus H. Johnson, born October 4th, 1809.

When the village was first laid out it was called "Hamilton," in honor of Alexander Hamilton, but the general designation was "Olean Point," and in a short time the latter name was used altogether. The post office was never officially called Hamilton.

The plan of the village was copied no doubt from the "City of Brotherly Love." The streets were all wide and laid out to give ample room for building purposes.

Many of the streets were named in honor of the patriots of '76 and other distinguished men of that period, several of them being personal friends of Major Adam Hoops.

Union street was probably named in commemoration of the Union of the States under a Federal Government.

Barry street, after Commodore Barry, to whom Robert Morris presented the sword of Paul Jones, which he had received from the King of France, with the request that it should fall successively in to the hands of the oldest commander of the American Navy.

Washington street, of course, in honor of the "Father of our Country." Sullivan and Clinton were named respectively for the Major-Generals of those names, who conducted the expedition against the indians in 1779.

Wayne, for Brigadier-General Anthony Wayne, who

by his courage and skill saved Lafayette in Virginia in 1780, and by his dash and audacity acquired the sobriquet of "Mad Anthony."

Green, was so called for Major-General Nathaniel Green. Hamilton, in honor of Alexander Hamilton, an Aide-de-camp of General Washington's and later the first Secretary of the Treasury.

Laurens, also named for an Aide-de-camp of Washington's, John Laurens, who has been called the "Bayard of the American Revolution."

Jay, was named for John Jay, one of the four who negotiated the treaty of peace with Great Britain, and also the first Chief Justice of the United States.

Henley was named later for Col. Henley, a prominent figure in the war of 1812.

For a time Olean was more famed than either Buffalo or Pittsburg. It became the chief place of embarkation for emigrants, and for many years great numbers assembled here each spring, built or purchased boats or rafts, and started on their way down the Allegany and Ohio.

The most rapid influx of settlers to the village of Olean occurred from 1810 to 1820.

Prominent among those who arrived during that decade were Sylvanus Russell, Ebenezer Reed, Jehiel Boardman, Seymour Bouton, Timothy Porter, Luman Rice, David Day, Elkanah Day, David Bockes, Samuel Brunson, Col. Luke Goodspeed, John Fobes, Anson

King, Dr. Norman Smith, Zachariah Oosterhoudt, James G. Johnson, Samuel Barrows and Frederick S. Martin, who was familiarly known as Judge Martin, having been Associate Judge of the County Court in 1840.

During the next decade came Ahijah Warren, Daniel S. Dickinson, Rollin Pratt, David Godfrey, Thomas Oviatt, W. W. Penfield and Dr Edward Finn; and among those who located here between 1830 and 1840, were Dr. Lambert Whitney, Roderick White, Norman Birge, John L. Smith, Ansel Adams and Caleb Smith.

The First Presbyterian Church of Olean was organized August 28, 1822. The original members were Cornelius Brooks, Ahijah C. Warren, Anson King, Norman Smith, John Boardman, Bathsheba Warren, Sophia King and Abigail Smith. The documents relating to its organization, consisting of "the confession of faith," "the covenant," etc., with names of the first members, are in the possession of Mrs. George Van Campen, a daughter of Anson and Sophia King.

The immediate enterprise of Adam Hoops did not flourish, and, as he was unable to complete his payments for the purchase, a large part of the tract reverted to the Holland Company, and a portion of it passed into the ownership of Ebenezer F. Norton.

After the foreclosure of the mortgage, Adam Hoops had no further interests in this locality, although in 1820 he was assessed for 54 acres of land in the town of Hinsdale. There is little or nothing known of his subsequent life, though he undoubtedly lived for a time at Canan-

daigua. In 1816 he was at the Sulphur springs, near Avon, where he was being treated for rheumatism.

He was made Military Storekeeper of Ordnance, March 8, 1824, and was stationed at Watervleit, N. Y. This position he held until honorably discharged October 1, 1842. His application for pension was made from Watervleit, Albany county, N. Y., December 30, 1828, and the pension was allowed for over five years actual service as a captain, in the Maryland troops, Revolutionary War.

Adam Hoops was a native of Carlisle, Cumberland county, Pa., and was born on the 9th day of January, 1760. He was of English descent, and had a genealogical record back to the 9th century.

(Miss King, author of "History of Ceres," states that members of her family have seen this record. The King family were intimate friends of both Major Hoops and his brother Robert, and frequently entertained them at their home in Ceres.)

There is recorded in the Pennsylvania Archives that an Adam Hoops was one of the first grand jurors on the organization of Cumberland county, in 1750; also that Adam Hoops, of Cumberland county, Pa., in 1755, wrote letters to the Governor of Pennsylvania, reporting the commission of outrages by the Indians on the Juniata and other places. The same year, 1755, Adam Hoops was appointed, by Gov. Robert H. Morris, one of five commissioners to lay out a military road from "the settled parts of the province to a branch of the Monongahela

called Yohiogain," for the transportation of supplies for Braddock's troops on the route to Ft. Du Quesne.

The name of Adam Hoops appears upon the list of taxables in Carlisle, in 1762.

In 1764, and again in 1769, Adam Hoops received the appointment as Justice of the Court of Quarter Session for the county, from Lieut.-Gov. John Penn. Presumably these records refer to the father of Major Hoops.

The following record, relative to the military services of Adam Hoops, appears in a publication entitled, "Heitman's Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army during War of the Revolution:"

"Hoops Adam, 2d Lieut., 4th Maryland, 10th December, 1776 : 1st Lieut., 15th October, 1777 ; Captain, 15th October, 1779 ; taken prisoner at Camden, 16th August, 1780 ; transferred to 2d Maryland, 1st January, and was a prisoner on parole to close of war."

The battle of Camden, where Captain Adam Hoops was taken prisoner, was one of the most disastrous battles of the war. Six hundred of the eight hundred Maryland troops, engaged in the battle, were left dead upon the field.

In the War Department, the name of Adam Hoops, with rank given as Captain, appears in a list not dated, of officers of the 2nd (Gunby's) Maryland Regiment, which list bears the remark "March 16th, 1781" opposite his name.

Major Adam Hoops also acted as an Aide-de-camp to Gen. John Sullivan in his expedition against the In-

dians in 1779. This was one of the most memorable events of that year.

Major Hoops kept a journal during the Sullivan campaign but, unfortunately, it has been lost.

It was, no doubt, while on this expedition that he observed the fertile valleys of the Mohawk and the Genesee, and at the close of the war, recalled this section of the country as a desirable place for settlement.

It may be worthy of mention, that many of the pioneers of this region were with Gen. Sullivan's expedition and probably were influenced later, by Major Hoops, to locate here.

By an order of Congress, all officers, in service at the close of the war, were entitled to a brevet rank. Thus Captain Hoops became a Major.

At the time of his enlistment he was but sixteen years of age, and just in the prime of life when he founded the town of Olean. He was a bachelor and is said to have been a decided woman hater.

The last years of his life he resided at West Chester, Pennsylvania, and for a time boarded with Joshua Hoopes, an old school master.

In the "State Report of Sullivan's Campaign," published in 1842, and also in "General Sullivan's Indian Expedition," published by the State of N. Y. in 1887, there is a copy of a letter, dated West Chester, September 18th, 1841, written by Major Hoops to Hon. John Greig of Canandaigua, in which Adam Hoops gives his version of the fate of Boyd and Parker.

He died, aged 86 year and 6 months, at West Chester, Pennsylvania and was buried in the North Laurel Hill Cemetery at Philadelphia. The following is a copy of the inscription upon his tombstone:

"IN MEMORY OF  
MAJOR ADAM HOOPS,  
1st Regiment U. S. Artillery.

A gallant, accomplished and patriotic soldier of the Revolution.  
Born at Carlisle, Pa., on the 9th day of January, A. D. 1760.  
Died at West Chester, Pa., on the 9th day of June, A. D. 1846."

You will recall, that in the letter written by Adam Hoops to Joseph Ellicott, April 15th, 1804, in which he proposes to change the name of this region from "Ischue" to "Olean," he says:

"The neighborhood of the 'Oil Spring' suggests a name, different in sound, tho' perhaps not of different meaning. It is *Olean*." The Oil Spring referred to was situated about ten miles from Cuba on Oil Creek. Its existence was known by the French Jesuits before 1721.

The Indians regarded it of great value, attributing to it important medicinal qualities. The mile square embracing it, was one of the reservations of the Seneca Indians, in their treaty with Robert Morris.

The Indian name of the Reservation was Tecarnohs, signifying "dripping oil." Olean is no doubt derived from the Latin, oleum. meaning oil.

An effort has been made to learn the names of the Revolutionary soldiers, who settled at one time or another in this vicinity, but no reliable list has yet been made. In 1840, there were sixty-two Revolutionary

pensioners in this county. There are only three soldiers of the Revolutionary War buried in Olean—Jehcil Boardman, Cornelius Brooks and Ebenezer Reed.

Although the patriots, who fought for the freedom of our country, should be remembered for their heroic deeds, we should also recall with gratitude those pioneer settlers, who advanced into the wilderness to subjugate the forests, and to dispute with a primitive race, the right to exercise domain over the fertile valleys.

It is almost impossible for one, unfamiliar with life in the wilderness, to appreciate the difficulties, the dangers and privations, which had to be endured by these our ancestors, but it is to their patient endurance and determined efforts we are indebted for our present privileges and the many blessings of civilization.













LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 224 258 8