Things Worth Knowing about Oneida County

THE ONEIDA STONE.

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THIS BOOK.

THE claim is not set forth that this little volume contains anything that is new concerning the history of Oneida County.

There is a lamentable lack of knowledge among many of our people as to prominent historical facts connected with the settlement of this territory. It is all to be found in the voluminous histories that have been published by painstaking writers in the past; but few readers have either time or patience to search out those principal landmarks in our story that will make them well informed concerning our beginning as a community.

Realizing this, the compilers of this work have here brought together the most important of those events. The sources from which this matter has been drawn include all of the histories heretofore published and a number of contemporary prints.

It is hoped that this little book will not only serve to increase interest in Oneida County's history among both old and young of our present population, but that it will find its way to many who once had the privilege and honor of calling these fair cities and towns, or the beautiful hills and valleys that cluster in the center of this great Empire State, by that endearing word, "Home."

THE KEYSTONE COUNTY.

Lowest Pass in Appalachian Range—Elevations—Lakes and Streams—Beauty of Scenery and Fertility of Soil—Geological Formation—The Erection of the County—Area.

THE County of Oneida is alike peculiar in location and physical features. The one feature is inseparably identified with the other, and the two throughout the history of the land seem to have wrought an up-building influence over the people inhabiting the region.

As distinctive as is the location, as marked as are the physical considerations, so are traits of mind and strength of character which stand out in clear-cut relief as the student of history looks back over the road traveled by previous races and other generations.

The Great Pass.—The Appalachian mountain system which extends through several States from Georgia in a northeasterly direction away toward the gulf of the St. Lawrence, is intercepted in this county by the lowest of its passes, and one so ample in its proportions, so gradual in its descent from the pronounced heights as to be at first difficult of recognition

under that designation, though its importance as a pass may be studied with lasting effect at the Oriskany bluff between Utica and Rome, where at the base of the hill in the space of a few hundred feet we find that five highways run through the pass side by side—the Mohawk river, the four tracks of the Central-Hudson railroad, the Erie canal, the Utica & Mohawk Valley electric railroad, and the public highway. The Erie canal at this point is 430 feet above the mean sea level.

Rome is a central point, west of which the land is flat and east of which the county is hilly. Traversed easterly and westerly at almost its center by this great pass, the county has running through it with the constance of a river a stream of commerce of tremendous volume. From Rome to the eastern boundary of the county this stream naturally runs through the gentle though massive-walled valley of the Mohawk. The northern, eastern, and southern portions of the country are broken by smaller hills and valleys. The land west of Rome stretches away evenly and broadly toward Oneida lake, a body of water partly within the western boundary. Extending in all directions, yet with a goodly number radiating from a common center, are the smaller valleys of the county, several of which, like the main valley of the Mohawk, are of a distinctive type.

Most notable among these secondary courses, though not wholly in Oneida county, is that of the West

Canada creek, a part of the county's eastern boundary. For several miles this brackish stream flows through a gorge the sides of which rise to a height of 100 feet above the tumbling waters. The Sauquoit and the Oriskany valleys, whose waters are mingled with the Mohawk at Yorkville and Oriskany respectively, extend southward from the Mohawk valley, bearing on their slopes a grateful land.

Elevations.—The hills on the southern side of the valley rise to a maximum height of 1,307 feet, while on the north side the greatest height is Bell hill. This is bisected by the Oneida-Herkimer county line and is 1,582 feet above the sea. The distance from hill to hill at this part of the valley is ten miles. From the summit of Steel's hill directly south of Utica to Smith's hill, the highest point in the Mohawk range just north of the city, the distance is nine miles. Westward from Utica the Mohawk valley ranges on either side are of lesser heights.

On the south side they are intercepted by tributary valleys, and on the north side sweep into table lands, or diminish toward the pass at Rome.

The general lay of the land included within the lines of Oneida may be gleaned from the altitudes of familiar and prominent points. Myers hill in the town of Forestport is 1,765 feet above the sea; Starr hill in Steuben is 1,800 feet; the village of Trenton is 841

feet; the village of Hinckley is 1,168 feet; Paris Hill, a beautiful tableland, is 1,542 feet; Crow hill in Kirkland is 1,303 feet; the Oriskany battlefield monument is 540 feet; Rome is 430 feet; Oneida lake is 370 feet; the Mohawk valley at the Oneida-Herkimer county line is 400 feet. The highest point in the county is Tassell hill in the town of Marshall near the junction of that township with Bridgewater and Sangerfield. It has an altitude of 1,985 feet.

The city of Rome is built partly on the watershed separating the waters which flow to the ocean through the Hudson and those which flow to the ocean through the St. Lawrence. Wood creek and the Mohawk river, the former going to Oneida lake and to the St. Lawrence and the latter to the Hudson, are but a mile apart at Rome, a circumstance which will be referred to later in a manner commensurate with its importance. And it is at this point that we find the lowest pass in the Appalachian system—430 feet above the mean sea level.

LAKES.—The lakes of the county are White lake, Long lake, Round lake, Big pond and a portion of Oneida lake.

STREAMS.—Raised by nature like a triumphant seat in New York's galaxy of counties, Oneida's springs, gushing from its hillsides, send their sparkling drops to the ocean in all directions—east, west, north and

south, a fountain-head in fact as well as in metaphor. Fish creek, draining northern and western portions, reaches the Atlantic by Oneida lake, Oneida river, Oswego river, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence. The waters of the northeast drain into the Black river and eventually reach the St. Lawrence. The western side drains to Oneida lake. In the southeast and the southwest portions the waters through the Chenango, the Susquehanna and the Unadilla rivers flow to Chesapeake bay. The great central part and a considerable portion of the far north and the south is drained by the Mohawk, which may be fairly said to rise in this county, and its waters flow to the sea through the Hudson.

Thus sits Oneida in the center of the state, or like a keystone in a great arch of counties extending from New York bay to Lake Erie.

Beauty of Scenery.—The scenery of Oneida county may justly be termed beautiful. The valley of the Mohawk is one of the most remarkable in the world, for it is rich alike in soil and in topographic effect. It lies in the Empire State like the golden horn of plenty. The lesser valleys and the tablelands abound in views which excite admiration, while for generations the wonders of Trenton Falls have attracted travelers from all parts of the continent to behold a remarkable work of nature. This cleft in the Trenton limestone

is to scientists like the drawing of a curtain allowing a peep at a portion of the world's past. The series of falls which the water takes in its course through the gorge are among the finest to be found on the North American continent. Fish creek in the town of Annsville presents another gorge of pleasing aspect as the river in its course sinks deep into the earth's hard crust.

In the southern part of the county the valleys are wide, and the slopes uniformly easy. In the north the hills and valleys are sharper, and the face of nature takes a more primitive cast. As a whole, the county is a great garden yielding a ready response to the varied touch of industry. Originally the face of the county was deep wooded, but now it may be said to alternate between woodland and field in happy proportion.

Geological Formation.—The composition of the earth's crust within the confines of this county contains an exceptional variety of formations. There is found everything from the archæan, or primitive (the rocks in which no traces of life have thus far been discovered), to the carboniferous (a formation characterized by traces of the presence of ancient forms of life). This region therefore affords a wonderful field for the study of geology.

The portion of the county lying south of the Mohawk contains a great strata of iron ore, much of which has

been quarried and reduced to crude iron. Ore is also found in the northern section, but not in such generous quantities as in the southern, where the supply is said to be almost inexhaustible. Other minerals found are waterlime and gypsum, bog and magnetic ore, marl and peat. There are remarkable mineral springs in many places, and there is much fine building stone. Gold has been found in small quantities, as have oil and gas, and once the state legislature made an appropriation looking toward the development of a salt spring which was reported to exist in the vicinity of Oriskany.

Early Designations.—Away back in 1638—half a century after the first settlement at Albany, when the Dutch governed the territory within the present limits of New York and much more adjacent to it and it was called New Netherlands—that portion lying west of Albany (then designated Fort Orange) was termed the Unknown Land.

The Dutch in 1674 surrendered the territory to the English, who named it New York, and the colony was in 1683 divided by its legislature into twelve counties—New York, Albany, Dutchess, Kings, Queens, Orange, Ulster, Richmond, Suffolk, Westchester, Dukes and Cornwall. Then the state greatly exceeded its present bounds and some of the original twelve counties now lie in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont.

So first we find Oneida county included in the designation Terra Incognita, and later in the county of Albany, it having been made a part of Albany when the twelve divisions were erected.

Tyron County.—Tyron county was formed in 1722 from that portion of the county of Albany lying west of a north and south line running through the present county of Scholarie. Tyron county then included all the western part of the state, a great forest peopled by the Iroquois. But General Tyron, for whom it had been named, having become obnoxious by his cruelty to Americans during the Revolution, which soon came about, the name of the county was twelve years after its erection (1784) changed to Montgomery. The county was at the same time divided into five districts, one of which was German Flatts and included all the western part of the state. The county's western, southern and northern boundaries were at this time the western, southern and northern boundaries of the state.

White's Town.—On March 7, 1788, German Flatts was divided and from it a new town was formed—White's Town, as it was then written. This was the first of the present towns of Oneida county to come into existence. White's Town was bounded easterly by a line running north and south from the northern to the southern boundaries of the state and crossing the

Mohawk river at a ford near a point which is now the foot of Genesee street in Utica. Westerly, southerly and northerly the town was bounded only by the limits of the state itself. Great indeed was the area of the original White's Town, and many counties have been formed from its territory.

Cutting up the Counties.—We will now briefly trace the process by which the great area of Montgomery county was cut away by legislative enactment down to the formation of Oneida county:

Montgomery was erected as Tyron in 1772 and changed to Montgomery in 1784. In 1789 Ontario was formed from Montgomery. In 1791 Tioga, Otsego and Herkimer were formed from Montgomery, and the territory now comprising Oneida was then included in Herkimer. The formation of towns within the present territory of Oneida commenced in 1792 when White's Town was divided, making the towns of Westmoreland, Steuben, Paris, Mexico, Peru and Whitestown.

Date of Erection.—The county of Oneida was erected March 15, 1798, on which date the state legislature divided Herkimer and made Oneida and Chenango. Oneida was made wholly from Herkimer, and Chenango was formed from Herkimer and Tioga. But Oneida then stretched away to Lake Ontario on the west and to Canada on the north. On March 28,

1805, Oneida was divided and Jefferson and Lewis were hewn out of its broad acres.

Three centuries and six years had elapsed from the discovery of America to the formation of Oneida county; 233 years since St. Augustine, the oldest city on the continent, had been settled; 178 years from the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth; 184 years after the settlement of New York by the Dutch.

The area of the county is 1,215 square miles and it is the twenty-sixth or twenty-seventh county in the order of erection.

THE ABORIGINES.

EARLY OCCUPATION BY A CONFEDERACY—THE ONEIDAS—TITLE TO LANDS—BRANT FAVORED THE ENGLISH—KIRKLAND INFLUENCED THE ONEIDAS—INDIAN LANDS SURRENDERED—TREATIES AT FORT STANWIX — THE CONFEDERACY BROKEN — ONE REMAINING MONUMENT—THE ONEIDA STONE.

IT is not intended in this brief volume to enter into an extended historical sketch of the aboriginal inhabitants of the territory under consideration, but the very fact that Oneida county draws its name from one of the five tribes comprising the Iroquois Confederacy, makes it necessary to briefly outline the period of Indian occupation.

No research will ever be able to unlock the door closed upon the buried past of this portion of the state, and all we know of its history is gained from legend and stories told by the red men to hunters and trappers who penetrated the fastness of the virgin country. It is known in a general way that even before the voyage of Columbus, a powerful Confederacy, more advanced in its system of government than were many of the states of Europe at that time, held sway over all the

territory that swept from Ottawa to Lake Huron on the north, and from the mouth of the Sorel to a point where the Ohio falls into the Mississippi on the west. They spoke of themselves to the early French as Ongwe-Honwe, men surpassing all others; but the French gave to them the name Iroquois, or the people of the long house.

Legendary.—The date of the formation of this Confederacy is not known, but a well-authenticated legend places the date upon a year in which occurred a total eclipse of the sun at the time of the "green corn festival." This would be in 1451, or forty-one years before Columbus landed at San Salvador. Undoubted history presents these Iroquois as united and maintaining their political organization for more than three hundred years before they were finally broken up by the onward march of a greater civilization.

The Tribes.—The Iroquois Confederacy was originally composed of five tribes. The Mohawks kept the door of the long house on the east; the Oneidas and Onondagas guarded the center of the line from attack from either north or south; the Cayugas and Senecas watched with equal valor and vigilance the west. In 1715 the Tuscaroras, a tribe that had been driven out of the south after wars lasting several years, were adopted by the Iroquois and allotted a place near the country of the Senecas.

HOME OF ONEIDAS.—The Oneidas were known in the Confederacy by the name O-na-yote-ga-o-nos—the people of the everlasting stone, or the granite people. As their particular territory they held a strip running up the Unadilla river, thence through the gorge south of Ilion, up the West Canada creek and thence north to the mouth of the Oswegatchie at Ogdensburg. The western line of their allotment ran from the mouth of French creek at Clayton on the St. Lawrence, south to the outlet of Oneida lake, thence south over the western range of hills bordering the Stockbridge valley.

Of course it must not be thought for an instant that there existed in the Confederacy of the Iroquois any law by which the members of its tribes were confined to any particular territory, for they were free to wander at will: but there was an unwritten and unspoken code through which each tribe was recognized as holding its particular territory. All of the land embraced in the present county of Oneida was within the domain of the Oneida nation of Indians.

NUMBERS.—It is not believed that the Iroquois ever numbered, after the white men came to know them, more than 12,000 souls. The Oneidas were not so strong in numbers as the Mohawks or Senecas and were probably more numerous by a few hundred than the Onondagas or Cayugas. They are supposed to have

stood third in point of numbers. Their principal village was at Oneida Castle. Scattered settlements were to be found in the present towns of Kirkland, Verona, Westmoreland and Marshall; but all were within easy distance of the main council fire.

Unfairly Treated.—The histories of those people who came to the new world show that prior to English occupation the Indians were dealt with most shamefully. The Spaniards did not penetrate as far north as the territory of which we write, but the Hollanders and the French looked upon the Indians as savages whom it were no sin to deceive, or cheat, or mislead, or outrage, or slay. The English treated with the Iroquois as a nation, sovereign over its lands. Of course it would be presumptuous to say that Britain treated fairly with the Indians, as it acquired title to a vast domain for a very small return, but it is true that England based her claim to the territory of the Six Nations, not on discovery or conquest, but solely on such title as she got from these Indian tribes. By the treaty of Utrecht, France asserted its title to whatever lands lay north of the St. Lawrence river. When Britain acquired Canada by conquest over the French, it did not restore that territory to the Six Nations, but the Indian rights over all of the soil south of the St. Lawrence and the lakes were recognized by Britain in a continuous line, and at the close of the Revolution

New York succeeded to the title of Britain and its allies.

PATENTS.—Recognizing this title, the English government by treaties acquired numerous tracts from the Iroquois as patents, and these in turn were bestowed upon favorites of the government and those who had rendered especial service. It was in this way that permanent English settlements made their appearance, and chief among these was the one at Johnstown, in which Sir William Johnson represented the crown.

FAVORED ENGLAND.—It is not a matter for surprise that when the Revolution came the larger part of the Iroquois were favorable to the side of the parent government. One of the chief factors in bringing about this condition was a Mohawk half-breed, Joseph Brant —Thayendanegea. Possessed of more than ordinary gifts, he had enjoyed peculiar advantages for their cultivation. His sister Molly was the mistress of Sir William Johnson, and Johnson had made it possible for Brant to secure a fair English education, and afterwards a position connected with the Indian agency which he held until the opening of the war. About that time Brant made a visit to England and was received with such marked attention by the nobility that he became the avowed ally of the British government. He was descended from a sachem of the Mohawks and had attained the high honor of a recognized chief of the

Confederacy. As a leader of his people he was exhaustless in expedients, of tireless energy, dauntless courage, lofty and chivalrous bearing—a tower of strength to his friends and a terror to his foes. To a student of the history of his times, the name of Brant awakens recollections of slaughter, massacre, plunder, pillage, burning and devastation for which men still justly execrate his name and stigmatize his memory.

KIRKLAND'S INFLUENCE.—But Brant had little influence with the Oneidas. In July, 1766, ten years before the Revolution, the Rev. Samuel Kirkland took up his residence with the Oneidas at Oneida Castle and established the first permanent Protestant mission ever located in Oneida county. It is impossible to estimate the fruits of the Rev. Mr. Kirkland's labors. He was born in Connecticut and possessed with his great piety an intense patriotism for his native country. Step by step he led the Oneidas into that condition of thought that urged upon them the justice of the cause for which the settlers were fighting. Great as was the Confederacy of which they were no inconsiderable part, strong as must have been their traditions and their love for those with whom they had been linked for centuries, Kirkland held the Oneidas back and they refused to engage in the war of the Revolution as allies of Britain. Had they joined with the other tribes, the struggle for liberty would have been the harder and might have

utterly failed. A little thing might have turned the balance at the time when Burgoyne was sweeping down by Lake Champlain and St. Leger was advancing from Oswego to ravage the Mohawk Valley.

Brant was aware of the influence Rev. Mr. Kirkland exerted with the Oneidas, and through his instigation and upon recommendation of Col. Guy Johnson (the successor of Sir William Johnson) the devoted missioner was compelled to leave the Oneidas; but they remembered his teachings and could not be swayed by Brant from their determination and promise to be neutral. The Oneidas took no part with the British in the war of the Revolution, and, indeed, there is not lacking evidence of the claim that they gave to the settlers of the Mohawk Valley timely warning of the intention of the British and Indians to push down the valley from Fort Stanwix and with fire and sword destroy all.

It is not recorded that within the territory of Oneida county occurred any of those terrible Indian massacres that make up distressing pages in the history of other sections of the state. Fortunately it was not the lot of this county to have in its story a chapter as dark as that which belongs to Schenectady, Cherry Valley, Newtown (Elmira), or Oswego. The account of its battles, written in another chapter, contains enough of renown, and it is with relief that the student of our history finds

in the struggle for supremacy little that has at its foundation cruel massacre.

THE LINE OF PROPERTY.—In September, 1768, Sir William Johnson, accompanied by the governor of New Jersey, William Franklin, and a number of England's representatives, set out for Fort Stanwix with twenty boat-loads of goods. The Iroquois had been summoned to meet with him, but were slow in assembling, and it was not till October 24 that the council was opened. There were at that time about 2,000 Indians present. At this council the Indians ceded to the whites lands east of a line called "The Line of Property." This line began at the mouth of the Tennessee river; thence up the Ohio river to Fort Pitt (Pittsburg); thence up the Allegheny river to Fort Kittaning; thence nearly east over the Allegheny mountains to Bald Eagle creek; thence northeast to the east branch of the Susquehanna river; thence northeast to the mouth of the east branch of the Delaware river; thence up the west or Mohawk branch of the Delaware; thence up the Unadilla river to its head; thence by a direct line to the east branch of Fish creek in Oneida county; thence north to the mouth of French creek, the present site of the village of Clayton, on the St. Lawrence river.

Just at the foot of College hill in the village of Clinton may be seen a stone monument erected by the Hamilton College class of 1887 to mark this "Line of Property."

THE LINE OF PROPERTY MONUMENT.

Second Treaty.—After the Revolution, October 22, 1784, another great council was held at Fort Stanwix at which Arthur Wolcott, Richard Butler and Arthur Lee, commissioners appointed by Congress, treated with the Indians, except the Mohawks, who had fled to Canada. The Marquis de LaFayette was present at this treaty. The Indians at this time ceded to the whites all their lands "west of a line from Lake Ontario four miles east of the Niagara river, to Buffalo creek; thence south to Pennsylvania; thence west to the end of Pennsylvania; thence south along the west bounds of that state to the Ohio river."

Thus at Fort Stanwix the Iroquois parted with the greater portion of their magnificent empire in these two treaties—and the terms were certainly not creditable to the whites. The Indians still retained title to the interior of New York state from the eastern end of Oneida lake to a point four miles east of the Niagara river.

Power Broken.—In 1779 an expedition was conducted by Gen. John Sullivan through the country of the Senecas, Cayugas and Onondagas. It broke the power of the Iroquois, for their crops and towns were burned and many of their people were slain. The Oneidas were not molested by this expedition. The Senecas, Cayugas, Onondagas and Tuscaroras then treated with the state and accepted the few reservations to which they still hold title.

Last Indian Lands.—At Fort Stanwix again, in 1788, the Oneidas, who had been so loyal to the colonists, for the beggarly pittance of $2,000 worth of clothing, $1,000 worth of provisions, and some help toward building a grist and saw mill at their village, ceded to the state nearly all their lands, making but few reservations. From that time up to 1846 the Oneidas continued to sell their lands piecemeal, but receiving more just compensation. With the money thus received they were enabled to purchase at Green Bay, Wisconsin, a reservation to which most of them removed and upon which they reside at the present time. A few families remained near Oneida Castle and their descendants now live there and hold their lands in severalty.

The Council Fire Extinguished.—Before dismissing this subject it is proper to draw attention to two more historical incidents. On the 19th of January, 1777, a delegation of Oneida Indians visited Fort Stanwix (then known as Fort Schuyler) and to the commanding officer in charge stated that the great council fire of the Iroquois at Onondaga had been extinguished for all time, and that the Confederacy of the Six Nations was a thing of the past. Henceforth the tribes must be treated with separately, for the first republic on American soil had expired while the second greater and grander republic was in the doubtful struggles of its infancy.

. One Remaining Monument.—The Indians neither wrote history nor builded monuments. Their literature consisted simply of beautiful legends which were handed down from one generation to another, and which were told so often by the elders of the tribes that they were learned by the younger generation and then in turn communicated by them to those who came after. Few of these legends have been preserved with any faithfulness as to accuracy until the present day; but these and some pieces of wampum or picture writing comprise all the literature remaining of these people that was not written by their enemies.

The Oneida Stone.—In all the vast territory over which the red men held sway there remains not a vestige of a habitation once occupied by them. They built no permanent structures and they carried out no abiding improvements. Thus it happens that within the county of Oneida there remains but one Indian monument—the Sacred Stone of the Oneidas.

Monument Preserved.—Near the entrance to Forest Hill Cemetery, Utica, is a large field stone, which in appearance is not unlike the white boulders so abundant in the Adirondack region. It was placed there in the fall of 1849 by the trustees of the Utica Cemetery Association, and it will probably remain in its present location as long as time shall last. After the main body of the Oneidas had removed to Green

Bay, Wisconsin (in 1846), the few members of the tribe remaining in this locality realized that as a people possessing a distinct organization their days were numbered, and they therefore made known a desire that the Sacred Stone of the Oneidas should be preserved. Several trustees of the Cemetery Association visited Stockbridge, Madison county, to inspect the stone, and in the autumn of 1849, Dr. M. M. Bagg and Julius A. Spencer drove to Stockbridge, accompanied by a heavy wagon drawn by four horses, and the stone was brought to the cemetery. Several Indians returned with it and saw the stone deposited in the place it has since occupied.

History of the Stone.—The cemetery was formally opened and dedicated in the spring of 1850, and at that time William Tracy of Utica wrote the following history of the stone:

"At a prominent position near the entrance of the cemetery stands the palladium of the Oneidas, the sacred stone which gave them their national name and which is said to have followed them in all their wanderings. The legend is that the Oneidas, whose territory extended from the country of the Onondagas to that of the Mohawks, occupying all of Central New York, were descended from two Onondaga Indians who were brothers. At a very remote period they left their native home and built wigwams on the Oneida

river, at the outlet of Oneida lake, where, like the antediluvians, they 'builded a city' and 'begat sons and daughters.' At their resting place there appeared an oblong, roundish stone, unlike any of the rocks in the vicinity which came there to be their sacrificial altar and to give a name to their children.

"Onia, in their native tongue, is the word for a stone. As their descendants increased in number and became known as a community, they were called after it Oniota-Aug, the people of the stone or who sprung from the stone. The particle Aug furnished the plural and left the singular form of the word Oniota, a man sprung from the stone—applicable to an individual. A mispronunciation has given us the word Oneida. The stone was the altar upon which their sacrifices were made and around which their councils and festive and religious gatherings took place. After the lapse of several ages the Oniota-Aug, now become numerous, removed from the Oneida river to the place where the creek, which now bears their name, is discharged into the Oneida lake, and the sacred stone, unassisted by human hands, followed them and located itself again in their midst. Here they flourished until the confederation of the Five Nations was formed, and the children of the stone became second in the order of precedence in the Confederacy. At length it was determined by the old men and warriors of the nation to remove their council fire to the summit of one of the

chain of hills which on the east skirt the valley of the Oneida creek. The one chosen for the new seat of the tribe is in the town of Stockbridge, and about 18 miles distant from its former residence. It commands a view of one of the most beautiful valleys in our own or indeed in any country, extending from the lake southward some thirty miles.

"When the council of the nation had selected this new home for its people, the stone, true to its mission, a second time followed in the train of its children and seeking one of the most commanding and beautiful points of vision upon the hill, deposited itself in a beautiful butternut grove from beneath whose branches the eye could look out upon the whole distant landscape, the most lovely portion of the national domain. Here it remained to witness the remainder of its people's history. It saw the Five Nations increase in power and importance until their name struck terror from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Hudson to the Father of Waters. Around this unhewn altar, within its leafy temple, was gathered all the wisdom of the nation when measures affecting its welfare were to be considered. There eloquence as effective and beautiful as ever fell from Greek or Roman lip was poured forth in the ears of its sons and daughters. Logan, the white man's friend, was there trained to utter words that burned, and there Sconondoa, the last orator of his race, the warrior chief, the

lowly Christian convert, with matchless power, swayed the hearts of his countrymen; there the sacred rites were celebrated at the return of each harvest moon and each new year, when every son and daughter of the stone came up like the Jewish tribes of old to join in the national festivities. This was the resting place of the stone when the first news came that the paleface, wiser than the red children of the Great Spirit, had come from beyond the great water. It remained to see him, after lapse of many years, penetrate the forest and come among its children a stranger; to see him welcomed by them to a home; to see them shrink and wither before his breath, until the white man's sons and daughters occupied their abodes and plowed the fields beneath whose forest covering the bones of their fathers were laid. At length the council fire of the Oneidas was extinguished. The stone no longer reeked with the blood of a sacrificed victim; its people were scattered and there was no new resting place for them to which it might betake itself and again become their altar. It was a stranger in the ancient home of its children, an exile upon its own soil.

"Many persons interested in the associations connected with this memorial of the aboriginal race desired that it might be removed to some position where it might be preserved to future times. While the preparation of the cemetery grounds was in progress, it was ascertained that James H. Gregg, the

proprietor of the farm upon which it was situated, actuated by a similar feeling, would consent to its removal to some place within them, where it would remain secure from the contingencies to which it might be exposed in a private domain liable to constant change of owners. It was thereupon removed to its present position; long to remain a memorial of a people celebrated for their savage virtues and once not obscure actors in some of the stirring passages of our country's history, but who have faded before the approad of the white man and the last drops of whose blood will soon have mingled with the earth."

Appropriately Inscribed.—In the spring of 1902 the cemetery authorities caused the sacred stone to be elevated upon a handsome base of Westerly granite. And that those who visit this beautiful spot may know upon whose monument they were gazing, a bronze tablet has been let into the easterly side of the base bearing this inscription:

> Sacred Stone of the Oneida Indians.
>
> This Stone was the National Altar of the Oneida Indians around which they gathered from year to year to celebrate solemn religious rites and to worship the Great Spirit.
>
> They were known as the tribe of the Upright Stone. This valuable historical relic was brought here from Stockbridge, Madison County, N. Y., in 1840.

THE HIGHWAY AND THE FORTS.

THE WATER ROUTE WESTWARD—INTERRUPTED BY THE CARRYING PLACE AT ROME—FORTS ERECTED TO PROTECT THIS POINT—THEIR NAMES AND NUMBER.

THE CARRYING PLACE.—In a wilderness the course of travel is generally restricted and tortuous. The first advances are made along lakes and rivers. Between the eastern and western doors of the long house of the Iroquois there was a water route which included the Mohawk river on the east of the watershed at Rome, and Wood creek, Oneida lake, Oneida and Oswego rivers and Lake Ontario on the other side of the divide. At what is now Rome, the route was broken by a neck of swamp land over which the canoes must be carried, and this was termed "The Carrying Place" or "The Portage." The Dutch name for the carrying place was "Trow Plat."

The Mohawk Valley by land or water was the great route to the far west and Canada. Besides the water route there were in those early times trails which followed the valley. One trail coming up the valley on the north side crossed the river at a ford near the

foot of Genesee street, Utica. There were trails from this ford to the Oneida villages and to the carrying place. The early traders and trappers who went among the Iroquois and to the country beyond the territory occupied by the Confederacy used the Mohawk water route. In the early days the Indians found employment in carrying goods of travelers across the portage, and it is recorded that even in those times the value of a monopoly asserted itself because there were complaints in 1754 about the charges made by the Indians for assisting the travelers overland with their boats and baggage.

The Forts.—The necessity for forts along the highway was discussed by the English in 1700. There was wealth in the fur trade with the Indians, and though nominally at peace, both France and England claimed the territory of the Iroquois, and in consequence the control of the route through New York. In September, 1700, a commission sent out from Albany, traveled to Onondaga and returning reported in favor of erecting forts at the carrying place between the Mohawk and Wood creek. It does not appear that the recommendations were then acted upon. At the treaty of Utrecht between England and France in 1713, jurisdiction over the disputed territory was conceded to the English. The English and the French competed for the Indian fur trade. In 1724 the New

York merchants were forbidden by the Legislature to sell goods to the French for Indian trade. This was done at the solicitation of the English Indian traders. Against this law the merchants protested.

Date of Erection.—The date of the erection of the first fort in this territory is in doubt; but it is known that the English erected a fort in Oswego in 1727, and as supplies for that place went by the way of the Mohawk river, it is assumed the first fort was erected at the carrying place soon after Oswego had thus been protected. This first fort in the Oneida country was located at what is now Rome at the extreme western bend of the Mohawk river, south of the present location of the Central-Hudson railway and near the Erie canal. This was Fort Craven, and it is said to have been destroyed by a flood.

Six forts—those outposts of civilization—were at different times located along the natural highway between Oneida lake and the Oneida-Herkimer county line. They were Forts Craven, Bull, Newport, Williams, Stanwix (also sometimes called Schuyler), and Fort Schuyler, and the greatest of these was Fort Stanwix—a bulwark of American liberty at which the king's column, sent to ravage the Mohawk valley, lost its strength and turned back over the road whence it came, leaving the valley undisturbed. Besides the forts

there was also at an early period a block-house at what is now the foot of Genesee street, Utica.

Their Object.—The use of the forts was to guard the highway against the French when England and France were at war, and to furnish scouts and guides. The posts were erected generally with the permission of the Indians.

In 1736, Indian traders petitioned the Assembly for the establishment of a fort at the carrying place "at the upper end of the Mohawk."

Fort Williams was erected near the site of Fort Craven and Fort Bull was located two and one-half miles west, lying northwest from Fort Williams—a fort on each end of the carrying place. Though the waters are only about a mile part, the portage was much greater and it varied at different times and seasons. Fort Newport was also located at the carrying place, and between Forts Bull and Williams. Fort Newport appears never to have been finished. Each of these three fortifications was established prior to 1756. Forts Bull and Williams were the scenes of important actions during the French and English war of 1754-5-6.

Fort Schuyler was erected in 1758 or 1759 within the limits of the present city of Utica upon the south bank of the Mohawk river near the ford of the river. Its site was on a point of land between the river and

Main street and southeast of Second street. Eastward along the valley there were other forts.

Confusion of Names.—There has often been confusion over the location of Fort Schuyler arising from a change of names. The original Fort Schuyler was at the present site of Utica. During the Revolution Fort Stanwix at Rome, then an important post, was changed by the patriots to Fort Schuyler, either because the name Stanwix was obnoxious to the patriots or because they desired to honor the name of Schuyler, or both.

Primitive Works.—Compared with twentieth century fortifications these forts were not formidable. They were but spots in the dark forest; were constructed of logs and earthwork. Fort Bull "stood on the north bank of Wood creek where the ground was so low that a dam across the creek just below threw the water into and filled the ditch quite around it, thus easily forming a moat which rendered the fort difficult of access." The earthworks and the moat of Bull are plainly discernible to-day.

A French spy who traversed the highway in 1757 wrote the following description of what he saw at the carrying place:

"Fort Bull, which was burnt in 1756 by a detachment under orders of M. De Lery, was situated on the right bank of this river (Wood creek) near its source

on the height of land. From Fort Bull to Fort Williams is estimated to be one league and a quarter. This is the carrying place across the height of land. The English had constructed a road there, over which all the carriages passed. They were obliged to bridge a portion of it, extending from Fort Bull to a small stream near which a fort had been begun, though not finished. It was to be intermediate between the two forts, having been located precisely on the summit level. Fort Williams was situated on the right bank of the Mohawk or des Agnies, near the rise of that river or the height of land. It was abandoned and destroyed by the English after the capture of Chouegen" (Oswego).

There was formerly a lagoon at Ballou's creek in Utica and it was beside this that Fort Schuyler was erected. This was a small stockade and did not figure to any extent in the military operations of the time. A garrison was kept here for some time, but the post was finally abandoned and fell into ruin.

Fort Bull was destroyed in March, 1756, by a French column, as will be described in another chapter.

Fort Williams was destroyed by General Webb, an English commander, an act for which he has been criticised. The events leading up to the destruction of Fort Williams were these:

In 1756 the English held Oswego. Count Frontenac on August 11, 1756, besieged Oswego. Colonel

Mercer, the commander, was killed. On August 14 Lieutenant Colonel Littlehales, then commander, surrendered to the French. General Webb was in command of Fort Williams at the time, having just been sent up the valley to that post. He felled trees along the bank of Wood creek to obstruct the progress of the enemy and when he heard of the fall of Oswego he set fire to Fort Williams and fled eastward, though Sir William Johnson was at that time in the valley with a force of 2,000 men ready to reinforce him should the French advance. Webb's cowardly work was a severe blow to the English.

New life was enthused in the British cause and in 1758, and two years after the destruction of Fort Williams, Fort Stanwix was erected at a cost of £60,000 to succeed it at the carrying place.

The custom prevailed at that date of naming forts after the military officer superintending the work. General Stanwix erected the last fort at the portage, hence the name. During the old French war, 400 men were garrisoned at Fort Stanwix.

Fort Stanwix is described thus: "It was a square fort, constructed on the most true and approved scientific principles of military engineering, having four bastions, surrounded by a broad ditch eighteen feet in depth, with a covert way and glacis. In the center of the ditch was a row of perpendicular pickets, and a horizontal row upon the ramparts."

The site of Fort Stanwix is now occupied by a block in Rome, which is bounded by Dominick, James, Liberty and Spring streets.

The four bastions of Stanwix are marked with cannon and tablets which appropriately describe it as "the fort that never surrendered."

THE FORT BULL MASSACRE.

French and Indians Surprise and Massacre an English Garrison in 1756—Sixty Persons Slain and Valuable Stores Destroyed—Victorious Force Retreated.

FOR years the French and English struggled against each other for the mastery of the American continent. King George's War ended in 1748, but the next year the governor of Canada sent a band of men in birch bark canoes to the valley of the Allegheny river. They formally proclaimed Louis XV king of all the region drained by the Ohio. The arms of France stamped on a sheet of metal were nailed to a tree, and lead plates claiming the region of the Ohio were buried at several points. A few years later the French commenced to build forts, and when they entered the upper Allegheny valley, George Washington performed his first public service in obtaining information about these posts, at the direction of the governor of Virginia, and in delivering a letter from the governor making a formal demand for the withdrawal of the French. Washington was then only twenty-one years old. The demand for with-

drawal was not complied with and hostilities followed, though Great Britain did not formally declare war until 1756.

Plan of Campaign.—The English campaign of the year before had included three expeditions by land against the French, and each of these was over a natural highway through the wilderness. One was against Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburg); another was against Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and the third was against Niagara.

The last-named expedition went up the Mohawk valley and by the way of the portage and Oneida lake to Oswego, where the column rendezvoused. While waiting there for provisions, which did not arrive as expected, winter approached and the expedition against Niagara was abandoned. The second-named expedition won a battle on Lake George, but the expedition against Du Quesne was a total failure. In the campaign of 1755 the English, therefore, accomplished little.

Then the English planned anew a similar campaign for the ensuing year, intending also to gain control of Lake Ontario. The French strengthened their fortifications and determined to capture Oswego, and as the French knew that the supplies for Oswego went by the way of the Oneida carrying place, it was decided to attack the English at that point.

Invasion from Canada.—In March, 1756, M. deLery with 362 men, of whom 103 were Indians, left Montreal for the carrying place. They traveled up the St. Lawrence on the ice to what is now Ogdensburg. From that point they came down the country, wading through the deep snow in the woods and braving the torrents of the swollen rivers. It is thought that from the vicinity of what is now Boonville they followed the valley of the Lansingkill and the Mohawk to Rome, which neighborhood they reached before daylight on the morning of March 27, 1756. They had then been fifteen days on the journey, had been lost in the wilderness for two days and had suffered terribly from cold and hunger, as they had been two days without food when the carrying place was reached. After a short rest, they, at 4 A. M., resumed their march toward the head of the carrying place.

At 5 A. M. scouts in advance of the column captured two Englishmen from whom it was learned that the fort at the west end of the carrying place was called Fort Bull, after the captain in command; that it had a garrison of sixty soldiers; that the fort was in the shape of a star; was constructed of heavy pickets, fifteen to eighteen feet high and doubled on the inside to the height of a man; that it had no cannon but had recently been supplied with a number of grenades which Sir William Johnson sent from down the valley

upon learning of the expedition. Fort Bull was well supplied with provisions. They also told deLery that fifteen batteaux were to leave that evening for Oswego with provisions and that at that time sleighs loaded with provisions were going over the portage in the direction of Wood creek with nine batteaux loads. Fort Williams, the prisoners said, was of larger pickets, well planked, had four cannon and a garrison of 150 men commanded by Captain Williams.

The Attack.—At 10 o'clock in the forenoon the Indians captured ten men who were escorting sleigh-loads of provisions across the carrying place, and deLery immediately distributed these provisions among his hungry followers. But while the distribution was in progress, deLery learned that a negro who had been in the last party had escaped and had run in the direction of Fort Williams. The French commander then decided to attack Fort Bull without delay. As the Indians were reluctant to fight, the main body was left to guard the prisoners and the trail, while deLery's men and twenty Indians hastened toward the fort on Wood creek. DeLery had ordered his men not to fire a shot or to make any noise, hoping to rush through the gate. But the Indians when near the fort whooped in their excitement, and, thus warned, the garrison was enabled to close the gate before the attacking column reached it. DeLery then summoned the com-

mander to surrender, promising mercy in the event of capitulation. The answer from within the fort was a volley of musketry and grenades. A number of deLery's men got possession of the portholes and held them. Their comrades attacked the gate and after an hour's work it was battered down.

THE MASSACRE.—Crying "Vive le roi!," the French rushed into the fort, and of the garrison of sixty all but five persons, one a woman, were put to death.

DeLery then engaged his men in throwing powder and stores into the creek. A magazine catching fire during the pillage, the victorious troops hastily withdrew, but in the explosion which ensued a soldier and an Indian were wounded by flying debris.

RELIEF PARTY REPULSED.—Meanwhile, the negro who had escaped from the advance guard carried the news to Fort Williams, and soon deLery was notified that the English were making a sortie from Fort Williams. He thereupon collected his men and advanced to meet the enemy. But his Indian allies had repulsed the relief party, killing seventeen Englishmen in the engagement.

DeLery's Indian allies had been opposed to attacking Fort Bull, and notwithstanding the victories of the day they refused to participate in an attack upon Fort Williams (afterward Fort Stanwix) because Fort

Williams was larger and stronger than the post which had just fallen.

The Retreat.—The French and Indians then drew off and camped. The French, having a chaplain, fell on their knees and thanked God for their victory. After the second night the retreat was hastily made because they feared the wrath of Sir William Johnson of the Mohawk valley, who was said to be in pursuit. Unable to carry enough provisions to last them, deLery's men suffered as severely on their return to Canada as they had during the advance.

It is not believed that Fort Bull was ever afterwards rebuilt or occupied by an armed force.

The war dragged on in America until 1760, and in Europe until 1763, when peace was declared and France divided her American possession between England and Spain.

GENERAL HERKIMER'S STATUE AT HERKIMER, N. Y.

THE BATTLE OF ORISKANY.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS BATTLE—THE RISING OF THE VALLEY PATRIOTS—THE MARCH, THE AMBUSCADE AND THE BATTLE—EFFECT ON FORT STANWIX—BRITISH ESTIMATE.

LONG before the extent of the America continent was known, the key to the American colonies was recognized to be Central New York. As the Iroquois owed their supremacy, in part at least, to the peculiar position of their "Long House," so it followed that the white people who dominated the land must gain possession of that key. There were times when it was tacitly held in common with the Indians, but when the great conflicts came between nations foreign to each other, and between brother nations, then this key played an all-important part in the stupendous dramas of those times.

IMPORTANCE.—The battle of Oriskany, the greatest fought within the county, was not a conflict in which there were large numbers of men engaged. But its importance on the history of our nation may scarcely be over-estimated, because it was one of the fine points on which the affairs of the republic turned when the

result of the strife for liberty was in the balance; because it was typical of the whole struggle from every conceivable point of view: because posterity has raised it and its patriotic participants to their proper place in the annals of the nation. George Washington saw its importance. "Herkimer," he said, "first reversed the gloomy scene of the campaign."

CONDITIONS.—Two years and more had elapsed since the battle of Lexington (April 19, 1775). At the time of the battle of Oriskany (August 6, 1777) the British arms were in the situation of probable ascendency, though the Declaration of Independence was but a year old.

The war storm was fiercest in New York that summer. A British fleet had sailed up the Hudson. The British general, Burgoyne, came down Lake Champlain to meet it, and Col. Barry St. Leger, chosen by the English king for the mission, was to come in through Oswego and follow the traditional trail down through the Mohawk valley to join the other forces at Albany. Meanwhile Tory bands were ravaging the country to the south and the east. There was jealousy in the American army. Washington had been openly criticised and stealthily assailed, and the financial affairs of the nation were not among the least of its troubles. The British were strongly entrenched in New York, and held all of Canada. With the country

between the Hudson and the lakes in their possession, the British would have been able to cut off New England from its companions, and, standing between the colonies, might from this central ground rend the embryo nation asunder.

Colonel St. Leger advanced from Oswego on his way to Albany with confidence. The first obstacle which he was to encounter was a frontier fort at the carrying place between the Mohawk river and Wood creek, then known as Fort Schuyler but afterward known as Fort Stanwix. It had been built nineteen years before (1758) as a protection against the French. But the English had gained Canada in 1760, and thereafter the fort lost its importance, save as a protection to the carrying place and a meeting place with the Indians.

The Forces.—In April preceding the battle, Col. Peter Gansevoort, a native of Albany, twenty-eight years old, and Lieut. Col. Marinus Willet occupied this fort with the Third Regiment of the New York line. The fort had gone to ruin, but Col. Gansevoort repaired its broken walls so effectually that when the king's own choice appeared before it they found it too strong to attack, though the plans of the patriots for reconstruction had by no means been carried to fruition.

Col. Gansevoort's garrison consisted of 750 men. The chaplain was Samuel Kirkland, missionary to the Six Nations of Indians. Gansevoort had won his title

with Montgomery at Quebec. St. Leger, who was opposed to him, was an experienced soldier, skilled in strategy. With St. Leger was Joseph Brant—Thayendanegea—the chief of the Mohawks, a man of personal magnetism, in whom the genius of the Indian had been supplemented and developed by an education in the schools of Connecticut. He was a power among the Indians, a pet among the British, and an especial favorite in the family of Sir William Johnson in the Mohawk valley. Brant had arrayed the Six Nations, with the exception of the Oneidas and the Tuscaroras, on the side of the British, and he accompanied the St. Leger expedition at the head of the Indian allies. Sir John Johnson led the forces which had been organized from among those of the settlers in the Mohawk valley who sympathized with the crown. The English column was a picked force, called for a pet name "The King's Regiment." It came from Montreal. The rendezvous was Buck island at the entrance to Lake Ontario.

Leaving that point on July 19, the advance guard came in sight of Fort Schuyler on August 2, and on the 5th of August the attack was begun, but the cannons had no effect on the sod work of the fort. On the day on which the advance guard of British appeared the fort had received a consignment of supplies by boats on the Mohawk river. St. Leger upon arriving before the fort was so confident of its capitulation that he had sent a dispatch to Burgoyne assuring him that

he would take the fort directly and then join him at Albany.

Patriot Farmers.—Meanwhile the patriot settlers in the Mohawk valley were hurrying to arms. St. Leger's scouts, ever watchful, carried news to him of the assemblage of the various bands, and when a column marched from Fort Dayton (at Herkimer) he was appraised of the assistance coming to the besieged garrison. For weeks before he appeared at the head of the valley, the coming of St. Leger had been expected. Nicholas Herchkeimer, as his name was then written, had just been commissioned a brigadier general by Congress. He warned General Schuyler at Albany, and on July 17 he issued a proclamation announcing that the enemy 2,000 strong were at Oswego, and that upon their approach every male person between sixteen and sixty years of age should be ready to oppose St. Leger's advance. General Herkimer knew that the enemy was soon to strike, but from rumors at hand and from recent experiences in the country south of the Mohawk valley region it was difficult at that time to point to the direction out of which the invaders might appear. July 30 he was appraised of the coming of St. Leger, and he immediately issued an order which brought in 800 settlers, nearly all of whom were German and low Dutch, though English, Irish, Scotch, Welsh and French were

there also. They met at Fort Dayton, near where the West Canada creek falls into the Mohawk. St. Leger's force numbered from 1,500 to 1,800. On August 4 General Herkimer's column advanced toward Fort Stanwix. Crossing the ford of the Mohawk at Utica, they reached Whitestown on August 5, where it is thought that they were joined by a band of the Oneida Indians. Herkimer had sent a messenger to arrange for co-operation between his column and the fort, but the messenger was delayed, and while Herkimer was waiting for intelligence that the garrison knew of his coming, dissension arose in his staff. His aides pointed out objections to waiting, urged that the garrison might capitulate while he delayed, and Herkimer was accused of cowardice. His anger stirred, he threw caution to the wind and ordered an advance.

The rude corduroy road on the south side of the river descended into a marsh, and the path lay on through a narrow ravine west of what is now Oriskany. Along the way the 800 straggled like a mob rather than soldiers. The advance gained the higher ground in the deep, dense woods, and in that instant the battle of Oriskany broke upon the settlers of the Mohawk valley like a bolt from the sky.

The Ambush.—St. Leger, apprised of the coming of assistance to the fort, checked the column. Sir John

Johnson and his brother-in-law, Col. John Butler, and Brant, the Indian chief, were sent out to meet the settlers with 1,200 men. Leaving the camp under cover of darkness they secreted themselves above and around the ravine on the morning of the 6th of August and silently awaited the coming of the patriots.

It was about 10 o'clock when the men in ambush opened fire, and the first onslaught cut Herkimer's column in two, throwing the 800 patriots into confusion. But Herkimer rallied those about him just west of the ravine. Wounded early in the engagement, he sat on his saddle under a birch tree and smoking his pipe directed the battle. "I will face the enemy," he said when his comrades urged him to seek a safer place.

A number of those in the rear of Herkimer's column were separated from their friends, chased toward the river and despatched. The fight extended over a period of five hours. The opposing forces fought from behind trees and sometimes hand-to-hand. The details show strange occurrences in the fray. A terrific thunder storm caused a lull in the battle. It is a tradition that the storm cut a broad patch through the forest in the direction from which the enemy came. A detachment of Johnson's Greens (British) entered the fight endeavoring to appear as reinforcing the patriots, but Herkimer's farmers quickly detected the fraud, and cut the detachment into pieces. A fifteen-year-old Indian girl fought with the patriots. The Indian allies

of the British lost many warriors and suddenly became suspicious that the British were seeking to destroy them, whereupon the Indians fired on the British, and thus they rendered an unexpected and valuable service to the patriots.

THE SORTIE.—But while the battle of Oriskany raged, there was another event of equal importance at Fort Stanwix. As soon as Herkimer's delayed messengers arrived at the fort, Colonel Willett, at the head of 250 men, left the fortification and descended upon the enemy's encampments, of which there were four. He routed the British and captured the contents of two encampments, including five flags. This sortie had a decided influence on the battle of Oriskany, for it indirectly gave assistance to Herkimer's column by attracting the attention of the enemy in another quarter and prevented the sending of reinforcements.

Those five flags were hoisted upside down upon the fort, and over them, for the first time in its history, the Stars and Stripes, the flag of the Republic, was flung to the breeze. Congress had but recently conceived the design of this flag. The patriots made it from pieces of rude clothing. It was first displayed in the face of an enemy in Oneida county on a critical day—that day on which the fortunes of the struggling Republic changed and which have ever since grown brighter.

Close of the Battle.—The battle of Oriskany continued until the British fell back. It is thought that they were drawn off upon learning of the sortie from the fort. They left the patriot column broken, but in the possession of the field. St. Leger checked the advance of Herkimer's men, prevented them from reaching the fort, and in that he gained an element of victory. On the other hand, in accomplishing this St. Leger exhausted the fighting strength of his command beyond all hope of capturing the fort, and he was thus turned back at the fateful pass.

Losses.—The patriots' loss in the battle was 200; the British was from 150 to 200. The death ratio at the battle of Oriskany was higher than in any other battle of the Revolution.

The patriots carried off their wounded at the close of the fight. Herkimer was taken home on a litter of boughs. His wounded leg was amputated, but he died on August 16. Some of the dead lay unburied on the field for eighteen days, until the coming of a second army to the relief of the fort.

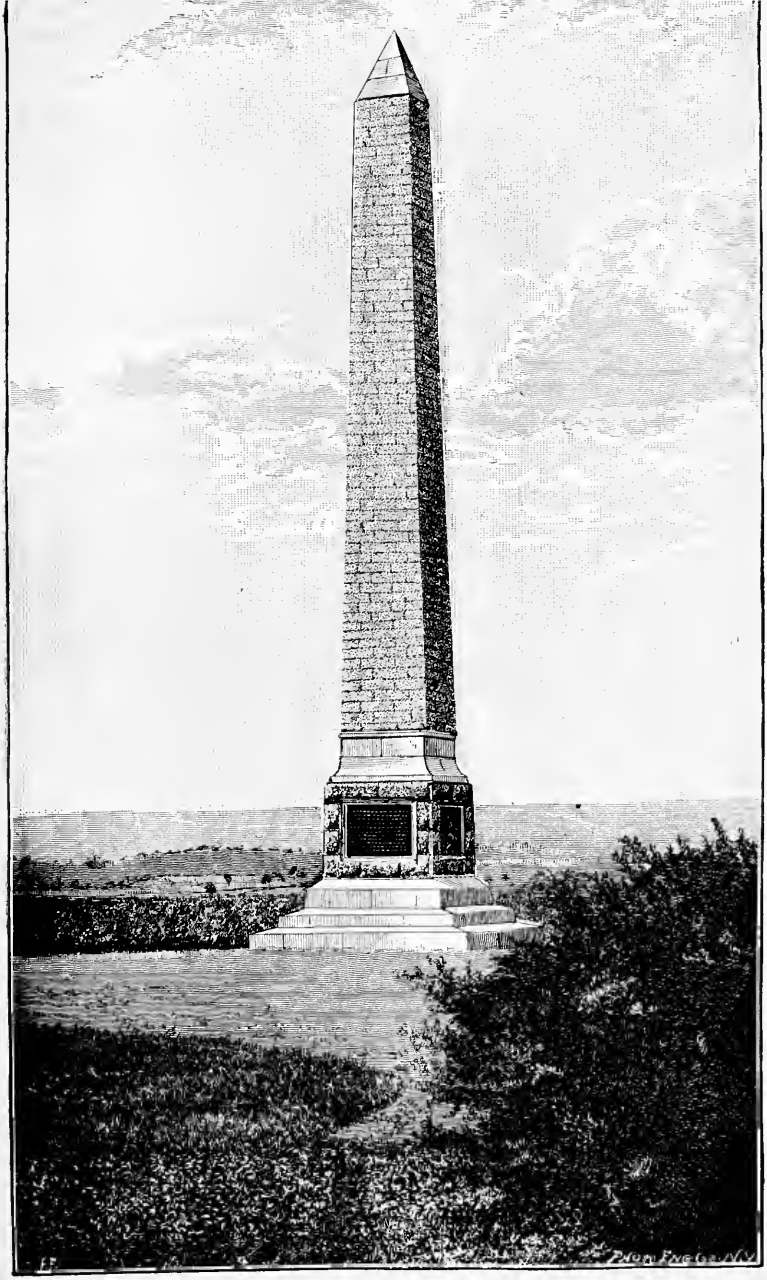
Retreat.—St. Leger returned from Oriskany to the siege of Fort Stanwix, where he remained till August 22, when he fled. On that day, General Benedict Arnold reached the site of Utica with a volunteer army for the relief of Fort Stanwix. Two days later Arnold arrived at the fort. The retreat of St. Leger was

practically an undisciplined rout. He had reluctantly raised the siege because the Indians wanted to leave. In the retreat quarrels arose. The Indians murdered prisoners and also any of the British who fell behind. Those who advanced as allies retreated as foes.

Effect.—The physical effect of the battle was far reaching. It spoiled the military plan of the British, crippled Burgoyne and broke the Indian alliance. Also, the moral effect was far reaching, for there was never afterwards a Tory uprising in the Mohawk valley, though Sir John Johnson had boasted that the settlers of the valley were loyal to the king. It opened the way for other American victories, notwithstanding that St. Leger claimed Oriskany itself to have been his victory.

In his address at the centennial celebration of the battle of Oriskany, Hon. Ellis H. Roberts said: "Wherein was the stand of the Greeks at Thermopylæ braver than this march of Herkimer into the ravine? Wherein have Norse vikings shown sturdier stuff in fight? Tell me when panoplied crusader ever made more light of death than those unmailed farmers of the Mohawk? Cite from verse of ancient or modern poet the elan of truer courage, the steadiness of sterner determination, the consecration of more glowing patriotism than held the pass at Oriskany."

British estimate of the importance of this battle is not wanting, if any son of Oneida should feel that home



ORISKANY MONUMENT.

enthusiasm has raised the importance of this defense of the pass to a greater elevation than facts warrant. The British Annual Register for 1777 contains this: "Nothing could have been more untoward in the present situation of affairs than this (St. Leger's) expedition. The Americans represented this and the affair at Bennington as great and glorious victories. Gansevoort and Willett with Starke and Warner (the latter two of Bennington) were ranked among those who were considered the saviors of their country."

The Monument.—The centennial anniversary of the battle of Oriskany was celebrated August 5, 1877. On the 6th of August, 1884, a noble granite monument, which had been reared by the Oneida Historical Society, was dedicated. The graceful shaft rises among peaceful scenes to mark the spot where the blood of patriots was freely poured out in the successful effort to check a dangerous foe. Upon its base in imperishable bronze is told the story of the struggle, and to this is appended the names of those in Herkimer's band of farmers who on that day laid down their lives for Liberty.

STORY OF THE FLAG.

FORM OF THE STARS AND STRIPES PLANNED AND ADOPTED—FORT STANWIX GARRISON CONSTRUCTED ONE—FIRST TIME THE EMBLEM EVER BID DEFIANCE TO A FOE.

IN the early part of the Revolutionary war the flags used by the Continental troops were of many patterns, but as a Union and a Republic shaped itself out of the war of the colonies against unjust taxation, so there came out of the cluster of banners a new and significant emblem, born with the new republic.

July 2, 1776, Congress said: "That these united colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states; and that all political connection between us and the state of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved."

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted, proclaiming to the world that a new Republic had arisen.

THE FLAG PLANNED.—The plan of the flag had been conceived the year before its adoption. In the latter part of May, 1776, George Washington, Col. George Ross of his staff, and Hon. Robert Morris, the financier

of the Revolution, called upon Mrs. Betsy Ross, a niece of Colonel Ross. She was a pretty woman, twenty-four years old, an upholsterer's widow, who lived in a little house in No. 239 Arch street, Philadelphia. Washington had a rough sketch of a proposed flag with thirteen stars and thirteen stripes, and with Betsy Ross this committee of three discussed the plan of the flag. Tradition relates that the stars proposed by Washington were six-pointed and that Betsy Ross pointed out that they should be five-pointed.

Acting under the instructions of this committee, Betsy Ross made a flag (the original of our present Stars and Stripes) and though Congress took no action that year upon the national emblem, she was instructed to make other flags of the same pattern, Colonel Ross furnishing the funds. The first flag was made of English bunting. Now the bunting is manufactured in our own country, but otherwise the original flag was the same as the flag of to-day, excepting, of course, the changes which have been made necessary by the growth of the union.

The Flag Adopted.—Congress adopted the flag now so familiar to the world on June 14, 1777, about a year after it had been designed, though a month previous to the adoption that body had sent to Mrs. Ross an order for £14 12s 2d for flags for the fleet in the Delaware.

The resolution of adoption is brief: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars in the blue field, representing a new constellation." There is no recorded discussion regarding the flag. Nor is this strange, for there were matters of greater moment in the minds of the nation's lawmakers at that time. Congress was merely adopting what had been agreed upon as the flag.

The Fort Stanwix Flag.—Washington had urged the colonels to provide their regiments with flags. The garrison at Fort Stanwix had no colors, and it may readily be imagined that the provision of a flag there as elsewhere had been left until sterner duties had been done. But members of the garrison set about the making of the emblem of the new Republic. The record declares that "Stripes of white were cut from ammunition shirts; blue from a camlet cloak captured from the enemy, while the red was supplied from such odds and ends of clothes of that hue as were at hand."

The cloak referred to had been captured from the enemy in an engagement at Peekskill, on March 22, 1777.

There is in the possession of the Oneida Historical Society at Utica a photographic copy of a letter written by Capt. Abraham Swartout of Poughkeepsie in which he says that he furnished his cloak to provide the blue

of the flag, and that he afterward made requisition upon the department for another cloak.

First Stars and Stripes Displayed in Face of the Enemy.—There is no shadow of doubt that this crude flag, constructed by the brave little garrison in the fort that "never surrendered," was the first Stars and Stripes displayed in the face of an enemy. This claim is allowed by all careful historians, and it is especially fitting that residents of Oneida county should remember this and hold as a matter of pride that within their territory the Stars and Stripes first floated defiantly before the onslaught of a foe. The bronze tablets which mark the site of Fort Stanwix in Rome record this fact.

Thirteen Stripes.—In after years the number of stripes increasing with the admission of new states, a change became necessary to meet future requirements —a change whereby the character of the flag might not be disturbed though the design should still continue to be emblematic of the entire Union. Accordingly on April 4, 1818, Congress enacted: "That from and after the fourth day of July next, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be twenty stars, white, in a blue field, and that on the admission of a new state into the Union one star be added to the union of the flag; and

that such addition take effect on the fourth day of July next succeeding such admission."

There are now forty-six stars in the flag, the last one having been added July 4, 1908, and representing the state of Oklahoma.

THE ROADS.

Improvement in Ways of Communication Necessary— State Roads and Turnpikes Opened— Stages and Mail Routes.

THE influx of emigrants into Central New York —the beautiful wilderness which the soldiers had passed through in their campaign—which came after the Revolutionary war, soon brought about the construction of a road, not only for the needs of the Mohawk valley, but for direct overland communication with the Genesee valley country, which was then the far west. The first roads were like the wood roads now to be seen in the Adirondacks. They were hastily constructed ways. Streams were forded and logs were thrown down in swampy places to bear the traffic of the time. In 1790 a road was opened to the Genesee country by men who had there planted a colony. In 1794 a road was opened from Albany to Utica. In 1794 the state laid out a road from Utica to Avon on the Genesee river, and afterward made appropriations for its construction. Over this on September 30, 1797, a stage started from Old Fort Schuyler (Utica) and reached Geneva in three days. These roads were rough and crude in the extreme, but they were later

improved. The Genesee turnpike took in Whitestown and Fort Stanwix.

In 1800 the Seneca Turnpike Company was chartered to construct a road west from Utica. Its route was that of an Indian trail, through what is now New Hartford, Kirkland, Vernon, and Oneida Castle.

It will be noticed that the construction of roads and the building of the first canal system in this territory were taken up at about the same date. In the same period came the mail route established in 1792 between Albany and Whitesboro, and a year later there was a stage route which would carry passengers between the same points for $3.00.

In the early days, the great trunk lines of State highways were given considerable attention. They were laid out one hundred feet wide, the State aided their building and maintenance, and extraordinary efforts were put forward to keep them in repair. They were generally known as "Post Roads," for over them were carried the mails of the country, and public stages made regular trips. Sometimes sections of the main highways were leased or assigned to companies that were formed for that purpose, and plank roads were built and toll gates were erected for the collection of revenues to keep the roads in repair. The State often authorized the holding of lotteries in which there would be a number of capital prizes and numerous small awards. The sale of tickets for the drawings was

large, and very considerable sums would be secured for the construction or repair of roads. One of the curious features in local newspapers in the first half of the last century—viewed in the light of modern days —was the publication of advertisements of "Grand Drawings" conducted by the State for the benefit of roads, and many of these are to be found in the old newspapers of Oneida county.

During the years of most active railroad development, attention to public highways declined. The mails were transferred to the railroads as far as possible, the stage lines disappeared, pleasure driving was a thing scarcely heard of, long journeys by carriage were rare. The roads were used only by the agriculturalists, and their condition became deplorable indeed. A system of local supervision was installed, and each township was divided into a number of road districts. Each landowner was assessed a certain number of days' work on the highway in his immediate district, and bridges were maintained by a town fund, collected for that purpose. The result was that there was neither concert nor harmony in the building or care of highways, and many of them were almost impassable during fall, winter and spring months. In a great measure this added to the discontent that had grown up with country life, and aided in the movement that set in soon after the close of the Civil War to seek

the cities and towns as places of residence, instead of the country.

Improved Conditions.—After long agitation the State, in 1898, passed a law looking toward securing better roads. It was realized that the scattered inhabitants of a country district could not build and maintain expensive macadam roadways, and a plan was evolved through which the State pays a portion of the cost and the county the balance. The boards of supervisors designate certain roads that are to be improved. These are selected as trunk lines, and the plan followed in Oneida county has been to select for improvement those roads that would bring each farm in the county within five miles of some one of the trunk lines. Through this plan the entire county will in time be gridironed with macadam roads, over which heavy loads may be easily drawn at any time of year, and which offer light driving the most favorable conditions.

One of the first roads in the State to be improved under the new plan was the section of the river road east of Deerfield Corners, extending to the Herkimer county line.

At the close of the working season in the fall of 1908 nearly eighty-eight miles of improved roads have been constructed in this county. There is at this time a completed line of macadam roadway from the eastern line of the county to the city of Rome on the north side

of the Mohawk river, following the old State highway along that section. The Seneca turnpike has been improved from New Hartford through Kirkland and Lairdsville to Oneida Castle. The famous road from Utica through the Sauquoit valley to Bridgewater has been brought to perfection through the new system. Nearly eight miles of improved road has been built on the Augusta turnpike through Vernon and Westmoreland to Rome. Up the beautiful Mohawk valley north of Rome, through Westernville and North Western, the new road parallels the Black River canal and will ultimately reach to Boonville. And still another trunk line is stretching out from Rome to Taberg.

In passing from this subject it is well to draw attention to the fact that in the good roads agitation that was carried on for a number of years before the State finally took the matter up in an intelligent manner, a citizen of Oneida county was one of the most persistent advocates of better roads. Had it not been for the almost constant work that W. Pierrepont White of Utica gave to this great economical question, it is probable that better roads would have been long delayed in their coming.

CANALS, RAILROADS, TELEGRAPH.

WASHINGTON INTERESTED IN CANALS—HIS TRIP AND LETTER—FIRST CANALS—HOW OPERATED—ERIE, CHENANGO AND BLACK RIVER—THE RAILROADS—THE TELEGRAPH—ACTIVITY IN THIS SECTION—DEVELOPED BY ONEIDA COUNTY MEN.

AS the country expanded and travel increased the importance of our pass grew apace. The trails through the wilderness had developed into roads, but of such a primitive character that travel still favored the water route which, though exceedingly tortuous, was still favorable for freight.

WATERWAY IMPROVEMENTS SUGGESTED.—When, therefore, means of improving communication between the Hudson valley and the west were contemplated, the thought was naturally in the direction of improving the water way. As early as 1724 plans for inland navigation were suggested.

WASHINGTON'S VISIT.—The subject of canals had occupied the mind of Washington before the Revolution. Upon the close of the great struggle, he saw in the improvement of means of internal communication the advancement of the prosperity of the nation. In

1784 he personally explored the route of the Mohawk valley and Oneida lake. In a letter to the Marquis of Chastellux he said: "I have lately made a tour through the Lakes George and Champlain as far as Crown Point; then returning to Schenectady, I proceeded up the Mohawk river to Fort Schuyler, crossed over to Wood creek, which empties into the Oneida lake, and affords the water communication with Ontario. I then traversed the country to the head of the eastern banks of the Susquehanna, and viewed the Lake Otsego and the portage between that lake and the Mohawk river at Canajoharie. Prompted by these actual observations I could not help taking a more contemplative and extensive view of the vast inland navigation of these United States, and could not but be struck with the immense diffusion and importance of it, and with the goodness of that Providence who has dealt his favors to us with so profuse a hand. Would to God we may have wisdom enough to improve them, I shall not rest contented until I have explored the western country, and traversed those lines (or great part of them) which have given bounds to a new empire."

The First Canal.—In 1791 a commission was appointed to survey the carrying place at Rome and to estimate the cost of a canal. The following year the commission reported that the cost to improve by locks

and canals the route from Albany to Seneca lake would be $200,000. On March 30, 1792, the Northern and Western Inland Lock Navigation Company was incorporated. There were two companies—one for the opening of lock navigation from the Hudson to Lake Champlain, which was called the Northern. The other company was to open lock navigation between the Hudson and Lakes Ontario and Seneca, and that was the Western company. Each had a capital stock of 1,000 shares of $25.00 each. Later the capital stock of the companies was largely increased and the state subscribed to the stock of each. The work contemplated by the Western company was the removing of obstructions in the natural water courses, the construction of canals and locks at Little Falls and at Fort Stanwix. The work was accomplished and in the spring of 1796 the Western canals were opened from Schenectady to Seneca Falls for the passage of boats of sixteen tons burden.

The Carrying Place Canal.—The canal at Fort Stanwix was one and three-quarters miles long and a portion of its bed is now occupied by the Erie canal. There was a lock at each end. A feeder from the Mohawk river furnished part of the water supply for this canal. The feeder entered it at about the middle. Thirteen isthmuses were cut in Wood creek to facilitate navigation, and in 1796 boats passed through this canal

and down to Oneida lake. The work of this western canal system had up to 1797 cost $400,000. The boats used along the course were open, flat-bottomed, thirty-five or forty feet long, and propelled by men with poles. The poleman set an end of the pole against the banks or the bottoms, put his shoulder to the other end and pushed. Along each side of these boats were walking boards upon which the navigators stood. Four men on each side of a boat could drive it about eighteen miles a day up stream. Sails were used wherever advantageous wind was encountered. Later, oars were substituted for the poles. It required nine days to make the trip from Utica to Oswego—113 miles. The heavy tolls which were imposed stimulated land travel.

In 1820 the state purchased the property of the Western Inland Navigation Company. The Erie canal had then been commenced.

Erie Canal.—The construction of the Erie canal was the result of many ideas for the improvement of the State, promulgated over a series of years. History places men of Central New York in the foremost rank of those who shaped the plans and carried them out. Oneida participated actively in the first legislation. Judge Benjamin Wright, a noted engineer of his day, was an assemblyman in 1707-08. Joshua Forman, a member from Onondaga county, was his room-mate at Albany. Assemblyman Forman introduced a reso-

lution for a canal survey from the Hudson to Lake Erie. Judge Wright seconded it. The resolution was adopted; the survey was made by Simon DeWitt and Mr. Wright. Their report created much discussion. On motion of Senator Jonas Platt of Oneida, in 1810 commissioners were appointed to explore the proposed canal route. The project was further advanced until the war of 1812 turned attention from it.

The Canal Authorized.—Interest was revived upon the close of the war. In 1815 we find Jonas Platt among those who were fighting for it. Two years later (1817) the law authorizing its construction was enacted and in June, 1817, a contract for the construction of the middle section (Utica to the Seneca river) was let. July 4, 1817, ground for the canal was broken at Rome. The course of the canal was then south of Rome. Later the course was changed to its present bed. The middle section of the canal (94 miles) was completed in 1819, at a cost of $1,125,983.

First Section Navigated.—That portion of the canal between Rome and Utica was the first part of the canal that was ready for navigation. On October 21, 1819, the channel was filled with water from the Oriskany creek. On October 22, a boat named the "Chief Engineer," of Rome, N. Y., in honor of Judge Benjamin Wright, made a trial trip from Rome to

Utica. There was a band aboard and the boat was received in Utica with joyful demonstrations.

Opening Described.—The following letter descriptive of the opening was written by a Utican and published in a newspaper at Albany:

"The last two days have presented in this village a scene of liveliest interest, and I consider it among the privileges of my life to have been present to witness it. On Friday afternoon I walked to the head of the grand canal, the eastern extremity of which reaches to within a very short distance of the village and from one of the slight and airy bridges which crossed it I had a sight which could not but exhilarate and elevate the mind. The waters were flowing in from the westward and coming down their untried channel towards the sea. Their course, owing to the absorption of the new banks of the canal and the distance they had to run from where the stream entered it, was much slower than I had anticipated. They continued gradually to steal along from bridge to bridge, and at first only spreading over the bed of the canal, imperceptibly rose and washed its sides with a gentle wave. It was dark before they reached the eastern extremity, but at sunrise next morning they were on a level two and a half feet deep throughout the whole distance of thirteen miles. The interest manifested by the whole country as this new internal river rolled its first waves

through the state can not be described. You might see the people running across the fields, climbing on trees and fences, and crowding the bank of the canal to gaze upon the welcome sight. A boat had been prepared at Rome and as the waters came down the canal you might mark their progress by that of this new 'Argo' which floated triumphantly along the Hellespont of the West, accompanied by the shouts of the people, and having on her deck a military band. At nine the next morning the bells began a merry peal, and the commissioners proceeded in carriages from Bagg's Hotel to the place of embarkation. The governor, accompanied by General VanRensselaer, Rev. Mr. Stansbury of Albany, Rev. Mr. Blatchford of Lansingburg, Judge Miller of Utica, Mr. Holley, Mr. Seymour, Judge Wright, Colonel Lansing, Mr. Childs, Mr. Clark, Mr. Bonner, and a large company of their friends, embarked and were received with the roll of the drum and the shouts of a multitude. The boat which received them is built for passengers, is sixty-one feet in length and seven and one-half feet in width, having two rising cabins of fourteen feet each, with a flat deck between them. In forty minutes the company reached Whitesboro, the boat being drawn by a single horse, which walked on the towing-path, attached to a towing-rope about sixty feet long. The horse apparently traveled with the utmost ease. The boat, though literally loaded with passengers, drew but fourteen

inches of water. A military band played patriotic airs. From bridge to bridge, from village to village, the procession was saluted with cannon, and every bell whose sound could reach the canal swung as with instinctive life as it passed by."

Completed.—The original Erie canal was completed in the fall of 1825. It was 363 miles long and the total cost was $7,143,789.86, or $19,679.87 per mile. On October 26 of the year of its completion Governor Clinton and others left Buffalo on a squadron of boats and made the trip to New York. The trip from beginning to end was a continuous ovation.

The Chenango Canal.—This waterway, connecting the Susquehanna river at Binghamton with the Erie canal at Utica, 97 miles long, was commenced in July, 1834, and completed two years later at a cost of $2,782,124. For a number of years it was an important coal route, but the advent of railroads caused it to be eventually abandoned.

The Black River Canal.—The construction of the Black River canal was authorized in 1836. The canal was opened between Rome and Port Leyden in 1851. Afterward a dam was constructed at Carthage on the Black river, making the river navigable for forty-two miles to High Falls, at which point the canal connects with the river. The Black River canal

system provided 78 miles of navigation and it was instrumental in opening up a northern section of the state.

Railroads.—After the canal enterprises came the development of railroads. The first railroad in the United States authorized to carry on a general transportation business in freight and passengers was the Mohawk and Hudson River railroad, extending from Albany to Schenectady, which was opened for traffic in October, 1831. In 1836 the Utica and Schenectady railroad was completed at a cost of $20,000 a mile.

First Train West.—In June, 1839, the Utica and Syracuse railroad was completed at a cost of $700,000, and on June 27 the first train started out of Utica westward.

Black River.—The first section of the Utica and Black River railroad was opened in December, 1854, and it was gradually extended northward until in 1871-72 it had reached Philadelphia, N. Y. Thereafter the Black River Company acquired control of other roads and made other extensions which connected the lines with the waters on the north.

Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg.—In November, 1848, work was commenced in Rome on the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg railroad, and May 28, 1851, the line was opened to Pierrepont Manor and it was extended northward in succeeding years.

In 1886 this road leased all the roads of the Utica and Black River Railroad Company. In 1891 the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company, which had many years before consolidated the independent lines and formed the great thoroughfare from New York to Buffalo, leased these northern lines.

The Southern Lines.—The Utica, Clinton and Binghamton railroad was chartered to construct a horse or steam road from Clinton through New Hartford to Utica and also to the villages of Whitesboro and New York Mills. In 1863 it opened a horse road in Genesee street between Utica and New Hartford. In 1866 a steam road was in operation from New Hartford to Clinton and the horse line had been extended to Whitesboro. Later the road was by successive stages pushed further south, improved and eventually passed into the control of other hands.

Other Lines.—The Utica, Chenango and Susquehanna Valley railroad was finished in 1871. The New York and Oswego Midland road was opened in 1872. The Rome and Clinton road was opened in 1871. The New York, West Shore and Buffalo railway was opened from Weehawken to Syracuse October 1, 1883.

The Telegraph.—Alert minds and progressive spirits reached out and brought into the Mohawk

valley and thence spread east and west the telegraph when it was yet believed by many to be a thing of chimerical realms. It had no friends in New York city. Prof. Samuel F. B. Morse about 1844 established a line between Washington and Baltimore.

Men of This County Interested.—James D. Reid, who was known as the "Father of the Telegraph," in his book, "The Telegraph in America," thus tells of the celerity with which the men of Utica caught up the telegraph:

"It was reserved to the inland cities of Rochester and Utica to take hold of the giant child and rear it to national greatness. In Utica as in Rochester there had always been a circle of solid, somewhat rough and practical men, always wideawake to enterprises of this character, a kind of frontier men, quick, impetuous, daring, ready for any new thing which had in it the necessity of pluck, the probability of success. Prominent among these, in 1845, were Theodore S. Faxton, John Butterfield and Hiram Greenman, the pioneers of old stage lines through central and eastern New York. They had all cracked their whips from the stage box, knew how to plant a good cowhide boot on the foot-board, and instinctively took to anything that had go in it. These men became at once interested in the telegraph. It was in their line. And so first Butterfield, who was a great traveler, and then Faxton found their way to Washington to watch the progress

of the building and opening of the government line. They were not the men to buy pigs in bags, or to accept anything at second hand. So they characteristically footed it out from Washington to see Ezra Cornell at his work, and then cautiously and quietly watched the opening of the government offices. With the utmost care they made themselves familiar with all the details, and formed their judgment of the value of the invention by what they saw. They soon determined to secure it for their own state and early in June, 1845, Mr. Butterfield had closed a contract with Mr. Kendall to erect a line of Morse telegraph, curiously enough having its termini at Springfield, Mass., and Buffalo, N. Y., via Albany and Utica. Springfield was designed to be the connecting point with the New York and Boston Company, the absurdity of which was soon apparent. It was while Mr. Butterfield was returning from Washington on this errand that, on June 7th, he met on the Albany night boat Henry O'Reilly, of Rochester, to whom he imparted the nature of his project and so fired him with the idea of a similar mission that, in eight days, Mr. O'Reilly had in his possession the important contract which bears his name."

Company Formed.—A company was formed in Utica on July 16, 1845, with a capital stock of $200,000 to construct the Springfield, Albany and Buffalo Telegraph Line.

The trustees were Theodore S. Faxton, John Butterfield, Hiram Greenman, Henry Wells and Crawford Livingston. To interest the public in the enterprise a line was constructed in the fall of 1845 from Utica to the State fair grounds, just outside the city, where the Masonic Home now stands. The first line in the state was from Albany to Utica. It was finished January 31, 1846. The line connecting Utica with Buffalo was next finished and after that the New York and Albany line was finished, the company having early seen that New York would make a better terminal than Springfield, Mass. That was the beginning. What the men who dwelt in the pass had done for liberty and for commerce, they also did for the telegraph. Who, viewing the magnitude of these enterprises with the far reaching influence of each, may not repeat with pride, "This is my own, my native land"?

THE BEGINNINGS.

First Permanent Settlements in the Towns—Incidents Connected with the Coming of the Pioneers—The Wilderness Turned into a Productive and Prosperous Country.

SOON after the close of the Revolution a tide of emigration set in toward the wilderness of the west. There were in the armies of the patriots many New England soldiers who had been in the garrison in Fort Stanwix, and a brigade of Massachusetts troops under General Larned was with Gen. Benedict Arnold when he raised the siege of that fortress. They took back with them glowing tales of the beauty and fertility of the country they had visited, and those who had courage and hardihood determined on pushing out into the wilderness, though at that time the journey was tedious, wearying and full of dangers.

White's Town.—The first of these pioneers to make a permanent settlement in what is now Oneida county was Hugh White. He left Middletown, Connecticut, early in May, 1784, and arrived at what is now Whitestown June 5. His family consisted of four sons, a daughter and a daughter-in-law. They

came up the Hudson to Albany, crossed by land to Schenectady, and then in a batteau made their way to the mouth of the Sauquoit creek. At Shoemakers, a few miles below Utica, they stopped and planted a field of corn on an abandoned farm from which the Indians and English had driven the owner and burned his buildings. At the proper time Judge White and his sons returned and tilled this, and in the autumn gathered a bountiful harvest. Judge White and his sons immediately set to work to clear land, which they planted, and near the eastern end of the village green in Whitesboro they erected their house. The site is now designated by a fine granite monument which marks the location of the home of the first permanent settler and his family in this county.

Around this point centered for many years all the business attendant upon the erection of the new community. Other New England families followed Judge White, and in 1785 Amos Wetmore and his sons and daughters were added to the settlement. Thomas R. Gold and Ozias Wilcox came in 1792, and in a few years Whitesboro had become a flourishing village in which resided, besides those mentioned above, the families of Jonas Platt, George Doolittle, Reuben Wilcox, Arthur Breese, Enoch Story, Elizur Morley, Caleb Douglass, William G. Tracy and Gerrit Lansing.

The first white child born in the settlement was Esther White, daughter of Daniel C. White. She was

born in 1785. The first white person to die in the settlement was Mrs. Blacksly, who was the aunt of Judge White and who resided with him.

Judge White was a strong, forceful character, and he possessed the secret of getting along well with the Indians. He made them understand that he was their friend and he did not deceive them. Best of all, he put them upon their honor by placing in them implicit trust. It is related that an Indian named Han Yerry who resided at Oriskany came to Judge White's house one day and after conversation told the judge that to trust his friendship he wanted to take home with him the judge's little granddaughter and keep her over night. The fears of the child's mother arose in an instant, and it is not improbable that the grandfather had most disturbing suspicions; but he well knew that he must betray no fears, and so he confided the little three-year-old to the Indian's care. The baby was returned the next afternoon by the chief and his wife, safe and well. they had removed the garments she wore from home and had substituted a complete Indian dress, even to the tiny moccasins of deerskin.

This incident cemented the friendship between the family of Judge White and the dusky people who surrounded his forest home.

Deerfield.—In Deerfield a settlement was made in 1773 by George J. Weaver, Capt. Mark Damoth and

Christian Reall, and their houses were located near the present site of the Corners. They had started a clearing and were making progress in the forest when suddenly, in the summer of 1776, an Oneida Indian came to them and gave the information that a party of Tories and Indians were approaching from the vicinity of West Canada creek. The settlers at once concealed their furniture in the woods, and placing the women and children in a crude wagon they hurried away to Little Stone Arabia, a fort near Schuyler. The Tories and Indians soon descended upon their poor homes and destroyed them.

Afterward Mr. Damoth was captain of a company of rangers in the Revolution and received a bullet wound which shattered his right arm. Mr. Weaver was taken prisoner near Herkimer and was carried to Quebec, where for nine months he was confined in a dark cell. He was then taken to England, where he was kept a prisoner two years before he was exchanged and returned to his chosen home. In 1784, after war and pillage had passed its devastating hand over the Mohawk valley, these three old settlers were re-united and were again located upon their old farms, which they had cleared with so much toil, at Deerfield Corners. Other families who settled here about this time were Peter, Nicholas and George Weaver, George Damoth, Nicholas Harter and Philip Harter.

The first bridge built over the Mohawk river

between Utica and Deerfield was erected in 1792 at "the fording place," probably east of Real's creek. In order to insure the presence of sufficient help to raise it, the work was done on Sunday.

ROME.—The settlement of Rome is so closely identified with the history of Forts Stanwix and Bull and the other stockades at the "carrying place" that the reader is referred to the chapter on that subject for further details. Briefly it may be said in addition that it is the oldest point of interest in the county of Oneida, and from the earliest struggle between the French and English for supremacy to the evacuation of Fort Stanwix after the battle of Oriskany, it was a spot for which there was constant contention. It was the scene of military occupation, battle, treaty, massacre, siege, hardship, and finally victory, and its story properly set forth would form a chapter of unusual interest to close students of our early history. No braver garrison ever withstood the onslaught of a foe than that which defended Fort Stanwix, over which floated the first Stars and Stripes ever flung to the breeze in time of battle.

The permanent settlement of Rome commenced in 1784, when Jedediah Phelps erected a small foundry on Wood creek. He moved the next year to the site of Fort Stanwix, and 1785-6 five log houses were erected there. In 1795 the first grist mill was built,

and in 1799 a printing office was established and the Columbian Gazette was started as a weekly paper by Thomas Walker.

It was at Rome, July 4, 1817, that the first shovelful of earth was turned in the construction of the Erie canal; and it was at Rome within the memory of many men now living that the first sleeping car ever constructed in the United States was built.

The town of Rome was formed March 4, 1796. Thirty-four years before, on August 28, 1762, the first white child born in this county saw the light of day at Fort Stanwix. His name was John Roof, and his father and mother resided in a log hut near the fort.

Rome was incorporated as a city by an act passed February 23, 1870.

WESTMORELAND.—In several respects the settlement of Westmoreland is among the most interesting of the events connected with the history of our county. A considerable portion of this township, lying in the southwestern center and west of the Line of Property, was granted to James Dean of Connecticut directly from the Oneida Indians, and this grant was confirmed by the state. Mr. Dean when a young man was a missionary to the Indians and became proficient in their language. He afterwards entered Dartmouth College and was a member of the first class graduating therefrom. In 1774 the Continental Congress sent him

among the Indians to aid in influencing them to side with the colonists, and while acting in this capacity he was arrested by the British as a spy and taken to Quebec. His cool self-possession enabled him to pass their examination and he was liberated. When the Revolution commenced he was appointed to the rank of major and was sent to Fort Stanwix and Oneida Castle to act as interpreter and Indian agent. His services were most valuable, for through his influence, added to that of Samuel Kirkland, the great body of the Oneida tribe was induced to remain neutral. At the close of the war the Oneidas gave Mr. Dean two square miles of land on the west side of Wood creek in the present town of Vienna, but after starting a clearing and remaining upon it a year, he pointed out to the Oneidas that it was an unfit place to commence a settlement as it was too low and marshy, and the Indians agreed that he might change the location to any point on the west side of the Line of Property between the Oriskany and Wood creeks. He selected the land (Dean's Patent in Westmoreland) in 1785, located upon it in February, 1786, and after constructing a log house returned to Connecticut and married Miss Lydia Camp on October 11. Their wedding journey was made on horseback to their future home and they immediately took up the stern realities of pioneer life. Other families came in the same fall or following winter. Mr. Dean and his wife were in the front rank

of those strong characters who reclaimed this county from the wilderness.

Other considerable portions of this township were lands that had been patented to General Washington and Governor Clinton, and there are a number of deeds on record that were executed by these two notable figures in our early history. Several deeds of this nature were executed in 1797-8-9.

In 1787 or 1788 Mr. Dean built the first saw and grist mill. The millstones were cut from a large rock found near Lairdsville. Previous to the building of this mill, the settlers had to go to German Flatts for their milling, and as horses were nearly out of the question from their cost and the difficulty of keeping them in the woods, the wheat or corn was carried on the back of the settler the long distance, and the meal or flour was brought home in the same manner.

In the little cemetery at Lairdsville lies another of those patriots of the Revolution, Phineas Bell, who was among those who were so long confined by the British in the notorious Sugar House prison in New York. Capt. Nealmiah Jones, James Crittenden, Roderick Morrison and John Vaughn were among other Revolutionary patriots who are buried in this town.

KIRKLAND.—The settlement in the town of Kirkland was begun by eight families in March, 1787. A stone slab in the park in the village of Clinton marks

the beginning of this settlement and contains the following inscription:

> Moses Foot, Esq., in company with seven other families commenced the settlement of this village March 3, 1787.
>
> Nine Miles to Utica.
>
> MOSES FOOT,
> JAMES BRONSON,
> LUTHER FOOT,
> BARNABAS POND,
> LUDIM BLODGETT,
> LEVI SHERMAN.

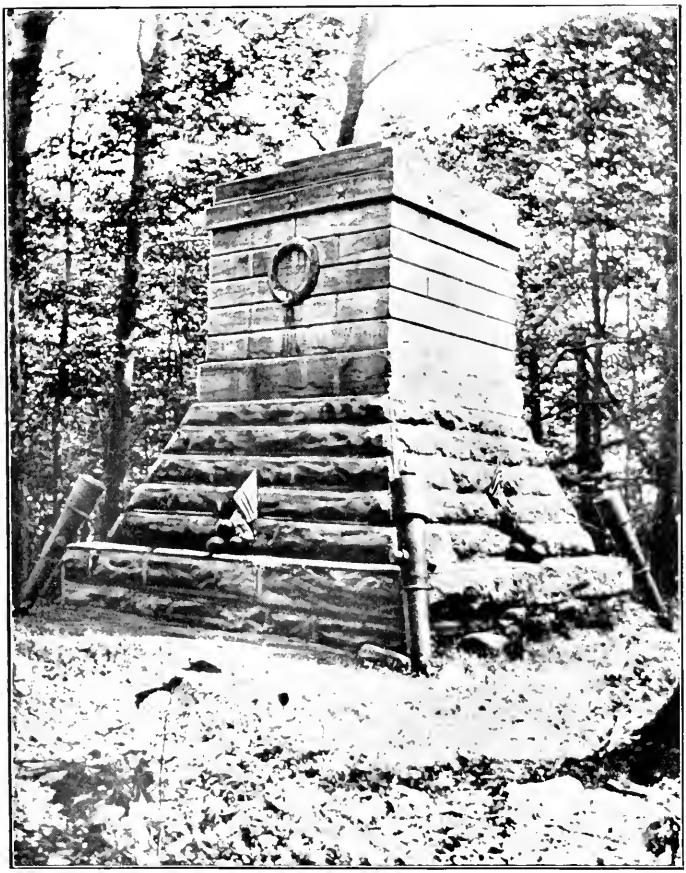
The place received the name of Clinton from George Clinton, who was then governor of the state. This settlement appears to have been a very happy and prosperous one, barring the vicissitudes that would seem almost insurmountable to people of the present time, but which to our hardy forefathers were incidental and by no means discouraging.

It is probable that the marriage of the first white couple in Oneida county took place in Clinton early in 1788, and was that of Roger Leverett and Miss Elizabeth Cheesbrough.

The following winter, 1789, the little settlement came near to the door of starvation, for the crops had partially failed. In the last extremity, a party went to Fort Plain and from Isaac Paris, farmer and miller,

obtained a supply of food, which was sent up the Mohawk to the mouth of the Oriskany creek and thence to Clinton on canoes. The supplies were paid for the following year in ginseng, which even then was a marketable commodity in great demand in the eastern countries visited by the plague.

STEUBEN.—The name of this town comes from Frederick William Augustus, Baron Steuben, to whom in 1786 was given a patent of 16,000 acres of land by the State of New York for his services in the Revolutionary war. The township originally embraced the town of Rome and intermediate territory. The summers were passed by Baron Steuben on his grant, and the winters he spent in New York. At the time of his death, in 1794, about twenty families had homes on his patent, having leased land from the owner. He had made plans for an imposing mansion and a grand estate, but this did not materialize owing to his death. He never married, but an adopted son, Col. Walker, carried out the baron's wishes as to his burial and the remains of the general were finally interred in the center of a five-acre tract of forest. The First Baptist Society of Steuben received a deed of fifty acres of land on condition that the five acres should be fenced and kept in a state of nature. The grave was for some time marked by a marble slab, but in 1872 an imposing monument was erected by contributions that came mostly from German citizens all over the country.



BARON STEUBEN MONUMENT.

New Hartford.—In March, 1788, Col. Jedediah Sanger bought 1,000 acres of land lying on both sides the Sauquoit creek in what is now the village of New Hartford, paying therefore fifty cents per acre. He sold all that part of the purchase lying on the east side of the creek to Joseph Higbee the same year. The next year Mr. Sanger moved his family to the tract and erected a saw mill and grist mill. The settlement grew rapidly from that time. Owing to the superior water power the place possessed, more business was transacted in New Hartford than in Utica before the opening of the Erie canal, and it was one of the chief stopping places on the Seneca turnpike.

Bridgewater.—This section of the county was settled quite early, but the exact date is in some dispute. According to one account, the first settlers were Joseph Farwell and Ephraim and Nathan Waldo, who came in 1789. Others have claimed that the Waldo families did not arrive until 1793, but that Jesse and Joel Ives, cousins, started a clearing in 1789, and that in 1790 they returned and erected the first house in the town. In the same spring Thomas Brown located on the site of Bridgewater village and became the first actual settler of the village. A saw mill was built in 1790 or 1791 by Major Farwell, and a grist mill the next year. The first school was opened in 1797, and a Congregational church society was organized the year following. When the Cherry Valley turnpike was

opened in 1810. Bridgewater became an important center.

PARIS.—The first settlement in the town of Paris was upon what is known as Paris Hill and was commenced by Col. Rice in March, 1789. Benjamin Barnes and his son and John Humaston arrived about three weeks later. One of the oldest churches in the county is here located. It is the Congregational church and was formed by the noted Rev. Jonathan Edwards in 1791. It then consisted of five members. In 1796 a meeting was held in an ox-cart at which it was determined to start a Protestant Episcopal church. On February 13, 1797, the society was formed at a meeting held in the dwelling of Selah Seymour. The following Sunday services were commenced, Eli Blakeslee reading the service and Selah Seymour reading a sermon. Thus was commenced St. Paul's Episcopal church, the first of that faith in the State of New York west of Johnstown. Since that date no Sunday has passed upon which the service has not been read in that village. The first rector was Rev. Robert Griffith Wetmore. The present one is Rev. J. B. Wicks, whose family is among the old residents of the town.

WESTERN.—The town of Western contains more beautiful scenes than any other portion of Oneida county, but because it is not touched by railroads and has no large villages it is less known than the other

GEN. WM. FLOYD'S MONUMENT,
Westernville, N. Y.

sections. The Mohawk river runs through the center of this township and throughout its whole course there is a succession of picturesque landscapes. The town was first settled in 1789 by Asa Beckwith and his four sons. Henry Wager followed later, the same year. In the fall of 1789 the first bridge ever built across the Mohawk river was constructed wholly of logs in this settlement. Though it was rough and unsightly it stood the buffetings of the waters for over thirty years. In the cemetery at Westernville is the grave of Gen. William Floyd, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He removed to Western in 1803 and died in 1821. When General Floyd came to this county he brought with him a number of slaves which he held until the law went into effect which abolished slavery in this state. He maintained his establishment in an ideal manner and his slaves were greatly attached to him.

During recent years the old Floyd mansion was occupied summers by Rear Admiral Montgomery Sicard, and here on September 14, 1900, occurred the death of that famous sea captain. So in the little cemetery in that village rest side by side the remains of two men whose names have been written down in imperishable history.

Floyd.—This township was named after Gen. William Floyd, of Western, who owned a large tract

of land within its limits. The first settler was Capt. Benjamin Pike, who took up a farm in 1790. Stephen Moulton, Jr., who was a musician in the Revolutionary army, took up a farm in Floyd the same year. He lived to be ninety-one years old and is buried in the town where he resided so long. His father, Stephen Moulton, and four other sons, Solomon, Joseph, Benjamin and Ebenezer, came into Floyd before 1795. This was a famous Revolutionary family and all are understood to have been in the patriot army. Captain Moulton, the elder, was a prisoner at Fort Washington, and Solomon was captured by the British on Long Island and confined in the "Sugar House" at New York, that notorious den of suffering.

The town of Floyd was the residence for some time of Israel Denio, the father of Judge Hiram Denio. Israel Denio was a blacksmith. He married Esther Robbins, daughter of a Floyd pioneer, in 1795 and settled on a farm. There a daughter was born in 1796. The next year Mr. Denio moved to Wright Settlement in the town of Rome, and commenced work at his trade. His son Hiram, who became one of the most distinguished jurists New York state ever knew, was born in the town of Rome in May, 1799.

Lee.—This was a section of country "away up on the Mohawk river beyond Fort Stanwix, inhabited by bears, Indians and wolves" until 1790, when Esek

Sheldon and his sons, Stephen, Reuben and Amasa, commenced a settlement near the present site of Delta. David Smith and his two sons followed very soon, and probably in the year 1791 the Smiths built a saw mill. This was subsequently sold to Judge Prosper Rudd and he added a flouring mill and later a carding mill. The upper Mohawk furnishes excellent water power along its whole course in this town, and saw and grist mills sprung up as rapidly as the inhabitants who came pouring in after 1791 needed them. The people who came to Lee were mostly from Massachusetts and Connecticut and were believers in education. They had a school as early as 1798, taught by a young surveyor, and it is probable that in this town was established the first library in the county. It was called the Union Library of Delta and Western. This did good service until succeeded by the Harmony Library Association at Lee Center, which was organized in March, 1820.

Sangerfield.—The territory of which this town is comprised was purchased of the state by Michael Meyers, Jedediah Sanger and John J. Morgan in 1790. The price was three shillings and three pence per acre. The first settler was Zerah Phelps, who came from Massachusetts in the fall of 1791. The following March Minerva Hale and wife and Nathan Gurney and wife and infant moved into Sangerfield from New Hartford, where they had resided one or two years.

The first white child born in the town was a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Zerah Phelps, in July, 1792. In January, 1793, Seneca Hale, a son, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Minierva Hale. The first marriage was October 30, 1793, and was that of Sylvanus Dyer and Hannah Norton.

Utica.—The location of the city which now comprises the township of Utica seems to have been determined from a ford across the Mohawk river at some point between the present Genesee street and Park avenue crossings. In 1758 a fort was erected on the south bank near this ford and called Fort Schuyler. There was never any expectation that at this point there would be built a city, as it was for a number of years merely a landing place for the flourishing towns of New Hartford and Whitestown. But in 1790 John Post, who had been for some years engaged as a trader in Schenectady, saw the advantages of having a store at the fording place, and so located near Fort Schuyler. Four families lived here then, and possibly one or two more. They were Uriah Alverson, John Cunningham, Jacob Christman and the widow Damuth. Post soon had an extensive trade with the Indians and early settlers. He supplied them with rum, powder, shot, cloth and ornaments, and purchased of them furs, skins and ginseng. He built up a large business for that period, but in the height of his prosperity, 1807, a fire

destroyed his stores and goods and most of his money. In the decline of life, he could not recover, and in 1830 he died in penury and want.

In 1794 the place had reached a point where it needed a hotel, and Moses Bagg, then a blacksmith, built a log house which he opened for the accommodation of travelers. Since that time Bagg's Hotel has been a landmark in this city.

Utica was incorporated as a village in 1798 and then took the name that has since become so famous. In 1817 it was erected as a town separate from Whitestown. February 13, 1832, it was incorporated as a city by an act of the legislature. Its present population is not far from 70,000.

The census of 1900 gave 56,383 inhabitants and it is growing at the rate of about 1,200 per year.

The oldest religious society in Utica is that of Trinity Episcopal parish. It was practically formed by the Rev. Philander Chase in 1798, but it was not until May, 1803, that a movement was started to erect a church. The first Roman Catholic services held in the city were conducted in a building on John street in 1819, and in 1821 the first church occupied by the St. John's congregation was opened.

Utica was the home of the first hospital for the insane in the state. It was authorized by the legislature of 1836, the site was purchased in 1837, and it was

opened for the reception of patients on January 16, 1843. July 14, 1857, the main building burned: it was then rebuilt upon a much more extensive plan than first contemplated. Its development has steadily continued.

Remsen.—Barnabas Mitchell of Connecticut was the first settler in the town of Remsen, and he located there in 1792. It was two years before other families came in. They were John Bunner, Nathaniel Rockwood, Bettis Leclere, Perez Farr and Jonah Dayton. In the year 1808 the first Welsh settlers came. They were David Mound, John James, Griffith I. Jones, John Owens and Hugh Hughes. From the good reports these families sent back to Wales grew the fame of the Oneida country across the ocean, with the result that very large numbers of Welsh soon made their way thither.

Verona.—George A. Smith was the first settler in Verona. He located near where Oneida creek empties into the lake, on January 1, 1792, and had the section all to himself until 1796, when Asabel Jackson moved from Massachusetts and located near him.

Annsville.—The first settler in the township of Annsville was John W. Bloomfield, who came from New Jersey in April, 1793. He purchased a large tract of land upon which Taberg and its iron industries were afterward located. On account of the excellent water power furnished by Fish creek and its tributaries, this

town was settled quite rapidly. It is evident that it has been a favored locality for ages, for frequently the plow or a well digger have turned from the deep soil evidences of an early occupation by an unknown race. In 1850 a freshet worked away the banks at the junction of Fish and Furnace creeks and left exposed several large earthen vessels, hearths, fire-places and other evidences of prehistoric inhabitants. Stone hatchets and flint arrowheads have been found in considerable quantities.

Augusta.—The land in the town of Augusta was occupied by the Oneidas and by them was given to the Tuscaroras and Stockbridge tribe, and there were Indian wigwams upon some of the land when the first white settlers arrived. —— Gunn is believed to have been the first white inhabitant, in 1793. Benjamin Warren, David Morton and John Alden came about the same time. Ichabod Stafford and Joseph and Abraham Forbes moved in that same summer. Francis O'Toole located in 1794 near a spring, water from which the Indians boiled for salt. He occupied the farm till his death in 1842, aged 90 years. Among those who came to Augusta in 1794 was Amos Parker, the tallest man in the American army of the Revolution. Col. Thomas Cassety was another noted figure. He was born in Detroit, and for firing at an English officer who was sent to arrest his father, Thomas was

in danger and took refuge among the western Indians. He came to Oriskany Falls in 1794 and built the first grist and saw mills there about that time. For many years the place was called "Cassety Hollow."

MARCY.—The first settlers in the town of Marcy were John Wilson, who came in the spring of 1793, James Wilson, who arrived in 1794, and Isaac and Joseph Wilson, who came a few months afterwards. They were all sons of Thomas Wilson, an Irish emigrant who had settled in Connecticut, and each brought with him a numerous family of children.

MARSHALL.—In the territory now designated by the name of Marshall was located the reservation set apart for the Brothertown Indians, those few remnants of the once powerful New England tribes who were welcomed and given homes by the ever hospitable and generous Oneidas.

The first white settler in the town is believed to have been David Barton, who came from Connecticut in 1793.

TRENTON.—Gerrit Boon, agent for the Holland Land Company, a native of Holland, was the first settler in the town of Trenton, and he "drove his stakes" in 1793. The place was first named Oldenbarneveld, but upon the erection of the township in 1797 the name it now bears was taken. This township

became famous for its wonderful falls on the West Canada creek, and during the middle half of the last century these falls became a fashionable resort and were visited by thousands every year. In the summer, at the old Moore's Hotel, the wealthy, fashionable and literary circles of the land were represented, and not until hundreds of "summer resorts" sprung into prominence did Trenton gorge lose its fashionable charm. The falls now furnish electricity for Utica, and the magnificent plant there installed is well worth a careful inspection. The beauty of the falls has not been destroyed by the erection of the electric plant.

CAMDEN.—A saw mill was built near where the village of Camden is now located in 1794 or 1795 by Jesse Curtiss, but it is not understood that Curtiss became a permanent resident of the locality. In 1797 Judge Henry Williams came into that neighborhood and to him is probably due the honor of having been the first pioneer. Other families came very soon, and as early as the 19th of February, 1798, a Congregational church society was formed. The first deaths recorded in this settlement were those of Mrs. Bacon and her child, who were drowned while crossing Mad river in 1799. To Judge Williams and his wife was born in 1798 a daughter, who was the first white child born in the town. To Noah Tuttle and wife was born a son, Daniel, later in the same year. The township early became a manufacturing center because of its excellent

water power. Numerous saw mills were located upon its streams and in many of the farmhouses erected early in the century and now in good preservation may be found an abundance of clear pine lumber that would now be worth fancy prices. Probably better than any other village of the county Camden has been successful in retaining its manufacturing industries.

VERNON.—In the territory occupied by this town was located Kan-on-wa-lo-hule, the principal village of the Oneida nation of Indians, and as the Oneidas held these lands until 1797 the vicinity was late in its settlement. Josiah Bushnell settled in the town in 1794. A large number of Connecticut and New Hampshire people came to Vernon in 1798 and it soon became a populous community for the time. As a rule they were generally well-to-do people and they turned the wilderness into a splendid farming country with little difficulty.

BOONVILLE.—Permanent settlements began in this township in the spring of 1795 upon land sold by Mr. Boon, the agent for the Holland Land Company, located at Trenton. The first settler was Andrew Edmunds. Several families followed the next spring, and that year the land company opened a store on the site of the village of Boonville. The excellent water power found in this locality very early brought settlers and mills and it was not many years after first settlement before it became a thriving place.

FLORENCE.—There was no settlement in this town till 1801. William Henderson of New York had purchased township No. 4 of Scriba Patent and in order to promote settlement on his tract offered a bonus of fifty acres of land each to persons who would settle there. Amos Woodworth, John Spinning and —— Taylor took advantage of the offer. By 1805 enough settlers had started homes to make it a township by itself and it was set off from Camden.

In the village of Florence, Gerrit Smith, the famous abolitionist of Peterboro, Madison county, owned considerable property in 1822. He erected a blacksmith shop and through his influence a number of mechanics and business men were induced to make this place their home. At one time the village was the site of several large tanneries and for years the manufacture of fine leather brought the place into considerable prominence.

FORESTPORT.—This township has less of history than any other division of the county. It is located on the very edge of the Adirondack region and until 1869 was a part of Remsen. In 1849-50 the state dam was erected to create a feeder for the Black River canal, and this stimulated a settlement at that point. It soon became a lumbering center and this industry has continued until the present time. Some of the largest mills ever erected in the state have here been located, and also an immense tannery.

THE DATES IN ORDER.—The following table gives

the chronological order of the first permanent settlement in the towns:

Whitestown 1784
Deerfield 1784
Rome 1784
Westmoreland 1786
Kirkland 1787
Steuben 1787
New Hartford 1788
Bridgewater 1789
Paris 1789
Western 1789
Floyd 1790
Lee 1790
Utica 1790
Sangerfield 1791
Remsen 1792
Verona 1792
Annsville 1793
Augusta 1793
Marcy 1793
Marshall 1793
Trenton 1793
Camden 1794
Vernon 1794
Boonville 1795
Florence 1801
Forestport 1850

THE OPENING OF INDUSTRY.

Cotton Mills and Their Growth—Power Looms—Woolen Mills—Making Cloth—Importation of Sheep—Use of Iron Ores—Furnaces—Glass Manufacture—Dairy Products—The First Cheese Factory—Mineral Waters.

THE first cotton mill erected in the State of New York was the Oneida Factory, and it was established in 1809 on a site not far from the canal in Yorkville, with the Oriskany creek for its power. It was for the production of cotton yarn only, and its projectors were Dr. Seth Capron, Thomas R. Gold, Theodore Sill, Newton Mann and others. Very soon after this mill was started, Benjamin S. Walcott was induced to emigrate from Rhode Island, where he had obtained knowledge of the cotton industry, and he was soon made the agent for the mill here. The yarn spun was sent out to the houses of farmers to be woven on hand looms into a coarse cloth about three-fourths of a yard wide. Five or six cents a yard in barter was paid for the weaving. The cotton came to the mill in the seed and it was given out in bags to the country people to free from this seed and prepare for the cards. This was also paid for in barter, and from three to

four cents per pound was considered to be a fair price for the service.

Power Loom.—The second factory was the one at Capron, which soon followed and was under nearly the same management. It was at the Capron mill, probably about 1812, that the first power loom for weaving cotton was erected in this state. This loom was built by a mechanic who had been sent to Rhode Island to secure the plans, and it is understood that he had to obtain his knowledge surreptitiously.

About this time (1812) Mr. Walcott commenced the spinning of yarn in a wooden building known as the Burrstone (buhr-stone) mill for grinding grain, located at the site of the upper mill at New York Mills. A large building was soon constructed in which were placed a number of hand looms, as the power loom had not given satisfaction, and expert weavers were introduced from England and Scotland. Then the product commenced to improve, and it has kept in the fore-front ever since, leading all the cotton manufactures of the country in many lines, and making the names of Utica and New York Mills known wherever cotton cloth was used. At the present time many millions of dollars are invested in the cotton industry in this county, and thousands of people are constantly employed in the different branches of the work. Not only are sheetings, shirting and muslins made here, but also all the finer

grades of corduroy, denims, batistes, plush and the finer fabrics, as well as great quantities of cotton yarn.

Within the last few years the knit goods industry has also here sprung into prominence, and Utica has now become a center for the making of fine underwear, hosiery, etc.

In 1824 Benjamin Walcott, as agent for Benjamin Marshall of New York, erected the first of the New York Mills for the manufacture of fine shirtings, and this was the first attempt made in this country at the producing of yarns of the finer grades. The name New York Mills was assumed in 1840, and in 1856 the firm of Walcott & Campbell was established.

The Utica Steam Cotton Mills were incorporated in 1847; the Mohawk Valley Cotton Mills in 1880; the Skenandoa Cotton Company in 1881.

Woolen.—The first woolen factory in the state was erected at Oriskany and was probably started in the year 1809. Its projector was Dr. Seth Capron, mentioned above. It was necessary to bring the spindles and some of the other parts of the machinery from England, at that time a slow and tedious process. William Goss, William Graham and —— Sharp were induced to come from Scotland and England as experts. Several years later James Graham, son of the Graham above named, put into operation in this mill the first power loom for weaving woolen yarns ever

used in this country, and James Goss performed in that factory the first work by machinery in the manufacture of wool ever done in the United States.

Merino Sheep.—A company was formed about the same time under the style of the Mount Merino Association, and it imported the first Merino sheep ever kept in this state. Some of them were imported from Spain, and a single ram, known as Don Carlos, cost $1,000—a sum that was considered at that time as fabulous. These sheep were kept on a farm on the highlands on the north side of the Mohawk river, directly opposite Oriskany.

The Clinton Woolen Manufacturing Company commenced the manufacture of cloth in 1810, but after the war of 1812 this factory was idle for a few years and was then turned into a cotton manufactory.

Another early mill was that of the Friendly Woolen Company, established in Sauquoit by Quakers in 1812. They spun the yarn at the mill and let it out to farmers to weave at home, as was the custom of other mills started about this time. This mill was in operation about twenty years.

The Empire Woolen Mills in Clayville were first operated in 1844. Henry Clay, the illustrious statesman, came to that village and spoke at a meeting in the factory before it was completed—hence the name of

Clayville. Originally the place was known as Paris Furnace.

The Utica Steam Woolen Mills were established in 1846, and the Globe Woolen Mills in 1847. The last named is the only woolen mill now in operation in the county engaged in the manufacture of cloths. Its products are known wherever good materials are demanded.

Iron.—The compilers of this book have been unable to ascertain the year in which use was first made of the extensive iron ore beds in this county. Not long after the cultivation of fields was commenced, the settlers discovered traces of iron ore, for they often turned it up with the plow. Probably before the year 1800 pig iron was made at Walesville and Taberg in this county, and at Constantia in Oswego county. In 1800 a blast furnace known as Westmoreland Furnace was put in operation at Hecla. After testing the ore from Judge Dean's farm near there, and not succeeding well with it, they procured an excellent quality of ore from Vernon and conducted an extensive business for some years.

In 1801 a forge was erected at Forge Hollow, between Deansville and Waterville, and the manufacture of iron was commenced. Daniel Hanchett, Ward White and John and Thomas Winslow carried on the work here for a number of years, but they finally

ceased to operate on the ore and made their castings out of scrap iron.

Where the village of Clayville now stands was located in 1800-1 what was known as the Paris Furnace, which is understood to have cast some plows and other farm utensils, but its chief products were scythes and hoes. Previous to this time scythes had been beaten out upon the anvils in a shop in Clinton. In after years the Sauquoit valley became famous as a site for the manufacture of farming utensils and several factories were engaged in the work.

In 1809 the Oneida Iron and Glass Manufacturing Company was organized, and in 1811 it commenced operations on an extensive scale at Taberg. During the war of 1812, shot for the United States government were made at this furnace. Taberg was then connected with Rome by a plank road over which a great deal of teaming was carried on. The products of the furnace were shipped east from Rome by the Mohawk, which was then the chief highway to the eastern cities and ports. Furnace Creek at Taberg became the seat of several extensive furnaces, and for years the place was a very active one in a business sense. Pig iron of a very fine quality, as well as hollow ware, was made at Taberg for thirty or forty years. The industry has now entirely disappeared from that section.

Franklin Iron Works were established in 1852 and for a considerable period of years did an extensive

business. From ore mined at Clinton crude iron is obtained.

The Kirkland Furnace Company was organized in 1850; a new company formed in 1852 brought more capital to the project and soon a great blast furnace was in operation. The output at one time was enormous. This plant has now been idle many years.

From about 1850 to 1870 was a period af active development and in almost every favorable locality foundries for the manufacture of farming and household utensils were erected. They centered along the streams furnishing water power, like the Oriskany, Sauquoit and Fish creeks and their tributaries. By 1860 almost every town in the county had its foundry. Very many of these have disappeared since the combination of manufacturing plants has made it impossible for the smaller concerns to compete with those capitalized on a larger scale.

Stove Manufacturing.—In 1842 the firm of Bailey, Wheeler & Co. purchased and enlarged a small foundry in Utica and were soon engaged in the extensive manufacture of stoves. This afterwards became the Russell Wheeler stove manufactory and its business was extensive. At this foundry was made the first coal cooking stove cast west of Albany. The Peckham stove manufactory came later and also grew to be a large concern.

But manufactures change as new demands arise, and now Utica is a center for the making of hot air furnaces which have largely taken the place of stoves. Steam and hot water apparatus, iron pipe, spring tooth harrows, rifles, spring beds, stationary engines, etc., now form the principal articles of metal manufactured in the city of Utica.

The city of Rome has become one of the best known metal manufacturing towns in the country. The Rome Iron Works Company was organized in 1866. In 1878 the manufacture of brass was taken up by this company, and nine years later it commenced the manufacture of copper. In 1891 the name of the company was changed to the Rome Brass and Copper Company.

The Rome Merchant Iron Mill was established in 1870. Its products are varied and amount to about 12,000 tons annually.

The New York Locomotive Works were first operated in Rome in 1881 and the product was extensive until 1892.

Manufactories for the making of bath tubs, teakettles, tanks, copper utensils, iron bedsteads, wire and many other commodities are now located in Rome.

Glass.—In the western towns of this county there exist extensive plains of sand and it is of a quality especially valuable in the manufacture of glass. In 1845 DeWitt C. Stebbins started a glass manufactory

at Durhamville, in the town of Verona. This was later known as the Fox manufactory. It flourished for a number of years, but after a time the combination of interests under the general term of trusts brought about a condition that compelled the shutting down of these works. There was a smaller factory at Durhamville which was also closed, as well as the extensive works at Cleveland in Oswego county.

Dairy Products.—As the farms were cleared up, this county gradually took its place as one of the most extensive butter and cheese producing sections of the state. The dairy interests were stronger in the northern and northwestern towns than south of the Mohawk valley, where considerable attention was given to the production of hops.

First Cheese Factory.—And right here comes one of the most interesting facts that can be told in connection with the development of the dairy industry of the United States: Jesse Williams, a grandson of one of the four Williams brothers who were in Fort Stanwix at the time of the siege of that fortress, inherited from his father a farm two miles north of Ridge Mills in the town of Rome. In 1834 he commenced the manufacture of cheese. Other farmers took up the plan which Mr. Williams and his wife were following, and in a few years it became the rule for each farmer to not

only make his own cheese, but also some to sell. Mr. Williams each year contracted his entire output before the season opened. In 1850 he also contracted for the sale of the cheese made by his son George on the adjoining farm, but as some doubt arose as to whether the two lots, made at different places, would be alike in quality, the idea came to them to combine the milk and make it all at one place so there might be no doubt as to uniformity. This plan worked so well that Mr. Williams and his son conceived the plan of combining several dairies, and other farmers were approached on the subject. The neighboring dairymen fell in with the idea, and as the Williams cheese were noted for their excellent quality, Mr. Williams and his son took the initiative. A building was erected and on May 10, 1851, the milk was received for the first time at the Williams cheese factory—the first factory ever opened for the manufacture of cheese in the United States.

In January, 1864, the Messrs. Williams and Gen. R. U. Sherman of New Hartford were instrumental in forming the Utica Dairy Board of Trade, and Jesse Williams was its first president. This rapidly took its place in the industrial features of the country and in a short time Utica became the largest cheese market in the world.

Mineral Waters.—Scattered all about this county are splendid mineral springs. The most famous were

the ones that came to be known as Verona Springs. These waters were first brought to notice in 1830, and the water was known far and wide as an excellent remedy for scrofulous troubles. In 1850 a water cure was established there by Dr. Seymour Curtiss, and it became a resort at which as many as two hundred patients were often gathered.

Water from springs at Franklin Iron Works, Clinton and Boonville is now bottled extensively and sent into the large cities for sale.

BUILDING OF EDUCATION.

EARLY JESUIT MISSIONS—KIRKLAND AND HIS WORK AMONG THE INDIANS—HE ESTABLISHES HAMILTON COLLEGE—FIRST SCHOOLS AND HARDSHIPS CONNECTED WITH THEM—ACADEMIES AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

THE history of education in Oneida county antedates the first permanent settlement by over one hundred years, because the history of education commences with the labors of the early missionaries.

EARLY JESUIT MISSION.—The first of these missionaries were the Jesuits from the French settlements in Canada. Father Jacques Bruyas established a Jesuit mission at Oneida in September, 1667, and named it St. Francis Xavier. For twenty-five years previous to that time the members of this order had been laboring among the Iroquois, but their missions were mainly among the Onondagas. From 1671 to 1696 Father Millet was stationed at Oneida. The strife between the French and the English for the possession of the new country was fatal to the progress of their work. In 1700 the Jesuit mission commenced to decline. The missionaries and the traders from the French country were ordered out of the domains of the Iroquois confederacy.

Thereafter several Protestant missionaries worked among the Oneidas with various degrees of success. Several of the Oneida youths were educated in a missionary school in Connecticut.

SAMUEL KIRKLAND.—It was Rev. Samuel Kirkland, a missionary, who planted the tree of education in Oneida county which still flourishes. He was the most prominent missionary to this region. After making a trip through the tribes he decided to locate permanently with the Oneidas because he considered them to be the noblest of the Six Nations.

A generation before him another missionary had written of them: "There is no hope of making them better; heathen they are and heathen they still must be."

There is a peculiar romance in the life of Samuel Kirkland. Born on December 1, 1741, at Norwich, Conn., the son of a minister, he in 1762 entered the sophomore class of Nassau Hall, Princeton, N. J., receiving his degree in 1765. But before the degree had been conferred he had left college and taken up the arduous life of an Indian missionary. In the fall of 1764 Mr. Kirkland, then but twenty-three years old, made a pilgrimage to the Iroquois country. Arriving at the residence of Sir William Johnson, the Indian agent at Johnstown, Mr. Kirkland remained until January 17, 1765. Sir William favored the young man's mission, gave him a speech to deliver to the

Indians, and as was customary, sent with the message belts of wampum. Then with two Indian guides Kirkland set out on snowshoes for the country of the Seneca Indians in the western part of the state. Kirkland stopped at the principal village of the Oneidas and was hospitably received. They invited him to remain with them a year. He declined the invitation, continued his journey and after various incidents and hardships he arrived in the Seneca country twenty-three days after leaving the Indian agent's house. Mr. Kirkland remained with the Senecas until the following April, though one chief of the tribe bitterly opposed him and even sought the young man's death. In April there was a famine which necessitated Mr. Kirkland's return to Sir William Johnson's. He had been adopted into the family of the chief sachem of the Senecas and a son of this chief accompanied him back to that outpost of civilization. While crossing Oneida lake they were caught in a storm and their canoe was broken as they landed. Kirkland and his Indian brother after a stay of three weeks at Johnstown, returned to the Senecas, where Mr. Kirkland remained until May of the next year, 1766, when he went back to Connecticut accompanied by two Indians.

Kirkland's Work Commenced.—During this visit, on June 19, 1766, the young man was ordained, and on the same day he received a general commission as

an Indian missionary from the Connecticut Board of Correspondents of a society in Scotland.

About August 1, 1766, Mr. Kirkland commenced his labors among the Oneidas, taking up his residence at Kanonwalohule (Oneida Castle), their principal village. He dug a cellar, felled trees and with the logs built him a house. For the ensuing forty years Kirkland's home was with the Oneidas and his influence over them was strong. He served both church and state with marked success. One of his first deeds was to procure the appointment of a party of chiefs who seized and destroyed all intoxicating liquors, and thereafter among the Oneidas intemperance was rare.

While the good man's labors were crowned with success, his usefulness was nevertheless restricted by his poverty, for he had been three years with the Oneidas before he received pecuniary assistance from abroad. The summer of 1769 he spent in Connecticut and on September 15 of that year he there married Jerusha Bingham, a farmer's daughter. On their way back to the Oneida village Mrs. Kirkland stayed with the family of Gen. Nicholas Herkimer while Mr. Kirkland went on to enlarge his cabin for her accommodation. In December she took up her abode with her husband. But in the winter of 1772-3 Mrs. Kirkland went to Stockbridge, Mass., and for many years thereafter Mr. Kirkland's family lived in Massachusetts while he labored among the Indians, rendering

to them and to his country valuable services during peace and war. Mrs. Kirkland died in 1788. Mr. Kirkland married the second time and in 1791 his family moved from New England to Oneida county.

The Continental Congress commissioned Mr. Kirkland a chaplain, in which capacity he served in Fort Stanwix and with General Sullivan's campaign of retribution against the Indians of Western New York in 1779.

Kirkland's Great Service.—Mr. Kirkland's life was one of great activity, of hard labor, of suffering and of danger. Though he had many warm friends among the Indians, he had also enemies among them and several times during his career the savages sought his death. Though he was but a poor laborer among the red men, the young Republic often sought and as often gained his services. Though he had triumphs, he also had terrible obstacles to overcome and there were periods when the clouds hung heavily over him. Though health sometimes failed, it seems that he never lost courage. One great service which he rendered to the government saved the northern frontier from Indian ravages which scourged other colonies. In March, 1792, he succeeded in getting a delegation of forty Iroquois braves to go to Philadelphia, then the seat of the government, where peace between the Iroquois and the whites was agreed upon.

Such, in brief, was the Rev. Samuel Kirkland, who with a zeal and determination far beyond his years carried the Gospel and education to the savages of this region. The book which he opened in the land of the Oneidas has never been closed. He taught not religion alone, but he sought in every way to elevate the children of the forest.

Mr. Kirkland had been with the Oneidas eighteen years when Judge White, the first permanent settler, arrived in Whitestown (1784).

The Schools.—The date of the opening of schools in each settlement is but little later than the date of the settlement itself, though the schools of the hamlets were small and poor in every sense. The common school had not then been established by the state. The modern city school house is with regard to health and comfort the best structure that architects can build. The first school houses in Oneida county were in many instances but huts of bark and log. The men of the frontier, with a fine perception of the value of education, did not await the erection of saw mills that lumber might be obtained to construct a house of learning. The hardships endured by teacher and pupils were many. A strange adventure which befell four children in the town of Annsville on June 6, 1816, may be cited. Two were boys aged nine and six, the remaining two were girls of about the same age. The boys were

brothers and the girls were sisters. The boys resided three miles from the school house and the home of the girls was on the same road a mile nearer the school house. The weather had been very cold that June, but on the day mentioned the temperature became so low that the teacher at two o'clock in the afternoon dismissed the pupils with instructions to go to the nearest house in the direction of their respective homes. When the four children reached the first residence they found it locked and the owners away. The school house had now been closed and the nearest inhabited dwelling, the home of the girls, was a mile and a quarter away. A storm had broken upon them and the ground was covered with snow to a depth of two inches. The youngest girl in the party had a pair of shoes but no stockings. Her companions were barefooted. The eldest and hardiest of the boys wore his father's coat. By successively carrying his companions—first the little brother with a foot in each pocket, and then the elder girl with a foot in each pocket of his father's coat, and by rubbing the bare feet at short intervals—he at length succeeded in bringing all within sight of the home of his little companions, and then aid came to them.

Hamilton Academy.—Again taking up the thread of Rev. Mr. Kirkland's life, we find that in consequence of an injury to one of his eyes received while riding through the woods in October, 1792, he was obliged

to go to Philadelphia and he took this occasion to further a plan which he had devised for a system of education in the Oneida country. Eight years had then elapsed since the first settlement; the tide of immigration had set in and Mr. Kirkland hoped to establish elementary schools for Indians and a high school for the whites and such of the natives as were worthy of higher education. Hence the location of the academy which eventually developed into Hamilton College, near the Line of Property, the boundary between the white and the Indian lands.

The Name Hamilton.—On this trip Mr. Kirkland laid his plans before many, including the regents of the state, the governor and Alexander Hamilton—after whom the school was named—and President George Washington. The latter "expressed a warm interest in the institution." So it came about that in the following year (January 31, 1793) the Hamilton Oneida Academy was incorporated and Mr. Kirkland gave generously to it of lands which had been cojointly deeded to him by the Indians and the state. He so conditioned his gift that one lot of twelve acres should not be transferred.

Corner Stone Laid.—In 1794 Baron Steuben, escorted by Capt. George W. Kirkland and his troop of Clinton Light Horse, rode up the hill west of Clinton village and with ceremony laid the corner stone for a

wooden building for the academy. There were reverses and delays, but the academy was finally opened and continued until the regents granted a charter to Hamilton College (May 26, 1812).

Rev. Mr. Kirkland died February 28, 1808. His remains rest in the college cemetery at Clinton. Beside him was buried Skenandoa, a famous Oneida chieftain who accepted Christianity and who died May 11, 1816.

Town Schools.—The establishment of schools in a settlement marks a new epoch. The development of the settlement may be suggested by these dates giving the establishment of schools in a number of the older towns: Whitesboro, 1785-6; Lairdsville (Westmoreland), 1792; Rome, 1795-96; Lee, 1796-97; Utica, prior to 1797; Augusta, 1798; Vernon, 1798; Trenton, 1802; Annsville, 1812; Boonville, 1802; Augusta Center, 1797; Bridgewater, 1797; Camden, 1803; Marcy, about 1800; McConnellsville (Vienna), 1803-4; Westernville, about 1800; Manchester (Kirkland), 1817.

The earliest schools were "gotten up," sometimes by a teacher looking for occupation, at other times by parents seeking to provide means of education for the children. The development of the common school system into the present perfected machine was slow, and at various stages it encountered opposition from many who believed that the steps taken would impair

the work of education. It is interesting to note herein that the cornerstone of the first high school antedates the erection of Oneida county by about four years and that the college came soon after the formation of the county.

Clinton Grammar School.—The formation of this school was agitated in 1813, a year after the Hamilton Oneida Academy had been merged into a college, but it was not until 1815 that a company able to establish a school was formed. The school was continued with several changes until 1890, when it was closed.

Dwight's Rural High School, Clinton.—This was opened in May, 1858, by Rev. Benjamin W. Dwight. In April, 1865, the buildings situated at the corner of Elm and Factory streets were burned.

Classical School.—Between the closing of the Hamilton Oneida Academy and the opening of Hamilton College a classical school was opened at Clinton with Rev. Comfort Williams and Moses Bristol as teachers. A female department was instituted about 1817.

The Clinton Liberal Institute.—The male department of this school was opened at Clinton November 7, 1831; female department, November 21, 1831. The school was removed to Fort Plain in 1879.

Houghton Seminary, Clinton.—Home Cottage

Seminary was established by Miss Louise M. Barker in 1854 and continued until 1861, when it was purchased by Dr. J. G. Gallup, who changed the name to Houghton Seminary. In 1880 the Seminary passed into the hands of A. G. Benedict, A. M. It has since been discontinued.

Cottage Seminary, Clinton.—Was opened in 1861 by Miss Louisa M. Barker. At her death Miss Annie Chipman conducted the seminary and later Rev. Chester W. Hawley became the principal. This is now conducted by J. B. Wheeler as a private school for boys.

The Young Ladies' Domestic Seminary, Clinton.—The seminary was established in 1832 by Rev. Hirmon H. Kellogg and was conducted by him until 1841, when he accepted the presidency of Knox College, Illinois. Mr. Kellogg then sold the seminary to an association of Free Will Baptists, who on a plan of their own continued it for three years and then moved to more commodious quarters at Whitesboro. A private school followed and then the institution was closed. Mr. Kellogg returned to Clinton and endeavored to revive the school, but in 1850 he permanently abandoned it.

Whitestown Seminary.—Under the auspices of the Oneida Presbytery, the Oneida Academy, afterward called the Oneida Institute, was founded at Whitestown in 1827. The students were required to do farm labor. For about a decade it prospered until

Rev. Beriah Green, who became president about 1834, denounced the Oneida Presbytery as guilty of the crime of slave holding. He withdrew from the Presbytery and formed a new Congregational church at Whitesboro and thus impaired the patronage which the Institute had enjoyed. But the Free Will Baptist Association at this time, desiring more commodious quarters, moved from Clinton to the Institute buildings at Whitesboro in 1844, and in 1845 it was chartered by the regents as the Whitestown Seminary. For many years it was a prosperous institution. It was closed about twenty-five years ago.

Augusta Academy.—Was founded in 1834 and incorporated in 1840. The rear wall of the building was a straight line, the remaining portion of the enclosure was a semicircle variously divided. From a seat at the center the teacher could at a glance command a view of all students.

Hobart Hall Academy.—This school was incorporated in Holland Patent in 1839 and continued for a number of years and at length gave way to the development of the general school system.

The Rome Academy.—Was founded in 1835; incorporated by the regents March 15, 1849.

The Bridgewater Academy.—Established in 1826 and discontinued in 1839.

Bridgewater Female Seminary.—Was founded in 1847.

THE UTICA FREE ACADEMY.—Was incorporated March 28, 1814, as the "Utica Academy." The village then had a population of 1,700. In the summer of 1818 the building, a two-story brick edifice, was completed on Chancellor Square, then a "boggy plain." The school house also served as a court house. May 13, 1865, the building was burned. Then the grounds were enlarged by the purchase of a lot at the corner of Bleecker and Academy streets and a new building was completed in the fall of 1867. In this the academy was continued until September 11, 1899, when the present academy building was opened on Kemble and Elm streets. This latter building was nearing completion when, on April 5, 1898, it was destroyed by fire. Again, in the spring of 1908, it was burned, and again rebuilt. On the removal of the academy to Kemble street, the old edifice facing Chancellor Square was remodeled for the reception of lower grades and the name was changed to Bleecker School.

THE UTICA FEMALE ACADEMY.—This school was chartered April 28, 1837; March 27, 1865, the academy was burned and the present edifice on Washington street was then erected. The school has passed through many changes, and at times was one of the principal schools for the education of girls in the state. The building was sold in 1908 to the Young Men's Christian Association.

We have endeavored in the foregoing to do nothing more than to indicate in a general way the development of the educational system of the region by noting the establishment of the early institutions, especially those early academies out of which many young men have gone with a mental equipment which has enabled them to attain places of first honor. The achievements of the sons and daughters of these institutions, especially at Clinton and Whitesboro, could be recorded only in volumes.

THE WAR OF 1812.

STATE MILITIA CALLED OUT—ONEIDA COUNTY MEN STATIONED AT SACKET'S HARBOR—DESERTERS DRUMMED OUT OF TOWN.

OLIVER COLLINS of New Hartford, a man prominent in civil and military affairs, held a commission as brigadier general when the war of 1812 broke out. During the war he called out the militia of Oneida, Herkimer, Jefferson and Lewis counties en masse, a force of 2,900, of which number 2,500 were from Oneida and Herkimer counties. With this force he proceeded to Sacket's Harbor and there assisted in guarding the stores at that point. But the quarters were uncomfortable, disease broke out and many of the soldiers deserted. After his return General Collins held a court martial in Utica for the trial of these deserters. The sentence of those convicted was that their back pay be stopped and that with their coats turned inside out they be "drummed out of camp" as far as Deerfield Corners. It was said that the citizens of Utica would not allow the sentence of the court to be carried out. General Collins obtained music and a corporal's guard from a company of regulars then stationed in the city. A crowd assembled, but when

the guard was ordered to load their rifles the crowd offered no interference and the sentences were executed.

During the war a company of about sixty volunteered in Utica and it was afterward attached to the 134th Regiment. A draft was also held in Utica. Troops were constantly passing through the valley—the traditional war trail of the nations. Many depredations were committed by the warriors of that day as they bivouacked in and about Utica.

On November 3, 1814, Commodore Perry was a guest in Utica and a public dinner was given in his honor.

THE CIVIL WAR.

County Performed Its Part Nobly—Sent Five Regiments and Many Parts of Companies into Battle—The Drafts.

CENTRAL NEW YORK watched the gathering of the war cloud which broke in 1861. Before the conflict began, its men in public meetings had voiced their patriotism, and a quarter of a century before the war the feeling of the people was shown over the arrest in Utica of a fugitive slave. His owner traced him to Utica, caused his arrest and had him arraigned before a United States commissioner. An advocate appeared in behalf of the slave and argued all day, with the exception of a recess for dinner. The argument was unfinished at evening and an adjournment was taken for supper. The slave remained in custody in the commissioner's office during the recess. Suddenly a mob descended on the office, bore the slave away, and, it is supposed, assisted him in escaping to Canada.

The Call for Troops.—When the conflict was on and the call of Lincoln came for volunteers there was neither tardiness nor hesitancy in the answer. On April 12, 1861, Fort Sumter was fired upon. The first call for volunteers was made on April 15th, and on

May 17th the call was answered in this county by a regiment, and on May 21st a second regiment was mustered into service.

Five Regiments.—Oneida county for the civil war furnished five regiments as follows:

Fourteenth New York Volunteer Regiment (the First Oneida), Col. James McQuade; mustered in May 17, 1861, for two years; rendezvous at Albany.

Twenty-sixth New York Volunteer Regiment (Second Oneida), Col. William H. Christian; mustered in May 21st, 1861, for two years; rendezvous at Elmira.

Ninety-seventh New York Volunteer Regiment (Third Oneida), Col. Charles Wheelock; mustered in February 18, 1862, for three years; rendezvous at Boonville.

One Hundred and Seventeenth New York Volunteer Regiment (Fourth Oneida), Col. William R. Pease; mustered in August 8 to 16, 1862, for three years; rendezvous at Rome.

One Hundred and Forty-Sixth New York Volunteer Regiment (Fifth Oneida), Col. Kenner Garrard; mustered in October 10, 1862, for three years; rendezvous at Rome.

Besides these regiments the county furnished during the war about a score of companies and parts of companies which were distributed among the 47th, 50th,

57th, 68th, 81st, 164th and 192d regiments of infantry and the 2d Artillery, Bates' Battery, 14th Artillery and 24th Artillery.

It has been said of the 2d Heavy Artillery that though not designated as an Oneida county regiment it probably contained more Oneida county men than any regiment known as an Oneida regiment.

Recruiting officers were numerous. The whole number of Oneida county men who enlisted during the war has been placed at 10,000. The population of the county in 1860 was 101,626. According to this estimate about half the voters of the county enlisted. Oneida county was represented in all the great battles of the war. Many of its men won commissions and advances in rank for bravery, and medals of honor for conspicuous acts of gallantry have been given by Congress to several of its sons.

Bounties.—As the war advanced and people came to a keener realization of its hardships and its perils, the necessities of the hour prompted the holding of a public meeting in Utica on July 14, 1862, after a call for more troops had been issued. Subscriptions were made for a fund for the payment of bounties. A month later the supervisors authorized the raising of money whereby a bounty of $50 was paid to each volunteer and the men of the third regiment (the 97th) received this. In succeeding years the bounties were increased until '65, when the board of supervisors authorized the

payment of a bounty of $300 to men who enlisted for one year, $500 for two years, and $700 for three years. During the war there were also state and federal bounties.

The Draft.—Once the conscription, or draft, was used to fill deficiencies in the quotas of towns. It was commenced in Utica on August 25, 1863, in Mechanic's Hall at the corner of Liberty and Hotel streets. One hundred and forty-two soldiers were sent to the city to preserve order on this occasion. Prominent citizens and officials were present and a crowd stood outside in the drizzling rain. The box from which the names were taken was placed in an open window that those without might witness the proceedings, and, to avoid any charge of chicanery, a blind man drew forth the slips bearing the names. Wild scenes attended the conscription, but there was no violence and on the evening following the drawing of the names, the drafted men paraded the streets of Utica.

The return of the regiments from the war was in each case properly observed with public receptions and celebrations.

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

THIS COUNTY WELL REPRESENTED IN THE MOBILIZING FORCE, IN CUBA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

AN Oneida county man was among those who perished in the destruction of the Maine in the harbor of Havana. When, on April 23, 1898, the President issued a call for 125,000 volunteers for two years there was such a ready response that it was found that there was "not enough of the war to go around," for the quota for New York was only about 12,000. A large percentage of the members of the 28th and 44th Separate Companies of the National Guard, State of New York, located in Utica, volunteered. There were more than enough other applicants to fill the vacant places in the ranks. The 44th Separate Company left Utica May 2, 1898, and became Company E of the 1st N. Y. Provisional Regiment. This company was successively stationed at Hempstead Plains on Long Island, at Fort Hamilton in New York Harbor, and at Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands. It returned in December of the same year.

On the second call for troops, 75,000 for two years, New York's quota was about 8,000 and enlistments were open to all. A large percentage of the membership of two companies was raised in Oneida county.

These were Company G of the 203d Regiment, mustered in at Syracuse July 19, 1898, and which was successively located at Hempstead Plains, L. I., near Harrisburg, Pa., in the Conewago valley, and at Greenville, S. C.; and Company K of the 202d Regiment, mustered in at Buffalo in July and which was successively located at Hempstead Plains, near Harrisburg, Pa., Savannah, Ga., and in Cuba. The 203d was the first body of United States soldiers to enter Havana.

Numerous individuals enlisted for army and navy service and were assigned to many different organizations. The 9th Regiment, regulars, which did valiant service in Cuba, the Philippines and China, had many Oneida county men in its ranks. The 26th Regiment of volunteers, which saw service in the Philippines, had a large quota of Oneida county men.

The return of the soldiers was celebrated with banquets of an imposing character.

May 24, 1899, the Oneida County War Committee presented bronze medals to about 350. Capt. Charles S. Sigsbee, who commanded the Maine, received each of the volunteers who was present, and in his address he told the story of the destruction of his vessel in the harbor of Havana.

In the Boxer uprising in China, Oneida county men in the 9th Regiment of the regular army marched with it to Pekin and participated in all the battles. And in this the latest war, as in the others, Oneida county men won recognition for valiant service.

INDUSTRIAL CENTERS.

THE CITIES OF UTICA AND ROME—SOME MENTION OF THEIR CHIEF PRODUCTS—A GLANCE AT THEIR CONDITION AND PROGRESS.

THERE is briefly set forth in this small volume some of the most essential facts connected with the history and development of Oneida County, leaving much unsaid, of course, that might be of interest to the reader, but possibly giving enough to stimulate more extended study. It seems proper, therefore, in a closing chapter to make some reference to the two cities of the county—Utica and Rome—and to give some account of the industries centered within their borders.

Less than fifteen miles apart, these two cities form important industrial centers, linked together with a half-hour trolley service, the frequent communication over the Central-Hudson railroad, and by the canal. However, when one pauses to study these cities, he discovers that their industries bear little resemblance, for while Utica is one of the great cotton manufacturing centers of the whole country, Rome gives small attention to fabrics and devotes its energies to the manufacture of products in which copper, brass, iron and steel enter very largely.

Facts Concerning Utica.—This city has about 72,000 population. It is provided with all the accessories of a modern city in abundance. Churches, schools, public library, hospitals, charitable institutions, newspapers, banks, telephone and telegraph systems, fire and police protection, clubs for men and women, theatres, mercantile establishments—are all to be found in liberal supply. Also, it is now on the eve of better shipping facilities, as a new passenger station is soon to be constructed, and with it will be installed an extensive freight yard and the necessary freight houses.

Utica is the gateway to the Adirondacks, and the railroads that furnish the only means of reaching most of the large towns in Northern New York have their initial in this city. To the south there are two lines of steam railroad and trolley connections that encompass Otsego county as far as Oneonta. There is also half-hourly trolley service eastward as far as Little Falls and westward to Syracuse.

Utica is one of the best paved cities in the United States. It has more asphalt paving than any city of its size on the continent. The pavements in all business sections are swept daily and patrolled hourly; residence sections are swept twice each week and patrolled hourly.

Within the city are several small parks, and on the southern border of the city, a noble tract of land, about three hundred acres in extent, has been presented to

the city by Thomas R. Proctor, and named Roscoe Conkling park.

The new Oneida County Building, which cost, including the site, $920,000, was completed and first occupied in the summer of 1908. Many other buildings, devoted to public uses and private enterprise, are notable for their beauty and utility, and its streets are wide and well shaded.

MANUFACTURES.—The best figures obtainable concerning the manufactures of Utica are those to be found in the industrial census taken in 1905, and even this is so deficient as to be regarded as quite unreliable, while so rapid has been the development in some of the principal industries that the statistics there given are now quite out of date.

The total capital invested in the 333 industries then canvassed was $21,184,033, while the wages and salaries annually paid to about eleven thousand individuals was given as $5,561,444. The cost of materials used in manufacture was nearly thirteen million dollars, and the value of the finished product was placed at nearly twenty-three million dollars annually.

It is the opinion of well-informed men engaged in manufacturing in Utica that the total capital invested in industries at the present time will not fall far short of thirty millions of dollars; and the value of the output yearly, under normal conditions, will rise from

a million and a half to two millions above the capital invested.

Including in these totals the immediate suburban villages—those within the five-cent fare trolley limit—and these figures would be largely increased.

Chief Products.—Utica is in particular a center for the manufacture of knit-goods, cotton fabrics, men's clothing, caps, iron pipe, and heating apparatus; also, in this city is located one of the largest woolen cloth manufactories of the state.

The cotton industry leads all others, and is growing rapidly. Utica is now a center of the knit goods industry (both cotton and wool), and its products in this line are shipped to every part of the globe. The largest establishment in the world devoted to the production of knit underwear is here located, while at least a half dozen others engaged in the same industry may truthfully lay claim to having few superiors. More than a score of knitting mills are in operation, and their number and strength is increasing rapidly.

Cotton yarns and cloths, sheets, pillow cases, hosiery, and other products of the spinning, weaving and knitting mills, swell the textile industry to large proportions.

Some of the largest of the men's clothing manufactories have extensive trade and their products go from coast to coast

As a center for the manufacture of Scotch caps, Utica has long been noted.

Upwards of three million dollars are invested in the manufacture of hot air furnaces and other heating apparatus, steam fittings and the foundry and machine shop products. The various patterns of Utica furnaces are used all over this country, and the output each year is a very large one.

The manufacture of cast iron pipe is also a considerable industry, while the output of iron and brass bedsteads and spring beds is of such volume as to entitle Utica to first place in the list of cities in which this industry is carried on.

Diversified Industries.—The list of Utica industries well nigh exhausts the catalogue of marketable products. Among them, the following may be mentioned as prominent in the city's industrial life:

Lumber products of wide variety, including sash, doors and blinds; electrical machinery, apparatus and supplies; malt liquors; carriages and wagons; agricultural implements; marble and stone work and artificial stone; wall plaster, tile and brick; cigars and chewing and smoking tobacco; chemical fire extinguishers; sporting goods; rifles; trunks; brass castings and finishing; blank book making; boxes; uniforms and regalias; awnings, tents and banners; bicycles; burial cases; stained glass; organs and pianos; paints and varnishes; patent medicines; roofing materials; fertili-

zers; meat products; coffee and spice roasting and grinding; dairy products; adhesives; knitting mill machinery; belting and mill supplies; engines and boilers; structural and ornamental iron; lead pipe; macaroni; flavoring extracts; mineral and soda waters; mattresses.

Rome.

The city of Rome has upwards of 17,000 inhabitants and is one of the most prosperous of the smaller cities of the state. One of its characteristics is the remarkable unanimity displayed by its business and professional men in the accomplishment of any object for the advancement of their city. It has wide streets, well shaded, and within the last few years has taken up the paving problem with some success.

Rome is served by the Central-Hudson railroad, both main line and a northern branch which extends to all the northern counties via Watertown. A branch of the Ontario & Western railroad intersects the Utica division of that road at Clinton. The Rome & Northern railroad is projected, and if built will extend twenty-five miles northward to a heavily-timbered tract in Lewis county. This city is the southern terminal of the Black River canal; the Erie canal passes through the city and the Utica & Mohawk Valley electric line gives the city half-hourly service to the east.

Municipal Water System.—Rome is now engaged in the construction of a system of water supply that will cost about a half million dollars. The city has secured the water rights on Fish creek, a noble stream that finds outlet in Oneida lake, and at a point about fifteen miles northwest from the city a concrete dam is being created to form a reservoir. From the dam a tunnel that will be something over a mile long will pierce the high bluff and table lands bordering the stream. From the mouth of the tunnel a thirty-six inch concrete conduit-line, seven miles long, will reach out toward the city, and then will follow for five miles a twenty-seven inch iron pipe line. The supply that will be furnished through this system will be fully ten millions of gallons daily. The contracts have been let for the construction of the dam, gate house, conduit line, pipe, etc., and the work was commenced in the summer of 1908. When completed, the city will have an abundant supply of pure water, and should the future growth of the city demand it, the supply can be increased to any desired volume.

Great Copper Industry.—Rome is one of the largest copper manufacturing cities in the country. Its annual consumption of raw copper is about fifty million pounds. There are not half a dozen places in the United States that handle such a large quantity of copper for manufacturing purposes.

Eight large firms, employing no less than 2,517 persons, are engaged mainly in the manufacture of copper and brass. The product is varied and interesting. Among the articles made are copper and brass rods, nails and tacks; copper and brass and their alloys in sheets, bars and tubes; print rolls; drawn copper bars, commutator bars, brazed tubes, yellow metal; seamless copper and brass tubes; nickel-plated tea and coffee pots, wash boilers; bedstead trimmings; gas fixtures; chains; cuspidors; specialties; coolers; automobile radiators; bare and covered wire of all kinds; lamp cords; magnet cords; insulated wire; copper and brass signs. Two-thirds of all the copper kettles made in America are turned out by the Rome Manufacturing Company.

Wide Variety.—Among other industries of importance in Rome are those engaged in the manufacture of automobile parts; iron and brass beds; gas engines; power sprayers; knit underwear; locomotives; motors; boilers; merchant bar iron; patented machinery for the manufacture of tin cans; tin cans of all sizes; wagons and wagon gears; many articles in wood, such as sash, doors, pumps, windmills, fishpoles, boxes, etc.; harness and harness specialties; brick; textile and laundry soap; men's hats; American, sweitzer and limburger cheese; fertilizers; bottled and charged waters.

The canning industry at Rome is a very extensive

one and employs about 2,600 people during the season and a large force the year through. Nearly all varieties of vegetables and fruits are preserved.

The number employed in the various industries at Rome is not far from eight thousand persons, when all are in operation. This is quite remarkable for a city with no larger population, and it plainly demonstrates that it is a community of great activity and steady progress.

As a Place of Residence.—Rome is provided with all those accessories that make life in small cities pleasant. Schools, churches, clubs, fraternal organizations and many social and educational helps are to be found in necessary abundance. A spirit of deep loyalty appears to pervade the city, that may have been born from the facts that it is built upon the site of "the fort that never surrendered," and there is a friendliness and liberality toward industries and enterprises that is not often met in the East.