

Dryden

IDWAY between Ithaca and Cortland, and on the south bank of Fall Creek, lies the attractive village of Dryden. It is in the midst of one of the richest agricultural districts in the lake country. The land on which the village originally was built was owned for the most part by Benjamin Lacy, Edward Griswold and Nathaniel Sheldon. The first house was built by Amos Sweet. Early setlers were enthusiastic over the possibilities of their settlement. Griswold gave a blacksmith forty acres of land if he would locate his shop at Dryden.

The village was incorporated in 1857, with David P. Goodhue as first president. The pre-

vious year the first newspaper was issued in Dryden. The first settler in Dryden was Amos Sweet, who in the spring of 1779, accompanied by his mother, brother, wife and two children, built his cabin on the site of the village. This first house was only ten feet square and constructed of logs twelve inches in diameter. The house was eight logs high. The roof was supported by poles, covered with bark, stripped from elm and bass-



A dancing party for the citizens of the Junior Republic.

wood. The only window was an opening eighteen inchessquarecut through the logs. In winter this was covered with coarse, greased paper, so some light would be admitted.

The first post office was established about 1815, a man on foot carrying the mail from Oxford to Ithaca as late as 1817. Old local histories show that Capt. George Robertson opened the first farm in the town of Dryden and harvested the first crops in 1808; David White built the first grist mill in 1802 and the first stage

page three hundred twenty-two



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DRYDEN, N. Y.





page three hundred twenty-three



from Homer to Ithaca was run in 1824.

The famous old Bridle Road, built in 1795, was the first road into Dryden and over it the first horses were brought in 1800.

One mile west of the village are the well known Dryden Sulphur Springs and two miles southeast is Dryden Lake, a mile long

and a half mile wide. The springs, with their sulphur, magnesia and iron, are recognized for their medicinal properties.

In early days the town was known as a superior lumber district, there having been fifty-one saw mills in operation within its limits in 1835.

Today one of the most unusual attractions which draw visiting motorists through Dryden is the George Junior Republic at Freeville, adjoining Dryden village. Known as the "smallest republic in the world," it is the outgrowth of an ideal of William R. (Daddy) George, who was born on a farm near West Dryden. When he was 14, his parents moved to New York and he spent only his vacation at the old home. In 1890 he conceived the plan of a fresh air camp for city boys at Freeville. For several successive years he brought boys there. From this grew the Republic and on July 10, 1895 the first government of the youth, for the youth and by the youth was established. About 2,000 young people of both sexes have since passed through the George Junior Republic.

In no single instance does this little community resemble an institution. In fact, the Junior Republic is diametrically opposed to the institution idea.

Not only are the laws made by the boys and girls who comprise the population of the Republic, but by



Junior Republic Court Scene

ourt Scene they appear in court before a youthful but just judge, make their pleas and serve such sentences as may be imposed.

them also are enforced. He

who does not work is arrested as a vagrant and

sent to jail. He who loses

his job is given three days

in which to find other work,

or he becomes a vagrant. The youngsters escape los-

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The motto of the Republic is "Nothing Without Labor," and consequently both boys and girls work. The boys may become farmers, carpenters, plumbers, bakers, bankers, lawyers, printers or enter other occupations; the girls keep house, cook, bake, scrub and do such other work of a domestic nature as their talents may permit.

Protestant, Catholic and Jewish congregations are provided for in the three houses of worship. The Republic boasts also a bank, store, jail, hospital and school, as well as an extensive printing plant. Both grade and high school studies are taught in the school. Even a college preparatory course is available, while those inclined toward business or other work may obtain training in commerce, domestic science and other subjects.

The jail building, which adjoins the print shop, has 12 cells. Nearby is the city court room where boy judge, boy chief of police, boy patrolmen, boy jail superintendent, boy district attorney and boy lawyers may be found during court sessions. A boy is president of the bank; other boys and girls are clerks in the general store. In all there are 14 buildings on the 300acre grounds of the Republic.

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page three hundred twenty-four

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Anyone interested in further information about the University as a whole, or any one of its colleges, may secure it by mentioning this publication and writing

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.

page three hundred twenty-five



# Aurora, King Ferry, Genoa, Union Springs

SITUATED on a beautiful cove on the eastern shore of Cayuga Lake, where it broadens to a width of four miles, Aurora, home of Wells College, is unmatched in the Finger Lakes Region for its setting and its own exquisite charm. Its beautiful homes, its cultural atmosphere and the friendliness of its people are set off by a striking background of history which is woven about it from the days when an Indian village occupied Aurora's site.

No community within the lake country by nature and by the particular circumstances surrounding its life should be more active in backing the Finger Lakes movement than Aurora. If the regional movement were fashioned solely and particularly for Aurora it could not be of more fitting value to this community which is a repository of beauty and cherished traditions. It was the Finger Lakes Association which was active in securing the fine state highway connecting Aurora with Union Springs; the same association is now pushing a movement to extend the road further southward.

This year New York State will erect at its own expense a monument at Aurora marking the site of the Indian settlement destroyed there by Sullivan in 1779. The site was suggested by representatives of the Finger Lakes Association and the entire sesqui program brought to fruition through association initiative. Pride of tradition and pride of their village is one actuating factor which keeps leaders in Aurora village life interested in support of this idealistic regional



Cayuga Lake from Wells College tower



Gymnasium, Wells College

civic enterprise of the Finger Lakes — a movement more worthy of support from the standpoint of Aurora than any of the manifold undertakings the village has backed so heartily.

In early days Aurora's site comprised Lot No. 34, then in the township of Scipio. It was originally purchased by Judge Seth Phelps for 8600. Here began the earliest settlement of Cayuga County. Aurora was the first county seat of Onondaga County, Gen. Benjamin Ledyard being the first county clerk. In 1799, when Cayuga County was organized, the Court of Common Pleas was held at Cayuga Ferry, but in 1804 the county seat was moved back to Aurora.

Here the first court house was erected. It was a structure consisting of six posts set in the ground, with poles resting upon them and a brush roof covering all. In 1786 the first house in Cayuga County was built by Capt. Roswell Franklin, a veteran of Sullivan's campaign. Every white man within a distance of fifty miles was present, but they numbered only thirteen. Several Indians assisted in the building. The house was fourteen feet square. At the suggestion of the Finger Lakes Association, the state is expected to place a marker this year indicating the site of Franklin's house. Franklin's story is one of romance and tradegy of Indian days. When his first wife was murdered in the Indian massacres of Wyoming, and his family captured, he little thought that it was but the beginning of a life and death struggle with the Iroquois who then ruled the Finger Lakes Region.

One morning in November, 1778, the family of a Mr. Lester, residing at Nanticoke on the Susquehanna, was awakened by the dread war-whoop. A band of Senecas had come on its mission of death. Mr. Lester was murdered and his little child and wife taken into captivity.

A short time later Roswell Franklin went out with the Sullivan forces against the Indians. When the army was in the Finger Lakes country in 1779, Mrs. Lester escaped her Indian captors and came into their camp with the child in her arms. She returned with the expedition and became Franklin's second wife. She was the first white woman to have a home in Cayuga County, coming with the captain in 1789.



page three hundred twenty-seven



For a time prospects were bright for the Revolutionary War veteran. Then came state surveyors whose measurements showed that, through a previous mistake, Franklin's house and half of the improvements of what he supposed was his woodland farm, lay inside the line of an Indian reservation.

Other pioneers had by then settled there also and the Indians complained to Governor Clinton, who ordered the whites to leave the reserved land. The order was ignored and finally the governor sent a posse of fifty men to dispossess the white intruders. Fourteen families were turned adrift and their homes burned.



#### Franklin was near the line and petitioned the sheriff to let him remain until Spring. This was granted, provided he could satisfy the Indians. Before the time had expired Franklin had agreed with a neighbor, in whom he reposed confidence, to procure a title to that part of the lot not within the forbidden limits, with the understanding that the man was to have half the land for his trouble. It turned out that the whole lot of 640 acres, which Franklin supposed was to be negotiated for, was bought under him and measures instituted to disposses him.

Tired of carrying the burden he had borne so long and bravely, one day in the early spring of 1792, Franklin took his gun with him into a neighboring woods and fired a bullet into his brain. He is buried beside Payne's Creek.

Jonathan Richmond settled in Aurora in 1791, Judge Walter Wood in 1794, Eleazer Burnham in 1799 and Christopher Morgan in 1800.

First evidences of the educational advantages which were to be a distinctive feature of life in Aurora were apparent as early as 1798 when the Cayuga Lake Aca-



Dining Hall, Wells College

Zabriskie Hall, Wells College

demy was founded. This pioneer school was chartered and built in 1801. The original academic building burned in 1805, but Glenn Cuyler opened his home to students and classes were not interrupted while work of building a new school was underway. In 1836 the wooden school was removed and converted into a Methodist church, and a brick school erected, with a capacity of 100 students. Today this building is still used as a school.

Wells College, however, is the institution which has brought chief educational fame to Aurora. Its story, along with something about the Wallcourt school, is told in the educational section of this volume.

One of the first executions in the lake country took place at Aurora. In 1803, an old Indian known as John, murdered Ezekiel Crane, a Seneca County settler. The Indian was captured and at first held in the jail under the eastern abutment of Cayuga Bridge. For safer keeping he was transferred to the jail in Canandiagua and finally in 1804 was tried at Aurora and sentenced to be hung. When on the scaffold, it was noticed that a pipe and tobacco leaf were in his belt,

prepared, he informed officers, to smoke the calumet of peace with his victim.

One of the earliest Masonic lodges west of the Hudson was formed in Aurora in 1797. In 1819 they erected a fine lodge, still extant. A Royal Arch Chapter formed in 1819. Aurora's first church was the Congregational, organized in 1802. Services were held in the Academy hall until 1819 when a place of worship was built. In 1818 the organization was changed to the First Presbyterian. The church was razed in 1860 and the cornerstone of the present one laid the same year.

The first Sabbath School was organized by the Society of Friends in 1821. Since then other churches have organized in Aurora.

Aurora boasts of having had the

page three hundred twenty-cight

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page three hundred twenty-nine



second oldest mercantile house in the state — that of R. Morgan & Son. The business was established in 1801 by Christopher Morgan. The name of Morgan as well as Wells, Zabriskie and others have for generations been synonomous with progress in Aurora. Reference to some of these men is made in the chapter devoted to great men of the region and also in the Who's Who section.

Aurora was incorporated May 4, 1837, chiefly to secure the name and prevent its incorporation by Aurora, Erie County.

#### King Ferry

MIDWAY between Auburn and Ithaca in a rich agricultural section along Cayuga Lake lies King Ferry. Indicative of the farming resources of the district are the shipments that leave King Ferry by steam road and motor truck. By rail alone the village annually ships \$30,000 in hay; \$27,600 in eggs and \$43,000 in grains. A seckel pear orchard in the community is the largest in the state and probably in the nation.

From John King the village gets its name. In 1789 King accompanied by three relatives, came from Pennsylvania to the present site of Union Springs. Here they settled on 600 acres of land leased from the Indians for thirty bushels of corn annually. Certain neighbors, not fulfilling their contracts, King and his associates were dispossessed, when the Indian Chief Steel Trap complained to the Legislature. Later King built the second log house in what is now the town of Genoa. As more people settled, he established a ferry in connection with the hotel he kept on the lake shore. Hence, the name King Ferry.

The community has two outstanding progressive features. First is the High School with academic and vocational departments. Agriculture and home-making are taught and the school has debating teams and an annual public speaking contest. There is an unusually good library, and a three acre athletic field and playground, presented by Fred T. Atwater, and well equipped. The school claims the enviable record of having 99 per cent of its graduates go on to institutions of higher learning. The second feature of village life is the Community House, equipped for basketball and all types of social and educational gatherings of the countryside.



Main Building, Wells College

King Ferry is in the town of Genoa, which is the central portion of what was originally organized as the town of Milton in 1797, or ten years before the formation of Cayuga County. Locke was taken off in 1802 and the name changed in 1808 to Genoa. John Clark from Washington County was the first settler within the present limits of the town, in 1790.

In the town are the famous "Indian Fields," or cleared lands where the Iroquois once cultivated grains, according to traditions. Across these fields little groups of soldiers, branching off from General Butler's detachment, passed in the fall of 1779.

Samuel Clark settled on the "Fields" where they extended into what is now Venice, and his son, William, was one of the first on the "Fields" in Genoa. William Clark came from Washington County in 1792, the same year which brought William Miller Clark and Daniel Heath. John Kelsey and his son Ansel came from Susquehanna as early as 1791 and purchased 200 acres where the Presbyterian church in Genoa stands. Gamaliel Terry, a Revolutionary War soldier, appeared in 1792 and a year later Capt. Robert Moon who had been taken a prisoner in the Revolution and sent to England with Col. Ethan Allen.

The village of Genoa lies four and a half miles east of King Ferry. It is a thriving country village, and a trading point for a wide area. It boasts a live weekly newspaper, The Geneva Tribune, and the civic spirit of its citizenry is reflected in its enterprise.



Cayuga's Broad Expanse near King Ferry

page three hundred thirty

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page three hundred thirty-one



#### Union Springs

THE village of Union Springs is beautifully situated on a bay of the east shore of Cayuga Lake and, as might be expected, derives its name from the many springs found within its borders. Two of the largest have been dammed to form ponds and were the source of the earliest industries and subsequent growth of the place. Other of the springs have a strong taste of sulphur and still others contain iron and various minerals.

The first white people to venture into this part of the country, of whom there is any record, were French Jesuit priests who tried in vain to Christianize the Indians, and it is to their memory that the monument was erected which stands beside the road between Union Springs and Aurora. Not till 1789, except the Sullivan campaign do we hear of white people, at which time Edward Richardson dammed the north spring and started a log grist mill. Fate, in the form of the rights of the Indians, was against him, for when the Cayugas sold their land to the State they retained

for a time a strip running from Aurora to Montezuma. Complaint was entered against him as an intruder, and he was compelled to leave.

So it was not until about 1800 that we find the first permanent settlers taking up their claims. Many of them were Revolutionary soldiers, some were retired sea captains, drawn here by the fertility of the soil, the available stone, and the possibilities of water power. Today grants of land taken up at that time are still in

possession of their descendants — instance the Carrs of Carr's Cove. Other names that have come down through the years are Yawger, Richardson, Cozzens, Thompson, Winegar, Finch, Mosher, Everitt, Davis and McFarland.

Also there came many Quakers from New England and from Pennsylvania—people of culture and refinement—and the charming homes and the hospitality of the Howlands, the Chases and others are still spoken of as a memory very precious.

In that year, 1800, the first post office was established on the site of the present Town Hall, with Dr. John Mosher as postmaster. The mail came in on horseback, and later by four horse coach, and each postmaster selected his local mail from the bag. It was the custom in those days for three or four people to join in subscribing for one "high class" paper and then take turns in the reading of it. The first local paper, "The Cayuga Tocsin," was published in 1811, and it was in this office that Thurlow Weed worked as a boy. Between that time and the era of the present "Union Springs Advertiser" there have been a number of publications. The earliest stores were general stores, and one of the first, dating about 1810, was owned by Laban Hoskins. It stands yet opposite Park Street, as does his home across the street. The cornerstone of the store known as Mersereau's was laid in 1827 and the business begun by them was carried on by members of the family for over a hundred years.

In 1816 there came from Dutchess County with his family Philip Winegar, who before many years started a saw mill and a woolen mill at the south pond. To this story and a half wooden building the people brought their wool to be pulled, dyed and carded and at a later date to be woven into cloth. Money was scarce and wheat worth only two and sixpence a bushel, so materials and service were paid for in various ways. Philip Winegar accepted wheat, honey or anything else he could get. The wheat would be stored and in the winter drawn by sleigh to Albany (for there were no railroads nor canals in the State) there to be exchanged for dye stuffs and other necessities. When later these articles could be secured in the nearer town of Utica the traders considered themselves fortunate.

> At the north pond there had been a small grist mill which had saved the people many miles of travel, but the one which now stands was begun in 1835.All that winter stone was drawn from the Hamburg quarries and piled nearby, but to the surprise of everyone it was all gone before the four foot thick basement walls were finished. The mill was built by George Howland, a Quaker from New Bedford, who had made much money in the whaling industry. A canal leading



to the lake was constructed close to the building and his saved much cartage and enabled him to get flour out easily by water. It was shipped in oak casks made close by and these casks came back from their trips filled with oil.

On the opposite side of the canal Robert Howland owned a bending works which employed many men.

For years the only streets were the two which ran west from the main street to the mills and the two now Park Street and Spring Street, which ran east from the ponds. In fact Park Street was originally an Indian trail with a path worn three feet below the surrounding surface.

Of the religious bodies, the Quakers were the first to organize, 1803-4, and built a meeting house in 1816 next door to the present Quaker cemetery. The permanent building of the Orthodox Friends was built much later and is now the Public Library. The first church was the Presbyterian built in 1840, and the others followed: the Roman Catholic in 1851, one of whose priests, Father Hendrick, later became Bishop of Cebu in the Philippines; the Christian, the Methodist, the Baptist, and the Episcopal.

page three hundred thirty-two



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page three hundred thirty-three

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# Dansville

UT of Dansville, charming community of nearly 5,000 souls, a woman carried to Washington, D. C. an idea for the amelioration of humanity's ills. From this little Livingston County town, Clara Barton went to the nation's capital with a plan for the relief of mankind in war, disaster and pestilence. She founded the American Red Cross. Today hundreds visit her humble cottage at Dansville to honor the woman who envisioned and created an organization to bring comfort and hope where death and pain and horror stalk.

Dansville is a beautiful town on the winding, intriguing Canaseraga Creek. Amid serene pastoral beauty, it is a community charming in its appeal to the vacationist. But of particular interest is the new state park, Stony Brook, located three miles south of the town, just off the main state road to Hornell (route 36).

At the entrance to the glen are a pavilion and other conveniences, including facilities for picnics and camping. A few steps into the glen and all modernity are left behind-the primeval beauty of the glen remains untouched. Restful, deep shadowed groves and clear pools alternate with the precipitous cliffs, in a variegated panorama enriched by the fragrance of pine and the sound of tumbling waters.

At the lower falls the stream cascades from the narrow gorge above into the wider and deeper chasm below. Farther on at a sudden turn of the cliff are the Middle Falls. At the head of the trail are the Upper Falls. Each waterfall is individual in contour and



Towering walls keep vigil in Stony Brook Glen



Peace at Nature' shrine in Stony Brook Park

pictorial setting. More about Stony Brook Glen State Park is given in the section of this book devoted to state parks of the lake country.

Dansville is finely fitted to entertain the visitor. Its superior golf course is available to tourists as well as residents. The drives about the place are enticing and the streams nearby teem with trout.

Accessibility is one of the assets of Dansville. It is forty-four miles south of Rochester on two railroadsthe Dansville & Mt. Morris and the Delaware, Lackawana & Western.

Dansville's industries include paper mills, machine shops, felt shoe and radio head set factories. It is the hub of a rich agricultural section, specializing in livestock, fruit and grapes. An immense nursery business is conducted in the environs. Indicative of the enterprise of the community is the fact that it boasts two weekly newspapers and a daily.

Only a few miles northward from Dansville is Conesus Lake and other points of interest adjacent to the village are rich in historical significance, particularly with respect of the great Sullivan expedition in 1779.

Camping near the south end of Conesus Lake, General Sullivan directed Lieutenant Thomas Boyd to locate Genesee Castle. With twenty-eight companions Boyd left on the evening of September 12. West of the camp he located what was believed to be the main Indian village, and next morning he turned back. The Indians and Tories (800-1500 men) having moved

page three hundred thirty-four

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Block of 50,000 Two-Year Hybrid Tea Roses, Photographed Oct. 1, 1928, in the Nurseries of Maloney Bros. Nursery Co., Dansville, N. Y.

page three hundred thirty-five



into ambush between Boyd and Sullivan's army, were attacked from the rear by Boyd's scouting party and fled, but fifteen scouts were killed and Boyd, with his sergeant, Michael Parker, was captured. Boyd's rear attack broke the ambuscade and saved many American lives, but at fatal cost to himself and Parker. They were taken to Genesee Castle, where they were tortured until death brought release from their sufferings. In the Genesee Country, the story of their heroism and dramatic sacrifice will never die.

In 1900 the Livingston County Historical Society erected a monument near the head of Conesus Lake, where Boyd's scouts were killed, and on September 17, 1927, the Society dedicated as an historic shrine the burial mound near Cuylerville where the headless bodies of Boyd and Parker were found. Here, September 14, 1929, the sesquicentennial of the Sullivan Exposition will be celebrated, and the patriotic



Tumbling waters in Stony Brook Glen

services of the founders of the Genesee Country will be suitably commemorated for the benefit of present and future generations.

Into this land of rugged pioneers came Theodore Roosevelt in his college days to build the brawn and sinew which later made him the exemplar of the outdoor life. Here he caught the spirit of the hunt; and the sound of the horn and the hounds lured him over wide sweeping fields as Reynard led the way. Here, too, other thousands have since come in search of the promised land where fish abound and where glamorous gorges, deep forests, broad fields, and sheltered waters form retreats for furred and feathered folk who make all seasons the sportsman's.

The Genesee Country thrills, too, that hungry soul who seeks only to commune with nature by the quiet stream or placid lake and in whose ear the babble of the brook and the thunder of the waterfall are music.





page three hundled thirty-seven



# Penn Yan

CETTLED by PENNsylvanians and O YANkees Penn Yan, nestling in the hills at the outlet of Lake Keuka has a name which is borne by no other town in the world. It was a compromise cognomen reached by rival groups of settlers. Since its founding 130 years ago, Penn Yan, county seat of Yates County, has prospered greatly as the center of a beautiful and rich farming country. A diversity of prosperous industries, pleasant residences, and all opportunities for education, worship, recreation and pleasure make it an ideal village of homes.

The beginning of Penn Yan found birth in the famous Shay's rebellion in Massachusetts, two years before the inauguration of Washington as president, according to Walter Wolcott, Yates County historian from whose notes this

sketch of Penn Yan history is written. Among those involved in the insurrection was Jacob Fredenburg. who fled in 1787 from Massachusetts and came to live among the Indians where Penn Yan now is located. He built a log hut by Jacob's Brook and was adopted into the Indian tribe.

Possession of the tract now embracing the village was acquired in 1791 by George Wheeler, who divided it between his two sons-in-law, Robert Chissom and James Schofield, who were the first settlers

after the fugitive, Fredenburg. Chissom located on what is now Maple Avenue, where he built the first

Keuka College stresses athletics

tavern. His daughter, Mrs. Catharine Crane, mother



Picnic at Keuka Park

site of the Andrews mill, destroyed by fire in 1913.



Steuben Scout Camp, Waneta Lake, Near Wayne

of the late Dr. Wemple H. Crane, was probably the first white child born in Penn Yan.

Real progress in the village began in 1796 with the coming of David Wagener, a prosperous farmer from Montgomery County. Wagener was first attracted in 1791 to the Finger Lakes country by purchase of a part interest in the Friends Mill, built in the township of Torrey on Seneca Lake. Five years later he bought lands in Penn Yan and erected the first grist mill south of the outlet on the

> David Wagener died August 24, 1799, the first person to be buried in Lake View cemetery. Under his will his Penn Yan property was left to his sons, Abraham and Melchoir. Abraham in 1799 came to Penn Yan and built the first frame dwelling within the bounds of the village. He is generally considered the actual founder of Penn Yan and with his brother played a leading role in the early history of the community.

page three hundred thirty-eight



Keuka College Students on Shore of Lake Keuka



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page three hundred thirty-nine



It was they who induced most of the active early citizens of Penn Yan to locate there.

In 1801 Abraham erected the second grist mill on the north side of the outlet and about 1816 he constructed what was long known as the Mansion House, on the south end of Main Street on the west side. Extending northward to Elm Street was his orchard, in which was produced the Wagener apple.

Penn Yan's second frame house was that of Dr. John Dorman, who came in 1795. The structure was used as a tavern. In early days distilling was one of the pioneer industries. The first distillery in Yates County occupied in 1795 a log house not far from what is now Benton Center, but its capacity was only one bushel of grain a day from which two quarts of whiskey were obtained. Robert Chissom owned a distillery on the south side of Maple Avenue, and Dr. John Dorman also opened another. Aaron Gilbert Dorman, his son, owned three running full time and still named his daughter "Temperance." Penn Yan and its environs in the first quarter of the Nineteenth Century boasted at least a half dozen Gas and Oil Aircraft Oil Greases Kerosene

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page three hundred forty-one



other distilleries. One owner, William Babcock, suddenly had a change of heart on the liquor question and advertised his distillery for sale, stating that "the whole establishment at a moderate calculation would produce daily a sufficient quantity of whiskey to kill fifty men."

Yates County was established February 5, 1823, taking its name from a governor, Joseph C. Yates, just then elected. Penn Yan was chosen as the county seat. A Gazeteer published about this time, says the village then had about seventy dwelling houses, two grist mills, a trip hammer, four stores, a printing office, post office, two school houses and three inns.

Penn Yan was incorporated as a village in 1833. The first court house and jail combined was erected in 1824 and burned ten years later. In 1835 a new brick court house was built on the public square, now known as Court House Park, at a cost of \$12,000. A jail, detached, was erected the same year as the main building. The jail was leveled by fire in 1857 and rebuilt the same year at a cost of \$10,200. This structure was razed and a new one constructed in 1904. The new "Yates County Building" was erected in 1889. The first newspaper was the Penn Yan Herald,

The first newspaper was the Penn Yan Herald, started in 1818. Four years later it changed its name to the Penn Yan Democrat, under which it is now issued by Harry C. Earles. The flourishing Chronicle Express came into existence December 16, 1824, under the name of the Yates Republican, published by Edward J. Fowle. In 1831 the name changed to the Yates County Enquirer; in 1833 to the Western Star; in 1837 to the Democratic Whig; in 1839 to the Yates County Whig; in 1856 to the Yates County Chronicle. Under the late DeWitt C. Ayres, it was merged with the Express under its present name and is published today by Mr. Ayres' son as one of the outstanding weekly newspapers of the state. The Express had been started in 1866.

Shortly after the village was incorporated, Abraham Wagener built the historic Wagener Mansion, which today stands out in bold relief on Bluff Point. Hither he moved, selling his Penn Yan property to John Sloan, a newcomer from Geneva. Sloan was largely instrumental in the upbuilding of the village's business life.

Sloan's new purchase included all that part of the



village lying east of Liberty Street and south of West Elm and East Elm Streets. A new street was at this time laid out through what had been Mr. Wagener's orchard and given the name Wagener Street. Another thoroughfare was opened along the waterfront of the outlet under the name of Water Street. The Mansion House was moved back and converted into a tavern. Building lots were marked off on the two new streets, together with lots for stores on Main Street.

At the start, the business section of Penn Yan was largely confined to the head of Main Street, but the building of the Crooked Lake Canal and the presence of cheaper lots elsewhere gradually drew business to the foot of the street.

The first village fire department was organized in 1836 at a meeting in the old American Hotel, destroyed by fire in 1857. Thomas H. Locke, a combination book binder and justice of the peace was first chief. He purchased the first fire engine, named the Neptune.

A post office under the name of Jerusalem was established in 1801. Before that time Daniel Brown carried mail from Canandaigua and Geneva to Penn Yan on horseback and occasionally on foot. At one point he placed the letters for the entire countryside in a covered hole in a tree, and to this improvised "post office" the settlers would come for their letters at regular intervals.

What is said to have been the first public show in Penn



Keuka College girls in their "war canoes"



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Yan was the display of an elephant about 1820 in the barn of Zachariah Wheeler, located on a site just south of where the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial hospital stands on Main Street. The first band comprising ten musicians, was organized in 1839 with A. M. Cobleigh as leader. In the presidental campaign of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," the band journeyed by canal as far as Syracuse, to take part in a big political rally.

Penn Yan, in addition to the canal, was served by stage coaches passing along the line between Geneva

and Bath. The story of railroads entering Penn Yan is told on page 28 and that of the construction of the Crooked Lake Canal on page 30. Penn Yan's first church, the First Presbyterian, was organized February 18, 1823. St. Mark's Episcopal was formed January 3, 1826, though the first church building of the society was not completed until 1837. The First Society of the Methodist Episcopal church was founded March 29, 1824 and

building completed two years later. In 1835 the First Baptist church was constructed and in 1850 St. Michael's Catholic church was dedicated. Since that time finer edifices have replaced the old ones and in all cases

save one, the locations have been shifted.

Lakeside drive, Penn Yan to Hammondsport



Stocking Yates County Streams

from the college towers. There is an excellent water system which is operated at cost by the college. The district school is rated high. Excellent playground equipment has recently been installed.

#### Keuka

Keuka Park WHEN Keuka College

early nineties, a tract of land

of 160 acres was secured.

This tract was subdivided

into building lots and Keuka

Park established. It is located four miles south of

Penn Yan on the west shore

Keuka. There are about fifty

houses besides Alleys' Inn,

Keuka College and two stores.

company of more than thirty

men. The village is lighted

was organized in the

N the east shore of LakeKeuka, almost opposite Bluff Point, is Keuka in a picturesque section which was famous for the abundance of game when the first pioneers put up their cabins on the promontory that rises gradually from the lake. Off Keuka the races of the Keuka Yacht Club start and here a small colony of vacationists make merry.

Keuka is the spot where the Lake Keuka Medical and Surgical Association, embracing 22 counties, holds its annual meeting, which generally lasts two days and is attended by several hundred medical men.



Grounds of Keuka College at Keuka Park



One of the notable characters of the Finger Lakes Country in its early settlement was Elder Thomas Sheardown. He came from the city of Hull, England, and settled in the town of Covert, Seneca County, in 1820. Landing in Newburg he fell in with men from "between the lakes" who offered to give him passage to their homes. Here he found friends—though some distrusted him at first.

In 1826 he purchased an eighty-acre farm in the town of Catlin from which Dix, Schuyler county, was formed. This is the present village of Moreland. Not a stick had been cut, but he cleared four acres, and built a log house to which he moved his wife and children.

Such was his zeal for religious things that on the second Sunday after he went into the woods he walked to within one and half miles of Montour Falls to attend a meeting in a little log school house, and in a few months had found enough people of like mind to organize a church. In July, 1828, he was given a license to preach and then commenced his public labors which covered nearly half a century of time.

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As an evangelist he labored in most every town in this entire region. Between 1830 and 1836 his sermons averaged 468 a year. His preaching places were in barns, saw-mills, school houses and in the open air, for often there was no building to hold the crowds.

Elder Sheardown conducted some remarkable revivals in the Finger Lakes Region and was active in forming many churches. Among these are Watkins Glen, Reading, Caton and Hornell. He did not confine his labors to one church as many others reaped large harvests as a result of his work.

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page three hundred forty-five