

DR. ABEL BAKER.

DR. ABEL BAKER was born in Pelham, Mass., June 17th, 1789. He was the fourth of a family of ten children of Lewis and Lois [Walker] Baker, natives, the former of Barnstable, Mass., where he was born December 28th, 1761, son of Isaac and Rebecca [Lewis] Baker, and the latter of Hardwick, Mass., where she was born October 18th, 1766, daughter of Abel and Lois [Reed] Walker.

His parents moved from Massachusetts and settled in Camillus, now Marcellus, Onondaga county, in 1808, where his father died in 1834 on the farm on which he first settled. His mother moved to Wisconsin after the death of her husband, where she died about 1849.

At the age of ten years Abel went to live with his grandfather, Abel Walker, where he received the impress of his energetic character, which was so conspicuous in all his acts in after life, and with whom he remained until 1807, at which time he was taken into the employ of John W. Stiles, a merchant of Templeton, Mass., with whom he remained until May 7th, 1811. He then joined his parents in Marcellus and commenced the study of medicine, teaching school in the meantime and attending medical lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Fairfield, N. Y., in the years 1814 and 1815.

He was licensed by the Censors of the Medical Society of the county of Onondaga May 19th, 1815, about which time he went into cöpartnership with Dr. Roland Sears, of Norway, Herkimer county, with whom he remained until September 3d, 1816.

He was made a member of the Fairfield Medical Society of the Western District of New York September 5th, 1816, and he was also made a member of the Cayuga County Medical Society June 5th, 1845.

Leaving Norway the same month, he went to New Vernon, now Owasco village, Cayuga County, where he commenced the practice of medicine, and his books show that he made the first charge, the 18th of said month, for professional services. Here he resided until 1821, when he removed to Kelloggsville, town of Niles, and remained there in the practice of medicine until 1828, when he returned to Owasco and bought out Day Otis Kellogg, at that time a merchant in the village. He then engaged in a general merchandising business, buying and shipping grain, pork, &c., in connection with his professional duties; but it was not long before his practice became so extensive that he was obliged to give up his mercantile pursuits. The medical profession is not wanting in examples of activity, benevolence and courage, and in all these things Dr. Baker shone conspicuously. His charac-

teristics as a practitioner will not soon be forgotten. Though battered and infirm to a degree that with most men would have negated all attempts at practice he went wherever it was possible for man to go—went with or without pay—went regardless of danger.

He carried his patients to the throne of grace and gave no medicine for the success of which he had not prayed. He continued the practice of medicine up to ten o'clock of the night of March 21st, 1862, and was found in his bed insensible the following morning at six o'clock. He soon expired, in the seventy-third year of his age.

In 1841 he was converted to God under the labors of Rev. Alonzo Wood, and in October of the same year he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church in Owasco and was an active and zealous member of the same until his death. At the time of his conversion the Methodist Episcopal Society in Owasco was small and without a church in which to worship. After a few years the idea of building one was conceived by Dr. Baker, and by the great efforts of the Society and particularly the efforts of the Doctor, who, after giving liberally, rode night and day throughout the length and breadth of his large circle of acquaintances soliciting help, and having been liberal himself to other societies and denominations needing help, they contributed largely. The result was successful.

On the 23d day of April, 1818, he was married to Aurora Price, who was born in 1795, and was the daughter of the Hon. Elijah Price, who settled in Owasco in the year 1794. She united with the Baptist Church at Kelloggsville in 1821. Elder Moore, her pastor, who knew her well, at the time of her death, which occurred June 11th, 1827, says of her: "From her youth she grew up in the habits of industry and virtue; mild and amiable in her manners; her temper of mind was noble and animating; her conversation, without a cold reserve, was engaging, decisive and free."

The result of this union was three sons, as follows: Elijah Price, who was born at Owasco June 12th, 1819, now a practicing physician in Aurora, N. Y.

Abel Walker, born at Kelloggsville May 9th, 1821, now residing near the village of Owasco.

Erasmus Darwin, born at Kelloggsville June 17th, 1823, a civil engineer, now residing in Alabama.

Dr. Baker was married a second time October 25th, 1831, to Laura Bailey, who died October 19th, 1836; and a third time September 28th, 1841, to Udolphia Osborne, who died November 25th, 1843.

OWASCO VILLAGE.

OWASCO is situated in the south-east corner of the town, eight and one-half miles south-east of Auburn, and about the same distance from Skaneateles. It contains two churches, (Reformed and Methodist Episcopal,) a very fine brick district school-house, which is a credit to the village, three stores, one hotel, (not at present used as such,) two blacksmith shops, kept by DeWitt Bros. and George Brokaw and Dwight Covert, and two wagon shops, kept by DeWitt Bros. and John Mathers.

MERCHANTS.—The first store was kept by James Burrows. He probably did business but a short time, as very little is known of him by the present inhabitants. Stephen Childs opened a store about 1812 or '13, in the building now occupied by Ellis Meaker, which was erected by him about that time, with the exception of some fourteen feet, which have since been added to its length. He did business till soon after the close of the war and failed. William and John Fuller came in from Kelloggsville and opened a store in the same building about 1817 or '18. John died about a year after, and about 1825 or '6, William Titus, who had carried on business some two years previous to that time, in the store now occupied by Dor Heald, which was built for a community store about 1820, but never used as such, owing to quarrels among the parties interested, became interested in the business with William Fuller, whose interest he seems to have subsequently acquired. Titus sold about 1832 to Uriel Mosher, from Montville, who remained till about 1837, when he was succeeded by John Cuykendall and Price Baker, both natives of the town, who did business about two years.

The building erected for a community store was first occupied by Day Kellogg, soon after its completion, some four or five years. He was succeeded in April, 1828, by Dr. Abel Baker, who kept it a few years. Richard Brownell next kept it four or five years, and removed to Genoa, where he died a few years since. He was succeeded by Nelson Brown and Henry Hunsicker, who kept it till about 1838, when they dissolved, Brown taking the goods and removing with them to Moravia, where he died a few years after, and Hunsicker, the store.

John Cuykendall and Henry Tompkins, son of

David Tompkins, reopened the first store, which had been closed a year or two after Cuykendall & Baker discontinued, and did business four years. It again stood empty two or three years, with the exception of six months, when it was occupied by H. J. Sartwell, of Auburn, till John Cuykendall again opened it, and after a year admitted Seth Morgan to partnership, with whom he continued till about 1852, when it came into the hands of Bowers H. Leonard, who sold in February, 1874, to Ellis Meaker, who is still carrying on the business of general merchandising.

The second store was closed from 1838 till 1842, when Benjamin Swan, from the New England States, opened it and kept it till the spring of 1845. William H. Dunning, from Onondaga county, occupied the store soon after Swan left, and continued about three years. He was succeeded by John Cuykendall and David Tompkins, the latter of whom, after three years, bought his partner's interest, and continued till the fall of 1875, having been associated six or seven years with his son, David S., who became a partner three years after Cuykendall's interest was purchased. A. J. Bowlen, from Red Creek, rented the store of Tompkins and run it a little over a year. Dor Heald, who came in from Kelloggsville in 1872, and after working two years for John Cuykendall, bought of him his stock of hardware and tinware, in the fall of 1874, and is still engaged in that business. In 1875, George H. Bissell opened a store in the hotel, which he still continues.

POSTMASTERS—We have been unable to determine when the post-office was established at Owasco; but Martinus Cuykendall, who held the office in 1817, was probably the first postmaster. Day Otis Kellogg, who held the office in 1825, is the next one of whom we have any account. He was succeeded by Wm. Fuller, who held it in 1831. Uriel Mosher next held the office, as early as 1836, and as late as 1842. He was succeeded by Joel R. Gore, who held the office from one to two years. Daniel Bevier held the office about two years. Daniel D. Westfall was postmaster in 1846. He was succeeded by Henry and David Tompkins, the former of whom held the office about four years, and the latter, three. John Cuykendall was appointed as early as 1854, and held it till 1860, when he was succeed-

ed by David Tompkins, who held it from 1860 to '66. Bowers H. Leonard succeeded him and held the office till March, 1874, when Ellis Meaker, the present incumbent, was appointed.

PHYSICIANS.—Dr. VanHarling was probably the first physician who practiced in this town. He lived at the foot of the lake, and was here about, or soon after, the beginning of the century. Jacob Bogart, who was licensed to practice by the county judge, in July, 1802, and Josiah Bevier, who was licensed by a master in chancery, in March, 1805, both joined the County Medical Society, while residing in this town, August 7th, 1806; but we have been unable to learn anything further in regard to them, except that Dr. Bevier pursued his medical studies with Dr. VanHarling, and died here about 1839.

Abel Baker was born June 17th, 1789. He studied medicine in New York, and attended medical lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Fairfield, N. Y. He was licensed by the Censors of the Medical Society of Onondaga county, May 19th, 1815, and came to Owasco in September of the following year. He resided and practiced here till his death, March 22d, 1862, with the exception of seven years, from 1821 to '28, spent in medical practice at Kelloggsville. He was a skillful physician, and a man of great energy, perseverance and high Christian worth. He died literally with the harness on. He was out to see a patient at eleven o'clock P. M., and died the following morning.

Benjamin Devoe, son of Elijah Devoe, who was an early settler in Owasco, and a Member of Assembly in 1819, and again in 1825, joined the County Medical Society, June 2d, 1842, and practiced a few years in the central part of the town, when he removed to Owasco village and practiced there till his death. Hoyt Hunsiker commenced practice soon after Dr. Devoe, one and a quarter miles north of Owasco village, where he still resides and practices. Joel R. Gore became a member of the County Medical Society January 3d, 1839, and practiced here till 1856, when he removed to Chicago. Dr. Baker hired him one year, when he formed a partnership with him, which lasted several years. Daniel Bevier practiced here a short time from about 1842, and removed to Richland county, Ohio, and died there. D. O. K. Strong, son of Walter Strong, an early settler on the site of the village, bought out Dr.

Gore in 1856, and practiced here till about 1872, when he removed to Delaware. Moses M. Fry, now residing in Auburn, practiced here about two years soon after the close of the war. Dr. Truman, now in Allegany county, practiced here about two years from 1873.

Matthew Bevier, son of Dr. Josiah Bevier, and Archibald McNeil Bevier, son of Dr. Daniel Bevier, are the present physicians. The former joined the County Medical Society January 11th, 1865; the latter commenced practice here about 1872.

THE REFORMED CHURCH OF OWASCO was organized as the *Reformed Dutch Church of Owasco*, in 1798, by Rev. Abram Brokaw; but the earliest record we find relating to it is September 15th, 1810, when, at a meeting of the consistory, attended by James Brinkerhoff, Jacob Brinkerhoff, Thomas Johnson, Jr., and Cornelius D. DeWitt, elders, and Samuel Hoornbeck, Isaac Selover, Levi Bodley and Abraham Selover, Jr., deacons, "it was decided that the meeting-house be between Samuel Bevier's corners and Cornelius M. Bevier's house, on the land of Martin Cuykendall," which is the location now occupied, and the church building then contemplated, which was begun in 1813 and finished in 1815, is the one now in use. It was also decided at this meeting, "that the society prayer meetings be again established in three places in the congregation, viz: at James Brinkerhoff's, the first Thursday in October next, at one o'clock, P. M., at Elijah Devoe's, the second Thursday in October next, at one o'clock, P. M., and at Cornelius D. De Witt's, the third Thursday in October next, at each place, at one o'clock of said day, and continue successively." This meeting was presided over by George G. Brinkerhoff, and Levi Bodley was clerk.

At a meeting of the united congregations of the Owasco and Sand Beach churches, held at the log meeting-house on Saturday, September 29th, 1810, it was decided, "that the consistories of the united congregations write to Rev. Ralph A. Westervelt to come and preach the gospel as soon as convenient," but the call was declined.

A meeting was held at the house of Dr. J. Bevier, October 6th, 1810, "to prize the seats of the meeting-house and revise the articles of sale of said meeting-house." A meeting of the consistory was held at the same place November 9th,



ELIPHALET PATEE.



MRS. SALLY PATEE.

[Photo by Ernsberger & Ray.]

ELIPHALET PATEE was born June 24th, 1789, in Pawlet, Vermont, the native place of his parents, Edmund and Elizabeth [Turner] Patee. His father was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and served as a musician in the army during the war of the Revolution. At the close of the war he returned to Pawlet and followed his trade until 1802, in which year he removed to Moravia, in Cayuga County. In 1812 he removed to Owasco, and in 1820, to Delaware County, Ohio, where he and his wife died, the former about 1827, and the latter in 1838. They had nine children, viz: Eliphalet, the subject of this sketch, Seth, John, Sabrina, Elizabeth, Henry, Alvah, Lester and Harriet, only two of whom are living, Alvah, in St. Joseph, Missouri, and Harriet in Marion County, Ohio. They were able to give their children only such scholastic advantages as the common schools of the times afforded.

Eliphalet Patee married Sally, daughter of Isaac D. and Hannah [Lee] Tripp, natives of Wilkesbarre, Pa., April 5th, 1811. Mrs. Patee was born in New York city, December 31st, 1793, and at the time of her marriage was living in the village of Milan, in the town of Locke, in Cayuga County. Upon their marriage they settled on lot 60 in the town of Owasco, where they continued to reside till their death, Mr. Patee, March 5th, 1877, at the advanced age of 88 years, and his wife, April 10th, 1875, in the 82d year of her age.

Mr. Patee pursued the vocation of a farmer, and "witnessed the great change from forest, log-cabin and pioneer privations to cultivated field, commodious dwelling and the comforts that wealth and prosperity bring. His life was marked by unremitting industry and a commendable economy, that brought the sure reward of wealth without speculation, fraud or oppression." He was honored by his townsmen with several offices of trust and responsibility, among them that of supervisor several terms, collector and justice of the peace, the latter of which offices he held twenty-two years. He discharged with fidelity and ability the duties which each devolved upon him. He was a man of sound judgment, strong convictions and strict integrity. He was a kind husband and father, though not over indulgent, weak or vacillating. Though not a member of any church, nor

the defender of any creed, he was by no means an irreligious man; but an admirer and frequent reader of the Bible, and a conscientious, upright man, exemplifying in his business relations the precepts of the Golden Rule. He met death as a weary child quietly sinks to sleep, looking forward to the inevitable change without a murmur and often breathing "that model prayer, 'God have mercy upon me a sinner.'"

Mrs. Patee shared heroically with her husband the trials and vicissitudes of an active, busy life, and after a residence at their home in Owasco of sixty-three years, covering the entire period of her wedded life, she was gathered to her final rest, "like a shock of corn fully ripe in its season," having performed her life mission fully and well. As a wife she was a true helpmeet; as a mother, faithful in all her household duties; as a neighbor, obliging and kind; and as a friend, faithful and true. "Her last illness was protracted through several months, and attended with severe suffering, and yet not a complaint was heard to escape her lips, or a peevish word to an attendant. In her sickness and death it was evident that she knew 'whom she had believed,' and by the girdings of divine grace, was enabled by her example of patience and resignation to say to all observers: 'He doeth all things well.'"

Mr. and Mrs. Patee raised a family of seven children, viz.: Mandana, who was born January 17th, 1814, is now residing in Auburn, and from whom the village of Mandana, in Onondaga County, was named by Mr. I. T. Marshall, of Auburn, now deceased; Matilda, who was born May 8th, 1815, and married Aaron L. Cone, of Milan, Cayuga County, April 17th, 1839; Elizabeth, who was born August 20th, 1818, and is still living in the old home; Hannah, who was born February 6th, 1820, married Rufus K. Hoyt, January 7th, 1845, and is now living in Auburn; Naomi, who was born December 15th, 1822, married Alanson Stillwell, of Livingston County, N. Y., January 7th, 1845, and is now living at Rockford, Ill.; Caroline, who was born January 11th, 1827, married Franklin Howard, of Owasco, May 15th, 1851, and is now residing in Syracuse; and Sally A., who was born March 29, 1830, married Thomas White, of Auburn, N. Y., January 1st, 1856, and is now living in Ashtabula, Ohio.



DAVID BRINKERHOFF.

DAVID BRINKERHOFF, son of George R. and Jacomyntie [Bevier] Brinkerhoff, was born in the town of Sempronius, now Niles, September 19th, 1815.

Roeliff Brinkerhoff, grandfather of David, was born in Adams county, Pa., in 1748, and settled in the town of Owasco, on lot 84, about 1794. He died December 28th, 1830; and his wife, Isabella, who was born in 1753, June 28th, 1836. Roeliff and Isabella had seven children, four sons and three daughters. The sons were David, George R., James and Henry R. The eldest daughter, Martina, became the wife of Col. John L. Hardenbergh, the founder of the village which bore his name, now grown to a city and designated by the classic name of Auburn. The youngest daughter became the wife of Dr. Josiah Bevier of Owasco; and the third, Margaret, married Richard Parsell of that town.

George R. Brinkerhoff, son of Roeliff and Isabella, and father of David, the subject of this sketch, was born in Adams county, Pa., February 19th, 1785, came to Owasco with his parents, and received a good academic education. He learned surveying and practiced it as opportunity offered. He was quarter-master, and his brother, Henry R., captain of a company in the army during the War of 1812. The latter was a general of militia after the close of the war.

In 1814, at the close of the war, George R. married Jacomyntie Bevier, who was born in Ulster Co., N. Y., in 1794, and commenced farming on lot 11 in the town of Sempronius, now Niles. He removed thence, after about seven years, to the town of Owasco, to the farm now owned by his son David, situated on lot 84, on the lake road, where he continued to reside till his death, which occurred on the street in the city of Auburn, from heart disease, November 7th, 1849. His wife died July 4th, 1830.

George R. Brinkerhoff was a prominent man in his town. He was a Democrat in politics and was honored by his party with many offices of trust and responsibility, among them that of supervisor several terms, justice of the peace a long time, and assessor. He was a member of the Dutch Reformed Church of Owasco, in which, for a long time, he held the office of elder.

George R. and Jacomyntie Brinkerhoff were the parents of eight children, named as follows: David, Elizabeth, who married Derrick Hornbeck and is now living in Plymouth, Ohio, James, who died at the age of eight years, Maria, who died at the age of six years, Hannah, who married Wm. W. Drennan and is now living in Plymouth, Ohio, Samuel B.,

who is now living in Santa Barbara, California, and Roeliff, now living in Mansfield, Ohio.

David attended the district schools until eighteen years of age, working summers after he was ten years old on his father's farm. He attended the Academy at Aurora seven months in 1836-'7; and the Seminary at Lima, Livingston county, two terms, in 1840 and '41. In the spring of 1841 he went to Michigan and engaged in farming. He returned in the fall and taught school in the town of Skaneateles, in Onondaga county. The following spring he again went to Michigan and remained until the fall, when he returned to Owasco and married Harriet, daughter of Alanson and Harriet [Austin] Benson of Skaneateles, who was born January 18th, 1821. He then went to Michigan, where he remained, engaged in farming till the spring of 1845, when he returned to Owasco and settled with his father, whom he assisted in carrying on the homestead farm, which, on the death of his father, came into his possession by will.

By his wife Harriet, who died May 4th, 1868, David had seven children, viz.: Lillias E., who was born in Michigan, January 31st, 1844; Alma M., who was born July 21st, 1846; George R., who was born September 23d, 1848; Sarah I., who was born January 14th, 1855; Mary L., who was born October 28th, 1858; Jennie H., who was born June 9th, 1860; and Samuel A., who was born April 2d, 1862.

April 15th, 1869. Mr. Brinkerhoff was again married to Margaret, daughter of Simeon and Alsie [Westfall] Swartwout, of Owasco, who was born December 22d, 1832. Mrs. Brinkerhoff's parents were among the early settlers of Owasco. Mr. Brinkerhoff, by his second wife, has two children, Mortimer S., born May 11th, 1870, and Charles D., born August 10th, 1873.

In politics, Mr. Brinkerhoff is a Democrat, and has been honored by his party with the offices of assessor and town clerk, and the nomination for supervisor, but owing to the strength of the Republican party in the town it is impossible to elect a Democrat to that office. Though not a member of any church he is an attendant at the Reformed Church in Owasco village.

In the autumn of life, now that the struggles and trials of life have been measurably compassed, he has the satisfaction of reviewing a business career marked by strict integrity and a public service characterized by singular fidelity, ability and uprightness. His too is the consoling reflection that while he has reached a high social eminence he also retains the respect and esteem of his townsmen.

1810, "to stipulate prices of boards, scantling, labor, &c.," as follows: "Large timber for frame of meeting-house, \$4.50 per 100 feet, running measure; siding $\frac{5}{8}$ inch thick, seven shillings per 100 feet of white pine; roof boards, one inch, six shillings per 100 feet of hemlock; floor plank, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick, seven shillings and sixpence per 100 feet of white wood; boards of one inch thick, six shillings per 100 feet, white wood, nine shillings, white pine; plank, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick, seven shillings and sixpence per 100 feet, white wood, eleven shillings, white pine; boards, white pine, two inches thick, sixteen shillings per 100 feet, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, fourteen shillings, and three inches thick, sixteen shillings; all scantling to be seven shillings per 100 feet board measure. The above are the prices of boards, &c., delivered on the ground, for building the meeting-house; and for breaking stone or scoring timber five shillings per day, and board themselves."

At a meeting held January 10th, 1811, Rev. George G. Brinkerhoff was requested "to write to Rev. Mr. Devoe, near Albany, to come and preach the gospel in this congregation as soon as may be convenient," but the invitation was not accepted.

The names of Andrew VanMiddlewart (southwest part of Owasco,) and Wm. Degraff, elders, and James Vantine, deacon, appear in connection with this meeting. At a meeting held April 27th, 1811, attended by James and Jacob Brinkerhoff and Cornelius D. DeWitt, elders, and Samuel Hoornbeck, Abraham Selover, Jr., Isaac Selover and Levi Bodley, deacons, of Owasco, and Wm. Degraff and Peter VanLiew, elders, and James Vantine and John Watson, deacons, of Sand Beach, it was resolved that the united consistories "make a call on Rev. Conrad TenEyck as standing pastor." This call was presented July 20th, 1811, and the compensation offered was \$200 cash and 250 bushels of wheat. The minister was to have two free Sabbaths in one year and the congregation one. Each congregation was to pay half the salary and receive half the ministerial services. An additional \$50 was subsequently added to the call. December 29th, 1830, a call was extended to Rev. Israel Hammond to succeed Conrad Ten Eyck as pastor. His connection was dissolved at his request January 31st, 1839. Hammond was succeeded by

Rev. Wm. Evans, who entered upon his duties as pastor April 20th, 1839. February 29th, 1846, Mr. Evans requested the consistory to unite with him in asking the Classis to dissolve the pastoral relation, to which the consistory assented April 10th, 1846, in a letter expressing the utmost confidence in Mr. Evans and regret at his action. A call was extended to Rev. Jacob C. Dutcher September 18th, 1846, and during his pastorate in 1848 the church was repaired.

A revival in 1849 resulted in the addition of seventeen by profession. September 10th, 1850, Mr. Dutcher, having received a call from a sister Church, asked the consistory to unite with him in requesting the Classis to dissolve the pastoral relation, which they did. He was succeeded by Rev. Henry A. Raymond, who was installed pastor December 17th, 1850. April 18th, 1853, having accepted a call from the Church of Amity, N. Y., he asked the consistory to unite with him in requesting to have the pastoral relation dissolved, which they did, though reluctantly. A call was extended to Rev. Wilson Ingalls, September 30th, 1853, whose services were to commence August 1st, of that year.

Mr. Ingalls having been impelled by impaired health to tender his resignation, it was resolved April 5th, 1864, to apply to the Classis for a dismissal of the pastoral relation. March 27th, 1865, a call was extended to Rev. Alonzo P. Peeke, who closed his labors with this Church in the spring of 1872, and was succeeded in the fall of that year by his brother, George H. Peeke, who remained till the spring of 1876, when he gave place to the present pastor, Rev. Alfred E. Myers, who served as a supply one year, from March, 1877, and was installed pastor in May, 1878.

The present membership of the Church is about 180. The Sabbath-school has improved under the efforts of the present pastor, and a good degree of interest is manifested in Sabbath-school work.

In referring to a revival enjoyed by this Church in 1816 and '17, Rev. James H. Hotchkin, in his *History of Western New York*, says, "In Owasco, it is stated, that, as the fruits of a most glorious work of divine grace, about 300 persons were added to the Church, of whom 103 joined it in one day."

A difference of opinion existed in this church

on the doctrine of predestination, and gave rise to a division and the organization in 1821 of a new Society, composed of about seventy members, known as the *True Reformed Dutch Church of Owasco*, the new Society adhering to, and the old one rejecting, that doctrine. Rev. A. McNeil was their first pastor, and was succeeded in 1838 by Rev. Wm. Johnson, who was relieved in 1863 or '4, on his own application, by an act of the Classis of Union, from the charge of serving this congregation for the want of "*adequate support.*" After Mr. Johnson's dismissal the pulpit remained vacant, and the congregation was destitute of the stated preaching of the gospel and the ordinances of the church.

At a meeting held at the church September 1st, 1866, to take into consideration the property and other matters of interest belonging to the members and others interested in the church edifice and appurtenances, of which George H. Brinkerhoff was chairman and S. M. P. Morgan secretary, it was decided to sell the church lot and meeting-house and appendages, and George H. Brinkerhoff, Cornelius D. DeWitt and David Tompkins were constituted a committee to take the preliminary proceedings to carry this into effect.

The petition to the Legislature for authority to sell the property, dated November 27th, 1866, was signed by George H. Brinkerhoff, Hugh McDowell, David Tompkins, G. M. Brokaw, Andrew Vanderbetts, Wm. VanDuyne, Seth P. Morgan and Cornelius D. DeWitt. March 28th, 1867, the Legislature appointed said committee trustees and authorized them to sell and convey the real estate and church property and to execute a deed therefor. The property as inventoried amounted to \$1,291.50. The church and lot was sold to the Methodist Episcopal church of Owasco in 1867, for about \$1,200; and \$75 were realized from the other property. The church edifice was erected in 1829.

THE M. E. CHURCH OF OWASCO was organized in 1848, in which year their first house of worship, a portion of which is now occupied as a dwelling by David Sarr, was erected, on ground donated for the purpose by Dr. Abel Baker, through whose efforts mainly the organization was perfected and the church built. Over \$800 were raised with which to build. Prior to the organization meetings were held in the

school-house, Daniel Cobb, — Redington and Spencer Rice being the officiating clergymen. The first trustees were Thomas Roberts, James H. Gifford, Samuel B. Noyes, Nicholas Brokaw, James A. Brinkerhoff, Wm. D. Hilliard and Abel Baker, the first an elder and the second an exhorter. W. W. White was the preacher in charge of the Owasco circuit at the time of the organization. The present church edifice was purchased in 1867, of the trustees of the *True Reformed Dutch Church of Owasco*, by whom it was built in 1829. The present church membership is about 100. They have a large and flourishing Sabbath school.

The pastors following Mr. White have been, as nearly as we have been able to ascertain them from the present members, James Fisk, — Hamilton, — Hall, Denton Mills, James Crawford, — Sheldon, — Hinman, James Godsell, Elias Hoxie, James B. Benham, — Wier, Henry Meeker, Horatio Yates, Wm. Adams, — Marsh, the latter as a supply six months, and D. C. Dutcher, the present pastor, who commenced his labors with this church in the fall of 1877.

THE OWASCO BAPTIST CHURCH, located at Steners or Baptist Corners, three miles directly north of Owasco village, was organized sometime in 1810, with twenty-six members. Their first pastor was the venerable Elkanah Comstock, who, it appears, served them wholly till sometime in 1813, when he received an invitation from the church in Onondaga to serve them a part of the time, to which the church agreed. In 1815, a consultation is recorded to engage Elder Comstock to preach the ensuing year. January 16th, 1816, the church voted to request Elder S. Smith to preach for them in the absence of Elder Comstock, who was going on a missionary tour. From the church book it appears that Elder Comstock served the church as clerk, from 1812 to '20. In the fall of 1821, the church dissolved Elder Comstock's pastoral relation, but voted to supply his necessities while he remained among them and preached to them as often as was convenient. He remained with the church till 1824, at which time, by his request, he and his wife were granted letters of dismission.

Whether the church was destitute of a pastor from the time Elder Comstock's connection with them was dissolved to 1826, does not appear, but



[Photo by Ernsberger & Ray.]

MRS. MARY FRYE.

MOSES MCKINSTER FRYE.

MOSES MCKINSTER FRYE, son of Jesse and Betsey [Noyes] Frye, was born in Bath, Grafton County, N. H., September 26th, 1804. His father was born in Concord, N. H., and his mother, in the town of Bow, Merrimac County, N. H.

Jesse Frye was a cloth dresser by trade and was engaged in that business about twelve years in Bath, where he located in 1796. In 1808 he formed a copartnership with two others, John Haddock and — Chapman, and the firm did a large and lucrative business in the last named place in general merchandising and buying and selling horses and cattle. They were also very largely engaged in the manufacture and sale of lumber. But misfortune overtook them and the accumulated profits of some three years were swept away. Mr. Frye was thus constrained to try his fortunes in what was then considered the far west, and in 1811 he removed to Buffalo, N. Y., where he remained about a year, but did not engage in business there. From Buffalo, in 1812, he went to the town of Willink, Niagara County, now Concord, Erie County, where he resided, engaged in farming, until his death, which occurred March 27th, 1849.

In New Hampshire and the towns in which he spent the latter years of his life Mr. Frye was universally respected and honored for his uprightness of character and sterling worth as a man and citizen: He was called upon to fill various public positions of trust and responsibility during his life, and performed the duties thus devolved upon him with that integrity which characterized his entire career.

There were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Frye seven children, six of whom reached maturity. Eunice died in infancy; Enoch Noyes was born March 30th, 1800; James Sanders was born June 10th, 1802, and died July 12th, 1875. Moses McKinster is the subject of this sketch; Betsey was born December 6th, 1806, and died ———; Sarah was born January 6th, 1809, and died July 13th, 1878; Jesse was born January 14th, 1818.

Moses M., who was only eight years old when his parents settled in the town of Willink, enjoyed but few advantages for acquiring an education. He attended school but a short time after arriving at the age of ten years, as his services were needed and employed thus early in life to assist in clearing off the heavy forest, which covered the land that had been selected for their future home, and in bringing the farm under cultivation. On arriving at maturity he took the sole charge of the farm and managed it till 1844, about which time

he purchased his present farm and residence in the town of Owasco, upon which he settled in the winter of 1845. His original purchase was 147½ acres. He has since added 65 acres.

Inured in early life to the necessity of economy Mr. Frye, by judicious management combined with excellent business abilities, has acquired a competency which places him beyond the apprehension of want. He owns one of the finest and most valuable farms in the town of Owasco.

Mr. Frye's political affiliations were with the Whigs until the formation of the Republican party, since which time he has been an earnest supporter of the principles of the latter and always zealous in his efforts to promote its interests. He has been assessor and highway commissioner of his town, though he was never an aspirant for public honors and trusts.

Mr. Frye's life admirably illustrates the benefits arising from intelligent industry, frugality and strict integrity, and both suggests and is an earnest of the possibilities within the reach of one governed by such impulses. His career is worthy of emulation by the young men of to-day. He fought life's battles with a willing, courageous heart and resolute purpose and now enjoys the fruits of his labors.

December 31st, 1829, Mr. Frye was united in marriage with Mary, daughter of David and Eva [Strail] Beverly, natives of the town of Florida, Montgomery County. Her parents were farmers and moved to the town of Collins, Erie County, N. Y., in 1818. Her father died in 1834, and her mother about 1854. They had five children, viz.: John, Thomas, David, Margaret and Mary, the latter of whom was born January 7th, 1805. John and Mary are the only members of this family now living.

Mr. Frye's efforts in life have been ably seconded by those of his estimable wife, a fact to which he refers with pride and satisfaction. Mrs. Frye is a kind and loving companion and devoted mother. In religion their faith is grounded in the creed of the Universalists.

Mr. and Mrs. Frye have been blessed with six children, three sons and three daughters, viz.: Antoinette, born May 19th, 1835; Luciaette, born October 15th, 1837; Moses M., now a practicing physician in Auburn, N. Y., born February 21st, 1841; David B., who, when last heard from, was mate of a vessel bound for China, born February 23d, 1843; Jesse, now residing in California, born July 8th, 1845; and Mary L., born January 10th, 1851.

the first record of any other engagement is under date of January 21st, 1826, when an effort was made to raise funds to secure the services of Calvin Bateman for the winter.

In 1827 a request was made to the association to look into their affairs; and December 6th, 1828, by the advice of the committee appointed for this purpose, they were constituted a branch church of the church in Marcellus, with which, in that month, they united in a call to Elder Jesse B. Worden, one of their members, to preach to them once in two months, for one year.

February 9th, 1829, a meeting was held for the purpose of taking steps to build a meeting-house, which was erected that year at a cost of \$1,350.

Brother Thomas Bodley supplied the pulpit in 1830, and continued till November of that year, at which time Elder C. P. Wyckoff's name appears for the first time as moderator of the meeting. At that meeting it was decided to ask the advice of the brethren in Marcellus relative to employing Elder Wyckoff, and the formation of this as a separate church. In accordance with this advice a council was convened at their place of worship, August 17th, 1831, and the Owasco Baptist Church was fellowshipped as a distinct church, with sixty-eight members, eighteen males and fifty females. Elder Blair preached the sermon, Elder Worden gave the hand of fellowship, and Elder Jeffries gave the charge to the church. In the fall of the same year, the church joined the association. Elder Wyckoff seems to have served the church till 1838, when, owing to failing health, his labors closed, and S. M. Plumb was employed for six months, commencing June 8th, 1838.

In May, 1841, Philip Lyon was employed and a council called to ordain him the following June. Elder Lyon served the church three years, and upon his removal Elder Wyckoff resumed the pastoral charge and continued to preach to them till November, 1844, "at which time," says Elder Wyckoff, "matters appeared so gloomy the church resolved to disband and unite with other churches. Some of the members yielded with great reluctance to this and continued to meet on Lord's days until January, 1845, when, upon consultation, it was resolved to rescind our vote of abandonment, and in the fear of God, resume our travel as a church. Thirty-four members, at different times, gave in their names. From Janu-

ary, 1845, the church enjoyed the labors of Elder Wyckoff solely, except at intervals, when the Lord sent among us occasional preachers, until April, 1848, when Elder Eddy Mason and wife united by letter, with the double view of obtaining a home and to do the little body good as the Lord should enable. Since the union of brother Mason with the church, the labor of preaching has been divided between him and Elder Wyckoff, as circumstances and duty seemed to dictate. Neither of the Elders have been invested with the pastorate, which was resigned by Elder Wyckoff in 1841, and as there was no tiara pending, nor rich benefice in question, there has been no unhallowed strife for preëminence."

In 1850, a revival was experienced, which resulted in the addition of twenty-five to their number. Elder Wyckoff soon after closed his labors with the church and removed to Weedsport. He was succeeded, after a short interval, by Elder E. Dean, as a supply, and Elders Atwater, Bennett, Maynard, Reynolds, Dimond, Warren and A. J. Lyon, the latter of whom is the present pastor. The present number of members is sixty-nine.

MANUFACTURES.—*Messrs. G. & W. Bench*, proprietors of the wagon shop and saw and cider-mill at the upper (State) dam on the Owasco Outlet, commenced business in 1874, in which year they bought the site they occupy of D. M. Osborne, of Auburn, and erected their buildings, the old wheelbarrow factory which formerly occupied the site, and was latterly used as a saw and cider-mill, having been destroyed by fire in the fall of 1873. They have an invested capital of about \$18,000, give employment to six persons, and make about 1,200 barrels of cider per annum. Their works are operated by water drawn from the State dam, which has a fall of twelve feet.

The wool picker connected with the Auburn Woolen Co.'s Mills is located in close proximity to these works. It gives employment to one man, and draws water from the same dam.

A little north of Owasco village is a grist and saw-mill and a tile yard. The former are owned by Hamilton Perkins, and were built by him in 1852, on the site of those burned the same year, and bought by him in November, 1850, of the heirs of Ezra Cuykendall; the latter is owned by Day W. Shaver, who bought the property of Ham-

ilton Perkins in the spring of 1875, and employs two persons.

Owasco was the home of the late Enos T. Throop, who spent the latter years of his life in his beautiful retreat on Willow Brook at the foot of the Owasco, and busied himself in agricultural and horticultural pursuits and in entertaining with his accustomed hospitality the numerous friends, who delighted to honor him for his personal worth and past public services.

CHAPTER XLV.

TOWN OF LEDYARD.

LEDYARD was formed from Scipio January 30th, 1823, and derives its name from Gen. Benjamin Ledyard, an early settler in the town, and agent and clerk for the apportionment of lands in the Military Tract. It lies upon the east shore of Cayuga Lake, which forms its western boundary, south of the center of the County. Its length from north to south is ten miles, and its mean width, about five miles. It is bounded on the north by Springport, from which it is separated about five-sixths of the distance by Great Gully Brook, on the east by Scipio and Venice, and on the south by Genoa.

The surface is beautifully diversified, its landscapes, however, presenting less of the grand and sublime in nature than of its quiet beauty. It inclines towards the lake, from which it slopes upward, generally by gentle, but occasionally by steep gradations, until it attains an elevation a little east of the east border of 500 to 600 feet above its level. It is difficult to conceive of more charming prospects than are disclosed by the successive approaches to this summit ridge. The streams are small and rapid, the principal ones being Great Gully, on the north border, and Paines Creek in the south, flowing through a deep, narrow ravine worn in the shale rock.

It has a limestone soil of excellent quality. Limestone exists in boulders upon, and in a fine layer near the surface, but is nowhere quarried in the town. Clay predominates along the lake, extending back from it about a hundred rods, and over-lying a slate ledge, which terminates with

more or less abruptness upon the shore. At the railroad cutting a little south of Levanna, is a bold slate bluff, about fifty feet at its highest elevation above the lake. In the interior the soil is an exceedingly fertile sandy loam, with considerable alluvion along the streams.

The Cayuga Lake Shore R. R. extends through the west border in close proximity to the lake.

The population of this town in 1875 was 2,253; of whom 1,857 were native, 396 foreign, 2,165 white, and 88 colored. Its area was 20,889 acres; of which 18,342 were improved, 2,544 woodland, and only 3 otherwise unimproved.

Much interest naturally centers in this town, from the fact that within its borders the first settlements in the County were made. The events immediately preceding and in some measure preparing the way for the settlement of this country are matters of historical record, but their intimate connection with the subject in hand seems to warrant a brief review of them.

Until 1789, this broad domain which now gives so many evidences of a highly cultured and refined civilization was the favorite hunting and fishing ground of the Cayugas, who were a nation proverbially noted for their fondness for and proficiency in the chase and aquatic sports; for although, according to common usage, they, as conquered allies of the British forces during the Revolution, had forfeited their territorial rights, they still pressed claims which both the State and Federal government generously recognized and respected by subsequent treaties. By a treaty held at Fort Stanwix (Rome,) October 22d, 1784, the Iroquois ceded to the Federal Government a large portion of the land in Western New York; and by a treaty concluded February 23d, 1789 at Isaac Denniston's tavern, Albany, which was known in Colonial days as the *King's Arms*, and stood on the north-west corner of Green and Norton streets, the Cayugas ceded to the State of New York *all their lands*, except 100 square miles, lying on both sides of Cayuga Lake, and extending from Aurora to Montezuma. They also reserved the right to hunt and fish in any part of the ceded territory. They also secured special grants to three persons, two white men and one Indian, one of 15,680 acres to Peter Ryckman, an Albany Dutchman, who had won their affection, and for whom they expressed their regard in the following quaint and simple language:

"We have felt concerned about the dish to be given him. We had long ago agreed that he should have a dish in our country, as we all expect to put our spoons in it when we're hungry. We wish this dish should be placed for our convenience on the east side of the Outlet of Canandaigua (Seneca) Lake, from thence he can cast his eyes down to Skayes (Waterloo,) the extreme of the lands reserved to us. We have not given the dimensions of that dish. We thought we would leave that to you—you can extend your arms far. It was always our wish that his dish should be large."

They ask a reservation of 320 acres to a white man, who married the daughter of *Thaneowas* and one of a mile square, to Fish Carner.

For the territory thus ceded the State paid \$500 in silver, and agreed to pay the first of the following June, at Fort Stanwix, \$1,625, and annually thereafter forever, at the same place, \$500. This treaty was signed on the part of the State by George Clinton, the Governor, and his associate commissioners; and on the part of the Cayugas, by *Kanistagia*, (Steel Trap,) their chief, who signed for himself and sixteen others, for four of whom he acted as deputy, and by ten others, who appear by their own signatures or mark.

The Cayugas evinced their strong attachment for their lands upon the east shore of Cayuga Lake, by excluding, on the farther cession of their reservation in 1794, a tract two miles square, lying upon the lake a little south of Union Springs, and another tract, a mile square, lying three or four miles north-east of that village. They did not finally relinquish their claims to these lands until 1799, when they sold to the State the last vestige of their once vast possessions, and turned regretfully away from the homes so sacred and dear to them.

September 16th, 1776, Congress passed an act to provide bounty lands for the soldiers of the Continental army during the war of the Revolution, stipulating that each non-commissioned officer and private should receive 100 acres, and each commissioned officer a proportionately increased quantity, corresponding with the grade of his rank. March 20th, 1781, the State Legislature made provision for the enlistment of two regiments, and offered as an inducement to promote enlistments bounties of land. July 25th, 1782, certain lands were set apart for the payment of these bounties. March 27th, 1783, after the close of the war, the State Legis-

lature made provision for the redemption of these promises, and enacted that each non-commissioned officer and private, whose residence was in the State at the time of his enlistment, should receive 500 acres of land in addition to the 100 acres offered by the general government, and each commissioned officer a proportionately increased quantity, corresponding with the grade of his rank, that which had been promised being designated as *bounty*, and that which had not, as *gratuity*, lands. The original acts granting these lands were subsequently modified and amended from time to time. February 28th, 1789, the Commissioners of the Land Office were authorized to direct the Surveyor-General to lay out as many townships, of 60,000 acres each, as was necessary to satisfy the claims arising under these acts; and April 22d, 1789, the Surveyor-General, Simeon DeWitt, was directed to lay out by actual survey, twenty-five townships.

"The surveys," says the gentlemanly and scholarly Mr. Bogart, of Aurora, in a paper prepared for the *Cayuga County Historical Society*, in June, 1878, "were a labor of science in the forest country. I judge that we see the exact lines of the work in the course of the fences which mark the farms visible to us on the western shore of the lake. It had its dangers. The Indians were believed to be plotting against the corps of surveyors who were by these levels and chains subjugating the wild woods to the white man, and the professional men wrote to Geo. Clinton, the Governor, in an interesting letter of the date of September 3d, 1789, that they thought of ultimate retreat to the one beautiful island which fronts the village of Union Springs. It would have been a stirring chapter in history to have seen what manner of fortress for defense the men of the compass would have created there to make stand until the soldier governor, who was at home in affairs of war, should come to their rescue. But the destiny of the Indian was to recede; not to advance, and the lots were duly chained, meted and bounded."

The survey was completed, and July 3d, 1790, was presented to the Commissioners of the Land Office, consisting of the Governor, Geo. Clinton; the Lieutenant-Governor, Pierre VanCortlandt; the Speaker of the Assembly, Gulian Verplanck; the Secretary of State, Lewis Allaire Scott; the Attorney-General, Aaron Burr; the Treasurer, Gerardus Bancker; and the Auditor, Peter T. Curtenius, who numbered and named the lots and townships. The names of the townships were made to perpetuate the names of Rome's

military heroes, that of Scipio being assigned to No. 12, which originally embraced the town of Ledyard.

It is fair to presume that those who had been favored during the war with a view of the beautiful lake country, as were the soldiers who accompanied Sullivan's expedition to the country of the Senecas and Cayugas in the summer of 1779, bridged with prophetic vision the interval which must elapse ere the return of peace should enable them to make this fair land their future home, which many of them did, and that the favorable reports given of it to their associates in arms and their neighbors at home, gave direction to the minds of many who subsequently took up their abode in this wilderness; certain it is that the extinguishment of the Indian title and the subsequent completion of the survey of the Military Tract, was the signal for a vast hegira from the New England States, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the eastern counties of this State to this section of country.

These were the remote agencies which led to the settlement in this locality, but the more immediate one is found in the efforts of the Little Lessee Company, which was organized in 1788, and obtained a perpetual lease from the Indians of all their lands lying between Cayuga and Owasco Lakes, for which they were to pay annually a "measure" of dollars. That or the following year they surveyed the tract,* and raised a little corn and potatoes, which they buried in holes on the site of Aurora, near the late Eleazer Burnham's summer-house, covering them with leaves to conceal them from the Indians. This lease was set aside by the State government.

Early in the spring of 1789,† Captain Roswell Franklin, Elisha Durkee, Ebenezer White and Deacon Joseph Atwell, with their families, came from Wysox, Penn. They began their laborious journey in the month of March, in sleighs. They

*A written statement left by Eleazer Burnham says the tract was surveyed into 250 acre lots in 1788; while a like statement made by Augustus M. Durkee, under date of August 15th, 1845, addressed to Mr. Burnham, and dictated by his mother, the wife of Elisha Durkee, one of the first settlers, states that it was surveyed into 160 acre lots, in the fall of 1789, by Captain Roswell Franklin, Elisha Durkee, Edward Paine and others, members of that company. Both these writings are in the possession of Mr. W. H. Bogart, of Aurora, to whom we are indebted for valuable documents used in the preparation of this work.

† The writing of Mr. Durkee's previously referred to ascribes this

had hills and even mountains to climb and cross, rendered dangerous and almost impassable by precipices, ice, rocks and trees. Some parts of the way they had to wade through torrents of water, holding fast to the sleighs to prevent being swept down the stream. They struggled on their journey in water and out of water, sometimes swamped in mud, at other times tugging through snow. In one instance they traversed a mountain between Wysox and Newtown, (Elmira,) where no team had ever been before, and had to cut their way through the forest by the most unsparing labor, and with the most unflinching resolution.

They reached Newtown after many laborious days of travel. Thence their route lay to the head of Seneca Lake, where they camped several days on account of the prevalence of north-west winds. There they found a boat abandoned by Sullivan's army ten years previously, which they repaired, and as soon as the weather was favorable, having recruited a little from the excessive fatigues and privations they had undergone, they proceeded down the lake, leaving one man to drive the team and a few domestic animals by land from Tioga Point through Ithaca to Aurora. They floated down the blue waters of the Seneca with light and buoyant hearts, and high hopes of a speedy termination of their voyage. But their difficulties were not yet at an end. They found the rapids in the river at Seneca Falls very troublesome, and were in great danger of unshipping all their cargo. It became necessary to lighten the boat, and a portion of the cargo was removed to the shore. None but those necessary to manage the boat ventured a passage of the rapids in it. The remainder proceeded on foot, and by the time they reached the foot of the rapids the boat had been passed safely down and unloaded. The men in charge of the boat returned with it for the remainder of the load, which included nearly all their clothes, beds and

event to the year 1790. A memorial window in the Presbyterian Church at Aurora bears this inscription:

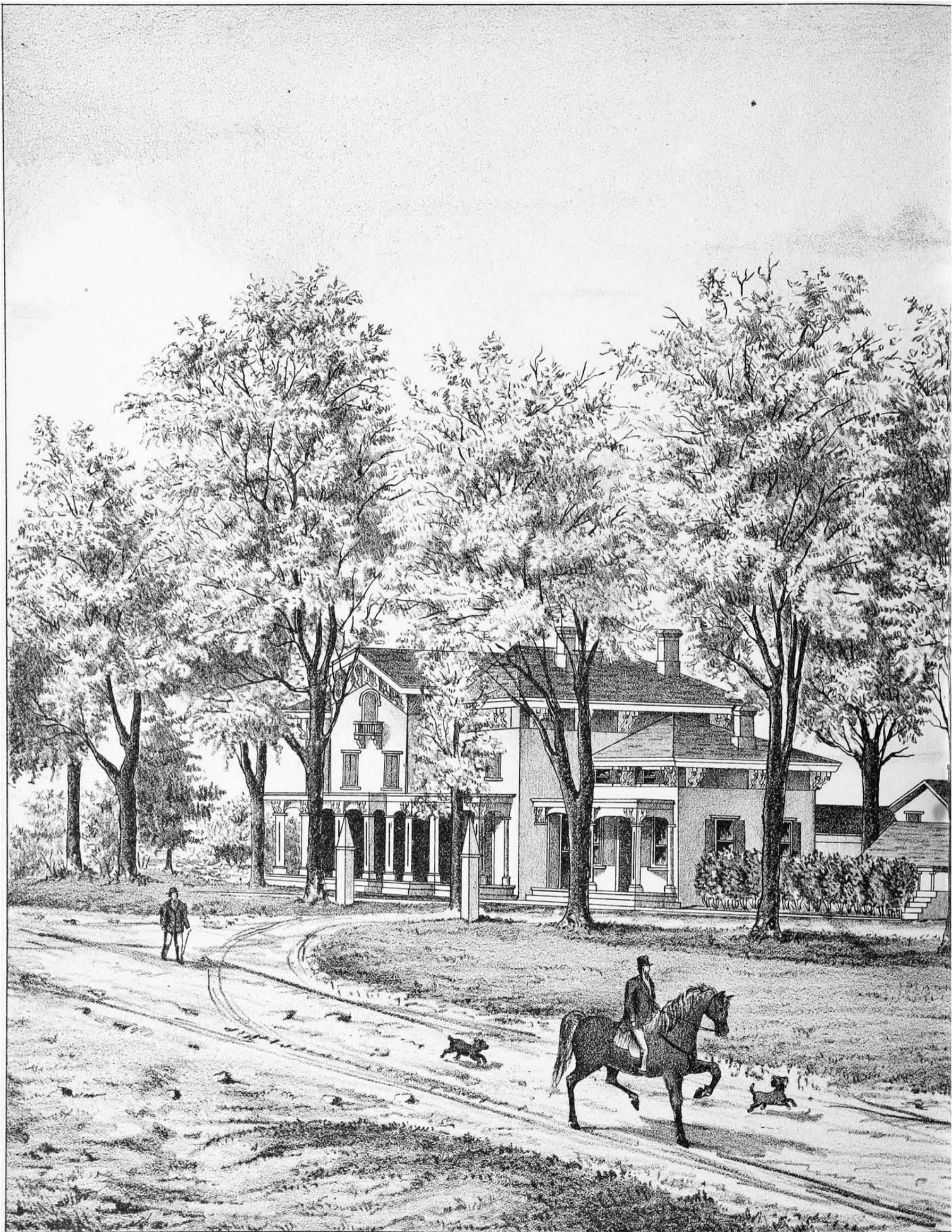
"1789.

"Roswell Franklin.

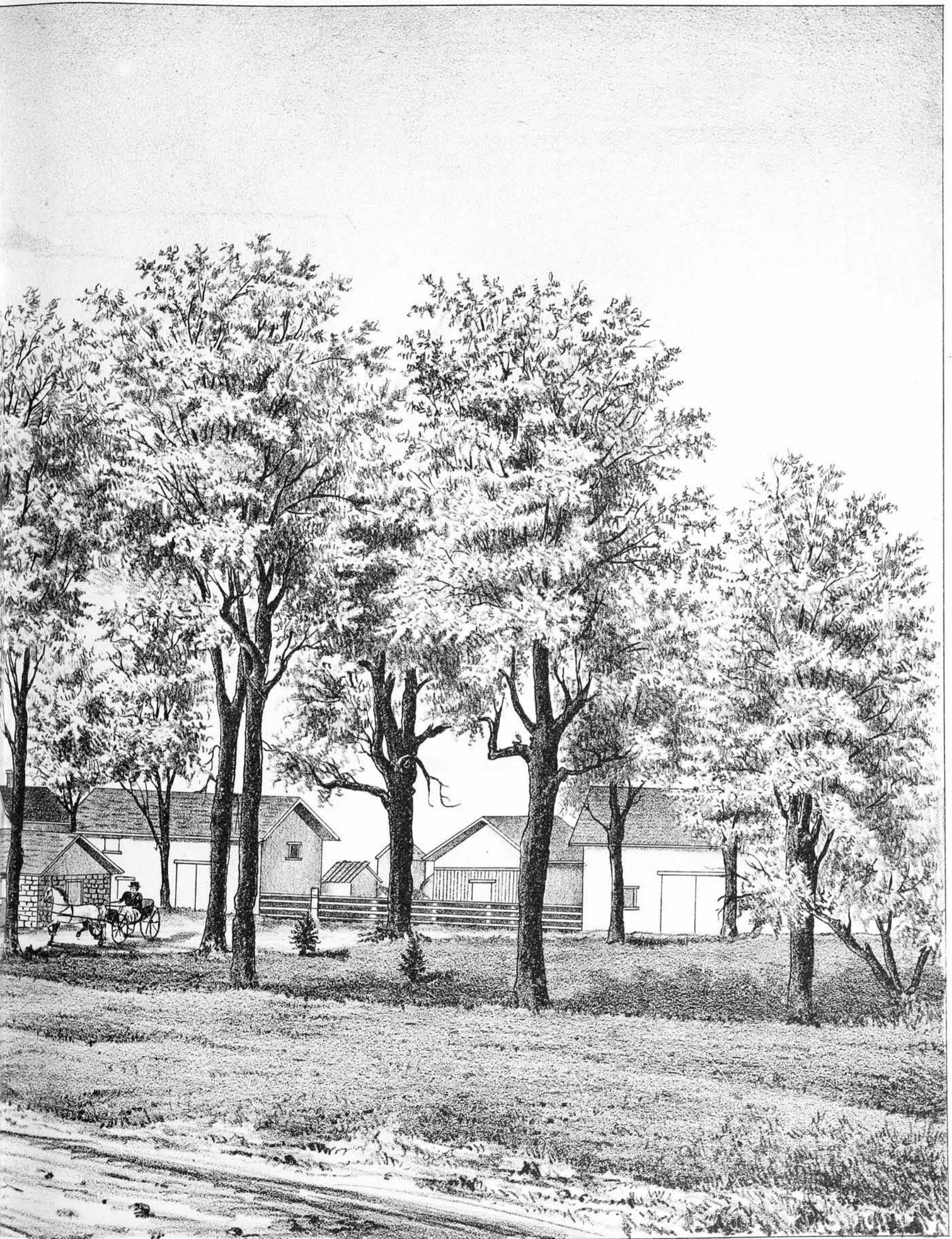
"First Settler in this Village.

"Chosen Elder in this Church 1810."

The Roswell Franklin here referred to, it is proper to state, was a son of Captain Roswell Franklin, the original settler, and came in with his father, who, from his tragic end and brief residence here, is seldom referred to in any connection. We cite the inscription as tending to establish the date.



RESIDENCE OF AUG. HOWLAND. T.



TOWN OF LEDYARD, CAYUGA CO. N.Y.

provisions. They were obliged to wade a part of the time in the cold water and draw the boat against a heavy and powerful current. When they reached the head of the falls night came on and they did not dare to make the descent in the dark.

This unexpected detention occasioned great alarm among the women and children at the foot of the rapids. Having seen the dangers of the falls they were tortured with the fear that the boat with its precious cargo had been dashed among the rocks and that all was lost. Among the women were some who had been married but a few days to some of the men who had ascended the rapids. They wandered up and down the stream with painful anxiety until the falling snow compelled them to huddle together over a spark of fire which remained. There they wept and wrung their hands with anguish till morning, when, to the great joy of all, the boat returned safe and took the little weary company on board. They met with no further impediments until they reached Cayuga Lake, which they found full of ice, through which they had to cut a passage for their boat. The six miles made in this laborious manner occupied several days. One morning they awoke and found to their joy that the ice had all disappeared. Having now a clear sea the voyage was soon ended. They landed on the site of Aurora, at the creek near Richard Morgan's house, and there made a permanent settlement.*

Not a human being, Indian or white man, was then living at Aurora. The Indians, who left at the time of Sullivan's incursion, did not return till after this settlement was made.

The summer of 1789 was one of extraordinary scarcity. Many families in the remote settlements of New York and Pennsylvania lived mostly on greens for a considerable time before harvest. The provisions stored the previous fall were found undisturbed and in good condition, and these formed a seasonable supply of food, which it was hoped would supply their wants until other provisions, consisting of a quantity of grain, a barrel of pork and another of flour, which had been stored at Tioga Point, could be brought up. As soon as temporary dwellings had been constructed Capt. Franklin's son Roswell and the

latter's brother-in-law, William White, returned for the provisions left at Tioga Point; but on arriving there they found the pork and flour had been eaten up or otherwise disposed of, and the grain, together with the mill in which it had been stored, burned.

In this extremity the young men bethought them of a small quantity of rye which had been left on the removal of the family at Wysox. This they procured, thrashed, had ground and brought back to the little colony at Aurora, which, during their absence of five weeks, had been destitute of bread and had subsisted chiefly on the milk of their cows, with the rare addition sometimes, of a few ground nuts, which they roasted and found very palatable and wholesome. Besides the inconvenience of being pinched for bread, they had to pass the summer in little cramped bits of shanties constructed of bark and boughs. In the fall, however, they were able to erect more comfortable log houses. The log house erected by Roswell Franklin that fall is said to have been the first house raised by a white man west of Rome, and every white man within a radius of fifty miles is said to have been present at the raising. They were sixteen in number. It was sixteen feet square, and stood on lot 145, on the south-west corner of the East Cayuga Reservation, on the place now owned by Col. Edwin B. Morgan, and occupied by his son Henry A. Morgan. The foundation of this old cabin is still visible, and it is the purpose of Mr. E. B. Morgan to erect an appropriate monument upon the site.

Captain Franklin was a man of more than ordinary ability, and seems to have been the inspiring genius to the little colony which settled at Aurora. His eventful life and tragic death would make an exceedingly interesting chapter, but the scope of this work does not admit of more than a brief reference thereto. Mr. Franklin enlisted in the English army a few years previous to the war of the Revolution, and went with a detachment of it to the West Indies. He was shipwrecked on the voyage and cast upon a desolate island, where for fourteen days he suffered intolerably from heat and thirst. He was present at the siege of Havana, Cuba, in 1762. Soon after the surrender of that city he returned to his native place, Woodbury, Connecticut, where he married, and after eight years removed to the

* One authority consulted states that they arrived at their destination early in April; another, the first of June. The former seems most probable.

Susquehanna and took up land in Pennsylvania, under a presumed title from Connecticut, to which he removed his family in 1770. He was involved in the Pennamite war growing out of conflicting claims of Connecticut and Pennsylvania to the lands leased by the Indians to the company of which Franklin was a member. He was taken prisoner and confined in Easton jail with others, while on his way to Connecticut in the spring of 1770, to bring in his family, and was the leader in effecting their escape; but he alone of the party escaped recapture. He removed his family to his new home in the fall. He took part in the sanguinary battle of Wyoming, July 3d, 1778. His son Joseph was subsequently killed by the Indians, who lurked around his home for weeks and months, seeking an opportunity to destroy the family. His son, Roswell, and nephew, Arnold Franklin, were captured by the Indians and carried to Fort Niagara. They were exchanged some months after and returned home to learn that on the 8th of April, 1781, Franklin's wife, two daughters, Olive and Susannah, the former aged thirteen and the latter eleven, and two sons, Stephen and Ichabod, the former aged four years and the latter eighteen months, had been captured by the Indians, who killed his wife and carried the infant into captivity. The other children were rescued by a pursuing party.

After the close of the Revolutionary war the Pennamite war was renewed, and Franklin, worn out with these contentions, resolved to leave the beautiful valley of the Wyoming, for whose brief occupation he had paid so dearly. He removed to Chokenet, up the Susquehanna, 140 miles above Wilkesbarre, not far from Chenango Point. He proceeded thither with his adopted son, Arnold Franklin, and two other men, and immediately returned to bring on by boat provisions necessary to sustain them during the winter. But the early close of the river by frost and the deep snow prevented the accomplishment of that purpose, and also prevented the escape of the three from their perilous situation, for they had no food and no means of procuring it. Their three yoke of oxen, on one of which they expected to subsist through the winter, broke through the ice and were carried down the river. In their extremity one of their three horses was killed and sustained life during the winter of

1784-'5. They escaped from their imprisonment in early spring nearly famished and exhausted. The drowning of his team and the sweeping away of his provisions by the ice freshet of the spring of 1785, compelled him to abandon the projected settlement at Chokenet. He, however, with three other families, commenced a settlement a year or two afterwards at Wysox, about sixty miles up the river, whence he came to Aurora.

The measure of his calamities and misfortunes was yet unfilled. He unwittingly encroached upon the reservation, and when the Military Tract was surveyed, his house and half his improvements were found to be within its limits. Having overcome the extreme rigors incident to their first settlement here, they were beginning to realize bountiful harvests from their lands, and the benefits of a friendly intercourse with the Indians, who returned in the fall succeeding their settlement, and some of whom brought them fish and game in exchange for such articles as they could spare. The forest supplied them abundantly with berries, and the fruit trees, which escaped the destroying hand of Sullivan's army, with Indian plums, peaches and apples. Peace and prosperity invited and rewarded their industry. Thirteen or fourteen other families had either purposely or unwittingly squatted upon the reservation, and on complaint of the Indians Governor Clinton issued a proclamation directing them to withdraw therefrom. They disregarded the injunction, and in the fall of 1791 Clinton sent the sheriff with a posse of men to eject them. The work was entrusted to Colonel William Colbraith, high sheriff of Herkimer county, which then embraced Cayuga County. It was done thoroughly. Every house, except one, to the number of thirteen, was burned, and the families thrown upon the charity of their friends; but, as they made no resistance, they were permitted to take off their movable property. Captain Franklin's house being near the line, he prevailed upon the sheriff to allow him to remain until spring, and see if he could not satisfy the Indians.

Elisha Durkee was one of those ejected from the reservation. He settled first "on the west bank of the second brook that crosses the highway east of Levanna, a short distance north of the road," and remained there till the next Octo-

ber, when he removed to the place afterwards known as the Sloat farm, south of Levanna, by the rivulet, not far from the lake shore, where he remained till driven off by the sheriff. He subsequently removed to the present town of Scipio, where he died at an early day.

Ebenezer White settled in Ledyard; and the Messrs. Atwell, of whom there were three, Joseph, Levi and Hulbert, removed at an early day to the western part of the State.

Captain Franklin naturally was very desirous of securing a title to the lot (No. 34,) joining the reservation, on which a portion of his improvements had been made, but unfortunately he did not have the money with which to buy it. It would seem that he had rested secure in the supposition that the lease obtained from the Indians constituted a valid title. On the apportionment of the Military Tract, lot 34, on which Aurora stands, fell to the share of Peter VanBenscoten, of Fishkill, Dutchess county, who was a lieutenant in the Fourth New York Regiment, during the war of the Revolution, for, curious enough, though only two regiments were raised, officers for five were commissioned. Lieut. VanBenscoten held the title until March 14th, 1794, when Seth Phelps bought it in the joint interest of himself and John Walworth, his brother-in-law, both of whom moved in from Groton, Connecticut, the former in 1791, and the latter about 1795. The price paid was 240£, not quite \$600, and the money was furnished by Mr. Walworth at Mr. Phelps' request. Mr. Phelps came in as an insolvent merchant and was the recipient of much kindness from Captain Franklin, who generously opened his house to his family, and supplied him, in his poverty, with a team and utensils. Capt. Franklin, therefore, whether justly or not, viewed the purchase of that lot by Mr. Phelps as an act of ingratitude, and being old and infirm, "met this great misfortune as the climax to a life of sorrow, and believed himself forsaken by God and man. He sank into a forlorn and pitiable frame of mind, and although closely watched by his friends, shot himself near his dwelling. He had previously attempted to hang himself by fastening a rope to a limb of a tree, and leaping from a bluff. In the last fatal attempt, he placed the muzzle of his gun to his ear, and discharged it by means of a stick."

This sad event occurred two or three weeks

after Mr. Phelps return from the east, whither he had been to negotiate the purchase of the lot in question. Whatever the effect this act had upon the mind of Mr. Franklin, there is every reason to believe Mr. Phelps entirely guiltless of the ignoble motive imputed to him. He gave Mr. Franklin's widow a deed of two acres adjoining the reservation, including a portion of the improvements made by her husband. Mr. Franklin had married again before coming to the lake country.

The death of Capt. Franklin was a crushing blow to his family. But his son Roswell, who was twenty-one when he came to the lake country, and upon whom the chief burden of the care of the family devolved, was strong, accustomed to hardships, and able to endure them. Stephen, his brother, who was several years younger, had been crippled in his arms by the small-pox, and could not perform heavy manual labor. Roswell hired of the Indians that part of his father's clearing lying on the reservation, and by dint of persevering industry was enabled to support the family. After the Indians surrendered this portion of their lands to the State, the Legislature granted to those who had been on the grounds several years the right to buy at the average price of new lands, in preference to new comers. This was called the præemption right, and Roswell availed himself of its benefits. In 1813, he removed to Genoa and bought of Ephraim Buel the lands sold to him by Jabez Bradley.

In the division of lot 34, the north half fell to Phelps and the south half to Walworth. It was "divided by an east and west line running through the garden of Nancy Morgan, between her house and the Masonic hall." Phelps took up a farm where Benjamin Gould lives. The year that Phelps settled here (1791) the county of Herkimer was formed from Montgomery county, and the first town meeting of the town of Peru, one of the towns in the former county, and embracing the western half of the military tract, was directed by law to be held at his house, then in the township of Scipio. On the erection of Onondaga county, in 1794, Seth Phelps, though not a lawyer, was appointed *First Judge* of that county (March 14th,) and held the office till the erection of Cayuga County in 1799, when (March 14th,) he was appointed to the same office for the latter county, which he held until February

26th, 1810, when he was succeeded by Walter Wood. He represented the Western District in the State Senate from 1798 to 1801 and from 1810-'13, and was frequently chosen to honorable and respectable positions in the gift of the people. He served as a captain in the Revolutionary war. He removed to Painesville, Ohio, about 1819, and died at Parkman, Ohio, in February, 1823, in his 78th year. None of his children are living. Jno. Walworth removed in 1800 to Painesville, Ohio, and a few years after to Cleveland, where his daughter, Mrs. Hannah Strickland, now lives. One son, John P., is living in Natchez, Miss. Edward Paine, who had previously been to the country and assisted in the survey for the Little Lessee Company, moved here in the fall of 1790, and settled a little south of Aurora, at the mouth of the creek which bears his name. He removed to Painesville, Ohio, in 1800.

In 1790, Gilbert, Jonathan, Thurston and Perez Brownell came from Little Compton, R. I., and commenced work on the reservation, from which they were driven by the sheriff. They then built a cabin near R. N. Atwater's residence, one and one-half miles north of the south line of the town. Perez brought his family in the spring of 1791, and Jonathan, his wife, in 1792. All, except Jonathan, soon after removed to lot 23 in Milton, (Genoa) which their father, Pardon Brownell, had previously bought. He gave to each of the three, Gilbert, Thurston and Perez, 200 acres on that lot. Jonathan remained in Ledyard till his death. He was a good farmer, a fine, substantial man, and an excellent citizen. Two of his daughters are living, Mary B., wife of Charles C. Young, in Brooklyn, and the widow of James Avery, in Ledyard. Thomas Manchester came from West Port, R. I., in May, 1790, and lived with or near Jonathan Brownell till 1802, when he removed to the farm bought in 1798, of Thorne Milliken, now owned by E. P. Shaw, and located in the north-east corner of lot 14 in Genoa. He was a kindly man, but intemperate, and died poor. It is said that, becoming tired of home-made flour—by the mortar and pestle process—he took a small grist by boat around Seneca Lake to a mill owned by the Jemima Wilkin-son community, in Yates county, and was gone six weeks. That was then the nearest mill.

Jonathan Richmond, who was born at Westport, Mass., July 31st, 1774, arrived here from

Dartmouth, Mass., May 15th, 1792, and lived first with his son-in-law, Jonathan Brownell. He was appointed sheriff of Cayuga county, February 24th, 1808, and held the office till February 11th, 1812. He was once U. S. collector of customs, and represented the Twentieth District in Congress in 1819-'20. He died at Aurora July 29th, 1853.

Charles Kendall came in 1792, at the age of twenty-four, and settled north-west of Ledyard, on the east line, on one hundred acres bought that fall of Gen. Van Rensselaer, of Albany, at one dollar per acre. The next year a man came from Washington county and cleared the land. Feeling uneasy lest his title should prove defective, Kendall proceeded to Albany to consult Van Rensselaer, who assured him that his title was good. He returned and lived on the tract nine years, when, having cleared sixty acres, he sold it for twelve dollars per acre. The second year after settling here Kendall drove in a yoke of oxen and a cow from Vermont, following the line of lots or Indian trails from Hardenbergh's Corners, (Auburn.) He lost the trail between that place and Aurora, and unexpectedly came upon an Indian clearing in which corn and vines were growing. Two fierce dogs immediately attacked the cattle, chasing them through the clearing. A squaw appearing in sight he requested her to call the dogs off, and was horrified soon after by seeing two athletic Indians approaching, whooping, hallooing and brandishing large knives. They, however, did him no harm, but directed him toward the lake, from which he was not far distant. Mr. Kendall said that the soldier belonging to the detachment of Sullivan's army which devastated the Indian settlements in this section of country, and who died in this locality, was buried on lands afterwards owned by Hezekiah Avery, on lot 55, a few rods east of Ledyard. Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, said Kendall, sold to one Samuel Clark, one hundred acres on the site of Ledyard, at six shillings per acre, and gave him one hundred acres for settling it. This was the land afterwards owned by Benjamin Avery, who came from Connecticut in 1795, and settled on the site of the house next north of the church at Ledyard. He died there January 27th, 1816, and was succeeded on the place by his son Benjamin, who was born November 25th, 1776, and died there January 31st, 1866, aged ninety.

Daniel and Hezekiah Avery, with their families, and several other of their family connections, came in at the same time as Benjamin from the same place.* Daniel first came in 1793,† and settled at the mouth of Paine's Creek, on the farm now owned by Mr. Delafield. He subsequently removed to Aurora. He represented the Fourteenth District in Congress in 1811-'13, and the Twentieth District in 1813-'15, and 1816-'17, being elected in the latter case to fill a vacancy. He was born at Groton, Connecticut, September 18th, 1766, and died at Aurora, January 30th, 1842. Lydia, his wife, was born April 4th, 1773, and died September 14th, 1797. His father, Daniel, also a native of Groton, fell in defense of his country at Fort Griswold, September 6th, 1781. His mother, Deborah, died at Aurora, April 11th, 1825, aged 82. Two daughters are living in Aurora, Lydia, widow of Ebenezer White Arms, a native of Greenfield, Massachusetts, who died at Aurora, January 15th, 1877, and Maria, widow of Rev. William H. Howard, D. D., a native of London, England, who died at Aurora, July 1st, 1871. Hezekiah Avery settled first at Aurora, and in March, 1815, removed to Ledyard. The house in which he lived is now occupied by his daughter Harriet, wife of Chas. Avery. It is the one in which the post-office is kept at Ledyard. Harriet is the only one of his children living. He kept a tavern till shortly before his death, April 10th, 1854. Dudley and Elias Avery are believed to have come in at the same time, (1795.) The former settled at what is known as "Pumpkin Hill," three miles south of Aurora. He was an inn-keeper, but left the town at an early day. Elias was an early merchant at Aurora. He was born April 6th, 1768, and died July 31st, 1837. Two of his children are living, John B., at Farmer, Seneca county, and Noyes L., at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Joshua Patrick kept the first tavern in 1793. It stood opposite the Catholic Church, on the southerly east and west road leading out of the village. He subsequently kept tavern near Mr. Morgan's store. The building, which was erected previous to 1800, is still standing on the same site, and is used as a tenementhouse. This old building is one of historic import. In one of its upper rooms the early courts were held, in-

cluding the one, in 1804, which tried the Delaware Indian named John, for the murder, the previous year, near Seneca Falls, of Ezekiel Crane, one of the earliest settlers in Seneca county. John was captured after a hard struggle, and convicted before Judge Ambrose Spencer, who sentenced him to be hung. When the time for the execution arrived, he expressed the wish to be shot like a warrior, with his rifle in his hand. This being denied him, he submitted to his fate with the stoicism characteristic of his race. He was hung in the ravine in rear of the college. Dr. Frederick Delano, who, in company with others, dissected him, preserved the skeleton and kept it till his death, when it passed into the possession of Dr. Morgan, and subsequently into that of Drs. Alex. Thompson and Baker, the latter of whom had it buried. This was the first case of capital punishment in Cayuga County.

Gen. Benj. Ledyard came in as agent and clerk for the apportionment of lands in the Military Tract as early as 1794, March 14th of which year, on the erection of Onondaga county, Gov. John Jay bestowed on him the office of clerk of that county, as a mark of esteem and respect. He held that office till the erection of Cayuga County, in 1799, when he was appointed to the same office in the latter county, holding it until his death in November, 1803. He was a captain in the New York line of the army of the Revolution, and was a most excellent man. He was the father of Jonathan Ledyard and Mrs. Lincklaen, of Cazenovia, Samuel Ledyard, of Pultneyville, and Mrs. Glen F. Cornelius Cuyler, of Aurora.

Samuel, William and Winter Branch came from Norwich, Conn., in 1794, in which year the former married Ruth, daughter of Augustus Chidsey, at Aurora. Chidsey, who was one of the commissioners who selected Sherwood as the County seat, came in that year with a covered wagon, with which he got stuck in the mud. He was discovered and assisted by Branch, who had previously waited upon his daughter, and who then received the first intimation of their coming to the lake country. Branch proceeded to Aurora with his lady-love and the two were married. Samuel Branch was deputy sheriff and had charge of the jail in 1803 and '4, during the confinement, trial and execution of Indian John.

* See History of Venice.

† See his tombstone in cemetery at Aurora.

He also had charge of another Indian murderer named Little Key, who killed an Indian named Shady Tar; but in this case small-pox cheated the gallows of its victim. He was detailed by the colony to go in company with Henry Hewitt to Albany, for their supply of groceries. While returning he was taken sick, and stopped at a log hut with one lone man tenant. Hewitt, supposing he was past all possible hope of recovery, came on, and he was given up as dead; but after a long time he again made his appearance. In 1808 he removed to Genoa, and soon made a permanent residence on lot 29 in that town, succeeding Thomas Hicks, in the fork of the road. He was a tailor by trade and was for many years postmaster at East Genoa. Winter Branch also was a tailor. Henry Hewitt was here as early as 1794.

Salmon Buel came in from Vermont in 1794. His daughter Belinda, who was born in Castleton, Vermont, September 22d, 1785, and married Eleazer Carter, in Ledyard, February 4th, 1801, in her sixteenth year, died November 4th, 1876, at the advanced age of ninety-one years, at Moravia, to which place she and her husband removed in 1863, to spend their declining years with their daughter, Mrs. Dr. Powers. Her husband died May 31st, 1874. They had eleven children, six of whom survive them: Mrs. Gurnsey Jewett, Mrs. Dr. Cyrus Powers and Theodore A. Carter, of Moravia; John Anson Carter, of Newark, N. J.; Eleazer Carter, of Canandaigua, and Lorenzo Carter, of Long Branch.

Walter Wood was born in Dartmouth, Mass., August 17th, 1765, of Quaker parents. He was a self-educated man. He studied law in White Creek, Washington Co., and removed thence in 1795 to Aurora, where he pursued the practice of the law. He settled a mile east of the village and opened an office in a small frame building, which forms a part of the house until recently occupied by his daughter, the late widow of John E. Williams, standing opposite the Presbyterian church.

On the formation of Cayuga County, Mr. Wood was earnest and persistent in his efforts to secure the location of the new court-house and other County buildings at Aurora, and being strenuously opposed by others who favored other localities, he, in order to further his wishes and to induce a decision of the controversy in his favor

actually erected a court-house at Aurora, on the site of Alfred J. LeGrand's residence, which, however, instead of affording a theater for legal controversies, became a hotel, for which purpose it was used until about 1815, and subsequently for a Friend's school. The first teacher in this school was Asa Potter, who remained some three or four years, and was followed by Joseph Jones, who kept it but a short time. Miss Susan Mariott, an English lady, succeeded Mr. Jones, and under her management during a period of some fifteen years, under the name of *Brier Cliff School*, it gained a favorable notoriety. Rebecca Bunker next succeeded to its management, but after three or four years it was discontinued.

Mr. Wood was appointed First Judge of Cayuga County, February 26th, 1810, succeeding Judge Phelps, and served in that capacity with credit to himself and the County, until March 13th, 1817. In 1811 he removed to Montville, where, in addition to his legal practice, he was extensively engaged in manufacturing enterprises. He built up there a village outrivaling in commercial and manufacturing importance Moravia, which, in turn, has far outstripped its rival. He died there September 8th, 1827, "respected by those about him, leaving the reputation of having been a kind, charitable man, and a sympathizing neighbor, who was always ready to relieve the poor and distressed. It is related of him that in the year 1816, when almost a famine prevailed in the land, his mill was well stored with wheat and corn, and sordid, heartless men appeared, as in all like cases, and coming to him desired to purchase his store of grain for speculative purposes, and offered him a large sum in advance of what he paid, but he repelled all such proffers, and doled out his entire stock in small quantities to those living in the vicinity, and thus ministered to their necessities and satisfied them."*

Charlotte F., wife of Col. Edwin B. Morgan, of Aurora, is the only one of his children living. His wife, Paulina, who was born May 11th, 1764, died March 26th, 1840. Three sons, Seneca, Isaac and Thomas, practiced law in Aurora, Isaac, till his death, April 13th, 1850. Thomas did not practice much on account of ill health. He died February 20th, 1839. Seneca removed

* Paper prepared for the *Moravia Historical Society*, July 4th, 1876, by S. Edwin Day.

to Auburn and afterwards to Rochester, where he died March 12th, 1859.

Benjamin Howland, a Friend, who was born in Dartmouth, Mass., October 12th, 1754, came in from Saratoga county, with his family of six children, in 1798, and settled two miles west of Poplar Ridge, on 135 acres now owned by his son, Slocum Howland, and occupied by Daniel Dwyer. Benjamin Wilbur, also a Friend, accompanied him and assisted in moving the family, furniture and live stock. He resided there till his death, September 23d, 1831, aged seventy-seven. Mary, his wife, was born September 4th, 1755, and died October 30th, 1840, aged eighty-five. His six children were, Sylvia, afterwards wife of Jethro Wood, Humphrey, Martha, afterwards wife of Wm. Heazlitt, Mary, afterwards wife of Thomas J. Alsop, Harmony and Slocum, the latter of whom is the only one living. Humphrey was largely and favorably known through all this section of country. He was born in Dartmouth, Mass., in 1780. About two years after his settlement here he engaged in practical surveying in Cayuga, Tompkins and Cortland counties, in the employ of Judge John Lawrence, of New York, Robert Troup, Samuel Parsons, Richard Hart and others. Judge Lawrence owned at that time some 100 military lots in the townships of Venice, Scipio and Ledyard. He acquired the agency for the Lawrence estate of New York city and several minor agencies. He afterwards became a large land-holder himself, owning Howland's Island, various tracts in other parts of the State, and a beautiful estate in Ledyard, where he lived, and died in December, 1862. The house in which he lived was built in 1810, and was then considered a palatial residence. It is standing, and is occupied by Abram Taber. He was a Member of Assembly from this County in 1812. Slocum Howland was born September 20th, 1794. He is still living at Sherwood, in the town of Scipio, where, for more than half a century, he has been engaged in mercantile pursuits. His life-long philanthropy and excellence of character have endeared him to the community in which he lives. They have been the crowning graces in his long and useful life. The grand-children of Benjamin Howland who are living are Phebe and Sarah, the latter the widow of Robert Underhill, both in Chicago, and Ann, wife of Benjamin Gould, in

Ledyard, children of Sylvia; John and Benjamin Alsop, children of Mary, the former in Union, Wisconsin, and the latter in Maryland; Mary, wife of John J. Thomas, of Union Springs, and Wm. Penn Howland, of New York, children of Humphrey; William and Emily, with their father at Sherwood, and Benjamin, at Catskill, children of Slocum.

Eleazer Burnham, who was born in Shaftsbury, Vt., July 15th, 1780, settled at Aurora September 27th, 1798, and died there May 3d, 1867. He studied law in the office of Judge Walter Wood, with whom he formed a copartnership about 1804, which continued till the latter's removal to Montville. July 29th, 1807, he married Matilda Wood, the daughter of his legal preceptor. He practiced law till about 1825, when failing health compelled him to discontinue. He was County Surrogate from February 5th, 1811 to February 26th, 1813, and again from February 28th, 1815, to June 7th, 1820. He was collector of Revenue at Aurora during the war of 1812, and was Member of Assembly in 1826. None of his family are living.

Other settlers at Aurora previous to 1798 were Thomas Mumford, Glen Cuyler, Silas Marsh, attorneys, Dr. Frederick Delano, and Daniel Foote, the latter of whom was a merchant, all of whom are dead. A daughter of Foote's, Mary, widow of Charles Campbell, is living in Chicago. John Wood and Isaac Wood, with their families, and James Wood and sister came in from Washington county, in 1799, and settled three miles south-east of Aurora. John, who died on the place where he settled, was the father of Jethro Wood, the inventor of the cast-iron plow, which was a vast improvement on the old "bull plow" then in use. The late Chas. P. Wood of Auburn, was a son of James Wood.

John Boughton came in from Connecticut, as early as 1799, and settled in Ledyard, about two miles north-west of Scipioville, on the farm now owned by Benjamin Gould, and occupied by Harrison Johnson, where he died March 25th, 1824, aged 53 years and 10 months. Elder Alanson Boughton, a Baptist minister, who died a few years since at Moravia, was a son of his.

CHRISTOPHER MORGAN was born in Groton, October 15th, 1777, and educated in the common schools of his native place. His father, Christopher, was a farmer. His mother, Deborah,

was a sister of Benjamin Ledyard. One of her brothers was a Colonel in the Continental army, and was in command of the fort at Groton, Conn., when attacked and captured by the traitor Arnold. After surrendering the fort and his sword he was run through with the latter in the hands of a British officer. His death was immediately revenged by his own men. Christopher came to Aurora in May, 1800, and immediately engaged in mercantile business. Members of this family have since been prominently identified with all of Aurora's valuable interests. July 15th, 1805, he married Nancy, daughter of John Barber of Groton, Conn., who was born August 29th, 1785, and died August 4th, 1864. Though an active politician and wielding great influence as the leading merchant of the County for a great many years he never accepted public office. He died October 4th, 1834. They had six children, all sons, Edwin B., Christopher, Henry, John, Geo. P., and Richard.

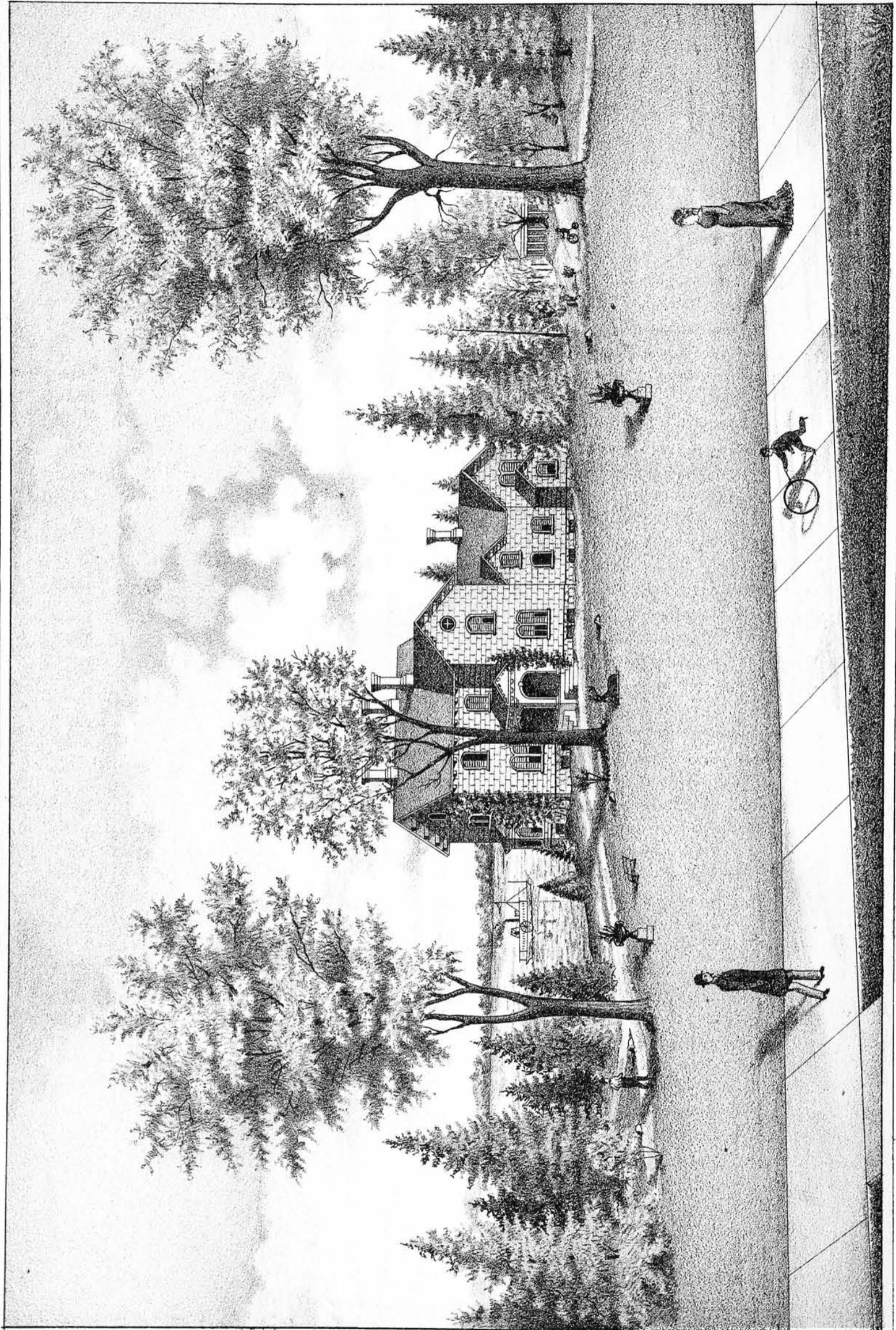
COL. EDWIN B. MORGAN was born in Aurora, May 2d, 1806, and educated at the *Cayuga Lake Academy* in that village. At the age of thirteen he became a clerk in his father's store, and at twenty-one succeeded him to the business. He was extensively engaged, in connection with his brothers, in merchandizing, boat building, and in buying and shipping wool, grain and pork. In 1850, during his absence in New York, he was made the Republican nominee for Congress, but was defeated by fourteen votes. He was elected to Congress in 1852, and again in 1854 and '56, the last time by 9,000 majority. He was one of the original proprietors of the *New York Times*, and has been president of the *Times Association* since the death of Mr. Raymond. He was one of the originators of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, and its first president, which office he held for four years. He is still largely interested in that enterprise; also in *Adams & Co.'s*, the *American* and *United States Expresses*, and various banks and railroads. He is one of the largest shareholders in the Oswego Starch Company, in which he is a director. He is president of *Cayuga Lake Academy*, an office he has held some twenty-five years, and has contributed liberally to its support. He was one of the original trustees of *Wells College*, to which he gave \$100,000 as an endowment fund, and has been its vice-president since that office was cre-

ated. He was a trustee of the *State Agricultural College* at Ovid, and *The People's College* at Havana; and has been a trustee of *Cornell University*, at Ithaca, since that institution was founded. He has been a trustee of *Auburn Theological Seminary* many years, and, in connection with Wm. E. Dodge, erected the library building in connection with it. He also contributed \$75,000 toward the construction of Morgan Hall. Though not a member, he has been a liberal contributor at different times to the Presbyterian Church at Aurora. He also contributed largely toward Prof. Hartt's Brazilian explorations. He was one of the original trustees of the State Inebriate Asylum at Binghamton.

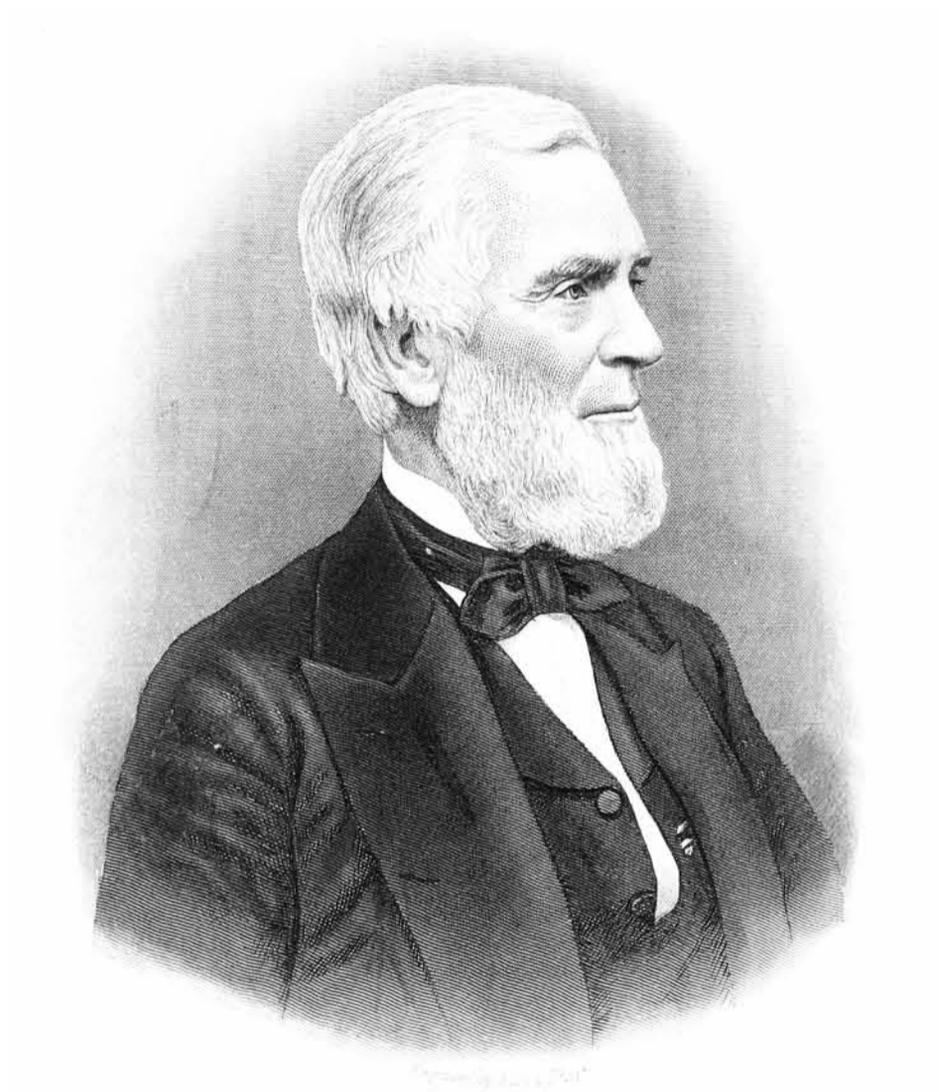
CHRISTOPHER MORGAN was born in Aurora, June 4th, 1808. He was fitted for college at the Academy at Aurora, and graduated at *Yale College* in 1828. He began his legal studies with Seneca Wood of Aurora, and finished them with Elijah Miller and Wm. H. Seward at Auburn. October 24th, 1832, he married Mary E., daughter of the late Dr. Joseph T. Pitney of Auburn. He practiced his profession several years in connection with the late Ebenezer W. Arms. He was elected a Representative in Congress by the Whigs in 1837, and reelected in 1839. At the expiration of his second term he removed to Auburn, and practiced law awhile in connection with Samuel Blatchford and Clarence A. Seward, who then resided there. From November 2d, 1847, to November 4th, 1851, he was Secretary of State of New York. During his Secretaryship, as Superintendent of Public Schools he recommended and initiated our popular system of free schools.

About that time he became one of the Board of Trustees of the Asylum for the Insane at Utica, and held that position till near his death, which occurred in Auburn April 3d, 1877. He was mayor of Auburn in 1860. He leaves a widow, living in Auburn, and three married daughters, two, (Cornelia, wife of C. Eugene Barber, and Mary, wife of William C. Barber,) living in Auburn, and one, (Frances A.,) in Berlin, Germany.

HENRY MORGAN was born at Aurora, Aug. 22d, 1810, and educated at the academy in that village, of which he is still a resident. He has been engaged in mercantile business at Aurora; and is



RESIDENCE OF COL. E. B. MORGAN. AURORA, CAYUGA CO. N.Y.



John B. Myers

largely interested in mining operations in California, and in the manufacturing enterprises conducted by Sheldon & Co., and D. M. Osborne & Co., of Auburn. He was one of the originators of the U. S. telegraph.

JOHN MORGAN was born at Aurora September 1st, 1812, and died February 10th, 1840. He was educated at the academy in his native village, and a graduate of Hamilton College. He followed the vocation of a farmer, his farm being the land upon which Wells College and the residence of the late Henry Wells stand.

GEORGE P. MORGAN was born at Aurora May 29th, 1815, and was engaged in mercantile pursuits in Union Springs, Skaneateles and Aurora. He now resides in New York.

RICHARD MORGAN, the genial merchant at Aurora, was born in that village March 21st, 1818.

Erastus Spalding and Philip Allen came in about 1800. Spalding settled at Levanna, where he kept at an early day the hotel now occupied by Melvin Bowen. He removed at an early day to Lockport, where his son Lyman was a prominent miller. Allen was a Quaker and came from Washington county with his family. Capt. Stephen Allen and his brother Theophilus, came from Salisbury, Conn., in 1802, and settled in the east part of the town, Stephen, on the farm now owned by Hicks Anthony, and Theophilus, on that now owned by Ira Fritts. Stephen Allen, Jr., took up a farm adjoining his father's on the east. Soon after coming here he married Phebe Cross, who came in with her brother Nathaniel from Baskin Ridge, N. J., a short time before and settled with him at Levanna, where George Utt now lives. The elder Allen died in the town June 30th, 1822, aged 64. None of his children are living. Stephen Allen, Jr., was Deputy County Clerk at Cayuga when he first came in, and was subsequently a teacher in the academy at Aurora. He died at Levanna June 8th, 1858, aged seventy-seven. Three of his four children are living: William S., Walter W., and Maria, all in Ledyard. Nathaniel Cross was a single man when he first came. He afterwards married Eliza, daughter of Judge Joseph Allen, of New Jersey, to which State he subsequently removed with his wife and three children. Two of his children are living in Ledyard, William and Mary Allen Cross. Samuel Willets came

from New Jersey in 1804. He was a Quaker. He raised a large family, some of whom are still residents of this County.

An important addition to the settlements of this town was made in 1805, in the family of David Thomas, who settled on the tract of land known as the "great field," about two and one-half miles north-east of Aurora, previously taken up by Judge John Richardson, who settled originally in Springport, in the history of which town mention is made of him.

David Thomas was born on the banks of the Schuylkill June 6th, 1776, and was mainly a self-educated man. In early life he was engaged in agricultural pursuits, but found time in the intervals of those labors to acquire a knowledge of surveying and to become a thorough mathematician, being assisted in the latter studies, it is believed, by David Rittenhouse. He also gave much attention to botanical researches, in which science he became so proficient as to attract the attention and command the admiration of Prof. Barton of Philadelphia, who had designed honoring him with the name of a new species of plants, but discovered that the name had been previously applied to another plant in honor of a Swiss gentleman named Thomas. He removed from his native place, near Phoenixville, Penn., to Lycoming county in that State, in 1801, and from Lycoming to Ledyard in 1805. During his early settlement here he followed farming and surveying. In 1816, he made a tour of observation to Indiana, and in 1819 he published an account of these observations, which, coming to the notice of Gov. DeWitt Clinton, led to his appointment as Chief Engineer under the Canal Commissioners in the spring of 1820. He superintended the construction of the Erie Canal between Rochester and Buffalo till its completion. He surveyed the long level between Rochester and Lockport, and was jeeringly told that he must not be in the country when the water was let in, as it would be dry at one end. In order to satisfy the Commissioners he directed two of his assistants to run two separate lines over the same route and when the work was completed there was a difference of a little less than two-thirds of an inch between theirs and his. After the completion of the Erie Canal in the fall of 1825, he had the superintendence of the construction of the Cayuga and Seneca Canal. He was subse-

quently engaged on the Welland Canal, but relinquished that appointment after the expiration of one year, because of the personal inconvenience to which it subjected him. The year previous to his appointment as Chief Engineer on the Canals he was appointed by the U. S. Government to examine the harbor at Buffalo. After closing his official services with this State, the Government of Pennsylvania requested Gov. Clinton to recommend to them some one competent to take charge of the canals of that State. He at once named David Thomas, who was thereupon tendered the position and privileged to name his salary, but the failing health of his wife induced him to decline the honor.

In 1853, he removed to Union Springs and spent there the rest of his days. The latter part of his life was devoted to horticulture, floriculture and pomology, and, doubtless, was prolonged by the gentle exercise and mental occupation they afforded. He aided largely in improving the variety of fruits and flowers in the section where he resided. He was a man of more than ordinary ability, refinement and culture. He was elected honorary member of the *Literary and Philosophical Society of New York* in 1823; and corresponding member of the *Horticultural Society of London* in 1824, and of the *Linnæan Society of Paris*, in 1826.

He was a liberal contributor to the *Genesee Farmer of Rochester*, the first agricultural paper that brought agricultural literature to the homes of the common people. The first six volumes contained 800 articles from his pen. He also delivered numerous addresses before agricultural societies. He was frequently tendered the honor of a nomination to public office, including the Assembly and State Senate, but he invariably declined. He died November 5th, 1859, having been preceded by his wife in 1833. In 1843 he married Ednah D., the widow of Dr. Isaac W. Smith, of Lockport, who died May 11th, 1878, aged eighty-four. Three of his eight children, four of whom were born after his removal to this County, are living, Mary T., widow of George Spencer in Germantown, Philadelphia, John J., in Union Springs, and Joseph, in Philadelphia.

John J. Thomas, A. M., has pursued a great diversity of vocations in life. He has written for the Press forty-four years, and is now associate editor of the *Country Gentleman*. He is the

author of several works, whose merit has secured for them an extensive circulation. He, like his father, has devoted much attention to horticulture and pomology. He published the *American Fruit Culturist*, which appeared first in 1846, and has passed through twenty editions. In 1854, he commenced a serial publication, entitled *Rural Affairs*, which he has since continued in annual numbers, and which has had a circulation of 30,000. He is also the author of a work on *Farm Machinery*, which was first written as a prize essay while he was residing with his father's family, and won the \$200 prize offered by the Trustees of the Wadsworth Fund for essays on applied science, for schools. From that essay a work was afterwards prepared to compete for a prize of \$100 offered by the New York State Agricultural Society, on science applied to agriculture. It received the prize and was published in the transactions of the Society. It met the eyes of the Harpers, who proposed to publish it in book form, with additions, which they accordingly did. Mr. Thomas is an honorary member of the *Massachusetts Horticultural Society*; of the *Worcester Horticultural Society*; of the *Pennsylvania Fruit Growers' Society*; of the *Horticultural Society of Indiana*; and First President of the *Horticultural Society of New York*.

Dr. Consider King, who was born in Rochester, Mass., in 1774, moved in from Columbia county this same year, (1805,) and settled at Ledyard, in the house next north of the church in that village. He boarded with Benjamin Avery, whose daughter Lydia he subsequently married.

Joseph Talcott came from Dutchess county in 1806, and settled one and one-half miles south-east of Aurora. He died in the near neighborhood of that locality in 1853. He was a highly esteemed citizen, an earnest advocate of temperance, and a friend to universal education. He often visited the common schools, giving good counsel to the teachers and encouragement to the scholars. He published a monthly religious pamphlet entitled *The Friendly Visitant*, for young people, which was printed in 1834 by Thomas Skinner, now a resident of Auburn. He had two sons and two daughters. Richard, the eldest son, was long a resident of Skaneateles, where he died a few years ago. His eldest daughter, Hannah, was the late wife of Slocum

Howland. His other daughter, Phebe, never married. His family, and that of David Thomas, were Friends.

Roswell Towsley and John Bowen came in about 1810, the former from Manlius, and the latter from Dartmouth, Mass. Towsley settled at Aurora, where he built, in 1817, the first steam flouring-mill west of the Hudson. It stands near the depot, west of the hotel, and is now used as a store-house. It was in operation only about a year when Towsley failed, became deranged and was sent to the asylum in New York, where he died. He was an enterprising man, and had also a tannery, a large blacksmith shop, a shoe shop and a furnace, in the latter of which, it is claimed, Jethro Wood's first plow was cast.* Bowen settled a little north-east of Aurora, where his grandsons Jesse and Alfred now live. The latter are sons of Benjamin Bowen, who succeeded his father on the farm, on which both died, Benjamin, July 26th, 1854, aged 58.

Benjamin Tracy came in at an early day and settled about two miles north-west of Scipioville, in Ledyard, where he died Oct. 27th, 1804, aged sixty-four. Olive, his wife, died October 7th, 1831, aged eighty-nine. Josiah Bowen came from Massachusetts about 1814, and settled in Ledyard, a little west of Sherwood. He afterwards removed to the next farm west and died there July 23d, 1846. He was born December 18th, 1785. His son Sayles J. Bowen, resides in Washington, D. C., of which city he was formerly mayor, and postmaster during the war.

TOWN OFFICERS.—The first town meeting was held the first Tuesday in April, 1823, and the following named officers were elected: Jedediah Morgan, (who was a Member of the State Senate while a resident of Aurora in 1825-'26,) *Supervisor*; Joshua Baldwin, *Clerk*; Jonathan Richmond, Ozias B. Culver and Jeremiah Turner, *Assessors*; Zebedee McComber, Joshua Baldwin and James Wood, *Commissioners of Highways*; Wm. Culver and Jeremiah Turner, *Overseers of the Poor*; James Wood, Philo Sperry and Orange Culver, *Commissioners of Common Schools*;

* It is proper to state that Moravia claims the honor of having cast the first cast-iron plow. Bills are extant which show that Messrs. Rogers & Co., founders of that village, sent plow castings to Jonathan Swan, of Aurora, in 1817, and a letter from Jethro Wood, bearing date of Scipio, April 8th, 1818, addressed to that firm, substantiates the fact that they were engaged in casting them; but we are not aware that there is conclusive proof to establish either claim.

Solomon Strong; Luther Lakin and James Swan, *Inspectors of Common Schools*; Ansel Crowell and Glen Cuyler, *Constables*; Ansel Crowell, *Collector*; Benj. Avery, *Poundmaster*; Abial Mosher, Josiah Phelps and Ephraim C. Marsh, *Fence Viewers*.

The present officers (1879) are:

Supervisor—Hicks Anthony.

Town Clerk—Evans W. Mosher.

Justices of Peace—Wm. Peckham, N. L. Zabriskie, H. J. Mallory and W. M. Wright.

Assessors—Wm. Judge, Seneca Boyce and Howard Smith.

Overseers of the Poor—Howard Chase and Samuel T. Hoyt.

Inspectors of Election—C. C. White, Jr., O. C. Tooker and Daniel Dwyer.

Collector—M. M. Palmer.

Constables—M. M. Palmer, O. F. VanMarter, James Smith and W. M. Bowen.

Game Constable—John McGordon.

AURORA VILLAGE.

Aurora is situated on the east shore of Cayuga Lake, which at this point attains its greatest width, of four miles, and is distant by rail from Cayuga, on the N. Y. C. Railroad, twelve miles. Its name, which is an ideal one, supposed to have originated with Gen. Benj. Ledyard, is suggestive of the resplendent beauty of its landscapes when bathed in the first rays of the morning sun.

This village is famed for its delightful situation and picturesque scenery, in which it surpasses all the lake villages in Central and Western New York, whose natural attractions have made them so well and favorably known. It is a center of wealth, culture and refinement, and art has vied with nature in heightening and intensifying its scenic beauty. Its charming bay, handsomely shaded streets, magnificent dwellings and ornate public buildings, have often inspired the talent of the artist and been made the subject of some exquisite paintings.

Aurora has been the home, among others not elsewhere noted, of Palmer, the distinguished sculptor, and Charles Elliott, the artist, the former of whom still favors it occasionally with his presence. Many of the private residences and public buildings are ornamented with the elegant productions of their genius. It was also the home of the late Henry Wells, who acquired a world-

wide celebrity in the express business, and whose generous benefaction in the founding of the college which bears his name, will be an enduring monument to remind the citizens of Aurora of his many noble qualities. He died in Glasgow, Scotland, Tuesday, December 10th, 1878.

HENRY WELLS was one of the most successful men of the nation, and one who used his great wealth in a truly philanthropic spirit. His name is recorded in the hearts of the many who profited by his charity, and in the titles of the two great institutions known throughout the world—one of a business, and the other of an educational character. Mr. Wells was born in Vermont, December 12th, 1805. In his boyhood his parents moved to Central New York where he afterwards resided. In his early manhood he started the express business, which under his management has grown until now its system seems perfect and its extent is bounded only by civilization. His first venture in that business was to carry a carpet-bag filled with the packages of patrons from Albany to Buffalo. His patronage increased, and he associated with himself as a partner Crawford Livingston. After the death of his partner, Mr. Wells and several other gentlemen formed the American Express Company, of which he became president. He retained the position until a few years ago, when age and ill-health induced him to leave it. He was also interested in several other express companies, being one of the founders of the trans-continental company known as Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express. Several years ago Mr. Wells founded and endowed Wells Female College, at Aurora, N. Y.

This college has proved successful and is now one of the most popular and best known institutions of its kind in existence. Throughout his long life Mr. Wells was an enterprising and useful citizen, and he is known all over the United States, through every state and territory of which he has traveled.

Mr. Wells retired from business about ten years ago. His health being bad, he spent the greater part of the intervening period in traveling. The winter seasons he spent in Italy or the West Indies. He became very sick about two months before his death, and determined to seek renewed health in Sicily. His friends tried to persuade him not to undertake a sea voyage in his precarious condition, but he persisted in his

determination, and started from Aurora November 4th, 1878. He sailed from New York city in an Anchor Line steamer November 9th, and arrived in Glasgow on the 19th of that month. He received careful attention during the voyage, but upon leaving the steamer was unable to continue his journey to Sicily. The body of Mr. Wells was brought back to Aurora for interment.

This, too, was the home of the distinguished and revered Salem Town, LL. D., who was born in Massachusetts March 5th, 1779, and educated at Williams College. He was an eminent friend of, and laborer in, education, and was endeared to the people of Aurora by a long residence among them, a portion of the time as principal of the academy, which, under his direction, took high rank as an educational institution. The series of school books which emanated from his pen, especially his *Analysis of the English Language*, was a valuable contribution to didactic literature. His wide experience as a teacher gave him a keen perception of the educational wants of the community. His urbanity and gentle manners won for him universal love and respect; while his career as a righteous man met the acknowledgment of its integrity in all, and found appropriate and graceful expression in his prominence as an elder in the Presbyterian church, an office he held for thirty-four years.

When eighty-two years of age, his fellow-citizens gathered around him to do him, as a living man, especial honor, and besides those who personally participated in the interesting event, Millard Fillmore and Edward Everett addressed the meeting by letter. A beautiful memorial portrait bust by the sculptor Palmer, hangs upon the walls of the Presbyterian Church in Aurora; and the Masonic fraternity, whose gatherings he honored for many years, have erected to his enduring remembrance in the village cemetery, a plain, massive shaft of Westerly (R. I.) granite, bearing the inscription, "Erected by his Brethren."

Mr. Town was a gentle, kindly, interesting man, worthy of the best memories that the works of art which have been raised concerning him can perpetuate. The Regents of the University conferred on him the degree of LL. D., and in the honors of the Masonic Order his position was distinguished. He was Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York for

fifty-one years. He died at Greencastle, Indiana, February 24th, 1864. His wife, Abigail King, who was born October 12th, 1781, died at Gallipolis, O., while on a visit, December 7th, 1840. The remains of both rest in the cemetery at Aurora.

Aurora contains four churches, (Presbyterian, Catholic, Episcopal and M. E.,) is the seat of Cayuga Lake Academy and of Wells College, has one district school, one bank, one hotel, (erected by Col. E. B. Morgan in 1836, and kept by O. F. VanMarter,) two general stores, one hardware store, a grocery and tobacco store, a shoe store, a meat market, (kept by W. H. Sadler,) two blacksmith shops, (kept by Polhannes & Van Marter and W. C. Brightman,) and a population of 600.

The village was incorporated May 5th, 1837, but chiefly to secure the name and prevent its appropriation by Aurora, in Erie county. No village organization has been kept up.

The early courts of Onondaga and Cayuga counties were held at Aurora, which was for several years a half-shire town of Cayuga County, Cayuga being the other. The second term of the Circuit Court of Onondaga county was held at the house of Seth Phelps in Aurora, September 7th, 1795. It was attended by Hon. John Lansing, Judge of the Supreme Court, Seth Phelps, John Richardson, and Wm. Stevens, Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in Onondaga county. John A. Sheaffer, Wm. Goodwin, John Stoyell, Cyrus Kinne, Hezekiah Olcott, Daniel Keeler, Ryal Bingham and Ozias Burr, Justices, were fined thirty shillings each for non-attendance. The fourth circuit was held at the same place June 12th, 1798, by Hon. James Kent, Judge; assisted by Seth Phelps, Wm. Stevens, Seth Sherwood, Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Onondaga county. Here was erected the first court house in Cayuga County. It consisted of crotched posts set in the ground, and supporting poles covered with brush. In this primitive structure justice was administered for several years. The first court after the erection of Cayuga County, a Court of Common Pleas, was held at Cayuga Ferry, May 21st, 1799, and attended by Seth Phelps, First Judge; Seth Sherwood, Judge; and John Tillotson, Assistant Justice. The County seat was established at Auburn in 1805.

The third newspaper in Cayuga County was established at Aurora in 1805, by Henry Pace, and was published every Wednesday under the name of *The Aurora Gazette*.* Mr. Pace's brother James is supposed to have been interested in its publication, though his name does not appear in that connection. The Messrs. Pace were of English parentage, and warmly espoused the cause of the mother country in the discussion of those questions which led to the war of 1812, although the majority of their readers did not sympathize with those views. But, being then the only local paper, it monopolized the legal printing. It was published here but a short time, its removal to Auburn being about contemporaneous with the removal of the County seat to that place. June 7th, 1808, it was changed to the *Western Federalist*, and published there some eight years under that name.

MERCHANTS.—The first merchant at Aurora was Abiather Hull, who opened a store about 1792, in a log building of small dimensions, which stood a little south of the Presbyterian church. He continued as late as 1798, and removed from the town. Elias Avery, Daniel Avery, brother of Elias, from Groton, Conn., Daniel Foote, brother-in-law of Daniel Avery, and probably from the same place, Wm. McCarthy, also from Conn., and Richard and Zebulon Williams were engaged in mercantile business here prior to 1800. The Williamses continued till about 1810; Daniel Avery and Foote, till about 1800; and McCarthy till about 1820, when he was succeeded by his son William, Jr., who continued till about 1825 or '6. Both Avery and Foote had families and died in the town, the former January 30th, 1842. Elias Avery, who had a separate store, continued till about 1810, and died here July 31st, 1837.

Christopher Morgan commenced mercantile business here in June, 1800, in company with Cornelius Cuyler. Their store stood opposite the residence of Richard Morgan, on the Delaney Newton lot. It was a frame building, about 18 by 20 feet. It was superseded about 1802, by a much larger, gambrel-roof building, which stood on the site of the Catholic church. Soon after the erection of that building the partnership was dissolved, Cuyler retaining the store, and Morgan

* The earliest copy of this paper which has come under our observation is No. 5 of Vol. I., and bears the date of July 17th, 1805.