



JOHN ELLIS, "KING OF DRYDEN."

Copied from an oil portrait painted in Albany in the year 1831 or 1832, while he was a representative of Tompkins county in the State Legislature, the original oil painting still being in the possession of his descendants.

THE  
CENTENNIAL HISTORY  
OF THE  
TOWN OF DRYDEN.

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1797--1897.

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COMPILED AND EDITED BY  
GEO. E. GOODRICH,  
WITH THE AID OF THE CENTENNIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
AND MANY OTHERS.

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J. GILES FORD, PRINTER:  
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TO THE MEMORY OF  
THE PIONEERS OF THE TOWN OF DRYDEN,  
WHOSE HEROIC DEEDS, ARDUOUS LABORS,  
AND GREAT PRIVATIONS,  
IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THIS TOWNSHIP,  
WERE DEEMED TO BE IN DANGER OF BEING FORGOTTEN  
AND LOST TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF  
THEIR POSTERITY,  
THIS VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

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TO THE MEMORY OF  
THE CITIZENS OF DRYDEN  
RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING AND CARRYING  
OUT THE MANY BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES  
DURING 1975-76.

THE MONTGOMERY PARK BANDSTAND  
THE HISTORIC DRYDEN FAIR  
THE 8-SQUARE SCHOOLHOUSE  
THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF DRYDEN,  
SECOND EDITION

THIS VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

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## PREFACE.

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It is hoped that the poorest part of this book will prove to be its binding, which is not as good as we might wish, but the best which the funds remaining at the disposal of the Committee could supply. In contemplating and providing for the mechanical part of the work, after deciding that the book should be supplied to subscribers at one dollar per copy, it was determined that the paper and print as well as the illustrations should be good, and then what was left of the proceeds should be devoted to the binding, which, if not very substantial, could be more easily renewed, if the inside should in the future be found worthy of new covers.

It has been the misfortune of many local histories to be the offspring of the greed of ambitious publishers, who furnished expensive volumes without much regard for historical accuracy. This cannot be charged against this undertaking, which is a labor of love and the outgrowth of a Centennial Celebration of the first settlement of the town of Dryden, the details of which are given in the concluding chapter of this volume. The same Executive Committee who had charge of that happy event have devoted their time and energies unitedly and gratuitously to the preparation of this work, each member paying for his copy the same as those who have not contributed their time so freely. But the burden has not been borne by the Committee alone. Many others have lent their aid and it has been surprising as well as gratifying to the writer to receive contributions of so much valuable material for this work, which in a little time would be hopelessly lost if not preserved by some such undertaking as this. It has exhibited the hearty good will and favor with which the efforts of the Committee have been seconded and sustained and has resulted in a much more comprehensive and complete history of the town than was at first contemplated. The number of subscriptions for the work, largely exceeding the estimates, has provided the financial means necessary to add more embellishments to the mere history that at first could be hoped for. With two or three exceptions of special historical interest the portraits

which appear have been provided upon the request of the Committee by the persons represented, or their friends, and the portrait of no living resident of the township will be here found. Little attention has been given in this work to the present, while the great effort has been to resurrect and preserve the past, representing so far as possible old land-marks and dwelling upon old habits and conditions as they formerly existed. The table of contents and list of illustrations immediately following will serve the purpose of a more complete index which it had been intended to supply at the end of the volume. Such a one had been partly prepared, but when the types were all up it was discovered that we had already occupied more than the space provided, and this feature was therefore reluctantly given up.

While it would be inadvisable here to attempt to mention all who have lent a helping hand to the preparation of this work, the writer wishes to acknowledge his special obligations to Chas. F. Mulks, of Ithaca, a descendant of the Ellis family, of Dryden, for his exhaustive and painstaking researches, of which this book has the benefit, and without which it would suffer, especially in the matter of statistics and genealogy, as well as in general accuracy. We are also under great obligations to Ex-Governor William Marvin, of Skaneateles, formerly a Dryden boy, now ninety years of age, who, with his own trembling hand, has, by letters and manuscripts, answered many inquiries and supplied much information not otherwise obtainable.

To the members of the Committee, one and all, whose names are given upon the reverse of the title page, the public will be indebted for whatever shall be found worthy to be preserved in the future from this first attempt to accurately record and perpetuate at length the annals of the town of Dryden.

G. E. G.

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