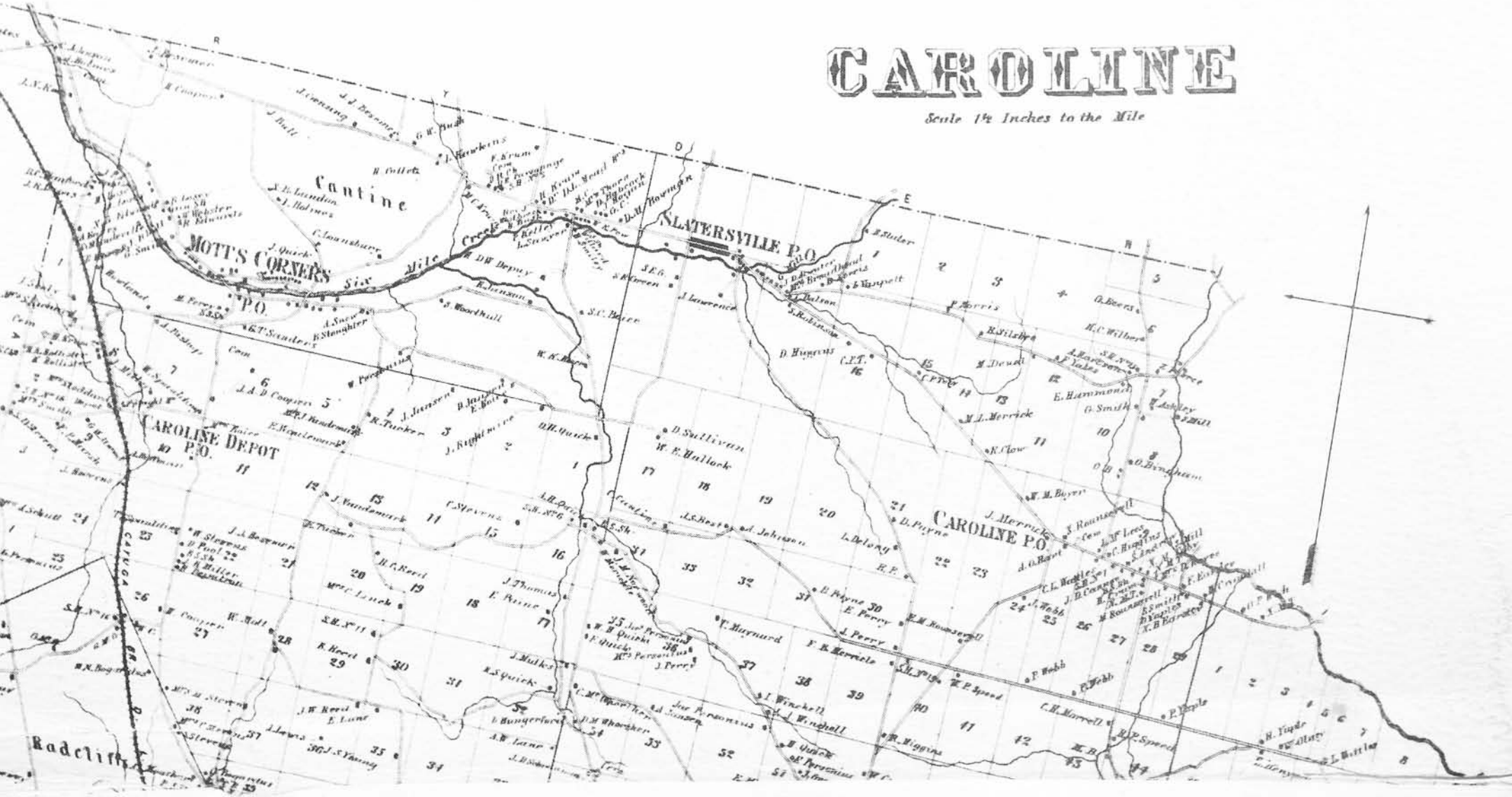

CAROLINE
Scale 1¼ Inches to the Mile
SLATERSVILLE P.O.
MOTT'S CORNERS
P.O.
CAROLINE DEPOT
P.O.
CAROLINE P.O.
Six Mile Creek
Cantine
Radcliff


Hart
Johnson
SPEEDSVILLE
P. O.

FORESTS TO FARMS IN CAROLINE

Compiled from various historical sources

By WILLIAM HEIDT, JR.

With An Introduction

By W. GLENN NORRIS

Descendant of Caroline Pioneers
Tompkins County Historian

1965

DeWITT HISTORICAL SOCIETY of TOMPKINS COUNTY
Incorporated
ITHACA, NEW YORK

PREFACE

Caroline has been selected as a typical town of the hundreds that were carved out of the wilderness in Central New York. The people who pioneered here had their counterparts among those who conquered the forests throughout the land; they were motivated by the same desires, met the same problems and overcame them by the same means as did those who changed the face of Caroline in so few years.

A special feature of the Caroline history is the availability of the first town-clerk's book wherein are recorded legislative enactments during a score of formative years. Here are found the original entries, descriptions of school districts, roads, earmarks, quaintly delineated, that identify livestock, a pound and a law that placed restrictions on hogs while roaming public thoroughfares.

In addition to the numerous public records there exists a considerable body of personal diaries, letters, and articles supplied the press. Caroline was fortunate to have had several persons who had a flare for compiling local history for newspapers of the day, and others just as devoted to preserving this material in scrapbook repositores. They and the writers are owed a debt of gratitude by today's residents.

Because this material is widely applicable, it has been presented in such a manner as to make it useful beyond the borders of Caroline. Persons who tap this fund of stored-up history at the grassroot level will be rewarded by developing a fuller knowledge of the pioneer spirit and its accomplishments.

Ithaca, N. Y. July 10, 1965. W.H.Jr.

INTRODUCTION

Lying in the southeast part of Tompkins County is the rural town of Caroline; an upland area of high, rounded hills and pleasant valleys running in many directions.

In earlier years the town's forest trails had been trodden for centuries by the Indian. One of the seventeen important Indian trails of the State was the Warrior's Trail, which crossed Six Mile Creek west of Brooktondale, at the Beaverbrook Road. This crossing was just six miles from Ithaca which fact gave the stream its present name; much easier to pronounce than its Cayuga name, Teegastoweas.

Unknown traders, French, English and Dutch, from their settlements in the New World, found their way into this region in the late 1600's and frequently after 1700. Five noted men of colonial times left a record of their journey through the present hamlet of Caroline in 1743.

Following the Revoluntionary War, the vast territory formerly in the possession of the New York State Iroquois Indian tribes, was surveyed and opened to settlers. By 1795, the present town of Caroline was surveyed into farm plots. The sound of the axe and falling timber was heard as adventurous men and women, eager to carve out a homesite for themselves, accepted the challenge of hard pioneer living.

How they subdued a forested wilderness, built their log cabins, cleared the land with primitive tools, and were a self-sufficient people, is aptly told by the author, William Heidt, Jr. In his historical sketches of Caroline he has drawn upon his own experiences as a boy, growing up on a farm is Sullivan County. It was a period when farming and rural life were emerging from time-worn methods into a mechanical age. His portrayal of pioneer life reflects the firsthand knowledge of the hardships our forbears endured to make a living.

It is timely to have a volume like the history of the Town of Caroline to remind us, in these more affluent times, of our priceless heritage, gained from the sturdy pioneers of an earlier age.

September 10, 1965

W. Glenn Norris
Ithaca, New York

CONTENTS

Caroline Formed in 1811

When Tompkins County was organized on April 17, 1817, it was made up of parts of Seneca and Cayuga Counties. The towns of Ulysses, Covert and Hector were taken from the former, and Dryden, Lansing and Groton from the latter. The town of Caroline was not embraced by the boundaries of the new county.

Caroline, Danby and Newfield were at that time the northern tier of Tioga County towns; their territory lay within the bounds of the Watkins and Flint Tract. However, on March 22, 1822, these three towns joined Tompkins County, Newfield changing its name from Cayuta.

Caroline was organized as a town February 22, 1811, the same date on which Danby and Cayuta was organized, all within Tioga County. But settlement of the town had begun 16 years before, when Capt. David Rich came in 1795 and was followed by the Widow Earsley a week later. Rich built a tavern, the site of which is now marked one-half mile east of Caroline.

That vast virgin territory which after the Revolution came to be known as Central and Western New York was claimed by the Federal government by right of conquest after defeat of the British. Indian claims were extinguished by later treaties with the Iroquois.

Federal and State governments owed their soldiers for military services, but treasuries were empty. To pay these obligations and induce settlement of the wilderness, bounty grants of land were made in what became known as the Military Tract laid out in Central New York. All northern tier towns of Tompkins County and the Town of Hector fell within the tract.

Surveyed in 1789-90 under the direction of Simeon DeWitt, surveyor general of New York State, the territory was divided into 28 townships. Each was as nearly 10 miles square as it was possible to make them and each contained 100 great lots of 600 acres each. The Land Office Commissioners began making allotments in 1790, with the requirement that actual settlement was to be made within seven years after January 1, 1790.

While hundreds of the war veterans claimed land, millions of acres outside the bounty lands were sold by the New York State Land Office to speculators who, in turn, sold them to settlers. One such area that embraced the three southern towns of Tompkins County was the Watkins and Flint Tract. This tract was roughly 15 miles wide and 35 miles long and contained 363,000 acres. It was to be paid for to the State at the rate of three shillings and four pence per acre.

The tract derives its name from John W. Watkins, a New York lawyer, and Royal W. Flint, who were the leaders of a group of associates in the plan. The patent was granted them June 25, 1794, after a survey of the area had been made. Although Watkins soon transferred his interests in the tract to his associates, land titles of today are traced back to the original Watkins and Flint purchase.

At the time there were two brothers in Stratford, Connecticut, who became interested in these lands. They were Robert C. and Samuel W. Johnson, sons of William S. Johnson, second president of King's College in New York City (now Columbia University) and grandsons of Samuel Johnson, its first president. They acquired a large portion of the area embraced by the present towns of Caroline, Danby and Newfield, and the area became known as the Johnson Lands.

In 1795 Robert C. Johnson acquired unsold lands in the tract and later made extensive purchases in the Ohio Reserve. Defaulting in his payments in 1800, he assigned his New York holdings to Connecticut to save his underwriters from loss.Connecticut took title to 16,000 acres, which included Connecticut Hill, sold the lands and diverted proceeds to state school funds.

Offers Large Acreages for Sale

In the Ithaca Gazette and Intelligencer of June 5, 1817, the following notice indicated the acreage of land available:

TO ACTUAL SETTLERS

"About 7,000 acres of wild land in the towns of Spencer and Cayuta, Tioga County. Also 10,000 acres in the town of Elmira, Tioga County. Ben Johnson."

Johnson was born in Haverhill, N. H., in 1784. He studied law in Troy, practiced in Binghamton before coming to Hector and then to Ithaca some time before 1817. An early leading lawyer in Tompkins County, he died in 1848. His daughter's portrait hangs in the DeWitt Museum and her one-time home is at 412 South Albany Street, Ithaca. He acted as an agent for James Pumpelly who was the general land agent for the tract. Pumpelly dwelt in Owego, the new Tioga County Museum being located on the site of his residence. The original door and front entrance of his dwelling were incorporated in the new museum, the building for which was donated by Miss Minnie Wade, a native of Speedsville.

A surveyor, Pumpelly negotiated the sale of many thousand acres of the Johnson Lands. Among large buyers were the Beers in Danby, and the Speeds, Boyers, Hydes and Patillos who came to Caroline from Virginia and Maryland. As late as 1830, many of the small landowners were still paying for their lands by selling farm produce to the agents, cattle being sent out in droves. The name of Samuel Johnson appeared on the tax rolls until that time.

"This is My Home!"

First settler in the Town of Caroline was Capt. David Rich, who arrived in 1795. A native of Massachusetts, he had lived in Vermont and New Jersey and Apalachin in Tioga County. His son Richard, born January 18, 1797, was the first white

child born in Caroline. The next settler was the Widow Earsley who came from Roxbury, N. J., with her family of five sons and five daughters. This family arrived a week after Captain Rich.

Born Marie Jansen, Mrs. Earsley came to America from her native Holland when she was 12. Her husband was Francis Earsley, born in Ireland of English parentage, who resided at Roxbury, and was a weaver by trade. During the Revolution he served with one of his wife's brothers. He died in 1790, leaving ten children, youngest of whom were twin daughters then nine months old.

Mounted on horseback and accompanied by her eldest son John, a son-in-law, and her brother Zacheus, this determined woman investigated the new country the year before she came to settle. On that trip she became acquainted with Simmons Perkins, a surveyor who had mapped Township 11 of the Watkins and Flint Purchase and who, with three others, joined her party. By day they viewed the prospect and by night they camped under the stars. As they crossed a small brook one day, Mrs. Earsley cried out: "This is my home!" There she bought 100 acres of land at $3 an acre, and returned to her home in New Jersey.

Next, she moved her family to Union where the party remained for four weeks, then came to Apalachin and on March 4, 1795, they reached their new cabin in the Caroline wilderness that the son John had erected in the fall of 1794.

The eldest daughter Nelly, 23, had married Beniah Barney while the party tarried in Apalachin, and she remained there. Names of the children who accompanied their mother and ages so far as known were: John, 21; Richard, 19, who died a year and a half later; Mary, who married Philip Yaples of Danby; Sarah, who married Henry Quick; William, 11; Johnson, Joshua and the twin sisters, Catherine and Elizabeth, 6. With snow lying deep on the trail, a yoke of oxen transported the family's scanty goods over it.

Other settlers rapidly came into Caroline so that by 1814

Courtesy of Gertrude Conant

Erected in 1923 *by the former and present residents of Caroline as a memorial in honor of the Widow Earsley. As the first pioneer settler she came on horseback into this New York wilderness, purchased one hundred acres of land, and built a log cabin on this site in* 1784 *as a future home for herself and ten children.*

there were 905 residents enumerated and others continued to come in until as late as 1838. Not all remained, but the Rich and Earsley families proved so steadfast to the soil that descendants are found there today.

Among those early families who did not take permanent roots were Thomas Tracy and son Benjamin who came in 1797, and Prince Tracy, brother of Thomas, who arrived a little later. This family moved to Owego where Benjamin F. Tracy was born. He became a lawyer and was a brigadier general who commanded colored troops in the Civil War. He served as Secretary of the Navy in the administration of President Benjamin Harrison, 1889-1893.

General Cantine Receives Patent

Next came a settler who had planned his coming. He was Gen. John Cantine who had commanded New York State militia in the Revolution. Before his military service, General Cantine had been interested in the unsettled lands of the state as early as 1767, so it was logical that he should be named to a commission to settle boundary disputes in the valleys of the Susquehanna, Chemung and Tioga Rivers. The other two members were Gen. James Clinton and John Hathorn.

The disputes they were to adjudicate grew out of settlements in the region before it had been surveyed and alloted. While engaged in this survey, the commissioners made selections of lands for themselves and their friends. One of these selections was of 3,200 acres in Caroline and known as the Cantine "Great Location" and the Cantine "Little Location", the latter a mile wide and four miles long. His patent was granted by the State early in 1792.

Members of the State militia were entitled to 100 acres each. Many of them assigned their claims to General Cantine, but other claims he bought for reconveyance to rightful claimants. Among these sites was the land where the city of Elmira is located, for Chemung County then embraced an area set off from Tioga in 1835. Cantine's 1,000-acre grant in Chemung

is dated February 22, 1797; the original document is in the DeWitt Historical Museum.

When General Cantine's son, John Cantine, Jr., came upstate in 1798 from Ulster County, his father gave him the choice between the Chemung lands and those in Caroline. The son chose Caroline because of the waterpower possibilities offered by Six Mile Creek. Two years later his father built him a gristmill at Brooktondale, the first on the stream. General Cantine died April 30, 1808. His personal monument is in Quick Cemetery and the DAR memorial is along the Brooktondale-Willseyville road, the old Leggett road.

The junior John Cantine's wife was Jenni, baptized Jacqueline Francoise, a daughter of Jean Jacques Carte, L.L.D., of Lusanne, Switzerland. Born in 1782, she eloped and married Cantine when she was 16. She died in 1859. Many of the Cantine-Carte papers are in the DeWitt Historical Museum.

He built a log cabin and in 1804 he erected the first frame house in the town; known as the "Cantine Mansion," it still stands at Brooktondale. Cantine proceeded to clear land and develop an agricultural industry until 1828, when he sold his farm to his brother Charles and moved to Ithaca, where he died in 1834, aged 65 years.

Early in 1800 Richard and Oakley Bush and James Chambers came to Caroline from Ulster County. In 1811 Richard Bush built a tavern of squared logs in which the first town meeting was held. Bush died in 1815 but his widow conducted the tavern for several years. Long known as the "Old Bush Place," a marker on Route 79 indicates its location.

Newcomers Seek Opportunities

Whether the newcomers were farmers or artisans, they were ever on the alert for opportunities to better themselves. Two such instances are noted in the early history of Caroline.

Benoni Mulks was a millwright whom General Cantine brought in from Ulster County in 1800 to build the gristmill

at Brooktondale. He had been a soldier in the army of General Gates and had fought in both of the battles at Saratoga, but he did not witness the surrender of General Burgoyne. He had been detailed to repair a gristmill at Schuylerville that the enemy had destroyed, but was needed to grind corn for the American soldiers.

Hunting and fishing along Six Mile Creek one Sunday morning, Mulks saw for the first time the flats at Slaterville. Two merchants in Chemung owned the land and wanted to sell it. That fall his son John came in with a prospecting party, and father and son decided to purchase the tract. They paid $1,000 for 325 acres; the deed is dated September 30, 1800.

Mulks had noticed a spring near the creek, and here he and his son built a log cabin that fall to accommodate the family when it came the next spring. On June 15 the Mulks party of eight arrived; the oldest member was a grandmother of 70 and the youngest an infant of six months. After Mulks built a frame house, school was taught in his log cabin built in 1800. The site is marked at Slaterville on Route 79.

In the War of 1812, Mulks helped build Perry's victorious fleet on Lake Ontario.

Before the Mulks party arrived, Levi Slater, John Robison and Lemuel Yates had come with their families and occupied the Mulks cabin until they could erect their own nearby. Slater built his on the site of Slaterville, which took its name from him.

Slater was a Yankee schoolteacher with a knowledge of surveying. He came with General Cantine and, using John Cantine's instruments, laid out the land in the vicinity. He bought of the General 100 acres at $3.75 an acre, and by 1812 had most of his land under cultivation.

Upon arrival Slater's party found two men from Chemung running a large sapbush on the flats. When these men went away they left their kettles and tools, and these Slater used to make a supply of maple sirup and sugar.

He was captain of militia in the War of 1812, and when Buf-

falo was threatened by the British his command was ordered to the frontier; each member of his company was given a $20 gold piece and started on a march to Buffalo. At Canandaigua the unit was informed the settlement had been burned, and ordered to return home. All of Captain Slater's soldiers felt well repaid for their walk.

During the first few years after the settlement of Slaterville, a small tribe of Oneida Indians came each fall to hunt. Their chief was Wheelock, who was killed while fighting as an American soldier in the War of 1812. Their camping ground is indicated by a marker three-fourths of a mile west of Slaterville Springs and near the hill known as the "Rosy Bone."

"Yankee" and "Dutch" Sectors

Matthew Jansen, a blacksmith of Dutch descent, settled in Slaterville in 1802, bringing a few slaves. As the eastern sector of the settlement was populated by Yankees, soon the two sections were distinguished by the names of "Yankee" settlement, and "Dutch" settlement.

The Rev. Garrett Mandeville came from Ulster County in 1803, settled near Brooktondale, and organized a Dutch Reformed Church there in 1810. The site of the church and cemetery is identified by a marker on Route 79 at West Slaterville.

On Route 79 at Caroline a marker has been placed to locate the site of the home and tavern of Nathaniel Tobey who came with his brother Samuel from Bristol County, Mass., in 1810. Nathaniel, a young married man when he migrated to Caroline, built many New England-type houses in the town.

There were, of course, many other settlers during the early years of the nineteenth century. The ones mentioned here have been selected to indicate the variety of skills they brought with them to the wilderness. It will have been noticed, too, that they came from the Northeast, mostly from New England and Ulster County, New York; these latter were known as the "Marbletown Dutch."

But there was another increment of newcomers quite in contrast with these, for they came from Virginia and Maryland and bought large acreages from the Johnsons between 1803 and 1808. Not only did these mid-southerners bring additional skills and cultures, they brought the only large group of slaves ever introduced into the new county. A group of Southern Federalists seeking land in the Federalist North and traveling horseback, visited a large area in Central New York, then chose a location in Caroline.

Among this group was Augustine Boyer, a wealthy man who came from Maryland in 1803 and purchased 1,000 acres of Johnson Lands. He lined his dwelling with wide, matched boards and filled the space between the studding with mud as an insulation. This house still stands, with a long driveway leading to it from the '76 Road. He built also a log blockhouse as protection against an Indian attack but never had an occasion to use it for this purpose.

In 1804, Boyer constructed the "'76 Road" as a memorial to the spirit of 1776. It ran easterly from Brooktondale through Caroline Center to Speedsville. Two miles east from Brooktondale a historical marker formerly indicated the site of a deerlick where early settlers, Indians and wild animals obtained salt.

Other members of the Southern colony were the Speeds, Hydes, Heggies and Patillos. The Speeds from Mecklenburg, Va., were the most conspicuous.

Dr. Joseph Speed was graduated from the Pennsylvania Medical College in 1803. His diploma was signed by the college president, Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Dr. Speed and his brother John came to Caroline in 1805. His plantation home, known as Spring Farm, is on the Old Level Green Road running from the hamlet of Caroline to Speedsville. Its location is indicated by a marker. Dr. Speed died in 1847.

John James Speed and his brother William, cousins of Dr. Speed, came to Caroline in 1805 and their father Henry fol-

lowed in 1808. John James Speed had been a merchant in Virginia and, with his brother, opened a store in 1805 in a log house just east of Slaterville. The next year he succeeded in having a postoffice established there and he became postmaster of Speedsville. Later he removed to Ithaca, then to Cortland, and died in Maine in 1860.

At Speedsville, the site of the oldest house is marked. It was built by Laban Jenks in 1819 and later known as the Legg Homestead. This marker points out also location of Speedsville Commons, land for which was donated by Leonard Legg and John Stearns. It was incorporated in 1858 as a state park. At one time Jenks owned 400 acres of land around Jenksville, but he moved to Michigan in 1825.

Eventually the postoffice was removed to Jenksville but the name of Speedsville was continued upon the insistence of John J. Speed, Jr., who became postmaster in 1832. He was elected to the assembly in that year and was a presidential elector in 1840. Subsequently, he engaged in the mercantile business in Ithaca, but lost heavily in the failure of the Fall Creek Woolen Mills. After that, he was associated with Ezra Cornell in development of the telegraph, retrieved his fortune and paid his creditors.

On Route 79, just east of Slaterville, a marker indicates the site of a blockhouse built of squared logs in 1806 by John James Speed and used as a postoffice. It was on the route of the Catskill Turnpike.

Slaves in Caroline

While the first slave brought into the county was a boy who came with Robert McDowell in 1788, there were few in the county outside of Caroline. The census of 1820 reports by towns: Ulysses, two males and one female; Danby, two males and four females; Caroline, eighteen males and fourteen females; Hector (then a part of Tompkins County), nine males; Dryden, Groton and Lansing reported none. Free colored per-

sons were listed as follows: Hector, thirty-three; Ulysses, eighteen; Caroline, none; Danby, five. Descendants of Caroline slaves still live in the county, though slavery was outlawed nearly a century and a half ago.

A quarter mile north of the Bush Tavern site in Caroline is a marker that locates the old slave burying ground. Fourteen were buried there.

The first recorded manumission of a slave in the Town of Caroline is found in the town clerk's book, as follows:

"This is to certify that I have this day agreed to discharge my man Peter, known by the name Peter Webb, from all further servitude as slave; that he is free to act for himself as a free man from this time forward. Witness my hand the above date.

"Jno. Jas. Speed.

"Witness:

"I certify that the above is a true copy of the original in all respects.

"Moses Cass, T. Clerk.

"March 20, 1822."

Webb's manumission was for a consideration: he bought his freedom by paying his owner $384, a transaction that may cause one to wonder where a slave obtained even that sum of money. When Webb's services were not needed on the Speed farm he was permitted to work for others and receive payment. One of his employers was the management of the Ithaca Hotel. It is not known whether Webb was aware of the fact that by law all slaves in New York State would be freed in 1827.

Webb, upon becoming a freeman, set about fitting himself into the economy and customs of the community. On April 21, 1825, he registered with the town clerk the earmark for his livestock: a hole through the right ear and a crop off the left ear. It is apparent he was successful in his efforts as a freeman for his son Frederick M. Webb eventually became owner of the John Joseph Speed homestead.

In The American Journal, an Ithaca weekly newspaper, of March 5, 1823, appears the following notice:

LOST, on Saturday 22d ult. between J. Grant's Coffee House and the Town of Caroline, a Red Morocco POCKET-BOOK containing one $3 bill, one note of hand for twenty-three dollars, signed by Moses Hemingway, a note for nine dollars, signed by David Kingman, and my emancipation from J. J. Speed, together with some other papers of no use to any person but the owner. Whoever will return Said Pocket Book with the papers to Mr. Grant, at Ithaca, shall be generously rewarded.

PETER WEBB, Ithaca, March 3, 1823.

Owners Record Slave Boy's Birth

An entry in the town clerk's record of January 8, 1812, reads: "Charles, born April 25, 1812, son of Catharine and slave to Catharine Depey, wid. Recorded Jan. 8, 1812."

Since the recording is earlier than the birth date, it is apparent that an error was made in the birth date. Presumably, the slave boy was born in 1811.

On August 16, 1822, Augustine Boyer recorded the birth of another slave boy by making an affidavit that was duly recorded by the town clerk. The Christian name cannot be read on the faded page, but his surname was Andrews. His mother was a slave at the time of his birth, August 17, 1821, and owned by Boyer.

On February 18, 1813, the Caroline town clerk recorded the following births of white children. Varanes Rhoode, August 21, 1804; Increase Summer Rhoode, October 3, 1805; Alexis Blanford Rhoode, September 19, 1807; Sarepta Caroline Rhoode, April 19, 1810.

Seven years later, in March 1820, Jonas Rhoode and Abigail Rhoode requested the information be recorded that they were the parents of these children "as doubts may arise as to who are the parents. I do hereby insert the names of the parents, Jonas and Abigail Rhoode. John Cantine, T. Clerk."

Native Son Became Michigan Governor

George Blair of Worcester, Mass., came into the Caroline wilderness in 1809. He was unmarried, as was Sabin Mann who came with him; later Mann married Rhoda Blackman. Drafted into the army during the War of 1812, he was killed, and Blair married his widow. It was their son Austin who became the Civil War governor of Michigan, 1861-65. Previously, he had been county clerk and prosecutor; later he served three terms as congressman. Born in 1818, Blair died in 1894.

The Blair Homestead, on a town road two miles north of Speedsville, still stands, with a small family burying ground near it. A marker identifies this place.

A marker 2½ miles east of Brooktondale commemorates the Quick Homestead. This house was built in 1823 by Henry Quick and Sally Earsley Quick, the latter a daughter of Widow Earsley. The Quick family came from Ulster County and were members of the "Marbletown Dutch" contingent of Caroline settlers.

Some "Firsts" in Caroline

There is a significance in "firsts" found in the records of pioneer communities. After the settler in the vast forests had secured his family's shelter and food, his next thought was of the society in which they were to dwell. Consequently, a list of these firsts record informally development of that social order, their respective dates indicating his idea of the importance of each by its chronology. Read with this thought in mind, we learn much of the type of persons who came early to Caroline and their purpose in coming.

The first log house was erected by Capt. David Rich in 1795.

The first frame house was the old "Mansion House" erected by Gen. John Cantine in 1801.

The first gristmill and the first sawmill were built by Gen. John Cantine at Brooktondale in 1808.

The first tavern was opened by Richard Bush in 1801. For many years it was known as "Bush's Stand."

The first tannery was built by Solomon Robison and Daniel Hedges in 1816.

In 1802, Matthew Jansen brought what appeared to be the first slaves into Caroline.

The first distillery of which there is historical record was erected by Levi Slater in 1810.

The first store was opened by John James Speed, Sr., in a log house on the C. P. Tobey farm in 1805.

The first schoolhouse erected was a small addition to the residence of John Robison on the site of Slaterville in 1802.

The first white child born in Caroline was Richard, son of Captain Bush. He was born January 18, 1797.

The first supervisor was William Rounsvell; the first town clerk, Levi Slater.

The first town meeting was held "the second Tuesday in April, 1811," in Bush's Tavern. Caroline was organized as a town in Tioga County on February 22, 1811.

The first church was erected about 1820 at West Slaterville. The Rev. Garrett Mandeville organized a Dutch Reformed society in 1810, which later built the church. Widow Earsley was a member.

The first circulating library in Caroline—and probably in the county—was organized January 13, 1818. Dr. Speed was the first librarian; there were forty members.

The first postoffices were established as follows: Slaterville in 1823; at Speedsville in 1835; at Terryville in 1835 and moved to Motts Corners (Brooktondale) in 1836; at Caroline about 1810, Dr. Speed, postmaster; at Caroline Center about 1839.

The first grange was organized at Brooktondale in 1874 with 34 charter members.

Speedsville Lodge, No. 205, F. and A. M., was instituted June 11, 1851; Caroline Lodge, No. 681, in November, 1867.

First Methodist Church at Slaterville: class organized as early as 1813; church building dedicated in 1834.

Methodist Church at Speedsville: class organized about 1820; church erected in 1851.

Methodist Church at Caroline Center: class organized about 1820; first church erected in 1825.

First Baptist Church of Caroline: organized in 1814; first church erected in 1848 at Brooktondale.

St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church was transferred from Richford to Speedsville in 1842.

Congregational Church at Brooktondale: society formed and church built in 1868.

Universalist Church at Speedsville: built in 1828 by Methodists, Presbyterians and Universalists and used jointly until 1851; society formed in 1827, reorganized in 1870; church became property of the Universalists.

Wildlife Imposed Burden on Settlers

Mosquitoes and myriads of gnats that throve in the moist, wooded country made life miserable for the early settlers. Animals of the new country, too, were a pest. Bears, wildcats, foxes and wolves raided the farmers' livestock, and had to be eradicated by trapping and shooting. A bear trap in the DeWitt Museum, made by some early blacksmith, indicates how vigorously the farmers attacked the menace.

But pelts were a source of income, and the bears supplied meat and oil as well as pelts. In autumn a three-year-old bear would be so fat that he weighed from 250 to 300 pounds. Called a "blanket," the fat layer on the rump might be five inches thick and, when "tried out," produce ten to fifteen gallons of bear oil that sold for as much as $6 a gallon. At home, the farm family used it as a substitute for butter and lard, its sweet taste making it highly palatable. In commerce, bear grease was an ingredient of medicines and hair tonics and base for perfumes. Bones were made into buttons, combs, knife handles, knitting needles and similar domestic items.

The Caroline town meeting of 1817 voted "that whoever kills a fox in this town shall be entitled to a bounty; for killing

a wolf, $5; for killing a wildcat, $1." The bounty on foxes was not specified, but at the annual town meeting in 1818 it was "Resolved, That the town law passed at annual town meeting 1817 granting one dollar bounty for fox scalps caught and killed in that town be repealed."

Pioneers Worked with Simple Tools

(With thanks to Will Osborn)

For fitting timber in building construction, there were broadaxes, chisels, augers, mauls, froes, drawshaves as well as other hand tools. Sawmills operated up-and-down saws until the coming of circular saws and steam power by the mid-1800's.

Until after the Civil War, when "balloon" construction became commonplace because of the availability of sawn lumber, framed buildings prevailed. So-called "country carpenters" needed no blueprints.

To begin construction of a framed building, a log of proper length was placed upon a skid; then a man standing upon this log scored four sides with ax strokes about every four or five inches. It was really remarkable how even this line of strokes was though the distance between them was gauged by his eye.

After the log was scored, along came the hewer, a man equipped with a broadax who smoothed the sides of the log. This ax had a head mounted at a slight right angle to the handle and a cutting edge of twelve or fourteen inches wide. When his work was done, a four-square timber was ready for framing.

On both ends of a crossbeam tenons were cut with a saw and then fitted with a hand chisel. In a corresponding position on both ends of side beams, mortises were cut by first boring large auger holes in a row and then chiselling out the wood. Both mortise and tenon had to be accurately cut as the tenon must fit squarely into the mortise.

Thus the four sills were fitted together, then two-inch auger holes were bored clear through sill and tenon and two roughly rounded hardwood pins were inserted and driven home. Under

stress of wind, pine sills and beams might give but oak pins held and the structure remained firm and true for many years.

These pins were made of oak or other hardwood, a block of which was stood on end and with a froe split into desired thickness for pin making. This was called "riving" and the pieces split off were known as "shakes." Shakes were split into rough plugs that were somewhat rounded and pointed with a hand ax, and then driven into the auger holes with a large, wooden mallet or maul.

The froe was a cleaving tool made by a local blacksmith. It had an iron blade, thicker on the top and beveled to a splitting edge; a wooden handle stood straight up. An operator grasped this handle, placed the blade upon the block to be rived, and then with a mallet struck the back of the froe with heavy blows. Froes were used in this manner in making early-day barrel staves, and shingles until well after the beginning of the twentieth century.

In the usual building, barn or dwelling, there were four "bents," as the framed cross units were called. One bent formed the skeleton for each end, and the other two were erected near the center of the building. On a frame for a barn 36 feet long, one of the center bents might be erected 16 feet from the end to provide a hay mow of that width. The other center bent was set up approximately 20 feet from the opposite end bent, this to provide for a barn floor 10 feet in width and a cowstable of the same width. Space over both the barn floor and the stable was used for mows of forage.

These bents were framed on the ground, with the tenons cut on each end of the uprights to fit into the sill or roofplate. The center bents were moved into position and one after another was raised into position by means of pike poles manned by members of a neighborhood "raisin' bee." As each bent was raised and tenons fitted into the sill mortises, it was braced. When all four bents were up and securely "stayed," the rafter plates were raised, fitted and permanently pegged in the same manner as had the other posts.

Dwellings were constructed after the same pattern and much the some proportions. Space between the two center bents formed a hallway with stairs leading to the second floor, and underneath these stairs another set led to the cellar. Customarily, to one side of the hall was a large room called the parlor; to the rear of the parlor was a seldom-used bedroom for guests. On the opposite side of the hallway was a living room-kitchen where the family spent most of its indoor time. To the rear of this room were two smaller rooms that might afford bedrooms, and further to the rear of these was a summer kitchen that in winter was piled with firewood. Any space not occupied here served for a workshop where carcasses were cut up, harness repaired and shingles made in severe weather.

Before sawmills were in operation, floor timbers for dwellings were usually hewed square, but for barns logs were merely hewn flat on one side. This was true for rafters for barns. Sheathing covered these rafters and hand-shaved shingles completed the roof of house or barn. Such roofs were famed for long service, even 60 years or more.

Water-powered sawmills until well along in the 20th century used up-and-down saws that were both slow and inaccurate; timbers in old buildings may be identified as so sawn by straight kerfs and great variations in dimensions. To even fittings necessary, as in flooring timbers, much handwork was called for. Such surfaces might be evened by a plane, and adze on coarser work, or a shim hoe to smooth a place over a joist to let the surface down even with an adjoining thinner board.

Shaving shingles was another skill needed by the pioneer. Tools required were few and simple: a froe, mallet, shaving knife and shingle horse. Shakes were rived with the froe from pine or hemlock butts, then placed in the shingle horse where a wooden clamp depressed by the operator's foot held the shake firm. The fore end of the shank was then shaved thin on both sides, and the two edges smoothed by the shaving knife in a dexterous movement while the shingle was still in the clamp. A slow process, but time was compensated for by the long life of the product.

When it came time for the pioneer farmer to harvest his hay, he mowed it by hand with a scythe and raked it with a hand rake. Machines were not available, and had they been their use would have been limited. Stumps and other obstructions and uneven surfaces defeated machines for many years. Grain was first cut with a sickle, the grain cradle being unusable until field obstructions were overcome. The straw lay in a regular swath which was raked by hand into sheaves that were stacked in shocks to ripen fully. Each shock wore a "cap" made by spreading a sheaf and inverting it over the shock to protect the grain from rain. Sheaves were bound by wythes made by twisting the heads of a small bundle of straw from the sheaf in such a manner that the heads feld firmly. Making the band and capping the shock required clever skill.

The grain cradle was a scythe equipped with a four-fingered "hand" above the cutting blade. After the straw was cut, it lodged against the fingers in an orderly manner and was deposited in an even swath that permitted raking into sheaves. It required a strong back to swing a cradle all day, especially when the straw was short or particularly dry.

Before the grain was ready for milling into meal or flour, it had to be threshed out from the straw. This was done by setting up the sheaves on a barn floor, tops up, and threshing out the grain with flails swung rhythmatically by a crew of six or eight men. When the grain had been pounded off the straw forks were used to shake out the grain and throw the straw aside. Before the fanning mill came into use about 1825, barn doors were opened on a windy day and the grain was tossed into the air to permit the chaff to be blown out. In early days this grain was frequently pounded into a coarse flour in a hollowed-out stump by a pestle, or carried long distances to a water-powered gristmill.

All the early tools were primitive: few were brought in with the migrating pioneers and those made were largely of wood fabrication. Hay forks were fashioned from tree branches, grain scoops were gouged out of blocks of wood; hoes, metal

forks, hammers and other tools were shaped by blacksmiths on their anvils. These tools were heavy and cumbersome, and costly as a pound of iron brought into the new country from Hudson River furnaces cost 17 cents.

Paying for Land Difficult

After only 175 years, it can scarcely be imagined how difficult it was for farmers to pay for their lands. Most of the settlers who came into Caroline—or into the county, for that matter—were men of small means; their chief assets were determination and ability to work hard and long under adverse conditions.

One of the most detailed accounts of these struggles in Caroline is that of Henry Quick and his father, Philip Quick. The latter came from Ulster County in 1800 and worked for General Cantine, but when the General's business failed, his employee lost most of his wages. At $6 an acre, Philip Quick then purchased a farm that was solid woodland. Working for Abram Chambers two days a week to pay his board, he spent the other four—and part of each night—clearing his land. He taught school during the winter and worked on the farm in the summer before he married Sally, a daughter of the Widow Earsley. He died of consumption at the age of 31.

Their son Henry lived with his grandfather after his father's death until he was 17, when he struck out for himself. Soon taken ill, it was three years before he recovered. Then he commenced working on a farm at $120 a year for the first two years, then $140 for two years. When he became 21, he received his father's estate—nine acres of land and $40.

This inheritance plus his savings enabled him to purchase a farm of 60 acres. He married in 1854, when he was 24, and after he and his wife had worked a year for wages, they began farming their own acres. To buy the land and necessary equipment, they went $800 in debt. By dint of hard work and frugal living, they cleared 92 acres of barren lands and converted them into a debt-free, productive farm.

Merely recounting the story of Henry Quick conveys small information as to how he and his wife accomplished the work for which they stand credited. They worked with a small beginning; perhaps two or three acres of land were cleared each year. At first this acreage could be expected to produce little more than a subsistence let alone pay taxes, interest on indebtedness and make a token payment on the principle. At the time production was limited by the few cleared acres, prices for their crops were small and transportation difficult.

Fortunately, new cleared land was highly productive and free from infestations that later handicapped farmers. But amid stumps and roots, arable soil was limited and cultivation was by means of the primitive grub and hoe; harvesting, by sickle and scythe; threshing, by frails. All time consuming and laborious.

Wife's Lot Hard in Primitive Cabin

In the pioneer farmer's home, the wife was no better equipped and her work was as arduous as that of her husband in the forest and half-tamed fields. By today's standards, she did her work in most primitive surroundings, and she had vastly more work to do than has her counterpart of today.

The log cabin was small, often not more than one good-sized room. It scarcely could be otherwise when one of the larger cabins was only 20 by 24 feet in area. Nor was there cellar or attic. Root crops were stored in outside cellars, commonly called "holes," from whch they were brought out during the long months between growing seasons.

As the autumn advanced, more and more bags of stored foods were hung from the rafters of the cabin. There were beans and peas, dried corn, peaches, berries; clusters of herbs for medicines and seasonings; dried and smoked beef and venison; smoked hams and sausage took their places after the fall butchering season. By the time winter shut in, the ceiling of the cabin was a veritable food storehouse.

In this corner and that was other storage, prominent was

the inevitable pork barrel in which the meat was preserved in salt brine. So strong became the odor of this barrel that the housewife and her family were glad when spring came so that it could be scrubbed and set in the sun to "sweeten" for use again the next fall.

Add to this collection the few pieces of furniture and other necessary items of a primitive household, one wonders how the housewife did her work. There was spinning, weaving, knitting, and the making of clothing—even the shirts and pants of the male members of the family. And, in season, there was butter-making, apple-drying, dyeing with barks and nutshells, quilting, soap boiling, and the sick administered to.

Cooking was done over open fireplaces that filled the congested room with its fits of smoking. There were long evenings in winter spent in handwork by the light of candles—endless sewing of clothing, carpet rags, and other necessities that must be made in the one little room. There was baking; bread was the year-round standby, but in winter buckwheat pancakes with fried ham, pork or sausage and maple sirup made life seem worthwhile.

Somehow, perhaps to offset her boredom, the faithful housewife baked cakes and pies that were tokens of training by a New England mother. Benches served for chairs and a rough-hewn plank for a table. Lacking knives and forks the mother cut the food into small pieces and placed them on wooden plates or pieces of bark before the children. With sharpened sticks as substitutes for forks, they picked up their portion.

The cold, dark and damp cabins changed under the warmth and sun of summertime. Then it didn't matter whether the doors fitted tightly or the windows had glass panes or were covered with carpet. All openings were thrown open to let the blessed sun in and the warm air to sweeten the habitation. It was 10 o'clock on summer mornings before the sun rose over tree tops to shine in many cabins in the dark forest.

In this happier season, the housewife's labors were not lessened; they were merely transferred to the garden, orchard,

and fields to help the men with planting, cultivation and harvest. Not only was the garden and berry patch her care, but she was largely responsible for the poultry and the dairy. With such aid as her children might give her, she assumed these outdoor duties so that the men folks might devote longer hours to the work of the fields and forests—and, perchance to her, an escape from the confines of the cabin.

Homemade Clothing Simple

Because the pioneers had so little money, they were compelled to dress in the plainest and least expensive manner. Men's pants and women's dresses for summer were made of linen from homegrown flax combined with wool or cotton and called lindsey-woolsey because it was neither one or the other. Ill-fitting garments of deerskin were available. Jackets, roundabout or sailor style, were worn by men and boys.

In early days calico cost 75 cents a yard, and seven yards were required for a dress in the style of the day. A women attired in such a dress wore an "extravagant garment," as the saying was. Petticoats and short gowns was the fashion. Women wore shawls extensively; they were made from dressed woolen cloth or, when wool yarn was sufficiently abundant, they were knitted.

Homemade linen was bleached and made into shirts for men and boys and some of the women's undergarments. A woman's common dress was "copperas and white," as it was called; and "copperas and blue, two and two, for nice" was the dress for ceremonial occasions. All garments were made to wear the longest possible time and patched and repaired to prolong their use, for it was always uncertain when a replacement would be available.

In warm weather, many a person went to meeting barefooted, carrying shoes and stockings in hand. When near the meeting-house, the feet were dressed. On the way home, the footwear was removed and the church-goer proceeded home

barefooted. From early spring to late fall, boys and girls went barefoot; most adults did part of the time. Going shoeless for pasturing cows on frosty, late fall mornings, youngsters would chase the cows up to warm their feet where the animal had lain.

Buttons were hard to come by, so substitutes were fashioned from thread; safety pins were a later invention. Men's pants opened at the sides and their shirts buttoned at the back; both were homemade.

Mothers fashioned caps for boys from scraps of material, or of straw for summer wear. Some caps were made of skins, as the famed coonskin cap. All alike wore knitted caps.

Later, leather boots were extensively worn, both for work and for dress; in fact, it was not until after the Civil War that shoes displaced leather boots when rubber footwear became available. Dress boots were made of grain leather, but work boots were fabricated from the split leather. Far from waterproof, they were liberally greased with tallow to overcome this deficiency, but in wet weather the wearer was never dry footed. At night they were tugged off with the aid of a bootjack and willing hands, then filled with oats to absorb the moisture overnight. In cold weather these boots hardened on the wearer's feet and were most difficult to pull off; to put them on the toe of the boot was kicked against a door jamb as the struggling wearer pulled on the two "pulls" with which each boot was necessarily equipped.

Well-to-do country squires wore grain-leather boots that were kept shined with a mixture of lamp black bonded with the white of an egg. Generally, trouser legs were tucked into the boot tops which came to just below the knee; for dress-up occasions pants legs were worn over the boot. Boots and shoes were made by cordwainers from the farmer's own leather, and soles were attached with wooden pegs made in pegmills. Footwear was repaired by cobblers.

Up until 1820, footwear was made so as to fit either foot. About mid-century rubber footwear began to appear, along

with waterproof capes and coats. Rubber boots were followed by felt boots and arctics which until recent years were found occasionally in country stores. Before felt boots appeared, coarse shoes and leggings were fall and winter footwear for men and school children. All wore woolen stockings or socks through winter and into late spring.

Nearly every early home had a spinning wheel and loom, and every housewife was skilled in operating them to make the necessary fabrics for the family. Spinning wheels lingered until the 1880's but the loom had disappeared long before. The women of the family did their own coloring, employing skillfully bark from soft maple, hemlock, chestnut, butternut trees and witch hazel shrubs. Flowers of the sumac and leaves from the peach as well as nuts and roots were used to produce the dyes which were set by sorrel, copperas and alum.

Socks, stockings, mittens, scarfs, hoods, shawls, wristlets and fringe mittens were apparel knitted in early households.

Like the clothing of the pioneer, his foods were simple but substantial, and they were prepared in a primitive manner. Using iron and brass kettles that long endured, the housewife boiled, baked and roasted over flame or in the ashes of the fireplace.

Foodstuffs Mostly Home-grown

Potatoes were a year-around staple article of food. Grown plentifully in the new soil, cultivation and harvest required a minimum expenditure of time and labor; preserved easily in outdoor cellars, they kept well. A favorite method of cooking was to cover them in the ashes of the fireplace and roast them.

Wheat was a salable grain, both for flour and distilling, so it was less eaten than rye and corn. Rye bread remained a staple in the rural dietary until comparatively late in the nineteenth century. Corn meal was made into Johnnycake and mush; mush-and-milk was not uncommon in the farm family's diet, and when other foods were in short supply, it was the mainstay. Milk was another food product for which there were no facilities for marketing except as butter in limited production; so it became an important article of food. Besides providing butter and cheese for home consumption, it entered widely into the preparation of other foods.

Meat was plentiful in the early days, for bears and deer abounded in the county. Venison was served as fresh meat and dried or smoked; bear meat was treated in a like manner. Hogs and sheep supplied meat from the farm. Pork, the leading American meat diet until superseded by beef in the 1880's was processed into several palatable forms, varying from sausage, headcheese, smoked hams and bacon to salted pork. Lard was an important byproduct of hogs that fattened on nuts of the woodland. It was used extensively in cooking and in the lard lamps that furnished illumination in the winter darkness of the cabin. Lard lamps are found in the DeWitt Museum collection. Bear and raccoon fat were substitutes for lard, and both were preferred in frying doughnuts. Fish is still another food item

that was plentiful in the early days when streams ran full and cold.

Persons accustomed to the use of electric lighting of today are hard put to imagine how life was endured and much work done by the primitive lighting of the cabins. At first, pine knots were used as faggots to furnish light to work by, but most unsatisfactorily for they smoked, smelled and flickered. With a small reservoir filled with lard and a wick of scrap cloth inserted and ignited, the lard lamp gave but a dim glow. Later tallow candles, both dipped and molded, came into use with little improvement in illumination. Kerosene lamps and lanterns were not in general use on farms until after Civil War days, although rather ornate oil lamps were available in the late 1850's. Danger of fires from exploding kerosene retarded use of these oil devices until after 1900.

Cooking in fireplaces was accomplished in several ways. Boiled foods were placed in iron kettles that were hung from trammel irons fixed into the walls of the fireplace. Bread and cake mixtures were placed in an iron kettle equipped with a cover and the kettle was then set in a bed of coals and coals were piled over the cover. The bake kettle was a low, kettle shaped iron pot with cover and bail, as may be seen by examening the one in the DeWitt Museum. This method of baking was supplanted by ovens when cast-iron stoves came upon the market. Another baking device was an oven built into the walls over the fireplace.

Johnnycake, a frequent item on the early farmers menu, was quickly prepared of corn meal and baked. The mixture was poured into a long-handled frying pan and baked over the fire. It was served hot with maple sirup or honey.

Sugar was an expensive article of commerce and the pioneer substituted maple sirup, maple sugar and honey as a sweetening. Honey came from two sources: the domestic bees that the settlers cultivated and the wild bees that stored their product in "bee trees." Both honey and sirup were substituted for butter when that article was lacking.

The housewife made her own yeast, and for today's baking soda and baking powder she resorted to corn cobs. These were burned in the baking kettle and the resulting ash was a substitute for today's leavening.

Because tea and coffee were expensive and beyond the pocketbook of the early rural family, varied substitutes were employed. Rye grain, dried peas, beechnuts, chestnuts, corn, and chickory were roasted in a pan and used in place of coffee. When coffee was purchased, a pound lasted a year and was doled out only on occassion. It came in the whole bean to be roasted and ground as needed. It doesn't need to be said that the resultant beverage was not "good to the last drop."

Tea, too, was so costly that a half-pound sufficed for a year: it was a rare treat that was reserved for company. Among substitutes used for tea were sage, thyme, the mints, sweet fern, and dried leaves of the raspberry bush.

Other homemade beverages common to the times were milk, buttermilk, switchel and cider. Buttermilk was especially desired during hot weather. Switchel, another hot-weather drink, was concocted of water, molasses and ginger. Cider was consumed in vast quantities, cold in summer and in winter heated by inserting a hot poker into it.

Roots, leaves and seeds of herbs were gathered and preserved for medicinal purposes. Suggestive of these are catnip, tansy, elder blossoms and wormwood for children. The mints, boneset, gingseng, flaxseed and mustard were taken internally as potions, and the latter two were used for poultices in colds. Doctors were few and far between and medicine was as primitive as the culture of the pioneer community. Caring for the sick devolved upon the mothers and grandmothers. Death rates were high, especially among infants and young children.

Early Cabins Made Rude Shelters

Cabin floors were most frequently earthen, but some were of puncheons which were small poles whose topside had been flattened with an adz; others were of rough pine boards

pegged to the ground. Doors were roughly hewn and might be ill-fitting. Roofs were of bark or slabs of lumber rough-hewn with a hand adz. Often they leaked: one newcomer to Lansing said that the only dry places in his cabin were under the table or the bed. For window panes, greased paper was used.

In the cluttered little room of the cabin, by the light of the flames in the fireplace or by faggots or pine splinters stuck in the wall of the fireplace, the housewife did her sewing, spinning and weaving; and the fathers repaired farm equipment and boots. Boys and girls studied their lessons or helped their parents, and thereby acquired the skills that they must possess to make a success of pioneer life.

Few of the pioneers could afford watches and clocks. Time was reckoned by the sun marks cut upon a door frame or window frame. Here and there one fashioned a crude sun dial, and a few families possessed an hour glass used in timing.

Not until the nineteenth century was well advanced did matches become available, an evil-smelling sulphur match invented in England in 1827. Before introduction of the match, fire was kindled by striking flint against steel to produce a spark that ignited tinder. Punk was used as tinder and it was customary to gather it in the woods and keep a supply on hand. "Borrowing fire" was often resorted to when the fireplace burned out and the last coal was dead. When Simeon Van Nortwick and family entered their new cabin on the Peruville road early in 1800, he walked five miles to West Dryden to obtain live coals to start his fireplace.

Candles were lighted by splints or tapers ignited in the fireplace. After matches were available, to save them tapers and splints continued to be used by older residents until well past 1900, when today's "bird's-eye," or parlor match, was developed to replace the outlawed poisonous sulphur match.

Among wooden articles of local production were pails, tubs, food plates called "trenchers," bowls, ladles, scoops, spoons, benches, tables, and a number of tools used on the farm. Young

hickory timber was frayed to form brooms; corn husks tied to a handle served the same purpose.

Among artisans essential to every pioneer community were tanners, who produced leather from homegrown hides, and coopers. The latter made containers of wood: firkins (butter tubs), kegs, and two types of barrels, "loose" and "tight." The former type was used for storing dry products, the latter for liquids.

Democratic Society in Operation

It was a democratic society which set up the Town of Caroline. It was natural that the New England town meeting form of government would be the pattern for most of the settlers were from that section of the nation. Referring to the first town clerk's record, now in the DeWitt Museum, some excerpts are presented here.

On the wilderness farms there were as yet few fences and farmstock was likely to roam. A commingling of cattle made it difficult for an owner to decide which were his, so a system of earmarks was developed and recorded as the first entry in the new book. Under each settler's name was entered a brief description of the mark he used to distinguish his livestock. To make certain the description would be understood—and perhaps because some of the settlers could not read—the town clerk drew a pen sketch of the head of the animal and indicated the markings on the ears.

Some of these descriptions follow as excerpts from the original document now in the DeWitt Museum.

Levi Slater—A crop on the right ear and a slit under same.

Augustine Boyer—A crop on the right ear and a crop and a half-moon in the upper and underside of the left ear.

Matthew H. Jansen—A crop off from the right ear.

Registration of earmarks with the town clerk continued as late as June 3, 1845, when Peter Meddaugh's mark was entered as follows: Half-penny from the underside and a half-crop

from the uppper side of the right ear and a half-penny from the upper side of the left ear. A penny was the size of today's 50c.

A counterpart of the New England village, the communities had a commons used by all residents. But roaming livestock were not to feed upon this sector, so laws were passed to protect the public area from trespass. At the first town meeting it was "Resolved, That swine shall not run on the commons."

Perhaps this enactment did not keep the swine at home, for at the 1812 meeting a new ordinance read: "Resolved, That hogs shall not be free commoners." Somebody must have become a little angry at the nuisance, for one notes "swine" in the former law was changed to "hogs" in the new ordinance.

Another problem the town board met squarely was that of boars and rams rambling around the settlement, scaring the wits out of women and children, no doubt. A law was passed at the 1812 session that placed them under control.

It is quite likely that some owners called to account before the justices contended their fences were adequate. To end all squabbling on this point, the town fathers "Resolved, That a fence shall be six feet high to be lawful."

Still troubled by the roaming livestock and the violations of the sanctity of the commons, the town meeting of 1813 "Resolved, That the supervisor raise money to build a pound 30 feet square of oak or chestnut timber and the supervisor to let said pound to be built by the lowest bidder."

Where to locate this pound was not left to chance, for it was "Resolved, That Joseph Chambers, Laban Jenks and John J. Speed be a committee to fix a site of said pound and that they meet on the first Monday in May for said purpose."

Land Clearing Slow, Wasteful

Like all pioneers of the time, those in Caroline cleared the land with primitive tools that are seldom seen outside museums. The ax was the chief instrument for attacking the forest giants; crosscut saws, later much used by farmers and woods-

men, were so inferior that they were not suggested as part of the pioneer's equipment.

Fitting the soil on newly cleared land was a difficult task, what with stumps and roots still strongly entrenched and only improvised implements to break the soil and prepare a seed bed. For a plow a crotched limb was used to stir the recently burned-over earth to a depth of a few inches, over which grain seeds were broadcast and then "brushed-in" with a leafless branch of a tree that was hauled by hand or by an ox team. Later a pegtooth harrow replaced the brush when stumps had been cleared off. It had wooden teeth that faced to the rear so it would slide over rather than become entangled in roots that had not disappeared. Potatoes, corn and similar garden seeds were deposited in holes made by a pointed stick.

By 1830, numerous machines and implements became available to farmers at about the time when their fields had first become clear of obstructions and could be worked by these time-and-work-saving machines. Among this equipment were reversible plows, cultivators, spring-tooth harrows, mowers, reapers, seeders and small tools. Metal sap spiles replaced those whittled from sumac of a winter's evening, and tin buckets took the place of wooden ones while evaporators superseded the uneconomical caldron for boiling sap.

Wastage of the timber wealth of the country was heavy while clearing of the land was under way. This was especially true of the hardwoods which were burned for ashes and charcoal. Pines and hemlocks were used in erecting buildings and fences of rails; basswood, ash and chestnuts also split into rails. Many thousand trees were thus converted into usefulness since twenty-one rails were required for two rods of fencing.

With the coming of sawmills, considerable lumber was produced by the many small mills. This lumber was hauled to the growing villages and to the lakeside for shipment on the canal. But millions of board feet of prime hemlock were later left to rot where the trees had been fellen by the barkpeelers.

On his visit to Ithaca in 1810, Gov. DeWitt Clinton entered

a note in his journal concerning methods employed to remove hemlocks.

"Some of the new settlers clear the lands by beginning at tops of trees and cutting limbs. The upper ones break off the lower, and they soon strip the loftiest hemlock. We saw some of the trees trimmed that way. Others prefer making roads where the trees have been cut down, so that they can root them up. The weight of the trees in falling will remove the roots, which cannot be got rid of in cutting."

First Year's Balance $18.99

For the first year of Caroline's township affairs, Supervisor William Rounseville's account was audited as follows:

Debited with:		
Collector's Warrant	$153.86	
To money received from J. Smith, Esq.	12.00	$165.86
Credited by:		
Fees paid to collector	$ 7.69	
By his own fees for collecting and paying	1.46	
By orders drawn on him and paid	137.87	$146.87
		$ 18.99

Approved this 29th day of August, 1812

Levi Slater, T. Clerk

E. Chambers, J. Peace

It seems someone made an error in his addition, as the three expenditures total $147.02.

For 1813 the town did not do quite as well insofar as a balance was concerned. There was only $5.42 carried over, but next year there was no balance in spite of the fact that the total tax had risen from $66.43 the year before to $126.40.

In 1820, the state tax was $110.93; county tax, $59.28; and the total town expenses $348.59. This year the town had a bad debt of 19 cents and closed the year owing the supervisor $3.19.

Tanbark By-Product of Clearing

When Solomon Robison and Daniel Hedges built a tannery at Mott's Corners in 1816, they contributed much to the development of Caroline. The tannery paid $4 to $6 a cord for hemlock tanbark delivered to the tanyard, and this income, small as it was, brought relief to the struggling settlers.

Not only did tanbark become a by-product of the clearing operations, it helped pay for the work. Tanning used the hides of cattle and horses produced in the young community, lessened the need for importing leather, and gave work to several hands about the tannery itself.

Barkpeeling was carried out during June and July when the sap was in the tree and the bark could be most easily pried off. With an ax rings were cut around the log, four feet apart. The worker stood on the log and aimed his ax-strokes toward the butt of the log so that the first strip of bark would not bind against the second.

The bark was slit along the topside of the log with an ax, and peeled off with a spud. The spud was an iron head mounted in a wooden handle perhaps 2½ feet long. The head was semicircular, thick at the top and coming to a circular edge at the end of the tool. This edge was about 3 inches in length but it was not sharpened to cutting keenness. The head was inserted into the slit, the bark pried off, and the strips were piled into cord lots to dry. A specimen spud is in the DeWitt Museum.

Barkpeeling called for hardy men to withstand the physical effort, the heat and the myriads of flies, mosquitoes and gnats that infested the forst in summer. It was both hot and hard work.

Tannin was the agent in the bark which converted raw hides

into leather. Hemlock and white oak grew in the region, but red oak was preferred because of its greater tannin content. Oaks ranged from 8 to 10 per cent tannin; hemlock, 7 to 8 per cent. Hemlock tanning virtually came to an end in America in 1890 when British interests began to dominate the industry and specialize in oak tanning.

Where the timber was not to be used for lumber, the boles of the trees were left on the ground to decay. During the spring of 1896 the writer worked with a group of five men and boys in collecting for firewood knots from hemlock trees that had been peeled three or four decades before. Swinging a sledge hammer, a man knocked the knots from the rotted boles and the boys piled them into heaps convenient for hauling to the farmhouse. As fuel, these resin-filled knots burned with such heat as to warp kitchen stoves and parlor heaters.

After the bark had been ground and mixed with water in the vats at the tannery, there came a time when the tannin had been extracted and used in the process. There then remained the inert woody part of the bark, for which an unusual use was found—filling. At one time Washington Park in Ithaca had its paths built up above the mud line with refuse from the local tannery.

Farming Without Wagons

When the pioneers came into Caroline or, for that matter, the Upstate wilderness, they came mostly by oxcarts and sleds. Wagons could scarcely be afforded by the migrants, and on the trails or early roads wheeled vehicles were of little or no use. For hauling hay and straw on the farm, in lieu of a wagon a large brush or tree top was loaded in the field and hauled to the barn or stack by a yoke of oxen. Not infrequently a smaller brush load was carried by two men; lacking storage facilities, the new farmer stacked his early crop of native grass. Before timothy and clover displaced the wild crop, several years were spent in planting and experimenting with different grasses.

Until the farmers had established pastures, his livestock fed

largely upon young shrubs; this was called "browsing." While traveling to his location, the newcomer fed his livestock along the way by chopping down young trees and bushes so that his animals might feed upon the twigs. This hampered travel but since it was impossible to carry an adequate supply of fodder on the trip, there was no other way for him to feed his stock. Often in drouths of later years the farmer resorted to feeding browse to keep livestock from starvation. As late as 1894 some farmers in the state fell trees from which the cattle ate leaves and twigs after a drouth had killed the grass in pastures and stunted hay, oats and corn.

School Districts Erected

The state Legislature passed in 1812 an act that established the common schools. In Caroline, Levi Slater, Joseph Speed and Augustine Boyer were appointed commissioners in accordance with the new law. By November 13, 1813, they had divided the town into nine school districts.

In the town clerk's book, these districts are described in detail. As an example of this description, that of District No. 1 is copied from the record:

"District No. 1 Beginning at the northeast corner of Lot No. 2 in the north survey of the northwest quarter of the township No. 11 and south to the southeast corner of Lot No. 20 in said survey; thence east to the northwest corner of Lot No. 30; thence south to the northwest corner of south lot; thence west to northwest corner of Lot No. 39; thence south to the southwest corner of Lot No. 50; thence east to the northeast corner of the 7th so-called Lambs section on the Owego Creek; thence up the creek to the southeast corner of Lot No. 50 in the Grand Division of the Boston Ten Towns; thence north to the northern line of the Town of Berkshire; thence west to the place of beginning."

This district was altered in 1819, when a part of the district was set off to District No. 18 in the Town of Berkshire. There

were other alterations in some districts and some new ones laid out so that by October 27, 1820, there were 19 school districts. Some of these embraced territory in Dryden and Danby in agreement among school commissioners of the three towns.

The new common school law made necessary some changes in the town laws, so a special meeting of the Town Board met September 27, 1813. This meeting named Gerrett Mandevell and Silas Hutchinson, inspectors. Another important action by the board at this session was:

"Resolved, That the supervisor raise a tax on the town double the amount of the town's share of the school fund for the use of common schools in said town."

A town law enacted in 1823 provided that the town "shall not raise more money than we draw from the State.

"Levi Slater, Town Clerk."

Not until 1819 did the town board record an audit of schood funds. That year $107.11 was collected, and on February 29, 1820, the vouchers of the commissioners were accepted. The audit of the next year goes into more detail. On April 14, 1821, the record shows $139.63 expended, and distributed as follows: District 1, $34.12; District 2, $41.30; District 3, $23.34; District 9, $17.06; District 5, $23.79.

The last audit in the record is for 1824, when $187.44 was expended as common school aid.

The State census of 1835 reports 17 school districts in Caroline with 925 pupils; teachers' wages $560 exclusive of $138 State aid.

Schools of 1830 ran six days a week. Saturdays the pupils spoke pieces and read compositions. The unlucky boy or girl who did not know the answers or had been caught in mischief was seated on the dunce block.

The schoolhouses were heated by fireplaces, and the large log placed in the rear of the fireplace was called the backlog. A block sawed off this log formed the dunce block. It was

placed in the front part of the schoolroom where all the pupils might see the unfortunate one seated upon it.

A less embarrassing use of the dunce block was as an elevation for small pupils when they were reciting. They were mounted upon it so they might be seen as well as heard.

Town Lays Out Roads Early

Newcomers into the county traveled over roads that were little more than trails. In fact, the original paths followed Indian paths that had been "brushed out" two feet wide to form a bridle path for those who traveled on foot or horseback. For teams the width was 32 feet. Passage was slow and difficult; from these roads to the settler's claim there were nothing but blazed paths, and blazed trees marked the boundaries of his claim.

Transportation was a problem in the newly settled Town of Caroline, and the building of roads went on along with clearing of land. Of course, the roads were little more than paths two rods wide cut through the forests; ultimately, they were muddy in the spring and fall, dusty during the summer, and snow-filled in winter.

Commissioners of highways had charge of laying out roads and altering them. The first action by these commissioners entered in the town clerk's record follows:

"Survey of a road laid out in the fall of 1811: Beginning at the highway near Sylvanus B. Norton's, between him and Nathaniel Tobey, and runs south 2 degrees 0 minutes west 20 chains 75 links to an ironwood stake, south 56 degrees 30 minutes west 20 chains; south 24 degrees 0 minutes west 65 chains 25 links to intersect the highway leading from John J. Speed's old place to Charles Manning's.

"Abiather G. Rounseville, surveyor; John Robison, Moses Read, Commissioners of Highways. March 29, 1811."

There seems to be an error in the dates, as the first refers to the "fall of 1811" and the date of the recording is March 29, 1811. The latter date would appear to be correct as the next

entry immediately following is dated April 27, 1811. It would appear the road in question had been laid out but not surveyed prior to the fall of 1811.

As entered in the first book of town records, surveys and alterations of highways were continuing in 1825. By that time there were some 47 roads in the young town, and these were assigned to road districts in charge of pathmasters. It was the duty of these officials to keep the roads in repair, and each spring they called out the property owners to do "road work" with men and teams.

Some of the names of roads listed in the early records are: Level Green, Hagin, Speed, Quick, Dryden, Heart (Hart), Jersey, Leggett, Schoonmaker, Rawson, Blair, Wiltsie, Bridge, Boyer, Rich, Jewitt, Cass. It will be noticed that for the most part these roads were named for early settlers who lived along them. However, there is one private road recorded.

Catskill Turnpike Main Route

As early as 1747 a tote road began developing westward from Catskill on the Hudson to supply the country lying between that river and the Susquehanna. In 1790, the state took control and developed the Catskill turnpike. Rebuilt to a 25-foot width and given a stone and gravel surface, it become the leading route from the East after its completion in 1805.

The route and time made on it are indicated by an advertisement appearing in an Ithaca Journal of 1823. It reads:

"This coach leaves Ithaca for Catskill every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 2 p.m. and arrives at Catskill the next day in time for the 5 o'clock boats to New York; passing each day through Caroline, Richford, Lisle, Greene, Stamford and Cairo; and via. Bainbridge, Unadilla, Franklin, Delhi, Bloomville, Prattsville and Windham every Monday, Wednesday and Friday."

Tin Peddlers Ride New Roads

After roads had been built, tin peddlers began their rounds through the new country. In exchange for their shiny wares they took pelts, bones and later pieces of iron, brass and other metals. Carrie Manning, in her diary of November, 1869, tells of such a transaction in these words:

"There was a tin peddler here. Ma sold a sheep pelt and got three bake tins. Em and I sold some old iron and got seven individual salt cellars and thirteen clothespins." Apparently the Mannings, a Lansing family, were not overly superstitious.

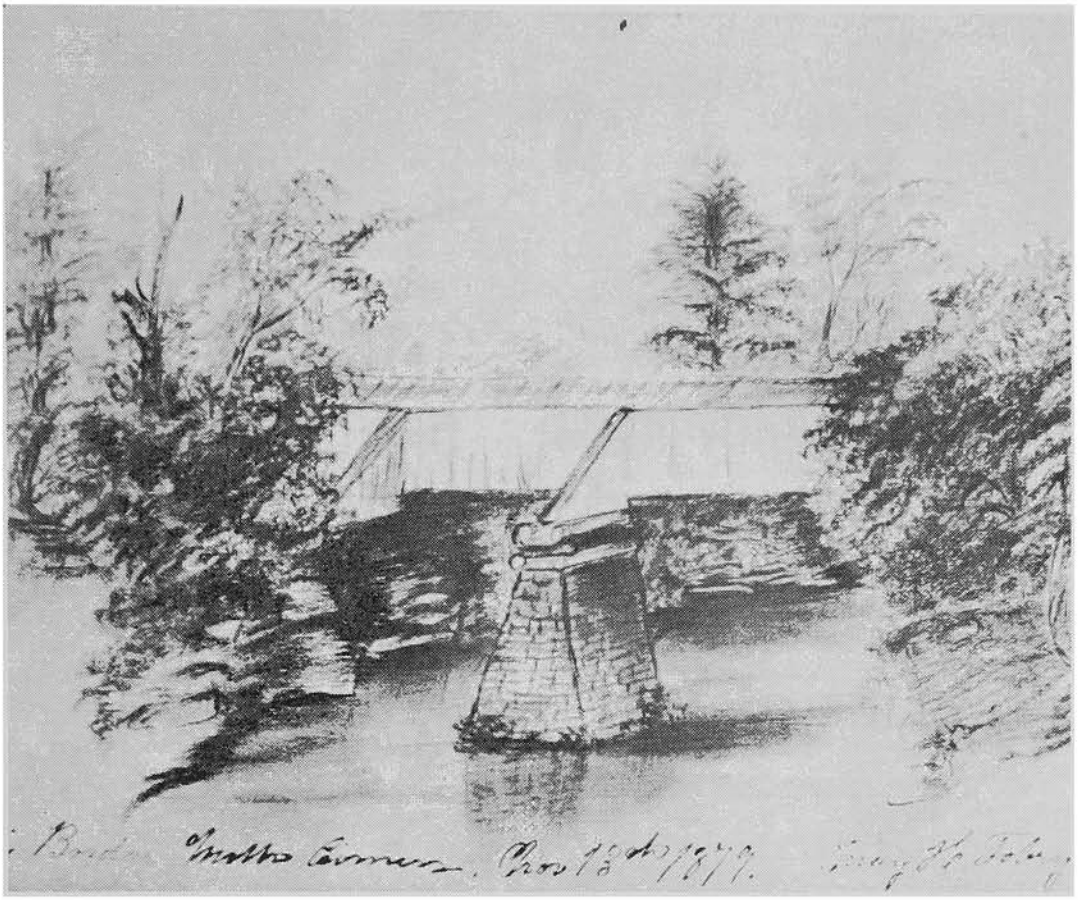
Another type of peddler was the pack peddler. He trudged the roads when they were dry and dusty but forsook them for good reason in the winter and early spring. He carried a small stock of needles, pins, thread, laces, ribbons and the inevitable red bandana handkerchief. He became well known and was welcomed in almost each home to which he brought tidings of relatives that might live no more than a dozen miles away.

Since he must sell for cash, his sales were small, but one of them, a little Irishman, left a large estate; others set up store-keeping, some took to wagons, and others became successful farmers.

Speedsville Boasted Covered Bridge

Many of the older residents still recall the covered bridge at Speedsville, but little of its history has been recorded. Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Gertrude Conant and William Osburn it is possible to present these salient facts pertaining to the structure.

The bridge was constructed in 1856 by Seth H. Akins (1828-1909), and razed in 1929 to make way for a concrete road. It



From DeWitt Museum Collection

BIG BRIDGE AT MOTT'S CORNERS

As indicated by the inscription, this drawing was made November 13, 1879, *by May H. Tobey. Little other information concerning the artist or bridge has come to light, as no one has been found who remembers the structure and only a few persons have personal recollections of the wielder of the pen. "May" appears to be a nickname as the census of* 1850 *lists her as Marion H., daughter of Nathaniel M. Tobey* (1813-1885) *and Esthaer M. Hart* (1814-1868). *Born in* 1847, *Marian Tobey died in* 1915. *She is remembered by some older residents of Brooktondale as a teacher of painting, vocal and piano music and as instructor in the Congregational (now Federated) Church there.*

spanned West Owego Creek, which is the western boundary of the Boston Purchase and the eastern of the Watkins & Flint Tract. Half or the structure was in Tompkins County and half in Tioga, the dividing line being the center of the creek.

The bridge was 60 feet long and 14 wide, and substantially built of large, hewn timbers and heavy planks. The trusses were fastened to the sills with bolts that were both large and long. Reason for covering the bridge was to protect timbers and planks from the weather that caused rotting. During winters snow was shoveled inside so teams hauling heavy loads would not get stuck on the dry plank flooring.

Inside walls of the bridge made good locations for large and colorful posters advertising circuses. These walls were covered year around with gaudy show bills publicizing acts, or spavin cures, liniments, seeds and other commodities having an appeal to farmers. Local auctions, too, contributed their share of the paper work.

A feature of the bridge was an opening on the upstream side out of which boys fished. On occasion they raised a floor plank, lay on their stomachs and dipped their lines into the water below. When a team was observed approaching, the youthful fishermen scrambled to replace the plank.

Hunt Drove Wolves Over Border

By Burnett C. Rawley, Richford Folklorist

In 1828, wolves in the area became so numerous that the towns of Richford, Berkshire, Candor and Lisle held a conference at which it was resolved to appoint two men from each town to organize and conduct a great drive to force the animals out of the country. As plans progressed, many other men and boys joined the drive.

The outfit for each of these participants was made up of a gun, dog and a cowbell. At night sentinels stood guard, ringing bells and firing guns occasionally so the wolves would not run back past the line of the drivers.

The march began just north of Slaterville on a line eastward to Hunt's Corners and westward to near Slaterville. Every man on the line advanced, firing his gun, yelling and ringing his bell. At night dry trees were set on fire at frequent intervals to frighten the predators.

It was the second Tuesday in February when the drive opened. Every man had his knapsack full of victuals and he got a fresh supply at each house he passed.

The line was kept in the shape of a semicircle so as to drive the animals into the center of a narrowing circle. Some wolves were slain, but most of them kept well out of the way so that there were many of the beasts collected ahead of the line. On Thursday night, when the line halted at Gaskill, the hungry wolves killed and consumed six large sheep near there.

Friday was the last day of the drive, by which time the animals had been driven across the Susquehanna River. After that wolves were far less numerous on the Tioga-Tompkins border than they had been for a long time, but residents of the section south of the river and down into Pennsylvania long held a bitter grudge against the group for driving the pests over on them.

Steel Plow Invented 1813

The early plow was a wooden device equipped with one handle and a wooden mouldboard. The first steel mouldboard plow was the invention of Jethro Wood of Scipio, Cayuga County, in 1813. Improvements on the plow continued for more than a half century until a satisfactory implement was developed.

The early harrow was no more than a forked section of a tree through the branches of which holes were bored and wooden pegs set. Later the pegs were of iron and the device was called a "peg-tooth" harrow. Still later the spring-tooth harrow was developed; but had it been produced earlier in the century its usefulness would have been greatly reduced by the roots and stumps in the fields.

Even the hand tools the farmer used were clumsy and inefficient. Like most of the tools of the day, they were the product of the local blacksmith shop whose production ranged from hoes, adzes, hammers, through door hinges and locks to bear traps. One of the latter is displayed in the DeWitt Museum along with a large collection of early tools and devices made of iron, wood and tin.

Mowing of hay was done with the scythe. Grains were harvested by means of the sickle, which was advantageously manipulated among stumps, but later was superseded by the grain cradle. Mowers and reapers, had they been available, would have been all but useless until stumps were eliminated. Threshing was done by flails wielded by sturdy men, and the grain was seperated from the chaff by tossing it into the air. About 1825 the fanning mill came into use, to save hard work, time and much grain.

49 Squirrels in Pie

Work in the early days was exchanged: there was no money to hire help. For a large project, a "bee" was organized, when dozens of men and older boys with tools and teams might appear early in the morning and set to work. Such bees were for logging, chopping, husking, barn raising, butchering, apple picking; many similar group activities were on a smaller scale.

The building of a cabin or a barn called for a "bee." On such occasions a sheep was likely to be slaughtered, and boiled mutton and potpie would be served generously for dinner and supper. In 1810, when S. D. Hubble of Hector had a bee to erect a barn, a squirrel potpie was served. It contained 49 black squirrels.

Something of the part game played in the struggle for existence that the first settlers underwent is gathered for an experience recorded in this town. During the bad year of 1816-17 during which crops were all but destroyed by cold weather and frosts during the growing season, Elisha Trowbridge, an

experienced hunter, kept seven families from starvation by bringing them game.

But these bees were not confined to the forest and field: women frequently arranged a spinning, quilting or sewing bee. The woman who organized a spinning bee would distribute wool among those she invited; this they spun and on the appointed day came with their skeins of yarn to knit it and visit, then join their hostess in supper. In the evening there would be dancing and games. On other occasions, the women brought their spinning wheels to the home of their hostess and spent a busy day at work and visiting.

Quilting and sewing bees usually were arranged when some woman in the community had met with adversity. Then the neighbors would come equipped to spend the day at work and in visiting.

In season, husking bees, apple cuts and spelling school offered diversion, especially for the young people of the community. Husking was done in the fall after the corn was shocked; the apple cuts were held after the apple harvest. The apples were pared, sliced and dried for both home consumption and for the market. Spelling school was a winter pastime carried on at the schoolhouse. These and dancing were the chief sources of entertainment engaged in by the young folks.

Six-Mile Creek Bridge Cost $65

On April 2, 1825, Lemuel Yates and Abraham Chambers, commissioners of highways in Caroline, addressed the Board of Supervisors as follows:

"Sir, we report to your honorable body that we have expended $65 in building a bridge across Six Mile Creek, near John Cantine's, for which we pray you to raise said sum on said Town of Caroline at your next annual meeting."

New Names Indicate Early Newcomers

Caroline filled up rapidly, as is indicated by the following list of residents that has been prepared from the first town clerk's books. The roster of town officers and the town records for 1811-1824 have been searched. Not all newcomers are included because it is not likely that all families were represented on the town board or whose names appear in town records. Then, too, faded writing in the book makes it impossible to decipher several names.

The records were prepared by several persons who occupied the office of town clerk, each with his own style of penmanship and a decidedly individualistic system of spelling. Read is found on one page, and Reed and Reid on the next; Vorhis is Vorice and Voris. There are many other spellings equally non-conforming.

Dates in the list are of the year in which the person's name first appears in the records. He may have moved into the town some time before, but the list at least suggests newcomers and the approximate time of their arrival in Caroline. Peter Webb, who was brought into Caroline as a slave boy in 1805, became a freeman and took his place in the community in 1822.

Allen, Moses 1822
Ashley, Dr. James 1814
Ashley, Simeon 1821
Austin, Sylvester 1824
Banks, Ezra 1818
Beach, Jabez 1824
Besemer, James 1834
Bishop, James 1813
Blackman, Abraham 1812
Blair, George 1813
Boice, Abraham, Jr. 1812
Bonny, Jethro 1821
Booth, Deacon 1804
Boyer, Augustine 1805
Boyer, Hugh 1811
Boyer, Thomas M. 1830
Brainard, James 1818
Braley, Joseph 1815
Briggs, Elisha 1815
Bull, Aaron 1805
Burlingame, Brown 1821
Bush, John 1811
Bush, John F. 1824
Bush, Oakley 1812

Bush, Richard 1811
Cantine, John, Jr. 1798 (?)
Cantine, Gen. John 1798 (?)
Carle, William 1824
Carter, Dan 1815
Case, Luman 1815
Cass, Moses 1821
Chambers, Ephraim 1811
Chambers, Joseph 1811
Chambers, Richard 1811
Christance, Samuel before 1824
Clark, Calvin 1824
Cooley, Festus 1814
Cooper, Charles 1816
Crane, Moses before 1822
Crom (Krum), Barber 1824
Cudney, Reuben 1824
Curren, Robert 1816
Curtis, Aaron 1820
Dean, Samuel H. 1821
Deland, James 1824
Delong, Jacob 1813
Denniston, Aaron 1817
Denniston, Samuel before 1818
Depuy, Catharine 1820
Depuy, James 1816
Dikman, Michael P. 1824
Dill, Solomon 1816
Doty, John 1804
Douglass, William 1819
Dunham, Lalathiel 1819
Dykeman, Marshel 1820
Eastman, Zebina 1816
Ennist, William 1821
Evens, Isaac before 1818
Fellows, John 1821
Finch, Abraham 1819
Freeland, Robert 1804
Freeman, John 1812
Gaston, Alexander 1819
Gates, Abel 1820
Goodenough, John 1824
Goodrich, Elizur 1838
Grout, John 1821
Haggan, Thomas 1813
Haggie, (Heggie) Thomas 1812
Hamilton, Andrew 1819
Hanford, Gershum 1818
Hart, Christian 1811
Hastings, Joel 1813
Haven, Nathan 1821
Heath, Milo 1822
Heustins, Joel 1821
Higgins, Jacob before 1825
Hill, Robert 1820
Hoffman, Benjamin 1812
Hutchison Silas before 1818
Hyde, Robert Harper 1805
Jackson, William 1818
Jansen, Matthew H. 1802
Jenks, Laban 1811
Jewett, Ezekiel 1815
Jorden, Stephen 1820
Keeney, Jeremiah 1811
Keeny, John 1827
Krum, Phineas 1818
Krum, Michael C. 1838
Landen, Benjamin 1822
Hollister, Isaac, Jr. 1812
Holmes, Calviin 1816
Hoose, Robert 1822
Hudlet, Jacob 1823
Humphrey, Roswell 1817
Hungerford, Spencer 1817
Hurd, Milo before 1821
Leet, Samuel 1818
Legg, Ruben 1816
Leggett, Benjamin T. 1837
Leonard, Asa 1813
Livermore, James before 1811
Loring, Daniel 1815
Lounsbery, Peter 1820
Mandeville, Gerrett 1803
Mann, Laban 1812
Manning, Charles 1814
McDuel, John 1821
Mead. Daniel L. 1821
Merick, John 1819
Merrill, Marlin 1830
Middaugh, Henry before 1811
Middaugh, Peter 1825
Mevis, John 1820
Mott, Zophor 1824
Mulks, Benoni 1800
Mulks, Charles 1811
Mulks, John 1811

Nelson, John 1818
Newkirk, Daniel 1802 (?)
Niver, Elisha 1834
North, Abial 1815
Norton, Isaac 1815
Norwood, Francis 1811
Norwood, Jonathan 1804
Olney, Nathaniel 1825
Park, Joseph 1814
Parmer, Rufus R. before 1825
Parsons, Isaiah 1817
Patch, Nathan 1817
Payne, David 1811
Payne, Edward 1811
Perry, Isaiah 1825
Perry, Joseph 1820
Personius, Ephraim 1821
Prior, John before 1818
Pultze, Frederick 1820
Quick, Daniel 1804
Quick, Henry 1804
Quick, Jacobus 1815
Rawson, Lyman before 1821
Read (Reed, Reid), Moses 1811
Read, Titus R. 1811
Reid, Daniel 1821
Reid, Moses 1821
Rice, Asa 1816
Rich, Joel 1800
Richard, Silas 1832
Rightmire, Lewis 1840
Robison, James 1824
Robison, John 1801
Robison, Silas before 1818
Rood (Rhood), Jonas 1816
Rounsevell, Samuel before 1821
Rounsvell, William before 1818
Rounsville, Bradford before 1821
Rounsville, John 1800
Rounsville, Sylvester before 1821
Rudi, Jonas 1811
Sawyer, John before 1832
Schoonmaker, Moses D. P. 1813
Schoonmaker, Simon V. W. 1814
Seely, Ebenezer before 1830
Seely, Holly before 1830
Seely, Lyman before 1830
Slater, Levi 1801
Sloughter, John 1814
Snow, Jonathan 1816
Speed, Henry 1805
Speed, John James, Jr. 1805
Speed, Dr. Joseph 1805
Steel, George K. 1824
Stephens, Seth 1818
Stevens, Ezra before 1831
Stillwell, Isaac before 1820
Stowell, Alexander 1819
Sullivan, John before 1824
Taft, John 1820
Tobey, Nathaniel 1812
Tracy, Benjamin 1802
Tracy, Prince 1811
Tyler, Timothy 1811
Van Sickle, Andrew 1811
Van Sickle, Peter 1817
Vickery, George 1804
Vickery, William ?
Vorhis, Lemiel 1820
Vorus. (Voris, Vorhis), Daniel 1823
Walton, Jacob 1823
Watkins, Gilbert 1813
Webb, Peter 1825
Wiltse, James 1813
Woodruff, Thos. A. before 1821
Yates, Lemuel 1801

Prices of Pioneer Products

A wholesale price list printed in The Ithaca Journal of July 30, 1828, suggests not only prices received by pioneer farmers but also what products they sent to the New York City market and some of those they purchased from that market. It will be noticed that furs and pelts were in demand as well as bristles, beeswax, feathers and ashes.

Where the unit of sale is not given, it is presumed the customary unit is understood: thus, sperm oil is sold by the gallon; shirting, by the yard.

Pot ashes, ton, $131.
Pearl ashes, ton, $140-142.50
Beef, barrels, $9.75.
Beans, 7 bushels, $8.
Butter, first quality, lb., 12-15c.
Beeswax, yellow, lb., 33-34c.
Bristles, American, 30-35c.
Cheese, lb., 7-9c.
Feathers, live, lb., 37-45c.
Flour, wheat, bbl., $7.25.
Flour, rye, $3.50-4.00.
Cornmeal, $3.87-4.00.
Hams, lb., 8-9c.
Hog's lard, lb., 8-10c.
Honey, lb., 8-9c.
Hops, lb., 10-13c.
Pork, bbl., $10-12.
Tallow, lb., 7-8c.

GRAIN:

Wheat, bu., $1.37-1.56
Rye, bu., 70c.
Corn, bu., 66c.
Oats. bu., 35c.

WOOL:

Merino, washed, lb., 50-60c.
Halfbreed, lb., 40-50c.
Common, lb., 30-45c.
American hatter's, lb., 60c.

FURS, PELTS:

Beaver, lb., 10-60c.
Raccoon, lb., 15-65c.
Martin, 15-25c.
Bear, 75c-$2.50.
Red Fox, 75-$1.
Mink, 25c.
Otter, $3.
Muskrat, 33-55c.
Deerskin, in hair, lb., 25-30c.
Deerskin, shaved, 32-37c.

PRODUCTS BOUGHT BY FARMERS:

Coffee, lb., 23-25c.
Shirting, domestic, 10-14c.
Sheeting, 14-18c.
LEATHER.
Sole, lb., 21-23c.
Pressed upper side, $2.25-2.75

SPERM OIL.

Summer, strained, 42c.
Winter, strained, 53-56c.
Whiskey. gal., 34-38c.

Pioneer Era Ends

Caroline's pioneering era may be said to have largley ended by 1830, with a busy agricultural era following. The date is arbitrary since the change was gradual, but it closely approximates the time when manufactured articles and farming machines began to appear. It was a time when numerous tools, articles of furniture and fabrics were available and when it was no longer necessary for the farming community to produce essential wares in its own primitive shops. Thus freed, the farmer had more time to devote to agricultural productions.

Roads throughout the town were still primitive dirt roads, and would remain so for nearly a century; but the Catskill turnpike, built through in 1805, and the Ithaca-Owego turnpike, completed in 1812, afforded outlets to the country's eastern markets. Over these two roads went produce of the town to the thriving markets along the Atlantic seaboard—and the world —by way of the Susquehanna and Hudson Rivers, Erie Canal and Cayuga Lake. And over these same routes came the produce of early factories that released the farm family from the restrictive economy of his pioneering days, imports that added greatly to his crop productiveness and to his social and cultural advancement. The days of gracious living were at hand.

The 1835 State census indicated how thriving the town was a generation after the coming of Captain Rich and the Earsley family to the wilderness that was Caroline. The population had reached 2,581; there were recorded that year 70 births, 15 marriages and 34 deaths. Of the town's 30,323 acres, 12,473 had been improved. There were 3,090 head of cattle, including oxen; 741 horses, 8,847 sheep, 2,246 hogs. The soil was yet rich and free of many infestations, yield was high and transportation by road, lake and canal carried the produce to expanding city markets.

In the homes there were produced 3,960 yards of fulling cloth, 6,244 yards of woolen and 6,190 yards of cotton and linen fabrics. Four gristmills had sales of $22,625; 10 sawmills, $15,334; 1 fulling mill, $2,250; 1 woolen mill, $700 (it produced 700 yards); 1 distillery, $6,720; 5 tanneries, $2,450.

The small number of horses, the large number of sheep and the quantities of home-produced fabrics in comparison with that of the woolen mill indicate that the pioneer era had not wholly passed in Caroline. To be especially noticed, too, is the small production of the five tanneries—only a dollar's worth for each inhabitant of the town—which would seem no more than that required by home consumption. Note, too, that production of yard goods averaged less than seven yards per person, which meant little or none for export.

Caroline Horses Drew President's Carriage

Will Osburn has come upon an old newspaper clipping which projects Caroline history upon Pennsylvania Avenue in the Nation's capital. Headed "County Team Drew President in 1893 Inaugural Parade," the account is appended.

"When President Grover Cleveland rode down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington during his inaugural parade in March 1893, he was in a carriage drawn by two seal-brown, rangy horses born and raised in Caroline township.

"One of the horses was raised by Levi L. Goodrich at his 500-acre farm atop Blackman Hill. It was a strain of the Syracuse Blackhawk, then a very popular breed of harness horse. The mate was raised by the uncle of Chauncey S. Goodrich, the only surviving son of Levi S. Goodrich.

"The uncle, Stephen Boyer of Speedsville, sold the horse in New York City.

"Mr. Goodrich, who lives on the Kingman farm at the foot of Blackman Hill, recalls that his father sold the horse of the Syracuse Blackhawk strain to a Mr. Ellis, an Ithaca merchant, who later disposed of it in New York City. The steed was about five years old at the time. [Elias M. Ellis was a drygoods merchant at 52 East State Street for five or six years in the early 1890's.]

"Strange to say, these two horses, raised within a few miles of each other, were purchased by the same man in New York City and matched because they happened to be perfect mates.

"Late in the fall of 1892, following his election, Grover Cleveland wanted a team in Washington from his native state of New York for his own use at the White House. He paid $10,000 for the Tompkins County horses.

"On that Goodrich farm at Blackman Hill one can see traces today of the half-mile track Levi Goodrich built in 1881 to train horses on. Mr. Goodrich raised Hambletonians, Syracuse Blackhawk and other popular breeds, and kept the track for his own use and that of his friends. Besides raising horses,

Mr. Goodrich was engaged in general farming and dairying

"Mr. Goodrich would train ten or twelve fine horses a year, and sell them. He kept the racetrack in use for 15 years or more until the market for horses slackened.

"Another reminder of "horse-and-buggy days" is the windbreak that Levi Goodrich made near his farm home as protection against the strong winds and heavy snows. He planted a fine grove and row of trees which stand today, after more than 60 years, as mighty patriarchs over snow and wind.

"Chauncey Goodrich, who tells the story concerning the horse his father raised and its sale to President Cleveland, is a graduate of the Cornell law school with the Class of 1899. From his home on the old Kingman place one may see the winding Owego Creek and Tioga County a short distance away.

"Mr. Goodrich's grandfather and his father came to Rawson Hollow in 1820 from Connecticut. The Blackmans, after whom Blackman Hill is named, preceded them by 16 years."

Speedsville Pretty and Busy

Many persons today hold Speedsville to be a pretty hamlet and the most peaceful in the county. It was different 75 years ago when it was both pretty and busy. The village has been different for more than a century.

A transplant of New England culture set down in the wilderness that originally embraced the Town of Caroline, it has retained an air of calm determination. John Stearns and Leonard Legg gave land for a village green, and as early as 1854 this was incorporated by the State Legislature as a public park. Five years later the site was improved by setting out trees, and then in 1863 another legislative act placed the park in control of a commissioner.

Speedsville's charms are shared between Tompkins and Tioga counties, for it lies partly in each of the two.

Hub of a rural community, its services formerly were typical of the days when family-type farming prevailed. Services de-

manded of Speedsville of the late '80's were provided by small, personally owned enterprises, none of which were ever thought of as lucrative businesses. Their number and the range of their services are revealing.

Seth H. Akins operated a sawmill, cheesebox factory, planing mill, cider mill; when these did not keep him busy, he did contract work, one such job being the covered bridge.

S. K. Blackman was a buyer of stock, dealer in agricultural implements and a buyer of wool.

Merritt M. Campbell operated Speedsville-Owego stageline.

Dunham & Meeks operated a meat market.

W. J. Gilberty was proprietor of a combined dry goods and grocery store.

S. L. Hart was the community's miller.

Miss Mary Havens kept the women in up-to-date millinery.

George W. Hawkins was a blacksmith shop operator.

Higgins & Keeney were dealers in agricultural implements at a time when farmers were seeking new types of machines.

Higgins & Rounseville conducted a cheese factory before the day of fluid milk shipping to the growing cities.

A. L. Jenks was a breeder of Percherons. These sturdy horses furnised most of the motive power in the fields or on the way to shipping points.

Ransom Johnson was a physician and surgeon.

Emmett E. Legge was an auctioneer. These "vandoo" sales were common in rural communities until well after 1900.

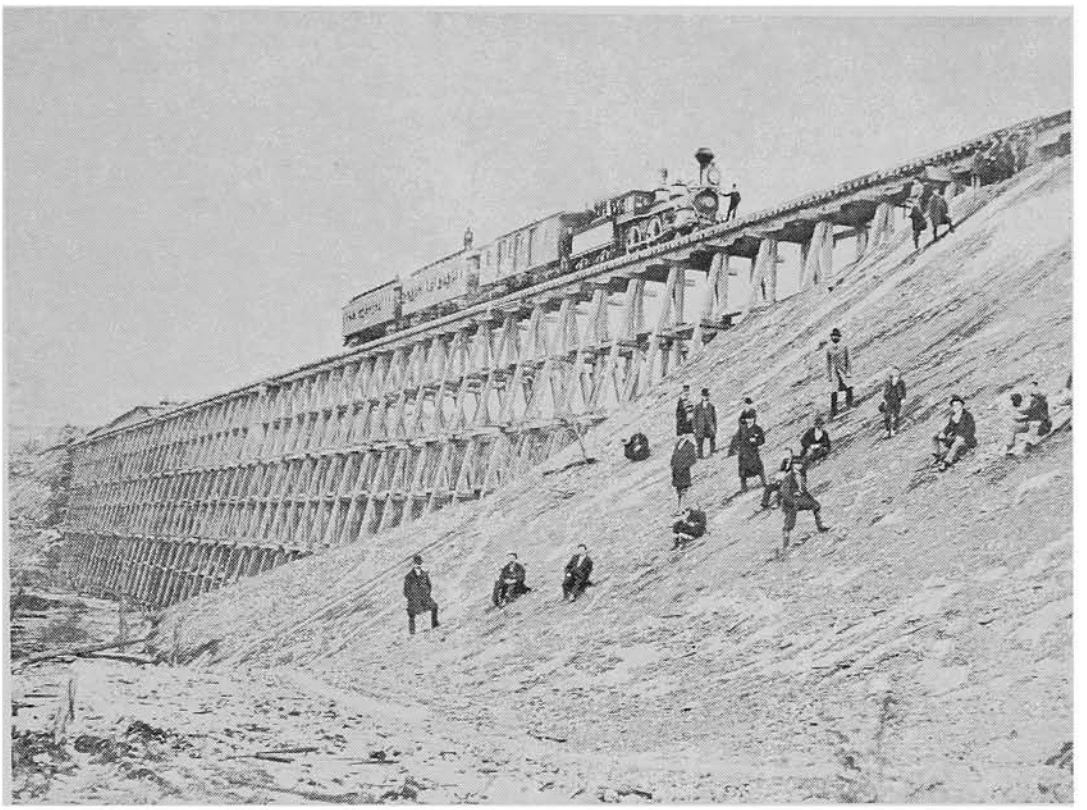
M. L. Legge was a wagonmaker.

W. S. Legge & Co. appears to have been a busy retail outlet when their merchandise selection is considered: drygoods, groceries, hats, caps, boots, flour, feed, salt, etc. The "etc." no doubt included liniments that were good "for man or beast."

W. S. Legge kept himself busy otherwise for he was postmaster and manager of the "N.Y. & Pa. Telephone office."

W. S. Legge was proprietor of the Speedsville and Ithaca stage line. A busy, busy man!

Legg & Osborn were carpenters.



Courtesy of Charles C. Vorhis

WOODEN TRESTLE OVER SIX MILE CREEK

Erected in 1874 *to carry the Utica, Ithaca and Elmira Railroad over the Brooktondale gorge, it was constructed of foot-square timbers supplied by neighboring forests. Its efficiency as a windbreak was not fully appreciated until the closely spaced timbers were replaced by a spidery steel trestle in* 1894. *At that time, trains did not run on Sunday, a circumstance greatly favoring Moses Hurlburt who had the contract for removing the wooden trestle. During the week he prepared a section for removal on Sunday for replacement by steel work. Immensity of the original structure is indicated by the* 800*-foot length and* 85*-foot height of the new trestle. In* 1884, *the line reorganized the Elmira, Cortland & Northern, and in* 1905 *the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company became owner of the property. Thirty years later the Lehigh abandoned service on the* 25.5*-mile stretch between Van Etten and Ithaca, and early in* 1936 *the Bethlehem Steel Company demolished the steel trestle.*

Lum & Andrews conducted a hotel and livery.
Miss Caroline Moncrief dealt in millinery.
George H. Nixon was a shoemaker.
M. O. Owen made wooden firkins in his factory.
George R. Rounsville dealt in general merchandies.
D. P. Witter was master of Speedsville Grange 385.
W. L. Keeney was master of Speedsville Masonic Lodge 265.
The Rev. Louis A. Burch was pastor of the Episcopal Church.
The Rev. Arthur Osborn was pastor of the Methodist Church.
N. J. Jenks was pastor of the Universalist Church.

Special Trains Visited Caroline

Today it may be difficult to imagine that special trains were run annually from Ithaca to Caroline Station, but back in the '90's the D.L.&W. sent a special car to Caroline Depot. This springtime service was provided for the benefit of university and high school students who wished to gather botanical specimens. The pink arbutus was the worst victim of the amateur collectors.

The car carrying the youthful enthusiasts to the hamlet was sidetracked at the depot from noon until 5 o'clock. It was during this interval that Bald Hill was climbed, but it is a wonder that the girls ever reached the top, clad as they were, in trailing skirts, high collars and laced shoes.

Local residents came to look upon these early excursions as something of a relief from the monotonous routine of country life, and accepted gentle ridicule at the hands of city sophisticates. On one occasion, the hometown boys "got even" with an over-exuberant group of visitors.

As the climbers this day returned weary, dusty and thirsty, they wandered to a nearby pump to refresh themselves, leaving on the platform of the station their bouquets, huge bunches of leaves and stems, with clinging soil, that had been ruthlessly pulled up. During the refreshment period a storekeeper

across the way from the station sprinkled the day's plunder with phosphate whose malodorous smell overcame the delicate scents of the flowers.

Hidden around the corner of the station, a goodly number of boys and men awaited return of the collectors to the platform. The train pulled up, the bouquets were seized and the car hastily boarded. Then up went windows and out came the springtime blooms.

Determined Niece Found Long-Lost Uncle

Among early settlers in Caroline were William Vickery and wife, Hannah King, who came from Bennington, Vt., with an ox team. They had five daughters, among whom Clarissa married Abraham Wright Osburn, and Laura married Edward Vickery. Most of the family history has been lost, but Miss Mary Osburn, daughter of Abraham and Clarissa has preserved two episodes of more than passing interest. One relates to her successful search for a long-lost uncle and aunt, as she recorded it in later life. The account is condensed here.

Edward Vickery married mother's sister Laura. His father had accumulated considerable property but Uncle Edward spent it. After his father's death, he was censured very severely by all the relatives except my father and mother; they remained his friends. The last time he was at our house he confided to my father that he was going away, and no one would hear from him until he could "buy out the whole Vickery tribe." He disappeared in 1827, taking with him his wife and five children. Time passed but no word came from him.

About the time I went to Iowa in 1867, I heard that Edward Vickery was living but not where. Father and mother were anxious that I make some effort to locate them, so during the five months I was in Iowa I wrote a great many letters to postmasters in Michigan. After I came back to Caroline for father and mother, a letter from one postmaster followed to inform me that such a man lived north of Pomona, Mich. I

wrote a letter to Uncle Edward, in care of the postmaster who had answered me, and I received a reply while in Big Rapids. I wrote Uncle Edward, telling him of father's death, then mother and I started for Iowa.

Nothing would satisfy mother until she had seen Laura, so we went to Pomona where we arrived at night and stayed at a shanty hotel. Next morning we hired a livery rig which the driver drove until our patience was worn out. Then I began to inquire, "Do you know a man by the name of Vickery?" "Yes," he answered, 'lots of 'em; he has lots of farms around here."

Soon after we drove up to a house where an old man was splitting kindling. When we stopped, he looked up and exclaimed, "My God, it's Wright Osburn in petticoats!"

While he and the driver were getting mother out of the wagon, I started up the path, opened a door, then another, and saw an old woman sitting by the stove. She did not look up but asked, "Did you bring the kindling?" When she looked around she said, "You look just like Wright." Afterwards they explained that I was just about the age of father when they last saw him.

During the two weeks we stayed, uncle had me look over some of his notes and mortgages until I concluded he had plenty of this world's goods. Also, he told me of his struggles. He first landed in Detroit and got work in a sawmill ten miles north of the city. He worked for several years, when the owner sold him the mill on a ten-year arrangement with no payments on principal or interest until the end of the term, then the whole payment at one time. Uncle carried on the business, paid as agreed, and now was a wealthy man.

It was during this time that he took me out riding and showed me several places but his showplace was his 200 acres of hard maple timber, his sugar bush. Such tall trees I never saw before; it was a beautiful sight as we drove among those trees.

The day before we were to start away, I came upon a little private conversation. Laura says, "I tell you, you can't wear

them trousers; they won't button around you." He says, "I will wear them; see here, Mary, look at these pants I am going to wear them."

Well, I took the pants and inserted a good-sized piece in the back, and the next morning he looked a fine old gentleman, indeed. But when Laura found that he would drive a span of four-year-old colts, she almost bolted. Mother stepped in with, "Now Laura, let him drive them. Mary will sit in the seat with him and I will trust any team with her." But long before we got to Pomona he gave the lines to me, and I thought he regretted being so obstinate, for the colts were beauties.

There was another poignant incident in Mary Osburn's life. At the time of the Civil War she was engaged to be married, and the ring was in her possession. But she hesitated about sanctioning his enlisting, however, so that at an evening rally she was to convey her last-minute decision by rising when he was at the enlistment desk.

Mary Osburn made her decision: she didn't rise. He enlisted, only to be killed in an early battle. She remained steadfast to his memory, accepted no other beau and wore his ring until late in life, when it was lost off her thin finger.

During the fall of 1963 her great-nephew's small son David, playing on a garden walk, scratched the soil with a stick. Something glinted in the sunlight—and there was Mary Osburn's engagement ring as bright and shiny as it was when lost upwards of fifty years before.

Migration Without Motion

A latter-day migration in 1887 saw thirty families transferred from the Town of Dryden to the Town of Caroline. It was done without oxcart or days of treking—simply by the magic of a bit af legislation by the Board of Supervisors. In a nutshell, these families were moved from Snyder Hill to Canaan. By this act Lots 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, and 100 along Dryden's southern border, occupying a strip one mile wide and seven miles long, were deducted from the 100 Simeon DeWitt's

surveyors had mapped for the military township of Dryden.

One effective argument for altering the map was that of convenience. In going to Dryden to transact business residents of the seven lots were compelled to ascend South Hill, then descend into the village; the return trip was a repeat of climbing and descending in reverse order. This was done in a day when dirt roads prevailed to make the trip time-consuming. The change made more-easily accessible Slaterville Springs the focal center for the residents of the strip.

Caroline Regaining Population

Populationwise, Caroline is beginning to recoup her numbers after they had steadily dwindled for several decades during an era when less productive farms were abandoned. However, the current spread of suburba has turned the trend so that during the thirty-year span between 1930 and 1960 there has been an upsurge of 23 per cent. However, this gain is second lowest in the county as indicated by the census tally that follows.

Census year	1960	1950	1940	1930	%
County	66,164	59,122	42,340	41,490	37.3
Caroline	2,118	1,900	1,737	1,617	23
Danby	2,059	1,555	1,253	1,407	32
Dryden	7,353	5,006	3,937	3,534	66
Enfield	1,593	1,316	1,082	939	40
Groton	4,469	4,246	3,879	3,789	15
Ithaca town ..	9,072	7,282	3,821	2,943	68
Lansing	4,221	3,195	2,286	2,729	36
Newfield	2,193	1,891	1,521	1,451	34
Ulysses	4,307	3,474	2,584	2,382	45
Ithaca city	28,744	29,395	28,000	20,550*	

In 1860 Caroline had a population of 1,250 males and 1,216 females.

*After 1940, University and College students are included in city and county enumerations, and it is estimated today's city population stands at 22,347.

Portuguese Shanghaied Caroline Sailor

A Caroline native, who spent four years as a sailor, boasted the unusual experience of having been pressed into the army of Portugal. To obtain his release, service of the American consul were required.

He was Henry Stewart. Born in Caroline in 1817, he remained at home until he was 19, when he went to sea. During time spent in Portugal he learned the language, then traveled in Europe and Africa before returning to his native land. After his return he was employed by Joseph Esty, tanner, for 20 years, then he engaged in manufacture of cement and tile until 1890, when he retired from active business. He died September 25, 1895, at his home 114 East Buffalo Street.

Magnetic Waters Attract Afflicted

Dr. William Gallagher in 1871 established the curative properties of the magnetic spring waters at Slaterville. The next year W. J. Carns purchased the Slaterville House, converted it into a health resort and named it the Magnetic Springs House. The building, dating back to a tavern on the Catskill turnpike, burned December 23, 1895.

Another health resort at Slaterville was the Fountain House, erected in 1872, later greatly enlarged and made three stories high. About 1891 W. J. Carns purchased it and popularized it as a sanitorium. On the afternoon of ~~December 22, 1911~~, the building was destroyed by fire.

11/9/1914